



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

AND THEY'RE OFF!

The L.A. Marathon begins at Dodger Stadium. Dominic Ngeno outlasted fellow Kenyan Cosmas Kiplimo in the men's division, while Stacy Ndiwa, also from Kenya, repeated as women's champion. **SPORTS, D4**

COLUMN ONE

Ohtani's man in South Korea

In a country that's long shunned athletes from Japan, this fan leads the charge for the Dodgers star.

By MAX KIM
REPORTING FROM SEOUL

When Lee Jae-ik started on his path to Shohei Ohtani superfandom, his wife thought he was having a midlife crisis. Maybe it was that her husband, a 48-year-old radio producer and on-air host at one of South Korea's biggest broadcasters, had liquidated hundreds of thousands of dollars in stocks to turn his closet into a shrine to the Japanese baseball phenom. Or that Lee, a high-achieving personality who is so protective of his time that his phone instructs callers to "just state your business," was suddenly spending his hours after work buried in what he called "Ohtani study."

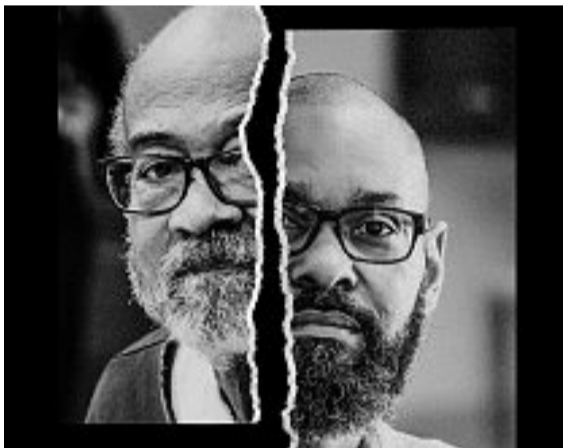
In truth, according to Lee, his new obsession was more of an epiphany — one that led him to the airport Friday before dawn alongside the 40 or so members of the Ohtani fan club he founded.

Their aim was simple: to glimpse — and hopefully be glimpsed by — their north star, who late last year signed a \$700-million deal with the Dodgers and now was coming to Seoul to play a two-game series against the Padres to start the 2024 Major League Baseball season.

By 2 p.m., shortly before the Dodgers were expected to land, the crowd on the arrivals floor of Incheon International Airport had grown to about 300 people. Television crews swarmed.

Lee waited behind a banner his club had prepared: a massive ribbon of blue and white featuring Ohtani in his new uniform. [See Ohtani, A6]

WHO CAN RESIST THE HEIST'S LURE?



Los Angeles Times illustration; photographs by BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times and DOUG MCSCHOOLER For The Times

Two men served two decades for an L.A. bank robbery. One, now in his 70s, is accused again.

By Brittney Mejia

The lawyer insisted that by the time his client got out of prison, he'd be too old to rob banks.

It was 1999, and Bruce Bell's attorney was arguing for a lesser sentence for the robbery of a Home Savings of America in San Fernando. If the judge sentenced Bell to 24 years in federal prison — the punishment meted out to an accomplice — he would be in his 70s by the time he got out.

"Certainly over any age of the ability to commit any further offenses," the lawyer told the judge.

Bell was released in 2021 after serving more than two decades. Around two years later, police say, he attempted to rob two banks and stole tens of thousands of dollars from two others.

He was 71 — long past what his lawyer believed was Bell's prime for robbing banks. And 2021 was many years past the [See Robbers, A5]

Shasta County eases MAGA politics

One far-right leader is ousted in election; another is barely holding on



GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

PATRICK JONES, a Shasta County supervisor, at his Jones' Fort gun shop in 2021 in Redding. He was soundly defeated in the Super Tuesday election.

State unlikely to meet carbon reduction goals, analysis finds

The California Air Resources Board, however, insists that efforts are on track.

By MELODY PETERSEN

California is poised to fail to meet its ambitious greenhouse gas reduction goals by the end of the decade unless it can triple its efforts to reduce carbon emissions statewide, according to a critical new report.

Although the state has pledged to slash planet-warming emissions by 40% of 1990 levels by 2030, it is not on track to meet that commitment, according to an analysis by the nonprofit group Next 10 and Beacon Economics, an L.A.-based consulting firm.

California has long been a leader in emissions control, and the report has faced pushback from state officials who say they are much further along in hitting the goals than the report authors believe.

The report said that based on the most recent data available from the state, emissions have fallen just 11.5% below those of 1990.

"Policymakers have set this goal and now need to make difficult decisions about trade-offs if they want to meet it," said Stafford Nichols, research manager at Beacon.

While pollution plummeted after stay-at-home orders were issued during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the state's carbon emissions increased by 3.4% the following year, according to the analysis.

That will make it harder to meet the goal set by state lawmakers in a 2016 bill known as SB 32.

Based on the trajectory of reductions since 2010, California [See Climate, A9]

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Bumpy ride ahead for California?

Trump has big plans for the Golden State if he wins second term. Fasten your seat belts.

DOYLE McMANUS

Donald Trump is running against California — again.

In his campaign to win a second term, the former president frequently excoriates the state as a terrifying dystopia — the inevitable product, he claims, of Democratic policies.

"The place is failing," he



told a conservative conference last month.

"It has become a symbol of our nation's decline," he told California Republicans last year.

"They don't have water," he said. "Rich people in Beverly Hills ... [are] only allowed a small amount of water when they take a shower. That's why rich people from Beverly Hills, generally speaking, don't smell so good."

He accused Gov. Gavin Newsom of telling undocumented migrants, "If you come up, we're going to give you pension funds.... We'll give you a mansion." (Newsom has never promised migrants pension funds or mansions.)

Under its current policies, Trump charged, the state can "take children [See McManus, A9]

Hefty repair bill keeps ship afloat

Long Beach has spent millions on the Queen Mary, but it's finally seeing a profit. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Egypt gets EU aid package

Concerns mount in the cash-strapped nation over migratory pressures from regional wars. **WORLD, A3**

A South L.A. swap meet fades

Slauson Super Mall survived the 1992 riots and the pandemic, but there are fewer customers. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Weather

Partly sunny. L.A. Basin: 77/52. **B6**

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