

## War has college students on edge

Thousands across the U.S. say they have felt targeted, survey finds, with strong support for calming actions.

By TERESA WATANABE

The UCLA Muslim student wears sunglasses, a kaffiyeh scarf and face mask to avoid recognition on campus. She's asked to move her classes online to prevent others from knowing her route and following her. She will speak only on the condition of anonymity to protect herself and her future as an aspiring nurse.

But her caution has not helped her feel safe. She is terrified by the hate that has rained down on her and her fellow pro-Palestinian supporters since Hamas militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel retaliated with a massive and continuing assault on Gaza. She has been spat on and called a terrorist multiple times, she said. Men who have come to the encampment have threatened rape. A woman brandished a stun gun at her on campus, laughing.

But nothing was as chilling as Tuesday night, when a mob of counterprotesters began to attack the pro-Palestinian encampment, erected by students last week, tearing down barriers, assaulting campers and screaming epithets, as captured in videos by The Times.

"I never felt more scared in my life," she said. "I felt my life was in danger."

The violence at what had largely been a peaceful student protest at UCLA traumatized and angered Palestinian supporters, who are demanding an end to Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip and divestment from the country — the biggest wave of campus demonstrations since the 1960s civil rights movement. It also highlighted the intense fears among college students across the country as the Is-

[See Survey, A7]



Photographs by WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

**A GROUP** of people tried to tear down barricades around a pro-Palestinian encampment at UCLA, setting off violence early Wednesday.

## UCLA unrest prompts inquiry

University faces scrutiny over its response to attack, Gaza war protests

By SAFI NAZZAL, TERESA WATANABE, ASHLEY AHN AND HANNAH FRY

UCLA was reeling Wednesday after hours of violence that unfolded overnight at a pro-Palestinian encampment, heightening concerns about the university's handling of the protests over the Gaza war and the future of the camp.

Just before midnight, a large group, wearing black outfits and white masks, arrived on campus and tried to tear down the barricades surrounding the encampment.

Campers, some holding lumber and wearing goggles and helmets, [See UCLA, A6]



**THE ATTACK** on the encampment went uncountered for three hours until CHP and LAPD officers and others arrived to restore order.

It was hours before law enforcement officers were able to quell the chaos

By NOAH GOLDBERG AND RICHARD WINTON

When dozens of counterprotesters swarmed UCLA late Tuesday night, attacking the Palestinian solidarity encampment at the center of campus, university authorities were quickly overwhelmed.

Law enforcement sources told The Times there were only a few UCLA police officers on hand. They tried to stop the violence but were no match for the crowd and had to retreat, having been attacked themselves, the sources said.

A group of unarmed private security guards was there as well. But the guards were hired mainly [See Police, A7]

**COLUMBIA PROTESTERS OUSTED:** University calls in NYPD after activists occupy and vandalize Hamilton Hall. **NATION, A11**

## A U.S. shift on pot could save state's industry

How a DEA decision to reclassify cannabis would affect California

By SALVADOR HERNANDEZ

If the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reclassified marijuana as a less dangerous drug, it wouldn't eliminate the conflicts between the feds and states such as California that have legalized many uses of the substance.

But it would bring one significant shift that could give California's licensed pot companies a badly needed boost: a lighter tax burden.

The Associated Press reported Tuesday that the Drug Enforcement Administration will propose moving marijuana from the list of Schedule I drugs, which includes heroin and cocaine,

to Schedule III drugs, which include ketamine and anabolic steroids. The proposal will still have to be reviewed and endorsed by the White House and be made available for public comment.

Industry insiders say the move could become a lifeline to California's struggling cannabis industry.

"We've been anticipating this," said Meital Manzuri, an attorney whose firm specializes in the cannabis industry. "This is big for the industry."

Lawful in California but illegal under federal law, the state's cannabis industry has operated in a difficult legal limbo. Stores and farms operate in the open, but they're cut off from benefits [See Marijuana, A9]



LUIS SINCO Los Angeles Times

**IF APPROVED,** reclassifying marijuana as a Schedule III drug could serve as a lifeline for firms.

## A new highly charged battle between U.S. and China: electric vehicles

Beijing subsidies and Asian nation's growing exports have Tesla's Musk and Washington officials worried.

By STEPHANIE YANG

TAIPEI, Taiwan — The U.S.-China rivalry has a new flash point in the battle for technology supremacy: electric vehicles.

So far, the U.S. is losing. Last year, China became the world's foremost auto exporter, according to the China Passenger Car Assn., surpassing Japan with more

than 5 million sales overseas. New-energy vehicles accounted for about 25% of those exports, and more than half of those were created by Chinese brands, a shift from the traditional assembly role China has played for foreign automakers.

"The big growth has happened in the last three years," said Stephen Dyer, head of the Asia automotive and industrials unit at AlixPartners, a consulting firm. "With Chinese automakers making inroads for most of the market share, that's a huge challenge for foreign automakers."

China's rapid expansion domestically and abroad has added fuel to a series of clashes between the U.S. and China over trade and advanced technology, as competition intensifies between the two superpowers.

The U.S. has lofty goals for expanding its own EV industry. California, which accounted for 37% of the na-

[See EVs, A9]

### Arizona Senate rejects 1864 law

Lawmakers vote to repeal abortion ban. Measure heads to the governor. **NATION, A4**

### Doctor fights for psychedelic drug

Lawsuits ask court to force DEA to let dying patients try psilocybin therapy. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

### A big Hollywood role for climate

The environmental crisis is a star in some of the most popular movies. **BUSINESS, A8**

### Weather

Mostly sunny. L.A. Basin: 75/56. **B6**

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