



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

**ASYLUM** seekers who used the CBP One app to make appointments wait for interviews with U.S. agents at the San Ysidro crossing.

## Betting on 'the asylum lottery'

Migrant app is called a solution, an easy path in or an abuse of rights

BY PATRICK J. McDONNELL

CIUDAD JUÁREZ, Mexico — Having fled his native Venezuela, Luis Guerrero was living in Colombia when he heard about a legal way to get into the United States: a smartphone app created by the U.S. government.

Five months later — after making it through a jungle trek, a kidnapping ordeal and a long wait in Mexico — he, his wife and their 11-year-old son lined up with scores of other asylum seekers to cross a

bridge into Texas for immigration interviews scheduled through the app.

As the family inched toward the gate, Guerrero explained that friends had encouraged them to cross the border illegally and turn themselves in to claim asylum.

"But, no," he said. "I wanted to do it the correct way."

A few hours later, an agent from U.S. Customs and Border Protection handed Guerrero a slip of paper with a court date for 2025.

Then they headed to a bus station with the aim of making it to

Houston, where they planned to live with friends while Guerrero sought government permission to work and prepared an application for asylum.

Their story is not uncommon these days as tens of thousands of migrants arrive at the border each week. But amid the divisive debate surrounding immigration policy in a U.S. election year, there is no consensus on what lesson to draw from the experiences of the Guerrero family and others in similar predicaments.

The government app — known

as CBP One — has become a key piece of that debate, and a sort of Rorschach test.

The Biden administration lauds the app as part of the solution to the border crisis.

Immigrant advocates say CBP One is glitch-prone and reduces the right of asylum to a lottery while forcing migrants into a dangerous waiting game.

Republican lawmakers denounce the app as an "open borders" ploy that encourages more migrants to head for the United States. [See Migrants, A4]

## How did it get so bad at Paramount?

The studio was poised for a comeback but stumbled badly under chief Shari Redstone.

BY MEG JAMES

It was supposed to be a blockbuster Hollywood comeback: Shari Redstone, who had long struggled to prove herself, was determined to orchestrate a dramatic turnaround of her family's lagging entertainment company, Paramount Global.

"We are on the ascent ... reaching for new heights," Redstone, Paramount's controlling shareholder and nonexecutive chairperson,

confidently told investors in February 2022 during a virtual event from a soundstage in Queens, N.Y.

Rather than leading Paramount to reclaim its place among industry titans, Redstone's tenure atop the company has been marred by miscalculations and setbacks. She's trying to sell the company known for its fabled film studio, the venerable CBS broadcast network, TV stations and cable channels.

But Redstone's willingness to hand Paramount to tech scion David Ellison in a complicated two-phase transaction has infuriated investors, caused months of tensions in the boardroom and contributed to the [See Paramount, A14]



Los Angeles Times photo illustration; photograph courtesy of Shashikant Jogani

**THE DRAMA** involving Shashikant Jogani, left, Haresh Jogani and three other brothers has spanned decades, with shifting alliances among them.

COLUMN ONE

## Billions at stake in family feud over L.A. real estate

Did brothers have a contract? A jury weighs in.

BY NOAH GOLDBERG

**F**our brothers gathered in silence in the Los Angeles courtroom to hear the jury's verdict. The decision came after 20 years of legal maneuvering by the brothers — bitter decades filled with accusations of fraud, intimidation and betrayal.

At issue was whether two of the brothers had struck an oral agreement nearly 30 years ago. Such a contract would determine ownership of vast real

estate holdings worth billions, one of the highest stakes ever seen in a Los Angeles civil courtroom. One brother swore the contract existed; another denied it ever happened.

What might have been an uplifting story of an immigrant who soared to the pinnacle of American wealth had devolved into a saga embroiling not just the siblings but their mother as well.

And now, in Los Angeles County Superior Court, jurors filed into the courtroom [See Brothers, A11]



ROBYN BECK AFP/Getty Images

**SHARI REDSTONE**, Paramount's nonexecutive chair, at the "Top Gun: Maverick" premiere in 2022.

## Rumor and fear fed into chaos at UCLA

As incendiary claims bounced across group chats, crowd gathered and violence ignited.

BY MATTHEW ORMSETH, CONNOR SHEETS, BRITNY MEJIA, RUBEN VIVES, JESSICA GARRISON AND SUMMER LIN

As violence began to flare at the barricades of the pro-Palestinian encampment at UCLA last month, Sean Tabibian trained his camera on the police.

"Shut this down," implored the 52-year-old lawyer, who had returned to his alma mater after hearing on WhatsApp that Jewish students were being excluded from campus.

The crowd that descended on UCLA was inflamed by posts on social media and in private group chats that said Jewish students were being mistreated, blocked from parts of campus and even attacked.

Some of the most incendiary claims have not been verified, but as they ricocheted across group chats and were amplified online, a crowd converged on UCLA the night of April 30. Some said they were there to protect Jewish students and ensure their access to school buildings. Others were intent on dismantling the encampment one way or the other.

"What are you waiting for?" Tabibian shouted at the police. "They have weapons in their encampment. ... They have tear gas."

"Do your job!" yelled another member of the crowd, adding an expletive, as a chant broke out: "Shut it down!"

Police ignored them. Four minutes after the officers arrived, Tabibian said, they did something that left him so stunned that all he could do was film it, repeat. [See UCLA, A10]

### Israeli strikes under scrutiny

U.S. says its ally likely violated humanitarian laws using American weapons, but the evidence is incomplete. **PERSPECTIVES, A2**

### KTLA anchor Sam Rubin dies

Beloved broadcaster known for disarming interviews and warm personality was 64. **CALIFORNIA, B9**

### With a flick of Kershaw's wrist

How the Dodger developed a dazzling slider, as detailed in a new book. **SPORTS, D1**

**Weather** Clouds, then sun. L.A. Basin: 77/58. **B10**

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