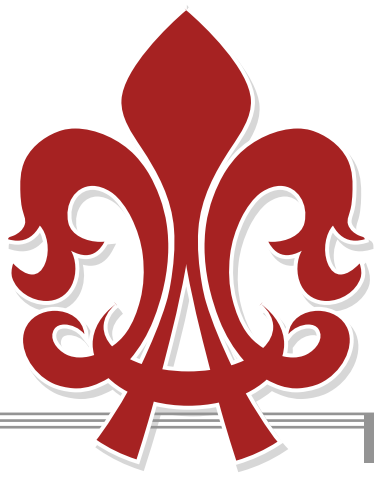




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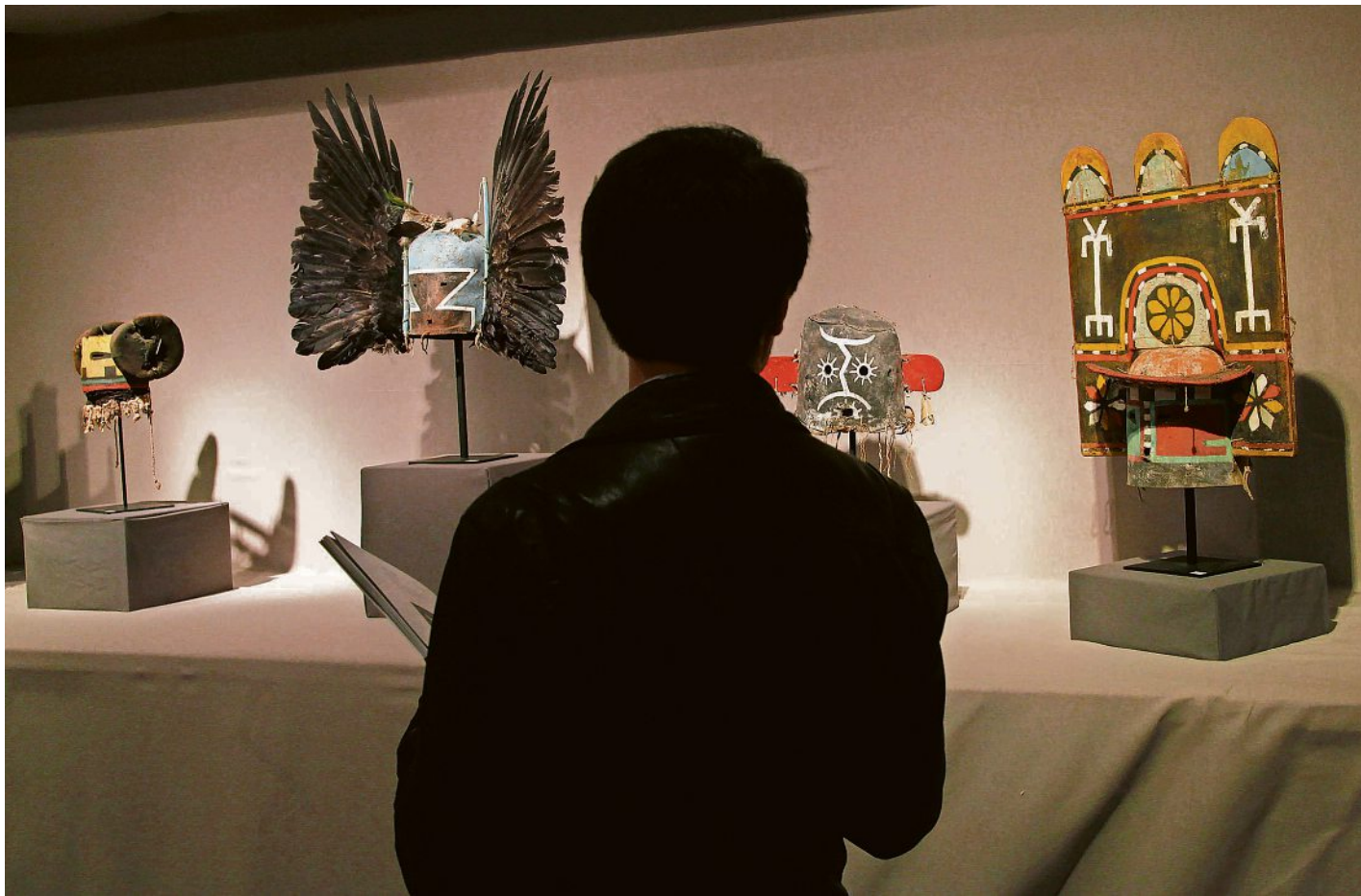
THE DAILY ADVERTISER

WE ARE ACADIANA SINCE 1865

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Universities still hold Native remains, artifacts



A visitor looks at Native American tribal masks at an auction house in Paris in 2013. Universities and museums across North America and Europe face the same question: How will they address the legacy of colonialism in their collections? JOHN SCHULTS/REUTERS

Decades after repatriation law, progress remains slow

Kerri J. Malloy
San José State University
THE CONVERSATION

Many universities and museums in the United States have long held Native American burial artifacts, other sacred objects and even human remains.

Most of these collections were acquired in the late 19th and 20th centuries. They came from grave excavations, anthropological research and other practices carried out without the consent of Native American communities.

In 1990, Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, or NAGPRA. This law requires federally funded institutions, including museums and universities, to identify Native American artifacts, consult with tribes and return them to descendants, tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations.

Some institutions, like the University of California, have publicly committed to returning Native American artifacts and remains to the proper communities, in a process known as repatriation. But progress has been slow, and many sacred objects and remains are still held in collections.

As a scholar of Native American genocide, memory and justice, I think repatriation is about more than merely returning items taken without permission.

It's about how universities and other institutions are confronting the histories that produced these collections in the first place.

The case of the University of California

The University of California is not the only institution confronting this issue of repatriation. But it is one of the country's most visible university systems, with 10 campuses across the state.

The University of California has publicly stated in a detailed policy document and other places online that it is "committed to the repatriation of Native American human remains and cultural items." It publicly tracks its work on returning Native American items and remains via a searchable database.

As of this February, the university repatriated 9,303 human remains, 476,592 items used for burials, and

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Yup'ik masks are displayed at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington. PROVIDED BY KERRI J. MALLOY/THE CONVERSATION

DNC 'autopsy' dissects 2024 loss

Phillip M. Bailey
USA TODAY

The Democratic National Committee released a much-anticipated draft "autopsy" report May 21 attempting to explain the 2024 presidential election loss to Republican Donald Trump that has vexed liberals ever since.

The 192-page document, which is unfinished, outlines existing conventional wisdom about the contest and leaves blank entire sections, such as the conclusion. But it does assign some blame, in particular to former President Joe Biden's political operation for failing to properly set up then-Vice President Kamala Harris as the party's standard-bearer.

The report also dings the Harris campaign for failing to distance the candidate from Biden in light of his unpopularity at the time.

And it says both Biden and Harris' campaigns failed to slow Trump's momentum.

"There was a decision in the 2024 Democratic leadership not to engage in negative advertising at the scale required," the report says. "The supporters of this approach argued Donald Trump's negatives were known, obvious, and baked in, so it would not be a particularly effective approach to engage in negative messaging when the main priority was to introduce a relatively unknown nominee after the unprecedented candidate switch."

Biden abruptly exited the race after a troubling debate performance in June 2024, passing the baton to Harris, who was swept by Trump in every battleground state after a 107-day campaign.

DNC Chair Ken Martin had been criticized by committee members for refusing to release the postmortem. He stood by that choice for months, saying it would be a distraction ahead of the midterm elections.

In a May 21 Substack post, however, the embattled chair said withholding the document created "an even bigger distraction," while reiterating it did not meet party standards.

"I am not proud of this product," Martin said.

"I could not in good faith put the DNC's stamp of approval on it," he added. "But transparency is paramount."

The report was prepared by Democratic strategist Paul Rivera, who calls out instances where the Biden admini-

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Trump defends DOJ fund amid growing GOP revolt

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump is digging in over the Justice Department's \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund as Senate Republicans re-

volt over a pot of money that could funnel payments to the president's allies, including Jan. 6 defendants.

Trump, in a May 22 post on Truth Social, said he "gave up a lot of money in allowing the just announced Anti-Weaponization Fund to go forward,"

adding that he could have settled his family's now-withdrawn lawsuit against the IRS for "an absolute fortune."

"Instead, I am helping others, who were so badly abused by an evil, corrupt, and weaponized Biden Admini-

stration, receive, at long last, JUSTICE!" Trump said.

Trump's comments came after Senate Republicans left Washington for a weeklong recess, fuming over a fund

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