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Democrats Say Party Stumbles On Messaging

Lacking Strategy for a Case on the Economy

This article is by Lisa Lerer, Katie Gleason and J. J. Martin. Top Democratic officials, lawmakers and strategists are openly second-guessing their party's campaign pitch and tactics, reflecting a growing sense that Democrats have failed to coalesce around one effective message with enough time to stave off major losses in the House and possibly decisive defeats in the tightly contested Senate.

The criticism by Democrats in the final days before the midterm elections signals mounting anxiety as Republicans hammer away with attacks over the economy and public safety. For weeks, Democrats have offered a scatter-shot case of their own, accusing their opponents of wanting to get abortion rights, shred the social safety net and shake the foundations of American democracy.

Yet as the country struggles with high gas prices, record inflation and economic uncertainty, some Democrats are questioning whether their kitchen-sink approach may be lacking.

Even among the leading chieftains, there's little agreement over exactly what could cost the party control of Congress. In articles where history repeats itself, the high Black voter turnout. Democrats worry that they are not mobilizing that constituency. Others say there has been too much focus on abortion rights and too little attention on worries about crime or the cost of living. And across the country, Democrats point to an inadequate economic message and an inability to effectively herald their legislative accomplishments.

"The truth is, Democrats have done a poor job of communicating our approach to the public," said Sen. Sherrod Brown. "We have no idea if I'm going to win my election — it's going to be a nail-biter. But if you can't speak directly to people's pocketbook and talk about our vision for the economy, you're just having a conversation."

Ms. Clinton is far from alone in her criticism. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont has sounded alarm bells that Democrats are struggling to motivate working-class voters. Former President Barack Obama, who is traveling the country to campaign in some of the tightest races for Senate and governor, urged Democrats to be "a better kill" by making people feel as if they were "walking on eggshells" when it came to issues like race and gender.

And several prominent Democrats have worried that their party has not fully acknowledged the pain of rising prices — or effectively.

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JOHN PERRY/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Sneaky, Scrupy and Uneven

Outnumbered and under fire, a Ukrainian unit scouts out enemy weak spots. How they do it and what they find left behind. Page A8.

Cheney Offers Trail Support To Democrats

By JONATHAN WEISSMAN

EAST LANSING, Mich. — As political speeches go, Representative Liz Cheney's address to a packed gym here on Tuesday evening was hardly a barn burner. But her message was deeply serious, and the aim of her visit was extraordinary for a Wyoming Republican, encouraged protesters to be peaceful, celebrated his accomplishments, criticized the left and

"The chips are down for us. This is our time of testing," Ms. Cheney told a crowd of Democrats who were quick with their applause. "We all must stand and defend the republic."

For the first time in her political career — in her life, she said — Ms. Cheney was campaigning for a Democrat. Her appearance is part of a broader last-ditch push by Republican opponents of former President Donald J. Trump to try to thwart a comeback of his political movement in the midterm elections next week, even if that means endorsing and campaigning for Democrats and independent candidates in crucial states and House districts.

But the question remains, if Democrats have struggled for months to elevate the meaning of the 2022 midterms, to impress upon voters that sometimes pocketbook issues like inflation must take a back seat to existential issues.

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Bolsonaro Agrees to Transition of Power in Brazil

By JACK NICAS and ANDRÉ SPIGARIOL

BRASILIA — Two days after losing Brazil's presidential election, President Jair Bolsonaro agreed to a transition of power on Tuesday, ending fears that the far-right leader would contest the results after warning for months that the only way he would lose would be if the vote were stolen.

In a two-minute speech, Mr. Bolsonaro thanked his supporters, encouraged protesters to be peaceful, celebrated his accomplishments, criticized the left and

President Jair Bolsonaro, center, and his ministers arriving at a news conference Tuesday in Brasilia.

JOAO CALDAS/GETTY IMAGES FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Refuses to Admit He Was Beaten by Lula in a Fair Election

By ELIZA FAWCETT

Jazez Ahmad was a junior in high school when Covid-19 hit and her math education faltered. Ms. Ahmad was enrolled in an international baccalaureate math franchise intended to provide a strong foundation in areas like algebra, geometry, statistics and calculus.

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ROCKETING PRICES OF FOOD ELEVATE COMPANY PROFITS

SHOPPERS KEEP PAYING Increases at Restaurants and Stores Exceed the Cost of Inflation

By ISABELLA SIMONETTI and JULIE CRESWELL

A year ago, a bag of potato chips at the grocery store cost an average of \$5.05. These days, that bag costs \$6.05. A dozen eggs that could have been picked up for \$1.33 now average \$2.50. A two-liter bottle of soda that cost \$1.78 will now set you back \$2.17.

Something else is also much higher: corporate profits. In mid-October, PepsiCo, whose prices for its drinks and chips were up 17 percent in the latest quarter from year-earlier levels, reported that its third-quarter profit grew more than 20 percent.

Restaurants keep getting more expensive, too. Chipotle Mexican Grill, which said prices by the end of the year would be nearly 15 percent higher than a year earlier, reported \$257.1 million in profit in the latest quarter, up nearly 26 percent from the same period last year.

Although food companies are prominent examples of how rapid inflation is being passed from producers to consumers, the trend is evident across a wide variety of industries. Executives from banks, airlines, hotels, consumer goods and technology firms have said they are finding that customers have money to spend and can tolerate higher prices.

And this makes it harder for the Federal Reserve to achieve its goal of bringing down inflation by aggressively increasing interest rates. Fed officials are set to announce their latest rate decision on Wednesday afternoon.

For years, food companies and restaurants generally raised prices in small steps, worried that big increases would frighten consumers and send them looking for cheaper options. But over the last year, as wages increased and the cost of the raw ingredients used to make treats like cookies, chips, sodas and the materials to package them soared, food companies and restaurants started passing along those expenses to customers.

But amid growing concerns that the economy could be headed for a recession, some food companies and restaurants are continuing to raise prices even if their own inflation-driven costs have

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Colleges Face Generation of Students Left Behind

By ELIZA FAWCETT

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What's News

Business & Finance

Traders are betting higher interest rates will drag into the next decade, with the Fed poised on Wednesday to approve its fourth consecutive 0.25 percentage point increase. AI A2

• Musk is looking to quickly boost Twitter's revenue by embracing subscriptions, aiming to make it less dependent on ads as Elon Musk's takeover of the social-media company nears. AI A2

• J&J agreed to acquire Allergan in a \$5.6-billion deal. The health products giant hopes will accelerate its overhaul into a leaner, faster-growing company. AI A2

• U.S. stocks fell, with the Dow ending lower after retracing 0.4% and the S&P 500 ending down 0.2%, respectively. B15

• BP reported record third-quarter trading profits and said it would buy back another \$2.5 billion in shares. B7

• Fed. Corp. CEO Lachar announced the sale of scale on a call with analysts about the firm's results. B4

• Chip maker AMD issued a surprise outlook for the current quarter. B4

World-Wide

• The U.A.E. sent its national guard to the border in September on a secret mission to dissuade Saudi Arabia from pushing for an oil production cut that would anger the U.S. and risk the Russian alliance. AI A2

• Small Arabia has shared intelligence with the U.S. warning of an imminent attack from Iran on targets in the region, said Saudi and U.S. officials. AI A2

• Utility crews across Ukraine were working to restore power and electricity supplies after Russian strikes a day earlier knocked out service to hundreds of thousands of people. A5

• The man accused of attacking Pelosi's husband pleaded not guilty to charges including attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, and elder abuse. A3

• Voters are giving Republicans a late boost in support, just ahead of the mid-term elections, a new Wall Street Journal poll found. A4

• Pennsylvania's high court ordered election officials to disallow mail-in ballots if voters attempt to put the correct date on the envelope. A5

• The Supreme Court denied Sen. Graham's emergency plea to avoid conviction with a Georgia grand jury investigating possible prosecutive interference in the state's 2020 vote count. A5

• Chief Justice Roberts said the Justice Department should continue to obtain Trump's tax returns. A5

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Bolsonaro Clears Way for Presidential Transition in Brazil

By RICK WALLISBERG



RESULTS: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, at Alvorada Palace in Brasilia on Tuesday, made his first public statement about Sunday's election, authorizing the transition of power to winner Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. A7

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Twitter Advertisers Hesitate, Musk Looks to Subscriptions

By MICHAEL BROWNSTEIN AND STEPHAN LEE



Elon Musk is looking to quickly boost Twitter Inc.'s revenue by embracing subscriptions, aiming to make it less dependent on ads as Musk's takeover of the social-media company nears.

Twitter advertisers are hesitating to commit to long-term contracts, according to people familiar with the situation. Mr. Musk signaled in several tweets that he was leaning to a \$9-per-month subscription offering.

Subscriptions will make Twitter less dependent on ads, which is the billion-dollar takeover. Mr. Musk has been saying since before completing his \$44 billion takeover of Twitter that it needs to rely less on the digital advertising dollars that account for nearly 90% of its total sales.

Both Interop Group of Gas, and Havas Media have urged their clients to temporarily pause their Twitter ads because of concerns about the company's ability to monitor its content, according to people familiar with the situation.

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Traders Expect Higher Rates To Linger

By RICK WALLISBERG



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U.A.E. Envoy Secretly Urged Saudis Not to Cut Oil Output

By SOMAYA SAUD AND DAVID HANAUER



Abdulrahman bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's crown prince, is seen in a video recording of a meeting with the United Arab Emirates' ambassador to Riyadh in September on a secret mission to dissuade Saudi Arabia's crown prince from pushing for an oil production cut that would anger the U.S. and risk the Russian alliance.

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Wagers on Fed Benchmark Remaining Elevated for Longer

By RICK WALLISBERG



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Innovator Transformed the Flow of Atlanta Rap

The Atlanta trio Migos' 2013 breakout hit "Versace" represented a clear demarcation line between the city's older generation of rappers and its new vanguard. The rapping — each cut delivered in trip-lets — was a gritty stamp of Atlanta's hip-hop culture.

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Professional Cornhole Gets A Scandal

BagGate sparks a frenzy at world championships.

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Russian Retreat Exposes Collaborators

Tensions flare as Ukrainian villagers who aided occupation fall under investigation.

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Salesforce #1 CRM

Ranked #1 in CRM Market Share Worldwide.

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