

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**Late Edition**  
New York: **Today**, partly to mostly sunny, high 83. **Tonight**, scattered clouds, low 64. **Tomorrow**, still partly to mostly sunny, turning cooler, high 78. Weather map, Page D8.

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## Little-Noticed 9/11 Lawsuits Will Get Their Day in Court

Families’ Decisions Came Down to Value of a Life

**By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS**

In the days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, while much of the country was still stunned and grieving, Michelle Cottom was being forced to deal with an ugly bottom line. How much was her child’s life worth?

The Cottoms — and the families of 41 other victims — may soon get an answer as the little-noticed lawsuits they have brought against the airlines, security companies and other parties move toward a trial in a Manhattan courtroom.

Mrs. Cottom’s 11-year-old daughter, Asia, a passenger on American Airlines Flight 77, died when hijackers crashed the plane into the Pentagon. She and her husband, Clifton, soon had to choose between taking what they perceived as a minimal award from a federal fund set up to compensate victims or calling one of the many lawyers who had sent what Mrs. Cottom calls “advertising packages” and filing a lawsuit.

One of those lawyers, Mary Schiavo, a former inspector general for the federal Department of Transportation, visited her at home and convinced Mrs. Cottom that her instincts were right, that

Asia deserved much more than what the government would offer.

“She came to me and convinced me that she could bring justice to the situation, and I trusted what she said,” Mrs. Cottom recalled. When government compensation for deaths was eventually made, the average was \$2 million, and the range was \$250,000 to \$7.1 million.

Now, in a concrete sign of movement in the families’ cases, the judge, Alvin K. Hellerstein of Federal District Court in Manhattan, has set a trial date of Sept. 24 — 2,205 days since 19 hijackers brought four planes out of the sky into the twin towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

By the plaintiffs’ own accounts, they have sued with mixed motives, which sometimes even they cannot untangle. They present themselves as heroes fighting for the truth and as families honoring the memory of their loved ones, but they are not apologetic about seeking money. They seem to be an angry, stubborn, sorrowful and stalwart group, who have been little known by most Americans, or perhaps forgotten with

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Clifton and Michelle Cottom’s daughter, Asia, 11, died in the crash of American Airlines Flight 77 at the Pentagon.

## As Support From States Lags, Colleges Tack On Student Fees

**By JONATHAN D. GLATER**

When Emily McLain decided to enroll at the University of Oregon, a significant part of the appeal was low tuition. She had not counted on all the fees that unexpectedly appeared on her bill.

“I had my dad calling me asking, ‘What’s this for?’ ” said Ms. McLain, 22, a political science and international studies major now entering her last year at the university.

This year, for instance, the university is charging a \$51 “energy surcharge” for rising electricity costs. A \$270 “technology fee” for computer service. There is the \$371.25 fee for the campus health center, a \$135 fee to maintain buildings and grounds and a \$624 “incidental fee,” for student activities. And more.

All told, fees add up to \$1,542, or nearly an additional 40 percent on top of tuition of \$3,984. That

does not even count additional fees charged for taking certain courses.

College administrators say public universities are increasingly tacking on fees for the same reasons that some are experimenting with differential tuition for different majors: state support for higher education has languished, and legislatures shy away from approving tuition increases. Fees can often be set by individual campuses.

At just over half the nation’s four-year public colleges, fees rose faster than tuition in the 2005-6 school year and the previous year, according to the College Board, which tracks trends in college costs. Over all, in 2005-6 — the most current year for which there is available data — fees rose by an average of 8 percent to

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## Before Models Can Turn Around, Knockoffs Fly

**By ERIC WILSON**

Buyers from the nation’s leading department stores will sift through the work of hundreds of designers as another Fashion Week begins today in New York, seeking the looks that shoppers will want to wear next spring. Seema Anand will be looking for the ones they want right now.

Ms. Anand, who will be following the catwalk shows through photographs posted instantly on the Web, is a designer few would recognize, even though she has dressed more people than most of the famous designers exhibiting a few blocks from her garment district studio, under the tents in Bryant Park.

“If I see something on Style .com, all I have to do is e-mail the picture to my factory and say, ‘I want something similar, or a silhouette made just like this,’ ” Ms. Anand said. The factory, in Jaipur, India, can deliver stores a knockoff months before the designer version.

Ms. Anand compared a gold sequined tunic she created with a nearly identical one by the designer Tory Burch. Bloomingdale’s had asked her to make sev-

eral hundred of the dresses for its private label Aqua, she said.

The Tory Burch dress sells for \$750; Ms. Anand’s is \$260.

Ms. Anand’s company, Simonia Fashions, is one of hundreds that make less expensive clothes inspired by other designers’ runway looks, for trendy stores like Forever 21 and retail behemoths like Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s.



Left, a dress from this year’s Versace collection that costs about \$1,700. Right, a similar dress that retails for about \$130.

## Bush, in Iraq, Says Troop Reduction Is Possible



President Bush, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice after a news conference during a surprise eight-hour visit to Al Asad, a remote desert air base 120 miles west of Baghdad in the restive Sunni province of Anbar.

## Bipolar Soars As Diagnosis For the Young

**By BENEDICT CAREY**

The number of American children and adolescents treated for bipolar disorder increased 40-fold from 1994 to 2003, researchers report today in the most comprehensive study of the controversial diagnosis.

Experts say the number has almost certainly risen further since 2003.

Many experts theorize that the jump reflects that doctors are more aggressively applying the diagnosis to children, and not that the incidence of the disorder has increased.

But the magnitude of the increase surprises many psychiatrists. They say it is likely to intensify the debate over the validity of the diagnosis, which has shaken child psychiatry.

Bipolar disorder is characterized by extreme mood swings. Until relatively recently, it was thought to emerge almost exclusively in adulthood. But in the 1990s, psychiatrists began looking more closely for symptoms in younger patients.

Some experts say greater awareness, reflected in the increasing diagnoses, is letting youngsters with the disorder obtain the treatment they need.

Other experts say bipolar disorder is overdiagnosed. The term, the critics say, has become a catchall applied to almost any explosive, aggressive child.

After children are classified, the experts add, they are treated with powerful psychiatric drugs that have few proven benefits in children and potentially serious side effects like rapid weight gain.

In the study, researchers from

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## Envoy’s Letter Counters Bush On Dismantling of Iraqi Army

**By EDMUND L. ANDREWS**

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 — A previously undisclosed exchange of letters shows that President Bush was told in advance by his top Iraq envoy in May 2003 of a plan to “dissolve Saddam’s military and intelligence structures,” a plan that the envoy, L. Paul Bremer, said referred to dismantling the Iraqi Army.

Mr. Bremer provided the letters to The New York Times on Monday after reading that Mr. Bush was quoted in a new book as saying that American policy had been “to keep the army intact” but that it “didn’t happen.”

The dismantling of the Iraqi Army in the aftermath of the American invasion is now widely regarded as a mistake that stoked rebellion among hundreds of thousands of former Iraqi soldiers and made it more difficult to reduce sectarian bloodshed and attacks by insurgents. In releasing the letters, Mr. Bremer said he wanted to refute the sug-



L. Paul Bremer

gestion in Mr. Bush’s comment that Mr. Bremer had acted to disband the army without the knowledge and concurrence of the White House.

“We must make it clear to everyone that we mean business: that Saddam and the Baathists are finished,” Mr. Bremer wrote in a letter that was drafted on May 20, 2003, and sent to the president on May 22 through Donald H. Rumsfeld, then secretary of defense.

After recounting American efforts to remove members of the Baath Party of Saddam Hussein from civilian agencies, Mr. Bremer told Mr. Bush that he would “parallel this step with an even more robust measure” to dismantle the Iraqi military.

One day later, Mr. Bush wrote back a short thank you letter. “Your leadership is apparent,” the president wrote. “You have quickly made a positive and significant impact. You have my full support and confidence.”

On the same day, Mr. Bremer, in Baghdad, had issued the order

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### INSIDE



NICOLE BENVIGNO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

### North Korea Says U.S. Agreed to Lift Sanctions

North Korea said the United States had agreed to lift economic sanctions and remove it from a list of countries accused of sponsoring terrorism, a principal condition for it giving up nuclear weapons. But a State Department spokeswoman in Washington would not confirm the announcement.

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### Thoughts on the Race

Voters across the nation took stock of the presidential field over the weekend. Democrats appeared happy, if aware of the candidates’ potential weaknesses. Republicans were having trouble settling on one or generating much enthusiasm.

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### Iraqi Accuses Iran of Shelling

Iraq’s foreign minister, Hoshyar Zebari, delivered a strongly worded demand to Iran’s president and other leaders to halt the shelling of a mountainous border region in Iraq’s north.

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### Challenge to Homeless Policy

Despite being told they do not qualify as homeless, families, above, gather each day at a city office in the Bronx to wait for emergency shelter. Their refusal to return to living situations they see as untenable is posing a challenge to the city.

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### Brothers in Uniforms

The Yankees star Alex Rodriguez had not seen his half brother, Lt. Col. Victor Rodriguez, for 23 years before 2003. Now they have a relationship.

SPORTSTUESDAY, PAGE D1

### A Happy Return

In his first major league appearance this season, nearly a year after having career-threatening shoulder surgery, Pedro Martinez earned his 3,000th career strikeout as he pitched the Mets to a 10-4 victory over the Reds in Cincinnati.

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## Setting the Tone Before a Fight in Congress

**By DAVID S. CLOUD and STEVEN LEE MYERS**

AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq, Sept. 3 — President Bush made a surprise eight-hour visit to Iraq on Monday, emphasizing security gains, sectarian reconciliation and the possibility of a troop withdrawal, thus embracing and pre-empting this month’s crucial Congressional hearings on his Iraq strategy.

His visit, with his commanders and senior Iraqi officials, had a clear political goal: to try to head off opponents’ pressure for a withdrawal by hailing what he called recent successes in Iraq and by contending that only making Iraq stable would allow American forces to pull back.

Mr. Bush’s visit to Iraq — his third — was spent at this remote desert base in the restive Sunni province of Anbar, where he had summoned Iraq’s Shiite prime minister, Nuri Kamal al-Maliki, and others to demonstrate that reconciliation among Iraq’s warring sectarian factions was at least conceivable, if not yet a fact.

After talks with Gen. David H. Petraeus, the top American commander in Iraq, and Ryan C. Crocker, the ambassador to Iraq, Mr. Bush said that they “tell me that if the kind of success we are now seeing here continues it will be possible to maintain the same level of security with fewer American forces.”

Mr. Bush did not say how large a troop withdrawal was possible. Nor did he say whether he envisioned any forces being withdrawn sooner than next spring, when the first of the additional 30,000 troops Mr. Bush sent to Iraq this year are scheduled to come home anyway.

Still, his remarks were the clearest indication yet that a reduction would begin sometime in the months ahead, answering the growing opposition in Washington to an unpopular war while at the same time trying to argue that any change in strategy was not a failure.

“Those decisions will be based on a calm assessment by our military commanders on the conditions on the ground — not a nervous reaction by Washington politicians to poll results in the media,” Mr. Bush told a gathering of

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