

“All the News  
That’s Fit to Print”

# The New York Times

**THE WEATHER**  
Today, mostly cloudy, high 81. To-  
night, plenty of cloudiness, a stray  
shower mainly north, low 69. **Tomor-  
row**, a mix of clouds and sunshine,  
high 80. Weather map, Page A19.

## Ivy Agreements Give U.S. Data On Admissions

### Way for Right to Keep Scrutiny on Race

By SHARON OTTERMAN  
and ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

As part of the settlements struck with two Ivy League universities in recent weeks, the Trump administration will gain access to the standardized test scores and grade point averages of all applicants, including information about their race, a measure that could profoundly alter competitive college admissions. That aspect of the agreements with Columbia and Brown, which goes well beyond the information typically provided to the government, was largely overlooked amid splashier news that the universities had promised to pay tens of millions of dollars to settle claims of violations of federal anti-discrimination laws, including accusations that they had tolerated antisemitism.

The release of such data has been on the wish list of conservatives who are searching for evidence that universities are dodging a 2023 Supreme Court decision banning the consideration of race in college admissions, and will probably be sought in the future from many more of them.

But college officials and experts who support using factors beyond test scores worry that the government — or private groups or individuals — will use the data to file new discrimination charges against universities and threaten their federal funding.

The Trump administration is using every lever it can to push elite college admissions offices toward what it regards as “merit-based” processes that more heavily weigh grades and test scores, arguing that softer measures,

Continued on Page A13



Jeffrey Epstein's bedroom in his townhouse, with a video camera in a corner of the ceiling. A sculpture was suspended in an atrium.



## Inside Townhouse Where Sex Offender Set a Table for the Elite

This article is by David Enrich, Matthew Goldstein, Jessica Silver-Greenberg and Steve Eder.

As a gift for Jeffrey Epstein's 63rd birthday, friends sent letters in tribute to the wealthy financier and convicted sex offender. Several shared a common theme: recounting the dinner gatherings that Mr. Epstein regularly hosted at his palatial townhouse on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

Ehud Barak, former prime minister of Israel, and his wife noted the great diversity of guests. “There is no limit to your curiosity,” they wrote in their mes-

sage, which was compiled with others in January 2016. “You are like a closed book to many of them but you know everything about everyone.”

The media mogul Mortimer Zuckerman suggested ingredients for a meal that would reflect the culture of the mansion: a simple salad and whatever else “would enhance Jeffrey's sexual performance.”

And the director Woody Allen described how the dinners reminded him of Dracula's castle, “where Lugosi has three young female vampires who service the place.”

### Hidden Cameras and a ‘Lolita’ in Epstein’s New York Home

But Mr. Epstein's prized property was no gloomy Transylvanian fortress. He had spent years turning the seven-story, 21,000-square-foot townhouse into a place where he could flaunt — and deepen — his connections to the rich and powerful, even as hints of his dark side lurked within, according to previously undisclosed

photos and documents showing how he lived in his later years.

Since Mr. Epstein's death in federal custody in 2019, which was ruled a suicide, many mysteries about him have yet to be solved. How did he amass a nine-figure fortune? And why did so many powerful men continue to fraternize with him long after he became a registered sex offender?

The White House had pledged to release details about the federal investigations into Mr. Epstein and his associates. But this summer the Trump administration backpedaled. The ensuing right-

Continued on Page A18

## Hiroshima, Reborn as Symbol Of Peace, Faces Warlike World

By HANNAH BEECH  
and HISAKO UENO

HIROSHIMA, Japan — There is a Peace Boulevard, a Peace Bell and a Peace Memorial Park.

On a recent summer afternoon, at the Children's Peace Monument, near the Flame of Peace, elementary school students in cotton hats and crisp uniforms folded origami cranes. They were honoring a little girl who had tried to overcome the effects of Little Boy, as the atomic bomb used in the world's first nuclear attack was code-named, by folding a thousand paper birds, a Japanese tradition for good fortune. She died of radiation poisoning anyway.

Hiroshima was bombed by the American military on Aug. 6, 1945, causing the deaths of about 140,000 residents by the end of the

### Even in Japan, a Drive for a Robust Military

year and hastening the close of Japan's imperial rampage across Asia and the world's deadliest war. Today, the Japanese city stands synonymous with peace. From the ashes of nuclear devastation, Hiroshima — along with the city of Nagasaki, which was bombed three days later — was rebuilt and regenerated. Burned and sickened by radiation, many of Hiroshima's survivors forgave. They

Continued on Page A6

**GRASPING HORROR** Eighty years later, it is time again to regain “the courage to be afraid.” PAGE C5



Saying prayers in Hiroshima, Japan, for victims of the American atomic bombing on Aug. 6, 1945.

CHANG W. LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

## California Democrats Join Fight on Redistricting

This article is by Laurel Rosenhall, J. David Goodman, Shane Goldmacher and Nick Corasaniti.

Democrats in California moved this week to counter redistricting efforts by Texas Republicans with discussions of a new political map of their own drawn to help Democrats win as many as five of the state's Republican U.S. House seats next year.

That would functionally offset the five Democratic House seats that Republicans have targeted in Texas.

The plan seemed far-fetched a few weeks ago, but has been gaining momentum as a redistricting war that began in Texas threatens

### Answering Texas G.O.P. in ‘26 Midterm Race

to spread across the country. California's Democratic members of Congress and the Legislature have been briefed in recent days. State lawmakers are planning to vote on the proposal the week of Aug. 18, and Gov. Gavin Newsom said he hopes to put a new map before voters in a special election on Nov. 4.

The action in California is the clearest sign yet that an effort pushed by President Trump to bolster Republican chances of re-

taining control of the House after the 2026 midterm elections could grow into a national fight stretching from coast to coast.

Partisanship is boiling over in Texas, and scalding other states. On Tuesday, the state's senior senator, John Cornyn, asked the F.B.I. to help locate and arrest dozens of Democratic state lawmakers who left Texas to block the State Legislature from voting on the Republican redistricting plan.

The potential use of federal agents to round up the Texas lawmakers, who have sought refuge in New York, Illinois and Massachusetts, would set up a clash between the Democratic governors

Continued on Page A12

## Nebraska Republican Feels Heat at a Town Hall

By ANNIE KARNI

LINCOLN, Neb. — Representative Mike Flood, Republican of Nebraska, was not even 30 seconds into his prepared introduction at a town hall in Lincoln on Monday evening when the booing and the jeering began. Then it didn't let up for over an hour.

“There's been a lot of misinformation out there about the bill,” Mr. Flood told a crowd of more than 700 people gathered in a downtown recital hall, referring to President Trump's sweeping domestic policy law that significantly cuts Medicaid, food benefits and other programs.

“You are a liar!” multiple people

### Angry Democrats Seize Rare Chance to Vent

shouted back. “Liar! Liar!”

Mr. Flood, a second-term congressman who won his district last year by more than 20 points, soldiered through his slide-show presentation, saying, “We're going to see an influx of money into Nebraska hospitals.”

“Liar!” the crowd responded, but louder this time.

“If we didn't pass the Big Beautiful Bill,” Mr. Flood said, “there would have been a \$1,600 tax increase to every Nebraska family.”

In response, the packed auditorium erupted in a chant of “tax the rich,” and Mr. Flood finally had to pause his slides. “The only way we're going to get through tonight,” he said, “is if I get a chance to tell you how I voted.”

This was exactly the kind of reception many Republicans dreaded as they headed home to their districts for their six-week summer break.

Faced with selling a major piece of the Trump agenda that polls show is broadly unpopular and confronted with ruptures in Mr. Trump's base over his handling of the Jeffrey Epstein case, they risk being met with angry questions

Continued on Page A14



ARTS C1-8

### Best Seat in the House

At Edinburgh Festival Fringe, it seemed that much of the most interesting action was occurring off the stage.

PAGE C2

### Rise of Masked Metal Bands

Groups are prioritizing lore and musicianship, and showing how niche fandoms can fuel a trip to the top.

PAGE C8

INTERNATIONAL A4-9

### China Tackles Another Virus

In a citywide campaign to curb a mosquito-borne illness, residents of Foshan, China, face inspections and warnings for failure to comply.

PAGE A4

### Germany Is Pressured on Gaza

A loyal bond with Israel formed after the Holocaust. But a hunger crisis has prompted calls for action.

PAGE A9

BUSINESS B1-5

### A Case Study on Tariffs

The Malaysian solar industry profited from Chinese investment. Now it's caught between global titans.

PAGE B1



FOOD D1-8

### The Lure of Lobster Rolls

At top lobster shacks in Maine and across the nation, demand for the handheld delight keeps growing.

PAGE D7

### Putting Sodas to the Test

Do sweetened soft drinks made without high-fructose corn syrup taste better? We sought an expert's opinion.

PAGE D1

NATIONAL A10-19

### G.O.P. Flips on Jobs Data

The president's firing of the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics forced his allies into the awkward spot of criticizing an agency they had freely cited in the past. News Analysis.

PAGE A14

### Jewish Voters for Mamdani

Zohran Mamdani appealed to Jewish New Yorkers who were energized by his economic agenda and unbothered by — or aligned with — his views on Israel and Gaza.

PAGE A10

OPINION A22-23

### The Editorial Board

PAGE A22



SPORTS B6-8

### A Paragon of Timelessness

Lindsey Vonn's return to the top level of skiing at 40 has made her a folk hero among aging Americans who want to live fearlessly.

PAGE B6



0 354613 9