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Late Edition

Today, periodic clouds and sun, high 42. Tonight, partly cloudy, low 32. Tomorrow, limited sunshine, then increasingly cloudy later, high 39. Weather map is on Page B16.

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Patrolling Haiti, U.S. Troops Are Welcomed Into a Void

Complaints Rising Over the Government's Collapse

By MARC LACEY

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — American military helicopters landed on Tuesday at Haiti's wrecked National Palace, and troops began rolling through the capital's battered streets, signs of the growing international relief operation here. But the troops' presence underscored the rising complaints that the Haitian government had all but disappeared in the week since a huge earthquake struck.

Haiti's long history of foreign intervention, including an American occupation, normally makes the influx of foreigners a delicate issue.

But with the government of President René Préval largely out of public view and the needs so huge, many Haitians are shunting aside their concerns about sovereignty and welcoming anybody willing to help — in camouflage or not.

"It is not ideal to have a foreign army here, but look at the situation," said Enide Edoword, 24, a waitress who was standing in a

camp of displaced people. "We are living amid filth and hunger and thirst after a catastrophe."

When Mr. Préval asked religious and business leaders at a meeting on Saturday whether they supported the intervention of the United States Marines, the response came with a caveat.

"They said, 'Yes — as long as it's temporary,'" said Bishop Jean-Zache Duracin of Haiti's Episcopal Church, who attended the meeting. "We have no choice because the government has collapsed."

At the international airport, where the United States Air Force now controls incoming and departing planes, Haitian officials are on hand and insist that it is still theirs, even if it more resembles a military base.

"We are like a country whose capital has been hit by two atomic bombs," said Patrick Elie, a presidential adviser and former defense minister.

"We are obviously in a moment of disarray, if not pain, and we have to regroup," he added. "But let no one point a finger and say, 'Where is the state?' People who say that don't understand the extent of the damage."

But many were still pointing fingers.

"We have a vacuum of government," asserted Michèle Pierre-Louis, who had been Mr. Préval's prime minister until she was ousted a few months ago. "The big question is, Who's in charge? We don't feel as though there is someone organizing all this."

Mr. Préval, an aloof leader even in the best of times, huddled

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G.O.P. Surges to Senate Victory in Massachusetts



Scott Brown, the winner of the Senate race, celebrating in Boston on Tuesday. The seat was long held by Edward M. Kennedy, and Mr. Brown's victory was a big setback for the Democratic Party.

CHARLES KRUPA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Upset Leaves the Health Bill in Question

By MICHAEL COOPER

BOSTON — Scott Brown, a little-known Republican state senator, rode an old pickup truck and a growing sense of unease among independent voters to an extraordinary upset Tuesday night when he was elected to fill the Senate seat that was long held by Edward M. Kennedy in the overwhelmingly Democratic state of Massachusetts.

By a decisive margin, Mr. Brown defeated Martha Coakley, the state's attorney general, who had been considered a prohibitive favorite to win just over a month ago after she easily won the Democratic primary.

With all precincts counted, Mr. Brown had 52 percent of the vote to Ms. Coakley's 47 percent.

"Tonight the independent voice of Massachusetts has spoken," Mr. Brown told his cheering supporters in a victory speech, standing in front of a backdrop that said "The People's Seat."

The election left Democrats in Congress scrambling to salvage a bill overhauling the nation's health care system, which the late Mr. Kennedy had called "the cause of my life." Mr. Brown has vowed to oppose the bill, and once he takes office the Democrats will no longer control the 60 votes in the Senate needed to overcome filibusters.

There were immediate signs that the bill had become imperiled. House members indicated they would not quickly pass the bill the Senate approved last month. [Page A13.]

And after the results were announced, one centrist Democratic senator, Jim Webb of Virginia, called on Senate leaders to suspend any votes on the Democrats' health care legislation until Mr. Brown is sworn into office. The election, he said, was a referendum on both health care and the integrity of the government

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NEWS ANALYSIS

A Year Later, Voters Send a Different Message

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

BOSTON — Special elections come and go. And the party that wins the White House one year ordinarily loses seats in the next Congressional election that comes along.

But what happened in Massachusetts on Tuesday was no ordinary special election.

Scott Brown, a Republican state senator for only five years, shocked and arguably humiliated the White House and the Democratic Party establishment by defeating Martha Coakley in the race for a United States Senate

seat. He did it one day short of a year after President Obama stood on the steps of the United States Capitol, looking across a mass of faces that celebrated the potential of his presidency.

As a result, Mr. Obama will spend the first anniversary of his inauguration watching Democrats tangle in an unseemly quarrel over who lost Massachusetts — Ms. Coakley's pollster, Celinda Lake, called the Huffington Post four hours before the polls closed to blame Democratic leaders in Washington — and contemplating a political landscape that has been thoroughly upended in the course of only 10 days.

The implications are sure to be far-reaching, and the result leaves Mr. Obama with a long list of tough choices.

Stripped of the 60th vote needed to block Republican filibusters in the Senate, will Mr. Obama now make further accommodations to Republicans in an effort to move legislation through Congress with more bipartisanship, even at the cost of further alienating liberals annoyed at what they see as his ideological malleability?

Or will he seek to rally his party's base through confrontation, even if it means giving up on get-

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EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

THE ESSENTIALS Haitians have jumped in to help the relief effort and to slowly begin the task of digging out and carrying on. PAGE A9

THE CHILDREN A group of Haitian orphans arrived in Pittsburgh after the United States loosened its policy on visa requirements to expedite adoptions. PAGE A9

ON THE WEB Video of a Haitian family describing the ordeal of trying to bury a loved one:

nytimes.com/world



Margarette Perpignat, center, at her husband's funeral on Tuesday in Haiti's capital. A pastor, he died in a church's ruins.

DAMON WINTER/THE NEW YORK TIMES

If Your Children Are Awake, Then They're Probably Online

By TAMAR LEWIN

The average young American now spends practically every waking minute — except for the time in school — using a smart phone, computer, television or other electronic device, according to a new study from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Those ages 8 to 18 spend more than seven and a half hours a day with such devices, compared with less than six and a half hours five years ago, when the study was last conducted. And that does not count the hour and a half that youths spend texting, or the half-hour they talk on their cellphones.

And because so many of them are multitasking — say, surfing the Internet while listening to music — they pack on average

nearly 11 hours of media content into that seven and a half hours.

"I feel like my days would be boring without it," said Francisco Sepulveda, a 14-year-old Bronx eighth grader who uses his smart phone to surf the Web, watch videos, listen to music — and send or receive about 500 texts a day.

The study's findings shocked its authors, who had concluded in 2005 that use could not possibly grow further, and confirmed the fears of many parents whose children are constantly tethered to media devices. It found, moreover, that heavy media use is associated with several negatives, including behavior problems and lower grades.

The third in a series, the study

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Paterson Offers A State Budget With Big Cuts

By DANNY HAKIM and NICHOLAS CONFESSORE

ALBANY — Gov. David A. Paterson proposed on Tuesday what would be the largest cut to school aid in more than two decades and nearly \$1 billion in new or increased taxes and fees as he unveiled his budget, a plan that is likely to be the first chapter in a prolonged battle with the Legislature.

Searching for new sources of tax revenue amid a fiscal crisis, the governor proposed legalizing mixed martial arts, allowing the sale of wine in grocery stores, taxing bottled soft drinks, taxing cigarette sales on Indian reservations and deploying speed-enforcement cameras in highway work zones.

He even proposed charging fees to many families that enroll in an early intervention program for children with autism, attention deficit disorder and other special needs, and delaying one of his signature achievements — a plan to increase monthly welfare allowances.

Facing a \$7.4 billion deficit this year, the governor is presenting a relatively lean budget by the standards of a state government accustomed to unrestrained spending. His office also delivered more sobering news, projecting that the state's income

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Chinese moviegoers donned 3-D glasses to watch "Avatar" in Hefei, in Anhui Province.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES

You Saw What in 'Avatar'? Pass Those Glasses!

By DAVE ITZKOFF

If you thought that "Avatar" was just a high-tech movie about a big-hearted tough guy saving the beguiling natives of a distant moon, you might want to check the prescription on your 3-D glasses.

Since its release in December, James Cameron's science-fiction epic has broken box office records and grabbed two Golden Globe awards for best director and best dramatic motion pic-

ture. But it has also found itself under fire from a growing list of interest groups, schools of thought and entire nations that have protested its message (as they see it), its morals (as they interpret them) and its philosophy (assuming it has one).

Over the last month, it has been criticized by social and political conservatives who bristle at its depictions of religion and the use of military force; feminists who feel that the male avatar bodies are stronger and more muscular than their female coun-

terparts; antismoking advocates who object to a character who lights up cigarettes; not to mention fans of Soviet-era Russian science fiction; the Chinese; and the Vatican. This week the authorities in China announced that the 2-D version of the film would be pulled from most theaters there to make way for a biography of Confucius.

That so many groups have projected their issues onto "Avatar" suggests that it has burrowed into the cultural consciousness in

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INTERNATIONAL A5-10

China to Scan Text Messages

Cellphone companies may suspend text services for users found to have sent "illegal or unhealthy content." PAGE A5

Ex-Convicts Moved to Yemen

Some American former convicts who became Muslims in prison have moved to Yemen, a Senate report says. PAGE A7

NATIONAL A11-14

Gunman Kills 8 in Virginia

A 39-year-old man shot eight people, fired on officers and hit a police helicopter, the authorities said. PAGE A11



NEW YORK A16-19

Christie Vows Push for Revival

Christopher J. Christie took office as New Jersey's governor, calling for lower taxes and school choice. PAGE A16

Accused of Plot to Kill G.I.'s

A Queens man conspired to kill soldiers abroad, a prosecutor said. PAGE A17

BUSINESS DAY B1-10

Panel to Study Deficit Cuts

The Obama administration plans to name a commission to find ways to cut the federal budget deficit. PAGE B2

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From Three Tenors to Baritone

Plácido Domingo takes on the title role, for baritone, in Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra" at the Metropolitan Opera. PAGE C1

SPORTSWEDNESDAY B11-16

N.F.L. Squeezes the Little Guy

The league is going after apparel retailers who offer large discounts. PAGE B11

DINING D1-8

Enough With the Snacks

Some parents are pleading to let children be children without feeding them all day long. PAGE D1



ONLINE: Photos of Maialino, an Italian restaurant reviewed by Sam Sifton.

nytimes.com/dining

OBITUARIES A14-15

Robert B. Parker Is Dead

The best-selling mystery novelist, who created the tough, glib Boston private detective Spenser, was 77. PAGE A14

Author of 'Love Story'

Erich Segal, the classics professor and best-selling novelist, died at 72. PAGE A15

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A20-21

Thomas L. Friedman

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