

# The Epoch Times

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## Brighter Path to Development

After two years of tinkering, Irvine-Halliday was back in Nepal to test a solar-powered white LED lighting system, one he developed to fit the needs of impoverished communities. The trial run was an immediate success. Before long, locals were basking in something they had never seen before—indoor light... See more on Opinion P7.

## RAPTOR RAMPAGE

Some journalists described the Raptor driving experience as "a magic carpet ride" or "a cross between a roller coaster and a bucking bronco," but all agreed it was an experience they wouldn't have missed for the world... See more on P14.



NETCARSHOW.COM

SEAN GALLUP/GETTY IMAGES

# Canada's future king set to visit

### Quebec separatist group plans to protest

VANCOUVER—Across the country, dignitaries are brushing up on royal protocol ahead of the upcoming visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall—otherwise known as Charles and Camilla.

Starting in St. John's, Newfoundland, on Nov. 2, the royal couple will visit 12 cities, including Montreal, Toronto, Yellowknife, Winnipeg, and Victoria. Prince Charles is the heir apparent to the thrones of the Commonwealth realms and will succeed Queen Elizabeth II as Canada's official head of state.

This will be their first trip together as a married couple and Camilla's first official visit to Canada. The last time Prince Charles visited Canada with a woman by his side was when he came with Princess Diana in 1997.

Bruce Hallors, a member of the Monarchist League of Victoria, says that although Princess Diana's international star quality drew enormous attention wherever she went, as people get to know Camilla "they will be impressed by her."

CONTINUED ON P3 NATION



Prince Charles, Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, leave after attending a Thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

STEFAN WERMUTH/REUTERS

## Global warming hecklers not first to disrupt House

### Accusations of NDP involvement in Parliament stunt mirror those against Alliance in 2001

By MATTHEW LITTLE  
Epoch Times Parliamentary Reporter

The event that sparked parliamentary charges of contempt, a media furor, and left six young environmentalists banned from Parliament for a year, was noted in the official transcript of the House of Commons debate only as "Disturbance in Gallery."

It was the second such disturbance in recent weeks, preceded in September by a similar event involving three women dressed as nuns seated in the visitors' gallery. They shouted remarks about the seal hunt during question period and held banners that read, "The Seal Slaughter is a Bad Habit."

A search of Parliament's Hansard, the official transcript of all debates in the House, reveals no other such incidents in the previous four years. But when asked for any records of similar incidents, the Library of Parliament found a media report of a protest in 2001 with surprising similarities to this most recent outburst.

The most recent happened on Monday, when around 120-200 environmental protesters watched question period silently until NDP leader Jack Layton rose to speak. Then one shouted "Bill C-311," and others started yelling, "sign it, sign it, sign it." As they were dragged off by Commons security guards, many more joined in.

CONTINUED ON P3 NATION

## Deceptive marketing prevalent in pharmaceutical firms

### Pharma officials expect only a slap on the wrist for making deceitful claims, says report

By HEIDE B. MALHOTRA  
Epoch Times Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Companies in the pharmaceutical and other industries have been caught engaging in a number of deceptive marketing practices, according to a recent report.

"Many companies consider the upside of deceptive marketing techniques worth the risk of being called out by regulators," said the report, released by Pennsylvania-based Knowledge @ Wharton (KW).

KW experts determined that pharmaceutical officials expect only a slap on the wrist instead of being publicly chastised by the

U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), allowing them to take even greater risks in advertising their products.

"The researchers show that while spending on direct-to-consumer advertising has increased dramatically—by 269 percent—the number of [FDA] citations has decreased by nearly 85 percent," KW said.

A major concern is that the FDA has not grown exponentially with the increase in the number of companies and complexities in the market. The Office of Management and Budget decreased the FDA's budget by 3.25 percent, leaving the FDA with far too few regulatory enforcement agents.

Pharmaceutical companies have become

adept in using the Internet to advertise products in deceptive ways.

Research about positive and negative effects of certain drugs is discussed extensively by what appears to be a group of experienced researchers. But often the audience is unaware that the pharmaceutical company originated much of the information.

"The web is like the Wild West as far as pharma advertising is concerned," Sundar Bharadwaj, marketing professor at Emory University, said in the report.

The FDA's budget needs to be adjusted

because of new societal realities and inspectors should be added to the FDA's staff, Bharadwaj said.

"Without the drug company's name on the material, it is not clear whether deceitful claims about efficacy or risk are enforceable."

"For a number of pharmaceutical companies, spending on marketing is greater than on R&D, which indicates that these organizations are under pressure to provide returns because R&D is not paying off as well," Bharadwaj explained, bringing to the forefront a truth that escaped FDA regulators.

CONTINUED ON P5 WORLD

**'For a number of pharmaceutical companies, spending on marketing is greater than on R&D'**

— Sundar Bharadwaj

## Pilots lose licences after missing airport

By IVAN VELINOV  
Epoch Times Staff

U.S. aviation authorities revoked the licences of the two Northwest Airlines pilots who missed their Minneapolis destination by 240km last week, causing concerns about the fate of the 144 passengers and five crew members aboard.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said on Tuesday that the pilots had violated numerous regulations, including failing to take steps to get back on course and resume radio contact, crossing various air-traffic-zones, failing to comply with traffic control instructions, and operating "carelessly and recklessly."

The incident prompted transportation safety officials, among others, to

investigate whether the two pilots fell asleep at the controls or were simply distracted.

After being interviewed for over a combined five hours on Monday, the pilots told investigators that they discussed work schedules and used laptop computers while cruising at 37,000 feet and did not pay attention to air control calls and dispatcher messages.

The pilots are Captain Timothy Cheney, 53, of Gig Harbor, Washington, and First Officer Richard Cole, 54, of Salem, Oregon.

The revocations are in effect immediately and the aviators have 10 days to appeal the action to the National Transportation Safety Board, said the FAA statement.

CONTINUED ON P5 WORLD

## New bill targets sweatshop labour

By JOAN DELANEY  
Epoch Times Staff

A private member's bill recently introduced for debate in Parliament aims to stop sweatshop-produced products from making their way into Canadian stores.

Tabled by Peter Julian, international trade critic for the New Democrats, Bill C-463 would prohibit the importation of goods that were produced, manufactured, or assembled in contravention of International Labour Organization (ILO) standards.

"If we become aware of a factory that's using forced labour in a dictatorship like North Korea or Myanmar, those goods would be put on a prohibited list," says Julian.

Corporations are attracted to sweatshops, Julian says, because they can relax safety, environmental, and health regulations and cut their costs by as much as 50 percent. Women and children—who work 12- to 16-hour days and earn between \$1 and \$3 per day—comprise the majority of sweatshop workers.

Julian says such measures would provide incentive for companies to check before they purchase a product because those on the prohibited list couldn't be brought into Canada. It could also force governments in countries where there are no democratic labour practices to change their laws.

"It would put the whole emphasis on fair trade and international labour standards top-of-mind," he says, adding that the World Trade Organization has endorsed the ILO as the "referee" for international labour standards.

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**'...in a decade we'll be looking at legislation like this regularly'**

— Peter Julian

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