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Anti-racist groups prepare to counter neo-Nazi hate

International Day for the Elimination of Racism and White Pride Worldwide Day fall on the same day

By ANDREA HAYLEY
Epoch Times Staff

International Day for the Elimination of Racism coming up on March 21 could see a clash between protesters as neo-Nazis plan to rally in Calgary, Vancouver, and Victoria.

According to the Anti Racist Network (ARN), white-supremacist demonstrations are planned for B.C.'s Lower Mainland and Victoria on Sunday, traditionally the International Day for the Elimination of Racism but a day that neo-Nazis have declared White Pride Worldwide Day.

ARN, the activist group No One Is Illegal (NOII), and others are preparing to confront white supremacist groups such as Blood and Honour Canada and Advocates for White Civil Rights with their own counter-rally.

"Several different groups and communities have called for a gathering to let them know they are not welcome and to celebrate our diversity to oppose their hatred and bigotry," says NOII on its website.

ARN says it expects hundreds to show up in support of multiculturalism.

In Calgary, the neo-Nazi/white pride groups Aryan Guard and White European Bloodlines are also expected to rally. At last year's event in Calgary, about 500 anti-racists confronted 30 white supremacists, resulting in violence and three arrests.

PLEASE SEE NAZI ON P2



Children cross a puddle of water after heavy rains at a makeshift tent camp in Cite Soleil in Port-au-Prince February 26, 2010. Seasonal rains and hurricanes spell trouble for Haiti in the best of times, but with hundreds of thousands of people living in flimsy makeshift shelters after last month's earthquake, this year the dangers are much greater. REUTERS/CARLOS BARRIA

Life perilous in Haiti's makeshift camps

By JASPER FAKKERT
Epoch Times Staff

The magnitude 7.0 earthquake lasted only 30 seconds, but left 1.3 million Haitians displaced. Most of them now live in makeshift camps in or around Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince in squalid conditions and without proper medical care or security, particularly for women.

The coming rainy season is expected to make already harsh conditions considerably worse.

Providing shelter for the

homeless has become a mammoth task for aid organizations. According to the United Nations, so far only 60 percent of the homeless have received waterproof covers made out of canvas to protect them during the rainy season.

"The most urgent challenge right now is shelter, shelter, shelter... coupled with sanitation," said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday after having visited the country.

But canvas shelters won't protect the displaced from the

hurricane season, which will start in June. More solid structures with roofs made out of wood or metal are planned, but they will only be able to provide shelter to half of those in need, said Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes at a press conference.

"We won't do that for everybody... that's the reality at the moment," he said.

According to Medicines Sans Frontiers, which is providing medical assistance in Haiti, the rainy season will add to

the "horrific living conditions of many who still do not have proper access to sanitation facilities, and increase the likelihood of contracting malaria."

Along with housing and medical emergencies, women face a battle of their own inside the camps. The lack of security has given rise to widespread sexual abuse of women. A top U.N. police official, Ann-Marie Orlor, said in a press conference last week that she had seen for herself how difficult it was to patrol the camps.

PLEASE SEE HAITI ON P5

Rowdy Parliament could keep talent away, warns MP

By MATTHEW LITTLE
Epoch Times Staff

PARLIAMENT HILL, Ottawa—"Parliament is sick."

That is the diagnosis of Dr. Keith Martin, Liberal MP for Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca who sat for the Reform and Canadian Alliance parties before crossing the floor to join the Liberals.

He's not the first to come down hard on the behaviour of MPs representing Canadians in the House of Commons—and he likely won't be the last if nothing changes. As it is now, Parliament's most popular hour, question period (QP), looks like a schoolyard shouting match where there is as much insult as honest debate.

It's a level of decorum far below that of any comparable Legislature and an embarrassment to all Canadians, Martin says.

"It desperately needs to be changed because if it doesn't, serious problems in our country will not be dealt with," Martin told the Epoch Times on Tuesday.

The Hansard, the written record of the debates, captures the subtle insults and slippery answers common in QP, but it doesn't record the shouting, finger pointing, jeers or heckles that frequently erupt.

Martin says ongoing decline in decorum dumbs down the level of debate and makes running for public office less appealing for Canada's brightest minds—the people who come up with the best ideas to address problems facing the country who are often ignored in Parliament now.

PLEASE SEE PARLIAMENT ON P3

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Disabled workers await decision on Nortel deal

By JOAN DELANEY
Epoch Times Staff

Peter Burns once fought cancer and won. Now he's waging another battle—to get a fair deal from Nortel Networks Corp, where he worked for seven years in computer performance, using his skills as an astro-physicist and mechanical engineer.

Burns, who currently suffers from a spinal cord injury, is the spokesperson for a group of Nortel employees on long-term disability (LTD) who are unhappy with a deal reached between the failing Canadian company, themselves, and Nortel pensioners.

If the LTD employees don't agree to the deal, their benefits will be cut off at the beginning of April. If they do agree, they'll be cut off at the end of

the year. Burns call this a Hobson's choice—both options are unacceptable.

The group is awaiting a court decision on the proposed settlement, which is expected to be handed down next week. In court on March 3, Burns and other LTD employees spoke against the deal.

Accepting the settlement means the group would not be able to sue Nortel for alleged mishandling of its disability fund or oppose the \$93 million in bonuses that Nortel has requested.

Nortel maintains the big bonuses are necessary in order to keep its remaining employees who work for two units in the company.

"Nortel says it hasn't got the money to pay its obligations, but it can find \$93 million for retention bonuses," says Burns, 54.

PLEASE SEE NORTEL ON P3



Mike Zafirovski, former President and CEO of Nortel, sought a \$12 million claim for pension, bonus, and severance payments from the insolvent company after he resigned in August 2009. INDRANIL MUKHERJEE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Burma at 'critical moment' as elections loom

By STEPHEN JONES
Epoch Times Staff

Burma will go to the polls this year for the first time in 20 years. However, controversial election laws mean that the country's most prominent democracy activist will be banned from participating.

Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been in some form of detention for the last 14 years, will be banned from running for election.

In the last election in 1990, the country's military junta was shocked after Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy (NLD) won a landslide victory. The win came despite the fact that Suu Kyi was under house arrest and the country was under martial law.

PLEASE SEE BURMA ON P4

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