

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

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### Canadian government collapses after no-confidence vote

OTTAWA, Canada: Three different and politically diverse opposition parties in Canada united to cast a successful vote of no-confidence in the House of Commons against the centrist Liberal Party and Prime Minister Paul Martin.

The vote came following several months of political instability related to accusations of corruption throughout the Liberal Party government, even though the Prime Minister was eventually cleared of any wrongdoing.

"This is not just the end of a tired, directionless, scandal-plagued government. It's the start of a bright new future for this great country," said Canadian conservative lawmaker Stephen Harper. Harper called Monday "an historic evening."

Martin was still upbeat about his party's chances in the upcoming special elections.

"The decision about the future of our government will be made by Canadians. They will judge us, and they will judge our performances," said Martin. He said his party would run on its record of "hard work and good management."

The special election is set for Jan. 13.

### Warm Ocean current to Europe weakening

LONDON: The Atlantic Conveyor, an ocean current that brings warm tropical water from the Gulf of Mexico to Western Europe and is responsible for Europe's temperate climates, has slowed by 30 percent in the last 30 years due to disruption by large amounts of cold fresh water melting from the polar ice cap.

The findings, first published in the science journal *Nature*, highlighted an alarming trend that has been tracked since 1957 and has since then slowed by around 30 percent.

Harry Bryden, an oceanographer that helped author the study, described the current as a process that "brings heat northward, gives it up to the atmosphere, and we benefit in England from having the winds pick up this heat and blow relatively warmer air over us, so that's what gives us a good climate even in wintertime in England."

A total shutdown of the current would result in a temperature drop of about 10 degrees Fahrenheit over much of Europe, making its climate similar to other places of similar latitude like northern Canada.

Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

### Microsoft scrambles to respond to reports of Xbox 360 glitches

REDMOND, Washington: Microsoft, the maker of the new next-generation home gaming console Xbox 360, has been receiving reports from around the country that the new system fails to operate properly.

The various reports indicate that the consoles sometimes fail to load games or error messages pop up while playing. One user reported that he couldn't even get through the first lap of "Project Gotham 3" without an error.

Representatives from Microsoft, however, are downplaying the consoles' problems.

"It's a few reports of consoles here and there not working properly," said Molly O'Donnell, a spokeswoman for Microsoft's Xbox division. "It's what you would expect with a consumer electronics instrument of this complexity ... par for the course."

Others aren't so sure, wondering if Microsoft cut corners to ensure the release of their product before their main competitors, Nintendo and Sony, had finished their systems. Some wonder if their power cables will catch fire again, a reference to a dangerous problem encountered by some owners of the previous Xbox game console.

Microsoft is now offering users free online and phone support for the faulty systems and said that if the problem cannot be user-serviced, they will pay for overnight shipping to and from authorized official repair centers.

### Representative resigns after admitting to bribery

WASHINGTON: U.S. Representative Randall "Duke" Cunningham, a Republican from California, recently admitted to accepting over \$2.4 million in bribes from defense contractors in return for influencing the Department of Defense in their favor.

"The truth is I broke the law, concealed my conduct and disgraced my office," he told reporters, visibly upset. "I know I will forfeit my reputation, my worldly possessions -- most importantly the trust of my friends and family."

Cunningham, a Vietnam War veteran and fighter ace, apologized after finalizing a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney General's office, which had concluded a long investigation of his personal sources of income and a shady real estate deal involving a defense contractor. He faces more than \$350,000 in fines and up to 10 years in a federal prison.

"The citizens who elected Cunningham assumed that he would do his best for them," said U.S. Attorney Carol Lam. "Instead, he did the worst thing an elected official can do -- he enriched himself through his position and violated the trust of those who put him there."

Under California law, the Governor has 14 days to set the date of a special election that will determine Cunningham's successor.

## CDC aids students

*Career services available to all*

By Earl Gordon  
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Around this time of the academic year, some students are graduating. They are getting ready to take their first steps into the real world. The Penn State Erie campus aids students through this exciting, yet difficult time through the use of the CDC, which is located on the first floor of the Reed building. The center helps students deal with academic issues as well as personal issues. The Career Development Center is excellent in the fact that it works with students to create a path for them and their future careers.

"The main goals of the CDC are helping students know which majors exist, which is best for them, and what they can do with those majors," stated Mary Beth Peterson, who is the director of the CDC. Students who want to apply for jobs can also receive help with writing a resume and cover letter to begin their search for a job. Workshops are available for students who want to learn the proper way of writing a resume and tips on how to improve their own. Also available are career portfolios. Students can make a portfolio of their skills, accomplishments and a number of other things which can be used for several different reasons, which can be an advantage when going for a job or just to highlight your college academic life.

Interviews are a very important part of the job search process. The CDC also gives advice to students on what to do before, during and after their interviews, such as practicing well thought out answers to questions that the interviewee might expect to be asked, making good eye contact and planning how you will follow-up after the interview. The CDC also holds one-on-one mock interviews with students, allowing them to practice and present themselves in a more professional and mistake-free manner. At the CDC, they also allow employers to visit the Penn State Erie campus and use their offices to conduct interviews. Also offered are video interviews, which help students at Penn State Erie connect and talk to an employer who is currently at a different Penn State Campus such as University Park.

In order to have an interview, a student must have some idea of what company to seek out and what positions they have available. The CDC also posts job positions, which are emailed to the students who ask for it. They also are presented with job fairs each year to help them more. The jobs include part-time, full-time, summer, and internship positions. Not only does the CDC help with interviews for seniors and juniors, but also with planning for freshman and sophomores so they will be ready for the real world in a few years.

## Classifieds

"Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace."

— Albert Schweitzer, French Nobel Peace Prize-winning mission doctor and theologian (1875-1965)

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