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# 'I WANTED TO JUMP FOR JOY. IT'S A OF NEW WESTMINSTER AFTER THE EXTREMELY

## PRINCE MAX OF LIECHTENSTEIN

A PROBE INTO 'PEANUTS'

Liechtenstein has long envied neighbouring Switzerland's share of the foreign banking market, but now finds its own tax haven status under international scrutiny. The tiny Alpine state is investigating a former employee of its LGT Group bank for industrial espionage after he sold data in 2006 on clients from 14 countries—including Canadians—to German authorities trying to crack down on rampant tax evasion. His Serene Highness Prince Max of Liechtenstein, the second son of the nation's ruler, Prince Hans-Adam II, and head of LGT Group, owned by the royal family, isn't happy with the sudden spotlight on an industry that accounts for 30 per cent of the nation's economy. Recently, he pointed the finger at other nation's tax havens, such as the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, two of Britain's dependent overseas territories. So far, though, the prince says in the wake of the scandal the bank's clients have withdrawn funds amounting only to "peanuts."

## ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

A DISASTROUS VICTORY

So used to winning elections, Malaysia's Barisan Nasional coalition was shocked last Saturday when general election results showed it had taken only 140 of 222 seats in Saturday's elections, prompting Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to mutter, "We've lost, we've lost." It was the governing coalition's worst performance since independence 50 years ago. The opposition parties shot up from 19 seats to more than 80. Voters were upset over sluggish economic performance. More ominous in a nation with a delicate racial balance is restiveness among Chinese and Indian minorities who bridle at long-standing and, many assert, obsolete policies favouring indigenous Malays. Saturday's results will spark calls for Badawi's resignation, and it was of little help that his own mentor, the strong-willed former prime minister Mahathir Mohammad, said that Badawi is "100 per cent responsible." Badawi has refused to step down, but Saturday's election results may prove irresistible.

## OSWALD MARSHALL

WHO LET THE  
SLED DOGS OUT

"Mush, mon." That's the motto of Jamaica's dogsled team (not to be confused with the Jamaican bobsled team, fodder for the 1993 flick *Cool Runnings*). On March 27 and 28, lead musher Oswald "Newton" Marshall will compete in his first major race: the 335-km Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race, from Dawson City, Yukon, to Eagle, Alaska, and back. "We have been training hard in some rough weather doing about four 100-mile runs a week," says Marshall, 24, based in the territory since November. It's a far cry from Jamaica, where he trains with a dryland dogsled pulled by a pack of nearly two dozen mutts from the Jamaican SPCA. The dogs, among them **Big Ears**, **Bruno**, **Smiley** and **Jimmy**, also pull tourists around Jamaica on tours with the sleds. If Marshall successfully completes the Percy DeWolfe Race, he'll be one step closer to his goal: qualifying for next year's 1,600-km Yukon Quest, a gruelling affair that can last up to 16 days. Musician Jimmy Buffett, whom the team calls their "godfather," offers Marshall some warming encouragement: "You are one brave Jamaican mon, up there in the frozen North."

## DAVID WALLIAMS

A LITTLE BRITON  
CONQUERS THE SEAS

The star of the disgusting but wildly popular BBC comedy series *Little Britain* is famous for doing tasteless impersonations of women, minorities and gay people. There's Carol the travel agent ("computer says no") and Emily Howard ("we're ladies!"). But that doesn't mean David Walliams can't do strange things for worthy causes. Last week the comedian and fake-vomit specialist actually did throw up while doing a charity swim across the Strait of Gibraltar with Olympic rowing champion James Cracknell. Walliams, who previously swam the English Channel for charity in 2006, told the *Mirror* newspaper that he was swimming to Africa as a symbolic gesture "to show it's not as far away as people think." Proving that just because you're devoted to charitable causes and athletic feats, it doesn't mean you can't spend your professional life putting on dresses or shouting "Wicky woo!"

