

# Fausse alerte au tireur fou dans une école de Laval

Une semaine après la tuerie de l'Université de Virginia Tech, l'événement a encore des répercussions au Québec. Hier matin, une fausse alerte au tireur fou est venue perturber les activités de l'école Hébert, à Laval.

La Presse  
Laval

Pendant la récréation matinale, une écolière a aperçu deux adolescents vêtus d'un uniforme militaire et munis de ce qui semblait être des armes à feu, dans un bois non loin de la cour d'école. La fillette a aussitôt alerté la direction, qui n'a pas tardé à contacter les policiers et à mettre

en branle son protocole d'urgence.

Plusieurs véhicules de police ont été dépêchés sur les lieux. Les deux suspects ont rapidement été repérés. Même si les deux adolescents, âgés de 13 et 14 ans, ne transportaient finalement que des branches d'arbre avec lesquelles ils voulaient «jouer à la guerre», ils ont été conduits au poste de police. «Mais aucun chef d'accusations ne sera porté contre eux», a indiqué Pierre Desautels de la Police de Laval.

L'incident aura au moins permis à la direction de l'école Hébert de tester son protocole d'urgence, «qui a très bien fonctionné», selon M. Desautels. Aucun élève n'a été perturbé et les activités ont repris leur cours rapidement.

Le Droit 24 avril 07

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# Virginia Tech students rally to confront their collective grief

BY MIGUEL BUSTILLO  
AND ERIKA HAYASAKI

**BLACKSBURG, Virginia** • Thousands of students gathered at the centre of the Virginia Tech campus yesterday morning as a brass bell tolled 33 times, one for every student and teacher killed in the worst campus shooting rampage in U.S. history.

Every time the bell rang, a balloon was released into the bright blue sky. By the time the last one was aloft, the silence was punctuated by sobs.

Classes resumed a week to the day after student Seung-Hui Cho's attack, and many here relished the return to routine. Students and school officials said the only way to confront their grief was to do so collectively.

"I need to heal, and I can't do that by myself," said Melissa McCracken, 22, who came back to campus after spending the week at home. "It's important to be with my classmates. We need to be around other people who understand what we're feeling."

Officials did not estimate how many students had returned to school yesterday, but the parking lots were nearly full and the campus was bustling.

Ian Bumgarner, 18, a landscape architecture major, returned even though his mother wants him to transfer. One of his friends died in the attack. With each ring of the bell, he said, he thought of the terror she and the other victims



CHARLES DHARAPAK, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Virginia Tech students and staff carry white balloons to a memorial service for those slain on the campus last week.**

must have felt.

Poet and English professor Nikki Giovanni wept during the ceremony. She used to teach Mr. Cho. He shot and killed a student to whom she was close. At one point during the moment of silence, a white balloon floated toward Ms. Giovanni, and all she could think of, she said, was the young girl she used to teach who was no longer alive.

Ms. Giovanni said she would help students channel feelings into writing.

"I am not the only faculty who has lost the student," Ms. Giovanni said with tears in her eyes, "but it is incredi-

bly sad. You get to know these kids, and you get to love them."

It seemed everyone who returned to campus was connected to at least one victim. Ryan Hash, 24, a football player, knew two of the dead students. Yesterday, he looked across the drill field, which was decorated with orange and maroon banners and posters. He said it felt so different from the snowy day a week ago when the area was full of police and ambulances.

"It was windy, and it was awful. It was almost like God was so sad and angry about what was going on," he said of the scene last week. "Now, it's beautiful. I think God is happy now that everyone is showing their love."

Mr. Hash's fraternity, Sigma Chi, created a counselling group — "Strong Arms" — for its 90 members. It also is raising money from its fraternity chapters nationwide for victims' families.

"This is a scar, and people are never going to forget about this, and they shouldn't," he said. "But this shouldn't cripple us, this should make us stronger."

The only classrooms that remained shuttered were in Norris Hall, where most of the killing occurred. It was cordoned off with yellow police tape and will remain closed for the remainder of the school year. Its future beyond that point remains unclear.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

# Charter has helped language minorities

**Re: Charting the impact  
of the Charter, April 15.**

One major element is missing from Don Butler's feature article on the Charter of Rights and Freedoms at 25 — Article 23 of the Charter resulted in the creation of dozens of schools for official language minorities across the country.

Because of the Charter, francophones across the country now manage their own schools (there are more than 30 French-language schools in Alberta), and the courts recognized the right of Acadian children in Summerside, P.E.I., to have a French-language school.

Incidentally, the Charter is very much in tune with Canadians: According to a September 2006 Decima poll, 77 per cent of the population believes that the two official language groups should enjoy equal quality of education, and are willing to provide more resources to the minority to meet that standard.

In other words, the Charter has had a major impact on the ability of Canada's official language minorities to educate their children in their mother tongue, which is something the majority of Canadians support.

This shouldn't be neglected in an analysis of the Charter's role and relevancy in shaping our social fabric.

**JEAN-GUY RIOUX**, Ottawa  
President, Fédération des  
communautés francophones  
et acadienne du Canada

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## Church fight not over

By ALEX HEBERT, SUN MEDIA

St. Brigid's parishioners aren't ready to let go, even though the decision to close the historic Catholic Church in Lowertown has been all but finalized.

Last night, St. Brigid's Heritage Coalition met with various people from the community to discuss the fate of the heritage building at 179 Murray St.

"The archdiocese is now accepting bids on the building," said coalition member John Heney. "We want to make sure that new developers honour the package."

The church gained heritage status in 1981. The designation includes floors, walls, ceilings, windows, nave, altars, aisles, organs and other parts of the building, Heney said.

### RAUCOUS RESPONSE

The coalition urged attendees to write to municipal, provincial and federal representatives to ensure the protection and preservation of the site.

But when local architect Eric Jokinen got up to address the crowd, it became abundantly clear parishioners weren't ready to give up the fight to save their church.

"To save any heritage structure, you have to find a use for it," he said, adding condominium conversions have been successful in saving other heritage buildings.

"We have to keep it as a church," a man yelled from the back of the room. "St. Brigid's helps lots of people out."

"I want to keep St. Brigid's church as a church," added an elderly woman. "We should get rid of the archbishop."