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Vikings rule in soccer final

Souob finds instant success after leaving Cameroon

Martin Cleary

The Ottawa Citizen

Thursday, November 01, 2007

As a teenager in Douala, the largest city in Cameroon, Victor Souob never played soccer for his high school.

"I was good, but there was no time," said Souob, who moved to Canada in July with his family.

But the Grade 12 student athlete took full advantage of representing his high school this fall, and celebrated his first high school championship yesterday on a cold, windy day at his home field.

William Hoyle, a Grade 10 student, and captain André-Philippe Chan scored one goal each, and Stéphane Razafimahefa earned the shutout as the Franco-Ouest Vikings blanked the Samuel Genest Lasers 2-0 in the National Capital Secondary School Athletic Association boys' senior tier 2 soccer final.

"When I came (to Canada), I was going to play soccer," said Souob, who played a lot of street soccer and with a club in his home town.

"I'm just lucky. Not everyone can do that (win a championship). I like this team. It's a good team. We're strong in the midfield and have good forwards."

The Vikings were strong in every aspect of the final. They were aggressive on the ball, made efficient passes and fired close to 30 shots at Genest goalkeeper Matthew Robinson.

Souob, who pulled the long sleeves of his undershirt over his hands to keep them warm, had three strong shots on goal. He scored eight goals in Ouest's 9-0-1 season.

"His strength is putting the ball in the net," said Ouest coach Johanne Lavergne, who added Souob developed as a team player throughout the year.

"At the beginning of the season, he didn't know the offside rule, couldn't do a throw-in properly and kept the ball for himself."

Lavergne has coached the boys' team for the past eight years and has taken the Vikings to three finals and two championships.

"The last time we had a victory (in the final) was in 2000," she said. "I'm happy I have a strong group. They dominated the game and all the season."

Hoyle's goal came off a shot from about 20 feet out, which deflected off a Genest player. After shanking a couple of first-half shots, Chan chipped one over Robinson in the second half and it caught the inside of the far post.

Ouest was forced to wear yellow singlets over their navy blue tops with white trim because Genest had the same uniform colour combination.

Genest began the day with a chance to win two city high school soccer titles, but came away empty.

In the boys' junior tier 2 final, Notre Dame won its first soccer title in 20 years with a 1-0 victory over Genest. Ike Igboanus scored the decisive goal and Jacob Bandrowski had the shutout.

Notre Dame, 7-2-1, was the first team to beat Genest in league play this season. Genest entered the final at 7-0-2.

Nepean will face Lisgar in the National Capital boys' senior AAA/AAAA soccer championship on Monday.

In yesterday's semifinals, Nepean edged defending AAA champion All Saints 1-0 and Lisgar defeated Glebe 3-1.

Midfielder Eric Dwyer scored off a rebound from a Peter Morrow free kick for Nepean's crucial goal. Dylan Atkinson had the shutout.

Lisgar received second-half goals from Hamoudi Dakik, with two, and Abdul Ibrahim. Fadel Housini gave Glebe a 1-0 halftime lead.

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Le jeudi 01 nov 2007

Régime d'aide financière aux études : des fuites de 5 millions par an

[Denis Lessard](#)

La Presse
Québec

Le régime d'aide financière aux études administré par le ministère de l'Éducation est un panier percé d'où s'échappent, chaque année, plus de 5 millions de fonds publics.

Ce constat, parmi d'autres, est fait par le Vérificateur général du Québec, dans le premier tome de son rapport 2007-2008 déposé aujourd'hui à l'Assemblée nationale.

Relancée hier par La Presse, la ministre de l'Éducation, Michelle Courchesne, s'est contentée de préciser que des «correctifs étaient déjà en voie d'être adoptés», à la demande du vérificateur général, Renaud Lachance, une réponse qu'elle donnera aujourd'hui, promet-elle.

Autre constat du vérificateur Lachance: les indemnités de départ versées aux cadres du Centre de recherche industrielle du Québec excèdent les normes. Plus de 250 000\$ ont été versés en trop depuis six ans, en majeure partie sous l'administration du Parti québécois.

Le Vérificateur général se penche aussi sur les problèmes sérieux de la Financière agricole, coincée comme la Caisse de dépôt et placement par la dévaluation des papiers commerciaux. Même avant l'apparition de ce problème, la Financière naviguait vers un déficit dépassant largement les 100 millions.

Appel à l'aide

Par ailleurs, l'Action démocratique du Québec a appelé M. Lachance à l'aide hier, dans un autre dossier de gaspillage de fonds publics. Clairement aiguillonnés par le sondage CROP montrant qu'ils avaient perdu des plumes depuis septembre, Mario Dumont et son lieutenant Gilles Taillon ont réclaté que le Vérificateur général se prononce sur la façon dont le gouvernement Charest avait géré les ententes d'infrastructures avec Ottawa. Les 556 millions qu'on a «laissés dormir à Ottawa», depuis 2001, représentent 100 millions en factures d'intérêts pour Québec, qui a amorcé les travaux routiers avant d'avoir les fonds. Selon Mario Dumont, le gouvernement Charest devrait envoyer cette facture à Ottawa.

Déjà en contact quotidien avec le Vérificateur pour préparer la revue de la comptabilité du gouvernement, Monique Jérôme-Forget a soutenu «ne pas avoir de crainte à voir le vérificateur une journée de plus».

Prêts et bourses

Dans le dossier des prêts et bourses, le vérificateur Lachance fait 16 recommandations au ministère de l'Éducation, mais reconnaît d'emblée que, compte tenu du système de contrôle des prêts et bourses, il est impossible de prétendre récupérer absolument toutes les sommes versées en trop, a-t-on appris. Mais sur les 53 millions que récupère chaque année le gouvernement en bourses ou prêts versés en trop, échapper

4 ou 5 millions chaque année nécessite toutefois que l'on redresse la barre.

L'aide financière aux études représente un débours de 402 millions pour Québec selon les derniers crédits adoptés à l'Assemblée nationale. Il faut ajouter 400 millions en bourses, que garantit Québec auprès des banques. Sur 800 millions, il s'agit donc d'une perte de 0,5% des sommes versées, mais de 10% des fonds à récupérer chaque année. Québec depuis longtemps fait des pieds et des mains pour économiser les fonds qu'il consent à ce régime d'aide et la non-indexation des dépenses admises aux régimes lui a permis d'économiser 71 millions depuis 2003. La décision de hausser de 50\$ par semestre les droits de scolarité pour les étudiants à l'université a incité Québec à augmenter de 31 millions, à compter de l'an prochain son programme d'aide financière aux études.

Les étudiants dans leur demande d'assistance financière doivent fournir une estimation des revenus qu'ils auront en cours d'année. Or, dans bien des cas, ces revenus varient énormément d'une année à l'autre et les étudiants ont naturellement tendance à sous-estimer leurs revenus pour avoir davantage d'aide. Le gouvernement revient à la charge trois fois par année, auprès des étudiants, pour vérifier les gains réels. Mais encore là, dans bien des cas, le ministère de l'Éducation reçoit des déclarations partielles. Au ministère de l'Éducation, on est favorable au maintien de ces vérifications à tous les trois mois.

Gestion de l'UQAM

Le Vérificateur divulgue aussi aujourd'hui son «rapport intérimaire» sur la gestion de l'Université du Québec à Montréal, une enquête enclenchée après le dérapage de l'îlot Voyageur, une aventure qui engloutira 200 millions de fonds publics. Il s'agit toutefois d'un rapport «intérimaire», qui ne contiendra pas ses recommandations. La ministre des Finances, Monique Jérôme-Forget, déposera sous peu un projet de loi forçant les universités et les municipalités qui désirent emprunter pour d'importants projets d'investissement à obtenir, d'abord, l'aval de Québec.



Le mercredi 31 oct 2007

Des étudiants s'opposent au recrutement militaire dans les écoles

Presse Canadienne
Québec

Des étudiants du Cégep de Sainte-Foy, à Québec, ont manifesté pacifiquement, mercredi, pour s'opposer au recrutement militaire dans leur établissement.

Ils ont temporairement empêché l'accès à un kiosque des Forces armées canadiennes, dans le cadre d'une campagne nationale d'opposition au recrutement militaire dans les écoles.

Un porte-parole de l'Association étudiante a indiqué qu'il n'était pas adéquat de faire du recrutement militaire dans un milieu scolaire.

Un porte-parole militaire qui se trouvait sur place a souligné que les manifestants avaient exercé leur liberté d'expression de façon respectueuse.

Il a toutefois fait valoir que les Forces armées s'étaient rendues au cégep à l'invitation de l'institution, précisant que le seul objectif était d'y faire la promotion des programmes universitaires offerts au collège militaire.

Une campagne nationale a été lancée en août dernier par le Centre de ressource sur la non-violence en partenariat avec des associations étudiantes de différentes régions.

Les étudiants veulent ainsi informer les jeunes sur ce qu'ils appellent l'envers de la médaille d'une carrière de militaire et dénoncer les investissements militaires se produisant au détriment de l'accessibilité de l'éducation publique, à leur avis.



Le jeudi 01 nov 2007

Le gérant du Club

[Rima Elkouri](#)

La Presse

Dans l'entrée de l'école, un petit gars blond, un filet recouvrant ses cheveux blonds.

Est-ce bien le «gérant» ? «Oui, c'est moi!» dit-il, le regard fier et espiègle.

Il s'appelle Anthony. Il a 11 ans. Une toute petite voix, mais beaucoup de caractère. Gérant du Club des petits-déjeuners de son école et charmeur dans ses temps libres.

Ce Club, présent dans plus de 200 écoles de la province, n'a malheureusement plus besoin de présentation. Mais l'école que fréquente Anthony, oui. Il s'agit du Centre d'intégration scolaire, à Rosemont. Une école anticonformiste qui, depuis 40 ans, accueille des élèves en difficulté de 6 à 17 ans de Montréal et des environs. Les «gros cas», comme on dit, sont souvent accueillis ici. Ceux avec qui on a tout essayé et pour qui rien n'a marché. Des cas de DPJ. Des enfants qui l'ont eue dure. Des élèves qui traînent avec eux des histoires d'abus, d'abandon, de toxicomanie, d'itinérance, de violence. Des naufragés de milieux pauvres. D'autres qui viennent de milieux aisés et qui ont trébuché.

Beaucoup de chats sauvages dans cette école au personnel dévoué. Des regards frondeurs, des regards fuyants. Des êtres fragiles avec de grosses carapaces et des pantalons trop larges. Les chouchous d'Yves Germain, l'orthopédagogue attiré aux «gros cas». Des élèves qui ont 17 ans et une troisième année B. Des hommes de Cro-Magnon qu'il arrive à transformer en gentlemen, comme ces grands ados qui s'activaient dans la cuisine, hier matin, pour préparer les petits-déjeuners.

Dans la plupart des écoles, ce sont des mamans et des grands-mamans bénévoles qui s'occupent du Club des petits-déjeuners. Mais pas ici. Ici, ce sont les durs à cuire de l'école comme Éric, Evans, Jonathan et Guerdy qui enfilent tous les matins gants de plastique, filet sur les cheveux et tablier par-dessus leur kangourou pour servir les enfants du primaire, en suivant les ordres du plus petit d'entre eux, Anthony.

Yves Germain a fait appel au Club des petits-déjeuners il y a quatre ans quand il s'est rendu compte qu'il y avait trop d'élèves qui arrivaient à l'école le ventre vide. Et il a décidé de transformer ce truc banal qu'est la préparation d'un déjeuner en expérience de vie pour les jeunes. Pour les responsabiliser, les valoriser autrement.

Comment il s'y prend? Il hausse les épaules. Il n'y a pas vraiment de recette. Mais ça prend à la base de la patience, du respect, un encadrement ferme. Des efforts soutenus pour aller chercher les forces de chacun, donner espoir, faire rêver.

Yves me raconte qu'il emmène chaque année «ses» jeunes voir les baleines à Tadoussac et faire du kayak de mer. Il les emmènera bientôt voir les Raptors, l'équipe de basketball de Toronto. Il les emmène aussi au théâtre, au musée, même si, normalement, des jeunes comme eux ne vont ni au théâtre ni au musée. Certains ne sont jamais sortis de leur pâté de maisons. «Je les emmène quand même. Juste pour leur ouvrir des portes. Leur montrer que oui, c'est possible. Leur dire «même toi, t'as le droit d'aller au théâtre, t'as le droit de voyager»... C'est rien d'extraordinaire, mais

ça fait des miracles.»

Yves me parle d'Anthony, dit le «gérant» du Club. Quand il est arrivé à l'école, il y a deux ans, le petit bonhomme terrorisait ceux qui avaient le malheur de se retrouver sur son chemin. C'était le monstre de son ancienne école. À son premier jour au Centre d'intégration, il est arrivé en pyjama, s'est mis debout sur le bureau de la secrétaire et a envoyé promener tout le monde. Sur son bulletin quotidien, il avait toujours 0.

Un matin, Yves l'a regardé dans les yeux et lui a dit, seul à seul: «As-tu quelque chose dans le ventre, toi, ou tu veux juste faire suer le peuple?» Un lien de confiance est né.

Anthony, les yeux brillants, me raconte comment il a gravi les échelons jusqu'à devenir gérant. Il a d'abord été «doorman» du Club, comme il dit. Il ouvrait la porte aux élèves. Ensuite, il a été promu à la fonction de laveur de table. Puis plongeur. Puis cuisinier. Et finalement gérant.

Il faut voir ce petit bonhomme de 11 ans diriger d'une main de maître les grands de 16 ans qui font deux fois sa taille. «O.K., toi, tu prépares le jus. Toi, tu sors les céréales. Je m'occupe des fruits.» Ce qu'il aime de ce travail? «Pouvoir aider les enfants en difficulté», dit-il. Ce qu'il veut faire plus tard? Avocat, répond-il sans hésiter. Pour aider les gens et les défendre. «Yves m'a dit qu'il me payerait l'université», dit-il. De toute évidence, la proposition lancée tout bonnement un jour par l'orthopédagogue n'est pas tombée dans l'oreille d'un sourd.

C'est ainsi qu'Anthony est passé de 0 sur 27 dans les bulletins quotidiens de l'école où on note ses bons et ses moins bons coups à 27 sur 27. Sauf l'autre jour, il a perdu deux points, parce qu'il a dérangé en classe. «Sais-tu pourquoi j'ai dérangé? dit-il à un éducateur.

- Non.

- Parce que j'avais pas pris mon Ritalin. Mon cadran a pas sonné. J'ai eu 30 secondes pour m'habiller. J'ai pas eu le temps.»

Anthony, qui doit se lever à 5h et faire deux heures de route chaque jour pour se rendre au Centre d'intégration scolaire, dit avoir bien hâte de retourner dans son ancienne école de quartier. «J'ai hâte de retrouver ma blonde!

- Ah oui! t'as une blonde?»

- Oui, ça fait cinq ans qu'on est ensemble. Mais là, on se voit moins souvent.»

Sac au dos, notre futur avocat rêvant de sa blonde nous a quittés pour aller en classe, sa tuque avec une tête de mort enfoncée sur la casquette, la satisfaction du petit-déjeuner accompli.

Yves Germain le regardait, ému, comme si c'était son propre fils.



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Girl, 15, charged over hoax 911 calls

William Lin

The Ottawa Citizen

Thursday, November 01, 2007

A 15-year-old girl has been charged in relation to one of the 911 prank calls that have been plaguing Ottawa schools and students for more than a month.

The girl was charged yesterday with one count of mischief in relation to a prank call on Tuesday at Glebe Collegiate, police said. She has been released on a promise to appear.

The arrest brings the number of those arrested in connection with the hoaxes to nine since Sept. 21. The hoaxes have included bomb threats and reports of people with guns. Five people face charges.

The students do not appear to have any connection with each other, said police spokesman Const. Alain Boucher.

"It's not an organized gang or anything. None of them are related to each other," he said.

One student has been sent to a diversion program and three other arrested suspects have been released unconditionally pending further investigation, Const. Boucher said.

Ottawa police said they are continuing to investigate other calls.

As of earlier this week, there were more than 34 calls, but it's unknown how many calls have been made since then. Police have said they will no longer comment on hoax calls, saying they want to stop giving callers the attention that is likely one of their major motivators.

Police already have a long-standing policy of not releasing details of certain other incidents, like suicides and bomb threats, in an effort to deter copycats.

Authorities have said they will continue to announce arrests in relation to the hoaxes, but added they would not discuss the effects of such calls on the city or force.

Although Const. Boucher did not know how many tips police have received, he said police welcome them. "The tips are continuing to come in and we appreciate that. We need more of the help of the students who know about this to continue giving us a call," he said.

Last Friday, a 17-year-old boy was arrested in connection with a call made Oct. 11 at Ecole Secondaire Louis-Riel on Bearbrook Road in Gloucester.

That boy also has been charged with one count of mischief.

In one group on Facebook, an online networking site, Ottawa students have posted messages reporting that their schools were still being locked down this week.

Anyone with information is asked to call police at 613-236-1222, ext. 3566 or Crime Stoppers at 613-236-TIPS.

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November 1, 2007

Outraged by KKK garb High school students don costumes as 'joke'

By ELISABETH JOHNS AND MEGAN GILLIS, SUN MEDIA

CORNWALL -- When Grade 12 student Mira Tshilombo walked into school yesterday, she wasn't surprised to see many people dressed up in costumes -- after all, it was Halloween.

But what shocked the Cornwall Collegiate and Vocational School student was that she saw at least three of her peers dressed up in Ku Klux Klan white robes, pointed hoods and carrying a noose in the main foyer of the building.

"I asked someone, '(Are they) seriously wearing that?'" said Tshilombo, who is black.

She approached one of the girls and asked why she chose to put on that garb.

LOGO ON CHEST

"They said they were just doing it to make fun of the KKK," said Tshilombo.

She said there was no doubt these were costumes of the hate-inciting group -- the white robes even had a KKK logo on the chest.

She spoke to the vice-principal who initially told her it was simply a Halloween costume.

"He said I shouldn't take it personally. It's a joke. It's not a joke. He said there are people dressed up like the Grim Reaper. How can you compare the Grim Reaper to racism?" she asked.

"It's like going to a Jewish school dressed up like Nazis and expecting them not to be offended.

"A girl who dressed up as a Playboy Bunny got suspended for it (in 2006)," she added. "But a girl who dresses up as the KKK, nothing is done about it until people's parents start calling."

When asked by Sun Media about the choice of costume, one of the young girls replied she got the idea from her aunt, who wore it to a Halloween party.

When the students went to the Cornwall Square for lunch, they were asked to take off the costumes or leave, confirmed manager Chris Savard.

One student, Chris Sabourin, thought the costumes were "stupid" and "offensive."

"It ruins the fun to dress up like that," said Sabourin.

A mother of a student, who didn't want to be identified, said she was shocked to see the costumes when she dropped her daughter off at school. She was so upset she pulled her daughter out of school and called the police.

"I saw the white sheets and I thought, 'Surely they were dressed up as ghosts,' " she said. "I think these students



A Cornwall Collegiate Vocational School student dressed in a Ku Klux Klan Halloween costume walks among other students outside the high school yesterday. (Ryan Pfeiffer/Sun Media)

should be expelled."

Cornwall police spokesman Blake Paquin said no laws were broken and no threats made.

NOTHING MALICIOUS

Principal Brenda Beaudette said she doesn't believe the students, who were asked to remove the outfits sometime after lunch, meant anything malicious by wearing the KKK costumes.

"This was poor judgment on part of the students," Beaudette said. "There are many things students can choose to dress up as, but most students understand where the line is."

Tshilombo is upset because she feels the school did very little when she brought up the issue.

"People get in trouble if they make fun of gays, so why can't they get in trouble if they make fun of other races?" she questioned.

Anita Bromberg, of B'nai B'rith, a Jewish service organization, says she was shocked that school administrators didn't understand that a strong response was in order.

"That educators wouldn't take immediate, swift action to set the right tone in the school -- given the reality of the resurgence of hate groups and the potential for violence in schools -- is very disturbing."

But the school board believes the school handled the situation appropriately.

"The students made poor choices, but we feel this is a good learning opportunity to move forward and we would support that," said Ted Kennedy, superintendent with the Upper Canada District School Board.

Bernadette Clement, a Cornwall city councillor who is also black, said while she doesn't doubt there was no malicious intent involved, she was still "disturbed" by it.

"It's important for young people to understand the ugly history behind that," said Clement.

"It's not just a costume -- it can send a disturbing message to people of colour."



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Canadians face new headaches after language school goes bankrupt

By Geoff Nixon

The Ottawa Citizen

Thursday, November 01, 2007

Hundreds of Canadians who lost their jobs following the collapse of Japan's largest chain of language schools are now faced with another frustration: Today they will lose all of the health coverage provided to them by their former employer.

Nova, a well-known company that taught languages to an estimated 400,000 students, filed for bankruptcy protection last Friday. Reports from Japanese media suggest that the company had fallen into heavy debt, estimated at \$370 million.

The company employed more than 6,000 workers at its peak -- two-thirds of whom were believed to come from foreign countries, including 668 from Canada.

Since filing for bankruptcy, Nova has been taken over by government-appointed trust-ees. For a 10-day period, which began Oct. 27, the trustees will look for potential buyers to take over the company and its associated debts.

As of yesterday, the government reported "negotiating with a number of companies," but did not specify the names of those companies.

On a letter posted to its corporate website on Tuesday, the trustees informed teachers that Nova could no longer afford to pay their health insurance costs.

"We regret to inform you that all ... policies will terminate as of October 31, 2007," the statement read.

"We ask that those who require immediate coverage for illness and injury ... to find and join another insurance scheme."

For those working for Nova, it was the latest in a series of signs that things have taken a turn for the worse.

Pay delays in the months prior to the bankruptcy meant Nova employees received letters from Japanese landlords asking why their automatic rent deposits had not been made by their employer.

Nova, in turn, sent out faxes with various explanations for the delays.

Phuong Du, a 25-year-old Toronto native, moved to Japan last April to work for Nova.

While the experience was generally good, she said yesterday the last two placements have been stressful. The school has been closed for three weeks and she hasn't been paid in more than a month.

"It's kind of crazy, kind of hectic," Ms. Du said.

But it could be worse. She has heard of cases in which teachers have been evicted from their apartments and knows a teacher who has not been paid since he started his job in September.

In her case, she saved enough money to wait out the situation and has private health insurance that is not affected by the Nova bankruptcy. But she knows how hard it has been for other teachers.

"A lot of instructors are living kind of day by day," she said.

"A lot of instructors, too, have families as well, so they have to take care of more than just themselves."

And those who have lost their jobs have one more possibility they must consider: The costs associated with packing up their lives and moving home.

"I can't afford to stay," Christine Ley, a Nova teacher originally from Collingwood, Ont., said yesterday.

Ms. Ley, 23, who has taught in Japan for 11/2 years, said she feels "forced" into a position that will leave her in debt.

"It's a pretty upsetting feeling, knowing that you're being forced to leave and not by your own decision," she said.

"I intended to stay into the new year, but now I've had to change my plans and go home without the savings, which I needed to go back to university."

Nova fell into financial problems in recent years despite having a sizable market share and established clientele. According to its corporate website, Nova offered its students language lessons 24 hours a day and held up to 60 per cent of the private language education market in Japan.

Reports out of Japan this week have suggested former Nova president Nozomu Sahashi had managed the company poorly -- and had recently turned down at least one offer from another company to form a partnership and infuse cash into the struggling Nova.

Forbes.com reported yesterday that Mr. Sahashi turned down a \$55-million cash injection offer from Japanese retailer Marui in a proposed business deal last May. As part of the deal, however, Mr. Sahashi would have had to step down from his post as company president.

Those who have worked for Nova in the recent past say the bankruptcy was not an unforeseen development.

David Carson, a former Nova teacher and Ottawa native, said in an interview earlier this week that the company had used "assembly-line style" teaching in its schools for years -- something he thought could one day land the company in trouble.

"There was always a little bit of talk," Mr. Carson said, referring to his experience with the company between the fall of 2003 and January 2005.

"It was kind of on the backburner then that (Nova) might not be as successful as they appeared on the surface."

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