

La police recherchait d'autres présumées victimes, hier soir

Une femme retrouvée brûlée derrière le Cégep



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Une femme d'une vingtaine d'années repose dans un état critique à l'hôpital, brûlée aux deuxième et troisième degrés, et d'autres victimes pourraient se trouver dans le même état dans le parc de la Gatineau, derrière le Cégep de l'Outaouais.

miers soins à la présumée victime, en attendant les ambulanciers et les policiers. La dame aurait subi des brûlures importantes au visage et à la tête.

La présumée victime aurait raconté aux policiers que d'autres personnes avaient été agressées et qu'elles se trouvaient toujours dans la forêt qui appartient à la Commission de la capitale nationale (CCN).

Une large partie du stationnement derrière le Cégep a été bouclée pour permettre aux enquêteurs de la police de Gatineau de faire leur travail. Au passage



SIMON SÉGUIN-BERTRAND, LeDroit

« Nous n'avons aucune confirmation qu'il y a effectivement d'autres victimes. »

— Sergent André Dubois

La police de Gatineau tentait, hier soir, de démêler cette histoire sordide. Selon nos informations, une femme a été retrouvée en état de choc dans un stationnement du Cégep, peu avant 17 h. Elle serait sortie de la forêt derrière l'Institution.

Un petit groupe de personnes qui se trouvait dans le stationnement pour prodiguer les pre-

du *Droit*, en soirée, les policiers s'affairaient à ratisser l'orée du bois dans l'espoir d'y retrouver d'autres présumées victimes.

« C'est difficile de mener nos recherches parce que nous ne savons pas où se situeraient les autres présumées victimes. En fait, nous n'avons aucune confirmation qu'il y a effectivement d'autres victimes », a confié le sergent André Dubois de la poli-

ce de Gatineau.

En soirée, les policiers ont fait appel à un maître-chien. Un ambulancier paramédical se trouvait toujours dans le périmètre de sécurité, aux côtés des agents de Gatineau.

La présumée victime a été

transportée à l'hôpital de Hull. Durant la nuit, elle devait être transportée au Centre des grands brûlés à Montréal. Son état était toujours jugé critique au moment de mettre sous presse.

Le terrain boisé situé derrière le Cégep de l'Outaouais est un

endroit bien prisé des amateurs de plein air. On y retrouve plusieurs pistes de ski de fond. Le parc de la Gatineau étant de juridiction fédérale, il est possible que l'enquête soit cédée à la Gendarmerie royale du Canada.

Avec Louis-Denis Ebacher

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Gatineau police are trying to identify a woman found with second- and third-degree burns to her face and body Tuesday in Gatineau Park.

Police said a person called 911 around 5 a.m. Tuesday after finding the woman, believed to be in her 20s and Caucasian, near a building of the Cégep de l'Outaouais Gabrielle-Roy campus.

"We don't know who this woman is right now. She was seriously burned on her body and in her face," said Const. Isabelle Poirier, spokeswoman for the Gatineau police. "She said to the witness other victims were in the Gatineau Park."

Police began a search of the area but found nothing. Poirier said they'll head out again this morning sometime around 11 a.m.

The woman was transported to Hull hospital in critical condition and later transferred to a Montreal hospital.

The woman didn't say anything else to police other than that there were other victims.

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50 teachers to lose jobs

Cuts will save OCDSB \$2.4M

By DONNA CASEY, OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: March 3, 2010 8:33am

Public school board staff are recommending slashing more than 50 teaching positions in special education and English as a second language over the next two years.

The recommendation, which would save \$2.4 million, would see 35 elementary school teaching jobs eliminated in the 2010-2011 school year, according to a report presented to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board committee Tuesday night.

Another 17 positions would be axed for the 2011-2012 school year, with the board using \$1.8 million in operating reserves to delay those cuts for the upcoming school year, said Janice McCoy, superintendent of human resources.

While the cuts will affect mostly students from kindergarten to Grade 6, board staff is also recommending trustees trim another five high school teaching jobs — including one position that will effectively close a program for new immigrants needing English training.

“These are very vulnerable communities. We have huge concerns,” said Peter Giuliani, local president of the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario of the proposed special education and ESL cuts.

The board is also recommending cutting 12 learning support teacher jobs over two years, positions that would pull special education teachers from helping high-needs students with autism and other learning problems.

“Recognizing that any loss is a loss of support, staff will endeavour to mitigate the impact as best as they can,” says the report, noting the public board has more special education teachers than the region’s other school boards.

Trustees can expect “immediate” reaction from concerned parents over the recommended cuts to special education, which has surged in demand over the last decade, said Giuliani.

In particular, the suggested cut of the only teacher dedicated to a program tailored to newcomers aged 18 to 21 needing English training could spell the end of the class affiliated with the Family Reception Centre at the Adult High School.

“Any time you reduce ESL, you need to think that this is the community that’s identified as the single-highest risk community,” said Giuliani, whose local represents the public board’s 2,600 teachers.

The board is projecting a \$14-million deficit for its 2010-2011 budget and is waiting for the provincial education ministry to learn how much it will receive in funding grants for the upcoming year, said McCoy.

Trustees are expected to make a decision on the staff recommendation at its March 10 board meeting.

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Racist incidents spread at campuses

By CHRISTINA HOAG, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last Updated: March 3, 2010 5:11am

LOS ANGELES - A firestorm over racially and ethnically charged incidents at several University of California campuses spread Tuesday as UC San Diego announced a KKK-style hood was found on campus and students in Los Angeles and Irvine demonstrated against intolerance.

"What kind of campus promotes an environment that allows people to think it's acceptable to target people for their ethnicity, gender or sexuality?" said Corey Matthews, one of about 200 mostly minority UCLA students who held a lunchtime rally. "It's something about the tone of the environment that allows this."

At UC Irvine, about 250 people gathered for a "student solidarity speakout" to condemn the recent spate of racist incidents at UC San Diego that targeted black students and another incident last month at UC Davis, which targeted a Jewish student with a swastika carved on her door, said Marya Bangee, an event organizer.

The protests came on the same day UC San Diego announced the discovery of a white pillowcase fashioned into a KKK-style hood -- the third racist incident around the campus in as many weeks -- and a day after UC Santa Cruz officials found an image of a noose scribbled on the inside of a bathroom door.

Officials found the hood, which bore a hand-drawn circle and cross, on a statue of children's book author Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, outside the main campus library late Monday. A rose had been inserted between the statue's fingers.

Detectives were analyzing the pillowcase for fingerprints and DNA evidence, a university statement said.

UC San Diego Chancellor Marye Anne Fox vowed to punish the culprits to the fullest extent of the law. "We will not tolerate these despicable actions," she said in the statement.

The hood came on the heels two other UC San Diego incidents: a February off-campus, student-organized "Compton Cookout" party that mocked Black History Month with ghetto stereotypes; and a noose found hanging from a library bookshelf last week.

UC San Diego campus police said they had completed their investigation into the noose incident and turned their results over to the city attorney on Tuesday for possible hate crime charges.

One of the students responsible for the noose apologized to the university community in an anonymous letter published Monday in the campus newspaper. She said the noose was formed while she and friends were playing around with a piece of rope and had no meaning as a lynching symbol.

The student said she is not black, but is a minority.

The incident also is under investigation by law enforcement agencies, campus spokeswoman Judy Piercey said.

Although UCLA students said no racial incidents had occurred recently on their campus, in 2007, a fraternity held a "Tijuana Sunrise" party that mocked Mexican-Americans with stereotyped images, they said.

The incidents are disturbing and most likely the work of "outliers" using offensive and outrageous behavior to gain notoriety, said Brian Levin, director of California State University's Center for Study of Hate and Extremism in San Bernardino.

He said surveys show young people are less prejudiced than ever, but "these things touch a nerve, and these folks know it."

UCLA demonstrators called on administrators to institute a required ethnic studies course that would teach students about other cultures.

"It would be a very strong and powerful statement for diversity," said Kent Wong, a speaker at the rally and director of UCLA's Center for Labor Research and Education.

At UC San Diego, officials were already moving to create a more tolerant environment after meeting with black student leaders, Piercey said.

Initiatives include recruiting more minority faculty, instituting a mentoring program, creating an African American Resource Center, and ensuring funding for the diversity office, Piercey said.

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Don't punish daughter for filming lap dancers: dadBy **ROSS ROMANIUK**, QMI AGENCY

Last Updated: March 3, 2010 9:52am



A second amateur video has appeared online with a different angle of the two Winnipeg high school teachers that were involved in a controversial lap dance in front of approximately 100 students during a school-sanctioned pep rally.

WINNIPEG - Don't shoot the messenger — at least not for shooting her teachers dirty-dancing.

That's the message from the father of a Winnipeg high school student who caught two of her teachers "lap-dancing" on video. Shawn Van Walleghem said his daughter should in no way be disciplined for her amateur camera work.

Van Walleghem, whose daughter Chrysta is one of at least two Churchill High School students who video-recorded the raunchy joke performance by two teachers in a gymnasium on Feb. 17, said he "highly" doubts any such penalty is coming.

"And I sincerely hope there won't be," he said, adding students — many of whom carry camera-equipped cellphones — would have been "hyped up" during the light-hearted "spirit" rally and shooting the event for fun.

"I mean, it was 'spirit week,' and they were in the gymnasium doing stuff. There were probably at least 30 or 40 kids with their cellphones out taking pictures."

Van Walleghem has, however, called an education official to try to find out about what he describes as only "speculation" raised over the issue due to a Winnipeg School Division policy.

He suggested, as well, it's difficult to blame teens for taking photographs or shooting video while the male and female staff members danced — she in a chair, while he pranced around rubbing against her and briefly simulating oral sex — in front of at least 100 high school students in the gym. That's because they did the public a service, he said.

"It's a good thing that the kids were able to bring this out," Van Walleghem said. "What would have happened if nobody had cameras?"

Division chairwoman Jackie Sneesby did not return a call for comment, instead passing a reporter's phone message to administrators to return.

A division spokeswoman said she won't comment on the matter, but cited a policy that states "the use by students, staff and community members of the camera/video functions of all multi-functioning communication devices is strictly prohibited" at every school, unless permission is given by the principal.

The policy also states any violation of the rule "shall be considered grounds for disciplinary action which may include suspension, loss of computer privileges, and/or appropriate legal action."

The teachers — identified by students as Chrystie Fitchner and Adeil Ahmed — were removed from their jobs with pay on Feb. 19 while the division looks into what happened. The teachers have not returned to work, while division officials have refused to say anything about their investigation or possible disciplinary measures against them.

Trustee Mike Babinsky said administrators are revealing very little about the matter to him and his colleagues on the division's board.

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OCDSB to survey workers

By DONNA CASEY, OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: March 2, 2010 8:12pm

White, black or mixed race? Gay, straight or questioning? Punjabi-speaking or Urdu?

These are a few of the questions the public school board wants to know about its 9,500 employees in a first-ever workforce census.

The survey, which will be voluntary, anonymous and confidential, will ask participating staff with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board 27 questions ranging from their sexual orientation to what kind of childcare they use.

The survey, which will take place during the last week of April, will give the school board an accurate snapshot of its workforce, said Janice McCoy, superintendent of human resources.

The census, conducted on a website administered by consultants TWI Inc., will give the school board possible policy directions for boosting staffing demographics — including ethnic background — to match its student body, said McCoy, adding the board will always favour the qualifications of a teacher or staffer over other factors.

The Ottawa Police Service conducted a similar census of its employees a few years ago, said McCoy.

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Library \$400Gs in red, shelves full Sunday hours

By JON WILLING, CITY HALL BUREAU

Last Updated: March 2, 2010 10:38pm

The Ottawa Public Library will defer spending on new materials and roll back a plan to expand Sunday hours in hopes of closing a \$400,000 funding gap.

The original plan was to have 10 branches open on Sundays year-round. Now, the library is proposing to harmonize the hours of those branches with the main library, but there still won't be full Sunday hours in July and August.

Because of harmonized schedules, the following six branches would be open an additional 10 Sundays, from the second week of June to after Labour Day: Beaverbrook, Hazeldean, North Gloucester, Orleans, Ruth E. Dickinson in Barrhaven and Stittsville.

The move is expected to save \$155,000.

The library was also planning to boost its collections in 2010, but is now proposing to decrease that budget from \$220,000 to \$70,000.

The library board will meet next Monday to discuss the recommended adjustments, which are detailed in a report to the board.

Management is asking the board to lift a spending freeze so they can fill positions and move forward with projects. The board ordered a freeze last fall after a similar move at City Hall.

The library wants to hire a position in digital services to fill a growing work demand.

But management wants to delay filling positions for bilingual services, which would mean not meeting service requirements for 13 French-language schools in the west end. The hiring of an accessibility specialist is also proposed to be delayed.

The Friends of the Ottawa Public Library Association is offering \$40,000 to relax budget pressures in safety and security.

The library's 2009 budget ended in a \$152,000 deficit, but management says there are enough reserve funds to cover the extra expenses.

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Memorial suspends funding for new grad students

By QMI AGENCY

Last Updated: March 3, 2010 10:19am

Students who plan to enrol in grad school in Newfoundland next year and were hoping for fellowship cash will have to secure an outside source of funding.

Memorial University of Newfoundland's School of Graduate Studies is freezing funding for new students as it attempts to curb its budget deficit.

Noreen Golfman, the school's dean of graduate studies, said it's nothing to be alarmed about.

"A freeze is a bit of an overstatement," she said. "Fellowship support is on hold for new submissions."

Golfman estimates just under half of Memorial's grad students rely on fellowships from the university.

Fellowships range from \$12,000-\$20,000 a year, depending on the degree. However, tuition fees are lower than at most grad schools because of a provincial tuition freeze in place since 1999.

Golfman said the school will still accept new students who secure external funding.

"There are all sorts of funding opportunities for graduate students who want to come to Memorial," she said. "The last thing we want to do is discourage people from coming here."

The deficit, which Golfman estimated to be worth a couple million dollars, is a result of a spike in enrolment over the past few years.

Golfman said enrolment jumped over 60% from last year.

She said the freeze will likely inhibit growth next year, but it's just a short-term fix.

She said the school needs greater financial support from the provincial government.

There are about 2,700 graduate students at Memorial.

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OCDSB votes to keep alternative program

Posted Mar 2, 2010 [By Rosalyn Stevens](#)

EMC News – The Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) voted last week to continue running its elementary alternative program, after a lengthy review that worried its parents, teachers and students. After nearly 20 hours of debate, stretching over two meetings, trustees reduced the staff recommendation to a set of guidelines that would recognize the importance of the program, and enhance it for the betterment of all students.

Richard Deadman, chair of the Alternative Education Advisory Committee (ASAC), said he was relieved with the board’s decision, and happy that the program can begin the real work of enhancements and potential expansion in the future.

Most importantly, he said, parents now know they can register their children for alternative kindergarten without any fear.

Janet Sheenan, who has two children at Churchill Alternative School, said she is relieved that the program will go on, adding that her children have also been worried about the future of their program.

“We took out a bigger mortgage to even get into the Churchill area, and I wasn’t looking forward to moving,” she said with a laugh. “And my kids will be so happy.”

For the full story, see the March 5 edition of the EMC.