

14 décembre 2010 | Le Droit | LOUIS-LOUIS-DENISDENISEBACHER EBACHER
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Un autobus scolaire impliqué dans un accident

Un autobus scolaire avec une vingtaine d'élèves à bord s'est retrouvé dans une fâcheuse position, hier, en glissant sur le chemin de la Montagne, à Gatineau.



LOUIS-DENIS EBACHER, LeDroit

Un autobus scolaire s'est mis à glisser, hier matin, sur le chemin de la Montagne à Gatineau, lorsque son conducteur a voulu freiner pour éviter un accident. L'arrière de l'autobus a été projeté dans le fossé.

Le chauffeur de l'autobus, qui transportait des jeunes de l'école des Rapides-Deschênes, a tenté de freiner en apercevant une scène d'accident.

Ce premier accident impliquait une seule voiture, qui s'est retrouvée à l'envers, devant le 1228, chemin de la Montagne, vers 8 h 15. La conductrice circulait vers le sud, et a perdu la maîtrise de sa voiture non équipée de pneus d'hiver. Le chemin de la Montagne était très glissant, à l'instar de plusieurs autres routes de la région, au lendemain d'une fin de semaine sous la pluie verglaçante et le grésil.

L'autobus, qui circulait aussi en direction sud, s'est mis à glisser, lorsque son conducteur a voulu freiner pour éviter le premier accident.

« Quand l'agent est arrivé sur les lieux du premier accident, il a constaté que l'autobus qui circulait aussi vers le sud était en perte de contrôle », précise le lieutenant Gilbert Couture, de la police de Gatineau.

L'arrière de l'autobus a été projeté dans le fossé. Deux fillettes et deux garçons ont été transportés sur-le-champ à l'hôpital, par mesure préventive. « Tous les autres élèves ont ensuite été transportés à l'hôpital pour des vérifications », a dit le lieutenant Couture. La conductrice de la voiture, âgée dans la vingtaine, s'en est sortie avec des douleurs au cou.

L'école des Rapides-Deschênes est située sur le chemin Vanier, dans le secteur Aylmer.

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14 décembre 2010 | Le Droit | BESANÇON, FRANCE Associated Press

Les otages français sont sains et saufs

— Fin de prise d'otages heureuse à Besançon. Les cinq enfants et l'institutrice encore retenus dans une école maternelle depuis le début de la matinée ont été libérés sains et saufs hier midi et le forcené, un mineur de 17 ans présenté comme dépressif, a été interpellé par le Groupe d'intervention de la police nationale (GIPN) de Strasbourg.



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Des gendarmes du Groupe d'intervention de la police nationale française escortent les otages libérés hier en début d'après-midi.

Le dénouement est intervenu peu avant 13 h, lorsque les membres du GIPN sont entrés en action au moment de la distribution de plateaux-repas pour le déjeuner, a expliqué le ministre de l'Éducation nationale Luc Chatel, qui s'est rendu sur place. Armé de « deux longs couteaux », le forcené, qui voulait « mettre fin à ses jours dans la salle de classe », a alors été neutralisé, selon M. Chatel.

« Nous avons porté les repas et c'est à ce moment-là que le GIPN a pu intervenir, séparer les enfants, les libérer et appréhender le preneur d'otages, a-t-il déclaré. Le preneur d'otages est sain et sauf ».

Laurent Gresset, secrétaire régional du syndicat Alliance Police nationale, a précisé que le forcené avait été neutralisé à l'aide d'un pistolet à impulsion électrique. « Depuis le début, les policiers ont compris qu'il voulait plus attenter à ses jours qu'à ceux des enfants ou de l'institutrice. Le GIPN a d'abord négocié la libération sans heurts des otages. Ensuite, ils ont continué de discuter avec lui pour qu'il se rende de façon pacifique et pour qu'il ne se suicide pas, a-t-il expliqué à l'Associated Press. Comme la discussion n'avancait pas, le GIPN est intervenu et a maîtrisé le preneur d'otages avec un pistolet à impulsion électrique, ce qui a permis de l'interpeller sans le blesser ».

C'est le forcené lui-même qui, dès le début de la prise d'otages a pris contact avec le commissariat.

Il a demandé à plusieurs reprises une arme pour pouvoir mettre fin à ses jours.

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Arsonist torches Almonte school portable

By SCOTT TAYLOR, OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: December 13, 2010 12:13pm

Lanark County OPP are asking for the public's assistance to help them bring to justice whoever set an Almont portable classroom on fire shortly after midnight on Dec. 11.

Const. David Bird said Mississippi Mills fire investigators determined immediately that they were dealing with a case of arson at Holy Name of Mary Catholic School, but he wouldn't discuss how they came to that conclusion citing the ongoing investigation.

"It was very obvious to those there that the fire was deliberately set," he said. "The classroom will have to be replaced."

The classroom, which Bird believes was used for students from Grades 6 and 7, is valued at approximately \$54,000.

The school was empty at the time and no one was hurt.

Anyone with any information is requested to contact the Lanark County crime unit at 613-267-2626) or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

CAN YOU TELL US MORE? If you witnessed this incident, or have photos or video we are interested in hearing your story. Click this link to [to send images or video](#); email us at ottsun.city@sunmedia.ca; or call our newsroom at 613-739-5112.

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Autos Careers Classifieds Homes



Explicit oral-sex flyer handed out to Grade 8s

By SEBASTIEN MENARD, QMI AGENCY

Last Updated: December 13, 2010 3:21pm



Explicit sexual education material designed for 18-year-olds, was given to Grade 8 students at the Monseigneur Parent High School in Saint-Hubert near Montreal. (QMI Agency)

Warning: Some readers might find content offensive

MONTREAL – For the second time this fall, sexually explicit school material has raised the ire of parents in the Montreal suburb of St-Hubert.

Last month a graphic sex quiz led to the suspension of a Grade 8 teacher and now a class at another school has received how-to flyers about fellatio and cunnilingus. One child's father recently complained to QMI Agency about the material that a science teacher handed to his daughter and her Grade 8 classmates.

The flyer provided highly detailed explanations about how to perform "safe" oral sex.

"Most men prefer that their partner concentrate on the tip ... since it's the most sensitive part," the handout reads. "But watch the teeth ... it could spoil the fun."

The flyer also included a list of vulgar phrases commonly used to describe oral sex and male and female genitalia.

The local school board defended the teacher's decision to distribute the flyer, saying it was part of an HIV prevention campaign created by the Toronto-based Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange (CATIE).

But CATIE official Veronique Destrube told QMI Agency the flyer was designed for 18-year-olds.

"This document should not have been distributed to 13-year-olds," she said. "I am astonished. It's not something we would have done."

The director of the school board fired back at CATIE, saying the agency sent its fliers directly to his schools. Andrew Byette added that the material was flagged as being appropriate for teens.

"If these weren't to be distributed in classes, why did they make them available?" asked Byette.

He added that he has not received any complaints from parents, but the father who contacted QMI Agency about the flyers says he intends to file a formal complaint about the latest handout.

Last month a teacher at another school in the same board was suspended after she gave her Grade 8 students a multiple-choice test that included questions about anal sex, lesbian encounters and penis sizes.

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Article rank | 14 Dec 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | Postmedia News

Hope for female teachers

As schoolgirls risk beatings or worse, Afghan women's teaching centre aims to offer safe haven, Doug Schmidt reports.

KANDAHAR CITY, Afghanistan



Doug Schmidt, postmedia news

Afghan labourers work on one of two new two-storey wings dedicated to increasing the number of female students at the Kandahar Teacher Training Centre.

A
s skilled craftsmen spread wet plaster over walls of fresh bricks and lay baked stone tiles on new

bedroom floors, a Canadianfunded women's dormitory at the Kandahar Teachers Training Centre is getting closer to being opened by March, in time for the start of the next Afghan school year.

In a place and at a time when just being a schoolgirl carries a risk of a beating or worse — girls have had acid splashed on their faces as they leave school in this country — the aim here is to attract more female student teachers by offering the city's first opportunity to study without having to negotiate Kandahar's often dangerous streets to get to classes.

Bibi-Sadia, 22, says she can't wait to resume her teacher studies. Hungry for further education after completing high school in neighbouring Helmand province, BibiSadia first went to Kandahar University, the only such institution in the country's south, to study to become a doctor. With no dorms for female students, and the main campus located in the remote outskirts of this sprawling city, she didn't stay long.

" I realized then, why not become a good teacher?" she told Postmedia News through an interpreter.

But not one of Kandahar's nearly 40 teacher colleges offers campus accommodation for women. Undeterred, BibiSadia found a place with relatives in the city and began studies a year ago. The situation, however, with the daily skulking through city streets to get to school, soon became "hopeless," she said, and she returned home again.

" We don't have enough female teachers. We have many female students who are willing to study, but due to the lack of a hostel, they went back to their homes," said a female teacher at the centre who asked that her name not be published.

In announcing a new postcombat role, the federal government said last month that Canada will continue to help Afghanistan improve access to education, especially for girls and young women.

A third of the estimated seven million Afghan children enrolled in schools are girls, but the percentage in the more conservative south is probably much lower. Fewer than a third of Afghanistan's 175,000 teachers are women, and increasing that number is seen as critical to improving the participation of Kandahari girls in schooling.

Canadian officials here say they are on track to complete a 2008 commitment to build or refurbish 50 schools in Kandahar by next summer, when Canada's combat troops pull out of the province.

The teachers training centre initiative, at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million, is an additional commitment, said Barb Humick, the Canadian International Development Agency's deputy director of development at the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team.

The teaching school currently has living quarters for as many as 250 male students, but Canada is paying to add secure dorms for 200 female students, as well as 24 additional classrooms.

The school, which could handle 1,200 student teachers in the near future, is also getting help from Canadian military engineers to erect a new water tower, as well as cooking and dining facilities for the female boarders.

" I think the new building will help us a lot," said school director Abdul Samad Nazari, who has a list of would-be female students who have been unable to attend in the past because of safety concerns.

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Article rank | 14 Dec 2010 | *Ottawa Citizen*

Police subdue teen who took students hostage

French police used a Taser to overpower a suicidal sword-wielding teen who burst into a nursery school Monday and took hostage 21 children and their teacher. The teacher held for several hours along with her pupils, aged three and four, said that despite the fact the 17-year-old never let go of his two swords, she did not feel they were in danger. The youth marched into the kindergarten with parents dropping off their charges and entered Nathalie Roffet's class. As worried parents waited outside, Roffet calmly suggested that her charges needed to eat. Police outside the door called them out one by one until only the youth and the teacher were left. Police then moved in and overpowered him.

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Article rank | 14 Dec 2010 | Ottawa Citizen | by Matthew Pearson

Study finds rural-urban divide in college, university drop-out rates

Students from small towns ‘significantly’ less likely to complete education, according to survey

Students from rural communities and smaller urban centres are significantly more likely to drop out of college or university than students from larger cities, according to new research from the University of Ottawa.

The data released Monday by the Measuring the Effectiveness of Student Aid (MESA) project is based on the Longitudinal Survey of Low-Income Students, which followed more than 10,000 government student aid recipients from their first year of post-secondary education in 2006 through 2009.

About 29 per cent of college students from smaller communities (places with populations between 10,000 and 100,000 people) drop out in their first or second years, compared to 22 per cent of rural students (from communities with populations less than 10,000) and 16 per cent of students from cities (with populations more than 100,000).

The dropout rates for university students are even more striking: those from rural and small urban centres are, respectively, double and triple the dropout rates of students from cities.

The findings suggest colleges and universities need to explore why people are dropping out and either develop or beef up programs to help students adjust to college or university life and stay in school.

“They find themselves in a new milieu, they’re uprooted from where they came from and they have challenges coping,” said Ross Finnie, the lead MESA researcher and an economist at U of O’s Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. “If you could cut quit rates in half for some of these groups, that’s going to change the lives of a lot of individuals.”

The research shows the urban locations of most colleges and universities in Canada explain why students from cities are comparatively more likely to live with their parents while in school. For many students from rural or small urban communities, living away from home implies higher costs.

It also shows students from smaller communities are more likely to have saved towards their post-secondary education than students from cities, who are more likely to live at home while attending first year.

The latest MESA data released also contrasted postsecondary educational experiences by gender and Aboriginal status.

Among college students, 25 per cent of males drop out before graduating, compared to 21 per cent of females, even though males have typically set aside more money for school themselves.

Aboriginal students are more likely than non-Aboriginals to be first-generation post-secondary students, but they still drop out at higher rates than non-Aboriginals, based on the relatively small sample size MESA looked at. About 31 per cent of Aboriginal students drop out compared to 13 per cent of non-Aboriginals.

Although the Aboriginal students interviewed reported positive attitudes toward post-secondary education, Finnie said they faced many of the same challenges as other students who move far from home to attend college or university.

“They’re ripped out of their communities, they have to travel long distance and they feel very alienated on campus, and that kind of makes sense,” he said.

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Snow, wind make for tough morning drive

By OTTAWA SUN

Last Updated: December 14, 2010 8:35am

Ottawans are waking this morning to a windy, snowy drive to work or school.

Overnight the region received more snowfall than originally forecast -- up to 5 cms or more in some areas, and brisk winds are blowing it around and making driving conditions treacherous in many areas.

That has led to a rash of accidents already this morning. As of 8:30 a.m., OPP and city police along with fire and paramedics are continuing to respond to multiple accidents although there are still no reports of serious crashes so far. Most of the calls are for spinouts or vehicles which have slid off roads into ditches.

The road conditions do mean it is a much slower than usual drive, however. Snow continues to fall across the region, and we'll see from 5 to 10 cms before it is all over. The skies should begin to clear this afternoon.

Traffic is very slow along Hwy. 417 and the Regional Road 174 corridor with a couple of minor crashes or disabled vehicles. The biggest bottleneck continues to be westbound at the 417/174 split as of 8:30 a.m., where traffic is at a crawl.

There have been no reports of any school bus cancellations and all Ottawa-area schools are open.

Ottawasun.com will keep you updated with any major traffic problems through the morning. If you see anything we should know about, let us know via the links below...

CAN YOU TELL US MORE? If you know of a major traffic problem or have a story to tell about this morning's road and weather conditions, we want to hear your story. Click this link to [to send images or video](#); email us at ottsun.city@sunmedia.ca; or call our newsroom at 613-739-5112.

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