

Counselors to Help Students, Teachers Deal With Tragedy

Associated Press

MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP, Mich. — To help students and teachers at Buell Elementary move past the shooting of 6-year-old Kayla Rolland, counselors will ask them to relive the tragedy, to remember as much as they can.

It might not sound like the right thing to do, said John Stein, the deputy director of the National Organization for Victim Assistance. But he says it's the best way for anyone to recover from the trauma. "It seems to alleviate the power of these memories to be disruptive and debilitating. ... Without doing much thinking, you're a prisoner to emotional fragments," Stein said.

Six NOVA volunteers talked to teachers and students at the school on Friday. There will be counselors in each classroom Monday when school reopens, and teddy bears for each student, the organization's Bill Pfohel said Saturday. "As soon as we can get back

into a routine, the healing can begin," Pfohel said.

Of the people they work with, he said, "We will see anger, deep sadness, grief and guilt. They're really happy their child is alive, but they feel tremendous guilt because another child, a 6-year-old, isn't."

Rolland was shot to death Tuesday, allegedly by a 6-year-old classmate. She was laid to rest Saturday at a private funeral.

NOVA teams have worked with counselors at events such as the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, places where hurricanes have struck and with refugees in Bosnia. Some members of the team are veterans of other school shootings across the country.

Stein said one of the things counselors will face most in the next few days is people having feelings they're not proud of. "Rage at a murder is an unpleasant emotional experience, and our religion and ethical upbringing says don't do this, but that's how we feel."

N.C. Schools Use Drills to Ensure Safety

By TAENA KIM Staff Writer

In the wake of shocking school shootings nationwide, N.C. schools are implementing additional security measures to ensure student safety.

The recent school shooting by a first-grader in Flint, Mich. was one in a long chain of school shootings across the nation in the past decade.

The Michigan incident, the first in recent memory involving elementary school students, has compelled teachers to acknowledge that everyone is vulnerable to violence, said Randy Marshall, principal of Carrboro Elementary School.

"We are not responding directly to the incident in Michigan," Marshall said. "But we did meet with faculty to

discuss what actions would be taken (in a similar situation)."

Marshall added that Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools had a crisis intervention team that educated individuals about shooting situations.

He said each school also had its own security plan, as required by the state.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the largest school district in North Carolina, has also implemented safety drills, similar to tornado and fire drills, as part of each school's security plan.

"The new thing we are doing this year is a lockdown drill," said John Deem, director of public information for Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

During the lockdown drill, a special code that differs with each school, such as "Teachers bring your red books to the office," is announced over the intercom,

Deem said.

After the announcement, all the doors are locked, and teachers are responsible for the safety of each child, he said.

"Drills help you practice and stay calm," said Janis Kupersmidt, UNC associate psychology professor. "In terms of practicing them, it helps adults protect (children) by knowing where they are."

Deem said each school's drills were evaluated once a year to ensure the drills were effective.

But Deem said the Charlotte-Mecklenburg district had adopted other security measures, including increasing the number of security officers and extending their training.

The school district is responsible for training the officers and ensuring a rapid

response team that could respond to an emergency at any of the schools in the district.

He added that video cameras had been installed in some high schools, and the district was looking to equip all high schools with cameras.

But Kupersmidt said one of the best ways to prevent children from bringing guns to school was to know about the children's lives.

Kupersmidt said lowering the student-teacher ratio was a way for teachers to better know their students.

"A lot of the kids (who have committed school violence) have a history of being victimized," she said. "Schools need to enhance supervision during unstructured time."

The State & National Editor can be reached at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Forum Explores School Violence, Seeks Solutions

By SABINE HIRSCHAUER Staff Writer

Local schools are taking a proactive stance on school violence by developing programs to prevent violent situations before they enter the classroom.

A forum held Feb. 28, one day before the Michigan elementary school shooting, invited parents and school officials to voice concerns about the increasingly important matter.

John Birkholz, assistant principal of Chapel Hill High School and part of the panel, emphasized the state's regulations

requiring each school in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools to draft a safe school plan. The plan outlines school responses in a crisis situations.

"Every school has to draft a safe school plan, which needs to get presented and approved by the school board," Birkholz said.

Two of the highest ranking objectives pulled from the survey were removing disruptive students from the school and training school personnel on how to approach aggressive behavior.

"We are sending teachers and staff to individual conferences to familiarize

them with these issues," Birkholz said. "We have a student handbook of conduct to address which student behaviors are acceptable and which ones are not."

Steve Scroggs, assistant superintendent for support services, said he would like to see the safety concerns raised in the survey addressed by every school's safety plan.

"These are all important issues which every school needs to address," he said.

Richard Pierce, assistant principal of Guy B. Phillips Middle School, said schools did not have to address security and violence issues years ago.

"Now the state requires a safe plan, and we need to report yearly the number of incidents," Pierce said.

This year, for the first time, Guy B. Phillips is implementing regular drills to familiarize staff, teachers and students with responses during violent situations, he said.

"We practice, for example, different signals to notify staff and students of a threat and drill what to do in such a crisis situation," he said. "We take, for example, seventh-graders to the cafeteria, simulate a lunch situation and practice a so-called 'lockdown-drill,' which brings students as fast as possible behind locked doors once a threat has entered the building."

Pierce said school security officers and staff visited a national conference last year and outlined specifics for the

drill with members of Columbine High School, the site of the worst school shooting in the United States.

"Students take the drills very serious, and this shows that they think this is important," Pierce said.

CHHS PTA President Kim Fahs stressed the importance of these drills. She said they would enable officials to react more efficiently when real-life crises occur.

"You may think you are secure until the crisis actually happens," she said. "When you have a drill, it works best."

McDougle Middle School Principal Charles Stewart said open communication among teachers, staff and students was vital in the effort to prevent school violence.

"The students need to have somebody at the school they can talk to and trust," he said.

Former Grey Culbreth Middle School PTA President Margy Campion said the role of parents was critical in averting drug use and violence among children.

"Assistance from parents confronts a crisis situation in the family," she said. "We need to provide our children with more counselors and nurses."

Nishant Garg contributed to this article.

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

140 Beers for \$18

- hoppy, malty, diverse, aromatic
- 30 of America's Greatest Specialty Breweries

MARCH 24-25
7th Annual Southeastern Microbrewer's Invitational

The Durham Marriott at The Civic Center
Tickets available today!
\$18.00 in advance
\$20.00 at the door

EVENT SPONSORS:

CAROLINA BLONDE BEER

BUB
OALLETTE
GRAYS MILL

Additional Sponsors: North Coast Brewing Company, Fit South, Clock Work Advertising and Promotions, Tyler's Restaurant & Taproom, Armadillo Grill, Cottonwood Grill and Saw Mill Taproom.

www.beerhunter.org • for info call 484-1128
News about great brews: subscribe@beerhunter.org

A portion of proceeds to benefit Single Women With Children, Inc.

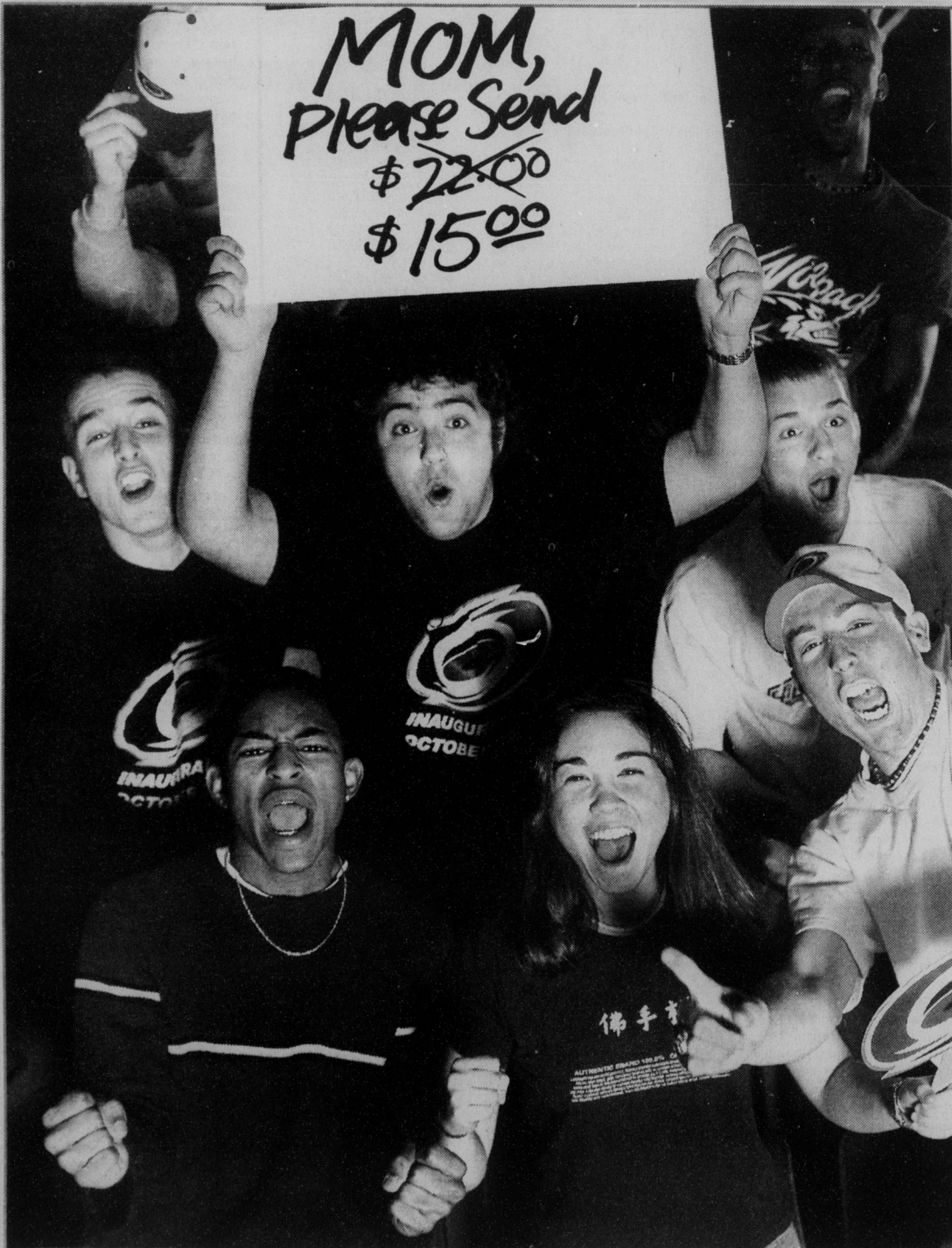
Squeezing Your Finances?

Participate in our life-saving & financially rewarding plasma donation program.
IMMEDIATE COMPENSATION!
Donors Earn up to **\$165 per Month!**

★ New donors earn \$20 for first visit, \$35 for the second visit within 7 days.
New donors call for appointment.

Call or stop by: **Sera-Tec Biologicals**
www.citysearch.com/RDU/SeraTec

109 1/2 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill • 942-0251 • M-TH 10-6; F 10-4.

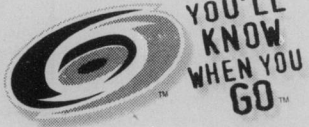


COLLEGE RUSH

Get great seats at a really great price. Purchase Upper Level \$33 seats for \$15 and Lower Level \$44 seats for \$20.

Tickets may be purchased up to 48 hours prior to any game at the Arena box office based on availability.

College ID required.



Chicago Blackhawks	.....Mar. 8	.....7:30PM
Boston Bruins	.....Mar. 10	.....7:30PM
Atlanta Thrashers	.....Mar. 12	.....1:30PM
Edmonton Oilers	.....Mar. 15	.....7:30PM
St. Louis Blues	.....Mar. 22	.....7:00PM
New York Islanders	.....Mar. 26	.....1:30PM
Buffalo Sabres	.....Mar. 27	.....7:30PM
Nashville Predators	.....Mar. 29	.....7:30PM
Philadelphia Flyers	.....Apr. 2	.....1:30PM
Atlanta Thrashers	.....Apr. 9	.....1:30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE ARENA BOX OFFICE AT 919-861-2323 OR WWW.CANESHOCKEY.COM