

# Girls react to Russian attack

Ambassador thanks school for scrapbook

BY ADAM W. RHEW  
STAFF WRITER

Nadia Nasir said a Sept. 1 terrorist attack in Beslan, Russia, that left 344 people dead was beyond anything she could have imagined.

She said she was shocked by the events going on half a world away. And she wanted to do something for the victims instead of merely being concerned.

The difference between Nadia and others: She's only in eighth grade.

"I was really, really shocked," she said about the attack by Chechen rebels on Beslan's Middle School Number One. Among the hundreds left dead were 172 students.

Nadia, a student at A.L. Stanback Middle School in Hillsborough, approached teacher Jamie Hulse with an idea to send a scrapbook to the families affected by the attack.

Hulse, a resource teacher for gifted education, helped the then-13-year-old Nadia solicit letters of support and encouragement from students at the school.

Those students included 13-year-olds Rachel Keck, Lindsay Davis and Whitney Thomas, who together wrote a letter and drew a picture at a sleepover.

"It makes me feel all fuzzy inside," Whitney said.

The girls wrote letters to support the families of children who were killed when explosions rocked the Russian school's gymnasium.

Terrorists held students and civilians hostage for two days, and when the captors became aware of a rescue attempt by Russian special forces, they detonated bombs

wrapped with bolts and shot those trying to flee.

Nadia took letters from students of all grade levels and compiled them into a six- or seven-page scrapbook.

The book contained photos, letters, and information about A.L. Stanback.

About three weeks ago, Nadia mailed the book to Beslan.

On Wednesday, she received a letter of thanks from Yuri Ushakov, ambassador of the Russian Federation to the United States. The ambassador thanked Nadia and the school for the scrapbook and the encouragement it provided.

"I seriously didn't think they would respond," Nadia said.

Hulse was also surprised by the Russian response.

"The fact that someone at that level would make sure to send a response was touching, especially for Nadia," she said.

Associate Principal Linda Ollis said Nadia's work was a great example of students making a difference.

"They initiated it, they organized it and they got their peers involved," she said.

"It's a nice positive example to the rest of the students."

All four girls agreed that it is important for their peers to keep up with current events, even those happening across the globe.

"In the long run, (the issues) could affect us," Lindsay said.

Nadia shared similar sentiments.

"We are the future," she said.

"If we can help, then the world would be better."

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

# UNC readies social workers for tough job

BY JACQUELINE BRILL  
STAFF WRITER

This past summer, Emilie Edwards, a graduate student in UNC's School of Social Work, had an internship in Lumberton, a community she did not feel safe tackling alone after dark. Working for the state, Edwards was forced to live on a small budget.

"I was very much alone in a hotel room of which the state will pay only \$55 a night, which means it was like the same hotel my client's mom was hooking in," Edwards said.

It was a different experience for her. She wasn't able to go outside to take a walk or find a yoga class to relieve stress, if there was even one nearby.

"It was a very stressful situation," Edwards said. "But I learned to cope with it by throwing a yoga mat down in my hotel room."

Careers in social work often are seen as particularly straining on employees for a number of reasons, including reputation, workload and treatment in the field.

"All you have to do is turn on a

Lifetime movie, and you'll see social workers portrayed as unfeeling and more interested in their forms than the people," said Joanne Caye, faculty liaison for the North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative.

"You are also working with people who are often out-of-work, without skills, angry and just in general shoved around by society," Caye said. "It's a volatile population, and we're supposed to be allies."

The stress level can be daunting because social workers are helping a population that doesn't always recognize them as allies. The average job turnover for child welfare workers is two years.

"You have to stretch yourself pretty thin and be able to enjoy success in little bits," Caye said.

The school is trying to prepare its students for the personal struggles they will face after graduating, and field placements like the one Edwards participated in are a primary focus.

Rebecca Brigham, director of field education for the school, works to place students in internships rang-

ing from hospital work to domestic violence centers. Students in the program spend two to three days a week in the classroom, with the remainder outside in the community.

"We use a concurrent model of field education here," Brigham said. "This means that they learn theory and knowledge in the classroom and immediately get to apply it in the field."

The school also tries to give students unique experiences within the University.

Caye holds a seminar every Monday for students in the school. One recent seminar was an observed skills practice in which volunteers formed imaginary families and engaged students in real-life situations.

This spring, the school also is sponsoring a practice in the School of Law in which students will sit in the witness chair and be questioned by attorneys and law students so that they will be exposed to the stresses of the courtroom.

More than anything else, the school and its professors aim to

teach students to seek guidance from peers and professors when the stress becomes too intense.

"(The school) is really good about teaching you how to rely on others for support," Edwards said. "They take the books away and don't have someone there to lecture you, so you can only talk to each other. People are always willing to share within this profession."

Students are required to take a seminar in which they not only learn the how-to's of self-care but also talk about their experiences.

"They are able to rant and rave and talk about what works for them," Caye said.

Edwards said she believes that without physical and mental health, both of which the school is working to improve in its students, she would not be able to be a successful social worker.

"You can't take care of another person if you can't take care of yourself."

Contact the Features Editor at [features@unc.edu](mailto:features@unc.edu).

# Long election nights likely to become norm

BY AARON PRUITT  
STAFF WRITER

Before Tuesday, pundits and analysts alike said the presidential election would come down to a handful of so-called swing states.

And on election night, the nation watched and waited for networks to predict the outcomes of those battlegrounds.

The wait was a long one.

Several hours after the polls closed, some states, such as Ohio, were still not declared in favor of President Bush or Sen. John Kerry.

In fact, Kerry conceded the race before some major news outlets declared a winner in the Buckeye state. FOX News and NBC gave Ohio's 20 electoral votes to Bush on Tuesday, but others such as CNN waited until Wednesday afternoon. The 20 electoral votes were

enough to push Bush's tally to 274, four more than necessary to win.

The long delays in predictions raised the question among many viewers about why it took so long to make the predictions. But in light of the 2000 Florida debacle, networks were hesitant to call a state one way or another.

"The prediction process is very complicated," said Robert Lissit, professor of journalism at Syracuse University and a former employee of ABC.

"(Networks) use a random sample test of voters and compare their vote against previous voting and ... the results of key precincts. When both elements show a winner, then the network can predict the winner of the state."

If both models do not agree, the networks will declare the state "too

close to call."

Phil Klinkner, a professor of government at Hamilton College, said that in light of the problems with the 2000 election, networks were "clearly more conservative" in calling this election.

"This year, networks even added a fourth category: 'too early to call.' In previous election years, there were only three — Republican, Democrat and 'too close to call.'"

Ferrel Guillory, director of UNC's Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life, said a revolution in the election process was highly unlikely.

"Don't expect too much change in future elections," he said. "We

are still going to count ballots one by one. The debate that is going to rise is about the quality and reliability of polling, both before the election and exit polling."

Lissit also noted that the networks put off making decisions Tuesday because they were concerned about their accuracy.

"They were just being extraordinarily cautious," he said.

"Once that tradition of cautiousness has been set up, don't expect it to change. Networks are going to continue to be conservative in their predictions for years to come."

Contact the State & National Editor at [stntdesk@unc.edu](mailto:stntdesk@unc.edu).

# Store expands stock to offer kids' games

BY MEGHAN DAVIS  
STAFF WRITER

A local board game store is expanding its stock to include a line of games for children.

Cerebral Hobbies at 265 S. Elliot Road now is carrying games made by HABA, a German toy company. "We've been trying to carry the complete line of games, because that's our niche," said store owner Steve Nicewarner.

Cerebral Hobbies will run ads for the HABA games in The Chapel Hill Herald starting Friday. "The games have done OK considering I've done absolutely no advertising thus far," he said.

The store began stocking HABA games about two weeks ago. Before that, it focused mainly on games for young adults.

"It's a new product line for us, and it reaches into a new demographic," Nicewarner said. "This is the first time we've had games for young children."

Nicewarner chose HABA because the company is known worldwide for its quality.

"We specialize in European-import games, so we were familiar with German manufacturing," he said. "The games are very high quality and beautiful to look at."

HABA games and toys feature wooden components, unique among toy pieces today.

Company spokeswoman Lisa Orman said the simplicity of HABA's toy designs reflect a classical European style.

"That's a trademark of games made in Germany," Nicewarner said. "German companies value the aesthetics of a game."

The games are also unique to the area, Nicewarner said. "It's something Wal-Mart doesn't carry," he said, "and that's how you make your money as a small business."

The Playhouse Toy Store in Durham stocks some HABA toys, primarily those for infants, said manager Donna Frederick. The store also sells tin games made by HABA, she said. Toys also can be specially ordered from the store.

HABA games are labeled by suggested age range, based on developed motor skills and cognitive abilities. Orman said the games have multidimensional play values.

"I do think parents are looking for a high-quality alternative to TV," Nicewarner said. "Humans are social creatures, and games bring families together around the table to interact with each other."

Nicewarner said he hopes to tap into the winter holiday season market. "Christmas will be a launch pad," he said. "It's a good time to focus on games for young

children."

Cerebral Hobbies was located on East Franklin Street for nine years until it moved to Village Plaza last August. Nicewarner said the change in location has also changed his customer base, from students to older adults with families. "I'd say our clientele has two portions: the stable portion and the unstable portion," he said.

"That's the nature of a college town. There's a turnover in clientele every four to five years, when new students come in."

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