## Girls react to **Russian attack**

Ambassador thanks school for scrapbook

#### BY ADAM W. RHEW STAFF WRITER

The Daily Tar Heel

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 13ear-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 sup-port 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 spe-cial 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, let-

ters, 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 pro-

"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 orga-nized it and they got their peers involved," she said.

"It's a nice positive example to e 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 senti-

ments "We are the future," she said. "If we can help, then the world would be better.

> Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

# UNC readies social workers for tough job

#### **BY JACQUELINE BRILL**

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 situa-tion," 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

News

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 aver-age 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 strug-gles 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 pro-gram spend two to three days a week in the cla assroom, 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 class-room and immediately get to apply it in the field." 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 fami-lies and engaged students in reallife 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

11

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.

## Long election nights likely to become norm

### **BY AARON PRUITT**

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

a fourth category: 'too early to call.' In previous election years, there were only three – Republican,

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

process was highly unlikely. 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 reli-ability of polling, both before the election and exit polling." Lissit also noted that the net-

orks put off making decisions Tuesday because they were concerned about their accuracy.

"They were just being extraordi-narily 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."

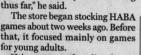
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**VEGGIE OPTIONS** 

#### Store expands stock Brand New 20 Bed Salon, Largest in the Area! to offer kids' games BY MEGHAN DAVIS children Cerebral Hobbies was located on . ast Franklin Street for nine years A local board game store is xpanding its stock to include a until it moved to Village Plaza ne of games for children. Cerebral Hobbies at 265 S. Elliot last August. Nicewarner said the change in location has also changed bad now is carrying games made DESIGNER SKIN his customer base, from students to by HABA, a German toy company. older adults with families. "I'd say We've been trying to carry the our clientele has two portions: the stable portion and the unstable complete line of games, because that's our niche," said store owner SUPER SUNDAYS NOVEMBER SPECIAL Every Sunday in Nov. \$5.00 PREMIUM TANS he said. portion, Buy 10, get 3 \$27.99 'That's the nature of a college Steve Nicewarne upgr Cerebral Hobbies will run ads town. There's a turnover in clien-(orig. \$32.99) for the HABA games in The Chapel tele every four to five years, when new students come in." Hill Herald starting Friday. "The games have done OK considering I've done absolutely no advertising Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.



"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 feacomponents.





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calling this election. "This year, networks even added

Democrat and 'too close to call."

"Don't expect too much change

Chapel Hill

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2004

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 some-thing 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 sug-gested age range, based on develed motor skills and cognitive abilities. Orman said the games have multidimensional play val-

"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 sea-son market. "Christmas will be a launch pad," he said. "It's a good time to focus on games for young



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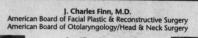
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