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Parents wait for word about their children at the Forsyth County high school where a student took hostages Thursday. He released most of the 40

students after a few minutes, but held nine until the end, authorities said. He was charged with kidnapping and was taken for psychiatric testing.

Student: Siege turns high school into a war zone

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"We don't know what caused him to do things that he did," she said. "Not only that, he didn't even know he did them."
The snipers were taken to Central State Hospital at Millersville late Thursday for psychiatric testing after being charged, as an adult, with kidnapping for ransom.

D.C. Woodall, 17, who was a hostage throughout the siege, said Randy began to fade under the pressure of the standoff.
"He had a shotgun, and it was loaded, but it was cocked open," D.C. said. "He told me to watch it while he was taking his medicine, and suddenly, I realized, 'Wait a minute, I've got the gun.'"

Some of the other students forced their captor against the wall, and two officers rushed inside for the arrest, he added.
"That was really the scariest part — when the police came in."
Forsyth Sheriff Wesley Weaver said the youth released most of his 40 hostages minutes after taking them. He gave negotiators a variety of demands, including candy, soft drinks, cigarettes, hamburgers, \$3,000 and a bus with blacked-out windows.

Randy told his hostages he would use the bus to take them to Savannah and then get a boat, one student said. "He said then he would let us go on a raft and he would just go away for a while," said Angie Ross, 14, who was in the classroom when the suspect was apprehended.
Randy's mother normally drives him to school, she said,



Shannon Hardy, an 11th-grader at South Forsyth High School, tells his mother, Marnie Hardy, how the suspect saved the gun at fellow students.

but he insisted that he ride the bus Thursday, claiming that he wanted to talk to a girlfriend. He also told his mother he didn't sleep Wednesday night because he was worried about seeing the girl.
The weapons were taken from a case that was always locked.
"He got them from my gym case," his father said. "He took the door off the hinges to get to them."

The address live at 2917 Jennings Court near Cumming in a subdivision where home prices range from \$80,000 to \$120,000. They moved to Forsyth County three years ago from Ohio, neighbors said.
"He told me, and everyone in

the room could hear, that it was because of his parents," Angie said. "He said he loved them. He called his mom apple pie, and then he got real emotional. Then he said, 'Have you ever had anyone verbally abuse you?'"
"He's a big goofy kid, but he's not aggressive... I wish I had 50 more like him in class," said Stan Harrison, a South Forsyth coach who helped him lose about 30 pounds.
"I've never had any problems with him."

The siege began when Randy walked past a room where his history class was under way, said teacher Johnny Tallant.
"He was supposed to be in my class, and when I saw him walk

Hostages' fear diminished as teen discussed troubles

By Deborah Royston and Frances Schwartzkopf Staff writers

Randy Addie's hostages were trembling with fear when their ordeal began Thursday morning, but they gradually came to see him not as a hair-trigger threat but as just another kid mad at his parents.

Russell David, a 16-year-old sophomore at South Forsyth High School, said he feared Randy at first because the armed student told police he would blow the hostages' heads off if his demands for food, drinks and a school bus were not met.

But Russell said that later he grew more fearful that police might force a confrontation. "I wasn't scared of him. I was scared of what the police would do when they stepped into the hall and I was afraid of what the police were planning to do as he walked from the room to the bus."

Russell said he and several other hostages made a plan to overpower their captor after he came back to the room.
"We decided to wait till he got relaxed and laid his gun down. Then he laid it down and we made our move," he said.

"He showed no resistance when we took the gun away and he didn't fight the police," Russell said.
"We were all getting really nervous. We were sick of sitting there," said D.C. Woodall, who grabbed Randy's shotgun. "Looking at it now, it was probably stupid, since we subjected ourselves to being shot. [But] I thought that if we didn't do anything one of us would get hurt."

"I never smoked in my life, but I went through three cigarettes. I was so nervous."
The youth's "talk" with his captors and his demands for everything that was going on in his head, said Randy Abercrombie, another of the last nine hostages. "Every time he held the gun to somebody's head, he would take the bullets out. It was a nervous-making thing."

Another hostage, Jarrel Prady, a 16-year-old eighth-grader, said, "I wasn't afraid of dying. I didn't think he would shoot me or us. He treated us enough to lay his gun down." Jarrel said he had a friend in a mental institution that he would go to.

Christopher Fry said he rode the school bus with the boy Thursday morning.
"He had a big bag with him. When he got on the school bus, the driver asked him what it was. He said, 'It's a science project. I've been working on it a long time.'"

Staff writer John McCosh contributed to this article.
Angie said she chose to stay in the classroom after he re-



D.C. Woodall "We were all getting really nervous. We were sick of sitting there."

leased the other girls "because I wanted to talk to him. I wanted to help."
Outside the school, Edward Abercrombie, father of hostage Randy Abercrombie, said he was "scared to death. We all were. You hear about it happening somewhere else to someone else's kids."

"It was a living nightmare that you didn't think you'd ever wake up from," said Rita David, Russell's mother, who reacted to the school from Alabama when she heard about the incident at 5:30 Thursday morning.

"I knew he was a hostage, call it mother's intuition or whatever," Mrs. David said. Her suspicions were confirmed 10 a.m., shortly after she arrived at the school.
"I'm exhausted, mad and still scared," Mrs. David said. "You hear about these things happening at big city schools, but you never dream it will happen in rural schools. I didn't know if I'd ever see [Russell's] face again."

Mrs. David said police and school officials "bent over backwards" to comfort the parents who were housed in the principal's office during the ordeal.
Russell said Randy used him and the others as human shields when police brought requested items. "He made one of us answer the door and the rest of us stand around him."

The teenager repeatedly told the hostages that he would not hurt them, Russell said. "He said he wanted to get away from things and make a point. He said his parents were mean, that he was tired of how they treated him and that he had no friends and just wanted to get away."

After their release, Russell said that he and the other hostages left the classroom, hugged each other in the hallway and were led to another classroom by police.
"The police did a good job," Russell said. "They were real cool, especially the cop that he talked to on the phone. He real liked me and we talked around."

Said Russell: "I'm just very tired."
Staff writer Maria Rose Williams contributed to this article.

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David Morgan (center) of Bowdon Elementary shares a laugh with classmates as he opens a foil-covered water bottle in English class Thursday. The 11 a.m. temperature in the building, which has to be cooling, was 96 degrees.

Students: Swelter in classrooms without cooling
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individual projects at their desks.
"Sixth period is the worst," said 13-year-old eighth-grader Brandon Sullivan. "I carry a thermos bottle of ice and even it melts by 2 o'clock. It's so hot I get headaches."

Leon Golden, director of maintenance for the Carroll schools, said "We have found that there are 124 classrooms, 8 lunchrooms, and 2 media centers in 10 Carroll County schools which need air conditioning. The estimated cost of these multimillion cooling elements is \$1.4 million."
Relief, real relief, may be at hand in Carroll County. The



Marnie Hardy says 96

school administration will ask the board Monday night to consider budgeting the \$1.4 million cooling project. And some parents are lining up to support the proposal.
Jack and Rita Ledbetter, Parent Teachers Organization (PTO) presidents at the elementary school, are concerned over the health of eighth-graders, including their son, London, 13. "I really didn't understand what they were going through until our home cooling unit went out the other day and became physically ill," Mrs. Ledbetter said.
Staff writers Julie Miller and Put Burman contributed to this article.

Football: Antitrust violation charged

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fight in court.
Lewis A. Engman, an attorney representing the CFA, called the case "a royal waste of taxpayer money" and said, "I'm not aware of any case comparable that there aren't enough football games on TV." Because of the CFA, "More and more games are on television," said Mr. Engman, who served as FTC chairman from 1973 to 1975.

CFA members are free to contract with cable networks, individual stations or other outlets to telecast their games, Mr. Engman said. Southeastern Conference teams have done just that with their deal with Turner Broadcasting, he said.
But the member schools cannot sell game rights to other national broadcast networks, he conceded. And exclusive time slots are set aside on Saturday afternoons for CFA games broadcast by ABC-TV.

ABC Sports said the network won broadcast rights to the CFA games in competitive bidding and that the agreement "is entirely lawful and in the public interest."
"I'm not surprised, because there have been hints all along that this would happen," said Joe Dean, athletics director at Louisiana State University. "The way I see it, this is the end of a journey that could last two, three or four years. Or, if the CFA membership decides not to fight it, it makes the right kind of conference expansion even more meaningful."

"The reality has been that four years down the road, television negotiations were going to be by conference," said Vince Dooley, athletic director at the University of Georgia. The

The case could result in more college football games being televised live on Saturday afternoons, FTC investigators said.

FTC complaint "might just expedite it," he said.
The Big Ten and Pacific-10 conferences are not part of the CFA and have worked out their own television packages. Notre Dame and will not be part of the five-year ABC-CFA deal that begins in 1991.

Mr. Arquist would not say whether the FTC is considering antitrust actions in those situations.
A four-year contract between the CFA and CBS-TV expires after this season. ABC-TV currently televises games from Big Ten and Pacific-10 conferences.

In a statement, ABC Sports defended its deal with the CFA.
"We expect that our CFA package will result in a greater number of college football games broadcast on network television than previous television packages," ABC said.
"Moreover, our agreement contains no restrictions on the number of college football games which may be telecast via syndication, local cable or other forms of television."
Staff writer Tony Barnhart contributed to this article.