

Glamour's Top 10 College Women includes USC student

BY LAURA MOSS
THE GAMECOCK

USC student Lara Bratcher will receive national recognition in the October issue of Glamour as one of the magazine's Top 10 College Women.

The annual competition spotlights college women across the nation who demonstrate leadership skills, community involvement, academic success and inspiring goals.

Bratcher finds herself in famous company. Previous winners include Martha Stewart, actress

Jo Beth Williams and Julianne Gallina, the first female brigade commander of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Bratcher, a fourth-year anthropology student, said she saw a flier for the contest at the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.

"I entered almost on a whim because I thought it would be fun," Bratcher said.

Bratcher learned in July that she had won and was flown to New York for a photo shoot. She returned there during the weekend, and she and the other win-

ners attended a Broadway show, toured the United Nations headquarters and met with professionals from a variety of fields.

"It's a wonderful experience to meet amazing college women from across the country. They have all done innovative and fascinating things," Bratcher said.

Bratcher holds several leadership positions on campus including president of

USC Sorority Council, president of the Chi Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa and director of the Carolina/Clemson Blood Drive. Her true passion, however, is for the improvement of healthcare.

After a trip to Brazil in 2001 with humanitarian group Rivers of the World, Bratcher saw the need for better healthcare both at home and abroad.

She plans to get a joint Medical Doctor and Master's of Public Health degree and then do volunteer medical work overseas for a few years.

Bratcher also hopes to improve

the U.S. healthcare system. "I'd like to practice medicine in a rural area where there isn't as much access to healthcare," she said.

Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Affairs Don Greiner said: "Laura is the ideal undergraduate: a leader in the classroom and a leader on the campus. She and others like her will define the future of America."

Bratcher is the only winner from a public university in Glamour's 46th Top 10 College Women competition. In the histo-

ry of the contest, the majority of the winners have come from Harvard and Yale.

The competition began in 1957 with an emphasis on fashion as the 10 Best-Dressed College Girls in America. In 1969, Glamour changed the name to the Top 10 College Girls, and in 1970 the magazine replaced "girls" with "women."

"This has been a great experience," Bratcher said. "I've loved all of it."

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockdesk@hotmail.com



Bratcher

Suicide bombers strike twice in Israel, killing at least 14 people

BY JASON KEYSER AND
MATTHEW ROSENBERG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RISHON LETZION, ISRAEL — Twin Palestinian suicide bombings — one at a bus stop crowded with soldiers near Tel Aviv, the second five hours later at a popular Jerusalem nightspot — killed at least 14 Israelis and wounded and maimed dozens as the region grappled with a new wave of savage bloodletting.

There were no claims of responsibility, but the Islamic militant group Hamas, which has carried out most of the roughly 100 suicide bombings against Israelis over the last three years, had been expected to avenge Israel's attempt on the life of its spiritual leader on Saturday.

Israel's military has relentlessly targeted Hamas militants since the group claimed a suicide bombing last month that killed 22 people on a Jerusalem bus. Earlier Tuesday, Israeli troops in Hebron killed two Hamas members — in-

cluding the group's leader in the West Bank town — and a 12-year-old bystander, and blew up a seven-story apartment building where the militants were hiding out.

The day's violence underscored the collapse of U.S.-backed peace efforts and came amid political uncertainty after the resignation of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

An increasing number of Israeli officials were calling for the expulsion of Yasser Arafat, and expectations were mounting that Israel will step up military strikes and possibly invade the Gaza Strip — which Israel has not yet reoccupied — to root out the Hamas leadership.

Security was extremely tight throughout the country, especially in Jerusalem, in anticipation of a Hamas attack.

The first bombing came about 6 p.m., as soldiers were waiting for rides home outside the Tsrifin army base near the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion.

Cpl. Eyal Schneider, 20, was walking toward the bus stop when he heard the explosion and saw a fireball. "People were running from the bus stop shouting 'bomb! bomb!'" he said.

Ambulances from nearby Assaf Harofeh hospital quickly lined up at the scene, rescue workers rushing to aid screaming victims.

"I saw the bodies, the body parts strewn around, heard the screams, and tried to help," said one witness, who gave his name only as Roy.

Police and hospital officials said eight were killed in addition to the bomber. Fifteen people were being treated at the hospital, all but one of them soldiers, spokeswoman Nurit Nehemia said. Others were treated for minor injuries and released. Hours later, the aluminum walls of the bus shelter remained splattered with blood.

Leaders of Hamas praised the attacks but stopped short of claiming responsibility. "This operation, whoever is behind it, is a natural reaction for the bloody ag-

gression against our people," said Hamas spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who survived an Israeli attempt on his life in June.

Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner said "the responsibility is shared between the organization that carried out the atrocity and the Palestinian Authority that did nothing to prevent it, and Israel will react accordingly."

More than five hours later, about 11:20 p.m., another suicide bomber entered the Hillel Cafe, a popular bistro in the posh German colony neighborhood of Jerusalem.

Police said the bomber managed to get into the cafe even though two security guards were posted at the entrance — one inside the door and one outside. Jerusalem police commander Mickey Levy told Israel Radio that one of the guards saw the bomber and tried to stop him, and that he then set off the bomb.

At least six other people were killed and more than 30 were wounded, rescue workers said.

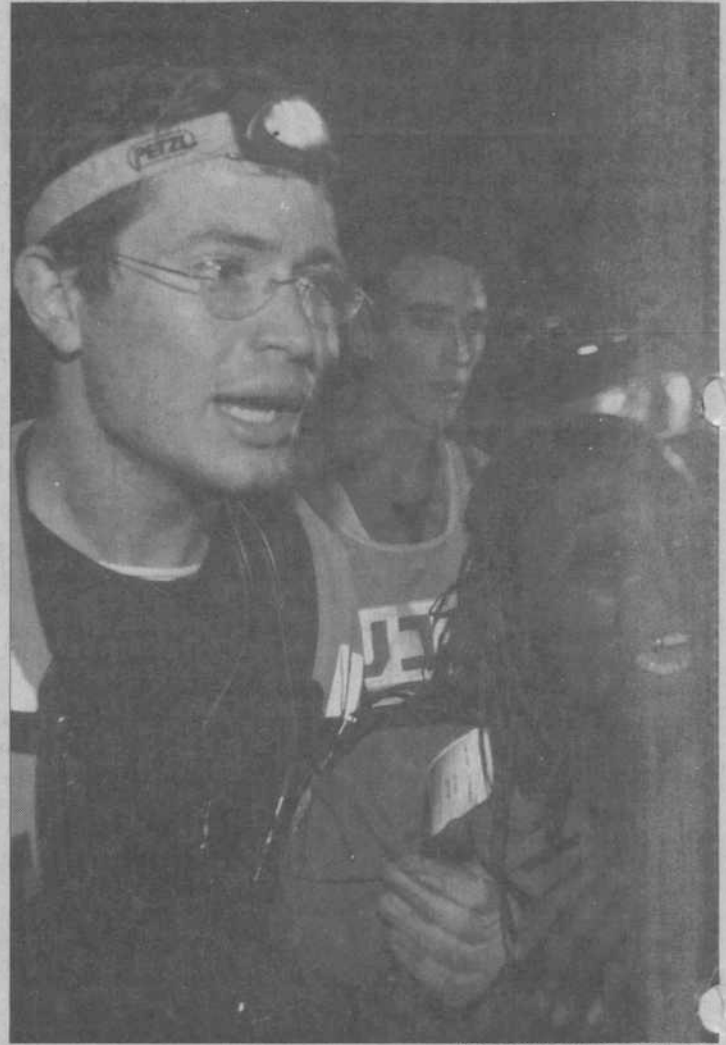


PHOTO COURTESY OF KRT CAMPUS

An Israeli border police officer is evacuated by medics after a Palestinian suicide bomb exploded in a Jerusalem cafe Tuesday.

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