Organization joins tsunami relief effort

By JUAN GARCIA
Contributing Writer

The tsunami catastrophe that occurred on December 26, 2004 brought much focus and attention to the devastated countries of Southern Asia. In response the world is bringing aid to their doorstep and FIU is doing its part as well.

Children’s Relief and You America is an organization that has been dedicated to helping the children of India, even before the December 2004 tsunami catastrophe triggered what could be the worst natural disaster erupted in the last 50 years. The tsunami devastation has killed over 200,000 people with the potential of six thousand to die in the coming days. Several million are homeless and a hundred-square-mile area stretching from the White House to the Capitol and beyond will be off-limits to traffic on Thursday, Inauguration Day, and pedestrians in barricaded zones will have to go through metal detectors at 22 checkpoints.

Management of the tsunami devastation continues to be a challenge as the Indian government and the United Nations work with non-governmental organizations that have taken over the responsibility of feeding, immunizing and educating more and more of its children. This disaster now threatens to wipe out whatever progress it has made in the previous years.

Like various other Student Organization’s Council clubs and organizations at FIU, CRY America is holding a fundraiser to provide economic aid to the children of India.

“Our SOC club was founded on this very principle of compassion, and we will try our level-best to get FIU students involved,” Salehmohamed said.

CRY in India has joined a group of Non-Governmental Organizations including Oxfam, CARE, UNICEF and Save the Children, to ensure better planning, coordination and accountability of funds and deployment efforts.

“We can’t help but be thankful and appreciative for all that we often tend to take for granted. After all, what principle difference is there between us and those who were affected so drastically by the deadly waves?” asked Salehmohamed.

According to CNN news, the tsunami devastation has triggered what could be the largest worldwide collaborative humanitarian relief effort to date. The amount of aid received has been so great that there might even be some serious logistical problems distributing it.

Salehmohamed invites students, staff and anyone interested in donating money or participating in the tsunami relief effort to visit www.america.cry.org for more information.

Donations can also be dropped off at the SOC office in GC 2300 or made via check to “CRY America Inc.,” memo to Tsunami Support. CRY America FIU can be reached at cryamericafl@yahoo.com.

“OPEN YOUR BIBLES!”, “Brother” Jim Gilles of The Campus Ministry preaches at the fountain behind the Graham Center, bringing out many activists and “sinners” to protest against his radical speech (left). Students at the University Park campus became infuriated at Gilles’ remarks and begin addressing him with their own speeches. (below).

By MICHELLE MITTELSTADT
The Dallas Morning News

Security set for inauguration

Anti-aircraft battery units and combat air patrols will search the skies as rooftop sharpshooters scan the streets below, Coast Guard cutters ply the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, and bomb-sniffing dogs patrol the subway system.

Next week’s 55th presidential inauguration—the first of the post-Sept.-11 era and occurring against the backdrop of war—will offer an unprecedented level of security for the swearing-in of a U.S. president.

Six thousand law enforcement officers, 2,500 military personnel and countless other federal, state and local officials will be part of an intrusive—some say stifling—security blanket that has been nearly a year in the making.

The security force is augmented by a high-tech arsenal that includes sniffer dogs to detect chemical and biological hazards, bomb jammers and a network of surveillance cameras fixed on downtown, bolstered by video feeds from helicopters.

A hundred-square-block area stretching from the White House to the Capitol and beyond will be off-limits to traffic on Thursday, Inauguration Day, and pedestrians in barricaded zones will have to go through metal detectors at 22 checkpoints.

Mantle hole covers are being sealed, ventilation ducts secured, and security teams will sweep hotels, offices and residential buildings that line the parade route. And while deliveries are being discouraged within the restricted areas, vehicles that must enter will be scanned by X-ray portals.

“Our goal is that any attempt on the part of anyone or any group to disrupt the inaugural will be repelled by multiple layers of security,” Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said.

Demonstrators coming to town to protest President Bush, the war in Iraq and other policies contend that some security
Inauguration Lockdown

From SECURITY, page 1

Security will be re-photographed from two locations: A joint military command center at Fort McNair in Washington and a state-of-the-art location in Herndon, Va., 25 miles northwest of town, manned by representatives of 50 federal, state and local agencies under the leadership of the Secret Service.

Law enforcement officials from 60 departments around the country are coming to supplement the D.C. police force - with the city footing an overtime bill that D.C. Administrator Robert Bobb estimated would exceed $11 million. Ridge said he could not assess the federal tab for security, saying it would be “in the millions.”

Highly secured security is omnipresent in a city scarred by the Sept. 11 terror- orists attacks, the anthrax-by-mail attacks, a racist scari on Capitol Hill and the ever-present knoledge that Washington is the most visible target to ter- orists. U.S. Capitol Police patrol the grounds around the Capitol with assault rifles, fences ring the Wash- ington Monument; and massive concrete plant- ers and barricades pop up around the city with regularity.

At Ridgewell, a catering firm juggling many inaugu- ral events, workers have undergone background checks, submitted photos and obtained credentials to make deliveries in the restricted zones. Cater- ers have been ordered to deliver all equipment the night before the inaugu- ral, with food deliver- ers completing 7 a.m. Thursday.

“Security has always been tight for inaugurals, but it is a little bit tighter,” said Susan Niemann, a Ridgewell principal. “For the most part, we are coping with it.”

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SEC Notes

01/12/05

RAGE WEEK

Panther Rage week begins Feb. 18. There will be several school- spirited activities around campus designed to pro- mote school spirit.

The week is meant to support several campus activities and produce school spirit.

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Compiled by Luisa Cabrera
OPINION

By ALICIA BUSTAMANTE
Opinion Page Designer

With the excitement and chaos of the first week over, it’s time to finalize your schedule and take control of what your semester is going to look like.

This may include dropping or adding a class. You might say, “More changes? But I just figured out that PC and CP are two different buildings!”

However, it’s far better to make these changes now, rather than to drop a course later or worse yet, fail. Remember, the final drop/add date is Jan. 18. Your time and your money are at stake, here are some tips to make the most of them:

THIS ISN’T STARTING WELL...

Sometimes, you can tell how good—or soul-crushingly awful—a class is going to be on the first day. Keep in mind that titles of classes mean nothing.

One bad sign is when the professor strolls in 15 minutes late, and then asks the class what class he or she is teaching. Another bad sign is when that same professor hasn’t seen or can’t pronounce the name of the $90 textbook you just bought for the class. At this point you should get up and leave. And if you’re anything like me, throw the book at your professor for wasting your time. Aim between the eyes.

If you get past the formalities of roll-taking and syllabus-explanation, you’re going to want to notice small details. If your professor checks his or her watch more than you do, that is not a good sign.

Also, keep your senses keen. Should the professor walk by and the smell of gin waft through the air, think of it as a smoke alarm. Then again, that smell could be a lifeline as it shows you’ll probably have a chance to argue your grade over a beer at Gracie’s Grill.

ANTICIPATE THE WORST, HOPE FOR THE BEST

We would all like to think that, as college students, we are superhuman. So, taking five classes; joining a fraternity, student government and the anime club; and having a part-time job while volunteering at a puppy store will be no sweat, right?

Not so much—unless you like ulcers. Know your limits. Taking three classes and getting As is better than taking five and getting Cs. College is not a race. No one cares whether you graduate at 21 or 23.

If you keep up that schedule you’ll end up shaking and huddled in a corner on the third floor of the library repeating the quadratic formula.

FROM PRE-MED TO MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Majors are like LifeSavers: you pretty much want to try all of them, even grape—which tastes like crap.

The average student changes majors three to four times throughout his or her college career.

When you don’t really know what classes to take and you have no idea what you want to be, it’s inevitable that you’ll drop one. And we all know advising doesn’t help. No matter what your academic advisor says, taking modern dance is not going to help you as a chemistry major. Although, being limber is fun.

SANITY IS KEY

All in all, dropping a class is nothing to be ashamed about. Self-preservation is the objective of any successful semester. Good luck. You’ll need it.

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER
Airborne pooch: A small dog in Florence, Ala. fell from a fifth floor balcony when Gary Gallien, a house painter, just happened to have his arms out and catch the dog. No one happened to catch the cat though.

LOSER
Baby boy Yahoo: On Christmas Day, a Romanian woman gave birth to a baby boy and decided to name him Yahoo as a thank you to the Internet for having met her husband online. Ironically, the couple met in an AOL chatroom.
TIGHT AROUND THE CORNERS:
The new European Mini Cooper S gives its drivers efficient gas consumption with a sleek and stylish design.

KEEP ROLLIN’
Hot rides steer students away from pumps

By MATT SANTIAGO
Contributing Writer

With more than 60 percent of FIU students living at home and driving to school, fuel consumption is a critical issue. Take a look across the parking lots and you will notice fewer V-8 SUVs and more small, fuel-efficient four-cylinder cars. With gas prices as high as they have been, most college students will admit that driving to and from FIU takes a toll on their bank accounts.

The auto industries have begun producing lightweight, fuel-efficient cars with lower price tags to combat the rising fuel prices. So for the college student in need of a vehicle of such caliber, there are a few new ones that are sure to set their mark within the next year.

Traditionally, Asian car manufacturers are known for their fuel efficiency, but within the past few years American companies have given the Asian market a run for its money, because they have also joined the fight against fuel consumption. Commonly, the idea of fuel efficiency means sacrificing performance. This is hardly true anymore given the new designs of economy cars.

According to the consumer issue of “Road and Track Magazine,” a good example of this is the new Chevrolet Cobalt. With this new American made pocket-rocket, the Chevy power tradition meets much needed fuel efficiency.

For just under $14,000, the sporty Cobalt comes standard with a 145 horsepower four-cylinder engine. This gives the car a more than expected quickness while providing an impressive 26 miles-per-gallon in the city and 33 miles-per-gallon on the highway.

Not enough power? The Cobalt SS model comes equipped with a supercharged 205 horsepower engine for around $21,000 that doesn’t sacrifice much on fuel mileage.

From England we get the Mini Cooper, one of the most popular and affordable cars in today’s growing market. “Mini Coopers are great. I get great gas mileage with every tank,” said freshman Cristina Villacorta, an owner of the Mini Cooper S. “I’m at three-quarters of a tank, and I still won’t have to refill for another week-and-a-half!” she said.

With a classic body reminiscent of the old Mini Cooper, a more powerful engine and a sporty suspension, this fuel saver has become common at FIU. At a base price of $16,449, as reported on the Car and Driver website, this car offers sporty looks, expected European performance, well-known reliability and affordable fuel mileage (28 miles-per-gallon in the city and 37 miles-per-gallon on the highway).

However, for those of you who love your SUVs, Pontiac didn’t forget about you when they produced the Pontiac Vibe. “I’m looking into getting a new car like an SUV. My friend has the Pontiac Vibe, and he gets great mileage, better than my Honda for sure,” said freshman Emily Jacque, current owner of a Honda Civic.

Although you may be unsure about classifying this as an SUV because of its low profile appearance, the Vibe comes nicely equipped for $17,475. This is not a bad price for a quality SUV. The only downside to the Vibe is a small 130 horsepower engine, which might not be enough to sufficiently carry an SUV. However, it saves fuel and averages 30 miles-per-gallon in the city and 36 miles-per-gallon on the highway.

These are just some of the choices to consider when looking for a new and more efficient vehicle. So when you become tired of paying $2 per gallon twice a week, forget the F-150s and Expeditions, and consider scaling down to the face of the future: pocket-rockets.
New ‘Alias’ season proves more exciting than last

LIFE! www.beaconnewspaper.com

The Beacon – January 18, 2005

Sandler woos Spanish crowd in his latest comedy flick

CAPTION: Adam Sandler stars with Spanish actress Paz Vega who makes her Hollywood breakthrough in “Spanglish.”

By BETSY MARTINEZ
Assistant Life! Editor

Flor Moreno (Paz Vega) stumbles to find the right words in English to express her hot-tempered Mexican emotions, while her insecure boss, Deborah Clasky (Tea Leoni) tries to Americanize her.

Spanish actress, Paz Vega’s Hollywood breakthrough performance in the film “Spanglish” takes many FIU students whose parents have immigrated to the United States back to a familiar time when their parents considered them personal (and not to mention portable) dictionaries.

In the film she appears at the eyes of an older and wiser Cristina (Shelby Bruce), Flor’s daughter, who is trying to appeal to a Harvard Admissions committee.

In one scene, Flor is outraged to go on a month-long vacation to a California beach the culture clashes hit an all time high.

In one scene, Flor is outraged when Mrs. Clasky takes Cristina to do errands without her permission and ends up dyeing her jet-black virgin hair with blue streaks.

Besides the growing love between Mrs. Clasky and Cristina, another interesting and tense relationship develops between Flor and Mr. Clasky.

They are able to overcome the language barrier and express themselves through their humility and good-hearted nature, which leaves Mrs. Clasky raising her eyebrow in suspicion.

Each scene is constructed to help the audience learn more about each individual character as well as the plot itself. At the end of the film, the audience develops a connection with each character, no matter the age, gender, or language.

The story came to life when Brooks, who doesn’t speak a word of Spanish, hired Vega, who in turn hired a translator to produce the film.

Vega has proven to rise above the cliche, but she also turns to fame and an immigrant feels upon arriving in America, not only in the movie but also in reality.

She could prove to be Spain’s most demanded export since Penelope Cruz.

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The fourth season of Alias promises to be full of action. "In a second, everything can change,” said freshman Beena Kazi.

Things are never what they seem. Covers are compromised, plans derailed and even your best friend can turn out to be a mole within the CIA.

“I was completely glued to the screen when it premiered. It’s completely addicting,” said freshman Patricia Perez.

This season, the show only promises to get better. There is no doubt that the show’s heart-stopping suspense and excellent fight choreography will keep viewers coming back for more, each week.
By CHUCK MYERS
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The Datsuns understand the value of patience. The New Zealand rock quartet (bassist/vocalist Dolf de Borst, guitarist Phil Buscke, guitarist Christian Livingston and drummer Matt Osmont) has made slow but steady strides over roughly the past 10 years.

With a reputation for its frenetic, high-powered stage shows, the band began to gain a full head of steam in the past two years on the strength of positive reviews, particularly in the British press, for its self-titled debut album in 2003 and solid sophomore effort, Outta Sight/Outta Mind (V2 Records), in 2004.

“On the first record, everything’s pretty much foot to the floor,” recalled de Borst. “It kind of felt like a singles collection or something like that. Because, in a way, we were doing that. … But with the second record, there’s definitely songs we recorded for that. I think we recorded 14 songs and ended up leaving a couple off, which, I think, actually are amazing songs.”

While contemporaries such as The Strokes and The Vines stumbled with releases last year, The Datsuns continued to make strides forward. Outta Sight/Outta Mind serves up the group’s signature music punch infused with musical influences ranging from hard rock and punk to ’70s-era glam rock. De Borst noted, for instance, that the group went for a glam edge on the Outta Sight/Outta Mind number “You Can’t Find Me.” A bit of good fortune

The End is nigh for the ‘Left Behind’ book series

By C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

Although it did not receive as much media attention as a Harry Potter book would have, Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins’ Potter book would have, Tim

The end of the book, set on the setting of the book), though other parts of the Middle East unfolds around the fortress and

It is possible to think that with movies, book spin-offs, church discussion kits and a hundred other marketable products bearing the “Left Behind” title, the authors spent too much time endorsing their line, making what should have been the crown of their labor — “Glorious Appearing” — not so glorious.
Swimmer or tennis player?

My photo album, medals and my bed. I would really miss my bed, so I would somehow get it out.

Q. Would you shed three years of your life for an Olympic medal?
No. My life is more important than that. People who win Olympic medals are sometimes forgotten. People who win medals still have to study and work. Then, after a period of time, people forget the person. It’s important for the moment, but then people forget you.

Q. What made you come to FIU?
One of my friends from Hungary came to FIU, and she told me to come swim. I talked to [the] coach, and then I came. I was planning to study journalism, but because all the classes are at North Campus, and we practise here, I couldn’t do it. So now, I am studying international business.

Q. What are the best and worst things about FIU?
The best is that there are a lot of international students, and I like to make friends. The worst is that I hate having to do laundry, because the machines here are always broken.
Q. If you were not swimming, would you be involved in another sport?
I would probably be playing tennis. When I was four, I had to decide between the two sports, and I chose swimming.

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Thirsty for knowledge? Say when.
Swimmer born in Hungarian waters

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

For most people, swimming is as simple as moving your arms around, but for Claudia Barsi it is a way of life. Besides swimming in 45-degree water for almost 14 miles at the European Championship, Barsi is a simple girl who hates doing laundry and loves Britney Spears. The Beacon had a chance to interview the Hungarian native who holds various records at the Bay Vista Aquatics Center.

Q. What type of preparation is needed before a swimming competition?
It starts with what I eat. I mostly try to eat chicken and pasta, because they contain a lot of energy, which I will need. I also go to sleep as early as I can. If I swim slow, I won’t be able to swim good so I practice as hard as I can to do good.

Q. People don’t realize how long a 1,000-yard race is. That is the length of 10 football fields. What is running through your head as you are competing in one of these competitions?
I don’t really think of anything. I’m from Hungary, so I’m used to swimming in open waters like beaches, rivers and lakes where the shortest I would swim was like two and a half miles. Nothing runs through your head. It’s moment by moment; you can’t think.

Q. The following day after a big competition, do you feel any aches and pains in your body?
If I practice hard before [a meet], I don’t feel anything. But, if I don’t practice hard, my shoulders and legs start to hurt, because my body is not used to it.

Q. Does being a competitive swimmer require a special diet? If so, what does it consist of?
I wish I could be on a diet, but I’m not. I just eat whatever I can eat, especially foods with carbs.

Q. How has former Olympic veteran and FIU coach Noemi Lung Zaharia helped you develop your swimming techniques?
When I was little I got the basic stuff for swimming, ‘cause my mom was a swimmer, and my dad played water polo. You can say I was born in the water. Coach has helped me, though, because she knows what’s the best thing for me and when I can swim at my best. She was a swimmer, so she knows everything and understands what I need to do to improve.

Q. Is an Olympic appearance a goal for you in the future?
I was planning to go last year in the open water competition because they said it was going to be an event, but it didn’t happen. I am waiting for 2008, but back home it’s hard to make the Olympic try-outs. Hungary is a small country, so lots of people participate.

Q. At this point in time, who wins in a race between you and coach Zaharia?
She’s like 35 or 40-years-old. I was planning to go last year in the open water competition because they said it was going to be an event, but it didn’t happen. I am waiting for 2008, but back home it’s hard to make the Olympic try-outs. Hungary is a small country, so lots of people participate.

Q. Is it difficult to manage being a swimmer, and your dad played water polo. My dad played water polo.
Oh, me [laughs]. Actually, she swam the other day in practice, but [laughs some more] yeah come on. I think I can. She’s like 35 or 40-years-old.

Q. What is a typical day in your life?
We have practice from 6 to 7:30 in the morning. After that, I go to school and later, I have lunch. Then, we practice again from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and sometimes we have weights after that. Then, I go home to take a nap, ‘cause I have classes at night after.

Golden Panthers lose third straight on the road

By ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers were looking for was their longest losing streak of the season.

Unfortunately, for Sergio Rouco’s men, that’s exactly what they found in Philadelphia with a 74-72 loss to LaSalle in overtime.

Having lost two consecutive conference games in Arkansas, FIU traveled to the City of Brotherly Love for its last game of a three-game road trip, and the conclusion of the team’s out-of-conference schedule.

The Golden Panthers were taken to overtime for the third time this season only to lose their second in a row in the extra period. FIU played from behind the entire night, something that has plagued them since the beginning of the new year. FIU trailed at the half by three and didn’t grab their first lead of the game until 45 seconds into the second frame, at 30-29.

With 3.1 seconds left in regulation and FIU down three, Matias had a chance to tie the game. The senior connected on three from the charity stripe and sent the Golden Panthers into overtime for the second game in a row.

The extra period belonged to LaSalle’s Tabby Cunningham. Cunningham led the Explorers in front of their home crowd, winning seven of the team’s 10 points in overtime.

Junior Ismael N’Diaye once again came up big for the Golden Panthers, scoring the first basket of the extra period.

N’Diaye scored all eight of FIU’s overtime points as the Golden Panthers fell short for the third game in a row.

Matias had a chance to tie the game for the second time as time expired in overtime, but failed on an off-balance jump shot in the paint.

Junior Ivan Almonte led all scorers on the night with 24 points, 15 of which came in the first half.

Steven Smith led the Explorers with 22 points while Tabby Cunningham added 17.

“We played well,” said junior Ismael N’Diaye. “We just didn’t know how to stay in the game. We made a couple of bad plays before the end of the game that cost us.”

The loss puts the Golden Panthers under the .500 mark for the first time this season at seven wins and eight losses.