

SUNBLAZER

Florida International University

Wednesday, August 24, 1988

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New graduate programs at FIU

Schools of Engineering, Journalism will offer Master's Degree programs

When graduate students register for the fall semester at Florida International University, they will have a wide range of academic programs to choose from.

FIU is inaugurating new Master of Science degree programs in construction management, mechanical engineering and mass communication. Also offered are a doctoral program in biology and a Masters in Fine Arts in creative writing. All new graduate programs were recently approved by the Board of Regents.

"The new graduate programs give an added dimension to FIU's commitment to excellence and to serve as broad a base of our community as possible," said FIU President Mitch Maidique.

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences will initiate two new Masters of Science degree programs, one in construction management and one in mechanical engineering.

"The construction manage-

ment program is designed to provide knowledge and skills for middle and upper level management professionals in the construction industry," commented Manuel Cereijo, assistant dean of the FIU School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

"The program will emphasize advanced training and research in the area of fluid and thermal sciences, energy, computer-aided design and material sciences," said Gautam Ray, chairman of the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The FIU Department of Biology, renowned for its tropical biology program, will now offer a doctorate program. The department focuses on marine biology, ecology, microbiology and developmental biology.

"We envision that in five years' time we will have 20-30 Ph.D students," said John Makemson, chairperson of the biology department. "It is hard

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■ Anna Jordan holds her son Daniel, a pupil of the Dolphin Research Center.

Professor conducts research with dolphins and handicapped children

YVETTE BETANCOURT
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Where can you find some friendly dolphins, a grumpy seal, noisy parrots, inquisitive peacocks and sleepy dogs and cats all residing on oceanfront property? At the Dolphin Research Center in the Florida Keys.

The center, located on Grassy Key, is primarily dedicated to the study of dolphin behavior, training and husbandry. It is open to the public 5 days a week for one-on-one "dolphin encounters."

For Florida International University Professor David Nathanson, these encounters serve a very real purpose. Nathanson is involved in a

research project at the Dolphin Center which is quickly gaining national and international attention.

A professor in the School of Education at FIU, Nathanson teaches a graduate course for teachers of the gifted and talented. But his work extends beyond the classroom into his

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Catholic students travel on LIFO mission



■ The LIFO mission gets underway as work begins on a new latrine.

REY QUINTANA
Sunblazer Editor

For many Florida International University students, summertime is also vacation time - a chance to forget about school for a while and perhaps take a trip to some colorful destination. A small group of Catholic FIU students took such a trip during the last two weeks of July, but it wasn't just a vacation. This journey changed their entire lives.

The students - six from FIU and two from St. Thomas University - belong to an organization called LIFO (Living Instruments For Others). The group, which consists of approximately 20 members, travels to the poorest regions of the Dominican Republic once a year. Its mission: to help some of the poorest human be-

ings on our planet improve their living conditions, their education and their health.

"Words cannot describe the experience of those two weeks," said Emilia Estopinan, an FIU psychology major who was one of the eight students on this year's mission. "This trip has changed my life completely."

LIFO was founded in 1985 by two individuals who, because they were not allowed to participate in a similar project, decided to carry out one of their own. Alfred Consuegra, 21, is now a senior at FIU majoring in architecture, but back in 1983, during his junior year at Belen Jesuit Preparatory School, he traveled to the mountains of the Dominican Republic with Father Eduardo Alvarez, S.J., a teacher at Belen, and a group of his fellow

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own private psychology practice and the pools of the Dolphin Research Center.

As the Director of Human Dolphin Research at the center, Nathanson works with six young children. Five of them have Down's Syndrome and one has Hydrocephali. Both are diseases that cause mental retardation. The degrees of severity can vary, but both conditions are serious nonetheless.

Nathanson works with the dolphins and the children together to try and grab the attention span of his human pupils and, through a series of carefully monitored experiments, enable them to learn more quickly than they would in a regular classroom setting.

The theory he bases his research on is called the Attention Defect Hypothesis. It states that learning occurs in two phases. First is the attention phase in which the person becomes attentive to the object he is focusing on. Second is the cognitive or brain processes phase in which the person evaluates and assesses the properties of the object. According to Nathanson, the mentally handicapped experience difficulty in the attention phase because they cannot maintain their focus on the object. It is also difficult for them to learn the concept that an object can have multiple dimensions.

Nathanson believes that by using the dolphins as teachers for the handicapped children, the learning process occurs from two to ten times faster than in a regular control room situation.

To make his project credible and measurable, Nathanson must use both the dolphin method and the classroom method of teaching, and he must alternate their order to insure that the results are unbiased. Sessions are approximately one hour long and students are tutored one at a time at their own level.

Daniel Jordan, a two year-old student with Down's Syndrome, is working on his speech. Dr. Nathanson and a dolphin trainer carry Daniel into a shallow pool located in the ocean and separated from deeper water by a short wire fence. They bring with them their teaching props: some floating planks of wood with pictures or words on them and a trained dolphin.

A typical exercise, or "trial," might go something like this: a plank is thrown into the water. The dolphin retrieves the board and brings it back to the pupil, who is then asked to repeat the word or symbol he has previously been introduced to. A successful recollection or enunciation of word or symbol brings applause and rewards not only from his human teachers, but also

clicks, nods and squeals of approval from his dolphin teacher. The dolphin also gets a morsel of fish as his reward for a job well done.

Trials occur twenty in a row with words or pictures and the number of successes is recorded for the pool phase. The same procedure is then repeated in a classroom setting with the same cards that were used in the dolphin pool. The cards are introduced to the student, then shown to him again for recollection.

Daniel's mother, Anna Jordan, says that the dolphin schooling has been very beneficial to her son. "He is learning many of the hand signals that the trainer uses," she said. "He knows where he is and he is happy."

The data recorded from the last six months that the project has been in progress is providing some amazing results.

Mando, one of three students viewed on this particular day, has a disease called Hydrocephali. Mando is working to improve his memory and, in one session, remembered 4 out of 20 symbols in the room experiment and 8 out of 20 in the dolphin pool.

Nathanson says that the range is anywhere from two to ten times better recollection and enunciation in the pool than in the room. "The dolphins simply hold the atten-

tion of the student and enable them to focus on something longer than normal," Nathanson explained. "It actually compresses time. The learning process is accelerated."

The FIU professor has tried similar experiments with other animals such as chimpanzees, but dolphins have proven to be the most effective teachers. They are beautiful to look at and their movements flow. They are very strong yet gentle animals with an astute level of intelligence and an amazing ability to learn. Also, the water relaxes the students and it creates a seemingly ideal learning environment. Instead of distracting the students, the dolphins actually enhance their learning capabilities.

Nathanson hopes to extend his studies to other areas and he plans on using the dolphins to work with cancer patients and Vietnam veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. According to Nathanson, the possibilities are endless and the research data is only beginning to come in. "The important thing here is to compare the two teaching methods and to quantify or measure the differences in effectiveness," he said.

Nathanson attempted to present his research project to FIU for possible funding, but the University was not responsive to his idea. "These people

are out to lunch on many issues," he stated. "Winning a Nobel Prize would only get you a 'That's nice' around here."

Although he has not received compensation for his work, Nathanson says that the studies will go on despite the lack of funding.

The dolphins that work with the children are also veterans of the silver screen. Nat, the most famous movie star at the center, has performed in the films "Cocoon" and "Splash." He was recently taken to the Virgin Islands along with some of his roommates for a lead performance in the new film "Big Blue."

The Dolphin Research Center is financed by the dolphins' cinematic appearances, and this allows the center to fund research projects such as Nathanson's.

Why do dolphins work so well with humans? And in what other ways can the animals be used? These are just two of the questions that Nathanson hopes to answer with his work. The ultimate goal of the program is to get the children involved to learn at their own maximum capacity level. Applying what they learn from this project will enable them to start a regular program of this type.

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UH Forum



News briefs...

New honors course

The first university-wide honors course, "Miami: An Urban Laboratory," will debut at Florida International University this fall.

The three-credit course is targeted to FIU's honor students in the Faculty Scholars Program who have completed their freshman year. Providing a comprehensive look into the various segments that make up Miami, the course will include such topics as the city's history, sociological make-up, culture, health care system and government.

Sponsored by the FIU Institute for Public Policy and Citizenship studies, the course will be taught by professors from across the University's spectrum of disciplines, said Rebecca Salokar, associate director of the Institute.

"The interdisciplinary nature of this course is something that many universities tend to overlook because they're so compartmentalized," Salokar said. "This course will allow students to look at their community from all perspectives."

Rowing Club meeting

The Golden Panthers Rowing Club, open to both men and women, will have its first meeting on Wednesday, August 31, at 8:30 am in the Sunblazer Arena. The club will use equipment at the Miami Rowing Club located on the Rickenbacker Causeway, on Virginia Key. An FIU student

who is an experienced oarsman will provide coaching for the club. All interested members of the University community are urged to attend the meeting to learn about competitive crew. For more information, call Tom Cooper at 554-2651.

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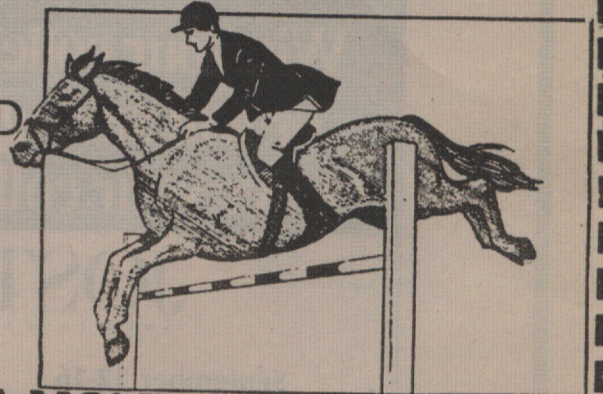
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to predict the results of research in pure science but a broadening of our scope and amount of work widens the infinite possibilities of scientific discovery."

FIU's School of Journalism and Mass Communication will offer a Master of Science in Mass Communication degree program. The new graduate program will offer specializations in print and broadcast journalism, telecommunication management and student media advising.

"It is, to our knowledge, the only program in Southeast Florida with such a distinct professional focus," said J. Arthur Heise, director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

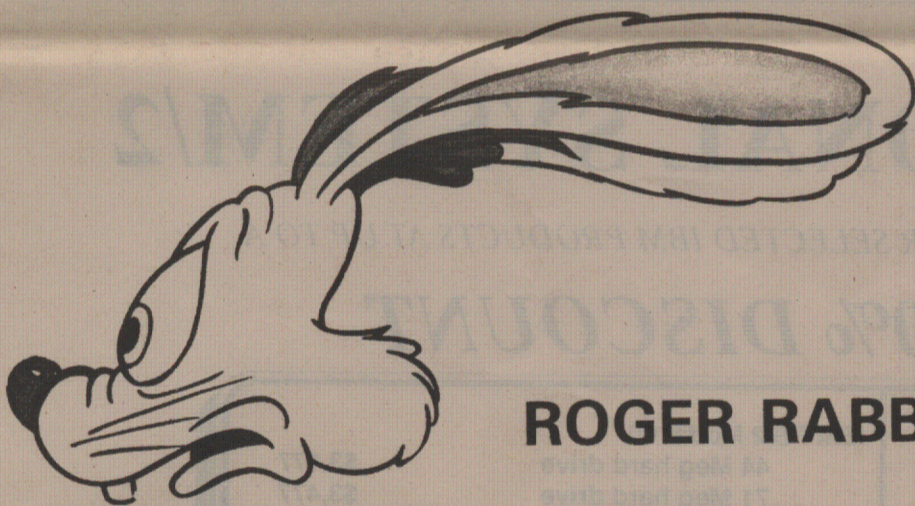
The University's highly successful Creative Writing Program has been expanded to include a Master in Fine Arts in Creative Writing.

Les Standiford, associate professor of English, has directed FIU's Creative Writing Program for the last three years. "I am very excited because this is the only M.F.A. in creative writing in Southeast Florida, and the only intensive creative writing training available in the state. I believe it will become an important and popular program in a very short time."

For more information on admission to these or other FIU programs, students should contact the Office of Admissions in the University Park Campus at 554-2363.

Auditions for the musical adaptation of "Fashion!" or "Life in New York" will take place on Thursday, August 25, and Friday, August 26 at the University Theatre in VH-100.

Actors are asked to prepare a comic monologue and a song for the audition. The musical will run from October 20 to 23 and Oct. 27 to 30.



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■ FIU's dance minor will be offered this fall

FIU offers dance minor

Beginning this fall, Florida International University students may be able to dance their way through school.

FIU will offer a minor in dance that will include instruction in ballet, jazz, modern dance and the history of music and theater.

The dance program is designed to meet the needs of the liberal arts student who wants to pursue dance in order to increase his/her creative development and artistic awareness and for those students who feel that the study of dance is closely related to an important extension or facet of their major discipline.

"At a time when there is an increasing support of dance - from ballet to any form of modern dance - from the general audience, there was no dance degree program in the Miami area," commented Dr. Therald Todd, chairman of FIU's Department of Theatre and Dance. "We felt that FIU, as a public university, needed to fill that void."

FIU's Department of Theatre and Dance has produced numerous musicals such as "Cabaret," "Quilters," "Man of La Mancha" and "Jesus Christ Superstar." Renowned artists such as Anna Sokolow, Kei Takei, Laura Glenn and Eiko and Koma have been

guest lecturers. Ballet Randolph, Mary Street Dance Theatre, and Leslie Neal & Dancers are some of the many Miami companies that have performed at FIU. Performances by guest companies - Two's Company, Double Dancing and the Jacksonville Ballet - have also been sponsored by the theatre and dance department.

For more information about the dance minor program, students should contact the Department of Theatre and Dance at 554-2895.

Next issue: an in-depth look at the Dance Department

CASE Gold Medal awarded for Hispanic Radio Marathon

The Florida International University Division of University Relations and Development has received a Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Gold Medal Award for its effort in coordinating and publicizing the Second Annual FIU Hispanic Radio Marathon.

The division coordinated publicity, media relations, volunteer services and faculty support services for the FIU Hispanic Radio Marathon held in February 1988. More than 400 volunteers including students, faculty, community leaders and elected officials participated. The marathon received 2600 pledges and raised \$105,888 in scholarship money for Hispanic students, surpassing the University's goal of \$100,000.

The idea for the marathon was born out of FIU President Mitch Maidique's recognition of the need for more scholarships for Hispanic students. Although Hispanics make up approximately 40 percent of the FIU student body, they receive a much lower percentage of available scholarship money.

The Hispanic Radio Marathon was a project that involved the entire FIU com-

munity: faculty, staff and students. It was a project of major importance for Maidique. He contacted representatives at radio stations WQBA, WAQI, WOCN, and WHRC, four of Miami's leading Spanish-language stations who agreed to donate most of their programming time to the university for an entire day.

The marathon took place from 6:00 am to midnight on February 24. Local Hispanic citizens and businesses embraced the effort and donated services such as food and supplies.

"This is a well-deserved recognition for our Division of University Relations and Development," Maidique said. "The division staff successfully orchestrated a university-wide and community-wide effort that not only raised contributions far beyond our expectations, but also raised the consciousness of the Hispanic community about the need for scholarships for Hispanic students."

Toni Bilbao, assistant vice president for community affairs and Uva Clavijo, public information specialist were the key coordinators for the event. Both have strong contacts

within the Hispanic community and Clavijo was largely responsible for garnering Hispanic media support for the project.

"I believe this CASE Gold Medal is a testimony to the spirit of teamwork that is displayed throughout the division and the University," said Walter Strong, vice president of University Relations and Development. "Staff, students, faculty and the community came together in a united effort to further educational opportunities for deserving students."

This award marks the second consecutive year the FIU division has received the CASE Gold Medal. Last year the award was given for the media relations effort surrounding the FIU Conference on Negritude, Ethnicity and Afro Cultures in the Americas.

The goal of CASE is to advance public understanding and financial support of education. CASE has more than 13,000 members representing 2,820 colleges, universities and independent elementary and secondary schools in the United States, Canada, Mexico and 20 other countries.

Scholars' House established at University Park

Designed to provide a living and learning experience for students who are highly recruited for their academic ability, Florida International University has established a Scholars' House at University Park. The program serves as a component of the FIU Faculty Scholars Program, which provides scholarships to students with grade point averages of 3.5 and above and 1200 or higher on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

This is the first year for the FIU Scholars' House which is a joint effort between the Office of Student Affairs and the

Office of Undergraduate Studies.

"Living/learning programs such as this one provide a unique opportunity for students to integrate what they are learning in the classroom with their outside experiences," said Glenda Belote, assistant vice president for student affairs.

Approximately forty students, thirty of whom are in the Faculty Scholars program and 10 on other scholarships, will live in the Scholars' House this fall. The House, formerly building H, will also have a computer lab for its residents.

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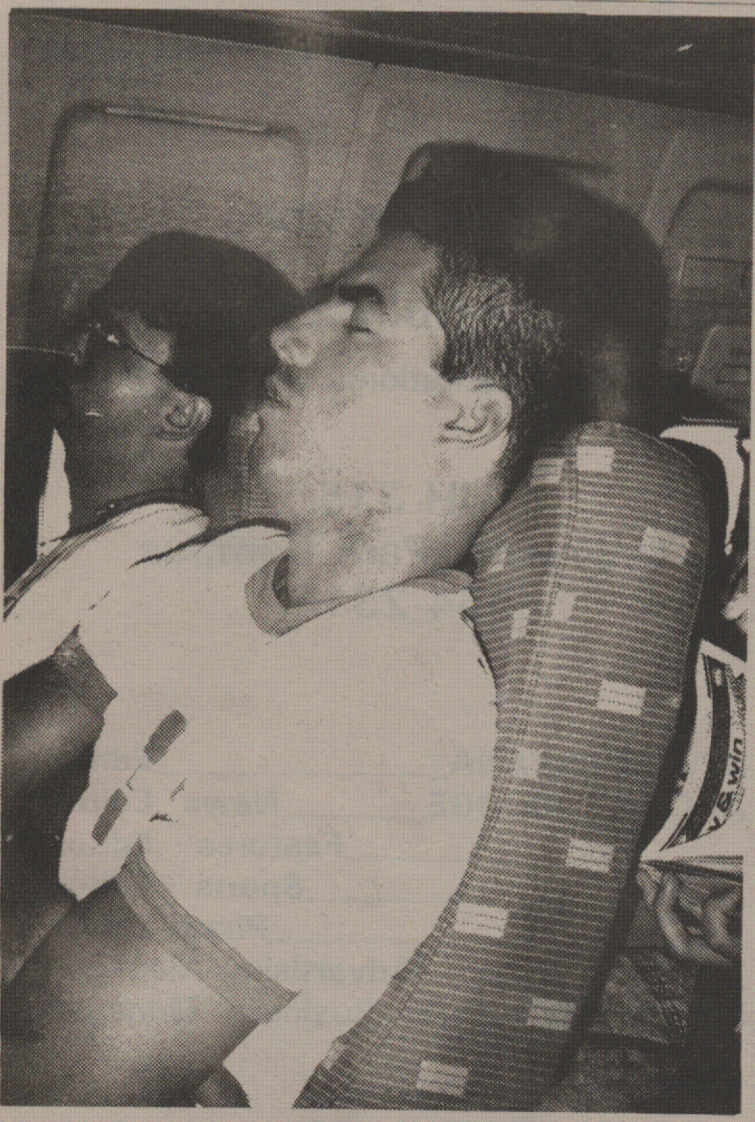
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FIU students travel on LIFO mission:



■ Father Gregorio Lance, top, and Jose Ruiz-Sanchez, bottom, place LIFO's luggage onto the jeep that will carry it to Arroyo La Vieja



■ Ibra Consuegra, left, and his cousin Alfred, right, relax on the flight to San Juan

-LIFO, from page 1

students. Consuegra's friend Albert Perez, a graduate of Columbus High School who is now in business for himself, was also a member of the group. After that first trip together, the two friends decided they had to go back. "We felt like we had found our calling," Consuegra said. "After that first time, we knew we had to return."

They did not return in 1984, but the following year Consuegra and Perez were not allowed to travel with the mission because they were no longer in high school. "We had to stay because Father Eddy wanted new people to come in," said Consuegra. "But we didn't want to stay. So we decided to go on our own."

And they've been going ever since. This year's trip began on Saturday, July 16, with a four o'clock departure from Miami International Airport aboard American Airlines flight 917. After a brief stop in San Juan, Puerto Rico, the aircraft headed for Puerto Plata, on the northern coast of the Dominican Republic. "Ana, we're home," said Martha Rivas of St. Thomas to her cousin Ana Mederos as the plane made its final descent into Puerto Plata. "I can hear the mountains calling out to us."

The flight was followed by a two-hour van ride to Santiago de los Caballeros, a small town due south of Puerto Plata. Left behind at the airport were sixteen large boxes containing clothing, books, toys and medical supplies that were confiscated by immigration officials at the airport. "They're just doing this to bother us," said Consuegra. "Now, getting those boxes through customs is going to be a big headache."

It took several phone calls to government offices in Santo Domingo before the boxes were released by immigration one week later.

The group spent the first night at CEFASA, a community learning center in Santiago run by two Catholic priests, Father Gregorio Lance and Father Francisco Guzman (A loose translation of what CEFASA stands for is "Center For Social and Agrarian Reform"). "I hope you enjoy this night of relaxation," Consuegra told his companions, "because this is the last time you'll see a bed, a toilet bowl and hot water."

The following morning, after breakfast in the CEFASA cafeteria, the group attended an early morning mass conducted by Father Guzman in the town church. After the service the LIFO members boarded their mini-van and set off for Arroyo La Vieja ("The Stream of the Old Woman"), a small community of some fifty families high in the mountains of the island. It was at Arroyo La Vieja where the group spent ten days living in a one-room schoolhouse with no electricity, no running water and a latrine for a restroom. "Going to the latrine was one of the most difficult things for me," said Estopinan. "And not having any running water for my contact lenses became a real problem, also."

Natasha Perez, the youngest member of the mission at age 19, had a far more serious problem - an intense fear of heights. "I was terrified every time we had to climb up or down a hill," she said. "But I overcame my fear. I had no choice. Now, I still hesitate when I have to go down an escalator, but it's not as bad as it was before the trip."

A wake-up call at 6:30 am was followed by breakfast at 7:30. The workday began at 8:00 am with the LIFO crew and the men of the village working on three specific projects - an additional room for the school that would also be used for town meetings, a new latrine and the expansion of

roadways leading to the community. It was hard work under a grueling tropical sun, but a total team effort and a strong faith in their purpose kept everyone going. "We worked hard because the community worked hard," said Estopinan. "Watching those men, who never seemed to get tired, was a real inspiration for me."

The work continued until noontime, and after a two-hour lunch recess it was back to picking and shoveling. The LIFO women labored until four o'clock in the afternoon and then went to bathe in a nearby river. They were followed by the men one hour later. Dinner was next at 6:30 or 7:00 pm and the evenings were ended with either a prayer meeting or a visit to a neighbor's house where the group sang songs and shared stories with the members of the community.

"This trip presented itself at a time when I was looking for something to give meaning to my life," said Jose Ruiz-Sanchez, a 24 year-old graduate of FIU with a degree in chemistry. "After I finished school down here I moved up north. I had a real good job and plenty of money, but I was dying inside. My life is very different now. I'm really looking forward to more work of this type."

The group held meetings with the women of the community to talk about hygiene practices, and it also hosted a day of fun and games for the children of the village. "The hygiene meeting was the best part of the trip for me," commented Natasha Perez. "If we had done nothing else while we were there, the trip would still have been great for me."

The LIFO mission ended on Wednesday, July 27, when the group left Arroyo La Vieja for two days of rest and relaxation at Sosua Beach, a small resort near Puerto Plata. For Ibra



■ The men of Arroyo La Vieja begin work on the roadways leading into the community

a journey that changed their lives

Consuegra, a 21 year-old English major at FIU, leaving was the hardest part of the trip. "It was tough saying goodbye to those incredible people," he said. "They taught me that sometimes the poorest individuals can be the happiest ones. I will definitely go back next year."

The cost of the LIFO mission is approximately \$350.00, and those who make the journey must pay their own expenses. LIFO is presently in the process of becoming a non-profit corporation, and any donations to the mission are used to finance the different LIFO construction projects abroad. "It's very important that people understand that we do not use our funds to pay for the trip," said Alfred Consuegra. "All the money that comes in through our fund-raising activities goes to help the poor in the Dominican Republic."

The next LIFO mission will take place in the summer of 1989, but the group is involved in several major service projects to help the poor right here in Miami. Anyone interested in joining LIFO should contact Alfred Consuegra at the LIFO Hotline. The number is 554-6776, and evening hours are preferred. Persons of all religious backgrounds are invited to participate.

"Until you come face to face with the problem of poverty, it never really hits you," said Natasha Perez. "Now I know what the important things in life really are. I hope more people will choose to become involved in LIFO."



■ Alfred Consuegra holds three of the sixteen boxes of supplies that were confiscated by immigration. The boxes were released one week later.

"My life is very different now. I'm really looking forward to more work of this type."

-Jose Ruiz-Sanchez

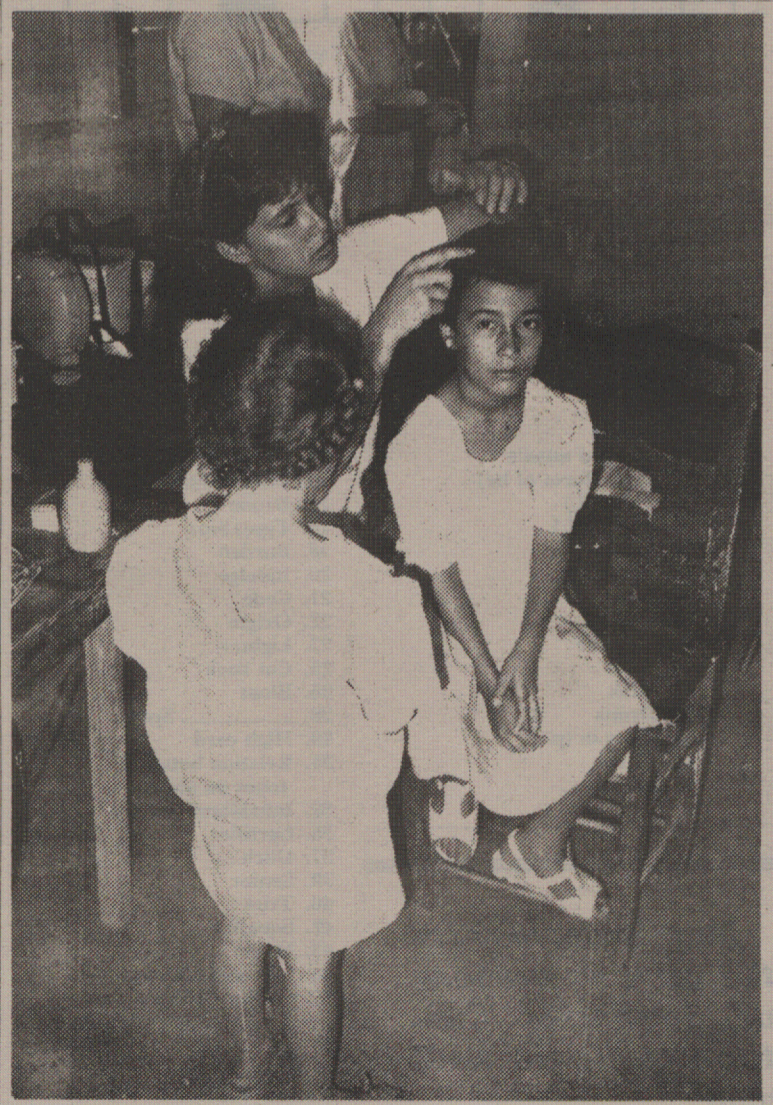
Photos: Rey Quintana/FIU Sunblazer



■ Natasha Perez and Martha Rivas sing for the children during Kid's Day celebrations at Arroyo La Vieja



■ The children of Arroyo La Vieja. Behind them is the one-room schoolhouse where LIFO members lived for ten days



■ Emilia Estopinan combs the hair of one of the children of Arroyo La Vieja



■ Ana Mederos relaxes on the terrace of her hotel at Sosua Beach

Public Safety Department keeps FIU safe

RUTH SUAREZ
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Florida International University's Public Safety Department crowds with impatient students. Luckily, their only urgency at this time is being issued a decal.

The FIU Public Safety Department's duties extend far beyond the enforcement of parking regulations. Thirty-

two fully trained and certified police officers provide the university community with round-the-clock protection.

Although the department has been active for about eight years, many students are still unaware of its existence. In cases of emergencies, students have often called 911 instead of calling their campus Public Safety Department. The operators at 911 often end up suggesting that the student contact campus police officers

in order to receive a quicker response.

According to Harvey Gunson, director of public safety at FIU, the most frequent problems in the university are theft and motor vehicle vandalism. In addition, car accessories, wallets, purses and books often undergo a quick change of owner.

"Personal assaults have not had a high rate," said Gunson. "Overall, crime has decreased somewhat. Most of our em-

phasis is on personal protection. And security in the dorms is a priority."

Gunson is quick to stress that students can do a lot to help the police department in the performance of its duties. "We urge students to report all suspicious incidents immediately - even if they are not directly involved," he commented. "We all owe it to each other."

Many precautions can be taken in order to insure your personal safety and that of your property:

-When walking alone, use well lighted and well traveled routes.

-Keep your doors closed and locked at all times.

-At night, park in a well lighted area.

-Never leave valuables unattended in public places, including the library.

-Be aware of suspicious persons in the dormitory buildings and academic buildings.

-Always report what you see.

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ACROSS

- 1. Epoch
- 4. Sire
- 9. Tennis shot
- 12. Pave
- 13. Odor
- 14. Mock
- 15. Adore
- 17. Scan
- 19. Aged
- 20. Cent
- 21. Chore
- 23. Ban
- 24. Moray (pl.)
- 27. Some
- 28. Mister
- 29. Pointed missile
- 30. Verb (form of be)
- 31. Plan (pl.)
- 33. Plural of I
- 34. Poison
- 36. Eat (p.t.)
- 37. Jelly
- 38. Coat
- 39. Squeeze
- 40. Twist
- 41. Desk
- 43. Drunk
- 44. Tune in (p.t.)
- 46. Aired
- 49. Mistake

- 50. Scary
- 52. Yale
- 53. Course
- 54. Oddity
- 55. Fish eggs

DOWN

- 1. 7th Letter, Greek Alphabet
- 2. Frightened (Early Eng.)
- 3. Military Depot
- 4. Poet
- 5. Before
- 6. Depart
- 7. Ash
- 8. Lake
- 9. Attorney
- 10. Ceres mother (Gr.)
- 11. Drone
- 16. Type, Sort
- 18. Burden
- 20. Indulge
- 21. Cede
- 22. Origin
- 23. Lighter
- 25. Cut back
- 26. Bloat
- 28. _____ Spade
- 29. High card
- 31. Relation between tones on scale
- 32. Inhabitant (suf.)
- 35. Certifier
- 37. Ditch
- 39. Senior
- 40. Trick
- 42. Squabble
- 43. Hunt
- 44. Morning Moisture
- 45. Ireland Military Organization (abbr.)
- 46. By way of
- 47. Rock Group
- 48. Decease
- 51. Concerning

Puzzle #102

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Next issue: look for the zany illustrations of Sunblazer Cartoonist Kevin Kaufman

Profile: Student Government Association

JUAN GONZALEZ
Sunblazer Staff Writer

Florida International University gets an onrush of new students every fall semester. This time around it will be my turn.

With a new school come new rules and regulations, new friends, and a new student government. FIU's Student Government Association (SGA) represents a meeting point between the two main groups that make up the University community - the student body and the administration.

The elected president and official representative of the Student Government Association is Tim Benjamin. Benjamin, a 22 year-old senior with a double major in Finance and Economics, feels strongly that the SGA is the "representative body of the student."

SGA is funded by student revenue. A \$3.80 per credit hour fee, which students pay at registration, goes into SGA's general pool of funds from which allocations and budgets for the different projects and activities that the organization sponsors are drawn. "The Student Government Association manages a budget of \$1.5 million dollars that belongs to the students," Benjamin said. "I encourage everybody to show up to whatever SGA offers because you, the students, are paying for it."

FIU's Student Government Association is composed of the executive, legislative and judicial branches. It is further subdivided into eleven committees, ranging from the athletic and recreational sports committee to the social and cultural committee. In order to

serve in positions on these committees one must be elected a Senator by the student body. However, Benjamin is quick to point out that anyone can participate in any of the committee meetings, and any student who attends three of four consecutive committee meetings can be appointed by the Senate as an official member.

"If a student or group of students feel strongly about a particular issue, bringing the issue up to the respective SGA committee is one possible route to a solution," Benjamin explained.

SGA is involved in many important projects at this time, and the establishment of an FIU Radio Station is high on its list of priorities. "The radio station will give students ma-

joring in anything from engineering to communications an opportunity to gain experience by working in their field," Benjamin said. "Most importantly, the radio station, with a tentative opening date of August 22, will give the students of FIU a forum for expressing views pertinent to the student body. In short, an opportunity to facilitate communication between the students.

"Our biggest problem right now is apathy," he added. "The indifference of the majority of the student body takes away from its enthusiasm and prevents more from being accomplished by those who are involved. Consequently, the message is to not succumb to apathy but to become aware, become involved and par-

ticipate in the future of our school."

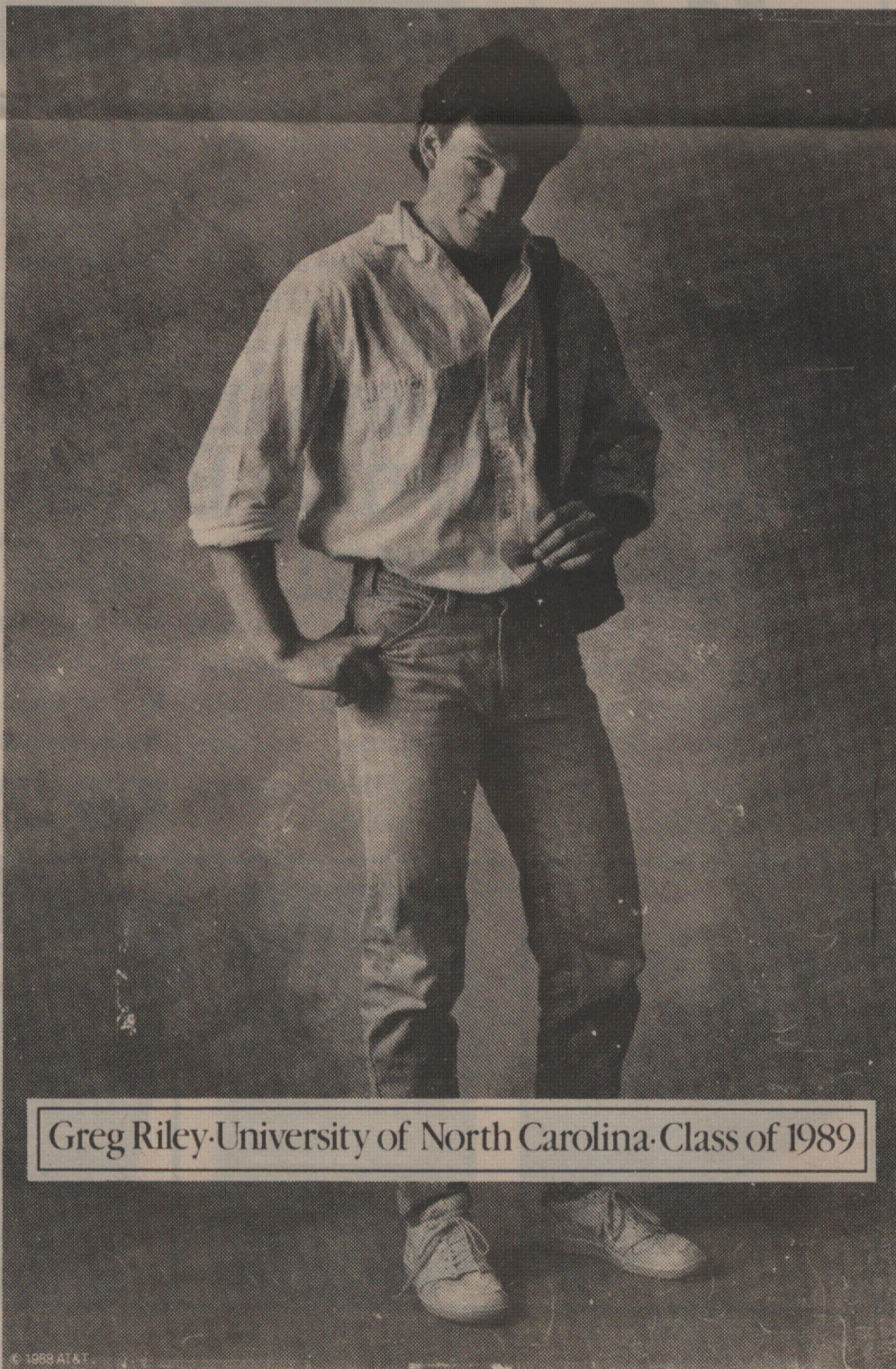
Senate meetings are held every Wednesday at 3:05 pm in UH 150 (University Park Campus) and once every four weeks at the North Miami Campus. Meetings are open to all students and everyone is encouraged to attend. SGA members may be contacted for more information via the Senate offices at University Park, UH 311. The phone number is 554-2121. Senate mailboxes are also available for messages.

The Sunblazer will publish every Monday beginning on September 5, 1988



■ SGA President Tim Benjamin

"I don't want a lot of hype. I just want something I can count on."



Greg Riley - University of North Carolina - Class of 1989

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Men's soccer team schedule is now set

The Florida International University men's soccer schedule has been set for the 1988 season, Athletic Director Dick Young announced.

In what may be the toughest schedule in FIU soccer history, the Golden Panthers will play 21 matches, including 13 home contests. Highlighting the schedule will be the third annual Southern Bell Classic and the second annual FIU/Gatorade Invitational.

Making their way to University Park this season will be 1987 NCAA Tournament par-

ticipants Rutgers, George Mason, Tampa and NAIA national champion Boca Raton, along with traditional national powers Penn State and Boston University.

"We try to make as difficult a schedule as possible because that is the way to better develop the overall program," said FIU Head Coach Karl Kremser. "We will really have our hands full, but I don't like to schedule just for wins. If we come ready to play every night, we should be able to hold our own."

The 1988 season opener will be against the Alumni Association on Saturday, August 27. The following Tuesday, August 30, the team will play against the Miami Dade-New World Center squad. Both are home games.

The Golden Panthers finished the 1987 campaign with a 12-6-2 record and ranked sixth in the Southern Region. Last season was the first time the FIU soccer team competed at the Division I level.

Members of the FIU men's soccer team take a breather on the sidelines.

<p>CARLOS SOSA</p>	<p>GRANT JONES</p>	<p>SUSAN KRUSE</p>	<p>HOLLY A. VAN DEURSEN</p>
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Next issue: more sports

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The poorest people can sometimes be the richest



■ Here I am with Chulito, a 5 year-old child who lives in the Dominican Republic.

Rey Quintana, Sunblazer Editor

This past summer I had the opportunity to travel to the Dominican Republic as a member of the 1988 LIFO mission (you can read about the trip in our front-page story). I must confess that when I first heard about the mission, it sounded like a different type of vacation. I agreed to take part in the journey to get away from my problems and to get away from myself. Little did I realize that I was headed on a collision course with a much harsher reality.

The Dominican Republic is one of those places which looks magnificent on a postcard. Its towering mountains and extensively green landscape are the stuff that photographers' dreams are made of. But if those same photographers zoomed in for a close-up shot, they would see hunger in the eyes of the children. They would see homes without furniture or electricity. They would see animals overworked and underfed. They would see poverty and misery.

You would expect that people living under these conditions would be depressed, bitter and angry. I know I did. But ten days later, when it was all over, I had learned a very significant lesson - that true happiness comes from within, and no amount of material wealth can substitute for a clear conscience.

The people of Arroyo La Vie-

ja know what I'm talking about. They welcomed us into their community with smiles and open arms. They treated us like family from the very first day. LIFO members became big brothers and big sisters to the children of the village. We worked with them, we ate with them, we sang with them, and we prayed with them.

They had nothing material to offer us, but the love and friendship that they gave us was infinitely more valuable. These people taught us what the true riches in life really are. I had taken this trip to get away from myself, but I found myself instead.

Now, as the fall semester gets under way, stop worrying about your back-to-school wardrobe or all the partying you're going to do on weekends. Start thinking about helping others, especially the incoming freshmen. That first week on a new campus can be overwhelming, and a simple thing like telling someone where his/her classroom is located can make life a heck of a lot easier.

FIU's greatest asset is its student body. If you are proud of being a Golden Panther, show it by your actions. Make it your mission to be as helpful to others as possible, not only during the first week of school but throughout the rest of your life. The feeling of satisfaction you'll receive will be much more of a reward than any new clothes hanging in your closet.

A message from the President

Dear Students:

Welcome to what we hope will be our most successful year ever! Although summer is thought of as a time of relaxation, Florida International University (FIU) has been on the move!

I have often characterized FIU as a "good university on its way to greatness," and I am proud to see examples of that evolution taking shape every day. Evidence of our commitment to diversifying and expanding the university's academic offerings may be seen in the fact that over the past year we have introduced more than 13 new programs, including Ph.D degree programs in Business, Economics and Biology. We are particularly proud of the establishment of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Academically, we are on the move!

On both campuses, our physical presence is growing. The walls of the new engineering building take shape daily

at University Park. The Trade Center on the North Miami Campus receives new life in preparing to become the new home for the School of Hospitality Management. Physically, we are on the move!

As we embark on the 1988-89 school year, we are seeking to reach out to more audiences and bring the opportunity for greater academic advancement to all segments of the community. We are proud that our students have won state, national and international competitions in various academic areas. Our incoming freshmen boast SAT scores 150 points higher than the national average. Competitively, we are on the move!

Our presence is being felt in ever greater proportions throughout the nation as a university with a mission and a commitment to quality education. Nationally, we are on the move!

Please accept my best wishes for a successful school year. I hope you will continue to join



■ FIU President Mitch Maidique

in our efforts to keep FIU on the move! Together we will ensure that the value of your FIU education will increase measurably every year.

Sincerely,

Modesto A. Maidique
President
Florida International University

Thank you, Sunblazer

To the Editor:

This is a personal thank you for the two articles in the July 15, 1988 issue of the "Sunblazer."

The "Fire Alarm" article by Ms. Betancourt and your article on the "UH Elevator" are excellent. As a mobility impaired staff member of this University, I have been asking these same questions. Several years ago a call to evacuate the PC building due to a bomb threat was received. When I was safely outside I saw a wheelchair student on the

third floor. Who helps this individual, I asked? The emergency passed but the problem remains.

Perhaps now, through your articles, the University will be made more aware of fire safety and elevator maintenance not only for disabled students and staff members, but everyone concerned with safety.

Again, thank you.

-Rebecca Elks
Administrative Secretary
Student Affairs

The Sunblazer welcomes your views and opinions on issues of importance. Letters to the Editor must be signed and dated, and all material is subject to changes.

Drop off your comments at the Sunblazer office in UH 315. The Sunblazer will publish an issue every Monday beginning on September 5.

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