

Students change vacation into relief effort



PERRINE, Fla. (AP) — The stench of dredged up swampland wafts through the screened walls of a mess hall where young, sun-burned volunteers scrape and dice carrots.

Down the road, insects buzz about the ears of an inexperienced work crew trying to rebuild a hurricane-ravaged barn.

This is spring break?

Hundreds of students would have it no other way.

"People need to do something like this not only for other people, but for themselves," said

Julie Ferrero, 24, a nursing student at Western Connecticut State University.

Ferrero forfeited the traditional spring break party at the beach to volunteer in the relief effort still needed more than seven months after Hurricane Andrew carved out a ruinous trail south of Miami.

Through the coordinated efforts of the University of Miami Volunteer Services Center, more than 300 students from 19 universities as far away as Michigan were placed in makeshift housing and put to work from Feb. 20 until April 10.

"It was the cheapest spring break there was," joked Craig Ortega, 18, a freshman from Woodhaven, Mich., who attends the University of Toledo.

Amy Cornelius, 19, a sophomore English major at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, said she wanted to experience a lesson no classroom could offer.

"I expected it to be very fulfilling and useful," said Cornelius, who plans to join the Peace Corps. "But it's been much more of a learning experience."

Jill Funk, the hurricane relief coordinator at the University of

Miami, said the energy and focus of the college volunteers compensate for their lack of skills.

A tent city was set up for the students by Samaritan's Purse, part of a ministry based at Boone, N.C.

More than 100 students, in addition to about 100 Samaritan's Purse workers, sleep on canvas cots and share four men's showers and four women's showers.

After an eight-hour day picking up trash, tearing out drywall or building a barn, the students also have to take turns cooking for the group.

PINE NEEDLE BASKETS



Create a delicately sewn pine needle basket in this four week workshop. Materials for one basket will be included. Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm Apr 7-28, \$28 members \$32 non-members



ET ALS

MEETINGS

Asklepiads will meet tonight at 7 in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 346-8266.

Students for Choice will meet tonight at 7 in Room 112 Willamette. For more information, call 346-0649.

Student Senate will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 346-0630.

Returning Students Association will meet today at 5 p.m. in Room 232 Gilbert. For more information, call 346-4305.

RELIGION

Hillel will offer a Passover Sedar tonight at 6 at the Wesley Center, on Kincaid Street next to the Bookstore. Bring a beverage and a vegetarian dish. For more information, call 343-8920.

MISCELLANEOUS

German Language Retreat will have an organizational meeting today at 5:30 p.m. in Room 212 Friendly. For more information, call 346-4059.

Graduate School will offer a free workshop for graduate students on preparing an effective curriculum vitae today from 12 to 1 p.m. in EMU Cedar Room C. For more information, call 346-3235.

Environmental Careers Organization will present environmental career workshops today from 12 to 1 p.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. in the EMU Oak Room. For more information, call 485-2727, room 316.

Golden Key National Honor Society will have a reception for new members and will award two scholarships tonight at 7 in the Gerlinger Lounge. For more information, call 346-1068.

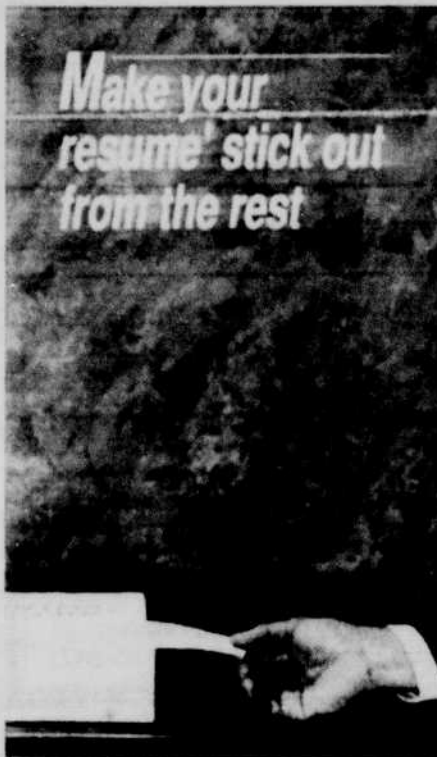
ESCAPE Lobby Tables will be in the

EMU Lobby today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. displaying educational opportunities. Stop by for a free prize. For more information, call 346-4351.

Sacred Heart General Hospital will show My Girl tonight from 7 to 9:30 in the hospital's 2 Main Conference Room. A discussion will follow. For more information, call 686-7044.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et Als can be the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style. Et Als run on a space-available basis.



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