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Leadership Positions

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admirer?

Look through the
issue to find out!

A critique of NCSSM's
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Around the World

CAROLINE JENNINGS SAUL

The Patron Saint of the Internet

The Russian Orthodox Church has narrowed its choices for their patron saint of the Internet down to Saint John Chrysostom and Saint Feofan the Hermit. The Roman Catholic Church has chosen St. Isidore, the Bishop of Seville, for their patron saint of the internet. Some clergy believe that the internet is a tool of Satan; however, others hope to garner its widespread use to spread Christendom and create a large online library of Christian Literature.

Iceberg Blocks Hungry Penguins

This year's hatching of Adelie penguins living on Cape Ryods is in grave danger. The B-15A iceberg, what some scientists have deemed the largest floating object in the world, is blocking the penguins' route to food. The penguins now face a 180 km round trip to their food source. If parent penguins were to go get food, they would have to use all they could carry on their long trip back. The iceberg is a whopping three thousand square kilometers. The iceberg has the potential to prevent a penguin colony on Cape Bird from getting food as well as blocking access to three science research stations.

Australia Cracks Down on Drugs

Police in the state of Victoria in southern Australia will be setting up road blocks to screen drivers for drug usage. The road checks are primarily to screen for marijuana and methamphetamine usage. The program was instigated because one third of the people who died in automobile accidents in Victoria were under the influence of drugs other than alcohol. The tests are meant to target club goers and truckers who take methamphetamines to stay awake.

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Hope in the Aftermath of the Tsunami

ANEESH KULKARNI

Just like many of you will never forget where you were the morning of September 11th, I will never forget where I was on the morning of December 26th. I was just a few hundred kilometers away from the coast of Tamil Nadu in India, which was badly hit by the tsunami. I am thankful I was not close enough to be directly impacted by the waves, but still close enough to feel the pain and suffering. In the aftermath of the tsunami, almost no one had any idea of the incredible magnitude of the destruction; the initial projected death toll was around 10 000. However, thousands more bodies were discovered in the days that followed.

The Indonesian province of Aceh, the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, and the entire island of Sri Lanka were the hardest hit. When a disaster of this scale strikes, there is very little that can be done. However, the manner in which this tsunami was handled underlines the need for greater international communication, and the installation of an early-

warning system. Take for example the story of a village in Kerala in southern India: one of its residents had moved to Singapore. When he heard about the tsunami, he immediately called the only phone in the village. While the village was destroyed by the waves, not a life was lost. On the other hand, the Indian government Home Ministry did not



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Wave.jpg>

even hear about the tsunami until the media reported that it had hit the Indian coast. With better communication, perhaps thousands of lives could have been spared, especially in Sri Lanka and India, which were farther away from the epicenter of the earthquake.

Although the losses were immense, we can take heart from the way people

came together after the disaster. Differences in nationality, caste, gender, and age were forgotten as humanity pulled everyone together, much as it did in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. The survival stories are remarkable, and many are nothing short of miracles. A 20-day old Malay baby was found alive floating on a mattress in the Indian Ocean two

days after the tsunami struck. An Air Force officer on the Nicobar Islands noticed his tea cup shaking as he sat in a café, so he quickly led his family to higher ground for safety. A tribe living in the Andaman Islands noticed the sea recede, so they fled to safety inside their temple on a mountaintop, while the other tribes on the island rushed out to sea to collect the dead fish that had washed ashore only to be caught unaware by the tsunami that came just two hours later. So while we mourn the losses,

we can take heart from the miracles and the amazing survival stories.

The world has come together to raise money for the victims of this disaster. The American government has donated hundreds of millions of dollars, and sports stars and celebrities worldwide have chipped in. No doubt this money will be of tremendous benefit as thousands of people try to rebuild their lives. But, in the long term, the greatest contribution we can give is our awareness of what is going on in places around the world. Our help will be of limited use in the long run if people watching the media coverage don't know where Sri Lanka is, or if TV viewers don't understand that corruption and lack of infrastructure often prevent a quick recovery in the tsunami-affected areas. It undermines the efforts of the global community to unite for a cause. The biggest present we can give to other nations is an understanding, if not an appreciation, of their unique culture. And hopefully we can take this occasion to learn about and help our fellow peoples across the world.

S&M Responds

DAN APPLIGATE

On December 26, 2004, an earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale formed a tsunami which devastated large regions of Oceania and Southeast Asia. Even parts of Africa felt effects of this disaster, although located thousands of miles away.

As of this writing, the death toll stands at over 220,000 people, spread out over countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and India. Thousands more are missing and feared deceased. Efforts aimed at reuniting families or identifying bodies are still in motion all over the affected area. Countless homeless are now living in refugee camps, where they are in danger of outbreaks of diseases such as malaria or tetanus due to poor sanitation

and lack of clean water.

"It didn't really sink in initially," said junior Peggy McKay. "At first, I took it like I had heard about a hurricane, like 'Oh, there's another one.' It was really sad. It makes you wonder why it happened."

Among the dead and missing are tourists from at least 24 countries around the world. 18 Americans were killed by the tsunami, and 16 more are missing and presumed dead.

Over \$5 billion in international aid has already been pledged by countries all over the world, with about another \$1.6 billion given in private donations. The United States alone has pledged \$350 million.

Although it happened halfway around the world, the tsunami has struck

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The Real Impact

PRIYA DESAI

The tsunami destroyed the home and lives of thousands of people around the Indian Ocean, but it also had an effect on the politics of the international world. More than ten countries have been hit by this disastrous storm, ranging in populations of a couple of hundred thousands to one billion. What repercussions did the tsunami have? Enough time has passed to estimate the global and local damage that the tsunami has caused. For those that want a quick synopsis of what happened and the effects of the tsunami, here it is.

The first thing that comes to mind is that the economies of these nations have changed drastically due to the chaotic effect of the tsunami. Surprisingly, Indonesia, having lost the

most lives out of any Indian Ocean nation, has not suffered as greatly economically as Sri Lanka has. The economies as a whole will suffer because of the decrease in labor force and the cost of reconstruction. India has refused foreign aid because of its non-aligned policy similar to the Monroe Doctrine, thus making the nation rely on itself for all costs to damages caused by the tsunami. Other countries like Bangladesh and Somalia do not have any significant economic repercussions. However, the countries affected by the tsunami have a combined debt of about \$390 billion. The most obvious lost in revenue in all of the nations affected is the tourism industry and since whole fishing villages have been wiped out, a chunk of the fishing industry

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