

Students nix beach, head to Mexico, Europe

This Spring Break many students will substitute the usual beach routine for volunteer opportunities and school-related trips overseas. Such activities will instill a gratifying sense of community involvement and true academic enrichment.

By Kathryn Smith
Staff Writer

Although for most high school students the idea of Spring Break means hot weather, bathing suits, and suntans, some students have chosen alternative activities to occupy them during the week-long break.

One group of teens has chosen to spend the week in Tijuana, Mexico, with Young Life. They, along with numerous other students in Greensboro, will work together to build homes for selected families living in Tijuana.

"I am traveling to Mexico in order to build houses for the unfortunate families. These families are currently living in cardboard and wood shanties. By doing this, I will get the satisfaction of knowing I helped someone who needed it dearly," said sophomore Ben Ramsey.

This year is not the first that Young Life has offered such an opportunity to high school students. Many heard stories of the trip through friends and family who had already been. After hearing of the experience, they decided to sign up and experience the trip for themselves.

"All of my friends who have been to Mexico before have said that the entire trip was a great experience, so I decided I should see what it was all about," said junior Todd Murden.

The group plans to leave early on Saturday morning, April 10, land in San Diego, and then take a bus over the border where they will camp out every night and drive to their work site every morning to begin construction on the houses.

Although the idea of spending a week in a tent turns off many students, those going on the trip

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Junior**

believe that the outcome will be worth these hardships.

"I think it will be a humbling experience where I can spend my time in the Lord's name," said Murden.

The Grimsley Madrigals have also chosen to offer an alternative spring break opportunity. The singers will embark on a week-

long trip to Europe, where they will perform in churches throughout southern France and northern Italy. The trip will not only involve performances, for the group will tour cities such as Nice, Monaco, Florence, Venice, and Milan.

This opportunity to fly overseas and to perform for larger audiences proves to be an event most of the singers cannot pass up. For some, this trip will be their first time flying overseas and visiting a foreign country.

"I've never been overseas, and I've always wanted to visit the places that we are going. I also know it will be fun to go with my friends in Madrigals, and it's just a good opportunity that I'm looking forward to," said junior Ellen Wert.

Many of the Madrigals feel their trip to Europe offers many advantages as opposed to going to the beach, which to some seems ordinary in comparison. To the singers, it is a question of vacationing at the Atlantic Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea.

"I think visiting another side of the world and seeing the amazing sights of Northern Italy and Southern France would be a very unique and beneficial experience that I would choose over the beach," said Wert.

In conclusion, whether one hears of alternative opportunities through friends or by word of mouth, students are certain these various trips promise to be memorable. For those choosing not to join these students on their trips, there is always Myrtle Beach.



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Read new books, keep the old, one is silver, the other gold

Students look forward to receiving the 2004 summer reading list, which has undergone minor modifications but has generally remained the same.

By Carmen Fosner
Reporter

This year's summer reading lists have just been finalized, with some of the more familiar books remaining on the list but adding new novels as well.

A new choice, for example, on the rising 10th grader list is "My Forbidden Face" by Latifa,

"The Count of Monte Cristo" could possibly be the best book to read for school. I can't complain."

**Jack Garvey,
Sophomore**

replacing Franz Kafka's "The Metamorphosis." Also new this year, "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding is required over the summer for rising freshmen, replacing "Something Wicked This Way Comes" by Ray Bradbury.

Students seem to agree that this change is good.

"I am not familiar with the titles, but that's a good thing because I want to read something

new," said sophomore Jack Garvey.

Fortunately, however, the old standbys seem to appease students as well.

"Overall, the books for rising eleventh graders are good...many people I talked to just loved them," said junior Breton Graves.


Some of the old reliable classics remain on the list, like Alexander Dumas' "The Count of Monte Cristo," "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare, and J.D. Salinger's "The Catcher in the Rye." Popular and widely famous novels like these continue to be students' favorites on the list.

"The Count of Monte Cristo" could possibly be the best book to read for school. I can't complain," said Garvey.

A slight twist to the AP 12th grade reading list, different from all others, is the requirement of viewing films such as "Vertigo" and "Platoon" that are pertinent to the curriculum.

For the IB students, the requirements have not changed at all. "The Awakening" by Kate Chopin and "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez are still on the list for 11th graders, along with "Doctor Zhivago" by Boris Pasternak and "Hamlet" by Shakespeare for the 12th graders, selections that seem to work well.

Students seem happy with the choice of summer reading assignments, so the requirement may not hamper their summer fun.



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