

A different kind of vacation

Alternative Spring Break program allows students various ways to spend their break

BY TRINA RAHMAN

THE GAMECOCK

Here are some options for spring break: blowing \$2,000 on a trip to Cancun, Mexico; working for minimum wage part time; or spending the week at an exotic location working hard to restore a local church.

Sure, spring break promises a week away from early classes and dull lectures, but certain students roll up their sleeves and work in community service with others from campuses around the country. On Alternative Spring Break, some end up having the time of their life. It only takes a small sacrifice to make a great difference.

This year, student groups have organized trips to Panama City Beach, Fla.; Monterrey, Mexico; and Costa Rica, each trip costing less than what one would ordinarily pay for a week-long excursion on your average spring break.

Some don't even have to go far from home — USC's Alternative Break Corps will explore the Cumberland Trail in Tennessee, while clearing the way for a 303-mile trail.

The Alternative Spring Break Corps with cooperation from Father Tim Lijewski are sponsoring the trips to Costa Rica and the Cumberland Trail.

The trip to Costa Rica will work on a banana plantation in an effort to jump-start the economy of a small Costa Rican town to blaze a trail through the magnificent rain forest in Costa Rica so that the local residents can give tours.

The trip to Monterrey is being sponsored by the Baptist Collegiate Ministry. During the trip, the group will renovate a student center on a college campus.

Last year students from the Newman Club traveled to a small village in Honduras where they replaced worn, dirt floors with new cement ones in the local residents' homes — all in one week.

"Basically, what we did was simple, but it made a drastic difference in their stan-

dard of living," said Ali Crabb, a member of the Newman Club and a third-year finance student.

She will be going to Costa Rica with the Alternative Break Corps and is also trying to organize a trip to Peru next year, in conjunction with a priest from the Diocese of Charleston.

The Web site for Campus Crusade for Christ's Big Break 2003 at Panama City Beach, Fla. appears to be a party waiting to

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ALI CRABB
NEWMAN CLUB MEMBER AND THIRD-YEAR FINANCE STUDENT

happen, promising "sun, fun and so much more," including the opportunity to start "your own spiritual journey, along with hundreds of other college students."

The prices for these trips are reasonable —

\$650 for the Monterrey trip (which includes food and lodging), \$270 for Panama City Beach trip and a \$30 deposit for the Cumberland Trail trip. You have an alternative this spring break. Why not go on an experience that can change the world for the better?



PHOTO BY JOSE M. OSORIO/KRT CAMPUS

Last year, the Newman Club went to a small village in Honduras.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockudesk@hotmail.com

Men's basketball heads to *New Orleans*

BY MATT ROTHENBERG

THE GAMECOCK

Students who are planning to travel to New Orleans for spring break can also catch the Gamecock men's basketball team in action at the 2003 SEC Men's Basketball Tournament.

The tournament will be held from March 13 to 16 at the Louisiana Superdome in downtown New Orleans.

The cost of tickets for students will be \$10 per person, and students must go to the player-guest gate and present their student ID and driver's license in order to purchase tickets.

The first 30 students who buy tickets will receive seats behind the band, and everyone who purchases tickets afterward will receive general-admission seating in the 600 level of the Superdome.

Students will be admitted only to the session in which their team is participating, and the entire ticketing process will be repeated as the teams advance in the tournament.

For answers to any questions or for additional information, please contact the USC ticket office at 777-4274.

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