

News-Leader

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Chilly Dip

Three New Yorkers braved the chilly waters of the Atlantic off Amelia Island last Saturday to launch a 10-city "Peace Swim." Fernandina Beach was their first stop. For more details, please turn to page 13A.

City of Fernandina Beach

Florida 32034

OFFICE OF
THE MAYOR

March 12, 1986

"The Peace Swims"
6900 Bay Drive #9C
Miami, FL 33141

RE: GLOBAL SWIM SERIES FOR INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE COMES TO
FERNANDINA BEACH

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter represents the support by the City of Fernandina Beach for the three (3) swimmers, Shradda Howard, Adhiratha Keefe and Sunil Davidson who launched their "Peace Swim" at 12:00 noon Saturday, February 8, 1986 on Amelia Island.

We were honored that the City of Fernandina Beach was the first stop of ten (10) East Coast cities that the trio planned to visit. Furthermore, knowing that the "Peace Swims" are non-profit, and that there is no solicitation of funds whatsoever for expenses, makes this an even greater event.

In closing I wish to reiterate this Community's support of the "SWIMMERS FOR PEACE" in their endeavours and the admirable commitment that they and their colleagues have made.

Sincerely,

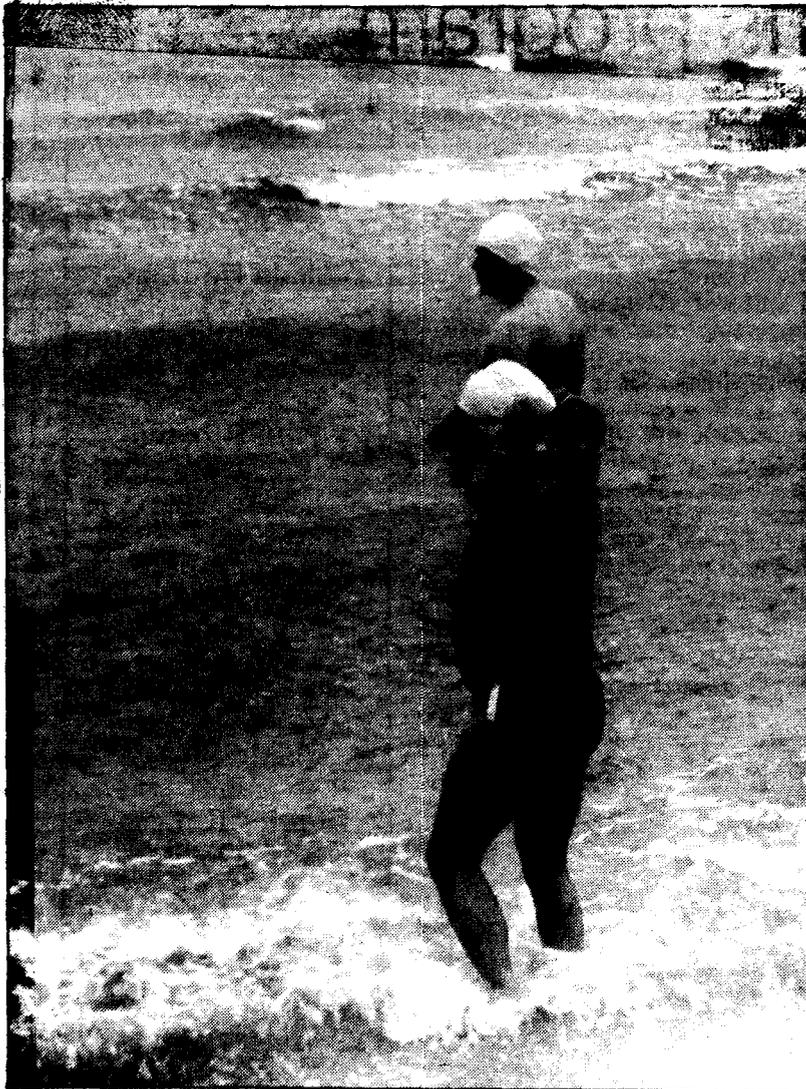
CITY OF FERNANDINA BEACH



Don Roberts
Mayor

DR/ks

Fernandina Beach



Swim team members enter the chilly Atlantic Ocean waters to begin their U.S. peace swim tour. (Photo by Edward Kuhn)

U.S. 'peace

By Edward Kuhn
Editor

The cause of world peace was furthered in the chilly ocean off Amelia Island last Saturday by a trio of United Nations employees who braved 57-degree water temperatures and a driving rain to kick off a 10-city U.S. peace swim series to draw attention to the UN's International Year of Peace.

Huddled under a covered picnic pavilion, the trio unfurled and erected a blue UN banner, stripped down to swim trunks and stood for a moment in silent meditation before taking to the ocean at the foot of Atlantic Avenue for a two kilometer swim.

Fernandina Beach was the first of 10 East Coast cities the trio plans to visit by April. They repeated the swim last Sunday at Jacksonville Beach and plan to visit Cape Hatteras, N.C., Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Pa., and Boston, Mass., among others.

Each of the three has adopted a first name given to them by Sri Chinmoy, a meditation teacher who has been leading peace meditations for delegates and staff at the UN since 1970.

"We hope that our swims can inspire others to attempt something exceptional for peace," said Adhiratha Keefe, 38. Keefe's first name means divine charioteer, his swimming companions are Sunil Davidson, 35, whose name means infinite blue sky of consciousness, and Shradha Howard, 33, whose name means faith.

Keefe, who works at UNICEF, swam the English Channel last September to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the UN, is currently training for a super ironman triathlon in September during which he will swim the 22-mile English Channel, ride his bicycle 150 miles through Europe and conclude with a 50-mile run to Germany.

The three New Yorkers began their global series of peace swims

'e swim' launched off Amelia



Shraddha Howard, foreground, Adhiratha Keefe, left and Sunil Davidson unfurl peace banner at the foot of Atlantic Avenue prior to their peace swim. (Photo by Edward Kuhn)

January 1 and 6 in the frigid waters of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, two Japanese cities devastated by the atom bomb near the end of World War II.

They belong to the Peace Meditation group which meets at the UN under the leadership of Sri Chinmoy,

whose teachings focus on respect for different cultures and the need to strive to better oneself. The swimmers meditate three times a day, are vegetarians and work for the cause of world peace.

Sri Chinmoy, who encourages his students to transcend their

capacities in all fields, is reported to have written nearly 700 books, composed thousands of songs and painted tens of thousands of mystical paintings. He also is a runner and weightlifter and annually sponsors 300 running races throughout the world.

Fernandina Beach

FLORIDA

U.S. 'peace swim' launched off Amelia

By Edward Kuhn
Staff

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Shradha Howard, foreground, Adhiratha Keefe, left and Sunil Davidson unfurl peace banner at the foot of Atlantic Avenue prior to their peace swim. (Photo by Edward Kuhn)

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