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Truth behind
Nargis and help
for bookworms

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CYCLONE NARGIS
There are possibly 100,000 dead in Burma, a country that we share a border with, but our media seems more concerned with cricketers slapping one another. O tempora, o mores, o Cicero. Yeah, sure, it's very difficult to get information about that reclusive country, what with its military dictatorship and lack of freedoms.) We know, we know.
Never fear, though. We have a few links here that will give you a bit more than you will see on the front pages or on prime time. If you're not too busy cheering 20whatsit.

The Irrawaddy—
<http://www.irrawaddy.org/>
This is a news magazine site covering Burma and South-East Asia. Loads of in-depth articles and photographs.

Mizzima—
<http://www.mizzima.com/> & <http://www.mizzima.tv/>
Another news site, again with a Burma focus. This one also has a lot of video, as the '.tv' domain may indicate. As with The Irrawaddy, also a very strong political agenda.

Burma Cyclone—
<http://burmaemergency.wordpress.com/>
This is a blog run by a trio of Columbia School of Journalism students. They had covered the lives of Burmese refugees in New York for their Masters project, and they now run this blog, which seeks to put out information not just about the disaster but also about the politics behind the aid offers being ignored.

World Wide Help—
<http://worldwidehelp.blogspot.com/>
Last because (disclosure) your columnist is a founder member. WWH is a multinational group modelled after the very successful SEA-EAT (or TsunamiHelp) collablog, which seeks to put out information about aid efforts, and how concerned folks like you and me can offer help, donate, even volunteer.
The information coming out of Burma is still scarce, not surprising considering that the communications infrastructure took quite a beating, but there is some information about NGOs you can support.
After all the reading about the cyclone's effects, your columnist isn't really feeling like dishing out the usual mix of truly sublime nonsense. So here's a couple of reasonably sensible sites to keep you going, until we sink once more to our usual standards.