



ITALY

Report: Pelosi briefly hospitalized in Rome

Pelosi, a former House speaker, had been scheduled to hold talks with Italian officials, but the ANSA news agency said she suffered a minor ailment and underwent tests before being released.



BELGIUM

Divisions strain NATO push

Sharp divisions prevented NATO from adopting a plan on March 21 for military airstrikes against Libya, as Turkish opposition blocked the alliance from approving a strategy.



JAPAN

Police say disaster death toll tops 8,800

Japan's police agency says more than 8,800 people are dead after an earthquake and tsunami. Another 12,600 are missing. Police officials estimate that the final figure will likely exceed 18,000 deaths.

Europe's economy, role in Libya discussed

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

Issues such as the future role of the European economy, the national identities of the member countries, and the current situation in Libya were discussed in a conference sponsored by the Miami-Florida European Union Center of Excellence.

Held at the University's MARC Pavilion on March 10 and 11, consuls addressed the European's role as a global actor, the importance of the euro zone, and the future of the European Union as a global power.

The event included panels featuring faculty and doctorate candidates from various universities, as well as the participation of the consul generals to Miami of Germany, France, Spain and the Netherlands.

A key concern of many Europeans is the future of their national identities, as continental identity has continued to grow over the past decades.

"Common history leads to common economic interactions. It is very hard to

EU, page 2

JAPANESE CAFE



JUAN SATIZABAL/THE BEACON

Kanilina Clerge (right), a junior majoring in psychology, discusses the Japanese Cafe Fundraiser event with Jarrod Knowles, a junior majoring in Information Technology. All of the proceeds will be donated to charity for relief efforts in Japan.

STUDENT GOVERNING COUNCIL

Biscayne Bay candidates mull running unopposed

BECCA GRIESEMER
Staff Writer

Though student government elections aren't until April 5 and 6, the new president and vice president at the Biscayne Bay Campus are, save any unexpected circumstances, already known.

The candidate for president, Denise Halpin, and vice president, Emilio Collyer, are running on a ballot, and have no opponents.

Halpin believes it's best for the student body to have options and to be well educated on candidate's visions, but doesn't deny that running unopposed has its advantages.

"It's obviously easier on us because we don't have to worry, in a sense, as much," Halpin said. "But I'm still passionate that people need to come out and vote for us, because we should still be making an effort for them to know why we're running and making sure their experience at FIU is one they'll always remember."

Collyer said it's just the way things unfolded.

"It's not something for me to decide if it's good or not that we're running uncontested, it's just the way the situation is now," he said. "There's nothing I can do to make someone else run against me, and it doesn't matter if I'm happy about it."

Halpin, a junior stuck deciding between majoring in hospitality, business, or both, started SGA as vice president last year. While she has enjoyed the leadership which has been instilled in her, she admits it can be a lot for a student to take on.

"Obviously some of the extensive hours and the continuous push and effort that get put into things are a little bit tiring at times," Halpin said. "But it's something where you're nonstop working for the University, and it's great."

Collyer, a 20-year-old junior who completed the international baccalaureate diploma program in high school, graduated summa cum laude with 54 college credits.

Although he wants a career corporate event planning, and not in politics, Collyer said he always likes to be involved in leadership positions.

"So right away I came into the [fall] semester and joined student government as the director of lectures; and it's been a wild ride," Collyer said, who was treasurer of his high school's student government and president of the Future Business Leaders of America his senior year.

CANDIDATES, page 8

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Teach-in to discuss catastrophic events unfolding in Japan and future of Japan

GABRIEL ARRARÁS
News Director

The School of International and Public Affairs will host a teach-in on March 23 to discuss the recent tragic events unfolding in Japan, the future of Japan and the lessons to be learned from the catastrophe.

Over 8,649 people across eighteen prefectures have been confirmed dead after a 9.0-magnitude earthquake and ensuing tsunami on March 11, according to Japan's national police.

By noon on Monday, police officials told CNN that they had still not accounted for 13,262 people, half of

which they fear to be dead.

The earthquake and tsunami have also damaged or destroyed over 125,000 buildings, according to police.

As of March 17, 336,521 people in Japan had been displaced from their homes and are currently residing elsewhere, Japan's national public broadcasting organization NHK reported.

This includes those residing in over 2,300 shelters.

The after effects of the earthquake, tsunami and ongoing fears of radiation from a damaged nuclear power plant will all be discussed at the teach-in by

a panel of experts from the University.

Members of the panel include professors Dean Whitman of the Department of Earth and Environment, Joerg Reinhold, from the Department of Physics, Matthew Marr, from the Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies and Richard Olson and Paul Kowert, from the Department of Politics and International Relations, among others.

Olson is a former contractor for the United States Agency for International Development and has done work in the aftermath of disasters such as Hurricane

Mitch in Central America.

Kowert is an expert on Japanese politics and foreign relations who has lived in Japan on several occasions, most recently in Sendai – the epicenter of the 9.0 quake.

The teach-in will take place in the Graham Center Ballrooms at the Modesto Maidique campus from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

It will be moderated by Steven Heine, associate director of SIPA and director of the University's Asian Studies Program.

The teach-in is co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Program, free and open to the public.

WEIRD NEWS

Sammy Hagar claims he was abducted by aliens

Someone page Mulder and Scully: Sammy Hagar says he was abducted by aliens, or at least that they downloaded his brain.

In an interview with mtvhive.com about his new book, *Red: My Uncensored Life in Rock*, the ex-Van Halen frontman said that part of the book where he recounts dreams about UFOs actually happened.

Saying that this might make him “sound like a crazy person,” but “It was real.” “They were plugged into me. It was a download situation ... Or, they uploaded something from my brain, like an experiment.” He went on to talk about seeing a space ship hovering over a field in broad daylight.

‘Zombies ahead,’ warns electronic road sign in SC

A vegetarian passenger aboard a Continental Airlines flight apparently was so disgusted by the meal she was served that she threw her tray at a flight attendant, the New York Post reports.

“She said she was a vegetarian and she didn’t like what she was being served,” an airline official told the newspaper. “So she threw the food tray — and the food — at the attendant.”

The flight last Friday, which originated in the Dominican Republic, was bound for Newark Liberty International Airport. The woman reportedly had ordered a special meal but it was not vegetarian, the newspaper reported.

Port Authority officers met the plane at the gate when it landed in Newark at 3:58 p.m., but the flight attendant declined to press charges.

— Compiled by Nicole Castro

Consul Generals discuss the value of the Euro, continental cooperation

EU, page 1

define the European Union because we are still very proud of our national identities,” said French Consul Gael de Maisonneuve, who has held posts as deputy ambassador in Sri Lanka and second secretary in Tokyo.

The consuls seemed satisfied with the current level of cooperation and producing common decisions between the European Union states.

“Whenever we have a big crisis, [member countries] meet, putting all the issues in the table and figuring out what we all have in common,” explained Maisonneuve, a graduate of Sciences Po Paris and ESSEC Business School.

An example of agreement between the states regarding controversial issues was seen in the past weeks, as France, Germany and the United Kingdom have pressured Gaddafi to renounce office.

“It’s a rare occurrence that a president has to step back. It’s a big success that [the EU leaders] have asked [Gaddafi] to step down,” said German Consul Eva Alexandra Countess Kendeffy, who has been appointed to Miami since August of 2010.

While some countries, such as the United Kingdom and Sweden, still reject the European Union’s common currency, the core of the Euro zone defends its adoption.

“Common history leads to common economic interactions. It is very hard to define the European Union because we are still very proud of our national identities

Gael de Maisonneuve
French Consul

“We do not want the German Mark back in a slightest idea,” mentioned Kendeffy, former German ambassador to the Dominican Republic and first secretary to San Jose, Costa Rica.

Germany grew 3.6 percent in 2010 and its exports grew 22 percent, which not only benefited the Germans but also other European countries.

“When Germany grows, the Netherlands also grows,” explained Dutch Consul Joseph Weterings, who has had ambassador experience in Libya and Zimbabwe.

“We do not see an end to the EU. We see it as growing forever,” said Pilar Mendez Jimenez, deputy consul general of Spain.

Mendez also emphasized the humanitarian aspects of the European Union, such as coordination of medical transplants and evacuations in critical situations.

“During the earthquake disaster in Haiti, Spain evacuated Italian citizens due to the absence of a diplomatic mission,” recalled Jimenez.

A creation of a common foreign service for the EU

was also discussed by the panelists.

“There will be EU embassies, which will coexist with individual embassies. That will benefit those countries that do not have one in a certain country,” Jimenez explained.

Although there are growing regional powers throughout the world, the consuls feel confident about the future of EU as a world power.

“The global impact of the EU will increase in the coming years,” said Weterings.

CORRECTIONS

In Vol. 22, Issue 26 of The Beacon, in the News section, the director of emergency management’s last name was mistakenly spelled Aikens, while the correct spelling is actually Aiken.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our MMC office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

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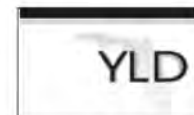
1st Annual “Bridging the Gap” Minority Pre-Law Conference

March 26, 2011 8:30am to 4:30pm

In its efforts to promote better access to the legal profession, The Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors hosts this one-day event with the goal of increasing the number of minority applicants to Florida law schools.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend workshops, play an active role in a mock class, and hear from legal professionals as well as law school admissions administrators. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for participants.

R.S.V.P for this event using the online “Bridging the Gap” link at <http://law.fiu.edu> or by e-mail: lawadmit@fiu.edu.



11200 SW 8th Street, Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall, Miami, FL 33199

BASEBALL

RIVALRY REVISITED

FIU drops two of three at Florida Atlantic

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

After taking the first game of the series, the Golden Panthers dropped the next two games against Florida Atlantic in the opening series of Sun Belt conference play.

FAU 13, FIU 3

The Golden Panthers dropped the final game of the series, 13-3 to the Owls on March 20 as senior righty Danny DeSimone picked up his second loss of the season, allowing five earned runs on six hits in three innings of play. FAU's R.J. Alvarez (2-1) gained the win, giving up three runs on 10 hits in 6.2 innings.

The Golden Panthers (13-8, SBC 1-2) grinded out 12 hits. Garrett Wittels, Jeremy Patton and Rudy Flores each got two. Wittels, Flores and Mike Martinez drove in the Golden Panthers' three runs.

Martinez put FIU on the board with an RBI single, scoring Pablo Bermudez from second. The Owls (13-8, SBC 1-2) would even the score at 1 on an Alex Hudak RBI single. Dan Sheffler pushed the lead up with a three-run home run to give FAU a 4-1 lead. Mark Nelson would then hit a homerun of his own for the fifth run for FAU. The Owls would apply pressure on the Golden Panthers by putting up a



CHRISTINE CAPOZZIELLO/UNIVERSITY PRESS

Jabari Henry [above] dashes for first during a three-game series against rival Florida Atlantic to open up conference play for the Golden Panthers.

run in the fourth, four in the fifth, and one in the sixth to give the FAU an 11-1 lead. The Golden Panthers started a rally in the seventh when Wittels had an RBI single with the bases loaded to start chipping away at the FAU lead.

FIU would cut the lead to 11-3

off a Flores RBI single. The Owls would tack on two more in the eighth to bring the game to a 13-3 final in eight.

FAU 4, FIU 2

A ninth-inning rally wasn't enough for FIU, as they fell in the

second game of the series to the FAU Owls, 4-2, on March 19.

Junior lefty R.J. Fondon gave up three home runs, giving up four earned runs on eight hits in 6.1

BASEBALL, page 4

This year's team has noticeable differences

It seems like the blaring spotlight of ESPN cameras and the curious and prying eyes of media outlets ranging from Local 10 News to the Washington Post are nothing more than a distant memory.

As soon as they arrived, they were gone.

And just as quickly, things returned to normalcy for the Golden Panthers baseball team after Garrett Wittels' streak came to a screeching halt on opening night, falling just short of making collegiate baseball history.

Now just over month later, the crowds have dwindled and the focus is once again on baseball. And the Golden Panthers have

COMMENTARY



JOEL DELGADO

ANALYSIS, page 4

TENNIS

Golden Panthers continue dominance at home

BRANDON WISE
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers, ranked No. 61 in the nation, pulled off a sweep against Sun Belt conference foe South Alabama on March 18.

The Golden Panthers have won eight games in a row and are still unbeaten against Sun Belt opponents. They have also won nine straight home matches this year.

The Golden Panthers got it going early with a quick sweep in the doubles competition.

Seniors Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley overpowered Katie Welch and Alina Volman in an 8-1 victory. This was their fourth win as a duo in as many matches.

Christine Serendi and Giulietta Boha then clinched the doubles point when they defeated the team of Chane Hines and Jess Court-nell in convincing fashion, 8-1. The team of Lisa Johnson and Rita Maisak also picked a victory with a win of 8-2 over Bridgette Gale and Julia Ivanova.

In the singles portion, Brito, who is ranked No. 81 nationally, kept her

winning streak alive due to Katie Welch retiring due to injury.

Brito's singles winning streak is now up to eight consecutive matches, with 11 wins on the season.

Boha then picked up the third point of the afternoon with her win in straight sets over Ivanova (6-0, 6-0).

The match was then clinched by Spenceley when she defeated Court-nell in straight sets (6-0, 6-1). It was also Spenceley's eighth consecutive victory.

Maisak defeated Gale in straight sets (6-1, 6-1). Then Lisa Johnson had a hard fought three set victory over Alina Volman (7-6, (7-4), 2-6, 10-5). Serendi also picked up a straight set victory (6-3, 6-2).

SENIORS LEADING THE WAY

Seniors Liset Brito and Maria Spenceley have led the Golden Panthers to their longest winning streak of the season, eight, by continuing their strong play.

Both of the players have been the most consistent on the team,



MEGAN KELLEY/THE BEACON

Liset Brito [front] continued her strong play against South Alabama as the Golden Panthers won their eight straight.

TENNIS, page 4

Pitching staff has emerged as a bright spot for FIU this year

ANALYSIS, page 3

managed to enter conference play on solid footing.

But there have been notable differences between this year's squad and the one that brought home the Sun Belt Conference crown last summer.

And with plenty of baseball left to play, it will be interesting to see whether or not these changes will hurt or help their chances by the time the Golden Panthers pack up their bags for Monroe, La. in May for the conference tourney.

THE GOOD

When Kyle Fitzpatrick hurled the first no-hitter for the Golden Panthers since Jimmy Carter was president, it became abundantly clear that this pitching staff had taken a turn for the better.

Fitzpatrick is one of several newcomers who have helped raise the level of play from the pitching staff, which faltered late last season under the grueling summer heat and staunch offensive firepower during the Coral Gables regional.

Phil Haig and Logan Dodds have also helped bolster the Golden Panthers on the mound with Haig emerging as the ace of the rotation, striking out a team-high 27 strikeouts and have a 3-0 record so far

this season in five starts. Dodds has also been valuable as a hybrid pitcher, coming in for long relief and midweek starts.

But the major story has been the turnaround of the bullpen headlined by lights-out closer Bryam Garcia, who has been nearly unhittable this season. In nine appearances, he has an unblemished earned run average and has three saves.

As of Mar. 21, the Golden Panthers have the third lowest team earned run average, which stands at 3.37. Fans have been treated to a number of stellar performances from this staff that has given the Golden Panthers much more consistency than the past few years.

If the pitching can continue to perform at a high level for the remainder of the season, it provides many more opportunities for this team to win on a regular basis.

The problem may come with executing at the plate.

THE BAD

What was the ultimate strength for FIU last season and what helped lift them into a regional appearance was their potent offense, which ended the season as the top offense in the Sun Belt.

This season the numbers and run

production have taken a step backward, ranking in the middle of the pack among Sun Belt opponents.

The offensive production is still there and they are still capable of causing damage.

One of the upsides is that this team is now one of the fastest in the conference with outfielders Pablo Bermudez and Joel Capote tearing up the base paths, combining for 16 stolen bases. The team leads the conference with 31 stolen bases, which creates a number of scoring chances for the Golden Panthers.

Bermudez has proven to be an offensive juggernaut for FIU with a .446 batting average and has scored a team-high 23 times this season.

But some of the major disappointments have come from Jabari Henry and Rudy Flores.

The sophomore duo has severely underperformed after showing signs of great promise in their freshman seasons.

Having them turn their seasons around would help make a world of difference for this lineup thirsty for consistency up and down the order.

THE UGLY

But one of the major glares for this team has been on the diamond, where errors and mistakes have



CHRISTINE CAPPOZZIELLO/UNIVERSITY PRESS

Tyler James Shantz [above] at the plate for FIU against Florida Atlantic.

proven to be costly on a number of different occasions.

The team has committed a conference-high 39 errors so far this season and has the lowest fielding percentage in the conference.

The infield has particularly struggled, with the normal infield starters committing 24 of those errors this season.

Most of those mistakes have ended up leading to potentially dangerous situations for FIU.

Sometimes those are the mistakes that mark the difference between winning and losing.

Defense is a critical component in this team's success, and it needs to shore up if the team is going to beat high-caliber opponents.

Garcia earns third save of season

BASEBALL page 3

innings while striking out seven batters. Rudy Flores led the Panthers at the plate with two hits while Jeremy Patton and Garrett Wittels each chipped in an RBI in the loss. The Golden Panthers took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Pablo Bermudez led the game off with a double, and then Wittels drove him in from third.

The Owls responded in the bottom half of the inning when Andy Mee hit his fourth home run of the season to tie the game up at 1-1. Raymond Chpruch gave the Owls a 2-1 lead with a solo shot in the bottom of the third. FAU took a 4-1 lead in the bottom of the

sixth when Dan Sheffler hit an opposite-field two run home run off of Fondon.

The Golden Panthers would score a run in the top of the eighth on a sacrifice fly to score Jose Behar, and cut the Owl lead to 4-2. It was not enough as FAU starter Paul Davis shut the door in the ninth for a complete-game victory.

FIU 9, FAU 7

The FIU baseball team opened up Sun Belt Conference play against rival Florida Atlantic with a 9-7 victory on March 18.

Phil Haig pitched 6.1 innings, giving up five runs on seven hits while striking out four batters for his third

victory of the season. The team combined for three home runs against the Owls with Mike Martinez, Jabari Henry and Tyler James Shantz all going over the fence in Boca Raton.

Flores got the Panthers on the board first with an RBI groundout scoring Bermudez from third, in the top of the first inning. The cleanup hitter, Martinez, would then drive in Patton from third to make the score 2-0.

The Owls answered with four runs in the bottom half of the first.

FIU tied the game in the top of the fourth on an RBI single by Patton to score Bermudez. Henry gave the Panthers the lead when he hit a home run to put FIU up 5-4

in the top of the fifth.

Garrett Wittels made it a 6-4 game with a double to score Jose Behar. Flores would then drive in Wittels from second on an infield single.

Shantz added to the FIU lead in the seventh with a solo shot, putting the Panthers on top, 8-4. The Owls would climb back into the game in the seventh, putting up three runs to cut the lead to 8-7.

Martinez would give FIU a little breathing room in the eighth, drilling a pitch for his third home run of the season to put the Panthers up 9-7.

FIU closer Bryam Garcia would set the Owls down in order in the ninth to secure the victory and earn his third save of the season.

Long break gives FIU needed rest

TENNIS, page 3

each winning their last eight matches. While other players on the team have had their struggles, Brito and Spenceley have shown leadership and a will to win, which has spread throughout the team and sparked this win streak. They hope to continue this play in the coming weeks in preparation for the Conference Tournament.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Golden Panthers will now have some much needed time off.

After having played five matches in the past two weeks, including a trip out to Fresno, CA and a team fundraiser, the team now has over a week to prepare for one of their upcoming opponents, Florida Gulf Coast University.

The Panthers will host the Eagles on March 30 at 1 p.m.

With only three matches remaining on the schedule prior to the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, this time is crucial to the team's confidence and focus as they look to make a deep run in the tournament.

SOFTBALL

Tough schedule continues with doubleheader vs. Baylor

MALCOLM SHIELDS Staff Writer

At this point of the season, the Golden Panthers have grown accustomed to difficult road match-ups. This week will be another test as the Golden Panthers head to Waco, Texas to face-off against No. 15 Baylor in a doubleheader on March 24.

TOUGH SCHEDULE

The Golden Panthers have played 24 games against teams outside of the Sun Belt Conference compiling a 12-12 record against such teams. Thursday will also be the third time that FIU will face a ranked opponent

this season.

The Golden Panthers are 2-1 vs. ranked teams with wins over Georgia Tech twice, and a loss to Ohio State.

After last Wednesday's win over Middle Tennessee, coach Beth Torina spoke about the early difficult schedule.

"Our schedule has been tough and this week will be a good test for us," Torina said. "I hope as we get into conference play and we face [teams] that are more like us, we will be able to go out and win [games]."

STREAKING ALONG

FIU is on a four-game winning streak after their sweep of MTSU.

Kayla Burri went 4-for-8 in the series versus MTSU and is on a six-game hitting streak. She's currently batting over .300 for the season. Ashley McClain leads the Golden Panthers in all major offensive categories. She has a .405 batting average with a .734 slugging percentage.

Jenn Gniadek and Mariah Dawson continue to be a solid one-two punch on the hill for FIU. Both have combined for 145 total strikeouts and both are holding opposing batters under .265 for the season. Gniadek and Dawson must pitch well to keep the Golden Panthers in both games.

SCOUTING THE BEARS

The Bears enter Thursday's game against FIU with a 24-4 record. Whitney Canion anchors their pitching staff with a 12-3 record and an impressive ERA of 0.70. Opposing teams are hitting .166 as she also leads the Bears in strikeouts with 131. Canion can also swing the bat as well as pitch. She has a .357 batting average.

Pitchers Liz Paul and Courtney Repka round out Baylor's staff. Both have an ERA under two runs per outing. Paul and Repka have opposing batting averages of .195 and .224 respectively.

Offensively the Bears have six hitters with an average over .300.

Dani Leal leads the Bears with seven homeruns, 17 runs batted in and a .750 slugging percentage. Holly Holl's .373 average leads the Bears lineup.

COMMON FOES

Baylor has played against two teams that the Golden Panthers have also played against this season, New Mexico and Illinois. The Bears defeated the Fighting Illini twice and swept the Lobos in a three-game series last month. The Bears outscored Illinois and New Mexico by 21-5 over five games. On the other hand, the Golden Panthers went 0-3 against both teams.

STUDENT PROGRAMMING COUNCIL

Illusionist with humble beginnings returns

ALFREDO APARICIO
 Staff Writer

The power of the mind is astounding. It has managed to capture the attention of many around the world, none more than mentalist and illusionist, Wayne Hoffman, who will once again come to the University to wow the crowd.

Before he was a well-known trickster, Hoffman was a simple kid growing up with his parents in a small town in Pennsylvania. Even at a young age, the force of magic called to him and he was lucky enough to have his parents behind him every step of the way.

“Both of my parents support my career decisions and have been my biggest fans,” said Hoffman. “I got started when they gave me a

magic set for Christmas.”

That magic set was only the beginning for Hoffman. Having a magic shop right in his hometown continued to fuel his love for magic. He went to the shop every day and hung out with other magicians and spoke to them about magic and tricks.

All of his time at the magic shop culminated in being hired to work there, a job he held only for a short time. He went on to study psychology in college and took an interest in the science of the mind.

“I started introducing mentalism into my shows gradually, but now the mental experiments have almost completely taken over my show,” said Hoffman. “I just like the idea of being able to mess with a person’s mind

without using any props.”

Hoffman has taken his shows to a lot of schools all over the nation, too many to keep track of, and has been performing for almost ten years, but never forgets his humble beginnings reading listeners’ minds over the phone at radio stations.

“I have always been a big advocate of promotion,” says Hoffman, “I believe you can be the best in the world at something but if nobody knows you, it won’t make much of an impact.”

Hoffman, however, has managed to impact many with his cutting-edge shows that are far from the conventional magic show. “I like using the term illusionist as opposed to magi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.HOFFMANMAGIC.COM

Wayne Hoffman’s “Mind Candy” is not your typical magic show, it is a highly interactive presentation that displays mind control, predictions, visual illusions and even time travel.

MAGIC, page 6

IN STITCHES

Junior proves style is for everyone with trendy choices

FASHION STATS

Who is she?

- Name: Blair Williams
- Major: Sports and Fitness Studies
- Year: Junior

What’s she wearing?

- Shirt: H&M
- Jeans: Levi’s
- Shoes: Urban Outfitters
- Watch: Michael Kors

In a sea of boring denim and athletic gear, junior Blair Williams stands out from most of the male population at the university.

A true believer in men’s fashion, Williams chooses items for his closet that are trendy yet suit his preppy aesthetic.

He stocks his wardrobe with skinny jeans, t-shirts and funky sunglasses.

This doesn’t stop him from admiring high fashion, but Williams sticks to “what feels and looks great to me.

“Sometimes that means being low-key and less ‘avant-garde’.”

Williams, who is studying sports and fitness studies, finds inspiration all over. “I look at magazines and blogs for guidance, but

I don’t think of fashion as something to follow like laws.”

“When it comes to fashion, I think some men, especially in South Florida, wear too much. [Sometimes] they wear flashy shirts, embellished belts, and jewelry. I think in most cases, it’s more chic to be casual.”

With the approach of summer, Williams is excited to spend more time outdoors.

“I have these swimming trunks with flamingos printed on them,” he said. “They’re very unique.”

Choosing items like printed swimming trunks offers a chance for Williams to be less serious.

Uncommon picks like colorful sneakers or a funky hat can offer men a respite



ESRA ERDOGAN/THE BEACON

from what can become uniform-like dressing.

Williams definitely makes those choices by adding accessories to the mix.

His bright watch is eye-

catching but neutral enough to go with most types of clothing.

He is also almost never without a pair of sunglasses, an inexpensive way to polish off an outfit.

“One’s fashion sense should never fit into what is considered normal, otherwise it wouldn’t be you,” says Williams.

Here is living proof that being male doesn’t tie you

down to a lifetime of tired button-downs and khakis.

In Stitches is a bi-weekly column on campus fashion. Look for it every other Wednesday.

POP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

The Strokes' new album falls short of original debut

For whatever reason, The Strokes never took for me. Their debut, *Is This It*, came out when I was 13 and perfectly positioned for them to take over my little pop-punk addled mind.

Oh sure, I distinctly remember having "Last Night" on a mix CD that I made one time when I was in ninth grade, but they never got to me the way they got to some.

In fact, I could probably count the number of times I listened to *Is This It* all the way through on one hand. I was pretty much disinterested in them.

Over the years, I've certainly grown to appreciate The Strokes; I can totally envision an alternate universe in which 13 year old me goes nuts for them and they set me on a different musical path.

However, in the realm

I currently occupy, the cries of "The Strokes are back!" that accompanied the release of *Angles*, their fourth studio album, on March 22, haven't quite swept me up.

Even as I've grown to appreciate their music more and more (and I do really, really like their first two albums now) they aren't the type of band that creates a massive amount of anticipation for me, especially not when I see that 5 years off have led to a scant 34 minute running time on

their new CD.

And that's probably a good thing for my overall enjoyment of the album.

It might be better than their previous effort, 2006's *Last Impressions of Earth*, but it can't reach the highs of their first two.

Angles is supposed to be a "return to the basics" by the band, and in many ways it is.

The songs are largely in the same vein of tight, danceable guitar-pop tunes that marked them at first as the anti-establishment answer to the sludgy num-metal of the early part of this decade.

But something isn't quite right. Maybe the crystal clear production takes away some of the charm from the rough around the edges, faux-vintage sound of their best early stuff.

Maybe the reportedly acrimonious recording sessions (because every album needs a story line) led to a band that wasn't

on the same musical page throughout.

Or maybe the songs just aren't as well written.

Maybe it's unfair to compare everything they do to their early work. Those first few albums were the product of a time and place and more than a little bit of hype.

But it's also impossible to say anything about this album outside of the context of the first two albums.

The best songs on this album, such as "Under Cover of Darkness," which builds on overlaid guitars and a big chorus, or "Gratification," which rips off "The Boys Are Back In Town," evoke their earlier work, but would be considered among the weakest tracks on either of their first two albums.

It's not a poor album; it just suffers from the weight of its own expectations. If I was a bigger fan of the band, I could see myself

being pretty disappointed by this album. It's more of the same, but not as good.

But if you remove yourself from the expectations, you find you still have a pretty enjoyable little album.

There aren't a ton of glaring weaknesses here.

Maybe it slows down a bit too much for a band that doesn't do slow well, but the whole thing is pretty good throughout.

But it's not *Is This It* good, you know?

The inevitable conclusion when a band "returns to basics" and has a big comeback is to reflect on where they came from. You can't just remove that work from their canon; it has to be taken in that context.

And it is in that context where *Angles*' ultimately cannot succeed.

Pop and Circumstance is a bi-weekly column on all things music. Look for it every other Wednesday.

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2011

GSS FILM SERIES FEATURING WAL-MART: THE HIGH COST OF



WHEN: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC GC 314

JAPAN IN CRISIS: AN FIU TEACH-IN

WHEN: 11 a.m.
WHERE: MMC GC Ballrooms

PREPARING SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES FOR A GREEN ENERGY FUTURE

WHEN: 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC MARC Pavilion

FEDERALIST SOCIETY AND AMERICAN CONSITUTION SOCIETY PRESENT:

Debate on Constitutional Interpretation
WHEN: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
WHERE: MMC RDB 1000

SPC : MAYHEM POETS



WHEN: 4 p.m.
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

MULTIFAITH EVENT

WHEN: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
WHERE: BBC Panther Square

BEGINNER'S SUNSET YOGA



WHEN: 5-6p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Organic garden

AESTHETICS AND VALUES 2011 RECEPTION

WHEN: 9-10 p.m.
WHERE: Frost Art Museum

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2011

SOA LECTURE SERIES: ROBERT GONZALEZ



WHEN: 5-6:15 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC PCA 135

TECHNICAL POSTER PRESENTATION COMPETITION

WHEN: 10 a.m.-12 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: MMC Engineering Center (hallway, Mechanical and Materials Engineering Department)

SPC COMMUNITY CINEMA: PUSHING THE ELEPHANT



WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC Theater

4TH ANNUAL CHRIS GRAY MEMORIAL LECTURE

WHEN: 4-6 p.m.
WHERE: MMC GL 220

RAINBOW CAFE

WHEN: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
WHERE: BBC WUC 245

WORKING WITH QUALITICS

WHEN: 1-3 p.m.
WHERE: MMC DM 140

INTERMEDIATE MOONLIGHT YOGA



WHEN: 6:30-7:45 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: The garden

If you are interested in having an event featured in the calendar, contact: calendar@fiusm.com

Magic show "Mind Candy" hosted by SPC

MAGIC, page 5

cian because it gives a better idea of what my show is all about, plus magician invokes images of rabbits and top hats and that's not what my show is about."

His shows have only

grown in popularity and excitement, a feeling Hoffman can't get enough of. He has decided if he were to ever lose the initial feeling of excitement, it would be time to retire.

"I used to get nervous before my shows," said Hoffman. "Now I just get excited because I know what's about to happen but the audience has no clue."

Hoffman enjoys the feeling of seeing people in the audience smile and have a good time and has continued to enjoy his experience as an illusionist. "I've had the chance to travel the world doing something that I enjoy. Overall my experience has been awesome."

Hoffman plans to bring his show to the small screen by creating his own TV show in the near future as well as continuing to travel the world.

He has also launched his own entertainment company, Hoffman Entertainment, which repre-

sents a large variety of talents as well as encouraging budding magicians to follow their mind and make their dreams come true.

"I've been doing presentations as a motivational speaker for corporate events and colleges," said Hoffman. His presentation, "The Power and Potential of the Human Mind," shows people how to take any dream or vision, like wanting to be a magician, and turn it into reality. "If I did it, anyone can," he said.

Hoffman will again grace the stage at FIU in the upcoming SPC Wayne Hoffman Show this upcoming Wednesday, Mar. 23. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show starts at 6:00 p.m. It promises to blow your mind. Admission is free with valid student ID.

"I always love the crowds at FIU," said Hoffman. "They are always ready to get involved and have a good time."

FIU EARTH WEEK



April 4th - 9th

For more information, visit GoGreen.FIU.edu or email GoGreen@fiu.edu



WAYNE HOFFMAN SHOW

Mental Magic Show

- Time: 5:30 p.m.
- When: 03/23/11
- Where: GC Ballrooms
- Admission is free with valid student ID

THE POLITICK

Support of terrorism while fighting it is hypocritical

Terrorism, both domestic and foreign-based, is evil. There is no black and white, no shades of gray and no standard for leniency.



COLUMNIST

IVAN FLORES

The use of violence to pursue political power is wrong and unjustifiable-unless, of course, you are white, Christian, speak English and, most importantly, do not target Americans. At least that is the attitude that New York Representative Peter King has espoused.

King's demands that Muslim Americans must not only be law-abiding, but actively fighting domestic terror threats, is outlandish. King's assertion that each community must police its own is unreasonable.

King, a supporter of the Irish Republican Army, a terrorist organization that has claimed many lives, is chairman of the House

Homeland Security Committee and has convened a series of hearings on radicalization on the Muslim American community. According to King, Muslim Americans are not doing enough to combat the rising threat of domestic terrorism.

Apparently, King has not seen a recent study done by Charles Kurzman, a sociology professor at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, which found that Muslim Americans are the single biggest source of information on potential terror threats.

What King has not addressed is the fact that he is an active supporter of the IRA. He was once thrown out of an IRA murder trial after a judge in Belfast called him an "obvious collaborator." He has even gone as far as to pledge his "support those brave men and women who this very moment are carrying forth the struggle."

King has also been quoted as saying he would not morally blame the IRA if civilians are killed in an

attacks on military installations. Of course, this is as long as they are not American civilians.

The only difference between Muslim extremists and the IRA, besides race, color, tongue and religion, is – nothing. Both kill civilians and both use force to attempt to gain political power.

King openly supports an organization that aimed to overthrow Northern Ireland by use of force, bombings and sniping campaigns. Interestingly, arms were supplied to the IRA by the ever pragmatic and charming Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya.

It is estimated that the IRA killed over 600 civilians. However, the general public is clearly "misinformed" if they believe that the IRA is a terrorist organization, even though both the American and the British government have it listed as one.

The fact that King openly supports one terrorist organization and targets an entire community of Americans with sweeping



The only difference between Muslim extremists and the IRA, besides race, color, tongue and religion, is – nothing. Both kill civilians and both use force to attempt to gain political power.

generalizations is a testament to his bigotry and hypocrisy. With his bias and less than reputable past, King should not be the one spearheading the modern day witch hunt that are his hearings.

While the threat of domestic terrorism has always loomed over the heads of the American people, the Unabomber and Timothy McVeigh come to mind, not to mention the more than 20 other terror plots that were carried out by non-Muslims in 2010. There have not been any Congressional

hearings on why Mexican Americans have yet to end the drug war, or on why Russian Americans have yet to get rid of organized crime.

Remember, though, it is perfectly acceptable to be a terrorist or supporter as long as you are white, Christian, speak English and do not target Americans as is the case with the IRA and Representative King.

The Politick is a political opinion column. Look for it every other Wednesday.

Quality television a modern rarity

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer

There is a plague in the media today, and its primary target is the wholesomeness of cable television.

The quality of cable TV content has been on a steady decline in the new millennium and shows no signs of stopping. The incentive for profit has become the dominant factor in the creative process of television programs. As a result, the palette of cable programming today primarily consist of hastily-made reality shows, most of which involve the exploitation of regular people from different demographics in order to make a quick buck.

In terms of shows geared towards younger audiences, they consist of little more than cheap slapstick humor that do little to educate or encourage the development of the children they pander to. Television is generally a forum for entertainment, but if entertainment comes at the expense of constructive informing, then we have a problem.

Broadcast television mostly revolves around core channels such as FOX and ABC. The content on broadcast television has remained consistent over the last few years. Thankfully, according to Nielsen Ratings, the top 10 most watched television shows include gems such as "Glee" and "The Big Bang Theory," which contain both positive and intelligent messages and are produced with high quality in mind. On the other hand, cable television consists of the outlying channels, some of which fall under the

premium cable umbrella, which requires extra costs for availability.

This is the primary area where quality is falling. According to Nielsen Ratings, the number one viewed program is "Jersey Shore," a show that showcases the chronic alcoholic and promiscuous habits of a group of airheads. Needless to say, the difference between broadcast and cable television is troubling.

As a child of the 1990s, I have come to appreciate what was available to me on television as a child. It was, at least to me, the golden age of children's programming. The two major networks, Nickelodeon and Disney, had shows that not only entertained me but in hindsight provided me with valuable lessons that I can now use as a functioning adult.

Shows like "Rugrats" and "Bill Nye the Science Guy," to name a few, were full of social commentary and knowledge that are completely applicable to me. Today, however, children are watching shows such as "Spongebob Squarepants," which do nothing to provide anything conducive to intellectual growth and instead rely on a few cheap laughs.

The poor quality of cable television content transcends the limits of different demographics. Nearly every targeted demographic is exposed to large amounts of low-quality programming. The best way to observe this decrease in quality is through analyzing the development of Music Television, the channel that currently hosts "Jersey Shore."

MTV originated as a showcase for musical talent, with programs airing

music videos, interviewing artists, and delivering news related to the music industry. Today, music could not be less associated with MTV. Much of its programming now consists of depraved reality shows like "Teen Mom," a show that follows the lives of young women who have found themselves raising a child before the age of eighteen. MTV usually takes over where Nickelodeon and Disney left off as a child grows, and it does not seem like it is getting better.

The reality show has found its way into most other cable networks, even networks that primarily served to educate. Take Animal Planet for example. In its glory days, it promoted the likes of Steve Irwin as figureheads for natural preservation and wildlife education.

Today, Animal Planet's main attractions include following animal police officers throughout the ghettos of various cities or watching people comically mistreat their pets. Equivalent to these programs are The Learning Channel's "Jon and Kate Plus 8" and Bravo's numerous "Housewives" series. All offer nothing more than cheap entertainment.

If quality and substance cease to matter with network producers, the effect will nevertheless trickle down to viewers. Entertainment, especially with such a sensitive area as television, is a positive feedback loop: what we want is what we get. If audiences refuse to take the tripe from our television screens without a grain of salt, our entertainment will be limited to mind-numbing programming that slowly eats away at our brain cells.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student audience fails to show proper theater etiquette

To the editor:

I recently attended a performance of "Pride and Prejudice", put on by the Theater Department at FIU. The play was excellent. The audience, however, was problematic.

Several patrons showed up late for the play, some as much as a half-hour late, and many of these late arrivals acted as if the play had not yet started, judging by the noise they made while finding their seats. Throughout the first act the actors had to compete with a crying baby. Apparently the parents felt that having to hear over the cries of their child was not an inconvenience to the other theatergoers.

The low point occurred near the end of the second act, at the play's climax, when the cell phone of a patron in the first row went off. For over a minute the actors had to try to be heard over the loud ringtone of the phone. They were clearly bothered, though to their credit they soldiered on as best they could.

Dozens of faculty and students in the Theater Department put quite a bit of effort in the plays that are performed every semester. Students and faculty should take advantage of the opportunity to see these plays, which are entertaining and reasonably priced. Hopefully the next time I attend a play at FIU the audience will match the high standards set by the actors and crew.

-Dr. Jeff Joens

Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

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Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts in (550 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com, or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major and year.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters (550 words maximum) regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com



CHILE

Bomb causes minor damage at US institute

Police say a small bomb exploded and broke some windows at a U.S. cultural institute hours ahead of President Barack Obama's arrival. No one was injured in the attack, which happened in Vina del Mar.



HAITI

Wyclef says bullet grazed hand in capital

Wyclef Jean said a bullet grazed his hand as he stepped out of a car to make a cellphone call, but he said he was only slightly injured. Jean said the bullet grazed him late on the night of March 19.



VENEZUELA

Chavez condemns Libya airstrikes as 'madness'

President Hugo Chavez condemned what he called "indiscriminate bombing" by the U.S. and its allies in Libya, saying on March 20 the assault is unjustified and will only unleash more bloodshed.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Candidates share similar platforms

JONATHAN SZYDLO
Staff Writer

With the upcoming student government election campaigns kicking off on March 30, the College of Arts and Sciences has three Senatorial seats up for contention. Looking to fill, two of the three seats, are Daniel Usma, a junior international relations and psychology double major, and Farah Yamini, a junior philosophy major.

Although both Usma and Yamini have different educational and experience backgrounds, they both share similar concerns as to what issues need to be tackled as representatives of the College of Arts and Sciences' student body, which is reflected in both candidates' respective platforms.

The recurring theme of both candidate platforms addresses the issue of the student body's awareness as to who their representatives are and what these elected officials are doing for the students.

"I want to improve the communication between the student body and their representatives," said Yamini. "[By improving communication], I can help create the proverbial college experience, which is something beautiful and the reason why I wanted to go to college."

Yamini's platform outlines a two-prong approach in order to improve the mentioned channels of communication. Through an initiative she has titled 'Food For Your Thought,' in which students are provided with the incentive of free food as a means of generating feedback through questionnaires on SGA legislation, programs, and services.

Yamini also looks to collaborate with senators from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication in order to have journalism students attend senate

meetings on a weekly or bi-weekly basis as a means of increasing The Beacon's involvement in covering the activities of the Student Government Council at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

Usma, who currently holds an arts and sciences senate seat on SGC-BBC, is all too familiar with the need for improved communication and awareness between SGA and the student body.

"One of the biggest problems we have here at BBC is, not only do we lack representation, but the little representation we do have, students don't really know who [their representatives] are," said Usma.

Getting students to be more aware of who their SGA representatives are is one of the initiatives Usma highlights within his platform. As a means of increasing awareness, Usma would like to get in contact with professors throughout BBC so SGA members can go from class to class, within their respective colleges, and introduce themselves to students they represent as a part of a prospective "SGA Week."

For students to also put the names of their representatives with a face, Usma would like to have a display made showcasing council members' pictures and positions.

With an increase of awareness amongst the student body towards SGA, Usma hopes a more aware student body will become more involved within SGA and help solve the problem of vacant senate seats, an issue that has been prevalent at BBC.

"Because of the number of vacant senate seats, [SGA] is tied with what we can and cannot do... this causes a

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



LUIS ROCA/THE BEACON

Chefs from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management at the Biscayne Bay Campus show their appreciation to students who helped at during the South Beach Wine and Food Festival which took place from Feb. 24 to 27.

lot of the same council members to serve on multiple committees and it puts a lot of work and strain on the senators. The more senators we have, the bigger the council we have, the more we will be able to do for students," explained Usma.

At time of print, Usma and Yamini are currently running unopposed for two of the three available CAS senate seats, leaving the third seat vacant.

Being students of CAS, both candidates are well aware of the lack of CAS courses offered at BBC. Although they both admit it may be a little ambitious, they look to meet with members of the college's administration and present student feedback, which was generated through both of the candidates' respective programs, as a unified voice in favor of increasing courses offered at BBC.

With aspirations of pursuing law school, and eventually becoming a public servant, Yamini sees the upcoming SGA elections as a stepping-stone for things to come.

As a student, Yamini has had a strong dedication

towards academics, in which she has been awarded, and maintained, 100 percent Bright Futures Scholarship and the Presidential Scholarship. She looks to apply that same level of dedication towards her involvement, and introduction, to SGA.

"I've always been very committed to my academics and didn't want to make a commitment that I couldn't fully devote myself to. Now that I have a good handle of my academics I can [full heartedly] make the commitment," said Yamini.

Usma, on the other hand, is no stranger to student involvement at the University. As a current CAS senator at BBC, Usma sits on both the Finance Committee and the Rules and Regulations Committee, positions that he was appointed to this in January.

Usma is also currently a peer advisor, through which he has seen firsthand the need for SGA members to be readily available to their constituency, and has influenced him into spearheading an initiative to create an SGA-student mentor program that he hopes to have up and running by the Spring 2012 semester.

Halpin, Collyer's personalities 'balance each other out'

CANDIDATES, page 1

The wild ride Collyer refers to is the implementation of a preplanned and well-advertised way of presenting lectures at BBC that he came up with, as opposed to the sporadic events of previous semesters. With his direction, the lecture committee advertised the complete 'Lecture Series' during the first week of the spring semester.

"I think we did a really good job having three very diverse speakers: a LGBT, a hip-hop performer, and an oceanographer, which appeals to almost everyone in the student body, especially BBC," Collyer said.

Regarding the current state of

the councils, Collyer is positive, while Halpin is more realistic.

"I don't really see anything majorly wrong with the way the council is going," Collyer said. "We're really effective in doing all the projects we set out to do, and we've been able to get our name out there more so the student body knows who student government is and what we can do for them."

Halpin said there is always room for improvement and laid out three issues she will tackle as president: recruitment of council positions, improving SGA members' knowledge of current university and state government issues, and encouraging more communication with the Modesto Maidique

Campus.

Collyer, who is majoring in hospitality with a public relations minor, said just because he was in the cabinet and not the senate doesn't automatically disqualify him from being a qualified candidate.

"I get my stuff done, and that's the important thing: you have to be responsible. Because if you want to represent someone, how can you do something for someone else if you don't do what's good for you?" Collyer said. "I think I'm able to take on this position as vice president without sacrificing my academic achievements, or excellence, but also being able to better the Biscayne Bay Campus."

Halpin agreed, and said Collyer

at least has the perspective of being on council.

"I started from scratch and I'm not going to lie to you, it was a very difficult process," she said. "It was a little tricky because I didn't really have proper training into my position, so I had to kind of figure it out."

The two decided to run on a ballot together because they have always had a good working relationship, and Collyer said because their personalities balance each other out, they can be effective in power next year.

"She's more calm, I'm more hyper. Moneywise, I'm very generous and she holds me back a little," Collyer said. "When it

comes to ideas, I'm the one who is like 'Woo!' and throws stuff in the air, starts making the idea huge, and she's the one who kind of brings it back to reality and grounds it into a firm idea."

Halpin said she has full faith that Collyer will produce in the position, because along with doing a great job as director of lectures, he is a good person students respond well to.

"He's a very quirky, like, goofy one at times, and I try to keep it professional a lot of the times, but outside of student government I'm pretty hyper," Halpin said. "I'm just like anyone else, in all honesty, I really am. I'm just trying to make a difference for our students."