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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 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 disassociate power plant will all be destroyed over 125,000,

Countries and the future of the European Union as a global power.

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

JAPANESE CAFE

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.

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, Emily 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, 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.
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 Unconscionable 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 into 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 — and the food — at the flight attendant.

"She said she was a vegetarian and she didn’t like what 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

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.

EU, page 1

define the European Union because we are still very proud of our national identi- ties,” said French Consul Gael de Maisonneuve, who has held posts as deputy ambassador in Sri Lanka and second secretary in Tokyo. The consul seemed satisfied with the current level of cooperation and producing common deci- sions between the Euro- pean Union states.

Whenever we have a big crisis, [member coun- tries] meet, putting all issues in the table and figuring out what we have in common,” explained Maisonneuve, a graduate of Sciences Po Paris and ESSEC Business School. An example of agree- ment 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 Kendefy, who has been appointed to Miami since August of 2010.

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

“Do we not want the German Mark back in a slightest idea,” mentioned Kendefy, former German ambassador to the Dominic- an 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 coordina- tion of medical transplants and evacuations in critical situations.

“During the earthquake disaster in Haiti, Spain evacuated Italian citi- zens 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 exist in 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 the EU as a world power.

“The global impact of the EU will increase in the coming years,” said Weterings.
FIU drops two of three at Florida Atlantic

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 5.2 innings.

The Golden Panthers (13-8, SBC 1-2) evened up with Florida Atlantic University (13-8, SBC 1-2) would even the score at 1-0 in Alex Hudak’s RBI single. Dan Sheffler pushed the lead up with a three-run home run to give FAU a 4-1 lead. By Nelson 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 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 runs on eight hits in 6.2 innings.

**FAU 13, FIU 3**

Now just over month later, the crowds have dwindled and the focus is once again on baseball. And the Golden Panthers have continued their strong play in conference play for the Golden Panthers.

**RIVALRY REVISITED**

RICO ALBARRACIN
Asst. Sports Director

FAU Owls, 4-2, on March 19.

And the Golden Panthers have 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 continued their strong play.

**This year’s team has noticeable differences**

Joel Delgado
Sports Director

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 continued their strong play.

**RIVALRY REVISITED**

FIU drops two of three at Florida Atlantic

**BRANDON WISE**
Staff Writer

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 Chase Hines and Jess Court- nell in convincing fashion, 8-1. The team of Lisa Johnson and Rita Maisak also picked up 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, 6-0). 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, 7-6, 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, continuing their strong play.

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

The Golden Panthers (13-8, SBC 1-2) grinded out 12 hits.

The Golden Panthers continue dominance at home
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 noticeable differences between this year’s squad and the one that brought home the Sun Belt Conference championship.
- With plenty of baseball left to play, it will be interesting to see whether or not these changes will help or hurt their chances.

**TOUGH SCHEDULE CONTINUES WITH DOUBLEHEADER VS. BAYLOR**

- The Golden Panthers have played 24 games against teams outside of the Sun Belt Conference, compiling a 12-2 record against such teams.
- Thursday will also be the third time that FIU will face a ranked opponent.

**BASEBALL page 3**

- 6 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 Panthers took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning.
- Phil Haig and Logan Dodds 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.

**SOFTBALL**

- Garcia earns third save of season

- Tyler James Shantz [above] at the plate for FIU against Florida Atlantic.
- Garcia has been nearly unhittable, striking out a team-high 27 strikeouts.
- The senior has 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.

**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.

**THE UGLY**

- The offense has been a glaring weakness for the Golden Panthers this season.
- 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.

**Malcolm Shields**

- Staff Writer

At this point of the season, the Golden Panthers have grown accustomed to difficult road match-ups.

**TENNIS, page 3**

- Each winning their last eight matches. While other players on the team have had their struggles, Brito and Spencey have shown leadership and a will to win, which has spread throughout the team and sparked this win streak.

**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 won 6-3 against both teams.
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-

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.

IN STITCHES
Junior proves style is for everyone with trendy choices

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.

Williams definitely makes those choices by adding accessories to the mix from what can become uniform-like dressing.

“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.
**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 me. I was much more interested in them over the years, especially when I saw them 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 come to appreciate their music more and more (and I do really, really like their first two albums) these aren’t the type of band that creates a massive amount of anticipation for me, especially not when I see that 5 years off period 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 albums. 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, but it can’t reach the highs of 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.

The album needs a storyline (because every album needs a storyline) 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.

The songs are largely in the same vein of tight, danceable guitar-pop tunes that marked them at first, but it can’t reach the highs of 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.

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 first three albums. Maybe the reportedly astringent recording sessions (because every album needs one) have lost the initial feeling of excitement, it would be time to retire.

“My idea is 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 represents a large variety of artists, as well as encouraging budding magicians to follow their mind and make their dreams come true.

“I’ve been doing presenations 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 FLU,” said Hoffman. “They are always ready to get involved and have a good time.”

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**WAYNE HOFFMAN SHOW**

**Mental Magic Show**

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Where:** GC Ballrooms

**Admission:** free with valid student ID
Support of terrorism while fighting it is hypocritical

There is a plague in the media today, and its primary target is the wholesome-ness of cable television. The quality of cable TV content has decreased since the 1990s. There have been steady declines in the quality of programming, making it worse now than it was in the past. The poor quality of cable television has made it increasingly unappealing to viewers. It is what we get. If audiences refuse to provide anything conducive to intellectual growth, and reasonably priced. Hopefully the next time I go to see a play, my experience will be better.
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.

CANDIDATES, page 1

Halpin, Collyer’s personalities ‘balance each other out’

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 has advertised the complete ‘Lecture Series’ during the first week of the spring semester.

“Halpin and I got a 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 Pierce College.

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 find 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.”