3-27-2011

The Beacon, March 23, 2011

Florida International University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/student_newspaper/618

This work is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections and University Archives at FIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon) by an authorized administrator of FIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact dcc@fiu.edu.
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.

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 imagine a future without the European Union," said Becca Griesemer, Staff Writer.

"The future of the European Union as an actor, the importance of the euro zone, and the future of the European Union as a global power, are current issues that are discussed at the teach-in by the students," said Griesemer.

EU, page 2

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.

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, stated 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
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 envhive.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 my brain, like an experiment." He went on to talk about seeing a 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.

"She said she was a vegetarian and she didn’t like what she was being served," an airline official told the New York Post reports.

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

"We do not want the German Mark back in a slightest idea," mentioned Kendeoffy, 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 the EU as a world power.

"The global impact of the EU will increase in the coming years," said Weterings.
**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 sophomore 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) dropped their second consecutive game. The Owls (15-8, SBC 1-2) would even the score at 1 on an Alex Hudak RBI single. Dan Sheffer 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 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 innings.

**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 returned to normalcy for the Golden Panthers.

And just as they arrived, they were gone. And just as quickly, things returned to normalcy for the Golden Panthers.

And just as they arrived, they were gone. And just as quickly, things returned to normalcy for the Golden Panthers.

**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 Boga then clinched the doubles point when they defeated the team of Chanie 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.

Boga 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, 7-6, 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.

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.

Now just over month later, the crowds have dwindled and the focus is once again on baseball. And the Golden Panthers have returned to normalcy for the Golden Panthers.
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 in 2009.

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

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 strike-outs 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 opposition.

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 a 12-12 record against such teams. The 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.

But some of the major disappointments have come from Jeremy 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. While errors and mistakes have 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.

### 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 and tied the game up at 1-1. Raymond Bermudez gave the Owls a 2- 1 lead in the top of the third inning and then Wittels drove him in from third.

The Owls answered with four runs in the bottom half of the first. FU tied the game in the top of the fourth on an RBI single by Pablo Bermudez. Rudy Flores gave the Owls 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 another run in the sixth, putting the Panthers up 8-4. The Owls would now have a little breathing room in the eighth, driving a pitch for his third home run of the season to spark 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 much needed time off.

Garcia earns third save of season

### TOUGH SCHEDULE continues with doubleheader vs. Baylor

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 hit the road to head west to 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 Oklahoma 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 Buri went 4-for-8 in the series versus MTSU and is on a six-game hitting streak. She’s currently batting .300 for the season. Ashley McClain leads the Golden Panthers in all major offensive categories. She has a .405 batting average with a .734 on base 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 .255 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.

Duni Leal leads the Bears with seven home runs, 17 runs batted in and a .750 slugging percentage. Holly Hall’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 won 0-3 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 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 magician,” says Hoffman.

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.

Junior proves style is for everyone with trendy choices

ESRA ERDOGAN
COLUMNIST

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,” he said.

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 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.

“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.
In fact, I could probably count the number of times I listened to It’s 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 nu-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 swept me up.

I’ve certainly enjoyed the album, which repre-

sents a large variety of talent, as well as encour-

aging budding magicians to follow their mind and make their dreams come true.

“I’ve been doing presen-

tions as a motivational speaker for corporate events and colleges,” said Hoffman. His presentation, “The Power and Poten-
tial 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.”
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.
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 with 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 outright McCarthy. These terror threats each community must police in its own unreasonable.

The former 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.

Apparantly, 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 most wealthy group 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 so far as to say his “support those brave men and women who this very moment are carrying the cross for the IRA.”

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

The poor quality of cable television is troubling.
The best way to observe this decrease in quality is through analyzing the developmental demographic is exposed to large amounts of low-quality programming.

When I was a child of the 80’s, 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 developmental programming 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’s show, 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 trip 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.

Quality television a modern rarity

PAOLO RAMOS
Staff Writer

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 been on a steady decline in the new millennium and shows no signs of stopping. The incentive for profit has become the top priority. The creative process of television programs.

As a result, the palette of cable programming today primarily consists 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 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 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 provide quality, intelligent messages and are produced with high quality in mind. On the other hand, cable television consists of the outgoing channels, some of which fall under the premium cable umbrella, which requires extra costs for availability.

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 80’s, 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 developmental programming 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’s show, 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 trip 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.
Bomb causes minor damage at U.S. 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.

Halpin, Collyer’s personalities ‘balance each other’

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 incentives 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, is 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 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, so 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 [fully 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 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’

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.

Philippe Buteau/Photo Editor

Contact Us
Philippe Buteau
BBC Managing Editor
phillippe.buteau@fi usm.com

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

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

“At first, it seemed like 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 if laid out three issues she would 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 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 ‘Wow!’ 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, really am. I’m just trying to make a difference for our students.”