Young heroes break veteran mold
Soldiers discuss life changes after serving country

EVELYN DIAZ
Contributing Writer

Every year, the soldiers respected for their patriotic sacrifices on Veteran’s Day become younger and younger. As are the cases of Cadet Italia Tanase and Cadet Michael Boyle; both full-time students at FIU and young veterans in the Iraq war. As veterans, Tanase and Boyle have learned to live their lives among the very people they protected while on duty. Tanase served five years of active duty in Iraq and is now a FIU student majoring in psychology. While on active duty, Tanase enrolled as a part-time student on eArmyU.com to keep up with her higher learning. eArmyU has 28 regionally recognized colleges and universities, which offer 145 certificate and degree programs. The program allows soldiers to receive credits, degrees and certificates at a low or no cost while on active duty. Dealing with basic training and the other obstacles soldiers encounter, Tanase admits that it has changed her, as it does most soldiers.

Christophere Neece, Production Manager

Aleana Alberti, a senior majoring in marketing, is up for the Latin Grammy for Best New Artist after the release of her first, self-titled album. Despite her busy schedule, Alberti found time to sit with The Beacon to discuss her life-changes, nominations and future.

Q: How did your parents influence you? A: My parents were musicians. I would hear them singing in the house all the time. I would be the only child in the house hearing them playing and singing.

Q: When did you get into music? It wasn’t until college that I actually began to take music seriously. I knew I wanted to graduate with my marketing degree, but I knew I wasn’t going to be happy when I left so I decided to take singing lessons. From there, I went to the studio where I started working with a producer and we started writing. We came up with like 30 or 40 songs and from there we chose the 10 we produced for the album. From then on it’s been non-stop promotion for the album.

Q: What was your main inspiration for your album? A lot of things, from relationships to other people’s experiences. My first single is about my aunt going through her divorce. It’s mostly personal experiences. I just feel that these songs mean more. People are going to know that you went through that experience. When people open the album and read the lyrics, they’re always interested. If you were a particular song why I’m sad or happy. It keeps people interested, knowing that it could possibly happen to you.

Q: Which artists in particular have influenced your music? In Spanish music, I listened a lot to Mana and mostly a lot of rock Anglo and Spanish influences. My music has a great deal of Anglo and Spanish influences. In Spanish music, I listened to The Cure, Coldplay, U2, 311 ... When I was young I loved Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera. So I have a little bit of everything. I have the rock side and the R&B side.

Q: Were you surprised when you heard that you received the Grammy nomination? Of course, I mean I knew that nominations were coming out and everybody was hopeful. I think I was the only one who was of the mindset that if I get it, that’s cool. If not, I’ll continue with my career. But then the minute I got nominated I realized that my life was going to change. Interviews started pouring in and I got new opportunities for different shows; people calling all of a sudden who want to work with me. It really has been like an open door for me even since I got nominated. This was my first album and I’m signed to an indie label and I don’t have the kind of backing other artists do. There are other artists who are signed to major labels that back them up and pretty much make it a lot easier for them because they use all the resources that come with the label.
The FIU Judaic Studies Program and Latin American and Caribbean Center will host a symposium of the Latin American Jewry Series titled “Searching for Home in Argentina and Israel: On History and Identity Among Jewish-Argentines and Argentine-Israelis.”

The event will take place Nov. 14 in the Green Library, room 220, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Raanan Rein, vice rector and professor of Latin American and Spanish history at Tel Aviv University, will discuss the various characteristics of American and Spanish history at Tel Aviv University. The event will be open to the public.

For the complete story on Veterans Day, visit www.beaconnewspaper.com
PIANO MAN

MUSIC TO MY EARS: Jose Lopez play works by Copland, Korggold and Alkan Nos. 6 at the Weihem Performing Arts Center.

Center greets new, heralded director

XAVIER E. MARTINEZ
Staff Writer

Cristina Eguizábal joined FIU as its new director of the Latin American and Caribbean Center.

Eguizábal, who has over three decades of experience working within international relations, is LACC’s third director in its 28-year history at FIU. The former FIU national professor has dedicated most of her life to the study, teaching and funding of Latin American and U.S. relations.

LACC is a very prestigious center. It has very high visibility and is well-regarded among the Latin American academic community,” Eguizábal said, who has been a program officer at the Ford Foundation for the past 10 years.

The Ford Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization created to fund projects that reduce poverty and promote international understanding.

“I think LACC’s prestige comes from their public policy and turn toward society and business,” Hakim said.

Eguizábal said, “At the Ford Foundation, I was in charge of administering a portfolio that gave grants of up to $1 million a year for projects geared toward improving Latin American and U.S. relations. As program officer, she provided funding for institutions like FIU’s Cuban Research Center and the Inter-American Dialogue.

She also helped create the Centro de Estudios y Programas Inter-Americanos (Center of Inter-American Studies and Programs), an international relations fellowship program, at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (Mexico Autonomous Institute of Technology).

Despite her many accomplishments with the Ford Foundation, her former colleagues admit her talents may be better spent in academia rather than philanthropy.

“This is a very good place to be for her career. In an academic atmosphere, she’ll really be able to apply her analytic and writing skills,” said Peter Hakim, president of Inter-American Dialogue, Washington D.C.’s premier think tank on Latin American affairs.

He’s known Eguizábal for over 15 years and says he’s had many long conversations discussing ways to improve diplomatic relations.

“She has a great sensitivity toward the people and politics of the region because she was raised in it,” Hakim said.

Her plans for LACC include developing student or faculty exchange programs and joint courses with universities in Brazil and Mexico, Latin America’s two largest countries. She also wants to initiate more cross-regional work within FIU by linking and collaborating LACC with the Asian and European studies.

She wants to examine issues that can be looked at through the prism of different regions such as trade and violence.

According to Eguizábal, due to growing globalization trends there needs to be a worldwide attitude in how academics study the region.

“It’s important to understand how Latin Americans view the rest of the world because everything works globally now,” Eguizábal said.

SGA-UP questions council’s structure, effectiveness

Patricia Maldonado/The Beacon

The current vice president for Student Affairs, and University Ombudsman, Larry Lunsford, said if the current council would go to Rosa Jones, the only Board of Trustees member and the other a Board of Director’s member, “Meyer said.

According to Meyer, this year’s councils have worked together better than past councils.

Lunsford was serving as the director of student activities—which encompassed his role as SGA’s advisor—when University President Modesto A. Maidique, in a letter sent to the North Miami campus.

The constitution would provide equal representation for both campuses, giving the North Miami campus more voice than it has received in the past. University-wide issues would be reviewed by the University council and, in the case of campus-specific issues, the respective campus’ council may act alone and cannot be overridden.

There have been two SGCs since.

Lunsford said if the current proposed evaluation concluded that there should only be one student governing body then we are now, that’s the only way to succeed, so that’s why we’re looking into it,” Meyer said.

Lunsford agreed.

“It’s hard to speak with one voice if you have two voices that don’t agree. All in all, it boils down to what’s best for the student body,” he said.


It proposed two separate but equal SGCs, one for UP and one for what was then called the North Miami campus.

Each council would have 20 members and the Broward campus would be represented by one member of the North Miami Council.

The constitution would provide equal representation for both campuses, giving the North Miami campus more voice than it has received in the past. University-wide issues would be reviewed by the University council and, in the case of campus-specific issues, the respective campus’ council may act alone and cannot be overridden.

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Bay cleanup: a family affair

Catherine Kaiman
Staff Writer

The Biscayne Bay is used to recruit prospective students to the Biscayne Bay Campus, which is why more than 80 people helped to clean it during the Day at the Bay event.

“When the Student Government Association sighted the bay and saw the trash and dirt, we knew that something had to be done,” said Cassandra Andrade, vice president of the Student Government Council at BBC.

Day at the Bay was held Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the bay behind BBC’s Hospitality Management building. More than 80 students, student clubs, faculty and local high school students attended the event while discovering where the bay is located on campus.

Day at the Bay was a collaborative effort among the Student Organizations Council, Student Programming Council and SGC-BBC.

Baynanza, the Miami-Dade organization that cleans different areas of Biscayne Bay annually, donated T-shirts, garbage bags and bottled water for the event.

After a few hours of cleaning trash on the shore of the bay, many played frisbee and football while enjoying the natural surroundings of the campus. Free kayak rides were also provided to participants, courtesy of the BBC Recreation Department.

David Fonseca, environmental affairs and community relations coordinator, had planned Day at the Bay since the beginning of the semester.

“It was a University-wide goal to bring awareness about the environment and recycling programs,” Fonseca said. “This is one of the few SGA events ever to be held on a Saturday and the fact that we got so many people to show up at 9 a.m. is terrific.”

Some BBC faculty and staff brought their families to the event in order to teach them about the importance of the environment.

Karen Baer, accountant for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, regularly jogged with her husband and children around the bay and picked up trash along its shore. She said she was glad to help maintain the grounds of the campus.

“We like to come here with our kids and we want to see our campus be beautiful,” Baer said. “We want to encourage the student population to recycle because we keep finding bottles.”

Many participants of Day at the Bay offered suggestions for FIU to become more environmentally friendly.

“At our new gym, we should not have the lights on in the aerobics room when no one is in there. We should have some type of motion sensor lights to save energy,” Sarah Hammill, distance learning librarian at the BBC Library, said.

Recycling was a concern that many students expressed.

“Half the stuff we found on the bay was just bottles and bottles, we really need recycling bins on campus that are labeled clearly,” Shanell Middleton, a political science major, said.

Jason Geller, a journalism major, said he participated in the cleanup because after living in BBC’s Bay Vista residential hall for four years, he noticed the excess trash around the bay. However, Geller does not believe that participation will make much of a difference.

“It’s sad to say, but this is really pointless, even though it is a nice idea, the water is so polluted that everything is going to come back and wash ashore again. [We] really can’t make much of a difference, with huge landfills and poor waste management, you could be driving a Hummer and not be affecting the environment as much because if governmental policies aren’t changed, nothing can really be changed,” Geller said.

Angela Thomas, special events director for SGC-BBC, was pleased with the event’s turnout and enjoyed spending the day outdoors.

“I think we had a great response, people are really excited about cleaning because it’s our school. I personally enjoy it here because it’s nice to sit by the bay and it’s nice for it not to be filthy and to be clean,” Thomas said.
BASKETBALL PREVIEW

WOMEN, page 8

Women look to win Sun Belt with new contributors

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

The women’s basketball team has undergone a lot of changes since last season, losing previous starters. This year’s team is a lot younger and less experienced, but is fairly deep and will look to challenge for a Sun Belt Conference Championship and a birth in the NCAA Tournament in March.

This season’s schedule is laden with talented opponents like Florida State, DePaul, Middle Tennessee State and Miami. The players are ready to face elite opponents this season.

“It’s a tough schedule, but we have a lot of people to pass the ball to and they will put it in the basket.”

Red-shirt senior guard Asha Neal will start her fifth season with the women’s basketball team this year. Neal will lead to success on the court. “I think it makes me better prepared. I think it makes me better prepared. I got a lot of people to pass the ball to and they will put it in the basket.”

As soon as a disappoin

As soon as a disappointment 12-17 campaign came to an end last season, the men’s basketball team was already feeling optimistic about this year’s potential. Coach Sergio Rouco is back at the helm this year with a young squad that is ready to shock everybody but itself.

POINT GUARD

Once again, the 5-foot-9, lightening quick Mike James should secure the starting point guard spot. After playing passive early in the season last year, James came along late in the season and wreaked havoc on the opposition. With more weapons than ever before, his modest 2.89 assists per game should get even more use this season. The man look ahead of him in the rotation this season, look for White to showcase the offensive ability that makes him so coveted.

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound guard made his mark as a lethal outside shooter with Texas A&M last season. With no Acie Law IV ahead of him in the lineup this season, look for White to showcase the offensive ability that makes him so coveted. White has a good mid-range jumper, but his athleticism and fearlessness adds to his appeal. With a saturated point guard slot, look for hometown favorite Tremayne Russell to see time at the two spot. The crafty freshman averaged 20 points per game in his senior year at South Dade High School and can fill it up from all over the court.

SMALL FORWARD

In his senior year, Johven Villegas was arguably the most consistent member of the Golden Panthers last season. The man looking to fill that void at the two spot is a very capable Kenneth White.

Although he is listed as a guard, senior Chris Fuller fits well at the small forward position. The 6-foot-5, 209-pound lefty has a tireless work...
Energetic point guard sparks women’s team

MAKING THE PASS

Andrew Juan Contributing Writer

It happened one December day last year, 17 points and eight assists, while she wore a pair of knee-high black socks. Point guard Iva Ciglar had her highest assist total in a game in which she led her team to a convincing win.

The 5-foot-7 junior, finished the season averaging 9.3 assists per game, which led the Sun Belt Conference and was 18th in the nation.

Nearly 14 months later, Ciglar is concerned with only one thing — winning.

“What gets me going, man, is that I hate to lose," said Ciglar, who also earned third team All Sun Belt Conference honors.

The acknowledgement from the conference of her accomplishments is of only marginal importance to Ciglar, who has evolved into one of the real talents in the Sun Belt.

“I hate to lose, and I like being someone my younger teammates can look up to,” she said.

Being a leader, however, isn’t just about getting teammates fired up. Sometimes, it’s doing the little things that give the team the edge and help prepare them for the game.

“If you don’t go hard in practice, you’re going to lose," Ciglar said. “And how you practice is how you play the game.”

As a child, Ciglar was around practice opportunities to get better, whether it’s going over film at her spare time, or getting in extra shooting after practice, which she does at least three days a week.

Over the past 12 years, basketball has become such a key part of Ciglar’s life that it’s hard to imagine not playing it.

“I remember running around the gym all the time," she said. “We played with a man’s ball and I was six or seven years old. I tried to start, but my dad realized I was too small.”

It wasn’t for another few years that Ciglar got her chance to finally play organized ball.

“I finally got started when I was 10, when I could finally shoot the ball,” she said.

She stresses how her basketball career would not be possible without the most beloved people in her life.

“Without family, I wouldn’t be here where I am right now without their support,” Ciglar said.

“This has been really hard for me to be away from my family for so long.”

Tearing an ACL, being named to the 2001 European Championship Bronze medalist from Vilka Gorica, in North-Central Croatia, and she now has, arguably, the finest distributor in the Sun Belt Conference.

It is from home that Ciglar draws her biggest inspiration, her father, who doubled as her first coach.

“My host family helped me out a lot," she said. “Me and J.R. just clicked from the beginning, we always played against each other in a lot of one-on-one sessions.”

In addition to Smith’s family filling a void, the large Hispanic community in Newark provided some comfort to Galindo.

“First, you’re nice to see and have people you can relate to,” she said. “It made me feel like I was back home.”

After Attending St. Benedict Prep for two years, he attended the University of Kansas from 2004-05, but he opted to transfer to FIU where he would play more minutes and play under coach Sergio Roma, whom he met when he was 16 years old.

“I wanted to show coach my abilities and I felt comfortable playing for him," Galindo said. “I was raised like that.”

Sacramento to victory against the United States and tribulations he placed on his home country and family to drive to play at a higher level in the world to go to school is a short drive to play at a higher level in the United States and the man who provided him with family as an impressionable teenager.

“I think he’s the captain of the team because of how he talks to people,” Soto said. “Even when somebody messes up, he doesn’t yell, he just tells them how to get better.”

As Galindo leads the Golden Panthers throughout the 2007-08 season, he wants to some day be able to play against the man who drove Puerto Rico past the United States and the man who provided him with family as an impressionable teenager.

“Galindo didn’t make the team, but he fell the pre-selection with tools he is using this upcoming season. But he will try out again this upcoming summer.

During the off-season, he evaluated his strengths and weaknesses and worked diligently to improve his jump shot, quickness and defense.

His dream is to emulate his childhood idol, Scottie Pippen, because of Pippen's overall game.

“I want to be able to do everything a player," Galindo said.

The 2007-08 season will be Galindo’s second full season playing for FIU. With the additions of big men Roul Heik and Badara Sall, Galindo expects his teammates to improve vastly.

He also expects to be the leader of this season’s squad, with some teammates looking up to him because he comes from a big time college program.

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Newfound height has men standing above conference

Bosilj’s standout game was against North Florida when she scored 23 points on 9-for-15 shooting, with three shots from behind the arc. Sophomore forward Elisa Carey could be a candidate for this year’s most improved player. Carey is one of the tallest players on the team and an excellent rebounder.

Last year as a freshman, Carey averaged 1.4 points and 1.4 rebounds per game in 16 games. However, this year a great improvement is expected as she scored 11 points and grabbed 16 rebounds against Barry in an exhibition game. This season’s team is also equipped with a very strong incoming freshman class. Maja Krajacic is a 6-4 center and comes in as the tallest player on the team.

So far Krajacic has really impressed her teammates and the coaching staff with her size and skill in the paint. Fanni Hutlassa comes to the team from Hungary as the tallest player on the roster.

Hutlassa was a part of five national championships, a two-time MVP and a 3-point shooting champion. Tabitha Drake is a local product out of Bayside High School. Drake was a two-time first team Miami Herald All-Dade selection in high school when she averaged a double-double with 12.5 points and 14.5 rebounds per game.

FIU may have lost 2005-06 First-Team All-Sun Belt Conference center Lasma Jekabsone to graduation, but her little sister Liene Jekabsone joins the squad this season.

The younger Jekabsone was an accomplished player in Europe and was a part of Latvia’s championship team four times. Together, the two big men should turn this year’s team into a force to be reckoned with.

Sophomore guard Monika Bosilj played in all of FIU’s games last season as a freshman and averaged 5.1 points per game.
Join us for International Education Week!

“FIU celebrates its middle name! International Education Week lasts all year long at Florida International University. But we turn it up a notch November 13th-16th when we showcase all the great ways you can connect to International at FIU. This week FIU offers you a global passport--without leaving campus!”

International Student & Scholar Services Presents...
A Week of Events Promoting Global Understanding
Through International Education & Cultural Exchange

University Park Campus
•International Career & Education Lecture: How to work & study abroad
  November 14th, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, GC314
•International Student Forum: International Students Speak of Their Experience in the U.S.
  November 14th, 5:00pm – 7:00pm, GC140
•Operation Christmas Child Collection Drive
  All Week, GC355
•“Bollywood Night” Come enjoy Indian food, music, activities and more; Lakeview North Lounge, November 16th, 6:00pm

Biscayne Bay Campus
International Education Week “A Showcase of Cultures”
– Performances, Job Search Strategies Workshop, Documentaries, Cultural Displays & FREE FOOD
  November 13-16, 2007, 10 am – 2 pm, Wolfe University Center

For more information or a full listing of events at University Park campus & Biscayne Bay campus please visit:
http://isss.fiu.edu or email: isss@fiu.edu

Where in the world can your career take you?
Join us for the Annual OEA Study Abroad Fair
Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 10am - 3pm
University Park Campus – Graham Center

Learn about the variety of study abroad opportunities and meet directors of FIU faculty-led summer programs.
Check the OEA web site for more information. http://educationabroad.fiu.edu or call (305)348-1913.

Are you interested in an international career?
Do you want to link your academic coursework to real world work experience?
International Studies—International Careers Expo 2007

November 14th- Biscayne Bay
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
3000 NE 151st Street
North Miami, FL 33181
Wolfe University Center (WUC 244)

November 13th- University Park
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
11200 S.W 8th Street
Miami, Fl. 33199
Graham Center Ballroom

For more information call; 305-348-6561 or visit: http://isic.fiu.edu
Students: Registration is free, but avoid the lines and register online!
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Athletics partnership fiscally responsible, will save student money in long run

The Beacon has misrepresented the issue of the Student Government Association/Athletics partnership using it as a cornerstone for a personal attack on those working diligently for the betterment of the University.

The lack of factual information listed in the article, along with the misrepresentation of the essence of the proposal that benefit the student body, has framed an argument that is unfair.

I was completely surprised to read that there have been events throughout the month of October celebrating Hispanic Heritage, with there has been no effort from the Student Programming Council to properly promote these events. I have not seen any events that showcase the eclectic richness of the Hispanic culture.

They really missed the target this year. In past years, Hispanic Heritage events have been unavoidable.

It is impossible to miss the music, food and student interaction on campus. It’s hard to believe there has all been that this year.

Another thing I found ridiculous is what Michelle Oria, vice president of external affairs for SGC-UP said. “When most people think of Hispanic Heritage they think of Cinco de Mayo.” Who exactly considers Hispanic Heritage to only encompass the celebration of Mexico’s independence?

The only event I saw promoted was their dinner and a movie – which I saw posters for on the day of the event. The event took place on the same night as, “A Night For Molly,” which is a fund-raising dinner for a FIU student who was struck by a drunk driver.

It’s incredibly irresponsible of them to plan an event that offered free food on the same night as an event that was offering students dinner in exchange for monetary donations. The dinner and a movie should have been held on a different night as to not conflict with the philanthropic event. It’s just not right.

The point is, regardless of the claim that events have been held throughout the month of October, students have not noticed and have been unaffected by this year’s ‘festivities.’

If there have been Hispanic Heritage events and no one is around to notice or participate, has the culture been represented properly? The answer is no.

Gabriel Rodriguez
Junior
Business Major

Motives behind proposal unclear

At the University of Florida, each student pays $28.50 in fees for their Athletics program, according to a Dec. 22, 2006 Miami Herald article; UF has never won three national championships in the past three years.

University of Miami students pay $26 in fees for their Athletics department, and they have won several championships throughout their storied history.

Each FIU student pays $184.90 in Athletics fees, and unlike those departments, our Athletics department is best known for being unknown.

In a proposal labeled “The Partnership,” the Student Government Council at University Park is pushing for a deal that would give $90,000 on a skybox that, no matter how you look at it or raffle the tickets, can only benefit a maximum of 120 students.

By adding some previously free items to a $90,000 proposal, Athletics and SGC-UP can make it seem like a better value. This tactic is reminiscent of a late night infomercial, trying to entice you to buy a certain product by including several other products as added bonuses.

Most of the time, however, those add-ons are worthless and nothing more than a cheap salesploy. In this case, Athletics was so generous that they even knocked off one easy payment of $30,000.

The fact that students have to pay for the use of public facilities and their fees and taxes dollars paid for is preposterous. Yet what ultimately makes this move by Athletics so outrageous is the fact that, according to Robert Frye, director of Recreation Services, the department has yet to pay for the use of several facilities operated by Student Affairs, such as the racquetball courts, the BBC Aquatic and the intramural sports field for football practice.

It seems as if the only people who would benefit from this proposal are a handful of students and the Athletics department.

It bears noting that the most vocal advocate of this proposal on the council is its vice president, Arthur “AJ” Meyer who, interestingly enough used to work for the Athletics department as a marketing coordinator. When asked if he thought this was a conflict of interest, Meyer said: “It may be a conflict of too much love for different entities of the University.”

In a year when budgets are being cut and departments are struggling to simply fulfill their obligations to students, one has to wonder why Athletics is receiving such special treatment.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should SGC-UP use student funds to enter a partnership with Athletics?

- Yes – I think the partnership would allow student organizations to use Athletics’ venues for special events and their own needs.
- No – There’s a budget cut and money should be spent on improving cash-strapped departments. Not all students are going to benefit from the partnership.

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

November 8, 2007
www.beaconnewspaper.com

The Beacon - 10

SFC’s Hispanic Heritage events fall short

After reading the article “Events raise cultural awareness, interest,” I was moved to express my opinion regarding the issue of Hispanic Heritage Celebration at FIU this year, particularly that at University Park.

I was completely surprised to read that there have been events throughout the month of October celebrating Hispanic Heritage, with there has been no effort from the Student Programming Council to properly promote these events. I have not seen any events that showcase the eclectic richness of the Hispanic culture.

They really missed the target this year. In past years, Hispanic Heritage events have been unavoidable.

It is impossible to miss the music, food and student interaction on campus. It’s hard to believe there has all been that this year.

Another thing I found ridiculous is what Michelle Oria, vice president of external affairs for SGC-UP said. “When most people think of Hispanic Heritage they think of Cinco de Mayo.” Who exactly considers Hispanic Heritage to only encompass the celebration of Mexico’s independence?

The only event I saw promoted was their dinner and a movie – which I saw posters for on the day of the event. The event took place on the same night as, “A Night For Molly,” which is a fund-raising dinner for a FIU student who was struck by a drunk driver.

It’s incredibly irresponsible of them to plan an event that offered free food on the same night as an event that was offering students dinner in exchange for monetary donations. The dinner and a movie should have been held on a different night as to not conflict with the philanthropic event. It’s just not right.

The point is, regardless of the claim that events have been held throughout the month of October, students have not noticed and have been unaffected by this year’s ‘festivities.’

If there have been Hispanic Heritage events and no one is around to notice or participate, has the culture been represented properly? The answer is no.

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Food options abound at night

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A well balanced diet includes three meals a day, yet sometimes three meals are not enough. With midterms and late study sessions in the library, hunger can often kick in. A night out on the town can be exhilarating, but when the music stops, hunger and perhaps a little dehydration can set in.

These times call for what recent fast food advertisements for a certain taco outlet have dubbed “The fourth meal.” Long after the party goes off, everything is no shortage of options to choose from; you just have to get a burger or hot dogs while listening to DJ-type house music. The restaurant is located in a strip mall, but don’t let that fool you; the inside décor consists of club lights and a dance floor.

“I always go to Los Perros after a night out,” said student Rodger Moreno. “It’s awesome. I’ve never had their food sober, but when you’re drunk, everything tastes great.” If the club scene isn’t for you Los Verdes is another great Colombian hot dog stop, right off Coral Way and 133rd Ave.

Hot dogs are served with a special sauce, potato sticks and a small quail egg to top it off. You’ll leave there full and happy like Lakeview housing resident Brianna Clark.

“The hot dogs are to die for; thinking about them makes me want one right now,” she said.

So if it’s 3 a.m. and you feel lazy and hungry but don’t feel like making the drive then Latin American Cafeteria is a great choice for late night dining. It’s convenient location on 107th and Coral Way makes it easy for students to grab a Cuban sandwich,ropa vieja,pan con bistec,media noche, or just a cup of café con leche to get you through some late night studying.

The 24-hour Starlight Diner, located off of Kendall Drive and 124th Ave. serves the late-night college crowd traditional meals including such as eggs, hash browns and pancakes along with staples like burgers and sandwiches throughout the night. The diner gives a fifties vibe and is fully stocked with a working jukebox. It also offers a full bar and fun activities such as karaoke on weeknights.

“I love the milkshakes at the Starlight Diner, said sophomore Katie Paige. “I’ll go there after a late night of studying with some friends and hang out and usually eat something light like a grilled cheese [sandwich].”

It is possible to become sick of the generic tacos from Taco Bell and ridiculous late-night lines. Roberto’s Taco Shop, on Kendall Drive and 107th Ave., alleviates this problem. The taco shop is open 24 hours and offers made-to-order tostadas, enchiladas, chimichangas, quesadillas, burritos, tortas and tacos. Frosty Mexican beverages such as the cinnamon-almond-rice blend horchata, tamarind nectar and the hibiscus-flower derivative Jamaica are the perfect thirst-quenchers.

Breakfast includes a variety of breakfast burritos and combo plates that feature rice, tortillas and beans; making for a tasty and filling first meal.

“The taco’s at [Roberto’s] are so much better than Taco Bell,” said Taylor Prochnow, a political science major. “They have real Mexican food and its all fresh and made right in front of you — my favorites are the chicken burritos and the enchiladas.”

So if it’s 3 a.m. and you just have to get a burger or some chimichangas, there is no shortage of options to choose from; you just have to know where to look.
Air guitar grows from fan ritual to competitive sport

“Air guitar is like dancing, in a sense. You are playing along with a song, but it’s also a way of pretending you are that person,” said sophomore Mike Costa.

At its most basic, air guitar is literally a form of mime. Merriam-Webster Dictionary dates the term to 1982, and describes it as “an imaginary guitar that one pretends to play.”

Along with Jung, who describes his style as aggressive, some of the other more well known competitors in the US Air Guitar Championships, which is held annually in New York City and for which there is a $1,000 grand prize, include Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure, which features two slackers whose prowess at air guitar exceeded their own abilities in their band Wild Stallions, and which would eventually become a symbol for a George Carlin led society based on their music.

The idea of air guitar has even spawned an overwhelmingly popular video game series called Guitar Hero, which lets the player take control of a guitar shaped controller and attempt to win over a crowd by “playing” along to a song by hitting the correct buttons to correspond with the notes in the song.

“It is similar to the progression from something like a pet rock to a Tamagatchi,” said freshman Stephanie Rodriguez.

While it may not be considered a legitimate art form, it is hard to deny the influence air guitar has had on culture in this country; it is practically impossible to imagine going to a rock concert without seeing at least a few people doing their part to keep the proud tradition of air guitar alive.

“Say what you will about grown men prancing around on stage in costumes pretending to play music,” said sophomore Natalie Levy.

But in the end, it is all that different from a normal rock show?”