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 Iulia 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 psychol.

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 150 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.

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Senior considered for ‘Best New Artist’ Latin Grammy

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE
Production Manager

Alejandra Alcuzi, 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, Alcuzi found time to sit with The Beacon to discuss her life-changing nomination and future.

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 up the album and read the lyrics, they’re always interested [in knowing why] I wrote a particular song or 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?

My music has a great deal of Anglo and Spanish influences. In Spanish music, I listened a lot to Mana and mostly a lot of rock artists.

On the Anglo side, I listen 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 ever 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 life much easier for them because they have the kind of backing other artists do.

But then the minute I got nominated I realized that my life was going to change.
POVING A POINT: (left to right) Democracy for America, the FIU College Democrats, the FIU College Republicans and a Libertarian/Market Anarchist debated on education in the GC Pt Nov. 6. For video and story visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.

Discipline, maturity acquired on duty

VETERANS, page 1

“Ther are parts of you that change, like your mentality. It makes you grow up a little bit faster,” Tanase said. “It’s in your blood.”

While Tanase found it peculiar to be called a veteran because she shares the common belief that veterans are older men and women, she admits that the change of becoming a civilian again is not a major one.

“It does not change much. It is part of what you are, a soldier,” Tanase said. For Boyle, being a soldier is also a part of who he is.

When in uniform, he enjoys the feeling he gets when people around him thank him for his service. Boyle was on active duty for three years in Iraq and inactive for two years. His college education started at Miami Dade College. He is now attending FIU and majoring in political science.

“Adapting to college is like adapting to any other job,” Boyle said, who believes that the military kept him out of trouble as a young adult. “The army has kept me busy and I could still be adventurous.” Boyle takes what he has learned from the army and lives by it every day.

“Try to live your life as if you have an audience in front of you,” Boyle said.

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

FIU College of Medicine announces partnership with Mount Sinai Medical Center

The College of Medicine announced in a press release Nov. 6 that it signed an affiliation agreement with Mount Sinai Medical Center to help train future FIU medical students.

The Miami Beach-based complex is the largest private not-for-profit teaching hospital in South Florida.

“This agreement opens fantastic opportunities for our medical students,” said College of Medicine Dean John Rock in the press release.

The first class of the medical school is expected to be admitted in the Fall of 2009, pending provisional accreditation from the Liaison Committee for Medical Education.

Panther Promotions supports record breaking toy drive for Toys for Tots

FIU’s Panther Promotions has partnered with Walden Media and Fox Walden in an attempt to set a Guinness World Record for the largest toy drive by collecting more than 12,000 pounds of toys.

There will be donation bins located in the Graham Center Main Office room 104 and in the Campus Life Office GC room from Nov. 6 through the 9. The collections would have lasted until Nov. 12 but due to the University being closed on the 12, the collection times were shortened.

Ayxa Barbel, president of Panther Promotions, stated in a press release that she hopes the FIU community will actively participate in the toy drive and that this is an exciting time for FIU in its participation in helping to possibly set a world record.

Scholar to discuss Jews in Argentina

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.

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– Compiled by Ben F. Badger Jr. / Beacon Staff
Eguizábal said that she is looking to improve the student body, “boils down to what’s best for the student body,” he said.

Garcia said that future SGAs should be looking at the same issues, “We want to make sure that the line are going to provide more and provide better to this University and the student body than 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.
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.

Green Thumbs: Students spend their Saturday morning cleaning up the Biscayne Bay during the Day on the Bay event, which took place Nov. 3.

He keeps the Heat on their feet

Barry University faculty member Dr. James Loizzo specializes in fancy footwork.

In addition to serving as the Miami Heat’s Team Podiatric Physician, Dr. Loizzo teaches sports medicine and biomechanics at Barry University. Barry’s program in podiatric medicine offers extensive research facilities, distinguished hospital and medical center affiliations, and excellent opportunities for residency programs and fellowships across the United States. The program’s Foot and Ankle Institute gets more than 11,000 patient visits a year.

When you become a Barry University student, you join a caring community where the concept of the whole person is valued, and where a Catholic, liberal arts tradition supports your intellectual and cultural growth.

To find out more about Barry, just put one foot in front of the other. Visit www.barry.edu/podiatric.

“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 is nice to sit by the bay and it’s nice for it to not be filthy and to be clean,” Thomas said.
**BASKETBALL PREVIEW**

**WOMEN**

**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.

“[Miami is] always a tough one,” said junior point guard Iva Ciglar. “Middle Tennessee, they beat us bad and we would like to get back at them. We have a tough schedule, so every game is going to be really exciting and I am looking forward to it.”

It is uncertain at this time who exactly will be FIU’s starting five this year. Also, there is no way for us to quantify exactly who will start. The women’s basketball team this year is a lot younger and less experienced, but is fairly deep.

Senior guard Ferguson is FIU’s number one scoring threat this year. Last season, Ferguson averaged a team-high 15.4 points per game. She is also a preseason first team All Sun Belt selection. Last season, Ferguson took center stage in a 83-78 win over the University of Miami when she scored a career-high 28 points. Coming into her final season, Ferguson is confident that her experience will lead to success on the court. “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.”

Red-shirt senior guard Asha Neal will start her fifth season with the men. Neal has only started three times. This season, coach Rouco is vying for a spot in the starting rotation. Neal is confident that her experience will lead to success on the court. “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.”

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**Men hope to bounce back following a subpar year**

*Renaldo Smith  Staff Writer*

As soon as a disappointing 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 opportunities for White to showcase his offensive ability. The 6-foot, 195-pound middle Tennessee native who averaged 5.3 points per game in just over 17 minutes of action per game in his freshman season should get even more open jumpers this time around. Redshirt Freshman Nick Taylor will look to push the two guards as he also vies for a spot in the rotation.

**SHOOTING GUARD**

In his senior year, Johwen 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. 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**

Although he is listed as a guard, senior Chris Fuller fits well at the small forward position. The 6-foot-5, 205-pound lefty has a tireless work...
The Beacon – November 8, 2007 www.beaconnewspaper.com

MAKING THE PASS

Energetic point guard sparks women’s team

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 the team to a convincing win.

The 5-foot-7 junior, finished the season averaging 5.9 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.

“Whatever gets me going, mom, is that I hate to lose,” said Ciglar, who also earned third team All Sun Belt Conference preseason honors.

The acknowledgement from the conference of her accomplishments is only a marginal improvement compared to winning the Sun Belt Conference title to Ciglar.

“I’m very flattered,” said Ciglar. “It’s a very nice acknowledgement, but it doesn’t mean much.”

Her attitude is what makes her the an example to lead.

At practices, the second year team captain is always vocal and available.

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Her attitude is what makes her the an example to lead.

At practices, the second year team captain is always vocal and available.

“We played with a men’s ball and it was too small.”

As a child, Ciglar was around 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 don’t ever want to think about that,” she said.

The question made her remember a moment when not playing basketball ever again was a big possibility.

Ciglar had surgery on the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee in 2002.

“It was when I got injured that the most beloved people in my life, and my coach, and I would have to do the driving to the hospital,” she said.

“I don’t even want to think about that,” 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.

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

Tearing an ACL, being named to the All Sun Belt Conference team and moving halfway across the world to go to school is after all a chronicle of Ciglar’s life the last few years.

She now prepares to be an important player of one of the most successful mid-major women’s basketball programs of the past 20 years.

“The finish may be stranger to adversity as she has become accustomed to finding ways to succeed.

“I know even when things get tough, I can make my way because I’m like that,” she said. “I was raised like that.”

Saying that things will get tough this year for the women’s basketball team might be an understatement with several NCAA tournament and WNIT participants from last year on the schedule, including McPhail, Florida State and Georgia.

In addition, the team will face the Caribean Island to the United States was difficult for the teenager.

“The trip just gave me more confidence,” he said.

Another current NBA player thought Galindo had a big ego. He was surprised to find out Galindo is modest despite possessing talent.

“I thought since he was my team’s superstar that he wasn’t humble,” Soto said. “I just look in his work ethic now and I see why he is so good.”

Galindo’s work ethic was revamped during the summer of 2006, the summer prior to him arriving at FIU, when he was given the opportunity to tryout for the Puerto Rican National Team.

“I learned to play with men’s,” Galindo said. “They taught me what can happen when you work hard enough.”

He would see former Golden Panthers’ point guard Carlos Areoni led the Puerto Rican National team to victory against the United States in the 2004 Olympics, current Golden Panthers’ forward Alex Galindo ran his mouth.

“My host family helped me out with the Spanish,” he said.

“But on the NBA court.”

Josue Soto under his wing.

“I learned to watch the game,” he said.

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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 guard Fanni Hutlassa comes of the season as a stepping stone to obtain another Sun Belt Conference title with 5.9 points, 17.5 rebounds and 7.5 assists per game. Hutlassa was a part of the Golden Panthers’ conference title with a three-time MVP and a 3-point shooting champion. Tabitha Drake is a local product out of Monsignor Edward Pace. Drake was a two-time first team Miami Herald All-Dade selection in high school when she averaged a double-double with 25 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 Jekabsoone to graduation, together, the two big men should turn the Golden Panthers early in the year.

The Pepperdine University transfer has been a consistent winner. Russo’s overall career win percentage is an impressive .696 and her overall record is 609-266.

She hopes to use her 29th season as a stepping stone to obtain another Sun Belt Conference title with a balanced and complete roster.

Attention, Golden Panther fans! Finally, this year’s team will not be drastically understated at the center position. The 7-foot, 250-pound Russell Hicks will give much needed face lift to what has been the weakest position for the Golden Panthers in recent years.

The Pepperdine University transfer has a soft touch and is expected to be the force in the middle that FIU fans have been waiting for. But wait, there’s more. Joining Hicks at the revamped center spot will be Badara Ndiaye, a 6-foot-11, 225-pound transfer from Southeastern Community College in Iowa.

Ndiaye, who played basketball, soccer, and volleyball in his native country of Senegal, will look to flourish in Rouco’s system with basketball as his only focus.

Together, the two big men should turn the smaller guards that lived in the paint against the Golden Panthers last season.

The team opens the new season with a seven-game home stand starting Nov. 12 against Florida Tech. Considering that almost half of the team are newcomers, chemistry might be the biggest challenge for the Golden Panthers early in the year.

James has to be assertive at the point and make all of his weapons happy. Galindo has to be more aggressive than ever and the entire team has to follow Fuller’s lead on the defensive end to be successful.

If the team can stay healthy and buy into Rouco’s system, this may be a season to remember.
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://issss.fiu.edu or email: issss@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 students 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 viscosity andящивость 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, since 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. What has happened to all that was there all this past 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, that regardless of the claim that events have been held throughout the month of October, students have not noticed any have been unfected 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

This is the second of a two-part series of articles on the proposed partnership between SGC-UP and Athletics.

At the University of Florida, each student pays $28.30 in fees for their Athletics program according to a Dec. 22, 2006 Miami Herald article. UF has won three national championships in the past three years. University of Miami students pay $26 in fees for their Athletics department, and they have only a few 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 to the Athletics department in exchange for the use of a skybox and various venues around campus including the Pharmed Arena and the new Football Stadium among them. These venues were, until recently, available for student activities free of charge.

The current proposal is an evolution of the initial proposal, which did not include the use of any of these venues and would have cost an additional $30,000. The Athletics department had no qualms with allowing student organizations to use these spaces for free, but after a “restructuring,” the department suddenly has a problem with continuing this practice.

The first proposal only included the skybox and was substantially more expensive. After the proposal was reevaluated to include the use of the other facilities, the price dropped.

The reason for adding the use of these venues is seemingly obvious. Instead of having to pay support for a $120,000 proposal for a skybox alone, SGC-UP can claim that this proposal is not really about a skybox at all; it is about paying for the use of other facilities.

Only now can this deal be called a “partnership,” instead of what it is: an attempt by SGC-UP to spend $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 sales ploy. 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 tax 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 Center and the intramural sports field for football practice.

It seems as if only the 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
Food options abound at night

SHANNON FALLON
Staff Writer

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 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.

If 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 Ave makes it easy for students to grab a Cuban sandwich, rice, beans and 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.”

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].”

“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

“For me, it’s goofy, no more so than a national Scrabble or Oreo stacking competition, which they actually have.”

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. Sports Editor

If you were to watch David Jung perform for a crowd of thousands of adoring fans at a packed theater in New York City, watching every jump and every wild solo he breaks into, you wouldn’t be able to help but feel something is missing, something that sets him apart from your typical guitar hero.

He’s not missing any of the signature moves or flair for the dramatics, and aside from a Hello Kitty logo across his chest and a noticeable beer belly, the entire ensemble does not look out of place for a rock show.

What’s missing is obvious, and the reason he’s performing: Jung is one of the participants 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 2007 Air Guitar World Championships, which is held annually in New York City and for which there is a $1,000 grand prize.

As well as the judge’s choosing for 60 seconds, while the judges grade them on a scale of 4.0-6.0 on three criteria.

Some things participants are judged on include technical merit, or the raw abilities of the performer; stage presence, or how much the performer can command the audience’s attention and lastly and most importantly, “airness,” an intangible quality that each judge defines as they see fit.

The last quality is the one that even the best, over the top air guitar championship’s official rules cannot seem to pin down.

They finally settle, however, on “the extent to which a performance transcends the limitations of a real guitar and becomes an art form in and of itself.”

It might seem silly for people to be glorified and honored for their ability to not play an instrument, but some students such as Costa, who is the best, can be linked to popular culture.

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.

Chris Towner