The Beacon, February 11, 2011

Florida International University

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Egyptian protests discussed at teach-in

NICOLAS SARAVIA
Staff Writer

Since Jan. 25, a sizable crowd of Egyptians have taken to the streets, demanding political and economic change, including the fall of the regime of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Sharing the insights of a panel of experts on the Middle East, the School of International Relations and Public Affairs held a teach-in on Feb. 7 to a crowd of hundreds in the Graham Center Ballrooms.

The panel was composed of political science and international relations Professors Majid Al-Khalili, John Clark, Shlomi Dinar, Russell Lucas, Charles MacDonald, Mohiaddin Meshahi and modern languages Professor Maya Bouzaghou.

Lucas began the discussion with a historical background of Egypt. As described, post-colonial Egypt has had a total of four presidents, Muhammad Naguib, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mubarak, who has held office since October of 1981.

Lucas described Nasser as an anti-colonial classic populist, while Sadat made peace with Israel and held an open-door development approach, which according to the professor, “only made the rich richer and the poor poorer.”

Mubarak, of Air Force background, has been reelected four times as Egypt’s maximum authority. In 2005, he was reelected with a vast majority of votes, and his third term will start on stage and loops them throughout his performance, accompanied by his band.

SPC sponsored Jared Mahone: Live at FIU in GC ballrooms on Feb. 2. Throughout his performance, Mahone treated students with his singing, guitar playing, and beat boxing. He produces his beats live on stage and loops them throughout his performance, accompanied by his band.

Graduate student representative to sit on Faculty Senate

MELODIA CACERES
Staff Writer

With students’ voices already resonating within their own form of government, graduate students will now have theirs heard in a different forum—among the University faculty.

After a unanimous approval by its members, the Faculty Senate Graduate Council voted at its January meeting, to allow a graduate student representative to sit on their board as an ex-officio member. The only other non-voting member of the council is the dean of the Graduate School.

By allowing a graduate student to become a member, this marks the first University student to sit on any of the Faculty Senate committees on all three campuses.

“The thing is that as a University, we’re ready to do. If we want to be really serious about shared governance, it cannot just be about faculty and administration, it’s also about the students and staff as well,” said Dr. Fred Blevens, chair of the Graduate Council in an interview with Student Media. “I think this is a big step and if the Senate approves it, it will be an important step in the right direction in having shared governance across all of the constituents in the University.”

The approval by the Graduate Council will be followed by discussion among the Faculty Senate members in future meetings. Among other universities, University of Florida and Florida State University are those that FIU will be joining in allowing students on their Graduate Councils; with UCF and FAU remaining with no student representation.

“Any time that you get students involved, you’re going to improve the

GRADUATES, page 2

Streak continues with victory over conference opponent

JACKSON WOLEK
Staff Writer

The Golden Panthers extended their winning streak to five games as they defeated Louisiana Lafayette 62-52 on Feb. 9 thanks to a balanced scoring night that featured four Golden Panthers in double figures.

The key to the game was how well FIU stuck with ULL on the boards. They only got out rebounded by two, 33-31, even though they have not been very successful rebounding the ball this season. They were led in scoring by Michelle Gonzalez, who had 16 points followed by Jerica Coley with 15 and Fanni Hutlassa with 14.

It was a defensive struggle for both teams in the first half as both teams stayed close to each other but at the 7:52 mark ULL took a six-point lead and it seemed as though FIU was starting to lose control of the game.

That would all change when they made a furious comeback, going on a 9-0 run and tied the game back up with 6:30 left on a Jerica Coley three. They grabbed their biggest lead of the half with 2:40 remaining off a Fanni Hutlassa jumper, but could not push it any further as the Ragin’ Cajuns came back to tie the game at 25-25 at the end of the half.

“I thought that we lacked focus throughout the whole game, we just have been through so much adversity this year and we were down and felt a lot of pressure,” coach
Giffords speaks, asking for toast with breakfast

Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords has recovered enough from a bullet to the brain to ask for toast with breakfast. Few details are available, but Pita Carusone, Giffords’ chief of staff, confirmed that the congresswoman made the verbal request on Monday when hospital workers brought her a meal.

She is now speaking “more and more” since she uttered her first words several days ago, spokesman C.J. Karamargin said. He said she didn’t know what her first words were and couldn’t say how her voice sounded, since he hadn’t spoken to her himself.

Lawmakers demand Florida budget details from Gov. Scott

Gov. Rick Scott’s bold budget plan wasn’t even 24 hours old before state legislators started ripping it apart and leveling a familiar charge against the governor: He wasn’t forthcoming with details.

Whether it was has billions in cuts to Medicaid or to schools, legislators said they weren’t sure what Scott specifically wanted to do in his budget, which would further widen a $3.6 billion shortfall next year due to nearly $2.4 billion in proposed tax cuts.

The criticisms weren’t limited to Democrats; fellow Republicans were skeptical of what many thought were skimpy details in his $65.9 billion budget.

Torremore Threat Highest Since 9/11

The failed Times Square bombing defines the new terrorist threat in the United States. Homeland Security Secretary John King Jr. said Tuesday that the United States is not yet ready to declare victory in the war on terrorism.

“I do believe al Qaeda has been significantly weakened by the elevated threat comes despite the fact that officials were skimpy details in his $65.9 billion budget. Plus legislative and leveling a familiar charge against the governor: He said he didn’t know what his first words were and couldn’t say how her voice sounded, since he hadn’t spoken to her himself.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Golden Panthers look to avenge earlier loss

JOEL DELGADO
Sports Director

Coach Beth Torina has talked to her team about taking the next step throughout the offseason. She feels that the Golden Panthers are close to being ready to make a big leap forward with a solid young core of players that are coming off their first taste of the postseason last spring.

“I’m excited about this group and I’m looking forward to a good year, hopefully better than last year,” Torina said. “Now that we’ve been to the postseason and tasted it there is an urgency to get back there.”

With Ohio State, ranked No. 22 in the nation heading into the regular season, rolling into the town to help prepare the Golden Panthers kick off their season on Feb.11.

The team still views the rigorous schedule as an advantage as they hope to prepare themselves for the conference play when it begins.

“We always try to have the toughest schedule possible, it just means we have to be rolling on all cylinders and come out swinging,” Torina said. “We are ready to do that.”

Louisiana remains the favorite to win the Sun Belt Conference this season, coming into the season ranked No. 17 in the country. But the Golden Panthers, who finished second in the SBC Presseason Poll right behind the Ragin’ Cajuns and also received votes in Top 25 polls.

With the Sun Belt constantly improving as a conference, it just adds another dimension and keeps the team constantly looking forward without the luxury of enjoying any particular win for too long.

“Anyone can beat anybody at any time,” Torina said. “I feel like we have a team that is capable of winning the [conference championship].”

For the players, a conference championship is one of the main prizes the Golden Panthers have an eye on as the season is set to begin.

“Last year it was all new to us,” outfielder Ashley McClain said. “This year we know what we need to...
**SOFTBALL, page 3**

do and we’re prepared for what we have to do.”

The team on the diamond this season will have a peculiar situation: there are no seniors on the roster this season. But Torina, entering her fourth season at the helm of this budding softball program, contends that there are plenty of players on the team that will be able to fill any sort of gap in leadership, filled by captains Jenn Gnadeck, Jackie Telfow and McClain, all juniors.

Along with the type of players that Torina has brought in to the program, she will have leaders prepared to help this team go far this season.

“The great thing about this team is that we have some highly motivated kids,” Torina commented on the kind of players her team is composed of. “When you have people that are motivated it’s easy to find leaders in the locker room. They’ve done a great job stepping up and I think we’re going to be alright.”

When pointing out what she believed was the biggest strength her team holds going into the season, she talked about the kind of balance her team has and how at any time one aspect of their game can rise up and make things happen.

“We are very well rounded,” Torina stated. “Any part of our game can show up on any day between our pitching, our defense and our offense. Any of them can be our strongest point. When our offense gets rolling it can do a lot of damage.”

**LOOKING TO IMPROVE**

Brie Rojas is looking to build off of a successful freshman campaign last season when she set a single-season record with a .407 batting average, a new FIU record. In 46 games as a sophomore, Rojas knocked in six runs in a single road game at Western Kentucky, another FIU record.

Rojas, one of three Golden Panthers on the Preseason All-SEC team along with McClain and Jessy Alfonso, is eager for the season to start and is excited to see what this team can do this spring.

“We want to go further than we did last year and we’re hoping we can win the conference,” infielder Brie Rojas said. “We’re all really stoked and ready to come out and win.”

But while the accolades and success they scored 31 points off the Blue Raiders have suffered in conference play so far this season. The last time the Golden Panthers faced MTSU (19-5, 10-1), FIU jumped out to a 19-0 run en route to a 62-59 upset win at home on Jan. 29.

**RETURNING LEADERS 2010 Stats**

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**MTSU PREVIEW**

FIU will look to sweep the season-series against the Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders when they travel to Murfreesboro for their last meeting of the season.

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It was the only loss that the Blue Raiders have suffered in conference play so far this season.

MTSU fought tough and was able to take the lead at one point against the Golden Panthers until freshman Jerica Coley and senior Michelle Gonzalez were able to ice the game with timely free throws. Ebony Rowe scored 17 points for the Blue Raiders in the loss and grabbed 11 rebounds during the game at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Senior Anne Marie Lanning, who on Feb. 5 joined the 1000 point-club at MTSU, chipped in with 12 points, all from behind the arc.

Both teams will participate in the annual WBCA Pink Zone game. The Blue Raiders will be wearing special pink jerseys that will be auctioned off after the game for breast cancer awareness.

**Golden Panthers cool off Ragin’ Cajuns at home**

Head Coach Beth Torina (right) talks with former pitcher Kasey Barrett (left) during a game last season. This year’s roster contains no seniors.

WOMEN’S, page 1

Cindy Russo said.

UFL started off the second half in a full court press that seemed to disrupt the FIU offense and in a matter of three minutes the Golden Panthers quickly fell behind by six.

They would soon figure out how to break the press and would make another comeback to suddenly regain the lead again at 14:25 when Gonzalez hit a timely three-pointer.

“I think there strategy was to keep the ball out of my hands,” Gonzalez said. “So we just talked about passing the ball and passing the ball in the middle so that we could just go straight to the basket to break the press.”

The defensive effort from the first half by the Golden Panthers (12-14, 7-5 SBC) finally carried over as they kept ULL (3-8 SBC, 10-14), the third highest scoring team in the conference with 65 points per game, scoreless for four straight minutes.

The ability to take advantage of the 24 turnovers committed by the Ragin’ Cajuns helped FIU go on a 13-1 run that would finally allow them to pull away for good as they scored 31 points off the turnovers on the night.

They ended the night forcing the Ragin’ Cajuns to a dismal 39 percent shooting from the field and 26 percent from beyond the arc.

The fact that their leading scorer Mercedes Johnson did not play did not help the ULL cause.

**CAREY OUT**

The Golden Panthers got some bad news before the game, finding out on Feb. 8 that their center Elisa Carey reinjured her knee and now is officially out for the season.

“It is a catastrophic loss in every way,” Russo said. “It’s tough to replace her. There really is no answer for her.”

Rakia Rodgers did not play either due to a swollen bone in her foot. There is no timetable on when she will be back yet, but Russo is hopeful that Rodgers will be back soon.

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Rice Alhaurin also contributed to this story.

**FIU SOFTBALL SCHEDULE**

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In the spirit of music and art, the Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum is launching a fundraiser titled MISO: A Journey through Art and Music featuring the Miami Symphony Orchestra. The fundraiser, which serves as a venue to raise funds for the museum itself, will also serve as an opportunity to expose music and art lovers to both hemispheres.

The core idea of combining music with art came from Miami Symphony Orchestra conductor, Eduardo Marturet. His credits include such experimental pieces as "Las Campanas del Silencio" in 1992 and "La Hamaca" in 1998. While he provided the full set list for the fundraiser, Carol Damian, director of the Frost Museum, collected all the artwork which is to be shown along with the music.

Music performed at the fundraiser will range from classical pieces by Wolfgang Mozart to more contemporary music from Paul Clay. "While the fundraiser will serve to collect funds to benefit the Frost Museum, what we hope to achieve is to expose fans of both music and art to each other," said Damian. She has always wanted to collaborate with the Miami Symphony Orchestra and when Marturet offered, she jumped at the opportunity, she said.

"It’s a really a once in a lifetime opportunity," says Damian, who hopes that the estimated success of the event will lead to more exposure for the museum around the world.

The event will also feature violinist Kristóf Baráti, winner of the Sixth International Paganini Violin Competition in Moscow last year, playing Ottorino Respighi’s “Trittico Botticelliano.”

The MISO will perform at The Frost on Feb. 12, conducted by Eduardo Marturet.

Working closely with Orlando Garcia, chair of the School of Music and his experimental music programs, FIU students perform recitals at the museum often.

FLEA, the Music School’s electronic and computer ensemble directed by Paula Matheson, has also performed at the Frost Museum.

The Frost Museum also has their very own program, Crossing Boundaries: Art and Music, a lecture series geared toward artists fascinated by music. Its purpose is to investigate the connection between music and art and the spell they cast on each other.

While looking for the pieces in her collection, Damian credits the help of art collector, Juan Antonio Pérez Simón. "He has an incredible palace full of art," said Damian.

The art collection process began with Damian listening to the pieces from the set list and imaging what painting or piece of art would best represent the piece. For Mozart, Damian looked at classical Grecian-Roman artwork which she thought would best represent the mood of the music. For the modern pieces, Damian imagined the art sculptures of Alexander Calder as the best fit while more lively and whimsical pieces to represent the contemporary style of musician Paul Clay.

“It’s all very subjective," said Damian. “When I played the music, and knew it was inspired by a particular artist, I looked at the art of the artist and chose what seemed to go with the music.”

The images will be projected in the background while the music plays in the foreground.

"Working as carefully as I’ve been able to keep them together, the collection is truly unique," said Damian. The event will feature artwork from the world-famous artist Gutierrez - Theispas, a Cuban artist featured in "Salvage." Damian has also collaborated with Dr. Dakota Keesler, a musicologist and art historian, who works with playing modern compositions and musical contemporary music in Cuba. It will be a unique opportunity to see an array of artworks and music that will be presented in an extraordinary way.

The images will be projected in the background while the music plays in the foreground. "It’s a really a once in a lifetime opportunity," says Damian, who hopes that the estimated success of the event will lead to more exposure for the museum around the world.
Domestic violence awareness walk

BRIDE, page 8

initiate such a movement despite the lack of support was truly inspiring.”

Starting at 1:00 p.m. on Feb. 11, the 7.5-mile walk begins at Barry University and travels north towards Biscayne Bay Campus. Participants are encouraged to wear wedding dresses, prom dresses or bridesmaid dresses. The event is also open to men and encourages male participants to wear tuxedos.

The reason I decided to do [the walk] was because a lot of people were saying she brought it upon herself,” said Ashton. “Having been working with the criminal justice field for seven years prior I knew that wasn’t the case and the evidence needed to come out. But in order to change the media outlook on it, I decided to give them something as radical and as drastic as the murder itself.”

During the walk Ashton stayed in 14 domestic violence shelters and visited 22 cities. The walk took her 72 days to complete and she called it the Brides March.

“The most amazing part of the walk was that I was actually able to stay with victims, talk to victims, eat with victims and sleep with victims,” she said. “I got to experience what a lot of these women are going through when they are in such an uncertain time. It was one of the most life changing experiences of my life. Without doing this, I would’ve never understood the severity of what’s going on.”

Early in the film, after being transferred to an internment camp, Gerbier is ordered to a Nazi headquarters, a premiere hotel in Paris, to undergo interrogation by the Gestapo. The story unfolds with the visual allusions to the holocaust displayed at the camps.

Gerbier sits on a bench with another gentleman. While his captors are out of ear shot, Gerbier convinces the stranger to stage an escape and run out of the nearest doors. Gerbier stabs the guard whoowers them. His partner in crime has run into the night.

As Gerbier runs through the night, we hear machine guns in the distance along with the echoing sounds of his feet as he barreus down the sidewalks (during an incredibly extended tracking shot). The other escapee has most likely met a lead- ridden fate, but Gerbier has other business, mainly survival.

True identities are hidden between operatives. A pair of brothers work within the resistance, Luc and Francois (Paul Meurisse and Jean Pierre Cassell), both unaware of the others’ involvement or their extent of dedication to the cause.

Mathilde, another operative, is asked by Gerbier if her husband knows about her work.

“Certainly not. And neither does my child,” she replies.

The romanticism is minimal, for though they attack a group that represents oppress- sion and barbaric acts, there is a futility towards their actions. They face death or torture constantly, with no sight of the end of their occupation in sight. It’s the Autumn of 1942, well over a year before the Allied invasion at Normandy.

When a key member of their group must be eliminated, it is done with the understanding that it is for the good of their cause. Never have I met a group more commendable yet deplorable indivi- duals on film.

This is not a tribute to the French Resistance but rather a statement about the balance between futility, loathing and admiration insuffices must face inter- nationally and externally which a final jarring question: What was earned?

Reel to Reel is a weekly column on films. Look for it every Friday.
Student body largely unaware of major world events

PAULO RAMOS
Staff Writer

On Jan. 24, 2011, a blast rocked an airport in Moscow, Russia. At least eight people were killed and over 100 were injured. Although no one has claimed responsibility, Russians suspect the bombing to be an act of revenge by the Chechens who have been known culprits of terrorism in the past.

Also happening at this time, are the upheavals surrounding the internet. The government. The Internet and all cellular activity have been blocked, yet somehow, information continues to be transmitted, and it is clear that the country is in a state of upheaval.

The two international events have one single thread tying them together: the ignorance of them throughout the western world. This is well reflected in the University population. Very few people have heard of these incidents, especially with the simultaneous occurrence of the State of the Union Address by President Barack Obama.

There is little to no information currently circulating throughout campus about these crises. Neither the administration nor any student organization has responded or showed any concern.

During rush week, a few members of the various Greek organizations were asked to comment on either event, and only a handful of members were aware of the issues. When random students were asked if they had seen any news about these events, the only one who had seen anything related to the issues on his news feed.

Though technology seems to be hardwired into our culture, we have evidently been underutilizing it. The internet is truly one of the last bastions of free speech, and it seems as if American culture has failed to grasp that as a concept. Rather than absorb as much critical information as possible with this technology, most of the University’s student body’s technological activities consist of much mundane things as keeping up with their Facebook, updating their Twitter, or watching the latest episode of “Jersey Shore.”

There is no sense of higher-intellectual drive with the advanced technology that is available to the average American, let alone the average University student.

Despite being so in-tune with world events, Russia has detached itself from the real world. More important are the bits and pieces of useless data that float through invisible connections rather than actual situations happening all over the globe, let alone the events on the home front.

When students were asked if they were interested in politics in a recent colloquium conducted by the Honors College with Dr. Dario Moreno, only a handful of the hundreds in attendance raised their hands. If the supposed elite of the University have little interest in something as critical to American life as politics, what does that say about the rest of the students and the country?

If society refuses to encourage the further utility of informational technology, it risks driving itself into the ignorance which it has tried so hard to avoid. If the American public cannot even acknowledge an airport bombing, especially after the recent dilemmas with the new security measures, it doesn’t bode well for the future.

Unless this disconnect is rectified, people will continue to sink more and more into themselves, isolated from the rest of the world.

Laws against sex workers promote danger, vulnerability

YUE WANG
Contributing Writer

My life abroad started as the airplane landed at sunset in the Miami International Airport. Though two years have passed, the scenery is still very fresh. Before my graduation, I would like to share my experience with other international students.

Though I was well prepared for my new life abroad physically and mentally, college life actually gave me more challenges than I had imagined.

The first and foremost challenge is the language barrier. Continue improving your English; the more you learn, the easier your academic life.

In addition, college life is also an opportunity to improve your English; the more you learn, the easier your academic life. Continue improving your English; the more you learn, the easier your academic life.

The second important challenge is to be prepared for my new life abroad physically and mentally. College life is also an opportunity to improve your English; the more you learn, the easier your academic life.

The other important thing would like to mention is driving and housing. Having a driver’s license is very important in Miami because the transportation system is not efficient. Also, do not need to carry your passport and driver license. It is a good idea to have a car if you are able to afford one. In Miami, you will have more freedom. In terms of housing, it is better to ask senior students for suggestions. In doing this, you can avoid many troubles and save a lot of time.

Life in the U.S. goes fast, so time is very precious. Increase your efficiency and make good and full use of your time here. In doing so, I believe that you will have an unforgettable experience.

The University community.

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of the Beacon or the University of Miami. These views are separate from editors, and reflect individual perspectives of contributors. Your letters and criticisms are welcomed, and letters should include your name, major and year.

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As an editorial organization, the Beacon welcomes letters regarding or in response to topics and stories seen there to opinion@fi usm.com.

Opinion

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Common spoke of being great

DEBORAH SOUVERAIN
Staff Writer

He had his ups and downs with H.E.R and shared with the world how much used to love H.E.R, but ultimately his passion for “Hearing Every Rhyme” keeps him and hip-hop bound in his journey to greatness.

Common, acclaimed Grammy award winning hip-hop artist, actor and activist visited the Biscayne Bay Campus on Feb. 9 to discuss his journey to greatness and empower others to find their “light.”

To true hip-hop fashion the night began with a freestyle from Common where the rapper poet-poet expressed that he didn’t simply want to become a hip-hop artist he wanted to be a great hip-hop artist.

“I did not only want to be good I wanted to be great.”

Common referenced his own life experiences to assert the importance of recognizing and utilizing your greatness.

“You have to find your path, believe in your path and live it.”

In an interview with Common had with Student Media before his lecture, the artist expressed that he hopes the audience will utilize their greatness. “I believe in your path and live it.”

Common made frequent religious references and at one point read from a party member’s camera 1 verses two through four in Holy Bible, a verse he says he often visits when going through difficult times.

Common gave the audience insight into his personal life, beyond hip-hop, briefly alluding to his relationship with fellow musician Erykah Badu.

Stating he was willing to play second fiddle in the relationship that ultimately dimmed his “light.”

“Dimmed my light to make others happy, to make her happy.”

Jokingly, Common went on to say, “[You all] know ‘Window Seat,’ yea I know window seat on the song.”

Common ended his lecture by reinforcing his philosophy of achieving greatness and the importance of believing in one’s self.

“Let your life shine… Belief is contagious.”

FOODGASM

Though just raw fish, shashimi can have ‘majestic qualities’

Most people I have known go through stages in their eating inclinations. As children and young teens they find certain foods to be disgusting. I’m referring to acquired tastes, something that takes repeated exposure to enjoy. As much as I can remember, I was not one of those people. At least I was always eager to try new things. So when my parents were eating raw fish, I probably thought it sounded good.

Japanese typically serve sashimi as a first course, before any other strong flavors influence the palate. This is a testament to the delicate taste of raw fish. In order to fully appreciate the taste it should be eaten delicately. Just like you ought not throw back a full glass of fine wine as soon as you open it, the same goes for sashimi consumption.

The process of pulling a fish from the water, cleaning it and then eating it in its raw state has to be sort of a human instinct that we never abandoned. The preparation of sashimi ties us back to the eats of millenniums past. The simplicity of the dish is splendid; there is almost nothing to it.

Some lined up slices of fish flesh and that’s all. Yet something so simple can have majestic qualities.

Biting in to some of my favorite raw fish is an enchantment for me. White fish for example, with its buttery, melt-in-your-mouth consistency provides jubilation. Tuna and Himachi (red snapper) share a similar buttery consistency, but also have a fuller lightly sweet sea flavor. Other fish like Salmon are among the sashimi staples as well.

Sashimi is commonly served alongside wasabi, pickled ginger, and soy sauce. Other sauces like ponuru are also common. Wasabi, which is a spicy green paste, can be mixed with soy sauce for dipping, or used separately as a condiment. The pickled ginger serves as a palate cleanser to eat before trying a different fish. Sake is an apt beverage to enjoy with sashimi, if you’re old enough to order it.

Sashimi can be found at most Japanese restaurants. Any place that serves sushi will likely also serve sashimi. The difference between the two is that sashimi is just raw fish, while sushi is the raw fish served on top of rice.

FOODGASM is a bi-weekly column on food and cooking. Krawets is a hospitality major.

Alumna starts college bride walk

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Life Editor

Just hours before her wedding, Gladys Ricart’s ex-boyfriend murdered two of her bridesmaids in front of family and friends on Sept. 26, 1999. Her murder gained national attention, specifically Josie Ashton’s.

The murder was caught on video by a party member’s camera. Garcia was later sentenced to life in prison.

At the time of Ricart’s murder, Ashton was a criminal justice student at the University. She pitched the idea of walking in Ricart’s honor to her professor and he encouraged her to speak to the family about her idea of a walk in Ricart’s honor.

After approaching the Ricart family about the idea, Ashton put on her own wedding dress and walked from Ridgefield, NJ, where Ricart was murdered, back to Miami.

Now known as the College Brides Walk, which is not designed as a fundraiser but rather to raise awareness on domestic violence, Ashton has joined forces with the University’s Women’s Studies Student Association, WSSA, to bring the walk back to the University and start a new tradition.

“Many walks are done to raise money and awareness about illnesses that everyone knows about,” said WSSA president, Guadalupe Juarez. “Brides Walk on the other hand, wishes to simply raise awareness about an issue that many individuals prefer not to talk about. Also, knowing that a courageous and active woman could.

Guadalupe Juarez [center], a senior elementary education major with a certificate in women’s studies, and other brides at the Modesto Maidique Campus on Feb. 2 promoting their upcoming walk.

Kendra Tracey/The Beacon

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Ned Chandler/The Beacon

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