Hungary for soil: Exchange professor visits Poly's soil science department.

Airline crunch: Metal detectors are necessary.

TODAY'S WEATHER
High: 78°
Low: 52°

By Jana Larsen

Debating war and gender equality

Everyone's talking about it. No one has had to do it yet, but it might happen. It would take an act of Congress to make it happen. If it does happen, then who does first, how would they find out, and when would they go?

What is it that everyone is talking about? The draft. Or, in other words: conscription, call of draft, selective service or involuntary recruiting. Whatever you call it, many are concerned about its return since America went to war with terrorism.

As of right now, no one is being drafted, and, "at this point in time Congress is not considering reinstituting the draft," according to Stacie Fixson, Rep. Lois Capps' spokesperson.

On Sept. 25 at a Pentagon news conference, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said, 

"The draft is immediately before us."

On Sunday, in a Pentagon news conference, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said, "(The draft) ... is not something that we've addressed and is not something that is immediately before us."

Therefore, the Selective Service System remains in a standby, caretaker status. An official statement posted on Sept. 25, stated, "While no heightened measures have been undertaken to bring the nation closer to the reinstatement of conscription, young men are reminded that they are required by federal law to register within 30 days of the 18th birthday."

This brings to mind what sequence of events would have to happen for the draft to be reinstated?

And with the equality movement that has occurred over the past 30 years, would women be drafted?

First, for the draft to be reinstated, Congress and the president would have to authorize a draft. This occurs when more troops are required in a crisis than the voluntary military can supply. Second, a lottery based on birthdays determines the order in which registered men are called up.

See DRAFT, page 4

By Laura Vega

Stage One of Cuesta Grade Project completed, three more stages

North County resident Yolanda Tiscareno has been pleasantly surprised by her bus trips to campus during construction work on Cuesta Grade.

"Up until now, the construction on the grade has not been as bad as I anticipated," said Tiscareno, an administrative assistant in the ethnic studies department.

Construction equipment and Caltrans workers are now a familiar sight to Tiscareno and many campus commuters along U.S. Highway 101 north of San Luis Obispo.

Caltrans' Project Cuesta Grade began in September 1999. The goal of the $38 million project is to reduce the potential for accidents by improving traffic flow. Work will include the addition of northbound and southbound truck lanes and the construction of retaining walls.

The four-stage project was originally scheduled to take three years to complete. The second stage — expected to last about one year — involves shifting the northbound freeway off the west side of Highway 101 to allow for clearing and excavation of dirt on the east side. A temporary bridge will also be constructed just south of the summit to move the dirt by conveyor belt.

Cuesta Grade one step closer to completion

By Cynthia Hostetter

Stage one is exactly what we expected. We've had some delays due to weather but right now the anticipated completion date, weather permitting, is December 2003," project liaison Cynthia Hostetter said. She said the road project is one of the six sororities on campus.

"Stage one is pretty much done," said Cynthia Hostetter, project liaison for Project Cuesta Grade. "We've had some delays due to weather but right now the anticipated completion date, weather permitting, is December 2003."

Stage one consists of moving the construction's impact on commuters by improving traffic conditions and reducing the potential for accidents by improving traffic flow. Work will include the addition of northbound and southbound truck lanes and the construction of retaining walls.

The four-stage project was originally scheduled to take three years to complete.

This stage is expected to begin in the next month or so. Hostetter said the third stage, expected to last six to eight months, includes shifting the traffic lanes to the outside of the roadway and working on the center portion of the freeway.

Stage four consists of finalizing the lanes, constructing a concrete center divider and completing the final paving and striping of the road.

Some commuters now turn to other methods of travel as one way of dealing with the roadwork.

Tiscareno said she enjoys Central California and will not be influenced by the United States."

By Emily Schwartz

Students find comfort in Greek system

In the three short weeks that Bryn Blevins has been at Cal Poly, the psychology freshman has already found another place she can call home.

Blevins, along with approximately 240 women who went through recruitment this fall, has recently joined Gamma Phi Beta, one of the six sororities on campus.

Although she was at first skeptical of the Greek scene, Blevins said that going through rush has been a great experience.

"Before rushing, I was actually turned off to sororities because of all the stereotypes I'd heard about them," she said. "But after going to all the houses, I realized that there were lots of genuinely nice girls."

Originally, Blevins came to Cal Poly with the intent to only stay two years before transferring to the University of California at San Diego to play volleyball. But now that she has joined a sorority, Blevins said she has decided to stay at Cal Poly for the remainder of her college years.
Cal Poly places high on Yahoo list of wired universities

By Malia Spencer

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cal Poly was rated one of the top 100 wired schools in the country by Yahoo! Internet Life Magazine. Jerry Hanley, the vice provost/CIO of Information Technology Services (ITS), is overjoyed by the news.

The magazine surveyed more than 1,300 schools last spring and then compiled the data into a top 100 list. The survey looked at six technological aspects of the schools: infrastructure, student resources, Web portal, e-learning, tech support and wireless access. Cal Poly was rated 71 and was the second of only two California State Universities on the list.

"I really put a value on this because this is one of the few surveys available to universities that really puts the student focus into the survey," Hanley said.

The school scored well in student resources, Web portal and e-learning with a B score in each. Cal Poly tech support received the highest grade with an A and infrastructure and wireless access each received a C and D, respectively.

Hanley hopes to not only climb higher in the list next year but also use this year's grades to improve ITS on campus.

"I am not going to use this strictly to get better grades," Hanley said. "But I am going to use this as significant input to talk to our students and to our tech people and faculty to figure out ways to get these kinds of things improved."

Hanley was quick to point out, however, that when this survey was taken, many of the school's new technologies, such as wireless access, were close to being online. But since they weren't physically operational, Hanley did not include it in his answers to the survey.

The fifth annual survey was conducted by Yahoo! Internet Life Magazine in conjunction with Peterson's, a Thomson Learning Company. The survey was taken to analyze how universities have incorporated internet technology into campus life.

This year, ITS has a fully supported wireless connection pilot in the Kennedy Library. Also this year, students with wireless laptops can register with the ITS Help Desk, and as the campus wireless network goes online, these students can start using the program.

"This is the year where we are going to bring up a little more support and coverage (for wireless)," Hanley said. "I would add that the real issue isn't the hardware, it's the support so we are using these trials to really carefully understand how to support it with the proper security."

Another area in which the school is improving this year is in Web portal. This year, ITS rolled out a Web portal that can be personalized for each student at my.calpoly.edu.

Students can have information on the site that is specific to their department or college interest, said Mary Shaffer, budget planning specialist at ITS. She added that ITS has the student version currently operating and is working on a faculty version. ITS also hopes to eventually have one for alumni as well.

The infrastructure for the school is also being updated. One of the measures of a school's infrastructure is the quality of its student labs. Cal Poly has nine open access labs that are available to students.

Shaffer said that many of these labs have aging computers and it is one of the high priorities of ITS this year to find ways to update the labs.

Hanley added that many of the high scores Cal Poly received were due to the great cooperation on campus between departments to get as much services online for students as possible.

No. 1 source of TV news - CPTV*

*according to Mustang Daily

News

What do you think about fraternities and sororities?

Debroah Dommel

industrial engineering

senior

Andrew Badger

kinesiology

senior

Kit Cressaty

speech communication

junior

Katrina Moore

child development

junior

Akin Elonai

computer engineering

freshman

Loren Bryne

civil engineering

freshman

I guess they're a good thing.

Sure. People need housing. They provide housing.

I'm not really sure. I'm not really into the brotherly pack thing.

I really put a value on this because this is one of the few surveys available to universities that really puts the student focus into the survey.

Jerry Hanley

the vice provost/CIO of Information Technology Services

I would like to see these grades as a benchmark, to work with ASI, and student representatives to get a sense of how they would like to see the priorities go in the future, not so much to go from a C to an A but to put an emphasis on what caused the C," Hanley said.

Rounding out the top five colleges in the survey were Carnegie Mellon University in New York, Stanford University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College in New Hampshire and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The only other CSU that was on the list was San Francisco State University at No. 38.
National Briefs

David signs bill, increasing rights for same-sex couples
SACRAMENTO, Calif. — On Sunday Gov. Gray Davis signed into law a number of bills, including one that increases benefits and rights to same-sex couples. Most of the bills will go into effect Jan. 1.

Domestic partners who are registered with the state will now be able to make medical decisions for their partner if the partner becomes incapacitated, sue for wrongful death, adopt a partner's child and will have their property to their name. There are about 16,000 gay, lesbian and bisexual domestic partners registered with the state.

Davis also signed a law that hand-gun buyers will have to present thumbprints, proof of residence, identification, and a handgun safety certificate before purchasing a gun.

A bill to ban smacking on "punk kids" in schools was signed. Davis said the bill that would fine parents who leave children unattended in cars and several other bills were signed into law by Davis as well.

Associated Press

Gasoline prices drop below $1 in south
WASHINGTON — Gasoline at some stations in the south and southeast has dropped below $1 a gallon. This is an extreme contrast with stations that were charging $6 a gallon immediately after the terrorist attacks. But the U.S. average is a little higher at $1.35 a gallon. On Sept. 11, the average price was $1.29.

The lower prices are due to supply exceeding demand since businesses and individuals are using less petroleum.

Energy Information Administration predicts that prices haven't stopped falling but it is unknown how long the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can keep the price at $2.22 per barrel. They want to keep good relations with the United States, especially as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in Islamabad at the start of a trip aimed at improving relations. Pakistan and in India, for the war on terrorism, according to ABC News.

Washington had hoped that conflict in Kashmir would be averted while it carries out strikes on Afghanistan, fearing that regional instability could have serious implications for the campaign.

Associated Press

Delayed sentencing for embassy bombers
NEW YORK — The sentencing of four men accused of plotting the 1998 attack and bombing of the U.S. embassy in Tanzania are to be sentenced this Thursday. All face life in prison.

The men are part of the al-Qaida network and were originally scheduled to be sentenced the week of Sept. 10. The sentencing was delayed due to the terror attack.

The government has been convicted of the related 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. Combined, the two bombings killed 224 people and injured 5,000. Some of the families of the victims have filed a multi-million dollar liability claim against the federal government.

The families are accusing the government of underestimating the warnings that the attacks would occur. The government claims not to have received any threat regarding the bombings.

Associated Press

International Briefs

South Asia
KASHMIR — India has attacked at least 11 Pakistani positions along the Line of Control which separates the two sides in the disputed territory of Kashmir.

A Pakistani spokesman told BBC News that one woman had been killed and 25 other civilians wounded in the attack and called on India to put a stop to "state-sponsored terrorism.

In Delhi, defense officials denied the casualties, saying their gunfire had killed 11 Islamic guerrillas.

The attacks, which broke weeks of relative calm along the border, came as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in Islamabad at the start of a trip aimed at improving relations. Pakistan and in India, for the war on terrorism, according to ABC News.

Washington had hoped that conflict in Kashmir would be averted while it carries out strikes on Afghanistan, fearing that regional instability could have serious implications for the campaign.

ABC News

Africa
IVORY COAST — The former president of Ivory Coast, Henri Konan Béle, has returned home for the first time since he was ousted in a military coup nearly two years ago.

Béle was greeted by thousands of supporters from his Democratic Party of Ivory Coast (PDCI) after he landed at Abidjan international airport on Monday night.

The former leader had been invited by President Laurent Gbagbo to take part in national reconciliation talks, aimed at healing the country's deep-socieal and political divisions.

Ivory Coast was thrown into turmoil when Béle was ousted in May 2002 and France, the main sponsor of the military action in the Middle East, has dropped below 35 cents a gallon. The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts that prices haven't stopped falling but it is unknown how long the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries can keep the price at $2.22 per barrel. They want to keep good relations with the United States, especially as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in Islamabad at the start of a trip aimed at improving relations. Pakistan and in India, for the war on terrorism, according to ABC News.

Washington had hoped that conflict in Kashmir would be averted while it carries out strikes on Afghanistan, fearing that regional instability could have serious implications for the campaign.

ABC News

South Asia
UNITED NATIONS — A United Nations official has condemned the U.S. policy of dropping aid to Afghanistan while bomb­ ing the country, according to ABC News.

Jean Ziegler, whose job is to defend the right to food, described the U.S. attack as "catastrophic for humanitarian aid.

He said that because the food drops were not targeted, "the man with an crop picks it up. So civilians are feeling the Taliban every night.

Separately, the UN's children's agency UNICEF warned on Monday that 10,000 Afghan children could die this winter unless food reaches them. The head of the agency, John Holman, quoted the UN agency UNICEF said that 100,000 Afghan children could die this winter unless food reaches them.

Ziegler criticized the aid disbura­ tion strategy known as "shockdistrib­ ution" which involves scattering food over a wide area.

— BBC News

Briefs compiled from various news services by Mustang/Daily collaborator Anne Guillot.
DRAFT
continued from page 1
by the Selective Service. The first to be called will be men whose 20th birthday falls during that year, followed by those ages 21 to 25. Men who are age 18 and those turning 19 would probably not be drafted. Third, all parts of Selective Service are activated. Next if a man is found fit for military service, he is given 10 days to claim an exemption, postponement or deferment. At that point, he has 10 days to report to a local recruiting station. Lastly, 19 days from the onset of the crisis, the Selective Service must deliver the first indudes to the military.

"I don't think that they should be drafted, though. I do believe that if they do want to serve in the military that there is a place for them. I think that women can serve as well as men can but why should we put women through that?"

Sgt. Greg Slane
Provirt Marshall Office at Camp Roberts

News

Mustang Daily

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info Session
Tuesday, November 6 6:00-7:00pm Veranda-A-19

On Campus Interviews
Wednesday/Thursday, November 7 & 8 Career Services 
Reservation Drop off through October 17

Adobe is recruiting on your campus!


"I don't know if people know what abuse is. If anyone does something to put you down that's emotional and mental abuse. Abuse doesn't necessarily have to be physical." 

Chelsea Bowman
speech communications major

‘What’s love got to do with abuse?’ Lecture to discuss different types of abuse and ways to get help By Lacie Grimshaw MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Last year Cal Poly student Kristina Hogan was murdered by her ex-boyfriend.

This year during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Cal Poly Women’s Center along with the Women’s Shelter Program Inc. of San Luis Obispo will sponsor a lecture on relationship violence.

"Last year we went out and we asked the students what they wanted to hear. In light of Kristina Hogan’s murder, the students wanted to look at dating abuse as well as roommate abuse," said Susanne Kelley, director of the Women’s Programs and S.A.F.E.R.

On Wednesday at 11 a.m. two trained counselors from the Women’s Shelter Program Inc. will be at the University Union in room 219 to discuss dating and roommate violence in a lecture called "What’s Love Got to do With This?"

Kelley said that since Hogan’s murder there have been more conversations about the topic of relationship violence, where as before it wasn’t an open discussed topic.

Kelley said she hopes the lecture will inform students about the seriousness of the issue, instead of ignoring it.

"I don’t know if people know what abuse is. If anyone does something to put you down that’s emotional and mental abuse. Abuse doesn’t necessarily have to be physical," said Chelsea Bowman, speech communications major.

"I don’t know if people know what abuse is. If anyone does something to put you down that’s emotional and mental abuse, abuse doesn’t necessarily have to be physical." 

Kelley added that emotional abuse is at times more harmful and lasts longer than physical abuse. Both men and women are invited to attend.

"We’re not just talking about men versus women," Kelley said. "It can go on many different ways."

The lecture is open to the public, but Kelley said her focus will be on the students. If students have any questions about the lecture or about relationship violence, stop by the Women’s Shelter in the UU or call 756-2600.

"I don’t want to take away from their abilities; I am sure that they can serve in combat just as well as men can."

On the other side of the battle over whether women should be drafted and their role in the military, Mary Armstrong, director of Women’s Studies gave her opinion.

"Currently, the military assigns women a ‘limited’ or ‘adjusted’ role, that is, women in the military do not do all the same things as men in the military. Thus, drafting women ‘the same as men’ into an organization that does not treat them ‘the same as men’ seems logically flawed to me."

"Equally important, however, is the fact that many women and men feel strongly that the opportunities and the dangers of the military should be open across the board, and that drafting women would simply be a logical consequence of equality."

"But it is hard to successfully argue that women should be drafted in the name of full equality when the organization of the military does not offer them a fully equal role,” she said in an e-mail interview.

While it is true that the military doesn’t offer a fully equal role to women, more opportunities are opening to women in combat and non-combat branches. There are even more women starting a career in the military.

"I am looking forward to the opportunities that are opening to females," said Chriss Gritske, Cal Poly ROTC cadet. "I am looking at a career in engineering or air defense artillery. I have a female friend that graduated in June and is at her officer basic training course. She is training for long-range air defense artillery."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Web site on women in the military, between 1987 and 1991, women accounted for almost 11 percent of persons in the military. At the last report in 1999, they accounted for 14 percent. Unlike the male veteran population, which is projected to decline by about 28 percent between 1992 and 2010, the female veteran population is projected to increase by 17 percent, from 1,294,000 to 1,281,000 during that period. It also stated on the site that women veterans are younger than their male counterparts, more educated and more likely to have graduated from high school and attended college.

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Women’s Programs and S.A.F.E.R.

Women’s Shelter Program Inc.

KIDS SAFE AARON LAMBERT/ MUSTANG DAILY
As she sits in the sun, picking at the grass, 32-year-old Gyorgyi Nyerges describes her experiences at Cal Poly.

"I like it very much. Everything is so different than Hungary, but it's a big adventure," said Nyerges. "The landscape, the ocean — we don't have beaches and we don't have high mountains."

Nyerges flew to the United States on Sept. 21 to participate in a new exchange program with Cal Poly's soil science department.

"I investigate how your system works," Nyerges said. She visits lectures and labs and gives guest lectures on Hungary and her topic, which is the effect of heavy matters on soil microbiology.

When Nyerges returns to Hungary at the end of the quarter, she is required to turn in a report about Cal Poly and present it to her department at István Szent (Saint Steven) University, where she teaches botany and ecology. István Szent is a college of economics and agriculture in Gyöngyös, Hungary. The report will include what she did at Cal Poly, how the universities can help each other and how they can learn from each other, Nyerges said.

"I think we have to find those points where we can work together," Nyerges said.

Nyerges began her training at a medical university, but shortly changed to a teacher training school, where she studied biology and chemistry. She graduated from college about six years ago and continued her studies in chemistry and microbiology, earning the equivalent of a master's degree. Her background is in biology, microbiology and chemistry, and she is currently working on her Ph.D.

Nyerges was chosen from István Szent University to be an exchange faculty member because of her English speaking skills. The dean of the university also wanted to send a younger faculty member because he thought she could use the experience for her studies.

"She's a very active member of the department," Thomas Rice, soil science department chair, said about Nyerges. "She's adapted to San Luis Obispo life quickly ... she already has a rental car and parking pass."

Cal Poly soil science professor Ronald Taskey was selected as the first faculty member to go to Hungary. He spent spring quarter 2001 at István Szent University. His main job was to learn about the educational system, the college in general and the culture and geography of Hungary.

Cal Poly provides the faculty member with money to cover expenses, while István Szent University provides living accommodations on its campus.

Cal Poly does not have any on-campus living accommodations for visiting faculty members, so retired Cal Poly professor Charles Adre and his wife, Sue, volunteered to host Nyerges in their home during her 10-week stay.

"Our universities have very similar educational philosophies," Rice said. "And our programs are very similar in that they have a hands-on, learn-by-doing focus.

István Szent also has a college farm, Tas Pecsa, similar to Cal Poly's, which gives the students the chance to do hands-on work.

"We really want to continue this relationship because it's important for Hungary, for our college and I hope we can convince all American colleges to start similar programs," Nyerges said.

Hungary used to be a socialist country and was almost under Soviet domination, along with Poland, former Czechoslovakia, former Yugoslavia, Romania and Bulgaria. In 1990, there was a "system change" and Hungary had its first free election.

"We became a democratic country," Nyerges said. She believes that Hungary will join the European Union within the next few years, before Poland and the Czech Republic.

Nyerges is the first member of her family to visit the United States and she plans to come back in the future.

"Everything is so different than Hungary, but it's a big adventure.

The landscape, the ocean — we don't have beaches and we don't have high mountains there."

Gyorgyi Nyerges
soil science professor

Soil science professor Gyorgyi Nyerges was chosen from István Szent (Saint Steven) University in Hungary to be an exchange faculty member at Cal Poly for one year.
Airlines restrictions necessary to prevent problems

As I passed through the metal detector, I was greeted by a security guard, the second I had encountered since proceeding to the gate for my flight. This one was armed with a metal detection baton. I was swept front and back and then swept through the metal detector again. This was the San Luis Obispo County Airport on Saturday. Security at the airport has increased to such a high level that ticket agents checked my identification three times as a security precaution when I passed through the metal detector, the airport, I was searched and then swept through the metal detector again. This was the San Luis Obispo County Airport on Saturday.

Commentary good measure. At the same time, I was swept three times as a security precaution. This isn’t a fictional scene; this is how I was greeted at the San Luis Obispo County Airport on Saturday. Security at the airport has increased to such a high level that ticket agents checked my identification three times as a security precaution when I passed through the metal detector, the airport, I was searched and then swept through the metal detector again. This was the San Luis Obispo County Airport on Saturday.

I believe that if the current trend in airport travel time continues, commuters from San Luis Obispo will find that it takes less time to drive or take the train than to fly. When I made reservations for my trip last weekend, the airline told me to be at the airport two hours before my departure time. That is twice the amount recommended before the attacks on America. If commuters stop using the airport, then airlines will stop running shuttles from San Luis Obispo. And even only one carry-on was not enough even more difficult to make connections to flights farther than Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The airlines hope that the travel restrictions may seem too extreme or inconvenient. Along with these restrictions, there should be restrictions on items that are shipped. Unaccompanied packages on passenger flights were common before the bombing.

For two days afterward we were stopped, but they have been allowed to return. What about these and other items put in the hold of a commercial flight? Should passengers be expected to be allowed within the strict rules that are imposed on passengers and their baggage. If personal baggage is subject to searches, then mail and freight should also be subject to more stringent restrictions on commercial flights.

The San Luis Obispo County Airport should be more responsible for their own safety. If we see a suspicious act, don’t just let it go. Question it. The old cliché "better safe than sorry" is more appropriate today than it has ever been.

Stephen Harvey is a journalism sophomore and Mustang Daily staff writer.
REJECTION
continued from page 1
Kabik's comments indicated that the U.S.-led military campaign is exerting pressure on the Taliban. He may have made the proposal to suggest to the world that Kabik is making an effort to resolve the conflict. The war continued to roll toward Pakistan, where an anti-Taliban demonstration in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, the residents said. The reporters questions. But on Sunday he spoke up with a blunt response to the bomb; he and the Taliban might have something to talk about if the bombing stops and he provides proof of Laden's complicity in the terror attacks. "Turn him over and his colleagues and the thugs he hides as well as destroy his camps," Bush said. "There's no need to discuss innocence or guilt. We know he's guilty."
Invasion of the ankle biters

Hannah plays with Cal Poly graduate Jenny Roney and some of her friends from the Associated Students Inc. downtown on dexter lawn Monday. The kids played with and had other activities as part of the ASI Campus Invasion. The Campus Invasion was held to inform the campus of the referendum to increase ASI funding. ASI has not had a fund increase in over 30 years. A fund increase would go toward ASI sponsored programs such as the Rec Center, Poly Escapes, the daycare center, as well as concerts.

Tommy Thompson
Health and Human Services secretary

ATHRAX
continued from page 3

anthrax — eating food tainted with it, being exposed to it through an open wound or inhaling it. The latter poses the greatest health risk, yet thousands of spores must be inhaled to contract the disease.

New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said Sunday that a police officer who retrieved the tainted letter from NBC News offices in Rockefeller Center and two lab technicians who handled it tested positive for anthrax exposure. All are being treated with antibiotics.

Experts in biometrics and anthrax noted that the state and local health officials probably failed to take adequate safety precautions, such as wearing masks and gloves.

"It suggests they didn't treat the powdered material seriously because there are definitely ways to secure a suspicious package," said Raymond Zilmans, a senior scientist at the California's Monterey Institute of International Studies who specializes in biological weapons.

Bush administration officials' efforts to calm the public were complicated by the fact that the officials seemed to know almost nothing about the source of the anthrax scare.

"All we know is that it is a terrorist act, because anybody that would do this is trying to create terror, trying to create fear in the American public, and that of course is not acceptable," Thompson said.

"I think most people ended up in the house that best fits them," Blevins said.

Between weekly sorority events and studying for midterms, Blevins said she has learned to manage her time wisely. Although at times it feels as if she never has a moment to herself, she feels joining a sorority has helped her to develop the ability to be away from home a little more comfortably.

"It's intimidating coming to a school and not knowing anyone," Blevins said. "But I feel a part of something now, and that makes this whole college thing a little less scary."

Blevins tried to assure Americans that law enforcement is capable of handling the anthrax challenge, despite news reports that the FBI failed to respond immediately after picking up the first suspicious letter from NBC.

Blevins explained that there was a "two- or three-day lapse" before the letter was sent to the lab because the responsible official for weapons of mass destruction in the FBI's New York office was busy at the site of the World Trade Center.

While praising the FBI's overall performance, Ashcroft said, "We need to learn that when you are diverted in one emergency, you can't allow things to not be taken care of."

In Reno, Nev., Washoe County health officials announced Saturday that nasal swabs taken from four Microsoft employees who work at the computer giant's office have tested negative for anthrax exposure.

Washoe District Health Officer Barbara Hunt said preliminary tests conducted on another employer and a family member of one of the workers also came back negative, but final test results are expected Monday.

The six people were tested after anthrax was discovered in a letter sent to Microsoft's Reno office. Hunt said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta has yet to determine whether anthrax found in the letter is a disease-causing strain.

Hunt said Sunday that "very, very little anthrax was found" on one of five photographic negatives that was contained in the letter. She said the anthrax was embedded into the fibers of one of the photos and indicated that the small amount raised the question of whether the anthrax was perhaps a contaminant from soil rather than a deliberate attempt to harm someone.