Poly students hear ‘voices’

By Meghan Nowakowski
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

College students will bring excitement to local seniors tonight, Las Vegas style.

Cal Poly’s Student Community Services will be hosting a casino night at the Judsen Terrace Retirement Center at 6 p.m. “This is their absolute favorite event,” political science senior Kerensa Pearce said. “It always has excitement to local seniors tonight, and each walks away with a prize at the end of the night. “I think the best part is when the seniors tell you how nice it is to get a new perspective on the students, because all they ever hear is negative press in the papers,” said Emily Becker, biology sophomore and director of senior services for SCS.

Students volunteer to deal cards or just hang out with a senior buddy for the night. “It is one of the most beautiful places that I have heard,” Johnson said. “Acoustically, it is just as good as performing in the Performing Arts Center.”

The benefit concert will feature a number of both large and small ensembles and will open with the 12-player Trombone Choir. The orchestra will play a mixture of traditional and contemporary works. The next group to play will be the Saxophone Quartet, which features Cal Poly’s top four saxophone players. Also performing at the concert will be the String Trio, the String Ensemble and the Wind Orchestra.

The last time Cal Poly’s Wind Ensemble performed a show in the Mission was more than three years ago, when they raised money for a trip to the International Music Festival in Sydney. It was at the Sydney festival performance that they were invited to perform at Carnegie Hall in April during this year’s New York Wind Band Festival. “We are all really excited to go,” music junior and publicity coordinator Anna Hartwig said.

The New York Wind Band Festival brings bands from all over the United States and Japan together.

see CONCERT, page 2

Disease threatens Poly poultry

By Laura Newman
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Newcastle outbreak strikes Poly’s Poultry

All over Southern California, thousands of chickens and turkeys are being put to death in an effort to eradicate the Exotic Newcastle Disease (END).

Currently, the disease is restricted to birds in the quarantined counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura, but an outbreak of END close to San Luis Obispo County has Cal Poly poultry students taking extra precautions.

“We are set up with all of the basic bio-security measures,” said animal science junior and Poultry Club President Amy Linnens. “Our facility is closed to the public, and we make sure that students with backyard flocks don’t make contact with our birds.”

END is a contagious and often fatal viral disease that affects many species of birds. Infected birds may show respiratory or nervous system signs, butbirds can fail to exhibit symptoms and yet continue to spread the virus, according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Web site.

“There is no treatment (for END), so California is trying to eradicate it,” Linnens said. “The chickens have to be euthanized.”

Exotic Newcastle Disease has killed thousands of chickens and turkeys in California. Cal Poly is taking precautions to protect campus poultry from the outbreak.

see NEWCASTLE, page 2

Bioengineer to speak on matters of the heart

By Ashlee Bodenhamer
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

What do Elton John and Vice President Dick Cheney have in common? Both are among thousands of people who have machines implanted in their bodies to help their hearts function.

One of these devices is the pager-sized Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator, which will be the topic of a biomedical engineer’s speech “Computers in the Chest” today.

Mark Kroll, Ph.D., senior vice president and chief technology officer for St. Jude Medical Inc.’s Cardiac Rhythm Management Division, will speak to students at 11 a.m. in Cal Poly’s Advanced Technologies Laboratories.

Kroll’s presentation will be valuable to students from majors besides engineering, said College of Engineering Associate Dean Dan Walsh, especially those studying business and science.

see SPEECH, page 2

SJSU casino night bridges generation gap

By Meghan Nowakowski
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly Wind Orchestra has dreams of playing in Carnegie Hall. They will perform a benefit chamber concert Saturday to help them get one step closer to turning their dream into a reality.

The concert, entitled “A Night At The Mission,” will begin at 8 p.m. and is open to the general public. The orchestra was also invited to perform at Carnegie Hall later this year. “A Night At The Mission”) is a very special concert for us,” wind orchestra conductor William Johnson said. “This concert will feature our small performing groups that don’t receive the chance to perform as often.”

The concert will feature chamber music, which Johnson described as a group with a small number of players.

The concert will be held at the old San Luis Obispo Mission Plaza, which offers a perfect setting for smaller performances, he said. “It is one of the most beautiful places that I have heard,” Johnson said. “Acoustically, it is just as good as performing in the Performing Arts Center.”

The benefit concert will feature a number of both large and small ensembles and will open with the 12-player Trombone Choir. The orchestra will play a mixture of traditional and contemporary works. The next group to play will be the Saxophone Quartet, which features Cal Poly’s top four saxophone players. Also performing at the concert will be the String Trio, the String Ensemble and the Wind Orchestra.

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“We are all really excited to go,” music junior and publicity coordinator Anna Hartwig said. The New York Wind Band Festival brings bands from all over the United States and Japan together.

see CONCERT, page 2

‘Night at the Mission’ a prelude to Carnegie

By Alexa Ratcliffe
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

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see CONCERT, page 2
News
Society of Women Engineers hosts regional conference
By Leslie Reo
SAN LUIS OBISPO — Cal Poly’s Society of Women Engineers (SWE) hosted the 2003 Sorors Region Conference and Career Fair at Embarcadero Suites in San Luis Obispo through Monday.

The conference, titled “Survivor,” aims to bring together student and professional engineers and includes several different activities designed to emphasize the conference’s themes.

“This year will concentrate on developing leadership, communication and innovation,” said Jeni Harris, regional conference director and innovative technology graduate student.

Throughout the four days of the conference, an estimated 200 participants will be able to take part in a variety of events highlighting different areas of both SWE and the engineering industry.

Five industry tours of facilities such as Vandenberg Air Force Base and Duke Power Plant will be available as well as different workshops that tie into the thematic ideas through discussion of professional, personal and SWE-related subjects. In addition to housing region meetings, an outreach activity and a website exchange, the conference will also provide keynotes addresses from several different speakers who will present technical, professional and SWE-related topics.

“Most of the speakers are industry representatives that have had a connection to SWE,” Harris said.

One of the larger events of the conference will be the Career Fair, allowing attendees to learn about and interact with companies attending the conference.

“This is a win-win situation,” Serwold said. “The student volunteers love it, and the seniors really look forward to it. They love the energy the students have.”

Some students even develop ongoing relationships with the seniors that do not have loved ones living nearby.

The center’s residents are extremely grateful for the effort that Cal Poly students put into this event. Jeannine Terrace resident Rae Berman said she loves this event.

“It’s one of the nicest things we have that is done here,” Berman said. “Everyone enjoys it.”

Berman said one of the best things about casino night is getting to interact with the students.

Biomedicine is a lucrative industry, she said, even in the midst of a sour economy.

“If you take a look today at economic performance, many biomedical companies are not doing very well in an absolute sense, but in a comparative sense to the rest of the market they’re in an excellent position,” Walsh said.

Although Kolb will not be looking to hire for St. Jude, he will profile the company to the students. Hewes said. St. Jude, which sells its products in excellent condition,” Walsh said.

He is the kickoff speaker of the Engineering Critical Technologies Lyceum series. The series, sponsored by CENG, will bring in leaders on the forefront of various technologies vital to human health. Implanted Cardiac Defibrillators will soon become indispensable to long-term health, Hewes said.

“A lot of us in life are going to have one of these things put in our chest,” Hewes said.

Every year the United States, cardiac arrests strike more than 300,000 persons. Ninety-five percent of these people die, according to Hewes. Those, when a victim wearing a resuscitation suit starts a basic life support function, helps to fill that void in my life. It helps to fill that void in my life. It helps to fill that void in my life. It helps to fill that void in my life.

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Sex-offenders have a price to pay society

Your life is finally complete. Happiness is abundant in your life because you have all the material gains you desire. Your charitable friends flock to you in the front yard, and there's not a care in the world. You and your family are high on purpose. Life after receiving a registry for sex offenders moves in next door.

Howl, neighbors.

Imagine the inconveniences, the nights spent worrying exactly what this court-ordered perversus has done and if he will do the same again. Do you introduce yourself? Do you engage in neighborly activities like borrowing condolences and chatting while tending to your lawn? Exactly what do you do?

Fortunately, I have never been impressed. In such situations. However, I imagine what my reaction would be, which would overwhelm me until I was forced to pack up and move.

Now, place yourself in the unattractive shoes of a registered sex offender. Imagine the desperation of being a repeat offender who just can't seem to kick that habit. It is nearly impossible to incorporate yourself into society without detection. Your skeletons are out, men.

Is it right to broadcast the offenses of individuals by placing them in registries under Megan's Law? Does this serve any good or show them further down into their pigeonholes?

Under Megan's Law, repeat sex offenders are required to register with local law enforcement as to their place of residence. They are expected to update information after they relocate and are subject to random visits to ensure the accuracy of such information.

Currently, there are roughly 200 sex offenders living in San Luis Obispo County and 75 registrants within the city. These individuals are registered for life and are considered to be the most likely to repeat their crimes.

Excuse me for not being sympathetic of a sex offender's cause, but I wholeheartedly support Megan's Law.

These individuals have dug themselves quite a hole and must deal with the dark loneliness of that hole. Perhaps they should have a price to pay society.

They have a price to pay society.

In response to Steve Rose's plea for average and not beautiful recitons of "Sex in San Luis." (Attractive columnist can't complain," Jan. 29), I offer up my average looks and sex life for a glimpse of what the rest of us are up to in our nightly escapades. Let's take a gondola ride around the bay for the "average" male's sexual titillation on a weekend.

I wake up Fridays around 3 p.m. in underwear I quite possibly have been wearing for three days, stumble to the fridge and stuff a Hot Pocket down for dinner. I'm not so hot on the fridge and stuff a Hot Pocket down for dinner. In fact, I would aspire to be a model citizen and repair my own apartment. I imagine most sex offenders have kept up their appearance for such moral superiority, but I would hope that they possess some shred of pride worth upholding.

Many of these offenders are continually in fear of privacy who shall the others those grappling with the possibility of sexually violating someone. These novices would and should take heed in the presence of such looming consequences. Although I do realize the disadvantage that such a label would have been living with for five days, stumble to the fridge and stuff a Hot Pocket down for dinner. Deciding whether or not to shower. I opt not to shave, since I had not for the previous five days, and pull on a black T-shirt that only has some pizza sauce on it, which I conveniently stuff off with a sponge from my kitchen sink. I pull on the jeans I wear for two weeks straight and head back to bed for a nap. Seriously. I wake up 7 and head out for a nap.

Taco Bell is packed with some hot.

And, though I give my best "Don't worry, I'm not hungry. I'm just down my throat remind you of sex." look; no bites. Stuffed with burritos and tacos that are sure to arise sex appeal — if not with their consumption, at least with their gastric release — I head to a party to party.

Heading straight for the keg because nothing says sex like binge drinking. Down as many beers as I can to boost my self-confidence while tragically limiting my ability to "perform" at my peak. I succeed in swallowing the vomit into the bathroom, I tactfully stumble out back and water the patio table, impressing a particular Heading home alone, I contemplate cruising through the dorms to see if any freshmen appear to need love, but then realize that the freshmen are taking care of all of them tonight. So I arrive home single, alone, drunk, demoralized and sexually frustrated to crash in my bed and repeat the exact same thing the following day. Sexually exciting for ya, Steve.

No one wants to know what I do for sex. BELIEVE ME. YOU DON'T WANT to know. So it's in everyone's interest that people won't continue to talk about sex, because thank God there are people in this town who are attractive and clean enough to have it with someone else.

Barry Hayes is a political science junior who usually does the knocking when the van is a-rockin' because he left his CD in there.

I'm not sure how many Busta Rhymes fans (over 21 of course) had a hard knocks for Courvoisier before the video aired, but the impression now is that it's worth fighting ninjas for.

Editor, Too much attention focused on Iraq

I am writing in response to John Hollub's articde "Liberal stance on war" doesn't make sense." Jan. 28."

Specifically, I want to talk about his response in argument three. He states that after the Gulf War, America made up for the losses in the first Gulf War by invading its neighboring countries, but others have. Like Syria, Libya and North Korea. And North Korea just recently announced that they had the atomic bomb.

Yet the United States has spent the last six months zooming into Iraq trying to find a reason to go to war. Iraq has not invaded its neighboring countries, but others have. Like Syria, Libya and North Korea. And North Korea just recently announced that they had the atomic bomb.

Russell Keindel is a social science freshman.

Sex? What sex? Editor,

in your article, "Sex in San Luis." (Attractive columnist can't complain," Jan. 29), you offer up your average looks and sex life for a glimpse of what the rest of us are up to in our nightly escapades. Let's take a gondola ride around the bay for the "average" male's sexual titillation on a weekend.

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Barry Hayes is a political science junior who usually does the knocking when the van is a-rockin' because he left his CD in there.
P. 4
Friday, January 31, 2003

Mustang Daily

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Abortion helps maintain balance

Editor,

While the abortion issue is still on the pages, I would like to also make a remark. George Davis has done his homework, and from you I learned just how bad the abortion problem is ("Life also make a remark," Jan. 28). Forty million abortions in the last 30 years in the United States alone. Forty million!!! Let me run that gigantic number by you guys again.

Did I say that there was a bad abortion problem? I meant abortion solution. Man, and to think, that America could have had a horrendous economic and social burden.

You can imagine? If you think the economy is bad now, just remember that most of these kids would be under 20. That means a lot of social and economic problems.

More competition, more crowding, that's what we need right! This school would have certainly been more crowded than it is. All schools would be more crowded than their already crowded state. That's less for EVERYBODY, I'm willing to bet that a lot of those 40 million were in California. Are you sure our population will be kept in balance, but we are certainly getting around our balancing factors.

Abortion helps maintain balance in a bigger way than I ever imagined, for his and for his abortion. And what is best is the people who are lost nearly everyone, and even their own mothers don't want them. Talk about win-win, eh?

I would like to build a memorial to all these mothers who have sacrificed their seed for the greater good. A gold medal memorial, thisone does not suit to it, so that it sits on it and make it angelic.

Morgan Elam is a general engineering junior.

Abortion is a woman's issue, not man's

Editor,

In response to all the men writing in about their opinion on abortion, your letter was rebuilt in this form.

It is amazing to me that you can have such a strong opinion about something you have not affected. Would you ever justifiably tell another person what to do in a situation that you will never, ever in your life have to experience? It must be easy to make a decision without the responsibility of actual people having to carry out this and live with it every day for the rest of your life.

Did you ever occur to you that there are women out there who absolutely do not want to go through the process of giving birth and raising children? What about when their birth control fails? It was not their choice to be born with the ability to become pregnant, but of course that doesn't matter and they should be forced to "take responsibility for their actions."

Guys can just split at the prospect of an unwanted kid and never look back, while the woman is stuck to deal with it. And the great thing is there's nothing illegal about that; it happens all the time. Sounds like a fair system to me.

Until a government controlled by women, under a female president, will ever occur, Congress decides to overturn the ruling made 30 years ago, shut your mouth on this issue and let women have their right to choose, no matter what the Pope says.

One last thing, George. I challenge you to show me any right woman had in those days. I know they are just hell don't vote.

Micah Hitchman is an electrical engineering junior.

Editor,

In response to all the men writing in about their opinion on abortion, your letter was rebuilt in this form.

And what about those millions of men who don't take that responsibility, yet others do? There's an old saying: A woman's body is hers to do what she wants with. It is not for any man to dominate.

Jamy Heimbech is an English junior.

Editor,

I have noticed that for the past few days the letters to the editor have been comprised of nothing but anti-abortion or pro-choice debates. Why, though, has there been little to the editor remarks written by a male? I'm sorry but when it comes down to it, men have no legal rights on the outcome of a woman's abortion. I'm not saying pur, but this just isn't your issue. Please stick to other topics, and leave the debate over a woman's body to us ladies.

Emily Becker is a biology sophomore.

Armed forces defend country against destruction

Editor,

I am a Cal Poly grad (agribusiness, 1994), and Marine Corp Faj 11 has been a pilot for 14 years (USMC, 1987-2001) (Jan. 30).

John tries to instruct me still check in from time to time to see to what is going on campus with news and sports. What a pleasure it was to read John Holbus' article "Liberal stance on war doesn't make sense," (Jan. 28).

You can't argue those points, but I'm sure the liberal species interpreted themselves anyway, but then I read it. Well done, I was entertained and informed at the same time, which makes sense. All students can fail to do in writing these days (see: UC Berkeley).

With my former squadron, I spent time in the spring and summer of 2001 flying missions over Iraq. We are supporting our Iraqi Support in Operation Southern Watch. We saw first-hand the destruction wrought by the Iraqi army in Kuwait, even 10 years later, and I saw first-hand Saddam's inability to abide by the U.N. resolutions as he shot at us everyday we flew in-country (and continues to do so).

My former squadron and squadron mates will now be faced with this once again. Maybe this time, the misguided and emotional opinions of the "Not in our name" apologists and other garden variety liberals won't stop us from finishing a war that never really ended in 1991.

In a word of peace, people should know it is not the soldier, sailor, airmen, pilot, or Marine that has this war, but the American people. It makes the back pages of New York Times last December? Or the repeated administration "strategies" for post-war Iraq, when they keep saying, "We will use Iraq's oil to pay for the war"? Have you missed the repeated administration promises that the trans-Afghan oil pipeline was constructed a few years ago? You can't argue those points, but I'm sure the liberal species interpreted themselves anyway, but then I read it. Well done, I was entertained and informed at the same time, which makes sense. All students can fail to do in writing these days (see: UC Berkeley).

May I also say that the trans-Afghan oil pipeline was constructed a few years ago? You can't argue those points, but I'm sure the liberal species interpreted themselves anyway, but then I read it. Well done, I was entertained and informed at the same time, which makes sense. All students can fail to do in writing these days (see: UC Berkeley).

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Arts & Culture

Film

‘The Pianist’ small on dialogue, big on music

By Carly Haseluhn

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

“The Pianist” doesn’t rely on convention to cover familiar ground. Instead, it is a captivating film with a new perspective on the persecution of Jews in World War II.

Director Roman Polanski shows war away from war. This isn’t the Hollywood-esque version of the Holocaust that American moviegoers are used to — there are no scenes in the concentration camps, no horror images. In “The Pianist,” the Holocaust is the backdrop, the villains and no planes swooping down every 10 minutes.

Instead, we see the horror from the streets of Nazi-occupied Warsaw, Poland, through the eyes of a pianist who has been separated from his family and hides from the death surrounding him.

Adapted from an autobiography by Wladyslaw Szpilman, Polanski shies away from the obvious in every aspect of the film. By focusing on one character and his isolated day-to-day struggle, Polanski makes the pianist a detached observer, allowing the audience to view each scene as if watching it through a bedroom window.

Polanski presents realistic scenes of Jewish life under German control by emphasizing the details. Showing German commanders laughing while making Jews dance and an old man stealing food from the hands of an old lady, lapping it up like a dog when itfell to the ground.

With close-shots of single gunshots to the head and small piles of the dead being lit on fire, he gives a cold simplicity to brutal scenes, making them all the more impactful. The audience isn’t spared any misery, as this personalized take on war makes apparent the hopeless state of the character and the time.

Beyond all directorial choices, the cinematography and tone of Polanski’s work make it a creative and brilliant work of art.

But with all eyes meant to be on the pianist, who goes from a clean-cut, pleasant young man to a desperate, age-locking figure, Brody successfully carries the plot along by himself. Manipulating his facial expressions and body gestures and relying mainly on grunts, Brody is unbearably realistic in his transition from young to old (after being weathered from hiding).

Opening in 1939 Warsaw, the Szpilman family, as well as every other Jew in Poland, finds themselves having to submit to German rule. First they can’t eat in the same restaurants, then they have to walk in the gutter and bow to German officers as they try to save any little bit of freedom, they are quickly herded off to concentration camps. The pianist is spared by a kind uncle and tries to work until the allies come, but soon after going into hiding helps with underground friends. His life is threatened every day.

“The Pianist” is said to be Polanski’s best film since his success with “Chinatown.” Though he’s not allowed in the United States any more due to one too many relationships with immature (if not preteen) young women, this movie is one that should be viewed and appreciated by all for its powerful imagery and unspoken depth.

The majority of the film details their separation from their families, as well as all other relations. As soon as the nearly 500,000 Jews are confined to designated ghettos, walled off from the rest of society, they are being killed in the streets and slowly starved to death.

Though the Szpilman’s try to work to save any little bit of freedom, they are quickly herded off to concentration camps. The pianist is spared by a kind uncle and tries to work until the allies come, but soon after going into hiding helps with underground friends. His life is threatened every day.

The audience isn’t spared any misery, as this personalized take on war makes apparent the hopeless state of the character and the time.

‘Rabbit-Proof Fence’ is about bonds, both broken and shared

By Jordan Schultz

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The deviation of being ripped from your mother’s arms, taken miles away from anything familiar and forced into a culture completely foreign from your own.

You soon learn that the color of your skin and your native language marks Molly (Evelyn Sampi), her younger sister, Daisy (Tianna Sansbury) and cousin, Gracie (Laura Monaghan) by the Australian government in an attempt to absorb the culture into the white race.

The daughters of Aboriginal mothers and white fathers, the three girls are dubbed “half-castes” by the government that wishes to stamp out their race. Instead, it is a captivating film with a wellrounded character and his isolated day-to-day struggle, Polanski makes the pianist a detached observer, allowing the audience to view each scene as if watching it through a bedroom window.

Polanski presents realistic scenes of Jewish life under German control by emphasizing the details. Showing German commanders laughing while making Jews dance and an old man stealing food from the hands of an old lady, lapping it up like a dog when it fell to the ground.

With close-shots of single gunshots to the head and small piles of the dead being lit on fire, he gives a cold simplicity to brutal scenes, making them all the more impactful.

The audience isn’t spared any misery, as this personalized take on war makes apparent the hopeless state of the character and the time.

Beyond all directorial choices, the cinematography and tone of Polanski’s work make it a creative and brilliant work of art.

But with all eyes meant to be on the pianist, who goes from a clean-cut, pleasant young man to a desperate, age-locking figure, Brody successfully carries the plot along by himself. Manipulating his facial expressions and body gestures and relying mainly on grunts, Brody is unbearably realistic in his transition from young to old (after being weathered from hiding).

Opening in 1939 Warsaw, the Szpilman family, as well as every other Jew in Poland, finds themselves having to submit to German rule. First they can’t eat in the same restaurants, then they have to walk in the gutter and bow to German officers as they try to save any little bit of freedom, they are quickly herded off to concentration camps. The pianist is spared by a kind uncle and tries to work until the allies come, but soon after going into hiding helps with underground friends. His life is threatened every day.

“The Pianist” is said to be Polanski’s best film since his success with “Chinatown.” Though he’s not allowed in the United States any more due to one too many relationships with immature (if not preteen) young women, this movie is one that should be viewed and appreciated by all for its powerful imagery and unspoken depth.

The majority of the film details their separation from their families, as well as all other relations. As soon as the nearly 500,000 Jews are confined to designated ghettos, walled off from the rest of society, they are being killed in the streets and slowly starved to death.

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The audience isn’t spared any misery, as this personalized take on war makes apparent the hopeless state of the character and the time.
Ray Liotta and Jason Patric play Detroit narcotics officers infiltrating a drug underworld in 'Narc.'

The film is inspired by the critically acclaimed documentary 'The Thin Blue Line.'

The film, written and directed by Joe Carnahan, was inspired by the critically acclaimed documentary "The Thin Blue Line," about the exoneration of a Dallas police officer in 1976. Initially, Carnahan developed the story into a short, 30-minute film entitled "Gun Point."

"The Pop Vocabulary Book" by Nick Camas, contains more than 1,500 words that are useful, refreshing and random. It's a better option than the tedious page-a-day Webster's.

Word

The Pop Vocabulary Book contains a number of words (shibboleths, milque, toast, kef, picante) that are either outlandish or obscure that they could easily be used in the game Baldur's. I wonder if injecting words like these in writing or in conversation would sound self-important and just confuse the reader or listener. Cal Poly English lecturer Bill Feldman said when students throw around fancy words, it often results in malapropism (humorous misuse of a word, page 73).

"Sometimes students try to impress and miss the mark," Feldman said. "I can usually tell when someone has clicked on thesaurus." Camas' labor of love was written with college students in mind.

"I knew that a lot of students were behind the eight ball, as far as vocabulary development," Camas said. The average person has a working vocabulary of 500 to 1000 words, he said. According to Camas, learning the word, "The Pop Vocabulary Book" will place you at the level of publicists, speechwriters, media personalities and novelists. At just over 1,500 words, I found the book a little short on entries. However, what is in there is very useful, refreshing and random. It's a better option than the tedious page-a-day vocabulary improvement through Webster's.
National/International News

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NationalBriefs
Ridge outlines plans to combine border security, inspection agencies to safeguard borders
MIAMI — People entering the United States would indeed meet with a single Homeland Security officer who would oversee all matters of customs, immigration and law enforcement, Secretary Tom Ridge said Thursday.

In his first public visit with department employees since his confirmation last week, described plans to combine border security and inspection agencies to streamline the entry process and increase the chance of catching terrorists and weapons at the border. "Instead of four faces at the border, we'll have one," Ridge said at Miami's airport. "The focus here is to help legitimize goods and people enter our country swiftly, and keep dangerous people and their weapons out."

Under the president's proposal, the department would have a budget of $36.2 billion in the fiscal year that begins in October. That is just short of a 10 percent increase over the combined budgets of all the agencies being rolled into the Homeland Security Department.

Homeland security spending across the government — including military — would increase from $37.7 billion to $41.3 billion, officials said.

Workers at N.C. plant wracked by bombings
Workers at an electronics plant in South Carolina who were killed in two bombings last week could be cancer victims of a clinical trial.

The explosion in a 40-foot-tall section of the West Pharmaceutical Services plant Wednesday sent Workers and debris into the air, tackling off screams in the surrounding woods and shaking homes for miles. About 130 people were in the plant at the time.

Some of the injured were still in grave danger, with severe burns over up to 70 percent of their bodies.

Ten people were in critical condition at the North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center in Chapel Hill, spokesman Dr. Anthony Meyer said.

Despite record number of female governors, fewer women in legislatures
After three decades of gains, the number of women crafting state laws and policy has dipped in recent years, drawing concern from advocates who see statehouses as a training ground for the nation's future leaders.

The latest drop is small. There are 35 fewer female legislators this year, down to 1,645 women out of 2,382 state lawmakers across the country.

But a similar decline occurred after the 2000 election. Despite a record six women now serving as governor, women have lost ground for all statewide elected offices, such as treasurer and attorney general.

"There are fewer women in the pipeline than we want to have and we need to have," said Roselyn O'Connell, president of the National Women's Political Caucus.

"We're going to see fewer women serving. And we're going to see fewer women running for positions like lieutenant governor or governor, because they haven't moved through that pipeline."

In Congress, women failed to make any gains in the House last November and increased their numbers by one in the Senate, with Lisa Murkowski appointed by her father, Alaska's new governor, to fill out the rest of his term. There are 73 women out of 535 members of Congress.

International Briefs
Along with anti-U.S./rhetoric, Baghdad offers American goods and popular culture
BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein's government can easily marshal thousands of demonstrators to burn American flags and shout "Death to the USA." But away from the TV cameras, Iraq is awash in American goods and culture.

In central Baghdad, among jewelery stores selling watches with dials featuring Saddam's smiling face, movie theaters are showing "The Mexican" and "Strip Tease." Demi Moore is in "Strip Tease." And "Under Suspicion," with Gene Hackman and Morgan Freeman.

In the upscale Arisat district — which安庆 (North) and destroy its system." KINSTON, N.C. — Investigators were called to the scene of aELl61 parked car Wednesday afternoon. The suspect, who was not identified, was still in the car.

Wanted — Church choir director
MIAMI — Miami-Dade Community College is looking for research assistants to work in a growing church.

Who loves Jesus and music.

C M R G  is looking for research assistants to work in a growing church.

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The military said it carried "clearly a threat to the sovereignty and dignity of the United States." At the chic Baheesh restaurant, posters of Britney Spears are pasted on the walls. The 2,382 state lawmakers across the country.

Women's Political Caucus.

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Sports

The Mustang Equestrian Team

By Jenni Mintz

The Mustang Equestrian team finished second behind Fresno State at the Cal Poly Home Show last weekend.

Despite sweltering heat and riders gear not conducive to the high temperatures, the team galloped with vigor.

The Mustangs hosted the intercollegiate competition with Fresno State, Stanford, UC-Davis, College of Sequoias and Bakersfield. Unlike its competitors, Cal Poly's team is entirely student-run.

Saturday's events were based on the English riding style, which consists of riders in circles and doing jumps.

Sunday included Western events, such as riding in patterns and testing the horse's skills at different speeds, as well as the rider's ability to maintain control.

The greatest hurdles that riders had to overcome was riding an unfamiliar, randomly selected horse in the show.

Sara Newman, an animal science sophomore at the College of the Sequoias, has been riding for 20 years.

"The turnout of how well you place depends on whether or not you get a good horse or a bad horse," Newman said.

Cal Poly Animal science junior Lauren Schaefer said not being able to practice with the horse makes a big difference. As president of the Equestrian Club, Schaefer coordinated the show and had to find horses to ride for competition and take care of them during the show.

The equestrian team has five horses that are team horses, but had to find about 20 more in order to have enough for the competition. The additional horses were borrowed from private citizens.

"We've been working really hard this year," said Jessica March, animal science junior and Equestrian Club vice president. "We've been traveling all season to different colleges and competing, and we've been doing really well. I'm pleased that we can put together the show, since we are without an adult representative.

This year's team has great strength and many capable riders, industrial technology senior Joey Osborne said. Osborn's team manager for president, has competed for the past four years.

"All of our riders are die-hard," Osborne said. "They are competing wonderfully, considering they are not only riding but are also running the show.

Osborne said that the weather, although very hot, was not so bad it was inappropriate for riding.

Cal Poly had many team members place first including Michael Kovach, in open stock seat in the rail class; Heathen Will-0n, at intermediate stock seat rail; and Beneg Regis, who placed first in intermediate that class.

Riders were critiqued based on how they got on their horses and how they adapted to the horse, said Sophie Rowland, an agricultural business graduate.

The judges watched how horses respond to different riders throughout the day and graded accordingly. The riders were also critiqued on all-around horsemanship, how they reacted to riding an unfamiliar horse and how their horse responded.

"It was one of our best shows that we hosted here," Schaefer said. "I'm really proud of the team. All of the horses were superstars."