LAES goes international

Students from the new liberal arts and engineering sciences department work on their interactive project, Intimate Transactions, in the welding building, which will be featured at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing starting Saturday.

Sara Wright

While U.S. News & World Report named Cal Poly's College of Engineering the nation's top public, non-doctoral engineering school, its programs are intensive and not suitable for everyone. The liberal arts and engineering studies (LAES) program that started just this year aims to meet individual student interests and needs, and is so far meeting its expectations.

There are currently 15 full-time students in the program, which awards a bachelor of arts degree, and around five students are expected to enroll online in the next few weeks. All of the current students transferred from the College of Engineering.

LAES co-director David Gillette said that the program is intended to be small, and while there is no cut-off date for enrollment right now, the program will likely never top 100 students in order to keep it specialized.

"The program will probably be fairly popular in the future, but we want to work with students one on one," he said.

The program is on a "trial run" for the next five years to see how it works, and changes and revisions may be implemented if the need arises, Gillette said.

"It's like a start-up company; with a decent amount of time, resources and energy it should be fine," he said.

So far it's working according to plan, with the expected initial enrollment met.

LAES was introduced as a hybrid program of engineering and technology study along with a liberal arts component.

see LAES, page 2

LAUREN BARANINO MUSTANG DAILY

Diaz’ sentence to include jail time

The computer engineering freshman accused of sending threatening e-mails to Cal Poly students and faculty in October was sentenced Monday.

Francisco Diaz, 18, will serve 30 days to the San Luis Obispo County Jail, in addition to three years probation and 100 hours of community service. He originally faced up to 90 days in the country jail and up to three years and eight months of probation.

Diaz was charged with criminal threats, unlawful access to a computer, and fraud after he allegedly sent more than 50 threatening e-mails to faculty and staff from a display computer in El Corral Bookstore.

Diaz pleaded no contest to these charges in April — a plea bargain meaning he neither admits to nor disputes the charges.

The alleged e-mail, which was forwarded to the Mustang Daily from multiple anonymous sources, stated the sender was planning an attack on Cal Poly students and faculty similar to the shooting at Virginia Tech in April 2007.

Police originally arrested the owner of the e-mail account from which the e-mails were sent. The owner of the account was not involved in the crime and was soon released.

Police then arrested Diaz, who reportedly appeared on security camera images from the bookstore. Diaz posted his $50,000 bail the following day.

An online message sent to the Mustang Daily from one of Diaz’ friends said Diaz allegedly regretted sending the e-mails and that they were meant to be a Halloween prank.

"It was an unconscious prank that became the biggest mistake of my life, which I am now repenting for causing the unthinkable panic, which was not my intention," Diaz allegedly wrote in the message.

Diaz will start his jail term on July 1.

POLY, SAN LUIS OBISPO HARD ON SKATEBOARDERS

Aaron Gandette

While skateboarding isn’t as prevalent at Cal Poly as it is at other, less hilly California colleges, there are a select few who prefer boards to bikes.

However, California State University students are subject to a no-skateboarding policy that forbids riding boards on the Cal Poly campus; the city of San Luis Obispo also frowns upon skateboarding.

University of California campuses have a policy where skateboarding is allowed (though "trickboarding" is prevented), meaning students will be ticketed if they’re spotted doing maneuvers that involve their wheels leaving the ground. However, Cal Poly students are given tickets, though not as regularly as it might seem.

Thirty-five of the 51 skateboarding tickets issued over the last year were given in October and November, due largely to an influx of freshmen who hadn’t been aware of the university’s prohibition on skating. The winter months saw only 12 tickets issued, which can be partially attributed to rainy weather.

Out in the city, 26 of the 31 tickets issued were in the downtown area, where many skaters were cited not for doing tricks, but for riding down the sidewalk.

Skateboarding is prohibited in the downtown core at all times, which is defined as the rectangle bordered by Palm, Santa Rosa, Pacific and Nipomo streets. The paramount concern for the safety of pedestrians was the main reason for such a policy.

"The main reason it’s illegal downtown is because of all the pedestrian traffic," said Capt. Dan Blanke of the San Luis Obispo Police Department. "We’ve had people injured because a skateboarder ran into them, which is obviously much more serious than chipped bricks or concrete."

Skaters in San Luis Obispo have expressed understanding that skateboarding is an activity that must be regulated just like any other, but also are frustrated that the city itself has so few spots to skate.

"I’ve gotten a ticket for skating at Poly, but it was something..."
LAES
continued from page 1

with that of culture, arts and humanities. The program was meant to accommodate students whose interests didn’t lie solely in liberal arts or engineering.

"The program is for students who may not be doing so well because they lost interest in their major," Gillette said. "This allows them the freedom to take more classes they're interested in and focus on that.

LAES also presents engineering classes from being lost in the transfer to other disciplines such as business, where such courses aren’t useful. It appeals mostly to engineers. It is well. is supposed to rise completely from student interest, "Gillette said. "It seems natural for people interested in teaching together who had come from the colleges of Liberal Arts and Engineering simultaneously, for students interested in majoring in LAES to need to transfer to the program by applying separately. In order to transfer, students need only a "decent" grade point average as well as certain required courses in areas such as math, chemistry, physics and English. And according to the College of Engineering Advising Center, once you transfer to LAES from the college, you cannot transfer back.

Students are a part of both the colleges of Liberal Arts and Engineering simultaneously, but their advisers are only those in the LAES program. "LAES is a slightly different flavor, with a more international focus and access to higher level liberal arts classes," Gillette said.

LAES students follow a specialized track, either from one of five engineering concentrations or from one of four liberal arts concentrations, or an independent course of study they design along with LAES advisers.

The complexity of an LAES degree is so great that the program discourages admitting freshmen who may not understand exactly what field they will want to study. Students are recommended to begin the program at the end of their sophomore year.

Students are required to choose a commercial or non-profit minor in the field they wish to enter in order to help them move through their college career with specialized guidance, and work on a project of their choice.

"We want to throw them at projects and say, 'You have to solve it,'" Gillette said.

One project, Intimate Transactions, is a collaborative effort with Australian architect Keith Armstrong that will be featured as an exhibit at the 23rd Summer Olympics in Beijing. Intimate Transactions allows two people in separate places to experience a virtual reality interaction.

Using a concept called "Lumière ghosting," Intimate Transactions allows two people in separate rooms — or in this case, separate countries — to interact through a digital representation of themselves on a screen, which look like white ghosts. The figures on the screen move according to the movements of the user leaning against a structure connected to sensors.

The abstract project will run from June 7 to June 17 for two hours each day, and participants will be interacting with a partner in Beijing.

Organizations LAES students will be ready for include the Peace Corps, which values students interested in the environment but who also understand technology, and entertainment companies such as Disney, Warner Bros, and THS. The program also takes LAES students on field trips so they can experience certain industries.

To get a better idea of what career they want, LAES students must spend six months overseas for LAES 4! Collaborative Global Partnerships. The international focus is unique to the program.

A capstone senior project seminar is the final LAES course to take, during which students present their project at conferences and in front of committees and boards.

The core courses together are meant to help students determine exactly what they want to do. "Students should be very articulate about who they are and what they're doing," Gillette said. "They should know where they're going the day they leave (Cal Poly)."

Skateboarding
continued from page 1

that I was half-expecting," said Travis Geneto, a resident of San Luis Obispo and a Central Coast native. "It just gets to you that in every spot there is to skate — be it the high school, anything downtown, or the parking lot by Bali's — it's illegal. Especially with the skate park in the state of disrepair that it is, where we are supposed to ride?"

The city is taking steps to remedy this problem, with the latest fiscal budget approving funds for the San Luis Obispo skate park to be renovated with a completely new style, along the lines of the concrete park in Los Osos.

Officials are hopeful that building such an attraction for skaters will help alleviate the seemingly stifling environment in which skaters are forced to ride.

"Skaters came out en masse when we were allocating funds for the new budget, asking for a new park," said Betsy Kiser, Parks and Recreation director for the city of San Luis Obispo. "We did a needs assessment and are going to develop an in-ground, concrete skate park, which will be the premier park in the city. Especially with the park now having homemade, deteriorating ramps, this new park should be much more enticing."

And while this new park will inevitably be more popular than the current one, the funds for the renovation won't be coming out of the 2009-2010 budget, and construction will commence the year after.

Until then, skaters are left to skate the same spots that have been popular for years, perpetually looking over their shoulders to see if police are nearby.

WANTING TO GET MORE OUT OF LIFE IS STRONG.
GETTING THE MOST OUT OF LIFE IS ARMY STRONG.

There's a bachelor of arts and engineering, bachelor of science in technology and arts... the names are different, but they're all basically the same," Gillette said. "It seems natural for such combinations to arise.

The LAES degree is a full degree between two colleges rather than two departments — basically the first of its kind at Cal Poly.

Each of the current faculty members primarily teach in other departments except Gillette and co-director Elizabeth Thompson Schlesner, whose bio states teaches the four core LAES courses.

Students cannot double-major in LAES and engineering or any other discipline, so students interested in majoring in LAES need to transfer to the program by applying separately. In order to transfer, students need only a "decent" grade point average as well as certain required courses in areas such as math, chemistry, physics and English. And according to the College of Engineering Advising Center, once you transfer to LAES from the college, you cannot transfer back.

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Until then, skaters are left to skate the same spots that have been popular for years, perpetually looking over their shoulders to see if police are nearby.
Barack Obama pushed close to victory in the marathon Democratic presidential race Monday on the eve of a final pair of primaries amid signs that Hillary Rodham Clinton was preparing to acknowledge defeat.

Said a confident Obama, "I told her that once the dust settled I'm looking forward to meeting with her at a time and place of her choosing." That was after a conversation the two aides had on Sunday night. He did not describe her response.

He also said he would begin thinking about a vice presidential running mate "the day after I have gotten that last delegate needed to officially claim the nomination." The former first lady gave no public hint of quitting the race, and she has said repeatedly she might not describe her response.

"It's time and place of her choosing." he said as he winked for his press photo with the portrait behind him. Obama nears victory in race for presidency.

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

David Espo
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama greets a supporter prior to speaking at a town hall meeting at a high school in Troy, Mich.

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Tuesday, June 3, 2008

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ASSOCIATED PRESS
Heart Attack
A spokesman for Kelsey Grammer says the "Frasier" star is recovering in a Hawaii hospital after a mild heart attack this weekend.
Stan Rosenfield says Grammer is "resting comfortably" in an undisclosed hospital after being stricken Saturday. Rosenfield says the 53-year-old actor will be released early this week.

Rock Daddy Dies
Bo Diddley, a founding father of rock 'n' roll whose distinctive "shave and a haircut, two bits" rhythm and innovative guitar effects inspired legions of other musicians, died Monday after months of ill health. He was 79.
Diddley died of heart failure at his home in Archer, Fla., spokeswoman Susan Clary said. He had suffered a heart attack in August, three months after suffering a stroke while touring in Iowa.

Not So Off Drugs
Latum O'Neal swore she was done with drugs.
The Oscar-winning former child actress proclaimed she was sober as she promoted her 2004 tell-all memoir, cobbled her acting career back together and even offered advice to misbehaving pop star Britney Spears.
O'Neal's arrest Sunday on charges of buying cocaine in her gritty-chic downtown Manhattan neighborhood suggests her struggle with addiction may not be over.

One Druggie To Another
Amy Winehouse gave her jailed husband loving glances when he appeared in an east London court on charges of assault and conspiracy to obstruct justice.
Winehouse sat in the front row during Blake Fielder-Civil's appearance on Monday.
The 24-year-old singer smiled at him repeatedly and patted the empty seat next to her. At one point, she mouthed the word, "Come and sit here next to me."

His Legacy Lives On
The man in the cardigan himself would've been glad to welcome the Fred Rogers Memorial Scholarship winners to his neighborhood, his widow said.
The three college students, whose names were announced Sunday, are part of a series of "wonderful young people" who've been recognized by the 4-year-old scholarship program named for her husband, the children's TV host, said Joanne Rogers.

Risk is fun, and it gets pretty competitive!
- Alberto Reynoso, math sophomore

Monopoly, because it lasts awhile and gets people really involved.
- Ryan Hourigan, mechanical engineering sophomore

Monopoly, because it's different every time you play it.
- Ben Naravage, aerospace engineering sophomore

Cranium makes you think and have fun at the same time.
- Evelyn Tam, communication studies sophomore

Get caught reading the Mustang Daily and win a free shirt!
Despite the damage, many schools reopen in Myanmar

THUWANA, Myanmar (AP) — As students filed into Middle School No. 1 on Monday for the first day of classes since the cyclone hit Myanmar a month ago, all eyes stared skyward — at the gaping hole in the roof.

"People need basic relief, which is shocking after four weeks," Ostafin regional director Sarah Ireland said Monday.

The United Nations has also been critical of the access and support being provided by the Government of Myanmar to people. "There remains a serious lack of sufficient and sustained relief," the United Nations said in its latest assessment report. It said the world body also lacked "a clear understanding of the support being provided by the Government of Myanmar to people."

The storm's 120 mph winds ripped the roots off two of the three buildings at her junior high and driving rains caused widespread flooding, she said. She asked that the school be named for his efforts against government fears for talking to a reporter.

"We teachers tried to salvage what we could, but the rain damaged everything," said Khin Yir, dressed in the standard school uniform of a white shirt and light-green longs, the traditional uniform worn by men and women in Myanmar.

"We teachers hand-drew as many books as we could, and it's a good thing we did because we have to use them now," she said. "We haven't gotten any new supplies."

Khin Yir said she feared for her students' safety and was concerned about how to help them cope with the trauma caused by the storm, which left at least 134,000 people dead or missing and more than 2 million homeless.

Even in Yangon, the biggest city, so many schools needed repairs that the roofed could not be fixed in time for the start of classes. Primary School No. 20 was among the lucky few — it reopened Monday with a glimmering new metal roof topping the one-story schoolhouse in the northeastern Yangon suburb of Dagon, and the words "Safety First" posted on the walls.

Despite their good fortune, some parents expressed dis-

A young school boy walks outside a classroom in a school with cyclone damaged roof, windows and walls in the village of Thuwana outside Yangon, Myanmar.

"Our children need food, they need clothes, and they need their books. They need everything," said Khin Myo, a teacher from a northern Yangon suburb of Hlang Thar, who said she believed it was a "bad choice" to reopen schools so soon.

The storm's 20 mph winds ripped the roofs off two of the three buildings at her junior high and driving rains caused widespread flooding, she said. She asked that the school be named for his efforts against government fears for talking to a reporter.

"We teachers tried to salvage what we could, but the rain damaged everything," said Khin Yir, dressed in the standard school uniform of a white shirt and light-green longs, the traditional uniform worn by men and women in Myanmar.

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International Briefs

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Syria will allow in U.N. inspectors to probe allegations that a remote building destroyed in an Israeli airstrike was a nuclear reactor built secretly with North Korean help, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Monday.

The invitation signaled the start of an international fact check of U.S. and Israeli assertions that Damascus had tried to build a plutonium-producing facility under the radar of the international community. It could turn into a wider probe of possible secret Syrian nuclear sites.

Syria has denied wrongdoing, asserting the attack destroyed a non-military facility.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea said Tuesday it has asked the U.S. to make a key change to a beef import agreement, following large-scale protests by South Koreans concerned over mad cow disease.

Agriculture Minister Chang Woos-chun told a press conference that the government asked the U.S. to refrain from exporting any beef that comes from cattle aged over 30 months, which are considered to be at greater risk of the illness than younger animals.

South Korea agreed in April to reopen its market to U.S. beef after it was blocked for most of the past four-and-a-half years in a ban sparked by the first case of the transmissible spongiform encephalopathy in the U.S. in late 2003.

"ALLINGS, France (AP) — A train dawdling into a bus carrying schoolchildren at a railroad crossing in the French Alps on Monday, killing seven children and injuring 24 people, regional officials said.

The bus was carrying 90 middle-school students, five adults and a driver on a field trip to a historic village on the shores of Lake Geneva, according to the gendarmes service in the Haute-Savoie region.

"THE news came as the government asked the U.S. to return to the agreement to expand the market in the French Alps on Monday, killing seven children and injuring 24 people, regional officials said.

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Six die in bomb outside Danish Embassy in Pakistan

Nahal Toosi
ASSOCIATED PRESS

A car bomb exploded outside the Danish Embassy in Islamabad on Monday, killing six people and wounding dozens weeks after al-Qaeda issued threats against Denmark over the reprinting of a cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad.

The blast is likely to lead to Western pressure on Pakistan's new government to roll back its policy of trying to strike deals with militant groups instead of using military force.

The bombing was the worst anti-Danish attack since the Muhammad cartoons first appeared nearly three years ago. At least five and possibly all six of the dead were Pakistanis.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, though suspicion quickly fell on al-Qaeda. As recently as April, the terror network's No.2, Ayman al-Zawahri, called for attacks on Danish targets in response to the cartoons.

The attacker apparently used a fake diplomatic license plate to get the car near the embassy, according to authorities, who were investigating whether it was a suicide attack. Interior Secretary Kamal Shah said evidence indicated the car was a Toyota Corolla carrying 55 pounds of explosives.

The blast left a huge crater in the road outside the embassy, desolated nearby vehicles and badly damaged the office of a U.N.-funded development group. A perimeter wall of the embassy collapsed and its metal gate was blown inward, but the embassy building itself remained standing, though its windows were shattered. Several diplomatic buildings and homes also were damaged.

"Pieces of windows, doors and glass hit me, but thank God I didn't get any injuries," said Nizwan Sheikh, a planning specialist for the U.N.-funded Development Trust for Community Empowerment.

"Outside the building, it was a doomsday scene. Everybody was running helter-skelter. I saw people crying. I saw blood. I saw human body parts."

The six dead included two Pakistani policemen, as well as a cleaner and a handyman employed by the embassy. At least 35 people were wounded, officials said. Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller said one of the dead may have held a Danish passport, but he did not elaborate.

A Pakistani security official stands amid the rubble of the adjacent building and cars after a bomb explosion outside the Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. Three people were killed and seven hurt after the huge explosion.

A Palestinian security official stands amid the rubble of the adjacent building and cars after a bomb explosion outside the Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. Three people were killed and seven hurt after the huge explosion.

A Brazilian woman who worked at the Danish embassy was among the wounded. Her injuries were not serious, Brazil's foreign ministry said.

It was the second targeting of foreigners in the Pakistani capital in less than three months.

The Norwegian and Swedish governments immediately closed their embassies in the wake of the blast, which damaged the homes of the Dutch ambassador, the Australian defense attaché and the Indian ambassador. No one was injured.

The U.S. Embassy urged Americans to use extra caution when traveling through Islamabad and to avoid the blast site. Officials from U.N. agencies were to meet Tuesday about possibly sending people home.

Pakistan's border regions are considered havens for al-Qaeda and Taliban-linked militants believed behind attacks on U.S. forces in neighboring Afghanistan and a series of blasts in Pakistan in the past year.

Pakistan's government, in office for just two months, has been pursuing peace deals with the militants, a shift away from the U.S.-backed military tactics employed by President Pervez Musharraf.

The U.S. has expressed concern the deals will give militant groups time to regroup and plan more attacks, and Monday's blast could lead the West to push Pakistan to rely more on military operations against extremists.

Pakistan officials condemned the attack, but indicated they would keep up militant contacts. The government has insisted it is not talking to "terrorists" but rather militants willing to lay down their weapons.

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End of the Year

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One day only Thursday June 5
After a four-year hiatus, Samantha, Miranda, Carrie and Charlotte have returned — this time in a big-screen continuation of HBO's popular "Sex and the City" series.

Gianna Magnoli  
**Arts Editor**

The women who taught the world about sex and fashion made a successful big-screen debut, proving that relationship drama is still a worthy investment for any movie studio. The timeless power of chic flicks was shown by the thousands of women who flocked to theaters to see "Sex and the City" and made this foursome of friends go down in history at the box office. The film made $55.7 million in its opening weekend, making it the fifth-highest grossing R-rated movie in its opening weekend ever — and the audiences were mostly female. Some even rented out entire theaters for their friends, had cocktail pre-parties or tested their trivia knowledge beforehand.

It's official: sex sells.

The plot picks up where the last season ends and thankfully, the whole cast is back. Carrie and Big have their adopted daughter, Samantha and Smith are pursuing his Hollywood career, Miranda and Steve are trying to deal with married life in Brooklyn, and Carrie and Big are wrestling with their roller-coaster relationship.

The movie delivers the same mixture of fun, sex and drama as the TV show. Since everything was pretty much wrapped up in the series finale, the film introduces new conflict for each relationship — especially Carrie and Big's indecisiveness on marriage — but the issues are more mature this time.

The film is not as predictable as fans would think, and it does a good job of condensing a season's worth of events into a two-and-a-half-hour movie. Beware of corniness, however. While there were plenty of genuinely tear-jerking moments, some camera work goes overboard to dramatize certain parts. The result is unintended laughter, which totally kills the moment.

At one point, Carrie lets go of a cell phone and the camera slowly pans down as the phone gracefully slides down her dress and falls to the floor with a resounding boom. It happened again later with rose petals fluttering toward the ground, leading the audience to wonder if gravity must work slower in that time zone (or just in dramatic situations).

The film was pure entertainment from beginning to end. It was funniest when it took itself lightly (such as making fun of Carrie's ridiculous feather thing she wore on her head) and just let the actors and actresses' chemistry take over the movie. The film had a ready-made cast of people who work well together and audiences love, so nothing felt forced or unrealistic. Carrie, Samantha, Miranda and Charlotte have become real people to most of the show's viewers, which is why so many people connected to this movie on such an intimate basis.

Besides the sex (there's lots of sex) is the fashion. The women of "Sex and the City" are famous for their designer outfits and accessories, and the film is true to form. There's more brand-shopping than the Super Bowl, and it's about as subtle. The movie is one giant commercial for high fashion, with the traditional mixture of "I want that" outfits and "what the heck was she thinking?" outfits.

Most of us can't afford impulse-shopping for designer clothing, Cosmopolitans at every new club and spontaneous trips to Mexico, especially on a writer's salary (if that's possible, please let me know), so it's fun to watch the women who can. They are each role models as strong women, even with their bad decisions, because they make them human and more relatable.

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Christina Casci

It is not every day that a writer like Jane Austen appears with a book like "Sense and Sensibility." In high school, everyone has to read "Pride and Prejudice," but the other novels she wrote get left behind. "Sense and Sensibility" expresses everyone has to read "Pride and Prejudice," but the other novels characters often in the book, but each one is finished by the end development. There is not much explanation of costume. He the hardships of the times so explicitly it is almost poetic.

With a book like "Sense and Sensibility." In high school, eventually move, their new location brings not only a new home, but new people and adventures as well. The most appealing aspect of this story is the character development. There is not much explanation of costume. The landscape descriptions are beautiful and vivid, but they don't match the lure of the characters. Austen introduces new characters often in the book, but each one is familiar by the end of the chapter. With exquisite writing, she presents characters who are timeless.

The oldest daughter, Eleanor, is composed, frugal and sensible. She keeps her emotions hidden until they need to be unveiled. Her first engagement becomes complicated due to money, but the reader barely glimpses her pain. Austen gives small sides where the true feelings of Eleanor are exposed, but these are few and far between.

Marianne, the second daughter, is rash, overly expressive and lovable all at the same time. She wears her heart on her sleeve. She can only love a man who can fit her perfect characteristics. He must love everything and everyone she does or he is not worth her time. She wants adventure and passion in relationships, but finds it harder than she previously thought. She is almost the opposite of her sister.

Austen even makes each sister and extra character intimately known to the reader. However, she barely ever talks about the youngest sister, Margaret. She is in a few scenes but hardly says anything. Her role seems meaningless in comparison to the rest of the characters in the novel.

Another thing she does well is make the reader hate certain characters. There are a few manipulative and despicable characters who are easy to hate. The wife of the Dashwood son with the estate is truly a horrible woman. Right from the beginning, it is easy to see how horrible she is and will continue to be throughout the book.

The greatest thing about this novel and Austen's other writings in general is how well she transports the reader back to her time. As you read, the roads become vivid, the house becomes yours, the characters become friends, and the lives the characters lead become important. It is not always an easy task to truly bring a reader to a certain time, but she does it successfully.

Austen's writing is slightly difficult to read, but as long as it is ordered and taken slowly, it is well worth the time. She has been called one of the greatest novelists of English history. Why not find out yourself? It is a treat to read a book that has been acclaimed all around the world. You truly find yourself wrapped up in the world she creates.
From left to right, "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls," "Friday the 13th" and "Brown Bunny" all feature some of the worst sex scenes in film.

Louis Peitzman
DAILY CALARTS (L. BORKERT)

I have a confession to make: I've been leading a double life. That's right. You may know me as the Daily Cal sex columnist, but I'm also editor of the arts & entertainment page. Shocking, I know. The reason I'm outing myself now is that I'd like to take this week to focus on my real area of expertise: movie sex — namely, bad movie sex.

Few films have done justice to the deed. Mostly, it's all montage, clever angles and, in particularly dire cases, smooth jazz. I could go into the movies that have managed to get it right, but honestly, it's a lot more interesting to look at the ones that have gotten it really, really wrong. Sometimes it's supposed to be bad; sometimes it's supposed to be high art. Either way, here are a few of the most notable offenders.

"Brown Bunny"
I am all for real sex on screen, at least when it's appropriate. "Shortbus" is perhaps the best example of a film where the sex was, well, sex, without ever feeling tacky or overdone. If, on the other hand, your movie is a vanity project culminating in a degrading blow job from your co-star, it's safe to say you're doing it wrong. In an attempt to defend "Brown Bunny," Chloe Sevigny was later quoted as saying, "It's an art film. It should be playing in museums. It's like an Andy Warhol movie." That's more than just condescending — it's downright ludicrous.

"Beyond the Valley of the Dolls"
Roger Ebert called "Brown Bunny" one of the worst movies of all time. Now remind me, how does that saying about people who live in glass houses go? This is the guy who penned "Beyond the Valley of the Dolls," a movie that undoubtedly ranks on that same list. The sex in the film speaks to the orgiastic excess of the '70s: everyone does everyone pretty indiscriminately. But while a better film might make you envy a period of such liberation, chances are all that "BVD" will do is make you feel dirty.

"Friday the 13th"
Or any slasher movie from the '80s for that matter. The "sex = death" formula espoused in "Scream" isn't much of a selling point when it comes to surviving a teenage airborne machete.

See Sex, page 11
Usher makes a 'Stand'

David Warnick

On any list of the top vocables in contemporary popular music, Usher must hover very close to the top. But in the face of his firmly established superstardom, the tremendous talent that enabled him to become such a fixture of the pop landscape has unfortunately, but predictably, taken a backseat to his face, style, cuisine business interests, ownership stake in LeBron's team and even his acting. But it's no surprise. This is what happens to our stars — they become a brand.

So what does Usher's new full-length, "Here I Stand," have to do with this pocket treatise? Well, as merely another facet of Usher's diversified industries, its forgettable content is sure to be a storming success just like it should be by riding the coattails of the brand-name that adorns the cover in big red caps. Uneven at best, "Here I Stand" still has its absolute highs, most of which are reached when the album functions as a vehicle for Usher's established vocal prowess. The tragically abbreviated "Intro" finds Usher pouring his rich tenor onto a sparse, bourbon-soaked New Orleans piano dirge to excellent result. Similar magic is conjured above a soft funk guitar swagger on "Something Special," when Usher delivers legitimate prowess. The tragically abbreviated "Intro" finds Usher pouring his rich tenor onto a sparse, bourbon-soaked New Orleans piano dirge to excellent result. Similar magic is conjured above a soft funk guitar swagger on "Something Special," when Usher delivers legitimate soul and manages to maintain it even after a drum machine beat kicks in. "Boat Thing," featuring a few great breaks from guest Jay-Z, is the record's only real triumph that lays on the club end of the spectrum. Too often, though, "Here I Stand" is instead a vehicle for small army of producers Conveying that the disc was destined to be a smash before it was even conceived, it should be no surprise that Usher was willing to give more than 20 different producers an at-bat, and it should similarly be no surprise that such a long lineup has yielded such scattered results.

For an album to be regarded as a substantial addition to the genre.That's right, if you don't believe me.

"Men, Women, and Diapers," Hacon get a post-coital arrow to overlook it.

The worst offenders are the Eastern pentatonic-tinged "Appetite" and tribal drum-boomed "Trading Places." Creative as they are, these worldly flourishes amounts to little more than distractions from above-average melodies. "Trading Places" also benefits none from its painfully literal lyrics ("I'm always on the top / tonight I'm on the bottom."). To say that there's something here for everyone would be a very honest assessment. And given the size of Usher's audience, it's an unoriginal savvy career move to make such a record. But for an album to be remembered much beyond a few-month window of its release, it usually must be fantastic or abysmal. In this instance, and at this time, the only things with any guaranteed staying power are Usher the man and Usher the brand. Usher the singer will be relegated to just one chapter of the story, and "Here I Stand" will be a footnote.

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Tuesday, June 3, 2008

THE PERFECT BOYFRIEND according to Jessica and Elizabeth

1. A perfect boyfriend wouldn't throw a tantrum every time I talk to another guy. Just because I have friends who are guys doesn't mean I want them.

(Michael Macedo: Last! Women are naturally attracted to a good-looking man with a robust, hairy chest. That's why you are with me in the first place. I'll be damned if another man stops me from getting sex.)

2. A perfect boyfriend would have a good sense of humor and could make me laugh at any time.

(MM: "I like to laugh and have a good time." No shit? What else do you like to do? I was assuming my girlfriend loved being sad and miserable. If I say a joke, it's going to be a funny joke.)

3. A perfect boyfriend would make an effort to get to know my friends. And I mean don't hit on them.

(MM: Hanging out with your friends is the equivalent of being bedazzled with stupid. The only viable feature your friend ever provided was the top of their head for my viewing pleasure. And besides, I don't flirt with awhile.)

4. A perfect boyfriend would appreciate all of the nice things I do for him, and would do spontaneous things for me without being asked.

(MM: This one really tangles my pukes. Nice things like what? I can't read your mind. If you want something, ask.)

5. A perfect boyfriend would cook meals for me and want to do the dishes.

(MM: Sure, anything for my love. Tonight I was thinking of making a tomato basil soup, beef tenderloin with a green peppercorn sauce, and fresh mixed organic baby greens, all washed down with a vintage bottle of 1947 champagne. Bon appétit.)

THE PERFECT GIRLFRIEND according to Michael Macedo

1. A perfect girlfriend would never bitch to me about watching the game or "South Park," provide me with fresh beer and only talk during commercials.

(Jessica and Elizabeth: What it sounds like you are asking for is a soft-nailed to go to watch a game. Unlike my girlfriend, you are not funny, little creatures. I have a human-toy-toy and if you want access to it, you better be fucking some things for me or I'll put on another 20 pounds.)

2. A perfect girlfriend would initiate sex frequently or share a similar sex drive.

(JE: Why would I always want to initiate if you're going to have to do all the work? Get real. I'm too tired of feeling like I'm jumping on a pock stick all the time.)

3. A perfect girlfriend would be smart enough to know that life doesn't have a romantic comedy. Shit happens, and a real girlfriend can handle herself accordingly.

(JE: How am I supposed to support myself when I'm too busy being your servant and sex slave? And if you expect this behavior to continue, you will provide shiny metal objects regularly.)

4. A perfect girlfriend would be financially stable. This should be interpreted as "the girl doesn't always pay for everything." And shiny metal objects, other than an engagement ring, are on her dime.

(JE: How am I supposed to support myself when I'm too busy being your servant and sex slave? And if you expect this behavior to continue, you will provide shiny metal objects regularly.)

5. A perfect girlfriend would keep "girly" things out of man space. Girly things include: tampons, extensive hair care products, make-up, shoes that could be used as weapons, and that stupid dangly thing that you stick all night.)

(JE: If you keep "girly" things out of man space, I expect your "manly" behavior — such as furring, scratching yourself, and burying — to stay out of woman space. And these "girly" things you speak of with the terribe)
Go ahead, watch some TV

It happens every time I leave my apartment in search of human interaction; I can’t escape it. No matter where I go — bars, parties, the beach, casual get-togethers at my best friend’s house — I can never avoid that awful jackass who feels he is necessary to flaunt his intellectual superiority over the entire room by obtrusively slipping the phrase “I don’t have cable” into any and all conversations.

These words trigger a primitive response in the back of my brain that makes me want to grab the person who utters them by the hair and drown them in the nearest pool of liquid deep brain that makes me want to grab the person who utters them.

It’s not much to have on cable — I can never avoid that awful jackass who feels it necessary to flaunt his intellectual superiority over the entire room. Does it really make sense to you, you intellectual superiority, to watch the news on DVD? I guess so, but that wouldn’t make a hell of a lot of sense now would it?

“The majority of these people will also cop to buying more than one DVD a month. I can’t see how that is cheaper than the $39.99 a month I pay to watch those same shows, plus whatever the hell else I feel like watching. The money spent collecting reruns could pay for a lifetime of premium cable, providing a lifetime of viewing choices.

“Get it to keep them forever,” they argue.

“Who’s being materialistic now?”

We have seen the science, dear reader, and the truth is now in your hands. Do with it as you please. Share it with that friend we spoke of earlier. Take a long, hard look at yourself. Does it amuse you to bulbish and continue buying those reruns. The decision is yours, but just do me one favor. If you choose the latter, keep it to yourself. My parole officer says one more count of aggregated assault and they’ll lock me up for good.

Drum Stems is a journalism senior and a Mustang Daily reporter.
Football

continued from page 16

bound, backfield-terrorizing trio.

Nor can any claim returning
10 starters from an offense that
averaged 407 yards per game last
season. (Three-defending
national champion Appalachian
State is the only team with a more
high-octane output, return five.)

"We have an offense that’s dif-
ficult to prepare for and a defense
that’s difficult to prepare for," Eller-
son says. "If you’re a coach and
you have the option of play-
ing or not playing us, generally
you’ll choose not to play us."

What’s resulted is a schedule
Ellerson admits "doesn’t make much
sense if you have a map," exem-
plified by staying in Louisiana for
back-to-back weeks in September.
It’s also led to a murderers’-row
slate out of the gate, opening Aug.
30 at Football Bowl Subdivision
(formerly Division I-A) foe San
Diego State — which, as Ellerson
says, "hates (the Mustangs’) guts"
after being shown up within Qual-
ity rankings in 2007 and 2008 —
before being shown up within Qual-
ity rankings yet again last season.

Oddly enough, adding a cov-
ering to the likelihood of a neces-
sary seven-win campaign ap-
pears negligible.

"(Other) people that aren’t
playing 12 games right now don’t
want to play 12 games," Ellerson
says even if the program itself
hasn’t gotten bitten off more than
it can chew, however, it will have
more lunch money in the future.

Though Cone says Cal Poly is
paying Idaho State a "little bit"
for its Nov. 1 drop-in to Alex C.
Campus has latched on to as a ma-
lar source of pride."

But again, the spectacle may
not have been without a core.

While Cal Poly will receive
payments following the season,
when they’ll be used to upgrade
tailgates, Cone says, the football
program has already accounted for
technical improvements, such as
financing the added travel, replac-
ing benches, shoulder pads, cleats
and gloves, and implementing an
advanced sideline communication
system.

"It’s great for us as players," says
Mustangs senior-to-be running
back Ryan Meek. "We’ll have bet-
ter equipment and accessories —
I think it’s a great investment."

The Wisconsin venture is
slightly less hefty than others re-
cently involving the Big Ten Con-
ference, from which Iowa report-
edly paid Montana $650,000 for a
2006 trip.

Even that exchange pales in com-
parison to the $900,000 Wyom-
ing announced it will be aired by
Texas for a 2012 excursion.

Of course, as Michigan — and
most of the B1G, it would stand to
reason — learned last season after
withdrawing Appalachian State’s $400,000
only to implode in disastrous.
Sports Illustrated-cover fashion,
the money is only for showing up,
not what follows.

"When you can beat a team
like that, you feel like you can
compete with them in all sports,
and you carry the effects of it for
a long time," says Mike Robles,
an assistant athletics director at UC
Davis.

He would know Robles, a 1988
Cal Poly graduate, was with the
Aggies in 1995 when they pack-
aged $200,000 to head to Stanford,
which lost for the first time ever
to a non-Division 1-A squad, 20-17.

"It helped put us on the map
nationally," Robles says. "The
Monday after, when I came into our
office, it was crazy. There were
camera crews showing up on
campus and I

If you’re a coach and you
have the option of playing us
or not playing us, generally
you’ll choose not to play us.

— Rich Ellerson
Cal Poly football head coach

"It’s just hard to find teams who
want to give you a game when
you’re pretty good, like Cal Poly is,"

Donovan And is a journalism se-
ci ne and a Mustang Daily sports edi-
tor and columnist.

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Study hard...
...but not too hard!

Hungry for real food?
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— Rich Ellerson
Cal Poly football head coach

But again, the spectacle may
not have been without a core.

Naturally, the success story made
would-be suitors more amity about
future partnerships.

"It’s a challenge," Robles says.

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Then, again, the spectacle may
not have been without a core.

Naturally, the success story made
would-be suitors more amity about
future partnerships.

"It’s a challenge," Robles says.

Helping, the success story made
would-be suitors more amity about
future partnerships.

"It’s a challenge," Robles says.

Otherwise, the success story made
would-be suitors more amity about
future partnerships.

"It’s a challenge," Robles says.
Sharapova upset by Safina in Paris; Ginepri, Bryans lose

Howard Fendrich
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Maria Sharapova didn't go quietly.
No, her departure from the French Open was filled with sound and fury: her stroke-accompanying shrieks, her self-loathing shouts between points and the spectators' hearty boos and high-pitched whistles that ushered the No. 1-seeded woman to the exit.

One point from reaching the quarterfinals at the only Grand Slam tournament she's never won, Sharapova allowed every bit of a significant lead slip away Monday and collapsed to a 6-7 (6), 7-6 (5), 6-2 defeat against No. 13 Dinara Safina.

"Oh, I was angry," Sharapova said. "I was angry for making unforced errors, for not taking some of those balls and just ripping them."

Her fourth-round departure was the most startling development on a day that included this footnote: The last U.S. man or woman playing singles at Roland Garros, 88th-ranked Robby Ginepri, was eliminated 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-1 by No. 24 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile.

"A five-hour "grindfest" would have favored me a little bit more," said Ginepri, 6-5 at the French Open before this year. "I tried to end the points too quickly."

Gonzalez now faces No. 1 Roger Federer in the quarterfinals in a rematch of the 2007 Australian Open final that Federer won for one of his 12 Grand Slam titles. No. 5 David Ferrer will meet Gael Monfils in another quarterfinal.

Rounding out the rough showing for Americans in Paris, the top-seeded men's doubles team of twins Bob and Mike Bryan was upset by Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay and Luis Horna of Peru 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (1) in a quarterfinal that ended in a downpour — and with a bit of racquet.

When the teams switched sides during the third-set tiebreaker, Cuevas celebrated his team's 5-1 lead by leaping over the net. So the Bryans didn't shake his hand when the match finished.

The U.S. Davis Cup doubles pair was more disturbed by the country's overall showing on clay.

"I guess we were holding the flag there at the end," Mike Bryan said. "We'll suit it up at Wimbledon and see how it goes."

- Sharapova figured it wouldn't take long to get over Monday's setback and start focusing on the All England Club, where she won her first Grand Slam title in 2004 at age 17.

With last month's retirement of top-ranked Justine Henin, and last week's losses by Venus and Serena Williams, Sharapova appeared to have a clearer-than-usual path to success at the clay-court major. She was one of only two women with a Slam title to her credit among the final 16 players, but will have to wait for another year in Paris.

"I came very close," Sharapova said.

She led 5-2 in the second set, and went up 40-30 while serving for the match at 5-3. But Safina erased that chance with a backhand winner, and eventually broke when Sharapova missed a forehand. In the ensuing tiebreaker, Sharapova took a 5-2 lead, but Safina claimed five straight points.

"It can go in the wrong direction really fast," Sharapova said. "It just started going that way."

Until now, Safina was best known for being the kid sister of Marat Safin, who won the 2000 "I was angry," Sharapova said. "I was angry for making unforced errors, for not taking some of those balls and just ripping them."

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