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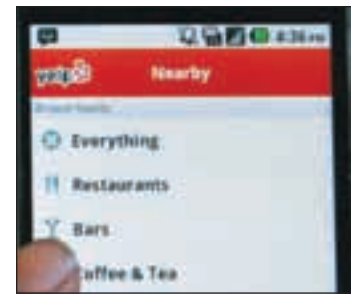
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SPARTAN DAILY

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Tuesday, April 26, 2011

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■ FEATURE

Veggielution branches out from humble roots



Photo: Matthew Gerring / Spartan Daily

Veggielution volunteers sit down to a post-work potluck including food straight from the field.

Matthew Gerring
Staff Writer

At the end of a volunteer workday at Veggielution, a volunteer-run community farm in San Jose's Emma Prusch park, workers spread out the length of a planting row to cover the vegetables with white cloth.

see **FARM** page 3

Faculty award winners named for innovations in teaching, research

Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

This Wednesday, three faculty members will be honored by interim President Don Kassing and SJSU faculty and staff members for their contributions to the university, campus and teaching.

"I was very touched to be recognized by the university for the many years I've been working here," said Mary Pickering, the recipient of this year's President's Scholar Award.

Pickering, a history professor who has been working at SJSU for 16 years, said she was grateful to those who nominated her for the award.

"I would like to thank the members of my department for nominating me and always being so supportive," she said. "I think we have a great history department here."

Nominations can be made by many different people, Kassing said in an April 19 news conference with student media.

"They're nominated a number of different ways — they can be nominated by a colleague, dean or chair," he said. "There's four awards, four committees and typically they are made up of people who have won the award before."

Kassing said one of the awards this year, for outstanding professor, will not be given out because of a lack of depth to the nominating pool this year.

"(The committee's) feeling this year is we didn't have a deep enough pool so we elected not to award it this year," he said. "It's disappointing, I don't know (if) we worked hard enough as an institution to reach out and find some extraordinary faculty."

Jeffrey Gaines, this year's recipient of the Outstanding Lecturer Award, said his department chair had been nominating him for six years and was surprised to hear he won the award this year.

"When the phone rang and it was Don Kassing on the other end it, I was very exciting to get that call," said Gaines, a management information services lecturer.

He said he uses a couple of different techniques to help teach his students both inside and outside the classroom.

"In my classroom I tell lots of stories, so that when we look at something in the book I try to make it real," he said. "In the MUSE program, I take students to go camping."

Gaines said the idea for taking students camping came from the time he spent living with a friend in Colorado where he did a lot of backpacking and kayaking.

"One day I had an epiphany while coming back that 'You know with a little bit of exercise and clean air you can really look at the world differently,'" he said. "(My idea) was to get people away from their cellphones, get them away from video and all the other stuff like Facebook and have a chance to just enjoy being quiet but also to be with peers."

Patricia Backer, this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, said working hard for SJSU carries no hardship for her.

"To me it's not like an additional burden — it's a part of who (I am) and making San Jose State a better place," said Backer, a professor in the aviation and technology department.

Backer said she has been see **AWARDS** page 2

■ U.S. NEWS

Supreme Court delays health care hearing

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused Monday to bypass the lower courts and take up an immediate challenge to the constitutionality of the national health care reform law and its requirement that all those who can afford it have medical insurance by 2014.

The announcement concerned only the timing of a decision on the health care law and said nothing about how the court may finally rule. The justices rarely skip over the lower courts before taking up a constitutional question and have said they will do so only if a case is

of such "imperative public importance" as to "require immediate determination" by the high court.

The justices without comment turned down an appeal from Virginia's attorney general, who insisted the Affordable Care Act has "roiled America" and left employers and citizens "mired in uncertainty."

The court's brief order apparently spoke for all the justices, since there was no indication that Justice Elena Kagan had recused herself. Some conservative activists have suggested that Kagan should not take part in the health care case since she served as U.S. solicitor general before joining the court.

■ WORLD NEWS

Syria sends tanks to crack down on protesters

McClatchy Tribune

BEIRUT, Lebanon — With tanks now patrolling the streets of a restive Syrian city, the Obama administration is preparing to take its first concrete steps against President Bashar Assad and his top lieutenants — the imposition of sanctions for an increasingly bloody crackdown on demonstrators.

The regime in Damascus escalated the violence Monday, ordering army tanks and troops into action against protesters in the southern city of Daraa. The move follows a weekend in which Syrian security forces gunned down an estimated 120 pro-democracy protesters. More than 200 people have died since the uprising began.

Obama administration officials said they are readying orders that would freeze U.S. assets of senior Syrian officials and deny them permission to travel in the United States.

U.S. sanctions are unlikely to produce a dramatic impact because Syrian

officials apparently own few U.S. assets. But the move signaled a notable shift by the Obama administration, which has worked hard to build better relations with Damascus, a regime it considers key for security in the Middle East.

European officials said they also are considering steps against Assad's regime. Syrian officials maintain larger investments in Europe than in the U.S., so economic sanctions or travel bans there would have a more direct impact.

The Obama administration hopes U.S. sanctions will help build pressure on its European allies, especially France and Britain, to follow suit. Officials in Washington have consulted with counterparts in London and Paris on how best to persuade Assad to show restraint.

Moves by British and French officials against Syria could be particularly important. France, the former colonial power, retains strong cultural and economic relations with Damascus. Assad lived a number of years in Britain and may have financial assets stored there.

David Schenker, a former Middle East adviser at the Pentagon, said steps to isolate Syria, especially by European countries, would sting.

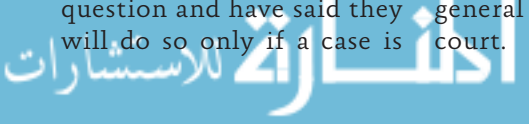
A U.S. official said targeted sanctions probably would be imposed in the next several weeks.

Even though he took over from his father a decade ago and has maintained Syria's authoritarian system, Assad has cherished the idea that he retains "an international legitimacy and acceptability," said Schenker, now an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a nonpartisan think tank.

In Syria, heavy-caliber gunfire crackled at dawn Monday as tanks rolled into Daraa, the flashpoint of the uprising. Amateur videos posted online appeared to show bodies in the streets as protesters came under fire from the tanks' gunners and snipers on nearby roofs.

U.N. human rights chief Navi Pillay demanded a halt to the use of excessive force.

"The killings must stop immediately," he stated in a news release.



AWARDS

From Page 1

working at SJSU for 20 years and has been active on many university committees. This year she is working on writing grants.

Backer said she is inspired by the students on campus, especially first-generation collegegoers, because her father was also a first-generation student and faculty helped him get through school.

"A lot of the students at San Jose State

are very much like my family," she said. "It's really easy to do service when you think about how individual people helped your family."

Backer said she feels honored by the award but feels other faculty members on campus are just as deserving.

"I was lucky to get it this year but there are so many professors at San Jose State that probably deserve this award more than me," she said "I don't think I've worked the hardest out of all the people here at San Jose State."

Mary Pickering

History Professor, Awarded President's Scholar Award



- Received because of her dedication and exploration of history, "leaving no stone unturned."
- Earned her B.A. from Harvard in 3 years, graduating magna cum laude; completed M.A. and Ph.D. at Harvard; advanced graduate degree (D.E.A.) from Institut d'Etudes Politiques in France.
- Published three books on French philosopher Auguste Comte (Auguste Comte: An Intellectual Biography series).

Source: SJSU News; Department of History

Jeffrey Gaines

Management Information Systems Lecturer, Awarded Outstanding Lecturer Award

- Received the award in part because his practical experience outside the classroom has lent itself to "showing through example" style of teaching.
- Earned B.A. in chemistry from Fresno State University, M.B.A from San Diego State University.
- Is the current assistant director of SJSU's Global Leadership Advancement Center.

Source: SJSU News; College of Business



Patricia Backer

Aviation and Technology Professor, Awarded Distinguished Service Award



- Has helped the College of Engineering develop green engineering curriculum and chaired several committees on campus.
- Ph.D., Ohio State University. Emphases in industrial technology, neuroscience, learning theory, and special education; MA in education, Ohio State University; MA in teaching mathematics, Tennessee Temple University; MS in school administration, TTU.
- Is also the director of general engineering.

Source: SJSU News; Aviation and Technology Department

Compiled By: Jack Barnwell / Graphic By: Leo Postvoit

CAMPUS VOICES

By: Alex Wara & Donovan Farnham

What irritates you most about San Jose State University?

Kristina Lum



Sophomore Animation

I would probably have to say the slow Internet in the dorms because I like to watch videos on YouTube. Whenever I want to download a new episode of Merlin it takes forever for the episode to download.

Andrew Phan



Junior Pre-Nursing

One of the most irritating things about San Jose State is the smell from the water fountains. That place really stinks from time to time and I pass that place every day.

Dante Win



Sophomore Nursing

I think the most irritating thing about San Jose State are the people that come onto campus and try to influence people on their ideas.

Jennifer Jaochico



Sophomore Occupational Therapy

I would say registering for classes, especially when you need them to apply for a major and you can't get into your major because of one class.

Matthew Baltar



Senior TRFT

The way they deal with paperwork. I have turned in four transcripts from another school to them and every time they say they don't have it.

Toni Valentine



Grad Student Credential Program-Teaching

I go home right after class because I am tired and it is empty here. There is nothing to do here at 9:45 at night.

■ ENVIRONMENT

Global warming may put salmon supply at risk

McClatchy Tribune

WASHINGTON — Global warming could increase flooding, shrink salmon habitat and invite in more invasive species in the West, scientists conclude in a sobering new report.

Snow will melt sooner, the report predicts. Rain will replace snow altogether in some places. Fisheries will stress out. Surface water will be harder to come by and groundwater will be drained as average temperatures rise.

"These changes pose a significant challenge and risk to adequate water supplies," Mike Connor, the head of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, declared Monday.

The changes are identified in a congressionally ordered study of global warming and Western water resources that Interior Department officials call the first of its kind. The 226-page study, issued Monday, examines eight Western water basins, including those served by the Colorado, Missouri and Columbia rivers.

Many other studies have traced the relationship between climate change and water supplies. This latest study, authorized in 2009, is unique for examining all the Western water basins that the Bureau of Reclamation serves. The bureau operates dams, canals and power plants in 17 Western states.

"There's already a lot of data out there," Connor said in an interview. "This reaf-

firms a lot of what we already know."

The new study anticipates average temperatures rising 5 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit through the 21st century. The federal scientists do not, however, wade into the political thicket of assessing blame for why the Earth is warming.

During the 20th century, scientists recorded a 3-degree increase in average temperatures through California's Central Valley and a 2-degree increase in Washington state's Columbia River Basin.

In general, higher temperatures will result in what scientists describe as "more frequent rainfall events (and) less frequent snowfall events." Even within regions, though, the changes will vary.

On the western rim of the Columbia River Basin, for instance, winter temperatures in the Cascades already hover close to freezing. With warmer temperatures, these snowpacks will shrink dramatically.

While avoiding firm predictions about future flooding, scientists say their studies "raise questions ... (about) potentially greater flood risk during the 21st century." These dangers include "more winter runoff" and "more extreme runoff events," the report says.

The precipitation changes probably will lead to "reduced water supplies" in Western reservoirs that rely on snowmelt during the late spring and summer, scientists warn.

Climate change may not dramatically affect California's precipitation or runoff

McClatchy Tribune

LOS ANGELES — Precipitation and runoff in California's major river basin will not fall dramatically with climate change, according to a new federal study that shows rising temperatures will have an uneven effect on the West's water supplies.

A Department of Interior report released Monday agrees with other analyses that have found climate models are better at predicting temperature rises and an accompanying decline in spring snowpack than they are in projecting future precipitation and stream flow levels.

A rise in temperature could increase evaporation rates, and the spring snowpack will drop sharply in much of the West, changing the timing of peak runoff, which is crucial for the state's irrigated agriculture.

Some regions, such as the Columbia River Basin in the

Pacific Northwest and the Missouri River Basin, are expected to grow wetter. The Southwest will probably become drier, while California is a bit of a question mark.

Precipitation and runoff on the Sacramento River — a vital source of water for much of the state, including Southern California — may increase a bit by mid-century and then decline somewhat. Average annual runoff, which is key to filling reservoirs, could drop 3.6 percent in the century's final decades, while annual precipitation may decline 2.7 percent.

The report suggests that the San Joaquin River, a big source of irrigation water on the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, will be more affected. Runoff in the river's upper reach could drop by nearly 11 percent and precipitation by 8.6 percent.

Flow in the Klamath River on the Oregon border, on the other hand, could in-

crease or remain stable.

Global warming's effects will vary along the Colorado River, which stretches from the Northern Rockies to the Mexican border and is an important source of water for Imperial Valley agriculture and Southern California cities.

The report predicts that precipitation in the river's upper reaches will increase by a few percentage points in the mid- and late century,

although that would be offset by a slight drop in runoff associated with warmer temperatures and more water consumption by plants.

Farther down the river, at Lee's Ferry, runoff could decline by 8.5 percent in the 2050s, the report suggests.

The greatest drop is predicted for the Rio Grande in New Mexico, where stream flow could shrink by nearly a fifth by the last quarter of the century.

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Where: MLK Library Room 225/229

Graduates' goal: A self-sufficient farm

FARM From Page 1

"We have a bunch of wild peacocks and guinea hens and chickens running around," said Veggielution co-founder Mark Anthony Medeiros. "We have to cover everything we're growing because it's a park and all these wild chickens are like the holy rats in the temple or the holy monkeys in India. We have to tolerate them, but they eat a lot of our stuff."

Veggielution has come a long way since it was founded by SJSU graduates Medeiros and Amie Frisch in backyard gardens in Naglee Park.

"We were crazy and in college and we were activists and we were very concerned about social and environmental issues of all kinds, like poverty and wars and global climate change and farmland being destroyed and stuff like that," Medeiros said.

Medeiros was looking for something he could do that could make an immediate impact, as opposed to traditional activist work that he said can be exhausting and intense with little tangible benefit, so he decided to start an organic garden.

"I tried to get a space in the community gardens around here and there's a giant waiting list," he said. "So I put up some flyers in Naglee Park neighborhood and 15 homeowners volunteered their yards immediately."

Julia Lang, now outreach and education coordinator for Veggielution, met the founders that first season.

"I met some of the folks who were gardening in peoples' backyards through various things in 2007 and started going to their barbecue cookouts every week," she said.

The project turned out to be a success — compared to traditional activist work, which Medeiros said can be intense and emotionally exhausting, the backyard gardens gave

him and his fellow students tangible results quickly.

"Just doing something physically at the local level was very empowering to us, and really, that's the most efficient way to effect change in the world is just to focus on where you are," he said.

It wasn't long before the project outgrew the backyards it started in.

"It just sort of mushroomed really quickly," Medeiros said, and soon they needed more space and a place to bring more volunteers.

Medeiros said he and his co-founders started looking at empty lots, elementary and high schools and public parks, and quickly found Prusch Park.

Prusch Park, at the intersection of King and Story roads in east San Jose, was created from land bequeathed to San Jose by Emma Prusch in 1962, according to the Emma Prusch Farm Park Foundation website. The portion occupied by Veggielution is a stone's throw from a freeway overpass.

"We decided to show up to

"We were crazy and in college and we were activists and we were very concerned about social and environmental issues of all kinds ..."

Mark Medeiros
Co-founder

Prusch park, convince them to give us hella land, and over the past few years it's worked out," Medeiros said.

Lang is now one of a handful of paid staff members in Veggielution's new location, and she said it's been a refreshing change from other activist work she's done.

"A lot of things I was involved in before, politically and activist-wise, tend to be really anti 'the man' and kind of negative," Lang said. "I see Veggielution's approach being rather than complaining about the world as it is creating a viable alternative to the problems we face in a really healthy pro-



Photo: Matthew Gerring / Spartan Daily

Chris Carrier, workday leader and lead on mushroom growing project, takes a pickaxe to the soil.

ductive way."

Veggielution uses organic farming methods, which means no chemical fertilizers or pesticides, and Lang said volunteers are trying to create a "closed-circuit" system on the farm, meaning no outside inputs are needed for farming.

For now, workday leader Erika Schroeder said compost is imported from the Morgan Hill compost facility, and tree companies contribute mulch whenever they cut down trees. Lang said the farm also imports fish emulsion — the liquefied remains of processed fish — and kelp to use as fertilizer.

Schroeder said the farm is working toward producing its own fertilizer.

"We have a pretty legit worm composting system going on right now," she said. "So we harvest a lot of worm castings to fertilize many of the plants."

Volunteers are also installing drip irrigation, which Schroeder said is more efficient compared to the overhead watering the farm currently uses.

The original plot at Prusch Park was one-sixth of an acre, which has since expanded to one and a half acres, and Medeiros said Veggielution is

looking for more.

"We're working on securing a long term agreement to get the six-acre site here," he said.

The new space comes with new complications. To keep the farm and its educational and outreach programs running, Veggielution has started pursuing tax-exempt nonprofit status.

"We got all crazy and organized and we decide to try to form a nonprofit," Medeiros said. "One thing that we did in the beginning was get a fiscal sponsor — a sponsor organization that already had nonprofit status that you know had liability insurance, could write checks and stuff like that."

The sponsor was the Emma Prusch Farm Park Foundation, and Veggielution's partnership allowed the group to receive grants and raise money —

enough to pay salaries for Medeiros and co-founder Amie Frisch along with four other paid staff members.

Now that Veggielution is more established, the organization has started seeking its own nonprofit status, which has presented new challenges.

"For us young people, the nonprofit bureaucracy is a little daunting — we're working through that as we speak," he said.

Medeiros said he and Frisch now spend about half of their time raising money and writing grants to keep the farm operating and funded.

"You need to frame what your doing in terms of what's being funded, so food access, public health, environmental education, youth education, youth empowerment — you have to learn the language of

grant writing and fundraising and you have to sort of morph your activities to fit into that model somewhat," he said.

Veggielution's stated goal on its website is to create a sustainable food system in San Jose, but staff and volunteers freely admit that Veggielution's volunteer-run model wouldn't be able to replace existing farms with the same yield.


"It would take much more skilled labor, not volunteer labor, a lot more machinery, a significantly higher level of efficiency of the land, if we're talking about real food security via the farm," Lang said.

Medeiros said he's committed to this project and hopes to spend the rest of his life pursuing sustainable farming and cultivating the community around Veggielution.

West Coast Writers

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■ APP REVIEW

Mobile app gives reviewer something to 'yelp' about

Shirene Niksadat
Staff Writer

At the helm of any vibrant, buzzing community of locals who drink, shop and play is the one and only Yelp.

By the consumer and for the consumer, Yelp functions as a liaison for sharing local knowledge about happening spots around town. Via peer submitted recommendations, it's become increasingly effortless to navigate your cities most seasoned finds and hidden hotspots.

Large businesses and mom-and-pop's alike can be found on the website, consisting of endless user appraisals of how a business measures up and often answers whether the user would be returning.

Yelp has been bringing communities together and spreading the news about local goodies since its debut on the World Wide Web in 2005. Since then, the website has established itself as a comprehensive guide to society — functioning not only as a reference for what businesses are good, but also as a grown-up slam book for the disgruntled and disappointed.

One part community, one part local city guide — Yelp is your guide to your community's opinion on everything from martini bars and massage therapy parlors to drugstores, dining destinations and everything in between.

Lucky for you, Yelp is never behind the times and the website's mobile application is available on almost every smartphone. Those who find themselves regularly on a budget will be happy to hear that the app is absolutely free.

Much like the Yelp you experience from the comfort of your home, the mobile Yelp app comes in mighty handy when perusing a new area of town or when simply looking for the best quality business for your newest endeavor — be it skydiving or sake bombs.

Once you've downloaded the application to your smartphone, you'll need to create an account name and password. Once you've logged in on your phone, conveniently enough, you won't ever have to again — the app will remember your information for the next time you access it.

The start page of the application lists a couple of different options to skim — Nearby, Check-Ins, About Me, Bookmarks, Monocle and Recents. Atop these options is a search bar that can be utilized by typing in a specific business, a category of businesses or even the name of that business that you can't quite remember. Yelp will help you search by listing similar names in the area you've specified.

Using the GPS found standard on most smartphone models, the "Nearby" feature gives the user the luxury of skimming through and locating nearby restaurants, bars, drugstores, banks, gas stations and more.



Photo: Jesse Jones / Spartan Daily

The Yelp app allows users to bring the extensive peer review database of the website to their pockets.

“With the creation of the mobile Yelp app I can easily share all of my snarky and/or praiseworthy remarks about any new establishment I choose to give my business to.”

Once a category is chosen users can narrow their search further through the “Filter” feature, found at the top left hand corner of the phone screen. The “Filter” feature allows users to refine their search in terms of distance, rating, price range and whether the place is even open for business.

The “About Me” feature functions as a link to create or edit your user profile on the website and mobile app. Much like the popular social networking sites of our day, Yelp provides a platform on which the user can customize their experience with personal tidbits of self glorification and also by the ability to request a community of friends to be linked to.

One of the more innovative features on the mobile app is the augmented reality element called the Yelp Monocle. The Monocle uses

your phone's camera as you walk and point it in various directions to display virtual pushpins.

These pushpins hover on your screen displaying tags of businesses nearby with their distance from you, star rating and number of reviews easily identified. Once you've chosen a business, you can give the reviews a once over, click the business web link, call the clickable phone number or even pull up directions from your GPS location.

As many have probably noticed on smartphone's these days GPS and apps go hand in hand. Apps that integrate GPS connectivity often make for the coolest, most helpful applications, and the Yelp mobile app is definitely a shining example among them.

I find myself using the Yelp app on my Android phone frequently

throughout a regular work/school week.

It is incredibly convenient to be able to scour through a list of businesses and read through dozens of user submissions equipped with star ratings and often detailed accounts of their experiences. The ability to discover the best bang for my buck is something I feel many users have come to appreciate about Yelp.

With the creation of the mobile Yelp app I can easily share all of my snarky and/or praiseworthy remarks about any new establishment I choose to give my business to. When my food arrives, I can snap a picture and when I'm done I can log in while the experience is still fresh, giving the community either my rant or my rave.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Variety of genres combine in dramatic 'Water for Elephants'

Impressive four-ton elephant steals the show

★★★★☆
Jaimie Collins
A&E Editor

A hundred years ago, children dreamed of running away with the circus and entire towns waited in anticipation for the trapeze fliers and lion tamers to present their shows.

Transporting audiences back to an earlier time, the film adaptation of "Water for Elephants" showcases an era when families counted down the days until the circus came and the show business overshadowed any drama lurking underneath.

Based on the 2006 historical novel by Sara Gruen, this film is set in 1931 and chronicles the story of Jacob Jankowski, a veterinary student at Cornell whose parents emigrated from Poland during the Great Depression.

After a tragic accident kills them both, Jankowski, played by Robert Pattinson, is left without a home or a penny to his name, drops out of college and hops on a train that happens to be the traveling circus of the famous Benzini Brothers.

Once he proves his work ethic and shows his skills in animal medicine, Jankowski is hired as the circus vet where he meets Marlena, the beautiful and young star act and wife to August, the show's heartless but charismatic boss.

When the circus falls into debt, August invests in an elephant named Rosie, hoping a new act with Marlena will sell the tickets needed to put the circus back on top.

Jankowski is assigned to take care of Rosie, training her for the upcoming show and through their close working relationship, Jacob and Marlena slowly fall into a forbidden romance.

It is extremely rare that I can say a movie kept me guessing and caught my attention from start to finish, but "Water for Elephants" did just that.

I went into this film with the mindset it would be a romance, but was pleasantly surprised to learn it incorporated a variety of emotions — drama, humor, romance, suspense, anger and grief.

Directed by Francis Lawrence, known for his work on "I Am Legend," this cinematic masterpiece is truly a complete package.

I walked away from the two-hour film struggling to fit it into one genre and felt it spanned several categories.

This characteristic is what makes the movie such a pleasure to watch. The romance isn't sappy, the drama isn't depressing and the suspense is an extra ingredient that kept me on the edge of my seat.

I was also surprised to find that in addition to the romance and humor, this movie was quite violent.

August, strongly portrayed by Christopher Waltz, is a sadistic ringleader with no compassion for animals or their health. Through-



Photo Courtesy: Allmoviephoto.com

Robert Pattinson (left) portrays Jacob Jankowski, the circus veterinarian in charge of Rosie (right) in "Water for Elephants."

out the film, he exhibits his insecure and violent nature by beating the show animals and his workers, often to the extent that I had to look away from the screen.

Well-known for his role as a Nazi general in "Inglorious Basterds," Waltz did a spectacular job at showcasing the cruel manner his character demanded.

I believe it's harder for actors to successfully convince the audience to hate them and as the villain of the film, Waltz's attitude had me wishing someone would teach him a lesson.

Delivering a mediocre performance was Reese Witherspoon, portraying the role of Marlena and returning as the sweet, girl next-door character she usually plays.

Witherspoon didn't stand out by any means, but displayed satisfactory acting skills and was a nice addition to the cast.

Exhibiting improved acting skills, Robert Pattinson brings his dreamy demeanor back to the screen while adding depth and intrigue to his role.

Unlike his breakout role as Edward Cullen in "The Twilight Saga," Pattinson's acting in this film is extremely well-done. He portrays his character perfectly, reacting to the script's situations as if they were reality.

Despite their acting skills, however, the chemistry between Pattinson and Witherspoon fell flat, detracting from the romance.

As a result, the attention is shifted to the four-ton character of Rosie who brings the film together.

As a 53-year-old trained elephant, Rosie blew me away with her range of abilities, tricks and intelligence.



Photo Courtesy: Allmoviephoto.com

The role of the sadistic ringleader August is played by Christopher Waltz (left), accompanied by Reese Witherspoon (right) as August's wife and the circus' star act.

Rosie's interaction with the cast members and the sets made the story seem like something straight out of a county fair, making her acting scenes highly believable.

In conjunction with her adorable personality, her relaxed attitude and apparent obedience was impressive and interesting to watch. Accompanying this star is a spectacular supporting cast that boasts the talents of Jim

Norton, Hal Holbrook and Mark Povinelli.

Contributing to the abundance of talent is a great script characterized by plenty of dialogue emphasizing the themes, morals and emotions present throughout the film.

Whether you're a Twihard girl or a guy who avoids chick flicks like the plague, go out and see this movie.


It is well worth the ticket price.

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■ TENNIS

Spartans squash Slugs to win final match

Staff Report

In the final match of the 2011 season, the SJSU women's tennis team defeated UC Santa Cruz with a match score of 6-1 in its own home on April 21.

This was the Spartans' second win over the Banana Slugs and gave SJSU a season record of 7-12, 0-3 in the Western Athletic Conference.

Senior Anna Guzman led SJSU with a double set win over UCSC's Rachel Shinto, scoring 6-1, 6-0.

Freshman Sabastiani Leon Chao ended the season with a victorious double set against UCSC's Ariana Mokhtari, scoring 6-3, 6-1.

Leon Chao finished the 2011 dual season with a 9-8 record and was 9-7 as the Spartans' No. 1 singles player.

Sophomore Chau Truong won her singles match against UCSC's Taylor Mannix, scoring 6-4, 6-2.

Truong is leading the team with 13 singles wins this season. Two wins in the WAC Championships will give her two consecutive seasons with at least 30 combined wins.

Sophomore Sandra Florea beat Sarah Courtland 6-2, 7-5, while senior Olivia Marshall had a close call against UCSC's Laura Wade in a tiebreaker 3-6, 6-3 (11-9).

"I'm really happy with the way our team played today and it feels good to end the season with a win," head coach Anh-Dao Nguyen-Church said. "I hope we can keep it up and be tough competitors in the WAC Tournament."

The Spartans will head into the WAC Championship tournament looking for their first win against a conference opponent since the 2008-2009 season.

The WAC Championships tournament will be held in Boise, Idaho April 28 and the championship match will be on May 1.



Photo: Vernon McKnight / Spartan Daily

Freshman Emily Prescott looks to serve the ball during her singles match against UCSC's Alexandra Scotten on Thursday.

■ WATER POLO

SJSU pulled under by No. 1 Stanford in conference rematch

Staff Report

The SJSU women's water polo team's efforts were not enough to outlast No. 1 nationally ranked Stanford, as the Cardinal took their second win against the Spartans in a 17-5 Mountain Pacific Sports Federation loss on Friday.

Nationally ranked at No. 7, the Spartans (20-11, 2-5 MPSSF) concluded their regular season in sixth place in the MPSSF while the Cardinal (23-0, 7-0 MPSSF) finished as the undefeated 2011 conference champion.

"Hats off to them," said head coach Lou Tully. "They (Stanford) played really well."

Tully said he credited Stanford's last game and successful season to its strong defense.

"They've got some really great players," he said. "If we let the ball get into 'set' and we're not there to help and it's 1-on-1 down there, we're not going to win that one. We know that. That was part of the problem. They are a lot stronger at 'set' than the other top teams are. And they can shoot from the outside as well. You just can't collapse on those guys and give them free reign out there."

Sophomore utility player Kimber Methvin led the Spartans in scoring with two fourth-quarter tallies. Junior utility players Ally Waasted and Dani Curran and senior

utility player Adriana Vogt each scored a goal for SJSU.

The Spartans had their chances to keep up with Stanford offensively, but many of the shots hit the post or the top of the cage. Three Cardinal goalkeepers also combined for 13 saves.

"I think we were shooting a little fast," Tully said. "We probably should have slowed it down, had more patience on offense, worked the 'set' a little more instead of settling for outside shots."

Junior goalkeeper Meagan Minson made seven saves for SJSU in the 3.5 quarters in which she played. Senior goalkeeper Lauren Lewis was not credited with a save in the final four minutes of the match.

"As far as I'm concerned, the big thing is next week," Tully said. "We have our conference tournament coming up. We want to be ready and play really well that first game against Hawaii."

The Spartans will host the 2011 MPSSF Tournament beginning Friday at 10 a.m. at the SJSU Aquatics Center.

There will be four matches each day and a championship round on May 1.

SJSU will play its first MPSSF Tournament game on April 29 at 11:30 a.m. against the University of Hawaii.

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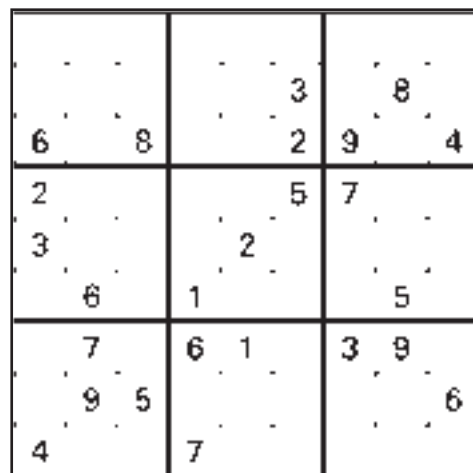
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TODAY'S SUDOKU PUZZLE



PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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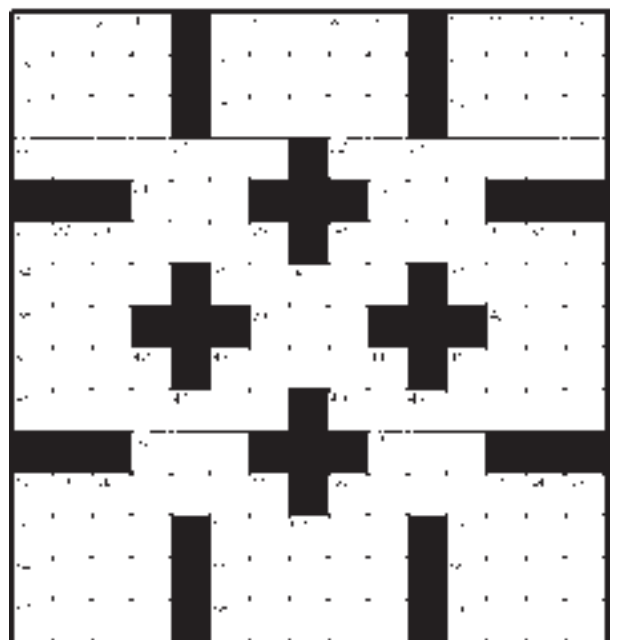
TODAY'S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- La - 10 points
- Star Wars or movie
- Wheezy supply
- Cloudburst
- Electron's course
- Grades 1-12
- Freud's daughter
- Earth planet
- Nothing to lose
- Constitution
- Puting
- Have
- Mary of Scots and Lovers'
- Keene
- Spencer
- Not local
- Lounges around
- Talks official
- Smoke-detector nuptial
- 17 moves eastwards
- Barrowed
- Samuel Beckett
- Don't bargain
- mainly stois
- Not subject to change
- Project regulations
- P.S. number
- Ripper Time
- Heaps' tons
- Geneva ruler
- Juban's
- Beats it
- Calais' ship
- Denon's
- Ways sense
- Discipline
- Unit of force
- Exercises
- Hill in comics
- Belin's
- Top for Henry Gray
- Log
- Roman's son
- Consumer protection org
- Watchmaking metropolis
- Country's
- Plant with common wine
- El - another
- After which
- Turn of the screw
- Flour
- Hosp - scan
- Base
- Workbook
- member of
- Jersey
- Kind of rock
- All the time
- Its south of England City

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

1. BELIN'S 37. LULEÅN
2. TOP FOR 38. JERSEY
3. LOG 39. EUNO
4. ROMAN'S SON 40. COLONY MEMBER
5. CONSUMER 41. RICHIE GARDNER
6. PROTECTION ORG 42. TOURIST TOWN
7. WATCHMAKING 43. HEAVY METAL
8. METROPOLIS 44. WINDY
9. COUNTRY'S 45. DEGREE
10. PLANT WITH 46. TV SHOW
11. COMMON WINE 47. MADE BASIC
12. EL - ANOTHER 48. POTTER'S SUPPLY
13. AFTER WHICH 49. TULLIE
14. TURN OF THE SCREW 50. WEIGHT TRAINING
15. FLOUR 51. PEARL SH
16. HOSP - SCAN 52. LUTHERS
17. BASE 53. FAMILY COATING
18. WORKBOOK 54. DEMA
19. MEMBER OF 55. HARRY HARRISON
20. JERSEY 56. TONY WINNER
21. KIND OF ROCK 57. NIGER
22. ALL THE TIME
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'No Homo': The get-out-of-gay-free card

It's hard to miss how influential hip hop culture is and by extension the power carried by its lyrics.

Played in our cars, bumped in our clubs and regularly hummed under our breath, the colossal clout that hip hop music commands is alive and well in society. Also alive and kicking in our resident "club bangers" are hard-hitting homophobic lyrics and lines of verse laden with blatant misogynistic messages.

Case in point, the ever-infamous, ever-repressive "no homo."

To people unfamiliar with the term, "no homo" is a phrase thrown onto the end of any statement or act that in any way has even the slightest tinge of homosexuality to it.

An everlasting fear of seeming gay, looking gay — or worst of all — being gay omnipresent in many heterosexual males has found a way to evolve itself into playful banter between men.

The meaning is adequately exemplified on the Urban Dictionary website through user-submitted examples: "His ass is mine, no homo," "Hey man, pass the nuts, no homo," and "Max is on his way, he's coming. No homo" to name a few.

Originating as East Harlem slang in the early 1990s, the term rose to relevance in hip hop culture via rapper Cam'ron and his Diplomats crew. Please let the record show that Cam'ron could often be found on stage in bright pink and/or purple mink coats.

Fast forwarding to more recent application in society, "no homo's" rise to popularity came on the coattails of none other than the dynamic, highly influential Weezy F. Baby.

As read on Slate.com, journalist Jonah Weiner points out that by sprinkling "no homo" across cameos, mix tapes and 2008's best selling album "Tha Carter III," Lil Wayne became one of recent history's most prolific users, fitting the phrase into clever rhymes and verses left and right. As an artist with some of this generation's most anticipated rap albums, talk about a powerful figure in hip hop influencing culture.

Jay Smooth, host of video blog "ill Doctrine," said it best when speaking about hip hop culture's

homophobic underpinnings: "One of my favorite things about hip hop is our everlasting love of language. One of my least favorite things about hip hop is our everlasting fear of being gay. So, I guess I shouldn't be surprised that one of our favorite slang terms combines our tremendous passion for wordplay with our tremendous insecurity about sexuality."

The term is one that often serves both as a disclaimer and as a punch line meant to flaunt one's cleverness. I have been witness to the pervasive nature of the term on campus, at work and on the Internet. It is not unusual to observe college-aged men and younger competing to see how the term could be used the most often and in the most outlandish ways in conversation.

Some people might take this article as reading too much into something that is not meant to be offensive, is harmless and is all in good fun. Some of those same people might also feel that those who take these jokes to such silly extremes are really critiquing the term and satirizing it instead of promoting it. Kind of like the N-word, huh? All in good fun, right? Racist and discriminatory comments or phrases in jest are always good clean fun.

Sure, many guys who say "no homo" and participate in this back-and-forth juvenile game would not consider themselves homophobic. With no real malice or intention of spreading homophobia, many of these guys fell in love with the comedic appeal of the pastime. Much like they fell in love with "no homo's" misogynistic second cousin "that's what she said."

At the end of the day, it's offensive. And such an incredible turn off.

When uttering this phrase, not only are you creating an environment in which the bashing of homosexuality is openly accepted and humorous, you are calling attention to the "gayness" of something



Shirene Niksadat
Staff Writer

so gay," "no homo" ushers forth the enduring notion that homosexuality is something to be ashamed of, something that is unpleasant and defective.

In my eyes, the root of these lighthearted exchanges only call attention to the severity of the hyper-masculinized society we live in.

Why is the need to reaffirm your masculinity so great? Why is it that between males, when one expresses some level affection or camaraderie toward another does it automatically turn into a questioning of homoerotic undertones?

"No homo" is the love child created out of this paranoia.

I find it incredibly attractive when a guy is secure enough with his own sexuality to be able to hug his friend or even compliment him without immediately negating the supposed homosexual nature of his acts.

What a mind blowing concept that a man knows he is attracted to women — or not! — and is unafraid of being scorned or humiliated when words or minuscule actions might in some obscure way suggest otherwise.

Aside from the cringing induced after encountering abundant homophobic slurs, when "no homo" proliferates a conversation it always makes me raise an eyebrow. It is both a denial and a flashing neon arrow. Oh my god, what you just said sounded kind of gay, you should immediately call attention to it by lambasting any stray notion that might suggest you are attracted to men.

"No homo, no homo, no homo." Me thinks thou doth protest too much.

that might have gone completely unnoticed.

Continuing to use this phrase in our everyday vernacular only strengthens the unhealthy relationship society has with homosexuality — a relationship based in fear and disgust. Much like the middle school phenomenon, "that's

Major League Baseball may alter its playoff system

Going into the final day of Major League Baseball's regular season, the San Francisco Giants, Atlanta Braves and San Diego Padres were battling for two National League post-season spots.

It made for a dramatic day of baseball, as the Giants beat the Padres and the Braves edged the Philadelphia Phillies, knocking the Padres out of the playoffs to conclude the 2010 regular season.

According to ESPN's website, MLB commissioner Bud Selig has recently discussed adding one wild-card berth to each league by the start of next season.

This would increase the number of playoff teams from eight to 10.

In this scenario, much of the drama of the last day of the regular season would have been lost because the Giants, Braves and Padres would have each been assured a playoff spot.

Many have speculated the new system would match the wild-card teams in a single-elimination game.

And if this is the case, the positives of the proposed change would easily outweigh the negatives.

For example, the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays were the two best teams in the American League last year, and they knew that no matter what they would both make the playoffs.

So the Yankees settled for second place without battling to win the division, in effect winning the wild card.

In the proposed new playoff system, the Yankees and Rays would have been giving 100 percent down the stretch to ensure they didn't have to play a single-elimination game.

Some may argue how unfair it would have been for the Yankees to be forced to play a single-elimination playoff game when they had the second-best record in the league.

Since when is it OK to finish second in baseball?

For decades, only the best team from each league even made the playoffs, and they would face each other



Joey Akeley
Akeley's Alley

in the World Series.

Up until the 1995 season, the MLB didn't have a wild card.

There were four divisions, and only division winners made the playoffs.

Then baseball expanded to an eight-team playoff, and it has reaped the benefits economically. Not only has the expanded playoffs led to a more lucrative

post-season, but it has kept more teams in the playoff race late in the season, which has led to more interest for fans.

But in the process, great division races such as the Braves-Giants in 1993 have been washed away.

Adding two wild-card spots would help bring those back.

A single-elimination playoff game will add a little March Madness to October. The single-elimination format contributes to the NCAA Tournament's reputation of drama.

Last year, the American League would have featured the Yankees and Red Sox in a single-elimination wild card game — baseball's two most storied teams playing one game to advance.

Does it get any better than that? It's basically a Game 7 to begin the playoffs.

A one-game playoff in the post-season isn't unprecedented in baseball. Many Giants fans will remember the 1998 wild card race, which ended in a tie between San Francisco and the Chicago Cubs. The result was a one-game playoff, and I still remember sweating from every pitch in that game, which was won 5-3 by the Cubs.

As good as the last day of the regular season was a year ago, it doesn't beat one all-or-nothing playoff game in each league.

The proposed scenario will lead to better division races, more teams in the playoff race, and it won't dilute the quality of the playoffs.

"Akeley's Alley" is a weekly column appearing on Tuesdays. Joey Akeley is a Spartan Daily Copy Editor.

Chill out iPhone users

I never thought I would become dependent on a technological toy, but in 2008 I bought my first iPhone.

It was shiny and had all sorts of fun applications I could waste my time with.

From getting directions to making shopping lists, checking my email, Facebook and playing Words with Friends, my iPhone became an integral part of my day-to-day functioning.

Revelations released last week, however, left me wondering whether there are downfalls to figuratively holding the world in my palm.

A study by researchers Alasdair Allan and Pete Warden revealed the iPhone and iPad have a built-in feature through which they track the locations of the user.

I have to admit I was a little shocked when I first heard about this tracking issue.

I don't think companies should have the right to track my location without letting me know and I don't see what they could possibly use the data for.

Unless I commit a murder or rob a liquor store, the information extracted from my iPhone will be of little or no use, sitting tucked away in a database somewhere for who knows how long.

However, one aspect requiring consideration is the fact that the gadgets only log the user's location once and do not repeat submissions every time they arrive.

While the iPhone may be remembering the places you go and things you see, it isn't actually tracking you but is instead keeping a log of information.

Cellular tracking has been available since the debut of mobile phones, with service providers requiring a court order to release the information.

Cellphones have the tracking built in and regardless of what new tweaks might be made, cell-phone signals are still going to be traceable.

Additionally, users need to remember the same program responsible for tracing ones location is also what gives owners the ability to access all the perks that come with owning a smart phone, including GPS and internet connectivity.

Cellphone tracking can also present useful advantages. Police officials can use the information derived from data to help assist them in the solving of crimes by tracking criminals.

Despite the outrage concerning this topic, I don't see a way they can fix this situation. The best way to solve this predicament is to give consumers the choice to opt-out of the tracking or at least give them access to the information being compiled.

Regardless, it seems this angry reaction from consumers is getting a little out of hand — an iPhone user from Florida and an iPad owner from New York are actually suing Apple because of the tracking issues.



Jaimie Collins
Ya Know What I Mean?

This seems ridiculous, since it doesn't seem the information is being used for anything unless a situation requiring it arises.

People tend to overreact and this situation is a prime example. I'm not sure what these people believe will result from their lawsuit or how they expect the companies to fix it, but it's evident their anger isn't exactly justified.

It's not as if Apple bugged their phones or read their personal emails and for this reason, I think everyone is overreacting just a tad.

However, I wouldn't be surprised if this new information has a dampening affect on the number of people buying iPhones in the coming months, as well as an increase in people taking extra steps to protect their information.

That's not a bad thing after all, since this is the age of identity theft.

Overall, it's apparent the main concern this revelation prompts is the issue of users privacy and what the data is being used for, which is understandable. People want to know they are safe and their personal space is being respected.

The remaining question is whether this will lead to further invasions of privacy and what this means for the future of cell phone usage.

"Ya Know What I Mean?" is a weekly column appearing on Tuesdays. Jaimie Collins is a Spartan Daily A&E Editor.

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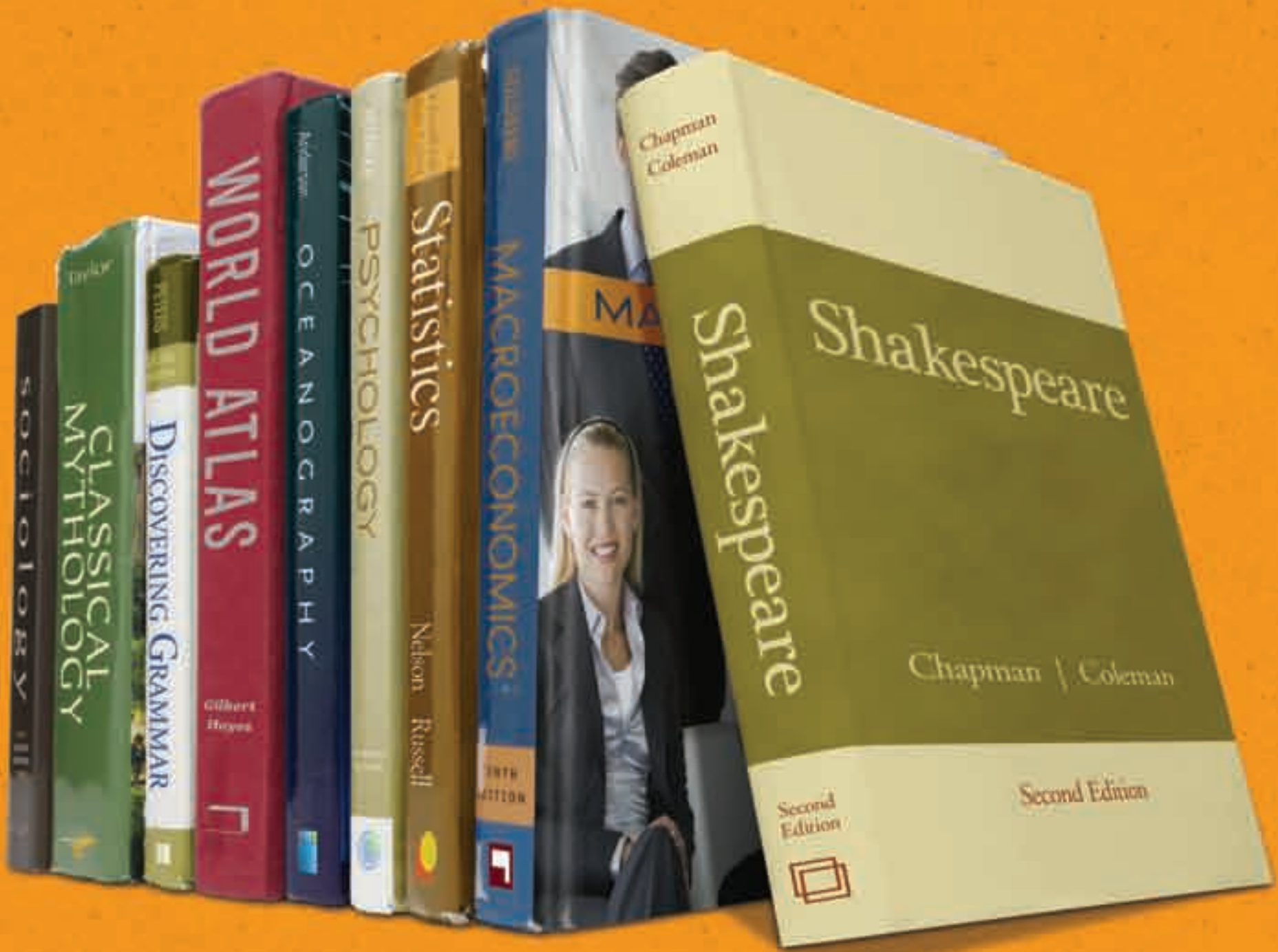
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