



'6 Characters' leaves audience searching for meaning
See Page 5

Gymnastics

SJSU gymnastics vaults into season
See Page 6



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SJSU's 'Green pioneer' dead at 70

Amber Simons
Staff Writer

The unexpected death of Glenn Schiavo's uncle, Frank Schiavo, last week, prompted him to say he feels sad for his 2-year-old daughter.

"In our immediate family, it's the biggest loss for her, that she doesn't get to grow up knowing him, because there really is nobody that I've ever known that's like him," he said. "He's such a neat person ... There just isn't going to be somebody like that again."

Schiavo died of a heart attack at the age of 70, said his sister, Janice Schiavo-Schuhe.

Schiavo, a former SJSU lecturer, has been featured in many past Spartan Daily issues, most notably for his self-sustaining,

solar-powered house.

"Always into projects, Frank was a man of many talents," said Ed Hodges, a friend of Schiavo.

Hodges said that he and Schiavo would repair their houses together.

"We met at a graduate class at San Jose State when we were both becoming teachers. It was in 1966," Hodges said.

Hodges said Schiavo had a "Do as I say, because what I say is what I do" attitude.

Frank Schuhe, Schiavo's brother-in-law, said Schiavo didn't want to waste anything, and he didn't throw anything away.

"He not only taught about his environment and lifestyle, but he did it," he said.

Schiavo was always up for challenges, Hodges said.

"He's probably the most

famous person that I know, because of his accomplishments and all the stuff that he has done for the environment," he said.

Hodges said Schiavo was involved in the start of Earth Day.

In 1970, Gaylord Nelson, an SJSU alumnus and former governor and senator from Wisconsin, founded Earth Day, according to the SJSU Web site. In February of 1970, students at SJSU purchased and buried a car on campus to build environmental awareness, according to the SJSU Web site.

"The famous car that was buried on campus ... it was a protest, but it was part of a week's activities which then eventually became the beginning of Earth Day and Frank was one of the people who helped organize that,"

Hodges said.

In the 1970s, Schiavo received the "Teacher of the World" award in environmental studies, Hodges said.

Hodges said he considers Schiavo to be one of the top 10 professors in SJSU's history.

Schiavo's sister, Janice Schiavo-Schuhe, said she thinks his greatest achievement was teaching thousands of students to pass on his message.

"He's the man who talked the talk and walked the walk," said Ralph Schardt, a friend and former student of Schiavo.

Schardt said Schiavo owned very few electronic devices and worked on being more in tune with the environment.

See **SCHIAVO**, Page 3



Spartan Daily file photo
Frank Schiavo, an SJSU professor of environmental studies for 17 years, was found dead in his home on Tuesday.

Cesar Chavez monument receiving makeover

Kevin Hume
Staff Writer

Work has begun on updating the Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Arch, said Ron Loforti, a carpenter for facilities, development and operations at SJSU.

Workers from the Facilities Development and Operations carpenter shop pulled down the Cesar Chavez mosaic last Wednesday to allow artist Judith Baca to complete a planned extension of the piece, Loforti said.

"The artist is going to be coming back here to San Jose State, and she's going to continue the mural up to the top of the glass portion of the whole monument," Loforti said.

Larry Carr, SJSU associate vice president of public affairs, said this project is happening to maintain the monument for years to come.

"You want to go back to make sure that it's done in a way that will last for the amount of time we need it to, and lower our maintenance costs, and to continue to look the way we want it to, to memorialize the man," Carr said.

Maricela Noguez, a junior business marketing major, said she was happy to see the monument

See **CHAVEZ**, Page 3



Kevin Hume / Spartan Daily

Workers remove damaged tiling from the Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Arch on Wednesday afternoon.

No applicants for Ph.D. program

Lidia Gonzalez
Staff Writer

With the application deadline less than a week away, there has not been one SJSU applicant for this year's Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, said Cassandra Kapell, the administrative assistant for the office of graduate studies and research.

Monday, Feb. 8 is the deadline for the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program for 2010-11, according to California State University's Web site.

Heidi Pendleton, SJSU professor and chair of occupational therapy, said the program is tremendously beneficial for students who are serious about pursuing their doctorates.

Pendleton said she was among the first group of recipients to be awarded into the program when it was introduced in 1990.

Professor Winifred Schultz-Krohn, also part of occupational therapy and past recipient of Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, said the program was instrumental in allowing her to maintain employment.

She said it was an amazing way of supporting people who are working toward receiving their doctorate.

Pendleton said the program is a noteworthy asset to a career, but difficult to recommend because it may be hard to find a job because of the recent recession.

The program loans up to \$10,000 per year, up to a total of \$30,000, ac-

ording to the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program application for 2010-11.

The application has additional incentives to the program, such as repayment over a 15-year period, a 12-month grace period after completion of doctorate, and 20 percent is forgiven for each full year of service in a full-time CSU instructional faculty position.

In addition to the incentives, the application confirms partial forgiveness to those who successfully complete their doctorate and are working part time at a CSU.

It is an incentive to give back to the system that helped educate you, Shultz-Krohn said.

Jennifer Bowman, senior child development major, who has never heard of the program, said the recession is a huge setback for students aiming to be a CSU professor.

"Is it better to get a job or be a student?" she said.

Bowman said there are perks. She said the incentive about forgiving 20 percent a year is almost like an employment bonus.

"I don't usually receive applications until three days before the due date," Kapell said.

The quantity of students applying is not large, but the qualifications of those who do apply are superb, Kapell said.

"We spam the campus as much as possible," Kapell said.

See **PHD**, Page 3

Weather



W | **TH**
Hi: 58° | Hi: 57°
Lo: 47° | Lo: 48°

SPARTAN DAILY SPORTS BLOG

Audio Feature: "All About Dad" director and writer talks about the film.

Slideshow: View photos from the gymnastics team practice.

Slideshow: Women's basketball team falls to Fresno State 68-31 on Saturday.

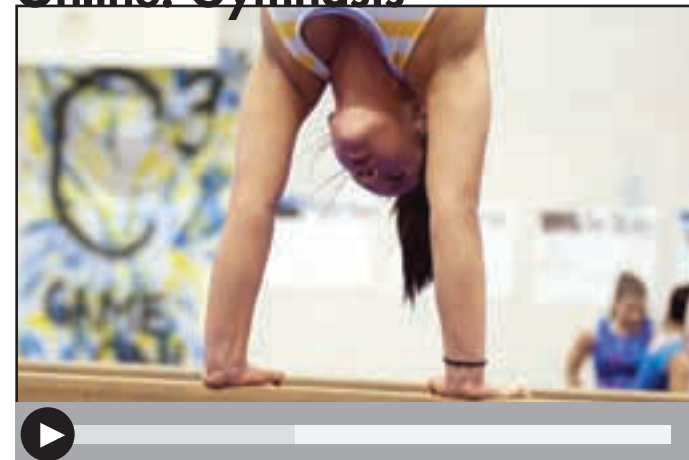
Video: Men's basketball team defeats Hawaii 83-60 on Thursday.

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Online: Gymnasts



Michelle Gacher / Spartan Daily

See www.spartandailyphoto.com

Spartans dine for Haitian relief

Eric Van Susteren
Staff Writer

Monday night's Dinner and Entertainment Fundraiser for Haiti in Campus Village Building B brought 154 students and raised \$1,125.45.

"We thought it was important to offer residents a way to get involved," said Ellie Harris, one of the coordinators for the event.

The money raised during the event went to a nonprofit organization called the Pantry, which is sending two shipping containers containing 250,000 meals that go directly to Haiti, Harris said.

"As students we have the responsibility to reach out to our less-fortunate neighbors and respond to a crisis when we have the resources to do so," said Stephen Meggers, the second coordinator of the event.

Meggers said that for every dollar raised at the fundraiser, Haitians would receive 19 meals.

The money was raised through donations but also through raffle ticket sales and auctioned items. The prizes for both the raffle and auction were mostly gift cards from various companies whose values ranged

from \$20 to \$250.

"Overall, I was happy with the atmosphere and the money that was raised," Harris said.

Mingzhe Li, a graduate student majoring in computer science, attended the fundraiser, which was organized by the Resident Hall Association of Building B.

"A lot of people hear about Haiti on the news but don't attend the actual events, he said. "This really puts it in our faces and gives us an opportunity to actually do something about it."

"It's a good way to bring people together who have a common goal to help others," said Marty Barker, a senior business management major.

Students at the event were given free sandwiches, salads, drinks and cookies but were encouraged to donate to the cause.

Max Guirand, a native Haitian living the United States, said he came to the event to speak about his homeland.

"I left my heart in Haiti," he said. "It's a beautiful country."

Guirand said he praised God and President Obama for his swift action in sending help to Haiti.

"I like that the world is united to help Haiti," he said.

Guirand said he has had very limited contact with his friends and relatives in Haiti since the earthquake.

"I talked with one cousin in Haiti," he said. "He was so happy to hear my voice but we lost connection. Communication is still very limited."

The entertainment for the night featured two sets including Headhunters, a local break-dancing group.

"It's only right that we help out Haiti, helping the underprivileged is what we do," said a member of the group.

Also featured was B.E.A.T.S., a local band featuring rap, vocal, beat box and keyboard. Two of the members of B.E.A.T.S., Robbie Ocampo and Stacy Duderio are SJSU alumni.

"We came out tonight to let other people know that we're here to support the cause," Ocampo said.

The event was organized by resident advisers at Campus Village Building B. Advisers are required to put on eight such events each semester. This event was particularly large and required the work of all of the staff, said Mike Palmieri, a Residential Life Coordinator for Building B.

Music, friendship transcends Haiti disaster

Matt Santolla
Staff Writer

After an earthquake struck the country of Haiti on Jan. 12, all one SJSU faculty member could think about was her friend of 28 years.

Gwendolyn Mok, coordinator of keyboard studies, said she rushed to the computer in an attempt to locate Haitian violinist Romel Joseph.

"This is about a friendship that started in 1982," Mok said. "It is a friendship that started a school, and a friendship that got reunited by tragedy."

Mok, one of the coordinators behind a Feb. 7 benefit concert at SJSU to help raise money for Haiti, said Joseph, 50, was trapped under the rubble of his destroyed New Victorian School (of music for impoverished children) in Port-au-Prince for 18 hours before he was rescued.

She said most of the 300 students were not in the building, the dead included Joseph's wife, who was seven months pregnant.

"It is good to know that our school is getting involved," sophomore physiology major Travis Soper said. "It is a good way for people to help and to get introduced to classical music."

Mok said she first met Joseph in 1982, when she was invited to a music festival in Massachusetts. At the time,

she said she was living in the Queens borough of New York City and Joseph was living in the Bronx while getting a master's degree from the Juilliard School of Music.

Mok said she would have Joseph over for dinner as their friendship developed over the years and that she marveled at Joseph's attitude when they first started their friendship.

"He never felt sorry for himself," she said. "That is how he has made it so far.

He has always been a positive person."

According to the Miami Herald, Joseph broke his legs and left hand, and may never be able to play violin again.

Mok said Joseph's outlook on life remains positive and that he wants to rebuild his school.

She said Joseph would talk about his dreams of moving back to Haiti and opening a school for music and said that Joseph moved back to Haiti in 1991 after he received his degree.

Mok spoke of being invited by Joseph for a benefit concert in Port-au-Prince that she and other artists would headline.

"I was glad to help Romel," she said. "I enjoyed what we did and that it was helping fulfill his dream of opening a school."

Mok said her music helped raise money for what Joseph used to create the New Victo-

rian School in Port-au-Prince.

The school was completely demolished in the Jan. 12 earthquake that struck the country, according to the Miami Herald.

"I think anybody that is trying to help a friend it is a good thing," said undeclared freshman Will Scharninghausen. "I'm proud to be a Spartan. I'm proud to be an American."

After 1994, Mok said she lost contact with Joseph, so when she heard about the earthquake she rushed to find out about her friend.

She said she and Joseph reconnected after she found out that he was in a Miami hospital.

Mok said she decided to use music to raise money for Haiti and to help rebuild Joseph's school.

"I went to Yale, I could have been a lawyer or done something else," she said. "But I choose music. It is what I want to do with my life."

Mok said she has raise money through music for such causes as China's earthquake in 2008.

"It was the way I was raised," she said. "That is my mission in life, to use my music to help people."

On Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. SJSU school of music and dance will be putting on a benefit concert to raise money to help rebuild Haiti, Mok said.

Admission is free and seating is limited, but people are encouraged to text "Haiti" to 90999 to donate \$10 to the Red Cross or to have your checkbooks ready to donate to the Walenstein Musical Organization, she said.



Arya Ghavamian / Contributing Photographer

Max Guirand speaks about Haiti, his home country, to students at the dinner and entertainment fundraiser for Haiti on Monday night.

University initiates study on immigration at workshop

Jasmine Duarte
Staff Writer

About 70 people attended an SJSU global innovation and immigration workshop Friday that introduced the launch of SJSU's new study that will focus on immigration and its different components.

The Silicon Valley is known for being one of the most diverse cities in California and SJSU is no exception, said Michael Conniff, director of global studies and chair of the Silicon Valley center for global innovation and immigration.

"This is a good place for research," he said.

Conniff said he wants students to be more than just students.

"I want the students to become researchers, to go out into the community and help do research on immigration, and I want professors to go out of the university to form teams of researchers," he said.

"Immigration is such a complex study that help is needed from all disciplines," Conniff said.

The workshop had presentations from two researchers, anthropology Professor Jan English-Lueck with "Deep Diversity and Silicon Valley" and geography Assistant Profes-

sor Katherine Richardson with "The New Location Advantage: Using the Power of Place to Attract Global Talent."

"I am really honored to watch this workshop with a really broad concept," said English-Lueck.

In her presentation, she talked about different social classes in the San Jose and looking at people's day-to-day life and examining the immigrant experience.

English-Lueck said she talked about identity, and how immigration identity changes from community to community.

"Silicon Valley and SJSU are centers of global flows," she said.

English-Lueck also said in her presentation that, second to Miami, San Jose has the highest number of immigrants and that deep diversity affects the youth and the community.

Richardson said some companies who are open to having a global labor force and open to this idea have the potential to succeed.

In her presentation, Richardson used a company in Canada as an example, citing how the company was able to employ people from Seattle and have them once a week travel to Vancouver for a meeting.

Richardson encouraged individuals to not fear working out of the country, because it may provide better opportunities than where a person might be currently.

Timothy Hegstrom, dean of the SJSU College of Social Sciences, said he would encourage students to travel and study abroad to see what opportunities the world has to offer.

The global studies major at SJSU is one of the few programs that requires students to study abroad, Hegstrom said.

English-Lueck said that students and other people at the workshop gained the ability to question what they know or what they think they know about immigration.

"Students should study abroad, but also talk to strangers, because the truth is that the world has come here as well," she said.

"I didn't know what to expect exactly," senior sociology major Roberto Garcia-Ceballos said.

Garcia-Ceballos said he found English-Lueck's presentation interesting, but said he still felt the presentation did not focus on local issues and felt that more information about immigration life in San Jose should have been discussed in the presentation.

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Gov. assures economic upswing

Hank Drew
Senior Staff Writer

The current economic downturn and talk of high-speed rail took center stage as Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, flanked by his choice for lieutenant governor, addressed more than 200 people at the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Power Report Lunch last Thursday.

"We are going to come back economically," Schwarzenegger said. "We see already signs."

He said that housing prices seem to be on the rebound and job losses are slowing.

"Jobs, jobs, jobs," he said. "That is the most important things. We've got to create jobs in California."

Schwarzenegger said that California would receive \$2.3 billion from the federal government to help create a new high-speed rail system.

He said the train would run from Anaheim to San Francisco and would create up to 600,000 jobs throughout the state.

"I am very excited about that because, as you know, for the last 10 years the state has been

planning and working very hard on the plan for high-speed rail," Schwarzenegger said. "The people have understood the difference between spending money and investing in the future."

He said California has received the highest share of the \$8 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for high-speed intercity rail because the state was further along in its plans than any other.

According to Jan. 28 news release, voters approved Proposition 1A in November 2008, which provided \$9.5 billion in bonds to fund a down payment on the system.

While the economy seems to be recovering, Schwarzenegger said the state should not take this as a sign to spend.

"Eventually there's going to be another decline economically," he said. "I want to make sure the state never goes through this kind of disaster again, because it is self inflicted wounds, because the state of California has never reformed its tax system."

State Sen. Abel Maldonado, a Republican from Santa

Maria, said he agreed with Schwarzenegger's call for job creation and said that reforming the state government would help that cause.

Maldonado was recently announced by Schwarzenegger on "The Jay Leno Show" as his choice to replace outgoing Lt. Gov. John Garamendi. Garamendi was recently elected to Congress.

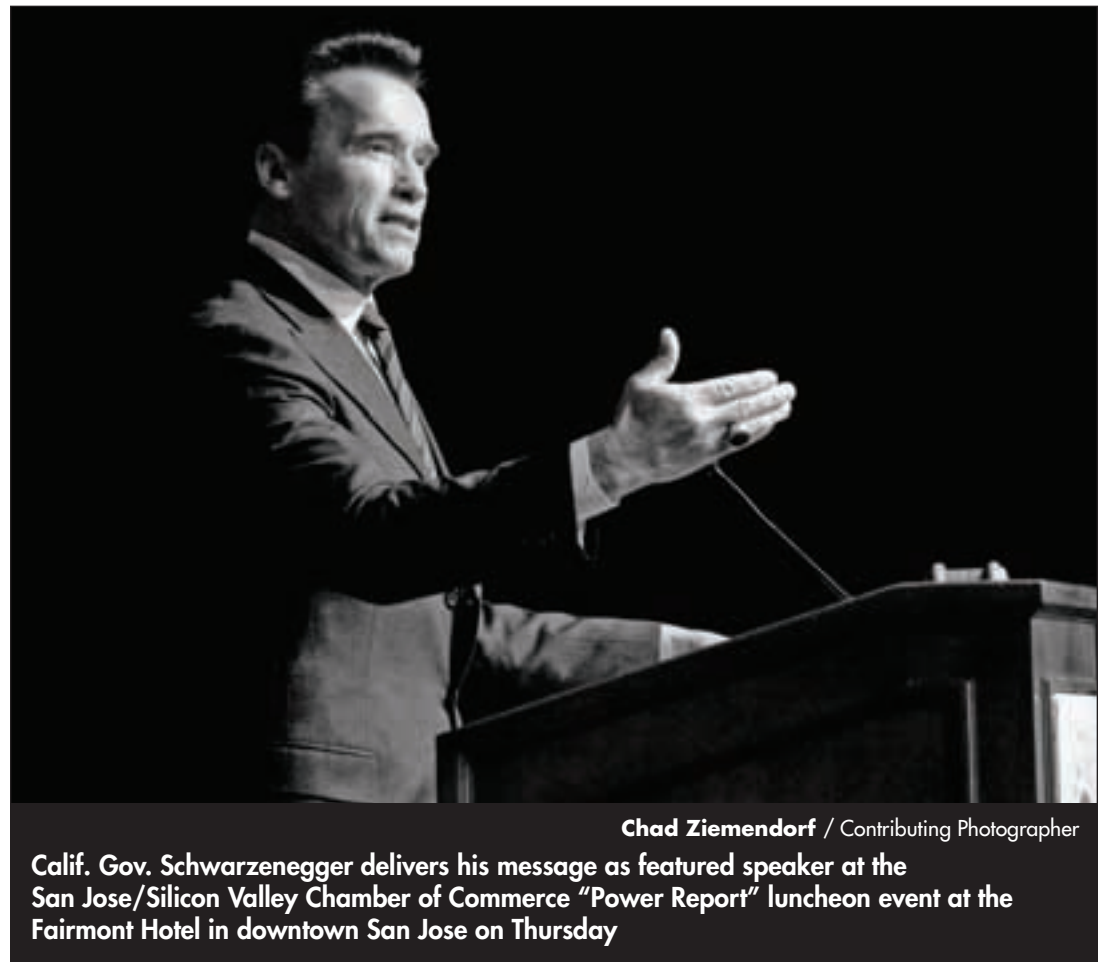
"Last night, we heard President Barack Obama talk about, 'Can't we all just get along?'" he said.

Maldonado said Proposition 11, which creates a commission for drawing district boundaries, and a move to open primaries could change the behavior of state legislature.

"Currently, today, we have a system that causes hard right and hard left," he said. "When you have that, you lose reason."

One of the duties of lieutenant governor is to serve as a reagent for the University of California, Maldonado said.

"I'm here to tell you that it's the best university system in the world," he said. "And we are going to keep it the best university system in the world."



Chad Ziemendorf / Contributing Photographer

Calif. Gov. Schwarzenegger delivers his message as featured speaker at the San Jose/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce "Power Report" luncheon event at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown San Jose on Thursday

Because here in Silicon Valley, if we have a good university system, we're going to have a great Silicon Valley."

Larry Carr, associate vice president of public affairs at SJSU, said he did not hear enough about funding the uni-

versity system.

"From all the leaders we heard from today, if their number one goal truly is 'Jobs. Jobs. Jobs,' as they say, then they need to understand the role that California State University system plays in that," Carr

said. "We are the chief higher education body that is responsible for educating people to be able to have jobs in this state. So, funding for that system is truly the avenue and the path to being able to create jobs in California."

SJSU professor looking 'light-years away' for discovery

Eric Austin
Staff Writer

Natalie Batalha, an associate professor of astronomy and physics at SJSU, and her colleagues at NASA Ames Research Center may be on the brink of discovering a habitable, earth-like world orbiting a distant star.

For the last ten years, Batalha has been a co-investigator for the Kepler Mission, which has been designed specifically to hunt for

habitable planets orbiting stars light-years away in the local region of the Milky Way Galaxy, as well as understanding how these planets came to be.

"The holy grail of the mission is to find an Earth-sun analog," Batalha said. "We want to find a place that looks like home."

Batalha said she and her fellow investigators are looking for planets in what astronomers call the "Goldilocks zone," which is described as the distance around the parent star that is

neither too hot nor too cold for life to form.

On Jan. 4, 2010, at the American Astronomical Society in Washington, D.C., the Kepler Mission announced its first positive results with the discovery of five new planets to add to the current list of more than 400 known extrasolar planetary bodies, according to a mission update on the Kepler Mission's official Web site.

These newly found planets are gas giants that are far more

akin to Jupiter than to Earth and are much too hot to satisfy a Goldilocks planet, Batalha said.

She said it is these smaller, cooler, Goldilocks planets that will most likely be uncovered in the next four years, when the mission ends and the data has been thoroughly processed.

The odds of finding another Earth appears to be in the Kepler Mission's favor, Batalha said.

"There are scientific reasons why we believe they are going to be common," she said. "Research shows the smaller-massed planets, like Earth, are more common than those with larger masses."

It is the small planets that are the hardest to detect, Batalha said.

"If we want to find an Earth-sun analog, it will take another three years," she said. "Those detections won't come until the end of the mission and then another year for ground-based follow-up observations."

The Kepler Mission relies upon the multimillion dollar Kepler space telescope, which was launched into orbit on Mar. 6, 2009 to hunt for these celestial siblings by maintaining an unblinking stare at a single portion of the sky containing roughly four-and-a-half million stars for the three-and-a-half year duration of the mission, Batalha said.

Prior to the launch of the Kepler telescope, Batalha's job was to help determine which portion of the sky the telescope would monitor and which stars would be the target of observation, she said.

"We only monitor about 170,000, but there are four-and-a-half million to choose from," Batalha said. "And that was a huge effort that took about four years to figure out."

With the Kepler telescope constantly streaming data to earth, the majority of Batalha's recent time has been spent working on determining probable candidates, stars that show promise of having observable planetary systems to pass on to ground-based observers for



Thomas Webb / Contributing Photographer

SJSU astronomy Professor Natalie Batalha works for NASA's Kepler Mission, looking for planets in distant solar systems.

follow-up and confirmation, she said.

While the Kepler Mission has been Batalha's number one priority, leaving her no time to teach classes this semester at SJSU, her involvement in the Kepler Mission is invaluable to the university and to the department of physics and astronomy, and her work has benefited students by opening up doors and granting opportunities, said Monika Kress, an assistant professor of astronomy.

Senior physics major Michael Rucker, said he was fortunate enough to be granted a part-time position with the Kepler Mission working on data analysis.

"It's exciting," Rucker said. "I love the fact that I have the opportunity to be a part of it."

He said Batalha's involvement has been important to his pursuit of a future in astrophysics and astronomy.

"She's been invaluable in my growth as a scientist," he said.

Batalha's involvement in such a well-known project also garners exposure for the university, Kress said.

"Her leadership role in the Kepler Mission means that SJSU is more widely recognized as a university that conducts cutting-edge research," Kress said.

She said Batalha is an important asset to SJSU and her work will continue to improve not only in the status of the university's position in the scientific community, but the quality of education provided by the university as well.

"These years spent working full time on Kepler are an investment in her future as a professor that will pay off over the 25 to 30 years that she has left in her career as a professor," Kress said. "It's an investment both on her, but also on the part of the university."

"I think it says a lot about our administration at SJSU that they appreciate the importance of research and understand that the benefits pay off over very long timescales, particularly in this day and age of everyone wanting instant results from their investments."

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Play '6 Characters' intends to leave audience bewildered

REVIEW

Jillian Dehn
Staff Writer

Play director Amy Ryan said she faced quite a challenge when she set out to direct Italian writer Luigi Pirandello's "6 Characters in Search of an Author," an SJSU television, radio, film and theatre production.

Riddled with confusing dialogue and awkward situations,

Ryan's "6 Characters in Search of an Author" left something to be desired.

The confusion began when cast members came out and introduced themselves to each audience member.

The audience seemed to be caught off guard by the swarm of highly enthusiastic people, and appeared to be further confused when the cast sat scattered among the audience.

It was suddenly apparent that the audience was overseeing a

rehearsal for an upcoming show, when a director walked on stage and announced that a role-play exercise would begin shortly.

When the rehearsal was interrupted by a group of sullen looking individuals, you got the sense that the play had finally started.

The story that these characters began to tell was riveting — filled with betrayal, death and sex.

As an audience member, I was drawn into the urgency the characters were trying to portray while attempting to explain just how real they were.

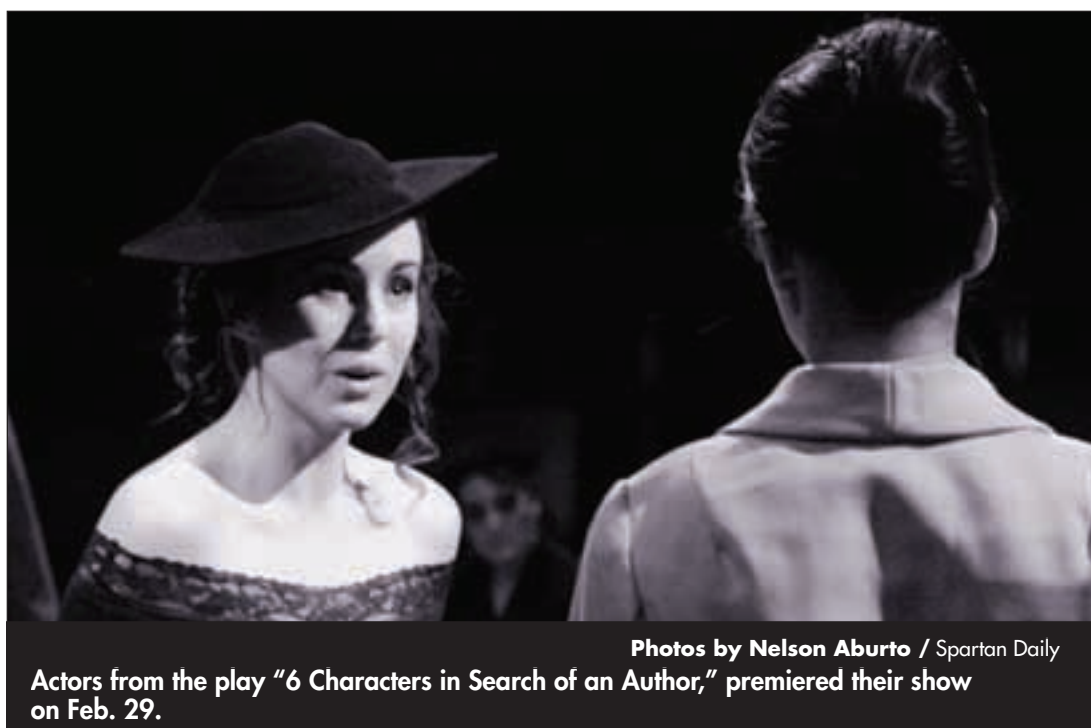
Frustration ran thick in the air, because the "cast" just didn't take them seriously, and the director was constantly trying to dominate the situation by changing the facts of their story.

The story is indeed interesting, but I never really got a true sense of what happened to these characters.

The majority of the script was taken up by the characters' constant need to prove they truly existed.



A dramatic scene from the play "6 Characters in Search of an Author," directed by Amy Ryan.



Actors from the play "6 Characters in Search of an Author," premiered their show on Feb. 29.

Ryan explained in an interview just how much work the cast put into this production.

She had them participating in acting workshops in order to have them prepared to portray the intensity of what the characters felt, and all their hard work paid off.

Although the story lacked in content, the emotion that the characters felt was beautifully translated to the audience.

When the father screamed in exasperation, "We have no real-

ity outside this illusion," I got a true sense of just how trapped his character felt within his fictional world.

Despite the high-quality acting, the audience seemed once again confused when the play came to an abrupt end.

Just when all the questions were starting to get answered, the cast left the stage and the lights went up.

Not knowing whether the play was finished left the audience sitting in confusion for several

minutes, as they were unsure if the cast was going to return to the stage.

Eventually, one brave soul decided to stand up and put on her jacket. This gesture gave the rest of us the go-ahead to leave as well.

In speaking with Ryan after the show, she confessed that confusion was exactly what she wanted the audience to have felt.

She definitely achieved the effect she was going for.

RESTAURANT OF THE WEEK Sa-By Thai tempts student to fork over cash

Jasmine Duarte
Staff Writer

If I could have Thai food everyday, I would. After Mexican food, Thai food is definitely my favorite type of food to eat when I don't feel like cooking.

Conveniently located about two-and-a-half blocks from campus on Eighth and East William Streets is a cozy Thai restaurant named Sa-By Thai Cuisine.

A great feature about the restaurant is that it is open until midnight seven days a week.

I order from there about once every two weeks and have tried every vegetarian item on the menu, but my ultimate recommendation is its yellow curry.

As a friend and I sat down in the booth, I was instantly relaxed by the walls' burnt orange and red colors and their beautiful and elaborate elephant ornaments.

The waitress lit the blue candle that sat on each table and poured water out of a steel pitcher into

our glasses, which sat on bamboo coasters. As I was talking to my friend about my day, in mid-sentence I stopped and began to smile — No Doubt's "Don't Speak" started playing through the speakers. It's like they knew I was coming, or at least who I used to be about 10 years ago.

Nonetheless, it was great. The waitress came back and took our order. We ordered the vegetarian egg rolls as an appetizer, and I ordered the yellow curry with tofu.

This dish can also be ordered with chicken, beef, pork or shrimp.

Of course, I also had to order a Thai iced tea. How can someone not go to a Thai restaurant and not get a Thai iced tea?

A Thai iced tea is a drink made from strongly brewed black tea and is then sweetened with sugar and half and half which gives it a smooth and creamy look.

Thai iced tea is one of my favorite parts about going to Sa-By Thai. The spices of the black tea mixed with the creamy sweetness of half and half were a perfect pair.



Photo by Jasmine Duarte / Spartan Daily
The yellow curry dish from Sa-By Thai restaurant.

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Gymnastics team aims to flip without flopping

Melissa Sabile
Staff Writer

Despite the departure of three senior gymnasts last year, the SJSU women's gymnastics team is looking forward to a successful 2010 season.

"We have a very young team this year," head coach Wayne Wright said. "Last year, we had a very strong senior class. We had Veronica Porte, who made it all the way to the NCAA National Championships. She was a very strong leader and it will take time to fill that void."

But this year, the gymnastics team is expected to do just as well, Wright said.

The Spartans (5-3) won the team all-around their first meet of the season, and have come in second in the other three meets against Western Athletic Conference opponents.

"It was hard losing the seniors, but we have a great team atmosphere," Wright said. "They compete as a team and

they are always together."

Being a member of the team is just as important as getting along with the teammates, especially for the gymnasts, said senior Tiffany Louie.

"We are a very close-knit

"It's been fun to be a part of a team," said Telles-Nolan, who has competed in uneven bars for the Spartans at all four meets. "Club gymnastics is all about the individual, but here you compete for the team."

“Our season’s gone well so far. But we do have room for improvements and individually we can each do better.”

Tiffany Louie
Senior

team," Louie said. "We are always there for each other, we cheer each other on, and we all hang out outside of the gym."

New to the team this year is freshman Alyssa Telles-Nolan, formerly of Gold Cup Gymnastics in Albuquerque, N. M.

In gymnastics, there are four events: vault, uneven bars, balance beam, and floor exercise. In a college-level meet, six gymnasts compete per team on each of the four events, but only five scores count for the event total. The judges throw out the lowest score, Wright said.

"Our season's gone well so far," Louie said. "But we do have room for improvements and individually we can each do better."

Sophomore Thomasina Wallace said she has high hopes for herself and her teammates. Last year, Wallace was the only other gymnast to join Porte at the NCAA National Championships.

"I'm hoping to do the same this year," Wallace said. "And even take the team the whole way too."

Wallace, who competes in all four events for the Spartans, has already won the all-around at three of the four meets this season, and finished second in the home opener on Saturday.

"I'm doing good," Wallace



Michelle Gachet / Spartan Daily

Aubrey Lee and Jessica Khoshnood practice their routines on balance beam Monday afternoon. The gymnastics team is 5-3 after its loss Saturday.

said. "But that doesn't count for anything. Our season so far is decent. We all could be doing better."

"Every week we start off with our goals," said Gabby Targosz, a senior beam and floor specialist. "We have a new goal each week, and we spend the week working up to reach those goals."

The gymnasts practice Monday through Friday in the Spartan Complex.

"Before a meet, we have what is called a 'show day' or a 'mock meet' where the girls do their routines," Wright said.

Based on their performance throughout the week and how well they do on show day, Wright chooses the six gymnasts who will compete in each event. But some of the gymnasts have already been faced with setbacks.

"There have been a few injuries we have been nursing," Wright said. "Shanice Howard was All-WAC on floor for 2009, but she hasn't competed floor for us this season. Same with Jessica [Khoshnood]."

On Saturday against Southern Utah, Khoshnood competed floor for the first time this season and tied with Wallace for fourth place with a score of 9.725. Lily Swann received a 9.75 for third place and Tiffany Louie tied with Southern Utah's

Elise Wheeler for first with a score of 9.825.

"Beam went well," Targosz said, who scored a 9.725 on the event. "We had a fall in the beginning but the rest of us picked it back up. We went into the meet with a goal for a team score of 193. We are proud we made the score of 193.3, that's two points up from the last meet."

The Spartans compete next on Sunday at Stanford against Washington and Sacramento State.



Michelle Gachet / Spartan Daily

Katie Valleau practices her routine on balance beam Monday afternoon. SJSU returns to action on Saturday.

To see a slideshow of the gymnastics team practicing go to

Spartandailysports.wordpress.com

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5 Pro golfer	36 — Hubbard of sci-fi
6 Boast about	40 Unskilled workers
7 WSW opposite	41 Breezy talk
8 Bathrobe tie	44 Agreement
9 Greek sun god	47 Largest bird
10 Run	49 Keaton or Crabbe
11 Look over quickly	50 Dome
12 "Sithy" thing, to Carroll	53 Mr. Goldfinger
13 Dele's undoing	54 Honor in style
21 Under-sized pups	55 John, in Siberia
23 Winery process	56 Treetop refuge
25 Discolored	57 Stationery buys (abbr.)
27 Mercator's tome	59 Magic spell starter
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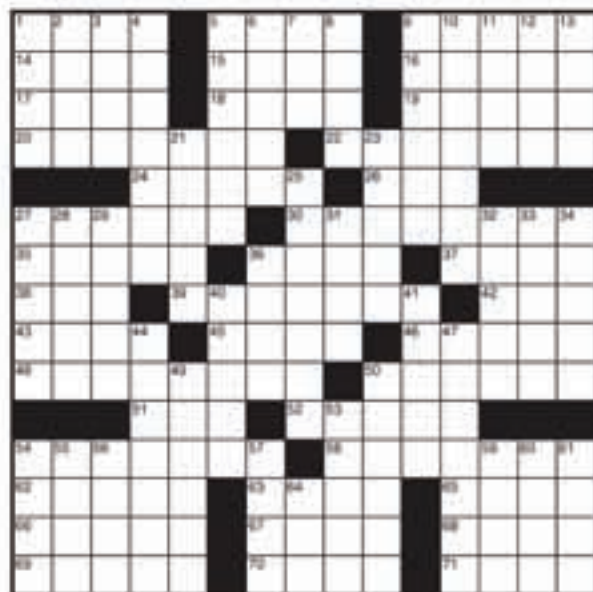
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Cats vs. dogs, an epic battle

There has been a battle for many years between cat and dog owners of which of the two pets is better.

When I was younger, I wanted a dog. After being attacked by a large dog, that desire quickly changed to cats.

Finally, for my 16th birthday, my parents let me adopt a cat from the Humane Society. Since that day eight years ago, I've enjoyed the perks of having a cat.

Knight, my cat, has shown me that cats can have some of the same personality traits dogs have.

Cats, similar to dogs, can fetch small things, beg, do tricks and comfort their owners.

Having a cat has been a great pleasure.

Shortly after I adopted my cat, I had five successive surgeries on my knees and was on bed rest for months. During that bed rest, Knight sat right above my head on the arm of the couch all the time, and aside from eating and going to the bathroom, he stayed by my side to comfort me.

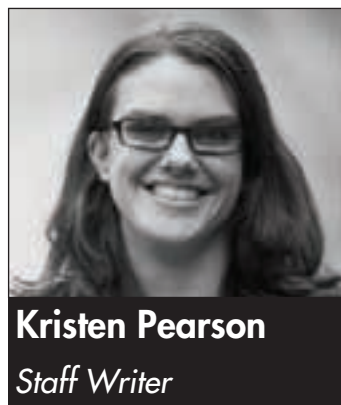
He was my "Knight" in shining armor.

Knight, however, did have some of the important cat personality traits. He became angry with me when I moved out, became very jealous when my brother brought a kitten home, and finally started hissing after another cat was in the house.

After moving back into my parents' house, he became better behaved and tried to please me again by coming to me when I called, allowing me to pet him, and not terrorizing the kitten as often.

Now, since I've moved out again into a small apartment downtown, he seems fine because I visit quite often, but I wonder if he'd be okay if I decided to get a dog for safety at my apartment.

Because, since the dog at-



Kristen Pearson
Staff Writer

tacked me years ago, I have forgiven it because I don't believe dogs usually attack their owners. And I have once again found the perks of having a dog.

Dogs are usually extremely friendly. In fact, one of the great things about dogs is they don't attack their owners — they attack their owners' attackers.

A major perk of having a large dog would be safety. I would feel safer leaving for work at 4 a.m. if there was a dog watching out for me. I would feel safer going for a run downtown if there was a dog running with me. I would feel safer walking to dinner if there was a dog walking with me.

Of course, there are other perks. A dog owner always has someone to walk or run with, dogs are always happy to see their owners, and dogs never want anything more than to be loved, fed and exercised.

Living downtown has given me a new perspective on pet ownership. I would need to walk the dog every day for sure, which could be interesting considering my insane schedule, but I think it would be worth it, just to have a dog around.

It would be a great comfort to have a dog, but it is still a joy to have my Knight waiting for me at my parents' house every time I visit.

I'm just going to come on out and say it — social networking Web sites are weird.

Calm down. I'm not saying you're weird for having a Facebook account. It's just that Facebook itself is weird, so ... Well, come to think, I guess you are a bit weird for having one. Sorry.

But wait. Don't listen to me, I'm your average run-of-the-mill Luddite. I kicked and screamed to delay my own purchase of a cell phone — and now, five years later, here I am, with one snugly in my pocket as I type.

It's hard to stay too firmly opposed to the times.

I heard someone, without knowing it, tell the story of my cell phone acquisition once.

Slow fade-in on a couple of approaching elderly ladies sitting in a restaurant, having what could only be described as pleasant conversation. We'll put tea on their table, because I don't remember what they were actually having. Could have been margaritas, but I think tea helps the image, so Mr. Lipton it will be.

In the background, a suspicious busboy by day, columnist by night, lurks, clearing a nearby table and gaining the eventual inspiration for this column.

One lady spoke. "There's always resistance when new technology comes. It never lasts, because the new technology is always better. People have to come around."

The other, who seemed not to entirely agree, nodded politely.

I was a bit surprised and refreshed to hear this lady say

Man, Facebook seriously sucks



Angelo Lanham
Yes, I Have a Point

that. It indeed described my cell phone plight. And here I am, adamantly refusing to succumb to social networking, only because I think it's creepy.

I said the same thing about caller I.D. I was under the impression it would lead to obsessive call screening.

It did, but I still know who's calling me every time I pick up the phone.

Another story. I have a younger sister, who used to have this thing called a diary.

A diary is a series of blank pages, to be filled with one's inane thoughts — not unlike those found in status updates — bound together by a cover, typically leather, that is held closed by — get this — a lock.

My sister's diary, which, if memory serves correctly, had some unicorn on the front of it, was big-time secret. If I had picked the lock and read it, she probably would have waited until I fell asleep and then poured poison into my ears.

But my, my, my and my once more how times have changed. The same sister can now be found cavorting around Facebook, posting vaguely coded personal information for the masses to read.

Not only does Facebook lack a lock, but any blithering idiot with enough fingers to type may find out just how you're feeling today.

If your thought is "Ttyl hgrty rite now lolol" then this probably doesn't matter a lot.

If you're thinking "my bf is soooooo lame," though, not so much.

I can't tell you how often I've heard intellectuals discussing with great surprise how mad their

a good mood that I started posing with lawn flamingos whilst eating feathers out of a pillow like chips out of a bag doesn't give you the right to take advantage of my new lease on life by posting a picture, then tagging it with my name.

Besides that, there are billions of people you used to know who you'd probably prefer to leave in the past, aren't there? Good luck with that one — every time you log out, a series of pic-

And here I am, adamantly refusing to succumb to social networking, only because I think it's creepy.

friends have been to find out how they really feel.

The effect was greater during the MySpace days, when several of these scholarly types would rattle off on their so-called MySpace blogs for all to read.

Don't believe me? I had a girlfriend back in the MySpace days who tossed info on her blog that let me — and any creature with an internet connection — know what a putz I was.

Don't get me wrong, I was a putz. But did I want to read about it in a bright pink font?

Answer = no.

Call me old-fashioned, but I'm sort of fond of my privacy. I don't necessarily need everyone to know my build, religious beliefs, relationship status, why I'm online or what my favorite movies and music albums are.

Don't get me started on the drunken pictures. Just because I happen to drink myself into such

tures of "people you may know" confronts you.

So what we have is an online tattletale that forces you to take up correspondence with Herman, who you thought you were rid of for good when you got out of middle school.

The Internet has given us some great advances. We no longer have to pay postage to send a letter, getting scammed can be done more quickly and effortlessly than ever before, and access to porn for minors is at its all-time easiest.

But am I the only one who thinks waiving our right to privacy is a bit strange? That same right the likes of Jennifer Aniston would kill to reclaim?

I don't even like people knowing my middle name.

"Yes, I Have a Point," appears weekly on Tuesdays. Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily copy editor.

We deserve to have same-sex marriages

Three weeks into the Proposition 8 trial — the trial that will determine the fate of same-sex couples in California who are seeking the right to marry — and there is still no verdict.

It's not really surprising — after all, this is a highly controversial issue.

While there are many supporters of same-sex marriage in California, the majority of voters showed in November 2008 that they are not ready to give up on their notions of traditional marriage.

Because, with a divorce rate among opposite-sex couples hitting the roof, traditional marriage is more important than ever, right?

Traditional marriage must be protected from people like me — people who identify as being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or queer — because, even if I have never really been given a fair chance at marriage, I am still responsible for its downfall.

Excuse my sarcasm, but first of all, you don't get to ruin



Anna-Maria Kostovska
Staff Writer

traditional marriage and then blame it on me.

Secondly, if you are going to stubbornly cling to a notion that clearly has no validity, then you had better come up with a good argument.

What could possibly justify denying a simple right, such as that of marriage, to certain people — in this case, same-sex couples — while extending it to others?

Not only are the arguments not strong enough to justify discrimination, but some don't make any sense.

According to an article posted by the Los Angeles Times on Jan. 25, one argument stated

that allowing same-sex couples to marry "would lead to ... polygamy."

I dare anyone to explain the logic of that statement to me. If you are successful in doing so and have me convinced this is a valid argument, then I promise you I will no longer support same-sex marriage.

Chances are that will never happen. More likely than not, I will declare you ignorant and, for lack of a better word, stupid.

LGBTQ people simply want to marry one person, not several. Obviously there are always going to be people who want more after having been granted a certain right, but that has more to do with individual preference than anything else.

Unfortunately, when it comes to LGBTQ people, it seems the actions of a few eccentric individuals have had a damaging effect on the whole group.

I have lost count of how many times, after revealing my sexuality, I have been accused of being promiscuous. Another thing that has happened more than once is that people take for granted that

I am open to all kinds of sexual activities.

As much as I don't want to ruin anybody's fantasies, I think it's about time you knew not all lesbians and bisexual women act like drunk college girls.

And, while I am at it, I might as well spill the secret — not all gays and bisexual men act like those semi-naked men in the San Francisco Pride Parade.

I know this because I have spent a good part of my life being bisexual — therefore, I see things differently than people who have no connection to the LGBTQ community.

Still, despite differences of opinion, at the end of the day I am like you, a person who is trying to lead as much of a normal life as possible.

But it's not easy living in a reality in which I am considered to be of inferior status.

And it certainly doesn't make things better to know all I can do is wait for closed-minded Californians to realize I am human, too, and I deserve the same rights as any other living person.

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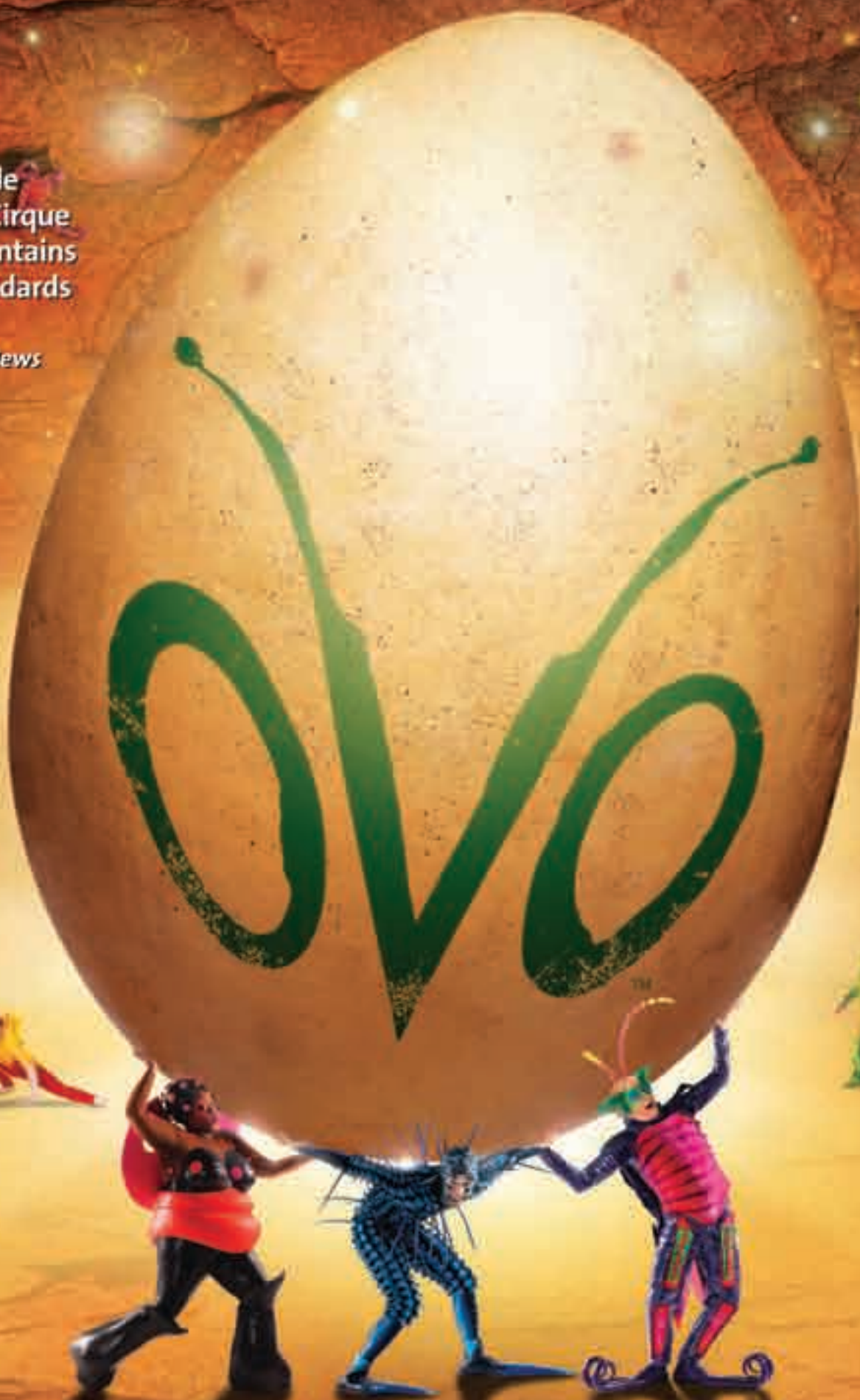
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