

## Suspect 1: Bertha Berner

Longtime Personal Secretary to Jane Stanford

Q: How did you find working with Jane Stanford?

A: It was demanding. She had high expectations and trusted few. But I was loyal to her. Always.

Q: Were you responsible for preparing her tea that evening?

A: I made her tea like usual. Jane was working late at the chemistry building, so I dropped it off for her, and then left to pick up the dry cleaning.

Q: Where were you that evening, after you dropped off the tea?

A: I left campus around 8:30 PM to pick up the dry cleaning in Menlo Park. Got stuck waiting since it wasn't ready on time. I remember because the shop closed at 9, and I had to argue with the clerk to get my order. I didn't get back to Jane's suite until just after 9:30. The lights were off, so I assumed she was already in bed.

Q: Had Jane received any threats recently?

A: She got a strange anonymous letter last week. She wouldn't let me read it... she tore it up and told me not to worry. But she was visibly unsettled afterward.

## Suspect 2: Amy

Jane Stanford's Former Teaching Assistant at Stanford

Q: When was the last time you saw Jane Stanford?

A: A few days ago. I was dropping off brownies in the faculty lounge and saw her talking with Christine.

Q: Were there any issues between you two?

A: Not really. She thought games were silly. I obviously disagree, but it wasn't personal. More of a generational thing.

Q: Where were you the night Jane died?

A: I was baking with Christine at her place. We usually hang out like that: trying new recipes, unwinding. It's our thing.

Q: Did you leave at any point that evening?

A: Umm... I don't think so? I did step away for a bit to call my mom, maybe around 8:30 PM.

## Suspect 3: Marc Tessier-Lavigne (MTL)

Former Stanford President

Q: How well did you know Jane Stanford?

A: She and I knew each other when I was president of Stanford. She was a tough boss, but I respected her. She believed in Stanford's legacy. We just had very different views on what that legacy should look like.

Q: Were you dismissed from your role because of the plagiarism investigation?

A: "Plagiarism" is a heavy word, isn't it? People in academia know how this works. Everyone's under pressure to publish. Let's not pretend I was some outlier.

Q: Where were you on the night of Jane Stanford's death?

A: Alone in my house. Reading Moby Dick. No one saw me.

Q: Any lingering resentment toward Jane?

A: Resentment? No. Pity, maybe. She didn't understand how the world had changed. She was clinging to rules written for a different century. But sure, it hurt. I gave decades of my life to this place, but it didn't seem like that mattered to her.

## Suspect 4: Christine

Lecturer, Art History and Game Design

Q: What was your relationship with Jane Stanford?

A: Oh she and I go way back. She was actually my professor once, believe it or not. Art history seminar. Super traditionalist. You either adored her or... didn't. I respected her, though. She knew what she wanted from her students.

Q: Did that affect your career path?

A: Sure. I didn't get into a program I'd hoped for because of a grade she gave me. Oxford, actually. I cried about it for a week and then took a job at a game startup. And you know what? It wasn't the worst thing. It led me back here.

Q: Where were you the night Jane died?

A: At home. Baking with Amy, my TA. We were testing a new cookie recipe that uses tahini. I didn't see Jane at all. We barely spoke any more.

Q: You didn't leave at all?

A: Nope.

Q: Would you say you harbored any resentment?

A: Definitely not. Disappointment, maybe. But I've worked through it. I teach now. I mentor. I give students the chances I wish someone had given me, and that's what matters.

## Suspect 5: Fizz CEO

Founder & CEO @ Fizz

Q: How did you know Jane Stanford?

A: We were adjacent. She was legacy, but I'm future-facing. She didn't really get what we're building at Fizz: a frictionless, anonymized engagement platform disrupting the social landscape. I pitched her the vision, but she kept asking about "moral consequences."

Q: Where were you on the night of Jane Stanford's death?

A: I RSVP'd to a gala that Jane was supposed to be at, but last minute pivoted to a fireside in Palo Alto with Pear VC folks. I only swung by for like, five minutes to network, then bounced. Not sure if Jane was still there tbh.

Q: What's your reaction to her sudden death?

A: Tragic, obviously. But you know, old institutions resisting progress never ends well. Can we wrap this up quick? I usually use this hour to climb.

Q: Some staff say you were upset she pulled Fizz from Stanford's Founders Circle.

A: Look, we've already found product-market fit. We don't need gatekeepers. So honestly, it's fine. We're visionaries and we didn't need her anyway.

## Suspect 6: The Stanford Tree

Mascot of Stanford University

Q: Why are you under investigation in connection with Jane Stanford's death?

A: Honestly, I don't know either. I'm just a symbol. A vibe. I lead cheers and take selfies with tourists. That's it.

Q: Where were you that night?

A: I was in White Plaza dancing with the Axe Committee for Admit Weekend around 8:30PM, and I was there for like 2 hours. There are TikToks, maybe. Check @gostanford, if the algorithm was kind.

Q: Did you know Jane Stanford personally?

A: Let's just say she wasn't a fan of my... performances. She once called me "an embarrassment to the university." I called it having fun.

Q: Is it true you've been vocal about administrative overreach and old-school traditions?

A: I speak for the trees. And the students. Sometimes we gotta shake the roots to grow.

# STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

**[CONFIDENTIAL - DO NOT SHARE]**

Name: Jane Stanford

Date of Incident: March 4, 2025

Case ID: SU-MED-2025-437

Filed by: Dr. Eleanor Voight

Status: Preliminary Summary (For Internal Review Only)

# I. EXTERNAL CONDITION

- No signs of trauma or forced entry.
- Body found supine on bed, slight jaw rigidity present at time of discovery.
- **Teacup resting on nightstand** — chamomile noted by scent and sample analysis.

# II. INTERNAL OBSERVATIONS

## Pulmonary System

Mild pulmonary congestion.

## Cardiovascular System

Heart: No infarction or mechanical failure.

## Digestive System

Gastric mucosa exhibits irritation atypical for subject's known medical history.

## Stomach Contents

Trace residue of baked pastry and approx. 50ml of warm herbal liquid.

# III. TOXICOLOGY PANEL - Part 1

- Negative for narcotics, ethanol, and commercial toxins.
- Trace presence of atropine-like alkaloids identified in both stomach and bloodstream.

## Compound Analysis

**Compound shows partial match with synthetic derivations studied in recent academic coursework (CHEM 133, CHEM 241L). Uncommon profile not available in commercial supplements or known herbal blends.**

# III. TOXICOLOGY PANEL - Part 2

## **Compound Properties**

**These alkaloids exhibit instability at room temperature and are generally synthesized in controlled lab environments. Presence in this case suggests small-scale preparation and near-term consumption post-mixing.**

## **Identification**

Compound ID: [REDACTED]

Note: Further analysis of the compound is pending review with university chemistry department.

# IV. TIME OF DEATH

- Estimated between 8:40 and 9:10 PM, consistent with early-stage rigor and ambient temperature.

This timeline has been established based on multiple factors including body temperature, environmental conditions, and the state of digestive contents at time of examination.

# V. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

## **Initial Status**

**1**

Initial cause of death remains undetermined.

## **Primary Suspicion**

**2**

Cardiac arrest suspected, but contributing factors may include irritant exposure.

## **Pending Actions**

**3**

Pending compound analysis and interviews with relevant university departments.

## **Forensic Follow-up**

**4**

Forensic review of compound source is pending. Access to lab logbook [REDACTED]



Pear VC reposted this

...



Athena Shiravi

CS & Econ @ Stanford

3 mo



So grateful to launch **Pear VC's** event with an incredible group of 40 technical female builders leveraging AI to tackle healthcare, consumer, fintech, proptech, legal, security, infrastructure, enterprise and the wonderful Fizz CEO from Stanford! [...more](#)



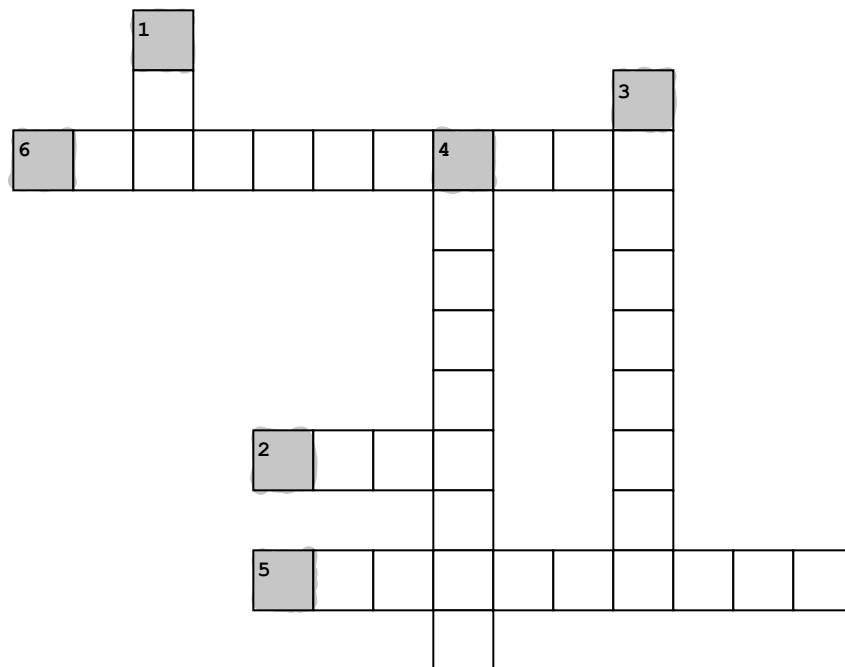
The killer is a

-----.



\*Map drawn by anonymous source of people's locations in the evening

# The Muder of Jane Stanford



## Across

6. Every CS's kid startup wants to get into
2. Spherical stretch of green across from a quad
5. Big red bus driving around campus

## Down

1. Freshmen orientation anagram for SONs
3. Center. Where pick up packages and spend dining dollars
4. Both a gym and dining hall

SPECIAL EDITION

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# THE STANFORD DAILY

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## TESSIER-LAVIGNE REFLECTS ON JANE STANFORD'S LEGACY



In the aftermath of Jane Stanford's death, speculation has rippled through campus — whispers of grudges, power struggles, and unfinished business. One name, often murmured but rarely voiced aloud, is that of Marc Tessier-Lavigne, the university's former president whose resignation last year followed a storm of plagiarism allegations and institutional fallout.

But Tessier-Lavigne, speaking from his modest Palo Alto home, seems less embittered than many might expect. Surrounded by stacks of books and out of the public eye for months, he reflects on his years at Stanford not with rage, but with resignation.

"She and I were never aligned," he admits, referencing Stanford's founding president. "She was holding on to a vision of this place that didn't leave much room for evolution." Still, those close to him say he bore no personal malice — if anything, a sense of sorrow lingered more than any grudge.

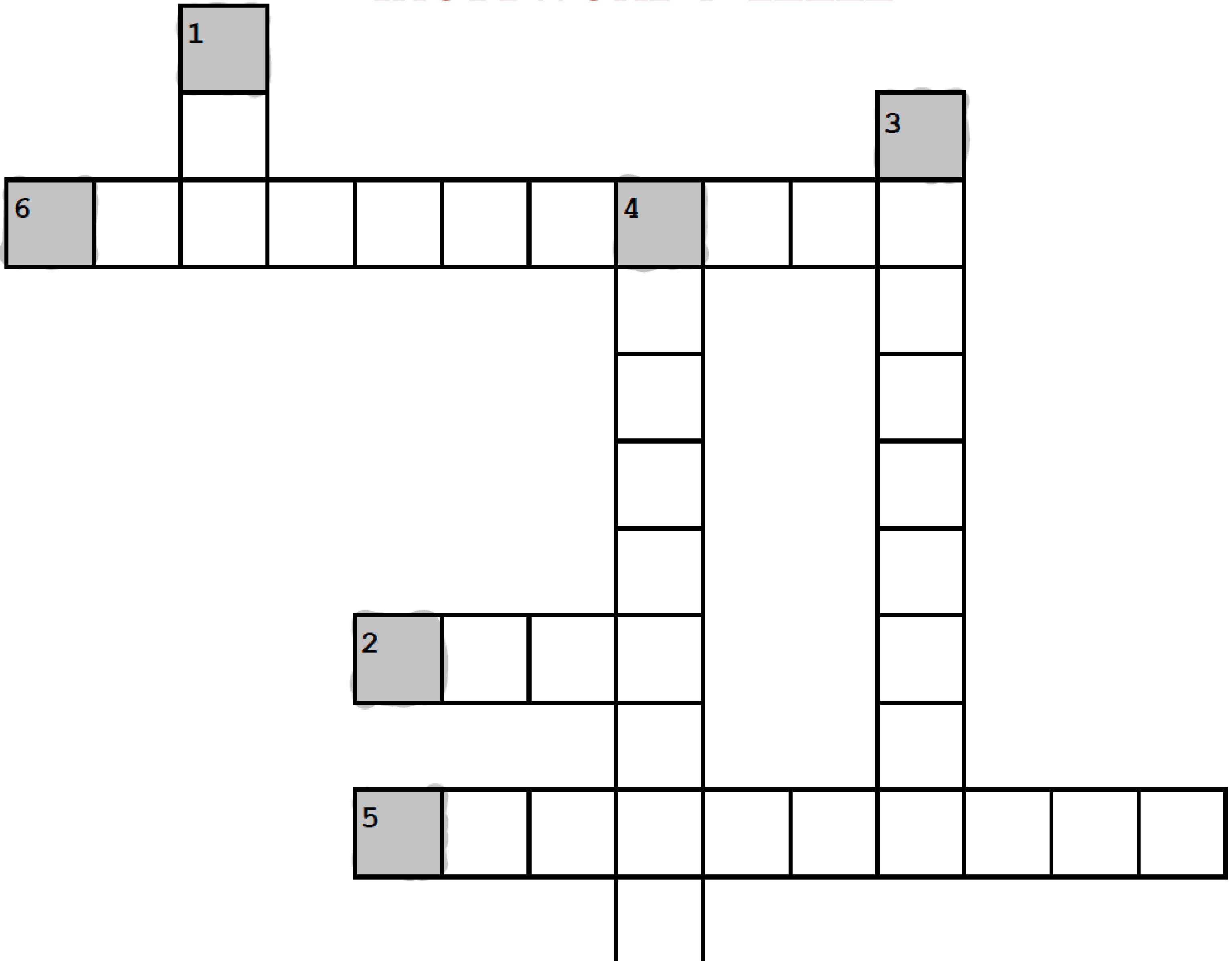
On the night of Stanford's death, Tessier-Lavigne says he was alone, reading Moby Dick. No one came or went. Neighbors confirmed lights on late into the evening, but nothing unusual. "Sometimes," he said quietly, "you don't fight. You just let things end."

If there had ever been a conflict between the two, it seems now to have faded into memory. Whatever role Tessier-Lavigne once played in the university's ideological battles, this one — it seems — wasn't his.



**IF YOU SAW ANYTHING UNUSUAL ON CAMPUS THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 20, CONTACT [MYSTERY@STANFORD.EDU](mailto:MYSTERY@STANFORD.EDU).**

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## ACROSS

- 6. Every CS kid's startup wants to get into \_
- 2. Spherical stretch of green across from a quad
- 5. Big red bus driving around campus

## DOWN

- 1. Freshmen orientation program for your SON
- 3. The Center where you pick up packages and spend dining dollars
- 4. Both a gym and a dining hall

## STARTUP OF THE DAY

It's a great day to be a Cardinal! Computer science student, Justice Turner's startup Build-An-AI just got accepted into Y Combinator and raised \$8 million dollars. I personally have a special connection to him, as he worked at Panda Express in Tresidder, which I frequent often. Whenever Arrillaga is a miss for lunch, Panda Express is the spot! Since I live in EVGR, it's such a hassle to get there, so I take the Margurite and enjoy the view as we pass the Oval.



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## Dry Cleaning Receipt

PHONE

PRINT NAME

Bertha Berner

ADDRESS

QUANTITY	ITEM	CLEAN & PRESS	PRESS ONLY	AMOUNT
	SHIRTS	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	PANTS	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	SWEATER	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	2 PIECE SUIT	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	BLAZER	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	BLOUSE	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	1 PIECE DRESS	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	SKIRT	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	TIE	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	COAT	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	RAIN COAT	\$ 12.00	\$ 12.00	
	OTHER ((Please list))			
	OTHER ((Please list))			
Total number of garments (count suits as 2)				

Picked Up: 9:02 PM

TOTAL \$

To Be Ready

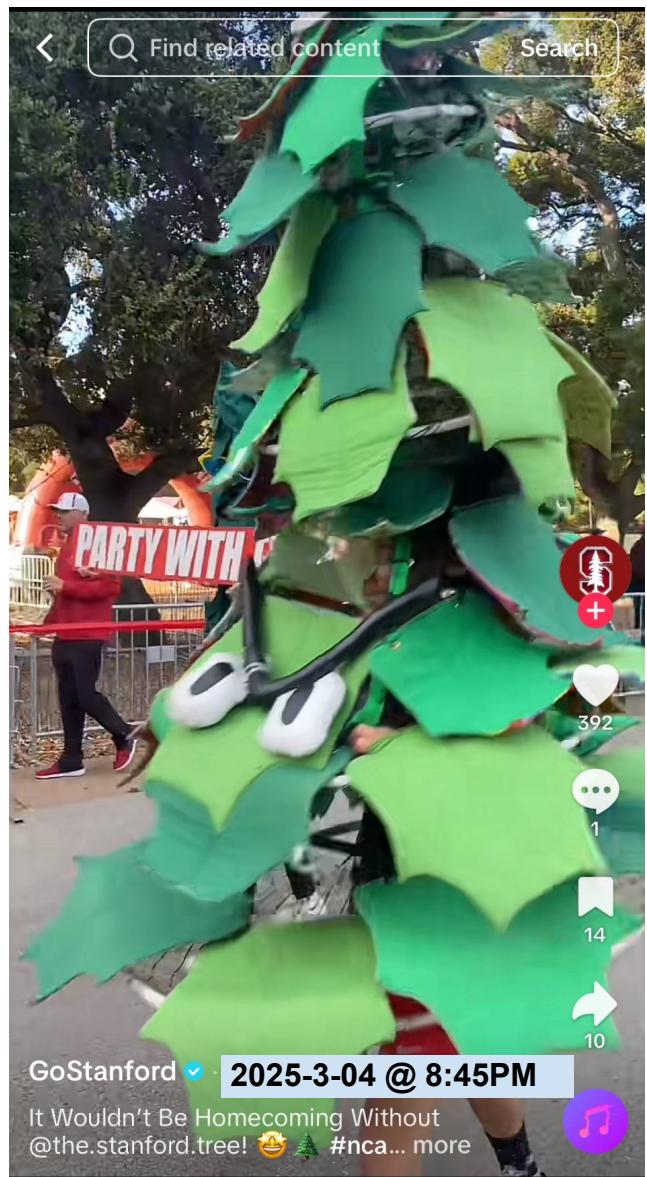
A.M.  P.M.

DATE  
March 4, 2025

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FOR GOODS LEFT OVER 30 DAYS.

NO GOODS DELIVERED WITHOUT THIS TICKET



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