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Talk Hawks sing, act and talk success

By Lizzy Rager

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“Butts. You have one. We all have one. They’re supportive, fashionable, trendy and can catch you when you fall” Talk Hawks Anna Wolde and Leah Anonuevo said.

This might be what you hear if you enter the speech, or forensics, team’s practice room, better known as the Talk Hawks. Anna Wolde and Leah Anonuevo’s duo interpretation speech is about butts, but that is far from the wildest thing about the Talk Hawks.

From personifying their creepy classroom doll and mascot, Lindsey, to encouraging blood plasma donations to afford trips to international tournaments, this year’s speech team is “fresh and talented,” according to Talk Hawk co-coach Jim Dobson.

“I don’t know if we’ve had a more talented team—just like raw talent to play with,” Dobson said.

The Talk Hawks are no stranger to success, last year coming second in the Phi Rho Pi National Championship, a tournament for community colleges across the country, in the middle school division. However, this year with 15 students on the team, they are blowing up tournaments and taking top five places in most of their events.

The team took home 86 awards from tournaments at the University of Pacific, San Francisco State and the University of Nevada. The Talk Hawks placed first overall in two of the tournaments.

Unlike other speech teams, the Talk Hawks start preparing in July. If the Talk Hawks started preparing for their first tournament in August, they would not be ready, Dobson said.

“We run a pretty tight ship, with a lot of practice and prep,” Dobson said.

Coaches Tim Heisler and Jim Dobson have been coaching the team far longer than most speech coaches. Dobson started in 2001, and Heisler in 1993. They attribute the Talk Hawks’ success to their three-year coaching rotation, which helps avoid burnout.

“There’s a lot of turnover in forensics competitions...I think potentially the biggest one is the time that it involves in order to be successful at this and travel for tournaments,” Dobson said.

When the Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts, or the 4000 building, was constructed in 2010, the Talk Hawks were given a dedicated home base for them to use anytime on campus. Heisler says this has also been an advantage against other speech teams.

“I kind of live there,” Talk Hawk Ameya Puranik, who has events in 1v1 debate, informative and extemporaneous speaking, said.

Talk Hawks spend hours outside of class practicing in the room. From the time they join the team, they work with the same scripts and revise them throughout the school year. These scripts are usually picked out by the coaches, but it is up to the team how they might perform them.

Puranik, who competed in his high school debate team, deliberately sought out the Talk Hawks before coming to Las Positas.

“There are people every semester that will arrive at our door the first day of class because of past success. They have heard about us.



Lizzy Rager/The Express

Jonathan Du presents his speech to entertain during class in the 4000 building. To the left of him is Lindsey, the class mascot.

Whereas 10 years ago, everyone on the team was a recruit. Words getting out,” Heisler said.

Dobson and Heisler also teach public speaking classes, where they try to pinpoint skilled and confident students and recruit them for the speech team.

“...Do what?... We have a speech team?” Heisler quipped.

“Most of them don’t know they’re good,” Dobson said.

Talk Hawk Jonathan Du, who has events in speech to entertain, impromptu and persuasive speech, says, “I’m glad I got caught up in it. I was in Jim’s class and he said ‘Oh hey, you should join, here’s all these things we’re gonna do,’ I saw, oh—we get to travel. I would like to join.”

The coaches also recruit talent outside of Las Positas. Wolde was recruited for her vocal performance in a high school production of Grease.

“Whatever the skill is that these students have, that’s what we want to bring out. We’re not jamming round pegs into square holes. We’re finding what works best for them,” Dobson said.

This year’s team comes from a diverse performing arts background, which they interpret in their speeches.

Wolde and Anonuevo’s duo interpretation about butts is the only duo they’ve encountered that incorporates singing, with songs like “Baby Got Back” by Sir Mix a Lot. They’ve won first place in every open-division duo interpretation event they competed in.

“Sometimes judges are like ‘This is too much singing,’ but we think it’s fun...It’s prevalent because people know it,” Anonuevo said.

Talk Hawks Zac Furber-Dobson, related to coach Dobson, uses his high school acting experience in his events for poetry, dramatic interpretation and duo interpretation.

“A lot of the speeches that I do are completely acting-based, so they’re already written pieces of literature, poetry...It’s all pretty much acting that I’m doing,” Furber-Dobson said.

The Talk Hawks travel almost every other weekend to tournaments in and out of state. Anticipating their international tournament next year in Tokyo, speech students are saving up to afford the plane ticket, as the program has a tight traveling budget.

“We’re always asking for money,” Heisler said.

Despite difficulties with higher costs for a bigger team, the larger-than-typical team has paved the way for the Talk Hawks to compete in more competitive divisions.

“There’s different divisions like a small school, middle school and large school based on the entry. Right now, we want to try large school (division) even though we are a small school” Dobson said.

Their goal is to compete in the large school division at their national tournament in Washington D.C..

With the Talk Hawks continued success, almost all who are not graduating will stick around next semester, says Puranik. Not only do students improve their speaking skills—the Talk Hawks fosters a community that can last past graduation. Former members of the Talk Hawks come back to help the team as guest coaches.

“Being part of the team has helped me get enthralled in college as a whole. I have a group of people that I know and can talk to and hangout with. It’s easy to make friends on the team,” Furber-Dobson said.

The returning Talk Hawks, Fabien Silva and Klarissa Cuenca, only competed in one in-person tournament last semester.

“Once I saw what the competition was at nationals, I wanted to beat them,” Silva said.

At the end of this semester, the Talk Hawks are splitting up for two big tournaments in Los Angeles and New York.

For those interested in seeing the acclaimed Talk Hawks, they hold an at-home performance of all their events on Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. on the main stage in the Barbara Mertes Center for the Arts.

ICC Director resigns, reveals complications in LPCSG

By Lizzy Rager

@RAGERWRITER

Inter-Club Council director Michel Ebeli, a key member of student governance on campus, resigned from his position, effective Nov. 4. His resignation reveals deeper issues within Las Positas College Student Government, including overwork and negligence of duties, purported behavioral issues with the adviser and failure to interview new members.

Ebeli explained that he left his position because he wasn't able to balance his governance work with school. Normally, he would have a secretary, treasurer and parliamentarian on the Inter-Club Council, or ICC. The Club Fair, hosted by the ICC, was almost canceled due to difficulties with club communication.

Ebeli's sudden departure creates another vacancy, giving the LPCSG executive board six open seats: vice president, director of legislation, director of communication, director of finances, LPC student trustee and now director of ICC. The work is now being done by three people. President Lara Wiedemeier will conduct ICC meetings until Ebeli's successor is in place.

The executive board is largely responsible for many campus events, including the newly opened Mini Market. Josue Hernandez, the Program Coordinator of Student Life and LPCSG Adviser, said the current numbers are "by far one of the worst" he's had since becoming the advisor in 2018.

Last semester, student government officials totaled 13 members. The three current members continued from that cohort to join the executive board.

"The work continues," Hernandez said. "We wish we could have it, with organizing and planning. But we have to get used to things."

Ebeli felt the current situation could have been prevented.

"The ICC director transferred. Communication transferred, finance transferred. Senators transferred. The person who applied for the VP position ended up transferring," Ebeli said.

He continued, "The team is short-staffed. We're doing more than just our duties."

The spots are open because students did not run for them in the last election. However, there have been applicants for positions since the start of the semester which have not been acknowledged.

Brody Price, a current LPC student, said he applied for a student government position in September when he heard it was short on members.

"I emailed my application to the program coordinator Josue Hernandez and never got anything back," Price said. "I am pretty sure I filled it out correctly, so I don't really know what went wrong."

One source, a current member of a school leadership group, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, believes the lack of members is due to the adviser's behavior. The source contends Hernandez makes students wary of applying for leadership position.

They say the adviser makes inappropriate comments, does not communicate effectively and fosters a negative environment.

The source recalled the adviser commenting on how students don't dress well, shower properly or comb their hair while making a side-eye toward them. Later that day, he told them to iron their pants.

"He does not know how to behave with students," the source said. "Alumni before told me that there's a lot of behavior issues with him, and they faced very similar things to me."

The member sent Hernandez an email regarding his behavior, but he did not respond or acknowledge it.

"Sometimes," Ebeli said about Hernandez, "he can be a tad bit passive-aggressive, and I'm like 'that's not necessary.' It just shoots down people's morale, but it doesn't affect how the work is done."

When prompted about the alleged behavioral issues, Hernandez said, "Per the Brown Act, any business or issues related to LPCSG can be addressed during public comment during one of Senate meetings. I will defer from addressing any internal issues."

In another instance, the source said an in-person LPCSG meeting was designated at a certain time, but Hernandez changed it at the last minute. The source had to leave their job to attend it online. According to the source, Hernandez criticized them for not being there in person at the time that was agreed.

"At that point, it's not our fault," the source said. "We all have our own lives. Student government is not my life, sadly for them, but I really don't think that was fair."

The source continued, "I wouldn't mind doing the work if there was a kind of appreciation there."

Ebeli says, "When you do something big, you expect a word of encouragement or something, but it was like, 'Oh, you just did what you had to do.'"

While ICC director, Ebeli was enrolled in 18 units, attended soccer practice every day and traveled from San Leandro. He says he overestimated himself and underestimated the position. While he felt his work was devalued, he believed LPCSG was an overall good experience.

"The things that I was saying echoed into other things. Now, the (student life) office is open to students. These are things that I wanted to see," Ebeli said.

Kyle Johnson, who served as LPCSG senator, director of finance, director of legislation and president from 2020-22, said LPCSG is a super supportive environment.

"My closest friends were in student government. You can really create networks and bond with each other...That's the kind of environment that I got," Johnson said.

However, after the 2020-21 executive officers termed out, a letter of grievance regarding Josue's behavior was submitted to the Vice Principal of Student Services, according to the source.

Former LPCSG Senator and Vice President from 2018-20, Alina Verzi, considered leaving student government the



Lizzy Rager/The Express

Sophomore student Michel Ebeli, former Inter-Club Council Director for Las Positas Student Government.

year the former adviser, Nessa Julian, was replaced with Hernandez.

"Nessa was very forward with new change and ideas. (With) Josue, it seemed like we had to cut down our new ideas and even traditions we had...With declining manpower and more and more meetings to discuss the most basic of ideas, people started leaving," Verzi said.

Hernandez says, "My job as an adviser is to advise them to do in a way, the right thing. It's a little difficult when we have an event and I have to tell them this is how you should be doing it."

He continued, "We're an organization of opportunity and creativity. If you come in with an idea, and you want to do it, let's do it. But remember, an idea has a plan, so always develop plans."

The LPCSG adviser does not get a vote, but interjects to correct and guide the members when necessary. Hernandez does not see the lack of members as a negative, but a challenge to overcome.

"If we have a director of finance, it would be me training the director of finance helping them develop budgets. Now that we don't have it, it's one less thing that I have to do. The more we have, it's more training. It takes more work out of me," Hernandez said.

Although Hernandez had alleged behavioral issues with students, he also ensured perks for LPCSG, like a stipend for members up to \$1000 each semester. The Mini-Market came to fruition largely due to his efforts.

However, in addition to issues with the adviser, the current member noted the LPCSG president is violating one of her

bylaws, attending the Board of Trustees meeting, which can result in her impeachment.

According to LPCSG Bylaws article IV, section 3, the president shall attend the Board of Trustees meetings, the College Council meetings, the Town meetings and the Chancellor's Council meetings. If they cannot attend, they are responsible for finding a replacement.

As president, Johnson made a point to serve on many governance committees to make good on advocacy efforts.

"That's also why our student government was super successful because I knew everything that was happening, because I was sitting in on all the meetings that I could," Johnson said.

Johnson also defended Wiedemeier. "It's difficult to run a student government that doesn't have (many) members because at the end of the day, if the job isn't going to get done, it falls on the president to do it."

The source said, "It's not just her taking a lot of things on her back. We are all in student government. We are all college students. We are all taking on a lot of units."

If more members leave LPCSG, there may not be enough to meet quorum.

"Student government's really what you make of it...Without people in student government, there won't be huge fun events. There won't be that needed advocacy component we really need to see and keep continuing," Johnson said.

Despite multiple requests for a response, Wiedemeier declined to comment.

Winning with friends is better

Water polo star shares stories of the Hawks' thrilling season



Image Courtesy of Julie Young

Athlete and Express writer Jacob Fogelstrom (left) shares a poolside chat with teammate Kyle Young (right).

"You don't see that around the league, teams being made up of childhood friends that all wanted to play one last season together and ended up in the same spot."

— KYLE YOUNG

ended in heartbreak, losing back to back games by a singular goal in the conference tournament. These tough losses against Merced and Ohlone left our team just one goal short of qualifying for the Northern California playoffs, a bracket in which the team has never had its name.

In that loss came tears and frustration. You work so hard every day in practice and have an amazing season, and we felt as if we robbed ourselves of a tournament our names should have been in. I went home after that tournament and re played those two games in my head over and over, because I knew we were capable of so much more than our season ending in conference play.

We knew we would have to come back stronger the following season if we wanted to get over the hump and reach ground breaking heights for the program.

Fast forward 12 months and 30 games later, our team punched a ticket into the Northern California playoffs for the first time in the history of the program, with an 8-7 overtime win against the team that sent us home last year in Merced College.

Alongside qualifying for the Northern California playoffs, we became the first team in program history to end the season with a winning record, holding a formidable record of 18-14 heading into postseason play. This success didn't go unseen by teams around the state. Turning heads and having southern California teams put us into the hardest brackets possible to test our team game by game.

"We got some notice last year, but this year it's confirmed by other teams that our programs are heading in the right direction. We beat an entire conference in Southern California when we traveled to San Diego in September," Head coach Jason Craighead said.

Following the San Diego tournament, where we went 3-1 and defeated the top two teams in the Pacific Coast conference

in Southern California, we had our name all around the state. The biggest headline being Kyle Young earning a player of the week award for the whole entire California Junior College water polo association, as well as our team being ranked just outside the top 10 teams in the state.

When I entered the program during the COVID-19 pandemic and had a five game season in the spring, going 0-5 and getting blown out in every game, I knew we had work to do. This is a group of players and coaches that have been staring at an empty trophy case for the history of the program and decided to make a change.

With an increased work ethic and an "all in," mentality from the team, the change was made. This change allowed the team to come in 4th place in the Northern California playoffs, earning a trophy to finally go into the case, as well as medals for all the players.

Being a part of history isn't something all athletes get to experience, but it takes a lot of hard work and buying into what you believe you as a team can accomplish for it to happen.

This season with the Hawks has provided me with some experiences and memories I'll take with me for life and tell my family about.

Through all of the heartbreak we endured and intense practices we held, deep down our team was just a bunch of guys who loved each other having fun one last time, and that's what made our group so special.

You can look at the accomplishments we achieved throughout the season as the ones to remember when it's all said and done, but what really brought our team together was the bus rides, hotel rooms, and team dinners where we'd enjoy the experience that is college sports.

The program has a great coaching staff and will stay in a competitive place for a long time, and I can walk away proud of what my brothers and I have accomplished. Truly historic.

HAWK SQUAWK

Basketball

WOMENS

Thus far, the team scored a total of 89 points in November.

The team currently has a record of 0-3.

MENS

Thus far, the team scored a total of 449 points in the month of November.

The top shooters are No. 32, Jordahn Johnson and No. 2, Jalen Patterson garnering a combined average of 38 points per game.

Soccer

WOMENS

Thus far, the team has a record of 9-6-5. The top scorers are Alyssa Fitting and Tiffani Cheng.

MENS

Thus far, the team has a record of 7-9-4. The top scorers are Griffin LaFleur and Edwin Zabala.

Water polo

MENS

The team ended their season with a final record of 19-16. They placed fourth in the Northern California Playoffs.

The top scorers overall were Patrick Aiello and Kyle Young.

Volleyball

WOMENS

Thus far, the team has a record of 3-18

Overall, Rachel Dayton and Ailed Barron have the highest hitting efficiencies.

By Jacob Fogelstrom

@JACOBFOGIE

After a historic season for myself and my teammates, breaking multiple program records and going further than the team has ever gone, I think it's deserving to reflect on how special it was.

To have a season like we did, it takes sacrifices. After the 2021 season I was ready to hang it up and move forward with my life, but in my mind I had that nagging thought that if I walked away now, I might miss out on something special.

With the decision to stay, I sacrificed another semester at a university, and stayed to have one last ride with the teammates I cared about like my own family.

Coming into this 2022 water polo season, I knew we had a special group of guys returning, only graduating two players from our previous seasons roster, and adding multiple key transfers along the way with a former division one player Ryan Lichlyter, alongside two freshmen Patrick Aiello and Zachary Ulrich.

When building a program from the ground up, having consistency throughout all aspects is key, and returning eight valuable players from last year's team

proved to be one of our strongest aspects.

"Returning eight guys meant everything," Las Positas captain Kyle Young said. Young continued, "It means consistency and chemistry coming back in, allowing us to use the same plays and sets as last year and build off them, getting even better as a team in all situations."

We as a team knew the chemistry would develop quickly as the season began, as eight of our 15 players on the roster have been playing for Lamorinda Water Polo Club, a year-round USA organization. We grew up together, learned each other's game inside and out, and formed a bond from a young age.

"You don't see that around the league, teams being made up of childhood friends that all wanted to play one last season together and ended up at the same spot. It's special and has been a large part in what made us so successful," Young said.

Our team was on the doorstep of making history as early as last year, and along that path, we became the first team in Hawks water polo history to have a winning record at any point in the season when we started 3-2.

The pioneer season last year

Pokémon Scarlet and Violet excite fans for the future



Image Courtesy Pokémon Press Media Kit

Screenshot from Pokémon Scarlet and Violet trailer displays palace from the newest Paldea region.

By Mason Newbould

@MASON_NEWBIE

The highest-grossing media franchise of all time, Pokémon, is set to release one of the most anticipated games of the year on Nov. 18. Launching on the Nintendo Switch, Pokémon Scarlet and Violet are another in a long line of Pokémon games produced by Game Freak.

Dating back to 1996, Pokémon has dominated the field of role-playing games among people of all ages. This month, GameFreak is ready to reclaim its throne with a game that encourages players to explore the region rather than follow a predictable formula.

Scarlet and Violet await their release as two sister games with version-exclusive content and legendary Pokémon to capture. As a lifelong Pokémon fan, the news of a vast new region to explore is exciting, but it doesn't come without doubts.

Scarlet and Violet will begin the ninth generation of Pokémon games as the hype around them turn palpable by the second. In the cycle of each generation or every 2-3 years, the company also mixes in spinoffs and remakes. On an adventure to be a part of the excitement, I set out to find die-hard Las Positas' Pokémon fans and their expectation for the new launch.

The previous generation, generation 8, was a mixed bag of content for Pokémon fans. Sword and Shield were the flagship games for the generation, but they produced mixed reviews.

The linear map design and lack of difficulty made Sword and Shield lackluster in terms of the story. Almost every route in the game was restrictive and allowed for

little to no exploration. The plot of the story was confusing and added nothing to the experience.

The game felt uninspired for vast portions of the experience. However, they did introduce a wild area that provided two open areas for players to traverse. It was a silver lining to an otherwise lackluster title.

However dull the story and map may have been, Sword and Shield were excellent for competitive play. Online battles made competitive teams and head-to-head combat extremely fun and stimulating.

Brilliant Diamond and Shining Pearl, or BDSP, were remakes of the popular generation four Pokémon games. Originally released on the Nintendo DS, Diamond and Pearl quickly became a fan-favorite title. Unfortunately, BDSP didn't deliver the nostalgic remake everyone hoped for.

The game died less than a year after its release due to a sloppy, rushed launch and seemingly unfinished results.

Though my main gripe with the game is a hoard of bugs and glitches. From walking through trees to defeating champions within a mere 20 minutes, the game was structurally unsound.

Second-year student Haseab Alakozi said, "Pokémon slapped a three-dimensional model on Diamond and Pearl and called it a day. I felt like it was a little unfinished. I liked the original games, so it wasn't the worst thing in the world, but it could have been more original," Alakozi said.

As other games have failed to fully appease the Pokémon community, Legends Arceus revitalized interest among gamers and offered hope for upcoming releases. From the open-world layout to the ability to explore more land, the

game single-handedly saved GameFreak from collapse.

Alexandra Brown, a second-year LPC student, shared her feelings on the success of open-world layouts. "I personally like open-world games cause it allows you to go through the game at your own pace. You can also unlock special items and side missions while exploring the map," Brown said.

Luckily for Brown, Pokémon has announced that Scarlet and Violet will be the first open-world, mainline Pokémon game.

According to President and CEO of The Pokémon Company Tsunekazu Ishihara, "Trainers will once again embark on an epic journey of discovery and exploration. Pokémon Scarlet and Pokémon Violet will be an adventure unlike any other, and I cannot wait to share this incredible experience with all of you," Ishihara said.

While the announcement of these new games is appealing, concerns have surfaced surrounding the release. Players worry that the same issues that haunted BDSP will impact Scarlet and Violet, given that the games are coming out fairly quickly after the massive release of Legends Arceus.

In less than a year, Scarlet and Violet will be the third Pokémon title released for Game Freak. It has made many fans wonder whether it is possible to put out a polished game with such a tight time constraint.

Despite my reservations, I'm excited about a new approach to the formulaic experience that has made Pokémon what it is today. Only time will tell if Pokémon Scarlet and Violet will be massive hits or over-hyped disappointments.

THE EXPRESS



PODCAST NETWORK



REVIEW
 “The Book of Will” turned me into a shrew



Image Courtesy of Aaron Burg

(Side, top and bottom) John Heminges, played by Rikki Martinez, helps to collect Shakespeare's plays alongside his daughter, Alice Heminges (bottom middle), played by Madi Charles. Friend Henry Condell, played by Zac Furber works alongside these two in the play to recover and form the first folio.

By Sophia Sipe

@SOPHIASIPE

During the intermission of the play “Book of Will,” concessions sold a \$1 three-pack of Grandma’s Chocolate Chip Cookies.

It was the highlight of the night.

According to its playbill, “The Book of Will” is an “unforgettable true story of love, loss and laughter.” The script, written by Lauren Gunderson, recounts how William Shakespeare’s posthumous collection of plays, or the first folio, came to be.

The playbill alludes to a comedic and emotional experience, but the delivery of lines missed the mark. Not only did I feel forced to crack smiles and exchange niceties, but compared to past productions like “Peter and the Starcatcher,” the purpose of the play was bleak and simply unentertaining.

The small rectangular stage in the Black Box Theater, located in the Barbara Muertes Center for the Arts, was swarmed by seats on every side. The dark yellow hues exuding from the candle-lit

chandeliers bounced off the black walls, offering a dim, claustrophobic feel.

It was a rather intimate gathering. Not the kind of intimacy paired best with a delicious meal and a hunk of a man, but more like the kind where detectives play out good cop, bad cop negotiation schemes on a handcuffed inmate.

As someone with anxiety, the suffocating space put a bad taste in my mouth from the jump. I wish I could say my intuition failed me; that I was concerned for nothing and the play would be great. But my gut always knows before I do.

The negative instincts continued as the play began. One actor repeatedly stumbled on their lines, which prompted questions as to whether they were genuinely uninterested in memorizing the script. Had the script been geared towards a modern audience using exciting plot twists or improved lines maybe the performers would’ve visibly shown more fascination with it.

Along with a poorly written script and seemingly uninterested performers, the plot itself was anticlimactic. Several scenes were redundant and added nothing to the narrative, creating missed opportunities

for a chance to add points of intrigue.

Even with the enormous effort that it takes to put on a show, they couldn’t make it alluring. Despite the kisses and claps from proud loved ones, something was missing.

“In this case, 2023 will be the 400th anniversary of the building of the folio, so we wanted to be close to that date, in order to honor that,” Director Titian Lish said.

While the folio is something to celebrate among renaissance buffs, it doesn’t necessarily warrant a reason to pick a Shakespearean play. The questionable choice begged crucial questions: What is the point, and what can viewers take away from this? Many, like myself, are left with no answers.

Afterall, “The Book of Will” put a restraint on the play’s accessibility. Unless all viewers were caught up on their Shakespearean references, it’s not a play that will be understandable for everyone.

To avoid sounding too much like a shrew, compliments to the stage and costume designers are in order. Complete with long gowns, wimples and leather boots, they flawlessly transported the audience to

the medieval era. To top it all off, the music was eerily similar to the “Pirates of The Caribbean” soundtrack, which is always a plus in my book.

Though there wasn’t much to work with, the experience was decent thanks to a few key actors who gave powerful and lively performances. Richard Burbage, played by Lysander Sahagun, brought a two-dimensional character on a script to a fully developed charming entertainer.

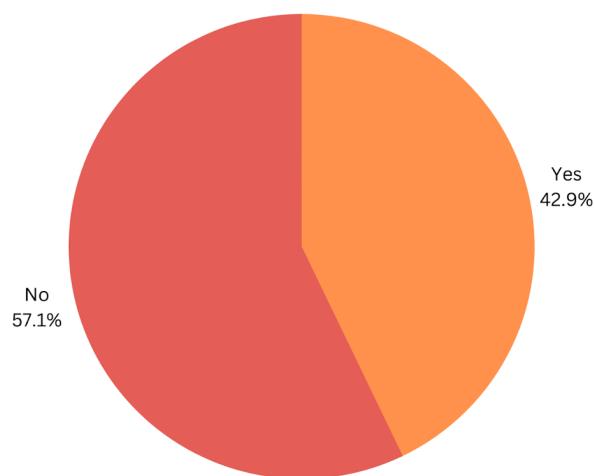
Similarly, Alice Heminges and Ed Knight, played by Madi Charles and Kale Yunker respectively, were both pleasurable to get to know and carried themselves with great stage presence.

The disappointing evening, paired with the unfriendly older crew member manning the theater entrance ultimately left me with a headache and an unusual yearning for more Grandma’s Cookies.

If you find yourself hankering for a mixture of comedy, love and an abundance of Shakespeare references — seek help. Otherwise, just stick to “Ten Things I Hate About You”.

Students provide their stance on CLASS-Web

Do you believe the interface of CLASS-Web should be changed?



Data collected from Las Positas Institutional research
Infographic created by Sagurika Ujjual

While CLASS-Web plays an essential role in enabling students' progress towards graduation, it has been the subject of mixed opinions surrounding its accessibility and efficiency for years now.

The site has long been criticized for its outmoded interface and unnecessarily complicated organization and system of accessing various student features.

"It's understandable when you get used to it, but it definitely feels out of date. It's a bit confusing to navigate, you know?" Elani Scott, a student at LPC, stated.

In a survey conducted with 35 LPC students regarding their opinions surrounding the accessibility and efficiency of CLASS-Web, it was found that a majority of students (29 students) actually felt CLASS-Web to be efficient and accessible. However, several students commented on the difficulties they often faced with navigating the website due to poor text visibility, poor web page organization, broken links and a cluttered user interface.

"CLASS-Web is accessible by computer but really difficult to navigate using a mobile phone. I recommend changing the CLASS-Web interface to be mobile phone friendly," Tresina Bennett, a student at LPC, said.

Students' opinions surrounding the altering of CLASS-Web appeared more varied, where 15 of the student participants believed CLASS-Web should be altered and 20 believed CLASS-Web should remain unchanged. Some students provided suggestions on possible improvements to the site, such as streamlining and reorganizing the site, and modernizing the user interface in order to make it more user friendly.

One anonymous student said, "Make it clear what's in what category, or break them up. For example, the category 'registration' has other stuff inside it, such as a schedule. While it does say that in small print next to the 'registration' link, it's not something one would intuitively know. The problem is not a lack of information on the site or even too much. It's that it's difficult to find stuff easily."

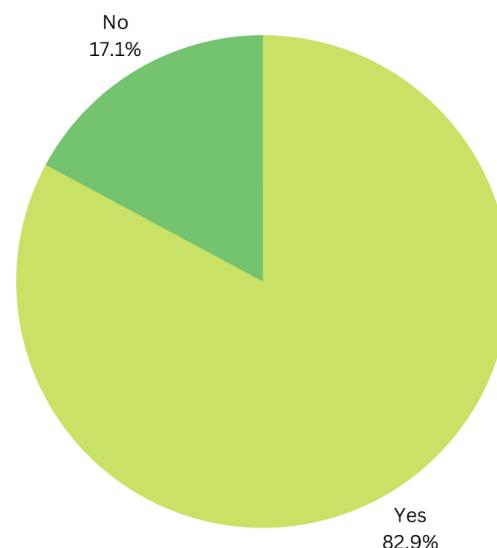
The overwhelming majority of participants in the survey, 34 of the 35 student participants, believed that CLASS-Web should not be fully replaced.

Despite this, a new student information system looms bright on the horizon, Civitas Learning. Civitas Learning is projected to be applied with the purpose of optimizing registration, improving student support, resolving student issues faster and consolidating student data.

While the implementation of Civitas Learning has yet to be fully confirmed, plans have been discussed to progress from CLASS-Web to the Civitas Learning interface.

Whether or not Civitas Learning materializes at LPC, it is clear that CLASS-Web is in need of redevelopment in order to better meet the needs of LPC students.

Do you feel that LPC's student information system, CLASS-Web, is easily accessible and efficient to use?



Data collected from Las Positas Institutional research
Infographic created by Sagurika Ujjual

By Sagurika Ujjual

@SAGURIKAU

With class registration for the spring semester rapidly approaching, Las Positas students turn their attention to LPC's student information system, also known as CLASS-Web.

CLASS-Web has been used by students for years to access various student services, including class registration, payment of fees, the viewing of student records, transcripts and more.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?



"Mashed potatoes. I just like potatoes in general."

”

– Merron Tesfandrias,
Computer Science



"Honestly? The desert. It's just the best part. Every other food is overhyped."

”

– Isabella Gonzalez,
Undecided



"Of course the turkey. You can't have Thanksgiving without a turkey."

”

– Natalie Kruger,
Communications



"My family is vegan. I'm not personally, so there's also turkey (for me) but my favorite is vegan studding and tofu stir fry."

”

– Kale Yunker,
Theater Arts



"I really like my grandmother's mashed potatoes, but that's a basic pick, so probably my mother's green bean casserole."

”

– Xander Struckmann,
Theater Arts

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EDITORIAL

Stop putting your Christmas trees up before Thanksgiving

The LPC Express news staff is most definitely NOT in support of putting up a Christmas tree before Thanksgiving.

How many countless days of the year bore an insignificant purpose? Several. One too many, in fact. Don't get us started on Valentine's day and its hallmark rhetoric.

If the goal is to maintain the importance of the overly-hyped holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas, then they need to be separated into two distinct experiences. That arguably includes the lack of complete overlap.

Hence why Christmas decorations are complete with balsam, snow-dusted pine cones and multicolored hues, while Thanksgiving mimics pumpkin shapes and alludes to the harvest season.

After all, both celebrations are a month apart. There's no reason why we, as a society, should be blending the aforementioned two together. It is simply uncouth to treat Thanksgiving and Christmas as a newlywed family merging households.

We do not dream of having stockings, Christmas trees and Mariah Carey playing while we enjoy a Thanksgiving turkey feast. It is meant to the holiday of Thanksgiving.

The holiday season is the time for spending copious amounts of cash to not disappoint that nephew who doesn't seem to be interested in anything but their ipad or aunt with high standards.

During November, we should set aside consumer greed and give thanks to that dry turkey, because Grandma was so happy to make it. Furthermore, setting up your Christmas lights before Thanksgiving makes you sick of Christmas by the time it comes around.

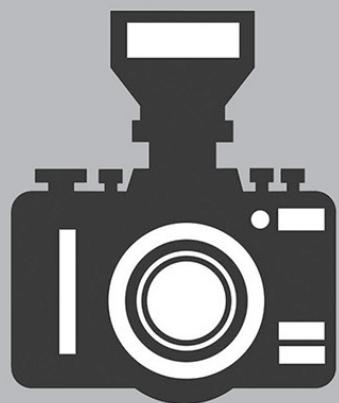
I'm sure you know the feeling. You decide to make a trip to the store for last minute under-the-tree presents and as you explore the barren and crowded store, Michael Buble overthrows the retail radio.

You love Mr. Buble as much as the next person, but something about his overly joyful voice makes you want to claw your ears out by the time late December hits. It's a pattern.

Is it out-of-reach to attribute such annoyance to beginning the Christmas season too early? Perhaps it all began in the middle of your Thanksgiving feast.

Simply put, rushing both holidays destroys the spirit of each one.

Christmas morning isn't like it used to be in kiddie school. Don't drown the hype with premeditated celebration.



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