

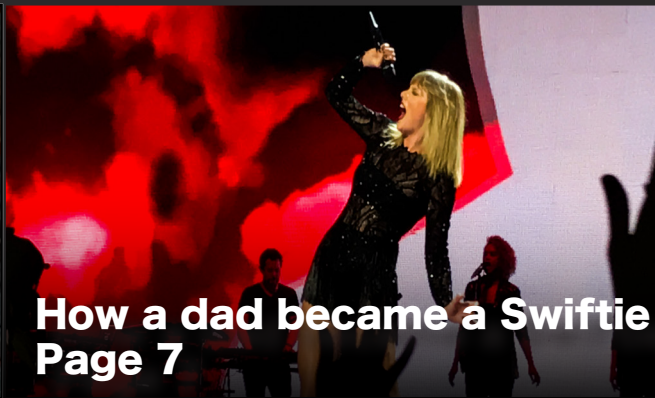
# #E PRESS

October 23, 2023

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## STUDENTS FROM VIRAL VIDEO REMOVED FROM CAMPUS PROTEST PAGE 3

*Arzo Mohammed, one of two students in viral video, speaks with campus security at the Palestine Protest on October 18, 2023. Justin Gomes/The Express*

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## Judge rules DACA unlawful, district states support

Daya Sanchez

@CZDAYAAA

The 600,000 Dreamers in America are at risk of losing their legal status, but LPC and the its district have recommitted to supporting undocumented students.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) was created in 2012 under the Obama administration. This program protects hundreds of thousands of Dreamers from being deported and is now being declared as illegal.

Undocumented immigrants under the DACA program, who are essential to our nation's economy and communities are currently facing issues. U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen has ruled against DACA often and initially as early as 2015. In the current legal challenge, Hanen ruled last month that the program is illegal as it had failed to undergo the comments period and had not been subject to public notice as required.

The current issue began with legal challenges filed in 2021. The Biden administration had initially responded to this challenge and, to satisfy Hanen, created a new version of the DACA rule in 2022.

After reviewing Biden's attempt, Hanen, appointed in 2002 by former President George W. Bush, ruled the newly updated version of DACA remains illegal and unconstitutional, finding there were no new changes compared to the 2012 DACA memorandum.

Hanen believes that both were inconsistent with the Immigration and Nationality Act. Although the most recent version of the DACA rule Biden had revised in 2022 was, in fact, not remarkably different from the first version created in 2012. The new rule does not address any issues of frequency and delays within the process of renewals.

"While sympathetic to the predicament of DACA recipients and their families, this court has expressed its concerns about the legality of the program for some time," Hanen said in his 77-page ruling against the program. Hanen declined a request made by the states to order the program to end in two years.

Hanen claims his order will not require the federal government to take any action against the DACA recipients. The federal government, the State of New Jersey, and

the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund are all defending the program while also arguing that Congress had already given the Department of Homeland Security the basic legal authority that allows them to set immigration policies.

If DACA is ruled unlawful, hundreds of thousands of Dreamers will lose opportunities and may be subject to deportation. Currently, there are nearly a million people who are enrolled in DACA who would lose all protections, and nearly one million more who are not enrolled in DACA but are eligible. If DACA ends, they would never receive the benefits from the program.

In Oct. 2022, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Hanen's original ruling against DACA declaring it as illegal, but later sent the case back to Hanen to review and alter it once more due to the changes made to the program by the Biden administration in October 2022.

Although this current decision on DACA will not have any immediate effect on those using the program, the program's uncertain future will continue to grow fear throughout the nation.

"While the decision won't have an imme-

diated impact on people who currently rely on the program to live and work in the U.S. without the constant threat of deportation, it will continue to sow fear and distrust across the country," said Jorge Lowree, Managing Director of Programs of the American Immigration Council, in an article by the American Immigration Council. "If Congress continues to sit on its hands, waiting to be forced into action, the Republican-led state effort to kill DACA by a thousand cuts will succeed. The time to act is now."

On Sept. 13, 2023, Ronald Gecher, Chancellor of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, released an emailed statement providing insight on this current situation. Las Positas will continue to support all students with DACA. "It is imperative that we clarify what this latest ruling means and recommit ourselves to supporting our undocumented community."

All DACA applicants attending Las Positas are encouraged to renew their application if they haven't already. DACA students can meet with a legal service provider free of charge by visiting findyourally.com. Students are encouraged to seek free mental health support on campus by visiting the Health &



OVER 600,000 DREAMERS IN AMERICA ARE AT RISK OF LOSING THEIR LEGAL STATUS.

LAURA MAGINNIS/ENVATO ELEMENTS

## Students at Las Positas take initiative to fix CLASS-Web

Brighton Matus

@BMATUS475

For years, students at Las Positas College have struggled to pay their tuition or check their class schedule. It was almost impossible to navigate with a program that looked like it was from the 1990s. This was the modern hazing set by the college until a couple of computer science students took it upon themselves to fix it.

Neal O'Conbhua and his team have created the now-dubbed "Class-Web Fix." Due to the school's lack of a helpful fix, Hassieb Hassieb, a member of the Student Ambassador

Program, notified the team of a potential project. Kayla Pascua, another member of the group, said, "MyPortal only redirected to the same old website, so there was really no point in even adding that in the first place." Therefore, it was not a proper solution.

The "Class-Web Fix" currently features a new navigation bar, Google Calendar and Ratemyprofessor support, a map, a GPA calculator and most importantly, dark mode. O'Conbhua said, "[new students] can just, boom, log on [and] find what they need. Classes, it's right there or that's what I need, my schedule or that's what I need to pay my fees."

The team is incredibly proud

of the map feature, which allows students unfamiliar with the campus to find the building where their class is quickly. O'Conbhua said, "They'll immediately see a pop-up of a map of Las Positas and bang, that's where you have to go." The map is also updated to include the new buildings built this semester.

The extension was created with the idea to be open source. Hassieb said, "Any student who wants to add a feature and you have the skills can put in a feature." The team stresses the importance of the extension to serve the Las Positas Community, going as far as to support professors as well. With open source, professors can

change the layout to support their needs. Hassieb is adamant about feedback on the extension and understanding how it can help students and professors.

The team is working hard to update the program to fit the needs of Las Positas. In the future, they plan to add support for non-chromium browsers such as Firefox and Safari, swap the map feature for Google Map directions, and fix other websites such as Canvas to become an all-in-one program for Las Positas College.

Search "Class-Web Fix" in the Chrome Web Store to download the program. "It's that simple," Hassieb said.

# Viral students excused from Pro-Palestine protest

By James Sevilla

@JAMESTSEV

Following the viral video showing a conflict between supporters of Israel and Palestine on campus between students Sofina Salvatore and Arzo Mohammad, Mohammad organized a protest in support of Palestine on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Mohammad was sent a personal email from the president of the college on Oct. 17 including guidelines regarding her protest. The email did not state that she could not be on campus. However, Campus Security was sent to search for her by the president of the college and sent her to the president's office for a meeting, silencing her.

In the area of the protest, Salvatore was present as well. She was seen holding the same Israeli flag that she waved in the video.

Both students were proactively working to represent their views on the current 2023 Israel-Hamas war which started on Oct. 7, 2023, along with the overall Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Regarding the comments she said in the video towards Salvatore, Mohammad said, "I was sitting in my car before coming to class. I was watching the videos of kids being slaughtered. I was crying. I was distraught. I walked out of my car to walk to class, and I see somebody waving that same flag that represents those kids being slaughtered."

"And she said, 'You're the one who's committing genocide. You are the terrorist here. You are the terrorist.' How am I the terrorist? Anti-Zionism is not Antisemitism, and I stated that in the video as well," Mohammad



Justin Gomez/Express

Arzo Mohammad stands behind a table at the Palestine Protest on campus at Las Positas College on October 18, 2023.

said recalling the incident.

Mohammad's sister claims that Salvatore had edited the video, cutting out how Salvatore had allegedly yelled at Mohammad as she walked by.

However, Salvatore stated that she and her friends were simply holding the flag when Arzo Mohammad approached her.

"We weren't saying anything directly to anybody," Salvatore said. "She just approached us

to start flipping up off and saying that we're Jewish Nazis, that we're supporting genocide and basically that I'm a Jewish whore and stuff like that, which is the English translation for Yahudi Sharmouta."

Salvatore said she directly sent her video to @StopAntisemitism social media account.

"I did not personally post it on my account as I am trying not to post anything political right now,

because I don't want people to come attack me or my friends," Salvatore stated. "I'm trying to post for peace right now, but I sent it to the page saying that I believe that this should be seen. I think it's important, because I've been seeing a lot of violence on campus."

LPC President Dyrell Foster released two statements about freedom of expression on campus following the statement he

made prior about Friday's incident. In the second one, he said, "It is our hope that all members of our campus community and visitors to our campus consider carefully the use of words that may harm others. We recognize that by protecting freedom of expression it may appear that the college is not honoring our commitment to providing a safe, inclusive environment. However, legal protections for free expression may sometimes supersede our college values of civility and mutual respect."

"We also recognize that some speech or printed materials may be particularly offensive or painful to individuals, especially those who have been historically marginalized," Foster's statement read. "On these occasions, members of the campus community may choose to not engage or to respond by openly contesting ideas they oppose. Freedom of expression also includes the freedom to engage in non-disruptive counter-speech or protest."

Foster also said, "Our commitment to freedom of expression does not mean that our college must itself remain neutral to ideas or beliefs expressed."

However, Mohammad claims that Foster's actions do not reflect his words. She said she was asked to see him for a meeting, which caused her removal from her post at the protest.

Some social media accounts have reported Mohammad is no longer a student at LPC. However, both Mohammad and Salvatore have said they are still enrolled.

*The Express will continue its covering of this developing story. Send tips and information to [lpccexpress@laspositacollege.edu](mailto:lpccexpress@laspositacollege.edu).*



Brighton Matus/Express

Protestors for Palestine stand alongside Arzo Mohammad at a table on campus at Las Positas College on October 18, 2023. Signs with pictures are hung on the table to show what is going on in the Middle East.



@StopAntiSemitism

Arzo Mohammad, filmed in a verbal altercation on campus seen by millions, said she remains a student at LPC.

# UC bill creates new opportunities for transfers

James Sevilla

@JAMESTSEV

Oct. 10, 2023, in Sacramento, CA — California's state legislature has recently passed a significant bill, AB-1291, introducing the "University of California Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Pilot Program." This legislation, which is expected to be put into practice by 2026, aims to simplify the transfer process for community college students and potentially provide them with more opportunities to transfer to University of California (UC) institutions, beginning with popular campuses like the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

"AB 1291 starts to tackle a long-standing goal in California: to simplify and streamline transfer paths for hardworking, qualified community college students wishing to attend a UC or a CSU," stated the author of the bill, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, D-Sacramento, in the University of California press release. "This bill gets UC into the game with universal transfer pathways and will increase economic opportunities and prosperity for all Californians to help our state economy thrive."

This program incentivizes students to complete specific coursework and attain associate degrees at their community colleges, prioritizing transferring students to UC campuses, such as UCLA, upon completion.

California community college (CCC) students who opt for the ADT Pilot Program will benefit from streamlined admission procedures and a clearly defined academic roadmap set by the UC. This innovative legislation seeks to remove barriers often hindering smooth transitions to

UC institutions, providing a more accessible route toward higher education.

The ADT Pilot Program offers a more structured and prescriptive approach, distinguishing itself from the existing Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program.

While the TAG program has provided a promising avenue for community college students to secure admission into UC campuses, it has its challenges. Several students pursuing higher education through the TAG program have encountered specific issues that have raised concerns within the academic community.

One significant challenge is the restriction of eligible majors under the TAG program. Not all UC campuses and majors participate in TAG, limiting students' choices and options for guaranteed admission. This constraint can be particularly daunting for students with specific academic and career goals.

"I think the most challenging part is just UCs having requirements. I'm a Computer Science (CS) major, and half the UCs did not accept CS majors," said Martin De Guzman, an alumnus from LPC that utilized the TAG program to transfer to UC Riverside this year.

Under AB 1291, the University will expand the pilot program to at least 12 additional majors by the 2028-29 academic year, with at least 4 of those 12 majors in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

TAG offers a sense of security, but there is always an element of uncertainty and competition involved. Meeting the stringent academic requirements set by the TAG program can be demanding for students, adding stress and anxiety to the transfer process.



JAMES SEVILLA/THE EXPRESS

Pennant Wall in the Career & Transfer Center, 1600 Building, Room 1604B. Taken on Monday, Oct. 9, 2023

There are separate transfer admission guarantees at six of the nine UC system's undergraduate campuses, each of them except UCLA, Berkeley and San Diego. These separate guarantees each have different requirements for admission.

Masyn Ghiorso, a sophomore at LPC currently majoring in the Biology UC Pathway Associate of Science using the TAG program to transfer to UC Davis next year, voiced her concerns about the specific requirements certain majors needed to be eligible for the TAG program.

"So for my major, I needed to finish certain science, math and the needed 7-course pattern

classes. If you were to go and transfer into a different major, you don't necessarily need those classes," Ghiorso stated. "I'm waiting for my TAG decision on Nov. 15 before I send in my UC application, due at the end of November, because I have to consider applying to other schools if they don't accept me."

However, with this new Transfer Pilot Program, if a student is rejected from their desired UC campus, they will now have the opportunity to be offered admission to another UC campus. This provision adds an invaluable layer of flexibility and encouragement to students, ensuring they have multiple options to access a

UC education.

The University of California press release regarding AB 1291 states, "The selected CCCs, applicable majors and other admission requirements will be announced at a later date. Students who meet UC's admission requirements but are not selected for admission to UCLA will be offered admission to at least one other UC campus. By 2028-29, UC will expand the pilot to at least four additional campuses."

As the TAG program continues to be a crucial avenue for transfer students, introducing the UC ADT Pilot Program offers an additional and potentially more streamlined pathway.

## OBITUARY

### Ken Ross

Ken Ross, a beloved theater teacher and director, came into this world on December 31, 1941 and passed away on October 6, 2023. He was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri — a city he dearly loved and visited often. Ken was the son of Charles M. Ross and Juliet Ross and the stepson of Leslie Ficken.

Ross's lifelong passion for the performing arts began with tap dance and piano lessons as a child. He graduated from Beaumont High School in St. Louis and earned his Bachelor of Arts at Elmhurst College. Ross was awarded a Master's of Divinity with an emphasis in theater from Union Seminary. He worked at several churches in Philadelphia, St. Louis, and San Carlos, California, where he specialized in forming theater groups.

After deciding to commit full-time to theater and music, Ross earned a Master of Arts in Theater from San Francisco State University and a Master of Fine Arts in Musical Theater from U.S. International University in San Diego, now known as Alliant University.

Ross's career in education included teaching theater and directing plays and musicals at several Bay Area community colleges, the Athenian School in Danville, Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, and eventually at Las Positas College. Ross remained at LPC and led the theater program for 20 years. Even after retirement, he continued to teach and direct at Las Positas as a part-time professor emeritus.

Ross's theatrical productions were known for their

quality, variety, and positive spirit. He also wrote music, scripts, and lyrics for several successfully produced musicals. His work as a professional actor included shows at Woodminster Summer Musicals in Oakland. His favorite place was The Muny in St. Louis, a huge outdoor theater where he gained his love for musical theater and often performed during his time in St. Louis.

Ross is survived by a brother, two stepsisters, two nieces, an extended family, and many friends, colleagues, and former students. Donations can be sent to the Las Positas College Theater Arts Department, 3000 Campus Hill Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, for those who wish to express appreciation for his life.

# LPC Player and coach makes her professional debut

By Justin Gomes

For the first time in the history of Las Positas College's Women's basketball program, a former player and coach has inked a deal to play professional basketball.

Since joining the Women's basketball program for the 2017-2018 season, Ashley Hart has become an inspiration for future members of the team. Playing two seasons at Las Positas before moving on to San Francisco State University (SFU) from 2019 to 2021, later returning to coach. Hart considers her time at Las Positas invaluable to her growth not only as a player but a person. "When I look back I know I wouldn't get this far without going through Las Positas Women's basketball program," Hart said.

Despite an impressive high school basketball career, Hart received no recognition from a four-year college. Hart averaged 15.7 points a game in her senior year at Millenium Charter School in Tracy, with a career high of 41 points in a single game. Hart was also named female All-League in her senior season. During a year break from basketball, Hart questioned her future in basketball. "I wasn't sure if I wanted to continue playing," said Hart.

Hart immediately found that she would love to play again. She then began looking at local schools. Hart discovered former teammate Jenna Kol was already playing at Las Positas. "I thought it would be a great fit," said Hart.

Hart spent her freshman year learning the ropes. Sophomore year proved to be her breakout season, leading the team with 21 points per game and a 42 percent field goal rating. Hart was also named first team All-Conference.

After Hart's sophomore season the calls from the four-year school started to come in from around the country. She ultimately chose San Francisco State. "I felt San Francisco state was the best fit for me," Hart said. Head Coach Natasha Smith kept

Hart grounded with her forwardness and honesty.

Hart's second year at SFSU represented another career-defining year. She was one of three players to play all 25 games in the 2021-2022 season, starting all but one game. Hart led the team in blocks with 17. She came in second with a season total of 237 points. Hart also set another career milestone that year with her first double - double in the last game of the season versus Cal Poly Pomona with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Hart returned to Las Positas as assistant coach for the 2022-2023 season, at head Coach Caleb Theodore's side. Together they revitalized the women's basketball program. Hart being a LPC veteran helped bridge the gap between players and newly-named head coach Theodore. Coaching was an experience Hart will never forget. She gained a new perspective on the journey every junior college student takes.

"I wouldn't be the player or the person I am without it, I am happy that I got that chance to go back and coach and give back," said Hart.

It was during the off-season, playing in the Women's Premier Basketball Association (WPBA) that led to the call. Led by founder and CEO Faatimah A, the WPBA is a Bay Area basketball program that seeks to empower, educate, support and mentor women basketball players.

"I need to give a shout out to the WPBA and Faatimah A, for everything they are doing for Bay Area sports," said Hart.

Hart continued to put up impressive numbers as a member of the Berkeley Royals in the 2022 season. Faatimah A forwarded highlights to contacts in Ireland's National League of Basketball. It was then Hart received a message via WhatsApp. Ireland was interested in signing Hart.

Hart couldn't believe the news. She never even considered playing basketball professionally in a different country. Before

she could have second thoughts or talk herself out of it, she agreed and made the trip across the ocean to Ireland and a new beginning.

Hart joins the Limerick Sport Huskies for the 2023-2024 season. Hart attributes her time and experience at Las Positas to

her success. Hart says being a Hawk gave her the opportunities, the resources and the support of the program staff to excel.

Ashley Hart is the heart and soul of this program, no pun intended. I can't speak enough about her impact." Coach Caleb Theodore said.



COURTESY OF PAT SHANAHAN

"Ashley Hart is the heart and soul of this program, no pun intended." said Coach Caleb Theodore.

# Hawks on the road, battling through adversity



The smell of an old locker room, the smell of old books mixed with hard work and sweat as the men's basketball team comes together to prepare for the first scrimmage.

"How hard will you work!, When something goes wrong how will you respond, when adversity hits how will you respond? How will your attitude be when things go wrong" James Giacomazzi says, getting the men's basketball team amped up.

The final words that were said before hitting the court for the first time were "Brotherhood", something we all try to live by on this team, sticking together and being there for one another no matter what.

Coming out of the gates one of the main freshman point guards Elliot Mobley had dished out the first fourth Assists to give the Hawks basketball team a 12-0 start against Porterville College. But it wasn't easy for long as Porterville made a run going into the second half. "This is a team you can't let hang around we need to push them out and keep them out," Giacomazzi says as we head out to the second half of the basketball game.

Midway through the game, Sterling McClanahan hits two, or three's that almost steal the win for the Hawks.

But we needed two stops for the game to be sealed and after the Hawks were able to get that last stop we knew the game was ours. After the game I talked to the point guard who had the most assists this weekend "For this to be my first Juco tournament I think I did well on both sides of the ball and controlled the pace of the game very well, as a team for this to be our first time as a team playing someone else going three and one we played with great energy and I can see that this is going to be a great season."

Eliot Mobley said so. I also got to talk to one of the sophomore transfers from CSM college Alex Martin he said when I asked about this weekend's tournament " I think that we did really well and got along on and off the court, another thing that I like is that we all played well team defense and played for one another as a team. The sky's the limit for this team if we continue to play together and play as a team." Leaving this tournament I think that we have a lot to learn from and still a lot of growth but we are headed in the right direction.

## Women's Basketball Looks to Rebound from a Difficult Season

By Justin Gomes

@JUSTING76412521

Coming off a heartbreaking 2022-2023 season, the Las Positas Women's basketball finished the season with a record of 3-24. This year, they are striving to achieve lofty goals. On paper LPC women's basketball can be easily dismissed or overlooked. The numbers alone don't even begin to tell the full story.

Coach Caleb Theodore is in his second year as head coach of the Women's basketball team and remains positive on the team's future. Theodore joined LPC in 2022 to revitalize the Women's basketball program, which had not played a full season since 2018. Plagued by injury and Covid-related illness, the team last season was forced to forfeit several games. The biggest challenge was building a team to play 27 games, and growing the bench from six to sixteen players.

That's not to say last season certainly wasn't without its share of accomplishments. Freshman Monique Cavness led the state in rebounds averaging 16.8 per game. Cavness also earned a 2023 WBCA Two-Year College Coaches' All-America honorable mention, one of the highest awards a student athlete can receive. This is a first in the history of the women's basketball program at Las Positas.

"[The recognition is] a huge testament to her work ethic and who she is and what she has done for the program," said Theodore.

Aside from leading the league in rebounds, Cavness averaged 38 minutes a game. She also put up an average of 14 points per game with a season high of 321 points.

Another in the list of accomplishments is the first one and done in the program. A rule which requires a player to have at least one year of college basketball experience

before moving on to professional play.

This is another first time in program history. This honor went to Ranaye Manu, who signed with Lincoln University in Oakland.

Las Positas bolsters its roster with 10 incoming freshmen this season including Kyshanti King from East Union High School in Manteca. In her senior year the East Union team finished 22 - 4 and won their league. "Kyshanti has made an impact right away," said Theodore.

A pair of teammates from Patterson High School, Ranya Manu and Joyce Mulumba also joined the team. They went 20-8 in their senior year and finished the season second overall.

A few more players joining the team include Brianna Parker from Manteca High School, Sophie Fletcher from Mountain House and Sydney Brekenridge. Another returner from last season is Mi'Ari Garnett. Garnett averaged 34 minutes a game last season with 7 points per game with a season total of 183 points. Both Cavness and Garnett are expected to lead the team this year both on and off the court acting as mentors to the new players.

Keirstan Constantino is a new face to the program as a sophomore transfer. Constantino comes from a winning program at Lathrop High School under coach Dwayne Davis, before playing for Wenatchee College in Washington State. Constantino is expected to bring experience to the lineup.

Coach Theodore has set lofty goals for this season with a target of winning 21 games this season. Historically, the LPC women's basketball team has never won more than 20 games in a season. A high water mark set by coach Toni West in the 2006 - 2007 season. The team also hopes to win seven conference games as well as secure a first round play-off berth and a first round play-off win.



JUSTIN GOMES/THE EXPRESS

Monique Cavness goes up for a lay-up in practice on Oct. 3.

With a goal clearly set the program seeks to boost its athletes on and off the court.

"All we're trying to do here is change the perspectives of what people think when they think of women's basketball at Las Positas," said Theodore.

Women's basketball begins play with a scrimmage at

## Las Positas Men's Soccer Chases Championship Season

By Justin Gomes

@JUSTING76412521

Year after year the Las Positas Men's Soccer team manages to find success even through adversity and an ever changing roster. Where many programs suffer from player turnover at the community college level Las Positas continues to excel. At the root of this program is coach Andrew Cumbo. Cumbo has been working for the past seven seasons to create a winning program here at Las Positas. Cumbo begins season eight with the Hawks hoping to bring home a conference championship.

The Men's team numbers were boosted this year with many new freshmen. Some of the incoming freshmen began training with the team last spring and later again in July. Las Positas hosted a five-week pre-season course to get players ready for the coming season. It serves to integrate new players into a team role and introduce them to the program. "We've had the chance to build a foundation early on," said Cumbo.

The Hawks have been on a roll this season. They have a current record of 8-4-2, and have scored a massive 37 goals over 14 games.



ALAN LEWIS LPC

Adrian Denoncourt brings the ball up-field versus Skyline College Sept. 09.

Conference play began on Sept. 26 with a 3-2 home win against Hartnell College of Salinas. The Hawks earned a close 5-4 win over Ohlone College capturing their first conference road win for the season. Coach Andrew Cumbo attributes it to teamwork and commitment. "Fortunately we've got some talented play-

ers and more importantly we've got a team comes first attitude," Cumbo said.

This season hasn't been without its lows either. Las Positas has suffered a few tough losses. The first coming against American River College. Las Positas played well creating many opportunities to score but still fell short

in a 2-1 loss. The second happened against Santa Rosa College. Boasting a similar record of 8-2-1, Santa Rosa remains a tough competitor.

At the time Las Positas struggled with injuries with key members out of the lineup. "They caught us at a time when we weren't at the top of our game,

they beat us and they're an excellent team," Cumbo said.

The team has three captains this season sharing a leadership role. Luis Castillo, a sophomore from Hayward who plays center back. Returning from last season is Adrian Denoncourt, a midfielder with 2 goals on the season. Edwin Zabala also returns. Zabala has put up great numbers this season, scoring 5 goals two of those being the game winning goal. Among the players leading the team this season is goalkeeper Emmanuel Betancourt. Betancourt has 7 wins and 2 shut-outs on the season.

Las Positas set up this season with two main goals in mind. One being to make it to the play-offs. The other is to win the conference, which brings home a championship as well as a play-off berth. Las Positas had hoped to remain undefeated at home but that hope was dashed with a 2-1 defeat against Skyline College.

"This is my eighth year here and we've made the play-offs every single year I've been here," said Cumbo. Cumbo is clearly committed to keeping this tradition of winning alive.

## 22 (Paul's Version): A Dad's Experience at a Taylor Concert



Image courtesy of Paul George

Taylor Swift performing at Lumen Field in Seattle on July 22, 2023. The stadium was setup for audiences to be able to see from all seats that were available both directly and with large screen projectors.

By Paul George

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Hide out at Chipotle. Drive the getaway car. Make sure nobody sees you leave. As plans go, it seemed simple enough.

So began a Hail Mary three-hour drive across the Florida Panhandle toward Tampa last April. As a dad of a teenager, I've been asked to do far stranger things. As a Swiftie household, it felt like a three-plus hour reprise from constantly hearing about Taylor. A perfect escape from it all: the prattling of bonus songs, TikTok live streams and friendship bracelets.

A last-minute price change landed seats on the floor — because grabbing handfuls of tissue paper confetti is more valuable than gold in Swiftie world, or so I'm assured.

The tickets were purchased at 7:27 p.m. from some random person on StubHub. Glitter filled the air in our rented Nissan Sentra as the kid swapped out cozy leggings for a shimmering skirt and top. She transformed into a Swiftie soldier, getting ready for combat.

7:36 p.m. The girls hop out while the car idles in a no parking zone outside of Raymond James Stadium. The silence then came into the car, gone were the distractions as I aimed the car for my hideout... literally, at Chipotle. Four hours later, I collected the fam and began the trek back to the hotel. The back seat was flooded with chatter as she recounted every detail. I was content that the sacrifice at the altar of Taylor was made, and for me it was enough.

The phone buzzed a few months later.

"Taylor? Seattle?" I waited to read "jk," but that salvation never arrived. Like a nightmare dressed like a daydream, we were apparently going back. The Swiftie siren's song beckoned. Resigned to my fate, I Google mapped out a Chipotle a few miles away from that stadium.

Then once upon a time, the planets, the fates and all the stars aligned, and Kid said, "Great news — there's an extra ticket for you to go with us." She's clearly the architect, drawing up the plans, and I'm merely the pawn.

A road trip to Seattle affords us 12 fun-filled hours along Interstate 5 in a rented Toyota Corolla. If I learned nothing else, it was to leave the glitter in a car that I didn't have to clean myself.

Nearing Lumen Field, I realized I was entering a faith-forgotten land. Parking near the stadium was going for \$120. Fortunately, I called a taxi to take us there.

Sequins shimmering in the afternoon Seattle sun EVERYWHERE, like glitter on the floor after the party. Countless young women sporting brand new rhinestone-encrusted cowboy boots were as far as the eye could see. Those who made the friendship bracelets are trading them with strangers while waiting to go inside.

I wasn't prepared for the pageantry. More bedazzled cowboy boots than I could count. The couples with the boyfriend wearing a Karma t-shirt and his date wearing, Karma is my boyfriend. Two tweens donning key lime green onesies complete with dog ears and tails.

My sole gripe would be the merchandise line, which I was told is also a dad's duty to fulfill. Much to my surprise,

the prices weren't outrageously inflated. T-shirts weren't a Walmart price point, but still a far cry lower than what I'd pay in Disneyland.

The surprise came after being in the line for more than two hours. As I neared the front, the reason became apparent: amateur shoppers. I am a tactical shopper, a fan of having a plan and finishing the job. Rather, my fellow Swifties would reach the counter, then proceed to either ask to see the sizing of several pieces, or phone a friend and get their merchandise order. More than a few did both.

Sticking to my tactical shopping, it took two minutes to walk away with a poster, a copy of "Midnights 'Til the Dawn" edition — a concert exclusive, mind you —, a hoodie in the correct size and color and a t-shirt. All for \$132, which again, could have been WAY worse.

The two-hour line did give me plenty of time to people-watch the parade of attendees dressed in honor of their favorite era, album or song lyrics. If nothing else, it made the time pass a little less slowly.

Taylor began with "It's Been a Long Time Coming," and to be fair she was correct. The pandemic prevented the last few albums from having a concert, having last toured in 2018. The tween, teen and care-free others dancing in the rows and aisles.

Some danced like they were made of starlight, others like their hands were tied, in homage to the "Reputation" song. The style aside, all along there was some invisible string uniting the masses. It was both an odd site and heartwarming to see how 73,000 strangers could so easily feel free to be their best Swiftie self without worrying

what others may think.

It was difficult to overlook the hapless dads in the audience. Each stood out awkwardly as they did the dad sway in their khaki shorts and ball caps as they tried to fit in. A few cool dads can rise to the level of Taylor's dad Scott, buzzing around the backstage on a Segway scooter. Most of us are out of our league.

Oh, scooters and Scooter. I was scolded for uttering that Voldemort-like name. My offense launched a monologue about the 'stolen version,' of how Swift was denied the option of buying her CD masters some time ago. This then leads to another sermon about how the Taylor Version albums are the one, true anthem of a devoted Swiftie.

Taylor puts on a pretty good show, too. For a three-plus hour performance, I have to respect the energy Swift can maintain to sing, dance and engage her audience throughout.

As experiences go, this one was pretty good. Dad scores a win from helping connect the ticket to the concert to the kid. I didn't have to sort through the Ticketmaster fiasco for seats, merely stuff a few bills into an envelope to the folks who invited us. While others may disagree, I also feel I blended in well enough. After all, I was issued a "13" tattoo on the hand and the bald head covered in glitter to ensure that I can still make the whole place shimmer.

A few weeks back, the phone dinged again, another text message. "Taylor? Toronto?"

Maybe.

EDITORIAL

## DACA must not be outlawed

It only took one district judge to find DACA, a program that supports immigrants to allow them to live in the US, unconstitutional. Now, 600,000 students are scrambling to stay in the US without being penalized or deported safely.

DACA must not be pulled. America has relied on immigrants since its beginning. To say it is unconstitutional would cost thousands of people and destroy the American economy.

Immigrants are essential to our Nation as they provide so much. Immigrants contribute to the economy, bring new ideas and work harder than Native-Born peers.

Contrary to popular belief, they actually expand American culture and raise productivity rates within business in The United States.

Immigrants positively impact The United States's labor market and often save and revitalize areas where population decreases. Immigrants contribute to worker shortages, and often make up about a third of workforces in our nation. Studies show that in 2018, the rate of participation within the labor force of foreign born workers was approximately 65.7% which is higher than the Native born percentage that contributed.

According to the Bureau of Economic Research immigrants are responsible for approximately 36% of all current innovation within The United States. Evidence from the study suggests that most skilled immigrants help their U.S. born colleagues further increase and develop innovation along with productivity. Clearly, America needs immigrants more than immigrants need America. It is the idea of America that entices immigrants.

Thousands of People leave their countries, their families, and their home and head to America for a chance at the American dream, to have new opportuni-

ties, freedom and a chance at a better life. Everyone's idea of the American Dream is different. To immigrants, it's the idea of moving forward, creating new opportunities for themselves and others and providing for your loved ones. Regardless, without the American Dream America would not only be dull, we'd lose many opportunities, the possibility of growth, equality and even freedom within our nation.

It's the American dream to succeed in the US. It is not the American dream if it means to be persecuted and deported.

## The sexification of Halloween is up to you



CAMILLE DELUC/EXPRESS

13 out of 15 women at LPC answered "slutty" over "scary" this year for Halloween.

Camille Leduc

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13 out of 15 women at Las Positas College answered "slutty" over "scary" this year for Halloween. When asked why, their answer was simple. "Because, why not." Every other day of the year for many years, women are expected to look professional, put together and dress like a classy lady. You can't show too much or you're thought of as a slut. You can't cover yourself up or you're labeled insecure. It's a never-ending and always-losing battle for women when discussing how to present themselves. Not on Halloween.

There are going to be people who scold you for having no self-respect. But self-respect is different for

everyone. Feeling your most confident and sexy self for a woman is everything. No matter what you wear, to know what it feels like to turn heads and be drooled over for one night of the year.

"It is okay to want to embrace your sexuality, your womanliness and to resent patriarchy for how it views you in doing this," says the article from Albany Student Press. It's true. It's refreshing for at least one day out of the year they feel sexy. "Halloween is the one time of year where a girl can dress like a total slut and no other girls can say a thing about it," says Cady Heron, played by Lindsay Lohan in the film "Mean Girls." A woman dressing sexy is a celebration of their pride and freedom. A tool of liberation.

Halloween is sup-

posed to be fun. It's the one night a year to dress up and be nothing like your everyday self. So, the question is, why not? There's no reason for a woman not to feel sexy and confident in an outfit that shows off her figure. To women everywhere, get together a group of your best girlfriends and just let loose. For one night, don't worry about what people will say about your body or how dolled up you look. For Halloween, be whoever you want to be. Isn't that the point?

Don't be ashamed to want to be the slutty nurse or the naughty schoolgirl. Masquerade as somebody else. When you wake up the following day, remember how it felt to be not just a put-together lady but a sexy woman.

Because, why not?

## EXPRESS YOURSELF

What is your favorite Halloween tradition and why?



"Pumpkin carving because it is so creative and diverse you enjoy it with family or friends."

- Isabella Angeles, Psychology



"The costumes, dressing up and I like the thrill of anything scary."

- Charles Chadinle, Fire Science



"I like the raves. I get to be myself and party. I also enjoy baking with my family"

-Shreya Kumar Pre-med Biology



"I love the pumpkin patch in San Ramon. It reminds me of my childhood with my family."

-Ranya Fatteh, Sociology



"Candy- twizzlers are my favorites. using them as straws and they come in a two pack."

- Dylan Mizuhara, Mechanical Engineering