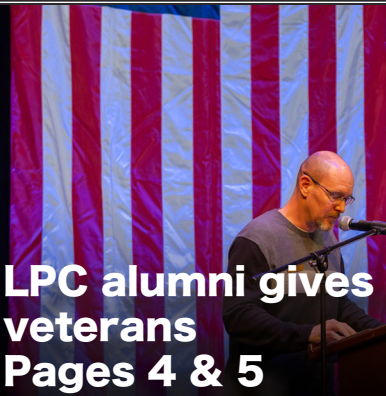
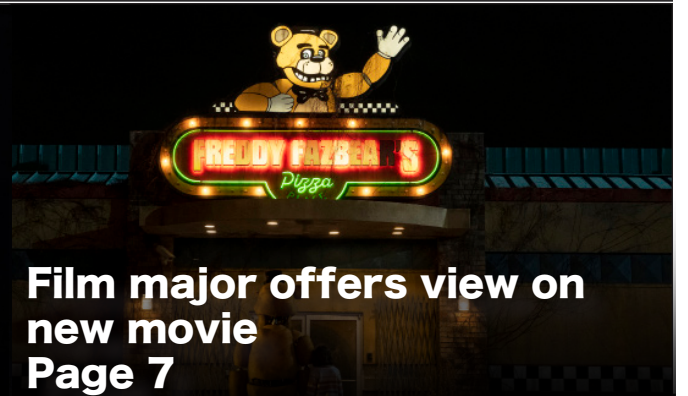




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Men's Basketball Post-Tournament

Nathan Canilao

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LIVERMORE — With 50 seconds left and LPC up five on Butte College, there was a tinge of hesitancy in the eyes of head coach James Giacomazzi.

What he needed was someone who could handle the pressure of the moment. Someone who he knew he could trust to not make a game changing mistake that could cost them the game.

The problem: for 13 of the 16 players on the bench, this was their first time playing for the long-time LPC head coach.

This season could turn out to be the most challenging and the most rewarding for Giacomazzi.

The No. 14 Hawks are returning just three players from a season ago — none of which were starters in 2023.

On top of that, LPC doesn't seem to have the all-state talent like a Michael Hayes or a Jordahn Johnson that has made them playoff contenders the last four seasons.

This past weekend's home tournament in which the Hawks went 2-1, gave the fans a good look at the challenges that the Hawks have ahead of them and why a successful season could cement Giacomazzi's legacy as one of the best coaches in LPC history.

"We know coach Giacomazzi has won a lot of games in his career," said LPC freshman point guard Elliot Mobley. "We just have to trust him and trust the process he's set for us."

The Hawks' first game against Butte College felt like the LPC of old.

Down 9 at halftime and trailing by as much as 13 in the second half, The Hawks flipped a switch. Butte did not make a single field goal from the 12 minute mark to 3 minutes left in the second half. On the other end, LPC scored 30 points in that same stretch mostly from creating turnovers and attacking the basket with reckless abandon.

With the Hawks up, 73-65 with 3:12 left in the game, it looked like a closed case for the home team. Dribble out the clock, don't foul and ease into a feel-good comeback victory against a team that LPC hasn't beaten in its last two tries.

But that didn't happen. With just under 30 seconds left and down 5 points, Butte was a stop and a made three from tying the game and going into overtime.

Luckily for the Hawks, they made just enough free throws at the end of the game to come out

with a 80-77 win.

It was the kind of win that's reminiscent of the great LPC teams under Giacomazzi: go down big at halftime, find a way to come back in the second half and somehow almost blow the lead before hitting a few big shots to seal a big win.

The Hawks were put in the same type of predicament on Friday when they matched up with unranked American River College.

Down just three points at half, things were trending upwards for LPC. If the Hawks could overcome a 13-point deficit just a night earlier, surely going into halftime down 39-36 would not be a challenge.

But this time, that LPC magic suddenly ran out.

American River put 57 points in the second half and held the Hawks to just 40 points. The more experienced, disciplined team showed itself late as the Hawks fell 96-76.

Game three was a much better showing for the Hawks as they defeated Cosumnes River College 76-67. After leading for most of the game, the Hawks held a narrow 70-67 lead with under a minute left. But somehow the Hawks found it in them to close out the game with a win thanks in part to clutch free throw shooting by forward Alex Martin and Mobley.

The three games played this past weekend is a good glimpse into what the Hawks could look like this season: a young squad who's going to need to learn how to play together.

Giacomazzi has done a good job historically of blending different players with different personalities together on one team. But this team is much different from others he's coached.

This LPC team is guard heavy with Mobley and freshmen Elijah Mobley and Alex Ma — a stark contrast from the days of all-conference big men Michael Hayes (2018-2020) and Jordahn Johnson (2021-2023).

"We literally just want to create chaos," Mobley said. "We just gotta make the game as fast as possible."

Giacomazzi usually has a starter or two return for their sophomore season, but he will only have three returners this season. Forwards Jajuan Mitchell-Cox and Nay'Veon Reed along with guard CJ Ward are the team's only returners from last season. All three will be thrust into bigger roles after playing in mostly reserve roles

last season.

"I think the key for me is to stay vocal," Mitchell-Cox said. "I know I'm not the most talented player out there, but I'm not gonna get bullied by anybody and I'm for damn sure not gonna let my teammates get bullied by nobody. I got to lift everybody up. That's my job."

Giacomazzi hopes his three returners can also serve as the connective tissue that helps keep the locker room buying into the team's plan to be state title contenders.

"We're still a young team, we're still learning," Giacomazzi said. "We look for a lot from our returners...Those guys have to step up for sure."

As Thursday's game came to a close, the hesitancy in Giacomazzi's eyes turned into relief. The 6-foot-5 coach ran into the locker room awaiting his players with high fives and dap-ups.

Huddling with assistant coach Anthony Haskins, Giacomazzi couldn't do anything but smile. It seemed as though in that moment, he and Haskins felt that everything was going to be alright.

A loss against Butte could have easily turned into a learning lesson for the young team.

But instead, coming out with the win gave Giacomazzi and the rest of the Hawks confidence that they could be something special when March rolls around.

For a team who wants to make a state title run, it's going to fall on Giacomazzi and how he meshes this team together.

No one would fault Giacomazzi if this team is not in the playoff hunt by season's end. 13 new players, not having a dominant all-state athlete and the burnout of making it to the playoffs for eight straight seasons are enough to chalk this season up as a "rebuild year."

But a deep playoff run with this team would only solidify Giacomazzi's dominance as a coach in one of the toughest conferences in the state. The only thing missing is the coveted state title, and winning it with this group could be Giacomazzi's finest accomplishment of his career.



ALAN LEWIS/THE EXPRESS

Alex Martin (24) goes for a shot against Butte on Nov. 2, 2023.

Congress renews push to make community college free

James Sevilla
@JAMESTSEV

The U.S. Congress reintroduced a bill on Oct. 19 that could allow eligible students to attend community college for free.

“For too many students, the cost of a two-year degree is holding them back, hamstringing businesses that need skilled workers and preventing them from providing for their families,” said U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) in the bill’s press release.

According to the press release, The America’s College Promise Act of 2023 aims to make getting the skills and credentials necessary to succeed in the economy more accessible to all students.

“America’s College Promise will break down those barriers for students who want to pursue a technical education, training tomorrow’s workforce without saddling young people with debt that prevents them from buying a house, starting a family and contributing to our economy,” Baldwin said.

The Democrat-sponsored bill strives to create a partnership between the states and federal government to waive tuition and fees for two years of community and technical college programs for eligible students.

Students would be required to attend an eligible institution more than half-time and qualify for in-state tuition to get their tuition waived. This would help deter and decrease the cases of student financial aid fraud that have arisen over the past few years.

The bill showcases what it wants to accomplish, stating it “establishes a student success fund to improve the enrollment, retention, transfer or completion rates for underserved student populations, including students of color and low-income and first generation college students who attend community colleges at disproportionate rates.”

Kenneth Yrreverre, a first-generation college student majoring in kinesiology and hoping to transfer, said the bill would save students money.

“It costs me around \$1,000 per semester because of my four-unit and five-unit classes. So if I had this prior, I would’ve been able to save that money and put it into CSU East Bay,” Yrreverre stated.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TAMMY BALDWIN
U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

Liam Stone, an alumni majoring in public policy, believes the bill would have helped him figure out his path through community college without the financial stress.

“If I had this earlier in my college days, I would have experimented more. I rushed myself ahead because I knew the longer I stayed the more I needed to pay back,” Stone said. “This led me to invest in a major I had no care for and got me stuck at UC Riverside with thousands of dollars in debt. This bill would have made me more calm and certain about what I wanted to do instead of going with the flow.”

Although higher education and research institutions have backed the bill, it remains unlikely to move forward in a divided Congress as no Republicans have decided to co-sponsor the bill.

Dead body found on campus

Brighton Matus
@BYMATUS47

On the morning of Nov. 15, 2023, the Livermore Police Department was called to investigate a scene on Las Positas College’s campus. Following the investigation, the Alameda County Coroner’s Bureau has begun a death investigation.

At 4 p.m., Dyrell Foster, President of Las Positas College, released a statement to announce the news to the LPC community.

“I recognize that this news may be alarming and cause a sense of concern,” Foster said.

There was no danger on campus at the time of the incident. “It’s important to emphasize that there was no reported threat to the campus and all classes and activities are continuing as scheduled,” Foster said.

“To support members of our community who are affected, we have extensive mental health services available,” Foster said.

Back in Nov. 2020, LPC dealt with a similar situation where an unidentified body was found on campus. Similar actions were taken in this isolated event and this one. “The Alameda County Coroner’s Bureau is now leading the investigation. The Livermore Police Department has not released details on the case, citing privacy concerns of the victim’s family.”

Currently, no information has been publicized however, Foster said, “More details will be provided as they become publicly available.” To report any updates on this incident, please contact the Express at LPCEXpressNews@laspositascollege.edu.



PAUL GEORGE/EXPRESS

A sign saying “ASTR 31 canceled Wednesday, Nov. 15. Dr. Martin” is posted on room 1816.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Professor offers his perspective on Palestine conflict

Dear Editors:

I am a professor of English at Las Positas College. I am Jewish by heritage. My own distant cousins live in Kibbutz Be’eri, which was attacked on Oct. 7. More than 100 Jews were murdered there that day.

One cousin of mine fought the Hamas terrorists and was wounded in the knee. His wife’s sister was kidnapped and killed.

Given this context, I feel I have some legitimacy and responsibility to speak up in a public way. It’s long past due, but to be honest, I’ve been deterred by our climate of hate. However, I can no longer remain silent and respect myself as a human being.

The attack on Israeli civilians was an inexcusable act of terrorism. The oppression and killing of Palestinian civilians in Gaza before and after that attack were also inexcusable acts of terrorism. Though these acts are inexcusable, they are not inexplicable in a historical context.

As a college community—professors, staff and students alike—we must dem-

onstrate an alternative to violent conflict and a dedication to academic honesty. We must educate each other through dialogue on this complex and ancient conflict in a peaceful and honest way that respects the pain and fear in all our communities. Ad hominem attacks will not change minds or create positive action. Instead, they will incite more conflict and resentment and, potentially, violence. We must place ourselves in each other’s shoes and steep ourselves in history to understand each other’s perspectives. Only then can we work together.

I understand that it is difficult to act with such civility while civilians and children are being killed in our name.

The Oct. 7th attack by Hamas killed approximately 1,200, mostly Jewish, people, including women, the elderly and 35 children. 240 people were taken hostage. “Thousands of terrorists broke through the border fence and slaughtered families in their homes and on the streets, as well as party-goers at a rave. Some victims were tortured, raped, burned and mutilated, with many of the acts filmed by the

perpetrators. The attackers also killed hundreds of soldiers situated near the border,” according to an article published in The Times of Israel.

On the other side, for some context, thousands of Palestinian civilians have been killed over the past 15 years. The death toll for children alone has been unfathomable over the last two decades “Between Sept. 2000 and Oct. 6, 2023, DCIP, Defense for Children International: Palestine, independently verified that Israeli forces and settlers killed 2,187 Palestinian children throughout the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip,” according to an article published by Defense for Children International, Palestine.

According to Hamas itself, 11,000 Palestinian civilians, including thousands of children, have been killed in Gaza in the past month.

With statistics such as these, can anyone doubt that Israel, with the support of the US, is creating many more future enemies around the world than it is killing?

We must call on our U.S. representa-

tives for a cessation of the bombardment of Gaza and for immediate aid to civilians in distress. We must also call for all hostages to be released by Hamas while funding the Iron Dome defensive system. In addition, we must call for the arrest and prosecution of all terrorists and war criminals on both sides of the conflict.

We cannot continue to aid and abet more terrorism without becoming terrorists ourselves.

On the home front, our college communities are beginning to fray. Let us all be examples of solving problems respectfully and peacefully, the way we would like the rest of the world to act.

Sincerely,
Professor Richard Dry

Editor’s note: Please see LPCEXpressNews.com for this article with links to supporting articles and information about how to contact your representative.

One student-veteran's journey

Tim Brady

@TBRADYLPC

Many people see college as the next step after graduating from high school. For about 400 student veterans or veteran affiliates, that path was not directly to Las Positas College. Some took a road less traveled by literally traveling elsewhere. Some left home by flying in an airplane for the first time, while others found home to be a foreign land. The common thread is each volunteered to put on a uniform and join the United States Armed Forces.

By the numbers, choosing to enlist is on the decline. The U.S. is currently experiencing a shortage of recruitment unseen since the early 1970s when America was embroiled in the Vietnam War.

"This is the start of a long drought for military recruiting," said Ret. Lt. Gen. Thomas Spoehr of the Heritage Foundation, a think tank, during the summer of 2022, in an article by Dennis Laich and Lawrence Wilkerson of thehill.com.

One student who stepped up for military service after high school is Trevor Penero. He took the more difficult route to college rather than the straightforward path. This is one man's journey from civilian to The U.S. Army. Completing a college degree before returning to the Army for a second time. To finally land back at LPC utilizing all he's learned as well as with help from the Veterans Center helping veterans adjust to college life and insure they get the best experience at LPC.

Today, Penero works in the LPC Veterans Resource Center as a Veterans Specialist. Penero is a veteran in more than one respect. He served in the U.S. Army after high school before his honorable discharge in 1999. He's also a veteran of Las Positas, having earned his associate degree in liberal arts. Penero went on to complete his studies at Sacramento State University, earning a criminal justice degree.

Penero took the discipline and skills learned from the Army and applied it to his daily routine, earning honors recognition at both LPC and Sacramento State.

Yet, he continued to hear a calling to serve. He answered that by returning to Las Positas to help veterans.

When he returned, Penero said he didn't have many friends. There was no Vet Center or other ways for veterans to connect. He said this is a feeling returning veterans often express. There is a fraternal sense of brotherhood and sisterhood in the service that is lost when they take off their uniforms for the last time.

Instead, he and other veterans return to a home that is both familiar but changed. Service members often think home will be the same as when they left, only to realize changes big and small happened while they served a world away. Not all changes are visible, physical or apparent, either.

A lot of those changes they experience in themselves are also relatively rapid. Newly-enlisted personnel are asked to mature from a high school senior to a trained warrior and ultimately a battle-weary veteran in a few

short years. When the United States is engaged in active conflicts, that process may be measured only in months.

Service members leaving the military for college may find themselves sitting beside students just a few years apart in age. However, the difference in life experiences, awareness and stressors of deployment may separate the two groups by decades of personal and emotional growth.

"This the second time a school certifying official was to help in that — be that aid in the transition of veterans coming out, not just helping them get benefits, but help them transition into civilian life, academic career," Penero said of his return to LPC

The military prepares soldiers for war. At the same time, Uncle Sam may not prepare them for the challenges they will face when returning home. Consider this: The military has a manual for almost any situation, from convoy operations to what to do if a chemical attack happens. There are even instructions on how to change printer ink. With all those joining and retiring, there is still no manual for life after the military and the interactions of daily life.

Many veterans struggle and give up, feeling as if they just don't fit in anymore to the world they left. Those who are more successful at making the transition do so with the help of fellow veterans. "According to a survey, 37% of part-time and 16% of full-time veteran students dropped out within nine months of enrollment in higher education. Researchers found that nearly 10% of post-9/11 veterans left school to pursue other activities and



JUSTIN GOMES/THE EXPRESS

TREVOR PENERO RECEIVING VETERANS QUILT

Journey back home to LPC

5% left due to academic problems” The college Veterans Resource Center is where veterans can find transitional support. It’s staffed by been-there, done-that people like Penero. Today, he is able to help ease veterans into college and private life, mirroring the help he needed when he was newly separated from the Army.

LPC Veterans Program Supervisor Evelyn Andrews, her staff, and professors such as Jim Ott, Jim Dobson, and Amy Moellering have made the VRC a welcome place for veterans and dependents to come relax, study, and get the help they may need navigating assignments and college expectations. Penero and the other Veterans First Program staff endeavor to ensure the VRC is a safe place for veterans to get away and connect with other veterans who understand the common language of the military.

“The Las Positas Veterans First program has brought me a sense of family and that sense of belonging again,” Jovan Pierre said. Pierre is another veteran-turned-student at his post in the VRC.

“I wish they had something like this when I came to Las Positas the first time,” Penero said.

For visitors to see Penero or the other VRC staff, the first greeting may come from Luke, Penero’s service dog. Luke is a minor celebrity in his own right at LPC. After the obligatory scratch behind the ear, Penero gets back to business of helping the next veteran stopping into the VRC.

The Veterans Resource Center is available in Building 1310 as a resource for veterans, open weekdays at 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2 p.m. Fridays and open until 7 p.m. Tuesdays.



Justin Gomes/The Express
Trevor Penero working to help better the lives and education of LPC Veterans



Justin Gomes/The Express
Penero speaks with Livermore mayor John Marchand at LP C Veterans quilt presentation



Justin Gomes/The Express
Trevor Penero and his service dog Luke fixtures of the Las Posita Veterans Center



JUSTIN GOMES/THE EXPRESS

Puente Club hosts Dia De Los Muertos event

Justin Gomes

@JLGPHTOG

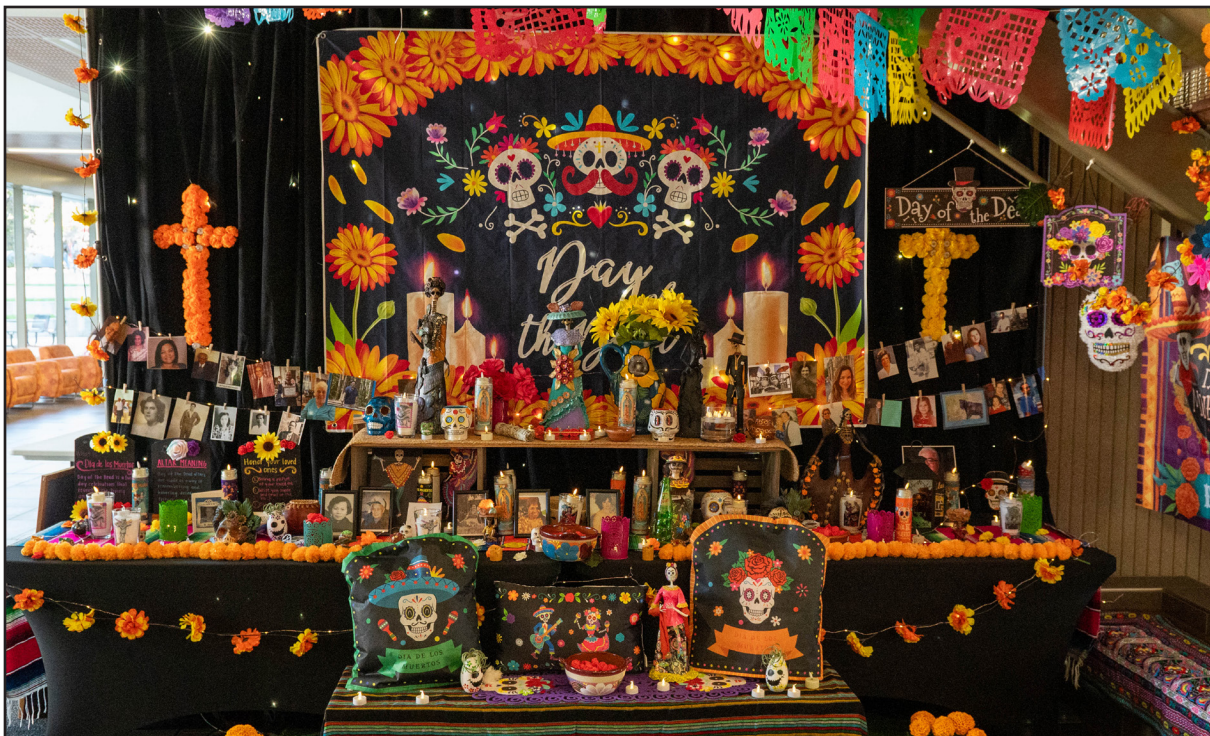
The Las Positas Puente Club hosted the Dia De Los Muertos event on Nov. 1 in the quad. Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead is a celebration observed on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 throughout Mexico and by many other Latin cultures throughout the world. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and to remember those who have died.

The Puente Club encourages higher education for Latinos and other persons of color on campus.

The club provides resources and support for students to reach their educational goals according to Puente Club Vice President Jelani Moreno.

The event featured traditional games and music. There were also booths for making masks and pinatas as well as a face painting booth. The event also featured Aztec dancers in full ceremonial costumes. The dancers blessed the ground and the heavens as a way of showing love to relatives and friends that have died.

"I love that everyone is here watching. It makes me really happy to share my culture," Moreno said.



'Five Nights At Freddy's': a clunky love letter to indie horror

Alan Key

@ALLENKT_JPG

"Five Nights at Freddy's," or FNAF finally hit cinemas on Oct. 27, 2023 after almost a decade in production hell. FNAF went through three directors, two studios and two scripts in this film adaptation of the insanely popular indie horror game.

For all their trouble, FNAF opened to mostly negative reviews from critics and a variety of lukewarm to outstanding reviews from fans of the franchise. Averaging a 5.5/10 on IMDb, a 30% on Rotten Tomatoes and a 2.6/5 on Letterboxd, FNAF really begs the question, is this worth your time?

Mike Schmidt, played by Josh Hutcherson is very much down on his luck. He can't hold a job and is stuck caring for his younger sister Abby Piper, played by Rubio who doesn't seem to like Mike much. Mike learns his lack of consistent employment could cost him the custody of his sister, so he decides to take a job as a night shift security guard at a run down "Chuck-E-Cheese" style pizzeria.

I have been a fan of the franchise since its inception yet find FNAF very much a mixed bag. While I somewhat enjoyed the film, it suffers from a lot of shortcomings.

The story is a bit lackluster, there are a few moments of really forced plot convenience and there were a lot of exposition dumps that didn't need to happen or could have been done in different ways.

Fans of the original series' lore might also be disappointed to find the film does not exactly follow the story from the



COURTESY OF GETTYIMAGES

(L-R) Foxy, Chica, Freddy, and Bonnie designed by the Jim Henson Company in "Five Nights At Freddy's."

games. The movie is heavily inspired by the game, but creative liberties have been taken for better or for worse.

Hutcherson gives a solid performance however, and the animatronic designs created and provided by the Jim Henson Company look absolutely stellar.

This film is an absolute must-see for those who grew up with the franchise, but as a movie could have definitely been better. The film major in me almost wants to tear this to pieces, nitpicking every minute detail of it from the script to the framing to

how it was edited.

There is so much wrong with this movie, its accuracy to the games in both tone and plot can be good at times and absolutely horrendous at other points. But I honestly can't hate it. As a culmination of almost a decade of an internet subculture, a product of all those hours I, and many others spent in-game, on the developer's website and on YouTube trying to find hints towards the story way back in 2014. It is an authentic, heartfelt letter of admiration towards you, the player. When I sat down in the

theater, the energy was absolutely palpable both from the audience and the film itself. Passion and care was oozing from every single frame from start to finish.

As the credits rolled and The Living Tombstone started playing, it was clear to me that this was an absolute work of art. I would dare to even call it cinema. Is it perfect? Absolutely not. Is this movie for everyone? Of course not. It's a movie by FNAF fans, for FNAF fans. It set out to deliver something for them, and it damn near perfected that.

Five perfect soul albums to warm up your fall

Daya Sanchez

@CZDAYAAA

"Love Deluxe" —Sade

Released on Oct. 26, 1992, Sade's fourth album transports listeners into a virtual introspective experience with its melancholy and luxurious sound. Often praised as a forever classic, Sade's "Love Deluxe" brings out all the fall feels. This mellow album even allowed more modern classics to be born with critically acclaimed rapper MF DOOM bringing us "Doomsday" by sampling track 5 "Kiss of Life." The rich soul and trip-hop filled album ranks at No. 247 on Rolling Stone's Top 500 Albums of All Time.

"Mama's Gun" — Erykah Badu

Selling over 200,000 copies its first week, after being released on Nov. 21, 1992, "Mama's Gun" remains one of the most influential neo-soul albums to this day. Inspired by the greats such as Jimi Hendrix and Pink Floyd and created alongside Soulquarian artists such as J Dilla and The Roots' drummer Questlove, this album's warm atmosphere shifts you away from the bright sounds of summer and makes it one of the best fall picks. Filled with poetic lyricism and funk-filled break-

downs this lush album ranks at No. 185 on Rolling Stone's Top 500 Albums of All Time.

"Greatest Hits" — Al Green

Released on May 29, 1975, the "Greatest Hits" compilation contains 10 tracks over a five-year period of Green's best material. Each track feels just as new with every listen and immerses you into its gritty, R&B, southern soul. Creating a cool and cozy atmosphere bringing out all the fall tones with its slow tempo throughout, this sweet and smooth album ranks at No. 456 on Rolling Stone's Top 500 Albums of All Time.

"Songs in The Key of Life" - Stevie Wonder

Undeniably one of the greatest albums of all time, "Songs In The Key Of Life" has it all. The influences of jazz, soul, hip-hop and even modern-pop are all heavily scattered throughout this eclectic album. Wonder's 18th studio album later influenced and laid the foundation for many artists such as Michael Jackson, Prince and even Coolio. This album brings the perfect blend of bittersweet tranquility and bright sounds together for a great addition to your fall mix. The

ambitious and innovative album ranks at No. 4 on Rolling Stone's Top 500 Albums of All Time.

"Blonde" - Frank Ocean

Released on Aug. 20, 2016, this epitome of a masterpiece and indie R&B pop-soul filled album creates an intense emotional environment for any and all listeners. The album follows themes of heartbreak, sexuality, identity and overall everyday life struggles while bringing a sense of vulnerability to the table. Soft synths and warm tones tie this album together, making it a fall go-to. Ranking at No. 79 on Rolling Stone's Top 500 Albums of All Time, a scenic drive to this album during the fall might even be better for one's mental health than therapy.



Top five soul albums to warm up your fall

Gig work leads to real problems

Paul George

@PAUL.GEORGEPIO

This time we didn't rent a car. The plan was to take the shuttle, reduce our carbon footprint and save a few bucks on vacation.

But it also means no Target run for forgotten items. Instacart to the rescue. I've never used Instacart before. You put items into the cart, select delivery, pay a \$9.99 fee, and it's still cheaper than renting a car.

I Google searched how you tip an Instacart driver. Ours was diligently texting with my bride for substitutions and delivery arrival updates.

I headed down to meet Anne with my questions about this whole gig delivery thing and got a few hurried answers. She's a Bay Area native who moved to Hawaii after college. She's a school teacher and on fall break, which is a thing here, and relies on gig work to help pay the bills. With a wave and a thanks, she disappeared into the night.

I look down at the newly delivered treasures, and Taylor Swift's voice fades in with, "It's me, hi, I'm the problem, it's me."

People used to have careers, then just jobs, and we've come down to gigs. Heck, 59% of Californians voted in 2020 to empower the gig economy by empowering independent contractors.

Or, so went the most expensive proposition battle in California to date. A coalition including Lyft, Uber, DoorDash, Instacart and Postmates spent more than \$205 million in the fight for their corporate life. Had the proposition failed, people like Anne would be entitled to compensation for their gas and expenses, unemployment protection and all the other basic things someone expects from an employer. Proposition 22's success meant the gig drivers, delivery workers and the like are empowered to settle for the hourly wage and hope tips cover the costs to make their efforts worthwhile.

I'm hardly anti-business. I own a small business, strive to take care of my two guys, pay the bills and have a little left for a vacay that ideally lacks a rental car. That's the American way, or at least it once was the ideal.

The trend is our willingness to trade convenience for someone else's inconvenience. By extension, the gig workers accept the inconvenience for the chance to cover their bills and maybe get a little ahead. The



ease of pressing a button on the Uber app means a licensed, insured and background-checked taxi driver isn't getting the fare.

If you're an Uber shareholder, you do a little dance each time the button is pressed. A 2021 Gallup poll suggests 61% of Americans own some form of an interest in the stock market: stocks, bonds, EFTs or have a pension or 401(K) that depends on the stock market. We collectively want and need corporate America to be profitable, but profits need to consider the true costs of success.

I wonder if your Uber stock would have truly been hurt if their drivers had to be treated and compensated as employees. I don't think so. A good service remains in demand. The difference would have been the odds of having a driver with the flu may be much lower if drivers had the option of paid sick time off. The bills don't stop just because you have a fever, but a mutually beneficial employee-employer relationship would provide better care.

I have yet to take ECON 10, but I get some of the basics. Depressing wages and denying benefits is profitable to the company, but not to the economy. A worker with spending money will actually SPEND money. That spending happens at the market down the street, which employs your neighbors, who in turn have money to spend at restaurants, buy clothes and fuel a Target run.

I doubt Anne is an Instacart shareholder. I'm certain there's no paid sick time for her. I'm also certain if Target opted to hire in-store shoppers and delivery drivers, the cost would not be dramatically worse than today. I'm also confident doing so, on a larger scale across our country, would help address some of the financial inequities we continue to face.

So yes, Taylor, I suppose I was the problem last night. Much as Scrooge waking on Christmas morning having been visited by the three ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, I find there's a lesson to take away from the bigger picture of our enabling of big business to take advantage of folks who just want to pay the bills without due regard for those upon whom their business is so inherently dependent.

EDITORIAL

LPC needs more transparency

They say silence is golden. There are also times that silence can be toxic. Last Wednesday, Nov. 15, the quiet of just-another-day at Las Positas was pierced by sirens in the 9 a.m. hour. Livermore Police and campus security cordoned off areas around Building 1800, with Livermore-Pleasanton Fire also responding to the campus. Before noon, an anonymous white van from the Alameda County Coroner's Office was on campus.

Just after 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 15, LPC President Dyrell Foster emailed students and staff addressing the incident in general terms. The vague email was understandable, given events were still unfolding and there were numerous details that remain unknown. Foster confirmed an incident did occur, indicating that there was no threat to campus or its students and that classes were ongoing and not affected. The email concluded with counseling resources available to students.

The Express reached out to Livermore Police yesterday morning for a statement, a press release or for other details. While the Livermore Police Department did not respond, they did forward the inquiry to an administrator at LPC, who reiterated Foster's statement. Wednesday's statement and the response from Nov. 16 both indicated "more details will be provided as they become publicly available."

There is a delicate balance to be struck between the privacy afforded to the family of the person who died on Wednesday and the campus community's interest in the details. The family interest is obvious. The campus community ranges from returning veterans to first-time college students. The former have seen a thing or two and have a more resilient coping mechanism, while the latter have parents who are concerned and concern themselves with reading rumors and speculation on Facebook.

Striking that balance is a topic our class spent hours discussing during a public information officer training course I attended a few years ago. Focusing on events this week, it feels timely that the LPC administration consider a follow-up statement.

As a college community, The Express recognizes LPC has been in the press lately with the recent strife following the conflicts in Gaza. Keeping a low profile in the press following those events may be reasonable in the playbook of media relations.

Wednesday was different. Someone in our community is no longer in our community. We don't know if that may be faculty, staff, student or visitor. The atmosphere on campus has felt melancholy and the parking lots emptier than the same time last week. But we can glean that the relationship is known to the administration in their reiteration of counseling services.

In the silence of these events, the rumors and concerns fill the void. Parents want to know that their child is safe from the unspoken cause of this week's tragedy. As a community, we want to understand, to empathize and to grieve the loss – regardless of whose life was lost on Wednesday. For that, we need to better understand what facts can respectfully fill the silence.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

What are you most grateful for this semester at Las Positas?



“I'd say I'm thankful for my professor Mike Ansell. He's helpful during office hours and brings his teaching content to real life.”

– Ryder Rios,
Biology



“I'm thankful for joining the Puente program, because it's like a family and you get close with everybody.”

– Kerlyn Diaz,
Biology Allied Health



“I'm thankful for the new people I've met. I've gotten new insights on what I want to do in life, and they inspire me to be a better version of myself.”

– Kayla Pascua,
Cognitive Science



“I'm thankful for all of the festivities at LPC, because they build community and promote diversity.”

– Abigail Chiu,
Chemistry



“I'm thankful for some of the people I've met this year, since it's sort of a small little support group.”

– Seerat Kaur,
Computer Science