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Letters to the Editor

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LPC has issues with recycling and composting

Campus leaders are proposing sustainable solutions with help of non-profit group

By Lizzy Rager

@RAGERWRITER

Las Positas College recycles and composts. But it's not perfect.

The college's trash hauler is Texas-based Waste Management, the leading waste company in America. Like most vendors, it doesn't sort the recycling and trash. It delivers LPC's waste to Republic Services, a landfill in Livermore. Republic Services, the second-largest waste company in the nation, does not have a trash sorter at its Vasco Road location, either.

Livermore Sanitation picks up recycling collected from designated recycling bins around campus. The sorting is up to whoever initially throws away their trash.

The school's custodial staff doesn't sort the recycling, due to bandwidth issues. So the school's recyclable products in trash are never recycled. In addition, LPC does not provide compost bins across campus or compost kitchen waste.

There are legal implications for not having recycling or composting programs at an institution like Las Positas, but enforcement of these laws is up to the strictness of the corresponding jurisdictions. According to Assembly Bill 341, passed in 2012, commercial businesses and public entities producing four yards of solid waste or more per week must arrange recycling services.

Senate Bill 1383, passed in 2022, requires educational institutes to recycle organic materials. The 3300 building composts green waste, according to horticulture professor Thomas Fuller. Green waste is any organic waste that can be recycled like grass clippings, leaves or kitchen waste. Walter Blevins, the director of maintenance and operations (M&O), says groundskeeping makes piles of grass clippings and reuses the material.

Blevins, who has worked at LPC since 2015, said the college is not out of compliance with these laws because of the campus recycling bins and composting piles.

Although Las Positas used to sort its own recycling, the college has not arranged for a new sorting program since it was retired in 2014. As there is no formalized recycling coordinator at this moment, no one is at the head of managing a recycling program.

"I don't think they (LPC) care that much for the recycling on campus," Julianna Rasak, a member of the Students for Environmental Action Club said. "You look around the cafeteria,

you could just tell there's not much initiative to make it easier for sorting to be done."

However, some students and faculty have been working to improve LPC's waste practices.

In spring 2022, Post-Landfill Action Network (PLAN) — a non-profit that helps colleges tackle unsustainable infrastructure — partnered with Las Positas and Chabot colleges to research how they'd achieve zero waste. The first stage of this project, funded by PLAN's Movement Building Fund, was to assess the campus waste streams.

Morgan Garner, PLAN fellow and former LPC climate intern, noticed discrepancies in the school's waste streams while interviewing department heads.

"We would start with asking them their view of how Las Positas did with trash, recycling," Garner said. "And then we asked specifically how the recycling or trash works in their different departments. Like, do they recycle? How do they recycle? Do they recycle certain goods?"

PLAN's assessment gave Las Positas an overall system score of 42.06% (out of 100%) for the management of surplus property and hard-to-recycle materials, and an overall score of 38.35% for the management of food and single-use materials.

The scoring was based on how well participants answered survey questions. If a program only recycled some items, they would earn some but not all of the possible points.

"What we found out," Garner said, "was that we don't actually recycle at Las Positas because we don't have anyone to sort through our recycling, so it gets contaminated from people not knowing how to sort it correctly."

Daniel Cearley, anthropology and drone studies professor, says bin standardization could be key to improve recycling and prevent contamination. Using multi-spectral drones and smartphones, Cearley and drone interns Garner and Garion Nicdao created a geographic information system map of trash receptacles across campus.

They found the campus has a total of 141 cans, with 12 different types ranging from cement receptacles to cigarette and aluminum receptacles. Of the receptacles, a third have trash, recyclables and paper, and 40% are trash only — which is too high of percentage, per Cearley.

He also noted that signage on the three-slot bins was faded, making it unclear where to sort trash. Kaitlin Dickinson, LPC's

climate coordinator and supervisor of PLAN's project, said recycling can vary by type of plastic and city rules, making it difficult for the campus to know what exactly to recycle.

Collected from bins across campus, the school's recycling is emptied into two three-yard mixed recycling bins at the top of campus. They are then cleared out weekly by a Livermore Sanitation hauler. The school also bales cardboard waste with a compactor and sells it to an outside vendor every six to eight months, but gets a very small reimbursement, said head of custodial Art Valencia.

But to get the necessary sorting would cost the college more money. The school doesn't do it now because M&O doesn't have the bandwidth for the task. According to Valencia, M&O has one custodian per 3,200 or 3,500 square-foot building and that has to mop, sanitize, refill supplies and empty trash receptacles. Adding sorting to their duties would be untenable.

"I wish that I could have a plan and say to do this," Valencia said.

Las Positas did sort its own recycling before 2014. Fuller was the former head of groundskeeping and a formalized recycling coordinator. LPC also dumped its own trash instead of servicing Waste Management and Livermore Sanitation.

The program Fuller established was kept up for a couple of years after his retirement 20 years ago, but eventually stopped as employees he trained left the college. No recycling coordinator has been appointed since. Fuller said whoever adopted the task would have to go above and beyond their normal duties since the school hasn't hired someone to focus on that aspect.

Fuller, now a horticulture professor for LPC, said contracting with these companies made the campus lose sight of important details.

"We were gathering information about recycling and reporting it to the state," Fuller said. "How many pounds of material was being recycled, plastics, glass, compost, landscape trimming and stuff like that."

This involved weighing all the materials that were recycled so the college could take advantage of a recycling rebate. One year, the college was reimbursed \$230,000. However, Fuller said, none of that money went back to the program. It went toward balancing the school's budget.

"We wanted to use \$11,000 to buy some better holding bins

for recycled material," Fuller said. "And the district manager said, 'Nah, can't do that.'"

"It becomes a lower priority if you do all the work and you don't get any of the rewards back," Fuller said.

Blevins said at the time, the college had a much larger staff and now the recycling rebate is no longer offered. As state incentives have diminished over the years, college climate solutions have geared toward help from non-profits.

In the second part of PLAN's project, conducted in fall 2022, PLAN fellow and LPC climate intern Avery Payne researched zero waste solutions based on the spring assessment.

One of its proposed solutions is standardizing bins and signage. This would cover bin color and shape for compost, recycling and landfill and possibly a liquid and non-perishable food collection. Payne said the current set up isn't standardized, instead different building to building. Blevins said moving the bins around campus would not be an issue for M&O.

The project also noted the LPC Earth Tub, a machine that breaks down organic material to make compost, has not been used since 2020. Valencia said M&O is in the process of relocating the machine closer to campus, as it's currently located where the viticulture building is under construction, and repairing it for use. It's currently inoperable.

A more difficult aspect to tackle will be getting a process for dealing with the cafeteria's compost food scraps. Valencia said proper training will be necessary plus student involvement. First, someone is needed to oversee the recycling, he said.

In March, Cearley and Dickinson applied for a three-year \$150,000 grant through Altamount Waste Management Company. The grant would help create a process for educating the campus about waste streams. They are waiting to be approved.

M&O is funded through the Chabot-Las Positas Community College district, not the college itself. Vice President of Administrative Services Annete Raichbart said applying for grants is a great way for M&O to afford sustainable solutions. Raichbart also said students could start their own sorting program, but it would be volunteer-based.

"Some of the stuff is a real big deal and has labor implications and cost implications," Blevins said. "But some of the things that we can do, we're moving forward."

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Fake students are taking course spots

Financial aid fraud rings are more affluent than ever at Las Positas

By Lizzy Rager

@RAGERLIZZY

Half of the students in your class may not be real.

A spot you may have needed for your major. A spot for a class with a professor you love. A spot that could've saved you a half-hour drive from home to Las Positas.

Unfortunately, financial aid fraud rings are the cause to this capacity issue. Fraud is a recurring issue for Las Positas every year and is especially problematic this semester.

According to Andi Schreiberman, a financial aid officer at Las Positas since 1987, from 2021 to 2022, 666 students were flagged as fraudulent, and through this academic year, 221. Two weeks into spring, there are a suspected 100 to 200 fraudulent students taking up spots in classes – the largest group Las Positas has ever caught wind of.

“As you start peeling back, suddenly, it leads you somewhere else...What started out to be about 20 fraudulent students in the class turned out to be well over 100,”

-ANDI SCHREIBMAN

Not only does this affect students, but taxpayers. Taxpayer money is being awarded to illegitimate receivers. Using the average cost per semester at LPC from 2021-22, this semester up to \$110,400 in federal financial aid could have been awarded to fake students who enrolled at Las Positas.

Colleges have to return any federal financial aid paid out fraudulently, even if they can't track down the student and recoup the funds. Schreiberman says Las Positas has not awarded any financial aid to fraudulent studies, to the best of their knowledge. This does not mean they haven't, though.

In January, Mary Lauffer, a business professor, noticed an unusual number of students enrolled in her classes, Business Communications and Work Experience.

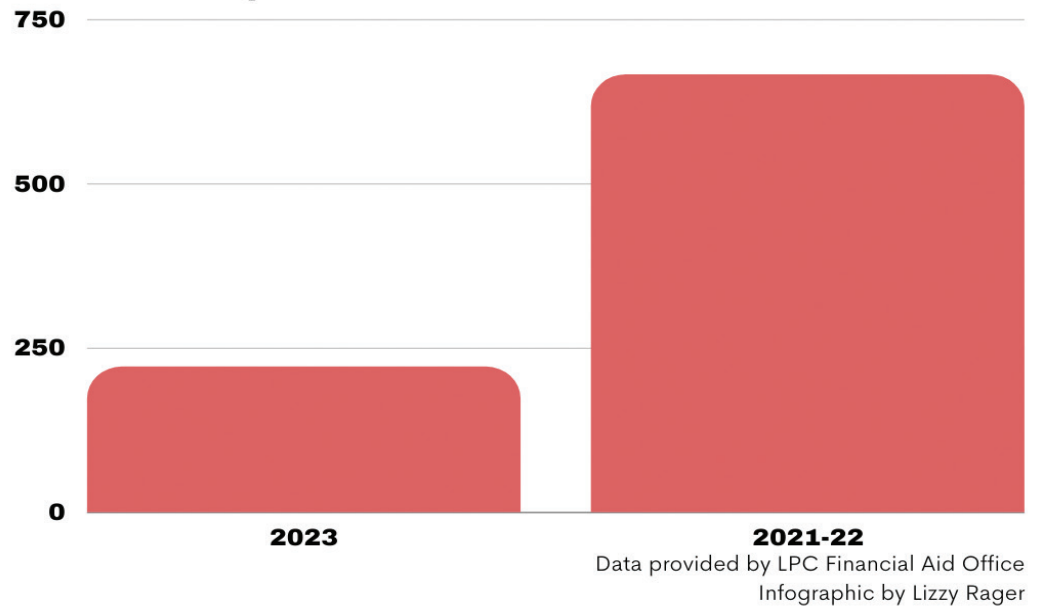
“These courses typically have high enrollment, but enrollment generally increases more gradually. This one-day giant jump, which filled one of my Work Experience sections, was the first tip-off to possible fraud,” Lauffer said.

Lauffer informed Schreiberman of the activity, who then notified LPC faculty and began an investigation. Schreiberman says the process is like unpeeling an onion.

“As you start peeling back, suddenly, it leads you somewhere else. And then that leads you somewhere else. And suddenly, what started out to be about 20 fraudulent students in the class turned out to be well over 100,” Schreiberman said.

Faculty are key in reporting anomalies to the Financial Aid office since the officers are not able to spot them until FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid,

Number of flagged fraudulent students by academic year



forms are received. Common patterns of fraud include similar email patterns, sudden jumps in enrollment, untypical class sizes than semesters past and email names that do not match the student names.

When a student is suspected of fraud at Las Positas, Admissions & Records sends an email asking for the student's government-issued ID and a second supporting document, like a utility bill with a name and address, within a 24-hour window. If they are identified as fraudulent, they are dropped from classes, their account is put on hold so they cannot enroll and they do not receive aid from Las Positas.

“Neither Las Positas or any other college has the means to identify the individuals who use fake emails. Currently, only the Office of Inspector General can attempt to do that by investigating IP addresses and using other means,” said Jeff Lawes, an Admissions & Records officer.

Even if Las Positas catches a fraudulent student, however, they can still apply to multiple community colleges. Lawes says there is currently “no central repository of fraudulent IDs from all the colleges.”

Typically, these students come in groups, called fraud rings, and follow orders from a ring leader. The rings apply to community colleges since there is a low barrier to entry, and the tuition is comparatively cheap to four-years. If the fraudulent student was awarded a Pell Grant, for example, they could receive an amount that exceeded the cost of tuition to make a profit.

These individuals do not use their real identities, but rather, stolen ones. However, prisoners sometimes give out personal information for use. As long as a real name, Social Security Number and birthdate are present, FAFSA will process the application.

According to the Las Positas 2022-23 Financial Aid Policies, students discovered as fraudulent “will be reported to the U.S. Office of Inspector General for a federal investigation,” “will be required to repay all funds received” and “may be prosecuted for a felony, fined up to \$20,000 and put in prison.”

Las Positas has seen its fair share of fraud rings. In 2012, the Las Positas Financial Aid office and the Office of Inspector General, a state-wide agency, conducted a thorough investigation and busted a fraud ring run out of Stockton. The ring leaders were arrested and had to pay a large fine.

“This has been going on for a long time. These rings are very prevalent in California, and they have been for over the last 15 years or so. But it's getting worse all the time as they get more sophisticated,” Schreiberman said.

In 2021, 20% of traffic on the CCC Apply website was bot-related, according to the Chancellor's office. Lawes says Las Positas has no way to track how much activity is bot-related on the website, but the Financial Aid office has systems in place to filter out fraudulent students.

These systems, however, are costly, and community colleges are better able to combat fraud depending on their program funding. One student caught at Las Positas could go to another and slip through the cracks.

“We are hopeful that the Chancellor's Office will be paying for this at the state level rather than requiring the colleges themselves,” Schreiberman said.

While faculty are advised by the Financial Aid office to drop students if they do not show up for the first day of class, this does not always occur. Fraudulent students are the reason some classes are able to reach a class enrollment quota. In addition, some students log in to Canvas to seem like they are legitimate.

Schreiberman says this issue needs to be tackled at the CCC Apply, or California Community College Apply website, level.

“The state really needs to put a better-coordinated effort together, where we share these identities, and they put a hold on it at the state level,” Schreiberman said.

Most importantly, this issue impacts Las Positas students.

“They have the audacity to take up seats and keep real students from being able to get into them. And that's what people should know about,” Schreiberman said.

CLPCCD trustee Luis Reynoso goes pub

At a February board meeting, Reynoso was censured by the di



GEORGIA WHITING/THE EXPRESS

CLPCCD trustee Luis Reynoso defends himself before the vote for his censure at the Feb. 21 district meeting in Dublin. His presentation lasted 40 minutes

By Lizzy Rager

@RAGERWRITER

A month ago, author Stanley K. Ridgley posted a New York Post article on LinkedIn. He quoted a passage from the article about a North Korean defector who compared “woke U.S. ideology, education” to the tactics of the North Korean regime. Yeonmi Park defected from her homeland as a teen and wound up a victim of human trafficking in China before eventually becoming a citizen in the U.S. Now she is speaking out against “woke culture.”

It would make sense for Ridgley to post this. He is the author of “Brutal Minds: The Dark World of Left-Wing Brainwashing In Our Universities.”

One of the people who liked his post? Luis Reynoso. Ten days before he would be censured by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District board, he was declaring his support for the anti-left agenda.

His social media activity began the trustee drama that’s been going on for months. His social media activity also makes it clear he wouldn’t go away quietly.

After being censured by the district’s board on Feb. 21, the saga continues for Reynoso. The public reprimand for his social media posts from six months ago — which offended students and members of the board and college community for what was criticized as anti-transgender messaging — seems to have prompted Reynoso to double down on his position.

As a result, the price he’s paying keeps increasing.

Reynoso revealed in a Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) article he lost his full-time teaching position at a local Hayward high school after his most definitive statement yet that he wouldn’t support anti-LGBTQ+ students. Initially, after the social media posts and in the run-up to the censure, Reynoso opted not to declare his support for students from that community. He would only say he wasn’t targeting a specific community. But in an interview following the censure, Reynoso declared his religious beliefs prohibited him from supporting members of the LGBTQ+ community.

“They demanded I apologize to show support for LGBTQ. I refused,” Reynoso said in a CBN article published on March 2. “I am a Christian, and it is against the word of God to support that type of lifestyle.”

Regarding his original “Apples and Bananas” post on LinkedIn from late September, Reynoso said to CBN News: “I wanted my followers to be aware that the world has gone upside down, and the liberal media tell us that what we see is not what it is.” He commented on another anti-trans post and an anti-abortion post after receiving backlash.

Now, there is no question that the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District has a trustee in Reynoso, elected by the Hayward jurisdiction of the district, who has vowed not to be supportive of a particular demographic of students.

“The assumption all along,” said Sarah Thompson, president of LPC’s Academic Senate, “that he was

just sort of politically, politely discriminating, pretending like he wasn’t discriminating. And now it’s just much more plain-spoken, his position.”

What the board deemed as Reynoso’s failure to uphold its stated priority towards “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility” seems likely to continue. Reynoso believes his free speech is being violated. He and his supporters believe he is being attacked by a liberal agenda aimed at his religious beliefs.

Meanwhile, his fellow board members, all six of whom voted to censure him, see his behavior as a violation of a trustee’s commitment to be supportive of all students.

How does this saga end?

“Everyone can always be reelected, right?” Kyle Johnson, who formerly served as student government president at Las Positas, said in a phone interview with The Express. “That’s the whole point of Democracy, it gives people the opportunity for the people to elect whoever they want.”

“That’s really going to be up to the people of Hayward, and we need to make it known exactly who he is and what he stands for. And if they’re comfortable electing someone who is going to attack the building identities of students, then that’s who they choose to elect. And we’ll have to look into that when it comes.”

The Reynoso drama reached what felt like a crescendo last month when — after four months of meetings, advocacy efforts and investigations — he was censured by the board. It was a scene out of a cable news drama, one reminiscent of the national political landscape and not a small local school matter in suburban Dublin.

Tom Wong, a Hayward politician who in December lost his bid for the Hayward Unified School District board, had two cameramen posted inside the board room. Wong was there in support of Reynoso.

Before the meeting, a Reynoso supporter passed out disparaging flyers. One featured board president Tim Sbranti with an Asian woman. The other featured Congressman Eric Swalwell with the same Asian woman. The salmon-colored flyer with Sbranti read, in black letters at the bottom, If you see a Communist spy, you are an American Patriot. Both flyers were disparaging of Asian women, according to Stella Del Rosario, an instructional assistant for the LPC English department.

Wong, an avid defender of Reynoso who spoke with him on News Max, came with a videographer, photographer, public relations manager and others. Also, his email was included on a pro-Reynoso flyer posted on social media before the meeting. That flyer also included photos of Sbranti and Swalwell with the Asian woman, labeled on the flyer as “Chinese spy Fang Fang.” Wong denied that he worked with Reynoso.

“We have reasons to believe that the president, Sbranti, is somehow compromised and that the Chinese government might have influenced him,” Wong said in an interview with The Express. He added that he believes the government wants “to push their agenda in school curriculum and their way of thinking in socialism and capitalism” since it is “highly suspicious and out of character for this to happen.”

Nearly all 50 seats in the boardroom were filled when the meeting began. A white male, about 5-foot-9 with gray hair surrounding his balding head, stood up from his chair near the front of the room. He wore a dark blue blazer, broad and loose on his shoulders, and a bright red vest over a light blue collared shirt — a stark contradiction to his slouchy light blue jeans.

Public with beliefs on LGBTQ+ community

District board in a 6-1 vote for failing to uphold DEIA principles

He dressed like he wanted to be seen. He shouted like he wanted to be heard.

“You guys ganged up on a Mexican!” he bellowed loud enough to drown all other chatter. “You are all racist.”

The Mexican he was referring to was Reynoso, of course. The “gang” he was calling “racist” was the board of trustees. They voted 6-1 in favor of censure for not exemplifying the district’s ideals. Reynoso didn’t abstain and was the only vote against it.

Reynoso’s censure does not mean he is fired from his position as trustee, to which he is elected. But it strains his relationship with other board members and presumably some members of his constituency.

“What struck me about a lot of his supporters is that they didn’t seem to understand why they were there,” Thompson said. “Some of them seem to be under the impression that he was being fired, or that he was being kicked off the board...and that the entire censure against Reynoso was because of a meme, not because of ongoing disrespectful behavior. So they seem to be a very ill-informed group of people.”

During the proceedings, he was given a chance to clarify his support for LGBTQ+ communities. But he did not. An ad-hoc investigative committee, headed by trustees Hal Gin and Linda Granger, formed at a November meeting, presented their findings that Reynoso failed to defend his posting, accept any responsibility for his conduct, acknowledge support for the LGBTQ+ community and disparaged openly gay trustee Harris Mojadedi for crying at a November meeting.

Also, the committee said, Reynoso failed to uphold his promise to district chancellor Ron Gerhard that he would contact the students who commented on his posts.

“Today, we prove that love always wins,” student Hayden Sidun said during the public comment portion of the meeting. “We prove that acceptance always wins. We prove that inclusion always wins. But most importantly, we prove that hate never wins. We prove that bigotry never wins.”

The censure seemed to be the end of the matter. Those who disagreed with Reynoso’s actions were happy with the board’s actions.

“I am so proud of the district for really stepping up here and maintaining a positive learning environment,” Johnson said. “While all this is continuing, they’ve made sure that despite one of the trustees being so openly transphobic and homophobic, they’re ensuring a safe environment.”

But the reprimand seems to have toughened

Reynoso’s resolve. He has no shortage of supporters backing him.

Reynoso has a track record of responding to controversy by digging in his heels. According to the East Bay Citizen, in 2021, he was removed from his position as Hayward Unified School Board, or HUSD, trustee for attempting to serve on the CLPCCD board of trustees at the same time. Before his removal, he held up a sign reading “they will not let me speak” during a Dec. 17 Hayward Unified School Board meeting. He wasn’t invited to the closed session section of that meeting because they were deliberating his conflict of interest. After his removal, he implored Latinos to protest the action.

He called for protest on the eve of his February censure meeting.

Reynoso, elected in 2020, will be up for election again in November of 2024, should he choose to try

to retain his board seat.

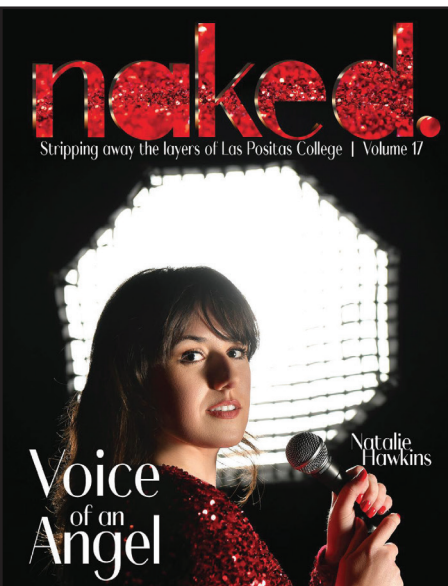
“Elections,” Thompson said, “particularly at this level, are kind of tricky because most voters pay attention to big-issue things or big offices like mayor. Oftentimes, the smaller offices, like trustee for the community college district, folks, either, kind of get lazy and just vote for the incumbent, or they will belong to organizations that are advising them to vote one way or the other. And so the best thing that we can hope for is most of the big organizations — you know, the union, that sort of thing — advocate for his opponent. That might make a difference. So I think the campaign would have to be pretty extensive to really get the attention of Hayward voters right in the smaller elections, like the Board of Trustees.”

No, this isn’t over yet.



GEORGIA WHITING/THE EXPRESS

On Tuesday, Feb. 21, audience members observe public comment at a CLPCCD meeting. The public comment section lasted for over an hour and was highly predicated on the subject of Reynoso’s censure.



Naked 17 highlights a rising star with its new edition

By Peter Zimmer

@PETERJZIMMER

The 17th edition of Naked magazine is now available at several kiosks on campus.

Founded by journalism students in 2007, Naked strips away the layers and tells the stories important to the college community with provocative writing and compelling photography and illusions.

This magazine features a standout performer Natalie Hawkins in an in-depth profile by Sophia Sipe and Jude Strzemp.

The magazine also featured in Naked includes features about animation by Gwen St Clair, the conflict in streaming by Lauren Cavalieri and the newly formed Cheer Squad by Brandon Byrne and among others. Staff Member Peter Zimmer wrote two articles: a tribute to Eric Jones, son of Professor Ernie Jones and a feature focusing on how LPC Nurtures burgeoning writers.

“I’m so proud of the Naked Magazine team for the work we’ve put into this Magazine. I hope readers enjoyed this edition as much as we have,” said Editor in Chief Jude Strzemp.

How apples and bananas became



By Lizzy Rager
@RAGERWRITER

The image was of a sullen pale and bony person with bright purple hair, clothed in only a rainbow sash. Dark hair speckled their legs and chin, juxtaposed with bright red velour heels and lipstick. On top of their head is a bald spot to connect some sort of 1984-like contraption. An incubator is hooked into their hip, and phone-like devices are etched into their skin. To top it all off, the trans woman is cooking maggots in a stew. To this, Luis Reynoso, a voting trustee of Chabot and Las Positas colleges, had this to say:

"The decay of masculinity, are you surprised?"

Reynoso, a trustee since 2020, upset many with his recent activity on LinkedIn, an app used for professional networking. The derogatory illustration depicted above is only one of many harmful activities Reynoso made publicly available on his LinkedIn, posting anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-abortion rhetoric.

"This is a Banana. If you see an Apple, you're a Right Wing Extremist."
-Luis Reynoso

"This picture is commonly used as an Anti-Transgender joke. I am hoping you are not postin this type of content in a harmful anti-LGBTQ+ way."
-Kyle Johnson

"It's only harmful to common sense if you think the apple is a banana."
-Luis Reynoso

Public awareness of his activity was initiated by one particular post. About apples and bananas.

In late September, Reynoso posted a picture of an apple with text reading: "This is a Banana. If you see an Apple, you're a Right Wing Extremist." Little did Reynoso know, this post would be the initial spark to a reputation bomb.

Former LPC Student Government 2021-2022, Kyle Johnson, was updating his LinkedIn profile when he noticed Reynoso's post. Johnson, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, replied to the post:

Hi. I would like to note that this picture is commonly used as an Anti-Transgender joke. I am hoping that as a trustee for the Chabot Las Positas Community college school district, that you are not posting this type of content in a harmful anti-LGBTQ+ way.

Reynoso replied: It's only harmful to common sense if you think the apple is a banana.

That's when everything exploded.

Apart from his role as a trustee for the Chabot Las Positas Community College District, or CLPCCD, Reynoso is a visiting business professor at Notre Dame University and Devry University. He also formerly served on the Hayward Unified School District, or HUSD, board from 2002-2022. When he was elected CLPCCD trustee, Reynoso tried to serve on both CLPCCD and HUSD boards, refusing to step off either, until HUSD voted him off due to the conflict of interest.

Hayden Sidun, a second-year LPC student, replied to Reynoso's post: Harmful and insulting to the student bodies you were elected to lead.

Las Positas College attempts to create LGBTQ+-inclusive spaces. LPC has a Queer Straight Alliance Club, canvas options for preferred pronouns, an LGBTQ+ resource website and Smart Shops with the goal of raising awareness. Last Thursday, Las Positas raised a pride flag atop of the campus hill.

LPC President Dr. Dyrell Foster spoke at the flag raising. "Our college is outstanding because we provide an inclusive, welcoming, learning-centered equity-focused environment for our students...The flag is a symbol of our inclusivity, and it's a statement to our community that says 'you are welcomed here, you belong here, you can be your authentic self and your true self,'" Foster said.

According to Johnson, Reynoso did not appropriately respond to him and other commenters.

In the thread, Reynoso called out Sidun for instigating hate, ignoring common sense and promoting victimhood. He said to Sidun and repeated in his replies to other commenters: Politics is about unit-

ing not dividing.

Johnson brought the comment thread and post to the attention of Las Positas Chancellor Ronald Gerhard, who then talked to the trustee. It wasn't until then Reynoso acknowledged the intention of the post.

Reynoso clarified six comments into the thread: My posting above never mentioned any groups but rather

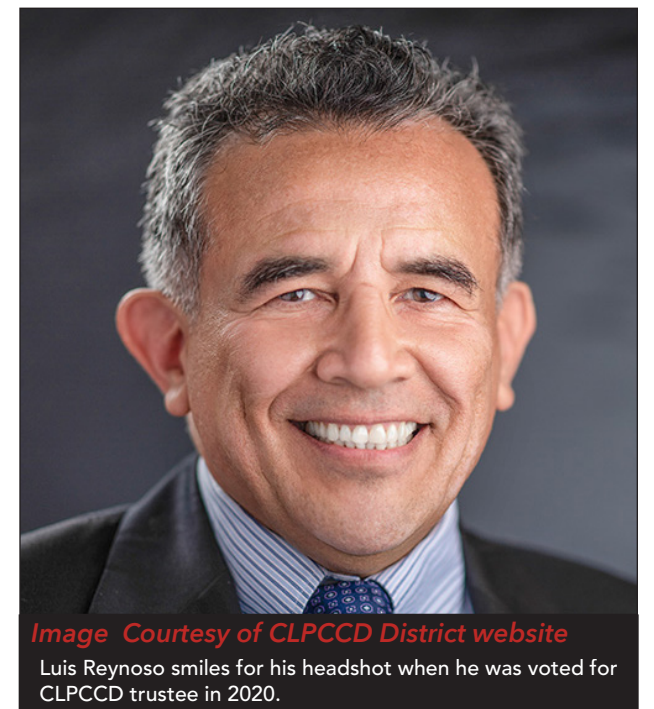
a simple picture about an apple and how it gets redefined by others

Johnson was not satisfied with this answer. He replied: if what you say is true, offer your support for the LGBTQ+ community. Validate trans identities.

The comment, up to the date of this article, has not been replied to by Reynoso, but he has liked replies defending his position.

On October 6, collaborating with Johnson, Chancellor Gerhard sent out a statement on "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility and Belonging" on the behalf of the CLPCCD. He stated the district strives "to create learning and work environments that reflect the communities we serve."

Gerhard disclosed that Reynoso would offer to have a conversation with the students in the thread to explain his intentions. According to Johnson, neither he nor the other students in the thread were contacted. Johnson also personally messaged Reynoso on LinkedIn.



"Our trustees are really 100% supportive of our LGBTQ+ community," Gerhard said.

When asked about Reynoso being in support of the community, he said, "I think I could...He expressed that the picture, in the intent of which he posted it, was different than how people perceived it"

Upon showing Gerhard the photo described at the beginning of the article, he said "he was not aware"

In a post from two weeks ago with big bold yellow letters reading "California now allows you to kill born-alive babies after failed abortions," Reynoso commented: Judgement day comes to all and God will not care too much about the semantics of "reproductive rights" or "it's my body my choice."

Two months ago, in a post depicting a group of Native Americans captioned "WHAT A BEAUTIFUL OLD PICTURE. THE BEAUTIFUL NATIVE AMERICANS. THESE SO CALLED SAVAGES SAW THE FUTURE AND WHAT WAS COMING." Reynoso replied: At a

e a slippery slope to homophobia

TQ+ community



Sophia Sipe/The Express

time when women were women and men were men.

Three months ago, in a post about a trans female athlete being nominated for NCAA “Women of the Year Award,” captioned, “All ‘real’ women need to just drop out of NCAA sports until this is remedied and all men in NCAA sports should support it by doing the same thing,” Reynoso replied: So, this is the future of women sports?

A post from a year ago, with a picture of George Orwell saying “Boy did I call it or what?” is captioned by Reynoso: I wonder what he would say today about our elections, indoctrination of wokeness, gender fluidity and suppression of free speech.

“(He’s) insinuating that respecting a student’s gender-neutral pronouns means that his religion is under attack, and further insinuating that we don’t have to respect the pronouns of our students,” -Kyle Johnson

Johnson calls Reynoso’s posts, “horrific alt-right memes.”

LPC Professor of Sociology and former Academic Senate President, Sarah Thompson, was active in spreading awareness of the trustee’s activity with faculty once Johnson shared the information with her. She is also serving on an advisory committee this semester to implement LGBTQ+ resolutions from spring 2021. These resolutions include having specific language in class syllabi and making chosen names and pronouns an easy process through Canvas.

“We have a grant from the state where we’re implementing all of these different changes, we’re going to make our landing page much more fleshed out, we’re going to make sure that we fund queer art and make sure the queer straight alliance has an opportunity to hold more events and do outreach,” Thompson said.

Thompson said if Reynoso had initially apologized and taken the post down, no issues would have ensued. She and others are calling for Reynoso’s censure, or a formal statement of disapproval, from the board.

A student or multiple students would need to file a complaint that Reynoso’s statements have personally affected them. Censure would require two members on the board of trustees to speak out.

Another option Thompson provided is to wait until the 2024 elections when Hayward district voters can

decide then to vote on the issue.

Thompson discusses the protection of free speech as a member serving a public institution.

“...It’s a privilege, but it’s also a responsibility, right? To speak out where other people who may share similar viewpoints don’t necessarily have that consequence-free environment,” Thompson said.

Johnson discredits Reynoso’s effectiveness as a board member for the time he was a student trustee in 2021-2022. He recalls Reynoso pushing for a motion to heavily arm security guards on campus to prevent school shootings, which was denied, and another motion to make the vaccine mandate on campuses a suggestion.

“I would say that his motions typically die because his viewpoint and his desires are not shared by the rest of the board,” Thompson said.

Johnson elaborates, “He loves to ignore the entire board meetings. He pretty much sits on his phone and scrolls on Facebook or whatever form of social media he’s on. How would I be able to tell that if I’m sitting in these board meetings? Ironically, the reflection of his glasses shows exactly what he’s doing.”

“Elected leaders like him get away with stuff like this all the time...I predict that he will remain as a board member until 2024,” Johnson said.

Reynoso was contacted for an interview and initially responded but did not follow up.