

LA protest rallies for trans rights

Jasmine Martinez

News Editor

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Hundreds of peaceful protestors rallied to support transgender and non-binary people and stand their ground against discrimination, in an emotional demonstration organized by the TransLatin@ Coalition outside Los Angeles City Hall.

Bamby Salcedo, president and CEO of the TransLatin@ Coalition, reached out to people after the news broke to determine the response.

"[We] decided it was important for us to have a space for our community to come together and just show love for one another," stated Salcedo, "Also, to show the power that we have as a community and individuals and to really reclaim our existence."

A crowd of people gathered outside City Hall, proudly waving their pastel pink and blue flags, chanting, shouting and encouraging transgender and non-binary speakers at the event.

"Defining our Lives: Angelinos Response to Transphobia" was the Facebook event held Oct. 22 after President Donald Trump's administration announced last Sunday that it will consider defining gender as biological and strictly determined by one's genitalia at birth.

As stated by the New York Times, the Department of Health and Human Services wants to

establish a legal definition of sex under Title IX that is "grounded in science" and "any dispute about one's sex would have to be clarified using genetic testing."

The new definition would roll back federal protections and recognitions of trans and non-binary people put in by the Barrack Obama Administration.

Salcedo said she also wanted to send a message that despite the news, they can be who they are and stand up for themselves.

Trans Policy Coordinator for TransLatin@ Coalition, Michaé Pulido, admits she was not shocked because of Trump's previous antics towards the trans community.

"It was more so confusion because not a lot of people get the legality of things. I found that a lot of people in the coalition didn't know what it meant to want to legally define gender," Pulido said.

Pulido and Salcedo are both trans and Pulido goes by she/they.

Pulido is an undergraduate college student and says it can be tiring navigating through a system, "where professors don't respect you, peers don't respect you, you're not represented in the curriculum, you're not taught about your histories and everything is just really really triggering a lot of the time."

She advises college students to keep their heads strong, be aware of resources and communities on



JASMINE MARTINEZ

TransLatin@ Coalition CEO: Bamby Salcedo encouraged and affirmed the crowd that transgender and non-binary people are here to stay and fight. She hugged many protestors after the event 'corazon a corazon,' heart to heart.

campus, or if they do not exist, create those spaces on their own.

Salcedo said the demonstration brought music, played by a DJ to uplift people and to celebrate who they are, rather than have them feeling sorry for them-

selves.

Pulido and Salcedo believed the event's turnout was successful and important for other trans people to know they are not alone.

"We are going to be here be-

cause we have been here and we will continue to be here despite the [people] who think they can dictate how we can live our lives," Salcedo said.

For more information, visit translatinacoalition.org.



ILLUSTRATION BY DERRICK COLEMAN

Bridging the 'gap of understanding' during Disabilities Awareness Month

Derrick Coleman

Staff Writer

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With October being National Disability Awareness Month, students at Cerritos College shared their stories about life with a disability.

Pearl Netrayana, a child development major at Cerritos College, has cerebral palsy, or as Netrayana states, "a type of brain injury that can happen before birth and/or after birth, it basically like some type of brain damage that can affect people at different levels."

Netrayana explained, "Cerebral Palsy is a diagnosis that is very broad, so they [people] can have the same diagnosis, but it can also affect them different levels of mobility. So, like with me, I'm in a wheelchair, some people may utilize crutches."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, "Cerebral palsy (CP) is a group of disorders that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture."

Netrayana chose child development as a major because she "has always wanted to work with individuals with special needs."

Netrayana said, "this major is very hands on. I want to help build the foundation of children, which I think is in important factor."

She said National Disabilities Awareness Month is important "because it gives an opportunity to bridge the gap of understanding between individuals with disabilities and individuals without a disability."

Luis Lemus, a communication major with multiple sclerosis, says, he wants to focus on public relations.

Lemus said, "what honestly inspired [me] to come to [Cerritos] are my nieces, they are what bring me joy."

He spoke about his disability saying, "back in May of 2014 I knew that there was something going on just based on my walking and balance at the time. The doctor's advised me to go to the emergency room one night and by the end of the next day and after a spinal tap for fluids they [doctors] diagnosed me with multiple sclerosis."

Lemus motivation, to continue his education is the belief that is never to late to pursue an education.

Netrayana said, "I don't let my disability define who I am. I see my disability as more of my lifestyle and a way that I have to live and it's just a challenge I have to go through."



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Falcons' Football crowned Homecoming winner

JASMINE MARTINEZ

Homecoming Queen: "Do we necessarily have to be 'glitz and glam' to be a queen? My motto is no. I'm honored and I'm thankful because I finally get to represent that girl that used to get bullied," Graciela "Grace" Espejo said. Espejo, raising her fist, was crowned as the Cerritos College 2018 Homecoming Queen on Oct. 20.

Talon Marks Staff:
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Jah-Tosh Baruti
Keanu Ruffo

The Falcons got back in the winning column after defeating San Diego Mesa 50-21 in the Homecoming game on Oct. 20.

It was the first time the two teams have clashed on the gridiron in 21 years.

Cerritos' statement win gave them their fourth win on the season. The team now has a record of 4-3.

The Falcons' first touchdown would come on their second drive of the game as running back Rhamondre Stevenson, No. 3, punched in the 1-yard touchdown run to give Cerritos its first lead of the game.

However, the extra point would be blocked making the score 6-0.

Before this win, the Falcons had dropped three straight games by an average of 14 points. All three games came down to minor mistakes and could have gone either way.

"We just did not like that feeling, from now on we're rolling, planning on not losing," Stevenson said.

Stevenson had yet another big game, he rushed for 270 yards and scored three touchdowns.

The 270 yards ranks third on the school's all-time single game yards rushed list.

Quarterback Isaiah Bravo said, "Rhamondre Stevenson is the best running back I've ever seen."

Cerritos' defensive ends came up big on Mesa's next offensive drive as No. 32 Jason Nettles would pick up a fumble caused by No. 56 Jordan Thomas.

Nettles would score on the

fumble recovery giving the Falcons its second touchdown of the game making the score 13-0.

Mesa would drive down the field and score on their next offensive drive cutting the Falcons lead to just six.

Bravo hooked up with his receiver No. 8 Jacob Gasser as he would break a couple of Mesa tacklers and score Cerritos third touchdown in the first quarter.

The sophomore quarterback, Bravo, racked up 10 completions, for a passing total of 74 yards.

He spoke with humility about his performance, saying, "I didn't have to make many reads or anything, I just put the ball in the hands of the playmakers and they did what they could."

At the end of the first quarter, Cerritos lead 20-7.

Nettles would give the ball right back to Bravo and the offense as he would sack Mesa's quarterback on fourth down for the stop.

The offense would stall as they attempted to go for it on the fourth down but would be stopped short of the first down line.

San Diego Mesa countered on Cerritos' mistake and scored a touchdown four minutes later to make the score 20-14.

With a minute left before halftime, Cerritos attempted a field goal to increase their lead by three but would be blocked by Mesa's defense and returned for a touchdown.

Going into halftime the score was 21-20. Cerritos trailed Mesa by one.

"Don't shoot yourself in the foot," head coach Dean Grosfeld said to his players after giving up the lead.

"I just told them to relax and

don't keep your head down."

The first half told the tell of a close game, that could go either way. However, the second half was a different story, mainly due to the Falcons' stingy defense not giving up any points to San Diego.

One turning point in the second half for the defense is when middle linebacker, No. 10 Latrell Stearns intercepted a pass and returned it for six to increase the Falcons lead.

"It felt great, that was my second one of the season so it was good for our defense," Stearns stated after the game.

Grosfeld loved how his defense played in the second half and had praising words to say after.

"They played lights out. Anytime your defense can score twice, it's incredible!"

The Falcons offense came out after halftime and put up 16 points in the third quarter giving the team a 43-21 advantage.

In the fourth quarter the Falcons didn't need to do much more scoring to secure the win. The team went 7-0 in the fourth.

Next up Cerritos football will take on Mt. San Antonio College on Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. The away game is set to be played at Covina District Field.

One player who is ready for the upcoming matchup is Stevenson, the Falcons' star running back. He said, "We got to get another win for sure. Mt. SAC they're going to be a tough team, but I think we're going to come harder, we're going to get the win."

Cerritos has not played Mt. SAC since 2013. This conference rival has won the last five matchups against the Falcons.

Read more Homecoming coverage on talonmarks.com



JASMINE MARTINEZ

Homecoming floats: The cosmetology club won the Board of Trustees Award for most creative and original float showcased at the 2018 homecoming event. The floats were paraded around the football field track on Oct. 20.



JASMINE MARTINEZ

Drum-line: Cerritos College Pep Band members Silvia Corona and Enrique Romero learn 'popular tunes' for football games. Noticeable songs played include 'All About that Bass' and 'California Love.'



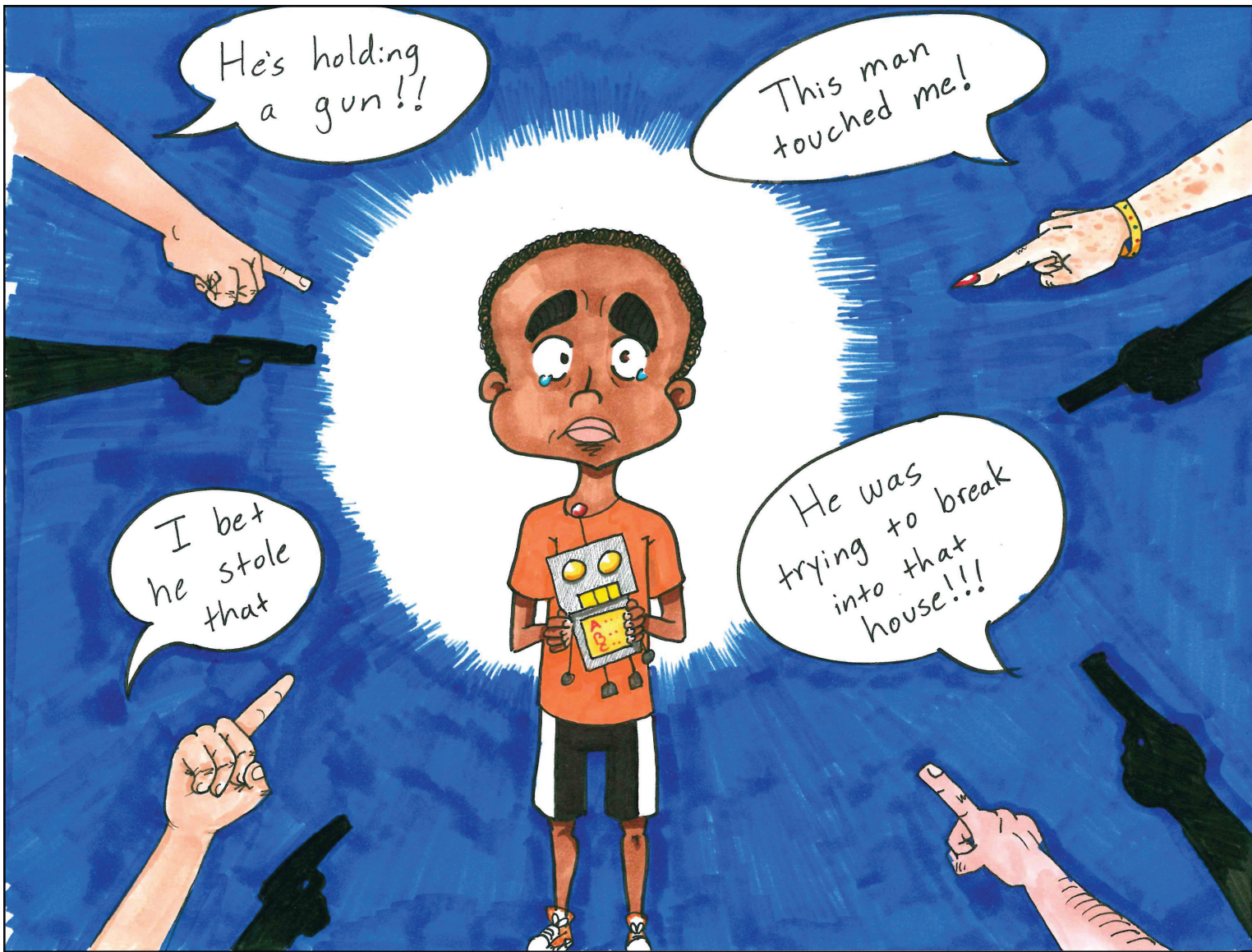
COURTESY OF DARYL PETERSON/CERRITOS SPORTS INFORMATION

50-21: Top Left: sophomore quarterback No. 11 Isaiah Bravo had 174 passing yards in the game against San Diego Mesa College. Top Right: freshman No. 5 C.J. Parks had 34 receiving yards for the homecoming game and has 267 yards this season. Center: sophomore running back No. 3 Rhamondre Stevenson ran for 270 yards and now has 1,337 yards in first seven games of the season.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER MARTINEZ

Homecoming Champs: Left: sophomore running back No. 34 David Walker had one touchdown against San Diego Mesa College. Right: sophomore linebacker No. 42 Tyson Reed recovering a forced fumble caused by the Cerritos College defense at the homecoming game against San Diego Mesa College on Oct. 20, 2018.



TALON MARKS STAFF

Stop calling the cops, get educated

Multiple social media trends have been made popular in 2018 but there is one specific trend that seems to be growing almost everyday.

Women, predominantly white, calling the authorities on innocent black people to try and get them into trouble with the law.

There have been many videos of white women calling the cops on African-Americans over the most mundane things ever.

People barbecuing at the park,

a child accidentally brushing up against a woman in a store and a man trying to get into his apartment complex have apparently become reason enough for these women to call the cops over.

Let's make it clear, racism is wrong and anyone who condones it seriously has some issues.

If you see someone being harassed because of their skin color, do something and stop the hate.

This country already has enough problems as it is, let's do a

favor to make humanity get along.

Of course, not all white women have the same mentality, thankfully, but sometimes people can act like complete hypocrites and act like nothing is happening when a person of color is being harassed for the smallest thing.

Even amongst minority communities racism can run rampant, such group outside of the black community trying to use the n word or groups outside of the asian community making racist

jokes about their language.

Colorism is still a rampant issue in minority groups, it doesn't matter if you are black, Latino, Asian or any other ethnic group.

There are still members within these communities who will discriminate against people who have a darker skin tone.

It's as if we're going back into the past and experiencing racism as a everyday social norm instead of living in an era where racism and ignorance is supposed to be

ending.

As civilized human beings, it's the right thing to stand up against anyone who tries to purposely harm anyone regardless of skin color or ethnic backgrounds.

Practice what you preach and help protect others from racism and ignorance.

Even if you are a person of color, stand up and call out racism and discrimination within your own community.

Don't let colorism slide, take the time to re educate your community and your peers.

Along with this trend, has been a craze of giving these women "cutesy" nicknames to mock the situation.

"BBQ Becky," "Permit Patty" and "Corner-store Caroline," All women who have called the cops on black people for simply minding their business.

Giving these women silly little nicknames for a quick laugh is hiding them from their true identity.

Newsone article states these nicknames "are only shielding white women from real consequences they should get for putting Black lives in danger."

White women know exactly the risk they are putting these black people in when they call the cops for no apparent reason.

Normalizing the seriousness between the tension of cops and people of color will not stop the racial injustice brought upon minorities, just desensitize our reactions.

The white community needs to educate each other and realize it is unacceptable to discriminate against someone for their race or ethnicity.

People of color should also hold the racists within their communities accountable and should focus on reeducation in order to make racism disappear.

Trans rights are unalienable rights the government should protect

Alison Hernandez

Online Editor
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If the Trump administration rewrites the definition of gender to erase trans and nonbinary people it will be committing a heinous sin by violating two of the three unalienable rights the U.S. government was sworn to protect when the Declaration of Independence was written, the right to life and the pursuit of happiness.

It's disgusting and disturbing that the government would even consider altering the definition of a word that could put people's lives in danger.

Trans and nonbinary people just simply want to be able to live their lives and to be treated like

human beings when they go in for medical treatment.

This issue isn't just about giving and protecting the rights of trans people to medically transition if they so choose, this is also about protecting them from being discriminated against or even denied medical services.

An article by the Atlantic stated that some studies have found that 70 percent of trans people have been mistreated by medical providers.

The article went one to state that data shows that trans people's most common issue wasn't that they were being denied gender-affirming surgery, data actually showed that the biggest issue was that people are being mistreated

because of their gender identity.

Katie Keith, a health-policy analyst who focuses on trans issues and was quoted in the Atlantic article, said that with the new definition providers could misgender their trans patients or give them a roommate of an inappropriate gender when they're in the hospital.

Keith also said that doctors could even refuse to treat a trans patient and that this would especially be a concern in about 30 states that currently do not have separate, state-level anti discrimination protections for trans patients.

If someone could be denied life saving medical services based solely on their gender identity

then they are being denied their unalienable right to life.

In a USA Today article published in 2015, it stated 41% of individuals within the trans community attempt to commit suicide compared to the 4.6% of attempts within the general public.

The article also shared that these statistics came from a study by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Williams Institute, which analyzed results from the National Transgender Discrimination Survey.

Studies have shown that individuals who have been harassed, bullied, discriminated against, or that have been rejected by family are more likely to attempt suicide.

If the definition of gender is

changed to gender is determined by biological traits determined by or before birth, then bigots will feel justified in their attacks against trans people.

These hateful individuals will feel empowered by the government to continue to discriminate and bully trans and nonbinary individuals which can affect their mental health and violates their right to the pursuit of happiness.

The Trump administration should know that it is a crime to violate the unalienable rights given to Americans by the Declaration of Independence, and as such it should not erase the existence of a group of the people it's sworn to protect by changing the definition of gender.

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Culinary arts extravaganza; high school contestants are welcome

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High school contestants were given the chance to compete with current Cerritos College students in the Culinary Arts program and alumni of the program for the first time at the Marukan Cup of Culinary Excellence on Oct. 19. While the categories were judged by division, the prizes remained the same.

Chef Michael Pierini was pleased with the incorporation of local high school students, stating, "By adding the high school competition, it really brought it

to a whole [other] level that we're very happy with."

The extravaganza went on from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and gave contestants the opportunity to mingle with sponsors and benefactors that support the Cerritos College Culinary Arts program.

The first place winner received a \$1,000 prize with their name engraved on the Marukan Cup, while the second place and third place prize winners received \$500 and \$250 respectively.

Contestants were given 60 minutes to prepare, complete and plate their dish.

All of the contestants were

given the same guideline for their plates, which included a four plated main entree that incorporated a protein, starch, vegetable and sauces.

Jon Tanklange hosted the event and also in attendance were Pierini, experienced panelists and chefs, Eric Duchene, Bill Orton, Adam Crisafulli and Austin Yancey, who judged and critiqued the contestants dishes.

As contestant after contestant went onstage to explain their dish to the judges, Yancey displayed much interest in critiquing and giving advice to the contestants.

As Osvaldo Galaz, high school contestant from Paramount High School, received critique from the judges, but also received praise.

A nervous Galaz explained his dish to the judges, describing his chicken plate with fries as a side; Yancey called his dish "beautiful" and his chicken "perfect."

Receiving minor critiques, Galaz walked away with high praise from the judges.

As the day continued, the competitors had a one-on-one with the judges and given "private critiques to advise the chefs on how they can improve and incorporate their creativity and get better



JASMINE MARTINEZ

First place: Judges Adam Crisafulli, Bill Orton, Eric Duchene and Austin Yancey present winner, Alondra Zuniga, \$1,000 prize. Jon Tanklange and chef Michael Pierini presented the awards.



JASMINE MARTINEZ

Marukan Cup: As the fifth annual Marukan Cup of Culinary Excellence continues, this year they incorporated high school contestants. A winner from each category was selected.



GETTY IMAGES

Tamir Hendelman: Tamir Hendelman performs at the 5th Annual Give The Band A Hand Gala at the L.A., Hotel on April 8, 2017 in Los Angeles.

Faculty and students dazzle in jazz showcase

Bianca Martinez
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Music department faculty members and students showcased their talent and penchant for jazz music alongside guest Yamaha artist and jazz pianist, Tamir Hendelman during the 2018 Jazz Showcase held in the Burnight Center Theater on Oct. 18.

The event was coordinated by music department chair, Andrew Maz in partnership with Yamaha music. A masterclass taught by Hendelman was held earlier that day, at 2 p.m.

With faculty Peter Buck on drums, Martin Torres playing bass, Michael Higgins on guitar, Jim Simmons on piano, alongside Hendelman, the group collectively played a total of two sets.

The three piece student jazz band, Mellowmania, played in-between the faculty set with their own set, comprised of popular songs arranged in a jazz style.

Mellowmania's set was com-

prised of Stevie Wonder's "Isn't She Lovely," The Beatles' "Come Together" and Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon."

Though their entire set was well received by the audience, Mellowmania sent the audience into whoops and cheers with their jazz arrangement of "Come Together." Especially when Buck nonchalantly made his entrance and accompanied the group on drums.

Commercial music major Angelo Acosta said, "I thought it was really good, I like jazz a lot, I guess you can't get enough of that organic sound with these instruments anymore. I especially like "Come Together," when the drummer [Buck] came in, it kept building up."

Maz wanted to showcase the musical prowess with emphasis on jazz music.

Maz stated, "I figured that maybe it was time to see about getting our jazz faculty together and seeing what they can do so it was kind of an experiment.

For more on this story, visit talonmarks.com

Bianca Bitches: Women can dress sexy, without harrassment

Bianca Martinez
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It's Halloween night, you are at a party, you have some crappy flat beer in a red Solo cup, you are dressed as something culturally insensitive or unoriginally pathetic, such as a shirt that has the word costume on it and this woman walks in wearing a sexy nurse costume.

Now, your first primitive urge as a neanderthal, is to either a.) grab her butt or b.) make a stupid-ass joke that you, in your inebriated mind, think is going to score you a date and then some, but the only thing you succeeded in is making her uncomfortable.

Now, let's flip the script and give men a break for the moment.



You are a woman, you didn't know what to wear and your boyfriend didn't want to do a cliché couple costume with you, so you found yourself wearing a onesie animal pajama as a Halloween costume.

You are munching on Halloween-themed snacks when a sexy nurse walks in, now, just like a man, two thoughts run through your mind: 1) Grab your boyfriend and get him the hell out of there because you are distrusting of your partner and naively think that cleavage has a built-in man magnet and 2) call her a slut because you have low levels of self-confidence and subconsciously resent her for her self-confidence.

Now that you have been launched into your own personal scenarios, put yourself in the sexy nurse's platform high-heels for a moment and rationalize her way of thinking.

It's Halloween night, and she has been planning her costume for a while now, ever since the middle of August.

Now, to her, while she was selecting or creating her outfit, she wasn't concerned with who would call her slut, nor was she creating a visual invitation for men to make inappropriate advances without her consent.

She just wanted to celebrate her body, express herself and her right to wear whatever she wanted.

With that being said, I know I used a female example for dressing sexy for Halloween, but the same applies for men and those who are non-binary.

Men shouldn't be pressured to dress as some overtly masculine video game character, if they want to dress sexy or wear a costume that society hasn't branded

as "masculine," then that is his choice, not society's.



Costumes are not naturally gendered, corporations and society are responsible for doing so.

It's the fault of society for conditioning us into thinking that embracing your sexuality is bad and the only reason someone would want to dress sexy is because they are looking for sex and they want men to grope them and make advances.

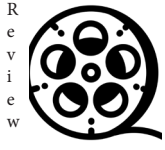
Those who dress sexy, be it for Halloween or all-year-around, are not asking to be harassed or assaulted, so keep those comments and hands to yourself, this applies to men, women and those who are non-binary.

Be unabashedly you, for those who are going to be dressing sexy or want to dress sexy but are afraid of what others may think, do so with confidence!

I've said this before, but let me reiterate, we are all going to do die anyways, so might as well go out living our best lives without regret.

More of Bianca Bitches on talonmarks.com

Jamie Lee Curtis, the 'Halloween' queen strikes again



Jasmine Martinez
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With a dash of nostalgia and plenty of Easter eggs, the latest film in the "Halloween" franchise falls short in the horror department, but makes up for it with Jamie Lee Curtis' character, Laurie Strode's unwavering determination to end Michael Myers.

Curtis and Nick Castle reprise their roles as Strode and Myers, adding to the authenticity and respect for longtime fans.

The audience won't be too disappointed if they do not expect more than its legacy of murdered fornicating teenagers, Strode being an all-around screaming badass and Myers' creepy, labored breathing.

Although there are 11 movies in the franchise, the new film is a direct sequel to the first, possibly causing some confusion, as Curtis starred in four of the films and

her character was killed by Myers in "Halloween: Resurrection," unjustifiably so.

The slasher film takes place 40 years after John Carpenter's 1978 "Halloween," where Myers stalks, kills and terrorizes Strode and her friends.

Myers' intimidating presence is enhanced by his infamous mask, which is worn and menacing. He stays in character with his unbroken silence and senseless

Despite this fact, the theater was filled with more laughter from the audience as opposed to jump scares and gasps.

It makes one wonder if the film intended to be more of a comedy than a horror.

Decades later, "basket case" Strode has been hardened by her traumas.

Not one year has been wasted on her preparation, but the price Strode paid was the strained relationship with her daughter, played by Judy Greer.

An unnecessary and tired scare tactic that was prevalent in the film was the portrayal of mental illness, with Strode's symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder even being trivialized.

Horror genre writers need to rely on something other than demonizing mental health patients and contributing to harmful stereotypes.

Curtis plays the role of an apparent delusional Strode, with her own daughter not understanding her paranoia and insistence on being ready for the worst.

It seems the only one who supports her is her granddaughter, played by Andi Matichak.

"Halloween," unsurprisingly, was the biggest opening in the franchise and horror opening with a female lead.

Hollywood doesn't seem to believe much in the success of dominant female leads, but the statistics don't lie.

Curtis' revival of the role redeemed the film and she should have had more screen time than two men having a boring conversation on peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

Filled with more gore and violent murders instead of the original stabbing and occasional choking, the new film offers cringes, laughter and an endless love for Strode.



KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

Halloween: Jamie Lee Curtis arrives at the premiere of Universal Pictures' 'Halloween' at TCL Chinese Theatre on Oct. 17 in Hollywood, California.



GAGE SKIDMORE/CREATIVE COMMONS

Comic Con: Amandla Stenberg speaking at the 2018 San Diego Comic Con International, for "Entertainment Weekly's Women Who Kick Ass", at the San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California.

'The Hate You Give' shines a light on racial tensions



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"The Hate You Give" is an amazing platform that speaks out for those who cannot do so themselves and have been affected by racial tensions.

The film directed by George Tillman Jr., depicts what it is like to try and deal with the aftermath of police brutality not only on a global scale, but also how it affects day to day life.

The movie is a 10 out of 10 and will leave audiences wanting justice, as this film highlights what our society is doing wrong and the effect it has on younger generations.

The main plot of this film is that police are able to shoot first and ask questions later, just because a dark skin person is stereotyped for carrying a weapon.

The film implements that police can simply use their words as they do with a person who is light skinned, instead of racially profiling them as a criminal just from the color of their skin.

Amandla Stenberg gave an amazing performance as the protagonist Starr Carter, she drew in the audience and made them

feel the pain and suffering caused onto her in the film.

Every scene Stenberg was a part of only enhanced and brought out the everyday negativity people in society face.

Throughout the film the audience is reminded that the world they live in is filled with hate and will always present tension among racial discrimination.

It is well hidden that people of opposite color carry a dislike for one another and that is shown from the start of the movie.

Small references to this are within the opening scene where Carter has a large collection of Jordan basketball shoes, she then goes to school where everyone looks at her shoes weirdly.

Her boyfriend, who is white, wears the same shoes as Carter and acts "black" until it is brought to light a few minutes from the start of the film.

Despite the ever present hatred for one another throughout the film, the tone of the film is set to sympathize with the protagonist as she fights for justice in a corrupt society.

The film features real life cases that are actually occurring and urges its views to wake up and look at the world for what it really is.

"The Hate You Give" is a movie that will leave the audience woke by the time they leave and relays the message of how we can change as a society.

Falcons water polo ready for playoffs

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Cerritos College's men's water polo team are on a two game winning streak as they head into the home stretch of the regular season.

Falcons' water polo is currently 16-7 overall with five games left in the season.

The team has scored 260 goals this season, they also have 172 assists in 23 games this season.

Some of the team's highest scoring performances came from the San Diego Mesa tournament in September. The Falcons scored 23 goals against Southwestern College, while only conceding six.

Men's water polo most recently won three out of four games at the Saddleback tournament on Oct. 19-20.

Head coach Joe Abing is happy with the team's progress in the season so far.

He said, "We have improved quite a bit, we still have room to grow in the coming weeks.

"We have worked hard on all areas of the game and improved on each part. Our defense has been our strength all year and our offense continues to get better."

Following the regular season, there's no vacation for the team as the players still have the South Coast Conference tournament.

"Our conference is really tough, we should have a decent seed going into the conference tournament, so hopefully we get

the job done then," Abing said.

One of the last home games will be against the Long Beach City College Vikings in a conference match at home on Oct. 24.

The Vikings are currently leading the South Coast Conference, while the Falcons are sitting in third with a record of 3-1.

Abing said, "We're always prepared for each week and I feel we're ready for this last stretch of the season."

The Falcons lost in the South Coast Conference tournament finals in a close game last year to the Vikings 14-12.

Cerritos College's men's water polo team will follow the conference match with its last regular season home game against Merced College on Oct. 25.

Abing says the team is ready for playoffs, "There are a lot of tough teams we could face in the playoffs, but if we play to our potential, we can win any game.

"We have a hard working team that is playing well together, we need to work as a unit in order to do well in playoffs."

The team's offense is based on mostly drivers, they look for the fast break.

"Our offense is often a result of how a team chooses to play defense on us," Abing said.

The Falcons lost the California Community College Athletic Association Southern California championships to Los Angeles Valley College 11-8.

The team is looking forward to another try at the CCCAA SoCal championship starting on Nov. 8.



COURTESY OF DARYL PETERSON/CERRITOS SPORTS INFORMATION

Driving: Sophomore driver No. 4 Raul Muniz has 60 goals and 21 assists this season. Muniz scored one goal and had two assists in the game against Mt. San Antonio College at Cerritos College on Oct. 17, 2018.

Sports Results

Cross Country	Football
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct. 5, at Irvine Regional Park (Orange) W: 8th place M: 6th place Oct. 13, at UC Riverside AG-OPS Course (Riverside) W: 21st place M: 18th place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct. 13, against Fullerton College Final Result: Loss, 35-25 Oct. 20, against San Diego Mesa College Final Result: Win, 50-21
Volleyball	Soccer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct. 12, against Los Angeles Harbor College Final Result: Loss, 3-0 Oct. 19, against Rio Hondo College Final Result: Loss, 3-2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct. 19, against Pasadena City College W: Win, 10-0 M: Win, 7-0 Oct. 23, against East Los Angeles College W: Win, 4-0 M: Tie, 0-0
Water Polo	Wrestling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> W: Oct. 20, against Ventura College Final Result: Loss, 10-4 Cuesta College Final Result: Loss, 13-9 M: Oct. 20, against West Valley College Final Result: Win, 7-5 Riverside College Final Result: Win, 8-6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct. 10, against Palomar College Final Result: Win, 24-19 Oct. 13, Southern California Regional Team Duals Final Result: Win, 37-7
<p><i>Italics:</i> Away event Bold: Home event M: Men's team W: Women's team</p>	

Shmackem: NBA G League offering big payday for top draft prospects



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The NBA G League, which is a transition league where players go to develop, will begin offering contracts worth up to \$125k for top NBA prospects by the summer of 2019.

This is one small step for the NBA and one giant euro-step for NBA hopefuls.

It is meant to be an alternative to NCAA basketball, which does not offer any official compensation to players.

Also, since it's collegiate basketball, players are restricted from signing with any companies for

endorsement deals.

Basically, NBA quality players are forced to either play college basketball at least one year for free, as most top players go the one-and-done route.

Another option would be going overseas to play ball for a year and get paid, although, that has not been a popular option amongst highly touted recruits.

For prospects to qualify, they have to be at least 18 years old and not eligible for the NBA Draft.

As currently constructed, the NBA has a rule stating that players have to be at least 19 years old and have graduated at least 12 months ago in order to be eligible for the NBA Draft.

The G League's alternative will not overthrow that rule, it will just provide a pathway for players to enter the NBA via the Draft, while also getting paid for their basketball services.

Also, because prospects will not be considered amateurs, like they would with the NCAA, they are free to sign with an agent and sign endorsement deals as well.

There has been a long debate over whether collegiate players

should be compensated.

The answer to that debate is they should, it's not fair that the NCAA can collect all the profit off a player, while that player's family might be struggling to eat.

This is a long overdue change by the NBA.

The league has also been actively looking into ways to allow players to enter the NBA Draft straight out of high school.

It wouldn't be the first time that the NBA has permitted players to jump straight from high school to the pro's. The last draft class that featured players fresh out of high school was in 2003.

Notable players to be drafted straight out of high school are Kobe Bryant, who was 17 when drafted in 1996 and LeBron James, who has 18 at the time his name was called No. 1 overall during the 2004 NBA Draft.

ESPN's Johnathan Givony believes that a full on rule change won't be seen until at least the 2022 NBA season.

As of right now the G League's alternative pathway to the NBA will benefit a lot of prospects in the near future. It is most certainly a step in the right direction.

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