

# dallasvoice

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## 2-AND-A-Half MEN

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Gay couple make a big impact as Big Brothers,  
by David Taffet, Page 8

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Big Brothers couple Dennis & James Brandanese with Little Brother Roger. Photo by David Taffet. Design by Chuck Miller.

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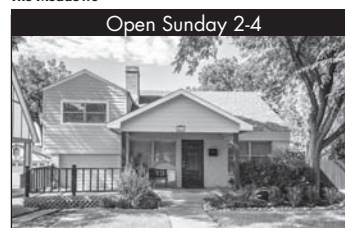
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Trans Chorus of Los Angeles at Interfaith Peace Chapel. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

## Trans Chorus of LA sings with the chorale

The Trans Chorus of Los Angeles sang several times during the day at the Turtle Creek Chorale's Sing-in for Dignity in support of the transgender community. The 24-hour concert was timed to coincide with the final week of the special session of the Texas Legislature.

The special session has wasted almost \$1 million and passed only one bill that will require women to buy rape insurance. The lieutenant governor's pet piece of legislation, the discriminatory, anti-transgender bathroom bill, is stuck in committee where it should die.

— David Taffet

## Texas Stonewall Democrats: We are not affiliated with new activist group

Texas Stonewall Democrats officials on Wednesday, Aug. 16 issued a press release to clarify that their organization is not affiliated with a new activist organization called The New Stonewall Dallas.

According to the statement:

"It has been brought to the attention of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus Leadership that there is a new group (page) calling itself 'The New Stonewall Dallas.' Apparently this is a new small activist group and is not a political 'Democratic Party' organization.

The Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus would like to state that this group is NOT in any way affiliated with or a part of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus or Stonewall Democrats, which is the only "officially recognized" LGBT Democratic organization by both the state and national Democratic Party.

While the name "Stonewall" is not copyrighted and anyone in the community is free to use the name, we want to make sure that there is absolutely no confusion between the two groups based on nomenclature. Unfortunately, the name that was chosen by this other group can initially give the impression that they may be somehow affiliated with Stonewall Democrats and this is NOT the case."

— Tammye Nash

## Trans person murdered in Waxahachie

An Aug. 12 argument at a Waxahachie home



Gwynevere

left trans person Gwynevere River Song, 26, dead and a second person injured, according to a report in the Waxahachie Daily Light.

Dallas Voice has contacted the Ellis County Sheriff's Office, which is investigating the murder, for information and we will update this post as

information becomes available.

Gwynevere identified as "femandrogyne" and preferred gender-neutral "they" pronouns, according to reports online, including this one at PGHLesbian.com. Some reports indicate the injured person, who was taken to the hospital, was an adult male, but Dallas Voice has not yet been able to confirm the identity of that person nor their relationship with Gwynevere.

According to Trans Pride Initiative President Nell Gaither, Song's mother was very supportive of her child. The mother has scheduled a memorial service for Aug. 21. The Rev Neil G. Cazares-Thomas of Cathedral of Hope has been asked to officiate at the memorial.

— David Taffet

## Texas A&M cancels Nazi demonstration on campus

COLLEGE STATION — After consultation with law enforcement and considerable study, Texas A&M is cancelling the event scheduled by Preston Wiginton at Rudder Plaza on campus on Sept. 11 because of concerns about the safety of its students, faculty, staff, and the public.

Texas A&M changed its policy after December's protests so that no outside individual or group could reserve campus facilities without the sponsorship of a university-sanctioned group. None of the 1200-plus campus organizations invited Preston Wiginton nor did they agree to sponsor his events in December 2016 or on Sept. 11 of this year. With no university facilities afforded him, he chose instead to plan his event outdoors for Sept. 11 at Rudder Plaza, in the middle of campus, during a school day, with a notification to the media under the headline "Today Charlottesville, Tomorrow Texas A&M."

— From a press release

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# THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com) or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at [taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM;** United Black Ellument hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or [jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org). LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

## AUGUST

- **Aug. 18: Federal Club Mixer**  
The DFW HRC Federal Club holds it August mixer at Wheelhouse, 1617 Hi-Line Drive, Ste. 390, 6-8 p.m. Admission is free but guests are asked to pre-register online at [fcaugustmixer2017.eventbrite.com](http://fcaugustmixer2017.eventbrite.com).
- **Aug. 19: Hoot N' Holler Gaybingo**  
Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center

takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. [MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo](http://MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo).

- **Aug. 19: Dallas Against White-Supremacy**

People who believe neo-Nazi terrorism has no place in the U.S. rally from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Confederate memorial in the cemetery between Dallas City Hall and the convention center, 1201 Marilla St. (See story Page 10)

- **Aug. 19: Car wash**

Team ASD LifeWalk washes cars, trucks and SUVs to raise money for LifeWalk from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at BJ's NXS!, 3215 N. Fitzhugh Ave. For information check the Team ASD page at [LifeWalk.org](http://LifeWalk.org).

- **Aug. 19: GALA ally training**

Wondering how to be an ally to the LGBT community at work, school or place of worship? The GALA Ally Committee is offering a free two-hour training from 9-11 a.m. at Celebrity Café & Bakery West Plano, 4709 West Parker Road Suite 450, Plano. RSVP to [ashlee.howard@att.net](mailto:ashlee.howard@att.net).

- **Aug. 19: Dishing It Out**

Paul J. Williams presents his one-man show Dishing It Out at 7 p.m. at Henderson Civic Theater, 122 E. Main, Henderson. \$15.

- **Aug. 20: HRC DFW women's event**

The HRC DFW Federal Club hosts Women Celebrating Women Sunday Funday, for those ages 21 and older, from 2-5 p.m. at Lakewood Brewing Company, 2302 Executive Drive. Tickets are \$20 in advance, available online at [fcwcw2017.eventbrite.com](http://fcwcw2017.eventbrite.com), and \$30 at the door, and include the chance to try three different craft beers as well as mingling and celebrating with other women. For information email [co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org](mailto:co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org).

- **Aug. 20: Pegasus Squares open house**

LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares holds a free open house from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. Meet us, watch and try it, and discover if square dancing is for you. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com).



Pegasus Squares LGBT square dance club holds a free open house on Sunday, Aug. 20, at Grace United Methodist Church. See listings for details.

- **Aug. 20: Team Metro's Taco Time**

Team Metro, one of the teams raising funds for LifeWalk 2017, will host a Taco Time fundraiser from 2:30-6:30 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave. For information check the Team Metro page at [LifeWalk.org](http://LifeWalk.org).

- **Aug. 22: City Budget Town Hall**

District 1 Councilman Scott Griggs, District 3 Councilman Casey Thomas and District 4 Councilman and Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway will hold a town hall to hear input on the proposed city budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 at 6 p.m. at Black Box Theatre at the Hampton-Illinois Library, 2951 S. Hampton Rd. For information call 214-670-0776.

- **Aug. 22: Team LUV Give Back Day**

Team LUV, one of the teams raising funds for LifeWalk 2017, hosts Give Back Day at Mi Camino restaurant, 3830 W. Northwest Highway, with 10 percent of sales that day benefiting Team LUV. Includes dine in, take out and catering to Southwest Airlines. For information check the Team LUV page at [LifeWalk.org](http://LifeWalk.org).

- **Aug. 24: HRC Kick-off to Pride**

Human Rights Campaign Dallas/Fort Worth kicks off Dallas Pride season with a gathering from 6:30-8 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, to sign up volunteers for the Festival in Reverchon Park and the Dallas Pride parade. For information email [volunteers@hrcdfw.org](mailto:volunteers@hrcdfw.org).

- **Aug. 24: Young Professionals Back-to-School event**

the young Professionals Advisory council raises money for Youth First with DJ Brandon Moses from 6-8 p.m. at The Goss-Michael Foundation, 1305 Wycliff Ave. #120.

- **Aug. 24: City Budget Town Hall**

District 1 Councilman Scott Griggs will hold a town hall to hear input on the proposed city budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 at 6 p.m. at Martin Weiss Recreation Center, 1111 Martindell Ave. For information call 214-670-0776.

- **Aug. 25: BTD Sneak Peek**

First glimpse at this year's Black Tie Dinner from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Renaissance Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. \$35.

- **Aug. 25: The 701 Club**

Paul Williams presents a holy perspective on everything benefiting Cathedral of Hope. Church supper at 7 p.m., live broadcast at 8 p.m. and dessert reception at 9:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Aug. 26: Hero of Hope recognition**

Honoring Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings at Hilton Dallas Park Cities, 5954 Luther Lane.

- **Aug. 26: Transpose: The Transgender Project**

Transpose is a film documentary that explores the extraordinary challenges and triumphs of transgender people as they transition from 4-6:30 p.m. at New Studio



Movie Grill on Spring Valley,  
13933 N. Central Expressway.  
Tickets at EventBrite.com.

• **Aug. 26: Anniversary of the 19th Amendment**

Women won the right to vote on Aug. 26, 1920. International Women's Day Dallas and the Dallas women's Coalition honor The women Who Paved the Way for Us from noon-2:30 p.m. at the Bath House cultural Center. \$5 and a pot of chili, a bowl of cut up watermelon or a platter of brownies, cookies or baklava.

• **Aug. 27: Pegasus Squares open house**

LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares holds a free open house from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, Come in 4105 Junius St. Meet us, watch and try it, and discover if square dancing is for you. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com).

• **Aug. 27: Hero of Hope award presentation**

Mayor Mike Rawlings speaks at Cathedral of Hope after receiving the Hero of Hope Award at 11 a.m. at Cathedral of Hope UCC, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 27: Team Clover Open**

Team Clover, a team raising funds for LifeWalk 2017 hosts the Clover Open, a pub crawl including putt-putt golf, beginning with check-in from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. For details and to register, check the Team Clover Open page at [LifeWalk.org](http://LifeWalk.org).

• **Aug. 28: City Budget Town Hall**

District 1 Councilman Scott Griggs and District 14 Councilman Philip Kingston will hold a town hall to hear input on the proposed city budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 at 6 p.m. at Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. For information call 214-670-0776.

• **Aug. 28: LGBT youth homelessness**

Youth activist Mayra Fierro and Zach Bartush of Promise House speak at 7 p.m. at Chino Chinatown at Trinity Grove. School supply drive from 6:30-9 p.m.

• **Aug. 29: Grief support group**

Grief support group for LGBT people who have lost a same-sex partner or spouse meets from 6:45-8 p.m. in the conference room at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Aug. 29: HIV 101**

Prism Health North Texas hosts "HIV 101: You Don't Know What You Don't Know," with class and meal provided by Gilead, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Meadows Conference Center, 2900 Live Oak St. For information call 214-521-5191.

**SEPTEMBER**

• **Sept. 1-3: Riverfront Jazz Festival**

Three days, three venues, one weekend of jazz, R&B, soul and blues. More than 30 major acts including Martha Wash, Jon Secada, Freda Payne and Erykah Badu at Texas Horse Park, 811 Pemberton Hill Road. Tickets at 214-743-2400. [TbaalRiverfrontJazzFestival.org](http://TbaalRiverfrontJazzFestival.org).

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# Two-and-a-half men

LGBT big brothers, sisters and couples as well as LGBT 'littles' are welcome in a program that does careful matching

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**R**oger was 5 when his dad died. When Amy Jahnel, Roger's mom, joined a grief support group, the group leader suggested she look for a mentor for Roger through Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Dennis and James Bradanes had decided to volunteer with BBBS through its Big Couple program. But other parents turned the couple down as potential "bigs" for their children. As far as Roger and his mother, that was good luck.

"God bless their ignorance," Amy said about the parents that turned down the Bradaneses. "They [her son and the couple] clicked the moment they met."

Amy said it took almost nine months after she and her son entered the BBBS program before the Bradaneses came into their lives. But now, after nine years together, they're like family.

Amy recalled the day her son met his Big Couple. He drew them a picture that they still have, and they played video games together. She said over the years, the couple has taken Roger to theater, and they've gone to sporting events. They've been to Boy Scout meetings and shown up for dads days.

In fact, soon after the Brandaneses came into his life, Roger was upset because it was dads night at his school. All the kids would be there with their fathers. Amy called the couple at the last minute. They were on their way to Fort Worth where they had theater tickets.

But, she recalled, "They turned their car around and went to the father/son event" instead.

Amy said she's thrilled with any time the Brandaneses spend with her son. They taught him to ride a bike. They took him horseback riding for the first time. Now that he plays varsity football, they go to his games.

"They're very important to him," she said. James had a big brother for a couple of



Roger, left, has lunch at Hunky's with his bigs James, middle, and Dennis. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

## Terminology

In Big Brother/Big Sister terminology, the big brother or big sister is referred to as the "big" and the little brother or sister is known as the "little."

"Bigs" and "littles" are the words used when referring to more than one big brother/sister and little brother/sister.

years when he was a kid, and now, he has been an elementary school teacher for 14 years. So "Mentoring is something I've always been interested in," he said.

When the couple discussed Big Brothers, Dennis thought it would just be something his husband would do. Then he learned he'd have to go through the screening process whether or not he participated, and they learned they could participate together as a big couple.

While BBBS is looking for a one-year commitment, these particular bigs assumed their commitment would last until their little turned 18.

Roger remembers when he met his bigs and described how their relationship has evolved.

"Back then, we did fun things I was interested in — movies, horseback riding, ice skating, my first Cowboys game," he said. "We hit it off the first day. I played video games for hours with James."

He said he knew from their first visit that these would be people who were going to be in his life for a long time.

"We slowly got closer and closer," he said. "I could talk to them about stuff from the beginning."

His mother said she's heard him discussing things on the phone with the guys a number of times. He agreed but couldn't be specific.

"Anything going on in my life," he said of the topics of their discussions. "School. Anything I didn't want to talk to my mom about."

Dennis is proud of how they've helped Roger broaden his interests. Before becoming a varsity football player last year, Roger was involved in theater. Dennis takes credit for that.

For four years, Roger got a scholarship to go to camp in Colorado. He described it as a "rich kids camp" where he was completely

unplugged for a month.

"Dennis and James came up for parents weekend," Roger said.

Before that, they visited him at Boy Scout camp in West Virginia.

Dennis said they usually do things with Roger together, although sometimes BBBS gets them tickets and it's only for two. James added that occasionally over the years, one or the other had another commitment so just one of them spent time with Roger.

As Roger enters his junior year in high school and has gotten his drivers license, they don't always see each other for regular activities as often, but they text and phone often.

"He's just a part of our lives," James said, adding that he wants potential bigs to understand one thing about having a little: "We get as much out of it as he does. When we went ice skating, it was my first time too."

But they've all gained something much deeper from the experience

"Knowing I've made a difference," James said when asked what means the most to him about the experience.





"All of my co-workers know about Roger," Dennis added. "I can't wait to see what he becomes. He's wicked smart and friendly."

Just as the fact that his bigs are a same-sex couple has never been an issue to Roger, it's never been an issue to the BBBS organization, either. If anything, the couple has been held up as role models for other bigs and were even once named Big Couple of the Year. They said the organization is looking for more LGBT people to be bigs and that it's something parents should welcome.

"They want parents to know if their child is struggling, they'll accept anyone," James said.

And what do they expect of Roger in the future?

"I could see Roger becoming a big," Dennis said.

## BBBS says welcome

"Each scenario is different," said Michael O'Teter, chief program officer of Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star, the DFW affiliate. O'Teter, who is gay, wants to dispel any notion that LGBT volunteers are unwelcome in his organization.

LGBT inclusion passed into the organization's national standards in 2002. Now, BBBS has started an LGBT initiative.

"We serve children who are at risk," said Pam Iorio, national CEO of BBBS. "LGBTQ children have challenges — higher rates of drug use, drinking, smoking. We're intentionally reaching out to this community."

To create the best program possible, they're working with Human Rights Campaign to tap into its expertise. Iorio said they've created a program they piloted in 10 sites and are now rolling out across the country.

While Dallas wasn't one of those original cities, O'Teter didn't wait to try some of the ideas from the pilot program. He

reached out to Kat Ralph, facilitator of OUTreach Denton, an LGBT youth group that meets at Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

About 22 youth attend OUTreach each week.

"A lot of kids come in just once," Ralph said. "Many of them don't thrive in large groups. Some kids need one-on-one contact."

She said a large number of those who come to OUTreach Denton are foster children or come from one-parent families, and while there is often a stigma about LGBT people working with youth, Ralph said that working with O'Teter, she's learned that's not the position of BBBS.

The BBBS attitude, Ralph said, is "'Hey, we want you.' Big Brothers/Big Sisters has been welcoming you for years."

Iorio agreed: "We're all about acceptance."

She said all the organization is looking for is people who can be stable, caring role-models.

As more young people have become comfortable expressing who they are at a younger age, the organization began including LGBT training for all bigs.

"When a little expresses who they are, we have to make sure the big is trained," she said.

O'Teter said locally he's looking for healthy adults who will provide healthy influences on kids' lives. That includes people of different sexual orientations, races, faiths and gender identities.

Safety is a top priority. Every big goes through a lengthy interview, rigorous background screening and reference checks as well as thorough training. "We put every volunteer through the ringer," O'Teter said.

But the Bradanases described the process as simple. Although Roger knew, the cou-

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# Honoring the losers?

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
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The national debate about removing Confederate memorials comes to Dallas

The issue of memorializing the losing side of a civil war with monuments to its treasonous leaders has simmered for years. But as Nazis gathered in Charlottesville, Va., last weekend to defend these symbols of racism — shouting anti-gay, anti-black, anti-Semitic, anti-immigrant slogans and with one Nazi slamming his car into a group of counter-protesters, killing one and injuring 19 — the issue has come to a boiling point.

The events in Charlotte brought debate to the forefront in Dallas, and a rally is set for Saturday evening near one of the city's monuments.

In Dallas, we have two problematic Confederate monuments. One stands on the edge of an historic cemetery at an entrance to the Dallas Convention Center. The other is in Lee Park in Oak Lawn.

The Confederate memorial at the Dallas Convention Center was erected in 1896, 32 years after the end of the Civil War. It is the oldest public sculpture in the city. Originally located at Old City Park, it was moved to its current location in 1961, when construction on I-30 through downtown began.

The first piece of the convention center, Dallas Memorial Auditorium, was built in 1957, and the monument would have been about a block away at the time. Now it stands at an entrance to the facility.

In 1936, 72 years after the end of the Civil War, Oak Lawn Park was renamed Lee Park. A statue of Robert E. Lee was installed, and a two-thirds size replica of his home, Arlington Hall, was built.

In 1995, a public-private partnership was formed to manage Lee Park that included the Dallas Tavern Guild, the Oak Lawn Committee and Turtle Creek Association among others, including the Dallas Southern Memorial Association that commissioned and placed the statue in 1936 and was affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan at the time the statue was installed.

Mayor Mike Rawlings held a press conference on Tuesday, Aug. 15, to weigh in

on the issue of whether those monuments should be removed from public display. While not directly calling for the immediate removal of the monuments, he did describe them as “problematic.”

“It’s easy to jump on the bandwagon to tear them down,” he said. “I hesitate. We’re better and stronger when not divided.”

Rawlings called for a task force to study the issue and report back to the city council in 90 days.

But Councilman Philip Kingston gathered five signatures to force the issue onto the Dallas City Council’s agenda.

“The council needs to voice its strong disapproval,” he said to send the task force a clear message of where the council stands.

Councilman Omar Narvaez said about the monuments, “What they mean today is what’s important.” And today, they’re a rallying cry for white supremacists.

One idea floated was to move the monuments elsewhere, but both councilmen made it clear that place shouldn’t be public property nor should they be maintained with public funds.

Rawlings asked Mary Pat Higgins, director of the Dallas Holocaust Museum Center for Education and Tolerance, to be part of the discussion.

Higgins said her participation was very new, and she wasn’t sure what her role was going to be. But she said she imagines the Holocaust Museum would be a source of education and reconciliation for the community.

One reporter at the press conference asked if the Holocaust Museum might be the place to move the monuments. But just the dimensions of the statues precluded them from even fitting in the building.

The Rev. Eric Folkerth, pastor of Northav-



Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park, above, and Confederate Monument in Pioneer Park downtown, left and a detail of it, below, left. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)



en United Methodist Church, said he was disappointed the mayor didn’t clearly come out in favor of removal. “An issue like this calls for moral leadership,” he said. “That doesn’t preclude conversation, but leaders lead from their convictions.”

Folkerth said by not clearly laying out his position, the mayor could be creating a situation he wants to avoid. The conversation could easily devolve, he said.

“If Saturday [in Charlottesville] proved nothing else, it proved these monuments are revered by white supremacists,” Folkerth said. “As a white person whose relatives fought for the Confederacy, I am offended by that. I want my mayor and council to say the same.”

The Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas, senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope, was born in England and views the issue from a European standpoint. He compared it to when Germany tore down the Berlin Wall and pieces were disseminated around the world.

Going back a generation farther in German history, he said Germany distances itself from Hitler and the Nazi period: There are no monuments to that dark era to be found in that country — or others.

“These are not monuments to heroes,” said divinity student Todd Whitley. “They’re monuments to the losing side.” He said people claim they feel as if they’re losing their identity, but he added, they say



they're "upholding history, but that's code for what's evil."

While rallying around these Civil War monuments, the white supremacists were chanting anti-Muslim, anti-Jewish and anti-LGBT as well as racist slogans. "Nothing historical about their rants," Whitley noted.

### Confederate monument at Pioneer Park

The Confederate monument was moved to the edge of the cemetery at Pioneer Park in 1961 before the main Dallas Convention Center was built. However, today it welcomes people as they enter the facility.

Pioneer Park is made up of four adjoining cemeteries that had all become city property by 1969. One was a Jewish cemetery, and the bodies from there were moved to the current Temple Emanuel Cemetery on Lemmon Avenue at Central Expressway. The longhorn statues are situated partially on that portion of the park.

Some of the first burials in Dallas took place in areas of Pioneer Park that remain a cemetery. The gravestones highlight the city's pioneering families with names such as Stemmons, Peak, Akard, Good, Latimer and Marsalis. But historical markers, most-

ly placed in the 1990s, highlight only those who served in the Confederacy.

For example, Trezevant Calhoun Hawpe was elected sheriff in 1850 and served two terms. In 1862, he organized and was first colonel in the 31st Texas Cavalry, and he is credited with winning the battle of Newtonia for the South. In 1863, he was stabbed to death by a friend on the county courthouse steps. Stand by his headstone and you'll likely feel the earth churning as he rolls over in his grave knowing who his current successor is.

Barton Warren Stone was a farmer who originally opposed Texas secession but then organized and commanded two Texas cavalry regiments for the Confederacy. And John McClannahan Crockett was mayor of Dallas and then lieutenant governor of Texas during the Confederacy.

But those whose names we remember on our streets? Not a word about their contributions to the city from those same historians who chose to memorialize Confederate leaders.

### Lee Park

More than just the statue of Robert E. Lee overlooking Turtle Creek is dedicated to the Confederate general. Arlington Hall

is a replica of Lee's home in Virginia and is part of the memorial to the Confederate general. While Arlington Hall stands as a monument to Lee, nowhere in the park is there an acknowledgment that the original plantation house was built and maintained by slaves.

In 1995, a coalition of community groups joined together to form the Lee Park Conservancy, and renovation and expansion of Arlington Hall was accomplished with private funds.

Among the groups that formed the conservancy was Dallas Tavern Guild, the LGBT bar owners. According to Tavern Guild's Executive Director Michael Doughman, the Tavern Guild has nothing to do with the operation of the park anymore. A few years ago, they replanted the Alan Ross memorial AIDS garden in the park, but any other connection ended when the Pride festival moved to Reverchon Park over space issues.

The Dallas Parks Department still provides maintenance service for the park, but doesn't oversee the operation. The Lee Park Conservancy does.

While the city discusses removing monuments, some have suggested a simple first step in removing Confederate memorials

would be to revert to the park's original name — Oak Lawn Park.

### And at the Capitol

Meanwhile, Confederate monuments remain standing around the state, including at the state Capitol. This week, state Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, sent a request to Texas State Preservation Board to remove a particularly offending plaque and other monuments at the Legislature. And, he said, if a second special session is held, he'll file a resolution demanding their removal.

"I will be introducing a resolution to have this and all other such historically inaccurate and offensive Confederate iconography removed from the Texas Capitol and its grounds," Johnson wrote. "It sure is great not having to check with any owners or handlers before I make a decision."

The plaque Johnson is referring to was placed in the Capitol in 1959 by a group called Children of the Confederacy. Among the goals of the group, the plaque claims, is "to study and teach the truths of history (one of the most important of which is, that the war between the states was not a rebellion, nor was its underlying cause to sustain slavery)."

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# Special session ends with no action on bathroom bill

More abortion restrictions among nine items signed by governor

**JAMES RUSSELL** | Contributing Writer  
james.journo@gmail.com

**T**he Texas Legislature ended its special session on Tuesday, August 15, one day ahead of schedule, after passing only nine of the 20 legislative priorities Gov. Greg Abbott put on the agenda when announcing the session.

Among the bills that failed was the so-called “bathroom bill,” which would have prohibited transgender men and women from using appropriate public restroom facilities and, in some versions, would have rolled back local nondiscrimination ordinances.

The bathroom bill by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, and Rep. Ron Simmons, R-Carrollton, passed in the Senate but did not even get a hearing in the House (the same bill during regular session passed easily in the Senate but never came to a vote in the House). Its defeat came after a year-long campaign against the legislation by corporations, the business community and activist groups. House Speaker Joe Straus has consistently opposed the bill since it was first filed during the regular session.

Numerous business groups celebrated the bill’s demise after the special session was declared sine die, the formal term for the end of a session.

“VisitDallas and the convention and visitors bureaus across Texas are proud of our efforts to defeat the bathroom legislation in Texas. We will always fight to protect the Texas brand and to keep the Texas economy thriving,” said VisitDallas President and CEO Phillip Jones in a statement. “Our broad-based Texas Welcomes All and Keep Texas Open for Business coalition campaign to defeat the discriminatory and unnecessary bathroom bill is consistent with our fundamental belief that a stronger Texas is grounded in policies and laws that foster an open, welcoming and business-friendly state for businesses, their employees and their families.”

Kathy Miller, president of Texas Freedom Network, said, “The failure of a ridiculous bathroom bill shows that business, faith leaders and everyday Texans can come together to stop politicians obsessed with singling out and discriminating against vulnerable people simply because of who they are.”

But other harmful bills, including those limiting access to reproductive health, still passed.

“The reality is our state’s elected leaders for the past eight months have treated the civil liberties of LGBT people, women and immigrants as negotiable at best and irrelevant at worst. We now have even more unnecessary anti-abortion laws that limit the ability of women to make their own decisions about whether and when to have children,” Miller said.

Among those bills were bills banning private insurance from covering abortions, en-



Texas Gov. Greg Abbott

hanced reporting requirements by doctors when an accident occurs during an abortion and requiring doctors to obtain explicit patient or caregiver consent before issuing do-not-resuscitate orders.

Rep. César Blanco, D-El Paso, called those bills part of a “radical” agenda.

“Most Texans can breathe a sigh of relief, now that Gov. Abbott’s radical special session has come to an end,” Blanco said, echoing the comments of other Democrats. “Instead of focusing on meaningful policies that matter to working families, our economy, or communities, Gov. Abbott decided to pander to the extreme-right at the expense of everyday taxpayers.”

After sine die, Abbott threatened to call legislators back for a second special session to take up another one of his priorities: property tax reform. A last-minute deal to cap property tax hikes without elections fell apart between the House and Senate.

The bill previously died in the regular session in the face of resistance from counties and other municipalities.

If he does not call them back for taking up property taxes, Abbott may have to call another special session anyway. That’s in part because of a unanimous court decision this week that two of Texas’ congressional districts are unconstitutional. If the court does

## Special session agenda items

- Sunset legislation: **Passed**
- Teacher retirement benefits: **Passed**
- Teacher pay increase: **Failed**
- School finance reform: **Passed**
- “Private school choice” for kids with disabilities: **Failed**
- Property tax reform: **Failed**
- Caps on state government spending: **Failed**
- Caps on local government spending: **Failed**
- Limits on local tree regulations: **Passed**
- Expediting local government permitting: **Failed**
- Preventing local rule changes on already acquired properties: **Failed**
- Texting while driving local pre-emption: **Failed**
- Transgender bathroom bill, nondiscrimination ordinance pre-emption: **Failed**
- Union dues deduction: **Failed**
- Taxpayer funding for abortion ban: **Failed**
- Abortion insurance: **Passed**
- Abortion reporting: **Passed**
- Do-not-resuscitate protections: **Passed**
- Mail-in ballot fraud: **Passed**
- Maternal mortality Task Force continuation: **Passed**
- Municipal annexation reform: **Passed**

not draw the maps, the legislature will need to reconvene to redraw them.

Legislators will know as soon as Friday, Aug. 19, if they will return for another session. ■

## How the bathroom bill came undone

**PAUL J. WEBER** | Associated Press  
Twitter.com/PaulJWeber

### Looking to North Carolina

The main version of the Texas bill would have required transgender people to use public bathrooms that correspond with the sex on their birth certificate. It was similar to the law North Carolina passed in 2016

but then partially repealed in the wake of political and economic backlash, including the NCAA canceling tournaments and voters booting the Republican governor from office.

That upheaval deterred most GOP governors in the country from pursuing copycat measures. Abbott was publicly noncommittal about a Texas bill at first but ultimately joined with influential social conservative

groups and Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a popular firebrand who is seen as a potential political rival.

Republican supporters dismissed the fallout in North Carolina as overhyped and argued that Texas needed a bill for privacy and safety protections. Police chiefs from Texas’ largest cities, including Houston and San Antonio, say they have not found examples of restroom-related sexual assault

and argued that the bill would make Texas more dangerous by emboldening discrimination.

### Big business opposition

Just like in North Carolina, some of the world’s biggest companies came out against the Texas bill, including Apple and Amazon. Even big oil joined the fight by





summer, with top Exxon Mobil and Shell executives saying the bill would harm Texas' reputation and negatively impact economic growth.

Senate Republicans, who twice passed the bill, have brushed off predictions that Texas would lose jobs or Super Bowl bids. But House Republicans, whose leaders are more moderate, have heeded those warnings and stalled the bill at every turn.

Republican House Speaker Joe Straus has grown increasingly vocal in his rejection of putting bathroom restrictions on transgender people and has not allowed a vote on

the Senate version.

Near the end of the regular legislative session in May, the House passed a watered-down measure that would have applied only to schools, but it was rejected by the Senate as not going far enough.

The deadlock laid bare the escalating GOP infighting in Texas between ascendant social conservatives and business moderates whose numbers and influence have waned with the rise of the Tea Party. But on bathroom restrictions, the House hasn't budged.

### One more try

In dragging lawmakers back to the Texas Capitol to try again this summer, Abbott endorsed a proposal that stopped short of requiring people to use the bathroom that correspond with the sex on their birth certificate but would roll back transgender protections in major Texas cities.

But the House has again stood firm and refused to grant even a hearing. The Senate gavelled out around 10 p.m. Tuesday, meaning the Texas Legislature adjourned its special session a day early.

Supporters say they're not giving up, but given the legislative roadblocks, the battle is now likely to shift outside the Capitol and into the 2018 elections. ■



TWO, From Page 9



ple was surprised to hear they had been turned down by a couple of parents before they were connected to the Jahnels.

"We don't want people to exclude themselves because of assumptions," O'Teter said, adding that BBBS asks about sexual orientation to help them make the right matches. Out is good, he said.

"Someone not in a good place being gay could be a problem," he said.

He also said once a match is made, a match support specialist works with the big. That person is there to troubleshoot problems as well as leverage good things.

Sometimes, the big will see problems in

the home, like the electricity being turned off or bruises on the little that might indicate abuse. On the other hand, through the organization, the match support specialist will provide tickets for theater, museums, sports and other events. They'll put together meet ups like an afternoon of putt-putt or an annual picnic.

O'Teter said most of the matches that don't work are because life happens: Kids move or an adult's situation changes.

"A small percentage we bring to an end because we have a concern," he said.

Success is a match that works for a year with at least two visits a month.

Anyone interested in becoming a big brother, big sister or a big couple may apply online. The local BBBS organization will call within 72 hours and schedule an interview as quickly as possible. Training is done online.

"There's a big waiting list," O'Teter said. "About 2,000 kids right now."

Locally, the organization serves 6,000 to 7,000 kids per year.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is a new Black Tie Dinner beneficiary. ■

For more information or to apply to become a big, visit [bbbstx.org/lgbtq](http://bbbstx.org/lgbtq)



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# A turning point

It is imperative that people of conscience stand together against the evil that marched in Charlottesville

I believe we have reached a turning point in this country.

I have been thinking a lot over the past week about that iconic video from April 2003 that shows U.S. troops stepping in to help Iraqi citizens topple a statue of despotic — and by that time, overthrown — leader Saddam Hussein in Firdos Square in Baghdad.



**Tammye Nash**  
Managing Editor

Monday, Aug. 14. I wondered what those Iraqis in that 2003 video would say if some-

I was reminded, most vividly, of that moment as I watched a video of a crowd tearing down the Confederate Soldiers Monument at the Old Durham County Courthouse in Durham, N.C., on

body came along and told them, “No, leave that statue up. It represents part of our history; it’s part of our heritage.”

I don’t think those Iraqis would be swayed by that argument. And I wonder why so many Americans *are* swayed by that same argument when it comes to the monuments to the Confederacy and those who fought for that still stand across the South.

I’m also wondering why it is so many people are having a hard time condemning the Nazis who marched last weekend in Charlottesville, Va. I mean, white people (mostly men) marching through the streets, chanting hateful things about Jews and people of color (and yes, LGBT people, too) as they waved around Confederate battle flags and Nazi banners bearing swastikas and snapped off a “siege, heil” salute here and there ... One of them even killed a woman and injured several others when he drove his car into a peaceful crowd of counter-protesters.

Seriously, what’s not to condemn?

And yet, so many feel compelled to defend these fine, upstanding sons (and some daughters) of the South. “They’ve got the right to free speech.” “They’re just defending their heritage.”

Sure ... except, no.

Yes, we here in America do have the First Amendment, which guarantees that we are entitled to free speech. But it does *not* say that we are free to say what-the-hell-ever we want, when-the-hell-ever we want. The First Amendment does not protect obscenity, fighting words, defamation, child pornography, perjury, blackmail, incitement to lawless action, true threats or solicitations to commit crime.

I can guarantee you that many — if not the waaaaay vast majority — of the Nazis (white supremacists, fascists, alt-righters, whatever you wanna call them) were spouting speech that falls into at least one of those categories. I know, because I heard them.

See, there’s another video making the rounds this week. It’s a 22-minute documentary-style piece by Elle Reeve and her crew from Vice News Tonight. Reeve and her crew embedded themselves with the Nazis last weekend, interviewing them on





# The **power** in a symbol

**I**t was a pink triangle, a simple piece of cloth sewed to the pocket of an overcoat. A symbol that declared the man wearing it was a pariah, sub-human, worthy only of scorn and derision.

He received much the same treatment as those forced to wear two yellow triangles forming a Star of David. He also had a tattoo, a number on his forearm that was now his identity until he and the rest of those wearing those symbols were erased from the face of the earth.

Symbols are powerful things.

When I first came out, my first outward statement was to wear a lapel pin in the shape of a pink triangle. I wore it not because I considered myself a pariah, but because I was refusing to let the world forget what it once meant, and to take back the power to oppress that symbol once had.

After all, symbols only have power if we give it to them.

So what does this have to do with anything? Well, right now there are Americans waving symbols of oppression and inhumanity and claiming they are doing it to “take our country back.” I want to know, take it back from whom?

My father’s generation fought the bloodiest war in history against those symbols and the people who believed in what the symbols stood for, and to save the people



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

who wore pink triangles and yellow stars. We call my father’s generation “the greatest generation” because they fought that war, and considering the dangers and evil they faced, I would agree with that.

If I listen closely, I can hear those brave men and women rolling over in their graves. Did they fight that bloody war only so a new generation, fired by ignorance and hate, could wave swastikas and flood the streets of a college town carrying tiki torches, doing a laughable imitation of the Nuremberg rally?

And what of the generation who Lincoln so eloquently eulogized at Gettysburg? The ones who fought for the Union in the Civil War. Did they fight and die to preserve the Union only so their great-great-great grandchildren could wear the symbols of the Confederacy and the institution of slavery on their t-shirts? Did they defeat the secessionists at a staggering cost of lives and treasure just to see their descendants forget the terrible cost of that defeat for both sides?

Symbols still hold terrible power, and it’s time we retired a few of them for good.

The stars and bars flag, like the swastika, belongs in a museum, not on the streets of America. The foolish men and women shouting the only words of German they know and screaming insults at people of color, gays, lesbians, and Jews are really insulting their own ancestors. They take those who died to give them their freedom and defecate on their graves.

Strong symbolism? Absolutely, but it is intended to make it clear that symbols can have tremendous power and should be used with care.

The swastika and the Confederate Battle Flag and other emblems like them are symbols of the oppressor, not the oppressed, and as such they are beyond reclaiming. The fact that hate-filled fools are still waving them as they riot in the streets is ample proof.

Worse still is an insane marketing attempt to create a “rainbow swastika” line of clothing! When I saw this travesty in a Facebook post, I actually said out loud: “What were they thinking?!”

The fact that this idea even came up shows we do little to educate our country about the horrors of wars and the hubris of those who start them.

I have no doubt that our current resident

in the White House has given those who do not know their history tacit permission to expose their ignorance and hatred and call it “alt right.” It’s not “alt” and it’s not “right.” It’s just plain-old garden variety hate.

They wave their flags and carry their garden torches and scream at the cameras to show the world how little they understand — a parade of ignorance fueled by a blind hatred — and they are dangerous. We cannot afford to ignore them, nor can we be bullied by them.

We must stand with our fellow Americans — black Americans, brown Americans, gay Americans, lesbian Americans, transgender Americans, bisexual Americans, native Americans. We must stand with Americans of every ethnicity and ancestry, of every religion or of no religion at all. We must stand together and say, “Put down those swastikas. Put down those battle flags. Lay aside your hatred and come to your senses.”

Our forefathers fought and won this battle already, let us not ignore their sacrifices. Our nation was forged in battle, but it does not need to be at war with itself anymore. We have better things to do; we have greater achievements yet to make. We have a brighter future ahead.

But to reach it, we must lay aside those symbols that inflame and terrorize. ■

camera and letting them tell their side of the story all by themselves. There’s nothing made-up or fake news about it.

I watched it. It literally made me sick to my stomach. I listened to the vile, evil things they said. I watched while they showed off the weaponry — firearms and knives and clubs — with which they had armed themselves for their “peaceful” march. I heard them threaten to kill people who dared stand up to them and I heard them applaud the murderer who attacked people with his car.

I watched them. I listened to them. I felt my disgust — and my blood pressure — rise.

And to hear Donald Trump — the *president of the United States*, for Christ’s sake! — defend those people and claim there were some fine folks in that crowd, that made me even sicker. I wonder if Trump watched the

Vice News video — or any actual coverage of Nazi rallies and marches in Charlottesville last weekend — before he took his beligerent bully self before the TV cameras for his temper-tantrum of a press conference and defended about those fine folks waving swastikas and giving Nazi salutes.

This is what our country has come to. Appalled is way too mild a word to describe my state of mind.

The time has come, it is absolutely imperative, that the people of conscience in this country come together and stand up, stand firm and speak out against this hatred — no, this *evil* — that has risen up and shown its ugly face so plainly in the last week.

This is not an issue of political partisanship. We can’t just point at one party and blame everything on them. Not all Republicans are evil racists just because the Republican president is an evil racist.

That is simplistic and, ultimately, unhelpful, and it gives each of us who *aren’t* Republicans too much of a pass. We all have to take a long, hard, honest look at ourselves, root out those seeds of prejudice and bigotry that we all have hidden inside ourselves, whether we want to admit it or not.

Until we confront our personal truth, we cannot effectively fight for the greater “truth.”

And this isn’t about skin color or ethnicity or country of origin. We cannot let ourselves be divided along those artificial lines. Are we all different people, with different beliefs and different cultures and different backgrounds? Yes, we are. But are we all part of the human race, equals in humanity? Yes. And that is where we must focus right now.

We can’t play word games about “heritage” and “history” and “tolerance” and

such. And we can’t pretend that the Confederate monuments the Nazis claimed they were marching to protect are anything more than an homage to and a celebration of a time in our history and a system of business and government that were based on the oppression of a whole race of people.

Are these monuments a representation of a piece of history that should be preserved? Yes, but it wasn’t a part of our history to be celebrated and these monuments should only be preserved in context. And “in context” does not mean on display in our public parks and at government buildings.

The time has come.

I believe our country has reached a turning point. I hope we turn the right way. ■

*Tammye Nash is managing editor of Dallas Voice. She is a Texan, born and reared, and can trace her ancestry back to Civil War veterans on both sides of the war, and beyond.*



# Minty fresh

Drag Racer Peppermint sashays into Dallas with transgender awareness

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer  
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## PEPPERMINT

Marty's Live, 4207 Maple  
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Before striking out on their own, novice drag queens are often first schooled in the time-honored art of female illusion. Many veteran queens, affectionately known as drag mothers, offer beginners a practiced eye to assist with makeup, hair, wardrobe and accessories. But NYC-based dragster Peppermint was not the beneficiary of such early mentoring.

"My first time in drag was at age 16 for a drag contest in high school," Peppermint recalls. "I won and was hooked. I didn't look very good, though. I didn't have much help or a drag family... just the help of the school's wardrobe closet."

It didn't seem to slow her down, though. A semifinalist on last season's RuPaul's Drag Race, Peppermint will appear at Marty's Live on Saturday. And she hasn't lost sight of what got her started down this path.

Unlike many teens who may try drag on a dare or lark, Peppermint was on a mission. She viewed drag as an opportunity for a young woman born in a male body to express her burgeoning gender identity covertly. In many ways, it was for her a coming of age.

"Drag was the best way for me to explore my idea of female gender expression without being chastised for wanting to be a woman, as many would say ... although I was already a woman," she says. Indeed, one of her most memorable moments on Drag Race wasn't on the runway, but when she came out to her fellow contestants in the dressing room as a trans woman — one of only a few transgender Drag Racers openly to acknowledge their gender identity during competition. For her, it was an important step, and she welcomed the acceptance she received from her competitors.

While Peppermint did not take home the crown — Sasha Velour won the prize after a heated lip-sync battle — her standing as runner-up has provided a stage from which she is able to advocate for transgender equality during a time when such activism is perhaps more important than ever.

"Since I have more visibility, I can easily draw attention to gender equality [issues] including bathroom bills and military service bans, [actions] which I think are attempts to erase individuals for lack of clarity and understanding on [the part] of those who are proponents of such nonsense," she says. "Therefore, the most effective way for myself or anyone different to affect change is to live our lives openly. So I'm very grateful I'm able to do that, and I plan to use my platform as long as I have it."

As for the *Drag Race* experience itself, Peppermint says she was able to confirm a few things about herself, including the fact that she is "not a morning person." She

calls the competition "tough," and reveals that — besides RuPaul of course — her favorite judge was Michelle Visage, whom she has loved since her days co-hosting VH1's *The RuPaul Show*.

"The finale was surreal and relieving," Peppermint says. "I was happy to finally bring everything to a head. Speaking of heads, Sasha really killed the finale, though I'm not surprised. She is a brilliant performer, and I always said if I don't win, I'd want her to. I was bummed not to take the crown, but I really feel like a winner."

Lip-sync battle aside, Peppermint and Sasha remain great friends. In fact, the two are planning a 2018 college tour "to speak about gender, the influence of drag, and the future of our communities." Peppermint has no regrets about participating in the competition and is "still in touch with all the girls." In fact, she says she might even consider returning for an All Stars cycle, provided her now-bustling schedule would allow.

"I would do it again if the time was right," Peppermint says. "I'm so happy I participated. Before the show, I was mostly working in New York and only traveling occasionally to perform. Now I'm on the road most days of the week. It's exhausting, but it gives me a chance to connect with some really great audiences."

Her showbiz hustle isn't limited to club appearances, either. Peppermint recently released the *Black Pepper* EP, her second recording, which she says showcases her "spicier, deeper side." She attributes this exploration to the fact that many of the EP's songs were written after experiencing "a devastating breakup."

Peppermint is also working on becoming a screen queen, of sorts. Production continues on *Project Peppermint*, the working title of a documentary offering a behind-the-scenes look at the diva's day-to-day life while examining fame, gender identity and the drag world. In it, Peppermint reveals some unexpected truths, including the fact that she once considered sex work — "a reality for many women, cisgender or trans," she says. In Peppermint's case, however, the motivation was to pay for gender reassignment surgery.

"I asked the director, Oriel Peer, to film a few shows and take some pics," Peppermint says of the documentary. "The movie started out very small and got huge and follows my daily life before *Drag Race*."

Peppermint has experienced many things along her journey from 16-year-old drag contestant to drag superstar. Yet her advice regarding gender identity remains simple.

"Don't suppress your feelings," she says. "Trust yourself. You are exactly who you are meant to be. And you will be so happy!"



## ROLL CALL!

Calling all LGBT Parents and kids!



Family PRIDE Zone is a family friendly outdoor space in conjunction with the Music Festival in the Park, held on **Saturday, September 16th - 11am to 7pm**. The Music Festival is located at Reverchon Park and is a Dallas Tavern Guild event.

Inside the main gates of the Music Festival is a fenced off safe space created for the Family PRIDE Zone. Security professionals will staff our entrance. Park entrance fees are \$10 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be listed among other house rules.

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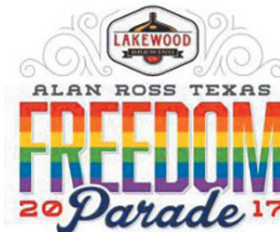
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# Hammer time

Mercedes' GLC43 AMG drops the hammer on crossovers



**CASEY WILLIAMS** | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

AMG has a long history of being Mercedes' in-house gym, delivering cars as diverse as the GT-S supercar that blips 0-60 mph in 3.7 seconds and G65, a 621-horsepower brick-square mountain goat with a biturbo V12. But, its card was swiped with the "Hammers" — modified 1980s E-Class sedans wagons that could move Porsche 911s out of the Autobahn's left lane. Somewhere in the middle of this display of this speed orgy and motorized hostility is the GLC43 that drops a hammer on crossovers.

In the flesh, the GLC43 is a compact crossover sharing basic architecture with the Mercedes C-Class sedan, but fortified for trashing fast lanes. Beneath its smooth flanks is a 3.0-liter biturbo V6 engine delivering 362 horsepower through a 9-speed automatic transmission. Fully throttled, it scamps from 0-60 mph in just 4.8 seconds. Fuel economy, partly due to ECO stop/start technology that pauses the engine at rest, is rated 18/24-MPG city/highway. Yeah, a Prius it won't challenge.

But one glance at its flashy body identifies the GLC43 as from the sportier side of Mercedes' gene pool. I still miss the GLC's predecessor, the square GLK, but

I'm warming to its streamlined flanks — especially when hunkered over 21-in. alloy wheels and lit with LEDs front and rear. A large grille star, twin bumps on the hood and wrap-around taillamps honor Mercedes heritage. Large air intakes, badging and spoiler tell you it's an AMG.

Beyond the threshold is a comfortable and special passenger space. Hugging MB Tex and suede heated seats up front, carbon fiber trim, flat-bottom steering wheel and red accent stitching are the opening barrage. Settle in to notice the sweet-sounding Bermester audio system, dual-pane sunroof and Bluetooth. Take a big whiff of the perfume atomizer. Control the whole infotainment shebang via console dial, buttons and writing-recognition touchpad.

Ambient lighting adds allure.

Look behind the star in the grille and you'll find the radar unit for adaptive cruise control and forward crash mitigation system. There are also lane keep assist, pedestrian recognition and blind spot assist systems. A 360-degree camera and lane-centering steering control take stress off of drivers.

Driving any Mercedes is not just about power, it's also about refined and agile handling. 4MATIC all-wheel-drive handles tracks and poor weather, but the AMG



Dynamic Select system also allows drivers to configure the powertrain, steering and chassis for ECO (saves fuel), Comfort (everyday driving), Sport (getting ready) and Sport+ (head to the track). Those big wheels have a heck of a time keeping rough pavement from disturbing the cabin, but you can toss the crossover with abandon and know it's up to the challenge — flat-out down the Interstate or carving up backroads.

If you aren't impressed with this AMG GLC, just wait. Come 2018, the GLC63

AMG debuts with a 469-horsepower 4.0-liter biturbo V8 that rips from 0-60 mph in 3.9s. Hold onto your cape, Superman!

Like all AMG products, the GLC43 adheres to the "One Man, One Engine" craftsmanship that sets it apart. It's special, adhering to a long heritage of grand performance machines. This one just happens to have five seats and a roomy cargo area. Step on the throttle and you'll know this hammer didn't drop far from the family tree.

Prices start at \$54,900 but came to \$62,025 with almost every box checked. ■

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# Todrick Hall walks the Yellow Brick Road

LIFE+STYLE

profile





'Kinky Boots' star and doc subject on finding his courage, shero emulation and inspiring 'little Todricks'

**T**odrick Hall grew up in Plainview, Texas, with a dream to be "one of these black women who could sing all these crazy notes." It is, after all, in his blood — his cousin is none other than *Dreamgirls* song slayer Jennifer Holliday.

But first, as a child, the aspiring soul singer found life in *The Little Mermaid*, replicating Ariel's crimson hair with a red towel on his head and gadgets and gizmos a-plenty. Claspng a fork, he created a makeshift fishtail by binding his feet together with a water hose. Meanwhile, to channel another shero of his, Catwoman, he got his hands on some blue tape, nails and a jump rope, which doubled as his whip and tail.

"My backyard was my playground," the 32-year-old singer says of his childhood, when he discovered another one of his female role models: Mariah Carey. His adoration for the biracial diva ran deep. "I think I just was more inspired to be like Mariah Carey," he says.

In 1993, he had a revelation after seeing the "Dreamlover" music video: "I was like, 'Oh my god.' I had never seen anyone who appeared to be Caucasian sound like that. I was just fascinated."

His propensity for female vocalists extended to Lauryn Hill's singing in *Sister Act 2* and Brandy in the Whitney Houston-as-the-fairy-godmother version of *Cinderella*, along with '90s R&B girl-group sensation SWV. And, because he felt destined to become all these ladies, "I would practice day in and day out."

That practice led Hall beyond his own

backyard, from ballet at age 9 to *The Color Purple* with *American Idol* alum Fantasia Barrino. Then, in 2009, he impressed the *American Idol* judges himself, nabbing a spot in the semi-finals. With vocal tributes to artists such as Rihanna, Taylor Swift and Beyoncé, his "4" series on YouTube gave his career a nice boost. (Soon, he says he'll be honoring his childhood idol with a webisode dedicated to Mariah Carey: "I just have to be on vocal rest for, like, three weeks; her music is so hard!")

After releasing an ambitious, 57-minute conceptual album in 2016 and replacing Billy Porter as Lola in *Kinky Boots* on Broadway that same year, Hall says, "I think my younger self would be really shocked [about my career now] because I didn't have very high expectations for my life, and I've just gotten to do some really, really cool things I never thought I'd get to do."

The album, called *Straight Outta Oz*, reflects thoughtfully and powerfully on Hall's coming-of-age as a gay black kid in Small Town Texas, through his rise to fame while struggling to adjust to a new life in Los Angeles. "Color" ruminates on his first boyfriend, a handsome Londoner named Garrett, "the first to really know me." Visually, it replicates Dorothy's own life in a new world, as yellows, blues and greens pop into the video's stark, black-and-white frame.

Guest stars include *RuPaul's Drag Race* vets Kim Chi, Bob the Drag Queen and Willam Belli, as well as Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Nicole Scherzinger and, as Hall's mother, Amber Riley, who contributes the moving tearjerker "See Your Face," about a woman yearning for her distant son. "Got a picture framed of you on stage at your very first ballet, and I

■ TODRICK Page 24



Hall and his mom



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# Heist to see you again

Steven Soderbergh returns to filmmaking with the familiar caper 'Logan Lucky'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

After he directed *Side Effects*, Steven Soderbergh announced he was retiring from directing feature films — he'd produce films, and he'd work in TV (including directing *Behind the Candelabra* and the series *The Knick*), but he was through with Hollywood as a big-time, Oscar-winning movie director.

That was in 2013. Didn't last long.

Soderbergh has just released his latest directorial feature, *Logan Lucky*. He returned to films, he said, because he found a way to circumvent the studio system and put out a film truly independently, with the artists getting paid what they're due instead of begging for scraps from bean-counting CPAs in corner offices. And what vehicle did he use to make this point? A story about working-class men who stick it to bean-counting CPAs in corner offices.

Big stretch, right? Not at all... in multiple respects. Not only does the film's plot reinforce its message of scoundrels outsmarting The Man, but it's a theme Soderbergh has revisited time and time again. Not only does *Logan Lucky* seem like an unofficial sequel to the *Ocean's* heist movies, it also recalls Soderbergh's cult hit *Out of Sight*: Hip romance, jazzy, not-too-serious pacing, whackadoo timeline jumps and a casual attitude. It's not a thriller (the stakes never seem that high), but a procedural: How will the Logan siblings — lovable loser Jimmy (Channing Tatum), one-handed veteran Clyde (Adam Driver) and sexy sister Mellie (Riley Keough) — manage to rob the Charlotte Motor Speedway and get safecracker Jack

Bang (Daniel Craig) out of jail *and back in* before anyone notices?

The premise is delicious. The film is a lot of fun. And that's about it.

Going back to *Columbo*, watching the villains getting away with a crime (until they don't anymore) is one of the most satisfying jigsaw puzzles of plotting. The trick is to entice the audience as co-conspirators from the outset. Get them to wonder how the heist will be pulled off by establishing insurmountable obstacles ... and then surmount them. Jimmy even writes a decalog of "rules" in getting the job done before he even begins. The enjoyment should come in checking off that list with him.

Only that doesn't *really* happen... not entirely satisfyingly, at least. After the initial list-making, the rules aren't consulted again until nearly the end. The mechanics of

the plan less impressive than you hope, including the prison break (and return) which is not so much clever as profoundly unlikely and downright lucky. It feels, in fact, like *Ocean's 6 — Lite Edition*. (Craig even gets the same tongue-in-cheek "and introducing" credit that he gave to Julia Roberts.)

Soderbergh's biggest errors are in letting some of his actors' performances get away from him. Katherine Waterston has the most grounded role as Tatum's possible paramour, and the bright-eyed doofishness of Craig, Jack Quaid and Brian Gleeson as hicks with more tattoos than teeth brush up to the edge of parody without crossing it. But the accent Driver gives to his dopey redneck is one step shy of Yosemite Sam (amusing, but hardly

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authentic)... although he's Meryl-Frickin-Streep next to Seth McFarlane's woefully awful British accent (I guess? Maybe Australian? Probably though Nofuckingwayistanian) and painfully cartoonish performance, including a moustache that looks like it was borrowed from the Groucho Marx Collection at Kmart.

Aside from McFarlane's distracting (but mercifully small) role, these are mostly nitpicks. *Logan Lucky* feels derivative, but still worthwhile. The real puzzle is why Soderbergh chose it for his heralded comeback. He didn't exactly challenge himself, or his audience, with something groundbreaking. But maybe that's the result of swimming in the shark-infested waters of Hollywood. He's treading familiar, warm waters very close to the shore. But the scenery is still relaxing. ■

Channing Tatum, Riley Keough and Adam Driver are the Logans in 'Logan Lucky.'



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know that you won't answer," she wrenchingly sings, "but I'll call you twice a day, just in case today might be the day I get to see your face."

For Hall, "I think I was honestly very naive growing up and thought I was a Disney princess my whole life," he says, laughing. "I still kind of think I do feel that way! So, I didn't feel super different as a child, minus the moments where my dad made me feel really weird. My mom always applauded me for wanting to do ballet. But I didn't attach a sexual orienta-

tion to my life until much later."

Though he grew up feeling fearless, when he moved to L.A. to pursue showbiz, "I learned how to be insecure, and I learned how to doubt myself." Ashamed of his race and sexuality, he admits, "I didn't really believe in myself."

"I wished I could change so I could be more successful commercially," he recalls. "I remember being on *American Idol*, and I couldn't be myself. I had to talk a certain way to Ryan Seacrest. I was just so nervous that people would figure out my secret."

Even if "this is gonna sound really crazy," during a rough patch with his mom caused by his relationship with Garrett (they've since reconciled), he found comfort in Nicole Richie. He says the star and her reality show, *The Simple Life*, were his pick-me-ups. "I just think she's so funny and so whippety," he says. "I literally had dreams about being friends with her. So, when I meet her one day, I'm gonna lose my mind."

Now, "not only am I not ashamed," he asserts, "I'm so proud to be an openly gay

black man and so proud that me using my voice to tell my story can help people." His journey through self-discovery and into empowerment is mirrored in his work, where being himself has been his greatest asset. He says he was offered the role of Lola in *Kinky Boots* "without even auditioning, because they felt my story was so similar to that of Lola's. It's opened up so many doors," he blithely adds.

Hall's galvanizing story is the kind that makes for movie magic, which is what filmmaker Katherine Fairfax Wright set out to create with the new documentary *Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall*, currently making the rounds on the film festival circuit. The documentary goes deep into the entertainer's struggles to find his place in Hollywood as a gay black man. "There's not a lot of roles for gay African-American men," he says during the film. "I was like, 'I'm gonna create my own opportunities because they don't exist if I don't.'"

His moxie and unflappable ambition resulted in 16 videos — miraculously, all shot in a two-week period — for *Straight Outta Oz*, its creation covered in depth during Wright's *Behind the Curtain*. Post *Straight Outta Oz*, he began receiving calls from Broadway producers. Publishers offered him book deals. Even Taylor Swift, who came to see him in *Kinky Boots*, is a fan — and friend — now.

During Thanksgiving last year, Hall celebrated with Swift and her crew, and, like a full-circle dream-come-true, the two even sat down at a piano to sing "Part of Your World" from *The Little Mermaid*. "It was such an epic moment," he recalls, gushing about how she's the "ultimate great best friend. She gives me the best advice, and when I watch her, it's much like watching RuPaul — RuPaul is not only where he is because he's a legend in his own right, he treats every single person who he works for and works with so well and that's why he has people who've been around him for years."

After guest-judging on *RuPaul's Drag Race*, Hall's relationship with the drag and cultural icon has given him new aspirations: He, like RuPaul, hopes to empower people who once felt as discouraged and hopeless as he did.

"Every time I sit next to RuPaul on our panel, I'm like, 'I want to be this one day.' When you walk into a room and people say, 'Thank you for doing what you have done.'"

"I wanna be somebody who's a trailblazer for our community — so a little Todrick in Texas right now can look up to me and say, 'You know what? I can do it because Todrick did it.'"

— Chris Azzopardi

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**Thursday 08.24 —  
Sunday 09.24**

**Beat the Texas heat with a trip to  
the 'Royal Society of Antarctica'**

What would it take to get you to live in the coldest, remotest location at the bottom of the world? (That's an easier question to answer if you live in Texas during the summer.) What if you were born there and all your life you knew only misfits and scientists — gadabouts who create their own world? That's the premise of *The Royal Society of Antarctica*, the latest show from Fort Worth's Stage West. Lee Trull directs an exceptional cast that includes Drew Wall, Michael Federico, Christopher Dontrell Piper and Grace Montie.

**DEETS:** Stage West, 281 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth.  
In previews through Aug. 26.  
StageWest.org.



**Sunday 08.20**

**See the top singers in Dallas compete for Voice of Pride**

All summer long, the Voice of Pride competition has proceeded through a series of preliminaries and elimination rounds of just so the best of the best could turn out to compete in a wonderful display on singing talent throughout the Metroplex. The finalists compete this Sunday at the Rose Room for cash prizes, bragging rights, a ride on the float at the Pride parade and a chance to perform at the Pride festival. Come root for your favorite and hear all the Voices of Pride.

**DEETS:** The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. doors.  
DallasPride.org.

**Saturday 08.19**

**Hoot and Holler with cowboys  
at Gaybingo**

Hey, we're in Texas, we like cowboys ... even those who just dress up like 'em. Tight Wranglers and an aw-shucks smile? That's why we don't live in New Hampshire. So come out to celebrate what makes Texas great — and do some good for charity — at the monthly Gaybingo event this weekend, with the theme Hoot & Holler. It'll be a blast, dagnabit!

**DEETS:** The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.  
5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. show.  
\$25-\$45.  
MyResourceCenter.org.

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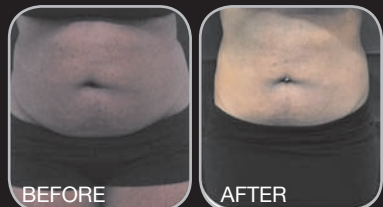
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## calendar highlights



A tribute concert to disco legends ABBA gets funky at Annette Strauss Square on Saturday.

## ARTSWEEK

### THEATER

**All About Bette.** The return of the acclaimed one-woman show, with Morgana Shaw transfixing as screen legend Bette Davis. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road, Aug. 18–26. [AnEveningWithBetteDavis.com](http://AnEveningWithBetteDavis.com).

**Beehive: The '60s Musical.** Jukebox musical about the women who made pop music in the 1960s so memorable. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Aug. 27. [JubileeTheatre.org](http://JubileeTheatre.org).

**Hit the Wall.** A play with music about the Stone-wall Riots that triggered the modern gay liberation movement. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. [WaterTowerTheatre.org](http://WaterTowerTheatre.org).

**The Minotaur.** Anna Ziegler's contemporary take on love and honor, with the mythic creature of the title as its symbolic center. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Aug. 27. [Theatre3Dallas.com](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

**Ripcord!** The residents of an assisted living facility engage in a game of oneupsmanship, with hilarious results. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St, Fort Worth. Through Sept. 16. [CircleTheatre.com](http://CircleTheatre.com).

**Women Playing Hamlet.** Comedy from Pegasus Theatre about a woman who takes on the Melancholy Dane. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Aug. 26. Search Eventbrite.com or visit [www.goo.gl/QTXguP](http://www.goo.gl/QTXguP) for tickets.

### FINE ART

**Sopheap Pich.** The Cambodian sculptor's work, including the massive *Rang Phnom Flower*, on display at Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 7. [CrowCollection.org](http://CrowCollection.org).

**Iris Van Herpen: Transforming Fashion.** A must-see show of the designer's wondrous garments. *Final weekend.* Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. DMA.org.

## FRIDAY 08.18

### COMMUNITY

**Panoptikon.** The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY 08.19

### COMMUNITY

**GayBingo.** This month's theme is Hoot & Holler at this game and fundraising party benefiting Resource Center. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 5 p.m. doors, 6 p.m. curtain. \$25–\$45. [MyResourceCenter.org](http://MyResourceCenter.org).

**Peppermint.** The recent Drag Racer performs, with Nicole O'Hara Munro, Raquel Blake and more. See story Page 16. Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave. 9 p.m. [OneNightInBangkok.org](http://OneNightInBangkok.org).

### CONCERTS

**ABBA The Concert — A Tribute.** The actual band hasn't toured in decades, but you can get close to the experience with this tribute performance at the disco legends. Annette Strauss Square, 2389 Flora St. 8 p.m. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

## SUNDAY 08.20

### COMMUNITY

**Voice of Pride Finals.** The finalists compete for the title, prize and right to headline Dallas Pride in September. The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m.

## MONDAY 08.21

### CABARET

**Mama's Party.** Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theater, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

## TUESDAY 08.22

### FILM

**Hello, Dolly!** Barbra Streisand was miscast, but this big-budget musical benefits from Jerry Herman's bubbly score. Look for Tommy Tune in a rare film appearance. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.





Theseus (Kyle Ignezi) confronts the Minotaur (Darren McElroy)... but also his own humanity.  
(Photo by Jeffrey Schmidt)

### Horns of a dilemma 'The Minotaur' updates mythology at Theatre 3

Anyone who has ever read Joseph Campbell knows that even ancient myths were meant to resonate in the modern world: Quests are quests whether you're talking about Argonauts, Hobbits, Jedi or Avengers ... it's just that many myths are so couched in the iconography of the past, audiences don't realize it.

So when a trio of masked actors step onstage at Theatre 3, incanting the legends of ancient Crete at the outset of *The Minotaur*, it feels familiar, but old-fashioned: the Greek chorus. But then the masks come off as we meet a black female rabbi (Renee Jones), a priest (Randy Pearlman) and a lawyer (David Lugo), and these stories take on the aura of a coffee klatch. They dish about the cursed Minotaur (Darren McElroy), a half-breed man-bull doomed to wander the unsolvable maze known as the Labyrinth, craving only human flesh. He's a monster whose fate is sealed ... or is he a tragic hero given free will and the gift of human choice? Even he doesn't know.

And so goes Anna Ziegler's modern retelling of the dark fable of the warrior demigod Theseus (Kyle Ignezi) who at the behest of Ariadne (Cora Grace Winstead) delved into the Labyrinth to meet — or overcome? — his destiny. The play toggles back and forth between the classic texts and the contemporary idiom, sorting out the nature of mankind and how our passions can control us, whether by a face that launched a thousand ships or a selfie in an online chatroom for royals. Destiny and desire, demons and dreams, guilt and appetite have been around forever. It's how we deal with them

that defines us. "We cannot be monsters — we are heroes," Theseus assures Ariadne... until he's not sure he believes it himself.

Jeffrey Schmidt launches his first full season as the new head of Theatre 3 with this sure-footed directorial effort (he also designed the sparse but evocative set). Schmidt has always been a resourceful director — a problem-solver — and he blends the competing styles superbly. A strong suit is the casting: Ignezi cuts a swashbuckling mien with the boyish charm of Leonardo DiCaprio; McElroy is a brooding, sexy beast; Pearlman kvetches and Lugo mansplains like nobody's business.

The play has its weaknesses. Sometimes the plot can get twisted or drift its focus, but the humanity and thoughtfulness shine through the darkness. *The Minotaur* hooks you.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Theatre 3,  
2800 Routh St. Through Aug. 27.  
Theatre3Dallas.com.

### this week's solution

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# Cassie Nova

Why I hate drag (and still love it)

Hello, my lovelies. This is going to be a weird one. Last night when driving home from the show, I had to laugh at myself for the bullshit I put my body through to do drag — I was hurting from head to toe. So I thought I would compile a list of all of the reasons I sometimes hate drag. I will also list some things that I used to do that I grew out of for the betterment of my body.

First, of course, is tucking — i.e., hiding my junk “down there.” Usually it is not a problem, but last night I tucked in a hurry. I yanked it

back a little too far and yanked my gaff (a gaff is like a dance belt that holds everything in place) up a little too tight. I am way too hairy down there to ever use duct tape as panties.

The next few sentences are kind of graphic so some of you may want to skip to this paragraph: The thong part of my gaff literally spent the night tight against the head of my peen and damn near split it in half. It was fine while it was on, but when I removed it...let's just say my dick is not happy with me today. He is usually so cute, but now he looks like a domestic

abuse survivor with one black eye.

Next is the pain from my toes. I've been doing drag long enough that I know how to put on tights in a way that won't kill my tootsies, but last night I guess I rushed. I put four pair of tights on and they put a lot of pressure on my little pigs. Once again, everything was fine until I took them off and blood rushed back into my feet. Plus heels are the devil. I have small feet, so I can have my pick of fabulous shoes, but I usually tend to wear the same few pair because they are less painful to parade around and dance in.

I used to glue my wigs down or wear them really tight, but after years of headaches from the band in the back of a wig or the rip of skin when you removed a glued-down wig, now I just barely sit that bitch on my head like a hat. A stiff wind could blow it off my head. Not to mention how hot wearing a wig makes you. Your body releases heat out of the top of your head, so when you keep it covered, you are basically baking your brain.

I wear the biggest eyelashes I can find and then double them up, so when you see me, I'm sporting two pair of 301 lashes glued to my eyelid. I know how to do it to keep from ripping my skin off every time I remove them, but I learned that the hard way. I put a thick coat of base and eyeshadow on my lids so that I am basically removing just the makeup when I rip those fuckers off. Before I started doing that, after a few nights in drag I would remove skin when I took my lashes off. My lids would swell, and I looked like bees had stung me in my eye. And it hurt ... especially when I would have to do it all again the next night.

Now let's talk about earlobes. I know a lot of girls that use Super Glue to adhere earrings to their ears; I used to. How else do you think we get those big-ass beauties to stay put? Doing this is very bad for you, though. It turns your earlobes into hamburger meat. Valerie Lohr was told by her doctor that she had glue poisoning. That's a real thing. My ears are pierced so now I only wear earrings for pierced ears because I am fishy like that. They still hurt my earhole but not as bad as ripping glued flesh.

I wear the most sickening corset. It makes my fat ass look like I have a nice female shape. I aspire to be curved like the Mississippi River but will settle for Jessica Rabbit. My corset does that. I love how it looks. I honestly don't feel like I am in drag unless I can barely breathe. I can't even put it on myself — I always need someone to cinch me in it. No, it is not comfortable. I am sure my organs are in the wrong places from years of waist-training. Sometimes I think it would just be easier to lose weight but then, you know ... tacos.

Back in the day, I would contour the hell out of my chest and use duct tape to push up my chesticles so that I looked like I had real breasts. I loved confusing people and letting them think I had had that procedure. Bitch, my mama would kill me if I ever got titties. I would tape from armpit to armpit in a smile shape to get my little man teets to look like big ol lady boobs. It looked great but was a bitch to get off. Ripping it off fast like a Band-Aid is not the way to go when removing duct tape from your



chest, you will remove flesh. I rarely tape now days because as I've gotten older, I figure my breasts have started to sag a little. I am all about realism.

I get made fun of regularly for not wearing nails. I love how they look, but back in the day the only choice was to Super Glue them to your own nails. I would do it for pageants or getting photos done, but it would ruin my boy nails. Once, after doing Miss Texas, I wore nails every day for a week, and it messed my fingers up. Two of my fingers got a painful infection that took forever to heal. I decided then to never wear nails again. I don't care if I get called “man hands.” Nowadays they have these great press-ons that actually stay in place for the most part and don't ruin your nails, but I am set in my ways and couldn't care less about wearing nails. Truth is, I can't do anything for myself once I have nails on. You don't realize how much you use your thumb and forefinger until you can't use them because you don't want to lose a nail.

I don't know what it is about getting out of drag that makes me sneeze, but every night post-show, I sneeze at least seven times. I am sure my lungs and insides are 80 percent Coty powder. The day after doing drag, I always wake up to black crusty eye boogers. It is very glamorous.

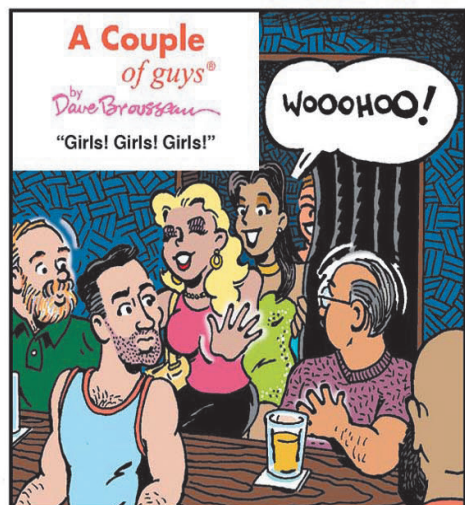
Drag will also ruin your home. My shower and tub are already a hideous shade of beige, so you don't immediately notice the years of hard-to-clean makeup remnants. Getting in drag at home always leaves a light dusting of powder in my bathroom. I probably don't need to make such a mess, but I have a process when I power my face that can get ridiculous. Thank God I have my dressing room at the club. Wig hair is magic. Once a hair leaves a wig, it magically reproduces and gets everywhere. I find wig hair in the craziest places, including in my husband's storage shed where my wigs have never been. I think they come to life and go out on adventures. Eventually I am sure Disney will do an animated feature film about my crazy, sassy wigs and their epic quest to become styled once again.

I know this must sound like drag is the worst thing in the world and sometimes it does hurt. But pain is beauty — beauty is pain, blah blah blah. I feel bad for the girls that use tape on their junk. They use Goo Gone to get the residue off of their “below places!” That shit has gotta burn. I guess doing drag feels like a constant STD flare up.

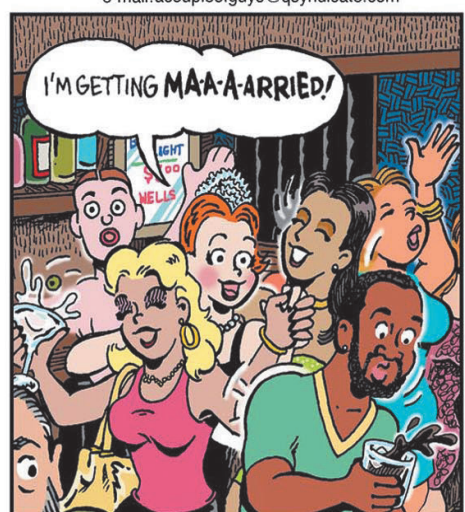
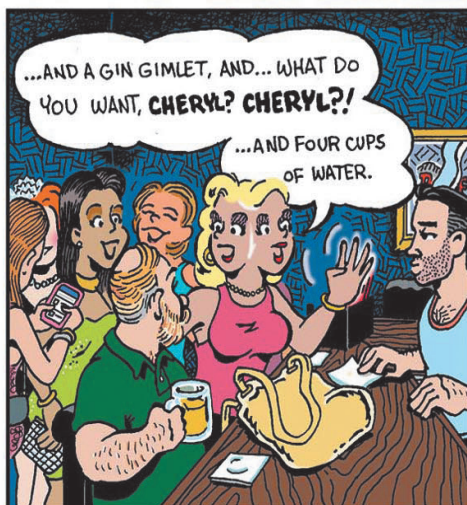
Seriously, though, I put myself through all this bullshit because I love what I do. Driving home last night, in pain from head to toe, I still thought of myself as lucky. You know, hashtag blessed and stuff.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



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- **BJ's NXS!** **Charity Showcase** on Sunday. The final original **Trashy Tuesday** tent party on Tuesday.
- **Club Changes:** **Imperial Court** show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Cowtown Leathermen** cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** holds a fundraiser for the **Sharon St Cyr Fund** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Onyx:** **Central Southwest Chapter** club night at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie Nova** hosts **Turn About: The Glamour Within** at 10:30 p.m. on Monday. See all your favorite **JR.'s**, **TMC**, **S4** and **Sue Ellen's** bartenders perform in drag.
- **Marty's Live:** Back-to-school supply drive benefiting **Promise House** from Friday-Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Bear** happy hour on Friday. School supply drive sponsored by **Lost Souls Rugby Club** benefits **Mi Escuelita** on Saturday. **Teddy Bear Auction** benefiting **AIDS Services of Dallas** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **S4:** **Trash Disco** with **DJ Craig Reed** on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **The Tuxedos** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3:30 followed by **Jennie Dale Lord** on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Voice of Pride** finals on Sunday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Matt and Jake's Wedding** and show benefits **Bunkhouse Fund** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Indianapolis at Dallas** at 6 p.m. on Saturday. 2017 **DIVA** fall draft party from 5-7p.m. on Sunday.
- **Zippers:** **Tipsy Tuesday** with music by **DJ Rude Boy**.

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q-puzzle

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# In the Nick of Time

Solution on Page 27

**Across**

1 Haul ass

5 Chocolate factory vessels

9 School of Marcel Duchamp

13 Poet Broumas

14 Bygone pump name

15 Word after “penis”

16 Closet opening

17 Cover for Adam’s privates

18 It goes before one’s time

19 Nick’s brother who just came out on Twitter

22 Doug Mattis, for one

23 Touched a vampire’s heart, like Buffy

27 Say “there, there” to

30 Egypt and Syr., once

31 Nice buns, for example

35 Prefix with political

36 Woodcarver’s tool

37 Nick’s vocal group

40 You might see a polar bear there

41 Lube brand

42 Hoped for responses to come-ons

43 TV character from beyond Uranus

44 Gene Robinson’s office

46 Hoofing it

48 Queer one, to straights

53 Kids’ TV network where 19-Across made many guest appearances

56 Collette of *The Hours*

59 “I Could \_\_\_ Danced All Night”

60 Nathan of *Modern Family*

61 Spread it on your muffin

62 It’s taken over in a coup

63 Forbidden fruit site

64 Part of a hard head

65 Bear necessities

66 Like Easter eggs

**Down**

1 Bubbly drinks

2 Dracula accessory

3 Socrates’ market

4 Ouija alternative

5 “Zipperless zipper”

6 Cruising

7 Russian ruler of old

8 One dance style of Gregory Hines

9 Messing of the *Will & Grace* reboot

10 Singer DiFranco

11 Burned item

12 “Yes” in the navy

20 Homes for Nigel Finch

and Hart Crane?

21 Sorbonne summer

24 Praise for Lammies, e.g.

25 “Straight Outta Compton” rapper

26 Get decent

28 Shrek and others

29 Saw things

31 BBC sitcom

32 Late NASA astronaut Ride

33 Pooh-pooh

34 Just make, with “out”

36 *Guys and Dolls* co-creator Burrows

38 Imitated Samantha

39 Universal donor

44 “Unhappy” rapper Big \_\_\_

45 Little hooters

47 Optional item between meat and bun

49 Sat on one’s bottom

50 Willing and able partner

51 Gift recipient

52 Erect

54 Funny lady Clinton

55 Wolfson of Freedom to Marry

56 Lover that you can’t get over

57 Arena cry, to Lorca

58 Name divider



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