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*Key West*



**Q MAGAZINE**

Volume 16 Issue 1  
January 2021



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**BRAD LOEKLE**



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I know it seems like this will never end but as this goes to press, vaccines are being administered.

After looking at our cover photo, I'm ready to get an injection!

Enjoy!



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*Stephanie Wise*

LEZ  
GO  
OUT



I don't know about you but I had my decorations up and a pine candle burning a solid week before Thanksgiving this year. No, I'm not particularly festive, typically, nor am I a deck-the-halls fanatic on a normal year. However, this year I had Pandora playing Last Christmas (Wham) and So This Is Christmas (John Lennon) on loop from dawn to dusk to find some semblance of cheer and normalcy this year. Key West does not disappoint during the holidays. Even in a pandemic. This time of year in the Keys we see our little island chain sparkle. Despite lockdowns and social distancing, mask mandates and elections, this island comes together (safely) in the way we share holiday cheer for as many holidays as the season has to offer. Our One Human Family joyfully celebrates all of the holidays in snowless style by decorating homes, businesses and palm trees with lights... There are contests that support charity, Menorahs, inflatable santa's complete with flamingos as reindeer. The grinch can be found. Bubble snow greets passers by as they drive through the neighborhoods known to show off their lighting talents year after year after year. Boats light themselves and the reflections dance through the waves making the ocean a nightlight as you walk the marinas. If you've never experienced a tropical holiday season in the keys this year may spoil you for years to come especially because of the pandemic. People may have a little more





time on their hands than usual. There will be no shortage of holiday cocktails, take-out dinner specials and ugly sweaters all times of the day and night every day for WEEKS before the holidays officially begin and, truth be told, into the new year.

New Year's Eve may be a bit more introspective this year without the Wench, Drag Queens in a red high heel, dropping of a conch shell and house parties (which will undoubtedly still occur but perhaps less obtrusively). This year we get the chance to be close to a chosen one or two people we live with if we're lucky and dream with hope for the coming year.

If 2020 has taught us one solitary thing it would be that tomorrow is not promised. My wish for you in the coming year is to boldly love those around you without hesitation. Don't go stalking anybody or calling your toxic ex, that's not what I mean. I mean open yourself up to give your love honestly. Come out of the closet. Find your tribe. Surround yourself with the people you aspire to be like. Let 2020 change you for the better. Lez Go Out again in 2021 safely and with open hearts. Welcome to 2021 and thank 2020 for all it taught us! Good riddance and full speed ahead!



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This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

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**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

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**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

**Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**

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### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

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- ▶ Those in the "Most Important Information About BIKTARVY" section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.

- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

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You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.**

Continued on next page.

Please see Important Facts, including important warnings, continued on the next page and at [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com).



REAL BIKTARVY  
PATIENTS



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D'EVA



HUGO



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NIKKI



DIMITRI

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## IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY® (CONTINUED)

### BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

#### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
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#### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.

- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

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### GET MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/biktarvy) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
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# BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



## "TOM OF FINLAND: THE OFFICIAL LIFE AND WORK OF A GAY HERO"

BY F. VALENTINE HOOVEN III, FOREWORD BY JEAN-PAUL GAULTIER

c.2020, Cernunnos, a division of Abrams | \$50.00 | 295 pages



Sometimes, you can't worry about other people's thoughts.

You can listen to them but you don't have to hear them because there are days when making yourself happy supersedes any outside opinion, when you need to pay closer attention to you. As in the new biography "Tom of Finland" by F. Valentine Hooven III, sometimes what makes you joyful today can become a calling.

Born in the mid-spring of 1920 in Kaarina, Finland, young Touko Laaksonen was raised in a community of lumberjacks and farmers. He was fascinated by those

"well-muscled laborers" but he didn't quite know why until he was an adolescent.

By the time Touko understood that he was homosexual, he'd become talented at sketching the men he saw although, purely for his own enjoyment and sexual relief, he depicted those men naked and for that, he had to hide his work. He hid who he was, too: as a young man, he had a girlfriend, worked in a male-dominated world of advertising, and even served in the Finnish army during World War II, where he sketched his uniformed "buddies" as gifts for their wives and girlfriends.

Uniforms. Touko couldn't resist a man wearing one, and they were highly featured in what he called "my dirty drawings." Those drawings included uniformed Nazi officers, artwork which got Touko "into trouble," but had



he gotten caught in his habit of having illegal, exceedingly risky anonymous sex with random men during the war, it could have been far worse.

Post-war, art was enough for Touko the sexual being. Though he had a lover (a word he claimed to dislike), art was again his release, more than any other physical act. This desire for erotica grew his portfolio throughout the 1950s, and he carefully shared it with "anyone he thought would appreciate it" – including a publisher of a new kind of international magazine, who immediately accepted it for publication.

A year later, that magazine's cover featured "a new, exciting, never-before-published artist" who now called himself Tom of Finland.

Let's acknowledge this, up-front: "Tom of Finland" is absolutely filled with reproductions of Tom's artwork from the 1940s through 1991, when he died. Nearly every bit of it's explicit in nature, drawn in typical over-the-top, over-endowed Tom of Finland style.

That artwork is why readers should turn their eyes away, and toward the narrative.

Author F. Valentine Hooven III explains quite often in this biography – which was finished just before Tom's death but never before published – how dangerous the mere creation of his art was for Tom of Finland: literally, many times, the drawings could have gotten him jailed or killed. This changes the meaning of the artwork, and it gives modern readers a sense of the amount of secret-keeping a gay man had to abide, pre-Stonewall.

Though Hooven's voice can be annoyingly too sunny at times, the courageous turn this story takes is irresistibly appealing, so find it. Savor it once, first, for the artwork; then, for a story that'll fascinate you. Indeed, "Tom of Finland" will make you happy.



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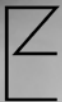
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# MY BIG GAY LIFE

*Brad Loekle*



## HEAVY NEW YEAR!

Well, we made it, kids! Somehow, it's 2021. And though I'm cautiously optimistic, I also remember being soooooo ready for 2019 to be over. Remember? We thought 2019 was just the worst! 2020 was gonna be "our year"! So I don't know whose crazy vision board was responsible for the cascading dumpster fire that was last year... but let's hope the curse has been broken.

With a new year, a few new vaccines, and lots of new hopes all in our grasp it's time for a lot of us to start handling something else new that we have. A whole lot of pandemic pounds! Sure, some of you still managed to keep up your workouts and your healthy eating habits as the world spun off its axis. And honestly, good for you! I couldn't be happier for you. I absolutely don't want you to talk your skinny asses into traffic. But, for a lot of us, 2020 was the new Freshmen 15. For me, it started in March of last year. After the world shut down and I was just locked up in my house doing Grey Gardens cosplay all day, I ate. And I don't mean I ordered pizza twice a week. I mean I cooked and ate an entire Christmas dinner every three days. That went on for about 3 months. Then, and I can't believe I'm saying this, I got almost bored with eating a whole chicken every day. So I cut back on the food a bit but really doubled down on booze. To make it seem festive and productive, I taught myself a new specialty cocktail each week. So, while white women were getting their sourdough starters started, I was making pitchers of French 75's.... for one. And, as my grandmother likes to say, "you'll never get a hangover if you just don't stop drinking!"

Oh, and then I thought I would try to develop a taste for weed edibles, since they're legal here in California. I thought it would mellow me out,



maybe be a low-calorie fix to take my mind off of 2020. Well, I had one low-dose edible and then proceeded to eat an entire wedding cake and get lost in my shower. So, that didn't work!

Now, here we all are in a new year and this year's resolution is really just get back down to my previous fatness. We're not talking getting abs, we're talking getting to tie my shoes again without blacking out. I honestly was out of breath when I was toweling off after the shower the other day. And I now live in mortal fear that when I am allowed to get on a plane again to go perform... I'm going to get stuck in the lavatory. It could happen!

I've started walking a lot more. Baby steps, ya know? But I've quickly discovered that, between my hairiness and my weight gain, if I walk more than a few blocks my ham hock thighs now rub together with such veracity that it knots my thigh hair into a sort of excruciating Cat's Cradle. Also, my thighs now chafe to the consistency of ground chuck well before I hit 10,000 steps. So, I've had to start using a chafe stick. This is a sort of solid grease stick that marathon runners use. But it's made out of palm oil which is the same stuff they use to make movie theater popcorn. So now, on a hot day and if I'm walking just fast enough, my balls smell like a double feature. Good times!

Well, I wish you all luck on your 2021 goals and journeys. And if any of you know where I can pick up some black-market tapeworm eggs... please email me.

Brad Loekle's latest comedy special & album, "Brash Boys Club" is available on Amazon, AppleTV, iTunes, and other platforms. He was a semi-finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing". He can be seen every week on TruTV's "World's Dumbest", has written for Joan Rivers on E! "Fashion Police" & tours internationally. His book, "My Big Gay Life" is available on Amazon. For all this and more, check out: [www.bradloekle.com](http://www.bradloekle.com)





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# COCQ TALES

Local Bartender Interviews

*By Jameson Rabbitt*



## SMALL PENNSYLVANIA TOWN HOSPITALITY MAKES IT BIG IN PARADISE.

And that's just what Dane did, from a quaint quiet town with one stop light, Dane grew up working in his family's restaurant bartending where he learned the basic skills in the service industry, he describes North-East PA as a small tight knit community where everybody knew everybody.

Dane began his professional career as a nurse working in a stressful environment, while dating a former boyfriend that had just finished accounting school, they decided to take a professional hiatus and trade in their professional looks for shorts and flip-flops.

Dane has called Key West home for about eight years, he started bartending at Pearl's the long gone all-female guest house, worked At Island House for a while but decided to anchor himself at the infamous Bourbon st. Pub where after seven years he is the General Manager. Dane remembers his first shift at BSP working the garden bar vividly, as part of the long tradition in bars and new comers he was thrown behind the bar to serve hundreds of thirsty bears that were in town for the annual Bear Week, -- boy did they let him have it! He recalls pouring a drink down a very thirsty bear's throat that



had his hands occupied elbows-deep into two of his mates,

Dane, a natural introvert finds working behind the bar as an amazing opportunity to socialize and pay the rent, his favorite part about the job is the locals and the annual tourists that remind him of being in a small tight caring community. Dane is currently single, he loves burgers as his comfort food his favorite restaurant is Santiago's and his favorite Pandemic drink lately has been a shot of Wild Turkey 101, but for the novices he suggests a popular drink with the locals, The Planters Punch:

Dane's Planter's Punch.

1.5oz Dark Rum

1.5oz Light Rum

1 splash Lime Juice

Ginger Syrup to taste (Dane's secret ingredient)

Over ice – fill with Orange and Pineapple juice

1 splash of grenadine for color.

For the New Year Dane doesn't have the pressure to continue to thrive for cliché resolutions, after 2020 and the lapidation of the Alcohol Industry due to Covid-19, we can agree that we just want to get out of this "Covid-Hole". Dane has been navigating and diligently staying up to date in all the codes, curfews, and mask mandates that seem to change in a blink of an eye to provide some sense of "normalcy."

As the new year begins to unfold before our eyes the one constant that will remain will be Dane's friendly face waiting to pour you a drink at the Bourbon St. Pub, as of now there are no planned events for 2021 besides their weekly live musical acts and their good drink prices, so come on by and start the New Year with a cold shot of Wild Turkey, and stay for the music. Happy New Years!

# START **2021** SMART!

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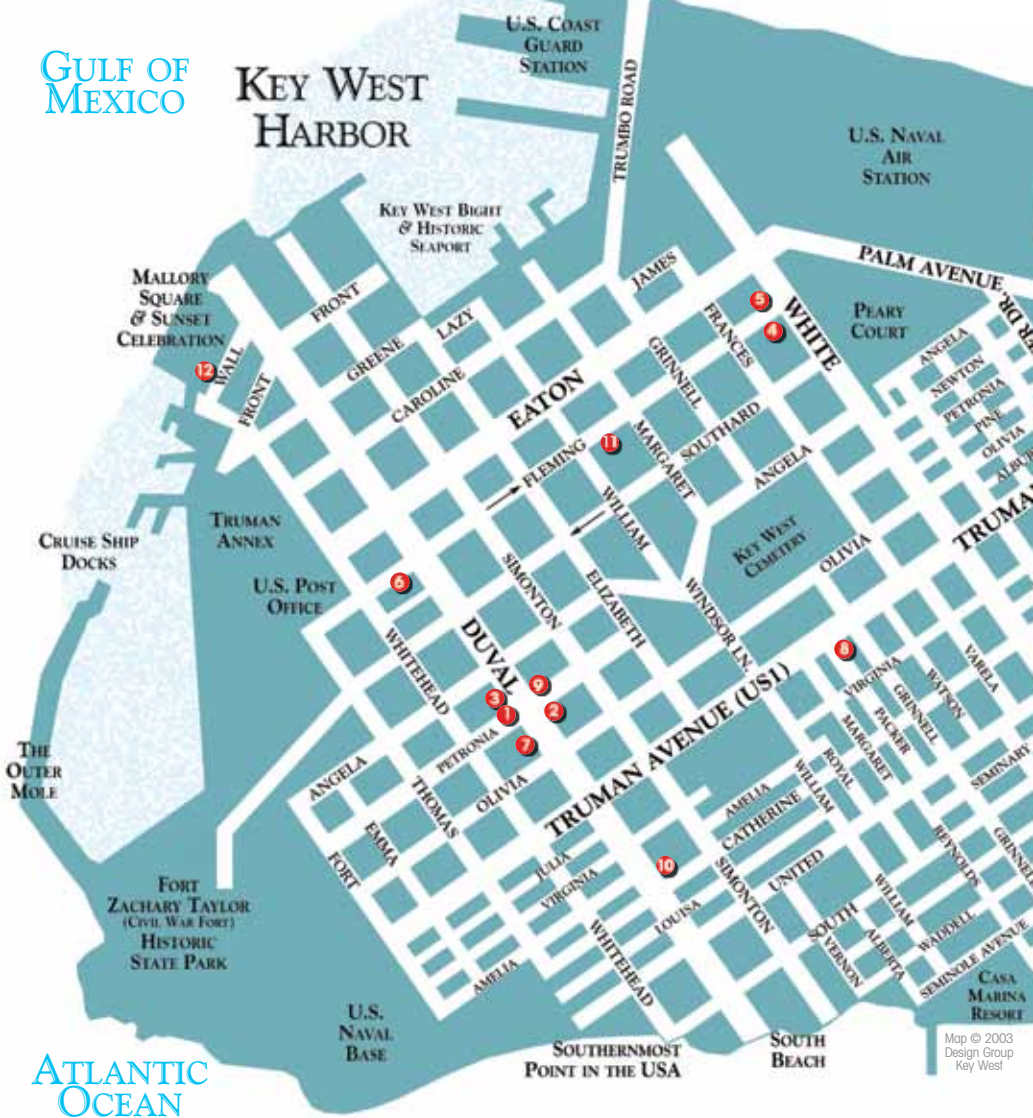
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# WEEKLY EVENTS



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*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Bria singing live at 8:00 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

.....  
**TUESDAY**  
.....

**801**

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Bria singing live at 8:00 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*



.....  
**W E D N E S D A Y**  
.....

**801**

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Bria singing live at 8:00 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

**Island House**

*Hot Naked Humpdays starting at 5 PM*

.....  
**S A T U R D A Y**  
.....

**801**

*Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM*

**Alexander's Guest House**

*Bingo with Bouvee at 5 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

.....  
**T H U R S D A Y**  
.....

**801**

*Karaoke starting at 5 PM*

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

.....  
**S U N D A Y**  
.....

**801**

*Karaoke starting at 5 PM*

*Gay Bingo starting at 5 PM*

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

*SIN night starts at 10 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Jeff Moss singing live at 7 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

**Island House**

*Pre-Tea Pool Party starting at Noon*

.....  
**F R I D A Y**  
.....

**801**

*Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Tea Dance starting at 5 PM*

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM*

*Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

**One Saloon**

*Cock Shock contest at Midnight*

.....  
**L O C A T I O N S**  
.....

**801 - 801 Duval Street**

**Alexander's - 1118 Fleming St.**

**Bourbon - 724 Duval Street**

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**La Te Da - 1125 Duval Street**

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# ASK NANA

*E-mail your questions to*  
[nana@keywestgayrag.com](mailto:nana@keywestgayrag.com)



*Dear Nana,*

*All my friends and family are debating about the vaccine. Some want it right away. Some are convinced it won't work or will be dangerous. Some are just coming up with crazy conspiracy theories. You've been around a long time. Are you nervous about it or are you going to get it? I want to get it just because I want to travel again this year and I feel like it's my safest bet for safely traveling? What are your thoughts?*

Well, my first thought is I don't know why you had to bring up that I've been around a long time. We know, dearie, we all have the gift of sight. But, my ancientness aside, I can tell you I've been around long enough to see what happens when we don't have vaccines for diseases and illness and, trust me, it isn't a pretty picture. Thomas Kinkadee doesn't have a whole series of whimsical polio portraits for a reason. I, for one, will be getting the vaccine. And "since I've been around for a long time" I'll probably be getting a lot sooner than all of you. See? Old age has its benefits! But I certainly understand people's concerns. Black people, for instance, have a horrifying history of being used as unknowing test subjects for all sorts of medical fuckery. So, they're right to not trust that commercial medicine doesn't really have their best interests in mind. But this vaccine is being given to all of us, so they can at least rest assured (this time) that the experiment is being done on all of us. I'm a big believer in vaccines and I don't think playing Russian roulette with Covid, measles, shingles, and the rest is your best option. So, if you choose to not be vaccinated, you really need to also choose to maintain all the safety protocols that have been recommended for this particular virus. If you're not gonna get vaccinated but also not going to protect yourself and others in any other way... well, then you're just a bit of a brick, kiddo.

*Dear Nana,*

*What's your New Year's resolution for this year? Do you still do them at your age? Any advice to sticking with them?*

Again, what the fuck is up with all this “at your age” and “around a long time” crap?! Honey no one is old. You're only older. Because the end of getting older is death. So, until I'm dead I'm just older and older... not old. And you are too, so there!

Now, to your question. I don't do resolutions the way I used to but I do believe in starting each year with some care and introspection as to who you are and what you want to get done in the next year. But this is something we should all be doing regularly, not just in January. No reason to wait until a new year to stop being such an asshole, right? I think setting small, reachable goals is always more helpful than just setting grand ideas. For instance, don't say “I really want to get in great shape this year”. What the hell does that even mean? A pear is still a shape and you look like a goddamn pear after all the pandemic pounds, right? So set a goal like, “I want to lose X pounds by May 1st”. Or, “I want to go to the gym 3 times a week no matter what”. These are much more concrete goals and since you can measure and record them in number of times or with a deadline, you're more likely to stick with it and then feel more accomplished when you do!

For instance, you could set a goal like, “I'm never going to casually tell an older lady that she's old again so that I don't get my testicles whacked with a hand bag in 2021”. See? Simple!

**DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY NOT LET NANA HELP YOU?!**

*Send your questions to: [nana@keywestgayrag.com](mailto:nana@keywestgayrag.com)*





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# WHORE--SCOPES

## **AQUARIUS** JAN 20 - FEB 18

You should be glad that people can't leave yelp reviews after they sleep with you.

## **PISCES** FEB 19 - MAR 20

You thought you were indecisive, but now you're not sure.

## **ARIES** MAR 21 - APR 19

How sad your life must be that you are excited to get SPAM emails.

## **TAURUS** APR 20 - MAY 20

Maybe if there were french fries in the shower, you might actually bathe more often!

## **GEMINI** MAY 21 - JUN 20

Go ahead and eat that last donut. You already ate the other 11.

## **CANCER** JUN 21 - JUL 22

You should get an exercise bike. That way your dirty clothes won't have to sit on the floor.

## **LEO** JUL 23 - AUG 22

With all salons closed during Covid, you were able to let your hair grow out, all three of them.

## **VIRGO** AUG 23 - SEP 22

You went to a banker to check on your financial health and he suggested a DNR.

## **LIBRA** SEP 23 - OCT 22

If you could get paid for trolling Facebook, you'd be a billionaire!

## **SCORPIO** OCT 23 - NOV 21

It's been months since the lock down. It's no longer "covid weight" fatass!

## **SAGITTARIUS** NOV 22 - DEC 21

Goodwill doesn't even want your clothes.

## **CAPRICORN** DEC 22 - JAN 19

You are the only person I know that needs a recipe to make ice cubes.

Happy New Year



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