



# The Gay Rag

Your CLBT Guide to Key West

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For advertising information, please see page 12.

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Tuesday 11-2pm Metropolitan Community Church 1215 Petronia St.

1434 Kennedy Drive - Gordon Rollins Center Tuesday 5-6pm

Fisherman's Hospital - Marathon Tuesday 12-5pm

(2nd and 4th week of the month)

Wednesday 9-Noon St. James Missionary Baptist Church 312 Olivia St.

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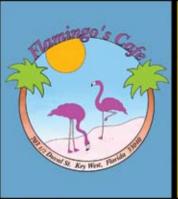
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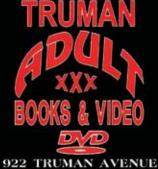
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# Ask Nana

#### E-mail your questions to nana@keywestgayrag.com

Dear Nana,

My boss is gay (so am I) and he tends to treat me differently than my straight co-workers. He is definitely chummier with me and cracks jokes. But the downside is that I think he wants me to be his "eyes and ears" around the place. That, because we're both gay, I should be on his side. Of course, I want to be on the boss's good side, but I also don't want to sell my soul to the company store. What should I do??

#### -Will

Oh Will!

You know what they say: where there's a Will... there's a three-way! Okay, that had nothing to do with your dilemma but I just love that line. Now, onto business... your business, in fact. It's always hard when the boss picks favorites; and that is sometimes hardest for the favored child. It's a tightrope you're walking and I think you need to walk it carefully. First, you need to decide just how far you want/need to go at this job. If this is your dream career and you hope to one day surpass your boss... you might need to get a canary and a coal lantern and climb right up his backside. But, you can probably get away with not going that far in. I would say take each incident as it comes. If he asks you for general info about the staff; such as "how's the vibe out there these days?" or "How are people taking to



the recent changes?", then I think you are ina great position to give the management some invaluable insight as well as serve the coworkers at your level. But, if he wants you to spy, snoop, or rat on someone... then politely draw the line. Just say, "Hey Ron, you know I love you as a boss and our chats together and I don't want to end up messing that up by getting too deep into management's business." If he's a smart boss he'll respect you for "knowing your place", not to mention protecting him and the company from any questions regarding his professionalism. And if he still persists... tell him you've found Jesus and decided to become a converted heterosexual... THAT should get him off your back!

The holidays are right around the corner and my boyfriend and I are at each other's throats. He comes from this really big family where Christmas is a huge deal. I mean, there are going to be like 20-50 people a day at his family's place for like a 4 day stretch. I come from a very small family (I'm an only child and only have a few extended relatives), and although Christmas isn't a 100 person pageant for us, it's still very important. He is nagging me that if I don't go with him to his family that he will be the only one there without his "significant other". But if I don't see my own family it will make a huge impact on their Christmas, just because one less person at our table is really noticeable. Can we both have a happy holiday???

-Desperately Seeking Santa

Don't worry Rudolph! Help is on the way!!

You are not alone on this one, love bug. This is always the first big problem with being in a real relationship: what the hell do we do on the holidays! Now, my first big advice is this: if his family really has family and friends ho ho hoing it up at their place for the better part of a week then you need to be there for some of it... just not all of it. Maybe spend Christmas Eve & you Christmas day with your family and



then get your butt on the next plane to his place. You might even be able to be there by Christmas day evening! You should explain to your boyfriend how important it is to your family (and you) that you are with them a bit. Maybe he comes with you and then you both go to his folks place. This way you don't miss anytime together and get to experience both families' holiday traditions. In any event, you need to stress to him that this is a great opportunity in your relationship for you two to show each other some Christmas spirit and SUPPORT each other in your choices.... Not nag each other into submission. Besides, if you two are really in it for the long haul you will have plenty of holidays to spend all over the place!

Do you have problems? Of course you do!! Why not let Nana help you?! Send your questions to:

Nana@keywestgayrag.com.





# Weekly Events

#### Monday

801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Aqua - Dueling Bartenders 5:30 - 8:30 PM Karaoke starting at 8:30 PM

Bobby's - Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM

#### Tuesday

801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Aqua - Aqua Idol starting at 6:30 PM Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM

Bobby's - Pool Tournament at 7:00 PM

KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM

#### Wednesday

801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Aqua - Bobby Nesbitt is on the piano starting at 5:30 PM Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM

KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM

#### Thursday

801 - Karaoke starting at 5:00 PM Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Aqua - Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM

Bobby's - Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM

#### Friday

801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Aqua - Vanessa DiGenarro performs live starting at 6:00 PM Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM

Bobby's - Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM

One Saloon - Cock Shock wet jockey contest - Midnight

#### Saturday

801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Aqua - World Tavern Poker Tournament at 4:00 Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM

Bobby's - Pool tournament at 2:00 PM

Bowling tournament on the WII at 5:00 PM

KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM Amateur Strip Contest at Midnight

#### Sunday

801 - Karaoke starting at 5:00 PM
Gay Bingo (Not your mother's bingo) starting at 5:00 PM
Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM

Aqua - World Tavern Poker Tournament at 3:00 and 6:00 PM Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM

Bobby's - Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM

#### Locations

801 - 801 Duval Street

Agua - 711 Duval Street

Bobby's - 900 Simonton Street

KWest - 705 Duval Street

One Saloon - 514 Petronia Street

# Shouldn't YOU be in the rag?

Not only is the Gay Rag read by thousands of people in Key West, it's read on-line by people all over the world!

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- 1 KWest 705 Duval Street
- 2 Aqua 711 Duval Street
- 3 Bourbon Street Pub 724 Duval Street
  - 4 801 Bourbon 801 Duval Street
- 5 Bobby's Monkey Bar 900 Simonton Street
- 6 Oasis / Coconut Grove Guesthouse 823 Fleming Street
  - 7 Equator Resort 818 Fleming Street
  - 8 Gay Trolley Starting Point City Hall Parking Lot
    - 9 Big Ruby's Guesthouse 409 Appelrouth Lane
      - 10 Island House Resort 1129 Fleming Street



Miss Key West Closetball Pageant

A Benefit for AIDS Help Inc.

**Saturday: January 17th** 8 PM **Bourbon Street Carden Bar** 

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Pageant to follow cookout at 8pm: A Benefit for AIDS Help

# Key-West Beaches

Higgs Beach - Located along Atlantic Ave, with a restaurant on site.

Smathers Beach - Located along South Roosevelt Blvd, There are many street vendors selling food and renting almost anything you will need while you're at the beach.

Fort Zachary Taylor - Somewhat off the beaten path, this beach is a little quieter than the rest. Take Southard Street and enter Truman Annex. Follow the signs to the beach.

Boca Chica Beach - Located at mile marker 11, this clothing optional beach can also be very cruisy

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Over 2000 people a month use The Gay Rag as a guide of what to do while visiting Key West.

Rates start at only \$30 a month.

Next deadlines Sat, January 10.





#### we've gone barking mad

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#### Feliz Navidad, Motha (BEEP)! by: Brad Loekle



If you're reading this, then I am in sunny Mexico for the holidays. One of the advantages of being a "gaylebrity" is that I get to avoid my family at the holidays. Listen, we all love our families, or at least will attest to that love in a court of law... but if given the choice between two weeks of headlining the grand opening of a new comedy club in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico or listening to my drunk Irish Catholic grandmother recount, with savant-like detail, her career as a Catholic news reporter... which would you choose?! So it will be a Feliz Navidad for me. Though I won't have any snow or a Christmas tree... I'm sure I'll find some way to make it a "white" Christmas. (My mother hates that joke).

I've always been a pretty big fan of Christmas. This is probably because my parents raised me with seemingly no religious or moral values what so ever. By doing so, they released me from all the pomp and circumstance that other children have to endure at the holidays in order to rake in their holiday booty. There was no endless "midnight mass" or "church Christmas pageant". In fact, we only had a nativity scene on the mantle for when my grandmother would arrive... and it would come down the second she left. Instead, Christmas was about the important stuff: using food as a representation of love and getting shit! And, since I was an only child, I got a lot of shit at Christmas. There are photographs of my early Christmases where not only did the presents not all fit under the tree, but you couldn't even walk near the tree. We would have to work our way, unwrapping, from the outer most circle until we got to the tree. It was a beautiful sight to a 6 year old, and a triumphant moment for uncontrolled capitalism, in general.

There are two Christmas photos of me from this era that stand out, even today, when we glance through the albums. The first is from maybe my 3rd or 4th Christmas. I am in a set of pastel footed pajamas, with a smile ear to ear, as I stand proudly with my late 1970's toxic plastic baby bottle and my fisher-price toy vacuum. The one with the see-thru top so that as I vacuumed I could see the brightly colored balls bounce up and down. I have often asked my mother why there wasn't an early discussion, then, regarding what would later be the appalling announcement that I "liked boys". I mean, how many 3 year old boys are begging for a Dyson, right? This question, which I usually wait to ask loudly when we have holiday company, is usually greeted with pursed lips and, if I'm lucky, the quick admission: "What do you want? It was the '70's. Hindsight's twenty-twenty". What my mother really means to say, but will only admit when company has pulled out of the driveway, is that it

was, indeed, the '70's and since 2 of my aunts were convinced that I was a drug induced hallucination for the first 9 months of my life I should really just be glad I made it through the '80's at all.

The second photo is of me with my Cabbage Patch Kid. This photo is, obviously from a later period. I am probably 7 or 8 by now. And the only things I really loved were He-Man and Cabbage Patch Kids. Again... it was like I was sending out a pre-school PFLAG newsletter with my Christmas list... but I digress. My mother, like so many other good moms, degraded herself in ways I'd rather not think about in order to get me one of those prized patches of cabbage. I would like to think that she simply got on line super early and waited her turn. But, it is hard to deny the fact that she is a short, deceivingly strong Italian woman with very little concern for the general public. People, what I'm saying is the bitch most likely threw down. And, since I never saw any bruises and I got the doll on Christmas morning... I'm guessing she won. In retrospect it was an odd toy to even want. Even odder than the vacuum cleaner. I mean, in the real world you literally can't give kids away... so who would want the toy version, right? Not to mention it sends a terribly post-modern family image out to kids. "Listen, Brad, you're probably never going to get a real brother or sister... so here's a fake, underprivileged child for you to hang onto." The thing even came with adoption papers that you had to fill out and mail in, in order to get your official adoption certificate for little "Xavier". Was this to teach us the valuable lesson of human ownership? I mean, was "Xavier Sr." going to show up on my door step, fresh out of drug treatment, to demand visitation rights with his yarn-headed child? Good lord, I mean, were the '80's that bad that Hasbro felt the need to be the moral voice of my generation?? But, no matter the fact, there I was, Christmas morning, in my bow hat and wrapping paper cape (don't ask), holding my little adopted brother up by his neck, red faced and smiling like I'd just cracked a fresh bottle of poppers under the mistletoe. Those were the good old days!

So as you sit down to have your Christmas dinners, be it with friends or family or just snuggled up peacefully on your own, try to hearken back to a simpler time. A time when you still believed that a creepy old bear in red velvet used to break into your home, judge you, raid your fridge, and buy you stuff. A time when you could camp out under the dinner table during dessert and see which of your aunts didn't shave above the knee... and which of your uncles did. And then think of me, sipping pina coladas and getting stoned at noon on a nude beach. Feliz Navidad, mother fuckers.... And to all a good night! ;-)

Brad Loekle is a comedian based out of NYC. He can be seen Thursday nights on TruTV's "The Smoking Gun" at 9PM & heard on Sirius OutQ Radio.



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### Happy New Queer in Key West!

John C. Giuliano, Executive Director
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OK, it's always Queer in Key West. Key West is one of the original resort destinations to invite and welcome the GLBT community to visit or relocate and be included in the island's One Human Family.

Once again, our New Year's Eve Red High Heel Shoe Drop attracted the attention of CNN and Key West's famous drag queen Sushi descended in the giant shoe from the top of Bourbon Street Pub to the multitude in the street below.

The jubilant crowd has cleared and the confetti has been swept up and now we are getting ready for all of the events and parties that will comprise "winter" on our sub-tropical island paradise.

Beginning in Jan. and running through Apr., Sculpture Key West is a dynamic and significant platform for contemporary sculpture designed to affect, inspire and educate while cultivating opportunities for emerging and established artists. It is and experience not to be missed.

The Gay Mardi Gras parties begin five to seven days before Fat Tuesday, Feb. 24. The island will be packed with revealing revelers trying to collect the most beads and with the warm Feb. temperatures who knows what will be unveiled to catch the biggest beads.

April 17 - 26 we celebrate Conch Republic Independence. The Conch Republic story won't fit in this article, so please visit the Guild's website GayKeyWestFL.com to learn about it and all of the events mentioned here. But, do know that on Apr. 18 Bourbon Street Pub hosts The Great Conch Republic Drag Race. Duval Street will roar with drag (queen) races sanctioned by the Conch Republic's NHRA (Natural Hot Rod Association). This event attracts Hot Rod enthusiasts from around the world.

This year's 14th Annual Key West Songwriters' Festival will bring even more incredible talent and their fans to the Southernmost City from Apr. 29 to May 3. This event continues to grow by leaps and bounds, so book your rooms and purchase your tickets way in advance.

Summer in Key West will heat up with Pridefest, Tropical Heat, Bone Island Bare it All, WomenFest and more.

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Aquarius Jan 20 – Feb 18

.You are worried about getting older. Don't. It happens to us all. Think about the positives. You no longer need to try to hold in your turmmy... There is nothing left to learn the hard way... Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable level.

Pisces Feb 19 – Mar 20

Now that WomenFest has passed in Key West, the sign of the lesbian is now wondering what to do with herself over the next 11 1/2 months. For a large part of the next 4 weeks, you will refine your talents regarding upper lip hair-plucking, & probably buy some new Birkenstocks.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 19

Always the rebel, aren't you?? At some point in the middle of this month, you will break loose the bonds of acceptable behavior and use the women's rest room in a gay bar. Come to think of it, why would a gay bar have a women's rest room in the first place?

Taurus Apr 20 – May 20

Your illiteracy remains a problem this month. You need to face reality and come to terms with the fact that you will never get the full effect of alphabet soup.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 20

Your inherently inquisitive nature will become a burden for the last 6 days of the month. Much sleep will be lost trying to determine whether stairs go up or down. The preceding 24 days will be fairly uneventful

Cancer Jun 21 – Jul 22

Be careful Cancer. It is socially acceptable for you to talk to God... We call that prayer. Caution is advisable when telling people that God talks back to you. That will land you in the loony bin.

Leo Jul 23 – Aug 22

Love is ahead of you this month. Looking for tall, dark and handsome? He's looking for you, & will be all over you like a Jehovah's Witness with an Amway franchise... I'm jealous.

Virgo Aug 23 – Sep 22

Wealth is not in your chart for the coming month. For that matter, it's not in your cards at all. The word around town is that your parents were so poor that they only got married for the rice.

Libra Sep 23 – Oct 22

Face it Libra, we all know that you think that you are a superhero, but for the love of God, stop wearing your spandex underwear over your clothes!! You look like you are carrying around two cats fighting in a pillowcase.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 21

Your drinking is becoming a problem. I hear that after your flight into Key West, you asked your companion if it was a black man who was flying the plane. Honey, get it together... The in-flight movie was Driving Miss Daisy.

Sagittarius Nov 22 – Dec 21

You need to concentrate on being less of a bitchy queen. If you continue your present behavior, you are only going to drive people away from you. With all of your recent hair-pulling and slapping, you could easily be confused as a member of the Women Prison Dance Company.

Capricorn Dec 22 – Jan 19

Your continued poor hygiene remains an obstacle to any long-term love interests. At this point, even the 65 year old at the Bourbon Street Pub pool with no teeth & hair growing out of his ears would probably consider you a step down.



801 Upstairs Cabaret



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