

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

*Key West*



**Q MAGAZINE**

Volume 18 Issue 2  
February 2023

**ASK NANA**



**BRAD LOEKLE**



**WHORE-O-SCOPES**



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

*Key West*



**Q MAGAZINE**

Volume 18 - Issue 2  
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## Welcome To Paradise!

February is the month of love. For those that have someone to celebrate with, make it count. Take them to a nice restaurant, a relaxing sunset sail, or a great show.

If you're single, find someone to stick their arrow in you.

Enjoy!

### Contributors:

Neil Chamberlain  
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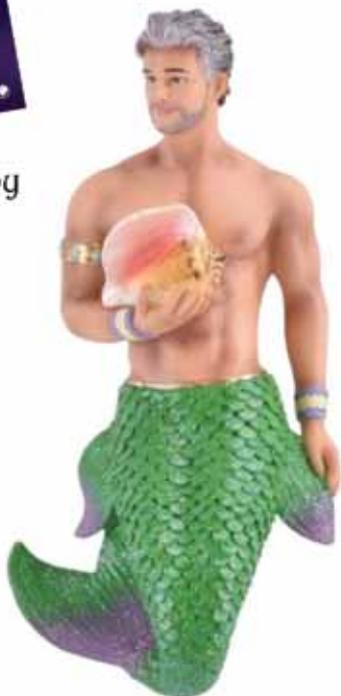
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Featuring artwork by  
The Werkroom



Mistral soaps



*Stephanie Wise*

LEZ  
GO  
OUT



M

My Husbutch and I have been playing tourist lately! It's a rarity because one tends to develop a routine and regular haunts in one's hometown. We decided that there is a whole other side of the island that we almost never venture to but has tons to offer. I'm talking about the side of the island with the Aquarium, seashell shops and the HUGE building that hosts Cocky Key West printing!

Cocky Key West prints for many of the locals here in town but Christina's shop has tons of great Key West vibe shirts, hats and islandy things. It's located on the second floor of the Clinton Square Market. She prints all of their own stuff!! It's the closest thing that Key West has to a mall but much cooler. Two floors, lots of shops and hand crafted treats from local artists. Visit Christina and support the hard work of an incredible local who gives back to her community and helps create the laid back but hip vibe of Key West and brings us into the 21st century.

As we walked around that side of the island we stayed long enough to grab a Cuban coffee from the Cuban Coffee Queen downstairs and watch the water from the second floor of the Opal Key's Bistro 245. If you stay there long enough and grab a bite or a beverage, you will have one of the best views of sunset while on a colored bar stool. You can hear the sunset celebration from there but enjoy the distance from the fray over a signature Pina colada. It is the best place to celebrate a successful shopping day!

It's fun to play tourist every once in a while, day drink and remind myself that there is still a lot more to explore here. So, Lez Go Out and day drink... I mean explore!! See you on the island.



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*graffitti*

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*Key West*



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# BEACH READS



LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*

**"THE GIRL I AM, WAS, AND NEVER WILL BE" BY SHANNON GIBNEY**

c.2023, Dutton | \$18.99 | 245 pages



It's okay. You'll just make it up.

Not the right toys when you were a kid? No problem, you had your imagination. No impressive friends to brag on? You can always pretend to know the rich, famous, or infamous. Boring job, cheap house, hooty car? It's fine, you can conjure whatever you want and who cares? As in the new book, "The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be" by Shannon Gibney, it's all a fantasy anyhow.

There are facts. Provable, honest facts.

Shannon Gibney was born January 30, 1975 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. So was Erin Powers. Both were daughters of a Black petty criminal, and a white lesbian mother who struggled to give them up.

Another fact: Shannon was Erin, before she was adopted.

Shannon grew up in a middle-class white family with two brothers, a good education, toys, vacations, and stability. She had a "short relationship" with her birth father when she was an adult, and a longer (but shaky) one with her birth mother, which made her wonder what life might have been like, had she been raised as Erin...

When Erin was nineteen, she learned that her mother was dying of breast cancer, and wasting what life she had left. At ten, Erin had to learn to get along with her mother's latest girlfriend; and she had to

learn to get along with her mother's latest girlfriend; and she had to listen to racism from the white side of her family. Also at ten, she saw a spiraled portal and another girl who looked like her, but she didn't entirely understand it.

Every year on her birthday, her mother mourned an adoption she never wanted to happen.

When Shannon was ten years old, she was cruel to a boy who liked her, and she wasn't sure why. When she was nineteen, her parents loaned her their car so she could visit her birth mother and her birth mother's partner. And at 35, she was reminded of the legacy her mother left her, one she must be "diligent" about for the rest of her life.

A dozen pages or so into "The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be," author Shannon Gibney wrestles with the nature of lies, explaining that her book does, and does not, use "manufactured literary devices." In other words, get ready for one really weird read.

And it remains as such, until you understand what's going on: the story here is fiction mixed with fact, an imaginary life framed by a real one. "Erin" is the fiction, as Gibney imagines her life as a series of struggles, personal and otherwise, living with her birth mother. "Shannon" is Gibney's story of finding out who she is and where she came from. The tales merge and diverge, neither with a lot of sense until you're well past the halfway mark of this book.

Can you stick with it that long? Readers ages 15 and up might at least try; you'll lose a little time adjusting to "The Girl I Am, Was, and Never Will Be," but don't worry. You'll make it up.

greeting cards  
news letters  
brochures  
poster signs  
posters  
invitations  
table tents  
menus  
post cards  
labels  
magnets  
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# MY BIG GAY LIFE

*Brad Loekle*



## THEY ASKED. HOW DO I ANSWER?

I should have seen this day coming. Even before Marriage Equality was a real thing. But part of me also believed that in order for a woman or women to ask this deed of me, they would have to show an insane irrationality that I do not inherently consider a female state of mind.

I've been asked to donate my sperm to make a baby. I know... I know. Even though I've seen this happen before, I never thought it would happen to me. I always thought of myself as a sort of "always the bridesmaid, never the sperm donor" sort of gay. But here we are! I've been asked by a wonderful woman that I've known for quite some time to be her turkey baster of destiny. To be fair, I have no idea how any of this really works.

Just so you know, I vetted her thinking on choosing me before I even said I'd entertain the idea. We discussed how I have family histories of addiction and depression issues, not to mention you can't swing a cat without hitting high blood pressure on either side of my family. She said, "do you think there are many sperm donors in America with happy, healthy family medical histories?! It's still America, Brad!"

Next, I moved on to what role if any I would play. Now this lady is very financially and professionally stable. And about as stable as one could expect any modern parent to be. So, I already knew she didn't expect me to raise this child 50/50 with her. She's fine with me just being the donor and then, when the child is old enough,

they can decide if they want to know who the donor was. It will make for a great brunch surprise when the kid is in their 20's. "Emily, you know my sarcastic, round friend Brad? The one I had teach you about penises and drugs? Well, there's a reason you sound like a young Bea Arthur. You inherited that from him!"

Here's where shit gets wild. I asked her if this is something she's looking to do soon. I'll be 45 and if we're gonna sober my swimmers up enough to at least make it to the finish-egg, we should get a move on. She said she'd like to start trying this year, based on both of our schedules. I said, "Can't I just go to clinic and donate it? Then they put it on lay-away until you need it, or whatever?" And she said, "I thought we'd try to do a more casual, no-cost option that isn't so clinical for the first few tries. So, I was just thinking you could jerk off in my guest bedroom and then I'd sort of lube up a dildo with it and sort of DIY myself. Obviously, you don't have to stick around for that part."

So, I guess we're going with the Fun-Dip technique to start? If we start. Is it wrong that now my primary motivation to help my friend have a baby is for the comedic material I might get from it? I guess being a wonderful friend and a selfish comedian don't have to be mutually exclusive.

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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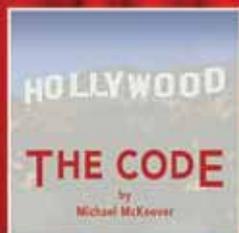
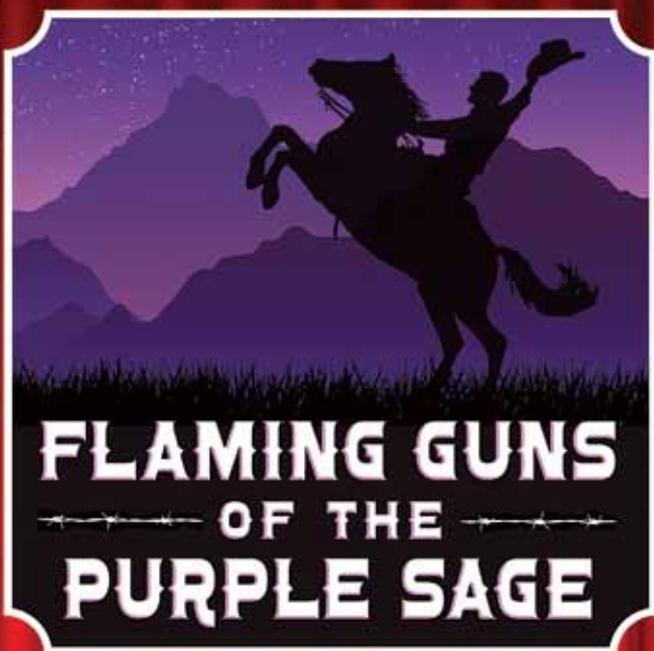
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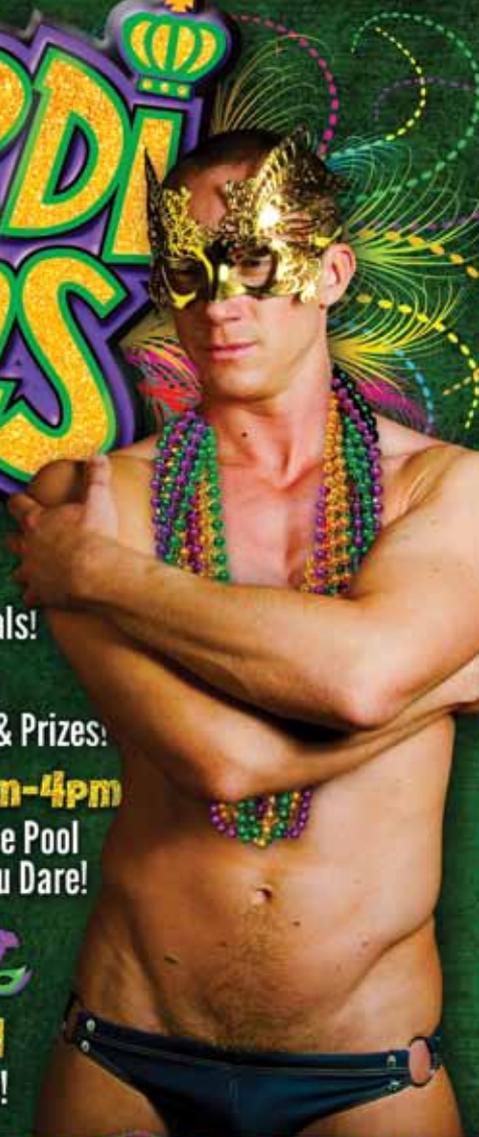
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# MARDI GRAS

A man is shown from the waist up, wearing a gold masquerade mask with a crown on top. He has his arms crossed and is wearing several necklaces of colorful beads (purple, green, yellow, red). He is also wearing dark blue briefs. The background is dark green with colorful, feathery patterns.

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- & -  
**CHOCOLATE**  
FUNDRAISER

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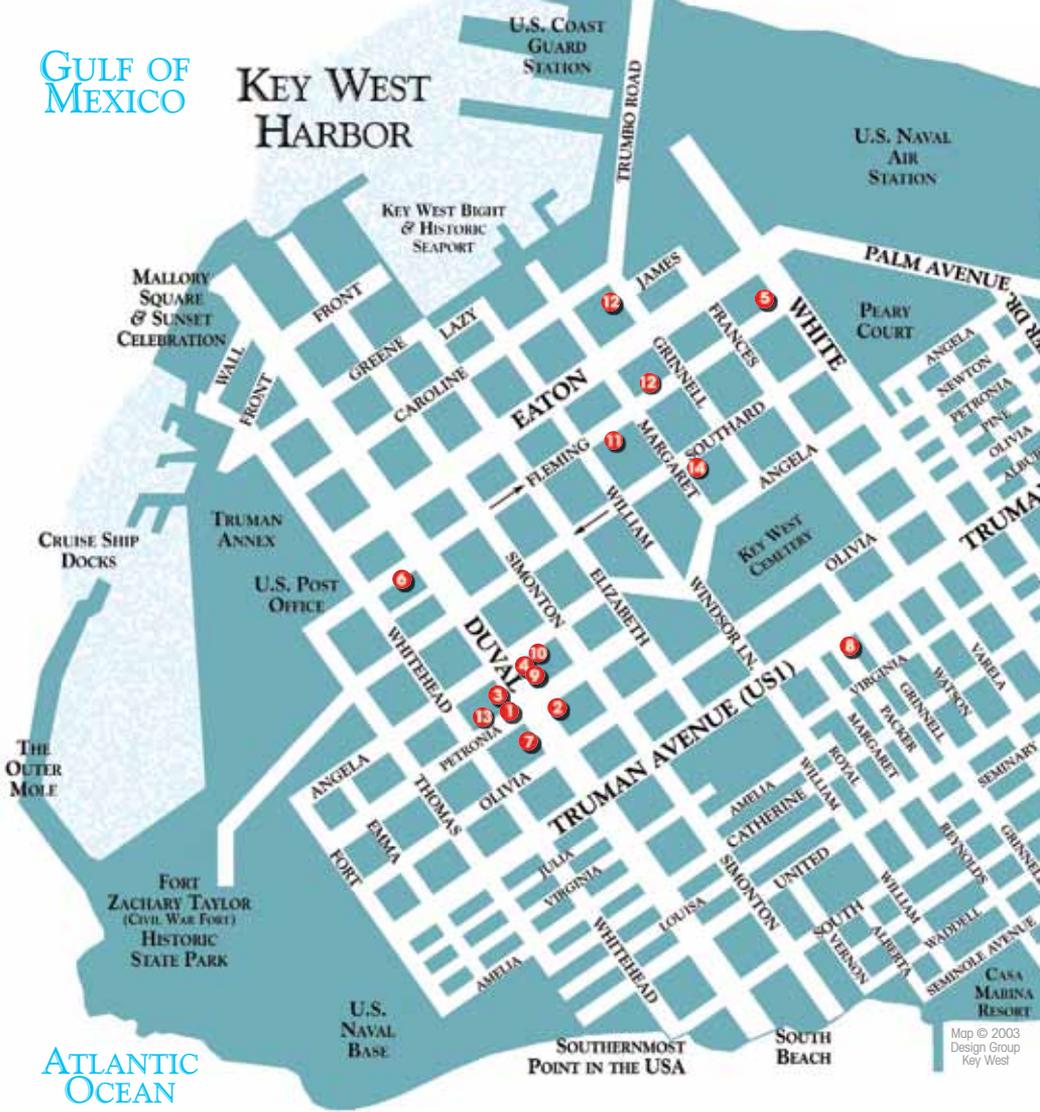
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- 2 801 Bourbon Bar - 801 Duval
- 3 In Touch - 706A Duval
- 4 AQUA Nightclub - 711 Duval
- 5 Island House Resort for Men - 1129 Fleming
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- 8 Truman Book & Video - 922 Truman
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# WEEKLY EVENTS



## MONDAY

### 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*

## 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 Pool Party starting at 5 PM*

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

**801**

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8:00 PM  
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

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

**801**

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8:00 PM  
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM  
Boys Night Out starting at 10 PM*

**Saloon 1**

*Cock Shock contest at Midnight*

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

**801**

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

**Bourbon**

*Naked Pool Party at Noon  
Jeff Moss singing live at 8:00 PM  
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

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

**801**

*Karaoke starting at 4 PM  
Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

**Bourbon**

*After Tea 7 PM - 10 PM  
Jeff Moss singing live at 8:00 PM  
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

**Island House**

*Hot Naked Pool Party starting at Noon*

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

**801 - 801 Duval Street**

**Bourbon - 724 Duval Street**

**Island House - 1129 Fleming St**

**Saloon 1 - 514 Petronia St**

# SAVE THE DATE

FOR OUR EVENTS IN 2023!

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Key West  
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Some drama quiets down and some other picks up. It's the cycle of Gay Key West.

Seems so many think that their boyfriend is being loyal when that's not true. Just ask around and many of you will find stories of debauchery with your man all over town. Let's face it, you didn't date him for his brains so he's not a rocket scientist at hiding his indiscretions.

At the same time, some of you need to look in the mirror. Before you confront your man, you might want to tidy up your own business a little. If you're stepping out, don't be mad when your man is taking some strolls as well!

It seems that dental hygiene went out with fanny packs here in Key West. Ladies, put a brush to those teeth once in a while and lay off the pipe for a while. It's starting to look like parts of West Virginia here. While you're at it, a little mouthwash wouldn't hurt either. No one needs to know what you had for lunch!

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**DO**  
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# ASK NANA

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



*Dear Nana,*

*What do you think about drag queens doing story times for children? I don't know how this became the constant hot topic in my family, but everyone over 55 has a very strong opinion about it. I'd like to hear from someone your age about this subject... which I find to be a non-issue.*

Well, let me thank you, first, for asking this question. This whole kerfuffle about people in shiny outfits reading to children is just insanity. To start, America has one of the shittiest literacy rates in the "free world", so you should be happy anyone wants to spend their free time even showing your window-licking child what a book is. Then there's the fact that a leading cause of death in CHILDREN in this country is gun violence. As of now, unless I missed a headline, not one CHILD has died from a guy in a synthetic lavender wig reading "Goodnight, Moon" to a bunch of kids who are just so happy to see something shiny. Though, heaven knows, far too many guys in wigs have died in the fight just live openly on this Podunk planet we inhabit. I think if this is about hate. And teaching children there are people you're "allowed" to hate. People you "should" hate if you're going to be a "good person" like "the rest of us." They can try to gussy up their bullshit bigotry with bible verses and wrap it up in an American flag (though they prefer the Confederate flag if given the choice), but at the end of the day their hatred is just wearing the drag of concerns for child safety. If any of us gave a rat's ass about kids, they wouldn't have to have bullet proof backpacks and active shooter drills. So, I'd tell your family members that this old lady told them to fuck all the way off to Go-Fuck-Yourself Mountain.

*Dear Nana,*

*My boyfriend won't let me kill any bugs in our house. He insists on just relocating them outside. And I believe they just come right back in the house. Yesterday I wiped the soap out of my eyes in the shower, turned around, and there was a spider just chilling out a few inches from my face. Just dangling there. I can't live like this. What do I do?*

Little gay boy, you know you can lie to your roommate, right? Not about the big stuff. Don't give his boyfriend herpes and then... in turn give him herpes and just not talk about. Don't steal his identity or anything. But you can definitely kill a bug that has come into your shower. This isn't some sort of inter-species porn. There is no reason for another living thing to be in the shower at the same time as you without your permission. Are spiders important to the ecosystem? Yes. Will the ecosystem collapse if you just only kill shower spiders and a few others when your roommate is out having anonymous sex? No. I can tell you what's really bad for your roommate AND the environment: When you wake up with a spider on your face and burn down the whole place to feel safe again.



**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

If you want to be smartass, you have to start by being smart. Otherwise you're just an ass.

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

You have the face of a saint..... bernard.

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

Any more plastic surgery and you'll be eligible to be recycled.

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

You're so fake, you should go to the flea market and stand next to the FOLEX watches and GUCHI bags.

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

Your memory foam mattress is praying for amnesia.

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

Your digital scale just displayed your zip code.

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

You may think you're a social drinker. Your liver disagrees.

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

You have more issues than this magazine!

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

Stop looking for a sugar daddy. It looks like you've eaten enough sugar already.

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

Your talking scale was screaming for mercy!

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

The secret to financial freedom is spend less time on Amazon and more time at work.

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

Your bank account is much like your personality, negative!

# blu Q

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