

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 19 Issue 2
February 2024

ASK NANA



BRAD LOEKLE



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 19 - Issue 2
February 2024

Welcome To Paradise!

Valentine's Day might be a bit different here than in ther parts of the world.

Sure we have chocolates and flowers, but we also have slings, whips, leather, and more.

Check out some of the naughtier parties and maybe cupid will poke you with his arrow.

Enjoy!



Contributors:

Neil Chamberlain

Brad Loekle

Nana

Terri Schlichenmeyer

Stephanie Wise

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Local Advertising

305-396-8227
info@keywestgayrag.com

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sales@rivendellmedia.com

Visit us online at www.QKeyWest.com

Stephanie Wise

LEZ
GO
OUT



M

My Husbutch and I have been together for about 7 years now and other than going out to dinner, we often find it hard to think of the perfect gift for Valentine's Day. If you know a local living on our fabulous rock you may already know that space is paramount and so acquiring material extras around the house, however sweet in thought, is not a practical move either. So.. This year we have opted for experiences versus the traditional pink and red themed gift ideas of old. Thank goodness that Key West has several options as titillating as a gift from Fairvilla (google it). Ok.. well close, particularly if Christopher Peterson is on the stage (google him, too).

Did you know that Key West has some of the best theatre in Florida? My opinion, of course, but still. We have several theatres in town that provide everything from trunk shows and comedy to high end performances in historical buildings dotted all over the city. I was going to tell you about a few favorite restaurants, but I think this article should be completely dedicated to our fantastic theatres, each with their own charm and draw.

I have to start with the shining star and oldest continuously running theatre in Key West, The Waterfront Playhouse Theater just steps from Mallory Square and it's iconic sunset celebration. It was built about 1850 and is now a 150-person stunning theatre. This playhouse brings in local and nationally renowned talent to put on shows like *Singing in the Rain*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show* and even on-the-edge performances introducing this little island to new and groundbreaking theatre. I can't think of anything more

romantic than getting gussied up and hitting the town for a night at the theater. I love when she gets me flowers from Petals and Vines, too. When she gets me a corsage I feel like a darned princess. No, it doesn't take much...

The Red Barn theatre is another phenomenal spot to see fun shows in a historic setting. Located in the Women's Club building right on Duval Street, they put on shows that bend the rules and get you thinking. POTUS is a Broadway comedy hit. The small theatre is intimate and just a blast to attend. Walking down the little alley to find the front door takes you back in time as you pass the grand buildings on either side.

The Tennessee Williams Theatre, named after our famous local inhabitant, is located in the local College of the Florida Keys. This theatre focuses on local community and puts on shows with the local kids and residents that touch all of our hearts. The New York City Ballet has performed here and the range of shows is eclectic and interesting making for an enjoyable night out any time!

The last one I'll really dive into is the Fringe Theatre! A theatre "of the People by the People" their improv theatre is unmatched in town! You never know what you're going to get and it is always so much fun to witness the creativity. This month you can catch a show all about Key West Characters and depending upon how long you've been visiting, you may know several of them!! Williams Hall is a unique location to see their shows and hold their "expect the unexpected" true to form.

So rather than spend a ton on a box of traditional chocolate and roses, I'd rather have two tickets to something I am never going to forget, hold her hand in the dark of a historic theatre and create memories together sampling the Key West theatres. So Lez Go Out and see live theatre that I bet you didn't even know was offered on our cute little rock. Enjoy every moment and we'll see you when the house lights come back up!

ssTricks



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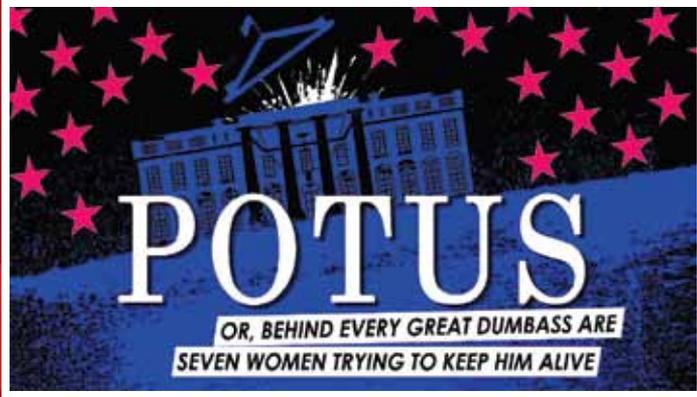
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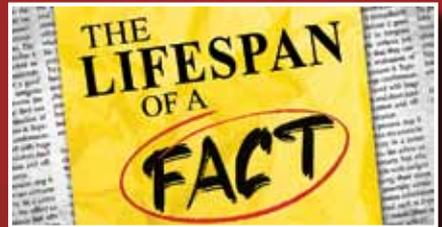
Written by Selina Fillinger

A funny and outrageous skewering of today's politics. Joy Hawkins will direct Key West's top actresses, *George Dibraud, Susannah Wells, Lauren Thompson, Jessica Miano Kruel, Marjorie Paul Shook, Lynn Clark and Fritzie Esimond*. If you want to laugh 'til you cry, this is your show!



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- WEDNESDAYS - RENE EBRESLIN 5:30PM - 7:30PM
- WESTERN WEDNESDAYS COUNTRY NIGHT 9PM-1AM
- THURSDAYS - THROW BACK THURSDAY DANCE PARTY 10PM-2AM
- FRIDAYS - RUPAUL VIEWING PARTY 8PM-11PM
- LATE NIGHT DANCING 11PM-2AM
- SATURDAYS - DANCE PARTY 10PM-2AM
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LATE NIGHT HAPPY HOUR 11PM - 2AM

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BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



"THE RISK IT TAKES TO BLOOM: ON LIFE AND LIBERATION" BY RAQUEL WILLIS

c.2023, St. Martin's Press | \$29.00 | 384 pages



The catalogs should start arriving soon.

If you're a gardener, that's a siren song for you. What will you put in your pots and plots this spring? What colors will you have, what crops will you harvest? It never gets old: put a seed no bigger than a breadcrumb into some dirt and it becomes dinner in just weeks. All it needs, as in the new memoir "The Risk It Takes to Bloom" by Raquel Willis, is a little time to grow.

The last time Raquel Willis remembers being completely safe and loved without strings attached was at age five, at a talent show. Shortly afterwards, some elders

began telling Willis to speak with "a particular brand of clear," to move differently, to act differently. Willis was a Black boy then, and that was how her father worked against his son's "softness."

Willis didn't know the truth about herself then, but other boys did. So, eventually, did the girls, as a grade school Willis "gravitated... toward" them. Young Willis prayed for God to "just make me a girl" but the bullying that had already begun only got worse.

She changed schools and things were no better; meanwhile, her father tried "even harder to correct who I was becoming." Friends and online friends were encouraging and supportive, offering her courage to come out to her mother, who thought it was "a phase." Her father was angry, then accepting. Other family members took Willis' news in stride.

It was going to be okay. More than okay, in fact, because Willis was introduced to drag, and she started to feel more comfortable in women's clothing than in men's attire. To Willis, the drag troupe had begun feeling like family. She settled into life as a gay drag performer, because that was the "language" she had.

And then one day, while talking on the phone with an on-again off-again boyfriend, something important hit Willis, hard.

"I think I'm a woman," she told him. "I'm a woman.... I am."

Sometimes, it takes awhile to understand the person you really are. Half a book, in this case, because "The Risk It Takes to Bloom" is quite wordy: author Raquel Willis tells her story in excruciating detail, and it can get rather long.

And yet, the length allows for clues that readers can follow, to truly see the woman, the activist and writer, who penned this book. But is that enough to attract readers? What sets this book apart from other, similar books by star-powered Black trans women?

The answer lies in the approachability of its author.

Willis tells her tale with a more anchoring feel, more down-to-earth, like she could have lived up the street from you or sat in the last row of your high school Algebra class. You could've known her. You could know someone like her. Or Willis could be you.

Indeed, this book might hold plainspoken inspiration for anyone who needs it. If that's you, get "The Risk It Takes to Bloom," find a chair, and plant yourself.

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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



WHAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT SPORTS

I've been watching a lot of sportsing documentaries lately. The sorts where they dig into the emotional pasts of the stars like David Beckham, Oscar de la Hoya, and an assortment of the pro-wrestlers. I don't know what's come over me. I stumbled onto one a few weeks ago and now I can't stop watching them. Something about straight male tears coming from these big, brutish men, just makes me.... cum harder. And, now that I am an expert on male athletes, I've come to this conclusion: most sports are just Drag Race for straight men. Especially pro-wrestling. In fact, pro-wrestling is probably gayer than most gay activities that happen in public. Except, our public sex. Which so few of us are still doing, by the way!

I don't see how straight men have missed how gay their love of sports is all this time. Plenty of these are men who would freak out if they saw two husbands give each other a kiss on the cheek in public, but they will show up at another man's job... wearing his work shirt.... And scream his name for hours. That's what your brothers and fathers and co-workers are doing on their weekends. Sure, they call it "wearing their lucky Jersey" or "supporting their team" ... but let's call it what it is. They're in love with a man. Or, in many cases, they're in love with an entire group of men. They're cheating on their families with a polyamorous group of himbos who don't even know they exist. If that it's the most epically and tragically gay storyline, I don't know what is. Brokeback Mountain was less gay (and less pathetic) than these sports fans are. Nothing screams "flaming homosexual energy" like the mentality that if your

boyfriend/team wins a game... you're going to riot in the streets with love and joy. And if your boyfriend/team loses that game, you're going to riot in the streets for justice! They're all just cosplaying Stonewall but with much shittier outfits. Not to mention the ones who paint their faces in the team colors can't blend or contour for shit. You've been a Patriots fan since you were 5, Bill? Well then go on YouTube and learn how to take your make up a step above "Michael J Fox tries to watercolor."

I've also found that making this comparison of sports and drag profoundly disrupts the common straight man's brain. And that's always a good time. So, at work, or family events, when straight men start referencing sportsy stuff... just find it's very gay sister representation in our own community. Oh, your brother-in-law is a big John Cena fan? Point out that John Cena's signature "You can't see me" handle gesture is actually just a variation on a Bob Fosse dance move. That should twist his red neck real good.

The one caveat is that lesbians are allowed to love sports no matter what and with no critique or ridicule. In fact, that's my rule for lesbians and everything. Even sports.

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



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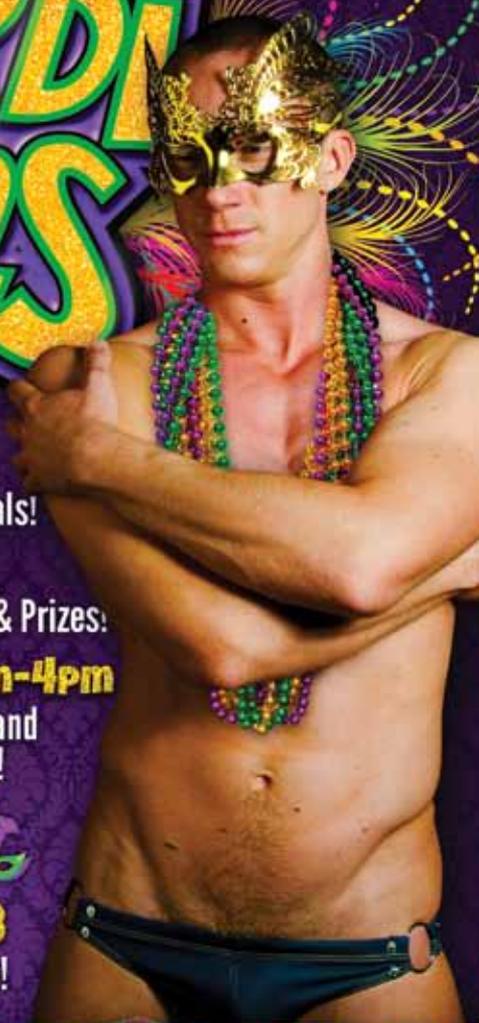
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2 FOR 1
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10PM - MIDNIGHT



THURSDAY

*Trans
Night*

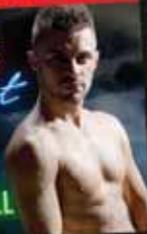
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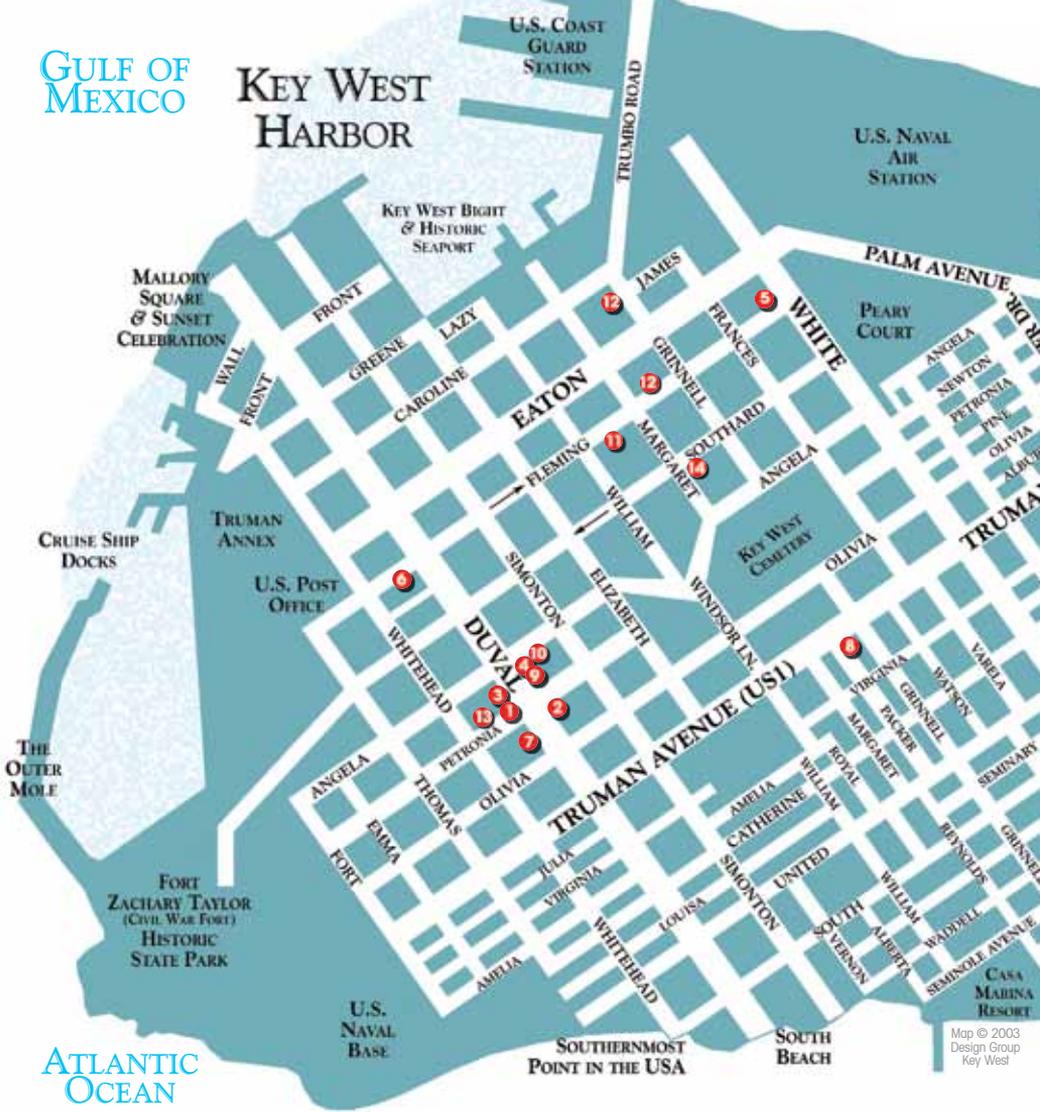
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Key West's official philosophy is "ONE HUMAN FAMILY" which means everyone is entitled to equal rights, dignity and respect. Right? We can show the world to appreciate our proud diversity and individuality. Everyone in the world is an integral part of you... and every one of them is your equal.

Get your own free "ONE HUMAN FAMILY" stickers at the Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center (808 Duval),
 9 GRAFFITTI (721 Duval), or by sending a SASE to ONE HUMAN FAMILY, P.O. 972, Key West, FL 33041 or visit OneHumanFamily.info

- 1 Bourbon Street Pub - 724 Duval
- 2 801 Bourbon Bar - 801 Duval
- 3 In Touch - 706A Duval
- 4 AQUA Nightclub - 711 Duval
- 5 Island House Resort for Men - 1129 Fleming
- 6 Marc Ulanowski, Realtor - 420 Fleming
- 7 KW Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center - 808 Duval
- 8 Truman Book & Video - 922 Truman
- 9 Graffiti - 721 Duval
- 10 Club 504 - 504 Angela
- 11 Equator Resort - 822 Fleming
- 12 Island Massage Spa - 937 Fleming
- 13 Red Shoe Island Bistro - 411 Petronia
- 14 Mangia Mangia - 900 Southard

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Broken Hearts Ball

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WEEKLY EVENTS



MONDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

*Aqua Idol at 6 PM
Drag Show at 9 PM*

Back Bar

Monday Night Football at 8 PM

Bourbon

*Bria singing live at 8 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

Side Bar

Pub Style Trivia at 6 PM

TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

*Dueling Bartenders at 4 PM
Drag Show at 9 PM*

Bourbon

*Bria singing live at 8 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

Side Bar

Tacos Tequila & Talent at 9 PM

W E D N E S D A Y**801**

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Live Singer at 1 PM

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at 5 PM

Side Bar

René Breslin singing live at 5:30 PM

Western Wednesdays at 9 PM

T H U R S D A Y**801**

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Live Singer at 1 PM

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

Side Bar

Throwback Thursdays at 10 PM

F R I D A Y**801**

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Live Singer at 1 PM

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Boys Night Out starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

Saloon 1

Cock Shock contest at Midnight

Side Bar

RuPaul Viewing Party at 8 PM

Late Night Dance Party at 11 PM

S A T U R D A Y**801**

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Aqua

Live Singer at 1 PM

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Bourbon

Naked Pool Party at Noon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

Side Bar

Dance Party at 10 PM

S U N D A Y**801**

Karaoke starting at 4 PM

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Back Bar

Hot Dog Church at 3 PM

Sunday Night Football at 8 PM

Bourbon

After Tea 7 PM - 10 PM

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at Noon

Side Bar

After Tea Dance at 7 PM

L O C A T I O N S

801 - 801 Duval Street

Aqua - 711 Duval Street

Back Bar - 711 Duval Street

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval St

Saloon 1 - 514 Petronia St

Sidebar - 504 Angela St

sextalk.

ask us anything.
we don't shock easily.

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- PrEP and nPEP info
- Your questions answered

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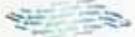
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ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

I find a lot of Valentine's Day activities sort of cliché. How can I make the day special for my boyfriend without relying on the same old go-to's like: expensive dinner, tickets to something he wants to see, jewelry, etc? Any ideas would be much appreciated.

You know what a cliché is? It's something so wonderful and fabulous that it's become well known and well-worn with the constant retelling of its splendor. You know why it's cliché to take the person (or people for the Poly-Annas out there) to nice dinners and buy them expensive, glamorous things they'll love? Because people actually do love being pampered. You silly, sissy! Listen, if you'd just lost your job and times were tough, which happens to all of us a few times in



our lives, that's when it's time to break out the creativity. Don't take away from poor people the only things they have going for them on Valentine's Day. And, those are things like creativity and ingenuity and sentiment. If you've got it, spend it on the one(s) you love. People love heartfelt gifts. But they also don't hate lobster and Louis Vuitton.

Dear Nana,

I like using silicone lube but my current boyfriend (who is the top in our bedroom) doesn't like using it because he thinks silicone isn't healthy. But water-based lubes just don't work as well and I find silicone so much more pleasurable. You're a woman of a certain age and must have some lube experiences. What are your thoughts?

You just assume because I'm an old lady that I've used a lot of lubes, do you? Well, you're correct. My vagina has been drier than Palm Springs in summer since before you were probably born. So let me help straighten things out (so to speak) in your bedroom brouhaha. When it comes to lubricants, it's bottom's choice. If condoms are being used then lubes that don't ruin condoms is obviously a factor, but other



than that... you're calling the shots if you're the one taking shots to your backside. Is he risking a fissure or hemorrhoid from friction? No. Call me old fashioned, but in my day, tops didn't get to have opinions on such matters. But, then again, in my day the only lubes we had were spit and lard. So, happy humping!

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

Send your questions to: nana@keywestgayrag.com



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WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

A salad is a smart choice. A taco salad is not.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

The batteries dying on your scale is not "a sign" that you've hit your goal.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

People like you a lot when you first meet them, but then you talk them out of it.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

Shouldn't you be inflating your date right about now?

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Don't hate yourself. Enough people already hate you.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

You really have your shit together. Too bad it's still shit!

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

Wisdom has been chasing you, but you've always been faster.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

You should treat your bills the same way you treat your men and maybe they'll leave you too!

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

If you're trying to play stupid, I think you're the champion.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

Your crayons are sharp. Your helmet is tight. Now go out and have a great day!

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

I'm not saying you're easy, but the local clinic hands out antibiotics when people mention your name.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

Life's good, you should get one.

blu Q

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