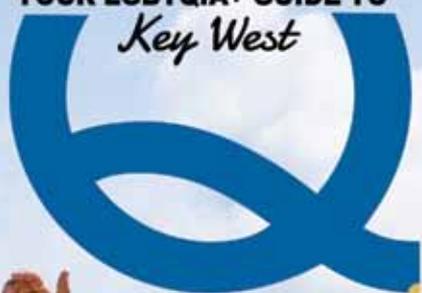


YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

**Volume 18 Issue 3
March 2023**



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 18 - Issue 3
March 2023



Welcome To Paradise!

March is for Spring Break and we openly embrace our LGBTQIA+ students with our One Human Family philosophy.

Come and be who you are, without judgement and without fear! You are the future and the future is all inclusive.

Enjoy!

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Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



I
In a past life I was a dance instructor. I know, right? SWING dance to be exact. I have good friend on the island who walked right up to me the very first second we met and told me that I looked like Betty Boop. I invite him to all of the parties as my ice breaker. He's not wrong, though. I do tend to have a look that leans strongly to the swing era. I always used to say that I was really meant to be born in another era, minus that lack of women's rights, of course. SO naturally, when I arrived on the island I looked for dancing and goodness did I find it!

Now I could tell you about the back of Bourbon St or Sloppy Joes version of swaying side to side with drink in hand in front of the stage or even Rick's and Smoking' Tuna's stage areas with great, however loud, live music that you do the obligatory head nod and in-place bouncing to, but that is not what I'm talking about. There is a DJ on the island who plays the BEST dance tunes EVER!! Disco. Her dance floor is ALWAYS full. Do the "all caps" help you understand the passion here!? DJ Rude Girl DJ's every Sunday at La Te Da and hosts the iconic and historic Tea Dance. It starts at 4pm and goes to 6:30pm (just in time for dinner!!) right in the middle of the restaurant!

Now, I love to dance and I taught for 10 years so I am

proficient to say the least but there is something really really special that happens on the dance floor that is not choreographed and couldn't be if you tried. It's magic and Rudy is the wizard! The thumping beat calls to you from the street... You are drawn in by swirling sounds and sights as you get closer... Those who don't dance, would never dance and outright refuse to dance can't help themselves. This event makes you start to tap your toes and just smile from ear to ear. Before you know it you've been pulled onto the dance floor and you're dancing with a vibrant group of complete strangers that suddenly feel like lifelong friends. No, I'm not being dramatic. I swear, it happens every single time. DJ Rude Girl plays everything from Donna Summer, Michael Jackson, Cher, Sha Na Na and so so many more. It just doesn't stop. You start out twirling with one group and then all of a sudden you're being spun around in circles by a tall handsome face. Flower leis get passed around. Cosmo's flow. It is like being transported to the happiest place on earth if only for a couple of hours.

As the music comes to an end and the inevitable Last Dance comes on. You grab your newest bestie and sing out loud and proud to the very last note. Conveniently the bar stays open as the restaurant transforms with all of the table and chairs back in place and dinner service beginning. Staying for dinner is the cherry on top of the Sunday Tea Dance with DJ Rude Girl. It's what makes the weekend worth it. So, Lez Go Out to Tea Dance EVERY Sunday. See you on the dance floor. I'll be the one trying to fit swing moves into disco music with my Betty Boop hairstyle.



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*Source: IQVIA NPA Weekly, 04/19/2019 through 05/28/2021

CHAD

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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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- ▶ dofetilide
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- ▶ Those in the "Most Important Information About BIKTARVY" section.
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- ▶ **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%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit 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

REAL BIKTARVY PATIENTS



ZACH



D'EVA



HUGO



CHAD



NIKKI



DIMITRI

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Watch their stories at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/biktarvy)

Featured patients compensated by Gilead.

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Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
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- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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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Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

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- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
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BEACH READS



LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*

"CHOOSING FAMILY: A MEMOIR OF QUEER MOTHERHOOD AND BLACK RESISTANCE"

BY FRANCESCA T. ROYSTER

c.2023, Abrams Press | \$26.00 | 264 pages

*choosing
family*
A Memoir
of Queer
Motherhood
and Black
Resistance

FRANCESCA T. ROYSTER

Check one from each category.

Pick carefully. Take one from Column A, one from Column B, or choose what's behind Door Number One or Two. Immediate or long-term, when it comes to your future and your happiness, as in "Choosing Family" by Francesca T. Royster, it's good to have options.

The whole idea hit her like a slap.

Francesca Royster had never particularly wanted to be a mother. She'd dated boys in school, decided that she liked women better, and eventually came out to her

family. No, motherhood wasn't on her radar – and yet, when she saw a sleepy toddler wrapped in her mother's arms at an airport, Royster had the sudden need to tuck that little head beneath her chin.

She never discussed it with her partner, Annie. The urge "receded to the edges of my thoughts," she says, and they traveled instead, hit middle-age together, cared for sibling's kids, and joked about "breeders." She loved the life they'd built as queer women with community, what Royster calls "queer time." Would she lose that, if there was a baby involved?

She and Annie split, took time to think about the future, but came together nightly to talk and plan. Royster spoke to the "Mothers" – ancestors and goddesses from other cultures – and she thought of the kids near her hometown of Chicago who needed families.

Her female forebears had raised children, their own and others', in situations that were fluid. Surely, two queer women could, too.

And so she and Annie applied to adopt and after a nail-biting wait and a near-loss, they brought home their daughter, Cece, who became a fierce, smart, loving little girl who's cherished by the family that her mothers have assembled.

"I... know that there might come a day when Cece won't feel as comfortable with this motley group that is our chosen family," Royster writes. But "...by living our lives as truly as we can... we can change the world that she inherits."

Not that it will affect your enjoyment at all, but the subtitle of "Choosing Family" is a bit confusing. This book is more about "queer motherhood" than it is about "Black resistance" and that's okay. The best, most meditative, most meaningfully-worded parts of author Francesca Royster's story are in becoming a mother to her child, and in tales of Royster's own mother and other steely female ancestors who left their prints on her.

Resistance? No, that's irresistible, especially to anyone pondering raising children.

Anchored by the turning of the word "family" upside down and reclaiming it from white hetero-normalcy, then, readers are led – indeed, treated – to what Royster and her partner created B.C. (before child) and afterward. Theirs is a made family that includes blood relatives, absent relatives, and relatives-because-we-say-so.

That's icing on a work-in-progress cake for readers who are considering doing the same thing, formal or otherwise. "Choosing Family" is also for those who've done this work, created the family they want, and it's all good. Picket fence and two-point-five kids or not, check this.

Not just gay - GAY!



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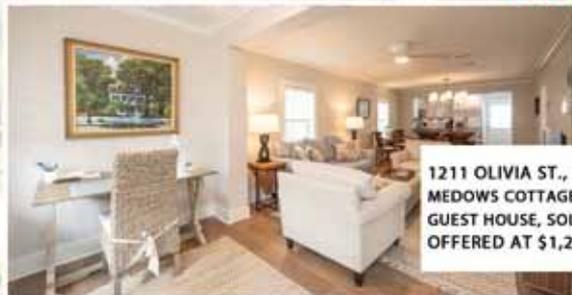
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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



KIDS R'NT US

For as long as people have been hating “the gays” they have been claiming we’re a threat to “the children.” The current bigot buzz word is “groomers.” That we want to “groom” your children to be LGBTQ+ or groom them for sex. Oddly, it never seems to be able, if we want to actually groom your kids. Something you’d think straight people would love for us to do. Have you seen a gay man’s dog? Your kid should be so lucky to be as pampered and quaffed. Your sticky, smelly, children in their mismatched outfits and pedestrian hairstyles could use a bit of grooming. And, since, these parents don’t seem to have the time to run a damn brush through their offspring’s hair before they get on a plane, the least you could do is hire a groomer to make them more presentable to the general society.

That being said, I don’t even know that many queer people who would even want to do that! You’d have to pay me \$500 just to shampoo one of those little lice factories. Have you ever seen queer people’s response when a baby starts crying on a plane?! Most of us are walking back and forth trying to toss a Lunesta into its mouth like some pharmaceutical version of cornhole. Until your kid is

old enough to talk about the Golden Girls or buy their own vodka & soda, what use do we have for them? We live in strange times when some parents are more scared of costumed story time than an armed gunman. The leading cause of death among people 18 or younger in the US is gun violence... not Bob the Drag Queen.

They've lobbed a lot of insults at our community in my lifetime, but I find "groomer" to be the most offensive because it's the biggest lie. Perverts? Sure, many of us. The fun ones, at least. Promiscuous? On a good day and if I've cleaned out ahead time. But groomers?! Absolutely not. I can assure that most queens I know would sooner push your kid into traffic than push our "agenda" on them. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go perform a live reading "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish" at my friend's 50th birthday orgy picnic.

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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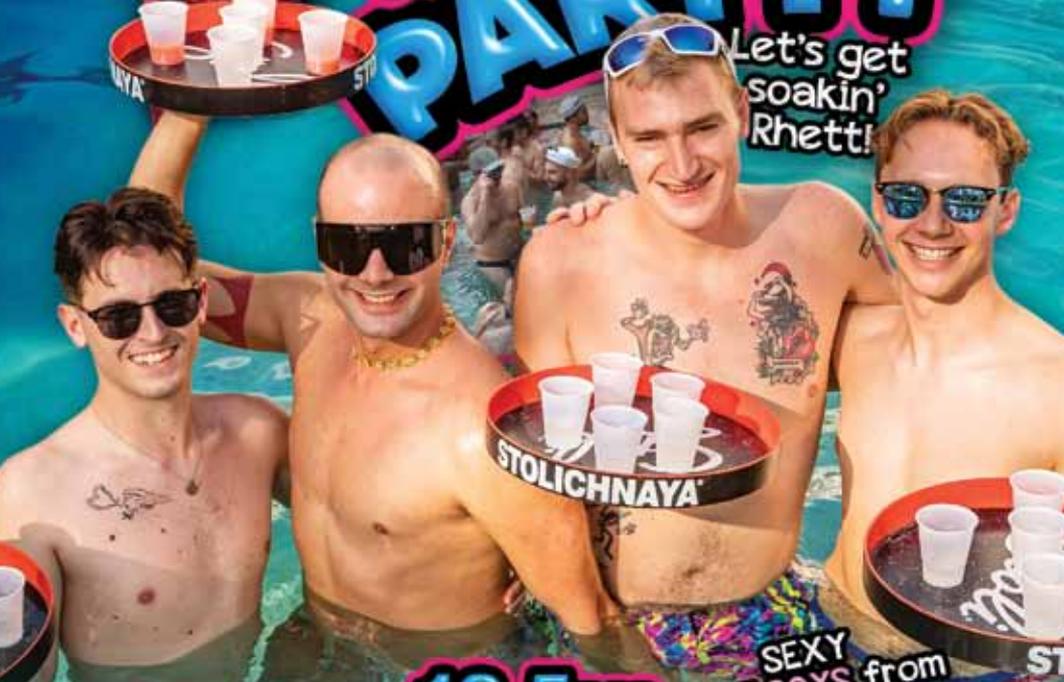
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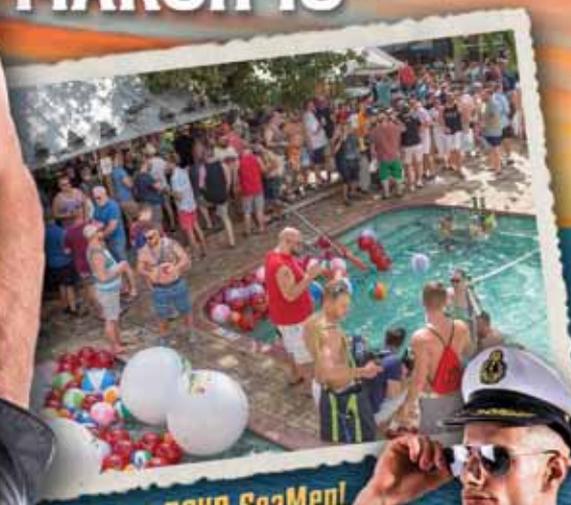


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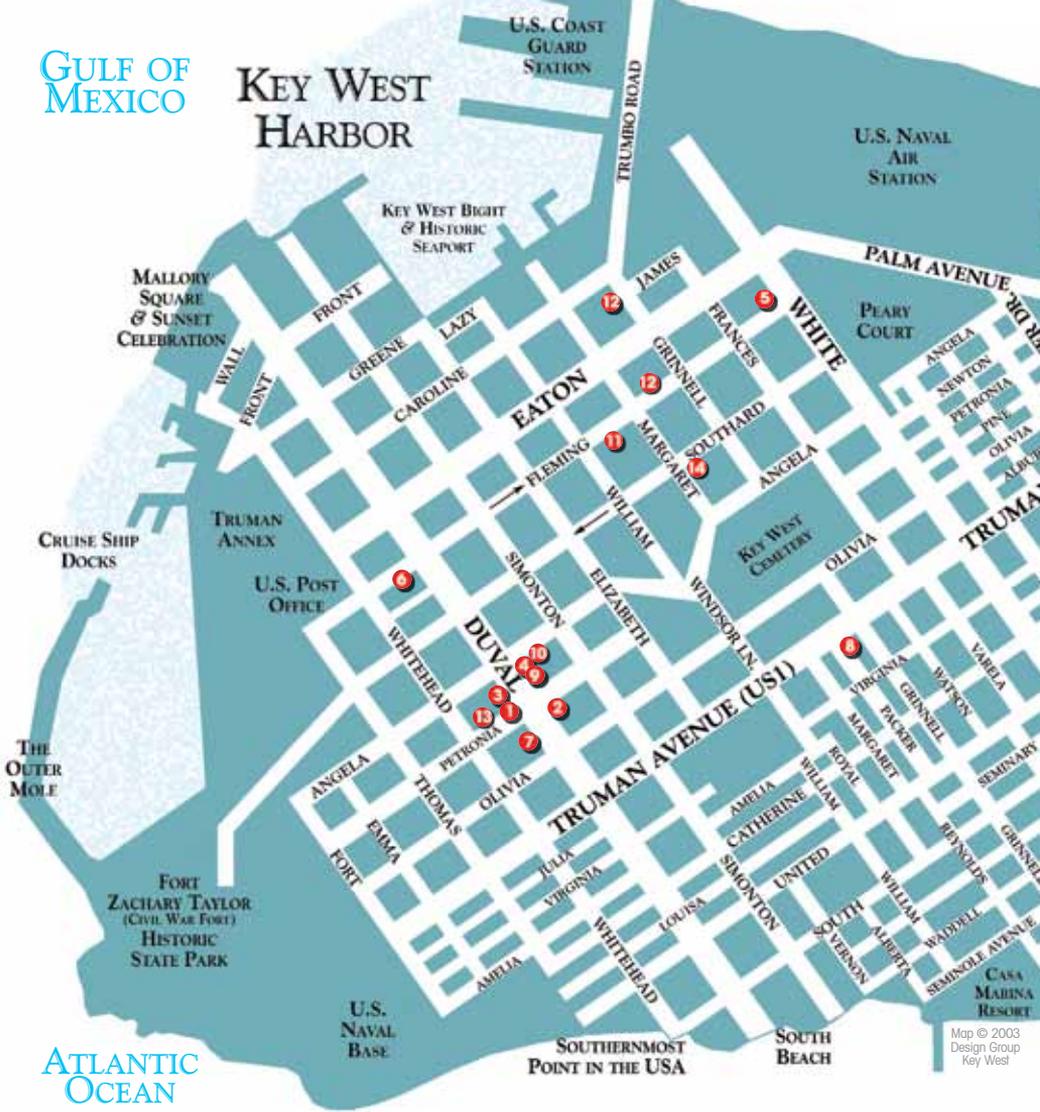
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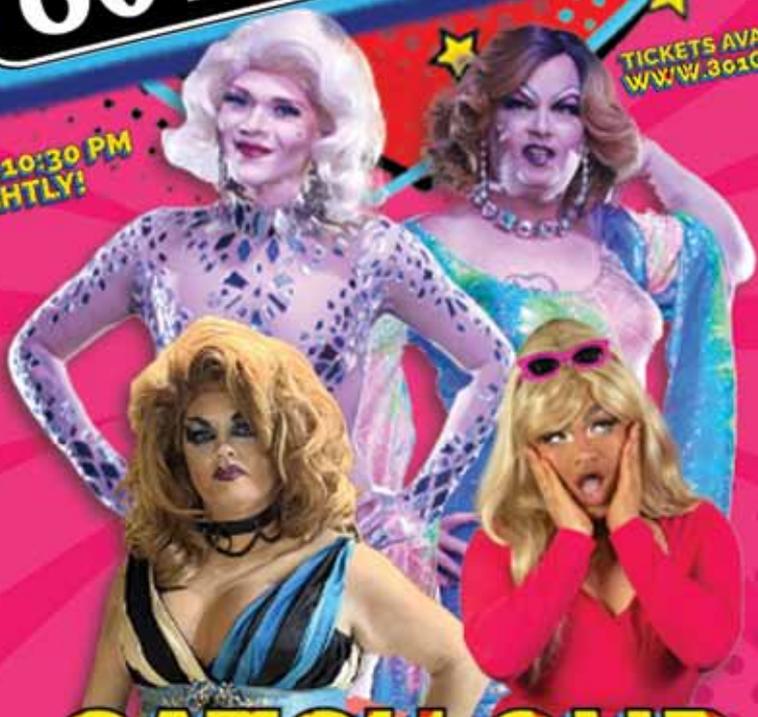
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Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

.....
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

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ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

My neighbors have a dog that barks all day long while they're away at work. I mean it barks ALL the time. I've told them about the issue and their response was just, "dogs bark that's what they do." How do I handle this without it turning into a feud?

I don't see why you want to avoid a feud. At my age, I love a good neighbor feud. Keeps one on their toes. How large is the dog? If it is a smaller dog, I would probably just buy a pet python, name it Monty, raise it for a few months to get it nice and big, then just let it slither into the neighbor's yard. And when they come asking simply say, "It's a python, it's going to swallow things whole." Of course, I'm kidding. I don't need the animal rights folks after me. And it isn't the dog's fault it has crappy owners. In these situations, I think it's always best to just let the city or town handle it. It's why we have laws about these things. But I still like my Monty Python idea...



Dear Nana,

I'm planning on proposing to my boyfriend at his job. But one of my friend's think this isn't a good idea. I think it will be sweet and totally unexpected. What do you think?

I think you're out of your goddamn mind. I'm not the biggest fan of marriage, but that's probably because I've done it three or four times. But you do you. Here are questions I would make sure you answer in your head before you pull off this very special episode of "The Office":



1. Does your guy even like his job? Who wants to associate one of the happiest days of their life with some crappy 9 to 5 job they are doing just to pay the bills?
2. Have you thought about whether your potential partner would even want their co-workers to be present for such a personal moment?
3. Are you really confident they're going to say yes? Because if they say no, you've ruined most of their life. They will then always be the person at work who gave up on love that one dark Thursday in March.
4. Just don't. Just. Don't.

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

You should walk a mile a day, one way.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

Running from debt collectors is not cardio.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

We all know to avoid teeth with oral sex. With your oral hygiene, that won't be a problem for much longer.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

What's the difference between you and a white board? White boards are remarkable!

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Time to get that bod in shape for summer. Yes, "pear" is a shape.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

It's so sweet that your boyfriend takes you everywhere, though it's only to avoid kissing you goodbye.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

The last time I saw someone that looked like you, I had to pay admission.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

No sweetie, you can't steam out all of the wrinkles from your birthday suit.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

Cologne is not the answer, bathing is!

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

Your brain must be as good as new since you never use it.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Your date asked to meet you at the gym, but you didn't know where that was.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

You miss so much work that your boss thought you were a customer.

blu Q

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