

YOUR LGBT GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 5
May 2021



LEZ GO OUT



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Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



A

A little known fact is that I have a Women's Studies degree with a Gender minor. Key West is itself a phenomenal study on gender, it's fluidity and performance. I want to tell you a story about gender in Key West. I normally write mildly comical musings, however, today I want to share a life lesson I recently learned. Buckle up, Buttercup.

I was headed to Flamingo Crossing one evening for some ice cream with my Husbutch. It was a beautiful night that was cool enough to wear pants but warm enough to go sleeveless. A nearly perfect Key West night. As we waited for a good friend to join us, a colorful key west local rolled up on a bicycle and parked it next to a signpost not far from where we were. This sweet human being wears wings, thigh high boots and ... little else. They are completely comfortable with who they are, how they look and they cover just enough to be allowed into places of business. I think everyone who has lived here more than a month has seen them walking Duval or riding their bike around town. I have passed this person many many many times over the course of my history both visiting and living in Key West. I am always glad to see them. Note, I am deliberately not assigning their gender because, in truth, I don't know how they prefer to be referenced. Out of respect, I refrain from making an assumption. Sometime I should simply ask and I will.

As we waited for our friend, a couple of tourists, a man and a woman, were waiting for an Uber across the street from where we stood resting against our car and our newcomer was securing their bike. Suddenly they saw the winged person and the woman apparently couldn't contain herself. She shrieked like a grackle, actually physically pointed and said "OMG! What IS that!!". She continued to bellow laughter and jeers at this person as they walked away. My winged friend just kept walking. They walked into the wine bar next door, chose their spot and sat peacefully drinking their drink seemingly unfazed by the noise pollution this woman was contributing. My

heart was crushed for this person and shocked by the woman. All I could think to myself was that while this woman may have thought that the sight she saw was unattractive, it was she who was ugly. Her heart was just as ugly as could be.

I think it's important to note that I spent the next 24 hours deciding what I should have said, how I should have addressed the situation and how gracefully my gender non-conforming friend moved throughout the whole situation. My reaction was one of anger and hurt. They did not react to her at all. Which was better? There is certainly an argument for both reactions. Should I have told the hateful woman that we don't tolerate that kind of behavior on this island? Should I have said that I felt sorry for how much ignorance, hate and fear she must have inside. I wanted to tell her in no uncertain terms that her mother didn't raise her right and that she could take a long walk off of a short pier. There are plenty of piers in Key West, I'm certain she could find one. I always think of what I should have said AFTER the moment to say anything at all is long gone. Does that happen to you? I never expect people to be cruel and I am sincerely shocked if it happens stunning me into silence. I certainly don't expect it here.

The point of this story today is to remind you of two things while you are on this beautiful island and, frankly, when you go home, too... All genders are welcome here, period, and hate (no matter how loud) should be stopped and confronted. In Key West you will see many many things that are out of your norm. Observe, but do so kindly. You have an impact though you may only be here for a month, week or a few short days. I won't forget that woman who was so ugly to the person that she thought looked ugly. Someone else's gender, gender expression or attire has absolutely nothing to do with you. I should have said something to that woman and I WILL given the chance again.

That, children, is your lesson on non-binary gender and social construction today... This world is what we make it. Make it kind. Lez Go Out and make it better than how we find it.



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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%).

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Continued on next page.

Please see Important Facts, including important warnings, continued on the next page and at BIKTARVY.com.

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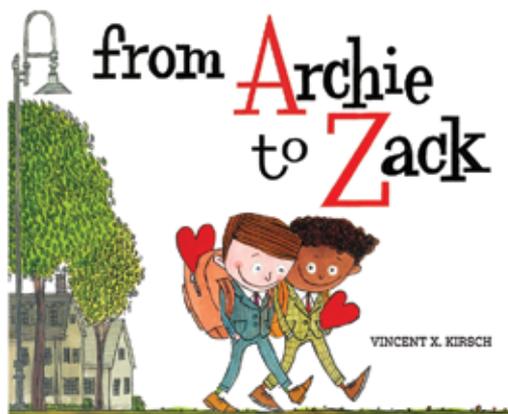
BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



"FROM ARCHIE TO ZACK" BY VINCENT X. KIRSCH

c.2020, Abrams Books for Young Readers | \$17.99 | 40 pages



The girl who sits right behind you at school is really nice.

She shares her things if you ask nicely, and she likes to make you laugh. She seems very smart and polite and she never says mean things to anyone, even if they deserve it. All the kids in your class like her; you like her but in the new book "From Archie to Zack" by

Vincent X. Kirsch, there might be someone you like just a little more.

There was no doubt in anyone's mind. Everybody knew it: Archie loved Zack and Zack loved Archie. The two boys were happiest when they did everything together, but the funny thing was, neither of them could say "I love you."

Oh, but you can bet they both really wanted to say it. Very much so. And then one day, Archie wrote Zack a note that said "From A. to Z. it's true. I love you."

Archie read the note to himself and it really made him smile.

But that note wasn't quite right, so he hid it in a tree and Zack was still his best friend.

He wrote another note, kind of the same. He read it to himself but it just wasn't quite right. He hid the second note in his band case and he and Zack were still best friends.

Just before Halloween, Archie wrote another note, with just a little more oomph and he read it to himself many times. What he wrote finally seemed right this time. He loved Zack! But for some reason, he couldn't give the note to Zack, so Archie hid it in his desk at school.

Then one day, Zuzella found a note in a desk. Zinnia found one in band class. Zelda found one in a tree trunk and all three girls knew who wrote them. They delivered the notes to Zack and that made him smile because he'd been working on a note that wasn't quite right.

One that said the truth that everybody already knew.

Nothing unusual.

That's not normally what you want to hear about a new book; you probably want to hear enthusiastic things like WOW! but that's not what you'll find here. "From Archie to Zack" tells young readers a sweet story in a calm, even, nothing-unusual manner.

The lack of drama is where unusual comes to play.

Author-illustrator Vincent X. Kirsch lets kids know that Archie and Zack can love one another and it's okay. The children in their class don't make fun of anyone. They barely even comment; in fact, they seem to think it's wonderful, a lesson that pulses like a heart here. Even the action-rich illustrations tell a story here, a story about kids that also serves as a surprisingly grown-up conversation-sparker about love, whether it's between friends, classmates, neighbors, or a child's two favorite uncles.

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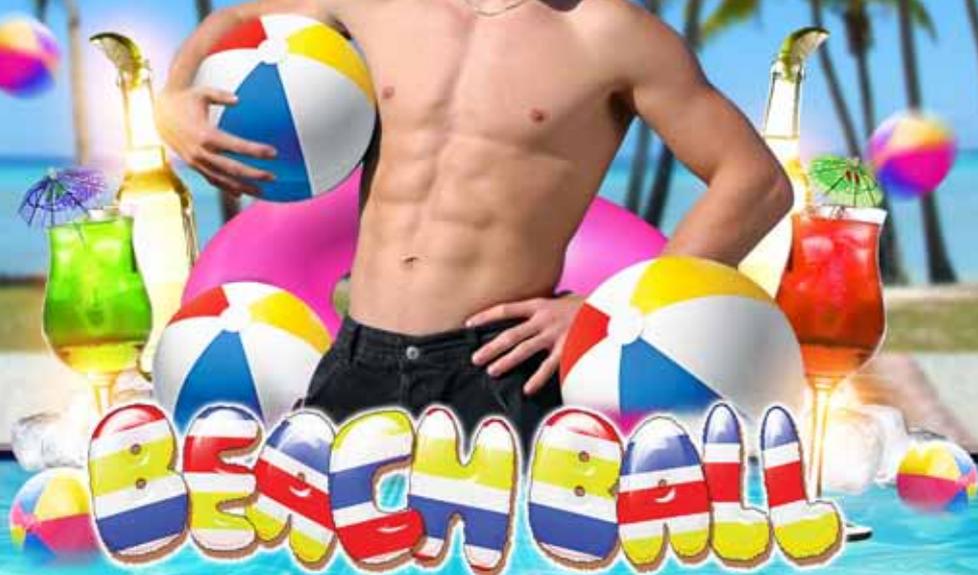
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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



Q ANONYMOUS

Recently, I decided to watch the documentary about the wacky world of Qanon. There weren't a lot of surprises in there for me. I'd followed closely the birth, and now expediated death, of this particular cuckoo's nest. Cults and conspiracies have always interested me. Not the subjects and goals of the cults and conspiracies... but what makes people want and need to believe them in the first place. But I'll admit, this one was always one of the more wackadoo wanderings. I mean, any cult-conspiracy that sort of starts with the idea that Hillary Clinton is selling teen puss out of the basement of a Pizza Hut in suburban D.C. isn't really "on the rails" to begin with. So, it's hard to go off the rails from there.

The thing I never got about Qanon (which is all of it, really) is how their moniker sounds like a recovery group more than a profound hidden conspiracy. I mean, our society has pretty staunchly claimed "anonymous" groups as being self-help/recovery groups. Be it alcoholics, narcotics, over eaters, you name it and we're anonymous about it. So, for the past few years, all I think about when someone mentions "Qanon" is the idea of a bunch of frumpy, sad gays who are swearing off being gay. They have reached a tipping point and are just too gay for their own good. They try to go to work and pay the bills, but find themselves suddenly dancing on bars to Kylie Minogue. They don't even want to! They're just addicted to being gay! Sometimes they go on gay benders and wake up, not

knowing where they are, in some stranger's daddy's bed. They'll do almost anything to feed their addiction to being gay. They maxed out their credit cards on outfits for their dogs and weekends at Island House.

The meetings for Qanon are held, after hours, in hardware stores and Home Depots. They tried, early on, to hold them in churches but found that churches were still too gay of an environment for their needs. Jesus (barely dressed and looking snatched for summer) staring down at them from the cross, all that stained glass, wine and crackers always readily available. At Qanon meetings, they each take turns bringing coffee and snacks. But there are rules now. Early on there was too high a likely hood of someone slipping back into gay ways by being creative with the coffee and snacks. It's rumored that someone once brought Starbucks and croissants and an orgy broke out shortly after. So now the rule is they can only bring Dunkin' Donuts drip coffee and gas station donuts.

It is said that the head of Qanon is Lindsey Graham. But I find that the hard part to believe. I mean, like anyone would ever think he could be less gay... and be anonymous about it, to boot!

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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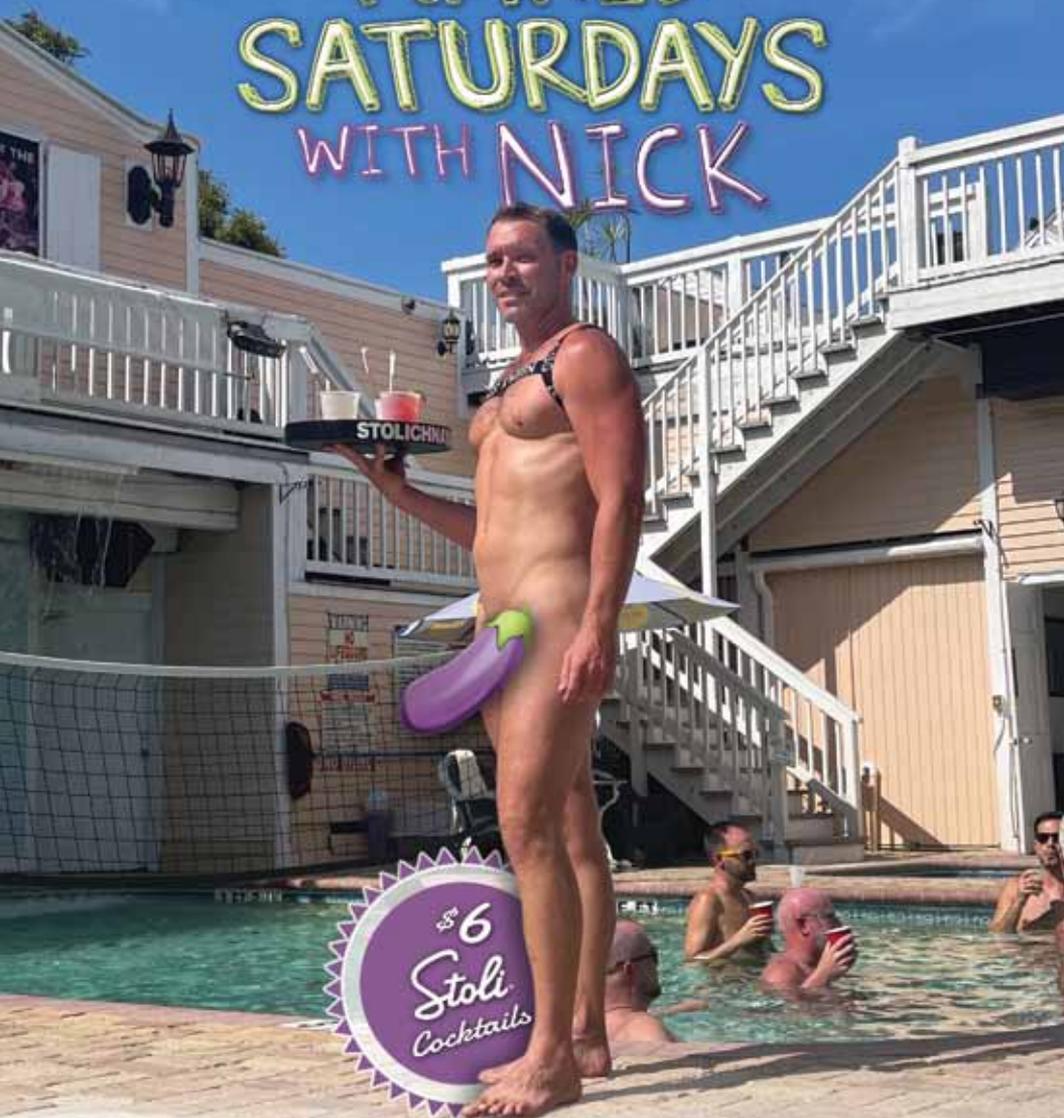
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COCQTALES

Local Bartender Interviews

By Jameson Rabbitt



BRANDON ORR SERVES FINE DINING FLAIR A LA KEY WEST (SHORTS AND FLIP-FLOPS)

Executive Chef Brandon Orr has become somewhat of a local celebrity in Key West, by creating impeccable aesthetic forward dishes with a Key West twist. Orr, a Miami native, started working in the restaurant industry at first to help pay for college, then he decided that his true passion laid in the heat of the kitchen. After attending a highly desirable apprenticeship at the American Culinary Federation in Jacksonville, FL. Orr was given the opportunity to move to Europe so he packed up his bags and made the move across the pond to Paris, where he ran a restaurant for five years in the central area.

Since his arrival in paradise Orr has made his round around town within the fine dining circuit and has created beautiful and tasty menus that have become his signature touch. Orr is not only aesthetic focused, but also conscious on keeping his ingredients local which he says is the biggest difference and challenge between American and French Cuisine. The freshness and availability of ingredients that the markets in Paris has to offer surpasses most American Markets, however Orr has mastered the art of creating dishes that are not only beautiful but also use the freshest ingredients that the Keys have to offer.

Even though Key West is geographically challenged in some areas like obtaining fresh produce, we are rich in fresh ingredients that come from the crystal clear waters that the Caribbean has to offer. and some of the few green houses found around our island chain, such as the local farmer's markets that often provide micro greens

and other vegetables for the restaurant. He also appreciates utilizing and stimulating the local fishing economy by buying local fish from the boats versus "BIG FISH" companies in Miami.

Orr has found himself at home at Marilyn's, the newest hot spot for live music, and Drag talent where he has been given free reign to create endless ideas for food items, blending flavors, colors, and textures from different cultures but using Key West ingredients such as the Soba Noodle Grouper, and the Crispy Pork Mojo Eggrolls which he pairs with a green tomatillo salsa is sure to send you into a culinary nirvana



On his few days off Chef Orr is very laid back, hitting the beach relaxing with his girlfriend, spending the day on the water is always a priority for him. His favorite thing about Key West is the diversity, kindness of the locals which is the main inspiration behind this new venture at Marilyn's, a place for locals from various backgrounds to come together, enjoy some amazing food in a casual atmosphere at a fair price and enjoy a good show!



We don't shock easily.

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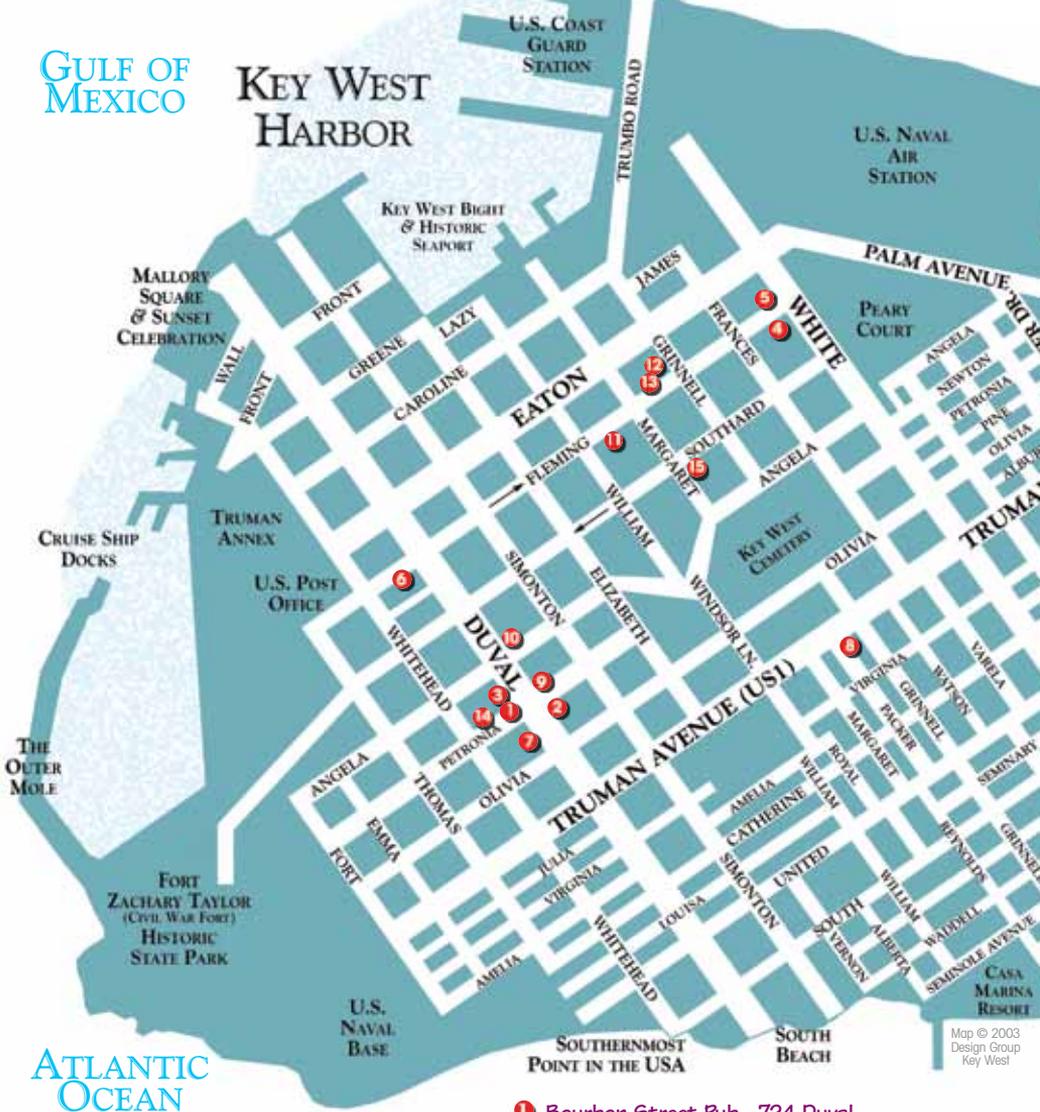
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- 4 Alexander's Guest House - 1118 Fleming
- 5 Island House Resort for Men - 1129 Fleming
- 6 Marc Ulanowski, Realtor - 420 Fleming
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- 8 Truman Book & Video - 922 Truman
- 9 Graffiti - 721 Duval
- 10 Key West Fish & Chips - 633 Duval
- 11 Equator Resort - 822 Fleming
- 12 Marilyn's Restaurant & Pub - 320 Grinnell
- 13 Island Massage Spa - 937 Fleming
- 14 Red Shoe Island Bistro - 411 Petronia
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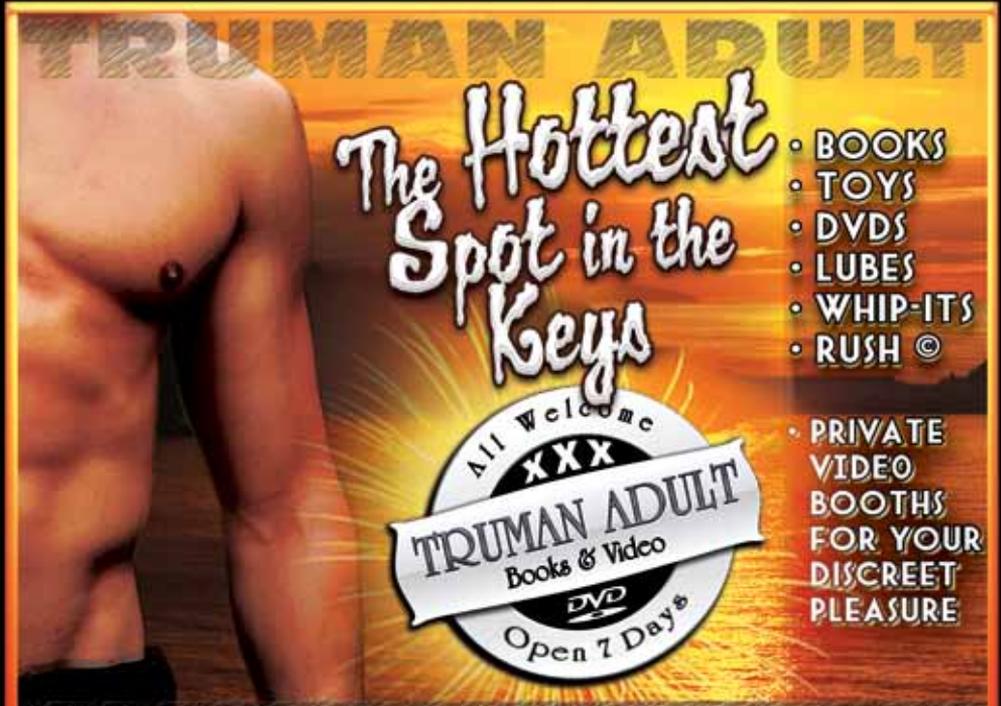


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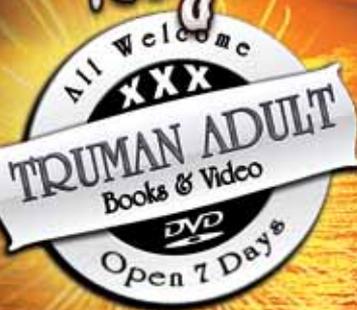
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MONDAY

801

*Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM
SIN night starts at 11PM*

Bourbon

*Bria singing live at 8:30 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

Saloon 1

Beer Blast 9 PM - 11 PM

TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

*Bria singing live at 8:30 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

Saloon 1

Bottom "less" Chili 9 PM - 4 AM

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

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

*Bria singing live at 8:30 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

Island House

Hot Naked Humpdays starting at 5 PM

Saloon 1

Blackout Wednesday at 9 PM

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

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8:30 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

Saloon 1

Thirsty Thursdays starting at 9 PM

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

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

*Jeff Moss singing live at 8:30 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM
Boys Night Out starting at 10 PM*

Saloon 1

*RuPaul's Drag Race at 8PM
Cock Shock contest at Midnight*

.....
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

*Naked Saturdays W/Nick at Noon
Jeff Moss singing live at 8:30 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

Marylin's

Booze with Miss Bouvee' at 7:30 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*

Bourbon

*Masked Tea 7 PM - 10 PM
Jeff Moss singing live at 8:30 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

Island House

Pre-Tea Pool Party starting at Noon

Marylin's

Bingo with Bouvee' starting at Noon

Saloon 1

SLU-T Sundays w/Donald at 9 PM

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

801 - 801 Duval Street

Alexander's - 1118 Fleming St.

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

Marylin's - 320 Grinnell St

Saloon 1 - 514 Petronia St

DRAG SHOW

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Bad
**The Boys Are
Back**

Nightly - 9PM - 4AM

- Beer Blast Mondays

- Bottom "LESS" Chill Tuesdays

- Blackout Wednesdays

- Thirsty Thursdays

- Special Events Fridays & Saturdays
check out our facebook page

- St+T Sundays with Donald



504 Petronia St - www.801bar

STABLE



graffitti

721 DUVAL STREET - 305-295-0003

ASK NANA

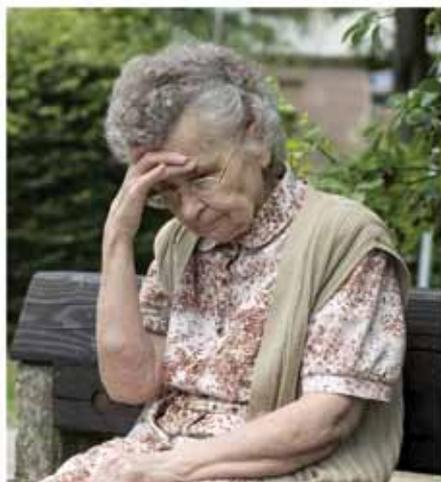
E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

What's the best way to get rid of the covid weight I put on? I want to do it fast so I can ready for summer and for life to return to a little bit of normal. Thanks!

Well, let's get a few things straight. First of all, it isn't covid weight. Nice try, sweetheart. None of us put on weight because of the fattening food they feed you, through a tube, on a ventilator. You put on depression weight just like the rest of us. Oh sure, maybe you tried to convince yourself it wasn't depression weight. You were just learning how to make (and consume) sourdough bread. Daily. You were



THRIVING, GODDAMNIT! But here we are, all in the same weighted-down boat. The proper medical advice is that losing weight quickly is not so good for your health. You didn't put on 20 pounds in a week and you won't take off 20 pounds in a month. But, since I'm not a medical professional, I say if you want it off fast, lick every toilet seat you can find until you get about half a dozen stomach flus and a tapeworm. You're Welcome!

Dear Nana,

My boyfriend farts in bed constantly. I know he can't control if he farts in his sleep... which he does. But he almost intentionally farts in the bed to try and get a rise out of me. I hate the smell, he laughs, repeat. How do I impress on him that I don't like this one bit and it's really pissing me off?

I don't know, honey. Have you tried yelling at him?! I know it's not the "modern" "healthy" way to do things, but it sure can work from time to time. I used to hit my 3rd husband on the head with a newspaper or a magazine when he acted like a 12-year-old boy. Eventually I got him up to acting like a 21-year-old boy... then he died of old age. Also, who knows where'd you find an actual newspaper anymore. What can ya do? At the end of the



day, if he's not willing to stop doing something that really bothers you, just because it amuses him, then maybe he's just a dick. And although we all love a good dick now and again... it doesn't mean you want one in your face every minute of the damn day. Tell him to grow up or find another bed to hot box.

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

Your IQ is the same as the temperature.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

Aren't you glad you got the vaccine? You finally got a prick in you!

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

Now that Covid is slowing, what excuse will you use for your weight?

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

They're going to bring you down to the Mexican border. They figure that will scare anyone from entering.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Without cruise ships here, you are officially the heaviest thing in Key West.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

West Virginia is offering \$12,000 to move there! Please consider it!

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

So you invested in Crypto and made a few bucks? Calm down, you're not quite Warren Buffett just yet.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

Do you even own an iron, or a mirror?

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

Your talking scale just called 911 to ask for help.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

Your memory foam mattress is really trying hard to forget!

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

You need to get some sun. They don't even need to give you an x-ray to find a broken bone.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

You moved to Key West because you could walk everywhere, then you sold your car. Now you take Uber everywhere you fat ass.

DO WE HAVE A BEAR FOR YOU?



OR SOMETHING ELSE??



in touch with you

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