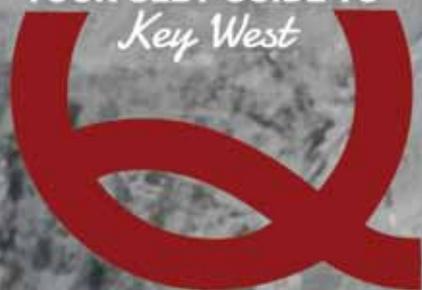


YOUR GLBT GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 11 Issue 11
November 2016

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BRAD LOEKLE



MAN ABOUT TOWN



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Welcome to Paradise!

November brings us some cooler weather. This is great for a nice romantic walk on a moonlit beach, or a bike ride around the island.

It's also a great time to get into the water as the ocean is still quite warm.

Enjoy!

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Published Monthly by:

The Gay Rag, Inc.
Key West, FL 33040-

Local Advertising

305.396.8227
info@keywestgayrag.com

National Advertising

Rivendell Media 212-242-6863
sales@rivendellmedia.com

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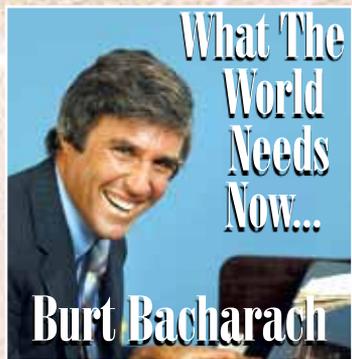
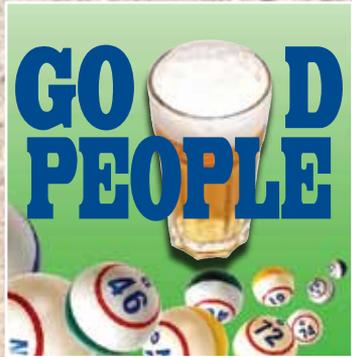
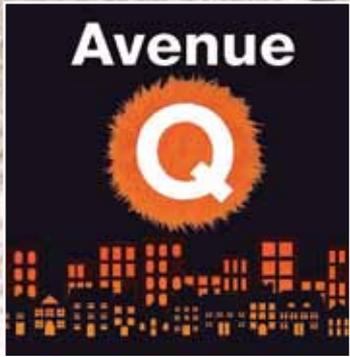
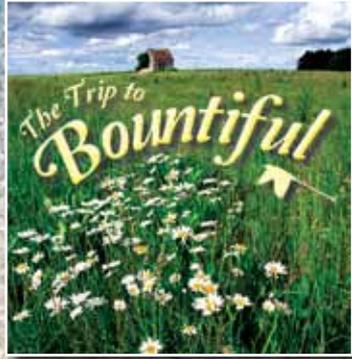
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Beach Reads

LGBT Book Reviews

By:

Terri Schlichenmeyer

"The Essential RuPaul: Herstory, Philosophy & Her Fiercest Queens" by John Davis, Illustrated by Libby Vanderploeg

c.2016, Smith Street Books

\$14.95

95 pages

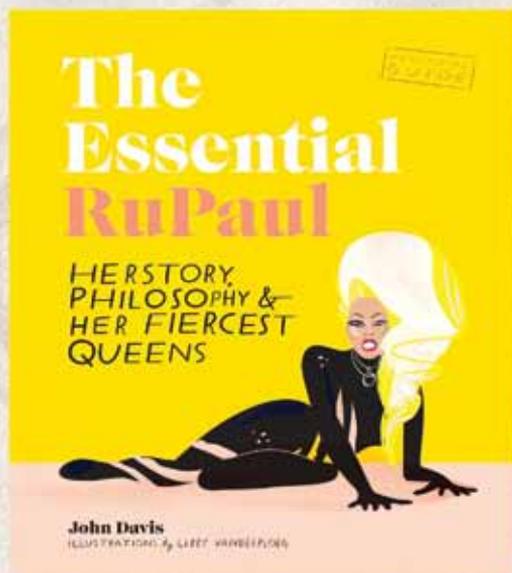
The Queen has spoken.

Everyone listens because, well, how can they not? Her bearing, her stature, her very demeanor demand attention from all her subjects and in the new book "The Essential RuPaul" by John Davis, illustrations by Libby Vanderploeg, these queens have a lot to say.

When RuPaul Andre Charles was a little boy, his mother told him that he

would be a star someday, and she'd given him an unusual name, just so he'd stand out. That's what he did, starting in his teens when he dropped out of the North Atlanta School of Performing Arts and began to "find his calling."

On his way, he was a member of a punk rock band, he performed as a go-go dancer, hosted a talk-show, and "hosted numerous local events" in Atlanta. Later, he moved to New York and acted in films. By 1989, after a few pauses in his fabulousity, he became "RuPaul the glamazon" and went on to even bigger fame in fashion, modeling, music, TV, and cosmetics.



Following the 9/11 attacks, RuPaul briefly and “quietly” stepped back from show biz to “take a break,” but he couldn’t stay away long: in 2009, he launched RuPaul’s Drag Race, a television show that featured snarky judges and competitors in performance, sewing, comedy, and (of course) drag.

In this book, we meet some of them...

There’s Santino Rice, a Drag Race judge whose comments cut like a razor blade. Adore Delano, whose last-minute debut came on YouTube after her creator, Danny Noriega, appeared on American Idol. Alaska, a “Tacky Blonde Bombshell” who hailed from the state she was named after. There’s Cameroon native BeBe Zahara Benet, who arrived following a modeling gig from “an unexpected no-show of a female model.” Drag housewife BedDeLaCreme has created her own cosmetics line, featuring cruelty-free products. Following her taping of Drag Race in 2010, Carmen Carrera is now a trans TV star. Cher impersonator Chad Michaels has been fortunate to perform with Cher herself. Manila Luzon’s first appearance was as Cruella de Vil, and performer Nina Flowers enjoys her own “day” in the Denver LGBT community.

“The Essential RuPaul” is one really quirky book.

Despite that its subtitle promises “Herstory” and more, there’s really very little here about RuPaul; four pages, to be exact, and one of those is almost totally just an illustration by artist Libby Vanderploeg. The rest of this book, alas, only has tentative relevance to RuPaul, through the drag queens that appeared on her show.

And that’s fine – if that narrow subject is what you want. Author John Davis does a good job in bringing together a bedazzle of performers in this book, but the list is frustrating in its incompleteness and the mini-chapters with mini-biographies are woefully short and quite repetitious. That, plus the misleading title may frustrate some readers but yet, fans of RuPaul’s Drag Race probably won’t care.

They’ll enjoy this book no matter what.

If that’s you, then you’ll be happy when you find “The Essential RuPaul.”

And long live the queens.

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MY BIG GAY LIFE

by: **Brad Loekle**



As I write to you, the election is still not over. But by the time we go to print it will be. I thought to help take your mind off of the last year's shit show of democracy; I'd give you a little treat. And that treat is from my brand new book! It's a collection of stories from my travels, travails, and generally disgusting life. It's called "My Big Gay Life" and it's available on Amazon and wherever cocaine is sold. It makes an excellent holiday gift for your loved ones and it makes an even better holiday gift for people you hate! If you've got a relative who still won't take their Trump lawn sign down... this book is the perfect way to tell them to go fuck themselves!

This is an excerpt from a little chapter about the time a one-night stand in rural Pennsylvania nearly ruined Christmas forever. Tis the season!

"I should tell you that I'm, like, a huge Christmas nerd and so my house is already done up for Christmas."

There is barely a chill in the air and the leaves are all still on the trees, though many have turned. But hey, who am I to judge? I have hundreds of demos and outtakes of Stevie Nicks' entire music catalog that my best friend and I have collected (legally and illegally) for 20 years. I'm also a doughy, bald clown. So we've all got quirks, I guess. Besides, I'm not moving in or picking out china patterns with the guy. What do I care what his décor choices are.

He turns the key clumsily in the lock, mostly likely from a combination of drunkenness and the fact he probably rarely used his own front door since there was an attached garage that he didn't pull into. Why I wonder? Hoarder? Sex dungeon? Corpse storage? As he enters he quickly flicks on a series of lights, which, like a row of luminary dominoes, tumbles each room into bright white light in quick succession. And... oh my dear, sweet merciful Christ... this house makes the department store windows of Christmas in Manhattan look threadbare at best! This man's house is a holy shrine to Santa. If Vatican City is like Disneyland of Christianity, this two-story home in the woods of rural Pennsylvania is the Holy Land of Kris Cringle. As he nonchalantly walks me through the house, in order to make us another drink in the kitchen, my eyes glaze over while trying to rapidly record the detail with which this man has festooned

his home. Every room has a Christmas tree. I don't mean the living room, dining room, or the other room-rooms. I mean the half bathroom has a small Christmas tree, or "elf tree" as he explains, giddily. Each tree also has its own theme. Every flat horizontal surface has some sort of holly jolly junk on top of it. Small Christmas village scenes clutter each windowsill and mantle. When we reach the kitchen, it has been reimagined to look like Mrs. Claus's kitchen. (Although let's be honest: she never cooked. Not with the amount of slave labor her husband kept on hand.) Every jar, glass, plate, utensil and mitt is covered in images of holly, stockings, sleighs, and gingerbread men. It was as if some sort of gang of elves had broken into his home and tagged every surface with yuletide graffiti.

After being handed my double vodka and soda... that was in a commemorative Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer glass... he led me upstairs. The banister of the staircase could not be held onto for support as it was covered entirely in live pine garland, tartan ribbon, soft white lights, and varying sizes of gold and copper glass balls. It looked as if someone had unwound a fully decorated Christmas tree, like it was yarn, and wrapped it around the railing. Right before we got to his bedroom, he stopped and turned to me.

"Okay, before you see the bedroom I should tell you that if there's one room I really am proud of and probably go a little over board on, it's the bedroom." he said, with a faint giggle in his voice. My balls retreated into my body with the notion that there could be anything on earth that could be more overboard than everything I'd seen so far. But I was forty minutes out into the middle of the woods and I wasn't about to walk back to civilization. Besides, until I saw rubber sheets or a can of Crisco, I was still game for getting on the naughty list with this guy. And, just so you know the bedroom wasn't done up to be Santa's workshop or anything. No no. The bedroom was done up as, well, Santa's bedroom. But unlike the rest of the Ho-Ho-House where it was merely piles of holiday brickabrack and decorations; things that could, in theory, be packed way and out of sight, his bedroom was all Christmas all the time. The wooden dresser was painted in winter holly that little painted elves were hanging along the drawers. The walls themselves were stenciled with gingerbread men. This wasn't even a wallpaper border of gingerbread men; this was full on stenciled painting. Painting he must have done himself because what red-blooded illegal immigrant worker that you pick up at the Home Depot parking lot is going to give the kind of attention to detail you want in a gingerbread stencil?! There was a full Christmas tree in the corner, by the window. A window that had been sprayed with that fake snow that well just pretend doesn't cause cancer. On one of his nightstands, which was a fucking wooden elf that held a glass tabletop over his head, there was a tea-stained scroll of paper with children's names written in quill ink on it. And just first names like "Billy" and "Susan". If you're going to take the time to make an authentic Santa's list, why don't we acknowledge the fact that with 3 trillion children in the world, Santa's going to have to at least use a mailing address or a social security number for this shit to be doable. You also need to know that there was a life-size Mrs. Claus sitting in a rocking chair in the opposite corner of the Christmas tree and... oh my god, he flipped a switch... and she's rocking and knitting?! Giant robot Mrs. Clause is rocking and knitting! How is this a thing?!

He began kissing me again. God, he was a good kisser. I mean you'd have to be to have the jingle bells big enough to bring someone back to this holiday hump house for a one night stand, right? He said he just needed to go into the bathroom to get some condoms and lube. While he was gone I simultaneously downed the cocktail he'd made for me while beginning to try to shimmy out of my always too-tight-for-anyone's-wellbeing jeans. He re-emerged from the bathroom just as the vodka I'd guzzled appeared in my blood stream, joining its long lost cousins from hours ago when we were still at the barn/bar. We lay down on the bed, hands groping and mouths awkwardly trying to find things on each other's face and body. The choreography of one night stands is always a little bit like playing Twister with Helen Keller: it's a lot of handsy grunts and misplaced elbows until you sort of "learn the room". As we rolled around I noticed he was trying to gradually reposition me on the gingerbread quilt that we were about to make "naughty" on. I'm game for most positions sexually, except cowgirl, that shit's annoying. If I wanted to be on top of you, I'd top you. Besides, I wonder mentally about anyone who wants to see what my body looks like when it's bouncing up and down like some sort of drunken toddler on a pogo stick.

As we fumble and reposition, I start to notice that there's Christmas music playing. Why or how I did not notice this before, I cannot tell you. I guess I'd already gone so far down the Christmas stocking of a rabbit hole that this whole night had turned out to be that it didn't register with my mind that I was clearly listening to Nat King Cole. "I think someone's been naughty, hasn't he?"

I heard whispered into my left ear. An ear I briefly considered cutting off shortly after this evening. I mean, I guess, I should have seen Santa-based sex talk coming down the chimney of this Santa sex-fest but it still sent what can only be described as a "douche chill through my body. The sort of chill you get when you douche with water not quite warm enough. That sort of chill.

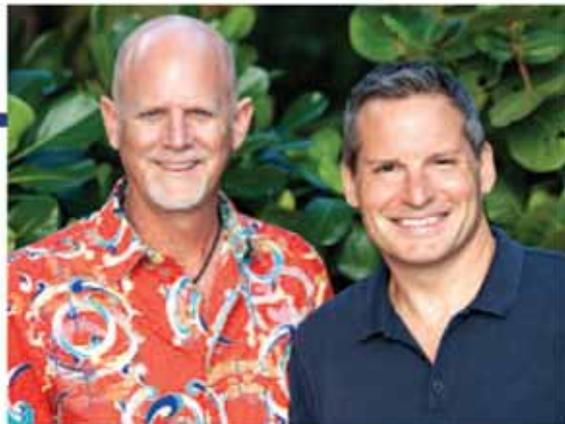
"I've been... naughty... I guess?" I (inconceivably) say back.

It is only moments after we begin actually having sex that my head arches up to see that he has repositioned me so that, if either of us looks forward, we're looking directly into the face of knitting Mrs. Claus. And so, for the longest 15 minutes of any mammals' life on earth, I try desperately not to make eye contact with the animatronic wife of the man who gave me my first Atari gaming system. All the while trying to block out the dulcet tones of Barbra Streisand nasal-resonating the fuck out of Ave Maria.

Merry Christmas, everyone.

Brad Loekle's book: "My Big Gay Life" is available on Amazon in both print and digital printings. For personally autographed copies, go to:

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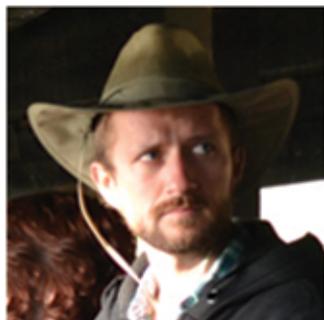
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ZACHARY MOSES : MAN ABOUT TOWN



As I've spent the summer and fall away from Key West, I've begun to seriously feel the bite of the Salt Lake City winter. Oh, It's still warm enough in Salt Lake... "technically," but I've been forced to purchase a new coat. A NEW COAT! Do you have any idea how long it's been since I've had to buy a coat? Seven years. Seven wonderful years.

Every time I leave the island of Key West, my blood has gotten so freaking thin!

I called my office on the island and booked my next plane ticket to Key West as soon as five days of rain and sleet forced me to buckle and turn on the furnace. The fall colors have fallen off the trees, my mountain man beard is growing in big and thick, and my balls are shrinking in fear of Jack Frost. I had to wear a long sleeve today...A LONG SLEEVE! Yikes! I only own tank tops. I had to make sleeves out of lady's nylons...whatever you're thinking, it's probably true.

Speaking of Key West, I just finished my last trip to the island. It was WILD! I only had six days in town, so I made them count. I packed those experiences in. In those six days, I felt I truly savored the city. I stayed at Island House. Which was rad. I hosted the naked pool parties on Sundays four years in a row, but I've never stayed at the hotel. It's awesome! Everything goes 24 hours, and you can be completely naked, which is awesome for your tan. I'd tell you

more about this wonderful place...but just go for a visit.

I tried to connect with everyone I knew since my long absence, I really did. However, this below quote should act as my apology if I've missed any of you.

"You can't expect everyone else to plan their lives around your travels." -Zach's ex-wife during divorce mediation.

Seriously? Connect with everyone? There are over 20,000 year-round residents on this tiny island. I'm not the only one who travels either. All my friends are used to snowbirds, so to them, it felt like I'd never left.

I met Neil Chamberlain, the publisher of our very own Q magazine for lunch at Azur (425 Grinnell). While chatting with Drew (Owner/Chef), he told us that he only uses

Florida pink shrimp from one fisherman, and refuses to buy from others. Apparently, his fisherman runs the only operation in the keys that freezes the shrimp out at sea, rather than treating them with chemicals for preservation. He says it's the absolute only place Azur will buy shrimp from for this reason.

Did I mention that he did an excellent job of dealing with my celiac disease, and when I mentioned I couldn't eat crab, Drew created a special off menu truffle risotto just for me.



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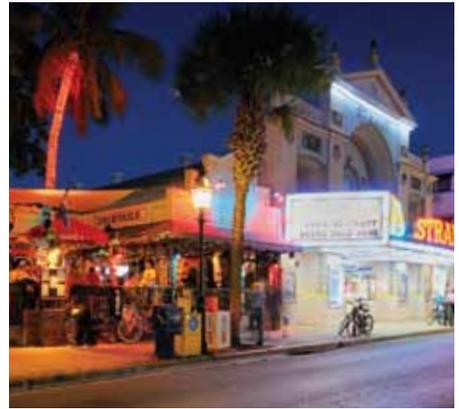
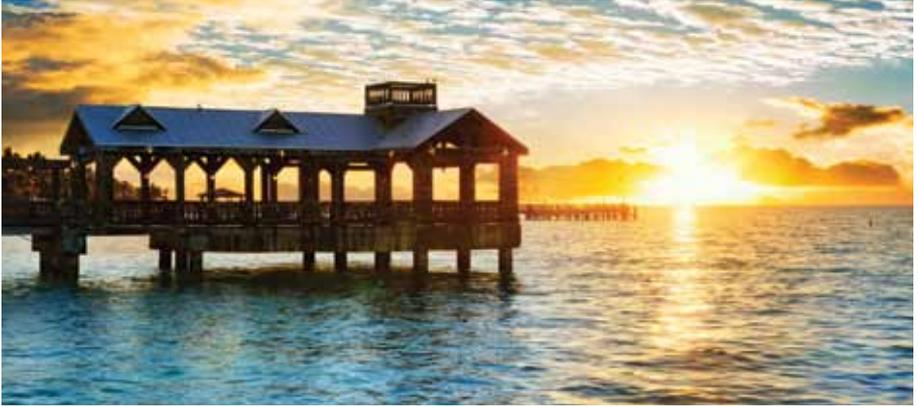
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By the time this is printed, looks like the pink triangle will have played musical employees. It's like every bartender became a free agent. Sorry, that sports reference was probably lost on most of you.

Quite a few long term locals have decided to move on. Some will be missed more than others. Some, we hope don't ever find their way back.

If you think any of these posts are about you, you are probably very self involved. You're probably right too!

Well it looks like the Pokemon craze has died down. There goes most of the entertainment when day drinking on Duval.

With all of the recent new businesses and renovations on Duval lately, it will be interesting of other businesses will follow suit or stay stagnant. Remember, a rolling stone gathers no moss.

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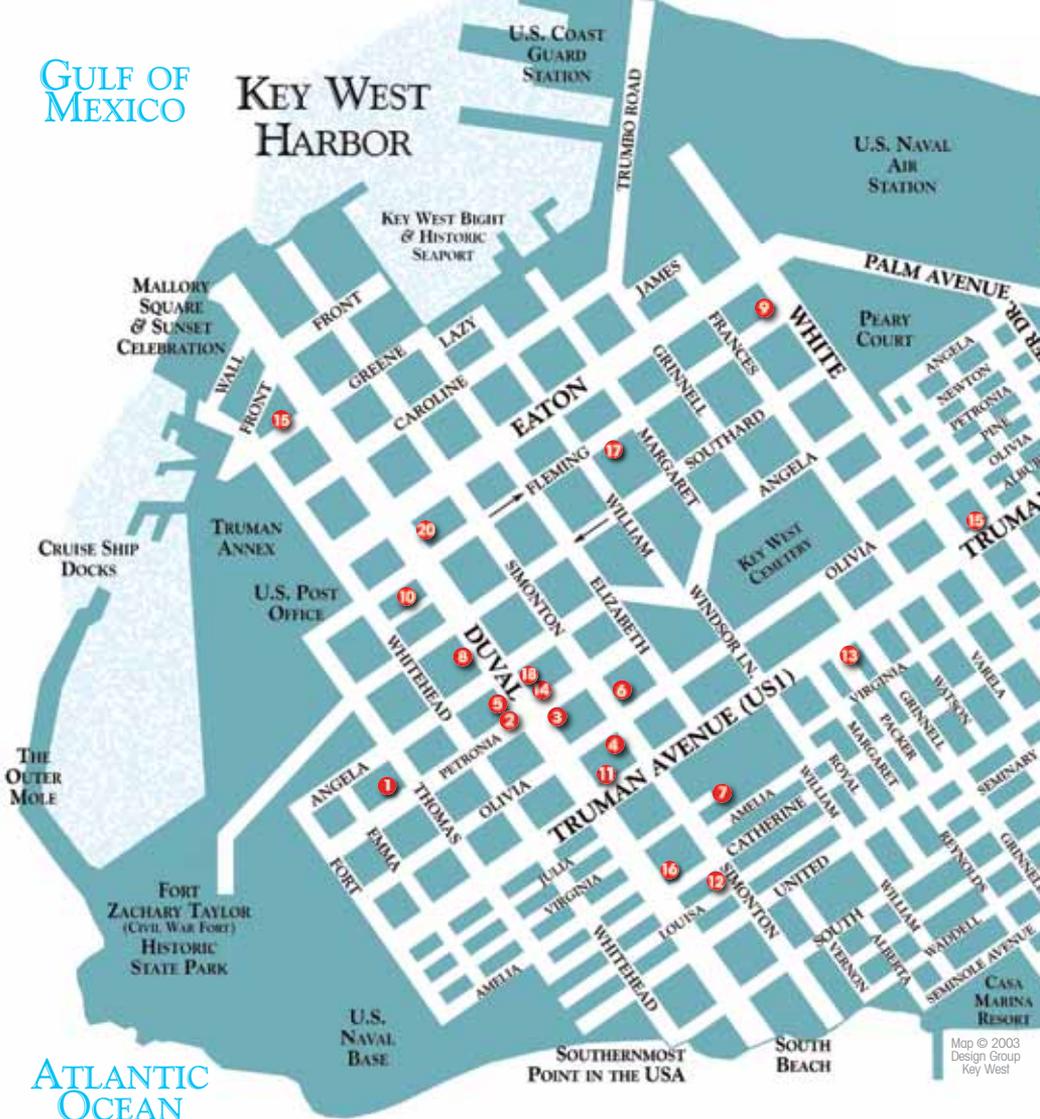
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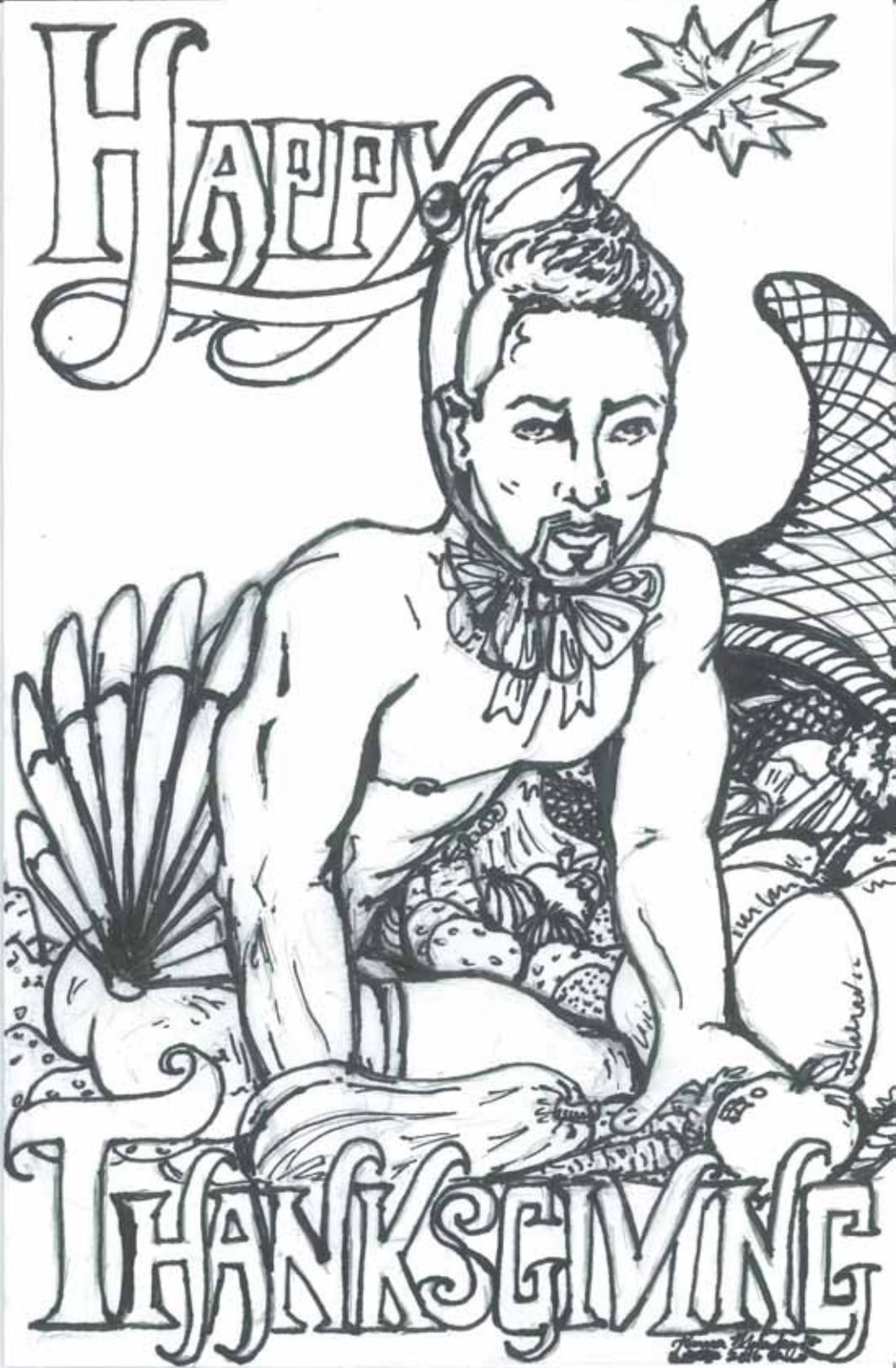
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DRAG SHOW

THE WORLD FAMOUS 801 GIRLS

NIGHTLY
9 & 11

DOORS OPEN AT 8
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KARAOKE

WED 6PM & SUN 4PM

MATINEES

FRI & SAT-5PM

BINGO

SUNDAYS 5PM

NOT YOUR GRANDMA'S BINGO!



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801 Bourbon Bar

Drink Specials,
Crazy Themes
& over 10,000
Songs!

KARAOKE NIGHTS

Wednesday @ 6pm-?
Sunday @ 4pm-9pm

The Best Karaoke on the island



Cock Shock

Fridays @ midnight

- *Best Couple*Best Ink*
- *Best Chest*Best Butt*
- *Best Balls*Best Cock*

Do you have the best?
Over \$250 in prizes!



WEEKLY EVENTS



MONDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Dueling Bartenders at 5:30 PM

Drag Show at 9:00 PM

Karaoke starting at 11:00 PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 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

Aqua

Aqua Idol at 6:30 PM

Drag Show at 9:00 PM

Karaoke starting at 11:00 PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 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
Dragalicious at 1 AM*

Aqua

*Drag Show at 9:00 PM
Karaoke starting at 11:00 PM*

Bourbon

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

Island House

Hot Naked Humpdays starting at 5 PM

T H U R S D A Y

801

*Karaoke starting at 5 PM
Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM*

Aqua

*Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM
Karaoke starting at 11:00 PM*

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

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

F R I D A Y

801

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

Aqua

*Happy Hour & Trivia at 5:00 PM
Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM
Dance Party starting at 11:30 PM*

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

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

One Saloon

*Cock Shock contest starting at
Midnight*

S A T U R D A Y

801

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

Aqua

*Drag Shows at 7 PM, 9 PM & 11 PM
Dance Party starting at 11:30 PM*

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

*Pool Party starting at 12 PM
Jessica Grabbit singing live at 8 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 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
SIN night starts at 10 PM*

Aqua

*No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker
at 2:30 PM and 4:30 PM*

Drag Show at 9:00 PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

*Jessica Grabbit singing live at 7 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM*

Island House

Pre-Tea Pool Party starting at Noon

La Te Da

Tea Dance starting at 4 PM

L O C A T I O N S

801 - 801 Duval Street

Aqua - 711 Duval Street

Bobby's - 900 Simonton Street

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval Street

One Saloon - 514 Petronia St

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A COMMUNITY COLLABORATION OF



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**THURSDAY
thru SATURDAY**
SHOWTIME 8PM

SUNDAYS
SHOWTIME 7PM





Bone Island

«BARE IT ALL»

NAKED WEEKEND • KEY WEST • DEC 1-4

OFFICIAL NAKED EVENTS AT THE PUB
& NEW ORLEANS HOUSE:

NAKED HOLIDAY PARADE PARTY

12/3 7-9PM NEW ORLEANS HOUSE BALCONY

MAIN EVENT: MR. NAKED KEY WEST

12/3 10PM-4AM GARDEN BAR

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THE ANNUAL EMPLOYEE

TURN-A-BOUT SHOW

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BARTENDERS & STAFF OF THE PUB!

SHOWTIME 10PM GARDEN BAR STAGE

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BEGINNING AT 5PM

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Ask Nana



E-mail your questions to nana@keywestgayrag.com

Dear Nana,

What's your favorite kind of stuffing?



Armando. The best stuffing I ever had was from a guy named Armando. But if you were thinking more about culinary stuffing, then I'd say sausage stuffing is my favorite. Which sounds like I'm still talking about Armando but I'm not. I take a box of stovetop; gussy it up with sautéed onions, celery, diced apples and pork sausage. I'm pretty much a fan of all stuffing except oyster stuffing. Sorry lesbians, to each their own!

Dear Nana,

I'm not going home for Thanksgiving or Christmas for the first time ever in my life. I'm sort of bummed about it and looking for ideas on how to enjoy those days when I won't be able to be with family. Any ideas?

Well, sugar bear, there are still good times to be had when you can't be around family at the holidays. In fact, some people only have good times when they're not around their family, so start by counting yourself lucky that you'll actually miss your family. Lots of people never had a good enough family to miss. So sometimes happiness is about perspective. Now, when it comes to the actual days in question there are two main categories you could explore. First is the idea of a "staycation". You could book a spa treatment somewhere (easier to do on Thanksgiving than Christmas, fyi) or simply treat yourself at home. Get some lovely bath toiletries and soak away, Netflix and chill with yourself for once. Really pamper yourself and make the day about relaxation rather than celebration. The second direction you could go in is to go out and paint the town red! You'll be surprised how many folks don't go home to see their folks at the holidays. And many of them take to the town! Restaurants, bars, theaters and the like tend to fill up at the holiday season. Also, ask around in your circle of friends to see what they're doing for the holidays. Mention that you're sort of open to invitations and I wouldn't be surprised if you get multiple offers to come join in at other people's festivities. Be it a group of friends celebrating together or joining a friend at their family's holiday, it will make for a pleasant change from your usual holiday routine.

Whichever you choose just make sure to do something other than waking up and being lonely. They don't say, "make the yuletide gay" for nothing!

*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

Well you got through Fantasy Fest and you didn't make an ass out of yourself. Well, you may want to check youtube and search Key West inflatable goat. That may fill in a few blanks.

Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

Before you keep going around telling everyone how rich you are, you may want to look at you daddy's will. You're one coronary away from being broke and homeless.

Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

You are a horrible person without redemption. The only difference between you and Trump is that he uses breath mints.

Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

When planning your next vacation, consider a one way ticket this time.

Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

Remember, this is a small island. That person you pissed off last week, may be the ass you need to kiss for a job next week.

Cancer

Jun 21 – Jul 22

You are such a whiny bitch. You blame the meter maid for your parking ticket. You blame the store clerk for your credit card being declined. You blame pandora for going over your data allowance. Grow up cupcake. You're an adult now.

Leo

Jul 23 – Aug 22

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the elections are over. You can resume posting pictures of your 32 cats and your dinner on Facebook.

Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

So you were upset that you got slow service at the bar? You thought the bartender should remember you because you're there every week. Well, he does remember you. You're the cheap fuck that gives him \$7 for a \$6.75 drink. Any questions?

Libra

Sep 23 – Oct 22

If you gain any more weight, your talking scale is going to start screaming in pain when you get on it.

Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

Buying powerball tickets is not "planning for your future."

Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

You're really obnoxious when you drink. Come to think of it, you're really obnoxious when you don't drink.

Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

Take the time to smell the roses, assuming you can smell anything over that body odor. Use some deodorant!!

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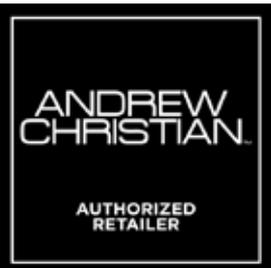
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