

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 20 Issue 3
March 2025



ASK NANA



BRAD LOEKLE



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 20 - Issue 3
March 2025

Welcome To Paradise!

It's the luck o' the Irish so
lick the blarney stone or
something else that's rock
hard.

This month, we premier our
new "Meet A Queen" column
showcasing local drag
celebrities. Each month we
will take you behind the
curtain to meet the queens
that help keep Key West
gay!

Enjoy!

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Visit us online at www.QKeyWest.com

A photograph of three shirtless men in a locker room. The man in the center is a Black man with dark, wavy hair, looking slightly to his right. He has a tattoo on his left chest. To his left is a man with a goatee, looking towards the center. To his right is a white man with short hair, looking towards the center. They are standing in front of red lockers.

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Stephanie Wise

LEZ
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OUT



W

Womyn, Womin, Wymyn. However you spell it, to put it succinctly, we are a true force of nature. We are inventors, teachers, leaders, mothers, best friends, lovers. There's nothing we can't be or do. Women make up over 51% of the population of the globe and created the other 49%. We have always been and always will be Warriors and Queens and in Key West we are recognized as such in many ways and all over town. In March, the rest of the country catches up with us for a minute and celebrates Women's History month, so today I'm highlighting a female powerhouse of Key West.

When you're walking down Duval Street, not far from the hustle and bustle of the wild end of Duval closest to Mallory Square, a grand red brick building breaks from the barrage of loud music and bright lights. She stands proud and strong, effortlessly exuding the confidence and grandeur of days long gone by. A black wrought iron fence separates you from her but only to highlight her stature and demand respect. This... is Eleanor.

This building, lovingly referred to as Eleanor, was built over 130 years ago by Martin and Eleanor Curry Hellings. This is the home of the Key West Women's Club. To quote their webpage: The Key West Woman's Club (KWWC), a volunteer service organization founded in 1915, lives up to its motto "Qui Non Profit Deficit" by assisting Key West and Monroe County non-profits with ongoing contributions from fundraising efforts by its membership. KWWC members are dedicated to bettering the quality of life in our community. Some of the non-profits supported by the Key West Woman's Club include: The Cancer Foundation of the Florida Keys, Womankind, American Cancer Society, Literacy Volunteers Society of Monroe County, Samuel's House, Wesley House, Habitat For Humanity and Heron/Peacock Assisted Living.

"The Key West Woman's Club building has received recognition by the National Historic Preservation Board. The building, one of the few privately owned mansions remaining on historic Duval Street is also sustained by the efforts of the members of the Key West Woman's Club." As stated under About on their website.

The Key West Women's Club is renowned for being incredible female examples of kindness, grace and philanthropy. The women who dedicate their time to the club host parties as fundraisers for groups all over town. Armed with the collective power of other women in the community, they lead by example in helping Key West's children, elderly and local non-profit organizations. They make our community whole.

If you show dedication to the residents of Key West, kindness, a desire to help and are a resident here, you just may be invited to join them but must be sponsored by two long standing members. It's an incredible honor to be invited and so they do not offer to just anyone. They pick outstanding examples of women who want to help make a difference in the lives of their fellow residents. Volunteer hours are required and it is worth every moment of the fulfilling task for all involved. A phrase you'll hear often is, "when women get things done, real change happens". And it does.

So if you go out walking on Duval and you see this gran dam or the women who support her, consider a donation to help the women of this amazing island care for and better the lives of so many people here. Heck, it's why you love coming to Key West and didn't even know it. So, LezGo Out and stand strong in our female power and support one another by supporting the Key West Women's Club!

Now, more than ever, we must find our power... our strength and our leadership as women... together.

Not just gay - **GAY!**



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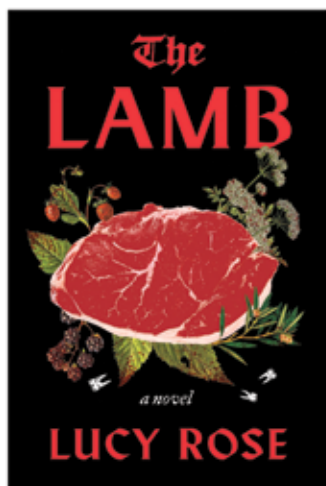
BEACH READS



LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*

"THE LAMB: A NOVEL" BY LUCY ROSE

c.2025, Harper | \$27.99 | 329 pages



What's for lunch?

You probably know at breakfast what you're having a few hours later. Maybe breast of chicken, sauteed in tomato sauce. Barbecued ribs, perhaps? Leg of lamb, beef tongue, pickled pigs' feet, liver and onions, the possibilities are just menus away. Or maybe, as in the new book, **"The Lamb"** by **Lucy Rose**, you'll settle for a rump roast and a few lady fingers.

Margot was just four years old when she noticed the mold on the shower walls, and wondered what it might taste like.

She also found fingers in the shower drain from the last "stray," the nails painted purple, and she wondered why they hadn't been nibbled, too.

Cooked right, fingers and rumps were the best parts.

Later, once Margot started school, Mama depended on her to bring strays from the woods to their cottage, and Mama would give them wine and warm them up. She didn't often leave the house unless it was to bury clothing and bones, but she sometimes welcomed a gardener who was allowed to leave. There was a difference, you see, between strays and others.

But Eden.... Margot couldn't quite figure her out.

She actually liked Eden, who seemed like a stray but obviously wasn't. Eden was pretty; she never yelled at Margot, although she did take Margot's sleeping spot near Mama. Eden made Mama happy; Margot could hear them in the bedroom sometimes, making noises like Mama did when the gardener visited. Eden was a very good cook. She made Mama softer, and she made promises for better times.

And yet, things never got better. Margot was not supposed to call attention to herself, but she wanted friends and a real life. If she was honest, she didn't want to eat strays anymore, either, she was tired of the pressure to bring home dinner, and things began to unravel. Maybe Mama didn't love Margot anymore. Maybe she loved Eden better or maybe Mama just ached from hunger.

Because you know what they say: two's company, three's a meal...

Not a book to read at lunch? No, probably not – although once you become immersed in “The Lamb,” it'll be easy to swallow and hard to put down.

For sure, author Lucy Rose presents a somewhat-coming-of-age chiller with a gender-twisty plot line here, and while it's occasionally a bit slow and definitely cringey, it's also really quite compelling. Rose actually makes readers feel good about a character who indulges in something so entirely, repulsively taboo, which is a very surprising – but oddly satisfying – aspect of this unique tale. Readers, in fact, will be drawn to the character Margo's innocence-turned-eyes-wide-open and it could make you grow a little protective of her as she matures over the pages. That feeling plays well inside the story and it makes the will-they-won't-they ending positively shivery.

Bottom line, if you have a taste for the macabre with a side-order of sympathy, then “The Lamb” is your book and don't miss it. Fans of horror stories, this is a novel you'll eat right up.

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MEET A QUEEN

Entertainer interviews by *Donald Deihl*



Jobie Jacomine (Sir) better known as Puddin Taine (She/ Her/ It/ A Good Time) hails from the vibrant city of New Orleans! Puddin (*Miss Taine if ya nasty*) was born out of the New Orleans Drag Workshop (Cycle 3) at The Always Lounge And Cabaret in 2015. Formerly known as Lady Facile ('08-'14 *she went to rehab and never came back!*) Puddin has held many titles over her 25 years as a performer including Ryan Landry's "Showgirl Of The Year", 2 time "Best Drag Bourbon St. Award" winner, "Miss Fagbash Intergalactic", "Queen V" Of Dad's Ball, "Best Drag Performer" (OUTSFL), and is your current Queen Mother XXXVIII!



"My biggest accomplishment is having the honor of being recognized in New Orleans, P-Town, and Key West for the accolades I've won. I'm also honored to serve on the board of Queer Keys as the Director Of Joy And Glamour!"

What can we expect from a typical Puddin Taine Show?

"I'm a total loose cannon! Nothing is typical! Humor, absurdity, glamour, and sensuality are always being served! I love the connection with the audience! There is nothing like making them laugh or cry because you know you made them feel something and that's called 'art' darling!"



MEET A QUEEN

 Puddin' Taine

 PUDDIN_TAINE_OFFICIAL

 PUDDIN-TAINE

What is your favorite song to perform?
"Proud To Be A Woman" - Amy Arena but I also love some Patti Smith & Bette Middler!

What is your catchphrase?
"I'm gonna be FAMOUS!" or "I just wanna have a good time for once in my life!"

What is your craziest experience as a performer?

I AM a crazy experience!



If you could meet one celebrity from the past or present, who would it be and what one question would you ask?

Elizabeth Taylor (my icon). I would ask her how she likes her martini, 1 quaalude or 2?

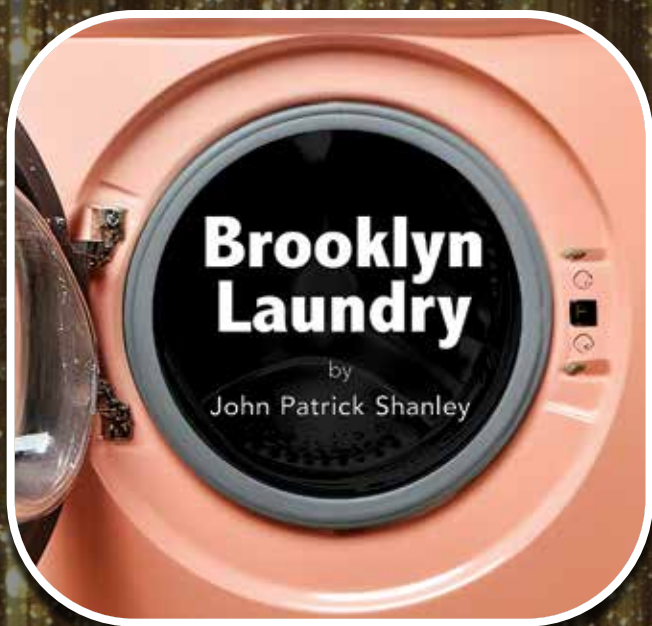
What are your future goals as a performer?

I REALLY want to perform in Europe! There is talk of me performing at Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco next year!

From the Queen:

"Fight back during these dark times! Remember, pride was a riot first! Make sure to follow my social media for upcoming performances. It's been an honor to be Queen Mother XXXVIII but I ain't done yet! Spring fundraisers T.B.A. shortly. Also, I'm going to be the Queen of Dad's Ball at Mardi Gras in NOLA! I'm in the midst of starting a pop-up theater troop with my dear friend Nina Piller so keep a lookout for the Hush Hush Theater!"

Catch Puddin Taine performing nightly at the 801 Cabaret and making her theatrical stage debut in "Parallel Lines" at Williams Hall alongside Erin McKenna.



MARCH 4-29, 2025

(Tuesdays - Saturdays @ 7:30PM)

John Patrick Shanley, the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony-winning author of *Doubt* and the Oscar-winning writer of *Moonstruck* reminds us to notice the mundane.

Sometimes big things start from little things; in this case, a bag of laundry. Shanley's latest is about 3 sisters, a guy running a laundry in Brooklyn, and the sometimes savage tricks life plays on them. Both tragic and funny, *Brooklyn Laundry* reminds us what is important in life... the sorrow - and joy - of fully embracing adulthood.

Directed by **Joy Hawkins**, it stars **Michael Castellano**, **Jessica Miano Krue**, **Lauren Thompson** and **Donna Stabile**.



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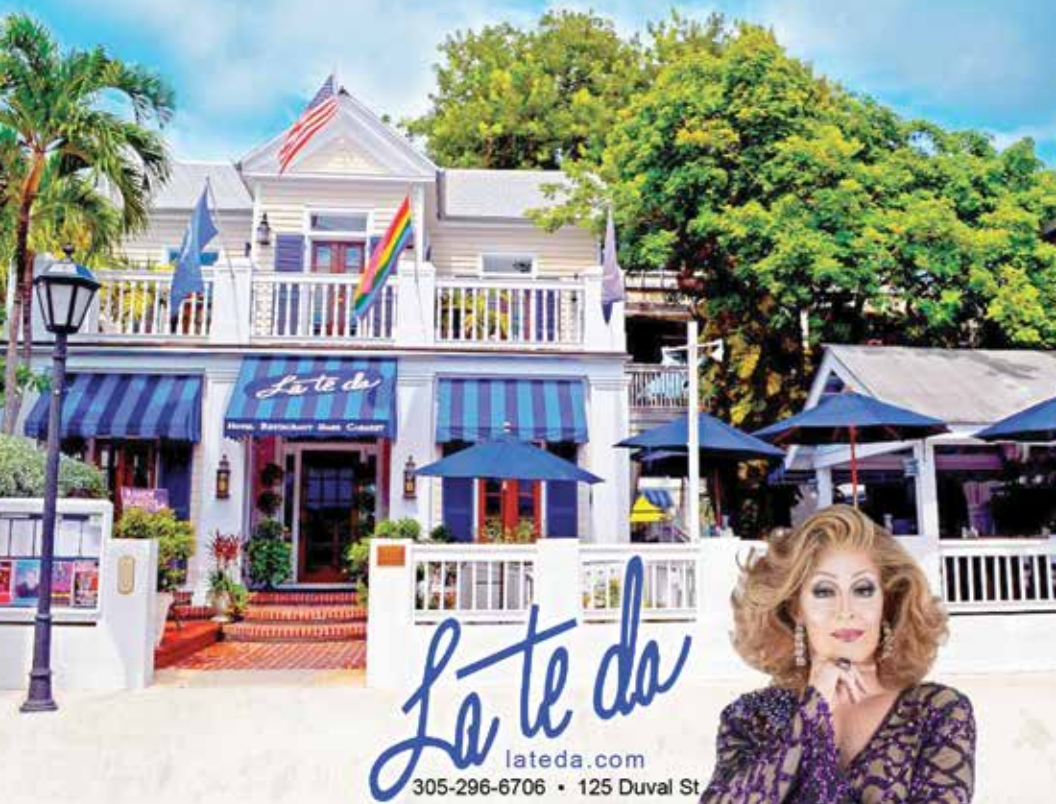
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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



IN DEFENSE OF TERRIBLE LIVING

We live in a culture, and certainly in a community, that places a lot of value on fitness, healthy living, clean living, living to the fullest, only living once, and a thousand other catch phrases to catch your attention, your self-worth, and your wallet. But, just for a moment, I'd like to make the case for living terribly. At least until you're in your mid-40s. I, conveniently, am in my mid-40s so this all comes from both a place of life experience and of hypocritical self-justification. Two things one can only develop over time.

I see young people feverishly taking care of their bodies in a way that is not merely preventive but panicked. Little, taut collections of abs and bouncy buttocks who somehow don't see the built-in resilience of youth. Instead, they look at their bodies like fixer-uppers waiting to happen. Oiling door hinges that have yet to creak. Fish oil, to be specific. So much fish oil. The centuries old phrase, "there's plenty of fish in the sea" will lose its literal meaning if we can't convince these 25-year-olds that they don't need to consume as many omega-3s as a baleen whale just to prevent natural aging.

Youth is a currency that will never appreciate with time. Can you be a very active and vital person in your 80s? Possibly. But that's more about genetics or income. Trust me, if living in Manhattan and West Hollywood for my entire adult life has taught me anything it's that nothing ages better than money! And, even if you do age quite well, or do quite well for yourself in this monopoly game America is... it still won't be the same as using up your youth while you're actually young.

In my 20s, I could eat Arby's for breakfast on a weekday and go to work. In my 20s, I would find a pill on the floor of a bar and take it?! Just to see what would happen. And then I would go vote! Our watches did not track our steps or our resting heart rates. Our hearts, when we could find them, rarely rested. I never smoked a day in my life yet, until 2002, the clothes I wore the night before reeked of smoke and late-night food trucks whose health department ratings (had they existed) would have been so low that we'd have had to invent a letter after "Z" to grade it.

The first time I ever helped my aunt bathe my baby cousin, I was terrified at how slippery a wet baby is. They are absolutely the easiest thing to drop. I was terrified. My aunt said, "Bradford, babies literally bounce. You can grab them by one arm and hurl them to get them away from danger and they'll be fine. Nature built them to rebound." Well, to any youths who come across this. Your body is still pretty bouncy. Trust me on this one. So, I would start enjoying your body at least as much as you're maintaining it, before the bounce starts to not bounce back. Before you know it, you'll be doing all the maintenance you're doing now... not to feel great but just to not be dead. And even though the maintenance gets to be a game of diminishing returns. What can you do? Like it or not, your body is your "forever home." So, I beg of you to throw as many parties as you can in her now. She'll be a "Mid-Century fixer upper" before you know it!

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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- 2 A&B - 700 Front St
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- 5 Aqua - 711 Duval St
- 6 Back Bar - 711 Duval St
- 7 Belmare - 700 Front St
- 8 Big Cheezees - 404 Southard St
- 9 Birdcage Cabaret - 504 Angela St
- 10 Bourbon - 724 Duval St
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- 12 Graffiti - 721 Duval St
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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

Birdcage Cabaret

Pub Style Trivia at 6 PM

Bourbon

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

La Te Da

3Sum at 8:30 PM

TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 9 PM

Back Bar

Movie Night at 8 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 8 PM

Bourbon

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

La Te Da

*Tiger and River playing at 8.30
Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM*



WEDNESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Back Bar

*Watson Wednesday at 3 PM
Service Industry Night-at 6 PM*

Birdcage Cabaret

*René Breslin singing live at 5:30 PM
Western Wednesdays at 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

La Te Da

Tiger and River playing at 8.30

THURSDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 8 PM

Throwback Thursdays at 10 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

3Sum at 8:30 PM

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

FRIDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Happy Hour with Bria at 3 PM

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Back Bar

RuPaul Viewing Party at 8 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 8 PM

Late Night Dance Party 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

3Sum at 8:30 PM

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

Saloon 1

Cock Shock contest at Midnight

SATURDAY

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

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 8 PM

Dance Party at 10 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

3Sum at 8:30 PM

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

SUNDAY

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

Birdcage Cabaret

Kingdom at 7 PM

BirdDrop Open Mic Night at 8:30 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

La Te Da

Tea Dance at 4 PM

3Sum at 8:30 PM

LOCATIONS

801 - 801 Duval Street

Aqua - 711 Duval Street

Back Bar - 711 Duval Street

Birdcage - 504 Angela St

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval St

Saloon 1 - 504 Petronia St

FEELIN' LUCKY, MATEY?

THIS
ST. PATRICK'S
DAY
DON'T LEAVE
YOUR LUCK
TO CHANCE.
BE PREPARED!



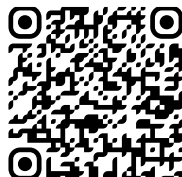
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ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

My parents think I spend too much on travel and should be more focused on saving for a home and retirement and that sort of thing. They've always sort of pushed me to live a life similar to their's and my siblings and most of our family. I don't want to hurt their feelings but that just isn't me. How do I get them to understand that, without insulting them

It's really quite easy to not insult someone. Just don't insult them. Your parents are grown people. They should be able to tell the difference between a conversation and a confrontation. Remember, you're not some know-it-all teen who is barking at them that their "generation just doesn't understand you!", as you huff off and slam the door. You're a grown person now. I've always had a firm rule that if you are old enough to pay taxes and bills, you're old enough to pay no mind of what other people think of your life. Even your own family. You're not spending your paycheck on hookers and blow, you're doing the very thing their whole generation claims they were "saving up" and "looking forward" to doing in retirement. But, most of them didn't read the fine print: at 65, being on an 18-hour flight "Down Under" is about as fun as being 6 feet down under. So, the Boomers shuffle onto cruise ships pretending like they're seeing the world from the Señor Frogs in Cozumel. Or that going to the Paris Resort and Casino in Las Vegas is "close enough to the real thing." I'm sure your parents just want what they think is best for you. But what's really best for you is not regretting things you didn't do when you get older. Fill that passport up while you've still got your original knees! Trust me, you lose them sooner than you think.

Dear Nana,

My Dad and my boyfriend always get into heated political debates when we all get together. It doesn't get too heated. No one says anything cruel or anything like that. But it's really exhausting for the rest of us. How can we stop them from turning every game night and family dinner into a debate stage?

Well, I know we all like to think this current political climate is "new." But this story is a tale as old as time. Unfortunately for you and your mother, the biggest burden falls on you two. Control your men, ladies ;-). But, truly, when my first husband would start going off



about politics with my sister (or vice versa... they never say eye to eye on anything) I would just throw something at each of them. Not a glass or Chinese throwing star. Though, during the Reagan administration, the thought did cross my mind. I would throw an ice cube at one of them and tell them to "cool off!" Or, I'd start clearing dinner even though they weren't finished, explaining that you can eat and talk shit at the same time. Maybe these techniques are a bit too aggressive today. But, what's the harm if every time either of them pops off about politics, the rest of you all start making animal noises over them? If they want to squawk, you all should just squawk back!

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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MONDAY, MARCH 24
• 6-9PM •
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WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

While others may say you're full of shit, I just call you cuntstipated.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

Slow down on the cosmetic surgery. The world is running out of plastic.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

You should have been born in the dark ages. You look better in the dark.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

The entire world is grateful that you aren't a twin.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

I'm not saying you're fat but your birthstone is Oreos.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

You don't need a beauty mask, you need a beauty iron lung.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

The great thing about being obese is that you're always the bigger person.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

Your circle of friends is getting smaller as your mouth gets bigger.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

You might want to lose a few pounds, Your phone is orbiting around you.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

While most people practice skin care, you seem to practice skin I don't care.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Smile!! I need a color inspiration for a shade of yellow.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

Until you buy some Lume, keep those legs crossed.



IsLAND HouSe

HOT NAKED POOL PARTIES



HOT NAKED
WEDNESDAYS

5 - 8PM

(2-4-1 EXTENDED HAPPY HOURS)

HOT NAKED
SUNDAYS

12 - 4PM



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