

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 21 Issue 8
August 2026



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

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Welcome To Paradise!

In August, things heat up,
and we welcome that with
the Tropical Heat weekend.

These HOT events are
created for the men! Get
out and get sweaty!

A full listing of events is in
this issue.

Enjoy!

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SQUIRT

Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



August in Key West is a whole different creature. If June is glitter and July is swagger, August is that quiet, knowing smile the island gives you when the crowds thin out and the heat settles in like a warm blanket you didn't ask for but somehow get comfortable with. It's the month when locals reclaim their favorite spots, when date nights stretch long past sunset, and when queer women get to enjoy the island the way we love it most — slow, intimate, and full of small, perfect moments.

You can feel it the minute you step outside. The streets are calmer. The restaurants breathe again. The water looks like melted turquoise. And suddenly, you're reminded that Key West isn't just a destination — it's a community. A very gay one, at that.

August always starts with a little hum in the background, a kind of pre party energy that tells you BrewFest is on the horizon. Technically it's a Labor Day weekend event, but locals treat it like a month long warm up. By mid August, you'll see pop up tastings, brewery events, and casual gatherings that feel more like neighborhood hangouts than festivals.

It's one of those things lesbians love without even trying. Cold beer in hot weather? Yes. Casual vibes? Absolutely. The ability to show up in shorts, sandals, and a tank top and be perfectly on theme? A dream.

The best part is that BrewFest in August is still mostly locals. You can wander into a tasting at Waterfront Brewery, chat with people you actually know, and enjoy the kind of easy, breezy socializing that only happens in slow season. It's not loud. It's not crowded. It's just... Key West.

If you're looking for an excuse to escape the heat — and let's be honest, in August you absolutely are — Mango Madness at The Studios of Key West is your salvation. It's bright, tropical, and full of local art that feels like summer distilled into color.

You wander through the gallery, admire pieces that look like Key West sunsets melted onto canvas. It's the perfect slow season date: cool, quiet, and just artsy enough to feel cultured without trying too hard.

August is when the water feels like silk and the sky decides to show off every night. It's also when Lazy Dog Adventures becomes the unofficial lesbian clubhouse. Paddleboarding at sunset? Kayaking through mangrove tunnels? A backcountry eco tour that feels like a queer nature retreat? Yes, yes, and absolutely yes. There's something about August paddles that hits different. The channels are quieter. The wildlife is more active. The sunsets look like someone spilled watercolor across the sky. And the guides — friendly, funny, and very queer adjacent — make the whole experience feel like a warm hug.

If you're looking for a date night that makes sweating through your clothes enjoyable, this is it. You glide across the water, talk about life, watch the sky shift from gold to lavender, and remember why you fell in love with this island in the first place. Then, you jump into the water and let it soak into your soul. Absolutely the best...

Early August brings the Mermaid Festival, which is exactly as whimsical as it sounds. Seashell bras, shimmering tails, ocean themed outfits — it's camp, it's colorful, and it's full of queer energy even if it's not officially branded that way.

The Mermaid Parade is the highlight. It's playful, chaotic, and deeply Key West. You'll see locals dressed like sea goddesses, kids covered in glitter, and at least one person who committed fully to being a jellyfish. It's impossible not to smile.

But the real magic of August isn't just the events. It's the quiet. The softness. The way the island feels like it's letting you in on a secret.

Restaurants roll out locals only specials. Bars feel familiar again. You can walk into Little Pearl without a wait. You can grab brunch at Blue Heaven and actually hear yourself think. You can sit at Salute! on the Beach with your wife, sip something cold, and watch the waves roll in without a crowd blocking the view.

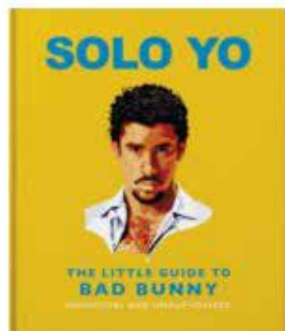
August is the month when Key West feels like home — not just a place to visit, but a place to belong. So Lez Go Out and sweat together as only true friends can. I'll see you at the bar watching the waves... nice and slow.

*Tropical
and more...*



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BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*

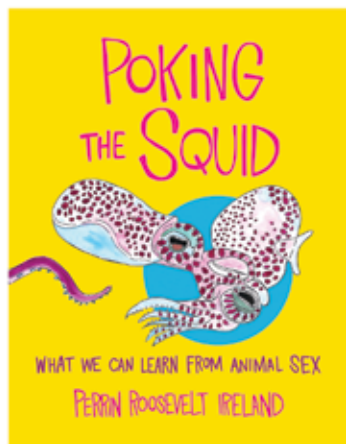


"POKING THE SQUID:WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM ANIMAL SEX"

BY PERRIN ROOSEVELT IRELAND

c.2026, W.W. Norton | \$29.99 | 241 pages

Birds do it.



According to Cole Porter, bees do, too, but it's not exactly what he imagined. Wild and tame, avians, insects, and mammals all have sex – although not always as you've been told or for reasons you might think. Even educated fleas do it and, as in the new book, **"Poking the Squid"** by Perrin Roosevelt Ireland, humans can learn from them all.

If you read through scientific papers on animal reproduction, you might notice something unusual: for scientists, the word "sex" means a lot of different

things.

Says Ireland, "It's used to describe behaviors, biology, life histories, and more."

That might be because animals are not simply binary.

Take, for instance, hyenas. It's easy for the casual observer to mistake a male hyena for a female and vice versa because of stereotypes of anatomy. Mating, for hyenas, requires subordination for the male and a nifty trick on the part of the female's body to get things done.

Our feathered friends are no birdbrains, either: black-browed albatrosses were once thought to be monogamous but global warming seems to have changed their nesting habits sometimes. Male

flamingos have sex with one another, as a territorial thing; other birds and animals form same-sex pairs for other reasons.

The Chinese mantis eats her mate after fertilization. Female snakes, alpacas, guinea pigs, and monkeys are anatomically able to enjoy sex. Genitalia between species varies quite a bit; in fact, the vaginas of ducks “are highly complex.” Lionesses will mate up to a hundred times when in heat. Female damselflies will change into a “third sex” to avoid overly-aggressive mating males. Bearded dragons can change their sex, if needed, as can yellow clown goby fish. And seahorse pregnancy and birth sparked a book-banning in Tennessee.

So, asks Ireland, if animals, including us, vary so much in biology and life, “... why are we using the word sex like it means something, anything, consistent?!”

Pick up “Poking the Squid,” page through it a few seconds, and you’ll see that the information here is largely told through cartoon-like drawings mixed with captions. It seems to be something on the lighter side, but don’t let that artwork fool you.

Author Perrin Roosevelt Ireland offers readers solid information that cozies up to the scholarly, with hard science, philosophy, feminism, and quotations from researchers to support it, thus furthering the narrative and hitting the points squarely. If you see the art and expect something lighthearted, comic, and small-talk-worthy, you could be disappointed.

On the other hand, if you want solid, wryly-serious facts, you’re in for a treat.

There’s lots of learning to be gleaned here, and some slight nudge-wink whimsy to emphasize the absurdity of wrong-headed thinking. This can make readers feel like they’re in-the-know on the jokes, and the playfulness balances the seriousness of the information well.

So, serious, scholarly, or slightly silly, none of these are negative but you’re going to know what you want from a book like this. For the right reader, someone in the mood, “Poking the Squid” is wild.

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MY **BIG** GAY LIFE

Brad Locke



HIP HIP WHORE-AY!

At 48, I've accepted that my many decades of commitment to a decadent lifestyle are beginning to show, both in my body and my bloodwork. I mean, you don't just get a body like mine overnight. It takes years of alcohol, drug use, neglect, and questionable sexual partners to build the haunted house you see before you.

But I was not prepared in any way for the recent diagnosis that I'm not too fragile to fuck anymore. Well, at least for the time being. At least until I finish my physical therapy for the pussy-popping I took on a recent weekday afternoon. Oh yes, my dears, my recent afternoon delight turned into a debilitation. Now, I'm well aware that the old grey mare ain't what she used to be; but I certainly didn't think she was ready to be put down and shipped off to the glue factory. Do my ankles get all the way behind my ears anymore? No. Do I require a wedge pillow in order to take a pile driving nowadays? Yes. But did I expect to be told that sex could lead to sciatica?! Abso-fucking-lutely not!

When you're younger, sex injuries feel like medals of honor. Scrapes and bruises you can brag about to the girls down at the bar. But now those medals, much like my hip flexors, have rusted. What was once a playboy mansion of pleasure has dilapidated into a Grey Gardens. Whatever is a Mid-Century Homosexual to do?!

I'll tell you what they do. They go to an exhaustingly cheerful Venezuelan woman who teaches them how to strengthen your glutes, flexors, 'ceps, and rotators. They look at the puzzled face on the Venezuelan woman's face when you coyly explain you're mainly interested in regaining your flexibility in a few very specific poses. Like on your back in spread eagle. And she and you both know what you're talking about but neither of you says it. Because she's wearing a dainty gold cross around her neck and you've got tit-sweat leaking from your worn-out Nasty Pig t-shirt under the surgically bright overhead lighting of the physical therapy studio your insurance will cover.

For everyone under 48, heed my warning. I don't care what you do with or to your body, but I would urge you to stretch every day. Start now! There is no reason to fear or avoid aging. I love most parts of aging. I never actually liked being "young" that much. There was so much to do and so much anxiety and lack of expertise at anything. But one thing that never occurred to me back then was that I'd one day, accidentally, get my leg snapped off me like a wishbone just because I didn't know to stretch every day from 35 on.

Growing older has a lot of wonderful things for you on the horizon. Just make sure that as "it gets better" it doesn't also get brittle.

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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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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AUGUST 12 • 5-8PM

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FIVE-ALARM POOL PARTY

NOON-5PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

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NOON-4pm
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

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5 PM- COWBOY KEN'S PINK POOL PARTY AND KICK-OFF @ ISLAND HOUSE - 1129 FLEMING

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August 12 - 16

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

10:30 AM - TROPICAL HEAT SNORKEL TRIP @ BLU Q KEY WEST - 120 MARGARET ST.

If you haven't set sail on Blu Q yet, you're missing out on the best gay experience in Key West! Hop on board the Blu Q and let's make some memories! This one sells out quickly. Tickets available: Gaykeywestfl.com

9:30 PM - NIGHTLY KARAOKE AT BOBBY'S MONKEY BAR - 900 SIMONTON ST

Unpretentious dive bar at 900 Simonton St in Key West (a block off Duval), known island-wide as one of the best karaoke spots in town. Karaoke runs nightly from 9:30 until late, with the place typically just getting going around 10pm and rocking by 11.

10:00 PM - DANCERS ON THE BAR AT BOURBON ST PUB - 724 DUVAL ST

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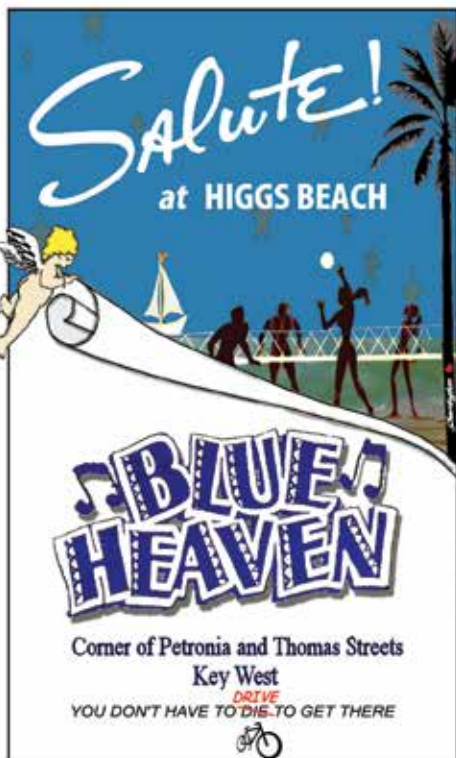
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

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1 PM - 5 PM SPLASH POOL PARTY @ BOURBON ST. PUB - 724 DUVAL ST

Join World Famous Puddin' Tane for some fabulous pool games and get a chance to meet the Adult Stars of Saturday Night's Big 'O' Party while you beat the heat with ice-cold drink specials from Key West Pride's award-winning bartenders! Entrance and free clothes check included with your weekend pass bracelets! \$20 or FREE

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

10:30 AM - TROPICAL HEAT SNORKEL TRIP @ BLU Q KEY WEST - 120 MARGARET ST.

If you haven't set sail on Blu Q yet, you're missing out on the best gay experience in Key West! Hop on board the Blu Q and let's make some memories! This one sells out quickly. Tickets available: Gaykeywestfl.com

12 PM -FIVE-ALARM POOL PARTY@ ISLAND HOUSE - 1129 FLEMING ST

All firemen report to the pool deck for this high-energy firefighter-themed pool party! Slide down the pole and get ready to get blasted by our pool boy CO2 cannon! Expect hot men & cold cocktails to make the perfect sizzling summer memory with friends!

10 PM - THE BIG "O" EXHIBITION @ BOURBON ST. PUB - 724 DUVAL ST.

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THE HOTTEST **Key West TROPICAL HEAT** PARTY FOR MEN!
August 12 - 16

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

12 PM - HOT NAKED POOL PARTY@ ISLAND HOUSE - 1129 FLEMING ST

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DAILY ACTIVITIES

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Land Activities: Key West Food Tours, Up the Keys Eco Tour, Fort Zachary State Park, West Martello Tower, A & M Scooter Rental, Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden, Key West Cemetery, Key West Adventures, Papa's Pilar Rum Distillery, Ghost Hunt, Old Town Trolley Tours, Conch Tour Train, Haunted Key West, Ghosts and Mysteries, Ghosts and Gravestones, D'vine Wine Gallery, Perky's Key West Excursions.

Water Activities: Argo Navis, Blu Q, Classic Harbor Lines, Cruisin' Tikis, Danger Charters, Fish N Chicks, Fury, Island Vibe Charters, Island Vibe Charters, Java Cat, Jolly Rover II, Key West Eco Tours, Key West Sailing Center, Key West Snorkeling, Land Boat Charters, Off the Charts, Schooner America, Sunset Sail Key West, Sunset Watersports, SV Argo Navis, Yankee Freedom.

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POOL PARTY!

SHOT
BOYS

**NOON-4PM
SATURDAYS**

DRINK
SPECIALS

HOSTED
BY
**HOLLY
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MASTER**
Key West

graffitti
Key West

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724 DUVAL KEY WEST
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BourbonStPub.com



YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



- 1 801 - 801 Duval St
- 2 A&B - 700 Front St
- 3 Adam & Eve - 524 Front St
- 4 Alexander's Guest House - 1118 Fleming St
- 5 Alonzo's - 700 Front St
- 6 Belmore - 700 Front St
- 7 Bourbon - 724 Duval St
- 8 Graffiti - 721 Duval St
- 9 In Touch With You - 706A Duval St
- 10 Island House - 1129 Fleming St
- 11 KW Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center - 808 Duval St
- 12 La Te Da - 1125 Duval St
- 13 Mangia Mangia - 900 Southard St
- 14 Marc Ulanowski Realtor - 420 Fleming St
- 15 Red Barn Theater - 319 Duval St (Rear)
- 16 Red Shoe Island Bistro - 411 Petronia St
- 17 Saloon 1 - 504 Petronia St
- 18 Waterfront Playhouse - 407 Wall St
- 19 White Tarpon - 700 Front St

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801 BOURBON BAR



FOLLOW US

Glow Party
**SATURDAY
AUGUST 1ST
3pm - 4am**

KARAOKE
EVERY SUNDAY
STARTING AT 4PM

WWW.801.BAR

3 UNIQUE BARS - 3 UNIQUE VIBES - 1 LOCATION!

801 DUVAL • KEY WEST
801 CABARET

**DRAG
SHOWS**
Nightly

9pm & 11pm

*Free Matinee Show
Every Saturday at 5pm*

RESERVATIONS



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HEAT



STROKE

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 14TH
9PM-4AM**

LEATHER - GEAR - UNDERWEAR - OR LESS ENCOURAGED

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Island House

GOLD

Pool Parties!



**2026 "GOLD" Pool Parties
in honor of our GOLDEN BIRTHDAY!**

Gold décor, cups, balloons and crowns,
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EDITION!**



Sunday, September 20th • Noon-4pm

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WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

WEDNESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 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

THURSDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

FRIDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 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

Saloon 1

Cock Shock contest at Midnight

SATURDAY

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Bourbon

Naked Pool Party at Noon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

SUNDAY

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 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at Noon

LOCATIONS

801 - 801 Duval Street

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval St

Saloon 1 - 504 Petronia St

ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

At my family's 4th of July party, my aunt drunkenly told me that she and my dad hooked up before my mom and he started dating. She said my mom doesn't know so she'd appreciate it if I didn't tell her. Now I don't know what to do! Help!

Well, I think we can all agree that this is not what the Founding Fathers meant when they told your aunt to pursue her happiness. I have no idea why she would tell you something like that. Does she drink Jägermeister? This feels like Jager talk. Regardless of her state of inebriation, it was a wildly unnecessary thing to tell you. Or anyone in your family, really. The time for your aunt to admit this was when your parents started dating and to your mother. Then it would have been a silly family footnote. But like all family secrets that are kept locked up, this one has clearly metastasized. Sugar bear, this isn't your burden to carry. And this aunt is someone I'd avoid being in a room alone with. But if she does corner you again, mink-fuck her back. Make up some insane secret that you burden her with and then force her to keep quiet. At least you can be agony aunts together!



Dear Nana,

My boyfriend loves to have his ass eaten. But I've gotten giardia before from eating ass so now I do it a lot less than I used to. I don't want to sex shame him or make him feel like he just automatically will give me giardia. But I also don't want giardia again. How do I please my man without messing up my whole gut in the process.

Oh, Rick (sorry, was I not supposed to use your name?), who among us has not struggled with maintaining a healthy diet? "Tail" as old as time. Jokes aside, I get where you're coming from. It's really no different than all of our natural fears of catching any number of infections from affection. The course of true love never did run true. But it does tend to run through out blood systems like wild fire. Darling, Rick, (shit, sorry again) don't fret. Honesty about sexual health and history is one of the most important things in a healthy relationship. Let's face it, if your man doesn't care that pleasuring him might result in a parasitic infection... does he really care about you? This might end up being a good litmus test for what kind of lover he really is deep down inside. (God, there's no way to write this without every sentence seeming like a bottoming reference, is there.) My advice is to be honest and to always prioritize your health and personal boundaries.



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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- HOWARD STERN

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La te da

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Florida Keys
& Key West
... come as you are

MONROE COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

Your new nickname is ketchup because you've been on hundreds of wieners.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

Funny that you can't spell "gym" but you can spell "gonorrhea." Why is that?

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

Your ex doesn't regret burning the bridge. He regrets that you weren't on it.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

Your father was a tool maker. (Think about it for a minute.)

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

You're such a huge douche that you could cleanse an elephant.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

Your legs are whiter than your teeth.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

You are so fake. Are you sure you weren't made in China?

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

Did I offend you last month? I really didn't think you'd understand.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

If someone calls you fat, ignore them. You're bigger than that.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

You're not fat. You're bulletproof.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Don't let anyone tell you that you aren't valuable. Your organs could fetch a pretty penny on the black market.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

It's time to diet when the doctor tells you to open your mouth and say moo.



IsLand HouSe

HOT NAKED POOL PARTIES



HOT NAKED
WEDNESDAYS

5 - 8PM

(2-4-1 EXTENDED HAPPY HOURS)

HOT NAKED
SUNDAYS

12 - 4PM



FREE SHOTS / POOL BOYS / VIDEOS + MUSIC / GIVEAWAYS

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