

The Gay Rag

Your GLBT
Guide to
Key West

Volume 2 - Issue 6
June 2007

The End of the Rainbow

❖❖❖ PRIDEFEST KEY WEST 2007 ❖❖❖

A woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a bright red, sleeveless, form-fitting dress and a gold necklace, is sitting on a row of wooden theater seats. She is leaning back on her right hand, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is dark, making the woman and the seats stand out.

Faith Michaels: *On the Town*

<http://wgay.TV>
Monday 7pm & Friday 11pm - EST

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Key West

The Gay Rag

The End of the Rainbow

**Your GLBT
Guide to
Key West**

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**For advertising
information,
please see page 21.**

**Visit us online at:
www.keywestgayrag.com**

Welcome to Paradise!

Key West celebrates pride year round so when we actually have "Pridefest," it's a 9 day long event.

For more information about Pridefest, go to:
www.pridefestkeywest.com

Cover image designed by JT Thompson of Solares Hill Design Group and One Human Family

Pridefest Key West

Schedule of Events

Saturday - June 2

6:00 PM - "Ease on Down to Pride" - PrideFest 2007 Kickoff Party - Crystal Room at La Te Da - 1125 Duval Street

Sunday - June 3

Noon - "You're Not In Kansas Anymore" - Key West House Tour

8:00 PM - "Lions and Tigers and Bears. Oh My!" - Mr. PrideFest Key West 2007 Pageant - Bourbon Street Pub - 724 Duval Street

Monday - June 4

5:30 PM - "Recognizing Heart, Brains and Courage" - The 2007 Celebrating Achievements in Pride (CAP) Awards - Tropic Cinema - 416 Eaton Street

8:00 PM - "The Munchkin Comedy Hour" - Starring the world famous comedienne, Shann Carr - Waterfront Playhouse - 310 Wall Street

Tuesday - June 5

6:00 PM - "Remembering the Rainbows" - GLCC Museum Opening - GLCC Key West - 513 Truman Avenue

9:00 PM - "Ruby Slippers" - Ms. PrideFest Key West 2007 Pageant - Aqua Nightclub - 724 Duval Street

Wednesday - June 6

5:30 PM - "Wizards of Art" - Art Gallery Tour & Live Auction Hosted by SoDu Gallery, 1000 Duval St.

6:30 PM - GLCC/AIDS Help Pride Film Festival, Tropic Cinema - 416 Eaton Street

9:00 PM - "Friends of Dorothy" - Miss PrideFest Key West 2007 Pageant - Crystal Room at La Te Da - 1125 Duval Street

Thursday - June 7

Noon - "Twistered By The Sea" - PrideFest Pool Party - The Southernmost House - 1400 Duval Street

8:00 PM - "The Oz Capades" - Pride Follies - The Tennessee Williams Theatre - 5901 College Road

Friday - June 8

Noon - "Main Street Emerald City" - Street Fair - Duval Street

8:00 PM - "Glenda is Overrated" - Bad Girl's Party - Pearl's Rainbow - 525 United Street

8:00 PM - "Flying Monkeys" - Bad Boy's Party - Island House - 1129 Fleming Street

Saturday - June 9

10:00 AM - "Main Street Emerald City" - Street Fair - Duval Street

7:00 PM - "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" - PrideFest Parade with the infamous Steve Kmetko, Grand Marshall- Duval Street

Sunday - June 10

3:00 PM - "There's No Place Like Home" - Farewell Tea Dance - La Te Da - 1125 Duval Street

For more information, call 305-292-3223

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Monday 12-5 pm

Tuesday 11-2 pm

Tuesday 5-7 pm

Tuesday 12-5pm

(2nd & 4th week of month)

Wednesday 8am-1pm

Wednesday 6-8 pm

Wednesday 5-8 pm

Thursday 6-9 pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church 717 Simonton St.

Metropolitan Community Church 1215 Petronia St.

1434 Kennedy Drive - Gordon Rollins Center

Fisherman's Hospital Marathon

St. James Missionary Baptist Church 312 Olivia St.

GLCC 513 Truman Ave.

Martin Luther King Pool 300 Catherine St.

Coral City Elks Club 1107 Whitehead St.

Bobby's **monkey BAR**

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Karaoke

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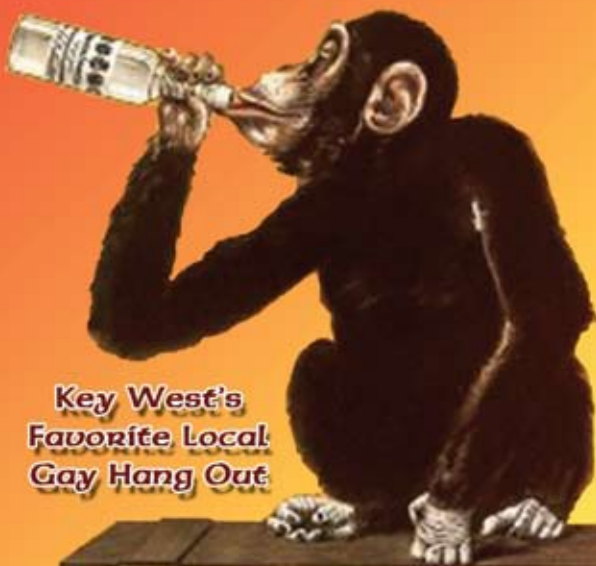
Pool

**Tournament
Tues at 7:00 PM**

Jukebox

Video Games

**Key West's
Favorite Local
Gay Hang Out**





Getting Around Key West

Now that you're in Key West, you probably don't need a car. Parking is challenging and expensive. After a night of drinking on Duval, you definitely don't want to drive anything. Even riding a bicycle while intoxicated will get you a DUI.

If you are lucky enough to be staying in old town, walking is your best bet.

For short trips, try a pedicab. They are a unique way to get around and your partner will give you bonus points for the romantic ride home.

Taxis are just a phone call away and arrive within minutes. Any bartender will call one for you.

Scooters and bicycles are inexpensive to rent and can be a fun way to see the island. Please ask for proper training and information about local laws. Scooters may be parked at designated motorcycle spaces and there are bicycle stands all over. If you forget to lock up your bike, you won't see it again.

Electric cars are fun to explore but still require a standard car parking spot. Electric cars are not permitted on North or South Roosevelt Blvd.

Don't drink and drive. You might spill your drink.

SMOKIN' JOE'S BBQ



COMING TO KEY WEST SOON

KEY WEST INK

COMING SOON

717 Duval Street

305-292-1900

Pridefest

June 2 - 10, 2007

“The End of the Rainbow”

Sunday - June 3

“Lions and Tigers and Bears. Oh My!”

Mr. PrideFest

Mr. PrideFest Key West 2007 Pageant
Bourbon St. Pub 10pm

Pick up an entry form at Bourbon St. Pub or at the GLCC

Friday - June 8

“Are You A Good Witch Or A Bad Witch?”

Come party with the Boys of Bourbon and have fun being bad
Bourbon St. Pub 9pm

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Bourbon St. Pub

www.bourbonstpub.com

Karaoke in Key West

Are you a karaoke junkie? Do you need a fix? Here are the best places to "feed the need" while you are in town.

Sunday

Bobby's Monkey Bar - 9:30 PM

Monday

Aqua - 8:30 PM

Bobby's Monkey Bar - 9:30 PM

Tuesday

Aqua - 4:30 PM

Thursday

Bobby's Monkey Bar - 9:30 PM

Friday

Bobby's Monkey Bar - 9:30 PM



Weekly Events

Monday

- 801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- Aqua - Dueling Bartenders 5:30 - 8:30 PM
Karaoke starting at 8:30 PM
- Bobby's - Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM
- Bourbon - Dancers on the bar starting at 10:00 PM
- KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM
- Pearl's - The L Word - 6:00 PM

Tuesday

- 801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- Aqua - Karaoke starting at 4:30 PM
Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM
- Bobby's - Pool Tournament at 7:00 PM
- Bourbon - Dancers on the bar starting at 10:00 PM
- KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM

Wednesday

- 801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- Aqua - World Tavern Poker Tournament at 5:00 PM
Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM
- Bourbon - Dancers on the bar starting at 10:00 PM
- KWest - Bobby Nesbitt is on the piano starting at 5:30 PM
Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM
Glory Hole Contest at Midnight
- Pearl's - Movie night - 6:00 PM

Thursday

- 801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- Aqua - Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM
- Bobby's - Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM
- Bourbon - Porsche Live at 9:00 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10:00 PM
- KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM
- Pearl's - The L Word - 9:00 PM

Friday

- 801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- Aqua - Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM
- Bobby's - Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM
- Bourbon - Dancers on the bar starting at 10:00 PM
- KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM
- One Saloon - Cock Shock wet jockey contest - Midnight
- Pearl's - Where the (real) girls are Happy Hour - 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Saturday

- 801 - Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- Aqua - Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM
- Bourbon - BBQ in the garden bar starting at 1:00 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10:00 PM
- KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM
Amateur Strip Contest at Midnight
- Pearl's - Poker Night, Game Night, Zodiac Party, Karaoke (varies)

Sunday

- 801 - Gay Bingo (Not your mother's bingo) starting at 5:00 PM
Drag Shows at 9:00 PM and 11:00 PM
- Aqua - World Tavern Poker Tournament at 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM
Reality is a Drag Show at 9:00 PM
DJ Eric following the show
- Atlantic Shores - Tea by the sea T-Dance starting at 7:00 PM
- Bobby's - Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM
- Bourbon - BBQ in the garden bar starting at 1:00 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10:00 PM
- KWest - Men dancing for men starting at 10:00 PM
- Pearl's - Sports Sunday noon - 8:00 PM
\$2 bloody marys, screwdrivers, domestic beers and all-beef hot dogs

Locations

- 801 - 801 Duval Street
- Aqua - 711 Duval Street
- Atlantic Shores - 510 South Street
- Bobby's - 900 Simonton Street
- Bootleggers - 411 Petronia Street
- Bourbon - 724 Duval Street
- KWest - 705 Duval Street
- One Saloon - 514 Petronia Street
- Pearl's - 525 United Street



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1 - KWest - 705 Duval Street

2 - Aqua - 711 Duval Street

3 - Bourbon Street Pub - 724 Duval Street

4 - 801 Bourbon - 801 Duval Street

5 - Bobby's Monkey Bar - 900 Simonton Street

6 - Oasis / Coconut Grove Guesthouse - 823 Fleming Street

7 - Equator Resort - 818 Fleming Street

8 - Atlantic Shores Resort - 510 South Street

9 - Pearls Rainbow Resort - 525 United Street

10 - Bootleggers - 411 Petronia Street

11 - Island House Resort - 1129 Fleming Street

12 - Big Ruby's Guesthouse - 409 Appelrouth Lane



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BEHIND THE BAR, INSIDE THE MAN



Billie B. and Angie B.

Your Angie doesn't do sadness very well. I vowed I'd polka around the obvious when talking to Billie Bowman, nighttime bartender Tuesday-Saturdays at KWEST MEN (705 Duval): the ongoing and grueling recovery of wife Nadezda (Nadia) in a Miami convalescent center after a head-on car crash with Louis LaTorre on April 15th of last year.

To continually define Billie this way would be to surrender to the legal postures, suspect Bubba politics and multiple blood samples that surround the case. But my attempt to lighten the atmosphere -- a lewd suggestion that I interview Billie naked poolside -- was misinterpreted.

No, Jesus H., not me, naked!

Him!

We compromise on a public lunch. After I withdraw yardsticks and bathroom scales from my handbag to assess Billie Bell Bowman's proportions -- 5'11", 168 lbs. with all else fermenting in my own salacious imagination -- we tuck into tapas at Santiago's Bodega (207 Petronia Street). Billie's finalizing a much-needed retreat. "I used to escape by heading to Miami or Lauderdale, but I really need to get out of South Florida for awhile," he says, after a year-long vigil at his wife's bedside. Last year's planned Vegas blowout to commemorate his 30th didn't happen due to the life-altering accident, and time in Austin, TX at a friend's condo will have to suffice.

I do my best not to dwell on how his torso represents the ideal inverted triangle while mine is a jiggling pyramid of stray hairs and moles as we also discuss life Before/After and the cock and tail inherent in the wee-wee hours of KWEST.

An untraditional outlook seems to have started early for you.

I was born in Philadelphia, but my Aunt Johnnie raised me on the outskirts of Atlantic City, NJ. I still talk to her every week. To this day, I don't know where my birth Mom is. Johnnie IS Mom. I'd still be up there if it wasn't for the six months of Winter. It's a beautiful area; they don't call it the Garden State for nothing.

What were you like as a Jersey kid?

Outgoing. Sports. Baseball. (He coyly displays a tattoo on his taut right calf of a baseball violently biting a bat and I violently bite into a pita crisp.) Then Dad died at age 34 -- drinking, drugs -- and I became very awkward. I was 14, I didn't hang out with many friends. I lost a grandfather I loved. Then two uncles also passed away -- substance abuse and AIDS -- so I kept going through phases of grief and being socially closed-off.

Lots of transitions for someone so young.

I definitely learned very quickly not to take things for granted, as the last year reminded me all over again.

After bartending school, your first job at 22 was in a redneck het bar.

I spent more time shooting pool than bartending there and, within a month, I was also working at the downstairs of an Atlantic City resort nightclub, Studio 6. It was mostly-male, but at times str8 and gay, since they were open when other bars weren't, until 11 AM.

Eye-opening?

It was my first introduction to the gay lifestyle. I'd known gay people -- they were always the ones who made me laugh my ass off -- but I didn't necessarily know they were gay. I also realized I was naive. I had no idea so many people did so many drugs. You also see their other side -- not necessarily Jekyll and Hyde, and I'm not being judgmental, but you watch business people turn into something else at night.

And so on to Key West, the outpost of Jekylls and Hydes?

I came to the island 7 years and 3 months ago. A friend already here kept selling me on Key West and promised me a job. I filled my van, gave the rest away and arrived here with \$500 bucks. And there was no job. I had no place to live. I mean, I'd been ready for a change...

...but certainly not one of being penniless and homeless.

It's hard when you're new in Key West to get a job bartending. Owners are very cautious. I quickly discovered I wasn't busboy material -- or, rather, La Trattoria decided that for me. Working as a barback at Margaritaville just reinforced I really don't like Jimmy Buffett's music. I bartended at Numbers (the reinvented version at Simonton's end) for about 3 months, and the owners of then-Divas and Shag hired me.

By now, I've done it all. I've lived in Old Town, New Town and gradually moved further away...now to Big Coppitt Key, so big it needs two t's! I've watched all the changes here, but I still say the biggest problem is not the type of person moving in but the quality of those moving away.

Which jibes with your barkeep style.

Beer tastes the same in every bar. It's the people and the experience that make you come back. While I like being busy -- I'd rather stay open until 4 AM every night -- there's too busy. My goal is to enjoy myself and the customers and an event like Fantasy Fest sometimes prevents that.

And no-nos?

Smoking a cigarette behind a bar, to me, is tacky. But then, I don't smoke. It just isn't good for the liquor or the ice, general cleanliness. Don't dwell on bad tip nights. Recognize that, hopefully, it will all balance out. And customers don't want to hear you bitch about the cost-of-living here.

Or watch you idly text message. Let's not forget that one.

The service industry needs to remember that visitors are here to escape reality and their own problems.

Escape for many involves a lap dance. If not on me, relive one for me.

I've done and do my fair share, but I really don't like to leave my bar untended. Your best chances, Angie, are early when I get there at 9 P.M., or late-night.

Then I'll pop five Ambien and see you at 3:40 A.M. And wear that cute bowtie and fedora! And your PIMP cologne! Is it awkward with locals you know?

No. Well. Sometimes. But it's always about keeping the customer coming back. But I think KWEST -- most strip bars and clubs -- get a worse reputation than they deserve. Most dancers, when hired, do exactly as told. But if they act like a baby, they'll be treated that way.

What about patrons regressing to infancy with an urge to suckle?

Our rules are very clear. No sucking, no fucking. Leave here, do what you want, I don't care. Our Adult Entertainment license gives us some leeway, but there are limits, like other cities with different laws. When I danced at Twist in South Beach -- for extra money when I was there so much with Nadia --you can't wear a thong. Bathing suit or underwear. At Cupids Cabaret, in West Palm Beach, they dance totally nude.

What about the overly-aggressive? I become dizzy when dry-humped for dollars.

Pushy to you, Angie, is exactly what the very next customer came in for. Sometimes I'll tell a dancer to tone it down. But if you don't like strippers, don't come in. I don't massage and grope but some tourists want that. If it's the end of the month and rent's due, I might be a little friskier. Just remember that not everyone goes home with someone for \$\$\$.

And those customers with too much testosterone and tequila?

A lot of managers might overreact and look like an idiot. But if someone gets violent, I call the cops.

And, owing to my delicate nature, if your Angie had a heart attack? Might I get some mouth-to-South...uhm, mouth-to-mouth?

I'd call 911. I don't remember much from high school CPR.

Your body is quite the canvas. After admiring your bat-and-ball, I need to know about those Japanese symbols on your spine.

They're a work-in-progress; I need to get the balls to finish it, since it hurt like hell. The final symbols will represent Perseverance and Indomitable Spirit.

It's something you've needed for the last 13 months. And your hair. I have more on my knuckles. Yet it's not a flattop, not quite shaved..it's like feathers!

I went this short two years ago and now I do it myself once weekly. Makes me much more aerodynamic, which is a good thing, since I spend so much time on my motorcycle.

Behind riding a hog, how do you relax?

A great meal out is always nice, or spending time with friends. And then there's my three dogs: Marble, a miniature dachshund; and Sam and Summer, both bull terriers.

How then will there be room in your bed for Angie?

Oh, they don't sleep with me. I'm a little allergic, actually. They're not allowed in my bedroom.

Shit, I have that effect on people, too. What would I have found on your nightstand?

Earplugs. I sleep during the day, and the Boca Chica airbase is nearby.

Provide me closure. Finish this: Billie Bowman is...

...a nice guy. I know it sounds corny and cliché. I really don't care or worry if people like me. But I'm a nice guy. I know I'm lucky that I have a job that gives me freedom; I've worked 2-3 jobs for 80-hours plus weekly and I know what that's like. I'm starting over, in a lot of ways. I don't have a crystal ball as to what my future holds. But I never would have predicted any of this.

Angie Baby

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KWest Happy Hour

With Robby

Tues - Fri 4pm - 9pm

Sat 5pm - 9 pm

\$2.75 Well - \$2.00 Domestic Beer



On The Piano

Wednesday

Bobby Nesbitt

705 Duval Street



KWest Men

Amateur Strip

Contest

Saturday Night

Midnight

\$75 cash & prizes



705 Duval Street

Whore--Scopes

Aquarius

Jan 20 – Feb 18

This month you will meet the perfect man.... He'll be thrifty, won't drink or smoke, have a steady wife, & 3 well behaved children

Pisces

Feb 19 – Mar 20

Late in the month you will meet a new beau. Unfortunately, rather than being like an old flame, he'll be more like an unlit match.

Aries

Mar 21 – Apr 19

You are looking for the perfect mate? One who is small and cute? Loves water sports? Enjoys group activities? Maybe you should get together with a penguin.

Taurus

Apr 20 – May 20

Your boyfriend still says that you don't show him enough passion. Perhaps you should send him a memo.

Gemini

May 21 – Jun 20

You are starting to get a little chubby. We suggest that you try the new popular diet. Basically, you can eat whatever you want, whenever you want. You won't lose any weight but it's really easy to stick to.

Cancer

Jun 21 – Jul 22

You should not treat yourself by reading medical publications. Many people in the past have died from typographical errors.

Leo

Jul 23 – Aug 22

You will visit a museum of modern art. Sadly, what you think is a horrible representation of the medium will turn out to be a mirror.

Virgo

Aug 23 – Sep 22

This month you will finally decide to take the big plunge. Just remember, virginity is like a balloon. One prick, and it's all gone.

Libra

Sep 23 – Oct 22

You will finally work out how to separate the men from the boys in Key West. Generally a crowbar works best.

Scorpio

Oct 23 – Nov 21

You lucky bastard - Your dick is so big that it was overthrown in a coup. It will now be known as the People's Democratic Republic of Your Dick.

Sagittarius

Nov 22 – Dec 21

You are the epitome of puritanism. You are terrified that someone, somewhere, may be happy.

Capricorn

Dec 22 – Jan 19

The stars foretell that you will die in your sleep. Unfortunately, the passengers in your car will be kicking and screaming.

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