

YOUR LGBT GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 16 Issue 3
March 2021



LEZ GO OUT



BRAD LOEKLE



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Welcome To Paradise!

It's been over a year now
and we can finally start to
see the home stretch.

In the mean time, put on
that mask, go out and drink
some green beer, but don't
kiss the blarney stone. Like
most of Key West, that
stone gets around!!

Enjoy!

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Stephanie Wise


LEZ
GO
OUT



Pandemic, pandemic, pandemic. When will it ever end?! People are sick left and right. The news talks of nothing else. The vaccines are rolling out and self isolation has become a way of life. Say what you will about social media but for me, it has been a sanity-saver... not to mention much needed comic relief. This little island makes for excellent outdoor distancing but after a while there is only so much sunshine and salt water a girl can take. I know boo-hoo for me but I crave people!! Interaction. Connectedness. Hell, I'd settle for a pen pal.

Enter TikTok. Cue angels singing a pleasant but elongated note.

Say what you will about the app, there are thousands upon thousands of people making 15-60 second videos doing ridiculous things and having a blast within isolation. Why? Well, I think that it's because we are social beings that do NOT typically isolate well and thus, will do almost anything for attention and interconnectedness... yes, even silly dances and thirst traps. You know exactly what I'm talking about. Some handsome woman shows up looking all regular and then, BOOM, Desperado... she's in an open button down with hungry eyes. Yup. One thirst trap and I was hooked. TikTok has shown me parts of Key West I didn't know existed. There's a woman on there that lives in Scotland who sings like a siren. There's a lesbian Southwest Airlines pilot who takes us flying on occasion. There's another lesbian who simply bakes bread. Bread?! She has like 567.3k followers. Yeah!



This year social media has given lesbians the searchable database that it has always wanted. Between the Fun Loving (No Politics) Lesbian group (which you kinda have to get invited to) on Facebook and #lesbiantiktok I sincerely think we may have all just found each other. Like literally... all of us. My best friend found the love of her life on TikTok and participated in a podcast called I Found Her On TikTok that was started by another couple who did the same thing. They interview lesbian couples that found each other there. Some are even married now. Yes, it's a whole thing. I love it. Do you know how hard it has been for us to find each other??? Between the head nod and non-existent secret handshake (I'm working on that, by the way, watch for it on my TikTok page @functionalfemme) we have no real way to identify one another. For centuries we've just taken our moment to shoot our shot. Sometimes we crash and burn. Hard. Thank you TikTok for a way to find each other simply by searching the word lesbian. There's even a lesbian asking for women to private message her their addresses and she offers to send out random Valentines. That's a bit too far for me but the sentiment is adorable. Or stalker-ish. Whatever.

So, I'm running out of island tidbits while in a pandemic but I will say this. Search lesbian and key west on TikTok for hours of distraction from the pandemic. I'm sorry and you're welcome. So, Lez Go Out and find each other on social media until we can safely find each other in the flesh and make the best of some pretty difficult times. See you on social media! Stay safe, healthy and thirsty, my friends.



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LOVE
WHAT'S
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CHAD



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Featured patient compensated by Gilead.



Watch Chad's story at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.biktarvy.com)

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

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BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- ▶ dofetilide
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- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- ▶ Those in the "Most Important Information About BIKTARVY" section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.

- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.

- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

Continued on next page.

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

REAL BIKTARVY PATIENTS



ZACH

D'EVA

HUGO

CHAD

NIKKI

DIMITRI

Meet a few of the extraordinary people who take BIKTARVY.
Watch their stories at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/biktarvy)

Featured patients compensated by Gilead.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY® (CONTINUED)

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.

- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- ▶ This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- ▶ Go to [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/biktarvy) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/biktarvy) for program information.



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Please see Important Facts,
including important warnings
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BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



"LAZINESS DOES NOT EXIST" BY DEVON PRICE, PHD
c.2021, Atria | \$27.00 | 247 pages

Laziness

Does

Not

Exist

DEVON PRICE, Ph.D.

Feet up, head back, fingers laced over your belly. Eyes shut. Teeth unclenched. And there you are: ready for a nap – if you dare, if you have your work finished, if you can ignore the nagging feeling that there are things left undone, if you can stop feeling judged. Impossible? Not so, if you've read "**Laziness Does Not Exist**" by Devon Price, PhD.

A 9-to-5 job sure would be great, wouldn't it? You're snorting now, aren't you? Because you get to the office early, sprint all day, say "yes" to everything lobbed at you, leave work by the moon, stagger home, and fall into bed the second you get there.

Price was that way, too, for most of their life. They say that their childhood was spent achieving more than most kids because both their parents insisted on it. That was happily do-able although after awhile, Price noticed that some of their classmates were labeled as "lazy" and "[l]azy kids didn't have futures."

For centuries – in business, movies, and pop culture – we've quietly been led to believe "The Laziness Lie," which has three main facets: we are only worth what we can accomplish; our feelings and limits can't be trusted; and we can't ever do enough. These beliefs, once absorbed, can cause health problems, burn-out, relationship problems, and more through overwork and under-confidence. In their job as a teacher, Price sees it all the time.

In combatting *The Laziness Lie*, Price says to realize that overwork doesn't deserve a badge of honor. Re-frame your idea of "lazy" through compassion; they point out, for instance, that surviving homelessness is hard work. Listen to your body: taking care of yourself is absolutely not "lazy," and taking time off is essential to your health. Remember that "you can work only so much," physically and mentally. Get off social media and turn the news off sometimes. And "stop fearing [your] inner 'laziness,'" Price says. Do it, and you can "build [a] healthy, happy, well-balanced" life.

Weekends are good.

Binge-watching your favorite TV show: good.

Naps: very good.

"Laziness Does Not Exist": likewise good.

With a clarion call tailor-made for new work-at-homers who can no longer leave work at work, author and social psychologist Devon Price gives readers plenty of reason to kick back and put their feet up sometimes, showing that doing so can actually enhance productivity. There's an abundance of illustrative stories here with compassion featured strongly, for self and for women, marginalized workers, BIPOC, and LGBTQ workers; in that, Price shows how deep the word "lazy" goes and why it's so wrong. Readers are then offered ideas, including exercises, that can help undo the damage of the word and its associated meanings – it'll take work, no pun intended – and hidden reasons why waiting really isn't an option.

Not just for the overachiever, this book should sit on the desk next to every home printer and cubicle keyboard. Find "Laziness Does Not Exist," stretch, take a comfortable seat, and you're in a good position to enjoy.



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- 15 Simonton & Southard
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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loefle



THE MIDDLE AGES

The last year of the pandemic has been a convenient, albeit precarious, smoke screen for the beginning of my midlife crisis. I wouldn't call it a crisis, if it were not for the fact that the actual crisis of the pandemic has raised the stakes of pretty much everything in life. Will I be able to tour and perform again soon? Will the next stimulus check keep me afloat long enough? Will I be able to blow a truck driver for a case of Charmin during the next chaotic run on toilet paper at the super market? This is where my head has been at for much of the last year. For many people around my age, the pandemic has been a reasonable excuse to really lean into the tail spin of our youth. Mayday... Mayday indeed.

Behaviors that would have triggered warning signs at any other time in memory, now just seemed like pandemic response. When, in April of 2020, I decided to just cook and entire thanksgiving dinner for 8 (for one) twice that month; my roommate simply thanked me for the amazing leftovers and was happy I was finding solace in my love of cooking. When I moved happy hour from 5pm on some days to whatever PM on who cares days, I was thought to be enjoying the forced "staycation" that the pandemic created. My weight gain, which has been the only real success story of all this. Not that I haven't gained weight. That's the success story my profession, my geographical location, and my gay community would prefer. I mean more that if you ever need to go through a "bulking" stage. Either for a role in a Hollywood movie or in order to prepare for some sort of Thunderdome situation, just know that I can bulk with the best of them. I'm now serving you full Dad bod. Not Falcon Studios, "My step-dad came from work and told me I'm his new girlfriend" Dad bod. I mean a real Dad's bod. I look like a man who is going to tell you he can fix your lawnmower, then break it further, all the while managing to hurt myself in some way. I look like I drink beer, and that is not a compliment and I don't care if I piss off the Budweiser queens.

If you're not yet middle aged, let me tell you something no one warns you about. There will come a day when you wake up and realize that you're never going to enjoy waking up again. Something is almost always going to hurt. And even if you're not in pain, you'll think, "Why am I really getting up? Is anything going to be THAT different today?" And it won't. And you'll know it. And you'll suddenly realize you're a gay man who is drinking a cup of hot drip coffee. Not iced. Not a "something fancy". Just a goddamn cup of warm brown water. And the heat from the cup will feel good on the joints of your hands and you'll realize that is why your parents hold their cup of warm brown water with a certain sort of meditation around it. It's because the warmth loosens up your middle-aged finger joints.

I feel bad for gays who didn't have Covid as a cover story for their midlife transition. They must have felt so judged for suddenly not wanting to go out all the time. For drinking not-iced coffee and putting on a few pounds. Me doing all these things the last year is just seen as a nature, adult response to the world crisis. Not an aging party boy finally feeling the miles on his tires.

The pandemic has aged us all in different ways. And I'm sure, once we figure out what the new normal is in the next year or two, I'll still find my way to club and a go-go boy's mid-section from time to time. But, for now, I'm embracing time and the future. I've begun doing Pilates... like a proper middle-aged woman who is trying to get her figure back while maintaining flexibility. I've purchased a French Press, so that my hot brown water can at least be a little gayer than just drip coffee. And I'm going to do my best to bring men's caftans back! But until then... **GET OFF MY LAWN, YOU HOOLIGANS!**

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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COCQTALES

Local Bartender Interviews

By Jameson Rabbitt



EXPERIENCED RESTAURATEURS SERVE FISH, SUSTAINABLY.

From Ohio to Key West, Rob Plummer packed his bags in search for paradise. At 26 years of age, Rob packed his Dodge Monaco “to get the hell out of Cleveland” in search for warmer weather and the ocean. Now at 56 years young, he is proof that age is nothing but a number.

As the Owner of the Red Shoe Island Bistro, he serves fish; but as a newly Marine Resource Management student, with only 3 dives under his belt Rob tells us that his ultimate goal is to help with the restoration of our precious coral reef as well as serving the freshest sustainable snapper you’ve ever had in Key West.

Tucked a skip and a hop from busy Duval street, the Red Shoe Bistro offers local flavors fused with Polish-Eastern European flair. The Building used to be an old pool hall with boarded up windows, and now it has been transformed into a quaint bistro with a warm color palette and walls featuring works by local artist available for purchase.

Rob started in the restaurant business thanks to his husband Marek, who he met in the long-gone legendary Atlantic Shores Resort at a “T” dance back in 96’, five years later at a

Goombay Festival, they spotted an available restaurant at the end of Petronia street and jumped into the opportunity to open their first restaurant, Petronia's Polish Restaurant in 2001 (currently Santiago's Bodega) after two years of being opened, the boys sold the restaurant and decided to move to Orlando where they opened a second restaurant; but in 2018 once again attracted by the island, the boys came back and decided to open the Red Shoe Grill, located in the back pool area at the New Orleans Guest House.

2020 was definitely challenging for most, but on a positive note Rob and Marek were able to move the Red Shoe Grill to its current location and re-branded to a more up-scale menu that is constantly changing based on the availability of the freshest local ingredients such as Key West Pink Shrimp and Yellow Tail Snapper. Key West ingredients fused with Marek's Eastern European roots, has produced a series of very delicious menu items such as the Beef Stroganoff, that pairs perfectly with the Francis Coppola Cabernet which so happens to be Rob's favorite, and the creamy snapper cooked in a lemon-butter sauce digest to perfection with their house Sauvignon Blanc, but don't leave the shrimp out! Their signature "pink on pink" shrimp is glazed with red chilies to enhance the already pink local shrimp for a double pink effect.

Come for the shrimp and stay for the wine!



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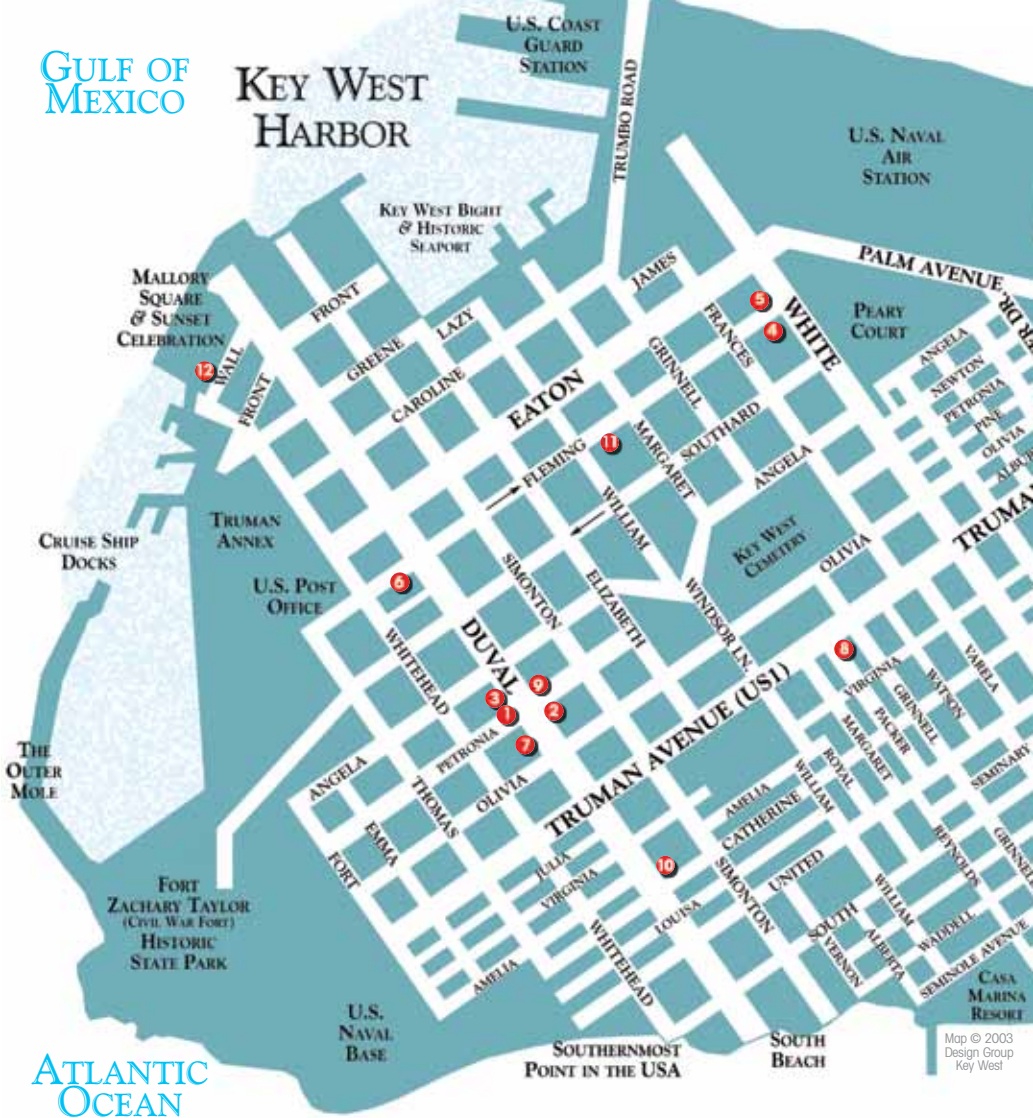
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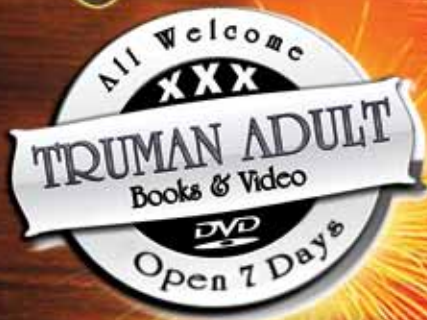
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WEEKLY EVENTS



MONDAY

801

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

Bourbon

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

Saloon 1

Beer Blast 9 PM - 11 PM

TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

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

Saloon 1

Bottom "less" Chili 9 PM - 4 AM

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

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

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

Island House

Hot Naked Humpdays starting at 5 PM

Saloon 1

Blackout Wednesday at 9 PM

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

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

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

Saloon 1

Thirsty Thursdays starting at 9 PM

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

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

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

Saloon 1

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

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

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Alexander's Guest House

Bingo with Bouvee at 5 PM

Bourbon

*Naked Saturdays W/Nick at Noon
Jeff Moss singing live at 8 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*

Bourbon

*Masked Tea 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Jeff Moss 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

Saloon 1

SLU-T Sundays w/Donald at 9 PM

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

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- St+T Sundays with Donald



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MASKS
DON'T
HAVE
TO BE
A DRAG

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ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

Our neighbor had two dogs that they leave outside all the time. These dogs bark, sometimes nonstop, for hours and hours. I've asked them to do something about the non-stop barking. Other neighbors have too. The owners are very polite and apologetic when anyone confronts them, but they haven't done anything to address the issue. Even when they're home, they barely pay attention to the dogs. Help!

Well, this is a hard nut to crack, chickadee. Lord knows it's not the dogs' fault that they have shitty owners. No one gets to pick their parents, be they man or beast. Most towns have noise rules about, well, all noise... but even specifically about pet noise. I'd first look into whether they're in violation of that. Because if they are, you can have the city or town do the dirty work for you. Just be aware a lot of cities don't allow you to file a complaint like that anonymously. So, they'll know it was you. And remember, it's still Florida... so snitches get stiches. If you can't, or simply don't want to, go down the legal route, there is always my solution to noisy neighbors. Anytime they get unreasonably noisy, I just position a speaker or two in the windows facing their place. Then I play some really hardcore porn at full volume. You'd be amazed at how quickly your neighbors get onboard with noise conservation after that!



Dear Nana,

I've gotten into the habit of only showering every few days. My friend's think that's insane but I don't see the problem with it. What do you think?

Jesus Christ, wash your kibbles and bits, you filthy animal! I'm kidding, sort of. Listen, if you're just sitting at home and not working up a sweat, it's not the end of the world if you skip a shower here and there. There are people with very dry skin who find over showering a real problem. But I get the sense that isn't



you. Have you checked in on your mental state? It's been a hell of a year and depression can show itself in weird ways. Make sure you're not skipping showers because of something like that. Also, your balls don't smell as interesting as you think they do. Trust me on this one. So at least give yourself a whore's bath each day. Just a quick pits and tits freshening can make a world of difference to the people who have be in proximity to you. Oh, also make sure you're not avoiding showering because of hydrophobia. Hydrophobia is a sign of having rabies in humans. So, if you fucked with a possum recently and now don't want to shower... you might be dying. Good luck!

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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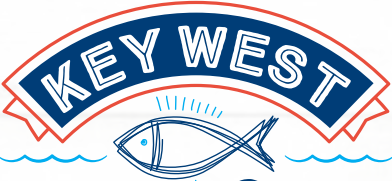
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AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

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PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

When the scale says "one at a time," it's time to think diet.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

When dining out, you want to split everything except for the bill.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

Your clothes make a statement. That statement is "I have no taste"

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

The reason your plants don't thrive is that you talk to them. They're dying of boredom.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

They should name a newspaper after you. You have a new issue every day!

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

Sit down, give your mind a rest. It obviously needs it.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

I'm not sure what's more frightening, you, or my phone at 10%.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

The struggle is real, well at least it is for the button on the waistband of your shorts.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

You're one fry short of a happy meal.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

What's the difference between you and a blue whale? About 10 pounds!

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

Every time you open your mouth, some idiot starts talking.

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a man for you?



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