

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 19 Issue 3
March 2024

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Key West



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Volume 19 - Issue 3

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Welcome To Paradise!

Christopher Peterson has been an "EYECON" in Key West for many years.

Check out our interview with him in this issue as he starts a new chapter in his life heading up the new Birdcage Cabaret.

Make sure you check out the show!

Enjoy!



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Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



I have heard that standup comedians collectively agree that the hardest demographic to make laugh is lesbians. I have no idea why this is, but I am very conscious of it when I am at a comedy show and realize that I am one of only a couple of women not laughing. Apparently there is truth to the myth. I first wonder if we who are not laughing are all lesbians and then I wonder if it's just that my standards are way too high for entertainment. That all being said, there is one exception to the rule, our local "family" comedian, Gwen Filosa. SHE can make you laugh. If you haven't seen her at Comedy Key West, call them and find out what night she is doing her show or even opening for another great comedian. Gwen makes me laugh just by writing her Facebook posts about random things around town. Like laugh out loud and my Husbutch wonders if I might be slightly unbalanced. I'm not sure about the last part but I do think Gwen's sense of humor is pretty fantastic. If you don't follow her, go do it now.

Comedy Key West is located just a short block from Mallory Square in a building that you have probably walked past a million times and missed. It shares real estate with the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum. The address is 218 Whitehead Street and to find it you must look up. Literally. The space is raised and you have to take an elevator or walk the flight of stairs to get to the front door. It's worth the climb. If you're walking by at night look for the Comedy Key West bat signal lit up on the water tower next door and you'll know you're only steps away. In March, they have several great comedians doing shows and a couple of other women like Mary Mack and Emma Willman are there performing. Gwen Filosa, being local, often only knows her show dates

a day or two in advance so definitely give them a call to confirm at 305-985-7370.

There are different headliners every week and Gwen Filosa is a local favorite and often an opener for other headlines. She has many talents, not the least of which is being an editor for the Keys Weekly. Linguistically gifted, her local journalism keeps us all abreast of the immediate happenings when side streets flood, there is an incredibly unfortunate "something" like a house fire or when Sergio (her new pup) learns to bark at his reflection in a car he's passing by. She's tremendously entertaining to follow on a daily basis so going to see her show is a real treat. The first time I saw Gwen do her standup was at the Key West Follies that happen in June as a talent cabaret. She had the whole audience rolling in short order. Given what I said in the beginning about how hard it is to make lesbians laugh, this is an impressive feat when at least half of the room is comprised of lesbians. Does the theory hold true for bisexual women? Gwen will have to do some research and let us know. Gwen, the gauntlet has been thrown. How you're going to find out their sexual orientation is totally up to you. Ladies, she's single. Make her work for it. Good luck and Godspeed.

As Key West evolves and expands its title as the gay mecca in Florida, more and more entertainers are catering to the lesbian audience. Key West has Drag Kings, a decades old gathering of women at the Backbar on Sundays and the comedy of Gwen Filosa. I'd say that we're doing pretty darn well! So, while you're in town make sure to go over to Whitehead and find Comedy Key West to see Gwen. She is a true island treasure! Lez Go Out and support our local girl and break the stereotype. Maybe lesbians laugh most when one of our own is on the stage or maybe Gwen is JUST that funny!! (Trust me, she is.) Even I laughed a ton!! Call Comedy Key West ahead, let them know you want to see the famous Gwen and get her next show dates! See you there!



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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.

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

Continued on next page.



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- ▶ 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.

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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.
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Please see Important Facts, including important warnings, above and at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/BIKTARVY).



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- Inga Smash Classic Burger lettuce, tomato, mayo, & pickles option to add cheese/bacon/extra patty
- Hangover Smash Burger bacon, fried egg, cheese, & our secret burger sauce

Mac 'n Cheese Bowls

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- Buffalo Chicken
- Hot Honey Chicken
- Crawfish
- Lobster

Jambalaya

plain or choose any combination of the following: chicken, sausage, & shrimp

Gumbo

made with smoked chicken & sausage

Fry Baskets

served with your choice of fries or tots

- Swamp Basket includes catfish, shrimp, gator, & okra
- Oysters
- Catfish & Shrimp
- Catfish
- Gator Tail
- Shrimp
- Chicken Fingers

Option to toss chicken fingers in: buffalo, hot honey, voodoo, or BBQ

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- Fried Gator Tail
- Fried Shrimp & Catfish
- Hot Sausage (Beef)
- Cheeseburger
- Ham, egg & cheese
- Sausage, egg & cheese
- Bacon, egg & cheese

Salads

- **Wedge**
iceberg, bacon, tomatoes & blue cheese
- **House**
iceberg, tomato, cucumber, onion with Italian or ranch dressing add a protein: chicken, shrimp, or catfish
- **Chef**
iceberg, tomato, cucumber, ham, bacon, smoked chicken, shredded cheddar jack & Gruyere cheese, boiled egg with blue cheese or ranch dressing

Sauces

- Hot Honey
- Honey Mustard
- Key Lime Cocktail
- Ranch
- Remoulade
- Voodoo Sauce
- La Diabla
- BBQ
- Bub Cheese
- Brown Gravy
- Buffalo
- Cheese
- Sauce
- Citrus Garlic Aioli
- Garlic Hot Honey



Chicken 'wiches

served with your choice of fries or tots

- Voodoo Chicken Sandwich crispy fried chicken breast tossed in voodoo sauce topped with pickles
- Buffalo Chicken Sandwich crispy fried chicken breast tossed in buffalo sauce, topped with ranch, pickles, lettuce, & tomato
- Big Daddy Smoked BBQ Chicken smoked pulled chicken topped with crispy fried onions on bun
- Justin Case Chicken Classic choice of grilled or blackened chicken breast topped with mayo, pickles, lettuce, & tomato

Appetizers

- Gator Tail
- Fried Mushrooms
- Fried Okra
- Fried Mozzarella
- Fried Pickles
- Corn Dog Bites
- Fried Italian Sausage Ravioli

Sides

- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Collard Greens with Bacon
- Daily veggie
- Fries or Cheese Fries
- Onion Rings
- Tots or Cheese Tots
- Cajun Poutine at going to the store

Sweets

- Pecan Praline & Peach Bread Pudding with caramel sauce
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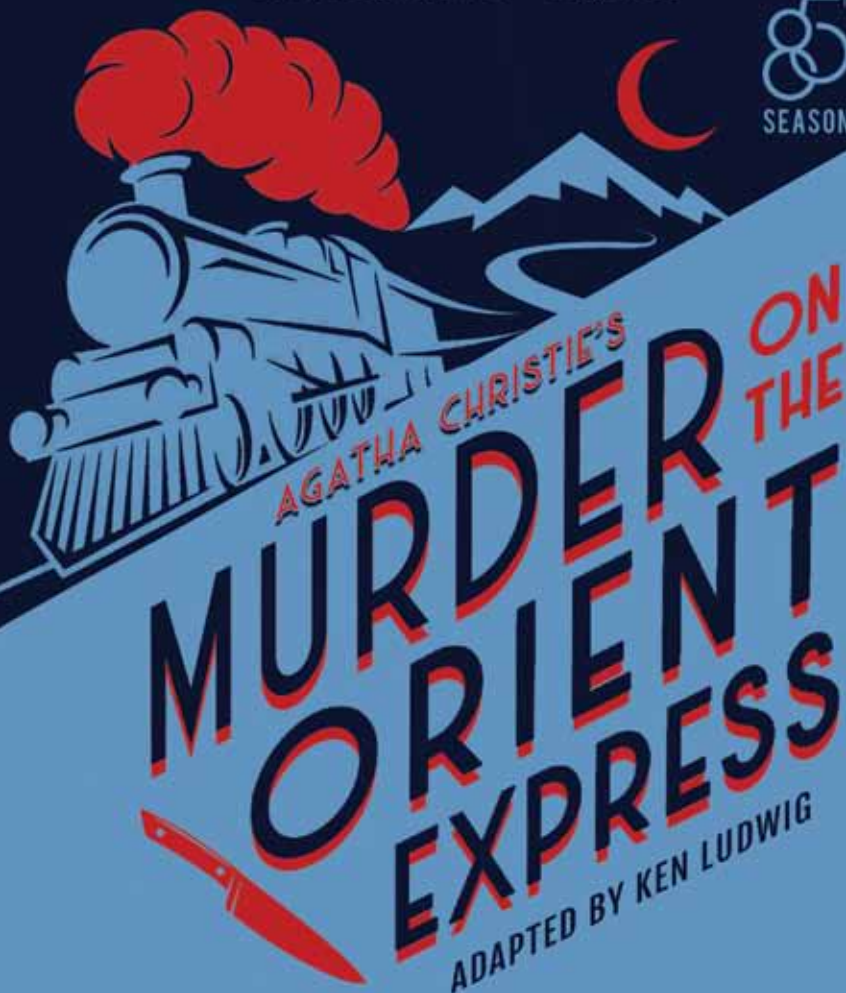
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BEACH READS



LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*

"INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SPACE" BY EMILY AUSTIN

c.2024, Atria | \$27.99 | 320 pages



People just don't understand you.

They don't "get" you at all. Your sense of humor goes over their heads. If you're happy, you're weird; if you're angry, it makes no sense to them. You're an enigma to most people – even sometimes, as in the new book "Interesting Facts about Space" by Emily Austin, you're an enigma to yourself.

Enid Hughes wasn't entirely sure why she was at her half-sister's gender reveal party

. Truth was, Enid found those kinds of parties rather repugnant but whatever,

her half-sisters seemed to want a relationship with her. She didn't know why that, either. It wasn't like they all grew up together or anything; their father out-and-out abandoned her in favor of his second family. It was all just so awkward.

That whole thing still depressed Enid's mother, years later, which Enid thought about as she spent party-time surreptitiously texting space facts to her mom. Space facts were comforting, and a way of checking in. She also sometimes texted women she'd met online, random hook-ups she'd had with zero plans on ever seeing any of the women again.

Usually, that was a way to avoid a mess but she'd recently learned that she'd been duped into seeing someone who was married and things got complicated when the woman's wife found out. Yes, Enid was a

lesbian, so what? When she was younger, she thought of boys and marriage but she eventually decided that love was for everybody else.

For real, who would put up with someone who thought her apartment was being cased, or who had a serious phobia of bald men and their smell? Nobody in their right mind would put up with a woman who was obsessed with true-crime podcasts or who loved the stars, planets, and the moon, or who texted a pre-written message when she wanted to break up.

Who'd want to date someone who was constantly being watched?

Don't be surprised if you're mystified when you first start "Interesting Facts about Space." Don't be surprised if you squirm, either, because it's an uncomfortable read.

Which doesn't mean that you won't want to continue.

Enid's story is compelling but as a character, she's hard to categorize and author Emily Austin doesn't make that easy to figure out. Enid's not gregarious or particularly friendly; her odd-duck ways are charming and abrasive with the lightest whiff of humor, but she's also depreciative and sad and that doesn't abate – which may not make her very likable but you still won't quit her. So why not?

Because you know something's coming. Like or dislike, Enid's quite the conundrum until you get toward the end of this story and the whole thing pivots. Suddenly, everything you've read, every angsty comment and weird quirk is turned upside down and you will be, too.

It's a nice pay-off, if you can warm up to the quirkiness of this story and stick around. Until then, you may wonder why you're immersed in "Interesting Facts about Space." A few pages in, and you'll understand.

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CHRISTOPHER PETERSON

Q INTERVIEWS THIS FORMER "EYECON"

Q: There are so many changes happening in your life, but let's start at the beginning. When was your drag persona born?

CP: *The first time I did drag was a third grade variety show lip syncing to Nancy Sinatra's Boots are made for Walking. I removed my mother's hair piece at the end to show I was a boy...lol. But in reality I started drag at 16 in Halifax Nova Scotia on chicken nights at the Turret on Sunday nights. I started performing when I came out of the womb and saw the lights. But all I ever wanted to do was act. Started professionally at 14. Performed in drag at 22.*

Q: Tell us a little bit about your long running show "EYECONS"

CP: *EYECONS came about because I started in the business doing impersonations then started doing them live. I Put the show together similar to Craig Russell's and Jim Bailey's shows*

Q: And now for what our readers really want to know. You've made a big move. You're creating not only a new show, but with the help of Michael and Jon, the new owners of the Aquaplex, you're creating a whole new venue. Tell us about it.

CP: *The Birdcage Cabaret is going to try and merge together my talent for comedy and singing with the high energy style of the Aquanettes. Also local talent in the field of dance cirque act even juggling. A big gay variety show. Shows will be Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. For tickets and info call (305) 294-0555 or on line aquakeywest.com*



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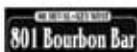


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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



SWISH AIR

We need an exclusively LGBTQ+ airline. I know a lot of you fought very hard for decades to get all of us marriage equality. But, to be completely honest, the majority of gays and theys I know would rather take a bath with the air fryer than get married. So now that we all fought together to get those rights and protections for you Sadie Sadie married ladies... We/I would like you to help us/me get something we can actually use: planes without straight people. I'm sorry to lump them all into together... but, first of all, they are too lumpy to sit next to for 6 hours at a time anyway. I was on a 3:35 minute flight from Los Angeles to Puerto Vallarta. A city very much divided between the straights and the gays. The flight was 2/3 heterosexuals and 1/3 decent people aka homosexuals.

Why can't straight people go 3 hours without eating a whole pizza? I'm a bear and even I can somehow stave off starvation by surviving on just a Starbucks fruit & cheese plate or a Delta chicken salad croissant. But these breeding, bison-shaped beasts get on the plane with a pepperoni pizza as their personal item. I counted 13 full length hoagies, 4 unctuous buckets of Panda Express, and 6 not-so-personal pizzas. By the time we leveled off at 30,000 feet, the entire plane smelled like if you tried to fit a mall food court into a walk-in closet. And, needless to say, heterosexuals are not dainty eaters. Michael J. Fox could eat a bowl of peas on a roller coaster and not leave as much culinary debris as Debra in 12D did.

And, just think of how amazing an all-queer airline would be! All the drag race girls who never reached the financial heights that the Trixies and Bobs and Biancas did, can now unionize and be the best dressed gate agents and flight attendants the skies have ever seen. The second that cabin door closes, the beat drops and a queen stomps down that aisle slamming the overhead compartments closed like she's clacking a fan. The in-flight entertainment isn't just a roster of queer classics but a full, live drag brunch! Complete with bottomless mimosas. We'll have the most spacious bathroom in the sky, giving our customers enough room to get that shirtless bathroom pic or film "content" for "those sites." Our pilots will exclusively be lesbians. You think that door would have flown off that Alaska Airlines flight a month ago if they'd had two lesbian pilots? Those dyke divas would be checking every nut and bolt on that plane before we board.

Of course, our routes will be limited to gay destinations only. If you want to/are legally obligated to go visit your shitty relatives in Dayton, then you'll just have to catch a ride with Spirit. Though, personally, I'd rather catch Hepatitis (again).

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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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

- **801** - 801 Duval St
- **A&B** - 700 Front St
- **Alexander's Guest House** - 1118 Fleming St
- **Alonzo's** - 700 Front St
- **Aqua** - 711 Duval St
- **Back Bar** - 711 Duval St
- **Belmare** - 700 Front St
- **Big Cheezes** - 404 Southard St
- **Birdcage Cabaret** - 504 Angela St
- **Bourbon** - 724 Duval St
- **Equator Resort** - 822 Fleming St
- **Graffiti** - 721 Duval St
- **In Touch With You** - 1129 Duval St
- **Island House** - 1129 Fleming St
- **KW Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center** - 808 Duval St
- **La Te Da** - 1125 Duval St
- **Mangia Mangia** - 900 Southard St
- **Marc Ulanowski Realtor** - 420 Fleming St
- **Red Barn Theater** - 319 Duval St (Rear)
- **Red Shoe Island Bistro** - 411 Petronia St
- **Saloon 1** - 504 Petronia St
- **The Green House** - 532 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

*Dueling Bartenders at 4 PM
Drag Show at 9 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

*Live Singer at 1 PM
Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 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

Live Singer at 1 PM

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Karaoke at 11 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

Live Singer at 1 PM

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show at 6 PM

RuPaul Viewing Party 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

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

After Tea Dance at 7 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

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ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

I've been invited to become part of a polyamorous relationship. It's 3 other guys and I'm really into 2 of them in every way (personally, sexually, everything) but the 3rd guy I just see as someone who would be a good friend but I'm not sexually attracted to him. I've never been in a relationship with more than one guy at a time and I'm not really sure how this all works and if it will work for me. Do you have any thoughts or experiences with this?

First off, congratulations on receiving your invitation to the Hogwarts School of Polyamory! I'd say, "it's a very hard school to get into", but, by definition, it's not. I wonder if that's what we call a group of people dating: a school. Like a school of fish, a school of boyfriends, etc? We'll leave that to the more cunning linguists out there to answer that query. As for yours, I did lie with two men in the 1960s. But they were both gay and I was just a beautiful beard trying to keep them out of jail for getting in each other's pants all the time. Best relationship of my life. Sure, they never made me cum but they sure did throw an amazing cocktail party. Plus, I got to have "affairs" with all their straight male co-workers who thought I was cheating on one or the other of them. God, men are so stupid. But I digress. Darling, I would say just talk with this gaggle of gays who want you to join them. Open dialogue is key in a one-on-one relationship. So, the more players the more dialogue that has to happen. Polyamory is like snowflakes: each one is different from the next... and sometimes it's fun to just tilt your head back, open your mouth, and let them all drop all over you. I think you get the point...

Dear Nana,

Should I tip an escort? I've recently discovered the joys of hiring professionals for my sexual needs. I travel a lot for work, have always been shy and not really into the gay bar scene or the apps. And, I've found that hiring a pro to take care of my needs is very freeing. I already choose to pay higher end, more expensive escorts just to be clear. I'm not just offering a guy on the street \$50 for a quickie in an alley. But it's not like you can google "Should I tip a hooker?" the way you can google "How much do you tip in Spain?" Having read you for years, I'm sure you'll have some sage advice.

Honey, I'm so old that when I was young enough to still be sexual, we used to tip prostitutes with gold nuggets. Fool's gold if they couldn't keep it up the whole time. I would say that it certainly isn't uncommon to tip anyone in a service



industry. And that is what this is. I think it also depends on the cost, length of time, are you having them add bells and whistles like roleplay, BDSM, boyfriend experience, etc. And, just like with anything else, when you find a sex worker who really goes above and beyond to exceed your expectations, why not reward it? You're not their sugar daddy so I wouldn't set a precedent of doubling their fee or anything like that. I'd also say that if you have guys that you see more than once, once you tip, say, 20%, I wouldn't just go back to not tipping. But if it's weighing on your mind to not tip... then don't tip! Don't ruin your own good time by getting in your head about a tip.

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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ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

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GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

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CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

You should befriend some morbidly obese people. That way you can be the thin one!

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

You can have any man you please, you just can't please any of them.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

You're not a complete idiot... there are still some parts missing!

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

Your boyfriend must have had 31 boyfriends before you. He calls you his thirty second man.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

You're not getting older.... Oh fuck it, yes you are. You're old as fuck.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

You're getting a little big for your britches, you fat fuck.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

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