

## We're PROUD of Our Paradise!

KEY WEST is an amazingly inclusive place that welcomes everyone to enjoy our island life.

I have the expert advice to help you find the perfect property! Here are just a couple.



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REAL ESTATE SERVICES





## Contributors:

Neil Chamberlain Jacob Alexander Brad Loekle Nana Terri Schlichenmeyer Noreen Malarkey

## Welcome to Paradise!

April is one of the most fun months here on the island thanks to the campy Bed Races and Drag Races.

The Bed Races are homemade beds being pushed by a team of 4 down Duval Street.

The Drag Races have nothing to do with cars. You'll just need to see them for yourself.

**Enjoyl** 

## **Published Monthly by:**

The Gay Rag, Inc. Key West, FL 33040-

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### GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking GENVOYA. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

### IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA? GENVOYA may cause serious side effects:

- Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- Serious liver problems. The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness in the right side of your stomach area.
- You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking GENVOYA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

## Who should not take GENVOYA? Do not take GENVOYA if you take:

- Certain prescription medicines for other conditions. It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.
- The herbal supplement St. John's wort.
- Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.

## What are the other possible side effects of GENVOYA?

Serious side effects of GENVOYA may also include:

- Changes in body fat, which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- 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 GENVOYA.
- 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 GENVOYA.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

## What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

- All your health problems. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- All the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take GENVOYA with all of your other medicines.
- If you take antacids. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can narm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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.

Please see Important Facts about GENVOYA including Important Warnings on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if GENVOYA is right for you, and visit GENVOYA.com to learn more.



## WHAT IS GENVOYA®?

GENVOYA is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older and weigh at least 77 lbs. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment and 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. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. GENVOYA combines 4 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with food. GENVOYA is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.



# SHOW YOUR POWER

Take care of what matters most—you. GENVOYA is a 1-pill, once-a-day complete HIV-1 treatment.







### (jen-VOY-uh)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT GENVOYA

#### GENVOYA® may cause serious side effects, including:

- Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms; your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness in the right side of your stomach area.
- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. GENVOYA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking GENVOYA. Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time.

## ABOUT GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older and weigh at least 77 lbs who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. GENVOYA can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL of virus in their blood), and have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months and have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

### Do NOT take GENVOYA if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: alfuzosin (Uroxatral®), carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol®, Tegretol®, Tenetol®, Cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®), dihydroergotamine (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigratiles®), lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®), lurasidone (Latuda®), methylergonovine (Ergotrate®, Methergine®), midazolam (when taken by mouth), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®), pimozide (Orap®), fifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®), sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®), or triazolam (Halcion®).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John's wort.
- . Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

#### IMPORTANT FACTS

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

#### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF GENVOYA

#### GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About GENVOYA" section.
- Changes in body fat.
- · Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.

#### The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

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

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

#### BEFORE TAKING GENVOYA

#### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- · Have any other medical condition.
- · Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

## Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-thecounter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

### HOW TO TAKE GENVOYA

- GENVOYA is a complete one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take GENVOYA with food.

#### GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about GENVOYA. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to GENVOYA.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit GENVOYA.com for program information.







Until our phone gets turned off for non payment, we'll be here to listen to the latest dish. We'd never use real names but I'll bet if you ask around, you'll find out who's doing who! If you have some hot gossip, email us at tea@qkeywest.com. We'll keep your name out of it because we know how to keep secrets!

Some people insist on putting all their business on Facebook, then delete it the next day. Those same people get all upset when questioned about it after the post is deleted. Maybe you need to lock the phone when you unlock the liquor cabinet.

As we start to wind down our busy season, this is when we see how many newbies made the cut and how many will get voted off the island.

It seems that every month, there are staff rotations in the pink triangle. It's almost as if the employees wake up and spin the wheel to see which bar they will work at that week.

Well kiddos, we're at that time when the "hustlers" come back into town. You know the ones. They are the guys that come here with all kinds of energy but no money. People take them in to "help them out" but then after a few weeks skip town never to be heard from again because they wouldn't put out for the host! Look around. They are already here!





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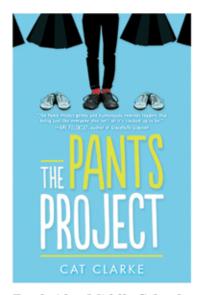
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## "THE PANTS PROJECT" BY CAT CLARKE

c.2017, Sourcebooks | \$16.99 | 272 pages



Mom says you're growing like a weed.

It's true: you've outgrown your favorite sweater, your best shirt, and all your summer shoes. The only thing that fits is a pair of trousers that were once too big – but in the new book "The Pants Project" by Cat Clarke, you might have to fight to wear even those.

The first day of middle school stinks to begin with, but it was worse for Liv.

It wasn't just the newness that bothered her. It wasn't that

Bankridge Middle School was bigger. The thing she dreaded was that the school had a dress code, which meant wearing a skirt.

Liv hadn't worn a skirt in years.

This was going to be horrible.

But okay, admittedly, the first day didn't kill her, though she learned fast that Bankridge had its share of Mean Girls. The boy she had to sit next to in homeroom, Jacob, was cool (she'd rather've sat with her best friend, Maisie). And PE class wasn't bad, as long as Liv changed before everybody else got to the locker room.

Changing clothes in a crowd of loud girls made Liv uncomfortable. That's because she knew she was transgender, a boy in a girl's body.

Being trans was the Secret she wished she could tell somebody, but she was afraid. Her moms would probably understand but Liv wanted to wait, for many good reasons. She'd tell when the time was right; until then, she'd endure sixth grade.

Except life took a turn for the worse. Maisie started hanging with the Mean Girls, and she didn't want to be Liv's best friend anymore. Everybody started teasing Liv about having two moms. A family member got sick. And ugh! those skirts.

It wasn't fair that Liv lost her best friend; or that Mean Girls bugged her, though she tried to ignore them; or that she couldn't reveal the Secret. And it definitely wasn't fair that boys didn't have to wear skirts.

Un. Fair. So Liv cooked up an audacious plan...

Without a doubt, "The Pants Project" is a good book, for kids or adults. It's also a great reminder that adolescence is hard, kids are mean, support is key — and it's all wrapped up in a wise, self-aware preteen you'll enjoy meeting.

Indeed, author Cat Clarke gives readers a good peek inside the life of a kid who has things figured out – almost. Liv has a good understanding of her situation and is willing to carefully dip her toes into the coming-out pool, but that's not the best part. No, the appeal of this book is that every middle-schooler alive will recognize the perfectly-written supporting cast of characters here - Mean Girls, nerds, jocks, nice teachers, jerks – making it easy to sympathize with our hero and her situations.

Meant for readers ages 10-to-14, it could be fast and fun for an older kid; if your child needs a reminder to be herself, she'll especially love it. She'll start "The Pants Project, in fact, and it'll quickly grow on her.



EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON \*pool party

5 PM 8 PM

EXTENDED 2-4-1

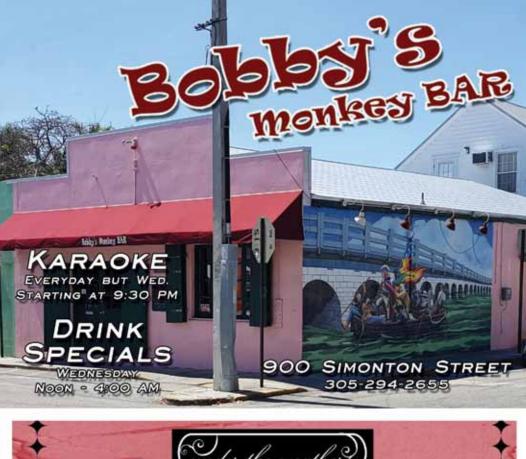
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## MYBIG GAY LIFE Brad Toekle



## MY MANY MELANIA'S

There are many who attack Melania Trump is almost the same way they do her husband. This is nothing new; we've always treated husband and wife as a singular "unit" so the First Family is treated much the same way. If you've read my articles, seen my work, or simply aren't Helen Keller then you'll know I am a vehement and vigilant critic to her husband's campaign, presidency, and very existence. I'm a native New Yorker... there's a reason none of us voted for him and it's because we've already had a chance to sample his work for the last 50 years. But I digress...

Since the time he awarded the presidency through a complex formula of gerrymandering, voter suppression, foreign interference, and domestic ennui, I've become more and more fascinated by his wife. Our new first lady has been accused of practicing the oldest profession, being a mail-order bride, being a gold digger, and so many more colorful creations. But unlike any of the women who've held the position in the last 100 years, she's also been the only one who seems totally unwanting of the title, the praise, the responsibility, or even the marriage that led her to this predicament. I have, much to my own surprise, found myself defending her in various arguments. Not that I think she's a terribly wonderful person. (I neither know her personally nor have I seen any public works or actions that elicit my compassion or support.) It's just that she has, through silence, absence, and Central European facial expressions shown the world that she really has nothing to do with the orange trash bag of brimstone that she is legally obligated to stand next to at social events and, now, state affairs.

Melania may well have dabbled in prostitution. If so, I hope she did it of her own free will. And if so, I hold no ill will towards her for that. I've known many escorts and count many as close friends. If America really is the "bottom bitch" of Capitalism that we've always claimed to be, then legalized and regulated sex work for consenting adults shouldn't get our patriotic knickers in such a twist. Also, though there may not have been another "escort" as First Lady, I can assure you she isn't the first gold digger or social ladder climber. Jackie Bouvier, like her sister, cousins, and most upper-class women of her era were raised to "marry well".

## MY BIG GAY LIFE

Which is, for the most part, the finishing school slang for gold digger. Melania is no Jackie O in any sense or by any means. But to say Melania is the first First Lady to marry for money, status, or power would be like calling Barack Obama the first freed slave.

My personal "not-so-fan fiction" about Melania when we realized what was happening to our democracy was that she was some sort of left over Cold War sleeper cell. She'd been trained from birth to eventually marry a befuddled, corrupt, incompetent American tycoon and then help him become the worst president in American history. And that eventually she and Putin would just keep him as a pet on a leash in the backyard of the Kremlin while they Red Dawn'ed the United States.

Or, that she was actually a double agent who was working secretly with the Clintons. They saw his desire in the 90's to possibly get into politics and realized what a threat to sanity and humanity that would be. So they had this femme fatale privately trained at one of the Clinton bunkers, introduced her to Drumpf, sent them a wedding present and waited. And now, when the moment is right, she will strike to save America. Sadly, Trump and his buddies have clearly thought of this scenario, which is why they've made sure everyone in the "Top 20" for presidential succession makes the current president seem like a walk in the park. Granted, it's Central Park in 1978 and you're a naked woman... but still, a park walk. By the way, this is why he never sleeps. Why he's up tweeting insane theories at 3am. Because he knows his wife could easily be a secret double agent sent to kill him. And if not, is still probably going to put a pillow over his face the next time he shuts his eyes. So he's just pacing the White House at last call on a Tuesday in monogrammed bathrobe with a sepia stained neckband.

Whoever Melania really is, I think it's clear she's not the real enemy. She wasn't elected, didn't want to be elected, didn't want to marry someone who would be elected, and can barely contain her contempt for him when she receives the letter from his lawyers telling her it's time for the annual birthday hand job. Though I do wish she'd put more ground glass in his food over the last decade while she had the chance, I don't wish her any ill will. Remember, although we have to deal with him touching our healthcare, our rights, and our constitution; she has to deal with him touching her naked body. So in that one, small-handed sense: we won.

Brad Loekle 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 extensively on Atlantis Events & RSVP cruises.

His book, "My Big Gay Life" is available on Amazon. For more on Brad, go to: www.bradloekle.com







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# Jacob Alexander MAN ABOUT TOWN



I hope everyone has been enjoying their time here in The Keys, I know I have been! Between going to the beach before work, watching the chickens cross the road, and not having any tan lines, it's hard to remember living anywhere else at this point.

I've been in Key West for eight months now, and I still appreciate every day how unique and beautiful this island is, and how lucky I am to live here. So whether you're visiting, here for work, or have lived on the island longer than you can remember, just know that no; your mind isn't fooling you, this really IS paradise.

So let's say that, while you're here, you want to have a romantic evening with your husband, boyfriend, "roommate", or that guy you met on Grindr last night and you want to know just how to do that. Well the best place to start in this town is with the sunset. For most people, this means a trip down to Mallory Square, at the Western end of Duval Street. And while the sunset is absolutely stunning here, you have to view it just over the heads of about a thousand people, and it can be a pretty distracting event.

Instead, rent some bikes and go to Ft. Zachary Taylor Beach (Ft. Zach, as we call it). Head south on Southard street past Duval, and follow the signs to the beach. Here, you can sit out on a rocky jetty and be surrounded by water on 3 sides, curl

up with your partner, and whisper to each other all the naughty things you want while the sun sets behind sail boats in the distance.

Next, take him (or them) to Ambrosia for the best sushi dinner. Ambrosia is a bit further away than another favorite, Origami, but it's well worth the hike. Set near the beach in the gorgeous Santa Maria Suites Resort, the interior is one of the more unique designs in Key West, and is very sleek and modern (I definitely feel like a fancy drunk when I eat here). Their sake list is excellent, but what got me were the martinis. After about three of the lychee martinis, I was feeling pretty romantic too!

After dinner, take your boo to Better Than Sex for dessert. The atmosphere here is fine-tuned for romance and getting people in the mood to boom boom. The lights are dim, the air is chilly, and the tables are semi-private, so you know you're going to enjoy your...dessert. The menu changes quite often, but what stood out for me last time was the Tongue Bath Truffle (for obvious reasons).

So there you go. You're welcome. I just gave you your romantic night in Key West. If any engagement rings result from this advice, I expect an invite to the wedding!

Visit HeTravel.com/jacobmat to read more of Jacob's travel articles or to join him on an international gay tour!

## **HOTNAKED SUNDAYS**

A Pre-Tea Pool Party Drink Specials 12pm -4pm



"BETWEEN CHURCH AND TEA DANCE COMES ISLAND HOUSE"

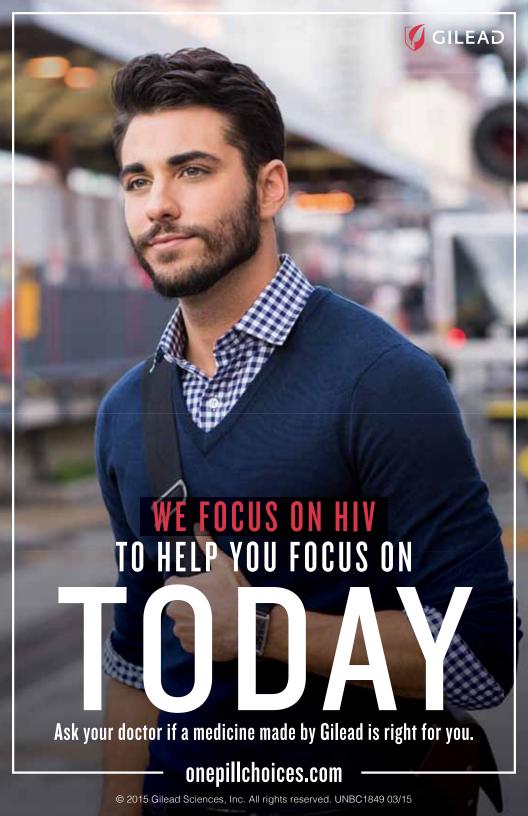
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# SNAP SNAP SNAP







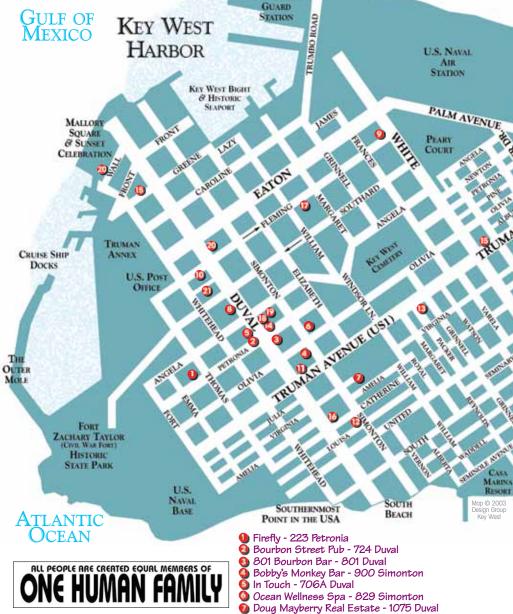


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U.S. COAST

## Q MAGAZINE welcomes you to America's most inclusive island!

Key West's official philosophy is "ONE HUMAN FAMILY" which means we believe everyone is entitled to equal rights, dignity and respect. You'll see a lot of these stickers, and you can get your own free "One Human Family" stickers at the Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center (513 Truman), or by sending a SASE to ONE HUMAN FAMILY,

P.O. 972, Key West, FL 33041 or visit OneHumanFamily.info

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- Island House Resort for Men 1129 Fleming
- 🧕 Marc Ulanowski, Realtor 420 Fleming
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# AN HIV DIAGNOSIS CAN BE PRETTY HARD TO SWALLOW...SO



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## Dueling Bartenders



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# SNAP SNAP SNAP



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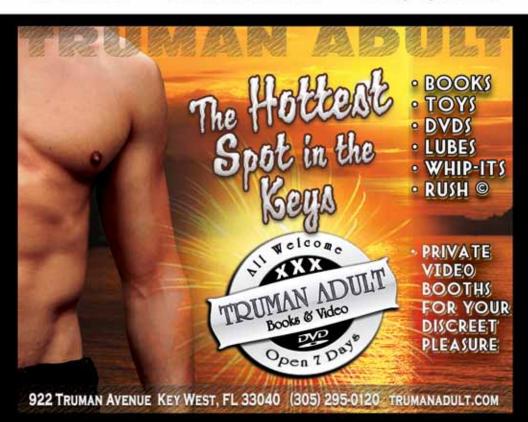


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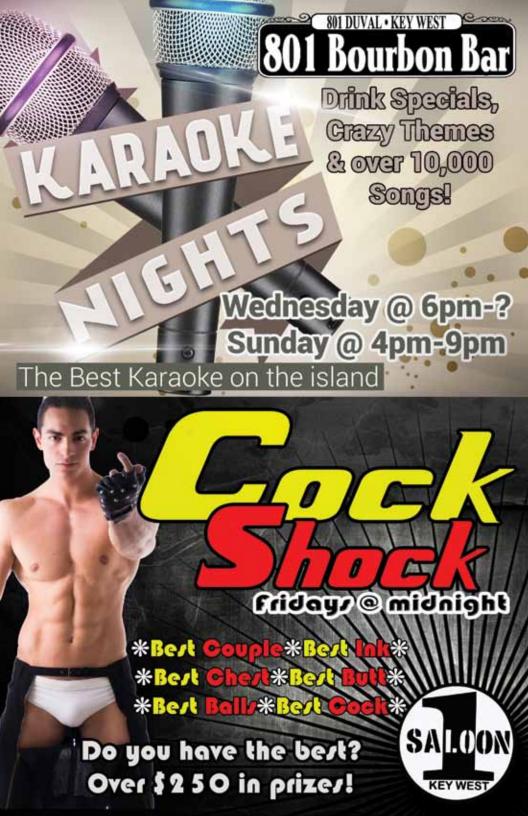
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### **WEEKLY EVENTS**



#### MONDAY

• • • • • • •

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Dueling Bartenders at 5:30 PM Drag Show at 9:00 PM Karaoke starting at 11:00 PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

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

Sidebar

Dancing with live DJ at 9 PM

TUESDAY

201

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Agua

Aqua Idol at 6:30 PM
Drag Show at 9:00 PM
Karaoke starting at 11:00 PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

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

Sidebar

Dancing with live DJ at 9 PM

#### WEDNESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Show at 9:00 PM Karaoke starting at 11:00 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

Sidebar

Drag Queen Trivia at 5:30 PM Dancing with live DJ at 9 PM

#### THURSDAY

801

Karaoke starting at 5 PM Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM Karaoke starting at 11:00 PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

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

Sidebar

Dancing with live DJ at 9 PM

#### FRIDAY

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Aqua

Happy Hour & Trivia at 5:00 PM Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM Dance Party starting at 11:30 PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

Tea Dance starting at 5 PM Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

One Saloon

Cock Shock contest starting at Midnight

Sidebar

Dancing with live DJ at 9 PM

#### SATURDAY

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Shows at 7 PM, 9 PM & 11 PM Dance Party starting at 11:30 PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

Pool Party starting at 12 PM Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Sidebar

Dancing with live DJ at 9 PM

#### SUNDAY

801

Karaoke starting at 5 PM Gay Bingo starting at 5 PM Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM SIN night starts at 10 PM

Aqua

No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Poker at 2:30 PM and 4:30 PM Drag Show at 9:00 PM

**Back Bar** 

Hotdog Church starting at 3PM

Bobby's

Karaoke starting at 9:30 PM

Bourbon

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

Sidebar

Dancing with live DJ at 9 PM

#### LOCATIONS

801 - 801 Duval Street

Aqua - 711 Duval Street

Back Bar - 711 Duval Street

Bobby's - 900 Simonton Street

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval Street
One Saloon - 514 Petronia St

Sidebar - 504 Angela St



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### **ASK NANA**

E-mail your questions to nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

I've started seeing this guy who I really really like but the problem is that he doesn't live here. He lives in Orlando. It's been about 3 months and so far we're able to figure out a way to see each other for at least 1 weekend a month and then we talk and video chat every night. Even though he's not here, I have the closest most intense connection to him that I think I've ever had with a guy. But do you think we can really make it work by only seeing each other once a month? It seems like a lot of work and pressure to put on a relationship at the beginning. A lot of my friends are telling me that long distance relationships never work. What do you say?

Here's what I say: your friends are assholes. I'm sure not all the time, but on this one they are. First of all, there is no "type" of relationship that always works out. Trust me, maybe if my first husband had also lived a few hundred miles away, he would have ended up being my last husband as well. Not only is there no formula for love, there's no formula for a happy relationship. And it's a lot harder to build a happy relationship than it is to find love. I mean, I'm in love with ice cream, wine, and my cat but those I came by pretty easily. Husbands might be dumb but you need to do a little more than just leave a can of tuna out for them and shovel their shit once a week.

You also talked about how hard work and pressure might hurt

your blossoming romance. Well, let's look at the fact you two have already taken the time, energy, and expense to travel to each other once a month. That's already more of a "commitment" to each other than most new couples have to even consider in the first year. Relationships only seem easy in the beginning because the sex is new and you both spend half the day daydreaming about what it will be like to spend more time with each other. But people forget all the hard work that went into beginning a relationship once they're already happily settled into it. It's a lot of work to "learn" another person. We don't come with manuals or warning labels or expiration dates. Which is probably a good thing otherwise we'd probably all avoid each other once we read the fine print. I happen to think having to put this extra work and effort in at the beginning is a good sign. It means you're both ready to be with each other and both want to be with each other. That's not a bad place to start. And remember that hard work is needed for nearly anything of any worth in this life. Look at all your mother went through just to make you and imagine if she'd said, "Meh. Seems like a lot of hard work and pressure (on my bladder) for the first 9 months of a relationship"!

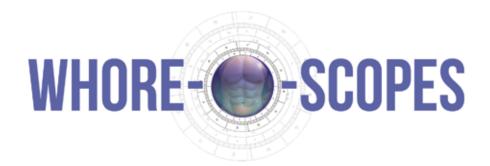
Plenty of long distance relationships work. Plenty don't. Plenty of every kind of relationship work and plenty don't. In the end, this is not about geography; it's about people. And I've loved enough people, fallen out of love with enough people, and buried enough people I've loved to know that whenever someone comes into your life who seems as if they should have been there all along... you don't walk away from that. You walk towards it. You might have a bit further to walk in this particular instance but just think at how happy your doctor will be that you're getting more than "10,000 steps a day"?!

Send your questions to: nana@keywestgayrag.com

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AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18
Better get your health care plan
now while you still can. Then get
that thing on your butt cheek
checked out.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20
The bed races are here. Finally, something you do well, laying in a bed and doing nothing!

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19
I don't know why you spend so
much time working on your hair
when your face looks like that.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20
Congratulations. You broke a record. You've worked at a job for a whole month without getting fired!

**GEMINI** MAY 21 - JUN 20 You should consider going to a dentist, or an exorcist. Something needs to be done for your breath.

**CANCER** JUN 21 - JUL 22
Great job on losing those few extra pounds. Now you just need to lose another 75!

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22
All I can say about your Grindr
photo is thank goodness for
Photoshop!

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22
Time to get those feet ready for sandal weather. Start with a pedicure, and a grinding wheel.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22
A helpful hint. It's time to
manscape when you start finding
bits of food in your pubes!

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21
Before you blame your "slow metabolism" on your constant weight gain, you may want to check out that butt shaped indentation on your sofa.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21 Everything eventually comes back into style, except you haircut!!

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19
Remember, less is more. Except
when it comes to rent money. The
landlord wants it all so get a job!

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