

YOUR LGBT GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

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December 2020



LEZ GO OUT



BRAD LOEKLE



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Welcome To Paradise!

However you *decide to celebrate the holidays*, we hope that you are *happy, safe, and healthy.*

While this has been a trying year, we're glad you came for a visit. If you've been here before, welcome back. If this is your first visit, we hope you'll come back again, under better circumstances!

Enjoy!

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Stephanie Wise


LEZ GO OUT



Lesbian bars. I read something on Facebook (which, of course, means that it is true) that there are only 15 lesbian bars in existence today. The Lesbian Bar Project (lesbianbarproject.com) has taken up the torch to help keep them alive. They collect donations that are split among the bars to help fuel their operation. I am grateful for this project because I believe that lesbian bars have historically been a safe place for us all to meet and find community but it made me stop and wonder why they fail..

I lived in Milwaukee, WI before I packed up my U-Haul, girlfriend, dog and cat and made the three day drive to become a realtor in famous Key West. There was an article in the local paper where a young lesbian was interviewed and quoted as saying that she didn't think we needed lesbian bars anymore. Really? She said, and I'm paraphrasing, that we were so accepted everywhere that she felt she was welcome in any bar.. as a lesbian. The naivety and youth made me second guess myself. I had always felt that lesbian bars were a critical component to the lesbian community for many reasons. Was I wrong? Had lesbian bars gone the way of the fanny pack? Was I just... old? Well, in current events even the fanny pack has had a resurgence. I think this young lesbian was blissfully unaware of the history that we are never taught and how we had to fight for the right to simply exist in public. In some state we still do.

That being said, lesbian bars have obviously dwindled down to a mere 15 left in the country as stated in the article. Even Key West does not have a dedicated lesbian bar. We have Sidebar on



Sundays for Hotdog Church. The Backbar was our hangout until then and the Patio Bar at the icon but renamed Pearl's Guesthouse was our original party zone. Today, we just... gather. We take over a bar in the city for a few hours and then it returns to it's natural state as just a bar. Do lesbians spend less money in the bars? Probably, but my question is really how much is needed to keep a bar open? Do lesbians really not spend enough to keep a place open? Why did we have many bars before? Maybe we really are more accepted and are frequenting other "straight" or "gay" bars instead of lesbian only bars.

Key West has a large contingency of lesbians. I see lesbians everywhere. We do the infamous head nod and connect briefly, but we do not have our own dedicated space. Perhaps when the pandemic is over we could make one. The revival of the lesbian bar could be at hand! Lesbians unite! Many of the women I know wish there were one. What do you think? Would you like to see a lesbian bar open here in the Keys?

If you have ideas, or are interested in creating a lesbian bar in Key West, feel free to contact me at swise@kw.com.

The election is (nearly) over and the pandemic just can't last forever, so one day we will go out again. Stay safe and dream lesbian bar dreams with me. Those were the days... Lez Go Out soon. I'm over this COVID in a big way. Stay safe, wash, distance and wear your darn mask until then. Cheers and lots of love from your local lesbian realtor here in Key West.



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CHAD



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(bik-TAR-vee)

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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.

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

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Continued on next page.

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

REAL BIKTARVY PATIENTS



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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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BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



"TMI: MY LIFE IN SCANDAL"

BY PEREZ HILTON WITH LEIF ERIKSSON AND MARTIN SVENSSON

c.2020, Chicago Review Press | \$26.99 | 229 pages



You're allowed to change your mind.

You grow, get a few experiences under your belt, and things might look a bit different. You can have a change of heart then, and pivot your life in a different direction. You can take do-overs and take-backs, but carefully. And as in the new book "TMI" by Perez Hilton (with Leif Eriksson and Martin Svensson), you can ask for forgiveness, too.

If you knew Mario Armando Lavandiera Jr. when he was a child, you'd be surprised at the man he is today. He says he had a good childhood but he was a "different" kid then, and was often bullied: among other

indignities, his classmates called him "the Fat Kid" because he loved to eat.

That last part hasn't changed. What has is that Lavandiera is now thinner, famous, and known by a nicer name: Perez Hilton. And no, if you're wondering, Paris Hilton "never bothered" to sue him over the lookalike name, "though she definitely could have."

This transformation didn't happen overnight.

By the time he moved to New York to attend college, Hilton knew for sure that he was gay; while there, he gained friends, a pile of debt, and a mitt full of credit cards. Down but not out, he started a series of jobs and

launched a series of websites that both spanned time in New York and L.A., and that got him into trouble in one way or another. Then a photogra-friend leaked a few celeb pictures his way, Perez posted them on his website, and he was famous, literally overnight.

And that was good – for awhile. Hilton partied near-constantly, busted into celebrity events, became "wifey" with Gaga, clubbed with Jessica Simpson, and hung with Paris Hilton. And then he made a video for a national cause that caused him to see the hurt he'd left....

Could it be that the infamous author and gossip blogger Perez Hilton has.... softened?

Yes, mostly. There's a whole lot less venom inside "TMI" than you might expect from Hilton, but fans won't be entirely bereft. There's still a little spark of gossip here, names dropped, and stories propped up and left on the roadside for embarrassment or for examination. Those are accompanied in this memoir by a glint-in-his-eye tone, and the sneakiest of snark hidden here and there, but that's often tendered by tenderness.

The surprise – or the shock, depending on your level of fandom – is that Hilton apologizes to several people he feels he hurt; and he expresses a degree of regret for having lost good, close friends because he reported gossip about them despite the friendship. It's contrition that feels like it came from a battered schoolyard bully, only genuine.

Hilton is a father now and he writes with unabashed love for his kids, from a refreshing, seemingly-happier place in his life. "TMI" still includes plenty of Hiltonized Too Much Information, some snickers, and a hint of tattle-tale, but if you've never been much of a fan, here's a chance to change your mind.

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- 9 Whitehead & Julia
- 10 Whitehead & United
- 11 United & Duval
- 12 Simonton & Catherine
- 13 Simonton & Truman
- 14 Simonton & Petronia
- 15 Simonton & Southard
- 16 Fleming & Elizabeth
- 17 Fleming & Grinnell
- 18 Eaton & White

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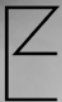
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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loefke



HARD CANDY CHRISTMAS

I don't think there's a person alive this year who won't be glad to see 2020 go. Be it disease, depression, the Donald, or some other 2020-centric malady, I know I will be glad to look at 2020 in the rear-view mirror. Lord knows this wasn't a great year to be a comedian; who makes his living from traveling the country, and the world, and who also writes for live theater and television. Because literally all of those things just ceased to exist in a matter of 72 hours one dark March week. I would have to hang-up on one club or company telling me they had to cancel my show, in order to answer the incoming call from the next one cancelling. Then I just sat in my house and cooked and ate an entire Christmas dinner every 3-4 days. They say that drugs and alcohol don't help solve your problems. Well, I can assure you that you can add "eating an entire casserole dish of sausage & apple stuffing for dinner" to that list, as well.

So here I, and many of you out there, are: heavier at the end of this year both in mass and emotion than when we started. Remember January? Remember 37 months ago when it was January?! And we thought, "Thank god 2019 is over! 2020 is going to be MY YEAR!". Boy, did we screw the pooch on this year, didn't we? I don't know who had "global pandemic and Great Depression 2: Back in the Breadline" on their vision board, but can we all please promise to follow every superstition through the end of this year to hopefully undo whatever witch's curse we triggered?

Christmas will be a bit scaled back this year. Social distancing, less travel, I've even heard talk that some are resorting to drinking "well" vodka. But just because this will be more of a Cratchit Family Christmas Special, doesn't mean it can't be special. You have to make the most with what you've got. And what I've got, in the state of California, is legal recreational marijuana! So, before I start my new year's resolution to pretend that I'm going to lose all the pandemic pounds I've put on; I'm going to deck the halls with some holly jolly Mary Jane. That's right, I'm going to eat edibles and smoke my body weight in weed right before I eat a whole smoked ham. I mean, if not now when?

I encourage everyone to give themselves the holidays off. No awkward or stressful family obligations. All your fucked-up uncles and agony aunts will be there in 2021. Or they won't. But you can't change that either way. So, pour a glass of "cheer" or fill that silent night with the sounds of you coughing up a lung after your first big drag on a joint. Whatever your passion and poison, give yourself the gift of checking out for the end of this year. The world will keep turning if we all put ourselves in time-out. In fact, if lockdown taught me anything it's that the planet could use a break from us just as much as we could use a break from us. When we all locked down the air got clearer, the fish seemed to come back in droves, even the twinks are still in full bloom far later into the winter than normal!

So, mail all your gifts early (if the USPS was good enough for your ballot, it's good enough for the shitty sweater you're sending your mom) and take the rest of the year off! Unless, of course, you happen to be reading this and you're someone currently working on the Covid vaccine. In that case, what the fuck are you doing in Key West? Taking a "breather"?! Too soon, asshole! Get back to your laboratory and give me a vaccine good enough to convince me that my labored breathing is just because of my age and weight... and not Covid-19. I don't want to die at Christmas from some novel virus. I want to die the way God intended: from gluttony and sloth just like the foul-mouthed manatee I am.

For all those who read my ridiculousness month to month, I hope that (on occasion) I brought a giggle to your lips during this dark year. I look forward to doing it next month and for many months and years to come. I hope you and yours (and me and mine) all make it out of 2020 in peace not in pieces. But just know you don't need to let Christmas be the straw that broke the camel's back. Instead, pat yourself on the back for making it through, and give yourself whatever kind of holiday season you need for YOU! And to all... a good night.

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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COCQ TALES

Local Bartender Interviews

By Jameson Rabbitt



GOOD JEWISH BOY GOES “KNITTY GRITTY”

Gin and Tonic might be his classic go-to drink but this tequila shooting, Omaha bred, ballet trained bartender in tight short shorts, brings the Midwest flavor, New York nerve and pure talent to the colorful Island House Café. After spending some time in cold Denver, in 2011 Michael decided to embark on a journey to the Big Apple where he pursued the bohemian dream of becoming an artist and being surrounded by like-minded artsy individuals. Not by coincidence Michael met his husband John, and while Concentrating his energy into two of his passions; modern dance and knitting, he turned his hobby into a trendy niche business. Flash-forward to now, you can find Michael spending his days off on a hammock knitting your new favorite winter jock-strap you didn't know you needed.

Michael describes Modern Dance as “esoteric, high-art dance” with the basics planted on the roots of jazz and tap which comes in handy when he's balancing drink trays filled with frozen drinks to the rim among the flock of guests at Island House on a busy Sunday afternoon, but knitting is a hobby turned side hustle. Michael's Instagram following reflects the need for a niche market of fetish gear made of





non-traditional kink materials where he makes fetish wear catalogued from jock straps to full body harnesses out of yarn which you can check out on his Instagram @Knittygrittynyc and made to order for your next gear dinner party.

"It all started seven years ago" attracted by the quirkiness and freedom that Key West exudes,

Michael and his husband would escape to the island anytime they could get away from suit-and-tie NYC before they decided to make top-optional Key West their home last August. Michael describes Key West as a community where authentic expression is encouraged, which is what attracted them to drop their anchor on this piece of paradise.

Like a good Orthodox Jewish boy, Michael had a Bart-Mitzva, but grew up with his family mashing Hanukkah and Christmas together so naturally the progression had to be an unconventional Christmas dish to an already unconventional holiday season. Michael's very Italian husband has added the tradition to the family of making his famous Christmas Lasagna, which is like a regular lasagna, just on Christmas.

For Michael, the holidays might never be traditional but at least they're very his style- made out of lots of fun holidays glued together by cheese and pasta. And that's a tradition that I can get behind.

Happy Holidays!

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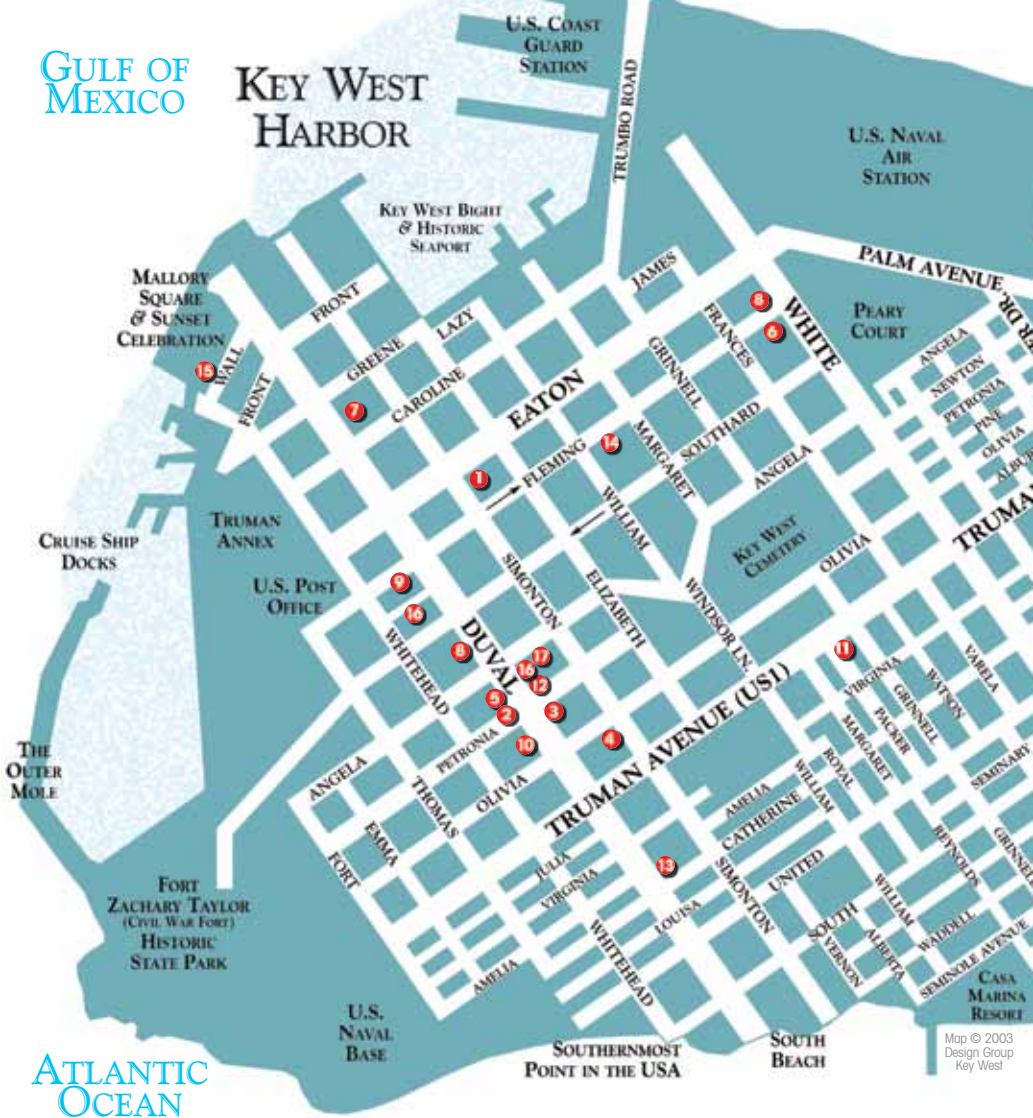
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- 2 Bourbon Street Pub - 724 Duval
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- 4 Bobby's Monkey Bar - 900 Simonton
- 5 In Touch - 706A Duval
- 6 Alexander's Guest House - 1118 Fleming
- 7 Red Barn Theatre - 319 Duval (Rear)
- 8 Island House Resort for Men - 1129 Fleming
- 9 Marc Ulanowski, Realtor - 420 Fleming
- 10 KW Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center - 808 Duval
- 11 Truman Book & Video - 922 Truman
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- 13 La Te Da - 1125 Duval
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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

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

.....
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

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

801

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

Bourbon

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

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

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 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 at Midnight

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

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Bourbon

*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
SIN night starts at 10 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

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

801 - 801 Duval Street

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval Street

One Saloon - 514 Petronia St



Happy Holidays

Holiday Shows
9pm & 11pm

Tickets Available at 801girls.com

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801 Bourbon Bar

WWW.801.BAR

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- CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT
- LIVE VIDEO OF THE SHOE DROP
- PARTY FAVORS

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801 CABARET



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- BE BODY PROUD!
- WATCH OR ENTER!
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- BEST CHEST
- BEST BUTT
- BEST NUTS
- BEST DICK
- BEST INK
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*For the person
that has everything!*



graffitti
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ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

I'm going home for the holidays and I have one uncle who is the worst. He always gets hammered and either picks a fight with someone or just makes the whole day and night weird. He's always been a big conspiracy guy and the last 4 years of Trump have only made that worse. Do you have any tips on how to get through this? Or get through to him on his bad behavior?

There's always one in a family. Sometimes much more. So, at the very least, you can look on the bright side that you only have one of these rogue relatives. I know families that are mostly made up of shitty sheep! There are only two ways to handle these sorts of Holiday horrors: ignore it like the drunk elephant in the room that it is and go on with your happy holidays despite him. Or, face it head on! You could lean in to his crazy and see if that snaps him out of it or if he must go full cuckoo on you. Tell him you've gotten really into Qanon. Then hire a child actor and a Hillary Clinton impersonator to throw pizza at each other in the basement. Let him find them organically and then when he calls 911, sneak them out the back door. Have all the family deny the insane allegations and then he can spend the holidays on a 5150 hold in a psych ward and you can all carve the turkey care free! If that seems like too much work, I find one Unisom tablet mixed into his beer or mashed potatoes will give you all a silent night from ye merry gentleman



Dear Nana,

With all of the craziness this year, my boyfriend and I have decided to take the holidays off from family and events and just do a staycation. But we're worried that some of our family or friends might try to crash our slumber party for two or guilt us into going out. Any tips for hiding around the holidays?

Honey, I invented ghosting! And now, am almost a ghost myself. The key, I find, in this modern world is to not only lie to their faces but lie on your Facebook... and other social media. I warn you, if you post pictures of you two cuddled up around a manger full of good wine... at least three wise-ass men will come a 'knocking. So not only would I tell them you're going away for the holidays, I'd post old or even entirely fake photos of you on vacation. You have to throw them off the scent of your scented candles being lit while you're home. Remember not to pick a sunny beach location because they'll wonder why you don't come back with a tan. But saying you're spending the holidays with some friends in Aspen or Toronto should work. Or, just tell them you both have covid and to stay away! They'll be so relieved when you "pull through" and you might even get some gift baskets out of it! Listen, it's 2020: you do what you have to do.



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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WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

You've got two brain cells: one is in a wheelchair and the other one is pushing.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

Your cock is so small you could use it as dental floss.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

No, those pants don't make you look fatter. I mean, how could they?

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

You're so fat, you fell down and rocked yourself to sleep trying to get up!

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Your dick isn't an iPhone. You can't pinch your fingers apart to make it bigger.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

You look like a person that would exchange one of your chromosomes for a Big Mac.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

Save your breath... You'll need it to blow up your date.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

Don't get too excited If your boyfriend tells you he's thinking about you, he's also thinking about nachos.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

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

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

You would never be able to live down to your reputation, but I see you're doing your best.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

You should have your navel pierced so that you can have a place to hang the air freshener.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

Last time you stepped on the scale, the display looked like a phone number.

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays



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