

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 20 Issue 1
January 2025



ASK NANA



BRAD LOEKLE



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 20 - Issue 1
January 2025



Welcome To Paradise!

As we welcome in a new year, there may be some uncertainty about the next few years but there's one thing you can be certain of.

Key West will always be the same accepting, funky, island it's always been.

We hope you enjoy visiting as much as we enjoy having you here.

Enjoy!

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Published Monthly by:

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Key West, FL 33040-

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National Advertising

Rivendell Media 212-242-6863
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Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



K

Key West is such a magical place that the islands population actually doubles in our busy season and January starts that off with gusto. You can lay at the beach and listen to the waves or... you can attend one of the **NUMBEROUS** festivals that take place to entertain the masses. I'm going to focus on one of the best that we have to offer. It happens at the end of January, but you'd better get here early to get a room and a seat!

The Mile Marker 0 Fest deserves its own article. No really, it's huge. There are 5 nights of music, and it has coined itself a "premier boutique music festival" featuring known and up and coming musicians grooving the tropical vibe. This event draws people from all areas of the country and from all backgrounds so whether you jam to country, island culture or anything in between, you will feel right at home.

If you want the full lineup, you can check out mile0fest.com to find ticket packages, highlight your favorite artists and new ones that you can't wait to hear. The Husbutch and I work too darn much to plan ahead so we typically print off the list and go day by day choosing whatever hits right at the moment. Sometimes this doesn't work out and the show is sold out, so I'd recommend getting tickets early for anything you truly have your heart set on!

It's not **JUST** a music smorgasbord, it's also a charity event (in true Key West fashion – we love to give to charity here)! Each year this festival raises money for charities like the SPCA, Michelle's

Foundation, Red Dirt Relief Fund and the Key West Civic Association. If you like to display really really cool guitars around your home or business, they auction off guitars that are signed by the artists every single night! Last year they raised over \$130,000 according to their website.

Apparently, there are perks to considering oneself a pirate when purchasing tickets. I mean, the general rule in Key West when asked if one is a pirate is that you always answer Aaaaayyyyyeeee! So, be ye a pirate, there are three options for booking Pirate Packages for tickets!! You have the option of 2, 4, or 6 pirates in a package. Pretty sure it doesn't come with an outfit which is somehow disappointing. Nevertheless, the packages include tickets, merch, chair rentals, a sail AND a choice of accommodation!! That sound like treasure to me! Ok, I think I'm overusing the pirate theme anyway... You get the point. It's a great deal and you don't even have to walk the plank to get it. Ok, I'm done. Check out the rest of their pricing deals as well. They include hotel with a three night minimum and the lowest starts at \$915. *Rates do not include sales tax or booking fees.

The best part, besides the phenomenal music, is that you get to attend great music by the water, at sunset, in Key West, at the most beautiful time of year. This festival incorporates all things Key West: Music, Sunset, Fundraising, Drinks and Island Vibes!

Ladies, if you're looking to support the sisters check out: Kaitlin Butts, Summer Dean, Kat Hasty, Sunny Sweeny, Bri Bagwell, Courtney Patton, Ken Pomeroy, and Jesse Lynn Madera for some female vocals. The Husbutch and I will see you there so Lez Go Out and vibe the Island way at Mile Marker 0 Fest in Key West from Jan 21-25th.



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BEACH READS



LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*

"I'LL GET BACK TO YOU" BY BECCA GRISCHOW
c.2024, Penguin Books | \$19.00 | 320 pages



Christmas tree lots, ugh. Santa, New England, snowflakes, mistletoe, blah blah blah.

The cable TV line-up is full of that stuff this time of year but it's nowhere near as magical as Hollywood wants you to believe. Honestly, thinking of romance (or the lack thereof) right now is almost enough to bring out your humbug. Get this, though: there's plenty of romance to go around this Yuletide, but in **"I'll Get Back to You"** by Becca Grischow, it might take some planning to find it.

It was supposed to be a great dual-birthday celebration.

Murphy and her BFF, Kat, were planning a "Blackout Wednesday" of drinking and debauchery, followed by a sleepover and snacks at Murphy's house before they went to Kat's parent's place for Thanksgiving. That was the plan, until Kat ruined it by bringing her new boyfriend, Daniel, along and assuming that Murphy didn't mind.

Murphy minded very much. She hated being the gay third-wheel, and it was doubly annoying when they all ran into Ellie, who'd graduated a few years before Kat and Murphy.

Wait, Ellie was straight in high school, wasn't she? Well, she wasn't now and when Ellie, Kat, and Daniel started comparing notes about attending the U of Illinois, it was all Murphy could do not to roll her eyes.

She wasn't feeling this holiday thing. She was feeling kind of loser-ish, in fact: still living in her childhood bedroom in her parents' house, working a job she'd had since she was 16, still at Community College and failing Accounting class.

And, apparently, failing at love, too, because Ellie told Murphy that they could be friends, and that was all. But when Murphy realized that Ellie's mother was the professor who was about to fail her in Accounting class, Ellie came up with a plan.

If they could pretend to have a relationship, then maybe Ellie's mother would grant Ellie her dream of attending college in New York City. And maybe she'd "play favorites" and give Murphy a passing grade.

It was a weird plan. Super weird. But like romantic relationships weren't?

Alright, let's just admit this: a book like "I'll Get Back to You" isn't going to change the world or influence people in high places. It's probably not even going to land on the bestseller list. It's just a light, fun little story – and isn't that what you need during the holiday season?

With your typical girl-meets-girl, struggle-and-argument, wacky-plan-happy-ending format, author Becca Grischow tells a tale of friendship and romance and growing into the place in life that's meant to be, which is a good but subtle reminder for some readers who need it. Grischow gives readers a cast of characters that are kind but authentic, fallible but trustworthy, and mostly pretty likable, too, which makes this an easy book to enjoy at just the right time.

If you haven't found your Holiday Romance for the season yet, here's one to look for beneath the mistletoe. Find "I'll Get Back to You" and you'll like it a lot.



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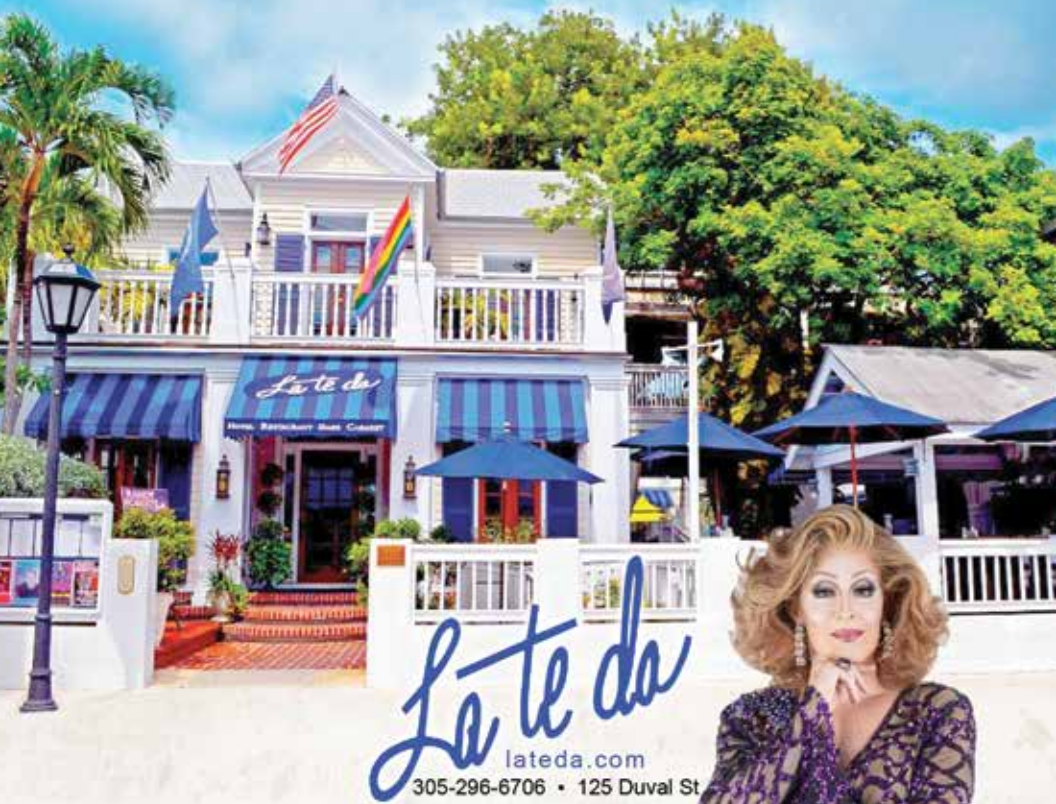
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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Loekle



SPIRIT ANIMAL

I was recently at a very LA cocktail party. The sort where white girls talk about how retrograde Mercury is and, "even though we're not supposed to appropriate cultures anymore, I still really think my Spirit Animal would be a dove." Usually, at these parties, I just drink heavily, take mental notes so I can mock these people later onstage, and occasionally entice their bored boyfriends/fiancés into the bathroom for a bump and a blowie. We all contribute to the cultural landscape in our own ways.

But during one of these spirited Spirit Animal chats, it got me thinking how we're the only species who actively daydreams about being other species. Many cultures have histories of personifying animals and of their own people describing themselves in the traits of other animals. Many of the zodiac signs are other species. Other than Gemini... which is just the sign of two mental patients rolled into one. Or Virgo, which is just a hippy prude, I guess? I don't know. I'm too busy believing in science.

But, the more I think about how we all cosplay some version of being other animals, the more I realize how much we quietly accept that humans, as a species, kind of suck. Sure, we've had some hits over the millennia. Benjamin Franklin, Dr. Maya Angelou... Cher. But there has also been about 100 billion of us lumbering around this space marble. So, we've definitely had more misses than hits.

You never see birds picking up dolls' clothes and a discarded pair of Margaritaville sunglasses and pretending to go to bottomless brunch. No. Birds are completely happy to just be birds. In fact, they have such disdain for humans, even for the ones who put feeders and houses out for them, that they can't help themselves from shitting on us as they soar overhead. Mocking us with their flight privileges.

You might be thinking to yourself, “but some primates mimic human behavior, Brad.” To which I would say, “you’re wrong.” And, “please don’t interrupt me again.” Primates are our closest relatives and so much of their behavior is their own... and we just still share enough family tree that some of our actions look alike. In fact, if anything, I think the primates are mocking us when they mimic us. We tap on the glass at the zoo and they tap back, thinking, “See? This is what you look like tapping on the glass of my prison house. I’m not a fish you fucking moron. Look at you and look at me and realize you all really didn’t evolve much, did you?” I mean, how can their feverish masturbation in public, coupled with them throwing their feces at children who walk past, not be them saying, “This is what you all look like to us! Just shit-spewing chronic masturbators in cargo shorts!”

The one curious exception to this, is the recent scientific observation that significant numbers of Pacific orcas have begun wearing dead salmon as hats. And as insane as that sentence is, what makes it even better is this not the first time this has been observed. Apparently, in the late 1980’s orcas also wore dead salmon as haberdashery. But that was the 80s, who wasn’t walking around with a salmon on their head?! I remember going to The Limelight in NYC wearing nothing but 300 Swedish Fish and a ring pop. It was a different time. Also, the orca don’t want to be the salmon. They’re just accessorizing.

So, in 2025, I’ve decided to accept the fact that, like it or not, I am a human being. I might wish I was a manatee and I might live like a wombat. But, at the end of the day, I’m a Mid-Century Homosexual Homosapien. And I’m just gonna have to make do with that.

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

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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

Drag Show at 9 PM

Back Bar

Movie Night at 8 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

WEDNESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Aqua

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Back Bar

*Watson Wednesday at 3 PM
Service Industry Night at 6 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

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 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

Happy Hour with Bria at 3 PM

Drag Shows at 7 PM and 9 PM

Karaoke at 11 PM

Back Bar

RuPaul Viewing Party at 8 PM

Birdcage Cabaret

Cabaret Show 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

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

Randy Roberts Live at 9 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

Kingdom at 7 PM

BirdDrop Open Mic Night at 8:30 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

In the Keys

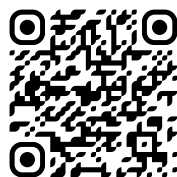
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ASK NANA

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Dear Nana,

I've gone on Ozempic to help me finally lose weight and hopefully keep it off. But my brother keeps telling me that I'm just one of those "lazy people who want a shortcut to their goals." He's always been very fit and works out and prides himself on that. I've always been the chubby one. Now I'm regretting even telling him about my choice. What can I do to put the genie back in the bottle?

First of all, your brother sounds like a prick. So don't worry that he got the "skinny genes" in the family because you clearly got the "I'm not a micro-penis-ed pig rectum" gene. So, you're doing just great, kid! If your brother is a bit of a bully like this... and plenty of us have relatives who are. I mean, I don't. One of the advantages to being ancient is all the assholes in my life turned ashes to ashes a long time ago! But, you're young. And, since you probably do love your brother, in spite of his lesser traits, let's not poison his pre-workout just yet. If he lives nearby, I'd take him on an overly long drive to somewhere you both are going. Take the route that has all the traffic and takes twice as long to get there. Then, during this long drive, while he bitches about how you're not taking the quickest, most efficient route to your destination... say, "Oh, so, you're fine with efficient shortcuts and quickest routes NOW. So, maybe shut your meat-face about my medical choices." No one's opinion on what you do with your body matters. Lots of people make health and fitness their whole personality and try to gate keep each and every path a person can take. They're just making other people's choices about themselves. You do you. You do what you want to and have to, to have the body and the life brings you joy and peace. It's 2025 and don't let anyone run their mouth about how you run your body, baby!

Dear Nana,

My mom has become a pretty big stoner since she retired. Should I be worried? It's not like she gets stoned and drives or lit the house on fire or anything. But I just worry that she's getting stoned most days, whereas when I was young and she was still working, she wouldn't even have a glass of wine with dinner. Should I be worried?

You should be worried. You should be worried that if you go up to your grown-ass mother, who raised you and paid for your entire existence until you were **AT LEAST 18**, and comment on how she chooses to enjoy her own retirement that your nosey, nelly ass might get written out of the will! That



woman pushed you out of her vagina (which you ruined by the way... you all ruin our vaginas and you never once apologize for it.) and then you tell me she didn't even have a glass of pinot grigio your whole childhood because, what? She was too busy being a good mother and a hard worker? She's smoking weed not meth, you prissy little prude. Do you have any idea how achy a woman's joints are after 65? No, you don't! We creak like screen door in a horror movie. Now, go apologize to your mother for wrecking her vagina, and help her open the tin of edibles.

DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY NOT LET NANA HELP YOU?!

Send your questions to: nana@keywestgayrag.com



IsLAND HouSe

HOT NAKED POOL PARTIES



HOT NAKED
WEDNESDAYS

5 - 8PM

(2-4-1 EXTENDED HAPPY HOURS)

HOT NAKED
SUNDAYS

12 - 4PM



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All gay, bi, trans, queer, + brothers welcome.

WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

Another birthday is here. At least you no longer need to worry about dying young.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

It's always a pleasure to see you.... go.....

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

It's 2025. It's time to replace that Grindr pic that you took with your flip phone.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

No one will ever ask if you've had plastic surgery. Surely no one would pay to look like that!

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

I'm not sure what's lower, your IQ or your credit score.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

Well, you've already ignored every one of your New Year's resolutions.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

Were your parents related?

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

No genius, Taco Bell is not the Mexican phone company.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

If you gain another pound, you're going to need to be weighed at a truck stop.

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

Whatever you use on your legs, you should use on your teeth to get them that white.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

You are the reason why we should have human shock collars.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

When your mom said, "Get a man that can cook," she didn't mean crack or meth.

blu Q

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