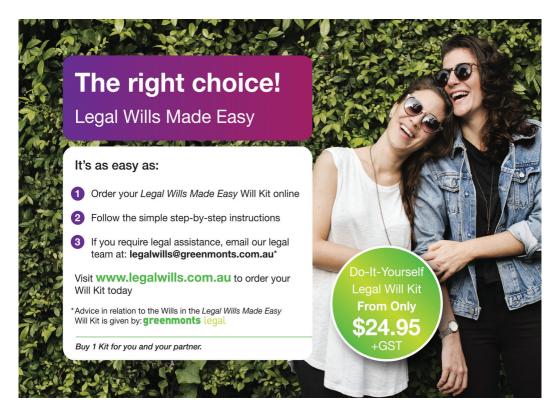


LGBTH | World | Lifestyle | Community SEPTEMBER 2023

featuring: HOUSE ON FIRE

from gay crooner john duff





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Publisher & Editor Brett Hayhoe +61 (0) 422 632 690 brett.hayhoe@qmagazine. com.au

Design Brett Hayhoe Designs & Graphics

Contributing Writers Brett Hayhoe, Gabriel Tabasco, Larry Olsen, Isabella Fels, Roxanne Calder, Dr. Brett Lillie

Cover picture
Gay crooner John Duff

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q feature: BURNING UP

Burning Up Hottie John Duff Fans the Flames in New Track, "House on Fire" By Larry Olsen

John Duff grew up in a suburb outside of Baltimore. After graduating college, he made his way to the bright lights of New York City, where he worked as an actor and partied for six years. He then moved west to Hollywood to pursue his artistic dreams. He has been in Los Angeles for six years and has released an EP, Homo•Sapien, and several hit tracks including the gay classics "Girly" – who can forget that hilarious video where he battled Bianco Del Rio? - and "High Heels."

His latest single, "House on Fire," is a breezy throwback track that seems to signify that romance is alive, however, in true John Duff fashion, there is a deeper message of concealed infatuation within. The singer dives into the song's creepy subject matter in its chilling music video.

We spoke with John Duff from his home in Los Angeles.



You wrote "House on Fire" about a man you went on a date with once that you fantasized was "the one". What was it about him that intrigued you so much?

John Duff: You know, the whole thing felt like some sort of kismet. I was at a friend's wedding in Tennessee. I left early and while walking back to my hotel, I stopped in at a club I had heard of. Upon entering, I was immediately drawn to this person. He seemed familiar, but was no one I knew. We acknowledged each other with glances and stares, as homosexuals do. I was by myself, and he was with a group. Unsure if any of those people were with him, I did a lap. We made eyes again, but no contact. So, I went home. I mayhave looked at some apps to see if he would magically appear on a grid, but he didn't. I woke up to a DM from him the day after. He had recognized me, but was too shy to approach me. We arranged to meet for dinner. I think when you meet someone on vacation, your walls come down a little faster. That's why they always go to like Fiji on The Bachelor. We talked about our views, goals, and plans - and had everything in common. It was all aligned. But alas, I flew home the next day.

You never saw him again?

John Duff: It was a geographic crisis. I think gunning for people who don't live in an accessible vicinity is a sign of unavailability, at least that's what my therapist says. So, though we texted and spoke for months, it was always compartmentalized as a fairy tale for me.

Does the wistful melody and string arrangement in "House on Fire" reflect your feelings for the crush?

John Duff: The song is definitively romantic. The lyric on its own is a desperate cry for movement, growth, connection, commitment. I wanted the ball to roll. I wanted it to snowball into an unshakeable love.

The video is pretty twisted, John.

John Duff: For me, everything creatively starts with: "you know, I've never seen anyone do _____ before" or "I haven't heard a song like ____ in a long time." When I create, it's always an attempt to fill a void. To paint with a palette that isn't currently in use. The "House of Fire" video

is a dramatic portrayal of a one-sided relationship. Essentially, this fairy tale guy was something of a prisoner in my mind; perhaps on his own volition, perhaps against his will. But who is the captive and who is the captor? Sure, the fantasy lived in my head but it also consumed me. So, as my production team and I began to treat the video, a lot unfolded and none of it was accidental. The antihero in the video, played by me, is more than meets the eye. To all of his viewers on the internet, he's perfect. He lives in a bright and colorful world and teaches people how to fix things. He's pretty. As we began to unpack this whole hostage thing, we realize it's rather



omnipresent. We've all kind of become unpaid-employees to the algorithm - and there is no end in sight.

Are we, the viewers, the doomed girl in the video, captive to social media?

John Duff: That's sort of how it feels sometimes, right? Like the only way out our current situation is to burn the whole system down. Hmm.

What are stories that appear on your social newsfeeds?

John Duff: A ton of Mariah Carey! So many people send me videos and memes of her, because of my first music video, "Girly". I guess that sort of triggered the algorithm into thinking that's all I care about. And to be honest, I don't help. I obviously watch all of the videos.

The TikTok dance that you do in the video is super catchy! What has been the response from fans? John Duff: Ya know, I'm a little bit of a troll, and my longtime followers get that. The people that have responded, love it and they get it. Most of my followers haven't acknowledge it though. They only like me when I'm naked.

I think we can agree that the fall of social media is inevitable. What are three things you would like to have handy when the house burns down around us all? John Duff: My faith in God, water, and music.

How would you like to be remembered?

John Duff: As a shiny object. As everyone here is aware, life is tough. So, I hope people recognize the strength and bravery it takes to have fun, to walk tall, and to put yourself out there. If nothing else, I'm great at that.

John Duff's "House on Fire" is available on Apple Music, Spotify, and all digital platforms. Its video is available on YouTube.

Follow John Duff on Facebook and Instagram @ iamjohnduff



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q life: with GABRIEL TABASCO

Nude Dudes Online
Part 1: Public Camera Shows

With the click of a button an array of men, of different body types, with cocks of different shapes and sizes could appear on your screen for your viewing pleasure. Another click and you could switch over and see more men in different sexual positions; bent over showing their hole, lying down with their erection in their hand, legs spread open ready to place a dildo in their ass. Another click and you could pay money for a private show.

People made money from this? I wondered when I first saw online camera shows. Then I signed up and did it myself. It was hundreds rather than thousands of dollars at best that was earned and any amount earned was possible only after spending a lot of time performing. I made sure not to come too soon and stayed well lubricated. The website MuchMen.com catered to different tastes and styles of men and therefore there were different performances from men.

One young man, a smooth, not-so-lean, 19-year old, from Venezuela dressed up as a bunny-boy, wearing a golden thong. He was on camera shaking his bubble-butt for the aroused virtual masses. Men were asking him to remove his thong and bend over to reveal his smooth butt-hole but he never did. His 20-minute show consisted of mainly dancing around.

There was a German man from Berlin who went by the name of Sk-gay-ter-boy. His camera was elevated and so viewers got a full shot of his body as he lay on his sofa in his living room wearing only trainers. At every show he would be wearing a different pair of trainers. His legs were slightly open, allowing viewers to see his balls hang into his perineum. Occasionally his asshole would be visible as he masturbated. On one of his most popular shows he had one man give him a blowjob and finger his hole.

On another channel one well-built Romanian man was lying on his bed with his legs open as he played with his penis for the world to see. On one occasion he was online, performing (if jerking off online can be called a performance) for seven hours. In order to encourage 'performers' to have more audacious shows, viewers were encouraged to pay tips. On that seven-hour occasion, the Romanian man had made just US \$17.00. He wrote in the comment box '\$17 for 7 hours?

Come on guys, tip me!' As he lay back to spread his legs open exposing his smooth, waxed asshole which contracted with pleasure, one man wrote 'no cash, so give it up dude.' He remained ever popular even though he made hardly any cash after being online for so many hours. He put his legs into a spread-eagle position and that saw him gain 30 new viewers. None of who tipped a penny. By the eighth hour he logged off having made US \$20. He was back two days later with a three-hour show that earned him US \$42, most likely by using some of his popular spread-eagle moves.

The site had a variety of men, some a stunning as models and some as average as Joe. The model-like men, some of which included porn stars who wanted to make some extra cash, were always a turn-on and drew in the viewers. But it was the Average Joes that were big hits. People wanted to see normal-looking men perform. The most unlikely, unsung, and in some cases unhung, performers drew in many viewers.

Audiences were captivated with a dark, incredibly hairy, Swiss-Arab man with glasses, who sat on his bed stroking his dick. A plump German 21-year old who was chatting and masturbating was also a hit one night. There was a tall man who could self-suck. He was number one in terms of viewers that night. But then again anyone who would self-suck would be the main attraction. It was only a matter of time before I became a camera performer, more for fun, than for the money. Part of what I enjoyed while performing for a public rather than a private audience were people's comments. As I would lie on my sofa, my legs apart as I played with my cock, I would simultaneously see people's comments and occasionally have a conversation with some.

Bestpeeper: He is jerking off so much so he looses weight lol. Cockphilly: Love to have those balls slapping against my nose.

Pierre1944: Come time now... Otchatte: Love big balls.

Kevinkxxx: Gracias lindo por ese espectaculo. (Thanks for this beautiful spectacle).

Durarete68: Let me suck your balls and lick your ass.

The popularity of online porn has given rise to the amateur porn industry, which has become a porn genre in its own right. Some men shun the perfect bodies of the porn stars, with big dicks, perfect pectorals and a butthole without a stray hair on it and prefer amateur porn. Thousands of sites have emerged dedicated to the nitty-gritty feel of amateur porn. Porn featuring men with pot bellies masturbating on their beds, or trashy men sucking each other of. But then the porn had evolved a step further, which has come to include live and public camera shows, both paid and then it was free.

I signed up to a number of websites that broadcast your sex show to whoever wanted to watch. My favourite one was MuchMen.com. I was into rowing and was often the Cox, the person that gives directions on the row boat, so I chose the nickname KissMyCox, which had a double meaning, since cox also sound like cocks.

I had never intended to become a camera show model and without knowing I had already performed on shows before. One evening, when I was 20 years old, I was jerking off to porn. I heard a ping come from a video chat application from Niko, a man I hooked up with. He typed 'hey, what's up?'



'Dude, I'm jerking off' I said.

'Oh ok...'

And then I added 'want to see?'

'I got a friend here' he typed 'maybe you don't want to show.'

'Ok for me if you want to watch' I said.

Moments later, with a click of a button Niko appeared on screen with a friend sitting beside him. I could see Niko clearly but his from was shy and refused to show his face, although I recognized him as the barman from the gay bar in Niko's town.

I sat there on my sofa as I jerked off and chatted to them until I came. Afterwards, having seen the show the two men got up and went out to dinner as planned, a little later than expected, but in a better mood.

'Did your friend like the show?' I asked Niko days later.

'He did. But he wondered how you were so comfortable sitting there naked showing everything off for us!

'Because it's fun' I said 'and I enjoy it.'

Welcome to the world of live porn Where everyone logs of to watch you perform Better make it an entertaining show And you might just become a camera show pro

q fashion: yd FORMAL WEAR

Get ready for an unforgettable night out in Melbourne as yd., the iconic fashion brand, plants live photographers along the world-famous AC/DC Lane on Friday, September 22nd.

Snapping candid shots of night-goers as they paint the town red, yd.'s team of roving photographers will be on the move through AC/DC Lane and Melbourne Central from 5pm to 9pm, embarking on a mission to capture the unforgettable moments that define Melbourne's after-dark culture.

The images will then be showcased on a blank billboard in AC/DC Lane, creating an interactive visual collage that brings the city's energy to life. The billboards will come alive with images, instantly printed and pinned for all to see.

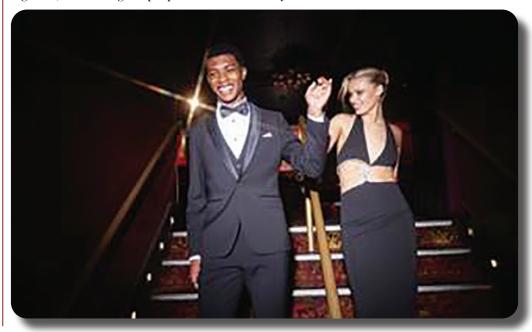
Participants are encouraged to then head down to the lane's billboards to see themselves as the face of the city. The subject of one lucky photograph will be awarded a generous \$1000 yd. voucher, along with an exclusive complimentary Bar Bambi experience.

Melburnians will also receive a complimentary \$25 yd. voucher, ensuring that everyone can enjoy a slice of the experience and gear up for their next weekend adventure in style.

The next morning, yd. will reimagine the night's moments on the billboards, creating a visual storyboard chronicling Melbourne's dynamic nightlife that will live in the lane during the upcoming week.

Jeremy Taylor, Head Of Marketing and Creative, yd. Australia, said Melbourne's nightlife is the beating heart of the city.

"Our aim is to capture that heartbeat through the eyes of the people who make it come alive," he said. "Our event aims to create an interactive canvas that encapsulates the spirit of Melbourne's nightlife, showcasing the people who make this city come alive after dark."





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- EQUIP YOURSELF TO NAVIGATE THE WORLD OF BEER -

Mick Wüst

q opinion: SEXY GAY GUYS

SEXY GAY GUYS (BY ISABELLA FELS)

I must admit I have always had a soft spot for gay guys and not just the long gone gorgeous George Michael and sexy Freddy Mercury. They tend to look and act much nicer than some of the bad men that I have encountered. They do not expect me to look like ten out of ten which puts a lot of pressure on me. They are beautiful on the inside and outside. What's more they often do not have a pot and if they do they do something about it. They also tend to dress beautifully.

Gay guys to me are real snags and not gas bags like some of the bad men that I have been involved with. As they tag along like a faithful puppy they are my true friends. They symbolize

everything special to me about the male race. They are like graceful sexy male ballerinas and even role models. Inside and out I prefer them and get along miles better with them than some of the self-centred bastards I have had who only care about cars and football. With these bad men I have

been beside



myself and sunk very low. Gay guys instead make me feel special and put me on a pedestal. I feel much happier and more comfortable in their presence.

On the whole I admire them for looking after their appearance from top to toe. From full tousled sexy hair and delightfully fruity aftershave to neatly trimmed toenails and pretty feet they don't miss a single thing. They tend to come across much better in the looks department too compared to some of the grubs I have had who put no care in their appearance.

I really dig the way many gay guys look. They really nail it. They go to a lot more effort especially in the gym and it shows. They often sport a great six pack and don't fail with their diets eating junk food in front of the television like some of the slobs watching ninja warriors. They also are not pigs and I don't mean just eating like pigs.

What's more, they often don't have sagging boobs or stomachs and worse of all bad characters. Gay guys often show a much more caring side. Life means much more to them than having a beer at the pub with all their mates. I never stew or despair over the gay guys like I do over some of the uncaring guys I have had.

Gay guys give much more than a damn and I don't mean just wham damn thankyou ma'am. They tend to show much more heart when my life is falling apart from a bad relationship to missing out on the ultimate job of my dreams. They really put themselves in my shoes and don't just give me the boot like many bastards have done.

With some straight guys I only get as far as a head job. It is not their main job to look after me. I have to fetch and carry after them without any thanks or praise. However gay guys give me both a shoulder and a great bicep to lean on in the hardest of times. They really listen to me and show much more empathy having suffered so much due to their differing sexuality.



Again, I love the way how they are much more meticulous with their appearance. They are not rough around the edges with overgrown beards and straggly sideburns like some of the rough men that I have been with. They go to great lengths in getting rid of all their stray hairs and blemishes. They also help me look my best too giving me great advice about the best beauticians to go to as well as the best places to shop. This turns me into a proud new woman.

Often with many gay guys we make quite a pair. I love showing them off to important people in fancy dinner parties and events especially when they dress with flair.

With them above all I almost forget their sexuality. They really come down to my level and go much further than just showing superficial good looks and great fashion sense. Because they have suffered so much from being misunderstood, I can go deeper with them about my sad lot in life from having a prettier more successful sister to not having a regular job.

Above all gays don't just give me full lip service and tip me off balance like the real bastards. They comfort me and protect me. They give me all their heart and help me stand proudly apart.





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q advice: AVOIDING BAD DECISIONS

5 self-sabotaging career moves and how to avoid them

The employment landscape is perfectly poised to deliver the job of your dreams. Vocational aspirations that were previous whimsical wishes are there for the taking. As for career advancements and promotions, the ones you thought were years away, they are being offered swiftly and aplenty.



The research backs up if you are unbelieving, which may be the first indicator of a self-sabotage manoeuvre. A recent US survey showed 63% received a promotion in the past two years, and to support employee ambitions, nearly 50% of companies were spending more on upskilling in 2022. It is the Halley's comet of career opportunity, and you can thank our global skills shortage and nearfull unemployment levels.

Yet, here we are, the era of the empowered employee and still limiting ourselves with self-sabotaging career moves. These ones, though, are oh-so pandemic-specific:

1) Better the job you know. It's just too risky right now to change jobs, companies, industries, or take a promotion. With rising interest rates and cost of living altitude high, it is far better to have the security of the job, company, and boss, you know. What if it doesn't work out? You have the responsibility for your family and the mortgage to consider. People are relying on you.

But what if it does work out? There is no guarantee in life or ideal order. Every economic environment has its own set of external risks and forces. Hark back to high unemployment with the surplus of jobseekers, and it is a riskier proposition as your position is tout de suite replaceable.

2) Working from home. 'I get more work done'. This may be true, but work from home more than one to two days a week, and you play career roulette. Simply put, you are not seen enough. Those opportunities to shine through sharing ideas, brainstorming, and problem-solving are lost. So, too, are precious relationship and trust-building moments. Those social interactions with colleagues contribute to your performance.

The in-office experience of learning by osmosis cannot be underestimated when starting a new job. Nor the cultural interaction and engagement that all play a part, increasing your chance of success.

3) I'm just not ready. Or perhaps you need more training, mentoring, upskilling, and another 6 months on the job? You say all the despite your manager putting you forward and believing in you. In the most perfect of times, we are rarely ready.

The beauty of this particular time is that employers are acutely aware of the training needs to upskill their employees. Managers know they need to be patient and supportive. Equally, they are looking to their employees to have the stamina, resilience, and application to make themselves 'be ready.'

4) Boundaries. The gift of the pandemic is we all got better at saying- no. It was a long time coming, and our work environments and organisational culture are better for it. But boundaries are not static. They need constant review and readjustment per accordance with the shifts of the greater environment.

Your 'no's' may be stopping you from learning opportunities, causing career stagnation. It might also retard team connection and collaboration and blocking the yeses coming through from your manager and peers.

5) Quiet quitting. You are doing your job, and that's it; there is no 'going the extra mile.' Originally, quiet quitting was a term used to protest China's prominent culture of overworking. It has since morphed into a Western workplace behaviour.

COVID-19 taught us to stand up for our workplace rights. It was a long time coming and a valuable shake to the status quo. But what are the circumstances of your quiet quitting? Is it based on overwork and rights or simply belligerence in not wanting to extend yourself? If the mantra is, 'I am not appreciated, so I won't do more,' it is pretty much assured- you won't be appreciated.

For the most part, we don't realise when we are career self-sabotaging. It parades as our saviour, providing 'sound advice' to protect. It is our inner voice, nurturing and feeding self-doubt and crushing self-confidence. In many cases, self-destructive behaviour like career self-sabotage is rooted in anxiety. Who can blame us? After experiencing heightened apprehension, concern and even fear in the last few years, a self-protection mechanism is warranted.

Just not this one. At its core, self-sabotage is the pattern of repeating unhealthy behaviour—preventing us from making the changes required to reach our goals. If nothing else is assured, survival in today's new world requires embracing change. Succumbing to career self-sabotage will almost certainly mean sabotage in other parts of your life.

Roxanne Calder, author of 'Employable - 7 Attributes to Assuring Your Working Future' (Major Street \$29.95), is the founder and managing director of EST10 - one of Sydney's most successful administration recruitment agencies. Roxanne is passionate about uncovering people's potential and watching their careers soar. For more information on how Roxanne can assist you in your career visit www.est10.com.au

GIVE YOUR WORD. PROMISE TO STAND UP AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, TRANSPHOBIA & BIPHOBIA. ALWAYS.

q health: A 10 STEP PROCESS

The 10 step process to get moving and keep moving for a healthier you

Looking at the research, especially around longevity, the answer to a healthier you lies in the way we live. It's really about the choices we make every day and the little things we do that accumulate to form the larger picture.

If we look around, our lifestyles are full and quite sedentary. We run busy schedules, we work long hours and have many commitments that leave us with little to no time to be active. We spend all day at a desk to then go home and relax, sitting some more, this time on the couch.

We need to move more. It is really that simple. Life quality goes hand in hand with being (and keeping) active. When I work with my clients to help them uncover their inner athlete, I follow a 10 step process that helps them shift perspective and move from a short term fix to a framework that lasts the test of time. At the heart of this process is the belief that everyone can learn these steps and create their very own formula, embracing what works for them and them alone. I et's take a look:



1) Rediscover

Think back to a time when being active was second nature to you, something you would just do. Follow the

clues that lit you up to understand where your passions lie. Your past is the teacher that can help you rekindle your love of movement.

2) Driving Forces

Your beliefs, your values as well as those little things that warm your heart and make you smile carry great power and meaning. They can ignite a spark in you so use them to drive change.

3) Athletic Mindset

What goes on between your ears is the difference between being active and letting gravity pull you back down to the couch. Look at your mindset, the way you talk to yourself and the questions you ask. The aim is to remove internal hurdles to help you stay on track.

4) Your Why

Think of who you want to become and why. Your why will give you strong roots to weather the storms and a reason to keep moving.

5) Realistic Goals

When you work towards a realistic goal you automatically bring order into your life. Structure fosters change and tightens our priorities.

6) Energy Boost

To bring about change you require energy. There are 5 elements you can tweak (one at a time and gradually) to boost your energy: food, sleep, breath work, timing and movement.

7) Maximum performance

It takes time to develop the skills that go hand in hand with an active lifestyle. The secret is to make your movement incremental, follow your pace (slow burn it) and be deliberate in what you do.

8) Rituals and routines

How you greet the morning determines the flavour of every day. Slowly build habits that keep you hungry for more and align with the person you want to become.

9) Recognise Progress

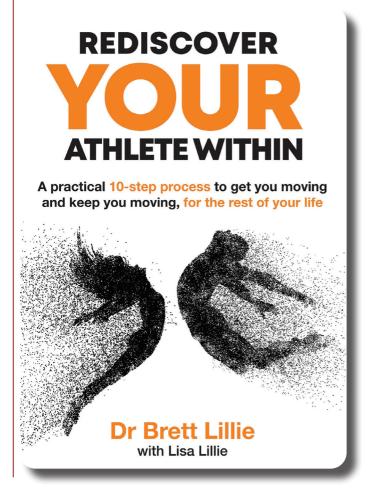
Recognising your progress helps you shift perspective and understand that every journey has its setbacks. In life's transitions you are still moving forward and your focus is now the long game.

10) Celebrate the Wins

Take time to pat yourself on the back, celebrate you and how far you've come. Lightness and laughter are key ingredients in building momentum.

There will be bumps along the way. Nothing is a straight line. Moving challenges every aspect of your being: the physical, the emotional and the cognitive. But to make the change you have all you need inside of you. Enjoy the ripple effects that moment brings into your life. Be playful, creative and make it your own.

Dr Brett Lillie, author of Rediscover Your Athlete Within, is a sought-after speaker, coach and rehab professional who helps people rekindle their love for movement and find their mojo so they can live their best life. To find out more about Dr Brett's programs, go to his website www.brettlillie.com







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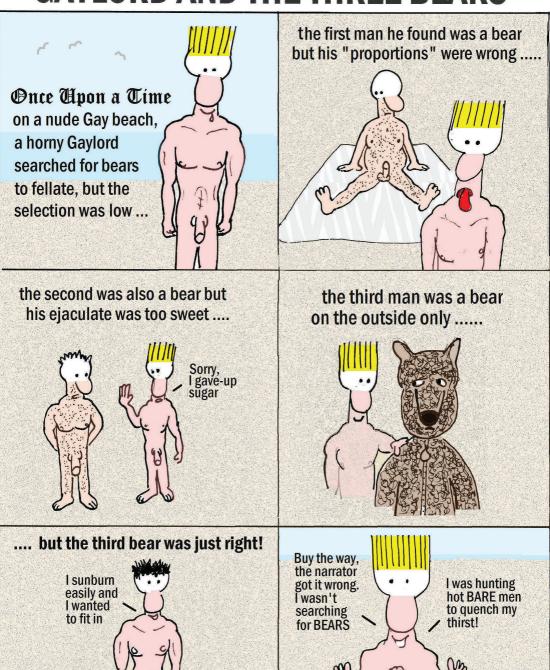
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