

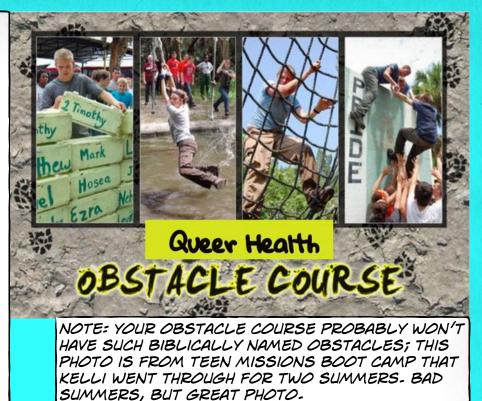


IT'S BASICALLY A HIGH STAKES FUCKED UP OBSTACLE COURSE.

THE MORE YOU'RE SUBJECT TO

HOMOPHOBIA TRANSPHOBIA RACISM HETEROSEXISM ABLEISM

THE MORE OBSTACLES YOU HAVE TO OVERCOME TO GET GOOD HEALTH CARE.



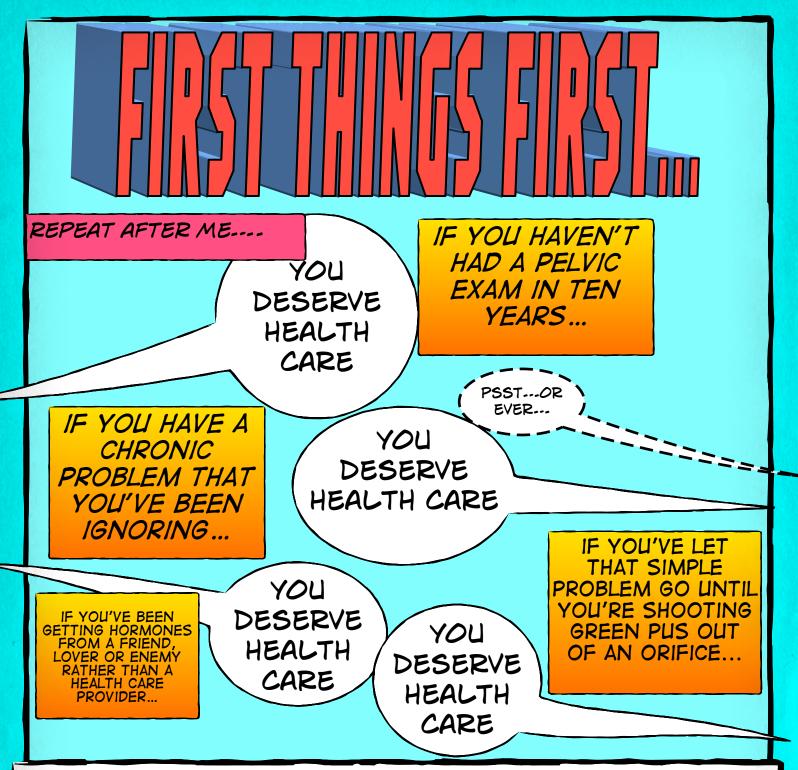
SO TO PUT IT ALL TOGETHER:

YOU WILL PROBABLY NEED HEALTHCARE BEFORE YOU CAN ACHIEVE THIS 100 PERCENT BODY LOVE BUSINESS.

IT MAKES SENSE TO TURN TO YOUR COMMUNITY TO HELP YOU ALONG THE WAY! (THAT'S THE BRAINSTORMING BUSINESS)

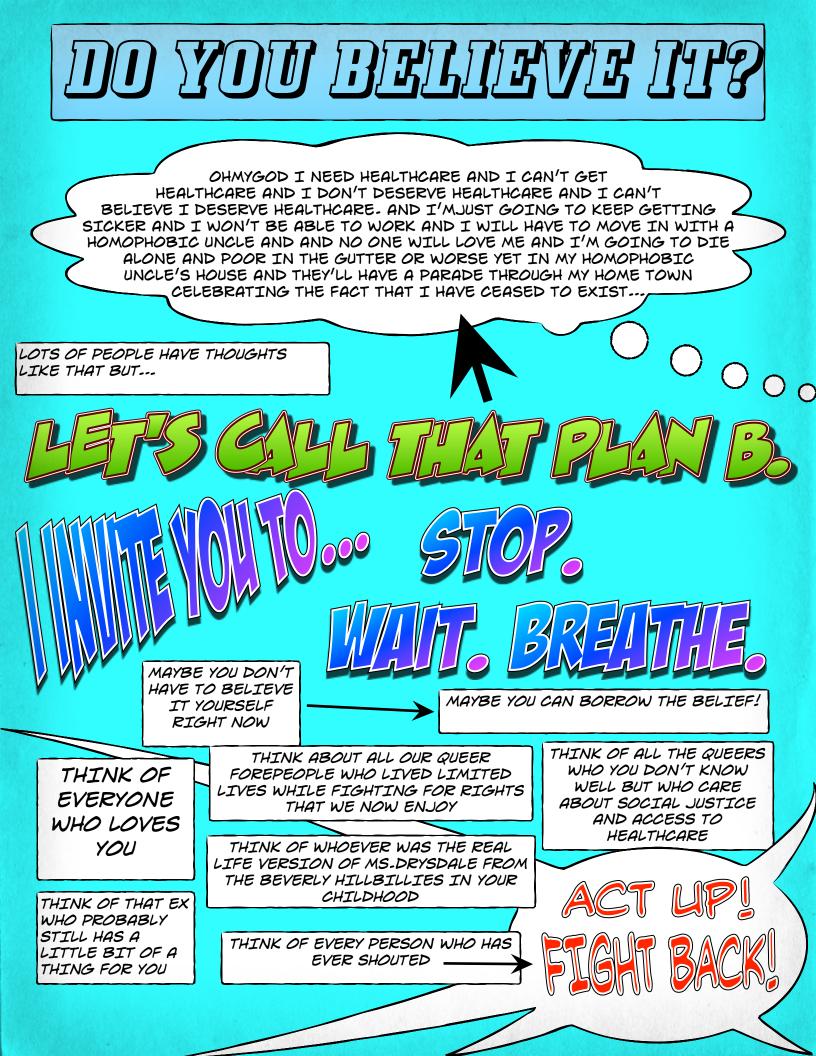
AND WHAT FOLLOWS ARE TIPS, TRICKS AND CREATIVE TECHNIQUES TO HELP YOU MAKE THAT HAPPEN. (THAT'S THE WORKAROUND BUSINESS)





IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU LOVE YOUR BODY, OR HATE IT, WHETHER YOU EAT ONLY KALE AND PROTEIN DRINKS OR LIVE ON CHEETOS AND MOUNTAIN DEW. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU JUST INJECTED CRYSTAL METH DIRECTLY INTO YOUR NECK OR PERFORMED YOUR OWN TOP SURGERY WITH THINGS YOU FOUND AROUND THE HOUSE...





IMAGINE US ALL HANGING OUT TOGETHER IN SOME BIG HUGE QUEER MESSY GROUP, SCRAPPING AND FIGHTING ABOUT LANGUAGE AND TRIGGER WARNINGS AND ALCOHOL SPONSORS AT PRIDE AND WHETHER MULLETS ARE FASHIONABLE OR IRONICALLY FASHIONABLE AND EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF BEAST CAN ACTUALLY BE CALLED AN EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL, BUT STOPPING IT FOR A MOMENT TO LOOK IN YOUR EYES AND SAY WITH ALL OF OUR RAINBOW TINTED HEARTS.....



WHY ALL THE FUSS ABOUT BELIEVING YOU DESERVE HEALTHCARE? WELL....THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM (AT LEAST IN THE US) IS DESIGNED WITH CERTAIN PRIORITIES: PROFIT OR RESEARCH OR TRAINING HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS OR PROVIDER CONVENIENCE OR KEEPING THE INSURANCE SYSTEM GOING

SO WHILE THERE ARE MANY DECENT FOLKS WORKING IN HEALTHCARE, THE SYSTEM IS NOT ACTUALLY DESIGNED TO GIVE UP GOOD CARE WITHOUT SOME SELF ADVOCACY ON THE CONSUMER SIDE.

SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT ... IT'S EASIER IF YOU BELIEVE IN WHAT YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR, YKNOW?



SO IF YOU NEED HEALTHCARE AND ARE STRUGGLING TO GET IT, HERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT HAVE WORKED FOR OTHER FOLKS WHO ARE STRUGGLING IN SIMILAR WAYS....

UNCLE KELLI SAYS

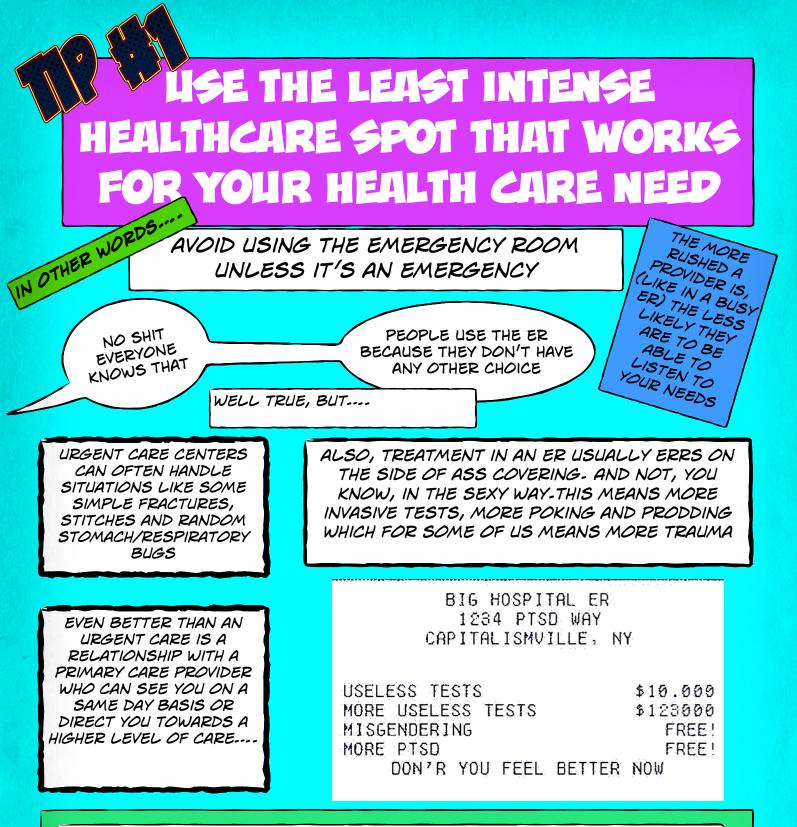


ALL THESE SUGGESTIONS WERE MADE BY QUEER/ TRANS/ LGBT IDENTIFIED PEOPLE BECAUSE THE TIP/TACTIC WORKED FOR THEM OR SOMEONE THEY LOVE

NOT EVERY TIP/TACTIC WILL WORK FOR EVERY PERSON, BUT HOPEFULLY YOU WILL FIND SOMETHING THAT MIGHT HELP YOU.

AND THESE TIPS... NO ONE IS SAYING IT WILL MAKE GETTING HEALTH CARE EASY.

WE KNOW IT'S A FIGHT! WE JUST WANT YOU TO HAVE MORE WEAPONS IN YOUR ARSENAL!



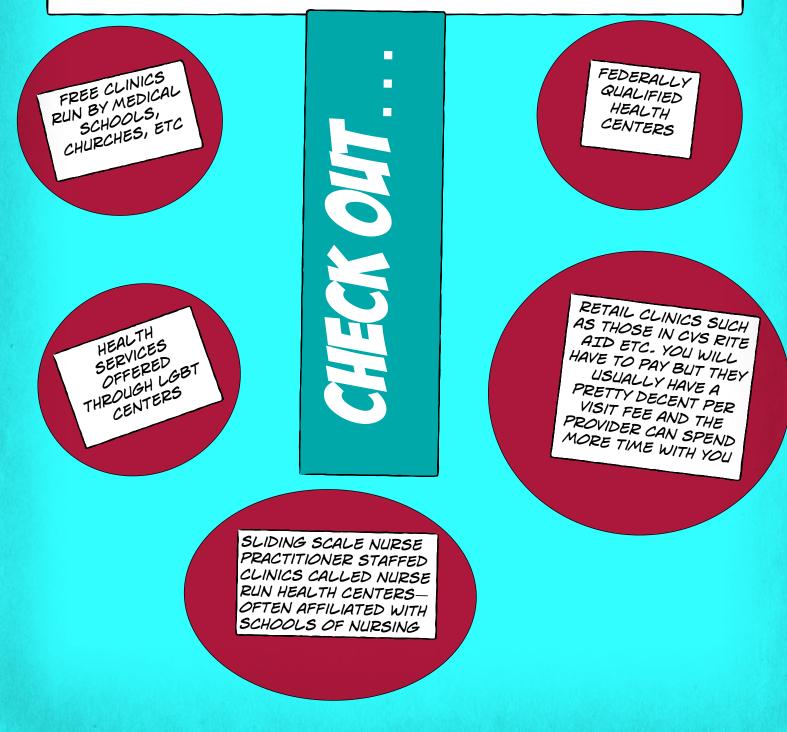
EMERGENCY ROOMS DO HAVE A LEGAL OBLIGATION TO SEE YOU

BECAUSE OF THE 1986 EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND LABOR ACT (EMTALA), ANY HOSPITAL THAT TAKES MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT (WHICH IS ALMOST EVERY HOSPITAL) IS REQUIRED TO SCREEN, STABILIZE AND/OR TRANSFER ANY PATIENT WHO ARRIVES AT THE EMERGENCY ROOM WITH A POTENTIALLY EMERGENCY-ISH SITUATION.

BUT AGAIN, SOMETIMES THERE REALLY ARE OTHER OPTIONS

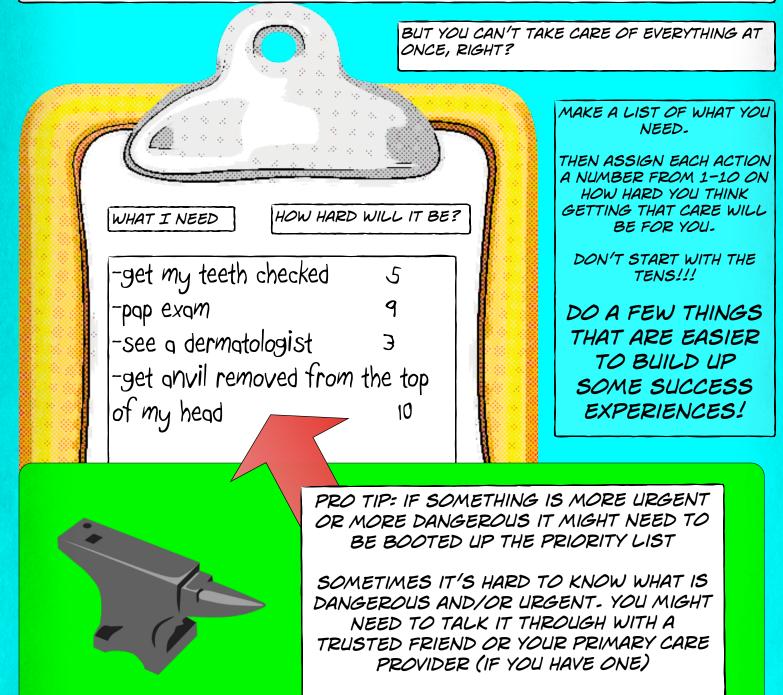
IT MIGHT NOT SEEM LIKE THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES TO THE ER, BUT SOMETIMES THERE ARE

SO IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SITUATION BUT YOU DO HAVE AN EMERGENCY I-CAN'T-PAY-FOR-IT-BECAUSE-I-AM-NOT-INSURED-SITUATION WHAT CAN YOU DO? WHAT OTHER OPTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE DEPENDS ON YOUR GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION BUT HERE ARE SOME POSSIBILITIES:





IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ACCESS HEALTHCARE IN A WHILE YOU MAY HAVE A BUNCH OF DIFFERENCE ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN CARE OF





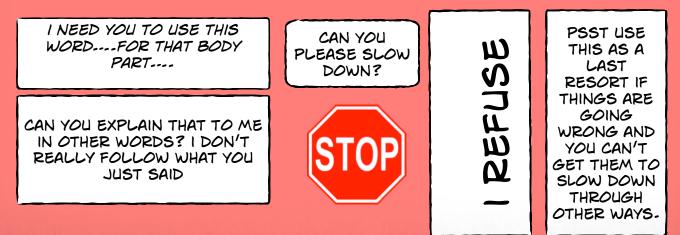
RUN THE DRILLS

IN ALMOST ALL OF OUR PEALINGS WITH THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, WE'RE PEALING IN SITUATIONS IN WHICH PROVIDERS HAVE A TON OF UNEARNED POWER. PRACTICE PHRASES THAT YOU CAN USE TO

SLOW DOWN

WHATEVER IS HAPPENING AND GIVE YOU TIME TO EXPRESS YOUR NEEDS. YOU WILL HAVE SOME OF YOUR OWN TO ADD, BUT SOME POSSIBLY HELPFUL PHRASES MIGHT INCLUDE...





MAKE IT A TEAM SPORT



WHAT CAN A HEALTHCARE BUDDY DO?

HELP YOU CRAFT A "TAKING CARE OF BODY BUSINESS" PLAN

GO WITH YOU TO APPOINTMENTS

HELP YOU SPEAK TO THE PROVIDER

TALK WITH YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE GETTING SOMETHING PAID FOR

ENCOURAGE YOU WITH SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION TO SEE WHO CAN (FOR EXAMPLE) GO TO THE DENTIST FIRST, ETC.

TROUBLESHOOT WITH YOU WHEN AN ENCOUNTER IS GOING POORLY

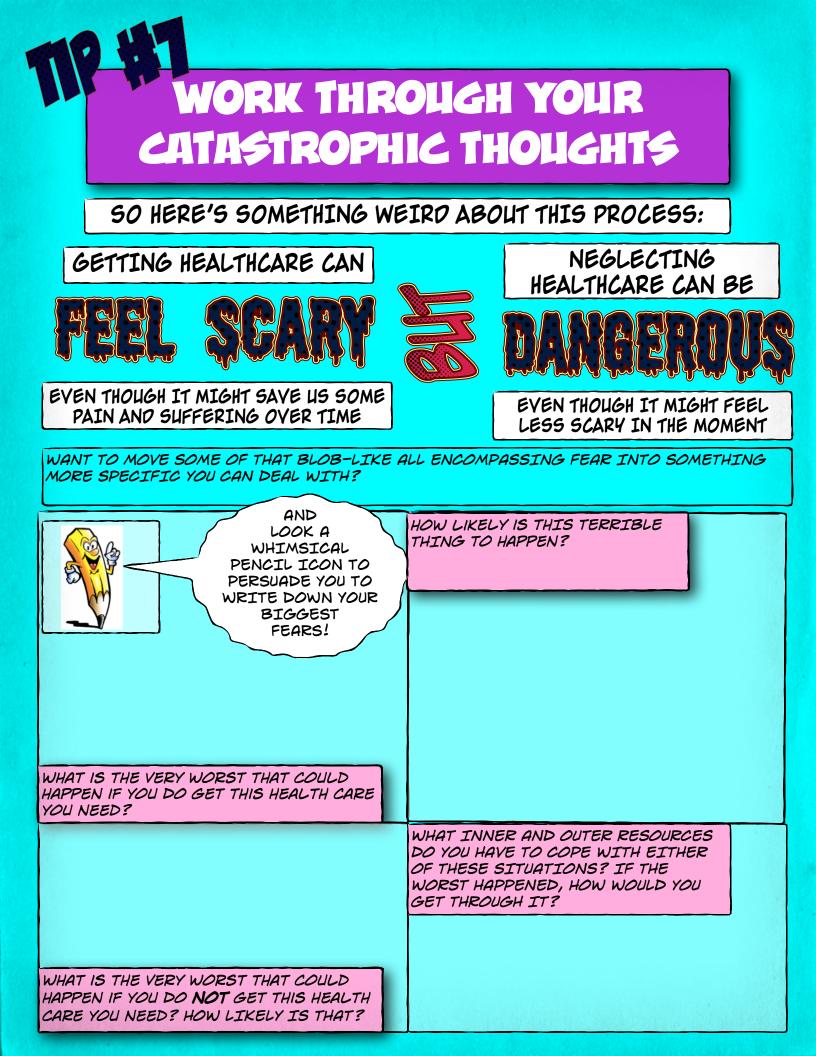
BE YOUR HEALTH CARE PROXY

HELP YOU FIND A PROVIDER WHO MEETS YOUR NEEDS

DISTRACT YOU WHILE YOU ARE WAITING

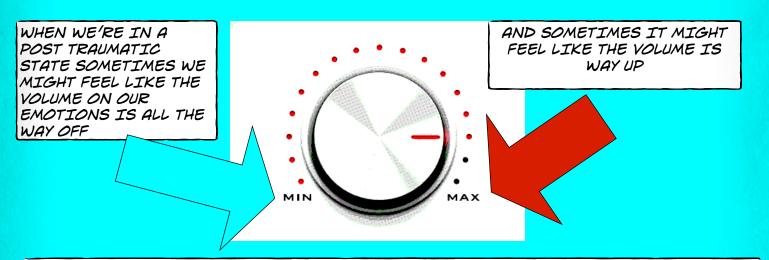
YOUR HEALTHCARE BUDDY DOESN'T NEED TO BE YOUR BEST FRIEND OR YOUR PARTNER.-SOMETIMES ADDING EMOTIONAL INTIMACY AND WORRY TO THE HEALTHCARE SITUATION MAKES THE HEALTHCARE ENCOUNTER HARDER. SOME FOLKS FIND MUTUAL HEALTHCARE BUDDIES TO WORK REALLY WELL. YOU CAN GO WITH THEM TO THEIR APPOINTMENTS, THEY CAN GO WITH YOU TO YOURS.--







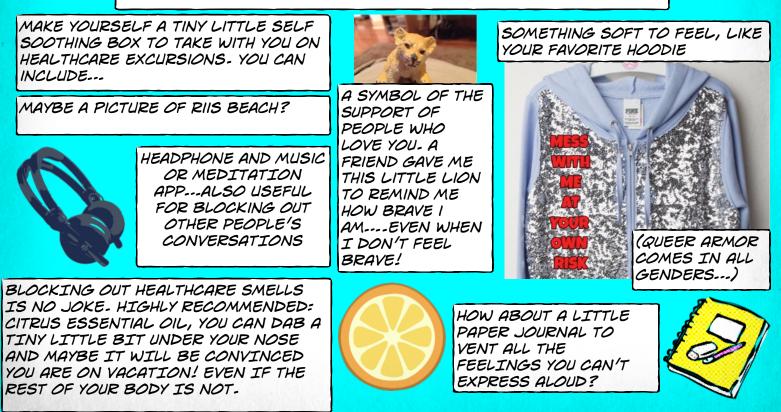
SOMETIMES PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN TRAUMATIZED HAVE TROUBLE MODULATING THEIR AFFECT (IN OTHER WORDS WE STRUGGLE WITH SELF SOOTHING)



IF WE WALK INTO A SITUATION (LIKE A PROVIDER'S OFFICE) WITH OUR FEELINGS VOLUME ALREADY SET AT AN 8 OR 9, THE FIRST BIT OF NONSENSE CAN PUT US TO A 10. THAT'S NEVER FUN. FOR ANYONE INVOLVED.



IS THE WAY TO LOWER THE VOLUME THROUGH OUR FIVE SENSES





STORE THE FEELING OF THIS SUCCESS WAY DEEP DOWN SO WHEN THE NEXT HEALTH CARE CHALLENGE COMES UP YOU'RE REMINDED "IT MIGHT BE HARD BUT I CAN DO IT, I GOT THIS"

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

KELLI DUNHAM IS THE EX NUN GENDERQUEER NURSE STORYTELLING COMIC SO COMMON IN MODERN BROOKLYN- KELLI HAS APPEARED ON SHOWTIME AND THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL AND NATIONWIDE AT PRIDES, COLLEGES, FUNDRAISERS, LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS- KELLI IS THE AUTHOR OF SEVEN BOOKS OF HUMOROUS NONFICTION, THE CO-FOUNDER OF QUEER MEMOIR, NYC'S OLDEST LGBT STORYTELLING SHOW AND THE FOUNDER OF ORGAN RECITAL: AN ANNUAL WEEKLONG FESTIVAL OF STORIES ABOUT BODIES, HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE. FIND KELLI ON TWITTER, FB, IG AND AT KELLIDUNHAM.COM



THIS IS THE SECOND EDITION, WHAT SHOULD WE ADD TO THE THIRD? SEND CONTENT SUGGESTIONS TO KELLIDUNHAM@GMAIL.COM (ALL TYPOS WERE LEFT IN TO KEEP THE VIRGOS HAPPY, DON'T NEED TO EMAIL ABOUT THOSE!)