

DON'T LABEL IT!

a glbt magazine for everybody
February 2010

EMOTIONS vs PROCEDURE



The Eagle story that never hit the streets...

Also this issue:

Oscar Bound: Jason Reitman's UP IN THE AIR

What would Nicolette Grant do?

with an expanded length

text messages from hell

EMOTIONS vs PROCEDURE

The Eagle story that never hit the streets...

To ignore the gay media goings on of the last few months here in Atlanta would be impossible. Gay news newbies became the news! The outlets that reported on the saga published true and untrue things while the real action took place on their comment boards. It was quite a feeding frenzy.

But amidst some very shady dealings by the publishers of **ATL Free Press**, my brief former employer, a chapter in what I consider to be the most important story continually unfolding in our glbt community got lost. Go ahead and google the gossip, but please give attention to this omitted installment. I feel the nuances of what took place January 12 at the Atlanta City Council's *Public Safety and Legal Administration Committee* are telling and deserve a chance to resonate; so they will here.

EMOTIONS VS PROCEDURE: *Apology to Eagle Fails to Pass*

By Xanna Don't

Photos by Loren Hoffman

At a meeting on January 12 of the Atlanta City Council's *Public Safety and Legal Administration Committee*, a resolution "directing the City of Atlanta to apologize to the patrons and employees of the Atlanta Eagle for the alleged violations of Human and Civil Rights suffered as a result of a police raid carried out on September 10, 2009," was ultimately held in committee for a later date. Michael Julian Bond, the councilmember who had proposed it, was in attendance and introduced the evolution of the matter before the committee.

Bond said he attended a protest rally against the Atlanta Police Department's (APD) treatment of patrons during the raid at the Eagle before he was elected to office and personally went to the nightclub after his election and sang karaoke.

At that time, Bond says, "I committed to present [this resolution] at the first city council meeting."

On January 4, he did just that.

However, upon later hearing of civil litigation pending in federal court against the City by 22 of the 62 patrons who were reportedly illegally detained, searched, and abused by APD, even he has decided it should not move forward.



"I implore to hold the resolution," he stated before the committee.

Before Bond clarified his position, councilmember C.T. Martin of District 10 asked any lawyers for the city to distinguish themselves and posed a status inquiry.

"Regarding the incident... [it is] in very early stages of litigation," said Amber Robinson after identifying herself as an Assistant City Attorney.

But her statement needed further clarification, because there are two court cases involving events at the Eagle on September 10. Her statement referred to the civil class action lawsuit.

"The criminal matter is still ongoing," she then offered as she returned to her front row seat next to City Attorney, Jerry DeLoach.

The criminal case against the Eagle 8, as they've become known in Atlanta's gay community, currently consists of vaguely defined nightclub violations against four dancers clad in their underwear and four employees. It is set for trial on March 11.

The floor was opened to public comments, and Matthew Cardinale used part of his turn at the microphone to quell further confusion, stating that he had invited Bond to the Eagle after his election and that he thought the proposed resolution would be to recommend dismissal of the criminal charges against the Eagle 8.

"Apology language was added later," he stated, asking for an amendment to strike it and instead address the criminal charges.

Chris Lopez, an Eagle 8 defendant, continued this petition, pointing out that all eight were served with the exact same ticket that night: "operating a business without a proper license," despite the fact that he was simply bartending.

Lopez expressed his disgust over "the expense that the city has gone through to arrest me for bartending," and then cited the still incomplete case of John Henderson, a bartender murdered at The Standard in Grant Park as a better focus for investigative resources.

The most emotional commentary of the session came from Robert "Robby" Kelley, co-owner of the Eagle and an Eagle 8 defendant. After thanking councilmember Bond and jovially complimenting his rendition of *The Love Boat* theme song at karaoke, he recounted some of the events of raid. They included the assault of a deaf customer, the invasion of a private residence upstairs from the bar and, stepping away from the microphone, Kelley physically mimicked with a kicking motion how a Red Dog Unit police officer put his foot down on the neck of a kneeling customer, forcing him face down to the beer drenched, glass encrusted floor.

"Nothing that happened that night was legal," Kelley said. "And nothing since that night has been appropriate."

He offered the example of a similar gay bar raid in June in Fort Worth, Texas, where the mayor of that city offered an instant apology to a cat call request for one from the crowd during a council meeting only a couple of weeks later, and speculated that if then Police Chief

Pennington and then mayor Shirley Franklin had done so in Atlanta, “you wouldn’t have any lawsuits.”

“Drop the charges and let us move on with our lives,” he pleaded.

As the citizen speakers came to a close, committee president Ivory Lee Young, Jr., District 3, interjected that while it may have appeared to the more than 50 citizens watching, some of them now giggling, that he was texting on his cell phone, he was actually “getting the definition of ‘testimony’” because this is “not a court of law.”

Not long afterwards, councilmember Joyce M. Sheperd, District 12, picked up Bond’s original recommendation and moved to hold the resolution in committee.

But new councilmember Yolanda Adrean, District 8, took pause.

“They don’t want it held,” Adrean piped with a sympathetic tone, and her compassion was contagious.

While first stipulating that she was “not comfortable with [the council’s] authority in this mix” and explaining that the council would be “crossing the line” to act at this time, Natalyn Archibong, District 5, declared, “We do hear you.”

Archibong encouraged, “Keep with your message,” and quoted Martin Luther King, Jr. “Speak the truth to power.”

New councilmember Keisha Bottoms, reserved, “I’m concerned as an attorney about giving judicial recommendations.”

But Sheperd joined the chorus, stipulating that her motion to hold didn’t mean the end of it for her.

“I’m appalled by what I heard. I’m just shocked,” she revealed.

Bond stated that in contrast to his introduction to the cause at the Eagle’s karaoke night, “What I heard today is much more riveting and sobering.”

And even Young softened, assuring, “I will fight for your right to be heard. You have a forum to get your message out so this never happens again.”

But Kelley and Lopez of the Eagle 8 were not satisfied with the impending outcome of the resolution and voiced their disappointment sharply from their seats.

“It just means that it’s a bigger fight,” Lopez jeered.

“It passes the buck across the street,” Kelley heckled.

Bond chimed back in to quiet the fray, saying, “We’re not abandoning you.”

The vote was unanimous to hold over the resolution for reconsideration at a later date.

In closing, Archibong thanked new councilmember Alex Wan, seated in the back of the room, for “his quiet but consistent leadership.”

www.atlantaeagleraid.com

www.citycouncil.atlantaga.gov

The Eagle 8 trial is scheduled for March 11.

BE SCENE



Clockwise from top: Ann Brown and Los Angeles-based filmmaker **Jenn Garrison** pose with 3-Legged Cowboy's leading line dancer, **Rebecca Price**; **Loren Hoffman** shutters to blink at Ten Pin Alley, and Traxx Girls' fave **DJ E** spins and grins.

OSCAR BOUND

Reitman Gets It Right

By Xanna Don't



Two years ago, *Juno*, the little independent film that could, made it all the way to The Oscars. Its lead, Ellen Page, earned a Best Actress nomination for her breakthrough role as a knocked-up intellectual high school student. The film's screenwriter, Diablo Cody, won Best Original Screenplay. And **Jason Reitman**, son of the legendary Ivan Reitman, was nominated as Best Director.

Five years before that, Reitman had begun writing and adapting a screenplay from a book by Walter Kirn that had a profound effect on him.

"The first time I read it, it was literally like watching myself grow up," he told an audience at a private screening hosted by Atlanta Film Festival a month before the release of his most recent film. From the book of the same title, ***Up In The Air*** has placed Reitman back on the list of nominees for this year's Oscars.

He recounted his rise in the film industry, beginning with his first break. A former owner of PayPal financed his first indie hit, *Thank You For Smoking*, starring Aaron Eckhart in 2005. Then a friend told him about the Juno script, and "it changed [his] life."

But the depth of *Up In The Air* conveys his long years of thoughtful planning and careful scripting. It is his finest work yet. He already won Best Adapted Screenplay at the Golden Globe Awards and is nominated again in that category and as Best Director for The Oscars on

March 7. His cast, George Clooney, Vera Farmiga, and Anna Kendrick all have acting nominations, and the production is up for Best Picture. It's all well deserved.

At the Atlanta screening, Reitman shared a sensitivity that caused him to deride his original shooting schedule. When the economy changed drastically, he cut the scenes he had shot of actors playing people getting fired and replaced them with people from real walks of life recounting their actual downsizing experiences. The casting process involved running a classified ad to which the recently unemployed submitted essays and photos. The onscreen result is profound.

Before Reitman left the foot of the theater for the film to begin, he was presented with a bottle of barbecue sauce by the owner of Fatt Matt's Rib Shack on Piedmont Road in upper Midtown. In the film, Clooney's lead character advises his love interest to eat there when she's in Atlanta, a coup for the local restaurant.

Accepting the bottle of sauce like an Oscar statuette, Reitman proclaimed, "It's the only restaurant mentioned in the film. I don't know how you don't eat there every day."

Procure your catering orders for Oscar night by visiting Fatt Matt's web site.

www.theupintheairmovie.com
www.fattmattsribshack.com

MORE TO BE SCENE



Left: German director **Kaspar Heidelbach** premieres **Berlin '36** at Atlanta Jewish Film Festival's Opening Night. Above: Vocalist **Juan Cezar** debuts his guitar skills at Bellissima.

encounters

February 5

God-des and She

@ Bellissima, ATL

www.myspace.com/goddes

February 7

Atlanta Bucks present

Pre-Super Bowl Beer Bust

@ F.R.O.G.S. Cantina

www.atlantabucksrugby.org

February 9—14

Mamma Mia!

@ The Fox Theatre, ATL

www.foxtheatre.org

February 11

For The Love of Art:

Artist Market and Wine Tasting

@ Bellissima, ATL

www.myspace.com/bellissima_lounge

February 16

RuPaul @ OutWrite Books, ATL

www.outwritebooks.com

February 17

Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of
Commerce presents Wow Wednesday

@ The Hotel Palomar, 6—8 pm

www.atlantagaychamber.org

February 18

The Lives of The Monster Dogs

@ Bellissima, ATL

www.myspace.com/

thelivesofthemonsterdogs

February 18

The Cogburns @ Drunken Unicorn, ATL

www.myspace.com/thecogburns

February 19

The English Beat with Fishbone

@ The Loft, ATL

www.myspace.com/officialbeatspace

Oscar Nominated Shorts

(live action and animated) open

@ Midtown Art Cinema, ATL

www.landmarktheatres.com

February 20

Purim OFF Ponce

featuring The Armorettes

@ Callanwolde Fine Arts Centre

www.therainbowcenter.org

February 26

Guyton Maurice @ Bellissima, ATL

www.myspace.com/guytonmaurice



February 27 and March 2, 5, & 7

Atlanta Opera presents AIDA

@ Cobb Energy Centre, ATL

www.atlantaopera.org

DONT LABEL IT!

Personal Forecasts

February 2009



What would Nicki do?

What would Xanna don't?

AQUARIUS	The sister wives and their wanton ways can really drain your spirit, but you've been one with the principle your whole life. Rejoice!	Don't stray from the original plan. While it may have been more difficult to implement it lately, it's still conceptually correct for you.
PISCES	Heavenly father is shining on you this month. You'll find new ways to make the mundane chores of plural marriage more rewarding.	Don't stop believing; hold on to that feeling! And while you're feeling so good, others will notice and be drawn into your unique aura.
ARIES	I still maintain that Bill should be the prophet and there's something you were meant to be that eludes you now. Pray for it patiently.	Don't take too much time answering phone calls and emails or you may miss something. Keep your focus firmly forward and dream it!
TAURUS	Growing up on the Juniper Creek compound taught me the value of collaborative effort. Pitch in! There's no "Margene" in team!	Don't dismiss the needs of others as you pursue you dreams. You can have a re-warding career and keep your moral center.
GEMINI	It's not easy being the middle wife. The first wife gets public attention and the new one is so bright and shiny. Watch your pocketbook.	Don't underestimate the amount of work it takes to fit in, especially if that's your goal. Be frugal and realistic about the near future.
CANCER	Sometimes your father's dead body shows up in the most inconvenient places! Load his corpse in the van and drop it to your benefit.	Don't take a sledgehammer to that boulder in your way--catwalk around it. You may find a runway supermodel on that diverted path.
LEO	If I could attend my horrible father's funeral after he put me in the Joy Book, you can find a way to forgive and move on, too. Mend it.	Don't sings The Avette Bros: "Three words that became hard to say—I and Love and You. Oh Brooklyn, Brooklyn, take me in."
VIRGO	When petty annoyances creep into my daily life, I smooth out my prairie skirt, rebraid my hair and remember that this life is temporary.	Don't suppress the beautiful spirit within you bubbling up from time to time. That's the real you and she deserves her time to shine.
LIBRA	Cara Lynn is back in my life and I vow that she will have more opportunity than the way I was raised. My daughter will attend school.	Don't ignore your intuition. It may be telling you that your original goals may be achieved by allowing them to morph. Roll with it.
SCORPIO	I've always prided myself on the highest moral expectations, but sometimes my zeal is overwhelming. Focus that energy fairly.	Don't insist on standards that are humanly impossible to maintain. Cutting people slack could educate you in unpredictable ways.
SAGITTARIUS	The financial future of the Henrickson family is very bright; we're blessed. But never forget that blessings come from hard work.	Don't give up on us baby. Don't make the wrong seem right. The future isn't just for the night. It's written in the moonlight...
CAPRICORN	When you've lived the principle your whole life, it's hard to accept different lifestyles. How will I react when I learn Alby is gay?	Don't let the well worn record groove you're in keep you from missing the digital age. Lovingly store your vinyl, then download!

Chloe Sevigny won the 2010 Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actress (TV Series, Miniseries, or TV Film) for her role as Nicolette Grant on HBO's *Big Love* www.hbo.com

text messages from hell

me (1/22, 2:43 pm): Told him no meeting without our pay.

me (1/3, 12:38 am): T-Boz is bowling!

me (1/3, 12:40 am): As in she is wearing the shoes! BOWLING SHOES!

me (1/3, 12:42 am): Size 6!

me (1/15, 11:26 pm):

Squillace cornered me to find out why I was “mad” at him. Told him my only interest was your welfare and that I thought it was irresponsible of him to bring her here.

loren (1/15, 11:44 pm):

Thanks for looking out for me! We just got to the Earl!

me (1/15, 11:49 pm):

Awesome. Enjoy.

loren (1/16, 12:13 am): So good! Amazing photos!

me (1/16, 12:15 am): Wish we were there! Gotta get Ann home. You're doing great work.

loren (1/16, 1:14 pm):

What time is Frogs?

me (1/16, 1:16 pm): 2—7.

me (1/16, 5:31 pm):

Missed your call but we're still here. They just brought the second keg!

loren (1/16, 5:34 pm):

Cool! How much is it to drink?

me (1/16, 5:36 pm): \$10 for kegger, \$2 domestic bottles.

loren (1/16, 5:37 pm): Cool I'm on the way!

me (1/16, 5:44 pm): Okey dokey. P.S. I'm drunk!

loren (1/18, 12:07 pm):

Omg...I can't stand these incompetent idiots!

me (1/18, 1:44 pm): Called Matt. He says meeting tomorrow at 3 pm. He said the check to the printer was “forgotten” last week. He couldn't wait to get me off the phone.

loren (1/18, 2:03 pm):

Haha... These people.

me (1/18, 2:55 pm): Ann just reminded me she has a follow-up with her surgeon tomorrow so I guess I won't make the meeting. Oh well.

loren (1/18, 3:03 pm): I

will. Brian called to see what I thought of everything. I said I don't like to talk, but I highly dislike Chip and wish everyone was more professional and...

loren (1/18, 3:03 pm): that I would be standing up for myself and that when I was told it could have been my

fault the paper wasn't printed I called the printer and found out differently.

me (1/18, 3:05 pm): Yeah, that was scummy, even for Chip.

loren (1/18, 3:08 pm): I know. But I found out they've done that to designers before...

me (1/18, 3:08 pm): Really?

loren (1/18, 3:11 pm):

Yeah. Seems like it always has to be someone else.

me (1/18, 3:12 pm): So they have a bunch of dirty tactics they use over and over. Lovely.

loren (1/18, 3:13 pm): I know right!

loren (1/19, 12:22 pm):

Meeting's moved to las margaritas tomorrow...

They drive me nuts but at least we get food out of it!

me (1/20, 1:04 pm): We're here.

loren (1/20, 1:05 pm): See you in a few!

me (1/20, 1:53 pm): Still here. No sign of 'em.

me (1/20, 5:34 pm): Btw, Chip finally showed around 3:30 pm. I gave him a very hard time.

me (1/21, 4:12 pm): Matt answered my call. He said 7 or 8 pm.

loren (1/21, 4:12 pm): ...Where?

me (1/21, 4:13 pm): Didn't say.

loren (1/21, 4:14 pm): K... Thanks.

loren (1/21, 5:17 pm): Another las margaritas meeting! He said he'd call to confirm a time... At least we're getting fed again. Hahaha.

me (1/21, 5:32 pm): Oh no. We're already searing scallops in ginger and shallots. I guess I'll order lots of mimositas, but frankly, I don't wanna hang with these guys so much!

loren (1/21, 5:33 pm): I know.

me (1/21, 5:41 pm): Hopefully they'll have the paper with them.

loren (1/21, 5:42 pm): I know.

me (1/21, 7:10 pm): Are we there yet? Updates?

loren (1/21, 7:11 pm): Not a thing...

me (1/21, 7:20 pm): Hmm.

me (1/21, 7:23 pm): Called Matt. Voicemail. What does Karisha know?

loren (1/21, 7:23 pm): He's not answering me... I want to meet I came downtown. I'm just waiting around.

loren (1/21, 7:37 pm): I hope he calls soon, I'm hungry!

me (1/21, 7:53 pm): Texted Brian—he just texted back that they are meeting right now with Grady. In Macon! They are not even in the city yet.

loren (1/21, 7:54 pm): Wtf... I'm so mad.

me (1/22, 1:28 pm): Proj Q just posted the Eagle 8 trial has been postponed and our story on the council meeting never even hit the streets. Rather depressing.

loren (1/22, 1:30 pm): This is such bullshit.

me (1/22, 2:43 pm): Brian says Matt will deliver our money to him in an hour (?). You and I are to meet with him at 4 pm at his place. Told him no meeting without our pay.

loren (1/22, 3:05 pm): Matt can't even show his face.

me (1/22, 3:48 pm): Brian says he is now driving to get our money. He thinks 4:30 pm.

me (1/22, 3:50 pm): I'm not budging 'til he has it. He also wants us to bring our invoices. If he hasn't seen them, how does he know how much we get?

loren (1/22, 3:52 pm): I know... This is dumb.

me (1/22, 4:13 pm): Brian says he has the money. Won't say how much.

loren (1/22, 4:16 pm): Whatever I guess I will bd.

me (1/22, 4:19 pm): Do not sign a receipt until cash is in your possession. Do not sign a receipt if he gives you a check (check is their receipt). Expect shadiness.

ray (01/23, 12:35 am): Where are you?

me (01/23, 1:23 am): On our way home. Bellissima got crowded. Met Dave Hayward at 3-Legged earlier and paid him. He was very grateful.

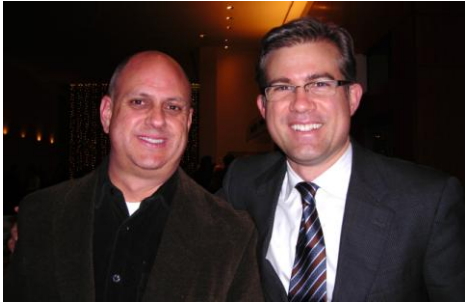
ray (01/23, 1:27 am): I saw him dont think he knew me.

me (01/23, 1:32 am): Ha!
ray (01/23, 1:27 am): He was nice and I am hairy!

me (02/02, 7:05 pm): As for Matt, if no AFP (no longer ATL-FP) comes out this week, that will speak volumes. I'm just worried about Loren; told her to pick up an issue and look at it, appreciate its quality, and don't let them take that pride away.

scott (02/02, 7:08 pm): She was used. Designers are constantly used like this. It's why I'm such a prick! Experience...

STILL MORE BE SCENE



Atlanta Jewish Film Festival's
Gala at Symphony Hall



DON'T LABEL IT!

© 2010 Xanna Don't

Previously published in the 1990's in Austin, Texas, this 'zine began simply as my band's newsletter and evolved into a regional Texas publication. Since the demise of Atlanta's lesbian magazine and as its former Entertainment Editor, I've revived the concept of cross-pollinating on paper the worlds I've always lived in: the live music scene, film happenings, and the **gay community**.

Within these pages, they coexist in harmony.

Thanx for picking us up! *Xanna Don't*

www.dontlabelit.com

If your business would like to become an **environmentally conscious print sponsor**,

please contact Xanna at dontlabelit@gmail.com.

DON'T LABEL IT! IS PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED ACID/BLEACH FREE PAPER.
PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PUBLICATION AGAIN RESPONSIBLY