

DON'T LABEL IT!

a glbt magazine for everybody
November 2009

KYLE KEYSER



MAYOR 2009

THE POLITICAL ISSUE

the credible case for

Kyle Keyser

**DLI/ endorses Atlanta's first
openly gay mayoral candidate.**

The credible case for **Kyle Keyser**: Atlanta's first openly gay mayoral candidate is also the best person for the job.

by *Xanna Don't*

One week before Election Day, seven Atlanta mayoral candidates assembled at **Whiskey Park** in *The W Hotel* for a press interview hosted by **CBS 46 Atlanta's Stephany Fisher**. It was the only time that all of the candidates, including write-in candidate **Tiffany Brown**, were included in such a forum. According to City Council President and candidate **Lisa Borders**, it was the 39th such event for her, City Council woman **Mary Norwood**, Georgia State Senator **Kasim Reed**, and business attorney **Jesse Spikes**. Participating in their fourth forum were retired police officer and author **Peter Brownlowe** and filmmaker/video producer/community activist **Kyle Keyser**. It took almost the entire election cycle, but finally all the candidates' voices had the opportunity to be heard.

During this media-only event, I submitted a question to Stephany for the panel.

Xanna Don't, Don't Label It! magazine:

"Despite the fact that it made national news, neither of the last two mayoral debates posed a question addressing the controversial police raid at **The Eagle**, a local gay bar where 62 patrons were forced face down onto the floor, searched and detained for almost an hour.

How should the new mayor deal with this incident and the investigation into it? And with **Atlanta's Gay Pride** celebration—an event that draws a quarter of a million people—approaching this weekend, how can we assure tourists who travel here for it that they will be treated with dignity and respect by our police force?"

Somehow my inquiry was watered down and merged into a generalized question about crime with the tag, "And some people have some concerns about the Gay Pride parade." But even in this dishwater doused context, I finally heard the word "gay." It was the third debate in as many weeks that I had attended, and I hadn't heard it until now. Where was the gay community? More importantly, where was the gay press?

Kyle Keyser's presence in these debates is historical because he is the first openly gay candidate for mayor Atlanta has ever had the privilege to consider. But his name on the ballot Tuesday, November 3, is so much more than a symbolic victory for the GLBT community because Kyle is credible. His candidacy has legs.

Kyle's platform is made stronger because he is a political outsider. He is not a career politician and he will tell you he is beholden to only one special interest group: the community. Given the chance to ask Lisa Borders a question during the **Atlanta Press Club's** televised debate at Georgia Public Broadcasting, he challenged the \$8 million marketing campaign she championed at the expense of an underfunded police department and a city plagued with poverty and homelessness. If given a chance at a second opponent question, he was ready to challenge Kasim Reed with a specific question about The Eagle. I know because he

handed me his notes afterwards: *"The raid at The Eagle showed us that it's not just a matter of 'more cops' but 'better trained cops.' I've put forth an approach of 'quality vs. quantity' when it comes to the police. Yes, let's expand the force, but let's also recognize that training is just as important as their numbers. You've stated the quantity increase; how will you ensure quality?"* Unfortunately, as with previous debates, the bulk of time focused on the four frontrunners and this was never posed.



Kyle Keyser's name on the ballot Tuesday, November 3, is so much more than a symbolic victory for the GLBT community because Kyle is credible. His candidacy has legs.

Questions posed to Kyle at the three debates I witnessed were answered deftly with concise compassion and pointed prudence. He has answered so well that frontrunner Mary Norwood mimicked two of his answers within moments of their utterance (one regarding ethics at the Emory College

debate—open to the public and attended by 250 people—and one at the televised debate tailored to him regarding his “holistic” approach to healing our city). These career politicians see in him what I wish every member of Atlanta’s gay community will see: he’s the future. He’s got it. And not just on his signature issue of crime. The reason he entered the race may have initially been because “he had a gun to [his] neck” (the reason he also founded ***Atlantans Together Against Crime***), but his approach to Atlanta’s financial ills are just as astute. He wants to create a long term Chief Financial Officer position, push the closing times for bars back to 4 a.m., make Atlanta an entertainment capital again, and invest in its youth, arts and culture. He says, “I have the ability to set a vision and bring people together. We’re not New York, but we can create what ‘it’ is for Atlanta.” I believe with Kyle at the helm, we can.

Politically the attentions of Atlanta’s gay community have been focused on a single incident, and rightly so. The police raid of The Eagle on September 10th was SWAT-like in its tactics and scope. In a way it was worse than Stonewall because today it is not expected. In 1969, the patrons of The Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City, knew to expect routine shake-downs from the local cops. Forty years later in Obama-era Atlanta, rogue Red Dog ruffians in full riot gear are a PTSD-inducing shock. This is no exaggeration; the first Thursday night at The Eagle without dancers in underwear featured karaoke during which a new massive sound system blew a fuse and “popped” abruptly as the dance floor went dark and silent. I witnessed the reaction of those who suffered the raid trauma to this and it was very consistent with post traumatic stress disorder—their obvious expressions of pure terror suggested a flashback of the event.

One of the first people to hit the street with signs of protest was Kyle Keyser. The night after the raid, he was seen in news clips hand-in-hand with his community in front of The Eagle. He spoke at a rally that Sunday afternoon organized by members of **gbltATL.org** that drew over 400 people. But he was cautious with his language so as

not to make that moment about him. Subsequently, less sensitive people have turned this tragedy into a publicity machine for themselves.

Laura Gentle is an assertive young straight woman who has beguiled some members of our community and will most likely, eventually launch her presence into the political forum (although her supporters deny that this is her intent). My first suspicion that her involvement might be self-serving came when I asked her by telephone what time she thought the public should show up at City Hall to voice comments to the city council about The Eagle raid. She gave me a different time than the council clerk's office did and later admitted that the time she disseminated on FaceBook of her own volition was more convenient for her personal work schedule. I was taken aback that she had the impudence to schedule our entire community around her day job. Then I learned of her systematic exclusion of gays on the protest team that she joined, including her whim at another rally to ignore the presence of the two openly-gay city council candidates who bailed The Eagle staff out of jail. The instances of Laura Gentle's egomaniacal assent as a heterosexual leader of a gay cause have continued over the last month and recently culminated with her forwarding to her detractors an anonymous, violent threat letter that she claims to have received. It's "author" seems to know all her personal information (including what Marta station she uses?) and in a contrived way, sounds like a disgruntled member of the gay community. But he (or she?) uses phraseology that I don't commonly hear amongst my people, like "Midtown citizens" and "step away from the Midtown community." Only an insensitive straight person would make the bigoted assumption that all gay people live in Midtown. Only an insensitive straight person would repeat the "Midtown" mantra that has been coined to ingratiate a future candidate with this voting demographic.

[The entire letter followed by Laura Gentle's "comments" to her critics is available for review in the blog section of www.dontlabelit.com]

The handful of gay people who continue to support this heterosexual opportunist commonly respond with despair that there are no other choices, no other voices. They ask, "Where are the gay leaders?" Well, the best one to come along in a long time has been worthily debating his straight opponents over this same time period. We have a chance to elect a credible gay mayor. On Election Day, Kyle Keyser's name will be before you on the ballot and his election returns party will be at Noni's Bar & Deli beginning at 8 pm. Where will you be?

www.keyser09.org / www.glbttatl.org / www.nonisdeli.com

encounters

October 31—November 1

Atlanta Gay Pride @ Piedmont Park
www.atlantapride.org

November 3

Kyle Keyser's Election Returns Party
@ Noni's Bar & Deli, ATL
www.nonisdeli.com

Eddie Izzard: Live from Wembley on DVD
www.imdb.com/title/tt1470576

November 4-8, 2009

Charis Books & More 35th Anniversary
with Gloria Steinem and The Indigo Girls
www.charisbooksandmore.com

November 5

ASCAP Showcase *with*
I'm Chinese @ Smith's Olde Bar, ATL
www.myspace.com/weareimchinese

Cell Fehrenbach @ Bellissima, ATL
www.myspace.com/ocella

November 7

Rebecca Loebe CD Release
@ Eddie's Attic, Decatur GA
www.myspace.com/rebeccaloebe



November 9

Ian McLagen @ Smith's Olde Bar, ATL
www.ianmclagen.com

November 10

The Flatlanders @ Smith's Olde Bar, ATL
www.myspace.com/theflatlanderstx

November 14

First Annual Eyedrum Ear Ball
@ Eyedrum Gallery, ATL
www.eyedrum.org

MASTERPIECES presents

Do Sinners Have A Soul

a spoken word stage play @ 2 pm and 7 pm
183 Moreland Ave. ATL
www.dosinnershaveasoul.com



November 17

Michelle Shocked @ Eddie's Attic, GA

www.myspace.com/mshocked



December 8

Land of Talk @ The Earl, ATL

www.myspace.com/landoftalk

December 9

GoGirls *presents* a benefit for

Melinda Kingsley

@ Smith's Olde Bar, ATL

www.myspace.com/atlantachapter

gogirlsmusic



November 19

Queen Latifah @ Center Stage, ATL

www.myspace.com/queenlatifah

November 21

The Taste Network *presents* Primal ATL

@ Sweetwater Brewing Co., ATL 6—9 pm

www.artofthebutcher.com

BE SCENE

Timothy House and younger brother Jaime bob for apples at The Ides of Pride held at F.R.O.G.S. Cantina on October 17.

PHOTO BY ANN BROWN



BE SCENE...

The Ides of Pride: [top] I'm Chinese [below] The Sexual Side Effects



DONT LABEL IT!

Personal Forecasts

November 2009



What would Susie do?

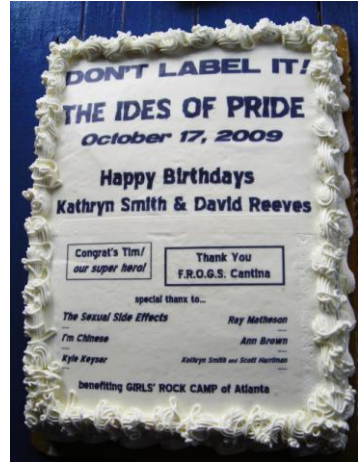
What would Xanna don't?

SCORPIO	Get your foot in the door and don't let Larry trip you up in the foyer. You've got to make a stand and commit. You know what to do!	Don't be afraid to be absolutely yourself. Nothing is more attractive than confidence and change looks gorgeous on you!
SAGITTARIUS	Focus on kids and family this month. You know the feeling you get when your daughter sings for the Dansons? It's otherworldly.	Don't put the cart before the line dancer. Everyone has a learning curve and with a little patience from you they'll stomp it good.
CAPRICORN	You're doing your best sweetie, but that's not going to matter a fuck wad! This month is going to suck for you, no matter what you do.	Don't forget the Dramamine on this cruise! There always thrashing about during shark season, so try hard to stay on the boat.
AQUARIUS	Sometimes the idiot right in front of you is the person who needs you the most. But I married Jeff, so what can I do about it now?	Don't worry about your five-year plan this month. If religious nuts and movies are correct, it'll all be over by 2012 anyway.
PISCES	The rules of etiquette at a dinner party must be adhered to strictly, so that means no damn Bam Bam Funkhouser at my table!	Don't give it away if they don't appreciate it. Because you and Brandi have it. "Dreams, I have dreams, when I'm awake, when..."
ARIES	Stop scratching your balls and get me the fucking doll head! I've had with you 4-eyed fuck and you fat piece of shit, get the head!	Don't leave your Kevlar vest at home—you will need it. Lock and load with conviction and you'll discover you're a real action hero.
TAURUS	Giving your husband a blow job while he's driving is dangerous! But if he strays again I'll cut his nuts off—no excuses this time!	Don't throw the dice in personal relationships that are meaningful to you. Respect others' quirks and maintain a healthy perspective.
GEMINI	You will feel a bit off and not know what it's from, but unlike me, Larry's diagnosis of lime disease won't fit. Have a little chicken soup.	Don't think twice it's alright. There ain't no use to sit and wonder why, babe. It don't matter anyhow. Don't think twice it's alright.
CANCER	Sometimes you yell, "Fuck you, you car wash cunt! I had a dental appointment!" And then you find out the new chef has tourettes.	Don't pass by the self improvement section too quickly on your way to pick up Susie Essman's new book. Tweak thyself!
LEO	You jerked off in their house? You brought your semen outside our home? That's cheating! Masturbate in this house alone!	Don't linger at the buffet table so long. Self discipline is a real bitch, but you'll feel better if you just change a couple of bad habits.
VIRGO	You'll be tempted to try new techniques to obtain your goals this month, but getting little Sammy drunk is not an option! Asshole!	Don't mess with the Zohan, you can do this on your own. Review your skill set and you'll find some flare not yet pinned to your lapel.
LIBRA	My wedding video is gone because Larry's fat fuck manager let some asshole kid into our house! Gone! Whose fault is it Jeffrey?!	Don't cry out loud! Just keep it inside and learn how to hide your feelings. Fly high and proud! Oh yeah, Happy Pride Atlanta!

Susie Essman plays Susie Green on HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm* www.hbo.com

Her new book is called ***What Would Susie Say?*** (Simon & Schuster)

MORE TO BE SCENE...



[clockwise from top] Ides of Pride: Ray Matheson MC's apple bobbing, the cake, and Espirit won silver earrings courtesy of jewelry consultant Jimmy Filson.

[above] Out On Film closing night party at The Eagle; [right] Xanna thanks everyone who voted for her in the Southern Voice "Best of" Poll even though she wasn't nominated—she congratulates Actors' Express for the award and having a great sense of humor!

text messages from hell

scott (10/07, 1:57 pm):

Did you hear about Stephen's Bono story?

scott (10/07, 2:00 pm):

He was so excited to meet Bono. Too bad it was an impersonator. And the AJC directly referenced him without his name...

me (10/07, 2:01 pm):

What??? It wasn't Bono?

scott (10/07, 2:01 pm):

...as a "brave soul" who approached the impersonator. Lol!

me (10/07, 2:01 pm):

Omg!

scott (10/07, 2:04 pm):

An hour after he called all of us there was an AJC article about how 99X hired the impersonator as a marketing tool. All of the people in Colony Square fell for it.

me (10/07, 2:07 pm):

Just texted Steve. Oh well, that guy fooled a lot of people.

scott (10/07, 2:05 pm):

Stephen was the only one with balls enough to approach him.

me (10/12, 8:22 pm):

There was a major drug raid at Monroe Place, top floor of 7000 blg on Sept 29? But the office is saying it was a gay domestic dispute? Any info?

scott (10/12, 8:25 pm):

No idea. Hadn't heard. How is the party shaping up?

me (10/12, 8:26 pm):

Jimmy said the cops were in front of the 7000 bldg that day from 3 to 11 pm. Party is looking great; Gaydar is running a free ad and I'm changing the raffle to an apple bobbing contest!

me (10/12, 8:28 pm):

That's the second major drug arrest that we know of where no mgmnt memo was issued. Apparently they threw drugs off the balcony.

scott (10/12, 8:30 pm):

Tenants ditching evidence or cops during search? Funny way to treat evidence!

me (10/12, 8:32 pm):

Imagine walking your

dog and it starts raining drugs!

scott (10/12, 8:33 pm):

You could have used some as raffle prizes!

me (10/12, 8:35 pm):

Sure! I coulda wrapped them in puppy poo bags!

scott (10/12, 8:36 pm):

Lol. Classy.

steve (10/09, 5:23 pm):

Hey Xanna...Gary is here getting a haircut.

me (10/09, 5:24pm):

Gary?

steve (10/09, 5:24 pm):

Of the former Sean and Gary.

me (10/09, 5:25 pm):

Tell him to stay right there because I owe him a big bitch slap! On my way...!

steve (10/09, 5:26 pm):

Lol... No!

me (10/09, 5:28 pm):

I'm getting in the truck right now! Oooooohh Lordy, here comes the white lesbian Madea!

me (10/09, 5:34 pm):

Did you tell him I'm coming? Hellerrr, surprise!

ALWAYS MORE TO BE SCENE...



Mike Fleming of Project Q, mayoral candidate Kyle Keyser and Angel Luis Poventud at The Ides of Pride

DON'T LABEL IT!

© 2009 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 co-exist 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

SPECIAL THANKS THIS MONTH TO PROJECT Q ATLANTA! www.projectqatlanta.com