

# DON'T LABEL IT!

*September/October 2009*

*The return of*  
**The  
Sexual  
Side  
Effects**

*Amber Taylor*  
*and*  
*Angela Bucky Motter*  
*front Atlanta's*  
*trans super band*

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*Also this issue...*

**short & tweet**  
*with*  
**HAL SPARKS**

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*introducing*  
**LOBBY LIFE:**  
EXPERIENCE THE NEW  
HOTEL CULTURE @  
**The Artmore**

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Your Personal  
Forecast:  
*What Would*  
*Johnny "Drama" do?*

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text messages from hell



# BE SCENE

*DLI's Super Summer Sporty Spice Winner was Jana Kaplan!  
Sonia Leigh can't wait for those authentic baseball peanuts!*



*Top: Sonia Leigh & Jana Kaplan @ Bellissima, ATL.  
Left: Deb Davis of Gently @ Xi, Decatur GA.  
Below: The Number One Must Haves @ Xi, Decatur GA.*



# short & tweet

by Xanna Don't

with **HAL SPARKS**



***You're not a gay man, but you played one on TV. Do fans of Queer As Folk ever confuse you as gay in real life? Has it ever been awkward?***

I've been hit on by gay men who knew I wasn't gay and some who thought I was but I don't think that's a "gay" thing... I think that's a "guy" thing... we don't like to take no for an answer. Any time it gets awkward I try to be patient and remember that I probably made a girl feel the same way at some point.

***You never drink alcohol. Jennie McNulty & Vickie Shaw came through Atlanta and played a church! Is it harder to get laughs from a sober audience?***

Just because I don't drink doesn't mean I don't let the audience drink... That being said, I think sober people laugh just as much as drunk folks... if not more... because they can understand the set up, which really makes the punchline better... p.s. I would never play a church... yeesh!

***You're an actor, musician (Zero 1), talk & game show host (The Soup/20Q). What can Atlanta audiences expect from your stand up comedy act?***

Knowing my other work will not necessarily prepare you for my stand up. But you get to see who I really am... And just how damn funny I can be. <GRIN>

***Hal Sparks appears at The Vortex's Laughing Skull Comedy Lounge, ATL***

**September 17—20**

**[www.vortexcomedy.com](http://www.vortexcomedy.com)**

# somewhere in the middle...

by Xanna Don't

*"There's a place for us. Somewhere a place for us." WEST SIDE STORY*  
*"Somewhere over the rainbow..." THE WIZARD OF OZ*

Not knowing where we belong can unnerve us to our very souls. You're a lesbian in Atlanta, so you must live in Decatur. You're a gay man in Atlanta, so you must live in Midtown. We're herded into our little pockets. We're labeled. And there is a certain comfort in being labeled. Your search is over and you belong somewhere. The people you encounter in life feel comfort from those labels, too. They can put you in that folder in that particular drawer in their mental file cabinets. They can securely move on with their lives knowing they've got you all figured out.

What if simply going to a public bathroom presented an identity dilemma? You have to deal with this basic bodily function, but there's so much to consider before you do. You have to choose where you belong. According to **The Sexual Side Effects** new bass player/vocalist/songwriter, **Angela "Bucky" Motter**, that choice could result in physical danger. "It's a safety issue. If I go in a men's room at a rest stop, I could get the shit kicked out of me." Although Bucky identifies as male, he reluctantly opts for the women's room. "Women are probably not going to beat me up, but I don't like scaring women. I've had women with kids back up and leave the restroom. So I try to smile when I use the ladies' room, because men don't smile when they go to the bathroom, and it makes women feel easier."



Photo by Chip Taylor

Bucky recently joined **The Sexual Side Effects** out of an admiration for bandleader/frontperson **Amber Taylor's** songwriting abilities. "Amber's stuff is really sophisticated and why I wanted to be in the band." But with a degree in classical guitar and an illustrious career of his own, their mutual musical acumen wasn't all they had in common. Both performers are openly transgendered. In the town that spawned legendary punk icon Jayne County, the new line-up of this already fabulous band bumps its fascination up another notch. It's a trans super band.

The music industry has long likened being in a band to a marriage. Amber compares certain musical relationships to being “soul mates.” The professional connection between her and Bucky is growing in that direction because they are both transgendered *and* both musicians. “Not every transgendered person thinks like a musician,” she explains. And personally, she continues, “We’ve been hanging out and becoming friends.”



Photo by Lynn McStatts

Their musical collaboration is producing unusual results. Because Bucky has a soprano voice and Amber’s range falls comfortably as a tenor, harmonies are best described as “upside down.” Amber says it’s surprising to hear Bucky’s jazzy 7ths and 9ths over her melody on hits like *Aurora* and *I’m In Love With a Girl (But She Used To Be A Man)* because there doesn’t appear to be another woman on stage. “Where’s that coming from?”

Bucky’s lead vocals will include an older tune he penned called *I’m So Sick of Myself*. Their writing process thus far involves trading opposing snippets. He says of it, “Amber is so light hearted and I’m more morose, coming from a depression angle.” But their commonalities will likely shine through on a new composition in progress called *The World Is Waiting For Us*.

One glaring problem they share is health care. Much of what they need is not covered by insurance, and many insurance companies view being transgendered as a preexisting condition if it was previously treated in any way. Bucky sparingly applies a testosterone gel he’s dubbed his “schmear” while considering “chest surgery—not necessarily a mastectomy, but that’s a word that people might understand.” Amber pays cash for her hormone shots, which have not medically affect the timbre of her voice. However, psychologically she truly feels her voice is less low. “The hormones have enhanced my happiness. I get to be closer to the person I want to be.”

Even though Amber is a trans-woman and Bucky is a trans-man, they both believe the band represents yet another gender presentation. “I think about Patty Smith, Robert Plant, Steven Tyler,” Bucky ponders. When I suggest that rock’n’roll itself is a third gender, Amber chimes, “You said it; it’s such an androgynous creature!” Bucky concurs, “There should be one pronoun. There’s many genders.”

***The Sexual Side Effects* new line-up debuts as part of *The Ides of Pride*  
October 17th, 2—7 pm at F.R.O.G.S. Cantina, ATL**

# encounters

## September 11

Son Volt @ Variety Playhouse  
[www.myspace.com/sonvolt](http://www.myspace.com/sonvolt)

## September 13

The MTV Music Video Awards on MTV  
[www.mtv.com](http://www.mtv.com)

## September 14

...And You Will Know Us By The Trail of  
Dead @ Masquerade, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/trailofdead](http://www.myspace.com/trailofdead)

Charlie Robison  
@ Smith's Olde Bar, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/charlierobison](http://www.myspace.com/charlierobison)



## September 16

Margaret Cho @ The Orange Peel,  
Asheville, NC [www.margaretocho.com](http://www.margaretocho.com)

## September 19

Women's Outdoor Network  
2nd Annual Best Ball Tournament  
[www.wonatlanta.com/golf](http://www.wonatlanta.com/golf)

## September 20

THE 61st EMMY AWARDS on CBS  
[www.emmys.com](http://www.emmys.com)

## September 23

Shannon Wright @ The Earl, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/shannonwrightmusic](http://www.myspace.com/shannonwrightmusic)



## September 25

Morningside Elementary School  
Fundraiser @ Smith's Olde Bar, ATL  
[www.smithsoldebar.com](http://www.smithsoldebar.com)

## September 26

The Good Graces EP Release  
@ Kavarna, Decatur GA  
[www.myspace.com/thegoodgraces](http://www.myspace.com/thegoodgraces)

The Butthole Surfers @ Masquerade, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/losbuttholesurfers](http://www.myspace.com/losbuttholesurfers)



## September 27

The State Of @ Bellissima, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/bellissimalounge](http://www.myspace.com/bellissimalounge)

Sarah Bettens  
@ Eddie's Attic, Decatur GA  
[www.myspace.com/sarahbettens](http://www.myspace.com/sarahbettens)

## September 27

The Armorettes 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
@ Jungle, ATL [www.armorettes.com](http://www.armorettes.com)

## October 1

Tim Lee 3 [pictured], Mic Harrison & The High Score, and The Shanghai Gesture [pictured right] @ Kavarna, Decatur GA  
[www.myspace.com/timleemusic](http://www.myspace.com/timleemusic)



## October 1—3

A3C Hip Hop Festival @ various venues  
in East Atlanta [www.a3cfestival.com](http://www.a3cfestival.com)

## October 2

Dear and The Headlights  
@ Masquerade, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/dearandtheheadlights](http://www.myspace.com/dearandtheheadlights)

The Psychedelic Furs *with* Happy Mondays @ Masquerade, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/psychedelicfurs](http://www.myspace.com/psychedelicfurs)

## October 2—8

Out On Film @ Midtown Art Cinema, ATL  
[www.outonfilm.org](http://www.outonfilm.org)

## October 9

Steve Martin: An Evening of Bluegrass & Banjo @ Chastain Amphitheatre, ATL  
[www.stevemartin.com](http://www.stevemartin.com)

## October 17

Om *with* Six Organs of Admittance  
@ The Earl, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/variationsontheme](http://www.myspace.com/variationsontheme)

## OCTOBER 17

DON'T LABEL IT! *presents*  
**THE IDES OF PRIDE**, a pre-pride party with  
THE SEXUAL SIDE EFFECTS  
*featuring* Amber Taylor and Angela Bucky Motter  
*with special guests* I'M CHINESE  
and mayoral candidate KYLE KEYSER  
2—7 pm @ F.R.O.G.S. Cantina, ATL  
[www.dontlabelit.com](http://www.dontlabelit.com)

## October 19

Colbie Caillat @ Variety Playhouse, ATL  
[www.myspace.com/colbiecaillat](http://www.myspace.com/colbiecaillat)

## October 20

Leonard Cohen @ The Fox Theatre, ATL  
[www.leonardcohen.com](http://www.leonardcohen.com)

## October 23

Parsons Dance *presents* Remember Me  
*with* East Village Opera Company  
@ Ferst Center, ATL [www.ferstcenter.org](http://www.ferstcenter.org)

## October 31—November 1

Atlanta Gay Pride @ Piedmont Park  
[www.atlantapride.org](http://www.atlantapride.org)

## November 2

Nicole Atkins & The Sea @ The Earl, ATL  
[www.nicoleatkins.com](http://www.nicoleatkins.com)

## November 9

Ian McLagen @ Smith's Olde Bar, ATL  
[www.ianmclagen.com](http://www.ianmclagen.com)

# LOBBY LIFE

## The new hotel culture at The Artmore

by Xanna Don't

Don't Label It! spent a leisure afternoon in the attractive new lobby of the **The Artmore Hotel**. **David Van Tassell** and **Michael Halpner** have done an amazing transformation of the former Granada next to CW Midtown on West Peachtree, ATL. It's attracting eclectic clientele. Here's who we encountered.



Although The Artmore is the host hotel for *Atlanta Underground Film Festival*, **Skip** is not here for it. He drove up from Florida with his beautiful daughter **Zoe**, who has just been signed by the **Elite** modeling agency. She's having more test shots taken early this evening and even allows us to take one. Skip says he's not much of a "stage dad," but we predict much success for her and her sky high cheekbones. She's a natural.

Filmmakers **Brian Lonano** and **Jeff Jenkins** are definitely here for the film fest and are thrilled their rooms were comp'd!

Tonight at the Eyedrum gallery they screen the sequel to their short, *attackazoids!*, monikered *attackazoids, deploy!!* As co-directors, they've been reviewed by Ain't It Cool News and hope to keep the franchise swinging up to 10 exclamation points! Who needs numbers when you can play with punctuation? Brian also directed a music video for a SXSW showcasing band from New York State called the **Casket Architects**. [www.attackazoids.com](http://www.attackazoids.com)

Beautifully dressed from Newnan, GA, **David** and **Kim** are here for the wedding reception of a co-worker who eloped on her lunch hour! It was a long lunch, but she came back to work. Their party is located downstairs in the "club level" of the hotel. We hope everybody punched out...



**Teffany Jackson**, an aspiring actress from South Carolina delighted at the new prospects in Atlanta, is in the lobby with her brother, **Brent**, because the maid is cleaning their room. Brent is an auditor for **Wachovia Bank** who laments that ten thousand people were laid off when they merged with **Wells Fargo**. They're headed to the **Cheesecake Factory**.

Buzzing around the 1920's art deco courtyard is, quite literally, performance artist **Rolando Diaz**. Ro paints live onstage alongside musical acts during their sets. Cuban-born, he is the subject of *Recapturing Cuba*, a Sundance award-winning documentary that aired on PBS last year. Based in Dallas where he procures **Euforia Live**, a performance space with composer **Seth Simmons**, he is enamored with the hill country around Austin, where my wife is from and I lived for a decade. When I suggest he work with one of the most famous residents of that region, **Jerry Jeff Walker**, author of the multi-generational hit song, *Mr. Bojangles*, he is thrilled with the idea. What very pretty pictures that alliance would make...



[www.rodiaz.com](http://www.rodiaz.com)

*The Artmore Hotel* [www.artmorehotel.com](http://www.artmorehotel.com)

*Arthur Markart and Ann L. Brown contributed to this new column.*

## MORE TO BE SCENE



*The protest rally against the police raid at The Eagle, ATL. More than 400 people attended.*

*Photo by Xanna Don't*

# DONT LABEL IT!

## Personal Forecasts

SEPT/OCT  
2009



### What would Drama do?



### What would Xanna don't?

VIRGO	Remember my loyal reaction to that douchebag hitting on Turtle's gal? People won't get it, but you're doing the right thing.	Don't edit yourself. Your supportive prose will fly high over most people's heads, but you're not wrong. You're a true believer.
LIBRA	You kiss a lot of potential co-stars, but a careful casting process reveals who remains on the lot. Avoid driving the golf cart! Whew!	Don't forget to buckle your seatbelt. Sunny says it's time for a few small repairs. Come home with a mission; it will hold up this time.
SCORPIO	Those party mavens you met in the Valley could be some mogul's nieces. Brush off your '80s finery and boogie oogie oogie!	Don't underestimate your friends; you chose them! Under the cloud of a dark depressive economy lies a cool valley of networking.
SAGITTARIUS	It's time for your show to submit you for an Emmy nomination. Pick your best episode and strut! Keep your entourage close by.	Don't shy away from the spotlight. It's time for it to shine on you. Support your family, but make sure they let you have this one.
CAPRICORN	You're gonna have to buy dinner and sit through a chick flick, but the payoff will be sweet. Do the sincere thing and you're in!	Don't do it on the first date! This one is worth the wait, whether she's a lover, a career move, or a high courtship with inner truth.
AQUARIUS	It might feel like all you do lately is a lot of boring industrial educational videos. Pay the rent and pay your dues. That's the biz	Don't snub the solid experience you're building. The crisp fall air (reminiscent of my native New England) can be so motivating.
PISCES	You thought Ari was the shit? Bullshit! A new super agent is on the horizon and will make it flow for you. Buy the ticket, take the ride.	Don't discard your uncanny affinity with a stranger. Atlanta is full of bullshit artists, but you can't throw the baby out with bathwater.
ARIES	Dude, get ready for more takes! You thought they were checking the gate, but you're not wrapped yet. Chase charm wins 'em over.	Don't get bogged with the routine blog. You know yourself very well and when you doubt that, key people in your life will remind you.
TAURUS	She's exciting and you actually want to talk with her as much as bang her! Could she be your Jamie Lynn Siegler? Dude, is she real?	Don't resist this new energy. It's a gift and it doesn't get passed around often. Eat a good whole grain breakfast and run with the bulls.
GEMINI	Reunite with the posse. Hang with your bro's. There's nothing like that camaraderie and trust. You know where you belong.	Don't ever stray, stray so far from your own ones. World is so cold; don't care nothing for your soul that you share with your own ones.
CANCER	You're usually a homebody like my pussy pal Eric, but you're gonna wanna fly solo and rock out. Buy the house a round of tequila!	Don't miss Don't Label It's music showcase and Girls' Rock Camp Benefit on October 17. Your sign especially should attend and revel.
LEO	You might not roar so much these days as much as lay back and let that hot lioness bring you grub. Chill and count trophy pelts.	Don't fret if your ferociousness gives way to a tamed and happy house cat. Pamper yourself as long as you keep an eye on finances.

Kevin Dillon is nominated for the 2009 Best Supporting Actor, Comedy Series EMMY for his role as *Johnny "Drama" Chase* on *Entourage* [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)

# text messages from hell

**me (08/06, 4:02 pm):** It seems my former boss is going to keep using that "keep it digital, that's the true green way" phrase in her lucrative email blasts. Keep *what* green? She doesn't have a magazine anymore. Crappy dig.

**ann (08/06, 4:04 pm):** She never cared when she put out how many thousands of unrecycled copies...?

**me (08/06, 4:07 pm):** Not as many thousands as her advertisers thought.

**me (08/09, 5:22 pm):** Are you home? You missed the foot-long suction-cupped dildo in the pool! It was very special.

**scott (08/09, 6:57pm):** They seriously brought a dildo to the pool?

**me (08/09, 7:29 pm):** Yep! It was quite the party favor! Made the rounds...

**me (08/09, 7:34 pm):** It went swimming...

**me (08/09, 7:35 pm):** It enhanced bulges...

**me (08/09, 7:36 pm):** And it was fought over! Laura lost. Philip won and

swaddled it in a t-shirt like a baby. I think he tried to burp it.

**scott (08/09, 7:37 pm):** LOL!!

**me (09/13, 10:01 pm):**

We're at BJ Roosters...

**brad (09/13, 10:03 pm):**

Who is?

**me (09/13, 10:06 pm):** Oh, did I text YOU? Oops.

**brad (09/13, 10:07 pm):**

Not cool.

**me (09/13, 10:11 pm):**

"You know I love you more than my luggage."

## DON'T LABEL IT!

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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](http://www.dontlabelit.com)

If your business would like to become an **environmentally conscious print sponsor**, please contact Xanna at [dontlabelit@gmail.com](mailto:dontlabelit@gmail.com).

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

\*\*\* *special thanx this month to Kathryn Smith and Scott Harriman* \*\*\*

**DON'T LABEL IT!** presents

# THE IDES OF PRIDE

a pre-Pride party in the middle of the month, in the middle of the day  
benefitting **GIRLS' ROCK CAMP** [www.girlsrockcampatl.com](http://www.girlsrockcampatl.com)

## Saturday, OCTOBER 17

### 2-7 pm @ F.R.O.G.S. Cantina

Located in Midtown Promenade next to Trader Joe's on Monroe Drive. Plenty of free parking.

Live music by  
**THE SEXUAL  
SIDE EFFECTS**



with special guests Photo from their debut album, Already Free

### I'M CHINESE

and mayoral candidate **KYLE KEYSER**

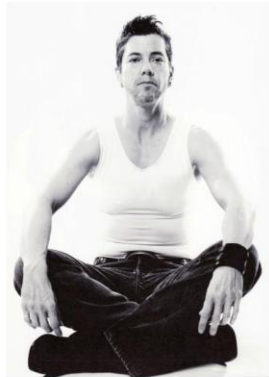
hosted by **DON'T LABEL IT's XANNA DON'T**

**ALL AGES / Free Admission**  
**Full Menu Available / Raffle Prizes**

**21+ may enjoy \$10 bottomless beer cup**  
[only \$8 with any ticket stub from Out On Film]



Featuring  
**Amber Taylor**  
and **Angela  
Bucky  
Motter**



Photos of Amber, Bucky & Xanna by Skyler Reeves

Flower Arrangements by

**BOTANY BAY**  
TROPICAL PLANTS & FLOWERS

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