

# just out

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Portland roundup

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## LIGHTS! CAMERA! (LOTS OF GAY) ACTION!



SENSORY PERCEPTIONS INVITES YOU TO THE SIXTH ANNUAL PORTLAND LGBT FILM FESTIVAL

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**W**hile I think people would prefer I just keep my mouth shut," Byron Beck admits, "but I've always been that way. I just can't help having the opinion that I have."

The difference between Beck and any other outspoken homo in Portland is that he gets to share his outlook every Wednesday with readers of *Willamette Week* in a column he's dubbed "Queer Window." Yet, this 40-year-old gay man never expected to be a journalist, nor happily settled with a partner in Portland.

"I grew up in The Dalles, and it got worse from there," he says, only half-joking about his childhood. "I thought I was alone. I didn't even think about being a gay person. I just thought I was different—so different that I would never fit in."

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PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

Byron Beck attends Peacock in the Park with his partner, Juan Martinez (right), and Steve Lofton, a Portland foster parent who is fighting Florida's gay adoption ban

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