

# Speak Out

## just asking

Critics and mainstream audiences are raving about two queer-themed films, *The Hours* and *Far from Heaven*. Which do you feel is better and why?

I believe *Far from Heaven* was much better as far as a queer-themed film goes. The anguish and fear that was so evident in the film really brought close to home feelings that some may have had.

*The Hours* is a brilliant film and incredibly acted, but the lesbian thing kind of fell flat (as far as I'm concerned) due to the more ominous and ever-present theme of death. The kisses came out of nowhere and sometimes didn't make sense in the story.

Although both were definitely ones to watch on the big screen, I felt *Far from Heaven* gave some hope to future excellent films that might be presented to the general public and widely viewed. Thanks for letting me voice an opinion.

KELLE EVENS  
Beaverton



**next issue** Former pro football player Esera Tuaolo has received wide acclaim since revealing his sexual orientation in October. Do you consider him heroic for addressing the NFL's rampant homophobia, or cowardly for waiting to come out until after his retirement? (Please see related item on Page 15.) Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

## Good Shepherd

TO THE EDITOR:

I am sending this e-mail to you in response to the article in your paper about Ann Shepherd ["Dancing with Wolves," Jan. 17]. I had the experience to know not only her and her husband through First Presbyterian Church but also Susie through Metropolitan Community Church.

I send my regards and sympathies to those who will miss Ann so much. She is the kind of person more of us should be like.

Let us remember that it is the Jesus in all of us to be a special person to the misunderstood and unloved in our everyday world! Also to Susie, who I have not seen in years, you were blessed to have such parents—as you know, many did not!

MICHAEL QUIMBY  
Miami Beach, Fla.

## You're the inspiration

TO THE EDITOR:

In January 2000, Kristan Aspen stepped forward from the ranks of our community to take on a job no one else wanted. Many of her friends told her not to and, I suspect, thought she was foolish. At that time, the Lesbian Community Project was down to three board members: two veteran activists, Sally Cohn and Catherine Sameh, and me.

Through Kristan's community connections and endearing charm, she was able to pull together a few more women with the willingness and ability to get the organization back on track. Sometimes it was a bumpy road and many times it wasn't fun, but she stayed with us and made things happen.

Most people do not know how many hours Kristan put in that she didn't report on her timecard, or the months when she donated back large portions of her salary to the organization. It's important that they know this. The depth of her commitment not just to lesbians but to all people in our community has appeared, at times, to be boundless.

I would be remiss in not mentioning the names of others who stepped in at that time to save the organization and breathe new life into

it. Sparky, Kathleen Saadat and L.C. Hansen as well as the ever-watchful eyes of Erika Silver, Smokey, Grace Sylvia, Cindy Rodriguez and never forget Sally Cohn, our herstorian and a constant in the ever-changing cast of this 18-year-old organization.

There are many women over many years and prior to my involvement who are responsible for the longevity of LCP; I would like to thank one of them personally. When I started volunteering with LCP, Pam Monnette and Elise Campbell graciously were sheltering the organization in their basement. Pam, if you had not done that, I would not have had a place to go when I was coming out and most likely would not have met my partner of four years. From the depths of my soul, thank you.

LCP has a fresh, dynamic board now and deserves the ongoing support of all women in our community as it moves forward in "building community and organizing for justice." Give them some time and money to work with, and you will continue to see great things happening.

And finally, if this sounds like a love letter to Kristan, it is. This baby dyke grew up in large part under your wing and is grateful to you for the leadership and inspiration you have provided. When I grow up, I want to be just like you, except with long red fingernails. Bradley-Angle House is fortunate to have you in its corner now.

AMAZON KNIGHTLY  
Portland

## Try patience

TO THE EDITOR:

As a trans man, I constantly feel the frustration of having to choose a gender identity in order to fit into society's binary gender paradigm.

I also have been frustrated in the past by my own interactions with the therapy profession, both during my transition and after. One of the reasons I became a therapist was to challenge from within the medical model used by my own profession in working with trans clients.

I have written extensively on the subject, publishing all of the pieces on my Internet site,

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