

speack out

Debatable debate

TO THE EDITOR:

What I want to know is, just what exactly is a "community public forum"? Isn't it a place where there would be sufficient time for many people to voice their thoughts and feelings, especially when this latest deadly incident of police violence is "the straw that broke the camel's back"?

Yet Sgt. Brian Schmutz, a police spokesman, fretted that the Rev. Roy Tate interrupted the detective's presentation "after less than one hour" [*The Portland Tribune*, July 4]. Taken out of context, this forgets the two months—yes, 60 days—the community "waited" for this public forum so they could express their feelings and frustrations. The format: 5 to 8:15 p.m., police

and detectives speak; 8:15 to 10 p.m., the community gets to speak—meaning that people who came on time waited even longer, having to keep their emotions in check. Is this Chief Kroeker's promise of "intense community debate"?

So, let's have another forum—for us, the people. We in the white community especially need to hear what Portland's communities of color have experienced at the hands of the police. We need to hear firsthand the brutality, the injustice, the harassment, the intimidation. Then all of Portland can be aroused to be on fire with the injustice of not only this latest deadly event, but the historical record of racism in the City of Roses.

LINDA KANZINGER
Portland

just asking *Bravo's reality television show Boy Meets Boy is like The Bachelor but with a twist: Some of the contestants are straight! Is this an interesting and playful social experiment or an insulting practical joke played on gays?*

This is mean and wrong. It is hard enough to meet someone who is nice without being teased by not knowing if he is going to share your life choices or not. Besides, it might scare the straight guys! This isn't a social experiment; gays have been pretending to be straight and vice versa for years just to fit in.

Reality shows have taken the fun out of television, and except for the one where a straight man gets a makeover by a bunch of gay men, I don't plan on watching any of them. That just might be the one that is worth something.

ALICE LYNN
Portland

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Being an "out" fan of reality television, I'm curious to see how this is spun and transpires. But bravo to Bravo for including and acknowledging the gay community in the reality television dating universe.

Having just seen and LOVED *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, I'm thinking that any straight guy who's comfortable enough with himself that he is willing to be perceived as gay on television will ultimately lessen homophobia, and I'm all about that.

It's definitely going to be a "wait and see" experience, but overall, I'm enthusiastic that Bravo is working to be an inclusive network. Now—how 'bout a ladies version!

CM HALL
Des Moines, Iowa

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Providing a slight twist is there for the ratings but doesn't appear to respect or acknowledge that being a gay man is acceptable. Why do we need to walk through the world of stereotypes? It is simply a boost for their ratings, not a boost for the world of equality. Did they announce the sexuality of members of *The Bachelor* program? If they did, I must have missed that.

MICHEIL MACCUTCHEON
Plymouth, N.H.

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Television programmers are finally realizing that they can tap another 10 percent of the population by appealing to the gay community. It is an experiment to me, but it will be an insulting joke to the boy if he chooses unwisely. If the boy picks the hetero, it will hopefully



show everybody that there is no difference between people with different sexual orientations. You've got to look at the bright side.

SCOTT ANKERSEN
Portland

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This is an insult to gay men everywhere. To place gays in a position where they may come up against a heterosexual is just inviting trouble.

MARTY LOSTHEART
Portland

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I think it is insulting. Although on one hand I am happy that they are putting a gay reality show on television, I am not happy it could turn into a nightmare for some poor gay man. We have the trouble of falling for straight guys anyway. We don't need to see it on TV.

If they are going through with this show, on the next *Bachelorette* I want to see some of the guys being gay and the woman having to weed through the men not knowing. Of course, that wouldn't happen because we are not as shady as breeders.

BRIAN WALLACE
Oklahoma City

next issue *Which gay or lesbian leader—locally, nationally, globally or someone of personal prominence to you—has had an impact on your life? (Please see related item on Page 3.) Respond at www.justout.com. (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)*



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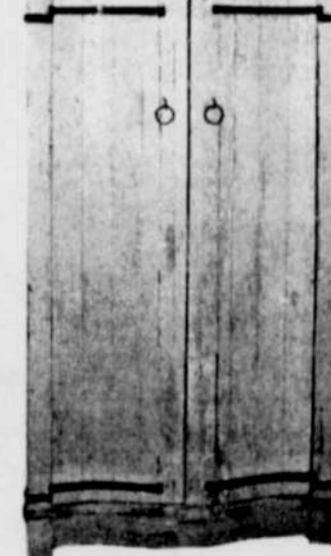
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