

# speaK out

## just asking

Just Out columnist Lisa Bradshaw hated the first episode of *The L Word*. *Queer* Willamette Week columnist Byron Beck loved it. What did you think? Are you looking forward to the rest of the season?

This show is H-O-T!!! One episode in and I'm already addicted! It's provocative, sexy, dramatic and funny all rolled into one. The story lines and the characters are easy to relate to and very enjoyable. I will be glued to my TV screen every Sunday night at 10! I love it!

CORI PIERCE  
Portland

...

We had a party with 12 of us, all lesbians. We all loved it. We cheered, checked out all the girls on the show and talked about how real it was. And some of us related to the characters. It's mind candy like *Queer as Folk*. I was horny as hell at the end of the show. I wonder how many others at the party had fun when they got home?

EVA HOFFMAN  
Milwaukie

...

I was disappointed in the show. It reminded me of Meg Christian's infamous song "Here Come the Lesbians." Do we really leap into your beds, break up your hetero relationships and sit around looking for fresh meat? Maybe in Los Angeles! I was hoping for a more intelligent portrayal of my life as I've lived it. I will continue watching, hoping the content and the characters evolve into something I can relate to. Or do I need to relocate?

JULIA RICHARDS  
Elmira

It was a good start. It was soapy at times, moving at times. Comparing *The L Word* to *Queer as Folk* or other current gay-themed programs would be missing the point. I believe the point is to offer a story of how this group of people—mostly women, mostly lesbians—live, love, learn, etc. This is not every lesbian's story; fortunately, we as people are not that one-dimensional.

I have not had an opportunity to read Ms. Bradshaw's review; however, I did enjoy Mr. Beck's. And the answer to your question, Mr. Beck, is yes, most lesbians do remember the names of every woman they slept with. Although that is my experience, maybe that should be *Just Out's* question for the next issue.

WENDY DEVOE  
Tigard

...

Finally, a series just for us fellow lesbians. The expectations had to be high and, of course, after reading Lisa's witty comments, my expectations were not that high. I was in fact really unhappy but then, after watching the pilot, pleasant-



YVONNE P. BEHRENS  
Portland

ly surprised. Well, not too bad, but I agree, why so stereotypical—and what was this, just picking up some random guy to get his sperm? What normal, intelligent woman would do that?

So then came the second episode—but what was that? When it was over "suddenly" after 45 minutes we (a group of five guys and women) agreed that the episode was not good at all. Why in the world are they trying to put so much in one short episode? There is a reason why, for example, *Sex and the City* successfully deals with only four characters. I do hope that in the future the episodes will be more realistic and not press everything in 45 minutes; less is sometimes more.

And, yes, there is one thing I also completely agree with Lisa about: We will watch it because it is the only lesbian series on TV, but that doesn't mean I will take everything without criticism, and I do not want to see me portrayed on TV like the stereotype certain people have in their heads.

## next issue

When rabidly anti-gay figures like Fred Phelps and Roy Moore come to town, should the queer community stage counterprotests, or is their presence not even worth acknowledging? Which is better—confronting them or ignoring them? (Please see related item on Page 7.) Respond at [www.justout.com](http://www.justout.com). (Don't forget to include your name, city and daytime telephone number.)

learn more about LGBT aging to contact the Lesbian and Gay Aging Issues Network of the American Society on Aging. Founded in 1994, LGAIN brings together individuals from across the country to raise awareness about the concerns of LGBT people ages 50-plus and to advocate for improved resources and services for our often-underserved elders.

LGAIN's newsletter and conference presentations offer professionals who work with older adults a chance to learn about the unique needs of LGBT elders. And our home page offers all visitors access to an annotated directory of nearly 400 Web sites dealing with LGBT aging as well as a monthly news update and a list of recommended resources. For more information visit [www.asaging.org/lgain](http://www.asaging.org/lgain) or write to [lgain@asaging.org](mailto:lgain@asaging.org).

GERARD KOSKOVICH  
Lesbian & Gay Aging Issues Network

## Don't believe the hype

TO THE EDITOR:  
I found Gary Morris' review of *The Merchant of Venice* impossible to believe ["Venice the Menace," Jan. 23]. The play was so bad I almost booted at the end.

Charles Borland, who plays Antonio, may have a great body, but the guy cannot act. He was motionless, could not recite his lines and had no acting capability at all. Of the rest of the cast, only Scott Coopwood as Shylock and Wade

McCullum as Launcelot really were capable. The role of Portia by Jennifer Roberts was acceptable. The staging and directing were more involved with hype and glossy effects rather than a message or any thought of Shakespeare. The directing was absolutely awful, as was most of the acting. I only hope that the remainder of my season tickets are worthwhile.

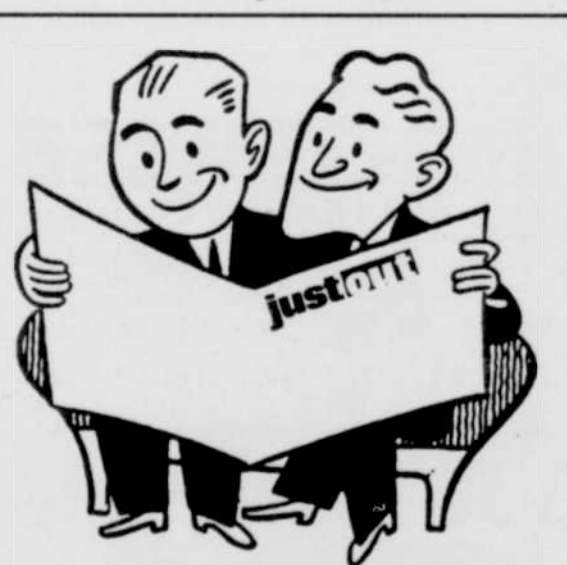
MICHAEL MASE  
Portland

## Leave Ashton alone

TO THE EDITOR:  
I can only assume that Lisa Bradshaw was punk'd, or else she just doesn't like science fiction with an actual story. Far from being at the bottom of the bag, *The Butterfly Effect* was quite a good movie with some excellent acting, particularly by the kids who play the younger versions of Evan ["What's Poppin'?" Jan. 23].

It also carries a powerful message about the negative effects of child abuse—perhaps too powerful for most of the critics panning this movie. It does get a little intense. But if that's the case, say so. If you just don't like Ashton Kutcher's previous juvenile works, it seems counterproductive to hold them against him when he starts branching out into quality films with some substance.

ALAN BATIE  
Beaverton



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