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# 'The Bachelor' has the ladies screaming, 'Pick me, pick me!'

by Autumn Brown  
contributing writer

ABC received a warm welcome into the reality TV family with its new hit primetime show "The Bachelor." For six weeks, one hunky matrimony-

During the first episode Alex selected 15 women out of the 25. They then moved into a plush Malibu seaside home to live together for the remainder of the series. After going on dates and spending quality time with each of the remaining ladies, each episode closes with the bachelor present-

don't feel like they have the time to date in the real world.

The show, which received a vast variety of reviews, still leaves viewers wondering why 25 women would humiliate themselves on national television.

"I can't believe how desperate these



LaNease, Kim, Shannon and Cathy share a limo on the way to the Rose ceremony to spend time with their potential husband-to-be Alex.

minded bachelor has to decide out of 25 attractive women who will be "the one" he marries. Basically, it's an arranged marriage, TV style.

Alex Michel, a.k.a. 'The Bachelor,' is a 6-0, 31-year-old Stanford and Harvard educated management consultant who presents himself to the public as the hunter, while the bachelorettes stand as his prey. The single women are granted the unique opportunity to find true love. The girl's lifestyles range from being a Hooters waitress to an attorney. Even though there is a strong sense of variety, they all hope to find Mr. Right.

ing roses to the "special women" he wants to stay for the next show. Often times those "unspecial ones" leave with mascara running down their face from tears of sadness and jealousy. In following episodes, the bachelor will narrow the field of 25 down to the elite eight, the final four, and lastly, the one.

As the ladies fawn and lust over Alex, they visualize him as a prize to be won. In his own mind, Alex weeds out his own prize from the would-be soulmates. Along with the bachelor, the women also believe that they are ready to take the marital plunge, but

women are. Who in their right mind would embarrass themselves like that, especially on TV?," said sophomore Roxann Fraser.

Although "The Bachelor" may look like another pathetic take on people demanding their 15 minutes of fame, viewers won't be disappointed. What else can you expect when you have 25 single women fight over one man? Due to the show's success, ABC is seeking both eligible bachelors and bachelorettes for a second season. Tune in Monday nights at 9 p.m. to see which lucky lady Alex selects to marry.

**CRITIC'S CRITIQUE BY DANIEL J. STASIEWSKI**

# Watch out while 'Changing Lanes'

by Daniel J. Stasiewski  
staff writer

No matter how minor, a car accident always adds a little stress to your life.

There's the immediate adrenaline rush, the nervous exchange of insurance information, and the expected monetary headaches, but the tension usually subsides. In that respect, "Changing Lanes" is a lot like a car accident.

Ben Affleck and Samuel L. Jackson's simple fender bender turns into a pile-up of moral and ethical conflicts and sets the pace for a tense but ultimately deflated thriller.

Gavin Banek (Affleck) is a young, ambitious Wall Street law-

see his wife get full custody of their children. On the other side of the building, the judge gives Gavin until the end of the day to find the crucial file. Gavin's hit-and-run comes hurling back at him because Doyle isn't giving up the file without a fight.

At first glance, "Changing Lanes" seems like it's just that inevitable road rage movie. True, road rage will probably become the focus of an action/thriller for some TBS original, but "Changing Lanes" isn't even a start for the hot topic. Instead, the little car accident is used to transform the film's considerable moral dilemmas into high stakes game of tug-of-war.

Leading the charge in the back-and-forth battle is Jackson. Jackson is spectacular as the desperate father being pushed closer and

In contrast to Jackson's affecting performance, Affleck is oddly impassive in what looks to be a very emotional role. Affleck played a much better young urban professional trying to set things right in "Bounce" (where he was the alcoholic), but his performance in "Changing Lanes" is solid enough to depict the stronger of the two characters.

Affleck's character faces the real moral and ethical struggles. In an ironic twist, it's often immorality that pushes his character. His mistress, played by the marvelous Toni Collette, is the voice of sanity while his wife encourages his indiscretions. Blackmail also turns out to be a solution to his problems. Even though Affleck doesn't necessarily give a breathtaking performance like Jackson's, the character is too



'Changing Lanes' is a story on what happens one day in New York when a young lawyer and a businessman share a small automobile accident on F.D.R. Drive, which escalates into a feud.

yer. When his boss (and father-in-law) entrusts him to present a critical file to the court, Gavin doesn't hesitate. He gets in his posh car and speeds to the courthouse.

Headed to the same place is Doyle Gibson (Jackson), a recovering alcoholic and struggling father. At the courthouse, his wife is set to claim full custody of their children, but Doyle is confident his plan for a new life as a family will change her mind. When Doyle is run off the road by the rushed Gavin, Doyle's car is totalled. Gavin, determined to make his appointment, leaves Doyle at the side of the road, but he also leaves the file.

Doyle, with file in hand, shows up at the courthouse just in time to

closer to the edge. His performance is extremely emotional, hot-wired, and, most importantly, human. Divorce and alcoholism are two of the simplest ways to develop a character, but Jackson's role is more powerful than that.

amazing and complex to disappoint.

In the end, the constant tug-of-war between the unexpectedly bitter enemies just evaporates. It's as if both let go of the rope hoping to give the other an empty win, but the rope just falls limp. I'm sure I would be more annoyed by its predictability if this film ended with a bang, but the cheerfully quiet ending just doesn't fully utilize the massive buildup of tension. While some additional jerking around could have been done, the climax turns out to be a safe but pleasant stop for "Changing Lanes."

★ ★ ★  
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