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GOP INCUMBENT USES FAKE 'VILLAGE PEOPLE' IN AD

"A tight race for Trent Lott's old U.S. Senate seat is getting nasty, with the Republican incumbent slamming his Democratic challenger in a television ad that uses actors dressed like the Village People to represent a gay rights group.

"Republican Roger Wicker and Democratic former Gov. Ronnie Musgrove are longtime friends who shared an apartment while serving together in the state Legislature. They're competing in a Nov. 4 special election to fill the final four years of Lott's term in heavily Republican Mississippi." ...



"The 30-second spot, which is not posted on Wicker's campaign site but can be viewed on YouTube, portrays Musgrove as beholden to liberal interest groups and shows an actor playing a Democratic operative taking campaign cash. The ad was paid for by Wicker's campaign and started running this week in local television markets." ...

"The Human Rights Campaign PAC is represented in the ad by one man dressed as a cowboy and another in black leather in the style of the 1970s disco group the Village People.

"The ad also touches on a scandal left over from Musgrove's time as governor. It ends with the Democratic operative taking money from a costumed cow, representing the Mississippi Beef Processors LLC plant that opened and closed during Musgrove's tenure."

Read more [here](#)⁽¹⁾.

Source: Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.startribune.com/nation/31076914.html>

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FILM REVIEW: RELIGULOUS



"After watching Bill Maher's new documentary about the ridiculousness of religion, appropriately titled *Religulous*, it's hard not to agree with Maher that religion is analogous to a 'giant space penis.' This idea stems from a small rural community in England where the citizens diligently maintain a shrubbery-outlined figure of a man with an epic erection on a grassy hillside overlooking the town. Created hundreds of years ago, no doubt by some horny botanist, the presence of this figure remains unquestioned. In

Religulous, Maher draws an analogy between the mindless devotion of these villagers and the inherently blind nature of religious faith." ...

"And we must not forget John Westcott, the 'ex-gay' founder of Exchange Ministries, who believes nobody's gay and yet gays are born gay and are actually gay because of their insecurities, despite Maher's rebuttal that it takes a lot of security to walk out of the house in assless chaps. The two make peace in the end, as Westcott bounces over to Maher to give him a hug to the underscoring of the *Brokeback Mountain* theme song. This moment is almost matched when, in a later sequence with a bonafide pothead with clerical credentials, Maher jumps up like a schoolboy as the Reverend's hair is lit on fire by a nearby candle. Never have the words 'Look out! Your head is on fire!' been more profound."

Read more [here](#)⁽²⁾.

Source: The Harvard Crimson

⁽²⁾ <http://www.thecrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=524540>

MURDER OF TRANSGENDER WOMAN GOES UNMARKED IN MEDIA

"Whether it was writing poetry or organizing in her community, Nakhia Williams was an active and vocal member of her hometown of Louisville KY. Williams, known as Nikki to her friends, proudly attended the 2005 Transsistahs-Transbrothas Conference where she met with other transgender people of African descent. Through her friendly attitude and genuine love of people, Williams touched many lives.

"On August 20th, a few days shy of her 30th birthday,



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however, Williams was brutally murdered by a number of men outside her Louisville, KY apartment.

"She died on August 30th.

"Williams's death prompted two disrespectful and inaccurate reports from FOX affiliate WDRB and CBS affiliate WLKY. Kentucky Fairness Alliance (KFA) members and GLAAD staff reached out to both stations multiple times offering feedback and recommendations on accurate coverage of transgender people. Neither station agreed to accurately reflect Williams' identity or honor her life.

"Over a month later, no other media outlets have covered her murder or followed up on any outcomes of the ongoing police investigations."

Read more **here**⁽³⁾.

Source: glaadblog.org

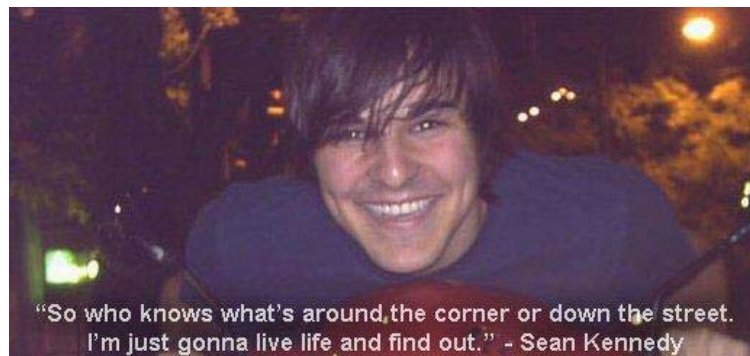
⁽³⁾ <http://glaadblog.org/index.php/2008/10/07/murder-of-transgender-woman-goes-unmarked-in-media/>

ELKE KENNEDY'S FOUNDATION

"Elke Kennedy is a brave woman - someone who has turned unbearable grief into heartwarming action. She's a mother who sadly, like too many others, has lost a child to a hate crime.

"In the Spring of 2007, her 20-year old son, Sean, was fatally attacked in Greenville, South Carolina because he was openly gay.

"Describing the attack on her son, Elke wrote: 'On May 16, 2007, at about 3:45 am, Sean was leaving a bar in Greenville when a car pulled up beside him, a young man got out of the car, came around the car approached my son and called him f**got and then punched him so hard that it broke his face bones, he fell back and hit the



asphalt. This resulted in his brain to be separated from his brain stem and ricochet in his head. Sean never had a chance. Sean's killer got back into the car and left my son dying there. A little later he left a message on one of the girl's phone, who knew Sean saying: 'You tell your f**got friend that when he wakes up he owes me \$500 for my broken hand.'" ...

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“Since her tragic loss Elke has become a tireless advocate for LGBT rights, specifically around hate crimes legislation.

“She founded a non-profit in memory of her son called Sean’s Last Wish Foundation and has traveled across the country sharing her story and helping people understand the importance of hate-crime protections for LGBT people in her own state of South Carolina and at the national level.”

Read more **here**⁽⁴⁾.

Source: glaadblog.org

⁽⁴⁾ <http://glaadblog.org/index.php/2008/10/07/share-your-story-seans-last-wish-foundations-elke-kennedy/>

NEW BOOK: THOU SHALT NOT LOVE

Dr. Patrick Chapman is the author of *Thou Shalt Not Love*, a book examining, as the subtitle says, “What Evangelicals Really Say to Gays.”

“That topic is ripe for exploration. What does it mean for religious people to say that they ‘love the sinner but hate the sin?’ Why is it necessarily the case that religiously devout heterosexuals see gay and lesbian relationships--even committed life partnerships and families--as ‘sinful?’ What about gay people who are also pious and passionately devoted to their faiths? Are religious heterosexuals truly concerned for the souls and the salvation of gays and lesbians--or is their rhetoric merely a thin cloak for faith-based prejudice?

“Chapman’s book addresses such topics, offering a clear and insightful view into a highly charged, often muddy, and frequently fractious area of social concern.” ...

“One speculation for the fervor with which Evangelicals have opposed marriage equality for gay and lesbian families is that they are looking to increase the pool of voters who will oppose other social rights, such as the right of a woman to choose to carry a pregnancy to term. Do you agree that abortion plays a role in the current faith-based opposition to same-sex marriage equality?



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"Dr. Patrick Chapman: While I do believe there is a correlation between those who oppose abortion and those who oppose homosexuality, I do not think the same-sex marriage issue is used as a tool to increase the number of voters opposed to abortion.

"I do believe, however, the same-sex marriage issue has been used to motivate voters to participate in recent elections. Importantly, I believe the same-sex marriage issue is intimately tied to another social debate: creation versus evolution.

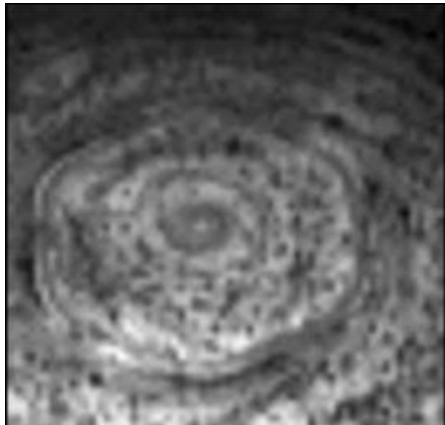
"The debate on evolution is foundational to the debate on homosexuality and marriage equality. If evangelicals accept evolution as true, then the 'Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve' argument against same-sex marriage loses its foundation. Acknowledging that humans evolved from an ape-like ancestor requires evangelicals to focus on the spirit of the Bible's message(s), rather than interpreting its specific culture-bound details and examples as 'law' for all people."

Read more [here](#)⁽⁵⁾.

Source: edge.com

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.edgeboston.com/index.php?ch=entertainment&sc=books&sc2=features&sc3=&id=80788>

HEXAGONAL SATURN



"New images from NASA's Cassini spacecraft reveal a giant cyclone at Saturn's north pole, and show that a similarly monstrous cyclone churning at Saturn's south pole is powered by Earth-like storm patterns.

"The new-found cyclone at Saturn's north pole is visible only in the near-infrared wavelengths because the north pole is in winter, thus in darkness to visible-light cameras. At these wavelengths, about seven times greater than light seen by the human eye, the clouds deep inside Saturn's atmosphere are seen in silhouette against the background glow of Saturn's internal heat.

"The entire north pole of Saturn is now mapped in detail in infrared, with features as small as 120 kilometers (75

miles) visible in the images. Time-lapse movies of the clouds circling the north pole show the whirlpool-like cyclone there is rotating at 530 kilometers per hour (325 miles per hour), more than twice as fast as the highest winds measured in cyclonic features on Earth. This cyclone is surrounded by an odd, honeycombed-shaped hexagon, which itself does not seem to move while the clouds within it whip around at high speeds, also greater than 500 kilometers per hour (300

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miles per hour). Oddly, neither the fast-moving clouds inside the hexagon nor this new cyclone seem to disrupt the six-sided hexagon."

Watch the video **here**⁽⁶⁾. Read more **here**⁽⁷⁾.

Source: Jet Propulsion Laboratory

⁽⁶⁾ http://www.space.com/common/media/video.php?videoRef=070327Saturn_hexagon

⁽⁷⁾ <http://www.spaceref.com/news/viewpr.rss.html?pid=26681>

FILM REVIEW: **BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN**

"Can you keep a secret? Listen, just between you and me, some of my inside-inside sources are telling me that there might be a little buzz growing around Heath Ledger this year as an early Oscar favorite. But keep that under your hat, alright? Anyway, it all made me realize that I probably don't really know enough about what kind of actor Heath Ledger really was." ...

"Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go downtown to keep looking for a scalper with any *Dark Knight* tickets left."

The tale of that summer
some forty years back,
when ol' fate made a date
between Ennis and Jack.

(harp music, harp music, wavy flashback ...)

The first was a rancher,
the second a clown.
The clown, a romancer, the rancher, a frown.

But they both started slow,
fore they let things erupt,



Feeling each other out (before each other up).
A joke here, a tap there,
a drunken admission ...

'Til the both of them knew there was no turning
back,
when the world became new there for Ennis and
Jack.

They had found in that tent the great love of
their lives.
The kind sent to make sense of their sensual
drives.



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The kind dreams of are dreamt 'til the day it arrives.

But ...

The kind, too, to be kept from the town and their wives.

So as days passed,
and weeks passed,
and years passed them by,
they'd go back
and hope that
no one asked them why.

Read more [here](#)⁽⁸⁾.

Source: hdfest.com

⁽⁸⁾ http://www.hdfest.com/rosie/brokebackmountain_rosie.html

DIANA OSSANA'S REMARKS TRANSCRIBED

By FindingBrokeback.com



Photograph courtesy of AMPAS

Following the August 4, 2008, screening of *Brokeback Mountain* at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills, writer and producer Diana Ossana answered a series of questions about the making of the film. She described in exquisite detail aspects of the convoluted path Annie Proulx's short story took on its way to becoming one of the most celebrated motion pictures of all time.

Ossana knows this subject better than anyone. She first recognized the story's potential for adaptation, enlisted the participation of Larry McMurtry, co-wrote the screenplay, discussed it with Annie Proulx, worked to market the "greatest unproducibile screenplay in Hollywood," and actively participated in the casting and filming of *Brokeback Mountain*. Consequently, her remarks have helped to answer more than a few questions. Here are a few among many interesting revelations:

Columbia originally owned an option to make the

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\$180+ million film, but accidentally let it lapse. James Shamus's then fledgling company paid \$5,000 for an option to make the film.

Upon reading the screenplay, Annie Proulx voiced her concerns about whether Ennis would cry as the boys separate at Signal.

Ang Lee originally believed that Alma shouldn't witness "the kiss."

Joaquin Phoenix was an early favorite to play Jack, but was precluded from doing so because of commitments to make *Walk the Line*.

Ennis was the toughest *Brokeback* role to cast. Ledger's performance in *Monster's Ball* landed him the role.

Ledger and Gyllenhaal had very different approaches to their performances. One was consistent, the other anything but consistent.

McMurtry and Ossana, who presumably know "what happened to Jack," engage in ongoing debates about his fate.

If you did not have a chance to attend and hear Diana Ossana in person, read her fascinating remarks [HERE](#)⁽⁹⁾.

As always, for *Brokeback Mountain* production and travel information see [FindingBrokeback.com](#)⁽¹⁰⁾.

⁽⁹⁾ <http://www.findingbrokeback.com/Interviews/Ossana/Ossana1.html>

⁽¹⁰⁾ <http://www.findingbrokeback.com/>

TOURING THE LONESOME RANCH

By FindingBrokeback.com

Ennis and Alma's "Lonesome Ranch" is, of course, a *Brokeback* icon. Built in 1932 by pioneer farmers, it is a lonely place indeed, some 10 miles from the one-light town of Claresholm, Alberta.

Thanks to the generosity of its friendly owner, and the efforts of Lauren Gurney, a group of dedicated *Brokeback* aficionados got to see the inside of the Lonesome Ranch



Alma's Clothesline and the Lonesome Ranch near Claresholm, AB

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last summer. Fortunately, they brought along their cameras. Here is a sampling of what Ang Lee did not show you:



"How my girls doin'?"

This, the first of Alma's three famous sinks, is not a prop. It is authentic, as is the cabinetry seen in the film's kitchen sequence.

The image of Ennis tending the girls as Alma washes clothes is among the film's most technically sophisticated shots. The girls' bedroom is in the foreground, and through two perpendicular windows we see the kitchen. A great deal of experimentation with set lighting was required to get this effect "right." As seen here, the girls' bedroom window is actually a sliding glass door. It was modified for the film.



Joe Ellington photo ~ *"If I had three hands, I could."*

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"I bet you could fix this place up real nice if you wanted to."

One of many surprises, the wallpaper in the del Mar's master bedroom is not expert set decoration; it is the real thing. It is true to the house and approximately 40 years old.

The scene where young Ennis feeds hay to cattle from a truck was shot here, as was a deleted scene in which, as an older man, he tends a sick calf.

You need not go to Canada to see the rest of the place. More than 30 additional pictures of the Lonesome Ranch, and a floor plan of the building, have been compiled by Barry Gilligan in an interactive exhibit that can be seen here.

Those who are interested in the history of this building, and the filming that took place here, will enjoy reading this interview with the building's owner, Kerry Hart, found here.

As always, for *Brokeback Mountain* production and travel information see FindingBrokeback.com⁽¹¹⁾.

⁽¹¹⁾ <http://findingbrokeback.com/>

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Forum Footnotes



FUN QUESTION OF THE WEEK

This week's Question: What street is reputed to be the world's steepest?

Let us know the answer on the response thread.

Last week's Question: Who said: "People have this obsession: they want you to be like you were in 1969. They want you to, because, otherwise, their youth goes with you"?

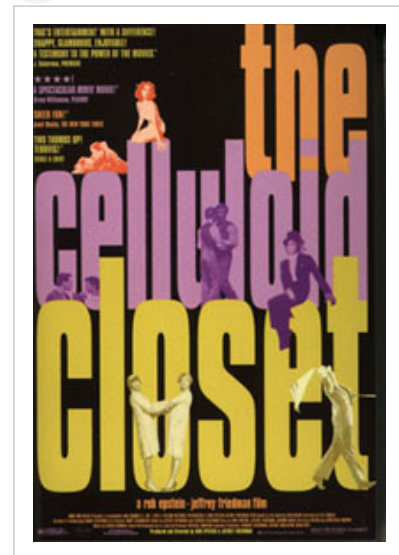
The answer: Mick Jagger

POST OF THE DAY

In the **Awards Aftermath - Part 2**⁽¹²⁾ thread, DanRWentzelJr asks, "Tony Curtis seemed perfect open and accepting about gays when discussing the films in *The Celluloid Closet*. How did he go from that in 1996 to bragging to the press about refusing to see *Brokeback Mountain* in 2006?"

dback's thoughts: "Maybe for the same reason that so many straight men love to do drag on Halloween--they think it's a hoot dressing as a woman, and seeing if they're attractive or not. (Dustin Hoffman frequently speaks very movingly of how psychologically devastating it was when he first started playing Dorothy in *Tootsie*, and having men look right through him; then he realized he regularly did the same thing to women he didn't find attractive.)

In *Brokeback* however, the men weren't in drag, or funny, or effeminate, or anything like that. They were rugged, horse-riding, gun-toting, fist-fighting MEN, who just happened to fall in love and have (onscreen) sex with each other. To old school Hollywood, that was the cardinal offense--that the gay offscreen life was finally, unapologetically onscreen. Lucille Ball and others of her ilk were very freaked out in the late 60's and 70's when onscreen nudity and sexuality finally started being shown, though they were OK with violence. I'm sure many of the "old guard" academy members are the same way--look how violent *The Departed* and *No Country For Old Men* were.



⁽¹²⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=27999.195>

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PHOTO CAP OF THE DAY FROM PHOTO CAPTIONING FUN 4

By gnash



jack: **you know, my wife sells MaryKay makeup down in texas...
...you ought to give her a call -- she might be able to help you.**

alma: *excuse me?*

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals that deep inside us is valuable, worth listening to, worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch. Once we believe in ourselves we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit."

~ E. E. Cummings ~

Contributors: **BayCityJohn, Stilllearning, gnash**



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you have ideas about initiating a gathering, go to **Start Your Own Threads** and get the ball rolling to plan a get-together near you.

4TH ANNUAL BROKIE REUNION - ARIZONA SPRING FLING April 17-19, 2009

<http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=29613.0>

Let us know of any events you'd like listed here.

The Daily Sheet is a production of The Ultimate Brokeback Forum at
www.davecullen.com/forum

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Today's edition was formatted by **gnash**.

We count on you to send us your news items, questions, and nominations for posts of the day.

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