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GAYS IN INDIA RULED BY FEAR

"Even with the white horse rented, his gold-speckled turban fitted and the wedding hall lined up, Mahesh did not feel ready to get married, at least not to a woman. The shy computer engineer is gay. But Mahesh went ahead with the elaborate ceremony in May because someone he had befriended online blackmailed him - threatening to tell his parents unless he paid \$5,500.



"Severely depressed and suffering from insomnia, Mahesh recently swallowed a dozen painkillers. He survived. But his blackmailer heard he was in the hospital and demanded more cash to keep his secret." ...

"(H)omosexuality is illegal in the world's biggest democracy. The Indian penal code describes the act as 'against the order of nature' and declares it punishable by 10 years to life in prison, longer than most rape or murder sentences.

"But several human rights groups are now mounting a historic challenge to the law, imposed by the British in 1860, in the New Delhi High Court. The effort to repeal the law is seen as a test case of India's commitment to secular democracy, with some legal experts saying that moral or religious arguments cannot trump constitutional rights in a democratic society. A verdict is expected before the end of the year."

"Being gay is increasingly accepted in India's artistic and literary communities. Nobel economics laureate Amartya Sen and writer Vikram Seth have backed the push to decriminalize homosexual acts, launching an effort among filmmakers and fashion designers to speak out in behalf of gay rights.

"A new Bollywood movie called *Dostana*, or 'Friendship,' has its worldwide release this weekend and breaks new ground with two gay characters. Still, the Hindi heroes pretend to be gay to save money on rent and seduce their alluring roommate - more *Three's Company* than *Brokeback Mountain*.

"In reality, gay and lesbian Indians say, they have few places to meet openly, and studies show that they often lead dangerous, closeted lives, with high rates of suicide and mental illness. Lesbians have reported being fired from their jobs and raped for not being feminine enough. Most gay Indians are married, often with children, and have covert relationships with lovers, activists said."

Read more [here](#)⁽¹⁾.

Source: The Washington Post (via Concord Monitor)

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081116/NEWS03/811160383/1013>

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PAKISTAN BANS BOLLYWOOD BUDDY MOVIE



"The High Court in Lahore has issued ban on an Indian film after a petitioner claimed it 'propogates homosexuality.'

"*Dostana*, which is hyped as Bollywood's first gay-themed comedy, cannot be shown anywhere in Pakistan as a result of Friday's court ruling.

"The judge ordered that a copy of the script be prepared for a later hearing and that the Pakistan Film Censor Board should block any screenings.

"*Dostana* is similar in plot to last year's Hollywood effort *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*.

"Two Indian men in Miami pretend to be a gay couple to rent an apartment, and later to gain an immigration permit." ...

"There is no actual gay relationship, but the two male leads share a kiss and it is being hailed as a breakthrough in Indian cinema.

"*Dostana* is a fun way to pave the way eventually for a Bollywood Brokeback Mountain-type film,' producer Karan Johar said."

Read more [here](#)⁽²⁾.

Source: PinkNews.co.uk

⁽²⁾ <http://www.pinknews.co.uk/news/articles/2005-9600.html>

CRIMINAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE...OVER A FILM

A man in Spartanburg, South Carolina, "was charged with use of a firearm while under the influence and criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature.

"(He) is accused of discharging a Remington rifle at his ex-wife's Enoree residence while under the influence of alcohol." ... "The victim said (the man) became irate after talking to a family member on the phone and learning she was watching *Brokeback Mountain*. The victim said (the man) then went to a nearby barn and started shooting."

Source: GoUpstate.com

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FOREVER YOUNG

Writer M Bhaktavatsala "takes a closer look at actors who have died young and since then became iconoclastic figures."

"Heath Ledger died young. He was barely 28. And he was already famous as a brilliant actor having won an Oscar nomination for the role of a gay cowboy in *Brokeback Mountain*. He had died before his last film, *The Dark Knight*, a Batman sequel, was released and it is expected that he will win a posthumous Oscar.



"Would his reputation grow in the years to come signing off with that kind of track record? Would he be another James Dean who, by dying young in 1955, has remained 'forever young'? Consider the work of James Dean—*East of Eden*, *Rebel Without a Cause* and *Giant*. In comparison, the work of Ledger certainly shines brighter whether as a gay cowboy, one of the Kelly gang or as a joker in the Batman film. Who will outlive whom?

"And then what would have happened if they hadn't died young? Would they have transited from iconoclastic youth to crusty age?" ...

"(W)hen one considers the lady actresses (in the film industry), the shining star who by dying young has remained forever young is Madhubala who died at the age of 36." ...

"And yet those who had known her are unanimous in their view that none of the 66 films in which she was a heroine does justice to her beauty though her screen presence was always electrifying, for she possessed an inner beauty that stopped actors, directors, cinematographers even ordinary mortals when they beheld her. The effervescence, the bubbling spirits marked her hallmark laughter some of which filters though in her films."

Read more [here](#)⁽³⁾.

⁽³⁾ <http://www.deccanherald.com/Content/Nov92008/artic2008110899617.asp>

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TONY CURTIS: PICTURE THIS



"In town to collect a Lifetime Achievement Award from the World Film Festival, (Tony) Curtis, the star of such landmark American films as *Sweet Smell of Success* (1957), *The Defiant Ones* (1958) and *Some Like It Hot* (1959), is also talking about his co-written memoir, *American Prince*, which hits stands this month. As well as telling his tales of working with such masters as Stanley Kubrick, Billy Wilder and Stanley Kramer, the actor delves into his rather troubled personal life, recalling his tormented marriage to Janet Leigh (one of their offspring is actress Jamie Lee Curtis), his working

relationship and romance with Marilyn Monroe, the loss of one of his sons to a drug overdose and Curtis's own stint at the Betty Ford Center." ...

"Curtis found himself in an odd position in 2005, when he was widely quoted as blasting *Brokeback Mountain*, apparently taking offence at the notion of 'gay cowboys.' He insists now that he was widely misquoted. 'I never said that I didn't like the film. I just didn't know what the big deal was. To see two guys falling in love? ... People didn't want to see the subtleties unfold.'

"Curtis now says he loves his gay fans, and says he worked with many gay men in Hollywood over the years, including director Vincente Minnelli. And he says he loved the references to his work in the teen comedy *Clueless* (1995), in which star Alicia Silverstone realizes the boy she is pining over is gay, in large part because he has rented a series of Tony Curtis movies. 'I loved that!' he says. 'I've always had great, profound friendships with gay men.'"

Read more [here](#)⁽⁴⁾.

Source: Globe and Mail

⁽⁴⁾<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20081118.wcurtis19/BNStory/Entertainment/?page=rss&id=RTGAM.20081118.wcurtis19>

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ENTERING WYOMING: SIGNAL

Continuing a series of articles highlighting Wyoming places with important Brokeback connections...



Signal Butte, near Ten Sleep, Wyoming

Signal - a gesture, action, or sound conveying information - Oxford English Dictionary

It is an endless (and equally fascinating) argument. Is there a "real" Signal? Most geographic names identified in the Proulx story are actual Wyoming places. Among the "real places" she describes are the towns of Riverton, Worland, Casper, and Sage; the counties of Washakie and Fremont; and mountain ranges (17 of them in all!) with suggestive names such as the Freezeouts, Rattlesnakes, and the Big Horns. These are all true Wyoming locations, chosen with care by an author who embraces authenticity and elevates it to an art form.

But there is not a "Signal, Wyoming." Many believe that the name "Signal" is evocative of the chain of events which is artfully foretold by the many cues and clues in the initial trailer and bar scenes. Read carefully, almost every line of these two scenes, larded as they are with "bookends," metaphors, and omens, signals the course of the story's intricate plot.

Those who maintain that "Signal, Wyoming," must be a pseudonym for a real town often point to the rock formation of Signal Butte and the adjacent town of Ten Sleep, Wyoming, as the setting Annie Proulx might have had in mind when she envisioned Ennis's first meeting with Jack. Ten Sleep is used as a setting in her short story, "The Half-Skinned Steer," where it is referred to, without apparent hesitation, as "Ten Sleep."

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Ten Sleep, Wyoming



Trailer, Ten Sleep, Wyoming

Significant in Native American tradition, and prominent in the Range Wars (1909), Ten Sleep lacks a modern history of large scale sheep ranching. To find that, one must travel southwest, nearly to Idaho. But visitors to Ten Sleep will find plenty of suggestive Brokeback images to stimulate their imagination.



Sheep near Ten Sleep, Wyoming



Alleyway, Ten Sleep, Wyoming

Is it a real place? Regardless of what you think about Signal, one of the most compelling reasons to visit Ten Sleep is to enter the captivating Ten Sleep Canyon and travel the Cloud Peak Scenic Byway, which extends 64 miles to the east through enchanting Big Horn Mountain scenery.

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Cloud Peak Scenic Byway

For more about Signal Butte, Ten Sleep, and Ten Sleep Canyon, see:

Signal Butte

▶▶ http://www.findingbrokeback.com/Entering_Wyoming/Signal_Butte.html

Ten Sleep

▶▶ http://www.findingbrokeback.com/Entering_Wyoming/Ten_Sleep.html

Ten Sleep Canyon

▶▶ http://www.findingbrokeback.com/Entering_Wyoming/Ten_Sleep_Canyon.html

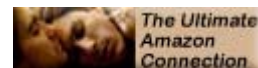
As always, for Brokeback travel and production information, visit **FindingBrokeback.com**⁽⁶⁾.

⁽⁶⁾ <http://www.findingbrokeback.com/>

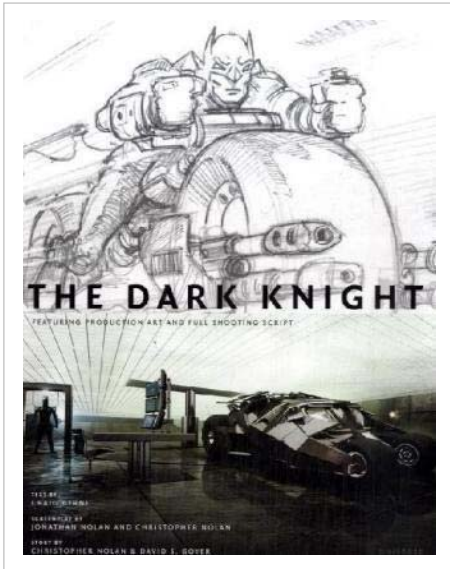
Forum Footnotes

DOING ANY HOLIDAY SHOPPING THROUGH AMAZON?

If so, remember to enter the store through our Forum! Just click the button below or the one at the bottom of any page. Purchases accessed through our store benefit the Forum. Thank you!



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One item likely to find its way onto many gift lists is *The Art of The Dark Knight*.

This intriguing tome includes concept art for many of the characters and a copy of Christopher Nolan's original shooting script.

You can find it in the Forum's Amazon store [here](http://astore.amazon.com/davecullencom-20/detail/0789318121/180-2871189-4082245)⁽⁷⁾.

⁽⁷⁾ <http://astore.amazon.com/davecullencom-20/detail/0789318121/180-2871189-4082245>

FUN QUESTION OF THE WEEK

This week's Question: Who was the only US president granted a patent, and for what?

Let us know the answer on the response thread.

Last week's Question: What does the ZIP in Zip-code stand for?

The answer: Way to go Fritzkep and Ennis Del Mark! The answer is indeed: Zone Improvement Plan





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LIFE THROUGH THE LENS

Our world, then and now



By Conny



daannzzz's restoration of this photograph by his Grandfather

THE DAILY SHEET

A production of The Ultimate Brokeback Forum
www.davecullen.com/forum

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By Conny ~ the arrival of winter

POST OF THE DAY

By DanRWentzelJr

"I just saw an advance screening and the film (*Milk*) blew me away. We had to wait twenty years for it and it did not disappoint. The movie also comes at the perfect time in a post-Proposition 8 world. The gay community needs this film right now and Sean Penn is stupendous as is Gus Van Sant's direction. ... I want to talk about how I felt upon watching this film. How it touched my soul, not in the same place as *Brokeback Mountain* did. *Brokeback Mountain* touched me very personally and deeply in my heart. This film touched me in my gut. I've marched with demonstrators over Prop. 8 and there is this anger flowing through me about it. *Milk* shows how pride and anger can be constructively challenged."



Join the discussion about this movie in our new thread ***Milk - The Movie***⁽⁸⁾

⁽⁸⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=31729.0>

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QUOTE OF THE DAY



"Hope will never be silent."

~ Harvey Milk ~

**PHOTO CAP OF THE DAY: FAVORITE THANKSGIVING
PHOTOCAPTIONS**

By royandronnie ~ originally posted June 28, 2006



**Now let us all thank the Divinity
That put Heath and Jake in the vicinity
When Ang Lee was questin
For the stars of his Western
Bout two icons of gay masculinity.**

Contributors: BayCityJohn, daannzzz, Conny, DanRWentzelJr, royandronnie



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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 produced by **MissYouSoMuch** and **Stilllearning**.

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. If you have items you'd like to see published, send them to tds@davecullen.com.

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