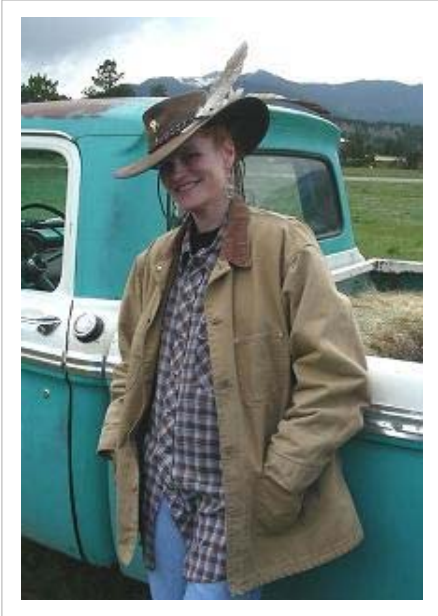


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## **THANKFUL FOR *BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN***



*Brokeback Mountain's* unique impact on royandronnie:

**Why are you grateful for *Brokeback Mountain*? What changes have taken place in your life that are in some way related to the film?**

*Brokeback Mountain* produced an artistic renaissance in me. My muse had been silent for several years, but within a week of the first time I saw *Brokeback*, I wrote a poem about it. And then a story. And then a few more stories. And then I found Cullen.com, and over the next year I reveled in all things written--essays (Elements & Themes), fiction (Slash and Poetry), humor (Photocaps) and editing (Beyond Brokeback, TDS.) Ennis and Jack may not be the focus of my life two and a half years on, but they are as much a part of me as breathing, and if they and their human avatars have brought a measure of pain into my life, they are still, and will always be, a source of love and joy.

And there is also a human aspect. Through the Forum--which is to say "through *Brokeback*,"--I have gone from being gay-tolerant to being pro-gay-activist. It's just wrong to be anything else, really. And I have shed my deeply Ennis caution of strangers, travelling far and wide to meet others united in their deep and abiding love of the doomed cowboys.

*Brokeback Mountain* may not always be a part of my life. But it will always be an aspect of my life. And I am very damn thankful for that.

Thanks to Heath, Jake, and my fellow Brokies all, from my bit of the Mountain.

## **PROTESTS DURING MORMON FESTIVITIES**

"When the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple in Mesa lighted its Christmas display, Clinton Bartlett and about 150 supporters showed up to protest.

"They're upset with the Nov. 4 passage of amendments to state constitutions in Florida, California and Arizona that block same-sex marriage.

"The Mormon Church urged its members to donate money and vote for the gay-marriage ban.



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In Arizona, voters approved Proposition 102, which added a 20-word amendment to the state Constitution to define marriage as between one man and one woman." ...

"Six days after passage of Proposition 102, more than 200 supporters of the gay community rallied at the corner of Camelback Road and Central Avenue in Phoenix. Bartlett also organized that campaign.

"The idea for the vigil came from friend **Bobby Parker**, who helped Bartlett pull the event together on short notice. Parker, 64, came out to his Mormon family in January 2007. 'I lost my family, lost my church,' he said."

Read more **here**<sup>(1)</sup>.

Source: The Arizona Republic

<sup>(1)</sup> <http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2008/11/29/20081129B2Story1129.html>

## **COMMEMORATING & PROMISING**

President-elect Obama marked the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day.

"World AIDS Day is a day of both commemoration and promise for the many millions of people around the world who are affected by HIV/AIDS. This year's theme, Leadership, is a particular reminder to me that World AIDS Day cannot be confined to a single day of the year. For that reason, I have committed my administration to developing and implementing a comprehensive National HIV/AIDS Strategy to reduce HIV infections, increase access to treatment and care and reduce HIV/AIDS-related health disparities.



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yehDRm3nH\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yehDRm3nH_w)

"Today, the United States faces an alarming rate of HIV/AIDS infections. Through the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, we will set a series of goals to prevent and reduce HIV/AIDS infections and improve treatment throughout the United States, particularly among communities of color which have been disproportionately affected. I will ensure that the federal government is accountable for achieving these goals." ...

**THE DAILY SHEET**

A production of The Ultimate Brokeback Forum  
[www.davecullen.com/forum](http://www.davecullen.com/forum)

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"We must engage in honest, open dialogue and reach out to those most at risk. My administration will educate people about HIV/AIDS, ensure people living with HIV/AIDS have access to treatment, and work with Congress to enact an extensive program of prevention, including access to comprehensive age-appropriate sex education for all school age children." ...

"Finally, to all those living with HIV/AIDS in the United States and throughout the world, their families and partners and caregivers, know that I will be keeping you in my thoughts and prayers today and throughout the coming year."

Read more **here**<sup>(2)</sup>.

Watch 10 other videos **here**<sup>(3)</sup>.

Source: bilerico.com

<sup>(2)</sup> [http://www.bilerico.com/2008/12/president-elect\\_obama\\_commemorates\\_world.php](http://www.bilerico.com/2008/12/president-elect_obama_commemorates_world.php)

<sup>(3)</sup> [http://www.bilerico.com/2008/12/10\\_world\\_aids\\_day\\_2008\\_videos\\_from\\_aroun.php](http://www.bilerico.com/2008/12/10_world_aids_day_2008_videos_from_aroun.php)

## **THIS JOURNEY CALLED LIFE**



"What is a journey?' When that question is put forth by a 150-year-old luggage maker who has transformed traveling into a fashionable affair, you think you know the answer: Images of style icons like Jackie Kennedy with her Louis Vuitton suitcases spring to mind, together with words like chic and smart.

"Wrong.

"When Louis Vuitton embarked on its campaign featuring well-known

personalities like former Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev and husband-and-wife tennis players Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf last year, the journey it refers to is more about the soul than style, and is more philosophical than fashionable.

"An introspective look at life as a journey, the campaign is a series of portraits by acclaimed photographer Annie Leibovitz, depicting facets of the journey prominent people take in their lifetimes." ...

"And the latest addition to the corporate campaign is a photograph of legendary actor, and, most would agree, the best James Bond ever — Sir Sean Connery. Seated on a wooden pier near his home in the Bahamas, the time is captured as 10:07, a reference to Bond's agent code. And the

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caption? "There are journeys that turn into legends." ...

"The campaign was extended earlier this year with a 90-second film — more than twice the length of most modern commercials — which is an intensely atmospheric evocation of travel as a life-changing experience.

"While it complements the print ads, the film, shot in France, Spain, India and Japan, has no renowned stars or instantly recognisable settings in it.

"Instead, to a sublime guitar theme by Argentine-born musician Gustavo Santaolalla, who won consecutive Oscars for *Brokeback Mountain* and *Babel*, the camera roves dreamily over landscapes and faces."

Read more **here**<sup>(4)</sup>.

Source: The New Straits Times Online

<sup>(4)</sup> [http://www.nst.com.my/Monday/Features/20081123181246/Article/index\\_html](http://www.nst.com.my/Monday/Features/20081123181246/Article/index_html)

## LESBIANS STAR IN FUNNY PAGES

"Two years ago Alison Bechdel seemed to come out of nowhere with a graphic memoir, 'Fun Home,' that knocked a lot of people, myself included, right over. You didn't have to go quite as far as Time magazine, which called 'Fun Home' the single best book of 2006, to recognize Ms. Bechdel's achievement. Her memoir, about coming of age as a lesbian in her secret-filled family's rural Pennsylvania funeral home, was moody, astringent, microscopically observed. 'Fun Home' belongs on that same small, high shelf of comic books where 'Maus' dwells.



"Plenty of readers, however, needed no introduction to Ms. Bechdel. For more than 20 years she has been the creator of 'Dykes to Watch Out For,' a weekly comic strip, printed mostly in college-town alternative newspapers, about the fractious lives and loves of an articulate group of lesbians in a city that resembles Minneapolis." ...

"The most important thing to know about 'The Essential Dykes to Watch Out For,' however, is how deeply amusing it is. It crackles with one-liners. Log Cabin Republicans, one character intones,

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dream about 'skinny-dipping at the Bohemian Grove with George Will.' During sex play, one woman says: 'I'll be the Lexus lesbian with a flat tire, and you be the surly biker who stops to help.' When a boy with two mommies leaves the house for a soccer game, one says to him, 'No kicking.' His reply: 'Not even the ball?'

After seeing *Brokeback Mountain*, one character delivers this sardonic monologue: 'Who wouldn't prefer a ruined life with a few pristine moments to a regular, banal, disappointing life? Imagine the cinematography if Ennis and Jack had been able to live together. Sweeping vistas of their couples therapist's office.'

Read more [here](#)<sup>(5)</sup>.

Source: The New York Times

<sup>(5)</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/03/books/03garner.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/03/books/03garner.html?_r=2)

## **MCDONALD'S USES 'BROKEBACK' IN AD CAMPAIGN**



"A young man desperate to ditch a festive family game of charades tunnels his way to freedom to the theme from *The Great Escape* in McDonald's Christmas TV advertising campaign.

"The 30-second ad sees the man escape and arrive at McDonald's by jumping on to his motorbike in a nod to Steve McQueen's famous thwarted getaway in the second world war film.

"McDonald's Christmas ad opens with the young man in a painful game of charades with his extended family.

"As he beats his chest, in what appears to be a clear reference to the film *King Kong*, his grandmother guesses *Brokeback Mountain*."

Watch McDonald's 'Charades' Christmas ad [here](#)<sup>(6)</sup>.

Source: The Guardian UK

<sup>(6)</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/video/2008/nov/24/advertising-mcdonalds>

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## **A PROUD FATHER ACCEPTS SON'S AWARD**

"Who said real Aussie men don't cry? Not proud father Kim Ledger who reduced Sydney's usually stoic social set to tears at last night's GQ Men of the Year Awards as he accepted the best actor prize for his late son, Heath.



"The Perth-based businessman told of his pride in his 'beautiful boy,' accepting the award on behalf of 'his little one, Matilda, and our family.'

"Honoured for his performance as The Joker in *The Dark Knight*, the late actor's memory outshone other winners, including Hugh Jackman and Baz Luhrmann, who were both in New York for the Australia premiere.

"Ledger senior told Confidential his son considered *The Joker* role as his 'best yet.'

"He thrived everyday on set, humoured and sometimes intimidated the cast, but reveled in this opportunity to create and deliver a unique character ... and that he did."

Watch video of Kim Ledger's acceptance speech and read more [here](#)<sup>(7)</sup>.  
Source: news.com.au

<sup>(7)</sup> <http://www.news.com.au/entertainment/story/0,26278,24708144-5013560,00.html>

## **TEN SLEEP WYOMING LIBRARY RECEIVES *BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN* DVD DONATION**

In the spring of 2006, after our forum placed our ad in *Variety Weekly* honoring BBM, we launched our second forum effort. Our **DVD Campaign**<sup>(8)</sup> set out to donate copies of the *Brokeback Mountain* DVD to rural libraries, so people who did not have access to the movie in theaters would have a chance to see it. Forum members donated to the campaign, and some donated directly to libraries. The campaign ended in early 2007. See the list of libraries [here](#).

Recently, former *Daily Sheet* editor **Marge\_Innavera** saw DVDs on sale at Wal-Mart, and her first thought was to find a library that could use a donation. An astute Forum member gave her the answer--Ten Sleep, Wyoming.

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**Marge\_Innavera** writes: "Frankly I was rather surprised, as I'd assumed someone had already contacted them. But this will make the donation much more meaningful for me, as **so many people consider Ten Sleep to be the prototype for Signal**. When I saw those copies on sale in Wal-Mart, I didn't think I'd be able to donate one to a library in a place with such a significant BBM connection."

The Branch Manger of the Ten Sleep library sent this message to Marcia: "Thank you for your offer in donating the *Brokeback Mountain* DVD. We would gladly accept the donation and will add it to our growing collection of DVDs available to our patrons. We are a small branch library and have a limited budget. We appreciate you thinking of us."

Thanks to **Marge\_Innavera** for keeping the spirit of Brokeback alive, and for making the DVD available to a new spot in rural Wyoming.

<sup>(8)</sup><http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=3084.525>

## **INDONESIAN AIDS PATIENTS FACE MICROCHIP MONITORING**



"Lawmakers in Indonesia's remote province of Papua have thrown their support behind a controversial bill requiring some HIV/AIDS patients to be implanted with microchips — part of extreme efforts to monitor the disease.

"Local health workers and AIDS activists called the plan 'abhorrent.'

"'People with AIDS aren't animals; we have to respect their rights,' said Tahy Ganyang Butarbutar, a prominent Papuan activist." ...

"Indonesia is the world's fourth most populous country and has one of Asia's fastest growing HIV rates, with up to 290,000 infections out of 235 million people, fueled mainly by intravenous drug users and prostitution.

"But Papua, the country's easternmost and poorest province with a population of about 2 million, has been hardest hit. Its case rate of almost 61 per 100,000 is 15 times the national average, according to internationally funded research, which blames lack of knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases.

"'The health situation is extraordinary, so we have to take extraordinary action,' said another

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lawmaker, Weynand Watari, who envisions radio frequency identification tags like those used to track everything from cattle to luggage." ...

"Since the plan was initially proposed, the government has narrowed its scope, saying the chips would only be implanted in those who are 'sexually aggressive,' but it has not said how it would determine who fits that group. It also was not clear how many people it might include."

Read more **here**<sup>(9)</sup>.

Source: MLive.com

<sup>(9)</sup> <http://www.mlive.com/newsflash/index.ssf?/base/international-32/1227538161147470.xml&storylist=international>

## **SEARCHING FOR LIFE ON EARTH**

"A new study is underway to search for signs of habitability...on Earth.

"If that sounds like the ultimate waste of science funding, take a closer look. The project is designed to scan Earth from a distance and note the evidence for habitability, so that we can better detect that evidence on distant worlds. In essence, if we want to find life on alien planets, we have to study a planet known to host life to determine what clues to look for, scientists say.



"The researchers are using the European Space Agency's Venus Express satellite, in orbit around our neighbor planet, to study Earth from afar, where it appears smaller than a pixel in the spacecraft's cameras, with no surface details visible.

"'We have initiated the first sustained program of Earth observation from a distant platform,' said David Grinspoon, a Venus Express interdisciplinary scientist from the Denver Museum of Nature & Science in Colorado. 'We want to know what (we can) discern about the Earth's habitability based on such observations. Whatever we learn about Earth, we can then apply to the study of other worlds.'

"Since its launch in November 2005, Venus Express has been photographing Earth from more than 2 million miles (3.5 million kilometers) away with its Visible and Infrared Thermal Imaging Spectrometer." ...

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"So far, the project has learned that tracking down signs of life and livability is not as easy as it sounds.

"We see water and molecular oxygen in Earth's atmosphere, but Venus also shows these signatures,' Piccioni said. 'So looking at these molecules is not enough.'"

Read more **here**<sup>(10)</sup>.

Source: space.com

<sup>(10)</sup> <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27167627/>

## Forum Footnotes

### JUST FOR LAUGHS

#### Fun sayings<sup>(11)</sup>:

1. Save the whales. Collect the whole set.
3. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
9. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.
10. Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.
11. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.
12. Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.
13. If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.
15. OK, so what's the speed of dark?
16. When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
18. Everyone has a photographic memory. Some just don't have film.
19. How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?
21. What happens if you get scared half to death twice?
26. Light travels faster than sound. That is why some people appear bright...until you hear them speak.



<sup>(11)</sup> <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=208.msg484940#msg484940>

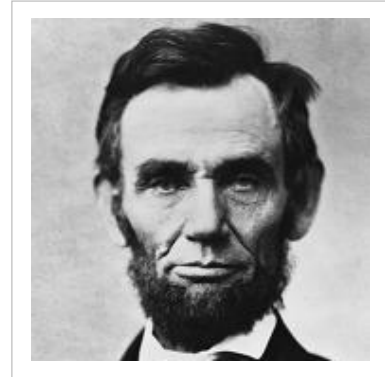
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## FUN QUESTION OF THE WEEK

**This week's Question:** What do these terms have in common  
- Sailor, Dead Leaf, Paper Kite, Blue Striped Crow, Great Egg  
Fly?

Let us know the answer on the **response thread**<sup>(12)</sup>.

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



**The answer:** Abraham Lincoln - for his device to lift boats over shoals (which was never built);  
way to go BayCityJohn and NWWaguy, who knew the answer!

<sup>(12)</sup> <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=8377.msg1450948#new>



## POST OF THE DAY

**Topic of the Week - *Jack I Swear* - What  
Did Ennis Mean?**<sup>(13)</sup>

retropian posts:

I think the impact of the story and film ending is heightened with "Jack I swear...". That the story, or Ennis's meaning are not explained and is left open to each reader or viewers

interpretation is one of the fundamentally important aspects of *BBM*. It would not be so powerful if it was spelled out for us. There is no one "correct" interpretation. Each of us bring to it our own experiences and wishes, hence all these assorted but perfectly valid ideas of what Ennis meant. That's why it got in our psyches so powerfully. One of my favorite insights into Ennis's final exclamation was in a review of the movie long ago, to paraphrase; "Ennis could no more complete that sentence, than he could complete the story of his own life". In the reviewer's mind, Ennis was confused in a way and unable to process and understand what had happened. I think this view is supported by the last sentence of the story: "There was some open space between what he knew and what he wanted to believe, but nothing could be done about it, and if you can't fix it you've got to stand it". But then, I think the film presents a somewhat different artistic exploration of Jack and Ennis's story from what Annie Proulx expressed.

<sup>(13)</sup> <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=31776.15>



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**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**"I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge -- myth is more potent than history -- dreams are more powerful than facts -- hope always triumphs over experience -- laughter is the cure for grief -- love is stronger than death."**

*~ Robert Obert Fulghum ~*

**PHOTO CAP OF THE DAY: Photo Captioning Fun 4**

**By Marz**



**Ennis couldn't believe that Alma had mixed up his and Junior's lunch again!!**

**Contributors: UltraViolet, chapeaugris, tellyouwhat, neatfreak, BayCityJohn, Marz, retrobian, 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.

### **4<sup>TH</sup> 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  
<http://www.davecullen.com/forum>.

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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](mailto:tds@davecullen.com).

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