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ITALIAN GAY RIGHTS GROUP SLAMS TV CENSORSHIP OF GAY COWBOY FILM



"Italian gay rights group Arcigay... criticised the censorship of the award-winning cowboy movie *Brokeback Mountain* by the country's state television channel. The movie was shown on Rai2 on Monday without controversial gay sex scenes. The group says it will ask Rai2's director and Rai2's president to publicly defend the channel's decision to censor the movie and has asked Rai to screen it again in its original version.

"We want to know who decided to show *Brokeback Mountain* yesterday evening with such blatant, 1950s-style cuts,' said Arcigay's president, Aurelio Mancuso.

"The film won the Golden Lion Award at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival, as well as three Oscars and four Golden Globes,' said Mancuso.

"Who had the presumption to think an adult public could not handle the sight of kissing and intimacy between two men?"

Read more [here](#)⁽¹⁾.
Source: Italy Global Nation

⁽¹⁾ <http://www.adnkronos.com/AKI/English/CultureAndMedia/?id=3.0.2795564976>

FUROR AFTER ITALIAN TV CUTS *BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN*

"Gay rights groups (have) charged that Italy's state television censored Ang Lee's *Brokeback Mountain* when it aired the Oscar-winning movie by cutting scenes of gay sex.

"Activists protested that RAI TV would never have dropped similar scenes had they involved a heterosexual couple, and politicians called for the incident to be discussed in parliament. RAI said it had aired the cut version by mistake." ...

"RAI's second channel aired the film late Monday cutting out a sex scene and a sequence showing a kiss between the lead characters, played by the late Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal.

"I don't believe it was an oversight, I believe it was preventive censorship,' said gay rights



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advocate and former lawmaker Vladimir Luxuria. In an interview with La Repubblica daily, Luxuria said cutting the key scenes was 'like showing the Mona Lisa without its head.'

"RAI said in a statement the film had arrived from the distributor already cut so that it could be shown in prime time. When it was decided to air it late at night, no one checked for the uncut version, it said. RAI pledged to show the complete movie soon.

"Some commentators and politicians were not satisfied, saying the cuts would not have been justified even if the film had been aired earlier.

"It is grotesque that RAI censored scenes that have the same content as those seen in most prime-time movies,' Benedetto Della Vedova, a conservative lawmaker, was quoted as saying by the Corriere della Sera newspaper. Luigi Vimercati, a center-left lawmaker, told Corriere he would take up the issue in parliament." ...

"Massimo Gramellini, a top commentator for La Stampa daily, wrote in a front-page editorial: 'I would like to understand why a kiss between two gays ... should offend our sensibilities more than scenes of heterosexual sex or bloodthirsty violence.'"

Read more [here](#)⁽²⁾.

Source: Associated Press (via Las Vegas Sun)

⁽²⁾ <http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2008/dec/10/italy-furor-state-tv-cuts-brokeback-mountain/>

BROKIES DEFEND THE INTEGRITY OF OUR FILM

One of our Forum members has been posting about a TV station in Italy that aired a butchered copy of Brokeback Mountain.

This is similar to the situation that happened earlier this year with Bravo in the U.S.

From Forum member giulia in the thread **Reactions to Brokeback**⁽³⁾: "I don't know if this is the right place to say that, but I'm very disappointed...no...I'm disgusted and seriously hurt by the Italian public television and I wanted to write here because I know that you can understand me and maybe do something...writing mails, articles, anything!

"Tonight the Italian public channel RAI 2 was airing (after 3 years) *Brokeback Mountain*. So we were all excited (despite the very disgusting dubbing version). Suddenly I was jumping on my couch...not believing at what I was witnessing with my own eyes! All the scenes involving sex or kisses were deleted! WTF! And the thing is that the film was airing at 11.00 PM...so...where's the fucking problem if there's a problem at all? Are you insane? Don't air it at all!

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"So please if someone could do anything about it...I'm writing to Italian communities and blogs and newspapers as well, but I thought that was important even to write to American Web sites!"

The letter writing campaign had positive results, just like the earlier one with Bravo.

An **update**⁽⁴⁾ from giulia: "Many persons are writing tons of mails and making a lot of noise. The channel's president has been required to do public excuses ASAP and BBM is going to be aired again without editing. He said that he has no fault at all because they aired a copy edited by another agency. Wow...I feel better...stellar job of checking and supervising your TV! (if that's the truth) Anyway...I'm happy because the reaction has been powerful so far...I was fearing the opposite."

⁽³⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=152.msg1453637#msg1453637>

⁽⁴⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=152.msg1454012#msg1454012>

A BOY'S LIFE

"Since he could speak, Brandon, now 8, has insisted that he was meant to be a girl. This summer, his parents decided to let him grow up as one. His case, and a rising number of others like it, illuminates a heated scientific debate about the nature of gender—and raises troubling questions about whether the limits of child indulgence have stretched too far.

"The local newspaper recorded that Brandon Simms was the first millennium baby born in his tiny southern town, at 12:50 a.m. He weighed eight pounds, two ounces and, as his mother, Tina, later wrote to him in his baby book, 'had a darlin' little face that told me right away you were innocent.' Tina saved the white knit hat with the powder-blue ribbon that hospitals routinely give to new baby boys. But after that, the milestones took an unusual turn. As a toddler, Brandon would scour the house for something to drape over his head—a towel, a doily, a moons-and-stars bandanna he'd snatch from his mother's drawer. 'I figure he wanted something that felt like hair,' his mother later guessed. He spoke his first full sentence at a local Italian restaurant: 'I like your high heels,' he told a woman in a fancy red dress. At home, he would rip off his clothes as soon as Tina put them on him, and instead try on something from her closet—a purple undershirt, lingerie, shoes. 'He ruined all my heels in the sandbox,' she recalls."



"At the toy store, Brandon would head straight for the aisles with the Barbies or the pink and

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purple dollhouses. Tina wouldn't buy them, instead steering him to neutral toys: puzzles or building blocks or cool neon markers. One weekend, when Brandon was 2½, she took him to visit her 10-year-old cousin. When Brandon took to one of the many dolls in her huge collection—a blonde Barbie in a pink sparkly dress—Tina let him bring it home. He carried it everywhere, 'even slept with it, like a teddy bear.'

"For his third Christmas, Tina bought Brandon a first-rate Army set—complete with a Kevlar hat, walkie-talkies, and a hand grenade. Both Tina and Brandon's father had served in the Army, and she thought their son might identify with the toys. A photo from that day shows him wearing a towel around his head, a bandanna around his waist, and a glum expression. The Army set sits unopened at his feet. Tina recalls his joy, by contrast, on a day later that year. One afternoon, while Tina was on the phone, Brandon climbed out of the bathtub. When she found him, he was dancing in front of the mirror with his penis tucked between his legs. 'Look, Mom, I'm a girl,' he told her. 'Happy as can be,' she recalls.



"Brandon, God made you a boy for a special reason,' she told him before they said prayers one night when he was 5, the first part of a speech she'd prepared. But he cut her off: 'God made a mistake,' he said." ...

"Catherine Tuerk, who runs the support group for parents in Washington, D.C., started out as an advocate for gay rights after her son came out, in his 20s. She has a theory about why some parents have become so comfortable with the transgender label: 'Parents have told me it's almost easier to tell others, "My kid was born in the wrong body," rather than explaining that he might be gay, which is in the back of everyone's mind. When people think about being gay, they think about sex—and thinking about sex and kids is taboo.'

"Tuerk believes lingering homophobia is partly responsible for this, and in some cases, she may be right. When Bill saw two men kissing at the conference, he said, 'That just don't sit right with me.' In one of Zucker's case studies, a 17-year-old girl requesting cross-sex hormones tells him, 'Doc, to be honest, lesbians make me sick...I want to be normal.' In Iran, homosexuality is punishable by death, but sex-change operations are legal—a way of normalizing aberrant attractions."

Read more [here](#)⁽⁵⁾.

Source: The Atlantic

⁽⁵⁾ <http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200811/transgender-children>



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HELP CHANGE THE WORLD

"It's almost coming to three decades now."

"The problem now is that HIV infection has become invisible."



"So what are we doing to take care of them?"

"Every day, millions of personal computers sit idly on desks and in people's homes around the world. Screen savers kick in, computer fans slow down; there's a low, quiet hum from the hard drive, spinning and working a little, but offering little of value to the world. But what if instead of idling away their time these computers could be turned into powerful research tools operating around the clock? IBM asked this question and answered it by creating World Community Grid, a global humanitarian effort to harness unused computing power of individual and business computers and direct that power toward research designed to help address the world's most difficult health and societal problems."

The World Community Grid's FightAIDS@Home project "uses distributed computing to contribute your computer's idle resources to accelerate research into new drug therapies for HIV. Grid computing joins together many individual computers, creating a large system with massive computational power that far surpasses the power of several supercomputers. Because the work is split into small pieces that can be processed simultaneously, research time is reduced from years to months, or even days."

The modeling process and analysis require a **huge** amount of computing time, which is where **you can help**. You can **donate the time** your computer is on but idle. Go to World Community Grid to **register**⁽⁶⁾. You can then install **free** software that "will download small pieces of data and perform calculations that model how drugs interact with various HIV virus mutations. After your computer processes the information, the results are sent by World Community Grid to The Scripps Research Institute."

Simply by letting your computer work while you're asleep or away, you can FightAIDS@Home, find a **cure for cancer** or even help **fight world hunger**⁽⁷⁾. The software is absolutely **free** and **won't interfere** with any other computer functions you might be using.

"The next time you step away from your desk for a quick latte at your local coffee bar, your computer can get to work.... doing calculations for AIDS research. Or genome comparisons for drug development. Or sample analyses for better cancer treatments. In fact, your computer can do the

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calculations while you're actually using it for something else."

Donate time to a worthy cause? Yeah, you can do that. **Make a difference!** It's *free* and really very easy. If you're interested and/or you have non-technical questions about the project, **contact KittyHawk**, who has been participating since last May. If enough Forum members sign up, we could even form "Team Cullen" and aggregate points.

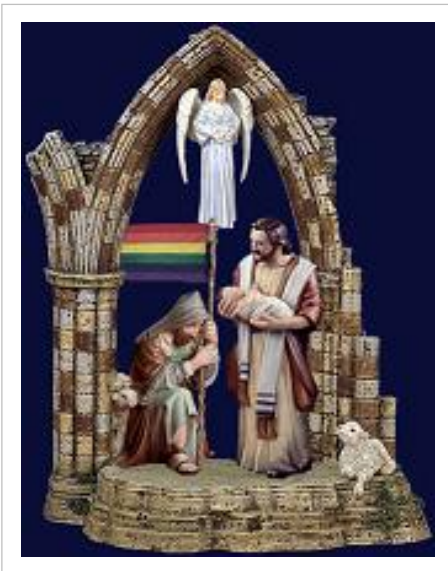
Watch a video about World Community Grid's **FightAIDS@Home**⁽⁸⁾ project.

⁽⁶⁾ <http://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/reg/viewRegister.do>

⁽⁷⁾ http://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/projects_showcase/rice/viewRiceMain.do

⁽⁸⁾ http://www.worldcommunitygrid.org/newsletter/video/viewVodcast3.do?utm_source=home_page&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=vodcast3

PINK CHRISTMAS IN AMSTERDAM



"A Dutch gay group has organized a 'Pink Christmas' festival for the first time in Amsterdam, featuring a manger stall with two Josephs and two Marys.

"Other attractions in the 10-day festival include parties, an open-air market, gay-themed films, an ice skating rink and religious services on Dec. 25.

"ProGay group chairman Frank van Dalen says the event is intended to increase the range of options for homosexual men and women during the Christmas holiday week." ...

"Some Christian groups have protested. The organization Christians for Truth says the idea 'mocks the core concepts of Evangelism.'"

Read more **here**⁽⁹⁾.

Source: San Francisco Chronicle

⁽⁹⁾ <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2008/12/08/international/i062825S39.DTL&hw=gay&sn=001&sc=386>

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ENTERING WYOMING: THE MINT BAR



FindingBrokeback offers another in its continuing series of articles highlighting Wyoming places with important Brokeback connections.

"But the incident that actually made me start writing it was one night when I was in a bar in Sheridan, Wyoming—the Mint Bar. There was a ranch hand I used to see. This guy was back leaning against the wall by the pool tables. The bar was packed with good-looking women, and he wasn't looking at them—he was watching the guys He was about sixty, and he watched them with a kind of subdued hunger that made me wonder if he was country gay."



Gambling at the Mint Bar c. 1935



The Mint Bar, Sheridan, Wyoming

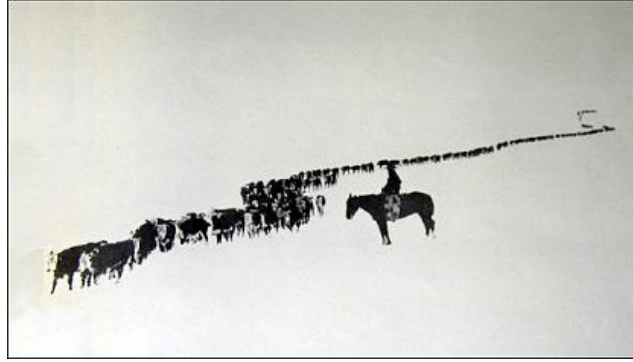
Since it first opened in 1907, Sheridan's Mint Bar has been satiating almost every kind of hunger out there. Originally a mere cowboy watering hole, the Mint promptly evolved into a combination bar and brothel. During Prohibition, the Mint became a speakeasy. Later, as a small casino, it offered lucky patrons various slot machines and table games.

If, as Annie Proulx suspected, there was some "subdued hunger" present in the Mint that night, we can be certain that it was not the first instance of that kind of thing.

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Inside the Mint Bar



One of Charles Belden's Famed Wyoming Photos

The Mint is an essential stop on any Brokeback fan's tour of Wyoming. Above the imposing mahogany bar you will spot an 8' 4" rattlesnake hide (37 buttons). Local legend has it that the snake took two days to track and kill. There is also a vast collection of animal taxidermy including moose, elk, bear, bighorn rams, bison, and more.

History fans will appreciate the copy of Russell White Bear's map of the Custer Battle. But for most visitors, the real show-stopper is the Mint's priceless set of classic Charles Belden western photos, most of which were taken in the early 1900s at the Pitchfork Ranch in Meeteetse, Wyoming.



The Mint's Famous Neon Sign

Famous of the Mint's treasures is its vintage neon sign. If you go, make sure to see it at night when it is at its iridescent best. That is when the pool table gets busy, too.

For more information, see: **Mint Bar**⁽¹⁰⁾.

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

⁽¹⁰⁾

http://www.findingbrokeback.com/Entering_Wyoming/Mint_Bar.html

⁽¹¹⁾ <http://www.findingbrokeback.com/>



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Forum Footnotes

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JAKE GYLLENHAAL
DECEMBER 19**



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WHAT'S COOKING: ADOBO CHICKEN



From the Forum's **Recipe & Cook's Corner**⁽¹²⁾ comes a low-carb, inexpensive recipe that's prepared in a crockpot.

Ingredients:

- 3 pounds meat (thighs)
- 1/2 cup soy sauce (Kikkoman)
- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 1 small onion (sliced)
- 3 cloves garlic (chopped)

Combine all ingredients in the pot and cook. The longer it simmers, the more tender the meat will be. The recipe is also very forgiving. If you don't like garlic, leave it out. If you want to try it with ginger or hot peppers or anything else that you fancy, toss it in. Just don't mess with the soy/vinegar ratio. And don't add any water because it makes lots of gravy.

Find and share recipes **here**⁽¹³⁾.

⁽¹²⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=8751.msg181019#msg181019>

⁽¹³⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=8751.0>

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



(I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.)

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POST OF THE DAY

From the Forum's **How *Brokeback Affected Me***⁽¹⁴⁾ thread, **Rob in Puyallup** writes, in part:

"I am out of my closet because of *Brokeback Mountain*. I have the love of my life because of it. I have made many, many friends since Ennis and Jack entered my personal history, too.

"Jack's death in the movie moved me to change. I saw myself as Ennis, I found it unbearable to live my remaining days in a 'trailer' like him, so I forced myself out of the closet I had lived my life in. I am out, going further than that has proven difficult, though.

"Heath and Jackie's sudden deaths have proven a bit of a stumbling block for me. Heath's Ennis brought me here in the first place, Jackie's love and acceptance of me, her 'little brother', as she called me, made this forum a home for me. Her death has been a tremendous loss for me and many others.

"I hang on to the threads of the past. This forum moved me, changed me. Without *Brokeback Mountain* none of this would have happened."

⁽¹⁴⁾ <http://www.davecullen.com/forum/index.php?topic=23626.1650>



QUOTE OF THE DAY



"I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape - the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show."

~ Andrew Wyeth ~

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PHOTO CAP OF THE DAY: PHOTO CAPTIONING FUN 4
By gnash



mrs. twist: **it's okay to cry, but don't put your light out with too many tears.**

By Ministering angel



**In the years after Jack's death, Ennis swore he could sometimes feel a ghostly hand
caress his shoulder.**



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Contributors: **giulia, BayCityJohn, chapeaugris, UltraViolet, Ministering angel, RobsGalPal, KittyHawk, Rob in Puyallup, gnash**

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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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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