



Tuesday, April 7th, 2009

WHAT YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT *COLUMBINE*

"As a Salon reporter, Dave Cullen exploded myths about the tragic school shooting, now the subject of his new book. He talks about what the media bungled -- and what still surprises him." -- Joan Walsh, Editor-in-chief, salon.com

"Dave Cullen's *Columbine* is a chilling page-turner, a striking accomplishment given that Cullen's likely readers almost certainly know how the tragic story ends. Twelve students and one beloved teacher died at the suburban Denver high school on April 20, 1999, the worst school shooting rampage until two years ago, when Cho Seung-Hui slaughtered 32 classmates at Virginia Tech.

"I know more about the Columbine story than most of Cullen's audience: I was Cullen's editor at Salon 10 years ago, on that awful day when the cable networks told us teenagers were dying in Littleton, and he told me over the phone he'd head there immediately. Little did either of us know then that he'd still be at Columbine a decade later.

"So I can't be dispassionate about this book. I will point to raves from *Time* and *Newsweek* before offering my own personal observation: I knew Cullen was a dogged reporter and a terrific writer, but even I was blown away by the pacing and story-telling he mastered in *Columbine*, a disturbing, inspiring work of art."

Listen to the [interview](#) or read the [full article](#).

Source: [salon.com](#)

ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED ON *DADT* REPEAL HOPES

Dave was sent this email by a friend, and we've posted it here in hopes of bringing attention to this very real and current situation:

Dear Friends,

An atomic bomb was dropped yesterday on the hopes of repealing DADT (Don't Ask, Don't Tell) in the form of an unprecedented letter signed by over 1000 retired but still actively homophobic high ranking military officers. The ease with which its author Elaine Donnelly is mocked, the ease with which its arguments can be empirically disputed, are irrelevant to a Congress looking for camouflage for their own homophobia and/or cowardice in the face of their constituents' prejudice

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Ain't no reins on this one...

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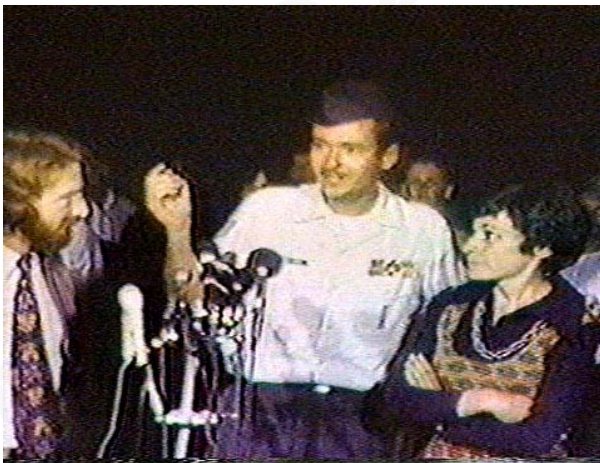
and ignorance. Far from the "Will & Grace Generation," its members have the highest average age of any Congress on record.

Even before this bomb dropped, barely a fourth of the House of Representatives had agreed to cosponsor Rep. Ellen Tauscher's DADT repeal bill. Strangely, even she didn't show up for an SLDN rally in front of the Capitol to generate public support for her own bill. Perhaps it was because she is now effectively a lame duck after having been nominated for a State Department job. Unfortunately, again, even before this bomb dropped, I've heard of none of her colleagues rushing forward to grab her baton.

Even before this bomb dropped, no companion bill in the Senate had yet been introduced. After years of searching for the right "moderate" sponsor, apparently Sen. Kennedy is considering introducing it himself IF he can find an appropriate Republican cosponsor. We have the greatest respect for him; he has become an unparalleled champion for LGBT equality in the Senate, but his fragile health makes such a strategy equally fragile, and, without Executive leadership, this bigotry Blitzkrieg makes it futile.

Even before it dropped, the fiction we wanted to believe that President Obama was actively working behind the scenes toward repeal exploded Sunday when the Secretary of Defense revealed that they've barely discussed it and that he, and apparently the Commander in Chief, thinks it should continue to be "pushed down the road."

Even before it dropped, only aggressive action by the President could have possibly persuaded Congress to repeal in the same way he has lobbied for the stimulus package and other controversial issues on his agenda. For whatever reason, he left the ground unguarded and the ruthless enemies of equality have overrun it.



The day thirty-four years ago **Leonard Matlovich** (*shown in photo*) was discharged from the Air Force simply for being gay, he held a Kennedy Bicentennial half-dollar up to the TV cameras and told the nation:

"It says '200 Years of Freedom'. Maybe not in my lifetime, but we are going to win in the end."

If you understand that no issue still has the power to advance progress in every other area affecting LGBT Americans that repealing DADT has, if you care for all of those who were discharged before and since Leonard, for those carrying on his battle in the courts,



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for those still being forced to serve in silence, for those in the process of being discharged this very moment, **please immediately write the President through the URL below and demand that he finally keep his repeated campaign promise** by PUBLICLY dismissing this letter while calling on Congress to repeal DADT and ordering Secretary Gates and the Pentagon to begin preparing for it. Is thirty-four years not long enough?

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>

DADT REPEAL BILL REFILED

"Legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the ban on gays serving openly in the military was filed Monday in the House of Representatives.

"The last attempt to void the Clinton-era law died at the end of the last Congress. The new attempt was filed by Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher, a California Democrat. The Military Enhancement Readiness Act (MREA) repeals the ban, replacing it with new provisions prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Armed Forces. Last year, the MREA had 149 bipartisan cosponsors.

"This law has failed our country and our military for 15 years," Tauscher told an afternoon news conference. "It harms military readiness and discriminates against patriotic young men and women who want to serve their country. It's time for Congress to right this wrong."

Read [more](#).

Source: 365gay.com

FICTION'S *OTHER* "JACK TWIST"

By Marge_Innavera

Recently I re-read a book by Dean Koontz, one of my favorite authors, and did a double-take when a character named "Jack Twist" was introduced. He's one of the main characters in *Strangers*, a story similar to *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* with more of an edge. Like *Close Encounters*, this story has a number of people become obsessed with particular images and irresistibly drawn to an isolated motel in Nevada -- a place they believe they've never been, but they turn out to be



Cover illustration for *Strangers*.

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mistaken.

Jack Twist is typical of many of Dean Koontz' characters: a person of integrity and capable of great love and great loyalty whose life has been set adrift by personal tragedy. In Jack's case, he was formerly a member of the US Army Rangers who is part of a mission-gone-awry to an unnamed Central American country. Jack spends over a year in a brutal gulag ("that had no official existence") before he and his fellow Rangers realize that their country has abandoned them for reasons of political expediency. After an escape and return to the US, he and the other survivors discover that they have been made official scapegoats and their careers are over. At the same time Jack discovers that his wife has been the victim of a brutal attack and left brain-damaged. Out of bitterness, alienation and a need for funds for his wife's care, Jack becomes a master thief, a sort of non-homicidal Joker, until the odd nightmares start up.....

Koontz' Jack Twist isn't any better-looking than Annie Proulx'; in fact, "Not one feature or aspect of his face could be called handsome". Worse, Jack has a cast in one eye and "most people could not talk to him without nervously shifting their attention from one eye to the other, wondering which was looking at them when in fact both were. When he smiled he looked clownish and when he frowned he looked sufficiently threatening to send Jack the Ripper scurrying for home and hearth."

Strangers was published in 1986, a little over a decade before *Brokeback Mountain*.

OUTRAGE OVER MOVIE SHOWING

Things are getting heated down under. While showing *Brokeback Mountain* seems to be acceptable fare for college students, there is a distinct difference between university age adults and middle school and high school-aged children:

"A Noosa high school is under fire for showing Year 10 students the homosexual cowboy movie *Brokeback Mountain* as part of their studies and failing to get viewing permission from one parent.

"According to a family friend of one Noosa District High Year 10 student, the subject matter was so distressing he felt physically ill.

"A friend's son was in this class and was very upset and angry telling me about it and it really got me angry too,: said the woman, who did not wished to be named. ... Her son was upset about having to watch it and came home feeling nauseous.

"The film not only contains, in my opinion, very detailed and real sex scenes both homosexual and

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heterosexual, but betrayal, marriage breakdown, hopelessness, unhealthy relationships, aggression and isolation and needs to be viewed with a maturity that a 14- or 15-year-old does not have."

Source: thedaily.com.au

GAY CURE THERAPIES STILL USED BY FEW IN UK



"A sixth of British therapists said they had tried to help gay, bisexual and lesbian patients become heterosexual, even though evidence suggests such therapies can be harmful, according to a survey released on Thursday.

"Michael King of University College London, who published his findings in the journal *BMC Psychiatry*, said the number of therapists who said they had tried to help a person change their sexual orientation was surprising.

"There is very little evidence to show that attempting to treat a person's homosexual feelings is effective and in fact it can actually be harmful," King said in a telephone interview. Such an approach could provoke greater anxiety and confusion.

"The survey showed that 17 percent of therapists and psychiatrists working in Britain had sought to help their patients reduce "gay or lesbian feelings" through therapy, the researchers said.

"Treating homosexuality as a mental illness was more common in the United States and Britain during the 1970s and 1980s, when so-called "aversion" therapy was in vogue, he added."

Read [more](#).

Source: reuters.com



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Forum Footnotes

COLUMBINE HITS THE UK

Dave's agent sold the rights to *Columbine* to a publisher for instant publication as a trade paperback in the UK. In fact, it should be in bookstores by the time you read this. This contract also includes Ireland, Australia, etc., but may require a bit longer to physically get the books there.

After Dave completes his US book tour, he will be heading to the UK, probably in May.

If you see the book or any reviews of it in your country, will you let us know?

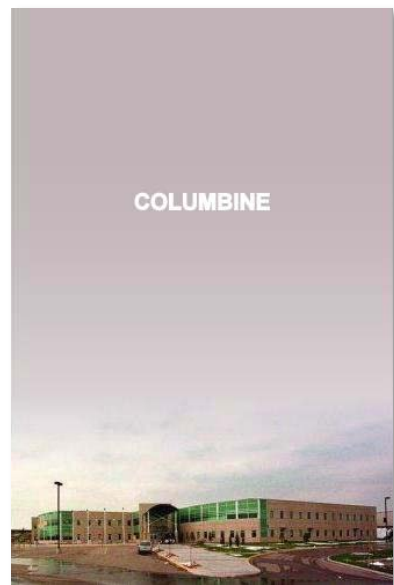
THE REVIEWS KEEP COMING IN

"Comprehensively nightmarish . . . Cullen's task is difficult not only because the events in question are almost literally unspeakable but also because even as he tells the story of a massacre that took the lives of 15 people, including the killers, he has to untell the stories that have already been told . . . Should this story be told at all? There's an element of sick, voyeuristic fascination to it--we don't need an exercise in disaster porn. But Columbine is a necessary book. . . . The actual events of April 20, 1999, are exactly as appalling as you'd expect, and Cullen doesn't spare us a second of them."

-- Lev Grossman, *Time Magazine*

Read [more](#).
[Buy](#) Columbine.

Check out the *Columbine* trailer on [YouTube](#).
Keep an eye on what's happening at [The DC Chronicles](#).



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SCHEDULE OF DAVE CULLEN'S APPEARANCES FOR *COLUMBINE*

For more information, visit Dave's [facebook](#) page, which offers details on each specific appearance, and enables you to RSVP if you can attend one of the events.



- Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:30pm, Tattered Cover - Lodo, Denver, CO
- Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 7:00pm, Borders, Park Meadows, CO
- Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 7:00pm, Borders, Northglenn, CO
- Friday, April 10, 2009 at 7:00pm, Borders, 1750 29th St., Boulder, CO

- Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:00pm, Barnes & Noble, Upper West Side, 2289 Broadway @ 82nd St., NYC, NY
- Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 7:00pm, Politics & Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC
- Friday, April 17, 2009 at 12:00pm, Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave., Coral Gables, FL

- Tuesday, April 21, 2009 at 7:00pm, Borders, 2120 Southgate Rd., Colorado Springs, CO
- Saturday, April 25, 2009 at 3:30pm, LA Times Festival of Books, UCLA campus, Westwood, CA
Dave will discuss his new book on stage with LA Times Books Editor David Ulin.

- Monday, April 27, 2009 at 7:00pm, University Bookstore, 4326 University Way, NE, Seattle, WA
- Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at 7:30pm, Books Inc., 301 Castro St., Mountain View, CA

Schedule subject to change; please check with venues to confirm.
Radio and TV appearances will be posted in a later issue.

WIKIWHAT?



It's amazing what you can find on *Wikipedia* these days. *Do you wiki?* is a question asked in chat rooms across the world, almost as popular as the term, *Google it*.

"Wikipedia ... is a free,[5] multilingual encyclopedia project supported by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation. Its name is a portmanteau of the words wiki (a technology for creating collaborative websites, from the Hawaiian word wiki, meaning 'quick') and encyclopedia. Wikipedia's 12 million articles (2.8 million in the

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English Wikipedia) have been written collaboratively by volunteers around the world, and almost all of its articles can be edited by anyone who can access the Wikipedia website.[6] Launched in January 2001 by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger,[7] it is currently the most popular[3] general reference work on the Internet.[8][9][10]"

All of that from *Wikipedia* on *Wikipedia* itself. With little blue bracketed references, of course.

Which brings us to today's *WikiWhat?* -- the entry for **Brokeback Mountain**. (The movie, not the short story.) We may as well start with something we're all familiar with here on the Dave Cullen Forum. But what will you find, as the encyclopedia's pages are updated continually? Will the *Dave Cullen Forum* be mentioned? What about that Gene Shalit? Fanfic or slash? Hmmm... You ever wonder about the sheep?

One thing's for sure -- you'll find a listing of all the awards the outstanding movie has earned. There's also a short list of other movies in which it was parodied. There are updates needed in that department: -- *The Simpsons* included their take on *Brokeback* in *The Hee-Hawed Couple* episode, and the comedy movie, *Scary Movie 4*, included a send up as well.

POSTS OF THE DAY

BayCityJohn posted in **New & Current Events**:

Man gets 90 days in jail in vacuum sex act case

(03-25) 13:48 PDT Saginaw, Mich. (AP) -- A man who police said was arrested for performing a sex act with a car wash vacuum was sentenced to 90 days in jail on Wednesday and ordered to submit to drug testing. The 29-year-old man pleaded no contest to indecent exposure last month. Source: sfgate.com.

Bay City John: That really sucks.

Ennis Del Mark replies: And the prosecutors said the case against the guy was in the bag.

Doodler comes back with: The guy's rich... his lawyer will sweep it under the carpet.

To which **Ennis Del Mark** comments: The defendant probably would have gotten off (again?) if only the case had been tried in California. After all, the state motto is EUREKA!



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Doodler retorts: I'm sure it was a Dyson DC15 know as the Dyson "ball" because, quoting from their ad, "the ball gives the DC15 the ability to pivot and twist into spaces with less effort by its handler." Every ball needs a handler.

And **Passion** ends the exchange with: The guy and his vacuum actually made our local news last night! The story was followed by the Pull Up Your Pants Day story! Seriously, I about fell out of bed laughing!

PHOTOCAPTION OF THE DAY

By Marz in [Photo Captioning Fun 4](#)



Ennis: **Jack, when would be the best time to tell Aguirre I'm allergic to sheep?**



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Contributors: **BayCityJohn, Killersmom, Miasland, Marz**

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.

Man Dance Company
San Francisco - July 10-12, 2009

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 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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