

REMINDERS:

- Membership Meeting
THURSDAY, Mar. 9th
8pm at Charlie's
- Gymkhana
SUNDAY, Mar 12th
10 am at JeffCo
- IGRA Show
SUNDAY, Mar 12th
8pm at Charlie's
- BOD Retreat
SATURDAY, Mar 18th
Kensington Apartments
- IGRA Show
SUNDAY, Mar 19th
8pm at Charlie's
- Beer Bust
SUNDAY, Mar 26th
4pm at the Wrangler

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Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Ex-Gay Cowboys

By DAN SAVAGE

Published: February 10, 2006
Seattle

FIRST, a little of that full disclosure stuff: I have not actually seen "Brokeback Mountain" or "End of the Spear," both of which I'm going to discuss here. But since when did not seeing a film prevent anyone from sharing his or her strong opinions about it? Before the posters for "Brokeback Mountain" were even printed, everyone from the blogger Mickey Kaus to the Concerned Women for America to gay men all over the country had already said a lot about the film. (Their opinions were, respectively, con, con and pro.) So, let's get to it: Remember

when straight actors who played gay were the ones taking a professional risk? Those days are over. Shortly after Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal, both straight, received Oscar nominations for playing gay cowboys in "Brokeback Mountain," conservative Christians were upset when they learned that a gay actor, Chad Allen, was playing a straight missionary in "End of the Spear." "End of the Spear" tells what happened after five American missionaries were murdered in 1956 by a tribe in Ecuador. Instead of seeking retribution, the missionaries' families reached out to the tribe, forgave the killers and eventually converted them to Christianity.

An evangelical film company, Every Tribe Entertainment, brought the story to the screen. In a glowing review, Marcus Yoars, a film critic for Focus on the Family, noted that the "martyrdom" of the slain missionaries has "inspired thousands if not millions of Christians." But after conservatives took a closer look at the cast list, the protests began. Many felt Chad Allen's presence in the film negated any positive message. The pastors claim they're worried about what will happen when their children rush home from the movies, Google Chad Allen's name, and discover that he's a "gay activist." ("Gay activist" is a term evangelicals apply

see "X" on next page...

Letter from our President

Hello CGRA!
We are fast approaching Spring and things are really beginning to get busy here in Colorado. The March calendar is very full so please visit www.CGRA.net and check out all the exciting events that are planned. The CGRA BOD is very busy with all the intricate details of RMRR 24 and it is looking like another exiting rodeo is coming together. I want to congratulate everyone who went to the IGRA University in Las Vegas. It was a huge success and everyone brought back some very good information and are excited to pass that information on to others. Several fundraisers

were held during February and I want to thank those who hosted those events. Most recently was a Beer Bust at the Wrangler where just over 20 volunteers signed in to help and made it a huge success. Thanks to everyone who helped with any of the events in February. Carl Bloom is launching our Sponsorship Campaign this year and has some very exciting packages to offer our business community. If you know of anyone who wants to be a Sponsor of RMRR 24, please contact Carl and he will take care of them. CGRA is very excited to have

Bud Light back as our Malt Liquor Sponsor and we look forward another successful year of working with Bud Light! The Imperial Court's "King of Hearts" is scheduled for Saturday March 11 at the Sheraton located at I-25 and Hampden. Once again CGRA very excited to be a part of this event and cheer on all the candidates. Everyone please visit www.cgra.net and check out the March calendar. Remember the Membership meeting is Thursday, March 9, 8 p.m. at Charlie's. See you there!
Tommy Channel
CGRA PRESIDENT



Clyde Mitter Mr. CGRA 2006
Gia Diamante Miss CGRA 2006

Trustee Times

Hello, CGRA Members,
 Five Members went to Las Vegas for IGRA U. I cant speak for all five, but I learned more about running CGRA as a business,
 I want to thank David H. Roger J. Larry T. and Kimberley K. for going to IGRA U. Some went not only to learn, but to teach as well !!!
 I also want to thank NGRA for all the work they did to put on IGRA U in only 4 months, You put on one hell of a School and Show!!!!
 The next IGRA BOD meeting will be in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. in April.
 Thanks,
 Roger Courtemanche
 CGRA Trustee



X (from page 1)

to any homosexual who isn't a gay doormat.) They needn't be too concerned. Straight boys who have unsupervised access to the Internet aren't Googling the names of middle-aged male actors gay or straight; not when Paris Hilton's sex tapes are still out there.

Frankly, I can't help but be perplexed by the criticisms of Mr. Allen from the Christian right. After all, isn't playing straight what evangelicals have been urging gay men to do? That's precisely what Jack and Ennis attempt to do in "Brokeback Mountain" at least, according to people I know who have actually seen the film. These gay cowboys try, as best they can, to quit one another. They marry women, start families. But their wives are crushed when they realize their husbands don't, and can't, ever really love them. "Brokeback Mountain" makes clear that it would have been better for all concerned if Jack and Ennis had lived in a world where they could simply be together.

That world didn't exist when Jack and Ennis were pitching tents together, but it does now, even in the American West. Today, the tiny and stable percentage of men who are gay are

free to live openly, and those who want to settle down and start families can do so without having to deceive some poor, unsuspecting woman.

Straight audiences are watching and loving "Brokeback Mountain"; that's troubling to evangelical Christians who have invested a decade and millions of dollars promoting the notion that gay men can be converted to heterosexuality, or become "ex-gay." It is, they insist, an ex-gay movement, although I've never met a gay man who was moved to join it.

This "movement" demands more from gay men than simply playing straight. Once a man can really pass as ex-gay, once he's got some Dockers, an expired gym membership and a bad haircut, he's supposed to become, in effect, an ex-gay missionary, reaching out to the hostile gay tribes in such inhospitable places as Chelsea and West Hollywood. What should really trouble evangelicals, however, is this: even if every gay man became ex-gay tomorrow, there still wouldn't be an ex-lesbian tomboy out there for every ex-gay cowboy. Instead, millions of straight women would wake up one morning to discover that they had married a Jack or an Ennis.

Restaurant hostesses and receptionists at hair salons would be especially vulnerable. Sometimes I wonder if evangelicals really believe that gay men can go straight. If they don't think Chad Allen can play straight convincingly for 108 minutes, do they honestly imagine that gay men who aren't actors can play straight for a lifetime? And if anyone reading this believes that gay men can actually become ex-gay men, I have just one question for you: Would you want your daughter to marry one?

Evangelical Christians seem sincere in their desire to help build healthy, lasting marriages. Well, if that's their goal, encouraging gay men to enter into straight marriages is a peculiar strategy. Every straight marriage that includes a gay husband is one Web-browser-history check away from an ugly divorce. If anything, supporters of traditional marriage should want gay men out of the heterosexual marriage market entirely. And the best way to do that is to see that we're safely married off to each other, not to your daughters. Let gay actors like Chad Allen only play it straight in the movies.

Dan Savage is the editor of *The Stranger*, a Seattle newsweekly.



Hi CGRA MEMBERS

Just wanted to say thanks for your patience as we get our membership system up to date. I am still working to increase our membership, and letting people know about our Rodeo / Finals, Congratulation to our new members. Khobie Alexander, Jareth Michel, Tom Hull, Michael Hower-ton (Charis Loren), Karolyn Gazella, Connie Slusser. Welcome to our organization. See you at the Rodeos and at Charlie's.

Memberships up for renewal this month

- ◆ Abachiche, Jason
- ◆ Bullock, Glen d
- ◆ Burns, Bruce
- ◆ Courtemanche, Roger
- ◆ Davis, Christopher
- ◆ James, Justin
- ◆ Munger, Mary
- ◆ Varner, Bryan
- ◆ Waneka, Buddy

Memberships up for renewal in April:

- ◆ Chavez, Pauline
- ◆ Dennehy, Sean
- ◆ Moore, Chris
- ◆ O'hara, Dennis
- ◆ Sherman, James
- ◆ Thurtell, Robert
- ◆ Torbit, Karla

Memberships up for renewal in May :

- Barker, Chris
- Carelli, Jd
- Kellogg, Patrick
- Kessler, Michael
- Kittley, Kimberley
- Korzen, Michael
- Lobato, Rj
- Magat, Shantie
- Pohl, Shelly
- Ralston, Sheri
- Shaw, Jeff

Memberships up for renewal in June:

- ◆ Dickerson, Brian
- ◆ Lopez, James
- ◆ Puls, Sherry
- ◆ Thomas, James
- ◆ Vela, Jim

Now you can renew your memberships online at www.cgpa.net.

If you have any questions about your membership or if any of your contact information changes, please notify me feel at crashlucky@netzero.net

You can also renew the "old-fashioned" way by printing the application and mailing it to:

CGRA
PO Box 18728,
Denver, Co 80218.

Fundraising

Howdy CGRA Members, I'm happy to again report some great things in the Fundraising department. On Sunday, February 26, we had quite a successful Beer Bust at the Wrangler. We raised \$860 and had over 20 volunteers. I'd like to thank all the volunteers for all their hard work and for giving up a weekend afternoon to benefit CGRA. This is the type of dedication that's going to make 2006 a fantastic year! Also, tickets are now available for the Six Flags/Elitch Gardens Spring Spin Fund-raiser.

Thanks
 Carl Bloom



Rodeo Director Rambles

Welcome to March every-one.

I can't believe that we are already this close to spring!! And that can only mean that RMRR 24 is fast approaching.

The rodeo committee has been working hard to make sure that RMRR 24 is one of the best ever.

We are working on contracts and negotiations right now with many, including our Grand Sponsor, Bud Light. We now have an online store, at www.cgpa.net and I hope that all of you will be sending in your ticket orders.

As well, if you are interested in volunteering at this years rodeo, WE NEED YOU!!!

We are looking for some good cowgirls and cowboys to help with everything from scribe ticket sales to working in the arena and chute areas.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact me or our esteemed vice-president. See you at the Rodeo.

Roger Japp
rodeo.director@cgpa.net

March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Go to the website, www.cgpa.net for more details

Northern Outreach

Greetings from up North. Hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful Colorado weather. Good luck and safe travels to all those cowpokes going to the Fort Worth rodeo.

Clyde Mitter, your Mr CGRA 2006 and I are getting a CGRA show lined up north in Ft Collins at the Static bar.

It will be the first part of May. Once all the details are firmed up we'll let you all know. J

Jim Thorstad -
 Northern Colorado Outreach

Public Relations

Hey CGRA!!!

First of all, I must apologize for this taking so long to get out to you. For those of you that just looked at a calendar and said, "Hmm, I didn't even notice", thank you. Your lives must be as busy as mine.

Great things are happening in CGRA right now, our website just keeps growing and growing and growing. The latest growth spurt brought one of the most exciting changes in the transformation process,

WE HAVE AN ONLINE STORE!!!

From the store you can join CGRA, you can renew your membership, (so now there is no excuse to not renew!!!) and you can order rodeo tickets.

Tell all your friends to go to www.cgra.net to join our great association and don't forget to remind them to order their tickets for RMRR 24!!!

Thanks for everyone's patience as we went through this transformation process, and keep checking back at more changes are made.

Larry Travnicek
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