The Humanities Lecture Series

Sports and Homosexuality

presented by David Kopay

Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010
6:30 to 8 p.m.
Downtown Phoenix campus
Cronkite Building
First Amendment Forum
555 N. Central Ave.

David Kopay, the first openly gay American professional athlete in team sports, will discuss “Sports and Homosexuality” in the second lecture of the Humanities Lecture Series. The former running back played for 10 seasons in the National Football League and stunned the sports world in 1975 when he publicly announced to a national newspaper that he was gay.

“When I came out as a gay man, I was confronting bigotry, the silence, and the hatred directed towards gay men and women. Gay men had always been considered weak and silly and equated with women as being something less,” says Kopay. “Sure, hatred still exists, but there is a huge difference now. Hatred, dominance and brutality are no longer considered fashionable, celebrated or tolerated. Hopefully more people will continue to embrace change and diversity.”


“David Kopay’s story is important for students to hear because it builds awareness for those not familiar with gay issues,” said Anthony Dewitt, NGLJA student chapter president. “By hearing Kopay’s story, my hope is that students can make informed judgments about LGBT citizens and realize we are just like anyone else. We feel this is a wonderful opportunity for all students, especially those in journalism, to be exposed to other voices they might not otherwise get a chance to listen to.”

“The Humanities Lecture Series provides us with opportunities to analyze, discuss, and interpret current events. We look forward to public discussions that help us understand and appreciate various points of view on political, social, and cultural issues.”

—Fred Corey, Director, School of Letters & Sciences