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news notes

from around the nation & globe

by David Stout
Q-Notes staff

National >

TG bias suit against LOC goes on

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A federal judge has ruled that an employment discrimination lawsuit brought on behalf of Diane



Schroer (pictured), a transgender veteran, against the Library of Congress can go forward. The ACLU filed the lawsuit last June after Schroer had a job offer as the LOC's senior terrorism research analyst rescinded after she revealed that she was transitioning and intended to present as female.

"I couldn't understand how the country that I had risked my life for could believe that it was okay to rescind its job offer to me solely because I'm transgender," said Schroer, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army. "[The court's] decision begins to restore my faith in our government."

Finding that sex may not be "a cut-and-dried matter of chromosomes," the judge ruled that federal protections against sex discrimination may also protect transgender people who face gender identity bias. The court will rule on that question after evidence about the nature of gender and gender identity is presented during the proceeding.

Study reveals workplace challenges

NEW YORK, N.Y. — In late 2005 Lambda Legal joined with Deloitte Financial Advisory Services to conduct the largest poll of gays and lesbians on workplace issues in a decade. The goals of the Workplace Fairness Survey were to assess the state of workplace fairness, determine what more needs to be done to eliminate discrimination, and provide employers with information to help them create a more welcoming environment.

Among the key findings: 39 percent of respondents experienced some form of anti-gay discrimination or harassment in the workplace during the past five years. Nineteen percent said they faced barriers in promotion because of their sexual orientation. Despite these challenges, 74 percent reported being out at work.

The survey also revealed that whether an employer promotes fairness and equality through its policies and practices is a "critical" factor for 54 percent of respondents. An additional 38 percent reported that such policies were appreciated and contributed to their happiness.

Gov. repeals LGBT protections

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Republican Governor Ernie Fletcher (pictured) issued an executive order April 11 repealing anti-discrimination protections for LGBT state employees on the same day he declared "Diversity Day" in Kentucky. Equal rights activists slammed Fletcher for his "outra-

geous and un-American" order, particularly noting his warped sense of timing.

"There is no better example of adding insult to injury," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "On a day when

the state was supposed to be celebrating diversity, Governor Fletcher was removing an entire group of Kentuckians out of the law. This order moves Kentucky in the opposite direction of the rest of the country."

Already in the state, Jefferson County and the cities of Louisville and Covington prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. A bill that would prohibit municipalities in Kentucky from enacting civil rights ordinances protecting LGBT individuals has repeatedly failed in the state Legislature.



'Brokeback' collectibles reunited

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Tom Gregory, the out actor-activist who purchased the shirts featured in "Brokeback Mountain" in a charity auction for more than \$100,000, has now acquired the postcards featured with them in the film's final scene. The collectibles, which have been mounted on wood exactly as they were seen in the film, were unveiled earlier this month at the 17th Annual GLAAD Media Awards' VIP reception.

Gregory purchased the postcards from Ken Wills, the film's prop master, for an undisclosed sum. As part of the deal, he made an additional \$10,000 donation to the Variety Children's Charity. The shirts were sold on eBay in late February with the proceeds going to the same charity.

"The shirts and the postcards are together again," Gregory said during the reception. "They are more than simply props, they are symbolic of a great love and a remarkable film." Gregory and his partner, David Bohnett, have donated more than \$1 million to GLAAD over the years.

Out with the old...

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — North Central University, a Pentecostal university affiliated with the Assemblies of God denomination, fired two senior editors of the student newspaper for giving balanced coverage of the Soulforce Equality Ride, a cross-country trek of LGBT youth to faith-based colleges and universities to highlight the issues facing sexual minorities on such campuses.

Hope and Chuck Bahr, a married couple who were the respective editor-in-chief and news editor of *The Northern Light*, were removed from their positions by the administration because they refused to allow university officials to read and approve the content of the newspaper before publication.

Chuck Bahr said university officials asked to preview the paper after reading its supportive editorial coverage of the Soulforce Equality Riders, printed in advance of their April 17 stop at NCU, and the publication of an opinion piece on the

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