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Evening & Day Hours

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OBITUARIES

Michael S. Kozero

Michael S. Kozero, 39, of Philadelphia died Aug. 20, 1996, at Graduate Hospital of complications due to AIDS.

Kozero was born in Fountain Hill and attended Salisbury High School, and was a graduate of Lehigh Valley Community College with an associate's degree in business. He was also a licensed plumber.

Kozero was owner and president of M.S.K. Construction Co. of Philadelphia, and also worked for several area clubs and restaurants, including Key West and Uncles. Most recently, he was employed at the Inn Philadelphia, where he was involved in the construction and renovation of the restaurant, and continued there as a bartender.

He is survived by a brother, Jeffrey, of Huntington, Md.; and two sisters, Carolyn of Philadelphia and Patty Jacoby of Bethlehem. Services will be private. A memorial was held Aug. 20 at the Inn Philadelphia.

Memorial contributions may be sent to MANNA, 18 S. 20th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. ▼

Gay professor leaves Brigham Young

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVO, Utah — A Brigham Young University professor who has publicly acknowledged he is gay is leaving the Mormon Church-owned school to teach at Weber State University in Ogden.

Thomas J. Matthews, 40, had taught in BYU's department of Spanish and Portuguese for five years. He will join Weber State University's Spanish department this fall.

"There are a lot of reasons why I'm leaving BYU," Matthews said during an interview Aug. 15. "Obviously, the most crucial one is that I'm gay and I'm out of the closet and BYU doesn't like it."

Brent Harker, director of BYU Public Communications, was surprised by the news of Matthews' resignation, but said, "his conduct was in keeping with our standards and it was really his own struggle. It was his choice to make."

Though never officially asked to leave, Matthews recognized his presence at the school was uncomfortable for the administration. Matthews announced in October that he intended to leave BYU once he found another job.

"They knew I was leaving so they had no need to fire me," he said.

While acknowledging his overall experience at BYU has been positive, Matthews said he was disappointed that

many subjects are taboo at an institution supposedly dedicated to learning.

Subjects such as homosexuality and abortion don't get discussed, he said.

"The fact that this is an issue here is disquieting," Matthews said. "I know of several gay professors at BYU. The fact that they have to keep their struggles and who they are to themselves is a shame."

News of Matthews' sexual orientation was publicized in stories in two Utah newspapers last summer.

"I am gay and I don't know that I can commit to living alone the rest of my life," Matthews had said. "As long as I stay at BYU, that is a requirement." ▼