JetBlue Flight Attendant Redux

October 7, 2011 By Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.

A year after Steven Slater became an overnight sensation, the former JetBlue flight attendant gives HuffPost Gay Voices his take on the events that made him famous.

The wide-ranging interview covers a lot of ground, but I'd like to highlight his comments about the disclosure by the media of his HIV-positive status:

To this day I am still healing from some of the more difficult things that were published. There's still fallout from a lot of that. It's still not uncommon for me to meet people and have them know things about me -- like my HIV status -- before I have an opportunity to pre-disclose that ... I also thought that response of disgust that the general public had to the New York Daily News *publishing my HIV status was very telling. That backfired very strongly on [the paper] ... It was after the* Daily News *piece with the HIV, and it was after Matt Lauer said to me, "Oh, so you're an alcoholic and HIV positive?" on live TV, that was when I really hit my low.*

To his credit, Slater seems to have taken all of the hoopla in stride, as much as anyone could under the circumstances.

He’s currently writing a memoir about his flying career and what it’s been like to be in the media spotlight.

As I said at the time, it was a shame that the media jumped the gun in revealing he was living with HIV. I wish him all the best.

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http://beta.docker.poz.com/blog/jetblue-hiv