

OBITUARIES

Robert Wray Boyd, 41, journalist

Ronald Wray Boyd, 41, a reporter, editor, columnist and critic who covered the changes in American society as well as the excesses of Texas High Society with flair, wit and insight, died at his family's residence in Philadelphia on Oct. 17 after a long battle with AIDS.

A native Philadelphian, he worked most recently as television and art critic at the Dallas Times Herald until AIDS-related medical problems forced him to take a disability leave. Over the past several years, he had devoted much of his time to visiting and counseling other AIDS

patients and raising money for the Dallas AIDS Resource Center.

Boyd was wooed to the Dallas paper in 1982 to help launch and edit a slick new special section called Unique that spotlighted the people, the parties, the pleasures and the pastimes of the Dallas plutocracy during the boom years of the 80s. A flamboyant man with a razor-sharp sense of humor and ready appreciation for irony, he quickly became a popular and familiar figure and developed friendships with some of the city's most prominent socialites.

While performing his job, once rated as among the 10 most desirable in journalism, Boyd traveled extensively by jet, helicopter, train or boat. He rode the Orient Express across Europe and toured the Greek isles on The Sea Cloud, the sumptuous yacht of the late Marjorie Merriweather Post. To his envious colleagues, Boyd often quipped: "Some of you cover the waterfront; I cover the yacht basin."

Susan Stevenson, former assistant managing editor of the Times Herald and now features editor of the Atlanta Journal-

Constitution, called Boyd "the most eloquent, and elegant, chronicler that the Dallas super-rich ever had."

"He understood the crazy, eccentric mix of great wealth and Texas myth," she said. "He saw its humor and its excess. Both his editing and reporting showed that."

"He was always essentially kind and had a keen and deep sense of social consciousness. But he loved a party and joyed in circulating around a room—glad hand out but tongue in cheek."

When a tightening budget forced the Times Herald to fold the Unique section, Boyd became a general-assignment features writer. He profiled Lady Bird Johnson on her 75th birthday, eliciting her musings about the Vietnam War, which wrecked her husband's presidency. He also produced several stories about the AIDS epidemic and its victims at a time when few newspapers knew or cared.

He was active in and raised thousands of dollars for the Dallas AIDS Resource Center.

Boyd is survived by his mother Roberta Wray Boyd, and his brother, James Daniel Boyd. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Dallas AIDS Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St., Dallas, TX 75219.



David E. Cox of Philadelphia died Oct. 19 from complications associated with AIDS at the home of his



dearest friends, Edward Diehl and Matthew Wolf of Ewan, N.J..

Cox is survived by his father, Edward Cox of Franklinville, N.J., and his grandmother Mrs. Mary Hardy of Philadelphia and a brother and sister.

Cox worked for many years as a waiter for a Center City restaurant. He will be remembered by co-workers and friends, especially those he came to love throughout his five years of continuous sobriety in Alcoholics Anonymous.

Memorial contributions can be made to Action AIDS or the AIDS Task Force of Philadelphia.

Derek (Rick) Ford, 48, died Sept. 13, in Paris from complications due to AIDS.

Born and raised on a farm in New Zealand, Ford was educated at the University of Canterbury, University of Auckland, and The University of Pennsylvania from where he received a Ph. D. in Economics. After teaching at the University of British Columbia he returned to Philadelphia in 1976 to join Wharton Economic Forecasting Associates. He moved to Paris in 1985.

Ford was a member of the Vanguard M.C. He enjoyed mountain climbing, cycling, and marathon running. He completed the Boston Marathon three times.

He is survived by family members in New Zealand, two sons in Washington and Patrick Meyer of Paris.



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