

OBITUARIES

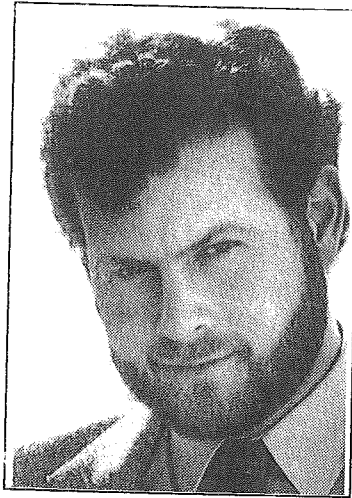
Randy Shilts dies of AIDS

Health chief Shalala pays tribute to pre-eminent gay journalist

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — Best-selling author Randy Shilts helped “mobilize all of us” to fight against the AIDS epidemic, the nation’s health chief said.

In town to promote President Clinton’s health plan, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna



Shilts

Shalala paid tribute to Shilts, who died Feb. 17 of AIDS. [see Victoria Brownworth’s story on page 6.]

“This past week the whole country lost one of our strongest and best fighters in the fight against AIDS,” Shalala said Feb. 20.

“His tireless work as a reporter and advocate made sure that the band simply didn’t play on and on and on. He worked to mobilize all of us,” she said.

“And so, as he is laid to rest, we all must remain restless until we reach out to everyone in this country who is HIV positive or has AIDS. It’s time the government does that, too,” she said.

Shalala called the AIDS epidemic “so overwhelming and so devastating” that she’s not sure whether she will ever be able to say enough has been done.

Shilts, one of the first openly gay reporters at a major metropolitan daily newspaper, the San Francisco Chronicle, wrote the 1985 best-seller, “And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic.”

He also wrote “Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the U.S. Military” and “Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk.”

Filmmaker Derek Jarman

BY MATT WOLF
Associated Press Writer

LONDON — Derek Jarman, the iconoclastic British filmmaker whose homosexuality frankly influenced his work, has died after a long battle against AIDS. He was 52.

Jarman died late Saturday at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital in central London, a hospital spokesman said Feb. 20.

Although prolific as an author and painter, Jarman was best known as the director of films that helped energize independent low-budget British cinema in the 1970s and ’80s.

He was no less renowned for his outspokenness, arguing at one point that Sir Ian McKellan—an actor and gay activist—had compromised himself by accepting a knighthood from a Conservative government responsible for anti-gay legislation.

Jarman had made gay life and issues central to his ca-

designing sets and costumes for ballet (Frederick Ashton’s “Jazz Calendar”) and opera (“Don Giovanni”), moving on to films as set designer on Ken Russell’s “The Devils” (1971) and “Savage Messiah” (1972).

He made his directing debut with “Sebastiane,” incurring the censors’ wrath, as he did again with “Jubilee” (1977), a hymn to an anarchic England in which Elizabeth I finds herself in the 20th century encountering punk and the end of royalism.

Other films include “The Tempest” (1980), “The Last of England” (1987), and “War Requiem” (1989), a rigorous adaptation of Benjamin Britten’s 1962 oratorio inspired by the poetry of Wilfred Owen.

This year saw his acclaimed film “Wittgenstein” about the provocative philosopher. Its stylistic spareness — the film was shot in front of black drap-



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