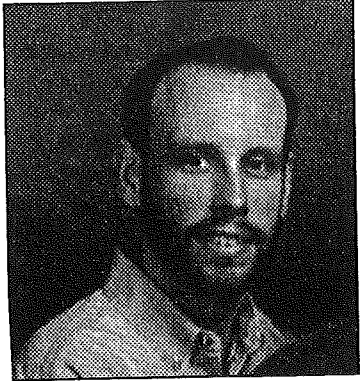


OBITUARY

Greg Loos



Greg Loos died Nov. 21 after a long battle with AIDS. While he had HIV for years, it wasn't until the beginning of this year that he was diagnosed with progressive multifocal encephalopathy.

Loos touched many people in his life. He was knowledgeable about a wide variety of subjects and read constantly. His musical tastes were widely varied as well, from opera to '60s rock, to folk, jazz, country and more. He had a passion for art and archeology. Loos loved to teach others.

Loos received a master's degree in social work in May 1994. He was a social worker

at Philadelphia FIGHT. He was the first paid employee at FIGHT several years earlier. He had also worked at Graduate Hospital for several years, and at St. Christopher's Hospital.

In his last few months, he was surrounded by his lover, Alan Kraus, friends Bruce, Harry, Jack, Jane, Carol and Rachael, and family members, including aunts Alice and Bobbie, a grandmother and his brother, Scott.

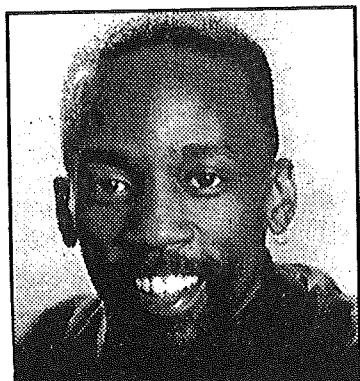
Memorial contributions may be sent to Philadelphia FIGHT, 201 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107 or to MANNA, 18 S. 20th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. Funeral services were held Nov. 25 in Pittsburgh. A memorial service was held Dec. 5 at St. Luke and the Epiphany Church, 330 S. 13th St. ▼

Essex Hemphill recalled, celebrated

By Sarah Miller
PGN Staff Writer

About 60 friends and admirers came to the Friends Center Dec. 2 to pay homage to the life and mourn the death of black gay poet Essex Hemphill. Hemphill was an award-winning poet, performer and activist who was, according to a poem by colleague Lamont Steptoe, the "Marcus Garvey of the black gay world."

The audience's appreciative and affectionate laughter for Steptoe represented just one of the many emotional responses throughout an afternoon of speakers, poetry and a video montage of Hemphill. Audience members cried, smiled and once or twice gasped in awe as they recalled Hemphill's warmth, talent



Essex Hemphill

poem she and Hemphill had read together last December at Philadelphia's World AIDS Day ceremonies. She added this directive at the end:

"Tell the gods to receive Essex, tell the gods to hold him in their hands."

Dorothy Beam, mother of Joseph Beam, for whom Hemphill took over editorship of "Brother to Brother: New

and how no amount of urging on her part could compel Hemphill to address her as "Dorothy" and not as "Mrs. Beam."

"He told me that he was raised to respect," Beam said.

She read a piece for Hemphill and her son titled "If I Could Write."

"If I could write, I would write God and ask him to take care of Essex, to take care of Joe," she read.

University of Pennsylvania professor Houston Baker shared an anecdote Hemphill had related to him about sitting with his grandmother, Miss Emily, at her home in South Carolina. The two were sitting on Miss Emily's porch, Baker said, when the woman inquired, "Do the authorities know what you're writing about?"

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