

OBITUARIES

Richard Dale Atwood, Jr.

Richard Dale Atwood, Jr., age 36, died February 27, 1993 at his family home in Toledo, Ohio, from complications due to AIDS. Known throughout the area as a fine baritone soloist, Rick was a part of the professional music scene in Philadelphia since his arrival in 1978.

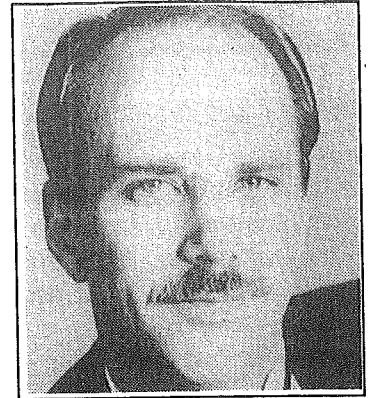
Born in Ohio on May 14, 1956, Rick lived in Toledo attending Woodward High School. Before studying voice on scholarship at Temple University in Philadelphia with George Massey and Philip Cho, Rick was enrolled at the University of Toledo. There he was a member and soloist of the All-Ohio State Chorus, the Toledo Choral Society, and the Toledo Symphony. He also appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Hershey Symphony, Reading Opera Company and the Santa Fe Opera

Company.

In 1990, Rick attended a Summer Opera Workshop at the Academia vocale di Lucca in Italy, sponsored by the Church of Saint Asaph in Bala Cynwyd, where he was on staff as baritone soloist. Saint Asaph's congregation played a key role in his life since his arrival in 1987, providing a forum for his music, and for his own spiritual growth.

The warm relationships he formed there were his greatest source of strength and support in the later years of his life. Before joining St. Asaph's, Rick was baritone soloist at St. Stephen's Church.

Rick is also well-known for another role he played here in Philadelphia—that of Day Manager at Le Bec Fin, a fine French restaurant on Walnut Street. His affable personality and knowledge of fine food and wine made him a popular favorite with the clientele. He was also a volunteer for Epis-



copal Community Services.

A memorial service was held at St. Asaph's Church on Sunday, May 16. Music by composer Ralph Vaughan Williams was featured and a quilt designed by Laz Manou and sewn by members of St. Asaph's will be on display. Contributions can be made in his name to Episcopal Community Services.

LETTERS

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speech without a hearing aid. In fact, the maximum amount of residual hearing allowed for enrollment in the National Technical Institute for the Deaf is 80%. As there are degrees of deafness, there are different ways that speech are affected. Lawton's portrayal of Burt was consistent with the speech of a man who had lost the major part of his hearing between the ages of 3 and 10. Had he been born deaf, his speech would be nearly unintelligible to Etta and the audience. Moreover, he would not have used English syntax but that of American Sign Language. Although [Jiri] Zizka erred as a director in blocking Burt and Etta's scenes together so that they were not facing each other for all conversations, he was correct in placing Burt in a dimming spotlight as he gave his final speech. For a deaf man, not being seen is equivalent to ceasing to exist to another, at

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