

Obituary

David Bertugli

By Timothy Cwiek
PGN Contributing Writer

David Bertugli, a well-known Center City writer, died April 5, 1997, from AIDS-related complications. He was 48.

"David was a wonderful person," said friend Ronda Goldfein, staff attorney for the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania. "He was truly concerned with making things better for people with HIV. He was always willing to talk to people, to be supportive of people with HIV, both emotionally and financially, if necessary. I'm so sad."

Bertugli earned a master's degree from the State University of New York at Binghamton.

He served as an editor at Town &

Country, Penthouse, Ultra and Attenzione, in New York, she said.

He also was editor in chief of the Italian-American Daily Express of Rome.

Goldfein said Bertugli moved to Philadelphia in 1984, and became a staff writer for the Jewish Exponent and its Inside magazine.

Bertugli also worked as an extra in the film "Philadelphia." Goldfein said he wrote about the experience for Philadelphia magazine.

"David's health has been declining for some time" Goldfein said. "It took a lot for him to write that piece, and after he really bared his soul, that was enough for awhile. Despite the criticism of the movie 'Philadelphia,' David thought it was so important that people in Middle

America could really develop a sensitivity to the issue of AIDS and AIDS discrimination."

Bertugli was a volunteer with the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania, MANNA, and Calcutta House.

He was a founder of We The People With AIDS/HIV, and a former board member of ActionAIDS.

He is survived by his life partner, Gary K. Bailey; his parents, Emil and Emma Bertugli of Carmichaels; and a brother, Ronald of Carmichaels.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. April 13 at St. Luke and The Epiphany Church, 313 S. 13th St.

Memorial contributions may be made to ActionAIDS, 1216 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19107. ▼

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