

Attention: Kenneth S. Allen

(NATION ASSOCIATION of Black and White Together)

## Gerald L. Mallon 1952 - 1991

Longtime gay rights activist and supporter, Gerald L. Mallon, died on November 5th of complications related to AIDS.

"Jerry," as he was known to his friends, had been employed by the Methacton School District for seventeen years. He was a dedicated educator, known internationally as an expert and a proponent of the use of planetariums in schools. After graduating from West Chester University in 1974 as an Elementary Education major, he began his work as a planetarium director and served in that capacity throughout his career. He was solely responsible for having developed a kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade program that enriched the lives of his students through his love of astronomy and science. The program he developed was a premier example of a "participatory oriented planetarium" that served students, the community, and many fellow teachers.

In tribute to his major contributions to the school district, the planetarium will be renamed in his honor. While future students will, of course, not have known him personally, his legacy will live on through the high standards and quality of the programs that he developed.

As director of the planetarium for the district, he was selected from a host of other applicants across the country to receive the prestigious \$5,000.00 *Challenger Seven* fellowship. The fellowship award was in memory of the crew who died during that ill-fated 1986 flight.

Jerry had been featured in the national lesbian and gay magazine, *The Advocate*, for his work. He was a member of the International Planetarium Society where he had served during different terms in office as president and as secretary of the organization. Jerry, a native of the Philadelphia area, did his undergraduate work at West Chester University where he later earned a Doctor of Education degree—of which he was quite proud.

His commitment to common social issues, nevertheless, was never overshadowed by his intellect. He was a founding member of Black and White Men Together-Philadelphia. Most recently he completed work on an update of his book, *Resisting Racism: An Action Guide*, which was published by the National Association of Black and White Men Together. Jerry had held many positions in both the local chapter and

in the national association. He received numerous awards—both locally and nationally.

Jerry had been an active member of the gay group, Dignity for more than 15 years. During that time, he served in various positions. Most recently, he served as a lector, and as a Eucharist Minister on the Liturgy Committee.

As an award-winning scholar, author, teacher, and especially as a loving friend, Jerry Mallon will be missed by all who were privileged to know him. He leaves behind many who knew his kindness—most significantly, his companion and caregiver, Chris Taylor. Jerry was 39.

Services for Jerry Mallon will be held at the Church of St. Luke and the Epiphany, 13th and Pine Streets, on December 5th at 7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to the Gerald L. Mallon Memorial, c/o Patrick Mallon at BWMT.