

Obituary

Robert Pearson

Robert (Bob) Pearson, 37, passed away on July 15 due to complications from AIDS. Bob was at home in the company of his family and a few friends when he died.

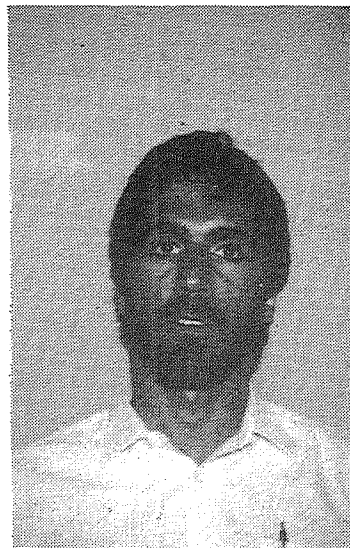
Formerly employed as an agent of the American Foreign Service, Bob survived the bombing of the American Embassy while serving in Beirut, Lebanon. Fluent in several foreign languages, including Arabic, Bob served in Cairo for a while after the bombing. Eventually, after a brief residence in Washington, D.C., Bob moved to Philadelphia. While residing in the city, Bob fulfilled one of his dreams by rehabbing a property at 15th & Fitzwater. It was this home that Bob loved sharing with his friends.

Bob also became an AIDS activist, campaigning for the needs and services of individuals infected with the HIV virus. He served as executive director of We The People. Most recently, he was employed with the AIDS Activities Coordinating Office, and served as a member of the National Coalition of People with AIDS.

Bob was known in the community for his compassion and love. He was also known for his spiritual strength. Many people turned to

him for advice and information. Bob was always willing to work with and help anyone he could.

During a display of panels from the AIDS quilt at the Philadelphia College of Art, Bob led a "healing circle." Trained in yoga, he was in the process of teaching it before



the onset of his illness. Bob was a believer in the beneficial effects of meditation and was constantly called upon to lead individuals in silent or group meditation. It

seemed to be his natural calling.

As an activist Bob established a comprehensive network of resources and support both locally and abroad. Bob traveled to Paris as one of his last endeavors, in an attempt to help himself and to strengthen his ability to help others. He had up-to-date knowledge on the latest treatment trends, and was preparing to speak in this country on the information he gathered.

Bob's diversity of friends indicated his intolerance for racism and sexism. Noted for his unfailing positive attitude, he was loved by many people. He will be truly missed by all those he leaves behind.

The family has planned a memorial service at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 212 W. Lancaster Ave., on Saturday, July 27 at 2 PM. At his request Bob's friends are planning a memorial for the purpose of celebrating his life at the Friends Center, 1501 Cherry St., Saturday, August 24, 2 PM. Memorial gifts should be sent to Episcopal Community Services, 225 S. 3rd St., Phila., PA 19101, or to MANNA, Box 30181, Phila., PA 19103.

ing, because people show up. And we're forced to hear each other,

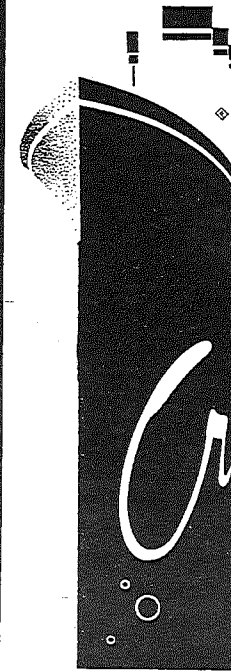
and hopefully, lose a lot of our racism toward each other.

Jourdan Keith

(Continued from page 2)

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