

IN MEMORIAM

Dan Wardock

7 Dec. 1963 — 3 Oct. 1990



Dan Wardock joined the AIDS ACTION NOW! Media Committee about this time last year. Almost everyone in the media committee knew him from the work that he had done at CKLN, Toronto's community radio station.

For a number of months, Dan and a small number of other people literally were the AAN! media committee. He did articles for AIDS ACTION NEWS! and XTRA!, helped plan demonstrations and organized and represented AIDS ACTION NOW! in television and radio interviews. He worked to bring local AIDS service organizations together on issues such as anonymous testing. This was a time when working on the media committee felt so productive that we had begun to talk of the national distribution of AIDS ACTION NEWS! in a tabloid format.

Dan became ill quite suddenly. During this time, I had a chance to talk with him more personally. He talked of his desire to learn French which eventually took him to Québec City, of being raised in Hamilton (we both were), of his explorations of his sexuality, his therapy, and of course, HIV. Dan's discussion of these things was compelling, truthful and brave.

He was hospitalized for a long period while his doctors diagnosed and treated internal KS, his first opportunistic infection. He was able to come and go from the hospital during this time, and I remember being quite pleased and surprised that he was "allowed" to leave hospital to go to the Madonna concert, because that challenged my idea of "hospitalization".

Dan died at home last October. I miss Dan because he brought a vibrancy to the media committee, and to every other situation I saw him in. He was very young, and he always looked great, and he was willing to work hard and take risks.

Darien Taylor

Ross Laycock

1959 — 24 January 1991



Michael is on the left and Ross is next to the Mountie... in Ottawa. Photo: Michael Hulton

Ross Laycock, AIDS activist, died last January from complications associated with AIDS. He was dedicated to AIDS ACTION NOW! and to the work of the Steering Committee.

Ross was born and grew up in Calgary. He studied English and bio-chemistry at the University of Toronto. He had also travelled widely in Western Canada.

Like many bright, creative people, Ross was an irreverent individual who had no love of authority or the authorities. He was a progressive person whose politics helped shape AAN!'s response to the AIDS crisis.

In 1989 he worked on AAN!'s contribution to the international AIDS conference in Montréal. Later, he was part of an AAN! delegation to visit the Minister of Health and Welfare in Ottawa to lobby for better care for people with HIV infection. He is also remembered for his insightful and humorous contribution to an AAN! community meeting debate on AZT. In recent times, he worked as a "treatment buddy" sharing his experiences with new experimental anti-AIDS drugs with those who were thinking of trying them.

He had lots of AIDS-activist ideas for building AIDS ACTION NOW! Unfortunately, in recent months, his health prevented him from fully participating in AIDS-activist work. His contributions will be sorely missed.

George Smith

Michael Smith

27 Jan. 1958 — 5 Feb. 1991

Michael will be remembered by us at AIDS ACTION NOW! as member of the Steering Committee, board member of the Treatment Information Exchange, and as initiator of the Prison Committee. He felt inmates had a right to condoms and clean works to prevent HIV transmission. He also felt prisoners with HIV infection and AIDS should have access to quality treatments. He stood up against many injustices in the world: not only his personal struggles such as gay rights and rights of PLWA/HIVs, but also native people's rights, the rights of women, prisoners' rights, and animal rights.

He also felt strongly about people's right to choose their treatments, the importance of access to non-toxic treatments, access to non-allopathic as well as allopathic approaches.

We'll remember him too for his play "PLWA: Person Livid With AIDS," where we discovered his talents as a musician. This, Michael performed as part of Buddies in Bad Times' 1990 Queer Culture Festival and, later, as a fundraiser for AIDS ACTION NOW! and Gays & Lesbians of the First Nations in Toronto. It was also made into a video for the cable series "Toronto: Living With AIDS."

His last words to his friends and family were: *"I am proud of the good things I've done and wish to be remembered as someone who rediscovered the love in himself."*

Bernard Courte