A Message from Ann Sanders

I want to congratulate everyone who has made Pride '88 possible. This is a very special time in the City of Boston, when we as lesbians and gay men celebrate who we are and can point to with pride the many contributions we have made in making Boston a city that has taken the lead in addressing gay and lesbian issues. To list the thousands of individuals who have helped make this celebration a reality would be impossible. Therefore, I would like to send

Ann Sanders, Mayoral Liaison (photo: Ellen Shub)

special kudos to the men and women of the Pride Committee, especially Matthew Hayes and Janet Kyle who have coordinated this year's festivities.

Please join me in celebrating Boston's Lesbian and Gay Pride in 1988. We have a lot to be thankful for, a lot to be proud of.

Have a wonderful time and thank you for making this year's Pride the best yet!

Ann Sanders
Mayor's Liaison
Lesbian/Gay Community
Neighborhood Services

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION OF COUNCILLOR SCONDRAS

WHEREAS The Gay and Lesbian Community is celebrating Gay Pride Week June 11 through June 18, 1985 in the City of Boston; and

WHEREAS The Gay and Lesbian Community is attempting to enlighten others concerning their struggle for civil rights through this event and others; and

WHEREAS The Gay and Lesbian Community faces many crises based upon sexual discrimination including a major medical crisis, calling upon the United States Government to accelerate its investigation of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); and

WHEREAS It is urgent that the citizens of Boston work to eliminate discrimination which denies basic rights to persons based on sexual preference; therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the Boston City Council joins with those gathered from the Gay and Lesbian Community in celebrating Gay Pride Week, and that the City of Boston extends its wishes for continued fortitude and resilience in the Gay Community toward achieving the civil rights every person rightly deserves, and evidences these wishes by proclaiming Saturday, June 11, 1988, in the City of Boston "Gay Pride Day".

By: Christopher Iannella
President of the City Council

Attest: Patrick F. McDonough
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: David Scondras

Date: 12 April, 1988

Yes, be Rightfully Proud of Love!

Saluting Boston's
Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Communities

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"Here's to ya, kid!"

by Marsha H. Levine

Steven Michalowski and I were friends. I don't remember how we met, I just know that one day we were off and doing daytrips and other crazy things. He was a hard-living, hard-loving man. His laughter was contagious and his ever-optimistic view of life cheered me out of many a funk.

We dreamed of moving to California together, of making Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebrations in Boston the biggest and the best the city had ever seen; yet little of our talk was truly serious, save for those rare moments when we confided in each other. But our friendship, love and respect for each other definitely were.

Steven was diagnosed with AIDS in January 1986. He wasn't an activist with a visible reputation, nor was he a political figure infamous for being openly gay. He wasn't a comedian or a musician or a celebrity. He was just a guy, but to me he was a special guy. Then again, he had that effect on a lot of people. He was just a man who cared about lesbian and gay pride and how we could make everyone feel proud about being lesbian and gay. His years on the Boston Lesbian/Gay Pride Celebration Committee were spent caring about people, giving selflessly, lending support as a leader, and always reminding us that this event had to be accessible and enjoyable for all people.

Steven Michalowski at work on preparing the Boston Common for Lesbian and Gay Pride celebration in 1985 (Photo by Jennie Sullivan)

Steven's friends started to drift away from him. My having moved 3,000 miles away to San Francisco didn't help. He bemoaned how people were afraid to be with him, to touch him, to hold him. He missed physical contact and affection. Good friends from his past became superficial acquaintances — unable to deal with the disease. He was angry at the disease, but seldom at the people who selfishly abandoned him.

Steven Michalowski was supposed to speak at the Rally last year. I know how important it was to him. We talked a few days before the event. He said, "Hon, I don't think I'm going to make it, but I really want people to hear what I have to say." He read me his speech and as I listened I cried into the phone silently. I encouraged Steven to record the words and to find a way for his speech to be heard. We chatted briefly about reincarnation and spirituality. Three days after Lesbian/Gay Pride Day, Steven died. (GCN has since printed Steven's speech.)

I miss Steven. I visit his panel often whenever the Names Project Quilt is on display. The people who truly loved Steven have left pins, buttons, ribbons, rhinestones, —all sorts of items are attached to his quilt piece. It is definitely the most visited panel in the whole quilt. And as I look at his name stenciled on the fabric, my inner vision sees him wearing some of his favorite goofy baseball caps, smiling that big grin of his, laughing outrageously as he chugs from a beer.

And I say, "Here's to ya, kid!"

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