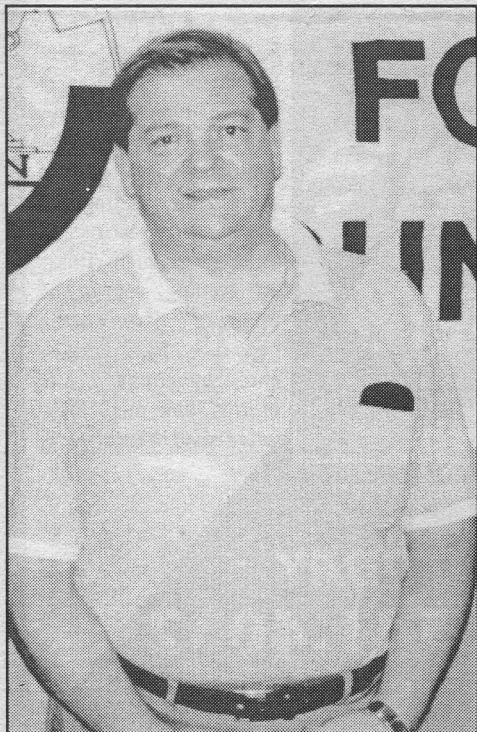


OBITUARY

LeRoy E.W. Holmberg, Jr.

(April 24, 1947 - October, 18, 2000)



BTL File photo
Lee Holmberg pictured July 30 at the Forum
Foundation's first annual educational scholarship
check presentation.

By JASON MICHAEL

ROYAL OAK - He will be remembered for his dedication and passion, and for the endless hours of hard work he poured into South-eastern Michigan's lgbt community. LeRoy E.W. Holmberg, Jr., better known to friends as Lee, succumbed to his lengthy battle with cancer at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak on Oct. 18.

Born in Chatanooga, Tenn., Holmberg moved several times before settling in Michigan. He served in the United States Air Force before attending George Mason University. Later he earned two masters degrees from Central Michigan University, and he was working on his doctorate degree from Wayne State University at the time of this death.

Holmberg had been an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit - Mercy for the past 18 years, and worked as an administrator with Mt. Clemens General Hospi-

tal for more than ten. But perhaps the work he'll best be remembered for were his innumerable contributions to the lgbt community. He was president of the Gay Lesbian Educators Association of Michigan at the time of his death, and had previously served as president of such varied organizations as Detroit Area Gay and Lesbian Council and the Forum Foundation Scholarship Fund. He also served in leadership positions with the Michigan Association for Health Care Quality, East Detroit Schools Credit Union and the Rainbow Investment Club.

"He was a very supportive person and very kind," said longtime friend Ernest Horne. "He had a very gentle demeanor."

"I greatly admired him," added community activist Howard Isreal. "He had a big heart and was committed to the community."

Holmberg is survived by John DiDonato, his partner of nine years, one son and two granddaughters.