Obituary Database Search

Obituary Database Record

Name: Carl Goodman
Age: 60
Birth Date: 12/29/1955
Residence: Bristol, RI

Obituary / Death Notice
Carl Goodman, an advocate for civil rights and equality for lesbians and gays, died in Bristol, Rhode Island, on January 5, 2014. He was 60. Carl was born in New Haven, Connecticut on December 29, 1955. His family later moved to Hackensack, New Jersey. Carl developed a life-long love of the theater, and he made his own Broadway debut at the age of 10 when Carl's father, who worked as a stage manager, arranged for Carl to appear in The Mikado and HMS Pinafore. Carl graduated from Hackensack High School in 1974. He enrolled in Williams College that autumn, but he left college in 1976 and moved to Portland, Oregon, where he quickly became a leading figure in the fledgling gay rights movement. He spent countless hours volunteering at Portland Town Council, the leading gay rights organization in the city. Carl left Portland in 1983 to enroll in the law school of the New College of California in San Francisco. He obtained his law degree in 1986, and shortly thereafter moved to New York. In March 1987, Carl was present at the first meeting of a new direct action AIDS advocacy group called ACT UP, and he participated in one of the group's first public actions: a demonstration to demand greater access to experimental AIDS drugs. Carl returned to Portland in 1988 to serve the "No on 8" campaign, which led the opposition to the first state-wide anti-gay initiative petition to appear on the Oregon ballot. When voters approved Measure 8, Carl was arrested with other activists for blocking the Morrison Bridge in protest. In 1989, Carl co-founded the Portland chapter of ACT UP. Returning to New York in 1991, Carl became a Business Development Associate at Mercer Human Resource Consulting. Carl again became active in ACT UP, and in May 1992 he organized a group of activists to travel to Arkansas to urge then-Governor and presidential candidate Bill Clinton to renounce the capital punishment law. The day after Carl met with Clinton's senior advisers, Clinton issued a statement saying he did not support the law and that it should be repealed. In 2004, Carl and his partner (and later husband), Mario Caver, moved to Seattle, where Carl became Business Development Manager for the law firm of Preston Gates & Ellis. A year later, he left to join Heller Ehrman as a Senior Business Development Manager. He remained in that position until October 2008. In the ensuing years, Carl was an independent consultant to law firms on professional and business development. In the summer of 2013, he and Mario moved to Rhode Island. Carl was persistent, optimistic, and charismatic in everything he did. To his co-workers and his countless friends from coast to coast, he was an unfailingly cheerful and positive companion. He lit up the Broadway stage when he was 10 years old, and he lit up every room he entered for the rest of his life.

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