December 4, 1994

Linda Alband
1327 45th Ave. #4
San Francisco, CA 94122-1108

Dear Linda:

Yes, I do remember that you wrote me and sent me the picture of Randy Shilts. I thank you, and our interactions were very pleasant. I then contacted Wilson (the photographer), who put me on hold and then told me very curtly that he did not handle permissions—his agent did.

He gave me the number of his agent, who wanted $75, and I got clearance to pay that, but I do not know the person to whom SSSS should pay the permission fee. I strongly object to our nonprofit organization and journal paying for permissions for honoring Randy Shilts, but I obtained the agreement from our executive director to do so. I will send two copies of this letter to you. Would you give one to Wilson to give to his agent? His agent can send the bill to Howard Ruppel, Ph.D., Executive Director, P.O. Box 208, Mount Vernon, IA 52314.

The memorium to Shilts has not yet been published but will appear in our next issue for 1994. Yes, I will certainly send you copies of it. And yes, I will ask our printing company to return the photo of Shilts to you.

Please give my regards to Jennifer Finlay, my former student. It is such a pleasure to see my former students doing well.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Rice Allgeier, Ph.D.
Editor, The Journal of Sex Research

cc: Howard Ruppel, Executive Director, The Society for The Scientific Study of Sexuality
Dec 13, '94

dear Rick,

perhaps if the ph. I had been not so gruff in her demands
I would have given permission

I would have given permission to use the picture.

But needless to say, we didn't hit it off.

The letter to my agent was the letter to my agent.

Best to you,

James D. Wilson

Staff Photographer • (415) 788-2651
November 14, 1994

Elizabeth Algeier  
Journal of Sex Research  
Department of Psychology  
Bowling Green State University  
Bowling Greek OH  43403

Dear Dr. Algeier,

You may remember that I wrote you a couple of months ago and sent you a picture of Randy Shilts for consideration for use in Bill Darrow’s piece on Randy. I have a couple of questions regarding this piece:

1. What is its anticipated date of publication?

2. Could you please send me several—two or three—copies once it is published?

3. Did you ever get the issue of an accompanying photo worked out? As I mentioned to Bill, I do have several snapshots of Randy that you could use free of charge. The one I think most applicable is a shot of him standing before a store display of And The Band Played On shortly after its initial publication. The one problem with this shot is that it is color rather than B&W. Please let me know if you still need a photo and if this would work.

4. Could I get the photo of Randy I sent you back? I have a finite supply of these now that he is, unfortunately, no longer with us.

Hope that all is going well for you. Jennifer Finlay, my friend and your former student, sends her regards.

Sincerely,

Linda Alband
Dear Dr. Algeier:

Bill Darrow asked me to forward this picture of Randy Shilts to you for use with his upcoming article on Randy. The photographer is James D. Wilson and his phone number is 415.788.2651. (He's with the Newsweek bureau here in San Francisco. Bill also has Jim's phone number.)

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know. Also, I'd like to get this photo back after you have finished with it. I have a finite supply and would like to preserve them as long as possible. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Linda Alband
Randy's friend and former assistant/colleague

P.S. Interestingly, one of your former students, Jennifer Finlay, was one of our researchers on Conduct Unbecoming. She's written you a short note that I am including in this packet.
Dear Bill,

Here's my fact-checking and some comments on your piece about Randy. Oh, if Betsy hasn't located any pictures as yet (she hasn’t called me), I do have several snapshots and asked our friend who took them if they could be used and he said fine. (The one I am thinking about is a shot of Randy standing in front of a store window display of *And The Band Played On.*) There are a couple of others that might be okay, too. I'll get them back from the Public Library (where they have been on display) on Monday afternoon.

Birthdate: August 8, 1951

Page 1, 2nd line from bottom: While most of his friends were present for his coming out in his Sociology class at Portland Community College, none of Randy's family was present at his coming out. Within about two weeks of his coming out in his class, Randy told all of his other friends in Portland. Within about a year he had told several of his brothers, although I believe he told his parents a few years later.

Page 2, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: I've reworked this a bit to sharpen its clarity. Here's my suggested version:

It pits Harvey Milk, a very likeable, openly gay camera store owner, against Dan White, a San Francisco firefighter and former police officer with traditional, blue-collar values. Both men were elected to San Francisco's Board of Supervisors in the tumultuous 1977 district elections. Barely one year later, an embittered Supervisor White murdered both the liberal Mayor George Moscone and Milk, his fellow supervisor. Both the book and movie . . .

Page 4, last paragraph. Here's what I'm suggesting being added in. This is the point missed in virtually all the reviews of *Conduct Unbecoming* and the factor that, I believe, will give it its real and lasting longevity.

Change: "It was to be his definitive study of homophobia." to "It was much more
than his definitive study of homophobia. It was also a study of how the civil right process works in this country, a process of autonomous yet inextricably linked movements for racial, sexual and gender equality."

Page 5.

Change "Be There For A Cure" to "Imagine A Cure"

( I remember seeing this letter he wrote to you. Randy was so good at giving moral support to people who he considered to have been abused either stupidly, unnecessarily or because of their courage. I remember how outraged he had been when Act-Up had verbally assaulted that poor woman from Africa who had called for "compassion for the victims of AIDS" at the Fifth International Conference.

Bottom of page, change to read: "Randy M. Shilts died of AIDS at his rustic home in Guerneville, a small town on the Russian River. He was 42 years old." Also, in the next sentence, I'd start the sentence with the prepositional phrase "from a distance."

Page 6, lines 4-5: I don't understand what "He greatly benefitted from his miscalculations and misjudgments" means. How did he benefit? I'd consider either expanding upon this or cutting it entirely.

A LOVELY ENDING. (One suggestion: You might want to capitalize the first letter of And The Band Plays On for emphasis.)

So, hope that this is clear and please call if you have any questions about any of this or anything else. I look forward to seeing it in print. I know Randy would like it.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Division of STD/HIV Prevention
12 Corporate Square (Mailstop E02)
Corporate Square Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
404/639-8268
FAX 404/639-8609

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Date: Sept 15, 1994
To: LINDA ALLBAND

FAX # (415) 731-4032
TELEPHONE # (415) 731-6935

FROM: DALTON STEELE

Number of pages sent 6 pages
(excluding this sheet)

Comments:

NCPS
NATIONAL CENTER FOR PREVENTION SERVICES
Randy M. Shilts came into my life as a by-line on a brief article about "gay bowel syndrome" in The Advocate. Drs. Dan William in New York City and Selma Dritz in the San Francisco Department of Public Health had observed an increase in parasitic infections in men who had had sex with men; their reports were published in the medical literature in the late 1970s. Randy was among a handful of journalists who noted this sociomedical phenomenon and brought it to the attention of his readers. In retrospect, this short story about an increasing number of highly unusual cases of sexually transmitted disease (STD) can be read as a prolegomenon to a tragic tale of disease and despair that would shortly follow.

Subsequently I learned that Randy's assignment as a reporter for The Advocate was his first job out of college. Randy was born in Davenport, Iowa, and grew up in Aurora, Illinois, a suburb west of Chicago. His family was working class, large, Methodist, and conservative. Randy was an achiever and became an Eagle Scout, a rabid Goldwater-Republican campaigner, and founder of a local chapter of the Young Americans for Freedom. This Midwesterner was raised on principles of verity, integrity, and probity; family values were treasured. Therefore, we should probably not be surprised to learn that he chose to come out as a gay man to his friends in a well orchestrated presentation he prepared for a sociology class as a college student in Oregon.
In the early 1980s I spoke with Randy over the telephone quite a few times and met with him when he visited the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta to talk with me and other members of the Task Force on Kaposi's Sarcoma and Opportunistic Infections. Then he was a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle, and the outbreak of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was a story he and a few other reporters were following. I was impressed with his energy and his enthusiasm, his curiosity and his candor, his optimism and his perspicacity. After meeting him and seeing him operate in his professional role, I easily recognized him as he dashed and darted into scenes in the documentary film based on his first book, The Mayor of Castro Street: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk.

"Mayor" is a wonderful book that Randy wrote for us about gay liberation in San Francisco and the insanity of an assassination brought about by mindless malignity. It pits a very likeable ex-Hippie camera store owner to run for public office until he is shot against the traditional, blue-collar police officer, the incumbent slain and deeply misses of supervisors. "Outsiders" who express their civic rights to go to the political representation, the protagonist is not assumed of being gay. The other great murder and Mayor George Moscone in City Hall in the middle of the day because his political adversary is intrepid, outspoken, and proud. Both the book and movie, "The Times of Harvey Milk," show us in luminous detail the darkness of sexual cretinism and the hatred such
ignorance generates.

And the Band Played On: Politics, People and the AIDS Epidemic is another tour de force. It is a suspenseful medical mystery, a shameful exposé of selfishness, greed, and malevolence, and a prodigious story of human tragedy and a community’s calamity. The action is revealed in a multitude of minute segments as unconnected pieces of a complicated puzzle are presented. Scientists gather evidence and sort through it seeking clues to answer three critical questions: What is the cause? How is it spread? What can be done to stop transmission and treat the afflicted?

Some of those in medicine, public health, and the basic sciences see the problem of AIDS as their chance to serve others, help those suffering, and prevent further infections. Others seek profit, fame, and glory for themselves. Those affected and their loved ones demand an explanation and desire a prescription that will reverse the damage to their immune systems and restore their health. A community shaken with the tragic murder of their elected supervisor in 1978 marches down Market Street again and yet again holding candles to commemorate those who have died from AIDS. Four years it took Randy to assemble the many parts of this gothic docudrama and to arrange it for us to read and reflect upon.

"Band" is a powerful story meant to stimulate our passions and
provoking collective action. The book sold over 320,000 copies and was made into an HBO movie. By and large, those events that I witnessed were accurately portrayed in the "Band," but the book and the man who wrote it were not without flaws.

Randy allowed me to read portions of the book before it appeared in print and invited me to share my comments and concerns with him. As a result of my suggestions, he made some changes, but steadfastly refused to address other objections. I don't think he was right to identify people by name without their consent when embarrassing details about their private lives were revealed. I don't think he should have read people's minds without verifying his accounts with those he was describing. And he could have been even more diligent in validating the impressions of some of his closest sources of information. It bothered me to hear Randy say, "Nobody should be telling me what the truth of AIDS was, I was there." I was there, too, as were many others, and I believe that many truths about AIDS could be told. That's why I was eager to read Randy's story.

Conduct Unbecoming: Gays and Lesbians in the U.S. Military, was Randy's third and final book. It was to be his definitive study of homophobia. Much like his earlier work, Randy wove together the disparate stories of many different people to report on the recent history of repulsive persecution against gay men and lesbians in the armed forces. Sources included over 1,000 interviews with military personnel and many documents obtained
through the Freedom of Information Act. For six weeks, "Conduct Unbecoming" was a best seller.

golden retriever

Randy named his dog after the hard-boiled writer of detective stories, Dashiell Hammett. I imagine that he pictured himself as the resolute, callous sleuthhound who prodded the truth about evil conspiracies into the light of day. How sorry I was to learn that people spit on him as he walked through the Castro District of San Francisco out of irreverence for his muckraking.

For the last five years I received the same Christmas greeting from this cheerful and hopeful man with his message inscribed in bold, block letters: "Imagine A Cure." After having the dubious privilege of following the Director of CDC to the podium at a national conference on HIV/STD prevention in San Diego in 1991, I received my fair share of verbal abuse from a few activists in the front row. Much to my surprise, a few weeks later I received a letter of solace from Randy offering me "a pat on the back" and thanking me for my "outstanding ability to truly comprehend the sociological aspects of a disease that from its first days was as much a social as a medical problem."

Randy M. Shilts died of AIDS in his home in Guerneville, a small town on the Russian River, at the age of 42 years. I had the good fortune to see him, from a distance, grow as a correspondent fresh out of college to an accomplished author and social critic. He was convinced that the power of the pen would bring equality and justice to those denied
respect and dignity because of their sexual preferences and expressions of affection. He was willing to take risks to promote his cause and to suffer the consequences of his impudence. He greatly benefitted from his miscalculations and misjudgments. He was still developing his many talents when his life ended prematurely. We shall miss hearing his persuasive voice and reading his convincing prose.

During the week that Randy died, CDC reported 371,878 cases of AIDS and 224,306 deaths due to HIV disease since June 1981. The butcher’s bill decreases, the death toll increases, and the band plays on.

William W. Darrow
Professor of Public Health
Florida International University
North, Miami, Florida

Tel 305 956-5252
FAX 305 940-5507
Florida International University
NORTH MIAMI CAMPUS
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FAX NUMBER: (305) 940-5507
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE NUMBER: (305) 940-5507

TO: Linda Allband

FAX NUMBER: 415 731-6935 4032

OFFICE NUMBER: 415 731-6935

Number of Pages (including this sheet): 17

COMMENTS: Linda—Thank you for agreeing to read and comment on my piece about Randy. Any suggestions you may offer to strengthen the article would be appreciated. I would particularly like you to correct inaccurate statements and help me get the facts straight. For example, the exact date of Randy’s birth.

Thanks also for helping Betsy Allgren locate a photo of Randy we can use with my text.

FROM: Bill Darrow

PHONE: 305 956-5252 / FAX 305 940-5507

DEPARTMENT: Public Health
In Memoriam
Randy M. Shilts
1952 - February 17, 1994

Randy M. Shilts came into my life as a by-line on a brief article about "gay bowel syndrome" in The Advocate. Drs. Dan William in New York City and Selma Dritz in the San Francisco Department of Public Health had observed an increase in parasitic infections in men who had had sex with men; their reports were published in the medical literature in the late 1970s. Randy was among a handful of journalists who noted this sociomedical phenomenon and brought it to the attention of his readers. In retrospect, this short story about an increasing number of highly unusual cases of sexually transmitted disease (STD) can be read as a prolegomenon to a tragic tale of disease and despair that would shortly follow.

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Ann
Family (4)
Burn
Extra (4)

10

- Unfig. Nancry (Admin)
- Academic Prog. Rec (Bk Store)

1. Buy SF Review Bks

2. Library - Syllabus in Rapid copy ch
   DAT 423

3. US News & World Report

4. Time

Terry polo
bio Regan