

## Tapa

# Gay activist dies

by A.B. Duke

**C**arlos Jáuregui died Tuesday night of AIDS hours after waging one final fight in his lifelong struggle for gay rights that pitted him against everyone from the archbishop of Buenos Aires to the coach of the national soccer team. He was 38.

Jáuregui's death came days after urging the Constituent Assembly to include an article

in the proposed city charter making it illegal to discriminate for sexual orientation along with race, religion and gender.

"He was a man who devoted a major portion of his life to the fight to defend equality, freedom and respect for our differences," said a Radical Party statement marking his death. "Jáuregui worked tirelessly for a more dignified society, free of persecution."

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## FROM THE FRONT

# Gay activist Jáuregui dies

(from front page)

In a predominantly Catholic country, which has traditionally shunned homosexuality if not considered it a social aberration and a sin against God, Jáuregui became the nation's most recognized homosexual, dedicating his life to campaigns and political groups for gay rights. Recently, a survey of journalists named him one of the ten most respected political personalities in the nation.

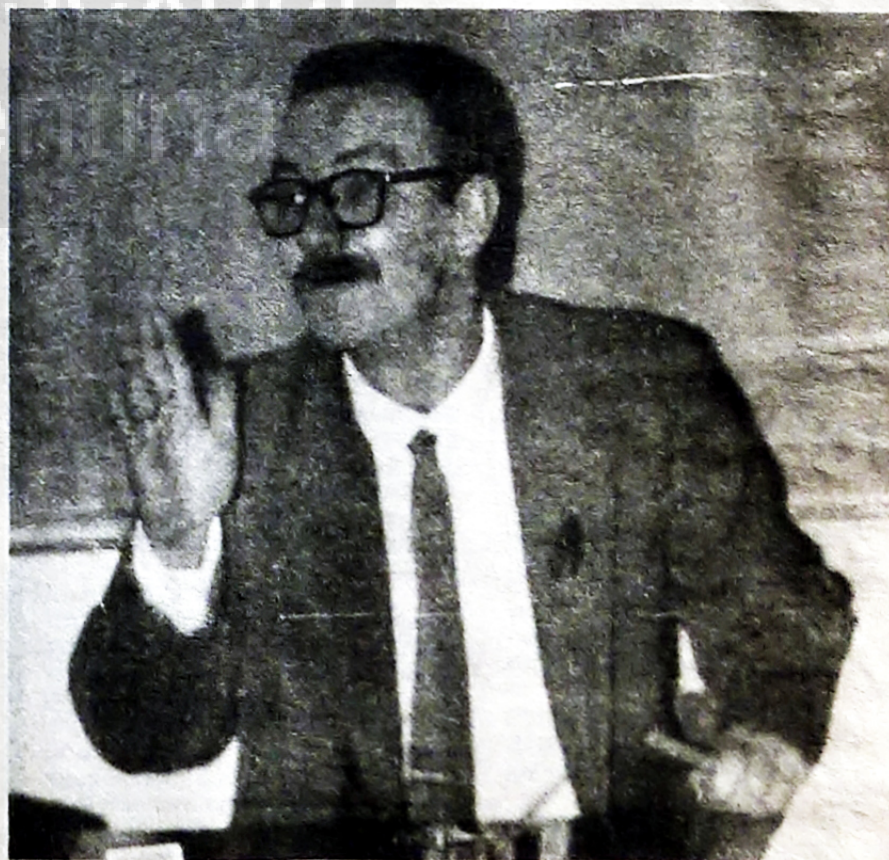
Ascribing to grassroots activism based on "making yourself visible," as he used to say, Jáuregui in 1984 formed and was the first president of the nation's first gay group, Argentina's Homosexual Community. His brother Roberto was the first Argentine to publicly admit he was HIV positive and created the *Huesped* foundation to promote AIDS awareness.

As a founder and leader of the group, Gays and

Lesbians for Civil Rights, his successful lawsuit against the government in 1992 set an important precedent for cases involving the illegal dismissal of AIDS carriers.

Jáuregui clashed repeatedly with prelates and debated Archbishop Cardinal Antonio Quarracino on at least two occasions. He filed two libel lawsuits against the archbishop after the priest said gays should be isolated from society in separate neighbourhoods. Afterward hundreds of national arts personalities came out in popular support of Jáuregui's stance.

When national soccer squad coach Daniel Passarella said last year that he wouldn't take gays on the team, Jáuregui received national attention for responding publicly that the coach didn't know his own team. Jáuregui said he knew two gay players on the national and under-23 squads.



Carlos Jáuregui

Over the years, Jáuregui was bullied and threatened and jailed. He continued to fight for what he believed was right and recruit people to fight with him. He was a fixture at the head of the crowd at the annual march to commemorate National

Gay Pride Day June 28 on the Plaza de Mayo.

And he was back there for a final moment yesterday with his friends and supporters in his own funeral procession from the Plaza de Mayo to Plaza de los Dos Congresos.