IN MEMORIAM

NEWTOL PRESS, 1930-2000

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Newtol Press, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences, was a member of the UWM Faculty until his retirement in 1994. He died on January 1, 2000 of natural causes at the age of 69. Dr. Press was born in New York on November 27, 1930. He earned the B.A. degree from New York University in 1951 and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Iowa in 1956.

Newtol joined the faculty of the former Department of Zoology in 1956. He served as Chairman of the Zoology Department in 1964-66. Dr. Press was a former President of the UWM Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Newtol taught a number of classes at UWM. He participated in the Summer Institute in Biology for High School Teachers. He taught Animal biology, Comparative Anatomy, Cell Biology and Biological Theories. His inter-disciplinary course on bioethics, Frankenstein Revisited: Bioethics and the Future of Man, was extremely popular among students. It was Newtol’s passion to make science interesting and relevant to his students. It can be said with certainty that Newtol’s classes were never dull. As a way of provoking debate, he would on occasion dress as the devil’s advocate, complete with horns and a tail. This activity was reported in the local press, was picked up by an international syndicate and reported around the world. It led to a great deal of notoriety and many telephone calls from misguided individuals trying to reform him. Any member of the Biology department could have told them that Newtol could never be reformed and we would not have wanted it any other way.
Newtoll was a unique individual. He was often seen walking across campus with his briefcase, a cardboard box, and his trademark flaming red canvass Chuck Taylor All-Star sneakers. He was an extremely caring individual, advising legions of students.

From its inception Newtoll taught in the College for Kids Program. Under his guidance, many kids had the world of science presented to them at an early age. His classes were reported to be loud and often chaotic. But the students had a great time and actually learned in the process. For most, it was their first exposure to a microscope.

Outside the University, Newtoll was active in the Bayside community, serving as a scout master in his son’s cub scout troop. He was a member of the Maple Dale–Indian Hills School Board from 1972-79, serving as President for two years, 1975-77.

In a 1985 interview Newtoll was asked to give his philosophy of life. His answer was to relay a story of the sage Hillel, who was asked to give his whole philosophy of life while standing on one foot. He was able to do this and said “not to do unto others as you do not want them to do unto you,” and that “all the rest is commentary.” Newtoll indicated that he too could give his philosophy of life while standing on one foot and also end with “all the rest being commentary, although the commentary is pretty long.” He said, “He serves God best who serves humanity.”

Newtoll is survived by his wife, Francine, and three children. Professor Emeritus Newtoll Press will be missed by all of us who had the good fortune to be associated with him during his time at UWM.