Memorial Resolution

Professor Richard W. Peltz (1927-1975)

Richard Walter Peltz died on February 21, 1975. He is survived by his wife Cissie, by his daughter Julie Ann, and by his son David Lee.

Born in Rock Island, Illinois in 1927, he grew up in Chicago, and attended the University of Chicago where he was elected to both Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, receiving his B.A. and M.A. with honors. After being awarded the Ph.D. in 1953, Dick spent four years at Fresno State College in Fresno, California as an instructor and assistant professor and, in 1957, arrived at The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he was to remain until his death.

While interested in all areas of philosophy, Dick's published work was principally in the area of aesthetics and the history of philosophy. His articles were included in such important journals as Philosophical Studies, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, Theoria, The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism, and The Journal of Aesthetic Education, and were of uniformly high quality. He expected his students to meet his own high standards and was both liked and respected by them.

Dick was extremely active in university affairs where he earned the respect and friendship of the members of his own department and of the university community at large. He was Chairman of the Department of Philosophy from 1963 to 1968 and from 1972 until his death. As department chairman, Dick displayed the rare ability to maintain harmony and good will within the department and to advance its interests by working cooperatively and positively with the university administration. Dick was an editorial consultant for The Journal of Aesthetic Education, and a past vice-president of the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning.

With Dean Adolph Suppan, he inaugurated the Contemporary Trends Program in 1963, and served as its coordinator from 1964 until 1975. In his years at UWM, Dick was selected to serve on The University Committee-Milwaukee, the system-wide Faculty Assembly, and a number of other important college and university committees. This was only one expression of the esteem in which he was held both by his colleagues and by university administrators.

That Dick gave so much of himself to the University is shown by the fact that, in the year prior to his death, he served as department chairman, as chairman of the Humanistic Studies Ph.D. Committee, as a member of the University Committee, and as chairman of the Search and Screen Committee for the Dean of the School of Fine Arts. During this period he also managed to prepare a journal article.

Dick possessed many admirable qualities. Few who knew him were cognizant of the fact that he had, for many years, been aware of the condition which finally led to his death. He did not allow this to dampen his enthusiasm for life or lessen his dedication to his profession. His steadiness, fairness, and humor made him an excellent colleague and department chairman. Those who knew him respected and esteemed him as a philosopher, as a citizen of the University, and as a human being.

Haig Katchadourian
Melvin Lurie
William J. Wainwright (Chairman)