

In Memory of Richard Curtis Groll

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IN MEMORIAM



RICHARD CURTIS GROLL
1939-1978

RICHARD CURTIS GROLL

(1939 - 1978)

"Men do less than they ought, unless they do all that they can"

Carlyle

Richard Groll was a man of vision and drive. As Dean of the College of Law at DePaul University, he saw the possibility for institutional development in both physical and human terms. He devoted himself to the development of a physical facility, the expansion of the faculty, and the strengthening of the quality of the student body, curriculum and placement opportunities for graduates. The institutional legacy of Dean Groll provides witness to the quality of his insight and the tremendous expenditure of energy he made to realize his personal vision.

As a public figure, Richard Groll was a man of conviction who was dedicated to reform. He devoted himself to such concerns as improvement in the quality of the judiciary, the provision of equal opportunity in education and employment, and non-partisan appointment of civil servants. More importantly, however, was the personal compassion Dick Groll brought to bear on the particular cases of need which were brought to his attention. There was always a willingness to spend time with those with special problems; to assist in the development of a strategy to meet the need presented; and then, to put his time and position to the accomplishment of a solution.

Perhaps the most significant quality of Richard Groll was his ability to identify and assess talent in his students and faculty and then to challenge those with talent to achieve. He had an eye for the gifted and the able. Even more, he stimulated and supported accomplishment and creative work. These qualities provided Richard Groll's greatest legacy for it is through those whom he stimulated to be visionary and demanding on themselves that his influence is most strongly felt. He will continue to have an effect on the level and quality of the professional and academic accomplishment of those he taught and on those with whom he worked. Likewise, for those students and faculty he challenged, the example of Richard Groll provides a continuing responsibility to identify others with ability and talent and a duty to assist them in the fulfillment of their potential.

In his 1978 commencement address at Harvard University, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn assessed the weaknesses threatening the survival of western society. These problems were viewed as residing in the individual. Solzhenitsyn warned: "Political and intellectual functionaries exhibit this depression, passivity, and perplexity in their actions and in their statements, and even more so in their self-serving rationales as to how realistic, reasonable, and intellectually and even morally justified it is to base state policies on weakness and cowardice . . . Must one point out that from ancient times a decline in courage has been considered the first symptom of the end?"¹ Richard Groll provided those who knew him with a model of courage and conviction. He demanded of those with whom he worked that "they do all that they can." It is the model he provided and the challenges he laid down that constitutes a legacy not merely for those with whom he worked or for the institution in which he labored. Rather, it is the greater community which will benefit from the continuing contributions and dedication of those Richard Groll taught and challenged to dream and to work with courage.

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1. A. Solzhenitsyn, *A World Split Apart: Commencement Address Delivered at Harvard University, June 8, 1978* at 11.

