



Daniel Lyons

September 1, 1930 - January 27, 2010

There is no information at this time.

Comments



“ From the Denver Post: Jan 30, 2010

“Old Yeller” was the name given to Dan Lyons because he was often yelling and protesting on the Colorado State University campus in Fort Collins.

Lyons, a professor in the philosophy department for 34 years, was a regular at anti-war demonstrations, often sitting in a lawn chair, wearing his white fishing hat and holding a sign, “that often was inflammatory,” said Holly Stern, who sometimes joined Lyons in protests.

Lyons was 79 when he died at his home Wednesday.

A service is planned at 11 a.m. Saturday at the CSU Lory Student Center, west ballroom.

Lyons began protesting against war in earnest after the Iraq and Afghanistan wars started.

But his first activism was on the first Earth Day in 1970. He and others buried a car to protest pollution. He hardly ever drove, walking the 4 miles back and forth to campus.

He was a Korean War veteran and adviser to the CSU chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

He believed that to be a justifiable war it must be necessary and “that it help more than it hurt,” said his daughter, Jean Lyons Lotus of Oak Park, Ill.

He was happy to engage anyone in a debate “without fear,” said a colleague, Bernie Rollin, distinguished professor in the philosophy department.

“He was so colorful and quick and had an endless supply of jokes,” Rollin said. But Lyons’ overriding interest was “a clear sense of justice,” even though there were times his arguing and protesting “raised eyebrows” among his superiors, said Rollin.

Lyons “had harsh opinions and wasn’t universally popular with students, but those who liked him loved him,” said Jan Benson, another colleague, who sometimes joined Lyons in demonstrations.

“He could be a curmudgeon on issues, but not with people,” Lotus said. “He liked people.”

Lyons gave up the independent protesting against the Iraq and Afghanistan wars when “people screamed obscenities in his face and he felt he was in danger,” said Lotus.

Benson said Lyons was always upset when students couldn’t read well enough to understand the subject. So he taught those students how to outline and paraphrase,

believing that they could raise their grades when they were able to comprehend what they read.

Dan Lyons was born on Sept. 1, 1930, in Cresco, Iowa, and after high school went to college for a while and then decided to be a monk or priest.

“But he couldn’t take the monastic life,” Lotus said. The early prayer hours and day-long silence “drove him nuts,” Lotus said. “He loved to talk.” He left the order after two years.

He also wanted a family.

He married Mary Wright on Sept. 7, 1963.

He earned his doctorate in philosophy at the University of Chicago. He taught philosophy at St. Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Ind., and at St. Xavier College in Chicago before moving to Colorado and CSU.

In addition to his wife and daughter, he is survived by another daughter, Sarah Lyons of Austin, Texas; a son, Thomas Lyons of Chicago; and five grandchildren.

Jean Lotus - January 02 at 12:38 AM



“ When we think of Dan, we remember his intensity, sense of humor and hearty laugh. We feel fortunate to have known him. His life counted in the world

Marilyn and Marv Heller - January 27, 2010 at 12:00 AM