

In Memoriam

Perry Weddle (1939-2006)

Perry Weddle, a long-time friend of this journal and of many on its editorial board and contributors to its pages, died on January 2nd, 2006. Perry was one of the first and most loyal supporters of *Informal Logic*. Back in the late 1970s, when its predecessor, *the informal logic newsletter*, began publication, it was Perry who first suggested that the newsletter publish articles. Following thought with deed, he sent us a paper in which he challenged the distinction, then taken for granted, between deductive and inductive arguments. "Inductive, Deductive," *ILN* 2:1 (1979), pages 1-5, was the first article published in the newsletter.

A native of San Francisco, Perry studied philosophy at California State University, San José for his B.A. and did his graduate work (M.A. and Ph.D.) in philosophy at the University of Nebraska, where he was strongly influenced by the work of O.K. Bouwsma and Wittgenstein. He joined the faculty of the philosophy department at California State University, Sacramento in 1965 and remained there until his retirement as professor emeritus in 1995, serving a term as chair (1972-78). In 1990 he received the John C. Livingston award, given annually to a faculty member at CSU Sacramento for excellence in teaching, intellectual leadership and scholarly productivity.

Perry's academic contributions in the area of critical reasoning were considerable. He wrote one of the early textbooks in the field of critical thinking, the useful and charmingly written, *Argument: A Guide to Critical Thinking* (McGraw Hill, 1978). Perry was a founding member of the Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking, and sat on its first executive (1983-86). As a member of the editorial board of *Informal Logic* he provided its contributors with thoughtful and constructive critical reviews of many manuscripts of articles over the years. He also served on the advisory board of *Argumentation*, and he founded and edited *Critical Thinking News*, a newsletter that supported the development of the critical thinking educational reform movement in its early years. He helped organize and contributed to many conferences and workshops on critical thinking

His academic accomplishments, however, do not do justice to the whole man. Perry was a gracious host to his colleagues and out-of-town visitors in Sacramento and elsewhere, a connoisseur of wine and an excellent cook. At conferences he discovered the best restaurants in town and led the way to them. He was an avid cyclist and he loved hiking in the forests and mountains of his native state. He had an impressive knowledge of art and was himself an collector. His letters, full of humour and *joie de vivre*, acerbic and wise comments on a wide range of subjects from the events of the day to baseball and redolent of learning lightly-held—always connecting—were a pleasure to receive. He was a man of integrity, notable generosity, and commitment to social justice. The lives of his students, colleagues and friends are the richer for their having known him.

Perry is survived by his wife Mary Weddle.