

Lerner had no illusion about the permanence of his ideas for he recognized the short half life of social science concepts, but he was confident that a social science approach—one that emphasized theory formation, empirical data collection, the rigorous analysis of data, in short the testing of theory against reality—would last. In the last two sentences in the 1964 preface to his book, Lerner wrote an epitaph for his own work:

“The Best service a model can render, however, is to hasten its own obsolescence by leading to a better one. I look forward to this outcome in due course.”

Myron Weiner
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Edward Lee Pinney

Edward Lee Pinney, professor of politics, died suddenly on May 14, 1980. He was 49 years old and had served on the Washington and Lee University faculty for 17 years.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, raised in Alabama, “Mike” received the B.A. degree in history from Auburn University in 1952 and then went on active duty with the U.S. Army, serving as a lieutenant in Korea. On his return he studied political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received the Master’s degree in 1956 and the Ph.D. degree in 1960. From 1959 to 1963 he was a member of the political science faculty at Louisiana State University. In 1963 he joined the faculty at Washington and Lee. He was the author of journal articles on German, Mexican and American government, and he edited *Comparative Politics and Political Theory*, published in 1966.

Mike was a man of varied interests and many talents. He was active in the American and Southern Political Science Associations and served as Recording Secretary of the SPSA. He was a strong competitor on the tennis court and an avid gardener with a prodigiously green thumb. One of Mike’s distinctive traits was an unparalleled wit, which was based on a vast vocabulary and a jet-speed ability to pick out flaws of logic or philosophy in any discussion, no matter

how exotic the topic—and to see and play upon the implausible, the improbable and the absurd whenever they occurred. From his students, he demanded performances that met his own high scholarly standards, and he rewarded them with scintillating lectures and with warmth, concern and affection.

In Mike Pinney we have lost a valued colleague, a stimulating companion, and a dear friend.

William Buchanan
Milton Colvin
Delos D. Hughes
Lewis G. John
John R. Handelman
Washington and Lee University

Robert S. Runo

Robert S. Runo, associate professor of political science, Roosevelt University, died June 12, 1980, of a heart attack at age 72. After retirement in 1972, he was living at his home in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, two children, Karen Crotty and Robert H., and five grandchildren.

Robert Runo, born at Calumet, Michigan, graduated from Williams College, and did graduate work at the University of Michigan, receiving the degree of M.A. in 1934, and at the University of Chicago, 1938-40. Teaching first at De Paul University and then Indiana State Teachers College, he was briefly with the Office of Price Administration. From 1943-46, he was in the U.S.N.R. and the U.S.N., with the rank of lieutenant. In 1946, he joined the Roosevelt University faculty where he served for the rest of his teaching career. For several years, he taught one course at Northwestern University. His courses were in Political parties, Public Opinion, and Constitutional Law.

At Roosevelt University, Robert Runo came to typify the close relationship between teaching and faculty self-government by being not only acting department chairman on two occasions, and for one three-year term, department chairman, but also for nine years a faculty-elected member of the Board of Trustees. For most of the years while teaching, he was on the faculty senate, and was a valued contributor to many faculty commit-