

Russ Edgerton

When I was called on Tuesday, and asked to deliver a few well chosen remarks on this occasion, I hit my word processor running, thinking what fun it would be to talk about a person whom I admired so much.

In the next eight hours at the word processor I wrote four speeches about Russ. When I arrived at this function tonight, manuscripts in hand, you can imagine that I was pretty disappointed to learn that no how much you thought of Russ, you were not going to be able to listen to all four speeches.

So quickly and resourcefully, I distilled each full text speech into what I will call "Essence of Russ." I am prepared now to give you four essences, each under its original title.

My first speech was entitled, "Everything You Ever Wanted in a Colleague and More." The inspiration for this title came from 60 Minutes where up until a few years ago, the last reporter on the team after a preview of the nights offerings always said, "All this and more on 60 Minutes when we continue." One night Andy Rooney pointed out that he guessed it was he who was the "and more," and he urged his colleagues to be more specific and concrete. Ever since that program, the remarks have been changed to, "All this and Andy Rooney on 60 Minutes." To be specific, what we have in Russ is all we ever wanted and more -

what is that more?

1. It's a mind that goes beyond being informed to being inquisitive, probing, and restless.
2. It's a mind that goes beyond being open to being receptive and eager to learn from others.
3. It's a person who goes beyond respecting others to caring for them and being genuinely concerned about them.

Russ as a colleague is all this and more.

My second speech was entitled, "Chasing Ideas for Fun and I have never known to Russ to walk away from a challenging question. Usually he goes forward to greet tough questions or situations with a readiness to punch it and probe it and see what makes it tick. Russ genuinely likes ideas and invites them in, but not just to sit on his couch. They should actively contribute to education, to the theme of a conference, to the formulation of a project. Ideas to Russ should be useful as well as fun.

My third speech was entitled, "Doing the Right Things Right." This one was a take off from Peter Drucker noting that efficiency consists of doing things right, whereas effectiveness consists of doing the right thing. My conclusion, after an exhaustingly thorough examination of whether this isn't too simple and catchy

to be solid or academically respectable, is that I think to Russ the right thing has to be done right. Russ is a good, not to say precise Editor, who feels that if you have a good message you should say it well. And you should work at it until saying the right thing becomes synonymous with saying the thing right.

Finally, under my speech entitled, "The Next Ten Years," I noted that Russ, were he left to his own devices probably wouldn't celebrate