George Stewart Rinehart

May 26, 1936 — November 2, 1972

George Rinehart was killed in an automobile accident in Ithaca on November 2, 1972. He is survived by his wife of fourteen years, Julie Roberts Rinehart, and three children, Matthew, Susannah, and Lucy.

Professor Rinehart was born in Ruston, Louisiana, and received his under- graduate training at Deep Springs Junior College, Deep Springs Valley, California, and at Cornell University, graduating with a B.S. degree in mathematics in 1958. After graduate work at Ohio State University and the University of California, Berkeley, he took his Ph.D. degree in mathematics from the latter institution in 1962. He held a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University during 1962-63. He joined the Cornell Department of Mathematics as an assistant professor in 1963 and became associate professor and associate chairman of the Department in 1969, a position he held until his untimely and tragic death.

George Rinehart's scientific work dealt with categorical and homological algebra, and he published a number of papers in this area; indeed, he had finished correcting the proofs for a paper a short time before the accident occurred. His work was widely known and has been the starting point of several mathematical investigations by others. This led to invitations to visit other universities, and he and his family spent the year 1968-69 at the Universite' de Strasbourg and the spring semester of 1971 at Queen Mary College of the University of London. He was also an invited participant at international scientific conferences in England and Germany.

In addition to his duties in the Mathematics Department, George Rinehart was a delegate to the Faculty Council of Representatives from September 1971 until his death. Since his undergraduate days he was a member of the Telluride Association and served for a number of years on its Board of Custodians. Throughout his adult life he maintained a serious and active interest in the affairs of his community and nation. During the late sixties he participated in the Peace Movement on the Cornell Campus, and for several years preceding his death he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Tompkins County Liberal Party.

He was the first associate chairman the Cornell Mathematics Department has had. Through his energetic and competent direction, this position de- veloped into an indispensable part of the day-to-day operation of the Department, and the undergraduate teaching of mathematics at Cornell was greatly strengthened by his deep concern.

George Rinehart was one of the Mathematics Department's best teachers and advisers. He was extremely popular with students, and his door was always open to them. He gave most generously of himself to all who came into contact with him, spending many hours counseling and advising both undergraduates and graduate students, and discussing professional and departmental affairs with his colleagues.

His lively intelligence and clarity of thought and expression, coupled with an unfailing kindness and keen sense of humor, made him a uniquely effective and valuable member of our University community. To the very many Cornellians whose professional and personal lives were enriched by his presence among us, he was one of the very best representatives of his gene- ration, and all of us are truly bereft at his passing.

Stephen U. Chase, Moss E. Sweedler, Alex Rosenberg