

## GRAND PHILOSOPHY; GREAT PERSONA

E. Thomas Sullivan\*

To describe Joel Feinberg's scholarship the last 38 years as at the top of the field of moral philosophy and law does not describe the whole individual. To his colleagues, Joel Feinberg is a unique scholar, teacher, humanist and friend. He cares deeply about people and society. He has touched the lives of thousands of students and hundreds of faculty colleagues. It is the individual, perhaps, more than the volumes of published works who is so remarkable, so uncommon.

A few years ago during our National Board of Visitors annual meeting at the College of Law, several alumni approached me after they had attended a class in criminal law taught by Professor Feinberg. Each, individually, asked about the teacher. The refrain I heard throughout the two day visit was what an extraordinarily gifted teacher and communicator he was in the classroom. One member opined that he could not remember such an engaging and lucid class. The visiting alumni observed the ease with which Joel asked penetrating questions and elicited robust discussion without pretext or intimidation. Their comments came as no surprise to Joel's colleagues.

Certainly one of the highlights I have enjoyed while serving as dean was as a participant at a national conference in Joel's honor held in the fall of 1994 at the College of Law, cosponsored by the University's Philosophy Department. The symposium, "Issues in the Philosophy of Law," honored Professor Feinberg's nearly 40 years of contributions to jurisprudence. The range of topics covered a broad spectrum, as Joel's own published works have also. From an opening session on *The Practice of Corrective Justice*, to *Federalism, Secession, and the Morality of Inclusion*, to *Legal Moralism and Liberalism*, to Joel's own presentation on *Equal Punishment for Failed Attempts: Some Bad but Instructive Arguments Against It*, the conference presented grand insights, and opportunities for wonderful collegiality and first-rate thinking, exactly what one would expect from a conference celebrating the life and scholarship of Joel Feinberg. Many of Joel's former graduate students and colleagues from other universities returned to participate in the tribute and to share their remembrances of the master. We all have Joel to thank for this memorable, happy occasion.

In 1988 the University of Arizona honored Professor Feinberg with its highest honor when it invested him as a Regents Professor of Philosophy and Law. Shortly before this recognition his major work, *The Moral Limits of the Criminal Law*, was published in four volumes by Oxford University Press.

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Today it remains the definitive work on the subject. His previous and subsequent articles and books, totaling in excess of 100 publications, have resulted in his recognition as one of the world's most renowned scholars of moral, social and legal philosophy.

Unique, remarkable, uncommon, gifted, engaging, renowned. These words, used throughout this essay, aptly describe Joel Feinberg. He has given us grand philosophy with a great persona. At Arizona, we are proud to call this modest individual a friend and a colleague.