

Dean Beatrice Konheim Exemplified Dedication to Work, Family

"Young women in our time need professional women as models. Young women in our time continue to need wives and mothers as models. But perhaps they need most of all living proof that the lives can be lived as one life. Bea Goldstein Konheim put it all together — devotion to husband and children, devotion to the intellectual life, devotion to the institution."

These words of tribute from President Jacqueline Wexler succinctly sum up the life of Dr. Beatrice G. Konheim, dean of the Hunter College Institute of Health Sciences and professor of biological sciences, who died on Oct. 1, 1973 at 64.

Dr. Konheim had been on the faculty of Hunter for nearly 44 years, and during that time distinguished herself as an outstanding educator, scientist and scholar as well as a woman of warmth, strength and unique compassion for both individuals and social cause.

A native New Yorker, daughter of the late Dr. Sidney E. Goldstein, a rabbi at the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, Professor Konheim was graduated from Hunter in 1929 and received a Ph.D. in Physiology from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1939. She helped organize Hunter's Institute of Health Sciences in 1969 and became its dean, fulfilling the duties of administrator while maintaining a full schedule of teaching.

Throughout her academic career Dean Konheim held numerous posts and was involved with various committees of the American Association of University Professors, and in 1972 was elected Second Vice President of that organization. Within the AAUP and other groups she was consistently active in the defense of academic freedom, student rights and civil liberties.

A recent testimonial from the Academic Freedom Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, of which she was a member from 1964

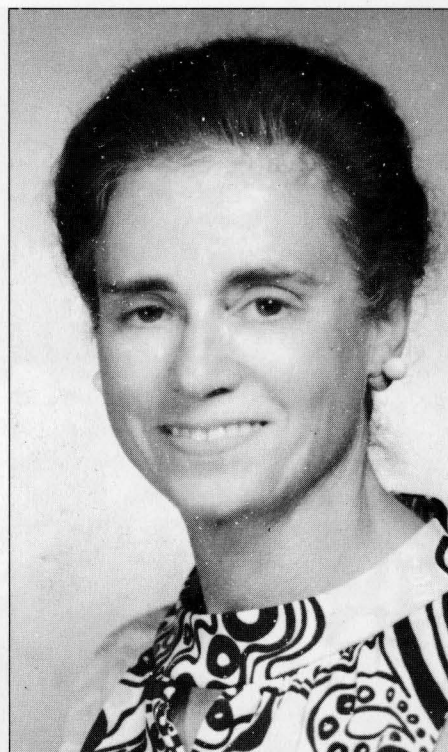
to 1973, reads in part: "Bea Konheim contributed more than a decade of untiring devotion to the exhilarating exchange of conflicting and contrasting ideas . . . Throughout her long association with the world of education, she was a tower of strength for civil libertarians, students and faculty, on or off campus . . ."

The committee's tribute also notes that Dr. Konheim "pioneered in the field of health services education for the masses of our urban centers." She was, in fact, a founder and chairman of the Washington Heights-Riverside Health Committee, a citizen's group establishing one of the first neighborhood health centers.

Her expertise as an educator brought Dr. Konheim positions on committees in the American Association of Higher Education and the American Public Health Association, of which she was a fellow. She was also elected a fellow in the New York Academy of Science, the New York Academy of Medicine, and was a member of the National Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Sigma Xi.

Her long and productive career was successfully combined, as President Wexler noted, with a full life with her husband, Harvey, son Jon, now a rabbi, and daughter Susan (Mrs. Burton Sobel), a family counselor. Dr. Konheim shared with her family an interest in modern art, music, drama and literature, and a love of the outdoors — camping, hiking and mountain climbing.

For all her diverse achievements, Dr. Konheim will be best remembered by students for her unflinching understanding and encouragement. As one of her fellow professors described her, she served as catalyst, a mover and shaker; "She had a green thumb to foster growth in many students, to recognize their latent gifts and inspire in them a sense of excitement in learning."



Dean Beatrice Konheim

Konheim Scholarship In the Life Sciences

A graduate scholarship fund in the name of Dean Beatrice Konheim has been established through nearly \$12,000 in gifts and pledges from Harvey Konheim, her husband, faculty members of the Department of Biological Sciences and various colleagues and friends.

The Beatrice Goldstein Konheim Graduate Scholarship in the Life Sciences will be awarded each year to a student entering the graduate program in either the Institute of Health Sciences or the Department of Biological Sciences at Hunter. Recipients must "exemplify the excellence in scholarship and in character associated with the life and professional career of Dean Beatrice Konheim," according to the resolution presented to the Board of Higher Education.

The first award of \$500 will be given in the academic year of 1974-75. As the endowment for this fund increases, the annual scholarship will increase to the sum of \$1,000.