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GORDON, H. David

OBITUARIES

H. David Gordon, 63; long-time Journal editor

SEEKONK — H. David Gordon, who would have soon marked his 35th anniversary as a journalist with The Providence Journal and the former Evening Bulletin, died Tuesday at Miriam Hospital after a long struggle with cancer.



He would have been 64 on Saturday.

Mr. Gordon, of 33 Gregory Drive, was married to June (Fine) Gordon. The couple would have celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in August.

Born in Portland, Maine, he was a son of the late Max and Mary (Schaffrin) Gordon.

He graduated from the University of Rhode Island and Columbia University in New York City.

Journalism was his calling.

Mr. Gordon had been a reporter for the Pawtucket Times before he began working for The Evening Bulletin. He was a reporter, the manager of the East Bay bureau, and eventually news editor of the Bulletin. He worked most recently as section editor of the Metro edition of The Journal.

He had worked just days before he died.

"He lived for the paper; it was his identity," said his son, Andrew Gordon. "He worked until the last week, and that's what kept him going."

His family had been planning a family vacation on Cape Cod, for August, when Mr. Gordon became ill with pneumonia in recent days, his son said.

"We didn't anticipate things to go so quickly," he said.

Among his colleagues, Mr. Gordon was known for his legendary work ethic. He was always the first in and the last to leave.

Even after he became ill, he was still concerned about writing the perfect headline or making sure the final proof of his page was absolutely correct.

"We always knew David was a fine editor," said Executive Editor Joel P. Rawson. "In this last year, watching how David handled himself, we grew to appreciate his exceptional courage. He was a personal and professional example for all of us."

Assistant Managing Editor Paul Tooher said Mr. Gordon brought talent, skill, grace and humor to whatever desk he worked on.

"For those of us who had the honor of working with him on both The Bulletin and The Journal, we knew Dave to be an extraordinary, careful, talented, dedicated and generous editor," Tooher said. "Every story he touched was improved by having passed under his gaze."

Mr. Gordon was a member of the Providence Newspaper Guild, and taught at the Brown Learning Center. He served as president of the Seekonk Swim Club.

He had been an avid tennis player, and loved going to the beach at Narragansett Pier, or having picnics at Beavertail Lighthouse in Jamestown, his son said.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Andrew Gordon of New York City and Daniel Gordon of Seekonk; a daughter, Julie Gordon of Swampscott, Mass.; and two sisters, Fredda Chauvette of North Kingstown and Martha Deborah Gordon of Arlington, Mass.

The funeral service will be held today at 2 p.m. in Mount Sinai Memorial Chapel, 825 Hope St., Providence, with burial in Sinai Memorial Park, Warwick.

GORDON, David H.

June 27, 2000. Residence: 33 Gregory Dr., Seekonk, MA. Beloved husband of June (Fine) Gordon. Devoted father of Andrew Gordon, New York, NY; Daniel Gordon, Seekonk, MA; and Julie Gordon, Swampscott, MA. Dear brother of Fredda Chauvette, North Kingstown, RI and Martha Deborah Gordon, Arlington, MA. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 2PM at the MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 825 Hope at Fourth Sts., Providence with interment at Sinai Memorial Park, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice Care of Kent County Visiting Nurses, 51 Health Lane, Warwick, RI 02886. The memorial observance will be at his late residence on Friday, 1-5PM.