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Journalism's future

A new scholarship honors New Times founder Steve Moss

BY GLEN STARKEY

New Times was founded on the premise that journalism and reporting is important to the community, which is why we've established the Stephen Donnellan Moss Memorial Scholarship Fund in Journalism, which is available to Cal Poly journalism students.



NEW TIMES FILE PHOTO

RUBBING PEOPLE THE WRONG WAY FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE: *New Times* founder Steve Moss (1948-2005) had a knack for comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable, and a new scholarship in his name aims to help Cal Poly journalist students develop the same knack.

New Times founder Steve Moss was a journalist's journalist—intellectually curious, open-minded to a fault, with a deep love of argumentative discourse. He was always up for a discussion, happy to argue the opposing view on any subject. It's not that he didn't hold strong opinions of his own—he did—it's just that he was a big proponent of intellectual exercise. It's something he constantly practiced himself and a skill he encouraged and fomented in his writers.

Steve believed that newspapers and the people who produce them are essential to a healthy democracy, a view shared by his fellow Irish Catholic John F. Kennedy, our 35th president,

who famously said, “There is a terrific disadvantage in not having the abrasive quality of the press applied to you daily. Even though we never like it, and even though we wish they didn’t write it, and even though we disapprove, there isn’t any doubt that we could not do the job at all in a free society without a very, very active press.”

Steve loved to be that “abrasive quality,” and as *New Times* publisher he mentored a generation of journalists who have managed to rub plenty of people the wrong way ... which is to say the right way, according to President Kennedy.

Developing young reporters is why here at *New Times* we’ve opened intern positions to local Cal Poly journalism students to give them firsthand experience in the day-to-day operations of a newspaper, and why we’re now offering through the Community Foundation San Luis Obispo County (CFSLOCO) this new scholarship, which has already begun dispersing funds.

Applicants must meet eligibility guidelines for the CFSLOCO scholarship program and submit a completed application with all the required materials by the appropriate deadline. Applicants must also be current full-time Cal Poly journalism students who have demonstrated commitment to journalism beyond academic achievement and to the SLO County community.

The annual scholarship winner will receive approximately \$1,500 (or multiple winners a minimum of \$500 each).

Though *New Times* has seeded the Stephen Donnellan Moss Memorial Scholarship Fund in Journalism with more than \$10,000, we’re hoping that *New Times* readers like you also care enough about continuing Steve’s legacy of encouraging and developing young writers to donate to this fund as well. You can make checks payable to CFSLOCO (write “Steve Moss Scholarship” in the memo line) and mail them to CFSLOCO, 550 Dana St., SLO, CA 93401.