

Greg Mackay, Brisbane, Queensland

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Over time I've been more and more impressed with, and thankful for, Wolf and his work. It's all been said before but for me, he was a humble, towering intellect, a demanding yet amenable man, a person of enormous integrity, a person equally concerned with each and every marginalised group, working with a strong and clear headed focus on change for great lives.

His influence on me began in 1973 when I was involved in finding better alternatives than hostels for people leaving a major psychiatric institution (wrongly known as a 'hospital'). There really was no turning back. I'd been told. No shutting my eyes. It hasn't been easy to live with the knowledge of what happens to marginalised people but how difficult must it be for the people themselves to actually live it.

There we were in the first international SRV conference, Ottawa 1994, celebrating a quarter century of normalisation and Wolf's 60th birthday! Our Citizen Advocacy study group had been grappling with a difficult question for ages - the solution, the others decided, was for me to ask Wolf at the conference. Eek, I'd not met the great man, how was I to do this. Well, happenstance happened. During a break, striding the very wide corridors of the luxurious conference venue, came Professor Wolfensberger. Despite being conscious that celebrities can become overrun by people wanting to speak with them, I forged ahead and introduced myself. I asked the question. Wolf, hand pensively cradling his jaw, said something like, 'Mmmh, this is not so straight forward, I will think on it'. And he did, coming back to me sometime after the conference, by post of course! That conference had wonderful pre-workshops: 'History of Human Services', 'Liberation of Handicapped People' are two from which I greatly benefitted.

In 1997, Values in Action and CRU in Brisbane, hosted Wolf and Susan in presenting the 11-day, 5-evening event, "Conceptual and Moral Foundations of Human Services, with Special Perspectives on Contemporary Realities." As one of the hosts/organisers, I got to spend a little time with Wolf and Susan - it was fascinating to see their total focus and dedication, using many strategies (that would now be labelled as reflective practice) to continually improve their teaching. Great mentors, wonderful people.

Jumping forward to 1999, I spent almost 3 weeks in the U.S. as part of my PhD study. Staying with the delightful Joe Osburn, I spent time recovering from a dreadful flu acquired on the flight. It stayed with me for the ensuing days 'workshop, the first and

only "Advanced SRV Theory," principally presented by Wolf and Susan. The flu did not stop my immense joy in four days of hearing that wonderful pair of presenters. I then got a 2-day lift from Susan back to the T.I., overnighing in Pittsburgh with Susan's parents and learning so much more about their work. The following week or so spent with Wolf and Susan at the TI was fantastic. Checking out the library, the size of many town libraries, having great conversations, a wonderful experience. One day the three of us were talking, and Wolf suddenly jumped up having seen something of interest outside his window. It was a road work crew in yellow work shirts. Wolf's first thought was that they were people on day-work release from the local prison and he was keen to observe. Alas, it was just a local municipality work crew, nothing to see here. Certainly no real work seemed to be occurring. That night I was invited, along with Susan a regular visitor, to have dinner at Wolf and Nancy's house. I got a brief moment on my own to check out Wolf's library in his home. Sure enough, inside every book I checked out, were Wolf's notes of critique and interest! What a mentor and incredible influence in all of our lives he was. We miss him greatly.