

## **A Letter on Learning of Pat's Death**

All

I have been deeply saddened to learn of Pat's death. I owe him an enormous debt of gratitude on both a personal and professional level. He it was who schooled me in the theory and practice of client-centered therapy in the early 70s, first at the University of Aston in Birmingham and then at his 'home' university, the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. Were it not for him, I would never have had the opportunity to pursue my counselling studies in the States.

It was great to see him again in England in 1996. I hadn't seen him for some 18 years but he looked no different than before—extremely active (swearing by the blue-green algae he was taking) and wanting to be kept as busy as possible talking to counsellors and counselling students.

Two particular memories of that England trip were: as we drove up to meet Brian Thorne and his students in Norwich, Pat's being gobsmacked that we were actually doing 90 when the ride was so smooth; his own laughter and personal enjoyment at telling the audience at Weald College of his 'conversations' with Koko, the gorilla that his daughter Penny had taught sign language.

I think it was on the England trip too that Pat made a comment on what it had taken for him to write his book on the various theories of counselling and psychotherapy: most importantly, he said, empathic understanding of the different authors' points of view.

At the front of the various editions of Pat's theories book is a dedication, 'To Frances', his dearly loved wife who gave him seven children and who died of cancer in the mid-60s. I remember Pat at Aston in 1973 acknowledging that he still hadn't got over her death. I think it says so much about him that even so he carried on giving so much to his family, his students and to the approach.

Ivan

I can remember when at Aston he first made reference to the strange sounding place of 'Champaign-Urbana', how from his manner

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