

Remembrances of a Quiet Man (Dr. Louis Berkowitz)

. . . Power tests us all: we yearn for it in fantasy, are ambivalent towards it in life, and see how, all too frequently, it alters a person's character. Only the finest escape its lure; only those whose integrity transcends being well analysed evade its provocation; only those whose honesty supercedes the need for personal recognition escape its seduction. These are the people, I believe, who give their chosen profession its dignity, lend their integrity to the community in which they work, and share their honesty with their colleagues. Lou Berkowitz was such a man.

He was quiet, reflective, saddened, I suspect, a bit by life. In him these qualities etched out his character rather than detracted from it. He was not involved in self-aggrandisement, and in all the years of working with him on the Board of NPAP I never, literally, once saw him pursue anything that was self-serving. He was committed to psychoanalysis as a profession and to NPAP as a training institute, and he served them both with the most remarkable quiet strength. When disputes arose on the Board, the one voice that was universally respected was Lou's. In his tentative proposals for resolution, there was no investment in finding personal glory – even by being the mature reconciler. He was a barometer of fairness, and he seemed unaware of the enormous respect in which he was held. I heard him praise colleagues, and be proud of his sons.

I had a sense of pride in having shared membership in NPAP with such a colleague. In the business of our lives, we should not forget him – I will miss him, and I grieve his passing.

-Gerald J. Gargiulo