

THE PLUME OF TAU EPSILON PHI

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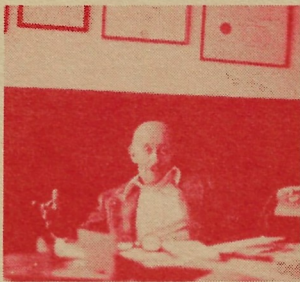
NUMBER 4



TEP Today — An Interview With Sid Suntag

Alumni frequently ask, "What's it like for today's college student?" or "How is campus life different today than when I was in school?" To answer these questions, the Plume recently interviewed Sid Suntag, TEP's executive secretary for more than 32 years. Though Sid retired almost two years ago, he has stayed quite current on fraternity and academic affairs — excerpts of that interview follow.

PLUME: What does today's college student face that his predecessors did not?



SID: First and foremost, most college enrollments were considerably smaller 20 or more years ago, and as a result, the average student had a much better opportunity to assume positions of leadership on campus. Today, however, unless a student is truly extraordinary, he has little or no chance to make his presence felt in a college.

PLUME: Are increased enrollment and decreased leadership opportunity the only changes facing today's college student?

SID: No, not by a long shot. In general, while colleges have made dramatic advances in size and teaching materials, there has been a corollary retreat in other aspects of college services.

PLUME: I thought colleges were increasing the scope and quality of their education. Am I wrong?

SID: You're correct insofar as "book knowledge" is concerned. Today's college graduate knows more about more things than any of my contemporaries. That is except in the area of "people knowledge." However, today's college student faces handicaps in four major areas, that his predecessors did not.

1. The impersonality associated with huge universities and colleges.
2. The lack of guidance in matters of character, spirituality and morality.
3. The dramatic increase in the competition for the top career positions, and of course —
4. The huge increases in the cost of education.

For example, more than half of the colleges where TEP has chapters have enrollments over 10,000 students, several exceed 30,000 students. Enrollments of this magnitude, necessarily reduce interaction between students and administration, students and alumni, and between students and other students.

Some classes now contain several hundred students. A few courses are even taught by television. Although such classes are most cost efficient, they do not provide the very important challenge of student-professor interaction.

As the college has grown, many of today's students have come to live in "student cities" of 30,000 or more. With such large numbers of students it is impossible to meet, know or understand more than a very small percentage of fellow students.

PLUME: Our colleges are still training leaders, aren't they?

SID: Training is not the right word. Our colleges are **producing**

leaders. Today's college student gets his leadership training and experience outside the classroom.

The wise college man sees that he must find a smaller group, what some psychologists have called a "belonging group." A place where he can grow. A place where he can develop his "people skills." A place like TEP.

Only through membership in a Fraternity such as TEP can a student interact effectively with his contemporaries and make lifelong friends.

PLUME: How have colleges retreated from the areas of character, spiritual and moral development?

SID: Except in rare instances, American colleges have abandoned the *in loco parentis* role. They are no longer stressing morality and character development to their students. Years ago, guidance in these areas came from college administrators and professors. Today, however, a student is left to his own devices, and must find such guidance elsewhere.

PLUME: Where does today's student receive such help?

SID: About the only place I know of, is in the College Fraternity. I know that TEP provides this help. We stress to our members the issues of morality, character development, and even spiritual values through our teachings, and alumni involvement. Of course, the quality of fellow TEP students also heightens this effort.

PLUME: Is it likely that colleges will resume the *in loco parentis* role?

SID: Hardly — Colleges learned a bitter lesson during the Viet Nam years and have shown little desire since then to become involved in an individual student's personal problems.

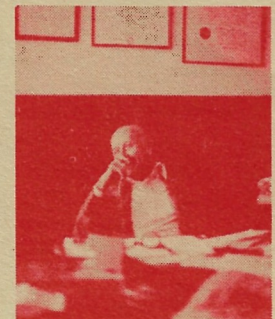
PLUME: During the past twenty years, a phenomenal number of students — the baby boom generation have been graduated from college. This influx of educated young adults has given rise to fierce competition for better jobs.

This competition, and the general increase in technology in many fields, has created a greater demand for advanced degrees — particularly the M.B.A. This requires further schooling, at ever rising cost. How is TEP combatting this problem?

SID: Years ago, TEP had no career planning program for its members. In those days, almost all students could sit back and wait for recruiters from every conceivable industry to visit their campuses and offer them jobs. Today, many corporations have stopped recruiting on college campuses. It is now the corporations that sit back and wait. In light of this, students must seek guidance and assistance in applying for and selecting career opportunities.

Very few colleges have *successful* career planning programs. Students must therefore turn to other sources of assistance to avoid accepting a position which would be disastrous to their future career.

(Continued on page 2)



TEP Today

(Continued from page 1)

The TEP Foundation is undertaking an exciting program of career development, planning and internship. The Foundation's Career Development and Placement Program fills several serious voids in the existing programs of colleges we serve. Today's college student is often assigned an advisor whose duty is to see that the student takes the required courses necessary for the desired degree. Unfortunately, few academic systems attempt to deal with the crucial matter of a student's "career." Lacking adequate information, the student must select a "major", which usually locks him into very few career choices.

The TEP Foundation has recognized the need to provide professional assistance to students in the career planning area. We have been providing limited career planning services for many years and today seek to expand these services. The program is being implemented by the director of chapter services during his visit.

The Career Development and Placement Program consists not only of an extensive workshop during the visit of the chapter services director, but also involves one-on-one discussions between him and each Brother, as well as a professionally developed series of manuals, self-evaluation materials, and related publications.

PLUME: I recently saw where tuition and fees at one major university would exceed \$10,000 a year. What is TEP doing to assist its members in the face of the extraordinary rise in the cost of a college education?

SID: The cost of a college education, like everything of value, has risen dramatically over the years. It is well known that students from middle income families have a tough time making it through college these days. Because their family income is just high enough to deny government loans, and academic scholarships are very few. The TEP Foundation has been granting scholarships for two decades. Although our scholarships have been limited, plans call for a dramatic increase in the number and size of scholarships awarded by the Foundation.

PLUME: It certainly sounds like the colleges are not the only institutions that have changed over the years.

SID: Yes, the Fraternity has managed to change to meet the times. I urge our alumni to follow the traditional advice of the Mishnah: "Judge not your fellow man until you have been placed in his position." The new and expanded programs of the fraternity and The TEP Foundation will give many of our alumni the opportunity to interact and understand our younger, but none-the-less our fellow Brothers. I urge them to join us in our work.



Purdue TEPs Gather After 34 Years

by: Sey Weisberg, Purdue '43/'47

On November 1, 1980 the Brothers of Tau Lambda of the classes of 1941 through 1950 at Purdue held a reunion in Chicago, Illinois.

Now, almost a month has passed by, but the glow lingers on, and the offshoots are starting to take place.

It all started with a phone call from Dave Dolin to me to find out how he could obtain the addresses of some of Tau Lambda's brothers. It was almost thirty years since we'd been together, but after a few minutes of talking, the excitement grew, and the idea of having a reunion of our contemporaries blossomed into determination. Sadly, our chapter at Purdue had closed during the difficult period of the sixties and all chapter records had disappeared. The only traces remaining were at the National offices, so we had a computer runout of addresses made and worked off it.

Together with Ted Krengel, Marv Hyman, their wives, and other Brothers who were excited by the idea, we had invitations printed, phone calls made, letters written, pressures exerted and the affair began to take form.

Through the good offices of Ted Krengel, the Standard Club in Chicago was made available for the reunion. Plans were made for a delicious meal, music, drinks, and hors d'ouvres, as well as hotel facilities for those of us from outside Chicago.

The in-gathering started on Friday, October 31, and the anticipation kept building to its climax, commencing with the official opening of the cocktail party on Saturday evening at seven, and bursting at the delicious dinner at nine. It lasted through the breakup at two in the morning, and was resumed at brunch the next morning.

It was amazing to see how little, yet how much we had all changed physically. The reminiscences started immediately after the exclamations and comments on appearances. Many of the Brothers had brought pictures taken at school and these were displayed to be enjoyed by all. We shared stories about our families, children, business and professional experiences while the wives were mesmerized by the nostalgia and long memories.

Almost forty Brothers from all parts of the country showed up and messages from many others expressing regrets at not attending were read during the evening.

A noteworthy happening was the fact that our voices had not deteriorated from the time Tau Lambda won a prize at one of the Union Shows for its singing. Would you believe we even remembered some of our pledge class songs? The sweetheart song brought tears to everyone's eyes.

Throughout the evening — one after another would rise to the mike and say, "Remember when . . . ?"

The last reunion we held was in 1946 when

the "Year-And-A-Day" after World War II attracted over 100 Brothers to return to Lafayette. However, this one thirty-four years later was so moving and pleasurable that enthusiasm has been spawned and plans are being formulated for local reunions in various parts of the country to renew our friendships and revive the spirit we had so many years ago.

As an extension of this reunion and at the request of many Tau Lambdians, an attempt is being made to gather information on all our Brothers by means of a questionnaire which can be copied and distributed for the edification of all interested in renewing old friendships and to update our address files.

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