

James Frank Perutz

Died: May 24, 1991

Jim died on Friday, May 24, 1991 at his home in New York City of complications from Karposi's Sarcoma. He was 52 years old.

He grew up in Upper Montclair, New Jersey, where he went to high school. He was active there in student government, on the yearbook, sang in the glee club, and in dramatics. An athlete, he was on the baseball, football, and track teams.

At Dartmouth, Jim majored in zoology, became a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and for two years participated in dormitory government. He rowed crew his freshman year, and was a member of the ski patrol his freshman and sophomore years. He was in the outing club for two years.

The details of Jim's career after Dartmouth have become known through a brief obituary published in the Alumni Magazine, and from inquiries made of Jim's post-Dartmouth friends by our classmate Dick Spencer, who roomed with Jim during their freshman and sophomore years and was his fraternity brother.

Dick remembers a memorable trip the two made to Fort Lauderdale their senior year — 28 hours of non-stop driving from Hanover. Jim was an usher at Dick's wedding in 1962.

After graduation and leaving Hanover, Jim attended Seton Hall University College of Medicine and Dentistry in New Jersey, but quit after two years, deciding against a career in the practice of medicine. It was the mid-1960's. Jim moved to California, where for a number of years he worked professionally in the male fashion and modeling industry.

He later returned to New York City. For a time he was associated with JAMAR Associates, a real estate concern. He then founded a new company called A Light Idea (ALI), and became its co-owner (with Mark Fernstrom) and president. For the next 20 years until his death, Jim operated ALI, which became very successful in providing architectural grade ceramic tiles for ceilings and walls of commercial buildings to developers in a region that included New York, Southern Connecticut, Long Island, and Northern New Jersey. One of ALI's notable accounts was the lobby for 7 World Trade Center, which housed Drexel Burnham Lambert, the investment banker that became noted for its junk bond portfolios and transactions.

Jim had two major passions in life. One was the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and the other was cooking. At Dartmouth, the former was evidenced by his possession of many record albums of well-known operas. Years later, after his return to New York City from California, Jim became a very active member of the Metropolitan Opera Club (MOC). The club would hold dinner meetings in conjunction with an opera performance, such as *La Bohème*. Typically, an MOC meeting would combine a multi-course gourmet

meal intertwined before, after, and between acts of a performance. It would not be unusual for Jim to attend opera performances twice a week. Jim's passion for the opera required him to prepare for his attendance of an opera by reading the score and listening to it, which enhanced his enjoyment of the performance.

As a cooking aficionado, Jim had attended several cooking schools in New York City. He enjoyed preparing gourmet meals for friends and family, for which he always visited several markets near his home to select fresh ingredients.