

Nicholas Joseph Listorti
11/13/1942-9/16/1976

by Wayne Sloper '63 and Mike Dancik '64
from the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine

We were all deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic death of Nicholas Listorti, one of our most popular, loyal and active classmates, on the afternoon of September 16, 1976. Nick's passing from leukemia came just three weeks after a routine physical examination had detected the dreaded disease. His wife Karen and brother Jim were at his bedside constantly as the vain struggle to reverse the ravages of the illness was played out. His friends throughout the country prayed and waited by the telephone as the vital signs quietly expired from what just a short time earlier had appeared to be the same strapping, healthy, eternally optimistic and happy person we all knew and loved.

Nick's life can be characterized as a constant series of successes. After graduating from Dartmouth in 1964 and Tuck in 1966, he served in the Marines for six months then began his career with Time Inc. in New York City, eventually rising to the position of circulation manager of *Life Magazine*. He joined *Saturday Review* as general manager in December, 1971, and when the magazine moved its corporate headquarters to San Francisco in the summer of 1972, Nick followed them west. Along the way, he stopped off in Charlevoix, Michigan, where he married the former Karen Urich, with whom he shared the rest of his life. In 1974, Nick left *Saturday Review* and joined ITEL Corporation, where he rose steadily to the position of vice president of finance for the Data Products Group. Since his responsibilities required periodic travel to visit the New York financial markets, we among his friends in the East were able to see him for drinks and/or dinner at least three or four times a year.

It is very difficult to express adequately in writing how Nick affected people who were fortunate enough to know him and spend time with him. As we think back upon the most enjoyable and memorable times we have had in our lives, a great many of them were spent with Nick. He had a great love for the outdoors and was skilled in all outdoor activities including fishing, boating, hunting, camping or merely walking along a beach or a trail on a clear winter day. But perhaps the aspect of life that Nick revealed in most was people, being with them and making them happy.

Nick's passing leaves all of us who knew and loved him with a feeling of emptiness that will not soon, if ever, be filled. He was the epitome of all that is good in people and lived a life, which, though far too short, was nevertheless rich in accomplishments and impact on friends and acquaintances alike. To those in the Class who attended our fifth reunion in 1969, planned and carried out as only Nick could, that event more than any other, and in the spirit of Chief Rufus Potlatch, personify the person that was Nick Listorti and the fond memories that will

remain with us forever. We who called him friend and brother continue to wait by the phone for our bi-weekly call from San Francisco opened by the infectiously happy “Hey Baby” signifying the delivery of a few precious minutes of happiness from the West Coast. Though the deep sorrow and pain of his loss will diminish over time, his impact upon our lives and his place in our hearts will endure always. It is too small a consolation for us individually, but vast beyond measure when multiplied by those he touched.

To Nick’s brother, his parents and especially his lovely wife Karen, we extend our deepest sympathy and prayers for strength. To those of us who wish to perpetuate his memory, a memorial fund has been established in Nick’s name at the Leukemia Society of America, Bay Area Chapter, 323 Geary, San Francisco, California 94120.