

# STANFORD UNIVERSITY

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

November 10, 1976

Professor Joshua Lederberg  
Chairman, Department of Human Genetics  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California 94305

Dear Josh:

My recollections of Edward Tatum are mainly from attending a series of lectures he gave on comparative biochemistry, living with him for a couple of months while both of us were teaching at the Hopkins Marine Station, playing with him in an ensemble of woodwind and brass instruments for a year and collaborating on some research on *Neurospora* respiration for part of a year.

I found him a most cooperative and gentle individual, always willing to accommodate, modest and sincere. We had frequent talks about various matters at Pacific Grove. He used to worry about the fact that his lectures were not exciting like van Niel's but I told him that I found the lectures scholarly, informative, and meticulously prepared. Our research on <sup>Neurospora</sup> respiration did not add up to much, though we published a couple of short papers on the findings, concluding that oxygen consumption was rather uninformative of what was going on in the metabolism of various mutants; poky mutants had a much lower oxygen consumption than wild type.

Ed was a good French horn player and taught Barbara to play the horn (I taught Peggy the flute). Earlier, we both played in the University of Chicago band for a year. I think his father was teaching in the University of Chicago at the time. Ed was good at all the things he attempted, manipulative and theoretical.

Ed liked to relax when the week's work was done on Friday, while waiting to catch the train on Saturday morning. He usually read detective stories in bed. He smoked a lot at work and when relaxing.

I don't think what I have written is of much use to you. You can probably get much more interesting information germane to your theme from Dave Regnery who came here as an undergraduate and fell under the influence of Tatum and got to know him well from the standpoint of his professional contribution to the *Neurospora* problem. Dave took his doctorate with Beadle. You may want to call him to get this information.

Sincerely,



Arthur C. Giese  
Professor Emeritus

ACG/an

P.S. I'll send you any interesting material from the files when located, also, hopefully, the Baumberger historical sketch of our department.

I  
understand  
you now.