

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
COWELL COLLEGE

SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

July 16, 1965

Dear Cowell College Student:

You will doubtless be cheered to learn that the trailer people (we are told it is more respectful to refer to our accommodations as mobile homes) have come up with a new arrangement which adds six feet of precious space to each trailer and more than doubles the bath facilities (which will be a particular boon to girls who seem to spend so much time washing their hair). The bath facilities will in effect divide the trailers into two spaces, each holding four students rather than one space holding eight, which certainly is a more human arrangement. In addition there will be some eighty feet of book shelf space in each trailer or ten feet per student, which should be adequate. The closet space has also been increased, each student to have about two-and-a-half feet of wardrobe. Indeed the trailers look so luxurious now that you may have to accommodate yourself to a somewhat lower standard of living when you move into your permanent quarters in the fall of '66.

We will expect all students to be here by 9 AM Wednesday morning, September 29. The orientation period will extend through Sunday, with classes starting on Monday, October 4. If enough students require transportation we will charter a bus from the San Francisco airport and/or the San Jose Southern Pacific depot with, hopefully, a modest charge. We advise students to plan to arrive Tuesday evening, September 28, in order to be ready to start in at 9 on Wednesday. You will be notified of the bus schedules by September 1. Some of the orientation period will be taken up with the various formalities of registration - physical exams and so on. Language placement tests will also be given to determine what level of language work you should enroll for or whether you have already achieved an acceptable level of competence. You will also meet with your advisor and you will take your Subject A exam if you have not already done so or have been excused because of a score of 600 or better on the CEEB English Achievement Test.

We would like to have the names of students who would be interested in coming to Santa Cruz a few days early to help in the orientation period.

We plan also to have some cultural and intellectual enterprises and a program which will include orientation to the Santa Cruz area and

to the campus.

I would like you to read the three books listed below. All are available in paper-back editions.

James, Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man.
Compass Books, The Viking Press, Inc.,
625 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y. \$1.45

Oscar, Lewis, The Children of Sanchez. Lane Book Co.,
Menlo Park, Calif. (Sunset Books) \$2.95

Friedrich, Nietzsche, Birth of Tragedy and the Genealogy
of Morals. Anchor Books, Doubleday and Co., Inc.
575 Madison Ave., New York 22, N. Y. \$1.25

read only Genealogy

These readings will serve as a basis for discussion in sessions with faculty during the orientation period. Reading and brooding about them over the summer should serve as a kind of intellectual entry into Cowell College.

In the past few months a good many students have come by to case the joint. They have had, in most instances, a chance to talk to Mrs. Hogan, my administrative assistant, or to me and, in some instances, to a member of the faculty in the particular area in which they intend to major. We hope many more of you will have an opportunity to visit here during the summer. The campus is open from 8 to 5 on weekdays and from 2 to 4 on Sunday afternoons.

One of the questions most often asked is how can we study in a trailer (mobile home) with seven other students. Dividing the trailers into four-student sections will help this problem a good deal. In addition we will make space available for study in the evenings in the completed buildings - Central Services, the Field House and the Natural Science Building. There should be plenty of space for people who want to get away from the intimacy of the trailers to study by themselves.

Some of you have asked about a student newspaper and others about musical groups. In the first year most such activity will depend largely on student initiative, encouraged and helped by faculty members.

A good many students have inquired about parking facilities on the campus. Our official position is that we wish to discourage the frequent, casual use of cars, but we will provide parking space adjacent to Cowell for commuting students and parking in more distant lots for resident students. The central area of the campus will be closed to all cars except maintenance and service vehicles. Bicycles will undoubtedly be a convenience. The parking fee for all students with cars will be \$20 for the school year.

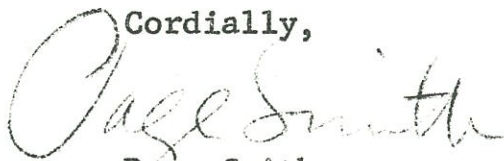
I would like to clear up another point on which I think there is some misunderstanding. A good many people have said, "I hear that all the instruction at Cowell is going to be conducted on the tutorial system." This will not be so. Santa Cruz within a few years will have to reach the University-wide formula of 16 students to each faculty member. We will have quite large classes - from a hundred to three or four hundred - and quite small ones - 5 to 25. We will try to avoid the middle-range courses of, say, thirty to eighty which are too large for discussion and rather small for lecturing. On the upper division level we expect students to do a good deal of independent work and work in small groups.

This fall we will, of course, have an abnormally large freshman class (450 to 500) as opposed to an entering class in future years of around two hundred. World Civilization, as a required course, will therefore have an enrollment of 450 to 500. The lectures will be given in one (or possibly two) large classes meeting three times a week (the class period in Cowell will be an hour and fifteen minutes) and in a two-hour seminar meeting. The seminars will be lead by a Cowell faculty member and will usually be slanted in the direction of the professor's particular interests. Thus a professor of sociology might direct his seminar along "sociological" lines, while a professor of English might stress the literary aspects of World Civilization.

It seems to me that class size, per se, is not a particularly reliable index to the quality of instruction and the nature of student-faculty relations. There can be bad seminars and excellent lectures. Each has its place and we hope to be able to find those places with somewhat more imagination and responsiveness than is usually possible on the large, general university campus.

I am very pleased that my right hand man as Senior Preceptor will be Jasper Rose, Associate Professor of History and Art. Professor Rose was a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, and has written, with John Ziman, a delightful and perceptive book on Oxford and Cambridge called Camford Observed. You might enjoy reading it as a background for our very different and yet in some ways similar venture at Santa Cruz. Professor Rose is a historian, painter (as is his wife) and accomplished folk singer (classic English folk songs). He can head up a hootenanny or a painting class with equal facility.

Cordially,


Page Smith