

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz, California 95060

September 13, 1965

Dear Cowell College Student:

I'm taking advantage of this final mailing from Dean Shontz's office to write you once more and to answer some of the questions you have asked. The Field House (dining hall) is nearly completed and the kitchen is being moved into place this week. The trailers are all in position and being hooked up to the utility lines. We will provide sheets and towels. It's up to you to bring blankets and there are outlets for electric blankets, but no other electrical appliances (except radios and typewriters) should be brought with you. The bunk beds measure 36" X 80". With the dust that will inevitably swirl around the trailer area (when it's not ankle deep in mud), bed spreads might be advisable. My wife suggests solid earth colors as fitting in best with the trailer furniture and decor. There will be a storage trailer for suitcases and footlockers and there will be a telephone booth adjacent to each trailer cluster. I think it best if you bring your essential clothing, see how your belongings fit into the available space and then get your long-suffering parents to send you those additional things that you would like to have - if it turns out that you have room for them. Coin-operated laundry facilities will be located near the Field House. Irons and ironing-boards will be part of the equipment.

Friday a group of Cowell faculty went up to visit a very similar venture, Raymond College of the University of the Pacific. At UOP which is, as I am sure most of you know, a private denominationally related university, the administration decided some years ago to expand undergraduate instruction by adding what they call "cluster colleges", semi-autonomous colleges of 250 to 300 students. Making plans independently of each other, Raymond and Cowell find that we have come out at very much the same place, academically speaking. Through Provost Warren Martin, who heads UOP's first cluster college, we have established very friendly relations with Raymond's faculty and administration. I hope that you will do the same with Raymond undergraduates. We can, I am sure, learn a lot from them.

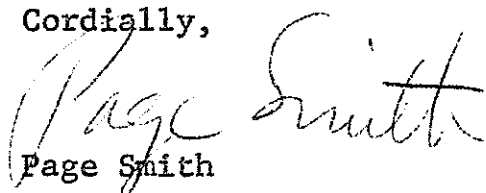
While I have this opportunity to harangue you, I would like to mention a matter of some importance which can perhaps best be spoken of here

and then, hopefully, forgotten. The Chancellor has announced that Santa Cruz will observe the honor code. That is to say students will be expected to submit work that is their own and, as it is sometimes put, to "neither give nor receive help on examinations." It is my understanding that the interpretation and application of the honor code will vary from college to college. In Cowell we will interpret it to mean quite simply that every student is expected to be honest. Plagiarism is a confusing notion about which a good deal of nonsense has been written. Some honor codes have a clause that reads like this: "I pledge that I will not submit as my own the ideas of another." Such an injunction, strictly observed, would render us all speechless, for our minds are made up almost entirely of ideas which, good or bad, we have acquired from someone else. I am very flattered when anyone steals any ideas of mine, and indeed I shall be disappointed if you don't possess a thieves' harvest of splendid purloined ideas when you graduate. Whenever there is any discussion of plagiarism, I think of the occasion when my son, aged nine, brought home a friend who looked at the books in my study and said, "Gee, look at all those books. What are they for?" To which my son responded knowingly, "My daddy writes books and he copies them out of those." Which is a fairly accurate description of scholarship.

The matter of plagiarism is really simple enough. Every time you use material directly from another source you must surround it with quotation marks and indicate the source from which you have taken it. With ideas the matter is a good bit more complicated. Common sense and scrupulousness are your best guides. I raised the question of "honor code" with the Raymond students on our recent visit, and one of them said, and others agreed, that cheating of any kind was, in the opinion of the students, the one unpardonable crime at Raymond. The students took it as, in a sense, an act of disloyalty to the college. I assume that the same spirit will prevail in Cowell.

If you are groaning under the burden of the suggested reading, you may be comforted to know that the faculty is doing likewise. And I daresay we are as impatient for your arrival as you are to arrive.

Cordially,


Page Smith

P.S. As you know, no lamps are furnished. I suggest that you bring a lamp, perhaps a Laser, with a narrow beam that you can use at your desk or attach to your bed, so that you can read while your roommates slumber.