Letters

Pasadena

Sirs:

In the October issue of E& S Brad Efron’s article “The Three-One Plan” presents the Old Dorm as “the first pitfall to be avoided.”

I wonder whose research made “dollar-a-day East L. A. rooms” seem so preferable? He tempts me to waste a bit of film on a few such flea bags, but little things bother me.

Verily, a NEW DORM is needed to replace the present firetrap, but I trust the alums are discerning enough to note that Brad’s graphic illustration of the comfortable life does not show his off-campus retreat, but pictures one corner of the Old Dorm’s Room 28, for which each of its two oppressed occupants pays 63 cents per day.

Ruth Toy, Mechanical Engineering Secretary, Caltech

DEAR MRS. TOY:

I’m afraid I’ve been guilty of initiating the type of controversy which could never be settled satisfactorily by either of us. I, by choice, will never stay in a dollar-a-day East L. A. room, while you, by whim of nature, will never live in the Old Dorm. Nevertheless, I did feel somewhat qualified to expend my literary licentiousness on the Old Dorm, having

1 – Listened to Dr. Sorensen’s speech during last September’s Development Program ceremony.
2 – Done a bit of original research on the subject myself. (Did you know that the Old Dorm is an “airy, modern, California-styled bungalow?”—1919 Little T.)
3 – Lived there for one summer.

Let me admit that my months at the Old Dorm were among the happiest of my life. I was working, but not overworking, well-fed, but not overeating, and in love, but not on the verge of marriage. Nevertheless, the splinterly walls and archaic plumbing of my surroundings were a definite drag on my euphoria.

I will emphasize again that Mrs. Lyall and her crew do a remarkable job with what they have. They just don’t have much. Assuredly, I will drink a toast with you (having passed legal age) when Mrs. Lyall snaps the ribbon on the NEW Dorm. Until then, you will please direct any complaints you have concerning photography to Ed Hutchings, 2 Throop. Thank you for your interest.

Brad Efron ‘60

Cincinnati, Ohio

Sirs:

I may have missed an issue of Engineering and Science but to date I have seen no mention of Mark Mills’ untimely death at Eniwetok on April 7, 1958. (E&S, Apr. ‘58, p. 34 – Ed.)

I am sure that Mark, who got his BS in 1940 and his PhD in 1948 at Caltech, had a multitude of friends among the alumni and faculty. He brought great credit to his school, and his passing should be properly acknowledged in the magazine.

Mark, as assistant director of the Continued on page 46

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