writing gave Dostoevsky insight into his own emotional issues and that this insight was essential to his growth as a novelist and a person. To my mind there is no doubt that Dostoevsky the novelist was an unusually insightful psychologist, but that does not necessarily mean that he was insightful about his own personality. I agree that Dostoevsky created characters who embody different aspects of his psychological conflicts and set them free to live out their lives; to what degree he understood and learned from this process seems to me an open question. Furthermore, I think Breger attaches too much importance to Dostoevsky's self-analysis through writing and not enough to his second marriage. For example, Dostoevsky's compulsive gambling didn't stop after writing *The Gambler*, it stopped after his wife's acceptance of his gambling or rather her acceptance of and continued love for him despite the difficulties caused by his gambling. Of course, what makes people grow, both in and out of psychotherapy, is an immensely complicated and controversial question, and it may well be that writing had a good deal to do with the change for the better that many perceived in Dostoevsky after his second marriage. But even though I would put the emphasis elsewhere, I warmly recommend *Dostoevsky: The Author as Psychoanalyst* not only to those interested in Dostoevsky but to anyone interested in the relation between a writer's life and works.

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Associate Professor of Literature

EDITOR:
The Winter 1990 issue featuring the Loma Prieta earthquake is a masterpiece. It interested me for several reasons. My Master's Degree research and thesis was a primitive study of the response of buildings to earthquakes and other vibrations. The first six years of my engineering career was working in the California State Bridge Department, now part of Caltrans, and I knew some of the engineers who built the San Francisco Bay Bridge. Professor R. R. Marrell was the one who inspired me to make structural engineering my specialty, and awakened my interest in earthquakes. Most of all, friendship through many years with George Housner and Don Hudson made this magazine fascinating reading.

*James H. Jennison, BS '35, MS '36*

EDITOR:
I am writing to ask whether you are planning a special article in *E&S* this fall to commemorate the founding of JPL on its 50th anniversary. If so, I might contribute a few recollections. Frankly, the whole business had slipped my mind, until I recalled it last night while reading the recently received Winter issue of *E&S*. I don't know why it prompted me to recall it, but I did. I was one of the four "regular" employees of the newly started project, which had a hush-hush name. The name was hush-hush for avoidance of questionable publicity about the Buck Rogers group at Caltech, not for military security reasons.

I guess I was employee number one at the newly acquired acreage in the wash of the canyon near Oak Grove Park. I was left there all alone one day, I think it was September 1940, and I was told to cut the grass so that a slab could be laid to start construction of a shed (unheated, unlighted), in which a gaseous fuel rocket apparatus (5-lb. thrust) could be tested; and because the terrain was rocky, I was given a scythe to cut the weeds, not a lawn mower. Being a newly minted physicist and not a mechanical engineer, I had to first learn how to swing a scythe, but I learned, and the grass (weeds) was cut properly and the slab was poured successfully.

*Martin Summerfield, MS '37, PhD '41 President, PCRL, Inc. Professor Emeritus, Princeton University*

E&S commemorated the beginning of JPL in the November 1986 issue—50 years after the first test-firing of a liquid-fueled rocket motor in the Arroyo Seco near the future site of JPL—Ed.