

# Letters

## How's That Again?

Pasadena

### Setting It Straight

Santa Barbara

Editor:

Thank you for the copies of *Engineering & Science*. You have done the same good job in putting some coherence into this second part of my reminiscences as you did with the first ("Henry Borsook — How It Was," *E&S*, January-February and March-April).

There are two errors that I shall be grateful to have corrected in the next issue.

Page 24, right column, 21 lines down: "vitamins A and D were added to milk." Actually, vitamin D had been added to milk for some years before, and I had nothing to do with it. Flour and bread were enriched with vitamins and iron.

Page 29, left column, 25 lines down: "I think I'm the only one of the original group who's still alive." Ernest Chamberlain, who was a co-founder of Meals for Millions, is still alive. Mrs. Clinton and the children are also still alive.

Again, many thanks.

HENRY BORSOOK

### Sorry About That

Corning, N.Y.

Editor:

Caltech would be outraged if some eastern publication located its campus somewhere in western Utah. Your article on the Hale Telescope ("A Giant's Birthday," *E&S*, March-April) locating the casting of the Pyrex blank at "Corning Glass Works in Pennsylvania" needs appropriate emendation. The disc was cast in CGW's "A Factory" in *Corning, New York*, at least  $10^{10}$  microns north of the New York-Pennsylvania border.

Faithfully,

WILLIAM W. WRIGHT

*Wright is right; we misplaced Corning.*

Editor:

Since your March-April issue carried a lively account of the Caltech student celebration of Einstein's 100th birthday, you may also want to record another campus activity in this regard — in the form of a letter sent to all members of the Caltech physics faculty:

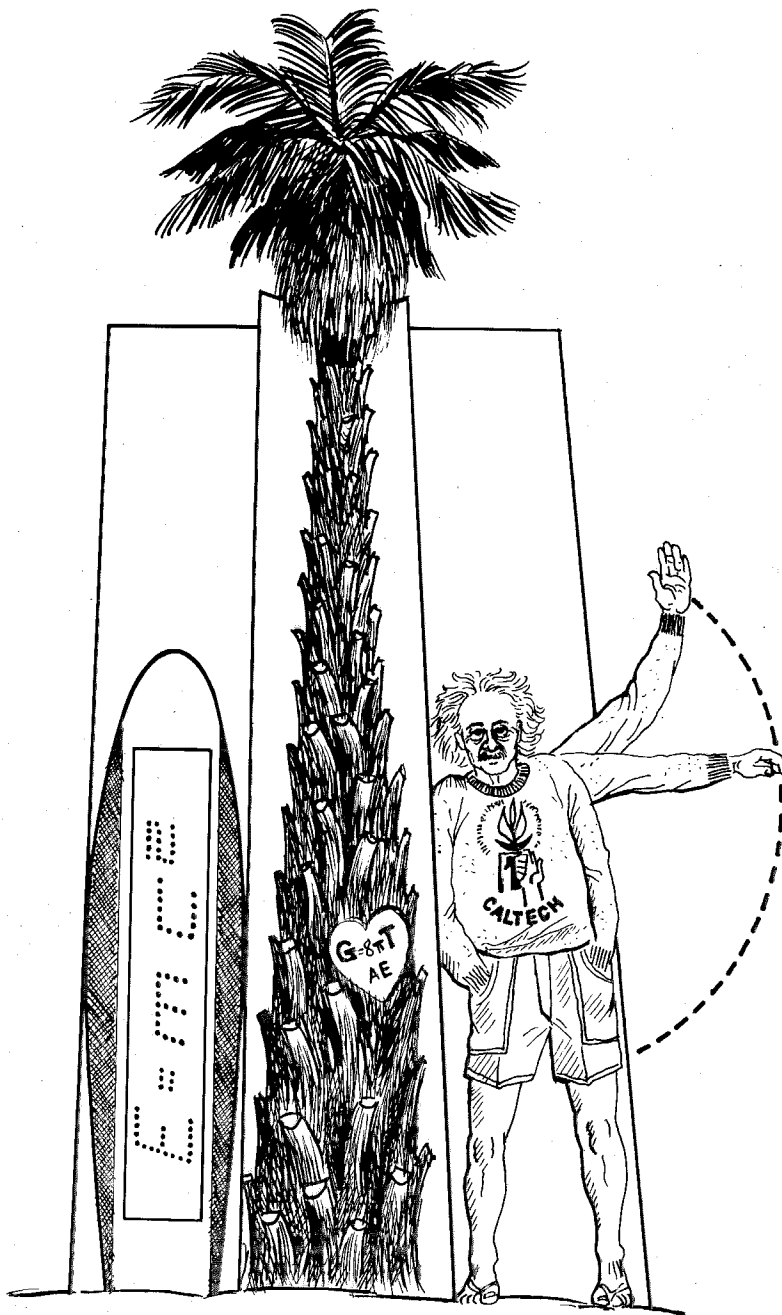
Dear Colleague:

The relativity community here at Caltech has been particularly concerned that Einstein's special relationship with Caltech (and southern California) be appropriately commemorated. Einstein spent the first three winters of the 1930's in Pasadena. He conferred with colleagues at Caltech and the Mount Wilson Observatory, and he enjoyed the peculiar pleasures of the southern California life style. Of course, it was at Mount Wilson that Hubble verified the greatest prediction of Einstein's general relativity — the expansion of the Universe.

To plan an appropriate memorial, a group of concerned physicists here at Caltech has formed an *ad hoc* committee — the Einstein Memorial Committee at Caltech (EMC<sup>2</sup>). After considering and rejecting numerous ideas for a memorial, the committee has now reached unanimous agreement on a specific proposal: a memorial mosaic to be constructed on the east face of Caltech's Robert Andrews Millikan Memorial Library, a building justly celebrated for its architectural excellence.

The east face of Millikan Library offers enticing advantages: Its nine stories provide ample space for a memorial of suitable grandeur, and it affords a superb view of the San Gabriel Valley and Mount Wilson (on those few days when the smog allows sufficient visibility). At the same time the east face poses a great challenge: A ridge running up its center splits the face into three parts with which any memorial must harmonize.

To meet this great challenge the committee has commissioned the renowned southern California artist, Burke Roberts. Mr. Roberts is the foremost modern exponent of the ancient art of mosaic; his unique style employs tiny shards of glass from broken beer bottles to build up a vast, multicolored mosaic. Mr. Roberts' mosaics grace many buildings in the Los Angeles area.



For the benefit of any reader who has difficulty in grasping the full sweep of the concept by reading about it, the Einstein Memorial Committee at Caltech is happy to offer this artist's rendition of the east face of Millikan Library as modified to display the Burke Roberts Einstein Memorial.

Mr. Roberts has met the challenge of Millikan's east face with an eclectic design that brings together various themes from Einstein's life in southern California. The main theme is drawn from Einstein's surfing experiences in southern California. A mosaic of Einstein will occupy the right

third of the face. Einstein will be wearing his familiar surfing outfit, a Caltech sweatshirt (with its inspiring motto, "The truth shall make you free") and jogging shorts. Using the advanced technology developed for Rose Parade floats, Einstein's left arm will wave slowly and majestically

and, on the hour, will point toward Mount Wilson. The ridge occupying the middle third of the face will be sculpted into a palm trunk, topped with plastic palm fronds. On the trunk will be carved the field equations of general relativity,  $G=8\pi T$ . The left third of the face will be a mosaic of Einstein's surfboard, leaning against the palm tree. Running lengthwise along the surfboard will be a lighted "traveling sign," which can be programmed to display any desired material. Current plans call for a short biography of Einstein, with emphasis on the development of his famous equation,  $E=mc^2$ . The entire mosaic will tower above Millikan Pond, which will seem to invite Einstein to enjoy a cool swim in its sparkling waters.

This magnificent memorial promises to become the centerpiece of the Caltech campus. For the tens of people who take the campus tour daily, it will surely become a highlight, rivaling even the world's smallest motor exhibited in Bridge Laboratory.

The Einstein Memorial Mosaic must be paid for entirely by private funds. I am writing to ask you to give generously to this worthy project. Mr. Roberts estimates that the entire project will cost approximately \$1.6 million. An enormous amount of labor will be required in the tedious construction of the mosaic. In addition, the beer bottles will be a substantial expense. Only the finest imported beer will be used, and Mr. Roberts estimates that  $10^5$  bottles will be required. (The beer will be donated to deserving graduate students at Caltech.)

The committee realizes that this great undertaking will not be universally admired. Einstein was a humble man, and some critics will insist that he would not have wanted a memorial such as we are proposing. Fortunately, Einstein is dead, so we need not worry about what he would think. As Burke Roberts has so aptly put it, "Einstein was never rich in material possessions — all the more reason someone should get rich off his memory."

Please send your checks directly to EMC<sup>2</sup>, Caltech 130-33, Pasadena, California 91125.

Sincerely,

HELMAR SCIEITE, JR.  
Honorary Chairman  
Einstein Memorial Committee at Caltech