

Aug 30 '52.

Dear Joshua and Esther\* -

In the first place: not only were the embellishments on the envelope "tolerated"; they were very much enjoyed and appreciated. 'T Is in the right spirit.

Secondly: I've thought hard about a possible means of accomodating the two of you this summer. But I don't see how it could possibly be done. At the moment there are 15 microbiologists, and we occupy most of the lab, including the large room in which we have the summer-classes. There are 5 in that room now, and they have to be squeezed into the other rooms of our microbiology wing during the summer; only one is leaving in June, and with a total class of about 12 (I hope that it can be limited to that number; so far I've made only 2 definitive commitments, but there are probably another 15-20 applications for the course from which a selection must still be made), and the classroom being used for microbiology and for algae- and cellular physiology classes on alternate days - and with a number of physiology people coming in for the summer for whom the East-wing of the building has been reserved, 14 of us will have to squeeze into the West wing.

Gosh - it is a sad story. But I don't see how there would be either room or time. The prospects of doing things on the genetics of the purple bacteria are so enticing, and I can think of no one in whose approach and ideas I would be more interested or have more confidence. Why can't you make it some other time than just those summer months? Say from October till January, or Jan. - June? There would be more leisure for discussions, too. As it is now, I see no possible solution for the summer. (over).

\* Spelling? Our first-born is Ester, "simplified Dutch" spelling of the mid-20's. But here I've never seen the name spelled without an 'h', so I put it in for good measure.

I hope that you are helping to conduct a strong campaign to get McCarthy out of the senate. If that man is returned, the prospects for a more or less hopeful functioning of a decent democratic government will be brightened. If he does get re-elected, one would almost feel like agreeing with Albert Nock and Ortega y Gasset; and conclude that democracy implies government by the mediocre for the mediocre - an attitude I am as yet loath to adopt.

Well. That's that.

Sorry, very sorry about the summer plans. But we are crowded now, and it will be very much worse in June.

Very best to both of you, and to other friends in Madison.

Yours,

Kees.