A WORD FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

The past year has been, I suppose, the most difficult that universities have had to cope with in recent memory. We have suffered damaging cuts in our financial resources, and we have been forced to make unpalatable decisions in a number of important areas. I think, however, we have weathered these storms with the least possible damage to the long-term interests of the University.

How much longer we can continue to adapt to these seemingly endless inroads into what many of us passionately believe to be the essence of university existence is, of course, open to serious question. Our experience is little different from—perhaps even marginally better than—that of universities in other parts of the "western world", but it is nonetheless a profoundly challenging prospect that we face.

I think we have done well in the past year. I am confident we will do equally well, if not better, in the year ahead.

May I thank you all for your support and encouragement in 1982 and wish you a happy Christmas and successful New Year.

Ray Martin,
Vice-Chancellor

CHAIRS FOR TWO MONASH CHEMISTS

Two readers in chemistry at Monash—Dr Frank Larkins and Dr David Black—have been appointed to chairs in interstate universities.

Dr Black has been appointed professor of organic chemistry at the University of New South Wales. He will take up the position in mid-January, 1983.

A graduate of the University of Sydney, Dr Black completed a M.Sc. there in 1960, and later gained his Ph.D. at Cambridge. He joined Monash as a lecturer in 1965.

Dr Black's main research interest is the development of new synthetic methods, or new ways of converting one chemical compound into another. In many cases this involves the use of complex metal salts as catalyst. This technique is used in many important industrial processes such as plastics formation.

The kind of work he is doing is central to the pharmaceutical industry, although in the past he has concentrated on the area of dyestuffs, particularly on the development of new ones for wool.

Dr Larkins has been appointed to the chair of chemistry at the University of Tasmania. He will replace Professor Harry Bloom, who retired at the end of last year. Dr Larkins is expected to take up his duties in February.

His research interests cover a broad area, and have attracted about $1 million in funding in recent years. A major project has been to elucidate the chemistry associated with coal liquefaction processes and to evaluate the potential for conversion of low rank coals to transport fuels.

In 1973 he was awarded the Rennie Medal, a national award made by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute for outstanding contributions to science by scientists under 33 years of age.

NEW PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN

A Monash graduate will return to the campus next year in a new role—as a chaplain.

He is the Rev. Phillip Huggins, who graduated B.Ec. and subsequently became a teaching fellow in economics at Monash, and later in the department of sociology at the University of New England.

Phillip will succeed the Rev. Derek Evans, whose term as chaplain ends on December 31.

The new chaplain studied theology at the United Faculty of Theology, University of Melbourne, and was ordained by the Bishop of Bendigo, Rt. Rev. Oliver Heyward. He has served in the parishes of Maryborough, Bendigo and St Arnaud, and for the past three years has been an industrial chaplain with the Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission.

Rev. Huggins is 33, and married.

MIGRANT HISTORY PROJECT

The State Library of Victoria and Victoria's 150th Anniversary History Project are interested in locating the letters, diaries, reminiscences and memoirs of immigrants to Victoria.

The Victorian 150th Anniversary History project has been set up as part of the State Government's program to celebrate Victoria's sesquicentenary in 1984-85.

One volume of this project is a history of Victoria as an immigrant society. The author, Dr Richard Broome, needs the letters and other papers of immigrants to assist him in gaining information about their lives and to make the finished work reflect the variety of experiences and attitudes of the millions of immigrants to this State.

Anyone who can help the project is asked to contact Tony Marshall, Manuscripts Librarian, State Library of Victoria, or Richard Broome, at Victoria's 150th Anniversary History (tel. 341 7464).
THE CHICKEN AND NOËL

With the approach of Christmas, Monash's civil engineers have been showing a lively and innovative interest in poultry.

A memo inviting applications for research grants from the Australian Chicken Meat Research Committee was circulated by the departmental chairman. It attracted the following thoughtful suggestions:

1. The structural design of perches for chickens
2. The effect of chickens on potable water
3. Chickens and fatigue
4. 100 uses for a dead chicken
5. Soil stabilization with chicken droppings
6. The effect of the Probable Maximum Flood on chicken houses
7. The environmental impact of chickens
8. Why did the chicken cross the road: A study of travel patterns
9. Reliability of chicken-egg laying
10. Chickens as concrete admixtures (for featherweight concrete)
11. F.E. analysis of stress in the egg shell during natural incubation
12. Primary consolidation of fresh chicken droppings
13. Computer simulation of the behaviour of decapitated chooks
14. P.D. effect of high-rise chicken condominiums
15. Nuclear bomb-proof chicken coops
16. Eggshell crack propagation rates

NEW HELP FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS

A new organisation has been established to promote development in neighbouring countries by providing greater access to books and journals. It will be known as ACPAD—the Australian Centre for Publications Acquired for Development. An Interim Council, drawing financial support initially from the Australian Universities’ International Development Program (AUIDP), has been set up in Canberra. Its first president is Mr Les Johnson, former Administrator of Papua New Guinea and Director-General of the Australian Development Assistance Agency.

Mr Johnson believes that many scientific and other professional associations, libraries and interested groups and individuals might be prepared to make available—free of charge—copies of publications that could be used by developing countries to aid their own development processes. ACPAD would like to hear of such sources. Further information can be obtained from The Executive Officer, ACPAD, PO Box 35, Red Hill, ACT 2603.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Barley, wheat research:

The Barley Industry Research Council and the Wheat Industry Research Council are inviting applications for support in 1983/84.

Further information is available from Mrs L. Balla (ext. 3073). Applications for both close with Mr B.D. Shields on Friday, February 18, 1983.

POSITIONS VACANT

New positions available, not previously listed in Sound:

ACADEMIC

CENTRE FOR HUMAN BIOETHICS
Research Assistant/Research Officer

EDUCATION
Research Assistant

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
Research Staff

MEDICINE
Biochemistry—Research Assistant; Psychological Medicine—Clinical Psychologist

SCIENCE
Psychology—Research Assistant—Experimental Psychology; Computer Science—Continuing Lecturer

GENERAL

ENGINEERING
Chemical Engineering—Chemical Engineer; Civil Engineering—Typist, adult; Electrical Engineering—Technical Assistant (p/t), Technical Officer B

MEDICINE
Surgery, Alfred Hospital—Programming Assistant (p/t)

SCIENCE
Chemistry—Technical Assistant (adult) full-time during term only; Earth Sciences—Secretary, p/t

UNION
Shop Assistant, Jun. (The Pantry); Typist/Clerk

HALLS OF RESIDENCE
Kitchen Man

Copies of relevant advertisements can be sighted on application to Room 101, First Floor, University Offices Annexe.

Telephone inquiries about academic positions should be directed to extension 2047, clerical positions to 2038, and technical positions to 2055.

All applications must carry a job reference number obtainable from Staff Branch.

SOME LAST-MINUTE REMINDERS

To assist security during the Christmas close-down period, departments are requested to observe the following arrangements:

1. Secure all cash.
2. Secure all doors, windows and compound areas.
3. Turn off all lights and electrical appliances not required.
4. Advise Central Services (ext. 2080) of any arrangements for meetings, conferences or visitors.
5. Advise Central Services of any experiment in progress that may result in flood, fire or other hazard.
6. Food left over from functions must not be left to putrefy within buildings during the close-down period.
7. For security and safety reasons, staff working during the close-down are requested to notify the Gatehouse on arrival and departure.
8. Any suspicious circumstances should be notified to the Gatehouse, exts. 2054 or 2064.

So that mail can be processed and despatched, the final delivery/collection of mail will take place at 11 a.m., Friday, December 24.

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From the Information Office: A Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

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Authorised by K.W. Bennetts, Information Officer