

VIEWPOINT

WITH THE APPROACH of the end of another year some stocktaking and reassessment will be undertaken in many institutions and enterprises. Many of our members will be engaged in such activities.

As an Association we will be doing likewise, as individuals and as a body (through the Board of Education, the Executive and the General Council). While these may not be formal assessments, we will be conscious, I am sure, of the rapid approach of 1982; automatically our performances over the past year will come to mind.

Perhaps there is merit in a conscious examination of our individual and collective contribution to our profession. It is appropriate to emphasise that it is our contribution (other than financial) which determines the health of the Association and of the profession. Acceptance by individual members of the need for affirmative action and involvement is the essence of a viable organisation.

The Association has not been without causes during 1981. Should anyone be in doubt, it would be salutary to refer to past issues of *Incite*; the range of challenging issues, contentious government legislation and internal policy discussions is really quite extraordinary for a single year. Any member who has remained aloof from these affairs is either too busy to read or too apathetic to care.

The same perusal of *Incite* will indicate a year of activity on many fronts. Of particular significance and consolation is the enormous range of divisional services and activities, almost to the extent of embarrassment through duplication. Undoubtedly the strength of the Association can be measured largely by the involvement at the local and divisional levels; it would seem that we can take heart for the future.

I am not listing specific achievements and activities. Likewise I shall not specify problems and weaknesses. We acknowledge they exist; they are clearly identified; they are constantly under review. As an active Association we will be doing well to ensure that our positive accomplishments are in the ascendancy.

The outstanding factor affecting our Association during 1981, and of which all members will be aware, has been the infusion of new blood at the Central Office. While the positive contribution of former staff is still very much in evidence, the new dimension which Susan Acutt, Judith Hill and Marilyn Bryce have brought is the cause of much satisfaction and confident anticipation.

But the year of change is not yet complete. At this late stage we are losing the services of Irene Strachan who has decided to relinquish her post as Publication Officer. After six years in that role, Irene has made her mark on the Association and particularly through the success of *Incite*. We respect her desire for rest and change and thank her for a contribution for which members have every reason to be grateful.

My personal thanks for support and sound advice during a difficult year go to those mentioned above, and also to the Executive and the remaining Central Office staff. But, invidious as specificity may be, I must register particular gratitude on my own and on the members' behalf to Sue Phillips who carried the burden of interregnum for some months in mid-year and did so with competence and confidence.

Jim Dwyer LAA President

MOVIES WHILE YOU DRIVE?

THE ROAD MAP as we know it seems destined to take a back seat in the computer age. In its place will be the movie map, a concept developed in the United States.

On a recent trip to Australia, Professor Andy Lippman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology demonstrated how it works. In brief, the movie map will allow you to sit in front of your television set playing a video tape which takes you on a drive through a town you intend to visit. You can see the buildings on each side of the street, stop and take a close look, run it backwards, turn corners and so on.

Corners

The researchers chose the town of Aspen, Colorado, for their prototype work. First they sent a crew to film every street in the town from a moving vehicle. They covered 32 kilometres of streets and logged the same distance turning corners, photographing with a camera equipped with a lens to give 360-degree coverage. And they did it in summer and winter because the scenery in Aspen changes with the seasons.

The images on the film were then digitised so they could be stored and manipulated by computer. So, you tell the computer the route you intend to take to enter the town, and up it comes on the screen. You can turn or stop simply by touching the screen. If you want to take a look at the buildings going past on either side, you simply tell the system and it is like turning your head.

If you like the look of a hotel, you can stop and zoom in to check the name on the door. The system is programed to take you inside where you can see the type of rooms available, the restaurants, the chefs at work in the kitchen, even the menus, with a close-up

to see how much the daily lunch special costs.

The system uses two discs for storage. While you're proceeding down the street on one disc, the other is moving ahead to the next corner, ready to present the data immediately you make a turn. And as you pass the railway station, train noises are heard in the background. About the only thing they have not digitised is the smell from the meatworks.

Repairing

The movie map will have many other uses too. Professor Lippman said it offered great opportunities for self-instruction. It would, for example, take you through the process of repairing a bicycle or cooking a soufflé. And the second time you see it, there would be reminders on things you forgot the first time, such as turning on the oven when you're doing that soufflé.

Professor Lippman said the device could be put to many uses in education, entertainment and military intelligence work. It is still at the prototype stage, waiting for a manufacturer to pick it up. Only time will tell if it's ever to be developed for the market place.

Reproduced from *Computer Asia*, which is published by Syme Media Enterprises Ltd, a subsidiary of David Syme & Co Ltd.

The telephone number of the Aeronautical Research Laboratories Library has been changed to (03) 647 7511. ILL extensions are (books) 7434, (reports) 7435, (journals) 7436. For direct in-dialling prefix the extension number with (03) 647-.

QLD THROWS OUT 20,000 BOOKS

IN AN EXTRAORDINARY revelation, the University of Queensland Library has admitted discarding almost 20,000 books last year due to lack of space.

The University's Chief Librarian, Mr Derek Fielding said the 'alarming situation' was brought about by the Federal Government's cutbacks in tertiary funding.

Mr Fielding said: 'It is absolutely ridiculous but there is nothing we can do about it because the Government will not provide the money to build the second stage of our central library.'

'The books are sold at fairs or given to other libraries, but the fact remains they are lost to this University for ever.'

'The University recommended in 1975 that construction on the second stage of the central library should begin but the money has never been forthcoming.'

'The library is likely to discard just as many books at the end of this year.'

Mr Fielding said the lack of book space had 'forced the university to store another 35,000 volumes in a warehouse in the northern Brisbane suburb of Herston'.

Within five years the University would be storing over 200,000 titles in the warehouse, which would amount to one seventh of the library's total number of books.

From The Australian 21 October 1981

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