



RADIATING FROM:  
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST, MA 01003  
WHICH IS LIGHTLY RESPONSIBLE  
FOR ITS ABSORBING CONTENTS.

## CHEMISTRY CHAIRPERSONS CONFERENCE

On March 3 and 4, a meeting of Chemistry Chairpersons from throughout the Northeastern part of the United States was held at the University of Massachusetts in our Graduate Research Tower. After a long social hour (because of a snow storm which caused a number of people to be delayed or even cancel out) a short organizational section was held followed by a dinner which was held at the Top of The Campus. After dinner, the conferees heard PROFESSOR ANNA HARRISON, who is currently President of the American Chemical Society, explain that Chemistry is truly in a transitory state, and that it is important that professors in Chemistry appreciate the changes which are occurring. This led into a discussion on chemical safety and the disposal of chemical waste materials. This allowed many Chairpersons to learn of Radiac, a company which appears to dispose of hazardous and other chemicals in environmentally acceptable ways. The concern of the Department Chairpersons for such matters is indicated by their continuing the discussion up until they were cut off at 11:00 p.m. The following morning the conferees discussed faculty loads, faculty evaluation, budget problems and concerns, student considerations, and curricular items in addition to a few miscellaneous topics. The conference closed with a buffet luncheon and a self-guided tour of the Chemistry facilities. The conferees appeared very enthusiastic about the conference and agreed that it should remain an annual affair, but the location for 1979 was not determined at the time. Apparently not all departments have persons like Ms. Margaret Palmeri, who did all of the extensive mailing and related matters for the conference. Whereas 70 persons had pre-registered for the Conference, a snow storm which came through the Northeast on Friday limited the attendance to 33 persons. In some respects that was a blessing, inasmuch as the group was a nice size for serious discussions.

## STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department Head is pleased to note that funding for the Chemistry Department from other than state sources appears to be on the increase. First of all, several of our alumni have contributed to the Chemistry Alumni Seminar Fund, which is being used to support honoraria and travel monies for distinguished chemists, who are asked to present seminars for the entire departmental community. Professor Bert Valley of Harvard and Professor Theodore Brown of Illinois were the 1977-78 speakers. We need appreciably more support for this to be a continuing operation. The contributions are routed through the Alumni Office as specially designated funds so that both the Department of Chemistry and the Alumni Fund get credit for the contributions. Research support by the Federal government has been on the increase for several individuals, and if we can get the state to realize that inflation hits us as hard as anyone else, things will be even better. Last May we had our Graduate Program Review by a distinguished team of visitors including an alumnus, PROFESSOR RUSSELL DRAGO, (Illinois), Professor James Durig (South Carolina), Professor James Hart (Michigan State), and Professor Louis Meites (Clarkson).

