

from the Department of Commerce" that the \$9.4 million necessary to maintain the system for the balance of fiscal year 1989 will be forthcoming. "Then we will still have fiscal year 1990 to worry about," she added. Federal legislation mandates that the Landsat program must be fully privatized by 1991.

The crisis arose when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) -- the federal agency responsible for administering the Landsat program until 1991 -- announced it could no longer afford the \$20 million annual monitoring and maintenance of the satellites. "We simply do not have the funds at this point to continue their operation beyond the end of the month," said Thomas N. Pyke Jr., head of NOAA's satellite office. "We have gone to the other federal agencies who make use of Landsat data ..., but as of today we have received no additional funds from any source." Unless some sort of funding assistance is forthcoming, Landsats 4 and 5 will be set adrift on March 31. The U.S. government has promised that Landsat 6 will be in orbit by the end of 1991, but the threatened shutdown could force Landsat users to rely on France's SPOT satellite. The shutdown is also likely to result in layoffs of remote sensing specialists by EOSAT.

EOSAT, of Lanham, Maryland, is a joint venture formed of Hughes Aircraft and General Electric Company. The company was formed in response to a ten-year-old U.S. policy of privatization of its civil earth observation operations. EOSAT vice president Peter Norris has criticized the decision to pull the plug on Landsats 4 and 5 as "outlandish" and illogical, claiming that the satellites are "robust" and could work until 1991. But he says it would be "out of order" for EOSAT to pay operational costs.

The crisis has refueled controversy over the wisdom of the Landsat commercialization strategy. A study by the Analytic Sciences Corporation of Reading, Massachusetts reportedly concludes that "Projected market revenues will not support a fully viable commercial Civil Earth Remote Sensing System during the 1990s." Perhaps the market will become viable "early in the next century," it says. A NOAA report on a proposed joint Landsat-SPOT venture is due in June. In the meantime, scientists and mappers who rely on remotely-sensed imagery may have to look overseas for a reliable source.

(additional sources: *Science*, 2/24/89; *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 3/9/89)

MARS: THE MOVIE

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory of Pasadena, California has recently completed a five-minute simulation of a six hundred mile-per-second "fly-by" of the surface of Mars.

According to Jim Doyle, JPL public information officer, the simulation is the result of months of work by project leader Kevin Hussey and his team. Hussey used data collected in 1976 by the Viking orbiter to model the imaginary flyby. The simulation was processed on two minicomputers running twenty-four hours a day for thirty-seven days. When asked by CP to estimate the cost of such a computer run, Doyle quipped, "Good question. Nobody's ever asked us that before."

"Mars: The Movie" is the fourth simulation of its kind produced by JPL. Their first production was "LA: The Movie," a flyby of Los Angeles climaxing in a nose dive into the Rose Bowl. "Miranda: The Movie" simulates a flyby of one of the five moons of Uranus. "Earth: The Movie" is a visualization of global atmospheric circulation. A fifth simulation is likely to

arise from data generated in August, 1989, during the space probe Voyager's close encounter with Triton, the largest moon of Venus.

All four of the existing simulations are available to educators at no cost. Send a formal request on official letterhead, along with a new high-quality VHS video tape, to: Teacher Resources, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA 91109. Allow six weeks for delivery.

COMPUTER-ASSISTED GERRYMANDERING

Chicago -- At least ten private vendors and consultants are working on computer programs that will allow politicians, their aides and special interest groups as well as official redistricting commissions to use even personal home computers to produce their own detailed versions of proposed election districts.

In the most sophisticated systems, a legislator using computer graphics will be able to call up his district on a screen, shift a boundary and get instant readouts of what the voting behavior, racial composition and other population characteristics would be in the newly drawn district.

In 1980, the computer system New York legislators used in redistricting was regarded as the most sophisticated in the nation. But Lewis Hoppe, an official with the New York Legislature's reapportionment study group, said it still took up to fourteen hours to extract all the population data for a single district in Brooklyn. "Now we can do it in minutes," he said. (*New York Times*, 1/10/89)

GREAT LAKES SHORELINE MAPPING PROGRAM

In the closing hours of the last Congress, Public Law 100-200, which contained the "Great Lakes Shoreline Mapping Act of 1987,"

Publications Committee. As with the newsletters, this bulletin can serve as an effective link between NACIS's various constituencies if it is used as a "bulletin board" to which a range of members contribute regularly.

We hope the combined efforts of our contributors, through this bulletin, provide you with new cartographic perspectives.

Juan José Valdés
President

Cuando la Sociedad de Información Cartográfica Norte Americana (NACIS) fue fundada en 1980, uno de sus primeros objetivos fue el desarrollo de mejorar la comunicación, la coordinación y la cooperación entre los productores, diseminadores, curadores y aquellos que utilizan la información cartográfica. Desde nuestra fundación las gacetas trimestral *Map Gap* y la mas reciente *Cartographic Information* han diseminado información eficientemente entre los miembros de la Sociedad.

El reconocimiento de NACIS por la mayor comunidad cartográfica y el acrecentamiento de miembros de variadas calificaciones ha causado un cambio en el formato de nuestra publicación. El formato de gaceta actualmente no esta al servicio de informar sobre nuevos desarrollos cartográficos en las Americas.

Esta nueva publicación, *Perspectivas Cartográfica*, Boletín de la Sociedad de Información Cartográfica Norte Americana (NACIS), proponerse ha ensanchar las exitosas gacetas publicando contribuciones mas originales sobre actividades cartográficas en las Americas. En particular, cada boletín trimestral va incluir un artículo original solicitado y seleccionado por el comité de publicación de NACIS. Como las gacetas, este boletín puede servir como un enlace entre los varios constituyentes de la sociedad si es

usado como un tablero para noticias donde nuestros miembros pueden contribuir regularmente.

Esperamos que con los esfuerzos de nuestros contribuidores este boletín, *Perspectivas Cartográficas* enriquece su carrera profesional.

Juan Jose Valdés
Presidente

message from the Editors

Welcome to the first CP.

As a rookie editor, I am fortunate and grateful to have the assistance of Karl Proehl, who edited twenty-three issues of the original NACIS publication, *Map Gap*. We now face the unenviable task of taking over for Ruth Anderson Rowles, skillful editor of eight issues of *Cartographic Information*. This is a case in which two men are required to replace one competent woman.

CP's purpose seems clear. As Marsha Selmer (a NACIS Publications Committee member) put it so succinctly, "CP's purpose should be to publish papers and information that support the stated objectives of the Society and to serve as a record of the Society's activities." This is a good statement of what ought to be done, but something remains to be said about how we ought to do it.

It seems to me that some of the most rewarding cartographic information exchanges occur in person, between old friends and new acquaintances at the annual meetings. These exchanges are rich because everyone involved feels comfortable expressing themselves in their own way. My goal for CP is that it be a forum every member feels comfortable contributing to, and that each issue contain a variety of contributions from several members. All are encouraged to submit reviews,

reports, abstracts of "fugitive cartographic literature," notices, open letters, comments or complaints. There is a place in this Bulletin for a range of prose forms, from the formal solicited article to the informal notice posted on the "Cart Lab Bulletin Board." Graphical submissions are also welcome (see Instructions for Contributors elsewhere in this issue).

Please don't hesitate to let Karl and me know what you think of CP. We aim to make it a publication that NACIS members will find useful, be proud of, and most important, be part of.

David DiBiase
Co-Editor

P.S. Thanks to Alan MacEachren, whose patience and help has made the transition to CP easier than it otherwise would have been.

cartographic perspectives on the news

LANDSAT SHUTDOWN AVERTED?

Vice President Dan Quayle announced March 6 that he had gained a commitment of funds to keep Landsat -- the United States civil earth observation system -- operational. The announcement was termed "premature," however, by a spokesperson of the Earth Observation Satellite Company (EOSAT), the company that operates Landsat archives and data processing equipment.

Quayle's announcement notwithstanding, the Landsat archives at the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota are slated to cease accepting orders for Landsat data as of March 15. CP contacted Debby Williams of the EOSAT Public Affairs office March 9. Williams stated that EOSAT "requires an assurance