



cartographic perspectives

bulletin of the
North American Cartographic
Information Society

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gets me to the central point of this letter. Although it's frequently touted that an advantage of the Society is its compact size, we currently find ourselves engaged with a 'threshold' problem: our income falls short of what CP costs. This is not cause for immediate panic, but the problem must be successfully addressed within the next year. We do have a number of options: a) raise dues, b) decrease the number of issues per year, c) lessen the quality of the product, or d) moderately increase our memberships (especially institutional).

To my mind, option 'd' is the most reasonable. It is within our power to attain, and does not require backsliding or additional pain to our membership. *Cartographic Perspectives* is a journal

worthy of any college or university library, or library serving a cartographically inclined clientele.

Why aren't we promoting it? I suspect because no one thought of it. My own naivete should serve as an example. Wanting to be a good Joe in this time of austerity, I have been donating my copy to the library, a fact I pointed out at the last NACIS Board meeting.

"You're doing WHAT? — We need institutional memberships, make your library subscribe."

The above cited austerity is real, and I don't propose that we set a goal of thousands of institutional memberships. But if we had just **one hundred** total institutional members we would be running well in the black. This is not an unreasonable goal, and I believe that if each of us were to promote CP to our own libraries, we would be well on the way.

Before signing off, I must make one additional, related appeal — **REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES**. Late dues payments cause all sorts of problems, especially for those responsible for distributing CP. We don't want to suspend your subscription any more than you want it suspended, but we cannot continue to send copies to (former) members for more than a few months. If you are reading this you've probably paid your dues, and I apologize for bothering you. However, as a member, you should realize that this is an ongoing organizational problem which will not go away, and requires our constant attention (next year).

Finally, I should say that following Ron Bolton will make my job both easier and more difficult. Easier because of the condition in which NACIS affairs were left, but more difficult in maintaining the high standards set by him. I believe the organization owes Ron a large debt of gratitude, and me, a lot of leeway.

Thank you for your attention,

and I sincerely hope to see you all in Milwaukee next October!

Christopher Baruth

Executive Director

*cartographic perspectives
on the news*

**CALIFORNIA GPS NETWORK
SIDESTEPS CENSORSHIP**

Global Positioning System satellite data is subject to the Defense Department policy of degrading its quality in the interest of preventing potential adversaries from using the information to guide missiles in wartime. However, that policy is not affecting the scientific programs of the nation's first continuously monitoring GPS network in California.

At the American Geophysical Union meeting held in San Francisco, scientists reported that their new system overcomes the DOD application of "selective availability" by using multiple receivers to make simultaneous measurements. They stress, however, that GPS selective availability does have adverse effects on networks with non-simultaneous observations.

GPS is a constellation of satellites put into orbit by the Defense Department since the early 1980s to support military and commercial air navigation around the world by supplying precise location information. Earth scientists soon learned that the signal could also be used to measure the relative position between two sites to an accuracy of millimeters. So far, most geophysicists using GPS have focused on movements of crustal plates, including crustal deformation, earthquakes, volcanoes, and related global changes.

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MAP YOUR LOCAL RECYCLING SITES

Americans are so distracted by the war — and related ecological disasters — that we're having a hard time staying environmentally active.

That's an understandable reaction, but we have to resist it. We can't afford to waste glass, aluminum or other resources any more now than we could a few months ago. Maybe we can afford it less.

How can we stay motivated? One way is to use environmental activism as diversion. This practical, worthwhile and fun community project will make recycling and reusing easier for you and your neighbors. Do it with friends or by yourself; it's equally effective.

The project

Draw up a map of places where things can be recycled or reused in your area.

This was originally done in Albany, California by a woman who created the map for a graduate geography class. She included recycling centers, secondhand stores, used-book stores, used-record stores, etc.

The map was adopted by Albany city government, which used money from its recycling education program to print 5,000 copies.

"People thought about stores they had known for years in an entirely new light," an Albany spokesperson said.

Before you start

Decide how large an area you want to cover. Your map can cover a whole county, a town or just a neighborhood.

You can limit the map to official recycling centers, or be more creative and add places where recycled or secondhand merchan-

dise is sold. You may want to get a team together for this project or adopt it for a service organization.

What you'll need

A map of the area. Check with your local library or city government for a map you can copy. Many commercially produced maps are copyrighted; you can't photocopy them.

You'll also need an up-to-date Yellow Pages and a list of businesses in the area.

How to do it

Make a list. Using the Yellow Pages and other resources, compile a list of all the recycling centers and/or secondhand dealers you can find.

Visit stores and recycling facilities to pinpoint locations, and learn what materials are accepted, what compensation is offered and hours of operation.

Draw a map. Approach your local Chamber of Commerce, municipal community services department or other civic entity. Ask if it will help support costs for the project. The printed map can be given away or sold as part of a community project.

John Javna's Earthworks column
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FEDERAL MAPPING NEWS

Contrary to reported federal budget woes, some federal agency FY '91 budgets survived intact in the areas of surveying, mapping, architectural, and engineering funding.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Mapping Program received \$48 million for its national map and digital data production. The increase consists of \$878,000 to restore the base in cartographic data and map revision, \$1.6 million to restore the base for orthophotoquads in thematic and special data, and \$1.5 million to restore the base for

side-looking airborne radar. USGS estimates that it will contract about \$8 million for production-related activities. Of interest in the National Geodetic Survey budget is \$2.4 million in grant funds for prototype land information systems.

Congress has delayed U.S. Forest Service plans to acquire a nationwide computer-based geographic information system, estimated to cost \$1.2 billion, until a third-party review of the request for proposal (RFP) is performed and reported back to Congress. The General Accounting Office plans to review the contractor's report for Congress. The report analyzing the RFP is due to Congress by late February/early March. Congress budgeted \$10.6 million for FY '91. Pending congressional approval of the review, the RFP will be released.

Federal workers should take note of new restrictions on outside income bans that took effect in January. The Ethics Reform Act of 1989 will apply many of the same outside income bans to all federal employees that now apply to senior executive branch officials and appointees.

The new ethics law, as it is being interpreted, would disallow outside income for federal employees for conducting seminars, speaking engagements, writing papers and articles, etc. Travel expenses, however, would be excluded from the ethics ban. Congress is expected to take another look at this issue early in the 102nd Congress.

ACSM Bulletin, February 1991

ASK MARILYN

Marilyn vos Savant is listed in the "Guinness Book of World Records Hall of Fame" for "Highest IQ".

Is there any way a person can straighten out his or her sense of map direction once it has been

turned wrong? (Mine has been turned wrong since grade school, when we faced east and our maps faced north.) I'm always readjusting my senses.

— *Patty Kranz, Richland, WA*

Whew, have you got a chronic case! But let's give it a try, using a method that may work for less long-standing cases and where there isn't an innate problem in orientation.

First, take your desk at home and face it due north. Second, get a big rectangular topographical map of the United States — with as little clutter and detail, including words, as possible. (Certainly nothing cute like pink states and green states and blue states.) Finally, affix the map to the top of your desk, right over the work surface, where you can see it beneath you each time you work. After a few months, replace it with a map of your state and its neighbors, and eventually replace that with a map of your city and its environs.

Parade Magazine, February 24, 1991

cartographic techniques

THE IDEAS OF NU CARTOMAN

*Michael P. Peterson, Fulbright
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University of Nebraska-Omaha*

The following transcript is of a conversation that is reported to have taken place within a corporation that creates video arcade games. The text may be of interest although it has yet to be verified and its origins are in doubt (suffice it to say that there are numerous spies still living in Berlin). While the discussion seems totally plausible, it should be pointed out that the names of the individuals are somewhat suspicious. Appar-

ently, a new video game is being considered that would use digital maps to contribute to the creation of mental maps. A Mr. Nu Cartoman is attempting to convince his boss, a Mr. Al Dinaro, that the game is worth the investment. Joining the discussion is a Dr. Von Morgen, an outside consultant to the company.

Mr. Al Dinaro: "OK, what's the concept?"

Mr. Nu Cartoman: "It occurred to me that in the process of finding their way through the maze of obstacles that we've built into our video games, children develop some fairly complex mental maps."

Mr. Al Dinaro: "Mental maps?"

Dr. Von Morgen: "Internal representations similar to maps that help us navigate through, or otherwise conceive of, our environment — in this case, through video games that have numerous scenes and a variety of obstacles. Indeed, these mental maps so derived are very complex, often three-dimensional. One could say that the games require a form of spatial thinking and memorization on the part of the youth to which their parents have never been exposed."

Mr. Nu Cartoman: "Right.

Anyway, when you consider the complexity of these mental maps, it's astounding what these kids have internalized. But, for what? Stupid games. Just think of the brain cells we're wasting on this stuff!"

Mr. Al Dinaro: "Hey, that's not our problem. We're not forcing these kids to play with these games. Besides, an annual profit of \$200 million ain't stupid!"

Dr. Von Morgen: "I wouldn't say it's a waste. Perhaps the children who play these games are required to conceive and memorize spatial representations in a whole new way. One never knows what the outcome of that will be."

Mr. Nu Cartoman: "I can tell you what the outcome is. Mr. Dinaro, do you know that a quarter of the freshman students at the University of Miami can't find the United States on a world map?"

Mr. Al Dinaro: "Like I said, that's not our problem. It's the fault of the school system and I can't do anything to change that!"

Dr. Von Morgen: "We probably all have the obligation to contribute to the education of our youth. Schools are just part of an overall educational process. Anyway, Mr. Cartoman, what do you have in mind? Combining maps with video games?"

Mr. Nu Cartoman: "Exactly! Maps that are stored in digital form are pretty common these days. They require quite a bit of disk space but we can use a fast CD-ROM to store different maps and multiple frame buffers to increase the speed of display. The game would actually put the person in different places and present them with a series of obstacles."

Mr. Al Dinaro: "Maybe blow-up countries or something like that?"

Mr. Nu Cartoman: "Well, that's not what I had in mind. It should be a friendly process. The kids should get the impression that they are going inside a country and walking along a road or a railroad line or through a forest or mountain. We could even store maps of cities and have them play the games in their own neighborhoods, on the streets that they know. Imagine the type of long-term mental maps we would be creating — mental maps that people could use their whole lives."

Mr. Al Dinaro: "You mean we could change the maps so that the units we deliver to Chicago, let's say, have a digital map of Chicago and the game would take place on this map?"

Mr. Nu Cartoman: "Exactly!"

Dr. Von Morgen: "The first