

ASSOCIATIONS

- ACSM partners successfully in Las Vegas
- AAGS, GLIS begin publishing MO newsletters
- Surveyors Week declared nationally
- CaGIS brings back Auto-Carto
- NSPS Foundation Inc. becomes an associate member of the ACSM Congress
- NSPS - NCEES publish much sought-after Speaker's Kit
- "Maps in our Lives" exhibit at the Library of Congress opens
- Lobby Day in its second successful year
- CaGIS publishes Auto-Carto 2005 proceedings in the *CaGIS* journal [October 2005 issue]
- GLIS launches a new GIS competition for high schools
- Revised *Definitions* book published
- AAGS and GLIS launch new web sites; NSPS and CaGIS early in 2006
- e-broadcast on test-drive at ACSM headquarters
- Your professional magazine, the *ACSM Bulletin*, thriving. The Editor thanks you for your contributions.

BUSINESS

- Globalization is in, despite protests and lackluster trade negotiations; U.S. market flooded with Chinese products
- U.S. auto industry and the airlines making changes, sometimes painful, to stay competitive
- Outsourcing on the rise; certain IT jobs fleeing abroad. Mapping next?
- Markets end down for the year, for the first time since 2002

CULTURE

- Text messaging comes to the rescue...the young and "non-verbal" can now "put it out there [in 160 characters or less] and feel like [they] are not saying it"—that is, when things are not working out on the romance front, for instance. Apart from encouraging a quasi stiff "upper lip," text messaging (like its older cousin instant messaging) is giving rise to a new culture. To accommodate the mobile phone's fast but brief transfer of messages, users are creating words requiring astute linguistic imagination. Acronyms, such as "H8" (hate), "iluvu" (I love you), or "ruok" (are you okay?) are top of the cell phone communicator's communication arsenal. About 7.3 billion text messages are sent within the U.S. every month; during Katrina, they were the most effective communication between widely dispersed people.

DEFENSE

- President endorses plan to close 22 bases, in September. The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommended keeping the shipyard in Kittery, Maine, a submarine base in Gotten, Conn., and Air Force bases in South Dakota and New Mexico.
- Rumsfeld announces modest drawdown of troops from Iraq in early 2006

e-BUSINESS

- Microsoft losing some of its elbow room to Yahoo Inc., eBay Inc., and particularly to Google Inc.
- Google Inc. released free software that lets people simultaneously search the Web and their personal computers for information. Google says no personal information will be sent back to the company, but this "photographic memory for your computer" has some privacy pundits worried.

- Wireless use growth has its drawbacks—police and firefighters cite problems with weak signal during emergency calls

ENERGY

- New Energy bill passed; criticized for not doing enough to deal with U.S. current and future energy needs
- Prices at the pump keep rising, while oil companies post record profits
- Congress votes down an amendment to the Defense bill that would have allowed drilling in ANWAR, in its pre-holiday marathon session

EXPLORATION

- Discovery launched successfully two-and half years after Columbia's disintegration during reentry on Feb. 1, 2003
- Lewis and Clarke centenary expedition II retraces events of 200 years ago—and teaches a valuable lesson in U.S. history

NATURE

- Katrina takes toll on Louisiana and Mississippi, and the U.S. taxpayer
- The worst Hurricane season in two decades
- Earthquake in Pakistan; U.S. military relief operations appreciated
- Wild fires rage in Texas and Oklahoma at year's end, while northern California fights flooding and mud slides

POLICY

- Congress approves billions for post-Katrina reconstruction amidst questions of what exactly sank New Orleans
- The Patriots Act extended till early February; Congress to take a second look at it after holiday recess
- Social Security reform again on the back burner

RELIGION

- Religious sensitivities have taken over; whatever happened to the teaching of tolerance, not only toward minority but increasingly now majority religions?
- Pope John Paul II dies; is succeeded by Benedict VI

SPORTS

- Chicago White Socks win the World Series after a 60-year "drought"!
- New England Patriots wins the Superball; for the second time in a row
- USC wins the Rose Ball
- The Nationals still waiting to officially call Washington, D.C. their home. D.C. Council to vote on an upteen proposal for a new stadium in early January

SUPREME COURT

- Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist dies in November; is succeeded by Judge John G. Roberts, Jr.
- Judge Samuel Alito nominated by President Bush to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor; confirmation hearings begin Jan. 9

WORLD

- Iraq passes a Constitution and holds elections to name new government
- Israel dismantles settlements in the Gaza strip
- London's public transport system hit by two suicide bombings
- Paris on fire by disgruntled youth
- Global warming? The signs are there