

Orange Bytes

Award winning newsmagazine of the North Orange County Computer Club

Vol 27 No 1

January 2002

\$4.00

NOCCC MEETINGS - January 6

9:30 a.m. *Irvine Hall*
NEW TECHNOLOGIES
vision and computing - Dr Bob

1:00 p.m. *Irvine Hall*
GENERAL MEETING
Matt McCan
showing Quicken 2002

8:30 a.m.

Visual Programming I Science 109
Visual Basic and Visual Basic Script for Beginners

9:00 a.m.

Auto cad Wilkinson 130

Visual Programming II Science 109
Visual C++ and visual J++ for Beginners

Windows Science 111
Windows ME & Windows 9x related questions

9:30 a.m.

Java Science 203

Computer Aided Investing . Wilkinson 221
Investment strategies, techniques and software

Hardware Essentials Science 306
System power and basic over clocking

Linux Wilkinson 210
A look at mini-how tos

10:00 a.m.

Vendors Science 127

Visual Programming III Science 109
Intermediate and advanced Visual Basic

11:00

Job Networking . . Argyros Hall Cafeteria
Human networking for a new job.
(Bring a resume and a card).

11:15 a.m.

Office Suites!, Etc. Science 111
QuoteWerks, an Access App

PC Q&A. Irvine Hall
Questions answered and problems solved

QuickBooks Pro Science 203
Quicken 2002 will be shown in the general meeting-
1:00 in Irvine Hall

Visual Programming IV Science 109
Office 97 program development using V.

Macintosh Wilkinson 210
We'll Demo the latest Apple Cds and look at
advanced applications.

Understanding O.S.s Wilkinson 111
Get Help with DOS, Windows 3.1/9x/ME, OS/2,...

12:00 noon

PIG SIG Argyros Hall Cafeteria

1:00 noon

General meeting Irvine Hall

2:30 p.m.

Internet Irvine Hall
Discussion of Internet auction sites

Hardware Essentials Science 109
System power and basic over clocking

OS/2 Science 203
OS/2 news and installation

<http://www.noccc.org>

future meetings
February 3, March 3

Table of Contents

President's Message	3	Computer Aided Investing SIG	19
Member Discounts and Benefits.	4	Hardware SIG	19
Board Meeting Minutes	6	MAIN MEETING December 2, 2001	20
NOCCC Officers.	7	Linux SIG	22
Quicken 2002 and QuickBase.	8	Macintosh SIG	23
HEAR, HEAR, HERE! & DVD-RW & DVD+RW	9	Current SIG list.	24
"MONDAY AT COMDEX"	13	Publication information	25
more on COMDEX.	14	Guidelines for Submittal.	25
CONSIGNMENT TABLE RULES	15	Help line	26
Books Available for Review	16	NOCCC Membership	27
Web Marketing and Project Management.	17		

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Change of Address?

Don't miss a single issue. Also, if we have your e-mail address, we can notify you of meetings and special events. Send address or e-mail changes to Alan Pearlman at membership@noccc.org Or Box 3616, Orange, CA 92857



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

President's Message

Happy New Year!
It's hard to believe that a new year is here already. This year has got to be better than last year. We have some exciting speakers lined up. If you have an idea for a meeting speaker, please contact George Margolin or me.



Last month we had coffee available at the meetings. The board decided to continue this. We would appreciate a small donation per cup to help defray the costs. There will be a can by the coffee pot to collect the donations. Please remember though, the coffee is NOT permitted in the

buildings.

Also, It's not too early to start thinking about who will serve on the board next year. Everybody is welcome to run. Check with any of the current board members for more information.

Our new membership drive is still going on. The more new members we have, the bigger the drawing prize will be. We are still having our great membership raffle in June 2002. As of right now, there are only 8 people in the drawing. The rules to enter this drawing are simple, just get someone to join the club and you and the new member are automatically entered. The more members we get, the BIGGER the June raffle prize. If you know of any former members of NOCCC whose membership expired before 1995, they are also eligible for the raffle when they renew. Also, please remember that when any new members join, they get 12 free raffle tickets for the regular drawing at the main meeting, and the referring member gets 6.

Casady & Greene is very pleased to offer User Group members up to 40% off retail prices!



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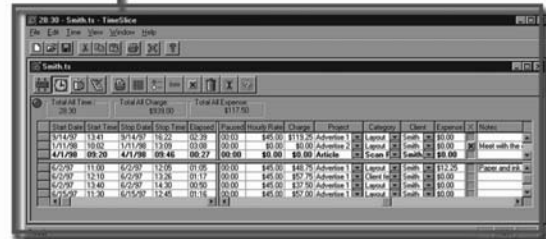


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NOTE:

You need a password to get a copy of the **current** PDF version of ORANGE BYTES.

The passwords will be emailed 2 weeks before each meeting.

Quicken 2002 and

QuickBase

a Big Hit at User Group Officers Luncheon!

Matt McCann and Richard Katz (the McKatz Brothers) did one of their wildest opening presentations yet! This year, they showed up dressed as E.R. doctors with the past president of APCUG on a gurney... groaning and holding his stomach. They rolled the gurney behind a low curtain and performed wild surgery, pulling out debris like keyboards, hundreds of forks, other computer hardware and finally came to the problem with the patient, Microsoft Money. Upon removal, they did a Quicken implant and proclaimed to our amusement, that the patient would feel like a whole new person. The patient stood up, but it was no longer Dan Hanson, it was a hotel cocktail waitress in her regulation skimpy outfit (this IS, after all, Las Vegas). It was a very funny start to an exciting meeting.

Matt and Richard showed Quicken 2002 Deluxe, which has some really intuitive new features since he showed it last year. Automatic categorization allows a user to type in an unknown payee name (like Dollar Video Rental) and Quicken automatically takes a best guess at what the category might be, in this case "video rental" and categorized it as Entertainment. It did it on its own! Matt then showed Portfolio Analyzer, which looks at your investments. It shows you your five best securities as well as your five worst investments (ouch!). In addition, it analyzes your total security holdings and creates an asset allocation pie chart with the press of a button. The Analyzer also shows you your portfolio's level of risk. New Automatic Reconciliation does on-the-fly reconciliation every time you update your account online. This happens without intervention when you download your data from your bank or credit card

company. If it sees an error, like a missing transaction, or if your accounts don't balance, it notifies you on the spot! It's clear that Intuit is listening to their users and this Quicken 2002 is the result.

Matt and Richard also showed QuickBase, a new online database targeted to medium-sized businesses. What was particularly exciting, though, was that it worked equally well for tiny businesses! It allowed them to have technology previously only available to large corporations. They showed us how users could simultaneously be in very different locations and all work on one single project. In this case, they used their user group database, which used to be shared by mail. Matt said that even before the data could be put in a mailer, it would be out of date. Online, it's all up-to-date, all the time! Richard mentioned that the data was backed up daily (better than any of us regularly do). Some of the larger user group associations showed considerable interest in the distributed technology. Steve Ballmer of Microsoft may have been interesting, but these guys from the Quicken and QuickBase groups were wild!

Please make sure we have your correct email address and phone number.

We will give it out only with your permission.

No one from NOCCC other than the President or Treasurer is authorized to call a member at home for club business.

You can update your membership at any regular meeting or by emailing membership@noccc.org

HEAR, HEAR, HERE! & DVD-RW & DVD+RW

What I loved about
COMDEX 2001 – smaller
but just as exciting as ever

George Margolin NOCCC

First the smallest product I found and now can't live without – the Sybersay Earlite 540 cellular phone earset/headset.

A pre-COMDEX press release popped up on my computer telling me that there was going to be a “NEW and BETTER” headset for cell phones demonstrated. “Contact us with the brand and type of cell phone, and we’ll have one here for you to try.” It said.

Why not! I’ve bought, tried and discarded, at least a dozen headsets or ear sets, because driving with a cell phone up to your ear is not only dangerous, but makes you look like a dolt. No dolt I. (At least I didn’t want to look like one.) So I bought and tried every new headset I could find so that wife Cathy and I could talk and drive safely and not look like we had an obscene 8 ounce growth hanging off our ear. Not to mention avoiding having fellow drivers yell, “Pay attention to your driving, dude!”

But, until now, they all failed the “Can I really live with this” test of usability. No matter which one I tried

or how much I paid (up to about \$40) they all had the same two faults;

First — the ear piece/speaker was too large to fit into a normal human male ear canal (mine). I am certain that they were designed for elephants or other large eared species, who wouldn’t or couldn’t use a cell phone, even if you paid them in tons of peanuts. But they but not designed for humans.

Second – the microphone ALWAYS was in the wrong place to pick up my voice. without horrendously amplified traffic noises making what I was saying unintelligible. Not that people haven’t, for years, been complaining to me, about this – even when I didn’t speak through a tiny, tinny, wrongly placed microphone, making it worse.. And even those head/ear sets with a pick up tube extending nearer my mouth – worked poorly at best. Or beastly at worst.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10...





HEAR, HEAR, HERE! continued

Comes the dawn of a newer, better, hands off, earpiece set – the Sybersay.

Visited their impossible-to-find their display room – hidden next to the johns/jills/toilets on the second floor of a large lump in the middle of the main convention center. Luckily my bladder's needs helped me find the room almost (well almost, almost) on my way to trying to decipher where it was.

Once there – was impressed by the product, the people and the extensive demonstration of their line of wares. Some of these I'm embargoed from talking about until after they are shown at the CES show in January (about the time you're reading this, but not quite).

We now cut to the chase – what it is and what it does.

The Sybersay Earlite is a very small, very light weight earset. It fits over the ear, either right of left, depending upon your "ear-edness" and plugs into your cellular or cordless phone. This lets you listen and speak without holding the phone to your ear.

Aside from being so light weight I often have to reach over and feel to see if it's still on my ear – IT WORKS!!!

It seem to cancel most of the traffic noises making car conversation MUCH cleared to the person with whom you're speaking. And – the clever little (little, not big and impossible to fit in your ear canal) speaker, practically disappears in the ear AND couples so well with you eardrum – that it is LOUDER by far than any headset I've ever tried.

LOUDER you say? How much LOUDER? Well on my Nokia phone – which required me to crank up its volume to the top – whenever I used one of the 10 headsets I've owned – now runs two notches from the bottom of its volume control. That means it focuses

Computer Talk

whatever sound its tiny speaker produces MUCH more efficiently than any of the other units I've tried.

BUT WHERE'S THE MIKE?

Take a look at the pictures I've taken to illustrate this little report and you see a very small device with sits on the top of your ear – with nary a visible microphone to be seen. But if you look at the close-up picture – you see a very small hole at the front of the earpiece housing. THAT folks – is the entrance to the mini-mike that efficiently captures your voice and sends it CLEARLY to the phone to which it's attached.

THAT LITTLE HOLE – WAY BACK THERE, WORKS? Yup! Works very well. And with the noise reducing circuitry – makes for a marvelously convenient and effective ear set. To borrow and revise a phrase, *I wouldn't leave home without it.*

WHERE YOU CAN GET IT

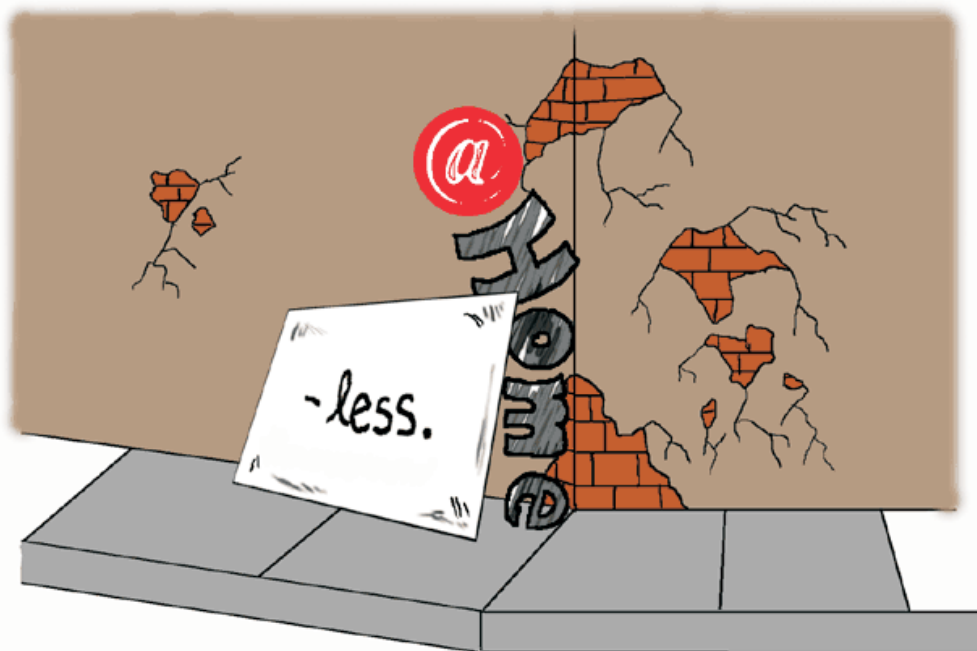
The company that makes it – SyberSay Communications, has a background in the Hearing Aid World – and it shows in the precision and effectiveness and clarity of their products. Their web site is: . And it can be purchased at our local Fry's and CompUSA stores. Their list price on the Earlite 540 model is \$39.95 and it is a miniscule price for the effectiveness of this little marvel.

They provide a number of models and connectors for various cell phones. Cathy and I both use Nokia phones of the same general type. So those are the connectors SyberSay provided. But they also have connectors that work with Motorola and Ericson, and Many more companies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12...

FEBRUARY 2002

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HEAR, HEAR, HERE! continued

The DVD RECORDERS – are Finally HERE!
Hooray!!!!!!

The low cost DVD Burners are just now hitting the market from HP, Ricoh, Pioneer and Panasonic – at about \$599! I've been following them and drooling for one of these for about three years. But until very recently, only Pioneer and a few other companies, were selling Professional burners at prices up to \$10,000. Very, very far beyond the normal (if there is such a person) computer user.

This year – NOW – there are TWO FLAVORS of burners hitting the market. They are DVD+RW and DVD-RW. Sort of Plus and Minus or Plus and Dash.

These are two camps, one honcho'd by Philips of the Netherlands, and the other by Pioneer and Panasonic in Japan.

In the near future I'll have tested and compared the two systems and will write up my findings for all my readers. But until then I can say that Both systems will be godsend for capturing, storing, playing, backing up, transferring and sending HUGE amounts of digital information – of ALL KINDS, from one end of the earth (for starters) to the other.

Though they will be using different media, their price points for hardware and media are quite close – and the ability to use their output on “normal” DVD and CDR players seems to be assured.

This is very much like the VHS vs Beta battle in the Video Recorder world a decade or so ago. VHS won, even though its quality was somewhat worse than Beta. But market pressures wrote the end of the story for Beta.

In this NEW clash of Titans, we have Philips, Sony, HP, Ricoh, Thompson/RCA, Yamaha, Del and others in the DVD+RW camp.

And in the DVD-RW group, you have Pioneer, Panasonic/Matsushita, Mitsubishi, Daewoo, Fuji, Fujitsu, Hitachi, Kenwood, Kodak Japan, Konica, Sharp, Sanyo, Samsung and more betting on THEIR champion technology.

THIS is shaping up to be a Battle of the GIANTS where we consumers will gain by the bloody competition and at the same time, lose, because it will take a while to know WHICH of these behemoths will become THE DVD Burner STANDARD.

Keep tuned, folks – there's a whole bunch of bridge building and bridge BURNING happening here. But whichever group is finally declared the winner – cheap massive digital/optical storage will be assured. And trust me – this BIG storage is just the beginning of truly HUMONGOUS storage we'll be seeing in the next five or ten years.

May we live in interesting times. And we are!!!

“MONDAY AT COMDEX”

by Joseph Sherry, NOCCC

There was just enough free time to drive to Vegas in the early hours, see the exhibits and drive back the same evening. It turned out to be a rather interesting trip.

The first thing noticed was on the light pole as you wait to cross the street into the LV Convention Center. It was covered with 2" square stickers with Microsoft's Xbox and the face of a pretty girl. However, the first thought that sticker brings to your mind is Taco Bell!!

Then into the lobby of the Convention Center. There in the center is a large raised, enclosed area with about twelve Xboxes, each with a different game, and attendees on line to play them. Again, people were drawn to relate it to Taco Bell, because of their early promotion of the Xbox in association with their company. Microsoft's introduction of the Xbox at Comdex actually benefited Taco Bell. Very interesting!

Next into the exhibit area, which didn't open until 10:30am. The main hall supposedly contains most of the more important companies, both large and small ones. Surprise. It was obvious that a lot of companies opted out this year. Not only were there empty unassigned booths, but there were large areas with temporary walls around them that were supposedly for "meetings" of exhibitors. There was no apparent activity around them though.

Another evident indicator of a reduced Comdex was the major reduction of "freebie-goodies" and evening parties. Another was the presence of more than a few non-computer related exhibitors, even some who were "peddling" their non-computer-related wares for immediate sale on the show floor. It seemed obvious to me that the show management realized at some point in the preparation that there was going to be a major shortage of exhibitors, so they went soliciting other types at the last minute.

Next into the "North Hall" where there are usually a lot of "useful" exhibitors for me to visit. Again the cutback was evident. More vacant booths turned into "rest" areas, and areas with temporary walls around them.

However, my one-day trek was not in vain. Enough of the old standbys that were of interest to me were still exhibiting and my learning effort was enhanced. The larger booths of the type that have a number of small booths within them save a lot of time there. For example, the exhibit areas of major distributors and the Microsoft area for their "partners", to name a couple.

After getting an education at the "group booth" for products promoting USB-2, my day of exhibit visits was completed by 3:15pm!! That in itself was a surprise to me, especially since it seemed that almost all of the booths there had been at least "glanced at" as I walked through,

It was then necessary to re-review some exhibits since my next stop was an invite to a private "group" exhibit at the Hilton which didn't begin until 4:30. By 7pm the drive home began after stopping for dinner, and the Comdex trip ended at 11PM, with the thought still in my mind about how Taco Bell had pulled off a "coup" with the Xbox promotion.

Joseph Sherry 2001

more on COMDEX

By O. T. Stoll

COMDEX was smaller this year than last. The estimated attendance has been reduced from 200,000 to 150,000. That is still no small number. There were thirteen Pavillions. A pavilion is usually a group of companies of the same interest that share location on the exhibit floor. Each company has a small booth or table to exhibit their products. Each year Microsoft has a large pavilion to house the Microsoft Partners. This year it was one-half the size of the one last year. Still, it was about the size of a football field. The "Microsoft Partners" included AMD and Corel that had large exhibits of their own in the past. Four other pavilions that got a good turnout were, Bluetooth, (Bluetooth wireless technology); RDVDC, (Recordable DVD Council); IBM Business Partner, (first time I have seen IBM at COMDEX in quite); and, BrassRing Career Event, (They have been gone too and had 65 companies hiring technology professionals).

The COMDEX show area was smaller this year and was packed with attendees. There were approximately 1500 exhibitors with some having two or more locations. Alphabetically, the list start with \$2.95 guys and ends with Zoran Corp.

The mini-shows, Showstoppers and ImageScape, had their one day shows for the Media, Press and other invitees.

Showstoppers had over forty exhibitors including Intel, Compaq, Jasc Software, Laplink, Ontrack Data, Roxio, Seagate Technology and too many others to list here.

Jasc Software introduced their new software including Paint Shop Pro 7 and, (the show software that impressed me the most), Namu WebEditor 5. Namu looked liked the software, that many of us who don't want to learn html, could use to make our web pages. They had so many options you could make your site like no other.

At another table at Showstopper, Stardock, demonstrated their WindowBlinds 3. This software extends the Windows GUI to accept thousands of different looks and feels. Looked like a great program. www.stardock.com

Roxio previewed DVD recording software, which allows you to capture, and manage your data.

Wizcom Technologies was also at ShowStoppers. They introduced their handheld pen scanners with a new plug-in module for mobile phones and PDAs that enables you to scan printed text, linear and 2D barcodes and small images.

Over at COMDEX, the exhibits were heavy on the hardware and light on software. There were a large group of Koran exhibitors showing off some really sophisticated hardware. One item, Virtual Ring reality 3d game machine by BestSoft, I found to be very interesting. The ring is actually a square on the floor with a pole in each corner extending up about three feet. The Home version is designed for PlayStation 1 and 2. The ring replaces joysticks and keyboards and lets you really get into the action. You stand in the ring moving the body the way you want your action figure to move. Don't throw your joysticks away because a few minutes in the ring will tire you out. The

Computer Talk

home version of the ring wholesales, FOB Korea, for forty dollars. For more information go to

Taiwan had over forty-six exhibitors. One of the useful items, from Taiwan, is a PDA keyboard. The keyboard folds together to make a neat little package and can be used on PALM OS and WINDOW CE. The cost is twenty dollars. If you are interested, go to .

A number of the latest and greatest PDA's was shown at the show. Handspring's TREO has a build in wireless phone and keyboard was quite a hit. See it at . I was a little disappointed that it does not have a place for all those modules you bought for your visor. Microsoft also showed off a new PDA, their Tablet PC and the Xbox.

To improve the graphics for the PDA and computer graphics cards, Nvidia Corp. introduced their new 3-D graphic chip, smaller than a matchbook. Demonstrations were amazing and tests with rival chips indicated the Nvidia chip beat the others in all categories.

You are on your vacation and want a digital camera and picture printing capability without having to have a

CONSIGNMENT TABLE RULES

1. The consignment table is for members-only. Only current members can place items for sale, but non-members are welcome to purchase items from the table.
2. The consignment table operates on a 90%/10% basis - with the owner getting 90%.
3. Fill out tag on each item! It must contain Name, NOCCC#, item name, short description and asking price.
4. Also fill out this USER LIST with Name, Address, Phone#, and a complete list of items and their asking prices.
5. All items and/or money may be picked up by owner at any time — but MUST be picked up no later than 2 PM on day of sale.
6. Any items and/or money not picked up by above stated time will become property of NOCCC and will be subject to disposal at the club's discretion. 7.
7. NOCCC assumes NO RESPONSIBILITY for ANY items bought or sold. Each item is placed and sold on an AS-IS BASIS.
8. We accept only cash or checks for payment.

Parking information

Chapman University's main parking lot is on the north side of the campus (enter from Walnut) and is free of charge for NOCCC's meetings on Sunday. Please feel free to park in the parking lots.

Parking is also free on the campus-side of the surface streets. The city of Orange's parking laws prohibits parking in front of residential housing. Expensive parking tickets will be issued to violators..

Books Available for Review

- THE PROCESS OF NETWORK SECURITY (Thomas Wadlow)
- WIRELESS WEB A MANAGERS GUIDE: (Frank P. Coyle)
- THE WIRELESS APPLICATION PROTOCOL
- ESSENTIAL C++ (Stanley B. Lippman)
- XCEPTIONAL C++ (Bjarne Stroustrup)
- OSPF COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION (John T. Moy)
- C++ FAQ'S SECOND EDITION
- SSL AND TLS DESIGNING & BUILDING SECURE SYSTEMS.
- MULITIWAVELENGTH OPTICAL NETWORKS
- MULTI PARADIGM DESIGN FOR C++
- TCP/IP ILLUSTRATED VOLUME 3
- CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET A PRACTICAL GUIDE ABOUT LAN INTERNET ...
- MAGIC CAP COMPLETE (Raffle Desk)
- L2TP Richard Shea
- DESIGNING WIDE AREA NETWORKS AND INTERNETWORKS
- WHO'S AFRAID OF MORE C++
- BICYCLE: BLACKJACK, EUCHRE, BICYCLE, RUMMY
- INFORMIX SQL REFERENCE LIBRARY
- IDG BACK OFFICE BIBLE
- IPC'S FOR BUSY PEOPLE (David Einstein)
- QUICKTIME FOR THE WEB APPLE COMPUTER INC.
- EXPLORING IBM PERSONAL COMPUTERS
- UNIX MADE EASY SECOND EDITION
- PRACTICAL C++ PROGRAMMING
- STOPPING SPAM
- IMPLEMENTING SAP R/3 USING MICROSOFT CLUSTER SERVER
- DISASTER RECOVERY PLANNING (Jon William Toigo)
- INFORMIX DYNAMIX SERVER 2000 (INFORMIX PRESS)
- INFORMIX GUIDE TO SQL REFERENCE AND SYNTAX SECOND EDITION
- WEB SERVERS , SECURITY & MAINTENANCE
- EXPLORING E-COMMERCE GLOBAL E-BUSINESS & E-SOCIETIES
- INSTANT ADVANTAGE.COM WINNING STRATEGIES FOR THE ONLINE ECONOMY
- ORACLE CERTIFIED DBA EXAM QUESTION & ANSWER BOOK
- SAP R/3 FOR THE INFORMIX DBA
- MANAGING PEOPLESOFT WITH TIVOLI
- DYNAMIC WEB PROGRAMMING GRAHAM HARRISON (Random House)
- JOB INTERVIEWS THAT MEAN BUSINESS

**TO WRITE A REVIEW: see Joe or Lloyd Mizer
(Jmmizer@juno.com OR lmizer@juno.com)**

Web Marketing and Project Management

By Donald Emerick, Kim
Round with Susan Joyce.
ISBN 0-13-016396-1

Reviewed by Steve Carmeli, NOCCC

The book was written in partnership with the World Organization of Webmasters (WOW) by Prentice Hall as part of two series of college textbooks. The two series are an introductory series and an advanced series totaling seven books, all on Web site development and maintenance. To give you an idea of how much Prentice Hall intended this book for classroom use, there is a section at the end of each chapter called Test Your Thinking; answers to the issues are only available to an instructor and only through a Prentice Hall salesperson.

As its title states, this book is about marketing and project management for Web projects. In fact, I find it a bit too much about Internet marketing. The lead author states his view right up front: "The Internet is a worldwide network of computers that provides a highly interactive system for marketing communication. Nothing more and nothing less" (underlining added). Well, at least he's not bashful. I remember reading articles about the Internet before I began surfing the web. Writers who'd been introduced to the Internet during college or while doing research were complaining that the egalitarian nature of the Web would be undermined as the Web was commercialized. At first I didn't know what they were talking about. Now that I have started my own web

site, dedicated to educating the public about third world poverty, a somewhat noble endeavor if I say so myself, I understand their complaint. Moving on...

This author starts off rather quickly stating that the book would be about the latest trend in marketing customer relationship marketing (CRM). The reason is not only because that is what's hot now but also because CRM relies heavily on computing. The five elements of CRM are (1) promotional marketing; (2) databases (computer reliant); (3) analysis (computing reliant); (4) marketing with offers; and (5) fulfillment (partly computer reliant). If a company commits to CRM, it isn't just used by sales or marketing. Every department in the company has access to the same database, which has a history of every contact the customer has had with the company. I've read a few articles on CRM in Info World and PC Magazine and it's not cheap. I was only able to get pricing on one vendor, NewChannel. Cost: \$30,000 to \$60,000 per month!

The book is heavy in study sections; it is structured like a book to be used in a classroom. Every chapter is structured as a series of labs (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, etc.). I estimate that ½ of the book is either questions to answer on your own or exercises with pages to fill out.

In chapter 2, the author outlines six stages of development Web sites take. These six stages are:

1. Advertising. When done on the Internet, this is usually nothing more than a home page. The author considers this a waste of time and possibly frustrating to prospective communicators. He considers it the equivalent of mass-market advertising. He believes the Internet is direct media, not mass media.

2. Promotion. Occasionally called 'brochureware,' it is "big on flowery language and 4-color artwork but not useful for the customer or prospect."

3. Interaction. A print media equivalent is a solicitation from a non-profit organization, containing a personalized letter, response card and a return envelope. According to the author, "A Web site that provides

detailed product information with a toll-free number to call and order and a form requesting a catalog would be a good example.”

4.Transaction. These are on-line ordering systems. “These Web sites enable end users to complete transactions on-line, without additional human interaction from the company or organization.”

5.Transformation. At this point, a Web system has transformed activities that were previously done with human interaction. Examples are email, travel bookings and on-line stock trading.

6.Community. These Web sites are good for “professional or social affinity groups at trade shows, conferences and events.” It is a group of people with a common interest using the Web to interact.

In chapter 3 the author begins laying down the foundation for developing your Web site in earnest, saying that there are four forces to contend with in Web site development. These forces to address are: (1) strategy/vision; (2) needs/use; (3) tactics; and (4) economics—cost and return on investment. After addressing them you have to understand their business application. The author starts by stating “strategy should be the initial driving force behind the effort.” The purpose of using the Internet is because it is the best possible option for developing relationships with vendors, suppliers, employees and customers. An example would be to “increase customer satisfaction through better customer service.”

Moving on to needs/use, the author states that the “communications efforts must fulfill wants, needs and desires. Providing appropriate customer service information will fulfill the needs of a customer audience.” You can see the author’s intent of utilizing Internet technologies to build a CRM system. For step (3) the author states “... building a Web interface to appropriate databases of information is a tactic used as part of a strategy to better serve the audience’s customer service needs.” Finally, economics is considered the strongest force and will define the other forces. The author cites the following example:

suppose increasing customer satisfaction is the strategy, but to do so would require building a database interface. Now suppose management instead opts for a cheaper static interface. The project will fail because no one will use it and it is hard to justify a project no one is using.

One disappointment was when the author admitted that he had utilized the school’s IS department as part of his development strategy, thus admitting that he lacked technical expertise to develop the system he was using as an example (he works for a private college). A second disappointment was when he admitted that the school wouldn’t fund a phase of the system he envisioned. Another disappointment was when the author claimed that email doesn’t incur variable costs that vary with usage, just the fixed cost of setting up the system. Why is he wrong? Well, email uses up disk space. The more people who use the system, the more disk space is required, which means either larger disk drives or more disk drives. Also, email systems are not always self-administering. System administrators are needed to assign permissions to new users, grant new permissions to users as they move and gain different or new or additional responsibilities, and delete users from the system as they leave the company. Finally, an email system may not delete emails based on creation date, another task for system administrators. Still, the authors had some good ideas that I learned from. Strangely, the author doesn’t have any screen captures to demonstrate his concepts. He doesn’t even have example flowcharts when he calls for them. Instead he uses boxes that are written in and leaves empty boxes that you manually write in. An interesting characteristic of this book is that you can build your web site while reading the book. Just read a chapter, doing the labs as they come along (each chapter is subdivided into labs) and then implement what you just read.

Space considerations dictate that I cut this review off now. Do I recommend this book? Well, I have mixed feelings about it. Its very pragmatic, but short on content. I could see a person running into obstacles that the book doesn’t cover. But the author does have a knack for getting straight to the point. Keep in mind that this is a textbook, which means that you’re

Meeting Reports

Computer Aided Investing

By Aurora Singer, NOCCC (forinterpreting@aol.com)

With our SIG leader Ed Kerins absent from our monthly meeting; the meeting was run by our club founder Irv Sauders.

As you may know, Ed Kerins is stepping down at the end of this year and he wants new “blood” to run the club. Bob Crisfield, graciously accepted the position of SIG leader; however, we are still looking for a “volunteer” to step in when Bob cannot come to the monthly meeting. Ken Green and myself will serve the club as a minutes taker.

During the meeting several topics were covered among them were the following:

Irv Sauders advised those who want to be active during the bear market to invest in Defensive stocks, such as groceries, entertainment, cigarettes, gambling and tires.

Fred Haney, recommended us to read the following books: *Riding the Bear* by Sy Harding and *Trading for living* by Alexander Elder.

Murray Boobar suggested we visit Stockcharts.com and check the Yield Curve, the theoretical model based on Sam Stovell’s *S&P’s Guide to Sector Rotation*.

Next Month: We will talk about different type of investments among them options.

NOCCC Hardware SIG

By Herbert Wong, Jr., SIG Leader

The topic for the December 2, 2001 Hardware SIG was “System Cooling and Power; and Basic Overclocking.”

With the drastic fall in prices for high powered microprocessors (thank you AMD), the need to and return on investment from overclocking a microprocessor is dubious. Much of the emphasis on overclocking really must focus on component and system cooling.

There are a lot of new products available to help cool down your computer. Check out the usual sites: <http://www.overclockers.com/>, <http://www.dansdata.com/>, <http://www.sysopt.com/>, <http://www.heatsink-guide.com/>, <http://www.tomshardware.com/>, etc.

For more information, see my article titled “PC Cooling and Power” elsewhere in this issue of the *Orange Bytes*.

You can contact me at
NOCCCHWSIG@singularitytechnology.com

MAIN MEETING December 2, 2001

by Eric Saca

In December, we had another entertaining presentation by Richard Katz of McKatz Brothers Marketing. This time, he presented the latest Ulead photo and video software products.

President Alan Pearlman opened the meeting, provided time for random access and made some announcements. He suggested that all members make sure that the club has their current e-mail address. This will allow them to receive meeting reminders and other important information via e-mail. Now, even renewal reminders are sent out by e-mail.

Alan encouraged everyone to 'bring a friend' as we try to build our membership.

Cathy Grammer-Margolin mentioned that the Long Beach and Los Angeles entertainment books are for sale and make great Christmas gifts!

George Margolin introduced Richard Katz. Richard started off by asking how many people in the audience use digital cameras. Most people raised their hands. How many use 35mm cameras? Most people raised hands again. Cardboard throw-aways? Most responded. Scanners? Some responded. Richard said that everyone who raised their hands after those questions could make use of photo manipulation software.

Next, Richard asked how many people owned video cameras. Many raised their hands. How about digital video cameras? Some responded. VCRs? Most if not all people responded. Richard said that whoever raised their hands to those questions can use video manipulation software.

Richard then announced the three products he was presenting from Ulead Systems: Photo Explorer 7.0,

PhotoImpact 7 and VideoStudio 5.0. He demonstrated the most exciting features of each product.

Richard launched Photo Explorer 7.0. It presented a graphical interface with thumbnail views of all photo files in a folder. He demonstrated the following features:

Turning a picture into his desktop wallpaper. He made wallpaper out of a picture of one of his cats.

Instantly renaming a set of photos with a naming convention. He highlighted all photo files in the current directory and opened a dialog box. With this dialog box, he was able to specify a naming convention for the files. The prefix would be the same in all names. The numeric suffix would be different. He suggested that we name photos based on the month they were taken. He had taken the highlighted photos in November. Thus, in the dialog box, he entered a filename prefix with the letters NOV for November. Then he specified the increments he wanted for the numeric suffixes. When he clicked OK, all files in the directory were renamed with the same prefix and a numeric suffix that incremented for each file.

Creating a slide show from a set of pictures. Richard simply selected and dragged all photos in the directory to the slideshow feature. He configured some settings. Many possible transition settings were available for the change from one picture to the next. He selected wipe to right. Then he clicked a button and presented us with his slideshow that he had created in less than 60 seconds.

Removing red-eye and changing the subject's eye color in the process.

Stitching together photos of a location to produce a 360-degree panoramic view. Richard demonstrated how you can smoothly rotate around the 360-degree scene and zoom in and out of any part of it.

This 360-degree view is performed with Ulead Cool 360, a product that comes with Photo Explorer

Meeting Reports

7.0. Richard said you can save and e-mail these panoramic views. You can also post them on the Web.

Printing images and creating cards with them.

Richard said that Photo Explorer can also be used for editing and cropping images, although he didn't demonstrate these features. A member asked of Photo Explorer was a viable alternative to Adobe PhotoShop. Per Richard, no it isn't, but PhotoImpact 7 is. PhotoImpact is a full object-based image processor. It can be used to build websites with photographs.

Richard launched PhotoImpact 7 and demonstrated the following features:

Spicing up a dull photograph with bubbles, spotlights and additional colors. PhotoImpact comes with tons of special effects.

Re-touching an old, torn-up picture. He touched up an old picture of his dog.

Changing the background in a picture. He took a picture with a person in the foreground. He changed the background behind the person to a simple effect of gradient colors. He also filled the skies over Venice with an effect of colors.

Changing the perspective on a picture. He took a picture of an old building with a faded sign, photographed at a slight tilt. With a little cropping and rotating, he 'straightened out' the building in the picture.

Using the EZ Web feature to create an instant website of pictures.

A member asked if PhotoImpact can merge two images together (a process called flattening). He also asked if it can stitch images together. Richard answered yes to both questions.

Richard said that PhotoImpact 7 comes with a GIF animator. It also contains hundreds of graphics, textures, special effects, website banners and other

files. You can download more of these files from the Ulead website.

Next, Richard launched VideoStudio 5.0 and demonstrated the following with it:

- Combining a number of saved clips into one video.
- Cutting out parts of a video clip.
- Setting up transitions between clips. (Several transition options are available.)
- Adding a title to a video.

Within minutes, he created a custom video for us and presented it. He said it would also have been easy to add voice-over and music to the video.

Richard suggested using Firewire to transfer video data from a camera or VCR to your computer. Firewire is a high-speed serial connection (designed by Apple).

A member asked if VideoStudio 5.0 can be used to create professional quality streaming media. Richard said that yes, it can.

Free copies of Photo Explorer 7.0 and VideoStudio 5.0 were given away in our raffle.

Next Meeting The OTHER McKatz brother, Matt McCann, will be presenting a Not to be missed program on the latest version of Quicken, the absolutely indispensable and amazingly easy-to-use bookkeeping program. And remember- Matt is as wild or maybe more so than Richard Katz- his brother from different mothers and fathers.

Be there! You'll have a great time and learn something helpful, too.

Linux SIG

Jim Holder, NOCCC (caholder@surfbest.net)

The December 2, 2001 meeting was a restart of this SIG. No topic was indicated in announcing the meeting.

A theme of the meeting was provided by the SIG leader, Making Linux User Friendly, where “User Friendly” means someone without either Unix or Linux experience or a programming background.

A sample of beginner’s guides representing what seems to be available at no cost (downloadable from the Web) was past around the SIG members to call attention the need for better installation and fundamental use guides for beginners in Linux.

Attention was then given to the known distributors (some 40 at this time) and which of these are considered the top 10 distributors. It was also noted that both Mandrake and SuSE have matured their installation scripts to such a degree that in almost all cases the installation seems to proceed to completion without errors.

The problem of support and compatibility was discussed. It was mentioned that rather than listing what is now supported, the compatibility list presents those items (hardware) which are either not supported or are being worked on, but not available

Two documents were noted as to the problem of installation and booting: The Linux BootPrompt-HOWTO and the Control-Escape: Alternative Software discussion of configuring LILO. The purpose was to see the need for a more user-friendly description.

As a measure of the state-of-the-art in the Windows vs. Linux development two software products descriptions were passed around the SIG: DragonLinux (a version of Linux that runs in the Windows environment) and Win4Lin (a software

package that allows running Windows applications under Linux (Games seem to be an exception).

The meeting closed with a voiced need for several of the SIG members to look at existing beginners publications (free off the Web), and published hardcopy (Linux for Dummies, Unix for Dummies, etc) to assemble a user-friendly guide that the SIG would support. Also, voice is the need for several SIG members to begin a completion of “useful” links for the beginner. Patricia Bunning (bunningp@yahoo.org) volunteered to begin a search and compilation of firewalls and antivirus software that runs under Linux.

The next meeting, January 6, 2001, will begin to look at the format and content of the mini HOWTO, HOWTO and man documentation, where user friendly guides might draw on the contents, but the information would be translated to a beginning user’s needs. The improvement of the installation scripts by the top Linux providers will be considered and how this will affect the information needs of a user.

DEADLINE

All articles and reports for the BYTES must be sent by the Wednesday after the meeting to **EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG.**

Dave Keays, BYTES editor

Meeting Reports

Macintosh

by John Willner, NOCCC (willner@earthlink.net)

New NOCCC member Christopher Quinn is to be the second representative (with title of ambassador) from this club at MacWorld in San Francisco. Chris happens to be a consultant and very knowledgeable about Macintosh computers and software. He gave some examples of how Filemaker, together with scripting, is being used in extraordinary ways to provide sophisticated solutions quickly.

The latest OS X was fired up on a Lombard G3 power book that was connected to an LCD projector. We were able to explore a number of changes while asking the question, "How is this feature an improvement over all other operating systems?". While inexperience may have limited answers, several conclusions were reached: 1. Once booted, OS X is rock solid. Forcing a hang in one program did not bring the system down, and we were able to switch to other applications with ease. 2. Using Apple furnished disks we were able to demonstrate running two movies simultaneously. Now, watching two movies at once may not be the ultimate objective. However, it clearly demonstrated speed of processing capabilities. The first movie ran quite smoothly without flicker. The second had some hesitations that were attributed to lack of memory. This computer only had 128 megs installed (about the minimum require), and we can confidently predict much faster operation with more memory. 512 megs with this system will be a real plus (now targeted for Santa's attention). That should also improve all OS X operations. 3. Listing resources in three different ways definitely adds convenience when doing finds. 4. Running OS 9.2 in classic mode was noticeably better than OS 9.1. The Trendsetter Hotline Investment program was demonstrated while running OS 9.2.

One of the Apple's CDs listed the latest group of applications that have been rewritten for OS X and released during the month of November (a two page list). Included were Microsoft Office 2002, Paint and

Canvas. Office is alleged to run better and provide more features than the latest Windows release. The number of applications running under OS X is still limited, but this intense activity for one month is most encouraging. Those with the greatest experience are saying this is the greatest operating system yet encountered, and we must simply face upgrades of our most used applications in order to take full advantage of increased performance. OS X is set up for dual processing, and some of the most significant advances may be made with that class of program (such as Photoshop when it comes).

The January meeting will be the day before travel to MacWorld San Francisco. We may get a demonstration from Chris on his enhancements of applications that use Filemaker.

ARTICLES WANTED!

(written by NOCCC members)

**TIPS, REVIEWS, OR
ANY COMPUTER TOPIC
YOU'RE INTERESTED IN!**

Email: EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG

Current SIGS

SIG	Time	Building	Leader	E-mail
Autocad	9:00	Wilkinson 130	Joe Mizer	Jmmizer@Juno.com
CAI	9:30	Wilkinson 221	John Willner	willner@earthlink.net
Hardware Essentials	9:30	Science 306	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com
Hardware Essentials	2:30	Science 109	Herbert Wong	ocug@singularitytechnology.com
Internet	2:30	Irvine Hall	James C. Smith	Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Java	9:30	Science 203	Terry Warren	Twarren@Alumni.caltech.edu
Linux/Unix	9:30	Wilkinson 210	Jim Holder	caholder@surfbest.net
Macintosh	11:15	Wilkinson 210	John Willner	willner@earthlink.net
New Technologies	9:30	Irvine Hall	George Margolin	Inventor@Pobox.com
Office Suites	11:15	Science 111	John Heenan	Jc_Heenan@Csi.com
Os/2	2:30	Science 203	Terry Warren	Twarren@Alumni.caltech.edu
PC Q&A	11:15	Irvine Hall	Jim Sanders	jSanders@ligasmicro.com
QuickBooks	----- no longer meeting -----			
CAI	9:30	Wilkinson 221	Ed Kerins	Edkerins@Netscape.net
Visual Programming I	8:30	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming II	9:00	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming III	10:00	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Visual Programming IV	11:15	Science 109	Anson Chapman	aecrcss@Hotmail.com
Windows	9:00	Science 111	James C. Smith	Jamescsmith@bigfoot.com
Understanding O.S.s	11:15	Wilkinson 111	Charlie Moore	Mooreca@aol.com

SIG ALERT !!!

Send the meeting reports to EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG by Wednesday after the previous meeting.

The QUICK BOOKS group is longer meeting after this month (see the 1:00 general meeting this month).

If you would like to lead it, contact Dave Keays at EDITOR@NOCCC.ORG

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You can now e-mail articles directly to the Editor through the North Orange County Computer Club's Web Site: editor@noccc.org, or just give the file on disk and printout directly to Dave Keays at the next meeting.

To transfer your article from your Windows word processor, click at the beginning of the article with your mouse, shift down arrow to the end of the article, then Edit Cut (^C), open your e-mail program, and Edit Paste (^V). If your article is too long to include in an e-mail, please save as ASCII file with a .TXT extension. Then zip the article and attach it to your e-mail.

All documents should have flush left margins, and only one carriage return between paragraphs. The editors will bold your paragraph headings, etc., in order to obtain consistent formatting throughout the Bytes.

Don't use CAPS for emphasis; that's like shouting at someone! Use CAPS are for computer commands or file names, like AUTOEXEC.BAT or KNOW.TXT. For titles of books and software, capitalize the first letter of each word.

Also please spellcheck your article, and try to follow the ordinary rules of grammar. Don't use any kind of formatting (columns, tabs, indents, justification, hyphenation, etc.) If columns or tables are needed, send us a hard copy.

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If you haven't joined, you're missing a lot!

Meetings - Keep up with what's going on in the computer world. Hear outstanding industry representatives make presentations of the latest and greatest in computer products.

•**Special Interest Groups** - Our 23 SIGs cover a broad spectrum of user interest; they invite you, whether you rank as beginner or seasoned computerist, to take in the lectures and demonstrations they sponsor, and to share computer knowledge.

•**Get Help with your current Computer**

Problems - In the Random Access portions of the meetings you ask your question of the entire assemblage, and more than likely someone will have the answer.

•**The NOCCC HelpLine** - Some 100 NOCCC volunteers, experts in their fields, stand ready to assist with your problems, as close as your telephone.

•**The Orange Bytes Newsmagazine** - Our award winning newsmagazine mailed monthly to your address reports on current activities and gives you articles and reviews geared toward your needs.

•**Raffles** - We distribute thousands of dollars worth of hardware and software raffle prizes at our general and SIG meetings.

•**Product Review** - Write a review for the newsmagazine and keep the software, hardware, book, or Cd-ROM. Members review more than 20 products a month. For a list of products available email (items@noccc.org).

•**Consignment Table** - We have a thriving consignment table on our regular meeting day, in which we assist members to sell or buy all kinds of computer items. Use our handy on-line line form to prepare your paperwork in advance.

Volunteer Work - You are given opportunities to help our activities with interesting assignments. An all-volunteer organization, you can join with other members in a variety of activititing of articles for our newsmagazine to conducting a seminar, and more

You may attend a meeting without joining NOCCC. Dues are \$30.00/year. Members are entitled to the many benefits listed above. OK, Sign me up!

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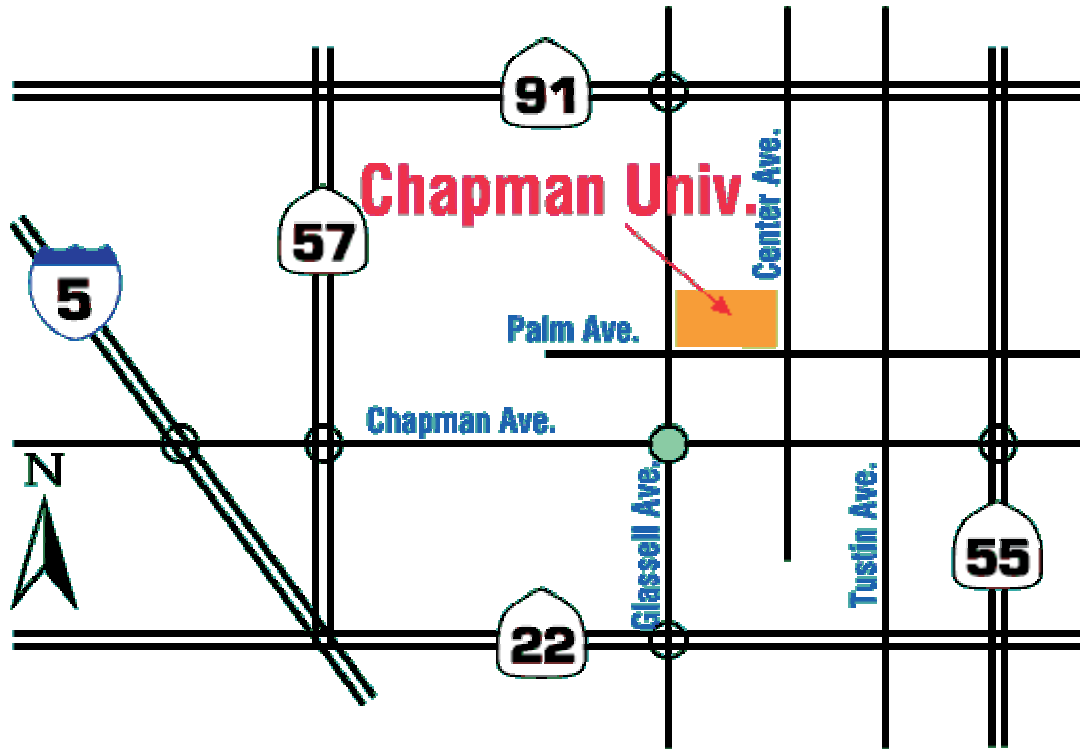
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