tract monitoring tasks and decreased its research. Effort to maintain the geological data base has been drastically reduced. Much of the success of the Survey in meeting the demands for earthquake prediction, energy and mineral resources estimation, reactor hazards evaluation, and a myriad of other applied problems has hinged upon a vast accumulation of geological information. No amount of computer manipulation of a static data base can substitute for vigorous, ongoing research and mapping to increase that base systematically.

One searches in vain in the 1979 Survey yearbook for a discussion of geological mapping or research. Publication policy has been changed drastically. High-quality maps and archival book publications are now practically nonexistent; most results of Survey work are relased in open-file reports of uneven quality, available only at relatively high cost. Hard money for basic geological mapping and geochemical, geophysical, and paleontological projects no longer exists in the Survey budget. All such work must now be justified under a mission-oriented, line-item program within a politically tangled system of budget management.

If organized concern is not soon expressed regarding the plight of research in the Survey, I fear that it may go down the drain as a driving force in American science. The scientific community should be alerted to these developments.

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Digital Readouts on Television Pictures

Video systems are increasingly being used for data compilation and analysis in behavioral studies (*1*). The hardware is relatively inexpensive and portable, and videotapes, unlike conventional motion-picture film, are analyzable by instant playback and are reusable. We have developed a simple display module that allows numerical data to be superimposed on television pictures and recorded as part of the televised information. The device, described in technical detail elsewhere (*2*), is inexpensive, versatile, and electronically compatible with most closed-circuit television systems. It employs standard, large-scale integrated circuits, commonly used in commercial television receivers to display time and channel number. We have found the device particularly useful in time-motion

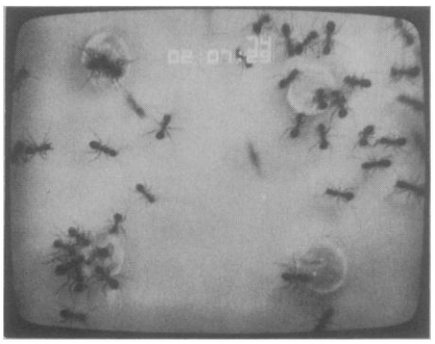

Fig. 1. Photograph of a television monitor screen displaying a single frame of a videotape with superimposed digital readouts. The upper readout gives the experiment number, and the lower readout (which also serves as frame marker) gives the time elapsed in minutes, seconds, and sixtieths of a second. The videotape is that of a bioassay with ants given untreated food (upper right and lower left sites) and food treated with a chemical repellent (upper left and lower right). Data for the assay are obtained by counting the ants at the treated and untreated sites every 5 seconds over a period of a minute. The readouts make it easily possible to stop the tape during playback at the desired 5-second intervals to make the counts.

analysis of behavioral events, for which purpose the display module is used to indicate the experiment number and time (Fig. 1). The time readout, given in minutes, seconds, and sixtieths of a second, changes with each video frame and can thus serve as a frame and time marker in playback analysis. Since the module can provide a readout of virtually any numerical variable, it is broadly applicable. The cost of the hardware is approximately $50.

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2. D. Aneshansley, *Behav. Res. Methods Instrum.*, in press.

Erratum: In the report "The testicular feminized rat: A naturally occurring model of androgen independent brain masculinization" by B. H. Shapiro *et al.* (18 July, p. 418), two relevant references were omitted. These are K. L. Olsen, *Horm. Behav.* **13**, 66 (1979) and K. L. Olsen, *Nature (London)* **279**, 238 (1979).

Erratum: The title of the letter from Andrew T. Weil (12 Sept., p. 1182) should have been "Coca, not cocaine." The second and third sentences of the second paragraph should have read, "I have advocated research on the therapeutic properties of whole coca leaf. Cocaine and coca are quite different substances with very different potentials for abuse and benefit."