

6-12-2008

The Zimmerman Fire: (re)collections

Deborah A. Cole

Fire/Watch Book Group

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Cole, Deborah A. and Fire/Watch Book Group. "The Zimmerman Fire: (re)collections." (2008). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/ulls_disaster_recovery/5

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*As I was drifting off to sleep, I heard sirens at 10:30 or 11-ish. I remember thinking,
"Oh dear, somebody is having a bad day."*

Phone rings. It's late. After 11 p.m.
This can't be good.

*My grandma called me on the phone and told me to
turn on the television news.*

MONDAY

*... it was probably about **1:30 a.m.** when I was awakened by a phone call. You know this is not going to be good news.*

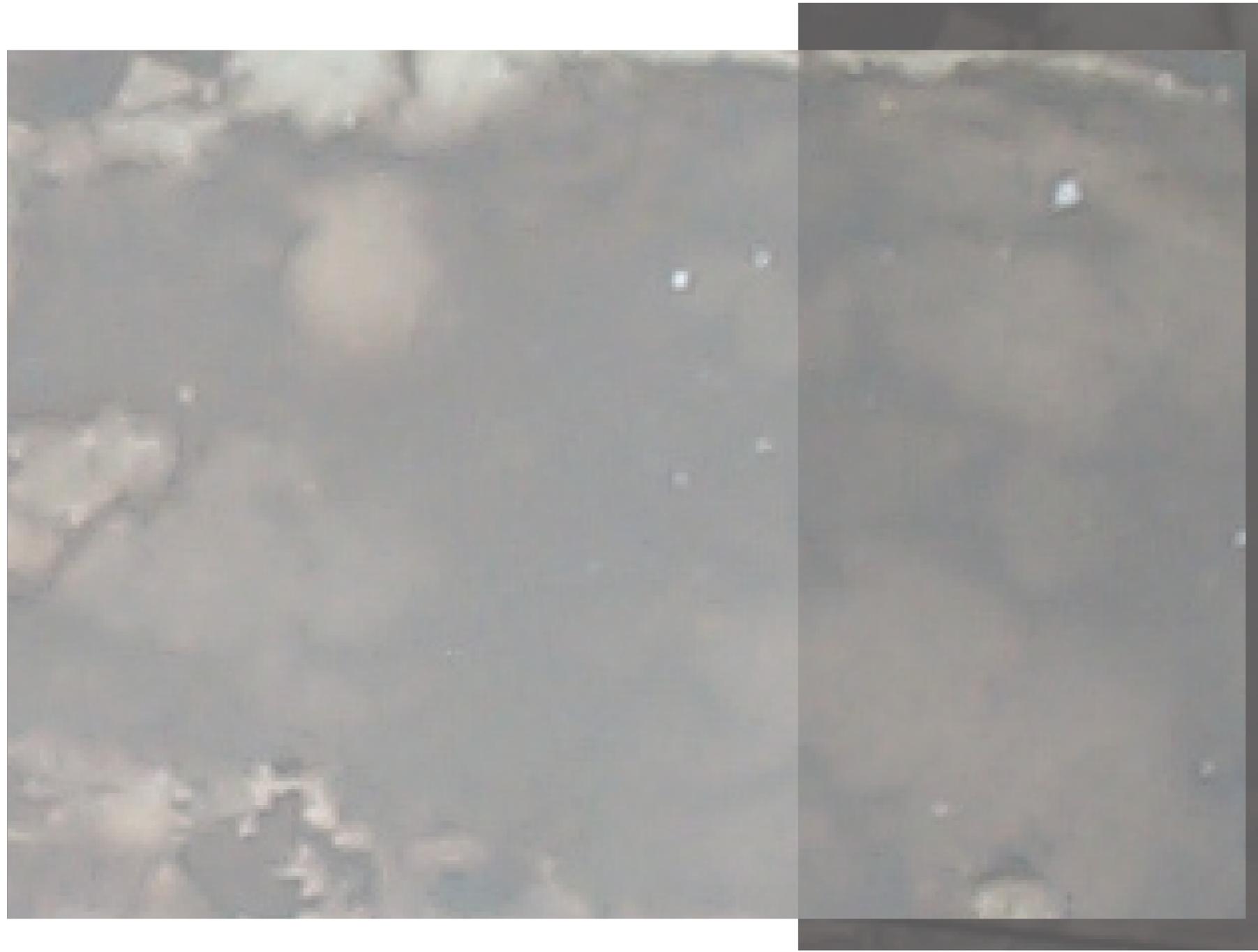
George and I were asleep. We got a call at **one-thirty**, quarter-to-two ... you know how when you're in a dead sleep and the phone's ringing ... there's nothing good to come out of anything like that. I really thought there had been a death in the family.

*Neely called me at **four** in the morning, so I assumed someone had died.*

I arrived at **four** in the morning. It just broke my heart. This place is like my second home.

*I was due in for work that Monday morning at 8:00. I turned on the news while getting ready and there were news cameras and all. So I was really confused about whether I should go to work, whether I could get into work. I was trying to call people. I first heard about it probably around **six** in the morning or so.*

Phone rings at **6:00 a.m.** Who could that be?



So I listened to the phone message telling me that there had been a fire. The whole experience was very surreal for me for a very long time and this was the beginning of it.

LEE BYRNE
Center for Academic Program Support

From: Johannes A Van Reenen
To: LIBPERS-L
Date: 5/1/2006
Subject: [LIBPERS-L] IMPORTANT MESSAGE: Fire in Zimmerman

1:06 AM

There was a fire sometime after 11 PM in Zimmerman periodicals area. Fran, Ed, and others are on-site but unable to enter. There is thick smoke in the building and damage is unknown at this point. Personnel who work in Zimmerman should report to Centennial for re-deployment. Teresa Neely is working with VP Susan Carkeek to understand the implications if we cannot occupy the building in the short term. By 6 AM on Monday we hope to send more information.

From: Johannes A Van Reenen
To: LIBPERS-L
Date: 5/1/2006
Subject: [LIBPERS-L] URGENT UPDATE for Zimmerman Personnel

1:51 AM

Due to the fire on lower floors of Zimmerman, please do not report for work on Monday morning. The Centennial Library Reference phone number 277-4412 will be used as the command post number and updates will be listed on their voice mail. Fran will ask selected personnel at Zimmerman to report for work in separate messages.

From: Johannes A Van Reenen
To: various
Date: 5/1/2006
Subject: Zimmerman emergency meeting and update

3:38 AM

Hi, I just heard from Fran that Zimmerman has been declared a crime scene and there will be no access to the building. The DRAT (Emergency group) will meet in CSEL at 8 AM Monday morning in Bruce's office. I would appreciate if all 4 branch directors can be there. Camila is flying back from Washington today, meanwhile Fran has been on the scene and will attend the police briefing at 7 AM and can update us on that.

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6:45 a.m. As I was walking to campus that morning, I **smelled smoke** but it was neither here nor there ... Coming around the other side of the building, though, by the President's House, everything was blocked off and I saw **fire trucks** ... I was informed by a **police officer** that there'd been a fire in Zimmerman. Walking off campus, I picked up a copy of The Lobo and realized there had been, in fact, a fire at Zimmerman. AARON BLECHA, STUDENT EMPLOYEE **7:00 a.m.** *I got a voice-mail on my cell phone ... that Nancy Dennis had left around 6:00 a.m. to tell me there'd been a fire and **not to go to Zimmerman** and to call my team.* TWILA FIRMATURE, E-RESOURCES I was just flapping in; I think I had on flip-flops. You know, it was warm and you could just kind of relax. There was security right at Roma and Yale. They weren't stopping you, but they were there. And I thought, "**What?**" but I walked on by. EVANGELA OATES, LIBRARY RESIDENT *I was at home taking annual leave ... I first saw it on the news on Monday. The next day Randy called me and said, "I suppose you saw it on the news."* JOE LANE, INTERLIBRARY LOAN I was getting ready for work when Randy called me and said, "**I suppose you saw it on the news.**" And I said, "What **It?**" And he said, "Don't come in." KATHRYN WOOD, INTERLIBRARY LOAN *I don't listen to the news in the morning so I didn't hear about it until I got off the shuttle at the Duck Pond. I started seeing the **yellow caution tape** as I walked toward the library and **couldn't get close to the library.** I was wondering what to do.* PAT B., OFFICE OF THE DEAN I got to work and somebody said, "Did you hear about the fire at Zimmerman?" And I said, "No. There was **a fire at Zimmerman?**" SUSAN MAGEE, WEB SERVICES



“Oh my God, I did it! I must be the one responsible. After all, I left my coffee pot plugged in over the weekend.” Those were the first thoughts that occurred to me on the morning of Monday, May 1, 2006, the morning after the fire started.

It had begun as a normal Monday morning, nothing special, aside from the fact that I had just gotten paid, so I was perhaps a little more cheerful than usual. I had taken my shower, gotten dressed, and had fed Stella and Blanche, my two cats. I had tuned my TV to Channel 4, so I could listen to Steve Stucker’s weather forecast for the day. I was gathering up my things, about to leave for work, when I happened to hear words coming from my television set: “a fire at Zimmerman Library... starting in the *Periodicals Section*...”

Oh no! I might have started that fire. I knew that I had not unplugged my electric kettle, because (to be truthful) I never did. I always kept the kettle plugged in, underneath my desk, because the cord was too short to reach the outlets from the top of my desk. The campus safety people were always making inspections of the library, and because extension cords were a big no-no with them, I had to adapt to the situation the only way I knew how. So the kettle always sat on the floor, on the carpeting. It has an on/off switch that could possibly get turned on, were someone to kick it, by accident. I had always worried that such an event might happen. Consequently, when I heard about the fire, I was so sure that I had caused this massive conflagration that I wondered if I still had a job.

BETTY BLACKBURN, Print Resources



THE
ZIMMERMAN FIRE :

(re)collections

(re)collections

(re)collections

FIRE/WATCH BOOK GROUP

Claire-Lise Benaud
Betty Blackburn
Pat B.
Patricia Campbell
Deborah Cole
Brian Freels-Stendel
Mary Ellen Hanson
Dave Herzel
Roberta Innan
Chris Johnson
Dena Kinney
Joe Lane
Clark McLean
Heidi Perea
Nancy Pistorius
Kathryn Wood

INTRODUCTORY QUOTES

Nancy Dennis
Fran Wilkinson
Consuelo LaBelle
Nancy Dennis
Kathleen Keating
Ava Kargacin
Louie Perez
Ellee Cushing-Cruver
Linda Skye

ZIMMERMAN DRAWING

Neil Cole

ARTWORK/PHOTOGRAPHS

Betty Blackburn
Patricia Campbell
Ed Castillo-Padilla
Deborah Cole
Russ Cole
Nancy Dennis
Bing-Shan Fazio
Wendy Pedersen
Fire/Watch Book Group

CLAIMER

This book is a work of remembrance and reflection. Descriptions of persons, places, and events herein are based on contributors' experience and opinion. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, and events is entirely intentional and certainly expected.

“... this was totally out of anybody’s control. Out of our control and everything was just ripped apart.”

Kathleen Keating
Reference Coordinator, UL

April 30, 2006 10:51 p.m. Alarms sound Δ Police and fire departments notified of a fire in UNM’s



APRIL 30, 2006

Russ Cole

Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Circulation, Zimmerman Library, University Libraries

I’ve been trying to reconstruct it; it all happened really fast. The alarm went off and Lowell, the counter supervisor, and I started sending people simultaneously to different floors. Lea was studying and she offered to help and we were pretty sure fairly quickly that we had somebody everywhere that people should be. That was maybe one or two minutes and then I went to the panel by the back door to see where the alarm was and opened the box and right then a campus police officer came in, very quickly, and so I showed him: the northeast corner, basement. And he said, “Okay, I’ll go down.” Then people started coming back from various areas, but he was the first one. He came back up immediately and said, “There’re flames down there.” And I thought, “Oh, my god.” I didn’t know exactly what he meant. When he said that we still had people out on the floors, then it was trying to keep track. I remember that I wasn’t real confident that the person we’d sent to the 2nd floor knew enough about it, even the corners of that floor, so I grabbed someone else and said, “You go to the 2nd floor, too.” And it turned out he did find some people in one of the corners that the other person missed.

It felt to me like all that took place in about five minutes, but it may have been a little longer and then I remember the officer said, “Okay, you can evacuate now.” And I thought he meant you can evacuate all the people and I told him, “I think we’re as clear as we can be now.” And he said, “No, YOU!” So I had to go out.

Then we were out in the parking lot and more police cars and the fire trucks started coming pretty quickly. There was some confusion about how to get the hoses in. They were trying to decide which door to go in. I finally just ran out there to where the fire people were and said, “I’ve got a master key. What do you need?” And they said, “How do you get to the northeast corner of the building?” So I took them to the one stairway that comes up over there and opened that for them and they went down and not long after they had to smash out the

Zimmerman Library Δ State Fire Marshal’s Office controls Zimmerman operations and is provided space in library Δ Disaster Response initiated and coordinated by University Library (UL) personnel

skylights to get the hoses in. At least I think so; they wouldn't let us get close again. That door winds through all these other rooms and is very indirect, so it would be pretty hard to get hoses through, so finally they took them through the skylight. They were in there pretty quick and then they just didn't come out. More and more firemen came and the smoke was just billowing. They kept us all back. There were people who walked up from who knows where. There was one guy, I could see the smoke pouring out from the building, and he's telling me, "But I really need to return this book." And I said, "Well, wait 'til tomorrow, okay?"

Once we were pretty sure it was in the hands of the campus police and the fire people, my first concern was how to get a hold of somebody. So, because I didn't have a cell phone, I'm walking around asking to borrow one. I had to get Ed's number, so I called my home and told Neil's sitter to look up his number and I called him pretty quickly, but he told me that Fran had already talked to him and he was getting ready to come. I didn't call her, but someone else must have really quickly. And so then I knew Ed was coming and I couldn't think of anything else I could really do, but at that point we still thought we were going to go back in and get our stuff and close the library. We didn't realize how big it was at all. Smoke wasn't really billowing yet. It was about 11:10 p.m. We didn't realize it would be months before we'd go back in. *I'd been eating fried chicken at my desk and thought it would still be good when I got back to it.*

It didn't seem very long at all before Fran came up. She said, "I just want you to know I'm here." That felt very good because I knew at some point we'd be talking to people about what had happened, and that's fine, but I knew that I didn't know everything I should know about the building structure and things like that. So that was really nice, when she was there. And then, I don't know how long after that—an hour or so?—they put crime scene tape up. I remember when Ed got there and we were asking them if we could go in at some point. One of the answers was, "If you go in there you'll be entering a crime scene and you'll be arrested," or something like that. Pretty firm. And then somebody came up and asked us about the students and I was able to give the names of the students who'd been there and point some of them out and then they talked to some of them, I think, I'm not sure, but they contacted them all the next day. Some had gone home, you know; by the time we realized we weren't going back in, I told them they could go.

I walked around the west side of Zimmerman to the front and Verity Robert [student employee] and I stood in Smith Plaza looking at the library. Smoke was coming up from the tower. I guess



... at that point we still thought we were going to go back in and get our stuff and close the library. We didn't realize how big it was at all.

"Is it chaos? No, a ballet. Fast. Then in slow motion. Then fast again. Police. Firefighters. Physical Plant personnel. Provost. Students from dorms in pajamas."

FRAN WILKINSON
Interim Dean

there was a chimney or something, and we were just horrified to see that. It looked like it was coming out of the top of the tower. Smoke was billowing out of the skylights, but it looked like smoke was coming from just about everywhere. You looked inside the Willard Room and there was smoke in there. At that point, we just thought it was the whole building; we were horrified. We just didn't know anything, but thought, "My god, this is huge."

Fran Wilkinson

Interim Dean, University Libraries

Phone rings. It's late. After 11 p.m. This can't be good. Zimmerman is on fire! Could it be a false alarm? No. Is everyone out safely? Yes. I am told: Come now! Come quick! Meet UNM chief of police there. I call Ed to meet me there. Grab Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan. Drive to campus. Many thoughts. Shock. Disbelief. How could this happen? Will Zimmerman still be there? It has to be! I park by campus police. Walk toward Zimmerman. What will I find?

Ed Castillo-Padilla

Manager, Facilities Services, University Libraries

I was called right after the fire started. It started around 10:20 in the evening that Sunday so I think I got here around 11:30 because I was already in bed and asleep at the time. It was really upsetting seeing smoke coming out of the skylights and looking into the West Wing and seeing the reading rooms inundated with smoke, just full of smoke. That gave me a sinking feeling, like this wasn't just some small trash can fire. Not only that, just driving into the area, you couldn't get close. There were fire trucks all the way around the turn-around between University House and Dane Smith and through that whole area. So that image said, "Oh, no, this is not good at all." Plus the fact that we were not allowed to go into the building because it was a crime scene. That was the other thing; all of a sudden it was a crime scene. That was discouraging, too. The whole night we had to stay outside; Fran and I were outside the building over by Social Sciences being available to look at drawings if they had any questions about the locations of air handling units and such. We could point out areas they might need to know about. Only after the sun came up were we allowed to go in and take a look.

"Frenetic activity coordinating work of UL employees, contractors, Office of Capital Projects, architect, Safety and Risk Services, Physical Plant Dept., State Fire Marshal's Office, BMS CAT, movers, Campus Police, & insurance adjustors."

Ed Castillo-Padilla

Nancy Dennis

Assistant Dean, University Libraries

I live close to UNM and I remember that night, as I was drifting off to sleep, I heard sirens at 10:30/11-ish. I remember thinking, “Oh dear, somebody is having a bad day.” Little did I know. So, it was probably about 1:30 a.m. when I was awakened by a phone call. You know this is not going to be good news. It was Fran—very business like—“Nancy, this is Fran. There’s been a fire at Zimmerman. I need you to start the phone tree.” And then we were talking about who else needed to be notified and who’d been called. Camila [Camila Alire, Dean, University Libraries] was out of town, but would return from D.C. in the morning. And we discussed some more of the logistics. I asked, “Should I come down there?” She said, “No, just make sure the phone tree starts probably around 5-ish in the morning. You don’t want to wake people up at 2 o’clock to say don’t come to work. But it’s going to be on the news and you need to start catching people to tell them not to come to work at Zimmerman. Tell them, “Yes, there has been a fire. Stay home until you hear otherwise from us, that sort of thing.”

Probably around 5:00 a.m. I started calling people at the top of the list—the managers, department heads, directors, that sort. Some of them had already heard. In fact some people I talked to said, “Yeah, I just heard it on the radio,” if they were early risers. I was waking people up, which is awkward, telling them, “Well, there’s been a little bit of a fire; don’t come to work.” You know, it was being the bearer of bad news but still not knowing how bad. We did not know the extent of the damage at that point or how long we were going to be closed. So that was my first experience, clicking into the mode of getting my list, trying to gather my phone numbers and focusing on what to do and then, of course, being here first thing in the morning.

“Throughout the night the awareness of how bad it was just grew and grew and grew.”

RUSS COLE
Zimmerman Library

Well, there’s been a little bit of a fire.



Russ Cole

Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

One thing that strikes me when I think back on that night is the sense of growing magnitude. In the moment when the alarm went off, it was pretty routine; we were basically concerned with what we always do: just get people out as best we can. Then as the night went on, standing out in the parking lot watching the smoke billow out for hours and hours, just realizing how enormous it was going to be. I remember when my son Neil was about to be born I was worried that when it came time to make that rush to the hospital I would freeze up. I even asked my doctor about that, “But what if I just fold?” When the time came, it was rushed, but there was no problem like that. With the night of the fire, not knowing until we almost had the place cleared out that it was a real fire played a big part in staying calm.

Immediately after the fire, while Zimmerman Library was closed for emergency recovery, 105 (or 75%) of a total of 140 UL employees were displaced.

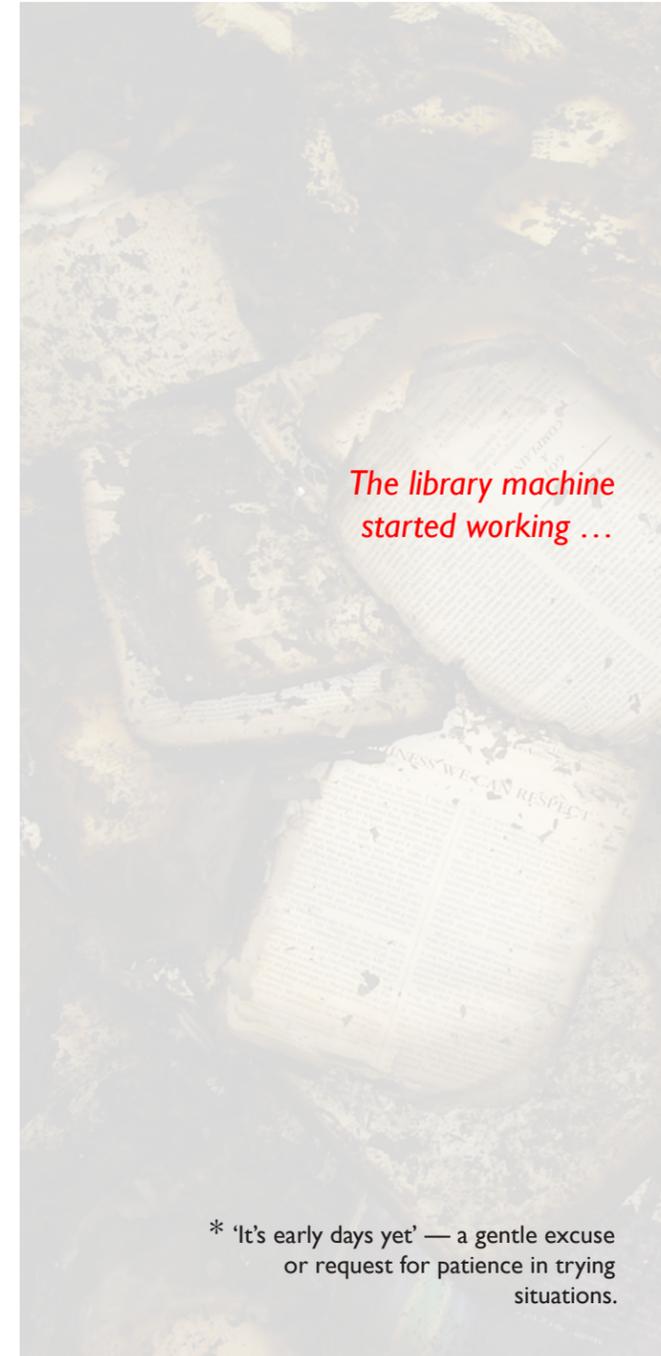
Nancy Dennis, e-mail, April 16, 2007



“... it was a pretty serious fire ... a three-alarm fire.”

NANCY DENNIS
Assistant Dean

△ Information tables set up at Zimmerman entrances △ DRAT does a



The library machine started working ...

* 'It's early days yet' — a gentle excuse or request for patience in trying situations.

walk-through of Zimmerman basement △ Bindery shipment directed to and processed at Centennial △ Emergency lights installed in basement, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors **May 3** Books checked out

EARLY DAYS*

Ed Castillo-Padilla
Manager, Facilities Services

Later that night, the building was under the jurisdiction of the Fire Marshal so he had complete control over everything. University officials had to report to him, the police had to report to him, everyone reported to the Fire Marshal's office, so it was a matter of him knowing we wanted to at least know what was going on, could we at least take a look? And he permitted us to do this. We just went in far enough to where we could take a look, we didn't actually go into the areas. We just looked down; it was dark, there were no lights because all the power had been shut down. The **smell** was really strong and there was water everywhere from the fire. It was a mess. That was kind of wrenching and discouraging. But at that point you're in a recovery mode and you're thinking, "What do we have to do now?" You've got this problem and you have to react, start reacting in a positive way as much as you can.

Nancy Dennis
Assistant Dean

Those of us who were on DRAT, which is the Disaster Recovery Assistance Team, were to report at 8:00 a.m. Monday morning over at Centennial Science and Engineering Library [CSEL]. At that point Fran didn't know the extent of the fire, although she did say it was a pretty serious fire and she hadn't been into the building yet but it was a three-alarm fire. It was significant. We get off the phone and I'm thinking, "**Holy Moly.**"

By Tuesday we knew we needed to get information tents up out front of Zimmerman. People were coming to the doors not even aware there had been a fire, even though there was caution tape with Do Not Enter/Closed signs. So a lot of library folks stepped up and we got the SUB set up. Interlibrary Loan [ILL] was up and running in three days. The library machine started working—what can we do to help students get through finals?—that sort of thing.

I think it was Tuesday afternoon, when a group—Camila, Fran, Ed, the Provost, the UNM Police Chief, Risk Management people—were getting their first walk-through of the building. Mike Kelly and I asked to join them so we could see the potential damage to the Center for Southwest Research [CSWR] and basement work areas. Every unit that reported to me worked either in the basement or on the 1st floor directly above the site of the fire. I really wanted to see for myself the extent of the damage.

Barbara Aragon

Physical Plant Custodian, Zimmerman Library

Deborah Cole: Did you just wait until you came to work to find out what to do?

Barbara: I was wondering what was going to happen to me, because I work here at the library and I was thinking, “Oh-oh. I don’t know where I’m going.” I assumed that the library had burned, but I didn’t know how bad it was. They just said the basement had burned and it looked really bad, but I didn’t really comprehend how bad. **I thought it was just a little corner someplace.**

On Tuesday, I did my morning shifts and then I came over here to Zimmerman and the yellow caution tape was all around the library. I walked up and asked the security guard what was happening and if I could come in. And he told me the library had burned and was closed. And I thought, “Okay,” and went back to my boss. He assigned me to another area until the library administration decided to move back in.

Pat B.

Receptionist, Office of the Dean, University Libraries

Pat: Linda Skye kept in touch with me. At first I monitored and forwarded the messages on the administrative offices’ phone line. I was doing that from home, which was o.k. I felt useful.

Deborah Cole: How long did that go on?



“I don’t think Fran slept for 72 hours.”

PAT B.
Office of the Dean

P: At least a week, maybe two? The Office of the Dean was moved temporarily to Bruce Neville’s office in Centennial.

D: So the first time you went back into Zimmerman was when you went back to work there?

P: Yes.

D: And what was that like?

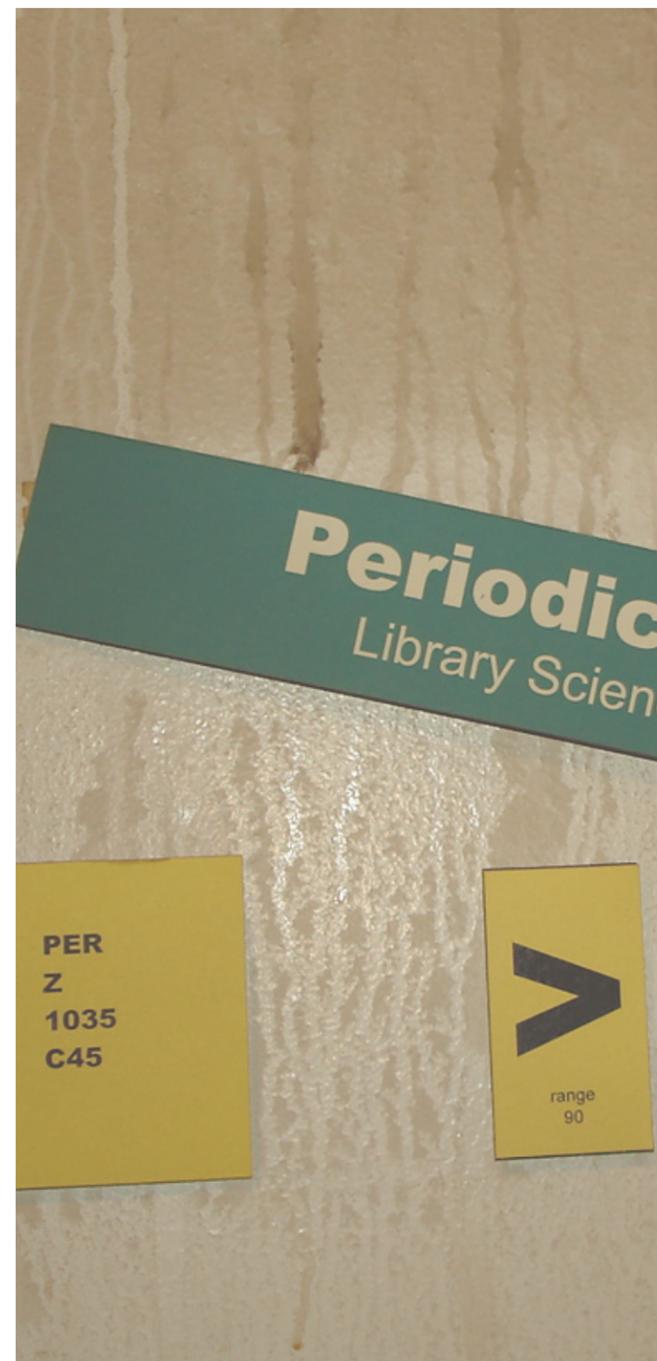
P: It was very different. We had strict orders to go in, go up the stairs and go directly into the office. We weren’t allowed to walk around the library anyplace. So basically we just went to our offices, the restrooms and out the north doors. That was it.

D: What was it like working in the building when just you all were there?

P: Well, it was “Whose phone is going to work?” Most people’s phones didn’t. Mine worked well for a couple of days. I didn’t have any problems. Then I was sitting at my desk, not using my phone, and all of a sudden it went **“crackle, crackle, crackle!”** and then it was dead. [Laughs] The other phone in the reception area still worked, so we got an extension line and ran that phone to my desk and taped the cord to the floor so we wouldn’t trip over it. And then everyone whose phone didn’t work in Budget and Cost Management [BCM] and the administration offices—who ever needed a phone—had to come to my desk to use it. I think there were a couple other phones that worked, but most people’s didn’t.

D: Was Johann also in his office down the hall toward the West Wing?

P: No, I don’t think so. I think it was just BCM and us. I think they did that because everything the Dean’s staff and BCM needed to answer questions was up there—payroll and files and such—so it was either that or move all the computers and files and phone numbers to another building, which I think was going to be a problem.



Juanita Trujillo

Business Manager, University Libraries

Oh Payroll is DUE!

May 1st wake up call
Phone tree starts for all

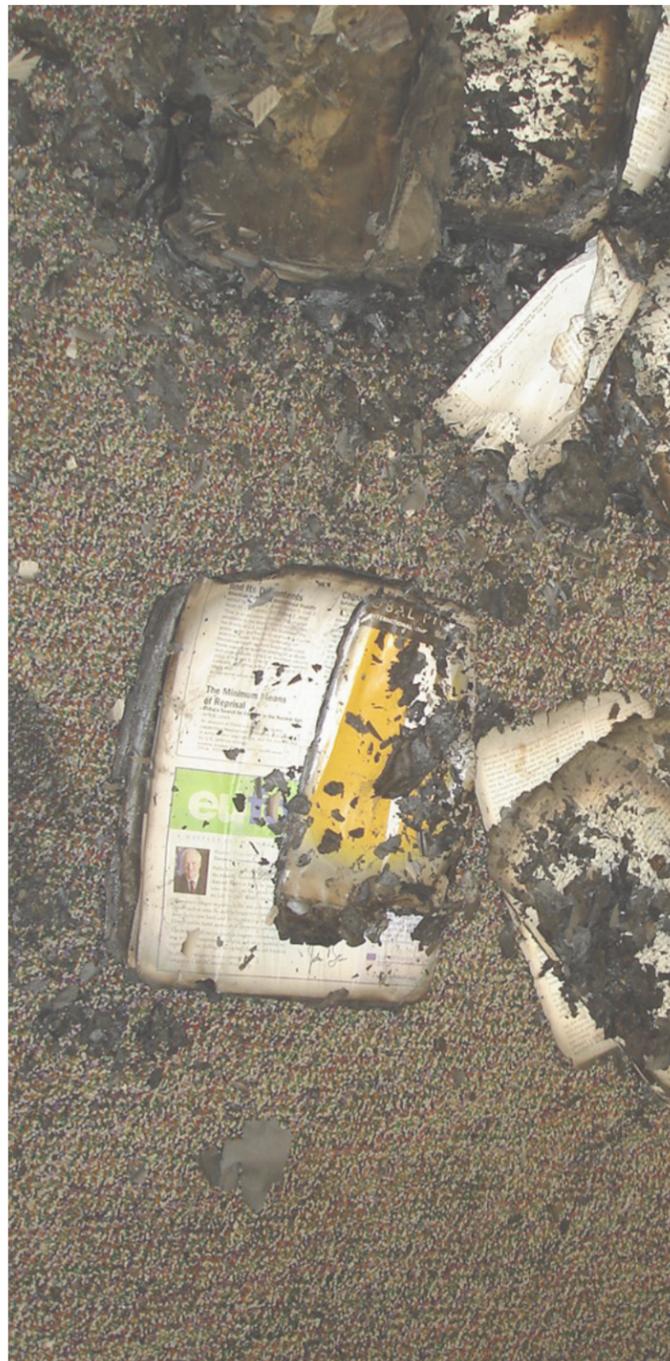
Timesheets are due
Approval is granted only for you

An escort and you may go
Fifteen minutes given to and fro

Sara took over to complete
The deadlines we did meet

No fire will hinder our pay
Thanks to Sara and Connie...HOORAY!

I received a very early wake up call from Fran on May 1, 2006, to begin the phone tree for Budget and Cost Management. When I called the BCM Staff, Sara informed me that timesheets were due. I called Fran, who said she would have to receive approval from the Fire Marshal. Fran called me back and said that the Fire Marshal would only allow me to enter to retrieve the timesheets. I was scheduled for annual leave on Monday and Tuesday but reported to work both days. Fran asked Nancy Dennis to meet me at the north doors. I informed Sara to meet me at the north doors as well. Sara told us where to find all of the timesheets on her desk. I was given fifteen minutes to retrieve what I needed with Ed as an escort. We were given dust masks to wear. Ed and I grabbed everything we thought Sara would need and returned prior to our allotted time. Sara and I took the timesheets to Parish Memorial Library [PML] where Sue Awe let us use a classroom and some office supplies. Connie came to help Sara and to relieve me, so that I could leave since I was scheduled for annual leave. All the timesheets were hand-carried and the deadline was met. **Everyone was paid** with no delay thanks to the efforts of the Fire Marshal, Nancy, Sue, Ed, Juanita, Sara and Connie.



“You know, working in the Centennial flood gave us a lot of experience dealing with disasters, so once you get over the initial shock of everything, you get into the mode where it’s just a job and you try to do the best you can. And everyone does. All of the staff does, especially those who are displaced and working other places. It’s really hard for them.”

ED CASTILLO-PADILLA
Facilities Services

Behind the scenes, each of the more than 4,000 requests resulted in a library worker, in hard hat, mask and gloves, searching with a flashlight to locate a particular book.

UNM Today, May 1, 2007

Oh Budgets are DUE!

It’s BUDGET time of year
But have no fear

Even if Juanita and Kitty are displaced
Oh, the challenges they faced

They shared an office in the basement of Centennial
The software on the computer was not compatible

No printing available on the laptop on loan
All we could do was moan and groan

Finally printing capability was fixed by John
Signatures were received by Fran

Budgets were turned into the Provost
To Kitty, I offer a TOAST!

Fran had to ask the Fire Marshal for permission for Ed and me to enter the building to get all of our budget files. Bruce Neville was very kind in setting Kitty and me up in an office in the basement of CSEL. The office had a computer, but no printer available. We needed our printer and some office supplies, which Louie and Bonifacio [Louie Perez and Bonifacio Anglada, Facilities Services] were able to get for us. The computer did not have the software we needed to prepare the budgets. We had to ask permission to download the required software onto the computer we were borrowing. John Benedetto was very kind in downloading what we needed and setting up our printing. We were able to check out one of the laptops on loan, so that Kitty and I could both be on the computers although only one had printing capability. Kitty was able to print out all of the budgets for Fran’s signature and turn them in to the Provost by our deadline. I would like to express my thanks to the Fire Marshal, Fran, Bruce, George, John, Ed, Louie, Bonifacio, and Kitty in helping BCM meet the Provost’s budget deadline.

Russ Cole

Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

Deborah Cole: Were you able to sleep much Sunday night?

Russ: Well, when I got home I did think about the fire but went to sleep at some point.

D: Did you get a call the next day?

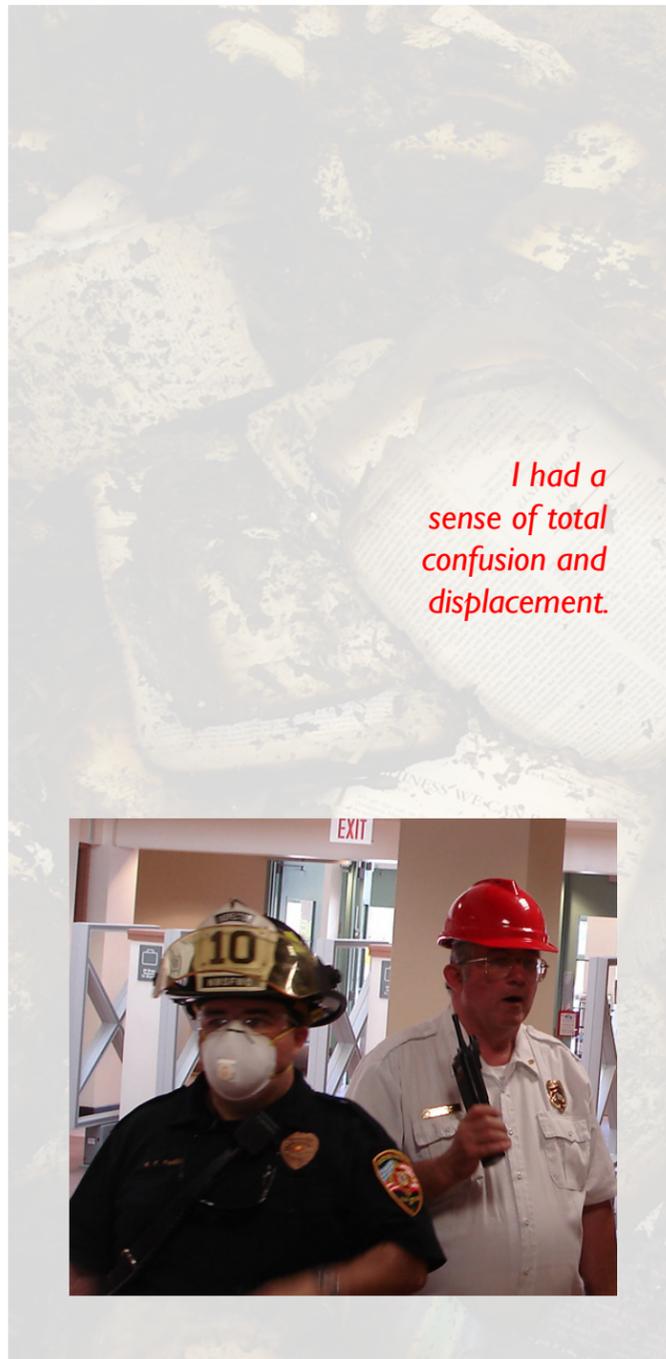
R: I got an e-mail when I got up but I'm sure I talked to Ava sometime early in the morning. I can't remember exactly. I think Ava was calling everybody at 3 in the morning. I'm not sure. It was clear to me even at home afterwards that staff were communicating at that point. So then the question was, "Where do I go in the morning?" I figured I'd just call Ava in the morning and find out.

D: What was it like when you finally went back into the library?

R: I have to say, curiosity was right up there because we knew by that point, of course, that the building survived and that the damage to the materials, though very sad, wasn't as bad as it could have been. So I had a little bit more uplifted feelings about it, so it was almost exciting to be back there and see that we could start again.

D: How about doing the night shift again?

R: For me it was weird because, **it being finals week that week**, there had to be some place open late and because it couldn't be Zimmerman anymore, it was changed to Centennial. So the very next night I found myself being the only staff member to close out Centennial and I was unfamiliar with closing there. So I did think about that a bit that night and of course, I wondered, "**How did the fire start?**" And you see the same people, who you know aren't students, in Centennial because they used to come to Zimmerman. So I was really careful there, watching every little corner and just running around all night making damn sure nothing happened there. I had a sense of total confusion and displacement. But the students there were so great. Still, there was just a sense of responsibility that you really don't want to think too much about. You've got to do it but you don't want to think about it a lot.



*I had a
sense of total
confusion and
displacement.*



*Big fire?
Little fire?
Campfire?*

PER
Z
1035
C45

PER
Z
1219
P98

D: And Centennial is ALL basement.

R: Yeah. And it looks real simple, but you start walking through it with an eye toward, "Have I checked every corner possible?" and then all these new corners and halls appear.

Sarah Stohr

Library Resident, University Libraries

I was in Lexington, Kentucky and scheduled for a phone interview on May 5. So I was trying to keep up with my UNM news. On May 2, I was reading the *Santa Fe New Mexican* online and I read "Zimmerman Library Fire." And I thought [laughter], "That's interesting." But there was no specific information at all. Big fire? Little fire? Campfire? I had no idea.

I like to think, though, that that's why I got my job, because I knew that the fire had happened and during my phone interview I asked about it. [Laughter]

Pat B.

Receptionist, Office of the Dean

Deborah Cole: Did it feel good when those of you in the University Libraries administration were able to return to Zimmerman soon after the fire?

Pat: Yes. Lots of teams were broken up. Some were spread between Centennial and Parish or Fine Arts and Parish. **Some were just wandering around with a cell phone and couldn't do any work for some time.** We had a purpose that we could work on right away, and actually had a place to do it. There were people working in the SUB at reference desks.

D: Was it strange working in Zimmerman at that time?

P: It was very quiet and isolated. But I was very glad to have a job, because when the fire happened on April 30, I'd been a permanent employee for only a little over a month. And then we had no place to work and I thought, "**Well, am I still going to be employed?**" I definitely

didn't have seniority. So there was that question going on for a while, whether or not I would continue to be employed.

D: Some students have talked about that. I doubt any other staff had that concern, but since you were such a new hire, you didn't know what to think.

P: But I did keep my job! And I seemed to stay busy. There was always something I could do, you know, "Here, can you go do this?" And that's great, because I was helping. I was contributing. It can really feel bad not to be needed. I don't like that feeling. I want to be productive. I want to be a part of the team. When something is wrong, I want to help fix it.

Consuelo and A.J. LaBelle

Student Employees, Print Resources, University Libraries

Consuelo: I thought, "Oh my god, I wonder how bad it is?" Would we go in the next day and have no work? And Kathy Gienger, our supervisor, had left for the first three days of that week, so we were hanging around, walking around.

Deborah Cole: You didn't know who to talk to or where anyone was?

AJ: Yeah.

C: We contacted Sever [Sever Bordeianu, Head, Print Resources] and he was the one who set us up at the information tables.

AJ: We told him we didn't have a job. And he told us we could do the information tables until the books started coming through again because we had first priority to get positions. The information table was fun. A piece of cardboard could have done my job.

D: What did you do? What was it like?

C: "You can turn your books in at Centennial [points left] or Parish [points right]. There's where they are."

"The thing about the fire is that school was still going on. People still needed their resources ..."

AVA KARGACIN
Zimmeran Library

A piece of
cardboard
could have
done my
job.

I've worked in Zimmerman Library for over 20 years. When I learned about the fire, my heart sank and my mind raced. What did we lose? I couldn't go in to check on the collections, and I felt so helpless. I thought I appreciated it, but now I realize how much that building, its WPA furnishings and the historical documents, mean to me.

Terry Gugliotta, *Albuquerque Tribune*,
May 10, 2006

AJ: "Here's a map." We just had to tell the students that we knew nothing about the fire and they'd have to find that out later.

D: Which tables did you staff?

AJ: I did both, the one in the front of Zimmerman and the one in the back, but I spent most of my time at the one in back, on the north side. It was nice; it was under the trees.

C: Kathy sent us an e-mail telling us we were famous because we were on the front page of a newspaper, at the table in front of the library. We did that for a couple of weeks.

Ellee Cushing-Cruver

Student Employee, Center for Academic Program Support (CAPS)

Deborah Cole: Did you reach anyone after you first heard about the fire?

Ellee: I don't think I ended up getting a hold of anyone. I left messages saying I wouldn't bother coming to work because I didn't think I could get in and then by 7:30 a.m. we had work e-mails going out to all the student employees. So by that time the staff had gotten together and decided we'd be closed that day and figure it out.

D: At what point did you get back to doing something?

E: Gosh, by noon Monday we had found a place to tutor, so the staff was frantically shooting out e-mails, "Come to work if you can! Nobody will get in trouble if you can't, but if you're

on campus, come to work." We'd found space in the Student Union Building [SUB] and in Centennial. So by noon they wanted us back. It was frantic because we didn't have any computers. We do everything on a database. **We were begging, borrowing and stealing anything we could: paper, pencils, and laptops.**

"... that communication aspect, both public relations and for people within the library, was a crucial function to get going."

MARY ELLEN HANSON
RMBA



The first thing when I walked in there, was just this whole pile of badly burned books stacked up next to the government information and reference desk and it just sucked the breath out of me.

Dan Barkley, *UNM Today*, May 1, 2007

D: What was it like when students started coming?

E: It was like a community and we were all suffering and this big thing had just happened. The only people who came at first were our regular users. They sought us out and found us. It was a community feeling, like **“We have to get through this week.”** I don’t remember getting too many irate, angry people. They just dealt with it.

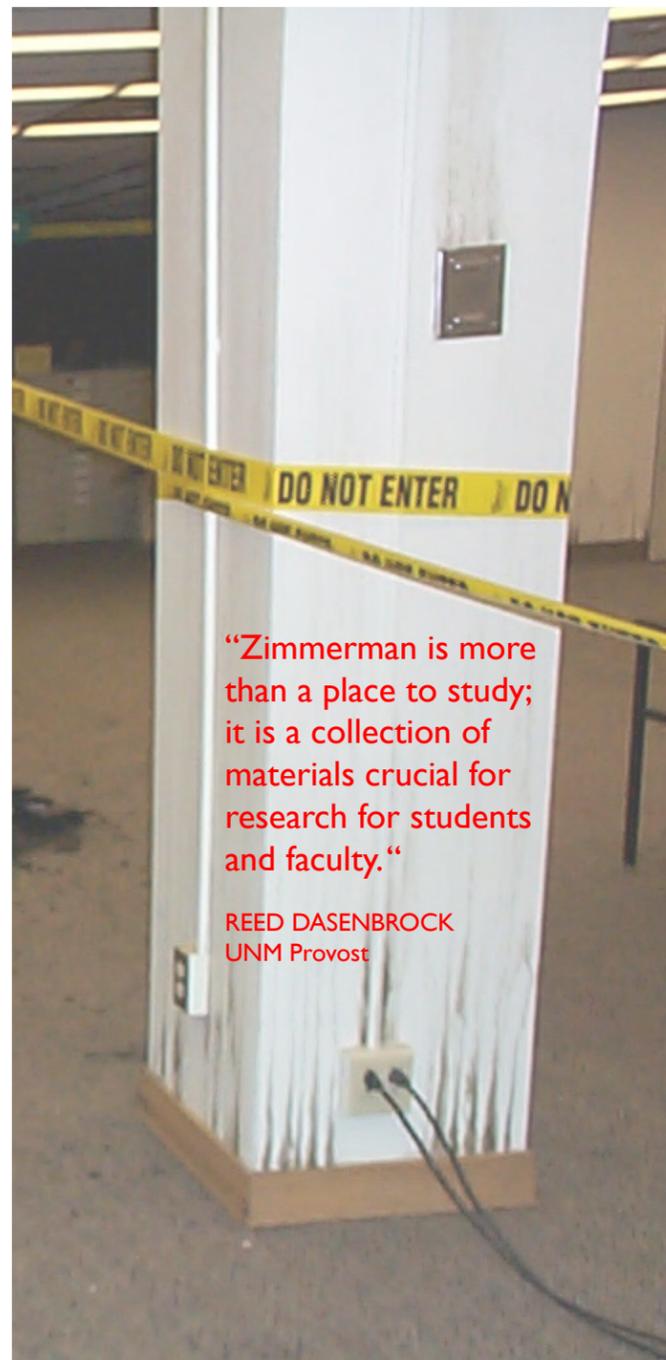
Lee Byrne

Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS

On that Monday, May 1, I couldn’t do anything but talk to Karen Olson, our director; she and Michele Steiner were out in Smith Plaza trying to figure out what to do. They did an excellent job of pulling people together, getting people to give them space. They were working from the plaza and then from an office in the Arts and Sciences advisement center. They were calling in everything they could. At noon they had space in the SUB for the tutors and a space in Centennial worked out with the UL administration. It was just amazing.

I don’t remember if it was Monday or Tuesday that the computer issue arose. Both of our file servers are up on the 3rd floor of Zimmerman. There was an issue about being able to connect to them. I think they were able to connect for a little while and then lost connection. The power went down and must have come back up. Oh, I know, Ed Padilla came up and started one of our servers. I talked to him on the phone, telling him how to start it. It was Wednesday or Thursday that the ethernet connections went and we were no longer able to connect.

So I was trying to deal with these problems from home. From my point of view, I thought I might as well stay home to deal with them because no one was going to let me in the building to get the computers or the file servers or anything else, so I talked to and e-mailed people from home. **It was crazy.**



“Zimmerman is more than a place to study; it is a collection of materials crucial for research for students and faculty.”

**REED DASENBROCK
UNM Provost**

5/1/2006 1:56 PM

ZIM circ staff will be redeployed to CSEL and Parish. Dave H. and Vanessa from Parish will be working on this.

The expectations for staff for the next few days will be to provide desk coverage. We are setting up a ref desk at the SUB beginning tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

For those of you who do not have e-mail access at home, I will be making telephone calls to let you know if you are expected to come in to work the desk tomorrow.

Thanks for your patience as we find our way.

5/1/2006 2:44 PM

... it does not appear that Zimmerman will open any time this week. Employees who work in Zimmerman Library should not report to work until they have been contacted by their supervisor with information on when and where to report. Camila will call an all-library meeting as soon as we have enough information to make it useful.

We are working on a plan to redeploy student employees so that they can be employed at least throughout the end of the semester.

5/1/2006 4:10 PM

Dan and I have developed a reference schedule for this week. We have secured a space at the SUB on the 1st Floor outside of the Ballrooms to provide reference services until we can move back into Zimmerman.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we attempt to maintain a consistent level of public service.

5/2/2006 1:02 PM

Some members of the Library Disaster team will be doing a walk through of Zimmerman this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. and then will be meeting with the Fire Marshal, Physical Plant, Risk Management and contractors to determine the next steps. Also, a small group of people were able to get in this morning to retrieve some essentials.

Camila is calling an all-library meeting on Thursday afternoon in the SUB Ballroom A.

In addition to the reference desk set up in the SUB, we have arranged to have information tables set up outdoors on both sides of Zimmerman in order to provide information to students and direct them to other libraries for services.

D: What was it like when students started coming?

E: It was like a community and we were all suffering and this big thing had just happened. The only people who came at first were our regular users. They sought us out and found us. It was a community feeling like "We have to get through this week!" I don't remember getting too many irate, angry people. They just dealt with it. They had been contacted by their supervisor with information on when and where to report. Camilla called an all-library meeting as soon as we had enough information to report.

Lee Byrne

Technical Services and Online Learning, CAW

On that Monday, I had a couple of things on my mind. Our director, she and Michele Steiner were the ones who were trying to figure out what to do. They did an excellent job of pulling people together, getting people to go to the space they were working from the plaza and then from an office in the Arts and Sciences advisement center. They were calling in everything they could. At noon they had space in the SUB for the tutors and a space in Centennial worked out with the UL administration. It was just amazing.

I don't remember if it was Monday or Tuesday that the computer issue arose. Both of our file servers are up on the 3rd floor of Zimmerman. There was an issue about being able to connect to them. I think they were able to connect for a little while and then lost connection. Some members of the Library Disaster team will be doing a walk through of Zimmerman this afternoon at 1:00 p.m. and started one of our servers. I talked to him on the phone, telling him how to start it. It was Wednesday or Thursday that the ethernet connections went and we were no longer able to connect. Management and contractors to determine the next steps.

Also, a small group of people were able to get in this morning to retrieve some essentials. So I was trying to deal with these problems from home. From my point of view, I thought I might as well stay home to deal with them because no one was going to let me in the building to get the computers or the file servers or anything else, so I talked to and e-mailed people from home. It was crazy.

In addition to the reference desk set up in the SUB, we have arranged to have information tables set up outdoors on both sides of Zimmerman in order to provide information to students and direct them to other libraries for services.

5/11/2008 1:58 PM
The expectations for staff for the next few days will be to provide desk coverage. We are setting up a reference desk at the SUB beginning tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.
For those of you who do not have e-mail access at home, I will be making telephone calls to let you know if you are expected to come in to work the desk tomorrow.
Thanks for your patience as we find our way.
"Zimmerman is more than a place to study; it is a collection of materials crucial for research for students and faculty."

5/11/2008 4:10 PM
Dan and I have developed a reference schedule for this week. We have secured a space at the SUB on the 1st floor outside of the Ballrooms to provide reference services until we can move back into Zimmerman.
We appreciate your patience and flexibility as we attempt to maintain a consistent level of public service.
REED DASENBROCK
UNM Provost



Evangelina Oates

Library Resident, University Libraries

At the temporary reference desks some people would get angry because we didn't have details about the fire. "Well, we don't know." And they'd say, "Well, how is it that you don't know?" "Because we don't." Some people wanted details about the fire and we couldn't provide them. Other people would be angry because certain things wouldn't be available. You can understand that, but at a certain point you want to say, "Well, be angry at the person who set the fire, you know, or whatever 'suspicious thing' caused it." For the most part people were just curious. Some people were satisfied with our answers and some weren't.

A.J. LaBelle

Student Employee, Print Resources

We have a friend named Melinda who was in her last year, just about to graduate and finishing up classwork at the time of the fire, so she was going bonkers. Instead of just going into the library and getting what she needed really quick, she had to fill out and submit requests and then wait. She said it was so terrible and slowed things down so much. Well, she graduated so I guess it turned out good. [Laughter] She was very studious, very determined.

Joe Lane and Kathryn Wood

Interlibrary Loan, University Libraries

Deborah Cole: What equipment did you have to get ready?

Joe: Just the computers set up to print right, to download articles and request forms for patrons. And we had to say "No" to everything, of course, because they weren't letting us into Zimmerman.

Kathryn: We were up and running within three days. I think we were running on that Wednesday. I was amazed at how fast we got going.

"We ordered 432 items today (and are currently caught up). 76 electronic articles were already received and delivered to patrons (even though these were only requested this morning). In addition, 106 books already in the pipeline were received, processed, delivered to CSEL circulation, and patrons were notified. The 80 returned books recovered from Zimmerman circulation were processed and sent to the mail room."

RANDY MOOREHEAD
Interlibrary Loan, e-mail, May 4, 2006



HEROES

Louie Perez

Facilities Manager, Facilities Services

Let me tell you a story about Boni Anglada. You remember the student in Gifts who had an accent? He was from Europe somewhere. Well, he bought \$500 of special materials at the UNM Bookstore just before the fire and had left them at work. He was leaving the country and really upset because he needed those things. So, two days after the fire, Boni went down to Gifts—it was DARK, there were NO lights—and he felt around for what he thought it should feel like and on the second "feel" he got it. He had a mask on, right, but it was still so smelly and smoky he could hardly breathe. Boni did that. And that kid, he never forgot it. He was so thankful. [The student was Sylvain Agar from Toulouse, France. The purchases were gifts for his family; included with them was Sylvain's graduation gown.]

RESCUES

Rik Burkard

Supervisor, Marking/Bindery, Print Resources

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

The only beings to live through the fire that occurred on April 30, 2006, were my fish. Though the Marking/Bindery area in the basement of Zimmerman Library (where my office used to be) is just a few walls and offices away from the origin of the fire, those fish survived. The Pink Convicts (African Cichlids) actually did well in the murky, ash-darkened water for the two weeks it took before I could retrieve them. Ed and Louie fed them whenever they were allowed into that part of the building.

When I finally had my 15 minutes to get what I needed from my office space, I grabbed all the work-related items then put the fish tank on a cart and took the elevator up to the Dean's Conference Room. Patricia Campbell had agreed to watch over them. Since seven fish had survived, I dubbed them "The Magnificent Seven." Unfortunately, shortly after they were relocated one fish committed suicide by leaping from the tank. Another tried the same a few days later but was rescued by the administrative staff. A coffee mug now weights the top of the tank to keep the fish from jumping out.



Johann van Reenen

Assistant Dean, University Libraries

I was one of the first persons allowed to return to work in my office. My strongest impressions that first day back were strangely not the building's condition and the loss of our journals in areas of strength—that was a reality but could be worked through and may even leave us better off than before the fire. It was feeling alone and disconnected from others, also guilty to be back when others were waiting anxiously at home or trying to be productive in odd corners where space was available.

The lesson I learned? A building, especially a beautiful one such as Zimmerman, is important but essentially loses its personality when the people who make their living and learning there are absent. People inform a place not the other way around.

Susan Magee

Coordinator, Web Services and Customer Studies, University Libraries

My typical work day back in May of 2006? I'd arrive at 7:00 a.m. I'd check Lib Info, PML eRef and FastInfo to see if anybody had asked questions and then I answered those. After the first two or three days we had a FAQ on the UL website. So I would print out the newest version of the FAQ and on the way to the morning DRAT meeting, I would take copies of the FAQ to the various service desks at the SUB and on both sides of Zimmerman. I'd come back from the DRAT meeting two hours later and incorporate anything new into the FAQ. At lunch I took print-outs of the new version of the FAQ to the service desks. In the afternoon I usually did my regular work or I'd be on the reference desk. Then I'd go to the afternoon DRAT meeting and write myself notes about what to change on the FAQ. I'd go back and check LibInfo and FastInfo and PML eRef again for any questions. I went home at 5:00 or 6:00. At 10:00 or 11:00 I'd sign on and start updating again. So I did four updates a day of the FAQ and tweaked other web pages. I had to make changes to anything that was Zimmerman-related, because Zimmerman was "dead," you know. That May I put in about 60 hours extra.

At the DRAT meetings I was the voice of "This is something we need to tell people." "We're going to get questions about that. How are we going to answer those questions?" Some

"Well, it would be nice to have a pencil and some paper."

TWILA FIRMATURE
eResources

"I was just amazed that we got it together to figure out a way to make it all keep going."

AVA KARGACIN
Circulation, Zimmerman Library

information was appropriate to share and some wasn't, but a decision needed to be made one way or another. Then I got to go and make it so.

I also worked with Dave Herzal to produce the paging form, then with Eric Nudell to get it linked to LIBROS. As people started coming back to work and moving into Parish, I helped locate furniture to make work spaces and cleared out the classroom so they could set up in there. That was the fun part because it was physical. I got to be away from the computer.

Looking back over the e-mails I kept from those days, it was really a testament to everybody's commitment to the campus, how fast the services were restored. **The Zimmerman reference desk was being staffed at the SUB that first day. And we had paging up and ready by the end of the week, but it took another few days before they actually let us go in the building.**

Kathleen Keating

Reference Coordinator, University Libraries

On May 16 we had those 15 minutes to get into our offices. It was very dark outside our offices. You couldn't see very much. You could still smell the smoke but we wore those masks. The first thing I did was download my hard drive because I knew that was where everything I needed was and they said that the computers might not make it. I didn't know if the computer would come on. I didn't have time to do the whole drive, but I did download the main files. I wasn't so worried about anything else. I grabbed a few things—one picture and a couple of personal things—and left. Everybody was in a big hurry.

Ava Kargacin

Operations Manager, Circulation, Zimmerman Library

Ava: That first day? We realized we were homeless and we were trying to figure out where we could go. And that's when I discovered the wonderful world of science, because we ended up in the basement down there in Centennial. **It was finals. The students didn't know what was going on.** I spent the first couple of days tracking them down to tell people where they could come because the students were broke and they still needed to work.



... we were homeless.

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Z	Z
1035	1219
C45	P98

Deborah Cole: Were you able to contact them all?

A: Oh, yeah, I got most everybody. Some of them didn't show up. They decided that since there was a fire, school was over, especially students who leave right after finals. It was the ones who worked intercession that were really confused. They just didn't know what was going on. I don't think anyone knew what was going on. We weren't sure.

D: Would you set up a schedule and then have to change it the next day?

A: Oh, yeah, we had nothing set. I call it **"the summer of being homeless."** They put us wherever they could. Basically, I just lived out of my backpack. I'd start at Centennial then walk over to Parish because that's where Steve Keller and Kate Downer were doing all the paging, once we were able to get in to page books. Then we had to move all the reserve books out. The thing about the fire is that school was still going on. People still needed their resources, so we just had to figure out where to take them and that's how we ended up taking all the reserve books over to Centennial and the holds over to Parish. We were so busy doing that and organizing the students, I didn't even think about what the building looked like until they let us in. That was in May. We came in and paged the books then took them to Parish and held them and contacted people.

D: What was it like when you first came into Zimmerman again?

A: **It was weird. It was surreal,** because people were in Zimmerman cleaning and working. I saw Dan and Anne around. Ed was in there. And we put on our little helmets. I felt like something out of a Saturday Night Live skit. We went up, pulled books, and put them on carts. I checked on the kids who were at the table near the north door to stop people from coming in. They'd see us coming in. People would even walk past the table and try to walk in.

It was always confusing. One morning I'd be paging and then the next hour I'd be on Fire Watch. Everyone would say, "What are you doing right now? Are you paging or Fire Watching?" We were doing both. I was just amazed that we got it together to figure out a way to make it all keep going. Even with everything happening, we managed to keep it going.

D: And how did the students keep in contact with you?



I felt like something out of a Saturday Night Live skit.

"The student who was the computer tech person for me had some of her stuff in one of the little carrels over here. Somehow, the instructions on how to get things out of the library didn't work for her. So she just left textbook and notes and took her final without her study materials. She told her professor what happened, but he didn't care. He ended up caring; it ended up working out. But at first he wouldn't accept her excuse. Eventually the Provost sent out a notice asking faculty to take things like this into consideration. So it worked out for her. But students had a really hard time figuring out what to do, especially if they'd left work in the library."

LEE BYRNE
CAPS

Nancy Pistorius - Rm. 178
Monica Dorame - Rm. L259
Teresa Neely - Rm. A (basement)
Dan Barkley - Rm. C (basement)

A: They did it through my cell phone, which is why I ended up having a huge cell phone bill that first month. Most of my students knew my cell phone and they all started using it. That was the fun thing about everyone realizing they could use my cell phone. So what I did was I wouldn't answer my cell phone; I'd run to another phone and call them. But most of the students knew how to find me because we just let the grapevine know that we started every day in Centennial, so they'd find me there in the morning. They'd come to Centennial to sign in and then go over to Parish to work. The branches were great, because they extended their hours—Zimmerman is usually open long hours because of finals. They were trying to pick up that lag and so we moved the students back and forth. **You never knew where we were doing what** or which library would be doing the longest hours.

Aaron Blecha

Student Employee, Circulation, Zimmerman Library

Ava called me very late one evening asking if I would be willing to go back in the building. It was like some kind of Chernobyl-like disaster, you know, "Are you willing to go back in this contaminated environment?" For myself, I don't have any particular health problems, so I wasn't worried about the smoke. They said filter masks would be available and they had air purifiers. So I was actually somewhat excited. I felt like part of a vanguard. I really wanted to see what state "my library" was in. I've worked here longer than I have lived any place after leaving home, and it really pained me not to have access to this environment. So I was very excited to be allowed to come back into the building even on a very limited basis.

After that first paging, my clothes smelled like smoke and I was coughing a bit. That initial encounter with Zimmerman did make me—I'm trying to think of an equivalent experience. It definitely wasn't the best environment because I did go home that night and had a few

coughing spells, which I do attribute to being in the library. But after that, with the air purifiers—those were the large, blue air-conditioner-sized units that were placed around. They had some sort of carbon insert. **I can't recall the smell just now, but I remember encountering it once in a random location and it instantly invoked Zimmerman book stacks draped in plastic.** The air quality did improve quickly with the addition of those units.

Twila Firmature

Coordinator, eResources, University Libraries

I have several stories and a few insights related to the fire. The first has to do with paper. As an eResources librarian I always thought I didn't depend that much on paper. But with the fire I realized that I had been using paper a lot, even though I do back up all my work on a hard-drive and do work mostly online. I still had an entire office full of paper. Well, with the fire, and being displaced and away from my office, I went non-paper. I guess you could say I finally went all-E.

As a team, we were, if not up and running as normal, pretty functional by the end of that first week from home and various places. We could do a lot of our work from home. By the second week we were back to "business as usual" in a very unusual way. I am very proud of that. I was really impressed with people's putting the institution's needs in front of their own. That was a very uplifting aspect of this experience.

Linda Skye

Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Dean

DEAN'S SWEET AND NOT SO SUITE

Monday, May 1, ready for the last push of the semester, almost to intersession where one can take a deep breath and start to see summer. **Phone rings at 6 a.m., who could that be?**

It's Fran...in overdrive, but somehow very calm too...fire in the library, everyone's okay, fire's out but much damage. Come to work at Centennial today, meeting at 8 a.m.

D.R.A.T.—Room full of faces, branch directors, all the deans, folks from UNM, many, many more. Standing room only. Time to get to work!

Move in with Bruce Neville: four new office mates. What a sweetheart—open arms to all. What do you need? No problem, consider it done.



Trying to maintain the flow of information to employees, upper administration, and to campus was a real challenge over the first few weeks. Many people were working 12-18 hour days dealing with problems as they arose.

Fran Wilkinson, *UNM Today*, May 1, 2007

“As word spreads about the fire, we are beginning to get offers of help. We will not know for some time which journals we might need. Some titles were destroyed; others will be sent to a company that will try to repair water/smoke damage. Meanwhile, I will keep records of any offers, but will not be accepting any materials for quite some time. We are very grateful for all the support, and look forward to working with those who want to help us rebuild.”

LINDA K. LEWIS
Collection Development
e-mail, May 7, 2006

First trip inside the disaster—masks on! Scurry in, scurry out. Grab what you need. (Impossible to do.) Computer files, faculty search files for eventual hiring of Sarah Stohr, ongoing projects. Smoke smell burns the throat, makes your eyes feel itchy, ozone machines on full blast—a wounded Zimmerman.

Centennial folks: business as usual. So willing to offer help—computer with e-mail and calendar access, supplies, office for search committee telephone interviews, etc. etc. etc.

D.R.A.T. meetings every day, twice a day. Add coffee and bagels and it's more bearable. So much to be done all at once, but everyone is a pro, almost as though they practiced for this. Sweet.

Dean's suite made ready for early occupation—wipe, dust, shampoo, scrub, tiles out, ozone in. Clean enough—let's go, there's work to be done!

Strange: monitor, phone, pen cup, fan, vases, photo frames, binders, plants—everything has shifted ever so slightly—all has been lifted, dusted, replaced. Like returning to an altered state of being. No time to ponder—go!

Peeking through plastic sheeting: Zimmerman under attack—noise and ozone machines and dust everywhere, people cleaning everywhere, smiling workmen in hard hats and masks scrape at her private parts in the basement—**scraping and hauling out the debris - like a D and C?**

Zimmerman waits—so patient, so stalwart, so unflinching. These strangers, like the night nurse at hospital, they tend her wounds, provide the meds for healing, but are unseeing of her unique self. Patience, patience, they will come home soon.



Zimmerman waits ...

Date: **5/2/2006** 7:48 PM
 Subject: Message on Zimmerman Library from Provost Dasenbrock

As everyone in the UNM community knows, we had a serious fire in Zimmerman Library on Sunday night. Our thanks go out to everyone who responded to the emergency. By the time I got there, UNM Police, the Albuquerque Fire Department and people from the State Fire Marshal's Office were there and got the fire under control quickly, limiting the damage. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

As everyone also knows, we are close to the end of the semester, a crucial time for library use. For those who use Zimmerman primarily as a place to study, we have already made a number of alternative arrangements. The Centennial Science and Engineering Library and Parish Library are open extra hours. CAPS has relocated to Centennial for tutoring in Math and Physics and to the SUB for all other subjects. The SUB will be open extra hours, and we've set aside some quiet zones in the SUB for those studying for finals. These arrangements will continue through exam week, and details will be made available on a daily basis on the home page of the University's website.

But of course Zimmerman is more than a place to study; it is a collection of materials crucial for research for students and faculty. I regret to say that it will be closed to the general public as well as to students and faculty for some time. We need to make sure that the building is safe before it can be open for general use. However, we expect that by Thursday, we will have a document delivery system in place by which you can make a request at another library for a book. Library staff will go into the stacks and retrieve the book and get it to you at Centennial, Fine Arts or Parish. This will be available only from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and we are still working on how the system will work, so check the website for additional information. This will only cover books in the general stacks, since the periodicals and all other materials stored in the basement will be unreachable for the time being. Since some students will need this service in order to complete research papers for courses this semester, I'd like to ask others to wait until the end of exam week in order to use the system. If Zimmerman has not opened by the beginning of the first summer session, we will continue this in the Summer Sessions. It may be possible to use Interlibrary Loan for other materials, so please consult with ILL and with reference librarians.

Assuming this gets up and running by Thursday, faculty need to understand that students will not have had access to the library for three crucial days of the semester, with limited access thereafter. There will be some courses, particularly in the fields covered by Zimmerman—humanities, social sciences, and education—in which this may cause a delay in students being able to complete assignments. I am therefore asking all faculty to be sensitive to these issues and to be flexible in terms of offering extensions on assignments in cases where access to library materials during these days was crucial for the completion of the assignment. We obviously all hope that everyone can complete the semester on time, and I know the community will pull together at this time. The library staff and faculty, led by Dean Camila Alire, will be working long hours to get everything back to normal just as soon as is possible, and I would like to thank Dean Alire and everyone in the Library for their dedication and effort this week and in the weeks to come.

A final word: Sunday's events remind us that unexpected events do happen. I was disturbed to hear that a few people on Sunday didn't take the fire alarm seriously and some even tried to evade the security and get back into the building. Please obey the directions of all security personnel, whether they be from the Police, the Fire Department, or Campus Security, not just in the next few days but more generally.

Good luck with the rest of the semester, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Commencement on Saturday, May 13th, or at one of the many other end-of-the-year events.

Please keep checking the UNM homepage for updated information.

Reed Dasenbrock

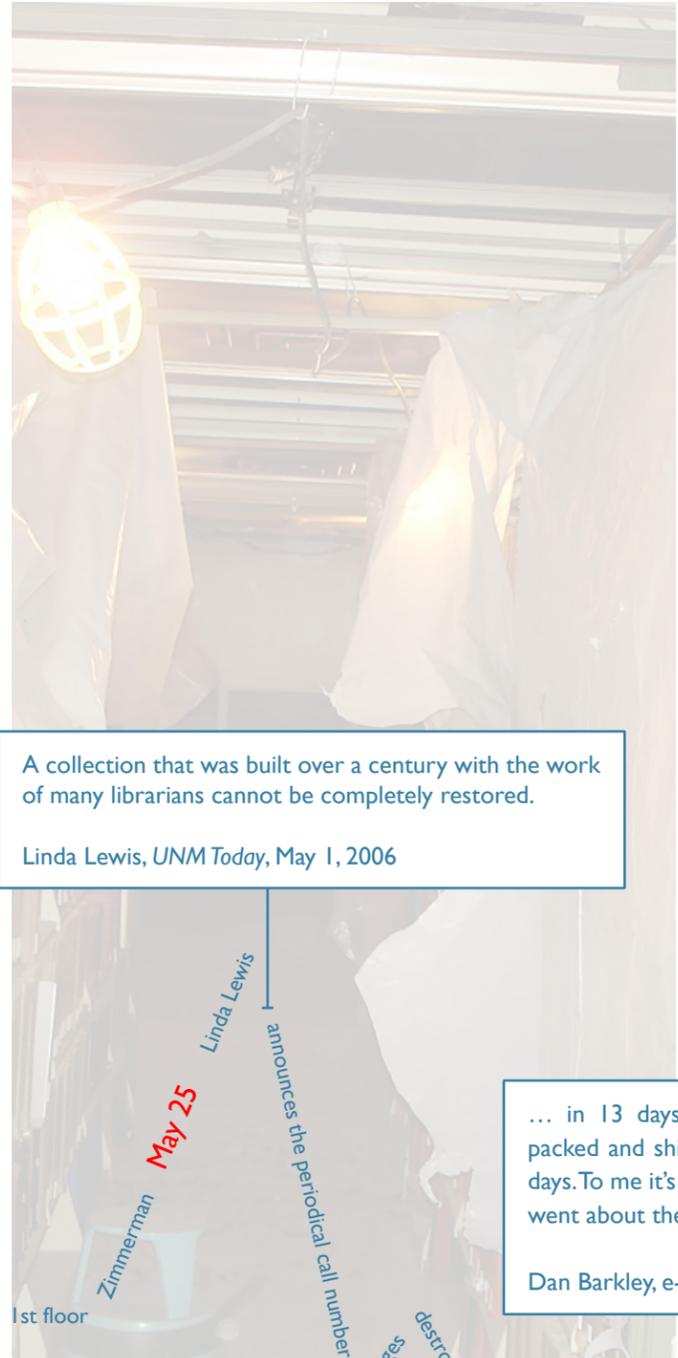




“The building had assumed a personality, a character in this story.”

NANCY DENNIS
Assistant Dean

Alire announces UL will proceed with the creation of the Research Plaza,



A collection that was built over a century with the work of many librarians cannot be completely restored.

Linda Lewis, *UNM Today*, May 1, 2006

1st floor Zimmerman May 25 Linda Lewis announces the periodicals call number ranges destroyed

... in 13 days approximately 130 microfiche/microfilm cabinets were packed and shipped and I'm guessing approximately 13,000 boxes. In 13 days. To me it's simply incredible how quickly and professionally BMS CAT went about their business and got our material out for remediation.

Dan Barkley, e-mail, May 27, 2006

in the fire May 27 Final box of periodicals packed, loaded, & shipped to BMS CAT, Ft. Worth, TX for cleaning BMS CAT May 29 Code

ZIMMERMAN

Aaron Blecha
Student Employee, Zimmerman Library

I expected to just walk back in and have that familiar atmosphere there. But I was surprised; everything was covered in plastic. There were some lights on, but not many, because many of the power breakers, distributors and such, for safety reasons, many of them were turned off and I take it one or two were even destroyed in the fire. And also, immediately after the fire, the recovery and cleaning crews came in and had taken down all the ceiling tiles. So it extended the space of the ceiling three or four more feet. There were various wires and ventilation ducts exposed and other infrastructure in addition to everything being gray. That, in conjunction with the limited light really produced a different effect. It was almost like going to visit a friend who had just had surgery and their physical condition is much different. There wasn't this immediate correlate of this environment that I was used to. It was almost like being in a different building. In addition to the heavy smell of smoke, they'd laid down plastic pathways for moving equipment in and to take rubble out. There were various things strewn about. It wasn't the vibrant social space and living research space it once was. It was sort of like a tomb.

Nancy Dennis
Assistant Dean

Nancy: The morning of May 1, when I walked by Zimmerman, it was all cordoned off and fire trucks and Fire Marshal vehicles were still here. The parking lot

was completely closed and, of course, **you could smell it. You couldn't really see a lot of smoke, but you could smell it**, just walking by.

I don't think Camila was here that first morning, so Fran assembled us all at Centennial and gave us the most current information she had. She and Ed got into the building, finally, I think she said around 3:00 a.m. They were able to get permission from the Fire Marshal who took them in just to get a sense of the damage. During the night she was outside looking in windows of the West Wing. It was obscured with the smoke. We look back on it now and realize that that was probably the most significant damage to the building, what kept it closed longer than anything else: the smoke damage. That's why the building got completely cleaned. The whole air conditioning and ventilation system had to be cleaned from the air handlers down in the basement to the ventilation ducts throughout the building.

Deborah Cole: How did you feel when you first went into the basement?

N: I think that was the first time I had a strong sense that we no longer had any control over the building and it really wasn't about the library as a library. Zimmerman is a UNM building, a facility. It being a library is an important part of the story but the Physical Plant has a different sense of what this facility is, the Provost has a different sense, Risk Management, the police, the Fire Marshal—everybody has a different perspective of what this facility is. Of course, to us it's a library housing our collections and it's where we work and have committed our careers, but that's only one perspective on this particular building. At that moment, the fact that it was a library was not the priority. Your building can be closed, for a crime investigation, for health reasons or whatever. In fact, when we came in we had to wear a respirator face mask. You could see the result of fire fighters and investigators walking through from the north doors. You could see the mud and the grit and the grime. On the 1st floor some things were out of place, but it didn't have that overwhelming sense of disaster ... it was kind of quiet. But as we went down the stairs, **the smell was pretty dramatic.**

There aren't too many times, at least in my experience in this building, where it is totally quiet. Most regular full time employees leave around 5:00 p.m., but there's a whole other life to this building after 5:00 and when the building closes. It's full of life and noise and activities that we don't typically observe or participate in. But when we in the library administration moved back in and all the remediation was still swirling around us, most other library employees were

*...it really wasn't
about the library
as a library.*

made to
remove all
walls, ceilings, and floor
coverings in

out of the building. There were really quiet moments in the building and it was daylight! The building had assumed a personality, a character in this story. At the end of the day I would walk out saying good night to the building. "Okay, well, today you had your venting cleaned," or "We ran into this problem today."

A.J. LaBelle

Student Employee, Print Resources

I thought it was cool, like being in a cavern. It was all dark and kind of **nasty smelling**. I thought, "That's cool." It was like a new environment. Then everything got back to normal again, a boring old library. [Laughter]

Lee Byrne

Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS

Coming in here that day, there was tons of plastic because they were cleaning here and there. The smell was so ... oh my, gosh ... it was so ... smoky. [Laughs] There wasn't smoke in the air but that burning smell, **it smelled bad**. We did not have to wear masks, but we couldn't stay in here for long and ... this was a week after the fire. I don't know if those ozone machines came in right away or not. But I do know one time I came up here—I wasn't here for very long at all. I was feeling really, "Oooooo, ooooo!" [Laughs] When I left I saw one of the machines, and I thought, "Oh. Big huge ozone machines. That's what's wrong with me: too much oxygen!" [Laughter]

Barbara Aragon

Custodian, Zimmerman Library

Deborah Cole: How was it, being inside Zimmerman for the first time after the fire?

Barbara: Back here in CSWR and on the 3rd floor it was eerie at first because there was nobody there. I'd have to come by and check things, try all the doors. None of them were



coverings in

Zimmerman basement due to smoke
damage

Meeting with State Fire Marshal and
Physical Plant to

discuss fire protection system for Zimmerman

June 1

Carpet, tile, baseboard, and paint colors selected for Zimmerman 1st floor

BMS CAT

open. Nobody was here, just the construction workers, me and the guards. And the guards just stood at the door saying, “No, you can’t come through here.” When I’d go up to the 3rd floor and check up there? Nobody. Nobody, nobody, nobody. And everything was encased in plastic. **All the books up there were encased in plastic.** The ceiling tiles were all off. Everything was weird. It was a strange time with everything in plastic, no ceiling tiles, just the concrete up there. Really pretty!

D: When they asked you to clean the restrooms in the basement, was that your first time down there?

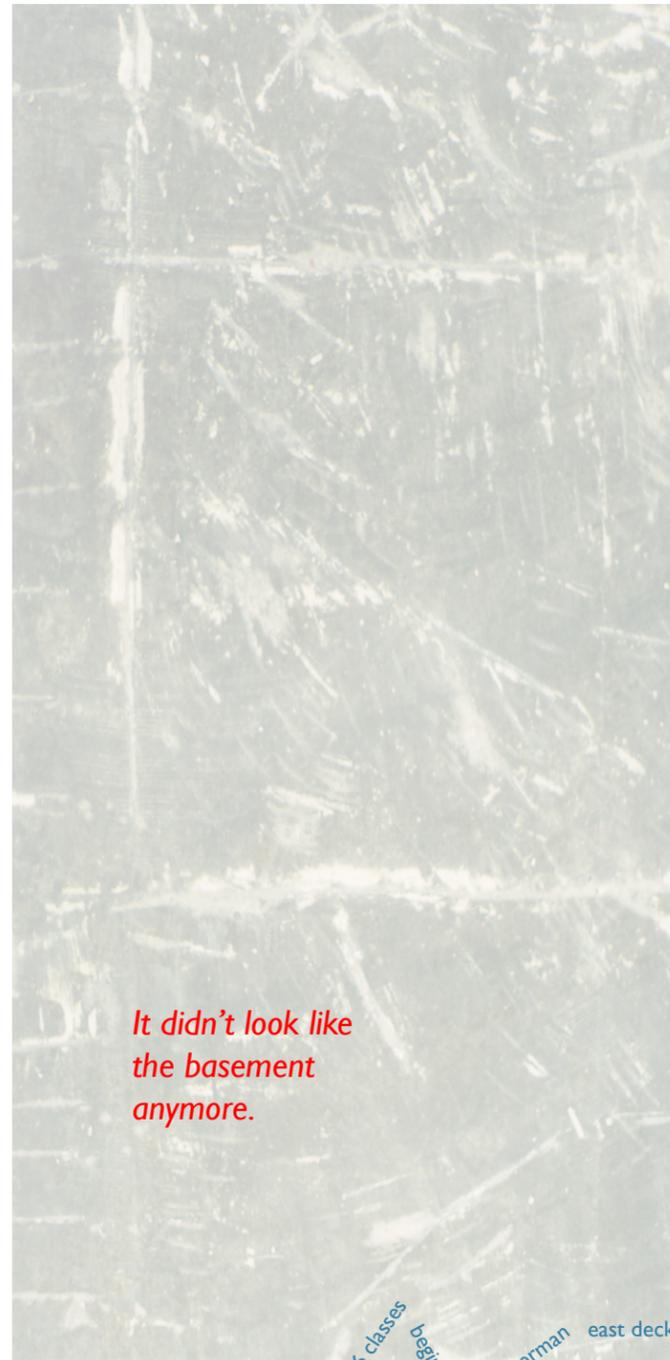
B: Actually, I got to know one of the BMS CAT [BMS Catastrophe Company] people who had been cleaning and I wanted to see the basement. So she said, “Bring your hardhat and I’ll take you downstairs.” When I walked downstairs, I couldn’t believe it. It didn’t look like the basement anymore. They had started tearing down the walls. They had some of them down and they were working on others. Actually, what I did was tour the restrooms to see if they needed any supplies. It was just unreal. They weren’t as bad as I thought they would be. They were mostly smoky. **Everything was really gray.** They weren’t as bad because the people from BMS had sort of cleaned it. They took most of the soot off, but there was still a pale gray, a real nice pale gray. It was actually very pretty. [Laughs] You could still smell the smoke, though. Even now, I go down there to check on the restrooms when there are people working down there. You can still smell the smoke in the restrooms.

Ellee Cushing-Cruver

Student Employee, CAPS

Deborah Cole: When did you return to Zimmerman?

Ellee: I think we got back in a few days before our fall training session in August, so it was really hectic. We had a lot of cleaning to do. We found things exactly where they had been left, papers on the desks. You’d pick up the paper and there was a rectangular outline of dust around where the paper had been. I know the building had been cleaned, but then they turned on the vents and more stuff came out. **We kept finding bits of dust and stuff.**



It didn't look like the basement anymore.

2006 classes begin
Zimmerman east deck

Pat B.

Receptionist, Office of the Dean



There was a strange odor, not like wood smoke. It wasn’t as strong as I expected, which surprised me, but it was definitely there. We walked through clear plastic sheeting that was overlapped. You had to go through folds of sheeting at the bottom and the top of the stairs. It was like an airlock or something. At least that’s what I remember. The air from the stairwells was shut off. The stairs were dustier. When you got out of the stairwell **it didn’t smell as bad on the 2nd floor.**

There was a lot of dust, fine dust. We’d dust everything off in the offices. Of course, there’d been professional cleaners who had wiped everything down really well, but, still, we did a daily dusting. The copier would have this very thin—not real noticeable until you went to touch it—film of dust. You’d feel that there was dust on it again and you’d think, “I just dusted that yesterday!” And you’d do it again and the next day you’d come in and do the same thing.

Then there was watching the items being removed from the 1st floor, from where the smoke came up, and watching the walls come down and be reconfigured—all that change—you really got to know the building from the whole building to a bare skeleton and back to a building, a useable building again. It was very interesting to watch that metamorphosis. And then the ceiling tiles, talk about dust [laughs], we had a new kind of dust. We were dusting pieces of ceiling tile and insulation off the photocopier.

When they were working on the air ducts, they took all the ceiling tiles down and there was no sound buffer. **When the fans would come on it was like being under an airplane.** In the office where we were it would be a big “ROAR.” You couldn’t hear your telephone conversations. It was just a roar until they got the new ceiling tiles back up there. You don’t think of your air conditioning and heating as being loud, but it’s because the sound dissipates in that dead space behind the tiles. For that period of time, it was not that quiet up there.



membrane

examined for damage

June 9

LIT schedules

appointments to download files from fire-damaged staff

PCs for

transfer

to temporary workstations

June 10 Pack-out of Zimmerman basement collections complete June 12 1st floor design review June 13

Twila Firmature

Coordinator, eResources

Several months after the fire, during one of the update meetings Nancy Dennis held of the Content Acquisitions and Access Services group [CAAS], of which the eResources Team is a part, the topic of which Zimmerman keys people should turn in or keep came up. It was a long conversation. Some of us had keys for the outside door. Since that had been re-keyed, we knew we had to turn those in. But various people had keys to doors that led into the staff offices on the 1st floor of Zimmerman. There was quite a bit of discussion about whether to keep those keys or not. Then Nancy suddenly looked up with a funny expression on her face and said, "But that door isn't there anymore." We all laughed. It was pretty clear what we had to do with those keys. The door no longer existed.

Ed Castillo-Padilla

Manager, Facilities Services

In those early days right after we weren't allowed into the building and the smells and sights were still so vivid in everyone's mind? That was difficult for everybody, including the Physical Plant. They were really taken aback by it because it's a building they work on and really liked. Some of them even called to give me their condolences; they were really upset.

"They've pulled all of the Zimmerman holdings out of the system. That library doesn't exist any more."

KATHRYN WOOD
Interlibrary Loan



But that door isn't there anymore.

"Zimmerman is far more than a building."

FRAN WILKINSON
Interim Dean

English language materials from storage to be



... because Zimmerman was "dead," you know.

SUSAN MAGEE
Web Services

cataloged Δ

Pack-out invoices received June 15

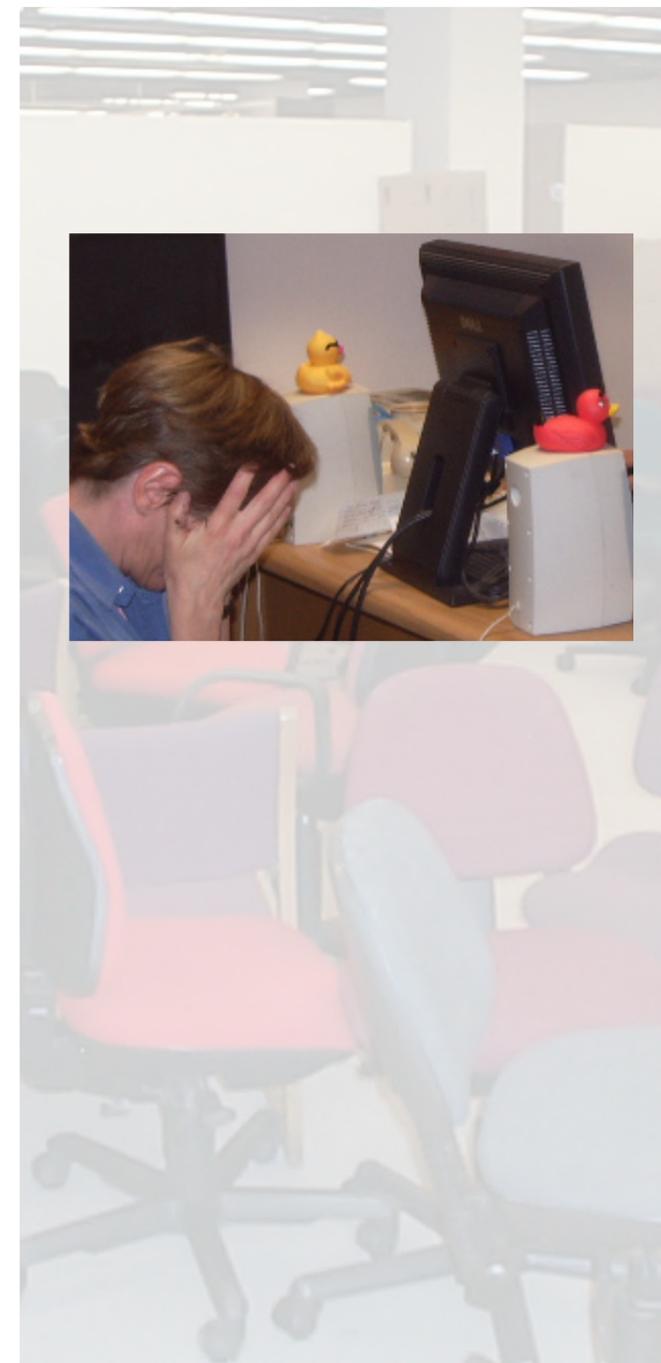
Third library-wide meeting at SUB Δ Team formed to manage



Think outside the box? How about inside the box?

Row #1
Carl Donsbach #6 DESK
#5 Cork Board
#10 Cork Board
Louise Stowe #10 DESK
#11 DESK
#15 Study Carvill
Gail Lane #19 DESK
#20 DESK
#21 CHAIR
#6 DESK
#9 DESK

submitted to insurance company for reimbursement Δ Meeting



D^IS PLACED S

Pat B.

Receptionist, Office of the Dean

Pat: I started keeping—or tried to keep—a temporary roster about who was where and how to call them or get in touch with them. At first there were a lot of people working out of their homes: people were sharing offices at Parish and Centennial. Fine Arts had one person they squeezed into their space. There were people who had no phones or no cell phones. There were those who were at home trying to do everything by e-mail. Then something would change and someone would say, “Oh, I’ve got a space over here.” Then someone who was working from home would come in and have a different phone number and a different location. So I tried to keep up with all of that.

Everyone was winging it, you know. I felt bad for the people who’d been displaced and for everyone who had their space invaded with one or two or ten people. [Laughs] For me, the phone stretched across the floor was nothing compared to what other people were dealing with.

Deborah Cole: Was there anything you got so used to when you were up there on the 2nd floor all alone, all of you in administration, and you could only go to the restroom and back? Besides the phones was there anything else odd?

P: I know that we had a small printer in the Dean’s office in addition to the large Xerox printer and I think it ended up over in Centennial so that some of the displaced people could have a port to print to, but then as people started coming back to the computers in their offices and printing to that printer they’d realize it was printing to somewhere in Centennial. I’d say, “I don’t know where your document is. If it went anywhere, it went there.” It took a while to get defaults changed. It became a standard that if it showed up over there, we’d figure it out and reprint it.

concerning conservation of Zimmerman art works June 21 Conveyor assembled for periodical pack-out from north loading dock stairwell Δ Conveyor reserved for Pack Back after Zimmerman

Susan Magee

Coordinator, Web Services and Customer Studies

Susan: Eric Nudell was the first one on our doorstep. He showed up Monday, May 1, right after we opened. It was, “Hello. Do you have a place I can set up?” We did actually have two vacant offices. I think it was that same day that Dave Herzel came over and took the other office for Zimmerman circulation purposes. So Dave, Mark Herrel, Kate Downer and Steve Keller—all of those people who were pagers—worked out of that office. While I was on vacation, Dave took over my office so he had a space away from the paging, because the paging was so intense. Dave had other things to deal with after he got the paging running.

So it was very interesting. Parish normally has a very small staff of ten, I think. Since the fire, over this past year, we’ve got close to 50 people, with the students included. We’ve got 50 employees in the building. For an introvert like me, I go in and I close my door. Now I’ve always worked with my door closed, so it’s not like that has changed. Though people might think that I go in and lock myself in, but it’s not like that. It’s just the way I work. In fact when I first moved to Parish from Centennial, my office at Centennial was all the way down in the stacks, so I always had my door closed there. So at Parish I just kept my door closed because I get easily distracted by people walking by and talking. When I first moved to Parish someone made the comment that I wasn’t very friendly because I didn’t leave my door open all the time, so I explained that it was just the way I worked. So, I’m sure there’ve been some queries about the same thing since everyone moved in.

Deborah Cole: But it is hard when you have that whole hallway full of people.

S: Yeah, **there are six people right outside my door that weren’t there before.**

Ava Kargacin

Manager, Circulation, Zimmerman Library

I was never so glad when finals were over. At least it was intersession when we were trying to do most of the stuff. I was just so happy; it was like my birthday present. My birthday’s June 20th and they said we would be back in the building by then. Actually I think it was a couple of

“We had this little office in which three of us were working—it was a little bit smaller than your office here, which is 10 by 12 feet or so. We’re very lucky we got along.”

AARON BLECHA
Student Employee

“There are days when there’s just not enough oxygen for us all in the building.”

SUSAN MAGEE
Web Services



days after, but it was close enough. Everything in Circulation was covered in plastic and there was dust all over, but I didn’t care. I was so happy to be back at my desk and not feel like the backpack woman, because that’s all we did. We kept going back and forth, Centennial to Parish, and I had my backpack and just carried everything with me, my notebooks, my schedules, because if people changed their schedules, I had to write it down. I really felt close to the homeless. I really know how they felt, except I had food.

Aaron Blecha

Student Employee, Zimmerman Library

So in addition to working evenings at Parish, I did show up at Centennial to see if there was anything more to do or if I needed to go any place else. It was finals week, so students were in a bind. Myself, I had a lot of pressure because I had a lot of school work to do, but going into Centennial was very strange because it is a basement, underground library, so it does have a bunker or submarine-type feel to it. Walking in some of the back rooms and corridors or through stacks of books, there were people, some familiar and some not, walking down these corridors. The space felt very confined to me. If people were walking by carrying stuff you’d have to lean to one side and say, “Excuse me; excuse me.” Every once in a while I’d see this line of three or four people coming towards me and I’d recognize another **Zimmerman refugee**. So it had this guise of a ship that had sunk and all the surrounding ships in the fleet had to rescue these sailors or passengers that had been on board it. Every time I encountered a supervisor I was familiar with—I always reported to Dave Herzel or Ava—they’d have so much information to relate very quickly. “If you see so-and-so, tell them ...” “I need to e-mail so-and-so and I don’t know if they’re in front of a computer or not.” So they’d give you these cryptic messages if you came across them. “So-and-so said to give them a call,” or “Do you remember this particular fact?” or “Did you happen to pick this up out of your office when you had the chance?” You realized in this age of hyper-communication that the real information transfer is still face-to-face. A lot of serendipity was involved. That was a very powerful event, people being at Centennial, the congestion there, just being around people in such strange states, both students and staff. But I have to say that the people at all the branch libraries were very gracious in terms of accommodating people.

Evangela Oates and Sarah Stohr

Library Residents, University Libraries

Evangela: I was homeless. I was a wayward child after the fire. The fire happened April 30 and I didn't get a space that was really my own until January. In that area we shared behind circulation, that desk I had there? Pat Fairchild was there originally, then Michele Mals.

Sarah: Anyone that walked by would say, "Is Evangela here?" People I'd never seen in my life would sit down at that desk and do work. "Well, if Evangela's not here." With Evangela's space it was a free-for-all.

E: If no one was there, you could sit down and use it. Before we got back into Zimmerman, I would go from Richard Lujan's office in Parish to Centennial. There was a little space I could grab there and I would go back and forth. Later I toggled back and forth from Richard's office to that free-for-all desk behind Circulation. I was losing stuff, if it wasn't in folders before the fire. You know the history of Centennial Library project? I would go interview someone and I would not know where their stuff went. I'd look around. I'd walk from Centennial to Zimmerman and it would vanish. My flash drive? I left that so many times in so many computers. "Where was I last?" [Laughter]

Joe Lane and Kathryn Wood

Interlibrary Loan

Joe: There were six of us in that little room in Centennial.

Kathryn: I came in to work on Wednesday or Thursday or whenever it was that I was told to come in and there were six of us plus everyone had a computer plus stacks of books and book carts in one of those group study carrels which is meant to hold maybe three or four people with laptops maximum and I was joking, "Well, I hope we are suspending the sexual harassment laws because [laughter] there's no way we can avoid touching each other. I mean, Joe and I were practically sitting in each other's laps. [Laughter] You didn't need to pass the books, you could just reach. That's how close it was in there.

Six people and six computers in a little room.



... we colonized the room next door.

Deborah Cole: Was it the size of this room [9 x 12 feet]?

J: It was about the same space but skinnier.

K: And the heat with all of our bodies plus six computers! If somebody wanted to get up, you had to make an announcement, "Getting up!" so everyone could scoot their chairs in.

J: After the semester was over, we split up into the room next to us; three of us stayed in one room.

K: We colonized the room next door.

J: Then a month later Bruce Neville told us, "Oh, there's a room back here. We're using it as a storage room, but you can use it now. It's a little bigger." It held about a hundred boxes.

K: Towering boxes from floor to ceiling. It was the room way back in the south corner.

J: They had government publications and other science books that someone was supposed to go through to decide if they were going to catalog them. We were sharing an office with them. We were worried that they had mice and things in there, too.

D: You all were elbow to elbow, book to book, butt to butt, or whatever [laughter], initially. Are there any stories or thoughts about that?

K: Well, we're kind of tethered to our computers. Everything happens through them. We had to have a fixed IP address. We had to have a fixed office, so we were never nomadic the way a lot of reference librarians were who just had a laptop and a little, wheely suitcase.

J: We had to open our mail outside the room we were in over at Centennial because it was too small and it kind of disturbed people because they were studying in the halls.

K: Bernadette Anglada is pretty energetic when she rips into those packages [laughter]. I used to stay out of her way when we were in the big office. "Watch out! She's opening the mail!"

J: She can toss stuff around, the boxes and envelopes.

D: Well, you've had a rowdy time recalling those good old days. Maybe if I brought in three more people it would feel like home.

K: Yeah, because now that I'm the only one still at Centennial, I never see them at all anymore. Joe and I were right next to each other. **I miss not having the chatter over the computers or hearing the updates on the dogs and the cats and the kids.**

Consuelo and A.J. LaBelle

Student Employees, Print Resources

AJ: They moved us to Parish on the 2nd floor. It was terrible.

Consuelo: So many people; you know that little classroom? And we were all trying to adjust and make it our own.

AJ: There were three or four students and only one student computer, so it was kind of tense for a while because people would say, "Oh, it's my work space," or "No, it's mine." It was just among the students. I don't think the staff really knew about it.

Deborah Cole: Or they may have been having their own issues.

AJ: Right, that's what I was thinking, so we had our own moments like, "That's my computer. What are you doing?" [Laughs]

C: Or, "She's getting in at 10:00; we better hurry to get there first," so we could get work.

AJ: But it worked out pretty quickly. They got the computers as fast as they could. Now, it's nice. There still aren't enough computers, but I've got a computer so I'm happy.

C: One student who'd worked in our area before, Joella, once the fire happened she went to do shelving. She was the only student from before that came back. We have Rik's [Burkard] students and we're Kathy's [Gienger] and Joella used to be Bing-Shan's [Fazio] but now I think she's Joanne's [Donsbach] or something.

"I remember the first time I walked into the office where all our staff was housed in Mitchell Hall and it was like a little classroom with eight or nine women in there all summer. It was so funny, because you could feel the tension between them. It was way too close quarters. They were used to their own offices and their own spaces and they were sharing computers and desks. It was a riot watching them have to deal with each other."

ELLEEE CUSHING-CRUYER
CAPS

It was terrible.

So many people; you know that little classroom? And we were all trying to adjust and make it our own.



AJ: Most of the students were shelving. We'd say, "That's our work. Leave it."

D: You got a little territorial.

AJ: Yeah, territorial, "This is our work. You've got yours."

C: That's what I heard from everybody, even from CSWR people. There was a lot of drama about people worrying about their work, saying "We do that work faster than they do," and getting mad. And this is just from other students at other places.

AJ: Yeah, we really had to redefine our boundaries.

D: Is it better now?

C: It's much better. Not 100%.

AJ: It does wear on you, being in a cramped environment all the time. **You're basically fine with it, but you want them to hurry up and get the basement done.** [Laughter]

Lee Byrne

Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS

Lee: One of the things that Karen Olson, our director, and Michele Steiner managed to do during all this was to get CAPS staff an office, a place to be during the summer, which was lucky for us—astoundingly fortunate for us—and ... astoundingly odd. We were in what used to be a classroom. I had classes in this room in Mitchell Hall when I was a student. It was not a very large classroom, but it had been turned into an office. It had dividers and, I would say, it had enough room and divisions for five people and there were eight of us, minimum, sometimes there were nine of us in there. **It was just ... another surreal thing.** I'm using that word a lot but that's really what it was. It was really strange. And I had lots and lots to do over there, because by now we had the servers up. But! We were over there with no computers because we could take no computers out of the library, including laptops. It was, "No-oo-oo." Because of the investigation and insurance and that. We were in a room that had two ethernet

connections and eight people. So I was pulling in every favor I could. Calling my pals at ITS [Information Technology Services] saying, “Yes, we need connections.” And they came and gave us all these connections. Karen found a printer we borrowed, which I was able to set up so we could all print to one printer. There were a couple of computers that were already in the office and for a while we were all bringing our own laptops from home. Then CASTL [Center for the Advancement of Scholarship in Teaching and Learning] loaned us some computers. Then pretty soon we were able to bring a couple of CAPS laptops over, so we ended up all having some sort of computer to use.

There were two phones and that was craziness as well, because our CAPS phones in Zimmerman were forwarded over there. Two phones. We’d say, “What phone is ringing? And what am I going to do with it?” [Laughs] We made so many jokes, because the staff was at that time all women. (We have one male staff member now.) We had “eight women in a box.” [Laughter] Sometimes it really felt like it. And for some of us it was rough ... I think everybody did the best they could in the circumstances. I’m one of the people that find it very difficult to work like that. And I tried my best to be good and sometimes was and sometimes wasn’t. But most of us did really well in conditions that were not easy for us given our normally spoiled circumstances with these big old offices we have.

Deborah Cole: It must have been odd being separated so far from the tutors.

L: We did not have the SUB all summer; we also had rooms in the Humanities Building. The English Department gave us rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The people over there were great, especially Amy Jamison at the English Department; she was so wonderful. She worked with us so much. It was great. They gave us a closet where we could keep books. We had to get our textbooks from Zimmerman and took them over there.

D: So you came into Zimmerman in shifts, gradually unloading from here?

L: Yes. And we tried not to take too much stuff out. Beverly bought us all these new things at the bookstore. She said, “Okay, everyone needs a little notebook.” So she would come back with a little notebook for each of us. “Everybody needs a pen.” So she’d come back with pens. She made sure that we had the supplies we needed. I’d say, “Oh, I need a blue highlighter.” And she’d write it on her little list and go get it.



It’s like when you go on vacation, it’s really hard to pack the bags when you’re on the way out the door, but when you’re in the hotel you know what goes in the bag, so you can just put it in your bag and get on.

“On a typical day I could be at Mesa Vista Hall, then at Centennial, then at Zimmerman, then at Fine Arts, then at home.”

KATHLEEN KEATING
Reference Coordinator, UL

We kind of liked Mitchell Hall because we were on the 1st floor. We had windows; we could see outside. We could walk out our door, walk out the door of the building and be at the Duck Pond. That piece was really nice. **If the “box” got to you too much, the door was there, you walked out it and you could go talk to the ducks and the turtles or whatever.** We’re going to miss that.

D: So what was it like when you finally knew you were coming back in?

L: You know, it’s like when you go on vacation, it’s really hard to pack the bags when you’re on the way out the door, but when you’re in the hotel you know what goes in the bag, so you can just put it in your bag and get on. [Laughs] It was very much like that.

I think that the library administration didn’t know when we would be able to come back. They’d say, “I think you can come back at this time;” then, “Well, no, we think it’s going to be this other time.” And when we finally got the last date, the date we were really going to be able to come back, we felt like, “Are you sure?”

Kathleen Keating
Reference Coordinator, University Libraries

Deborah Cole: Besides being displaced, is there anything that stands out about the disruption caused by the fire?

Kathleen: When I came back from my sabbatical, I had it all together. I had notes and was getting stuff done. I had goals and objectives and I wanted to do things. Once the fire hit and everything went, everything collapsed, I lost track. It felt like a blur, a foggy or a blank. I couldn’t remember things. It took a long time before I felt like I was back to being on top of things or multi-tasking and going after tasks at high speed like I usually do. **I’d just sit at home and do nothing. I didn’t have a place to go.** I could have gone to Centennial, but I’d just have been sitting there. So the whole job came to a halt. There was no place to do it and I didn’t have the resources and **people weren’t ready for reference training.** It felt like my job ended in certain ways. It just stopped for about a month or two. I would have liked to have done more reference hours, but there was such an outpouring of volunteers that there wasn’t more to

do there. I was at Centennial with a laptop in George's office to begin with, but it was so cold in his office—it was just freezing—I didn't want to work there. So I'd go home and work and come back in for different Fire Watch or reference hours. Then I got Bruce Neville's old office, then Linda Lewis' old office and then I moved into the office that Mark Emmons has now in the Reference suite in Centennial. That helped a little. But it was crazy. On a typical day I could be at Mesa Vista Hall, then at Centennial, then at Zimmerman, then at Fine Arts, then at home. It was scattered. I didn't feel like I was very productive at all. I couldn't concentrate. I didn't have a quiet space for that. Even during the fall semester. I didn't move into this office until some time in January. But now I'm back to speed, not just staring into space thinking, "What am I supposed to be doing?"

I felt guilty about it. I'd think about people in Acquisitions, how they got right into what they needed to do and "Boom!" they're back into their jobs and they're working like dogs. And I was just floating thinking, "I don't know where I'm supposed to be or what I'm supposed to do." It was very strange. I'd do Fire Watch, my reference hours and the Mesa Vista satellite and then **if I didn't have any specific thing to do or place to go, I just went home. And then I felt guilty.** People weren't interested in being trained in the middle of all this.

Twila Firmature

Coordinator, eResources

We did not have to interrupt any services after the first week. Centennial gave us a room and two laptops where people could come and check e-mail. We scheduled people there for a few hours at a time, so that everyone had some time on those computers. This allowed some of our team to come into work physically. A couple chose to work at home from their own computers. And I soon learned that though we could work from home if we needed to, most people also needed that social contact. That's an aspect I'm not always aware of since I tend to be thinking about what needs getting done. I register the tasks and the projects, but not the emotions. **Our first meeting after the fire was at my house since we didn't have a room on campus.** Usually our meetings, if they end early, just end. People leave. Well, at this meeting, people didn't leave. They stayed, which was fine with me. They needed that contact. We needed that personal contact. After that we tried to have regular meetings, though there wasn't always a good room for us to hold them in.



Sever, Carol and I visited PML Friday morning to scope out the space (with Susan Magee) that you indicated could be available for some of the Print Resources and LIBROS group employees—and it looks like some of the RMBA folks too. We estimate that the classroom will accommodate 6 from the Acquisitions group, we can set-up receiving in the work room (2-3 more people), and cataloging (5-7 more people) and storage in some of the carrels downstairs.... We are still working on the serials checkin function and may use your workstation in the downstairs work room for the short term if that doesn't create too much of a problem....

Obviously, many details remain to be sorted out, but I wanted to thank you for your generosity and future hospitality. All the PML folks we have contacted have been very helpful and eager to do whatever they can to contribute to the cause. Thank you, thank you, thank you...We will be in touch.
Nancy and Sever

The LIT Service Center line has been successfully forwarded to a phone at Parish Library.... If you are a relocated worker, please note in your message your current location: room number, building, and nearby phone, if you have one. For those of you who do BOTH an e-mail and a voice mail, please note having done so, so we know the two are related, and not separate problems.

AND... last but not least, THANKS everyone, for your patience!

TO: DRAT-L
SUBJECT: Current approved priority list

Please see the approved priority list for computers in the attached spreadsheet. I currently am working with the State Library to get additional computers on site. Once the agreement is finalized and the equipment on site, we should be able to meet everyone's needs in short order.

"... we really had to redefine our boundaries."

ALL LIBRILLIE
Student Employee

TO: LIBPERS-L
SUBJECT: Budget and Cost Management Reminders

Purchases: For any purchases, fire-related or otherwise, please follow the normal request and approval procedures. If you should have any questions, please call us and leave us a voice-mail and we'll get back to you.

Telephones: We are also following normal telephone request procedures for any fire-related phone moves. These have to be coordinated at Telecommunications in order to be submitted properly to Risk Management.

Timesheets: Biweekly timesheets need to be filled out as normal while on administrative leave. Student timesheets need to be submitted for hours worked during this time period, which is following our normal procedures. Timesheets will be due following the regular schedule, which is Friday, May 12 at 1:00 p.m.

More information to follow next week on where to turn your timesheets in depending on where BCM is located.

Evangelga Oates and Sarah Stohr

Library Residents, University Libraries

Sarah: One of the things I think was really helpful for me after I got here was after the fire when everyone in Zimmerman reference got moved back behind circulation. There was Heidi Perea, Evangelga, Michele Mals, Annelise Sklar, Monica Dorame, Dan Barkley and all the Government Information Department [GID] students all in that one area. Not only did I get to know them, but anytime I had a question there were **twenty-seven thousand people there to answer it.** [Laughter]

Evangelga: You couldn't even have a thought without someone interfering.

S: That was really hard, to sit there and try to get something done while everyone is like, "Hi; what are you doing?" and conversations going on everywhere. So that was not at all what I expected to walk into, having a job. [Laughter]

Kathleen Keating

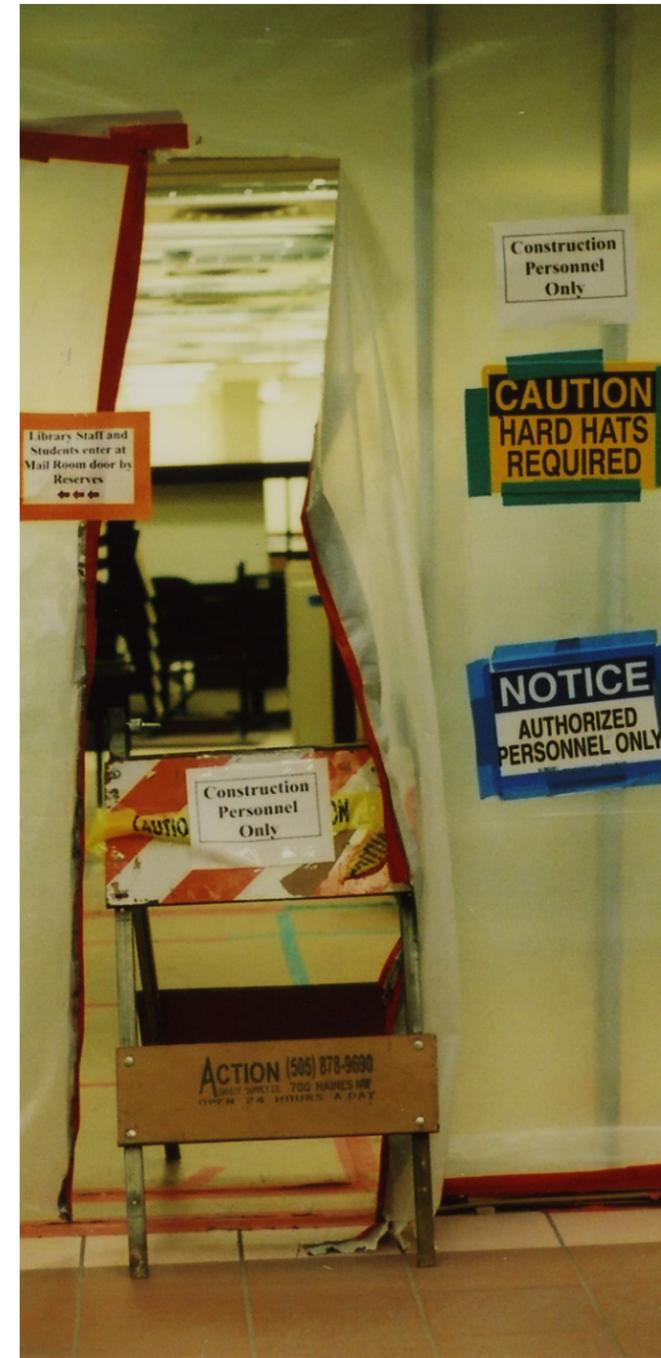
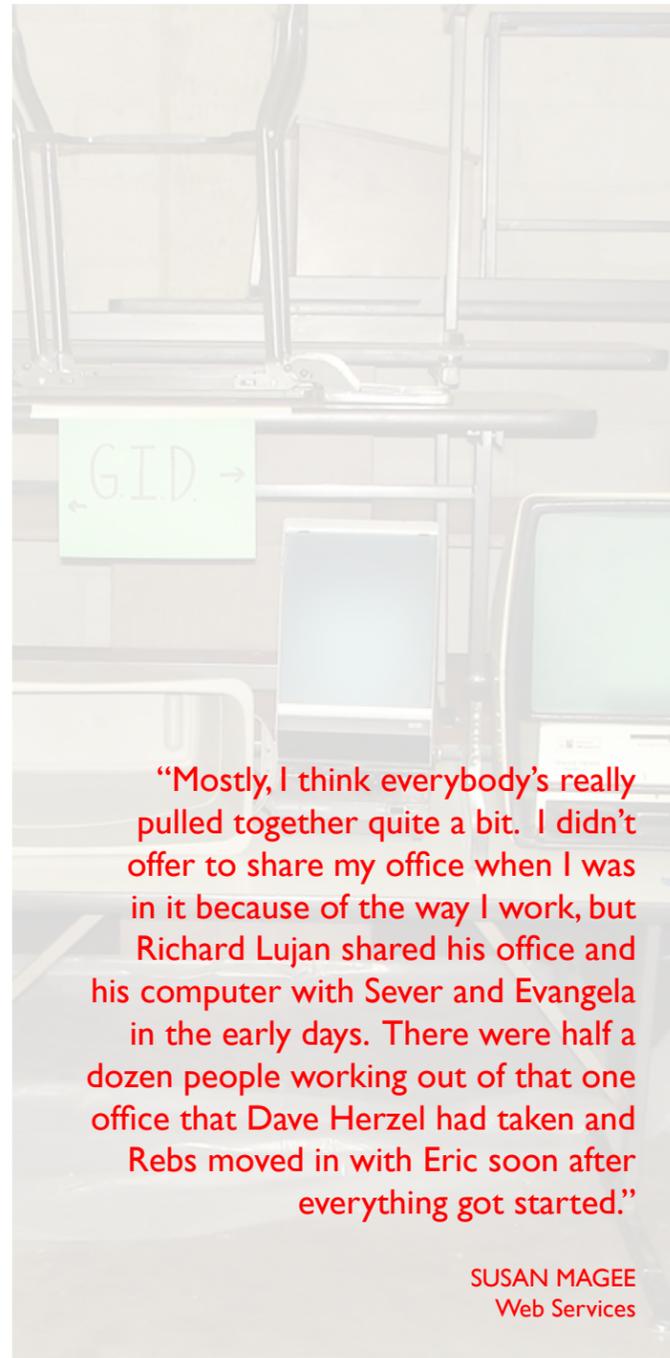
Reference Coordinator, University Libraries

Kathleen: Whenever I think of the basement, I still see my office like it was, you know, bounding down the stairs and turning left at the corner and the Interlibrary Loan people and Barb Rosen are still there and then my office. I can still see it. I set everything up in my new office here at the north end of Reference just like that office.

Deborah Cole: Do you sometimes feel like you're down there until you go out the door?

K: No, no. It's different because the people aren't there. Before, whenever I moved offices, I never made a big deal about it. It was always, "Okay, whatever." **I've probably had 14 offices in 18 years.** But this one, because it was deliberately taken away, I think that really made it stick. Before, I always had some choice in the matter or I knew where I was going, but this was totally out of anybody's control, out of our control, and everything was just ripped apart.

But I always thought that I'd return to that office, that it would be fixed up and we would be



back in. But there was a funny moment when we finally did unpack and I moved into this new office. I found ILL's paper towel holder and a toaster in my boxes of files. I thought, "Where did this toaster come from? Is this a freebie I get because I survived the fire?" [Laughter] Then I took it in and it was Joe's toaster, so I had to give it back.

I still miss the people. I'm more isolated in a way. The ILL people had a great sense of humor; we had fun. They worked extremely hard but always had time to laugh. It's hard to leave that.

D: I know. There are so many of my colleagues who I have to make an effort to see now.

K: The patterns of movement have changed. I like the space here, but for me it's missing Barb and Bernadette, Frances and Kathryn, Randy and Joe. You could always say "Good morning." We had coffee—the "Zimmerman Roast." I miss that and don't have that now. I come in and just go to my office and start working.

D: You can't keep in touch with your colleagues in the same way. It seems like a vacancy, like "How did that happen? Where are they?" **It's bizarre, in an institution, to work with people on a regular basis and to realize you don't know where they are located.**

Susan Magee

Coordinator, Web Services and Customer Studies

I did the tours of Parish for the Dean candidates. One candidate came through on a day when everyone was pretty much there. So we went upstairs and I showed him the hallway outside my office. Rik Burkard and Magoo Shoulderblade and Gail Lane and a few students were there. He said, "Gee, this is your regular working area?" And they said, "Yeah, because we're displaced from Zimmerman." Then we went into the classroom where they are cheek to jowl and Carol Renfo, Kathy Gienger, Sandy Provencio and a couple of their students were the only ones there. And the center of the room was given over to book trucks. And he said, **"There're too many people in here."** And I said, "Well, this isn't everyone who works in here regularly. There are at least two or three other people." And they said, "Yeah, there's Ross Sutter and Joanne Donsbach" and named a couple of other people. And he just shook his head and said, "I don't know how you people are doing this." When we went downstairs into the RMBA

[Research Materials Bibliographic Access] area, he said, “Well, per capita you’ve got a lot more space down here.” And they said, “Yeah, and we want to keep it that way.” So he was very impressed that they were working, and working so well, in such cramped spaces for a year already and had another year to go, more or less. I’ll believe January when I see it. We haven’t got the RFP out yet. We haven’t finished the planning yet. It’s going to take some time.

Consuelo and A.J. LaBelle

Student Employees, Print Resources

AJ: One good thing, though, all of us being crammed together, I really got to learn about the other people in the department. I’d always hear these names like “Carol Renfro” and think, “Who is she?” I can actually apply faces to names now, so that’s been pretty interesting.

Consuelo: We definitely got to know people better, Rik, Gail, everybody there.

AJ: **You don’t feel so much like a student worker anymore, more like a real worker, just because we’ve been there with them.** You can relate to the same things sometimes. Though we may have a hard time spending 20-25 hours a week in that space, those people have to do it for 40 hours a week. Ouch! That can be rough.

C: It’ll be great when we have the new space. We’ll have our own computers, own printer. My desk. “Don’t touch my stuff!” Now all I have is a cart and it’s my cart. It has all my stuff on it. It’s my mobile desk.

Fire/Watch Book Group

Claire-Lise Benaud and Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research, University Libraries
Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access, University Libraries
Heidi Perea, Parish Library, University Libraries

Mary Ellen: I have to mention how welcoming Parish has been throughout this entire thing. I don’t know, thirty of us whiny, upset people arrived. [Laughter] It’s everything. If it’s too hot or cold, you complain and some nice person does something about it and follows up. Beyond

“As more and more of you enter Zimmerman let me remind each of you that you MUST sign out with the security guard when you leave Should an alarm sound and you have not signed out, it is presumed you are in the building and there would be a room-to-room check to find you. I have been informed that should the trend continue of folks not signing out, we could possibly lose possession of Zimmerman. Please ensure that when you leave, you sign out with the security guard. Your cooperation is vital to the success of Zimmerman...”

DAN BARKLEY
Government Information/Reference
e-mail, June 9, 2006



grilles replaced **July 18** Meeting with Rolf Jensen & Associates (RJA), fire protection consultants Δ Accent colors for 1st floor chosen Δ Meeting to negotiate use of security firm for fire watch to

making room for us and emptying out the student carrels, just the ongoing day-to-day stuff, it’s been amazing.

Deborah: It’s interesting, too, because that’s the longest running “displacement home.” You stayed a community long enough to work out some things.

Heidi: I am going to miss them all; it’s going to seem empty. I felt okay when I was transferred to a new job over in Parish because all of my Zimmerman buddies were there. I wasn’t going to miss anybody. And I’m beginning to think that on the day they move back to Zimmerman maybe I’ll move back, too. [Laughter] I will be a refugee somewhere else.

ME: There are two people who have stated quite emphatically that they don’t want to come back.

D: They like their displacement. And one person was actually rather reflective about it to me. She said she was trying to examine her reluctance to coming back. She said, “It’s kind of weird going back to ‘ground zero.’ That is where the fire started. There still isn’t anybody—and it does look like it might be a *-body*—at any rate, a cause of the fire hasn’t been identified. So there’s “ground zero” in terms of that and there’s also “ground zero” in terms of the re-organization that occurred in fall of 2005: the removal of one’s sense of place in the organization, if you will. So she was thinking that it was like asking someone to be excited about going back to places that don’t represent too much that is exciting, at least in recent history.

Claire-Lise: In a way, the re-organization was displaced; it was not solved; it was not discussed; it just stopped. But when you move back into Zimmerman, you know, it comes back with you.

ME: The re-organization did some very specific things. It broke up one entity and scattered it in various other places and established several of those functions in a different entity. But with the physical re-building in the basement, the areas have been brought physically together again. In early discussions, a wall was proposed to show that we are separate [laughter] because we were separated! As it turns out, in the final design, there is no wall. So the entities are side by side. They’re in the same room, but they’re in totally different divisions of the library. There’s that part, again, of the unresolved re-organization, and in re-building, it’s still confused.

A BELTANE FIRE

A Beltane fire, but
Not one of celebration.
No, destruction.

We care for our own.
Come, we will find a place
For ZIM people, books.

Stay here while they clean.
Together, we will help you
Keep people, books safe.

Offices, desks, keys.
Returning books in order.
Coffee, a break room.

Renewing some old
Acquaintances, and also
Making some new friends.

Somehow, because of
Tragedy, we truly are
One Big Happy "Branch."

VANESSA ARCHER
Operations Manager
Circulation, Parish Library

ODE TO MITCHELL

(To the tune of the UNM Fight Song)

Hail to thee Mitchell Hall
Our summer home was you

Marching down the hall we go
Running from the smell below

Crunching roaches as we go
Crunch! Crunch! Crunch!

8 women in a box were we
Craziness abounding

Fighting ever, yielding never!
Hell! Hell! Hell!

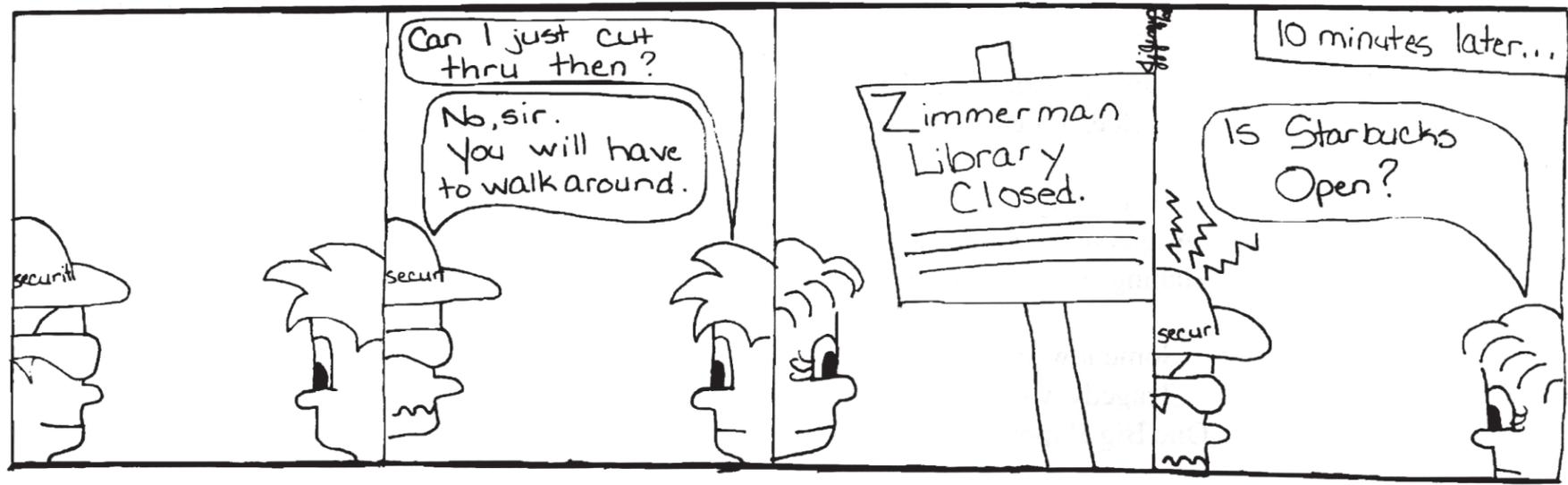
CAPS STAFF
(those 8 women in a box)

“Where was I last?
There was no pattern.
That was a time.”

EVANGELA OATES
Library Resident

Row #4
Joseph Lane #15 DESK #21 DESK
Large Trash Cans
Kathryn Wood #17 DESK
Resource-Table
Ross Sutter #14 DESK
#18 CART
Carl Donsbach #9 Work Bench
Gail Lane #8 DESK





HENRY JENSEN, Security Guard, Santa Fe Protective Services, Inc. and his wife, MONICA JENSEN

BUSINESS NOT QUITE AS USUAL

Pat B.

Receptionist, Office of the Dean

I was able to give Ed a little support when more people started coming into the building. We all had to sign in with the guards as we came in and out. When there were only ten people, it didn't matter that they just signed in on a blank sheet of paper. But when more and more employees and contractors and such were being added to the list of who was allowed in, those poor guards didn't have even lined paper to write anything on. I made sign-in/sign-out sheets, organized with areas to list department, the time, and whether they were coming in or going out. I learned people's names by doing that. It was just one of those little things that the guards didn't think to ask for or maybe thought they couldn't ask for, I don't know. Ed had much bigger things to worry about than whether or not the guards had a sign-out sheet that was more useful than a piece of paper. So I started keeping up with that.

Evangelina Oates

Library Resident, University Libraries

Deborah Cole: How was reference after the fire?

Evangelina: It was easy, because Dan was doing the scheduling. He was scheduling Fire Watch and the tents. But reference didn't change much. People were asking about the fire. Some people were just doing their work. I remember I had reference at Centennial; I don't know why, because I never would have scheduled myself at Centennial. I don't know how that happened. I was supposed to be on Fire Watch and that was the priority. If you don't do anything else,

"All our policies and procedures went out the window."

ELLE E CUSHING-CRUYER
CAPS

you were going to do Fire Watch. So I was at Fire Watch and apparently people were calling and fussing at Dan because I wasn't at the reference desk there. [Laughter] That was the fire! Some of us from Zimmerman were scheduled in Centennial; we could work on that desk, but I was on Fire Watch So they called Dan and said, "She needs to be over here!" And he said, "She's not going anywhere!" I think it happened with a few other people, too, but it seemed to happen to me twice, though. And I couldn't be at two places at once. [Laugh]

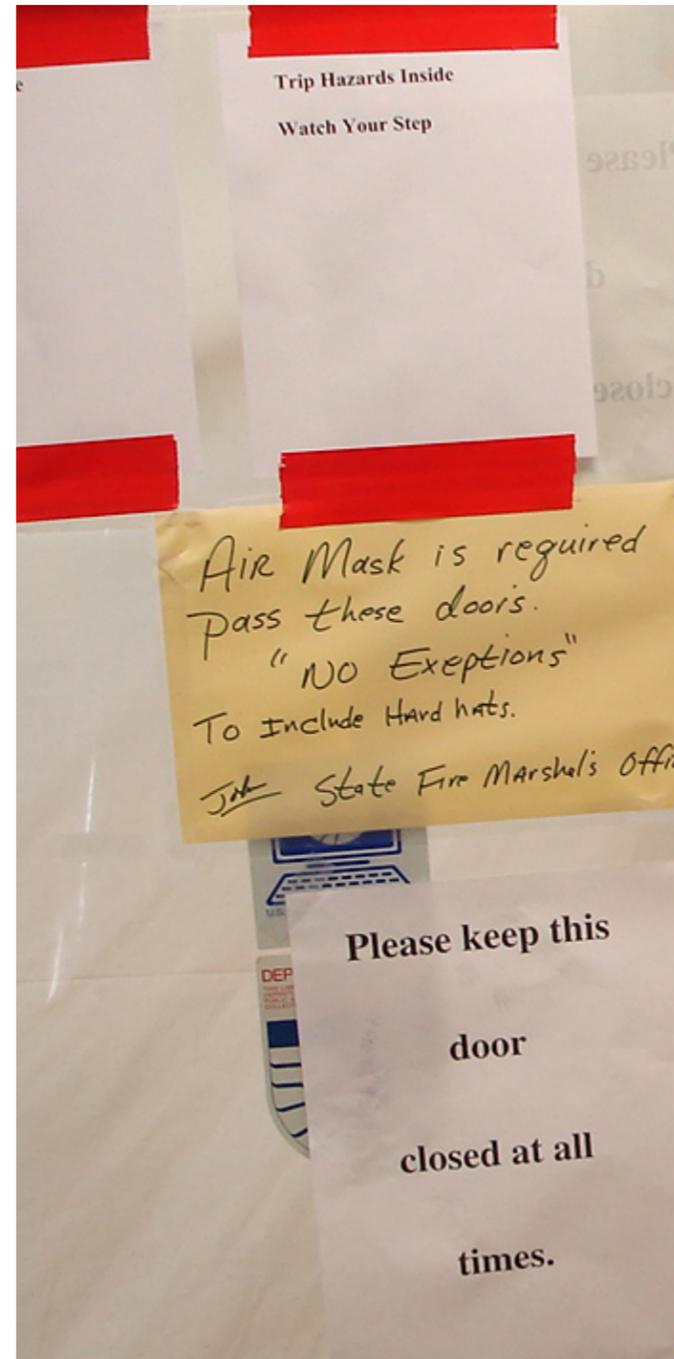
I remember one day I went to the Willard Reading Room and I forgot my reference time. I was sitting there and all of a sudden realized it ... oops! I slinked over there, "Sorry, folks." But there was no habit. You didn't have a set schedule. It could change at any moment. You would always have to make these mental notes.

Nancy Dennis

Assistant Dean

Deborah Cole: What moments in the recovery process stand out for you?

Nancy: I guess when the BMS CAT folks came on board and our first concern was getting the materials out—collections on the shelves and materials in work areas. The call came to let employees in to begin packing out work areas. The employees would have 15 minutes to get what was on their desktops and box up everything according to Priority #1, #2 and #3 to be shipped off to local warehouses. The Priority #1 materials would probably have a chance of getting back to employees in thirty days. The rest of the materials may not be seen for six months—a long six months. And, of course, now we're looking at a year and a half! I went back down with Dan, Anne and others and met with the employees in certain work units. Book trucks, boxes and tape were available. "You've got fifteen minutes to pack up your Priority #1 items." Some people just froze and didn't know what to take. It was the first time they were seeing their work areas and the extent of the damage. It was shocking and startling and they just had 15 minutes to get everything out. It was hard for some folks to focus. Where were the invoices? Where were the materials that were ready for cataloging, correspondence, anything you needed to pick up and take care of? When you think about having fifteen minutes—you know, walk out of your office on a Friday afternoon and think that the next time you return there's been an event like this and you have 15 minutes to grab what you can.



"Do not go any place you are not supposed to be or else it would be your job."

AARON BLECHA
Student Employee



*The breaking of pieces of concrete from the surface of a structural element that is exposed to high and rapidly rising temperatures experienced in fires.

Then the next major impact for me was when they did some tests on the drywall and they told us the walls in the basement were coming down. Well, that is a very different situation. But it was also one of those moments where I felt, "So, there could be an opportunity here." As awful as it is, obviously, it was, "Okay, let's think about what we could do here, what we could do differently here." Fortunately we'd done a lot of planning—the Space Plan, the focus groups with the students and what they wanted in library space, and we could redesign our work areas to be more efficient. And I suppose the worker in me clicked in at that point: something to do and all this is going to be better.

Ed Castillo-Padilla

Manager, Facilities Services

Deborah Cole: You had to record things like the burnt ceiling and such?

Ed: I documented the spalling* and the books and periodicals themselves that were burned and the shelving that was burned, the walls. I did that because I felt as the Facilities Manager it was part of my job to document what was going on with the facility. So that's what I did. That's why I took a lot of pictures and as far as documentation, we have the minutes from meetings and other documents for what actually went on, for the whole remediation process.

Russ Cole

Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

I remember another time where these construction guys were pushing a large plastic cart of dirt toward the circulation area. I was getting mixed up about which way they were hauling it. I thought they were bringing it into the building. I couldn't figure out what they would need mud for. I thought, "Maybe there's something down there that smells so bad they need to bury it in mud." It was several hours before I realized they were hauling the dirt **out**. It was from that garden area at the bottom of the stairwell.

Barbara Aragon

Custodian, Zimmerman Library

Ever since I worked at the library, once I starting working days, I'd never gone to the back part of the 1st floor that they've now made into the new reference area. When I went back there the first time, I emptied trash. They hadn't emptied trash at all since before the fire, because the fire happened in the evening. So I would pick up the trash can, empty the trash and put the can exactly where it had been because there was an outline made by smoke. I went to each desk in the back on the 1st floor and picked up the trash and put the can right down perfectly in the spot where it had been. You couldn't tell it had been moved. [Laughter]

Fire/Watch Book Group

Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research
Heidi Perea, Parish Library

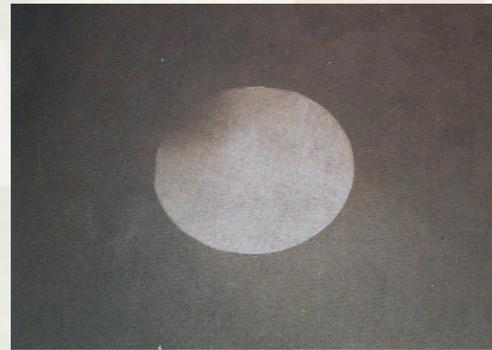
Deborah: When we got back into our offices, finally, there was this subtle sense that everything was not quite where it had been, that it had all been cleaned and put back basically in the right place, but just off enough to be noticeable. I think we all had that experience, at least those of us who were able to come back to an office that still existed. You looked around and thought, "They tried." [Laughter]

Heidi: **I was just grateful for the dusting; I didn't care where they put stuff.**

Ed Castillo-Padilla

Manager, Facilities Services

Louie and Bonifacio continued their regular duties with mail, shipping and receiving, but had to work outside at the north side of Zimmerman and on the south side of Parish Library in various weather conditions (it started to warm up considerably in spring/summer). They retrieved furnishings, equipment and work resources such as boxed books from the two storage facilities downtown, and helped staff by taking them to the storage facilities when necessary. They also had to assist me with work that required ongoing and daily interaction



"Ed is incredible; he's very organized and detail-oriented ... and he's great at hearing people and genuinely dealing with their issues."

Nancy Dennis
Assistant Dean



After the Fire Watch Follies one of our colleagues commented that the Follies permitted her to finally take stock of the ways in which the fire in Zimmerman had affected her. This insight has impacted the overall concept of the Fire/Watch Book Project. The words "fire" and "watch" still provide the book's focus, but now stand in relationship to one another rather than as a definition of a specific activity. A "fire" occurred on April 30, 2006. We can "watch" many things related to that fire: ourselves, each other, our patrons, the building, the clean-up, the deconstruction, the temporary places in which we find ourselves, the reconstruction. We can reflect.

Deborah Cole will be contacting all UL employees to find out who wishes to participate in creating the book, either by submitting written, oral or visual works or by helping with editing and design. In the aftermath of the fire, there have been and will be many things—humorous, upsetting, frustrating, as well as inspiring—to reflect upon. So that ruminations on various phases of the recovery can be included, the deadline for final submissions will be during the spring semester, 2007.

Nancy Dennis and Deborah Cole, *UL eLink*, Oct. 6, 2006

with sub-contractors, architects, Physical Plant, security, custodial and daily interaction with patrons and staff. Because of the necessity of altering construction and demo schedules we had to work many hours other than normal work hours, e.g. we had to coordinate fire sprinkler installation, in public areas, at night from midnight until 8:00 a.m.

Nancy Dennis

Assistant Dean

Louie Perez and Bonifacio Anglada, Facilities Services, were everywhere. They continue to impress me so much with what they do and their attitude about it. When we were moving the reserve books out, it was Tuesday or Wednesday of the week following the fire, Louie and Boni were a part of that, setting up reserves over at Parish. Gads, the furniture they have moved in and out and over to Parish and ZIM and over to CSEL over the last year. Just incredible. But you know, it's their attitude. I never saw any sign of temper or frustration from them. Only their respect and goodwill and willingness to help. Think about the number of people they have contact with throughout the whole library on any given day. **They were always, "Hi, how're you doing? What can I do to help?" They were the carrier of that attitude.** They probably had more impact on this whole project, and I include Ed Padilla in that, than anyone else. They were tireless when you know they must have just been exhausted, physically. They experienced the same stresses as everyone else but you never saw it. They just embodied this incredible service ethic, "What can I do?" Never a complaint about how they were being treated or what they were being asked to do.

Susan Magee

Web Services and Customer Studies Coordinator

Deborah Cole: Do you have any Louie and Boni stories?

Susan: Obviously, they were in and out of Parish during that time. They sweated buckets in our loading zone. I know **Sue advocated for most of the summer to try to get a tent put out there over the space they worked in so they didn't have to sweat buckets.** But that never happened for whatever reason. If the president of the University can get tents put on the lawn ... but let's not go there. They were always around and always cheerful about it, almost without fail. And I think their attitude was pretty contagious. If those two could work in the way they had to work and still put a good face on it—that was inspirational and certainly set a tone for anybody else who had gripes. “At least you're not sitting out there in the 90-degree weather! You got a nice air-conditioned office; it may not be what you're used to, but”

Joe Lane and Kathryn Wood

Interlibrary Loan

Joe: It was kind of awkward for Bonifacio and Louie because they had to go back and forth to Centennial. They had to bring the books and articles we retrieved back over to Parish or Zimmerman to mail them out. We got books in and they brought them to Centennial; we shipped books out and they came to get them.

Kathryn: Tons of back and forth went through them. It was insane. Twice a day or more.

Deborah Cole: How did that work at Centennial? They have an elevator.

J: They do, but one time it was broken and Louie and Bonifacio had to carry the books down and up the stairs. So it was pretty awkward at that time.

K: Plus they were always being called away to help move desks. They were being moving men in addition to their regular jobs.



Consuelo and A.J. LaBelle

Student Employees, Print Resources

Consuelo: It was definitely stressful. We'd hoped to work 25-30 hours a week.

AJ: Yeah, I thought in the summer I could pick up some hours and then the fire happened and, “Ouch!”

C: It has affected our production. Since that classroom is so crowded, it takes longer. We don't have the room to open our boxes.

AJ: My stats really suck. We used to have our own printer. We'd just print our records out.

C: Now we're sharing a printer with, like, twenty people. Things get mixed up. It takes a lot longer to do our work. To do the same work. It just really cut down our production.

Aaron Blecha

Student Employee, Zimmerman Library

We were given lamps to illuminate the areas we were working in and to assist in finding books that were under plastic and we had a stack of papers for books we had to pull. But I was glad that I wasn't with anybody else, because I didn't really feel capable of talking. I felt that if someone was there I'd have to talk about how I was feeling. And as it was, I felt a little bit choked up and was not exactly crying, but my eyes were tearing. Particularly when I'd pull up the plastic sheeting—you know, I'm very familiar with the collection in the stacks—when I'd actually recognize the binding of a certain encyclopedia set or something like that, it was actually quite terrible in a certain way. The other side of it was that I felt quite a relief: “They're still here; they're still intact.” It felt like going into—like the old icon of an archaeologist. There was this real curiosity surrounding the experience. I felt myself part of a recovery team or some diver on a shipwreck; there were similar concerns, like being careful. We had explicit instructions, you know. Dan Barkley was very explicit, because the basement was still a crime scene. The instructions were, “Do not go any place you are not supposed to be or else it would be your job.”

“We got into the building on Saturday and pulled several hundred books. (Pretty good work for wandering through dark stacks with lanterns). We started sending notifications at noon on Sat. Had our first pickup by 2 p.m.”

DAVE HERZEL
Circulation, Zimmerman Library
e-mail, May 7, 2006

“I remember during my actual interview we were having a meeting up in the Herzstein Room and all the plastic sheeting was up, not on the stairs, but covering beyond room 254. And I remember thinking that was so spooky and weird. To have to have special permission to walk to the shelves and you have to go through the plastic barriers.”

SARAH STOHR
Library Resident

Initially a variety of people had volunteered to page, but eventually the paging crew stabilized. It was Steve Keller, Kate Downer, myself and other volunteers, but the three of us were the core crew taking responsibility of accessing the accounts. LIT [Library Information Technology] very quickly put together an online paging request form. We pulled books twice a day; that was the normal procedure. We'd access the e-mail account first thing in the morning, all of the patron requests from the afternoon and night. So the morning page was always larger than the afternoon page. Then we'd divide the requests into 1st floor Zimmerman and 2nd floor Zimmerman and put them in call number order to facilitate accessing them quickly, because although I didn't have any concerns with my health, it did make sense to limit staff time in Zimmerman. At first, as a student, I was allowed to page, but there came a point when the Fire Marshal, I don't know if it was because of health, safety or insurance reasons, but only staff could be in the building. For a time they wouldn't allow students, which caused a bit of a burden, so Russ Cole, Ava Kargacin, Rebs Bauerschmidt and others did the paging.

At times it was overwhelming. On Friday afternoons by two or three o'clock, Kate, Steve and I would be sitting in that little office and we weren't even talking, we were all just staring out the window. We did a lot of time on the computer and had very little real down-time.

And, now, the legacy or descendant of that paging process is the government documents and the Deweys on B1 and B2 in Zimmerman. So the process is still alive and well.

Kathryn Wood

Interlibrary Loan

It's hard to be an advocate for books when the only resources you have are the online ones. At the temporary reference desks, I'd start saying, "But, now, it's not all in the databases. Okay, well, it's not all in the databases, but right now all you can have are the databases." [Laughter] Most of those early reference shifts in the SUB were people coming up and some of them wanted to know what was going on. But some people just came up and said, "We feel so terrible." I used to say, "I'm going to draw another little box here for the reference stats, 'Expressions of Sympathy'."



Evangelina Oates and Sarah Stohr

Library Residents, University Libraries

"I think it should be a part of our response that we recommend folks regularly check our (and CAPS) web site for information updates. Get them used to visiting our home pages during this unusual time. We also received some very nice sympathy comments so I made a special column on the stats sheet."

NANCY PISTORIUS
Reference, Zimmerman Library
e-mail, May 3, 2006



Deborah Cole: So reference in the SUB was basically the same as usual?

Evangelina: It was very much like it was when we finally moved back into Zimmerman; we still didn't have the resources in terms of print journals. So the only difference was that they could walk in and sit down and use computers. We still had to say, "We don't have any print journals and the ready reference is gone." We could have stayed in the SUB and it would have been the same. We just showed them how to do ILL online.

Sarah: I started on September 1 and did not see our reference collection until January. Every time I was on the reference desk shadowing a librarian, I'd look around and you could see that one temporary range in the lobby of Zimmerman and nothing else. It was interesting to me that operations could be almost normal without having a reference collection in full force.

E: Doing instruction it's been kind of hard, having to say, "Well, you can't get any of these. If you can't find them online, don't waste your time looking for them here in print." There's been a lot of Interlibrary Loan publicity.

S: The last few classes I taught, at the beginning before I even explained why, I'd just say, "Go to the ILL site, register as a first-time user. Just do it." We'd spend the first three minutes getting them all registered. Then I'd say, **"There was a FIRE! You're not going to find anything in print! Don't question; just do it."**

Ava Kargacin

Circulation, Zimmerman Library

But then it was funny, because we still had to page because we couldn't let patrons walk upstairs. We had to keep explaining to people, "No, you can't walk upstairs; you just have to let us go get it." **It's amazing how many professors just want to browse and just stare you down.** "Well, I don't know what I want; I just want to browse." "Well, you've got to get inventive and figure it out! I can't let you browse."

A lot of people did know what was happening, but they couldn't figure out why they couldn't go upstairs and browse. I would look at them and say, "You see that helmet on my head? This is not a fashion statement. The reason I have this on is to go upstairs and get your books." And, actually, right now we still do that with Government Docs. in B2. And still, I've had two professors that can't figure out why they can't browse. They say, "When I'm down there I see the stuff I need." And I say, "Well, you're not going to see it, because you can't go down." Even now, a year later, they can't go down to B2. We still go down and pull their books for them. Every morning, Steve or Aaron pull the paging. It's a lot of work and just like with browsing, people find out there are a lot of books they don't really need. All those books they pulled? Well, they don't need all the books I pulled either. "I just gave you twelve documents and you used one!" And we're always going to do that. But sometimes people say, "When am I going to get this?" And I say, "Well, I can't leave right now, but you will get it as soon as someone comes in who I can send down to pull it for you."

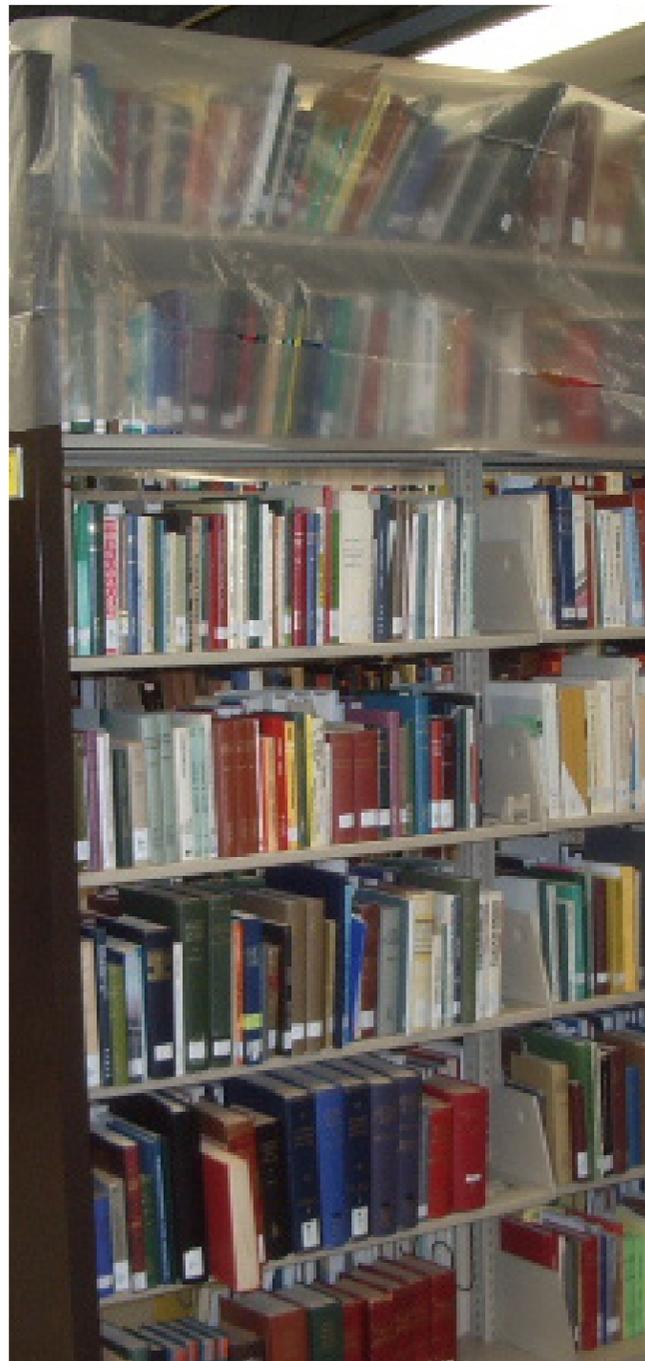
Barbara Aragon

Custodian, Zimmerman Library

I cleaned the restrooms for the construction guys and for whoever happened to be here on the 2nd floor. I did what I could do and whatever Ed told me to do. Usually it was cleaning up after the Starbucks people. That's when they were giving coffee and cold drinks free to the construction and BMS people who were here.

"At the Zimmerman reference desk patrons have had to stop talking. There is so much noise we cannot hear them. They're working on the bathrooms down there and we have to just mouth our words."

HEIDI PEREA
Parish Library



JUNE 5, 2007 Yesterday, the parking lot north of Zimmerman Library was reconfigured to accommodate a construction staging area.... Overall project management is the responsibility of UNM Office of Capital Projects. **JUNE 15** The fire alarm system, throughout Zimmerman Library, is no longer functional. All floors in Zimmerman are now under fire watch, including the West Wing... UNM Alarms has maintained the old system for as long as possible, but the alarm system has deteriorated beyond repair. Zimmerman will have a new alarm system as part of the basement rebuild project. **JUNE 22** Zimmerman Library basement rebuild project is complete. The project includes the installation of compact shelving, fire alarm hoses, the rebuild project that includes the installation of anchors into the concrete ceiling slab for the new sprinkler system, and the mechanical components. Construction noise will also be using power-actuated anchoring tools that produce a notable short loud blast. We experienced this same loud noise last year when work was completed on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors for supporting the ceiling grid wiring bundles.... **JUNE 27 CONSTRUCTION:** The Sounds of Progress - Construction is underway in the basement of Zimmerman, as you can tell by the drilling and hammering noises, and it is on schedule for completion by early August.... **COLLECTIONS:** Quieter Progress - Selectors have identified the titles that are priorities to replace, and orders are going out to vendors.... We're planning how we will arrange delivery of materials, but still do not know enough to make firm plans. **LINDA LEWIS** COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT **AUGUST 31** Hammering, drilling, painting, people with power saws, all signs of progress... The new periodicals area will have compact shelving in almost all available shelving areas. The companies working on the compact shelving and on the construction are working closely together. The priority will be to install the compact shelving in the periodicals area in order to let us reshelve the materials returning from Texas more rapidly. **LINDA LEWIS**

From: Edward Padilla Friday, July 13, 2007
To: LIBPERS-L
Subject: Zimmerman Library Restroom Shut-Down

Hello,

There will be another temporary restroom shut-down for the restrooms located on the south side of Zimmerman Library (east end of building) on Monday morning, July 16th. The water in those restrooms will be disconnected early in the morning, and should be restored by noon on the 16th. We will have signs on the restrooms and front entry doors indicating the temporary shut-down. Please direct patrons needing the facilities to the west side of the building.

Plumbers are making additional connections to water lines for the newly rebuilt restrooms in the basement.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

From: Edward Padilla Tuesday, July 17, 2007
To: LIBPERS-L
Subject: Zimmerman Library Temporary Restroom Shut-down

Good morning,

The south side restrooms in Zimmerman Library, east end of building, will temporarily be out of service (about 45 minutes) so that inspectors can check new connections in the basement. These are the same restrooms that were shut down yesterday morning. We have no specific time of the shut down, and are awaiting the arrival of the inspector. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Have a pleasant day.

From: Edward Padilla Wednesday, July 18, 2007
To: LIBPERS-L
Subject: Zimmerman Restrooms

Good morning,

Due to an unexpected difficulty the south side restrooms located at the east end of Zimmerman will be out of service for approximately one hour this morning. Service should be restored by 9:00am.

Enjoy your day.

From: Edward Padilla Wednesday, July 25, 2007
To: LIBPERS-L
Subject: Zimmerman Library Restroom Shut-down

All east side restrooms, all floors, in Zimmerman Library will be out of service until approximately 9:30am today, Wednesday, July 25. Inspectors are onsite this morning checking plumbing connections in the basement.

All other restrooms in main lobbies and West Wing are available.

Have an enjoyable day.

A lot of people did know what was happening, but they couldn't figure out why they couldn't go upstairs and browse. I would look at them and say, "You see that helmet on my head? This is not a fashion statement." The reason I have this on is to go upstairs and get your books. And, actually, right now we still do that with Government Docs. In B2. And still, I've had two professors that can't figure out why they can't browse. They say, "When I'm down there I see the stuff I need." And I say, "Well, you're not going to see it, because you can't go down." Even now, a year later, they can't go down to B2. We still go down and pull their books for them. There will be another temporary restroom located on the south side of building (east end of building) in those restrooms, and should be restored by noon on the morning, and should be restored by noon on the morning. And I say, "Well, I can't leave right now, but you will get it as soon as someone comes in who I can send down to put it for you."

Barbara Aragon
Custodian, Zimmerman Library

I cleaned the restrooms for the construction guys and for whoever happened to be here on the 2nd floor. I did what I could do and whatever Ed told me to do. Usually it was cleaning up after the Starbucks people. That's when they were giving coffee and cold drinks free to the construction and BMS people who were here.

"As the Zimmerman reference desk patrons have had to stop talking. There is so much noise we cannot hear them. They're working on the bathrooms down there and we have to just mouth our words."

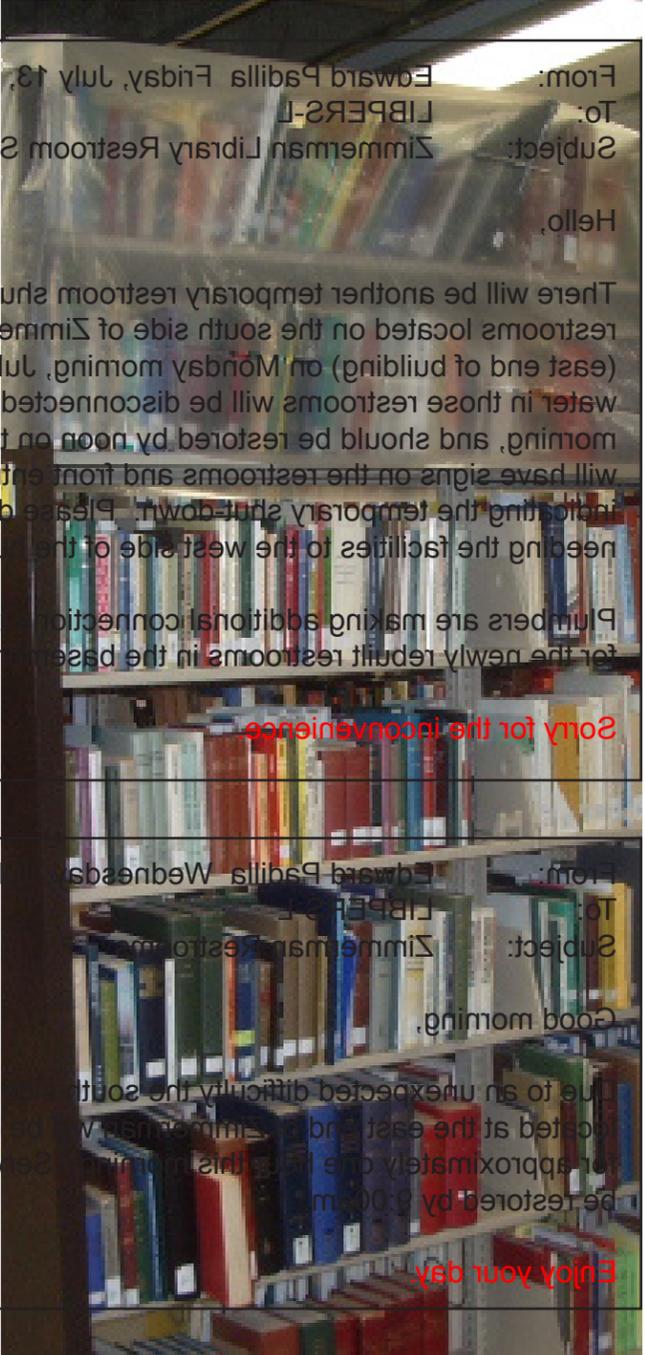
HEIDI PEREA
Parish Library

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Plumbers are making additional connections for the newly rebuilt restrooms in the basement.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

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JUNE 5, 2007 Yesterday, the parking lot north of Zimmerman Library was reconfigured to accommodate a **construction staging area**.... Overall project management is the responsibility of UNM Office of Capital Projects. **FRAN WILKINSON, INTERIM DEAN** **JUNE 15** *The fire alarm system, throughout Zimmerman Library, is no longer functional. All floors in Zimmerman are now under fire watch, including the West Wing... UNM Alarms has maintained the old system for as long as they could, but the alarm system has deteriorated beyond repair. Zimmerman will have a new alarm system as part of the basement rebuild project.* **ED CASTILLO-PADILLA, FACILITIES SERVICES** **JUNE 22** Zimmerman Library basement rebuild project is in full swing. We are now experiencing the associated noises with the rebuild project that includes the **installation of anchors** into the concrete ceiling slab for the new fire sprinkler system, and other mechanical components. Construction crews will also soon be using **power actuated anchoring tools** that produce a **notable short loud blast**. We experienced this same loud noise last year when work was completed on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors for supporting above **ceiling grid wiring bundles**.... Patrons troubled by the noise may want to use either the West Wing reading rooms, or one of our branch libraries. **ED CASTILLO-PADILLA** **JUNE 27 CONSTRUCTION:** *The Sounds of Progress - Construction is underway in the basement of Zimmerman, as you can tell by the **drilling** and **hammering noises**, and it is on schedule for **completion by early October**... **COLLECTIONS:** *Quieter Progress - Selectors have identified the titles that are priorities to replace, and orders are going out to vendors... We're planning how we will arrange delivery of the purchased materials with the **return of the trucks** from Texas, but still do not know enough to make firm plans.* **LINDA LEWIS, COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT** **AUGUST 31** **Hammering, drilling, painting,** people in hardhats, people with building diagrams: all signs of progress.... The new periodicals area will have compact shelving in almost all available shelving areas. The companies working on the **compact shelving** and on the construction are working closely together. The priority will be to install the compact shelving in the periodicals area in order to let us reshelve the materials returning from **Texas** more rapidly. **LINDA LEWIS***

Ellee Cushing-Cruver

Student Employee, CAPS

People were heartbroken that they couldn't get their appointments that last week of spring semester. Eventually people found us and we got out e-mails campus-wide to let people know where we were. We kind of threw everything out the window and tutored anything we could. "If you come in, we'll try."

As it started to come together, the summer really went pretty well because the staff was stuck in one building and we were tutoring in another, so it was a very independent environment and we really didn't have too many problems.

Lee Byrne

Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS

The tutors were over in the Humanities Building and we had receptionists working there with makeshift set-ups to log students in and out. Every once in a while, one of us staff people would think, "Maybe we should go over and see how tutoring is going." [Laughter] We're so used to just walking out and there they are. They were far away. But **CAPS did as much tutoring in those odd circumstances as we did in the previous summer. It was just amazing.**

Ellee Cushing-Cruver

Student Employee, CAPS

Our Director, Karen Olson, had been able to come up here and retrieve our laptops so we used them for tutoring and scheduling. The English Department was just great giving us a storage closet to hold all our textbooks and rooms to tutor in. It was a really nice summer. I liked it! As we've been gearing up for summer now, everybody feels like "Let's go to Mitchell Hall! Let's go to Humanities! Let's get out of here for our summer!" It was so nice.

I know that during my summer classes, and some of my friends' classes, there were going to be these big research papers and there wasn't anywhere to do the research so professors had to



"We did shelving and that was alright but, oh, man, it stunk and it was hot and it was dark. So we did it. When we didn't have any other work, we'd go do that, but it wasn't fun."

CONSUELO LABELLE
Student Employee

"But, thank God, Starbuck's is open, because that is a question we get. People do call us and ask, 'Have you got the basement yet?' or 'Is Starbuck's open?' And I say, 'You have no basement, but you can have coffee.'"

AVA KARGACIN
Circulation, Zimmerman Library

change the syllabus. Research methods had to change quite a bit. I had a Western European Politics course that had a big paper and the professor wanted us to read books. Since we couldn't, he changed his style to let us research on the Internet. That was a big move for him because he wanted us to read books. It was a big stretch for my summer classes that wanted us to do research. It worked out, though; everybody did what they had to.

Evangela Oates and Sarah Stohr

Library Residents, University Libraries

Sarah: During the winter break of 2006/07, I ended up unpacking a huge amount of boxes, shelving books, which was not in the resident job description, and getting bossed around by Dan. It was great. We were putting things back into the new reference area. I had body aches. Muscles were aching that I didn't know I had on my arms. And Dan was fussing at me and yelling and bossing. And I'd yell, "Dan Barkley, knock it off!!" And he'd cool down for a minute but then be right back at it. [Laughter] I had a constant neck ache.

Evangela: I guess he had confidence in you; when I offered to help I was totally ignored.

S: It's cause I had these "guns" [slaps arms] working. Every day I'd complain, "Isn't there some sort of workman's compensation I can get for my pains?"

E: It would have been nice for that person who does chair massage over near the SUB, it would have been nice for the administration to have had that guy come by. Pay for it. Maybe the massage community, especially people in massage school, they might have come and rubbed your body, Sarah.

S: There was a three-week period where I thought it was going to break.

Deborah Cole: And this Fall there will be the Pack Back of the journals.

S: There better be twelve masseuses down there. **We did not learn about that in library school either.** Luckily I had a job one year during which I learned this nice little rhyme: "Bend with knees to lift with ease." I kept telling myself that, "Bend your knees, Stohr!"

Ed Castillo-Padilla

Manager, Facilities Services

Deborah Cole: Are you still documenting things?

Ed: Yeah, yeah. It's slowed down a little bit because we're not actually doing anything now, everything in the basement is the same. We're doing conservation on the murals and the Julius Rolshoven painting in the West Wing. That'll be finished in April. I've been documenting that and that's been enjoyable to do. We're working on schematics with architects right now to work up the new design for the basement. Once they start construction again, we'll get back and do photo documentation of that process.

Ava Kargacin

Circulation, Zimmerman Library

Things I took for granted? I'd take books to the bindery in Zimmerman's basement. Now I walk over to Parish with the books. I walk there every day instead of running downstairs.

When we have marking problems? Over to Parish. Things we took for granted? I could get in the elevator to go downstairs. And, by the way, yes, the staff elevator is not working, so now everyone is always staring at us because we're pushing carts of books through the lobby. People always look at us like, "Can't you go through another place?" "No! No one wants to go through the lobby, but we don't have another way."

It's still hard, too, because we're still split between Parish and here. But I'm so glad I'm here and not smashed together like in a matchbox. **I don't care if we don't have a basement. I don't care that we still have to page downstairs. I'm just glad to be in my building.** This is good.

46 or 33% of UL employees will remain displaced until ZIM basement is reopened.

Nancy Dennis, e-mail, April 16, 2007



Kate Downer

Daytime Shelving Supervisor, Circulation, Zimmerman Library

At first, it took us about 45 minutes to page one book. This included work on the part of many people. We had to print out the request, look up the book to verify it was available, print out the information for the team actually pulling the books. And books could only be pulled when Fire Watch was happening. The pulled items had to be wheeled to Parish, collated with the requests, holds placed, and moved downstairs to Parish's circulation desk. Then the holds had to be maintained, pulled when not picked up and shelved temporarily at Parish. Often, a patron didn't yet have an account with us, so there was also a lot of e-mail. Or a book couldn't be found and we had to send the patron to ILL. Paging from the basements continues, but we now average about 45 minutes a day.

"I think everyone just had to learn to roll with the punches. I don't know what's going to happen next, but whatever it is, it's going to have to be done however it has to be done."

SARAH STOHR
Library Resident

Paging Statistics Summary 3/23/2007

	Requested <u>all floors</u>	<u>Dewey</u>	<u>Gov. Doc.</u>
April 2006	no statistics		
May	1892		
June	2098		
July	1564		
August		40	28
September		39	31
October		35	43
November		43	28
December		45	39
January 2007		21	27
February		39	47
March			
Totals:	5554	262	243

Fire/Watch Book Group

Claire-Lise Benaud and Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research
Pat B., Office of the Dean
Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access

Mary Ellen: We talked about how the library administration got completely subsumed and busy and focused on the fire remediation and that was also a pretext to not deal with internal issues like the re-organization or even to look at other library issues. Fire remediation just came to the forefront and that's what, it seems to me, the library administration has been totally focused on since, that and trying to hire a new dean. We aren't really looking at public services or technical services. It's all dealing with the emergency. The things that normally administrators would concentrate on got put on the back burner.

Claire-Lise: When Nancy Dennis says, "Well, the machine started to work again," that's all it was. It was only the machine. It was not issues. It's not, "Where should we rank in the ARL?" "Shall we be a full depository library?" All those big issues.

Deborah: It wasn't philosophical.

C-L: No. The machine started. That's why the way she expresses it is so good. It's only that. It's only the machine. Which is good. We need the machine.

Pat: We need that first.

ME: **Life support first.**

Evangela Oates and Sarah Stohr

Library Residents, University Libraries

Sarah: I have a story about people's unawareness about the fire still. I was teaching an English class and the instructor from the English department came over to meet with me and he was really adamant that his kids get familiar with our print collection,

"Floods, Fires, Pestilence and Other Disasters: Are you prepared?"

March 14, 2007, NMLA Conference presentation by Dan Barkley, Nancy Dennis, Linda Lewis, Teresa Neely, Anne Schultz and Fran Wilkinson

"There was this one patron that came in and she had a list of things she was going to order and she said, 'I'll just go downstairs and get these.'" And I said, 'There are no periodicals downstairs.' And I had to keep repeating myself, 'There's nothing downstairs. You'll have to order it through us anyway.'"

JOE LANE
Interlibrary Loan



our print journals. We were in our office and Evangela points through the door to the south wall where the journals that have come in since the fire are and says, "That's our print journals collection!" And he just had this look on his face like he didn't know what we were talking about. So I said, **"Remember, we had that fire and all of our journals are in Texas."** And he said, "Texas!?" He was so surprised that they weren't here.

Deborah Cole: And this was when?

S: A month ago [early April, 2007]. [Laughter] And then—it gets better—then he asked if we had a shuttle that would shuttle the books from Texas to here when they were needed. They're still in boxes!

Evangela: They're not here for a reason.

D: Did he get the fire bit?

S: I think he understood the fire but he thought the journals were just being held neatly on the shelves in some Texas library. He didn't understand why they couldn't be here for his class. His class was one where I had the students set up ILL accounts right at the beginning.

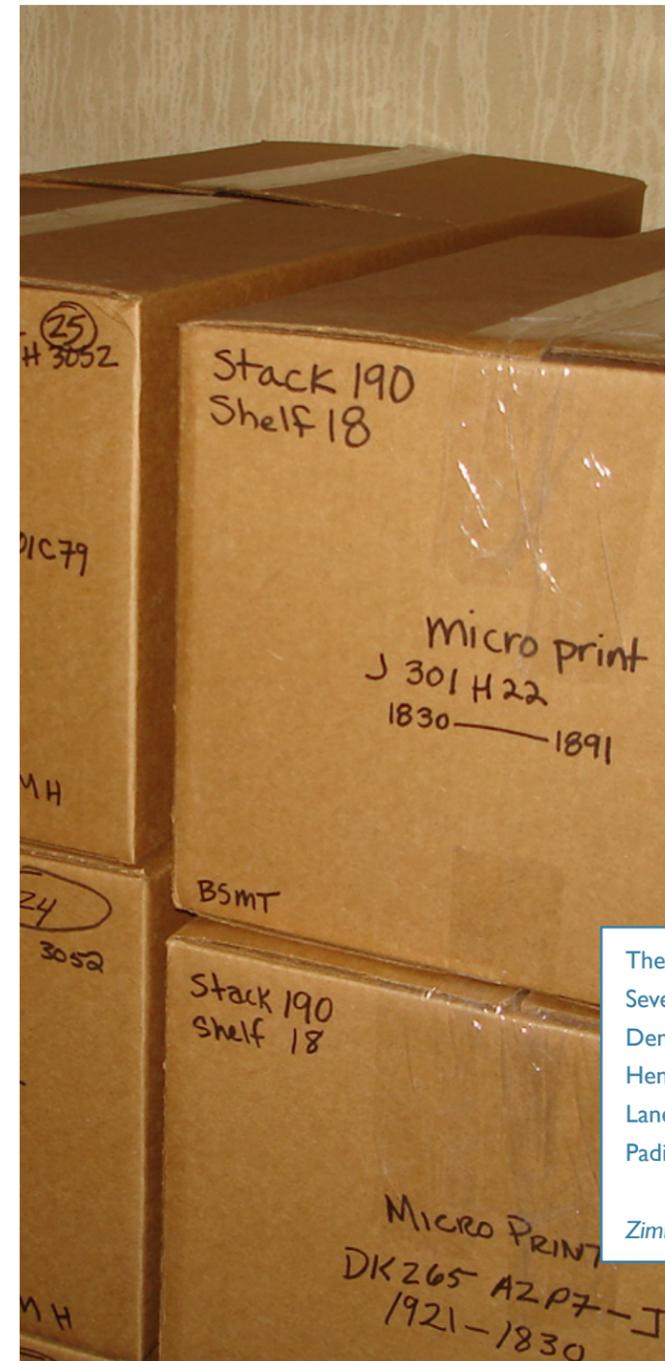
Kathryn Wood

Interlibrary Loan

Doing reference now, a year later, it's really interesting. Students will come to the desk who weren't here when the fire happened and I suddenly find I have to re-explain the fire. They'll say, "What's this mean, 'Unavailable?'" And I'll say, "Oh, we don't have this because it was part of the basement collection." They'll say, "What's that?" And I'll say, **"Oh, well, a year ago there was this fire. You know?"** And they don't.

The Pack Back Team: Dan Barkley, Megan Beard, Sever Bordeianu, Rik Burkard, Russ Cole, Nancy Dennis, Twila Firmature, Clayton Ford, Dale Hendrickson, Dave Herzel, Steven Keller, Gail Lane, Linda Lewis, Teresa Neely, Eric Nudell, Ed Padilla, Nancy Pistorius, Anne Schultz

Zimmerman Library Basement Pack Back wiki



completion of review of construction plans **March 26** First Pack Back meeting **April 8** David Otis Kelley dies, Director of the University of New Mexico General Library from 1949 to 1973

& 19 Zimmerman receiving area walls painted and new VCT flooring installed **March 16** Deadline for submissions to Fire/Watch Book **March 23** Interim Dean Wilkinson announces 50%

Ellee Cushing-Cruver

Student Employee, CAPS

I just re-did Karen's filing cabinet this week. She usually goes through it at the end of the spring semester and throws things out, but she didn't do that last spring. So this year it was two years' worth, a lot of shredding and recycling.

Ava Kargacin

Circulation, Zimmerman Library

Well, we just came out of a meeting and they were talking about the **17 trucks bringing all those books back**. Sounds like they were saying we'd be bringing them back in on June 1. And that's going to be fun because the books aren't in order because we had no time. We had to just get them out. Dan Barkley and Anne Schultz, while they were moving books, someone was right behind them tearing out walls. So if we'd had time and sat down and said, "Guess what? There's going to be a fire, so this is the order we'll put them in." But it doesn't work like that. So, yeah, it's going to be hell. But we'll do it. I've been here since '75, we always do it. It's just another big project for us.

...yeah, it's going to be hell. But we'll do it. I've been here since '75, we always do it. It's just another big project for us.

Zimmerman Library one year later:

257,000 square-foot interior completely cleaned

1st floor above fire scene redesigned and rebuilt

Cost:

Removal of burnt shelving, carpet and ceiling tile, sending damaged books for cleaning and repair in Texas, storing books and furniture during reconstruction (\$5.5 million)

Replacing burned and damaged books and journals (\$4.5 million)

Redesign and reconstruction of basement: installing sprinkler system on 1st floor and basement levels, rebuilding fire alarm system, replacing carpet, furniture and shelving (\$6.5 million)

Total: nearly \$17 million

Basement reconstruction to begin in June, 2007; anticipated reopening for Spring Semester, 2008



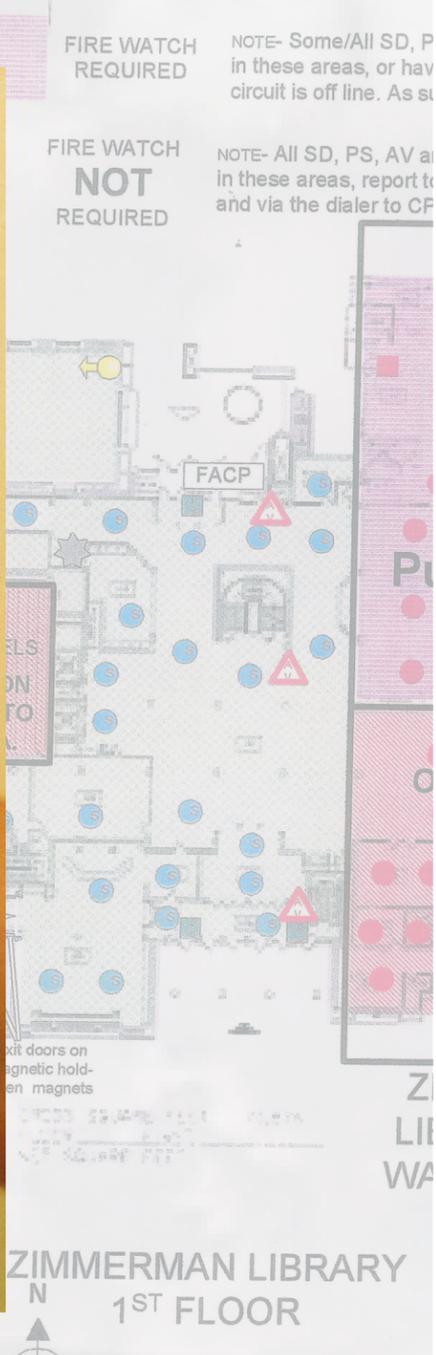
Please come and support our Exemplary Employee Award Recipients: Bonifacio Anglada, Ed Padilla, Louie Perez and Anne Schultz and our Bright Idea Award Recipients: Rik Burkard, Louise Danielson, Gail Lane and Magoo Shoulderblade. They all took challenging situations and accomplished wonderful things with hard work and innovation.

Twila Firmature, e-mail, April 19, 2007



The bright blue bell flares,
Crowns a canister of air.
Little button dares.

DEBORAH COLE
CSWR



Exemplary Employee and Bright Idea Awards recipients **April 26**



**THE FIRST FIRE WATCH
IN CHINESE HISTORY**

Five thousand years ago
the legendary emperor,
Yellow Emperor,
appointed the first
Fire Watch officer
in China.

BING-SHAN FAZIO
Print Resources

100% of construction plans and documents available for contractors to review in preparation for submittals of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for construction **April 30** One-year anniversary of the

AIR HORNS AND HARDHATS

University Libraries Fire Watch Patrol:
Zimmerman Library
Updated Procedures Effective: July 17, 2006

Thank you for your participation in the Zimmerman Fire Watch Patrol. Fire Watch is required when a building's fire alarm system is not completely operational in an occupied building.

Apparel: The area you are patrolling may be a bit dirtier than your usual environment; therefore, it is important to wear appropriate apparel and shoes. We strongly encourage you to wear comfortable clothing and closed-toed shoes. Also, your LOBO ID must be worn at all times while in Zimmerman Library.

Check-in: Please arrive for your Fire Watch Patrol 10 minutes prior to the start of your shift. When you arrive, check in with the security guard at the north entrance to Zimmerman Library. After check-in, proceed immediately to your assigned area (if you are covering a shift in the Towers, meet the person you are relieving at the security guard's desk). The person you are relieving will provide you with an air horn, master key, and map of the area you are assigned to patrol. Keep these items on hand at all times during your Fire Watch Patrol.

Expectations during patrol: You must remain mobile during your entire patrol; you must actively patrol your assigned area at all times during your one- or two-hour shift. You may not use laptops, computers, or any audio device (iPod, Walkman, etc.) at any time during your Fire Watch Patrol; you may not browse reading materials during your shift. You may not eat during your Patrol (though feel free to carry a bottle of water with you).

Exception – If you are covering a shift in the Towers you may take a short break after completing a full patrol. A full patrol must be completed every 15 minutes (i.e. – if it takes you 12 minutes to complete a full patrol of the towers, you may take a 3 minute break).

IN CASE OF SMOKE AND/OR FIRE: Should you encounter smoke and/or fire while on Fire Watch Patrol, **do not attempt to extinguish it.** Your primary duty is to sound an alarm with your air horn—**make 3 short blasts on the horn, pause, then make 3 more short blasts.** As you sound the alarm, make a full sweep of your area to ensure that individuals leave immediately. Upon completion of this sweep, exit the building immediately and gather near the north entrance to Zimmerman. Ensure that UNM Campus Police has been notified.

Joe Lane and Kathryn Wood

Interlibrary Loan

Deborah Cole: How did it feel when you did reference or Fire Watch?

Joe: Often it got in the way, especially when I did three hours of Fire Watch in a day.

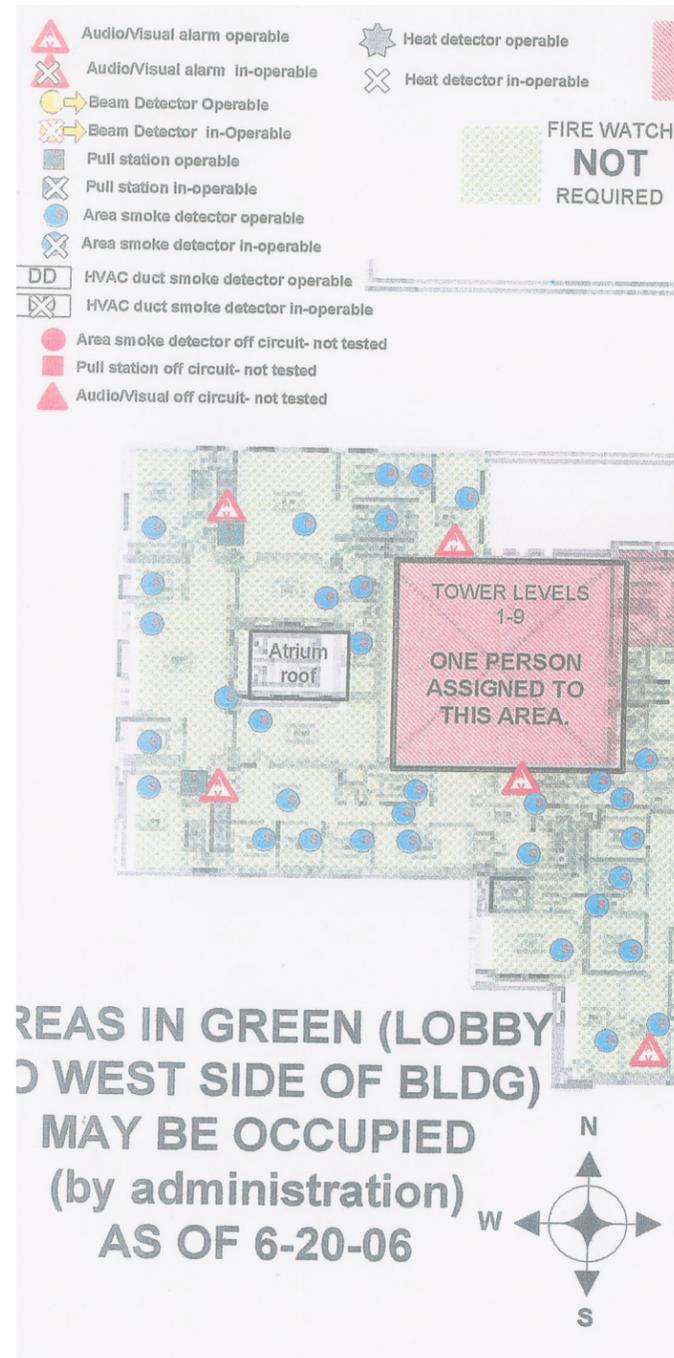
Kathryn: Joe really got hit with some awful Fire Watch hours. Of all of us, he somehow got the worst. I don't know how.

J: Yeah, two hours in the Tower and one on the 2nd floor. And they were sometimes separated, a few hours in the morning, an hour during the lunch hour and another hour in the afternoon.

K: And I got my reference training at the card tables in the SUB. It was in the works that I would be getting cross-trained on reference and then the fire happened. You know, those are the things they don't teach you in library school [laughs]. I sent out a lot of e-mails to people back home entitled "Things they don't teach you in library school!" They never taught me how to properly wear a hardhat. They never taught me to operate an air horn.

J: I kind of worried about whether, if I pushed that button, it would actually work.

K: I figured I could yell loud enough. [Laughs]



FIRST FIRE WATCH HAIKU

Air horn, key and map,
Hardhat and sensible shoes:
Oh, the joys, Fire Watch!

REBS BAUERSCHMIDT
Customer Support/Libros
Coordination Group

I'd like it on the record
that I would have liked Fire
Watch. I got hired too late.

SARAH STOHR
Library Resident

"UL employees who had
offices in Zimmerman Library
before the fire are expected
to participate in the Fire
Watch and are required to
respond to this e-mail ..."

CHAD KURZAWSKI, Office of the Dean
e-mail, June 13, 2006

J: Another worry was, would I drop it and would it go off by accident?

K: I clunked it on something a couple of times when I wasn't paying attention going around a corner and swinging an arm wide. But I never set it off. I just thought, "Oh, god!"

Pat B.

Receptionist, Office of the Dean

Deborah Cole: You talked to me earlier about being newly hired and not knowing a lot of library people and that Fire Watch gave you a chance to know more people.

Pat: Yes, I actually met some people I really enjoyed by doing Fire Watch. You came together for just a few minutes and then you were off walking again. So you'd have these snatches of conversation and you'd say, "Let's get together for lunch so we can have a real conversation." [Laughs] It even helped me learn people's names and become more familiar with them.

Evangelina Oates

Library Resident, University Libraries

Evangelina: I forgot Fire Watch one day. I was sitting at home; it was so peaceful, and I got this phone call. "You're supposed to be on Fire Watch." So I thought, "Okay, I'll be right there." I just totally forgot. I didn't like Fire Watch at all. I did it. Everyone had to do it.

Some people, when we eventually had to team up, would say, "I'm going to walk this half." And I would always say, "Listen, I'm not going to walk a half. I'm going to walk and that's what I'm going to do. I don't want to think about where I'm going." Some people would want to switch, but I would say, "No, this is not a big area. I'm just going to walk and look for fire. Or make sure there isn't a fire." [Laughs]

I didn't like the hat. Another reason I didn't like Fire Watch was that some of the BMS CAT workers would insinuate we liked Fire Watch because we weren't working. I had to tell a few people that I didn't get a Master's to have to walk around and hold an air horn in my hand. So,

it was not fun. I'd rather be working. And as a woman—it was always men commenting—I would think, “Do they think, ‘Well, women and librarianship...?’” Give me a break. They probably thought I had a big chip on my shoulder and I did when they said that, because no one wants to do this and we didn't feel like we were productive. I had a problem with that.

Deborah Cole: There were a lot of physical strains in the early days, no cooling.

E: It was hot. They put those big fans out with this big blue glob of goo in front. Basically they were air-fresheners. It was because they were trying to get the smell out. It was like a noisy warehouse—hummmmm.

Some people would wave when they were on Fire Watch. Other people didn't do anything. They just put their head down and ...

D: Different styles.

E: *It's all about style.*

Claire-Lise Benaud

Associate Director, Center for Southwest Research

FIREWATCH GUILT

The only time there was an actual fire alarm during my Fire Watch I neglected to do the one thing Fire Watch is all about: warn others that they have to leave the building. In my rush to get out, I forgot I had seen Beth Silbergleit in Tower Level 3. I did not remember until she came to the lobby and asked why everybody else had been evacuated. This is guilt story No. 1.

My guilt story No. 2 lies somewhere else. And it has nothing to do with not fulfilling the basic duties of a Fire Watcher.

I was doing my Fire Watch rounds on the 1st floor looking for something to read. Reference books had already been packed. In despair, I looked at the books waiting to be shelved in Zimmerman circulation. To my amazement, I found a book that you will never find on your

University Libraries Firewatch Schedule			
Monday	Tuesday	August 1	Wednesday
8:00 AM Towers Silbergleit 1st Fir Firmature 2nd Fir A Haest 2nd Fir B Pistorius 3rd Fir A Pistorius 3rd Fir B Pistorius	8:00 AM Towers Silbergleit 1st Fir Gienger 2nd Fir A Haest 2nd Fir B Innan 3rd Fir A Kelly, Connie 3rd Fir B Judell	8:00 AM Towers Lane, Joe 1st Fir Lane, Joe 2nd Fir A Blackburn 2nd Fir B Massman 3rd Fir A Sanchez, M 3rd Fir B Wood	8:00 AM
9:00 AM Towers Reinig 1st Fir Gienger 2nd Fir A Nelson, M 2nd Fir B Oates 3rd Fir A Blech 3rd Fir B Byrne, Lee	9:00 AM Towers Lane, Joe 1st Fir Armijo 2nd Fir A Bauerschmidt 2nd Fir B Hanson, M.E. 3rd Fir A Shead, Beverly 3rd Fir B Sanchez, M	9:00 AM Towers Lane, Joe 1st Fir Armijo 2nd Fir A Blackburn 2nd Fir B Massman 3rd Fir A Sanchez, M 3rd Fir B Wood	9:00 AM
10:00 AM Towers Keating 1st Fir Lane, Gail 2nd Fir A Mals 2nd Fir B Andersen 3rd Fir A Pistorius 3rd Fir B Lujan	10:00 AM Towers Campbell 1st Fir Donsbach, Joanne 2nd Fir A Dorame 2nd Fir B Keller 3rd Fir A Pistorius 3rd Fir B Ziso	10:00 AM Towers Campbell 1st Fir Donsbach, Joanne 2nd Fir A Dorame 2nd Fir B Keller 3rd Fir A Pistorius 3rd Fir B Ziso	10:00 AM
11:00 AM Towers Emmons 1st Fir Downer 2nd Fir A Hays 2nd Fir B Kargacin 3rd Fir A Peterson 3rd Fir B Swick	11:00 AM Towers Renfro, Illene 1st Fir Mals 2nd Fir A Hays 2nd Fir B Pedersen 3rd Fir A Renfro, Carol 3rd Fir B Cuianflone	11:00 AM Towers Renfro, Illene 1st Fir Mals 2nd Fir A Hays 2nd Fir B Pedersen 3rd Fir A Renfro, Carol 3rd Fir B Cuianflone	11:00 AM
12:00 PM Towers Hollister 1st Fir Bauman 2nd Fir A Cole, Russ 2nd Fir B Fairchild 3rd Fir A Rosen 3rd Fir B Olson, Karen	12:00 PM Towers Ferris 1st Fir Benedetto 2nd Fir A Cole, Russ 2nd Fir B Fairchild 3rd Fir A Ford 3rd Fir B Johnson, C	12:00 PM Towers Ferris 1st Fir Benedetto 2nd Fir A Cole, Russ 2nd Fir B Fairchild 3rd Fir A Ford 3rd Fir B Johnson, C	12:00 PM
1:00 PM Towers Provencio 1st Fir Critchfield	1:00 PM Towers Ford	1:00 PM Towers Ford	1:00 PM
2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM	2:00 PM

THREE HAIKUS

I walk the floors, why?
Two hours tower, one third.
Fire Watch done, bye!

I circle the floor.
Around and around I go.
Why is this a bore?

If you smell smoke blow
This horn; don't panic and run.
Tell all "get out now."

JOE LANE
Interlibrary Loan



parents' bookshelves, a book that will never be on any required reading list, a book that you cannot read on a bus, or in a library. I started reading that book hoping that nobody would stop by and ask me what I was reading. How embarrassing! First to be caught reading and even worse, to be caught reading one of the most famous pornographic books of the 20th century.

The *Story of O* was written the year I was born, in 1954. It is the story of a nameless woman—her name is just the letter O—who is blindfolded, chained, whipped, branded, and made to wear a mask. The prose is graphic, the style elegant and detailed. I cannot give you more details here. The *Story of O* was banned in France for years. Nobody knew who wrote the book: it was written under a pseudonym. For 40 years, there was much speculation about the author. Men and women alike said that only a man could write such a book. Finally, in 1994, at the age of 87, a woman, Dominique Aury, in an interview with *The New Yorker*, admitted that she wrote *Story of O*. This book has never been out of print.

Moises Sanchez
Reserves, Zimmerman Library

I've been wanting to get something off my chest regarding Fire Watch. While there was a lot of good interaction with fellow Fire Watchers, what really stuck with me was the cavalier attitude of some people. We were told to take our responsibility seriously—and most of us did—but there were a few who did not. There was one person in particular who had her nose in a book while she was walking the floor for her ENTIRE watch. This is no exaggeration! There was another fellow who would stop to browse the shelves and then start reading whatever caught his fancy. At first I was amused by their behavior, then I found it quite maddening

Dan, Dan, Fire Watch man,
Tell us where to walk and stand,
Train us if you can.

DEBORAH COLE
CSWR

Kathleen Keating

Reference Coordinator, University Libraries

Kathleen: Well, George [Kathleen's husband, George Farr, Circulation and Reserves, Centennial Library] and Roberta Innan had Fire Watch in the Tower and in that area in the lobby by the elevators is a table where Gifts puts out donated books people can buy for a dollar. So they were both reading an Agatha Christie murder mystery on their breaks. And they didn't want to be scheduled for Fire Watch duty at the same time because that would have interrupted their reading. They would read a bit, put it on the table, come back down and read some more. [Laughter]

George has a tendency to be rather curious about certain things. One time when he was doing the Tower he just wondered, "Where does this door lead to?" He went through this door at the far side of the Tower, on the west side. Then he turned around to get back in and the door had locked when it closed. So he went up to the next Tower level. Well, at every level the door was locked. He was beginning to panic because he couldn't get out of that stairwell and no one would know he was in there. Finally, on the 9th level, the door opened. [Laughter] "We don't know what happened to old George Farr; the building just ate him."

And another thing about Fire Watch. At first you could take a break between your rounds and then later you had to walk continuously the entire time. So what I did then was walk up to the 9th level of the Tower then read an article in one of the old *Life* magazines they had up there—like David Cassidy from 1971 with his Partridge Family. I read all about the Kennedy family tragedies. Then I would walk back down. **So every time I did a full tour I always read an article in those *Life* magazines.**

Deborah Cole: You mentioned something about some of the BMS CAT workers.

K: I met a man and a woman cleaning on the 3rd floor of Zimmerman who were Katrina victims. I thought that was interesting, that disaster victims were actually helping us with our disaster. And they were thankful that they had jobs. Then once the same people were in the Tower cleaning and they just loved looking at the western books. I remember the woman saying, "Oh, look at all these neat western books." She was reading them when she was supposed to be cleaning them. They were touching those books ... in the Center! Oh, well. We lived.

Date: 5/18/2006 2:16 PM
Subject: Zim May 18 update

The Disaster Recovery Assistance Team (DRAT) would like to thank everyone who has volunteered for the Zimmerman Fire Watch. The Fire Watch is an essential part of the recovery effort since without it we would not be able to have any UL employees in the building to work or page books.

Please send your availability for next week (May 22-26) to Monica Dorame by Noon, Friday May 19 so she can do next week's schedule.

We'd like to stress the importance of showing up 10 minutes early for your scheduled Fire Watch slot so we always have someone in place. Please clear all shift swapping with Monica before reporting for duty since your name will need to be given to the security guard. Please stay visible in the area you have been assigned. You should not be going into any office or work space during your Fire Watch. You need to sign out and leave the building as soon as possible at the end of your shift.

The UNM fire marshal, Vince Leonard, sometimes accompanied by one of the state fire marshals has been conducting surprise checks at Zimmerman Library to be sure we are abiding by their instructions. If we are not in compliance with the fire marshal's procedures we will have to vacate the building completely (including book paging) until it is reopened to the public in June.

The fire alarm system, throughout Zimmerman Library, is no longer functional. All floors in Zimmerman Library are now under fire watch, including the West Wing. The UNM Fire Marshall has been in close contact with the Library, and has endorsed the current fire watch plan.

Ed Castillo-Padilla, e-mail, June 15, 2007

... or, if not, are NOT operational, or have not been tested since the ... As such fire watch is required.

Date: 5/5/2006 12:59 PM
Subject: [LIBPERS-L] Employee Schedules

In order to make it easier for Dan/Sever/Rita to get the schedules compiled for the paging system, info desk, ref desk and Fire Watch we would like to ask ALL UL employees to send Dan information on your work schedule. Please send to Dan Barkley an e-mail with a list of the blocks of time you are NOT available due to leave, workshops etc. for next week only. Please also let Dan know if you cannot help with paging and Fire Watch due to health reasons. If you have any questions about the scheduling you can contact Dan, Rita or Sever by e-mail. Thanks.

Date: 5/9/2006 9:25 PM
Subject: Fire Watch

Please note that the new schedule for Wednesday (posted circa 6:30PM) includes a scaled down Fire Watch area of coverage. Due to the normal fire alarm system operating, the CSWR/West Wing, 2nd Floor Administration and BSMT Levels 1-3 no longer require a human presence. Therefore I've taken people off in those areas and in some cases moved them around. Also note that I have reduced the other areas to single coverage. Some folks have noted that to have two is a bit redundant.

For those unable to attend a fire training session yesterday or today, I will be in the North door area at 7:30AM for another training session.

Dan

Date: 5/8/2006 6:03 PM
Subject: Fire Watch for Tuesday/Thursday

I apologize for not getting this out earlier today. It took a bit longer to walk through the building again with the contractor.

This is the schedule for this Tuesday (5/9) and Thursday (5/11). As of RIGHT NOW it appears that the Fire Watch for Tuesday will begin at 1PM. For those of you who attended today's training session there is no need to attend again. Please meet at 12:45PM at the North Zimmerman Library Door. I will see that each of you signs in and will hand out a map of your zone, plus masks, gloves, flashlights, etc., that you need for your shift.

Date: 6/13/2006 11:49 AM
Subject: IMPORTANT: Fire Watch schedule procedures to change

CHANGE IN FIRE WATCH SCHEDULING PROCEDURES

Please join DRAT in thanking Monica Dorame and Dan Barkley for their courageous efforts in maintaining a comprehensive Fire Watch schedule in Zimmerman Library. Few of us would have managed this daunting task with as much grace and good humor as these two.

At this point, we know that a Fire Watch will need to be maintained for the foreseeable future, therefore, this task will be moved to Administration Services so that Monica can return to her normal job responsibilities. **Ten minutes early. When does my shift really start?**

Effective yesterday, Chad Kurzawski was assigned the task of coordinating the Fire Watch schedule (beginning with the week of June 19-23). If you are an employee who was physically located in Zimmerman Library, you will be required to provide your availability for Fire Watch duty. Previous exemptions will be evaluated since air quality in Zimmerman Library has been restored. We will continue, temporarily, with a weekly schedule and plan to evolve into a standardized Fire Watch schedule for all eligible employees.

Nancy Pistorius

Reference, Zimmerman Library

FIREWATCH ON ZIMMERMAN THREE

Hope that I
never again
may be,
Assigned Fire Watch,
on Zimmerman
floor three.

Up this aisle,
and
down
that.
I need a new pattern,
or I'll eventually
go bats!

To make it more interesting,
I decided
to see,
what books could be found
to appeal
to me.

I found the aisle!
I found the shelves!
I found where
children's books
abound!

I'm caught!
I'm hooked!
I found
Dr. Seuss' books!
Also,
as if on cue,
did appear Harry Potter,
the Hardy Boys,
and Nancy Drew, too!

Best of all,
I sheepishly admit,
Are the PZ's,
or "easy books",
Which have really
great pics!

Lest it seem,
duty
I've avoided,

Mr. Dan
and the Fire Chief
Never caught me
readin'
or dozin'.

And when my replacement
did finally
arrive,
I left floor three,
feeling muchly
alive,
Assured that
Zimmerman
floor three
Was safe,
safe,
safe as can be,
As well as
very,
very,
fire free.

Pat B.

Receptionist, Office of the Dean

Pat: I did enjoy walking the Tower. I learned to walk up one flight and do a round of a floor then walk up another flight and do another round of a floor because it was too hard to walk all those stairs at once. But I got in better shape! [Laughs]

Deborah Cole: Lots of people took advantage of that.

P: The books in the Tower are fascinating even from the covers. I've always loved books and been around them all my life; my grandparents and parents had a large collection of books. So books have always been like family treasures. So, I'm looking at the fabulous book covers and the artist/sculptor in me wants to find out how this one was bound and, "Isn't this embossing neat," and, "No, I must go on. Where's the smoke? Where's the fire?"

A battery went dead in one of the smoke detectors on a floor in the Tower once. It gave a little "beep" like home smoke alarms will. That was kind of strange. I thought, "Is this a time to blow the air horn? No, I don't think so. I'm going to tell Dan." [Laughs]

I learned a lot more about the way Zimmerman is laid out. It felt like there was a lot of history there, not just the history recorded in books, but the history of the number of students who used to browse in the Tower and the old study desks up there. You could imagine people sitting in these dark spaces researching. That kind of history became evident. I also love the smell of books. When you get in the stacks, they smell like books. It was nice.

Russ Cole

Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

Whenever I was on the 2nd or 3rd floor, going around and around, I'd look out those windows on the northeast corner and watch them hauling stuff up out of the skylights. That just went on and on; they kept taking out more and more charred gobbledy-gook. Then suddenly I'd recognize a shelf end, something you could identify. That was part of the feeling of the enormity of the damage, how huge it was. I kept thinking, "When are they going to stop?"

"Here is one of my Fire Watch Eureka's (I heard this thought in an American Masters video):

'If something is boring after two minutes, try it for four. If still boring, then eight. Then sixteen. Then thirty-two. Eventually one discovers that it is not boring at all.'
John Cage"

MICHELE MALS
Reference/Instruction



Lee Byrne

Technical Services and Online Tutoring, CAPS

Lee: CAPS staff walked Fire Watch for one week. I think we were back two weeks before the security company took over Fire Watch. The first week we were back in, Dan came up and trained us. Then we gave our schedules to Linda Skye and she put us on the schedule. I had three or four times.

Deborah Cole: As I recall, there were some CAPS staff who were disappointed to be given the 3rd floor to walk.

L: Oh, they put us up here! I wanted the Tower so bad! “Let me do something fun.” Yeah, walking the 3rd floor when you know it as well as ... well, I don’t know about everybody up here, but, me, I can find the books out there. I know where they are. But it was interesting. I’d think, “What pattern will I walk today?” Then I’d change it. I’d think, “It’s just an hour; it’ll be fine.” But then I’d look at the clock and think, “What do you mean, I’ve only been walking for fifteen minutes!” [Laughs] The first fifteen minutes was always the hardest. “Okay, I’ve covered the floor twice.” Maybe not, maybe only once, but whatever it was it was enough. “You mean I’ve got to do this for another 45 minutes? Oh, please, next person, please be here.”

D: Yeah, toward the end of everyone’s shifts on these floors they’d come toward the lobby area looking hopefully for the next person. “Are you the one? Glad to see you. NO?” or “OH! Just a patron.” or “A patron! Something to watch! Now I have some purpose beyond the fire that might happen.” [Laughter]

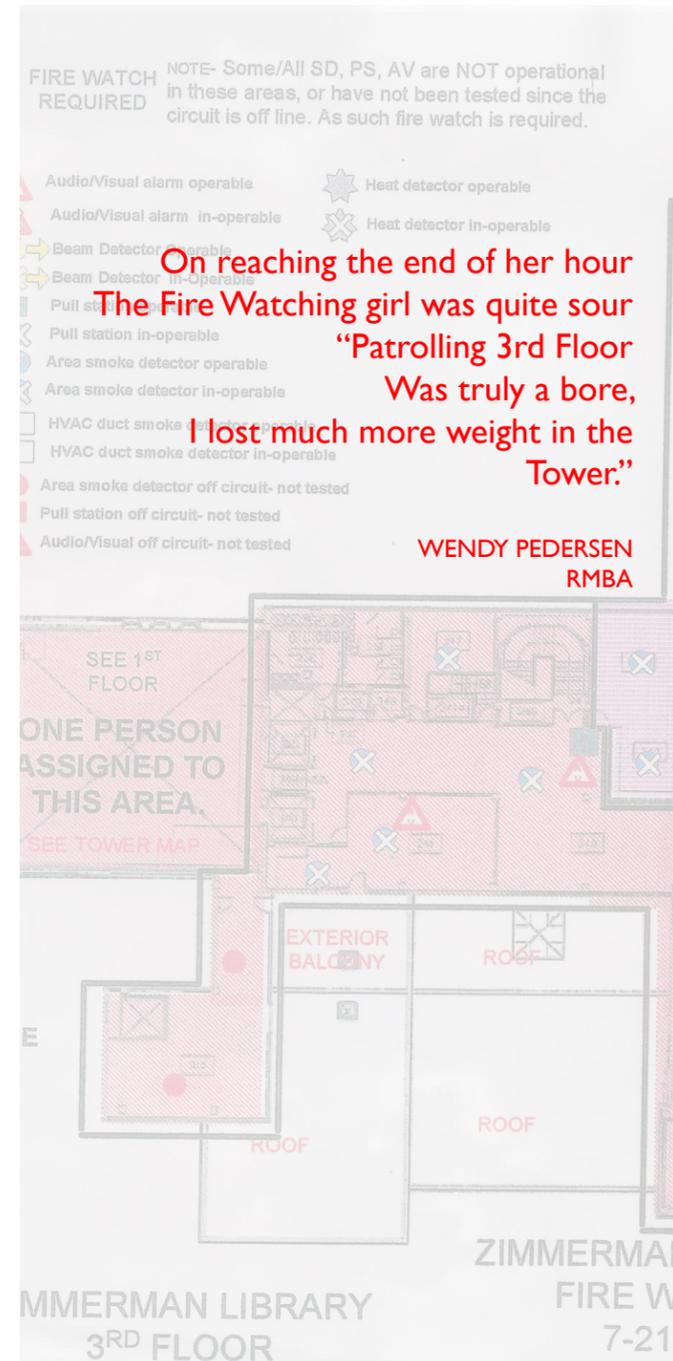
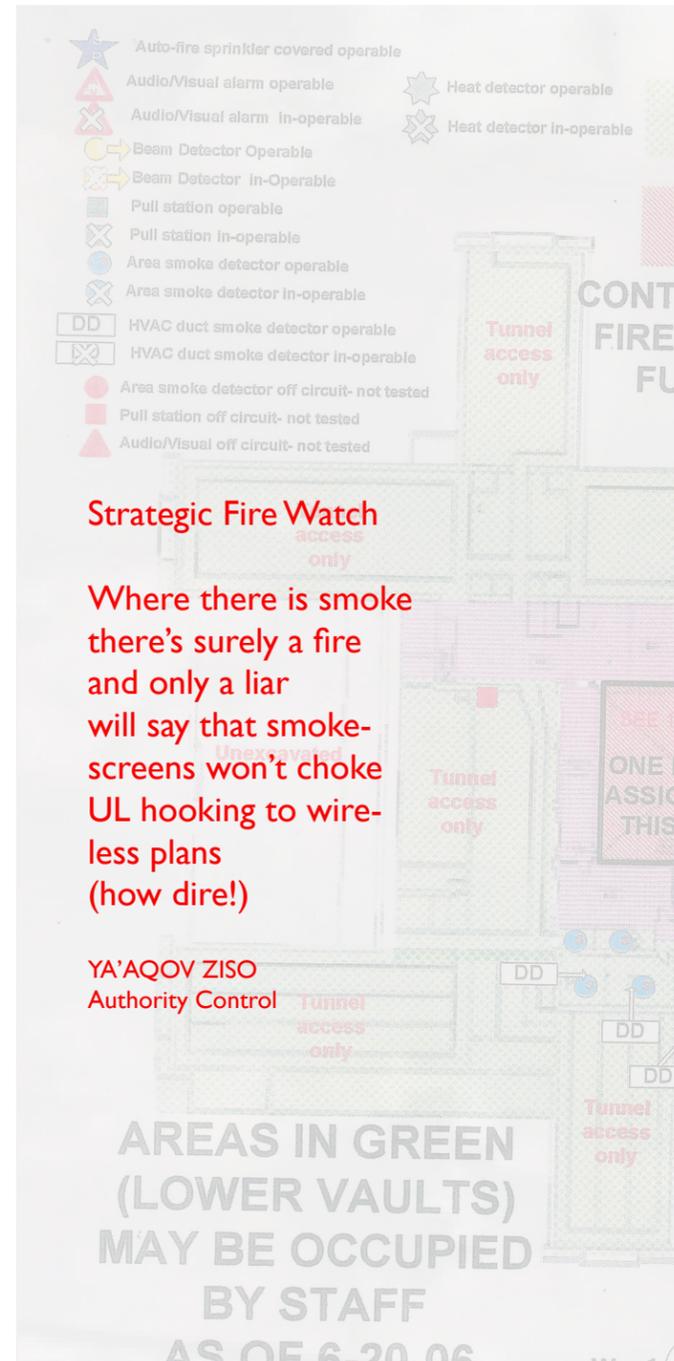
L: And that burning desire ...

D: Burning? [Laughter]

L: [Looks down at her hand, fingers curved, thumb raised and cocked] “I wonder what this sounds NO! ... I wonder what this sounds ...” [laughter]

The quilt will include images of books designed and created by staff members, flame images and will have actual photographs of the aftermath of the fire printed onto part of the fabric borders.

UNM Today, August 9, 2007



D: I have to let you know that we’re going to be able to press the air horn buttons at some point in the completion of this reconstruction.

L: I think twice I’ve heard one. One time was when the students were back in the building, after the beginning of the fall semester and a student walked up to the guard’s desk and just picked up one of the air horns and pressed the button. This is what I heard happened, anyway. And it was only one blast. Everybody freaked!

D: She just walked off laughing and got in line at Starbucks. Ed came down and read her the riot act.

L: And then we had a fire alarm when one was pressed. That was the really frightening thing. “What if I really smelled smoke and had to press the thing—what?—three times? I remember Dan’s instructions: one, two, three. But would you really be able to do it?”

It was an odd responsibility. And since we didn’t do it very long, that sense of responsibility didn’t wear off. I don’t know about super-vigilant, but awfully paying attention. “Awfully paying attention?” That was an awfully bad sentence. [Laughter]

Sharon Head
eResources

In regards to Fire Watch, I’d like to say something profound and enlightening. I did have some really lovely moments in the Tower. I love the physical facts of books ... the colors of covers, the smells, the weight, the print on the page. I loved being in that space or on the 2nd or 3rd floors of Zimmerman. However, more memorable for me is the fact that several times, when I told someone out in the community I was doing Fire Watch and had to explain what that was and that I walked through the old “tower,” the response was something like, “Oh, I used to make-out up there in the stacks,” or on one occasion, “I had sex with my boyfriend up there.” After that, I would wonder what other energies and ghosts were dancing about as I was making my rounds.

Michele Mals

Reference/Instruction, Zimmerman Library

FIREWALKING THE FLOORS OF THE LIBRARY TOWER

Firewalking the floors of the library tower,
Discoveries beckon on shelves,
Sparking secrets only to me,
Of connections and histories
Engagements and musings.
Like good genies who
Float back around with every circle
Of travel and revelation,
Awakenings await with each revolution.

Firewalking the floors of the library tower,
Tripping upon treasure books
Of national park adventure parading from
Pages of invitation to wilderness outposts
On ancient sunbaked Hopi lands and glacial alpine lakes
Trekking in sacred circles, descending altitudes on
Paths infused with imagination,
An antidote to stairmastering the solitary hours.

Firewalking the floors of the library tower,
Where dissertations and theses mushroom each passing year,
Merchandizing intellectual properties
Of scholars recent and past.
Volumes speaking of hours,
Hunched over primary sources and data leading to
Probabilistic uncertainty analysis of laser thermal interactions
And six-inch bound forays into Clinton P. Anderson's public policy,
Squatting next to soaring musical scores celebrating
The way of trees: for three oboes, three trombones, timpano,
bass drum, and piano.
These lined up with Edward Abbey's celebrity dissertation
Emitting without fanfare the philosophy of
Anarchism and the morality of violence.

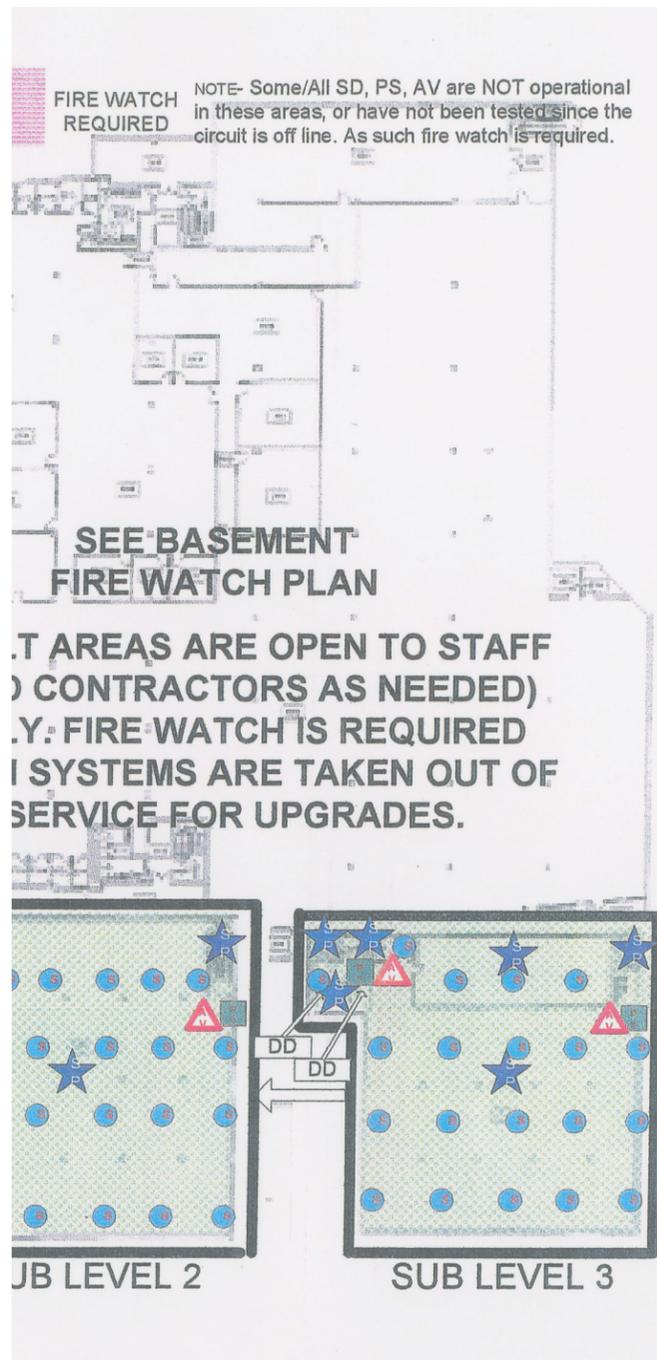
“For those of you who participate in Fire Watch, a quick procedural item. For now, we do not need to open student study carrels on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Ed does a thorough check of these carrels every morning, and we are only required to do one such check a day. If you do feel the need to open a student study carrel (i.e. you suspect smoke/fire), please make sure that you lock the carrel securely after checking it.”

CHAD KURZAWSKI
Office of the Dean
e-mail, June 22, 2006

**There are no “Towers,”
Just the one, nine levels tall.
Stagger, climb or crawl.**

**DEBORAH COLE
CSWR**

FIRE WATCH PROGRAM
DRAWINGS PROVIDED BY:
VINCENT J. LEONARD



Firewalking the floors of the library tower,
Unearthing Chaco Canyon's mysteries
From unpretentious 3rd floor boxes with
Archived investigations of Pueblo Alto complexes
Like smoke signals from fires of a civilization
Patched together from remnants of ceramics,
lithics and ornaments
Spilling below into the forgotten floor that is
Bypassed by the uninitiated pilgrim.

Firewalking the floors of the library tower
Spying children's books with kaleidoscopic covers
Offering insights into why Coyote gets lovesick
And When clay sings
For Pueblo girls: growing up in two worlds.
Along the Santa Fe Trail
The prairie presents wonder and hardship
For travelers headed west to
Canyonlands and purple peaks,
Up and down, to dreamscapes and visions
Of a manifest destiny, a survival of the fittest
To life's next landing.

Firewalking the floors of the library tower
Fixing on the Other side of nowhere
A place Far from home: West by rail with the Harvey girls,
Inhabited by D.H. Lawrence's Plumed serpent, Quetzalcoatl,
Fed by Adela Amador's Tales from the kitchen
and the Cocina de la frontera.
Tableaus on *Life* magazine covers,
Strewn memories of
Cathy Rigby balanced on the Olympic beam,
Apollo 12 moonwalks, the assassination of John F. Kennedy,
Soaking snow monkeys, glamorous Ann Margaret, Kent State
students shot,
All stopped in time at the top of the tower
Piled on the last stack to the left
On the way to the next strenuous cycle
of recollection and reverie.

Wendy Pedersen

Research Materials Bibliographic Access

NINE CIRCLES OF MYSTERY; NINE LEVELS OF HISTORY (Working title)

Proposed video production project treatment of about 10 minutes; pitched on 9/26/2006; rejected by Fire Marshal on 10/9/2006

This preliminary treatment was submitted as a proposal for a class on video production. University Libraries employees had a lot of time to think as we traversed the stacks of Zimmerman, and the Tower lends itself to some fun flights of fancy.

The basic story highlights the potential of our unique materials to become living history. While the tone is intended to be light-yet-respectful and a bit fantastical, the possibilities for benign, positive attention to the collection are solid. As for security, through the magic of video all exact locations can be cheerfully misrepresented.

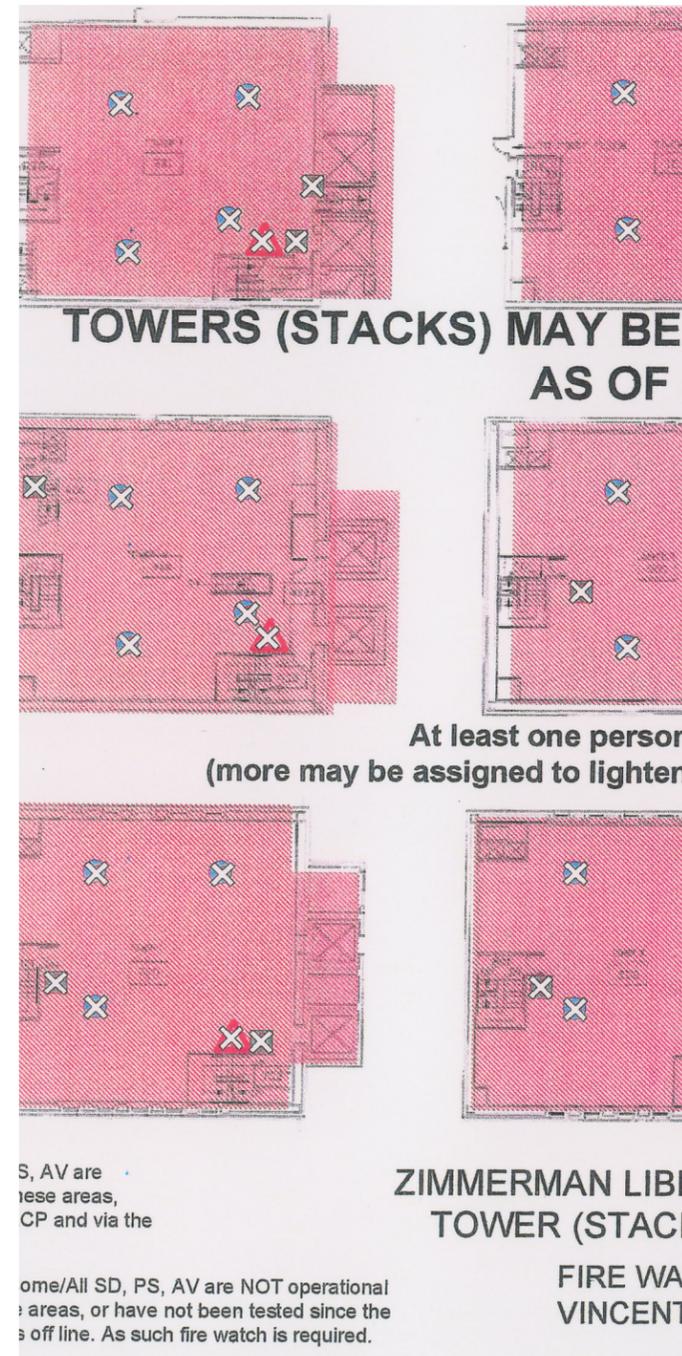
The action takes place in the closed access stacks in Zimmerman Library's tower. After the fire, the alarm system is out. The Fire Marshal has decreed that staff must mount human Fire Watch patrols while anyone is working in the building.

Our protagonist is a librarian assigned to patrol the nine stories of the Tower. She's issued an air horn and a master key. The elevator is out, so she accesses each floor through the stairwell. Lighting is dim and windows are covered with shades for preservation purposes; only in the stairwell is there full light. Our librarian may turn on lights only if she turns them off again.

On each floor she stops to look at something in the collection, because these are rare books and materials not generally available for everyday perusal. On each floor, some object she picks up speaks to her, or makes noise, or an apparition manifests. For example:

9th floor: Che Guevara (or August Sandino or Salvador Allende, whatever) steps out from behind a cabinet of Latin American political posters.

8th floor: She picks up a reel-to-reel tape from the ethno-musicological collection of John Donald Robb and we hear some weird music from the collection.



“Library Security in Zimmerman Library has been instructed to not permit any library personnel into the Library until 7:30am when all fire watchguards are scheduled to begin their duties. This time frame has been mandated by the State Fire Marshal who still has authority over this building.”

ED CASTILLO-PADILLA
e-mail, July 30, 2007

Assigned to the towers
(during walking time between stacks)



ZIMMERMAN
LIBRARY FIRE
WATCH 6-19-06

PROGRAM DRAWINGS PROVIDED BY:
LEONARD UNIVERSITY FIRE MARSHAL

7th floor: She opens a Mexican cookbook and along comes the spirit of Josefina Velázquez de León, author of hundreds of popular cooking rags and hostess of Mexico's first ever televised cooking show in the 50s.

6th floor: Decades of UNM theses & dissertations. The voices of Ph.D.s babble together the titles of their works, and it all ends with something like, “Do you want fries with that?”

5th floor: Picks up an autobiography of Richard Nixon. It is autographed, “To my good friend and neighbor, Clinton P. Anderson.” We cut in some Nixon footage; librarian slams the book shut, shudders and moves on!

4th floor: Empty except for a table with one large, ancient tome. The pages keep turning themselves as she walks by. Lots of potential here for body language.

3rd floor: Pictorial archives: maybe she finds original John Gaw Meem blueprints of the building she's in. Or maybe photos of Pancho Villa and we cut in some footage from Pershing's Punitive Expedition out of Columbus, NM in 1916.

2nd floor: Our librarian picks up a parchment volume in Latin dated 1668 or so, in really great condition. She's thinking “Wow,” then picks up another book, a random paperback from 1968 that is crumbling. “What a difference 300 years makes!”

Bottom floor: A doorway at the back leads to a locked vault or maybe it's open and the only thing inside is a copy of Baum's original *Wizard of Oz*. Or maybe she gets locked in, and there's a sign on the door indicating it's going to be a long time before anyone comes by to open up.

There can be internal monologue or external voiceovers the whole way through. Lots of turning lights on and off. Some peeks through the shades on the 9th floor show sunny ABQ vistas, while all is dark and strange inside.

Ending: Librarian puts out the last light, voiceover says, “There are 40 thousand stories in the Naked Tower; these are nine of them.” Or something like that....

Rebs Bauerschmidt

Customer Support/LIBROS Support Group, University Libraries

WANDERING ... IN THE FORBIDDEN TOWERS

I found it peculiar that a fire that violates our core sense of what is right was a catalyst to wander the towers. Wander with a mission—the mission of Fire Watch: to serve and protect—but wander in routes that took me to each corridor where I had previously been forbidden to enter, even as a long-term employee.

It seemed a shame I couldn't sit and browse the collections. It reminded me of a time long ago where on a rainy day I'd sit for hours thoroughly immersed, digging through treasures and discovering hidden secrets in my grandmother's attic. But the rules were clear, four sweeps per hour, and as fit as I was I barely completed the nine levels in my allotted 15 minutes in time to start the process afresh.

Yes, my brain understood the reasons for closed stacks—for collection preservation on materials declared as special, to be more environmentally controlled, and for a host of other reasons. Is it that we long for that which we cannot have? To be able to browse only via online methods means to me much less serendipitous finding. And the only option is to have the item paged, recorded, retrieved, seen, handled, perhaps commented on by others and you are then watched as you review the item in the room downstairs. Many times in the open stacks I have found what I initially sought but then discovered many other treasures as my gaze would wander.

And now, now that we are not actively doing Fire Watch, I find I am rather sad to be banished from the towers once again.

Ft. Worth Warehouse: 413 pallets of periodicals & 147 pallets of film/fiche.

Zimmerman Library Basement Pack Back wiki

The grand reopening of the remodeled basement space is still planned for the beginning of the spring semester in January of 2008.

Linda Lewis, e-mail, July 27, 2007

Carol Renfro

Resource Acquisitions, Print Resources

I don't have much to say about Fire Watch. Just that it was a job that needed to be done and I did what they asked. I was happy to help out during that time. We helped each other when schedules conflicted. It helped us to link back to Zimmerman when we were spread out all over campus. As I walked between the rows of books on the 2nd and 3rd floors and in the Towers, I thought, how can electronics replace this? I almost felt that the thoughts of all of those authors could permeate my mind. I am more of a reader than a writer but you do need both. How could anyone start a fire in a library? How could anyone start a fire?

Susan Magee

Coordinator, Web Services and Customer Studies

It would be fun to calculate the miles walked in Fire Watch. You know, what's the circuit of the 3rd floor? How many hours? How many people were walking each hour? Come up with an "at least" figure. "The University Libraries staff walked so many thousands of miles during Fire Watch." It would be impressive.

The other calculation would be: an average cost per mile based on the staff salaries. You could take an average of all the people who ever did Fire Watch. I mean, there was a time when some people couldn't do anything but Fire Watch—they were so displaced. There wasn't space. There weren't computers or furniture. So they came in for Fire Watch and then left. That's all they could do. But as time went, until August when they contracted it out, lots of peoples' days were built around Fire Watch.

The corner blocks [of the quilt] will commemorate the subject areas with the greatest losses: African-American Studies, Asian Studies, Pre-Columbian History, and Native American Studies.

UNM Today, August 9, 2007

Date: 7/17/2006 8:48 AM
Subject: Fire Watch: Reminder of New Procedures

All, as we open additional areas of Zimmerman Library to the public, please remember that Fire Watch procedures have changed. Attached is a revised procedural document, but please keep in mind the following items:

FIRE WATCH IS YOUR NUMBER 1 PRIORITY. DO NOT LET ANYTHING OR ANYONE INTERFERE WITH YOUR DUTIES DURING FIRE WATCH.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled shift.

Review the map of your area along with your scheduled partner for your floor/shift. Be familiar with your area including all points of evacuation.

You are to be moving around your area at all times. Try not to answer questions, assist patrons in finding books, etc. Fire Watch is your priority.

No eating, reading, listening to music while on Fire Watch.

If there is an alarm, or you hear another air horn sound, hit your air horn 3 times, pause, then 3 more. Move quickly to ensure that everyone in your area and floor have been evacuated then remove yourself from the area. REMAIN CALM during any emergency situation.

If you see a fire DO NOT attempt to put it out; hit your air horn and begin your normal evacuation procedures.

Thanks again for your assistance with Fire Watch, Chad

One stuffy and sweaty June morn
A watcher cut loose with his horn
His nefarious plan
Was discovered by Dan—
Then he wished that he'd never
been born.

WENDY PEDERSEN
RMBA

"In the Tower, no
one can hear you
scream."

WENDY PEDERSEN
RMBA

Miles You Walked:

Cost per Your Mile:

THE FIRE WATCH FOLLIES

On September 7, 2006, a month to the day after a security firm assumed Fire Watch responsibilities in Zimmerman Library, over 100 staff from University Libraries, Zimmerman affiliates and other UNM departments celebrated the transition at The Fire Watch Follies. Attendees hoping to win a donated iPod Shuffle signed in with John Gill (playing a guard on his day off from real guard duty) and received a flyer about the Fire/Watch Book Project.

The “Fire Watch Wall of Fame” graced the glass expanse of the Willard Room’s east wall, displaying 12 weeks of Fire Watch schedules. At five “Fire Stations” visitors could list hopes for activities and awards related to the fire or Fire Watch, create “Fire Watch Graffiti” or have themselves photographed as an air horn. (A number of brave souls tried the horn on for size.) Fire Watch Memories books displayed poems and stories created by UL staff. Photographs of the fire damage, clean-up, deconstruction and reconstruction as well as relocated services and staff flashed overhead. A sound-track of “fire-theme” songs played in the background.

A “Fire Watch” made by Pat B. ticked away on the refreshments table not far from a hardhat cake provided by Linda Skye. Linda also created a golden hardhat “crown” donned by many participants during the festivities.

The Follies began when the Firewitch Task Force, who organized the event, assembled to the theme from *Chariots of Fire*. Rebs Bauerschmidt, Deborah Cole, Michele Mals and Wendy Pedersen welcomed everyone by breaking into a song inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*:

We **rep**-re-sent the **fire**-witch gang,
The **fire**-witch gang,
The **fire**-witch gang.

In preparation for the Pack Back into Zimmerman, we are reviewing all of the equipment, furniture and/or boxed desk and office materials that were moved to off-site warehouses after the fire. One of the first steps will be working with employees that are now in their permanent work locations (ILL, ZIM Public Services, etc.). We will also be arranging with personnel that will be moving back into ZIM basement (Print Resources, Electronic Resources, RMBA, Instruction and WGU library services) to sort and even weed boxes of materials before moving them back....

Nancy Dennis, e-mail, August 16, 2007



TOP TEN REASONS WHY I CAN'T DO FIRE WATCH TODAY

10. My dog had puppies last night, so I'm staying home.
9. I don't know what book smoke smells like so I don't know what to look for.
8. I broke a nail so I can't press down on the air horn button if I need to.
7. Why do I have to do Fire Watch when you don't?
6. My dog ate my Fire Watch schedule so I didn't know I was supposed to come in today.
5. My Fire Watch shoes are in the wash.
4. Gee, was I supposed to do Fire Watch today?
3. Gordon switched Fire Watches with me and I switched with Emily and Emily switched with Fione and Fione switched with Herman. I don't understand why Fred didn't show up.
2. My supervisor said I don't have to do Fire Watch because you don't like me.
1. I can't come in today because I am allergic to fire.



DAN BARKLEY
GID/Reference

And **on** behalf of the fire-witch gang,
We **wish** to welcome **you** to
Fire – Watch Land!

MC Deborah Cole pointed out that the Follies were not intended to belittle the gravity of the April 30th fire, but evolved from an understanding of fire as both destructive and transformative. She assured everyone that the humor to follow came straight from the heart.

A medal ceremony began the Follies. “Calm Under Fire” honored student Verity Robert for doing what no person performing Zimmerman Fire Watch has yet done: on April 30 she calmly cleared the basement of patrons after seeing smoke that indicated a very real fire.

For continuing to work Sunday nights once Zimmerman returned to its regular hours, Russ Cole received the “Never on Sunday” medal. Russ was the UL staff person on duty Sunday evening when the fire began.

For performing like the Jemez Pueblo firefighters who travel far afield, Anne Schulz donned the “Hot Shot” medal for her various post-fire efforts in Zimmerman—a library in which she doesn't normally work!

Other “hot shots” receiving fiery candies for their post-fire efforts included Ed Castillo-Padilla (for everything), Louie Perez and Bonifacio Anglada (for moving furniture back and forth and back again), Sever Bordeianu and Kathy Gienger (for sifting through the periodicals in the basement), Monica Dorame, Chad Kurzawski and Linda Skye (for scheduling—a job much

Planning is underway for two major UL projects, the Zimmerman Pack Back and the Fine Arts Library move. Both projects will be taking place simultaneously generating a ... need for volunteers from across the UL. The Zimmerman Pack Back is scheduled to get underway in mid-September and the FAL move will take place over the winter break. What we seek at this point are volunteers to work on the Zimmerman Reference desk or ... as Crew Supervisors for the pack back.

We will need volunteers to begin the week of September 17th through January 21st, 2008 (the scheduled reopening date for the basement).... NRG Services, a professional moving company, has been hired to perform all of the manual labor involved in the book return.

Johannes Van Reenen, e-mail, August 30, 2007

worse than Fire Watch itself), and the Library Information Technology staff: where would we be without our computers?

The final medal, "Hot and Bothered," expressed appreciation for another job few in UL would have wished to do: coordinating and overseeing Fire Watch. Before receiving his medal, honoree Dan Barkley endured a bit of "roasting." Firewitches Deborah and Wendy read a "Dan" haiku and limerick. John Gill, Claire-Lise Benaud and Evangela Oates performed a Fire Watch sign-out/sign-in skit that included a discussion of footwear choices for Fire Watch (high-heeled boots vs. sensible shoes) and Evangela's heartfelt rendition of "These Boots Are Made for Walking." Her boots walked right over a photo of Dan. Zimmerman's own Atlas accepted the attention good-naturedly then read out "The Top Ten Reasons Why I Can't Do Fire Watch Today," taken from real excuses, so he claimed.

After gamely singing songs written for the event, people shared fire and Fire Watch experiences. Claire-Lise Benaud spoke of "Fire Watch Guilt," Teresa Marquez of ghosts in the tower and Twila Firmature of keys returned, keys reclaimed and doors no longer there. Anne Schultz related how difficult and disturbing it had been working among the burned ranges. An e-mail from Sharon Head noted peoples' recollections of youthful escapades in the tower.

FIRE WATCH IN THE TOWER (sung to "Home on the Range")

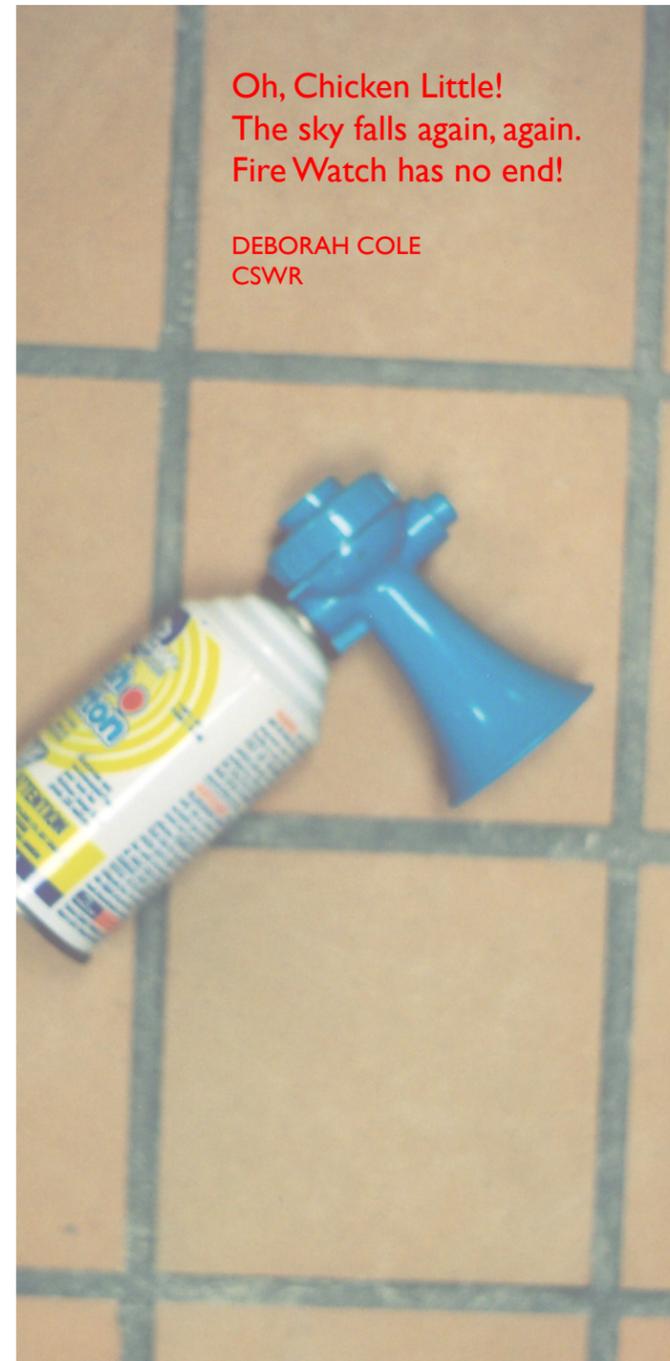
Oh, give me a shift in the Tower today
Where my knees, thighs and heart get to play
Where the sweat never leaves
And my chest always heaves
Give me Fire Watch in the Tower today

Fi – re Watch in the Tower
The pounds fall away by the hour
The stairs reach to the sky
And I climb 'til I cry
I [love][hate] Fi – re Watch in the Tower.

FIRE WATCH FOLLIES

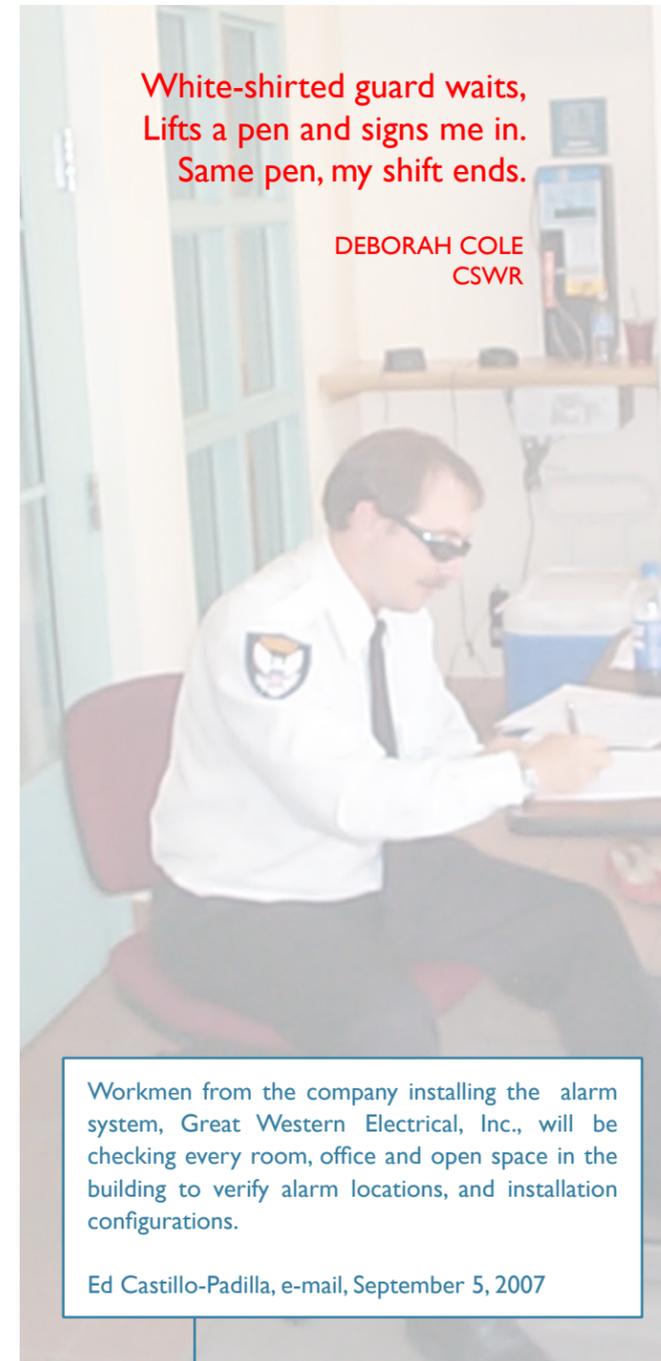
Deborah Cole presented examples of photographic work by herself and Ed Castillo-Padilla.

After the formal Follies concluded, the audience returned to visiting the Fire Stations, playing with air horns, enjoying cake, watching the slideshow and tapping their feet to Jimi Hendrix, Bruce Springsteen, James Taylor, Buddy Holly, the Pointer Sisters and others singing of fire in its various forms. Reports during and after the Follies indicated that a good time was had by all. Certainly the Willard Room will never be the same.



Oh, Chicken Little!
The sky falls again, again.
Fire Watch has no end!

DEBORAH COLE
CSWR



White-shirted guard waits,
Lifts a pen and signs me in.
Same pen, my shift ends.

DEBORAH COLE
CSWR

Workmen from the company installing the alarm system, Great Western Electrical, Inc., will be checking every room, office and open space in the building to verify alarm locations, and installation configurations.

Ed Castillo-Padilla, e-mail, September 5, 2007

Grace Williams

Security Guard, Santa Fe Protective Services, Inc., Zimmerman Library

IN THE SUMMER, I was plenty grateful to be workin' in the A.C.
BEWARE, in the basement you can go stir-crazy.

IN THE SUMMER, I was very happy to sign you in and out, in and out.
BEWARE, in the towers no one can hear you yell and pout, scream and shout.

IN THE SUMMER, I was never sad, only glad.
BEWARE, Fire Watch isn't half-bad, it's totally rad'!

Ernest Lopez

Security Guard, Santa Fe Protective Services, Inc., Zimmerman Library

Ernest: I didn't know about the fire until I started working here. I think it was July, July of last year. That's when I found out about the fire and how devastating it was for a lot of people. It was after the fact.

Deborah Cole: What was it like walking through the building?

E: It was kind of scary. Up in the Tower you can still smell smoke. But it's also so funny because people see us walking around with those horns and they'll stop us and ask, "What is that horn for?" And I say, "Well, if anyone gets out of hand we'll just hit them over the head with it." [Laughs] Then I just start laughing.

NRG guys were there when it arrived with the forklift ready. It was empty in less than an hour...

Teresa Neely, e-mail, September 14, 2007

D: A lot of people don't realize there are no alarms or that there was a fire.

E: We have to explain what's going on and why we're here. I like doing Fire

Watch, because it's interesting walking around, meeting new people and having them ask, "What happened?"

D: Did you ever go to the basement?

E: We used to work in the basement and we would take turns. I was in the basement a couple of times. It's real quiet down there. You can see where the fire was on the ceiling in places, on some of the darker edges of the skylights, where the stucco is. I saw the pictures they displayed in front of the plastic on the 1st floor for a while, showing what happened and how much damage was done. It took me back to my childhood, to my teenage years when we had a fire at home. An electrical fire burned the whole 2nd floor of our house.

D: Were you at home at the time?

E: Yeah. It was a Saturday and I was babysitting my two little sisters. One of my sisters went upstairs while I was watching TV and came back yelling, "There's a FIRE!" And I said, "No, no way," but I ran up to see and then ran back down. I was washing clothes at the time and I couldn't get water out of the faucet, so I grabbed a gallon of milk to try to put out the fire. [Laughs] One of my sisters was so scared that she ran in the closet, so I had to put everything down and get her and my other sister and run outside. My neighbor got a water hose to try to put it out, but the fire spread so quickly that there wasn't time to do anything. We lost everything. You felt like you didn't have anywhere else to go.

D: So you had the experience of the fire and of being displaced by it.

E: Yeah, we stayed with my aunt who also lived in Houston. About two months later we moved to San Antonio. I'm from San Antonio originally. We'd moved to Houston then moved back. It was a sad situation.

D: So I guess you can empathize with the people in the library who aren't back, or will never be back, in their regular offices because those offices are gone.

E: Yeah....

These 8 trucks represent a little more than 50% of what we sent to Texas.

Teresa Neely, e-mail, September 20, 2007



John Gill, security guard: "It's the old guy's birthday today. He's 70."

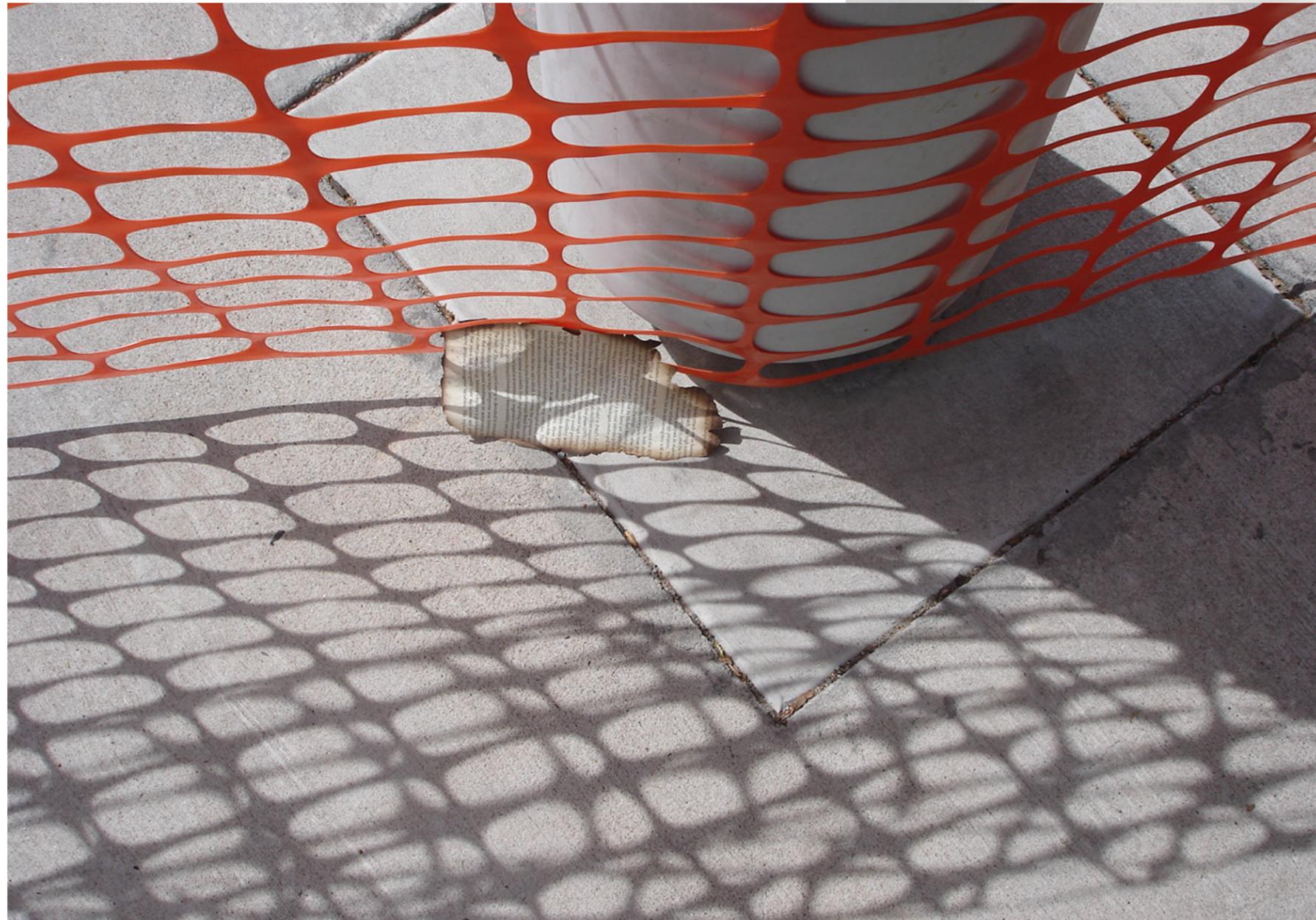
UL staff signing in: "What's his name?"

John Gill: "Just think Old Man River. It's Larry Stream. He prefers the basement shift so we call him "Underground Stream.""



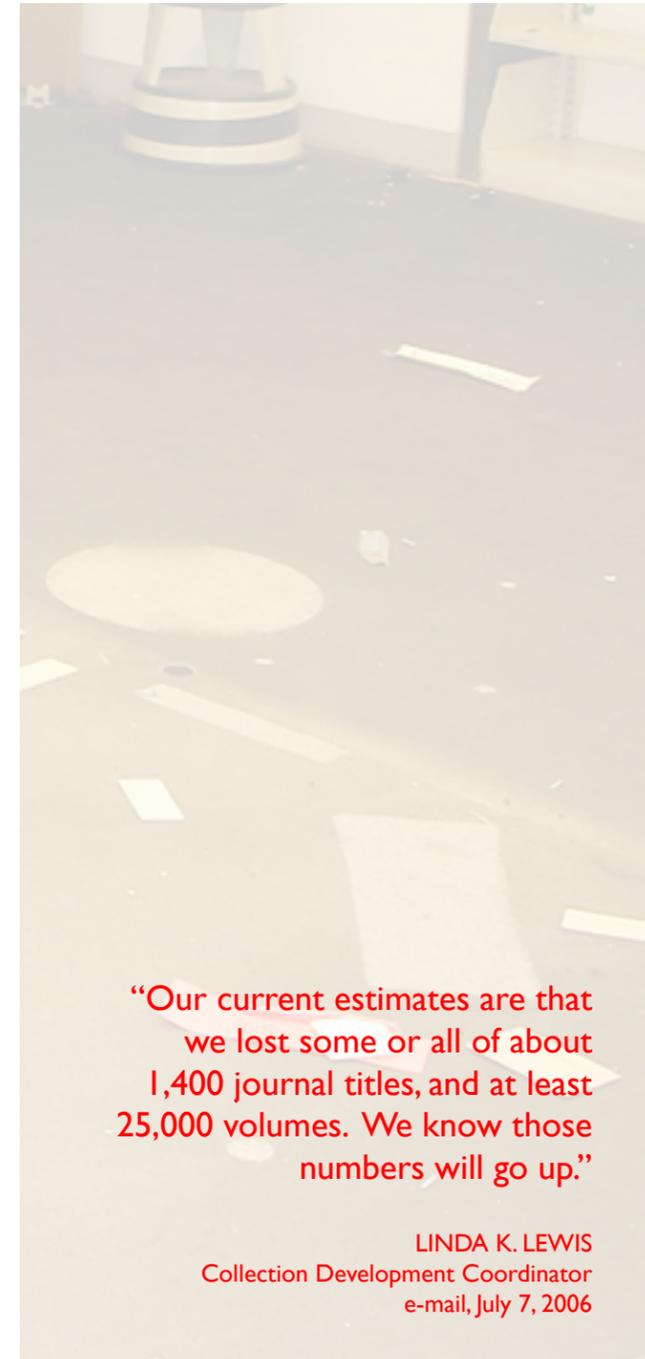
The semi-trucks have started arriving from Texas to bring our journals home. We're scheduling about 3 or 4 trucks per week right now. They go to a warehouse that we have leased.

Linda Lewis, e-mail, September 24, 2007



“Our current estimates are that we lost some or all of about 1,400 journal titles, and at least 25,000 volumes. We know those numbers will go up.”

LINDA K. LEWIS
Collection Development Coordinator
e-mail, July 7, 2006



DISAPPEARED

In response to one of the questions put to her, a candidate for the University Libraries Dean's position mentioned an event held in the basement of a library she had managed. One person in the audience quickly quipped, “We don't have a basement.” Another countered, “We have a basement; it's just empty.” Several minutes later, Susan Magee chimed in to pin the fact in place, “We have a basement. It's just in Parish.”

Heidi Perea

Parish Library

JOE'S SONG

(Thoughts on one of our patrons who has not returned since the fire)

With a cautious stance, painstakingly careful not to interrupt,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With an easy smile and twinkling eyes and shuffling walk,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With his mind always seeking, the knowledge found within,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With his poetry and others, and his philosophy and others,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With stories of little trees and flowers and outer beauty and inner,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With enthusiasm contagious and energy unbridled,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With surreal gentleness and an open heart,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With bountiful generosity, of words and spirit and will,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With his riches untold, abundantly shared with all,

He approached the desk. Most every day

With a grateful heart, for his goodness and kindness and peace,

I miss the poet and philosopher. Most every day

Joe "Little Joe" Baca

Veteran and poet

Loved books and libraries

October 27, 1951-December 22, 2006

Deborah Cole: Heidi did a piece about a patron who never returned after the fire. He was a homeless person, I think.

Evangela Oates: Oh, my god. Is it the short guy that always asked for Heidi? He was so nice. I haven't seen him. I miss him. He would talk and would ask, "Is Heidi here?" And I'd say, "No, I think she's coming on at this time." You didn't mind his coming and talking for a while because he was so nice. And we would tease Heidi that he was her boyfriend, because he just loved Heidi.

Keating — Steven Keller — Connie Kelly

— Mike Kelly — David Kettunen — Dena

Kinney — Deborah Kozerski — Chad

Kurza

Linda

Barba

Marq

— C

Rand

— Ca

Teres

Nelson

— Ed

Ped

— G

— Sa

Twyla

Renfr

River

— C

— A

Mago

— Li

— Ni

— Sa

— Br

— Jim

— Ros

— Truj

— Tsos

— Walt

— Fran

— Mary

— Stu

— Zimny



46,193 linear feet of compact shelving will be installed.

Zimmerman Library Basement
Pack Back wiki

latinoamericanos — Boletín de estudios latinoamericanos — Boletín de estudios

y del C — Boletín de estudios

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de la Academia Nacional de

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(Havana, Cuba); "Boletín del

Americanistas — Boletín del

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torial / El Colegio de México,

"historico" — Boletín historico

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y Alberdi / Alfredo L. Palacios

iversity & uni" — Brazil today

on bulletin — British Columbia

Bulletin (Centre universitaire

Cent" — Bulletin (Institut zur

Erforschung der UdSSR) — Bulletin (John Birch Society); "Bulletin / The John Birch

Society" — Bulletin (Ohio. Commission on Spanish Speaki; "Bulletin / Ohio

C" — Bulletin (Ohio. Commission on Spanish Speaki; "Bulletin / Ohio

A building, especially a beautiful one such as Zimmerman, is important

but essentially loses its personality when the people who make their

living and learning there are absent."

— Bulletin de l'Institut français d'études an; "Bulletin de la Société d'ethnographie —

Bulletin de la Société d'ethnographie — Bulletin de la Société préhistorique française

— Bulletin de la Société royale belge de geo — Bulletin of col

— Bulletin of Latin American research — Bulletin of the American Geographi

Society — Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Resea — Bulletin of the Chicago

JOHANN VAN REENEN
Assistant Dean

Deborah Cole

Special Projects, Center for Southwest Research

NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND: A TOUR OF ZIMMERMAN BASEMENT ON A SPECIAL SUNDAY EVENING FIRE WATCH, AUGUST, 2006

Here, at the bottom of the main stairwell, the walls have been stripped down to concrete. The terracotta tiles in the foyer at the bottom of the stairs remain. Florescent lights hang in clumps outside what used to be the copy center, then Mark Emmons' and Carroll Botts' offices. Inside, the floor has been scraped away leaving a pattern that looks as if someone had drawn a grid in the cement flooring. Nine florescent light fixtures dangle from the ceiling.

Walking toward the east end of the building, on my left it's very dark where the Interlibrary Loan, Print Resources and Library Information Technology offices were. To my right, looking south, I can see where the carrels that lined the far wall have been removed. The wall is covered with a pattern of tall rectangles separated by gray vertical lines; rather beautiful actually. There are nine and a half lining that wall. A few florescent fixtures hang from the ceiling. As I walk toward that area, I pass a spot in the ceiling that emits a sucking/blowing sound. There is a crack there but absolutely no indication of a vent, just bits of electrical conduit hanging down.

Near the women's bathroom and the exit leading to the south stairwell, there's a large circular vent area. Pieces of metal and strapping sway and rattle with the wind. The exterior of the bathroom has been stripped away leaving only metal studs and plaster pressed through metal lath. The water fountain remains. In the hallway outside the bathroom it's considerably quieter. The tile has been popped up, exposing another grid of blotched and scraped cement.

Back in the main area, exit signs hang askew in an eerie way. To the west, the ceiling is raw cement and the pillars are exposed cement and plaster. Everything to the east, my right (including the pillars I face), is sealed with white paint or a paint-like substance. This is clearly the area most affected by the fire, the area that had to be sealed in order to keep the smell out, although you can still smell smoke, without a doubt.

There's a new electrical box in the middle of the south wall on this side; nothing coming out of it going anywhere yet, just some conduit heading up toward the ceiling. In the floor, you can see the footprint of the old carrels; there is a reddish stain and a line.

SERVICES and DEPARTMENTS
STILL DISPLACED FROM
ZIMMERMAN LIBRARY:

Library Information Technology
(LIT)

Information Literacy and
Instruction

Print Resources

Research Materials
Bibliographic Access
(RMBA)

Western Governors University
Librarian

LIBROS Coordination Group

eResources Coordination
Group

Antropologí" a e Historia —Cultura (Quito, Ecuador); "Cultura" —Cultura de Guatemala —Cultura politica : revista mensual de estudios —Cultura universitaria —Cultura y pueblo —Cultura y sociedad (Montevideo, Uruguay); "Cultura y sociedad" —Cultural anthropology —Cultural news from India —Current anthropological literature —Current



Currently, we have 50 pallets, representing 28 stacks, ready to return. NRG Teams have been really good, dependable and reliable.

[Zimmerman Library Basement Pack Back wiki](#)

Now, I'm looking down at where once stood a corner of a strangely-angled room of some sort. On the floor there's a stencilled shape left when they sealed the walls white. It's of a metal shelf-end. The outline frames swirls where mastic had been spread for the flooring. In places, the pattern resembles rows of grain: hairpin turns holding new growth.

Lengths of blue tape hang where plastic had been stretched over an emergency exit doorway during the deconstruction. Down at this far end, the southeast end, a large Maloy plastic cart catches liquid dripping from a pipe protruding from the ceiling. You can hear the drops. Maybe it's water from the rains. The skylight is not far away. The emergency lighting down here is a strand of light bulbs protected by yellow oval cages. One cage, with its cage door open, lights the scene.

The skylight is boarded over but there seems to be a leak coming from it, too. A trash can catches these drops. On the north side of the skylight's frame, the stucco is blackened and the other side seems almost untouched. For some reason they did not seal this stucco. The outsides have been sealed, but not the bottom or inner edges.

Continuing north toward the big ventilation fans, there's a small three-shelved wooden book truck numbered UNM 89. Attached to it is a photocopied illustration from a children's book showing kids parading. It's being used by Maloy to carry boxes of bolts and fasteners. It serves a purpose here, as do a number of library things, like a mail cart full of construction paraphernalia. In this area, cluttered with Maloy ladders and toolboxes, a large wooden structure acts as a temporary electrical box from which the strings of lights spread out over the site.

I'm approaching the second skylight area now. This is where they haul everything in and out. The four rectangular openings are boarded over. The stucco shows some smoke damage, but it's evenly distributed and not as dramatically burned as the other skylight. Maybe the fire moved in that direction.

Back beyond the fans and mail cart, I see another wooden book truck belonging to the Circulation Department. On it sits a hardhat, a little pile of waterlogged, unsmoked cigarettes, a few bottles of water and a "Boston" baseball cap. Opening a nearby door, I face the huge ventilation system and its deafening clamor. I'm not going inside because the door won't stay open.

Walking west towards the Print Resources/Gifts/Acquisitions area is really disorienting. I have to use an exit or a bathroom as a reference point. Bathrooms are pretty much the indicators of where one is down here unless you happen to have a great memory of the relationship of certain offices to specific pillars. Now I'm entering the area where I guess the Gifts Department was—hard to tell. I can see the small bathroom they had and then there's the men's room and the north stairwell that leads up into what used to be the Catalog Services Department.



Where Serials and the Bindery were, carrels have been removed from the north wall. In the floor, you can see where the studs were attached to the cement. There's not much light here; there are a few little spot-lit areas where they've strung up some florescent lights, but in the northwest corner there's no light. It's very dark where Bindery was. You almost feel like there should be a play going on with someone sitting in a chair or dancing under these singular light fixtures. There does remain, around the elevator, some sort of brick wall with plaster and sheetrock—another isolated peninsula, I guess you would call it. The elevator door is much like it was. There is a small fire extinguisher still hanging here on the wall, covered with dust. Right by the elevator there's a telecommunications wire tied into a noose-like loop that just touches the floor. There are all sorts of cords and computer cables dangling down. You have to be a little careful about where you're going.

I'm back, now, to where the tile walkway used to go northward to maybe LIT or ILL or around the corner from ILL. I can see where doors and wall angles were. Everything has been scraped up, except for that little area where the terracotta tiles remain at the base of the main stairs. So this is my tour of duty in the basement, my third time around. The first two times I took photographs and tried to pay attention to what I was seeing. It is very surreal, like a dream. I don't really know that I am in the place I once walked through so easily. Entering the south stairwell, which is how I used to come to the basement, brought it home. The place is just



: The Journal of the Socie —Direct from Cuba — Directory / Organization of American States — Directory / Organization of American States — Directory of delegations —Directory of delegations —Discours sur le colonialisme. Spanish. Select;"Discurso sobre el colonialismo (fragmento) / " —Discovery (Santa Fe, N.M.);"Discovery" —Discurso de Angostura / Simon Bolivar —Discurso en el XXV aniversario del asalto al —Dispatch (Nashville, Tenn.);"Dispatch" —Dispatch (Springfield, Ill.);"Dispatch" —Dispatch/news (Springfield, Ill.);"Dispatch/news" —Documentos A —Documents : revue des questions allemandes —Dominican Republic —Dr. A. Petermann's Mitteilun Pe —Dr. A. Petermann's Mitteilungen —E.U./U.S. relations / European Comm (Naugatuck, Conn.);"Eagle" —E Japan);"The East = Higashi" —East Eu affairs —East European Jewish affairs geographer —Eastern anthropologist — —Eco —Eco —Ecuador, bibliografia Education (Negro Needs Society);"E Egypt travel magazine —El Bimest economico / publicacio —El Centavo fronterizo —El Cuaderno (de vez en Ejercito nacional : organo de la Socieda Colon / Comite Ejecutivo Permanente — indigenismo en el Peru / Jose Maria Informador (Fresno, Calif.);"El Infor Investigador Venezolano / Instituto malpensante —El Mexico antiguo — (Milwaukee, Wis.);"El Mutualista" —E idea de America / John L. Phe —El pensamiento brasileno / Joao Cruz Repertorio americano (London, Repertorio americano" —El Salvador (El Salvador, Junta Nacional de T;"El Salvador" —El Sol USA —El Torito de los muchachos —Elder voices / National

stripped bare to metal studs and pipes and a dangling, filthy, splattered exit sign. That's where I would come out. To my left was Government Information reference and in front of me were the newspapers. Bruce Boling, after he retired from Cataloging, would often sit in one of the comfortable red chairs to the right. I have to talk myself through those memories because the space is simply not here and it won't be here again. Much like the article I read today about rebuilding New Orleans, this space is going to be reconstructed and reinvented inside its rawest structure.

Well, this is one person's take, one person's report on the basement.



Fire/Watch Book Group

Claire-Lise Benaud and Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research
Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access
Heidi Perea, Parish Library

Deborah: There was the “void” of not really knowing what we were talking about: there’d been a fire in the basement and that’s where the periodicals were and that’s about all we knew. Eventually we filled that void with knowledge and it was still a void or loss, but we knew what we were talking about. And then there was this “Zimmerman as a building” awareness we discovered in the interviews. In a way, the building had been a kind of void for us before the fire. It was here; we worked in it, but ...

Claire-Lise: We didn’t think of it; we didn’t think of the building.

D: We needed it. It’s where our services collections were housed. Then there was the void of not being able to get into it, of not having access to it, of

Mary Ellen: What it means to you.

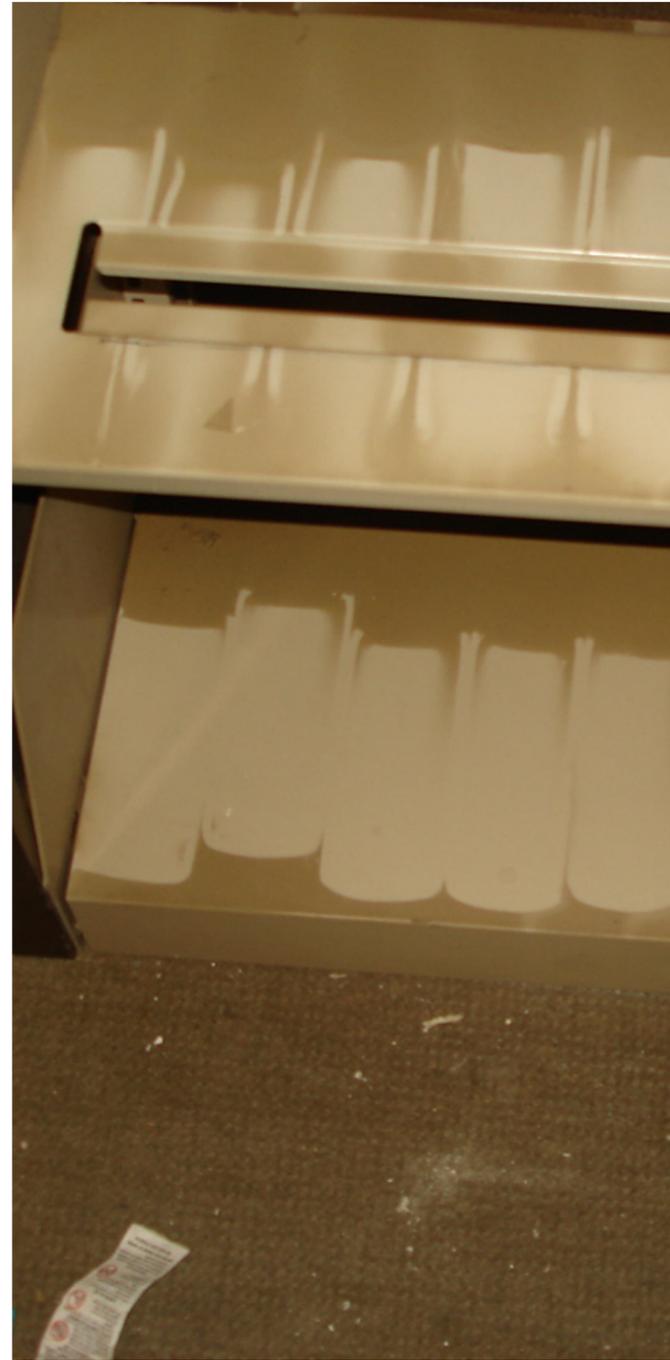
CL: A reversal. Because librarianship was what mattered; we didn’t really care about the building. After the fire, librarianship disappeared in some ways, like projects and whatever was going on, and then the building came up. Because when I read the interviews and contributions, what struck me was that people were so busy doing this and doing that because, in a way, psychologically it was easier. You wouldn’t get depressed. You know: try to set up reference, try to set up Interlibrary Loan. I think this kind of frenzy was in a way: let’s get busy, let’s get busy and not think about the burned periodicals.

Heidi: It was a way to cope.

CL: Yes. **Busy, busy, busy; running around, e-mails, cell phones.**

D: And then you get someone like Kathleen who was given nothing to get busy about.

CL: And then you get depressed.



D: But sooner or later, people had contact with the building, either because they had to come back in to do some work or they wanted to come back in and peek.

ME: Or they were given 15 minutes to get in, get their stuff and go.

D: And then we started having our reactions to the place, the space, the building, which is not something we would normally react to. Sure, we generally like the spaces in which we work but until they’re actually taken away from us or we’re forced to go somewhere else, we don’t really define them or engage with them. So that push-pull of “no access” or “no place” makes you entirely aware of place and what you’re missing.

ME: Very early on, I sat at one of the information tables and it was frustrating because you are there in library mode with the table and canopy and it looked official and people had just heard the news and they came rushing up asking, “What happened?” And you had to say, “We don’t know.” Just like Evangela said.

CL: So it was a “non-information table.”

ME: But there were people who ran up and said, “Can I return my books?” And we had an answer for that. Or, “Can I get in to see the books?” “We have an answer for that; you won’t like it.” But people would want to know what happened, what was going to happen next. They were just the kinds of things we could not answer, because we did not know.

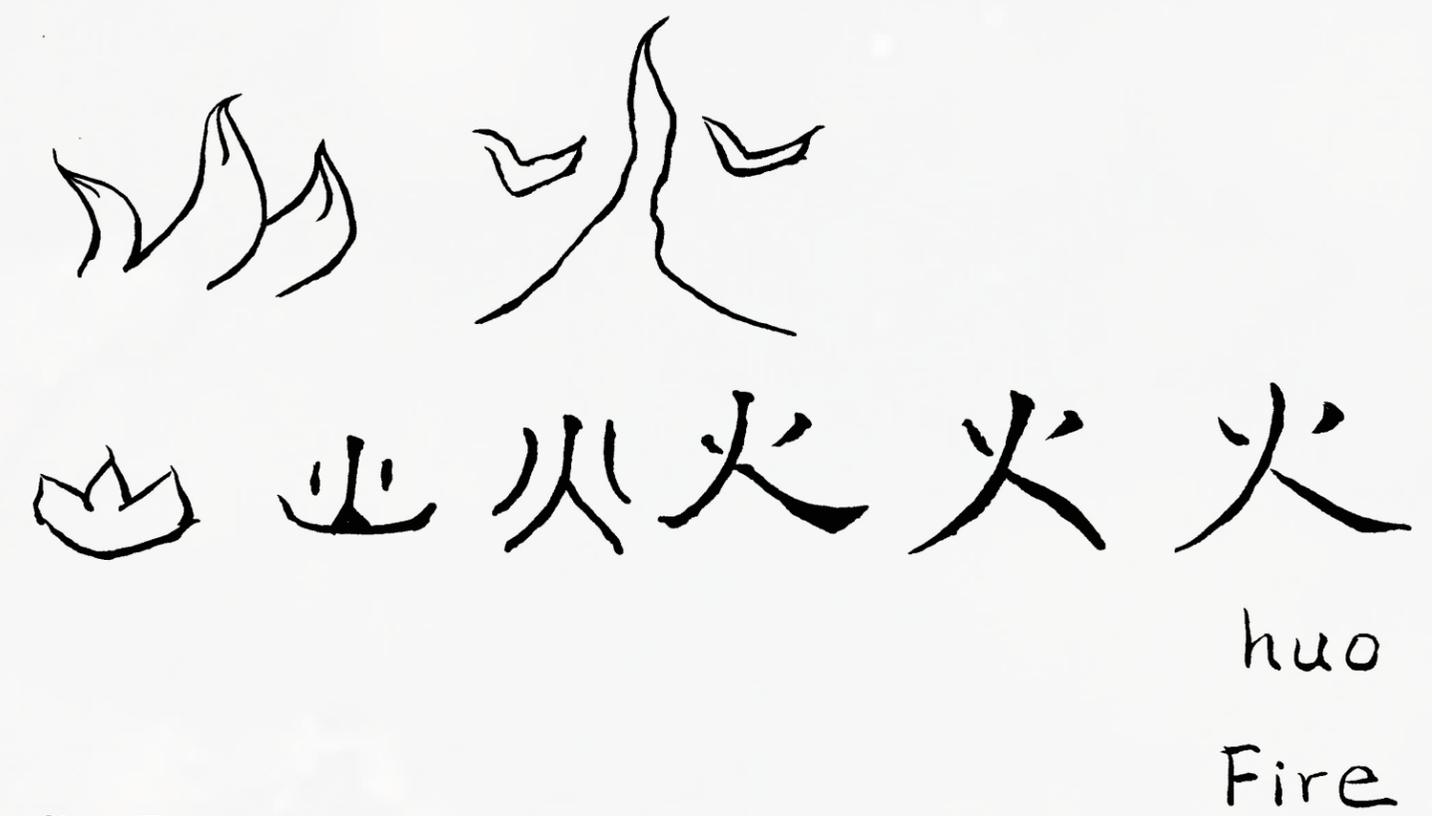
H: And even at the SUB, you could console people because they knew the fire had happened and they knew there wasn’t going to be a lot of information about it, but they really wanted to express their grief and they wanted to apologize to you and they wanted to just share in the experience and that’s the way they did it. They came and chatted at the reference desks about something that we all knew nothing about.

ME: That’s true, even the brief few days I was at one of those outdoor information tables some people would just come up and say, “Well, that’s terrible; that’s awful; I love the library.”

D: And again it’s that thing about “the library.” Sure people were freaking out about exams but again even *they* reacted to the building, the place, the *things* in it. They weren’t missing the online databases.

REFLECTING

Sparkling, dancing tongues of fire

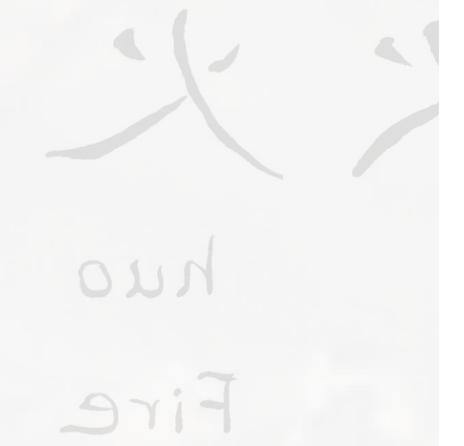


Bing-Shan Fazio, Print Resources
EVOLUTION OF THE CHINESE CHARACTER FOR "FIRE"

Fran Wilkinson
Interim Dean

APRIL 30, 2006, THOUGHTS

Phone rings. It's late. After 11 p.m. This can't be good. Zimmerman is on fire! Could it be a false alarm? No. Is everyone out safely? Yes. I am told: Come now! Come quick! Meet UNM chief of police there. I call Ed to meet me there. Grab Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Plan. Drive to campus. Many thoughts. Shock. Disbelief. How could this happen? Will Zimmerman still be there? It has to be! I park by campus police. Walk toward Zimmerman. What will I find? People everywhere. Walking. Running. Pointing. Talking. Is it chaos? No, a ballet. Fast. Then in slow motion. Then fast again. Police. Firefighters. Physical Plant personnel. Provost. Media quickly taken to ROTC parking lot. Must find Russ. Students from dorms in pajamas. Watching. Smoke. Water. More smoke coming from broken skylight. Talk to Russ. Look at floor plans with Ed, police, firefighters. Answer questions. Call Johann, Teresa, Nancy. Talk to Camila in Washington, D.C., again. She'll be back tomorrow afternoon. Talk to Ed. More smoke. A gray ghost fills up the T-area – eerie iridescent smoke. Can't see furniture or anything anymore. No! The West Wing cannot burn. Minutes pass. Or was it years? Time stops. Time within time. More thoughts. Someone says the fire is under control. Yes! Only a few hot spots. Give thanks. Then wait. People leave. People come. Someone tells me the State Fire Marshal is on his way. More phone calls. Morning will come. Employees will come. Students will come. More calls back and forth. Re-read Disaster plan. Make plans. Activate phone tree to tell employees. DRAT to meet in CSEL at 8 a.m. Service can't stop. Talk to Ed. More calls. Brief quietness. Sit in parking lot. Tired. Sadness. Random thoughts. We did nothing to deserve this. Why did this happen? Could it be arson? No! Maybe? But who would do such a thing to this special place on the campus, in the state, in our hearts? Thoughts interrupted. The State Fire Marshal asks: Do we want to go into the building? Ed and I. Yes! Adrenaline. Want to see it. Don't want to see it. Have to see it. Smoke burns my eyes. Smoke burns my throat. Smoke makes me cough. Go to basement. Water. Soot. Zimmerman 3, dark. So dark. Can barely see. Burned bound



journals. Burned carpet. Ceilings. Walls. Everything. More water everywhere. Can't breathe. Must hide it or they will make me leave. Breathe through my sweater sleeve. Thoughts a jumble. Is it a dream? This is surreal. No. This is real! Shock. Anger. Such sadness. I want to cry. No time now. Mourn later. We all will in our own way and time. Determination. We must rebuild. Make it right. But can this ever be made right? Later I will know. We will all know how. Walk through all floors. Everywhere. Reference is bad. Center is safe. Just smoke. Outside now. Air. I can breathe. More phone calls. Questions from everyone. Told to meet with campus administrators at 7 a.m. at campus police station. Then quiet in the parking lot. So quiet. Looking at Zimmerman. More thoughts. People coming soon. Expecting normal. So much to do. We cannot fail. We are stronger than we think. So much to do. We can do it. Together. So much to do. Mourn. We know the unimaginable can happen. Eyes open. So much to do. Rebuild. Better. Maybe? Never the same. So much to do. Zimmerman is far more than a building. History. Stories. Memories. We will rebuild. We will provide service to all. That's what we do. Together.

Nearly one year later...acknowledge our struggles. Honor our spirit. Celebrate our triumphs. And remember.

April 13, 2007, 3:16 a.m.

Russ Cole

Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

My son Neil seemed to react to the fire pretty well initially. It wasn't until some months later that he took out this big bright red piece of construction paper and drew a very nice picture of Zimmerman ... then handed it to me saying, "Here's a picture of Zimmerman burning." Since then he hasn't really seemed to focus on it. We were able to come in over the semester break when we checked the book drop and watched them carpet the circulation area, with all our stuff piled outside. Then, one of the first times he was with me after that for a long enough time, he sat down and drew a detailed picture of my new desk area. I don't know if that was him processing it or not. Oh, and he and I keep our bikes in the bike room, so we couldn't bike ride for months until they finally let us get them. That was right before the asbestos abatement between the mailroom and circulation.



Nina Stephenson

Reference, Fine Arts Library, University Libraries

COURTROOM BLUES (sequestered, no news)

I learned about the fire in an unusual way. I was serving on a jury at the end of April in 2006. The judge had warned us to avoid the media in case our felony case was discussed. During the weekend of the fire, I did my best to avoid hearing or reading the local news and so didn't hear about the fire right away. I was also a bit preoccupied that weekend because I had my 50th birthday the day before the fire.

When I returned to jury duty on Monday, some jury members, knowing I was a librarian at UNM, asked for details about the fire. There I was, wondering which library had burned, how much damage had been done, and whether or not anyone had been injured. Since by then we were in deliberation and therefore sequestered, I didn't have access to any newspapers, the television, or even a cell phone. It was a challenge to stay focused on the trial.

I think I'll always remember this peculiar confluence of events: the Zimmerman fire, my 50th birthday, and being sequestered in Albuquerque's federal courthouse.

Anne Schultz

Reference, Centennial Science & Engineering Library, University Libraries

I rarely check my e-mail at home—just one of the ways to keep the work and home versions of me distinct. But for some reason, I did check it before coming in to work on May 1. I remember feeling a sense of total disbelief as I read that the basement of Zimmerman had suffered a fire the previous night; I also had an eerie sense of déjà vu from the memories of Centennial's flood in 2004.

When I rode my bike in to work that day, past the yellow crime-scene tape that surrounded the north parking lot, the smell of smoke was powerful. The sense of disbelief began to slide into something more like shock. I have been working at UNM since the fall of 1991, since I was a young pup fresh out of my undergraduate days in Indiana. All of my library jobs to this point have involved to some degree the care and feeding of print serials—a dying art, I guess. I thought about how I would feel if it were my science journals that had gone up in smoke. Zimmerman may not be my “home” library, but nonetheless I have spent plenty of time in the stacks on all floors for my own coursework—and of course to borrow a lot of books. I have also spent a great deal of time in the basement, working with all of the technical services people whose offices were near those periodical stacks. Zimmerman has been part of my life for many years now.

As soon as I saw Fran Wilkinson on Monday morning, I offered to help with fire recovery in any way that I could. I thought that maybe my experiences with the recovery after the CSEL flood as well as my ability to deal with periodicals might be useful. At this point, no one knew the extent of the damage, or when any salvage efforts would begin. As the first post-fire week went on, and we—all of us—still didn't have access to the building or really any knowledge about what might have happened in the basement, I began to suspect that the damage was probably serious. Every night, when I rode my bike past Zimmerman, that smell of smoke just hung in the air—no less powerful than it had been on the first morning.

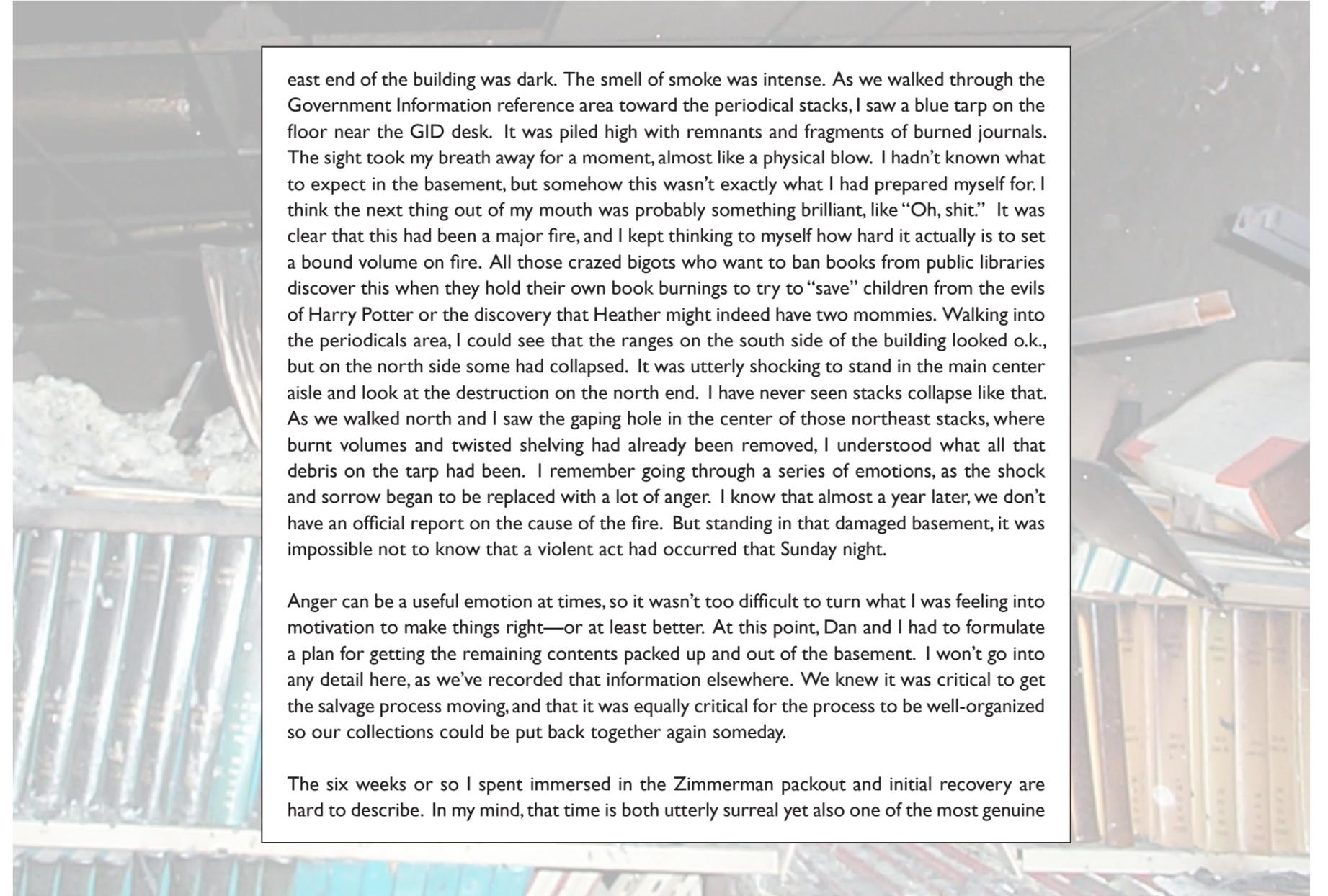
Dan Barkley and Senior Team took me up on my offer to help. The UL didn't regain limited, temporary occupancy of the building until more than a week after the fire, so it was the tenth of May before I went into the basement with Dan for the first time in my hardhat and respirator. There was limited light—the areas near the main stairwell still had power, but the



east end of the building was dark. The smell of smoke was intense. As we walked through the Government Information reference area toward the periodical stacks, I saw a blue tarp on the floor near the GID desk. It was piled high with remnants and fragments of burned journals. The sight took my breath away for a moment, almost like a physical blow. I hadn't known what to expect in the basement, but somehow this wasn't exactly what I had prepared myself for. I think the next thing out of my mouth was probably something brilliant, like “Oh, shit.” It was clear that this had been a major fire, and I kept thinking to myself how hard it actually is to set a bound volume on fire. All those crazed bigots who want to ban books from public libraries discover this when they hold their own book burnings to try to “save” children from the evils of Harry Potter or the discovery that Heather might indeed have two mommies. Walking into the periodicals area, I could see that the ranges on the south side of the building looked o.k., but on the north side some had collapsed. It was utterly shocking to stand in the main center aisle and look at the destruction on the north end. I have never seen stacks collapse like that. As we walked north and I saw the gaping hole in the center of those northeast stacks, where burnt volumes and twisted shelving had already been removed, I understood what all that debris on the tarp had been. I remember going through a series of emotions, as the shock and sorrow began to be replaced with a lot of anger. I know that almost a year later, we don't have an official report on the cause of the fire. But standing in that damaged basement, it was impossible not to know that a violent act had occurred that Sunday night.

Anger can be a useful emotion at times, so it wasn't too difficult to turn what I was feeling into motivation to make things right—or at least better. At this point, Dan and I had to formulate a plan for getting the remaining contents packed up and out of the basement. I won't go into any detail here, as we've recorded that information elsewhere. We knew it was critical to get the salvage process moving, and that it was equally critical for the process to be well-organized so our collections could be put back together again someday.

The six weeks or so I spent immersed in the Zimmerman packout and initial recovery are hard to describe. In my mind, that time is both utterly surreal yet also one of the most genuine



and authentic experiences I have ever had. It was nearly all-consuming: every moment I spent on campus was devoted to post-fire recovery; it was almost impossible to leave it behind at night, in part because the smell of smoke and dead journals lingered in my clothes, hair, and boots. The gritty reality of working in the stacks is juxtaposed in my memory with: the bizarre and extensive collection of clocks Dan acquired in his office; an hour or two I spent untangling and inventorying a never-ending pile of phones in what had been Sever's office; and the melted light covers which protected rather than destroyed journals on top shelves. The progress made in the building each day by the packout teams, the cleanup crews, and the contractors was impressive. Being a part of this work and doing the physically demanding tasks required by the circumstances gave me a sense of accomplishment quite different than what I would normally experience at work.

I know that people have wondered why on earth I willingly volunteered to get involved in a dirty, challenging, and, at times, overwhelming and stressful project. I don't know if I have an answer to that question. Many people have stepped up throughout this experience to help with the recovery, not just of the collections, but also in the restoration of services and workflows. There's no question that the library staff have a strong commitment to the communities we serve. I think that for many of us, myself included, that level of commitment extends to the physical places as well. This may be the digital age, but the library as a place still matters, and so do the collections housed within. The library is a place of quiet refuge for the kids who are shy bookworms, and a place of exploration for adults of all ages seeking to learn, teach, and understand the world. It is a place that gives you a tangible connection to philosophers, scientists, and students from years past, when you can pull off the shelf a volume printed ten, fifty, or a hundred years before your own birth. So, in part, my answer to "Why?" is that by working on the fire recovery, I can pay back at least partially an intangible debt I owe to the libraries of my past and current life that have been my refuge when I needed one, and nurtured my own journeys of exploration.

Barbara Aragon

Custodian, Zimmerman Library

This past year here in the library has been strange because of the fire. Everything just changed. People changed. There was a lot of stress but many people actually got nicer. People just got nicer and everyone was sympathetic. They'd say, "You're not here anymore; well, where are you?" Everybody wanted to know where you were the day of the fire. And I still can't believe it's been over a year. You got to know the security guards. And I saw people who worked for the library that I never knew did. I'd see them come through the building before, but I didn't know they worked here.

What got to me, too, was that I'd thought, "Construction workers? Messy men." Actually, they were the cleanest people around, way cleaner than the students. They were very neat. I was surprised by that. I thought they'd destroy the bathrooms, but, no. At one time they were doing something I had to tell their foreman about and he lined them up at lunchtime and told them, so they were mad at me for a while, but not too bad. So I asked them, "Would you do that at home?" "No, my wife would kill me," they'd all tell me. So I said, "Excuse me, just consider me like your wife." [Laughter]

Maloy people were very nice ... and they were funny. They made me laugh. All through the bad, taking out of stuff and all the walls coming down and all the dirt coming through, they were funny. I enjoyed that time. As bad as the library was burned, it has still been a fun time.



stack 8 to B2 compact shelving **November 8** ALC relocates remaining materials from B16 to center of B1, including the ER collection, Sudoc E's, LC's, transmittals, SuDocs A-Z. Δ Elevator breaks

Ed Castillo-Padilla

Manager, Facilities Services

While documenting the fire recovery, there was also the aesthetic level, for the lack of a better word. Something about the visuals that came out of this whole process was very interesting and some of the photographs I picked came out of that. I think a person's own sensibilities dictate that, you can't help it. You're on your knees looking up; you're trying to frame it in such a way. I don't know what it is. You see it in documentaries, with good photographers, you see it in newspapers and magazines—where a photographer's taken a picture but it's also a beautiful picture. I'm not saying that I'm trying to do that in a conscious way, but subconsciously you do that.

When the basement was completely demolished, completely empty there were just bare concrete walls. There was all this space that had been full and active and now was just dead, a vacant, open space. At that time there was obviously the potential for looking at it in more than a strictly documentary way.



November 12 ALC relocates from Tower 8 and Tower 5 to B2 CSWR call numbers A through DE 5 D21 VI. pt. I **November 13** ALC relocates CSWR call numbers through E to B2 and on

Deborah Cole

Special Projects, Center for Southwest Research

CAUTION

At the Welcome Back Days celebration in August 2005, the University Libraries handed out several black and white postcards. One displayed a cheerleader in calf-length skirt, bobby-socks and saddle shoes kicking up a leg beside a huge fire: the bonfire for the 1952 Homecoming football game. I was born in 1952 and, enjoying that connection, carried off one of those cards.

In September 2005, the University Libraries underwent a rather disruptive reorganization. Emotions flared, departments dissolved. Thinking of Nero and a burning Rome, I taped that high-stepping cheerleader and her roaring flames outside my office door.

When a real fire struck Zimmerman Library six months later, I wondered about the power of images then modified that original card. Perhaps in the future we'll take a bit more care with the images we use to welcome in the academic year.



Pat B.

Receptionist, Office of the Dean

I thought the upper administration did a great job in taking quick action, having a quick plan. I don't think Fran slept for 72 hours. She just had constant decisions to make. If she did sleep, with all that she did, I don't know how she managed that. I met everyone in the UL under exceptional circumstances and, I have to tell you, I was impressed. It feels good to be a part of this group of people and I'm not sure I would have met you if it hadn't been for Fire Watch.

Russ Cole

Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

One of the real plusses out of this whole thing, for me at least, was being able to work in Centennial and Parish and getting to know other staff I'd never really taken the time to talk to. Also the students, getting to know the students at both places, and the different climates of the other circulation desks. That was really nice.

And another thing I want to say is how the top levels in the administration really supported us, at least I felt that way. They really helped us deal with the changing situations. And their putting up that display about the fire. I think that really helped impress patrons with the magnitude of the damage, what had really happened. You could just watch them take it in.

Aaron Blecha

Student Employee, Zimmerman Library

The Library of Congress description of the book I made about Zimmerman for my class this semester is “peep show.” My description, however, would be “an accordion-bound perspective book.” It’s a book that lies flat when closed, about the size of a small paperback, but if you pull the book covers apart it is, in effect, very much like an accordion. It expands to a length of two maybe three feet at the most, although that’s a little bit large. The intervening plates in this accordion structure, if you look through a peep hole at one end of the book, produce a three-dimensional effect. You see a fore-field and various degrees of perspective going back, often in a landscape setting. A project I want to do for a bookmaking class I’m currently enrolled in—and also to highlight the fact that we’ve received several of these “peep show” books in the CSWR collection—is of Zimmerman Library starting with the West Wing and various massings of the structure of Zimmerman Library. The rear panel will be a plume of smoke coming from the northeast corner of the building through a skylight closest to where the fire in the basement happened. I’m still hunting for images. I know a lot of people are writing poetry and putting together other artistic projects. I hope this will be an addition to those contributions.



Flora Clancy

Professor Emeritus, Art and Art History

I found out about the fire from the newspaper—the *Albuquerque Tribune*—and it took a while to understand how serious it was. I believe Deborah Cole was the one who told me where and how to find out what had been destroyed. When I understood where the major damage had been, I was in denial that it actually and directly affected my research resources. I’ve been working on two research projects, a monograph on the monuments of Piedras Negras, Guatemala and an article on the earliest dated stela of Tikal, Guatemala. Both, of course, are ancient Pre-Columbian art. I use the very periodicals—anthropology and archaeology—that were destroyed in the fire.

I also knew in my gut that the fire had been set on purpose but have no idea whether the subject of the periodicals was a target or just any place in the basement, which would certainly do great damage. When I came to Zimmerman after the fire the building still smelled of smoke. I couldn’t then and I still can’t actually grasp that anyone would do such a thing. Libraries are sacred. I thought of the Library at Alexandria, of Nazi book burnings, of *Fahrenheit 451*. (I’m not sure I have the degree number correct, but I think it’s the temperature at which books will burn.)

At first, after the fire, I was unbelieving that my usual resources were gone; that I couldn’t consult them. I think it was about three or four months later that I tentatively tried Interlibrary Loan for an article I really needed to read. I had it within 24 hours! “Wow!” I thought, “What a resource!” Since then I have regularly gone to ILL and have been truly pleased with their ability to locate material and their efficiency in delivering it to me. Most of my interaction has been done online, another amazing gift: to receive an article that I just printed out at home. Every time I get material from them I feel grateful to be able to continue my research. I’ve even written them to say so. Without ILL my work would have come to a screeching and nasty halt.

Linda K. Lewis

Coordinator, Collection Development, University Libraries

For a long time, it seemed that all I saw were flashes and fragments from those first days after the fire: Shelves fallen in with journals dumped on the floor, everything coated in soot, barely visible with flashlights and emergency lighting. The huge tarp piled high with charred fragments of journals. Pieces of a charred page from the 1800s. Plastic melted on top of the books after flowing down from the melted lights and alarms.

Disbelief. How could it possibly happen? Fury. What evil could do this?

Later: gratitude as colleagues across the country sent their sympathy and offers of help. Even some huge conglomerates that rarely have a caring human face offered support.

Getting things out of my office was incredibly hard, and yet a step forward. Packing in half an hour. Separating my personal things and the things I might need to work with soon. Knowing it could be ages before I saw the rest of the files. Knowing I would never see that office again. Hard to pack and not cry. And yet it was a start toward rebuilding.

Reopening Zimmerman 2nd and 3rd floors was a huge step forward. A few times when I was on Fire Watch, I talked with faculty and former library employees who came to reassure themselves that Zimmerman did survive. It was hurt, but it would recover. Zimmerman had a meaning far beyond just that of a library building; it had an emotional identity that called to people.

And I know we are recovering. The building hasn't been this clean since it was built. We have new computers, new shelves, new flooring, new electronic journals. We are healing. We will rebuild the basement.

But it will never be exactly the same. A collection that was built over a century with the work of many librarians cannot be completely restored. Beyond that, the sense of violation and vulnerability will never completely go away. My mind knows we are recovering, and even that some things will be much better than they were "Before the Fire." And my heart still mourns at the evil and the loss.

Theodore Joseph Walker

Instructor and Ph.D. candidate
Department of Spanish & Portuguese

Walking through the stacks.... Discovering *Life* and *Look* magazines from WWII. Perhaps the ones that my mother, father, aunts, uncles, and grandparents leafed through for photographs of a world gone awry. I come upon copies of *Revista de Occidente* from the twenties, did Federico García Lorca peruse that very issue once upon a time? Wonderingly, I open pages of *The Yellow Book* to Aubrey Beardsley's decadent prints, more than a century old. All gone, because of the lack of a sprinkler system in a university library where so many reviews and magazines, treasured and ancient, like our old ones, required vigilant forethought. How to convey the way I feel? A metaphor:

Sudden divorce:

My lawyer got wife, kids, home, car, cat, and canary.
With his bill came a friendly note.
I have been placed under surveillance.
In my own "best interests,
and those of all concerned."

Sever Bordeianu

Coordinator, Print Resources

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT BY FIRE:

Or how to weed those things that nobody ever read anyway

The cleanup and the packout after the fire were intense. Five of us examined and inventoried thousands of volumes on random topics destroyed in the fire. The fire did not shelfread, it jumped across shelves, and sometimes it burned only the top rows, or skipped some volumes. But journals are always seductive, and even in the middle of this intensity, it was impossible not to open the issue of *Paris Match* reporting Grace Kelly's car accident, or the issue of a Spanish magazine reporting Franco's death. Trashing those made me feel like I was trashing a moment of my own history, because I remembered vividly when those events occurred, and their impact on world history.

And yet, I probably spent as much time looking through issues of a title that had no impact on world history—and consequently I don't remember much from its content. We had to trash our entire run of the USSR's *Bulletin of the International Peasant Union*. Twenty-one volumes in all. It was a true Soviet product. The volumes were big and heavy—no way I could pick up more than one or two in one hand. Here was a title that proletarian sweat had produced, at great hardship, during great times of privations for the population, its only purpose being to propagate communist nonsense, and which our library had dutifully collected, bound, and shelved, and which was probably being read for the very first time (the pages looked very

pristine behind the burned covers), and for the last time. "Up in smoke" gained a special meaning in this situation. Just like the ideas discussed in the issues of this worthless journal.

I feel that an existential justice had happened, on a small scale, to be sure. I'm sure there are dozens of other research libraries in the world who have not burned down, and where the pristine volumes of this journal are proudly taking up prime space on their library shelves.

In the turmoil and the chaos, for a fleeting moment, I felt that for once the fire's indiscriminate destruction did something constructive, something that none of us would have done deliberately. The saddest thing of all, when I checked the LIBROS record, this humble title, *Bulletin*, had been expertly cataloged with one uniform title and six alternate titles:

Bulletin (International Peasant Union)
 International Peasant Union bulletin
 International Peasant Union bulletin monthly
 Monthly bulletin of the International Peasant Union
 Monthly bulletin (International Peasant Union)
 Bulletin of the International Peasant Union
 IPU bulletin

No lack of access to this title. And the holdings statement looks great. Sadly, our only gap was v. 4, no. 5.

Maria Szasz

Graduate Student, Department of English
University Libraries' National Library Week Student Poetry Contest, Runner-Up

THE INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY OF THEATRE

A heavy, three volume set,
With handsome mauve covers
Only a scholar could love.
I once could find them in the dark,
Lying patiently in the far east stacks
Of the first floor Zimmerman reference section.
Over six years and counting,
Their endless information has fueled
Essays, exams, a dissertation,
My dreams;
An inspiring, invaluable resource.
After The Fire, they were "UNAVAILABLE."
Were they lost in the blaze,
Charred beyond repair?
Reduced to smoky, black, listless fragments
Blowing through cracks in the outside fence?
Just one of the hundreds of books and journals
Gone forever in a lick of flame.

Why would anyone destroy books?
An angry student's deliberate revenge?
Or a horrible mistake?
Official lips say nothing.
Whatever the motive, the damage is still
Beyond measure,
Impacting all of UNM,
Reverberating through readers around the world.
My favorite three volume set
Suffered only minor injuries:
One broken binding.
A sad, but small price to pay
For the safe return of
Knowledge,
Which every day back in Zimmerman
Reminds me
Never to take for granted again.

May 1, 2006
http://www.dailylobo.com
E-mail: lobonews@unm.edu
Telephone: (505) 277-7527

monday

DAILY LOBO

UNM takes 10

See page 12

Library catches fire

Susan Magee
Coordinator, Web Services and Customer Studies

It's hard to believe it's already been a year since it happened. I think they should give us the day off, everybody, on the 30th. I think they should honor the anniversary, something significant. I think they should do some event for the campus that says, "This happened." They need to be talking to the *Lobo* about running an article about "this is what happened; this is how far we've come, all of that". Or a human interest story in the *Lobo* about what the staff has done to keep their spirits up. The campus needs to know that it's been a struggle behind the scenes. That it hasn't been easy. And contractors come and go and they were part of the community for a while as well. We need to honor the people who've kept the library going. Everybody in the system has contributed, even those of us who weren't located in Zimmerman. Everybody has had a part in keeping services going. That's my opinion. If I ran the world, it would be better informed.*

*As a direct result of Susan's comments, UNM Today fire anniversary articles already in the works were updated with interviews of various UL staff involved in ongoing fire-related projects.

UNM students Erin Husher, left, and Evan Kias watch firefighters and other

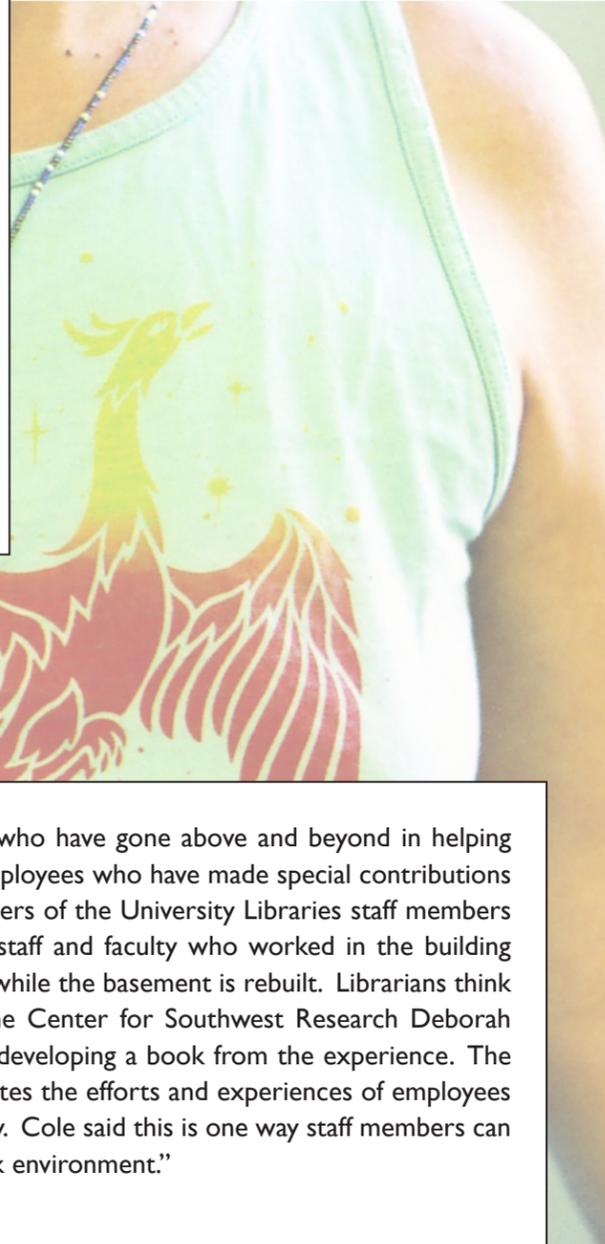
The Provost's 2007 Outstanding Work Group Award:

Year after year, Center for Academic Programs Support (CAPS) operates one of the most sophisticated and successful student employment programs at UNM. They employ more than 80 tutors at both the undergraduate and graduate level, providing them with extensive training in a highly structured work setting. During the last review period, CAPS tutors provided over 30,000 contact hours of academic support to nearly 4,000 UNM students. One year ago when a basement fire closed Zimmerman Library just two weeks before finals, CAPS staff gave final exam tutoring in borrowed space at the Student Union Building and empty classrooms all over campus. During the summer they set up field operations in Mitchell Hall and served as many students there as they had the previous year. Excellence, professionalism, creativity, initiative and a devotion to student success—all these university values were manifested in the CAPS staff and students.

UNM Today, April 30, 2007

“University Libraries is celebrating employees who have gone above and beyond in helping Zimmerman recover from the fire last year. Employees who have made special contributions were recognized at an April event. Three quarters of the University Libraries staff members were displaced by the fire. One third of the staff and faculty who worked in the building remain in temporary spaces at other branches while the basement is rebuilt. Librarians think in terms of books, and Library Specialist in the Center for Southwest Research Deborah Cole is leading a group of employees who are developing a book from the experience. The book will have a limited publication, but celebrates the efforts and experiences of employees through the past year of rebuilding and recovery. Cole said this is one way staff members can handle the changes they have seen in their work environment.”

UNM Today, May 7, 2007



AWARDS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES CELEBRATES
NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK
POETRY READING • AWARD PRESENTATIONS • RECEPTION
APRIL 20TH, 2007 • 1:00 P.M. • WILLARD ROOM • ZIMMERMAN LIBRARY
Connecting You to Worlds of Knowledge • library.unm.edu

UNM Gerald W. May Award 2006: Kathy Gienger

Three UNM Staff Honored for Exceptional Service
Three will receive the University of New Mexico's top honor for staff, the Gerald W. May Award, during a ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the UNM Student Union, ballroom C. The UNM Staff Council Rewards and Recognition Committee organizes the annual awards. Board of Regents President Jamie Koch will honor the individuals, followed by a reception for recipients, family and friends. Acting President David Harris made the final award selections, choosing these 2006 honorees:

UL Exemplary Employee Award 2007: Bonifacio Anglada, Jr., Ed Castillo-Padilla, Louise Perez, Anne Schultz

Kathy Gienger is the University Libraries' Resources Department. Kathy is one of the library staff that works behind the scenes to make the book-to-shelf-to-patron process seamless. She is the main liaison and contact for more than 1,500 vendors and publishers from which the library orders materials.

UL Bright Idea Award 2007: Rik Burkard, Louise Danielson, Gail Lane, Magoo Shoulderblade

Kathy exercised her leadership role in the department by receiving thousands of items in a timely manner and supervising student workers who assist in the task. Kathy is inventive and fearless in mastering new technologies and in helping coworkers and students learn them, too.

UNM 2007 Outstanding Work Group Award: Center for Academic Programs Support (CAPS)

During the weeks before the 2007 Journal Library for Kids, Kathy worked hard to make sure that everything was in place. She was the first to be called upon to inventory and sort out library materials. She was among the first to be called upon to inventory and sort out library materials. She was among the first to be called upon to inventory and sort out library materials.

Kathy Gienger

Print Resources

WHAT WOULD FREUD SAY... SOMETIMES A LIBRARY IS JUST A LIBRARY?

I never dreamt much about the library before the fire. But since the fire I've dreamt about nearly every area in it and some that aren't.

THE BASEMENT: I guess the one dream that relates most to the library fire is what I like to refer to as the Universal Studios dream. In it, I ride the elevator down to the basement with other people to get a tour of the burned out basement. We get off the elevator and into carts that look just like the big canvas mail bins Louie Perez and Bonifacio Anglada use. The basement is dark and the carts begin to roll across the floor. The closer we get to where the fire took place the more burned out the basement looks with charred bookshelves and destroyed books piled up all around. It is warm and there is a glow from embers still smoldering after the fire. The glow increases and it gets warmer and warmer as we approach the center of where the fire was supposed to have begun.

THE WEST WING: In my favorite dream, the West Wing is what I would imagine an old European style library would look like. It has beautiful parquet floors, polished wooden bookcases and panels in a reddish brown wood full of what look like rare books in leather and velum bindings. The most wonderful part of this area of the library is what used to be the John Gaw Meem Room. The room is an office with polished wooden floors, a large antique desk, and one wall is lined with French doors that open up onto an English garden with lilac bushes, large trees, a fountain and a lawn.

One dream that takes place in this European style West Wing involves a tea party to honor the architects doing the work to restore the basement and the reference area. We eat on fine china and are served tea and coffee from china teapots, by waiters in white jackets and bowties. There is a banquet table with platters full of cookies and pastries. For some odd reason the cookies are shaped like exotic birds and prehistoric fish. In this dream there is a curio cabinet that catches my eye. In it are amber figurines and other objects including one that is a good luck charm that apparently really works. I want to open up the cabinet to use the charm but it is locked.

THE LOBBY AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: In two of my dreams, the main lobby of the library is more like some expensive corporate business office in a big city with marble floors and walls and a big staircase leading up to the 2nd floor. In one dream I go up to the Administrative offices on the 2nd floor and they are also my idea of corporate offices. They have glass and stainless steel walls and very expensive modern looking furniture. I've only dreamt once about this part of the Library.

TECHNICAL SERVICES: As for technical services, it has come up in at least two or three dreams now. It is always a maze with very little room to move around. It is packed with desks and people, all separated by bookshelves that are crammed full of books, boxes and papers. In one of these technical services dreams one wall of the building opens out onto a runway where planes land and boxes of books are rolled down a conveyor directly into the library to be processed. If you want to you can book seats on flights. The planes leave directly from the library. However, you do have to go up to the 2nd floor and through security to board them.

VARIOUS FLOORS: In at least two dreams the technical services elevator goes not only to the 3rd floor of the main library, but it connects to all of the tower floors. Unfortunately the elevator never seems to take me to the floor where I want to go. I inevitably end up on a dark floor or in the basement or a boiler room being stalked by a killer. If I try to take a stairwell up or down to avoid the elevator scenario, I still end up in a dark and scary area of the library. Having to go from one floor to another in my library dreams has become a dilemma.

ESCAPE: In one dream, Central Avenue passes right by the north side of the Library and city buses pull up near the loading dock. I get on one of these buses to go home but end up going farther and farther west. Central changes into an L.A. style freeway and I'm on my way to the west coast. Two hours on a city bus on this road and I could make it all the way to L.A! Escape at last!

G. Ian Gioseffi

Life Partner of Rik Burkard, Print Resources

FIRE STORY

It seems like the longest year in the near twenty that we have spent together. I was up and about, as usual, around 5 a.m. on the morning of April 30, 2006. After puttering about for a bit I turned on the television to KOAT-7 to catch the early news. Stunned and jaw-dropped, I rushed to wake Rik Burkard, a Library Specialist III, working in the Serials & Acquisitions Department in binding and marking who had just completed his 19th year with UNM exactly two months earlier on February 28, 2006.

We watched together in shocked silence as the morning anchors and reporters told what little information was known at that early hour. I could see the devastation on Rik's face and noticed his shoulders slumping down and hands clasping, both classic motions when he is in distress.

After more than a week of work suspension with little incoming news about the status of the Zimmerman basement, Rik was at last called back to campus. There were so many questions to be answered, not the least of which was where he would actually sit down to do his work. As he came home each evening suffering from anxiety and frustration and sadness, the atmosphere in our household grew more depressive and somber. I certainly didn't know what to do in support of a person dispossessed from their career employment. It was a struggle for many, many weeks but eventually returned to some normalcy by late summer.

As is his nature, Rik threw himself into the situation and ultimately, with co-workers, was instrumental in re-creating his Zimmerman basement work area in a 2nd floor hallway offered by Parish Memorial Library. The Fire Watch alerts had begun and dozens of dedicated

employees signed up to take their training and assignments. As much as he wanted to be a part of that diligent effort, sadly, Rik was not able to participate.

When he was about 12 years old, his three older brothers convinced him to take an enormous whiff from a bottle of industrial ammonia. In an instant Rik's olfactory nerve was burned and destroyed. Since then he can barely smell anything at all, with even the smell of skunk, leaking gas or intense perfume completely escaping him. He has even lost much of his ability to taste and discern ingredients in food. He has lived with it for more than 35 years without much distress until the Zimmerman Fire Watch was set up. He knew he could not smell smoke and therefore could not take a watch assignment. Just loud enough for him to hear, co-workers wondered aloud why "some people" were exempt from Fire Watch duty while others had to suffer through. Only I can tell you how much that hurt Rik's feelings, as he would never tell you himself.

In the past 12 months Rik has been instrumental in both finding a home for himself and his co-workers as well as in the restructuring and refurbishment of the Zimmerman basement work area. On April 20, 2007, he was the proud co-recipient of the Bright Idea Award for certain of his efforts. Rik is not an extrovert and it is pretty difficult to tell what emotion is impacting him at any given moment. It's taken me nearly twenty years, and I'm still not always right in assuming what is going on inside his head or heart. But you can trust me to tell you that the Zimmerman fire impacted him in the extreme and he will never be the same. If you'll excuse the pun, he has "fire" ants in his pants to get back to the basement to resume the remainder of his career in the UL system.



Deborah Cole

Center for Southwest Research

WALLS AND HOLES

I noticed the first one while washing my dishes in the West Wing kitchen: a one-inch square sliced into the sheetrock wall. Then I started seeing them everywhere. Most occurred near the baseboards, a few at chest-height. Every floor in the tower had at least two, one at either end. Three had been cut in the small West Wing kitchen and several in each of the walls on the 2nd and 3rd floors in the main part of the library. The empty squares remained where samples had been taken to determine if too much or any ozone from the fire had permeated those walls. In this case, a little bit of absence meant a presence—those walls—could remain.

It seemed only natural to pair those squares with an image I'd taken on my first visit to the basement after the fire, a two-hour Fire Watch shift on the Sunday night before Fall semester 2006 began. "Shadows" of what had been the inside walls of a row of carrels represented the other end of the spectrum of loss this fire had cast. That haunting, scraped-down patina of deconstruction joined the sharp edges of the squares to give voice to the feelings colliding inside me as I walked through an area completely stripped of familiarity and "place."

I often think, as we—staff, patrons, guards, construction workers and janitors—walk and work and go about our days, that below us the basement waits. The rattling wind and abraded surfaces, raw and disturbing, wait. Just like the unsettling emotions and memories each of us now carry because of what came in the fire's wake: sharp edges and scraped places, not at all easy to relate. Walls and holes.

Russ Cole

Nighttime Shelving Supervisor, Zimmerman Library

When security is no longer here and the building is all opened up as it was, we're going to redo some of the training for the shelving crew. But the next time an alarm goes off at night? I try to visualize what that's going to feel like and what we are going to do.

One thing that haunted me a little, when I do my rounds for checking all the doors, the last rounds either start with the West Wing or basement. The night of the fire, I thought, "Maybe I'll try the basement first." Then I thought, "No, I'll do the West Wing." So I'd just come back from going all through the West Wing, sat down, took a bite of fried chicken and the alarm goes off. If I'd done it the other way around I might have run across something.

As for the one-year anniversary, the date has occurred to me. I'll probably mention to the people who are working that night to have a little bit of extra vigilance because right before finals the general population, be they students or whoever, gets a little crazy and if weird things happen, it's going to happen then. So we'll be kind of on our toes, though the student workers will be a bit more frazzled, too, so we'll try to account for all that, but we'll keep the vigilance maybe one notch higher on that night. Traditionally, if a fight is going to break out in the building between patrons, it'll happen in finals week. So everyone is edgy.

You know, I mentioned sending that second person up to the 2nd floor and he found people that the other person hadn't found—it astonished me that they hadn't heard the alarm. Because I thought they would have. So I realized that I don't have a clear knowledge of where people don't hear alarms. Because Verity Robert said, when she went around in the basement—and thank god it was her down there knocking on those study rooms in the basement—those people hadn't heard it at all. So when we get to the point when we're back fully operational, I want to be real clear on where you can't hear the alarms. Where the people were sitting and studying on the 2nd floor the night of the fire is where those windows overlook Smith Plaza; they were completely oblivious to the alarm.

PER
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999
S823

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P98

Abrams, Paige – Aguilar, Paulita – Anglada, Bernadette – Anglada, Bonifacio – Archer, Vanessa – Armijo, Theresa – Asenap, Jason – Awe, Sue – Barkley, Dan – Bauerschmidt, Rebs – Bauman, Sara – Beard, Megan – Bedard, Martha – Benaud, Claire-Lise – Brownroll – Brown-Cadena, Marina – Delacour, Monica – Duran, Firmature, Haest, Ruth Dale – Herrell, Kaimowitz, Kinney, Dena Lukes, Barbara ahead, Randall Kyle – Neville, person, Greg – rdson, Raelynn – Shane, Jackie – Stohr, Sarah – Stoneburner, Bryan – Stuber, Jim – Sutter, Ross – Swanback, Sue – Trujillo, Juanita – Trujillo, Tamara – Tsosie, Mary Alice – van Reenen, Johann – Walters, Charlotte – Wasson, Damien – Wilkinson, Fran – Wyant, Mary – Zimny, Stu



Commencement **December 18** ALC completes relocation of Gov Docs to B1 **December 19** ALC begins relocation of CSWR manuscript collection from B3 to B2 **2008 January 7**

My first stop was, quite naturally, what was once known as Library Information Technology (LIT), that is, what is in our own time—now called Systems/Ops—that is, later known as Systems/Ops. I told them I was a time traveler from the past and was summarily thrown out. Nobody likes a wise guy.



I found the main lobby. I noticed the absence of reading and educational materials, most of which are illegal in any case. However, there are now three coffee shops, a number of trendy boutiques, two spas and a casino.



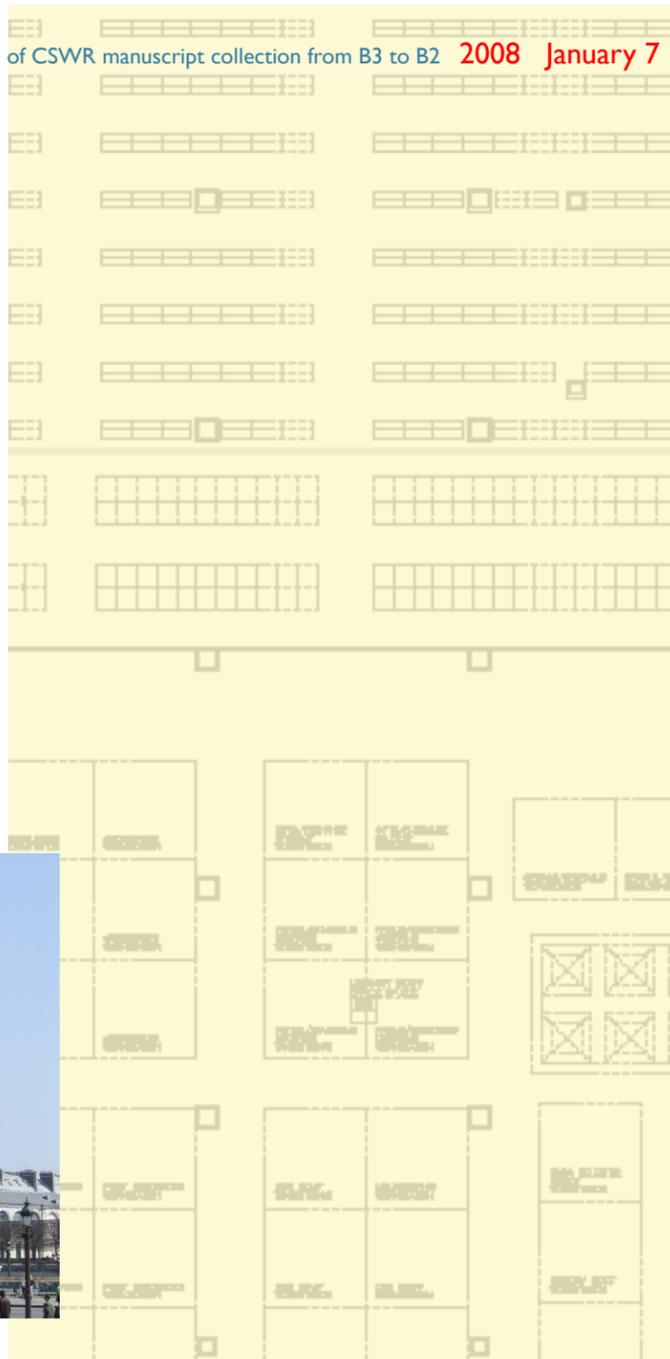
By the way, welcome to the future; just remember, change is a good thing.

The basement, you will be glad to know, has been done up nicely, and has a spiffy bar offering a complete range of your favorite alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages at moderate prices.

We still have the West Reading Room, which was remodeled in 2089, and now houses two automobile dealerships. The library's new Dean and sportscar dealer was gracious enough to pose for a photo.



Well, here it is: the Shrine to Fire Watch! There are all these kiosks on the 3rd floor, where there used to be books and stuff. This is actually a holograph, about seven and one half inches high but it can be pretty impressive if you get up close.



ALC completes relocation of CSWR LC call numbers from Tower to B2 Δ Pack Back ramp tested to insure boxes land with as little “bounce” as possible to reduce potential for damage **January 8**



Kiosk no. 77,107 is dedicated to the brave and heroic catalogers who participated in the Fire Watch program.

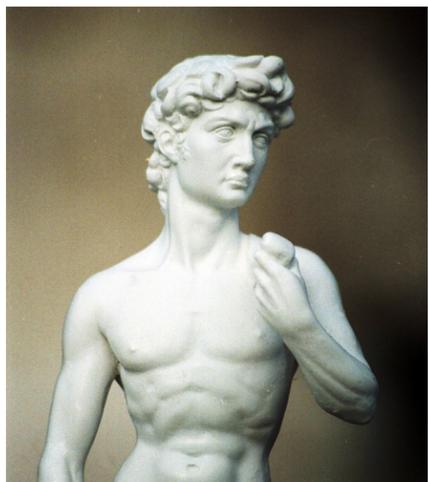
“... there are still a lot of emotions around the loss and changes imposed on people.”

NANCY DENNIS
Assistant Dean

The Heroism of Fire Watch, in kiosk no. 65,130 depicts the vanquishing of international terrorism by the Fire Watch brigade



Kiosk no. 2055 is labeled “Putting out the Fire”. That’s really all I know about it.



Kiosk no. 23,305, I'm pretty sure, is yours truly. Note that the image is remarkably true to life, though almost flattering in some ways. No glasses, for one thing.

Kiosk no. 77,887 represents some of the revelry that characterized the party celebrating the end of the Fire Watch program. It might be noted that posterity has exaggerated our jubilation ... or not.

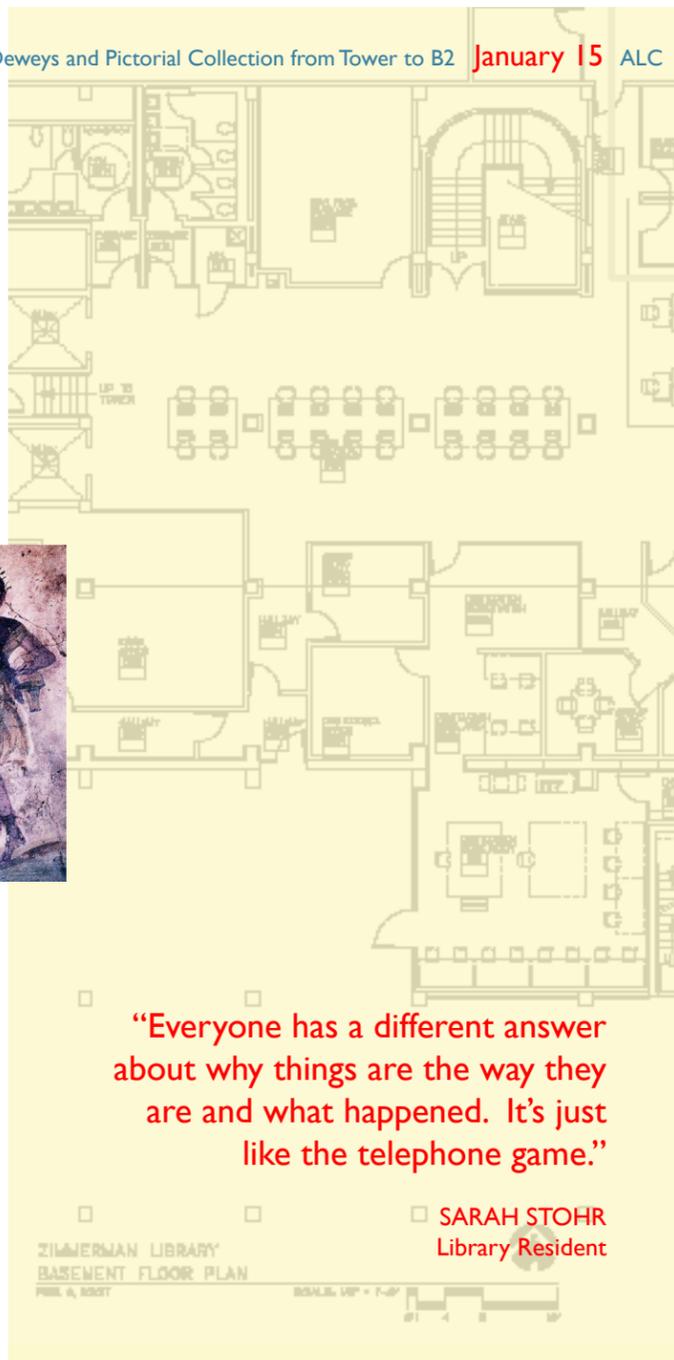


That was really about all I could take. I had to get out of there, and am unlikely to go back.

The final leg of my journey took me 1000 years into the future. It looks like a millennium of global warming, war, avarice, stupidity, hubris, unbridled materialism, and good old fashioned bungling have taken their toll. What can I say?

That's the bad news. The good news is, as I discovered in my travels, we can actually change the future by the decisions we make in the present. Most of us won't, but most of us don't have to; just enough of us.

I'll tell you about my trip to the past some time in the future.



“Everyone has a different answer about why things are the way they are and what happened. It's just like the telephone game.”

SARAH STOHR
Library Resident

OCTOBER 31, 2007 7:38 PM

From: University Communications + Marketing
 To: ALL UNIVERSITY-L
 Date: 10/31/07 3:34 PM
 Subject: Zimmerman Library Closed

There was a water main failure in the basement of Zimmerman Library today.... The library will be closed until sometime tomorrow, Thursday, Nov. 1, so the water can be pumped out and the electricity restored.

You will be notified as soon as the building reopens.

From: Daniel C Barkley
 To: ZIMFIREPROJ-L
 Date: 10/31/07 10:18 PM
 Subject: Pack Back Schedule for 11/5-9
 Evening All,

By now you all know of the basement flooding situation. Obviously we won't be bringing books back on ... this coming Monday 11/5. As we begin to determine our course of action over the next few weeks, I'll keep everyone updated regarding the return of library materials.

NOVEMBER 1 11:38 PM

From: Teresa Neely
 To: ZIMREFDESKS-L
 Date: 11/1/2007 10:26 AM
 Subject: Zimmerman Reopening at 1:00 pm

Zimmerman will be reopening at 1:00 pm today. I'm aware that Groupwise is down or otherwise intermittent so I will be making phone calls to Zimmerman folk to let them know in case this doesn't reach some of you in time.

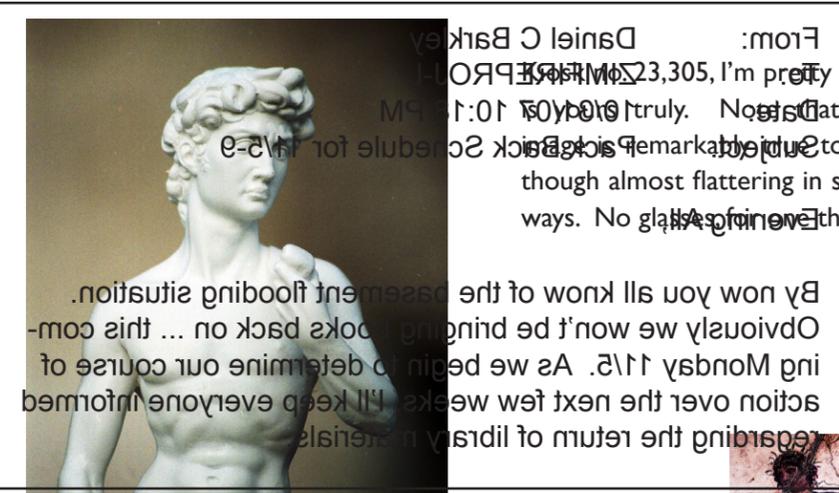
We are reopening with 'limited services' and we will staff the reference desk with those of us who are here since I don't have telephone numbers for non-ZPS folks.

Please do not show up before 1:00 because you will not be allowed in the building. Full firewatch will not be here until 1:00 pm. More later.

From: University Communications + Marketing
 To: ALL UNIVERSITY-L
 Date: 11/1/2007 10:42 AM
 Subject: Zimmerman Library Set to Reopen with Limited Services

Zimmerman Library will reopen today at 1 p.m. with limited services.

NOVEMBER 24 We are pleased to report that good progress is being made on the recovery work from the October 31 flood The investigation as to the cause of the flood is ongoing. However, the re-installation of the pipes and valves into the riser room should be completed by December. The design and shop-drawings are all being re-certified and an additional shut-off valve will be included in the replacement installation. No firm pack back schedule has yet been established. However, considering the completion dates for carpet installation and drywall work and the UNM winter holiday break, a start date of **January 7, 2008** is a target date for the start of the pack back.



By now you all know of the basement flooding situation. Obviously we won't be bringing books back on this coming Monday 11/5. As we begin to determine our course of action over the next few weeks, I'll keep everyone informed regarding the return of library materials.

Kiosk no. 77,887 represents some of the revelry that characterized the party celebrating the end of the Fire Watch

program. It might be noted that posterity has exaggerated our jubilation... or not.

That was really about all I could take. I had to get out of there, and am unlikely to go back.

The final leg of my journey took me 1000 years into the future. It looks like a millennium of global warming, war, aversive stupidity, hubris, unbridled materialism, and good old fashioned bungling have taken their toll. What can I say?

That's the bad news. The good news I discovered in my travels, we can actually change the future by the decisions we make in the present. Most of us won't, but most of us don't have to; just enough of us.

I'll tell you about my trip to the past some time in the future.

From: University Communications + Marketing
To: ALL UNIVERSITY-L
Date: 10/31/07 3:34 PM
Subject: Zimmerman Library Closed
There was a water main failure in the basement of Zimmerman Library today. The library will be closed until sometime tomorrow, Thursday, Nov. 1, so the water can be pumped out and the electricity restored.
You will be notified as soon as the building reopens.



From: Teresa Neely
To: ZIMMERDESKS-L
Date: 11/15/07 10:26 AM
Subject: Zimmerman Reopening at 1:00 pm
Zimmerman will be reopening at 1:00 pm today. I'm aware that Gronowise is down or otherwise intermittent so I will be making phone calls to Zimmerman folk to let them know in case this doesn't reach some to you in time.

"Everyone has a different answer about why things are the way they are and what happened. It's just like the telephone game."

SARAH STOHR
Library Resident

OCTOBER 31, 2007 7:38 PM There's not much else I can add to this message. I think the Dean might be getting pressure to reopen late tomorrow, so ZPS staff, please stay close to your telephones and e-mail in case we need to call you in. We'll know more after the **DRAT meeting**. If you are not on the DRAT team, **please do not show up at Zimmerman** because you probably will not be let in tomorrow morning. After staff and student employees and tenants were allowed to get their things and leave, students who had left items in the building were escorted in by library staff. It was a pretty civil process and worked out pretty well once we had **caution tape** on the doors and **security guards** outside. I believe we may have stopped the retrieval of personal items around 4:00 because I believe there was a scheduled media thing. It's amazing how many *Lobo* and other news media showed up shortly after the flood. Not sure how they found out. TERESA NEELY, DIRECTOR, ZIMMERMAN LIBRARY

NOVEMBER 1 11:38 PM Crews *worked late into the night* yesterday on cleanup. Most of the standing water has been *pumped* out of the building and the remaining water is being *vacuumed* out.... RSHEA has assured us that the situation in the basement has not affected *air quality* in the rest of the building. No air from the basement area is circulating through the air handlers to the upper levels. At this time *only one elevator is working*. PATRICIA CAMPBELL, OFFICE OF THE DEAN **4:10 PM**

I've just had my first trial by 'flood'! MARTHA BEDARD, DEAN **NOVEMBER 7** *The cause of the failed water pipe is being thoroughly investigated by all potentially responsible parties.... There is the likelihood that the public reopening may be delayed a few weeks. However, we are also reevaluating the pack back plan for new procedures which may result in an accelerated process.* PATRICIA CAMPBELL

NOVEMBER 24 We are pleased to report that good progress is being made on the **recovery work** from the October 31 flood The investigation as to the cause of the flood is ongoing. However, the re-installation of the **pipes** and **valves** into the riser room should be completed in early December. The design and **shop-drawings** are all being **re-certified** and an additional shut-off valve will be included in the replacement installation. No firm pack back schedule has yet been established. However, considering the completion dates for **carpet installation** and **drywall work** and the UNM winter holiday break, a start date of **January 7, 2008** is a target date for the start of the **pack back**. NANCY DENNIS, ASSISTANT DEAN

Sent: Thursday, **November 1, 2007 4:10 PM**
 To: BTPDIR-L
 Subject: Zimmerman Flood

Hello colleagues,

I've just had my first trial by "flood"! Yesterday afternoon at 2:30 a pipe connector on a new ten inch pipe in our new fire suppression system in our newly renovated basement (destroyed by fire last year) failed—spewing thousands of gallons of water.

The 60,000 square foot basement had a water level of nearly 7 inches. It took 8 pumper trucks to remove the bulk of the water, the rest now to be vacuumed and sought out in all the crannies it leaked into. Water filled our elevators and leaked into our two sub-basements. We had to shut down the building and evacuate. One student was quoted in the newspaper as saying, "It sucks because I have a big test tomorrow."

We reopened with limited services today at 1pm. Fortunately, the 100,000 volumes recently returned from storage after the fire were still being staged and were not in the basement. About 50,000 volumes were at immediate risk, but many were on compact shelving 7 inches above floor level. Only about 100 volumes were splashed significantly enough to be sent off for freeze dry. Our double archival boxes and quick action by the staff saved all the archival materials.

The fire recovery/renovation was nearly complete before this flood. Just touch up and moving in left. New carpet, tile, drywall, bookshelves, compact shelving, staff cubicles and offices, group study areas—all just waiting to be filled

All of the new carpet and the old carpet in the sub-basements will have to be removed and replaced. Dry-wall and insulation will be removed up to about 4 feet. I am still optimistic that we will reopen early in the spring semester.

The Library staff and UNM support service response was remarkable. **UNM has a seasoned disaster response group!**

With warmest regards,
 Martha

Martha A. Bedard, Dean of University Libraries

BING-SHAN FAZIO
 Print Resources

Evolution of the Chinese
 Character for "Water"

Book Group ready to print *The Zimmerman Fire: (Re)collections*

Anticipated: January 28

State Fire Marshal scheduled to approve fire suppression system repairs needed after the flood of October 31

From: Naomi E Heiser, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder
 To: Deborah Cole
 Date: 11/2/2007 8:48 AM
 Subject: FW: Zimmerman Flood

Gosh, y'all don't get a break! Sounds like this one wasn't so bad for the materials—but maybe you'll need to start another book for morale's sake!



Joe Lane
 Interlibrary Loan

Anticipated: February 6

Zimmerman Pack Back to begin

(FIRE) IGNITE DAMAGE DESTROY
 DISCOVER WARN EVACUATE RESPOND
 CONTROL QUENCH ANNOUNCE ASSESS
 CLOSE REALIZE GRIEVE SCATTER
 REGROUP IMPROVISE DEPLOY VOLUNTEER
 INVESTIGATE CARRY ON COPE COUNT
 LIST PACK REMOVE CLEAN GUARD
 PATROL PROTECT STORE RETRIEVE
 PLAN NEGOTIATE ESTIMATE PRIORITIZE
 ACCEPT DENY RELINQUISH REPLACE
 REPAIR CREATE REBUILD RESTORE
 RENEW REOPEN REMEMBER **(WATCH)**

Anticipated: February 7 Britton Construction to complete



W **AFTER** WORDS

Fire/Watch Book Group

Claire-Lise Benaud and Deborah Cole, Center for Southwest Research
 Pat B., Office of the Dean
 Mary Ellen Hanson, Research Materials Bibliographic Access
 Heidi Perea, Parish Library

Claire-Lise: Well, Mary Ellen and I commented yesterday—as we have read and re-read and cut and pasted and re-cut and re-pasted the contributions—that we are knowing our colleagues in a way we didn't before. People we don't interact with and we say, "Oh, look how interesting." Or even people that we do interact with, we say, "Oh, look how interesting that is!"

Mary Ellen: And to say, "Who would have thought so-and-so is so poetic?"

C-L: And in almost every piece there was humor. A little bit here and there of something funny. I would think, "Well, I didn't know so-and-so could actually be funny. [Laughter] But actually, yes!"

We were really impressed by our colleagues. It gives you a really good feeling for your colleagues that in everyday life either you don't see it or in professional discussions it doesn't come up. So it gives you a very good sense of how thoughtful and insightful our colleagues are. Usually competition among us is just horrendous: space, staffing, offices (and how big that office is). It was so refreshing because in all these stories it is never about competition; it's just about our experience. I don't know many of my colleagues in that light, because, professionally, competition is central to what we do.

Deborah: Same people, different script.

basement remodel Δ State Fire Marshal to sign-off on fire alarm systems in Zimmerman basement and 1st floor; Construction Industries Division will then issue Certificate of Occupancy for basement

Heidi: I'm really glad to hear you say that because I've found myself concentrating not so much on appreciating the contributions, but on missing people who didn't contribute.

D: When I did the interviews, it was so rich because everybody wanted to tell their story. The process of contributing was an important gift for some of our colleagues. There really was a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to do the interviews. At the same time there were people who felt so angry about their experience of Fire Watch that they didn't want to know anything about this book.

Pat: I really think we're trying to do this book for everyone and those people are part of this. We all had different experiences and their feelings are just as valid as everybody else's.

“This book, it's a public conversation. There's a big difference between the private and the public. I've had many private discussions with people over time and none of it appears in the contributions I've read. I'm sure there are a lot of stories which are not reflected in the book.”

CLAIRE-LISE BENAUD
CSWR



DEAR COLLEAGUES,

Those still here,
those recently come,
those who've moved on
since April 30, 2006

This book is our collective history of the Zimmerman fire;
your contributions made it possible.

We extend our sincerest thanks for
your earnest and heartfelt
interviews.

We extend our sincerest thanks for
the artwork, photographs and
timeline contributions.

We extend our sincerest thanks for
the clever humor.

We extend our sincerest thanks for
the thoughtful and poignant
narratives.

We extend our sincerest thanks for
your hopeful and encouraging
words.

We extend our sincerest thanks for
your stories, those included here,
as well as those told in confidence
or in passing; **it was an honor to be
entrusted with them.**

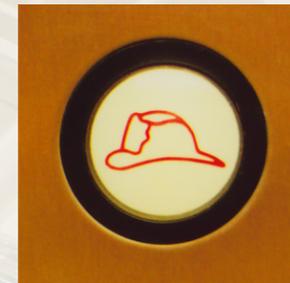
The Fire/Watch Book Group
January, 2008

“This is something I thought of
after we did the first interview.
It's really an obvious thing, but
still. All those books. You all are
doing this great project that's
really healing for lots of us and
it's going to be a book. You're
making a book out of this, out
of those books being burned.
That's really great.”

RUSS COLE
Zimmerman Library

“The good news is, as I discovered
in my travels, we can actually
change the future by the decisions
we make in the present. Most
of us won't, but most of us don't
have to; just enough of us.”

CARL DONSBACH
LIT



(Betty Blackburn still has her job; her electric kettle
came through the fire completely unscathed.)

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES

that period from September 3 to December 7, 1775. Still in the hands of Benedict Arnold's march on Quebec it is practically conclusive in this volume, and who could follow George Washington's instructions to Arnold and Arnold's reports back without being entranced? One should ask why Arnold's expedition should be included in a volume of naval documents, the answer is that his forces went for the most part by canoes up the Kennebec, across the portage to the Chaudiere River, down that river to the St. Lawrence, and then across to the walls of Quebec, which Arnold did not attempt to scale. The documents in the volume are arranged not only day by day, but also they progress from north to south—from Nova Scotia to East and West Florida and eastward to Bermuda. The project now being carried out of publishing the naval documents of the Revolutionary War is one of vast proportions and of outstanding value to American scholarship.

Prospector, Cowhand, and Sodbuter. Historical Places Associated with the Mining, Ranching, and Farming Frontiers in the Trans-Mississippi West. (Volume XI. The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Robert G. Ferris, Serial Editor. Washington: United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1967. Pp. xviii, 320. End Papers, frontispiece, illustrations, maps. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. \$3.00.) It might be said that this book is a cross between an historical narrative, which makes up the first part, and a tourist guide, which constitutes the remainder of the work. In both respects, it is interesting and authoritative, and only because it is issued by a non-profit government agency is the price so moderate. It is highly illustrated with more than a hundred photographs of people, historical sites, and other objects, and it carries more than a half dozen maps. It includes more than two hundred descriptions of historical sites, such as ranch houses, forts, dead and almost-dead towns, and of buffaloes, longhorns, and so on. This book should find a place in the library of any person who has ever had a yen for the West of Indians, miners, bad men, ranches, and all the rest that concept implies.

The Appalachian Trail. Wilderness on the Doorstep. By Ann and Myron Sutton. (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1967. Pp. xii, 180. Map end papers, illustrations, maps. \$4.95.) Any lover of the outdoors will enjoy this book, whether or not he has ever walked on the Appalachian Trail. The Suttons, man and wife, have here

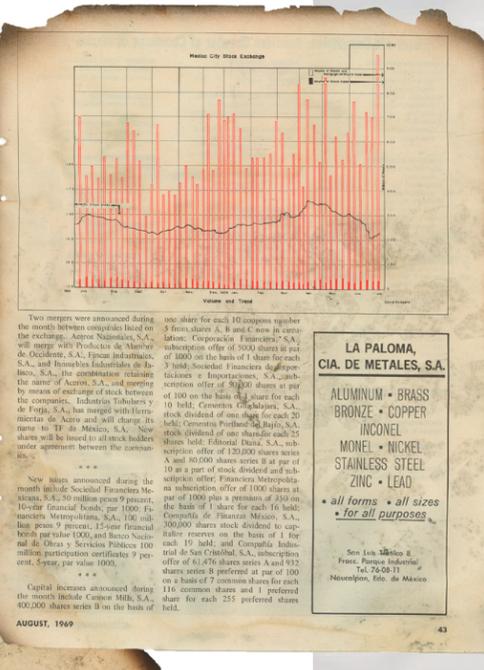
BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES

so much more than produce a travel book and practical guide. They have added historical atmosphere by bringing into the story briefly such woodmen as Daniel Boone and David Crockett, and such naturalists as John Muir and William Bartram; and not only briefly they have got off the trail a bit to narrate in an appealing fashion the story of Elisha Mitchell's death in his explorations in the Black Mountains of North Carolina and the naming of the highest peak east of the Mississippi River in his honor—Mount Mitchell. There is geology and botany in this book as well as a description of the Appalachian Trail, 2,000 miles long, extending from Springer Mountain, in Georgia to Mount Katahdin, in Maine. Such practical information is included, as what and what not to wear and to carry on the trail. Examples and descriptions are given of some of the men and women who have walked the Trail from one end to the other; and some reasons are given why people like to take long walks in the wilderness.

Hunting in the Old South. Original Narratives of the Hunters. Selected and Edited by Clarence Goldes. (Southern Literary Studies, Edited by Louis D. Rubin, Jr. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1967. Pp. xx, 176. Illustrations, end papers. \$6.50. \$7.50 after December 31, 1967.) This large-sized volume (7/8 by 10 1/2) is beautifully produced, and should be a joy to all people who like hunting and the outdoors. It is made up of twenty original sketches written by the hunters or their contemporaries, and all concern episodes in the ante-bellum South—a region with its sparsely settled mountains and swamplands which were the natural haunts of game. After a well-sited introduction, Editor Goldes pitches into a reproduction of these sketches, in all cases with a foreword of explanation, including a sketch of the author and the source of the sketch. Bears, deer, wild cattle, wild turkeys, wolves, and so on were the objects of the hunts.

The Louisiana State University Press (Baton Rouge) in its paperback program has republished in the year 1967 these volumes: Clement Eaton, *The Mind of the Old South* (Revised Edition, \$2.45); Dewey W. Grantham, Jr., *Hoke Smith and the Politics of the New South* (\$2.45); and Rollin G. Osterweis, *Romanticism and Nationalism in the Old South* (First published by the Yale University Press, in 1949, \$2.15).

Dover Publications, Inc. (180 Varick St., New York, N. Y. 10014)



THE NOTORIOUS YAZOO LAND FRAUD CASE

that the Supreme Court had the right to review alleged unconstitutional acts of a state legislature.

The second question regarding the relation of the motives of a state legislature to the constitutionality of its acts was summarily handled:

If the title be plainly deduced from a legislative act, which the legislature might constitutionally pass, if the act be clothed with all the requisite forms of a law, a court, sitting as a court of law, cannot sustain a suit brought by one individual against another founded on the allegation that the act is a nullity, in consequence of the impure motives which influenced certain members of the legislature which passed the law.²⁷

The practical difficulties in ascertaining the motive of a legislator was the basis of this reasoning.

The third question formed the core of *Fletcher v. Peck*. In reaching the conclusion that a state legislature could not revoke a grant made by a previous legislature, Marshall invoked as his reasons that such action was inimical to the "general principles which are common to our free institutions, or by the particular provisions of the Constitution of the United States."²⁸

These general principles arose from the "nature of society and of government. . . . Briefly paraphrasing the opinion, common sentiment as well as common usage forbade that a body had the right to judge its own case; that if an act had been done under a law, a succeeding legislature could not undo it because the past could not be recalled by the most absolute power; and that when a law was in its nature a contract, when rights had vested under that contract, a repeal of the law could not divest those rights because the nature of society and of government prescribed limits to the legislative power."²⁹

Marshall had inherited conceptions of natural law prevalent in the eighteenth century.⁴¹ Though he does not make more than general references, this portion of the opinion was permeated with such philosophy. Charles G. Haines says that though often not recognized as such, natural law ideas were very important in early American judicial decisions.⁴² He theorizes that this was

FOOTNOTES

POLITIKA, IDEOLOGIYA, No 7, 1973, pp. 10-11.

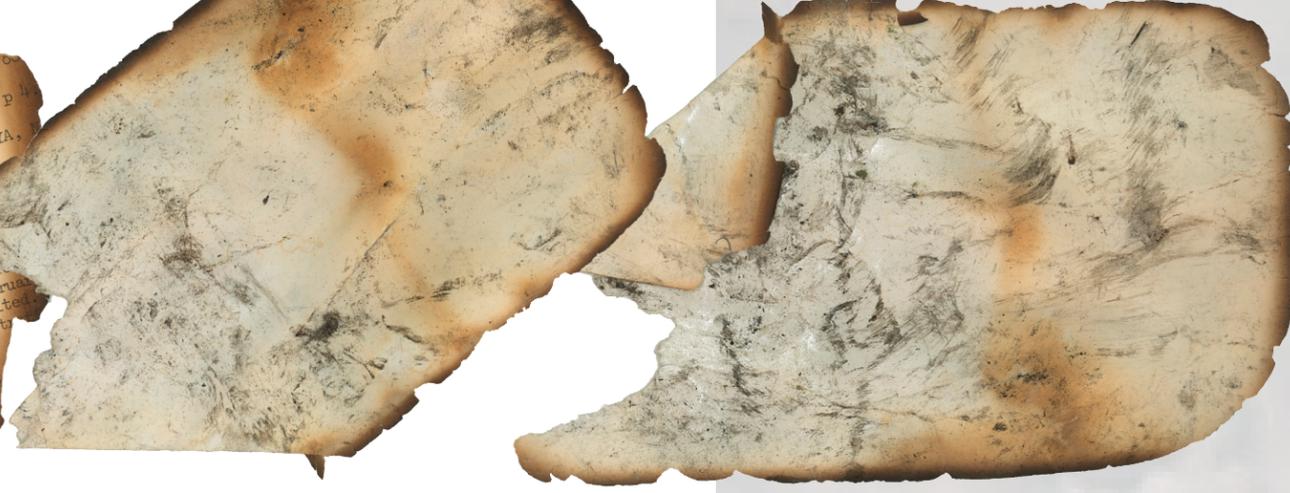
"Add for Development," New York, 1972, p. 14.

SSHA: EKONOMIKA, POLITIKA, IDEOLOGIYA, No 7, 1973, pp. 10-11.

contributions to international organization, Vol. 120, No 80, 1974, pp. 6167-6169.

in accordance with a decision of the Council of Ministers, adopted on 5 February of this year in Nicosia, Cyprus. At 0000 hours between 4 and 5 February those ships already in its ports was halted and the decision of the administration of the island was rescinded on the insistence of the administration of NATO.

the Committee on Foreign Relations, 93rd Congress, 7, 21, 25 June, 24, 25



DEDICATED TO THOSE OF US WHOSE HEADS ARE STILL ABOVE WATER

