WELCOME TO THE FUTURE!

It’s not pretty. In fact, probably the best that can be said of it is that it’s moderately appalling. 

Sorry.

I decided that my contribution to the Fire/Watch Book Project would be to try to determine the effects our Fire Watch efforts may have on posterity. To that end I constructed a time machine out of some spare computer parts I had lying around. I then traveled 100 and 1000 years into the future. I was able to take some pictures.

My first stop was the year 2106. My first task was to get acclimatized. Remember global warming, climate change, melting icecaps? Well, suffice it to say that central Texas now has beachfront property and the Land of Enchantment is now home to several million people who had previously lived in such places as Miami, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, etc. Those people, such as can afford them, wear air conditioned suits; I quickly discovered why—it’s damn hot out there—and I decided to procure one post-haste. Having donned and learned to operate a life-saving suit of my own, I set about my task of exploring the University of New Mexico in the 22nd century and discovering the heritage of the Fire Watch brigade.

Surprisingly, I discovered that many of the old buildings we are familiar with today are still there. My first stop was Parish Library. I was not allowed in as there was a bomb scare in progress. My next stop was at the Centennial Science and Engineering Library. I was not permitted inside as terror watch was making a sweep.

I made my way to Zimmerman Library. I was not allowed to take photos of the outside, due to excessive graffiti, but was able to get inside by bribing a graduate student.
Kiosk no. 77,107 is dedicated to the brave and heroic catalogers who participated in the Fire Watch program.

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.

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.

... there are still a lot of emotions around the loss and changes imposed on people.

NANCY DENNIS
Assistant Dean

‘FUTURE’

January 8

January 7
because you probably will not be caution tape.

The final leg of my journey took me 1000 years into the future. It looks like a millennium of bungling have taken their toll. What can I say?

That was really about all I could take. I had to get out of there, and am unlikely to go back.

Everyone has a different answer about why things are the way they are and what happened. It’s just like the telephone game.

I’ll tell you about my trip to the past some time in the future.
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.

By now you all know of the basement flooding situation. Even evening All,

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.

There was a water main failure in the basement of Zimmerman Library. Full fire watch will not be here until 1:00 pm. More later.

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.

I've just had my first try by 'flood'! MARTHA BEDARDEAN. 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.

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By now you all know of the basement flooding situation. Even evening All,
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. Drywall 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