

ROCKY MOUNTAIN VIEWS



Rocky Mountain Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers

Winter 1999

President's Message



Charles Andersen

As you know many of us are faced with answering questions regarding preparations for Y2K and if all the facility related systems will be operational. The following is an example of how sometimes communication fails to get the real issues across.

"Dear Administration:

Our staff has completed the 18 months of work on time and budget. We have gone through every line of code in every program in every system. We have analyzed all databases, all data files, including backups and historic archives, and modified all data to reflect the change.

We are proud to report that we have completed the "Y - to - K" date change mission, and have now implemented all changes to all programs and all data to reflect your new standards: Januark, Februark, March, April, Mak, June, Julk, August, September, October, November, December. As well as: Sundak, Mondak, Tuesdak, Wednesdak, Thursdak, Fridak, Saturdak.

I trust that this is satisfactory, because to be honest, none of this Y to K problem has made any sense to me. But I understand it is a global problem, and our team is glad to help in any way possible. And what does the year 2000 have to do with it? Speaking of which, what do you think we ought to do next year when the two digit year rolls over from 99 to 00?

We'll await your direction."

As you can see clear communication is critical with any project. It is important to clearly identify the objectives and desired outcomes. As someone said, "It was not to get a man to the moon but to get a man to the moon and back that was the real objective." Sometimes we fail to provide all critical information.

Now on to more RMA related things. The RMA Board is preparing to meet the end of March for their Mid-Year Board Meeting. The Board and Committee will be meeting to discuss issues related to scholarships and educational opportunities, committee appointments and re-appointments, membership drives, sponsors and their roles, committee reports, awards and recognitions, policies and procedures, K-16 mind set and upcoming regional conferences. As you can see there is a full plate of issues to cover. I am grateful for the great effort and time that Board members and Committee members put into the Region. I would like to thank Val Peterson and his staff for hosting the meeting.

And finally, I would like to encourage all of you to attend The International APPA Annual meeting that will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 20-22, 1999. There will be an opportunity for the region to get together and get an update on our region. And please do not forget our RMA annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, October 6-10, 1999. Plan now to attend. I know that Harvey Chase and hosting committee at the University of New Mexico are working hard to make it a wonderful conference. A hearty thank you to all of you in the RMA region and I hope to see you in Cincinnati and Albuquerque.



WINTER

inside . . .

**State/Province Report
Editor's Corner**

Featured Article -- Y2K Bug

STATE/PROVINCE REPORT

CANADA REPORT

By John Watson

By the time this newsletter arrives, we will have finished our 2nd Canadian APPA membership meeting in Calgary, February 16-19. I hope everyone enjoyed the western hospitality and arrived safely home with a few fresh ideas and renewed friendships. These meetings were initiated by Janice Oliver at the University of Toronto and the concept has us going back and forth, east and west, every two years. I still have fond memories of the first meeting and the importance of these kinds of opportunities for discussing broad based Canadian issues.

Upcoming meetings for our calendars include:

AUFAC in Athabasca May 13-14 hosted by Burck Hantel, Athabasca University. The acronym stands for "a bunch of people from Alberta Universities getting together with a provincial Advanced Education representative to encourage high level awareness and support for pressing issues we share".

WCUPPA in Regina June 9-11 hosted by Dave Button, University of Regina. This acronym means "What Crazy University Physical Plant Administrators from all over western Canada love to do in the summer is drive across the bald prairie to get together in a beautiful city".

As a slight variation from Paul's suggested theme of reviewing 1998, I asked my colleagues to reflect on their greatest accomplishment for the past year. Usually this is a rewarding exercise in causing focus on the positive. Some folks were so stumped by this question that they have yet to respond, so they know I have artistic license to make stuff up on their behalf. It'll be up to you to discern the difference between fact and fiction as you read on.

Generally, the first thought that came to mind was the we had survived the year. This was followed by descriptions of mayhem and workloads that we will not detail further. The point to note is that we're all in the same boat and probably have already started to analyze the influences in hope of finding the manageable solutions.

FROM OUR HOME OFFICE ON THE WEST RIDGE OF EAGLE VALLEY, CANADA:

Starting up north and moving south at Athabasca University

1. Burck Hantel caught a fish thiiiiissss biiiiigggg. (It loses something in writing)

At the University of Alberta

1. Successful alliance with Telus (communications company) in the provision of a high-tech learning centre for the campus.
2. Infrastructure Renewal Envelope funding related accomplishments. Definitely many blessings here.
3. On the utilities front, three new emergency generators in the central heating plant.

4. Upgrades to the remote building controls system, both hardware and software, in a strategy towards smart buildings.
5. Coping with snow up to our ying yangs.

At the University of Calgary

1. Getting projects on track after they appeared to fall from the sky without parachutes. Started making parachutes.
2. Upgrading the telephone switch, getting two new chillers, and a host of similar large and small infrastructure renewal items.
3. We got our campus utilities planning back on track after letting it lapse during the lean years.
4. Our participative organizational review took such great steps forward that '99 promises even greater achievements.
5. Significant conversions from Intergraph to AutoCad and transitional steps away from outdated business information systems.

A little west, in Banff

1. You gotta ask to see Bob's photo from our last WCUPPA meeting to get a sense of this accomplishment. A fantasy came true.

South to University of Lethbridge

1. Wayne Stevens discovered you don't have to drive through Edmonton to get to Calgary.
2. On a more personal note, my daughter experienced (and continues to experience) first hand the pleasure of a Physical Plant operation that lives by a philosophy of the student being the highest priority customer.

Over to the east, at the University of Regina

1. Completion of a comprehensive Campus Development Plan to address major campus additions: a new Research Park connected to the main campus with four buildings already in design stages, and a new campus for the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College also connected to the campus.
2. Successfully acquiring funds to replace the 33 year old undersized chillers and cooling towers.
3. Successfully acquiring funds to expand the Education building, currently in design development.
4. Obtaining favorable rates for high voltage (72kV) electrical power delivery. Construction is almost complete on the sub-station to reduce 72kV to 25kV, the cost of which will be recovered within five years.

At the University of Saskatchewan

1. "A Building fell down." This quote came from the Communications Office at U of S while Paul was out to lunch today. Now in most corners of the world this is a bad thing. However, in Saskatchewan, they don't write

books or publish reports about decaying infrastructure, they go for the highly active visual mode of conveying a problem. Truly a valuable tool when safely executed.

RMV

MONTANA REPORT



Bob Lashaway

The Montana State Legislature is in session and once again our education and university budgets are under attack. However, there is an interesting twist this time around. Several conservative legislators are trying to attach language to the university system appropriation bill, requiring each unit to expend 13% of its state funded appropriations in the Physical Plant budget - with an eye

toward addressing deferred maintenance. While such a mandate might at first provide some badly needed relief in view of recent Physical Plant budget cuts, as so often happens it could become the future measuring stick that allows the legislature to forgo additional major deferred maintenance funding, with the mistaken idea that we should now all be able to handle all of our needs within our "beefed up" annual budgets. We will be watching this one closely as it evolves.

Winter has been all too kind to us this year. We have a moderately below normal snow pack east of the continental divide, which could affect our summer irrigation water availability. Not only does this have the potential to negatively affect the local agricultural economy, but MSU-Bozeman relies on local water rights (and availability) for summer lawn sprinkling. We made a successful transition from expensive, treated city potable water to using our previously donated ag-based water rights about 15 years ago. We constructed a large irrigation water holding pond at the highest elevation on campus and installed pumps and a delivery system to serve the main campus. We no longer have the ability to use city water for irrigation (nor could we afford to now), so the system has taken on the status of an un-interruptible utility with all its associated capital, annual and deferred maintenance costs.

Eakle Barfield, Facilities Director at the MSU-Billings campus, has been busy transforming his campus since his arrival two years ago. They have finished construction of a major new parking garage near the main entry to campus - a sensitive and elegant design that belies its true purpose. They have also begun a new campus lighting standard that reflects the historical nature of the campus environment, and a new exterior plaza is being developed to enhance summer activity opportunities for the campus. With the construction of a major addition to their Special Education Building and some new family housing just under way, the campus is continuing to grow as well as becoming more beautiful.

The UM campus in Missoula is also completing many of its major construction projects from the recent round of funding. Their new residence halls, and especially their Business building have added major new facilities to their central campus with pleasing designs that fit extremely well into their existing campus architecture. They are also in the process of finishing their major fieldhouse renovation, which should be ready for the beginning of the next basketball season.

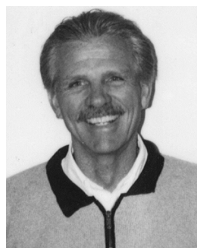
Rollo Shea, Facilities Director at the Montana Tech campus of the UM, has also been busy transforming both the exterior and interior of his campus. Their innovative adaptive re-use project for their old mineral milling building provides wonderful space for their campus bookstore, shops and student meeting spaces in a renovated, large industrial space. Their integration of the large face plates from the two old original boilers into the new design adds to the historical ambiance of the building.

At MSU-Bozeman, we are looking forward to the first summer with no major construction disruption since 1993. We hope to be able to begin dressing up all the scars from recent projects and to stand back and see exactly what we created. Reclaiming a campus from years of construction and other physical abuse will be our next major challenge. We are finishing our latest campus addition - the AgBioSciences Facility (research laboratories). We are pleased with the historically sensitive design of the facility, and are looking forward to taking it over when building commissioning is completed this spring. We have also completed the major renovation to our athletics fieldhouse and are now using the facility for basketball games and all other events. We are down to hosting a single indoor rodeo this year and that should reduce wear and tear on the facility some. We also completed the final phase of our campus utility tunnel project and are now the (proud?) owners of over 6,000 linear feet of underground tunnel, and all of its attendant future advantages as well as maintenance costs.

The good news in Montana is that enrollments appear to be on the rise at most of our campuses and that has provided some small, badly needed, local budget increases. Perhaps we are seeing the early benefit from an influx of those frightened into moving to the great outdoors by the Y2K-phobics. We might even be able to make a few extra dollars (should we deal in gold only?) for our budget by selling fallout space in our tunnel or constructing a small community of Kaszinski-unibomber-cabins on the edge of campus! I guess we will all see in 10 months or so, won't we.

RMV

UTAH REPORT



Brian Nielsen

How come the open topic months are the toughest to sit down and find a topic to write about? I have complained about topics that have been selected in the past, no more, my resolution will be to accept the challenge and deliver the product. After this article you may hope I don't give up my day job. Of course, I could have written the article when all the good ideas abundantly flowed.

You know a very strange process takes place this time of year. Our state legislature is meeting through the end of February. Several bills being discussed make me wonder who our representatives are representing! This process illustrates the true art and meaning of the soft shoe. So, I took a simple poll within the office and surrounding areas and quickly realized that not one single person even voted for any of these people making the new laws. Very interesting, since most of them won by very large margins. Of course, not many of these same people even realized the state was divided into districts and were even numbered for convenience.

The word "politics" describes the process very well: "Poli" in Latin meaning "many" and "tics" meaning "blood-sucking creatures". You put this all in perspective and it begins to make more sense. Where else can a pizza reach your house faster than an ambulance. Why do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and store useless things and junk in the garage. How many of us use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place...and one of my favorites is where else can you buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight. Somewhere along the way we didn't get out and vote.

I do have a couple of thoughts to try and salvage this message.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH

Ask a mother who has given birth to a pre-mature baby.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK

Ask the editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE DAY

Ask a daily wage laborer who has ten kids to feed.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR

Ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE

Ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLI-SECOND

Ask the person who has won the silver medal in the Olympics.

Utah State University

Here at USU there are a number of interesting efforts that are progressing through our system. Let me discuss one that is very exciting to our people – the restructuring of our mechanical area. For years, we have had an organization consisting of several shops: Refrigeration, Heating, Steam Plant, System Operations (Automation), and Plumbing. For some time, there has been a concern that our shop structure has not served the customer as well as we wanted. Too many times individual jobs get bounced between the different shops. We are in the process of changing the structure to more flexible teams that consists of approximately ten to fifteen technicians. We will select a foreman to lead the team. In that selection we would look for a person with good people skills. In the larger teams or in the teams that consists of several trades, we will probably select technical leaders who have mastered the skills and are able to train and qualify others. The new structure will consist of three such teams: an Indoor Environments team which will be responsible for the quality and temperature of the interior air and will consist of technicians with automation, refrigeration, and indoor heating skills. The Energy & Distribution team will be made up of boiler plant operators and heating personnel who maintained the steam distribution system. They will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the central energy plant and the associated utilities distribution lines. We will be expanding the role of the Plumbing team to all in building piping systems and adding both tasks and personnel from the heating area to address the business needs.

As part of the process, we spent time asking both foremen and technicians what ideas they had on a possible restructure. When we finally decided on the three areas and the associated tasks, we then asked the people which area they thought their skills had the best application. We also asked for their first, second, and third choices. The technicians have been assigned to the functions according to their qualifications and preferences. The next step is to find out who in each of the new teams is interested in the leadership role. We will chose a selection committee and judge the candidates against a list of criteria that our Steering Team (senior leadership) has developed that outlines what we want in the foreman or team leader of the future. We believe that the current foremen will become either a foreman of the larger team or a technical leader based on their expertise. In any case, we would not reduce salaries for these people as they are valued members of the organization.

We believe there are several advantages to this changes. First, we should be able to serve the customer better – faster, with improved quality, and for less cost. Second, this structure will allow our people to become more broadly skilled in their chosen field. Another effort that has some bearing on this issue is the reworking of our compensation system that will encourage technicians to learn more about their area and contribute. But that is probably a subject for a future update.

The point is that these two issues complement each other. Third, we are trying to change how we select leadership and the kind of leader we are looking for in the future. Overall, we are very excited about the proposed restructuring and will be working hard to implement it over the next few months.

RMV

Colorado Report

By John Bruning

Colorado institutions of higher education are riding the wave of a boom economy as capital development funds and state-funded controlled maintenance projects have reached an all-time high. Private institutions are also realizing the benefit of increasing enrollments spurred on by the recent population growth. Prognosticators predict that the wave of prosperity is due to change under the newly elected state government as funds for higher education capital development and renewal will be redirected to highways and other state needs. Many of us are concerned that the state will forget that we need to maintain all of the new buildings and systems that we have acquired during this boom . . . I don't suspect this concern is unique to Colorado schools!

Pueblo Community College, located in Pueblo, Colorado, is currently engaged in a \$4 million renovation of their 68,000 gsf Tech Ed/Health Sciences facility, according to Bob McGreagor, Director of Facilities Services. Three projects are also underway in their Central Administration building: ADA elevator, re-roofing and air conditioning. Other facilities are undergoing ADA improvements and asbestos abatement projects. Bob reports that the college now has a student enrollment of 3,000, supported by 420 faculty and staff. Pueblo Community College has three satellite campuses located in Durango, Cortez and Freemont County. Over the 17 years that Bob has worked at the college, he has seen a consistent growth of the school and surrounding community.

Eric van de Boogaard, Director of Facilities services at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado, reports that the unusually dry and warm winter has facilitated the completion of their central heating plant-decommissioning project. Now each building is fitted with individual gas-fired boilers. This project was executed as a two-phase performance contract with Johnson Controls and state controlled maintenance funds. Eric is preparing to renegotiate the natural gas contracts for the college.

A 64,000 gsf, \$8.8 million, Math, Science and Technology facility is the first new building to be added to the Adams State campus since the 1970s. Porter Hall, named after ETRADE CEO and Adams State alum/benefactor William Porter, includes computer labs and "smart" classrooms, which are the first of their type for the college. Adams State currently has an enrollment of 2,300 students in one million gsf of building space. Design is underway, by Davis Partnership, for a renovation/conversion of the old science buildings for the Fine Arts program. Construction is scheduled for spring 1999 with occupancy in 2000.

In Gunnison, Colorado, Western State College is currently designing a \$14 million expansion and renovation of Hurst Hall, their science facility, says Ric Tonnessen, Associate VP for Facilities Services. Davis Partnership is handling the design work with a CMGC contract for the construction going to Francis Construction. This project will include a 40,000 gsf expansion and 40,000 gsf renovation of this facility which is scheduled for completion in 2001. Ric has also successfully funneled state-funded controlled maintenance dollars away from front range schools for fire sprinkler/alarm projects, hvac projects for Quigley and Kelly Halls and a standing seam re-roofing project on their Library. I love giving Ric a hard time about taking all that state money away from the Front Range schools and moving it over the Continental Divide! More power to Ric and the others on the west side of the ridge!

Another highlight of activity at Western is the \$6.5 million renovation/renewal of the Paul Wright Gymnasium facility, which serves the Kinesiology, Rec and Athletic programs. C.W. Fentriss & Assoc. executed this renovation which now serves the 2,300 students who currently attend the college.

Michael Murphy, Associate Director of Physical Plant at Regis College in Denver, reports that Michael Redmond, formerly Director at Front Range Community College and new Director at Regis, has had a great year since his arrival in 1998. Regis College, a Jesuit institution which is 136 years old, was first established in Las Vegas, New Mexico as the School of Sacred Heart, then moved to Morrison, Colorado and later to its current location in Denver. The first building, Main Hall, was constructed in 100 days to satisfy a requirement to show development in order to secure further funding for the university. A capital campaign is pending for the renovation of Main Hall and Gordon Gunneson & Assoc. are currently designing a technology project for data, voice and cable for each residence hall on campus.

Among other offerings, Regis University provides professional degree programs for working adults who require alternative/flexible continuing education opportunities. System-wide, the university enrollment is about 12,000, while the Denver campus accommodates about 1,100 full-time students and another 1,000 or so in their health care and adult education programs. The physical plant totals 660,000 gsf on 95 urban acres and a new satellite campus is being planned for Las Vegas, Nevada.

Overall, things are moving fast here in the Centennial State institutions of higher education. Many of us are greatly concerned about the exponential growth we are experiencing and the effect it is having on our quality of life. I guess the same can be said for most all of the RMA region. Let's make the best of the opportunities that we currently have and leave a positive legacy for those who follow us! Give us a call and come by if you're out in our area!

RMV

New Mexico Report



Mary Vosvich

The University of New Mexico Physical Plant Department staff are busy preparing for the upcoming Rocky Mountain Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers' 47th Annual Educational conference which will be held this year in Albuquerque, New Mexico on October 6 - 10, 1999. The theme for this year will be

"Achieving new heights of performance through staff and organizational development." The 1999 International Balloon Fiesta will be the backdrop for this annual meeting which will focus on staff and organizational development as a means of elevating your organization to new heights of performance.

We are combining educational programs with a taste of New Mexico's rich cultural heritage. We are hosting the conference at the Sheraton Hotel in the heart of Albuquerque's famous Old Town. Over 200 shops, restaurants and art galleries are located in Old Town and are within walking distance from the hotel. Our modern complex of museums, aquarium, and gardens are also right around the corner. A short trip on Albuquerque's Sun Trolley will take you to the quaint Nob Hill area, to the historic Route 66 Downtown Area, or to the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Several other activities will be available for conference participants and companions to enjoy such as: the Sandia Peak Tram; Bandelier National Monument, with spectacular ancient cliff and cave dwellings; Santa Fe, the City Different"; and Balloon Fiesta events.

The Balloon Fiesta attracts balloons and spectators from around the world. There are nearly 900 balloons that participate in this nine day event, and over a million spectators visit the 350 acre Balloon Fiesta Park. It has emerged as the most photographed event in the world. In fact, Albuquerque turns out to be the premier ballooning city due to it's crystal skies, perfect October climate and a phenomenon called the "Albuquerque Box". With a combination of weather patterns and geographic landscape, this so-called "box" allows balloonists to control and even orchestrate their adventure.

The University of New Mexico Physical Plant staff is honored to be your conference host in 1999. Albuquerque books up fast this time of year, so if you plan to attend this conference we urge you make early reservations in order to guarantee your room, air accommodations and rental car. The conference registration packet will be sent out in April along with other exciting information about Albuquerque and the surrounding areas. Our web site will be available for your surfing in the near future. We look forward to seeing you. Hasta la vista! **RMV**

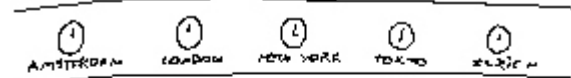


Editor's Corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the state/province correspondents for their articles over the past year. A special thanks to Val for his humor and interesting articles. I am still looking for a correspondent to put together the news from Arizona. All volunteers are welcome and you can contact me at (520) 206-4758 or e-mail, psmith@pima.edu. The next edition of the newsletter will have a scholarship application in it, so I urge you to apply if you are interested in the Institute for Facilities Management or the Leadership Academy. Scholarships applications are also available on the APPA website.

The past year has gone quickly and I am looking for topics for the next year beginning with the May issue. If you have any itches you want scratched, ideas you want to share, or just a plain old suggestion for a topic, please contact me. As the editor I can tell you that the newsletter is only as good as the articles provided by the membership. You may not feel what you are doing is interesting, different, or important but I can assure you that your peers in RMA are interested. I feel that a key to success in the facilities business is getting and sharing as much information as possible. Einstein said, "Success is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration." All of us work hard and what we are sometimes looking for is that 10%. So don't be afraid to contribute your 10%, as it may make all the difference in how we do our job to provide better service to our customers.

To close out this column, I would like to provide a small update on my school, Pima Community college. Over the past year we have completed revised master plans for our five existing campuses and are now preparing the construction documents for new buildings at each of these campuses as part of our \$140 million capital development program. By early fall, all five campuses will have new buildings under construction (about 140,000 square feet). Our campuses will be busy places from now until early 2002, but most of this new work and the major renovations will be ready to show off when you come to Tucson in September 2001. Have a great spring and I hope to see you in Cincinnati or Albuquerque.



"With Ms. Bride here as our fall-back, our systems are virtually fool-proof."

Y2K BUG



H. Val Peterson

By now I'm sure you've heard the buzz over "Y2K", otherwise known as the Year 2000 problem or the Millennial Bug.

In a nutshell, computers the world over face potential trouble at the turn of the century because, for the past 30 years or so, we've been recording dates in legacy computer applications by using just the last two digits of the year.

That method was OK as long as the first two digits were "19" as in 1998. But you can just imagine what's going to happen to systems using this dating methodology when the first two digits become "20". And it isn't good!

At the least, computers will display the wrong date. At the worst, the world's population will endure power outages, bank failures, transportation snarls, and food shortages,...you name it. Industry and governments are spending half a trillion dollars to resolve the problem before January 1, 2000.

I don't know about you, but all the hype about the millennial bug is starting to bug me.

Just in case you haven't yet reached saturation on this subject, here are some random thoughts, observations and factoids about the Year 2000 bug that might come in handy when chatting in mixed company. While it may be somewhat boring, it's more sociably acceptable than telling raunchy jokes and corny stories.

Someone has calculated the odds of a variety of calamities. For example, there's a 70 percent chance some of us will endure bad credit reports because of Y2K related errors. For those who already have a bad credit rating, this might work the other way as well. In any event, you might consider maxing out the limits of all your credit cards in December 1999 because it could be years before you get a bill. And with good luck, maybe never.

The prognosticators of gloom have also predicted there's a 55 percent chance some of us will face electrical outages of more than one day. I personally believe the actual odds are higher. For this reason and the distinct probability that we within the facilities management organization will not find every well-hidden and embedded microchip, I have already announced the scheduling of a New Year's Eve party at work to welcome in the new millennium. It's not that I'm much of a party animal, but rather to have enough staff around to get a jump-start on finding and fixing problems that may arise. It may be a tough-sell to get people to attend the party since we can't offer alcoholic beverages on campus. If so, we'll just make the party a mandatory thing.

If you are concerned about what may happen at your institution, this may be an excellent time to change jobs.

I understand there is a growing demand for folks who carry the job title, "Year 2000 Project Manager". I know one such person who has been managing Y2K projects for a year and he now travels around in a chauffeured limousine and while sipping champagne calls his stock broker to sell off a few million shares to finance his posh new home. OK, maybe that's a bit exaggerated, but these Y2K project managers are hot property these days. So hot that many companies are bending over backward to keep them from jumping ship for more lucrative deals elsewhere. More power to them but I sure as heck don't want to be in their shoes come midnight at century end. I would much rather be a facilities manager. Yah-right!

Here's an interesting twist on the whole Y2K thing: religious Y2K web sites. While looking at ways to combat the millennial bug, I stumbled across a handful of these sites. If there is a common thread that runs through them, it is the notion that a strong faith in God is necessary to get us through the Y2K problem. It made a believer out of me. I can just imagine that Hell would be wrestling with the Y2K problem for eternities without end.

If the Y2K bug has got you down, there's lots of Y2K humor out there. Did you see the one about *Frank & Ernest* in a cartoon that showed two archaeologists examining a tablet of hieroglyphics? "Funny", Frank says, "the writing stops at Y2K B.C." If you fail to see the humor in that, it probably loses something in the pictorial-to-verbal translation. Or maybe you're just a sorehead.

Personally, I don't think there's any need to panic over the Y2K thing. But there are many people out there who believe the world is going to sink into chaos when 2000 rolls around. They think the only way to survive is to start stockpiling essentials such as food, clothing, cash and toilet paper. I don't think the government would let us all starve, but I have started saving my old Sear's catalogs to use in the outhouse.

One last comment. So now you've heard of Y2K, but have you ever heard of D1OK? That's the shorthand some financial experts use to describe their worry that investors are in big trouble if the Dow Jones stock average ever tops five digits. Securities-trading computers, they say, could misread a Dow Jones average at 10,000 as 1,000 or even zero. This could cause automatic trading panic in the marketplace, and other unspecified problems. Word is that not many financial institutions are taking the threat seriously. You use your own judgement. Facilities managers are known for having lots of extra bucks to invest. Yah right!

So there you have it. Makes me think I ought to move up my own retirement date. Maybe I won't have to worry about retirement if the bug shuts down the campus on January 1, 2000 and the boss fires me. And maybe the world will end and none of us will have to worry about the Y2K problem. Yah-right!

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The ROCKY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL PLANT ADMINISTRATORS OF UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES was organized in February of 1953 for the purpose of promoting the common interest in the planning, maintenance and operation of physical plants of Universities and Colleges in the Rocky Mountain Region: to foster a professional spirit among those engaged in this work; and to support and supplement the activities of its parent organization, the "Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers (APPA)." The Rocky Mountain Region encompasses the states of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, and in Canada the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

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FUTURE MEETINGS

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