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[Letter from Doug McMurdo of The Times-Independent]

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Greetings, Moabites of 2072,

The items accompanying this note are called newspapers, which in all likelihood you've never seen, unless you're old and have been around awhile.

Do you want to know what life was like in Moab 50 years ago? Here's my contribution:

In 2022, as construction of the Utah State University-Moab campus nears completion, Moab and the rest of Planet Earth have emerged from a deadly pandemic that lasted more than two years.

As we write this, the weather is warming and that means hordes of tourists will descend on this small and remote community that just happens to be home to some of the most beautiful and iconic scenery in the world. We hope Delicate Arch still stands and the Colorado River flows.

In 2022, we're in the middle of the worst drought in 1,200 years and climate change threatens a way of life for humans; indeed, for all forms of life. We hope more rain and snow falls for you than did for us.

The nation is politically divided and it is ugly. We hope Americans have learned to live together without so much rancor in 2072.

For those of you who are students at USU-Moab, take advantage of this opportunity to expand your horizons, whether your goals involve academics or the trades, be diligent in your pursuit of degrees or certifications and then go out and tackle the world, which needs doctors and lawyers and engineers and teachers and welders and mechanics.

Mostly though, the world, as always, needs good people. We are confident such people exist in 2072.

As you read the stories we published half a century ago, remember us fondly and then go do good.


— Doug McMurdo

The Times-Independent

March 3, 2022