9-1-1996

Carrying A Torch

Keri Hartman

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UPDATE

SURF’S UP

Looking for a rest stop on the information superhighway? Pull into USF’s Marshall Center and ask for directions to CYbor City.

CYbor City is a brand new student social center where students can ‘surf the Net’ for free, in casual comfort, on one of five pentium IBM-compatible computers. The area’s name and motif is modeled after Ybor City, a popular night spot for university students. The 344-square-foot space for CYbor City was created from an old food service line in the basement.

“When students kept suggesting the need to put in a free Internet area, we knew this would be the location for them,” said Laurie Woodward, Marshall Center associate director. “The designer was able to take the images of Ybor City and transform a dull food line into a nice, warm area.”

Elements of Ybor City incorporated into the new design include wall murals, benches, lighting and Ybor’s trademark brick pavers.

MAN OR MOTHER?

The author of The Yearling went on trial 50 years ago.

The author used her neighbor as a character in a book. The portrait is less than charming.

In May 1946, local historian Hampton Dunn, then a cub reporter for The Tampa City Times, made a name for himself by covering the invasion of privacy trial of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, who wrote Cross Creek, a best-selling novel about Florida.

Dunn says the “first thing I did was go to the bookstore and buy a copy of Cross Creek. Marjorie was kind enough to autograph a copy of my book, with the date and Alachua County Courthouse (where the trial took place).”

That copy is now in the Grace Allen Room at the USF Tampa Library. Dunn and his friend Leland Hawes, a writer for The Tampa Tribune, discussed Rawlings’ trial during a Last Lecture Series talk on May 16 at the Library.

Rawlings described “my profane friend Zelma” in the book. The paragraph that riled her friend Zelma Cason: “Zelma is an ageless spinster resembling an angry and efficient canary. I can’t decide whether she is a man or a mother. She combines the violent characteristics of both.”

According to Dunn, “Zelma resented the way her quirks were represented to half a million people of the world. Miss Zelma Cason, a 53-year-old, white-haired spinster, said the use of her name had mortified her and forced her to go on a diet for an ulcerated stomach.”

Miss Marjorie, as Dunn refers to Rawlings, was the media’s darling at the trial. Reporters described her as “the charming Pulitzer Prize winner.”

“It took the jury only 28 minutes to acquit Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings,” Dunn says. “However, the Florida Supreme Court later reversed the lower court’s decision and awarded Cason $1 in damages.”

Dunn’s article on the trial won an Associated Press award as the best spot news story of the year. Years later, Dunn searched for Rawlings’ grave. The former best friends are still neighbors in the cemetery — Cason’s grave is just 50 feet away from Rawlings’ final resting place.

CARRYING A TORCH

Bill Heller, USF St. Petersburg dean, was one of 66 people selected from the Tampa Bay area to carry the Olympic flame. Torch-carrying participants ran more than a half-mile each, as part of a relay journey, carrying the “flame” from Florida to Atlanta for the Summer Olympics. Designated a “community hero,” Heller was selected for the honor by the United Way and the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games because of his many contributions to the community. In addition to being the campus dean, he supports such organizations as the Pinellas Association for Retarded Citizens, the American Heart Association, the St. Petersburg and Clearwater chambers of commerce, and many local cultural and social service organizations.

His work with the Pinellas public schools has helped jump-start an elementary ethics program and drop-out prevention program for at-risk adolescents.

Other USF Olympic torch carriers included accounting student Pamela Haber, sophomore Derek BuscioGlio and alumnus Jimmy Lovell. USF’s Most Outstanding Senior award recipient Keri Hartmann was chosen to represent the university.

“Keri has been an exceptional representative of the university as president of the USF Ambassadors and as a student,” said President Betty Castor. “Her recent award as Most Outstanding Senior made it clear she was the perfect choice to carry the torch for USF.”

Keri Hartmann
Making a success in the workplace. Students won't get a college degree. A faculty development.

Education professor is working on a new revamps the present on a test and never use the information.

Adu lts and Vocational Education and Human Sciences.

Derrick Sharp are also on the roster. Former USF ers Jarvis Jackson, Fred Lewis and Derrick Sharp are also on the roster.


Mote on: Ann McKeel Ross, USF's director of community relations, has been named vice president of advancement for the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Ross, an alumnus, has been affiliated with the university for 36 years and was a member of its first class.

REAL WORLD LEARNING

Eighty percent of America’s high school students won’t get a college degree. A USF Education professor is working on a new plan to change the way these students are taught, giving them the tools they need to succeed in the workplace.

“Much of the content we currently teach students will never, never be used while on the planet,” says Bill Blank, chair and professor of USF’s College of Education’s Adults and Vocational Education and Human Resource Development department. “We teach; they repeat what they’ve learned on a test and never use the information again.”

Blank is the lead author of the $1.6-million, four-year grant from the federal Department of Education to create a pilot program of a “school within a school.”

The new program, Project CONNECT, revamps the present 1950s method of teaching that assumes that everyone is and should earn a college degree, explains Blank. The program will design and integrate a curriculum that reflects the real world beyond school — not for the 20 percent of the work force who will earn college degrees.

“Real World” applies to a model that two Tampa high schools will use as a “Life-Base” curriculum. According to Blank, both King and Thomas Jefferson high schools will adopt a reality-based course outline for more than 100 students at each school. The curriculum will promote cooperative learning, eliminate blocked time for courses and allow research projects to complement traditional testing.

“School experiences should mirror the real world,” Blank says. “We have to make schools more meaningful and relevant.”

The Project CONNECT committee is comprised of USF faculty and students, representatives of participating high schools and parents along with representatives of the business community.

Kathy Good, education administrator for USAA Insurance, says the business connection provides the anchor for the “real world” concept.

“Because these kids are going to be much more prepared, they will have all the training needed to walk on the job and survive,” says Good. “To share knowledge in schools is called cheating, but it’s important to share information in the business world.”

The grant, according to Krysta Smith, newspaper sponsor and English teacher at King, also allows more options for teaching styles.

“We presently are not doing enough for these students,” says Smith. “We now have the support to color outside of the lines.”

TEACH REACH

“Innovations ’96,” an international adult education research conference was hosted by USF’s College of Education’s Adult and Vocational Education department this spring. The 37-year-old conference drew adult educators from around the world who presented the latest research. Presenters represented countries ranging from Ireland to New Zealand.

Pre-conference workshop topics included Afrocentric research in adult education, and the collaboration of international research ideas. Core conference issues covered diversity, family literacy and the adult learner’s conceptions of learning.

ALBERT EINSTEIN NAMED BROOKS BROTHER’S MAN OF THE YEAR

Huh? The proverbial genius in a pair of wingtips? Not quite. Dr. Albert Einstein, center director for clinical affairs for the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute was awarded the title for raising the most funds for the Suncoast Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America. Einstein and 18 other candidates raised more than $75,000 for the organization which supports 500 patients in the Tampa Bay area. A bemused Master of Ceremonies, Channel 13 anchor Frank Robinson, when announcing the winner said, “All I can say is E=mc².”

THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING

Russian organized crime is a growing problem in America. “It operates in 14 American states, with more than 100,000 people,” estimates Sergei Paromchik, a professor of law enforcement and democracy at the National Police Academy in Belarus. “Criminals know no borders.”

Paromchik, a survivor of the April 1986 Chernobyl disaster, visited USF in June and taught a brief course on “Organized Crime in Russia and the Emerging Democracies.” He was invited by Criminology Department Chairman Bill Blount, who traveled to the Belarus Police Academy in May 1994.

Paromchik, a United States Information Agency contemporary issues scholar, is working at the Washington, D.C.-based National Institute of Justice as a full-time fellow. He has discussed Russian organized crime with agents-in-training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

“After the disintegration (of the former Soviet Union), this problem has become more acute,” Paromchik says.

A member of the Police Integrity Initiative work group, Paromchik has also designed a curriculum on police ethics for Belorussian police officers.

“Police corruption is everywhere, in every country...perhaps more so in Russia,” he says.