

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

BARRY B. BAKER

Welcome to the first issue of *Collected Thoughts*. Through this publication we will bring you the latest information about the UCF Library's collections and services. Announcements about exhibits and special programs will be included as well.

Jacqui Johnson, Senior Library Technical Assistant in the Cataloging Services Department, suggested our title. Working at her desk literally surrounded by books and other library materials in all subjects and disciplines—collected thoughts, if you will—Jacqui was inspired to suggest what is the essence of libraries. After all, what are libraries but collected thoughts in many forms; be it print, online full text, software, microforms, audio or video formats.

From the great Library at Alexandria in ancient Egypt to the libraries of today, the goal of libraries is to meet the information and research needs of users. Technology has provided tools to enable libraries to provide access to information in ways that would be considered magic by those in charge of the great Library. Today's libraries serve as portals to information resources, be they print or electronic. Many of these resources can be accessed

remotely online from dorm rooms, faculty offices or home, greatly expanding ease of access to those collections. Yet libraries continue to be exciting places where library users come to use resources, to seek help in locating needed information and to collaborate with others.

A model of today's research library, the UCF Library is growing rapidly, supporting the research and instruction needs of its students and faculty as well as providing information resources for the Central Florida community. With a collection of over 1.5 million print items, 9,900 journals, including 4,000 electronic full text journals, 17,000 electronic books, and 2.4 million microforms, the library is a dynamic, constantly changing environment.

Collected Thoughts will keep you updated as to our new and enhanced services as well as significant new acquisitions to our collections.

The Orange County Regional History Center, the Orange



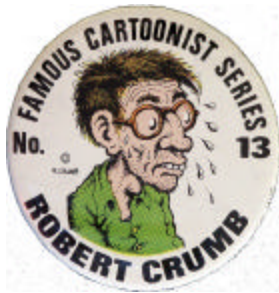
CENTRAL FLORIDA MEMORY

BY MEG SCHARF

County Library System, and the University of Central Florida Library have formed a unique partnership to make regional history accessible by selecting, digitizing and organizing materials for an educational and entertaining Web site. Initial planning for the Central Florida Memory project began during summer 2002, culminating in the difficult decision to narrow the focus of selected materials from the 1880s to the 1920s. Maps, travel diaries, letters, photographs and other documents from the collections of all three organizations are included in the digitized collection.

The Web site draws readers in through three "stories." The first story, "Dreams and Schemes," explains why many came to settle in Central Florida during that time. How people arrived is explained in the story, "Road, Rivers and Rails." "Critters, Crackers and Cottages", the third story, gives the Web audience slices of life in Central Florida. A special effort has been made to introduce fourth grade students, who are required to study Florida history, to the Web site by including exercises that teach-

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UNDERGROUND COMIX: THEIR PLACE IN AMERICAN PUBLISHING BY SUSAN LODEN

Underground comix magazines from the 1960s through the '80s that used humor and sarcasm to explore topics from sex to recreational drugs, corporate greed, ecology, feminism and beyond are being showcased in the University of Central Florida Library through April 25.

UCF librarian Jack Webb has spent years collecting more than 1,000 titles and collectibles featuring the art and messages of counterculture artists since spotting R. Crumb's "ZAP" No. 0 in the window of a New York City shop in 1970. Webb shares this odd and provocative array of Americana in a free exhibit in the Library's Special Collections Department on the fifth floor. He has spoken about the exhibit, "Underground Comix and Their Unique Place in American Publishing," in the Library.

Drug paraphernalia shops and mail order were the sources of Webb's finds. As a college student and Vietnam War veteran, he saw the "comix," or "zines," as "so unique," he says. "I wanted as many of these as I could get. They are completely different from anything else."

The show, which features comix with characters like Mr. Natural, Dr. Atomic, the Forty-Year-Old Hippie, Mickey Rat, the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers, the Checkered Demon and Trashman - Agent of the Sixth International, also include a 21st century zines created by 30 UCF students.

The offbeat and profound publications produced by the philosophy and art theory and criticism students of professor Kristin Congdon are being displayed in a case near Webb's collection. Congdon's students make pocket-sized zines as a final project. The UCF Library is one of very few in the country collecting and archiving this freeform artistic and social expression, she says.

"Five years ago, when my art theory and criticism students started making zines, people laughed at me," Congdon says. "Now zines are in classrooms all across the country. "By definition, a zine has to be cheap and easy to produce and to distribute to the masses," she continues. Congdon's students' single-edition zines are mini-works of art with embellishments like buttons, ring-bindings and cutouts. In that re-

spect, they do not meet zine requirements.

Still, they "explore a lot of ideas within a time and place. I want them to create a specific atmosphere for the experience and the ideas they explore. I want them to think about art outside the frame, beyond the concept of the page. I like for them to appropriate ideas and images that are out there that belong to everyone. Bits and pieces of things, narratives. They really enjoy exploring an idea and often it is a naughty idea." Student titles include "Flesh & Chips" and "Venus Envy."

"Comic books are the only uniquely American contribution to the literary genre," Webb says, referring to "Spider-man," "Superman" and other mainstream comic characters that intrigued him as a boy and remain popular today. When the comic met the counterculture of the "Age of Aquarius," the uncensored zine or comix was born.

Young adults in America, and later in Europe, embraced this familiar, inexpensive, easy-access form of expression. "They were the epitome of a free press." One person drew, lettered and wrote a comix. There was one source and no one was telling them what they could or couldn't do," Webb says. But comix fell out of favor in the late 1980s when the Internet offered an unrestricted forum.

The centerpiece of the Webb exhibit is the distinctive work of R. Crumb, including "ZAP" issues, puppets, statues and a lunch box. Crumb is the subject of the 1998 award-winning documentary film "Crumb."

"Crumb is considered to be one of the top 100 artists of the 20th century," Webb says. "He can still shock and upset when he has something to say."

Other featured artists include Art Spiegelman, whose Pulitzer Prize-winning "MAUS" chronicled his father's Holocaust experiences with powerful images of Jewish people as mice and Nazis as cats. Also highlighted are Bill Griffith's Zippy the Pinhead and his familiar refrain "Are we having fun yet?" Work by Robert Williams, Trina Robbins, Gilbert Shelton, Shary Flenniken, S. Clay Wilson, Rick

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UNDERGROUND COMIX:

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Griffin and Lee Marrs are also shown.

The exhibit in room 501 of the Library will be open to visitors from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CENTRAL FLORIDA MEMORY

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ers can assign. Although an exciting new resource for the community is the result of this project, the cooperation of the participating institutions has also resulted in a valuable and lasting partnership.

The next phase of the project is a continuation and expansion of the pilot. It will focus on the period 1930-1960. The three institutions will be working together on: planning, selection of materials, digitization of the source material, design of the Web pages, development and writing of storylines, developing metadata for the images, publicity and events to involve the public in creating a community resource.

If your family would like to participate in Central Florida Memory by sharing your memories or supporting the project, contact Meg Scharf at mscharf@mail.ucf.edu or (407)823-2564.



Fountain at Eola Park, Orlando, Florida

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Collected Thoughts

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Upcoming Displays in the UCF Library

April — Exhibit from the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center

May — “Expression with the Natural View”
A series of natural landscapes —
Gina Levit

June — “Palettes of Culture” - Obed Gomez

NEW HEAD OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ARRIVES

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one for the Special Collections Department. In early March, Carla M. Summers will join the UCF Library faculty as Head of Special Collections. Carla comes to UCF from the University of Florida (UF) where she has worked as an archivist and manuscripts librarian since 1984. Before working at UF, she worked for the Florida State Archives in Tallahassee where she supervised all appraisal, arrangement and description of state public records and manuscripts collections. Since 1989 she has



done archives and records management consulting for individuals, organizations, government agencies, colleges and businesses. Carla received a B.A. from the University of West Florida and an M.S. from the School of Library and Information Sciences, Florida State University. She also holds certifications from both the Academy of Certified Archivists and the Institute of Certified Records Managers. Carla says she is very excited about coming to UCF, and we certainly look forward to having her join us. Her knowledge, wealth of experience and leadership skills will be invaluable as we develop and expand our Special Collections Department.