

Winter/Spring 2007

April 12, 2007
Dear GGOT Diary,

LSU was another great trip! It started with us doing an amazing poster workshop. The woman who attended were so impressive. They really felt like a change needed to be made on campus. I have to admit, though, that I was disappointed when a group of African American students showed up, participated in the warm-up, but then decided that they didn't want to stay for the poster portion of the workshop. They came up with interesting ideas for posters and everything. I really wanted them to do one on the under representation of African Americans on their campus. One of them was a gay male, and I would have loved for him to come up with something having to do with that as well, but they left. I think they thought it would be uncool, or even "white" to participate in something like a poster workshop. It bothers me when our black youth can't understand that their voices are necessary for the growth of our future. And not just the future of African Americans, but the future of this country. Let me stop preaching...

The workshop went on, and everyone came up with great issues. I was especially proud of one particular poster that dealt with hypocrisy in the hip hop community. I helped them come up with the concept ;)

That evening the Women's Studies Department took us out to the most lavish dinner that you could imagine. I mean, it was New York scale. We had drinks, salads, entrees, dessert, the works! That was an amazing night. The following evening we performed. I have to say, they were far more receptive than I thought they would be, being a red state and all. They stayed with us the entire time, and very few people walked out! They laughed at our jokes, and agreed with our politics. Someone even said that they wanted us to be more intense! I, personally, didn't feel that I gave my best performance. I had mic trouble, and I felt like I was straining my voice, which I hate. But they liked us, and that's what's important. Afterward, we went to Anne Sexton's house for dinner. Her family lives in Baton Rouge, and they cooked us burgers and strawberry shortcake. It was really yummy.

Overall, our Louisiana trip was great. I think that we all got a taste of true southern hospitality.

Love,
Josephine Baker

April 12, 2007
Dear Diary,

We arrived in Baton Rouge, LA today and are staying at LSU in their fancy Alumni Hotel. As we opened our room door we saw mugs from the LSU's Women's Center and bags of chocolate covered coffee beans to welcome us. So thoughtful. We got adjusted to our new digs, went to lunch and had some Southern Cooking at Chimes. Nice warm day. So I went for a walk around the lake and saw an Alligator!! Really, no one believes me, but you will Diary.

After Lunch and my walk we went to the French House for a poster seminar, were we met a great group of women both students, staff and faculty. And one man. Why don't more men come, I'm sure they have things they would like to protest or fix?? Once we had the warm ups everyone opened up and it seemed that they had a lot of really important issues to deal with at LSU from unfair representation in the yearly book read to date rape on campus. Some great posters were made.

Then we went to dinner with a small group of Women's Center leaders. Jessica and the Women's Center treated us to possibly the fanciest meal a Guerrilla has ever had. My favorite was the chocolate cookie pie!!! But I always did have a sweet tooth. I better go to bed.

Goodnight Diary, Goodnight Gracie.

LSU Day 1

Dear Diary,

I love southern hospitality. Everyone is treating us like queens of the jungle, rehearsal and tech went great and Manship Theatre is lovely.

The show was a big success, pretty much sold out. The best thing was that afterwards the people in the audience really felt a sense of community and that a lot of people in the South agree with them. I got a real feeling that we left the people of LSU empowered and ready to take on their own problems themselves. I don't think they realized until the show that so many people are out there wanting to make things better. LSU Women you are not alone, you have each other.

We discussed Imus' racist remark and what to do about it I recommend a email/ call campaign demanding he be fired. Fingers crossed.

We leave Baton Rouge with a good taste in my mouth, and I'm not just talking about the southern cooking.

Goodnight Diary, goodnight Gracie.

LSU Day 2

April 11, 2007

Hey Diary:

We arrived on the lush, Louisiana State University campus on a sunny Monday morning. Sprawling Live Oak trees and huge, stately mansions gave the campus an old-world Southern charm. But how would this old-world, Southern-conservative campus feel about the liberal agenda of the Guerrilla Girls on Tour? We soon learned that LSU's Women's Studies Dept. and Women's Center were craving some pro-choice, anti-war, pro-women discussions and such issues kept pouring out from students and faculty during our poster workshop and show.

We had an amazing time in the good ole' South, treating ourselves to "Hallelujah Crabs" and Catfish Po'boys and Raspberry White Russians galore. And we can't help but feel the pride of crushing a little of that "good ole' boy" mentality that is the bedrock of Louisiana and the liberal agenda of the state, LSU. Although we couldn't free Mike the LSU Tiger from out of his cage, I think we might have freed a little of the Guerrilla Girl from out of Louisiana State University.

All in a day's work. Grrrrrr!

Confessionally yours,
Anne Sexton

March 30, 2007

Dear Diary-

Wow! I'm still high on Pheromones! I just got back from our latest performance at Femme Fest at the Gene Frankel Theatre on Bond St. in NYC. It is so rare that we get to opportunity to perform in our home base of New York that I forgot just how cool it is and just how many feminists there are here! Gracie, Josephine, Anne and I were thrilled to be asked to perform an excerpt from our feminist romp Feminists are Funny. It felt good to be a part of a big festival celebrating women and women's art and answering questions about what 21st century women are thinking and feeling. And we sure let them know what was on our minds! :)

The audience loved the show especially our authentic feminist dance and our humorous but important appeal for a WOMEN PRESIDENT!!! They cheered and rooted us on as we sang, danced and gave updated stats. It was a great group that night who sat eating bananas, boldly calling out and belly laughing during the show. The whole experience was a blast! It seems like we did what we came to do: made some people think, strengthened others resolve and inspired a few new, young feminist out of the nest with our upbeat battle cry! Another feminist victory! But like any other masked super-hero, once one success is accomplished that means back out on the road to help others! Onward to the next sexist town that needs our help!

Signing off-
Fanny Brice (with little Arthur Miller on my lap! :))

March 29, 2007
Hello Old Diary!

We arrived at Bucknell on the first Springy day of all Spring 2007, and we caught the fever. Spring fever that is. The symptoms of Spring Fever in a Gorilla are a compulsion to scan the local newspapers for any sign of feminist/ civil rights activist life and a craving for fresh-out-of-the-oven equality in the arts. mmmm mmmm good! Just like mama used to make. A crew from the Bucknell Women's Resource center gave us a tour of the sprawling, lush campus just before we taught our workshop. The women in the workshop were stunningly talented, creative and willing to play. They also had a lot on their minds. The "Bucknell bubble" was trouble, the participants unanimously agreed. And one group of participants planned on bursting it with a sing-song, street theatre, chant about body image, fat, and dieting. We thought about busting into the cafeteria and performing it right then and there, but decided that face-disguising costumes were in order...

The next day we performed. Sororities, faculty members, activists, women's studies students, theatre students, conservatives, and a few high-power fans packed the swelteringly hot theatre. Students were very present, and were admirably critically thinking about everything that was presented. The Women's Resource Center gave us a reception afterwards, and we ate at the Bull Run every night we were in town! Before we left we made sure to take some great photos on campus and visit Fran at the awesome LGBT center. Lewisburg Rocks!

Culinarily yours,
Julia

March 20, 2007
Dear Constant Reader,

We had a lovely time at Colgate University, performing to one of our most diverse groups to date. Our wrangler, Courtney went above and beyond the call of duty to insure our comfort and a great show. We also had wonderful assistance from our student volunteer, Dorothy, who took the name Dorothy Dandridge for the night.

Perhaps one of the most memorable moments of the trip came during the Q & A, when a young woman asked us if you could be Pro Life and a Feminist. We all were in agreement that it would be possible if one was "pro-life" but not trying to force their choice on other women. In retrospect, I think the answer is actually, "No". The Pro-Life movement seeks to take away freedom of choice from women and to legislate "morality". If one is "pro-life" where they, themselves are concerned, but does not try to force their choice on others, then they are actually pro-choice.

Here's to a time when being "pro-life" means being concerned about the well-being of existing human beings all over the world.

That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.
Dorothy Parker

March 14, 2007
Hello Diary,

Michigan was a great gig. I especially admire the young woman that spoke to us after the talk back. She was concerned that we were promoting a woman for president without considering the qualifications and platform of the candidate. We do not believe in blindly supporting a candidate on gender and race alone. We do believe that women have helped to build this country and deserve a fair representation in our government. We hope that more women, like Hillary Clinton, announce running for president. We also hope that they do not feel that they have to play the "boys game" that currently exists on Capitol Hill. We hope that they are strong in their views and have faith that the American people will elect a president based on their platform to reform America, no matter how radical it may seem. We all deserve health insurance. We all deserve safe and legal abortions. We all deserve to love and marry whom we choose. What can you do? You need to be an educated voter. Do research, write letters, and be involved in the election process.

Most importantly, register to vote. YOU HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE!

Lots O'Love,
Coco

February 22, 2007
Dear Diary,

Wow! I really feel like the Northeastern University show in Boston was one of my favorites yet! I mean, sure there were some technical issues, and that crazy Starbucks cappuccino machine wouldn't shut up (Yes, we pretty much performed in a Starbucks), but the audience really made it for us. They were the most enthusiastic, attentive, gracious audience I've experienced since I became a GGOT.

The funny thing is, I don't think that any of us were particularly thrilled about this show. I mean it was HOT in that place. It felt at least 80 degrees. During our tech, poor Aphra almost passed out! Also, people were walking in and out, passing through our slide projection images. One girl even came over to us and asked us to turn down our sound, commenting, "We can't even hear ourselves talk!" The soccer game was playing on the large screen TV and the fans watching were cheering loudly. Oh why couldn't we have a private tech?!? It just didn't seem like it was going to be the best of experiences.

But, when show time came, our adrenaline was pumping, our audience loved us, and nothing else seemed to matter. The show was great and we were grateful to have performed at such a cool, liberal school.

Thanks,
Josephine B.