



# INK

THE LSU WRITING PROJECT

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INTERNAL NETWORK OF COMMUNICATIONS VOL.VII N0.4 Winter 1992

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## LSUWP CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the LSUWP was approved and ratified at the January 25, 1992 All-Project meeting. The thirty-two member present followed along as the constitution was read and offered suggestions for amendments as needed.

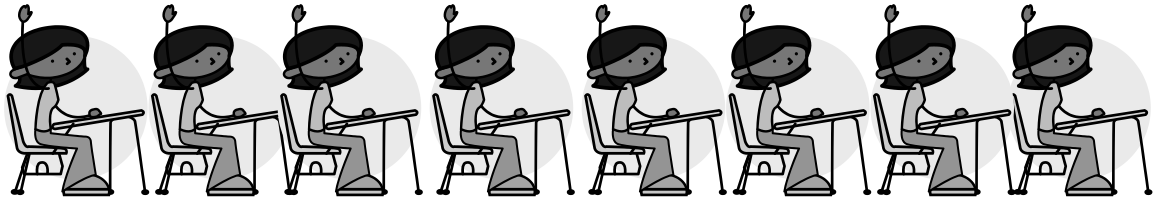
Particularly problematic was, the section of Article V: Membership detailing the, annual fee for membership. It was explained that because of the enormous size of the LSUWP and the lack of funding by LSU or 8g, we must produce revenue for operating expenses. These expenses include postage for newsletters and other publications, refreshments for meetings, and similar items. Membership contributions will be accepted at the first All-Project meeting each year. A membership form will be included in the first Ink each year for the convenience of TCs who cannot attend the first meeting..

After several passages were amended, the constitution was approved. The complete, text of the new constitution will be available to LSU Writing Project members at the April all-project meeting.

## CALENDAR

February 28, 1992 Last day to submit proposals for Writes of Spring  
February 29, 1992 (please) or March 4, 1992 (absolutely last day) for anthology submissions  
March 5, 1992 Advisory Board Meeting, Gonzales Holiday Inn 5:30 P.M.

March 21, 1992 Writes of Spring Conference, LSU Union, 8 A.M. to 2 P.M.  
April 2, 1992 Advisory Board Meeting, Gonzales Holiday Inn, 5:30 P.M., Election of Officers for 1992-93  
April 25, 1992 Spring All-Project Meeting, Destrehan High School 8:30 A.M



## WINTER ALL-PROJECT MEETING

Fran Spain says that she is 27. She only looks that other age because she is a teacher (at Spencer Business College.) She both entertained and instructed in a lively keynote presentation "Writing Good Ain't Bad." Using a variety of participatory techniques, Mrs. Spain encouraged TCs to explore the multiple perceptions which color their everyday lives as teachers and as persons. Through her presentation, Mrs. Spain reminded her audience--with humor and with grace--what an invaluable contribution teachers, particularly teachers of writing, can make to the lives of their students.

Mrs. Spain stressed the importance of teaching children to write, not only students but also children and grandchildren. She suggested that children be encouraged to (1) dictate stories to parents (if too young to read and write) and listen as parents read them back, (2) keep journals or diaries, and (3) write postcards to friends and family. She also suggested that grandparents write their history for grandchildren to read and keep.

## NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

Several people have asked for a membership application for the National Writing Project. So---here it is.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Local National Writing Project side (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Your contribution is tax deductible. Sponsors will receive Issues of the NWP/CSW Quarterly. Please make checks payable to U.C. Regent /National Writing Project and mail with this form to:

- \_\_\_ Institutional Sponsor \$150.00
- \_\_\_ Individual Sponsor 25.00
- \_\_\_ Contributing Sponsor \$50.00, \$100.00 or more

Bay Area Writing Project  
School of Education  
University of California  
Berkeley, CA 94720.

## FAYE HUTCHINSON MEMORIAL

Faye Hutchinson, a long-time member of the LSUWP, passed away on December 26, 1991. Because of the school holidays, many TCs did not learn of her death until they returned to school in January. Several proposals for suitable memorials for Faye have been discussed at Advisory Board meetings, at the All-Project meeting, and among friends. A fund has been started for a donation to the National Writing Project in her memory. To date, a little more than \$100 has been collected. Other suggestions for memorials are an award for an

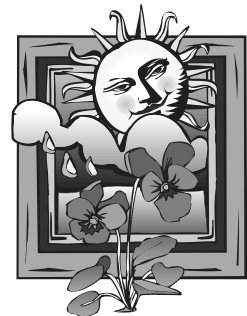
outstanding teacher to be presented at a spring meeting, and a scholarship of some kind. These will be pursued in the future.

The immediate memorial to Faye Hutchinson will be pieces included in the 1992 In Addition to Everything Else, our LSUWP annual anthology. Please submit pieces--poetry or prose--to the Anthology Committee as soon as possible. They want to have the anthology ready in time for the Writes of Spring Conference.

## THE WRITES OF SPRING

You still have time to submit your proposal to have your absolutely fantastic presentation included in the Writes of Spring Conference, March 21, 1992, at the LSU Union. The committee will accept proposals through February 28, 1992. So absolutely fantastic does not seem the proper description of your workshop. What about wonderful, useful, interesting, helpful, practical, humorous, educational? The purpose of this conference is to share what works in your classroom with other people who have similar classrooms. Please consider showing colleagues what you do best.

Save \$5.00 on your registration fee for Writes of Spring by sending your form in before March 6, 1992. Seating for the luncheon at the Faculty Club will be limited.



## BOOK NOOK

*Keys to Creative Writing: Activities to Unlock Imagination in the Classroom* by Gerald Fleming (Allyn & Bacon, Paperback, \$29.95)

It is not easy to find a good book on the subject of creative writing: one that contains ample exercises in prose and poetry, that is applicable to all grade levels, that contains a bit of critical commentary on the teaching of the subject. One written for a classroom teacher that returns fun and excitement to the endeavor. This paperback by Gerald Fleming, a practicing middle school teacher from San Francisco, does all of this.

Fleming begins with an eloquent defense of the place of creative writing in today's classroom: "It is inevitable that teachers look at these many [standardized] tests, and, by the sheer weight of this tool-cum-cudgel, gear what they teach to mesh with the machinery of tests. To an extent, perhaps this is good. But in many ways the result is a profound pedagogic impoverishment." From there he begins a vast catalogue of exercises which can be instantly implemented into most classrooms, and, just as importantly, allow teachers to move from these into their own variations. The book is as much a demonstration in

creative thinking as a practical teaching manual.

Although geared toward middle school audiences, most exercises can be applied just as they are in the high school classroom. Perhaps the same is true in elementary classrooms.

And what a wealth of activities--from letters to monologs to dialogs to stories to poems--there are dozens of each to choose from. Even familiar exercises take on other possibilities when placed in the context of his list. And there are the extras: sample student products; a generous annotated bibliography; a supplication to avoid rhyme; a symposium on an actual case of censorship; articles on how to start up a school literary magazine, on developing a teaching routine and class format, on response to student writings, and even on grading!

Now teachers will be free to chuck their little file boxes of cinquains and other highly-structured whatnots in the hopes of receiving authentic creative writing products. This book is a good guide and place to start.

by Rickie Bruce

## **From the Margins:**

### **Notes from Mary-Ellen**

\* Many thanks to all of the TCs who are currently presenting and facilitating inservice program in our eleven parish region. I've heard only praise for the wonderful work each of you is doing. My thanks for your time, energy, and commitment!

\* In mid-January, we submitted a proposal for federal funding from the National Writing Project. We should know by late spring if we receive federal money which would be used for such things as: purchasing professional books for our TC libraries; providing honoraria for LSU Writing Project speakers; and supporting a state-wide conference for TC's. Keep your fingers crossed!!!

\* All of us should be pleased with our new Constitution! Much hard work and many - good ideas went into drafting and ratifying the document. Special thanks to Rose Carter, Ruth Caillouet, and Mary Hitt who gave up a precious Saturday morning to put ideas for a Constitution on paper.

\* We're currently making plans for the 1992 Summer Institute to be held in East Baton Rouge Parish from Monday, June 15 thru Thursday, July 17. If you know any kindergarten through college teachers who

would be interested in participating in the Institute, have them contact me for application forms: 230 Peabody Hall, LSU, Baton Rouge, 70803 Or - if you give either Evelyn or myself interested teachers' names and addresses, we'll see that they're mailed application forms.

\* We feel fortunate that Louisiana author Greg Guirard has agreed to be the keynote speaker at our Writes of Spring luncheon. Mr. Guirard lives in the Atchafalaya Basin, the setting for his most recent book *The Land of Dead Giants*, "a story for all ages" about the Cajun way of life. Also a talented photographer, Mr. Guirard has captured the haunting beauty of the South Louisiana bayous in *Seasons of Light in the Atchafalaya Basin* which was published in 1983. We look forward to welcoming -- and learning from - Mr. Guirard.

\* Included in the newsletter is the pre-registration form - for the Writes of Spring. Save \$5 on your registration fee by sending your form in before March 6th. Note that seating for the luncheon at the LSU Faculty Club is limited.



**FROM EVELYN'S (OVERFLOWING) DESK**  
English Day: A Gigantic Success

The brainchild of Rose Carter, English Day for East Baton Rouge students, was a tremendous success. Directed by another TC, Nan Greer, the event gave middle and high school students the opportunity to compete in five categories related to English: impromptu speaking, acting in original skits, quiz bowl on language arts questions, impromptu writing, and anthologies. Some 334 students participated in the competitions at Zachary High School. Seventy-seven teachers staffed various events, and many parents and friends attended, bringing the total attendance to well over 500.

The most difficult judging to complete was that done for the impromptu writing since all-entries had to be scored in an hour and a half in time for the award ceremony. Martha Miller chaired that marathon undertaking with support from several other TCs: Jessie Mulkey, Joni Marionneaux, Becky Boudreaux, Mary Kay Baltes, Celestine Davis. They scored over 150 themes and had the awards ready well in advance of the ceremony.

TC Michelle Lachney, chair of quiz bowl activities, had her hands full with both

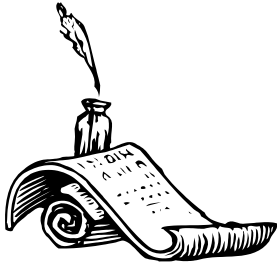
middle and high school teams. Zachary placed first in the Anthology competition. Guess whose students wrote that anthology!

The nicest part of the day was the awards ceremony. An audience cheered for winning performances in the academics. All medals and awards were donated by Zachary adopters. Eleven high schools and six middle schools participated in the event. What a thrill that was!

Thanks to Rose and Nan especially for spearheading the event, to all those who worked enthusiastically at English Day, and to all the TCs who sent their students to participate. It was a banner day for English instruction in East Baton Rouge Parish!!!

East Baton Rouge Writing Project Meetings

The next two Baton Rouge Writing Project meetings are scheduled for February 27 (a change from the original February 20) and April 9 at 4:00 p.m. at Tara High School. Please set aside these dates and plan to be with us. R/R groups are meeting with members of individual groups setting their own locations and times; if your group has not met recently, take the initiative and call your members together.



## **Rickie Bruce's Desk Discoveries**

As I mentioned before, I believe that the National Writing Project basic assumptions are sound avenues toward any school reform or restructuring effort. After last summer's Summer Institute in St. Charles Parish, I sat down to catch up on professional reading and found an issue of Teacher Magazine (August 1991) devoted to whole language. The following passage struck me:

"When we set out to produce the special report in this issue of Teacher Magazine, we thought we'd be writing about a new way to teach children how to read. But as our writers interviewed teachers and researchers, visited school, and pored over books and articles, it became clear that whole language is really about much more: it's about how children learn and how teachers teach. Indeed, whole language is ultimately an attempt to change the ways schools are organized and operated.

The ideas embodied in the whole language movement echo many of the ideas now being embraced in the larger school reform movement--giving teachers more authority and flexibility, encouraging students to take more responsibility for, their own education, replacing standardized multiple-choice tests with performance-based assessments, and relying less on textbooks. The difference is that whole language is a movement by teachers [my emphasis]. In a very real sense, they are doing precisely what President Bush is urging--building revolutionary new schools from the bottom up, classroom by classroom."

The exact thing can be said about the writing process, and, by extension, the one mechanism which incorporates both of these [whole language and the writing process (and teacher empowerment and school reform and much more)], the National Writing Project and summer institutes. Many of the names (James Moffett, Donald Graves, Lucy Calkins, Donald Hall, Nancy Atwell) and topics (writing process, whole language, writing across the curriculum, portfolio assessment, teacher research, computer writing lab) brought forth in these institutes are on the cutting edge of reform and are possible avenues of investigation and exploration in school reform.

What a surprise to find out how large and encompassing the National Writing Project has turned out to be! But then it's no surprise to TCs is it? Who among us can say that we have not been profoundly moved on so many different educational fronts as a result of our institute experiences?

## **Anna Catherine's Place**

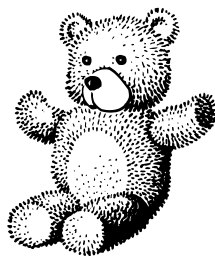
Ascension Parish is involved in six inservice sessions which started on Feb. 4 from 4 to 6 p.m. for primary, middle and high school and continued on Feb. 18 for the same levels.

On January 28 Ascension Parish teacher consultants met to share writing. An r/r session to encourage the 18 TCs in the parish to write anthology entries was held at this time. Evelyn Alford met with them to share her knowledge and expertise on Youth-Writing Institutes. This was exciting, inspirational and practical. Ascension would like to start Youth Writing Institutes in summer '93.

On March 25, TCs will meet for a parish r/r group at Shoney's. Mary Ellen is invited to do two sessions during the school day for middle school and high school English teachers.

## **The Travels of Bogart** by Paula Fletcher

My third-grade language arts students have a much loved and much traveled furry friend, thanks to Mary-ellen Jacobs. During the Summer Reunion Institute, Dr. Jacobs introduced the participants to her tiny friend, Bogart the bear. Bogart took turns going home with each of us and wrote in his journal



what he had done while at that person's home. At the end of the institute, everyone thought Bogart would enjoy coming to spend time with some boys and girls, so he has been traveling to the homes of my students all over Ascension Parish since August. Bogart has a bag which holds him and his journal for his visits.

My third graders draw a name each day to see with whom Bogart will go home. That person takes Bogart home and reads the next day what Bogart wrote in his journal. The other students are very interested in Bogart's adventures and eagerly await each day's tale. The students have brought numerous toys and mementos for Bogart. A breakthrough came when a student said Bogart couldn't fit everything he had done on one page in his journal. I immediately reassured them all that Bogart could use as many pages as he needed. Entries have varied from half a page to three pages. The students enjoy reading, Bogart's journal during the day and consider it a special treat to have Bogart on birthdays and weekends. Bogart has gone fishing, hunting, to McDonalds, and to the mall. He has had some close calls with dogs and cats, but has remained relatively unscathed. He is indeed beary special.

## NEWS ABOUT US

### **New Baby in B.R.**

Pam Freshney has a new little boy that she intends to call Zach. Details are sparse, so we will just welcome the new member of the family into our midst. He was born during the first week of February, but even the date is unknown at this point since Mama and her new charge are staying with relatives away from a convenient phone number.

### **EBR Workshops**

EBR began its series of workshops on February 6 with Sheryl Dumas and "The Writing Process" for new middle and high school teachers. Celestine Davis was facilitator. Ann Biggers followed on February 13 with "Whole Language for Middle and High School Teachers." Eight additional workshops are scheduled each Thursday afternoon during the next two months. Call Evelyn for a list of topics. All TCs are invited and welcome.

### **High Society??**

Martha Rothkamm says-that we are not dancing yet--but don't give up hope. The problem is finding a place big enough for 150 people that doesn't break the (0) budget.

### **Presentation in Arkansas**

Joni Marionneaux and Becky Boudreaux will present at the Arkansas Council of Teachers of English Conference on March 14 in Little Rock.

### **Country Life**

Tammy Adams sent a note to say that she is enjoying all the advantages of country life. Her new address is P. O. Box 45, Mansfield, LA 71052. Telephone (318) 872-0442.

### **St. Charles Inservice**

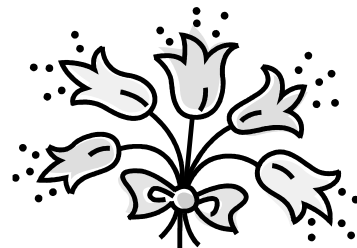
Dell Alexander will be coordinator for the LSUWP inservice, which begins soon.

### **Moved again?**

Mignon Morgan has moved to Scotlandville Middle School. Some pony mail is still wandering but it will catch up soon.

### **Next INK**

Shall we try for an April 1 deadline? That gives time for people to get things together after the Writes of Spring and the committee to produce the newsletter before the Easter break.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR US

### NCTE workshops

#### **Writing About Literature,**

Orlando, Florida, March 20-21; Columbus, Ohio, April 10-11.

**Students On The Boundary**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 67; Chicago, April 3-4

**Young Adult Literature**, Charleston, South Carolina, February 28-29; San Antonio, Texas, April 10-11

**Whole Language**, Arlington, Texas, February 29; River Forest, Illinois, April 11

**Portfolio Assessment**, Albany, NY, March 13-14; New Orleans, April 2 4 --2 5

For more info and registration forms, contact Evelyn.

Sierra Nevada Writing Institute Led by Stephen Tchudi, professor of English at University of Nevada, this institute will feature daily writing workshops, readings and craft sessions with published authors, as well as discussion. Scheduled for June 27-29 on Lake Tahoe's north shore, this program costs \$495 with 2 semester hours of credit available. For info, call (702) 784-4046.

### The Walloon Institutes

**Whole Language From Kindergarten To College**, June 24-28, 1992



### **The Reading Writing Workshop,**

July 8-12, 1992. Call or fax (708) 441-6638 for information

### EBR Workshops

East Baton Rouge Parish began its series of writing workshops February 6 when Sheryl Dumas presented "The Writing Process" for new teachers at middle and high school levels. Facilitating for her was Celestine Davis, and the two had a very busy afternoon answering the questions of novice teachers. It was a super workshop with lots of discussion of what would and would not work and accompanying reasons for each situation.

The second workshop in the series has tremendous enrollment indicating a great deal of interest in the topic "Introduction to Whole Language for Middle and High School Teachers." Instructing for this session will be Ann Biggers, who is already using whole language concepts in her classroom at McKinley Middle Magnet. Eight additional workshops are scheduled each Thursday afternoon during the next two months.

If you are interested in attending these sessions, contact Evelyn for the schedule of topics. Any TC is welcome to attend.

Join us on the first day of spring, Saturday, March 21, 1992, for the second annual Writes of Spring Conference. Sponsored by the LSU Writing Project, the conference is designed for anyone interested in writing instruction from kindergarten through college. There will be a variety of presentations by educators with special expertise in the teaching of writing.

The one-day conference will feature Louisiana author Greg Guirard as the keynote luncheon speaker. Mr. Guirard lives in the Atchafalaya Basin and his books, most recently *Land of the Dead Giants*, give eloquent testimony to the beauty of the region.

This year's Writes of Spring Conference will be held at the LSU Student Union with lunch at the LSU Faculty Club. During the day, conference participants will have the opportunity to attend three sessions focusing on different aspects of writing instruction.

#### Conference Schedule

8:00-8:30	Registration
8:30-9:30	Session A
9:45 - 10:45	Session B
11:00-12:45	Lunch
1:00-2:00	Session C

To pre-register for the conference, fill out the attached registration form and return it as soon as possible. Luncheon seating is limited to 125 persons.

#### Registration Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Street or P.O. Box

City State Zip

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W)

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE/SUBJECT TAUGHT \_\_\_\_\_

	Number	Total
Registration Fee	_____ @\$15	_____
Student Registration	_____ @\$5	_____
Lunch -	_____ @\$10	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

(NOTE: On-site registration will be \$20. Pre-registration deadline is March 6, 1992.)

Make check payable to the LSU Writing Project and mail it along with this registration form to:

Alice Sagrera,

196 Apartment Court Drive, # 162

Baton Rouge, LA 70806

For further information about the Writes of Spring, contact Mary-Ellen Jacobs at LSU (504-388-2441) or Evelyn Alford at the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board (504-922-5475).

*Join us for the Second Annual  
Writes of Spring Conference*

*Sponsored by the LSU Writing Project*

*Saturday, March 21, 1992*

*8:00-2:00*

*Student Union*

*Louisiana State University*

*Baton Rouge, LA*

*Pre-registration Deadline*

*March 6, 1992*