

Vive la Difference!

SIXTH
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
of
LESBIANS AND GAY MEN
APRIL 10-12, 1981



Hosted by the LSU Students for Gay Awareness



Office of the Mayor-President

City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge

222 St. Louis Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
70801

504/389-3100

March 13, 1981

PAT SCREEN
Mayor-President

Dear Conference Participants:

While in our city, I hope you will have time to discover some of the many reasons why Baton Rouge is among the most progressive and dynamic communities in the nation.

One of the reasons is the Mississippi River which is not only a vital part of America's past, present and future, but also a valuable resource which has made our city the fourth largest port in the United States.

Two other viable resources, Louisiana State University and Southern University, should certainly be included on your agenda, as well as the State Capitol where "Louisiana Politics" continues as a famous and well-practiced art.

The blending cultures of over two centuries can be experienced in the numerous restaurants here which offer a Creole-Cajun cuisine. Coupled with our unique location in the heart of "Plantation Country", Baton Rouge is an experience not to be missed.

With kindest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

Pat Screen
Mayor-President

PS/jmf

The LSU Students for Gay Awareness was recognized as an official student group on April 25, 1977. Many members of the administration thought it would die after a few semesters. They were wrong. As the oldest gay student group in the state, the LSU SfGA is a growing and integral part of the LSU student body. Meetings are held in the Union twice a month with an average attendance at 25.

The SfGA's newsletter, "le papillon," is published monthly during spring and fall semesters. Speakers on health problems, relationships, personal communication, gay art and literature, and discussions on coming out and combatting homophobia are just a few of the meetings topics. Thanksgiving food drives and Christmas toy drives have been held with success the past two years. The 1981 Lavender Ball, the SfGA's anniversary party, will be two weeks after the conference. If Conference '81 is a success, and we believe it will be, members will indeed have a reason for celebration.

The Southeastern Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men started under the auspices of the Carolina Gay Association (CGA). The Conference was held on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in April 1976. More than 300 shared in that first conference experience.

Attendance more than doubled for the 1977 Conference which was also held in Chapel Hill. The theme was "a celebration of the gay lifestyle" and Jean O'Leary of the NGTF was one of the keynote speakers.

The 1978 Conference was held in metropolitan Atlanta at the Georgia Terrace Hotel. Attendance was around 500 and the conference was unfortunately wracked with separatism and ended up in the red.

CGA came to the rescue. Members tried to find a site in Tennessee for the 1979 Conference. Unable to do so, they hosted the Conference themselves with the theme "Unity Through Diversity."

The Nashville Chapter of the Tennessee Gay Coalition for Human Rights was to host the 1980 Conference. They were unable to find a suitable site and the Memphis Chapter took the challenge. "Aware and Active" was the conference theme and more than 600 attended. Leah Hopkins, Barbara Grier and Leonard Matlovich were the keynote speakers at the most successful conference to date.

SIXTH SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE OF LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

FRIDAY, April 10

9 a.m. Barataria
Registration (continues until 8 p.m. Saturday)

2:30 - 5:00 p.m.
WORKSHOPS

The Artist as a Visionary. Caddo
Nancy Vogl

Women Dealing with Anger. Castilian
Alice Cottingham & Ann Lee

Homosexuality in the Christian Tradition: New Directions International A&B
Rev. W. Glenn Harris

Establishing a State Organization and Lobbying Office Red River
John Grannon

Gay Health Issues Vieux Carre
Dr. B.A. Addis, LSU Student Health Service

Gay Crisis Lines Council
Myron Mohr

N.O.W.: Update Acadian
Anita York

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
DINNER

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.
OPENING ASSEMBLY Cotillion Ballroom

Welcome Remarks Rochelle McCann
Admin. Asst. to Pat Screen,
Mayor-President of Baton Rouge

Welcome Remarks Don Tarver
Asst. to the Chancellor

KEYNOTE ADDRESS Larry Bagneris

9:30 p.m.

"Dearest Mommie" a musical comedy based on Cristina Crawford's best
selling biography.
Players - Paulette and Sandra, Tonisha Thompson and Michael Barrett

SATURDAY, April 11

9 a.m. - 8 p.m. Barataria
Registration continues

9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
WORKSHOPS

Medical Services for Gays Acadian
Terry Gayle

Hidden People: Social History of Gay People Castilian
Betty Hugh

Enhancing Gay Identity Formation. International A&B
Dr. Ralph Hyman

The Lord is My Shepherd and God Knows I'm Gay Red River
Rev. Jerry Motto

Rape, Abuse and Violence. Vieux Carre
Louisiana Sissies in Struggle

Suicide Prevention. Council
Myron Mohr

Organizing a Regional Communications Network. Caddo
(request representatives from all states)
John Grannon

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY Cotillion Ballroom

KEYNOTE ADDRESS Ann Toups

1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
LUNCH - A hot Creole-Cajun lunch will be available in the
LSU Union Cafeteria at a reasonable price. We encourage
participants to take advantage of Union facilities.

2:30 - 4:15 p.m.
WORKSHOPS

National Conference in Los Angeles: A Feedback Session Acadian
John Grannon

Dances of Light and Darkness Castilian
Ron Kilgore and P. Moon

Art and the Gay Experience International A&B
Sarah Sims, Nancy Vogl, George Dureau, Robin Flowers, Barbara Higbee

- Some Positive Queer Aspects of Gay Relationships Red River
Billy Jones and Chris Hennin
- Dynamics of Rape CrisisVieux Carre
Eddie Harshman and Donna Myers
- Using Political Systems: The Time is Now Council
Robert Batson
- Amazons Hitchhiking. Caddo
Lynn Oakynwomyn
- 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.
WORKSHOPS
- Gay Switchboards: Forming and Operating a Referral,
Information and Crisis Line. Acadian
Ric Sullivan
- Gay ParentsCastilian
Leah and Wanda Gaylor
- Stress Within Relationships International A&B
Ian Anderson
- Lesbian Culture and Goddess Worship. Red River
Bobbie Honey
- Homosexuality and the BibleVieux Carre
Rev. Dr. Jeff Bishop
- Effectiveness: The Gay Vote Council
Alan Robinson
- Communal Living - Living in Community Caddo
Lynn Oakynwomyn
- 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
DINNER
- 8:00 - 9:30 p.m.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY Cotillion Ballroom
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS Michael Denny
- 10:00 p.m. - midnight
CONCERT Cotillion Ballroom
- Robin Flower and Nancy Vogl

SUNDAY, April 12

- 9 - 10 a.m.
Religious Service Vieux Carre
- 9 - 11 a.m.
Caucuses (to be posted)
- 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
FEEDBACK ASSEMBLY Cotillion Ballroom



LARRY BAGNERIS of Houston has been active in the gay and Hispanic movements for many years. He is a former president of the Houston Gay Task Force and served as acting President of the Texas Gay Task Force. He was an openly gay delegate to the 1980 Democratic National Convention.

MICHAEL DENNENY is an editor at St. Martin Press in New York City. He is an associate editor of "Christopher Street" and "New York Native" magazines. He is the author of two books, *Lovers: The Story of Two Men* and *Gay Politics: 16 Propositions*.

ANN TOUPS is a psychotherapist in New Orleans, working primarily with gays. She appeared on the 1979 documentary, "ABC Closeup: Homosexuality." She serves as chairperson of the New Orleans Gay Community Center. She is also chairperson of the National Association of Social Workers Gay Task Force in Louisiana and is the gay representative on the New Orleans Police and Citizens Commission.

ROBIN FLOWER AND NANCY VOGL

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, into a working-class family, Robin Flower has the tradition of bluegrass in her blood. There was always music in her house when she was a child, from her parents' harmonica playing to her mother's singing of the old songs of Kentucky. Robin played a guitar for the first time when she was 14; when she finally got one of her own, it was 'the beginning of a very satisfying relationship.'

Today, Robin Flower is a versatile, creative, and respected instrumentalist and song-writer who has performed her old-time/bluegrass music with Hazel & Alice, The Clinch Mountain Backsteppers, Witchazel, and Carol Ann Wheeler (Oregon State Fiddle Champ). She has also shared her talents playing electric lead guitar with the Latin rock band, Be Be K'Roche, and jazz with Baba Yaga. She has performed with and added her impressive, melodic lead work on guitar, fiddle, and mandolin on albums by Willie Tyson, Woody Simmons, Casse Culver, and Maxine Feldman, along with playing on Holly Near's latest single recording.

Her feminism and political concerns are reflected in her music about women and working-class issues. She sees her chosen style as quite natural: 'I relate to traditional and bluegrass music because it's beautiful, straightforward and life-affirming. Old time music, as far as feminism is concerned, embodies what feminism is about. It has to do with struggle and sharing, with everyone getting a turn. There's no elitism.'

An accomplished and well-respected musician, Nancy Vogl taught herself how to play guitar when she was a teenager and at 20 decided that she wanted to write music more than anything else. In 1973, she moved to Berkeley, Calif., and with three other women, started the Berkeley Women's Music Collective. Their dedication and hard work was evident as they made five national tours, and produced two albums, *Berkeley Women's Music Collective*, and *Trying to Survive*.

As a guitar player, Nancy Vogl has influenced many other women, such as Robin Flower, who refers to Nancy as a 'truly sensitive, clean and creative player.' She has played on Trish Nugent's album, *Foxglove Woman*, and Woody Simmon's album, *Oregon Mountains*. She has toured nationally with Woody Simmons, and just completed a West Coast tour with Holly Near.

Nancy sees her work as a vital part of women's culture, 'Music to me is more than entertainment - it is a reflection of the culture which inspires it. Playing with women has let me feel a force of change and growth and I have been at times soothed, healed, and motivated by musicians I know. What I bring to my music is a commitment to building a better growing environment for us all.'

Also appearing with Robin Flower and Nancy Vogl will be back-up musician and vocalist Barbara Higbee.

Tickets for the concert scheduled for 10 p.m. Saturday night are available at the registration table in the Barataria Room at \$3 for conference participants and \$5 for the general public.

NOTES

CONFERENCE '81

NOTE: Information provided on this sheet will be used to aid the 1982 SEC organizers in planning a better Conference. Please answer all questions. Use back of sheet for additional comments. Thanks!

Statistical Information:

Gender: _____ Race/Ethnic Identity: _____
Age: (- 20) ___; (20 - 35) ___; (45 - 60) ___; (+ 60) ___.
Home Town and State: _____.

Critique:

1. How did you hear about Conference '81?
2. What were your goals in attending Conference '81?
3. What was the high point of the Conference?
4. What workshops were most appealing and why?
5. Other events?
6. What would you include in future Conferences that were not included in Conference '81?

Have you ever attended a previous SEC ? Yes ___ No ___

Please return your completed evaluation sheet to Conference officials before leaving on Sunday, or mail to: Students for Gay Awareness
P.O. Box 16031, University Station
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70893