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THE NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT AT LSU

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INTERNAL NETWORK OF COMMUNICATIONS VOL.VI NO.2 February 1991

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*If Only I Could Fly - Poems for Kids to Read Out Loud*

Our February All-Project Meeting will be at Gonzales Middle School on February 16, 1991. Snacks and socializing begin at 8:30 and the business meeting will begin promptly at 9:00.

We will then welcome a very special guest, author Brod Bagert. Mr. Bagert is a practicing trial lawyer from New Orleans and a real poetry enthusiast. He is the author of *If Only I Could Fly - Poems for Kids to Read Out Loud* and a new book for older readers, *Steel Cables: Love Poems from Adam's Rib*, released February 1, 1991.

Mr. Bagert wishes to kindle children's interest in poetry and to promote literacy by encouraging reading and writing. He has made personal appearances in several schools in the southern states, judged the Louisiana Reading Association's Young Authors Contest, and participated in the Summer Youth Writing Institute at East Texas State University. He has spoken at the IRA convention in New Orleans, National Headstart in Georgia, and the Louisiana Arts in Education program. He presented at in Audubon-Elementary's Super Saturday workshop in 1989.

Please join us on February 16 for a delightful morning with Mr. Bagert. We will be one of the first groups to experience his new book. Copies of all his works will be available for purchase and autographing.

Consider inviting a guest--ESPECIALLY A PROSPECTIVE TC. (Summer Institutes will be here soon!)

## NEWS ABOUT US

### THE WRITING PROCESS IN HUNGARY

Eotvos University in Budapest provides a writing course for the students training to become certified translators in interpreters. The group this year is experiencing writing from a different angle. Prewriting, multiple drafts, and R & R groups have become their mode of operation. So far, I have armed them with an in-depth experience of the writing process, a fat thesaurus, and Strunk & White's Elements of Style, in that order. They are still adjusting to a teaching style that does not give them ready answers. They're going on faith and process, and, my gosh! they're coming up with some good writing.  
Delphine Douglass



BABY PINK

Just wanted all of you to know the good news. Lucy is just precious. She has made life rich with happiness in spite of the enormous lack of sleep.  
Lucille Eugenie Woodley, born  
November 21, 1990, 7 lbs., 13 ozs.  
Rosie Woodley

### BIG BLOCKS

Mignon Morgan has an article published in the 1991 Quilt Almanac. "Big Blocks" tells how to use a photo copier to enlarge traditional quilt patterns. Small, one-block quilts may be used as wall hangings, pillow shams, or table toppers.

### SENIOR READER

Florence Steben has retired as a school librarian and as a K-Mart part-timer. Now she will devote full time to cleaning out a three generation house and writing a family history. In her spare time, she will be a senior reader at an elementary school. {Do we have children in our area who need someone to read to them one on one?}  
Florence's address is  
1142 Spring Garden Circle  
Naperville, IL 60563

### LOST TCs

Is your newsletter being forwarded through several states? Does a friend not receive a newsletter? Please help us update files.

Thank you Alice Sagrera for responding to our request in the previous newsletter for name, address, phone, and school.

## MORE NEWS ABOUT US

### PROMOTIONS

Felecia Rapp is now interior principal at A. A. Songy Kindergarten Center in Luling. Best wishes for a happy, successful experience in your new position.

David England is the new Associate Dean of LSU's College of Education. {More news about David in his letter.}

Sharon Kerlec has been appointed as Administrative Assistant at Luling Elementary School. You have "big shoes" to fill (Felecia's) and we know that Luling Elementary will benefit from having two LSUWP TCs back-to-back in the position.

### DO WHAT?

Marcia is back! Marcia is back! And everyone at Harry Hurst is delighted to see her back, her front, and both of her sides, for that matter.

Need some background? Well, Marcia Griffis broke her kneecap on the first day of school. During recovery, she fell at home and broke her wrist. She is now back at school in one piece. Be careful, please.

### MORE PUBLICATIONS

Lela Cooper, one of our most recent TCs, will have her position paper from the 1990 Summer Institute in St. Charles published in the LRA *Reading: Exploration and Discovery*.

Harry Hurst Middle School was featured in two full-page articles in the New Orleans Time Picayune. One item featured a Renaissance Festival that teachers used as a basis for cross-curricular units. The other featured their program of exploratory classes that allow students to select mini-courses from several topics, based on their personal interests.

### SPRING WORKSHOPS

St. Charles Parish is organizing the five workshops for their spring sessions. They are looking for TCs who will present on Content Area Teaching. Rickie Bruce is coordinating activities, which will promote the Summer Institute in St. Charles.

### EMPTY SPACE

What have you done that should be featured in this space?

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### NEWSLETTER

Let's be first. We, all of us, are the newsletter committee. What have you done that the entire LSUWP should know about? Don't be modest! Send your news to Mignon. There is no way to publish a newsletter without NEWS. (9544 Windward, BR, 70810.)

### COURTESY

Who's been sick? I did not know about that. Did we send flowers? That was a great accomplishment! Who knows? Unless you tell the Courtesy Committee what is going on in the lives of TCs in your area, needs go unanswered. We want to respond, both as a group and individually, to special events in the lives of our project. For all concerns, please call one of these people:

Barbara MacDonald: 927-5821

Janet LeBlanc: 785-1639

Angie Wall: 764-6962

### ARCHIVES

Check your desk and briefcase. Before you clean up, address an envelope to Barbara Forshag. Send her agenda for meetings at which you have presented LSUWP events, cards from members who have moved away, pictures of the day your project... whatever.

### ANTHOLOGY

What have you written lately? The spring anthology date will be announced soon. Groups are encouraged to meet, perhaps at pot luck dinners (LSUWP TCs respond to food) or other socials, to write together and share.

Submissions will be accepted at any time. Basic guidelines are clean type, 1 1/2" left and 1" right margins, and good writing.

Send unfolded manuscripts to Susan Ourso at Istrouma High (EBR PONY) or 2285 Cedardale, BR, 70808.

### AWARDS

Last year Lynn Thompson's nominee, Mr. Ralph M. Wilderson, retired, principal of Harry Hurst Middle School, was recognized as the LSUWP Principal of the Year. He supported the publication of 279 original student books, a regularly distributed student newspaper, and an excellent student literary magazine. He enabled teachers to show what their students can do in the area of writing.

Who is this year's nominee? Send your nominations and letters of support to April Allain, 6330 Melne Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70124

### TELEPHONE

Do they have your number?

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

### SPRING CONFERENCE

The phone committee has by now contacted each of you, looking for volunteers to be presenters and facilitators for the National Writing Project at LSU Spring Conference. "The Writes of Spring" will be held March 9, 1991, from 8:30 to 4:45 on the LSU campus. Presentations will begin at 10:30. You are needed as presenters for one-and-a-half hour workshops on such topics as

- The Writing Process
- Writing Across the Curriculum Improvement of Writing Scores on the LEAP Test
- Exciting Activities for Teaching Writing to All Ages
- Writing in Relation to LATEP

Facilitators are also needed to assist with registration, copying, and other tasks.

If you would like to help, please give the phone committee your name, home and work phone numbers, the title and level of your presentation, and/or what you can do to help.

You may also contact Mary Broussard at 923-2637 or 3030 Congress Blvd. #113, Baton Rouge, 70808.

### CALENDAR

- February 16 All-Project Meeting  
Gonzales Middle School 8:30-11:00 AM.
- February 20 EBR CTE, IRC
- February 20 Board Meeting -  
Holiday Inn, Gonzales
- March 9 Spring Conference -  
Pleasant Hall
- March 20 EBR Project Meeting -  
McAuliffe Sherwood Center
- March 20 Board Meeting - Holiday  
Inn, Gonzales
- April 13 All-Project Family Fun  
Day--details later
- May 8 EBR Project Meeting –  
McAuliffe Sherwood Center
- June 5-6 Writing Project Retreat--  
details later

### EAST BATON ROUGE WRITING PROJECT

In response to requests to have special meetings of EBR participants in the National Writing Project, Room 104 of Crista McAuliffe Sherwood Center has been reserved for 4:00 on March 20 and May 8. Programs are not yet set in stone. If you have ideas for these meetings, please call Evelyn Alford.

## FROM DAVID'S DESK

No excuses, but my thoughts and life are so random right now I cannot write much that is sustained and coherent. (So what has changed, cynics might ask!). Let me offer some eclectic observations, reminders, notices and thoughts:

--I wish all writing project TC's were qualified to supervise our student teachers. Three years of experience, a masters degree, our course in supervision, and a principal's recommendation are the requirements. Give it some thought.

--A letter from Jim Gray this week has us active again (Charlie is taking the lead) in contacting state representatives for new support for the federal funding we just missed getting approved last Fall. More to you on this as I hear of it.

--I may be able to direct a "reunion institute" this summer for former TC's who would be interested in some intensive reading, discussing and planning--planning oriented especially to the transition from teacher consultant to teacher/researcher/consultant. I would be encouraged for any signs of anyone's interest in participating. Schedule, logistics, and other arrangements would approximate those of a regular institute.

--I am quite pleased and encouraged and impressed by the plans I hear of as being underway for our Spring conference.

--Our oldest daughter, Kerri will (finally?) marry her long beloved Brandon Feb. 2; I leave for San Antonio and then on to Washington this afternoon; I am working now in a temporary office without windows; the Giants may surprise in the Super Bowl, and all our lives are full.

--The Gulf situation helps keep all things in perspective.

--I appreciate contributing to, receiving, and relying on what this newsletter does more than ever.

Hoping that when this reaches you your hands are busy doing your customary good things, your heart is happy, and despite all of our personal and national turmoils, you are finding ways to live good.

*David*

## NOTES FROM EVELYN ALFORD'S DESK

As we move into spring, a tremendous number of writing contests cross our desks. So often it is easy to brush these aside and forget them until it is too late to enter our students, compositions. Let me encourage you always to look at every contest as a potential opportunity for success in our students; frequently there are so few entries in some competitions that amazingly shoddy pieces of work emerge as winners simply because there was nothing better to consider. Since all of you emphasize writing so much in your classes. I know that the writing your students do is outstanding when compared with that submitted by students who rarely write. Therefore, view every contest, particularly the La. Supt. Writing Awards or the EBRCTE Writing Competitions. as real chances for your students to gain recognition and make the special effort required to enter their works.

Students are not the only writers who should compete on a regular basis: teacher should as well. Recently I received an NCTE comprehensive list of publications that are seeking articles of all types from teachers who write. If any of you are seeking an outlet for your writing, surely you can find one in this massive listing. Contact me if you would like a copy of the various calls for manuscripts from across the country. If you do not have something already written for publication, perhaps the manuscript calls will give you some writing ideas.

Also crossing my desk have been several announcements of forthcoming activities having to do with writing. Martha-s Vineyard Summer Workshops that include various institutes on writing and teaching during the month of July really look interesting. Registration fees are high (\$700 and up), but maybe there are some rich members out there who will be interested. On April 5-7 Troy State University will sponsor a workshop on Writing Across the Curriculum. The program planning session on April 5 is \$75; the teacher training session on April 6-7 is \$150: both sessions cost \$200. For more information on these, please feel free to contact me.



# Sarah's Spot

Dear TCs,

This new year promises to be a busy and exciting one for our Writing Project. As you may have heard, the National Writing Project at LSU is hosting a one day conference for teachers on Saturday March 9th at Pleasant Hall on the LSU campus. The itinerary, as set by the conference committee, is as follows:

- 8:30 -9:30 Registration-coffee and rolls
- 9:30-10:15 Introductions and keynote speaker
- 10:30-12:00 Presentation Series A
- 12:00-1:30 Lunch (participants are on their own)
- 1:30--3:00 Presentation Series B
- 3:15-4:45 Presentation Series C

This conference is open to teachers across the state and the registration fee will be \$15.00 which will cover costs of materials. We plan to mail announcements to LCTE members, superintendents and English supervisors. You will also each get a copy which we ask that you post, duplicate and distribute to teachers in your school.

This conference needs your help! First, and most importantly, presenters are needed. The more topics we can offer, the better our attendance will be. The phone committee has begun soliciting your support but let me also encourage you to call Mary Broussard, Alice Segrera or the Writing Project office if you are willing to present or work in some other capacity. We need TCs to work as facilitators throughout the day.

Last Friday, I met in Alexandria with all the other NWP site directors in Louisiana and extended to them and to teachers in their regions an invitation to attend the conference. The other directors view our site as an important resource and are anxious to send representatives to learn more about how exemplary presentations are performed. All the directors also hope that teachers who come will leave interested in the Summer Institutes which we are in the process of planning. As David pointed out, he would like to direct a Reunion Institute and we also plan to run a regular Summer Institute in St. Charles Parish. Information on both will be available at the next AU Project meeting.

Now that this new semester has started, I am excited about the courses I am teaching and the student teachers I am supervising. Like you, am so busy that I wonder how I'll find the time to do anything but work! However, each time I attend a writing Project meeting, I find myself energized and learning something new that I can use. In fact, I used the "three objects in a bag" activity from Richard Louth's presentation at our December meeting very successfully on the first day of my English methods class. The students did great writing and had fun, too.

At the February All Project meeting, we will solidify plans for the conference, so please mark both February 16 and March 9 on your calendar. I'd like to see 100% participation and cooperation in the planning and Implementation of this conference. I look forward to hearing from you soon and to seeing you on the 16th.

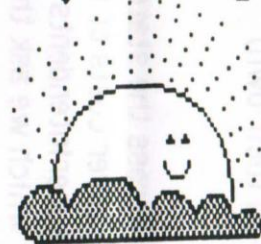
# Writing Workshops

Registration 8:30-9:30  
Keynote Speaker 9:45-10:15  
Presentations 10:30-12:00  
Lunch 12:00-1:30  
Presentations 1:30-3:00  
Presentations 3:15-4:45

Sponsored by  
National  
Writing Project  
at LSV



# The Writes of Spring



A Writing Conference

Saturday  
March 9, 1991

LSV  
Pleasant Hall

8:30-4:45



On March 9, 1991, the National Writing Project at LSU will sponsor its first annual writing conference: The Writes of Spring. Anyone interested in writing instruction is invited to attend from kindergarten teacher to college professor. There will be something for everyone.

This one-day conference will offer a choice of several one and one-half hour workshops throughout the day. The workshops will be conducted by LSU Writing Project Teacher Consultants, all of whom are classroom teachers with special expertise in the teaching of writing.

Registration for the conference begins at 8:30 a.m. with the first session beginning at 9:30. There will be an hour and a half break for lunch on your own at one of the fast food restaurants adjoining the campus. The last workshop of the day will conclude by 4:45 p.m.

All presentations will be made in Pleasant Hall on the LSU campus. Signs will direct you to the site upon your arrival. To make certain a place is reserved for you at the conference, you should fill in the attached registration form and return it as soon as possible to the appropriate address.



Any questions about the conference may be directed to Evelyn Alford at E.B.R. Schools (504) 922-5475.

## REGISTRATION FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

street or P.O. Box

\_\_\_\_\_

city

state

zip

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work)

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

REGISTRATION FEE: \$15 (On-site registration will be \$20 )

Make check out to National Writing Project at LSU and mail along with this form to the address below:

Ms. Jacqueline R. Jack

8737 Briarwood Place

Baton Rouge, La. 70809

When you arrive, you will be given a schedule of the various workshops and will be allowed to select the sessions you will attend. Workshops will address such topics as The Writing Process, Writing Across the Curriculum, Improvement of Writing Scores on the LEAP Test, Exciting Activities for Teaching Writing to All Ages, and Writing in Relation to LaTEP.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!