

Fall 2007

Dearest Diary,

Aphra Behn, Gracie Allen, Edith Wharton and I set off for Philadelphia, the city of Brotherly Love, to spread some Sisterly Love. En route, we planned to stage an action at a Wal-Mart, where I would go in and ask for emergency contraceptives and see what the pharmacist would do. This is a national action being staged by NOW that is meant to test Wal-Mart on their policy to provide emergency contraceptives on request. Call us cynical, but we don't believe they plan on honoring that statement. Anyhow, we were thwarted by confusing directions and a lack of time, so we passed the protest on to the audience in Philadelphia and are awaiting word of their endeavors.

The show was packed, with standing room in the balcony also occupied. It was a responsive, receptive, and diverse crowd including a family with some young girls of maybe 8 and 10 in the front row. It's always great to see cool parents who want their kids to be informed and don't shy away from discussing difficult topics with them.

The Q and A after the show was lengthy and thoughtful. One of the more provocative questions asked why we just dealt with inequalities of sex and race and not class, too. The gentleman who asked the question was British and I learned during our stay in the UK this spring that the subject of class is not a taboo subject there as it seems to be here. This country seems afraid of the subject or, better yet, in denial that class distinctions exist. Clearly they do and those on the lower end of the socioeconomic scale are usually the ones going off to fight in places like Iraq because enlisting seems to be a way out of poverty for them. Of course, there are so many issues of inequality that it is difficult to address them all at once, but I see where he is coming from, and it is definitely food for thought. Another question asked was what were some of the more horrifying statistics we'd encountered. I mentioned the article in the New York Times magazine section earlier this year that gave statistics for rape and sexual abuse of women in the military. It was a staggering statistic and one that we plan to address in future shows. When we were asked "What can we do?" We mentioned the NOW Wal-Mart action and also recommended getting involved in a political campaign. It's not enough to talk the talk. It's time to walk the walk.

Yours in Action,
Dorothy Parker
November 2007

Hello Diary,
Well it's time someone put some Grrrrr in Furman University!

GGOT took on the pristine, landscaped campus of Furman University last week. Furman University is in Greenville, South Carolina and is one of the most distinguished private colleges in SC, sowing its oats as a Baptist college in 1836. Furman has cut ties with its strict, Southern Baptist roots, but the campus still suffers from ultra-conservative, ultra-right wing students, parents and doctrines.

We were brought to campus by the Feminist Initiative, a small group of feminists who are in their beginning stages in numbers and steam. We had an unexpectedly large turn-out despite no prior advertising, but we soon learned that students' were getting credit for attending our show, so it was mandatory. But we Guerrilla Girls On Tour welcomed the challenge. We saw the show as a real opportunity to reach out to young men and women who are not GGOT fans and present new ideas, shake up things a bit. But Furman University has a long way to go

before it's willing to be rattled!

We just hope that the Feminist Initiative gains momentum and inspiration from our visit to the campus. Come on Furman; don't be afraid to put some Grrrrrrrr in it!

Love,
Anne Sexton
October 2007

Dear GGOT Diary,
Well, it's a brand new season, and I had the honor of kicking it off with the first tour! Aphra, Anne, and I started this season off by heading south to Furman University in Greenville, SC, and University of South Alabama in Mobile. The tour began with a small workshop at Furman where we advised members of the Feminist Initiative how they could generate awareness about sexual assaults on campus. Our performance the next night was met with a few boos (OK, I did mess up my lines once)...like when we said that it was about time the war was over. We were alerted that the campus was pretty conservative. We had dinner after the show with a philosophy prof and her husband who had just returned from Iraq (not the same guy in the audience who booed). They assured us that it was refreshing to see a show that contained some not so "red state" views.

We started the next morning off bright and early, having to make a flight to Atlanta, then Mobile, for our performance at University of South Alabama. Upon arrival at the university, after getting lost both on our way there, as well as on the campus grounds, we were met with a very warm greeting from the school's head theater department professor, Lee. We were shown to a huge dressing room, and practically treated like celebrities! We began to rehearse, and when we met with our student volunteer we really began to feel that everything was going to be great and it was....everyone was on their mark. I didn't screw up my lines! And, after the performance, we had a great Q&A with interesting questions from the audience.

I would honestly say that the trip to Alabama made the whole thing worth while. I have to admit that I was more worried about how we would be received in Alabama than in SC but when all was said and done – the Mobile audience made it an amazing experience.

Kisses,
Josephine Baker
October 2007

Hello again,

Aphra, Josephine and I trekked down to Mobile, Alabama to perform at the University of South Alabama. The theatre dept. greeted us with warmth and hospitality. The feminist group on campus printed some fun stickers for the event, "This is what a feminist looks like" and "Vote as if your life depended on it," and their enthusiasm was apparent during the show. They were a very energetic audience, laughing, cheering and singing along to our antics. Not everyone agreed with our ideals, however: we've already received a letter from one of the students who doesn't support pro choice and doesn't believe that feminists should. It was a great opportunity to get dialog going and discuss important issues.

We were glad to get down to Alabama for the first time and continue our mission to tackle one sexist city at a time!

Love,
Anne Sexton
October 2007