

'Consumers' marched to the capitol for rights

By CAREN CAMPBELL
Features editor

They call themselves consumers. Hundreds of them participated in a police-escorted march from the Russell House to the capitol, and those that couldn't march were shuttled there.

"What do we want? OUR RIGHTS. When do we want 'em? NOW," they chanted.

The National Health Consumers Association conference was a meeting of 1,100 people, including members of South Carolina SHARE, bonded by the fact that they have all at one time or another been affected by mental illness.

Billy Finley, president of S.C. SHARE said that the acronym stood for Self Help Association Regarding Emotions.

"It affects so many of us," said Helen Noble, a member of SHARE and a participant in the five-day conference held last week here on campus. "I want to get rid of the term 'mental illness,'" she said, "I wanna make it, you know, mentally different maybe. We're not all left-brained people."

Noble also said many women are affected. "I met a woman in New Hampshire who was put in an institution by the signature of a judge because her husband didn't want her."

At this conference, there are more people attending than any other conference before, said Howie Harp, a founding rights advocate for mental

health who now works at a California drop-in center in Oakland.

"I think it's fitting that we're standing here in front of the statue of George Washington who fought in the Revolutionary war because we are a revolutionary movement," Harp said. "We're a revolutionary movement for freedom, for dignity, for equality, for opportunity and for

the pursuit of happiness."

"Once we held conferences on campgrounds, now we hold them in universities," he said.

Harp emphasized that consumers have changed from being portrayed as hopeless and helpless to being hopeful and helpful because they are success stories and survivors. They have survived abuses in institutions,

severe emotional problems and come out of it better people with sensitivity, with tolerance and with the ability to help others who have been through the same, he said.

Harp said the "clients" and "consumers" are the the most valuable resource to the mental health system today. "Actually, in fact, we've always been their most valuable resource. Without us, where would

they be today?" he laughed.

"We are experts to what mental health consumers need in order to live in communities independently," Harp said.

"The self-help programs that we run ourselves are on the cutting edge and are on the wave of the future for the mental health system today," he said.

Harp asked that the people not be satisfied with lip service or promises. "We can only be satisfied when we achieve our goals."

Though they are diverse, they have commonalities. Out of all the conferences in Egypt and England that Harp has attended, he has heard clients talk about the same problems, needs, concerns and solutions.

"One of the problems that we legislators have is that we're undereducated when it comes to knowing about the problems that we should help be solved," said Sen. Warren Giese, R-Richland.

Many people at the conference agreed that regardless of whether or not you are physically or mentally ill, if you are sick, than you are sick and you need to be treated.

"We need to fund mental health as well as we fund physical health," Giese said.

He also said mental health is a "low visibility problem" and that there's a tendency in the legislature to overlook it at budget time. He said this year for perhaps the first time, the General Assembly took a step



Caren Campbell/The Gamecock
Billy Finley

toward meeting the needs of the Department of Mental Health through adequate funding.

Many years ago there was a 12-foot wall around the grounds of the S.C. State Hospital to hide the mentally ill from the view of the public, said Tom Bristow, a musician and singer who works at the S.C. State Museum.

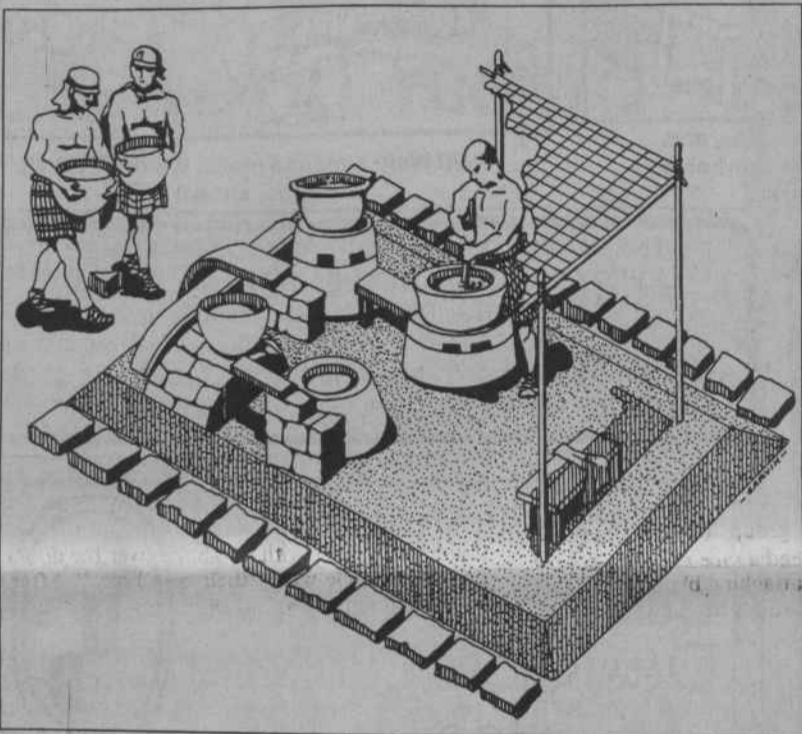
About 30 or 40 years ago, they tore the wall down and used the bricks to build a beautiful chapel on the hospital grounds he said.

There are lots of walls in this world built by prejudice, misunderstanding and discrimination, he said. These walls will disappear if you reach out and help, he added.

He sang, "walls that are built to keep people out are built to keep people in" and advised "just take the walls down, let the sun in."



Caren Campbell/The Gamecock
Participants in the National Health Consumers Association conference display their feelings on the grass of the capitol.



3400 B.C.: a good year for Egypt's beer

From staff reports

By today's standards, it probably didn't taste great and it certainly wasn't meant to be less filling. But in prehistoric Egypt, beer drinking didn't get any better than this.

On a routine search for pottery kilns, archaeologists have discovered the remains of an open fired beer-making operation in the ancient Egyptian city of Hierakonpolis.

Scientific tests show the ceramic beer barrels date back to 3400-3300 B.C. predating the pharaohs and pyramids making it in all probability the oldest beer brewery in the world.

"We don't know yet how many six-packs these vats were capable of producing, that's just one question we're trying to answer," said Dr. Michael Allen Hoffman, a USC archaeologist and director of the Hierakonpolis Expedition.

The four-vat brewery was discovered on a site the size of several football fields by Jeremy Geller, an archaeology doctoral student at Washington University in St. Louis working with Hoffman.

"I'm very good at reading the dirt, and we noticed a whole complex of walls just below the sur-

face," Hoffman said. He now suspects the four vats were only a small part of a vast beer brewing and bottling complex, supplying ale to a large portion of predynastic Egypt.

Early Egyptian beer was probably a mixture of half-baked bread, date juice, water and malt cooked over open fires. How did it taste?

"Imagine drinking something like Guinness Stout at room temperature, maybe a little sweeter, with small bits of vegetation floating in it," Hoffman said.

But winning a blue ribbon for taste wasn't the point of Egyptian beer making. Then as now, it served as a social lubricant for parties and celebrations. Even more important, beer was considered the staff of life along with bread, its chief component. Pictures in early tombs depict the beer-making process; some have recipes for beer scrawled on the walls.

In fact, part of the Egyptian death cult of elaborate burial practices involved packing away wads of material possessions including beer in the tombs of prominent citizens. "Beer and bread for a thousand years" was the motto, Geller said.

Excavation is planned over the next three years on the site of the beer-making vats and accompanying mound. Hoffman said it may prove Hierakonpolis was the "Pittsburgh of predynastic Egypt," an industrial complex fueled by scores of open-fired kilns and vats producing pottery and beer for the burgeoning funeral industry.

Hoffman joined the Hierakonpolis Expedition in 1969, shortly after its formation. The expedition, under Hoffman's leadership since 1979, now boasts an interdisciplinary team including anthropologists, Egyptologists, chemists, botanists, geologists, zoologists and architects.

Artifacts from Hierakonpolis make up part of "The First Egyptians," the largest and most comprehensive exhibit of predynastic Egypt to date. The traveling exhibit is now showing at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History and is scheduled to open at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington in December. The exhibit was organized by USC's McKissick Museum and the university's Earth Sciences and Resources Institute.

S.C.'s history still sparks interest

By JACK STREET

Staff writer

Editor's note: Staff writer Jack Street went on a trip around the state recently. This is his story about what he found.

Apply the word association test to the American Revolution. You'll get responses like George Washington, Declaration of Independence, Lexington and Concord, stars and stripes and freedom.

How about South Carolina? The Revolutionary War turned in favor of the American Patriots in this state. Although it later came to be better known as the "hellhole of secession" during a more recent unpleasantness, South Carolina was where The War was won.

Visits to Charleston, Camden, Kings Mountain, Cowpens, Ninety Six and Eutaw Springs are educational and exciting. The National Park system has extensive land holdings at some of these battlefields and daytrip settlements. All of these places make excellent destinations from Columbia.

Inquisitive travellers can discover sites left virtually untouched since the days of Thomas Sumter, the Gamecock, and Francis Marion, the Swamp Fox.

The Battle of Blackstocks took place on a hilltop by the Tyger River near Cross Keys, S.C. (40 miles west of the present day village of Blackstock). The only sign of the momentous struggle is a block of granite at the end of a long, long dirt road in the beautiful sandy conifered Carolina countryside.

One wonders at how history can turn on such seemingly insignificant and remote places. The peacefulness at

Personal travels

Cowpens National Military Park, for instance, belies the history. A bloody hand-to-hand battle raged here while Patriot militia and British regulars slaughtered one another at point-blank range.

Other battles pitted American versus American, indeed neighbor against neighbor. Backwoods rebel militia stormed Kings Mountain which was held by Loyalist forces.

The British General, Lord Cornwallis, spent time in Camden, Charleston and Winnsboro in the late 1770's through 1781 while Sumter, Marion and Andrew Pickens reduced British forces in the field and turned South Carolina over to the Patriot cause.

Once an interest is sparked, it can burn; you see history restlessly pushing up from beneath its veneer of the years. For instance, if you pay close attention, you'll notice that just about every street in downtown Columbia (formerly Fort Granby) is named after a Revolutionary player.

From Savannah to Yorktown subtitled *American Revolution in the South* by Henry Lumpkin (USC Press), 1981, provides in-depth analysis in a highly readable style.

I'd tell you how I came to be alone on top of Kings Mountain in a thunder and lightning storm with a bunch of ghosts in a mist on the Fourth of July . . . but that's a different story.



Poet's insight blends purity and complexity

By AMY LOOMIS

Staff writer

Fish Magic, by Elisabeth Borchers. Translated by Anneliese Wagner. 1989. Black Swans Books Ltd, Redding Ridge, CT. 107.

Elisabeth Borchers' *Fish Magic* is not revolutionary, "fresh" or trendsetting. It will not change the way we perceive, understand or write poetry, nor will Borchers become a household name like Frost, Whitman or Byron.

But Borchers' poetry presents insight with grace and eloquence. Her poetry does not attempt to explain, but merely present what she sees. Her language is simple and plain even when examining the complex.

Paul Klee illustrated the images that often accompany her poetry. Some images within the book are: fish, bird, rain, sea, city, man, woman, child, head, blue and red. In "songs of water" one stanza subtitled "wind" brings these images together with a numbing pessimism: "under dark bridges/they flow by/softly wave says to wave/take the poor by the hand/ and crown their foreheads / with little dead fish."

Sometimes her eerie moods give way to the little more personal glimpses of life as in her poem "someone." Here she sees the most comfortable and convincing. Ironically, her simplistic language emphasizes the complex nature of relationships.

In the first section of this poem, "someone" comes like an answer (after all, isn't everyone of us waiting for someone?): "someone reads/ saying I can't shake it off/

and is strong/ and you think he sleeps/ and you wait/ and sit outside/ in your useful invention:/ a perfectly circular head."

In the second part of "someone," someone is the one to follow because if you follow his stride you "don't go crazy." But in this part, someone becomes only what we make him because we are all self deceivers: "someone goes/ and you think he steps softly/ on soft shoes/ and you take the soft/ and let go of the hard/ and the ice crackles/ and you say I don't hear a thing."

Finally in the third part, reality gives a crushing blow: "someone sings/ and you think he's silent/ and you say/ now it's my turn to sing/ you sing/ and someone doesn't believe you/ and leaves/ and someone flies off/ and you don't believe him/ and you go crazy."

Anneliese Wagner, translator of *Fish Magic*, wrote in the preface "She surveys the horror of life, the table of ice that separates our two chairs in one room, one city, many countries, the normalcy that shackles us, and with her, we step outside ourselves to observe who we are, what we do, where we are going. The world, once askew, and still tilting at a slant, stands more straight than before."

Elisabeth Borchers was born in 1926, the daughter of a French mother and a German father. An interpreter for the French occupation, she married, had two sons and later, after her divorce, lived for a time in Cleveland, Ohio. Today she lives works and writes in Frankfurt.

Got a news tip? Call The Gamecock at 777-7726



Protect your unborn baby with good prenatal care. Call your local chapter for a free booklet: "Be Good To Your Baby Before It Is Born."

March of Dimes
Preventing Birth Defects

FOR THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST CANCER, SEE YOUR DOCTOR ONCE A YEAR AND HIM ONCE A WEEK.

