

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
Thursday, January 6, 1994

Following dinner in the small room of the Convention Center, President Jim Adams called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m. Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

Excused absences were granted George W. Engler and Thomas W. Westerfield. Twenty-six members were present. Dr. Mark Schweizer was welcomed to membership, bringing the current active roster to ~~37~~<sup>38</sup>.

A Membership Committee nomination for a ~~38~~<sup>39</sup>th member failed to receive a favorable vote.

The Society extended condolences to member Bobby H. Freeman on the recent death of his father.

President Adams then called for the stated program:

When Americans today talk about liberty, or the lack thereof, it is obvious they don't share the same definition of the word. That's why, when issues arise involving liberty, such as gun control, they usually spark passionate debate. In other words, it's all in where you're coming from or, more aptly put, in the opinion of Richard C. Brasher, where you came from. In a paper entitled, "On Liberty (with apologies to J.S. Mill)," Mr. Brasher presented historical evidence that British colonists introduced to America during four great migrations four major and widely divergent concepts of liberty. The Puritans, in settling New England between 1620 and 1645, believed individual liberty was subservient to corporate liberty. A second wave of immigrants, the so-called cavaliers, who settled the tidewater Virginia and Maryland between 1640 and 1675, introduced hegemonic liberty — so described because their liberty was one of "rule or be ruled." The Quakers, who settled Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware between 1675 and 1725, introduced their "reciprocal" liberty — a view that all acts and ideas were allowed so long as they did not infringe on others. Finally, the Scots-Irish, who settled backcountry Pennsylvania between 1717 and 1775, introduced what was described as natural liberty, wherein individual liberty takes precedence over everything, including and especially government. Since these four, very different concepts of liberty have been passed down from generation to generation, it is no wonder that Americans seldom agree on anything.

In "It's 10 minutes to presstime and the president's been shot," David L. Riley interviewed retired Kentucky New Era editor and publisher Joe Dorris about the circumstances and decision-making process that resulted in the local newspaper being the only afternoon publication in Kentucky to have same-day coverage of the Kennedy assassination. Mr. Dorris cited his unwavering trust in the Associated Press to quickly follow up a series of one-line bulletins with a full-blown story in

his decision to hold the presses past deadline. He also described the hectic activity — rearranging stories, writing and rewriting the "JFK dies" banner headline and searching for a photo of the president — that occurred while waiting for the AP to deliver over the teletype. Mr. Riley, graciously subbing on the program for a resigned member, managed to add a new entry to the "where were you when" footnotes of American history: "Where were you when David L. Riley delivered his Athenaeum paper on the New Era's coverage of the Kennedy assassination?" Not asleep, I hope.

Following a break, three members commented on the program, with the authors rebutting in kind.

Acting secretary David Cavanaugh then announced the February program: Edwin Morton White and Mark Lovely.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mike Herndon*

Mike Herndon, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
Thursday, February 3, 1994

Following the invocation by Edward H. Higgins III and dinner in the <sup>large</sup>~~small~~ room of the Convention Center, President Jim Adams called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

Excused absences were granted Michael G. Herndon, Robert B. Sivley, Charles L. Tilley Jr., Mark Lovely, George M. Draper and Robert M. Fairleigh III. Twenty-nine members were present.

The Membership Committee submitted two nominees to be voted on at the March meeting.

President Adams then called for the stated program:

Edwin Morton White and Mark Lovely took the Society on markedly different but equally enlightening journalistic journeys. Mr. White led us down death row in an exploration of capital punishment and Mr. Lovely led us down a dead road in an exploration of famous Route 66. Although Route 66 was more than 2,400 miles long, death row proved even longer, requiring almost a full hour in the telling.

In all fairness to Mr. White, his paper, entitled "Death is Different," covered a lot of ground, tracing the evolution of capital punishment from its biblical foundation to modern-day application. It also explored the various macabre means throughout history of carrying out the death penalty, which, according to the author, apparently has been limited only by man's imagination. The paper went on to cite various court rulings involving capital punishment and the moral arguments for and against it. Mr. White provocatively punctuated his treatise by supporting the death penalty on moral grounds while opposing it as overly expensive and ineffective.

With Mr. Lovely behind the wheel, the excursion down "Route 66," was shorter and sweeter, although the author did note that the road, with its many hairpin curves, could be a death row of its own. Mostly, however, the view from the writer's window was nostalgia as he relived the sights and sounds along the 68-year-old federal highway that linked Chicago and Santa Monica. With its winding length, varied geography, unique architecture, ~~various~~<sup>various</sup> locales, strange and famous characters and seemingly endless chain of tourist traps and attractions, it is no wonder Route 66 inspired a popular tune and television series. As the song implies, in its heyday, folks did get their kicks on Route 66.

Following a break, 13 members commented on the program, with the authors rebutting in kind.

The secretary then announced the March program: Duard N. Thurman and David

Cavanah.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mike Herndon*

Mike Herndon, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
Thursday, March 3, 1994

Following the invocation by William T. Turner and dinner in the small room of the Convention Center, President Jim Adams called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved with one correction — the previous month's meeting actually being conducted in the large room rather than the small room of the Convention Center.

Excused absences were granted George W. Engler, Marvin D. Denison, William T. Turner, Hal King and Richard C. Brasher. Thirty-two members were present.

The Society voted to extend invitations of membership to Dr. Joseph Vance and Ben S. Fletcher III.

President Adams appointed a committee consisting of William T. Turner, chairman, James H. Love and Mark Lovely to nominate a slate of officers for 1994-95.

President Adams also appointed a committee consisting of himself, Secretary/Treasurer Herndon, Wendell H. Rorie and Peter C. Macdonald to present site and meal options for the Open Meeting.

President Adams then called for the stated program:

Duard N. Thurman and David Cavanah told a tale of two races — Mr. Thurman the race by the Japanese to world economic supremacy following World War II and Mr. Cavanah the race by American blacks to social equality during the 1950s and 1960s.

In a paper entitled "It Is Time We Learned From Japan — Our Major Competitor," Mr. Thurman oriented the Society on Japan's economic system, which he said evolved from, and in many ways has improved upon, the American system. Noting this nation's large trade deficit with Japan and the fact that the Japanese are our biggest creditors, Mr. Thurman suggested that we might want to copy that which is good in their system, just as they prospered by copying what is good in our system. So far, at least, Americans haven't had a yen to do so.

In his paper, "A Long Journey," Mr. Cavanah reduced black America's massive, bitter and often violent march to freedom to a microcosm, homing in on one man's personal account of his participation in sit-ins, boycotts and other non-violent protests in Nashville during the early months of 1960s. Metro Councilman Leo Lillard said he was an apathetic victim of segregation until he was moved to action by the bravery of some fellow college students at a lunch counter sit-in at Nashville Woolworth store. Lillard credits his decision to play a role in the successful, carefully orchestrated plan to open Nashville's businesses to black patrons with turning his life around. In doing so, Lillard helped fulfill the vision of black poet

Langston Hughes, who foresaw the day when whites no longer would confine him to the kitchen to eat.

Following a break, nine members commented on the program, with the authors rebutting in kind.

The secretary then announced the April program: Robert B. Sivley and Thomas W. Westerfield.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mike Herndon*

Mike Herndon, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
Thursday, April 7, 1994

Following the invocation by Marvin D. Denison and dinner in the small room of the Convention Center, President Jim Adams called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m. Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

Excused absences were granted Edward H. Higgins III, W. Gladstone Major and Robert M. Fairleigh III. Twenty-seven members were present.

Ben S. Fletcher III was introduced as the newest member. A letter was read from Dr. Joseph Vance respectfully declining a membership invitation. The Society accepted with regret the resignation of member James T. Killebrew. Honorary member Leslie B. Crane anticipated an extended absence from meetings due to illness.

The nominating committee of William T. Turner, James H. Love and Mark Lovely issued its report, recommending as officers for 1994-95: George W. Engler, president; Michael G. Herndon, vice president; and Mr. Lovely, secretary-treasurer. The slate was elected by acclamation.

Also reporting was the Open Meetings Committee consisting of President Adams, Secretary/Treasurer Herndon, Wendell H. Rorie and Peter C. Macdonald. The recommendation that the open session, scheduled for 7 p.m. May 5, be conducted at the small room of the Convention Center was unanimously accepted.

President Adams then called for the stated program:

Although it is normal operating procedure for the minutes to synopsise programs from previous meetings, this will not be possible with Dr. Robert B. Sivley's paper, "Bureaucracy: The Answer To All Our Problems." It seems that after only four months, the document still has not received an environmental impact statement, none of the required public hearings have been conducted and there are no assurances that the fairness doctrine was properly applied. Even worse, the treatise is being viewed as politically incorrect because it dares to portray Christopher Columbus' discovery of the New World in a favorable light. As a result, unless members can gain access through a Freedom of Information request, Dr. Sivley's paper will remain sealed until 30 years after the author's natural death or assassination, whichever comes first.

Thomas W. Westerfield's paper, "Pawns of Politics and War," just barely managed to pass political correctness muster. After all, it attempts to describe World War II German soldiers — perpetrators of the dreadful Holocaust — as everyday folks like us, who could laugh, cry and appreciate a good joke. He can be forgiven, however, since his narration was based on dim childhood memories and the fact that the

Nazis with whom he was associated were prisoners of war on American soil, obviously were on their best behavior, got three square meals a day, and therefore were less likely to show their true colors. If he recalls his association with German POWs toiling on his family's farm as basically a pleasant one, it might be because a gun in the back tends to foster diplomacy. Or it might be, as Mr. Westerfield contends, because of America's historically humanitarian treatment of captured enemy soldiers.

Following a break, nine members commented on the program, with the authors rebutting in kind.

The secretary then announced the May program: Edward H. Higgins III and Peter C. Macdonald.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mike Herndon*

Mike Herndon, Secretary/Treasurer



MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY  
Thursday, May 5, 1994

Following the invocation by Dr. Brooks Major and a banquet in the small room of the Convention Center, President Jim Adams called the meeting to order at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Eighty persons, including spouses and guests, were in attendance.

The reading of the minutes and other regular matters of Athenaeum business were suspended on a voice vote of the membership. President Adams did announce the officers for 1994-95. They are George W. Engler, president; Mike G. Herndon, vice president; and Mark S. Lovely, secretary-treasurer.

President Adams then called for the stated program:

Edward H. Higgins got a nostalgic program off on the right track, so to speak, with a paper entitled, "The Railroads Of My Memory." Unfortunately, however, his memories consisted more of what he had read, fantasized or been told than what he had actually experienced. Unless, of course, one considers being raised near the wrong side of the tracks or walking trestles as railroading. He finally confessed to the obvious, that his only personal exposure to passenger trains were a "trip" to Guthrie with a youth group, a "journey" to Nashville to visit cousins and a dinner train excursion to Gracey. That he nevertheless professed a undying love for trains proves only that absence indeed makes the heart grow fonder.

After Mr. Higgins blasted us with his train whistle, Peter C. Macdonald sent us ducking for cover with a look back at the home bomb shelter craze of the 1950s and early '60s. In a paper entitled, "Gimme Shelter," he retrospectively cites exaggerated American fears of a nuclear attack by the Soviets as prompting some to overreact by building and stocking their own fallout shelters, complete with guns to keep their neighbors out. He shamelessly goes on to identify his own parents among the zealots. The fallout shelter that his folks and another family painstakingly constructed in the basement of a relative's home was never used, of course. But, as Mr. Macdonald noted, it wasn't wasted. It made a great playhouse.

I am tempted to say that nothing bombed but the Athenaeum program. But, in truth, the audience seemed to enjoy both papers immensely. Following a break, nine people commented, with the authors rebutting in kind.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Herndon, Secretary/Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ANTHENAUM SOCIETY  
Thursday, September 1, 1994

Following the invocation by Franklin A. Nash, Jr., and dinner in the small room of the Convention Center, new President George W. (Bill) Engler called the meeting to order at around 7 p.m. Minutes of the April and May meetings were read and approved.

Excused absences were granted David Cavanah and Logan Askew. Twenty-nine members were present.

President Engler recounted "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" by detailing his attempts to achieve meaningful dialogue with Homestead restaurant. Several members had expressed interest in returning the meetings to this location, citing the less-open, cozier atmosphere as the reason. However, agreement could not be reached and the Society will therefore continue to meet in the friendly confines of the Convention Center.

President Engler then called for the stated program:

Robert M. Fairleigh, III, asked the membership to consider the implausible in a paper called "Unidentified Flying Objects." The modern UFO era began in 1947 when Kenneth Arnold, while flying solo over the state of Washington, reported seeing a line of nine saucer like discs moving at a then impossible speed of 1000 knots. The press called them flying saucers. A flying saucer reportedly crashed near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. According to a purported government briefing paper, the military recovered the wreckage and the bodies of four alien crew members and transported the lot to Wright Patterson Air Force Base for study. This was in stark contrast to the official government story that the wreckage was from a crashed weather balloon. Fairleigh concluded by saying "Believe what you want. But remember 500 years ago planet Earth was supposed to be flat."

Robert C. Baker returned from a one-year leave of absence by presenting "Educational Demographics of Christian, Lyon, Todd and Trigg Counties." Armed with an overhead projector and a litany of depressing statistics, Baker enriched and educated the members by showing how poor and uneducated the counties are. A variety of economic, class, social and cultural barriers limit access to higher education. But a comprehensive array of programs exists which attempts to overcome these problems. Known as TRIO Programs, they "reach out with the light of opportunity where there is none."

Arguably, Mr. Baker presented the most lucrative paper of all time. With a little added window dressing, he was able to parlay his Athenaeum paper into an \$875,000 grant for Hopkinsville Community College.

Following a break, nine members commented on the program, with the authors rebutting in kind.

The secretary then announced the October program: William T. Turner and Logan Askew.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Lovely".

Mark Lovely, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY**

Thursday, October 6, 1994

Following the invocation by Brooks Major and dinner in the small room of the Convention Center, President Bill Engler called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m. Minutes of the September meeting were read and approved.

Barely adequate excuses were granted Jim Adams, Marvin Denison, Ben Fletcher, Happy Higgins and Bob Sivley. Some 34 members were present.

The membership committee of Paul D. Guffey, D. D. Cayce III and Charles L. Tilley, Jr., submitted two nominees. Both will be voted on at the November meeting.

President Engler then called for the stated program.

William Turner took the membership "Out in the Woods" with a paper on the history of Outwood Hospital near Dawson Springs. Some 5,000 acres were purchased for \$100,000 in 1919 and 1920. By July, 1921, the total cost of the VA hospital approached 2.5 million dollars. Eventually the facility consisted of 30 buildings. The 500-bed U. S. Veterans Hospital No. 79 opened for receipt of patients on April 17, 1922. A visiting official from Washington one day commented "this place is surely out in the woods." Thus the name Outwood was coined. The VA closed the hospital in 1962. It then became Outwood State Hospital and School, operated by the state as a facility for mentally retarded children. A new campus was completed in 1983 at a cost of 8.1 million. Today, operated by Res-Care, Inc., there are 80 residents served by a staff of 150. Of the original buildings, only the little chapel remains.

There are 8 million stories in the naked city. Logan Askew provided the membership with one of them in his paper titled "Nude Dancing." Assuming the dispassionate point of view of a constitutional scholar, Askew examined the numerous attempts to exert legal control over establishments which provide such artistic expression. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of speech and many forms of "nonverbal expressive activity," however obscenity is not protected, and the 21st Amendment gives states broad authority to regulate activities at establishments which sell alcoholic beverages. Also, time, manner and place restrictions have been upheld by the courts. In Kentucky the battlegrounds have been Newport and Oak Grove, home to the famous Cat West. Through "pastries" and no pastries, liquor license and no liquor license, the business has prevailed and will celebrate its 11th anniversary in January. Optimistically, from an attorney's point of view, Askew predicts that this area of law will continue to prompt litigation.

Following a break, nine members commented on the program, with the authors rebutting in kind.

The secretary then announced the November program: J. Brooks Major and W. Gladstone Major.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Lovely". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mark Lovely, Secretary/Treasurer

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY**

Thursday, November 3, 1994

Following the invocation by D. D. Cayce III and dinner in the small room of the Convention Center, President Bill Engler called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. Some 23 members were present. Somewhat adequate excuses were granted previous absentees Frank Nash and Tom Riley.

This dealt with a person nominated but not accepted for membership & is censored from the scanned minutes on motion of the Society Sept 2016.

President Engler then called for the stated program.

Brooks Major presented "Bear Meat and Bootleg: The Diet of the Orphan Brigade." The Orphan Brigade consisted of Kentucky volunteers whose units were enlisted in the Confederate Army of Tennessee. The name was given them by John C. Breckinridge at Stone's River after they had been decimated by a well-placed cannon. Whether it referred to their pitiful and lonely position or to the fact that Kentucky was never a part of the Confederacy, the name stuck. The men of the Orphan Brigade came primarily from the central and southwestern portions of the Commonwealth. Most were farm boys between 17 and 30. Though the civilian population was quite generous, food and drink was a constant struggle. Fresh pork-captured, killed and butchered on the sly-was referred to as "bear" to avoid official discovery and punishment. The Brigade traveled from Corinth, to Baton Rouge, to Vicksburg, and places in between. Final surrender came in North Carolina on April 21, 1865. Many survivors never fully recovered their health, not because of wounds alone, but also because of years of hunger and malnutrition.

Gladstone Major presented a paper, Aristotelian in nature, exploring the dynamics between art, bread, absurdity and the Athenaeum Society. Are these absolutes? Points on a continuum? Subjective realities? Can we even say for sure? Is it possible, with our limitations, to take the longview? Who among us can say? Why do we tend to settle for so little? Thus is the challenge. Forever has it been so. Aesthetic and intellectual satisfaction is bread for the soul.

Following a break, nine members commented on the program, with the authors rebutting in kind.

The secretary then announced the December program: George M. Draper and Hal King.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mark Lovely*

Mark Lovely, Secretary/Treasurer

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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE ATHENAEUM SOCIETY**

Thursday, December 1, 1994

Following the invocation by William Turner and dinner in the small room of the Convention Center, President Bill Engler called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. Some 26 members were present. Fanciful excuses were granted previous absentees William Turner, Bob Sivley, Danny Guffey and Pete Macdonald.

The secretary informed the society that Mike Chadwell, whose membership was approved at the November meeting, graciously declined to join the Society, citing problems with his schedule. Though stung by the rejection, the members carried on bravely. The membership committee submitted the names of two new prospective members. A vote on each nominee will take place at the January meeting.

President Engler then called for the stated program.

George Draper presented "Clippings from the Billtown Whizzer: Ruminations of the Slicker Snake." Draper's Great Uncle Hugh Lawson Huffines taught school all his life and, when the spirit moved him, wrote columns for the Jackson County Sentinel in Gainsboro, Tennessee, and the Carthage Courier at Carthage, Tennessee. The Slicker Snake, alias Draper's Uncle Hugh, wrote in the '30s and '40s about the goings-on in the fictional town of Yuby Dam, USA. The Slicker Snake was not only editor and publisher of the nonexistent Billtown Whizzer, but also the honorable mayor of Yuby Dam. The populace also included Billy Hell, the 98-year-old sheriff, physicians Dr. Deadner, Dr. Butcher and Dr. Killequick, and Judges Wise and Broadhead. Noted in one column was the passing of one J. B. Lubberboy, age 113, the Whizzer office spittoon carrier. Lubberboy was shot on election day "just as a boodler was leading him up to the ballot box to vote him." The Slicker Snake called the incident "indeed bad and sad...Men should be better protected at the primary, so they can vote their sentiments and exercise this great American Liberty and get their dollar in peace."

Hal King endeavored to spread Christmas cheer as he presented "Favorite Stories of the Season." In a style which later brought comparisons to the almighty, King proceeded to breathe life into a set of five Noel-approved tales. "Reprobatus" told the ancient story of a man who carried a small child, heavy as the entire world, across a flooded stream. He became St. Christopher, carrier of Christ and patron protector of travelers. "Gods of Mythology" told of the gods of Rome, Greece and Egypt; possible foreshadows of coming events. "The Donkey" told of a beast of burden who carried a woman, with child, into a stable at Bethlehem and again offered his services along the road to



Calvary more than 30 years later. "The Ring" detailed how a simple piece of jewelry, fashioned from the Magi's gold, changed the life of one man who found it. And, finally, "What Shall We Give the Children?" answered its own question: Long days in which to be merry and nights without fear. The memory of a good home.

Following a break there were comments from nine members including a really, really, really, enthusiastic one from George Byars. Rebuttals by the authors followed.

The secretary then announced the January program: William M. Rowlett and Mark Schweizer. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Lovely". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mark Lovely, Secretary/Treasurer