

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

Thursday, January 5, 1995

Following the invocation by Jim Adams 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 31 members were present, as well as Gordon Boh, the guest and son-in-law of Bill Rowlett. Minutes from the December meeting were read and approved. Creative excuses were granted to eight previous absentees.

The Society then proceeded to conduct a vote on two gentlemen recommended to it by the membership committee. Both votes were negative. The roster therefore remains at 38.

President Engler then called for the stated program.

Bill Rowlett presented "CPI or CPA?" -- Christian Political Initiative or Christian Political Apathy. Through a tortured redefinition of terms, Rowlett tried to show that his paper on religion and politics was not a violation of Athenaeum by-laws prohibiting exactly that. "What is an appropriate way for Christians to express their beliefs so that moral judgement born from religious conviction be heard and thoughtfully considered by all Americans?" Rowlett traced the modern history of religious involvement in public policy and concluded that Christians have no option but to serve others and political action is an appropriate expression of that. And, if the godly people in this country don't take responsibility for the process of government, the only ones left to govern will be the criminals.

In his first Athenaeum paper - "Losing Your Marbles or A Cut Above" - Mark Schweizer vividly, and sometimes rather painfully, described the life and times of the castrati: opera singers who were castrated to preserve their pre-adolescent voices. The castrati reigned in Italy for 150 years, beginning at a time when women were forbidden by the Church of Rome to sing in Church or in the theater. At one point during the 18th century as many as 4,000 boys were castrated in Italy each year, many of the procedures performed by parents hoping to one day have a rich and famous opera singer in the family. Most never came close. Many became priests. Contrary to common belief, many of the castrati remained sexually functional though unable to father children, making them attractive as lovers. The best castrati became as famous in their day as any rock superstar of today. Though a few even survived into the 20th century, they eventually lost favor.

Following a break there were comments from 11 members. Rebuttals by the authors followed.

The secretary then announced the February program: Franklin A. Nash, Jr. and Marvin D. Denison. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Lovely

Mark Lovely, Secretary/Treasurer

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

Thursday, February 2, 1995

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 7:00 p.m. Roll call revealed that 32 members were present. Meager excuses were granted previous absentees Bob Sivley, Ben Fletcher and Hal King. Minutes from the January meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read a letter of resignation received from Bob Baker. The Society voted to accept, with regret, his action.

The membership committee then presented two names for possible inclusion on the roll. A vote on each nominee will take place at the March meeting.

President Engler then called for the stated program:

Frank Nash, sporting a tie ordered especially for the occasion, presented "Wild Wit or King Kong Goes to College." You can lead a horse to water, but can you make him think? Do nonhuman animals possess intelligence and understanding? Nash considered the evidence, such as the story of Hans, the clever horse. Hans was able to solve complicated math problems, tapping answers out with his hoof. Eventually it was determined that Hans had learned to respond by observing small changes in the questioner's posture, breathing and facial expressions. Language experiments involving primates have been notable, including those involving Koko the gorilla. Over the course of nine years, Koko, using American Sign Language, developed a vocabulary of more than 600 words and became computer literate. Other anecdotal evidence was presented involving Alex the Parrot, dolphins and dogs. Do nonhuman animals really think? As with human animals, the answer appears to be "sometimes."

Marvin Denison deconstructed the legal aftermath of the Civil War with "Decisions of the Court: The Supreme Court and Reconstruction." The Military Reconstruction Acts of 1867 provided the framework for the "rehabilitation" of the rebel areas. Georgia's reaction was typical among the southern states, calling the Reconstruction Acts "a direct attack upon the constitution and fundamental law of the State." Time and again the Supreme Court refused to become involved in the political aspects of reconstruction. Denison gives the court credit for maintaining its integrity during an especially difficult chapter in U. S. history.

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Following a break, seven members commented on the program.
Rebuttals by the authors followed.

The secretary then announced the March program: Mike G. Herndon
and Bobby H. Freeman. The meeting adjourned at approximately
9:00 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

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Athenaeum Society

Thursday, March 2, 1995

Following the invocation by Brooks Major and dinner in the large room of the Convention Center, President Engler called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. Roll call revealed that 21 members were present on the snowy evening. For the first time since February, 1991, no excuses were offered by members. Minutes from the February, 1995, meeting were read and endorsed.

Two nominees for membership, Lewis Spencer and Scott Ross, received positive comments from various members. The Society then voted affirmatively on both nominees.

President Engler then called for the stated program:

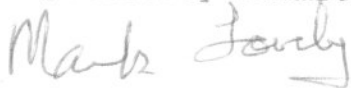
Mike Herndon, dressed appropriately in uniform, presented "Characters of the Kitty League." Using Joe Dorris, Leo Wilson and Tommy Gates as primary sources, Herndon regaled the membership with tales of rabbits in the outfield and managers who wrestled bears. The Kitty League was a class D minor league baseball organization which lived somewhat sporadically from 1903 to 1954 and included among its members the famous Hoptown Hoppers. The league had a reputation for being rough and tumble. Dorris was in Chicago in the 1920s when he encountered two women arguing baseball rules. He overheard one say "You couldn't get away with that, even in the Kitty League!" Characters of the League included Mike Power, a Bowling Green player who was bitten by his own teeth when he slid into second with his false teeth in his hip pocket; and veteran pitcher Jesse Webb, a reliever who pitched two innings wearing an overcoat on an unseasonably cold opening day.

Bobby Freeman, in a paper notable for its brevity, presented "The Account of Convenience for the Federal Government." The theme of the paper was that "more and more nondefense projects are being financed through the Pentagon's budget." According to Freeman, the current defense budget includes some 5.7 billion dollars for environmental programs. Some 4.6 billion of defense appropriations went into civil programs in fiscal year 1993, up from 1.4 billion three years before. He concluded that "environmental, social and other civil programs have their place, but not at the expense of other critical military needs."

Following a break, nine members commented on the program. Rebuttals by the authors followed.

The secretary then announced the April program: George S. Boone and D. D. Cayce, III. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Lovely, Secretary/Treasurer

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
of the Athenaeum Society**

Thursday, April 6, 1995

Following the invocation by Tom Westerfield and dinner in the small room of the convention center, Vice President Mike Herndon called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m. Roll call revealed the presence of 24 members. Sorry excuses from three members were offered and accepted. Minutes from the March meeting were read and approved.

The meeting was notable by the presence of Lewis Spencer, a new member approved by the Society the previous month. The Secretary read a letter from Scott Ross declining membership. He also had been approved the previous month. With the addition of Spencer, the number of members rose to 38, two below the maximum.

The membership committee offered a name for membership. With the open meeting in May, a vote on the prospect will not take place until the September meeting. The committee also offered a slate of candidates coerced to serve as officers for the 95-96 Athenaeum year. The three were swept into office on a wave of benign resignation. Officers for the year will be Mike Herndon, President; Happy Higgins, Vice President; and Mark Lovely, Secretary-Treasurer.

Some discussion took place regarding the place and cost of the May open meeting. The choice was the convention center and the cost \$12.50 per person.

Vice President Herndon then called for the stated program:

George Boone went "In Search of History," in particular that part of it dealing with the Islamic faith, the newest of the "big three" monotheistic religions. Adherents, of which there are nearly a billion, are known as Muslims. Islam, an Arabic word meaning submission to God, was founded in the seventh century by Mohammed. At the core of Islam is the Koran, the final revelation of Allah as recited by Mohammed. While Islamic fundamentalism receives most of the press, it should be noted that most followers stand for piety, learning, moderation, charity and tolerance. The acceptance of Islam by large numbers of African Americans is somewhat curious, given the culture's acceptance of slavery well into the 20th century, and basic structures of domination based on class and gender.

In "An Edgar Cayce Sample," D.D. Cayce introduced the Society to the talents of his famous relative, whose following is perhaps larger now than at anytime previously. Edgar Cayce performed thousands of psychic readings during his lifetime, ~~hand~~ ^{hard} copies of which are on file in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Early in his life Edgar experienced a seemingly incurable loss of voice. Through self-diagnosis while under hypnosis, he prescribed a simple treatment. This was the first psychic reading, given in Hopkinsville on March 31, 1901. Many of his readings were dealing with physical problems. Others were about specific topics or were simply called "life readings." Edgar said that we could all do the things he did, if we could only develop certain aspects of our life. *lives.*

Following a break, 11 members commented on the program. Rebuttals by the authors followed. The Secretary then announced the May program: James G. Adams, Jr. and Paul D. Guffey. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Lovely
Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of the Open Meeting
of the Athenaeum Society

Thursday, May 4, 1995

Following the invocation by William T. Turner and dinner in the small room of the Convention Center, President Bill Engler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Some 73 members and guests were in attendance.

Reading of the minutes and other regular Athenaeum business matters were suspended. Guests were introduced and excuses granted for the previous absences of five contrite members.

President Engler then called for the stated program:

Jim Adams offered up an entertaining profile with "The County is Christian and the Judge is Ruff," tales of the wit and wisdom of Grady Ruff, former city judge, county judge, district judge and commonwealth's attorney. In one incident a respondent up for involuntary hospitalization at Western State Hospital was asked if he would solemnly swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. He loudly proclaimed "No, your honor, with an explanation!" He went on to say that he had been in court many times, had always sworn to tell the truth, had always told the truth, and each time some slick, silver-tongued lawyer had twisted his words around and he had ended up either in a mental hospital or in jail. He didn't want to tell the truth this time. Eventually Ruff said "Well go on and lie then; let's hear what you've got to say!"

Danny Guffey offered "A Roadmap for Living: Give Me 12 Minutes and We'll Make 5, 6, 7 Look Like 1, 2, 3." In a meandering paper short on linear compromise and long on Zen consciousness, Guffey listed five tools and six books essential (or at least helpful) to any roadmap: Euclid's "Elements of Geometry" and Einstein's "Special Theory of Relativity" for discipline, logic and humility; Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" for perspective; and the "Holy Bible," the "Bhagavadgita" and the "Tao-Te-Ching" for pleasure.

Following a break, eight individuals, including two guests commented. Rebuttals by the authors followed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark S. Lovely, Secretary/Treasurer

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Athenaeum Society

Thursday, September 7, 1995

Following the invocation by Brooks Major and dinner in the small room of the convention center, new President Mike Herndon, who was standing, called the meeting to order at approximately 7 p.m. Roll call revealed the presence of 28 members. Borderline excuses from two members were heard and accepted. Minutes from the April and May meetings were read and approved.

The membership voted to affirm the membership of Jim Mossey who had been nominated in April.

President Herndon then called for the stated program:

Tom Riley recalled "The Naming of Fort Campbell" and how it almost was called Fort Burnett. The official announcement regarding the formation of the military installation came on July 16, 1941. Kentucky's First District Congressman Noble Gregory advanced the name of Colonel Henry Burnett. Tennessee Congressman Percy Priest countered with General William Campbell. Burnett was a native of Cadiz who served as the Congressman for Kentucky's first district before joining the Confederacy. Campbell, a native of Sumner County, was a governor and popular hero from the Indian and Mexican Wars. After agonizing for several weeks amid charges and counter charges the War Department finally came down on the side of Congressman Priest and the name Camp Campbell.

Tom Westerfield endeavored to answer the question "Are We There Yet?" in a paper which served as a sequel to one presented 14 years earlier. That paper listed several predictions made by various futurists at the time. The newer paper attempted to determine the accuracy of those predictions. Foretold were the death of industrial America, the evolution to a high tech/high touch society, a global economy, a move from centralization to decentralization, a shift from representative to participatory democracy, and a focus toward networking instead of hierarchal communication. Citing a variety of economic and cultural changes which have taken place, Westerfield concluded that we are not "there" yet, but we are moving in that direction and at warp speed.

Following a break, 10 people commented on the program. Rebuttals by the authors followed. The Secretary then announced the October program: Duard N. Thurman and David Cavanah. The meeting adjourned at about 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Lovely
Secretary/Treasurer