

**GOOS BOOK CLUB  
850 NORTH BOULEVARD  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802**  
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**IN MEMORIAM**

*Page Acree: 1919--2005*

*Frank Craig, Jr.: 1918--2005*

*Durwood "Woody" Facundus: 1934--2003*

*Charles Prosser: 1919--2005*

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March 8, 2006

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RE: **GOOS BOOK CLUB MEETING OF March 2, 2006.** (Dragooned Goo, Herman Moyse. Selected read: *"Love In The Time of Cholera"* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Lads:

The Goos Book Club met in our usual raucous assembly on Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in our private room at Kiva's Restaurant.

**Present for duty were:**

James R. Clary, Jr.	Gus Dalton
Bob Thurston	Buzz Anding
Clay Waggenpack	Bubba Currier
Herman Moyse	Brian Luikart
Larry Michoud	John Clifford
Herb Dyer	Alan Carey
Scott Thurston	Fred Billings
Charles Kaho	Louis Leggio (guest)

As is the Group's custom, we first surveyed the membership to see if any new books had been encountered which merited a nod. The following works were mentioned:

- 1) Bubba Currier: *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini. This is a book about two young boys growing up together in Afghanistan, each from different classes. Buzzy said that it was an great read and other members of the group, who had also read the book, agreed.
- 2) Herman Moyse: *The World is Flat*, by Thomas Friedman. Herman mentioned the book, but then stated that it wasn't very good. So, forget I mentioned it.
- 3) Alan Carey: *The Big Blonde*, by Dorothy Parker. Alan reported that he had reread this collection of short stories for the 9<sup>th</sup> time. When asked why he would have revisited this collection of stories for the 9<sup>th</sup> time, Alan reported: "*because I own it.*"
- 4) Fred Billings: *Crossing the Delaware*, by David Feisher. Fred reported that this book was a better read then *1776*, which was recently published to critical acclaim.
- 5) Bob Thurston: *Benedict Arnold: Patriot and Traitor*, by Willard Sterne Randall. Bob told us that this was a very interesting biographical study of Benedict Arnold. He recommended it highly.

Thereafter, Dues were collected, after having been waived for the previous year. The following members are confirmed as having paid their dues for the 2006-2007 term( and the remaining member will be dunned for there \$10.00 annual dues in the coming weeks):

James R. Clary, Jr.	Gus Dalton
Bob Thurston	Buzz Anding
Clay Waggenpack	Bubba Currier
Herman Moyse	Brian Luikart
Larry Michoud	John Clifford
Herb Dyer	Alan Carey
Scott Thurston	Fred Billings
Charles Kaho	Louis Leggio

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Thereafter, the meeting was turned over to our Dragooned Goo, Herman Moyse, who reported on Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the author of our current selection, "*Love In The Time of Cholera*".

Gabriel Garcia Marquez won the 1982 Nobel Prize for *100 Years of Solitude*. His next novel was the one our group just read, *Love In The Time of Cholera*. This current book was translated by Edith Grossman, who has served as the translator on all of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's subsequent works. All of the membership agreed that the translation was awesome.

The author was born in Columbia and was raised by his paternal grandparents, returning to his parents later in life. He had a legal and journalistic education in Columbia and was compelled to relocate to Europe after taking the wrong side in one of the ubiquitous revolutions occurring within his home country. At present, he resides in Mexico City. He has recently been diagnosed with lymphoma, but is apparently receiving some successful treatment for that disease. We learned from others that — apparently — Gabriel Garcia Marquez has decided that he is finished writing and there will probably be no further books written by this author.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez was described by Herman as a "long time leftist" and a pal of Fidel Castro. He writes with a style which has been termed "Magical Realism." This style allows him to spin a yarn which contains elements of humor, fantasy and realistic "some might say journalistic" reporting, all of which is told just as his grandmother used to tell him stories, "with a brick face."

After having encapsulated the life of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Herman turned the discussion over to the Group so that the book could be discussed. Almost without exception, the Group roundly applauded the work. Some — like your humble writer and Scott Thurston — thought the book was one of the best that they had ever read.

Fred Billings could not finish the book and was not a big fan.

There was no disagreement that this book was much better than the earlier work we read by this author, *News of a Kidnaping*.

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Thereafter, as the discussion about the novel calmed down, your President opened the discussion regarding nominations for the member who would serve as the chairman of our group for the 2006-2007 term. There was some nimble discussion about this topic, which — in your write's opinion — seemed to meander aimlessly. Then, your President left the room briefly to have the air conditioning adjusted so as to attend to the comfort of the membership. Upon his return, he learned that nominations — once again — had been opened and closed as Clary had been named as the Group's President for **another** year. This appointment by acclamation was accepted with a minimum of moaning and gnashing of teeth.

Thereafter, your president announced that he was in the process of designing a web-site for the Goo's Book Club. This task is nearly completed, but some assistance will be required in order to finalize the task and have the web-site posted. Alan Carey and Scott Thurston volunteered to assist Clary in this endeavor. It is hope that the web-site will be up and running before our next meeting. This is the goal. Perhaps it is an aspirational goal, but we shall see.

During the web-site discussion, some members expressed reluctance in having the web-site posted as a totally "open web-site" with our names, home addresses and e-mail addresses posted on the web. We will probably need to have some additional discussion on this point. For now, Clary "with the assistance of Alan Carey and Scott Thurston" will attempt to discovery the methodology through which the names and addresses of the group members can be resided on an "Member's Only" page accessible by password. As this sort of web-site nuance is beyond your writer's ken, we will have to look into this further.

Frank McArthur had volunteered to have the next meeting at his home, but — unfortunately — was not present at the meeting. So, it could not be scheduled. In the interim, the best date for the next meeting was found to be Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. The private room at Kiva's will be reserved for this meeting in case Frank is unable to host us at his home. On the other hand, if Frank is amenable to having this disreputable troupe gather at his home on that date, then we will meet there. There will be further information on the venue of our next meeting in subsequent communications, but the date is now assigned as Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 6:30 p.m.

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As the meeting progressed toward its conclusion, Herman Moyses Dragooned Clay Waggenpack (who foolishly mumbled something about his willingness to volunteer) and Clary selected our next read as "*The Dubliners*" by James Joyce. There was a collective gasp in the room as Clay named this work as some feared he might change his mind and switch the read from "*The Dubliners*" to that *other* book by James Joyce which we shall not name in fear of it seeping into the consciousness of others and pecculating to the surface as an assigned read at some point in the future. No more shall be said on the subject. Let us simply read the "*The Dubliners*" and reflect upon Churchill's great line : "*There is nothing so exhilarating in life as to be shot at in combat without result.*"

I am attaching herewith a new Roster of Members because Herb Dyer's guest Louis Leggio, was shanghaied into the group and we even wrested a \$10.00 bill (American) from Louis as our newest member. Thus, he is now incorporated into our roster. For the convenience of the membership, I am also attaching an up-to-date listing of the books read during the existence of our Happy Band.

So, until we meet again on Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. (at a site yet to be finalized), I remain — as ever

Your Obedient Servant,

James R. Clary, Jr.

JRCjr/jlw

Enclosures