

**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*

*Carter Wilkinson: 1947-2006*

*William E. "Bill" Fisher: 1937-2007*

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April 26, 2007

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**RE: GOOS BOOK CLUB MEETING OF March 15, 2007**

Lads:

The regiment assembled at the hospitable digs of Scott Thurston on Thursday, March 15, 2007.

**Present for duty were:**

Scott Thurston	Keith Richardson
Jim Clary, Jr.	John Clifford
Bubby Currier	Brian Luikart
Herman Moyese	Bob Thurston
Gus Dalton	Alan Carey
Wally Dunlap (who had brought a guest, Gene McCann)	
Clay Wagguespack	Louis Leggio

At the outset, the conscience of the group was that a program change was in order owing to the recent passing of one our founding members, Bill Fisher. Thus, instead of discussing interesting books recently read by the members, we shared our memories of Bill Fisher. He was a singular man — the genuine article — and he will be missed.

Thereafter, your obedient servant — who commenced his term during the Spring of 2002 — announced that he would **not** be a candidate for the office of Goos President during the nominating process which occurs in April of each year. However, having seen in past years how these Shermansque statements were treated by the Goos, Clary was forced to flank his own regiment. Toward this end, Clary announced the newest President-Elect of the Goos — a humble volunteer — Keith Richardson. Keith will assume his duties at the next Goos meeting which is to take place on Thursday, May 3, 2007, at Kiva's Restaurant, commencing at 7:30 p.m. We all know Keith to be an excellent choice for this office and we are honored by his volunteer service. The regiment will be in good hands.

After introducing Keith and hearing his brief acceptance speech, the meeting was turned over to our Dragooned Goo, Gus Dalton, for his presentation of the "*The End of the Affair*" by Graham Greene.

Gus started by making the following pronouncement: "*Graham Greene is the greatest writer of the English language in the Twentieth Century.*"

Given this, we sort of knew where Gus stood on the topic of Graham Greene.

Greene wrote 4 "Catholic" novels, of which "*The End of the Affair*" is one. In Gus' opinion, the best of these "Catholic" novels was "*Brighton Rock.*"

Born in England to a father who was the headmaster of the school where Greene received his early education, he endured a great deal of hazing. He survived 2 suicide attempts while young. At Oxford, he wrote poetry and had all the symptoms of a manic-depressive, in Gus' view. He was also sexually addicted and kept and maintained a book of prostitutes for those occasions when a proper lady just won't do. As an indicator of his mental status, Gus reported that Greene played Russian Roulette on 3 documented occasions, even as an adult. He would also save his sleeping pills like one of his characters in "*In the Heart of the Matter.*"

Greene converted to Catholicism in 1926, when he was 22 years old. He did it so that a girl he was dating would consider marrying him. Apparently, he wandered into a church and a priest — met wholly through coincidence — talked him into the conversion. Greene later reported that, once converted, he had a sense of foreboding, not joy. He also reported that he hoped his conversion would help him restrain his sexual urges — a hope which appears not to have been realized over the years.

After marrying the Catholic girl, he continued to see prostitutes. He had a series of affairs with married women, some of which was explored in *“The End of the Affair.”*

Greene had 2 children, but did not like kids. This was odd because he wrote 4 children’s books. Gus mused that it would be interesting to read a children’s book written by someone who hated children.

Greene left London and his wife in 1961, although he never divorced. He never saw his wife again, although he continued to support her. She did attend his funeral, as did Greene’s paramour.

Greene listed his literary influences as Joseph Conrad and John Galsworthy, a Scottish writer.

Over the years, Greene wrote 4 novels and 21 “entertainments” — always with an eye toward the movies because that’s where the money was.

As we moved into the discussion of the novel, Scot Thurston asked an interesting question which generated much comment:

*“Who loved Sarah more. . . Bendrix or her husband Henry?”*

Cases were made for both gentlemen.

The tone of commentary seemed to indicate that the group enjoyed the novel. It remains questionable as to whether or not the group consensus was that — as Gus noted — Greene was the *“greatest writer of the English language in the Twentieth Century.”*

At the conclusion of the discussion, Gus Dragooned Jim Clary, Jr., who immediately selected the biography of Stonewall Jackson as our next read. It is entitled: "*Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Soldier, The Legend.*" The novel is by James I. Robertson, a professor of history at Virginia Tech. While it is true that the book is 950 pages, it reads beautifully. Besides, an understanding of the life of Thomas Jonathan Jackson is submitted to the group like medicine. . .it is for your own good.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 3, 2007 at Kiva's Restaurant. We will convene in our usual private room at 6:30 p.m. Keith Richardson will then take the helm.

It has been my pleasure to occupy a position of service for the Goos over these last 5 years. It is difficult to convey how much pleasure my affiliation with this group brings to me. I shall now settle into retirement as a past Goos' officer, although I have been **shocked** to discover that I will receive no pension. Notwithstanding this glaring oversight, I — much like President Jimmy Carter — will now make myself available for such special missions or projects as may be delegated unto me by President Richardson.

Thus, this will be my final Newsletter.

Thanking all of you for your many kindnesses over the years, I remain — as ever,

Your obedient servant,

James R. Clary, Jr.

JRCjr/slc