

"Deliberator"



"Geronimo"



"PC Wiz"



"Shadow"



The Hudson Valley Bullshit Society

HVBS Official Minutes of the 3rd 2011 Meeting on April 27 at the Hoffman House in Kingston, NY.

- 1- **PC Wiz's** Camry arrived with **Shadow** at 11:14 AM. A few minutes later the immaculate Acura of **Geronimo** appeared. After initial greetings, **Geronimo** displayed the scar on his right hand where his surgeon performed the second carpal tunnel surgery. He informed us the results are good although there is some movement limitation that will improve with time. Concerning his hip operation **Geronimo** told us, although it has healed well, the use of his right leg is still restricted so he has to use the "gadget" to put on his socks. Entering the premises we encountered enthusiastic greetings and host **Pat Bradley** brought the menus to our usual corner table. Upon being asked which position our third member wished, **Shadow** opted for the corner with his back to the wall. **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** arrived for our initial beverage orders. **Geronimo** and **PC Wiz** ordered Killian Red's while **Shadow** selected a cabernet sauvignon.
- 2- The first issue **Shadow** raised was the CBS 60 Minutes broadcast concerning the Greek Orthodox Holy Mountain, Mount Athos, with its 20 monasteries (17 Greek, 3 foreign). **PC Wiz** had also watched the program and **Geronimo** said he and **HVBS Associate Member Kay** had visited a monastery and would have enjoyed seeing the broadcast. Established in 1054, Mount Athos is accessible only by a single boat, the St. Eshpighmenitis. Although only men are allowed as visitors, at the time **Kay** and other women were allowed. They had to wear a skirt and **Kay**, wearing slacks, was given a wrap-around skirt to conform. The period ended because, as **PC Wiz** noted, the monks were "distracted" from their duties by the presence of women. Our beverages arrived and members toasted, including remembering our departed founding member **Deliberator**. **Geronimo** was critical of Fed Chairman Bernanke's policies of printing money which have resulted in the Euro going to \$1.46. **PC Wiz**, stating that the "normal" range was \$1.25 to \$1.34 in the recent past, was startled at the news since he no longer has cable and doesn't see the CNBC programs.
- 3- **PC Wiz** gave **Shadow** a copy of **Geronimo's** e-mail referring to Sunday's NASCAR race at Talladega, Alabama. The racers ran in pairs, tightly closing under the leading car's bumper, for the edge of "drafting" - increasing the pair's speed by reducing drag. **Geronimo's** question was whether this constituted a new "team" sport unlike racing to win in years gone by. Although not happy with this type of racing, **Shadow** pointed out that it only occurs at the high-speed long tracks of Talladega and Daytona. At the end of the race all bets are off and there is a free-for-all to win so **Shadow** is, essentially, in agreement with the practice. **Geronimo** still maintained that in real racing in the past, drivers would "push their Mother off the track" to win. **Shadow** persisted that that is what still happens at the end. **PC Wiz** helpfully offered the suggestion that maybe NASCAR just needed another new rule outlawing the practice: the cars would be slower and driver skill would still be required to win.
- 4- **Geronimo** then pulled out his supply of jokes and regaled us with some truly funny stories. **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** appeared to take our luncheon orders. **PC Wiz** quickly ordered the fish and chips and **Geronimo** opted for the chicken sandwich. **Shadow** appeared hesitant so **Waitress Lorayne**, displaying her remarkable memory, suggested his "usual", the French dip. However, after first asking her opinion, **Shadow** then ordered the pulled pork sandwich. After the food had arrived, **PC Wiz** attempted (repeatedly) to start the new bottle of catsup. Shaking it didn't help - **Geronimo** suggested rapping the bottle, **Shadow** said to hit it on the bottom. Nothing worked. **Waitress Lorayne**, noting the problem, came to help. After some raps on the side of the bottle it proceeded to move. She informed us that striking the bottle on the "numbers" was the way they always started the catsup. **Geronimo** asked **PC Wiz** if he "cooked". **Shadow** said "yes", a little was **PC Wiz's** reply. Just simple dinners, mostly tuna salad, frozen meat balls and pasta or slices from a small ham. **Geronimo** said he does

not cook but patronizes Adams Fairacre Farms where he buys cooked entrées which they have in great variety. **Geronimo** finds them large enough to divide in half for two days.

- 5- **Shadow** said that he and **Associate Member Shirley's** favorite butcher is Fred the Butcher in Clifton Park. Recently moving to a large, new store Fred, the owner, tragically had died at 71. **Shadow** went on to explain that his family had asked him to ease off on his schedule but Fred rationalized how he felt responsible for each piece of meat or store-made product that he sold. He couldn't give up his "hands on" approach, a rapidly disappearing trait. Which prompted **Shadow** to reminisce on how he and **Geronimo** had operated when they were working on local jobs. When a problem arose, **Shadow** would suggest a solution and, after due consideration, **Geronimo** would probably approve the process and the deed was done. Today it is a complicated operation which many people have to be consulted and approve - inefficient and expensive.
- 6- To **Geronimo's** query as to how work was doing, **Shadow** replied that he was increasingly disgusted by the work - no new jobs for the company and "nothing but paperwork". He said he may not be working much longer. **Geronimo** commented that there is an age factor involved in how enthusiastic a person is about a job. **Shadow** mentioned that **Bobbi and Randy** were going to close on their new house on April 28 (tomorrow) and the house would be theirs. **PC Wiz** apologized for not having pictures of the finished house and **Shadow** reiterated that **Geronimo** would get a tour of the property when he visits **Shadow** and **Shirley**. He asked how **Dan** is doing on his new job at Turtle Beach. **Geronimo** replied that **Dan** purposely leased the house because he was not sure of the future although the company is profitable and busy. Which somehow brought us to the subject of lawns. **Geronimo** has a new "lawn guy" since last Fall's debacle. He is going to do the "touch-up" mowing and clean-up for a modest \$29.00 after **Geronimo** uses his tractor for the area mowing. The lawn has been power seeded to replace the dead grass leaving a muddy ground with 4" clumps which "the guy" says will break down by themselves. Not believing the story (members agree) **Geronimo** spent time manually breaking up the clumps.
- 7- In sports, **Shadow** stated that he is impressed by Bartolo Colon, the Yankee pitcher from the Dominican Republic, while no-one knows what's wrong with Hughes. **Geronimo** agreed that Derek Jeter at 36 is no longer the short stop he was, with a very low percentage of hits in clutch situations. Also that Jorge Posada wasn't good enough even for the designated hitter position. **Geronimo** declared that the problem with modern pitchers was the emphasis on fast balls. In the past the great Cy Young pitchers (like Sandy Koufax) threw a bewildering variety of balls that baffled the hitters instead of trying to overpower them with the fast ball. **PC Wiz** asked about the latest on the NFL lockout which was stopped by a court injunction. **Shadow** said it applies to parts of the dispute, (the draft will proceed) but that essentially the problem was greed on the part of the players and owners: how to share 50 billion dollars.
- 8- Concerning the MLB takeover of the Dodgers, **Shadow** said it was caused by a divorce problem of the owners, the McCourts. They bought the team from Fox in 2004 and McCourt recently got a 30 million dollar loan from Fox backed by Boston property that has declined in value. Incidentally **Shadow** pointed out that the MLB monitor is Tom Schieffer, son of CBS Bob Schieffer. **Geronimo** asked for **Shadow's** take on the NY Rangers who had just lost in the season playoffs against the Washington Capitals. **Shadow**, who describes the performance of the Rangers as "schizophrenic" because of their unreliable play, pointed out that they are the same as in the last 10-12 years. **Waitress Lorayne** brought us our coffees and asked about desserts. **Geronimo** ordered the cheesecake, **PC Wiz** thought the flan would be fine and **Shadow**, after the generous portioned pulled pork opted for a portion of just plain chocolate ice cream. **Geronimo** reflected, on being asked by **Shadow** how things are going at his house, that his electric bill has actually gone down 30% in the latest month since his guests have left. Also, after buying a generous supply of 100 and 60 watt bulbs, has found he is no longer constantly replacing bulbs since he consistently turns the lights off when not in use.
- 9- **Shadow** brought up the issue of a date for our next meeting. **Geronimo**, anticipating the problem, had brought along a calendar. After some discussion a date in five weeks was accepted: **Wednesday June 1, 2011**. Our bill shares were determined by **Shadow**, \$29.00 each, and **Geronimo** used his credit card to make payment. We then adjourned the meeting.

Thanks to **Geronimo** for his cogent review.

HVBS Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

May 4, 2011