

## BRAIN WARS

*Pastor Schmidt recently competed in Cedar Crossing's 14th Annual Bowling Tournament. He has always felt, when given a little free time, that he should take part in affairs of the community. His score in the tournament, unfortunately, was not high—let's not sugarcoat this, in fact, it was the lowest score in the contest. It did merit him the "booby prize" award—two free passes to the taping of the "Brain Wars" television show in Rainbow Springs. Rarely one to not take advantage of anything deemed free, he and Mary attended the show as Cedar Crossing's delegates to a greater understanding of the human mind.*

Five, four, three, two, one — “Live from Rainbow Springs, it's Brain Wars,” announced the baritone voiced director. The studio audience hit their cue with a thunderous round of applause.

Dashing out on stage, a nattily dressed gentleman raised his arms and the audience once again broke out in applause.

“And your host, Mr. Bob ‘Go for Broke’ Morgan,” continued the director.

“Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,” said the much-admired host. “Welcome to Brain Wars, the quiz show that has many of the finest minds in the world standing on edge. Get those cerebrums warmed up and let’s have a party. I’d like to introduce my lovely assistant, Miss Bambi Bambusa. Come on now, folks, let’s hear it for Bambi ... What do you say, audience? Are you ready?”

Miss Bambi held up a sign that said, “We’re ready, Bob”, and the audience followed her prompting.

“Okay, then,” said Bob ‘Go for Broke’ Morgan. “Our returning champion is chairman of the History Department at Ballmore College and a senior fellow at the Medford Institute. Ladies and gentlemen, let’s welcome back Professor Kurt Strong ... Well, Professor, are you ready to meet your opponent?”

“Yes, Bob. I believe I’m up for the challenge.”

As Bambi escorted the new contestant to his podium, Bob said, “Good evening, sir. And your name is?”

“Bob, my name is Morris. Morris Calabash, but you can call me Rocky.”

“Alright, Rocky. Where are you from?”

“Bob, I’m just a simple tourist from Hole-in-the-Wall, Texas.”

“Hole-in-the-Wall, Texas! Sounds like a fun place to be.”

“Bob, you can disparage me and my family all you want, but don’t mess with Texas.”

“Sorry, Rocky,” said Bob. “No offense intended. Are you ready to test your brain, Rocky?”

“I reckon so, Bob.”

“Okay, Miss Bambi, may I have the envelope, please?”

As Bob opened the envelope, Bambi wrote the category on the board. “Alright, our category tonight is ‘The Bible’. Professor, as returning champion, you have the first question. Can you name the thirteen letters of Paul in the order that they appear in the Bible?”

“Yes, Bob, that would be Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon.”

“That is correct, Professor. You have the first point.” Bambi hung a number 1 on the professor’s

podium as Bob turned to Rocky. “Okay, Morris, I mean, Rocky. You are up to bat. Your question is ... who wrote The Bible?”

“Is this a trick question, Bob?”

“No, Rocky. Who wrote The Bible?”

“Miss Bambi did. I just seen her write it on the board.”

“That’s absolutely correct, Rocky.”

Miss Bambi held up the applause sign and then hung a number 1 on Rocky’s podium.

From out of the back of the audience a woman yelled out, “Yee-haw, Rocky. Atta boy!”

Pointing to the woman, Rocky said proudly, “That there’s my wife, Hannah Mae. Hey Hannah.”

“Okay, we’re all tied up at 1 to 1. Back to you, Professor. Can you name the books that comprise the Pentateuch?”

“Yes, Bob, that would be Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.”

“That’s it, Professor.” As Bambi hung a number 2 on the professor’s podium, Bob turned to Rocky again. “Alr-r-r-right, Rocky. Are you ready for question number 2?”

“Let er rip, Bob.”

“In the book of Matthew, we are told that Jesus, when he started his ministry, chose twelve disciples to help him in his mission. Judas, one of the twelve, later betrayed Jesus and eventually killed himself. In the book of Acts, we are told that a man named Matthias was chosen to replace Judas as a disciple. Your question then is ... after Matthias replaced Judas, how many disciples were there?”

Rocky folded his arms and then put one hand up to his chin, as if in deep concentration. He soon went through a lengthy series of ‘air’ ciphering and finger counting.

“I need your answer, Rocky.”

“I’m gonna take a stab in the dark on this one, Bob. I think there were twelve.”

“That’s absolutely correct.”

Bambi held up the applause sign and hung a number 2 on Rocky’s podium.

From the back of the audience came, “Yee-haw, atta boy, Rocky.”

“Okay, Professor, it’s back to you one more time. This is a fill-in-the-blank. In the book of Matthew, we are given the following genealogy: And

David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ the father of Asa ...”

“Hmm, Bob, I believe that was Ebijah.”

“Oh, Professor, that was so close. The answer is Abijah, not Ebijah. I’m sorry. I can’t give you that point.”

Bambi grabbed the microphone and said, “A-a-a-w-w-w.”

“Okay, Rocky. It’s all up to you. If you get this point, you win the war. Are you ready?”

“I’m just filled with trepidation, Bob.”

“Hang in there, big guy. This is also a fill-in-the-blank. We divide the Bible into two parts. The first part is the Old Testament, and the second part is the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament.”

Rocky fidgeted about, shifted from one foot to the other, and scratched his head. Then he tugged on his right ear, put his hands in his pockets, and closed his eyes.

“This is it, Rocky,” said Bob. “Don’t blow it.”

“Boy, howdy. I sure wish I ... I knew.”

“That’s it, Rocky ... ‘New’. You are our new champion.”

Bambi held up the applause sign and hung a number 3 on Rocky’s podium.

From out of the back of the audience came, “Yee-haw, atta boy, Rocky.”

“Come on over here, Rocky. Hannah Mae, why don’t you come on up here, too. Oh, come on now folks, let’s hear it one more time for Morris ‘Rocky’ Calabash. Okay, let’s see what you’ve won. Bambi, may I have the envelope, please. Oh, Rocky, this is nice. Real nice. You and your lovely wife, Hannah Mae, have won a two-week vacation package to the luxurious Einstein Theory Resort. In addition to that, we also have for you, your very own, personalized ‘Inflate-O-Brain’.”

“I’m too choked up to talk, Bob.”

“Well, ladies and gentlemen, there you have it. Another week. Another champion. Remember, always use a big word when a small one would do. Until next time, from all of us here at Brain Wars, be good and love your mother!”

