

NEWS

Commander of the Enola Gay dies at 92

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Gen. Paul W. Tibbets Jr., commander of the *Enola Gay*, the infamous plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, died on Thursday at the age of 92. Tibbets made history in 1945 after his plane, a B-29 Superfortress named in honor of his mother, released a uranium atomic bomb over Japan. This marked one of the crucial points in the decline of World War II.

In the past few years, according to Tibbets friend Gerry Newhouse and *The Columbus Dispatch*, Tibbets had been suffering from small strokes and heart failure in a local hospital.

Just before daybreak on Aug. 6, 1945, Tibbets manned the cockpit of his airplane awaiting the devastation that was unforeseen but highly anticipated. At approximately 8:15 a.m., Tibbets, who at the time was Colonel Tibbets, flew his plane over Hiroshima and dropped the first atomic bomb, "Little Boy," over the city of 250,000, killing almost one-third of the population instantly. The bomb was the result of the \$2 million "Manhattan Project," which involved a team of highly qualified scientists developing weapons to beat Germany in the war of arms.

After the event, Tibbets told America in "The Tibbets Story," of "the awesome sight that met our eyes as we turned for a heading that would take us alongside the burning, devastated city."

"The giant purple mushroom, which the tail-gun-

ner had described, had already risen to a height of 45,000 feet, three miles above our own altitude, and was still boiling upward like something terribly alive," Tibbets said in the interview.

With the dropping of "Little Boy" and the subsequent plutonium bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, many began to question whether the plan by Truman to drop the bomb was indeed up to ethical and moral code. Tibbets, who was 29 at the time of the flight, held the same sentiment that many American soldiers had during the war. "I was anxious to do it," he said in a PBS interview. "I wanted to do everything that I could to subdue Japan. I wanted to kill the bastards. That was the attitude of the United States in those years." He added, "I have been convinced that we saved more lives than we took."

Before his military career, Tibbets was interested in airplanes at an early age. His first recollection of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 Tibbets in his plane prior to his mission.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 Tibbets giving a speech later in his life.

After the academy, Tibbets joined the military where he met then-Lieutenant Colonel George Patton. It was rumored that the two men would even spend days skeet shooting, many matches of which were won by Tibbets.

For much of World War II, Tibbets flew in the 40th Squadron of the 97th Bomb Group from the United States to Europe. He continued to fly B-17s to Europe in the war until he was called to fly the B-29 Superfortress, and ultimately the *Enola Gay*.

Despite the controversy surrounding the event, Tibbets says he has no regrets about his involvement with the atomic arms. In an interview with *The Guardian*, a news source in England and Wales, Tibbets described his sentiment after the bomb was dropped. "I knew we did the right thing because when I knew we'd be doing that I thought, 'yes, we're going to kill a lot of people,'" said Tibbets. "But by God we're going to save a lot of lives. We won't have to invade [Japan]."

Newhouse said that the former Army Air Force General declined a funeral and headstone in fear of imminent protests. In 2005, according to *The Guardian*, Tibbets wanted his ashes scattered in the English Channel. This was the place Tibbets enjoyed flying the most in the war.

a flight was when he was 12 years old. Doug Davis, who was a famous stunt pilot at the time, invited Tibbets to fly over the Hialeah racetrack and Miami Beach to throw Baby Ruth candy bars at the crowds.

The next year, he attended Western Military Academy with Butch O'Hare (O'Hare Airport's namesake), where he learned what military life was like.

Imad Rahman delivers passionate reading in Smith Chapel

By Ariel Cooksey-Kramer
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Imad Rahman, renowned author of the fiction *I Dream Of Microwaves*, published in 2004, delivered a public reading in the Smith Chapel on Thursday, Oct. 25. After 18 years of growing up in Karachi, Pakistan, he immigrated to the United States in order to obtain a degree in Creative Writing from Ohio State University. He currently resides in Manhattan, Kansas, teaching Creative Writing at Kansas State University.

He read two works from his main collection of stories within *I Dream Of Microwaves* with the enthusiasm and substance of an author who breathes fiction in and exhales its contents into the world like smoke.

In Tom Noyes' words, a Creative Writing Professor on Behrend's campus, Rahman's main protagonist is, "the best kind of character. Chock

full of paradoxes, seemingly motivated, sometimes by self-interest, sometimes by integrity. He resembles every man and every woman, and no one I've ever met in my life."

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is a Pakistani actor whose story begins when he receives a one-way bus ticket from an old girlfriend, who tells him she's constantly thinking of him. Kareem tackles wild adventures including a "costumed hawk" at a dive bar, and a lonesome man craving a fresh start in life and love.

Noyes also commented during the introduction that, "the best fiction teaches its readers something. I'm not talking about morality, but rather nuts and bolts." Rahman's collection of Kareem's adventures teaches its readers an abundance of "How-To's" in extremely unique ways.

Examples from the readings, Noye says, include how to be mugged, in New York City, and how to carry on an old-wounds phone conversation with an ex-girlfriend, while simultaneously enjoying a Discovery Channel special on piranhas. Numerous

accounts of mishaps turned excitingly good and excitingly decent scenes, go incredibly bad in these readings, all keeping the audience laughing, on the edge of their seats craving more.

A reviewer said of the collection, it's "like sitting on your favorite couch and flipping through channels on the TV when there is nothing good on, and then by chance landing on a show on some obscure channel that totally captivates you and forces you to watch it till the credits are done rolling."

After the reading, Rahman took questions, for which many hands in the audience shot up in anticipation. He is currently working on another novel, and is unwilling to give away any further details

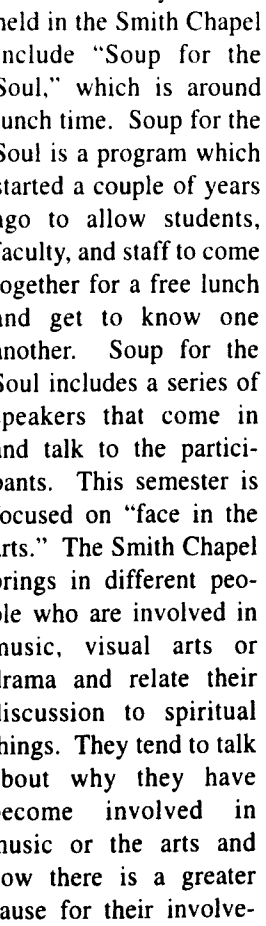
except for the fact that Abdul-Jabbar will not be the main protagonist in this new narrative. He does, in fact, base some of his main characters on real-life people. He also occasionally 'steals' some of his friends' words to use in his works though his friends' intentionally ramble sentences they think might end up in his next book.

Rahman was a delight to listen to, freely, unabashedly letting his own works of words flow from his tongue with passion. Watch for his next work of fiction in the upcoming years, as he is an author worth keeping an eye on.

Smith Chapel offers Behrend students diverse programs and activities

By Brittany Sexton
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There are many things available to students at Penn State Behrend, from intramural sports to sororities and fraternities. The Smith Chapel is another center for activities in which students can meet new people and communicate through ideas similar to everyone else. The various activities held in the Smith Chapel include "Soup for the Soul," which is around lunch time. Soup for the Soul is a program which started a couple of years ago to allow students, faculty, and staff to come together for a free lunch and get to know one another. Soup for the Soul includes a series of speakers that come in and talk to the participants. This semester is focused on "face in the arts." The Smith Chapel brings in different people who are involved in music, visual arts or drama and relate their discussion to spiritual things. They tend to talk about why they have become involved in music or the arts and how there is a greater cause for their involvement in the arts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
 The Smith Chapel is home to the Behrend's Catholic and Protestant worship services.

Evening activities make the Smith Chapel much busier. On Sunday nights there is a Protestant campus ministry worship group that commences at 5:30 p.m., and afterwards there are usually snacks or a meal downstairs. The services are usually casual. After the Protestant worship group has ended another mass comes into place. At 7:30 p.m. Catholic mass begins. The mass is held just like at any other church and after mass has ended the

students and whichever faculty attended have discussions on how they felt the mass was run. Sunday nights are the busiest for the Smith Chapel but Tuesdays have a few activities as well. Every Tuesday a bible study runs at 5:00 p.m. where students come and study the last book of the bible, The Book of Revelations.

Besides religious services and bible studies the Smith Chapel is also used by different organizations on campus. Different groups come in to practice, such as the choir. Every Wednesday the worship team uses the Chapel for practices and the Catholic team practices there too. The sororities and fraternities on campus use the Smith Chapel for the initiation that occurs at the end of pledging experience. On special days such as Holy Week there are services every night to help students keep up with their faith. This chapel is very useful to the campus because it contains so many different groups and activities for students who have strong faith to keep their beliefs alive and well. A forum is coming up on the Iraqi War and it is going to be held at the Smith Chapel. Rebecca McFee has invited three professors to discuss the Just War theory which is a Christian perspective and has a historical approach

to the theory of this war. There will be soldiers who have been in Iraq and Afghanistan recently and will discuss their personal faith and their experience in the way. This year the forum will be held Nov 15. Last year there was a great turn out and McFee along with some of the faculty involved hope for another big turn out!

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