

Warriors of God by James Reston  
By Charlie Moore (Lay '99)

James Reston's Warrior's of God is a captivating book of Richard The Lionheart, Saladin and the Third Crusade. Given the events of today, the book provides insight into the seething and explosive distrust between the "Crusaders" and Islam. Upon reading the book, one no longer wonders at the passions incited by Osama Bin Laden when he labels soldiers of the West "Crusaders." His terminology is chosen purposefully and well. How one views the history and impact of the Crusades may well determine how one formulates an opinion of today's events and struggles.

The book reads better than fiction. For those of us who have visited the Mid East, the places will be familiar, indeed. In addition to Richard and Saladin there are many more fascinating characters in the book. History is startlingly revealed. Who would know that Richard and Phillip were lovers? The atrocities of the Crusaders in the name of God were beyond imagination. The incredible logistics of moving the Christian armies across Europe to Palestine were daunting beyond belief.

Many of you have walked the cities, the Tells and other places cited in this thrilling story of adventure, bloody warfare, deceit, cruelty and conquest (along with loss and reconquest!) Horns of Hattin sound familiar? All is remembered and illuminated as Reston takes us to battle.

Run, don't walk, to the bookstore for your copy.