

REND LAKE COLLEGE

TIMES

December 1998

By the students, for the students.

NCA Evaluations Now in Progress

Paula Clouse
Staff Writer

North Central Association, one of five accrediting organizations of high schools and colleges in the United States, is making final preparations for the on-campus visit in March.

Five years of study, survey, writing and research by Rend Lake's North Central Committee, Chaired by Barbara Bauernfeind and Co-Chaired by Rosalie Hoar culminates into one voluminous document filled with evaluative narrative concerning virtually every facet of Rend Lake College.

"All aspects of the college are evaluated," stated Hoar, "from the mission statement of the college to the infrastructure and facilities."

The following five criteria are used in these evaluations:

1. The institution has clear and publicly stated purposes consistent with its mission and appropriate to an institution of higher education.

2. The institution has effectively organized the human, financial and physical resources necessary to accomplish its purposes.

3. The institution is accomplishing its educational and other purposes.

4. The institution can continue to accomplish its purposes and strengthen its educational effectiveness.

5. The institution demonstrates integrity in its practices and relationships.

Bauernfeind stated that, "Although these five criteria are universally used by any committee evaluating for accreditation, they are

'tailored' specifically for the student population and facility that is being evaluated. For example, SIU's 'spin-offs' of these criteria will look very different to Rend Lake's. However, Kaskaskia College may look more similar due to the size and type of college and student population it draws." Bauernfeind went on to say that the committee consists of Rend Lake College faculty and staff, which allows an introspective look at what's going on at Rend Lake. We, in essence, evaluate ourselves. We submit both assets and liabilities so

we can be the best institution we can be, and so we can remain competitive."

North Central's Publicity Committee, plans to do a publicity push in January to heighten awareness in students, faculty and administration. They hope to send information via e-mail, FYI publications, the RLC *Times*, and the RLC website.

Jeannie Mitchell, a publicity committee member, will conduct random student interviews in a "man on the street" format in January. Be looking for a woman wielding a microphone from WRLC!

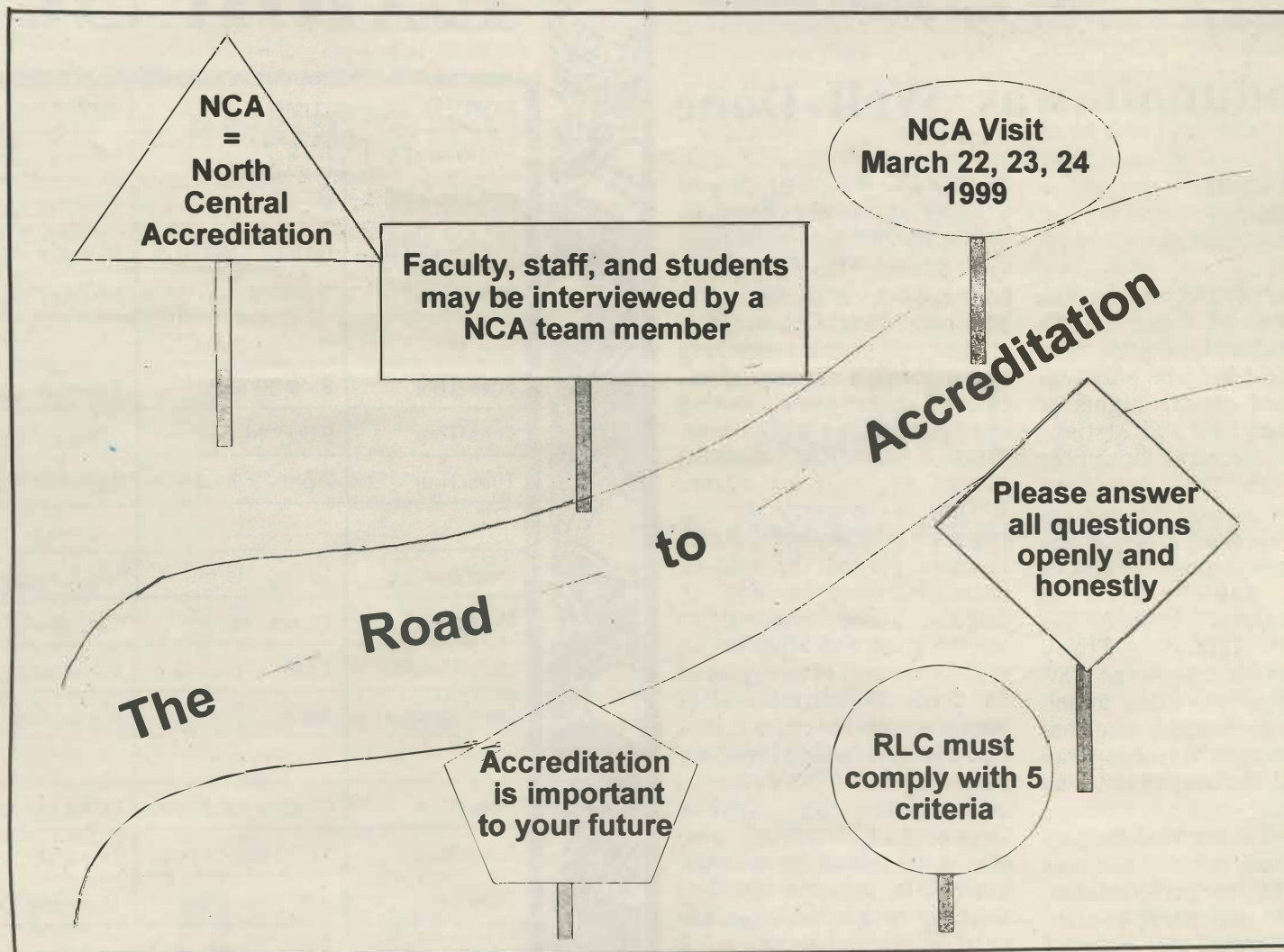
Prizes will be given to students who participate in the survey. This in-person survey is in addition to the written student surveys given to students last spring. Student's comments, faculty evaluations, and all other findings by the committee will be documented in the final report's appendices, and will be published and distributed for reading.

"Each full-time faculty member will be given a copy of the report, as well as each department chair. Extra copies will be available for student's use in departmental

offices, in the LRC, even on the Rend Lake College webpage," said Bauernfeind.

In closing, Bauernfeind stated that she is "very appreciative of the writers and other volunteer committee members who have worked very hard and have put in many, many hours contributing to the overall report."

Stay tuned to the RLC *Times* for more information concerning the North Central Committee, and how we as students will benefit from the findings of this committee.



WEATHER

Travis Donoho
Student Editor

The El Nino is finally fading away, but some meteorologists are predicting yet another weather phenomenon. By 1999 or 2000, we could be facing the La Nina, the opposite of the El Nino. Instead of the warm Pacific Ocean water that the El Nino caused in 1997, the La Nina is expected to cool those waters and produce a period of unusually cold weather. If the phenomenon does come to pass, our weather would be exactly the opposite of 1997's winter, and would result in a dry and sunny western U.S. and Canada and a cold and snowy Central and Eastern U.S. and Canada.

If the temperature drops, other changes could take

place. The cycling of moisture between the world's water and sky could be slowed, resulting in less rainfall globally. Also, the atmospheric winds of the world could be altered, changing the paths and distributions of weather systems and precipitation. The colder the atmosphere gets, the greater these changes may be.

But more directly, according to the 1999 *Farmer's Almanac*,

By mid December, winter will have well set in, and toward the end of the month, the light snows will grow a little heavier and the colds will get a little colder, but as 1998 draws to a close, the average temperatures will still be a little higher than winter of 1997.

Whodunnit was Well Done

Duane Culli
Staff Writer

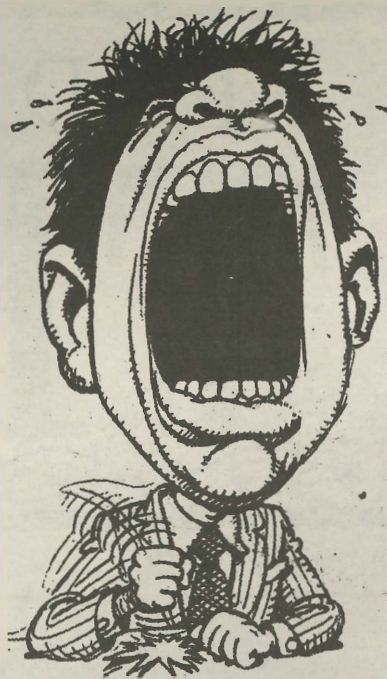
Bravo! Bravo! to the cast and crew of Rend Lake's recently completed play, "The Butler Did It." The play was performed on the nights of November 20th and 21st and on the afternoon of November 22nd, 1998. Tracy Brouillette may now add another success to her directing career, as she led her cast through the task of finding the "killer" in Ravenswood Manor on Turkey Island. Tracy estimates that between 180 and 200 people came to see the play each night, and that the Sunday Matinee was attended better than was expected.

This writer attended the play last Saturday evening and was delighted by the performance. The "set" was exceptionally well constructed and included a grand staircase, that must have given the actors and actresses a good workout, and a receding bookcase that hid a secret passageway.

The "characters" of the play were; Jim Andros(RLC student) who played a dual role as Rick Carlyle and his evil twin who happens to get killed. Georgette Lopez(RLC student) played the role of Laura Carlyle, the not so bereaved widow of Rick. Steve McInnes(RLC student) played Chandler Marlowe "a seedy gum shoe" more interested in dames than in solving crimes. Sara

Scott(RLC Student) played Charity Haze, the Bondish action heroine that must fight off a jealous wife, a psychotic housemaid, and Chandler Marlowe. Jared Osborn(RLC student) plays the interesting and goofy Louie Fan, oriental investigator spouting confused Confucianisms. Tony Jenkins(RLC student) played the role of Father White, a mystery loving minister of mayhem. Keith Pearson played the role of Peter Flimsey, a cop in disguise. These six characters are the guests of Miss Maple at Ravenswood Manor, played by Sara Wilkinson. Miss Maple's social secretary, Rita Eyelsbarrow was played by Julie Pearson. The cast was completed by Robin George(RLC student) who played the role of Haversham, a wolf in sheep's clothing waiting to get revenge for getting dumped by Rick Carlyle. The mystery voice on the radio sounded a great deal like that of English/Journalism Professor Michael P. Mullen, a skulking hellion of theatrical circles.

Action, mystery and comedy blended together to make a delightful night's entertainment. Tracy Brouillette will tackle another musical next, as soon as she recovers from her current outing. Try-outs for "Meet Me In St. Louis" are tentatively scheduled for January 12th or 13th, 1999. So dust off those vocal cords and stay tuned for more information to follow.



1998 Fall Semester

Exam Schedule

NORMAL CLASS TIME	EXAM DATE	EXAM TIME
Mon/Wed/Fri 8 - 9 am	Monday, December 14	8 am - 10 am
Mon/Wed/Fri 9 - 10 am	Monday, December 14	10 am - Noon
Mon/Wed/Fri Noon - 1 pm	Monday, December 14	1 pm - 3 pm
Mon/Wed/Fri 3 pm - 4 pm	Monday, December 14	3 pm - 5 pm
Tues/Thur 8 - 9:30 am	Tuesday, December 15	8 am - 10 am
Tues/Thur 9:30 - 11 am	Tuesday, December 15	10 am - Noon
Tues/Thur 2 pm - 3:30 pm	Tuesday, December 15	1 pm - 3 pm
Mon/Wed/Fri 10 am - 11 am	Wednesday, December 16	8 am - 10 am
Mon/Wed/Fri 11 am - Noon	Wednesday, December 16	10 am - Noon
Mon/Wed/Fri 1 pm - 2 pm	Wednesday, December 16	1 pm - 3 pm
Mon/Wed/Fri 2 pm - 3 pm	Wednesday, December 16	3 pm - 5 pm
Tues/Thur 11 am - 12:30 pm	Thursday, December 17	8 am - 10 am
Tues/Thur 12:30 pm - 2 pm	Thursday, December 17	10 am - Noon
Tues/Thur 3:30 pm - 5 pm	Thursday, December 17	1 pm - 3 pm

EVENING CLASSES

Monday Evening	Monday, December 14
Tuesday Evening	Tuesday, December 15
Wednesday Evening	Wednesday, December 16
Thursday Evening	Thursday, December 17

SATURDAY CLASSES

SATURDAY CLASSES	Saturday, December 19
ART CRITIQUES	Critiques are scheduled by the Arts & Communications Dept.

If you have a class that doesn't fit into this format, you need to set a time with the class and notify your chairman and the vice president.

RLC Editorials



Gun Control is a Misfire

Eric McLain
Student Editor

Gun control is a volatile issue in today's society, especially in light of the violence that has taken place within our schools in the last few years.

The gun control advocates present an argument that, as long as it is not confused with the facts, sounds good. If we take away all the guns, then there won't be anyone getting shot. What a wonderful idea, in theory. In theory, the "bad guys" go the local gun shop and buy their guns through the proper legal channels set up by our government. If this

were the case, then we could circumvent their purchase of firearms thereby lessening the amount of gun-related violence. Notice, if you will, the number of "ifs" and "theories" in this argument. Ask a logician, she will probably say that most anti-gun arguments are not logically sound.

As far as the numbers that Handgun Control Inc. put forth in their campaign to rid citizens of any semblance of freedom, they have a tendency to be skewed. They have admitted this whenever pressed on the issue in public. As an example, they cite the number of deaths related to

handguns as though they were all cases in which innocent people were killed by bad men with guns. In fact, their statistics include all suicides with handguns, all legitimate officer-involved shootings from police departments, and all accidental shootings reported in the country. When you consider this fact, it makes one question the validity of the statistics they quote on any subject.

I am not saying that some so-called advocates of the Second Amendment haven't stretched the truth when it suited them. These are the military wannabe's that couldn't hack it in the real world and retreated to

Montana, or some other isolated place. These people cause many Americans' to judge all pro-gun citizens as lunatics. Please bear in mind that these militia-men in cammies are NOT representative of the average American gun enthusiast.

When one takes the time to look for the real statistics, the case for gun control starts to weaken considerably. According to the *L.A. Times* (a paper that has been extremely anti-gun for many years), the number of people whose lives are saved by the mere presence of a firearm is far greater than the number that H.C.I. claims die every year because of a gun.

When one reads the Bill of Rights, one finds that the personal possession of firearms was obviously something that our country's fathers' found tremendously important. They provided the citizens of this country with the right to bear arms. It is evident that other leaders

throughout history knew the consequences of having their citizens armed. Men like Hitler and Mao tse-Tuang realized that if they were to be successful in their endeavors, they would have to relieve their citizens of any way to fight back. After Hitler was made Chancellor, his first official act was to ban the possession of firearms by private citizens. The outcome of that act is known by all. The first step in having total control of a society is to disarm the society so that it may not fight back.

If some of you were riding the fence on this most important of issues in our country today, then I sincerely hope that I was able to point out to you the inconsistencies of the arguments of the gun control movement. Just don't be swayed by emotional drivel put forth by the anti-gun propaganda machine, look at the facts and come to your own rational decision based on logic.

Twelve Days of Christmas Stress

Paula Clouse
Staff Writer

Stress levels elevate, hearts palpitate, children salivate ... what does this mean? Have we been at last "nuked" by biological weapons? No, it means the Christmas season is rapidly approaching ... and there's "no where to run, no where to hide."

In reflection of "typical" things that go on in *this* writer's life at Christmas time, I found myself torn away from the peaceful and serene "Silent Night" and thrust into the stress-filled "Twelve Days of Christmas Stress."

Please sing along with me as I lament the loss of my sanity and sift through the vast Christmas expanse that lies before me in search of the true meaning of Christmas.

On the 1st day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me - a good friend to whine and pray with. On the 2nd day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me - 2 burned fruitcakes... On the 3rd day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me - 3 screaming kids... On the 4th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me - 4 melodramas ... On the 5th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me - 5 CRYING JAGS ... On the 6th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me 6 late appointments ... On the 7th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me - 7 loads of laundry ... On the 8th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me - 8 light strands to untangle ... On the 9th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me 9

family members ... On the 10th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me 10 gifts to purchase ... On the 11th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me 11 unwanted pounds ... On the 12th day of Christmas my Stress List gave to me - 12 gifts to hide and wrap, 11 unwanted pounds, 10 gifts to purchase, 9 family members, 8 light strands to untangle, 7 loads of laundry, 6 late appointments, 5 CRYING JAGS ... 4 melodramas, 3 screaming kids, 2 burned fruitcakes, and a good friend to whine and pray with.

May we all take time away from the madness that tends to engulf us to remember the true "reason for the season," the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Attention Sci - Fi Fans

Duane Culli
Staff Writer

Take heart all ye Trekkers and followers of the Force. December 11, 1998 is set for the release of the ninth Star Trek movie, *Insurrection*, just in time to take the edge off of the weary college students heading into final exams. Once again Captain Picard and the faithful crew of the Starship Enterprise is there to save the

universe.

May of 1999 will bring new family members into the Star Wars fold. Many fans, such as this writer, have been waiting with bated breath for the next installment of George Lucas' space adventure. For those of you who do not know, this movie takes place before the *Star Wars* movie that was released in the late 70s. In fact Lucas planed a trilogy of movies that take place

before *Star Wars*, and tells the story of the Jedi Knights and how Darth Vader came to be.

I am going way out on a limb here with my prediction that the new *Star Wars* movie will break all previous records on movie attendance. People are already rushing to theaters to see the "trailer," the short attention getting preview and afterward not even staying for the feature.

Apathy is Rampant in Winter Months

Amanda Lindsey
student editor

As predictable as starry December nights where you can see your breath, apathy is rampant in the winter months. There have been numerous studies and researches done on the human condition of apathy, defined in the second edition of the American Heritage Dictionary as, "lack of emotion or feeling" or simply, "indifference". Several years ago, the well-known show *60 Minutes* did a special on seasonal-related apathy, and possible causes. One popularly held belief is that a lack of sunshine and warmth causes some people's hormones to trigger unbearable depression. This was found to occur even in regularly content, upbeat people with no tendency towards depression. A solution for this type of "winter-sadness" was that of heat and sunlamps, or even tanning beds.

However, apathy and

depression is evident even in those who have no sun-deprivation tendencies, and the solution for these are a little harder to pinpoint. Counselors and psychologists encourage those who develop seasonal apathy or depression to maintain relationships rather than hiding out or running away from problems. Another suggestion is finding something constructive to do, rather than stagnating due to weather difficulties. Remember, if you enjoy sports or outdoor activities, there are placebos for your backyard. There are many area gyms and indoor pools to get rid of tension and extra energy, or merely to use for enjoyment.

If you or someone you know and care for is suffering from any type of apathy or depression, please talk to them, or refer them to a professional counselor. Sandy Shook, counselor to students at RLC, can be reached at ext. 271.

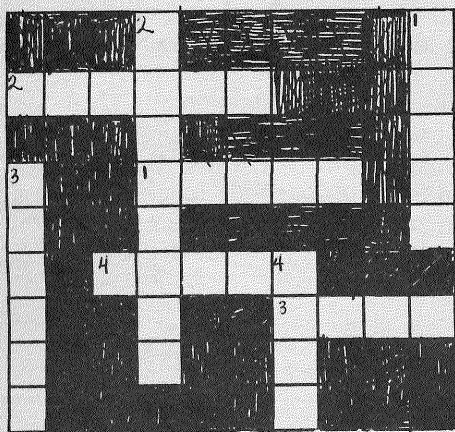
CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

e r r s c a o r l l e c
 g s t a r w c a l i g w
 g e s t o c k i n g g r
 t n e m a n r o s h o e
 c a r a s o e e r t n a
 x o s l o r a c a s g t
 r e i n d e e r r e g h
 e g c a r d s o c k e w

Find the following words in the above puzzle:

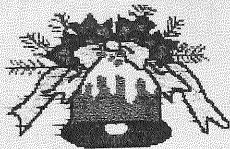
star	stocking	reindeer
wreath	tree	cards
egg nog	lights	ornament
carols		

Christmas Crossword



across:

- the fifth reindeer
- mode of transportation associated with Christmas
- this Christmas decoration originated from Germany
- when a bell rings an angel gets this



down:

- gift given on the 7th day of Christmas
- mama wears this in "T" was the Night Before Christmas"
- this piece of food was traditionally placed on the tree last
- this acted as beacon for the wisemen



Student Senate

Terah Trusty
Staff Writer

Student Senate is getting students in the Christmas spirit. They are hosting their 9th annual campus Food Drive that will be in progress from November 20 to December 11. The food is distributed to students in need and to food pantries in the RLC district. As you may have seen, there are boxes around campus where the food can be placed.

Staff and faculty are doing their part encouraging students to contribute. Some instructors are giving students

the opportunity to bring up their grades by giving extra credit. The fitness center is counting three non-perishable items as one workout. That is good news to those who procrastinate.

Psi Beta

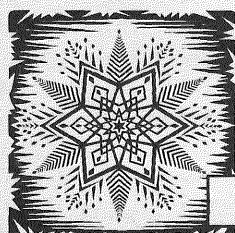
Amanda Lindsey
Student Editor

Psi Beta and the Psychology Club will be having a members-only Christmas Pizza Party, courtesy of Psychology Instructor Caroline Stewart. The party will be on Saturday, December 19th from noon

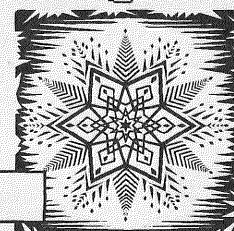
until two o'clock, at Ms. Stewart's house in Benton, 401 North Maple Street. The purpose of the party is to celebrate Christmas, of course, and bring gifts for the selected needy children Psi Beta is sponsoring this Christmas. Bring wrapping paper to wrap the gifts, tape and such will be provided. For clothing sizes, directions, or anything else, please contact Caroline Stewart, North Oasis, ext. 379.



Friends are the best part of Christmas



SEASON'S GREETINGS!



Feliz Navidad y Prospero Ano Nuevo

Means Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in Spanish. Here are ways to spread good tidings in other languages:

French: Joyeux Noel et Bonne Anne!

German: Frohe Weihnachten en in protte Lok en Seine yn it Nije Jier!

Greek: Kala Christougenna kai evtichismenos o kainourios chronos!

Say Merry Christmas in Bohemian!

H e - brew: Mo'adim Lesimkha. Chena tova

Hindi: Shub Naya Baras

Irish: Nollaig Shona

Iraqi: Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah

Italian: Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo!

Swedish: God Jul Och Ett Gott Nytt Ar

Eskimo: Jutdlime pivdluarit ukortame pivdluaritlo

Bohemian: Vesele Vanoce

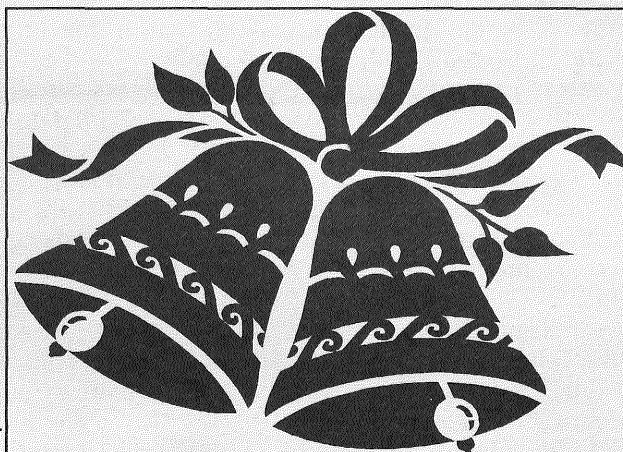
Navajo: Merry Keshmish

Maltese: Nitieklek Milied tajjeb u is-sena t-tabja!

Scottish: Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhrath Ur

Russian: S nastapaiushchim Novym godom i s Rozhdestvom hristovym!

Hawaiian: Mele Kalikimaka



The Birth of the Candy Cane

An indian candy-maker wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas Candy Cane. Several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the Church and firmness of the promises of God. The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the Precious name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy-maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to represent the scourging that Jesus received so that we may be healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life. Unfortunately, the candy became known as a Candy Cane - a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see."

For more Origins of Christmas Customs Around the World check out <http://www.bcanex.net/~mbuchana/realms/christmasorigins.html>

Candy-Cane Cookies

Here are some cookies to hang on the tree, so festive and beautiful that they ought to be looked at for a long time before they are gobbled up. The basic recipe is simple but will establish your reputation as a Christmas cook.

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon milk
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon red food coloring

Sift flour, measure; add baking powder and salt; sift again. Cream shortening and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well each time; stir in vanilla and milk. Add dry ingredients and mix until well blended. Divide dough in half and add food coloring to one half. Wrap dough in wax paper and chill for about 2 hours. When chilled, pinch off pieces of dough and, on lightly floured board, roll each into ropelike strips about 6 inches long and 1/2 inch thick. To make cane, lay a red and a white strip net to each other; starting in the middle, twist the two strips together to each end. Then bend one end to resemble a cane; with skewer, make small hole near top for hanging. Bake on a greased cookie sheet at 375° for 8-10 minutes. let cool.

Clinton Jones

TRAVIS Donotto

Duane Cullis

Mina McCreesh

Jessica Fuschner

Pamela Clouse

Jerah Rusty

Ellen Marie Tripp

Donnie Johnson

Amanda Lindsay



PEACE ON EARTH

Michael Mullen

Mark Michalic

Named Alumnus of the Year



FYI

The federal agent most responsible for tracking down the Oklahoma City bombing suspect will be the featured speaker Tuesday, December 8, as the 17th recipient of the Rend Lake College "Alumnus of the Year" Award at the RLC Foundation Annual Dinner.

Former Student Trustee Mark E. Michalic, a West Frankfort native, has served with distinction as a Special Agent for the United States Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms the past 14 years.

Michalic is credited with making the computer match that first tied Timothy McVeigh, who had been stopped for driving a vehicle without a license plate, to the explosion which ripped through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killing 168 people in Spring, 1995.

"We got him!" Michalic yelled to a roomful of cheering agents soon after typing information into the National Crime Information Center computer at the Oklahoma City command post.

"Sheriff," he had said earlier to the head of the department where McVeigh was being detained for the traffic violation, "this is what I want you to do: Go tell that deputy to spin that old boy around and put him back in your hotel."

The public is invited to hear Michalic's story that evening at the Mt. Vernon Holiday Inn. Reservations, at \$25 per person, will be accepted through Friday,

December 4, by contacting the RLC Foundation office at 437-5321, Ext. 213.

For his efforts, Michalic was cited in the March 24, 1997, issue of *Newsweek* magazine and has been presented both the ATF Distinguished Service Medal and the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award, from Attorney General Janet Reno.

From his colleagues with the Federal Bureau of

Investigation, the ATF Special Agent received the FBI Jefferson Cup with the following inscription: "To Mark E. Michalic with deep appreciation for your dedication, commitment and tireless efforts to protect the American people from crime and terrorism, and your extraordinary contributions to the cause of justice in the investigation and prosecution of the OKBOMB case. From your friends at the FBI."

McVeigh was headed to court for a bond hearing which almost certainly would have set him free when Michalic made the identification and placed his call to the sheriff's department.

The fact Michalic would emerge as a leader and national hero should come as no surprise to those who knew him as a Rend Lake College student majoring in Architectural Technology. In addition to being one of only two people ever to serve two years on the Student Senate as a sophomore, Illinois State Lieutenant Governor of the South District for the Kiwanis-affiliated Circle K Club, Christmas "King" and a member of the tennis team.

He never gave his parents, George and Agnes Michalic of West Frankfort, much reason to worry, either, until the morning of the bombing. His office was located in the Murrah Building.

Michalic was safe, but he lost a number of friends in the blast which touched a nation.

The younger Michalic has given his medals and awards for heroic acts to his father, who was stationed at Pearl Harbor the Sunday morning of the attack by the Japanese on December 7, 1941.

Michalic is a Federal Firearms Instructor responsible for training agents in the use and function of all issued weapon systems. He also is a member of the Region IV Special Response Team, a SWAT Team comprised of specially trained ATF Agents whose purpose is

to serve high-risk search and arrest warrants (for example, the attempted warrant service at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, TX, in February, 1993).

Since April, 1995, he has been a Case Agent assigned to OKBOMB (Oklahoma Bombing Task Force). That included one year in Oklahoma City and two years in Denver, on the prosecution team.

The RLC alumnus likewise has served on numerous United States Secret Service protection details for Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush, former Vice-President Dan Quayle, Admiral James Stockdale and others.

In spite of all the tributes and accolades, Michalic said he is "still in stock" regarding the Rend Lake College "Alumnus of the Year" Award "and looking so forward to the banquet."

"Thank you so much for this great honor," he responded to RLC Foundation Executive Director Pat Mitchell in a recent correspondence.

Michalic's tenacity and skills which helped keep McVeigh behind bars and eventually bring McVeigh and Terry Nichols to trial, while cited nationally, might have gone unnoticed locally if not for retired Rend Lake College Architectural Technology Instructor Fred Bruno, who notified the hometown West Frankfort *Daily American*.

The RLC Foundation Annual Dinner will feature special recognitions of four other individuals, including the recipient of a Foundation "Presidential Award," and two local businesses; entertainment during dinner by the Mt. Vernon Township High School Symphonic String Choir, Suzuki Violist Jennifer Herzing and Vocalist Julie Wilkerson; a short video emphasizing the college's new Children's Center and Aquatics Center and other accomplishments for 1998, and an announcement of yet another major gift award.

What is Christmas?

The word Christmas is derived from *Cristes Maesse* meaning "Christ's Mass". For members of the Christian religion, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. Most historians claim Rome in 336 A.D. as the first celebration of Christmas. Christmas is considered the most prominent holiday on the calendar. The day is the source of huge profits, much giving and receiving. Stores receive up to 70% of their yearly profit from Christmas sales. Christmas is representative of the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ and therefore a very important date on the Christian calendar. Christmas is a national holiday in the U.S. and is celebrated in ways throughout the world.

What Does Christmas Mean to You?

* Ashley Scarborough
Pinckneyville

Christmas to me means a lot of different things. It stands as a symbol that Jesus Christ was born. It can be a time of celebration or a time of quiet reflection. Christmas helps us to remember Jesus, as we get into the giving spirit. Throughout the year we get so busy with our everyday lives. Christmas is a time to stop and look back at the year and see what we did or did not do. Christmas brings family and friends back together and serves as a reminder of what's important.

* Dr. Barbara Luchsinger
English Instructor

So you gave me an assignment totally without warning.

So in true English 1101 philosophy of writing, I give to you my thoughts as they come.

I'm a farmer. What does Christmas mean to me? In so many ways, it means animals. Animals are at the core of some of my basic beliefs.

I'm Swiss/ German on my father's side. There is a beautiful German legend which tells that at Christmas Eve, animals kneel. Who's to say they do not?

Yes, at this time of year we return to the stable, perhaps to nativity scenes of childhood.

Oh, I hear you- animals are secular, you say. Or are they? Where more do we find love, trust and, yes, victims of the most barbaric brutality? Brutality so often returned in love and forgiveness for the brutalizer.

May I add a human touch-light wherewith to reach the animals.

Candles, my technological world- candles. There's an ancient belief that a candle lighted at midnight on Christmas Eve will guide the Traveler through the mountain pass.

I'll be lighting one for you. You light one for me.

Out on the farm, deer will be asleep- two in foliage at the edge of the yard. Haley, 1/2 Lab, 1/2 Collie, 100% loyal through all of his 14 1/2 years will stir a bit in his sleep. Who's to say what he hears, sees, feels?

Christmas is spiritual, secular, beyond all of us. Christmas to me, at 12:30p.m., December 2, defies definition. But the animals do not feel the need to define. From an infinite wisdom, they know.

What Do You Want For Christmas?

* "A CD changer for my car" Sara Holz, Horsecreek

* "To Simply spend it with my family and girlfriend" Doug Evans, Mount Vernon

* "I don't know...yet" Curt Gibbs, Mt. Vernon

* "Something sinful, hopefully" Robert Mooney, Wayne City

Aquatics Center Holiday Hours	
Dec 19th - 23rd --	Normal Hours (6a.m.-9a.m. & 11p.m.-4p.m. & 6:30p.m.-1p.m.)
Dec 24th - 25th --	Closed
Dec 26th - 27th --	12pm-5pm
Dec 28th - 30th --	6am-11am & 3p.m.- 8p.m.
Dec 31st - Jan 1st --	Closed
Jan 2nd - 3rd --	12p.m. - 5:00p.m.
Jan 4th - 10th --	Normal Hours

Security Notes

Holidays are special to most all families - but it also brings out the worst in some people.

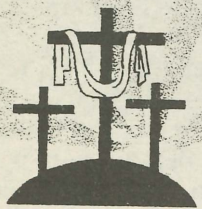
Shop with a friend and while shopping, don't leave your items unattended or your packages in open view.

Holiday Safety Tips: Leave the lights on at home. Check all Christmas lights and plugs. If you have a real tree, be sure to keep plenty of water in the reservoir to keep it from drying out and becoming a fire hazard. Adding sugar to the water keeps trees fresher longer. Keep a close eye on the little ones, especially around the Christmas tree and other electrically decorated items.

New Year's Eve means parties ... and intoxicated drivers on the road. Do not become a statistic! Designate a driver if you're going to be drinking ... and remember, .08 is the legal level of intoxication. Drink responsibly.

Observe all weather conditions if you are travelling and go prepared for the worst. Take extra blankets, flashlights, non-perishable food items in case of an emergency.

Our security staff Chief Jerry Bate, Guards Dan Horton and Chuck Mercer, Tom, Gary, Arthur Grassy, Bill and Terry would like to take this time to wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

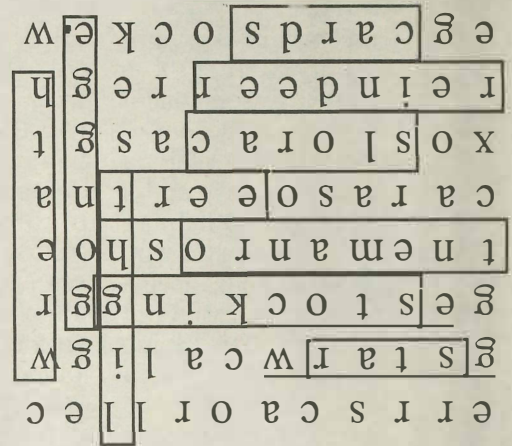
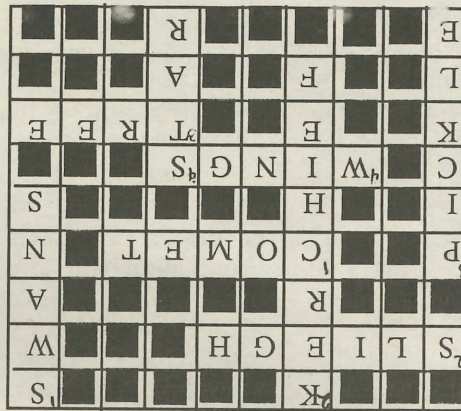
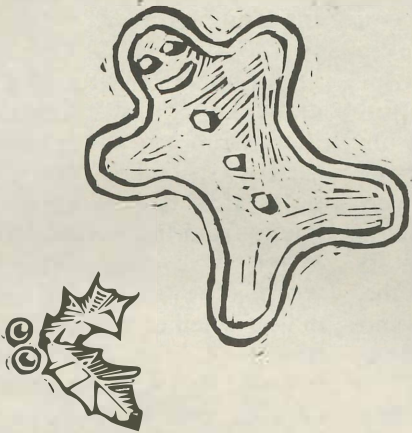


L.I.G.H.T Living in God's Holy Truth

Whether you're a seeker or a believer, come join us every in the Cafeteria every Monday at 4:00p.m.

Voice Mail:
437-5321 ext 777

Solution from Page 4



Prepare to Transfer

Paula Clouse
Staff Writer

Many students plan to transfer to a four-year college or university after attending Rend Lake College. In order to make a successful transition from Rend Lake College to the four-year school of their choice, students need to be aware of the transfer process and the factors which can influence how their Rend Lake College courses will transfer.

In most cases, students planning to transfer to a four-year college or university should complete either the Associate of Arts or Associate in Science degree at Rend Lake College. The type of degree, AA or AS, a student will complete is usually determined by the student's intended major. For example, an Education major will most often complete an Associate of Arts degree, while a Business major will usually complete the Associate in Science degree.

Most public four-year colleges and universities in the State of Illinois, and many others out of state, recognize the completion of the Associate degree for the fulfillment of lower-division general education requirements. Students should be aware, however, that the completion of the Associate degree does not automatically fulfill all general education requirements for a specific major. Students should review their transfer school's catalog and consult with their counselor or faculty advisor regarding major requirements. In addition, a visit to the transfer school

prior to the completion of the student's second year at Rend Lake College is highly recommended. Catalogs are available for review in the Rend Lake College Counseling Center. Most four-year colleges or universities also provide a website on the Internet.

Students who plan to transfer to an Illinois college or university prior to completion of the Associate's degree should complete the IAI (Illinois Articulation Initiative) General Education Core. The IAI General Education Core requires the completion of 37-41 hours of specific general education courses. The IAI General Education Core is recognized by over 100 public colleges and universities in Illinois as fulfilling lower-division general education requirements. Again, completion of the IAI General Education Core does not automatically fulfill general education requirements for a specific major.

The requirements for the completion of the AA degree, AS degree, and the IAI General Education Core are outlined in the Rend Lake College catalog. Students entering Rend Lake College beginning Summer 1998 and thereafter will follow degree requirements outlined in the 1998-2000 RLC catalog. Students who enrolled at Rend Lake College prior to Summer 1998 will follow the 1996-1998 RLC catalog.

Students can prepare for successful transfer by deciding on their major transfer school as early as

possible. This will allow their counselor or faculty adviser to recommend the best courses possible to fulfill both degree, IAI, and major requirements. While changing a major and choice of transfer school is a normal part of the education process, students should be aware that changing their plans does have a direct impact on the way courses they complete at Rend Lake College will transfer. For more information about transfer requirements, contact the Rend Lake College Counseling Center.



What's he high on now?

GROUP MEETING 4:00 P.M.

Support

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It takes you — and programs that work!

Call 1-800-WE PREVENT, and we'll send you a free booklet on how you can support programs in your community that keep kids away from crime and crime away from kids.

1-800-WE PREVENT
www.weprevent.org

Ad Council

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E-Mail is Easy

Travis Donoho
Staff Writer

It seems like everytime I am within 10 feet of a computer at RLC, someone is asking me how to get an e-mail address. It's not really a complicated process, and I certainly don't mind helping out, but for those of you who are afraid to ask or just need a ready reference, I'll lay it out for you step by step. Some definitions are probably in order before I get into the instructions. Forgive me for any condescending tones, but different people have different levels of computer experience. The mouse is the gadget with a cord coming out of its back. You'll usually find it beside the keyboard. It's called a mouse because it looks like a mouse. The arrow on the screen moves around when you move the mouse around. When someone says 'click' or 'doubleclick' they mean positioning the arrow over an item and clicking the mouse button either once (click) or twice rapidly (double-click). Not *too* rough now. Netscape is an Internet browser. The Internet is the great outdoors and Netscape is the window you use to look at it. There are other browsers, but as of the writing of this article, Netscape is considered the

best. RLC e-mail addresses are all well and good, and if you are interested in one of those, the lab assistant in any of the computer labs will surely assist you. But if you want the option of quickly checking your e-mail from any Internet equipped computer, and having your incoming mail saved, without needing a disk, then the web offers some fine alternatives. I'm going to tell you how to get a Hotmail address. It's the most widely used service and it is completely free. Now on with the show!

1. You need to open up Netscape. Do this by double clicking on the icon (little picture) on the screen that should be labelled Netscape or Netscape Navigator or something of the sort.

2. When the browser has opened, you'll see that toward the top of the browser there is a white strip beside the word Location. Click on the white strip. All the letters in the strip should become highlighted. Right above the enter key on the keyboard there is an arrow key. This is the backspace key. When you press this it will erase the letters from the Location box. When it is clear, type the word Hotmail. (it doesn't matter whether you use capital letters or lowercase letters, but, by the way, to make a capital, you hold down the Shift key on the keyboard when you type the letter). when the Location toolbar says hotmail, hit enter on the keyboard and before long, the Hotmail webpage should come up.

3. Here you should see the words Sign Me Up or Sign Up or something indicating a sign@up location. Click on those words. Then you will be transported to a page telling all of the rules and asking you if you agree to comply by them. Most surely you do. Unless you are a convicted felon, you are probably safe skipping over

reading this part. But it's there if you want to read it.

4. When you've clicked the button saying that you agree to comply by the terms of Hotmail, you'll be taken to a page asking you what you want your login name to be. You click on these strips just as you did the location strip in Step 2. Whatever you choose, say if you type 'joe', then your e-mail address would be joe@hotmail.com. Joe, I'm sure will already be taken by one of the other millions of users, but with a little thought you can come up with an address that is perfect for you. On the same page you have to decide what you want your password to be. Just click on that strip and type it in. You'll have to type it twice and it'll look like **** (The * represents a letter. It is encoded so no one else can see.) Be sure to choose a password that you can remember. Write it down. For that matter write down the e-mail address too, just so you don't forget who you are. When you've filled in all the blanks on this page, go on to the next page. Continue this until you run out of things to do. Then you'll have your very own e-mail address!

5. To send or check mail, just go to the Hotmail homepage like you did in Step 2. When it comes up, enter your login (the part of your email address before @hotmail.com) and enter your password. then click on enter. This brings you to your mailbox (well, after their little greeting welcoming you to the family). On the right side of the browser you'll see the buttons that say things like Inbox and Compose and so on. To check mail, you click on Inbox. Checking mail is easy. You just click on the mail that you want to read. To send mail, you click on Compose. Fill in the address of the person you want to write to, the subject, cc, and dcc parts aren't important at this point. Type your message in the big box and then click Send. That's all there is to it! Feel free to experiment with any of the other options that Hotmail gives you. When you are ready to stop, be sure to click Logout.

I hope this helps all of the folks that don't have an e-mail address yet. It's really not as hard as it looks. When you get it all set up, e-mail me and let me know. My e-mail address is tdonoho@hotmail.com

Relieve Finals Stress

Clinton Jones
Staff Writer

Okay, listen up people. We all know it's coming. For some it may already be here. Yea, you know what I'm talking about, FINALS STRESS! But thankfully I have found a solution to the problem. It may not be for everyone but I'm sure it will please many. I'm talking about Paintball. I imagine everyone knows what it is but for those who don't I'll give you the scoop on what Paintball is.

Paintball is a sport where different players or teams try to eliminate the others by shooting (or tagging) them with a paint gun (or marker). It involves the players using paint guns, which shoot out .68 caliber paint balls, and battling on a playing field for supremacy. The standard equipment for this sport is a paint gun (pump action or semi-automatic), ammo, and a protective goggle. The playing fields range from woods, to urban environments and are overseen by referees.

Imagine any old war movie, and then think of a scene in which the good guys and bad guys are shooting it out. Now think, instead of dying when you get shot, you simply raise your gun above your head and walk out of the playing field and then let the rest of your team continue the battle.

If this isn't stress relief then I don't know what is. Just the

thought of shooting up your buddies and then kicking back and munching on some food and having a good laugh over the shot that hit Tom right between the eyes...is making me want to go play this moment.

Now that I've wetted your appetites, I must tell you what you will need and where to go to play Paintball. All you will need is some money and an old pair of pants and a shirt. That's it, nothing else. The catch is that you need to go to a Paintball field to play if you don't have your own equipment. All you should have to do is go to a field, tell them that you have never played before or that you are a "newbie" and that you want to try it. They should be able to set you up from there. You will have to rent the equipment from them and they will instruct you on procedures, when you have enough people the game will start. Prices for playing and renting equipment will vary from field to field. Paintball is becoming increasingly popular in Southern Illinois and a few fields are around the area. The closest field to the RLC campus is located on Rt. 37 going North in to Mt. Vernon.

What else can I say, after having read this who can actually say that they are not ready for some fun? With finals coming up soon and next semester around the bend the

stress is probably reaching critical levels. Why not vent some of that on the playing field while splattering your friends in a fun and safe environment. It doesn't matter who you are, men and women have fun with this sport. So, go out, get ready, and have some fun. Take it from me, it is completely worth it.

Basketball is No Cake Walk

Donnie Johnson
Staff Writer

The 1998 Rend Lake men's basketball team had a lot of promise coming into this season. According to head coach Tim Wills, the team is playing very well.

"I think the team is playing very well right now. We have had a tough schedule and have caught some bad breaks," Wills said.

Rend Lake plays in a tough eight-team league in which there are no easy games.

"There is no team on our schedule that I can look at and say, 'cake walk'. Each team has a lot of talent. There is no clear-cut favorite to win the conference," said Wills.

Early season injuries have affected this team all season long. 6'6" sophomore center Dirk Dirnberger was the team's leading scorer until he went down with a bruised elbow. Now close to 100% recovery, Dirnberger is expected to resume his roll on an already deep team.

Ryan Maurer went down before the season even began with a back injury and has yet to recover. Eric Bierman also

went down with a back problem early in the season.

Even though injuries have set the team back, coach Wills is pleased with the effort.

"These guys have been playing hard for three months. Our main five sophomores are playing well and they show good leadership. We are getting a lot of contributions from a lot of different players," said Wills.

Rend lake has played four home games to date. According to coach Wills the support has been outstanding.

"We have enjoyed a lot of support from the students, probably to best I have seen in the past 3 or 4 years," said Wills.

