

Anchors Away!

Monthly Newsletter of the Save Senn Coalition Volume 2, Number 1 September 2006

Welcome Back....The Struggle Continues... Move the Military Academy Out of Senn H.S.

Hope you all had a good summer. Welcome back to school. We hope you have a good school year.

Anchors Away is back, as you can see. The Save Senn Coalition continues to oppose the military academy in the Senn High School. We do so for three main reasons--

1.The decision was made by Alderman Mary Ann Smith and the Board of Education without seriously taking into account the opposition of the students, faculty, parents, and wider community. This is the opposite of what a democratic process is supposed to look like. The lack of process is the focus in the Town Hall meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 26 at 7 p.m. Let the process begin. We hope you students will come out to express your views. Invite your parents and neighbors. (Details are below.)

2.The Save Senn Coalition is concerned that the military academy will continue to have a negative impact on an

improving and already high quality Senn High School. Programs at Senn High School have already been cut, and more will be cut if the military academy is allowed to stay in the school building and add more classes each year.

3. The Save Senn Coalition opposes military education as the opposite of the kind of critical thinking and cultural training and education that should be provided to young people. And this military education is not just training in following orders. It is training and recruitment for the illegal and unjust wars of the U.S. government—in Afghanistan and in Iraq. And the U.S. government appears hell bent on using your bodies to kill and be killed in Iran, Cuba, Venezuela, Korea, Lebanon, Palestine—all for power and profits, with oil part of the mix.

You are invited to join with us in planning and writing or drawing cartoons or distribution for the next issues of **Anchors Away**. Let us know. Let us restore Senn High School to its full school building. Navy Out! Anchors Away!

TOWN HALL MEETING ON THE SENN REFERENDUM



LET'S DISCUSS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S UNDEMOCRATIC DECISION ON SENN H.S....

HEAR FROM BOTH SIDES AND MAKE UP YOUR OWN MIND

THE PROCESS STARTS HERE...Immanuel Lutheran Church

1500 West Elmdale

Tuesday, September 26th, 7 p.m.

The moderator will be the former president of Truman College, Dr. Phoebe Helm

Sponsored by the Senn Referendum Follow-Up Group. 773.250.3225

The residents of the 48th ward overwhelmingly voted in March to
" ... establish a formal process to receive community input regarding
removal of the Rickover Military Academy at Senn High School" ...

Another Student Speaks Out

from **Carla Garduno**, sophomore -- The military academy should move somewhere else, out of Senn. Our school should be for us. They are taking up space that we need. This is taking programs, like gym. The Navy uses the gym and we can't get in.

As for the military in general, they shouldn't be in Iraq. All that is happening is that people are getting killed. If the U.S. wants to get something, it should try through talking, not through wars.

Other students I know agree with me, and parents too.

Action in Support of Senn at the Board of Education

David Gregg spoke to the Board of Education on August 23rd. Here is some of what he said--

“ I am here today because the Senn community has been faced with an injustice and could really use your support.

When the Board voted in 2004 to open the Rickover academy inside of Senn High School, it stirred the indignation of an entire community who felt that they had been left out of a decision-making process, the outcome of which affects them greatly.

Members of the Senn community were clear on this: on a referendum appearing on the March election ballot, one that received over 3,000 petition signatures, 4500 voters, 70% of the voting community, agreed that the Board of Education should *now* take up the process of considering removal of the Rickover Academy from Senn.

Many in the community, I believe, recognize the asset they have in Senn and are afraid of what its future will hold at the current pace. In science, when a foreign body is placed in a host organism and it starts to grow, the host cannot sustain itself and typically dies. This has already happened to several CPS schools and it is not the fate we want for Senn.

I know you are aware of the wonderful job Senn does with its students in all it offers. But I would like to enter just one recent piece of evidence: The *Chicago Tribune Magazine* ran a story this last weekend in which they profiled sixteen students from around Chicago for their superior college application essays. Among them were several suburban, selective enrollment, and private school students but only two were from CPS general high schools – one of them was from Senn! (By the way, that same student was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Mr. Williams, I know that, as the new president of the Board, you want to be responsive to the communities that care for Chicago's children. In that light we look forward to the Board's participation in the town hall meeting we have arranged on September 26 at 7 p.m... So, may we count on your attendance at that meeting?

In the interest of fairness, we invite you to be involved in the moderation of that meeting.”

In reply, the Board of Education agreed to have Mr. Donald Pittman, H.S.Programs director, assemble a team to attend.

Military Recruiters Do Wrong

The General Accounting Office (GAO) of the U.S. government reports what they found out about recruiter irregularities—“ ...service data likely underestimate the true number of recruiter irregularities...Between...2004 and 2005, allegations and service-identified incidents of recruiter wrongdoing increased...from 4,400 cases to 6,600 cases...[Why?] ...Ongoing hostilities in Iraq made it hard to achieve their [recruitment] goals...pressure to meet monthly goals...” See <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06846high.pdf>

For example, according to the Associated Press on August 20, “More than 100 young women who expressed interest in joining the military in the past year were preyed upon sexually by their recruiters. Women were raped on recruiting office couches, assaulted in government cars and groped en route to entrance exams... At least 35 Army recruiters, 18 Marine Corps recruiters, 18 Navy recruiters and 12 Air Force recruiters were disciplined for sexual misconduct or other inappropriate behavior with potential enlistees in 2005, according to records obtained by the AP.”

Deaths and Wounded in the War on Iraq

The *Lancet Magazine* reports that more than 200,00 Iraqis have been killed by the U.S. and Coalition forces so far in the War on Iraq. “The announcement Sunday, September 3 of four more U.S. military deaths in Iraq raises the death toll to 2,974 for U.S. military service members in Iraq ... In Iraq, 19,773 U.S. military personnel were wounded, with 8,991 not returning to duty”—CNN. The New York Times reports that it is just as dangerous for civilians and U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan.