

Anchors Away!

Monthly Newsletter of the Save Senn Coalition Volume 2, Number 3 November 2006

The Senn H.S. Student Voice....

Jose Delgado, junior--The naval academy inside Senn High School is ridiculous. It's not the students' fault. They just want an education, and the people who made the decision to put the naval academy inside Senn High School are out of line. There are other places available. The academy leeches off our resources, and we're not allowed to go where they are and are yelled at for being on their side of the building, but they can go on our side any time they want to.

I think the U.S. has a history of militarizing, especially now with the situation in Iraq. They're focusing on the wrong thing. They should be focusing on providing good education. Instead, they're using education as a disguise for militarization.

Parents need to speak out, because sometimes children aren't heard. There needs to be collaboration in the community. This includes the parents, students, and teachers.

Even though the naval academy is imposing itself here, it would be good to build bridges with the cadets. We should talk to them and be civil.

Pedro Velasquez, junior-- The military academy takes space from Senn High School, and gives the regular high school students less room. It is getting very crowded. My art class is

now up to 48 students. We need to get our rooms back from the military academy.

We should gather people to help us and get support.

Aldin Music, freshman--The military academy is not a good idea. Kids say a lot of bad stuff about it—that the program leads to war and death.

A lot of the students in the military programs don't know what they're getting into. I have one friend who doesn't know why he's in the military training program. I tell him it's not the right thing to do.

The war in Iraq should not be going on. I don't know what might have caused it. But I do know that what happened in New York on 9/11 has caused a lot of racism against the people from Iraq, even though they had nothing to do with that, and it has caused racism against Muslims.

I think students should get organized to go on strike and add more signs to the ones near the school that say things like No Military Academy at Senn High School.

Voices of Students meets every Tuesday in room 307 after school.

Come and be active on the important issues that face students.

Rickover Naval Academy Cadets Speak Out...

“...I think it would good if the military academy went to a different location...”

Crystal Rivera-Jinhong, sophomore--I love the structure and the discipline of the military academy. When there are ranks and higher stature, it gives goals to work toward. Things have to be a certain way, and you have to be on time.

I don't think we should be in the war in Iraq. But we should clean up the mess we made. We need to make ourselves look good, though we're not doing a good job of it. It is really sad that so many civilians have been killed, some just because of their skin color. But that is inevitable in a war, you can't avoid it. To avoid war, you need to have more peace treaties and

agreements, and slow down the making of guns and other weapons, and try to get along.

The military academy tries to make it look like we are working for peace, but I know they are there for recruitment purposes into the military and war. Their point is to train for war, and to give students an introduction to that.

I think it would be good if the military academy went to a different location. That would give Senn and us more room. That would be a lot better.

Anchors Away interviewed **Trent Wyatt, freshman at Rickover Naval Academy.** He said he was positive about his experience at the school. But one point struck us that we would like to comment on. He said, "I don't think of the war

in Iraq. It'll be over soon, because we have the greatest military force."

We say this flies in the face of the realities of the situation. Here are a couple of points to consider--

80% Say the U.S. Is Not Winning the War in Iraq

A New York Times/CBS News poll showed that only 29% of those Americans polled approve of the way that President Bush is managing the war. Only 20% said they thought the U.S. was winning in Iraq. *NY Times* 11/2/06

A VICTORY IN THE VOTE TO BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME, STARTING NOW

There was a non-binding referendum question on the ballot in Chicago and Cook County on November 7, "Shall the U.S. government immediately begin an orderly and rapid withdrawal of all its military personnel from Iraq, beginning with the National Guard and Reserves?" The result was 822,953 voting yes and 309,366 no. The yes vote was 80.69% in Chicago, and over 73% county-wide.

MORE ON THE STRUGGLE TO SAVE SENN. NAVY OUT.

Betsy Field-Connelly wrote: Hi, I graduated from Senn in 1975. I no longer live anywhere near Chicago, but I resent the bully tactics used to shove this military academy down the community's throat. I am not against military schools, per se, but I'm not at all sure this is the best choice as to facility or location. I support all efforts to fight this "campaign." Good Luck from Florida! Betsy

Helen Murtaugh, retired Senn teacher-- The Senn Achievement Academy (SAA) is a part of Senn High School.... Its students' educational experiences change for the better - - often dramatically...

Now, this program is threatened with extinction. Over the objections of parents, students, teachers and the Senn Local School Council, a naval academy was installed in...Senn's building in 2005. The enrollment is less than anticipated; nonetheless, the RNA principal made the surprising and alarming announcement to Senn's LSC that next year the Rickover Naval Academy will completely take over Senn's West Wing on the second floor, and that as a consequence, the Senn Achievement Academy (SAA) will be gone.

Kids going to the naval academy are selected high-achievers who could succeed virtually anywhere they go, but the SAA kids do not have these advantages.... That its place at Senn is now in jeopardy is a concrete example of how the infusion of RNA at Senn preys on many whose alternatives are slim-to-none....Senn's location is especially important for these kids...There have been many negative consequences for Senn since the naval academy has been housed there. This is one whose timeline is on an emergency fast track...

Chris Persons, candidate for alderman in the 48th ward, gave a forceful presentation to the Board of Education meeting on October 25. He opposed the denigration of Senn High School perpetuated by Alderman Mary Ann Smith, pointed out the overwhelming opposition of the community to the Rickover Naval Academy in the Senn H.S. building, and called on Board President Rufus Williams to have further discussion with the community on the issue of removing the military academy.

President Williams said he would not. We will be following up to insist that the Board of Education start listening to the views of the majority of the community, as reflected, for example, in the 70% vote in the March primary for a community process on the issue of removing the military academy from Senn

STOP MILITARY RECRUITERS FROM CONTACTING YOU AT HOME

Military recruiters want students' names and home contact information so they can try to lure them into the military for use in illegal and unjust wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, or elsewhere. By law you can stop this. Sign the form below, and send it to Mr. Donald Pittman, Office of High School Programs, Chicago Public Schools, 125 S. Clark St., 9th floor, Chicago, IL 60603. Do this NOW.

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I request that the name, address, and telephone number of the following student not be given to the military for recruitment purposes.

Student's name _____ Student ID number _____

Parent/guardian OR student signature _____