

Senate provides awards banquet

Have they done an injustice or a good deed?

By SHAWN DEMPSEY
NEWS EDITOR

they are instrumental in their students' successes. A special teacher of the year award seemed appropriate, so SS sponsored one.

As the 1993-94 school year came to a close, Student Senate prepared for one of its last activities - the Awards Banquet. I heard a few grumblings about it before it had even happened.

The Awards Banquet, April 29, was a dinner sponsored by SS for campus groups, clubs, and activities to present their commendations to whom ever needs to be commended. Academic departments were also invited to present any awards they may choose to give.

Traditionally, the Awards Banquet is an athletic banquet. Inter- and intra-murals have usually dominated the scene.

The problem is they didn't research or plan the contest very well. They didn't know it had been done in the past and had not worked out. They didn't establish a solid criteria to judge the essays. But they held the contest anyway because seven students took the time to write about how instructors have affected them.

As a judge in the contest, I read all of the essays. I was moved at how much respect these students held for their instructors. I was also moved at the care and concern these instructors have shown

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their students. In a school where apathy rules, it was pleasing to see some interest and appreciation. Students may actually care about something, and shockingly, it may be teachers.

And then, there is the club thing. Apparently, no clubs were invited. It was not intentional, just a mistake. SS shouldn't worry about it because only three clubs have cared enough to represent themselves this year.

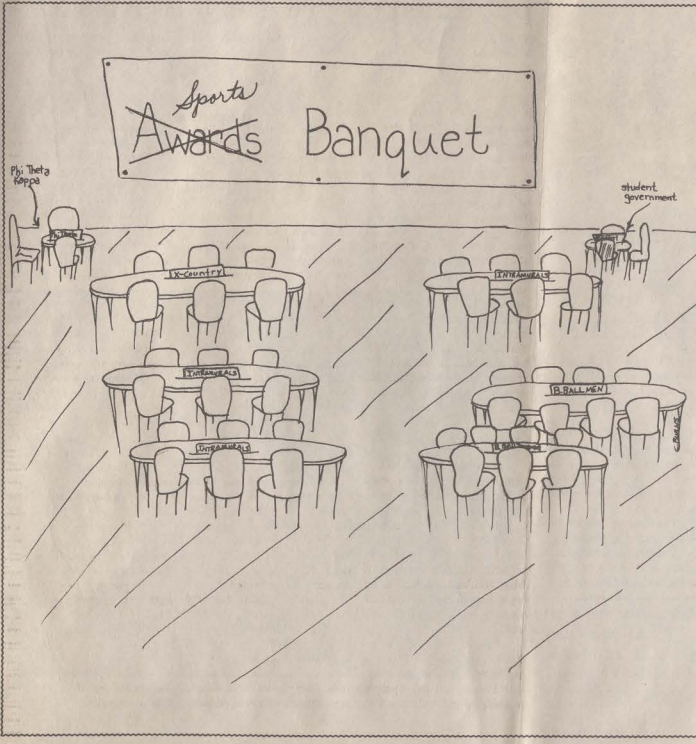
Each club has a vote on SS; Phi Theta Kappa, Society of Creative Anachronism, and The Polemic are the only groups who have ever bothered to exercise this right.

The clubs weren't invited too - but did they really want to come? If they did, they should have made sure by attending a meeting at least once in awhile. If they want to be represented at the Awards Banquet, they should be represented on SS.

All in all, the Awards Banquet is representative of SS's whole year - not perfect but well intentioned. So do we condemn them? No. They're students, they're learning, and they're the only ones willing to do the job.

So how about thanking them, offering some ideas and contributions, and planning for a great 1994-95 school year.

THANK YOU,
Julie Smigelski
FOR THE PIZZA!!!
(It was yummy!)
~ **The Polemic staff**



Gulf War will have long lasting effect

By DENISE KONWINSKI
COPY-EDITOR

For some, it may as well be ancient history. Pack up the books and tie them up with a yellow bow.

For others, the fighting is over, but the war never ends. It's a constant in life.

This month marks three years since a friend returned from serving six months in the Persian Gulf. Through the tales he tells and the pictures we, as a nation, have seen, a lot has been learned. Unfortunately, there is a lot more information out there, and it seems only time will reveal the secrets.

The nightmares and the vivid memories of fighting are bad enough, but as time goes on, some Gulf War veterans are finding their health is deteriorating. Many have respiratory problems, sinus trouble, a recurring rash and suffer from chronic soreness and fatigue, among other symptoms.

Many vets have come home, and since produced children that are 'less than perfect' - something that could happen to anyone, but the similarities are there.

It's one of the greatest tragedies of war. Just like the Viet Nam vets exposed to Agent Orange, we'll spend the next decades wondering what we're dealing with, and innumerable people will be affected.

All of the veterans were too

young, unselfishly risking their lives for the rights of others, but especially unfortunate are those who will want to someday start a family.

They will wonder if the chance will be worth the pain and emotional scars it could leave, if their child is one of the many already burdened with one of those tragedies of war.

The wife of one man who served with the Army's 16th Engineer Battalion had a son, born almost nine months to the day that he returned home from the Gulf. The boy was born without arms - his hands are attached to his shoulders and his legs are

body. They're not really sure what it is.

My friend has said there are things the government should have told the American people. Things about immunizations (many were not approved by the FDA) and the use of chemical warfare, among others. I don't doubt it for a minute.

The image in the crystal ball isn't pretty. But then again, nothing about war is. According to the environmental activist group Greenpeace, over 150,000 Iraqis died, and five million were left homeless as a result of the 43 day allied attack. Kuwait suffered

anywhere from 2

5,000 casualties, and 343 allied troops were killed; 266 of those

were Americans. Of those, 145 were killed in action. Accidents claimed the other lives.

"I don't ever want to kill again," stated one 28-year-old Navy Flier who was taken prisoner by the Iraqis. "People think, 'Hey, we went in there and just kicked ass,' but they didn't see the Iraqi mothers being killed."

Unfortunately, the general feeling of the American people was in many cases, just that. It's too bad they don't think of the real effects.

The allied forces did a superb job, and according to one report, support was the highest of any war. It seemed that even those who opposed war showed

support for our troops; that's what it's all about.

Although long overdue, the feeling of patriotism took many back to Viet Nam. But no matter how late, it happened. Those vets got some long overdue recognition - and it was positive.

Another aspect recognized was the attitude of the American citizens left at home. While the service people were away, the civilians pulled together and worked hard to support each other and also our troops by sending letters and care packages.

"When you get back here and see all that we have, you're so much aware of how good it is here," said then Master Sgt. Larry Sisco, when speaking to students at Sanborn Elementary School three years ago.

Our veterans are fortunate to have such a comfortable place to come home to. It's a place where for most, sandstorms are infrequent, and they don't have to brew coffee through a sock.

It's a sharp contrast to the Iraqi soldiers who lined up waving anything white, begging to be 'captured' so they might receive food and water.

They only asked for the basics, something we all hope to live above and beyond. For most of us, health falls into that category. Yet for some, that seems like asking for something just short of a miracle.

So as the world goes around and years go by, we watch and wonder, if, as a military power, we'll ever have to go back. Sometimes it doesn't really matter. The damage is done, whether it was in a World War, Korea, Viet Nam, Persian Gulf or Bosnia.

The only thing we wish is that the lives weren't lost and the veterans could live as they did before.

Unfortunately, there is a lot more information out there, and it seems only time will reveal the secrets.