

# Lettering or Just-Right Recognition?

## Counterpoint

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ring a Show Choir shirt (which, just say, are cool looking and legit), the boy perfecting his performance, and the girl shows steer at the Strawberry ival, for instance. All of the ant students that work hard to ect a skill, kudos to you because ow that I can't do half of the gs you do even somewhat close s well as you can. Regardless, e are a lot of people who don't ll my ideals of a true letterman, they walk around in those eted jackets, showcasing pin pin. But, then again, those my ideals, not necessarily the used by the gods of lettering etermin who gets the award ho.

Perhaps it's time to consider requirements for receiving rs, and possibly make some ges to the rules.

I'll be the first to admit that former member of the Varsity team, I lettered twice and t feel I deserve either award. I w I'm not going to be the next helle Wie or Annika Sorenstam, ny other amazing female golfer. dn't and don't come near to ning such success in what many people argue as not a real type of athleticism. My academic pins, however, I like to think are well earned and will prove to be proper recognitions for me as I venture into the real world.

Speaking of the real world, how many students in our band will go on to sell out stadiums for an awesome flute concert, or will make the crowd go wild for their xylophone? I can practically hear the crickets now.

The same applies to other groups. Perhaps a

A quarterback deserves a letter and a first place athlete deserves a letter, but everyone on a sports team letters, including the girl sitting on the bleachers while the softball team gets a chance at Nationals and the boy who places last in tennis' district competition. If lettering is acceptable for students on sports teams that aren't even athletic, then non-athletes that do participate in something they are good at deserve to letter as well. Besides, have we ever even had a softball team go to Nationals?

A group that has sent students to Nationals is Mu Alpha Theta, the mathematics honor society, who, yes, letter. This past summer, junior Claire Bergman and senior Cameron Kim went to Nationals and won nine awards. Nine! Why should a mediocre sports player be allowed to letter, while students who work hard all year and win trophies not?

Another example is the Durant Drama Department. At the Individual Events Competition earlier this year (IE's), ten Superiors were awarded, which is the highest achievement that can be reached. Thespian points are given to students for participating in anything drama-related, and 75 points earn a letter. Obviously, our drama department works hard for those superiors and letters.

Not everyone is good at sports, and it's almost discrimination to only reward the athletes for their hard work while there is so much else going on around the school that deserves recognition as well. Mu Alpha Theta, for instance. They practice once a week

sports teams do, possibly even more because it's year long. And if it's about the sweat that goes into sports – hello, marching? They have to coordinate playing their instruments, be it a triangle or a tuba, while marching in formation in their full outfits – hats included – in the Florida heat. A letter is the least they deserve.

Then there are those who do their part for the community, such as the Spanish National Honor Society who has thrown a Christmas party for migrant children the past two years. A lot of work goes into those parties. It may not be something that a fan could scream for, but it's something to better the place in which we live and it can make someone's day a little brighter. Sports, on the other hand, are all for personal gratification. SNHS wins that round.

Now, some lettermen probably do not deserve their letters, such as those athletes I mentioned earlier who letter because of the rest of the team's work, and some other clubs that will not be mentioned for the simple fact that I really have no clue whether they do any work

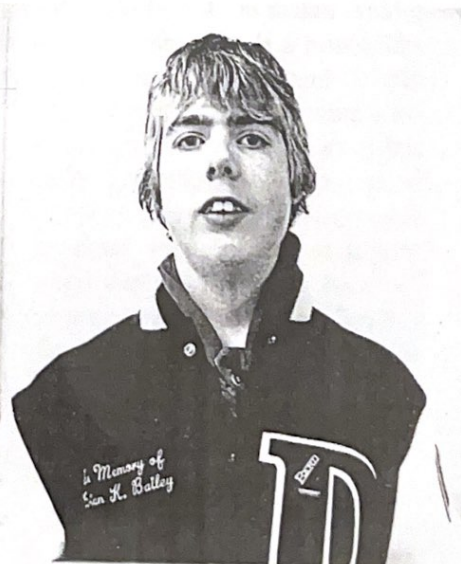


Photo taken by Samantha Crandall.