Final trials ahead for 12 on Merit list

Ten per cent of U-High’s seniors are considered in the top one per cent of the nation’s students, according to an announcement of the National Merit Scholarship corpora­tion. The senior class has named 12 neigh­bors as Merit semifinalists. They now face final eliminations. U-High has four more semifinalists than last year and, this year, has all but one of the semifinalists in Chicago private school.

U-High has more semifinalists than any Chicago school.

The semifinalists include Frank Alvi­zani, Suzanne Epstein, Ray Finkel, Dan Harris, Glenn Mc­Donald, Jim Melitzer, John Nambu, David Rohrlich, Mike Spurgeon, Barry Spurgeon and Kim Yasutake.

In addition, four students who were U-High last year received the honor. They are Carl Becker, Scott Davis, Ted McClure and Jim Rosenberg.

A PERCENTAGE of students who scored just below the semifinalists have received letters of commendation.

They are as follows:

Hottle, Matt
Elder, Eva,
Rice, Jana
Wright, Rick

COMMING ATTRACTIONS

Today Oct. 15—Soccer game against Oak Park, varsity and frosh-soph, 4 p.m., away; cross coun­try meet against Illiana, 3:45 p.m. away.

Friday Oct. 15—Soccer against De LaSalle, varsity and frosh-soph, 4 p.m., home; cross country against Oak Lawn, 4:30 p.m., home.

Tuesday Oct. 17—Soccer against Evanston, varsity and frosh-soph, 4 p.m., away; cross country against Lakeview, 3:45 p.m., home.

Thursday Oct. 19—Soccer against Chicago Christian, varsity only, 4 p.m., away.

Friday Oct. 21—Cross country against Marshall, 3:45 p.m., home.

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Keeping Chicago cool

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NEXT SHOWTIME

Midway—Tuesday after school Tues­day, Oct. 21.

Grading question gets further look

By next Tuesday at least one repre­sentative from each high school department will have been chosen for a new committee on grading approved at a faculty meeting Oct­ober 3.

Through use of available statist­ics, its own research and question­ing of parents, teachers, students and other sources, the committee will attempt to decide if U-High’s present grading situation is a work­able as can be expected or if recom­mendations for a new grading system or replacement for grades can be made (see editorial pg. 2).

The faculty had decided at a meeting June 5 to put off until fall a decision to either formulate a grading policy for all-school or department use or decide why U-High has one.

This decision resulted from a report from a faculty committee on grading, delivered on its be­half at the June 5 meeting by Teacher Paul Monleon.

The committee directed itself to answering three major questions pertaining to grading practices at U-High.

FIRST WAS, “What use to the students and their parents (be­sides the obvious use of supplying information) are grades put.

They decided from a tabulation of grades actually given that grades are rarely used for any­thing outside of proving college with criteria to guide them in se­lecting students for admission.

SECOND QUESTION was, “What grades are actually assigned.” Committee members found that U-High teachers assign grades on far from a normal distribution. Average grade here is a high B. (Continued to page 4, Col. 1)

Drama room to be remodeled

‘Theater-in-round’ ahead

A Greek-style theater-in-the-round is planned through alteration of the present drama room (Bel­field 242) by Teachers Robert Keil and Thomas Pen­tena. The theater would seat 300 people.

“By creating theater-in-the-round,” Mr. Potenza said, “we will be able to create more intimacy be­tween the cast and audience.

‘Where a theater-in-the-round isn’t desirable,’ added Mr. Keil, ‘we could arrange the stage differ­ently.

A THREE-QUARTER round or alley-type, stage could be constructed by rearranging the seats.

During construction of the new setup, the drama room will be cleaned, worn costumes thrown out and the stage removed.

Portable seats rising to the walls of the room will be installed and the room will be painted.

IN ADDITION to the new physical layout, the teachers plan a new approach to play selection.

All productions will be three-act plays “that are not too deep or classical,” Mr. Keil explained.

“We want the audience to understand and enjoy what is going on and not fall asleep,” Mr. Potenza explained.

Plays under consideration include “Arsenic and Old Lace”, “My Three Angels” and “Harvey.”

BY PLAYING for two consecutive weekends in­stead of one, Drama club members will be able to present six instead of four performances of each pro­duction this year.

Mr. Keil said that the school hopes to broaden its drama curriculum. “We feel,” he explained, “that drama should become a required part of every stu­dent’s life.”

Forum-like Student Council meetings, elections conducted in home­room, movie parties and a bake sale are some of the new ideas proposed by Council President James Steinbach and Student Union President Beth Faller.

They hope this plan will encourage students—other than representatives—to take an active part in Council affairs. Meetings will usually, however, be run with parliamentary procedure.

THERE WILL BE regular forums as well as to dis­cuss problems which arise during the year and can’t be handled by Student Council alone, he added.

James also would like to initiate informal talks af­ter every meeting where representatives could air their ideas on Council affairs.

James pointed to the dismal turnout for last year’s referendum on Student Board elections as a reason for holding voting in homeroom.

“The count was 97-96, which means over two-thirds of the student body considered classes and talking to friends more important than vot­ing,” he said.

“If elections were held in homeroom there would be nothing else to do but vote.”

TURNING TO the Laboratory Mutants, of which he is a member, James described that student group, which publishes an underground journal last year sponsored student-theater forums, as “basically opposed to Student Council.”

But he saw no conflict in his roles a Mutant and Council president.

Just because I’m in both groups doesn’t mean I’m going to change my views,” he stated. “I will continue to think like a Mutant but won’t change Student Council because of it. The Mutants are against parliamentary procedure but I’m not doing away with it entirely.”

A MOVIE PARTY, a computer party, Giant Gym Night and an outdoor sports party in the spring are planned by the Student Union this year, according to President Beth Faller.

We are trying to get away from the idea of just dancing parties,” she said.

Although in her campaign speech last year, Beth questioned holding a Date Dance this year because of poor attendance in past years, she announced that there will be a Date Dance this winter.

“I talked to a lot of people and everyone wanted the dance,” she ex­plained.

INSTEAD OF the traditional Christmas toy drive to raise money for a community organization, however, the Union plans to sponsor a bake sale.

“We have several surprises scheduled for this year and the bake sale will include a few of them,” she added.

Beth hopes to use the Student Union constitution, but admits she doesn’t know much about parliamentary procedure. She urged everyone to attend Union meetings because “last year there was a lot of grumbling but I want to hear it first hand” (see editorial page 3).

BETH FEELS THAT the Union will not be run by an “in” clique, as was charged last year. She points to the variety of groups represented on the Union executive board and to the events planned for this year which “are so different that everyone will find at least one party he can enjoy.”

She added, “We’ve had some great planning sessions and the whole Union board is excited about this year.”

WITcH HAMMER and nails, Drama Teachers Tom Potenza, left, and Robert Keil begin the remodeling which hopefully will result in a new theater in Belfield 342.
Editorial: Student government

Critics should be ‘delegates’ first

Student Government Presidents James Steinbach and Beth Fallers, in a front page story this issue, have outlined their plans for the school year.

As in past years, these plans are sure to be criticized by students and faculty members who have time to talk but not to attend Council and Union meetings.

Student Council meetings are open to everyone, but few students other than representatives attend, and usually the only faculty member present is the advisor.

Last year even key administrators often were absent from Council and Union meetings.

Criticism of student government is only effective when the critics are well-informed. And to be well-informed they must know what is going on at Council and Union meetings.

10-second editorials

According to U-Highlights Editor Mia Takehita, quotes (used up to 1965 and still being requested) could not be considered for the senior section. U-High’s advisors were advised last year not to permit them. However, U-High’s printer recently lost an expensive libel suit involving a senior quote at another school.

Since students can’t assume legal responsibility for the school’s publications, this is one decision they will just have to accept gracefully.

In response to the Midway’s editorial suggestion September 25 that he be allowed a two-month grace before students comment on his policies, new Principal Carl Rimne has stated in a letter to the editor that he feels student complaints, accompanied by proposals for action, are “too important for the future of the school to be reserved for the sake of courtesy.”

Bobbie Green

While many U-Highers spent last summer enjoying courses at universities or seminars through Europe, thousands of people back home in Chicago were participating in a much different kind of program.

Because there was racial tension in Newark, Detroit and San Francisco, Chicagoans feared for their own safety during the long, hot summer ahead.

Publishers of the Chicago Daily Defender, a Negro daily with a circulation of 45,000, saw an opportunity for real community leadership. They launched a “Keep A Cool Summer” campaign, hoping to prevent riots, lootings and killing in Chicago.

PARTICIPANTS in the campaign were 20,000 “Cool” lapel buttons, pasted even more “Cool” stickers on their car windshield, worked at 257 booster centers, trained to recognize symptoms, listened to WYON disk jockeys talk “cool” on the radio and sent to a contest more than 30,000 letters with suggestions and opinions on improving the city.

Last week, Mr. Thomas Pisou, manager of circulation, sales and promotion and director of the booster center program, was able to look back on the campaign and say, “It was without question a success. It was the vehicle which stimulated community action to combat the problem we’re involved in.”

LETTER CONTESTANTS’ ideas on keeping Chicago cool were varied. One letter writer said:

“...and concluding the reading of the council minutes, we wish to commend A. Mouse, our sole visitor last week.”

Nat’l Newspaper week salute

‘Defender’ helped to keep city cool

Editor’s note: National Newspaper Week (October 7-13) was conceived to explain the role of newspapers in a free society. The Defender’s publications, including its editorial board, was a limited selection of items. We have to make ends meet somehow.”

One lady suggested in her letter that “That’s me!” and buy dark glasses and a cup of coffee before consultants will examine the city. Mr. Wayne Brasier will see you in Chicago.

Robert Katzman

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Published every other Tuesday except during vacation periods

1200 NORTH ASHLAND

PUBLISHER: William T. Scrammel

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: (This issue only): Mike Schrammel, Della Dick, Robert Katzman

PHOTOGRAPHER: R. Wayne Breazal

Courses need standards

According to a teachers’ committee report (see story pg. 1), grades at U-High rarely are used for any purpose other than guiding college admission officers in selecting students.

If so, and if the school is to present colleges with the most accurate information on applicants, U-High teachers must adopt the uniform grading practices the report shows at present are nonexistent.

The committee’s report points out that U-Highers can usually adjust to differences in grading practices, but their transcripts cannot, because a “B” from a hard grader looks like a “B” and an easy grader looks like “A.”

Because of the wide variation in subject matter and objectives between departments at U-High, a schoolwide uniform selection of items is not realistic. . .or desirable. Study habits, for example, might obviously be of greater concern to an English teacher than they are to a man who teaches the fine art of kicking a soccer ball.

And because the courses within a department also might vary widely in purpose, department-wide grading policies also are not the answer.

Probably the most meaningful way to improve transcript validity at U-High would be for each department to set standards for each course it offers. The effect of being graded by one teacher instead of another in the same course should not bar a student from admission to his dream college.
Play soccer in spring, Mustang executive urges

If played in spring rather than fall, soccer—U-High's major fall sport—would enjoy the kind of spectator popularity it now lacks.

So advises Mr. Stu Holcomb, general manager of the Chicago Mustangs, the city's new entry in the new United Soccer

Assn.

"In the spring, there is no competition with football, there are fields available (football and soccer), and the weather suits soccer," he said in a recent interview with a Midwest reporter.

As for the newly-begun (in the United States) professional sport of soccer, Holcomb believes it will gain popularity in the next few years as "hometown boys" start to join the teams.

For its first season, the Mustangs had to import a pro team from Italy. "It takes at least one year to organize a team," Holcomb explained, "and when we found out that the other leagues (the National Soccer League—-in Chicago, their team is the Spurs) was going to begin playing this season, we had to come up with an already-established team."

First-year attendance figures for the Mustangs were a poor 4,000. Next season, when a homegrown team is expected to play, Holcomb expects attendance to at least be doubled.

HIGH school soccer teams will begin to feed players to pro squads in the next decade, he feels. Soccer is an ideal high school sport because it is inexpensive—the ball is about the only equipment—and he can be played on any field, he said.

"There are no obscure rules that youngsters need argue about," he said.

Soccer has long been a major school sport in England, where boys begin playing at 8 or 9 years and form clubs by the time they are 12.

For any U-Higher who is interested in playing college soccer, Holcomb feels Michigan State and St. Louis are outstanding among midwestern universities with strong soccer teams.

As baseball has its boys' camps, Holcomb would like to see soccer camps. But he doesn't expect them in the near future.

"There is some soccer played at the White Sox Boys camp (owned by Artelle, Inc., which also owns the Mustangs) but it isn't a major activity yet," he said.

Given time, though, and that lucrative spring season, soccer can flourish, he feels, as one of this country's most popular games.

Beat Oak Park?

Yep, say Maroons

Shouts and cheers illuminated U-High's dim locker room as the players filed in fresh from a 3-0 victory over Illiana Christian Friday.

As the Maroons began to dissect their victory, a visitor asked about today's game at Oak Park.

"I think we'll beat 'em," Larry Rehage ventured.

"When you start scoring, spirit picks up," Team Manager Dick Dworetzki added.

"THE WHOLE TEAM lifts with a surge," Rehage agreed.

"We can beat anyone. At worst we'll tie—we're undefeatable!"

said the cry from the showers.

But the Huskies are a tough team and Coach Sandy Patlak realizes it. "There's not a inch in it (the season)... they all gonna be tough games," he said.

But still the Maroons were optimistic. "We ain't gonna mess. We'll go undefeated," Dick Townsend exclaimed.

"THE STEAMY MIST floating from the showers and through the room did not washout the Maroons' spirits. But for today's journey to Oak Park, Patlak saw it as a major step. For next season, when a homegrown team is expected to play, Holcomb expects attendance to at least be doubled.

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Frosh kickers face test

Cancellation of the St. Mel game slated for last Tuesday sends U-High's frosh-soph soccer team into the crucial week of their season with no game experience.

Beginning with the Oak Park game today, 4 p.m., there, followed by De La Salle Friday and Evanston Tuesday, the Maroons will play three of their four remaining matches within the next eight days.

ST. MEL game was called off because the school failed to produce a frosh-soph soccer team.

The day was not a total loss for the J.V., however, for they scrimmaged the University soccer squad at North field.

Coach Ed Ponder went into the game with high expectations: he thought a victory was possible, a loss by a couple of goals the worst to be expected. U-High lost 1-0.

Richards a running unknown

Strangers will be running Friday in Jackson Park when new opponent Oak Park-Richards meets U-High's barriers October 13 here. No one on the U-High team knows what to expect.

At least a repeat of last year's 28-28 tie is the goal of the Maroons when they meet Lake View next Tuesday there. A weakened Marshall team visits October 20.

INTERESTED IN COLLEGE?

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE SELECTOR recommends best choices based on accepted college and university records and the newly-begun (in the United States) professional sport of soccer, Holcomb believes it will gain popularity in the next few years as "hometown boys" start to join the teams.

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'68 yearbook gets start

Senior formal photos, October 26, will be the major first step toward completion of the 1968 U-Highlights, the yearbook. Underclass and organization photos will follow November 16, Sports photos will be taken after school on days set up throughout the year.

Seniors will be required to bring October 23 a list of their four most important school activities for the Senior section (see editorial pg. 31) and a small deposit on pictures. Full details will be included in a letter the staff will mail to seniors' homes.

Though senior photos are first on the staff's work list, they actually are considered of secondary importance to the story of the year and will be placed in back of the book with the other formal shots as part of the directory, or reference, section.

"We're playing up the informals," Yearbook Editor Mia Takeda explained. "This year's U-Highlights will emphasize a picture story of the year, photos of events as they really happened, such as Life magazine would present them."

Though the organization section will include the usual group shots necessary for a record of the year, they will be played down and informal candid photos will be given the big display, Mia said.

The STAFF spent several weeks studying top-rated yearbooks and newest developments in the field before planning its book. Though the concept of the theme, as usual, is secret, Mia did reveal that "the staff plan to make more use of color this year."

For the first time in recent years, teachers will have to pay for their copies of the book. The staff felt it was unfair that the student body had been carrying the $5-per-copy cost of faculty books.

Orders will be taken from teachers through October 31 in the pupil

Grading

(Continued from page 1)

minus, rather than the C. Breakdown of average grades by subject within departments showed that there is no agreement between departments or between teachers within the same department on what constitutes an A or B.

According to the report, U-High students usually adjust to different grading systems and have no procedural quibbles when they see A's and B's. An easy-grading teacher will meet with the same success as a tough grader, and even a tough grader looks A's and B's.

The COMMITTEE used a questionnaire to answer the third question: "What are the underlying reasons that teachers have for assigning the grades they do?"

They found that U-High's teachers don't agree any more about what qualities make an A student than they agree on how many students there should be.

After a Chilling Soccer Match

Warm up to the best fried chicken in town.

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Photo stories to get big play

Debate captain sees topic as asset here

Resolved: That Congress should establish uniform regulations to control criminal investigation procedures.

This issue, decided upon last May by the National Board of High School Forensics, will be argued by the U-High debate team, as well as 15,000 other high school squads across the nation.

"It's an excellent topic," asserted Debate Team Captain Raphael Pollock, "because both the affirmative or negative arguments can be equally strong."

"BECAUSE of the resolution's highly technical nature, in addition, the team that wins will of necessity be the one that has done the best research. That should be us because we have available to us the U of C Law library, probably the best in the Midwest.

Raph expects the loudest competition to come from New Trier East, Rich East, New Trier West, Evanston and Homewood-Fl�moor.

These teams all were among the top 10 in Illinois last year, and since they did not lose too many debaters through graduation, they should all be very tough," he explained.

Though Raph is the only returning varsity debater and the team has a new advisor, Social Studies Teacher Earl Bell, he feels inexperience will not be a problem. Team Members Dan Erickson and Dan Harris have strong junior varsity and novice back­grounds, and Lee Manchek, a new senior, and Elliot Mincberg, a sophomore, have about a year's practice.

"Mr. Bell has inspired us and worked us very hard," Raph commented.

"We WILL take part in about 60 debates, more than twice last year's number," he added. "This is one of the highest totals in the state and should be more than counteract any 'varsity greense.

"We should qualify for the state championships in April at Illinois State university. I believe we are capable of placing among the top five at state; hard work and some good luck are all we shall really need."

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