

An extra Midway

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Drama's future

Consultant will study theater renovation needs

By Fred Offenkrantz

A professional theater consultant will be hired to plan possible renovations of the Belfield theater, Lab Schools Director Nel Noddings has decided in concurrence with a recommendation made to her by the PreCollegiate Board June 1.

The Unified Arts Department suggested Ms. Noddings hire a consultant after she discovered last November that Belfield theater requires renovations to accommodate U-High's present drama program without safety code violations.

IN JANUARY, Drama Teacher Liucija Ambrosini obtained a consultant's prospectus as example for the

Board.

In making its decision, the Board considered the prospectus and the program's importance to the school, Ms. Noddings said.

"We all agreed the logical first step is to hire a consultant to submit a variety of possibilities with estimates among which we can choose," she related. The consultant who submitted the prospectus will be offered the job first, she added.

MS. NODDINGS said she will request plans for making the theater "minimally satisfactory, standard, and one that will really do something for our unique program."

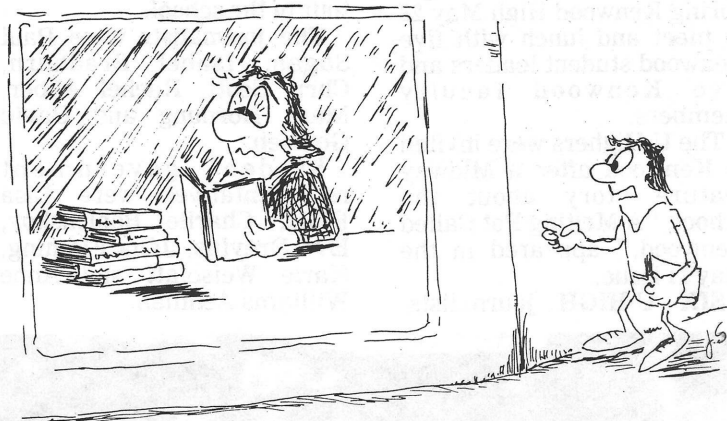
Before drawing up plans, Ms. Noddings explained, the

consultant will determine what facilities the theater lacks for the present program, which emphasizes instruction and practical experience in both acting and technical skills.

The consultant's sources of information, Ms. Noddings said, will include the director, Ms. Ambrosini, Associate Director Donald Conway and Principal Geoff Jones.

They will also consider the plans submitted.

The amount of money that can be spent on the theater, Ms. Noddings said, will be decided after Mr. Conway completes a list of other renovations possible in the Schools.



Art by Jan Svejksky

"THAT CAN'T BE ALL THAT GOING TO SCHOOL SHOULD MEAN!"

THE MIDWAY'S OPINION

Special programs benefit everyone

The commitment the PreCollegiate Board and Lab Schools Director Nel Noddings made to U-High's drama program in their

decision to hire a theater consultant is a welcome one.

Although U-High's responsibility to prepare its students for college seems never in doubt, its obligation to provide education beyond the classroom has sometimes seemed vaguely defined.

The benefits to students in drama, journalism, music, debate, sports and other special programs in gaining skills, developing talents and learning to work with others toward a common goal at a crucial formative stage of their lives are important.

But the benefits of these programs as they extend to the school community are even more important.

A school that does not value the arts and appreciate their importance to the culture of a society, for example, cannot truly be an educational institution. A person who does not appreciate the arts may as well be a robot.

MIDWAY MAILBOX

Senior praises drama program



Becky Brisben

From Becky Brisben, senior:

Now that I have nearly completed my four years at U-High, I have some words to the general populace which I hope will make some sense and have some meaning.

Most of you know that over the years I have been very involved in the U-High drama department. I'm not quite sure why, but because of this, I have been shunned by students as a theater person, crazy beyond belief and totally weird. This doesn't bother me so much as the general attitude that goes along with it—the attitude that theater is not important and a waste of time. To me this makes no sense at all, and I do have very good reasons to back this up with.

FIRST OF ALL, how can a school that supports all of the sports teams or at least accepts them, hate the theater so much? We work very hard to produce three productions a year, just to entertain you! Without an audience there would be no art forms of any kind.

Second of all the drama department is one of the only places (besides journalism and sports) where the students can get together and work towards a common goal. It's the experience of learning how to deal with all kinds of people, and how to organize them. Not all students who participate have to fall in love with it and make it their career, but it is a place where a student can relate to other people in a relationship that is uncommon in both the classroom and a party.

LASTLY, THEATER is an all-encompassing art. It contains art (as in painting), design, construction and how to work with tools; acting, dancing, directing and singing. Theater is the art of creation, creation of the beautiful or ugly, happy or sad.

Okay, I'll admit I got a little carried away on the last one. What I'm trying to say is that it is worth it and lots of fun. Oh, and about being crazy and weird, this may be true, but imagination and the ability to express yourself freely is, in my opinion, one of the best ways to be.

Curriculum's future

Social Studies case poses question of authority

By David Gottlieb, political editor

Members of the Social Studies Department have been meeting with Lab Schools Director Nel Noddings to discuss the possibility of an interim chairperson following Joel Sural's dismissal as Department chairperson.

Social Studies Teacher Philip Montag has filed a grievance after being threatened with suspension by Ms. Noddings if he continued picketing the decision to dismiss Mr. Sural from the chairmanship.

THESE developments followed Mr. Sural's dismissal, effective June 11, which resulted from what the department called "a mi-

sunderstanding" and Ms. Noddings called a "breach of professional faith."

Ms. Noddings said she expected the department to announce at a parents' meeting its readiness to offer next year a Western Civilization course which some parents had requested.

The department, however, viewed the meeting as "an opportunity to speak directly with the parents to answer questions and explain the rationale for existing courses," according to an article by Social Studies Teacher Earl

Bell in the June 3 Union Report. Mr. Sural has declined comment on the matter for the Midway.

AFTER Ms. Noddings decided that High School Principal Geoff Jones and Middle School Principal David Cunningham would chair the department, the department requested an interim chairperson for the summer. Ms. Noddings agreed, but said she would accept or reject the department's choice. Mr. Montag was chosen and rejected. Last week the department

was considering alternatives.

Mr. Montag picketed Mr. Sural's removal and discussed the issue with students May 21 on the steps outside the school. That afternoon Ms. Noddings met with him and told him he would be suspended if he continued such activities.

MR. MONTAG received a letter from Ms. Noddings May 24 "officially" reprimanding him for his conduct. If he continued, the letter said, further disciplinary action would be taken "including, but not limited to,

dismissal."

Mr. Montag told the Midway he was now seeking another way to publicize the issue.

Ms. Noddings said she decided to dismiss Mr. Sural because he "is just not in tune with the score being laid out by administrators. It seems to me that the traditional autonomy of departments to decide upon such matters is not in the best interests of the school," she added.

Ms. Noddings said that Mr. Sural will teach the Western Civilization course next year.

THE MIDWAY'S OPINION

Curriculum decisions belong with teachers

Lab Schools Director Nel Noddings' dismissal of Social Studies Teacher Joel Sural from the department chairmanship last month, over what she termed a "breach of professional faith," raises a question: How much control should administrators have over curriculum decisions?

Ms. Noddings dismissed Mr. Sural last month after a meeting with parents in which she expected him to announce the offering of a Western Civilization course at the second-year level. Mr. Sural later said he did not understand he was to make such an offering.

High School Principal Geoff Jones and Middle School Principal David Cunningham may chair the department next year.

Teachers have traditionally made decisions about curriculum, with administrative approval, because teachers are the experts in the subjects they teach. That is why they are teachers.

To assert such a degree of administrative control as is now being evidenced is to deprive teachers of a basic part of their job: the responsibility to decide the courses they will offer based on their expertise of the subject and student needs.

Administrators must, of course, help coordinate curriculum. But when they assume steering power in curriculum decisions, they are giving teachers one less reason to stay at the Lab Schools.

Extra issue

This extra issue of the Midway reports news which developed too late to include in the regular final issue. The Midway staff worked so hard to rush this issue out that it will not have the strength to publish another issue until September.

Gettin' together

Lunch promotes Kenwood U-High communication

By Chris Scott

Mostly favorable comments were expressed by 12 U-Highers who went to neighboring Kenwood High May 28 to meet and lunch with five Kenwood student leaders and five Kenwood faculty members.

The U-Highers were invited to Kenwood after a Midway feature story about the school, "A Melting Pot Called Kenwood," appeared in the May 11 issue.

SIX U-HIGH journalists,

six student government leaders and Principal Geoff Jones journeyed to Kenwood for the two-hour luncheon and discussion and a one-hour tour of the school.

The journalists were Paul Sagan, Isabel Bradburn, Chris Scott, Rachel Aliber, Mark Hornung and David Gottlieb.

Student government representatives were Lisa Biblo, Charlie Bobrinsky, Eve Dreyfus, Jana Fleming, Karie Weisblatt and Anne Williams-Ashman.

Several suggestions were made for joint U-High-Kenwood projects, among them a "Key Club," a branch of Kiwanis International. Kenwood presently has such a club but U-High does not.

THE MIDWAY article was a major topic of discussion.

Kenwood Student Union President Brian Marshall said that some Kenwood students and teachers found it offensive.

"Kenwood has always been notorious for its various problems," Brian explained. "Of course, we've had our share of happenings, but so have other schools."

"People always want a story to tell your good side, but I guess that they thought that the bad side was brought out too much."

MIDWAY MAILBOX

Kenwood adviser praises article

From Alta Blakely, adviser, Kenwood Kaleidoscope:

I would like to congratulate Isabel Bradburn and Paul Sagan for their excellent article in the May 11 Midway on Kenwood High School. It is a fine piece of investigative reporting and evidence of why the Midway receives an All American rating from the National Scholastic Press Association.

I think the reporters made every effort to give a fair appraisal of Kenwood.

Some people at Kenwood are upset about parts of the article. It would appear that one student knowingly gave misinformation to the reporters. And the statement quoting the head of the Social Studies Department at KHS has

Paul, who wrote the Midway feature with Isabel, said that "The story was not meant to judge Kenwood as being either good or bad, but rather to objectively present a broad picture of the school to the U-High readers it was written for."

THE KENWOOD students also brought up questions about statements in the article attributed to the Social Studies Department chairperson about the fact that, in his experience, members of some ethnic groups took more advantage of learning opportunities at Kenwood than others.

After the story appeared, the teacher was confronted by teachers and students who demanded he justify the comments. He said that he

had been misquoted and that readers had misinterpreted what appeared in print.

Paul, who wrote that portion of the story, said that he had checked the quotes at the time of the interview.

ISABEL QUESTIONED the fact that Kenwood's students and teachers found the article and the quote offensive.

"The fact that students, teachers and administrators made such a fuss about one teacher's statements on his own experience shows their defensiveness," she said, "and that reaction makes it seem difficult for teachers and students to say what they feel, because of possible pressure from administrators, teachers and students."

angered many people. Hopefully we will be able to ascertain whether the disturbing remarks were an accurate quotation.

But it is obvious from the article that Ms. Bradburn and Mr. Sagan listened carefully, reported objectively, and took care to try to quote their sources accurately and precisely. These are all the marks of fine reporting.

Editor's note: The Midway reported in its June 1 issue that Kenwood Social Studies Chairperson Napoleon Damianides feels the comments attributed to him in the paper's Kenwood feature were incorrect and were misinterpreted by those who read them. Midway Editor-in-Chief David Gottlieb says that while the Midway staff regrets Mr. Damianides' feelings, it stands by all quotes in the Kenwood story as reported accurately.



Photo by Paul Sagan

AT A LUNCHEON Fri., May 28 at Kenwood High School, U-High and Kenwood student government leaders and journalists met to discuss their two schools. After lunch the U-Highers were given a tour of Kenwood. Here, Midway Reporter Isabel Bradburn (back to camera) and Student Legislative Coordinating Council Vice President Anne Williams-Ashman talk over lunch with Kenwood Student Union President Brian Marshall.

Yearend news

Judges call Midway ads 'best'

"Spectacular ads, great ads. The Dec. 9 issue is a fantastic piece of ad journalism, but every issue has the best ads of any school or college publication in the U.S."

With this comment and others, judges for the Columbia (University, N.Y.) Scholastic Press Association awarded the Midway the highest rating, Medalist, for issues published during 1975. The award was previously announced but the scorebook containing the comments only arrived last week.

To win the award the Midway first had to earn a 1st-place rating with at least 850 of 1,000 scorebook points. The U-High paper received 980 points, then was selected for Medalist on the basis of special excellence.

The Midway received All-Columbian awards for specific excellence in advertising, photography and design. It was also nominated for Trendsetter, the Association's special award, for ads.

'Great use of

Festival profits

This year's May Festival earned about \$3,000 for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund, according to Associate Director Donald Conway.

About 3,000 people attended the festival. Ticket sales, concession sales and activity booths grossed \$10,523. Both the gross and profit are records, Mr. Conway said.

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photography," the judges also commented. "This paper has some of the best use of photography found in newspapers. It equals the use of that found in top newsmagazines."

Judges suggested the Midway should be larger so it could include more coverage

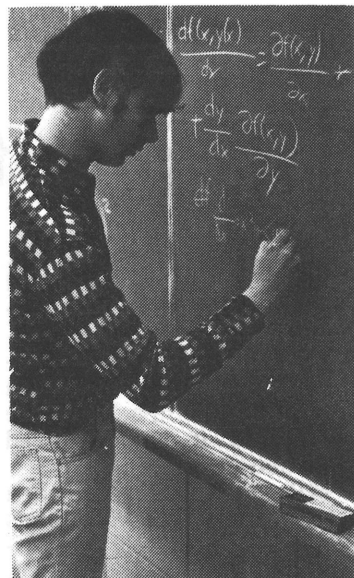


Photo by Paul Sagan

Math Whiz

"I WAS PLEASED. I wasn't sure whether I would do that well or not," said Adam Stephanides about tying for 1st place in the 1976 U.S.A. Mathematical Olympiad, a national math contest. "I wasn't too excited. I don't think of it as that important," he added. Though his rank was announced last month, Adam has not yet been notified of the awards he will receive. Here he works on a calculus problem in partial derivatives.

of out-of-school issues related to students, more in-depth work and two, rather than one, editorial pages an issue. "Good work hampered only by the finances. U-High should allocate more funds," they commented. "This publication is worth it."

Awards await debate champs

Tickets to a baseball game or rock concert will reward the four finalists in a debate tournament currently underway.

Social Studies Teacher Earl Bell is sponsoring the tournament for 8th, 9th and 10th grade students. Varsity debaters are acting as coaches and judges.

Debate topic is reform of the U.S. penal system.

Runners place at state

A 2nd-place finish by Jimmy Bruce in the 100-yard dash and a 4th-place finish by Richard Nayer in the mile run at the boys' state track meet May 29-30 at Charleston concluded the track team's season.

Both Richard and Jimmy had qualified for the meet by winning their respective

Two tie in German

Kathy Wallace and Robert Needman have won \$100 each tying for 1st place with four other people in the Illinois section of the national German contest. In a runoff, Kathy placed as alternate for a trip to Germany, first prize.



Photo by Paul Sagan

Monilaw winner

LAB SCHOOLS DIRECTOR Nel Noddings presents the Monilaw Award, for the senior boy rated highest in athletic ability, citizenship and scholarship, to Jef Fish at the Boys' Athletic Awards Banquet June 1. Richard

Nayer received the Roberts-Black trophy for the outstanding boy in track in any grade, and Jimmy Bruce (last year's Roberts-Black winner) the Paul Derr Award to the outstanding senior in track.

The Final Days

TODAY—Last day of regular classes.

WED., JUNE 9—Math exams, 9-10:30 a.m.; science exams, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

THURS., JUNE 10—Records day, no school; commencement, 2 p.m.; Rockefeller Chapel, reception following; graduates should return robes after the ceremony to Belfield 137.

FRI., JUNE 11—Students to clean out lockers, report to teachers for grades; school dismissed at noon.

AND... THE FINAL ERRORS: The list of senior plans published last issue included several errors, among which was the inclusion of Jon Weinstein (a senior next year), and the misspelling of Champaign, IL.