Drama's future
Consultant will study theater renovation needs

By Fred Oppenfritz

A professional theater consultant will be hired to plan possible renovations of the Belfield theater at U-High. Lab Schools Director Nel Noddings has decided to move forward with the recommendation made to her by the PreCollege Board in June.

The United Arts Department, chaired by Ms. Noddings, has already hired a consultant after she discovered last November that Belfield theater requires renovations to accommodate U-High's present drama program without safety code violations.

On JANUARY, drama Teacher Lucija Ambrosini obtained an assistant's prospectus as example for the Board. In making its decision, the Board will consider the program's and the program's importance to the school, Ms. Noddings explained.

"We all agreed the logistical issues are vast and that we must commit to a variety of possibilities with estimates among them. We can choose," she related. The consulting firm that 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 that one that will really do something for the 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 acting and technical skills.

The consultant's sources of information, Ms. Noddings said, will include the director, Ms. Ambrosini, Associate Director Donald Conway and General Staff Jonathan 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.

Last week the department agreed, but said she would accept or reject the department's choice. Mr. Montag was chosen and rejected not in the best interests of the school.

Ms. Noddings explained, the 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.

Among all that does not value the arts and appreciate their importance to the culture of a society, for education cannot truly be an educational institution. A person who does not appreciate the arts may also be a well-rib.

Second of all the drama department is one of the only places (besides journalism and sports) where the students can get their hands on 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 the department. But not all department and student can relate to others in a relationship that is unconnected to working in a group and that is a necessary part of working in a theater.

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

I'll admit I get 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.

The commitment the PreCollege 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.

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Gettin’ together

Lunch promotes Kenwood U-High communication

By Chris Scott

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

The U-Highers were invited to Kenwood after a Midway feature about “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 Sagin; Isabel Brachlins, Chris Scott, Rachel Aliber, Mark Hornung and David Gottlieb.

Student government representatives were Lisa Biblo, Charlie Bobrinskoy, 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 Boys Town. The National Kenwood presently has such a club but U-High does not.

The Midway feature under President Brian Marshall said that some Kenwood students’ behavior was offensive.

“Kenwood has always been notorious for its various problems,” Brian explained. “Of course, we also share of happenings, but so have other schools.

“People always want a story to tell your good side, but I would like to say that the bad side was brought out too much.”

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It is a fine piece of investigative reporting and expressing 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.

The Midway’s ads are uprooted about parts of the article. It would appear that one student knowingly gave misinformation to the reporter.

And the sentiment quoted here and in the story that the Social Studies Department at KHS has...