Looking back at the old days of activism

By Jon Simon, community development editor

The inauguration of Jimmy Carter as President last month marked the first time since 1961 that the ceremony was not visited by demonstrators.

Sociologists, journalists, teachers and even some parents have described the present high school and college population as a "silent generation," the same as students of the 1950s and early '60s were called. To understand exactly what "silent" means requires a look at the "noisy generation," the activist students of the late '60s and early '70s. Most students today know little about the school during those years.

A LOOK THROUGH issues of the Midway during that period reveals a U-High where everything from hair length to Vietnam aroused heated debate, a U-High where students questioned and challenged many aspects of the society.

Most U-Highers then opposed the Vietnam War (1964-72), the domino effect of the times, a Midway poll in 1968 reported. Large numbers of those students continued the debate in Vietnam.

Fourteen U-Highers traveled to Washington, D.C., in October, 1969, to participate in a peace march to the Pentagon with 100,000 other people. Many joined demonstrations in Chicago. The brutal treatment demonstrated often received from the Chicago police was important enough to U-High for the Midway to print editorials praising the dangers of police using unnecessary violence and warning against America becoming a police state.

In response to a nationally-organized Moratorium Day against the war in 1969, activists at U-High proposed a day of staying away from school to do antiwar work, such as getting petitions signed. To appraise student support of the plan, student government representatives sponsored a referendum, after visiting all nonperiodic classes to answer students' questions about the Moratorium.

A FACULTY COMMITTEE at first opposed any closing of school, but later recommended school be dismissed early. In the end, Director Francis V. Lloyd Jr. closed school at 12:30 p.m. the day of the Moratorium, Oct. 21.

The University and Lab Schools both closed May 4, 1970, for a day to mourn the killing of four students at Kent (Ohio) State University and for antiwar activities. The Midway printed a special issue about the closing of the school and editorially criticized it, pointing to the dangers of an educational institution taking a political stand instead of maintaining neutrality as a forum for open discussion.

The Vietnam War was not the only issue in which U-Highers involved themselves. Concerned with racism, students in 1968 formed an inter racial group called Cousins, Brothers and Sisters.

The group attempted to generate discussion about the separation of blacks and whites in the U-High community. In the spring of 1968 they planned a boycott of sporting events with Morgan Park Academy, which had not enrolled blacks.

BLACK STUDENTS at U-High, like blacks across the country, became increasingly aware of their heritage and culture. They produced a show of black culture, music and dance in 1968 and worked for the institution of an Afro-American History Course, which the school later supplied. It wasn't just black students, however, who proposed more relevant curriculum. Earlier, in 1967, a group of students proposed plans to make curriculum individualized. That year Principal Carl Rinnen presented a long range plan that would have had students in 1977 choosing what percentage of their time they would spend in each academic area, with minimal requirements. The plans for major revisions were never carried out.

A coalition of students and teachers called STC (Student-Teacher Coalition) worked in 1970 to set up an alternate curriculum within the school's regular program. Under the plan, students who wanted to participate would take regular courses in the morning and spend afternoons in a series of workshops and special interest courses.

One such course was actually taught, but students did not receive credit for it, contrary to the ultimate goal of the Coalition.

ACTIVISM AT U-HIGH faded around 1973, along with some of the issues. American involvement in Vietnam ended. Students, according to teachers who were here then, became less concerned with alternate curriculum as the nation headed towards recession and a budget job market.

Activism in the nation has a cyclical nature, according to Midway and U-Highs Advisor Wayne Brasher, who has observed the waxing and waning of student activism in more than a decade of advising and reporting on the student press at U-High and in the nation.

"We are all victims of our times," Mr. Brasher expalined. "It's as simple as this. If the nation is in a political inactive state, then U-High will be in a politically-active mood. If the nation is not, U-High will not. Such activity rusted in cycles. Activism will occur here again. You can be sure of it."

Also see editorial page 2.

School to pick 'royalty'

Class elections to select one boy and one girl to compete for king and queen of Cultural Union (C.U.'s) Sno-Ball will take place Feb. 5 and Feb. 22.

A new change this year is the addition of the election of the king and queen from the eight candidates. They seek payment of the $300 debt to the school, according to Club President Ben Suhm's bridge first time here, have tied for the first and second annual Bridge Building Contest Friday, which the school later supplied. The group attempted to generate discussion about the separation of blacks and whites in the U-High community. In the spring of 1968 they planned a boycott of sporting events with Morgan Park Academy, which had not enrolled blacks.

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Activism can work now, too

The most recent example of activism at U-High occurred three years ago over the firing of four teachers. There was widespread dissatisfaction, some understanding of the issues and several leaders. Several meetings and one demonstration took place.

But this case of activism suffered from lack of organization and commitment. Nothing of consequence was accomplished, no further action was taken when activism acquired a bad reputation.

EVEN WELL-ORGANIZED ACTIVISM often fails. U-Highers flooded the attendance office with late students in 1975 to dramatize that the school's policy made late students feel out of place. But some activism has been successful. U-Highers personalities often concern them with respect to the welfare of the school. While no direct causal relationship can be proven, the case was reopened and, ultimately, the library was retained.

ACTIVISM CAN BE USED effectively at U-High now, too. Committees in curriculum could give organization on current curriculum and how it can be changed to better serve students.

Pettitioning could be used to make student government more responsive to student activism.

Mass refusal to hand in papers when several assignment due dates are identical would accentuate the need for departmental cooperation.

Whatever the issue, whatever the tool, coalitions of activist U-Highers can obtain necessary changes and create a better school for everyone.

The great administrator faceoff (better make that a tummy-off)

By Cathy Crawford, public opinion editor

Chicago will fare badly without the late Mayor Richard Daley, some U-Highers interviewed by the Midway believe. Daley died Dec. 20. The City Council elected Michael Bilandic acting mayor to serve until a new mayor is elected June 7. On the other hand, "People were too dependent on Mayor Daley and he encouraged them by wanting to run everything," Leah Taylor said. "But we should do well if we have functioning men in the administration."

Betsy Schwartz agreed, saying, "It's going to be hard for anyone else to do as much as Mayor Daley did. The city government will never be as strong as it was with him."

No one seems to know exactly who's got the money (the Democratic fund). Barbara Bermuth pointed problems when a new mayor is elected. "Few will appeal upon who actually was elected. Also," Bermuth said, referring to the ethnic background from which the new mayor may come, "the new mayor will probably claim Patrick's Day to National Croatia Day."

Not everyone thought Daley's absence would make a difference.

"It will be just the same," Pryor Turner said. "I doubt if his absence will be felt to myself and my peers."
By Greg Simmons and David Rothblatt

A visit from Latin 4 p.m. today begins the second series of six games in 17 days for the boys' basketball team.

Players began talking about their chances for winning the Independent School League (ISL) title. According to Team Captain Mercer row an one man everyone "we beat St. Michael, we've got a good shot at the title."

ST. MICHAEL currently is rated the number one class A (enrollment under 750) team by Chicago newspapers.

In recent games, the Maroons beat Glenwood 82-76, Jan. 16 there, paced by Mercer's 39 points and Eric Kuby's 24.

According to Frosch-Soph Coach Guy Arkin, the Maroons are playing as well as he anticipated. He had expected a .500 season.

OTHER SCORES and upcoming basketball games:

SCORES (U-High first, frosch-soph in parenthesis):


UPCOMING games for ISL title:

The Maroons, undefeated post-Christmas competition, handily defeated the Quigley North Norsemen, 49-27, Jan. 11, there; edged Mt. Carmel's Caravan, 43-40, Jan. 14, here; trounced the Glenbrook West Wildcats, 57-23, Jan. 17, there; and defeated Latin 51-31 and Parker 61-8, Jan. 21 at Parker.

Before the ISL championship, Fri. Feb. 11 at Latin, the Maroons will face Latin and Parker again 4 p.m., today, here; and the Lake Forest Caxymen, Thursday, to close out the season.

"WE'LL HAVE an easy time with Latin-Parker," Foster commented. "We're better in all events. The Caxymen have improved over last year, they could give us a tough meet."

Frosh-soph swimmers capped off a 4-3 season on a winning note, trouncing Mt. Carmel, 66-14, avenging an early season loss to the Caravan.

Tracksters face monster squads

By Cherie McNell

Two 100-member indoor track teams, the Maine South Huskies and Glenbrook South Trojans next Tuesday at Maine South should prove the toughest of the season. Drozd feels.

"All those teams," he explained, "are so large that they'll win with maybe or nothing else."

HE ADDED that a meet against Maine North and Niles West, 4:30 p.m. Tues., Feb. 12 at Maine East should reap the same results.

"As a team," Drozd continued, "we have little chance of doing well. But individually I think everyone will be successful."

We love our pizzas!

And since it's love month, maybe it's time for you to learn to love them too! Or maybe you'd rather try our pizzas! we're always given us a hard time."
16 to visit Kenwood High

By Aaron Stern

Sixteen U-Highers will visit Kenwood High School, Wed., Feb. 9, and the same number of Kenwood students will visit U-High the next day as part of an exchange sponsored by Student Legislative Coordinating Council (SLCC).

The exchange was suggested at a luncheon last year sponsored by Kenwood for student government and publications representatives from both schools. The luncheon followed a Midway feature on Kenwood.

ANY U-HIGHER can apply to participate in the exchange, according to SLCC President Mr. Bobrinskoy.

Bobrinskoy said the results would be meaningless without names.

IN OTHER STUDENT AFFAIRS

varsity swim meets.

"HMS Cherry-Pie"

16 to visit Kenwood High

AMONG WEARERS of nightlife during Dress Up Week was Dan Schuman.

government developments: • SLCC's attempt to restore U-Highers' privileges for the use of Ida Noyes Hall have failed. Privileges were revoked last year after personnel at the Hall complained of student vandalism and other problems.

Mr. Jones bargained with head of Ida Noyes, Riley Davis, on U-Highers' behalf. While Mr. Davis refused to publicize the change, he has instructed Ida Noyes personnel not to enforce the rule if U-Highers do not linger or come in large groups.

• SLCC's Committee for Student Evaluation of Teachers, which has yet to begin evaluations, has faced a challenge from other SLCC members. The challenge came after Committee Member Mitchell Saywitz reported that evaluation results would be published without names.

SLCC Treasurer Charles Bobrinskoy said the results would be meaningless without names. If the committee survives the challenge, it will carry out evaluations in the middle of the quarter.

• LOW PARTICIPATION marred Dress Up Week, Jan. 3-7, according to Cultural Union President Jana Jones except for three SLCC members who will definitely dress up.

Jana said she felt people knew about the activity but either failed to dress up or didn't want to because of snowfall during the week.

Some students complained that they were threatened with referrals by Student Board members for not wearing shoes with night-wear.

• SLCC is planning a second exchange sponsored by SLCC Treasurer Charles Bobrinskoy said the results would be meaningless without names.

“A KIND CAPTAIN, I've important information,” sings Dick Deadeye (Roland Kula), right, to the captain (Roscoe Lindsay) as they dance the Hornpipe in a rehearsal of this year's Parents' Association-sponsored Gilbert and Sullivan opera, "HMS Pinafore."

The story involves a girl who runs away with a sailor despite her father's objections.

Performance times, dates and tickets are as follows:

8 p.m., Fri., Feb. 18; $4 reserved and $2.50 general admission; 1:30 p.m. Sat., Feb. 19; $2.50; and 8 p.m. Saturday, $5 reserved and $2.50 general admissions.

Tickets for the performances, at Mandel Hall, 57th St. and University Ave., are available at the box office there 9:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; by calling 415-6461 or by writing Adventures in the Arts, 5631 S. Drexel Ave., Chicago, Il 60637.

Proceeds benefit Lab Schools programs.

Operetta sets sail

"HMS Pinafore,

2521 S. Harper Ave.

Mr. G's

The Shoe Corral

667-0920

1603 E. 53rd St.

823-2175

The Book Center

The Shoe Corral

667-0471

1603 E. 53rd St.

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Mi 3-1900

Cornell

1645 E. 55th St.

FA 4-1651

Mellower Restaurant

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Memorial

"HOPE, dignity and love are the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." Guest Speaker Leon Chestang told a memorial assembly Jan. 14, the day before Dr. King's birthday.

Mr. Chestang, father of Nicole, is assistant professor at the School of Social Service Administration.

About 40 students attended the program, sponsored by the Black Students Association.