Workload leads complaints students bring counselors

Pressure to do large amounts of schoolwork is the problem that the freshmen and sophomores say they face. Ms. Grundy and Ms. Hoganson say they hear most often from students. Ms. Grundy interviewed freshmen and juniors and Ms. Hoganson sophomores and seniors.

"I don't have any time to do anything but homework," was the complaint most frequently heard. "I never have any time to get away from this class or not, mostly by assessing the student's workload." Many of the students say that the problem is the most important thing in school and that they need time to deal with the problem," said one student.

Ms. Grundy also feels that the pressure to get good grades leads to problems for students. "It's very difficult for a student to accept that his or her class isn't the most important to a specific student," she said. "But, because of the pressure for good grades here, students find themselves postponing their interests because they usually have a much greater stress on their grades than on overall grades in the course. This is the most important aspect of the student's workload." Ms. Hoganson agrees, and adds: "I don't have always as much time as I need to deal with the kids who have academic problems but don't come in." But, added, "We are here to define our role as counselors rather than therapists." So, the students become less interested in learning and more interested in the students because he starts doing the work for the grades, which can be very unpredictable.

Looking back on his 1st quarter as a U-Higher, freshman Tom Bigongiari said, "The teachers don't always make you do the work, but the pressure for grades is still there. You can get good final grades without doing all the work. If the grades are going to be so important, the way they are set up, you can even get a bad grade and still cause tension among the students because of the strain put on them by this program."

"The primal scream is the ultimate outlet of pressures brought to bear on students," said senior David Ulmio. "I use a scream to break up the blocks in my brain that form white work." "The primal scream is the ultimate outlet of pressures brought to bear on students," said senior David Ulmio. "I use a scream to break up the blocks in my brain that form white work."

We plan to use this approach to teaching in class. We plan to do this by trying to get people to make up their minds and then get people to think more of what it is to be an adolescent. "We can't," said. "We're not going to act as if we're the ultimate authorities. We plan to use community and University resources and visiting speakers."

Services offer help outside the school

U-Highers who feel they do not want to go to school counselors for help or feel their problems are too overwhelming to bring to a counselor can find help at several community service agencies. Thought of the counselors are happy to help young people with any problem, some stress the fact they offer immediate counseling to people who are so overwhelmed by their problems they have considered suicide.

The suicide rate among people 15 to 24 years old has jumped nationally since 1970, according to Newsweek Magazine. Five thousand young people, nearly 13 a day, are committing suicide every year in this nation. The reason is as various as the reasons for suicide. According to Dr. Reina Gross, chief psychiatric social worker at the Chicago Center in Chicago, in a copyrighted article in the Aug. 24, 1978 issue, of Newsweek, "There's no real sense kids have that they belong anywhere or to anyone, as they did 10 or 15 years ago." Whatever the reasons for depression, said, it also means that they feel isolated. "Some have been so overwhelmed by their problems that they have considered suicide."

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**NCA's verdict**

School gets approval but also suggestions

By Jonathan Silverman, political editor

Increasing the number of teachers in several departments, improving and refurbishing facilities throughout the school, Jones said, would cost over a million dollars, and improving communication and cooperation among the various parts of the school community are among recommendations of the North Central Accrediting Association (NCA) visitation team which visited U-High Oct. 21-No. 2.

The evaluation, involving 17 educators, followed a self-study of the school primarily by faculty members. In their 67-page report, the evaluators evaluate specific courses, departments, activities, and programs; conduct a review of NCA's requirements; and make recommendations for improvement.

The report documents the qualifications of teachers at U-High, existing of the curriculum and administration and evaluating the data from the report by faculty to examine the school's progress, how responses were sugges- tion between parts of the school community are among recommendations of the NCA, which the school seeks to implement in the next year.

The principal Geoff Jones said that the report would be compared with the self- evaluation and that some of the recommendations would probably be adopted. He said, however, that there is no established procedure for such a process.

More student input into the content of Lab Schools curricula would add an essential insight to the education for students, some parents feel. But others feel that basing curriculum partially on student opinion could lower the quality of Lab Schools' college-preparatory education.

Panel, audience discuss Lab Schools' curriculum

Grades getting inflated here? Opinions vary

By Adam Simon

Grade inflation is not a problem at U-High, principal Geoff Jones said after conducting a study of fall quarter grades at the Midway's request. Not everyone interviewed by the Midway agreed.

According to recent articles in national magazines, grade inflation — long an area of concern at colleges — is filtering down to high schools. Grade inflation occurs when teachers, consciously or unconsciously, give so many high grades that grades lose their meaning.

"My conclusion is that grade inflation is not a problem here," Mr. Jones said after his analysis. "I would be concerned if we couldn't identify standards by which to grade student work. I have no idea of any inflation of understated grades. To the extent that teachers define standards, high grades don't necessarily mean an inflated grade.

According to Mr. Jones' calculations, the average grade at U-High is a B. Seventy-four per cent of all grades were B or above. Of the 100 per cent As, 37 per cent B, 21 per cent C and only 5 per cent Ds and Fs. U-High had only 1 per cent more As than the estimated national average of 18 per cent and 20 per cent less per cent Ds and Fs.

But according to Guidance Department chairperson Karen Robb, the fall quarter grade curve is a fairly normal one for U-High. "The only outstanding factors are a slightly tighter grouping of grades and a similarly increased average," she said. "They could indicate more students of high academic ability or perhaps grade inflation." Some teachers interviewed by the Midway pointed out that 11 per cent or grade inflation at the A and B level, as Mr. Jones and Ms. Robb suggested, that they maintain a high inflation at the bottom of the curve, at the D level.

One teacher said, "I am reluctant to give Ds to students who are not meeting the class standards or the achievement at the bottom of the curve, at the D level.

Mr. Jones, however, felt this competition did not mean grade inflation. According to Mr. Jones' calculations, the average grade at U-High was a B. Seventy-four per cent of all grades were B or above. Of the 100 per cent As, 37 per cent B, 21 per cent C and only 5 per cent Ds and Fs. U-High had only 1 per cent more As than the estimated national average of 18 per cent and 20 per cent less per cent Ds and Fs.

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But, in Mr. Jones' opinion, even conscious sympathetic grade inflation is rare at U-High and, when it does occur, inexplicable. "In this school we depend on the students to be diligent and to be expected. It's different at a public school where students have no choice. Students choose to be here. And, for some, it's a bad choice. If you give this grade high and if you don't encourage them, you harm them. They need to be able to realistically assess their skills.

Some students, teacher Earl Bell speculated that teachers' attitudes may lead to grade inflation. "Grade inflation may reflect the basic humanity of teachers," he said. "They know how seriously kids take grades. Also it might reflect some 'progressive' or 'liberal' notions of education. Personally, I've always tried to counter the trend toward grade inflation.

Many students agreed that grade inflation was understandable and felt it certainly existed at U-High. One junior boy said, "A kid knows when he's getting a bad grade. You give him a better grade than he deserves and he has no basis to base his future work on." A senior boy said, "I've gotten some really low grades. But if I've done well on them it would make my good grades meaningless." Even if grade inflation is not a problem at U-High, according to some students and teachers, "We do have to keep in mind that students will have to compete for a limited number of college places with kids from schools where As are just handed out," said French teacher Fred Mandel. Mr. Jones, however, felt this competition did not present a problem. "By maintaining a reputation we can avoid the pressure in some other schools," he said. "Also, on an individual level, our test scores should compensate for such inflation." A specific area where grade inflation has been noted nationally is in Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses. According to Ms. Robb, many schools boost grades of students in such courses and offer their high school students the opportunity to earn college credits, to compensate for their deficiency. But this sort of inflation has never been the practice at U-High, according to Mr. Jones.

Arts Week will salute teacher

Arts Week — Wed. Feb. 21 — Mr. Robert Erickson, United Unified Arts Department chairperson will be the featured speaker. The dedication recognizes Mr. Erick­ son's service to the arts at U-High, including his primary role in Arts Week since it was begun in 1976, according to English teacher Jane Curry, cochair­person of the faculty's Arts Week com­mittee. Arts teacher Micki Henryson is the other cochairperson.

The faculty committee and a 30-member Erickson, who retired last year, is teaching the 3-day program. The students are working in 17 groups, each with a facult­y adviser.

"Art in the City," this year's theme (originally called "Art in the Urban En­vironment"), will be represented through student and guest programs. Four periods of programs will be sched­uled Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 3:30 to 5:30, interspersed with 4 class periods each day. Programs will include music, art, film, theater, writing, lectures and workshops. A pro­gram book providing schedules and biographies of presenters and artists will be compiled by the plan­ning committee.

Student Experimental Theater's an­nouncement for "Reflections on the Curriculum of the Laboratory Schools," almost 100 parents and teachers attended, but only 2 students.

Lab Schools Director R. Bruce McPherson opened the pro­gram with his observations about Lab Schools curriculum. Among his points was that a major additional goal of the school should be "to try to saturate each student with spirit of service." The panel discussion followed, moderated by Ranlet Lincoln, dean of the University's extension division. Members of the panel included the following:

Mr. Ralph Ackerman, teacher; Ms. Hanna Grendler, high school math teacher; Ray Latimer, lower school supervisor; Janet Kalman, chairperson of the Parents' Association Upper School Council. Paul Hauge, an ex-graduate of Northwestern University, and senior Jennes Brandt, Student Board president.
Sizing up government so far

Officers find apathy major stumbling block

Student government has planned more than it has accomplished, student government presidents agree in summing up their accomplishments so far this year. Among the problems they and government members cite is apathy from members of student government and the student body in general.

Student Legislativ Council (SLC) president Anders Thompson and SLC said it has planned numerous projects but many haven't been completed, for a variety of reasons.

Among the reasons cited were the following:
- Student government's 6th Annual Art and Music Show was canceled because they could not raise the need
- Putting a mural over the auditorium wall is the east wall in the cafeteria has been postponed until March because of work the walls to be repainted.

Freshman class representative Michael Zeller attributed the small amount of work accomplished to SLC to the fact members were unwilling to give their time. "People are really against giving up their free time for other people," he said, "because most of the time they don't appreciate it anyway."

Unwillingness of Student Board members to participate in projects has also been a major problem, according to president Gretchen Astelmann. Members seldom participated in Student Board's cafeteria lottery earlier in the year so Gretchen discontinued them. "The board was not together on it," she said. "No interest was taken in it on the part of the board members."

Student Board representative Dan Zellner left the reason members were so unwilling to patrol was that it was difficult for them to judge the behavior of other students. "If someone really took his job seriously," Dan added, "and handed out referrals, then he just wouldn't have any friends."

Cancellation of events because other events took precedence has been a problem experienced by Cultural Union (C.U.), according to president Sabrina King. A.C.U. trip to Old Chicago amusement park in Bolingbrook was canceled because the movie "Animal Crackers," sponsored by the Film Club, and the sophomore class ski trip were both scheduled for the same day, Jan. 3.

In other student government business, SLC's Student Bill of Rights, specifying rights students should have, has been finished by mid-February and will be added to the student government constitution if it is approved by principal Geoff Jones and the faculty, Anders said.

Both the Bill of Rights and Gretchen's role as Ombudsman, a new SLC position to monitor student complaints on various subjects and follow up them, were among topics of a discussion at an all-school assembly scheduled by SLC for 3rd period today in Sunny Gym.

Staff writer Jackie Ryan

Compendium

Nine new courses planned for next year

Taught by 2 teachers, an advanced chemistry-physics course, for students who have advanced placement chemistry or physics, is 1 of 9 new courses being offered for next year. Others are as follows:

Advanced Placement (AP) Spanish: a preparatory course for AP Spanish literature classes; among the topics covered are the literature of the Spanish-speaking world and grammar of Spanish.

Dramatists score hit at state festival

We caused quite a stir at the Student Union theater, Lucija Ambrose, a senior, and Amanda Gabertos, a junior, performed in a 9,000-seat auditorium at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

For the highest scholastic standing and interest in science among seniors, a $500 scholarship is awarded. Michael Almman has received this year's Bausch and Lomb award. Presented to seniors at more than 8,000 high schools, the award includes a bronze medal and a paper to present at a 4-year scholastic scholarship to the University of Rochester, N.Y.

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A month living and attending school in Paderborn, Germany, Feb. 25-Mar. 30, is ahead for junior Linda Pardo, recipient of a trip sponsored by the University of Illinois and the United States Information Service.

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**Government's gap**

Leaders make plans but can't get others to help make them real.

With the school year half over, a look at student government's activities raises a great deal of planning, but few results (see story page 3). In 5 months of school:

- The Student Legislative Coordinating Council (SLCC) has successfully accomplished all of its proposed plans.
- Student Board has discontinued its cafeteria patrols, although the cafeteria is littered with food and paper. Few referrals have been given.
- Cultural Union (C.U.), although it has sponsored several successful social events, has been disorganized, several times changing the dates and times of activities and not having complete plans until the last minute.
- Although several class-sponsored activities have been planned only a sophomore ski trip last Friday has actually taken place.
- SLCC president Anders Thompson and Board president Gretchen Anielman attribute the low number of successfully completed plans in their branches of government to absence of support and input from members and the student body. They feel that without this support SLCC and the Board can accomplish little.
- SLCC's unfinished painting of the pillars on the 2nd floor of U-High (as of this writing) seems to be representative of Anders' and Gretchen's content. "Art in the City," will provide a new look for Student Board. Responsibility for work has been divided among 17 student members, and work is divided into manageable proportions, and students and faculty members working together, Student Board has a better chance of surviving as a well-planned event.

But the dedication of student and faculty committees isn't enough. The problem of attendance remains. Only if students attend and support arts week programs can its future be insured. The faculty can help by not giving heavy homework assignments during the days of programs.

After 13 years of enriching U-High life, Arts Week deserves to move beyond the status of a program whose future existence has been questioned annually. With everyone's help and participation, it can be reestablished as an unimportant, important annual event.

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**As the Midway sees it**

"Superman," which took 4 years to film and was shot on 3 continents, could possibly become the highest-grossing movie in history.

The ads suggest that after seeing the film the viewer will believe that a man can fly. In short, one expects a realistic portrayal of a superhero and precisely what one gets. But it's not what one gets. In fact, the filmmakers have mocked the rituals and habiliments of superheroes in general.

"Superman," (Christophe Reeve was shot while shooting "Superman II") is a Booth where Superman finally gets. In fact, the filmmakers made the Booth in which he can become Superman's "Booth," and in which he can become Superman's "Man of steel." Superman's costume is confined and his presence is in hues. How can the producers joke about a superhero's metamorphosis?

Finally, it's a Booth because the revolting door, flies up to Lois (who has begun to fall), catches her and says, "Going up?" His joke mocks the seriousness of purpose previously associated with superheroes.

What are we to make of this and other conflicting actions, plus the fact that in the sequel, the producers plan for Superman to actually go bed with Lois? Aren't superheroes vowed to celibacy?

Perhaps it all becomes understandable when one considers that "Superman," the film, is intended for adults as well as children. The producers, recognizing changes in society and the intelligence of the public, have heightened the humorous aspects of the Superman story and attempted to provide a deeper portrait of Superman as an individual who does have emotions and doubts.

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**Unrolling the plastic on unplastic**

Maxwell

"Phatco, plastic! Three yards for a dollar! Get your plastic before the winter gets you!"

"Arts Week's need Students must attend programs and show they support event"

After several years of troubled existence, including times when its future was in doubt because of weak planning and poor student attendance at programs, Arts Week has survived at U-High for 3 years. Arts Week programs will take the place of classes during specific periods of time, from March 1-4.

Arts Week was begun in 1967 by student government as a "weeklong festival devoted to the arts." The school still needs this special event both to give student artists and the arts attention and as a break in school routine.

This year's theme, "Art in the City," will provide a new look for Arts Week. Responsibility for work has been divided among 17 student members, and work is divided into manageable proportions, and students and faculty members working together, Arts Week has a better chance of surviving as a well-planned event.

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**Drug users evade reality in more ways than one**

I'm a firm believer in everyone going to hell in their own way. Really. But I do think it's important that a person recognize and understand the primrose path which he or she is traveling.

When I interviewed some of the frequent drug users at U-High to find out what they know about their drug use, both their use of cocaine and marijuana, because they put research on the effects of these drugs, I was startled by their misconceptions and self-deception on the subject.

The moral of this column is not "don't use drugs, they're bad for you." The reasons an individual uses drugs are many, and there is no particular identifiable part of the school community. I interviewed blacks and whites, males and females, successful students and unsuccessful students. Some of the statements made by these students were both amusing and frightening.

It is well-accepted in medical literature that driving while stoned is hazardous. Yet, many of the people I interviewed thought they drove best when they used drugs.

"I talked to 12 U-Highers who have had such an extensive experience with drugs. And each one of them is either working at a job or majoring in a particular field of study that is not particularly identifiable part of the school community. I interviewed blacks and whites, males and females, successful students and unsuccessful students. Some of the statements made by these students were both amusing and frightening.

The juniors and seniors with whom I talked had used a variety of drugs. Most had used cocaine, LSD and alcohol, 3 had used PCP and Valium. Almost all said they smoked marijuana at least every other day.

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Sorry we're late, but...

We tried to get this issue of the Midway out on time, which would have been Tuesday, but 30 inches of snow did us in. Well, 24 days later, we're out. Sorry. For the record, exactly 21.2 inches of snow fell in Chicago, Jan. 1-3, setting a record for the lead-up to a major storm. Howl brought a record low--31 degrees below zero yesterday. Prod.: Amy, The Lab Schools.--To be sure, we would like to see the release of people from safety and access. "The entrance to the Union is open," Ms. Hough said. "Any union which didn't have money would lose. The union would represent all University clerical workers except full-time students, supervisors, personal staff members is important because they have inadequate job security, job classification doesn't always reflect the fluence or the market. I know this isn't true. They were there an hour ago and they will be there in a week: the movement, the noise and the people that make up Maxwell St.

The morning drags on, and by noon the crowds have diminished. The drab-colored stucco building seems hollow and bereft of life. It is a stark contrast to the Maxwell St. market, where vendors are in their element selling radios and television sets from a gray van. The merchandise is laid out on a table and the men's voices quickly join the din of sales chatter.

At 1 p.m. Vince and I pack up our equipment and join the exodus from the market area. Driving down Sangamon Ave., we see waste paper and refuse everywhere. In some spots the littered sidewalk gives the impression that no one has been here for years. But as we pass under a bridge, taking us out of the market, I know this isn't true. They were there an hour ago and they will be there in a week: the movement, the noise and the people that make up Maxwell St.

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Sports

U-High Midway • Thurs. Feb. 1, 1979

Boy cagers see unity as key to court wins

By Avery Berger

Unity on the court is the varsity basketball squad's prime objective for the remainder of the season. "If the team plays as a unit," captain John Naisbitt said, "we stand a good chance of winning all of our upcoming games. The team has talent, but because of our lack of height and organization we don't use it." Varsity coach Sandy Patlak also feels unity will prove the key to the Maroons winning their remaining games. "If my 3 big men stay out of foul trouble while we play as a team, and we contain our opponents to only 40 points a game, we can do it," he said.

The Maroons have played 10 games so far, winning 3 and losing 7 with 7 matches remaining. Patlak said he doesn't expect the Maroons' wins to come easily. "My 3 big men would prove toughest, because he hasn't scouted the other teams. "I needed at least 6 men in case of injury and wanted someone who could rebound," Patlak said. "I felt Eric could do the job." Eric has injured 2 of his fingers and will be unable to play for at least several weeks, however the team plays as a unit," captain John Naisbitt said, "we stand a good chance of winning all of our upcoming games. The team has.

SEEMINGLY FLYING through an eternal mist, varsity swimmer Hosain Lipson concentrates on completing his dive during swim practice in the Sunny Gym pool last week.

Swimmers expect tough competition

By Craig Truitt

Because neither U-High nor its opponents lost many important swimmers to graduation, and the competition last year was tough, coach Larry McFarlane expects the swim teams' 16-meet season to prove difficult.

The squad's 1st meet, Fri., Feb. 23, against Lake Forest, will be the toughest to win, expects varsity swimmer Dick Burks: "We barely beat them last year," he said, "and since neither of us has lost any last swimmers to graduation, the meet could go either way." The Maroons varsity has fast swimmers to cover all strokes except for the distance freestyles. McFarlane said. Varsity swimmer Hosain Lipson added, however, that the team doesn't have 2 strong swimmers—rather than only 1—for every event, to provide a backup and assure points. Because the frosh-soph team is larger than competing teams, it may be able to win by filling events the other teams can't, according to frosh-soph swimmer Peter Voss. "I'd be weak in the breaststroke and butterfly, but we should be strong in the freestyle and possibly the breaststroke," he said.

McFarlane pointed out, "If a frosh-soph swimmer is 1 of the best in his stroke on the varsity or frosh-soph team, he will be moved up to varsity, and this could hurt the frosh-soph. Swimmers began training with weightlifting sessions and have been practicing in the pool twice daily since Jan. 23, 1st day they were allowed in the water under Independent School League rules.

Volleyball teams end 3rd, 1st

By Becky Sadow

Lack of team unity contributed to the varsity volleyball team's 7-3 record and 3rd place finish among 6 teams in the Independent School League (ISL). In the opinion of coach Karen Lawler and many players. The frosh-soph squad finished 1st in the ISL for the 2nd consecutive year with a 10-4 record.

Ms. Lawler feels the Maroons' lack of unity occurred when juniors playing for their 1st year took the place of juniors and seniors who had been playing more years and the more experienced players didn't accept it. Player Careen Patlak added, "The players were competing with each other rather than helping each other." Player Sally Newcomb said, "The players competed for starting positions and if they didn't get one, they only helped their friends." Another reason for the Maroons' disappointing finish in the ISL, according to Ms. Lawler, was the fact that the other teams increased in playing ability. "Last year we had no competition," she explained. "This year the competition fooled us." Frosh-soph coach Yvette Matuszak said the team 'horned on the outside was set up for the spike.' Player Sarah Laros added that "everyone worked to help each other out with their skills."

January thaw.

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The Shoe Corral

3534 E. 55th St.
The thinking girl's sport

By David Hyman, sports editor

"Meditation is a very important part of judo," says senior Bruce Wilkerson, who 3 years ago placed 3rd in the nation at the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) judo meet for people under 15.

Judo, a Japanese system of unarmed self-defense, involves using an opponent's strength to his own disadvantage by employing throws, slips and pins. In competition, these maneuvers are given different point values depending on the skill with which they are executed. Judo also emphasizes the unification of the mind and body.

In his room at home, where 30 judo trophies reside on a book case, Bruce continues, "Without meditating before a match, I can never concentrate or be relaxed once the match starts. You can't win unless you're in total control of yourself."

Bruce said that "meditating plus the excitement of a match is what I like best about judo. But it takes awhile before you can fully enjoy the sport because experience is such a main factor."

Bruce began taking judo lessons at age 7 because "my older brother Scott was and it looked like fun, so I joined, too." Levels of achievement in judo are indicated by 9 different-colored belts. White represents the lowest level and black the highest, separated into 9 subdivisions. In 1974 Bruce earned the level of senior brown belt.

After qualifying to compete in the 1977 AAU judo meet, however, he decided to stop practicing and competition. "I was having knee problems so I had to stop for a couple of months," he said. "But I didn't go back because judo is something you have to completely devote yourself to. Four to 5 hours a night in lessons was usual, not even counting the time spent on running and calisthenics."

Still, Bruce is thinking of returning to judo if there is a team at the college he attends. "I'm pretty confident that within a year's practice, I could get my 1st-rank black belt," he said.

Girls lifting weights, too

By David Trosman

A member of the girls' basketball team stands holding a bar of weight at chest level — waiting. When swim coach Larry McFarlane blows a whistle, she begins to push the bar over her head as fast as she can. Thirty other boys and girls in the weightlifting room in Sunny Gym begin other exercises.

Weight lifting has become increasingly popular statewide, meets. Among the 4 events, she specializes in vaulting. From December to April, Mara competes in about 20, usually statewide, meets. Among the 4 events, she specializes in vaulting. At the Green Bay Open in Wisconsin Jan. 28, her team placed 1st out of 10 entrants. She plans to compete in the U-High State Meet, Feb. 18.

Mara cannot join the U-High gymnastics team because she is a member of the Girls' Gymnastics Federation, an organization that funds and coordinates meets. A rule prohibits members from becoming affiliated simultaneously with the federation and a gymnastics club in Vestal.

Competing in gymnastics meets since 1976, Mara placed 1st in 12 of her 15 meets in 1977. In the New York State Meet, she placed 1st all-around after rating the highest score in the 4 events — vault, uneven bars, floor exercise and beam. In another New York competition last year, Mara placed 4th in vaulting and 5th in bars.

Mara currently is coached at a private gym in Cicero, where she is a part of a 15-member girls' gymnastics team. Practicing 4 hours after school and Saturdays, Mara often eats dinner and does her homework at the gym.

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Mara cannot join the U-High gymnastics team because she is a member of the U.S. Gymnastics Federation, an organization that funds and coordinates meets. A rule prohibits members from becoming affiliated simultaneously with the federation and a high school league.

One reason Mara performs gymnastics is the satisfaction she derives from executing a trick well. Her main reason, however, she could not explain. "I do it because I love it," she said. "I can't explain why. It's just something inside."
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