Looking back at the '70s

By Adam Simon

The 1970s began with a bang and is ending with a whimper. The impact of teachers who have taught at U-High throughout the decade.

January, 1970. As the decade began, enrollment at U-High was 607. Vietnam was the major political issue in the nation. And at U-High.

Through the first part of the 1968-69 school year the school did not officially take any political stance. Administrators decreed against the school joining in national demonstrations protesting the war. But in May, 4 people at Kent State University were shot by Ohio National Guardsmen during antiwar demonstrations in which most of the 4 were not participants. Lab School Director Francis V. Lloyd decided to go along with the University's decision to suspend classes Fri., May 15, in mourning for the 4 slain young people, with the day used for antiwar activities. Though a majority of students and teachers at U-High supported the moratorium, some felt the school should remain uninvolved in politics to preserve an open forum for discussion.

Activism characterized not only political involvement but curricular and cocurricular activities at the school. Several dozen students and teachers were involved in Student-Teacher Coalition (STC), an organization which stressed cooperative relationships among teachers and students. It sponsored a program in which students designed their own course of independent study, then signed a contract with a teacher for credit.

STC was described in a 1972 North Central Association evaluation of the school as "the most effective working relationship observed.

During the first years of the decade, U-High's curriculum included student-ordered English electives and other experimental programs. But as the school's enrollment began to decline, most of these programs would disappear.

Student lifestyles reflected the counter-culture atmosphere of the times, and of U-High, in the early '70s.

Students from area public schools. Next thing you know, everyone's working at the Co-op or Medici.

"Students just couldn't reconcile their activism with their upper middle class status and private school," explained. "Eventually they took it out on the school. The guilt is still visible in the hostility so many students have for the school now."

Another factor in the decline of activism, many teachers believe, was the raising of teacher course loads from 4 to 5 in 1973. The increased course load, they said, left little time for outside activities such as STC or demonstrations.

Along with activism, the freer educational approach at the school disappeared. New administrators and teachers were coming into the school - the school had undergone frequent changes in administration, with principals having political activism, Mr. Brasler said, wasn't the insincerity of belief but sincerity. "Students just couldn't reconcile their activism with their upper middle class status and private school," he explained. "Eventually they took it out on the school. The guilt is still visible in the hostility so many students have for the school now."

The return to a more traditional program contributed to the decline in activism and of involvement in programs such as student government, many teachers feel. Work and pressure on students increased, they said, left little time for outside activities such as STC or demonstrations.

The students involved in nation-wide demonstrations in which most of the 4 were not participants. Lab School Director Francis V. Lloyd decided to go along with the University's decision to suspend classes Fri., May 15, in mourning for the 4 slain young people, with the day used for antiwar activities. Though a majority of students and teachers at U-High supported the moratorium, some felt the school should remain uninvolved in politics to preserve an open forum for discussion.

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Going strong
50 years on

By Richard Letchinger, editor-in-chief

Looking a bit older than their pictures in the Correlator, their yearbook, they came anxious to renew old friendships and just see how time had affected one another. Thirty of the 88 surviving members of the class of 1929 gathered for dinner to celebrate their 50th reunion at the Quadrangle Club Saturday night.

"When I first started organizing it I had no enthusiasm," said Ms. Betty Jones Borst, a member of the organizing committee, "but as I see names and faces come alive from 50 years ago it's almost eerie."

Also attending the reunion as guests of the class were 4 of their teachers, Ms. Gladys Campbell, Mr. Russell Thomas and Mr. John Davey. "Oh, there's Mr. Thomas," one class member said. "I remember he had such a cold black mustache.

She later went on to talk to him, but even after 50 years she only could herself to address him as 'Mr. Thomas.'"

What the graduates remember about U-High a half century ago? Ms. Jean Friedberg Block, author of "Hyde Park Houses," remembers that there was no homework. "You did all your work in the school under teachers' supervision," she explained. "The time after school was supposed to be spent traveling and enriching yourself."

Three teachers of the class of '29 attended its 25th reunion Saturday. From left, they are Mr. John Davey (grandfather of U-Highers Kate and Monica), Ms. Gladys Campbell and Mr. Russell Thomas.

And what Ms. Muriel Katz Haspel remembers most were the "wacks I got in field hockey."

Ered with all the excitement of the reunion, one special event made everyone especially happy. A member of their class, Ms. Charlotte Hornstein Laird, is to be married later this month to Mr. Edward Lee, a member of the class of 1918.

Junior counselors needed to work with preschoolers, daily until 1:30 p.m., June 18-Aug. 10, Hyde Park JCC Swim, arts and crafts, trips. CALL Mrs. Blir, 363-2770.

If you can't stand the heat... get out of the kitchen and leave the cooking to the Medici. Catch a whiff of those tangy, taste-tempting pizzas, juicy burgers, fragrant French fries... Still feel like cooking tonight? The Medici 1450 E. 57th St. 967-7394

A poem to summer

There's leaves on the trees.
Da birds chase de bees,
Swains fall on their knees,
To ask ladies, "Please?"
'Tis summer! Ahoy!
Ally, Ally, All Maroon girl and boy
S
Time to relax
Time to lean lax
Ally enjoy a mogg
With no one to nag
So come to Bob's
And peruse all you wish
We've got plenty to read
Whatever your dish
And for poetry navins (All you Sophie Ravins)
We've got some of that, too
So how do you do?

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**Work paid off in track titles**

By Avery Berger

Hard work combined with an intense desire to compete at the state meet is what 6 members of the girls' outdoor track team credit as the key to their victories in state competition May 18-19 at Charleston.

The U-Highers placed 1st, and set records in the mile and 440-yard relays, and placed 3rd in overall competition.

"About midway we felt the relays were running great," explained junior relay runner Beata Boosel, "so we decided to try to make it so.

**THE MILK relay team, which set a record time of 2 minutes, 54 seconds, consisted of Beata, Michelle Shaw, Natalie Pardo and Heidi Hackel. The 440-yard relay team, which set a record of 50.6 seconds, consisted of Michelle, Natalie, Heidi and Anita Hollins. Heidi also placed 3rd in the 440-yard dash and Helen Straus placed 1st in the high jump.

The boys' outdoor track team completed its season by sending juniors Steve Taylor and Craig Frail to compete, respectively, in the half-mile and mile at the state meet May 28-29, also at Charleston.

The U-Highers had qualified by placing in the top 2 in the events at districts May 19 at Coles. Those 1st-place rankings were eliminated in preliminaries at state.

Also at districts, senior Ed Gilpin placed 3rd in the 200 low hurdles and 4th in the 120 high hurdles.

**THE BOYS' baseball team compiled an 8-2 record, tying their place with Latin in the Independent School League (ISL)." Considering that we had a lot of underclassmen who haven’t had a great deal of baseball experience, we did really well," captain Josh Mayers commented.

The boys’ softball team finished 1st in the ISL with a 7-1 record. "The softball team learned a great deal through actual game experience," said coach Mary many who became involved in sports "and have many new sights to look at."

The boys’ tennis team went 6 players to the district tournament May 18-19 at Thornton Frac-tion at North. Juniors John Naisbitt and Brian Boyd competed in singles and were eliminated in semfinals, placing them 3rd and 4th respectively. David Haselkorn, William Weaver, Tim Wilkins and Jeff Rubenstein competed in doubles, with David and William eliminated in preliminaries and Tim and Jeff placing 3rd in team districts.

It is my opinion that we have better basketball players than we did last year, but our 1st disappointment, however, stems from the nonchalance with which the article was written.

Sports banquet tonight

Coaches, summarizing the highlights of their teams’ performances, will take the place of a guest speaker at tonight’s Athletic Awards banquet, 5:45 p.m. at Sauer’s restaurant, 212 E. 23rd St. Reservations deadline was June 1. The dinner will feature a choice of chicken, salad or knokwurst.

Each varsity coach will culminate his or her presentation by giving a coach’s award to the player on a varsity team who, in the coach's opinion, best exemplified athletic ability, attitude and citizenship.

All team members and cheerleaders will receive letters from their coaches or ad visers.
As the Midway sees it

JUST A WORD before I go. Four years ago the Midway columnist wrote about how small and immature that year’s freshmen looked. We were incensed. I recall Andersen Thompson circulating a petition to protest the slandering of our class. It’s an old cliché that seniors know enough to know that they don’t know anything. It’s also true, however, that they learn that as freshmen they knew even less. One sagacious senior pointed out that “they’re not stupid, they’re just not wise.”

I am addressing this column to the freshmen because I want to be wise, because I have been in this institution for a long time, and have some advice on how to survive the U-High experience as a whole, breathe a little easier, get more work done, and get more work done. I hope to acquire this skill soon.

Fight the apathy created by your heavy workload and the deadline-oriented environment at U-High. When you’re interested in something follow it up. Do more than the bare minimum required to slide by with an A, B, C or whichever grade you decide makes you happy. Challenge the school to give you what you want. Don’t become steamrollered by inertia, entangled by the incredible bureaucracy, or mired in the apathy that pervades the school. When something needs to be done but is not approved, go for it anyway. The more the administration has to visibly wield and define its power, the more vulnerable that power will become. As long as students are willing to buckle under the highest mission from authority, that authority will be invincible.

A fresheman survival guide

The year

School as an academic factory

U-High was a place to go to class and study this year and not much else. There weren’t many well-run activities this year. Many, such as student exchanges with other schools, were cancelled because of poor planning. Others, such as plans to paint the pillars and install beach umbrellas on the 2nd floor, were left uncompleted. Others, even when carried through, were disasters, such as the chicken baking contest.

Student government wasn’t able to organize activities well and U-Highers didn’t go out of their way to try to get government members to do so. So, in fact, there were few alternatives to a study-oriented atmosphere at U-High. Not because I presume to be wise, but because I have been in this institution for a long time, and have some advice on how to survive the U-High experience as a whole, relatively sane person, and some suggestions for ways to make U-High as tolerable as you deserve. And who else would listen but a freshman? Your hearts are still pure and uncorrupted by cynicism, right?

First, you have to learn to survive academically. I could tell you to organize your time, not procrastinate and so on. But I’ll be realistic. Learn to procrastinate. Don’t “waste your time” when you are in the library. Waste it outside in the sun, see a play or movie, read a book. Obviously, the essential skill here is the suppression of guilt. You’ll be more sane, have more fun, and get more work done. I hope to acquire this skill soon.

Books can’t replace people

The biggest trend I’ve seen in this school, and students at large, is the increasing tendency for students to bury their heads in their books. Nothing makes me madder than hearing the same person speak after week tell his or her friends “I wish I could but I’ve got all this work.”

Eyes Saw It

By Joe Williams, Midway columnist

For my last column, I had planned to take a picture of a group of people at the May Festival laughing and playing together to typify the most fulfilling feeling I’ve felt: friendship. It’s a scene I’ve seen hundreds of times in past festivals of May. But the intensity which I’d known of friends interacting at this year’s May Festival was replaced by a lethargy which blanketed the crowd.

During the court show I stood in awe, yelling at the screen, thinking that this was something... Waiting for her to finish and then walked away... The students, mostly underclassmen, walked quietly around each other, occasionally spotting such scintillating comments as “that’s nice.”

No excitement about interacting with fellow classmates is a trend I’ve seen in my 4 years here. The number of large-scale parties has declined significantly. Simply the number of people going out on weekends to come together has declined.

When I asked 10 underclassmen at random what was most important in their lives, 6 of them said their schoolwork. While learning through books is essential and does teach you a lot, nothing can heighten your appreciation for what we’ve learned that has to do with belief. If you can’t learn to appreciate the perceiving of what our existence is about then uniting yourself with others. And nothing can help this more than summer time.

Stop the pressures!

We receive lots of press releases at the Midway, but we liked this one so much we felt we had to share it with you. Meet “Slim Goodbody,” who is featured on CBS-TV’s “Captain Kangaroo” every Tuesday and Thursday. “Slim” was a Museum of Science and Industry May 25 and 26 to talk to children about health care.

Penny Dreadfuls

By Jonathan Silverman, Midway columnist

Challenge mediocrity. Ask yourself if all you want from U-High is entrance into a good college. If not, question the increasing amount with which the college preparatory philosophy is served as it is. It’s interesting and at times amusing to consider what some people find upsetting.

Between the resources of the University, its excellent and dedicated faculty, and its tradition of educational innovation and excellence, U-High could be more than just a good college prep school. But it’s going to take you to grab it by the scruff of its neck and shake it to make it that way.

You said it

Do you think the unanimous decision by a U.H. faculty committee to give the Albert Pick award for outstanding contributions to international understanding to Robert McNamara was appropriate? McNamara was secretary of defense during the Vietnam War and is currently president of the World Bank. In a student demonstration against the controversial decision May 23 outside Mandell Hall, where the award was being presented, 3 protesters were arrested.

STEVE TAYLOR, junior: I think it’s ridiculous that a man who was instrumental in the Napalm bombing of Vietnamese children should receive an award for his service to humanity.

LISA M. MORAGNE, freshman: As long as he’s doing good things now, I don’t think the Nobel prize to the president of the World Bank, I don’t think they should hold things against him... That’s true.

NORI KATO, senior: I think it’s ridiculous that a man who was instrumental in the Napalm bombing of Vietnamese children should receive an award for his service to humanity.

Photo courtesy Museum of Science and Industry

u-High midweek

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Sights and sounds of a festive Saturday

By Jennifer Lim

Layers of gray clouds, leftover from the morning's rain, hang in the afternoon sky. They cast an impending shadow of more rain over the people gathered in Jackman Field, Scammon Garden and the courtyard between Blaine and U-High for Saturday's May Festival activities.

At 1:40 p.m., a crowd of parents and other observers sit around the oval dirt track in the center of Jackman Field. They snap pictures of, and cheer on, the dozens of children who are running, walking and sometimes being carried by their parents around the track as part of the "Fun Run," an activity in which participants run either one or two miles around the track.

In Scammon Garden, diagonally across Kenwood Mall from Jackman Field, more children accompanied by their parents gather for less strenuous activities. A large crowd of Lower Schoolers flocks around a plastic wading pool filled with water and styrofoam fish. The children wait their turn to try and hook a fish with a green stick fishing pole and win a prize.

By 3 p.m., the clouds have floated away. Any hint of rain has vanished from the now-clear and sunny sky. The courtyard is filled with a huge throng of people dressed in brightly-colored clothing. People sit at tables, on the grass and stroll around eating, talking and taking in the sights.

At the sponge toss booth, 2 children take their turns being the target. At the same time, they stick their heads through the hole in the wooden board with a clown body painted on the front. A boy about 2½ feet tall runs up to the board with sponge in hand and smashes it into the targets' faces. The crowd of mostly Middle Schoolers lets out a cheer.

At 2:30 p.m. the air has become colder, though the sun is still beaming down. At the crooked and bustling bubble gum blowing contest booth, the judges are having trouble deciding who the winners are. The judges and contestants for the finest bubble contest take turns scrutinizing a little boy's bubble.

"That's it if I ever saw it," a high school girl tells the judge.

AT 4:45 in front of U-High, the last echoes of the U-High Band fade away and the large audience scattered in the mall and on the U-High steps applauds loudly.

Within 5 minutes, the box supper auction is underway at the same place. The auctioneer stands on the ledge and auctions off anything from an Italian picnic to an evening in a Chinese cooking class to an audience standing in Kenwood Mall below.

"HERE'S ITEM number 4, "the auctioneer says through a microphone. "It's French junk food in 2 Superman bags...Let's start the bidding at $5. Do I have $5? Several hands in the mail shoot up. "Do I have $7? $10?...Okay, it goes for $10!"

The sun continues its descent. Its last rays glitter over the roof of U-High in the chilly crisp air. Back in the courtyard, May Pole, jazz, disco and modern dances have been performed on the lawn. At 5:35, Harry Gray is winding up a concert. After giving a rendition of "Here Comes The Sun," Harry tells his audience, "Okay, let's start the bidding at $5. Do I have $5?" Several hands in the mail shoot up. "Do I have $7? $10?...Okay, it goes for $10!"

The crowd surges through and around the courtyard as it creates a loud, steady hum of conversation and laughter that can be heard even over the blaring disco music coming from the disco booth.

PEOPLE MAKE their way to numerous food booths. Children vend popcorn, taffy apples and balloons circulate through the crowd. People sit at tables, on the grass and stroll around eating, talking and taking in the sights.

At the sponge toss booth, 2 children take their turns being the target together. At the same time, they stick their heads through the hole in the wooden board with a clown body painted on the front.

Among popular Festival activities, as in previous years, was the sponge toss. Here two students get an impromptu bath from a hurled sponge.
Prom picnic, commencement bring school year to finish

By Matt Gerow

With a little more than a week of school left, seniors will wind out the year with a prom, picnic and commencement.

The song “Secret O’Life” by James Taylor will provide the theme for this year’s senior prom, 8 p.m. to midnight Friday in a group of rooms connected to adjacent restaurants. The music will be provided by the 4-0 Company band and a DJ.

Approximately 90 U-Highers are expected to attend the prom which could draw $10.90 a person. Photos of the prom for seniors will be taken by Sanford Studios, U-High’s yearbook photographer. The cost of the pictures will be between $8 and $12.

The morning after the prom, seniors and their guests are invited to a class-sponsored trip to the Indiana Dunes, where hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided for lunch, according to class president David Light. Buses for the trip will leave 3:30 p.m. from in front of Blaine Hall on 9th street, David said, and return about 5 p.m.

According to senior counselor and commencement committee adviser Mary Lee Hogan, 115 seniors are expected to graduate this year, Thursday, June 14 in Rockefeller Chapel. Each senior will be given up to 8 tickets to the commencement.

Commencement speakers will include Ben Roberts, whose topic will be “The U-High Experience” and Ann Hightower, who will speak about becoming responsible adults.

David will deliver the traditional class response.

COMMENCEMENT MUSIC will include the theme from the film “Mahogany,” “Do What You’re Going To Do,” sung by Janice Lehmann and “Theines Amen” by Edvard Krog as the piano. Harry Gray, playing guitar, and Steve Jackson, on clarinet, will perform a song, possibly one they composed themselves.

Seniors will enter the chapel in white or maroon graduation gowns, according to personal choice, to the traditional processional, “Pomp and Circumstance.”

REFLECTIONS on graduation and the U-High experience are topics of speeches by senior class president David Light, left, Ann Hightower and Ben Roberts at commencement June 14 in Rockef­eller Chapel.

by Edward Elgar, played by Rockefeller Chapel organist Edward Mondello, who will play 2 other works at the ceremony, but the recipients’ names will be a secret until they are presented.

Donna Moragne.

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Looking ahead to the '80s

By Sebastian Rotella

U-High in the 1980's will become a smaller school with a more diverse, more hardworking student body taking a more demanding and traditional course load. So predict administrators and faculty members interviewed by the Midway.

ENROLLMENT WILL DECREASE in the next decade, most administrators and teachers feel, because a lower national birth rate will lead to fewer high school-aged people. Economic conditions, combined with higher tuition rates, will prevent many families from sending children to private schools.

The number of students seeking admission has fallen in the past three years as families have noted that their 3-year rolling contracts to teachers who have held them for three years and been approved in an evaluation. Approximately 90 per cent of teachers at U-High have 3-year rolling contracts, according to Mr. Jones.

"THE SCHOOL WILL continue to recruit students from areas of Chicago outside Hyde Park, and from the suburbs, faculty members and administrators foresee a more diverse student body. "Students will come from a geographically wider background," Mr. McPherson said. "They will be more middle- and working-class, from families with a lower income. So the student population will be more representative of the metropolitan population."

With an increasing number of U-Highers coming from outside the Middle School, maintenance of admission standards and the completeness of the basic academic preparation of these students will become areas of concern and development for administrators and teachers indicate.

"THE SCHOOL CAN'T help but lower the standards for new students," one teacher stated. "We'll still be getting the 'better' students, but they'll be better in relation to the whole, which will be of a somewhat lower quality."

Commenting on the necessity of preparing new students for the school's tough academic program, reading specialist Rebecca Reiter said, "Here's where more of my job may become easier in new students who are having problems with transition, in writing areas for example."

Mr. Jones said that more writing and grammar will be incorporated into the freshman English program, in further preparation for students, who he said could be "less receptive" through the summer school program.

PREDICTING N A T I O N A L "back to basics" trends in education, teachers and administrators believe that the U-High program will also become more traditional.

"The program will be more structured and less varied," Mr. Jones said. "We will still offer more fields of study, but perhaps in less depth. For example, we could lessen the number of languages, or decrease the number of language levels available."

"The school will change," English teacher Hal Hofstein predicted. "It will be even less play-oriented. It is possible that a general desire to take fewer risks may cause a deemphasis because of the time demands on some kids by academics, and on other kids by outside activities like jobs." Mr. Bibbo added, "Students working hard and spending a great deal of money on school books, but they'll have less energy and time for the arts and extracurricular activities."

"IT'S IMPORTANT that the school supply a framework that students can build off of," Mr. Jones explained. "For example, there will be faculty members on the disciplinary board."

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"IT'S IMPORTANT that the school supply a framework that students can build off of," Mr. Jones explained. "For example, there will be faculty members on the disciplinary board."

"THE PROGRAM WILL BE MORE structured and less varied," administrators and teachers as well as the student body, feel, will become a more middle- and working-class, from families with a lower income. So the student population will be more representative of the metropolitan population."

With an increasing number of U-Highers coming from outside the Middle School, maintenance of admission standards and the completeness of the basic academic preparation of these students will become areas of concern and development for administrators and teachers indicate.

"THE SCHOOL CAN'T help but lower the standards for new students," one teacher stated. "We'll still be getting the 'better' students, but they'll be better in relation to the whole, which will be of a somewhat lower quality."

Commenting on the necessity of preparing new students for the school's tough academic program, reading specialist Rebecca Reiter said, "Here's where more of my job may become easier in new students who are having problems with transition, in writing areas for example."

Mr. Jones said that more writing and grammar will be incorporated into the freshman English program, in further preparation for students, who he said could be "less receptive" through the summer school program.

PREDICTING N A T I O N A L "back to basics" trends in education, teachers and administrators believe that the U-High program will also become more traditional.

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By Matt Gerow

With a little more than a week of school left, seniors will round out the year with a prom, picnic and commencement.

The song “Secret O’Life” by James Taylor will provide the theme for this year’s senior prom, 8 p.m. to midnight Friday in a group of rooms connected together adjacent to the Ninety-Fifth Restaurant of the John Hancock Center.

Commencement speakers will include Ben Roberts, whose topic will be “The U-High Experience” and Ann Hightower, who will speak about becoming responsible adults.

By Ben Roberts

Senior Richard Agin will travel to London this June as a member of the United States team competing in the International Mathematics Olympiad, an annual competition between teams of high school students from many nations. The U.S. team consists of the 8 students who placed highest in the USA Mathematics Olympiad. Richard is one of about 300 students who scored highly on the national math test sponsored by the American Mathematics Association that many U-Highers take.

“This is the best thing that could have happened to me in high school,” Richard said. “It’s been a goal I’ve been striving for for the past 2 years.”

Richard and the other team members arrived in Washington, D.C. yesterday for 3 days, during which they will receive government grants for further study and tours of the city. The next three days of training will be in the international Olympiad competition. In the event of a tie, special coefficients will be added on to determine a team winner.

Individual awards are also presented for high scores or original solutions to problems. Richard took the USA Olympiad test last year but didn’t do well enough to qualify for the international test.

School introduces recruiting poster

This recruiting poster will be placed in churches, housing developments and train stations, and used in newspaper advertisements, in communities likely to send children to the Lab Schools. Composed by professional designer Bob Linsley, the poster comes in a large and small version. Business education teacher Faynelle Heahen brought up the idea for the poster, which was later approved by an administra-

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U of C leads college list

By Kate Davy

More graduating U-Highers are planning to attend the University of Chicago than any other college in the history of the U-High.

The University of Michigan and University of Wisconsin will get the next greatest number of U-High seniors, with 7 and 4 respectively.

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