Next Council president forecasts a year of doing

BY KAREEM SAHII
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
GOVERNMENT EDITOR

H e's got plans for assemblies including Senator Carol Masey-Brown and Dick Durbin. He's already met with administrators about Student Council's role in next year's weekly assembly period. He's also got the job of president. But has he got the skills to pull it all off?

Elected May 5 as next year's S.C. president, Junior Randy Sowrey says he must now redeem the name of Student Council.

"It's true, we could have done a lot more this year," Randy reflected. "Planned more events, run things with more efficiency, stuff like that. I hope to make next year a year of doing. We're working to reach the alumni who backed out of our 'Life After Lab' assembly this year for the next year and the new weekly assembly.

Many U-Highers have told the Midway they feel the Council before doing anything else needs to investigate why an aw student government this year did not provide advocacy on behalf of the student body or an impact in school affairs.

MANY PEOPLE are particularly upset by the manner in which elections were conducted for next year's officers. With six days splitting the announcement of elections and the vote, many students feel no opportunity was given for seriously examining candidates' positions beyond speeches.

For the first time in three decades the Council did not work with the Midway staff in producing an election preview for publication immediately before the election. The Midway could not compile stories and photos for an election issue and get it printed within six days. Last year's election issue received a commendation for leadership from a press association.

"It's a shame," said Midway Coordinator-in-Chief Alex Zamar. "The Midway had money put aside for the issue and named an editor who was excited about doing it. The paper has previewed government elections in a big way for 32 years. I don't know if the elections being pulled off in a way the Midway couldn't preview them resulted from ineptitude, irresponsibility or cynicism but I do know the student body was the big loser.

Commented S.C. Treasurer Navneet Neerukonda, elections head, "The job of the press is to seek out the news, not wait for it to come to them. We don't control what the Midway does and doesn't do."

Other elected officers are as follows:

STUDENT COUNCIL: Vice-president, Kate Scott; treasurer, Pat Green;
MARY ANDREW SCHULZ; CULTURAL UNION-President, Christopher Chandwall; treasurer, Vanessa Cohn.

NEXT YEARS SENIORS-President, Brian Aronson; treasurer, Andrea Schutt; political representatives, Kerry Betsinger, C.U. representative, April Gajanba; political activities, Kathleen Metzger; senior class advisor, Mary Webb.

NEXT YEARS JUNIORS-President, Todd Scott; treasurer, Kottamura; political representatives, Mary Siluk, C.U. representative, Andrew Matthews; senior class advisor, Mary Vandervort.

NEXT YEARS FRESHMEN-President, Bob Simon; treasurer, Andrea Schutt; political representatives, Kathy Betsinger, C.U. representative, April Gajanba; senior class advisor, Mary Webb.

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May Project takes senior to Taiwan

Heading to Kaoshung, Taiwan, Victor Chien is among the farthest-traveling of 44 seniors going on May Project.

Staying with his father, who moved to Taiwan seven years ago, Victor will compile a photo-and-word account of his experience.

Begun by the class of 1989, May Project allows seniors to replace some or all of their classes with career experiences, community service or independent study.

"I wanted to reaffirm my connection with my heritage and my dad," Victor said of his project. "I need a better understanding of my roots and hope to get a better sense of myself as well." 

Interviewing patients about the psychological effects of chemotherapy, Chien will work with his father, an oncologist, who studies tumors at Trinity Hospital.

"I chose this project for two reasons," Kenny said. "The first was I wanted to get a better view on one of the fields of medicine before going to college. Second, I wanted to gain an appreciation for what my father does." 

Other May Projects by category are as follows (those listed twice are doing dual projects):

**Healthcare**
- Alice Calkin
- May 5-11: "A New Student Citizenship Award will be presented at the annual Honors Assembly 9 a.m., Monday June 9 in Max Paley's theater at Ida Noyes Hall, 1313 E. 58th St.
- **WINNERS OF THE U-High Service Award, Senior Service Award and Principal's Citation also will be revealed.**
- Other yearend events besides dreaded finals will include class trips, including possibly a senior Sag game after the Honors Assembly.
- School officially will come to an end the day following graduation with a luncheon for the faculty and staff.

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*Photo by Mark Diglio and photo studio by Daniel Oholadzki.*
"Alice" in Wonderland: A Dreamlike Adventure

Story for all ages climaxes nightly May revelries

BY ALICE BLANDER

Dotted with game and food booths, the courtyard will assume a fairy tale atmosphere. This year’s Rites of May play, “Alice in Wonderland,” will colorfully recount those adventures in three performances, 5 p.m. Thursday, May 15, 8 p.m. Friday, May 16, and 1 p.m. Saturday, May 17, in the courtyard between U-High and Blaine Hall. Tickets, $1, are on sale in Blaine Lobby. If rain prevails, the play will be performed outside. The Festival will precede the play nightly, 5-7 p.m. No admission is necessary to enter the courtyard for the Festival.

The story of a girl who falls down a rabbit hole into a fantasy world filled with quirky characters. This year’s Rites of May play, “Alice in Wonderland,” will colorfully recount those adventures in three performances, 5 p.m. Thursday, May 15, 8 p.m. Friday, May 16, and 1 p.m. Saturday, May 17, in the courtyard between U-High and Blaine Hall. To see the play, tickets are available at the door for $1.

Among popular booths each year are food concessions sponsored by the German Club, French Club, Asian Student Association, and Black Student Association. If rain occurs, concessions will be moved inside the school.

FESTIVAL COCHAIRPERSONS are Dean of Students Jewel Thomas, Middle School Principal Steve Tabak and Nursery-Kindergarten Principal Carla Young. “Alice” in “Wonderland” will be portrayed by Junior Vanessa Carr, veteran of numerous theater productions who has specialized in comic roles. Other members of the acting ensemble are as follows:

Senior Emily Art,.foundation secretary, Kate Shaw; sound, Lucy Drew; costume mistress, Sara Shirrell; production assistant, “but it’s told through a child’s eyes, so the whole play is set in a child’s dreamworld. We’re making it as mysterious and fantasy-like as possible.”

The U-High production combines portions of both “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” and its equally-beloved sequel, “Through the Looking Glass.” Many adaptations of the stories have been produced both on stage and on film of the stories. Many U-Highers are most familiar with the Walt Disney animated cartoon version.

Creating a Dreamlike Wonderland, a complex, multileveled stage outside the cafeteria doors will include trapdoors and other special touches. As in past years, the stage was designed by Drama Teacher Luricza Ambrosini’s husband Allen. Mrs. Ambrosini is directing the show. “Alice” previously was presented at the 1978 Rites.

“People are going to be popping up and falling into holes and stuff,” said Junior Emily Art, technical director.

“IT’S GOING TO BE A CROWD. Most of the cast are on most of the time and the stage allows them to disappear as quickly as they need to when they get off stage.”

Because actors will be working ensemble, playing multiple characters, and have only a few minutes to change stage, Senior Deborah Schlesinger, costume mistress, said costumes will be simple.

“For the costumes are going to wear black-based costumes and just have some paper little pieces for each character they play,” Deborah said.

“The costumes aren’t complicated but they definitely take away from the classic people-on-stage look. They have hooks, so the only part showing is an actor’s face, which adds to the play’s dreamlike quality.”

Because the trees today! So don’t be surprised to see trees around the courtyard. The Midway Reporter asked Senior Conley Johnson, who will be spotlighted as solo pianist in a black tuxedo, how he got the part.

Soph to solo with ‘Harmonic’

Spiffy in a black tuxedo, Sophomore Conley Johnson will be spotlighted as solo pianist in the 75-piece Illinois Philharmonic. Tickets are available at the door for $1.

The program will open the Park District’s “Starry Nights” summer concert series.

Concerts take place at the Marie Irwin Community Center Outdoor Bandshell, Ridge and Highland avenues in downtown Homewood.

The park opens for dinner from food concessions and picnics on the lawn at 6:30 p.m. Conley is preparing Techaiowsky’s Concerto Number One in B-flat Minor for the concert.

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Art by Michael Lebost assisted by Omid Neiley

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Whateve r Happened To...
A look back at the year's stories that never quite had an ending

By Joe Fischel
Midway Reporter

Activities popped all over at U-High but a few kernels fell to the bottom of the bag. Here's what happened to stories which never quite had an ending, happy or sad.

Sophomore Mentors-Started last spring by a group of freshmen who felt they could contribute, as sophomores, to making Freshman Advisory a more meaningful and enjoyable experience, the Sophomore Mentors experienced trouble getting organized, then were told by administrators they could not use the word "Mentors" without signing behavioral contracts. After thinking it over, many of the participants felt adults in the school had stepped in, taken over and encouraged what originally had been a student effort with all sorts of extraneous requirements, and the group quietly disbanded.

"The Sophomore Mentor Program is in limbo right now," said Advisory Coordinator David Arksey. "It's just not going to happen this year. I believe it's worth it to try again next year, where we would have them sign a contract before the program starts.

Project Day-Hoping to improve on Freshman Retreat, Dean of Students Jewel Thomas came up with the idea for Freshman Project Day. But in her already overloaded schedule she could never find time to get the program underway.

"It would have been a day where freshmen would have been able to do different things, such as a hike trip downtown," Ms. Thomas explained. "Unfortunately, we did not find enough time to plan, schedule and implement a Project Day this year.

Improv Group-The 8th-grade improv group which hoped to continue from the Middle School and become a High School club never made it on stage. Freshman David Moffat, copresident, said school rules require that all clubs be open to any U-Higher, which precluded the troupe from holding auditions. The troupe may still have a life ahead, however, as just a group of performers, not a school organization.

Ombudsmen-The tale of the two seniors chosen to serve as Ombudsmen, David Solow and Flora Diaz, does have an ending, though it's hard to tell what exactly it is. They have handled nine cases this year but refused to disclose what the cases were about, even generally, to the Midway.

"I think the year has gone well," David remarked. "We have been approached many times about many different situations. The only thing I wish we had done a better job of it is talking to the underclassmen."

Student Council-Neopark projects emerged from the Council this year and no significant involvement in the major issues of the year but officers point to smaller projects such as face painting earlier this year as significant.

"Student Council didn't have one big project this year," Student Council President Kathryn B. explained. "We were taking things step by step for the long term but it was hard because some students here are very pessimistic about Student Council, which made it hard to accomplish anything and find which issues were important. It's difficult to push things through the administration at this school. Another factor was that many Student Council members were new. We did the best we could do under the circumstances.

Arts Week-Plans to bring Arts Week back this year collapsed because a faculty adviser could not be found. Sophomore Jennifer Jones, Rebecca Cohen and Rachel Shapiro plan to participate in a student committee which will revive Arts Week next year with the help of faculty advisers.

Diversity Day-After returning from a People of Color Conference in December in Baltimore, a group of U-Highers enthusiastically proposed to the faculty a diversity conference to take place at school. Many teachers complained about classes being interrupted, suggested the program take place on a Saturday or expressed disinterest, but others felt the idea had merit. And this kernel is going to pop, suggested the program take place on a Saturday or expressed disinterest, but others felt the idea had merit. And this kernel is going to pop! It is planned for Wednesday, Oct. 8 as a premier event of the fall quarter.

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Ryan Beck and Kalin Agrawal. Photos by Alex Zamior and Kavitha Reddy. Cartoons by Mike Leibowitz
Where hamburgers turn into taco meat

Editor's note: Shiva Katz, '98, has just completed her freshman year at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

HUNDREDS OF ADAMS and Evas prowled through the center of campus, parking lots and tennis courts as their only concealment. Despite the campuswide hysteria, the crowd managed to form a path on which they waited to see their friends bounce by in the buff. Presenting their senior status, this group of Michigan's most daring seniors took part in the annual "Naked Mile" run April 23, the last day classes were in session before finals kicked off. It's hard to say exactly what buzz filled the air when the "Naked Mile" took place, but it was certainly not a bad idea.

Well, the end of the year is nearing and the only task S.C. has done this year is "gusto." It has been calling the Medici to order food for 32 years S.C. officers have it down pat, but S.C. doesn't flex any muscles on that issue.

No S.C. get involved in issues of course evaluations, lounges being closed or workload.

Vigilante government not the ticket

T he underground opposition party movements, trying to take control of the university going guerra tactics, ain't exactly U-High's political scene. Though we've watched Student Council (S.C.) practically crumble the last few years, the Student Empowerment Committee has slipped into the spotlight, turning into the students' new advocate.

With proposals of a student-teacher disciplinary board, student course evaluations and Student Empowerment becoming part of S.C. next year, many students feel that the "Naked Mile" was in vain.

But the founders haven't let the technicality of not holding office stop them from pursuing goals in the interest of the student body. Even though this year's S.C. officers haven't exactly been aggressive advocates for students it's best for them to say,"Oh well, we elected a bunch of goofs, hope we did better this time around," and be content with a S.C. run government.

The only significant work came from one or two individual class steering committee members who were forced to organize projects themselves because S.C. as a whole was too lazy to do anything or create organizations to take the place of genuine, elected leadership.

Student Council leaves a legacy all right

S ome U-Highers may remember an assembly on the first day of school where a portly bandaging man waved his hands frantically in the air, said something like "we're going to get free paper plates since the beginning of the year." As you read before, the day after the assembly, he vaunted around campus putting up signs that "gusto" would cure everything.

It's true that S.C. officers have acted as if they had free rein and sometimes the student body has felt the time was right—no sitting back and hesitating there. Well, all's well that ends well, as someone once said.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF—Alex Zemek, Karren Conway, Jennifer Jones

ASSOCIATE EDITORS—by page 1, news—Jessica Ginnig, Caitlin Steрош, Laurel Desai; features—Kathleen Mendenhall, Alina Arkin; sports—Katie Schein, Nate Stinivas; opinion—Richard Siegler, Vik Suha, Kelly O'Brien, Maria Perkovic; student opinion—Richard Siegler

PHOTOGRAPHY—Michelle Schatt, Katie Schein, Nate Stinivas, Karren Conway

WHERE HAMBURGERS TURN INTO TACO MEAT

Eating at school is one of the only "gusto" issues that is not self-regulated. Lunch hours are 10:50-12:30 and dinner is served from 4:30-6:30.

Snacks are hard to come by because (as you read before), it takes a car to get to the grocery store and restaurants are costly.

BESIDES BEING restricted as to when we can eat, we are very much restricted in what we can eat (you'll know what I'm talking about when you try to buy a dorm meal). Monday's hamburgers turn into Tuesday's taco meat, which is transformed into spaghetti sauce for Wednesday, which becomes Thursday's Sloppy Joe, which turns into chili on Friday and the cycle begins again.

They're really into recycling food at our cafeteria but they don't seem to be as conscientious when it comes to takeout environments. We've been using plastic silverware and paper plates since the beginning of the year.

WITH ALL THE FREEDOM I've acquired since entering college, I must admit that I'm glad that my independence is still constricted in the culinary realm. I don't want to get too jaded and I'll have my own apartment with my own refrigerator. Then I'll really be free.
Blondes do have more fun on film

SWEET, Sassy, seemingly stupid yet surprisingly perceptive, the "dumb blonde" will always be a Hollywood favorite. Beautiful, funny, and gorgeous, she has been played by every blonde comediene from Marilyn Monroe to Goldie Hawn. Of course, in each incarnation she's slightly different.

In UNCHARACTERISTICALLY casual clothes, Michele Weinerberger, (Lisa Kudrow), left, and Romy White (Mira Sorvino), discuss their lives as they do laundry in "Romy and Michele's High School Reunion." The Chicago Tribune called the movie the most fashionable film since "Clueless," which makes sense considering Mona May designed the costumes for both films.

Blondes do have more fun on film.
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