

U-High Midway

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University High School
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Next Council president forecasts 'a year of doing'

•BY KAREEM SALEH•

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND GOVERNMENT EDITOR

He's got plans for assemblies including Senators Carol Mosley Braun 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 Sawyer 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 reschedule the alumni who backed out of our 'Life after Lab' assembly this year for next year and the new weekly assembly period is really going to give S.C. an opportunity to poll students about what they want."

INCREASED EXECUTIVE committee initiative and more communication with administrators will help to make election-year pledges a reality, Randy believes.

"We're going to meet regularly with the director and principal," he explained. "It's important that the adults know where the students stand. We're also going to work with faculty like Union President Bob Kass on issues such as course evaluations."

Many U-Highers have told the Midway they feel the Council before doing anything else needs to investigate why and how 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 elapsing between 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 Coeditor-in-Chief Alex Zamiar. "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 Naveen Neerunkonda, 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, Kurt Scott; treasurer, Pat Spann; secretary, Andrea Schnitzer.

CULTURAL UNION—President, Christina Cantwell; treasurer, Vanessa Corr.

NEXT YEAR'S SENIORS—President, Erica Aronson; treasurer, Albert Chan; political representative, Seetha Srinivasan; C.U. representatives, Angie Keene, Faith Baxter.

NEXT YEAR'S JUNIORS—President, Tarik Scott; treasurer, Katherine Lin; political representative, Mike Zabel; C.U. representatives, Adam Fetsch, Dana Cohn.

NEXT YEAR'S SOPHOMORES—President, Sonia Mittal; treasurer, Darlyn Pirakitsculr; political representative, Deepthi Yelavarthi; C.U. representatives: Alexis Mitchell, Anju Mahajan.

(See editorial page 6.)

Empowerment group builds voice

•BY ALEX ZAMIAR•
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

How does a blind man pick the U-Higher out of the crowd?" asked a Student Council presidential candidate during election speeches. The answer? "The one who is whining the loudest."

Seeking to improve communication for students and faculty, the Student Empowerment Committee (SEC) formed earlier this year hopes to take the cries of the students and turn them into constructive ideas.

THOUGH THE founders say they plan to work with Student Council, many U-Highers are questioning how such a group can assume power to represent the student body without having been appointed or elected.

"The truth is many students feel that S.C. is not effective in representing them in their relationship with teachers," said Senior Mark Hoffman, who formed the group with Juniors Pat Spann and Garron Segal.

"When this happens you can do one of three things. One, try to improve the situation through the normal democratic process. Two, create a new institution. Or, three, do both."

SEC HAS NO designs on circumventing student government, just on getting fresh idea into action, Pat said.

"We will take steps to get our goals implemented in the school," he explained. "We hope to have S.C. implement these goals because none of our ideas will work if they are not channeled through S.C.. We were try-

ing to get S.C. to listen to us and they are."

Among projects the group has discussed is creating student evaluations of courses and a Student Code of Conduct. A major project, an Honor Code, may be dropped because student response has been mixed.

Many U-Highers approve the idea of an Honor Code. Others feel such codes are dangerous as they identify people by promises, rather than actions, and circumvent democratically-enacted law.

"WE ARE TRYING to get students' opinions, to let them have more of a say in what happens in the school," Garron said.

"From course evaluations, to policy making to the Student Code of Conduct we want to help students take a more active role in what happens in our community. Students should be aware

Photo courtesy Mr. Wayne Brasler

that we have not created any policies set in stone and are still trying to get a feel of what students want." (See editorial page 6.)

School may be losing its Jewel



MS. JEWEL THOMAS

Photo by Chuck Reed

•BY DAVID SALINAS•
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Looking back at her 17 years at U-High, five of those as Dean of Students, Ms. Jewel Thomas counts among her legacies well-planned student activities, a more active Student Council and guiding the Community Learning Program through its early stages.

Although as of Friday she hadn't yet put her name on the contract, it seemed likely next year Ms. Thomas will direct the Harvard School, 47th and Ellis. The private school runs from nursery through 8th grades.

Display honors Holocaust victims

NAMES OF 20,000 children who perished in the Holocaust were remembered in this Holocaust Remembrance Day exhibit sponsored by the Jewish Students' Association for Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 2. About 60 people heard Mr. Aaron Elstein, a survivor, speak about his experiences as a child of 10 in Poland May 4. The display included historic photos. The viewers here are David Greenfield, left, and Chris Rummel.



Photo by Katey Schein

Quilt comes to U-High

FOUR PANELS of the AIDS Quilt, which in total includes 42,500 three-by-six-foot sections in tribute to a person who died of AIDS, came to the school May 8. The Community Learning's theater troupe, "Hope Is Vital" (HIV), had arranged for the display. Junior Meghan McFarlane and Freshman Sarah Newby headed the project. "We were looking for a way to reach out to the whole school community instead of single advisories," Sarah said. "This has been one of our big goals for the year and we hope that this will increase AIDS awareness in the community." Here Sarah examines the panels with Daniel Coleman. Red ribbons signifying awareness of the AIDS epidemic could be seen on people as the day progressed.

COMING TO U-HIGH in 1975, Ms. Thomas left in 1977 to work in sales at Blue Cross and Blue Shield for before returning in 1982, again as counselor.

When the position of dean of students became available in 1992 she applied and won it.

"Being dean I've learned how to really get things done with students," she reflected from her desk in her perpetually-in-motion office U-High 6.

"When I first got here there were very few planned social activities for students. Now we have a tradition of really great events such as the Video Dance Party and standard retreats."

WHILE FACILITATING activities providing enjoyment for students has figured importantly in her work, Ms. Thomas points out that she encountered numerous challenges along the way.

"Sending people home from activities was always a problem," she reflected.

"In theory everyone agrees that there are rules and consequences. But when it's time for people to face the consequences, many people protest."

ETHICS HAVE always figured importantly into her work.

"I've always tried to be impartial and fair when it comes to disciplinary matters," she said. "I think that it's important to stand up for what you believe in."

Rep. Currie to address Class of '97 graduation

•BY KAREN LEFF•
MIDWAY REPORTER

Illinois Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie will address the Class of 1997 at its commencement, 2:30 p.m., Thursday, June 12 at Rockefeller Chapel, 59th Street at Woodlawn Avenue.

A Democrat, Rep. Currie serves the University neighborhood and surrounding communities. She is a '58 U-High graduate, mother of two U-High graduates.

REP. CURRIE, a former Midway editor-in-chief, is a lifelong Hyde Park resident.

"I was excited, thrilled and honored to be asked to speak," she told the Midway. "I hope I have

something useful to say and I don't want to be boring."

Rep. Currie's children, Stephen, '78, a well-known children's book author and teacher, and Margaret '81, an editor, were Lab School "Lifers".

OTHER YEAREND highlights will include the senior prom and the annual honors assembly.

"La Belle Époque," French for "The Beautiful Age" will provide theme for the prom 8 p.m.-midnight Friday, June 6 at the South Shore Cultural Center, 7059 South Shore Dr. The Center is the former South Shore Country Club, long considered a regal South Side landmark.

It represents a major move

from the usual downtown hotel site. Prom Committee members felt would provide a welcome change of pace.

A DISC JOCKEY will provide music for dancing. Dinner, according to Prom Committee Member Lisa Malinowsky, will include a choice of chicken, steak, or pasta.

Decorations will carry a blue and silver motif. Tickets are on sale for \$65 and will be sold in the lobby through Friday.

Student graduation speakers will include Kareem Saleh and George Polychronopoulos giving a joint presentation. They were chosen by senior officers.

"WE LIKED the way they proposed and presented their ideas," said Senior Class President Win Boonlayangoor. Janina Morrison and Mollie Stone also were chosen. Senior Adviser Susan Shapiro will announce graduates' names.

Musical program and performers are still being decided.

Graduation rehearsal the day before the ceremony will take place June 11. Pizza, soft drinks and salad will be served at a prerehearsal luncheon for the seniors and faculty given by Dean of Students Jewel Thomas.

A new Student Citizenship Award will be presented at the annual Honors Assembly 9 a.m., Monday, June 9 in Max Palevsky Theater at Ida Noyes Hall, 1313 E. 59th 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 class trip to a White Sox game after the Honors Assembly.

School officially will come to an end the day following graduation with a luncheon for the faculty and staff.



Photo by Vikas Singhal and Katey Schein

FOUR SENIOR SPEAKERS will highlight commencement ceremonies for the Class of '97. From left they are Kareem Saleh, Janina Morrison, George Polychronopoulos and Mollie Stone.

College destinations range as far as Mexico City

•BY ALYSSA SCHEUNEMANN•
MIDWAY REPORTER

East, West, North, South. Seniors will be heading in all directions for college, but Jeremy Arrington will be going *really* South. "South of the Border" to University of Mexico in Mexico City. "I thought it would be a good experience," Jeremy said. "I want to see the world. I'm going to major in psychology and I'm going to be in school for like a decade so I figured 'Why not go someplace cool?'"

Eastern schools will receive the most number of U-Highers next fall. Forty-one of 101 seniors plan to head East. Sixteen will head West, four of them to Stanford with Presidential Daughter Chelsea Clinton. Thirty-three seniors will stay in the Midwest.

With six U-Highers each, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Stanford, Palo Alto, Calif.; and Harvard, Cambridge, Mass., are getting the most U-Highers. Five each will attend the University of Chicago and University of Wisconsin at Madison. Seniors plan to attend school as follows:

Amherst, Mass.: Kioshi Mino, Mollie Stone, Amber Stroud, Bill Thistlethwaite; Bates, Lewiston, Maine: Nikki Meyer; Boston University: Symeon Rom-Rymer; Barnard, New York City: Camille Varlet; Beloit, Wisc.: Tiffany Royster; Brown, Providence, R.I.: Kalin Agrawal, Andrei Scheinkman, Philip Trevett; University of California, Los Angeles: Rachael Straus; University of Chicago: Dhruva Bhattacharya, Victoria Cheung, Kareem Saleh, Kathleeya Stang; University of Colorado, Boulder: Andrew Gardner, Paul Johnson; Duke, Raleigh-Durham, N.C.: Win Boonlayangoor, Peter Muller; Eugene Lang, New York City: Brendon Cooper; Georgetown, Washington, D.C.: Ismail Alsheik; Hampshire, Amherst, Mass.: Patrick Sellers; Hampton, Va.: Kemet Higginbotham; Harvard, Cambridge, Mass.: Kenny Ebie, Michael Levin, Janina Morrison, Michael Ogilvie, Michael Tang, Siqin Ye; Howard, Washington, D.C.: Robert Earles; University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana: Jessica Block, Christopher Garner, Robert McGee, Maria Meneses, Romanie Walters, Trevor Williams; Kenyon, Gambier, Ohio: George Polychronopoulos, Lauren Schwartz; Knox, Galesburg, Ill.: Prasanth Katta; Lewis and Clark, Portland, Oregon: Jenna Kraig; University of Maryland, College Park: David Greenfield; McGill, Montreal, Canada: Brock Weir; University of Mexico, Mexico City: Jeremy Arrington. (continued on page 7)

Farewell after 40 years

Librarian Win Poole retires

•BY DEBRA GITTLER•
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Huddled in one of the new, plush maroon chairs in Rowley Library, Librarian Winfred Poole shifts from a look of comfort to jumpy anxiety as he talks of his 40 years at the Lab Schools, his plans for retirement and his thoughts about U-High's future. He begins to rise each time a student comes near, eager to help them find what they're searching for, and ends each thought with a smile.

"Once I retire, I plan not to do much of anything," said Mr. Poole, grinning. "I want to catch up on some reading, relax and do some traveling."

"I'VE GOT FRIENDS in California and Washington D.C. who I'd like to visit. I'd like to see the museums in Washington in a relaxed way. Usually you're in such a hurry that you can't see everything."

Faculty member at U-High the longest, Mr. Poole has worked with 12 principals and witnessed two major additions to the Lab Schools—the High School building in 1960 and the Middle School building in 1993. And while he celebrates his 70th birthday next February, he looks no older than 40, offering vibrant energy to every student he helps.

"Not much has changed in the Schools' philosophy while I've been here," Mr. Poole reflected. "There's been a change in size of the different classes. When I first came there were about 75 students per class until one principal's agenda included increasing the size of the school. The diverse makeup of the school has changed, too, in the sense that now we have a much more diverse student body and with a wider sampling of students, we have a wider sampling of ideas."

THE SECOND BLACK faculty member in the school, Mr. Poole came to U-High straight from University of Illinois at Champaign where he majored in Library Sciences.

"I stayed at Lab because the library allows a lot of latitude and it's nice working with the students," he said. No matter what a student's interests, we always have something for them and can always help them out. I think we provide a better outlook for students than some schools. We give students a chance to explore, especially with May Project, where we allow students a view outside of school."



Photo by David Katz

MR. WIN POOLE
Here the longest

May Project takes senior to Taiwan

Heading to Kaohsiung, 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 1969, 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 my identity."

Interviewing patients about the psychological effects of chemotherapy, Kenny Ebie 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):

Arts: Camille Varlet, Pat Sellers, Ann Whalen, Sam Meites and Alyssa Scheunemann; Athletics: Peter Muller, Jeremiah Schatt and David Solow; Broadcasting: Lauren Cohn and Amber Stroud; Building: Kalin Agrawal and Karl Olson; Business: David Solow; Chess: Michael Levin; Community Service: Naima Bond, Evelina Bozek, Chase Chavin, Grant Chavin, Sarah Booth, Cassie Peters and Nicky Meyer; Cooking: Erin Hamblin, Dima Khalidi and Maja Saphir; Film: Emily Mitchell; History: Sarah Jacobson and Debora Schlessinger; Independent Writing: Jennifer Almandar, Katie Drew, Kemet Higginbotham, Catherine Levinson and Mollie Stone; Music: Emily Alitto, Janina Morrison, Mollie Stone, Sam Meites, Ben Wynn and Symeon Rom-Rymer; Sciences: Win Boonlayangoor, Anthea Kelsick, Lauren Schwartz and Nishchay Maskay.

(Editor's note: The Midway compiled this May Project list by contacting seniors individually. After more than two decades of giving the Midway a list, administrators in recent years have declined to provide one, sometime saying they do not want to violate participants' privacy and sometime saying no such list exists except compiled alongside confidential information.)

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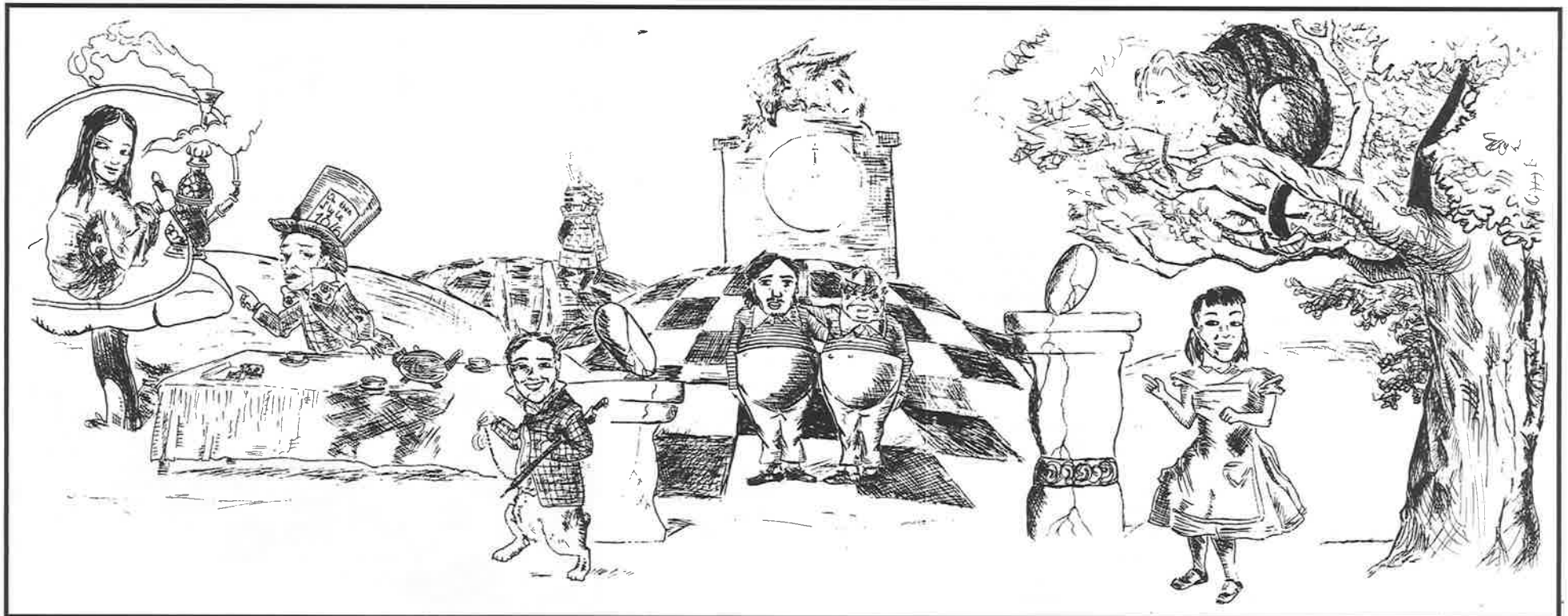
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'Alice' to take Rites audiences to Wonderland



Story for all ages climaxes nightly May revelries

•BY ALICE BLANDER•
MIDWAY REPORTER

Drifting off to sleep under a tree on a sun-drenched afternoon as her older sister reads to her from a boring book, a young girl in 19th century England dreams about following a rabbit down a 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, 8 p.m., Thursday, May 15-Saturday, May 17, in the courtyard between U-High and Blaine Hall. Tickets, \$7, are on sale in Blaine Lobby. If rain prevents the play from being presented, it will be produced on the next rainfree evening. The Festival will precede the play nightly, 5-7. No admission is necessary to enter the courtyard for the Festival.

AN ACCLAIMED SATIRE of 19th century English politics as well as a beloved children's story, Lewis Carroll's well-known tale can be understood on many levels.

"It's not a childish story," said Sophomore Karlis Kanderovskis, assistant director, "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 Liucija 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 crazy show. Most of the actors 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 working ensemble, playing multiple characters, and have only a few minutes to change off stage, Senior Deborah Schlessinger, costumes mistress, said costumes will be simple.

"All the actors are going to wear black-based costumes and just have cartoony 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 hoods, so the only part showing is an actor's face, which adds to the play's dreamlike quality."

BECAUSE THE TREES which in previous years supported the lighting system for the play were removed last fall after contracting disease, a free-standing tower has been rented as a replacement for this year's production, said Senior Kate Shaw, lights master.

Dotted with game and food booths, the courtyard will assume col-

Art by Michael Lebovitz assisted by Omid Nolley
IN THE STYLE of Sir John Tenniel, who did the original illustrations for Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," U-Highers will portray the famous characters, from left: Caterpillar, Arielle Halpern; Mad Hatter, Ben Epstein; White Rabbit, Sara Shirrell; Tweedledee, Jan Kordylewska; Tweedledum, Ben Epstein; Cheshire Cat, Sylvia Spicer; Alice, Vanessa Carr.

ors as the Rites of May precede the play nightly. Tickets will be sold to be used at individual concessions.

Among popular booths each year are food concessions sponsored by the German Club, French Club, Asian Students Association and Black Students 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:

Seniors Emily Alitto, Naima Bond, Flora Diaz, Kate Shaw, Mollie Stone and Camille Varlet; **Juniors** Lonnie Hubbard John Kordylewski, Michael Lebovitz, Joanna Mass, John Pick and Sara Shirrell; **sophomores** Ben Epstein, Steve Gilpin, Arielle Halpern, Omid Nolley, Chris Rummel and Noah Silverman; **freshman** Sylvia Spicer.

Production heads not previously mentioned are as follows:

Stage manager, Liz Drew; **theater manager**, Kate Shaw; **sound**, Lucy Scharbach; **house, publicity and box office**, Tamar Kipper; **makeup**, Camille Varlet; **shop**, Joe Owens-Ream; and **funiture and props**, John Pick.

Original music composed and performed by Freshman Sam Gilman on piano will accompany the production.

Soph to solo with 'Harmonic

Spiffy in a black tuxedo, Sophomore Conley Johnson will be spotlighted as solo pianist in a concert by the 75-piece Illinois Philharmonic, 8 p.m., Friday, June 13 in Homewood-Flossmoor.

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 Tchaikovsky's Concerto Number One in B-Flat Minor for the concert.

Int'l Festival global feast

From France to Japan, nine countries will be celebrated in activity booths at the parent-sponsored International Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, May 17 in Sunny Gym.

Cuisines from around the world will be served at the "Global Cafe" on the first floor. A carnival with children's games, including two-on-two basketball and a dunk tank, will take place in Kenwood Mall.

Sponsored by the Blaine Bookstore Committee, a book fair will include appearances by characters such as the Cat in the Hat. Urban Gateways will conduct workshops about different countries through music and dance.

"One of the workshops we're using is 'La Bamba,'" said International Festival Chairperson Diana Woodland. "It explores Caribbean culture and hopefully it'll be both fun and educational for the kids."

But they definitely take away from the classic people-on-stage look. They have hoods, so the only part showing is an actor's face, which adds to the play's dreamlike quality."

BECAUSE THE TREES which in previous years supported the lighting system for the play were removed last fall after contracting disease, a free-standing tower has been rented as a replacement for this year's production, said Senior Kate Shaw, lights master.

Dotted with game and food booths, the courtyard will assume col-

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

A look back at the year's stories that never quite had an ending

•BY JOE FISCHER•
MIDWAY REPORTER

Activities popped all year 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 discouraged 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 bike 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 organiza-

tion.

■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 is talking to the underclassmen."

■STUDENT COUNCIL—No major 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 Kathleeya 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. Sophomores 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! It is planned for Wednesday, Oct. 8 as a premier event of the fall quarter.



Photos by Mike Hoy and Mr. Wayne Brasler

■FINALLY—The outlaw annual Senior Campout successfully became a school-sponsored event, with most of the class turning out May 2 for a night in and around Sunny Gym. A brunch sponsored by senior parents followed the next morning, a senior day off. At the Campout and brunch, from left are:

CAMPOUT (top)—Nicky Persky, Anita Denes, Kalin Agrawal, Kenny Ebbe, Peter Muller and Wahkyna White.

BRUNCH (bottom)—Naveen Neerukonda, Ms. Suzanne Buckwalter, Janina Morrison and Grant Charvin.

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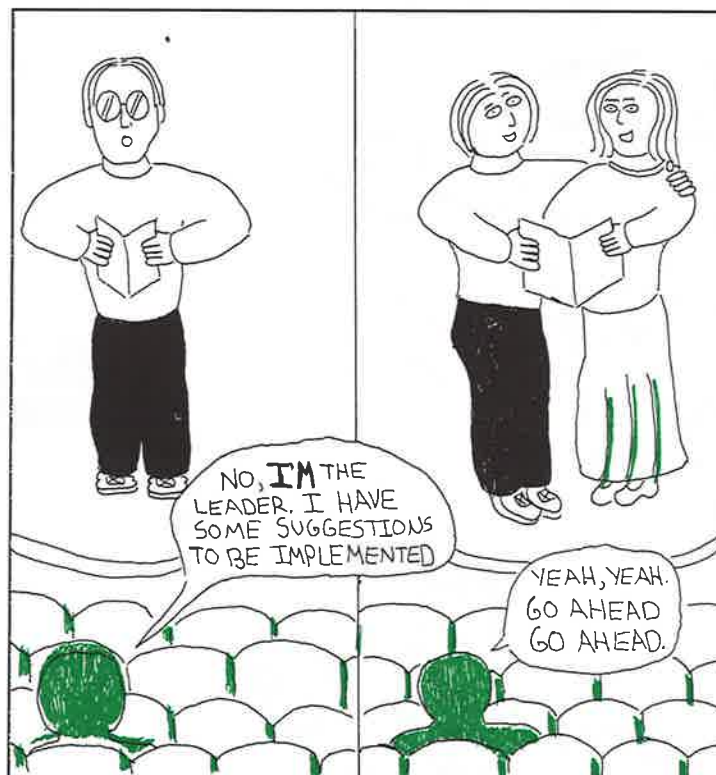
The gay discussion group—or gay-straight or whatever they're calling it—is finally off to a start. Besides discussions, the founders have sponsored a showing of the film "The Celluloid Closet" and Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler has agreed to talk and show videos about his years as an AIDS benefit concert producer and the artists he worked with.

It's great this long-anticipated group is finally underway. The U-Highers who pushed it through—particularly Senior Mollie Stone—deserve to go down in school history. As for the adults in the school.

Well, during the long, long time the group took shape they stood by in hesitation, talking about how the school lets students generate cocurricular activities, and generally let the initiative sink or swim on its own. It swam. Now adults are in the pool, lending cheerful support.

But why did it take them so long? The adults weren't shy about putting their hands into, and all over, the late-lamented Sophomore Mentor project. And Senior Campout got quickly interfered with when adults felt the time was right—no sitting back and hesitating there.

Well, all's well that ends well, as someone once said. In this case, the story has a happy ending. But the tale leading up to that ending is not as pretty as it could have been.



Art by Michael Strong

Vigilante government not the ticket

Underground opposition party movements, trying to take control of the government using guerrilla tactics, isn't exactly U-High's political scene. Though as we've watched Student Council (S.C.) pathetically crumble this year, 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, members have usurped most of the power left in an already weak student government.

While SEC founders may have good intentions, such as relieving tension between students and faculty members, the fact is Student Empowerment members don't have the authority to empower anyone. They weren't elected by the student body and, unfortu-

nately, popular election is the "rage of the age" in democracies.

When students have problems with U-High it's their responsibility to act. But by presenting problems to S.C., not by suggesting ways to reshape student government and the entire school community.

When S.C. officers were voted into office last year by students a Student Empowerment alternative wasn't on the ballot. 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," not to create organizations to take the place of genuine, elected leadership.

Student Council leaves a legacy all right

Some U-Highers may remember an assembly on the first day of school where a portly balding man waved his hands frantically, encouraging us all to "get fired up" and pursue all activities with "gusto." Some may also remember Student Council (S.C.) officers who, in a similarly frantic fashion, pledged that they would do their jobs with "gusto" too.

Well, the end of the year is nearing and the only task S.C. has done with gusto so far has been calling the Medici to order food for their yearend party.

"Gusto" certainly could have been displayed while tackling inconsistent disciplinary actions but S.C. didn't flex any muscle on that issue.

Nor did S.C. get involved in issues of course evaluations, lounges being closed or workload.

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 inept.

But perhaps the most flagrant display of Student Council's inefficiency came with elections for '98 officers. Thrown together in only five days, they gave students little opportunity to find out what candidates stood for, especially because for the first time in 32 years S.C. members didn't work with Midway editors to coordinate an election preview and, consequently, there wasn't time to get an issue out.

The most unfortunate legacy of this year's S.C., however, has yet to be seen. The fact that S.C. didn't provide any real leadership this year paves the way for equally incompetent S.C. administrations in the future, something no amount of "gusto" will cure.

SAY WHAT?

Compiled by Richard Siegler

If you could come back to school next fall and find one thing about it changed what would it be?

(Asked of U-Highlights staff members working on a recent Saturday yearbook deadline.)



Chris

Rusha

CHRIS OSAN, senior: The cafeteria would have to be changed. It's too dark and dreary. It's quicker to walk to 57th Street and get lunch then to wait in line. The Senior Lounge especially would need a resurfacing because everything in there is old and drab. The carpet also needs changing. We've heard rumors and seen things that are really disgusting and make us not want to go in that place.

RUSHA DESAI, junior: I would like to see parking permits for those who drive to school. It's such a pain to find a parking spot close to school and often students are forced to park illegally, resulting in tickets. After driving to school for a week I realized it was too hard to drive one hour and spend an additionally 20 minutes finding a parking space.



Jennifer

Tai

JENNIFER JONES, sophomore: If I could change one thing about U-High, I would give the students more power. This school is supposed to teach students how to think for themselves, by when they assume leadership roles and accept responsibility for themselves, the faculty and parents should give them the opportunity to do so. Student-run organizations have become student-advised and faculty-run. If that could be changed, it could create student enthusiasm that continues to be lacking in our school.

TAI DUNCAN, freshman: If I could see only one thing changed, I would like for the students to have more of a say in what goes on in the school. I don't want to feel like a guinea pig, with administrators trying out their ideas on us without asking us what we want. We're part of the school, too."

Where hamburgers turn into taco meat

Editor's note: Shira Katz, '96, has just completed her freshman year at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

HUNDREDS OF ADAMS and Eves paraded through the center of campus with backpacks and Nike tennis shoes 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.

Proclaiming their senior status, this group of Michigan's most daring seniors took part in the annual "Naked Mile" run April 22, the last day of classes. For seniors, the "Naked Mile" signified one of the last illegal exhibitions that would be tolerated because of the vacuum-sealed environment of a college campus. For underclassmen, the "Naked Mile" was crazy-hilarious to watch and represented for us, the freedom that we have gained upon coming to college.

NO CURFEW, parties on Thursdays, coed dorms. The parental reins have been severed and I am now experiencing complete freedom. With all these new choices, you'd think perhaps I'd make use of this independence and do something spontaneous. There are so many things that I'm allowed to do, but for me, exercising my freedom at college means going to the grocery store.

A few Fridays ago at 1 a.m., my friends and I rolled through the grocery store aisles of Meijer (the local grocery/appliance/clothing store that kicks Target in the butt) at top speed, throwing item after item into our shopping cart.

It was around Easter time, so the displays were stocked with marshmallow peeps and chocolate bunnies that made us giddy with hunger. Someone had lent my friends and me a car for the night and we honestly came to a consensus to go food shopping.

Eating at school is one of the only activities that is not self-regulated. Lunch hours are 10:30-12:30 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 dorm food). Monday's hamburgers turn into Tuesday's taco meat, which is transformed into spaghetti sauce for Wednesday, which becomes Thursday's Sloppy Joes, 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 conscious when it comes to the environment—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 in my first year or I'll have nothing to look forward to.

When I'm a senior though, I'll be eligible to run the "Naked Mile" and I'll have my own apartment with my own refrigerator. Then I'll really be free.

College Letter
Shira Katz

U-HighMidway

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Blondes do have more fun on film

SWEET, SEXY, seemingly stupid yet surprisingly perceptive, the “dumb blonde” will always be a Hollywood fixture. Nonthreatening and adorable, she has been played by every blonde comedienne from Marilyn Monroe to Goldie Hawn. Of course, in each incarnation she’s slightly different.

Rated Leigh Leigh Goldstein



Mira Sorvino and Lisa Kudrow, latest examples of this unique species, star in Touchstone Pictures’ comedy, “Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion,” directed by David Mirkin. Receiving glowing reviews for their comedic turns, Sorvino and Kudrow have proved the power of blonde charm.

Although Romy and Michele are two fun-loving blondes living in Venice Beach, California, they still haven’t recovered from their less-than- spectacular teenage experience.

When their club-hopping, hooker-clothes-wearing life gets interrupted by a high school reunion invitation, Romy and Michele decide it is time return to Huston and deal with the snotty girls who tortured them.

Watching the girls desperately try to improve their lives before the reunion, i.e. get boyfriends and jobs, is pure fun. But the



IN UNCHARACTERISTICALLY casual clothes, Michele Weinberger, (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.

film gets even better once they reach the reunion. In an attempt to impress the “in” crowd girls who made their lives miserable, Romy and Michele say they invented “Post-Its.” The consequences of their lie and their former classmates’ reactions prove hilarious.

While Sorvino and Kudrow have great chemistry, their appearances are almost as important their performances. Dressing Romy and Michele in pastel and neon minis and halter-tops, Costume Designer Mona May found bubble gum clothing to match their personalities. Seeing the commotion they create with their eye-catching clothing and bodies makes the premise that they were losers even more amusing.

A special mention should also

be given to Janeane Garofalo, who manages to shine in a movie centered around tall blond beauties. Garofalo plays her standard character, a sarcastic, angry and scorned woman, but she does her shtick so well that it’s hard to tire of it.

She’s also found an ally in Screenwriter Robin Schiff, who gives her some of the best lines. (When trying on a tight dress Garofalo complains: “This dress exacerbates the genetic betrayal that is my legacy.”)

A light and funny comedy with a great script, cast and costumes, “Romy and Michele’s High School Reunion” has enough charm to make it worth seeing. Like the title characters themselves, it’s not the deepest film in the world, but it’s still a lot of fun.

And the loser is...

SO, I LOST. No big deal, we all saw it coming. But, I just wanted to clear a few things up. Namely, why exactly I decided to run for Student Council president in the first place.

It seems to me that in recent years student government at U-High has become something of a joke. Not to say we haven’t had some dedicated officers. But they don’t seem to do anything. Face painting is all well and good but when a group such as the Student Empowerment Committee feels the need to form a separate organization to promote student interests, you have to wonder whatever happened to Student Council.

We elect officers to represent our interests, but recently they haven’t been doing so. Now there is a group which wants to fill the void. My problem with that is that no one asked them to take power.

I don’t know whether next year’s Student Council will prove as ineffective as those of the past few years or whether the Student Empowerment Committee will ever get off the ground. I’m just glad I won’t be around to see either.

Think about it. A democratic organization becomes inept and is replaced by a group of powerful individuals who planned, among other things, to promote an honor code. I’ve spent too much time in history class not to see the danger in that. So, I decided it was time for Karl to take action. I was going to run for Student Council president. They wouldn’t let me put my name on the ballot so I ran a write in campaign. I was dead serious about wanting the position. If I had won, there would have been some talk. What better way to shake up Student Council than the threat of an absentee president.

I didn’t win. In a few weeks I’ll graduate and be on my way to the University of Texas at Austin. U-High’s problems will no longer concern me. But, I will leave you with some words of advice. Watch your backs and get involved, or someone will be demanding you sign a contract you are not prepared to follow.

And a correction. In my homework story last issue a transition following a quote from Mrs. Susan Shapiro implied she said something she never said. It read “Not everyone, however, feels that students should be forced to sacrifice involvement in outside activities in order to keep up with their classes. In our interview, Mrs. Shapiro never expressed such a thought. Apologies!

My Space Karl Olson



Colleges

(continued from page 2)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: Chase Chavin, Lauren Cohen, Sarah Jacobson, Peter Land, Josh Levin; University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla.: Ben Rosner; Middlebury, Vt.: Erin Hamblin; Mills, Claremont, Ca.: Anita Denes; Morehouse, Atlanta: Jason Boulware; New York University, New York City: Emily Mitchell, Alyssa Scheunemann; Oberlin, Ohio: Naima Bond, Catherine Levinson, Nicky Persky; Pomona, Ca.: Sam Meites; University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: Victor Chien, Nischay Maskay; Pitzer, Claremont, Ca.: Matthew Anderson; Princeton, N.J.: Valerie Gutman; Rochester, N.Y.: Tom Marcinkowski, Chris Osan; Scripps, Claremont, Ca.: Allegra McLeod, Lindsey Walton; Stanford, Calif.: Daniel Coleman, David Salinas, David Solow, Ming Tam; Swarthmore, Penn.: James Jones; University of Texas, Austin: Karl Olson; Tufts, Medford, Mass.: Sarah Booth; Tulane, New Orleans: Alisa Rosenbau; Vassar, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: Mark Hoffman, Deborah Schlessinger, Whakyna White; Washington University, St. Louis: Naveen Neerukanda, Hima Sarma; Wesleyan, Conn.: Jeremiah Schatt; University of Wisconsin, Madison: Carlos Love, Lisa Malinowsky, Cassie Peters, Jenny Shapiro, Ben Wynn; Yale, New Haven, Conn.: Grant Chavin

Undecided: Emily Alitto, Flora Diaz, Katie Drew, Alexis Jaworski, Dima Khalidi, Sarah Satron, Kate Shaw, B.J. Sutherland.

Editor’s note: The Midway gathered information from each senior; the list is subject to change.

Mailbox: Feeling all alone

From an anonymous sophomore girl:

YOUR ARTICLE on dealing with divorce touched me. I have similar problems, but one thing separates me from the U-Highers in the article: my parents aren’t divorced. My mother assures me there will never be a divorce. But my parents still shout and yell, and sometimes cry.

The crying is what tears at my heart the most, because I can’t handle it. I don’t have grandparents to turn to, since three of them died before I was born. And I don’t have tons of friends to turn to. I’m not much of a mixer, or social butterfly. My brother is 300 miles away at college.

What this boils down to is I am left to handle this alone, as I have been doing since September. My adviser noticed the change in me. For the first time in my life, I got a D on a science test, an F on a math test, my temper was short and I cried with little provocation.

I’ve been Daddy’s Little Girl since I could first say “da-da,” but now I find myself unable to love or respect him as I did. I have no patience with my mother. I am left with a feeling of guilt for feeling the way I do. My only release is in my poetry.

Reading your article let me know that I am not alone. But I sure as hell feel like I am.

Editor’s note: The Midway’s usual policy is not to publish unsigned letters but an exception has been made in this case for obvious reasons. The editors thank everyone who wrote letters for the Midway to publish this year so we could provide a continuing public forum.

Photoeditorial: Clubbed



Photo by Chris Osan

DAY AFTER DAY, week after week, this car sat on 58th Street at Kenwood, regularly attracting startled passersby. What happened? Why was it sitting there? Was it a new model? A surrealist piece of art? The car didn’t move but slowly the picture changed. A blanket crept out of the trunk. Eventually the blanket ended up in the street. At least there was no chance of anyone stealing the wreck. Its Club remained securely in place on the steering wheel. Finally last Tuesday afternoon the car was quietly towed away with no one to notice. Goodbye, old friend.

Cartoonist Patrick Sellers Sums It Up



Your Simple Bike-Store Ad



Pictures of products

If you want a Bike
Come to Wheels & Things

Product

Place



≡ *WHEELS & THINGS* ≡

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