Semiformal to climax Homecoming

Major events kick off ‘new traditions’ year

By Joe Fischel
Student Government Editor

Homecoming is coming to U-High after a 17-year absence, thanks to student government. Banquets and special events will salute a different fall sport each day next week during Student Council’s Homecoming celebration. Cultural Union’s semiformal Homecoming Dance at Interstate Horizons Saturday, Sept. 26, will crown festivities.

A new Freshman Activity Day Monday, Sept. 28, followed by the annual Open House at 7 p.m. and a Conference on Social Awareness Wednesday, Oct. 5, will also kick off an event-punctuated fall.

With the theme, ‘Our Traditions Have Just Begun,’ Student Council hopes to establish new vitality, says President Randy Sawyer, senior.

‘Since freshman year I have taken Student Council very seriously,’ Randy explained. ‘I probably took the job last year because I just did this for my application for college. I want to address the concerns of students. But I also want to bring new and exciting things to the school.’

Class course evaluations, an honor code, fundraisers and miniature golf top possible projects. The Council’s new adviser is Assistant to the Principal Tom Minelli (see feature below).

The Council gave the year a big sendoff today with an opening assembly featuring a comedic magician and a pachanga. Streamers and balloons will add color to the homecoming dance, sponsored by Cultural Union. Tickets are $5.

‘This year Cultural Union wants to try and improve student involvement and school spirit,’ said Senior Christena Carras, president.

‘We want to plan activities that don’t just appeal to one group of students but appeal to all students,’ she added.

‘Inspired by the People of Color Conference held this fall at Cal State Fullerton last year, we also plan to expand the Homecoming Dance to include all students with similar interests,’ said Senior Becca Hight, one of the planners.

The others are Seniors Akua Murphy and Dina Moskovitz, Junior Darrell Goodwin, and Sophomore Sheila Carras. Physical activities and games requiring group effort will provide freshening union as a class during the first Freshman Project Day, at Inos and Akeson Adventure Center in South suburban Olimpia.

‘We promote students with various activities and challenges which they have to solve as a team,’ Tom Akeson Adventure Center Program Coordinator Tim Rhodes told the Midway.

‘From this program student will develop a better idea of how to work in a group more effec-tively.’

A Freshman Project Day originally was suggested by former Dean of Students Jeff Thomas. This year’s premiere event was planned by History Teacher Su-san Bauen, the school’s new activities coordinator, working with freshman adviser.

1st-Day
midway

'Sheriff gets new active partner'

By Vikas Singhal
Editor-in-Chief

He’s back. That’s how the Sheriff has returned. But wait, it’s not alone. He’s got his new active partner. He looks familiar.

That’s because he’s better known as Phys Ed Teacher Tom Minelli. Together, he and the Sheriff—more officially known as Math Teacher Paul Gunty—are teaming up as Assistants to the Principal. Some of their responsibilities were those of former Dean of Students Joseph Thomas, now director at the Harvard School in Hyde Park.

Focusing on discipline, Sheriff Gunty has yielded his attendance supervision duties to Mr. Activity, who will also advise student activities. The school is really big and there’s a lot going on,’ Mr. Gunty observed. ‘I think it’s good the school opened up the responsibilities of Dean to more than one person because they’re just too great for one person.

With a master’s degree in education administration from DePaul University in Lincoln Park, and two years experience in Athletic Director, Mr. Minelli plans to bring more structure to activities. ‘Hopefully we can spread our activities,’ he explained, ‘so there is always something going on in the school.’

Both administrators will still be teaching some classes. Advisees and students will be coordinated this year by History Teacher Susan Shapiro.

New Comers

Next year, Mr. Dyer and Mr. Gunty will be joined in the administration by two new individuals. They bring expertise in the secondary education department, and are also involved in volleyball. This year’s educational team will come in handy, too. Join Coach Joyce Styles and Coach Lorrie Mann to volleyball success just like you did at St. Mary of the Woods, where you coached 7th grade, volleyball.

and were Faculty Directors. Don’t forget to participate in as many things you can. The activities are important. You’ll have a wonderful year if you are active. Pass the word.

Music is your thing. After playing all around the country—Michigan, Washington D.C., Illinois—U-Highers are lucky to have you as a teacher. Like Mr. Gunty, you enjoy dancing.

And to you, Ms. Thomas, head teacher of 10 years. Your interests are woodcutting, running, crocheting and Renaissance dance should flavor your French language classes.

Lastly, Ms. Young, teaching DePaul University students should help you guide U-Highers into speaking fluent Spanish. You enjoy mountains hiking and it’s brave to run a hot sport in Chicago.

Join us next year!”

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Surprise!
Weekly programs promise variety

By Julie Epstein
Associate Editor

Guest speakers, including outstanding alumni; musicians, singers, dancers, artists and media personalities; town hall meetings and programs prepare pre-K students for success. That’s just part of the lineup planned for the new all-school weekly programs set period Wednesday. Each program will be kept secret to intrigue a weekly surprise.

The idea for all-school meetings was suggested by scheduling consultants last year to build community. Though daily meetings were recommended, Principal Hanna Goldschmidt felt weekly programs would prove more practical and effective. ‘These assemblies were created in order for students to experience a different type of learning from that of the classroom,” said Community Learning Coordinator Lucy Gomez, in charge of the programs. She is being assisted by Student Publications Advisor Wayne Brailer, who will serve as master of ceremonies with a different student host each week, and Music Teacher Dominic Paine.

“We want students and faculty to share and celebrate the good things people are doing within and outside of the community,” Ms. Gomez said.
Missing in Action

Strong film females hard to find

Thumbs Up!

Kyla Calvert

Photo courtesy Warner Bros. Pictures

Strong female roles proved few and far between in this summer’s films but an exception was Jodie Foster in the interstellar communication drama, "Contact," her character emerged stronger than that of the male lead and romantic interest, an ex-priest portrayed by Meat韦th McConaughey.

Friends mourn accident victim

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rined, teachers and family re­member him as a basketball fanatic as well as an academic genius. They agree he was destined to succeed. But during a family vacation to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming Aug. 9, freshman Vikram Rupani tragically lost his life. On a wet road, the van in which the family was riding hydroplaned and rolled over several times. At private services Aug. 16 in Elmhurst attended by more than 100 mourners, Vikram was dressed in his favorite Bulls jersey. "We have lots of gifted kids around here," said Mr. Edward Ernst, Vikram’s 8th grade advisor. "But he was going to be a star. He was extremely bright."
Make than an ‘E’ for Experience, Excellence
Returning talent propels ready-to-go fall squads

By Liz Watanabe

This year’s girls’ swim conference. If heard please report to Coach Larry Lafforte or Laura Lavinia.

With two public schools opting for new girls’ swim teams, Beavercreek-Delco Ruddle Conference coaches voted to add them and drop U-High and Latin, mainly because they operate private schools in a predominately public area.

The Conference meet was good because we could place,” said Senior Christa Cantwell, captain. “We can’t place in Sectionals and there is no more Conference meet because of Section and Latin.”

With 25 swimmers, all seniors except for three freshmen, the Maroons expect to bring endurance and strong relays to their first home meet, 5:30 p.m., tomorrow against (the very strong) Hilliard Science and Mathematics and Science Academy from North Aurora. The season opened Friday at Shepard, after Midway prestige.

Experiences figures to provide a strong suit for girls’ volleyball, tennis, girls’ cross country also.

Tough workouts

To toughen up, volleyball players, Coach Joyce Siles and Tan Dyra, now from St. Mary of the Woods, added weight training, tutoring and afternoon harder practices to preschool training to ready their home opener 4:45 p.m., tomorrow against Willows. Another home match, against Luther East, follows 4:30 m., Thursday.

On the Midway 4:30 every morning, the past two weeks for practice, varsity volleyballers are determined to bring last season’s 5-7.

“We are going to be very, very competitive,” predicted Joyce Siles. “We have people who have gone to volleyball camps over the summer, a taller team and a more experienced team.”

Also with an experienced team, Mr. Dyra feels it will more than break even.

“This team is very promising,” Mr. Dyra said. “We are going to have some seniors, since the varsity team would be too big with them and that will give us a lot of experience. I think this is a golden opportunity for a first-year coach. I think we’ll go above .500.”

Also stepping up, conditioning tennis girls face St. Francis 4:30 m. tomorrow, then opening at Sagg Sunday, after Midway prestige. An exhibition match with Parker Aug. 28 at home opened the season with the Maroons winning 7-2.

“The one thing we really are working on a lot more is pressure,” said Junior Lizzy Hymelmann, second singles. “I just practice until I get sudden death situations and play them through. I really think it’s working and we need it.”

Last year that was one of our big problems. We worked on conditioning. We have a good chance to be a competing team.”

Soccermen ready

Practicing weekday mornings and even some Saturday since Aug. 13, soccermen are poised for victory in their first league test 4 p.m., Wednesday at Parker.

Last week the Maroons participated in the Nice West Tournament, which concluded Saturday, after Midway press time.

“The 15 people that are out there are working real hard,” Venture Guch Mike Moneys said. “We’re going to be very competitive because everyone knows and understands our stingy. We want to maintain possession of the ball as long as possible and take advantage of our breaks.”

Led by captains Junior Andy Rosenhan and Senior Johannes Bedry and Josh Jacskick, the boys considers themselves well-rounded and deep in all positions.

Starting practice last week, the cross country squad is pushing hard to ready for a preseason Conference meet 4:15 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16 at home. Season opens with a meet at Quality 4:15 m., Monday, Sept. 22.

Other events scheduled in the coming months with the schedule subject to change are as follows:

WRESTLING—Dec. 1, home.

SOCCER-MI, Sagg, 6:45 p.m., Friday, Sept. 12.

SOFTBALL—Cayuga, 6:45 p.m., Saturday.

VOLLEYBALL-Woodland, 5 p.m., Friday, Sept. 12, away. Luther East Tournament, Farm, Sagg, 6:45 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 11, home.

Tennis—School City Day School (SCCD), 6 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16, home. Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 16, away.

Hockey—Rosewood, 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, away. Midway Tournament, Farm, Sagg, 12:30 p.m., Saturday.

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With energetic practices making Sunny Gym a home away from home in the weeks before school started, Dana Cohn, left, Stephanie Preshon and two other volleyball team members are ready to take on all comers.

The season opens tomorrow at home against ready-to-roll rival Willows.
Working Vacations

Some choose summer of service, others learn through traveling

By Alice Blander
Associate Editor

Escaping from the morning heat with a refreshing dip in a cold river, senior Reena Hejat prepared each day this summer to labor eight hours building a basketball court in a small town in the Central African country of Belfar. Amid the villagers’ small cement houses, Reena, who with 18 others in the Global Roots program helped villagers build a court, was just one of many UHigh to do community service this summer.

The ole water hole

“The village was pretty primitive,” Reena said. “The family I stayed with had a really small house. There was no running water, no TV. We had to use outhouses and bathe in the river.”

“Our favorite thing to do after a long day working was to go to the water hole, which had this waterfall, and bathe there because the weather was so hot.”

Trying out her German-speaking skills, senior Stephanie Lichtner lived a month with a family in Overath, Germany, among several U-Highers on exchange. Stephanie’s family flew to Germany with her to vacation together before they returned home.

“I wasn’t exactly fluent in German when I got there,” Stephanie recalled. “Everyone kept saying I had a really-American accent and sometimes they couldn’t understand me.”

After she attended school with her host student for two weeks, Stephanie and her German family traveled the country. Stephanie’s favorite trip was to the dense Black Forest in southern Germany.

On a clear day

“It was really beautiful and the forest was really thick,” Stephanie said. “There was a wooden tower at the highest point on the mountain we were on and on a clear day you were supposed to be able to see France. But we couldn’t.”

Traveling with their parents, junior Bryan and Sophomore Ragan Bimie spent most of their summer in England, Scotland and Holland tracing family roots.

“Going to Amsterdam was probably my favorite part,” Bryan said. “I have a lot of cousins there and I met a lot of people. The city is made more for younger people, there aren’t as many restrictions on what you can do as in the U.S.”

Closer to home, junior Lizi Heydemann attended the Hugh O’Brian Youth Foundation Northern Illinois Leadership Seminar after being chosen by U-High’s scholarship program to go. During three days at Elmhurst College with 250 other participants, Lizi joined in panel discussions on current issues.

“I was impressed by the fact that we were treated as adults,” Lizi said. “People often talk at times without any hope that they’ll absorb anything. We were expected to glean something from the experience.”

Later in the summer, Lizi participated in a youth-in-government government program with other high schoolers at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Happy campers

Ramin Imankhorshidi: Two U-Highers among eight who attended the seniors-only camp in﻿#???#???#...#??##...</p>