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-yearabsence, 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 International House Saturday, Sept. 20, will crown festivities.

A new Freshman Activity Day Monday, Sept. 15, 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-packed fall.

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

“This year I want to take it to a new level. I don’t want people thinking that I just did this for my college application. I want to add 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 punch. 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 Chimka Cartwright, president.

“We want to plan activities that don’t just appeal to one group of students but appeal to all students.”

Inspired by the People of Color Conference held in November last year five U-Highers advised by Admissions Coordinator Alice Hake were planning the Conference on Social Awareness for the school. In this year’s article, all U-Highers will select one of six topics for discussion groups on Conference Day. The topics—subject to change—include ethnic and racial stereotypes in the media, inter-racial dating, self-identity, losing one’s identity in the larger culture, homophobia and affirmative action. “I hope through this program students will increase their tolerance and respect for people different than themselves,” said Senior Beatenia McMillan, one of the planners.

The others are Seniors Akua Murphy and Dana Moskowitz, Junior Darrell Goodwin, and Sophomore Sheila Carrasco.

Physical activities and games requiring group effort will promote freshmen uniting as a class during the first Freshman Activity Day, at Iris Oaks Adventure Center in south suburban Olympia Fields. “We provide students with various activities and challenges which they have to solve as a team,” Iris Oaks Adventure Center Program Coordinator Tim Rhode told the Midway.

From this program students will develop a better idea of how to work in a group more effectively.”

A Freshman Project Day originally was suggested by former Dean of Students Joseph Thomas. This year’s premiere event was planned by History Teacher Susan Sawyer, the school’s new activity coordinator, working with freshmen adviser.

‘Sheriff’ gets new ‘active’ partner

By Vikas Singh
Editor-in-Chief

He’s back. That’s right, the ‘Sheriff’ has returned. But wait, he’s not alone. He’s got his very own trusty sidekick with him “Mr. Activity.” Sure does look familiar.

That’s because he’s better known as Phys Ed Teacher Tom Minelli. Together, he and the Sheriff—more officially known as Phys Ed Teacher Paul Gunty—are teaming up as Assistants to the Principal. Some of their responsibilities will be keeping secret to provide a weekly surprise.

These assemblies were created in order for students and faculty to share and celebrate that of the classroom,” said Community Learning Director at the Harvard School of Education administration from DePaul University in Lincoln Park.

With a master’s degree in education administration from DePaul University, Mr. Minelli plans to bring more dynamic duo of Mr. Paul Gunty, left, and Mr. Tom Minelli will serve as assistants to the Principal, overseeing discipline, attendance and activities.

These assemblies were created in order for students and faculty to share and celebrate that of the classroom.”

Students Jewel Thomas, now Senior Shelia Carrasco, Junior Darrell Goodwin, and Sophomore Sheila Carrasco were those of former Dean of Students Jewel Thomas. This year’s premiere event was planned by History Teacher Susan Sawyer, the school’s new activity coordinator, working with freshmen adviser.

New Comers

Emphasizes the importance of physical education. Your expertise in volleyball will come in handy, too. Join Coach Joyce Styles and lead your Maroons to victory in the 03 season. Just like you did at St. Mary’s of the Woods, where you coached 8th grade, volleyball and were Faculty Director.

Don’t forget to partner with other things you love. However, photography and traveling are very important.

Pleased to meet your acquaintance, Mr. Zach Jansen. It is wonderful to say you are our new science teacher. Sure you will do as a fantastic job as you did Woodlawn High School in South Carolina. You indicated that you enjoyed bedding and gardening. It is a great place to practice both!

Ah, Mr. Gary Jensen. Music is your thing. After working all around the country—Michigan, Washington D.C., Illinois—U-Highers are lucky to have you as a teacher. Like Mr. Jansen, you enjoy gardening.

And to you, Mr. Jonathan Medrano, teacher of 10 years. Your interests in woodcarving, running, crockery and Renaissance dance should flavor your new foreign language classes.

Finally, Ms. Chi-Young Yoon. Teaching DePaul University students should help you guide U-Highers into speaking fluent Spanish. Enjoy riverbanks hiking and it’s running at hot spot in Chicago. We have been running there.

(Mrs new student Wouter Rood-Wong, Rock Medici Assistant/Deputy Fascimile.)
Missing in Action

Strong film females hard to find

A new trend is sweeping high school newspapers. They call it community journalism. The theory is that student newspapers should go beyond what the daily press does, covering the news as objectively as possible, and be an active part of their communities rather than standing apart from them as mere observers. The "community journalism" says the true measure of a paper's success is not how thoroughly it covers the news or how many investigations it comes up with but how much it inspires readers to get involved in the community issues the paper illuminates. It's difficult for the Midway to ever cover the news less than thoroughly or pursue investigative pieces with less vigor, but being part of the community is nothing new for the Midway. This has always been your paper. The stories we choose to publish are those we believe reflect your interests most.

True, the Midway is planned, designed, reported, written and edited by journalism students (we also design and sell the ads which—along with student fees—keep the paper in print, too). But any student, as well as any faculty member or administrator or parent, can be a part of the Midway. We welcome letters to the editor, guest columns and freeperson accounts of personal experiences. Contributions can be placed in the Journalism mail slot in the High School Office, U-High 108. We need a signature on all submissions and will contact each contributor before a piece is published. The Midway is a true student newspaper, though it is intended for everyone in the community to read. The staff works with a faculty adviser, but otherwise no administrator or teacher sees the paper before it appears. The editors do work closely with administrators on maintaining complete and balanced coverage of the Midway is never reviewed or commented before publication. The law says we can't publish libel, obscenity or any content which reasonably could be expected to disrupt the orderly operation of the school. And we do.

What do we do, and what the Midway always had to do, is provide a picture both of the school as it is and as it ideally could be. We hope we inform you, inspire you, challenge you and, most importantly, hear from you!

As the Midway sees it

The Midway belongs to you

Kyla Calvert

2 commentary

Talking to U

What are you looking forward to coming into your first year at U-High? (School of fine arts) JAMIE DUGUAY, senior, from Chicago International School (CIS): An academic challenge. I'm hoping to be harder for me than COS. I am also looking forward to larger social scene. At CIS there were only about 100 kids in the school. KATIE POTTEINGER, freshman, from Incarnad School: Meeting new people and getting away from my old friends. At Arizona there were only 100 kids and everyone has known each other since they were two years old.

Friends mourn accident victim

Friends, 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 Yellowknife, Northwest Territories in August 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 lost a lot of kids around here," said Mr. Edward Ernst, Vikram's 8th grade adviser. "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 Nico Wislon

September 21, 2007

Late: One girls’ swim conference. If found please report to Coach Larry Wataine or Laura Lantinga.

With no public school reporting new girls’ swim teams, Girls’ Varsity Conference coaches vowed to add them and drop U-High and Latin, mainly because they are private schools in a predominately public arena.

“Conference meet was good because we could place,” said Senior Christiann Cassella, captain. “We can’t place in Sectionals and there is no more Conference meet because it is Latin and Latin.”

With 25 swimmers, all seniors except for three freshmen, the Maroons expect to bring endurance and strong relay to their first home meet, 5:30 p.m., tomorrow again the typically strong Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy from North Aurora. The season opened Friday at Shepard, after Midway pre-season.

Experience figures to provide a strong suit for girls’ volleyball, girls’ soccer and cross country.

**Tough workouts**

To toughen up: volleyball players, Coaches Joyce Solis and Tan Duy, now from St. Mary of the Woods, have added weight training, morning and afternoon harder practices to pre-season training to ready for their home open 4:45 p.m., tomorrow against Willows. Another home match, against Luther East, follows 3:40 p.m., Thursday. On the Midway 4:30 every morning the past two weeks for practices, varsity volleyballers are determined to be the best in the season 5’s.

“We want to be very, very competitive,” president Freshman Gail Hicks. “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. Duy feels it will more than break even.

“This team is very promising,” Mr. Duy said: “We’re going to have some juniors, 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. Ignatius 4 p.m. tomorrow, then opening at Sagu Saturday, after Midway pre-season. 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 Lizz Heydemann, varsity doubles varsity. “In practice we set up situations that was one of our big problems. We choked. We choked against ready-to-roll rival Willows.

“Tough workouts making Sunny Gym a home away from home in the weeks before school started,” Dana Cohn, left, Stephanie Presh- on and 21 other volleyball team members are ready to take on all comers. The season opens tomorrow at home against ready-to-roll rival Willows.

**U-Phyl1**

Meet me at the Med...

September 27, 2007

Meet me at the Med...
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 cool river, Senior Reena Hajat prepared each day this summer to labor eight hours building a basketball court in a small town in the Central American country of Belize. 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 U-Highers to do community service last summer.

The old 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.”

Traveling with their parents, Junior Bryan and Sophomore Rogan Birnie 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.”

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