

Hazy Start. Seniors' slap-happy welcome to freshmen alarms adults but there's another view

By Debra Gittler
Associate Editor

Coming into music class five minutes late as the teacher just finishes taking attendance, a senior boy throws out an excuse. "Sorry I'm late. I was throwing a chair at a freshman."

"Throwing a chair at a freshman, eh?" the teacher mused. "Tardy excused."

For some adults and many U-Highers, seniors hazing freshman is an expected fall phenomenon. But some people feel this year the phenomenon has become a problem. Freshmen have been thrown in the locker room showers, had chairs thrown at them and been called names. Though administrators and some students say the harrasment should be stopped, many people say so long as the pesterings don't become serious they should be ignored.

During the first week of school, seniors created a hit list of randomly selected freshmen whose names were written upon the senior lounge walls. They also composed a satirical buddy list for which seniors picked freshman "buddies." Both lists, meant as jokes, were removed by Principal Hannah Goldschmidt and Mr. Paul Gunty, assistant to the principal, because they didn't find humor in the seniors' jokes.

Neither did freshmen who went home crying after seeing their name on the hit list or being called names by seniors. Seniors, however, disagree.

"It wasn't like we were picking out people to intimidate and beat up," said Senior Max Mearsheimer, who created the buddy list with Seniors Matt Brent and Pavan Makhija. "It was just a joke. Ms. Goldschmidt and Mr. Gunty took it down because they said it was perceived as a hit list. After we proved to them that there was nothing wrong with the list they said that it wasn't fair because not everyone had a buddy."

Ms. Goldschmidt told the Midway the buddy list had never been approved by administrators, had an unclear purpose and was not publicly explained. But even though the lists have been removed, hazing continues and some U-Highers say harrasment is more excessive than past years.

"The reason why it seems like there's so much hazing this year," said Senior Therese Collins, "is because the last two senior classes barely harassed freshmen. It's a tradition for seniors to beat up

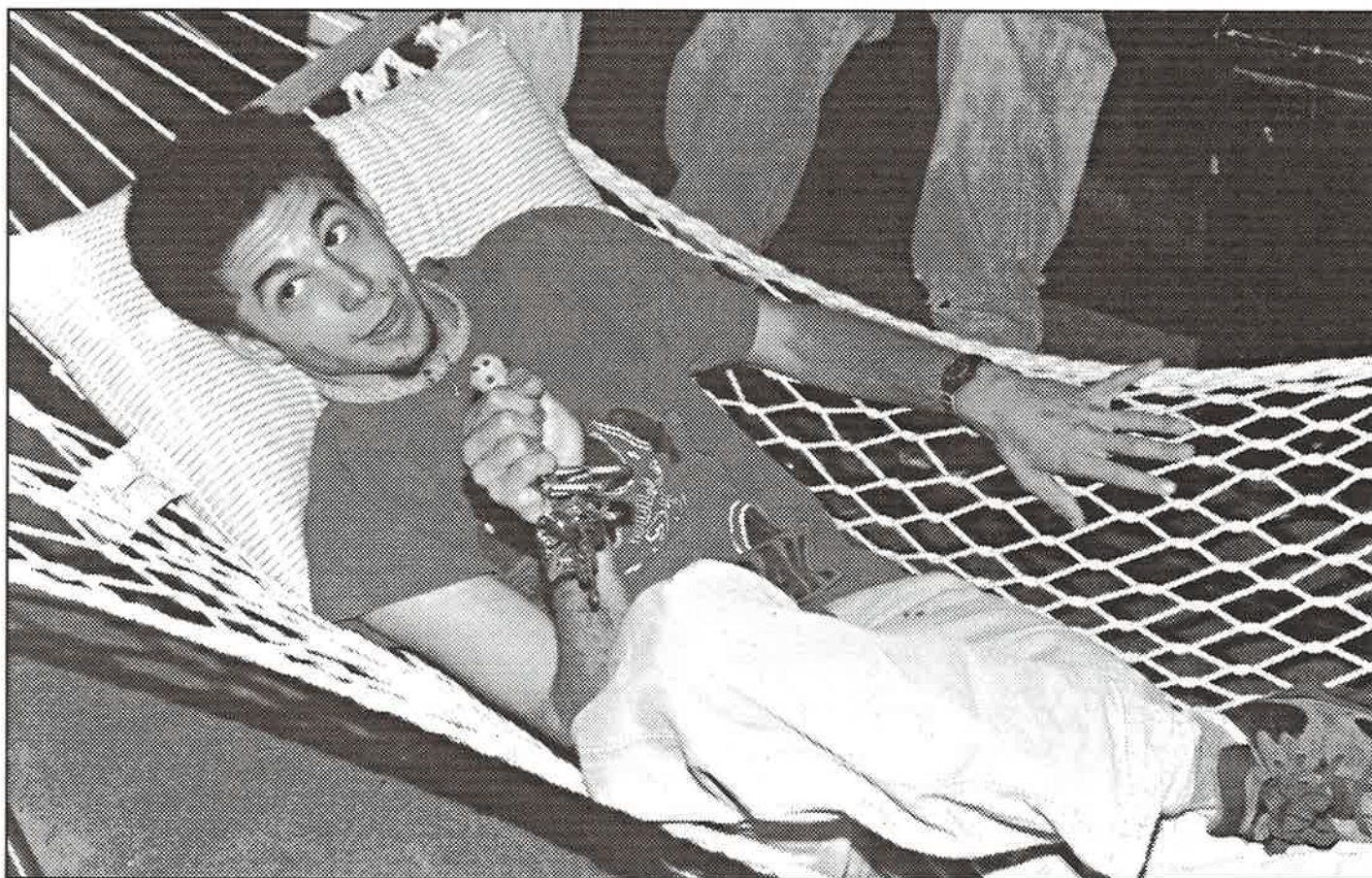


Photo by Michael Hoy

freshmen and as long as no one's getting hurt, there's really not a problem."

To make freshmen feel more comfortable reporting harassment and to try and stop seniors from hazing, discussions were scheduled in advisories about what is and isn't appropriate behavior.

"In advisory discussions," said Freshman Adviser Diane Puklin, history teacher, "the point was made that sometimes freshmen bring hazing upon themselves by taunting seniors or walking through their lounge, for example. In our talks we came to the conclusion that in these instances it's not hazing but just a response."

"It's a tradition for seniors to beat up freshmen and as long as no one's getting hurt, there's really not a problem."

—Therese Collins, senior

Ms. Puklin added that she didn't feel hazing this year represented a major problem as no one had come to her with complaints. But some freshmen feel the treatment they have gotten has gone beyond an informal school tradition and borders on abuse.

Photo by Kaley Schein

For the third all-school assembly Sept. 24, performers from Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts danced and sang. One of the best-received performances was the Deer Dance, accompanied by four musicians playing a tamborine, a traditional drum and two horns. Founded in 1959, the troupe was established to preserve Tibetan identity.



"I hate the seniors," said one freshman. "All they do is pick on freshmen. One of my really good friends was picked on by some seniors and she was really upset. I don't think it's fair that the school lets people get away with stuff like that."

Administrators agree. They don't buy the seniors' excuse that hazing is just in fun.

"New freshmen don't know that all too often the person being hazed is someone's sibling," said Ms. Goldschmidt, "and that the hazing is being done as a joke. They see someone being harassed and wonder if they're next."

As administrators continue to try and stop seniors from picking on freshmen, parents have said they appreciate adult efforts to protect their children.

"My daughter's had some hazing, just name calling like 'freshie,'" said Mrs. Jean Nichols, mother of Freshman Rebecca. "It hasn't been too out of hand. The school seems to be

aware of what's going on and I think they'll be on top of things if it does get out of hand."

Editor's note: The following editors formed the reporting team for this story: Alice Blander, Karen Leff, Rachel Shapiro, Richard Siegler and Seetha Srinivasan.

(See editorial page 4.)

Fall show asks big questions

By Nicole Saffold
Associate Editor

Combining scenes from plays of different eras and moods asking the eternal questions about God's existence and man's rights, the fall production will don the fitting title, "Life, Death, Infinity and Everyman."

The original production will be presented 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 30–Saturday, Nov. 1 in Belfield Theater. Tickets will be available in the U-High lobby later this month.

"Its multieral focus is different from past productions," explained Drama Teacher Liucija Ambrosini, director. "Life versus death, humor versus tragedy are all things that have concerned man throughout the ages."

Junior Karlis Kanderovskis is assistant director.

Cast members include the following:

Vanessa Carr, Judith Disterhoff, Ben Epstein, Steve Gilpin, Arielle Halpern, Lonnie Hubbard, Jan Kordylewski, Michael Lebovitz, Pavan Makhija, Joanna Mass, Omid Nolley, Chris Rummel, Nicole Saffold, Noah Silverman and Lauren Wolf.

Special program tomorrow

A day to gain perspective

By Debra Gittler
Associate Editor

In discussion groups tomorrow, U-Highers will gather for "Another Perspective" on the school's diversity, cultural awareness and what each person brings to the community.

The program was organized by students who attended the People of Color Conference last year in Baltimore. Discussion group topics will include stereotypes in the media, interracial dating, how different cultures view homosexuality, assimilation and cultural identity.

"We hope for this to eventually become a regular club with routine meetings," said Senior Reena Hajat, one of the organizers, "where we can share and celebrate our diversity. First, though, advisories will be reviewing the topics discussed Oct. 8—as well as cover more topics—to followup the day

of discussion."

A faculty member will be present in each discussion room to provide an adult presence, but the teachers will not participate in the discussions and have been told in orientation meetings that what is said in the groups must remain confidential. The exceptions would be students who specified they had an abuse problem or were being abused as state law requires teachers to report such information.

Two or three individual groups will come together after two periods of discussion to share the different conclusions reached in each classroom.

Other student organizers include the following:

Seniors Dina Moskowitz and Akua Murphy, Junior Darrell Goodwin and Sophomore Sheila Carrasco.

Faculty advisers include the following:

Community Learning Coordinator Lucy Gomez, Admissions Coordinator Alice Haskell and Learning Specialist Frances Moore-Bond.

Semifinalists agree: hard work pays off

By Vikas Singhal
Editor-in-Chief

Vocabulary cards. Math equations. Working with hundreds of flash cards, dozens of magazines and numerous prep books, semifinalists in the National Merit and Achievement Scholarship Programs agree: higher scores on the qualifying test, the PSAT, are gained with hard work.

Ranking within the top one percent in the state on the PSAT, seven seniors have advanced to the semifinalist stage in the Merit Scholarship program. Three seniors became semifinalists in the associated Achievement Scholarship program recognizing top black students. Finalists, selected on the basis of principal recommendations, SAT scores and academic records, will be announced this spring.

"Vocabulary is a really big deal on the test," said Stephen Hagan, Merit semifinalist. "I made flash cards and read whenever I had free time. Ever since I came to high school and learned about the competition, I've wanted to win it. I didn't go out of my way to prepare but the little I did certainly helped raise my score."

Some semifinalists took structured prep courses to raise their scores. Though they can cost \$500 or more, they are valuable, the U-Highers say.

"I took a study prep course before I took the test," said Nicole Saffold, Achievement semifinalist. "They taught me so much; it was really helpful. It's true classes are expensive but my score went up. They taught more than just material tested on the PSAT but also general test-taking techniques. I'm serious about this stuff. Plus, my schoolwork improved also."

Other Merit semifinalists include Elizabeth Allocco, Claudia Cyganowski, John Manley, Meghan McFarlane, Kris Mendez and Yuki Yamaguchi.

Other Achievement semifinalists include Kurt Scott and Janelle Turner.



Photo by Jeff Hanauer

Putting
a
smile
on the
(caf)
table

BSA, Terra and Amnesty International are among clubs saluted in paintings on cafeteria tables done this summer by Mrs. Mara Koppel, mother of Junior Lily. A smiley face and globe are among the designs. Relaxing at the ying yang table honoring the Asian Students Association, from left, Joanna Bauer, Rusha Desai and Adrienne Clark join Mrs. Koppel. "I want students to feel refreshed when they enter the cafeteria," said the artist.

Satisfaction

Fire puts family among the stars

By Julie Epstein
Associate Editor

Seeing the Rolling Stones, being served breakfast from room service and having a cleaning staff make their beds, Junior Chris and Sophomore Haviland Rummel lived in style at the Four Seasons Hotel Sept. 10 - Oct. 1 following a fire in their North Side home.

After a fan exploded in the Rummels' basement Sept. 10, Fire Department authorities advised the family to go to a hotel because of severe toxic smoke damage.

"When I came home from school, two fire trucks

and 15 firemen were breaking down windows to get in my house," Chris said. "My neighbor had heard our fire alarms and called the Fire Department. It was overwhelming and kind of scary."

The Rummels moved to the Four Seasons that night. But despite the luxurious conditions, being closer to school and seeing celebrities in the lobby, Haviland said having to deal with dramatic changes was not easy.

"It got annoying having to live in such close quarters with my family," she explained. "We had to deal with each other more intimately and the distractions of the hotel made it difficult to do homework."

But, Chris said, "I still had a blast."

Bytesized: Pix 'n trip coming

■ YEARBOOK SET TO SNAP—Go to the salon, put on your best frock and get all dolled up! Yep, it's time for yearbook photos! Senior photos will be taken Oct. 22-24 in the Courtyard. The other three classes will be shot Oct. 28 in Gerstley Center. Schedules are being posted around school with information on ordering photo packages and seniors are getting information mailed home.

■ OFF TO THE BATTLEFIELDS—Eight Civil War class students will travel to Tennessee and Kentucky Oct. 31 - Nov. 2 with their teacher, Mr. Paul Horton, to visit historic battle sites. The voyagers include Seniors Johannes Beeby, Vanessa Bekkouche, Matt Brent, Jaime Duguay, Forrest Himmelfarb, Chris Liu and Kris Menendez and Junior Rachel Shapiro.

On first Activity Day

Frosh reluctantly 'have fun'

Editor's note: For its first-ever Activity Day, Sept. 29, the freshman class traveled to Iron Oaks educational center in south suburban Olympia Fields. Freshman Ameer Saleh, a new Midway reporter, recounts the day.

SITTING on a yellow school bus at 9:05 a.m. kids sitting next to me are fooling around. On our way to Iron Oaks in Olympia Fields Sept. 29 for Freshman Activity Day kids are talking about how they would rather be at home sleeping.

We step off the bus and are surrounded by dense green forest. The weather is chilly,

but is slowly warming up. Straight ahead, there is a small hut where we meet our guides. We are split into nine groups with about 10 kids in each. I am put in guide Greg's group. He is a young man in his mid-20s with a goatee and holes so big in his jeans that you can see his undergarments. Greg seems like the kind of guy whose last ambition in life is to be teaching 14- and 15-year-olds how to play teamwork games.

We start playing a game which involves forming a circle, throwing a ball up into the air and having everyone touch the ball once before it hit the ground. At one point in the first game when my group is struggling, our guide loses interest in us and began watching another group. Most people in my group loses confidence at this point.

Throughout the day, many of us lose confidence in our guides because we are wondering why we are doing activities that we have all done on previous school trips. Most kids are expecting to be on the rope course or climbing the wall, but no group does those activities. Most groups do activities such as climbing through spider webs and climbing over each other on logs in order to get into alphabetical order by last name.

These activities make us unhappy and we wonder why our advisers brought us to Iron Oaks. The answer: To have fun and bond as a class.

By the time we leave at 2 p.m., we freshmen are excited to go home. Some manage to sleep during the 45 minute ride home, but most decided to talk to friends... about how much they dislike Iron Oaks.



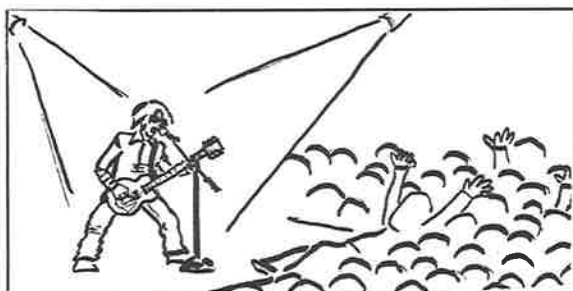
Ameer

Seniors enjoy ripe time in Hoosierland

There's more than corn in Indiana, seven seniors discovered Sept. 27 on a Student Council-organized senior apple picking trip to Garwood Orchard. A Senior Family Picnic Sept. 22 was postponed because no one signed up. Four seniors — Will Stokes, Richa Sharma, Fiorenza Parsani and Kristophe Holman — enjoyed a Sox game with the Milwaukee Brewers game Sept.

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U-High Midway □ Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Next up: Nightwear

Second C.U. dance
revives Pajamarama

By Joe Fischel

Student Government Editor

Get undressed up! For its second dance, Cultural Union (C.U.) is reviving last year's Pajamarama. U-Highers are invited to boogie down in their pajamas, 8-11 p.m., Friday, Nov. 21. The date is tentative and the location is still being decided. Junior Jason Camp will serve as d.j.

The dance is among several student government projects in the works.

To celebrate Halloween, C.U. will sponsor an ice cream eating contest, bobbing for apples and trick-or-treating during lunch, Friday, Oct. 31, in the cafeteria. For Thanksgiving, Student Council is sponsoring a Turkey Bowl flag football game between seniors and juniors. The winning team gets a class lunch. S.C. is hoping to make the event an annual tradition for the two upper classes.

Together, S.C. and C.U. are working on getting the school mascot to appear at sports events and other school programs, possibly a student in a costume. Senior Forest Himmelfarb's father, John, an abstract artist, has drawn a sketch which could be used as a basis for the character.

To benefit Ronald McDonald Charities, S.C. is collecting the tops from soda cans. The tops will be forwarded to the charity, which in turn earns money by recycling them. Ronald McDonald Charities, a public service project of the McDonald Restaurant company, provides houses near hospitals so families with seriously ill children can remain together without having to travel great distances daily to be at the hospital. The grade which collects the most pop tops will receive a class lunch as a reward, said S.C. President Randy Sawyer, senior.

The Council is also working on several proposals for the weekly Wednesday all-school assemblies.



As the door to International House opened again and again Saturday evening, Sept. 21, it became apparent U-High girls had decided to go all out fashionwise for Cultural Union's first dance, a Homecoming Semiformal.

Beautiful evening dresses, many elegantly knee-length and many trendy black, provided the prevailing evening wear. As for the boys, some suitcoats and ties were in evidence, but not everyone did the dressup thing.

Setting a festive mood for dancegoers, red, yellow, orange and blue streamers ran across the ceiling and confetti and balloons decorated tables at the back of the room. About 325 dancegoers got out on the floor and danced to the music of Biggie Smalls, "The Macarena" and much else provided by 2001 D.J. Services.

The Hi-C and 7-Up Punch memorialized in the following week's all-school assembly got warmer as the evening progressed but the bowl got drained anyway.

COLORFUL GOWNS and decorations (see photos) set the mood for the festival dance. Lizzi Heydemann's black silk dress with silk-screened flowers was an eye-catcher (her escort is Noah Silverman) as were the beautiful outfits of, from left, Nora Geary, Elizabeth Heyer-Ging, Anju Mahajan and Stephanie Lentz.



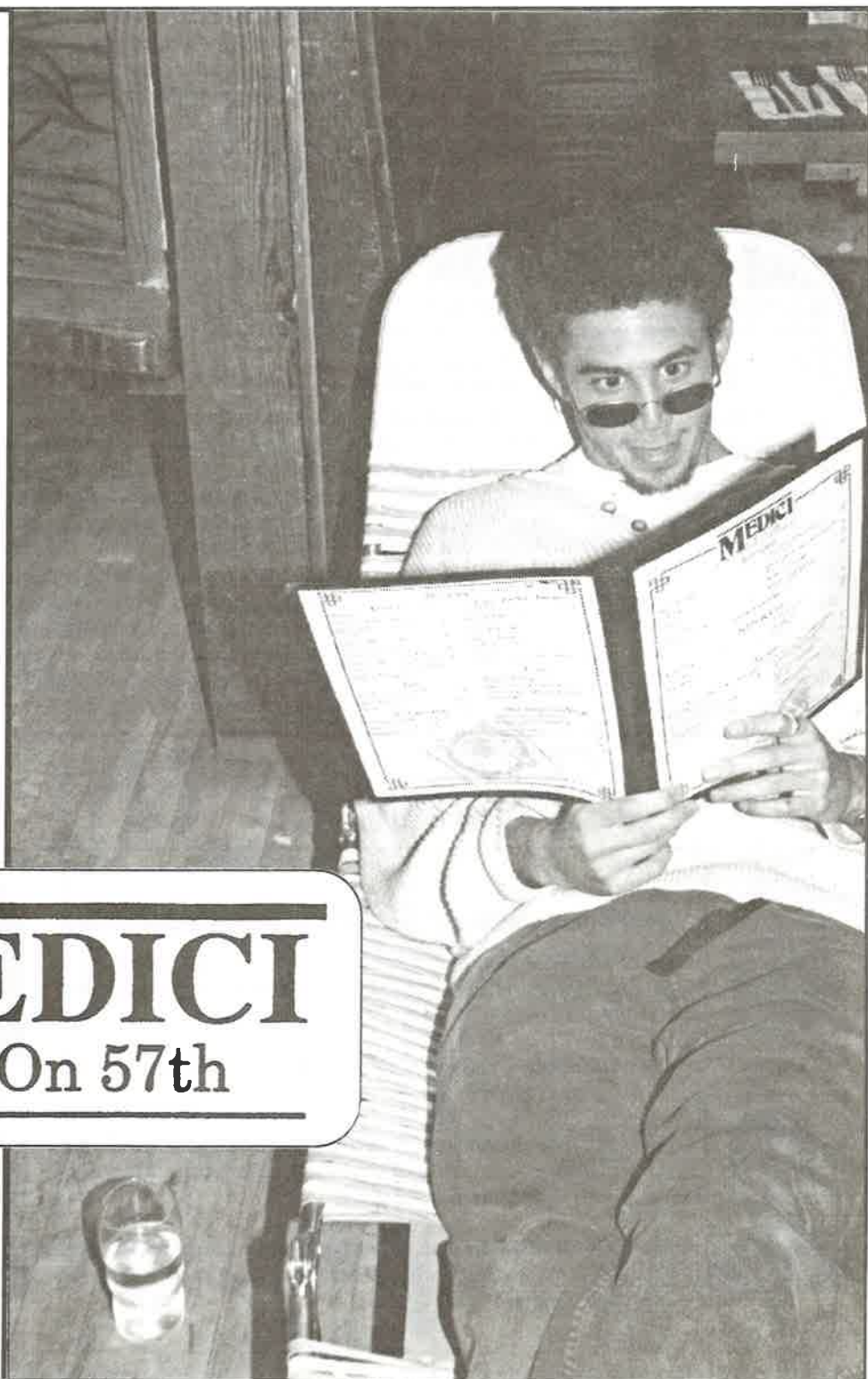
*To everyone back at school,
It's my third free period of the day and
once again I find myself at the MEDICI.
The MED, what a wonder place to kill
time between class. A cup of coffee,
pancakes in the morning or a cinnamon
roll to start off the day. Today during 5th
I came to the Med and had a basket of
fries to tie me over until my friends met me
here at lunch. The Medici. It's summer
vacation all over again!*

Sincerely, John Pick

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Photo by Therese Collins



AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT

The Politics of Hazing

Strolling down the hall, a freshman boy sees a senior guy he knows. "Hey man, what's up," the senior calls. "Not much," the freshman replies, giving the senior a friendly punch. The senior grabs the freshman and punches him a couple times. "Did you just hit me?" the senior boy snaps at him. "Naw, man, you imagined it," comes the reply.

"That's good, I'm sure you're imagining these punches too, huh?" He lets the freshman go. "See ya 'round man." "Yeah." Walking away with a smile on his face, the freshman thinks nothing of the punches and is glad he got to talk to his friend.

Expressing concern over freshmen hazing, teachers and administrators claim it's worse than in years past. With hazing incidents such as the creation of the hit and buddy lists (see story page 1) and penny throwing, some teachers and administrators fear someone might get hurt. And have threatened to close the Senior Lounge if anything further happens. Perhaps something serious may happen, but nothing has so far.

The alarm adults express may not reflect life as students see it. When freshmen get picked on by seniors, it means that a senior knows who they are. To a freshman, being noticed by upperclassmen gives them a sense of popularity and status in the school. For the most part, the upper-



Art by Michael Lebowitz

classmen do it in good spirit.

The issue of hazing becomes a problem however, when physical damage is done. During the first week of school when pennies were thrown at some freshmen, one of them went home with welts on his back. That is just unacceptable. When kids are physically hurt by upperclassmen getting kicks, the "hazing" needs to stop.

Thank you, fellow journalists

After years of campaigning by Illinois journalism educators and students and civil rights advocates a bill guaranteeing Illinois high school journalists the right to publish free of prior administrative review or restriction, passed the Illinois legislature this summer. But Governor Jim Edgar surprisingly vetoed the Illinois Student Publications Act (House Bill 154.) One factor in his decision was likely erroneous reporting of the measure and editorializing against it by the professional press.

Editorials and columnists criticizing House Bill 154 insisted the bill was ill conceived. Without prior review by school administrators, they argued, students would be able to publish anything.

"Most editorials criticizing House Bill 154 ignored the fact that there's an adult at each school advising student publications who's supposed to know what they're doing," said Mrs. Linda Kane, journalism adviser at Naperville Central High School, who spent countless hours promoting the bill. "As journalists they should have contacted all

sides of the story but the Illinois Journalism Education Association (IJE) was never contacted. I know student journalists who could have done more credible jobs."

Like many who criticized the bill, Sun-Times Columnist Dennis Byrne didn't get his facts right and never mentioned the role of faculty advisers. He was preoccupied thinking of clever ways to insinuate the ineptness of what he sees as the typical high school journalist.

As insulting as articles tagging student journalists as incompetent were those preaching the benefits of being happy-go-lucky youngsters. An editorial in the Bloomington Pantagraph claimed high school students shouldn't worry whether their newspaper is censored. High school is a time to learn and have fun, they concluded, not to fight administrators about what you believe.

"How else can you learn to accept rights and responsibilities unless you're given both?" Mrs. Kane demanded. "Students can't learn how to lead real lives unless they're allowed to live real lives."

45-minutes of fun assembles community

It seems like an unlikely hypothesis: If 450 students are dragged out of their classes for a 45-minute all-school assembly, then the student body's sense of community will be enhanced.

Although unlikely, apparently it works. So far, the new weekly assemblies 9:45 a.m. Wednesdays have drawn mostly approving response. Bringing in outside groups such as the Jesse White Tumblers and the Tibetan Dance Institute has increased students' awareness of the differences between themselves and others, something that they need desperately. Journalists, alumni, authors, educators, dance troupes and others will keep the tradi-

tion going for at least this year.

"People are not resisting the assembly as predicted," said Community Service Coordinator Lucy Gomez, assembly organizer, along with Music Teacher Dominic Piane and Journalism adviser Wayne Brasler. "I'm enthusiastic about people wanting to take part in it. Clubs and certain individuals have already requested an assembly for their use."

Although some seniors have showed little respect for the school's guests, particularly the Tibetan dancers, most U-Highers have been open to the idea of a growing community inside as well as outside of U-High. We hope this new tradition is one that will stay a while.

Talkin' to U



Angie

What would you like to see in the new weekly assemblies?

ANGIE KEENE, senior: I hope they stay really lively. I want different acts to come from outside the school. It gets people into it because they don't know what to expect.

LUCY BIEDERMAN, junior: I would really like to see Brasler participate with the Jesse White Tumblers

IAN CUMMINS, sophomore: I actually really like the Wednesday assemblies. The performances have been really good. I would like it better if they could make it so I can sleep in on Thursdays also.

REBECCA NICHOLS, freshman: I wish there were more speakers. The performances don't mean that much to me. As long as we are having the assembly I wish someone would be talking to me.



Ian



Lucy



Rebecca

American for a year Senior here from Italy enjoys living 'The Dream'

Editor's Note: Senior Fiorenza Parsani came to U-High from Italy in a study-abroad program and is staying with Freshman Elizabeth Rhodes.

I'M WALKING in the school with a fish painted on my face, "U-High swim ming" on my arms, goggles on my head. What is this? This is "Lab School", this is America! And so different from far away Italy.

Chicago is not better or worse, it's just different.

Every day for the past two months I wake

First Person



Fiorenza Parsani

up and I say, "Why did I do this? For the American dream. Everyone wants to come here! We expect great things from this country. So I'm here, on the other side of the world, where students can lie on the floor while they watch T.V. in an English

class. I can't even imagine lying down in any of my classes! I'm amazed by everything. I never dreamed of seeing through the traffic and buildings a little squirrel playing on the trees. The only place you can see a squirrel at home is in a zoo where they are protected! I can't explain all the differences because the Midway will not have enough room for it.

But I'm here and even if I miss Italy I want to be an American for this year (just for this year!). I want to be one of you. Do you think I could? I like it!

Sometimes it can be hard: when I don't understand anything in an English class or when I get a low grade in U.S. history, but just a few words from someone can help me. I like the people at Lab. They are friendly and I have friends who call me in the evening. Who make me laugh and who ask me, "What's up?" (even if I never know what I'm supposed to answer!).

I want to enjoy the U.S. and do everything I can, including go to all the parties (please invite me!)

I'd like to write you a lot of things, but my 308 words are almost up so from the Senior Lounge, where some people are fighting for the poster on the wall, I'll leave you. An amazing adventure is waiting for me this year. Cool!

Having a wonderful time and it's just the start

Editor's Note: Mollie Stone, '97, is a freshman at Amherst University, Massachusetts, opens this year's college column.

I AM HAVING the time of my life here.

The campus is beautiful, my professors are the most enthusiastic, brilliant people I've ever met and the students are smart, funny and easy-going. I have been blessed with two terrific roommates. One is a soccer player from New York who plays the drums and the other is a singer who is planning on going to medical school. My room is small but cozy and whenever I feel far from home I go see my Labbie friends, Amber Stroud, Bill Thistlethwaite and Kiyoshi Mino.

There are so many incredible organizations students can join here and Amherst students really have it good, since we can join any activities or groups from the other four colleges near by (Smith, Holyoke, UMass and Hampshire.)

One thing I got involved in during orientation was the Amherst College Outreach program. Every day I spent five hours helping to build a Buddhist temple for the community of Cambodian refugees who live in the valley. Needless to say, it has been an incredible experience. (We even convinced the monks to teach us a few Cambodian love songs!)

Aside from that, I'm doing all sorts of wonderful singing groups and am even thinking doing a tiny bit of theater stuff.

My courses are fabulous. I'm taking an English course called "Reading, Writing and Teaching," which explores the role teaching plays in literature. Once a week, each of us gets to go to Mount Holyoke High School to assist in teaching a class. I'm also taking a Spanish language and literature course and a introduction to liberal studies first-year seminar called "Performance and Composition."

Tomorrow my class is going into Boston to see a Yiddish theater company perform Isaac Bashevis Singer's "Shlemiel the First." My last class is "The Social Organization for Law." My professor is a Mr. Derbes sort of fellow - extremely enthusiastic and really good at making his students think. I never thought I'd say this but I think I finally see where my father is coming from with all this "law stuff."

Okay, so everything is perfect here, right? Well, some things really don't change

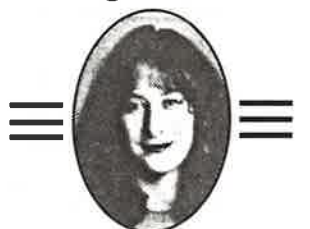
(Oh- except we have coed bathrooms. It's a great way to meet people, really.) Last night I was up all night long writing an English paper. Gee, sound familiar?

I spent hours wandering from room to room, dropping in on conversations, pizzas and parties. I stopped in my friend's room and discussed Socrates' views on altruism for a half-an-hour or so, then I went to another girl's room to listen to this fantastic music that she was playing, and to help figure out what song to sing for a cappella group. Next I went and watched part of a movie someone was playing in their room (I believe it was "Clueless.")

All night long there are wonderful people to talk with and wonderful things to learn. I guess that's what I love so much about this place. You really learn here.

Every minute of every day, we learn how to live more independently and at the same time, learn to live very closely with

College Letter



Mollie Stone

other people.

The world I am now living in is nothing like Lab. We have endless choices to make here. We all do things because we are interested in them- not because we are required to do them.

I have all the freedom in the world to do whatever I feel like at college and the more I begin to understand this, the more I realize that there isn't just enough time in the day to possibly do all the things I want to do.

Everyone at college wants to do everything. Everyone's always saying, "Man, did you see that? I want to do that." And we do, then we sleep all day the next day.

We're exhausted and totally in awe of everything around us and we're just starting to figure out how to make it all work. But it's only October and I have a feeling that we'll all be pretty clueless for a while.

Dirty Secrets


'L.A. Confidential' creates memorably mysterious mood

COVERED FROM head to toe in a velvety black cloak which masks everything but the outline of her voluptuous figure, Lynn Bracken's (Kim Basinger) entrance into the film is entrenched in mystery. All you can hear is her sultry voice, until she slowly turns around, unveiling her breathtaking beauty.

With her silky blonde hair falling over one eye, pale skin and bright red lips, she embodies 1950s movie glamour. Yet something about this picture seems a little off. Quickly surveying her surroundings you realize this would-be movie goddess is standing in the center of a cheap, barebones liquor store.

The idea that glamour and mystery are cover ups for dirty secrets is by no means revolutionary but is played to perfection in Warner Bros. highly-acclaimed

Reel Deal



Leigh Goldstein

thriller "L.A. Confidential." The film has received such wonderful reviews that many critics have favorably compared it to the 1974

classic thriller "Chinatown."

Most of the credit goes to Director Curtis Hanson, who also wrote the screenplay. He not only delivers a complex and amazingly detailed thriller but reevaluates a period which most people nostalgically view as innocent and carefree.

Set in the 1950s, "L.A. Confidential" focuses on three L.A. cops made of entirely different moral fiber. There's the sadistic and unthinking brute Bud White (Russell Crowe), celebrity crimstopper "Hollywood Jack" Vincennes (Kevin Spacey) and the politically ambitious college kid Ed Exley (Guy Pearce).

Though these men start out despising each other they come to form a trusting relationship as they pursue a murder case involving former cops, hookers and heroin.

Both Crowe and Pearce give excellent performances, constantly building on the many sides and issues their characters have.

But Spacey is the one who stands out. As the cynical and smooth Vincennes, Spacey manages to hit the perfect level of condescension and wit. Watching him on screen, you feel you're in good hands.

The film also sports an unusually strong supporting cast with Danny DeVito as a sleazy-tabloid journalist, Basinger as a high-class hooker and David Strathairn as her rich pimp. All



of them give such first rate performances it's difficult to picture anyone else in their roles.

While all the actors do a commendable job it is really Hanson and coscreenwriter Brian Koppelman who have made "L.A. Confidential" an exceptional film. They have breathed intelligence and art into what could've been another mindless, big-budget star vehicle. (Like Helgeland's movie, "Conspiracy Theory").

Rarely does Hollywood produce a film so beautifully shot and designed which also delivers complex characters and a plot that makes sense.

"L.A. Confidential" is rated R. Children under 17 are not admitted without a parent.

Kim Basinger plays mysterious woman, Lynn Bracken, in "L.A. Confidential." The L.A. policemen captivated by her are portrayed, from left, by Russell Crowe, Guy Pearce and Kevin Spacey.

The same person still but front page news

Editor's Note: Senior Lonnie Hubbard was featured in a front page story of the "Windy City Times," one of the city's weeklies serving the gay community, August 28.

OKAY, WILD scenario. You are at a slammin' club, music pumpin' and you're doing tootsie roll to "Mo' Money Mo' Problems" and these two people outta nowhere ask you if you want to be interviewed for a newspaper. "Okay but after 'Barbie Girl'. That's my jam!!!" you say.

They pull you to the side and say, "Okay. We'd like to interview you on what it's like being gay in high school and put your picture on the front page." Do you suddenly lose interest? Well as a lot of you already know, me and two friends of mine (Cyndi Ailey and Sean Slith) were on the front page of the August issue of "Windy City Times," a popular gay periodical in Chicago.

The interview took about ten minutes for each of us and we were asked basic questions like "Are you out at school?" "Are you harassed or teased?" and "Do you feel your school environment is a safe place for you?" I enjoyed doing the interview. I always wanted to tell other people what it was like and this was a real cool way to do it.

I knew that maybe friends or classmates from school, who didn't know I was gay, would see the article. But I felt really strongly about doing the interview anyway and also informing people of a somewhat controversial subject outweighed my fear of being "outed."

Before school started I found out some friends from school had already seen the article and you know how fast things spread in this school. I really had to mentally prepare myself for how people would react and that was probably the hardest thing about this whole interview thing for me to do. I was so worried that they would treat me different or even worse, just totally ignore me.

The reactions I got were generally positive and I was really flattered by what a lot of students and friends had to say. There were a few slightly sarcastic remarks and a few people treated me a bit different but certainly nothing to cry over.

I am also glad that people will finally know the truth about me. More importantly, though, I want everyone to know that I am the *same* person I always was. I have always been gay and always will be and this *isn't* my choice or my lifestyle but *simply who I am*. I have no qualms about who I am and I would *never* change myself for anything. Would you?

First Person



Lonnie Hubbard

The Midway wants to hear from YOU!

There's plenty of guest columns in this issue of the Midway but where are the letters to the editor? There aren't any! Why? Because you didn't write any! We want letters to the editor! Write us! Put your letter in the Journalism slot in the U-High office, U-High 107. Sign it. We will get in touch with you and take your photo and you will appear in print. And we will have letters to the editor! Good for us.

U-High midway

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Memorable Memorial

A sensitive service remembers a special friend

MEMORIES FLASH through your head. You sit in the theater on the third floor of Ida Noyes Hall looking at the floor, then at the ceiling. As High School Principal Hanna Goldschmidt speaks, you glance at the boy's parents and think of your own mom and dad.

After Ms. Goldschmidt finishes her speech, you close your eyes and picture the scene: a horrific car crash that caused the death of this young man. A shiver shakes you and you look up.

Guest Column



Vikas Singhal

A memorial service celebrating the life of Vikram Rupani, who would have been a freshman this year, took place Sept. 25. His journey to U-High certainly would have led him to the basketball team, where he may not have been the tallest member but certainly the most determined.

You think of his slightly oversized Bulls hat that covered his sometimes short, sometimes long black hair. You remember when you got a bad grade on a math test and Vikram was the only one able to bring a smile to your face. And you remember the time you argued with him about

why Michael Jordan's Bulls are the best team to ever play in the NBA.

As Ms. Goldschmidt sits down and Mr. Feldman approaches the podium, you scan the room full of a 100 plus friends, teachers and family and wonder what they are thinking. Tears streak down their faces. With a forceful but sensitive voice, Middle School Principal David Feldman describes a time when he saw Vikram working with his classmates. He spoke of what a funny character Vikram was who always succeeded at his classes, be it math, history or English.

His aunt, Asha Chhablani, describes the Hindu belief of life-after-death. As you hear her gentle words, you understand that although Vikram has left his body, his soul, vigor and life continue. Finally, relief.

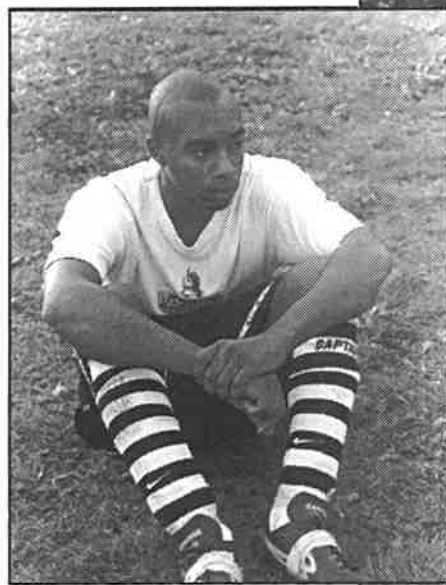
Hearing the High School Orchestra and Choir perform the Beatle's "Good night," you picture his embarrassed face from one of last year's concerts. Vikram practiced the line for a concert performed by the Middle School Choir. When he was chosen to recite the last words of the song, "Good night, everyone, everywhere," to his favorite song, he was ecstatic. But when time came at the concert, he blushed and the words didn't come. The picture fades from your head and the end of the song comes. The words are left out.

Waiting for your turn to sign the scroll to be presented to the Rupani family, you think hard to decide what you're going to write. Many memories flash through your head. But all you decide to write is, "Goodbye."

The Camel's Back.....by Mike Lebovitz

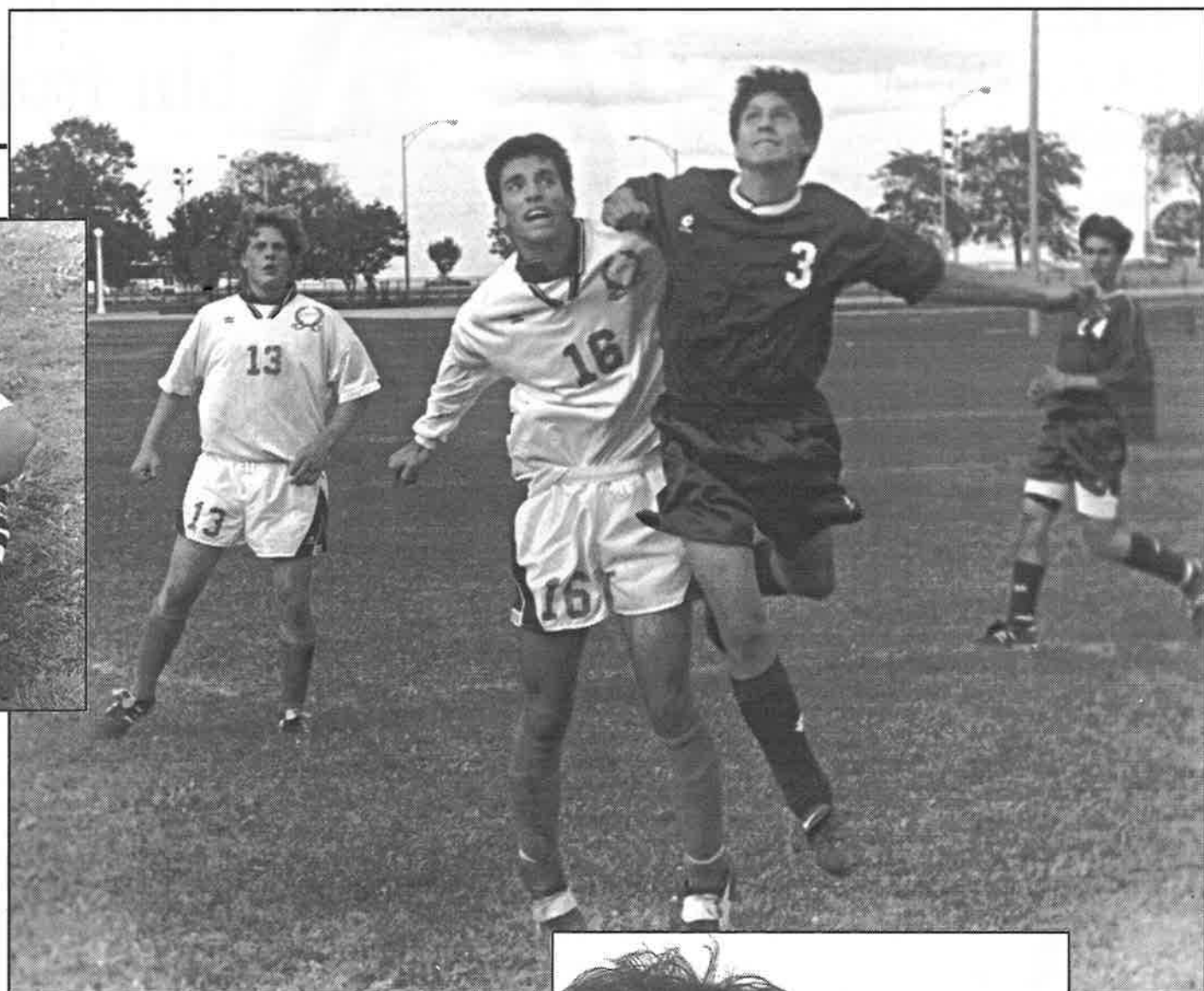


In what turned out an important aspect of a Sept. 23 3-1 varsity soccer loss at Latin (photos from left), Steve Kramer looks on as Mike Shiff and Xander Meadow go up for a header to control the ball and Sam Kass follows the action.



After the loss, Justin Slaughter, goalkeeper, ponders what he could have done to change the game.

Discussing the good and the bad at halftime, Sam Kass and Coach Mike Moses try to figure out how to get the Maroons back into the game. They were shutout the second half.



Photos by Jeff Hanauer

Learning from Latin history

By Richard Raz
Associate Editor

Rolling along Lake Shore Drive at 45 miles an hour on a chilly Tuesday, Sept. 23 soccermen concern themselves not with their oncoming game with their North Side rivals Latin but —of all things— the religious concept of being saved. But history, not philosophy, might have provided more valuable conversation. The Maroons lost to the Romans twice last year.

"The score should have been 10-1"

—Coach Mike Moses

On the field at Latin, U-High soccermen continue to size up their opponents asking which one should be guarded the most.

Seconds before the game starts Varsity Coach Mike Moses' voice shrills through the air.

"Andy! You guys got to watch Maliza- Xander will cover the middle."

Junior Johannes Maliza controls the ball for Latin in the opening seconds of the game. Johannes was last year's Independent School League Player of the year.

"The more touches he has the better the team plays," said Latin Varsity Coach Tom Bower days before the game. "A lot of the play goes through Johannes. If he can control the ball a lot, we will do just fine."

After 30 minutes of deadlocked play, Senior Josh Dankoff, cocaptain with Senior Johannes Beeby and Junior Andy Rosenband, breaks free of his defender, weaves around two fullbacks and rockets a shot deep in the Romans goal. Cheers erupt from the 20 spectators as they instantly jump to affection.

Though chaotic U-High fans are no match for the twice as large Latin contingent, who come back with a more deafening explosion five minutes later as Senior Andrew Coltitz, cocaptain with Senior Anson Kendall, quickly scuttles the ball into the U-High goal. "Do you know why we gave up that goal?" a frustrated

Coach Mike Moses exclaims. "We had too many people on ball and not enough covering the weak side!"

At halftime, a frustrated Maroon team tries to assess what has happened.

"What is going on?" Senior Sam Kass says with annoyance.

"You guys have to make better passes, get to those throw-ins faster and keep the ball in play more," thunders Mr. Moses.

Within 10 minutes of the second half Johannes Maliza boots a tough angled shot that rebounds off the goal post into the goal. Latin is now up 2-1.

Hoping to become more offensively tough Mr. Moses assigns Johannes to play further up. Among the hollers and cheers of "Go U-High" and "Win it", the Maroons prove to be no match for the high flying Romans as a third goal is scored with 15 minutes to play. 3-1 Romans.

"It's over now..." one U-High fan laments.

Others frustrated with the afternoon turn their heads in disgust, expletives crossing their lips. In one last attempt for a miracle Senior Andy Rosenband splits the defense moving the ball speedily up the center of the field but to no avail.

As the whistle blows the triumphant Romans raise fists of joy over the decimated Maroons. A silence falls over the fans as their soldiers head wearily toward the bus and van.

Riding back, solemn expressions glisten on the faces of the defeated Maroons, even though they know a coming rematch on the Midway can settle the score.

"Why didn't we win that game?" one Maroon asks his teammates as if to hint that the game should have been wrapped up early.

"We just didn't convert and didn't execute," his coach perks up. "On every single throw in they beat us to the ball. The score actually should have been 10-1."



Here come the Colonels

Confronting the two-time defending Independent School League Champions Parker 4 p.m. today on the Midway, varsity soccermen already have dumped the Colonels once this year Sept. 10, 1-0 at Parker. At four wins apiece U-High, Latin and Parker are deadlocked in their pursuit of an ISL title. Despite losing Starting Forward Mike Zabel, junior, to a broken tibia, soccermen are still confident of beating the Colonels.

"Right now our strength is our midfield," said Phys Ed Teacher Mike Moses, varsity coach. "We want Junior Andy Rosenband one of our cocaptains to control the ball a lot. As for our other players, I am looking for Senior Josh Dankoff, cocaptain, to step up, as well as Junior Bryan Birnie. I also hope that our diamond in the rough will be Senior Etan Hadaya. Many of the other teams have not seen him play that much because of religious reasons, but he does have a lot of skill."

Though overshadowed in talent, the j.v. team has mustered talent from Freshman Steven Wasik as well as Sophomores David Straus, Chris Oakes, Rogan Birnie and Reid Tokarz to fly high currently riding at 1st place in the ISL at 3-0, J.V. Coach Ron Presley said.

"Our toughest opponent is ourselves," Mr. Presley said. "When we did not push ourselves we failed to convert plays in games and lost. The reason why we lost is that we were not totally focused as a team. You need to be focused to do anything mentally."

Upcoming games are as follows: **Elgin**, 4:30 p.m., Thursday Oct. 9, away; **Elgin**, 4:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 13, home; **Latin**, 4:15 p.m., Friday, Oct. 17, home; **Morgan Park Academy (MPA)**, 4:15 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20, j.v. only, away; **MPA**, 4 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21, varsity only, away; **North Shore Country Day School (NSCDS)**, 4:15 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 22, home.

Scores of games not previously reported are as follows U-High first, j.v. in parentheses: **St. Camel**, Sept. 12, home: 0-3; **MPA**, Sept. 15 j.v. only, home; postponed; **NSCDS**, Sept. 16, away: 4-0 (7-0); **MPA**, Sept. 18, home: 4-0; **De La Salle**, Sept. 20, home: 3-2 (3-0); **Argo**, Sept. 22, away: 0-0 (2-5); **Latin**, Sept. 23, away: 1-3 (2-0); **Lake Forest Academy (LFA)**, Sept. 25, away: 4-2 (0-0); **Gordon Tech**, Sept. 27, home: 3-1 (2-0); **LFA**, Sept. 30, home: 7-2 (2-1).

One of Cross Country's pivotal returning runners, Wayne Goodall has contributed to the experience which has propelled the Maroons.

Photo by Katey Schein

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blame you for wanting them all? Juniors Jose Cornejo and Albert Akuamoah came during their lunch period but were almost late to class because they couldn't decide what to eat. We understand.

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Runners see victory

By Johannes Beeby
Sports Editor

Expecting to repeat as winners of the Independent School League (ISL) Conference meet Thursday at Jackson Park, cross country girls will rely on experience. "With most of the girls returning from last year's state team," Coach Bud James said. "They know what to expect and can handle it."

Among rising stars, Sophomores Anna Bloom and Liz Muller have added depth.

A team of solid runners with no standouts, boys "are really strong and more solid than last year," Mr. James said. "There is a lot more depth on the team and we have a lot of guys who can consistently compete."

Sophomore Sandy Craig and Junior Brad Anderson, have stood out.

Meets remaining are as follows:

ISL Conference Meet, 4:15 p.m., Thursday Oct. 9, home; **Latin Invitational**, 4:15 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16; **Prospect Invitational**, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21; **Regionals**, Saturday, Oct. 25; **Sectionals**, Saturday, Nov. 1; **State**, Saturday, Nov. 8.

Recent results are as follows:

Preseason Conference, Sept. 16, home: Girls, 1st of 5; boys, 5th of 5; **Quigley**, Sept. 22, away: Girls, 2nd of 7; boys, 5th of 8; **Quigley Invitational**, Sept. 27: Girls, 7th of 8; boys, 9th of 18.



Payback? Volleyballers aim at Wildcats

By Nate Whalen

Sports Editor

Hoping to avenge last year's overtime loss to the Wildcats, varsity volleyballers hope to pay back Luther North 4 p.m., today in Sunny Gym. The Maroons stand 4-4 overall, 3-2 in the Independent School League (ISL), 4th in the ISL.

"Luther North was one of our best games last year," said Senior Mai Lynn Grajewski, cocaptain with Senior Ariel Gibbons. "We can beat them this year with a lot of concentration. We have a tendency to get flustered and have trouble finishing but I think this game will be different."

Some of the Maroons' hardest matches are still to come.

"Latin and Woodlands, both in our division, are really good teams" Ariel said. "They have good serving and good passing. It'll be tough to beat them but we can do it."

Blocking should prove to be a major factor for j.v., 4-4, 2-3 in the ISL, today against the Wildcats.

"Heather is consistently a good blocker for us," said Junior Euna Chi. "If we work on our communication and passing we'll be able to beat them."

Games coming up include the following:

Woodlands, 4:30 p.m., tomorrow, home; **North Shore Country Day School (NSCDS)**, 4:45 p.m., Thursday, away; **Shepard Varsity Tournament**, Saturday, Oct. 18, away; **Lake Forest Academy (LFA)**, 4:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20, home; **Morgan Park Academy (MPA)**, 4 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 21, home; **Holy Trinity**, 4:15, Wednesday, Oct. 22, home; **Latin**, 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 24, away.

Results of games so far, U-High score first followed by opponents', varsity results first followed by j.v. in parentheses:

Willows, Sept. 9, home, 15-2, 15-1 (15-11, 3-15, 15-10); **Luther East**, Sept. 11, home, 15-3, 15-12 (15-6, 15-9); **Woodlands**, Sept. 12, away, 9-15, 7-15 (15-5, 6-15, 3-15); **Luther East Tourn.**, Sept. 13, away, won 4, lost 4; **NSCDS**, Sept. 16, home, 15-3, 15-11 (15-11, 15-13); **LFA**, Sept. 18, away, 14-16, 15-11, 11-15 (12-15, 15-4, 15-6); **Trinity**, Sept. 19, home, 15-10, 9-15, 10-15 (7-15, 16-4, 15-6).

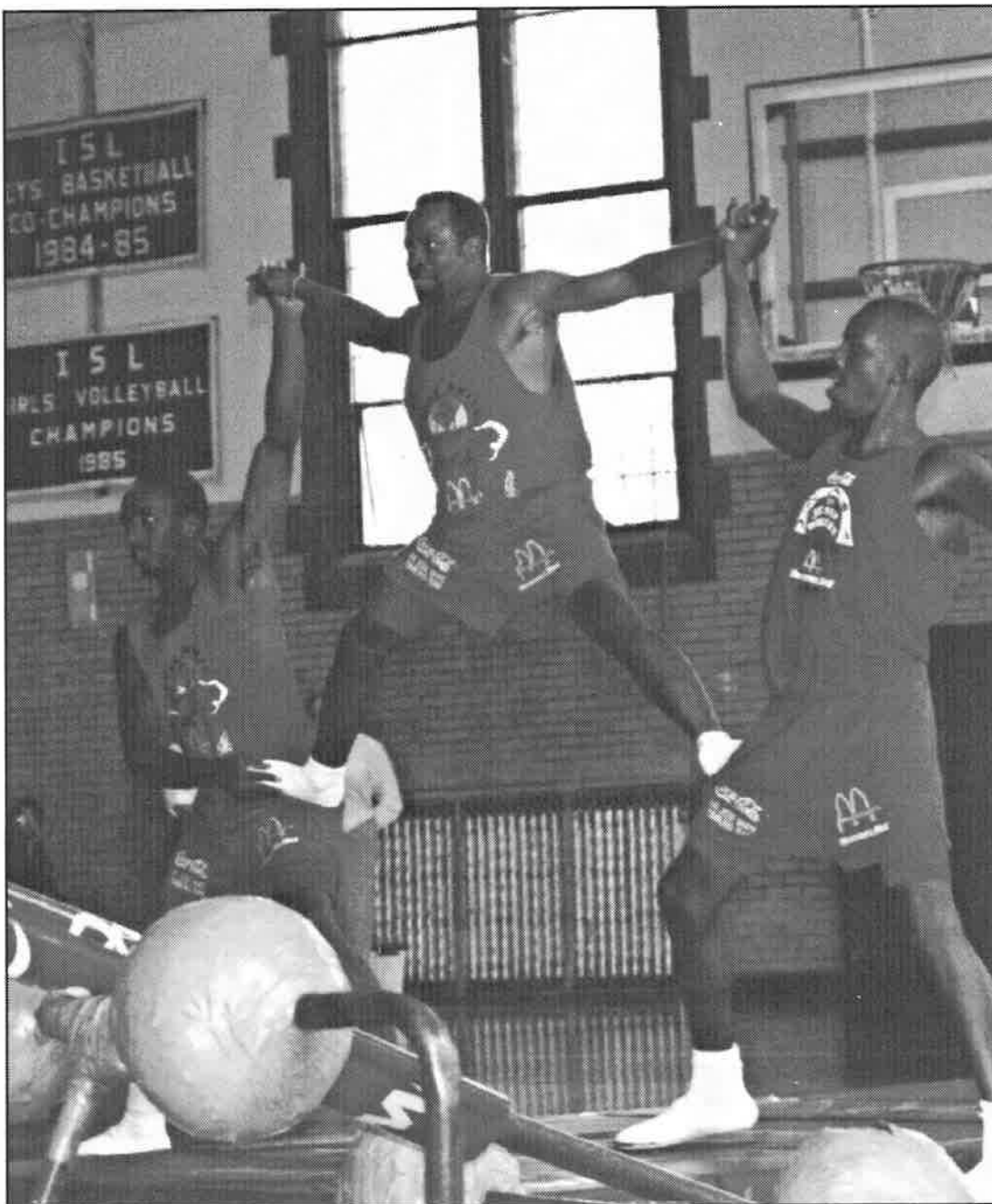


Photo by Tai Duncan

Tumbling Titans

They jumped so high and performed so many tricks even Superman himself would have been impressed. But that's not all the Jesse White Tumblers did at the all-school assembly Sept. 17 in Sunny Gym. After an amazing show in which the troupe repeatedly topped itself, Mr. Perry Broyley (top in photo) took command of the microphone and addressed U-Highers about the importance of staying in school and staying away from bad influences in life. The other tumblers in the photo are Mr. Cornelle Wallace, right, and Mr. Dion Steele. Though it wasn't the first time the school had seen the tumblers perform, both students and teachers agreed they provided a perfect assembly, combining athletic talent with a difficult art learned through intensive training and promoting their message of making the best of one's life through wise choices and limitless ambition.

Relay team propels girl swimmers

By Nate Whalen

Sports Editor

Heading into the home stretch, girls' swimmers, 2-3, are being led by their record-challenging 400-yard freestyle relay team.

Within three seconds of the record twice, the team of Seniors Christina Cantwell and Hannah Gottschall, Junior Kathleen Hahn and Sophomore Hannah Levine are sure of eventually grabbing the record.

"We have a good chance of getting the record," Christina said. "We're working very hard towards it. It's ours."

With 29 people, one of the biggest teams in U-High history, the Maroons still are being out-

numbered by the bigger schools.

"We lost our first meet to Shepard not because they outswam us, they just had three times as many people as us," said Varsity Coach Larry McFarlane. "Since first, second, third and fourth all get points toward the final score, we were just out of luck because of the numbers. I'm really happy with Christina and Hannah (Gottschall) who have been two of our standout swimmers this year."

Games coming up:

Maria, 4:30, Thursday, Oct. 9, home; **Morton**, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 15, home; **Nazareth**, 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 23, home; **Latin/Riverside-Brookfield**, 4:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 31, away; **Evergreen Park**, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 5, home.

Game results, U-High score first followed by

opponents with j.v. in parentheses:

Trinity, Sept. 9, home 95-85 (107-36); **Argo**, Sept. 19, away 68-21 (67-23); **Regina**, Sept. 23, home, 72-22 (73-16); **St. Ignatius (UIC)**, Sept. 24, away, scores not reported; **Fenwick**, Sept. 30, away 46-48 (38-54).

sports 7

U-High Midway Tuesday, October 7, 1997

Flyin': Tennis squads soar toward end of sensational season

By Johannes Beeby

Sports Editor

A win against Maria, tomorrow, in their last game before Sectionals would neatly top off a great season for Maroon varsity tennis girls.

New talent has helped the Maroons to a 8-3 record, 4-1 in the Independent School League (ISL).

"This year we have two freshman playing up with us," said Varsity Coach Gerold Hanck, Lower School teacher. "They have contributed unbelievably and are a great addition to the team."

First Singles Player Adrienne Clark and First Doubles Player Amy Gorun have let their skill carry them where their experience can't. Amy plays with Senior Rusha Desai.

"They have filled in the missing links of last year," Rusha said. "Their experience is not fully there but their skill makes up for that."

Backing each other up on and off the court has helped to build confidence, Maroons say.

"Against Fenwick we went three sets and ended up losing," Rusha said. "But during the whole match the rest of the team was cheering and supporting us. It felt really good."

Also finishing a strong season, j.v. has based its success on team unity.

"Everybody is supporting everyone else," English Teacher John O'Connor, j.v. coach said. "It has really made a difference."

Besides solidarity as a key factor practices have been oriented more towards skill improvement.

"We have been practicing a lot of skill shots to raise the level of play during the games,"

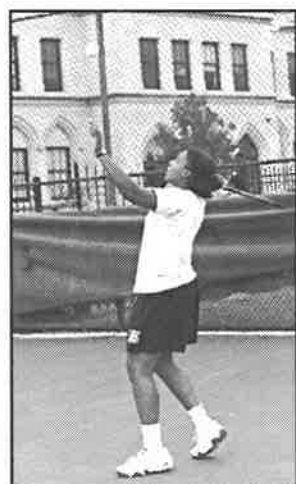


Photo by Kavi Reddy

In strategy which has proven vital to j.v. tennis, Andrea Earles perfects her serve.

said Mr. O'Connor. Games coming up:

Maria, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 8, away; **Sectional**, Saturday, Oct. 18, away; **State**, Saturday, Oct. 25, away.

Results of varsity matches, U-High scores first followed by opponents', are as follows:

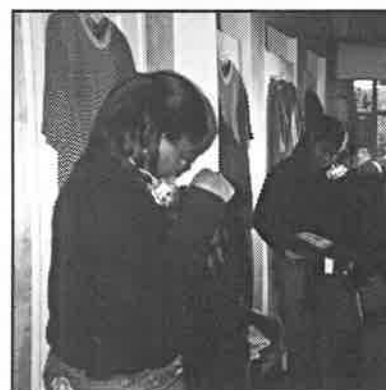
Parker, Aug. 28, home, 4-3; **Stagg**, Sept. 6, away, 9-12; **St. Ignatius**, Sept. 9, away, 2-3; **Sandburg**, Sept. 11, away, 7-0; **Thornridge**, Sept. 12, home, 2-1; **Resurrection**, Sept. 15, away, 5-0; **Lake Forest Academy**, Sept. 17, home, 4-1; **Morgan Park Academy**, Sept. 24, away, 3-2; **St. Scholastica**, Sept. 29, home, 5-0; **Latin**, Sept. 30, away, 4-1.

Editor's note: The Midway will publish j.v. scores next issue. Mr. O'Connor was busy with his new son, Theodore Ulysses, born Sept. 29. Math Teacher Chris Freeman also has a new son, Edward Calvin, born Aug. 31.

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