Newcomers find welcome...sometimes

By Sonia Mitul
Editor-in-Chief

Most newcomers this year say they’ve found making friends and fitting in surprising easy. One factor in their fitting in quickly, many new students say, is joining extracurricular activities.

Five new freshmen ran for Student Council offices and two were elected. “I expected to make a small group of friends but everyone has been really welcoming,” said new freshman Nick Epstein.

“I expected to make a small group of friends but everyone has been really welcoming.”

—NICK EPSTEIN, freshman

It’s easy to make friends here, many parents of newcomers believe, because the student body is so diverse. “I thought that the ethnic diversity of the students at Lab makes it an easier place to fit in,” said Dr. Sujaya Rupani, Shilpa’s mother. “It seems easier to make friends because there are so many different students to be friends with.”

Many newcomers say they’ve found that U-Highers who have been in the Lab Schools since kindergarten like meeting new people. “I think a lot of the Lifers are looking forward to getting a bunch of new freshmen,” said new freshman Anna-Maria Vasiliu. “That makes it easier for us to make friends. My friends like to hear about my old school because they only know about this school.”

But in letters on their class board and in advisory discussions, some sophomores new last year indicate they still don’t really feel part of their class. “When I first came here last year I talked to a bunch of people and thought I was building something meaningful,” explained Sophomore Matt Lenartz, one of the letter writers.

“But I soon realized the only reason most people talked to me was to kill time. We’d talk about something but we’d never talk about anything important. To me that is not friendship. It seems to me that sophomores have made friends so afraid to be different and talk to different people.”

Still, most of this year’s newcomers say they’ve made friends quickly. “I made friends so quickly that I don’t usually feel like the new kid,” said new freshman Jessica Hung.

“Time one someone said they were going to U.M. and I said, ‘What’s U.M.? He couldn’t believe I didn’t know but, hey, I’ve only been here for two months.”

Losing the parking game

By Cyrus Dowlatshahi
Associate editor

A month ago, my scheme to elude parking problems at U-High failed. You see, I used to have first and second periods free and, as an expert U-High driver, I could imagine when you’re arriving just before 9:45 a.m., there aren’t too many parking spaces left. Even the Midway...even the third Midway all the way down by Woodlawn...is completely filled. But it didn’t matter.

I had a plan. My plan was simple: Ever since the tennis courts were moved to their current location on 50th street, the old driveway which used to lead into Jackman Field has been blocked off. In other words, it is useless to have a tow zone there. I figured that whoever hands out tickets would realize this and pass me over to ticket Senior Joe Fischel, who again was rebelling against the City of Chicago and double parking in Kenwood Circle.

Fortunately, there was no ticketing going on so my plan was simple: I backed up into the vacated space behind me, took a Polaroid of my now legally parked car and sent it along with a strongly worded letter to the City of Chicago, thus dodging a $30 bullet.

Mr. Paul Gunty, assistant to the principal, and Principal Hanna Goldschmidt have a different, more legal plan.

“On the few occasions that I know I’ll have to leave school during the day,” Mr. Gunty said, “I make arrangements with Ms. Goldschmidt. I drive to school and park, usually on the Midway, and when I need to go, I borrow her car.

“I do this because she has a parking permit and can park on Kimberk outside of Judd Hall. Sometimes, though, I even have a hard time finding a spot for her car back in the lot. Still, this is the only way I know of going out during the day and finding a parking spot in less than a half hour when I return.

One thing is sure: It immensely brightens one day when one happens to find, during normal school hours, a legal spot in Kenwood Circle. You’d just better hope you don’t find it at the same time as someone else, because competition over spots can become fierce.

Another strategy for parking is just parking illegally, hoping that you won’t get a ticket. And according to Lab Schools Associate Director David Stafford, cars blocking school fire lanes won’t only be ticketed; they will be towed.

Still, Mr. Stafford acknowledges that parking has been becoming increasingly difficult. But, he said, there really isn’t much that can be done.

“ar parking lot over on 60th street with a shuttle bus was the alternative that was suggested many times over the years whenever parking becomes an issue,” he said. “But in the end, the city’s policy is that the lot becomes a security concern.”

Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, who’s been teaching at U-High for 37 years and driving to school every one of those years, said, “Over the last 10 years, parking has become impossible. If you get here after 8:30, you’re dead. A faculty parking lot with a shuttle bus open until, say 5, could work. It’s better than walking and to from 61st street.”

Get out those suits ‘n skirts

By Joe Fischel
Student government editor

From a three-piece-suit to a poodle skirt, U-Highers can show off their sense of retro style during Cultural Union’s swing dance, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 19 in the third-floor ballroom of Ida Noyes Hall. Tickets, $5, go on sale this week in the High School lobby.

Adding it up Ten U-High parents, three Lab Schools Board members, two administrators, four faculty members and seven students discuss security.

Inside Story

A Sun-Times story! A Fox T.V. News feature! Even savvy sophs make a really big deal.
I think that students feel that 57th street is just an extension of the school's campus. Going to the Medici and U.M. is a daily routine for most students. These gates would be a significant change in the feeling of the school.

-Junior Liz Rhodes

When it comes to school security, everybody has a different opinion

Epstein, director of external affairs. “The architect’s plans for the athletic complex always had the gates in there. ... Repre­sentative Liz Rhodes, who wrote the survey. “Going to the Medici and U.M. is a daily routine for most students. These gates would be a significant change in the feeling of the school. Students don’t want the gates, but I guess ... circumstances,” Computer Teacher Alan Haskell said. “While they’re there to protect the students, what’s going to happen

Iron, bells and sentinels

Wrought iron fences at both ends of Kenwood Mall, a doorbell at a locked entrance to Blaine Hall and a door moni­tor in Judd Hall are among measures the school is contemplating to improve

Feeling that administrators and the Board are not approaching security in the best way, some people at the meet­ing said the Board needs to reassess its strategies.

It seems the school went aim, fire, ready in terms of the gates,” Physics Teacher David Derbes said. “Some Lower School parents were concerned about their children’s safety, and some Upper School parents were concerned about that issue as well. Some parents who attended the meet­ing questioned the value of coming be­cause it seemed administrators and parents were working in all situations.

Feeling that administrators and the Board are not approaching security in the best way, some people at the meet­ing said the Board needs to reassess its strategies.

PARENT LESTER HEININGWAY contributes to the security discussion.

Missing Y-Highers see it

Many U-Highers see no advantages to new security proposals according to the results of an L.C.-sponsored survey Oct. 19 written by Junior Political Rep­resentative Liz Rhodes. Three hundred and eighty-three of the school’s approximately 450 students replied. Ninety-one percent say they feel safe in and around U-High; 10 percent recommend putting up fences around Kenwood Mall; Sev­enteen percent feel wearing I.D. cards and using them to gain entrance into the school would ensure a more secure environment; and 21 percent feel out­door security cameras would ensure a more secure environment.

Faculty waits, wonders, weighs moves

As administrators plan to bring in a mediator to ease tensions between the faculty and themselves and the Lab Schools Board, faculty members plan to send a position paper to Board mem­bers restating their concerns following their Oct. 4 vote of no confidence in Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz.

Waiting for a response to the vote from Board members, some faculty members wonder how effective their vote will prove. But, according to Lab Schools Board President Susan Sher, the vote is unlikely to affect any decisions the Board has made.

Following the vote, faculty members sent letters to each Board member, stating the vote’s results. As of last

Wednesday, the faculty had not re­ceived a response.

Aft...
Briefly

Model U.N. to try new destinations

Traveling to the University of California at Los Angeles for the first time, eight Model United Nations Club members will represent Cuba.

“We feel that we’ve shown we can excel at all the conferences we’ve been to so it’s time for a change,” said Model U.N. President David Zimmer, senior.

“We see a lot of the same kids each year and other schools know about us before we even get to conferences. It’s so much more exciting to go to conferences where no one knows you and no one expects anything of you before committee has even begun. This will be a great opportunity for this almost entirely underclassman delegation to learn on their own because we’ve never been to this conference before.”

Head delegates are Michael Strong, senior and Sarah Arkin, sophomore. The other delegates are Sophomores Shilpa Gulati, Rachel Lee, Caroline Nelson, Jesse Sklarisky and Walker Thisted and freshmen Nick Epstein.

NEWSMAKERS—Featured in the Sun-Times Oct. 22, Sophomores Rishi Bhat, 15 and Antonio Guellon, 16, subsequently were taped at school by a Fox News Channel crew after a major sale made by their internet company.

Writing a software program that provides confidentiality to people surfing the internet, Rishi and Antonio will make major earnings from an idea that started through personal experience.

“I used to be a big hacker so at first I used these programs to cover my own tracks,” Rishi said. “Then one day, I saw that I could offer my services to the public in a legitimate business.”

Programming computers since the age of seven, Rishi came up with the idea for the program this summer. Once he had worked out the glitches, he brought in Antonio to build a web page for the company they formed, Seigelsoft.com. After advertising with free banners on other frequently visited web pages, Rishi was approached by the president of Rocca Resources, a company which owns small internet corporations, to sell the program.

Rishi now is working on developing another program which will allow people to access a Windows-like desktop online.

D.C. BOUND—Visiting the National Holocaust Museum’s archives and exhibits, taking a tour of national monuments and visiting Georgetown, 12 juniors and seniors in History Teacher Susan Shapiro’s Holocaust class will travel this weekend to Washington D.C. At the Museum, U-Highers will research their final papers in its library. This is the fourth trip to the Museum.

ALUMNI HONORS—Two of U-High’s most famed graduates will be honored with Distinguished Alumni Awards at a dinner Sunday, Nov. 14 at the Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Ct. The dinner is sponsored by the Alumni Association.

The recipients are world-renowned author and composer Ned Rorem, ’46, and pioneering medical research Dr. Janet Davison Rowley.

Mr. Rorem’s books includes memories of growing up in Hyde Park. Dr. Rowley, a cancer specialist, is the Blume-Rose Distinguished Service Professor in Medicine and Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology at the University. She is also a former U-High parent.

Invitations have been mailed to alumni.

CELEBRATION—The Indian holy day of Diwali was to be shared by the Asian Students’ Association in this morning’s assembly with traditional costumes from various regions of the country.

“Indian people are so diversified,” explained Senior Anju Mahajan, ASA co-president with Senior Nitav Shah.

“This was a chance to expose people to Indian culture and show people there’s a difference between each region.”

As the holiday season rolls around...

STUDENTS, graduates, faculty members past and present, family and friends joined Oct. 22 to dedicate the new David Scheunemann Gallery. A talented writer, musician and composer, the ‘92 graduate’s name will now overlook the work of current Lab Schools artists. Among the speakers were David’s classmates Sarah Rose and Stephen Sittler. Music was provided by Leonard Funnis (in photo), Jim Stambion and Marc Plane.

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In the story on people feeling the school needed to end inconsistencies, the statement that History Teacher Susan Shapiro’s class contract did not include punishments was incorrect. Some readers felt Mrs. Shapiro’s contract did not represent an inconsistency just because it was established by one teacher and noted that several other teachers are developing similar contracts.

BOUND—Visiting the National Museum of American History, the Model United Nations delegation this weekend was incorrect. The students went to the National Museum of American History while the U-High Model United Nations Club was going to the National Holocaust Museum.

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ALTHOUGH CRITICS AND moviegoers have criticized “Fight Club” for its violence, the movie’s bold humor and wit leave audiences with a strong impression, whether good or bad. Based on the novel “Fight Club” by Chuck Palahniuk, the film’s startling story was adapted for film by screenwriter Jim Uhls.

Encouraging the members of their cult-like underground boxing club, “Fight Club,” to reject material standards of society, two 20-something friends, Tyler (Brad Pitt) and the narrator (Edward Norton), force their “everyone’s equal, inspire people through fear” philosophy onto the rich corporate world of contemporary society, making profound political statements by vandalizing and occasionally destroying public property.

Under the direction of David Fincher, both Pitt and Norton shine in interpreting characters of fascinating actors. Adding their own character quirks including a Midwestern drawl and nervous eye twitches, Pitt and Norton pay attention to the details which are so easily overlooked. Effectively using eye and body contact and fast-paced dialogue, they create astounding chemistry which intensifies the storyline and interactions between the characters, pulling in the audience to experience the emotional consequences of their dangerous activities with them. They strike a balance of both obnoxiously loud and quietly subdued, which adds to the depth and complexity of their characters.

Transition in reggae

Aswad’s music good in ‘70s, bad in ‘80s

EVERYONE LOVES A.C.D. that has no bad songs. The first disc of “Roots Rocking: The Island Anthology,” a compilation of Aswad’s greatest tracks, is one of those C.D.s that’s common among British reggae bands: an offbeat rhythm emphasis, lots of guitar and organ, strong vocal, and nervous eye twitches. Although women are known for their incredibly large closets of shoes (a pair has to be)

Mailbox: An apology

From Ralph Ahu, Student Council president:

Ian Kysel, Cultural Union president; and George Weid, senior class president: AT THE ALL-SCHOOL assembly Oct. 20, Student Council presented a short film introducing the Nov. 19 Swing Dance and the Student Council Film Festival.

THE film included some material which offended certain members of the community. Student Council would like to take this opportunity to apologize for the inappropriate material and language found both in the video and in the comments found in the video.

Please understand that Student Council did not intentionally include this offensive material. We understand that in any community members have vastly different comfort levels. Some things, in disturbing some community members, affect the balance and comfort of the whole.

Student Council, in apologizing, would like to assure all members of the community that, in the future, we will guard against those things that disrupt this balance. In closing, Student Council would like to reiterate our apology and thank you for your time.

YOUR SAY IN THE MIDWAY

Syndey Lawrence, freshman: I’m looking forward to the Ski Club retreat because I’ve never skied downhill before in my life.

Satya Bhabha, sophomore: Hopefully we will have some more blizzard days like we had last year so that maybe school will actually close for once.

Annie Padrid, junior: I’m really excited about spending time with my friends and playing on the girls’ varsity basketball team.

Charles Simmons, senior: I look forward to dominating everyone with the 1999-2000 World Varsity Hoop Squad. We are going to be off the hook.

Syndey: As cold weather sets in and winter approaches, what are you looking forward to?

Satya: I’m looking forward to the Ski Club retreat because I’ve never skied downhill before in my life.

Annie: I’m really excited about spending time with my friends and playing on the girls’ varsity basketball team.

Charles: I look forward to dominating everyone with the 1999-2000 World Varsity Hoop Squad. We are going to be off the hook.

Aswad sings about everything from the Ghetto to Maine in Roots Rocking: The Island Anthology.
Cheap but good
Peté's offers tasty variety

Editor's note: Here's a new addition to the Midway menu, a restaurant review column jointly written by Editor in Chief Bobby Stokes and Associate Editor Ameer Saleh.

WITH THURSDAY LUNCH already halfway over, our lunch spot decision was going to be crucial. Consulting my homie Peté, we decided in favor of Di

Dining
Bobby Stokes

and

Ameer Saleh

get our food on the hurry up with our limited loot situation, we would have to head south.

Hopping into the ride of Senior Cyrus Dowlatsahi with fellow Senior Chico Simmons, we peeled out. Bumping music down Stony Island we reached our destination, Peté's Italian Beef on 69th and Stony, in less than 10 minutes.

Parked in the adjacent parking lot, we paused in front of the small yellow building to peek the menu which boasted of a hundred wings for $33. Walking into the 24-hour establishment, the menu included a variety of delectable treats from your standard three wings for a dollar to the 50 cent corn on the cob which the menu guaranteed would be dripping in butter.

Counting his change, Cyrus ordered the $2 chopped steak sandwich with fries. Making my last-second decision, I asked the cashier to hook up $3 dollar triple cheese burger through the plate of bulletproof glass. Ameer, being the most mortally endowed of our entourage, ordered a philly cheese steak, three wings and a grape Mistic, coming to $5.75. Charles was all about the $3 gyros with fries.

Chillin' with our tickets, we passed the time checking out "Super Fly" which was playing on the TV, behind the glass. Calling out our numbers in less than five minutes, we strolled back to the ride with food in hand.

Entering 8th period Bio class with my triple cheese burger and Ameer's three wings, we wished dearly delayed as Mrs. Housinger persuaded us to par-take in that day's lab. With Ameer's cheese steak being so filling, he was gracious enough to hook up me and my boy Se-nior David Straus with two wings.

Following our lunch adventure we could only agree that we were blown away by Peté's. With some of their lowest prices on the entire South Side, we were sat-isfied that our wallets were still intact. Deciding that there would have to be some return visits, Ameer and I concur that Peté's definitely throws down on the flame grill.

Photo by M.C. Octoby
WITH CHEAP EATS, a convenient location and an interesting atmosphere, Peté's Italian Beef on 79th and Stony Island is a winner.

Security question: safety really in gates?

SECURE THE PERIMETER, pull up the draw bridge, start digging the moat because U-High is under attack. Not really but maybe you would think so if you listened to all the proposed security measures.

Opinion
Bobby Stokes

I understand the needs of some Lower School parents to keep their children safe. But not all the security measures are going to accomplish what they are supposed to.

Put up seven foot gates so everyone feels safe right. It seems to me that a little bit of aesthetic security is going on here.

While the gates may not be even locked, I know I would be able to climb them anyway. These issues have, of course, been thought out. But the school is pressing forward to get the fences up as soon as possible, to quiet parents as quickly as possible.

Making everyone feel better really doesn't hurt, but the effect that these "improvements" have in the look and feel of the school should be looked at.

One of the major things I hate about our North Shore nemesis Parker and Latin is the closed, castle feeling they have. I always feel that they just lock their kids away during the day to es-cape all the "bad" people out there.

When they come to our school for basket-ball games I'm always happy they're nervous getting on and off the bus. It makes them know they don't belong in my domain.

Recent school violence nationwide that has catalyzed the passionate feel­ings about security in the first place was unfortunate for them, it came to an end this year because they couldn't wake up early enough to get breakfast and be at school by 7:30 to find parking.

It has indeed, in the past few years, become increasingly difficult to drive to school and find parking spots anywhere in the area. Whether it is because of an increase in the enrollment of the University of Chi­cago, or just the six billion people on Earth making their impressions on Hyde Park, alternatives to driving are the best ways to go. Whether it is because of an increase in the enrollment of the University of Chi­cago, or just the six billion people on Earth making their impressions on Hyde Park, alternatives to driving are the best ways to go.

Whether they're holding spaces for North Side students and those liv­ing in Indiana may need to drive, but come on, there really isn't much point to "driving to school.

Two U-Highers living in Hyde Park wanted to continue their tradition of a before-school McDonald's breakfast run on Thursday mornings. Un-fortunately for them, it came to an end this year because they couldn't wake up early enough to get breakfast and be at school by 7:30 to find parking.

Making everyone feel better really doesn't hurt, but the effect that these "improvements" have in the look and feel of the school should be looked at.

Why drive? Take a hike instead

As the Midway sees it

Business as usual

One reality is certain after the fac­ulty vote of no confidence in Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz: The daily life of the school has gone on as usual.

For many faculty members, admin­istrators and Lab Schools Board members, the past three months have proven tumultuous, filled with emotional meetings, uneasy feelings and high tensions. But for most U­Highers, school has been running as usual.

Sure, there were some questions when the no confidence vote was re­ported in the Chicago Tribune, Sun Times and Hyde Park Herald. But by keeping adult business out of the classroom, faculty members and ad­ministrators showed their commit­ment to the best interest of the schools.

Much of the tension between the faculty and Board results from per­ceptions that actions are taken con­trary to the Schools' best interest. But often the faculty has not been informed of the reasons behind ad­ministrative and Board decisions.

Often, in turn, the Board has not heard faculty viewpoints.

Board members, administrators, faculty members and parents often have different conceptions of what is in the best interest of the schools.

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Fall teams wind up in championship form

By Mike Lamb
Sports editor

With three Independent School League (ISL) championships in the bag, fall sports teams came through with strong showings in state tournaments as well.

After winning the ISL, tennis girls advanced a monumental five girls to State and cross country runners advanced the entire girls' team to Sectionals, with the lone boy qualifier Senior Sandy Craig. If the runners made it past Sectionals last Saturday, after Midway deadline, they will run at State this Saturday.

Continuing to impress with an ISL title, 5th place in the prestigious Prospt Invitational and a 2nd place finish at Regionals, the girls also dominated the individual competition at Prospt as Senior Anna Bloom, as in last year, took Top 10 and Deputy Tiffany Lance swept both 100 and 200. At Regionals Oct. 23 at Aurora Christian, all of the girls qualified for Sectionals, but their 2nd place finish stopped their string of four consecutive Regional championships.

An insufficient number of runners making place impossible for the boys in many events this season, including Prospect and February 14-18 trip to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, already in the works, the new Ski Club hopes to do really well if I make it to State.
"I try to keep my religion and morals in the back of my head when I make my decisions."

Mr. Dan Dyra

Winter Games

BOYS' VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL (times indicate start of v. game unless otherwise noted):
MODERN TOURNAMENT (varsity only): Saturday, Nov. 7.
BASSET LEAGUE (varsity only): Saturday, Nov. 14.
DECISIONS LEAGUE (varsity only): Saturday, Nov. 21.

GIRLS' VARSITY AND JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL (times indicate start of v. game unless otherwise noted):
MODERN TOURNAMENT (varsity only): Wednesday, Nov. 18.
BASSET LEAGUE (varsity only): Sunday, Nov. 22.

The things that count

I. GOD. 2. FAMILY. 3. FRIENDS.

These three things aren't merely parts of Mr. Dan Dyra's life, but the foundation of his life.

"My firm belief in God is probably the basis for my life," explained Mr. Dyra, who is entering his third year here. "I always try to keep my religion and morals in the back of my head when I make decisions. When I was growing up, the mainstay in my life was religion through the Catholic community."

When Mr. Dyra says he grew up in a Catholic community he isn't kidding. He is a product of the Catholic Schools from his first day until he graduated from Notre Dame High School. With a degree in business from Loyola he's now working on a masters in school leadership.

In recent years, Mr. Dyra said, he has come to realize that what he does in life should be what he loves. He didn't follow up on his business degree but became more involved with his passions: basketball and teaching.

"The game of basketball has given me so many good things," he said, as he himself was a standout hoopster for the Irish. "My other passion is to teach and as I was coming to a crossroads in my life, I got a tip from a friend about a position at Lab. I didn't have much of a choice, because I was starting a family, so I might as well do something I love. I moved back to Edgewater and started at Lab."

This year, he moved up from his freshman position of two years to coach jv basketball. Although his record wasn't stellar, I can tell you from personal experience that doesn't reflect the coaching job he does on and off the court.

"I'm looking forward to my second year with the same group of guys," Mr. Dyra commented. "I like to think of myself as a player's coach as I always try to look at things from a player's perspective, because I remember being a player myself.

"With five children, his parents had to work two jobs each to put food on the table. My parents showed me that in order to succeed you have to work hard. I try and carry that over to what I do now. I'm trying to get the community more involved in the athletic program by organizing events like last year's Latin game where we had a packed place and the alumni came back. I'm just trying to show them what basketball was at my school."
Feeling my flow it's time to start rappin'  
Hearing jokes Charles be crackin'  
Freshmen he be smackin'  
Checking my pocket loot I be lackin'  
I considered jackin'  
It hit me while I was flowin'  
My mental light bulb started glowin'  
My stomach started to knock and bang  
Hope ya'll can understand my urban slang  
So I headed to my spot  
Oh yeah the Medici  
Food there is cheaper than free  
I need to hit these fries, cost a buck,  

I got to the Med and pulled up a chair,  
I caught a stair,  
Because of the naps in my hair,  
Heard a joke older than Mrs. Weir,  
Into my fries I bit,  
They came quicker than a cut slip,  
I was glad I had come because the Med's food is always a hit.