

Photos by Greg Kollhagen

# Colorful tour through time

By Libby O'Neill  
Associate editor

Walking into History Teacher Chris Janus' classroom, you are bombarded with colorful images and handwritten text. The bottoms of the walls are lined with replicas of paintings, from Jan Vermeer's "The Lacemaker" to Rene Magritte's "The Rape," while the tops of the walls give seemingly endless important facts from history. A stained glass window of a praying woman sparkles in the back of the room, next to murals representing the periods of early and late modernity in history. Each painted section has separate characteristics but together, the murals form a story of European History.

Beginning the murals in 1997, Mr. Ja-

nus originally planned a small extra credit project for interested students. Volunteering to make a timeline of important events in history on the wall, then sophomore, now senior, Ralph Ahn thought the mural would be a fun project to show off his drawing skills. Quickly filling up wall space, the mural ended up a monster creation, covering parts of four walls.

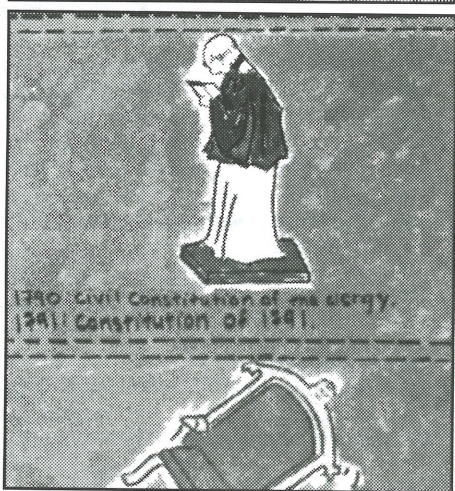
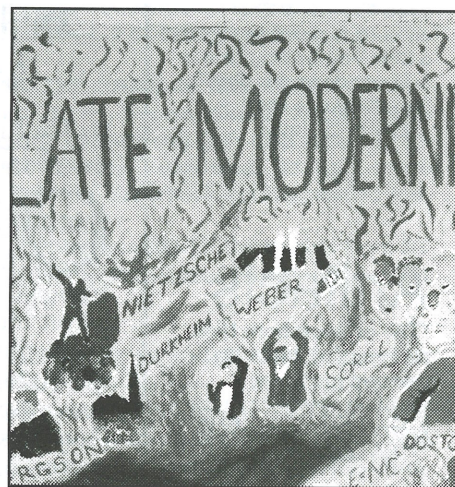
"I began during second quarter and I finished two weeks into summer vacation," Ralph said. "At first I spent about an hour a week but near the end of school I was in there every day for two hours and I was in full days during the summer. I am glad I spent all that time on it but when people ask how long it took, I don't like to tell the

truth. I want people to think I actually had a social life sophomore year but near the end, I really didn't."

Looking for ways to help students better learn history, Mr. Janus saw the murals as a way to combine the importance of art in European history with chronological facts.

"Although I recognize its importance, chronology has never been a real concern of mine so I thought, maybe it would be a good idea to have a timeline to make that part of learning more interesting," Mr. Janus said. "My goal with all the art on the walls has been to get students to do something they can really sink their teeth into. I thought of the basis for the ideas but I wanted

(continued on page 6)



# U-HIGH MIDWAY

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## A visit with Lab Schools Board President Susan Sher VALUING VOICES

Determining direction, the Schools will hear all opinions, says new leader

Editors' Note: With the widely publicized no-confidence vote in Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz, considerable attention has been given to the Lab Schools Board and its role in the Schools. At the helm of the Board is Ms. Susan Sher, who became chairperson this fall after serving as a Board member. Vice president and general counsel for the University of Chicago Hospitals, Ms. Sher previously worked as corporate counsel to the City of Chicago. She is a Lab Schools parent. She spoke with Midway Political Editor Arielle Levin Becker in her office Nov. 9. The photos are by Katie Shapiro.

school community. I think we have to do that without being viewed as intruding into the daily life of the school. It's a goal we need to work on a lot.

There's a view that the Board is distant. I think it's important not to be looked at as micromanaging the school. So it's intentional that our profile is pretty low. On the other hand, we can't be too hidden or mysterious. If it is helpful to the school we can make the Board more visible, but not in the day to day running of the school.

tion that some faculty members believed their voices were not being heard. That needs to be taken into account. The faculty is obviously very important.

We are continuing to meet with them. There has to be continuous dialogue and there is no question the Board has tremendous respect for the job the faculty does everyday.

One thing about our community that is great is that everyone can express their views, and it's encouraged. On the other hand, Lucinda Lee Katz has a school to run. I hope everyone works cooperatively toward helping her run the school and educating the students.

Anger can be a constructive force sometimes, and it can also be destructive. I hope everyone acts in a constructive way.

Lab's a great school and my view is we need to do whatever it takes to keep it running well. The Board has been trying to be more involved in the school, by having a presence in various meetings, not to intrude but to show we care about the school.

Our role, as I see it, and as it is stated in our charter, is to be responsible for the overall fiscal health, for hiring the director and for the overall policy direction of the school. It's important to distinguish the policy direction from the day to day running of the school.

**Q** What goals do you have for the Schools? Where do you want the Schools to be in 10 years?

**A** I think it's time for the school to do some more real strategic planning to see where we ought to be 10 years from now. Mrs. Katz has been planning ways to look into that, and will come to a decision when we have that information. I don't have an opinion now, but I want us to be one of the best independent schools in the country.

There's a new Board committee responsible for strategic planning. Right now we're waiting for some views from current administrators about their suggestions. We're doing it this way as opposed to all these decisions being from the top down.

(interview continues on page 6)

**Q** What was it like becoming chairperson of the Board and dealing with a vote of no confidence and a displeased faculty right away? Did it change what you had planned?

**A** It has certainly been challenging to become chairperson of the Board this year. My goals for the school have not changed. Stability is something I would have said was a goal, as well as keeping the direction of the Schools and moving forward. If anything has changed it is my view that communication isn't working as well as it could, in terms of how the Board communicates with the whole

**Q** What should the Board do to help communication?

**A** I'm not sure there needs to be one structure as much as more discussion among all the constituencies in the Schools. I don't think there needs to be one overarching body for communication. Security is a good example. The Student Council survey of students' opinions was really helpful. Students' views are important but they're not the only views. Parents' views are important, and the faculty certainly has expertise on security issues in the schools. The administration does, and finally the Board.

So it seems we are starting to work together better because everyone has an interest in the issue. This is something I don't think we'll ever come to one real final "right" answer on, but it's important everyone's views are heard.

**Q** You've said it is not the Board's responsibility to act on the faculty's vote on Mrs. Katz. But many faculty members say the vote underscored issues of respect and communication in the school. What role should the Board play in addressing those issues?

**A** I think the need for better communication with the faculty came out of it. What else, I think it's too early to say. But I think some faculty members felt they didn't have enough input or a way of expressing their views and that was reflected in the vote. I think it was a reflection



"Lab's a great school and my view is we need to do whatever it takes to keep it running well."



"I think it's time for the school to do some more real strategic planning to see where we ought to be 10 years from now."





"I had been to the Museum by myself last summer. It was a whole different experience this time. I was able to get my hands on what I had been learning about and be surrounded by it."

--Senior Katie Lynn

## A Tear

"There were televisions which showed the liberation of camps and the survivors' reactions. The survivors could not believe that they had been liberated. The camera focused on a little boy smiling and a tear ran down his cheek. It really got to me."

--Elizabeth Heyer

## Artifacts

"The artifacts from Nazi Germany in the 1930s allowed me to see tangible evidence of the persecution of the Jews."

--David Scheinfeld

## Shoes

"For me the shoes of victims were so powerful because of their placement in the Museum. After seeing the pictures and videos to walk into a room and see the evidence was powerful."

--David Zimmer

## Train Car

"We were able to walk through the train cars that Jews were transported in. You can smell the old wood and see the fingernail scratches of desperate people. After I stepped out, it all seemed surreal because it was so horrible."

--Kerith Luchins

# Powerful trip to persecution

### ■ Holocaust Museum punches U-Highers in the senses

By Joe Fischel  
Associate editor

Overwhelmed by the strong, pungent smell of death, I stood in the boxcar which took countless Jews to their deaths during the Holocaust. I knew what lay before me in the National Holocaust Memorial Museum's exhibits; I had been here before but nothing could prepare me for this experience. As I stood in the dimly lit boxcar, I tried to feel what those who perished in the car felt, see what they saw, smell what they smelled. I couldn't.

As much as the videos and readings in History Teacher Susan Shapiro's Holocaust class prepared me for my fourth trip to the Museum, nothing could prepare me for that moment. As I stood in the boxcar, my eyes trying to make out the scratches in the wood from the innocent prisoners it once contained, my sense of smell was overwhelmed by the odor of death. I was vaguely aware of those passing behind me, but I was detached from the rest of the world, futilely trying to make sense of what my senses were telling me.

### Deeply affected

For about half of the 10 seniors and two juniors on the trip, Nov. 6-8, it was their first visit to the Holocaust Museum. All 12 U-Highers seemed to have been deeply affected by their two days at the Museum because the class helped us prepare for the trip. The trip was chaperoned by Mrs. Shapiro and Foreign Language Teacher Steve Farver.

"I had been to the Museum by myself last summer," Senior Katie Lynn explained. "It was a whole different experience this time. I was able to get my hands on what I had been learning about and be surrounded by it: the smell of the pile of shoes from the concentration camps, the feeling, being able to touch things from the Holocaust."

"I tried standing in the Museum, trying to imagine what people felt. I tried to put myself in their positions. I was really affected by the movie of survivors' personal stories at the end of the exhibit. I saw how the Holocaust affected the survivors through their laughs and tears."

The Museum creates the illusion of being trapped in a prison or railroad station with its mammoth concrete walls and steel bars visible throughout. The outside the Museum, located right off the



Photo by Joe Fischel

**AN EXHIBIT at the Holocaust Museum traces a boy's journey to the concentration camps. Adam Zachary is about to take that journey himself.**

Mall, looks like a massive concrete and brick fortress, almost void of windows.

After being jarred back into reality, I made my way through the rest of the exhibit. I paused and rested my arms on a concrete wall that came up to my chest and looked over to view the repulsive and sickening videos of child victims of Nazi medical experiments.

As grotesque as the video was, I was drawn to the exhibit because I wanted to experience every aspect of the Holocaust. Perhaps because the Holocaust for me is so personal. Many members of my family are survivors but even more perished at the hands of the Nazi terror. I wanted to see everything that they went through and try my best to understand that part of their lives. Others on the trip shared a similar, personal connection with the war.

### Personal connection

"One of the most powerful things for me was the wall of the righteous gentiles," said Senior Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. "I looked through the names of the underground resistance and found the name of the leader of the French resistance who my grandmother worked with."

"The experience was also made more personal by the videos of British soldiers who liberated the camps talking about the conditions. It is one thing to hear about the conditions but another to hear others descriptions of the events. It was eloquent and shocking."

# Brief-ly: Council to announce organization allocations

Planning to release the \$17,500 Student Activities budget this week, Student Council Treasurer Ramez Haddadin says a delay of about a month occurred because several organizations did not turn in their request forms.

Organizations which turned requests in on time were given priority in fund allocations, Ramez said. Treasurers' requests were due at the end of September. Organizations which did not file requests may receive funds but the Council will decide how much from what remains.

■ **AIDS DAY ASSEMBLY**—Explaining ways to help children with AIDS, U-High's new UNICEF Club will present a brief film and a slide show at next week's AIDS Day Community Assembly, Wednesday, Dec. 1. UNICEF is the United Nations Children's Fund.

"We hope to give people a greater idea of what our club does," said UNICEF President Joe Cho, junior. "We want to show that we can help others with our donations and make a real difference in children's lives. This assembly presentation will allow people to be more aware of AIDS and let us remember

those infected, the real purpose of AIDS Day."

■ **TRAVELER**—Attending the dedication last month of the Center for Coexistence in Jerusalem, Junior Hannah Lantos would like to return to Israel to work more with equality issues. The Center will try to ease tensions among Israeli and Palestinian youth through discussion and shared experiences.

The Center for Coexistence was opened in Jerusalem by Seeds of Peace, a group which believes that friendships between individuals from groups in conflict provide a necessary step towards peace. Last summer, Hannah attended a three-and-a-half week Seeds of Peace program in Maine for students from the U.S. and the Middle East who were selected by their governments.

"It was an amazing experience," Hannah said about the program. "At the beginning, people were very closed-minded and were just yelling. But then we calmed down and realized we needed to listen to one another. By the end, people still felt very strongly but we understood each other."

■ **JOURNALISTS TALK**—How to cover tragedies in high school newspapers was the topic of a workshop Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler led during the National Scholastic Press Association's national convention in Atlanta last weekend. Mr. Brasler discussed how to cover events such as the tragedy last year at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., when two students killed 12 students and one teacher.

Mr. Brasler also participated in a

panel of former National High School Journalism Teachers of the Year and presented NSPA's Brasler Prize, which awards a scholarship to the writer of the story judged best in the high school press for the previous school year.

At a high school press day last month at the Chicago Tribune, Mr. Brasler and Midway Editor-in-Chief Bobby Stokes by invitation participated in advisers' and editors' panels.

■ **CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**—The story in the Nov. 3 about a parent-sponsored discussion on security incorrectly identified Marcy Schlessinger as a Board Member. She is a member of the parents' committee on security.

Some readers said they found copy and photos in the backpage Medici ad offensive. Speaking on behalf of all three editors-in-chief, Bobby Stokes explained, "With rap an important factor both in print media and the music field, we wanted to try rap in an ad. We asked a student who isn't a Midway staff member but was an expert in rap to write the copy. In reviewing what he wrote, we didn't understand the references some readers found offensive and neither did our adviser; if we had recognized the problems the copy would have been changed."

"We also didn't notice the parts of the photos which some readers interpreted as offensive. The original photo assignment hadn't included anything offensive. Obviously, we will have to look closer when we involve students who aren't members of the Midway staff in preparing any part of the paper."

## You Have Choices



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"I think audiences in general come to a theater performance with the expectation of being either very amused or very touched."

—Senior Lauren Wolf



## Noteworthy blends

### English teacher reaches out

By Sonia Mittal

Editor-in-Chief

"Language is music."

Hoping to show his students the relationship between language and other subjects, English Teacher John O'Connor has planned a project uniting one of his English classes and Music Teacher Dominic Piane's Electronic Music Studio class.

Collaborating with a faculty member in another department, Mr. O'Connor hopes his students will have a better grasp of connections between language and other subjects.



Mr. O'Connor

"One of the great things about Lab is the number of teachers who have interests outside the subject they teach," Mr. O'Connor said. "I think it's important to take advantage of this and build projects as a community."

"For example, in a biology class students talked about physical reactions to words. We learn from teachers in the other schools yet I hardly ever see Lower School teachers. It's unique to have students of different ages so close together but I rarely see classes in different schools work together."

Students in Mr. O'Connor's Analysis and Composition class gave poems they wrote to the music students so they could compose music to accompany them. Eventually Mr. O'Connor hopes his students will write poetry to accompany music from Mr. Piane's students.

"I think that there is music to all language," Mr. O'Connor said. "Words already have sound, rhythm and meter. Mr. Piane and I are hoping that the sum of music and word will be greater than the parts. This will help my students transform their art and look at it in a different way."



### Aswirl

Photo by Greg Kohlhausen

DANCING TO INDIAN pop music, Asian Students' Association members, led by Senior Anju Mahajan, celebrated Diwali at the Nov. 3 Community Assembly.



Photo by Tai Duncan

SPEAKING AS ONE, the Greek Chorus in "The Bacchae," part of the fall production, moved in constant rearrangement. Jessica Heyman and Daniel Levin Becker pause in position.



Photo by Greg Kohlhausen

IN "ARIA DA CAPO," Peirrot (Jordan Booth) teases Columbine (Andrea Earles) by declaring profusely that the date was Tuesday when in fact it was Wednesday.

## Audiences 'get' unusual production

By Judith Disterhoft

Associate editor

Movement-oriented Greek tragedy at U-High? Not what audience members would expect from a usual theater production. But much to the cast and crew's surprise, the fall production elicited laughter and appreciation from audiences.

The show included "Aria da Capo," by Edna St. Vincent Millay from 1920; "Marriage Proposal," by Anton Chekhov from 1888; and choral excerpts from "Bacchae," by Euripides, first produced in 406 B.C. Under the overall title "Torn Asunder," it tied themes of neighborly and familial love, according to Senior Sarah Geis, costumes mistress and coassistant director with Senior Judith Disterhoft.

Selling out the Friday night performance, two-thirds of the tickets Thursday and three-fourths of the tickets Saturday, "Torn Asunder" was popular among playgoers. Although some U-Highers involved in theater expressed skepticism about how a U-High audience would respond to a show that incorporated Greek tragedy, a genre of theater not often performed at U-High, most were pleased with the outcome.

"The audience received the show better than was expected," said Senior Sarah Schlessinger, technical director, set mistress and stage manager. "I was afraid that they wouldn't understand 'Bacchae' and then immediately conclude a negative response to the show as a whole. But the audience pulled out the high energy from the show, which was the best part, and added their own energy to the cast and crew through their reactions."

According to the actors and actresses, people who did attend seemed to enjoy the variety "Torn Asunder" provided. "I think audiences in general come to a theater performance with the expectation of being either very amused or very touched," said Senior Lauren Wolf, who played Natalia, the stubborn daughter of an aristocrat who is being proposed to in "Marriage Proposal" and

makeup mistress. "Our audience didn't know what to expect because the title didn't give anything away and the shows weren't very well-known but we gave them a little of both."

Cast and crew members attributed the empty seats to a selection of plays not well-known among U-Highers, the mysterious title and late publicity and ticket sales.

But they felt ticket sales did not detract from the quality of the production, which was generously praised by those who saw it.

"The show was excellently done and well-received," Sarah said. "It was a difficult show for audiences to understand, especially because all three plays individually were so different and each play, particularly 'Bacchae,' required audience members to remain absolutely attentive in order to understand the concepts."

"But the wonderful choreography, movement, body and vocal expression of 'Bacchae' really helped people understand it. Overall, the show was definitely a success."

## Blast to the Past!

at Ed Debevic's, a '50s diner.



GETTING READY to enjoy a tasty meal at Ed's, Bobby Stokes, Cyrus Dowlatshahi and Ameer Saleh admire the unique decor.

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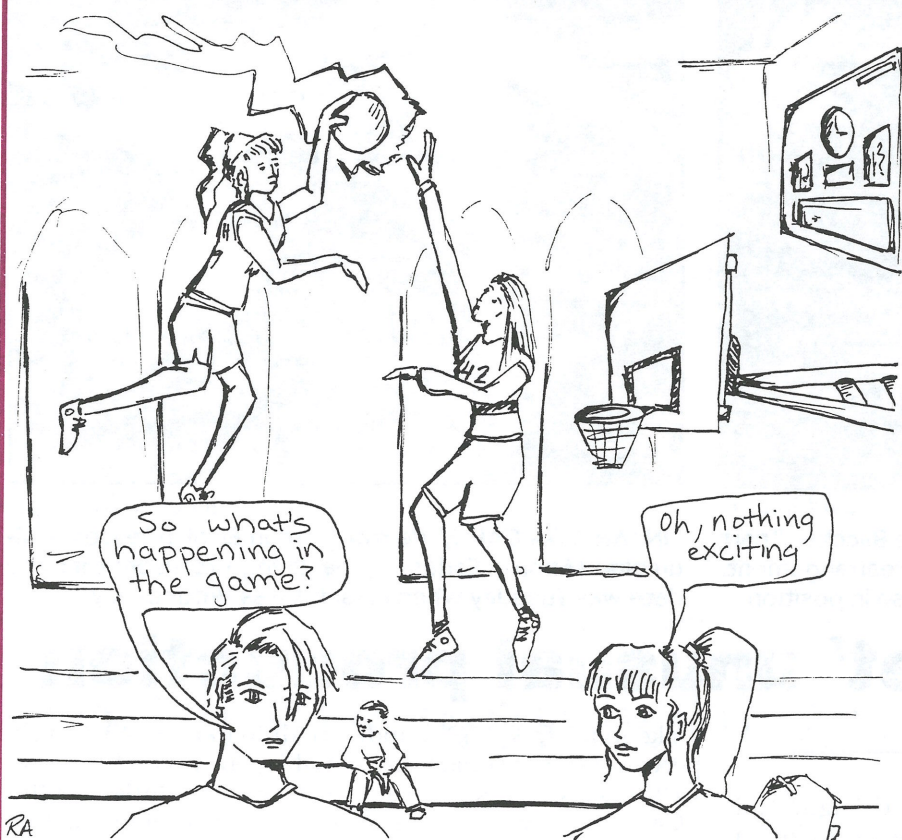
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## AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT



## Get in the game

Art by Ralph Ahn

As the boys' varsity basketball season began yesterday another part of U-High's social life got underway as well.

Going to boys' basketball games last year proved as much a social event as a sporting event for U-Highers. It provided a chance to meet friends, to see and be seen. Judging by the number of people constantly leaving and re-entering the gym during games, the score wasn't the only attraction.

On the other hand, girls' varsity games haven't been the social events that the boys' games have been.

Some players and fans say that's because the boys' team was headed for a championship showdown. Others say that's because the boys have long-held rivalries with

schools such as Latin and Parker. Still others say that's because the guys play a more exciting style of game.

At girls' basketball games stands are filled mostly with cheering parents and teachers.

But that inequity can be changed.

As the girls' basketball season opens with its first home game Dec. 4, U-Highers might want to consider adding another set of social engagements to their calendars. They'll get the chance to support a team of energetic and hard-working athletes and promote school spirit at the same time. Even more, the girls would appreciate U-Highers' support.

And who could resist another chance to chill with their friends?

## Let us give thanks

With fall quarter in full swing, the workload is getting more stressful. But with Thanksgiving approaching, there are things we can all be thankful for:

□ The Volkswagen Jetta commercial. □ Getting candy from the counselors' offices. □ Talking to Mr. Presley about a problem. □ Finally getting your waiver from CVS. □ "Fight Club." □ The Chicago White Sox. □ The girls' tennis team. □ The faithful faculty. □ Mr. Farver's French class. □ Ninety-nine cent, two-liter bottles of R.C. Cola. □ Mrs.

McCullagh's candy guess. □ Peoria. □ The Terrordome. □ A nice, hot shower. □ Whenever B96 plays a new song. □ Sober drivers. □ Finishing a college application. □ Not getting caught kissing in the hallway. □ Pearl necklaces. □ Mr. Derbes. □ Water balloon fights. □ Watching cartoons on Saturday mornings. □ The crackdown on hazing. □ Non-North Face backpacks. □ Mashed potatoes, gravy, apple pie, cranberry sauce, Stove Top stuffing and, of course, turkey!

## Really sublime

### Awesome anthology impresses

SUBLIME IS REALLY the only non-rap group I can think of whose members can actually sport black hats that say "Compton" on them.

That's because this group of white dudes is actually from the same part of Los Angeles as the late rap star, Eazy-E.

"Second Hand Smoke," released in 1997, is a compilation of Sublime tracks from since the band was first discovered at a college party in 1988.

Their music, a mixture between punk-rock, funk and reggae definitely reflects these surroundings. Sublime's hilarious lyrics and use of turntables is unmatched by all except, perhaps, the Beastie Boys.

Since Sublime went from playing on college campuses to appearing at video music awards, some of their music, recorded on cheap recording equipment in the early '90s, is not of the great "digital" quality 12 year-old girls who listen to Backstreet Boys are used to.

But the songs themselves are a lot better. "Chick On My Tip," one of the older songs recorded on crap equipment, still manages to get the listener fired up with its reggae beat and jocular lyrical subject.

Although this album is a compilation, it's not a "greatest hits" C.D.; it contains older songs, never-released songs and lots of remixes.

One Sublime track whose remix appears on this C.D. is "April 29, 1992," originally released on the self-titled Sublime album.

The song is about the L.A. riots of 1992 that resulted from the Rodney King beating. They sing about all of the stores they looted and all the music equipment and liquor they pillaged. They also use the actual police radio chatter that was recorded during the rioting and mix it into a beat. Now don't get me wrong; I'm not promoting rioting or looting in any way here.



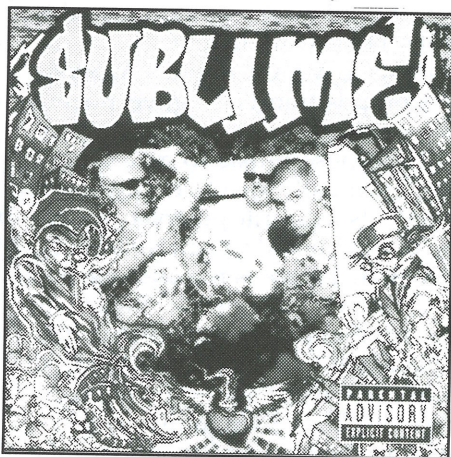
### Music

Cyrus Dowlatshahi

I'm totally against both of those things. In fact, if there was a riot in downtown Chicago and people were looting the Sony store, I wouldn't take a single blank cassette. But this song is still funny.

In fact, just about everything about these guys is funny. They have a Dalmatian, Loudog, who's always chillin' with them. The fact that they're actually from the hood earns them respect from rappers, such as KRS-One, who will occasionally make guest appearances on their remix tracks.

They're white dudes who play guitars, sing and are now famous rock stars, yet still drink cheap beer. "Second Hand Smoke" is a great buy for anybody who already has the self-titled Sublime album and wants to get another one of their C.D.s that is just as good and has a wider variety of music.



THE GANGSTERS, Surfers and Rastas all love 'em. Sublime's "Second Hand Smoke" comes through on all levels.

## Relax already!

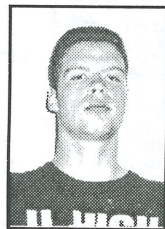
### We all really can go to college

HEADING INTO THANKSGIVING this year the only thing that I really notice among my senior classmates is the stress that's building up for them. They worry about the grades they will receive this quarter, their college applications and the effect that all of this will have on the rest of their lives.

I would like to take the time to tell everyone to just relax for a minute and put everything back into perspective.

I had a talk with College Counselor Lisa Montgomery earlier this year and she assured me that everyone will get into college if they want to. Don't worry, that is all U-High really wants to do with you anyway.

So, then, it comes down to whether or not you get into Harvard and how your life will end if you don't. To those individuals I ask, is there only one place



### Opinion

Bobby Stokes

that they will be happy at? The answer is probably no, because there are thousands of colleges out there, and everyone can find at least one to suit them just fine.

If everyone takes a careful look at their college list they would realize that they would probably be happy at the majority of the places they are applying to, if they researched their decision well.

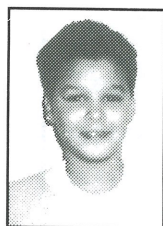
As everyone freaks out about college they should instead be happy that they go to the college factory that is U-High.

Not only does our school try to make sure you go to college, but it tries to get you into the best college that you are capable of because it is that much better for the school to put on its resume.

Chill and just do your best without stressing because this quarter means little compared to the rest of your earlier high school career or the rest of your life for that matter.

This is 12 weeks of your life that will be over soon enough. So maybe you should just relax and make the most of the advantages that you have now.

## YOUR SAY IN THE MIDWAY



Kyle

What is your favorite food on Thanksgiving?

**KYLE GARDNER, freshman:** I like to eat turkey, especially when it's tender and juicy because then it melts in my mouth and tastes so yummy.

**BETSY KALVEN, sophomore:** I don't really like Thanksgiving as a whole that much, but I do love to eat the mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce.

**JOSH MUSIKANTOW, junior:** On Thanksgiving I really enjoy going to McDonald's and ordering a few Cheddar Melts and a nine piece chicken nuggets. I really also like to get a large Coke and fries with that.

**HAVILAND RUMMEL, senior:** Pumpkin pie is my favorite dessert so when Thanksgiving rolls around I throw down and eat a few pies.



Betsy



Josh

Haviland

## U-HIGH MIDWAY

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BUSINESS AND ADVERTISING MANAGER  
Cyrus Dowlatshahi





"My favorite food to eat on Thanksgiving is gravy, baby. You can put it on everything. Everything."

—Senior Ian Kysel

# Winter Gear

## Keep stylish, warm

ALTHOUGH KEEPING WARM in Chicago requires wearing hats and scarves, some U-Highers choose image over warmth. But winter clothing doesn't have to be bulky and unflattering.

Materials such as knits, wools, cashmere, fleece, angora, leather and mohair brighten and create texture for this year's winter accessories. Baby blue, classic gray, white, orange, fuchsia, go-with-everything black and red colors bring attention and contrast to outfits.

Perhaps unsure of "in" styles, U-Highers often are uncomfortable or self-conscious choosing hats, gloves and scarves. Finding a hat that expresses personal style but is comfortable and flattering at the same time can be trying.

But small details are important to completing an outfit, so here are some tips to being fashionable for the winter season and also reflect personal taste.

With this winter's simple or funky styles for head gear, hats have become



## Fashion

Natalie Hoy

more flattering to face structure. Transforming into tight styles that fit the head snugly, hats keep out freezing winds. My favorite hats are floppy and brimmed in angora or mohair. Becoming more comfortable and stylish cute hat designs such as the "pom pon" hat with little fuzzy balls on top, tassels, or strings that tie around your neck are seen in Vogue and In Style magazines and Gap and J. Crew stores.

Bulky and brightly colored, scarves this winter add a new element of texture to an everyday scarf by giving more style to a simple warming piece. Great accenting pieces, textured scarves with black leather coats or still fashionable pea coats create a stylish look for this winter.

Practical for winter weather and keeping hands from freezing during snowball fights winter pieces like gloves are essential. Sleek and form fitting, leather or suede gloves can be worn with anything, creating a chic, sophisticated look. An even warmer and more comfortable style and a "must have" on my winter accessory list are glove-mittens, gloves with mittens over them to insulate hands as much as possible while looking stylish in leather or cashmere.

With warm, practical and flattering designs, winter accessories can be worn in comfort and brighten up dull colors. Trendy styles become simple but different, so items such as hats and scarves can be worn to personal taste, allowing U-Highers to fully accessorize and gear up as they please for the winter season.

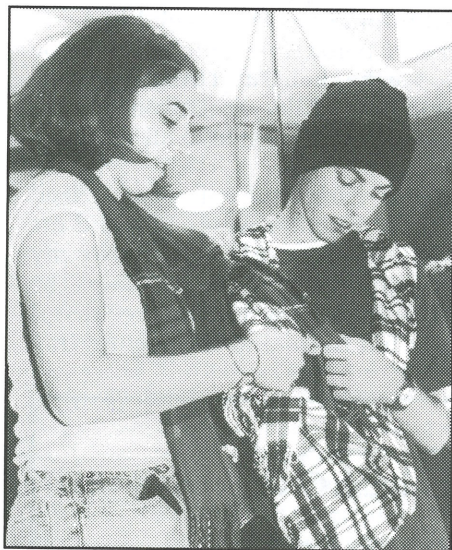


Photo by M.C. Oxtoby

**SEARCHING FOR the perfect addition to their winter wardrobes, Sarah Arkin and David Bluestone try on accessories at Cohn and Stern, 1500 E. 50th St.**

## Write us!

Providing a marketplace of ideas is one of the Midway's most valuable roles in the school community. In letters to the Midway any student, faculty member, administrator, parent or friend of the school can express an opinion for all to see. With all the discussion-worthy issues this school year the Midway

is eager and willing to provide a voice in print. We welcome your letters in the Journalism mail slot in the High School office.

# Tasty ethnic eats

SITTING DOWN TO lunch in the simple but elegant decor of Reza's Restaurant at 432 W. Ontario St., I knew from past visits that my boy Bobby and I had chosen the right restaurant.

Joined by Senior George Yamauchi-Wied and the Dowlatshahi boys, Senior Cyrus and Junior Kian, we were all ready to get on some of the establishment's famous Persian food.

Growing up eating food similar to Reza's cuisine, Cyrus, Kian and I decided to start things off right with some Kashkeh Bodemjan (a medley of eggplant, curds and whey with a hint of garlic and mint, \$3.50) and some Maust Museer (creamy yogurt, flavored with dill and shallots, \$3.95) both served with homemade hot pita bread.

Picking from the 43 enticing entrees, our entourage ordered some Kabob Koubideh (two juicy strips of seasoned ground beef, \$8.50),

Kabob Sultani (a combo of seasoned ground beef and steak kabob, \$10.50), Quail (three extra-tender and juicy grilled quails, \$9.95), turkey breast kabob (a skewer of boneless skinless chunks of juicy turkey breast, \$8.95) and one Koubideh combo (one beef kabob and one chicken kabob, \$9.95), each served with our choice of Persian white or dill rice.

While waiting for our food, we watched the Chicago Bears beat the Green Bay Packers on several T.V.s located throughout the large restaurant.

We devoured the Persian delicacies to the best of our ability but the portions were so large even Bobby was struggling on handling the situation.

Getting up to leave, our group took notice of Reza's luscious dessert tray and we all agreed that a return visit would be necessary to taste their gorgeous raspberry cheesecake and German chocolate cake.

With some tight food that will make you say uhhhhhhh, Bobby and I agree that although Reza's is not dirt cheap, it is definitely worth every cent. Paying our respects to the now unused brewery which is proudly displayed behind the bar as we departed, Bobby and I agree that Reza's is definitely no limit.



ON THE seventh-and-a-half floor of their office building, partners Maxine (Catherine Keener) and Craig (John Cusack) exploit actor John Malkovich.

# Being inventive

## Strong debut survives weak performances

DEBUT DIRECTOR SPIKE Jonze has definitely made a big impression on audiences and critics with the strange but star-studded "Being John Malkovich."

When street puppeteer Craig Schwartz (a greasy John Cusack) and his wife Lotte (an unglamorous Cameron Diaz) run into financial difficulties, Craig is forced to get a job. Hired as a filing clerk, Craig meets Maxine (Catherine Keener), a tantalizing maneater whom he becomes infatuated with.

When Craig discovers a portal behind a file cabinet that miraculously leads him into actor John Malkovich's head, the Charlie Kaufman screenplay becomes even more strange. Using her influence over Craig, Maxine convinces him to exploit his discovery by charging desperate social rejects \$200 for 15 minutes as Malkovich.

A bizarre love triangle results when Lotte meets Maxine and shares Craig's adoration for her. Through Malkovich's body, the three engage in sex and fame.

The premise of this movie is as inventive as it is strange. The concept of living life vicariously through someone else becomes an intriguing reality, which is interesting and entertaining to watch.

Although the script is brilliant, the performances don't do it justice.

Portraying Craig, Cusack fails to evoke sympathy from the audience or other characters in the film, which makes him pathetic rather than lovable.



## Film

Judith Disterhoft

Despite his reputation for stellar performances, Cusack disappoints and is bland and boring in this role.

Malkovich does nothing for the film, adds no new and exciting moments or elements but instead plays himself unconvincingly and shallowly. Although he obviously understands the character, there is no communication of that in the film. Instead Malkovich comes off as superficial and uninteresting, when there is real potential for a sharp, finely crafted character.

Both Diaz and Keener blend together in their roles as timid wife and manipulative seductress. Their infatuation with each other makes them as giddy as school girls but there is nothing unique about either character. Their interpretations of two vastly different women seems the same, which makes the purpose of Lotte and Maxine pointless in the scheme of the film.

Although the film has great potential, "Being John Malkovich" would have been more effective with a different cast.

"Being John Malkovich" is Rated R for language and sexual content.

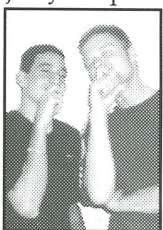


Photo by Dan Hoffman

CHICAGO'S HISTORIC BERGHOFF Brewery on Ontario west of the Loop has been remodeled into the dramatic Reza's, an airy and elegant yet decidedly comfortable Windy City favorite serving Persian delicacies at surprisingly reasonable prices. This photo was taken early Sunday afternoon when the customers were just beginning to show; an hour later the place was packed.

## Dining

Ameer Saleh and Bobby Stokes







"The mural turned out much better than I thought. Sometimes, I go in the room and kind of pat myself on the back."

—Senior Haejin Lee

## History Mural

(continued from front page)

to make sure it was stuff they would do on their own, that involved them."

Continuing the mural project in 1998, Mr. Janus' new idea was a wall mural featuring famous paintings from different artistic periods. Then junior, now senior, Haejin Lee volunteered for the job.

"The first picture I painted was form the cubism period," she said. "Because it didn't involve any complicated shading. After that came out well, I got a little more confident and I thought, 'maybe I can do this.'"

After starting research on art history to find facts and sample paintings to include, Haejin began painting at the end of first quarter last year.

"Mr. Janus gave me the basic idea that I was supposed to copy great works of

art from different periods," Haejin said. "I wasn't sure what I was going to do exactly but once I did some research, I became really interested in the evolution of the nude figure in art.

"I obviously couldn't do all nudes, though, so I only included them where they fit the period really well."

Finishing the mural at 5 a.m. on the first day of school this year, Haejin had created a full timeline of a chronology of art periods going from Medieval to today's Pop Art.

"The mural turned out much better than I thought," Haejin said. "Sometimes, I go in the room and kind of pat myself on the back for getting through this without giving up.

"Even though it was sometimes tedious, I feel empty now that I don't have this to do anymore."

## Sher

(continued from front page)

What we should be thinking about is where we want to be 10 years from now and when we determine that, how to get there. We should be looking at our weaknesses. We should look around the country at other independent schools and see if there are things they do that we should be doing here. But I don't have a predetermined notion or preconception of what we should be doing. I'm not suggesting there are problems but it seems no matter how great a school is it can always be better.

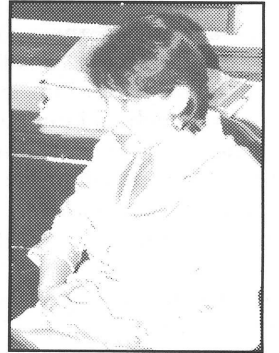
**Q** What makes this position worthwhile for you?

**A** I love actually being at the school because when I go

there, when I'm walking in the halls, I can sense the engagement and excitement on the part of the students. There's something very energizing about that.

I'm reminded of that by seeing the students. The students are so diverse in all kinds of ways—in interests, what they're good at, all kinds of things.

But the common thread is their excitement and enjoyment in what's going on at the schools. It's infectious.



## And there was light where there had been none

By Joe Fischel

Associate editor

After mixing chemicals and getting ready for her float period class, Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts thought Monday, Oct. 25 would be a normal day in the darkroom. She was wrong.

As her students discovered when they turned the lights off, sunshine came beaming in. Skylights had been installed in the darkroom.

"I couldn't believe it when my students came out to tell me," Ms. Ricketts said. "No one consulted me about putting skylights in. The darkroom was unusable."

While fixing the roof of Belfield Hall Saturday, Oct. 23, University Facilities workers had installed two new skylights above the darkroom.

"They thought they were replacing old skylights

that had been darkened," Facilities Director Tony Wilson explained. "You cannot blame them; they were just doing their job, fixing the roof of Belfield. I was not even told that the work was being done. This was a University Facilities Department driven job."

After discovering the new addition to the darkroom, Ms. Ricketts contacted Mr. Wilson to have the skylights covered so photography classes could use the space.

"First they wanted to use spray paint to block the light," Ms. Ricketts said. "They did not believe me when I said spray paint would not work. They sprayed anyway and sure enough the sun still came through."

"Next they put tar over the brand new skylights and that did not work either. So the next day they came and bolted drywall to the bottoms of the skylights."

At first Ms. Ricketts says she was upset by the construction but because of students' good-natured reactions soon found humor in the snafu.

"Word about the skylights spread like wildfire," Ms. Ricketts said. "All throughout that week I had students I had never seen before in my life knocking on my door asking to see the skylights. I think everyone enjoyed the joke and how adults can really mess up."

There was, however, a serious side to all that happened, she pointed out.

"I had just paid \$400 to have the enlargers cleaned and they junked up four under where they did the construction," Ms. Ricketts explained. "Also, my classes could not use the darkroom for two days. The first day I just dismissed my classes because I was figuring out what to do and the second day I showed slides."

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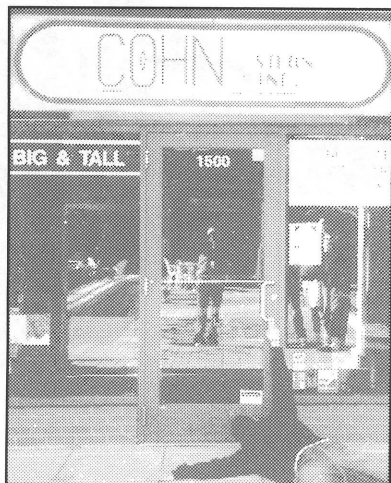


## Adam Decided to Get in Style



*Seeking to expand his wardrobe with stylish new shirts, pants and jackets, Senior Adam Zachary could not wait another minute. He bolted to Cohn & Stern like an Olympic hurdler.*

*And what did he find inside after arriving at Hyde Park's premiere Store for Men? Well, you'll have to come over yourself and take a look. (Bolting not required.)*



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## A Little Medici History...



When he first moved the Medici to its current location, owner Hans Morsbach was upset with what he felt was unfair treatment from some community members and University of Chicago officials. He said that they had tried to prevent him from moving from its old location at 57th near Blackstone to 57th near Kenwood. There even was a petition circulated throughout the neighborhood, signed by many U. of C. faculty members, expressing concern about the Medici. Still, the Medici could not be stopped; it did move into its new home at 1327 57th St. and became even more of a legendary neighborhood gathering place for great food and conversation. As a way of dealing with his pent-up frustrations, Mr. Morsbach hired a longtime Medici patron to create two sculptures, which are displayed above the doorway. One of the figures, the bishop, was sculpted to resemble Mr. Morsbach. The other figure, the gargoyle, was made to resemble former U. of C. President Hanna Gray.



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"The reason that our expectations are so high is that we have everything a championship team needs."  
—Senior David Wilson

## Now the ball's in PRESLEY'S COURT

■ Coach's faith in team will keynote high-profile season

By Mike Lamb

Sports editor

After finally obtaining the boys' varsity coaching position, Ron Presley strongly believes that his team has what it takes to get to the top. Counting on his captains, Mr. Presley believes his 13-man squad can capture the Independent School

League championship the second consecutive year.

whether it be an ISL championship, advancing in Regionals or even going Downstate, which I think we can definitely do. I have confidence in this team, but most importantly in this group of young men."

The Maroons say they are counting on Mr. Presley, too.

"Mr. Presley is such a good motivator that we'll never be down for a game," said Junior Ayinde Bennett, who Presley coached on j.v.. "I respect him as a coach, but more importantly as a person. He can definitely get on you sometimes, but he always means well, so I have confidence that he can lead us to the top."

The team certainly has confidence in themselves as well, as they see the perfect makeup of a championship-caliber squad.

Conditioning 6:45-7:45 every morning a month before practice started Nov. 8, the players also have been lifting weights after school and shooting the rock at area gyms.

"The reason that our expectations are so high is that we have everything a championship team needs," explained Senior David Wilson, returning starter. "Our confidence is unshakable. If you knock us down, we'll get back up, hungry to win."

With the Mather Thanksgiving Tournament starting yesterday and continuing through this week and a 6 p.m. home matchup Dec. 4 against St. Gregory, it will be interesting to see if Mr. Presley is as emotional in his new, more

### TALL TALES

Aaron Scott	Guard	5'8"
David Wilson	Guard	5'11"
Charles Simmons	Center	6'5"
Bobby Stokes	Forward	6'3"
David Straus	Forward	6'2"

"This is the guys' year and it's their team, not mine, so I'm going to build on what they accomplished last year and just add my abilities into the mix," he explained. "We talked and they told me they want me to be the same guy as before and to not back down."

Four starters and three key bench players are returning from last year's undefeated season under former coach Craig Robinson last year.

"I'm not worried about what other people might think or say, that's their opinion," he said. "If they want to confront me if we don't go undefeated, fine, but they have to realize that it takes a lot of luck to win out. The conference has improved so much since last year, from Parker and Latin, to Elgin and Lake Forest.

"All I'm concentrated on doing is helping this team get as far as we can,

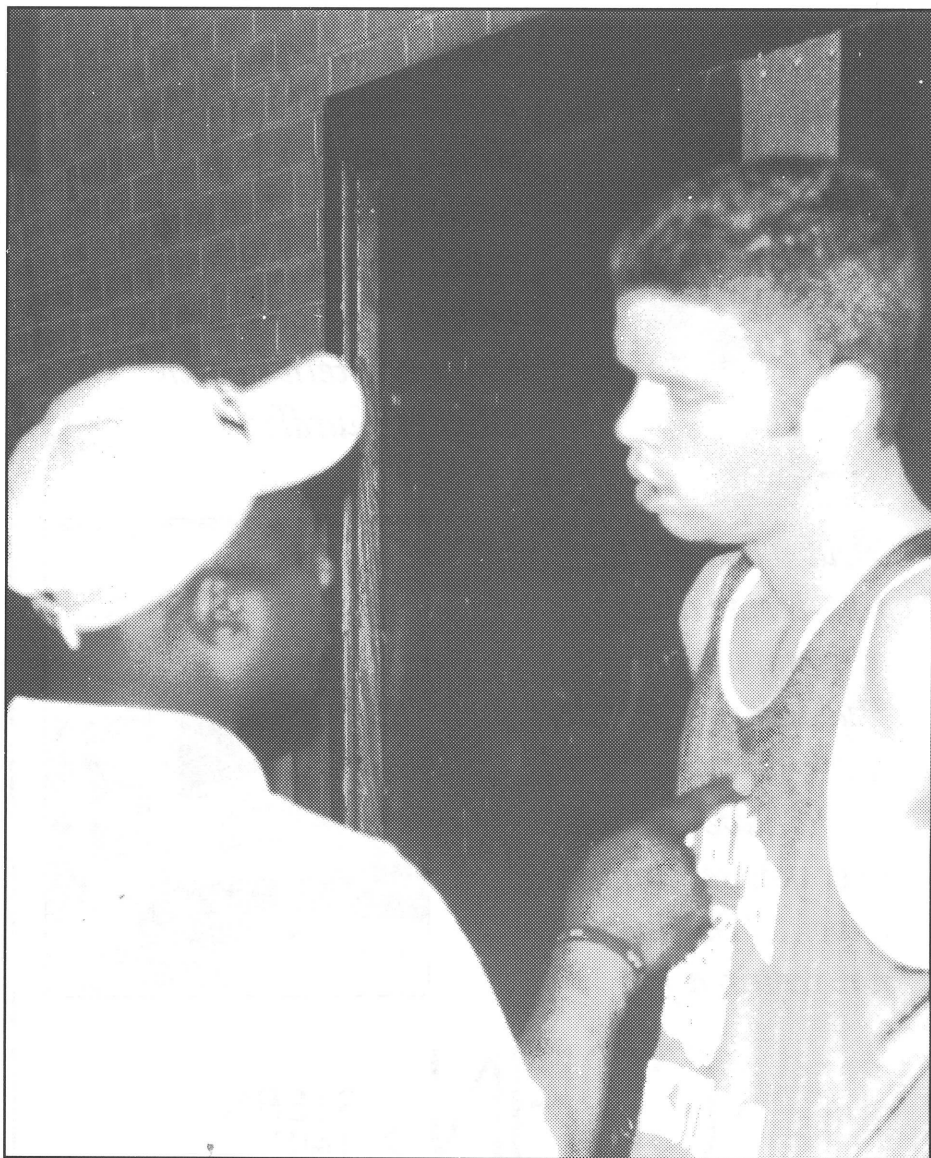
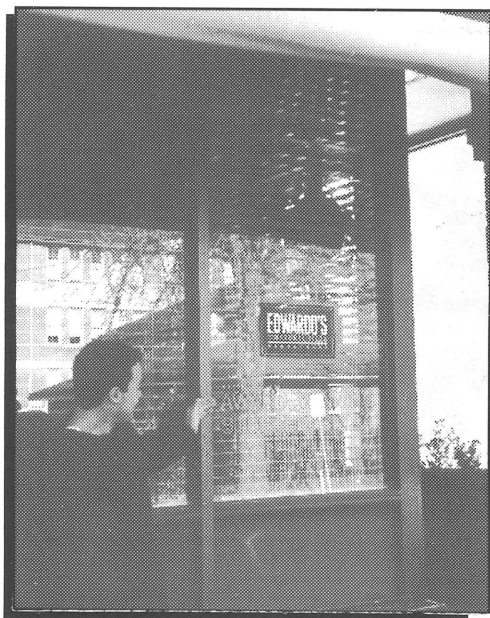


Photo by Dan Hoffman

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH RON PRESLEY  
with starting power forward Bobby Stokes

visible position as he's been before. "Am I the same guy? Of course," he said. "Will I be the same on the court? You'll just have to come out and see."

## Get Stuffed!



IT'S THE SIGN of great pizza and pasta in Chicago...Edwardo's... says Senior Adam Zachary.

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## Cross County Champs

### Amazing Anna Bloom

Way back in freshman year, Anna Bloom thought she wasn't good enough for cross country. So she quit. Now that she's a senior and All-State runner after a 12th-place finish Nov. 6 with 15:22, Anna can look back and thank those who brought her back.

"After running track freshman year, I learned how fun it could be," the three-time State qualifier said. "I owe a lot to the people on the team and our cross country coach, Bud James."

She decided to try her hand at cross country again, so she went out and won in Regionals. Another State appearance as a junior prepared her for an All-State bid.

Anna ran strong throughout this season, winning six meets, including a five-meet winning streak, all the while spurred by words of advice from her coach.

"Mr. James knows exactly what to say and when to say it," Anna said. "State had never been very good for me, but I decided that I had nothing to lose because it was my last year. All the hard work came together at the end and I ran a personal record to finish my career."



Photo by Claire Stewart  
ANNA BLOOM

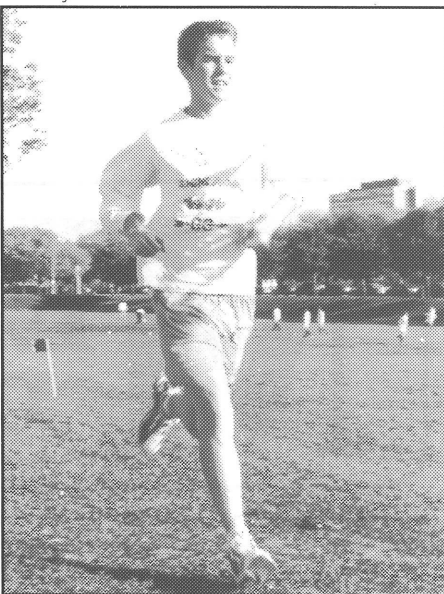


Photo by M.C. Oxtoby  
SANDY CRAIG

### Super Sandy Craig

Though placing 70th in his second trip to Cross Country State Championship Nov. 6, Senior Sandy Craig says, "I certainly have no regrets about cross country. I look back with fondness on my years here because of the people involved with cross country. It was a great opportunity for me to be around a great group of guys and girls."

A team mainstay throughout his four years, Sandy made it through to Sectionals every year. He is also a three-time ISL Conference champion and Athlete of the Year.

His 12 meet victories culminated with a personal record in this year's Regionals. His 15:44 gave him a 3rd-place finish as he headed into Sectionals, where he finished 10th.

"I wish I could have come through better when State rolled around, but I just didn't feel like I had it that day," Sandy said. "I had put in the time and run the right pace leading up to the meet, but it's all about how you feel that day."



"People should come watch us play not just because they are coerced to, but because we're a good team."  
—Junior Annie Padrid



# Games worth getting into

Girl cagers say they serve up their own brand of action worthy of a crowded gym

By Ameer Saleh  
Associate Editor

With the varsity Madonna and j.v. Trinity tournaments ending this Friday and Saturday respectively, girls' basketball players hope to expand their fan base as the regular season rolls around.

Competing for fan support with the boys' basketball teams, the girls are hoping to gain more support than last year. Often the only fans present were parents and friends of players, though the games were exciting and the folks in the bleachers made plenty of noise.

Believing that her team has much potential, Varsity Coach Joyce Stiles hopes the teams' success will bring more fans this year.

"I think the girls may be contenders for the ISL title this year," she said. "Because of that, they deserve to get as much support as the boys get."

With more time this year to practice in Sunny Gym as part of a move to make boys' and girls' practice opportunities more equitable, the girls predict they will work together better.

"As a result of the change in the practice schedules, the girls' team will be given more time in the gym to hone our skills," said Varsity Guard Katie Shapiro, junior.

"I think both the j.v. and varsity teams this year are going to be very good and, hopefully, people will notice that we are very motivated and energetic."

Other team members agree the future looms bright for the girls and with more action on the floor they will begin attracting more fans to their games.

"As the U-High girls' varsity team, we are talented individually and we work well together as a team," said Varsity Forward Tiffany Northrop, junior.

"I believe that we are also competitors for the League title this year due to our cohesiveness, and once people see that, they'll start coming to see good games."

Playing at home for the first time



GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL COACH JOYCE STILES with guard Katie Shapiro

Photo by Satya Bhabha

against Holy Trinity noon, Saturday Dec. 4, the girls express hope they will start their season with much more support than in recent years.

"People should come watch us play not just because they are coerced to, but because we're a good team," said Varsity Guard Annie Padrid, junior.

"We work well together, we play well and hopefully we are going to win a lot of games this season."

(Also see editorial in centerspread.)

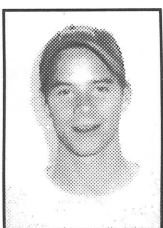
## Voices of Experience

Returning swimmers forecast splashy success



"I'm extremely excited about the upcoming season. We've been rebuilding for the last two years and we're finally ready for a successful year. Our experience really comes into play in the close meets, which we will now be able to win."

—Senior Josh Jackson, captain



"I'm stoked for the season to start. We've got great potential to be an excellent team. The past two years our team has been relatively young. This year, however, our team is made up of mostly veterans who know the ropes."

—Senior Chris Oakes, captain



"This season should be great. We are returning the majority of our key swimmers. I'm looking for us to break a few records, especially in the 500 freestyle. Our freestyle relay team should be excellent as well."

—Senior Michael Strong, captain



"We have a bunch of good swimmers this year and some good freshmen as well. I'm looking forward to our meets with Latin, because that's as close as it gets to a rivalry for us. Our main advantage is that the swim team is closer than other teams."

—Sophomore Dan Hoffman



"The team has been growing together for the past two years and we're getting some good freshmen. This year we've got tons of experience, which will no doubt turn our close meets from last year into wins this year. People have also been working hard in the off season."

—Junior Robert Cantwell



"I'm personally looking forward to one of my best years. Hopefully, I'll be able to break the varsity record for the 500 freestyle after I got the j.v. record last year. As a team, I think we'll be able to really build on our six wins from last year."

—Junior Joe Sellers

## Sports Briefs

■ **SWIM FINALE**— Wrapping up their season with a 10th place finish at Sectionals, Nov. 13 at Morton, girl swimmers tallied numerous personal records during the season. In season finales, the U-Highers finished 3rd of 3 Oct. 29 at Riverside-Brookfield and lost 68-107 Nov. 2 at Evergreen Park.

■ **TO THE FINISH**— At State Cross Country Nov. 6 in Peoria, Senior Anna Bloom placed 12th among girls and received All State Honors, Freshman Becky Levine ended 30th. Senior Sandy Craig ended 70th among boys.

They had qualified in Sectionals Sept. 30. Profiles of Anna and Sandy appear on page 8.

■ **AND THE WINNERS WERE**— Coaches Award winners were revealed at last Wednesday's Fall Sports Banquet. The honor recognizes excellence in athletics and outstanding contributions to the team.

By sport, recipients were as follows:

Boys' soccer, Senior Chris Oakes; cross country, Seniors Sandy Craig and Anna Bloom; girls' volleyball, Senior Tai Duncan; girls' tennis, Sophomore Emma Barber; and girls' swimming, Senior Lillian Kass.

Other honors announced at the banquet were as follows:

ISL Cross Country Athletes of the Year: Anna Bloom and Sandy Craig.

ISL Cross Country All-Conference Honors: Anna Bloom, Sandy Craig, Liz Muller, Becky Levine.

ISL Boys' Soccer All-Conference Honors: Reid Tokarz, David Wilson, John Oxtoby, Chris Oakes.

ISL Volleyball All-Conference Honors: Tai Duncan, Jamie Tyler.

ISL Girls' Tennis Conference Honors: Lisa Jacobson, Jenny Heydemann, Mara Ravitz, Emma Barber, Katie Bolanowski, Claire Stewart.

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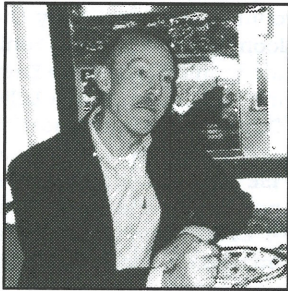
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# One Day, Two Teachers Sat Down For Lunch...

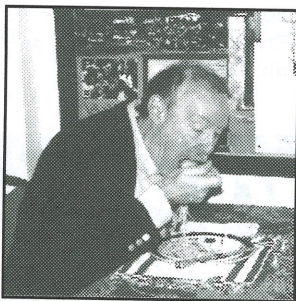


*Counselor Robert Bachand and Phys Ed Teacher Ron Presley were conversing about their lunches.*

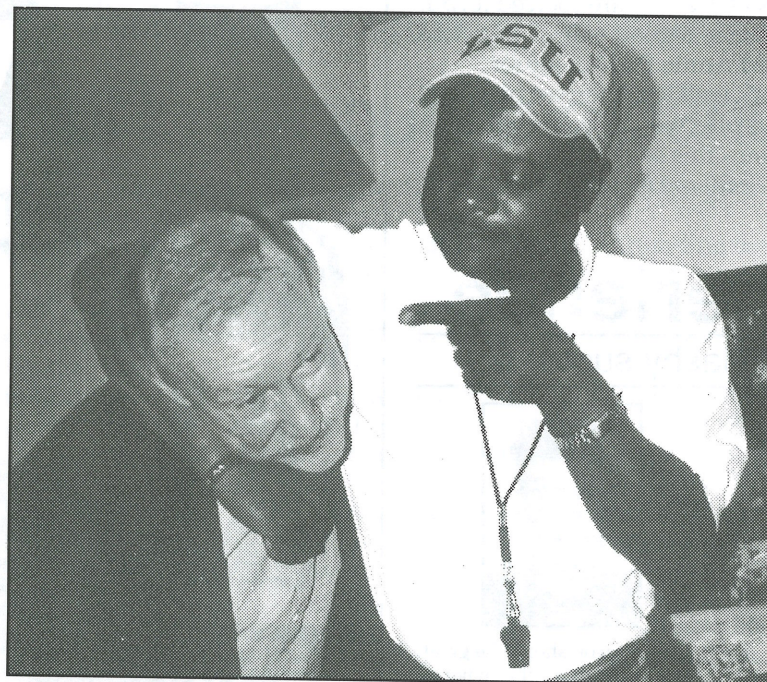


"I'm having a genuine French meal that was flown in today from Paris," Mr. Bachand said, admiring himself. "It consists of *Fruits de la Mer* noodles and pasta made of herbs unique to central France. It is simply the best food in the world!"

"Well," Mr. Presley replied, "my U.M. sub only cost five bucks, I only had to walk down the street to get it, and it STILL tastes better than that French stuff. My lunch is the best in the world."



Mr. Bachand laughed out loud. "Ron. My food is from FRANCE! How can a simple sandwich from a local deli be better? That's right. It can't be. My food is better than yours."



No. U.M. subs taste better.

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