New Year revels will reign despite Y2K wariness

By Abigail Newman
Midway reporter

F rom Greece to Quebec, from a farm in far northwest suburban Woodstock to a basement in south suburb South Holland, U-Highers are journeying across the globe as well as staying close to home to celebrate the coming of the new millennium.

Fleeting U-High's flights of stairs, liberated from the library, some U-Highers have chosen to disregard public speculation about the dangers of traveling close to January 1, 2000. For those interested in vacating the district during the Millennial New Year's, many cities are offering enchanting events.

Light displays will punctuate Millennial celebrations in London and Paris and monuments such as the Millennium Park on Michigan Avenue are being constructed in Chicago.

But the excitement is tempered by concerns about computers failing to deal with numbers beginning with 20 rather than 19 and how such problems might impact daily life, for example, by causing food shortages.

Many students and teachers say they are not concerned about Y2K, and instead are focusing on preparations for celebrations.

Expecting about a hundred friends and family members, Senior David Scheinfeld's family is throwing a party at their farm in Woodstock.

"The theme of the party is 'A Safe Haven From The Craziness That's Expected To Explode In The City,'" David said. "We're going to have a D.J. and some live music."

"It's going to be potluck and it will start around 1 p.m. on Dec. 31, and then guests will probably stay until noon on New Year's Day. We're going to use the house and barn and maybe rent a tent. There's no way that we have enough room for everyone to sleep, so we'll expect everyone to stay up."

Visiting Greece and Crete with his parents and three sisters Dec. 23-Jan. 3, Senior David Strauss says he is not concerned about traveling so close to New Year's.

"We decided to go before there was much talk about it," he said. "My father told our family we could find one place anywhere in the world to go for the millennium. We decided to go to Greece because no one in the family has been there before. We don't have very much planned. We'll probably go out, do a little sightseeing, and chill."

Traveling to northern Quebec in French-speaking Canada, Freshman Cynthia Waldmeirer anticipates a quiet New Year's Eve, the same as every other year, in her grandparents' cabin.

"I'm going to be watching T.V. while my mother, sister, and grandparents are sleeping," Cynthia said. "On New Year's Day, my grandfather gives us glasses of champagne to celebrate. My twin isn't getting old enough to cause her's worried about extremist groups and riots."

Risks of computer breakdowns are taken seriously, by among others, Senior Tokoyo Williams and her mother.

They plan to celebrate the New Year together in the basement of their house in South Holland.

"My room has a food stash: Cookies, Kool-Aide, cereal, applesauce and water," Tokoyo explained. "She bought one of those T.V. radios just in case. Our basement has a phone and a bedroom but the computer is upstairs. Our computer is my main concern. We plan to stay downstairs for about 10 minutes into the new year because we'll be safer in the basement."

Similar precautions will be taken by Guidance Counselor Ron Tunis.

"Life will go on as usual with a few minor glitches," said Mr. Tunis, who plans to spend New Year's in church and expressing thanks at home with his wife, son and daughter. "I plan to buy (continued on back page)
"In the small group I was in, everyone was fairly optimistic. There were two Board members and three or four teachers, so it reflected the points of view of at least two constituencies."

-Counselor Bob Bachand

Second mediated discussion tackles faculty discontent

By Arielle Levin Becker
Editor-in-Chief

Following two mediated meetings with administrators and Lab Schools Board members, faculty members say they look forward to easing tensions with Board members and administrators through more facilitated discussions.

Faculty members, administrators and Board members met with Massachusetts Psychologist Michael Thompson, who had previously spoken at the Lab Schools, and his associate Trish Calvert Tuesday, Nov. 23 and yesterday. Following the first meeting, faculty, Board members and administrators expressed hope the discussions would ease discord reflected in the faculty’s Oct. 4 vote of no-confidence in Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz, according to Counselor Bob Bachand, High School faculty chairperson.

“My observation was that people welcomed the opportunity to be able to express their feeling and views,” Mr. Bachand said. “Many people chose to attend and stayed late. The meeting lasted until late formally and a number of people stayed beyond in small groups and reshaped the meeting, which is encouraging."

“In the small group I was in, everyone was fairly optimistic. There were two Board members and three or four teachers, so it reflected the points of view of at least two constituencies. My hope is that this will bring us to the point where we have more policies and procedures in place and there’s a sense of involvement on all parties’ part. I hope that the lines of communication are used more frequently than they have been in the past.”

Before the meetings, both the High School and Middle School faculties distributed documents detailing discontent with administrative policies and actions. The Middle School document reported a survey of faculty opinion.

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Two Kinds of People

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The Swing Gala really showed that U-Highers can have a great time in any situation—whether with a DJ, like at Homecoming or with a swinging band like at the Gala.”

—Senior Ian Reed, Cultural Union president

Jive dance has joint jumping

U-High dance when Cultural Union sponsored its “Swing Gala” Nov. 19 in the ornate third-floor ballroom of Ida Noyes Hall. C.U. added purple and white balloons and black streamers to add color and bounce. For an hour before the dance, Student Council offered swing lessons and throughout the evening pizza and pop was sold by the Senior Prom Committee.

- IN A CREAM 1950s vintage dress (photos from top left) purchased for the dance, Natalie Hoy was among the lesson givers.
- ROCKING THE CROWD of 150 with classics from the ’40s and ’50s, The Big Six Band, in the U.S. from London, lured dancers to floor. Band members included Alex Bland, James Compton, Anders Janes, Al Nichols, Tim Parkess and Pat Reyford.
- ANOTHER “DANCE TEACHER,” Charles Srisumanukorn helped Neha Shah get into the swing.

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The food drive was really successful because of all the publicity. "It's an annual tradition that defines U-High..." -Senior Tokoya Williams, Black Students Association president

NUMEROUS HOMORS - both team and individual - were proudly displayed by Model U.N. members before setting out for dinner that night in Los Angeles, where they attended a UCLA conference. From left are History Team members Earl Bell, club sponsor; Nick Epstein, Jesse Sklar-sky, Nick Epstein, Sarah Arkin, Walker Thisted, (bottom) Rachel Lee. "The food drive was really successful because of all the publicity," Tokoya said. "It's an annual tradition that defines U-High and is engraved, so people know it's coming."

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BSA follows food drive with King assembly

By Natalie Hoy
Associate editor

Performances will be spotlighted in the Black Students' Association's 31st annual assembly honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 8:50-10:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 14 in Mandel Hall.

“We're trying to make the assembly more real,” said BSA President Senior Tokoya Williams. “We want to do a lot more integrating with the program, more performances rather than speakers. I think it will be more powerful because we’ll have people singing and dancing, the artists allowing the performers rather than just repeating other people’s words in speeches. We’d like the ethnic clubs to work with each other for the program rather than doing their own separate speeches, making things more uniform rather than individual.”

Donating 12 boxes of canned and boxed foods, BSA members delivered the results of their annual November food drive to the Living Room Cafe, which serves underprivileged people, at 642 S. Cottage Grove Ave.

“Food drive was really successful because of all the publicity,” Tokoya said. “It’s an annual tradition that defines U-High and is engraved, so people know it’s coming.”

UMBRELLA STUDENTS

By By Natalie Hoy
Associate editor

Preparing for their match against St. Joseph, Tuesday, Feb. 1, Chess Club members feel confident they will win all five games. Competing in three matches so far, the U-Highers have won all three of them and have won 13 out of the 15 games played. Winning all five games against DelaSalle, all five against Hales Fraternity and winning five games against Leto, Club members believe they will win the Chicago Chess League again. Upcoming matches include Marian, Tuesday, Feb. 8 at Marist; DePaul Prep, Tuesday, Feb. 15 at Hales; Hales Franciscan, Tuesday, Feb. 22 in UH 106; and Leo, Tuesday, Feb. 29 in UH 106. Practicing Tuesday and Thursday lunch periods in U-High 106, the team relies on support from its teammates, history doctor Chris Janus. The five highest-ranked players—Seniors John Heckman, John Wood and Billy Davis and Juniors Sam Walsh and Mike Stern—participate. Watson was pleased with the dynamic of the top five players of the Chess Club. Helping Mr. Janus coach during practices, Senior John Heckman, team captain, reviews games, reviews games, and helps players improve their chess game. "We have a strong team," John said, "because everyone on the team is really smart."

Add Mr. Janus, "We're a powerhouse."

Briefly

Three chosen Future Leaders

By Priya Sridhar
Midway reporter

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Three chosen Future Leaders

By Priya Sridhar
Midway reporter

Three juniors have been named participants in the annual Future Leaders of Chicago program which brings outstanding high school students in touch with civic and business leaders through shared projects. The U-Highers are Matt Block, Nick Hill and Sam Walsh. Class sponsor Michelle Krohn-Friedson and Kate Shapiro, were honored at a lunch Nov. 27 at the Palmer House. U-High had the most finalists of any school in the Chicago area.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT—Gifts for more than 100 children with HIV and AIDS were donated by Operation Christmas Child, an adoption and foster care organization, by the sophomores through the Community Learning program.

Community Learning Coordinator Lucy Gouma, five U-Highers went to Shedd Aquarium Dec. 4 for Project Angelfish. A group of children from disadvantaged areas enjoyed breakfast, saw the dolphin show, and created a quilt symbolizing community spirit.

The U-Highers were Seniors Sarah Geis, Anju Mahajan and J.C. McBride; Junior Nick Hill; and Sophomore Brandon McCarthy.

NOTEWORTHY—A festive program of both classical and contemporary music was presented by the Orchestra, Band and Choir Wednesday evening to an enthusiastic audience.

NEWCOMER—Miss Elaine Robison has replaced Mrs. Sharon Knowles as the High School Office as secretary. Mrs. Knowles is now at the Office of Special Events at the Law School. She was honored with a service award at the Law School. Miss Robison took over the position before her departure.

WINNERS—A current Midway editor-in-chief and former editor-in-chief have been recognized in the annual High School Story Writing Competition sponsored by the National Scholastic Press Association and Los Angeles Times. Rachel Skupin, '99, was national first runnerup in the editorial writing category for her column in the March 16 issue on student government choosing not to offer leadership on the issue of racist graffiti and hate crimes in the school community. Senior Arielle Levin Becker was national second runnerup in the diversity category for her news coverage of the same topic in the issue.
Happy kind of madness

By Arielle Levin Becker

If you look into the Guidance Department office during the school day, you'll probably see a crowd of U-Highers grabbing candy from jars on counselors' desks, asking questions or talking with counselors as if they are old friends. But only one could really qualify as "old;" the rest haven't even been here four years.

In the past two years, the face of the Guidance Department has changed dramatically with the departure of College Counselors Mary Lee Hoganson and Bill Tracy. The remaining counselors, two new this year, faced the challenge of rebuilding the department and developing experience and relationships in the school, in addition to their regular jobs. In doing so, counselors say, the department's atmosphere changed from an orderly, calm office to a bustling intersection.

With the candy jars, comfortable chairs and their own outgoing personalities, counselors have worked to make the office more attractive to students. Guidance Department Chairperson Patty Kovacs said, "When they hired me they knew I was not a wallflower," explained Mrs. Kovacs, in her second year here after dividing time between U-High and the Chicago Academy for the Arts last year. Now fulltime, she also serves as advisory co-coordinator.

Celebrating the poetry of life

By J.A. Redfield

"Most of us have eyes," says new Counselor Bill Balan-Gaubert, "but we cannot see. And unfortunately, most of us pass each other by like that, not knowing they are passing people who are tremendously interesting. To live a life of poetry is to leave oneself open to new experiences."

Stroking his beard as he talks about his poetry, Mr. Balan-Gaubert's grammar is perfect, though English is his third language. Born in Port-au-Prince Haiti in 1956, Mr. Balan-Gaubert fled with his family to Brooklyn when he was 10 because Haiti was too dangerous. He later studied philosophy, poetry and counseling in upstate New York, France and Chicago. Mr. Balan-Gaubert has been active in the Writer's Center as well as the Guidance Office. "I come from an oral culture, where the performance of poetry is very important and what you say could have dire consequences," he said. "Writing is a celebration of life and vigor."

"We hope the students feel it works really well, even in the madness. We feel the madness is a sign it works really well." - College Counselor Lisa Montgomery

Mr. Balan-Gaubert

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Photo by Katie Tully

LATE NIGHTS became routine for college counselors Lisa Montgomery and Patty Kovacs this fall, expectations, and felt the reality met our expectations. The students happily responded to our own enthusiasm. Counselor popularity has meant difficulty scheduling appointments for some seniors. In response, counselors often work late into the night to meet with students and catch up on paperwork.

Having worked in her office until at least 10 p.m. most of fall quarter before she began working half days in the final month of a pregnancy, College Counselor Lisa Montgomery said the busyness of the department proves well worth it. "My caseload is 61 kids and I'd imagine I see at least 50 percent of them everyday," said Mrs. Montgomery, who was to go on maternity leave this week and was expected to deliver a baby boy today. "That's how it should be. We want this to be a really busy, welcoming place. It can be hard for people to get appointments sometimes, which is not great. But man, would I be worried if the counselors just sat around here all alone with no appointments. We hope the students feel it works really well, even in the madness. We feel the madness is a sign it works really well."
"I decided if I ever had a child, I would want the child to play cello. I knew from the beginning Dan was capable of being so good but I didn’t know if he wanted to give it what it takes."

—Mrs. Sally Feder, mother of Senior Dan Feder

Talent lands U-Higher in city symphony

By Jordan Zachary

Midway reporter

"Measure 109?" In a panic, Senior Dan Feder’s long fingers violently flip through pages of music sitting in front of him in Orchestra Hall until he finally reaches the desired measure. Daniel Barenboim, conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, guest director for The Civic Orchestra of Chicago, has already begun to conduct and Dan’s eyes frantically scan the lines of music to find his place. “Everything is so fast paced,” Dan said, “and Dan Barenboim is very intimidating because he is such a great conductor and knows so much.”

Dan plays as the only high school cellist in the Civic Orchestra of Chicago which rehearses five days a week, 7-10 p.m. The Civic Orchestra, officially known as “the training orchestra under the Chicago Symphony Orchestra,” is comprised of the top musicians from the Chicagoland area music schools.

“Playing in Civic is an amazing honor for me,” Dan said. “The music isn’t that difficult but the rehearsals are very fast paced and expectations are high.” Tall and thin with neatly combed bright red hair and freckles decorating his smooth, pale skin, Dan sits in the High School library with his fingers loosely clasped resting on the table.

Clad in preppy clothes, Dan blends in with the people around him. But when the school day ends, Dan is anything but typical. Practicing two hours a night, attending Civic rehearsals five days a week and completing his schoolwork, “It gets tough!” Dan said, “but I’ve learned to adjust to my playing schedule and work around it.”

Having begun the cello at the age of three, Dan recalls his first experience with the cello as simply “going to a room above where my nursery school class was and watching my teacher teach another student.” Although this was Dan’s first encounter with the cello, plans for his career as a cellist had long been in the making.

“Years before Dan was born, I went with my husband to a high holiday service at our synagogue,” recalled Dan’s mother, Mrs. Sally Feder. “Playing at that service was a cellist by the name of Frank Miller. When he played, it was so beautiful and it was then that I decided if ever I had a child, I would want the child to play the cello. I knew from the beginning Dan was capable of being so good.” Mrs. Feder said, “but I didn’t know if he wanted to give it what it takes.”

Dan has received amazing success as a cellist. In 1994, he was featured as the principal cellist of the Disney Young Musicians Orchestra. Dan’s group, The Fine Arts Trio, has twice been featured on national broadcast radio and will be featured once again in April.

“I am not going to major in music, or make it my career” Dan said. “There is way too much competition and not enough pay and I would like to take college as an opportunity to try new things. But no matter what, music is a part of who I am and it will always have prominence in my life.”

Small town to Michigan Ave.
U-High lures family to city

By Shilpa Rupani

Midway reporter

A two-story, brown-brick house sits on a cul-de-sac in the small town of Bourbonnais. Freshman Jessica Hung, photographed by Satya Bhabha, was born in a 400-person public middle school, filled with mostly white students, Jessica, who is Taiwanese, was surprised at U-High’s diversity. “I like it here because there are less exclusive groups,” Jessica said. “I also like it because it is more ethnically and racially diverse. This leads to more open-mindedness.”

Looking for a better education and opportunities for Jessica, the Hungs started planning a move to the city one-and-a-half years ago. “When I found out we were moving, I was excited about a big change of scene,” Jessica said. “But when the school day ends, I feel like I’m not going to make good use of the opportunity I was given.”

Since moving here, Jessica feels she has adjusted well though there have been a few drawbacks. “I love the city,” Jessica said. “But, I didn’t want to leave my friends.” Starting the violin at the age of eight, Jessica eventually commuted to Chicago for lessons and rehearsals for the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra.

“Violin makes me feel different from other kids because I don’t get much free time,” Jessica said, “but I really like it because if it’s something I want to do for my whole life.”

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Since moving here, Jessica feels she has adjusted well though there have been a few drawbacks. “I love the city,” Jessica said. “But, I haven’t gotten used to the noise. Sometimes, in the middle of the night, I hear the trains and construction workers next door so it is hard to sleep.”

*Yes, vacation’s almost here but soon you’ll be back to the old school grind. On those long winter nights when you Study With A Buddy remember Edwardo’s. Come in for a break! Piping hot pizza will recharge you. And if you can’t get TO us, we’ll come TO you. We deliver!*

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Givers discover they get, too

By Tiffany Northrop
Midway reporter

ew townhouses, bars and car-
lined streets surround a stone
former church. The sun streams
through a stained glass win-
dow on which the Virgin Mary
holds the baby Jesus overlooks eight chil-
dren playing in a room with blue mats,
wooden cribs and toy-filled chests.

Greeted by her one-year-old godson
Isaiah, Senior Liz Heyer-Ging squints
as the sun shines on his caramel skin
while he waves his arms in excitement
and waddles towards her.

A resource for teenage mothers at
1114 Grace St. on the North Side, Ma-
donna Center has become a second
home for Liz. She babysits about eight
hours a week for various children at
Madonna while giving an extra one-
and-a-half hours exclusively to Isaiah
at the Center or by taking him to parks
or to her own home.

In her position volunteering at the Center
she has maintained year as a self-design project
to fulfill her Community Learning
requirement. This past year, sopho-
more choose sites ranging from tutor-
ing at schools and feeding patients at
hospitals to serving at daycares and
soup kitchens. Sophomores attend
one site for two quarters with no hour
requirement.

According to Community Learning
Coordinator Lucy Gomez, the program is
designed to build relationships in-
stead of working for a set number of hours.
To encourage U-Highers to vol-
unteer beyond their requirement. Ms.
Gomez this year began one day service
projects, including handing out gifts
to children at the Robert Taylor Homes
Saturday, Dec. 4.

Liz choose to work at the Madonna
Center because the children there are
in an experience similar to her own
early childhood.

"I am an adopted child and my birth
mother was a teenager when I was born," Liz explained. "I started doing
community service at the Center my
senior year as a self design
project. I wanted to be around teen-
age mothers and spend time with
their children.

The Center seemed like the ideal
place to connect and learn more
about my past."

Continuing to volunteer at the Cen-
ter junior year, Liz began to spend
more time after meeting Isaiah as a
three week old.

"All the children and mothers at Ma-
donna have meant a lot to me but I
could feel special vibes from Isaiah," Liz said. "I felt an immediate connec-
tion the first time I held him and I
didn't want to leave the Center.

"I quickly became friends with Isaiah’s mother and we would spend
hours talking. Now there seem to be
unspoken obligations between Isaiah’s
mother and me. If I can’t come to
the Center, I make sure to call her
directly. My obligations towards her
stem from us being close friends rather
than from me being a volunteer."

Although Liz has offered her time and
energy to Isaiah and his mother, Liz
said that she gets just as much in return.

"I see myself as a significant part of
both of their lives. Yet, perhaps even
more importantly, they have been a
significant part of my life as well. The
time I spend with both of them is so
precious to me.

"I am so amazed that a woman my age
can handle school, a job and a child as
well," Liz explained. "I have such
respect for Isaiah’s mother and she has
taught me what it means to be strong."

Also feeling she has affected people’s
lives, Junior Jo Budzilowicz has con-
tinued volunteering at Madonna Cen-
ter too.

"It isn’t always easy going to the Ma-
donna Center, sometimes very de-
pressing," Jo said. "But it is the feel-
ing I get when I walk out the door
knowing that I have made a
one day easy for women my age that
brings me back every week.

The number of juniors and seniors
returning to their sites represents a
sign that the programs are important

"For many U-Highers the friendships
made at the sites last much longer than
the two quarter requirement," she
explained. "Our goal is not to change
lives. If one person can find a new friend in a U-High student then that is
more valuable."

An Amazon named Amity

Magazine story lauds conservative leader

By Jules Federle
Midway reporter

Lauded for her up-and-coming views of
conservative thought, Ms. Amyt
Shlaes,’78, is featured in the Novem-
ber issue of Vanity Fair.

Ms. Shlaes is one of the four "Conservative Amazons." Ms. Shlaes is
described as embodying the progres-
sive, right-wing voice, a voice that can
be heard on the Op-ed page of the Wall Street
Journal.

Ms. Shlaes says her input, as the youngest member of the Journal’s
editorial board, echoes values she learned at U-
High 21 years ago.

Growing up in Hyde
Park and attending U-High with her
younger brother Noah and sister Jane, Ms. Shlaes was exposed to a mixture
of political, intellectual, and economic thought.

"I went to school with the children of
all these U. C. economists," Ms. Shlaes said. "I picked up a conserva-
tive ‘free market’ type of thinking which is still reflected in my work to-
day."

People often find it hard to believe
that she attended a liberal school yet
remains conservative, she noted.

"Since U-High is known to be such
a liberal school, people are surprised
that I’m such an avid conservative," Ms. Shlaes said. "U-High is an envi-
ronment in which my thinking as an
individual was encouraged and my
views were respected. One of my High
School English teachers in particular, Mrs. Sophie Ravin, really encouraged
me to write and think for myself."

Interested in journalism at a young
age, Ms. Shlaes wrote for the Midway,
addressing topics including the ascen-
don of females in leadership positions.

After majoring in journalism at Yale,
Ms. Shlaes attended graduate school
in West Berlin on a one year fellowship.

"Everything in East Germany was so
sad and poor," she said. "Living in
Berlin sparked my interest in econom-
ics. You can learn a lot about econom-
ics when you go to a country where the economy doesn’t work."

Ms. Shlaes’ studies in Germany led
her to her first book, "Germany: The
Empire Within."

Developing a keen interest in
feminism and politics at a young age,
Ms. Shlaes said she was influenced by
her mother, a political activist and in-
dependent Democrat.

"My mother gave me the ambitious
point of view that I have today," she explained. "She showed me what it
meant to be a powerful woman."

Using lessons she learned from her
mother regarding feminism, Ms.
Shlaes wrote her latest book, "The
Greedy Hand: How Taxes Drive
Americans Crazy and What to Do
About It."

Since its publication in March, "The
Greedy Hand" has reached number
one on the Amazon.com sales ranking
and number 16 on the New York Times
best-sellers list.

Relief at Last

The hardest gifts to
find are those for
Mom and Dad. It’s
so hard to find
something they’ll
really like and can
really use. But now
you can solve all
your problems at
Freehling Pot &
Pan. Find scented
candles or fancy
table settings or even
pots and pans at
Freehling Pot &
Pan. Hurry on over
cause the holidays
are upon us!

Relieved to find the fying pan his
mother wanted, Freshman Ethan
Stillman is ready to enjoy all of
the fried delicacies she makes for
him over the holidays.
MAY 18, 1999

The most visible addition to the Schools’ security will be gates at the north and south ends of Kenwood Mall. Physically, the school will be secured at the perimeter of the campus.

Gates to provide limits

We have the same access privileges as the students,” said Librarian Mattye Nelson. “As a professor, it’s more important that many people are inherently uncomfortable with change. Especially when they aren’t the ones making the changes. It’s going to be very careful inspection of school grounds in order to get the fences up. The Lab Schools are pretty well secured,” Mr. Nimocks said. “There are people who work with construction and do the best that we can.”

In early spring, once the cold weather breaks, the plans will be completed and printed. We are working with construction schedules and are doing the best that we can.

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Security and the U. of C. Police

The primary computer security program, On Guard, is designed to prevent a user from erasing or deleting things on a computer or installing software without typing in the administrator’s password, Mr. Lieniec said.

But the fact that it’s installed on every computer in the school, including faculty computers, has some faculty members upset.

Faculty objections

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"I think we provide an environment that is safe for all of us who are here during the day. In the evening the school is much more secure. I feel that the individual incidents that have happened have shown our system to be effective."

—Mr. David Stafford, Lab Schools associate director

National Nightmares

School safety concerns just keep multiplying

By Rachel Greene
Midtown reporter

Nationwide concern about school safety in the wake of last spring’s massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., shows no sign of diminishing. If anything, the evidence indicates concern about keeping schools safe continues to mount.

Many experts feel the push for safety is focusing on the wrong issues. "Money is better spent on helping kids, than on putting up a gate," said U. of C. Psychiatrist Dr. Bennett Leventhal of the Lab Schools’ security plans. Dr. Leventhal is a Middle School parent and former U-High parent.

"The gate would lower everyone’s guard because it is a false sense of security. The problem is within the school. By getting teachers that are able to talk to the students, it would be easier for the students to get help and the chance of them being violent is less likely. Students and teachers need to be able to support each other."

Into the spotlight

Although school killings had preceded it, the Columbine massacre brought the issue of school violence into the international spotlight.

Locally, several incidents have occurred. In October at Downers Grove North High School a sophomore allegedly planted two bombs in a restroom. After the bombs were found the building was evacuated. Later that night two large firecrackers were found, which were assumed to have been left by the same student. He was arrested and placed in a juvenile detention center.

Also this fall, two girls at Antioch High School allegedly mailed a bomb threat. Each time, the school was evacuated but bomb squads found no explosives. The girls were suspended.

Responding to nationwide school violence, many schools have implemented "zero tolerance" policies on violence. Such policies assign absolute punishments to rule breaking regardless of the degree of violence.

While some observers feel zero tolerance disciplinary policies are preventive in preventing future school violence, others view them as controversial. Some experts criticize administrators at Curie High School in Chicago for taking its policies too far after two students were disciplined for taking its psychophamaceuticals.

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—Dr. Bennett Leventhal
psychiatrist

Range of measures

In addition to zero tolerance policies, increased security measures being implemented in schools across the country range from adding outdoor lighting and locking more school entrances to locker searches for illegal drugs and weapons and the installation of metal detectors and outdoor cameras.

To effectively tackle the problem with violence in schools, Dr. Leventhal suggests that "changing the culture of the school is a good use of money, schools need a culture that makes people help each other."
Reggae box beyond 'Legend'

When people tell me that they have a couple reggae C.D.s and I ask them which ones, the answer, 99 times out of 100 is: "Oh, I have 'Legend'."

That's right! Forget about those stupid three-C.D. sets that cost under $15; just because they say, "Bob Marley" on the front doesn't mean they're any good.

Also included in the boxed set are tracks that cannot be found on any other Bob collection. As many of Bob's songs were re-recorded when the Wailers became successful and were able to afford better recording equipment, the older versions of popular songs are often hard to find. But the best originals, mixes, dubs and live versions of the best songs are included on here.

If you have any interest in Reggae, however, you really should get this set; it's not just for die-hard Rastafarians. If you're one of those people who hates it when some punk is pretending that they listen to Bob Marley, buy this set. If you're one of those punks who pretend that you listen to Bob Marley, buy this set.

Whoever you are, "Songs of Freedom" will familiarize you with every aspect of Bob Marley and the Wailers.

Disturbing but effective

With a brutal three-minute sexual assault sequence, honest portrayal of prejudice, loneliness and cruelty, the internationally-acclaimed film "Boys Don't Cry" at times proves difficult to watch. But packaged with sharp writing, mesmerizing performances and a remarkable story, the film's disturbing elements become powerful forces which add to a tragic tale. Based on a true story, "Boys Don't Cry" follows the adventures of Teena Brandon (Hillary Swank), a tormented teenage going through a sexual identity crisis.

Changing her persona to Brandon Teena, she invades small town, Neb., and masquerades as a male, befriending small group of tumultuous transvestites whose favorite pastimes are drinking beer, fouling around with girls and bumber skiing off of pick-up trucks. As she begins to seriously pursue Lana (Chloe Sevigny) and the real Teena is discovered, Brandon's carefree lifestyle turns terrifyingly tragic.

Written by Andrey Bienen and director Kimberly Pierce, the script moves slowly in the beginning but picks up as events intensify.

Depicting a lower class town of prejudiced blue collar factory workers, the screenplay delves into the dark fears and insecurities of a tightly knit social group. Pierce and Bienen's exploration of the characters is deeply emotional without being overly melodramatic.

Although some scenes, such as the sexual assault sequence, may offend some viewers, they only add to the powerful reality of "Boys Don't Cry." But those planning to see the film should be aware of the potentially shocking concepts of gender bending, excessive violence and drinking and graphic sex scenes.

The real brilliance of "Boys Don't Cry" lies in the stellar performances. Swank Khan shows a coming way from "The Next Karate Kid" and guest appearances on "Beverly Hills, 92210." She transcends gender not only by binding her chest, stuffing socks in her pants and cutting her hair short but with an extremely expressive, androgynous voice and face. In a riveting portrayal of a desperately lonely teenager, Swank mesmerizes audiences with a passionate delivery of a genuine lost soul.

The chemistry between Swank and Sevigny as their relationship progresses is tender and believable. They move their affection for each other grows, so does their characters. Through deeply penetrating stares and most slow motion intimate scenes, Brandon and Lana's love affair becomes real and convincingly romantic.

With an astonishing story, powerful acting and a strong script, "Boys Don't Cry" lives up to its promise and proves an extraordinary film. "Boys Don't Cry" is not rated.

Great eats, anytime, in an historic neighborhood

Returning to the crib from my usual nightly outing, I woke my parents to assure them of my safety. Checking my fridge, I found a couple pounds of fresh cheese and a bottle of thick cream. With an astonished story, powerful acting and a strong script, "Boys Don't Cry" lives up to its promise and proves an extraordinary film. "Boys Don't Cry" is not rated.

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Worth the wait
High school isn’t forever

EDITED NOTE: Will Stokes, ’98, is a sophomore at
Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y.

After reading close to a year-and-a-half of Midway articles discussing and complaining about Lab’s administration continuing their tradition of making impor-
tant decisions with the complete disregard of the two most important benefactors of the school, the students and the faculty; I decided many U-Highers might enjoy something different in our school’s paper.

What better than a letter from a recent U-High graduate? I have not seen many let-
ters like this in a while, so I took out the old pen and paper and found some time to write. It is getting close to that winter break pe-
riod when most U-High seniors find out which college they got into and which they will never attend. I thought a little encourag-
ing news might be handy. As a senior at U-High, I was completely aware of what the college for college. Not quite the kind of encourage-
ment I expected to hear. Well, tough. That’s how it was and looking back, there was nothing I could have done to change this. I had no idea what to expect so I figured I was no different.

Sure I’d visited a few, in fact, quite a number. But none came down to it, I had only seen a small set of colleges from the expan-
sive number out there. Despite all I had seen I did not feel comfortable there. I really like. I am guessing I was no different from many of you, so my recent hap-
piness in finding my college is nothing more than a handful of U-Highers, talking with counse-
lors, asking questions or just hanging out. The... experience in the school, into a posi-
tive part of the school community. What the counselors may lack in seniority at
Lab Schools, community. But whatever the opinions of stu-
dents, parents, and the faculty, in the end, the reality is the school must be able to legally demonstrate that it is adequately secured.

With “No Trepassing” signs re-
cently posted throughout the cam-
pus and a monitor stationed in ladd Hall during school hours, the schools are becoming more secure. They are not as secure as they could be.

Some argue that the school should provide students with a faculty and wear identification tags at all times. Some feel that the school should simply lock a few more doors. Oth-
ers, particularly U-Highers, fear that increased security will com-
promise the open nature of the school. Most members of the Lab Schools community want the school to feel safe and to be a safe place for everyone.

But to reach that goal, everyone needs to accept that some things are going to have to change. The bottom line will be not sentiment, not personal opinion, but reality.

Letter from College

I think there’s going to be chaos, not because there’s going to be some sort of crisis but because everyone is predicting a crisis so people are going to start pulling their money out of banks and doing other crazy things.”
—Senior Natalie Bump

“As the MIDWAY SEES IT

REALITY CHECK

Search for unique party attire, Mary Beth Holt admires a skirt, $69, while Missy Corey considers a jacket, $76, at Presc-
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Search for unique party attire, Mary Beth Hol...
Here we have Junior Nick Hill. Date-less wonder? Not if the Medici can help it.

Here is Junior Ruth Bistrow. Cheerleading Material? Hell Yeah.

This date was bought to you by the Medici, where we love seeing couples eating our food. So next time you go out on a date, whether you're hungry for pizza, pasta or even just a Super Salad, take that special person to the Med.

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True to their school

By Nick Epstein
Midway reporter

F or some people, high school is a time best left forgotten. But Jonathan and Peter Kovler, major financial contributors to the new Kovler Gym with their father Everett, still enjoy fond U-High memories.

Jonathan ’63, and his brother Peter, ’69, have administered the Kovler Family Foundation for more than 25 years, funding a myriad of educational projects.

Jonathan, 54, lives downtown with his wife Sally and has three children, two in college. Peter lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife Judy and their two children.

Jonathan attended American University in D.C. while his brother attended the U. of C. Their donation stems from the great times both they had had at U-High. At the U of C, Peter majored in European history, giving him a world perspective outside of Chicago.

I think studying history at the U. of C. gave me a good base for some of the philanthropic activities I’ve participated in,” Peter reflected. “Having a good foundation of the western world made me more at ease with the decisions that come up in my work.”

Jonathan also maintained a passion for athletics at U-High, particularly basketball, which he played all four years of high school.

“My emphasis was not so much on education at U-High, but on sports and other projects,” Jonathan said.

After graduating from U-High, Jonathan majored in business at American University, where he says he learned the skills necessary for running the foundation.

As the family business changed hands, Jonathan became involved in handling the family’s money. “We sold Jim Bean, the family business, while I was in college,” Jonathan commented. “After the sale, I decided I wanted to manage the money of our family foundation.”

Funding mostly Chicago-based causes such as diabetes and cancer research at the University of Chicago became a priority, because Chicago is where the Kovlers grew up, Jonathan explained. “In the past few years the U. of C. has become increasingly important to us, ergo U-High,” Jonathan said. “Lucinda Katz and Hugo Sonnenschein started calling us specifically about the gym.

“Hugo Sonnenschein put a full court press on me and my brother about how important this project was, not only for the high school and the grammar school, but for the college and their ability to recruit professors.”

“Since the new gym makes U-High a more appealing school to prospective students, it also makes the University a more attractive place to teach for professors who want to raise a family.”

Kovler’s KOLUMN

Peter Kovler’s still-remembered column in the March 11, 1969, Midway dealt with the basketball team missing a winning season because the coach insisted players have hair clipped above their eyes or not play. The Monsoon’s guard (who was also a contributor) retold. After giving both the coach’s arguments and the player’s arguments in great detail, Kovler concluded, was right or wrong to this personal situation is meaningless. But one thing for sure is that neither the team nor the fans felt the pressure to lose.

Then as he says he learned the skills necessary for running the foundation.

Their Kovlers’ mother Marjorie was a major art gallery figure in Chicago.

She also founded a pioneering women’s basketball team.

Her legacy includes mentoring the editorial page columnist that year, Bruce Gans, who went on to become a well-known journalist.

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“Since the new gym makes U-High a more appealing school to prospective students, it also makes the University a more attractive place to teach for professors who want to raise a family.”

CAMP OUT (for now)

Macwillies closes but will rise again, though different

By Russell Kohn
Midway reporter

All good things must come to an end. A year before its 25th anniversary, MacWillies, the Lab Schools summer camp, has been discontinued because of Kovler Gym construction. But a new camp will rise in its place. MacWillies was a wonderful experience,” Laura said. “I liked being a counselor because I had a good time and I wanted to pass that on to other campers. I’m just sorry it’s over.”

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Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-midnight
"U-High prepared me for college excellently, because I developed a certain work ethic and a way to manage my time."

-Andy Rosenband, '99

Tigers tale: Tigers tail

By Ilana Greene
Midway reporter

Entering Sunny Gym to the applause of a sparse audience, the nine varsity lady Maroon hoopers begin warming up to the fast beat of "Rosa Parks" by Outcast. The Maroons return to the bench and pound the ground in a circle while chanting "zone press, resulting in multiple steals by Katie and Forward Claire Stewart, sophomore, leading to fast break points."

U-High score listed first, followed by opponent's score. Varsity games preceed j.v. in parentheses; freshman team scores in brackets. Because of an early printer deadline for this issue to accommodate color photos, some games played last week will be reported next issue.

Ilana Greene
Midway reporter

U-High

Boys

U-High

St. Gregory

56

47

Leading scorer: Charles Simms, 28 points

Leading scorer: Tai Duncan, 17 points

Hirsch

Leading scorer: Simmons, 17 points

Elgin

St. Gregory

46

31

Leading scorer: Simmons, 19 points

Leading scorer: Annie Padrid, 19 points

Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity

63

22

Leading scorer: Annie Padrid, 18 points

U-High 'n Lows

Girls

Sports Briefs

• SOCCER STAB-With a tournament Jan. 9-10, Senior Hannah Levine and her 20 Illinois Olympic Development (ODT) team-mates hope to utilize the excellent preparation they have been receiving from their nationally-accredited coach.

U-High

Boy

Girl

Hirsch

56

St. Gregory

47

Hirsch

Leading scorer: Charles Simms, 28 points

Leading scorer: Tai Duncan, 17 points

Hirsch

Leading scorer: Simmons, 17 points

Leading scorer: Simmons, 19 points

St. Gregory

Elgin

46

41

Gallery, Nov. 30, there: 41-34 (23-17);

St. Francis de Sales: 42-61;

St. Gregory: 50-39;

Good Counsel: 50-39;

Trinity Tournament, j.v., Nov. 22-27:

Lane Tech: 14-51;

Elgin Academy,

Nov. 30, there: 41-34 (23-17);

Holy Trinity,

Dec. 4, home: 63-22 (31-20);

Woodlands, there: 43-34 (17-29).

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Keeping Score

U-High scores listed first, followed by opponent's score. Varsity games preceded by j.v. in parentheses; freshman team scores in brackets. Because of an early printer deadline for this issue to accommodate color photos, some games played last week will be reported next issue.

U-High

Boy

Girl

Mather Tournament, Nov. 22-Dec. 1:

Fenger, Nov. 22: 54-50;

Benton, Nov. 28: 44-61;

Mather, Nov. 30: 58-56;

Hirsch, Dec. 1: 56-47;

Ridgewood Tournament, Nov. 22-23:

Lake View, Nov. 23: 54-50;

Zion Benton, Nov. 29: 44-48;

Nov. 30: 56-59;

Hirsch, Dec. 1: 56-47;

Ridgewood Tournament, Nov. 22-23:

Lake View, Nov. 23: 54-50;

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Zion Benton, Nov. 29: 44-48;

Nov. 30: 56-59;
Taming of the ‘Hounds

By Kian Dowlatabad

Midway Report

The musty stench of the Sunny Gym mat room prevails as 11 varsity basketball players review their game plan 25 minutes before the 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 4 game encounter with the St. Gregory Greyhounds.

Dressed in their white uniforms with maroon lettering, the players form a semicircle around their coach, Ron Presley.

“This is our first home game,” Mr. Presley says, as his players finish their stretching exercises. “It shows us what we can do and what we can’t. Let’s try to work the ball in and out to the post. We’re bigger than they are. We should be able to go out and get most of the rebounds.”

As the j.v. squad finishes its 52-36 victory, Mr. Presley ends his pregame talk and Senior David Straus, captain, pumps his teammates up outside the court.

“Clap it up, fellas! Let’s be ready to play!”

The squad shoots through the doors to the court as the crowd anticipates the day’s main event.

With Twist’s “Adrenaline Rush” blasting in the half-empty gym, the mostly student crowd continues its conversations as the buzzer sounds and both teams grab their seats on the benches for some last-minute advice.

“This is our house!” Mr. Presley shouts. “Nobody invades our house!”

With that, the starting lineup calmly strides to the center of the floor for Mr. Presley to call the tipoff.

“Clap it up, fellas! Let’s be ready to play!”

The game concludes with a half-court shot from Tiago that sails 10 feet wide of the basket, day’s main event.

WORKOUTS on dry land will translate in victories in the water, hope Maroons swimmers.

“We used competitions to make this training more fun,” says Josh Jackson.

Pump it up! Fellas! Let’s be ready to go, we’re not planning to lose again.

David and fellow Senior David Wilson combine on a give and go play, setting up an easy layup, handing U-High a 4-0 lead early in the first quarter.

Later in the first quarter, David Straus receives a full court pass and makes the layup. The rowdy crowd enjoys the fast-break points.

The first quarter ends with a score of 20-11 in favor of U-High.

Late in the second quarter, with the score 31-24, a Greyhound player dances and spins past two Maroon defenders and hits a medium range jumper.

David Straus received the ensuing inbounds pass and weaves through the unorganized defense for an easy layup.

The halftime buzzer sounds, with the Greyhounds leading 35-29, and the players meet in the mat room, where they confront the musty stench again, to prepare for the third quarter.

“This quarter is important,” Mr. Presley explains. “We have got to put it together. Last year we lost to this team. We’re not planning to lose again.”

The Maroons return to the court to find a noticeable amount of people have left the bleachers. They can hear the squeaking of their own shoes as the third quarter begins.

Later in the third quarter, David Wilson catches the Greyhound defense napping as he hits Charles with a back-door pass. Charles makes the layup, slapping the backboard on the follow-through, giving U-High a 50-36 lead.

Even Mr. Presley appreciates the good play, as he gets up and pumps his fists.

Josh Jackson looks at the scoreboard and sees that, with the game in hand, he could give the starters a well-deserved rest.

Junior Ayinde Bennett and Josh Muskatow are called to enter the game along with Senior Ian Cummins and Tiago Pappas.

“Number 23, they can’t stop you!” yells Charles from the bench after Ayinde nails a three-pointer.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the floor, Ian is fouled hard from behind near the Greyhounds’ bench. Ian responds by shoving a Greyhound and another player off the bench gets up and pushes him away.

The other players and referees separate Ian from the other players, and the game continues.

The game concludes with a half-court shot from Tiago that sails 10 feet wide of the basket, day’s main event.

A teacher says, “We don’t need a fight!”

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"I don't think there will be planes crashing and nuclear reactors exploding."

-Physics Teacher David Derbes

**‘Tis the season**

Whether it’s Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali or Kwanza you celebrate, the holidays which converge this time of the year create a festive feeling which cheers people of all religions, races and ethnic heritages. In the Loop, Christmas dominates the decorations, with crowds moving up and down State Street that Great Street gazing at the lavish displays in department store windows, engaging in the guilty pleasure of finding just the right gift for a loved one and sharing good will with Salvation Army volunteers and street musician Santas. The coming vacation provides a perfect opportunity to come downtown and see what makes Chicago a major tourist destination at holiday time.

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**Y2K not throwing U-Highers, faculty into panic**

(continued from front page)

As for U-High computers and the Y2K issue, Computer Teacher Alan Haskell said, “Macs don’t have the Millennium problem. Our P.C.s are new enough. Older P.C.s will probably have some problems, but there’s software you can buy that’ll fix it. We have one 486 which is prepentium which would have a problem. I could install software which would make it alright.” Skeptical of the Y2K hysteria typified by a recent T.V. movie, Physics Teacher David Derbes said, “I don’t think there will be planes crashing and nuclear reactors exploding. The IRS may have some troubles, but I think it’s much ado about nothing.”

“I think the whole thing is grossly exaggerated. I talked to a friend in the computer business in 1996 who thought Y2K was a serious problem. At a recent T.V. movie, Physics Teacher David Derbes said, “I don’t think there will be planes crashing and nuclear reactors exploding. The IRS may have some troubles, but I think it’s much ado about nothing.”

Skeptical of the Y2K hysteria typified by a recent T.V. movie, Physics Teacher David Derbes said, “I don’t think there will be planes crashing and nuclear reactors exploding. The IRS may have some troubles, but I think it’s much ado about nothing.”

“Industries like nuclear power plants and hospitals in which computers make quick decisions could have problems but many things are not that dependent upon dates. Payrolls are, but planes are dependent upon altitude, wind speed and speed, not dates.” Resuming school after winter break on Jan. 4, 2000 U-Highers will be invited to participate in a week of 2000 festivities centering around the Wednesday assembly.

“The goal will be to establish unity between the school clubs and between the grades,” explained Junior Eric Nicolaides, chairperson of what probably will be called Millennium Week. Events are in the planning stage.

In a public announcement on the internet, the United States Department of State hinted that some countries around the world may find themselves in serious danger because of Y2K. "The Department of State expects to evacuate, prior to Jan. 1, U.S. Embassy personnel who are medically reliant on systems that may not be Y2K compliant," the announcement said. Warnings were also issued in the announcement urging all U.S. citizens to try to foresee problems. Although unworried about Y2K, Mr. Derbes is staying at home. "If I were 20 years younger and single," he said, "I would want to spend Dec. 31, 1999 in Edinburgh, Scotland, because they go nuts on New Year’s and have no guns so it’s safe. But I’m 47, not 27, and I’m married.”

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**MARSHALL FIELD’S extravagant animated display of “The Twelve Days of Christmas” (photos from top) has been drawing enormous crowds to its windows, including thousands of visitors from out of town who head for the Windy City to shop and enjoy the holiday excitement. Sparkling colors in motion drench Sarah Peap, left, and Leilani Dec as they are caught up in the spirit of the story unfolding in the windows.**

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