What kind of Principal does U-High need?

Experience, diplomacy rank high as qualities

By Arielle Levin Becker
Editor-in-Chief

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[S] MALL PRIVATE SCHOOL, SEEKING: New principal, its 10th in 35 years. Must be approachable, aggressive and willing to keep an open office and work with faculty members and administrators. Diplomatic skills are a plus.

Though no one has placed such a personal ad for someone to replace Principal Hanna Goldschmidt next year, if such an ad were placed, this might be what it would say if it reflected student, faculty and administrative views. The Midway staff polled 120 U-Highers randomly and asked them to select the most important qualities in a principal. Thirty-seven chose administrative experience, 19 outgoing, 18 sensitive, 17 independent, 11 classroom experience and eight creativity.

Meeting since December with Lab Schools Director Lucinda Katz, a faculty search committee is working with Consultant Isabelle Griffith, from the search firm Educational Directions, to attract and review candidates (see associated story, back page). From keeping an open office to saying "hi" in the halls, approachability and involvement with students represent key characteristics for the new principal, many U-Highers say.

"One of the things Lab needs is someone who is going to be very visibly involved with students," said Cultural Union President Ian Kysel, senior. "We have a counseling staff where five of the five members have very busy offices and not necessarily because people have issues germane to that business. We need a principal who, like the Counseling Department, will make people feel free to come to them, who will have an open office when possible. It would say something about the community if we said 'hi, how are you?' with the principal as we do with the faculty."

Connecting classes to extracurricular activities, Mrs. Katz hopes the principal will keep the school true to its name "Laboratory." "I want the person to have a think-tank approach to high school education," Mrs. Katz explained. "We need to look at what other schools are doing and then create our own innovative programs. I hope the new principal will push the limits of what is already a good program."

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[continued on back page]

[THE PRESENT PRINCIPAL]

The present principal

Doing what's best for the school

By Russell Kohn
Midway reporter

Returning next year to teaching math after five years as principal, Ms. Hanna Goldschmidt advises her successor-whoever that may be-to listen to students' suggestions and work effectively with other administrators.

Appointed interim principal in 1995—she later became principal—Ms. Goldschmidt learned this summer from Lab Schools Director Lucinda Katz this year would be her last as principal.

She was offered several administrative and teaching options and chose to return to teaching math. She was a Middle and High School math teacher 21 years. "A principal for U-High needs to have a love, respect and understanding of adolescents," Ms. Goldschmidt said. "He or she also needs a love of learning and an appreciation of human development. It is important that a principal has the ability to work with others for the good of the school.

"A principal must be able to listen to people and to brainstorm to come up with new innovative programs for the school. My advice for my successor is to be open-minded. Be a good listener and do whatever you think is best for U-High according to your experience and information gathered from other people."

Encouraging student activities, Ms. Goldschmidt said, has ranked high among her goals. "A lot has happened in five years," she observed. "We, the school, have accomplished a great deal in the counseling and advisory programs. We’ve also done a lot with clubs, dances and other student activities."

Another of Ms. Goldschmidt’s goals has been to improve the community from the inside. "When I became principal I wanted to help improve the community by doing things such as publishing a daily bulletin," Ms. Goldschmidt said. "Another thing we’ve implemented is the community assemblies in which the whole community can participate. We are hoping to attract more student or student group presenters to these to share their experiences."

"Another large goal was to maintain our educational standing. We have many classes and activities that challenge students."

One of Ms. Goldschmidt’s trademarks is greeting people in the High School Lobby every morning. "Sometimes I have unexpected meetings with people because I see them in the hall in the morning and they come up to me to discuss something," she said. "I think it is important that I be available to people so that they can do that. It is important that I am enough a part of the community that I can greet people by name."
Laughs to kick off Arts Fest

Three-day celebration offers 100-plus activities, programs

By Sonia Mittal and Shilpa RuPani
Editor-in-chief and Midway reporter

With a fast-paced, interactive opening assembly featuring Comedy Sportz, a North Side improvisation group, and a late '70s free jazz closing assembly featuring the nationally-recognized jazz band Rebel Souls, Arts Fest, Tuesday, Feb. 22-Tuesday, Feb. 28, will offer more than 100 programs.

Workshops and demonstrations led by students, faculty members, parents and local artists, will offer U-Highers plenty of choices.

Dating back to 1966, Arts Fest, originally named Arts Week, was started by Student Council President David Boorstein.

At its height in 1970 the event continued for two weeks. The program declined when art teachers were denied pay for evening and weekend work. In 1998 Juniors Kate Cronin-Furman, Jennifer Jones and Rachel Shapiro succeeded in reviving the event as Arts Fest.

Involved with Arts Fest for the past three years, Seniors Logan McBride, Sonia Mittal and David Zimmer are this year's coordinators, advised by Science Teacher Sharon Housinger.

Believing that Arts Fest is a community event, the coordinators tried to involve as many people as possible.

"We really wanted to involve more U-Highers this year," Logan said. "We opened up mural designs, logo designs and workshop proposals to the entire student body. Anyone who was interested could submit ideas."

"We were so impressed with how many students came up to us and asked how they could be a part of Arts Fest. Arts Fest is a chance for the entire community to show what it has." Students will lead many of the workshops, ranging from tai chi instruction from Senior Ralph Ahn and Sophomore Lauren May to a violin and cello performance by brothers Senior Ishan Bhabha and Sophomore Satya.

Math Teacher Rosa McCullagh plans to teach a workshop on Irish line dancing and English Teacher John O'Connor will sing with members of his band and recite poetry. Math Teacher Jane Canright will show students how to create and piece together a quilt, step-by-step.

Parents will teach workshops including dream analysis with Mr. Waad Kracke, parent of Junior Peter, and balancing with Mrs. Pam Birnie, parent of Senior Rogan.

Professional artists will lead several workshops. Dancer Mark Vaughan will be teaching the basics of African and Caribbean dance. Magpie Studio instructor Kat Kim will explain how to bind books and the popular improvisational comedy troupe Second City will return to host more workshops.

By encouraging students, parents, teachers and local professionals to teach, Arts Fest coordinators hope U-Highers will recognize the wealth of talent just in the community, Sonia said.

"There is so much talent in the U-High community," Sonia said. "Arts Fest is such a wonderful opportunity to expose people's artistic talents."

"Sometimes in such an academically challenging environment as U-High, a lot of us don't have the time to become involved in the arts the way we would like to. We hope that this will give people a chance to get their feet wet and hopefully continue."

Responding to U-Highers' complaints that some classes were too small and others too large, this year's coordinators planned in the fall to change the scheduling process. "We were so impressed with how many students came up to us and asked how they could be a part of Arts Fest. Arts Fest is a chance for the entire community to show what it has."

Last year there were a lot of scheduling conflicts. We tried to change that by scheduling by activity this year, not by period."

-Senior David Zimmer

"We worked really hard this year, making committees smaller, scheduling well in advance, and making sure that all of our bases are covered, in hopes that there will be very few, if any problems."

Semiformal to welcome cupid with decorations

By Joe Fischel
Associate editor

Red, white and silver streamers and balloons will enhance a Valentine's Day mood at Cultural Union's Semiformal, 8-11 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 12 at International House.

Complementing the Valentine's Day theme, C.U. plans to provide a piñata shaped like Cupid which dancegoers can pay $1 to hit trying to get the candy inside, according to C.U. President Ian Kysel.

Students can also purchase Polaroid pictures of themselves taken by C.U. members at the dance. C.U. members will donate proceeds to the Senior class to benefit the prom.

Tickets, $7, went on sale yesterday in the High School Lobby.

"We will stop selling tickets the Wednesday before the dance," Ian explained. "However, students can purchase tickets for $9 at the door. At Homecoming we had to turn a lot of people away because tickets were not on sale at the door. So we decided to sell tickets at the door for this dance. However, no one will be admitted after 9:30."

For the first time, Semiformal Dance kings and queens will not be crowned.

"The most likely reason for this decision was that C.U. members were displeased at the lack of votes for Homecoming king and queen," Ian said. "We felt that the student body did not have a desire for a coronation."

D.J. Telly Kari will provide music for the dance. "Several C.U. members have heard him d.j. parties before," Ian said. "Each time they have been pleased with his performance and music selection. We thought he might be better than hiring a d.j. company."

Although the dance is a Semiformal, Ian encourages U-Highers to dress comfortably.

"We want people to wear what they feel comfortable in but still look nice," he said. "I'm probably going to wear a suit but that does not mean that everyone needs too. We are looking for varied dress to make the dance more flamboyant."
"People feel how they feel because of the facts. The facts need to be addressed, not the feelings." —Math Teacher Shirley Holbrook

Activist urges involvement

By Arielle Levin Becker and Ameer Saleh
Editor-in-Chief and Associate editor

Challenging students to think about community racial and economic issues in human rights terms, Community Activist Jaime Kalven, '98 graduate, spoke to 25 members of Amnesty International Jan. 11 in U-High 208. Mr. Kalven contrasted the differences between Hyde Park, where he lives, and public housing projects where he serves as the residents' advocate. Mr. Kalven also is a best selling author, with his book on a family crisis, "Living with AIDS, Light," getting national attention. He is the father of sophomore Betty and '98 graduate Josh.

"Is it easier to look at human rights in other parts of the world than right here?" asked Mr. Kalven, casual in jeans and an oxford shirt. "It is a basic human impulse to push away stuff we don't know what to do with. It's anguish to recognize something and not know how to respond."

With obvious commitment, Mr. Kalven focused on the problems experienced by residents of Chicago Housing Authority complexes and described their lack of power in their own community.

"It is like having the most stigmatized group in the city confront the most concentrated power in the city," he explained. "Only the most robust democratic process can protect against that confrontation and we don't have anyone like that, so people get upset and unionized.

"We use language to describe poor people as isolated as if they decided to isolate themselves. The better language to use when thinking about these neighborhoods is abandonment—by public institutions, community groups, civil rights, labor movements and journalism. The amount of abandonment is astounding.

Mr. Kalven also spoke on the ongoing destruction of Chicago's public housing, leaving some residents homeless. Without a way to represent themselves, he added, the residents have no way to protest.

"The process of destruction of public housing is going forward with almost no resistance because by the residents and they are limited because they lack vehicles for self-representation," Mr. Kalven said. "It is truly an astounding set of circumstances."

Faculty to decide whether to continue 'healing' discussions

By Arielle Levin Becker
Editor-in-Chief

Faculty members, administrators and Board members will likely vote this month whether to continue mediated meetings to discuss concerns in the faculty's Oct. 4 vote of "no confidence" in Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz. Some faculty members say they look forward to further discussions with administrators and Board members. But others believe the first two meetings, while a step in the right direction, have focused more on issues to be continued meetings.

"The last meeting ended not on a good note and many people seemed to feel that the facilitator had lost control and didn't wrap up the meeting and didn't establish a plan for the next meeting. Things just ended and ended badly., said Counselor Bob Bachand, High School faculty chairperson. "The members of the committee feel strongly that we have more work to do for the rest of the year. My expectation is there will be continued meetings."

But though they see the meetings as a step in the right direction, many faculty members say any future meetings must focus more on issues to be effective. "A lot of attention has been given to how people feel," Math Teacher Shirley Holbrook said. "For me that is not the issue. People feel how they feel because of the facts. The facts need to be addressed, not the feelings."

"I thought the first meeting had some good qualities. A significant number of Board members and administrators and teachers all in the same room hearing each other is something that happens very rarely. However, not much else good came of it. The second was counterproductive. The High School faculty at its meeting between the big meetings outlined specific problems in the way the school is run and these specific problems are what we decided we would like to address. Until they are addressed in an honest, full way, people will be frustrated."

"It is important teachers, Board members and administrators meet again. We have not heard from Board members or administrators in response to problems and that needs to happen. Any such meeting has to be organized in a different way, with a specific purpose. No more trying to make people feel good."

About half win early acceptances

By Abigail Newman
Midway reporter

With 24 seniors accepted early to college of 47 who applied—some accepted at two schools—U-High acceptances is down four percent from last year, according to College Guidance Counselor Patty Kovacs. Forty-three percent of seniors applied early. Three percent more seniors applied early this year than last year when 24 seniors applied early and 24 were accepted.

More seniors applied to Stanford, in California, than to other binding early decision schools, which require that the applicant attend their school if accepted. Harvard and Brown were the most popular nonbinding early action schools, which allow accepted students to apply to other schools too.

Three seniors each were accepted at Stanford and Harvard; only one was accepted to Brown.

Stressing what college admissions officers have told her, Ms. Kovacs feels the high number of early applicants nationwide led to fewer U-High admissions.

"It was a competitive year everywhere," Ms. Kovacs explained, "From the Lab Schools' perspective, because of the increase in applications at early action schools, it was hard to get into them. It was an extremely competitive year in admissions across the board. It is an extremely strong class in terms of achievement.

"They have a really impressive academic record. There are a whole crew of people with really good test scores and extracurriculurs. I think knowing the kids, we would have loved to see more accepted. It's a reflection of how strong the applicant pool is nationwide."

Besides Stanford, Harvard and Brown, seniors were also admitted to schools as follows:

TWO: Yale, Georgetown; ONE: University of Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Oberlin, University of Pennsylvania, Pomona, University of Puget Sound, Tufts, Reed, Vassar, Wesleyan, Williams.

It could happen to you!

Here is wistful Emily Cronin-Furman, dreaming of a Valentine's Day with her own, special dreamboat... and a delicious pizza at Edwardo's! Will her dream happen? you decide!

Well, sort of. She got to pose with Brian Weiss for this ad. Hey! Where's the pizza?

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U.N. in the Loop
By Priya Sridhar
Midway reporter

ough competition is expected by the Model United Nations Club at a meet sponsored by the University of Chicago Thursday through Saturday at the Hilton Palmer House in the Loop. U-High will represent the United States. Hundreds of schools from across the nation are expected to send teams in what has become one of the largest Model U.N. events in the nation.
“Chicago is getting better over the years,” said Senior David Zimmer, head delegate with Senior Libby O’Neill and Junior Sam Khalidi. “It’s one of the best conferences in the country. We have been working very hard, so it should be fun.”

At the University of Michigan Jan. 20-23, 27 U-Highers represented the United States and Syria and received honors as follows:
• BEST DELEGATE—Senior Isaac Kohn, Juniors Mosh Melsi and Katie Tulby, Sophomore Sarah Arkin and Freshmen Cynthia Waldmeier and Ben Zimmer.
• HONORABLE MENTION—Sophomore Daniel Busstone and Lenin Gewertz and Freshmen Spencer Lazar, Shilpa Rupani and Kamal Sawlani.
• CHIEF AWARD FOR SOCIAL HUMANITARIANISM AND CULTURAL COMMITTEE—Junior Jo Buddendorfs and Sophomore Jennifer Sydel.

About two dozen U-Highers are expected to travel to New York City over spring vacation for a competition at the New York Hilton sponsored by an international association of Model U.N. clubs. U-High will represent Pakistan.

Painting school trash cans with the slogan “Trash Chicago is getting better over the years,” said Senior David Zimmer, head delegate with Senior Libby O’Neill and Junior Sam Khalidi. “It’s one of the best conferences in the country. We have been working very hard, so it should be fun.”

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Math Team wins add up
Fifty Chicago area high school math teams including U-High will compete in the fourth North Suburban Math League (NSML) contest tomorrow at Oak Park River Forest High School. A week later, the U-Highers will take their fourth Illinois Math League (IML) test contest.

Recent results are as follows:
NSML DEC. 3 AT GLENBROOK EAST—Senior Jonathan Heckman, 1st place, orals competition and 2nd place overall.
IML TEST JAN. 11—Seniors Ben Luoekzdole and Billy Davis and Juniors Kohki Yamaguchi, perfect scores.

Of Weiwai’s perfect score, Head Coach Jane Carstig observed, “This is a big accomplishment for all of them, especially Weiwai, because a freshman winning doesn’t happen very often.”

Several errors appeared in the Midway’s Dec. 14 story on the Math Team:
• Last year, the Math Team won the Illinois Conference of Southland Mathematics competition at State, not the NSML or IML as was reported.
• At this year’s first NSML contest Sept. 23, Senior Isaac Kohn received 2nd place in the orals contest and Kohki received 1st place in the senior contest.
• In the second NSML contest Oct. 20, Isaac Kohn and Ben Luezkdole received perfect scores on the senior contest. Junior Scbr Walsh and Kohki Yamaguchi received perfect scores on the junior contest, and Senior Jonathan Heckman received 1st place in the seniors overall.

Club to trash drunk driving
By Rachel Greene
Midway reporter

Painting school trash cans with the slogan “Trash Drunk Driving,” U-High’s new Students Against Driving Drunk chapter hopes more U-Highers will join in their cause.

Founded by Juniors Tiffany Northrop and Lee Shevell, SADD meets alternate Mondays to discuss drunk driving prevention. The next meeting will take place next Monday. The trash can painting will begin this month.

“One Thursday double lunch we’re going to gather five trash cans around the school,” Tiffany said. “Students will paint themes and pictures representing their support of no tolerance for drunk driving. The trash cans will be placed around the school and will be a daily reminder of the strong beliefs of many students.”

Tiffany and Lee said they started SADD because they were concerned about U-Highers driving drunk.

“He is a horrid thing,” Lee said. “We felt worried about all the people we know who drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and want to try to do something about it.”

During National Drunk Driving Prevention Month in December, SADD passed out pass to U-Highers in the cafeteria.

SADD was started by Mr. Robert Anastas, hockey coach and school health director from a high school in Wayland, Mass., following the 1981 deaths of two students driving drunk. The group has grown into a national organization with hundreds of local high school chapters.

Another organization against drunk driving, MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), is sponsoring a second annual National Youth Summit in Washington D.C., Sept. 29-Oct. 4. Delegates will discuss solutions for underage drunk driving.

A cosmic bowling adventure

• WHAT a great Saturday night! Join friends for fun bowling at Oak Forest Bowl. We’re just 30 minutes from Hyde Park. You’ll love our state-of-the-art bowling facilities, restaurant, bowling pro shop and great game room. Take a tip from Martin McCullagh and Emily Dorman and enjoy a cosmic night at Oak Forest!

Enjoy a truly electric experience and fantastic bowling at Oak Forest. You’ll find our lanes the best anywhere and where else would you find a black-light-and-neon show? There’s lots else, too, so meet your friends at Oak Forest. It’s cosmic, baby!
“Man, I don’t have to go to assembly,” Senior Jon Dorsey told his friends. “Let’s go out and get some breakfast instead.” That was two months ago. And it wasn’t the first time Jon had cut an assembly. Nor did he come regularly to French class. Oh, and advisory? He doesn’t even know who his adviser is.
Jon may have re-considered his decisions to cut those classes had he realized that his grades would not be sent home—or to his colleges—until he faced the consequences.
With his parents threatening a boarding school education, Jon took a trip down to the Manager of Auxiliary Services Tony Wilson, the man in charge of work detail, to serve his 15 periods worth. Little did Jon know of the corruption problem that existed there.

Okay guys,” Tony radioed to his henchmen. “We got another student here for work detail. What do y’all want from U.M.?”

“I have to buy all of you lunch?” Jon asked, suddenly realizing the severity of the situation.
“Hey kid” Tony told Jon, “it’s your choice. Either you can buy me and my staff lunch, or you don’t get your grades. Right now, you belong to ME. I am the the one you signs off on your work detail.”

“Okay guys,” Tony radioed to his henchmen. “We got another student here for work detail. What do y’all want from U.M.?”

“I have to do work detail. I’m ready to clean a few desks, not buy my way out of work detail!”

“Tony, this is Carter. I want a U.M. Sub with everything on an Italian roll.”

“This is Art. Tell the kid to get me a box of Frosted Flakes and some coffee. I haven’t had breakfast yet.”

“John here. I’m in the mood for some sushi. Get me some of those great California rolls and a pound of wasabi.”

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Hip-hop and reggae? New C.D. combines both

WHO WOULD GUESS that Steven Tyler and Joe Perry from Aerosmith would ever be featured on the same C.D. as Krayzie Bone from Bone Thugs? On the recently released Bob Marley remix album, "Chant Down Babylon," they are; both musical acts each perform a classic Bob Marley tune, "Roots, Rock, Reggae," and "Rebel Music," respectively.

The musical career of Bob Marley was an interesting one. During more than 20 years until his death in 1981. A pioneer in Jamaican music, he paved the way for international recognition and love for reggae. Masterminded by Bob's son, Stephen, "Chant Down Babylon" features 12 Bob songs remixed with hip-hop beats, new instruments and in some cases, new lyrics. Each song is reworked with a different musician's voice, creating the effect that the person is singing along with Bob. The Lost Boyz join my age in the song "Redemption Song" and the Roots are just a few of the people featured.

Music

Gyrus Dowlatshahi +

The idea behind "Chant Down Babylon" is to get the attention of the urban youth population of America, something Bob wasn't able to do during his career. And attention is what the album is getting. I have never seen my friends go so crazy about Bob Marley than when they heard this C.D. ("To Cyprus! You gotta let me borrow this... I got these cheeseburgers, man...")

But for some reason, I feel almost guilty playing this C.D. Sure, I go crazy when Busta Rhymes starts rapping with a Jamaican accent on "Rastaman Chant," but I can't help but wonder: would kids my age really like these songs if they didn't have current hip-hop stars out-crying Bob's lyrics with their bars.

In fact, a couple of the songs are just bad. I remember when I was in 2nd grade and we would have to do an assignment about Bob. The Lost Boyz, Lauryn Hill and the Roots are just a few of the people featured.

Mailbox: Under influence

From Senior M.C. Ostoby: RECENTLY A GROUP of seniors was spotted smoking by an administrator at Ida Noyes. The group was called into that the students in question not violating any state laws, when asked, the administrators could not point to any place in the Student Handbook which justified their actions, none of the students were on sports teams and they were not on school grounds. In this way, the actions of the administrators can be likened to a self-righteous and deluded friend, calling the parents to snatch on their child's bad behavior.

When you get right down to it and look at the situation rationally, one sees that this action will most likely do nothing in the way of positive change. On the eve of leaving home, the only person likely to make that person quit smoking is him or herself. The bigger issue is that kids are independently developing a negative habit. In reality, though, it's hard to quit smoking. The attitude of "I am only responsible for what goes on inside my classroom" is the worst kind of apathy, other attitudes such as moral decay, junk food, poorly-written music and Supremes video watching assemblies are just as misguided. Given this, I think there are many more examples of students being influenced in positive ways outside of the classroom. Where I live it is not uncommon for gangster rappers who, on their own albums, talk about how many people they've shot.

Boxer finds justice within

WINNING CRITICAL ACCLAIM, box office dollars and a Golden Globe award, Norman Jewison's "The Hurricane" uses sensitive direction, vivid scenes and a powerful script to portray boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter's public fight to overturn a wrongful murder conviction and his private struggle to make peace with himself. Based on Carter's autobiography

"The Sixteenth Round," "The Hurricane" skips back and forth in time as it follows Carter (Denzel Washington) from being a troubled child to a boxing star to an innocent prisoner. While in prison, Carter shuns outside contact, saving prison is a place humanity cannot survive. But it is there he finds his own humanity, making peace with anger and the injustice done to him.

With Washington's honest, intense portrayal (a Golden Globe winner), "The Hurricane" shows how a man wronged emerged free even before being released, strengthened by an internal victory against the forces which had once kept him down.

The Student Handbook, which justified the attitude of "I am only responsible for what goes on inside my classroom" is the worst kind of apathy, other attitudes such as moral decay, junk food, poorly-written music and Supremes video watching assemblies are just as misguided. Given this, I think there are many more examples of students being influenced in positive ways outside of the classroom. Where I live it is not uncommon for gangster rappers who, on their own albums, talk about how many people they've shot.

YOUR SAY IN THE MIDWAY

Compiled by Ameer Saleh

What do you want to do for the four day weekend in February? What are you actually doing?

ZACK TURNBull, freshman: I would want to take a four-day excursion to Acapulco because the women down there are beautiful. In reality, though, I'm probably just going to sit at home and rest.

MISSY COREY, sophomore: I want to go out on a date with Ameer Saleh every night of the four-day weekend because he is such a great guy. As of now though, I'm planning on seeing my friends.

Zack

LIZ RICHARDSON, senior: I'm going to have to go out for four romantic evenings with my girlfriend. That's really what I'm doing!

LIZ

WRITE US!

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LIZ RICHARDSON, senior: I'm going to have to go out for four romantic evenings with my girlfriend. That's really what I'm doing!
Rule can’t cut it

HAVING JUST GOTTEN back into town after Christmas, I was interrupted from unpacking my bags by a shout from my Dad, “Bobby, get in here now!” My mind swiveling: What had I done? What had they learned? How would I get out of trouble? My Dad handed me a letter.

It said I had been repeatedly told to see Mr. Tom Minelli, assistant to the principal, regarding my class-cutting. My grades were not what I had expected, and I decided to investigate. An alarming number of my fellow seniors also had our grades held hostage. Writing this affect transcripts going to colleges? Nope. Could I eventually get my grades from the regular counselor? Yep. A blank diploma at graduation was the only real punishment.

I headed to the Administrative Office to talk to Assistant Coordinator Frankie Newcomb.

U-HIGH MIDWAY
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U-High offers quality food fast

LEAVING MY 3rd period class hungry, I found Bobby and we decided to make up for missing breakfast by heading to Valois at 53rd and Harper for a quick and guaranteed value.

We ordered their eggs, many any style, pancakes, French toast, hash browns, grits, bacon, sausage links or patties, doughnuts and a wide variety of juices all reasonably priced. Finally I decided on scrambled eggs and hash browns, coming to $1.85. Bobby ordered French toast, eggs, and bacon for $4.35.

Cut talk on policies

As in years past, considerable talk about the need for consistent school rules, consistent enforcement and consistent discipline has occupied considerable faculty time. And, as usual, an inconsistent disciplinary situation has prevailed. The school seems to be engaging in an eternal game of “crack down, but don’t do it all the time.” All well and good. In the most recent display of U-High’s ever changing enforcement policy, about a dozen seniors expecting to receive first quarter grades didn’t. Instead they received form letters stating that they had not cleaned up class cuts. Until they did their required work detail the school would not release their grades. But, many of the students in the same position last year got their grades. The Student Handbook states, “Assign work detail to the underclassmen of their choice. Underclassmen who earn "Get Out of a Cut Free" passes to be used as seniors. Seniors would then resume their tradition of cleaning up class cuts on their own.”

The Student Handbook states, “If assigned work detail is not served, they may be withheld until the work detail is completed. In the case of seniors, diplomas and final transcripts will be withheld until you complete your work.”

Many rules in the Handbook are written in a similarly ambiguous manner. Consequently, they can be enforced differently in the same situation. The school furthers the inconsistencies by deciding to use rules where and when they want to.

The current cut punishments reflect U-High’s tradition of inconsistency. Many students this year never received cut slips on their class boards or the notices from Mr. Minelli’s office which are supposedly sent to their classes. Other students say they had multiple unresolved cuts and still received their grades.

As usual, no one is willing to clear things up, at least for the Midway. The school always talks about how important consistency is. But, as always, it ends there.
Glamorous nights, trips to the Caribbean and Mickey D's top romantic fantasies.

By Ariuna Reddy
Madison reporter

From extravagant nights out on the town to modest McDonald's dinners, U-Highers have all sorts of different takes on Ideal Valentine's Day dates.

While some would stay home, others envision exotic trips to the Caribbean. "I would go to a deserted island somewhere in the Caribbean, where my girlfriend and I could be alone," said Junior Daniel Schatt. "I would feed her fresh fruit and berries while she sipped on a bubbly beverage. "Now that would be perfect. I love spending quality alone time with her because she's the most unbelievable woman alive." Romance also figures into Junior Rebecca Nichols' dream date. "I would have a candlelight dinner and afterwards take a long walk along the beach and watch the sunset." One U-Higher has already lived her Valentine's Day dream. "I would fly to Jackson Hole with Cyrus Dowlatshahi and Ryan Beck and go skiing," Senior Nora Geary said.

"After that we would retire to the huge private lodge where we would be staying. We would sit next to the fireplace and sip hot chocolate," she explained. "We would then go to The Point and dance the night away." -Junior Rebecca Nichols

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"Glamorous nights, trips to the Caribbean and Mickey D's top romantic fantasies.

VALENTINE and take in the great view of the Chicago Skyline."

"rom extravagant nights out on the town explained what they wished to do on Valentine's day and seemed excited to tell with whom they wished to spend their time."

"At around 4 o'clock my dream date would pick me up in a black convertible and we would drive for about an hour on a desolate highway to a beach," Junior Annie Padrid said. "We would have dinner and then take a long walk along the beach and watch the sunset."

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Now you see him
Freshman proves a tricky fellow

By Debbie Traub
Midway reporter

The guy who does magic tricks in the hall, “Little Houdini” and “The Magician.” Those are just a few of the names amazed U-Highers call magician Richard Komaiko, a freshman from western suburban La Grange.

He performed one of his most elaborate tricks, “Federal Escape,” in which he was chained and handcuffed in a large mailbag at the Jan. 5 community assembly. The trick aroused a lot of tension when it took Richard six minutes to appear from the bag.

“I’ve performed this trick about 10 times without any problems but I will never say that it is a safe trick to do,” Richard said. “The mailbag heats up to about 100 degrees, the handcuffs slice my wrists and the chains give me bruises. But I assure everyone, I did not have a key inside the bag with me.”

Richard said danger has never stopped him from performing tricks because magic has become his passion. Chatting in the cafeteria, he recalled the experience that first sparked his curiosity.

“I was 6 and I saw a magician perform at a restaurant,” he said while shuffling a deck of cards. “I went onstage with him and ever since then, I’ve been interested in magic.”

Pulling a worn-down book out of his backpack titled “The Royal Road To Card Magic,” he continued, “I have tons of magic books—I’d call it a small library—but this is the one I use the most. A lot of the tricks I do are from this book.”

Although he often performs solo, Richard says he can always use an assistant.

“My assistant is usually my sister,” he said. “I have a trick where I cut off her arm. Sometimes I’ll have my friends help. My family really helps a lot, especially my mom. My mom is my manager. She sets up all my gigs, which are usually for schools, parties or corporations. My publicity mostly comes from word-of-mouth. My mom is also the one I practice my tricks for before I do a performance.”

Performing for family at parties helped Richard prepare for his first paying job when he was 10.

IN CHAINS, Richard Komaiko is ready to be locked into a mailbag from which he escaped at the Jan. 5 all-school assembly.

“I’ve never had stage fright but when I look back on it now, I can’t imagine performing for so many people at such a young age,” he said. “I once did a show for 200 people.”

Having seen Val Valentino, The Masked Magician, giving away magic secrets on television, Richard’s top priority is maintaining the secrecy of his tricks.

“Val wants to inspire new growth in magicians but I think he’s just lashing out in a field he could never survive in,” he observed. “I just like providing mystery. As you grow older you lose the sense of wonder you had as a child. I don’t think anybody should be ashamed to show curiosity, no matter how old they are, or how much they know. Even as a magician, I don’t think I’ve lost any wonder yet.”

Pianist goes to Miami to compete

By Nick Epstein
Midway reporter

Returning from a Jan. 10-16 Arts Week competition in Miami, pianist Conley Johnson hopes to receive one of 20 awards next week.

Sponsored by the National Foundation of Advancement in the Arts, Arts Week featured 125 talented artists under 18.

Competing before a panel of professional musicians and composers, candidates vied for $3,000 grants and an opportunity to perform for the President at the White House.

Because Conley has competed in other national competitions he felt confident about his performance in Miami.

“I have been involved in events like this before so I wasn’t too nervous about my audition but there was a lot of competition,” he said.

Another U-High musician, Senior Dan Feder, performed on WFMT radio Jan. 6 as a member of the award-winning Fine Arts Trio.

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Photos by Betsy Kalven and Lee Shevell; models, Natalie Hay and Betsy Kalven.

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Security report inspires objectives

By Libby O'Neill

Creating a secure perimeter around the Lab Schools, staff and visitor protocol, effective means of communication between classrooms and administrators' offices and a more comprehensive emergency crisis plan are the four major security objectives identified by members of the Lab Schools Board Security Sub-committee, including parents, faculty and staff, after studying a report written for the Lab Schools by Mr. Ron Stevens, a school safety expert who works for the National Schools Safety Center in Westlake, Calif.

Among changes, the report calls for new security to safeguard the perimeter of the Lab Schools, as well as possible identification cards for staff, parents, visitors and students. The report also addresses internal security infrastructure, including the possibility of installing two-way communication systems in classrooms (such a system already exists in the High School but would need resuming).

The report also deals with the creation of an overall school emergency training plan, including crisis planning.

"Some of the suggestions in Mr. Stevens' report seemed very boiler plate, not indigenous to this community," said College Counselor Patty Kovacs, subcommittee member.

"The committee has more specific ideas of what needs to be done first such as creating the best secure perimeter for the school, knowing that we're dealing with a population of people ages three to 18.

"The parents of these students have different security needs and the students themselves have different needs."

Lower School and High School parents have expressed different concerns over negligence iron fences scheduled for installation this spring at the end of Kenwood Road. While many parents of younger students believe locked gates would best serve the community, older students' parents are reluctant to surrender their "traditional freedom high schoolers here have enjoyed.

"The fences are definitely going up, but right now, the exact location of the fences is under reassessment because of fire regulations," Ms. Kovacs said, "but we do expect the fences to go up sometime during spring quarter.

"Also, there is no decision on whether or not to lock the gates. As of now, they are not going to be locked but that could change. The Lower School parents are ready for the gates to be locked down but High School parents are say­ing, 'Hey, that's like a prison.'"

"So, that's still a question." As discussions continue between the faculty, Board, parents and administrators, a student voice has yet to be included.

By Jeremy Chan

Settling in for a tasty, satisfying lunch, John Oztoby, Alex Chiu and Lara Steele enjoy the relaxing atmosphere at Wok N’ Roll.

For great Chinese dining conveniently located close to school, come over to Wok N’ Roll. Our authentic Chinese delicacies will make your mouth water! All our dishes are made to order, so they’re always fresh and tasty. You can dine in our cozy refuge from winter’s cold or take it and roll!

1408 E. 53rd St. (773) 643-3500

Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday: 1-9 p.m.

"The Lower School parents are ready for the gates to be locked down but High School parents are saying, 'Hey, that’s like a prison.'"

--College Counselor Patty Kovacs

More Valentine Messages

(continued from page 8)

Native Chicago

DEAR CHRIS—I’m really good things finally worked out between us. I look forward to some great times with you. Love, Sonja.

JOHN WOOD—Let’s end this silly silence. Come on, we’re supposed to be adults now, truce now. Love, Rissa.

SPUD, EMISTAIR, SREDAYW, EJ, MBS, and all my love. Love ya, DJ.

MY DARLING BOL—I’m truly, truly, utterly, and modestly in love with you, my wonderful treasure. I adore you! Thank you for making me so happy. Happy Valentines Day! Love, Pumpkin.

NOAH—Hold me tight! You are so much more than just a crush. Love, Joel.

ADAM—JOY—Not all those who wander are lost—“Potions.” You don’t know me, do you? But I know you.

CLASS OF 2000—Run up on the senior prank. Have a nice Valentine’s Day and don’t come to school. You suck.

BOO AND ROMA—Thankin’ for being there on a regular basis. I’ll love you till the day I die! Sexy Mama.

ME AND ROMAN—Thankin’ for being there when I needed you most. Our friendship means the world to me. Happy Valentine’s Day to my little princess. I love you, Daniel.

BABALOO—I love you more than you could ever imagine. Your lil Chitldren...

To all my friends—I love you. Anju.

ANNIE, LIL KATIE, KATIE S., JO, BRICA, MIKE, BETH, AMY, MATT, ASHLENE, CLARK, TAI, MOM, DAD, AND SE-Bach one of you has made my life a whole lot sweeter. Much Love, Tiffany.

Editors note: Valentine messages were sold and compiled by the Midwest Tiffany Midway and Jordan Enchay. Thanks to everyone who bought messages. The $5 won’t go to an other issue of the Midwest with full-color pages.

Briffly:

Music Studio sets up web site

Lowey, manager of technical support; and Beure Muizit, manager of information systems.

Newcomers—Several people have joined the Information Systems Department. They include Ms. Michelle Honey, administrative assistant; Ms. Colleen Cal-

noble goal, many did not agree with the social and economic philosophies expressed by the speakers. In a question-and-answer session, U-Highers challenged the speakers to come with solutions to the problem as they spoke on and disputed some of their historical claims. The editors invited U-Highers to contact the paper with ideas or comments.

Chris—I’m really glad things worked out between us. Love, Sonia.

DAPHNE—I’m glad things worked out between us. I look forward to much more. Love, Wood.

JOHN—Let’s end this silly silence. Come on, we’re supposed to be adults now, truce now. Love, Rissa.

JELLY LOVER—I can’t even begin to tell you how much you mean to me. Happy Valentine’s Day! Love, Truthfully, I couldn’t ask for more.

Rissa—Without you, I would have never realized how much I love you. Happy Valentine’s Day! Love, Rissa.

SPUDD, EMISTAIR, SREDAYW, EJ, MBS, and all my love. Love ya, DJ.

Happy Valentine’s Day to my little princess. I love you, Daniel.

BABALOO—I love you more than you could ever imagine. Your lil Chitldren...

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Students, teacher learning together in new class

By Ilana Greene
Midway reporter

Placing in between rows of desks, A.P. Statistics Teacher Rosa McCullagh, throws a question to her class.

"Any suggestions?" she muttered quickly in her Irish accent. "The trouble is I'm not sure myself.

"The wonderful thing about this class I am learning about statistics along with the class."

Twenty-two seniors with varied mathematical backgrounds elected to take the new class.

A.P. Statistics students must be juniors, have completed precalculus and two years of science labs.

Established by the College Board in 1997, A.P. Statistics courses are being offered by increasing numbers of schools each year.

Deciding to provide more A.P. courses, the Math Department added A.P. Statistics this year.

Though it is a difficult subject, students seem to be enjoying the class so far.

"I like the fact that A.P. Statistics is different from any other class," Senior Ramez Haddadin said. "The class discussions are similar to an English class, the data collection is like a science class and the concepts involved are mathematics. Also, the computer work required to simulate data is unique to A.P. Statistics."

Senior Seminar underway

By Sonia Mittal
Editor-in-Chief

Whether it's through visits to the Art Institute, watching a Japanese film or playing various questions, 21 seniors and six faculty members in Senior Seminar hope to better understand what it means to be human.

A not-for-credit, weekly lunch period class created five years ago by a group of faculty members, Senior Seminar provides an opportunity for students and teachers to learn from each other and plan learning activities together.

Senior Seminar is expiring.

This year's theme focuses on identity perception and it really must stand on its own.

"The wonderful thing about this class is I am learning about statistics along with the class."

-A.P. Statistics Teacher Rosa McCullagh

"The trouble is I'm not sure myself."

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This year's theme focuses on identity perception and it really must stand on its own.
We need Mr. Presley and we’re not the same team without him.

- Charles Simmons

Despite shocks varsity basketball boys persevere

Still in the game

By Jordann Zachary and Tiffany Northrop

Midway reporter

Taking the confidence of repeating last year’s ISL championship the 11-9 (6-1 ISL) boy varsity hoopers, currently 2nd in the league, have been pulling together to move on from a series of blows. After their first hit, a Dec. 10-49 defeat at Elgin, they stumbled through losses at Kenwood and the Luther South Tournament. And then came their biggest blow of all, the loss of their coach, Phys Ed Teacher Ron Presley. Jan. 10, not yet explained. Responding by winning their next five games by decisive margins coached by Phys Ed Teacher Dan Dyra and Middle School Teacher John Wilson, varsity coach for 18 years and parent of David, the Maroons hope to continue their run to the top of the ISL. Focused on beating the undefeated Romans 5:30 p.m. today at Latin, the Maroons also are revving up 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 15 against Elgin at home.

Entering the season with four starters returning, the team’s confidence was publicly displayed by Forward David Strauss, coaptain with Guard David Wilson, both seniors, in the Nov. 3 Midway. “I am supremely confident that we will prevail as the best team in U-High history,” he said. Looking back, the Elgin game served as a learning experience for the team. But first, a 4 p.m. con-test this Friday at Parker will help to decide its conference fate. Assistant Coach Julius Rhodes believes his team is beginning to understand exactly what it needs to do to improve and succeed. “I think we have a good shot at winning the championship,” Mr. Rhodes said. “However, I’m more concerned with the guys putting forth the effort in practice that when game time rolls around, we’ll be ready to do the job.” As for the ISL title, the freshman team is still in the running. Of the team’s six remaining games, three of them are against ISL opponents.

J.V. still hunting league crown

By Kian Dowlatshahi

Midway reporter

Preparing for crucial league games at Latin 4 p.m. today and against Parker 4:30 p.m. Thursday at home, boys’ J.V. ballers feel confident about their chances of winning the ISL in spite of their 7-9 (5-1 ISL) record. “Winning the league will require more of a commitment during practices after school, believes Sophomore Chris Amos, captain.” “We need to focus more during practices,” Chris explained, “so that when we play the tougher opponents like Elgin, we can play better and win those games.”

The Maroons’ morale took a shot in a heartbreaking home loss to Luther South Jan. 15. The team got several opportunities later in the game, but four missed free throws in the final ten seconds sealed its fate.

“It’s too bad, because we had a chance to put them away,” said Sophomore Rick Baum. “The loss showed us that we needed to practice the little things, the fundamentals. Now, hopefully, we’ll be able to convert on our opportunities.”

The j.V.ers haven’t missed a step even though Coach Dan Dyra has been coaching both the absence of varsity and J.V., because of the unexpected job of leading the under the coaching of Mr. Presley. “We players understand the situation,” Mr. Dyra explained. “They are rooting for each other, as well as for me. In this respect, practices and games are the same as always.” At 4-6 (1-1), the freshman team is looking to establish its position in the ISL standings. After losing 32-21, Jan. 6 at Latin, the freshmen hope for revenge 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 11 at Luther South, so they pose a serious threat. “I am frustrated. I want to be mad at Mr. Presley,” Charles said. “We need to take control of our own destiny as players, the team has refocused, according to David Wilson.

“We now practice as hard as if it were a game,” he said. “Before Elgin, we didn’t have the right level of intensity, but now we do. Losing to Elgin has placed a lot of pressure on us. We must now win the rest of our ISL games to win the league title.”

The team got the confidence of repeating last year’s ISL championship the 11-9 (6-1 ISL) boy varsity hoopers, currently 2nd in the league, have been pulling together to move on from a series of blows. After their first hit, a Dec. 10-49 defeat at Elgin, they stumbled through losses at Kenwood and the Luther South Tournament. And then came their biggest blow of all, the loss of their coach, Phys Ed Teacher Ron Presley. Jan. 10, not yet explained.

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**Girls heat up for rematch**

By Jules Federle
Midway reporter

Come on now! Pick it up! Hustle!' yelled Senior Tai Duncan, girls' varsity basketball co-captain with Junior Annie Padrid, during a practice late last month. "Keep pushing! Only two more sprints!" In preparation for today's 5:30 p.m. home game against Latin, the sweaty, tired and drenched Romans hustle through two more sprints.

This year, the season Jan. 7, the Romans suffered a 53-33 loss to Mather.

"That, Tai said, "just shouldn't have happened."

We could have won, but some of the girls were intimating the fact that we were playing the top team in the ISL on their home floor.

The Romans' wavering confidence could be attributed to their 10-13 (5-4 ISL) record, Tai observed.

"Unfortunately our team isn't very consistent," she explained. "Sometimes we're so hard core, we're totally focused, but then other times, like when we lost to St. Francis (Nov. 17, 42-61), we were all over the place."

Added Annie, "There aren't that many things that are keeping us from being a dominant basketball team. We all love the game of basketball. We just need to build off of the passion we have for the game to shed any apprehensions we might have from our losses.

Any chances of an ISL title diminished after three league losses early last month to Latin, Morgan Park and Parker. Despite the anguish over the team's performance, an easy Regional outlook looks the girls confident of a respectable showing.

"Right now we just want to finish the season strong," Tai said. "Our game against Latin plays an important part in gaining the momentum we need entering Regionals."

At 11-6 (6-1) the j.v.ers are focused on their chance at an ISL title. With their only league loss coming against Woodlands early in the season, the girls now feel they can beat anyone.

"We have a really good team, we're really strong and we're all hard workers," said Sophomore Mariata Davis. "The only team that's given us any trouble is Woodlands, meaning that if we just keep our intensity for the rest of the year, we'll win the ISL no problem."

Swimmers see another win

By Rick Baum
Midway reporter

Preparing for a meet Thursday at Evergreen Park, the boys' swim team feels confident it will beat the Mustangs, as U-High hopes to ride the momentum of a 6-0 start.

Looking ahead to the crucial 1 p.m. Lake Forest Academy Invitational this Saturday, the swimmers plan to make a strong impression on rival Latin, who they'll see three times this year.

One of four teams featured at the Invitational, the Romans would meet the Romans consistently the last three years.

"We have three chances at Latin this year," said Senior Mike Stigler, co-captain with Sophomore Chris Oaks and Josh Jackson. "We plan on taking advantage of all three of these chances, starting with a first at the LFA Invitational."

Breaking the U-High record for the 500 freestyle Jan. 5 against St. Ignatius at home, Junior Joel Sellers' time of 5:23.34 downed the old record by .15 seconds.

"It's nice to know I'll be remembered for a while because of the record," Joe said.

Joe wasn't the only swimmer who fared well, as almost everyone scored a personal best. In a key meet Jan. 13 at Argo, the Romans came back from a close 51-43 victory last year, with a dominating 60-29.

Since last year, the swimmers have gotten physically and mentally stronger, with veteran swimmers doing more sorks as they gain experience.

These new advantages may make some coaches expect more, but Coach Larry McFarlane remains humble, sticking to the same goals, "I would be happy if we continue to swim fast and maintain our winning record."

Upcoming meets are as follows:

- Kenwood Academy, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 9, home
- Latin, 4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11, away
- Sectionals, time TBA, Saturday, Feb. 19, away
- State, Fri-Sat, time and place to be announced.

Photos courtesy of George Wied

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Looking ahead to the crucial 1 p.m. Lake Forest Academy Invitational this Saturday, the swimmers plan to make a strong impression on rival Latin, who they'll see three times this year.

One of four teams featured at the Invitational, the Romans would meet the Romans consistently the last three years.

"We have three chances at Latin this year," said Senior Mike Stigler, co-captain with Sophomore Chris Oaks and Josh Jackson. "We plan on taking advantage of all three of these chances, starting with a first at the LFA Invitational."

Breaking the U-High record for the 500 freestyle Jan. 5 against St. Ignatius at home, Junior Joel Sellers' time of 5:23.34 downed the old record by .15 seconds.

"It's nice to know I'll be remembered for a while because of the record," Joe said.

Joe wasn't the only swimmer who fared well, as almost everyone scored a personal best. In a key meet Jan. 13 at Argo, the Romans came back from a close 51-43 victory last year, with a dominating 60-29.

Since last year, the swimmers have gotten physically and mentally stronger, with veteran swimmers doing more sorks as they gain experience.

These new advantages may make some coaches expect more, but Coach Larry McFarlane remains humble, sticking to the same goals, "I would be happy if we continue to swim fast and maintain our winning record."

Upcoming meets are as follows:

- Kenwood Academy, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 9, home
- Latin, 4 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11, away
- Sectionals, time TBA, Saturday, Feb. 19, away
- State, Fri-Sat, time and place to be announced.

Photos courtesy of George Wied

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**Tennis courts get name**

By Elizabeth Stigler
Midway reporter

Next time you call your friends to go play on the Lab Schools' new tennis courts, make sure to use the name right. At a reception Oct. 12, with Sophomore Jenny Heydemann and her mother Dr. Barbara Heydemann, '66, and grandmother Alice present, the court was named in honor of her grandfather Julius, Jenny's sister Lizzie, '99, was out of the country.

As a member of the girls' varsity tennis team, Jenny has been part of two ISL championships and took two trips
We need someone to say decision, you can fire me if you want but it is my decision."

The previous principal

A voice of experience

By J.A. Redfield
Midway reporter

"A principal must have creativity and sensitivity, especially at U-High. If you’re not creative at U-High, you’ll be the only one who’s not. And you have to go in with the understanding that it’s a special place and be sensitive to that. U-High is part of the U of C, not just located on the campus."

So observes Mr. Wendell McConnaha, who served as U-High principal from 1986 to 1994. Mr. McConnaha is now director of Malcolm Price Laboratory School at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls.

"Creativity and sensitivity are not the only important things," Mr. McConnaha said. "It is also critical that he or she have a solid relationship with the student body. Independence kind of goes along with those qualities and classroom experience is almost a given. In fact, 90 percent of what I do, anybody could do. But if you can’t do it, and you don’t have those qualities, it would be hard to learn at U-High."

Another vital quality in a principal, he believes, is administrative experience.

"U-High would not be a good place to have your first administrative experience," Mr. McConnaha explained. "I came in with 11 years of administrative experience but I learned right away that to effectively lead you have to leave your ego at the door. U-High can’t get somebody as principal who’s going to try and bend people to his or her will."

From his years spent in education, as both a director and a principal, Mr. McConnaha said he also realizes the importance of sharing power.

"If the director has done his job in the selection process, his or her worst tendency will be to micro manage," he explained. "Being a director is two things: Hiring the best people possible and removing the barriers so they can do their jobs. The key relationship in the system is between the director and the principal. The director has to be the ultimate authority, but I’m not suggesting that everyone should be this way."

Whichever the new principal is, Mr. McConnaha urges U-High’s students and faculty to sympathize with him or her.

"The new principal is going to come in with a tremendous burden," he said. "Not only will he or she have to do the day-to-day, but he’ll have to deal with a lot of ghosts that will linger."

Consultant hears desires for principal

By Sonia Mittal
Editor-in-Chief

Administrative experience and independence top the qualifications administrators, faculty members, parents and students seek in next year’s High School principal, according to Consultant Isabelle Griffith, who visited the school Jan. 6-7. She is associated with Educational Directions, a Rhode Island firm which helps schools find worthy job candidates.

Besides meeting with the school’s various constituencies, Ms. Griffith toured the neighborhood. After compiling her impressions of the school, Ms. Griffith’s firm will advertise widely for candidates, check references and summarize credentials.

"I came here to get a feeling for the school and find a perfect match," Ms. Griffith said. "Here I saw a commonality in what people wanted which was wonderful. I’ve heard that this school needs someone with a lot of administrative experience and a successful leader. Also, the new principal has to be committed to both students and families. But at the same time I have to learn what would make a candidate really want to be here. Will they like living in Hyde Park? The fact that their children could attend might affect some candidates. Also, the diversity of the school is seen as a plus. Since Lab has such a good reputation some candidates might find the position a step up in their career pathways. They might be looking for a challenge."

They’re watching...