



Photos by Betsy Kalven

## Festival celebrates arts

MORE THAN 100 students, teachers, parents and area artists led workshops and performances during Arts Fest, Feb. 22-24.

A TOUCH OF GREEN (photos from left) adds to Dan Hodges' pot during Terra's Art and the Environment Workshop.

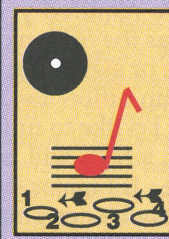
WITH BROTHER ISHAN on violin, cellist Satya Bhaba presented a concert of classical music. BLACK DOTS burned on a blue design add contrast as Sarah Craig enjoys the Egg Making Workshop taught by Lower School Teacher Karen Putman.

# U-HIGH MIDWAY

Volume 75, Number 8 ■ University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 ■ Tuesday, March 14, 2000

## Inside Story

### 8-9 Why Hip-Hop is hip



Come inside and see what Hip-Hop is really all about. Whether you love it or ain't got a clue, you'll find out why so many

U-Highers are in love with this cultural phenomenon.

# Senior year to get look . . . again

## Other schools offer choices

By Joe Fischel

Associate editor

From courses for seniors only to school-sponsored trips to other countries, many public and private schools in Chicago and around the nation have implemented programs to make the senior year special with more freedoms and choices.

Such possibilities have been discussed repeatedly by the faculty over the past 30 years, with few results. Now Principal Hanna Goldschmidt is proposing the idea of evaluating alternatives, like those at other schools, that could be brought to U-High. The next step, she said, is to form a committee of faculty members to see what students, faculty members and parents would prefer.

"I brought the idea up because many seniors seem to meet graduation requirements after their junior years and also many take smaller course loads," Ms. Goldschmidt explained. "I imagine the committee will survey students to see how they use their time and how many graduate early."

"The committee may also contact other schools to see what they offer in the way of senior year alternatives. Things like Senior Seminar are very useful but it is only open to 18 students. But everyone who wants to should have the opportunity to do something like that."

In 1971 seniors proposed making all courses

pass-fail during winter and spring quarters for seniors. But administrators rejected the idea. Later proposals have included adding more senior-only electives into the curriculum.

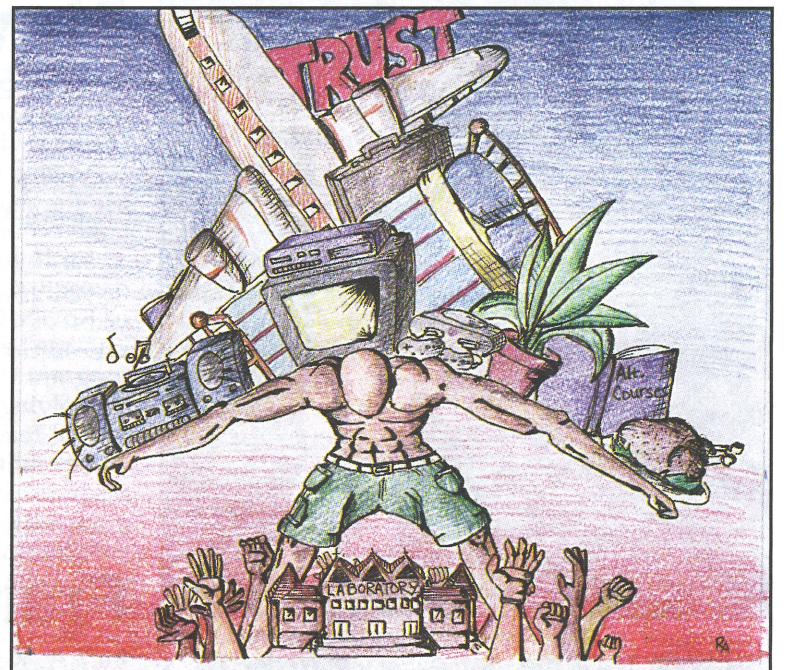
Many schools offer special, senior-only, classes. At the Latin School, on the North Side, students can take a number of senior-only electives, according to Upper School Director John Love.

"We offer a number of courses which are for seniors only," Mr. Love explained. "We offer a senior writing course and a creative writing course which help seniors prepare for college. Additionally, we offer a number of history electives which are senior-only. Also a number of A.P. courses are extremely difficult to get into if you are not a senior."

Trips to foreign countries have also become part of many schools' senior year. At Solomon Schechter Jewish Day School in East Brunswick, N.J., seniors travel to Israel for two months to learn and practice their Hebrew skills, according to Student Council President David Levin, senior, who moved to New Jersey from Chicago five years ago.

"Every senior looks forward to the trip," David said. "Our time in Israel allows us to put to use the skills we have learned over the past four years. It's the culmination of our years together as a class and is a highly emotional experience. Almost everyone goes on

(continued on page 12)



Art by Ralph Ahn

## May Project aging?

By Arjuna Reddy

Midway reporter

In its third decade there are signs that U-High's long-cherished May Project may not be so valued anymore. It may be beginning to show signs of wear and tear.

Conceived and brought into reality by the class of 1969, May Project gives seniors the opportunity to replace some or all of their classes in the month of May with career experiences, community service or independent study projects.

"I was concerned because the second half of senior year was garbage time," explained Mr. Prentiss Taylor, '69 senior class president, in a May 12, 1998 Midway story on May Project. "There was nothing to motivate. So as a junior, my thrust was 'What would I want to do in my senior year?' My idea was an independent project that could be educationally enhancing and just something different."

Early Projects often reflected ambitious goals. Dirk Vandervoot, '78, established a recycling center. Pier Deganello, '91, traveled to Italy to take part in an archeological dig. Bruce Gans, '69, assisted the late columnist Mike Royko at The Daily News.

Ambitious projects also took place in school, such as special issues of the Midway.

English Teacher Michael Gardner took over May Project's supervision in 1989 and is often credited by faculty members for reviving what was becoming a deteriorating program. Past Midway stories recounted how many seniors' proposals were not complete, they weren't providing adequate accounts of their progress and that some were not receiving adequate supervision. Protecting the program's integrity and future, Mr. Gardner restrengthened its requirements.

(continued on page 5)

## Trips, privileges among perks

By Sonia Mittal

Editor-in-Chief

With class trips, private lounges and special parking privileges, Chicago area public and private schools offer seniors a variety of perks.

Few senior privileges at U-High remain except the Senior Lounge, which has existed in some form since the building was opened in 1960. Because the current lounge accommodates only about 20 people, senior class officers have been discussing alternative locations with administrators.

By contrast, students at some schools enjoy lounges where they can sleep, work or play.

"At Latin there is such an emphasis on community that sometimes seniors don't feel special but the lounge is the administration's sign that they recognize the work we've done and they trust us," said Arin Lawrence, senior class

president. "There we can play cards, sleep or play video games completely undisturbed."

Many public schools reserve privileges such as leaving the campus and special parking lots solely for seniors.

"Each class of seniors enjoys a set of privileges that have lasted forever like sitting in the front of the variety show, being in Homecoming Court or being able to park in the senior lot," said Kathleen Craig, senior class president at West Suburban Hinsdale Central High School.

"While those things may not sound like a big deal, they're extremely important to us and define us as a class. Since we've worked hard for four years and most the administrators and teachers think it's time to give us a break and we are given the chance to stretch ourselves in ways we couldn't before."





"Only five students are going on the French exchange. So hopefully, with a smaller group, day trips will be more manageable. We'll try to make a day trip to Paris as we've sometimes done in the past."

—Mr. Steve Farver

## Senior heads for Academy

# Sailing into the Coast Guard

By Rick Baum

Midway reporter

**S**training to do 350 situps and 115 pushups every night, biking 10 miles every other day during summer, running cross country and track, Senior Jonathan Phillippe pushes himself to his limits in preparation for the life he will lead at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn.

Out of the 9,000 applicants to the academy, Jon said, only 11 percent are accepted. They must demonstrate leadership skills and a positive personality while being interviewed for the Academy, and must present strong grades.

After graduating from the Coast Guard Academy, a graduate becomes an officer, starting out as a Second Lieutenant, Jon said. Moving on to become an officer of a ship, graduates are in charge of a crew of about 15 members enlisted in the Coast Guard.

Patrolling and protecting the seas of the United States and around the world, the Coast Guard saves lives, protects aquatic life and helps anyone in danger in water, Jon explained. After five required years of serving as an officer, the graduate has the option of continuing patrolling the seas with a crew, or switching to a land job.

"I want to remain an officer for 10 years," said 17-year-old Jon. "After that, I'd like to fulfill my career, hopefully involving my major, which will be either marine science or naval architecture. If I major in naval architecture, my career would probably be designing ships."

Jon's dad taught him to sail the family's O'Day 26 sailboat at age four. Since then, he has always been interested in the water, marine life and sailing, he said. Attending sailboat camps from ages 10-15 at the Columbia Yacht Club downtown, Jon learned even more about sailing.

"Sailing is what first got me interested in the Coast

Guard," Jon said. "With my interest in water and marine life, I've always thought it would be cool to live at sea. But don't get me wrong, I like the city life, too."

Jon first became aware of the Academy browsing through a college guide. Instantly he knew that it matched the qualities he was looking for in a school, he said. Since applying last September, Jon has already visited the school three times, finding out he was accepted in late December.

In addition to staying in great shape and attending the Minority Introduction to Engineering Program (MITE), Jon prepared for the Academy by doing marine science projects and attending other programs. Attending a program at the University of Wisconsin last summer, Jon participated in a marine science research project to prepare for his life at sea. Also, in Woods Hole, Mass., Jon attended another program, sponsored by the Sea Education Association, teaching him more about marine biology. Jon then sailed for a week-and-a-half with other members of the program on the Atlantic Ocean.

Jon visited the U.S. Naval Academy earlier this month to compare it with the Coast Guard Academy. With the admission requirement of having a Congressman recommend him for the Naval Academy, Jon wrote a letter to Congressman Danny Davis, along with grades, SAT scores and personality information. No matter which academy Jon attends, he looks forward to working on or near the water.

"The U.S. Coast Guard Academy is exactly where I want to be," Jon said with a smile. "I get a great education, they have the majors I want, after graduating I get to spend a portion of my life at sea and I get to save lives. A lot of my future is already planned out for me, but I actually want these plans to occur. If it weren't for the Coast Guard, I wouldn't know what I'd want to do with my life."

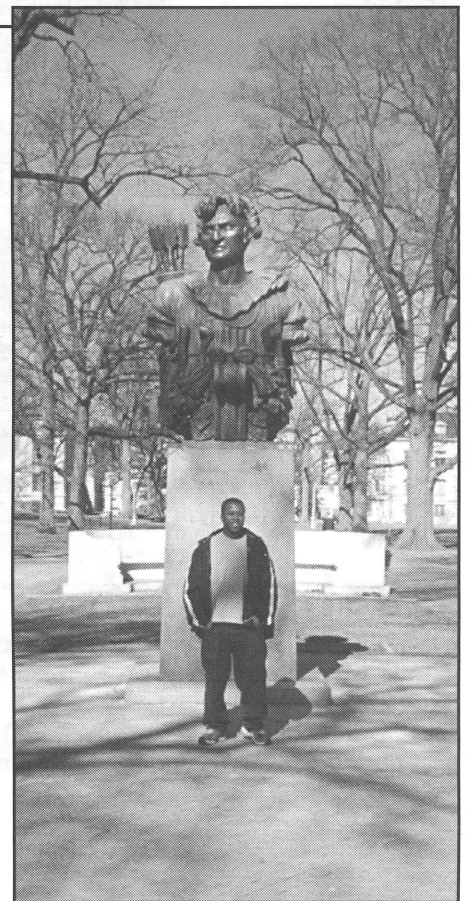


Photo courtesy of Jon Phillippe

**VISITING THE United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., earlier this month, Jon Phillippe looked over a school he is considering in addition to the Coast Guard Academy, to which he has been admitted.**



Photo by Jeremy Chavis

**SECURITY TOOK** the spotlight at last Wednesday's all-school assembly, as plans for guarded entrances, a fence at the south end of Kenwood Mall, and name tags for adults in the school were detailed with Ombudsmen Arielle Levin Becker and David Scheinfeld serving as hosts. A free-wheeling discussion period found Senior Michael Rozenfeld asking how accurately security guards could judge who was a student and who wasn't. Administrators and security committee members also spoke.

## New summer program sizzles

By Priya Sridhar

Midway reporter

From calligraphy to travel opportunities to a Clown Academy, the new Lab Schools summer program, Monday, June 19–Friday, July 28, offers nine new High School courses.

Following years of preparation and the discontinuation of MacWillies summer camp because of Kovler Gym construction, Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz felt it was time for a new, expanded program.

Applying for the position of coordinator, Lower School Teacher Mary Williams and Phys Ed Teacher Nancy Johnson felt they had a vision for increasing the number of courses and making the summer program more appealing to students.

"Mrs. Johnson and I have a longrange vision in

meeting the needs of parents who want to find sports and academic courses for their children," Ms. Williams said. "We also want to let teachers teach courses they aren't able to during the school year."

New courses include ACT and SAT II preparation taught by University of Chicago Senior Lisa Rothstein; and trips to Crow Canyon, Colo., the North Woods in Wisconsin and Puerto Rico.

Covering the entire six-week session, geometry and Chicago: Behind the Scenes offer a half High School credit each. Chicago: Behind the Scenes, taught by Middle School Science Teacher Florence Vaughan, will introduce students to different ecological environments around Chicago.

"We hope to be a catalyst to be a good summer program in Hyde Park and all over the Chicago area," Ms. Williams said.

## France, Spain lure exchange groups

By J.A. Redfield

Midway reporter

Ancient French silk factories, former Moorish palaces in Spain and a 16th century French hospital. Those are just a few of the places U-Highers will visit during a French exchange to Lyons and a Spanish exchange to Seville over spring vacation and the week after. U-Highers will attend classes and stay with families in Lyons, in eastern France.

"This year, only five students are going on the French exchange," said

Mr. Steve Farver, chaperon with Ms. Ann Beck. "So hopefully, with a smaller group, day trips will be more manageable. We'll try to make a trip to Paris as we've sometimes done in the past."

Twelve U-Highers will visit Seville, attending school with their exchange students at El Instituto Gustavo Bequer when not exploring.

"The Spanish trip is very much the same as previous years," said Mr. Craig Reubelt, chaperon with Ms. Sarah Wayne. "We will visit Italica, an old Roman city, and see a mosque in the town of Cordoba. We've added a side trip to Granada to see the Alhambra, a Moorish palace, which has not always been done other years."

French exchange students be here spring quarter, with Spanish students coming next fall.

Trip participants include the following:

FRANCE—Junior Alani Hicks-Bartlett; sophomores Roberto Michelassi, Gina Monaco, Leah McGee, freshman Ann Jordan.

SPAIN—Sophomores Chris Amos, David Bluestone, Josh Levine, Lexi Gewertz, Jennifer Heydemann, Katja Mimms, Ashley Rayner, Sonia Sharma; freshmen Sarah Craig, Becky Levine, Toby Shaw.

## Big finale to top concert

A widely-varied program ranging from classical selections to a medley of songs from the stage musical "Les Misérables" will be presented by the High School Choir in a concert 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, in Mandel Hall.

The Middle School Choir will also perform. In a grand finale both choirs will be joined by faculty, staff and former High School Choir members in a performance "Turn the World Around," a song made famous by the singer Harry Belafonte.

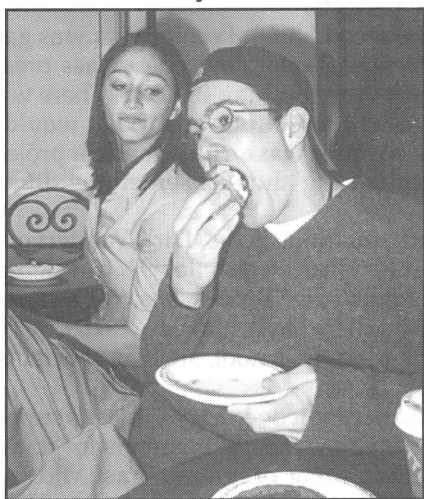
Choir Director Ellen Everson has conceived the concert as a choral festival.

"The choir used to perform with the band cramped in Judd Hall," she said. "I'm very pleased that the High Schoolers will get a chance to perform in Mandel Hall this year."

"We've not done such a big concert since the 100th anniversary of the school and it will be terrific for everyone to sing together."

Rehearsal schedules have been posted in the Daily Bulletin.

## A "Sweet" Bonjour and a Warm Croissant Always Make a Good First Impression



No one will ever know if she's attracted to his good looks or that delicious French pastry he's eating, but Junior Annie Padrid is almost drooling because of something about Sophomore Jules Federle.

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"We are working to plan activities in the evenings so students have time to relax and unwind."

—Junior Class President Michelle Krohn-Friedson



# Faculty continues talks, now in groups

By Arielle Levin Becker

Editor-in-Chief

Faculty members, administrators and Board members continued their meetings with Institutional Psychologist Trish Calvert last week in small group discussions on security, construction and computer policies.

But after previous meetings focusing on communication and feelings, some faculty members questioned the relevance of the topics, and wondered if their concerns would ever be addressed.

Discussing the topics chosen by a planning committee of faculty members, administrators and Board members, participants attended sessions Monday and Tuesday aimed at increasing communication to ease tensions following the faculty's Oct. 4 vote of "no confidence" in Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz.

After two larger meetings with Dr. Calvert and Dr. Michael Thompson last quarter, participants voted to continue meetings in smaller groups.

Arranging groups of 15-20 members from all constituencies, planning committee members chose topics based on relevance to all participants, said Counselor Bob Bachand, High School faculty chairperson.

"The committee came up with several suggestions for topics and discussed the pros and cons of each," Mr. Bachand explained. "We felt they had to be situations which could apply across the board for the Lower School, Middle School and High School."

Last week's meetings followed an emergency faculty meeting Feb. 16, held in response to some faculty members' concerns about Mrs. Katz visits to classrooms. Though Mrs. Katz had announced her plans to visit classes at a facilitated meeting in December, some faculty members expressed concern about her reasons, and some asked her not to visit their classes. Following a dispute with a teacher who asked for a second observer during her visit, Mrs. Katz sent faculty members a memo explaining her reasons for the visits.

But despite being asked not to a few classes, most visits proved well-received and beneficial, Mrs. Katz said.

"During my visits I got to see great teaching, see students and it was great watching it," Mrs. Katz said. "I want to get to know the High School to focus on it and support its students and put energy into it. I would love to help the principal physically redesign the High School to upgrade the classrooms, to find more money for its programs to give students as many opportunities in and out of the school as possible."

"I hope we can all keep learning from one another as we listen to others' perspectives. I hope for a paradigm shift in my understanding of the perspectives of members of Faculty IV or II, or Board members, or in faculty members' understanding of administrators or members of other faculties. I hope the majority views with minority voices feel it is a safe environment to speak in the smaller group meetings."



Photo by Kelsey Harden

## Dino expert revisits

"BY KEEPING YOURSELF focused you can do whatever you want," Dr. Paul Sereno, U. of C. paleontologist advised seniors at the March I assembly. Tracing his struggles through high school as an indifferent student, Dr. Sereno said the pure love for art and eventually biology and dinosaurs awakened in him a desire to excel.

Dr. Sereno, who also spoke last year, described his latest expeditions to Niger in 1993 and 1997. Showing slides

and a short portion of a National Geographic documentary, he said working in 120 degree weather was about the hardest thing he had ever done.

The highlight discovery of Dr. Sereno's latest expedition, a large four-legged sauropod named Jobaria, took more than three weeks to excavate. It is now on display at Navy Pier till March 31.

Because of poor behavior during the Arts Fest closing assembly, the other classes attended advisory.

## Brief-ly

### Retreat adds activities

Planning additional activities such as campfires and night walks, junior officers hope their Retreat Wednesday through Friday April 12-15 at Resurrection Center in far northwest suburban Woodstock, will bring their classmates closer together.

"We know that the Retreat is emotional and serious," Junior Class President Michelle Krohn-Friedson said. "We are working to plan activities in the evenings so that students have time to relax and unwind."

Led by the Resurrection Center Staff, small discussions will address concerns about coming to the end of high school and learning more about classmates' life experiences and memories.

Noting that many classes come back from Retreat more united, Assistant to the Principal Tom Minelli, retreat coordinator, said that students open up to one another after private discussion groups.

"Each year, I sense that students have developed a stronger bond of trust in their fellow classmates because they have shared personal information," he said.

■ **DOWN TO THE FINALS**—All 14 of U-High's National Merit Scholarship program semifinalists have moved on to the finalist status and are eligible for consideration for awards. They are as follows:

Ishan Bhabha, Andrea Bohlman, Dan Feder, Josh Jackson, Lillian Kass, Isaac Kohn, Ben Lauderdale, Arielle Levin Becker, Libby O'Neill, Darlyn Pirakittikulr, Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl, Bobby Stokes, Michael Strong and David Zimmer.

Forty-four seniors have been named Illinois State Scholars on the basis of scoring among the top 10 percent in the Scholastic Aptitude Test and high grade averages. Those honored are as follows:

Ralph Ahn, Ishan Bhabha, Andrea Bohlman, Jordan Booth, Natalie Bump, Matt Cameron, Liz Carlson, Patrick Chiu, Neil Dasgupta, Billy Davis, Dan Feder, Joe Fischel, Meghan Fraley, Sarah Geis, Ramez Haddadin.

Jon Heckman, Jon Hron, Josh Jackson, Lillian Kass, Sheila Kaufman, Isaac Kohn, Ben Lauderdale, Stephanie Lentz, Arielle Levin Becker, Kerith Luchins, Logan McBride, Sonia Mittal,

Elisabeth Muller, Sarah Newby, Anna Ochs, Libby O'Neill, M.C. Oxtoby, John Pintye.

Liz Richardson, Mike Rozenfeld, Sarah Schlessinger, Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl, Reshma Soni, Bobby Stokes, David Straus, Mike Strong, Sharon Weiner, John Wood, David Zimmer.

■ **DONATE A PINT**—Benefitting local hospitals, donators including faculty members and students 16 years and older and in good health can give blood during Student Council's annual blood drive, Tuesday, April 4 in Belfield 137, according to S.C. President Ralph Ahn, senior. As in past years Life Source, a local blood bank, is supervising the event. The Council hopes to top last year's record of 44 pints collected.

■ **STATISTICS IN ACTION**—Explaining to Ms. Rosa McCullagh's A.P. Statistics students what the job of an actuary is and how statistics is used in their professions at the Allstate Insurance Company, Mr. Rick Staten, Mr. Dietrich Moor and Mr. Ben Wydick, spoke to the class last Thursday.

In addition, the representatives presented a model for predicting hurricanes that they use for assessing Allstate's customers' insurance rates.

"My number one goal for this event is for the students to get a grasp of how statistics can be used," Mrs. McCullagh said. "In particular, the presentation of statistical models hopefully will assist in the students' understanding of how real world models are done."

**Seeking a gentle, responsible child care provider, with experience caring for infants, to provide full-time care in our Hyde Park home for our two-month-old and eight-month-old infants beginning April 1, 2000. If you are interested or if you know of a highly-qualified person seeking employment, please let us know. Call Amanda Woodward at (773) 363-8429 or Julie Henly at (773) 834-1214.**

## Learn to Dress in Style

*Falling in love with American brand name clothing upon his arrival, Junior Simon Fabich knows he can find the most stylish fashions at Cohn & Stern. This time, sporting a Kenneth Cole jacket and a hat from Tommy Bahama, Simon has already started his collection of clothing to bring back home to Germany.*

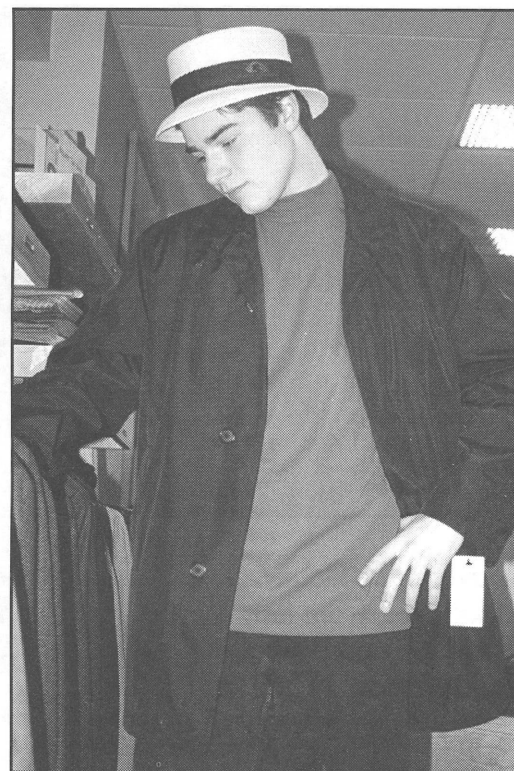


Photo by Katie Shapiro

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**"We took first place in the A league, which is for schools under 700 students."**  
—Senior Jonathan Heckman, Chess Team president

## Academic team outlook A-okay

**D**efending titles—high on the agenda of most U-High academic teams in the next few weeks—is shaping up as more than likely.

Preparing for the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) competition sponsored by the Illinois Junior Technology Society Thursday at South Suburban College in South Holland, 14 Science Team members have been taking multiple practice exams in biology, chemistry and engineering. The top three scores on each exam receive points and each school's points combine to determine a team score.

Taking 1st place at the Regional competition Feb. 15, the U-Highers believe they have a good chance of winning State twice in a row.

Hoping to advance to the Illinois Science Olympiad State Competition for the second consecutive year, 15 members busily put the final touches on machines for Regionals Saturday at Northeastern Illinois University on the North Side. Students from 20 schools will participate in two or three events.

Preparing for the WYSE and Olympiad competitions simultaneously has been difficult for members. "Students should be tired with both the competitions back to back," said Science Teacher Sharon Housinger, sponsor. "However, I still feel confident that they will do well."

Preparing to defend their title at the Illinois State Math Tournament sponsored by the Illinois Council of Teachers of Math (ICTM) Saturday, April 29 at Illinois State University in downstate Normal, Math Team members have been taking practice tests in subjects such as algebra and precalculus. At State, students compete by subject and grade level and as individuals or in two- or eight- person teams. U-High competes in a division for schools with under 700 enrollment in subject exams and team relay events.

At ICTM Regional competition Feb. 26 at North Central College in Naperville, U-Highers won an award in almost every event, taking 1st to qualify for State competition. Senior John Heckman, pre-



Photo by Lee Shevell

**WITH CYMBALS crashing, firecrackers exploding and a steady drumbeat in the background, dancers performed the traditional dragon ritual to celebrate the Lunar New Year March 6. Unseasonably warm weather drew a huge crowd to the Asian Students' Association-sponsored celebration in the courtyard. Red and gold streamers flowed throughout the festively decorated cafeteria as ASA members sold egg rolls.**

senter, and Junior Kohki Yamaguchi, assistant, also took 1st in an oral presentation delivered to a panel of judges in front of all the contestants.

"It is a somewhat different feeling competing as defending champions," said Math Teacher Jane Canright, head coach. "We already won the Regional competition, earning the right to qualify for State, and not much has been changed at the tournament since last year. I think we have a pretty good chance."

Participating in the Chicago Chess League tournament against 10 other Chicago-area schools Saturday at St. Ignatius, five Chess Team members plan to use

experience from last year's tournament to repeat their victory.

"Other than U-High, St. Ignatius is the strongest team in the league," said History Teacher Chris Janus, sponsor. "But we beat them last year with the same players we are sending this year. In fact, so far this season, our team is undefeated in the league."

With each Chess Team member winning an individual award, U-High took first place at the United States Chess Federation State tournament March 4.

Individual awards are as follows:

**1st:** John Heckman and Sam Walsh; **2nd:** Mike Stern; **3rd:** Billy Davis and John Wood.

Representing Pakistan in the United Nations General Assembly Hall, 23 Model United Nations delegates will travel to New York City during spring break Wednesday-Saturday March 22-25 for the National High School Model U.N. Conference.

About 2,000 students and teachers representing 189 countries will attend the conference, sponsored by the National High School Model U.N. Association.

Meeting twice a week, this year's head delegates, Seniors Lillian Kass and Mike Strong and Sophomore Carolyn Nelson, are working with delegates to master the complex national policy of Pakistan's new military government. Delegates will include:

Seniors Andrea Bohlman, Joe Fischel, Arjuna Reddy and Deepthi Yelavarthi; juniors Bree Boulware, Abriell Jones, Michelle Krohn-Friedson, Alison Leff, Naomi Leibowitz, Lauren Shaw and Adrienne Umeh; sophomores Nikita Barai, Jules Federle, Shilpa Gulati, Abigail Newman, Emily Schuttenberg and Walker Thisted; freshmen Russell Kohn, Spencer Lazar and Benjamin Zimmer.

Receiving honors in 10 of the 16 committees they attended as United States Delegates at the University of Chicago Model U.N. Conference Feb. 3-6 at the Palmer House Hilton, U-Highers won awards as follows:

**OUTSTANDING DELEGATE**—Seniors Ishan Bhabha, Joe Fischel, Lillian Kass, Elisabeth Muller, Libby O'Neill and Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl; junior Sim Khalidi; sophomores Adhiraj Dutt, Lauren May, Carolyn Nelson, J.A. Redfield and Kristin Reepmeyer; freshmen Alex Chiu, Jessica Heyman, Tess Lantos and Ethan Stillman.

**HONORABLE MENTION**—Seniors Dan Feder, Hannah Levine and David Zimmer and Sophomore Walker Thisted.

**This story was reported by Ilana Greene, Science Team; J.A. Redfield, Math and Chess teams; and Abigail Newman, Model U.N.**

## Enjoy Ed's!



Photo by Katie Shapiro

**S**avoring Ed Debevic's world-famous cheese fries and Oreo Crunch Milkshakes, from left, Michelle Srisuwananukorn, Maude Bagetto, Alex Chiu and Patra Chotipradit enjoy "getting back" in the Diner's just-as-famous 1950s setting.

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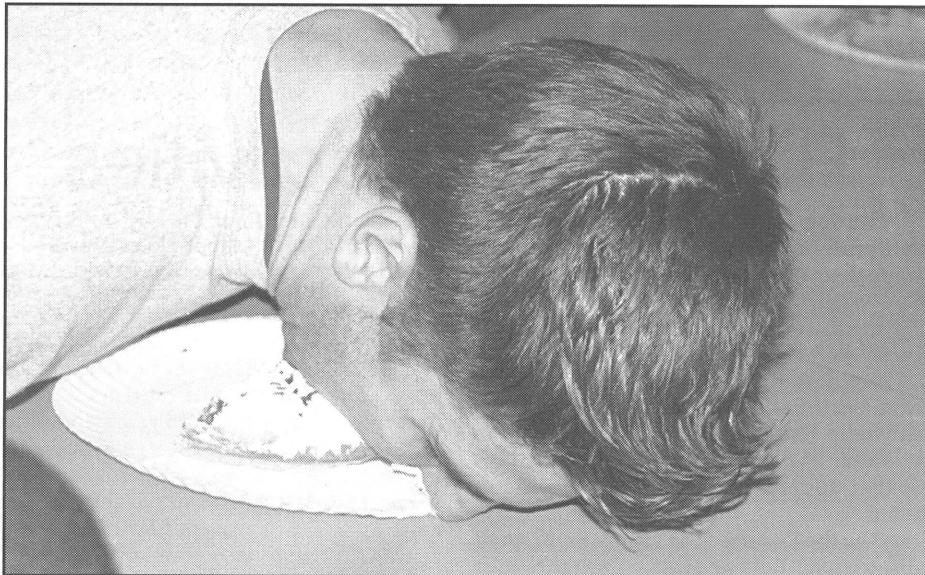


Photo by Katie Shapiro

**CHEERED ON** by his fellow classmates Michael Drew tries to shove a quarter of a chocolate cream pie in as little time as possible in hopes of winning a pie eating contest sponsored by ethnic clubs as part of a Leap Day celebration Feb. 29. Participants from each grade competed and school and class winners were selected for cash prizes. Senior Joe Fischel won the contest. Other class winners were Mike, Antonio Guillen and Michael Chandler. Students also participated in a variety of trivia games.



Photo by Jeremy Chavis

**FOR A Mardi Gras celebration March 7** sponsored by the French Club the U-High Jazz Band performed as the Club handed out traditional multicolored beads and bracelets. Band members from left include Evan Moore, Brandon Gardner, Carl Testa, Noah Meites, Mikhail Ginzburg and Roberto Michelassi.



"A lot of deadlines are unreasonable and the deadlines are too rigid."  
—Senior Isaac Kohn



# arts 5

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2000



## Turning up the heat

MORE THAN 200 people turned out for the seventh annual Mississippi Heat concert sponsored by the Community Learning Program, this year benefitting the Hyde Park Day School.

As in past years, the Jazz Band appeared as the opening act.

Candle sales benefitted ChildServ, an adoption and foster care agency.

In the photos, Mississippi Heat cofounder Pierre Lacocque, '71, wails on the harmonica and Senior Sam Gilman takes the keyboard for the Jazz Band.



Photos by Katie Shapiro and Dan Hoffman

## The Player's Choice

When Crazy Ian gets caught flirting with other girls, he does what all true ladies' men do: he buys his girlfriend a card from Joyce's Hallmark. No matter how many times his girl gets mad, Joyce's huge selection of cards and gifts insures that Ian will always find something that will make her love him again.

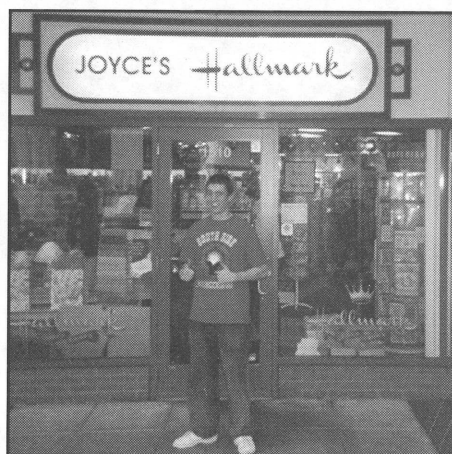
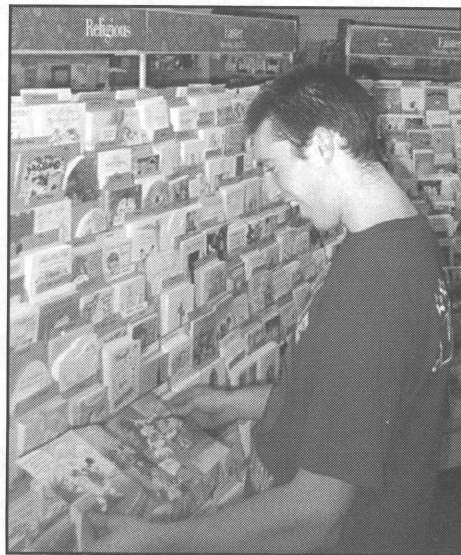


Photo by Bobby Stokes

Crazy Ian knows girls. And he buys them cards all the time. So if you're having girl problems, do what Ian does: buy them lots of gifts from Joyce's Hallmark.



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## May Project

(continued from front page)

In the first year of May Project, 1969, 107 of 136 seniors participated, 64 percent. The numbers remained fairly constant until recent years.

In 1998 44 out of 119 seniors participated, 37 percent, and last year the number dropped to 26 of 118 seniors, about 30 percent.

In-school Projects such as those producing special yearend Midway editions devoted to the community or school history disappeared when faculty committees reviewing Project proposals ruled they could not include work which could be done as part of the regular school program.

"Which," observes Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, "they couldn't be, but we didn't have time to fight City Hall on the matter."

As for out-of-town Projects and ambitious, high-profile Projects, some faculty members feel one reason they have declined is the school slowly has shifted from an era of encouraging independence the senior year to a mothering role right through graduation.

While the criteria for going on May Project has not changed much in 30 years, students now say that restrictions and guidelines are unreasonable and are one reason fewer students do May Projects.

"A lot of deadlines are unreasonable and the deadlines are too rigid," said Isaac Kohn, echoing the opinions of many seniors. "Every time there is a meeting there is no way you can miss it, even with extenuating circumstances. I know that some strict rules are necessary but I think a little flexibility would definitely lead to more seniors going on May Project."

Administrators say the rules are necessary because the school is account-

able for how U-Highers spend their time.

Faculty members and administrators believe an increase in the number of Advanced Placement and University courses seniors are taking, and the pressure of college applications, have affected May Project participation.

"There were always guidelines for seniors, but they haven't been given to students as specifically as they are now, which is an improvement," said Principal Hanna Goldschmidt. "Students take more Advanced Placement classes now and the pressure is enormous in April and May."

"Students look at the pressure and may think, 'I don't want to do May Project, I'll be free in May.' Many students look to that as a sign of freedom and an opportunity to hang out. I'm not sure that's bad."

"There is a lot of focus on A.P.s and some students don't take A.P.s and their classes go through the end of the year. But many students feel they worked really hard and have been accepted to college and just don't want to do May Project. You have to do a lot of thinking in January and February about May Project."

Editor's note: May Project Coordinator Michael Gardner declined to be interviewed for this story.

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**Miss Nelson**

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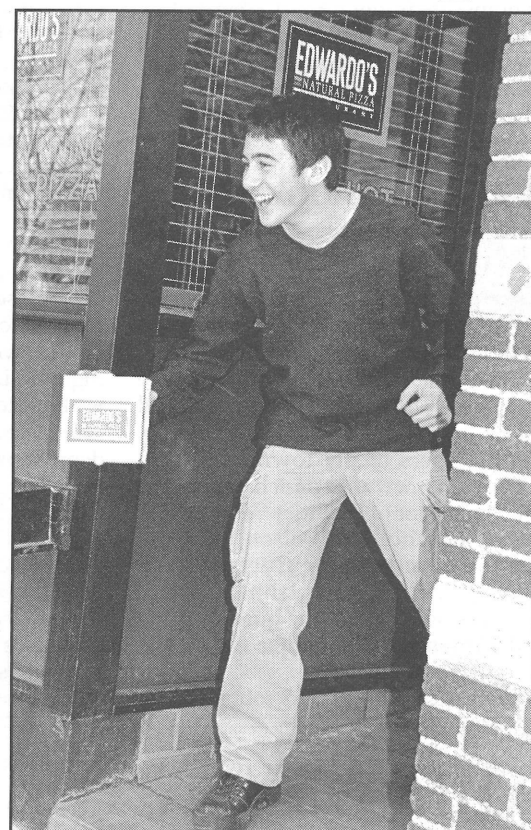
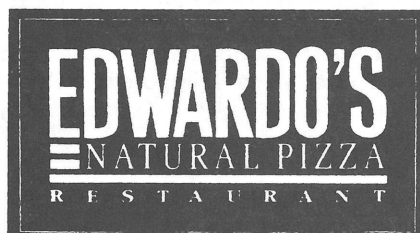


Photo by Tai Duncan

**IN A HURRY, Matt (the Wolfman) Rosenberg completes his speedy run for pizza from Edwardo's.**



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## PHOTOEDITORIAL



Photo by M.C. Oxtoby

**THOUGH SIGNS WARNING** drivers their vehicles would be towed if parked illegally in Kenwood Circle were posted months ago, U-Highers, school guests, parents and University employees are still parking their vehicles illegally.

Perhaps the signs have lost their deterrent value because, according to Facilities Manager Tony Wilson, no cars been towed despite

the risk a blocked fire lane poses if the school should have an emergency. Even students who have called the towing company to report illegally-parked vehicles have failed to produce a response.

Threats and signs need to be backed by actions. Until the University gets serious and starts towing, double-parkers will continue to endanger everyone's safety.

## The story of a man in the wrong place at the wrong time

THE FIRST TIME History Teacher Chris Janus ever said something to me was when I accidentally walked into Chess Team practice. He asked me if I was named after the Persian Emperor, Cyrus the Great. Sure, I said. He said he liked that name. Then I left. He's a nice guy, I thought.

"Townhouse Seven sucks!" Neil Dasgupta was yelling at dinner. He'd been talkin' trash, ever since we'd arrived in Galena on what was supposed to be a relaxing Senior Getaway. For some reason, he thought his townhouse was better than ours.



### Humor

Cyrus Dowlatshahi

I didn't respond. I didn't have to; we were going to get Neil back. Having watched "Mission: Impossible" on the bus ride up, certain members of my townhouse (Big Tony's Boys, named after our chaperon, the infamous Director of Facilities Services and Urinal Maintenance Tony Wilson) who may or may not have been Ian Cummins and Jon Dorsey, had already planned several covert ways of lowering the quality of life in Neil's townhouse, number four. The chaperon? Mr. Janus.

Our plan: Use the keycard (obtained by

covert means) to Townhouse Four to enter, cover everything with toilet paper, beat the crap out of Neil with our inflatable baseball bat and Sock 'Em Boppers, then run back to the safety of townhouse seven.

I'm not sure who told us Neil was going to be in the first room on the right as one walks into the townhouse, but for some reason, we never questioned it. After laying out some toilet paper in the living room for the hoop squad to look at come breakfast, Jon, Ian and I headed for Neil's room.

We positioned ourselves around the bed, shaking from the increase of adrenaline in our bodies. It was almost pitch black; only a dim lamp outside illuminated a silhouette of a person under the bed sheets. We looked at each other, counted to three and began pounding on Neil as hard as we could.

It took several seconds of intense beating for Neil to come out of his coma. But when he did, we got the reaction we were looking for, similar to someone who thinks he is about to die.

We ran out of the house, through the knee-deep snow, all the way back to our back door, giggling like little girls. When we were safely inside, we sat on the sofa to finally talk to each other about our mission. I'm not sure, but I think it was Jon who first mentioned it.

"Yo...That didn't really sound like Neil. The voice was a little nasal."

"Nope," said Ian. "He seemed tall, too." Mr. Janus, I hope you can forgive us.

## Midway Mailbox

### ■ The ultimate U-High insult

From Senior Ben Lauderdale:

AT THE FINAL assembly of Arts Fest, U-Highers again showed their complete lack of common courtesy. During a wonderful performance by Rebel Souls, a large number of students talked, laughed and ignored the performers. During the quiet sections of the performance, the conversations were louder than the musicians and were extremely distracting to those of us who were actually trying to enjoy the music.

Despite numerous attempts, Ms. Goldschmidt, teachers and other students were unable to quiet the rear of the auditorium. As if this insult to the performers were not sufficient, many students got up to leave before the performance was over, even though the assembly didn't run more than one or two minutes past the end of the period. Most teachers were forced to focus on quieting part of the student body instead of listening to the music, and the rest of the students at the assembly were distracted as well.

### ■ On students seizing power

From Cultural Union President Ian Kysel, senior:

I WOULD LIKE to preface my letter with a disclaimer. I am writing this letter on my own behalf, as a member of the U-High population at large. The ideas contained within are not those of Student Council but are my own thoughts and opinions.

As I read the Feb. 22 Midway, I was frustrated and disheartened by an editorial on page 5 encouraging the U-High student government to take a stronger role in the community. After deliberation, however, I guess I am happy about the editorial because it has identified a problem I myself have expressed *vis a vis* S.C. Our student government must take a more active role in our school community.

This year's Council has coordinated a number of school social activities and has taken a large stance in student social life. In the community at large, however, S.C. does not lead. Why? I feel that the blame does not fall in the lap of the Council but in the school at large. When it comes to issues surrounding the student body it is clear that, in the approximate words of one venerable administrator, "The adults can (and wish to) handle" affairs.

The implications are obvious: Students are not looked to as an empowered constituency within the community. When the faculty held the vote of "no confidence" in Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz, the executive S.C. immediately made requests for a meeting with Mrs. Katz, Ms. Goldschmidt, Mr. Gunty and Mr. Minelli regarding the implications of the vote on the student body and community at large.

Their schedules, however, would not have allowed a meeting for more than a month and consequently, none was held. The Council was not alerted of the event initially, nor updated about the proceedings, nor seen as a factor during the arbitration.

I will not deny that the Council should probably have pressed for a meeting at any date, but it became clear, at least to me, that the students were not seen as important factors (as pertained to this issue) nor would they be made such. It was repeatedly articulated that the position of administrators and teachers was that the "big people" would handle any trouble, as the students held no relevancy on this issue.

It is my opinion, however, that the problem goes deeper than this issue alone suggests. The lack of S.C. participation stems

After the assembly, several students and teachers were so embarrassed that they felt the need to apologize to the musicians for our collective behavior.

It is inevitable that not all students will be interested in all assemblies. Nonetheless, there is a certain element of courtesy that everyone is entitled to, and this was not met. How hard is it to sit through 45 minutes of jazz?

Many times during the past several years, articles and editorials in the Midway have bemoaned the lack of courtesy and respect that U-Highers seem to have for their fellow students and visitors to the school. Our complete lack of improvement does not reflect well on our school or student body.

When students behave this way, they insult the organizers of Arts Fest who brought in the musical group for the assembly. When students behave this way, they insult the performers who are trying to entertain us. Finally, when students behave this way, they insult all of us because they show us that we don't care about anyone but ourselves.

from a marked apathy for the student body (as an empowered factor) within the school community. It is apparent that rather than rely on the trumpeted school community to digest charged and complex issues, the school prefers to rely on the public news media. Rather than use our community, the school lets students learn of crises through unrelated third parties.

In an attempt to become more active in the community, S.C. has requested that Faculty IV copy them with minutes but these requests went unanswered. Whether in its lack of information or participation, S.C. is being denied (and missing) an opportunity to boost its ideal role as a powerful constituent in the school community.

The problem, however, is self-perpetuating. Since students are only elected for one term at a time, it is difficult for there to be any longterm continuity in S.C. policy and goals. Because of this, it is easy to imagine that past inept leadership on the Council prompted the seizure of student autonomy by school administrators. Whether the students or administrators are to blame for starting the problem, it seems to me that no one (student or administrator, parent or teacher) now looks to the Council for guidance.

I have offered my opinion as to why and how this problem has manifested itself, but my most important reason for writing this letter is to proffer a solution. I think that the only way for the students to gain autonomy and respect as an empowered faction within our community is by a fundamental change in the ideology of the students themselves.

The problem is not just S.C. but the student body's acceptance of the status quo. The student body needs to demonstrate its desire for power and its responsibility to wield it. It rests on the shoulders of you, the members of '01, '02, '03 and the incoming class of '04 to seize this power. Only through the increased advocacy of students (through formal platforms like Communications Committee meetings and the Midway and the informal one of "word on the street") can S.C. truly serve its purpose. It is only through the desires of the student body at large that student government will be able to, as its constitution demands, "represent student interests and be leaders in the school community."

### ■ Still interested in action

From Junior Class Political Representative Liz Rhodes:

I WAS GREATLY disturbed by something in the Feb. 22 Midway which expressed concern about Student Council's role in the Lab Schools Board Security Committee's action dealing with school security. Although I (along with three other students) did conduct and examine a survey at the request of the committee, I was unaware of the students' disappointment with S.C.'s voice in the issue. My perception was that nobody really cared about these issues and that my time and energy would have been wasted if any was expended in this area. In other words, I felt no support in my cause from the student body.

Now that I hear from fellow students

(through the Midway) that there is a concern, I would like to inquire on the current situation with school security issues. I have heard nothing since the meeting I attended in October, nor have I seen anything in terms of the actions that I understood were to take place.

I would definitely be interested in resuming action to represent the student voice and would appreciate any information on the current situation including future plans or meetings that are to take place that perhaps I could attend. I can receive information on the Junior Board, and will have my eyes open.

## YOUR SAY IN THE MIDWAY

Compiled by Ameer Saleh

**What does St. Patrick's Day celebrate? What are you supposed to do on St. Patrick's Day?**



Ethan

**ETHAN STILLMAN, freshman:** It celebrates being Irish and you are supposed to wear green, dye the river and drink green milkshakes.

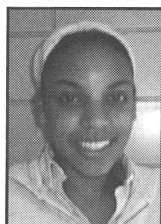
**MARY BETH HOLT, sophomore:** I honestly have no clue what St. Patrick's Day is supposed to celebrate but I know people try to wear green and there is always a big parade.

**JOE SELLERS, junior:** It celebrates some guy named Patrick who chased all the snakes out of Ireland. To my knowledge, everyone is supposed to get highly intoxicated on this delightful celebration.

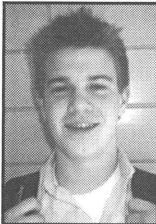
**ANDREA EARLES, senior:** I would have to say that St. Patrick's Day is a holiday for Irish-Americans to celebrate their heritage. Even if you are not Irish you can participate by wearing green to show your spirit.



Mary Beth



Andrea



Joe





"There is a certain element of courtesy that everyone is entitled to, and this was not met. How hard is it to sit through 45 minutes of jazz?"  
—Senior Ben Lauderdale

## Parents applaud heart of SET

Editors' note: Mr. Oscar Carrasco and Mrs. Joyce Carrasco, parents of Senior Sheila and graduates Sam, Susanna and Sara, sent this letter to Principal Hanna Goldschmidt, with a copy to the Midway. Mrs. Carrasco is a Lower School teacher.

THIS PAST THURSDAY, Friday and Saturday evening, the performances by Student Experimental Theater were again a reminder to us all that the heart, soul and spirit of Lab lies in the creativity and commitment of our students and their teachers. While this has been a difficult year for many at Lab, let us not forget that a sizable number of students worked tirelessly and feverishly to pull together SET during the absence of their teacher for much of January due to the death of her sister. Ms. Ambrosini's leadership and teaching were evident in every as-

pect of the production. Her high expectations were realized by this committed group of students. Balancing coursework and rehearsals, the students were indeed "learning for life" and "learning about life" as they cared for another at a moment of deep grief and personal turmoil.

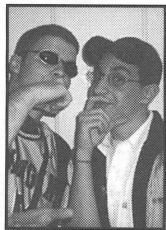
The parental support was evident in the sold-out performances on all three nights of SET. This event would have been an opportunity for administrators, the college and guidance counselors and the dean of students to have witnessed and shared the high creativity, positive energy and enthusiasm exuded by our high school students.

These three nights were Lab at its best. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew of SET 2000!

### And forks

## In search of Sushi

AFTER BEING TAKEN into custody by the University of Chicago Secret Police, I rode up to the North Side with Bobby, Senior Cyrus Dowlatshahi and Sophomore Betsy Kalven, for our mission to find a good Sushi restaurant. Although finding parking proved difficult, we were all excited when we fi-



### Dining

Ameer Saleh and Bobby Stokes

nally reached Shiroy Hana, 3242 N. Clark St. Arriving at 12:55 p.m., we made the happy hour special menu with reduced prices.

After waiting for nearly 15 minutes in the small, crowded establishment, we were finally seated and given hot towels to wash our hands as we browsed over the special menu. We were all blown away by the incredibly low prices of the rolls of Sushi. Since most rolls were only \$2, with six pieces to a roll, after careful deliberation we ordered some California rolls, tempura, spicy tuna, yellowtail and shrimp.

Since we were unable to get in touch with Sushi fiends Seniors Tiago Pappas and Adam Zachary, our entourage turned to Cyrus, who recommended that we order the Masago with quail egg, a particularly delicate piece of Sushi as I found out.

Our waiter brought us some Miso soup, which quenched my thirst. Since we all felt extremely famished, I was disappointed when our waiter took more than half an hour to bring our food. When it finally arrived, Bobby

and I were struggling to use our chopsticks, and we were disappointed that the restaurant did not provide us with forks. While I was making a mess with my Sushi we dispatched our dishes just like the Rams smoked the Titans in this year's Super Bowl. After finishing all the Sushi packed into the lavishly decorated bowl in front of us, we paid for our meal and left well fed. Walking back to the car, we all noted that although the restaurant had a prime location and was surrounded by several cool North Side hot spots, the lack of parking was a terrible downside as was the quality and service of Shiroy Hana.

All in all Bobby and I agreed that we both had dined on better Sushi before and that the best way to get it was probably to do what Tiago and Adam do: Order in.

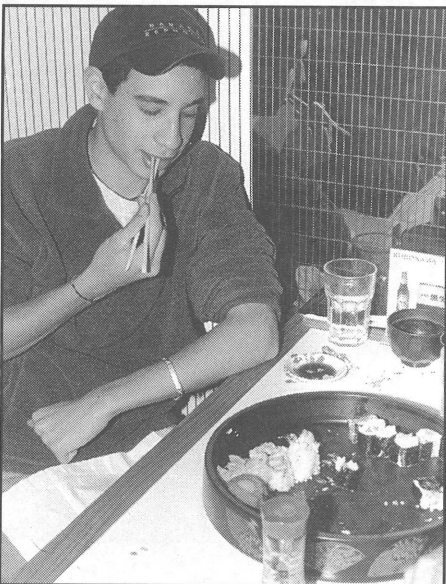
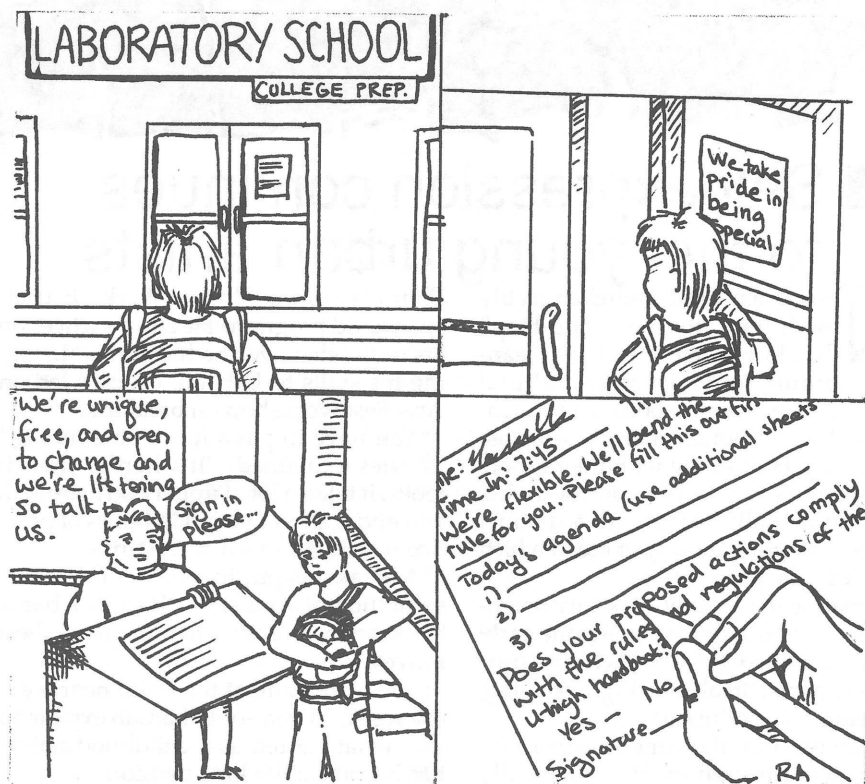


Photo by Betsy Kalven

**A FAMISHED Ameer Saleh enjoys Shiroy Hana's Sushi...but not its chopsticks.**

## AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT



Art by Ralph Ahn

## Same old (senior) song

It's called a laboratory school. It's described as college preparatory. It's known for being special. But when it comes to senior year, it's the same old song. Once again faculty members are renewing discussion on alternative ways seniors can spend their year.

This discussion is nothing new; it takes place every few years. But when it comes to ways to make senior year different and special, the school has been all talk and no action.

While seniors can participate in May Project and Senior Seminar, both programs fall short of meeting the needs of current U-Highers. With space for only 18 seniors, Senior Seminar, a not-for-credit elective, cannot include all seniors.

May Project, started by the class of '69, has deteriorated, with fewer students participating and fewer of them opting for out-of-town Projects. In the process, May Project has become a faculty-run program rather than a student-facilitated initiative. Maybe students now are different then they were 30 years ago but many today complain that there are too many forms and that restrictions on the

types of Projects are too severe.

As U-High offers the same programs year after year, many other schools are making senior year special and educational through senior-only classes, seminars and trips. Realizing seniors could benefit more from those types of programs than from a traditional year, many schools are finding ways to prepare students for college and beyond.

U-High faculty and administrators could learn a lot from looking at what other schools are doing. Faculty and administrators must realize that students cannot be nurtured into college but must become independent. It has become faculty members' and administrators' nature to baby students but in the end that strategy is ineffective.

Perhaps seniors could have their choice of a normal senior year or one involving community service or travel during spring quarter. Maybe May Project should be done away with and replaced with a new type of project reflective of a different type of student body. One thing is clear, however: The time for change is now; senior year needs a fresh start.

## Keeping in tune

To the faculty's credit, in a tumultuous year, school life has run smoothly. Though events of the year include a vote of "no confidence" in the Director, seemingly endless faculty meetings, high tension between faculty members and administrators, and, most recently, the absence of a popular teacher, classes and activities have continued and thrived.

From championship Science and basketball teams to high student participation in activities, the year's events would prove impressive even without the many serious issues facing the community. That the year has progressed as successfully as it has is a testament to the commitment of faculty members and students in maintaining normalcy in the face of major setbacks.

But recently, when Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz visited some classes, some faculty members questioned her reasons for visiting. In the process, politics seemed to come before normalcy. Not only is it the Director's job to visit classes; her efforts to become more in touch with the High School may be part of

what's needed to ease tensions between administrators and faculty members.

Following some negative faculty reaction, Mrs. Katz sent faculty members a letter explaining her intention of visiting at least one class of each teacher's this quarter, unless the teacher requested otherwise. (Some conflict could have been averted had her intentions been communicated beforehand.)

In most classrooms, Mrs. Katz's visits were well-received and positive. But when measures aimed at increasing communication and understanding are distrusted, future communication about legitimate issues loses out to battles of personalities.

Faculty members, administrators and Board members have been communicating through meetings with mediators aimed at healing tensions. But for such meetings to prove effective, everyone must take the next step and encourage communication and understanding outside facilitated meetings. To do so would represent a way to ensure future good years, perhaps without so much conflict.

## U-HIGH MIDWAY

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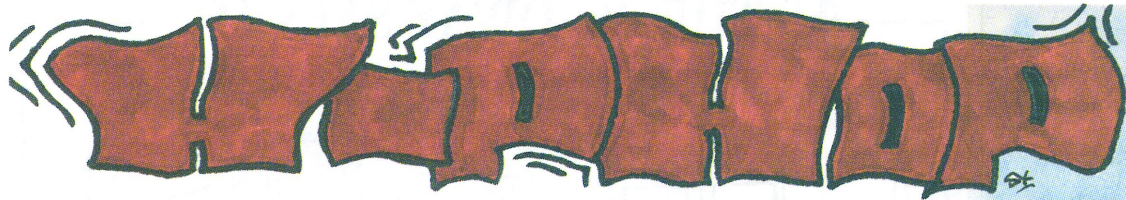
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# 8-9 in-depth newsfeature

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2000



## ■ Self expression continues to fuel young urban artists

Now often used interchangeably with "rap," the term "Hip-Hop" has lost much of its true meaning, according to its devotees, cultural experts and numerous book and magazine authors. Though many people associate Hip-Hop solely with the rappers they see on T.V. and hear on the radio, Hip-Hop actually represents a distinct culture, a language, a way of life in which rap is just one part.

Originating in the New York City neighborhood of South Bronx during the early 1970s, Hip-Hop culture includes four main elements: Break dancing, deejaying, emceeing and graffiti art.

Originally popular among inner city minorities, throughout its continually evolving history, Hip-Hop has attracted youth of different backgrounds around the world. Youth are attracted to the ever-changing Hip-Hop scene because freedom of self expression is the basis of all Hip-Hop art forms.

**"I like the fact that it is all about being different and as creative as I can. Everyone has a separate unique style of thier own. Right now I just want it to continue to be part of my life, while spreading the word about real Hip-Hop."**

—Brendan, a Point breaking regular

Hip-Hop is an activity where hard work and dedication are rewarded by the admiration by one's peers and personal satisfaction.

### Breaking

With head spins, back spins and gymnastic flairs, the acrobatic stylings of break dancing trace their origins to the African martial arts form of Capoeira. This fighting style of constant movement was used by revolting slaves who were brought to Brazil.

Though modern day break dancing has no official inventor, it was made popular in the 1970s by a group of youngsters known as B-Boys in New York City. At the same time, youngsters in California were developing another form of dance that would eventually combine with breaking, Pop-Locking.

Made popular by artists such as Michael Jackson, popping included moonwalking, strutting and robot motions. Forming "crews" who challenged one another in public competitions throughout the country, B-Boys have constantly developed new moves, styles and techniques in efforts to out do each other creatively.

Drawn to break dancing by the flash and showmanship involved, Senior Charles Simmons has been breaking since his freshman year. He hones his skills by breaking at Promentary Point, 55th street and the Lake, 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays and

Thursdays in a Chicago Park District-sponsored program. He also practices on his own whenever he has time. Bringing his skills to U-High, Charles led an Arts Fest workshop on breaking.

"You have to put a lot of time into it," Charles explained. "It's harder than it looks. It takes a lot of upper body strength and endurance. I've put in hours of practice whenever I've had the time.

"A breaker is putting on a show. It's an exhibition of your skill. It's like a battle between the breakers to pull off the illest moves."

Found breaking at the Point nearly every week, 23-year-old Pharoah explained that what started as a childhood hobby has become a life long passion.

"I used to go to this roller skating rink when I was a kid with my parents," he said. "There were all these guys just popping in front of everybody. I just started dancing because I liked it.

"Eventually I moved to breakin'; now it's been over 10 years. Some of what draws me to it is the competition and accomplishing something when you get new moves."

Pharoah now is part of an entertainment company, Darkside, which puts on shows and dances with other artists on stage.

"When I was young I use to do street performances, then I hooked up with a bunch of different crews. Now we started this company, trying to make a living out of what I really like to do. At the same time I have to keep my skills sharp so nobody can step to me and say I ain't good."

Breaking for the past two years, 17-year-old Brendan, another Point regular, has learned a lot about Hip-Hop culture from the experiences he's had and the people he has met dancing.

"I was trying to get into capoeta," he explained. "Then I came across some of my friends who were in to breaking. I was never really exposed to Hip-Hop, just what you see on T.V. and the popular rap music.

"I like the fact that it is all about being different and as creative as I can. Everyone has a separate unique style of their own. Right now I just want it to continue to be part of my life, while spreading the word about real Hip-Hop."

### Deejaying

Technically the cutting and scratching of records, deejaying involves changing the speed of the record playing in a specific groove, to produce unique sounds. The actual technique was invented by either Grand Master Flash or Grand Wizard Theodore, two popular disc jockies hailing from the Bronx. The deejay then evolved as a musician who supplied the beat for an emcee to rhyme over.

Deejaying evolved to produce complicated beats combined with samples of other songs using computers. Not actually using records to create beats, Senior Sam Gilman uses a computer and instruments to help create tracks for local emcees.

"I have definitely learned to be as precise as possible, Sam said. "And patience. Working with a vocalist, particularly a rapper, takes a lot of patience—they mess up a lot. And I have a huge appreciation of rap lyricists."

Putting out a C.D., "Sporadic Signals," last year, Jason Boulware, '97, has been involved with producing music, recording and emceeing.



"Right now I'm in the studio at least three or four days a week," he explained. "I try to surround myself with music and people who are involved in music."

"The main reason I do what I do is because I feel like I have something that people might want to hear. It's about where I am, where we are, what we as a collective are about, what we want to change and what we want to do."

### Emceeing

Drawing its roots from African culture and oral tradition as well as the Jamaican art form "toasting," emceeing involves saying rhymes to a beat of music. Commonly called rap today, emceeing originated as a sort of conversation set to music where creativity and spontaneous lyrical ability were tremendous assets. Though emcees often prewrite their rhymes, freestyling, coming up with

rhyming lyrics on the spot, is still the most highly respected form of emceeing.

Expressing his lyrical ability, either freestyling with his friends or recording written tracks, Senior Neil Dasgupta, known as Pinan, brought his talents to U-High's Arts Fest leading a workshop about Hip-Hop and freestyling with Junior Ayinde Bennet.

"When I was younger, I started to get into Hip-Hop because some of my older friends were into it," Neil explained. "When it came to Hip-Hop, older kids took the time to listen to me. They were real supportive and they made me want to do it more."

"Hip-Hop is part of my identity. I'm not really an athlete. I'm not in any clubs or any leadership positions. But writing lyrics and making tapes is something I'm good at. So I am glad I can contribute to the Hip-Hop culture."

## READ ALL ABOUT IT

■ **"BOMB THE SUBURBS,"** William Upski Wimsatt. Published 1994 by The Subway and Elevated Press Company. (Billy Wimsatt was 1990 editor-in-chief of the Midway.)

■ **"THE ART OF GETTING OVER: GRAFFITI AT THE MILLENIUM,"** Steven Powers. Published last year by St. Martin's Press.

## FIND IT ON THE WEB

■ **ART CRIMES: THE WRITING ON THE WALL** — [www.artcrimes.com](http://www.artcrimes.com).

■ **SUPPORT ONLINE HIP HOP** — [www.sohh.com](http://www.sohh.com)

■ **BREAK DANCING: HIP HOP DANCE** — [www.bboy.com](http://www.bboy.com)



"Arguably, Hip-Hop is my life. It directly effects me all the time. It shapes my opinions. Its culture effects how I live and who I am."  
— Former U-High Student O. T.



# Hip-Hop



Immediately attracted to freestyling, Ayinde was impressed that people were able to express themselves so well through emceeing.

"The idea that a person could rhyme about something that made sense and was funny, interesting and could keep my attention was very raw. I first got into freestyling just by watching others and trying it by myself at home. Once I built up the confidence I began trying to do it with my friends."

With his first album, "Egos," coming out in May, Matt Brent, known as Misnomer, class of '98, was first drawn to emceeing when he found it had a personal meaning to him.

"I didn't really get into Hip-Hop until Common dropped 'Resurrection' in '94," he explained. "He wasn't talking about killing everyone and all the gangster shit that other rappers were talking about."

"Common was talking about the things that I did, like getting up with my crew, eating at Harold's, chilling in the H.P. and representing the South Side of Chicago. Once I realized it was related to me personally it was all down hill."

"The fact that an emcee is able to say something cool while getting their point across is crucial. Technically it is not just music but poetry and art. I've wanted to put out an album for a while but it took a while to get it all together."

"The album has 16 tracks. Sam Gilman helped produce some tracks along with Ben Wynn (D.J. Rockwell), '97, doing some scratching. Neil helped emcee along with a lot of other rappers around the Chi."

Being predominantly an underground culture, many emcees feel that an unpublished emcee, away from the glitz and glamour of fame, produces the most genuine music.

"The Chicago Hip-Hop scene is off the hook with rappers like Juice, Rhyme Fest and EC," Neil explained. "When you pay attention to the underground it opens you up to so many people who are slept on. I feel that its underground status is a definitive aspect of Chicago Hip-Hop, allowing freedom of expression unaffected by commercial trends."

## Graffiti

By definition Graffiti means words or drawings scratched or scribbled on a wall. In that sense, graffiti has been around as long as humans have been alive. As the modern art form, graffiti developed in the late 1960s in New York and Philadelphia. Early writers such as "Julio 204" and "Taki 183" began to "tag," write or paint their names, all over the city along with their street number. Graffiti really blew up in the 1970s when the commuter trains became giant canvases for inner city youth.

Graffiti has evolved to incorporate many intricate styles and a wide range of mediums. Today's graffiti combines giant stylized "pieces," large drawing of one's name possibly including characters and artistic backgrounds. Pieces have evolved to incorporate many different colors and complicated wild styles that usually can only be deciphered by other writers.

Although it is the only illegal element of Hip-Hop, graffiti has drawn a steady base of youngsters throughout the years.

"My boy was doing it frequently and I thought it was tight," a current U-High writer explained. "One day I got a hold of a can of paint and the rest is history. Graffiti is about trying to express yourself. When you get tight enough you are able to express yourself through your piece."

While some people look

down upon graffiti as just vandalism, writers believe that they are somehow bettering the community by putting up art where there once was a void.

"There are definitely a set of ethics involved," former U-High student and writer O.T. explained. "Certain things are just in bad taste. You have to consider what you are hitting and who owns it. Someone's private property is off limits, so is something that would lower the property value of something that is struggling. But public property is definitely fair game."

Many writers point to the limited number of people who actually write as part of the allure.

"The whole idea of not actually knowing someone but knowing them by a tag and exactly where they have been is crucial," O.T. said. "The dialogue between writers is also tight because when you finally meet someone, you put a face to a name."

"Writers are an elite group that not many people belong to. Doing graffiti is a thankless job. You have to go out there by yourself, risking your freedom to put up your name as a piece of art which could be removed the next day. You put everything on the line for something that you love."

Being illegal, many writers agree that the rush they get when actually bombing is like nothing else.

"You are out in the city at all hours of the morning either by yourself or with a small group," another U-High writer related. "Sometimes it can be like some sort of covert mission. You accomplish something without anyone ever knowing you were there."

"The feeling is like nothing else. Every time I go out I first don't want to get caught and secondly I want to come tight. It is kind of like a drug because if you haven't been out for a while you start feeling the need to get up."

The work that writers put in to accomplish what they want is usually overlooked by many people according to writers.

"I always admired it before I started writing," O.T. explained. "When I first started seeing pieces it blew me away. I thought, and still do, that they are underappreciated as art. It is a lot more difficult than people realize."

"When I started I saw how complex it was. The possibilities are endless if you are willing to put work in. Graffiti is a continually evolving art because there are so many mediums and styles for people to get up in."

When discussing the Hip-Hop culture with the youth involved, certain points seem universally apparent. Though there is an underlying competitive edge to Hip-Hop, there is a feeling that everyone is kind of working together to help the cause, not fighting each other for who is the best. The majority of people out there participating aren't going to make money and get exposure, but instead are involved for personal satisfaction.

"The main thing about Hip-Hop to me, is that it is fun," Matt explained. "It is a way to make yourself feel good. Something that you are actively doing that is coming from the inside out. No one starts doing any form of Hip-Hop and is ill immediately. You have to work at it to get good. So when you are able to accomplish something it really means something."

While commercial rappers crowd the spotlight of popular culture, there are still those who are involved with the roots of Hip-Hop. Because Hip-Hop is based in self expression, youth are continuously getting involved as all four elements of Hip-Hop continue to evolve into the next century.

**"No one starts doing any form of Hip-Hop and is ill immediately. You have to work to get good. So when you are able to accomplish something it really means something."**  
— Matt Brent, '97



**BUSTING AN ILL MOVE**, Senior Charles Simmons displays his break dancing promise at a recent gathering of family and friends. Breaking since freshman year, Charles hones his skills from 4-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Point.

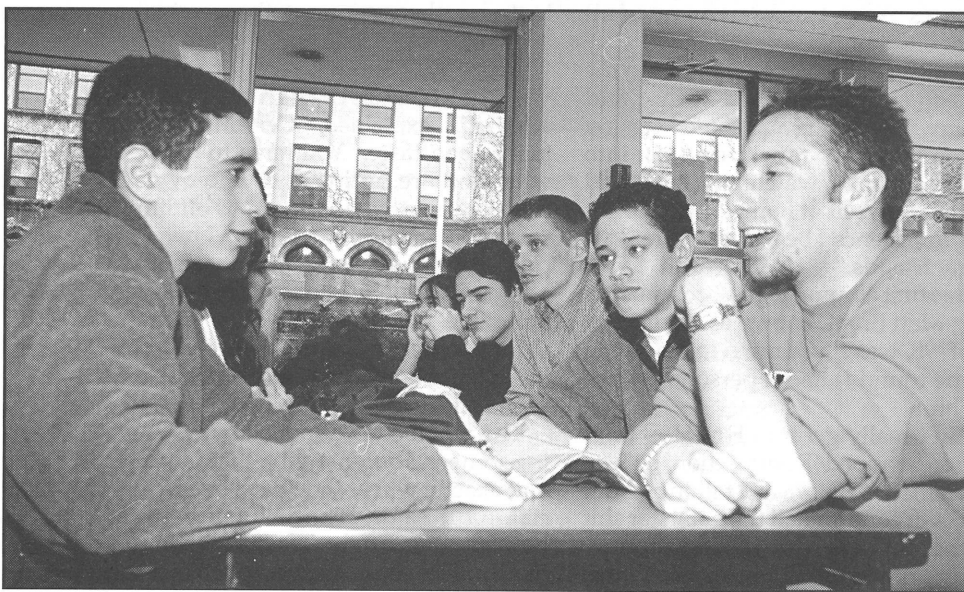
Photo by Logan McBride

Spread reported, written and produced by Logan McBride and Bobby Stokes.

t by O.T.

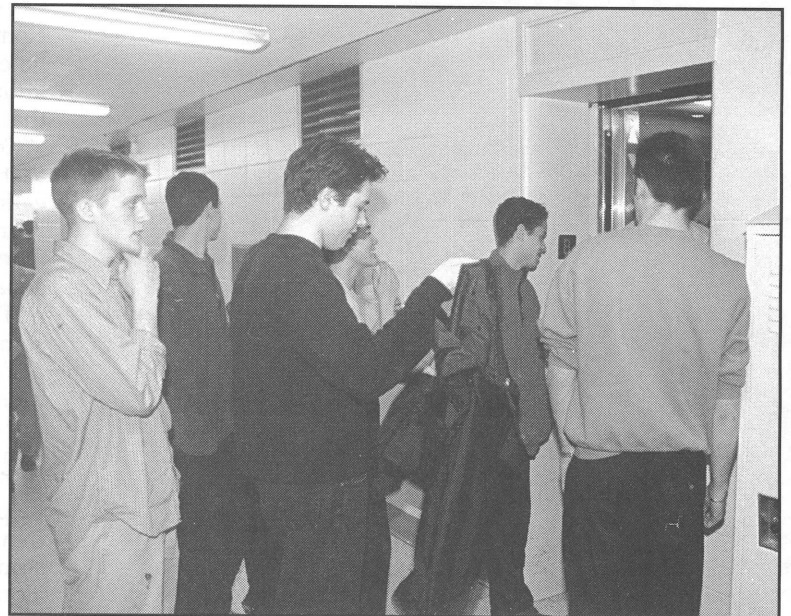


# Nine People and an Elevator



**After finishing, they realized that they were too full to walk up the stairs. So they all got into the elevator.**

**O**ne day, nine friends decided to spend some time together. After getting enough food from the University Market Deli to feed a small army, they came back to school to chow down.



**They'd eaten SO MANY sandwiches, that even the all-powerful U-High elevator could not propel them upwards.**



*Photos  
by  
Tai  
Duncan  
and  
Satya  
Bhabha*

**So now you know to be careful when you eat mass quantities of U.M. food. It's better, and more massive, than you think.**



## University Market

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Market open 8 a.m.- 11 p.m.

Deli open 11:30 a.m.- 6 p.m.



"The Lab Schools encouraged me to speak out and to take risks."

—Fifth-Ward Alderman Leslie Hairston  
(in her senior photo from the 1979 U-Highlights)



## Alder<sup>wo</sup>man

### ■ Home-grown leader takes the reins

By **Tiffany Northrop**

Midway reporter

**W**aking up at 5 a.m. and leaving her South Shore home half an hour later, Fifth Ward Alderman Leslie Hairston, '79 U-High graduate, begins most mornings with a stroll along the Lake.

Beginning her walk at La Rabida Children's Hospital at 65th Street and walking back home once she reaches 51st Street, Ms. Hairston said she relaxes as she admires the beauty of the Lake and her community's cleanliness.

In her office at 1900 E. 71st St. from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., Ms. Hairston works as a liaison between city government and residents of Hyde Park, South Shore, Bryn Mawr East, Bryn Mawr West, Grand Crossing and a small section of Woodlawn.

After living in either Hyde Park or South Shore for 18 years and attending the Lab Schools from 5th grade on, Ms. Hairston entered the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Five-foot, nine-inches with extraordinary posture, broad shoulders and an adamant voice, Ms. Hairston has an ebullient personality. Constantly working with others, Ms. Hairston said Lab School taught her the importance of work ethics.

"The Lab Schools encouraged me to speak out and to take risks," she explained. "The school prepares you for the competitive world and breathes the importance of hard work."

Taking what she learned from the Lab Schools, while at U. of W. Ms. Hairston double majored in Political Science and Psychology.

Beginning to campaign at an early age, Ms. Hairston was elected president of the African American Students Association, treasurer of her sorority, student



Photo by Katie Shapiro

■  
FIFTH WARD ALDERMAN Leslie Hairston discusses ways of improving Jackson Park with Ms. Nancy Hays, president of Jackson Park Advisory Council, at a Fifth Ward meeting Feb. 22 at the Oriental Institute. Dedicating her time to listen to people of the community, Ms. Hairston says she hopes to make people's lives easier by keeping neighborhoods clean and proposing new ideas.

senator and she placed second in the campaign for Student Body president.

Deciding to study law, Ms. Hairston returned to Chicago to attend Loyola University Law School.

"I have been blessed with the gift of yapping and a persuasive voice," Ms. Hairston said. "I thought that Law School would teach me about government and would strengthen both my speaking and analytical skills so that I would be prepared to campaign one day."

Deciding last January to run against incumbent Alderman Barbara Holt as a Democrat, Ms. Hairston feels that a major contributing factor to her election last April was that constituents knew her personally.

"Many people knew me from growing up here," Ms. Hairston said. "I think I won the election because most people know how familiar I am with the way

of life here, how outspoken I am and the hard worker I am."

Believing that Fifth Ward residents wanted an alderman whom they could speak to directly, Ms. Hairston has made Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. open office hours for anyone to come to talk, report a complaint, or make suggestions.

Dedicated to finding solutions for problems facing her community, Ms. Hairston is negotiating the renting of parking lots for the neighborhood, Ms. Hairston said she also invests a lot of her time to maintain the Fifth Ward's constituency services.

"Providing solutions to problems that affect the daily lives of the public by making sure that garbage gets picked up, pot holes get filled, weak branches get trimmed and snowy streets get cleared, I hope I am making people's lives a little easier."

## On the MOVE

### ■ Grad juggles multiple roles in multiple jobs

By **Zach Frey**

Midway reporter

To succeed in the business world, a person has to set extremely high goals. Even if they fall short, they should shoot high. So advises Ms. Valerie Bowman Jarrett, chairperson and chief executive officer of the Chicago Transit Board.

Ms. Jarrett is also executive vice president of the Habitat Company, a major Chicago real estate management firm. She attended the Lab Schools from 1966 to 1972, before transferring to a Massachusetts prep school.

Ms. Jarrett graduated from Stanford in 1978, then received her law degree from the University of Michigan in 1981 and is also mother of Freshman Laura Jarrett.

After working as a lawyer for six years, Ms. Jarrett, got involved in the city government. After four years, she was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff by Mayor Daley.

Also serving as commissioner of planning and development, Ms. Jarrett gave up those jobs to join Habitat Company. Trying to schedule all her transit meetings for CTA projects, such as federal and state budget grants for Blue Line renovations and funding the recorded announcements on board CTA trains.

Serving on boards such as the Museum of Science and Industry, Lab Schools and U. of C. Hospitals in addition to her jobs at CTA and Habitat, requires time management according to Ms. Jarrett.

"I always try to be organized with my time," Ms. Jarrett said, smiling from a chair in her office, filled with plants, pictures, and comfortable chairs, "My



Photo by Katie Shapiro

**IN ORDER TO succeed in her career, Ms. Valerie Bowman Jarrett, chairperson and chief executive officer of the Chicago Transit Board, said she focuses on one thing at a time so she can give her complete attention to everything.**

board and committee meetings are usually scheduled a year in advance, which is good because when I make commitments I want to be sure I can see it through."

Waking up at 5 a.m. and working 10 hours a day, Ms. Jarrett still finds time for herself. She exercises for an hour before eating breakfast with her daughter each morning.

"As soon as I leave the house I start talking on the car phone so I can get as much done possible," Ms. Jarrett said of her 18 minute drive from 50th and the Lake to 350 W. Hubbard.

Once her drive downtown is completed, Ms. Jarrett tries to focus, whether it be a phone call with the mayor or a meeting with a developer.

"My career is kind of like a day at school, you have to stay focused otherwise you'll get a bad grade. In a career you have to focus on one thing or you won't get anything done."

## We've moved!

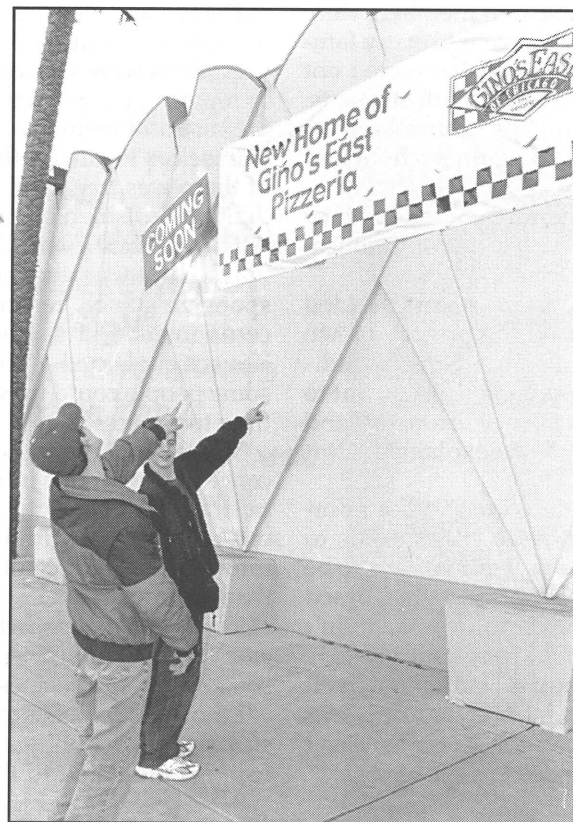


Photo by Katie Shapiro  
**"THIS IS THE PLACE!" Alex Corey, left, and Pat Kamberos exclaim as Gino's East readies the grand opening of its new location tomorrow.**



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"I thought the reaction might be more but it didn't surprise me that things were kept low key."  
—Counselor Patty Kovacs

## School acted, reacted calmly in tough time

By Arielle Levin Becker

Editor-in-Chief

The Lab Schools is often described as a place which exists from emergency to emergency. But when a true emergency arose in January, the school's response proved thoughtful and measured. No one screamed the sky was falling and everyone rallied around for support.

In early January, school officials learned a High School student had alleged sexual misconduct on the part of Phys Ed Teacher Ron Presley. Once school officials notified the Department of Children and Family Services, the Chicago Police launched an investigation and Mr. Presley was placed on leave. Because the police had asked administrators to keep information confidential until the investigation was completed, Mr. Presley's absence was not explained.

"The administration was directly asked by police and the University Legal Department to keep things confidential until they could complete their investigation," Guidance Department Chairperson Patty Kovacs explained. "We wanted to inform the community in a way that wouldn't impede the investigation."

"In terms of long-range planning, the administrators who knew—and not all administrators knew—knew that eventually we would need to inform the whole community and decided to do that when we knew an arrest was being made. We didn't know there was going to be any legal action taken, and in advance, to protect the privacy of all parties involved the school remained confidential."

### Community gets letter

An arrest did occur Wednesday, Feb. 9, when Mr. Presley was charged with misdemeanor sexual misconduct. That day, Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz drafted a letter to the community, which explained that a teacher had been charged with sexual misconduct. Because Mr. Presley's name had not yet been publicly revealed, the letter did not indicate names or offer other specifics.

The next morning, Mrs. Katz explained the situation to all faculty and staff members at a 7 a.m. meeting. At the meeting, faculty and staff members were given Mrs. Katz's letter, which was sent to every family in the Schools that afternoon, and instructed not to initiate any conversations about it with students. About 20 faculty and staff, mostly counselors, attended further meetings Thursday after school and Friday before and after school.

"We handled this like we handle any emergency situation," Mrs. Katz said. "With care, communication, timeliness and good information."

In notifying the community, administrators decided to use vague wording to protect the privacy of Mr. Presley and the student's family, Mrs. Kovacs said.

"We didn't see the police report and didn't want to give any information that was false or erroneous and wanted to protect the privacy," she explained. "But still parents needed to know."

"There is a thinking in revealing this kind of information to a community of three to 18-year-olds to give the responsibility to parents. Parents have to be able to gauge how much information to give, based on students' ages and the family's values. We didn't know Mr. Presley's name would come out publicly and administrators tried to look at maintaining privacy and neutrality about this. The wording was vague while still accurate. The vague wording wasn't intended to deceive. It was intended to protect privacy."

## Senior year alternatives

(continued from front page)

the trip." At North Suburban Highland Park High, seniors participate in a series of required day-long seminars.

"The school tries to get us ready to go into the real world," explained Student Senate Representative Georgia Patera, senior. "Among the day-long programs was a simulation of a crash caused by a drunk driver. The entire senior class went to the soccer field and watched the firemen, police, and coroner simulate their jobs. That simulation had an impact and, as a consequence, the school hopes they will not drive drunk."

"Two weeks ago seniors took a whole day and devoted it to becoming educated about sexual assault and ways to prevent it. I think

Administrators decided not to initiate any discussions about the matter with students, but would respond if needed. But Counselor Bob Bachand did meet with the boys' varsity basketball team, which Mr. Presley coached, and explained that Mr. Presley had been charged with a crime, though did not say what. In addition, Middle School Principal David Feldman and counselors met with Mr. Presley's Middle School students.

For the rest of the community, Mr. Presley's identity and the specifics of the case were not known until Friday, Feb. 11, when the story was reported on two local evening newscasts, and in the Chicago Tribune and Sun-Times on Sunday. The news accounts revealed Mr. Presley's identity, the student's age and gender, and that the charge involved oral sex in a school office. According to Mrs. Katz, the media had been notified by someone from within the school community Thursday afternoon.

"The news media came here at 2 p.m. on Friday," Mrs. Katz said. "They got a call from inside and that makes me sad. Friday the Chicago area knew via the news."

### Student support prepared

Before the news broke, Mrs. Katz, principals and guidance counselors prepared ways to support students. Though it had been decided to not initiate any discussions with students, Advisory Coordinators Susan Shapiro and Mrs. Kovacs discussed common questions students might ask and the appropriate answers with advisers. Principal Hanna Goldschmidt then issued a memo to all faculty members with guidelines for what to do if students raised the topic in class.

"That student could be in any class and maybe other students were involved in similar situations elsewhere and we didn't want any student forced to sit through a discussion that they didn't want to participate in," Ms. Goldschmidt explained.

"It's tricky. You don't want to say we're not allowed to talk about it because we want to talk about it but we are not going to initiate that. There's such a mixture of feelings about this we decided it was appropriate the parents initiate conversation within their family. Different families approach things in different ways and you can't assume that responsibility for families. But we let them know that these conversations were welcome."

Preparing for a reaction from students, both about the case and memories of past experiences of abuse, counselors arranged their schedules so at least one of them was free at all times. Additionally, the student ombudsmen offered open meetings at lunch to "discuss recent events."

"All administrators and counselors assumed a responsive stance, responsive to questions and concerns instead of saying 'let's talk about it,'" Mrs. Kovacs explained. "Everyone knows it's there but some people could move on, and some needed more time to process it."

"There's still the underlying presumption of innocence and with this information it's not the school's business to reveal it to students, but it is the school's business to deal with it if a student brings up this information. We can't assume more responsibility than parents in dealing with a sensitive issue."

"In this community where everyone wants to know everything, it's hard because people can't because it's somebody else's business, not the school community's."

"I thought the reaction might be more but it didn't surprise me that things were kept low key. It evoked feelings unrelated to the issue with people and the

Counseling Office got busy. There was a lot of talk and sadness not necessarily about this issue directly but we found a lot of people needing to touch base more. Candy bowls were empty a lot. People just needed to come in and touch base."

Noticing a quiet but not insignificant reaction, Mr. Bachand said he was pleased with the maturity of students' responses.

"First we listened to hear what was on their minds," he said. "Different kids had different reasons to talk. Some were concerned about the feelings about Mr. Presley, some were upset he was reported and for some students and adults it brought back memories. I'm impressed with how mature the student body has acted. People have been withholding judgment and that's a good thing."

Parents, too, responded appreciatively, Mrs. Kovacs said. "The parental response has been very interesting," she explained. "Most were very appreciative with the way the school handled it, appreciative that they were informed and concerned and for the most part seemed to understand why the plot had to go in the way it did. I personally did not hear any negative feedback about how the school handled it."

"Some people want to rumor monger, gossip or say there's a conspiracy by the administration and you just have to sit there and smile politely. It's been very quiet. People are sad and understand why they had to help, didn't know, nobody knows. Now everyone must go on with business as usual. That's healthy, what to hope for."

### Teacher gets support

According to Mrs. Katz, Mr. Presley is receiving support from friends, and has legal representation. In addition to the criminal charges, the DCFS is conducting an investigation, and the school is conducting its own internal investigation to determine Mr. Presley's future status at the schools.

"Many faculty members are in contact with Mr. Presley and his friends are supporting him," she said. "I know his church is very important to him and supportive of him. Any member of the school community who needs to should be getting counseling support and I continue to encourage it and would want to see everyone continue to move on with their lives."

Administrators declined to comment on the support the student involved is receiving for privacy reasons, but said they hoped the community would continue to respect the student's privacy.

"We worried about people seeking out who the student was but to my knowledge that has not taken place and I hope that continues," Ms. Goldschmidt said. "This is a very private matter and we have to respect that."

"It is my understanding that faculty members have been in touch with Mr. Presley and it's very hard for Mr. Presley's students and for him to not be a part in the basketball season. He didn't have any High School classes but his presence is missed by students who were in contact with him on a regular basis."

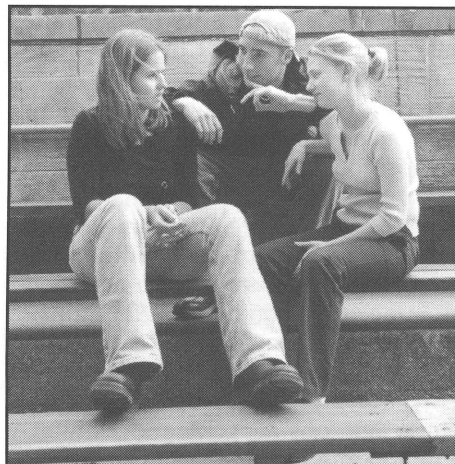
"The mood was very sad; that's to be expected with a situation like that. It's very hurtful to everyone involved and people are very sad and it's important for people to have the opportunity to talk about their feelings."

"The letter got to homes on Friday and Saturday, then we had the Semiformal dance Saturday night, Monday was Valentine's Day, the Science Team won WYSE Tuesday, there was a national math test and the basketball team won the ISL championship. So many things happened at the same time a lot of things drew our attention to other things. For everyone's sake you have to have life go on."

### Three more days of school

THREE SENIORS, from left, Haviland Rummel, David Straus and Logan McBride have qualified for early graduation at the end of this quarter.

Haviland will work at the Chicago Foundation for Women, then travel to a small town in Mexico to teach in an elementary school. David will intern at a new internet company in Burr Ridge owned by a cousin. Logan plans to study Spanish and Cuban culture in a program



at the University of Havana in Cuba, which she discovered on the internet. All three hope to get in some college visits, too.

Photo by Dan Hoffman



"I think that one step toward a solution is educating kids on how to wear their back packs."

—Lab Schools Nurse Martha Baggetto



## A Pain in the Back

■ Heavy back packs increasingly worry medical observers

By Shilpa Rupani

Midway reporter

With growing concerns nationwide of body aches, muscle cramps and soreness from back packs, any visitor to U-High can see back packs are a problem here, too.

Suffering from carrying overweight bags, 2,719 teenagers ages 15-18 visited doctors with shoulder and back complaints in 1998, according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The American Association of Orthopedic Surgeons has reported that 50 percent of physicians feel that bags over 20 pounds can cause damage to children.

Most U-Highers who play on athletic teams carry increased loads, causing even greater pressure on their back and shoulders.

"I experienced some back problems as a result of my books and my basketball bag," said Sophomore Shelly Carr. "I need all of it, but it wasn't the best thing for my game."

Practicing in West Suburban Oak Brook Ter-

### DOs

- DO choose a backpack with wide straps with padding.
- DO make several trips to the locker.
- DO wear both straps.
- DO takeout unnecessary materials.

### DON'Ts

- DON'T overstuff the bag.
- DON'T let the bag hang lower than the shoulders, let it rest on the hips.
- DON'T carry all the books at once.
- DON'T carry big binders for papers, choose accordion folders.

race, Pediatrician Dr. Hemlata Limaye has received complaints from teenagers with back and shoulder irritation as a result of their bags.

According to Dr. Limaye, if bags are not worn properly longterm effects may include chronic back pain and uneven strength in shoulders. Improper use can also lead to posture deformities.

"The problem with students' back packs today is that they carry too much," Dr. Limaye explained. "The main reasons for pain include improper conditioning and the proportion of body weight to their bag weight. Kids should make several trips to lockers throughout the day."

Lab Schools Nurse Martha Baggetto has heard several complaints about back and shoulder irritation.

"I think a lot of the students' problems would heal faster if they wore their bags properly," Mrs. Baggetto said. "I think that one step toward a solution is educating kids about how to wear back packs and how to organize materials inside. I've seen a lot of U-Highers' bags and I'm sure they can't need everything in them. This problem isn't going to go away on its own. Steps need to be taken."

Popular among U-Highers and an increasing trend, according to fashion magazine such as Teen, Y.M. and Seventeen, the messenger bag can also be a significant cause of shoulder pain since they are worn only on one shoulder.

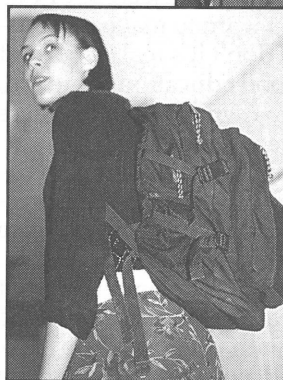
"I chose a messenger bag because I liked the look better," Junior Katie Shapiro said. "The compartments are larger but sometimes, my shoulder hurts because of uneven weight distribution."



Photos by M.C. Oxtoby

ON HER WAY to her locker (photos from left), Shelly Carr trudges through the hall with a back-breaking back pack, only to increase her load with her sports bag.

EASING HER LOAD, Katie Shapiro takes out her Chemistry book, following doctor's and the school nurse's advice for students to stop at their lockers several times throughout the day.



## The Meeting Place



Photo by Satya Bhabha

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Sunday 9 a.m. - Midnight





"I try and stay good in class, but in this neighborhood, you have to know when to be a thug and when to be good."  
—Martell Bailey, Westinghouse High senior

## WHAT THE 'House IS ALL ABOUT The Lives...

Only the strong survive." Everyone has heard of the saying, but at Westinghouse High School, you can add "educated" to that.

In the rough and tumble world of high school basketball in the streets of Chicago, not only is a strong individual needed, but a strong family behind them is crucial as well. The tragedy of Leon Smith, the former ward of Illinois and King High basketball star whose National Basketball Association (NBA) career has yet to start because of run-ins with the law and an aspirin overdose, is one of many examples of guys with sketchy backgrounds and broken homes who fail to make it.

But the Westinghouse Warriors will always have someone to fall back on. The tight-knit bond between Head Coach Chris Head and his players has been instrumental in keeping his program winning and putting his players into college. Although he says there is "no reason that all of my players can't go to college," Coach Head maintains "you can only lead a horse to the water."

He accentuates the importance of academics to his players day in and day out and it seems to pay off, as star forward and New Mexico State University-bound Dennis Trammell is currently the top student in his senior class of 289. Standout point guard Martell Bailey ranks sixth in the class.

How do these guys maintain their aca-

demics while competing on one of the top high school basketball teams in the country?

According to Dennis, "I mostly try to finish up all of my work in school, so I can chill with my boys after school. Coach keeps us in check with our work, but we mainly have to organize our time. I've learned how to ration my time between basketball, school and friends. I mainly have a group of friends who like what I like and we're all pretty much good at school."

Adding that his mother has been the strength behind his success, Dennis said that he now has the desire to do well in school and his education will help him even if basketball doesn't pan out.

"My mom always keeps up on me and she has been real important to me," said Dennis, who has maintained a 4.0 GPA. "Now I think school is all right. Math is my favorite subject, but I like business, too. I want to make it in basketball, but if I don't it's real important that I have a good education. Later on, I might want to own my own business where I can wear a nice suit."

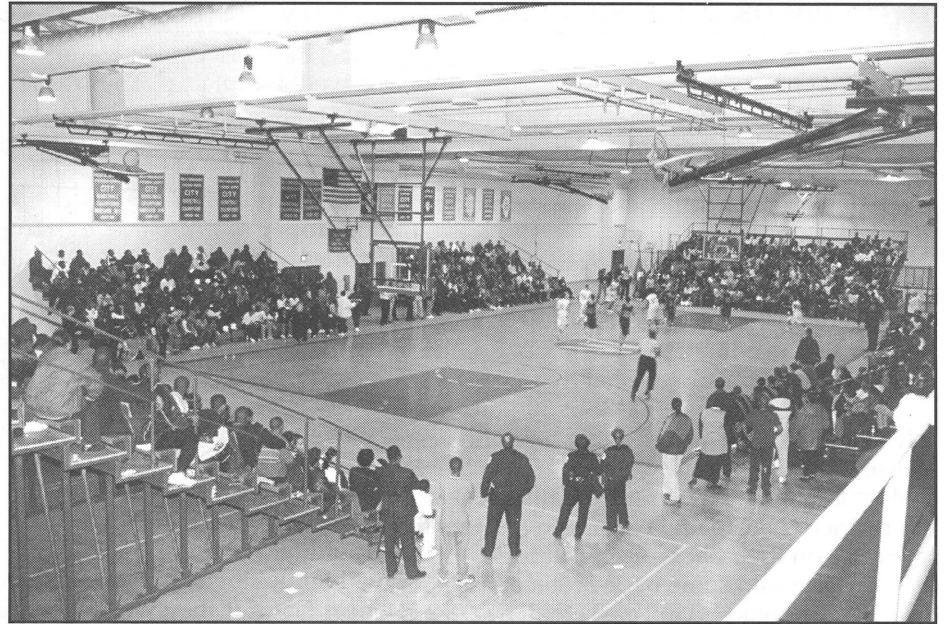
When asked if it's rough living on the West Side, Martell said no, but the pressures of being stars of the school also control how you act to a certain extent.

"At our school a lot depends on what colors you wear to the game and who you associate with. Everybody is looking at you and you get some people who are jealous of your skills. They just want to take you down. You have to keep your head up and stay focused on positive things. If I were to say anything to someone from the outside, it's that you have to stay positive here."

Knowing who to hang out with also defines how you're perceived by peers, Martell said.

### The Stories

Westinghouse High School is a West Side institution which boasts one of the top basketball teams in the nation. On this page, the Midway brings U-Highers to Westinghouse to enjoy the Warrior experience.



**PACKED WITH** hundreds of fans, Westinghouse High School's gym always provides the perfect backdrop for the state's number one basketball team. Concession stands and a balcony add to the electric atmosphere.

"I try and stay good in class, but in this neighborhood, you have to know when to be a thug and when to be good. You have to keep your reputation tough, but not get into too much trouble. I can be anything I want to be as long as I stay Martell inside."

Although Martell wants to play basketball in college, possibly at UIC, Loyola or Notre Dame and then in the pros, he has set goals for the future from his education. A strong mother also has helped Martell, his two older brothers and his younger sister focus on going to college.

"I have no choice if I want to go to college or not," said Martell, whose brother David starred at Westinghouse and is a freshman point guard on Loyola's basketball team. "My mom won't let me not go to college, so if basketball doesn't work, I have options. I want to own my own construction company if I can't play."

"That's why education is important."

There are so many people who don't make it around here who don't have an education. They're so stupid to just sit around after high school not doing anything. You see it all the time in this neighborhood. Then, if you're any good, they try and tag along with you."

Trying to stay close to his players, Coach Head takes them to movies and out for food. He also stays involved in the summer, organizing an Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) team for his players, traveling the country playing the nation's best summer league teams.

When the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) suspended him through last December after he coached the team last summer in violation of state rules, Coach Head—maintaining the importance of staying involved—challenged the rule and the IHSA changed it to a maximum of 25 hours in the summer for coaches and players.

Stressing education as well as athlet  
(continued on page 17)

## The Games...

Along Homan Avenue on the way to Westinghouse High School lies a neighborhood not elegant by any means. But inside the school, an atmosphere of basketball and education fills the mind.

While police and guards man the entryways to the school of more than 1000 students at 3301 W. Franklin Ave., a feeling of improving one's standing exists in the cream-colored halls of the castlelike building on Chicago's notoriously rough West Side.

Once inside, after 3:30 p.m. on game days, a visitor can follow the constant flow of people and buzz of chatter to the gym. One of the top teams in the nation, according to USA Today, the Warriors play to packed crowds filling the four bleachers along each wall.

On this day, the Warriors are taking on Red West rival Curie and by half-time, the 'House's j.v. is well on its way to a 58-46 win.

A myriad of banners hang from the walls, not trumpeting conference titles, but City and State championships with undefeated seasons scribbled below them from the past few decades.

The constant flickering of depleted lights only furthers the frantic sensation for an outsider. While without much excitement, the j.v. game is only the undercard as everybody anxiously awaits the main event. Curie had upset the Warriors in the first game of the conference season and it had remained the only loss for the Warriors.

The Warriors begin to line up in the hallway as the crowd starts chanting

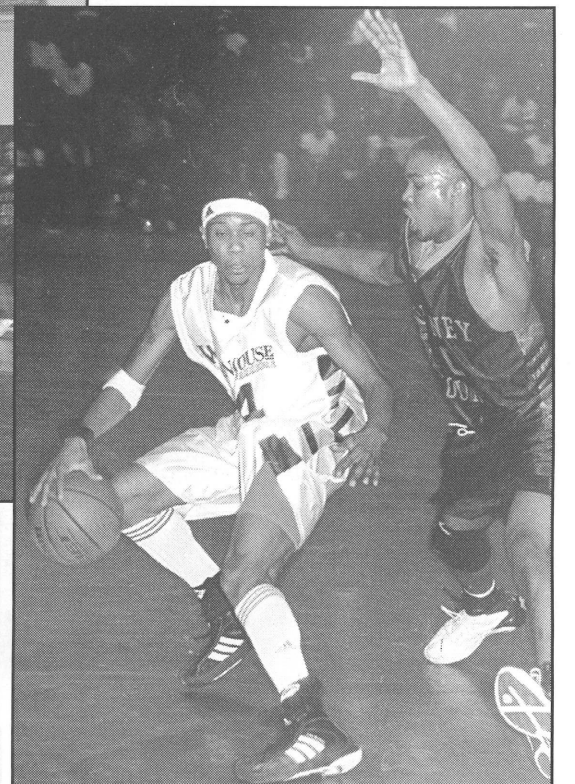
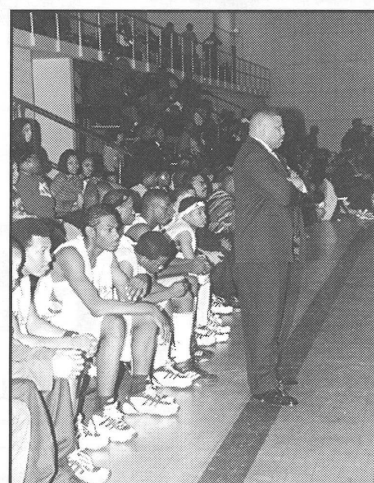
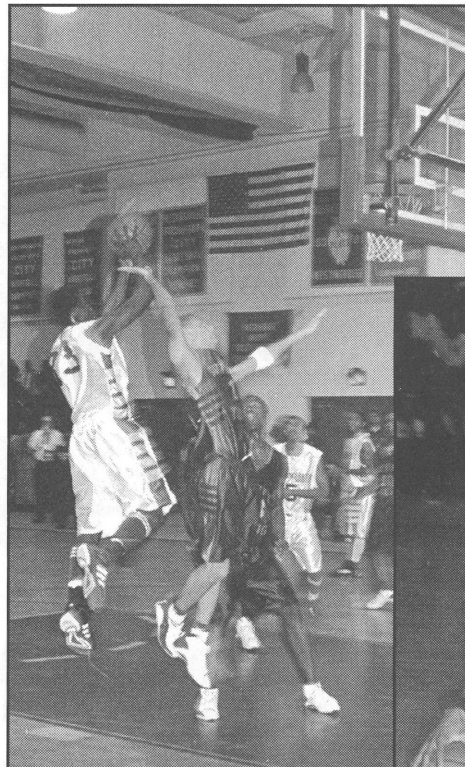
for their squad. It's obvious that this is it, this is what everybody goes to Westinghouse for.

"You see everybody here," a school official wearing Warriors green and gold comments to her friend. "All the kids who were in your classes before they dropped out are usually the first ones here, then they're the last ones out."

After the Warriors wait for Curie to take the court, the music starts blasting from the speakers. The team bursts out from the hallway as the crowd goes nuts. Everybody is on their feet. The squad, clad in green and white warmups, headbands and brand new Addidas shoes, circles the court once and then starts the "layup lines" which soon turn into the "let's-see-how-high-I-can-get-my-head-above-the-rim-dunk lines."

The game begins at a ferocious pace. Warriors' scrappy point guard Senior Martell Bailey opens up with a quick three and New Mexico State University bound forward Dennis Trammell adds a layup. It's three minutes before the Condors get on the board, but it is already 7-2. And when they do, Bailey races up the court and throws an around the back pass to star forward Cedrick Banks, a senior. Although Banks blows the dunk, the point is made and the crowd and momentum soars for The 'House.

A three from Curie guard William Lewis sparks a short run for the Con  
(continued on page 17)



Page produced, reported and written by Mike Lamb, Midway sports editor.

Photos by Tai Duncan

■ **GOING UP** (photos from top left) for two in an 81-65 win Feb. 17, point guard Martell Bailey and the Warriors clinch the Red West.  
■ **WESTINGHOUSE'S** Cedrick Banks fights for position.  
■ **ALWAYS DRESSED** sharply, Westinghouse Coach Chris Head takes an active role in games.



"The younger guys are going to be to play up to a higher level, while at the same time, we'll really learn to play together."  
—Sophomore Josh Levine

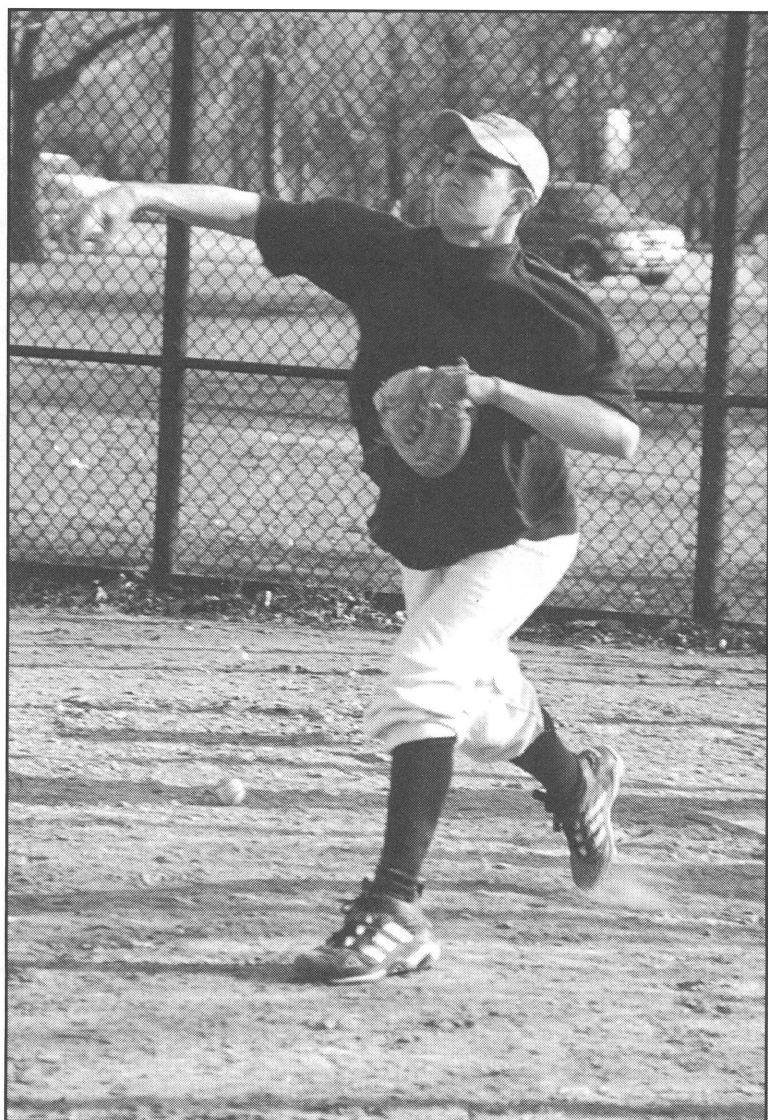


Photo by Satya Bhabha

THROWING AROUND the horn, Jules Federle gets back into the swing of things. The surplus of underclassmen have made it hard for baseballers to practice, as Coaches Jack Taylor and Dan Dyra have tried to sort out who would be on varsity and who would be on junior varsity. Practicing the first few weeks as one team, the players weren't able to do all of the regular activities.

## For it's one, two, three...

■ Varsity Baseball Maroons go for four in a row

By Jules Federle

Midway reporter

Aspiring to extend their Independent School League championship streak to four consecutive titles, varsity baseball Maroons, 14-7 (11-1 ISL) last year, will be seeking revenge in their first game, 4:30 p.m. two weeks from today against Lane Tech at Western and Addison on the North Side.

Last year, in a doubleheader with the Indians, the Maroons were shut out 10-0 in the first game and lost 8-3 in the second game.

"Just trying to stay focused is going to be a large part in determining our success," said Junior Sim Khalidi, pitcher. "How we do in the beginning of the season will play a big role in our overall attitude for the entire season. If we have the right mind set when we play against Lane Tech we'll for sure be able to play up to our potential and beat them."

The early games will prove a challenge for the Maroons.

"It's definitely going to be hard at the beginning of the season," said Senior John Hron, second baseman. "We have a rough schedule, we're going to be facing some really strong nonconference teams. We learn a lot from schools like Lane Tech and Evergreen Park, where there are thousands of kids for them to choose for their squad. It really builds our character when we play teams like that."

Besides Lane Tech, the U-Highers will face some of the most dynamic teams in the state, including Leo, Illiana Christian and Mt. Carmel (see schedule this page).

"They are all incredible teams; all of them have a shot at state," Varsity Coach Jack Taylor said. "All of these powerhouse teams have wanted to play us for quite some time now. We've only now been able to fit them into our schedule. It says a lot about how far the U-High baseball program has come over the years. The team this year is going to have to really come together to beat these teams."

Added John, "By the time we play league

"Our team has a lot of talent, but conversely our team is also very young."

—Senior Reid Tokarz

games we'll have been used to playing at such a high level that we shouldn't have problems with ISL teams."

The Maroons' first ISL game comes against Parker 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, April 4 at home.

"Our team has a lot of talent," said Senior Reid Tokarz, varsity first baseman, "but conversely our team is also very young."

Of the 24 players who showed up for the first day of practice, more than 10 were freshman. But that inexperience doesn't discourage Mr. Taylor.

"Losing seniors is always an issue, but it's just going to make the seniors and even the juniors this year play an even bigger role in terms of leadership," he explained. "We lost some very important seniors who played a crucial role in motivating the team. I expect a lot out of the underclassmen this year. The roster is wide open right now for underclassmen, so there'll be tough competition for starting spots."

"It's not Middle School baseball anymore. Maybe it's asking too much of them to adjust to the varsity level, but if that's what it takes to motivate them then so be it. Our team is very athletic, yet at the same time we're very young. The athleticism will help us win, but unfortunately the sheer inexperience of some members of the team might lead to some losses."

The Maroons remain confident the team will mature as the season progresses.

"It's great that there will be a lot of underclassmen on the team," said Sophomore Josh Levine, second baseman. "The younger guys are going to be forced to play up to a higher level, while at the same time we'll really learn to play together."

J.V. is getting a new coach, Mr. Dan Dyra. "Jack and I are still trying to figure out what our j.v. squad is going to look like," Mr. Dyra said. "As of now, it's too early to tell."

The j.v.ers are looking to come back strong from last year's disappointing 3-4 (2-2 league) record.

"We definitely struggled last year," said Sophomore Brian Gill, j.v. pitcher last year. "The fact that we were rained out 10 times hurt us tremendously. We only played seven games and unfortunately that wasn't enough time for us mesh as a team."

J.V. also opens against Lane Tech March 28.

## Tennismen up for challenges Sports Briefs

By Russell Kohn

Midway reporter

Having lost only one starting player from last year, j.v. and varsity tennismen will rely on experience to lead them through a demanding year.

Home matches against De La Salle 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 29 and the first Independent School League match 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 4 against Francis Parker will set the tone.

"We haven't played DeLaSalle in several years," said Mr. Gerold Hanck, co-coach with Mr. Larry McFarlane. "So we don't know exactly what to expect."

"We will have a tough match against Parker. They are a good team and we will have to work hard to beat them."

With most of the 40 players battling for spots on the varsity team, starting positions on both teams will prove tough.

"Although we don't know what the final size of the team will be, we have a very big team," Mr. McFarlane said. "This will only help the team, though, because we'll have a wide range of talent."

"I haven't had a chance to see all the new players, but from what I have seen, I am very pleased. We have strong new players entering the j.v. team and we look to have much stronger j.v. and varsity teams than last year."

With an ISL title last year, the squads will draw on that experience to attain their goal of an ISL repeat and an Invitational win.

A tougher schedule this year, including the Evanston and Lockport Invitationals and the Marist Tournament, will challenge their goals.

With the experience of last year comes expectations for this year.

"I expect a lot from this year," Mr. McFarlane said. "I think this year's team has a lot of potential and we hope to take advantage of that."

## In Like A Lamb / Spring sports schedules

■ **BOYS' BASKETBALL**—Lane Tech, 4 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, away; St. Benedict, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, March 30, varsity away, j.v. home; St. Ignatius, 3:45 p.m., Friday, March 31, varsity away, j.v. home; Leo, 2 p.m., Saturday, April 1, varsity away, j.v. home; Parker, 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, home; Illiana Christian, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, varsity away, j.v. home; Mt. Carmel, 4 p.m., Friday, April 7, home; Evergreen Park, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 8, varsity home, j.v. away, both doubleheaders; Latin, 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, home; Northridge College Prep, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 15, away, varsity only, doubleheader; Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, home; Prosser, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 20, away; Elgin Academy, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 22, away, doubleheader; Rich Central, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, away; Parker, 4:15 p.m., Friday, April 28, away; North Shore, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 29, away, varsity only, doubleheader; Morgan Park Academy, 4 p.m., Wednesday, May 3, home, varsity only; Latin, 4:15 p.m., Friday, May 5, away; Walther Lutheran, 1 p.m., Saturday, May 6, varsity away, j.v. home, both doubleheaders; Morgan Park Academy, 4 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, away, varsity only; Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 12, away, varsity only; Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 16, away, j.v. only; Regionals, Tuesday, May 16-Tuesday, May 23, details to be announced.

■ **GIRLS' SOCCER**—McAuley, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 29, away; Parker, 4 p.m., Friday, March 31, away; Argo Tournament, 1 p.m., Saturday, April 1, varsity only; Woodlands, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, varsity only; Willows, 4:45 p.m., also Wednesday, April 5, home, j.v. only; St. Ignatius, 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 7, varsity home, j.v. away; Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 10, away; North Shore, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, away; Fenwick, 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 14, away, freshmen only; Elgin Academy, 4:45 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, away; Latin, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 20, away; Parker, 4:15 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, home; Woodlands, 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 28, varsity only; Latin, 4 p.m., Tuesday, May 2, home; Morton, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 4, away; North Shore, 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 9, home; Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, home; Elgin Academy, 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 12, home, varsity only; Willows, 4:45 p.m., also Friday, May 12, j.v. only; Mother Guerin, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 16, home; Regionals, Friday, May 19, details to be announced.

■ **BOYS' TENNIS**—De La Salle, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 29, home; Parker, 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 4, home; Sandburg, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, away; Elgin Academy, 4 p.m., Friday, April 7, home; Evanston Invitational, 9 a.m., Saturday, April 15, varsity only; Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 18, home; Lockport Invitational, 8 a.m., Saturday, April 22, varsity only; Marion Invitational, 8:30 a.m., Saturday, April 22, j.v. only; North Shore, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 25, home; Latin, 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 26, home; Parker, 4:15 p.m., Friday, April 28, away; Marist Tournament, 3:30 p.m., Friday, May 5 and 8:30 a.m., Saturday, May 6, varsity only; Brother Rice, 9 a.m., also Saturday, May 6, j.v. only; Morgan Park Academy, 4:15 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, away; St. Ignatius, 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 11, home; ISL Conference, Friday-Saturday, May 12-13, details to be announced; Brother Rice, 4:30 p.m., Monday, May 15, away; Sectionals, Saturday, May 20, details to be announced; State Tournament, Thursday, May 25-27, State Tournament.

■ **TRACK AND FIELD—BOYS' AND GIRLS' MEETS**—Top Times Meet, Saturday, April 1, details to be announced; Lisle, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 8, away; Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, away; Home, time to be announced, Wednesday, April 19; Ridgewood, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 22; Home, time to be announced, Wednesday, April 26; ISL Conference Meet, Tuesday, May 9, details to be announced.

BOYS'—Prospect, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25; Home, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 14; St. Patrick, 9 a.m., Saturday, April 29, away; Lisle, time to be announced, Saturday, May 6, away; Sectionals, Saturday, May 20, details to be announced; State Meet, Friday-Saturday, May 26-27, Eastern Illinois University at Charleston.

GIRLS'—Morton, 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 12, away; Rich East, 4 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, away; Ridgewood, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 22, away; Ridgewood, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 29, away; Mooseheart, Saturday, May 6, away; Sectionals, Saturday, May 13, details to be announced; State Meet, Friday-Saturday, May 19-20, Eastern Illinois University at Charleston.





"If I didn't have to take gym for a third year, I would have been able to take an art class, which would have allowed me to do May Project next year."  
—Junior Jeremy Schmidt

## Despite obstacles

# Track squads set to soar

By Nick Hill

Midway reporter

Despite the adversity of losing substantial team members midway through the season, boy and girl trackers remain positive as they prepare for the remainder of the season.

Off to a stellar start, the girls have won three of their first four meets. The boys, yet to win a meet, look forward to a stronger second half. Hosting a home meet 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, the boys will run against Providence-St. Mel and Quigley.

With only 15 members, the boys are competing against much larger schools, making scoring difficult.

"The team tends to show much heart in their performance, but they fail to perform scorewise at their meets," Boys' Long Distance Coach Marty Billingsley said. "Most of the teams we compete against tend to be much larger than us making it hard to score points; we competed against Geneva High School and their boys' team had 70 members compared to our 15."

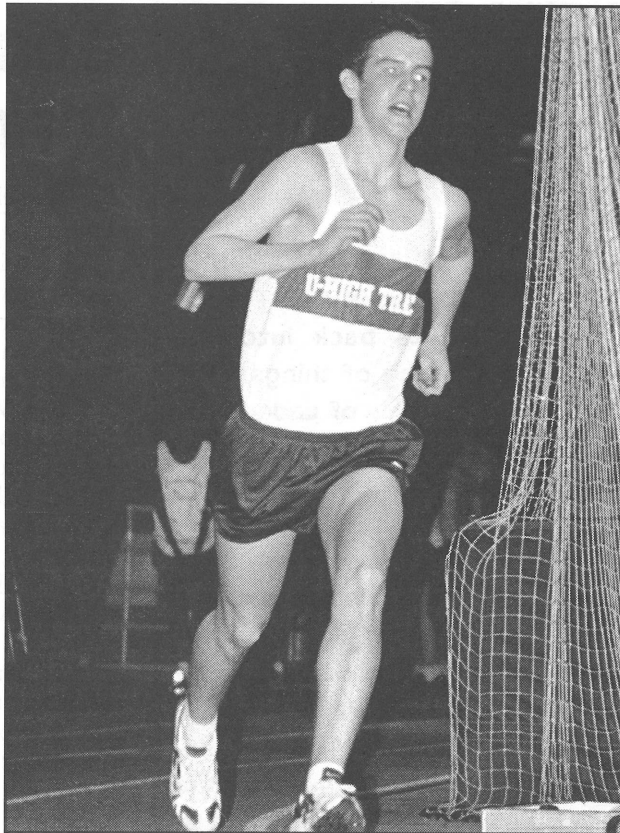
With the late arrival of Senior Ian Cummins and Sophomores Stephen Akuamoah and Lydell Ware from a late basketball season, the team will gain speed and precision in their hopes for scoring.

The discouragement this season has not put a damper on the team, said Junior Jackson Cheung.

"Our team spirit is pretty good, but since we haven't won any meets the team is not completely joyous," he said. "The reason we're not doing well is simply because we don't have the skill that we've had previous years."

Other veterans also speak with optimism about the rest of the season.

"The fact that we lost all of the seniors last year really hurt us," Senior Star Sandy Craig said, "but our goal is to do well at the ISL conference meet in May



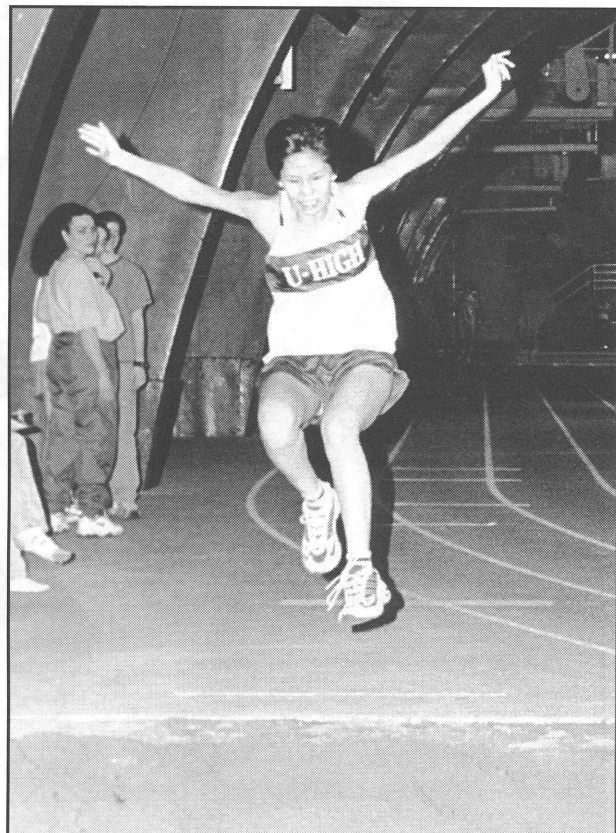
**FINISHING STRONG** (photos from left) Feb. 25 at home, Sandy Craig and an undermanned boys'

and right now it's of foremost importance to us."

Winning all of their home meets, the 10 girls have overcome the loss of several veteran stars in past weeks.

"The season is going okay for the people who have stayed on the team and we are doing well," said Sophomore Jessie Sklarsky. "It makes it hard to compete well against other schools when we have close to 10 members left on the team. It's really going to make the rest of us work that much harder to continue to succeed in the season."

With the loss of Senior Shuchi Sharma, Junior Adrienne Umeh and Sophomore Missy Corey for



Photos by Dan Hoffman

squad finished 3rd of 4, while Gina Leung takes her leap in the long jump, as the girls finished 1st of 4.

various reasons, the team added three new girl shot putters. Senior Sarah Newby, Junior Caroline O'Mara and Freshman Isabel Gabel have performed nicely this season, helping the already small team succeed.

Those who have performed well throughout the season will be invited to the Top Times Meet Saturday, April 1 in Champaign. The Top Times Meet will have the best runners in the state (male and female), selecting only the top 12 members in each of the long distance events and top 10 in each of the sprinting events. Runners will have a chance to compete in a midseason all-star format, giving them a good look at the competition they might see later in the season.

## Defense gone, but soccer girls confident of title

By Jordann Zachary

Midway reporter

Buoyed by last year's strong records, varsity and j.v. girls' soccer teams feel fired up and ready to respectively clinch the league title and repeat it.

After finishing 2nd in the Independant School League (ISL) last year behind Lake Forest Academy, varsity is out for the crown focusing on conditioning.

The Maroons will open the season against Mother McAuley 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 29, away. "We are going to play strong, honest, fair soccer," said Varsity Coach Dominic Piane.

"We'll hit people. It's a physical game. We must be willing to give and take hits. Our first game this season is against Mother McAuley. We lost 3-2 in the playoffs with them last year. They are not going to take us lightly. I expect our teams to match up nicely."

The defending ISL champion Lake Forest Caxys also pose a threat to U-High, along with Latin who placed 3rd.

"Latin is our toughest competitor," said Junior Annie Padrid, varsity goalie the past two years. "We beat them both times last year, but they were close games and they have strong players such as Alison Freedheim and Jackie Schiff. They have a really good offense, but we should beat them."

Losing strong seniors including Rebecca Cohen, Kathleen Hahn and Stephanie Preshon, Mr. Piane plans to make a few adjustments.

"We graduated our entire defense last year, so we are going to have to take some of our midfielders and pull them back," Mr. Piane said. "We have a strong middle and front. Most of the returning team is strong, especially players such as Hannah Levine and Stephaine Lentz. We are going to play the best 11 players on the field. Varsity

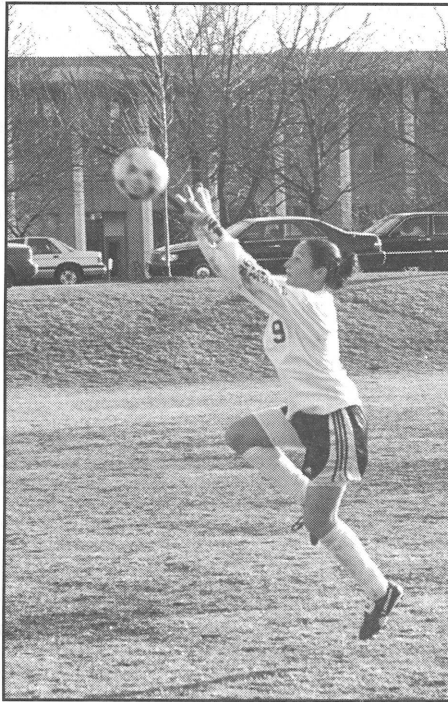


Photo by Katie Shapiro

**GOALIE Annie Padrid looks to avenge last year's 2nd place ISL finish.**

is going for the win this year, so we need the best possible team."

Prepared to dominate once again, j.v. is going for its third consecutive ISL title. "I expect an overall good effort this year," said J.V. Coach Mike Moses. "I want the team to work and build together throughout the season. I hope for an undefeated record this season. We only lost once to Latin last year."

J.V. will field roughly 20 players, as returning talent includes Sophomores Betsy Kalven, Kristen Reepmeyer and Jessica Naclerio. New talent expected by Mr. Moses includes Freshmen Emily Palmer and Nicole Rosner.

For their first game of the season, j.v. will also face Mother McAuley. "It's unfortunate our first game must be against such a large school," Mr. Moses said. "I would have liked a few games under our belts before playing them. On the flip side, it will be a good chance to see what we need to improve on as well as what we're already good at."

## Court ruling to reduce phys ed won't affect U-High

By Kian Dowlatshahi

Midway reporter

The Illinois Supreme Court recently ruled that public schools can apply to the State Board of Education for a reduction of the high school phys ed requirement from three to two years.

Many districts want to excuse team members and in some cases cheerleaders and pom pon squad participants, from the third year of phys ed so they can give students time for additional course choices.

But don't expect any change to U-High soon, according to Athletic Director Karen Duncan.

"The new system in public schools may not work," Mrs. Duncan said. "And besides, gym class is a neat experience that also serves as a break in the day. It exposes kids to a variety of different sports."

Added Phys Ed Teacher Larry McFarlane, "I assume that the system will stay the way it is. In my 28 years here, this is how it's always been and it seems to be working fine."

Many U-Highers, however, like the idea of more time for other classes.

"If I didn't have to take gym for a third year," Junior Jeremy Schmidt said, "I would have been able to take an art class, which would have allowed me to do May Project next year. In either case, the extra time would have definitively allowed me to focus more on my academic classes."

Other U-Highers question whether phys ed really serves as such a break in the day.

"If gym class is really supposed to be a break in the students' day," Jun-

ior Sim Khalidi said, "then it defeats its own purpose when gym teachers assign papers and tests, especially in a first period class. U-Highers would see it as a stress reliever if it actually took their minds off their academics in a positive way. It's ridiculous that students have to fulfill a larger requirement for gym than they do for science."

"Some of these activities in gym are not even real classes. For instance, self-defense is an elective geared towards female students concerning street safety and rape prevention."

"The system dictates that there must be as many girls and boys in each class and as a result, some guys are forced into being in it."

Since U-High has a no-cut policy for teams, substituting athletics for phys ed would not work either, phys ed teachers say.

"The less talented players would be missing gym class and at the same time they would not be playing that often for their team," Mr. McFarlane explained. "On the other hand, there are just some kids who are not excited to come to gym class and so I'm not excited about teaching them."

In hopes of attracting more students to phys ed, many districts are offering so-called "adventure sports" such as wall climbing and obstacle courses.

**"It's ridiculous that students have to fulfill a larger requirement for gym than they do for science."**

—Junior Sim Khalidi



"I would like to ideally do skating competitions in addition to just skating for fun in college."  
—Junior Phillip Lichtor



# Skater slides to success

■ Junior enjoys challenges on, off ice

By Elizabeth Stigler  
Midway reporter

It's 4:30 a.m. In 30 minutes Junior Phillip Lichtor will be spinning circles at the Oak Lawn Ice Arena. Overcoming long nights and early mornings, Phillip sticks to his skating routine.

"I still never want to get up that early," explains the shy 5-foot, 6-inch, 135 pound skater as he unlaces his small black skates.

"It can be a challenging but rewarding way to start your day. After you've gotten used to it you begin to depend on it. It helps get me energized for school because it's fun and exhilarating.

"I also surprisingly haven't had difficulty finishing homework along with the demands of my skating schedule."

Reluctantly tagging along with his sister Sarah, '98, Phillip began to skate at the age of 10. After he attended group lessons during his first year, Phillip moved on to get direction from a private coach, while Sarah later quit. Phillip's younger brother Scott and sister Michelle are also developing an impressive presence on the ice, continuing the family tradition.

Describing his first United States Figure Skating Association (USFA) competition four years ago as a skating "tragedy," complete with five falls, Phillip looks back and is thankful he didn't quit the sport.

"Luckily that experience of failure didn't turn me off to skating," he commented. "Instead, it made me want to be a better skater, so I could have the satisfaction of knowing that I could do this."

Besides skating after school for 45 minutes Phillip also travels to events throughout the Chicago area, Milwaukee and Iowa. Despite its necessity, Phillip looks unfavorably on the concentration of jumps in current professional skating.

"I try not to watch skating on T.V. anymore," he said. "It just seems that now, more than ever before, the skaters today are simply competing for jumps. The bar is rising and as a result the sport of skating is not what it used to be."

"The career expectancy of an amateur skater will drop dramatically because the quad jumps they are doing now can cause devastating injuries."

As for his own accomplishments, Phillip recently finished 2nd in a competition in St. Louis, March 3.

He is upbeat about a 7th-place finish at Regionals, his biggest competition of the year.

"I didn't qualify to compete in the Junior National competition," Philip explained, "but I'm happy with the way I skated. In the end I don't think I was fully ready for my program."

Although he feels he doesn't match up to some of the other skaters his age, Phillip wants to continue developing his talent.

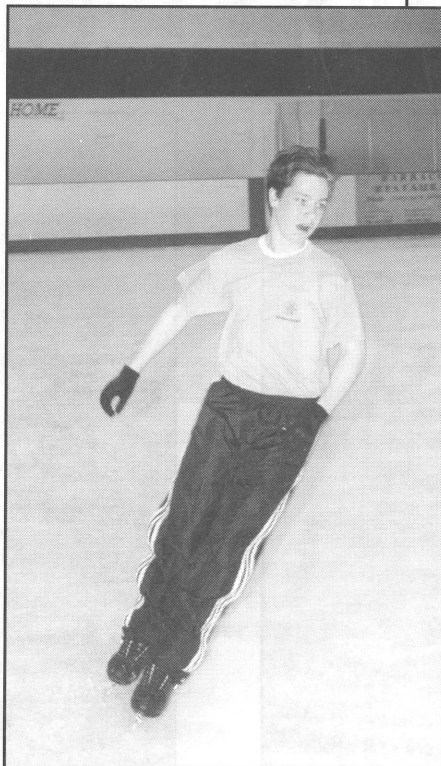


Photo by Greg Kohlhausen  
**DESPITE LATE NIGHTS and early mornings, Phillip Lichtor maintains his passion for skating.**

"I definitely will make sure that I am able to skate at whatever college I go to," Phillip said. "I would like to ideally do skating competitions in addition to just skating for fun in college."

For now though, Phillip agrees that his skating schedule along with school keeps him busy enough.

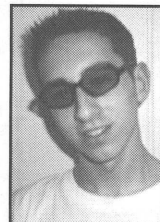
## Athletes can't just open their yaps

CHANCES ARE, if you criticized your boss, called a coworker a "fat monkey" and made bigoted remarks towards immigrants and gays in a national magazine, you wouldn't receive much sympathy. However, suspended Atlanta

Braves pitcher John Rocker did just that in an interview in the Dec. 21

Sports

Mike Lamb



Sports Illustrated. Shaym Das, an arbitrator mutually agreed upon, sided with Rocker and the Major League Baseball Players' Association March 1, shortening his suspension from May 1 to April 18.

Yet another instance where a professional athlete acted unprofessionally took place two years ago when Green Bay Packers star defensive end Reggie White made bigoted stereotypes of virtually every racial group in front of Wisconsin legislature, furthering athletes' reputation as bad role models.

However unfair the burden placed on public figures by society to be role models, it is still not right for them to express their hatred publicly. Like Rocker said in a nationally published apology, "Thoughts unexpressed sometimes fall back dead, but even God himself can't kill them when they are said."

Everything athletes say, in passing or in an interview, is on record for the world. Athletes shouldn't have to be perfect citizens and most are far from it, but they can't expect a double standard thinking they can get away with anything just because of who they are.

## Star cyclist decides to shift gears, move on

By Rachel Greene  
Midway reporter

After five years of training for the 1996 and 2000 Olympics, cyclist Marisa Vande Velde, '96, has decided to stop spinning her wheels.

Marisa, whose mother is Phys Ed Teacher Joan Vande Velde, started her Olympic training as a junior at U-High, with the help of her father John, an Olympic cyclist himself in 1968 and 1972.

Marisa continued to train while attending the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs until last November.

"I was a runner and I kept getting injured," explaining a recurring hip injury in a phone interview from London. "So I started cycling because it was a sport where I wasn't affected by the injuries I got from running. My brother and dad were already into cycling so they suggested I do it."

Marisa soon rose to the top of the junior ranks with a Junior National Time Trials title in 1995. A 10th-place finish at the Junior Worlds promised a bright future for America's top young cyclist. In 1998, she went on to win the Pan American Championships in Brazil.

Despite the five hours of training a day and all of Marisa's hard work, her at-

tempts to become a Olympic cyclist in 1996 failed, when her 5th place finish at the trials wasn't enough.

"You can't live on cycling alone and without an education I had nothing to fall back on," said Marisa. "I thought it was time to move on and I'm okay with the decision. I was not getting a lot back while I was giving a lot."

Marisa said she also received support from her brother Christian, who was on Lance Armstrong's winning team at the Tour de France last summer.

While U-High was a great experience, Marisa has only now begun to realize how important the education is.

"I really enjoyed Lab," she commented. "It was definitely a case of 'you don't know what you have until it's gone.' I really think the education at Lab is second to none."

Looking ahead to her future, Marisa aspires to go to Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, N.Y. just outside New York City. Time in school will soon fill Marisa's days once again, instead of the long hours of cycling she has grown accustomed to.

"Eventually after I am done with school, I want to do something involving child development. I am excited to move on with my life, but I don't regret any of my involvement with cycling. It was an experience I will cherish for life."

## Westinghouse: Lives

(continued from page 14)

Stressing education as well, Coach Head tries to open his players up to different experiences as the team has traveled to Utah, North Carolina, Florida, Nebraska and most recently St. Louis, where they defeated the number 1 team in the nation, Oak Hill Academy from Virginia. With Dennis already going out west to NMSU, Illinois Mr. Basketball candidate forward Cedrick Banks is looking at Utah and Tulane.

"Academics are number one here," Coach Head explained, as he put his feet up on the desk in the corner of his office. His small office, hidden between locker rooms, has a state-of-the-art computer and a big screen T.V. hanging from

the ceiling, equipped with a VCR and plenty of video games.

"If you can't make the grade, we try and help you, but you have to do it in the classroom as well. Here it's different than other schools. We emphasize education. You can get your barber's license before you leave high school."

"I've also tried to show the guys different life experiences, because we're all one people. Just getting along isn't enough. I know it won't happen overnight, but we have to communicate more with people from different situations. Just as Westinghouse is a high school, U-High is, but uncontrollable class differences is in no way an excuse for us to shy away from each other."

## Westinghouse: Games

(continued from page 14)

Lewis sparks a short run for the Condors. Never losing control, though, the Warriors come back as Bailey pokes the ball from a Condor and cruises down the court. Bailey, who doesn't stand more than 5-foot, 10-inches, seemingly jumps off a trampoline for a huge dunk, but misses. The crowd goes crazy as people jump out of their seats and run around.

Banks and Trammell hit a pair of threes and the Warriors are off and running, 28-20. Their unrelenting press, regarded by most as the nation's best, keeps them in command as they can score at will, yet don't, seemingly keeping their audience involved. A 21-3 run ending with a Trammell three as the buzzer sounds caps off the half, with the Warriors up 36-20.

At halftime, a dance troupe and cheerleaders perform. During dance troupe, a guy sporting Warriors warmups hops onto the roped off court and starts busting moves left and right.

The second half starts and bucket after bucket goes down for the Warriors as they pull ahead by 20. I begin to talk to a phys ed teacher, who along with myself pretty much make up the white section of the crowd. He is a short, 20-something who

seems wrapped up in the whole Westinghouse aura. He is from southwest suburban Tinley Park.

When I ask him why he left Tinley Park for the urban challenge of Westinghouse, he asks, "What's the difference besides location?" as a Bailey three excites him. "Honestly, they're the same. The kids do the same things and get into the same trouble in Tinley Park, so I thought why not go someplace where I can see a new environment. High school is high school no matter where you go."

When the game finally ends, Westinghouse has a commanding 64-39 win, avenging their only loss. Banks finishes with 21 points to lead all scorers, while Trammell chips in 18. Lewis finishes with 18, leading Curie.

"We really enjoyed this game," Head Coach Chris Head says to a bunch of reporters from major newspapers and T.V. stations collected at the door to his office. "We could've won by more, but I didn't want it to be too bad."

A comment strikes me as I walk out the gym, "Have you done any work for Monday?"

"Nah, I'll probably do it Sunday night."

I guess high school is high school no matter where you go.

## Keeping Score

U-High scores followed by opponents', with varsity first and j.v. in parentheses.

### Boys' Basketball

St. Benedict, Feb. 19, home: 62-49 (42-55), Regionals, North Lawndale College Prep, Feb. 22, away: 59-33, Hales Franciscan, Feb. 23,

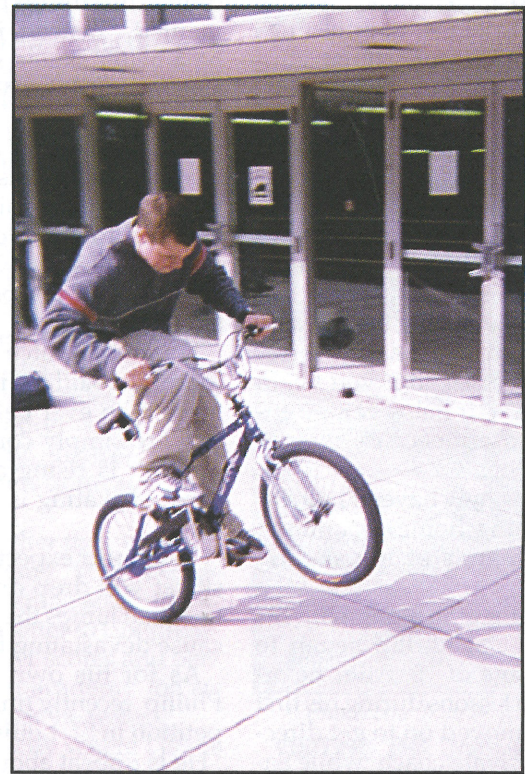
away: 50-55.

### Girls' and Boys' Track

Prospect Invitational, Feb. 23, away: boys, 4th of 4; Invitational, Feb. 25, home: boys, 3rd of 4, girls, 1st of 4; Invitational, March 6, home: girls 3rd of 4;



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**W**ith these bikes, you can pull any kind of move you want. In this sequence of photos, Senior Rogan Birnie and Sophomore Dan Hodges, both untrained riders, show us some simple stunts. Don't let the size of these bikes fool you; even though they're small, with a little practice, you'll be landing some killer jumps.

*Photos by Katie Tully and Bobby Stokes*



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