

# U-HIGH MIDWAY

Volume 76, Number 4 ■ University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 ■ Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2000

## Loading up to the max

U-Highers forego open periods as they fill schedules to free up senior year

By Natalie Hoy  
Associate editor

For years, open periods have represented a badge of honor for U-High. While other schools plunk kids into faculty-supervised study halls, U-High has considered periods when students don't have classes and make their own decisions about how to best use their time part of the educational program.

And that's the irony of it. More and more U-Highers are using those open periods for more classes. At least for the three lower grade levels, open periods may represent an endangered species. The coming winter break, in fact, for many U-Highers will represent their first "open" break since school began. A check of schedules indicates that 137 U-Highers out of 463 pack their schedules to course capacity.

**"One of my goals is to create a well-rounded education for students..."**

doing. These students seek a more hands-on experimental experience.

"These two threads seem to be frequently in competition for the school's soul, but it doesn't need to be this way. If the pieces are skillfully moved we can have both. We just need to look at the totality of the curriculum. One of my goals is to create a well-rounded education for students and the Curriculum Committee is discussing changes in scheduling to do so."

With 21 credits needed to graduate, the school requires three years of phys ed, four years of advisory (twice a week for freshman and sophomores and once a week for upperclassmen), four years of English, three years of math, three years of history, two years of science, two years of language, one year of art, one year of music and two electives. But with so many requirements, many students say they find themselves not only taking the required classes but also taking one to four Advanced Placement (A.P.) classes a year to appeal to prestigious colleges. Many say they are then left without any free periods and with little time for personal interests.

The number of U-Highers filling each of the nine 45-minute periods in a school day has increased, although guidance counselors explain that students have a set limit of how many classes they can take.

**A lot to do the last year beyond classes**

## Seniors feel free periods essential

By Sim Khalidi  
Midway reporter

**8:50 a.m.** A senior boy, exhausted and disheveled, exits the U-High lobby onto Kenwood avenue. He walks two blocks south, collapses on a park bench and lights a cigarette. At the same time, another senior is buried in a book in Rowley Library, cramming for the first of her three tests this week. Another senior is at home catching up on some much-needed rest after finishing an English paper late the previous night. Meanwhile, the Senior Lounge is inhabited by two Ping Pong players and a student strumming a guitar. It is 2nd period and for the next 45 minutes these and many other seniors without a class to attend use their time as they want to.

Seniors most likely have more open periods than other students. A check of schedules indicates that this year's 107 seniors average between two and three free periods a day, with a handful having as many as five some days.

On a faded, worn couch, Student Council President Michelle Krohn-Friedson sits in the Senior Lounge.

"It's sort of a U-High tradition for seniors to have a lot of

free periods," she explained. "Seniors are really overwhelmed with responsibilities and deadlines, especially fall quarter. I think it's important for us to have that free time."

On a recent Monday morning (or any Monday morning), the Senior Lounge resembled a refugee relief. With several bodies strewn across the floor, the eerie silence accompanying the sleeping students echoed their exhaustion.

"I can't function without my free periods," said a senior girl, one of many who agreed to be interviewed on the condition they wouldn't be named.

"I use my free time differently at different times, according to what I need to do: homework, college stuff, sleep, sleep some more, or just smoke a cigarette. I would probably be failing without my free periods."

When each Thursday's double lunch period begins, seniors can be seen streaming from the school.

"I need to get away sometimes," explained Senior Jamie Jo Tyler. "Even if I'm just going to drive to get some food for lunch or something like that. Sitting in the cafeteria is too boring. A change of scenery is definitely nice."

(continued on page 7)



Photos by Betsy Kalven

**AMONG U-HIGHERS** with classes every period, Junior Nicky Singh begins his day before 6 a.m. gulping down some orange juice; drives 40 minutes or more to school from his family's home in west suburban Burr Ridge; starts the day with A.P. Physics C with Mr. David Derbes; makes his way through other classes, including A.P. French with Mr. Randy Fowler; confers with his A.P. Calculus BC teacher Mrs. Shirley Holbrook; practices with the Chess Team during lunch; finishes his classes and heads home to study.



### READ ALL ABOUT IT

#### Let's break outta de joint

THE LONG FALL QUARTER finally comes to an end and students and teachers are ready to close the books and book out of here. Page 2.

#### Whole lotta shakin' goin' on

JUST LIKE Chicago is a city of neighborhoods, U-High is a school of organizations. And they certainly are a bunch of busy little bees. Page 4.

#### Musing about museums

WINTER VACATION is the perfect time to treat yourself to a visit to one (or more) of Chicago's wonderful museums. The City Life page gets you on your way. Page 5.

#### And the President is...

U-HIGHERS REFLECT on the wackiest Presidential election in history and its extended conclusion. "Chad" is no longer just that handsome boy in your English class. Page 6.

#### Capital experiences

TWO U-HIGHERS recount memorable trips to Washington, D.C., in First Person columns. Pages 8 and 9.

#### Not just for the season

CHRISTMAS, HANNUKAH, KWANZAA and numerous other religious holidays converge this time of year. But for many U-Highers these celebrations are just part of a continual commitment to a Supreme Being and a holy way of life. Pages 10 and 11.

#### Our talented little bunch

THE MIDWAY'S ARTISTS take the spotlight while our photographers put the holidays in the spotlight. Pages 14 and 22.





"On Christmas Eve we all go to midnight mass together as a family at the local church in Chatham and afterwards we go to my grandmother Mary Jean's house to open presents."  
—Sophomore Jeannette Rudder

Home or away

## Vacation beckons

By Ben Zimmer  
Midway reporter

From warm Caribbean beaches to the wild night life of Amsterdam to the comfort of their own homes, U-Highers will celebrate the holiday season across the globe.

Traveling for two weeks during winter break to Martinique, Guadeloupe and St. Martin in the French Caribbean, Sophomore Anais Richman-Langman will sunbathe, sail, and shop at outdoor markets with her parents.

"We go someplace warm every winter and we went to the French Caribbean two years ago," Anais said. "Our entire family liked the French culture which is very evident there, and my mom doesn't like the jet-lag of a trip to Europe so we decided to go back. We'll eat out at a lot of restaurants because my Dad is obsessed with food. Also, I'm looking into going to a local shul, or synagogue, for Hannukah to see how different their Hannukah celebrations are from ours in Chicago."

Also journeying across the Atlantic, Junior Elliot Epstein will travel to Amsterdam with his parents, his brother Ben. '99, his sister Me-

lissa, '94, and one of her friends for a week.

"We're going to do a lot of sightseeing," Elliot said. "We will visit Anne Frank's home, the famous Rijks Museum of art, the Jewish Museum, and hear the Royal Concertgebouw, a world famous orchestra."

"We're also going to go to the Red Light District where all the prostitutes are, and check out the cafés where you can get a latté with a joint. Of course we'll only observe these activities, not participate in them. We'll also take a day trip to Belgium where we will go to Brussels and Gent."

Staying home in Chicago, Sophomore Jeanette Rudder and her family will decorate their house in Chatham with Christmas and Kwanza art and posters, green and red light lights and candles, and centerpieces as a part of their family's annual Christmas and Kwanza decorating competition.

"The competition is between my mom and her sister, my Aunt Mary," Jeanette said. "It's been going on since they were little girls when they would have competitions of who could decorate parts of their house better. Now that they have their own houses, the competition is over whose house is decorated better. My Uncle Charles, my mom and Mary's brother, judges the decorations and decides the winner based on who has the greatest number and most unique decorations."

"On Christmas Eve we all go to midnight mass together as a family at the local church in Chatham and afterwards we go to my grandmother Mary Jean's house to open presents."

Beginning their Christmas celebrations 28 days before Dec. 25, Science Teacher Dan

(continued on page 18)

### Concert offers festive program

Music from Disney films; "Shivaree," a selection with a square-dance motif; and a jazz variation on "Greensleeves" are among the selections planned for a festive High School Band concert 7:30 p.m., tomorrow in Judd 126. The public is invited.

"The Disney music is a special treat for kids," said the Band's director, Mr. Dominic Piane.

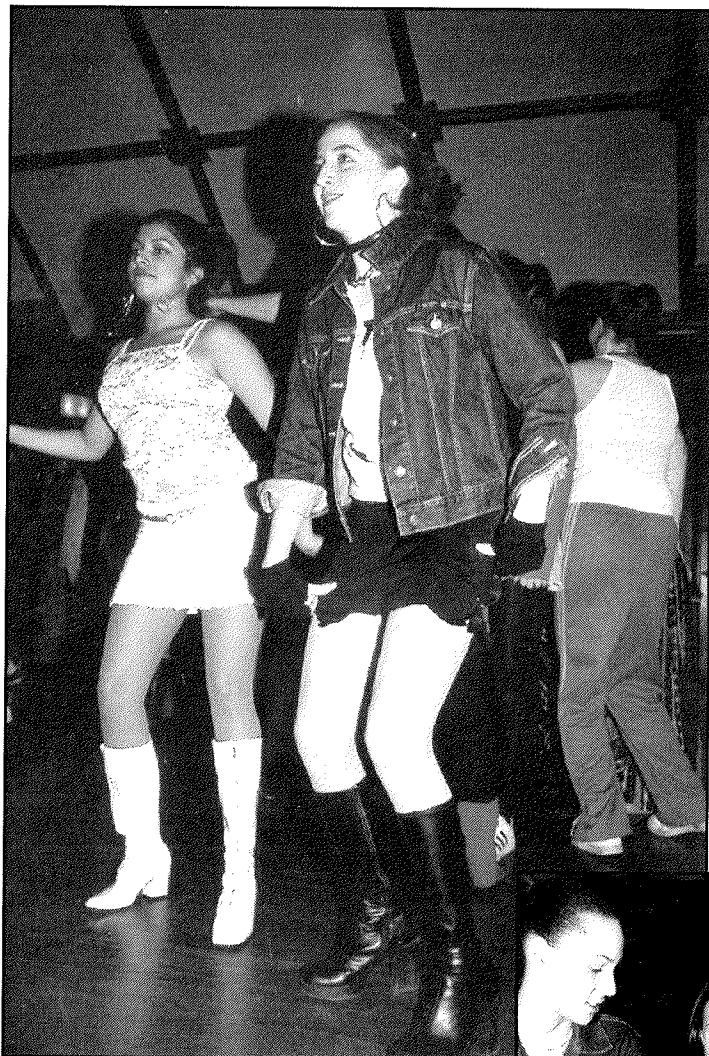


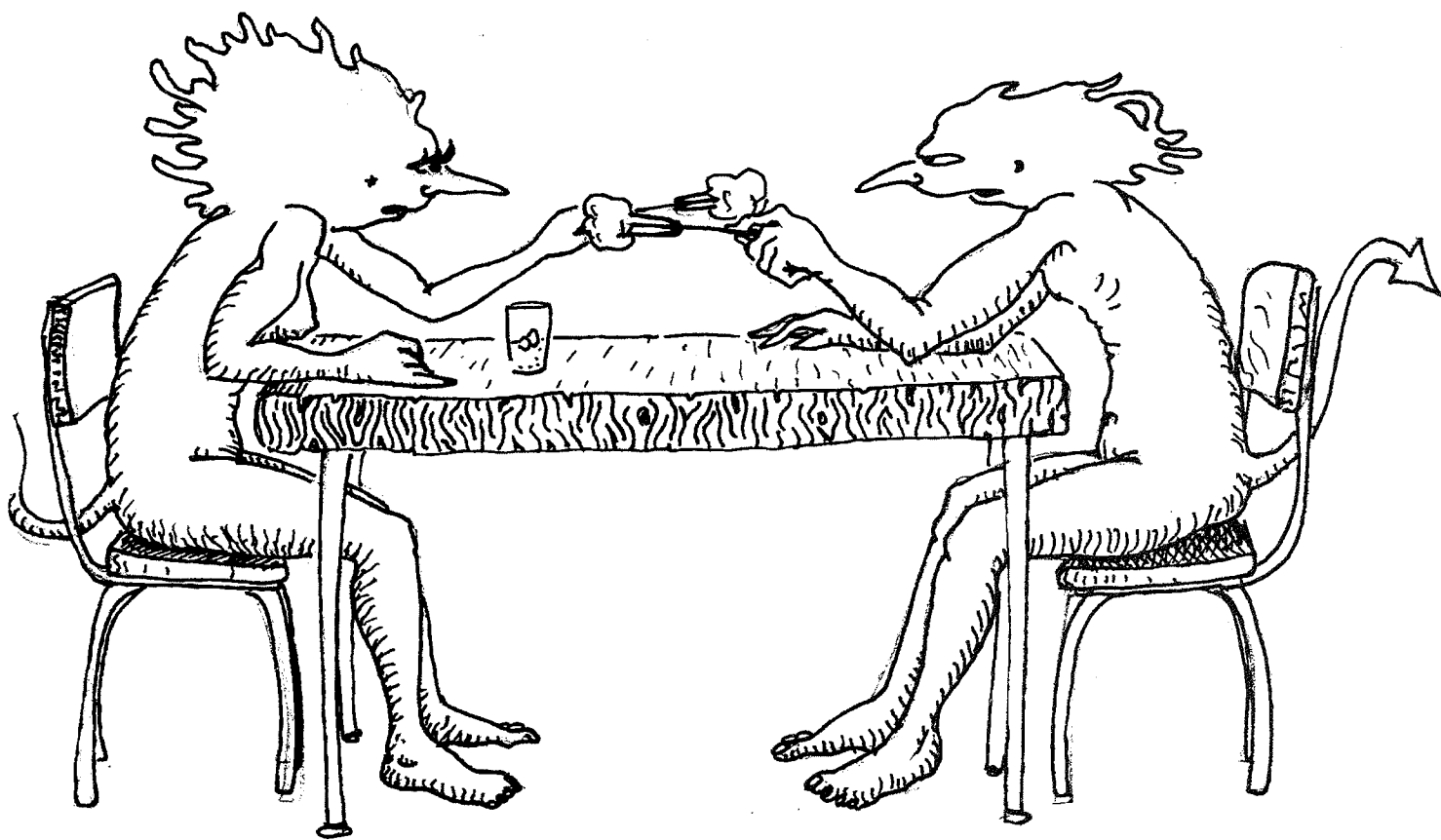
Photo by Satya Bhabha

### Fashion fun

FASHIONS from the '60s through '80s came alive at Cultural Union's "Old Skool" dance Dec. 1 at Ida Noyes Hall. About 160 people attended. Senior Sophie Castro-Davis (right in photo above) won the costume contest with her '80s outfit. She received a record store certificate. Other headturners included Snehal Shah and (photo at right) Victoria Carr and Caitlin Geary.



Photo by Betsy Kalven



Art by Enrique Lomnitz

# THE MEDIA

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"With the help of the Security Committee, we're trying to think about ways to improve security not only through technology, but also through what our specific needs are as a school."

—Mr. Tony Wilson, director of facilities and safety



Photo by Kelsey Harden

**WORKING ON a Saturday, Community Learning Coordinator Susan Sheldon punches in the code on an entry keypad.**

## Council sets up board for student expression

By Jessica Fridstein

Midway reporter

Responding to U-Highers' concerns about their political messages being removed from around school, Student Council has established a board titled "Say What" outside Mr. Tom Minelli's office near the cafeteria.

"Students wanted a place to post signs and state their opinions," said Mr. Minelli, assistant to the principal. "So it was decided that instead of Mac (Mr. Larry McFarlane, dean of students and faculty) or myself approving the signs, the Student Council would make a set of rules for the board."

"The signs still won't be censored, but the rules that are set by the Student Council must be followed."

Each posted sign must include the date it was posted and the name of the student who posted it. Signs can remain on the board for two weeks.

Student Council plans to survey students about phys ed requirements, the experiences U-Highers have in phys ed classes and whether playing on a sports team merits an excuse from phys ed classes following a faculty Curriculum Committee meeting Nov. 29 at which Student Council President Michelle Krohn-Friedson, senior, spoke.

## Brief-ly: Seniors to escape

Skiing at Chestnut Mountain, ice skating and cross country skiing, seniors will enjoy the weekend of Jan. 13 at Eagle Ridge Lodge near Galena at the Illinois-Iowa-Wisconsin border on the annual Getaway.

Organized by senior officers advised by Mr. Tom Minelli, assistant to the principal, the Getaway, after a three-hour bus ride, will begin with a buffet lunch. Swimming, arcade games, a Playstation tournament and a game show will be available at the Lodge, Mr. Minelli said. Seniors will stay in guest townhouses with six to eight students and one chaperon a group.

Chaperons for the trip include Dean of Students Larry McFarlane and the following teachers: Mr. Jason Smith, Ms. Sharon Housinger, Mr. John O'Connor, Ms. Diane Puklin and Ms. Marty Billingsley.

■ **FINALISTS CHOSEN**--Three juniors have been chosen to participate in the annual Future Leaders Chicago program which brings outstanding high school students in the area in touch with civic and

In the Oct. 10 issue of the Midway, a letter from Michelle outlined the benefits of sports team participation counting as a replacement for phys ed classes.

Principal Jack Knapp invited Michelle to speak before the Curriculum Committee and Phys Ed faculty.

"I felt as though I was put in a very uncomfortable situation at the meeting and in some ways I felt set up," Michelle said. "I think students in gym feel intimidated by the students that are athletes and it was agreed that a survey would be taken on how students feel in their current gym classes."

"But I think the Phys Ed Department didn't seem to be open to any consideration of the idea, therefore, I don't feel that they listened to me with an open mind."

At the meeting many faculty members said sports team participation and phys ed class participation aren't the same and don't provide the same exposure to a variety of sports activities or the opportunity for boys and girls to participate in sports together.

After conducting a survey conducted in Freshman advisories in October, Student Council is discussing the use of gym facilities during double lunch with Athletic Director Karen Duncan.

business leaders through shared projects. The U-Highers are Chris Amos, Josh Levine and Liliana Velazquez. The winners were chosen from 60 other finalists including Juniors Sarah Arkin, Shelly Carr and Betsy Kalven.

■ **HOLIDAY SPIRIT**--Eighty presents were collected by Community Learning Peer Leaders for ChildServ, a nonprofit agency which assists underprivileged youth. The goal was 150.

■ **GERMAN CLASS JOURNEY**--After participating in the National German Contest Dec. 7, 37 German students saw the play "The Christmas Schooner" at the Theater Building on Belmont Avenue.

The play tells the true story of a woman of German heritage who resurrected the tradition of a boat coming to Chicago at Christmastime bearing trees and gifts.

The students also visited the German Christmas market in Daley Plaza. They were accompanied by teachers Christiane Fenner, Sibylle Sonnenberg and Annette Steinbarth.

## Security measures grow

■ Wall separating west end of Belfield from Judd to go up

By Mike Lamb

Editor-in-Chief

With the finalization of the school lockdown plan still yet to come, security efforts have focused on constructing a wall between the west end of Belfield hall and the University's adjacent Judd Hall and mulling over options for classroom communication.

Recent security additions to the school have been the separation of Blaine and Judd with a keypad entry, a video and intercom at the Kenwood Mall entrance to Belfield Hall for handicapped people and the closure of all doors after 9 a.m. except for the Blaine and High School lobbies, said Mr. Tony Wilson, director of facilities and safety.

A Public Safety Coordinator at the Belfield Hall entrance is temporary and will no longer be needed after a wall is built closing off Belfield from Judd halls, Mr. Wilson said.

"Everyone we've heard from has said good things about the Public Safety Coordinators, so I'd consider them a success so far," he

added. "The next thing we're working on is a wall that will in effect cut off Belfield Hall from Judd Hall. It will be aesthetically done with glass and double doors going along with the stone."

"We will also have to make a new exit from Belfield 134, the band room, but we are looking for all of this to be done during spring break and if not then, over the coming summer."

While the lockdown plan, officially called the Crisis Management Plan, is still in development, plans for devices for communication in every classroom are in the works.

"One of the things we're thinking about is having there be some way for every classroom to be able to communicate with the main offices or my office," Mr. Wilson said. "We might provide teachers or classrooms with radios for easy communication."

"With the help of the Security Committee, we're trying to think about ways to improve security not only through technology, but also through what our specific needs are as a school."

## Seminar to explore human identity

With readings, a visit to the Art Institute, films, theater, music and other resources, 20 seniors and eight teachers will explore where the roots of human identity come from in the winter quarter Senior Seminar in the Humanities.

The Seminar provides an opportunity for students and faculty members to share in teaching and learning. Participants are as follows:

FACULTY-- Mr. David Derbes, science; Mr. Steven Farver, foreign language; Ms. Cathy Feldman, math; Mr. Chris Janus, History; Ms. Joan Koblick, art; Ms. Darlene McCampbell, English; Mr. Dominic Piane, music; Ms. Susan Shapiro, history. STUDENTS-- Sophie Castro-Davis, Lisa Ezaki, Amy Gorun, Kelsey Harden, Peter Kracke, Mike Lamb, Hannah Lantos, Alison Lesht, Phillip Lich-tor, Kirill Marlinski, Rebecca Murray, Tiffany Northrop, Carolyn O'Mara, Chakka Reeves, Jeremy Schmidt, Katie Shapiro, Lauren Shaw, Daniel Solow, Katie Spielberg, Adrienne Umeh.

## HOLIDAY HEADQUARTERS

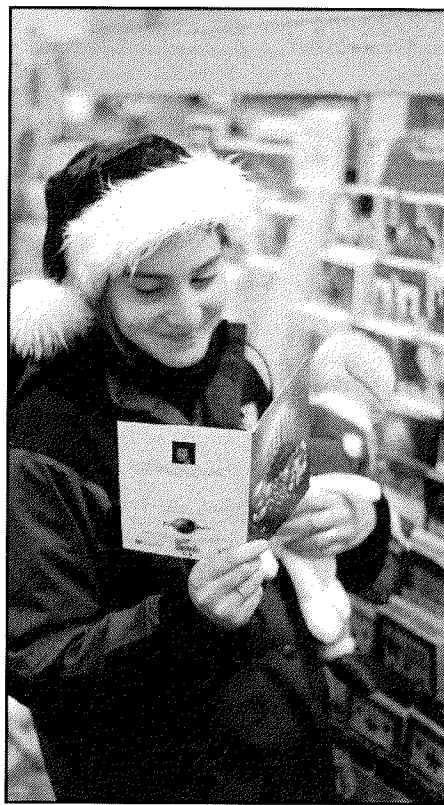


Photo by Betsy Kalven

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# 4 group efforts

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2000

**S**upercurriculum! It's one of the catch words in contemporary education. It refers to the total learning program a school offers, not just in the classroom but through student activities. Cocurricular, extracurricular...those are catch words, too. Whatever you call them, you can catch up with U-High's student organizations on this page.

## Black Students' Assn.

With a play depicting a family celebrating Kwanzaa, BSA will present tomorrow's community assembly.

"The Kwanzaa assembly is meant to educate U-High on what Kwanzaa is and how it affects the community," said Senior Nikiah Barnes, BSA president. "We plan to bring the assembly to life by performing a play that includes a dance."

BSA's next major project will be the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assembly in January.

Three boxes of canned food were collected for BSA's November canned food drive and they were donated to the Living Room Cafe, 6422 S. Cottage Grove Ave.

"Although the canned food drive did not go as well as it did last year all the donations were appreciated," Nikiah said. "We enjoy donating to the Cafe so that we can help out our community. It is a place where we have donated for years and can see the results."

—By Marcelo Pappas

## Model United Nations

Hoping to repeat last year's best delegation awards, the Model U.N. club travels to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, for its second conference, Jan. 11-14. Debating topics ranging from the World Bank to the reunification of North and South Korea, the Model U.N. Club has already begun to prepare by researching and discussing their respective topics.

Representing the Russian Federation and India at the conference, Model U.N. delegates will be turning in position papers on several topics, including the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"Since we have already gotten our country assignments we will soon begin our preparation for the conference," said Model U.N. President Noah Meites, senior. "We will discuss the topics in our weekly meetings during Monday's lunch."

Besides conferences at the U. of C. and in New York City the club hopes to send U-Highers to a conference in Toronto. The U-Highers returned from their conference at Harvard Sunday, after Midway press time. —By Bree Boulware

## Chess Team

After winning its first five competitions, including a 26-4 win at St. Ignatius Nov. 28, the Chess Team has more than enough time to prepare for its next match, Tuesday Jan. 23, at home against Marist.

Placing 2nd last year, to St. Ignatius, for the first time since entering the Chicago Chess League, the team entered this year with three leading players lost to graduation. History Teacher Chris Janus, the team's adviser, said he's focusing on getting the new competitors the most possible experience.

"We lost a lot of players since last year, but I'm still confident," Mr. Janus said.

Seniors Sam Walsh, Michael Stern and Khoki Yamaguchi are the players remaining from last year's competing team. —By Michael Chandler

## Math Team

Encouraging members to come to more practices and competitions, the Math Team, with 42 members—10 of them new—is preparing for the upcoming North Suburban Math League (NSML) competition Feb. 1 at St. Ignatius.

"Even though only the three top scores out of five are figured into the total score no matter how many people come to the NSML competitions," explained Math Teacher Shirley Holbrook, head coach. "The greater the number of people who join the team and come to practices the likelier it is that we will do well."

"Also, it is hard for us to do well in the NSML because we are

competing against some much larger schools—The Illinois Math and Science Academy, for example—where they have a larger pool of students from which they can choose who will go to the competitions."

Mrs. Holbrook has taken over the head coach position from Math Teacher Jane Canright, who has taken the rest of the year off to care for a newly-adopted child. Mrs. Holbrook cofounded the team in 1986 and was head coach until Ms. Canright succeeded her three years ago.

Approximately half the team members participated in the NSML competition Oct. 26 here.

With an Illinois Math League (IML) competition during lunch today, the team is hoping to recruit new members.—By Nora Becker

## Science Team

With the World Wide Youth in Science and Engineering Academic Challenge (WYSE) coming up in February at South Suburban College, the Science Team has begun preparation for one of its biggest meets. Led by their adviser, Science Teacher Sharon Housinger, members have been quizzing each other on tests which include physics, chemistry, biology, math, English, computers and engineering.

U-High won 1st place in its division last year. After WYSE, the team will compete in March at the Science Olympiad at Northeastern Illinois University, an event which involves completing physics, and chemistry labs.

Placing 4th for their Paper Tower at the Engineering Design Contest at Olivet-Nazarene University in Kankakee, Oct. 17, U-High was led by a 1st-place mousetrap powered car built by Sophomore Michael Constantinides'. Michael said he was surprised as he is only a sophomore competing against seniors.

"I have built three race cars so far and each time have been trying to perfect it," Michael said. "I thought the mousetrap car would do well, but I did not expect to get 1st place." —By Natalie Bekkouche.

## Terra

Dedicating meetings predominantly to discussions of animal rights, the Terra Club hopes to gain U-Highers' support in participating in protests against companies who continue to harm and kill animals for product testing and fur. Members have redone their club board to reflect the change with a list of companies that do so.

Terra has been protesting at two major department stores along with other animal rights activists.

"We have recently been participating in protests at Niemann-Marcus and Nordstrom, because they sell fur in large quantities," said Freshman Vera Mirkina, Terra member.

Hoping to inform other U-Highers about important environmental issues, Terra, led by Senior Becky Murray, president, and Junior Ben Smith, vice president, meets every Wednesday. Aside from the meetings, the club collects paper from the recycling bins in every classroom and takes it in to be recycled.

Hoping to better educate Lower Schoolers about the environment, Terra has recently been working with Mr. Spike Wilson's 2nd grade class in the Lower School. The group studied leaves, and Mr. Wilson invited Terra members back to help the children plant a bulb garden in the spring. —By Jordan Rummel

## GAYLA



"BSA is better this year because we have involvement from each grade and because of that the younger members feel like they have a say with what's going on."

—Junior Jason Marsh  
BSA member



Photo by Jessica Naclerio

**DIWALI, the Indian festival of lights, was celebrated at the all-school assembly Nov. 15 in Kovler Gym with a program sponsored by the Asian Students' Association. The program included a fashion show, dances and**

**a skit. The dancers, from left, are Neha Shah, Nikita Barai and Pavitra Makam. They choreographed the dance, in contemporary Indian style, themselves. The dresses shimmered in shades of peach, pink and champagne.**

alliance' because it is a more inclusive term," she explained. "Queer-straight alliance" allows for all kinds of gender variants, people who don't believe they fit into the generally-accepted roles of male and female. 'Gay-straight alliance' connotes only diversity of sexual identity. 'Queer' will allow us to serve a much broader community." —By Elizabeth Garber-Paul

## and finally...

■ **LATINOS UNIDOS**—New friends are being made by children in the little town of Villa Sin Miedo in Puerto Rico. But those friends are about 2,056 miles away, members of U-High's Latinos Unidos organization.

"Working through connections that we made during a community service trip to Puerto Rico over the summer with the schools community service program, Lily and I were inspired to set up a pen pal system," said Junior Daphne Magaña, president with Junior Lily Velazquez. "We want to assign each member of the club a child to write to. Although speaking the Spanish language may appear to be an obstacle for some non-Spanish speaking members, the club's executive board will take time to translate each letter."

Added Lily, "Not only do we plan on setting up a pen-pal system with the children in the community, but we will also send them care packages. I've kept in touch with the family who provided housing for us while we were there over the summer. Tita, mother and wife in the community, has received our proposition. Now we await her response." —By Daphne Magaña

■ **INDIANA STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**—After a three-year absence, the Indiana Students' Association has resurfaced. Freshmen Emily Kysel, sister of former ISA member Ian Kysel, '00, resurrected the club, advised by new Math Teacher Jason Smith.

"The reason I decided to bring the ISA back to U-High is because there are lots of Indiana students and after talking to many of them I realized that many of them would be interested in joining the club," Emily said. "The club is just a place for students to kick back, relax, talk and help donate time and money to needy Indiana organizations."

The club is planning a fundraiser to aid "Stepping Stone," a Michigan City women's shelter, and "Dunes Summer Theater," a nonprofit Indiana theater. —By Nick Hill

■ **ITALIAN CLUB**—A Christmas witch will visit U-High after the break when the Italian Club recreates Italian Christmas festivities.

The club was founded last year by Juniors Roberto Michelassi and Alec Strickling.

"According to Italian tradition if you put out a stocking near the fireplace on Christmas eve then it would be filled with candies by a witch named *La Befana* during the night," Roberto said. "We decided that we would sell stockings filled with candy to the entire school in accordance with the Italian legend. We thought that it would be cool if we could introduce to the students some Italian traditions, but still have it be fun for everyone." —By Alec Strickling

■ **IMPROV GROUP**—Playing improvisational games every week, the new TWBSA improv group plans to give six performances this year.

Cofounded by Sophomores Molly Walsh and Alex Farone, the new club meets every Wednesday to learn improvisation. Alex and Molly both have participated in the University Theater Drama Workshop improv group the past four summers. —By Rachel Greene.

■ **YOUNG DEMOCRATS**—Serving as assistants at the Democratic Party of Illinois office in Chicago, the nine members of the new Young Democrats Club attempted to bring voters into Democratic Presidential Candidate Al Gore's column by calling registered voters and pitching his policies.

Created by Senior Max Schleusenger, the club's goal, he said, was to get liberal students involved in the election and to further educate them about the process and the work it takes to run a campaign. —By Nick Epstein

## Sometimes It Feels Like Siblings Go Through A New Phase Every Five Minutes

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**LONGING FOR fresh supplies, Freshman Wenfei Xu wishes her 10-year-old brother was old enough to buy her a beautiful book from Art Directions.**

Photo by Emma Barber

What makes a boy a boy? Or a girl a girl? These questions and the entire issue of gender will be continued in discussions during programs led by Gayla winter quarter.

"Gender is thought of as the lowest common denominator," explained Senior Hannah Garber-Paul, copresident with Senior Joyce Li. "We have the idea that all girls have some common experiences and all boys have some common experiences. We would like to explore what people think it is to be a boy or a girl and how gender has been interpreted in different communities."

Questions of gender and gender identity will be addressed through speakers, student-led discussions and readings from books at the forefront of the gender issue, according to Hannah.

Gayla is using a new definition for the population it is targeting, Hannah said.

"We have chosen to call ourselves a 'queer-straight



"I love museums because all the walls are filled with priceless art. Good art makes me feel really happy and serene."

—Freshman Maya Vinokour



## Musing over our MUSEUMS

School's out the next two weeks. Grab the perfect opportunity to blow into the Windy City's marvelous museums.

### DOWNTOWN

...where all the lights are bright

U-Highers buying gifts for friends and family over winter break can give themselves a gift by visiting one of the city's downtown museums. They can see exhibits ranging from the Spertus Museum's "Judging a Book by Its Cover" to the Art Institute's "Taoism" and the Terra Museum's "Art and Nature: Hudson River School."

The first stop could be at the Spertus Museum on 616 S. Michigan Ave., open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays with a \$5 admission. In the still atmosphere of the museum, footsteps can be heard echoing in the silent elegance of three Torah covers chosen for display in "Judging a Book by Its Cover," on exhibit through Feb. 11.

"It would probably take the rest of my life to make such beautiful Torah covers," said Education Coordinator Amanda Barnett. "The exhibit occurs every two years, and each time a different Jewish object is selected for artists to decorate and design. These pieces of the Jewish religion reflect traditional and contemporary interpretation."

The exhibition offers many other interesting Torah covers, including one fashioned from lightweight material used by NASA.

About five blocks north of the Spertus Museum, guarded by two familiar lions, the Art Institute of Chicago is open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily, with an \$8 admission. Walking into Regenstein Hall and approaching a quiet, deep crimson room, visitors find a single, solid statue of Deified Laozi, a Chinese emperor. He watches over the "Taoism" exhibit, appearing through Jan. 7. The exhibit focuses on the conceptual and artistic achievements of the ancient teachings of the Taoist tradition.

Traveling up to 600 N. Michigan Ave., a crowd reigns over the sidewalk to purchase paper bags of caramel corn from Garrett's Popcorn. In the middle of the madness, a clearing appears outside of the Terra Museum of American Art, open 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday with a \$7 admission. Through Feb. 11, the museum will offer an exhibit titled "Art and Nature: The Hudson River School." Included are paintings from The Hudson River School, the first distinct American painting movement. As visitors walk up the stairs, a forestlike feel takes over them.

"When you are done with the exhibit," Museum Representative Barbara Voss said, "you will realize why some artists such as Thomas Cole and Stanford Gifford painted the American Wilderness as an object of national pride and identity."

### MUSEUM CAMPUS

...a cool school

Video games, dinosaurs, Darth Vader and penguins. There's probably only one place on earth where you can see them all together, and that is at Chicago's Museum Campus. Between the campus's three world famous institutions—The Field Museum, the Shedd Aquarium and the Adler Planetarium—there's something for just about everybody.

Located on the Lake a block from the Roosevelt Road Metra Station, the Campus is a 10-minute train ride from Hyde Park. Seagulls overhead and the aroma from nearby hotdog stands create sights and smells around the sprawling lawns of the 57 acre campus.

Entering by way of McFetridge Drive, the huge facade of the Field Museum comes into view.

A bombardment of echoes from the crowds greets visitors upon entering. The hall, about as long as a football field and nearly seven stories high, is lit by hundreds of skylights covering the ceiling. They bathe the white Greek architecture of the museum's interior in a natural light that changes as the clouds pass overhead.

Sue, the largest and most complete T. Rex ever discovered, is on display here. She is the first dinosaur ever to be found with a wishbone, a characteristic thought only to be found in birds.

"It is one of the most important dinosaur finds in the last 100 years," said Mr. John

### Your museum guides...

The stories were written as follows: Downtown, Noelle Bond; Museum Campus, Ryan Sturgill; Hyde Park, Alora Davis; Hidden Gems, Jessica Heyman. All are Midway reporters. The photo was taken by Kelsey Harden. The page was produced by City Life Editor Zach Frey.



Frazier, administrator of school and teacher programs. "An additional 1 million people have come to the museum this year just to see Sue."

The most popular traveling exhibits are "Star Wars: Magic of Myth" and "Kremlin Gold: 100 Years of Russian Gems and Jewels." The Star Wars exhibit, showing until Jan. 7, is cosponsored with the Smithsonian Institution and Lucasfilm Ltd. It features artwork, props, costumes and production models used in the original trilogy, along with some pieces from the latest film, "Star Wars: Episode I."

"Kremlin Gold" will be open through March 30 and displays 120 breathtaking masterpieces from crowns to Fabergé eggs made of solid gold and gems. The exhibit also displays the fascination history of Russia since the 12th century.

Close to the Field Museum is the Shedd Aquarium. Walking into the darkness of the aquarium visitors can't help but notice the 90,000 gallon tank which emits a blue light that ripples on the floors and walls of the cavernous center of the building.

The aquarium offers an extensive display of 8,000 different animals. "Amazon Rising: Seasons of the River," its new permanent exhibit, shows different species of aquatic animals found in the Amazon River during its annual flooding. Thunder and the sound of rain echoes in the background as visitors explore the exhibit and become engaged in hands-on activities. From there, head down to the Oceanarium and see the dolphins, beluga whales and pen-

(continued on page 15)



FEELING THE delicate material used to make snowflakes and other hand crafted shapes, Molly Walsh, left, and Jessica Bauer admire

Lithuania's tree at the Museum of Science and Industry's "Christmas Around the World" exhibit.

### IN HYDE PARK

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In the Museum of Science and Industry at 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, 43 Christmas trees from around the world loom over visitors' heads.

The trees, a coal mine and the Museum's world-famous interactive exhibits can be enjoyed for \$7 from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. weekends. Thursdays are free. The DuSable Museum, 740 E. 56th

Place, is dedicated to black history. Visitors can learn about slavery in America from old photographs, paintings and films. A feature exhibit spotlights jazz pioneer Duke Ellington, open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday with an admission of \$3.

"Each time I set up a display I learn something I can transfer into my everyday life," Design Consultant Leroy Winbush said. "The historical value is so important."

The Oriental Institute at 1155 E. 58th St. offers artifacts from around the world. The museum is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Wednesday and noon-4 p.m. on Sunday and is free.

### HIDDEN GEMS

...places you may not know about

Chicago, a city of ethnic neighborhoods, is unsurprisingly also a city of ethnic museums. Two of the most interesting are the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum in Pilsen and the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in a traditional Lithuanian neighborhood on the South Side.

Art is everywhere in Latino Pilsen, from the gigantic murals at the Blue Line 18th Street L station to the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum at 1852 W. 19th Street several blocks away. The vivid colors in the murals can also be found in the museum, with the interior walls painted orange, yellow, red and blue.

"The live, bright colors in our museum reflect our culture," said Ms. Eva Penar, marketing and media director.

Images of family, culture, and political and economic struggle decorate the walls of the newest exhibit: "Multiplicity: Prints from the Permanent Collection," continuing through June 10. The museum, free, is open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Although Pilsen remains largely Latino, across town a neighborhood that was primarily Lithuanian has diversified. In the middle of the Lithuanian community, Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture

(continued on page 15)

## Cruise Into The Nile...

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Photo by Will Mittendorf

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ENJOYING A DELICIOUS meal together, Seniors Ameer Saleh and Jamie Jo Tyler get a mouthful of good conversation as they discuss their next trip to Egypt and Palestine.



# 6 election etc.

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2000

## Election turns into waiting game

By Mike Lamb Midway editor-in-chief and Ben Zimmer Midway reporter

No matter who is inaugurated as President of the United States Jan. 21, everyone involved and everyone watching from the sidelines will agree this election has been one big mess.

Not since John F. Kennedy beat Richard Nixon in 1960 has an election been so close. It has been 124 years and the Rutherford Hayes presidency in 1876 since a candidate won the popular vote, as Democrat Al Gore did Nov. 7, but lost in the electoral college, as Gore also looked likely to do.

With America's votes in the hands of the courts, no one really knew how or when the election would be resolved. Everyone, however, did learn the word "Chad"... torn Chad, pregnant Chad and dimpled Chad (the Chad is the piece of paper which is punched out by the voting booth pin).

While conservatives feared the Democrats' connections to big money lawyers would create an all out Democratic attack in the courts, Gore stuck to the Florida state courts. Republican George W. Bush's team moved to the national level with an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Despite the fact that Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certified the vote Dec. 27, Gore and his top aides claimed they won more votes not only

in the national popular election, but also in the state of Florida. They were prepared to fight it out to the end.

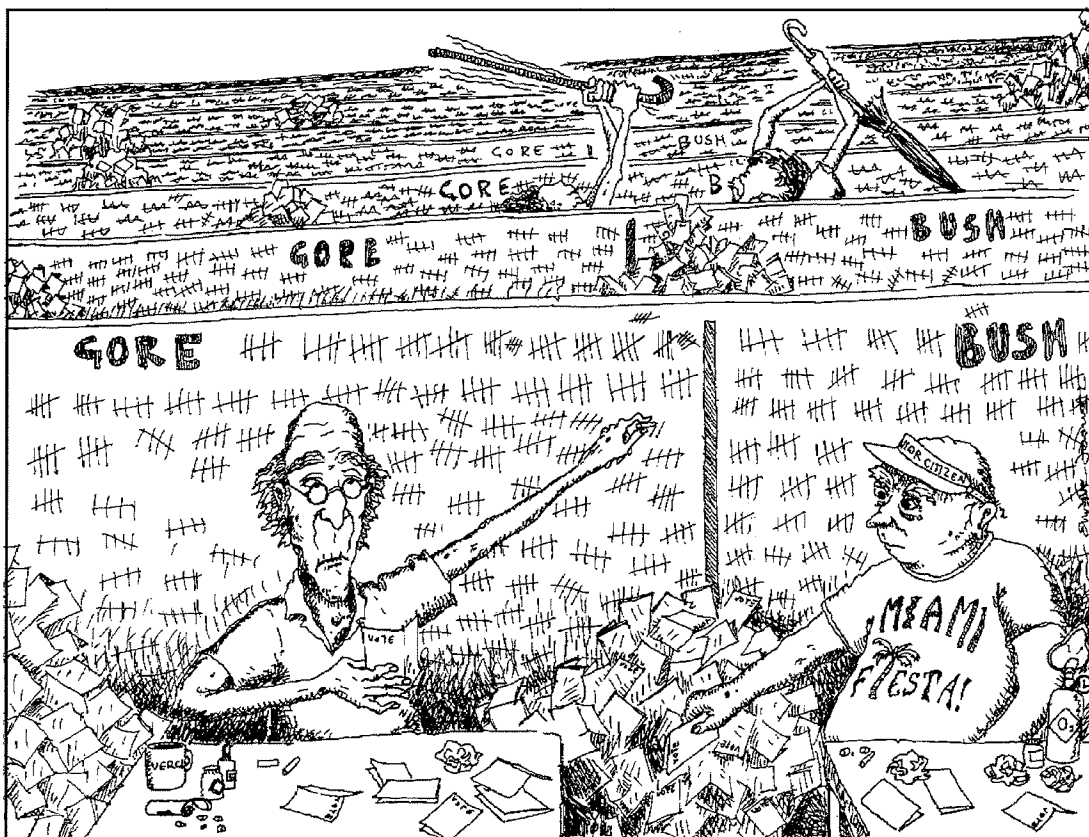
As both camps and their constituents filed more than 35 lawsuits in the state of Florida, the possible scenarios that could boost Bush or Gore into the Presidency seemed infinite.

An outcome that would guarantee a Bush victory included a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn a Florida Supreme Court ruling that extended the deadline for manual recounts. That would nullify the more than 400 votes picked up by Gore in Broward and Palm Beach counties and end the debate.

Gore, however, could win the election by a combination of a denial of Bush's appeal and any one of the following: A Miami-Dade County manual recount of about 10,000 ballots indistinguishable by machines that would give Gore the necessary votes; a ruling in Republican Seminole County that would have anywhere from 4,000 to 15,000 absentee ballots thrown out, giving a substantial lead for Gore; or a complete manual recount of all counties in



"The Republicans are stealing the election, by spinning the situation to make it seem like Bush won in a landslide, but it was really .009 percent. Impeachment showed that the Republicans don't really care about what's best for the country, so they will keep going until they get what they want."  
—Senior Sam Biederman



Art by Enrique Lomnitz

Florida that would include all disputed ballots across the entire state.

With the fear that the U.S. Supreme Court might overturn an earlier decision, the Florida Supreme Court became reluctant to make any rulings that might change the current situation. Their passivity put the Gore team in a bind as all efforts to hold any further recounts or count ballots themselves were rejected.

Anchors on top cable news channels and their "expert analysts" turned partisan themselves and were no longer reporting the news, but making it. Start-

ing with the false calls of both Gore and Bush on election night and continuing with their blatantly partisan commentary, the media lost credibility.

As both sides accused the other of partisanship in the courts and by election officials such as Harris and canvassing board members in Palm Beach and Broward counties, the debate sharply divided the country along party lines. Nonetheless, the crisis, if there was one at all, remained in the courts, while most Americans regarded the scenario as more of a curiosity than a battle.

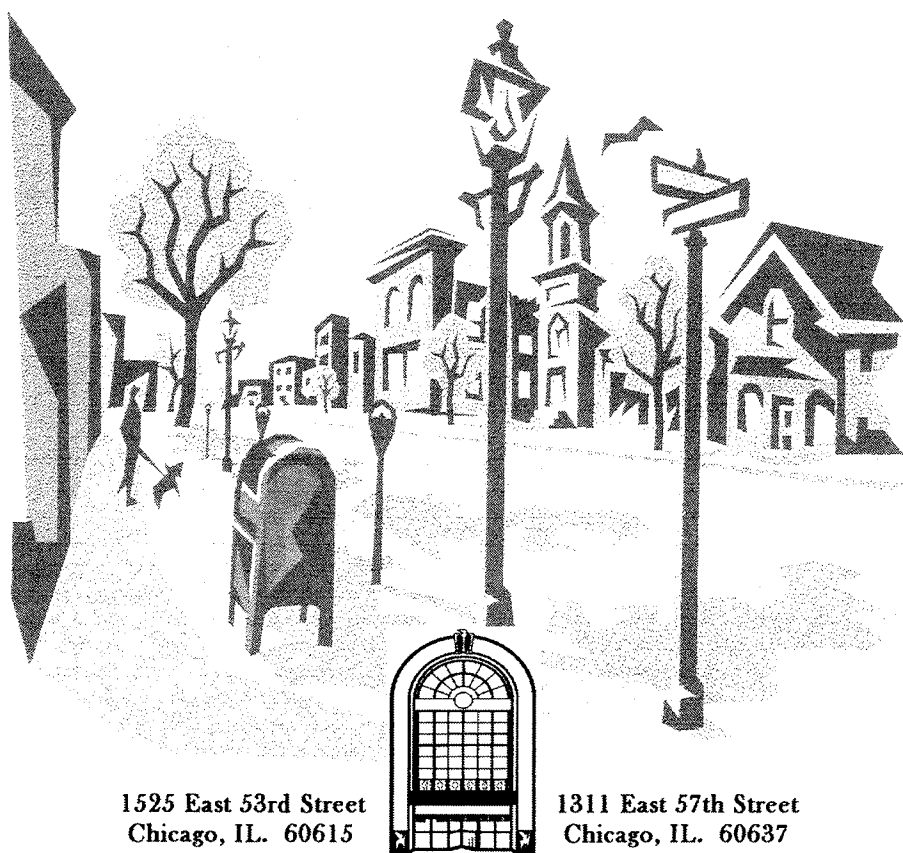
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"Although having an entire bag of ground beef leftover, the barbecue was a big success with a great turnout and good food."  
 —Senior Class President Amy Gorun  
 (about the class barbecue Nov. 17)



## Overload

(continued from page one)

dents taking A.P.s seems to be rising because students are convinced that that's what it takes to get into good colleges. Grades probably haven't suffered but the students have to deal with more stress."

As early as freshman year, college planning represents a continual process for U-Highers and, even with the 21 credits required for graduation, students still cram their schedules with as many classes as possible in order to apply to prestigious colleges.

"Lab students try to take as many A.P.s as possible," said Guidance Director Patty Kovacs. "It's all personal and relative. If you want a chance of being looked at by topnotch colleges you must have A.P.s and I would say that three A.P.s over the four years is the minimum if you want a good chance. It's about showing rigor, taking opportunities of offerings, being passionate about learning, enriching yourself beyond what is required."

Educators and psychologists express concerns about students being overstressed and question the health and quality of students' lives.

"I've noticed that Lab is somewhat more stressed for the kids than other schools, but I'm not sure exactly why," said Dr. Alan Ravitz, child psychiatrist and parent of junior Mara Ravitz. Dr. Ravitz's clients include students from U-High, Parker, Latin and St. Ignatius.

"I think that there are slightly higher expectations and pressures at Lab to get into college. I don't understand why kids build up their schedules so much. They are capable of being happy and gratified without all of this stress. Adolescence should be fun, not overloaded with work and competition. It's not the healthiest thing in the world. I mean, it's okay to get a B once in a while."

"And I don't see why students build up on all these Advanced Placement testing classes, because you can get into a great school without all of them. I know it to be true. There's no sense in killing yourself in high school, killing yourself in college, killing yourself in grad school, only to kill yourself in your career. When do you ever develop? It's related to goal-developing experiences, doing things because you find them fun and interesting, and I think that more students at Lab need to pursue these interests."

U-Highers loading up their schedules say taking classes they really want sometimes does not prove even feasible with all other necessary requirements.

"I feel obligated to take as many classes as possible," said Junior Daphne Magaña. "Even though I haven't taken any A.P. classes yet, I plan on taking as many as I can next year to get into a good school. It's all just for college cause there's so much competition at Lab. There's always that constant fear of 'Am I going to get into college?' We don't really get the chance to explore other talents that we might possess other than trying to gain greater knowledge."

Other U-Highers also agree that the health and quality of their lives have been hindered because of course loads and stress from taking as many classes as possible for college applications.

"I think that the school environment is extremely stressed," said Sophomore Nick Turek. "I truthfully feel like the best years of my life have been taken away from me by school. I mean, I don't eat well, I don't eat breakfast and I end up only getting six hours of sleep each night instead of the healthy 10."

"I've planned each year with either six or seven classes because I want a really relaxing senior year to finally just have fun and take classes that I want. Right now I'm just trying to get all the requirements out of the way just so I can take classes that I want for just one year of the four."

Many U-Highers believe the biggest victim of the expectations they feel at school is sleep. They never feel they are getting enough.

"I definitely don't get enough sleep and sometimes it affects school," said Junior Shelly Carr. "It's a terrible cycle. I work so hard when I get home and I end up staying up late, so then when I get to school I'm so tired I can barely stay awake to listen to the teacher, so when I get home I have to work even harder. It's a vicious cycle."

"Also, because of requirements, it isn't even until senior year that I'll get the chance to take classes that I really want and am interested in. You have to accommodate to Lab, you have to work at doing all the work because you have to even though it's overloaded. So even though some may not say that they are overloaded, it's only because we've done this so long. But if you heard another person's schedule, you would know that it was pretty ridiculous, because it doesn't even sound possible to do so much."

## Hot on the grill

BEING Student Council president can get you into all sorts of other jobs, as Michelle Krohn-Friedson discovered at the senior barbecue Friday evening, Nov. 17. Michelle helped serve up dogs, brats and burgers to a hungry crowd.



Photo by Will Mittendorf

## Free periods

(continued from page one)

A few seniors occasionally use open periods to go home or to friends' homes to drink or smoke. Dean of Students and Faculty Larry McFarlane said the school has always known such behavior takes place. "We haven't seen it as a problem this year," he commented. "In fact I've been impressed with the seniors thus far. I really think it is important for seniors to learn to use their free time wisely since they will be in college next year."

Seniors mostly say they don't regret having filled their schedules to free up their last year.

"My first three years, I got all the classes I didn't want to take senior year out of the way" said Katie Tully. "This year I was able to take more enjoyable classes. It has worked out quite well this way, and I would advise all underclassmen to try to plan ahead a little bit. You'll be eternally grateful if you find yourself with free periods senior year. My free periods, about three a day, are a good amount, but I could certainly use even more...a lot more."

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Photo by Kelsey Harden  
**DISCOVERY!** Liz Shuldiner discovers that Cocorico is the perfect place to go for double lunch.

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# 8 adventures...

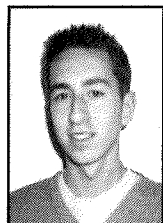
U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2000

## History comes to shocking life

### ■ Holocaust Museum trip a dose of reality

**A**FTER TWO MONTHS of scrutinizing readings and poring through gruesome videos, my Holocaust class was finally "ready" to take the annual trip to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., Nov. 18-21.

History Teacher Susan Shapiro prepared the 15 of us going on the trip by



#### First Person

Mike Lamb

exposing us to the extreme, both in readings and videos. We thought we had become numb to the event, after reading Elie Wiesel's and Primo Levi's personal accounts of their fight for survival in "Night" and "Survival at Auschwitz," respectively.

Some of us were in fact numb to the museum, but others were amazed by the building itself, designed by a survivor.

Everything from the lights to the elevators contain special meaning, as the building was designed to resemble the camps and train stations the victims went through.

Visitors take elevators to the top floor and circle downwards through each of the four floors of exhibits.

Overwhelmingly, though, our class

was taken by the actual objects the survivors wore or were around that were on display. Uniforms, shoes, diaries, milk jugs, tree stumps and a boxcar all threw us back into the experience.

I was numb to the museum simply by the extremity of the Holocaust...until I walked across the bridge of the top floor with names of all of the towns that lost their Jewish populations written on the glass walls.

As soon as I stepped onto it, I saw Baden-Baden—the name of the town where my German relatives are from. To feel little or no connection to the Holocaust, especially because I'm not Jewish, and then to have it hit me right on the bridge changed my outlook.

From then on, I was more sensitized to the museum. When we passed a tree stump that had been inches from a pile of murdered victims killed by Nazi firing squads, the enormity of the Holocaust hit me in that this was just one of hundreds of scenes like it.

I don't know whether it was the fact that we were missing school or that we were a thousand miles from home or the exhibits themselves, but as I look back on the trip, it seems surreal.

It seems like something that didn't really happen.

And then there was our 15-page paper and I suddenly remember it all did.



"It's impossible to explain to those who have not been with us what we have gone through not only in the museum, but the class in general. Especially since even after all of our experiences we still know so little."

—History Teacher Susan Shapiro

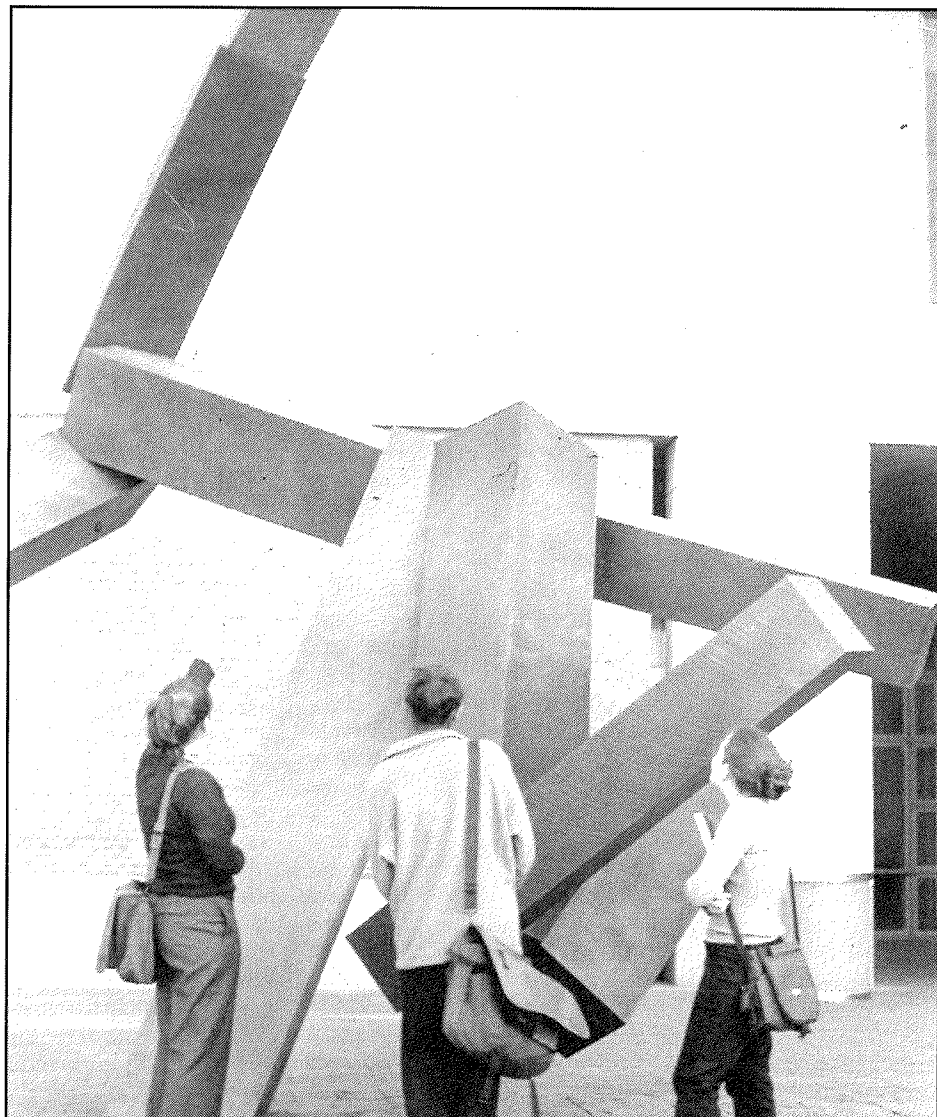


Photo by Kelsey Harden

**JUST LIKE** the rest of the architecture of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Joel Shapiro's "Loss and Regeneration," along Raoul Wohlenberg Drive, represents some

aspect of the Holocaust. From left, Alison Leff, Megan Dawson and Lauren Shaw examine the sculpture on their Holocaust class trip to Washington D.C., Nov. 18-21.

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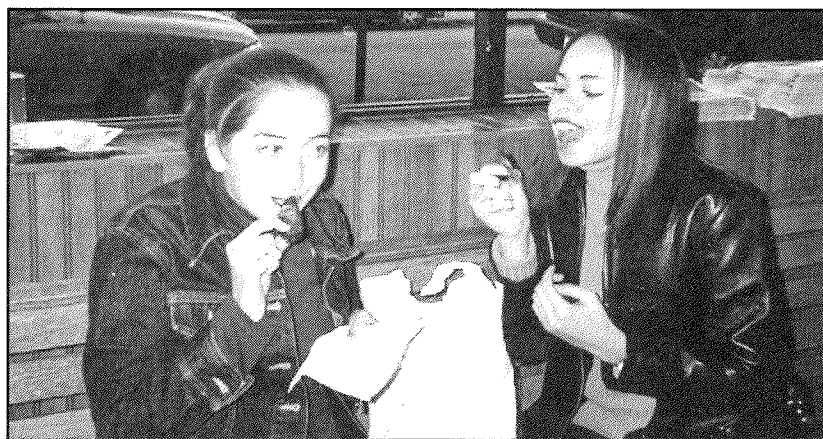
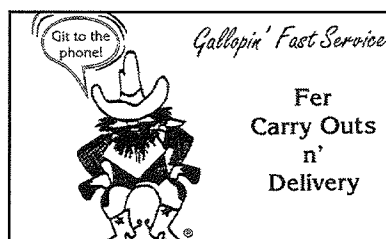


Photo by Tess Lantos

**MAKING SURE** to suck all the tender meat off the bone, Seniors Sophie Castro-Davis and Lindsay Strong split a bucket of delicious barbeque ribs from Ribs-'n-Bibs.



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"The trip was a great experience for me because I learned about being a leader while also broadening my perspective on politics."  
—Junior Brandon Gardner



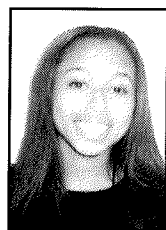
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U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DEC 12, 2000

# Capital lessons in leadership

## ■ Conference brings young delegates together for memorable experience

Editor's note: Senior Megan Dawson and Junior Brandon Gardner attended the Nov. 14-19 National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C., along with 350 other high school students from around the nation. Here, Megan recounts her experience.



### First Person

Megan Dawson

FROM THE MOMENT I stepped off the plane to when I got to my room at the 4-H Center, I

was meeting people from all over the country. My roommates, both from College Station, Texas, were very warm and welcoming.

Now that I think about it, everyone that I met was extremely polite. They all

seemed shocked and taken aback by the fact that I was from Chicago. Almost everybody was from Small Town, USA, and I got the feeling that they didn't leave there much. So I see why they were excited to meet someone who lived in a city with more than 20,000 people.

I spent the first night getting to know my roommates and the 21 people in my leadership group. It was in this smaller group that we spent most of our time and built the closest relationships.

The National Young Leaders Conference was split between seeing Washington D.C., and various simulations within our leadership groups.

Our trip to the Embassy of Finland was my favorite place in D.C., because the architecture of the building was so amazing. It was built six years ago, so it was very modern and state-of-the-art.

We also visited Union Station, Capitol Hill, the National Press Club and all of the war memorials. At Capitol Hill, we had the chance to meet our senators.

Unfortunately the Illinois senators weren't in town, so we met with staff members. It was disappointing, because they couldn't answer our questions at all.

The other parts of the Conference were the three leadership simulations.

These were each related to the branches of the government. The topics were foreign policy, a Supreme Court case, and a proposed Bill.



Photo courtesy of Megan Dawson

OUTSIDE THE SUPREME COURT, site of dramatic President election appeals earlier this month, Megan Dawson soaks in the atmosphere of the nation's capital as a delegate to

the Congressional Youth Leadership Council. About 350 high school students from across the nation participated in the conference.

## About the conference

The National Young Leaders Conference is sponsored by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council headquartered in Washington, D.C. Nominated by teachers, participants participate in a weeklong program in the nation's capital including seminars on civic and political issues; tours of Capitol Hill, Arlington National Cemetery and other significant sites; and an afternoon at the Smithsonian Institute. Participants also have the opportunity to meet governmental and political figures and dine at the National Press Club and Pentagon City. U-Highers interested in the program can write the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, 1110 Vermont Avenue N.W., Suite 320, Washington, D.C. 20005.

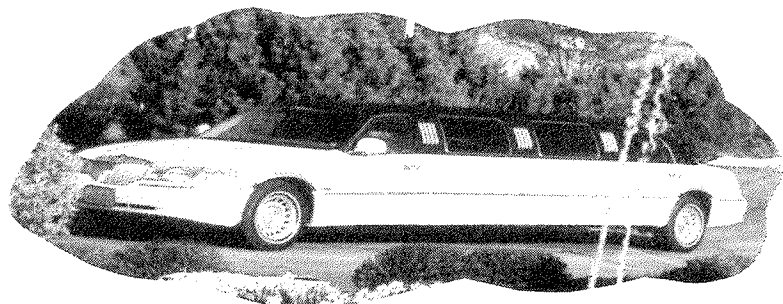
dance was in a semiformal setting, so accordingly people went all out on their outfits. It was here that it became clear how close we had all become in that short period of time. And also how much we would miss each other.

Sunday morning, we all accepted our certificates and vowed to keep in touch via e-mail. It was truly an experience that changed my views about leadership and how people can affect, even if they are complete strangers.

## A Holiday Wish...



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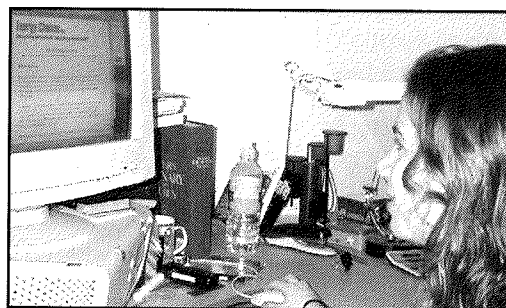
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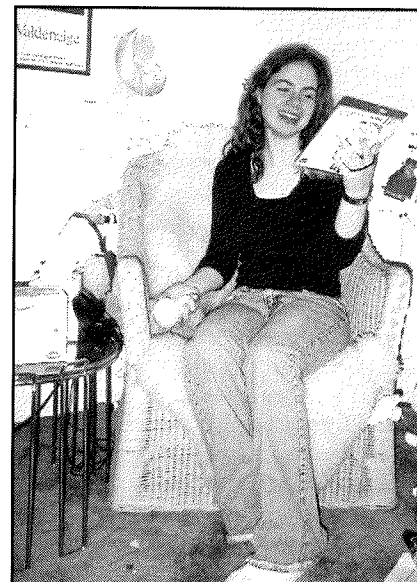
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# 10-11 in-depth newsfeature

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2000



AT KAM ISIAIAH ISRAEL temple on Greenwood at 51st street, an almost all-U-High Bible study class meets weekly on Sundays with Rabbi Doug Sagal. Here they are discussing the Book of Job. From

left are Jess Bauer, Dan Muschler, Matt Rosenberg, Nathaniel Meadow, Ryan Werder, Tess Lantos and Jess Walters.

Photo by Jessica Naclerio

## For U-Highers, religion reigns as a way of life

**Dribbling down** the court, Freshman Amit Mittal blows by his defender for an easy lay up, but is fouled as he shoots. He makes his way to the free-throw line and getting the ball from the referee, he closes his eyes. With a combination of Hindi and English, he prays to God to let him make the free-throw so his team will win. He opens his eyes and takes the shot. The ball goes in. "Thank you," he whispers.

Amit's use of prayer is just one of the many ways U-Highers apply religion and prayer in their lives. And once U-Highers are through unwrapping their presents for this holiday season, many will begin thinking about what place religion and prayer has in their lives.

"I pray everyday to thank God," said Senior Chakka Reeves, a Baptist. "And to ask Him to bless my loved ones and people I know. I don't pray for material objects, I pray for understanding. I pray for the things like focus and success that will bring me to the material things."

"Senior year has been really stressful and I pray for the ability to withstand that stress. I am starting to feel the effects of 'senioritis' so I pray for diligence in my schoolwork. I'm so close to being done with high school; hence I pray a lot of times to ask God to counter my laziness. I also pray for the strength to deal with thinking about my future and what I'm going to do after college."

**Although she takes** pride in her beliefs, Chakka said she feels some students perceive her as too religious.

"One moment that sticks out in my mind," Chakka explained, "was when I was in math class with some other people and we were talking about what we were going to do when we got to college. People said, 'Oh, Chakka will probably just stay in her dorm and read the Bible and drink cola (instead of beer).'"

"I wasn't offended, but it showed me what people really thought about how religious I was. I know that unless other people have the same type of depth in their prayers, when I talk about my religion, like if I mention I have choir practice, I have to wonder how much they truly understand or have the capacity to understand what religion and praying means to me."

Other U-Highers don't see value in soliciting God for help in the course of daily life.

"I don't pray about trivial things like getting good grades or even the strength or confidence to get good grades," said Junior Nicky Singh, a Sikh. "Prayer is about giving thanks; you don't make requests or ask for a blessing."

### YOUR HEAVENLY HOSTS

The spread was religiously designed and produced by In-Depth Newsfeatures Editor Russell Kohn. The main story was reported and written by Rob Wile, the takeout feature by Keir Harris. Both are Midway reporters. Associate Editor Ameer Saleh reported and wrote the feature on the Rev. Michael Pfleger.

**Though Nicky is more** observant than many U-Highers, he doesn't feel alienated by his less observant counterparts.

"My peers make no distinction between race or religion and I probably gain some respect from my peers for standing on my beliefs and taking pride in my religion. Lab has a unique environment where there is no real majority or minority in terms of religion. It's just not an issue here."

Senior Tiffany Northrop, a Reform Jew, said she tries to avoid praying about things for which she, not God, is responsible.

"I pray to God in gratitude, thanking God for all the blessings he's given me," she explained. "Praying gets me thinking about what I'm grateful for. I try to avoid praying for things that I have control over, like grades and my skills in basketball. I know there are a lot of things in my life God has control over and I thank him for blessing me with not making the things I don't have control over difficult."

**She added that** the only time she is able to pray is at night in her room before she goes to bed because, "It is the only time during the day for me where I don't have to worry about classes or club meetings. I am able to keep all my thoughts focused and be reflective because of the more serene surroundings."

Freshman Tom Vasilj, a Catholic, also considers praying in his room helpful because he finds praying in a church overwhelming.

"When my grandmother died, I prayed in the comfort of my own room where I could just be with my thoughts and myself," he said. "I felt upset that she was taken away before I got a chance to know her. She had lived in Bosnia, and the only time I had ever gotten to see her was when I was two years old and I don't even remember the visit."

"So I went to my room and just lay down and started praying. I prayed out loud. I didn't do any hand motions. I just thought about the situation and eventually something clicked inside my head and I understood that it was just her time."

Tom said he would probably have had trouble praying in a church because his attention would have been diverted.

**"I doubt I would** have had the clarity and balance of mind I had praying in my room had I prayed in church. I just find the whole architecture and design and the sculptures distracting from what prayer is really all about. I don't need manifestations or re-

mindings of God to pray to because I believe He is all around us. I feel somewhat unworthy of God when I pray in church."

Tom said he prays whenever he can because it lifts his spirits.

"It puts me in a better mood. I'm able to have a one-on-one chat with God. Even though He doesn't talk back, I know in my heart He's listening."

While some U-Highers pray, others meditate. As prescribed by her religion, Sophomore Michelle Srisuwananukorn, a Buddhist, meditates to relieve stress.

"Meditating makes me feel cleaner and purer," she said. "There are certain hand positions and breathing patterns I use to help me clear my mind of all thoughts. When I finally clear my mind, I feel a whole lot better. However, I only use meditation when I'm under pressure from something school-related or involving my social life."

"I wouldn't meditate if someone were sick because it is used to give you physical and mental clarity, not to help you get through a tough time dealing with a serious issue."

Although Michelle is a Buddhist, she still celebrates Christmas with her family.

"We use it as a break from daily routines and as a time to be together. We don't view it as a religious holiday."

**For many U-Highers,** parents provide the source for views on prayer, but for Freshman David Hinterman, a Reform Jew, the two most influential people who have talked with him about prayer are Rabbi Donald Gluckman of Temple Anshe Sholom and History Teacher Susan Shapiro, faculty advisor for the JSA.

"My rabbi told me basically not to pray for yourself but to pray for the Jewish people as a whole," David said. "From that I realized it's okay to pray for yourself but only when you're having a hard time on a serious issue; to stop praying about trivial things. Though he has since stepped down as rabbi, I still find value in talking to him."

"Also, I found myself talking to Mrs. Shapiro after class about Judaism. I used to think that prayer was something to make you feel better about yourself. She made me realize that prayer is not just a thing or an object; it should be reserved for specific occasions, and it's something special, not run of the mill."

**Because of her tenure** at the Lab Schools and her relationship with the student body, many U-Highers consider Mrs. Shapiro to be knowledgeable about religion, especially in the lives of high schoolers. "From my experiences the fear of failure causes high schoolers to pray," Mrs. Shapiro said. "And not just on an academic level. Kids at Lab like to succeed and have very high expectations for themselves; they want to be the model kid. They also have to deal with their parents' expectations of them. There are definitive gains kids are looking for when praying and they will get as much help as they need. They pray to God to help them succeed."

"At a more profound level, I think kids pray because they don't know what else to do. They also pray even when they don't think it's praying—you know, when a kid closes his eyes and kind of sets his jaw and asks 'Now what?' That, in a sense, is also praying."

"As I listen to kids, I also see that they are trying to measure up to their friends' expectations. Kids are unwilling to acknowledge their own religious sides because it's not 'cool' to be religious; they ask themselves 'why would I do something that demonstrates I need a crutch?'"

"Philosophers would say prayer is about death, but teenagers don't even realize they're afraid of death. But just the action of praying gives kids reassurance, and that is usually all they want."



Photo by Kristin Reepmeyer

AT ST. LAURENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH at 71st and Dorchester, Sophomore Jeanette Rudder gets a parishoner's signature on a welcoming banner.

#### HOW OFTEN DO UHIGHERS GO TO WORSHIP?

At least once a month: 30 of 82 (37%)

Once a month: 14 (17%)

A few times a year: 18 (22%)

Never: 20 (24%)





"My religious involvement is an opportunity for me to meet and learn from people with the same background whom I wouldn't otherwise have known."

—Sophomore Sam Gershan

# religion and U-Highers

## Every Sunday

morning at 7, Sophomore Gabby McCoy rises from her bed and prepares for a day devoted entirely to God. Traveling with her mother 45 minutes from her home on the South Side of Chicago, she attends services at Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, where she formerly lived. Gabby teaches religious school there, sings in the inspirational children's choir and also sings in the mass choir. Participating in both the first and second services, each of which lasts approximately three hours, the McCoys return home around 8 p.m.

Gabby is among many U-Highers for whom religion plays a major part of their lives. "Sunday school takes up a lot of time, so it's hard with my school workload, but I'm so active because it's for God," Gabby explained. "Teaching Sunday school helps me better understand the lesson and myself. In Sunday school the students learn and I learn by teaching."

Junior Caroline Nelson, a Mormon, has recently been appointed president of a Sunday school class for girls ages 12-18.

"As president I feel that I help facilitate the girls enjoyment in learning," said Caroline, who devotes six hours a week to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at 53rd and University. "I have more of a say in what goes on at church and it has made me a more outgoing person, even though there's more pressure on me to do well in everything I do."

Sharing knowledge she has learned in religious classes has helped Junior Leah McGee, a Pentecostal, who helps lead her church's teen group. Leah said her main influence is her parents, who have been affiliated with The Apostolic Church of God for over 20 years.

"As a teen leader it's not that I get as much as I give," observed Leah, who attends the Apostolic Church of God on 63rd and Dorchester. "I go to Sunday school and Bible study every Wednesday and I learn from these classes as well as adults who know more. Through what I learn in these classes I can give more to the teens in my youth group."

Ranging from church elder to choir and committee members, U-High faculty members including History Teacher Susan Shapiro, a Conservative Jew and faculty adviser for the JSA, take on leadership roles as well. She presently sits on the religious school committee at Congregation Rodfei Zedek, at 5200 S. Hyde Park Blvd.

"It is my responsibility as a professional teacher and as a person who studies theology and philosophy to make sure that my children and other children receive appropriate religious education," explained Mrs. Shapiro, who has been in religious education for the past 25 years. "I work with other members of the committee to clarify goals and objectives of curriculum and ensure that we have appropriate staff to teach. I give my expertise, loyalty and commitment to a community that supports me and my family. In the process I get professionalism, judgment and support from those I care about."

As a teacher of a Bible study class and as an elder of Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church on the South Side, Guidance Counselor Ron Tunis has assumed numerous roles at his church. "My skill happens to be in Bible talks, but my talent is teaching," explained Mr. Tunis, who believes that giving is what Christianity is all about. "It strengthens my faith to be involved in others' religious education and I get satisfaction when I see people who have been encouraged and uplifted as of result of our studies."

Freshman Tomell Desilva said he isn't associated with any religious education program, but he individually asks people questions about life and then tells them about Buddhism to make them more aware of his religion. "Shakbuku is a way that Buddhists show non-Buddhists what they're about and what they stand for," Tomell said. "I believe that I am a disciple, and that it's my obligation to be a messenger of the word."

"Up until 7th grade I was disliked by both my peers and teachers. That year, I got fed up with being an outcast because of my skin color and reasons I didn't know. Pushed by my mom, I began to pray and tremendous things began to happen. Seventh grade was my best year; I made friends and got on the honor roll. Because of all the benefits Buddhism gave to me, I began to use my life as an example for others and practice Shakbuku. I ask my Christian friends all the time why does one person have cancer and another doesn't? Why is one person rich and another isn't? Once they find that there is no answer, they begin to think and I tell them about Buddhism."

As a result of her finding work undone and assistance needed in numerous aspects of the parish community, Sophomore Jeanette Rudder, a Roman Catholic, found her involvement at church necessary.

"I have to wear many hats and be a part of everything that interests me," explained Jeanette, who is an active member of almost every organization or job that has to be done at her parish, St. Laurence Catholic Church, at 71st and Dorchester.

"I am a choir member, a lector, a commentator, a member of the teen club, organizer of the bulletin board and a delegate to the Black Catholic Convocation. With my mother, I am the designer of the bulletin covers and the decoration committee of my church. I feel that it's important to stay active as a youth because the church is my extended family and will fall into my hands and hopefully through my involvements the older members will feel secure leaving me with this responsibility."

## Priest of the Church, Man of the Streets

Meet the Rev. Michael Pflieger, newsmaker

LOCATED IN a black Southwest neighborhood of Chicago which has seen better days, the 17th century-styled, beige mortar facade of St. Sabina's Church, at 79th and Racine, where gang members and neighborhood store owners alike gather each week, makes the newspapers and T.V. news shows regularly. The reason: the church's macho, tough-guy, accented, been-arrested-more-than-once and movie style handsome pastor, the Rev. Michael Pflieger. In the lobby, clad with off-white carpeting and a rustic scent, members of the church are helping clean the church and some are attending a Bible class offered weekday mornings in the church. To the right and up a few steps sits the Rev. Pflieger's office, where the brown-haired, confident 51-year-old, wearing khakis and a button down shirt, sits behind his large mahogany desk answering messages left earlier in the morning and browsing through the Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune, sometimes finding stories or columns about his activism in the community.

Most recently the Rev. Pflieger received publicity when he wrote a letter to Eller Media, the producers of Martell Cognac advertisement, asking that a billboard on 79th street displaying a woman wearing see-through underapparel and holding a bottle of liquor be covered up.

Growing up on the South Side in what used to be a predominantly white neighborhood, the Rev. Pflieger said his family was very religious. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in religion from Loyola University in Chicago and a Master of Divinity from the University of St. Mary of the Lake, he began ministering in African American communities on both the west and the south sides of Chicago.

The Rev. Pflieger has been the adoptive father of three children, one of whom was murdered at the age of 17 while crossing the path of gang gunfire.

Devoting most of his mornings dealing with phone messages, protesting alcohol and tobacco advertisements and the occasional protests against stores which sell tobacco and alcoholic products to minors, the Rev. Pflieger is always ready and willing to help anyone in need. His relentless pursuit of what he believes to be right may be seen through his mile-long police file. Being arrested nearly 50 times for offenses ranging from "Blocking a major highway" to "Destruction of property," the Rev. Pflieger said he is committed to the bettering of the environment for the children.

This morning, the Rev. Pflieger speaks with a 24-year-old boy named Sherman, an ex-gang member trying to find legitimate work. The Rev. Pflieger has already found him work but Sherman has yet to be compensated for his services and he is getting discouraged from choosing this path of earning money legitimately. Although the Rev. Pflieger is very irritated with the employer, he first assuages Sherman's complaints and promises to speak with the employer. While on hold with



Photos by Will Mittendorf

**SURROUNDED BY PHOTOS** of the famous, including the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; leaders of the Catholic Church; family, friends and parishoners, the Rev. Michael Pflieger leads a busy day every day at St. Sabina Parish.

**WITH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** brightening the venerable church the Priest visits with young people in his parish on their way home from school.



Sherman's employer, the Rev. Pflieger rhetorically prods, "Why is it so hard for people to do what's right?"

"I was brought up in a very religious family where I was encouraged to speak my mind freely," the Rev. Pflieger said in his Brooklyn-sounding accent. "My parents also made it very clear that I should never think that I was better than anyone no matter how well I did in school or how many awards I received."

"When I had just finished my first year of high school, I went to Oklahoma for a summer project with some friends, which is where I first consciously experienced prejudice in society. My friends and I had to buy supplies from a local store but the owner would not let my friends in because they weren't white. This disturbed me immensely."

Although this incident ignited a passion for helping people, the Rev. Pflieger said his benevolence and activism were only truly inspired when he saw Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speak at Marquette Park when he was a junior in high school. The Rev. Pflieger spoke at U-High's Dr. Martin Luther King assembly five years ago.

"I had never seen as much hate as I did the first day I saw Dr. King," the Rev. Pflieger said. "I saw people from my church, friends of mine, parents, all shouting in unison and showing their true hate and all the while, King just stood in the middle and didn't even show any anger. I remember thinking to myself that either he was crazy or he had some kind of strength that I wanted to know about."

"King said that ultimately the only thing that could change the world was God and this is why I believe God is the foundation for everyone's personality, and the development of this personality occurs during high school and the succeeding years."

Spawning from his belief that God forms the foundation of one's personality, the Rev. Pflieger said he believes that it is important for high schoolers to find God within themselves.

"You can deny it or try to control it, but you can't not deal with God," the Rev. Pflieger said. "High school years are some of the most formative in a person's development of character and there is no way someone can have righteous values or foundations without having God at the center of everything or else they will have the world as their foundation and that is a scary thought to me."

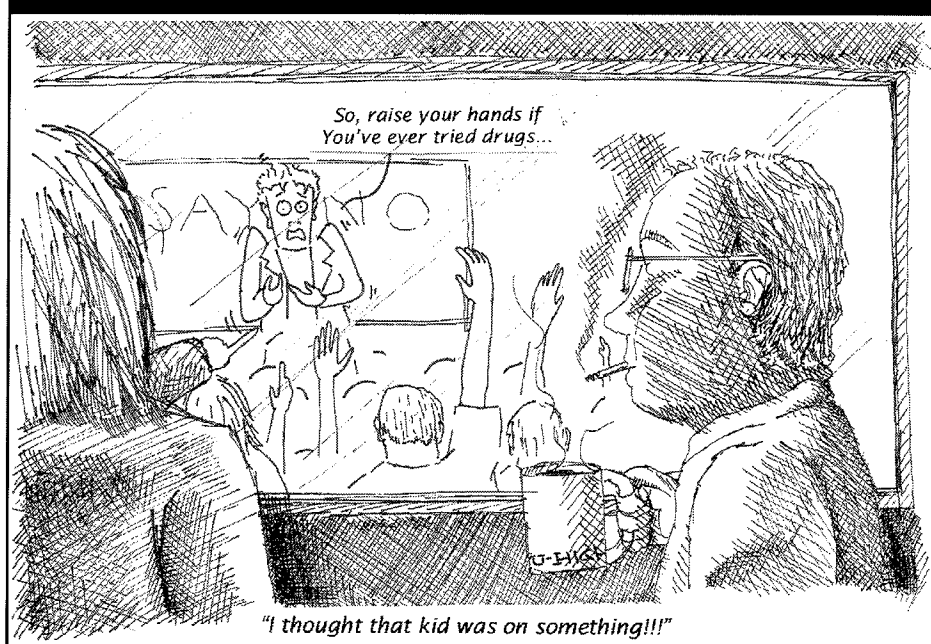
**"I had never seen as much hate as I did the first day I saw Dr. King."**

—THE REV. MICHAEL PFLIEGER



# 12-13 commentary

## AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT



Art by Dan Levin

## A delicate balance

For nearly a decade, the school has invited a speaker to come before various student and faculty groups to tell his own story about how drugs and alcohol ruined his life and then how he claimed it back.

The speaker is Mr. Marcus Newman and, as might be expected, reactions to what he has to say are varied. Some think his visits valuable, some say they don't get much out of them and so it goes. Mr. Newman, 29, works as a financial planner, but also doubles as a private health education consultant.

During the week of November 13 and again two weeks later, Mr. Newman spoke to junior advisories and not only retold his story, but encouraged others to share their stories as well.

There is a bigger story here, though.

Mr. Newman is not only coming to relate his story to students, but at least in recent years, to report any students he comes in contact with he feels might need help.

The mixing of these two roles is dangerous enough and ethically questionable. But even more so, many students have told the Midway that he didn't tell them that he was obligated to report to the school until after both sessions were over and even then, only to those who stayed past the period.

Whether or not that happened, the school needs to keep close watch on student reaction to the program, because what works one year might not work the next. And perhaps it needs to rethink having an educational speaker also double as an informant—an arrangement that raises sticky ethical questions.

## A belated Thanksgiving

With the end of fall quarter only THREE DAYS AWAY and the holidays right around the corner, the Midway staff would like to give thanks:

Seniors □ free period assemblies □ long baths □ sleeping in □ double lunch □ Mr. Derbes □ Seth □ Mr. Balan-Gaubert □ late night visitors □ reading a good book □ herbal cold remedies □ Mona Khalidi and the wonderful librarian crew □ breakfast at Valois' □ Mrs. Montgomery □ Mrs. Housinger's gracious extensions on, well, anything □ gummy bears □ taking a full load fall quarter... □ ...dropping classes once you get into college □ good surprises □ finished applications □ Reflection Eternal □ handsome senior boys □ "chill time" assemblies □ cute senior girls □ cuter junior girls □ innocent freshmen □ mid-school shady dipoffs □ rumble dome □ late-night

phone conversations □ people who do not have America Online □ the Boys' Hoop Squad □ fire drills during quizzes or tests □ HAROLD'S □ Mr. Knapp □ long weekends □ northern lights □ Larry X □ hot chocolate □ the demise of the "wassup" guys □ freshmen cleaning service □ U. of C. parking tickets □ senior-freshmen "buddy" program □ noninflammatory signs □ Mrs. Kovacks □ home-cooked meals □ D.T. □ not having curfew □ whenever Mr. Derbes sits on "the stool" □ The Simpsons □ sparknotes.com □ the Senior Lounge □ a long-awaited haircut □ Friday night sessions □ Saturday night soirees □ Mr. Farver's French classes and, of course, who is not thankful for the wonderful presence of the senior class which will soon begin to dwindle as colleges send out their acceptance letters.

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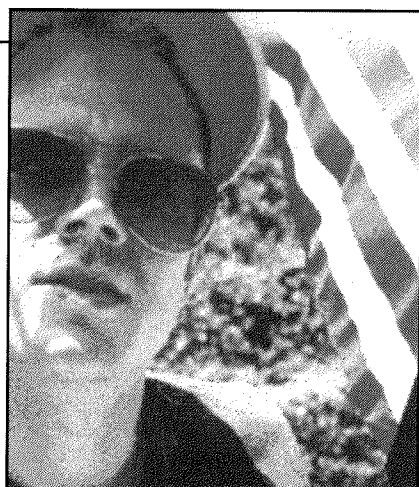
## Stunt T.V.

### MTV's 'Jackass' lives up to its name

EQUIPPED WITH a scuba mask over his face and a small pair of tighty-whities underpants, Johnny Knoxville, host of MTV's new show "Jackass," prepares for his stunt. He enters a used Port-O-Potty, locks the door and is then lifted upside down by a bulldozer, the contents of the toilet pouring into the cabin and seeping out of the corners. Inside the Port-O-Potty, a small camera shows Knoxville being tossed around, doused in urine and feces.

In the aftermath of the popular "The Tom Green Show" starring the quirky Canadian comedian whose show left the air last April after a special on his cancer surgery, MTV created "Jackass," taking the practical joke concept of "The Tom Green Show" to a whole new level.

Compiled of short stunt segments that look as though they are shot with a home video, "Jackass," 8:00-8:30 Sunday nights, crosses the line of what is considered good humor. Acts performed by Knoxville and other featured stunt artist's on the show exploit private and personal human acts which can hardly



JOHNNY KNOXVILLE  
Host of "Jackass"

be considered humorous. Jumping off a rooftop multiple times in attempt to cause injury and drinking 50 shots of eggnog until the drinker throws up all over the place are only a taste of the senseless acts performed on the show, rated TV 14.

Whatever the small amount of humor in Tom Green's antics—including painting his father's car with pornographic pictures and playing with animals, both dead and alive—it's completely absent in "Jackass."

With even more gruesome content, MTV has in a desperate attempt tried to draw greater numbers of their regular teen viewers. Displaying some of the most disgusting stunts ever seen on television, it's safe to say T.V. has gone too far for a laugh in "Jackass."

## Dangerous game

### U.S. isn't helping by helping

IN ADDITION to quibbling about the butterfly ballot, it might be a good idea for American leaders to consider the situation in Israel, where 50 years of hostilities seem ready to explode in yet another war. Trying to appear fair, the U.S. has refused to commit troops to the Middle East—except, of course, for the 17 American sailors killed in the Gulf of Yemen this past September.

In fact, the more America supports Israel's increasingly infeasible boundaries, the closer the U.S. is drawn into the region's dangerous political game. Unfortunately, Israel's nuclear arsenal act as an ace up its sleeve, making compromise with the weaker Arab nations equally difficult and necessary.

In U-High's liberal, heavily pro-Israel community, many people might support the American media's bias towards Israel, perhaps agreeing with the Economist's nauseating statement in the magazine's October 7, 2000 issue that "Israel is a superior land, with superior people."

But most countries disagree; in fact, the U.S. has been the only nation to unconditionally support Israel since its lines were officially drawn in 1948. Although there were sound strategic reasons for Israeli expansion during the Six-Day War, their military domination of all neighboring coun-

tries sets a disturbing precedent.

If the right of a people to the land on which they live is solely determined by their military strength, then every country without a nuclear arsenal should be quaking in its boots. American policy in the Middle East has only reinforced the idea that "might makes right" and aided Israel in transforming sections of Beirut and Gaza into little more than permanent refugee camps.

Because of pressures from its heavily influential but relatively tiny Jewish population and misplaced guilt for a Holocaust of which it was largely unaware, the American government has ironically helped place the Palestinians in the position of the Jews during WWII. Driven from their homes and segregated into ghettos, terrorist bombers' anger towards America is justified, although their actions only worsen the situation. If the U.S. really wants to help ease this conflict, it would be wise to stop babysitting Israel, no matter how many tantrums she might throw.

Blimey

J.A.  
Redfield



## YOUR SAY IN THE MIDWAY

If you had to trade gifts with Santa, what would you give him and what would you want in return?



Tori

**TORI ZACHARY, freshman:** I'd ask for a whole new wardrobe and a boyfriend. I'd give Santa the best chocolate chip cookies he'd ever had!

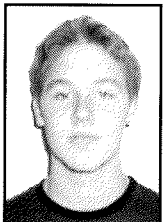


Jen

**MATT WASIK, sophomore:** I'd first take a new Sony Playstation 2, then I'd hook him up with a new pair of boots because his are getting kind of old.

**JEN SYDEL, junior:** Santa hasn't come to my house since "The Incident." That's when my little brother added his own personal liquid to the milk we'd set out for Santa.

**JORAH IVY, senior:** I'd give his slow reindeer one more day to get to my house! I'd also give him a new sled because his is getting fairly whack. In exchange, though, I'd want more gifts and a new Sony Playstation 2.



Matt



Jorah



"I can't wait until winter break! It's been so stressful with all my major assignments due in the span of two weeks and it will be nice to finally have the chance to relax."  
— Junior Neha Shah

## Outkast again shows how funky hip hop can be

*"Live From The Center of the earth, seven light-years below sea level we go, welcome to Stankonia, the place from which all funky things come. Would you like to go?"*

THE ANSWER to that question would have to be yes... yes I would! However, make sure never to forget an umbrella, 'cause in Stankonia funk always pours down from above.

Titled "Stankonia," Outkast's fourth album is sure to do exactly that... leave "Stank" on ya, with so much funk on this hip-hop album you'll be lucky if you walk away smelling like dirty socks and drawers.

Representing the "Dirty South," "Organized Noise Productions," the "Dungeon Family" and "ATLiens" worldwide, this rap duo continues to elevate to levels of such superiority that they leave other artists falling far behind.

Outkast, known for its ability to change styles on every album, often referred to as the "chameleons" of the Hip-Hop world, prove to have the formula for success on its latest album. The group represents a



### Disc Man

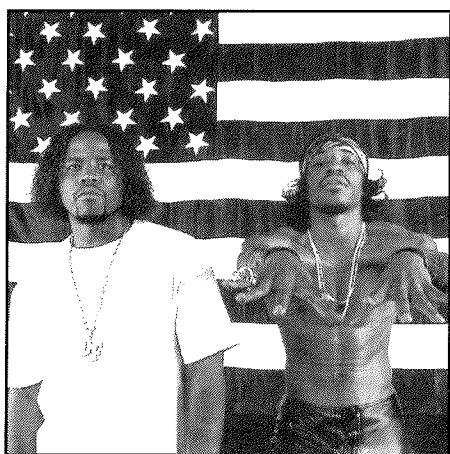
Nick Hill

style and sound which sets the trend, opposed from following it.

Never allowing itself to produce music reflect-

ing its past albums, the groups unpredictability and immense creativity serve both as a guarantee against duplication by other artists, while at the same time leaves listeners wanting more.

From Andre 3000's fashionable clothing, reminiscent of P Funk and the Funkadelics,



to Big Boi's "Pimpish," down south rap flow, the two vocalists leave their fans puzzled and intrigued.

With an album cover substituting black in place of the red and blue of the American flag, Big Boi and Andre 3000, stand proud with patriotism in front of the flag of Stankonia.

And why not stand proud with patriotism? With hit songs such as "B.O.B." (Bombs Over Baghdad) and "Ms. Jackson," "Stankonia" soared to the top of Billboard charts landing the number two slot, beat out only by R. Kelly's new album titled "TP-2.com" its debut week.

But, it's not the songs such as "B.O.B." and "Ms. Jackson" which make this album truly great, however they do help. It's the tracks which at first listen seem unappetizing that slowly work their way into your head leaving you unable to stop humming the tune. Tracks such as "Humble Mumble," "Red Velvet," and "I'll Call Before I Come," all allow listeners to both see and hear the full potential and depth of this album.

With guest appearances from B-Real of Cypress Hill, Erykah Badu, Gangsta Boo and Eco of the Three-6-Mafia and of course the Dungeon Family, Outkast again shows its ability to capture a feeling of soul, funk, rap, r&b, jazz and ball it all up into another hit album. Flop is definitely not in these guys' vocabulary.

## Potbelly's will please your belly

AFTER A STRENUOUS DAY of school, I felt the craving for some hot sub sandwiches. Generally always hungry, Sophomores Nick Turek and Brian Fierke decided to join me at Potbelly's Sandwich Works, located downtown on State and Wabash.

Featuring more than 15 different subs, from the original turkey sub to "The Wreck" (ham, turkey, beef

and provolone cheese) Potbelly's lets you customize your toppings, an essential for all those who have to have a sub "their way." Not only can you pick up some subs, but you can also get some soup and some



### Mad Munchies

Nick Epstein

excellent milkshakes. There are several different flavors of milkshakes, chocolate, vanilla and strawberry

With the walls adorned with trinkets and ads for cigarettes and root beer from the 1960s, Nick, Brian and I were immediately sucked into the restaurant's relaxed atmosphere, taking in the smells of hot bread and mayonnaise. Since it was only 4 p.m., the line for food was short; we only had to wait about five minutes till we placed our order. The secret for not waiting in line, though, is to call the restaurant 15 minutes before you go, place your order, stroll in, skip the line and pick up your food.

I chose my usual, a hot turkey sub with mayonnaise and Brian ordered a hot turkey sub with lettuce, tomato and vinegar.



Photo by Jennifer Sydel

**EASY TO GET to at 190 N. State, Potbelly's hot subs and cool prices make it a great place to eat. Brian Fierke, left, Nick Turek and Nick Epstein enjoy the strictly casual atmosphere along with the subs.**

Nick ventured away from turkey and decided to get an Italian sub with marinara sauce and hot peppers. Nick and I bought two chocolate shakes and Brian bought an IBC root bear.

Sitting down at one of the booths, we shared our subs. We each liked our own the best. Nick and I washed the subs down with our milkshakes that were delicious, rich, thick and smooth. We drained them in just a few minutes.

The food was inexpensive, approximately \$1.75 for a sub plus tax. But since the subs aren't very big, customers may find themselves buying two or more depending on their appetite. The shakes were 50 cents a piece, definitely worth the price.

Only one problem arose at downtown Potbelly's. There is absolutely no place to park except for incredibly expensive building lots which charge \$10 dollars an hour.

Take a cab or bus if you can, because Potbelly's is an expensive place to dine if you're driving.

**Write us!** The Midway provides a forum of public opinion on its Commentary spreads. You are invited to comment or respond to articles in the paper or express your opinion on any topic of interest to our readers. You do need to sign your letter or column and place it in the Journalism slot in U-High 107.

## An honorable story

■ Film traces epic life of achievement

WEAVING RACE and dedication into a gripping film about a black man's struggle to achieve his dreams, "Men of Honor," directed by George Tillman Jr. of "Soul Food," is based on the life of Master Salvage Diver Carl Brashear and has proven worthy of its box-office success.

Set after World War II and President Truman's desegregation of the U.S. Navy, the film is the story of Carl Brashear (Cuba Gooding Jr.), a sharecropper's son who would become the first African-American Master Salvage Diver in the U.S. Navy.

Upon enlisting, Brashear takes his father's parting words "Don't come back... be the best" to heart and strives to overcome any obstacle he faces. Exuding commitment and tenacity, Brashear writes over a hundred letters to be admitted to the Navy Diving School and after he is accepted, is introduced to Master Chief Billy Sunday (Robert De Niro), a racist who gradually grows to respect him.

Providing an admirable role, Gooding portrays Brashear as a man with humble pride and the will to succeed. When taking a test requiring each diver to assemble a pump underwater, Master Chief Sunday tries to impede Brashear's chances of passing by ripping Brashear's tools needed to assemble the pump.

After nine hours underwater, Brashear



**DETERMINATION AND WILL prevail in George Tillman Jr.'s film, "Men of Honor" based on the life of Master Salvage Diver Carl Brashear (Cuba Gooding Jr.). With the help of Master Chief Billy Sunday (Robert De Niro), Brashear becomes the first African-American to achieve the position of Master Salvage Diver in the U.S. Navy.**

collects the pieces and builds the pump, passing the test needed for him to graduate. By overcoming this challenge as well as recovering four hydrogen bombs from the ocean and suffering an amputated leg, Brashear finally earns respect from his peers.

With a dynamic performance as the cold-blooded Master Chief Sunday, De Niro's role ties the heroic tale into a movie that revolves around will and determination, displaying De Niro's wideranged acting abilities.

Setting nearly every scene in near death experiences underwater, competition-filled bars or intense courtroom drama, Tillman captures the essence of a man's struggle to be the best in a white man's world. Providing a strong cast which doesn't fail to induce sympathy and understanding, "Men of Honor" proves an inspirational film definitely worth seeing.



### Film Fest

Priya Sridhar

## Scandously funny

This play's a lesson in laughter

RIDICULOUSLY IMMENSE HATS grace the heads of absurd characters as biting gossip flows unceasingly from their lips in Chicago Shakespeare Theater on Navy Pier's "The School for Scandal."

Mr. Brian Bedford, director and star (Sir Peter Teazle), has brought the Stratford Festival of Canada's production of Richard Brinsley Sheridan's classic 1777 satire to Chicago.

Filled with deliciously vile characters, the classic boasts merciless gossips who delight in inventing and spreading tales of scandal. Among those targeted is the ill-matched couple Sir Peter Teazle and his young wife Lady Teazle (Michelle Giroux).

Two brothers, conniving and hypocritical Joseph Surface (Donald Carrier) and frivolous but generous Charles Surface (Graham Abbey), also inspire gossip. When the Surfaces' rich Uncle Oliver (James Blendick) arrives home from India determined to ascertain which brother deserves to be his heir, his schemes expose each brother's true character.

Gaudy, balloonlike hats billow on the heads of the gossips gathering in Lady Sneerwell's (Patricia Collins) parlor.

Wigs, too, accent characters' personalities. Lady Sneerwell's absurdly puffy gray frizz stands out a foot on each side of her head as a visual counterpart to her comical conversation.

Characters' names prove sources of constant amusement.

Devilish gossips Sir Benjamin Backbite (Tim MacDonald) and Mrs. Candour (Lally Cadeau) discuss acquaintances with names such as Miss Tattle and Sir Filigree Flirt.

Achieving balance be-

tween humor and misery, Mr. Bedford's Sir Peter provides a sympathetic and deep character to counter the many shallow scandal groupies. His complexity appears in his range of emotions— self righteousness, agony at his wife's irreverence and contempt for the gossips. At his moments of

painful discovery, the audience catches its breath, then smiles as he makes fun of his unhappy situation.

A production this witty and vibrant with such amazing acting is not to be passed up. ("The School for Scandal" is scheduled through Jan. 21; the box office telephone is (312) 595-5600.)

### Stage Write

Abigail Newman

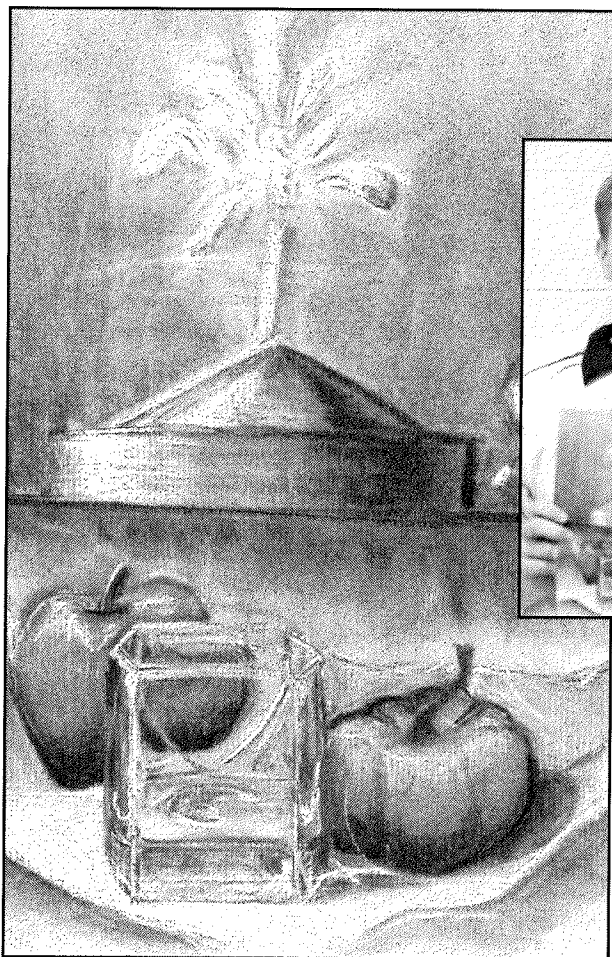


Photo by Michael Cooper courtesy of Chicago Shakespeare Theater  
**CRITICAL OF HIS wife and her gossiping friends, Sir Peter Teazle (Brian Bedford) soon finds himself the topic of their tales in "The School of Scandal."**





"I basically plan to be larger than Jesus."  
—Senior Enrique Lomnitz



## Joe Sellers

### A fascination with faces

In a quiet room, a tall, blond teenage boy sits down at a desk with a sketchbook and a few pencils. He pauses to picture an imaginary person. He opens the book and before beginning to draw, he focuses intently on the imaginary subject's eyes and expression.

"I really like to draw people's faces," said Senior Joe Sellers. "I generally make up the person I draw. I try to get their emotions and personalities into their eyes and eyebrows. Each person has their own unique eyes and they are very expressive."

Joe began to draw in kindergarten and it has remained a hobby since then.

"My dad and my brother used to draw so I just kind of started," Joe said. "I started to get sketchbooks as gifts and I bought some and I just filled them up with drawings."

"I've never taken any classes out of school. I took mixed media sophomore year and I am in beginning drawing and painting now. I never have had any actual exhibitions but some of my work has been displayed in school before."

My brother, Patrick ('97) used to draw for The Midway. This is my first year. I enjoy it but I wish that the assignments weren't so structured."

Keeping it as a side project, Joe does not plan on majoring in art in college. "I don't think that art is going to be my career when I grow older," he said, "but if it does happen, then that would be great."

**This arts page** spotlights the Midway's artists. The stories were written as follows: Joe Sellers by Associate Editor Shilpa Rupani; Enrique Lomnitz by Midway Reporter Becca Nichols; Josh Joseph by Arts Page Editor Jordann Zachary; and Dan Levin by Associate Editor Rachel Greene. Photos of the artists are by Jessica Naclerio.

## Josh Joseph

### A doodler becomes an artist

With his dark eyes and stern face intently staring at his sketchbook, Junior Josh Joseph sits doodling a quick sketch of whatever idea floats into his mind while bored in class. What started as a mindless habit all through Middle School for this Midway artist quickly grew into something much more as Josh realized that his sketches looked good and he had real potential as an artist.

"In order to become a better artist I knew I needed to improve my skills," Josh said. "I drew on and off through Middle School and as soon as I entered High School it was like I was bitten by the drawing bug. I enrolled in intensive art classes this summer at the Hyde Park Art Center."

"We studied nude models. It's essential to learn how to draw what's underneath a person's clothes before you can understand how to draw that person with their clothes on. At first I had this adrenaline rush because there was a naked person in front of me, but that quickly faded. It's really just art."

Josh mainly focuses on drawing real life images.

"I like to draw people and places," he said. "I view my subject as a bunch of lines put together and I try to make the foundation of my sketch as solid as possible. Because printed materials are expensive, I use my computer to scan in color. In the future I hope to find an outlet for my artwork because it's something I really love to do."

## Dan Levin

### An artist with an eye for the art of architecture

Completing a portfolio of blueprints to include in his college applications, Senior Dan Levin plans to pursue his talent and love for architecture in college.

Drawing up blueprints to represent his creative ideas is not where Dan's talent stops. He also devotes his time to sketching, painting and taking art courses.

Born into an artistic family Dan was exposed to art from a young age. His mom was a fashion designer, while his dad took drawing and painting courses at the Art Institute.

"I have been interested in art ever since I was able to put a pencil in my hand," Dan said. "I was not serious about it until last summer. I began taking architecture classes at The Museum of Contemporary Art, oil painting classes at The Art Institute and some other architecture courses at Columbia College."

Though Dan makes time to take art courses, he still manages to find three hours a day to produce some kind of art work.

"I'm not taking many classes this year, so

I try to do my homework right when I get home and then during the free time I have left, I do my art work," Dan explained. "I never really have a plan when I begin to make something. If I am painting something on a large canvas I try to sketch something out beforehand, but usually I just see what happens."

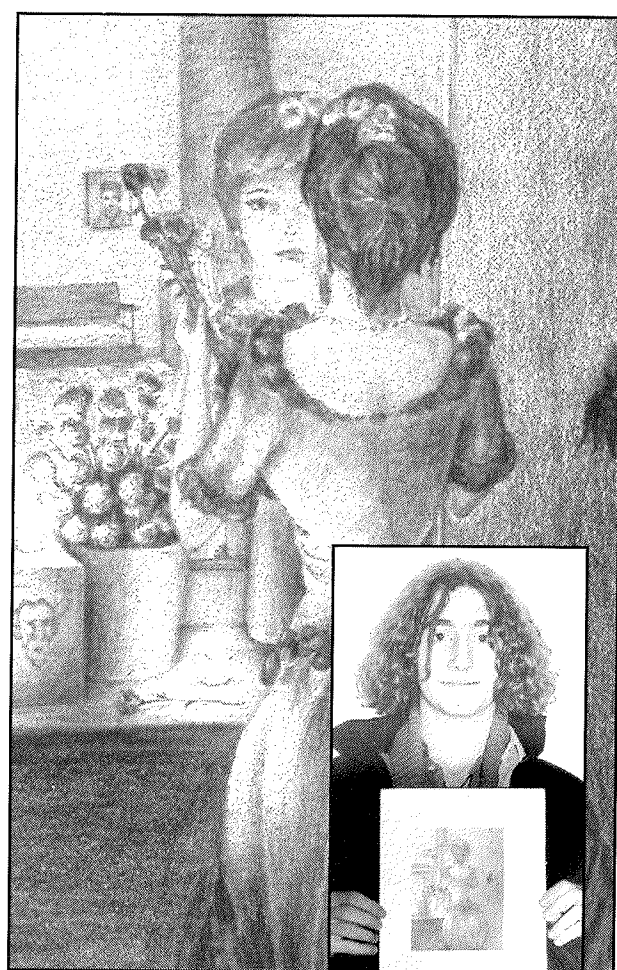
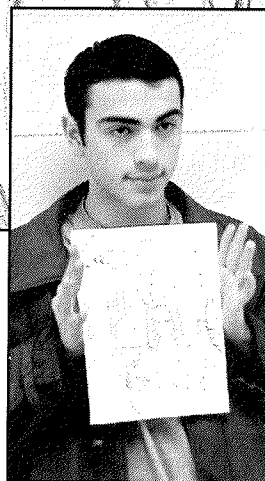
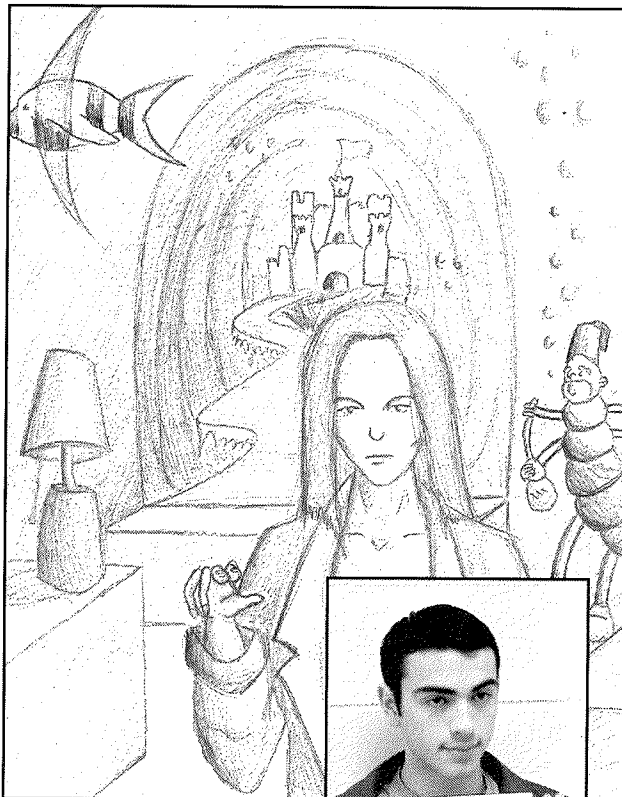
"I used to focus on faces and people, but I am getting tired of it. I am beginning to do abstract modern art."

"I am also becoming interested in oil painting. I was never too good at color so I stuck to black and white. But now I am trying to get back into color with oil paints."

Though Dan says drawing and painting are only for fun, he already has a published piece on the cover of his Dad's book "Mapping of the Mind."

"I intend to just keep art as a hobby," he said.

"I am thinking about becoming an architect, but I also am considering something that has to do with engineering. When I get older I can put my artwork around my walls. It would be really cool if I could sell some of it on the side for extra money."



## Enrique Lomnitz

### A talent for the stylish life

With his colorful fashions and wild curly hair, Senior Enrique Lomnitz's artistic style shows in more than just his artwork.

Taught basic drawing skills by his mother Elena, an artist, Enrique began cultivating his artistic skills from a young age. A trip back to his birthplace of Mexico City two years ago revitalized his passion for art.

"Art has been in my household for as long as I can remember," commented Enrique, who moved to Chicago when he was 5. "From 4th grade until 8th grade my focus wasn't really on art. I started taking art class in Mexico City and that's where I discovered that art was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

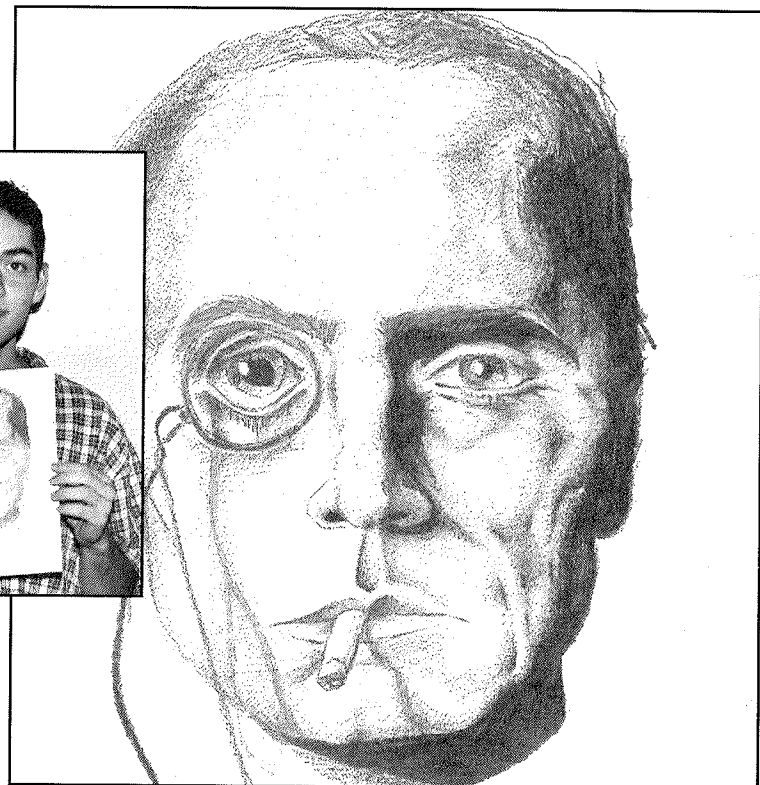
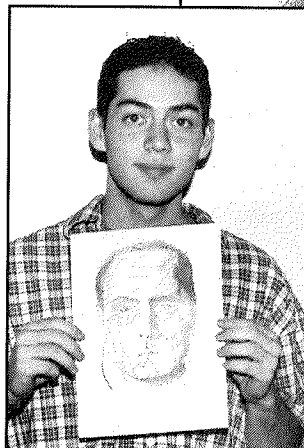
"It's so fulfilling to me. I can sit down and start to draw and I lose myself in the moment. It's like you can't get enough of something you love so much."

Drawing more than just lines on paper Enrique expresses himself through each piece of artwork.

"Every work I do has a piece of me in it," he explained. "I look at my art from multiple perspectives. From the figures in my drawing, my own views and then from a outsider looking at my drawing. It helps me realize more about myself by looking through another person's eyes."

Applying predominantly to art schools such as Rhode Island School of Design and Pratt, Enrique hopes to take his talents to the next level.

"I want to pursue my talent and major in art in college," he said. "Hopefully I will be able to sell my art and be recognized for it. I basically plan to be larger than Jesus."



"I wanted to focus on the eerie, out-of-this-world effect. It's different from a normal picture where you can see what will be in the picture when you take it."  
—Junior Satya Bhabha



Photo by Satya Bhabha

## A matter of time

**FREE TO PHOTOGRAPH** any subject, Ms. Liese Ricketts' Advanced Photography students took 30-second exposure shots, many focusing on lighting in dark places involving motion. Shooting his roll downtown, Junior Satya Bhabha captured half a minute of bustling street life near Lake Shore Drive and Jackson. "It was really late at night, past

midnight on the night before the photos were due," Satya reflected. "It was a big surprise to see the contact sheet. I captured something that's impossible to see. My favorite thing in the picture is that you can see the cars stationary as well as see the light through them. I like the ghostly effect with long exposures."

## Convention delegates tackle diverse issues

By Nick Epstein

Associate editor

Choosing from 60 workshops on topics from leadership development to creating a more culturally inclusive curriculum, 15 U-Highers and four faculty members attended the People of Color Conference in Nashville, Tenn., last week sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools.

An estimated 10,000 high school students and 5,000 faculty members from across the nation were expected to attend this year's conference, theme of which was "The Children are Our Business," Dec. 7-9.

U-High sent at least one representative from each ethnic or cultural organization.

Attending the conference for the second time, Junior Brian Rizowy recalled his experiences from last year's conference in San Francisco.

"The reason I went a second time was to further increase my consciousness and broaden my horizons as a Jew and Latino," Brian explained.

"We broke up into groups and discussed our experiences in our various schools. It was like having a discussion in advisory over a controversial assembly, everyone had something to say."

Also attending the conference last year, Junior Daphne Magaña said she came to realize the extent of U-High's diversity.

"Many people think that U-High isn't that diverse, that most of the students are white," Daphne explained. "After attending the

People of Color Conference and talking to kids from other private schools I finally realized just how diverse our school is. Talking to kids where they are like one of 10 or 15 nonwhite students in their grade made me really appreciate Lab as a unique place."

As cochairperson of the People of Color Committee, a faculty group which promotes diversity in the school's programs and staff, Lower School Teacher Lisa Washington coordinated the students and faculty for the conference this year.

"I think students attending the conference will benefit greatly from the experience," Ms. Washington said. "Not only will the students benefit, but also the faculty. The conference is not just for the students, but there is a group to support faculty of color. Issues of inclusion and curriculum to support multiculturalism are discussed."

Other faculty attending the conference were as follows:

Librarian Mattye Nelson, Lower School Teacher Rosa Luisiana Melendez, and Middle School Teacher Bea Harris.

Other at the conference were as follows:

Senior Hannah Garber-Paul; Juniors John Caplan, Brandon Gardner, Lisa Jacobson, Eitan Kensky, Tinnen Lam, Gina Leung, Michael McGehee, Neha Shah, Doug Thistlethwaite and Emily Wellman; Sophomore Anais Richman-Langman and Freshman Noelle Bond.

## ■ Museum campus

(continued from page 5)

guins in the underwater viewing galleries.

After your fill of fish, there is the Adler Planetarium. From its steps one can see a breathtaking view of the entire Chicago skyline. Also one can see a new addition paneled in glass windows, known as the Sky Pavilion. The recently finished Sky Pavilion offers a wide range of advanced hands-on exhibits, a lakefront restaurant, a spectacular view of the city and night sky, and the world's first StarRider theater. The StarRider is domed shaped, but there is no film. Images are shown through a digital projector, its innovative technology enabling the audience to interact with the program through seat armrest controls.

"It's almost like a giant video game," said Assistant Educator Freddy Atkins. "The whole experience gives the feeling of floating through space."

Currently, the StarRider is showing "Black Holes: Into the Dark Abyss" and "Journey to Infinity," a simulated flight through space and the creation of the universe.

By visiting the Museum Campus people will find new ways to view the world and the environment around them, all through innovative and hands-on technology. Spanning nearly all fields of scientific and natural knowledge, its museums are a valuable resource. Between Star Wars and the StarRider, the museum campus has something for just about everybody.

## ■ Hidden gems

(continued from page 5)

makes its home.

Its lobby resembles an office, with magazines spread on a table and tiled floors, but the stained glass on the back wall indicates that it's not. Lithuanian paintings adorn the

hallway upstairs. Glass cases in the main hall display ancient coins, rare books, and antique dolls, while the extensive library is open to anyone interested in Lithuanian history and culture. The admission is \$3 for students.

## In Community Learning

# Journals invite soph thoughts

By Priya Sridhar

Associate editor

Encouraging sophomores to share their Community Learning experiences, new Community Learning Coordinator Susan Sheldon has stressed Learning Log journals as a valuable part of the Community Learning program.

"We've been playing team building activities in the sophomore advisories to get to know each other better and reading articles about issues in the community," Ms. Sheldon explained. "It's hard to make everyone enjoy every seminar thoroughly, but I want to get to the core of the group and get students more knowledgeable about the community in which they are serving."

After working for four years in innercity schools, Ms. Sheldon said she hopes to draw students closer to their sites by having them write in Learning Log journals, where they can reflect on their experiences at their sites.

Sophomores also share their thoughts with junior and senior Peer Leaders—students selected last spring for their commitment to community service and their eagerness to work with sophomores by leading the weekly seminars.

"The Learning Logs have 24 questions for the sophomores to answer about their experiences at their sites," Ms. Sheldon explained. "They can share grievances and successes and after they finish, I along with the Peer Leaders will read them. I think this will help me get better acquainted with the students and help me help them at their sites."

Peer Leaders will gather for a retreat Jan. 28-29 at the International Conference Center, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd. At the retreat Peer Leaders will assess what they have accomplished so far this year and project what programs they could pursue. Among the ideas are field trips for sophomores to significant communities around the city. Ms. Sheldon is coordinating the retreat.



Ms. Sheldon

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# What would you do for a U.M. sub?



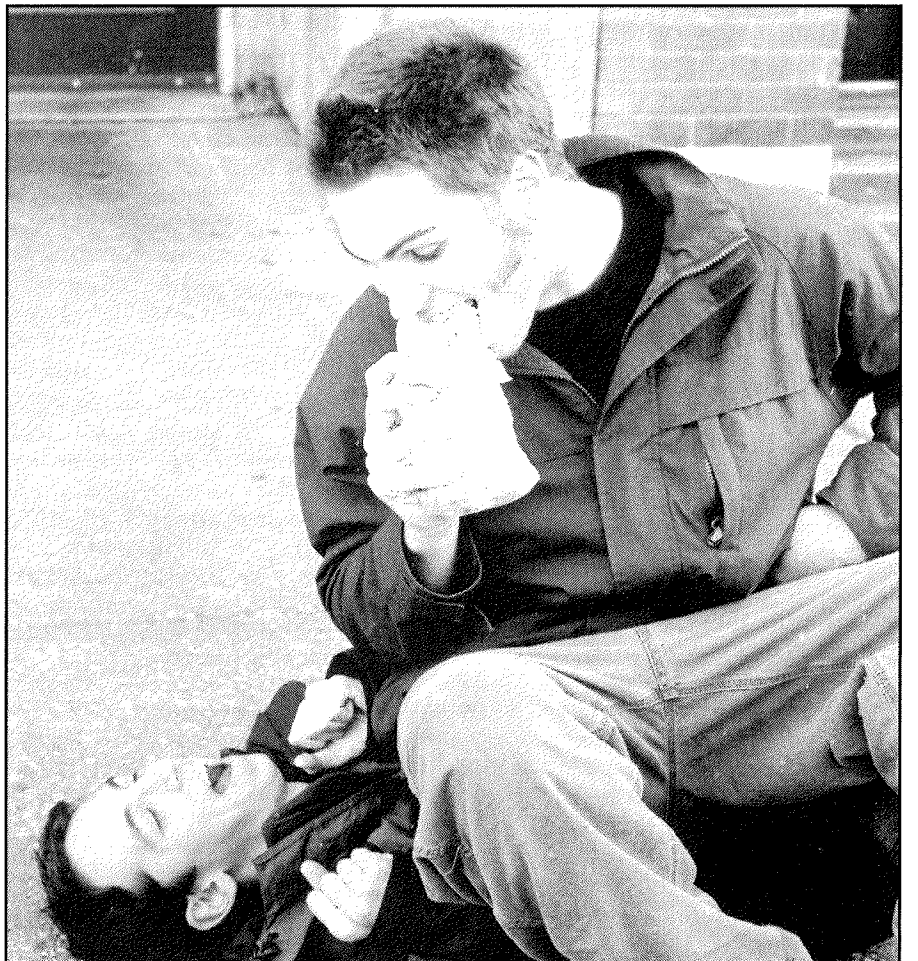
**HAVING NOT** eaten in a week, Senior Mike Drew was famished one recent day. Where did he turn to fill his prescription for good eats? U.M. of course where the sandwich meat is always piled high and the pickles are always in season! When Mike finally got his sandwich he was all set to grub, but then...



**OH NO!** It's Josh Levine! Josh has a reputation for stripping people's grub right after they purchase it. In fact, Josh has never purchased his own U.M. sub. He even took a sub from his own grandmother! Mike looks absolutely astonished! Will Mike let Josh get away with this? Naw...



**JUDGING BY** the **CRAAAZY** look in his eye, it doesn't even look like Josh will be able to get a bite before Mike uses him as hazing practice! Mike always gets his sandwiches ordered to perfection so he is deeply offended by this heinous act of treachery and disrespect. It will only be a matter of time before Mike delivers what he sees as a fitting reprimand.



*Photos By Betsy Kalven*

**LUCKILY FOR** Mike, Mac is nowhere near this illustration of true senior hazing. Josh's punishment? He has to watch as Mike devours the remainder of the delicious sandwich in his face. Josh's tummy happens to make a good seat as well. Nothing, not even a weak punk junior, is going to stop Mike Drew from downing his U.M. sub. Put one up in the win column for the seniors!!

## University Market

**1323 E. 57th St. ■ (773) 363-0070**

*Market open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Deli open 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m.*



## The holidays are rolling in... what a sweet time it is!

Yes, gift-giving can prove tough, but at Windy City Sweets it's, well, sweet! Come by and choose from great gift packages, homemade chocolates, fudge and more than 600 different candies! And while you're here, why not pick up some sweets for yourself? We offer ice cream, shakes, sundaes and hot chocolate for those cold winter days!

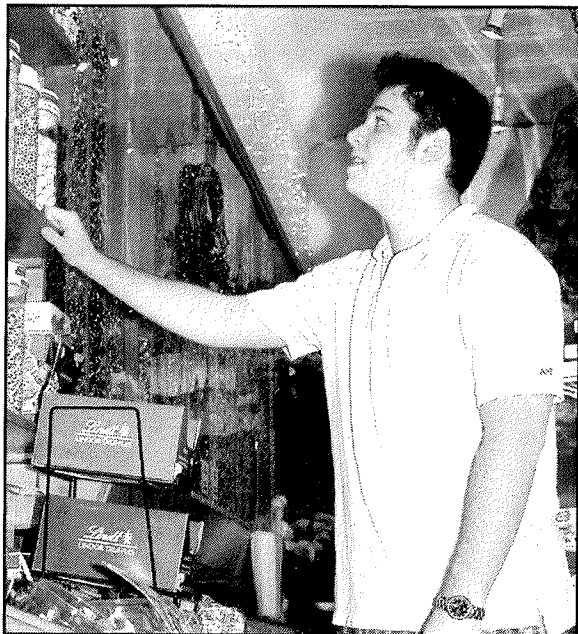


Photo by Emma Barber

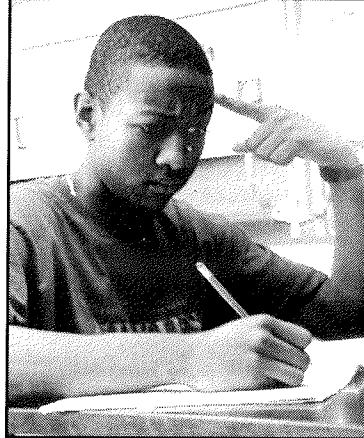
*A lover of fudge, Sophomore Nick Epstein has divine difficulty selecting from all the wonderful candies at Windy City Sweets.*



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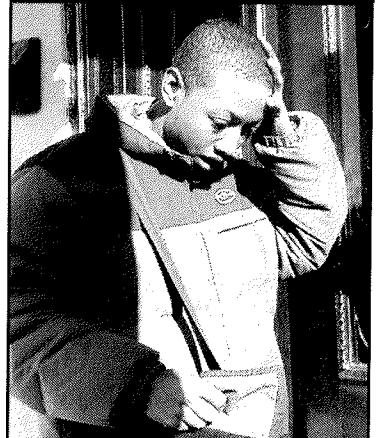
## A Stressful Situation...

### 8th Period...



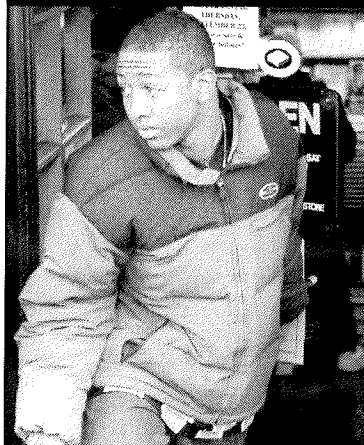
After skipping four reading assignments, Junior Jason Marsh realized he has an A.P. Meditation test... tomorrow.

### That evening...



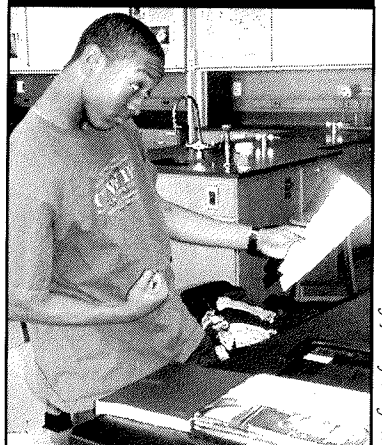
Unfortunately, Jason doesn't have the book he needs...

### At 57th St. Books..



... Luckily, 57th St. Bookstore is so close and convenient and has a wide array of books.

### Next Week...



Jason gets his test back... and thank heavens... no, thank 57th St. Bookstore... he got an A!

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Photos by Jennifer Sydel



## Giving is the Gift...



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# 18 ...continued

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2000

## Vacations

(continued from page 2)

West, his wife Judy, and his sons Jeremy '99 and Ben, celebrate Christmas every year with an advent log.

We lay a long log out on our buffet table and line it with 28 candles," Mr. West said. "Each night we light candles for however many days have passed, so we light one the first day, two the second day and so on until on Christmas Eve we light all 28 candles."

"Each night we also tell a story about Christmas. Sometimes adult neighbors come over, because they enjoy the tradition. Occasionally one of them or the kids will read a story, but for the most part it's just me who reads them."

"We started the tradition fifteen years ago as something to do together as a family. My wife Judy had heard of similar traditions and we thought the idea was cool."

History Teacher Susan Shapiro and her family have a special way of exchanging gifts on Hannukah.

"Each person in the family is obligated to give gifts to everyone else on

a certain day," Mrs. Shapiro said. "In choosing gifts, we think a lot about what the other people in the family really want. In receiving the gift, the pleasure is about the thought that goes into the gift, not the size or monetary value, but with most of the emphasis on giving, receiving becomes almost incidental."

For Librarian Mattye Nelson and her 15 year-old twin sons, the biggest part of their holiday celebrations are their Buddhist celebrations on New Year's.

"Every year we have a pajama party on New Year's Eve," Ms. Nelson said. "This started right after the boys were born. I had to stay in for New Year's Eve, because I didn't want to leave them alone, so I invited my friends over, and many of them also had babies. All the babies including the boys were in pajamas and since then, everyone has worn pajamas every year."

"Now the kids invite their friends over and they have virgin strawberry dacheries and the adults have Champagne. We also do Buddhist chants."

"On New Year's Day, the boys open presents that are better than their Christmas presents because they are big things that they really want, while the Christmas presents are smaller things like videos and clothes."

## Midway makes 'Top 40'

Last year's Midway was among 40 high school newspapers nationwide recognized for overall excellence with Pacemaker honors from the National Scholastic Press Association. Twenty of the newspapers won the top honor, the National Pacemaker award; the 20 others, including the Midway, received Pacemaker Finalist awards.

"The Midway has always done well in this program in years ending in zero," said Adviser Wayne Brasler. "It won National Pacemakers in 1970, 1980 and 1990."

The paper also won the National Pace-

maker award in 1968, 1972, 1984, 1991 and 1994. In the years Regional Pacemakers were awarded the Midway won in the Midwest region in 1983, 1984, 1987, 1990 and 1991.

"In all these years I've yet to figure out what the judges are looking for in this competition," Mr. Brasler said. "I've always found which papers will win totally unpredictable."

Last year's Midway was edited by Arielle Levin Becker, Bobby Stokes and Sonia Mittal, all 2000 graduates.

## The Beautician and the Gentleman

**I**n a fair November morn a young roughish knave surrendered to the constables incessant pleas to groom his hirsute self. He proceeded forth to Hair Design International where he knew he could be shorn for a miniscule sum.



**C**urse you, frappish wench! A thousand locust upon your estate! How dare you lay your meat-hooks upon my flaxen curls."

**I**gnoring Senior Enrique Comnitz's spiteful tongue the beautician proceeded.

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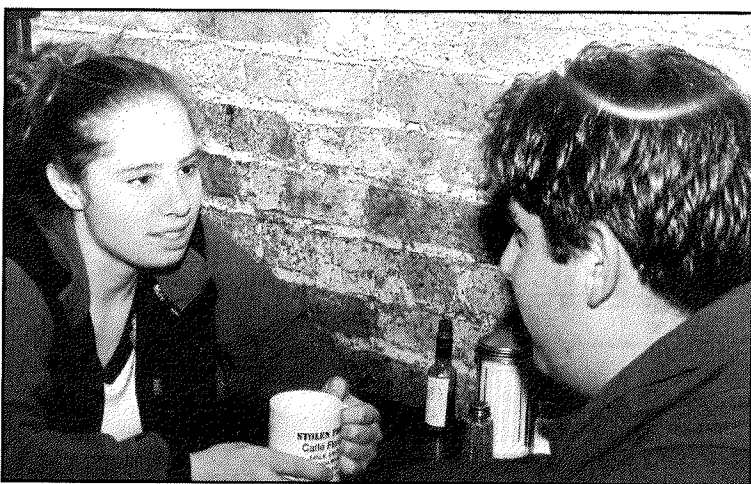


Photo by Tess Lantos

A COZY CUP of delicious hot chocolate as only Caffe Florian makes it creates a warm pause on a hectic day for Shira Peltzman and Ken Hecht.

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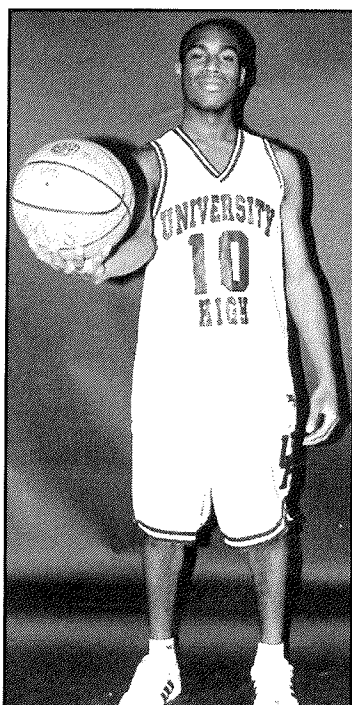
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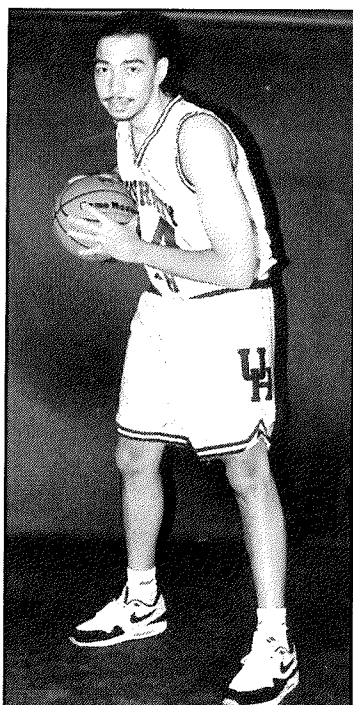
"Mr. McFarlane and I always treated the j.v. and varsity swimmers equally. This year I plan to do the same."  
—Boys' Swimming Coach Paul Gunty



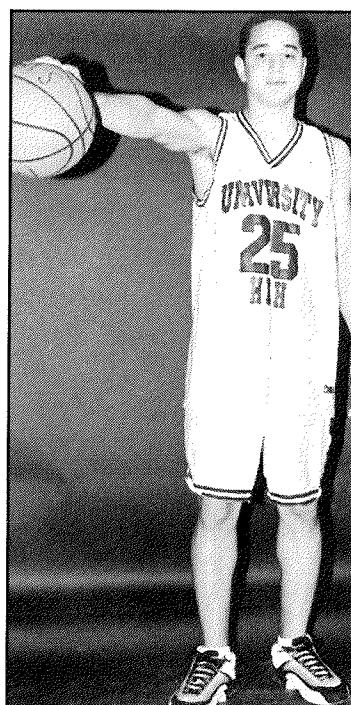
BOYS' HOOP SQUAD STARTERS



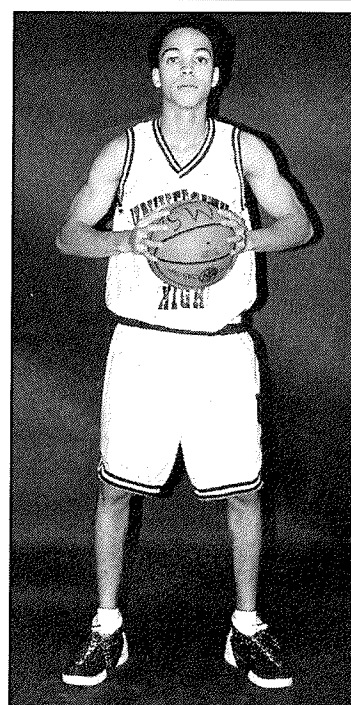
Ayinde Bennett



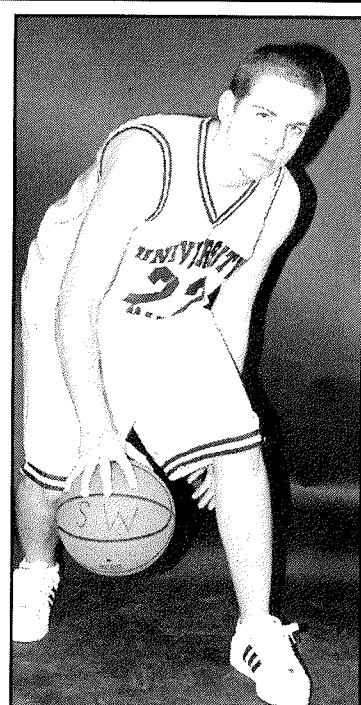
Mike McGehee



Greg Domingue



Chris Amos



Photos by Will Mittendorf  
Josh Musikantow

## Hoopsters start rebuilding task

By Amit Mittal  
Midway reporter

Hoping to win their opening game in Kovler Gym, the varsity boys' basketball team faces Independent School League giant Elgin Academy, 6 p.m. Thursday.

After five consecutive losses in the Mather Thanksgiving Tournament Nov. 20-29, the hoopsters looked to recover against St. Rita last Saturday (results after Midway deadline).

According to Varsity Coach Dan Dyra, former j.v. coach, the team needs experience and an identity. Seven of last year's 10 varsity players graduated, including all five starters.

Commented Senior Ayinde Bennett, "With our new coach and new players we have to work together to get some chemistry among us. We've played some tough teams so we should work off of that."

One advantage the Maroons have over last year is the new Kovler Gym. The two additional basketball courts let the team have a consistent practice schedule that allows them to have long, but early practices.

"It's a great opportunity to improve ourselves," said Junior Mike McGehee, cocaptain with Senior Josh Musikantow. "There's a better workout room where we can condition and we don't have to wait around for hours after school just to practice for an hour. This way, we're even able to have longer practices if needed."

## Swimmers target Latin

By Marty Kinsella  
Midway reporter

Their last meet represents the first piece of business for this year's boys' swimmers. After 11 years as assistant coach, Mr. Paul Gunty, assistant to the associate director, has taken over as coach from Dean of Students and Faculty Larry McFarlane.

The Maroons finished 3rd with 62 points in a three-team meet Dec. 1 against host Niles West (136) and Latin (113). The team next faces Riverside-Brookfield, away, 5 p.m. Friday.

Mr. Gunty said he plans to coach in the same fashion as Mr. McFarlane, who coached the team for 28 seasons.

"Mr. McFarlane and I always treated the j.v. and varsity swimmers equally," Mr. Gunty explained. "This year I plan to do the same, in practice and in meets."

Filling in the assistant coaching posi-

tion is Ms. Katie Vaughn, '96 graduate, who coached junior varsity girls this fall.

Twelve members return to the team, including Senior Cocaptains Robert and Joe Sellers. The rest of the team consists of four juniors, four sophomores and three freshman.

"We have most of the same swimmers from last year," Junior Dan Hoffman said. "We know what our strengths are. Our relays were great last year and Joe Sellers should do well in the 500-free, having set a U-High record for that event last year."

The schedule this year covers 12 more meets, the last of which is a dual meet with archrival Latin.

"Our most important meet will be against Latin," Junior Brian Gill said. "We are out to avenge last year's loss to the Romans. We've worked too hard not to get our revenge."

With his four-year coaching experience and with the help of his captains, Mr. Dyra, the fourth varsity coach in three years, hopes to get his team peaking at the end of the season.

First Year Math Teacher Jason Smith took over the j.v. coaching position this year and his team looks to rebound at home against Elgin Academy, 4:30 p.m. Thursday after a season opening 58-30 loss against Chicago International Charter School a week ago. Starting off well, j.v. hoopsters, consisting of one freshman, 10 sophomores and three juniors, will try to keep focused throughout the entire season.

"We're trying to work out the kinks before the ISL season starts," Mr. Smith said. "Then, the real games come and we'll see what this team's got."

J.V.ers played their second game of the season at St. Rita last Saturday (results after Midway deadline).

Starting out 2-1 at the Ridgewood Tournament Nov. 20-22, the freshman team will not play a game until the new year, a home contest against Holy Trinity, 4:30 p.m. Jan 4.

After a Nov. 30 home loss to De La Salle, 45-36 and a 48-25 road defeat to Chicago International Charter, the squad played last Thursday at Luther South (results after Midway deadline).

According to Freshmen Coach Gary Cowen, the team can rely on a foundation with standouts Bart Lazarczyk and Aaron Summers leading the 10 member squad.

## Winter Games

Remaining games for winter sports teams, subject to change, are as follows:

**BOYS' BASKETBALL** (Varsity and j.v. teams play unless indicated)—Elgin Academy, Dec. 14, home; Luther South Holiday Tournament, varsity only, Dec. 16-27; Holy Trinity, j.v. and freshmen only, Jan. 4, home; St. Benedict, including freshmen, Jan. 6, away; Lake Forest Academy, Jan. 9, away; Chicago International Charter, freshmen only, Jan. 10, away; Morgan Park Academy, varsity only, Jan. 12, away; Francis Parker, varsity and j.v., Jan. 16, home and Elgin Academy, freshmen only, away; Latin, including freshmen, Jan. 19, home; Holy Trinity, varsity only, Jan. 20, away; St. Gregory, Jan. 22, away; Francis Parker, freshmen only, Jan. 23, home; North Shore, Jan. 26, home; North Lawndale, including freshmen, Jan. 27, home; Elgin Academy, Jan. 30, away and St. Gregory, freshmen only, away; Elgin Academy, freshmen only, Feb. 1, home; Lake Forest Academy, Feb. 2, home; Latin, including freshmen, Feb. 3, away; Morgan Park Academy, varsity only, Feb. 6, home, and De La Salle, freshmen only, away; Francis Parker, including freshmen, Feb. 9, away; Luther South, Feb. 13, away; North Shore, Feb. 14, away; Regionals, Feb. 19-23.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL** (Varsity and j.v. teams play unless indicated)—St. Gregory, varsity only, Dec. 13, home; Chicago International Charter, j.v. only,

Dec. 13, home; Ridgewood Holiday Tournament, Dec. 18-20; Holy Trinity, j.v. only, Jan. 3, home; Lake Forest Academy, Jan. 5, away; Luther South, Jan. 9, home; Morgan Park Academy, varsity only, Jan. 12, home; Francis Parker, Jan. 16, away; Latin, Jan. 19, away; Holy Trinity, varsity only, Jan. 20, away; Willows, Jan. 23, home; St. Scholastica, Jan. 25, home; North Shore, Jan. 26, away; Morgan Park Academy, Jan. 29, away; Chicago International Charter, j.v. only, Jan. 29, away; Elgin Academy, Jan. 30, home; ISL Varsity Finals, Feb. 2; Regionals, varsity only, Feb. 5.

**BOYS' SWIMMING**—Riverside-Brookfield, Dec. 13, away; Lake Forest Academy, Jan. 5, home; Argo, Jan. 11, home; Riverside-Brookfield, Jan. 13, away; Evergreen Park, Jan. 20, away; Morton, Jan. 23, away; Evergreen Park, Feb. 1, home; Lake Forest Academy, Feb. 3, away; Latin, Feb. 9, away; Sectionals, Feb. 17; State Meet, Feb. 23-24.

**TRACK AND FIELD**—Morton, girls only, Feb. 8, away; Rich East, girls only, April 4, away; Lisle, April 7, away; Mooseheart, girls only, May 5, away and Lisle "Carlin Nalley" Meet, boys only, away; ISL Conference, May 8 at Lake Forest Academy; Girls' State Meet, May 18-20, Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill.; Boys' State Meet, May 25-26, Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Ill.

## Sports Briefs

■ **SPEEDING ALONG**—At the Class A State Cross Country Nov. 3 in Peoria, Sophomore Becky Levine finished 4th and received All State Honors.

■ **AND THE WINNER IS**—Senior Tiffany Northrop was chosen to represent U-High in the annual Willie White Foundation Award dinner in February. White, a former Olympic track champion, established the award to honor one outstanding female scholar athlete from each participating Chicago area high school.

■ **MOVING TO THE BEAT**—Preparing for their first performance at halftime of the first varsity boys' basketball home game tomorrow, the 22-member Dance Troupe will be led by Seniors Becca Nichols, Chakka Reeves and Lindsay Strong.

■ **SWIM FINALE**—Closing out the season with a 55-51 loss to Maria Nov. 6 followed by a 9th place finish at the Fenwick Sectionals Nov. 11, girl swimmers gained some experience for next season and only lose one member, Senior Emily Dorman.

■ **DRUM ROLL, PLEASE**—Six Coaches' Award winners were named at the Fall Sports Banquet Nov. 15. The award is given to athletes in recognition of excellence,

contributions to the team and sportsmanship. By sport, the winners are as follows:

Boys' soccer, Senior Joe Sellers; girls' tennis, Senior Adrienne Clark; girls' swimming, Senior Emily Dorman; girls' volleyball, Senior Jamie Jo Tyler; cross country, Senior Phil Knapp and Sophomore Becky Levine.

Other awards were also announced at the banquet and are as follows:

ISL Boys' Soccer Player of the Year: Joe Sellers; ISL Boys' Soccer All-Conference Honors: Carey Hynes, Isaac Redleaf, John Oxtoby, Nathaniel Meadow.

ISL Girls' Tennis Player of the Year: Adrienne Clark; ISL Girls' Tennis All-Conference Honors: Adrienne Clark, Emma Barber, Mara Ravitz, Shilpa Gulati, Jenny Heydemann, Katie Bolanowski, Claire Stewart, Lisa Jacobson.

ISL Cross Country Athlete of the Year: Becky Levine; ISL Cross Country All-Conference Honors: Jessie Sklarsky, Shelly Carr, Phil Knapp.

ISL Girls' Volleyball All-Conference Honors: Jamie Jo Tyler, Rebecca Diamond.

## Spice up your look for the new year

It's time to start anew at the 57th Street Salon because the new year is approaching. From haircuts and highlights to manicures and waxings, the Salon is bound to upgrade your image, or just cut your hair. And remember, all new clients get \$5 off haircuts Wednesdays through Saturdays, so stop by soon!



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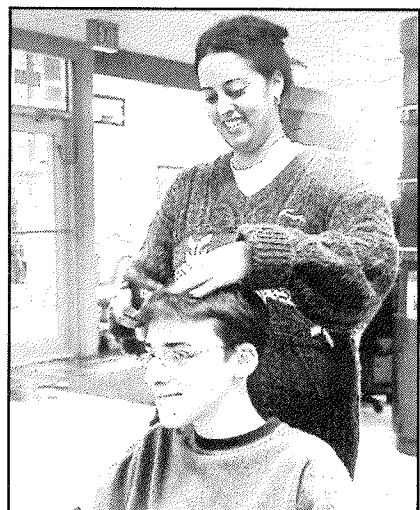


Photo by Jennifer Sydel

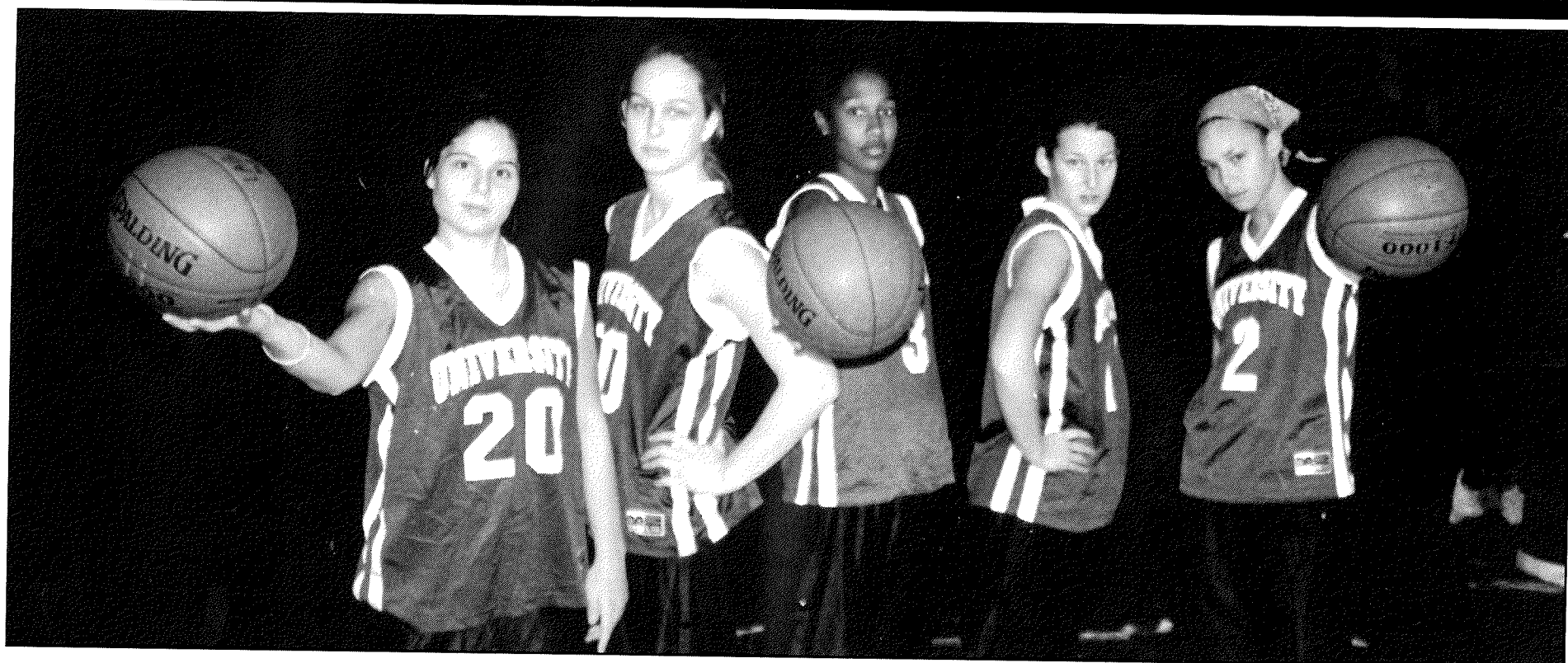
GIVING HIM the perfect look, Stylist Elizabeth Mahlum offers Ross Knorr a great haircut for the new year.





"Once we get started the kids lose any perceptions they once had of each other. They begin to trust themselves. And later, each other."

—Phys Ed Teacher Meghan Janda



**GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL** Starters Katie Shapiro, Rebecca Diamond, Claire Stewart, Tiffany Northrop and Shelly Carr. *Photo by Jennifer Sydel*

## Lady ballers get in shape for title

By **Annie Padrid**  
Midway reporter

At the sound of the buzzer the girls took off. They ran four sprints, from baseline to baseline of the basketball court, in less than 23 seconds. For some it's a third of a minute. But for the girls' varsity hoop squad 5-3 (2-1 ISL) it's the difference between an Independent School League (ISL) championship and a disappointing season.

"Keeping in shape has become our key to success as the ISL season picks up," explained Senior Katie Shapiro, cocaptain with Senior Tiffany Northrop.

With six of nine players showing up for the Madonna Thanksgiving tournament, the team has put new emphasis on a rigorous conditioning regimen, focusing on endurance.

"We only have nine players, so if one doesn't show for a game, we only have three subs," Katie said. "As the season progresses, our endurance will improve, but it's early, so it's a bit of a struggle right now."

With a best ever 2nd place finish at the tournament and three home conference games under their belt, including 55-27 and 51-37 wins over Parker and Woodlands, Dec. 1 and Dec. 6, respectively, the team remains confident, Tiffany said. In between those wins was a 37-48 loss to Latin Dec. 5.

According to Coach Joyce Stiles, winning ISL is a definite possibility.

"Running with Latin and MPA will be hard, but if we can do it, the title will be ours," Coach Stiles said.

"Tai Duncan, our leading scorer and cocaptain, graduated last year and Annie Padrid, our second leading scorer and other captain, has other commitments this winter, so we lost a lot of leadership and offensive skill. Now the team has to function as a whole, instead of individually and if we do that, we will be in a great position for the ISL title."

First-year J.V. Coach Meghan Janda has brought the squad to a 5-1 (3-0 ISL) record, for a strong start. After a 38-17 win over Madonna, Nov. 17, a 18-73

loss to Fenwick at the Trinity Thanksgiving Tournament, was followed up by a 47-23 victory over Mather.

"We dominated Mather and Madonna," Coach Janda said. "Girls at U-High know that discipline and focus are important when it comes to school work and they bring that same attitude to the court."

After a crucial 37-17 victory over defending champion Woodlands, Dec. 6, Sophomore Sydney Lawson believes the team is on its way to a title.

"We were expecting a lot more from Woodlands," she said. "They really weren't that good at all. Their key players have moved up to varsity, which took away their game. Coach Janda has done a great job preparing us and motivating us for our games. At this pace the title should be ours."

Scores not previously reported:

**Madonna Tournament**, Lourdes, 42-53; Madonna, 50-35; Mather, 53-38; St. Francis de Sales, 47-42; Lourdes, 35-50; Parker, Dec. 1, home: (38-17); Latin, Dec. 5, home: (36-25).

### Climbing the walls

## Courses put 'Adventure' in sports

By **Elizabeth Stigler**  
Sports editor

Scaling walls and building trust was all in a day's work for the 17 freshmen enrolled in Phys Ed Teacher Meghan Janda's Adventure Education class. The students tested their mental and physical abilities on an October field trip to Climb On!, a wall-climbing course in South Suburban Homewood.

Although Adventure Education is a new experience for U-Highers, it's actually part of a nationwide trend. Adventure Education incorporates such sports as kayaking and rock climbing with team and trust-building activities. Ms. Janda, who taught the first unit of the course

this fall, says her class focuses on trust building.

"Once we get started the kids lose any perceptions they once had of each other," Ms. Janda said. "They begin to trust themselves and later, each other."

Ms. Janda has also taken part in her share of team and adventure activities.

"Growing up, I was always having a great time in the Chicago Park District programs playing and interacting with other kids," Ms. Janda said. "Since then, I've loved working with people. I was an assistant teacher at Niles North High School and currently I'm taking a course in Adventure Education at Northeastern Illinois University. I'm glad that I've been able to bring it to U-High."

According to Athletic Director Karen Duncan the idea of the course has been brewing at U-High for years and came to fruition this year.

"We already had incorporated trust activities in other gym units and the teachers were thinking about doing Adventure Education here," Ms. Duncan said.

"It wasn't until Ms. Janda brought me information on the course that we decided to devote an entire gym class to Adventure Education."

"This winter we're going to have Phys Ed teachers Terry Green and Diane Taylor teaching adventure courses."

## New club bowls over with spirit

By **Michael Chandler**  
Midway reporter

Rolling across the smooth wooden planks of lane 9 at Diversey Bowl on Chicago's North Side, a ball barreled through all 10 pins. Sophomore John Oxtoby's stoic demeanor didn't waiver. It was his third strike in the 10th frame and as he returned to the scorer's table which was littered with the remnants of a greasy meal, John was greeted by his friends' raucous cheers. Sophomores Michael Snidal, Benji Fisher and Matt Rosenberg were feeling it.

At this lane, late last summer, these four boys had the idea for a Bowling Club. Finally founded earlier this school year, the club has grown to almost 20 sophomore and junior boys. Their first meeting, Oct. 17, drew members with a range of bowling abilities.

"Skill doesn't matter," said Michael, the club's president. "We're not here to bowl well. We're just here to bowl!"

After the success of the junior and sophomore trips to Diversey, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8, respectively, the club has come at a perfect time. Enthusiasm for the club has even drawn Biology Teacher Sharon Housinger to sponsor the club.

"Bowling with the sophomores and juniors was awesome," Ms. Housinger said. "Have a great time whenever I bowl, and I know it'll be the same with our club."



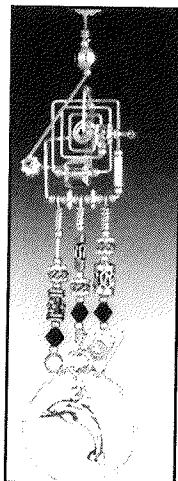
Ms. Housinger



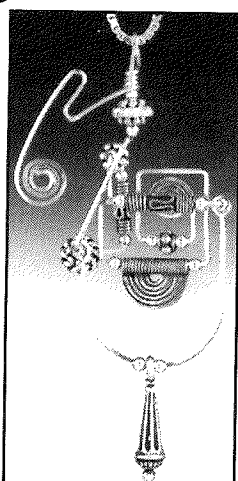
Michael

## GLAM UP THE HOLIDAY SEASON

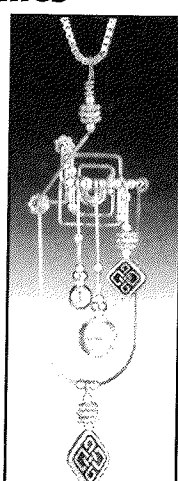
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"Recently more and more U-Highers have been getting involved in college athletics after they graduate. It's become contagious."  
—Athletic Director Karen Duncan



## Playing the COLLEGE GAME

Grads continue sports commitments with success

By Jules Federle  
Sports editor

In baseball, soccer, rugby and track, among other sports, recent U-High graduates are excelling in collegiate sports. Graduate athletes attribute their success to lessons learned at U-High through interviews by phone.

As a U-Higher, Emile Cambry, '98, played centerfield in baseball on the '98 team that went undefeated and won the league championship.

Now a junior at the University of Chicago, Emile says he has applied lessons he learned from former varsity baseball coach Jack Taylor in playing college baseball.

"I went to the University of Illinois at Champaign after graduating from U-High," Emile said. "I tried to walk on their baseball team. U. of I. is a Division I school which consistently places in the top 30 for baseball. I went out and played my hardest but I was cut from the team. It was discouraging but I knew I wanted to play ball in school."

"I remembered all the hard work I put in and the countless hours I spent with Jack, working on my swing, my throw, everything. I wasn't gonna give up, so last year I transferred to the University of Chicago and I started playing ball here."

"Now I start at centerfield for the varsity squad. When I came here I was really surprised at how good the players at the U. of C. were. I thought the team

was gonna be a bunch of nerds, like the ones you see at the Reynolds Club, but man, these guys can really play."

"Everyone here has drive and determination like I've never seen before. This year'll be especially interesting though. Sam Kass, '98, a guy I've been playing ball with since 7th grade, transferred here this year. It'll be awesome being able to play with him again."

With 114 goals at U-High, Andy Rosenband, '99, four year varsity soccer midfielder and winner of just about every honor he could win, said he experienced a wakeup call his freshman year at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

"Adjusting to the level of play here at Wake wasn't that difficult," said Andy, whose Demon Deacons were consistently ranked in the top five in the nation last year. "It was a matter of getting use to the pressure and intensity here. We're a Division I soccer school. There's no room for screwing up, because there'll always be someone to take your spot on the team."

"Looking back at soccer, the thing I miss the most is the friendly competition. At U-High we'd get so pumped to play Latin or Parker, we knew the guys from Parker or Latin so the rivalries were always fun. Now it's not about rivalries. It's about national titles."

Excelling in both soccer and swimming at U-High, Christina Cantwell,



Photo courtesy of Katie Sklarsky

**NOW AT CONNECTICUT College, Katie Sklarsky, '99, runs on the**

**school's cross country team and is number 169 at this meet.**

'98, a junior at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, decided she needed a change of pace in college.

"I've swam and played soccer since I was 6 years old," Christina said. "I just needed something different and rugby was completely new to me. It's sort of like a nonstop game of football, except you can only pass backwards."

"I'm really competitive and rugby is an aggressive and tough sport. I knew I'd love it. Now I'm the president of the club. I'm even responsible for putting the lineup together."

Now a sophomore at Connecticut College in New London, Katie Sklarsky, '99, who ran in the State Meet at

U-High, has continued her passion for running on her school cross country team.

"I've always loved running," Katie said. "Cross country in college was the next logical step after I graduated from U-High. Cross country here is amazing."

"We're a nationally-ranked team so there's definitely a lot of pressure to do well. When I first started running here I was blown away at how good everyone was. I just remembered Mr. James (Cross Country Coach Bud James) explaining how no matter where you place you're important to the team's success. I don't know where I'd be now without that type of encouragement echoing in my head."

## Playing the money game

STATISTICS THESE DAYS in professional sports, such as home runs, touchdowns and goals scored are being replaced by cars, mansions, private jets and dollar signs.

Professional athletes are no longer compared by their performance, but by the money they make. Sports fans almost feel

signs him provide him with a private jet, a personal staff to help market his own line of apparel, his own personal office, a billboard dedicated to him and first-class accommodations in hotels on the team's road trips.

Although professional athletes donate money to charities, I can't remember the last time a man needed \$40,000 every time he stepped up to the plate. When athletes' playing days are over, they play golf, a strenuous lifestyle for anyone, not just the athletically talented.

Rodriguez isn't the only athlete asking for more money than the government of Tajikistan. Tiger Woods earned \$10 million this year, but is asking for a portion of the PGA's money because of publicity he attracts.

Athletes will claim that they deserve more money for the fans they attract. Some owners, however, argue that since there is a league minimum, there should be a league maximum. Once an athlete earns a certain amount of money, there is no reason for those extra millions. A possible solution is to have owners donate some of the money saved by a league maximum to charity.



**Press Box**

**Kian Dowlatshahi**

sorry for the basketball player who makes the

league minimum of \$300,000 a year.

As of early this month, several teams were looking to sign Seattle Mariners Shortstop Alex Rodriguez to a ridiculously lucrative deal which would give him the biggest contract in sports history. The money Rodriguez wants—\$240 million for a span of 12 years—would even be more than some teams' entire payroll for that time.

He is also demanding that the team that

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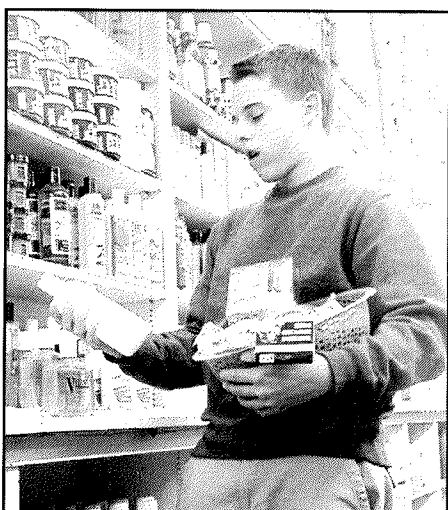


Photo by Jennifer Sydel

"I CAN'T BELIEVE all this great stuff all costs less than a dollar!" exclaimed Freshman Laurent Varlet with excitement.

## Give Mom A Break!

**Don't let mom slave over the stove again. Take some advice from Sophomore Karin Brummell and surprise mom tonight. Take her out for a delicious Chinese dinner at Triple Crown Seafood Restaurant.**



Photos by Shubra Ohri

**The Brummells love Triple Crown because they can get anything from noodles to seafood all prepared with tender loving care. They also love the quality time they spend with each other on the way.**

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# 22 photofeature

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DEC. 12, 2000



"Photographing this page was pure joy. The magic of the season filled us even though it was right after Thanksgiving and all the decorations seemed a little premature. We didn't see as much of holidays other than Christmas as we would have liked. This time of year, after all, is a time for many celebrations."

—Juniors Satya Bhabha and Betsy Kalven  
who took the photos for, and produced, this page

## Season's Best

Chicago's Loop and North Michigan Avenue become a holiday wonderland the minute Thanksgiving has finished off its last drumstick (actually, in recent years the minute the Halloween pumpkin burns its last candle). Here are the holiday moods of the Windy City in photographs by Betsy Kalven, Midway photography editor, and Satya Bhabha, executive photo editor.

*This shopper (photo below) is color coordinated with the ladies in the fancifully-decorated store window. The fashion windows have become as prevalent as the fairy-tale-styled displays with moving characters at the major department stores.*



*Outside Crate and Barrel's Michigan Avenue store, Tanisha Jones, a Salvation Army volunteer in her sixth year, rakes in the dough-nations.*



*Persuasive, smooth-talkin' Emmanuella Duwayne (photo above) treats Abe Goldstein from Wilmette to a twinkling-toes-and-shining-soles job, well polished off.*

*Glamorous holiday fashions (photo below) adorn Michigan Avenue mannequins safe and warm in the winter wonderland of a Ralph Lauren window.*



*Sometimes the simplest decoration prove most beautiful.*

*It's in the details.*

Happy Holidays  
from the  
Midway staff!