HOW IT ALL ADDS UP (and how it all went down)

It's said the school will put a limit on classes

By Amber Salch
Editor-in-Chief

With all the recent hubbub regarding time management and work overload, results of preliminary tallying of class schedules following registration show the percentage of students taking eight classes—10 percent—has roughly stayed the same. Administrators, teachers and students have told the Midway they are unsure of what happened and what to do next.

In various faculty meetings, teachers agreed that students should be held to not more than seven courses. Although, according to guidance counselors, students cannot be denied another class, they advocate against such schedules.

"I was watching students sign up for classes at registration and many of them have chosen very difficult schedules," said Math Department Chairperson Cathy Feldman. "I don't understand it. Students complain that they have too much work but when you recommend that they lessen their class load, they don't listen."

Administrators also feel it is difficult to convince students they should limit themselves to seven classes.

"Someone put it best to me when they compared registration with being a child in a candy store," said Principal Jack Knap. "There are so many goodies that you want and students feel like if they don't try them all then they won't be given any later."

Many U-Highers indicated they felt any attempt to limit the number of classes a student can take is misguided.

"I don't think that the administration should try to limit the number of classes students take because it depends on what type of classes they're taking," said Junior Chlo Connolly. "I also don't think that faculty and administrators should limit the classes we take because they think we won't be able to handle it on our own."

AFTER WAITING in chaotic lines to get signatures at junior class registration, Juniors Jenny Heydemann and Julia Betley took a break to talk with Guidance Counselor Bob Bachand. U-Highers had to get signatures from their individual subject teachers who sat at tables in Judd 126. Registration days were Feb. 28, March 1 and March 2 during lunch for next year's seniors, juniors and sophomores respectively.

Students registered last month and this is what happened

By Jordana Zachary
Associate editor

As the number of students taking full courseloads for next year is about the same as last year, according to a Midway check of class signup lists, it seems adult concerns about student workloads so far has not yet made a significant impact. While there has been much discussion recently among faculty and administrators on limiting courseloads to five majors and two minors, many teachers believe drawing up guidelines for a general limit has proven difficult as individuals can handle different amounts of work.

Talking to students before giving advice on limits, Advisory Coordinator Susan Shapiro, history teacher, feels that some circumstances justify taking eight classes.

"Some reasons for taking eight classes might include if someone has a really strong academic record and wants to squeeze in Photojournalism or take two math's," Mrs. Shapiro said. "When we help students plan their schedules, we look to see if a student can handle that kind of load and still have a life."

Faculty members observed that with each adult signature required for registration, approval of the courseload takes place.

"I look over everyone's schedule and make sure they are meeting requirements and are not taking on too much, in which case I would question their motives," said Guidance Counselor Bob Bachand. "With all the signatures required for successful registration, there are many people reviewing each student's schedule. I thoroughly look over every schedule I sign and see if it is an appropriate load for that person."

Some students, however, such as Sophomore Zack Turnbull, had their packed schedules approved without too much difficulty.

"I am taking eight classes next year, including Peer Leading," Zack said. "No one ever tried to dissuade me or tell me I was taking on too much."

Zach says he would have welcomed such a different perspective.

And the fallout for elective programs?

By Marty Kinsella
Midway reporter

Elective programs evidently did not get any fallout from renewed interest in the school in limiting student workloads.

Classes which provide elective credits, such as journalism, always seem to survive, even when U-Highers are squeezing them into already-packed schedules, even if that means sneaking them in by registering for them in the fall.

"Through the years, no matter what was done, right down to making journalism an elective satisfying no departmental graduation credit, there has always seemed to be enough interest to keep it going even and getting bigger," said Journalism Teacher Wayne Michael Brasier. "When I heard all the talk about being strict about courseloads I thought maybe we'd get three people coming into the program next fall and that journalism might just start rolling toward an end. As it turns out, we have as many students enrolled in Beginning Journalism as last year. I'm among those who feel the school needs to take a strong hand in limiting courseloads even though I recognize what the consequences might be for a program such as journalism. For now, we still have our enrollment."

READ ALL ABOUT IT

The discussion continues

STUDENTS, teachers and parents share thoughts on student workload, cheating and related issues, including the possibility of an honor code. ... Pages 13 and 14

Record stores can be an experience

TAKE A TRIP with the Midway to emporiums of alternative music, where the customers are as interesting as the albums... Page 7

Tomorrow’s prep school today

THE MIDWAY JOURNEYS to Northside Prep, one of the Chicago Public School system’s shining showpieces, and discovers a school that can give the best private institution a run for their money (in more ways than one)... Pages 8 and 9

Drug use and education

NATIONALLY, drug use among high school students is down. At U-High the drug education program built carefully over many years seems down and out. What happened?... Pages 10

Photographer, artists and some fun

THE UPSIDE DOWN TYPE gives the answer to Photjoournalist Will Mittendorf’s visual guessing game and U-High’s Japantown enthusiasts share their talents... Pages 14 and 15

It’s the Channel 5 news at 10

AND YOU ARE THERE, in the studio... Page 16
Voices sound on cheating

Though some students and teachers offered proposals, where the school needs to go now that student workload, cheating and related issues have reached the discussion stage remains uncertain. Teachers are worried about disparities between students and faculty over the nature of cheating, said Faculty Chairperson Rosa McCullagh. “Faculty don’t believe that the statistics in the Midway were exactly right, but its clear there is a problem,” Mrs. McCullagh said. “What worries us is that we haven’t heard students say cheating is wrong. Students say the system is flawed, so there’s nothing wrong with cheating. Or there is a lot of pressure and they have to cheat to deal with the pressure. Or there is no one Nagging them from cheating so why shouldn’t they do it. The students not saying this is morally wrong worries us.”

With almost 40 students, parents and teachers attending each of three Communications Committee meetings about cheating Feb. 28, March 7 and March 8. Communications Committee Cochairperson Dan Hoffman, junior, said that the goal of the meetings was to foster communication. “Basically, the Communications Committee is a place where students, faculty and parents can talk, so we want every perspective and possible solution for the topic,” Dan explained. “We want to come out with realistic ideas with which everyone agrees. We may not come out with a concrete solution, but we will come out with new ideas about how students and parents perceive the problem.”

Students at the communications committee meetings expressed their wishes for change. Junior Class President Sam Firke said he feels the Communications Committee meetings are useful, but he also believes action is necessary. “The bottom line is that there needs to either be an honor code or there need to be harsher punishments,” Sam said. “The Communications Committee meetings have worked out well, though. I think Mrs. Holbrook said it best: ‘It is good to have everything out in the open.’” While satisfied that people are thinking about the topic, Midway Editor-in-Chief Mike Lamb, senior, said current discussions are only the beginning. “I’m pleased there has been a reaction and that people are taking this seriously,” Mike said. “The attendance at the Communications Committee meetings shows that everyone is interested. I do think, however, that students might not be ready to change their ways and that teachers aren’t ready to admit they don’t know the students as well as they thought they did. Usually, you’d expect the teachers to accuse students of cheating. But here, the students are saying, ‘we’re cheating’ and some teachers are in effect saying, ‘No, you’re not’. We’re at a fork in the road. Is this a turning point at U-High? Or is this just a two month hiatus from the norm?”

While satisfied that people are thinking about the topic, Mr. McFarlane said the conference was informative, he also believes that U-High isn’t ready for an honor code. “The school where the conference was held was immaculate. The cafeteria floors looked like you could eat off of them. The biggest difference between the other schools and U-High was that those schools had a pride among their student body that our school doesn’t have.” While Mr. McFarlane said the conference was informative, he also believes that U-High isn’t ready for an honor code. “One concept we need total involvement, with dialogue between students, faculty and parents.”

Dean attends conference on honor codes

U-High probably isn’t ready for an honor code, but plenty of schools have them. Discussing different honor code and honor council possibilities, Dean of Faculty and Students Larry McFarlane attended a conference sponsored by Council for Spiritual and Ethical Education at St. Andrews High School in Boca Raton, Fla. Feb. 3-5. Attended by student and teacher representatives from 17 schools around the country, all of which had honor codes or honor councils.

“I wonder if the conference because since I started this job, I’ve wondered what we could do to make the school more hospitable,” Mr. McFarlane said. “The school where the conference was held was immaculate. The cafeteria floors looked like you could eat off of them. The biggest difference between the other schools and U-High was that those schools had a pride among their student body that our school doesn’t have.” While Mr. McFarlane said the conference was informative, he also believes that U-High isn’t ready for an honor code. “One concept we need total involvement, with dialogue between students, faculty and parents.”

Principal sees progress

Student voice growing

With student participation in school decisions such as Student Handbook revisions as one of his main goals, Principal Jack Knapp feels progress has been achieved in involving students in different aspects of school administration.

With students on the Discipline Board, Technology Committee, and a Student Handbook revisions committee, Mr. Knapp feels he has come a long way towards his goal. “It is important to hear the students’ voice,” Mr. Knapp explained. “This particularly applies to issues like the Discipline Committee, the revisions of the Student Handbook and curricular requests.”

But confidentiality is really important. For example, if students wanted to have a new course added, they should be involved in the discussion over whether the course is added, but it’s not appropriate to have them present for a discussion of personnel and funding.

“There are points where any committee needs to be completely adult,” Receiving all aspects of school represen the ultimate goal, Mr. Knapp said. “The goal is to have significant student influence on the issues that are important to them. If there is an area where we aren’t trying to create an avenue for student involvement in the decision making processes, I’d like to know about it.”

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<td>Annual Event and Program Chairs (e.g. Connections, Innisbrook Gift Wrap, Rites of May)</td>
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Nominations are due by SUNDAY, APRIL 8 and should be submitted to Phoebe Naoum by phone (773-324-2505), e-mail (NOEFAR@colom.com), or mail (5421 S. Cornell #6, 60615).
"I'm looking forward to serving on the Discipline Board and I'm going to be as fair and objective as possible." — Junior Claire Stewart, newly-appointed Discipline Board representative.

New dean ready to tackle role

By Jules Federle
Associate editor

With more student participation in the decision-making process, better use of technology, an improved senior year experience and student overload among the issues she'd like to address, the school's newly-appointed Academic Dean, Math Teacher Cathy Feldman, is hoping to make significant progress for the school in her new position.

Ms. Feldman was selected from four candidates by a faculty-student interview committee chaired by Dean of Students Larry McFarlane. The committee made their recommendation to Principal Jack Knapp, who reported the decision to Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz. The decision was announced March 7.

Ms. Feldman is looking forward to her new role. "I would like to work on a couple things," she said. "I'd really like to develop the Curriculum Committee. I'd like to see more student input in that committee."

Ms. Feldman also hopes to see more big agenda topics like how to better use the technology we already have. The curriculum committee is a great vehicle for discussion between students, faculty and administrators. "I'd like to try to make it even more effective."

"Another thing I'd like to do is review senior year and ways we can make the last few months more worthwhile. I've read about schools which allow seniors to do huge group projects. I'd like to look into doing something like that at U-High."

"Students feeling overburdened is another area Ms. Feldman will look at. "One of the things I'd like to address is the problem that U-Highers have regarding too much stress," she continued. "I do understand that the courses at U-High are quite rigorous but at the same time student need to be honest with themselves."

Sometimes students overburden themselves. They don't make realistic choices in terms of the number of classes they take. There are a lot of solutions out there. We need to look at all the perspectives."

Ms. Feldman said she is realistic about just how much can be accomplished. "I understand that no plan, for anything, is perfect," she said. "What works for one school might not work for another."

"We have to be realistic and understand that if something doesn't work we can still fix it. Everything should be open to change."

"We just have to find what works the best for U-High."

Peer Leaders to attend learning conference in Denver

By Jessica Fridstein
Midway reporter

Participating in programs and presenting their own program, Peer Leaders will attend the National Service Learning Conference, April 4-7 in Denver.

The conference draws high school and college students, teachers and government groups from across the nation, with a large percentage presenting programs.

The conference is sponsored by the National Youth Leadership Council. Juniors Nikita Barci and Nicky Singh and Community Learning Coordinator Susan Sheldon will present a program about Peer Leading, including service learning and establishing relationships with the community. They have titled it "Education Beyond the Classroom Walls."

U-Highers have attended the conference for the past eight years and have brought back ideas for new projects such as "Feed the Flame," and "Empty Bowls," which benefit hunger sites.

A proposal to the faculty from Peer Leaders Tiffany Northrop and Hannah Lantos, seniors, to follow up this quarter with a schoolwide diversity workshop conducted three years ago was returned by the faculty at its Feb. 6 meeting.

Faculty members felt the idea needed better planning to ensure a positive reception from the student body.

"Since the students who have been in charge of this are graduating this year, someone new needs to take over the project," Ms. Sheldon said.

"We haven't really discussed who will do it at this point. We are hoping someone will take an interest in following through with it."

Speaker to discuss what it's like being multiracial at assembly

By Jordan Rummel
Midway reporter

Are you confident in knowing your race? You may think so, but what if you were to find out that you had some blood that you didn't know about? Some U-Highers may find a way to answer this question or learn what it is like being multiracial at an assembly.

Thursday, April 5, sponsored by the faculty's People of Color Committee. An after-school program will be presented for the faculty.

The assembly and faculty program were created by Ms. Ilana Kaufman, a U.S. History teacher at Lick-Wilmerding High School in San Francisco, Calif., who has developed multicultural teaching programs and curricula for colleges, professional development programs and independent school organizations.

Ms. Kaufman was invited to speak by Middle School Humanities Teacher David Harris.

"I saw Ms. Kaufman present the results of a study on multicultural kids at the People of Color conference a few years ago," Mr. Harris said. "I was impressed with her results, and since then we have been trying to arrange for her to speak at the school."

Through the assembly the People of Color Committee hopes to help multiracial students affirm their heritage and inform others about being multiracial.

Mr. Harris said. Ms. Kaufman will speak with multiracial students about how different it is not being of one race.

In the faculty program Ms. Kaufman will speak to teachers about their views on multiracial students and issues.

Board gets freshmen

Replacing Seniors Tiffany Northrop, Hannah Lantos and Jo Budzilowicz on the Discipline Board for this quarter, Freshmen Laura Osbouy and Nee Shawaf were elected by their class just before spring break began. The Board's charter provides for freshmen to join spring quarter and the senior representatives to leave.

Junior Claire Stewart was also elected to join classmates Mike McGehee and Chris Amos to fill the third vacated position.

U-Highers SAY they will miss Ms. Cathy Feldman as a math teacher in the classroom but are happy she was chosen as Academic Dean. Here Ms. Feldman chats with J.A. Redfield about a favorite subject for both, math.

Photo by Shubra Olery

Locked in Mortal Kombat, Dan Levine and Jackson Cheung fight over where to spend a double lunch.

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The lockin was a tremendous success. Everything went smoothly, as we had hoped. We showed the people who ended the tradition of lockins in 1998 that we were mature enough to handle the responsibility.

"Junior Retreat will be an ideal time for us to bond," said Junior Class President Sam Firke. "As a class we realize that we will make some important decisions in our lives during the next year and unity as a group will make us stronger.

After an entire night of dancing, movies, basketball, indoor soccer, badminton and volleyball, 67 juniors left Sunny Gym Saturday morning, March 3, following the first lockin since 1998. "The lockin was a tremendous success," Sam said. "Everything went smoothly, as we had hoped. We showed the people who ended the tradition of lockins in 1998 that we were mature enough to handle the responsibility."

Despite support for his foreign policy, Bush's domestic plans including his tax cuts receive negative feedback. Mr. Clem, former six-year state representative and father of Freshman Clem, feels that Bush's tax plan only helps rich Americans. "Bush wants to give the wealthiest of the wealthy a tax break," Mr. Balanoff said. "We need to pay down the debt. There should be more money for education and a healthy middle class. I don't think that one thing he's done's that any good." After watching Bush's address to Congress Feb. 27, History Teacher Diane Puklin said she was intrigued by the image he has created for himself. "I thought his manner was collegial and friendly," Ms. Puklin said. "He projects himself as laid back and easy to work with. His whole demeanor as a non-intellectual is well-crafted. "It's a way of marketing himself because Americans have a long tradition of being against anything intellectual. He made a very troubling statement, though. He said he was going to rely on tests as a basis for measuring children's learning. He responded to the problem of teaching for a test by saying that's what the test should be testing and dismissing the problem.

For President Bush

Mixed marks

By Abigail Newman

Associate editor

While new President George W. Bush's policy on Iraq receives good reviews from U-Highers, many in the U-High community don't support his domestic plans. Several liberal U-Highers said they felt surprised when they agreed with Bush's policy on Iraq.

Although Junior Carolyn Nelson disagreed with Bush's decision to bomb Iraq, she supports his firm policy. "I agree with Bush's hard line position on sanctions," Carolyn said. "I don't think we should compromise with Saddam Hussein as long as the sanctions are sensitive to the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi citizens who shouldn't be harmed. Bush's position is necessary for keeping security in the Middle East. However, I don't think we should be bombing them."

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"I need to raise $2,500, so I sent a letter to

Wishing you all the best of luck with your new position as Academic Dean!

The Salch Family Foundation
Committees working on school evaluation

By Jessica Heyman
Midway reporter

Examining aspects of the school's programs and constituencies, faculty members are preparing reports within 17 committees—some including parents—assessing Lab Schools' strengths and challenges for an Independent Schools Association of Central States (ISACS) self-evaluation.

A cooperative accreditation agency for private schools, ISACS recommends that schools conduct an evaluation every seven years. The first step of the process consists of a self-study. In the second step a visiting team of educators compares what the school says it does to what it actually does. After receiving recommendations from the team, the school responds, documenting how it will put them into effect. The Lab Schools team will visit in October.

Committee reports are due the end of the school year. Departments will submit their reports next fall. All major recommendations in the last evaluation, completed in 1994-95, have been addressed, said Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz.

"The team asked that we have a written curriculum. We did," Ms. Katz said. "They asked for better orientations for new students and parents. We started some. They wanted more ways for students to get together, both within their grade and more schoolwide. We started newsletter and assemblies for students to see more of each other, but we've gone a step beyond by evaluating their success and trying to reform them."

"A more difficult problem to solve is communication within the school. That will take a while to solve, but I think we've made a good start with the Communications Committee."

The only major recommendation left undone is renovating the science labs, which "we're raising funds for right now."

In the past, the ISACS evaluation was conducted concurrently with a similar evaluation for the North Central Association of Central States, an accreditation coalition for midwestern high schools.

The format of the NCA study has been changed, according to Mr. Paul Gunty, associate to the assistant director and ISACS self-study steering committee cochairperson with Lower School Teacher Maureen Ellis. It will be conducted separately in the 2002-03 school year. Schools now select three areas of focus, with departments determining strategies for improving students' capabilities in those areas.

SAT discussion makes waves

By Marty Kinsella
Midway reporter

With the University of Illinois chiming into a growing national debate on the worthiness of Scholastic Aptitude Test scores in college admissions, U-Highers have joined the discussion.

The SATs became big news when University of California systems President Richard C. Atkinson proposed to his education board that SAT scores be eliminated as an admission consideration, beginning with the 2002-03 school year. His goal would be reducing what he judges as detrimentally growing emphasis on test-taking at the expense of quality education in high schools.

The proposal rated a cover story in Time Magazine and extensive coverage and commentary in the nation's leading newspapers.

"Time involved during school was not aimed at developing students' reading, writing and mathematical abilities by high school teachers, but rather their test-taking skills," Dr. Atkinson wrote in his proposal to the University of California education board after observing several high schools and their programs. SATs would not be entirely eliminated under Dr. Atkinson's proposal.

The university would still use scores from the SAT I, a collection of tests designed to evaluate knowledge in a certain subject for their admission purposes.

Guidance Director Patty Kovacs explained the difference of the two exams for the Midway.

"The SATs are different from the SAT I in that they test academic achievement while the SAT I tests aptitude," she said, adding, "The SAT II is, however, flawed as well. "Both tests are biased financially and economically. "A test like the SAT I is often a limited measure of how a student will do academically at a school. Removing it would help lift some biases in the application process, but presently there is no real solution to the problem."

Many U-Highers would welcome less emphasis on the SATs.

"It would be nice not to have to take the SAT I," said Junior Josh Levine, who has taken three SAT preparation courses already. "But with getting into college being so competitive, I really have no other choice. So in order to test well, I feel the need to spend time on test prep, even if it is reflected in my grades."

"The classes, although time consuming, I believe will definitely help me when I take the test."
Assemblies big projects

by Nora Becker

Midday reporter

For two weeks, the real question the Jewish Students’ Association had about a Holocaust assembly was whether there would even be one.

When clubs decide to sponsor assemblies, they often have to face tough choices, leaders say.

“Some people in JSA worry that the Holocaust is the only thing people identify with Judaism,” said Senior Hannah Lantos, JSA vice president and planning committee cochairperson with Senior Dan Solow, JSA president.

“We want people to see not only remembrance of the Holocaust but also the fun, celebratory side of Judaism,” said Senior Nikolai Barnes, JSA president.

“It was relatively easy to prepare for this assembly,” said Senior Hannah Garber-Paul, Gayla president with Senior Joyce Li. “About Face Theater does outreach to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth by taking their performances to schools and educating students about the issues; this year the subject is gay marriage.”

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assembly, sponsored by the Black Students’ Association, is the oldest club sponsored assembly. It includes songs, poems, and speeches presented by members of other school clubs. Another BSA sponsored assembly, the Kwanzaa assembly, educates students about the African holiday.

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New clubs beckon devotees

by Natalie Bekkouche

Midday reporter

From polo to politics, new clubs at U-High offer something for everyone.

Hopeing to impart knowledge about Ireland and Northern Ireland, the Irish Students Association led by Juniors Nik Lund and Rachel Lee with faculty adviser Rosa McCallagh, math teacher, will share Irish-American culture.

In the Culinary Club, Junior Erik Voit and Faculty Adviser Jason Smith, math teacher, will teach about different cultures, cook and eat.

In the outdoors, Sophomore Spencer Lazar and faculty adviser Meghan Janda, phy ed teacher, have founded the Rock Climbing Club.

While learning strategies and paddle grips, the Ping Pong Club, led by Seniors Jeremy Schmidt and Ricky Townsend with faculty adviser John O’Connor, English teacher, hopes to take a field trip to Chinatown for a Chinese National Team Exhibition Tournament.

The Water Polo Club, led by Sophomores Jorm Cheney and Zach Frey with faculty adviser Paul Guntz, assistant to the associate director, plan to compete.

Discussing Constitutional rights and historical issues, the Young Conservatives Club is led by Junior Eitan Kerosky and faculty adviser Andrea Martonfgy, history teacher.

Uprising, led by Freshman Vera Mirkina and faculty adviser William Balan-Gaubert, history teacher, will discuss political issues including Anarchism, Socialism and Communism.

More clubs are being discussed.

“Clubs are great because they give kids an opportunity to discuss important topics that are relevant in the world,” said Assistant Director to the Principal Tom Minelli. “They also give kids the chance to promote these topics.”
Since music isn't the type of product that I need to touch in order to buy, I go on-line. Plus, you can listen to samples on-line which few stores will allow you to do with specific C.D.s.

—Junior Julia Belley

By Elizabeth Garber-Paul

Midway reporter

From Mahawks to dreadlocks of every color, Chicago's punks and rockers who have chosen to reject mainstream culture meet at Beltmond and Clark in Wrigleyville. For them, chain stores don't carry the music that they want. So some turn to stores such as Clubhouse and Reckless Records. Both are located near the Belmont Red Line stop.

When it opened in 1993, Clubhouse Records represented the anti-chain. "We only sold music merchandise and not music," said Manager Azreal Spear, "because at that point stores like Best Buy and Circuit City dominated the market. Later, we began to carry local bands then small independent labels." Clubhouse now carries a mix of mainstream and less common music.

In addition to the music, Clubhouse still carries merchandise such as patches, pins, stickers and shirts as well as tickets without handling fees to concerts at The Metro, a venue next door. Vinyl ranges from $7 to $15 and C.D.s from $10 to $15. Clubhouse is located at 3726 N. Clark St.

I try to shop at Clubhouse," Freshman Vera Mirkina said, "because I would rather support an independent store rather than a large corporate chain." But unlike Vera, not everyone who has similar views can easily get there.

“We carry a lot of gangster rap. We tend to have alternative forms of rap like your Talib Kwells and your Prince Pauls.” With a large array of C.D.s, tapes and vinyl, Gramaphone at 53rd and Dorchester carries everything from Trip Hop to Trance and Jungle, somebody in the store can help you.

“Sometimes it’s hard to tell the difference from who works here and who shops here because we don’t wear uniforms,“ Junior Michael McGehee said, “but at Dr. Wax I can get two or three C.D.s for the same price. I’d much rather give my money to smaller store. They prove that people are tired of being taken advantage of.”

By Daphne Magana

Midway reporter

"I used to spend like $20 bucks on a single album," Junior Michael McGehee said, “but at Dr. Wax I can get two or three C.D.s for the same price. I’d much rather give my money to smaller store. They prove that people are tired of being taken advantage of.”

We’re not far from school So come right away Your tummy will thank you With delight through the day

OPEN 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. (Closed Monday.)
The schedule we came up with was designed mostly based on what the department chairs had to say.

—Northside Prep Assistant Principal Alan Mather
Photos by Jennifer Sydel

Ross Knorr

Gotcha!!

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On 57th

Photos by Jennifer Sydel
Schools stress strong programs

As schools nationwide provide more drug education programs than ever before, high school drug use nationwide has steadily decreased, according to the Parent Resource Institute for Drug Education (PRIDE) based in Bowling Green, Ken. It conducts the nation’s largest independent survey of teenage drug use. The decline began in 1997 after a five-year increase. Still, more than two-thirds of high school students used some form of alcohol or drugs in the 1999-2000 school year, according to the PRIDE survey.

Around 7.5 million students in 46 states participated in the latest survey, conducted from August, 1999, through June, 2000, according to PRIDE's web site. It asked students about their use of eight types of illegal drugs as well as alcohol and tobacco.

PRIDE Survey Director Thomas Gileanian, a retired professor who founded the survey, told the Midway by phone from his office in Bowling Green that the decline resulted from schools across the country providing more and better drug education programs and media campaigns against substance abuse.

"In recent years drug education programs at schools have begun to consist of more than just telling kids not to use drugs," Dr. Gileanian said. "People are actually showing students research about how drugs are dangerous. While it doesn't scare kids away from using drugs, it makes them more aware of the damaging consequences and discourages them. Also, young people across the nation are forming their own clubs and organizations against drug use and teenagers are always more respectful of their peers than adults." According to the survey, 68.1 percent of high school students had consumed alcohol, 43.9 percent had smoked cigarettes and 34.4 percent had used an illegal drug at some point during the 1999-2000 school year.

At Francis Parker, the North Side private school and fellow Independent Schools League (ISL) member, Upper School Counselor Gary Childrey coordinates drug education as well as all counseling and student support services for the 323 students in the 9th-12th grades.

Dr. Childrey said that because drug use has consistently proven a problem there, Parker focuses drug education programs on the Middle School and 9th grade because younger students are more easily influenced than upperclassmen.

Parker also tries to educate parents on the dangers of drug abuse by: some have their own opinions.

"Nearly 40 percent of 9th through 12th-graders at Parker reported that their parents tend to be liberal and permissive in regard to drugs and alcohol and this is a problem," Dr. Childrey explained. "Many parents feel that under certain circumstances it's okay for kids to drink and the truth is that it's not. Some parents even buy alcohol for their kids. Parents feel that since their kids are responsible around school they can be responsible around drugs, but this is usually not the case."

"Starting last year, I have taught parent courses in the evening once a week for six or seven weeks. Last year 60 to 70 parents participated. In the courses I try to educate parents on how to be firm and say no to their kids about drugs without being autocratic. We discuss research about the short- and long-term dangers of underage drinking and drug use and ways to set limits."

Seniors nationwide used all drugs more than non-seniors, with the exception of inhalants and steroids, and this is a problem, according to the PRIDE survey, nearly three quarters of all 12th graders consumed alcohol, nearly half smoked cigarettes, and over 40 percent used an illegal drug. At the Latin School of Chicago, another North Side private school and ISL member, Upper School Counselor Elise Brooks coordinates drug education for all roughly 400 9th through 12th graders along with two other counselors.

"We focus drug education in the 9th grade because the earlier in a kid's development you provide drug education the better," Ms. Brooks said. "Drug education programs for upperclassmen might be too late. The school has yet to replace Mr. Chuck Little, former substance abuse education coordinator, administrators are hoping that a shift in academic counseling, from counselors to advisors, will help allow counselors to rebuild the drug education program.

After many years at U-High, Mr. Klevgaard left to take a fulltime position elsewhere almost two years ago. While his program had its ups and downs, the end of his tenure here concluded with a survey showing a significant drop in substance abuse in almost every category, according to a StudentView survey of all U-Highers done three years ago by an institute based at the University of Michigan. As the school continues its search for a replacement, counselors reassert that a substance abuse education coordinator is still necessary. The fact that the job is only parttime creates a smaller applicant pool, but administrators said advertisements in newspapers as well as searches at conferences have yielded few applicants and only one resume that has been seriously considered.

Some U-Highers, however, say that no matter what movie they are forced to see or what speaker they are dragged in to hear, they already know it won't change their minds. According to Guidance Counselor Ron Tunis, though, the school needs to provide such resources regardless of the gripes students might have.

"The students, especially juniors and seniors, have made it clear that they just don't want to hear it," he explained. "We still have to get the message across that students can be 'cool' and have fun without getting involved with drugs or alcohol. If we just help one student decide not to drink or do drugs, then we can feel good about what we've done."

In fact, according to a Midway survey of 135 seniors and juniors, (freshmen and sophomores were not surveyed because some court rulings have advised against involving younger students in drug surveys) 61 percent said the school did enough to educate students about substance abuse. That figure might not tell the whole story, though, because any...

Reorganization keys pr

Spreads produced by editors-in-Chief Michael Lamb and Annees Tahal with additional reporting and writing by Ben Zimmer, Tim Khalidi and Michael Chandler

While the school has yet to replace Mr. Chuck Klevgaard, former substance abuse education coordinator, administrators are hoping that a shift in academic counseling, from counselors to advisors, will help allow counselors to rebuild the drug education program.

"I think in Middle School, the school went about it the wrong way, because they just presented statistics. But I think so far the individual speakers in High School have been somewhat effective."
The message. 

"I like to say, 'in a school with a great counseling office, you don't know what's going on in the counseling office.' This is, in part, because of the element of confidentiality, but more importantly because those problems get solved."

—Principal Jack Knapp

Drug education

There's really no way for me to gauge how effective I am at helping teens avoid the dangers of drugs and alcohol," said Mr. Marcus Newman during a recent phone interview. "From the feedback I have gotten it is clear that some people think I'm helpful and others dislike me, but there is no way to know for sure if I helped people.

Believing that communication is the best anti-drug," Mr. Newman, who has spoken to U-High's students for 15 years, uses the story of his own bout with drug addiction to warn teens about the dangers of drug abuse.

Growing up in the northern suburbs, Mr. Newman, 30, became addicted to drugs and alcohol as a teen and used them throughout high school. He finally got sober at age 18, the year he overdosed while at college. Now a financial planner and private health education consultant, Mr. Newman currently helps schools to speak to 80 schools around Chicago and the suburbs.

"I devote 12 hours a year talking to junior-high advisors at U-High," explained Mr. Newman. "I'm not trained or licensed as a drug consultant. I rely on my personal experience with addiction to convey the very real dangers of drugs and alcohol. I was a normal kid with a lot of potential who screwed up his life. I think I make an impact on people when it comes to an example of what could happen to any of us."

"I don't have to tell people about anything that's happened to me. I do example stories in schools to illustrate the point."

Teaching on some of the reasons he devotes so much of his life to teens, Mr. Newman added, "I talk to young people about addiction out of concern and from personal experience, not because I read about it in a book."

"If students feel like they can come to me to discuss their problems with me, then things will get better."

Mr. Newman was asked to give a few tips on how to talk to your students about drugs and alcohol.

"Drugs are a part of today's world. We should acknowledge that and not try to deny it. We can't be satisfied with one person being hired who cares. We must all stay aware and concerned for our students' development. Communication is the best anti-drug," Mr. Newman concluded.

Mr. Newman is a member of the U-High staff who is trained and licensed as a drug consultant. He relies on his personal experience with addiction to convey the real dangers of drugs and alcohol. Mr. Newman currently helps schools to speak to 80 schools around Chicago and the suburbs. He devotes 12 hours a year talking to junior-high advisors at U-High.

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Rebuilding drug education

After the intense reaction to the Jan. 30 Midway spread on workflow, cheating and related issues, the Midway's Commentary editor, Chuck Klevgaard, invited the students to submit letters. Mos' Teacher, Lisa Sam, a senior, forwarded the Communications Committee's press release, and a junior, Sam Firke, class president, to participate if they wished. Mrs. McCullagh, my understanding from the students was that students cheat because they don't want to take the time for the school to take aggressive steps. But, knowing this is the last scheduled issue of the Midway this year with an in-depth spread, the Midway staff was tempted not to go ahead with this issue's spread on drug education.

But knowing this is the last scheduled issue of the Midway this year with an in-depth spread, the staff felt obligated to take the opportunity to examine this newsworthy subject at length. As was the workflow spread, the drug education spread has been in the planning at least two years ago. However, as was the workflow spread, the drug education spread was important. A number of the students who feel the school does enough to educate students about drugs also say that they just don't want to hear anything on the subject in the first place.

Substance abuse education at U-High was a very strong program just two years ago. Now, though, some students, parents, faculty and administrators alike are asking whether there is even such a program. It has also been almost two years since former drug education coordinator, Ms. Chuck Klevgaard, left the school and the school has yet to find a replacement.

Three words commonly used in the Marine Corps, yet oddly enough, now also found commonly in U-Highers' lexicon and upper body in the form of tiny "Chinese" letter caricatures. It is sad to say that for many U-Highers, having a tattoo is the new commonplace for all things. Abercrombie & Fitch shrugs at the front of their closets, especially with students going as far as getting the same tattoo as a friend, on the same part of their body, only slightly differing in color.

Strength, Honor, Courage! The Midway staff was tempted not to go ahead with this issue's spread on drug education.

Can you spell permanently?

One would expect students to start asking teachers for rides to the local tattoo parlor, located just across the street from the school. The best first step that I have come up with is increasing penalties drastically and not only to replace Mr. Klevgaard but to bring the drug education program back into focus, restrengthen it and assure its consistent continuation. Something so valuable, built through many trials and tribulations, should not have just faded away so quickly. We hope our look at drug education, drug use and its social setting will educate our readers, offer them some insights and inspire them to share their own experiences on the subject.

LARA STEELE, sophomore:
I usually work in Mr. Tunis' office because there really isn't anything else to do or anywhere to go.

EITAN KENSKY, junior:
I can get a study guide that is really close to what the test is going to be.

Debbie Trubek
Page 16, special report .............................................
Page 17, sports .................................................. Kim Dowlewshlghi
Page 18, politics .................................................. Elizabeth Sigler
Page 19, sports .................................................. Jules Pedelec

LARRY KING, freshman:
I usually do all the work I have that I didn't get to do the night before. I actually really look forward to those chill periods because all the other assemblies are boring and stupid in my opinion. It's actually kind of sad.

EITAN KENSKY, junior:
I usually work in Mr. Tunis' office because there really isn't anything else to do or anywhere to go.

LARA STEELE, sophomore:
I usually just hang out with my friends outside of Mr. Tunis' office because there really isn't anything else to do or anywhere to go.

One would expect students to start asking teachers for rides to the local tattoo parlor, located just across the street from the school. The best first step that I have come up with is increasing penalties drastically and restrengthening the program. There are so few repercussions for cheating and the odds of getting caught are so low that many kids feel they can bring in practices for a couple of tests. Even some simple things like colored pencils and the same time really increase penalties. If you get caught cheating making it a serious issue, maybe report it to colleges.

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Dream is, of course, a totally manufactured group formed through auditions "Making the Band" style, then sold to Flip-Hop Artist and Bad Boy Records. Jay Z (The Firm) produced the album. Chanteur and manager Sean "Puffy" Combs signed the contract. Released two months ago, "A Dream? More like a nightmare" four White teenage girls dressed in black, white and pink tank tops, may be the cover story of Dream's debut album "It Love U Not," which reached number two on the Billboard singles chart. Accompanied only by synthesizers, the album features such hits as "I'm That Girl," "Girls Lie," and "Don't Let Me Be Your Lover." The album has sold over 500,000 copies to date.

The Midway welcomes letters for publication. The only rule is letters must be signed. If a letter needs editing for conciseness or to meet legal requirements, the editors will work with the letterwriter to prepare the letter for publication. Letters can be submitted via email to ideassubmit@midway.org. Letters should be no longer than 300 words.
Can you guess?

Assignment: Photograph places and objects in the school U-Highers can see everyday and challenge them to make an identification. Photographer: Will Mittendorf. Result: Many, many photos. Here are just three of them. Can you tell what these are photos of and where they were taken? The answers are upside down below the righthand photo.

Mrs. McCullagh: I admire myself in the circumstance where kids on a test ask a question and I'm always torn about what I should say in response. I've had a kid absolutely paralyzed because they don't do something and they're panic stricken and I say to them "You can do this" and I may even say "You've seen a question like this before, read the question, what are you thinking?" I'm saying that to somebody but I'm not saying that to somebody else.

Mrs. Muro: When a student asks a question because maybe I didn't phrase it clearly, I try to share that to the rest of the class. But if I did that for every question I would be talking during the whole test and that's not helpful.

Mrs. McCullagh: What are you thinking when you're your colleagues asking a question and you see some kind of conversation going on?

Sam: I think that the panic-stricken student is an exception but I think there are some kids who would probably get a C without asking questions. But in certain classes you could go up and say "Well give me the first step, well how about a second one, how about a third." That's not a fair representation of their knowledge, and it artificially raises her grade.

Mrs. McCullagh: I can't always monitor if you get caught cheating making it a serious issue but I'm always against what I should do in response. I've had a kid absolutely paralyzed because they don't do something and they're panic stricken and I say to them "You can do this" and I may even say "You've seen a question like this before, read the question, what are you thinking?" I'm saying that to somebody but I'm not saying that to somebody else.

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Living Room Makeover Miracle

(A True Story)

Covered with dirt and grime, this living room in a 120-year-old house deep in Hyde Park seemed hopeless. The paint was peeling and there were cracks all over the ceiling and walls. It appeared to be a lost cause until C.B. Davis Construction...

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Yearbook wins state prize

For the fourth consecutive year, U-Highlights has been named Best Overall Yearbook by the Eastern Illinois School Press Association. The 2000 edition tied with the Blackhawk of Stockton for first-place honors in the small school competition based on awards in individual categories. U-Highlights won first-place awards for photography and copy and second-place for layout and design, sports coverage and school year coverage.

Six U-High journalism students accompanied by Publications Adviser Wayne Michael Brasler will travel to San Francisco for the National Scholastic Press Association Convention national convention Thursday, April 5-Saturday, April 8. More than 5,000 high school journalism students and publications staff members and their faculty advisers are expected to attend.

The convention will offer dozens of classes, seminars and workshops on a broad range of journalism topics. Mr. Brasler will present a paper on the challenges school newspapers face in becoming community leaders. He also will participate in judging the Best of Show contest which recognizes outstanding publications among those whose staff are attending the convention.

At an awards ceremony Thursday the 2000 U-Highlights will receive one of 59 Pacemaker Finalist awards for overall excellence. From the Finalists, 25 yearbooks will then be announced as Pacemaker Award winners. This is the second consecutive year U-Highlights has been among the Finalists.

Lots of sightseeing is planned, Mr. Brasler said. "Since we know so many of our students coming and their advisers, we'll probably be going a lot of places as part of a big group. Part of the educational benefits of these conventions is the opportunity to meet so many people from across the nation devoted to high school journalism." The students planning to make the trip are as follows:

Seniors Mike Lamb and Kian Dowlatshahi; juniors Natalie Hoy and Abigail Newman; and sophomores Jessica Heyman and Shilpa Rupani.

Journalists to attend convention
“Japanimation incorporates mature themes into animated drawings and escapes the ridiculous nature of American cartoons.”  
—Junior Josh Joseph, Japanimation artist

Spreading a web of enthusiasm
By Bree Boulware
Midway reporter

Through her website, Junior Charlie Anderson shares her love of Japanimation. She is one of many U-Highers who enjoy creating and watching Japanimation in her spare time. Charlie first became interested in Japanimation in 4th grade when she was looking for an out-of-the-ordinary hobby. “I just happened to stumble across Japanimation when I was surfing the net and it really intrigued me,” Charlie said. “It was so different from American cartoons and I have always been interested in Japanese culture.”

Impressed with the content and depth of the characters and plots, Charlie started her own web site, ArielAnimafunctions.net, dedicated to the Japanimation series, “Evangelion.” With her website, Charlie started her own fan fiction club in which alternative endings to cartoons could be written and posted on the web. “I started the web site and fan fiction club with some friends,” Charlie said. “We were researching Japanimation and different fan fiction web sites and decided that they were really incomplete. What we did on my web site was fill in the information that the other web sites didn’t provide, and put up a message board for people to write their own fan fiction, which are the continuations of Japanimation series that have ended.”

Dedicated to helping Japanimation gain further success in the United States, Charlie is both hopeful and optimistic that the cartoons will continue to gain acceptance. “I’m glad that more people are beginning to appreciate the art form for what it is,” Charlie said. “Japanimation has really begun to catch the eyes of American people. It’s a good thing, because when you watch Japanimations, they allow you to experience stories and images which can stimulate your brain.”

Bree Boulware

Animatedly continuing the heritage of a culture
By Becca Nichols
Midway reporter

Working to improve his Japanimation drawing skills, Senior Kokhi Yamaguchi draws at least an hour everyday. “Japanimation is something you have to practice,” he said. “You have to sit down and work on the drawings for a portion of the day because it is an art you have to perfect.”

As a Japanese-American, Kokhi began watching Japanimation at the age of 12. Surrounded by Japanimation his entire life, Kokhi said it was only natural to become interested in the art. “I started drawing Japanimation in 6th or 7th grade. I never took any classes for it because it is more an art style that you can perfect on your own.”

Losing interest after Middle School, Kokhi returned to drawing Japanimation with renewed vigor during his junior year in high school. While Japanimation is more complex than American cartoons, Kokhi commented, it still attracts the mainstream cartoon fans. “American cartoons are mainly done for humor whereas Japan animation is more for the audience. American cartoons are more like a novel with a lot of dialogue and emotion. Many of the Japanimation stories are based on actual Japanese folk stories.”

“Japanimation has three different styles, Old, Middle and New. Old style of Japanimation is freehand cartoon character style. New style is mainly using a computer so the graphics are elaborate and the detail refined. “I focus on the Middle Style, which is done by drawing freehand and using computer graphics to touch it up.”

Kokhi plans on continuing Japanimation as a hobby for years to come. “I’m not focusing on Japanimation as a career,” he said, “but I see myself continuing it in college.”

Becca Nichols

The story of Japanimation

With Japanimation currently in high demand in the U.S., every major network airs some sort of Anime, the Japanese word for animation.

Incorporating complex characterizations and intricate storylines, Anime, which includes comic strips, T.V. shows and films, differs from American animated work in its exploration of real-life issues, even depicting death in some episodes.

The deep content and mature subjects dealt with in Anime make it appealing to adults as well as children. Stories can cover a wide variety of genres including anything from romantic comedy to science fiction.

The philosophy behind Anime expresses valuable life lessons, in particular those important in Japanese culture. Interwoven into the storyline emerge lessons such as hard work paying off, difficulties overcome and life having meaning and purpose, lending a deeper significance to Anime than just high quality cartooning for basic entertainment purposes.

Stylized with simple lines and detailed features, Anime characters share a distinct look, usually containing a slight Japanese resemblance. The combination of complex characters and storyline combining both realistic and fantasy elements offers Anime fans a unique animated experience covering real-life issues with a hint of science fiction to stimulate the imagination.

—Jordann Zachary, Arts page editor

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"Being involved in the news gives you the opportunity to shape a world you care about." - Mr. Albert Randall

Channel 5 news supervisor of electronic journalism

**Traffic cop for the 10 p.m. news**

Briefing writers on the rundown of the 10 p.m. news, Mr. Randall patrols a wall-sized conference room, a petite woman sit at the head of a long rectangular table. With her auburn bob and a magenta sweater set, she appears petite and small. By this hour, she has decided that she needs a serious Margarita.

"I need a serious Margarita," says writer Darren Garrett. "Amy's going to be satellite." As the meeting continues, field reporter Amy Jacobson drives out in the NBC truck to the Des Plaines River to report the story.

At 9:53 p.m., Ms. Rosati and Mr. Saunders go through microphone checks. Ms. Rosati looks slightly younger on TV than in real life, but Mr. Saunders looks the same.

After everyone has done a microphone check, the director counts down from five to begin the show. Ms. Jacobson keeps track of how long each segment runs, so she knows if anything needs to be cut. As they are doing a microphone check on Ms. Jacobson, associate director Allison D'Amato says of Ms. Jacobson, "She is so sick and so cold. Look at her, she's shivering!"

At 10 p.m., the news begins. As Amy Jacobson leads off with a live feed from Joliet, she has one split second to stop shivering before the camera cuts to her.

As the introductions the Indiana fire story, field reporter Natalie Martinez stumbles over her introduction. She regains her composure and reveals only one member of the family survived the fire, but not before Mrs. Ebert chimes in, "I can't believe she just missed that."

At 10:14 p.m., back at the set, three cameras get positioned around the set. A computer controls the cameras; there is no camera control room. The modern set design is countered by the messy desks and chairs off screen.

When Mr. Miller finishes the weather, the anchors are standing in a tall, slim, chestnut haired control room. A petite woman sits opposite her auburn bob and a magenta sweater set, she appears petite and small. By this hour, she has decided that she needs a serious Margarita.

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At 9:53 p.m., Ms. Rosati and Mr. Saunders go through microphone checks. Ms. Rosati looks slightly younger on TV than in real life, but Mr. Saunders looks the same.

As they are doing a microphone check on Ms. Jacobson, associate director Allison D'Amato says of Ms. Jacobson, "She is so sick and so cold. Look at her, she's shivering!"

Mr. Jacobson is a friend of U-High's Assistant to the Principal Tom Minnelli. Williamson has only 11 months in TV news before becoming a producer, Mr. Minnelli has been with NBC News Channel 5 since 1970. Mr. Minnelli, photos by Betsy Smith. Towering at the height of 6'6" certainly draws attention. Compounding his charm is his booming voice, "I grew up watching the famed anchor Walter Cronkite, he's one of the best. I like the creative aspects of directing."

Working behind the scenes wasn't Mr. Randall's first intention, but has become something he enjoys greatly.

"I thought I wanted to be on camera at first," Mr. Randall said. "But because I like to be in control and call the shots I direct best, I like the creative aspects of directing."

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Standing briskly into the NBC News Channel 5 studio at 7:58 p.m., comes Warner Saunders, running late from the morning show. His cameo appearance on the new film based on the novel is breathtaking. Mr. Andamale gets a shot of genius and says to Mr. Saunders, "Say, Hawks win?" Mr. Saunders replies, "No. You say, 'Hawks lose?' I'll say 'no.'"

And, 30 seconds later, they deliver the bit as if it was scripted. But during a highlight of a college basketball game, Mr. Andamale reads one thing and the video shows another. He continues on as if it was nothing. At 10:32 p.m., the newscast ends and everyone is out. It goes by quickly. It was delivered so casually to seven million homes, but it was just another day at the office.
Spring has Sprung

Spring squads ready to shoot for titles

By Elizabeth Stigler

Last spring's handful of Independent School League titles has the tennismen, baseballers and girls' soccer team aiming to repeat, while tracksters hope to dominate with a much bigger squad.

Despite shuffling coaches, tennis believe they can maintain their ISL crown once again. Coach Gerald Hanck has replaced Dean of Students Larry McFarlane and new coach Rich Gray will assist Coach Hanck.

At 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, the team plays Hinckley-Bruceville, with varsity away and j.v. at home.

"Once we settle into our positions we'll gain some reliability as a team," said Senior Bobby Wang, captain of the j.v. squad.

We have real potential to build a strong base, which leads me to believe we can do just as well as we did last year," Senior Andrew Paddick said. "We lost some good players, but we're filling those spots with players who have improved."\n
Boys' Tennis

Hinsdale South, varsity away and j.v. home, both 4:30 p.m.; Francis Parker, 4:30 p.m., April 10, away; Homewood-Flossmoor, 4:30 p.m., April 4, home; Woodlands, 4:30 p.m., May 16, home; Regionsals, May 18.

Boys' track and Field

Rich East, 4:30 p.m., April 4, away; April 7, away; Home, 4:30 p.m., April 12; University of Chicago; Ridgewood, 10 a.m., April 14, away; Homewood-Flossmoor, 4:30 p.m., April 24; 2004 University of Chicago; ISL Conference Meet, May 8; Sectionsals, May 12; State Meet, May 25-26.

Boys' Track and Field

Lisle, 10 a.m., April 7, away; Home, 4:30 p.m., April 11; Ridgewood, 10 a.m., April 21, away; Home, 4:30 p.m., April 24; University of Chicago; ISL Conference Meet, May 8; Sectionsals, May 12; State Meet, May 25-26.
Dance Troupe wants R-E-S-P-E-C-T

By Rachel Greene

A
fter devoting three months to practicing and performing their routine, Dance Troupe members feel their efforts have gone unappreciated. The Troupe was formed six years ago to perform at basketball games. Eventually it outshone the cheerleading squad, which disbanded. Practicing in the new Kovler Gym dance studio, this year’s group began rehearsing with 20 members in December. Performing at four basketball games, the Troupe is a novelty act, has proven frustrating for the dancers.

“It wasn’t that the games weren’t exciting enough. Georgia Tech, Hampton and Kent State all reminded us why March Madness is an appropriate name,” Junior Sonia Sharma said. “The problem lies within our school, where preparation for these games was seriously overlooked.”

Advised by Lower School Teacher Donna McFadden, the 20 members on this year’s squad dwindled to eight after their last basketball game performance. Several members still value the experience and stayed with the Troupe to perform at “Connections” alongside Co-captains Beog Nicholas Boulware, Chakka Reeves and Lindsay Strong, all seniors. What they judged to be bad sound during their performances in Kovler Gym and the conception by some members of their audience that the Troupe is a novelty act, has proven frustrating for the dancers.

“Since the sound system was kind of messed up, people weren’t able to fully enjoy the dance and we couldn’t perform our best,” Senior Alexis Maule said. “We’re also left at a slight disadvantage because the school will only partially fund us, and the faculty doesn’t seem to take us seriously.”

“And we were all very disappointed that we got cut out of the Gym Show because we weren’t a part of phys ed,” in another sense I guess we were lucky because all of our teams were so devoted and talented and made the practicing and performing an overall great experience.”

A magnificent March tradition gets trampled the last 10 seconds of the game. U-Highers were shouting with joy, or, in my case, sitting in disbelief. For the two days before spring break, students actually use the school’s resources quite efficiently. They go to the computer lab to research their predictions, the Xerox machine to photocopy their brackets and the school’s television sets to absorb the action.

Predicting the right teams requires as much good luck as college.

The Stigler Family

The Stigler Family

Banquet honors outstanding athletes

By sport, Coaches’ Award winners go to athletes in recognition of excellence in athletics, sportsmanship and contributions to their teams.

Banquet included the following:

- Basketball: Senior Tiffany Shipton, Junior Claire Stewart, girls’ varsity basketball
- Boys’ varsity basketball: Coach Lee Laser, girls’ varsity basketball: Coach Katie Spielberg

Boys’-Girls’ All-Conference: Boys’ basketball: Senior Katie Shipton, girls’ basketball: Senior Katie Spielberg

WNBA Sportmanship Awards: Boys’-Girls’ basketball: Coach Don Dyson, girls’ varsity basketball: Senior Katie Spielberg

JOINING DANCE TRouPE for the first time as a senior, I didn’t think it would be hard. But it turned out we had to work hard to get the dances choreographed well, in the end we all had fun.”

-Senior Alani Hicks-Bartlett, Dance Troupe member

A really big show

ABOUT 670 Lower, Middle and High School students participated in the annual Gym Show, March 15 in Kovler Gym. The show offered a rousing, fast-paced parade of phys ed skills including fencing, adventure sports, social dancing and gymnastics. The students and parents who packed the gym reacted with frequent applause and cheers. With fellow Social Dance class members Eddie Camacho and Jessica Laster stepped lively to the beat of Jerry Lee Lewis’ “Great Balls of Fire.”

The most sacred tradition we observe here at U-High, watching the NCAA Basketball Tournament from the cafeteria, was totally disregarded this year. March Madness was reduced to March Mediocrity.

It wasn’t that the games weren’t exciting enough. Georgia Tech, Hampton and Kent State all reminded us why March Madness is an appropriate name. The problem lies within our school, where preparation for these games was seriously overlooked. It was 11 a.m., March 15, the start of the first contests and not a single television was even setup in the cafeteria. Furthermore, it was not until 12:30 p.m. when the first television was brought to the scene. In years past, television sets were setup the night before to prevent this sort of tragedy. Bad preparation aside, March Madness is at times where students and teachers alike “forget” any rules about gambling and enter their brackets into a pool. For once, seniors began to hear “What teams are going to the Final Four?” more than “Where did you apply to college?”

Thankfully, the television sets were in place just in time to see Gonzaga University upset the favored University of Virginia with the winning jumpshot in the last seconds of the game. U-Highers were shouting with joy, or, in my case, sitting in disbelief.

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Press Box: The winners of the pools are people who don’t follow college basketball but who pick the teams with funny names. As the tournament comes to a close, sanity is restored to the world of sports. But for those three weeks, the games transcend the realm of sports. Even non-sports fans feel bad for the teams who play with heart but fall two or twenty points short.

The Troupe was a group that disbanded. Participating annually in the Showcase has given the Troupe both a memorable experience each year and the opportunity to work with choreographers and dance instructors who come to the school as part of an associated artist-in-residence program. Hearing insulting responses about the Troupe’s performance, the dancers feel they don’t get enough respect for their hard work.

“It was a lot of fun learning a new dance and just being able to dance a lot more often,” Junior Sonia Sharma said. “It was really hard to learn the dance so quickly though, and many people didn’t appreciate the time put into it and said it was too short.

“I don’t think people realize how much work we put in trying to get everyone synchronized and to learn the steps. Our audience seems to think it is a lot easier to put a dance together than it really is.”

Recommended by the Associate editor

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Recommended by the Associate editor
"It’s important that the administration is aware of what the students want and it’s Student Council’s obligation to tell them.”
-Senior Michelle Krohn-Friedson
S.C. president

Star shines
Grad continues basketball dream

By Noelle Bond
Midway reporter

With her sore and bruised legs girdled by bags of ice and Saran Wrap propped up on the seat in front of her, Tai Duncan, 2000 U-High graduate, realizes she has an eight-hour bus ride ahead of her after a basketball game against Lawrence College in Wisconsin back to her college, Grinnell in Iowa.

Tai played post on the women’s basketball team this year at Grinnell and ended up 5th in rebounding in the Midwestern conference.

Although Tai played basketball all four years at U-High, she finds that playing college basketball is more physical than she expected.

“In high school, there’s not half as much wear and tear requires as there is in college,” Tai pointed out in a phone interview.

“I found that after every game I ended up with way more bruises than I ever did in high school, and before games I was getting taped up and iced down.”

The girls who play me now are no longer just tall. They’re now bigger and much stronger than I am and I take a lot of abuse.

“I don’t care about the bruises and neverending bus rides to other Midwestern conference schools. I’ve been given this unique opportunity and I’m going to take advantage of it in every way possible without letting anyone stop me.”

S.C. delivers p.e. credit petition

By Jules Federle
Associate editor

Encouraged by student support Student Council delivered a letter and petition to administrators on March 16 requesting they reconsider changing physical education requirements to exempt sports team members from physical education classes.

“We originally planned for the letter and petition to be delivered to administrators by the end of February,” said Student Council President Michelle Krohn-Friedson, senior. “But students, even some teachers, approached S.C. members to sign the petition. We wanted to be able to allow every student and teacher who was interested in signing the petition the opportunity to do so. When we delivered the petition we had approximately 450 signatures.

“The spread in the Midway brought many issues regarding the problems we’ve been having with administrators to light,” Michelle added. “We got the idea for the petition after students kept asking S.C. members what could be done to help the student cause.”
Looking for an easy way to get around this spring, Senior Ameer Saleh decides to go to Wheels & Things to browse through their great selection of performance bikes at affordable prices!

Checking out the handles of a miniature Dyno bike and sporting a crucial Pedros hat, Ameer finds all the accessories he needs including a huge water bottle for those long trips down the lakefront and even a tight pair of gloves!

Content with his purchase, Ameer salutes the kind and helpful employees of Wheels & Things. He knows he'll make several return visits for all his biking needs or even just to chat about the newest models! Drop in to Wheels & Things today and they can help YOU find everything you need!

Wheels & Things
3210 S. Harper
Chicago, IL 60615
773.493.4326