About this page

The long-awaited report on the school by the team of educators representing the Independent Schools Association of Central States has arrived. The visitors evaluated the school using an extensive self-study completed before their arrival last fall. On page 8 Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz talks about the report. Here on page 1 the Midway has gone to another set of experts to evaluate the school, in this case its students. What strengths do they want the school to hold on to? Where do they see it possibly going astray? The answers are right here.

ONE THING the school does well—and it's not just administration, just the whole school atmosphere—it gives the students a level of respect. If students can handle that responsibility, they'll be treated as adults and if not, they'll be punished. Also, one good thing they started this year is brainstorming. I know in the Service Learning Program, there's a lot of conversation between administrators and teachers so they're getting ideas out there and I think that should be expanded. —Nicky Singh

"IT SEEMS as though the school is beginning to get more students in each grade. While that's a good thing, I think Lab Schools is supposed to be centered around small classes and I've noticed that my classes have been progressively bigger and that needs to be looked at." —Tessen Lam

"AFTER I LEAVE, I want to see the school continue encouraging diversity. They do a good job of that sometimes, but if you're a minority group you're probably not the first one to be accepted at the school, so if they're doing a good job of that, they should keep that going." —Melissa Ford

"MAY PROJECT is an amazing opportunity that definitely needs to stay. Because it's so unique and it also gives you exposure to things you get to experience. I see staying for future classes because there's a definite demand for it and teachers already have to deal with that, so they have to do that."

-Seniors hope school will keep focus on learning

By Debbie Trathb
Associate editor

A s seniors near graduation, many express concern over their school protecting progress it has made in certain areas while worrying the school is drifting from its mission in other areas. Keeping students up to date with technology needs to continue, said Beckett Sterner. "One thing dear to my heart is the computer science curriculum," Sterner said. "For a long time the Lab Schools has had a limited offering in computer science and this coming year will offer the computer science A. I'm very hopeful future Lab students will be exposed to computers and learn how they work. Many faculty are concerned students can graduate without ever having learned to use a computer and that's impossible to have continue. The computer science A is a step in the right direction."

As for areas in which the school may be going astray, many seniors feel the school has become so obsessed with student organizations, academic teams, publications and sports being number it 1 is losing the heart of its mission, a love of learning. "It seems like we've all started to become more concerned with knowing things instead of actually learning them at this school," said Meagan Lombaer. "Senior Seminar is a wonderful opportunity that can't be replaced," said Carolyn Nolens, one of 17 students who participated this year. "In most classes, even in those where there is a lot of discussion, everything seems attached to a grade. Sometimes you feel like anything you're saying you're just saying for a participation grade." Seniors also worry the school is placing business before education. They cite the possibility Senior Seminar will end because it is not a budget priority. "Senior Seminar is not for credit and everyone is there to enrich their minds, not because they want a good grade. It gave us a chance to connect elements like field trips, speakers and musical performances. It's hard to miss it without experiencing it, but it's too bad that nobody else is going to be given the chance."

Seniors are concerned that teachers have become so co-opted of students, that varieties of learning are being diminished. "Teachers are keeping their traditional requirements and offer few opportunities for students to experiment," Roya Li said. "It seems like pretty soon, school is going to mean just sitting in class taking notes. Some teachers do things like field trips and bringing in speakers and it's finding. I know it's their job to teach us, but I don't think they should be able to dictate how we're supposed to learn." Seniors also fear the faculty has become so new of ideas that students are paying the price in a school which is falling behind. They point not to expanding May Project. "If you utilize May Project correctly it can be a worthwhile experience," Ashley Rayner said. "It's a good way to cap your senior year and your experience at Lab. Teachers are a good source of information and should definitely have a say in the future of May Project, but they shouldn't have the last word on the issue."

U-Highers see diversity need

By Julie Joseph
Midway reporter

Diversity and hands-on experience. In a school known for these values, many freshmen, sophomores and juniors say they are concerned not enough is being done to establish a diverse faculty and that learning beyond the classroom is fading. "We have almost no ethnic teachers at school," junior Jura Cheney said. "In a school so focused on diversity I think we should try and work harder on finding a more equal balance. With students from such different backgrounds, we need to be able to have a picture of more than one type of person succeeding." The hands-on learning for which the school is famous partially because of its historic ties with the educator John Dewey is in danger, many underclassmen say. "I think we've become too focused on learning from books," sophomore Emily Smolarek said. "The school was founded on being more experimental and hands-on and I think we've really drifted from that format. The hands-on experience is one of the things that draws people here. If the school thinks that it's so important to give out that image they should live up to it. I think hands-on activities really encourage learning. Sometimes it's easier to understand something after experiencing it."

Frustrated by faculty members' concerns over students being out of class for field trips, U-Highers say field trips help them understand material. "Field trips have the ability to make things more interesting and actually let us see how what we're learning has to do with real life," sophomore Larry May Project, but they shouldn't have the last word on the issue."
New twists on an old favorite

Transformed 'As You Like It' to climax nightly Rites of May

By Johnny Legitimo
Midway reporter

As a strobe flash and fog rolls across the stage, figures clad in multicolored kimonos will set the mood for the science fiction inspired interpretation of the Rites of May production of Shakespeare's 'As You Like It.'

Performed on a multilevel stage outside the cafeteria, the 8 p.m. production will follow the annual Festival 5-7 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, May 16-18. The Rites began as a Shakespearean Festival in 1969 with a production of "The Tempest."

Admission to the courtyard is free. Play tickets, available in Blairn hall, are $10. In case of rain, the play will be performed the next rainfree night.

At an opening night ceremony, the Jazz Band will accompany a May Pole dance followed by a welcoming speech given by Principal Jack Knapp. The opening ceremony will boost attendance, hopes Athletic Director Nancv Johnson, assistant coordinator of evening events with Kindergarten and Nursery School Principal Carla Young.

"We want to spice up the Festival this year to attract more people and involve Middle and High School students more than in previous years," Mrs. Johnson said. "High School students can volunteer to cook at booths and clubs can sponsor their own booth set up to educate and entertain those who attend. This year we hope to use resources both inside and outside of our school."

As in previous years, student organizations will sponsor food and activity booths. Among these the Black Students' Association will sell ice cream sundares, Model United Nations will provide a geography booth with country quizzes and Latinos Unidos will offer dances.

For the first time, clubs participating all 3 nights will receive $100 for club operations next year.

With colorful banners and balloons, Saturday's International Festival, 11am-4 p.m., in Upper Sunry Gym, sponsored by the Parents' Association, will offer a collection of country booths, a carnival with lively games and a moonwalk on Kenwood Mall.

Country booths offering hands-on activities and student dance performances are scheduled throughout the day, according to Lower and Middle School parent Melissa Cook, who is coordinating the Saturday festival.

Returning after a year's absence, the Global CafŠ will again serve food from around the world.

A comedy written 300 years ago, 'As You Like It' chronicles 3 cousins, Rosalind and Celia, who run away from home following Rosalind's banishment from the court.

"Rosalind's father is the lawful Duke, who had also previously been banished after being overthrown from the duca; throne by Duke Frederick, his brother," explained senior Sarah Arkin, who will play Rosalind. "Duke Frederick allowed Rosalind to stay, however within winter, he becomes fearful of Rosalind's influence over Celia and banishes her."

"Not wanting to part from her cousin, Celia accompanies Rosalind into banishment and into a forest called Arden. Because they are afraid of being caught, Rosalind dresses up like a man, only to encounter Rosalind's influence over Celia and banishes her."

Designed by Director Lucija Ambrosini's husband Allen, the stage incorporates space age design.

Mixing 'Star Wars' motifs with regal court themes, makeup will enhance the characters and their disguises, according to junior Tess Lantos, makeup mistress.

"Our goal is to incorporate a futuristic design that is showy but not distracting," Tess said. "To do this, we will mix regal reds with golds and blues with alvers. We will also put geometric figures on their faces including anything from lines on their cheeks to large shapes with silver glitter."

Enhancing the futuristic theme, the sound crew will modify music to fit the image of outer space, according to senior Rachel Lee, sound mistress.

"It is especially challenging this year because we are taking original scores and putting them into a new light," Rachel said. "The background music really sets the mood for the play, so it is really important that with a change in theme, a change in music is made too."

Assistant directors are juniors Jessica Heyman and Deanna Leah. Play cast members not already mentioned as follows, by role:

Duke Senior, the banished duke (Rosalind's father) Matt Rosenberg; Amelia, a lord attending; Duke Senior, niece Becker, Jacques, a lord attending; Duke Senior, Daniel Levin, Becker; Foresters-Lords 1, 2, 3. Structured: Cullen; Foresters-Lords 1, 2, 3. Structured: Cullen;

Duke Frederick, Cullan Calvert; Duchess to Frederick, Julie. Attendants-Lords to Frederick, Chris Hemmingway and Ryann; Shugl, an actor attending Duke Frederick; Eli Becker.

Charles, Duke Frederick's wrestler, Jorn; Cherry, Oliver, Orange's older brother, Eli Epstein; Jacques De Boys, a younger brother of Oliver, Roger, Orlando, Rosalind's lover, Chris Perez, Adam, old man who accompanies Orlando into the forest, Larry King. Dennis, Oliver's servant, Samontana: Touchstone, the fool, Rose Knor; Sir Oliver Marten, a clergyman, Cullan; Costo, an old shepherd, Eli Silver, a young shepherd, Ethan Silverman, William, country man, John; Hymen, god of marriage, Eli; Celia, daughter of the duke; Lisa Jacobson, Phoebe, shepherd; Danielle Karczewski, Audrey, godmother; Mary Bush; Those who lead to the Forest of the Planet of Arden: Sara Azer, an actress, Sam, a shepherd, Cho, Kay Toole, Senara Himmelfarb and Kate Koch.

Crew heads as follows:

Shop, Cullan; house, Donna, props and furniture, Lisa, lights, Alex Dentor, sound, Evan Moore; costumes, Jen and Sarah; makeup, Jen and Mary; tech, set and stage, Josh; Light, production, Lisa; House, publicity and box office, Daniel; art, Duke Federin, theater, Lisa; production, Biben.

They're desperately in love with each other, but there's a problem (beyond the fact that he writes awful love poetry): He doesn't know that she's now a he! Confused? Well, that's what you can expect when you put 2 dudes, 2 princesses, 3 brothers, 2 fools and a wrestler in the same play!

"As You Like It"

8 P.M. THURSDAY MAY 16, FRIDAY MAY 17 AND SATURDAY MAY 18 IN BLAINE COURTYARD. TICKETS $10; 6-PACK DISCOUNT IN BLAINE LOBBY FOR $50. CLEAR UP THE CONFUSION.

Promgoers can feel starry-eyed in new setting, Planetarium

By Alexis Manue
Assistant editor

Black, crème and eggplant purple decorations will light up with the stars at Senior Prom, 7:30-12:30 p.m., Friday, May 17, at the Adler Planetarium on South Lake Ilyore Drive.

The evening will include cocktails, dinner, a sky show and dancing. Tickets are $85 or $180 for a couple, and can be purchased in U-High's. Favors have not been decided.

"Our theme is 1930s art deco jazz," said Nikita Barai, one of 13 Prom Committee members. "We chose that theme because it is more sophisticated and classy than the others we saw."

Amidst telescopes and beneath a domed ceiling the evening will begin with a cocktail hour followed by dinner in the Galleries Room overlooking Lake Michigan. A jazz band will play during cocktail hour and dinner.

A slide show of senior photographs and a "Journey to Infinity" sky show projection display in the Sky Theater will proceed the coronation of Prom King and Queen. Danacing will follow the coronation with music provided by High Flyin' Entertainment.

Voting for King and Queen will take place at the Prom.
Eight more receive National Merit Scholarships

Eight more U-Highers have won National Merit Scholarships. They are Sam Firke, Shilpa Gulati, Lisa Jacobson, Gina Monaco, Emily Schuttenberg, Jessica Siegler, Beckett Sterner, and Alicia Sydel.

Other Projects, list subject to change, are as follows:


Director search continues, candidate list narrows

With a month of school left, the Director Search Committee has narrowed its pool of candidates from 6 to 4.

After Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz announced she would be leaving for a new opportunity, a search committee with 6 Board members and a University representative, and a faculty advisory committee, with a representative from each of the 4 schools, were formed.

Early this year the search committee surveyed students, parents and faculty members about characteristics the new director should have. In previous searches, faculty members have met and interviewed candidates.

This time so far only faculty members on the search committee have not candidates.

Coordinator Bob Bachand, U-High representative, declared comment.

Faculty members say they are confident that they will not have an opportunity to meet the candidates.

“Scheduling has been minimal faculty involvement,” said physics teacher David Derbes. “The faculty as a group hasn’t met any candidates. While it’s the Board’s responsibility to choose the Director, the faculty are going to be spending a lot of time with this person.”

Senior seminar likely not to return next year

For 9 years of a precarious existence, Senior Seminar finally looks like it’s hitting the dust. The interdisciplinary class, to which seniors must apply and for which a small group is selected, offers a forum in which students and teachers learn together through readings, films and field trips. The teachers, however, do not come from many school departments.

That has proven too costly, Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz told the Midway.

“The class is truly a benefit for seniors,” she said. “We take the students’ interests and shape the class around them. It is an expression of what U-High should be and it’s unfortunate that not everyone sees it that way.”

May Project attracts 75 seniors

From interning at the humor newspaper the Onion to shadowing a nurse, seniors will leave U-High for May Project, May 6-June 3.

May Project, begun in 1969, gives seniors the opportunity to replace some or all of their classes in the month of May with career experiences, independent learning projects, or community service.

Nearly 66 percent of seniors are participating in May Project, slightly higher than last year’s 62 percent.

Community Learning Coordinator Susan Sheldon, who took over coordination of May Project this year, strives to make the program unquestionably more than just an opportunity for seniors to leave school early. Her plans include a presentation ceremony following the Awards Assembly, 1 p.m., Monday June 3 at Rockefeller Chapel, for seniors to show off their work and achievements.

“While reviewing the May Project proposals, it was easy to see how much work was going to be needed and how much time each project would take,” Ms. Sheldon said. “I was very strict on the proposals I reviewed. All the students — students taking advantage of May Project are doing great projects that include learning.”

Among seniors gaining professional experience, Daniel Levin-Becker is interning at the Onion, a weekly satirical newpaper.

“I’ve always been a big fan of the Onion,” Daniel said. “I really wanted to see how things work behind the scenes and maybe get my big chance at stardom.”

Pressley’s “As You Like It” has proven a difficult, shopmaster Nick Humiler explained.

“We’ve spent more time on the stage this year than in any previous year,” Nick said. “It took two days to lift the lights into place and this year’s stage is curved a lot to be more spaceable. Because of all the curves it takes us so much time to shape the wooden platforms. The result is going to be a stage that really sets a mood for the play.”

Project won’t get extended

DREAMS of an extended May Project are dead for now. Although students, parents and Lab Schools Board members enthusiastically supported a plan to bring the Wise Individualized Senior Experience (WISE) program to U-High, faculty members were more than cool to the idea.

After a heated discussion at the March 5 faculty meeting, Academic Dean Cathy Feldman said that there did not seem to be enough support for the WISE program.

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Materials is all over the place and stress is at its height. The pressure has accumulated.

The SAT stands for Scholastic Aptitude Test. This doesn’t mean that stress has to come with the acronym.

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Associated with the Associated National Achievement Scholarship program for outstanding African American students.

The 8 new winners receive corporate-sponsored scholarships that range from $500 to $10,000.

Supreme Court Justice to get school alumni award

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, ’37, will be given the Lab Schools Alumni Award at a luncheon, 1 p.m., Saturday, June 1 at the Green Lounge of the U. of C. Law School, 1111 East 60th Street.

Justice Stevens grew up in a 58th street house overlooking the Lab Schools. At U-High, he was senior class president, captain of the varsity basketball and tennis teams, and the varsity soccer team co-captain.

Tickets for the luncheon, $35, are available through May 15 at the Lab Schools Alumni Office, Blaine 199.

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After a heated discussion at the March 5 faculty meeting, Academic Dean Cathy Feldman said that there did not seem to be enough support for the WISE-type program, so May Project expansion would not be pursued.

Visiting U-High in November, WISE Executive Director Victor Levitain described the program, which provides individualized out-of-school experiences for seniors during their final quarter.

“The idea was to make the end of the year project for seniors more meaningful to them,” Mrs. Feldman explained. “The WISE program has existed for almost as long as May Project has existed. It has a certain structure that could have helped our May Project. For example, it involves a Task Force of teacher, students, and community members and administrators who help design how the program works. This is something we felt would help May Project.

“There were a whole variety of reactions, from how in the world would we fit a program like this in to a really enthusiastic response.”

WISE, begun at Woodlands High School in Hartsdale, New York in 1971, has been adopted at more than 50 schools.

Lab Schools Board members supported bringing WISE to U-High (continued on page 10)
Poetic justice

By James Hopplewhite
Midway reporter

U-High's poetry readings and multidisciplinary poetry project have one person in common: English teacher John O'Connor.
The poetry readings began when Mr. O'Connor sponsored a seminar in which seniors could learn to write and share their poetry.

"Some kids talked to me and asked why there wasn't a reading for all students," Mr. O'Connor said. "I said I really didn't have the time to set it up, but if they set it up themselves I'd be happy to advise it."

That led to monthly student-led readings in Rowley Library, led by senior Jules Federle and juniors Sam Gershman and Michael Chandler.

"We're all impressed with the quality of the poetry from the students and their willingness to share. It's an honor and it's cool," said librarian Sharon Comstock, who has helped Mr. O'Connor. "The poetry isn't perfect, but poetry is a process and the library is a great informal venue for it."

Mr. O'Connor has also booked poets for readings, including DePaul University creative writing head Richard Jones May 15, and U. of C. professor Karen Volkman later this month.

Marc Smith, renowned poet and inventor of slam poetry competitions, was scheduled to appear April 30 in a student-led reading at Ida Noyes Hall, but never arrived.

Mr. O'Connor also led a multidisciplinary project which ended up becoming a dance routine April 18 in Belfield 141.

His sophomore English students wrote haiku with 4th graders of Lower School teacher Marjorie Hilllocks. A physics creative dance class set the poems to a dance and Music Department Chairperson Dominic Piane's music class set the poems to music.

Lower School teacher Colleen Conley's class painted haiga and sumi ink on rice paper drawings, to interpret the haiku. Then A.P. French, German and Spanish classes translated the haiku.

Next, the poems were recomposed and rechoreographed because the rhythms and sounds had changed.

"The students are as excited as I am," Mr. O'Connor said. "I'm grateful-no, I feel lucky-to have found such talented colleagues. This is what I live for, to do these kind of collaborations."

Poetic justice

By Keir Harris
Associate editor

Attendance plan frustrates some

With the school's new computerized attendance program software working only sometimes, teachers say they're frustrated. But according to Dean of Students Larry McFarlane, who is responsible for checking on the policy, the new attendance policy has produced at least 1 success. Student cuts have dropped significantly.

After 2 years of planning, the computerized attendance system went online in January. It replaced teachers putting attendance sheets on classroom doors for each class.

"The new policy has cut down on the number of cuts," Mr. McFarlane said. "The tardy issue still needs to be worked out because students are still tardy at a substantial rate."

"Teachers should be able to open it, enter their password twice, take attendance and walk away."

But many teachers find the system problematic.

Frustrated with frequent computer problems, foreign language teacher Randall Fowler said he no longer uses computerized attendance in class.

"I think computerized attendance is a good idea but this software isn't working," Mr. Fowler said. "I'll be in 4 different classrooms and 2 computers aren't working, so I just take attendance on the sheets and use the computer in the office after my classes but even that doesn't always work."

A Picture Perfect Prom

SEARCHING FOR the perfect prom look, Chris Amos headed to Cohn & Stern, where he knew he could find a wide variety of suits and tuxedos.

AFTER the friendly staff at Cohn & Stern helped Chris find a classic black tuxedo with a matching top hat in hand, Chris checks himself out.

AFTER FINDING the perfect prom outfit, Chris continues to browse Cohn & Stern's huge selection here in Hyde Park.

With prom less than 3 weeks away, it's time for the U-High fellas to make their way over to Cohn & Stern to find the most stylish prom fashions. With a wide selection of suits, ties, and tuxedos at 15% off for all U-Highers, at Cohn & Stern every promgoer is sure to score the perfect look for the special night.

COHN & STERN INC.
A Great Store for Men
1500 East 55th Street (773) 752-8100
Science, Math teams top state competitions
Placing 1st in state, the Science and Math teams decimated competition. For the 4th consecutive year, Science Team won the Worldwide Youth in Sci­ence and Engineering (WYSE) state meet, April 9 at the University of Illin­ois (U. of L.) in Champaign-Urbana. WYSE individual winners include:


Winning 13 team awards and 4 indi­vidual awards, the Math Team beat 19 schools at the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) April 27 at U. of I.

ICTM winners include:

FIRST: Senior team; junior-senior relay: Weiming Pan; 2ND: junior-senior relay: Andrew Hofman, Rachel Lee and Gina Monico; 3RD: sophomore team: Andrew Hofman, Rachel Lee and Gina Monico; 4TH: sophomore team: junior-senior 2 person team; 5TH: sophomore team, junior team; junior-senior 6 person team; freshmen-sophomore 3 person team; Sophia Lee; 7TH: T.-M. Lee.

State contest honors
Midway, staff members
Three 1st-place awards have been re­ceived by Midway staff members in an annual newspaper competition spon­sored by the Eastern Illinois High School Press Association at Eastern Illinois University at Charleston. Honored were junior John Oxtoby, photography; sophomore Abigail Baran, front-page design; and 2001 graduate Emily Lominn, freshman at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, cartooning.

Abigail Baran and Emily Lominn were honored for work in last year's issues. Other awards were as follows:

2ND PLACE-News writing: Ezz Harris; Scottie writing, junior Natolie Holys; sports writing, senior Mark Benero.

3RD PLACE-News writing, sophomore Rob Wile; editorial writing, 2001 graduate Mike Lamb, editor-in-chief of last year's Midway, now a freshman at Duke Uni­versity in North Carolina; column writing, senior Monty Kinsella; graphics, junior Russell Rohn; overall design, the editor.

The Midway placed 2nd in overall ex­cellence based on individual awards.

Ombudsmen handle a dozen requests
Dealing with 12 cases this year, omb­udsmen Roberto Michelle and Car­oline Nelsen, seniors, will be suc­ceeded next month.

Responding to student-student and student-teacher conflicts, Roberto and Caroline said they offered guidance by laying out ways in which students could handle the situation. In practice sessions covering how students should approach problems, students received experience and gained confidence about approaching the teacher or fellow student to address the problem.

"I took special care in dealing with certain situations, making sure the problem wouldn't reappear," Roberto said. "Caroline and I approached teacher or student to try and better understand the situation and worked one on one with students to provide proper advice."

After laying out methods to deal with problems, Roberto and Caroline carefully applied their outline to specific cases.

"We tried to give students who took advantage of us more than one way to deal with their problems," Caroline said.

"It was great to be part of the progress in each situation and mak­ing sure each student received help."

Negotiation teams eye settlement soon
With class sizes, salaries and div­ersity as major concerns, the teachers' union and University negotiating teams hope complete a contract this month.

At an April 11 Faculty Association meeting, union members were told there were no major areas of disagree­ment between negotiating teams.

Vic­tors outline agenda
MAKING EVERY stu­dent's life at U-High bet­ter ranks high among the goals of newly-elected Student Council President Alex Chiu, junior.

Among his plans are "having more class trips and bringing all the grades together through school sponsored var­i­ous activities."

Newly-elected Cultural Union President Keir Harris, junior, plans dances in new locations with different disc jockeys.
"We will definitely have a Homecoming game at home versus another ISL school the day of the dance and in coordination with a Spirit Week," Keir said. "C.U. also will expand our fan memorabilia to include clothing. My goal is that school spirit will increase as a result of these efforts."

Serving her 3rd year as class president, Junior President Alexis Maule hopes to make the Student Council more organized.

"The junior Student Council met for about 3 hours and made plans for next year," Alexis said. "We wrote up a syllabus and looked over next year's calendar to find any conflicting dates. We also want to have bonding time as a Council. It will be much easier to work together if we are comfortable with each other."

Alexis also hopes to bring her class as a whole closer together and keep it informed on Council issues.

"We will be visiting advisories more often next year, about once a month," Alexis said. "We just want to show people that the Student Council is effective. We hope to bring back the excitement and enthusiasm that was shown during by the class during freshman year. We're going back to square one to make this possible."

Also elected in the April 12 election were the following:

STUDENT COUNCIL-Vice president, Zach Lewis; treasurer, Michelle Berberian; secretary, Gabby McCoy.

NEXT YEAR'S SENIORS-President, Sam Larson, vice president, Evan Moore; C.U. representatives, Benji Fisher and Michael Chandler.

NEXT YEARS JUNIORS-Vice president, Noor Shawaf; C.U. representatives, Stephen Dooley and Katherine Blais.

NEXT YEARS SOPHOMORES- President, Matt Barber, vice president, Ilona Rotmensch; C.U. representatives, Brett Jeffries and Mark Berberian.

In a constitutional change the positions of class political representatives have been dropped and replaced by the position of vice president.

In the photo from left are Matt Barber, Sam Larson, Alex Chiu, Alexis Maule and Keir Harris.

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Community key in drug fight
INFLUENCES of the family unit and the school community are the most effective ways to stop teen drug use, said clinical psychologist Dr. Jon Mayer before a small crowd of 31 parents Thursday, April 11, in Judd 126.

Invited by the High School Parents' Council, Dr. Mayer spoke on ways to prevent drug use and creating an anti­drug environment in the school community.

"The almighty dollar's a good way to send the message that we won't tolerate people that allow underage drinking," Dr. Mayer said.

As a starting point for drug prevention, Dr. Mayer urged parents to "think about what messages you're giving at home about drugs."

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Photo by Sarah Panp
Diversity, quality impresses evaluators

ISACS report praises students, faculty; urges more curriculum articulation

By Russell Kohn
Political editor

Commmending the Lab Schools for diversity, the dedication of its faculty and the onerous task of learning of its students, evaluators representing the Independent Schools Association of the Central States in their report recommend better communication within the school and a curriculum better coordinated between grade levels and school levels.

Conducted every 7 years, the evaluation process begins with a self-study, followed by a visit from a team of outside evaluators. The current report is available in school offices and libraries.

A requirement for ISACS accreditation, this self-study and visitors' report include strengths, challenges and recommendations for each department, grade or program. The ISACS report also includes general recommendations for the school.

Among the general recommendations, the ISACS team urged the school to develop curriculum descriptions for each course and department, working towards more coordination between courses. The same recommendations have been made to previous evaluators.

“One of the concerns of the self-study was faculty autonomy,” said Self-Study Cochairperson Paul Gunty, assistant to the director. “It was seen as both a blessing and a curse. We have talented teachers but with too much autonomy, classes may not coordinate with each other. We have to balance teachers' freedom of working together towards the bigger picture.”

“Part of the visiting team's response to this concern was a vertical curriculum recommendation, which would make teachers aware of other classes regardless of their autonomy. This would help each year's curriculum build upon past years.”

With commendations for students, faculty members, parents, alumni and administrators, ISACS visitors were impressed with how the school benefits from diversity.

“The visiting team noted the dedicated faculty and involved, diverse student body as strengths of the school,” Mr. Gunty said. “They were very impressed with how diversity enhanced the school and how the students and faculty interacted. But they also recommended more diversity among the faculty.”

Taking note of the different goals and interests throughout the schools, the ISACS report recommended better defined lines of communication between both the schools and their subdivisions.

“We're a very large, extremely complex multiformat institution,” said Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz. “We have many parts, from the John Dewey approach to learning to the college preparatory school aspect. There is no straightforward admissions process or fundraising process. Nothing is easy.

“The result is accreditation from ISACS, but one of the goals is to get people talking and to exchange ideas. It was good to see the visiting team affirm that we're doing what we're doing and we have a good idea of what we need to work on.”

With the visiting team's approval of the self-study report, implementing the recommendations is the next challenge which will await a new director next year.

“We're taking the report's major recommendations very seriously,” Mrs. Katz said. “The need for better communication has always been a challenge. If we tackle that, we'll set the stage for new possibilities. This is just the right time for a new Director. A new Director will have more energy, more interest, a new voice, a new vision and a new approach.”

Benefit honors Director, raises funds for labs

PRESENTED WITH an oversized book filled with tributes and messages from students, teachers, administrators and friends, departing Lab Schools Director Lucinda Lee Katz receives the surprise from channel 7 news anchor Linda Yu at the Parents' Association "Connections" benefit April 20.

The event honored Mrs. Katz for her 16 years at the Lab Schools and raised $200,000 for science lab renovations.

About 920 people turned out for the gala evening, approximately twice the number expected, in the Finkle Steel Foundry, 201 North Southport Avenue.

Serving as cochairpersons were Ms. Terrie Neiman and Ms. Leslie African, Middle School parents.

The evening included an auction, silent auction and raffle. Guests bid on artwork created by students and professionals in both auctions.

“The children's canvases were outstanding,” Ms. Neiman said. “The professional artwork brought a neat touch.”

Guests praised a lavish dinner. Performing pop and Latin music, the propulsive Larry King Band included 3 singers.

—Reported by Jon Sydel

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a closer look at... lunch

Lunch time not always nutritious

By Noelle Bond and Priya Sridhar
Associate editors

Very day at 12:15 p.m., hungry U-Highers bustle from their classes eager to fill their tummies with lunch. While many students purchase food from the cafeteria, others bring a lunch from home or venture out to Hyde Park food hot spots.

Nearly 300 U-Highers subscribe to the school’s cafeteria meal plan, offered by its operator Plum Cafe, owned by Lab Schools parent Richard Mott. According to Cafeteria Manager Joanna Chen, students are more likely to choose items such as burgers, fries and sweet and sour chicken for lunch than other healthy options the cafeteria offers.

“The vegetables and freshly prepared sandwiches are more popular with the teachers and adult customers than with the students,” Ms. Chen said. “I pay close attention to what the students buy for lunch. I know that parents probably depend on us to give their kids food that is good for them, so we also try to make everything as nutritious as possible while still serving food that tastes good. I want students to eat vegetables even when there’s meat in the meal, so we can arrange for students to just have vegetables and rice.”

Some U-Highers say the cafeteria provides a healthy menu, though at a high price.

“It is extremely important to ingest vitamins and minerals such as calcium, B-12 and iron, especially if you are a teenager.”

“I bring a sandwich everyday from home that I usually eat during 4th period,” said senior Emma Wedeman. “Especially at school, I try to stay away from doughnuts. Sometimes I give in, but most of the time I try to buy fruit and stuff like that. The caf food is really good, but it’s really expensive.”

“Usually there’s a variety and the food is fresh, but it’s no fun buying a salad for $4.”

Although the cafeteria provides a variety of food choices, some U-Highers find they prefer healthier, smaller meals from the cafeteria Snack Bar.

“One of the problems is that the food is fresh, but it’s no fun buying a salad for $4.”

“Fast-food restaurants such as Harold’s, McDonald’s, Taco Bell and White Castle, prove popular places to get lunch.”

“Students,” Ms. Chen said. “I try to get a bagel during 2nd period,” said senior Nisha Chhabra. “I don’t want to buy the salads and entrees because they don’t look appealing to me. My mom doesn’t really mind what I eat, and I don’t bring lunches from home because I don’t have time in the morning to make it. I tend to watch what I eat when I go out. I try to get more vegetables in my meal.”

Many students do bring lunches from home.

“I bring my lunches from home because they, naturally, have what I like to eat,” junior Ben Bohlman explained. “I bring them about 4 times a week because I really don’t like waiting in the cafeteria line, waiting for greasy rice or tacos with too much lettuce and cheese. When I go out, I go to the Medici and get a burger. Spending my $7 to $8 there is definitely worth it.”

With classes and homework taking up the lunch period, eating lunch can come as early as 2nd period or as late as 7th.

“A lot of times I don’t eat during lunch because of my U. C. class, so I try to get a bagel during 2nd period,” said senior Gina Monaco. “I try to watch what I eat when I’m at school, but my dinners are usually healthy so I don’t really worry about eating the healthy foods.”

Fast-food restaurants such as Harold’s, McDonald’s, Taco Bell and White Castle, prove popular places to get lunch.

“I use meal plan for my lunch, but on Thursdays and sometimes Fridays my friends and I go to McDonald’s or Harold’s," sophomore Stephen Dussey said. “I usually spend $8 to $10 there because during the rest of the week I don’t have time to go out. On the other days, I use meal plan and I try to stay healthy, but I don’t overdo it.”

Encouraging students to pay close attention to their daily food values as outlined in United States Department of Agriculture’s Food Pyramid, Marjorie Leventry, registered dietician who owns her own private nutrition clinic on the North Side, said it is important to incorporate these food servings into a diet.

According to the Pyramid, 2 to 3 servings of dairy products, 2 to 4 servings of meat, 5 to 6 servings of vegetables, 2 to 4 servings of fruits and 6 to 11 servings of bread comprise the components of a balanced and healthy diet.

“The purpose of the Food Pyramid is to give Americans an easy reference on how to eat healthfully in order to live healthfully,” Ms. Leventry said. “It is extremely important to ingest vitamins and minerals such as calcium, B-12 and iron, especially if you are a teenager.”
Arcades offer thrills

By Steve Pichursky
Midway reporter

In arcades, champions can be made in one instant and smashed moments later in the pulse pounding, adrenaline-fueling, trial by fire that is gaming.

The dull, pulsing sound of the CTA Red Line creates a constant background sound in the neighborhood of Belmont and Clark. But, only 10 yards away from the station, in a dimly lit room no bigger than a U-High classroom, the sound is drowned out by loud techno music, clattering machines and battle cries.

Dennis' Place for Games lies nestled at the very heart of Belmont and Clark. Inside, the sound of buttons being smashed against consoles, joy sticks being hit with so much resounding force that they threaten to snap, and outbursts such as "dang man" and "Woo, I'm coming for ya now" blend into the chaotic background.

In this environment, with fewer than 15 people at a time, there is an aura of performance stage; the other a well-lit, more family-oriented setting with a snack bar and the scent of grease filling the lanes. Bright orange tables and chairs give the feeling of being in the 70s and a place to sit and enjoy some food or company.

Costing only $4 a person a game and $3 for shoes to bow in one of its 52 lanes, Miami Bowl proves a cheap place to play. Miami Bowl offers a number of arcade games and a pool hall for customers 18 and over.

"My friends and I really like to go bowling," Maya said. "We're not that good though so we don't go that often. When we do go bowling we usually go to Miami Bowl because it's close and it has a fun atmosphere that lets us just kind of ourselves and not become too competitive. Miami Bowl is kind of an out-of-the-way place where we can go to have a fun and meet new people."

For bowlers who prefer a more up-to-date atmosphere and lanes, Waveland Bowl is open to what they are looking for. Bright neon signs outside Waveland, on the Near Northwest Side, set it apart from other arcades spread throughout the city.

The tone of Dennis' is competitive, with 2-player combat gamesensely out weighing any other genre. The aspect of facing a complete stranger coming out on top can become addictive, according to junior Amar Bhakti.

Complexes offer variety

By Nick Epstein
Associate editor

Offering everything from games to climbing walls, large entertainment complexes are accessible for U-Highers but can get expensive.

Stretching a mile into the Lake, Navy Pier is an enormous play field, even including a museum. On a 70-foot high IMAX screen, patrons enjoy a 3-D movie. At the Chicago Children's Museum, visitors can take part in a simulated television newscast or dig for dinosaur bones. For sports fans, the Entertainment and Sports Complexes offer variety for U-Highers but can get expensive.

For sports fans, the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network Zone or ESPN Zone, combines sports dining with an entertainment center. Customers get bombarded with loudspeakers and TVs and is in every direction. ESPN Zone's Studio Grill serves delectable specialties, including buffalo wings. On the 2nd floor, an arcade features sports games, even including sports like fishing, scattered with batting cages and also featuring a climbing wall.

Dave and Buster's presents a more traditional arcade setting. The highlights include virtual reality sets where the user can duel dragons or other players and virtual golf.

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Profiles by Kimberly Cho and Julie Joseph, Midway reporters, and Shilpa Rupani, associate editor

IF P.A. like Faacl, jcih the dWIJ Who we are: ‘" A new, fabulous club devoted to fun and creative community service projects! " "WJ,af we've been up for: ~Playinq witJ, lower Sd,oorers after scJioor on Tiusdays .. ~Pranfinq a qarden on H,e SoutJi Side, workinq wit,-, kids from focar sd,oors .. ~Sfartinq a senior­fres,-,man buddy proqram .. Poss;Me fufu,. pn,ieefs: ~leading­arts works,-,ops for disadvant aged kids .. ~Serving­and­sreepinq over at a soup kitchen .. ~Coordinating­ar, scJioor service proiecfs where students can cJioose where to serve .. ~Adpinq buird a Jiouse .. HOW yau can help: We'll be selling smoothies and fruit desserts at Rites of May, so drop by and support our projects and a charity with your purchase. Or, come to a meeting and help find out more!

The Athlete: Zack Turnbull Tall, tan-skinned, well-dressed young man scans the sports section of the Chicago Tribune. Playing soccer, basketball and baseball, junior Zack Turnbull considers sports important to his life. Zack balances soccer, basketball and baseball with schoolwork and Peer Leading during the school year. "I started soccer when I was young because everyone was doing it," Zack said. "My parents wanted me to be more active so I started basketball when I was 10 and then my parents forced me into baseball when I was 12." Though Zack enjoys all 3 sports, baseball is his favorite. "Soccer is fun for 1st quarter and I love how close fans are in basketball, but baseball has to be my favorite," Zack explained. "I think my teammates rely on me most in baseball. Also, I think playing catcher gives me a lot of leadership." Despite dealing with normal high school stressors while juggling sports, Zack also became a Peer Leader this year. "Sometimes my schedule gets hectic but I still have time to hang out with my friends," Zack said. "Sports only help. They keep me sane all year round."
The details behind the hazing consequences

By Jules Federle

Last month 2 seniors were punished for incidents of hazing. Early in April, a senior with a past history of hazing was expelled. In late April another senior, with no prior disciplinary violations, was punished with behavioral probation, according to the students involved.

Students placed signs and banners throughout the school supporting the senior and calling for his return.

"I was genuinely afraid. I was talking to a teacher and the senior who was expelled came up. I told him about all the recent events and the teacher immediately got on the phone with administrators. I didn't want to report anything but the teacher insisted. "I told the student what had happened and he was being punished. I thanked him and I left. At first I felt bad for ratting on the senior but then I realized that it was the right thing to do. I needed to do it for me and the protection of my friends and the community." said a friend of the freshman who initially approached administrators.

Experts say community effort necessary to combat personal harassment, promote safe school environment for everyone

By Rob Wile

As psychological studies and newspaper articles reveal more bullying occurs at schools nationwide than school administrators perceive, administrators have instituted programs and rules to crack down on bullying.

Research published in the April 2001 Journal of the American Medical Association as well as stories in the April 14 Chicago Tribune and February 24 New York Times Magazine, reveal administrators at most schools are unaware of how much and what sorts of bullying occur at their schools.

The reasons bullying occurs will continue at a school unless everyone at the school helps stop it.

"The most effective ways of addressing bullying have been identified and put in place," Dr. Karen Piero told the Midway. Dr. Piero is a child psychologist at the Children's Hospital on the North Side and sophomore Aimee Weisz's mother.

"Everybody, from the administrators to the principals to the teachers, must be aware of the problem," Piero said. "If it all goes unreported, kids will be punished more and more." She said awareness is the key to preventing bullying.

School systems have also instituted new bullying policies. The Chicago Board of Education recently amended the school's Uniform Discipline Code. Despite these new policies, Dr. Piero said eliminating bullying will not be easy.

"In this country, bullying is viewed as part of our 'good old boys' tradition," she explained. "I think there's been a culture of permission of doing this kind of stuff. It's been going on for a while and it's going to be hard to eliminate."
By Natalie Hoy
Associate editor

Feel ing hazing is just a fun tradition, many seniors say faculty members and parents overd o it. With a senior expelled last month and another placed on so-called “behavioral suspension” until June — both for hazing — many seniors say they feel the school is handling hazing unwisely.

The school should be more consistent with what they call hazing,” Senior Class President Eitan Kensky said. “Although I don’t believe people should just take it, which some freshmen do, it doesn’t seem to bother me to the point of becoming afraid or run out of school so parents shouldn’t freshman Rob Ross said he thinks freshmen should take it personally,” Sonia Sharma said. “When you get involved.”

Many students agree that hazing is acceptable as long as it is not harmful to the victim or anyone else. Psychiatrists have also expressed concerns about the hazing because it is becoming more frequent and widespread. While some seniors say they feel the school is handling hazing unwisely, others say that it is just a fun tradition.

“Hazing goes unnoticed because people don’t speak up when hazed,” Senior Class President Eitan Kensky said. “Although I don’t believe people should just take it, which some freshmen do, it doesn’t seem to bother me to the point of becoming afraid or run out of school so parents shouldn’t freshman Rob Ross said he thinks freshmen should take it personally,” Sonia Sharma said. “When you get involved.”

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Chickennfried election

Early last month, students and parents received a letter from Principal Jack Knapp and Dean of Students Larry McFarlane in response to recent events, warning students of disciplinary consequences of hazing and encouraging them to report any such incidents. The letter was sent to all students and parents last month, but that's about all U-Highers got to run for office had a week to get their letters signed. Campaigning began the week of the election and speeches and voting took place Thursday and Friday. That left the student body with 4 days to evaluate candidates.

Only about half the candidates had an opportunity to present speeches because there were only 40 minutes allowed for the speeches. Who knows what the other half stood for? But, it hasn't always been this way.

Up candidates made the most of their 4-day campaign last month. But that's about all U-Highers got to see or hear from the candidates. Election speeches, Thursday, April 11 during the 2nd half of double lunch, didn't involve required presentations. Election speeches, Thursday, April 11 during the 2nd half of double lunch, didn't involve required presentations.

The 1930s art deco prom theme, with decorations in colors such as black, creme and eggplant purple gives U-High girls the choice of a curvy black dress over the ankle. "This year we are seeing girls move away from the traditional dresses and gowns and into dresses that show more skin and have lots of slits and cuts," Bloomongdale's sales associate Cindy Johnson said. "Especially more modern styles such as the snazzy tea length style dress and also lots of frilly lace numbers as well.""Especially more modern styles such as the snazzy tea length style dress and also lots of frilly lace numbers as well.

The hottest and cool trends have been inspired by Latin salas dresses, corset style gowns from the musical movie "Moulin Rouge" and the glamorous red carpet fashion shows at the Academy Awards. Popular colors for dresses also include bohemian colors such as soft turquoise and shades of white, corals and black, according to Elle Magazine.

Most dresses can be found at stores specializing in prom fashions such as Bloomingdale's, Marshall Fields and Jessica McClintock but fancier styles at higher costs are found at Barney's, Betsy Kalven, Jessica Naclerio, and Saks Fifth Avenue.

While mens prom fashions seem fairly simple, the classic tuxedo now comes in different fabrics, colors and coat lengths, easily accented with accessories for a more unique style.

The entire look can be customized at Cohn & Stern in Hyde Park. "The look is more unique style. By example of the kind of communication this school repeatedly makes, students are learning not to be clear and open. They're learning to dance around the truth, to be tactically expedient and not to upset anybody, just to preach to them. But every event can be learned from and every incident can provide a lesson.

Unfortunately, the lesson being taught here is that avoiding an issue is the way to deal with unpleasantries and that students shouldn't face life and the world around them. Being as vague and polite as possible is what counts.

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Alexis Malue
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PHOTO-EDITORIAL: Get real

IF A TORNADO ever hit U-High, you can bet there wouldn't be time for the orderly evacuation of classrooms, which took place during the April 9 tornado drill. Time aside, placing students near vast expanses of glass isn't safe. And the students daily chatting away should have been crouching against walls, protecting the back of their necks. Maybe next time.

ELABORATE DRESSES ranging from slinky jersey sheathes to billowy taffeta gowns are proving the focus of prom fashions, according to fashion magazines and newspaper sections. But choosing the perfect color seems to be more difficult now that black and white combinations are dominating the catwalks and considered passe.

Popular dress styles include 2-piece skirt and blouse sets, strapless gowns and uniquely cut dresses barring the back or legs.

Designers such as Allen Schwartz and Shelli Siegel are also creating different cuts for bottoms such as the trumpet or mermaid skirt that flares out and the reintroduced festive 1950s tea length look where the skirt reaches right above the ankle.

"This year we are seeing girls move away from the traditional dresses and gowns and into dresses that show more skin and have lots of slits and cuts," Bloomongdale's sales associate Cindy Johnson said. "Especially more modern styles such as the snazzy tea length style dress and also lots of frilly lace numbers as well."
More voices on hip-hop

From seniors Rishi Bhat and Sam Firke:

Through his recent column in the Midway, David Harris’s letter entitled “Respecting the roots of hip-hop culture” left us dismayed at the belief in the so-called ‘plundering of stereotypes’ that Harris expressed. In his letter, Harris discussed the “right of individual ethnicities to honor and take pride in their achievements.” Specifically, he addressed our criticism of the hip-hop exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry; he focused rather narrowly on African Americans in hip-hop, leaving out the many whites, Hispanics and Asians who are involved in the underground hip-hop movement.

We understand that the exhibit was part of the celebration of Black History Month and there is no dispute that hip-hop was one of the unique experiences of African Americans in this country. However, we do strongly feel that in addition to celebrating its roots, hip-hop should be celebrated in its current form—one which encompasses artists of all races.

In no way do take away from the aforementioned “right of individual ethnicities to honor and take pride in their achievements.” Furthermore, the statement that “hip-hop has become the voice of young African American youth” seemed outdated, to say the least. Young people of all ethnicities and races face many of the same difficulties and often turn to hip-hop as a forum to express themselves. As for hip-hop as a ‘black urban phenomenon,’ there is no disagreement that it originated in that way. However, to claim that hip-hop is currently “is” and “will always be” a black urban phenomenon is simply not accurate, given the prevalence of artists of other races in the mainstream hip-hop movement.

This issue of race in hip-hop is strikingly similar to the issue of race current throughout the world. The first hip-hop artists were black, as were the first fans; the first teachers and students at Lab were white. As the two communities developed, each began to include more members of all different races, but the goal of each group remained the same.

As expressed in a letter, Lab should have a faculty representative of its student body. To be sure, the hip-hop exhibit should be black. Blacks should be proud to celebrate their role in founding hip-hop, but it is not exclusively a “black, urban phenomenon.” Hip-hop fans are of all races. If Lab is truly the “face of the future,” we should see this in the Lab student body. The field is open to anyone who wants to make music and express themselves and the artists should be diverse. If hip-hop was a black, urban phenomenon, and has evolved into a global phenomenon open to all who wish to join.

As Mr. Harris stated, diversity simply does not mean that everything we now do must be diverse. But those things that are diverse certainly should be celebrated as such. For example, the sport of golf has a rich and glorious white, Scottish heritage. However, an exhibit about golf without mention of non-white players, such as Tiger Woods, would be ridiculous.

Similarly, it is most certainly a good idea to celebrate the African American roots of hip-hop. Many of the lyrics, beats and rationales that have contributed to the growth of hip-hop.

Unsedated blanket statements such as “hip-hop is black” and “will always be a black, urban phenomenon” accomplish nothing but the spread of stereotypes and misinformation. As non-black hip-hop artists, this is a stereotype that hits close to home—one that we fight every day.

Responding to some responses

From senior Nik Lund:

WHILE THE SENSITIVE nature of the issues explored by J.A. resonated with me, I also think it is important to examine the responses that have been made in the April 9 edition of the Midway from faculty members written in response to J.A.’s essay. While some were clearly shocked and appalled at the manner in which Lab Schools teachers addressed one of its brightest and most well-written students.

To me, the intolerance and uncontrolled anger in these letters betray the insecurity of people who wield large moralizing powers and are invested in misinformed judgments. One article merely denounced J.A. as “wrong,” without offering a single reference, specific or general, to points made in his actual article. Another article attempted to discredit J.A. by criticizing the organization of his article and feigning ignorance over his point. However, the article that took the “cheapest shots” was one that attempted to misrepresent his writing—first by altering the style and pace of his writing, and second by offering his writing as a basis for making a argument.

The two glib “interpretations” reached by the authors both stem from a single close-minded attitude. Though I have no doubt that the author (Ray periods of time) do not believe that their rereadings did they once try to assume for even a moment that J.A. was “wrong.”

Had they approached the article with any tolerant sensibilities they would have been able to interpret J.A.’s somewhat interesting essay over several times. For us, there are only two ways to interpret [J.A.’s essay]. ‘You are okay, you’re just like us. We just don’t want to lower our standards.’ We’ve heard both before, but we must confess that we did not expect to hear them here at Lab.

For example, the sport of golf has a rich and glorious white, Scottish heritage. However, an exhibit about golf without mention of non-white players, such as Tiger Woods, would be ridiculous.

Similarly, it is most certainly a good idea to celebrate the African American roots of hip-hop. Many of the lyrics, beats and rationales that have contributed to the growth of hip-hop.

Unsedated blanket statements such as “hip-hop is black” and “will always be a black, urban phenomenon” accomplish nothing but the spread of stereotypes and misinformation. As non-black hip-hop artists, this is a stereotype that hits close to home—one that we fight every day.

Exploring her sexuality, Jessica Stein (Jennifer Westfeldt, left) begins dating Helen Cooper (Heather Juergenson), a sexy art director, and is soon all engulfed by her relationships with men.

FUNNY AND ENGAGING, "Kissing Jessica Stein," a surprise romantic comedy hit directed by the unknown Charles Herman-Wurmfeld with a cast of almost unknown actors, is an entertaining exploration of identity and sexuality that tells of a straight woman who experiments with dating other women.

Frustrated with the dating scene and her inability to find a fulfilling job, a copy editor, on a whim neurotic aspiring artist Jessica Stein (Jennifer Westfeldt, right) answers an ad in the paper placed by Helen Cooper (Heather Juergenson), a sexy art director and is soon all engulfed by her relationships with men.

Despite Jessica’s reluctance, they embark upon a relationship, much to the dismay of her chauvinistic boss and ex-boyfriend Josh Meyers (Scott Cohen) and unbeknownst to her typical Jewish mother (Tovah Feldshuh).

What follows makes for a whimsical, lighthearted comedy, which never sinks to melodrama, as Jessica struggles to simultaneously accept her feelings for Helen and hide them from her family and friends and as Josh slowly begins to realize his feelings for her.

Snappy dialogue perfectly captures the spontaneity of the beginnings of relationship and Jessica’s background as a Jew from Scarsdale is adroitly captured in the scenes between her, her mother and her grandmother.

Fresh, bright and full of rich and undiluted colors, the film projects the viviveness of the lives portrayed. Even at a seemingly sad point, there is never any doubt that things will work out for the attractive Jessica. The certainty of an eventual happy ending ensures that there will be no deep emotional discoveries or surprises here, something that fans have always admired thanks to the film’s sweet good humor.

Perfect as Helen, Juergenson simultaneously expresses frustration and enhancement with Jessica. Deftly capturing Jessica’s and Helen’s relationship, Westfeldt and Juergenson’s dialogue seems easy and practiced, a fact that’s understandable since the pair adopted the films from their off-Broadway play and distributed it through Fox’s indie subdivision, Searchlight Pictures.

The 2 actresses make sparks fly as they slowly fumble their way into a relationship. Suitably charming, Cohen is admirable as the slowly reforming Josh and Feldshuh performs flawlessly as Jessica’s worrying, overbearing, but loving, mother. She twists and plays with the “Jewish mother” stereotype but ultimately emerges as a sympathetic, real character who just wants the best for her daughter.

Occasionally trite but always funny, “Kissing Jessica Stein,” cleverly explores relationships, individuality and sexuality — subjects that we all can relate to. Above all, it celebrates love and the humor of love, of all kinds, whether it’s between mothers and grandchildren or friends. That upbeat spirit makes this charming film both funny and satisfying.
Medici pizza, timeless.

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U-HIGH MIDWAY

Internet theft gets closer look

By Sam Gershman
Midway reporter

As highly-publicized cases of internet plagiarism occur in high schools across the nation, U-High itself is dealing with plagiarism cases.

Students have plagiarized from the internet several times this year, according to Academic Dean Cathy Feldman.

Internet plagiarism has been reevaluated at schools across the nation after a case of plagiarism at a high school in Kansas made national headlines.

In December, a teacher at Piper (Kansas) High School discovered that 28 of 118 sophomores had stolen sections of their botany project off the internet, according to a February 13 New York Times article. The students received no credit and then faced failing the semester. Parents complained to the school board and the teacher was ordered to raise the grades. She resigned in protest.

A similar case occurred at U-High in 1999, when a student's grade was changed without the teacher's knowledge after a case of plagiarism. It remains uncertain exactly who changed the grade. Angered by the change, teachers cited it among other grievances when they voted "no confidence" in the school's administration.

Trying to curb internet plagiarism with greater attention to student use of the internet, administrators and faculty members assert that the problem is not widespread here.

"The faculty has been made aware of the problem," Ms. Feldman said. "There are internet sites that the faculty has access to. In each instance of plagiarism this year, the teacher's policy was followed. One difficulty the school has to resolve, though, is that school policy requires prior indication before a student receives a D or an F."

Highlighting the urgency of the plagiarism problem, a recent survey by Rutgers University of

Where have all the seniors gone?

As the seasons slowly turn and the end of the school year approaches, U-High's seniors seem to vanish.

The once bustling halls, cafeteria and classrooms are left vacant.

University Market

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Luring 3rd-quarter seniors since 1991
Internet Theft (continued from page 15)

high school students found that more than half had stolen sentences and paragraphs from web sites, while 15 percent handed in papers completely copied. A study by the University of North Dakota found that 90 percent of students believe cheaters are either never caught or never have been appropriately punished. Faculty members offer various theories about this phenomenon. "Plagiarism here is of a different variety," said history teacher Susan Shapiro. "Kids seldom rip off a paper outright. They get behind the 5-day cycles, and the language of someone else they really like. It's more a insidious form because most teachers I suspect are going to have a harder time spotting out that kind of plagiarism.

To prevent internet plagiarism, faculty members have tried teaching students more carefully about appropriate research methods. "We have gotten very serious," Assistant librarian Matthew Nebel, who helps students with research, said she tries to make clear to students the distinction between plagiarism and paraphrasing. "One of the problems is that students will use the information validity. If students are thinking of paraphrasing, I usually try to give ample information on how to use it properly." Despite the best efforts of students' honesty, several cases of plagiarism this year have prompted a new look at the old problem.

"Increasingly I have made my assignments so particular to a certain topic that it's very difficult to plagiarize," Mrs. Shapiro explained. "I insist upon seeing notes, outlines and rough drafts. I need to be able to observe the process they've gone through. The best thing that can happen to them is to get caught."

Extended May Project (continued from page 3)

for the next 2 years, according to Mrs. Feldman. When faculty members discussed expanding Max Project at their March 5 meeting, however, many teachers expressed a desire not to institute such a program.

"Most of the faculty do not want to do anything that will compromise academics," said physics teacher David Derbes. "I think there was a widespread concern among the faculty that this would undermine the academic integrity of the curriculum." "I don't share that opinion, but I respect it. They think they need to get to the endpoint of the course. Even if the teachers and the class get to that point, some students don't. They don't want to do the work and they don't want to get to that point because some just aren't emotionally invested anymore."

Other concerns voiced at the meeting included program length, credit arrangements and whether a new project was needed with May Project in place, according to faculty chairperson Steve Farver.

Faculty members also cited a lack of time to consider extended May project as a reason for the general consensus against installing Max Project this year and in the future. Participate. Faculty members then decided to form a new committee to address the senior year. Aware of the difficulty many seniors have working spring quarter, Mr. Derbes said he believes a program such as an extended May project would help alleviate the slump. "A lot of kids have a tough time staying focused on academics once they are into college," he explained. "For a good number of kids, it would be good for them to get out of school other than in-class instruction."

"The whole purpose of WISE and May Project is to get rid of senior slump and to deal with it in a positive way. Instead of having kids who don't want to be in class there, WISE and May education U-HIGH MIDWAY

Creative scheduling

Schools experiment with varied patterns but U-High can't budge from the usual

By Benjamin Zimmer

rotating schedules where classes meet different times for the classes of rotation. 6-10 day cycles. Block schedules where classes meet 2-3 days a week for 1-2 hour blocks.

Though some schools have used block and rotating scheduling for decades, increasingly more educators have started believing it helps students learn more productively than 45-minute meetings per week the same time, according to the director of Education at Rockleigh Rettig at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Schools are adopting block scheduling, Mr. Rettig said, because educators feel longer periods in which classes don't meet every day can result in manageable, engaging classes.

"The fact that classes don't meet every day in block scheduling is both an advantage and disadvantage," Mr. Rettig told the Trib by phone from his home in Harrisonburg. "It is an advantage because students don't have to switch to different subjects each day and for many kids, it is easier for them to succeed in school when they can focus on certain subjects each day, rather than having to deal with everything."

"However, some subjects like math and science are best taught in shorter periods between classes, so they are not able to progress nearly as quickly as they don't have block scheduling."

"Also, in shorter class periods, teachers tend to rely on lectures since it's easy to think you can do anything that day, and the longer periods in block schedules allow teachers to use other strategies in addition to lecturing, which can also help students learn better like demos and hands-on activities."

"Also, subjects like art, music and p.e. require more time and can be scheduled. At U-High, we have approximately 55 minutes per period, by the time you are ready for class, it's time to put things away. The longer periods in block scheduling can help alleviate this problem."

"Rotating schedules with classes meeting different times each day can also help students learn better," Mr. Rettig believes.

"Many research studies have been conducted that support the notion that different students learn better at different times of the day and different teachers teach better at different times," Mr. Rettig explained. "This means when classes meet the same time each day a teacher might teach better to 1 section than to another. A student might do better in 1 class than in another simply because of when the period meets. Rotating schedules and block scheduling would help with this problem." Among schools which have adopted rotating scheduling, Lake Forest Academy, a North Suburban private boarding school, uses a 7-day rotating schedule with block periods.

"The schedule we use at Lake Forest is more student-friendly than many schedules," said Academic Office Manager Kevin Davis. "Because we operate on 7-day cycles as opposed to 5-day cycles, we create more time patterns for classes when we do scheduling each year. That allows more sections of classes and in turn gives us the ability to give more students the classes they want."

"Also, we have integrated more time where students don't have class into the 7-day cycle.

"For Lake Forest students, rotating schedules add variety and allow them to focus on certain subjects each night."

"It's nice to go to classes in a different order every day because each day you have classes meeting different patterns.

"Plagiarism here is of a different variety," said history teacher Susan Shapiro. "Kids seldom rip off a paper outright. They get behind the 5-day cycles, and the language of someone else they really like. It's more a insidious form because most teachers I suspect are going to have a harder time spotting out that kind of plagiarism.

"The whole purpose of WISE and May Project is to get rid of senior slump and to deal with it in a positive way. Instead of having kids who don't want to be in class there, WISE and May

Schedule switches double lunch

by Ben Zimmer

Forget sleeping in Mondays and going out to lunch Thursdays. Get ready to go out to lunch Wednesdays.

Next year's daily schedule has been finalized and double lunch is moving to Wednesday. Mr. Derbes said in a letter to Thursdays. The 10-minute break from the end of 2nd period to 1st period.

"The whole purpose of WISE and May High and Middle School schedules."

"Since the Middle School has a 10-minute double lunch, while the High School starts with a 5-minute meeting before 1st period allows us to line up the schedules after 1st period," said Assistant Director Pat Fox, who participated in scheduling discussions.

"We moved double lunch to Middle to align it with Middle School advisory that takes place during our 7th period Monday and we moved free 1st period to Thursday so it wouldn't be the same day as double lunch."

"The Middle and High School schedules will be lined up on the next year's schedule. We'll be able to move between the Schools easily and more rooms will be available for classes."

"This year, there are some periods when we have bad problems finding rooms for classes," said Academic Dean Cathy Feldman. "We have class meetings that are focused on the schedule, which I think is a real problem. It is hard enough trying to satisfy everyone's needs using the model we have; I can't imagine it if we moved to a more complex model."

"It is hard enough trying to satisfy everyone's needs using the model we have; I can't imagine it if we moved to a more complex model."

Even if U-High could switch to block or rotating scheduling, students would not necessarily benefit, teachers say.

"Two hallmarks of U-High are the student-teacher relationships and the students' ability to take full advantage of a rich curriculum," explained history teacher Susan Shapiro, who devised the current schedule and worked on scheduling 6 years.

"Both of these would be put at risk by rotating schedules, because with only 1 section to the teachers we have been rotating block and rotating scheduling, U-High's schedule includes only 45-minute periods that mostly meet at the same time each day because periods at U-High need to coincide with periods at different schools. So teachers can move between schools.

"It's unlikely we would adopt block or rotating scheduling now," said Academic Dean Cathy Feldman. "From the all-School President Samantha Holmes, senior.

"Also, because classes don't meet every day, you can combine class on certain subjects each night. It's not that we have less work to do, but we don't have to worry about every class every day and can focus on the subjects.

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Press-Ing Matters

Increasingly, educators are stepping into the work of editing the student press before publications reach their readers. But they say it's not censorship.

By Nathan Pirakitikul
Midway reporter

As Americans have discussed the importance of freedom in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, more high school administrators have tried to control the content of student publications to preserve their schools' image.

In the past year, the Student Press Law Center in Washington D.C., which helps student newspaper staffs and advisers, has received about 2,300 requests for assistance.

Student newspaper advisers have reported these cases of high school censorship in the past 2 months alone:

- FAR NORTHWEST SUBURBAN HUNTLEY—After confiscating the Huntley High School paper, the Tribe, before publication, Principal Dave Johnson ordered staff writers to make revisions to a controversial edition featuring stories on high school dropouts, attempted suicide, self mutilation, and pregnancy.

- UTICA, MISSOURI—For the first time in Ms. Olivia Olman's 31 years as Utica High School newspaper adviser, the school principal directed the staff to remove a controversial story about the school's swimming pool as a prank. The principal confiscated Jason's camera and suspended him 5 days. Administrators later reduced the suspension to 3 days and agreed Jason to write a research paper on student press freedom. The case received wide press coverage.

Legally, administrators can censor school papers. The Supreme Court ruled in 1988 that public school administrators are allowed to censor student publications if the censorship is "reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns."

Private school administrators have always been able to censor publications. Though some high school editors and advisers have gone to court to fight censorship, many have resolved disputes with administrators on their own. Quaker Shaker adviser Michelle Burress said she remained on good terms with the principal even after he suspended editor Jason Pearce. "I think the issue has been resolved pretty well," Ms. Burress told the Midway by phone from Plainfield. "The administration has always been very supportive of the paper and it was really out of character for the principal to take the camera and film from the kid and say it was his."

"I think it was more of a reaction to what had happened. If the principal had a little bit more time to think it through he probably wouldn't have done it. He usually isn't the type to go around censoring."

Although Jason told the Midway by phone from Plainfield he felt he shouldn't have been suspended, he did not fight school administrators, wanting the paper staff and administrators to remain on good terms.

"The reason I didn't want to put up a big fight even though I knew I could was that I didn't want to ruin the relationship between the paper and the school by making them angry at each other," Jason explained. "What happened only fed my passion for journalism."

"There really isn't that much exciting stuff to report for high school papers, just sports, drugs, sex and stuff like that. Having a senior prank that actually went through was really a first and I thought we needed to cover it."

When student publications are censored, advisers and editors can (continued on page 18).
Student press

(continued from page 17)

contact the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), which provides strategies and free legal assistance to student journalists and teachers through a telephone hotline service, magazines, monthly reports, a book, conferences and court briefs.

SPLC assisted about 2,300 advisers and editors last year, more than any previous year.

"The problem is getting worse," Executive Director Mark Goodman told the Midway by phone from a high school journalism conference in Oklahoma.

"I do think that school administrators engaging in more censorship, probably more than they ever have before because they feel more threatened before than ever, before because they fear more threatened by what student journalists publish.

"What I think happened after September 11 is the terrorist attacks kind of reinforced the idea among school officials that we live in a troubled world and we have the ability to do a lot to avoid conflict and hurt.

"Part of what it boils down to is that belief that free expression can be sacrificed when we believe there are good reasons, in doing so, we are in the process of stripping many of many school officials promoting the school is a good reason for censoring. "I think it is kind of just a reflection of the attitude in general in the world after September 11."

Though student publications at other schools have been censored, Lab Schools administrators have never reviewed the Midway before publication, though legally they can, according to Midway adviser Wayne Brasler.

"I made an agreement with administrators when I was hired in 1964 that the publications would be independent of administrative and faculty review except for my role as faculty adviser," Mr. Brasler said.

"We have a history of 38 years of supportive administrators who work with us as a news gathering team and encourage a vigorous independent student press. I can't praise our administrators enough for their vision and wisdom in that respect.

"We have also built a 38-year record of providing a forum for public opinion and we take great pride in consistently being on the cutting edge.

"That long history of providing a public forum, and the Midway's record of honors for journalistic excellence, could protect us in court if censorship occurred."

Though administrators can censor the Midway, Lab Schools Director Linda Lee Katz says she wouldn't because administrators value a student's right to free speech.

"We feel it is important for students to have an avenue for expression while being respectful of community members and accurate in research and information," Mrs. Katz explained.

"We believe a school paper is a tool for learning. It's the same reason why we value trips abroad or why we value our school plays.

"We love the papers. It gives you, the reporter, the chance to express your opinions without censorship and it's another way for us to hear from the students."

Eye-opening experience

A GIRL EXPRESSING her feelings on the movie "Boys Don't Cry," about the murder of transsexual Brandon Teena, provokes another student to respond: "She deserved to die."

The vignette was among several performed by About Face Theater in its show "On the Down Low." Presented April 25 to a group of wide-eyed freshmen and sophomores, the half-hour performance included pieces about school and family violence, peer rejection and teens coming out.

After the program, the actors led a discussion about harassment of homosexuals in schools, including how students use the words "fag" and "gay" as derogatory terms.

"Our goal is to discuss issues facing the youth in schools and begin a dialogue about the issues presented," said Education Programs Director Brian Goodman.

"We want to get the students to start to think. I think that worked really well here."

Farther north is Fun Zone. Though small, it offers a unique feel. Twice the size of Dennis' it still seems competitive, but sports games and pinball games, such as basketball shoot and ski ball balance combat games. Whereas Dennis' has tinted windows and shut blind, with little light other than the glowing screens, Fun Zone has massive windows looking out onto Western Avenue.

Bowling up your alley

(continued from page 6)

laid back. It's nice to be able to go somewhere that I can have fun without worrying about winning."

Diversey-River Bowl, at Diversey and the Chicago river, offers more than the nightly games and special events.

There are league nights every night, including the Fun-Timers and the Chicago Teachers Bowling Association.

Themed nights are also part of the Diversey experience; Mondays are Lucky Strike Nights, where bowlers can win a dollar off for each strike; Wednesdays are half-price nights; and Thursdays are Student Nights, when students receive a discount. Prices by

Paintball a real trip

(continued from page 6)

Paintball can be played by students inside and out.

Built on an Army base, Blast Camp, in Northwest Indiana, about an hour from Hyde Park, has 9 different courses. Restored army bunkers and barracks, and the world's largest trench system give Blast Camp a war-like ambiance. Rental costs push entry fee and ammunition can reach $80.

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**Sports**

**Sluggers go into final games before Regionals**

High won 9-2. Junior John Ostbye pitched a complete game with 8 strikeouts in the win. Varsity will also face Quigley, 4:15 p.m. tomorrow at home; Parker in a rescheduled game 4:30 p.m., Thursday in Lincoln Park; and Lake Forest Academy, 4:30 p.m. Friday there before heading into Regionals. The boys have yet to face Quigley, but beat LPA 11-1 in their first meeting April 16 at home.

The Maroons got off to a shaky start, losing their first 2 games, including a disappointing 1-0 loss to Iliana Christian April 3 away. But the sluggers say they were more frustrated about the large number of cancellations and reschedulings which occurred because of bad weather—a total of 7.

Northridge Prep, Chicago Christian, and Iliana Christian were all swept 9-0 today in Jackman Field, varsity girls hope to close out their season by defeating the Caxys a 2nd time.

**comeseeu-hig**

**J.V. GIRLS' SOCCER**

If you like what you see, come cheer us on at our **4:30 p.m. game today on the 2nd Midway**

**ISL meet beckons tracksters determined to retain crown**

About half the size of the girls' team, the boys placed 6th of 9 overall at Lisle, though senior Lydell Ware came in 1st in the 200m, 2nd in the 400m and 3rd in the Long Jump. The boys scored 20 points against Lake Forest Academy April 16, the boys placed 2nd out of 3, with Lydell placing 1st in the 200m, the 400m, and 2nd in the 800m. Fresman Ray Padgett finished 2nd in the 400m.

Tennismen title bound?

By Jon Sydel

Looking to repeat their Independent School League and Sectional titles, tennismen face Morgan Park Academy 4 p.m. today at home before heading to the ISL Tournament tomorrow. Competing in the Oak Lawn Bracket for the 2nd consecutive year, the boys will face Brother Rice Monday May 13 and in Sectionals, before heading to State, May 15-21.

"Brother Rice is a big match because the winner receives the confidence for the more important match during Sectionals," said coach Gerald Hands. "It is up to the kids to be capable of winning and it gives the team a sample of the competition they will be facing."

Scores not previously reported, U-High first, j.v. in parentheses, as follows:

- Mt. Carmel: April 3, away; 3-0; April 4, away; 6-3; Mt. Carmel: April 5, away; 9-2; April 6, away; 15-3; Chicago Christian: April 10, varsity home, j.v. away; 5-7; Quizley: April 12, away, j.v. only; April 13, away; 3-1; April 14, away; 4-3; April 15, away; 8-10 (10-1); Lake Forest Academy: April 16, home; 3-2; Egin: April 20, doubles/overbooked; (13-5, 2-7); Francine Parker: April 30, home; 5-0; North Shore: April 30, Friday; Friday, April 30, away; 3-0; Lake Tech: Thursday, May 30, away; 3-1; J.v. only; May 1, away; 14-2.

**Repeat play?**

Soccer girls hope to smash Caxys again

By Jordann Zachary

Gearing up for their last Independent School League game of the regular season today against Lake Forest Academy 4:30 p.m. today in Jackson Field, varsity soccer girls hope to close out their season by defeating the Caxys a 2nd time.

"The first game against Lake Forest April 12 was one of the best games we played all season," said varsity co-captain Mairread Ernst, senior. "The game was the best game of the season together for the team. We really stepped up our level of play and we ended up beating them 2-0."

After facing the Caxys, the Maroons will focus on the Sectional tournament Tuesday, May 14, for which they have a 1st round bye.

"I expect us to advance to at least the Semifinals this year," Varsity Coach Mike Moses said. "There are 20 teams in our section, so depending on what group of 5 they put us with could determine how well we do."

Going 4-1, the j.v. squad has nevertheless experienced problems with consistency, according to J.V. Coach Bannon Stroud.

"We had problems with our focus and concentration," Stroud said when we went out and focused and played as a unit, I liked our chances against competitive teams."

Scores not previously reported, U-High first, j.v. in parentheses, are as follows:

- Mother McCrory: April 2, away: 0-3 (1-2); Latin: April 5, home: 4-2; Williams: April 10, home; 6-4; North Shore Country Day: April 11, home: 4-0; Lake Forest Academy: April 12, away, j.v. only; 0-3; Woodland: April 15, away: 3-2; Egin: April 16, home: 7-0; Francine Parker: April 23, away: 2-8 (4-5); Woodland: April 24, home: 6-3; Willows: April 25, away: 2-0; Francine Parker: April 27, home: 0-4 (6-3); Egin: April 29, away: 20; Latin: April 30, away: 0-4; Mother Guerin: May 1, away: 20.

**ISL meet beckons tracksters determined to retain crown**

By Jo Burgess

Midway reporter

Eying a repeat of their ISL title, tracksters will compete in the Independent School League meet 1:30 p.m. today in Lake Forest before heading to Sectionals May 11 at Lake Forest, and State, May 17-18 for girls and May 24-25 for boys.

In their latest meet at Chicago Christian April 26, the girls placed 2nd of 14. Junior Becky Levine was named athlete of the meet for the 2nd consecutive year, the boys will face Brother Rice Monday, May 13 and in Sectionals, before heading to State, May 15-21.

By Nathan Pirakittikul
Midway reporter

Scoaring through the sky at 5,000 feet behind the wingtip of a Cessna or other small airplane, U-Highers including junior Ben Bohlman and freshman Johnny Legittino take to the air with flying lessons.

Intrigued by riding airplanes and being in the air since grade school, both Ben and Johnny have always wanted to become pilots. With the high costs of flying in an urban area such as Chicago, however, the prospect of learning to fly seemed unlikely.

“When I was little my family flew a lot to Germany because my dad is a music professor who does a lot of stuff around the world,” Ben said. “I’ve always wanted to learn how to fly but it never occurred to me that I could take much cheaper lessons out in Wisconsin where my grandfather lives. On my 14th birthday my Grandpa took me out on an hour-long flight with a flight instructor, an experience I loved. Since then I’ve been taking lessons twice a month for $60 an hour and when I turned 16 and got my flying certificate, I began flying solo too.”

By Mary Bloom
Midway reporter

Since the age of 4, freshmen Kristen Koenig has loved horses.

“I remember going past this field of horses all the time when I was little,” Kristen explained. “I was really impressed. My love has grown ever since,”

Kristen is among several U-Highers, including fellow freshman Alma Heckman, with a passion for horses. Kristen’s early encounters with horses has evolved into a serious endeavor. Dedicating countless hours of practice Kristen horses her skills by taking lessons 3 days a week at Northern Tradition Farm in far suburbs Minooka.

“Minooka is 45 minutes away from my house in Naperville,” Kristen said. “It’s somewhat of a drive. But the trainers at the barn take very good care of my 2 horses, Contessa and Kirby. I bought Kirby at a horse show in the Milwaukee Spring Show last year. Contessa is a 12-year-old black-maned bay mare, I do a gated ride, where the panel horse competition judges are more concentrated on the horse than the rider.”

Kristen competes several times a year in the Midwest circuit B-level and the Academy level, for serious and advanced horse owners. “There are about 20 competitions every year held from May through October around the Midwest,” Kristen said. “I travel mostly during the summer, so I don’t miss too much school. Going to Louisville, Des Moines, St. Louis, Milwaukee and all over the Midwest takes up a lot of your time and life. My horses travel with me through a van service and it is especially hard on them. They normally go out a few days ahead of me to get used to the different setting.”

During these shows Kristen, a National Horse Showing Silver Medalist at last year’s Youth Olympic showing in Milwaukee, performs a maximum of 16 horse showing patterns and is judged on technique, posture and ability to control a horse by a panel of 3 judges.

“I get nervous at every horse showing,” Kristen said, “but I get especially nervous at the 3 National horse shows, Louisville, Lexington and the American Royal. My parents and some of my friends come out to see me at these competitions. These showing competitions are a lot on where a rider places in the horse-showing world.”

“I think a horse learns through repetition, so it takes time for horses to learn the commands,” Kristen said.

The average cost of training and boarding a horse is about $700 a month. This includes the hotel accommodations, the food, and the doctor bill and all other expenses are separate.

According to Alma, owning, maintaining and showing a horse is not the only way to be involved in horseback riding. Two years ago on a spring break trip at White Stallion Ranch in Arizona, Alma began western style horseback riding.

“My older brother Jon was sort of into becoming a cowboy,” Alma said. “So I persuaded my family and I to go on this trip. At first I was reluctant about horseback riding, but I excelled in my classes there and realized there were many other types of riding and it was more exciting than I thought.”

“Showing horses is different than riding them because riding horses is much more relaxed and there are more riding style options.”

Taking 10-person group lessons, once a week at Palos Hills Riding, in South suburban Palos Hills, Alma explained her weekly lesson of riding hurt set, cattle cutting, roping and rodeo.

“Group lessons are really fun because even though I don’t get the individual attention I would be getting if I took private lessons, you get to meet more people interested in horse riding like you,” she explained.

Most of the people in my riding group are girls. I think boys have this image that horses are prissy and feminine. I guess there’s a cliché that only girls say ‘I want a pony,’ so guys in our society don’t think it’s acceptable to horseback ride.”

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A GREAT IDEA

WAITING for his mom to come pick him up after school, senior Greg Domingue desperately tries to come up with a way to get around at school to impress some friends without spending all of his money on a car or insurance.

THEN suddenly, it hits him. “I know how to look cool at a great price,” Greg said. “I’ll get a bike from Wheels & Things. They have everything I need to cruise the streets in style.”

THANKS to some nice gear and a new set of wheels from Wheels & Things, Greg has new friends like senior Hal Woods to meet after school. Now he’ll never have to wait for his mom again.

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