Matt Horvat is ready to talk...to you

By Namrata Patel
Editor-in-Chief

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New principal eager to come on board

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Principal Matt Horvat with Midway Editors-in-Chief Sarah Fischel, Phil Jacobson, Namrata Patel and Henry Africano.

National reputation.
Mr. Horvat has already begun formulating ideas about U-High, but he knows he needs time before he can create more specific plans.

"My main goal is getting to know people," he said. "I want to make myself as available as I can. I'll go to games and events and I definitely won't be locked up in my office working all the time. I would hate for someone in April to ask 'Who is that?' pointing to me.

"During the summer, I began meeting faculty members. They seem great and all talk about how great the student body is. They're obviously very committed to the students. They're tough working in a high school. I think you have to be more of an adult than in any other job. It requires you to act as a role model.

Leasing back in his wooden chair, Mr. Horvat looked at his desk covered with summer reading, including U-High yearbooks beginning in the 1930s and evaluations of the Lab Schools. Among his observations of U-High, he noted that the daily schedule has not changed significantly in more than four decades. He plans to create a team of students and faculty to discuss the prospect of a new schedule.

"I don't think any institution can be happy where it is," he said. "I've been a teacher for a lot of years and have never taught a course the same way. I want to try and create a different schedule, because a schedule drives everything. It may be the only thing that works, but I still want to get a committee together to think of new possibilities.

In the 1997-98 school year, U-High insisted all-school weekly assemblies, which included a variety of speakers, performances and activities 3rd period Wednesdays. Though the assemblies only lasted two years because of indifferent student response, such a period appeals to Mr. Horvat.

"I would like to add to the schedule is a period where we have time as a community, as a time when students can display their abilities," he said. "I would want this to be run by the students, giving them more power and more of a voice. There is always the need to build as a community."

Director to reveal awaited semester decision this week

By Henry Africano
Editor-in-Chief

Director to reveal awaited semester decision this week

Four new faces

U-Highers met four new teachers in classes today. At an Orientation August 28, they received gift bags before enjoying a luncheon buffet. From left are:

Mr. Sonaar Luthra, English. He previously taught at the Punahou School in Honolulu. Last year he was a reporter for the Today newspaper in New Delhi in India.

Ms. Mary Kay Akers, librarian. She previously served two years as a research librarian for Donors Forum of Chicago.

Mr. Zhihao Sun, Mandarin Chinese. He previously taught Mandarin at the Robert Healy School in Chicago.

Mr. Ira Niremberg, Physics. He previously taught at the Benjamin Franklin School in New York. He evacuated Hurricane Katrina and then went to Mississippi where he built a house.

On the inside
A NEW OPINION COLUMN by Mona Dasgupta debuts with a tear. 2
FALL TEAMS gear up with eyes on the crown (the ISL crown that is)....3
MANDARIN comes to the school today after students, teachers and administrators go to China over the summer. 4
THIRTY NEW U-Highers join the family today (welcome all). 4
As the Midway sees it...

We are family...and don’t you forget it!

Here at U-High, there’s a good chance any one student knows most of the others in their grade. That student probably also knows many faculty and administrators on a friendly, group level and perhaps knows each other at a different level than at most large schools; it’s all part of U-High’s community environment.

That understanding contributed to the idea to replace quarters with semesters, originally brought up by former Principal Jack Knip. The plan’s main goal is to reduce stress among students and faculty.

This week, Lab School Director David Magill plans to together when the school will switch from a quarters to semesters.

Regardless of how it ends up affecting the final decision, the group was glad that faculty and administration knew what they thought.

As Curriculum Committee made various decisions regarding the schedule, Student Council helped make sure student voice was heard.

At three student council forums in January and February, U-Highers voted almost unanimously in favor of quarters, causing faculty to take notice of student opinion and revise the plan.

U-Highers continued to voice their opinions through a pro-quarter petition which circulated among the freshman and sophomore gears and drew 121 and 126 signatures, respectively.

Through letters to the Midway, students kept reminding faculty and administrators that this sense to semesters was their idea.

Whatever the verdict, it’s important for all sides to accept it and move forward. Advocates of quarters and semesters had the same of altering stress in mind; it’s just the way they wanted to do it that differed. That highlights the connection between administrators, faculty members and students, vital because it kept everyone pursuing the same end.

Our new principal, Mr. Matt Horvat, said his main goal is to get to know people. U-Highers make same effort to meet him, for example inviting him to club meetings or stopping by his office to say hello, establishing a connection between Mr. Horvat and the U-High community.

To build on last year’s positives, we must remember that although it doesn’t always provide an instant solution, as understanding of those you’re working with is a very good place to start.

The Midway is all about you

Celebrating the arrival of a new principal, Mr. Matt Horvat, Midway editors return to early in a way that wasn’t just a list of statistics. Steven Levitt’s comparison of real estate agents to the KKK was more interesting. It wasn’t a comparison that you would normally make.

VICTORIA TSAY, sophomore: I thought it was interesting that part of the book because it was and a lot of different questions.

JARUS SINGH, junior: I think it’s interesting how Steven Levitt takes sci-entific views on social phenomena. I liked the comparison of teachers to sumo wrestlers. The best are at things to compare but it’s surprising how he can fit all the in the end.

CORTIN’ BROWN, senior: The question is have I read it yet? I started reading it but got bored for a play and travel. I think it was impor-ant to read because it is out of the box. From what I read there were things in it that weren’t orthodox, which makes me appreciate the assignment.

The U-High Midway

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Say What?

Compiled by Jacquelyn Chasy

What did you find most interesting about the summer reading assignment, “Freakonomics”?

JAMES PHILLIPS, freshman: “Freakonomics” is a lot of differ-ent from what I thought. I was just a list of statistics. Steven Levitt’s comparison of real estate agents to the KKK was more interesting. It wasn’t a comparison that you would normally make.

VICTORIA TSAY, sophomore: I thought it was interesting that part of the book because it was and a lot of different questions.

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Ricketts are the only two adults who see the newspaper before publication. But administrators are part of the publishing team, being in charge of generating story ideas, giving advice on handling difficult topics and giving opinions of each issue.

The Midway fulfills certain legal requirements. We cannot print libel, obscenity or anything that could reasonably be construed as resulting in disrupting it orderly running of school.

Participation from all students, parents and faculty is always a welcome part of the Midway. Guest columns, letters to the editors and story ideas are all appreciated ways to participate in the Midway.

Simply sign your contributions, place it in a sealed envelope or Mr. Brasher’s mailbox in the High School office and you could be part of the next edition of the Midway.

We encourage you to keep an eye on the Midway as we luxuriate with upgraded Macintosh computers and new design software, InDesign. Both these changes, which allow for creative work, are greatly appreciated.

For many U-Highers

Something’s missing today

AS I WALK through U-High’s familiar doors today, I feel little excitement over the prospect of a new school year. Instead I feel an overwhelming sadness as if something is missing. Or, rather, someone.

After a long summer, my boyfriend, Trevor Lombardey, the day finally came when I had to watch him drive away to college. From the moment he decided to attend Boston University, I knew we would eventually be going to school and living miles apart.

We talked about staying together before he left. I wasn’t really sure whether we should. In my heart, I knew I wanted to be with my mind I thought of the difficulties distance would make for us. We would only have stolen days together, a vacation here and there and school breaks. I know we will both change and grow and not together.

I thought about some of my friends facing the same situation. Senior Palika Makam’s boy friend of three years, Jon Handrup, recently left for Miami University of Ohio.

“I feel really weird right now,” Palika said. “I’ve had my best friend for all of high school. Now he’s gone. He’s not at camp or on a vacation. He’s living in a new city and the fact that I won’t see him every day is a recent thing we have to get used to.

“The first day he left was the hardest. We’re not saying goodbye but a certain part of my life is different now. We’re still best friends and love each other very much and I know it’s not goodbye forever.”

So a part of me is comforted knowing I am not alone in my confusion. Should I be asking, “Where do we go from here?” Or “Where do I go from here?”

I asked my 2006 graduate Corey Bilker how she felt when her boyfriend, 2005 graduate Dan Wadero, left for the University of Wisconsin. I wanted to know how they maintained their ongoing relationship with the distance between them.

“We had only been together for four months before Dan left for college,” Corey said. “I was really worried about the distance between us and how people change when they’re away from each other. I felt like he would change in college and I would be the same because I would still be at Lab. I had to figure out if our relationship was worth staying together and it was.

“In order to keep our relationship going, we talked on the phone and online. He would come home to visit and there was a bus I could take to see him. Then when he came home, I had to make sure our relationship was still fine, happy and exciting. I realized that our relationship had to be about trust and value.”

After hearing from my friends, I contemplated my decision for a long time. I knew I wouldn’t want to end my relationship with Trevor. I know I’ve found a person worth waiting for. I worried about us growing up without each other and now I realize, that even though we’re apart, he can still be a part of my life. Though I worry, how much will the distance separate us?
**Golfers seek revenge**

By Henry Africano

Editorial

Gearing up for a rematch against Parker 4:30 p.m. today, after a loss by 10 strokes to Colma 8-31 Aug 18, away, the Maroons will play at U-High's new golf course, The Sanctuary in New Lenox.

With the addition of two freshmen, Evan Levin and Bill Steuben, Team Captain Adam Kossman, seniors, has been working on the team's strategy and putting better understanding the rules can cut the 10 strokes. The golfers have been focusing on their short game and ball placement.

"We have been working on the short game this week so we should be able to beat Parker," Coach Kossman said.

With the short game work, a full roster and home course advantage, the team has a good chance at winning the match, believes Coach Glenn Sharp.

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**Tennis squad takes on last year's League champs**

By Dana Alfana

Editorial

Facing Woodlands, who topped the Independent School League last year, girls' varsity tennis needs mental toughness to claim the Wildcats, 4:30 p.m. tomorrow, at home, believes Coach Gerold Hanck. Last year Lake Forest Academy and the Maroons trudled them in the League. "The match is important not only because it's the first League match but it's early in the year," Coach Hanck said. "Playing the match will be nerve-racking for the players so it's more about mental than physical preparation. We hope that it will help them control theirHINGE.

"I think it's clear that Freshmen Gabby Clark will be outstanding for us. She has competed in US Tennis Championships and holds both district and national titles.

"The team of six returners and two freshmen played Timothy Christian, August 31, away, and in the Hinsdale South Quad, September 2, away. Results came after Midway deadline.

The Maroons will concentrate on their net game against Lake Forest Academy Tuesday, September 12, away.

"Lake Forest is a solid team overall and the fact that the match is played on their court makes it even more intense," said Junior Alex Geyton, co-captain with Sarah Rebecca Restick. "During practices there has been less talking and more focus on winning in a close match."

"We have been working on forecourt and we need to run more volley drills so that we can maximize our net game during doubles matches."

"Concentrating on teamwork and consistency, j.s. faces Woodlands, 4:30 p.m. tomorrow, at AA Stagg Gym at the U. of C.

"We've been stressing the importance of team chemistry to the new players who are not used to playing individually," Coach Julia Lazarewicz said. "We've run singles and doubles drills because we mix and match players to different combinations and we need to support the team as a whole. Some of these girls haven't hit a ball in a year, so we run drills to maintain mental toughness."

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**Soccermen face off with foe which topped them in Sectionals**

By Gabe Bump

Editorial

Our more organized style of play should give our side the edge against Morgan Park Academy," said Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach Mike Mores. The Maroons faced Maine South, who finished 2nd in the Independent School League behind U-High last year, in their sixth match of the season, 4:30 p.m. Friday, away. Last year's Maroons lost to MPA during overtime in Sectionals.

"MPA has two or three players that, if they get the ball, can really burn us," Coach Mores continued. "But we try and get everybody involved in the attack. They seem to get lucky a lot too. They score all of their goals off dead balls: corner kicks and penalty kicks. They shouldn't burn us, if they do, we have a lot to fix."

Beginning the season in the Hyde Park Soccer Classic, August 25-26, the team of 13 returnees and 10 new players finished 2nd in the Maroon Pool behind Wheeling. Championship game results came after Midway deadline.

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**Cross country squads ready for first test**

By Christina Delicata

Associate editor

Armed with confidence, the boys' and girls' cross country teams expect to dominate against Chicago Hope Academy, Willow's Academy and North Shore Country Day in their first meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 4.

The teams boast 14 boys and seven girls, including 11 returning boys and six returning girls. Last year's boys' team qualified for Class A State competition for the first time since 1977 and the girls qualified for the seventh time in 10 years.

"Our team has really good younger talent this year, and that's going to help replace the loss of some of our seniors like Ana Wagner-Schepny and Erio Hale."

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**Achieved swimmers taking it further**

By Stephanie Serra

Associate editor

Sharply rotating her hips and shoulders, Junior Anna Schleusener finishes strongly into her flipturn, practicing tactics the girls' varsity swim team will use against Morton East in its second meet 5 p.m. tomorrow, at home.

Breaking a record for the 200 freestyle last year, Anna made U-High history when she became the first girl swimmer to qualify for State. The Maroons placed 4th at Sectionals last year behind St. Ignatius, Latin and Mother McAuley. Losing four swimmers to graduation, this year's team of 15 returning athletes and one new freshman is working on improving speed and technique, according to Coach Paul Gunty.

"We've increased our yardage for the meet, so we're definitely in better shape this year," Coach Gunty said. "We've also been stressing the mechanics of swimming, like a proper hip and shoulder rotation in the backstroke and freestyle."

"Morton will have a bigger team, but we have better swimmers. Anna Schleusener obviously stands out in the 200 free, Caroline Bank in the 100 fly and Limena Maden is strong in the 500 free. We should beat them, but the number of swimmers we have to put in each event, the depth of our team, will hurt us."

With 14 years of coaching experience, new Assistant Coach Mike Cunningham replaces Middle School Teacher Tony DeCarrado.

Facing University High of Urbana, 1 p.m., Saturday, at home, the Maroons' standout swimmers will compete for a small squad seat, believes Airica Zappa, co-captain with Stephanie Serrn. Both are seniors.

"Of our upcoming meets, U-High is probably our biggest competition right now," Airica said. "Though we've beat them in the past and they only placed 9th at Sectionals, it's always been really close. They have a larger team than we do, but they don't have any really fast girls. We're focusing on honing our individual strokes, so we can try to place first in as many events as possible."

Scores are as follows:

Beverton Preliminary, August 28, away: Varsity placed 2nd of 7.

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**As co-captain, I am looking forward to a fun and team-oriented season.**

-Alex Geyton, junior, girls' varsity tennis
service to reign at retreat; open house lures parents

By Evan Dorfman
Managing editor

Cleaning up camp grounds and volunteering with charity organizations, sophomores will travel Wednesday-Friday, September 20-22 to the Camp Chi Perinian Retreat Center in Lake Detroit, Wisconsin, for Sophomore Retreat.

"Sophomore Retreat is and has been about getting sophomores into the mainstream of doing their community service," Dean of Students Larry McFadden said. "In past years finding service opportunities has been difficult, but this year we already have three sites scheduled for the sophomores."