Making four go into one

Grade levels need to interact more, many here believe

By Mona Dangyns
Associate editor

Something has changed. More than a few seniors and even some juniors feel U-High is slowly becoming a community of four grade levels instead of four such levels melding as a whole.

Student Council President Donavan Mitchem, senior, says he sees a change too and in fact, Student Council plans to consider ways to promote school unity.

Student Council Secretary Eric Nj, also a senior, likewise sees a problem.

"I don't think there's much unification in the High School," Eric said. "I feel like students don't know each other from other grades. I'm not sure people are trying either. I'd like to see more unification because I think if the student body was more of a whole, then we'd benefit from it and have even more of a voice. In previous years, I think there was more school pride and spirit. I remember as a freshman going to 'Pack the Place' games for sports where it would seem like the whole High School was there. Now, with the exception of basketball, you only see 20 to 30 kids.

"I'm not saying everyone in each grade has to know each other or each grade has to hang out together on weekends. I just think there should be more of the connection that used to be here even last year and somehow has slipped away."

U-Highers of different grades can associate through clubs, activities such as Model U.N., programs such as journalism and sports teams. Even students from the lower grades feel a separation.

"I think the grades are pretty separated," said Cultural Union Representative Ruigi Tang, sophomore. "Walking down the halls and in the cafeteria, you see each grade with itself. You never really see the juniors with underclassmen and the seniors are usually in the Senior Lounge. Every year, the seniors sort of set the tone for the school. Last year's seniors played a huge role in school unity. They set more of a social scene. There was a lot more mixing of grades then. Each grade sets a different tone. This year, the seniors' tone isn't bad or good, it's just different. It just takes time to get used to the new tone."

Freshmen see unity opportunities but more could be done.

"I got to meet seniors and juniors through the tennis team and other freshmen and I got to meet sophomore," said Freshman Tennis Player Gabby Clark, freshman. "It's really hard to meet upperclassmen through classes because I don't have many with them. I would like an upperclassmen mentor for both social and academic reasons. Club shopping was nice because upperclassmen are trying to convince you to join a group and in doing so you get to meet them."

Some faculty members also see a problem. At the first Curricular Committee meeting this year, Principal Matt Horvat announced that last year's Curriculum Committee had voted the most important issue to address as "U-High as a school unit, grades working together."

"Clearly, a lot of the faculty think it's an important issue," said Curriculum Committee Member Sharon Housinger, Science Department chairperson. "This year, we've actually seen more improvement between upperclassmen and underclassmen than in the past few years. I feel like there's been an attempt made by Student Council to bring the grades together. I'd also like to see more senior mentors. They should set a behavior example for all the younger grades."

Working at U-High for 11 years, Guidance Counselor Bob Bachand believes unity among grades hasn't changed.

"I have no reason to believe there is less of a connection in the High School now then there was when I first got here 11 years ago," Mr. Bachand explained. "I haven't heard more complaints than I have in previous years. But I do believe we don't have a good mentoring system, socially or academically."

"The Parents Association this year, however, started a family mentoring system where it matched a family new to U-High with an old family. These parents can call or e-mail each other with questions they have.

Two programs that helped create intergrade bonds were discontinued this year. Middle School girls could meet underclassmen through the Big and Little Sisters Club, discontinued when founder Michelle Holmes graduated in June. Service Corps ran a Freshman Buddy Program, where freshmen were assigned an upperclassman mentor. Service Corps President Namatta Patel, senior, said she ended the Buddy Program because of reduced student interest.

"Last year, Service Corps worked really hard to make the program successful," Namatta said. "We would book rooms, offer free food and bring in baked goods, but no one would come. About eight people would show up, five of them being underclassmen on Service Corps. The goal was to bring underclassmen and upperclassmen together and it ended up being something to write on a college resume."

Some U-Highers suggested a weekly all-school assembly to help unification. In the 1997-98 school year, however, (continues on page 3)

A twist on "Hamlet" takes the stage...

...Remembering a vibrant, beloved teacher...

...Teaching Shikari a thing or two...

...The elephant at Midnight in Kenwood Mall...

Students want safety advice

By Evan Dorkman
Managing editor

Reacting to recent sexual assaults and robberies within blocks of school, U-Highers interviewed by the Midway said they feel uninformed.

Eight attacks reported since the start of school took place within the University Police jurisdiction between 34th and 67th streets. One happened at 12:40 a.m., September 6, in Kenwood Mall. The offender held a man and woman at gunpoint, demanding money before sexually assaulting the woman. With that crime occurring one day after school began, U-Highers wonder why they weren't informed.

Some measures have been taken to inform students of the crimes, according to Lab Schools Facilities and Safety Director Tony Wilson.

"We have done some things to educate the students," Mr. Wilson said. "For example, last year we had the Director of the University Police come in and talk to the Middle School students. Maybe we now need to do something like that for the High School students. Right now, we post reports on a bulletin board outside of my office for kids to see."

Many U-Highers, however, say they were never informed of where the crime postings were located.

"I had to idea a crime board existed," Senior Emma Lantos said. "The school should do more than post reports on a bulletin board if they expect students to know about the crimes and be safe."

One of many U-Highers who walk to school alone, Junior Van Miner said he had to learn about the attacks at home.

"The only way I've heard about the crimes is my mom," Van said. "That's the only way I know how to keep safe. The school should be informing kids."

Last October, two Middle School parents were robbed after parent-teacher conferences. Now a year later, U. of C. Police Officer Dan Green, Blaine Lobby night security guard, said he still sees people at risk around school.

"Because of the recent attacks, I have expanded my patrol," Officer Green said.

"I noticed more people that don't recognize around the building, so I have been keeping a closer watch."

"The school should be informing kids."

By Evan Dorkman

After learning about student complaints, Student Council President Donavan Mitchem, senior, said Student Council is planning a crime assembly.

"We are in the planning stages of a crime assembly," Donavan explained. "We're going to bring Director of University Police Rady Nimocks to inform students how to keep safe."

Students should take extra security measures in wake of attacks, said Dean of Students Larry McFarlane.

"Students have to be more aware of their surroundings," Mr. McFarlane said. "Students should walk in groups and wait for rides indoors. Just be smart about not walking alone at night and staying alert."
Minor characters become major in witty twist

By David McAlpine
Associate editor

A long journey filled with irony and confusion through the forests of Denmark offers a witty look into the lives of two minor characters from William Shakespeare’s play “Hamlet” in this year’s Fall Production, “Rosencreutz and Guildenstern are Dead.”

Written by Tom Stoppard in 1966 and previously presented at U-High in 1981, the play will be performed 7:30 p.m., Thursday, October 26; Friday, October 27; and Saturday, October 28 in Belfield Theater. Tickets are on sale for $9 in the High School Lobby.

Set within the study of “Hamlet,” Stoppard provides a humorous and wild outlook on two minor Shakespearian characters and their tumbling adventure paralleling Shakespeare’s plot. The juxtaposition of murder and slapstick makes the play a classic, according to Drama Teacher Lucia Ambrosini.

“I believe it’s one of the greatest plays ever written,” Mrs. Ambrosini said. “The language, the development of the characters, the word play, the presentation of a classic story, everything about it is just wonderful.”

Faced with trickily lighting and a complicated set, Assistant Director Alice Quisen, senior, said she is confronting challenges she never thought she would encounter.

“The set is extremely complicated,” Alice explained. “It calls for three trap doors, which we’ve never done before in my four years here. The lighting is also very tricky, because there are two different atmospheres: the ‘Hamlet’ world adventure and the ‘Rosencreutz and Guildenstern’ world.”

Rosencreutz, originally cast as a maile, will be played by Junior Charlotte Long, who believes the way the character was written allows room for cross-casting.

“It’s a little bit of a challenge for me to play Rosencreutz because the part was not written for a girl,” Charlotte said. “Even though he’s very sexual and ambiguous, I have to learn not to stand like a girl or walk like a girl. I have to play a very naive, young boy.”

Guildenstern will be played by Junior Aaron Weiss, who said he is ready to take on his first lead role.

“I’ve never had a lead part, but I’ve never really asked for one,” Aaron said. “I have to memorize so much and I’m on stage the entire play, except when the act ends. It’s a huge challenge, and I definitely wanted to try it out.”

Because the play is set within “Hamlet,” Costumes Commissar Amanda Faraone with Commissar Xavier Windows, seniors, said they are striving to give the actors an authentic Elizabethan look.

“The court is going to have richer colors and sharper lines so that they stand out a lot more,” Amanda explained. “The tunic consists of all the roaming players, so they’ll be dressed more raggedly than other actors and mostly in black. The two main characters, Rosencreutz and Guildenstern, are on stage the entire play, so they’ll be in simpler, muted colors so that they don’t detract attention from other scenes.”

Other cast members are as follows:

Sam Shuping, Bob Brown, Kelly Kovacs, Victoria Rogers, Marnazo, Mina Cozaroni, Linda Hughes, Jeff Johnston, Graham Salinger, Alex Byers, Samantha Edie, Johannes Pekel, Kate Rottger, Kaylita Cheung, Laila Wu. Crow bloods can be followed:


Director decides quarters to stay, at least for now

By Stephanie Stern

Though the door is still open to semantics, U-High will retain quarters, Lab Schools Director David Magill has decided.

A switch from quarters to semesters was first suggested by former Principal Jack Knapp to the faculty in June, 2005, as a means to reduce the number of grading periods.

After the faculty approved sending the idea to the Curriculum Committee, a semester subcommittee was formed and a semester proposal was drafted. Student Council then organized two forums, January 9 and February 24, for students to discuss concerns about having homework over Winter Break and losing quarter Locks.

At the January forum, students voted 50-0 in favor of quarters. The subcommittee then revised its proposal, promising no work over Winter Break, but students felt this couldn’t be guaranteed.

Wishing to assure students voices were heard, Juniors Mark Christianson and Amanda Pappas drafted and presented a petition to keep quarters, with almost all the freshmen and sophomore classes’ signatures to Mr. Magill in April. Announcing his decision in a September 8 letter to Principal Matt Horvat and Faculty Chairperson Ken Ahmed, guidance counselor, Mr. Magill said he believed changing to a semester system would create “a new and even greater problem by raising the stress level of students.” Before he is willing to revisit semesters, Mr. Magill suggested “reinstating Assistant and all class retreats to occur in the longer Fall Quarter” and “instituting exam days at the end of each quarter to give teachers time to complete grading” as ways to reduce or eliminate the need for change.

“I don’t believe that just changing to semesters will help; the underlying problems need to be addressed directly,” Mr. Magill wrote. “The Winter Quarter is indeed a very short quarter and there are also a number of holidays during the shorter spring quarter that take kids away from school, so we have been looking for a way to balance the sessions. Semesters, however, would only raise stress levels in students.”

“My decision was not based exclusively on the students’ petition, though, I appreciated the thought, I was already aware of many of the concerns they presented to me. I believe the faculty actually treated the subject more thoroughly than the students, who didn’t take into account all the underlying issues.”

(See editorial page 10)

Recital to spotlight musical talent

By Rohini Tobacowala

Featuring Middle School and High School classical music students, the fourth annual Recital Night, sponsored by the Music Department will include string and woodwind instrumentalists, pianists and vocalists.

Open to the public, the free recital begins at 7 p.m., Tuesday at Fulton Hall in the University’s Goodspeed Building, 110 East 59th Street. Performers have not been selected as of Midway deadline.

Wishing to give music students a chance to showcase their talents, Music Department Chairperson Brad Brickner feels the recital provides a forum for their enthusiasm.

“Recital Night is an opportunity to show how passionate the students are about what they play or sing,” Mr. Brickner said. “In order to promote this, the Music Department saw a need for his occasion to show the Lab Schools community what the students have put their time and dedication to in a more formal setting.”
On the canals of Woodlawn

During the thunderstorms of September 19, Art Teacher Brian Wildeman set sail in his handy yellow kayak on 65th street and Kimbark Avenue, both drowning with more than eight inches of rain. "I thought it would make a funny picture," he said, chuckling. "It was kind of exhibitionist."

Homecoming voting comes down to deciding each class King, Queen

By Julie Carlson

Voting ends today for Homecoming King and Queen in each grade. Cultural Union (C.U.) narrowed the preliminary nominations, cast last Thursday and Friday, to the top five candidates from each class. Winners will be revealed and crowned at the annual Homecoming Dance, 8:11 p.m. tomorrow (October 14) at International House, 1414 East 59th Street. Doors will close at 9:30 p.m., according to Dean of Students Larry McFarlane. Tickets can be purchased from C.U. for $8 a person and $15 a couple or at the door for $10 a person. Guests must bring their student I.D., according to McFarlane. Visitors' hosts also needed to return a completed Guest Pass to Mr. McFarlane by last Tuesday.

Providing music for the evening will be D.J. Allan Cullen, also at last year's dance. Senior From Committee members will sell beverages to raise money for Prom and Student Council will host a coat check. C.U. set up voting booths this week in the cafeteria during lunch, in the lobby during free periods and after school to encourage students to vote, according to C.U. President Katherine Hayes.

"We're hoping this voting system will make the election process a lot cleaner than it was two years ago," she said.

Sprint Week came to an end today with hall decorating in class colors. Members of each class were encouraged to dress in their selected color also.

"Seniors were to wear red, juniors green, sophomores blue and freshmen yellow," McFarlane said.

The week was to begin with pie-eating Monday, favorite jersey day Tuesday, pajama day Wednesday, and Old Soul Day Thursday.

Council considers crime assembly

By Sahil Redleaf

In response to student concern about recent crime activity, Student Council is planning an assembly about how students can keep safe, according to Student Council President Donavan Mitchem, senior.

"There was an assembly for the Middle School last year with the executive director of the University of Police Department Rudy Niescak, who talked with the students about the dangers of the neighborhood," he said. "We are hoping we will do the same for the High School students."

I've been working with Principal Matt Horvat to find a period other than double lunch to have this assembly so more students will be attracted to come. This will give students a chance to ask questions and to just get a picture of what the University is doing to keep them safe."

Student Council is also working to join a possible Independent School League (ISL) Student Council, proposed by Morgan Park Academy in an e-mail early September, according to Student Council Vice President Daniel Hornung, junior.

"This is a great way for the different Student Councils to compare their agendas for the school year and host events," he explained.

"The other advantage with this ISL Student Council idea is that we can compare our daily schedule to see if U-Highers are really boggling down academically." Also working with Student Council to renew ISL relations, Cultural Union President Katherine Hayes, senior, plans to host a spring ISL Talent Show at U-High.

To unite the clubs, Ethnic Lunch, originally sponsored by Student Council, was changed to Taste of Lab, sponsored by Black Students' Association at a club executive meeting last Tuesday. Taste of Lab, including Jewish Students' Association, Asian Students' Association, KICC, and Latinos Unidos, was hosted today in cafeteria, providing many foods.

Four into one

(continued from front page)

there was such a period, which was discontinued after two years. A consultant had come to U-High and proposed the idea of an all-school assembly period. A committee of students along with Journalism Department Chairperson Wayne Beader and Music Teacher Dominic Pinee planned the programs, which included films, performances and speakers.

"Some schools start the day off with an all-school assembly meeting, where students can hear the news in the school," Mr. Pinee said. "We expanded on that idea and an all-school assembly period began. A considerable amount of work was put into the assemblies to find events and topics of interest. Anyone could suggest ideas to Mr. Beader and me, and then we'd put together the assemblies. Eventually, the assemblies died out in subsequent years.

"The school tried to create community time, however, there was a misconception that if students didn't spend the 45 minutes in the assembly, they would have the period free. But in actuality, they would be in a 45 minute class period. Teachers were giving up class time. In this school, everyone has pretty isolated interests and I think an all-school period would help build the community."

Inherent physical and psychological differences between grades presents a challenge to unifying U-High, Principal Matt Horvat believes.

"High-school is a confusing time in life," Mr. Horvat said. "Being a freshman is a little frightening. Seniors seem a lot older. A 9th grade boy who doesn't shave could walk down the hall and see a senior with a beard. Tenth grade is a strange time in life. You feel like it's a forgotten age. They're not new to high school and they're not thinking about college. Juniors and seniors are thinking about college. Faculty can try and create some kind of unification but students can sniff that out."

Scholar programs cite six

Two seniors have been named Scholars in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, moving up from semifinalist status. They are Alex Cattwell and Alex Gomez, new from Minnesota (see "Character Sketch" on page 6).

Declaring 16 the National Achievement Scholarship program for African American students are Megan Harris, Neeka McGuire, Donavan Mitchem and Stephanie Stern. They are among 1,000 semifinalists nationally, half of whom are expected to receive scholarships as finalists.

Both programs are affiliated with the National Merit project.

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Spirited, courageous teacher remembered

By Amanda Pappas
Associate editor

Contagious sense of humor, free spirited personality and interactive teaching style describe Middle School Science Teacher Florence Vaughan, who lost a two-year battle with brain cancer September 6 at age 58.

Born in Tennessee, Ms. Vaughan came to the Lab Schools in 1982 to teach 7th Grade Earth Science; she had taught 22 years when diagnosed in September, 2004.

Among survivors are her husband Woody Carter; her daughters Emily, 1996 graduate now a student at Washington State University, and Kate, 1999 graduate now teaching in Hawaii; her stepson Ben Carter, 1989 graduate; her mother and her brother. A memorial service is planned 3:40 p.m., Monday, October 23, in Judd 126.

Ms. Vaughan suffered from a series of recurring tumors.

"Flo had a positive attitude for the most part," Middle School Learning Consultant Susan Eisenberg, friend and colleague of Ms. Vaughan said. "She was courageous and had as much of an upbeat attitude as possible. Before she finally passed away, she took good care of herself. She ate right and did everything that the doctors told her to do.

"When she heard bad news from her doctors, she would be upset for a while, but it didn't take her long to get into a more upbeat frame of mind."

Intrigued by Ms. Vaughan's spunky teaching style, former students said she had the ability to make the classroom educational and fun.

"Ms. Vaughan was my teacher as well as my adviser," Junior Emma Crown said. "I remember one day we did an experiment where we put our body inside a plastic bag with our head sticking out. As soon as we got inside, Ms. Vaughan took a vacuum and sucked out the air.

"Of course Ms. Vaughan went first. It was such a funny thing to see. She was curled up in a time bomb with a bag clung onto her. At first, we were all reluctant to try the experiment but she had the talent of making us feel comfortable. The entire time she was laughing hysterically, I don't think I can say that I went to one class all year without laughing."

Senior Bruce Ratain said even after he left Middle School he visited Ms. Vaughan during his free time and lunch.

"The year after I had Ms. Vaughan was when I really got to know her best," Bruce said. "One of the most amazing things about her was that though we weren't still her students, she always took the time to see how we were.

"I specifically remember one day when she was grading case projects. Even though she had her own stuff to do, she would always ask her students how they were. She was so unbelievably generous."

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Academically-induced stress focus of speaker's lecture

By Anna Katia Zbikowski
Associate editor

Addressing academic stress in teenagers, specifically boys, Clinical Psychologist Dr. Michael Thompson will speak at a Parents’ Association program, 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 24, in Mandel Hall.

Author of seven books including the recent “Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys,” Dr. Thompson is a child psychologist in Boston and has appeared on shows including “ Oprah,” “The Today Show,” “20/20” and “60 Minutes.”

Currently conducting a course of six evening teleconferences on raising boys in an attention deficit hyperactivity disorder society, Dr. Thompson earned his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and consults schools around the nation about academic-induced stress causing permanent psychological damage in adolescents.

After last year’s creator focusing on girls’ psychological issues, the Parents’ Association wanted a speaker who could give more insight on boys’ issues, according to last year’s Parents’ Association President Dr. Maria Carrillo.

“Stress is an important thing to talk about,” she said. “There is a lot more stress on students now; stress they put on themselves, stress from each other, stress from parents as well as teachers. Dr. Thompson will be speaking to kids in the Middle School about how to avoid stress and how to deal with it in a more healthy way.

“Last year, Dr. Roni Cohen-Sandler came in to talk about girls and the problems they face. We thought it would be a good idea to bring in Dr. Thompson so he could talk about boys and the stress issues that relate specifically to them.”

School to display its best

By Ronnie Fox
Associate editor

Tables where prospective Lab Schoolers can learn about school clubs will provide a new feature at the annual Recruitment Open House, 1-4 p.m., Sunday, October 22.

Opening presentations by Lab Schools Director David Magill and Principal Matt Horvat will be given at 1:45, 2:30 and 3:15 p.m. in Judd 126. Teachers and, in many cases, students will represent each school department and the theatre and journalism programs will be at work on, respectively, the Fall Production and Midway and U-Highlight-14s deadlines.

“I wanted to make Open House appeal more to the 18 and younger crowd,” said Admissions Director Michael Veitch. “We want to give applicants an honest view into what it means to be a Lab Schooler. During Recruitment Open House, the volleyball team will host a practice and the cast will show a dress rehearsal of the fall play that our visitors can get a glimpse of.

“Student hosts who can answer questions about life at the Lab School will show around the applicants. The main goal of this year’s: to let our students guide our visitors through an enjoyable afternoon at Lab.”
Members of the Kalaipura Foundation help famous Latin pop star Shakira learn the Bharat Natyam style of dance at a studio in Toronto. Senior Namrata Patel is second from left.

Dancer suddenly finds herself teaching Latin pop star on unexpected journey

T WELVE YEARS I HAVEN'T been dancing for the Kalaipura Foundation. At least six times, I have performed on stage at Harold Washington Library, with mostly parents watching. But this August 26 performance, someone special was sitting front row.

Looking for a paparazzi and encore-free evening after her previous night's Chicago concert, the worldwide-renowned Latin pop star Shakira whimsically attended my dance company's recital. At the end of our Bharat Natyam performance, Shakira, a Colombian accent, explained her interest in classical Indian dance, even complimenting us as asking for a list of dancers' names. That included me.

As part of the "Oral Fixation" tour, my fellow three dancers, dance teacher and I were hired to teach the classical Indian moves we would be performing on stage.

At the luxurious Westin Harbour Castle hotel, we were given barely enough time to change, wash our faces and gather necessary costume and jewelry. Even with eyes half-open and stomach rumbling, the thrill of dancing with Shakira kept me energized.

Her tour director and assistant then guided us to a condominium building across the street where we were told to wait for the one and only Shakira in the specially reserved, window-covered dance studio.

As a smiling Shakira sauntered in, dressed in a zip-up hoodie, tank top and sweatpants, all my rehearsal greetings fled my mind as I stared in awe. Followed by her manager, bodyguard, choreographer, brother and tour director, Shakira, if we had been long-time friends, called us over to chat and snack on chips and salsa before her lesson began.

Once the tutorial began, Shakira realized the steps she fell in love with during our performance were strenuous, unlike her modern belly dancing skills. After admiring her famous hips so fluidly in numerous music videos, it was astonishing to watch her sashay as she started to dance.

Sadly, Monday evening Shakira had to leave us for a full stadium of cheering fans at her tour's next stop in Washington D.C. Then, the next morning, on another paid trip, the rest of us traveled to New York City for more exhausting hours of practice.

Riding in a YMMA-reserved SUV, the urge to open my window and beauty pageant hand wave to all my nonexistent fans lasted the hour long ride from LaGuardia International Airport to Radio City Music Hall. Hearing a growl from my stomach reminded me we had never had a full meal or a full night's sleep during our adventure. How does Shakira do it, I wondered?

As I stepped out of the SUV, the flash from my camera captured my own walk down the red carpet. The VMA theatre with screens, wires and computers everywhere left me dazzled. My eyes sparkled with excitement as we left the auditorium to rehexe with Shakira's other backup dancers backstage.

Parrish Khan, one of India's film industry's top choreographers, was teaching the other girls "bhangara," a modern Indian dance, and the pressure became overwhelming.

My palms grew sweaty and knots formed in my stomach as I began comparing us to them, finding our skills glaring and unprofessional. I knew our dance styles were different and we had more than 10 years of experience, but I just couldn't focus.

While waiting for the escort to our New York hotel, Maini, Shakira's choreographer, called another dancer and me with some news: only two dancers from our group would be dancing and we weren't either of them.

Holding back tears, a fake smile masked my emotions as I thanked and hugged Maini goodbye. Then I dropped myself back to the SUV, the same SUV that I once considered my Cinderella chariot. It became part of my miserable return home. I never received an explanation and I had to accept that.

Finally home, the depression slowly died and the appreciation quickly developed that I had not only taught Shakira how to dance but also get to know her on a personal level. Do you think Shakira will write a college recommendation for me?

Midway gets top national rating

Praising every facet of last year's issues, the National Scholastic Press Association has awarded its highest rating, All American, to the Midway.

"The U-High Midway is a superior product, the result of a hardworking and dedicated staff who go beyond the journalism basics to give their readers that "little extra,"" judges wrote. "This staff can put the basics together to carry readers above and beyond what they expect. A superb job!"

To earn the All American rating, the Midway had to earn First Place rating based on a book provided to it. It had to receive at least four of five Marks of Distinction for exemplary work in specific areas. The judges also reviewed these Marks of Distinction for Content and Writing; Editing, Photography, Art and Graphics; Layout and Design; and Leadership.

Judges gave special praise to full-color photo pages on Homecoming and Formal.

The paper's editors-in-chief were Alicia Beyer, Daniel Strauss, Richard Taxy and Emily Hlavac. The adviser was Alex Kroo. All are now college freshmen.
Angry sophomore
by Eric Cochrane

Q: WHAT EXTRA CURRICULARS DO YOU HAVE?

I SING FOR BLIND PEOPLE!

I COOK FOR ORPHANS.

I, Uh, I SAVE PAC-MAN FROM GHOSTS...

Students get break, teachers don’t

U-Highers won’t be in classes Thursday, November 2, and Friday, November 3, but teachers won’t be so lucky. Thursday they face a long day of conferences with parents and Friday they will participate in a Professional Development Day organized by Mrs. Andrea Martofoff and Ms. Katie Bell.

The guest speaker will be new U. of C. president Professor Robert J. Zimmer, who also happens to be the father of U-High grad David, 2000, Ben, 94, and of Freshman Alex. After Mr. Zimmer’s appearance, teachers will be participating in various workshops.

The All-Schools Council will conclude its diversity training at its four meetings throughout the year. The Council is composed of administrators, department chairpersons and grade level chairpersons from throughout the schools. Two representatives from the Eastern Educational Resource Collaborative in Washington, D.C., Mr. Randolph Carter and Ms. Elizabeth Denesi, will come to Chicago to work with the Council.

“We cannot assume that just because our student and adult population is diverse that we are addressing all issues appropriately,” Lab Schools Director David Magill wrote in a September 15 memo to Council members. “Regardless of our years of experience, there are ways for us to become more attuned to the feelings and sensitivities of those who may be different.”

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Character Sketch

Newcomers from afar bring individual touches to school

By BJ Arum

Character Sketch columnist

OCKIN’ HIS AIRE GUITAR to “Consequential Apathy” by the Rx Bandits while she innocently hides herself behind her English book, the senior lounge newcomers Alex Gomez and Corina Stanton, seniors, share brilliantly wavy blonde locks.

With a younger brother and sister, Alex and his family moved from North Oak, Minnesota for his dad’s job promotion as the U. of C. Neurology Department chairperson. “It’s hard to leave everything you have behind,” Alex said. “In high school it’s almost like you are spending your time setting your table with friends and hobbies. During your senior year, you’re supposed to be able to eat from that table. When I left Minnesota, I had to start resetting my table.”

Along with his brother, Alex created the new Ultimate Frisbee Club which meets after school on the Midway.

“I’m not going to replace any of my best friends or my girlfriend, but I find it very important to associate myself with people,” he said. “That’s why I joined theatre and journalism. My brother and I started the Ultimate Frisbee club and I’m planning on joining the swim team.

“It is essential to be social, to enjoy anything, so when I came here I decided to submerge myself into as many activities as I could. At my old school, I would’ve run for class president because I was a captain of the swim team, a freshman mentor and I played Ultimate Frisbee.

Beneath shy eyes and an entrancing accent lies a well-traveled senior, Corina Stanton.

Moving from Mexico City to Hyde Park, Corina is attending U-High during her father’s three-month visiting professorship in the Spanish Literature Department at the U. of C.

Born in Mexico but raised in London, the striking international moved back to her birthplace three years ago.

“I was born in Mexico, and I immediately moved to London Central,” Corina said. “I spent 13 years of my life there so my entire culture and personality was developed in London.

“I’m a big music fan, mostly hard rock and such. I love concerts and going backstage to see the bands. I usually went about two times a month and I actually started writing music reviews for our school newspaper in Mexico City. Just before I came here, I saw the Strokes in concert, and I went backstage through connections from a friend who worked at the venue.

“I came here with my dad for his job,” she continued. “I was excited when I found out we were coming to Chicago because I enjoy traveling a lot and I was getting bored of Mexico. It was so small and quiet and I was ready to meet new people and experience a larger, livelier place, even if it was only for three months.

“This will be the longest I’ve ever been away from home. I mean I’ve been away during holiday for about two months, but I’ve never actually lived in a different place like this.”
"When these kids grow up, Chinese will be of great use to them and I want to see this progress at U-High." -Zhou Sun, Mandarin Chinese teacher

Four journeys ending at U-High's door

A world traveler, to his surprise, comes to a school in Chicago which wanted him

By Phil Jacobsen
Editor in Chief

It was 4 a.m. and I was in Pondicherry, India. I recalled new English teacher Sonara Luthra, describing the phone interview he had with members of the English Department last May. He had received an e-mail about an opening at U-High while vacationing in Pakistan. "I was really tired and I thought I would just go to the hotel room. I thought I messed up the entire interview." English Department members apparently thought otherwise; they flew to Pondicherry for an "audition" teaching an English 2 class.

On June 6, he was hired.

With his earring's friendly manner and smooth, soothing voice, Mr. Luthra is a natural communicator. He displays a passion for learning and loves to travel, he visited his 20th country earlier this year.

And judging from his life to date, it's clear that when he knows what he wants, Mr. Luthra isn't afraid to make drastic changes to his life.

The child of first generation immigrants from India, Mr. Luthra graduated college in 2004. That September, he began teaching at the Punahou School in Hawaii, but he decided island life had been for him.

"They have a saying in Hawaii; after six months either you know you love it and decide to stay or you'll probably never leave. I wasn't sure it was for me. If it's not for you, driving for half an hour and hitting the other side of the island starts to feel comforting. That's when I knew I couldn't stay there."

Moving back to Pondicherry, Mr. Luthra had already immersed himself in Chicago; he does night life listings for Spin Magazine and is a member of the Teacher of 'new' language likes being a scholar

By Harley Chang
Associate editor

U-High's exotic new language, Mandarin Chinese, has excited discussion. The man behind the excitement is Mr. Zhihao Sun. Mr. Sun has a distinctive appearance with his near buzz cut and dark, almond eyes. In the Language Department office, Mr. Sun's desk is filled with Chinese worksheets and calligraphy writings.

Mr. Sun received his bachelor's degree in Chinese from Shaanxi Normal University in Xian, China. To further his education, Mr. Sun moved to the United States in 1990. At Bowling Green State University in Ohio he received his master's degree in history.

Before coming to the U.S., Mr. Sun taught Chinese literature to high school students. "I loved the language, it's fun; it's good for communications, management or business. Teaching is really the only thing I can do in China," said Mr. Sun.

In China, I taught high school for six years and in the U.S. I thought I would use my experience and teach English.

Eleven years of experience has convinced Mr. Sun that Chinese should be taught in a funny way.

"Chinese is a very hard language and I don't want to teach off scripts. They are focused on listening and speaking and usually don't correct them in mispronunciations. I also hope that the students will have fun playing Go, Chinese Chess and writing calligraphy. After all, learning Chinese is not just about reading and speaking, but knowledge and culture as well. For this year, I just want the students to have fun and get the feel of what the language is like.

As China grows more important internationally, Mr. Sun predicts Mandarin will become more important as well.

"As China is becoming both a political and economical power. With globalization, in today's world you cannot simply ignore China. Whether you like it or not, whether you think China is good or evil, you must acknowledge China's existence as a world power.

A hurricane blew him to a new life

By Gabe Bump
Associate editor

A little more than a year ago, highways heading out of New Orleans were jammed with evacuees scrambling for shelter from Hurricane Katrina. Among them was Mr. 1ra Nirenberg, new physics teacher.

Mr. Nirenberg taught physics at Ben Franklin High School in New Orleans. But warnings of Hurricane Katrina forced him to evacuate to a farm that his then-wife owned in Mississippi, where the threat was less severe.

"I loved the neighborhood I lived in, the Carrollton section," Mr. Nirenberg said of New Orleans', lots of restaurants and music was constantly playing. I'd lived there since 1990."

"Then Katrina hit, my wife and I evacuated at 3 a.m., August 28, to a town an hour-and-a-half away from New Orleans named Poplarville, in Mississippi. Once we arrived we had to prepare for Katrina to hit, but since where we were living was above sea level it wasn't as destructive as it was in New Orleans.

The living conditions in Poplarville post-Katrina were only slightly better than what life in New Orleans would have been like, according to Mr. Nirenberg.

"We were without water for the first two weeks," he explained. "Electricity was out for about three weeks. Within a month everything was working, but it took about six months before the city was back in shape. When I went back to New Orleans my neighborhood was still pretty intact, but it was very quiet and it was kind of spooky.

Seeking a haven from the scarred New Orleans streets and polished as Mr. Nirenberg returned to the farm.

"I was just going to hang out on a farm for the rest of my life," Mr. Nirenberg said. "I even built a small 13 by 8 shack; things were mellow for awhile. Then I got bored. I talked to a good friend of mine, who I met while I was teaching at Phillips Exeter Academy in the summer of 1999, about teaching again. He immediately e-mailed me about a dozen jobs. One of which was at the Lab School. I e-mailed the Lab School and told them I was interested. Then Mrs. Houssinger e-mailed me and made Lab sound like a wonderful place, and it was true. I don't regret it at all.

Despite the fact the Lab has made a good first impression, Mr. Nirenberg still feels this year is a test drive for him. "There are still issues I need to resolve in New Orleans. I haven't found anything to complain about here. I'll have to seachew bad the winters are."
War hits homes for U-Highers — with family ties in countries involved

By Jeffrey Bishko-Aykul

The first two of three were in Haifa," Frank explained. "After a few hours when everything started, we make a visa to the Israeli border. We actually could hear the border shots and the firing. It was not dangerous at all. However, we had to leave the next two days after because our visa was not guaranteed anymore." Despite the ongoing war, both U-Highers said Middle Easterners remained relatively calm. "The Lebanonis were pretty cocky," Kais explained. "They would go to get groceries and just wait it out. There were no more parties or events. Bombing mostly went on at night. It was hard to sleep." There would be fireworks during the summer nights in Beirut. One night, my cousin told me to come outside and see the fireworks. It was actually anti-aircraft shooting at Israeli warplanes." Across the border, Frank said he felt Israelis stayed relatively calm. "At the Israelis on the trip knew people in the north or had friends living there. They knew how to protect themselves. If I was in Afula, if something happened they would make phone calls to check if people up there were okay," Frank explained. "You'd see concern, but not the panic completely getting in way of life." Although in the U.S., according to Nina and her sister Nicole, freshmen, their family would call them frequently about every other day during the crisis. "Mom's mom was in Beirut, so since the problem was in the south of the city life would just be normal," Nina explained. "They could hear bombs, but nothing close to them. The dad's family was on the border and they had to leave. The family had to go to Touchama, a Christian suburb east of Beirut." According to Nicole, the war did not only indirectly endanger freshmen or relatives but affected relatives in more direct and personal ways too. "We found out my dad's cousin, an innocent grocery store owner, was kidnapped by the Israeli army for questioning. It really made us uneasy," Nicole said. "I never thought this could happen to so directly. Although he was finally returned, it was scary." Stories of constant fear in Israel also made Bruce uneasy. "Mom called saying that my cousin's girlfriend was sleeping around cousins were hiding in cabinets and under tables," Bruce said. "There were feelings of helplessness, knowing wherever you go you could get hit by a missile." My grandfather's cousin in Israel, she's fine. However, her husband basically couldn't walk. When we were there he was practically bound to an armchair. He was this amazing Holocaust survivor, who ended up being Winston Churchill's bodyguard for a while. "The crazy thing was to hear her call my mom, so terrifying, because he couldn't walk and she couldn't carry him to the hospital." With the passing of an August 14 U.S. Security Council-mandated cease fire, the fighting between both sides ended. "We were glad to get out before the worst of it," Kais said. "People expected the Israeli army to attack Lebanon, but did not expect it to go as far." Tourism in Israel decreased 30 percent during the first two weeks of the war, according to the Israeli Tourism Ministry. But Bruce did not necessarily see any reason preventing him from visiting Israel. "I'm not likely to go to Israel now than any other time," he explained. "Just as you can't run away from the Jewish, you can't run away from going to Israel. If Israel means something to me, it's going to mean more to me when they fight each other." Although Nina plans to return to Lebanon during Winter Break, she feels that now that the war has subsided, there is still a way to go. "I feel sad because finally Beirut had being its act together and country was building, the city was being rebuilt and then everything was destroyed. They have to start all over again. It seems kind of hopeless at this point."
In Ms. Carolyn Walter's English elective "As Memory Serves" Charlotte Long, Nneka McGuire, Melissa Gracia and Benne Rosner debate the banning of "The Glass Menagerie."

Book bans give English class new meaning

By Jacqueline Chandhuri
Managing editor

"Welcome to banned books 101 or the Best Literature of the last 23 years according to the New York Times, whichever you choose."

That is how English Teacher Carolyn Walter introduced her students to the fall quarter English elective, "If Memory Serves," the opening day of school. Mrs. Walter first taught the course two years ago since the three elective books, "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien, "Beloved" by Toni Morrison and "The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams, have been banned in school districts across the nation, including a northwest Chicago school district, this year.

The course is not about banned books so much as memory, Mrs. Walter said.

"After introducing the course I tell my students that we can have a discussion on if these books should be banned but only after you have read the books," she explained. "I think that banning books is a real issue of trust. There are issues of trust within the community, the schools and the teachers and parents.

"There needs to be a lesson in trust. People are choosing sides in this issue without being informed about the book. There is no trust in the process where banning is occurring. I want my students to make an informed decision on the book. I am trying with the idea of having my students write their own personal response to the question 'should these books be banned, why or why not?'"

After reading the first selection, "The Glass Menagerie," Senior Nneka McGuire said, "When I heard about the banning I really didn't agree with it. It is difficult to find a happy medium between appropriate and inappropriate but I don't think schools should just quit and stop searching for one by stopping students from reading certain books."

Exhibit examines art and design

By Jeffrey Bliska-Aykal
Associate editor

Attempting to merge design and art concepts and urge society to better itself through more efficient design, "Massive Change," an exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary Art explains everything from the merits of carpet recycling to digital images revealing the ozone layer hole above Antarctica.

Open until December 31, the exhibit was conceptualized by Canadian designer Bruce Mau and brought to Chicago by Chief Curator Elizabeth Smith, mother of Senior Phil Jacobson.

Highlighting how new technological innovations and policy changes can make the environment cleaner and safer, the exhibit showcases themes ranging from sustainable economic growth to Segway scooter inventor Dean Kamen.

Possible alternatives to the automobile which could one day reduce pollution are lined before a wall displaying pictures of traffic jams in various international cities. Such alternatives range from the traditional Indian rickshaw, a mangowood tandem bicycle, to the Gizmo, a personal electric car.

Multimedia video clips highlight economic issues ranging from the marketing of Western corporations to Wal-Mart policies emphasizing the international effects of globalization. Some videos address intricate questions regarding how capitalism works more efficiently in some nations than others.

The exhibit adds context to the global boom impacts the it examines as well. A dark isolated hallway projects several satellite videos. These videos include flights in North America tracked across a 24-hour period and a sphere of space junk surrounding Earth on its walls.

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Senior Natalie Lowis is Getting Her Sandwich On at University Market.

University Market
1323 East 57th Street
Crime by school shouldn’t remain in the shadows
FOR THE PAST six years I’ve walked to and from school every day. In the mornings I walk the four blocks with a friend. Sometimes, because of after school activities, I walk home by myself at night. But because of recent events, I feel scared to walk the short distance home.

As we walked to school September 6, my friend and I were about to make a turn in Kenwood Mall attacked and sexually assaulted a woman who had been walking with a male friend a little after the previous midnight. This made me remember that last October two parents were murdered near school.

Walking through the halls to 1st period that day, I was shocked no one was talking about the incident. When I got to class, I wondered why my teacher didn’t mention the attack. After leaving 1st period I went to the cafeterias expecting people to be discussing the assault. No one mentioned it. I wondered if I had heard a rumor but my friend assured me she had heard it too.

As we went on we, I was upset that the school hadn’t made an announcement about the event so students could take extra safety precautions. I would have liked to have known about the threat from the faculty as soon as 1st period began the day it happened.

Now, over a month since the attack in Kenwood Mall took place, the school has yet to say anything about the assault through a board meeting. Although most U-Highers have heard about the assault through hearsay, they’ve had no confirmation.

I wonder why the adults who lead our school haven’t let U-Highers know about events that affect student safety and mentality. Some administrators have said they don’t see the need for an assembly. I don’t feel that way. Especially after a man was murdered on Downtown near 59th Street September 23.

With crime on my mind, every time I walk by U-High 102 I look at the bulletin board that hangs on the wall outside. The board displays criminal sketches and alerts of reported criminal activity that have occurred in the area. While I’m glad the board is there, I just recently found out about its existence. Wonder how many U-High students have seen the board and if they even pay attention to it.

I think the topic should have been addressed the day after the crime occurred. For whatever reason, the school has not conveyed, nor has it followed, important information to U-Highers that could potentially help them avoid dangerous circumstances.

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EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Sarah, Pachell, Phil Johnson, Nelson Poteel, Henry Alcindor, Jacques Chevry
MARK CHRISTIANSTAD, junior; I would be Ben-
jamin Franklin because he is one of the people that I respect the most for his scientific accomplishments. He’d make an interesting character to see around school. Maybe he’d carry a kite and a key around and make everyone curl around.

JOHANNA HEINEMAN-PIERER, sophomore; I would definitely be Pocahontas because I hear Native American history was a new language to me.

ANNECHIELLE AKUOMOH, freshman; I would want to be the entrepreneur that invented the hot comb and multiple hair products, Madam C.J. Walker. She inspires me to go after my dreams and not let anyone hold me back. Also, because of her, my hair can always look pretty.

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What's in a (new) name?

GREAT FASHION isn’t just about how you wear it, but also where you buy it, as the new Macy’s on State Street eloquently demonstrates.

With a history of quality fashion behind it, the historic Marshall Field’s changed to Macy’s on September 9. The switch enticed sophomores and Marshall Field’s lover Sophie Ortel and this columnist to check out the trends carried at Macy’s, hoping they hadn’t changed with the title.

We wanted to hear perspective from a Macy’s representative who works behind the scenes, someone that could tell us more about the change. We met with Macy’s press representative Andrea Schwartz.

“Contrary to popular rumors, not all the merchandise at Marshall Field’s will change,” Ms. Schwartz explained. “But we will be removing a few of the more urban brand names such as Baby Phat, JLo by Jennifer Lopez, and Scarpers.”

Entering the field’s, uh, Macy’s building through the makeup department, we noticed the first floor devoted mostly to promoting Vera Wang’s new perfume “Princess.” It wasn’t the extravagant aroma that caught our interest, however, but rather the array of what might have become of the second floor, formerly devoted to cosmetics.

We descended the escalators, and to our surprise, nothing seemed out of place. The tigress cashmere sweater, skinny jeans by Paper Denim and Cloth, tie-dyed T-shirts by Lucky Star and the second floor, Sophie and I sighed with relief.

Contrast the juniors section, Sophie and I made one last stop: the dress department. With homecoming soon, we prayed that our favorite dress designers still lit up the fourth floor.

“I was expecting that the dresses wouldn’t be of the same quality,” Sophie said. “The empire waist dresses by BCBG Max Azria, Jessica McClintock minidresses and the new red fettuccine Nicole Miller dress were still there; nothing was different.”

Leaving with ankle length boots, Victorian style lace blouses and oversized totes, Sophie and this fashion columnist were relieved that, unlike those with seasons and trends may come and go, but at Macy’s, we can still achieve a sense of style at a reasonable price.

Budget game but not tame

FINALLY, THE statement, “budget games are always bad,” is proven false by “Half Life 2: Episode One.” It starts at a cool $20, costing only $20.

As a first person shooter, “Episode One” puts you in control of Gordon Freeman, hero of “Half Life.” Because the dark fusion reactor you sabotaged in the previous game has gone critical, you must flee the dark tunnels and narrow alleyways of City 17, battling zombies and robotic soldiers along the way.

To those who played the original game, “Episode One” disappoints in that it introduces a new weapon and leaves the gameplay unchanged. New players might find it hard to become accustomed to the fighting style of the game. Using the gravity gun, one of the hardest tools found in the game, allows you to carry heavy objects or pull objects from a distance. The gravity gun plays a crucial role in manipulating the environment to your favor.

Throughout the entire game, a computer controlled partner fights by your side. Incorporating the highest quality of graphics, the game will blow you away with its scenery. The background of a destroyed city, the graphics: everything in the game, both static, players feel completely engaged in City 17.

With about four hours of game time, “Episode One” ends a bit too quickly. But at $20, the game is amazingly cheap, compared to the usual $50. With a deal like this, “Half Life 2: Episode One” can compete with any top of the line game.

Rating: 9 out of 10
System: Computer

Harvard drops early admissions; now what?

Current Events
Donovan Mitchell

OCTOBER 31, 11:29 PM. Somewhere in America a high school senior is rushing to the post office to accomplish something scarier than any Halloween costume or decoration. He is mailing off his application before November 1, Harvard’s early admissions deadline.

But that scenario becomes history after this year. Starting with the class of 2012, Interim University President David Bok has announced, Harvard plans to discontinue early admissions. Harvard is switching to a single January deadline for all applicants.

Formerly, students could submit applications in early November, in a nonbinding program and receive an acceptance denial or deferral by early December. Although the change in policy does not affect current seniors, other students hoping to join the Crimson family now have until January 1 to submit applications that will face competition from a larger pool of applicants.

President Bok said that the early admissions program put students under privileged backgrounds at a disadvantage to being accepted.

“Early admission programs tend to advantage the advantaged,” Bok said in his September 12 report of the change. “Students from more privileged backgrounds and affluent high schools often apply early to increase their chances of admission, while minority students and students from rural areas, other countries and high schools with fewer resources miss out.”

The advantages of early admission to Harvard are shown in its acceptance rates. The Harvard Crimson reported that 21 percent of those students who applied early were granted admission as compared to a small 9 percent of students accepted during the regular admissions time frame. This poll was taken in 2005.

If other colleges and universities refuse to follow Harvard’s lead, other students may opt to apply early to those universities. That could potentially lead to Harvard losing top college applicants. But Harvard won’t have to worry. Two weeks after Harvard announced its early admissions change, two prominent schools, Princeton University and the University of West Virginia, announced ending their respective early admission programs.

Harvard’s change may be starting a trend among the nation’s top institutions of higher learning that could greatly benefit applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Harvard’s decision, though risky, may prove permanent. According to the logistics, the single decision system may only remain in place for a two to three year trial period. Harvard plans to monitor the effect of the change and ensure that it does not have a negative impact on the quality of the students the Cambridge, Massachusetts, school admits.

Let’s hope for the students’ sake that the old saying holds true: When Harvard sneezes, everybody gets pneumonia.
Tasty Calypso a treat

THOUGH THE NAME invokes images of Odysseys enameled by the mythical sea nymph Calypso a la Homer, the Caribbean-themed Calypso restaurant won't sell actually come from native Trinidad music.

Senior Zena Hardt and I arrived at 6 p.m. Saturday in front of the hardly noticeable Harper Court restaurant and were surprised to find a colorful interior décor complementing the tropical music.

Full of eccentricities such as Ostwalt stew, $11.95, described as "tender and colorful," the menu also includes a shout out to its host courtyard with the standard American cheddarburger, $6.50, for those feeling less adventurous. All the blackened, jerked, smoked and pineapple glazed options made ordering difficult, but we sipped bubbly Jamaican Cola, $2.25, in the meantime.

Zena went with Calypso's self-proclaimed famous Jerk Wings, $8.95, with red beans and rice, plantains and mixed vegetables. The meal came out with four little wings but don't be fooled: they were big, meaty and as my guest managed to say between bites, "really good."

I've never been a fan of pineapple on anything, but the resonating tropical music and decorations pushed me to overlook this fact on order the Jerk Chicken sandwich topped with grilled pineapple on Calypso's own Cuban bread, $7.95, with cabbage rice on the side. Once served, I eyed the moderately bulky sandwich with skepticism, but a few bites won me over; the contrast between flaky chicken and warm pineapple both in taste and texture was remarkably enjoyable. Abundant quirks such as miniature Corona bottles converted into salt and pepper shakers will keep us coming back. If the sea symphony that retained Odysseys for seven more years had the same food that's served here, we would never want to leave.

Dining
Elliot Popko

Photo courtesy of All Movie Photos

In the remake of "All the Kings Men," Sean Penn plays Willie Stark

Remake lands with big thud

MISTAKES. Ordinary people make them every day. When we had made one we look around to see if anyone noticed; hopefully, there aren't many people around. Senen Zaillian, director and writer of "All the King's Men," has made a huge mistake that anyone who bothers to waste $9 on a ticket will see.

"All the King's Men" was first made in 1949, winning the Oscar for Best Picture. Best Actor, Broderick Crawford; and Best Actress, Mercedes McCambridge. Both the movies are based on the life and death of Huey Long, a Louisiana governor (1928-1932).

A Chicagoan shows Willie Stark (Sean Penn) change from an innocent lack to a corrupt political machine. Blackmailing Judge Irwin (Anthony Hopkins) who tries to impeach him. The movie is shot through the eyes of reporter Jack Burden who becomes Stark's right hand man. Burden starts to question the loyalty to Stark when he is asked to find dirt on Irwin, his godfather. But wait, the almost containing plot thickens, when Burden's love interest, Anne Stanton (Kate Winslet) falls in love with Stark, causing Burden to turn against him.

The 1949 film presented a clear timeline of events whereas Zaillian's version cast, capture that same lucidity. He skips through time while showing memories of the characters so many frames that the characters lose their meaning.

Zaillian made so many mistakes that this reviews is amazed Sony/Columbia Pictures even released this film. Because of the confusion of time and miraculous changes, Zaillian's attempt is unable to fall in love with the characters. Stark suddenly transforms from a power seeking, power wielding governor. Judge Irwin goes from strong will to weak and suicidal, but we never see the moments in which the characters change.

Zaillian manager to ruin Stark's powerful speeches with Penn's stupid gestures, leaving everything to simple words. Zaillian thinks highly of his own writing that he feels that famous actors simply saying his words will suffice.

But Zaillian messed up the color of the world. He used an English and North American cast who both never quite master southern accents, leaving the audience laughing.

Getting only one star from most newspapers, "All the King's Men" has currently been shown to an enthusiastic audience. The acting is superb, especially with showing AMC Theaters River East 21 where after the movie many people made their way down, allowing the massing outside to pinch me to sprawl out over three seats to nap. I, however, was torn between I, I heard the company dates, "Sorry for wasting your time!"

"All the King's Men" is playing at local movie theaters with an R rating.

Rapper bound for star status

WELCOME TO CHICAGO's rap elite, Lupe Fiasco; we've been waiting for you. You may take your seat next to fellow members Common and Kanye West.

To put it bluntly, the long-delayed debut "Food & Liquor" is an instant classic. Fiasco boasts a natural flow that hasn't been seen since Jay-Z released his legendary debut, "Reasonable Doubt." In Lupe's storytelling ability is unparalleled as each verse reflects hours of careful craft.

On "Hurt Me Soul," Fiasco is perhaps at his strongest when explaining that he "wound to hate hip-hop," and that he was not originally a fan of Jay-Z, the album's executive producer. "If I ever got to say, 'hate Jay-Z, the album's executive producer,' if I ever got to say, 'hate Jay-Z, the album's executive producer,' I hope I can say, 'hate Jay-Z, the album's executive producer.'"

On "I'm Still" Lupe displays his clever flow: "Now the poor Pluto has man see that we're all brothers/not 'cause things are the same but because we lack the same color/That's green, now that's mean/Ca'n't burn his eyes cause he can't afford the gasoline." The album's only weakness is its production. Many beats attempt to mimic the grandiose soundscape of West's first two albums, however they lack West's precision and end up just short. But now I'm getting picky.

All minor weaknesses aside, Lupe's debut will go down as one of the highest quality rap albums of the decade. First stop: Chicago's rap elite. Second stop: rap history's el. Third stop: it's crazy to even predict.

Energetic Dave Matthews Band provides his oldest act

I ADMIT I have a bias: I go my tickets the day the show was announced in March. For the past three years, only one reason existed to trek out to the Midwest Bank Amphitheatre in Tinley Park and that was the Dave Matthews Band.

Through Matthews has been touring since the '90s, the bard's famed summer shows have always proved worthwhile. But this show seemed different. It could be because the opener was George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic, whose born section joined Matthews for half the set to provide a hugely vibrant sound. Or maybe it was because they wanted to finish the tour with a bang, playing one last show on the road before returning to their hometowns of Charlottesville, Virginia for two final shows.

Or perhaps they no longer had to vigorously promote "America Baby," leaving room for creativity in the set. Whatever the reason, I have never seen Matthews put on a more visuvsious show with a better set list, making this the concert event of a lifetime.

Parliament Funkadelic wowedly wowed the crowd, getting the entire lawn dancing with their quirky, swinging beats, playing a mix such as "We Want The Funk (Out The Roof Off The Sucker)."

Next was the sun setting on the lawn, the venue was packed with concertgoers of all ages bundled up with blankets and hooded sweatshirts. Matthews finally took the stage, beginning the set with the first two songs of the famed 2002 Gorge concert in Washington, "Fatigue Naga Pampa," segueing into "Rapunzel." Matthews packed the set with old classics for Dave fanatics, such as "So Much to Say" and "Two Much." For more casual fans, Matthews added some of his best new material as well, such as "Everyday" and "Dream Girl."

Overall, the set felt extremely upbeat. Matthews himself played with full energy, and his performance seemed especially impressive as he spoke often and earnestly to the crowd. Violent Boyd Timney also stood out with his dance moves and showed Matthews how it's done. Matthews smoothly segged into a 20 minute jam session over the bass, having earned the cover of "For What It's Worth" by Buffalo Springfield. The set climaxed with a mind-blowing, performance of a song close to the hearts of many Matthews enthusiasts, "Ain't Marching" with Parliament Funkadelic's "Cryin."

His traditional encore started with a solo version of "Sister " Granny" followed, igniting an audible crowd sing-along. Finally, the band finished the encore with a high paced, dance worthy jingle called "Two Step." I left the venue with a saying: "Coldplay we will, for life is short but sweet for certain." At that moment I understood, better than I ever had before, what that song is all about.
Other schools get basketball talent, but...

By Heavy Africano

R

unning sprint on the Midway and Athlete Development, the boys' basketball team has begun its preseason. It seems, however, to be missing a few laces. After graduating Middle School, five African American basketball players enrolled at other high schools, citing sports among their reasons of departure. Although the Athletic Department recognizes the players' desires, it sees it as a problem, according to Athletic Director David Ribbens.

"If you step back and look at the whole picture you can see that Lab has an exceptionally high retention rate." Mr. Ribbens explained. 

Seeking to avoid the problem behind what happened, though. But it doesn't seem to be a trend. In their minds U-High's athletics were good enough. In mine, I think they would be stepping into an amazing athletic program. We have nearly 200 athletes who I think feel they have had an exceptional experience.

Attending the Lawrenceville Boarding School in New Jersey, Freshman Nathan Saffold noted his new school's balance between academics and athletics.

"I wanted to try football and Lab doesn't really have a football team," Nathan said. "But mainly, the academics here are pretty much as strong as they were at Lab and the education in the Lab is better for me.

Last year went to Division I schools. Also, I wanted more competition. I wanted to work a little harder than what I did at Lab. Finally, I wanted the independence too and that was kind of a bonus.

Seeking a higher level of competition and a taste of the public school scene, Freshman J.R. Reynolds now goes to Whitney Young. "I've been in a private school my whole life and I wanted to try a public school and I have to say I'm liking it," J.R. said. "I was also looking for more basketball competition. There wasn't much competition at U-High and I'm trying to go to a Division I school. The academics here are great, which is good because I wanted the balance too. It can't just be all sports. They have a great concert choir too that I'm a part of. We are actually traveling to Ghana to perform."

Recognizing that African American athletes like ourselves, U-High's athletic program can flex the same muscle as its public school counterparts.

"I don't think Lab's athletics aren't as good as others but that's just a common misconception," Mr. Ribbens explained. "We're looking for a higher level of competition than anyone in the conference: AA. But a lot of people don't think of it that way. The kids felt three were greener pastures elsewhere; I wish them nothing but the best but feel they would have been happy here.

Prohibited from recruiting, U-High's Athletic Department is working with 15 athletes before they enter high school. "Boys' Basketball Coach Ron Ashlaw is going to be working with a Middle School connection program," Mr. Ribbens said. "He's gone to several camps and some are for boys which 8th graders to join are invited to.

"This has a double effect. It both keeps the younger athletes familiar with the high school sports scene and promotes a better team for the following year. By the time they become freshmen, they are already familiar with the coaches and the style of coaching. If we keep them connected we can keep them interested in Lab all we can do and we want more of that. Other schools choose to award financial aid and Lab School doesn't share that philosophy."

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Four years of soccer mania pay off for senior varsity powerman

By Peter Heplewhite

Bringing explosive speed and superior ball control to the Maroons, currently 2nd in the Independent School League, Senior Elan Weinre has refined his skills with four years of varsity soccer and off-seasons with Football Club Chicago.

Two summers ago, Elan traveled to Israel on the American Junior team for Maccabi, a Jewish sporting event taking place every four years. Named captain of this year's varsity squad along with Seniors Leo Carlson and Charlie Fisher and Junior Ben Picker, Elan believes that confidence has helped him play better.

"Being a good soccer player is all about confidence, knowing where you should be on the field and decisiveness," Elan explained. "It's better to play hard and not think of it that way. The kids felt three were greener pastures elsewhere; I wish them nothing but the best but feel they would have been happy here.

Applying skills from practice, the Maroons came away with a 1-0 victory over the Maroons, 15, according to Elan. As of Midway deadline, the 4-4 Maroons sit behind Morgan Park, which eliminated them from Sectionals last year.

"We did well that game because we applied things from practice," Elan said. "It was just perfect for that season. We moved the ball really well and everyone came to get it. We had goals, and two of them came off of our back-passes; we all played our jobs well.

"I can't really say what we did differently to make our best game. As a team we are on and off, sometimes we play really well and sometimes we struggle. But our defense is a definite strength. We always have four players that know what they're doing and are in the right place on the field. Our biggest issue is putting the ball in the back of the net and finishing the game; everything is there but that last piece."

With a 8-10 record as of Midway deadline, the 23 member jv squad boasts a significant nonconference wins against St. Ignatius, Chicago Christian and Whitney Young, and Coach Tom Pfanne.

"St. Ignatius was a huge win for us," Mr. Pfanne said. "The tough nonconference games were good tests and we had good performances. The sophomores and freshmen are serious about soccer. The team is having a good hard practice."

Scores are as follows:

Chicago Christian: August 29, Victory 7-1, Victory 3-0, Victory 5-0, Victory 9-0, Victory 3-1, Victory 1-0. September 1, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

Whitney Young: September 2, home, Victory 2-0, 2-0, Victory 5-1, Morgan Park Academy. September 8, home, Victory 2-0, 2-0, Victory 5-1, Victory 6-0, North Shore Country Day. September 9, home, Victory 2-0, 2-0, Victory 5-1, Victory 1-0.

North Shore Country Day: September 9, home, Victory 2-0, 2-0, Victory 5-1, Victory 3-0, Victory 5-1. September 12, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

Loyola: September 10, home, Victory 5-0, 3-0, Victory 5-1, Victory 3-0, Victory 5-1, Victory 1-0, Morgan Park Academy. September 11, home, Victory 5-0, 1-1, Victory 2-0, Victory 5-1.

North Shore Country Day: September 11, home, Victory 3-0, 1-0, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 5-1.

Loyola: September 12, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

Morgan Park Academy: September 14, home, Victory 5-0, 2-0, Victory 5-1.

North Shore Country Day: September 15, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0, Victory 5-1.

Loyola: September 16, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

St. Ignatius: September 18, home, Victory 5-0, 3-0, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

Whitney Young: September 20, home, Victory 5-0, 2-0, Victory 5-1.

St. Ignatius: September 26, home, Victory 5-0, 2-0, Morgan Park Academy.

North Shore Country Day: September 26, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 5-1.

Loyola: September 28, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

St. Ignatius: September 29, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0, Victory 5-1.

Whitney Young: October 1, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

North Shore Country Day: October 2, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

Loyola: October 3, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

North Shore Country Day: October 4, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

St. Ignatius: October 5, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

Whitney Young: October 6, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

St. Ignatius: October 7, home, Victory 5-0, 1-0, Victory 2-0.

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Skiing a goal kick, Freshmen Oliver Elfenbeinburned his varsity team in a scrimmage against jv on Jackman Field, September 21.

Stirling testing unlikely to come here

By Tom Stanley-Becker

As the U-High soccer team warms up for the season, Illinois High School Association officials may institute testing in soccer.

According to the State Journal-Register, the Association is considering a ban on high school athletes who have lost time during the season before state finals in football, basketball, wrestling, track and swimming.

If athletes test positive, they will be banned for a year and stripped of any metals, according to IHSA officials.

Athletes who refuse testing will not be eligible to compete. Only New York has implemented testing this school year.

Testing U-High athletes for steroids would serve no purpose, believes Athletic Director David Ribbens.

"The fact that we are facing it is scary," Mr. Ribbens said. "I just don't feel there are any grounds to say there is a need for testing for steroids at U-High."

When asked to present the IHSA from implementing steroid testing, believes Phys Ed Department Director Pete Miller.

"I don't think the IHSA is even starting to test high school athletes in Illinois because people have too much concern over privacy especially when it comes to such a medical condition of minors or anyone for that matter," Mr. Miller said.
Sophie stars in the swim
By Stephanie Stern
Associate editor

Swimming the strength of her pull, Sophomore Caroline Bank practices her butterfly technique in preparation for the Maine East Relay Invitational, 12:30 p.m., tomorrow, at Maine East High School.
Swimming competitively for six years, Caroline has helped the Maroons to a 1-2 record and two 2nd place finishes at the Bremen Penthathlon and the Riverside Brookfield Invitational, up from last year’s two 3rd places. Star of the 100m fly and 200m individual medley, Caroline practices year round in an effort to make it to State by senior year.
"I’ve been working a lot on my body positioning and hip movements in the freestyle," Caroline said. "My goal is to break a minute in the 100 free, which is not one of my strongest events. I’ve really been working a lot with the coaches on improving my freestyle technique. Right now I’m the weakest link in the 400 free relay, so improving my time might help us break the record today, which we’re only about a second behind and a better time might even get us to state."

Returning with only 14 swimmers, seven fewer than last year, the team’s biggest weakness at meets has been its small size, according to Caroline.
"Our team hasn’t done that much depth, but what’s really cost us in several meets is that we’ve very low on numbers," Caroline said. "This year we lost nine swimmers and only two swimmers joined, so we have a smaller team than last year. Because of the way meets are scored, even if we have better swimmers than an opposing team, they still beat us because they have more swimmers to put in each event. Because of that, we have really focused on individual improvement and breaking your own personal records, as opposed to last year which was much more team-success oriented."

Other meet results are as follows: Bremen Penthathlon, August 28, away: Varsity placed 2 of 7 teams with 13,330 points; Morton East, September 6, home; Varsity won 111-67; U-High

Tennis standout wins up saga
By Sarah Flissel
Editor-in-Chief

Concluding her fourth year on varsity tennis, Senior Rebecca Resnick hung up her U-High tennis racquet as first doubles player when the season ended last Tuesday.
Partnering with Co-captain Alex Gliyan, Junior, in doubles for a third season, Rebecca began playing tennis at age seven. She said she grew to love it, especially doubles, her forte.
"I really enjoy doubles because of the psychological aspect of the game," Rebecca said. "If one player is having a bad day, the other one can compensate. With Alex and me, since this was our third season together, we understand each other really well and could respond to how the other is feeling. We really balance each other out and work well together."
"As captians, Alex and I tried to emphasize focus and the mental aspect of tennis. It’s very important to stay focused during practice."

Utilizing the principles they focused on this season, Rebecca says certain games proved especially unforgettable.
"Our game against Oak Park River Forest was particularly memorable," Rebecca recalled. "It was a really close game, all three doubles games played into the dark. We ended up losing but we put up a really good fight."

Also completing its season, j.v. has played exceptionally, according to Coach Juliana Lazarevich.
"We’ve worked on focus, dedication, teamwork and, especially, consistency and strategy. I teach the girls to ‘play smart,’ which means getting the last shot into the court so their opponents make the mistake."

Other match results are as follows: Timothy Christian, August 31, away: Varsity won 5-0; j.v. won 4-0; Woodlands Academy, September 6, home; Varsity won last 1-4; j.v. won 3-2; Right Academy, September 7, away: Varsity won 5-4; j.v. won 4-0; Francis Parker, September 6, home; Varsity lost 1-4; j.v. lost 3-2; Mother McAuley, September 14, home; Varsity lost 1-4; j.v. won 5-0; Morgan Park High School, September 15, home; Varsity won 3-0, j.v. won 6-0; Gust Park River Forest High School, September 21, away; Varsity lost 3-3, j.v. won 4-1; Sandburg High School, Varsity won 5-2; Morgan Park Academy, September 21, home; Varsity won 5-4, St. Ignatius September 21, away; Varsity lost 3-3, j.v. lost 2-3, Latin September 20, home; Varsity won 2-1, j.v. won 2-0; North Shore Country Day School, September 28, home; j.v. won 5-0; Fenwick, October 3, home; j.v. lost 5-0; Varsity placed 2 of 7 teams with 13,330 points; Morton East, September 6, home; Varsity won 111-67

A FRIGHTFULLY SCARY COCONUTS STORY

Vampires at COCONUTS MUSIC AND VIDEO aren’t staying in the movies but they are coming to life! After a long sports practice Junior Billy Stevenson and Sophomore Zeke Upshaw hurry to offer frighteningly scary movies and C.D.s to a vampire that faintly resembles Junior Zak Smith.
Kogelmann: a golf great
By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor
As U-High’s senior representative on the All-Confrence Team, star golfer Nick Kogelmann, a sturdy, soft-spoken senior, has provided leadership and guidance to a team that has relied heavily on youth this season.

New York subway series falls apart, changes the odds
By Harley Chang
Associate editor
Off the track, Senior Ben Wurms takes and jokes with friends, showing his friendly and talkative nature. Once the race begins, his competitive spirit takes over. One of three co-captains, Ben consistently places among the top three players. At the Independent School League Conference October 5, a single race to determine the conference champion, Ben placed 5th individually, helping U-High boys win the championship.

Worcester races with competitive spirit
By Harley Chang
Associate editor
“Sometimes, I concentrate too much on beating the person in front of me to have the strength to sprint the last stretch.” With the majority of the team’s and coach Bud James predicts even better seasons ahead.

In the world of college golf, the team is all-grown.

With so many talented freshmen, like James Krull, the team has a promising future.
CHEWING over her numerous choices for a Halloween costume, Junior Marrissa Miles-Coccaro decides to head over to The Medici.

EUREKA! After taking a sip of her smooth Mexicana and chomping on some fries, Marrissa has an innovative idea.

THRILLED with her choices at The Medici, Marrissa happily sports her brand new Halloween costume; Lil Bo' Peep's Medici Girl.

Photos by Ava Forster

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