

# U-High MIDWAY

Volume 82, Number 2 ■ University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 ■ Friday, October 13, 2006

## Making four go into one

■ Grade levels need to interact more, many here believe

By Mona Dasgupta  
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 molding as a whole.

Student Council President Donovan 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 Ng, 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 Ruiqi 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 on j.v. get to meet sophomores," said Varsity 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 upperclassman 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



Photo by Steven Jones

Classes interact as Jonah Breslau, freshman, and brother Noah Breslau, senior, enjoy lunch together.

Curriculum 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, I'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 than 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, for students."

"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 upperclassmen 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 Namrata 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," Namrata 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 upperclassmen on Service Corps. The goal was to bring underclassmen and upperclassmen together and it ended up being something to write on a college resumé."

Some U-Highers suggested a weekly all-school assembly to help unification. In the 1997-1998 school year, however, (continues on page 3)

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## Students want safety advice

By Evan Dorfman  
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 crime 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 no 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 I don't recognize around the building, so I have been keeping a close watch."

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

"We are in the planning stages of a crime assembly," Donovan explained. "We're going to bring Director of University Police Rudy 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."



Photo by Rachel Hanessian

Emergency phones, here looked over by Junior Victoria Rogers, were installed on the Midway walkway last spring.

"The play is so unique because of the time period it is set in. It changes the way you have to think about everything."  
- Charlotte Long, junior



## 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, "Rosencrantz 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 story of "Hamlet," Stoppard provides a humorous and wild outlook on two minor Shakespearean characters and their bumbling adventure paralleling Shakespeare's plot. The juxtaposition of murder and slapstick makes the play a classic, according to Drama Teacher Liucija 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 tricky lighting and a complicated set, Assistant Director Alice Quinlan, 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 and the 'Rosencrantz and Guildenstern' world."

Rosencrantz, originally cast as a male, 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 Rosencrantz because the part was not written for a girl," Charlotte said. "Even though he's sort of asexual 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, but I definitely wanted to try it out."

Because the play is set within "Hamlet," Costumes Comistress Amanda Faraone with Comaster Xavier Winslow, 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 troupe consists of all the roaming players, so they'll be dressed more raggedy than other actors and mostly in burlap. The two main characters, Rosencrantz 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:



Photo by Eva Jaeger

In the upcoming Fall Production, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," Aaron Weiss and Charlotte Long portray the two lead characters.

Sam Shapiro, Robin Shapiro, Kelly Kovacs, Victoria Rogers, Marrison Miles-Coccaro, Linda Huber, Jeff Johnston, Graham Salinger, Alex Gomez, Samson Eder, Johannes Peter, Katie Raftery, Kaitlyn Chang, Lida Wu.

Crew heads are as follows:

**Production coordinator,** Hannah Rothfield; **set,** Hannah Rothfield; **sound,** Jeremy

Lacocque; **lights,** Liza Burns, Alice Quinlan; **furniture,** Aaron Weiss; **box office,** Aaron Weiss; **shop,** Jeremy Lacocque; **props,** Graham Salinger; **makeup,** Xavier Winslow; **costumes,** Amanda Faraone, Xavier Winslow; **house,** Aaron Weiss; **publicity,** Claire Beatius, Devika Werth; **theater manager,** Charlotte Long.

## Fall Is Cold...



Photo by Sydney Marcus

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## Director decides quarters to stay, at least for now

By Stephanie Stern  
Political editor

Though the door is still open to semesters, 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 electives.

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 that couldn't be guaranteed.

Wanting to insure students' voices were heard, Juniors Mark Christianson and Amanda Pappas drafted and presented a petition to keep quarters, with almost all the freshman and sophomore classes' signatures



Mr. Magill

to Mr. Magill in April.

Announcing his decision in a September 8 letter to Principal Matt Horvat and Faculty Chairperson Asra Ahmed, guidance counselor, Mr. Magill stated 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 "rescheduling Artsfest 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 activities during the shorter spring quarter that take kids away from school; so we have been looking for a way to balance the sections. 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 music talent

By Rohini Tobaccowala  
Associate editor

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, 1010 East 59th Street. Performers had 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 this occasion to show the Lab Schools community what the students have put their time and dedication to in a more formal setting."



"As seniors, I hope we all dress up to our 'top secret' theme because this year is our last together."

—Natalie Lewis, senior

# coming up 3

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## 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 Brasler and Music Teacher Dominic Piane 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. Piane 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. Brasler 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 Cantwell and Alex Gomez, new from Minnesota (see "Character Sketch" on page 6).

Declared semifinalists in the National Achievement Scholarship program for African American students are Megan Harris, Nneka McGuire, Donovan Mitchem and Stephanie Stern. They are among 1,600 semifinalists nationally, half of whom are expected to receive scholarships as finalists.

Both programs are affiliated with the National Merit program.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Brian Wildeman

## 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  
Associate editor

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. U-Highers and their guests must bring their student I.D.s, according to Mr. McFarlane. Visitors' hosts also needed to return a completed Guest Pass to Mr.



Katherine

McFarlane by last Tuesday.

Providing music for the evening will be D.J. Allan Cullen, also at last year's dance. Senior Prom 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.

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

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

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

## Council considers crime assembly

By Sahai Redleaf  
Student government editor

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 Donovan Mitchem, senior.

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



Donovan

"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 bogged 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 executives 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.

Freshmen class officers elected last Friday, October 6 are as follows:

**President**, Jack Brewer; **vice president**, Amelia Acosta Pacelli; **Cultural Union representatives**, Julia Baird and Kaia Tammen.

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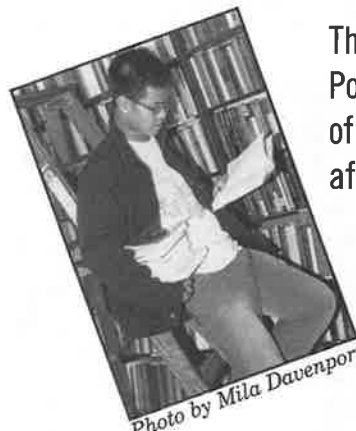


Photo by Mila Davenport

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# 4 more news

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"Earth Science is normally a very boring subject, but somehow Ms. Vaughan was able to make every class interesting."  
—Amalia Roth, senior



## Spirited, courageous teacher remembered

■ Florence Vaughan 'unbelievably generous'

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 8th 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 Katie, 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 reoccurring 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 an 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 Cowen said. "I remember one day we did an experiment where we each 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 tiny ball with a bag clinged 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 cave projects. Even though she had her own stuff to do, she would always ask her students how they were. She was so unbelievably generous."



Photo by Jeremy Handrup

## Heave Ho

Surrounded by Wisconsin wilderness at Camp Chi at Lake Delton, sophomores engaged in Community Learning and class bonding at Retreat, September 20-22.

The Retreat began with student wrestling in arenas in their dorms followed by an evening at Kalahari Water Park. The next morning, sophomores went to their chosen service locations.

After returning from sites,

students engaged in the simulation activity "Star Power." Demonstrating social inequalities, the activity involved trading poker chips to gain status.

Clearing brush for an extension of McCarthy Park Day Camp, Niels Meyer and Alex Zimmer carried away trees at one of three service sites, including planting and harvesting at Troy Garden.

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Photo by Ramzi Dreessen

Enjoying her caffè latte, Junior Alya Forster takes a much needed break after school in the quiet, cozy atmosphere of Caffe Florian.

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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 orator 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."



Dr. Thompson

## 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, 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-Highlights 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 Recruitment Open House, though, is to let our students guide our visitors through an enjoyable afternoon at Lab."



**"Given our placement of people an intruder wouldn't just stroll in the school."**

—Paul Gunty, assistant to the associate director

**print it! 5**

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Photo courtesy of Namrata Patel

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



**First Person**  
**Namrata Patel**

After years of picturing a tall, curvaceous dancing icon, Shakira's 5 foot, 2 inch stature and twinkling brown eyes made me feel like her friend instead of just a silly fan. She then put on her paparazzi-avoiding disguise of sunglasses and a bohemian hat before sneaking out, accompanied only by her boyfriend and her brother.

The next afternoon, my dance teacher called me and told me something that drove me to hop around and pinch myself to make sure I wasn't dreaming: I was chosen to be one of Shakira's backup dancers. Along with three other Kalapriya Foundation dancers, I would be given the opportunity to go to the glamorous MTV Video Music Awards, Thursday, August 31 at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

Given plane tickets to Toronto, Canada, where Shakira would perform Sunday night

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.

Chauffeured to the luxurious Westin Harbour Castle hotel, we were given barely enough time to change, wash our faces and gather necessary costumes and jewelry. Even with eyes half-open and stomach grumbling, 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 rehearsed greetings fled my mind as I stared in awe. Followed by her manager, bodyguard, choreographer, brother and tour director, Shakira, as 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 natural belly dancing skills. After admiring her shake her famous hips so fluidly in numerous music videos, it was astonishing to watch her struggle at a step so innate to me.

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 VMA-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 rehearse with Shakira's other backup dancers backstage.

Farrah 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 faults 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, Maite, Shakira's choreographer, called over 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 Maite goodbye. Then I dragged 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 got to know her on a personal level. Do you think Shakira will write a college recommendation for me?

## School violence raises queries on safety here

By Dana Alfassa  
Associate editor

In the wake of three recent deadly school shootings, U-Highers are asking whether the Lab Schools have an effective lockdown system. Mr. Paul Gunty, assistant to the associate director, says such a plan exists and is in the Faculty Handbook.

September 27 at Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado, an armed intruder took six girls hostage and fatally shot one before committing suicide. The school had gone into lockdown after a teacher called out the words "code white" over the intercom. The school is less than an hour's drive away from Columbine High School, where a 1999 shooting by two students left 15 people dead.

Gathering for a candlelight vigil a Cazenova, Wisconsin, community mourned the fatal shooting of a Weston Schools principal on September 29. Though a custodian confiscated a handgun from a 9th grader as he walked into the building, the student was concealing a separate pistol, which he used to shoot the principal three times.

After a gunman allowed 15 boys to leave the 27-student Wolf Rock School in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on October 2. He proceeded to bind and execute three girls and critically wound seven others before committing suicide.

At U-High, in the case off an intruder entering the school measures will immediately be taken to ensure the students safety, Mr. Gunty said.

"Three blasts on an air horn give the signal to put the Safety Drill in effect," he explained. "Teachers are to close and lock classroom doors, turn off the lights and direct students to areas where they cannot be seen."

Not having a public address system puts U-High at a disadvantage, believes Mr. Gunty.

"For lots of reasons I think we need a public address system," Mr. Gunty said. "But we do have an advantage in that we've gotten locks on most of the doors in the school, and those that don't have locks are located near security guards. Given our placement of people, an intruder wouldn't just stroll in the school."

Though the Faculty Handbook states that a security drill will be conducted at least once a year, because of complexities in scheduling throughout the schools, the drills have not taken place in at least three years, according to Mr. Gunty.

"Since the drill is for the High School, Middle School and Lower School, it can be very difficult to set up times that work for the entire school," he explained. "We have to meet weeks in advance before deciding on a time that works for everyone. Part of the reason is also that the Lower School teachers have to talk to their kids especially and practice beforehand so that they don't get totally freaked out during a drill. The fact that we have not done the drill in a couple years is our weakness."

## 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 a First Place rating based on scorebook points. Then it had to receive at least four of five Marks of Distinction for exemplary work in specific areas. The Midway received all five Marks. They were for Coverage and Content; Writing and 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 Tsay and Dusty Baird, and the photo editor was Alexa Knorr. All are now college freshmen.

### Yearbook photos continue

Senior yearbook portraits continue in the Courtyard; schedules are posted on the Senior Board.

Next Tuesday, October 17, juniors, sophomores and freshmen get photographed in the journalism office, Judd 14, which can be reached through the door at the west end of the cafeteria.

U-Highers with any questions should visit Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler in the journalism office.

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# 6 people & places

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2006

"Mr. Zimmer has long standing ties with Lab as a parent. We are eager to be among the first to know his plans for the University."

—Mrs. Andrea Martonffy, in service co-coordinator



## Angry sophomore.....by Eric Cochran



### 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 Martonffy 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 graduates David, 2000; Ben, '04; and of Freshman Alex. After Mr. Zimmer's appearance, teachers will be participating in various workshops. The All-Schools Council will focus on 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 Denevi, 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."

### Character Sketch

Newcomers from afar bring individual touches to school

By BJ Arun

Character Sketch columnist

**R**OCKIN' HIS AIR GUITAR to "Consequential Apathy" by the Rx Bandits while she innocently hides herself behind her English book, in 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."



Art by Eric Cochran

Alex Gomez

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."



Art by Sam Dreessen

Corina Stanton

### A Book Can Change Your Life!



Photo by Steven Jones

Surrounded by a vast array of intellectual and fun reads, Sophomore Lauline Gough takes a break from her daily homework to dive into a book.

**J**ust a few minutes from U-High, lies the University of Chicago Bookstore.

Offering a great selection of literature that would keep any U-High student curious. Take a break from tedious homework and curl up with an enjoyable book at the University of Chicago Bookstore. Who knows? It may even change your life!



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"When these kids grow up, Chinese will be of great use to them and I want to see this progress at U-High."  
—Zihao Sun, Mandarin Chinese teacher

# new newsmakers

# 7

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2006

## 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 Jacobson  
Editor-in-Chief

It was 3 a.m. and I was in Pondicherry, India," recalled new English teacher Sonaar Luthra, describing the phone interview he had with members of the English Department last May. He'd recently received an e-mail about an opening at U-High while vacationing in Pakistan. "I was really tired and I could hear dogs fighting outside the hotel room. I thought I messed up the entire interview."

English Department members apparently thought otherwise; they flew him in for an "audition" teaching an English 2 class. On June 6, he was hired.

With his easygoing, 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 in April.

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 wasn't for him.

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

Moving in with his grandmother in New Delhi, Mr. Luthra got an entry-level job working for Today newspaper.

"I started out copy editing, which basically any English teacher can do. I said, 'All right, I'll do this; it's going to kind of suck, but I'll do this.'"

"Then on my second day, someone that was supposed to cover a gallery opening was sick and they needed me to fill in. A lot of people thought it was kind of a joke; they thought I wouldn't even find the place."

But he did; traveling by rickshaw, he actually found it pretty quickly. Mr. Luthra said he had a great interview with the artist and ended up surpassing expectations.

"Suddenly I was Mr. Luthra and I was being given all these stories; I was their hotshot reporter."

In the next four months, Mr. Luthra covered a myriad of topics, from ones requiring him to interview the Chinese and Israeli ambassadors to writing a full page spread on the launch of Viagra in India. But when he felt he had accomplished his goal, he decided to leave.

"My ultimate goal was to know what was going on in India, within the confines of what the paper could teach me. When I accomplished my two-year plan in four months, I had done what I went there to do. After four months of being a fairly respected reporter, I decided it was time to see what other opportunities existed."

Mr. Luthra has already immersed himself in Chicago; he does night life listings for Spin Magazine and is a member of



Mr. Sonaar Luthra

the Museum of Contemporary Art. Though he said he might one day get involved in education in India, Mr. Luthra doesn't plan on leaving U-High anytime soon.

"The students are very engaged and willing to consider questions. I don't have to waste energy making them interested; I just have to keep their interest."

### 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'm a scholar," he said. "I'm not good in communications, management or business. Teaching is really the only thing I can do. In China, I taught high school for six years and in the U.S. I thought I would use my experience and continue to teach."

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

"Chinese is a very hard language and I don't want to scare off students. Therefore, I am only focusing on listening and speaking and usually don't correct them in mispronunciations. I also hope that the students will have fun



Mr. Zhihao Sun

playing Go, Chinese Chess and writing calligraphy. After all, learning Chinese is not just about the languages; it's about the history 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.

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

### From a far-off land ventures a teacher with spirit, smile

By Holly Reid  
Associate editor

Sweeping her hands over a regional map of Europe in Sunny Gym, Phys Ed teacher Sonia Oracova proudly locates her hometown of Bratislava, in Slovakia, with a smile she is seldom seen without.

Joining the Phys Ed Department, Ms. Oracova is on exchange with the Fulbright program. She searched for an exchange program for more than a year before exchanging with Mrs. Joan Vande Velde.

Speaking in English flavored with a middle European accent, Ms. Oracova expressed her excitement for new experiences.

"I have been teaching 15 years at my school, teaching geography and p.e.," she said. "I am responsible for creating curriculums in my school. This exchange will help me professionally because I will learn more about teaching lifestyle. Personally I love to travel and it combines two things together. I also think the best way to understand another culture is to spend time there. It is an academic and life experience."

Ms. Oracova's grayish-green eyes widened as she spoke of her curiosity about America life.

"I am a beginner here. There are different rules and culture habits. Coming here I will learn more about myself and I wonder how I will spend my time in another country. I have traveled to the United States three times before this; however, I was just a tourist."



Ms. Sonia Oracova

Tucking her short brown hair behind her ears she praised the U-High community.

"Right now I am teaching 3rd and 7th graders. The communication I have with the students does not rely heavily on speech but body language and eye communication. They do not slack off and they are all hard working. I will start teaching High Schoolers soon and I think they will be very driven and helpful as well. I have not planned anything for the High Schoolers. I am very excited to teach them and learn what they have to teach me."

### 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. Ira 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. "It was very 'New Orleans,' lots of restaurants and music was constantly playing. I'd lived there since 1990."

"Then when Katrina hit, my wife and I evacuated at 3:30 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.

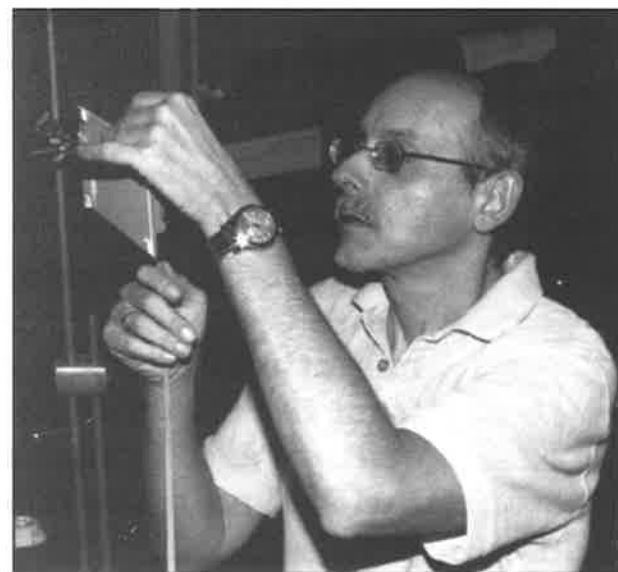
"We were without water for the first two weeks," he explained. "Electricity was out for about three weeks. Within a month everything was working, but it took about six months before the city was back in shape. When I went back to New Orleans my neighborhood was still pretty intact, but it was very quiet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

Seeking a haven from the bare New Orleans streets and polluted air, 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 12 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. Housinger 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 that 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 see how bad the winters are."



Mr. Ira Nirenberg

**All photos by Ramzi Dreessen**



"There is no trust in the p  
banning is occurring. I wa  
to make an informed deci  
-Ms. Carolyn Walter, En

# War hits home for U-Highers with family ties in countries involved

By Jeffrey Bishku-Aykul

Associate editor

Just became obsessed with news. That's all I'd watch or read."

With cancelled plans to vacation and visit family in Lebanon last August, Senior Nina Massad was among U-Highers directly affected when war began in the Middle East.

In early July a small conflict regarding the safe return of two kidnapped Israeli soldiers escalated into a war between Israel and a Lebanese Shi'ite militia, Hezbollah, endangering two students visiting the area and U-Highers' family abroad in those countries. Israeli forces proceeded to bomb Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's office complex and fighting officially began between Hezbollah and Israeli forces July 14. The war did not cease until a month later.

"I remember my grandma called and told us that Israeli forces had bombed the airport," Nina said. "I didn't think anything of it. Once they started sending in troops I began to realize the magnitude. Then I began talking to relatives. I had never seen war in Lebanon, so once they said it was going to be as bad as the civil war in 1982, then it got scary."

With family in the Middle East, Senior Bruce Ratain felt concerned about the safety of his Israeli relatives.

"When we heard about everything, my first thought was to call my family or e-mail them and find out if everything was okay. It was kind of ambiguous what was happening," Bruce said. "It was hard to know what was going on there, so I was reading a lot of papers."

Juniors Kais Shawaf and Frank Firke were separately visiting the Middle East when the war broke out.

"I was in Lebanon visiting my grandmother," Kais said. "However, we left in the first couple of days of my trip, on the 15th. I was supposed to see a Sean Paul concert that day. When the Saudi Embassy called and told us they could not guarantee our safety we had to leave on a bus."

Meanwhile, Frank was attending the Shorashim Program, a tour across Israel comprised of both Israeli and American

youth. Though fighting started just five days after he got to Israel, Frank stayed nearly a month.

"The first two of three days, we were in Haifa," Frank explained. "After a few hours when everything started, we made a visit to the Israeli border. We actually could hear some Israeli gunfire from around there. It was pretty much not dangerous at all. However, we had to leave the north two days after because our safety was not guaranteed anymore."

Despite the ongoing war, both U-Highers said Middle Easterners remained relatively calm.

"The Lebanese were pretty coolheaded," Kais explained. "They would go to get groceries and just wait it out. There were no more parties or traffic. 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 collected.

"All the Israelis on the trip knew people in the north or had family up there, so everyone was following the news a lot. Also, if something happened they would make phone calls to check if people up there were okay," Frank explained. "You'd see concern, but it was not completely getting in way of life."

Although in the U.S., according to Nina and her sister Nicole, freshman, their family would call Lebanese family about every other day during the crisis.

"My mom's family 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. But my dad's family was on the border and they had to leave. They had to go to Broummana, a Christian suburb east of Beirut."

According to Nicole, the war did not only indirectly endanger family members 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 would affect us so directly. Although he was finally returned, it was scary."

Stories of constant fear in Israel also made Bruce uneasy.

"Mom called some relatives of ours. My young second 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 terrified, because he couldn't walk and she couldn't carry him to bomb shelter."

With the passing of an August 14 U.N. 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 so 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 less likely to go to Israel now than any other time," he explained. "Just as you can't run away from being 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 there's fighting going on."

Although Nina plans to return to Lebanon during Winter Break, she feels that now that the war has subsided, there is still a long way to go.

"I feel sad because finally Beirut had been getting its act together and tourism had been heating up. 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."



Nina



Kais



Bruce

## Initiative on undocumented immigrants right or wrong?

By Tom Stanley-Becker

Associate editor

Deportation of all undocumented immigrants is unjustified and attempting to stop the arrival of undocumented immigrants across the border is inevitable. That is how some students, faculty members, alumni and parents react to the increasingly harsher measures imposed on undocumented immigrants.

According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants live in the U.S., including half a million in Illinois. Provoked by U.S. House of Representatives proposals to criminalize undocumented immigrants and deport them, thousands of immigrants protested throughout Chicago and other cities last spring, demanding amnesty and a path to citizenship.

Citing the U.S.'s promise as a land of opportunity, Latinos Unidos President Michael Hernandez, senior, believes that all undocumented immigrants must be granted legal rights.

"It won't hurt the economy to allow immigrants to be legalized," Michael said.

"Every person coming to this country should receive equal civil liberties and job opportunities. People believed they came to a nation of liberty and prosperity. It is not right for a nation built on immigrants to discriminate against them just because they are not legal."

Noting similar reactions to the arrival of African Americans and undocumented immigrants, History Teacher Charles Branham sees parallels between the current immigration debate and the degradation of African Americans.

"The fear of invasion is the link," Mr. Branham explained. "White Chicagoans viewed the migration of African Americans from the South as an invasion a century ago. I sense the same rhetoric then and now; the fear of cultural and ethnic difference, that African Americans would swamp the inhabitants. The fear of crime, that they would bring crime into the community."

"Most importantly, there was the belief that African American immigrants, like Latinos today, would take the jobs from whites. It was also about race. Whites feared employers would hire African Americans

cheaply as strike breakers and depress the wages of white workers."

Seeing a similar historical parallel, 1980 U-High graduate Tim Bell, executive director of the Chicago Worker's Collaborative, an organization of immigrant workers, and son of History Teacher Earl Bell, likens immigrant protests to the 1960s civil rights movement.

"You can't have an unregulated workforce and respect labor standards," Mr. Bell said. "The alternative to legalization is deporting everybody, but there would be a labor shortage, even with higher wages."

"There is general disenfranchisement and immigrants' rights are ignored. The civil rights movement was partly for enfranchisement. Today you have large marches, people trying to have their voices heard. There is a constant fear Latinos live with being undocumented. People are afraid; they fear deportation."

"They fear oppression from the police and the minute men who haunt immigrants at the border are the modern Klu Klux Klan. For African Americans, there was the fear that their house would be burned down."

Illegal immigration is inevitable, believes Spanish Teacher Becky Lopez, whose father migrated legally from Mexico in the 1960s.

"There will always be a way to come into the U.S.," Ms. Lopez said. "People have paid so-called coyotes \$3,000 for bringing them across the border illegally. Immigrants will risk life and their children to come to this country. They would have gladly stayed in their own country if they could provide food and a house for their family."

"Also, if the government in their own country could provide the types of services these people need to break the poverty circle and provide for their families. The governments in these countries have no infrastructure. Human motivation will keep immigration going."

No comprehensive solution to the immigration problem is imminent, believes Ms. Susan Gzesh, director of the University of Chicago's Human Rights Program.

"You can't deport 11 million people," Ms. Gzesh said.

"Their status might be illegal but they are essential for our country; they are very integrated into the economy. People are looking for someone to blame, people get nervous. But in this session of Congress, nothing is going to happen."

"The immigration issue may be an issue in the midterm election. If the Republicans win, we lose. The Republicans don't want to sign off on anything, they want to maintain their purely anti-immigrant sentiment. They want to see how far their views can get them in the next Congressional election."



**"The fear of invasion is the link. White Chicagoans viewed the migration of African Americans from the South as an invasion a century ago. I sense the same rhetoric then and now; the fear of cultural and ethnic difference..."**

**-Mr. Charles Branham**  
History teacher

## Teacher helps produce upcoming 'Frontline'

Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts is associate producer for a PBS "Frontline" special to air 9 p.m. Tuesday, October 31 on channel 11. The special covers reactions and opinions about Mexicans in Chicago through the perspective of Republicans, Democrats and legal and illegal immigrants.

"My job is to set up interviews and to make sure everything is ready for shooting," Ms. Ricketts said. "I've also helped do some translating between Spanish and English and I've taken some still photography for them as well. It's been a lot of hard work after school but I really enjoy it."



Photo by Liwen Xu

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 Chaudhry  
Managing editor

"Welcome to banned books 101 or the Best Literature of the last 25 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 toying 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 Bishku-Aykul  
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 manpowered 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 human 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.

## Get Your Sandwich On!

Offering a vast variety of gourmet sandwiches for your enjoyment, U.M. meets your needs. From tuna salad sandwiches to fresh mozzarella, succulent tomatoes, crisp lettuce, tangy mustard, and the all important vinegar let your imagination run wild. Add to your creation our wide range of yummy candy, sweet cookies, tasty drinks and other delectable treats to make the perfect lunch, dinner or snack for anyone. So...Get Your Sandwich On at **University Market!**



Photo by Eva Jaeger

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

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## As the Midway sees it Some holes in the story

Maybe you've heard this one. Five Middle School boys didn't return for freshman year at the Lab Schools because they wanted to attend schools with more competitive sports teams. But as the Midway found out by actually talking with some of those boys, that rumor holds little truth. While sports did factor into their decisions to leave, their reasons did not entirely revolve around athletics. In fact, the boys said they left for a variety of activities and experiences that U-High does not offer.

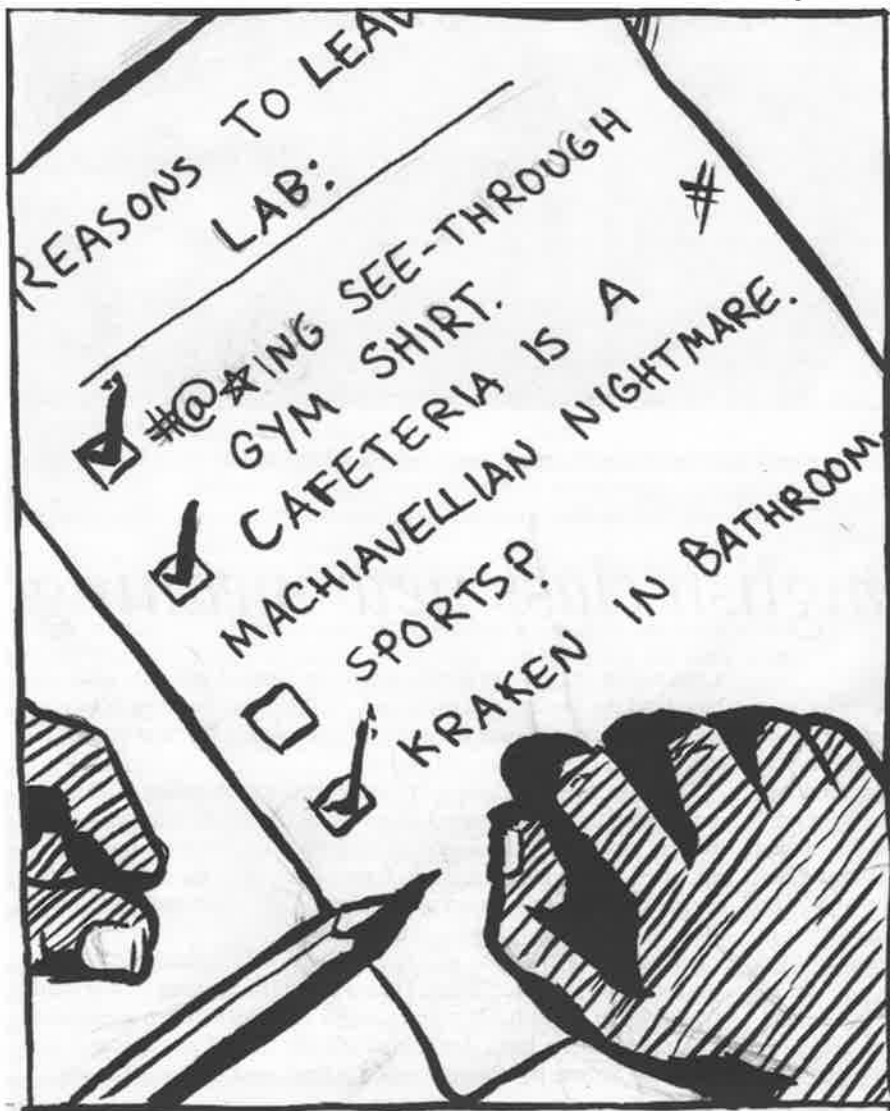
One boy, now a freshman at Whitney Young, wanted to join the school's choir, which is preparing for a trip to Ghana. He also wanted to know what going to a public school was like.

Another boy desired a sense of independence that he didn't feel at the Lab Schools and found at a boarding school in New Jersey. He also wanted to try playing football.

Perhaps because the Lab Schools community is close knit, misconceptions manage to make their way around with some never doubting that their acquired facts aren't correct.

Though it is true that some African American males have left the Lab Schools in the past to be part of different athletic teams, the belief that all African American boys leave primarily for this reason is simply untrue.

While it's impossible to trace the origin of this speculation, good advice would be to merely not believe everything you hear. Be careful to assume your figures are accurate because it's quite possible you were given false information.



Art by Eric Cochrane

## Semester initiative puts citizenship to work

Some faculty members still don't get it.

Although Lab Schools Director David Magill has decided to stick with a quarterly schedule for now, last year's quarter-semester debate has left some loose ends.

The suggestion that semesters would give teachers less grading periods and create less stress for students was made nearly two years ago. After passing a faculty vote, the idea was sent to the Curriculum Committee, which formed a semester subcommittee. Student Council then organized two forums to gauge student opinion on the matter with a Curriculum Committee member present at each meeting. In a poll conducted

in one forum, students voted 50-0 in favor of quarters. Told by faculty members that student views discussed in the forums would be taken into account by the subcommittee, students found evidence that this wasn't true after an April 2006 faculty meeting.

At the meeting, at which faculty voted on semester dates, a teacher commented that students in her classes unanimously voted against semesters. Not one faculty member took the opportunity to inform her of the student body's opposition to semesters.

Realizing that student opinion got little weight among the faculty, two juniors drafted a petition against semesters signed by 247 students. Wanting to make sure he was aware of student opinion, they presented the

petition to Mr. Magill later that month.

Some teachers have said they wished students had learned that they can't always get what they want. Others have said the students should not have gone to Mr. Magill without telling the faculty.

But the petition was never about undermining the faculty. The petition drafters, in fact, did exactly what effective democratic citizens should do and what the Lab Schools have taught them to do.

Realizing that student opinion didn't matter much to the faculty, they went through the proper channels to make sure they were heard. Next time the faculty shouldn't say student opinion factors into a decision when it clearly doesn't.

## Crime by school shouldn't remain in the shadows

FOR THE PAST six years I've walked to and from school everyday. 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 told me that a man 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 mugged 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 cafeteria 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 was correct.

As the week went on, I was upset that the school hadn't made an announcement about the assault so students could take extra safety precautions. I would have liked to have known about the crime 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 attack to students or their families. Although most U-Highers have heard about the assault through hearsay, they've had no confirmation.



Opinion  
Mona  
Dasgupta

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 mugged on Blackstone near 58th 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 recent criminal activity that has happened in the area. While I'm glad the board is there, I just recently found out about its existence. I wonder how many U-Highers know of the board and if they even pay attention to it.

I think the topic should have been addressed the day after the crime took place. For whatever reason, the school has not conveyed, now weeks later, important information to U-Highers that could potentially help them avoid dangerous circumstances.

## Say What?

Compiled by Artis Lewis

If you could be any historical figure for Halloween, who would you be and why?



William

**WILLIAM DIAMOND, senior:** Otto Von Bismarck! I would be him because he was one of the coolest European aristocrats ever and has a long mustache. I'd probably put a crazy mustache on, a top hat and carry around a sword, assuming that is not against the school rules.

**MARK CHRISTIANSON, junior:** I would be Benjamin 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 I'd carry a kite and a key around and maybe even create electricity!

**JOHANNA HEINEMAN-PIEPER, sophomore:** I would definitely be Pocahontas because I am half Native American and I feel most connected to her culturally. I would wear plain clothes and a Native American headdress, which I have at home from Massachusetts.

**ANNCHELLIE AKUAMOAH, 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.



Mark



Annchellie

## U-High MIDWAY

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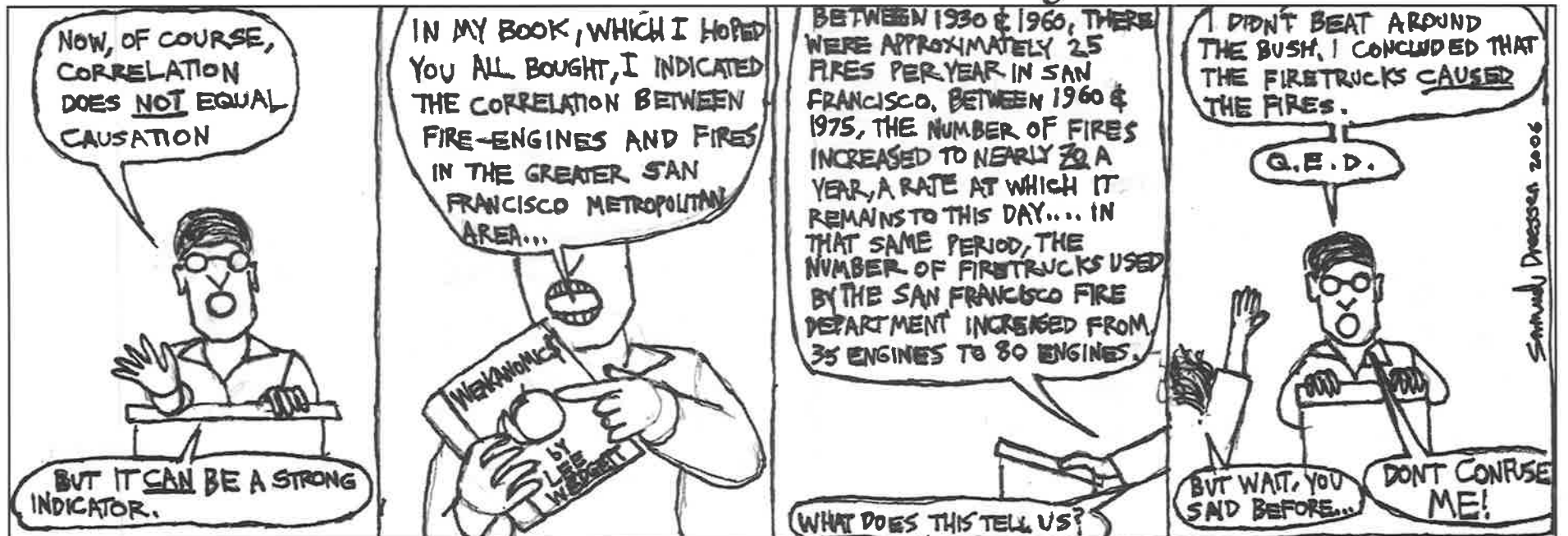
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## Intellectual Titans Part One....by Sam Dreessen



### 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 legacy of quality fashion behind, the historic Marshall Field's changed to Macy's September 9. The switch enticed sophomore 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.



**Fashion**  
**Ronnie**  
**Fox**

"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, J.Lo by Jennifer Lopez and Scrapbook."

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 the prospect of what might have become of the second floor, formerly devoted to the junior section.

We silently ascended the escalators and to our surprise, nothing seemed out of place. Le Tigre cashmere sweaters, skinny jeans by Paper Denim & Cloth and tie-dyed T-shirts by Lucky Brand graced the second floor. Sophie and I sighed with relief.

Content with the juniors section, Sophie and I made one last stop: the dress department. With Homecoming soon, we prayed that

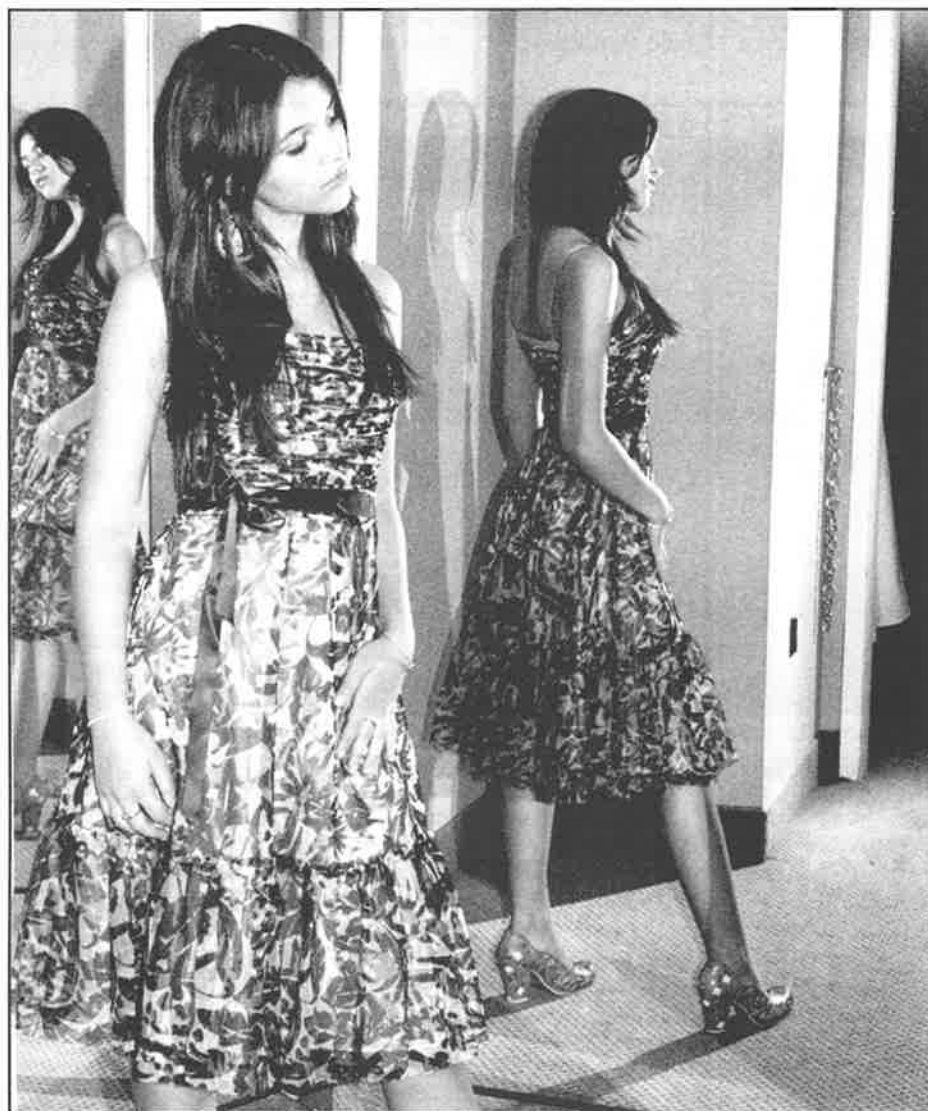


Photo by Alya Forster

Sophomore Sophie Ortel at the new Macy's on State Street.

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 taffeta 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 titles, 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," a top notch computer game costing only \$20.

As a first person shooter, "Episode One" puts you in control of Gordon Freeman, hero of "Half Life 2." 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

no new weapons 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 things to learn, allows you to carry large or heavy objects or pull objects from a distance. The gravity gun plays a crucial role in manipulating the environment to your favor and allows you to throw bricks and other heavy objects at enemies.

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. From a fusion reactor core on meltdown to backgrounds of a destroyed city, the graphics make the environment so realistic, players feel completely engrossed 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



**Games**  
**Harley**  
**Chang**

## Harvard drops early admissions; now what?

OCTOBER 31, 11:59 P.M. 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.



**Current**  
**Events**  
**Donavan**  
**Mitchem**

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 from underprivileged backgrounds at a direct 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 sophisticated 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 applying early to Harvard are shown in its acceptance rates. The Harvard Crimson reported that 21 percent of those students who applied early were granted admissions compared with 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 other universities. That could potentially lead to Harvard losing top college applicants. But Harvard won't have to worry.

Two weeks after Harvard's decision, two prominent schools, Princeton University and the University of West Virginia, announced ending their respective early admissions 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 not 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 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.



Photo by Zach Slouka

Eliot Popko and Zena Hardt order from Calypso server Nicole Faulkner.

## Tasty Calypso a treat

THOUGH THE NAME invokes images of Odysseus ensnared by the mythical sea nymph Calypso à la Homer, the Caribbean-themed Calypso Café's name actually comes 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 complemented by tropical music.

Full of eccentricities such as Oxtail stew, \$11.95, described as "tender and colorful," the menu also includes a shout out to its host country with the standard American cheeseburger, \$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



Dining  
Eliot Popko

famous Jerk Wings, \$8.95, with red beans and rice, plantains and mixed vegetables. The meal comes with only four 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 and order the Jerk Chicken sandwich topped with grilled pineapple on Calypso's own Cuban bread, \$7.95, with saffron 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 nymph who detained Odysseus for seven years had the same food that's served here, he would never want to leave.

**CALYPSO CAFÉ:** 5211 South Harper Court, (773) 955-3500. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday-Saturday

## 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 1996. 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 "used to hate hip-hop," and that he was not originally a fan of Jay-Z, the album's executive producer. "I had a ghetto boy boppa/Jay-Z boycott/'Cause he said that he never prayed to God, he prayed to Gotti/I'm thinking golly, God, guard me from the ungodly." It is this raw honesty that makes Lupe such a unique figure in today's rap scene. His wordplay reveals his verbal finesse as he flips nouns and verbs around with ease. Coupled with lyrics that are downright wise; I guess one could call him the Yoda of rap.

On "American Terrorist," Lupe flashes his clever flow: "Now the poor Klu Klux 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/Can't burn his cross 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 elite. Third stop: it's scary to even predict.



Music  
Evan Dorfman



Photo courtesy of All Movie Photos

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

## Remake lands with big thud

**MISTAKES.** Ordinary people make them every day. When we find we made one we look around to see if anyone noticed; hopefully, there aren't many people around. Steven 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 Cambridge. Both movies are based on the life and death of Huey Long, a Louisiana governor (1928-1932).

Zaillian shows Willie Stark (Sean Penn) change from an innocent hick to a corrupted politician, blackmailing Judge Irwin (Anthony Hopkins) who tries to impeach him.

The movie is shot through the eyes of reporter Jack Burden (Jude Law), who becomes Stark's right hand man. Burden starts to question his loyalty to Stark when he is asked to find dirt on Irwin, his godfather. But wait, the already confusing 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 does not capture that same lucidity. He skips through time while showing memories of the characters so many times that the flashbacks lose their meaning.

Zaillian made so many mistakes that this reviewer is amazed Sony/Columbia

Pictures even released this film. Because of the confusion of time and miraculous character developments, the audience is unable to fall in love with the characters. Stark suddenly transforms from an innocent person to a power seeking governor. Judge Irwin goes from strong willed to weak and suicidal, but we never see the moments in which the characters change.

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

But Zaillian messed up on casting too; 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 disinterested audiences. The four o'clock showing at AMC Theatres River East 21 I attended with my father made people leave, allowing the man sitting next to me to sprawl out over three seats to nap. Afterwards, I heard people telling their dates, "Sorry for wasting your time!"

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



Film  
Mairissa Miles-Coccaro

## Energetic Dave Matthews Band provides his oldest act

I ADMIT I have a bias: I got 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.

Though Matthews has been touring since the '90s, the band's famed summer tours have always proved worthwhile.

But this show seemed different. It could be because the opener was George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic, whose horn 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 hometown of Charlottesville, Virginia for two final shows.

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

Parliament Funkadelic warmed up the crowd, getting the entire lawn dancing with their groovy, swinging beats, playing hits such as "We Want The Funk (Tear The Roof Off The Sucker)."

With 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, "Patala Naga Pampa," segwaying into "Rapunzel." Matthews packed the set with old classics for Dave fanatics, such as "So Much to Say" and "Too 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 impassioned as he spoke often and earnestly to the crowd.

Violinist Boyd Tinsley also stood out with his dancing and showmanship. He impressively soloed on a 20 minute jam session over "Jimi Thing," which morphed into a 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, "Ants Marching" with Parliament Funkadelic's trombone and trumpet players.

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 singing: "Celebrate 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.





**"With his curly blonde locks and girly good looks, Elan Weiner is the man of the squad."**  
—Pablo Lopez, senior

## Other schools get basketball talent, but...

By Henry Africano  
Editor-in-Chief

**R**unning sprints on the Midway and lifting weights, the boys' basketball team has begun its preseason. It seems, however, to be missing a few faces.

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 situation, it does not see 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 said. "There is some truth behind what happened, though. But it doesn't seem to be a trend. In their minds U-High's athletics weren't 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 athletics are great. Four of the football players last year went to Division I schools. Also, I wanted more competition. I wanted to work to make the team, rather than that no cut policy. Finally, I wanted the independence too and that was kind of a bonus."

Seeking a higher level of basketball 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 part of. We are actually traveling to Ghana to perform."

Recognizing that African American athletes are leaving U-High, Mr. Ribbens believes U-High's athletic program can flex the same muscle as its public school counterparts.

"There will always be skeptics that think Lab's athletics aren't as good as others but that's just a common misconception," Mr. Ribbens said. "The fact is that we are facing 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 there 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 athletes before they enter high school.

"Boys' basketball Coach Ron Ashlaw is in the second year of a Middle School connection program," Mr. Ribbens said. "He holds many open gyms and practices to which 8th graders to juniors are invited."

"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 hope it will benefit the teams. This is really all we can do and we want more of that. Other schools choose to award financial aid for athletic talent and the Lab School doesn't share that philosophy."



Photo by Rachel Hanessian

Setting a spike, Freshman Amelia Acosta practices before j.v. defeated Lake Forest Academy, September 19, in Upper Kovler.

## Made for volleyball

By Mona Dasgupta  
Associate editor

At first glance petite, dark haired Senior Elizabeth Lin might be mistaken for a jazz dancer or gymnast, but since starting to play volleyball in the Middle School, the outside hitter for the Maroons has never drifted to another sport.

"I started playing volleyball because it interested me," Elizabeth said. "Once I started volleyball, I found it was something I stood out in and I loved the game. I think it's a lot more team driven than some sports. There's only six people on the court and if one person isn't focusing, the game is wrecked."

Losing 25-22, 23-25, 15-25 to Woodlands, September 6 at home, varsity got thrown.

"Losing to Woodlands was really tough," Elizabeth explained. "Coming into the Woodlands game, we were expecting much harder hitting and they would only roll or tip the ball over. Our defense wasn't ready for their type of offense."

Elizabeth Improved hitting will help j.v. beat Latin 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, away, believes Freshman Katherine Holt, cocaptain with Freshman Amelia Acosta.

"Over the past couple of weeks our passing and hitting has really improved," Katherine said. "We need to talk more on the court and not miss serves."

Scores are as follows:

**Timothy Christian Tournament**, September 1-2, Varsity placed 6th of 12; **Woodlands**, September 6, home: Varsity lost 25-22, 23-25, 15-25, j.v. lost 13-25, 13-25; **Morgan Park Academy**, September 8, home: Varsity lost 15-25, 25-23, 16-25, j.v. lost 12-25, 20-25; **Rich South Invitational**, September 9, Varsity placed 4th of 12; **Willows Academy**, September 12, away: Varsity won 25-5, 25-13, j.v. won 25-13, 25-13; **North Shore Country Day**, September 15, away: Varsity won 25-3, 25-17, j.v. won 25-7, 25-6; **Lake Forest Academy**, September 19, home: Varsity won 25-20, 25-18, j.v. won 25-9, 25-12; **Seton Academy**, September 27, home: Varsity won 25-23, 2-13, j.v. won 25-12, 25-10; **Woodlands**, September 29, away: Varsity lost 23-25, 27-29, j.v. won 25-8, 25-21; **Morgan Park Academy**, October 3, away: Varsity won 25-16, 25-13; **Lake Forest Academy**, October 4, away: Varsity won 25-19, 25-15, j.v. lost 25-12, 19-25, 18-25; **Willows Academy**, October 6, home: Varsity won 25-12, 25-9, j.v. won 25-19, 25-13; **St. Scholastica**, October 7, away: Varsity won 26-24, 25-22.

## Four years of soccer mania pay off for senior varsity powerman

By Peter Hepplewhite  
U-Highlights sports editor

Bringing explosive speed and superior ball control to the Maroons, currently 2nd in the Independent School League, Senior Elan Weiner has refined his skills with four years of varsity soccer and offseasons 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. "During my freshman season I lacked confidence and over the four years I've been building it. My

decisiveness has improved, the reaction time during plays has shortened."

Applying skills from practice, the Maroons came away with their best win this season against Latin, September 15, according to Elan. As of Midway deadline, the 4-4-5 Maroons sit behind Morgan Park Academy, which eliminated them from Sectionals last year.

"We did well that game because we applied things from practice into the game," Elan said. "It was our best game this season. We moved the ball really well and everyone came to play. We had three goals, and two of them came off of diagonal-backs; they were just perfect shots."

"I can't really say what we did differently to make that 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 8-1-0 record as of Midway deadline, the 23 member j.v. squad boasts significant nonconference wins against St. Ignatius, Chicago Christian and Whitney Young, said Coach Tom Piane.

"St. Ignatius was a huge win for us," Mr. Piane said. "The tough nonconference games were good tests and we had good performances. The sophomores and freshmen are serious about working; they always have good hard practices."

Scores are as follows:

**Chicago Christian**, August 29, away: Varsity tied 1-1, j.v. won 5-0; **St. Ignatius**, September 1, home: Varsity lost 2-1, j.v. won 2-1; **Whitney Young**, September 2, home: Varsity lost 2-1, j.v. won 3-1; **Morgan Park Academy**, September 8, away: Varsity tied 0-0; **North Shore Country Day**, September 9, away: Varsity won 2-1, j.v. won 6-0; **Lake Forest Academy**, September 12, home: Varsity tied 0-0, j.v. tied 2-2; **Latin**, September 15, home: Varsity won 3-0, j.v. won 4-0; **Francis Parker**, September 18, away: Varsity lost 1-0; **Elgin Academy**, September 19, away: Varsity won 5-0; **North Shore Country Day**, September 21, home: Varsity won 3-1, j.v. won 6-0; **Francis W. Parker**, September 26, home: Varsity tied 1-1; **Fenwick**, September 29, home, j.v. won 4-0; **Morgan Park Academy**, October 3, home: Varsity lost 2-1; **Timothy Christian**, October 7, away: Varsity lost 1-0, j.v. won 3-0.

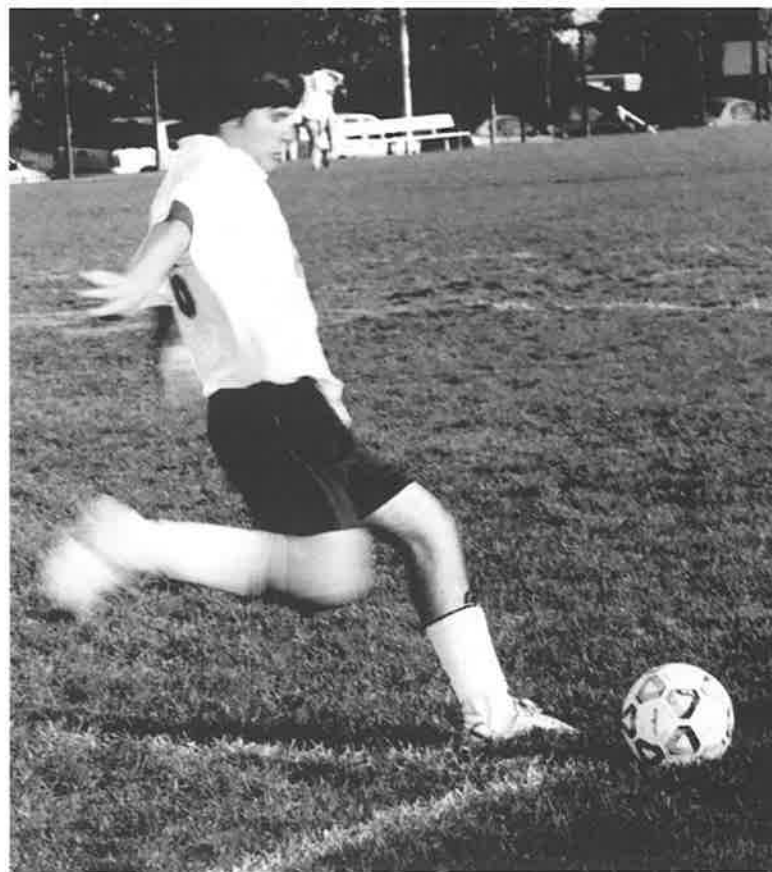


Photo by Eva Jaeger

Striking a goal kick, Freshmen Oliver Elfenbaum joined his varsity team in a scrimmage against j.v. on Jackman Field, September 21.

## Steroid testing unlikely to come here

By Tom Stanley-Becker  
Associate editor

Likely to vote next spring, the Illinois High School Association officials may institute steroid testing in Illinois.

According to the State Journal-Register, the Association is considering randomly testing high school students for steroids 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 Jersey has implemented testing this school year.

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

"I have no reason to believe that it will be a problem at University High," he explained. "It is a problem in college level sports and I know there is steroid use in other high schools. I just don't feel there are any grounds to say there is a need for testing for steroids at U-High."

Privacy concerns may prevent the IHSA from implementing steroid testing, believes Phys Ed Department Director Pete Miller.

"I don't think the IHSA is even going to start testing high school athletes in Illinois because people have too much concern over privacy especially when it comes to things such as medical information of minors or anyone for that matter," Mr. Miller said.



Elan

"Though we lost a lot of swimmers this year, individually we have done a lot better."  
—Stephanie Stern, senior



## Soph stars in the swim

By Stephanie Stern  
Associate editor

Swiftly angling her arms in the water to maximize 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 Pentathlon 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 doesn't have that much depth, but what's really cost us in several meets is that we're 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

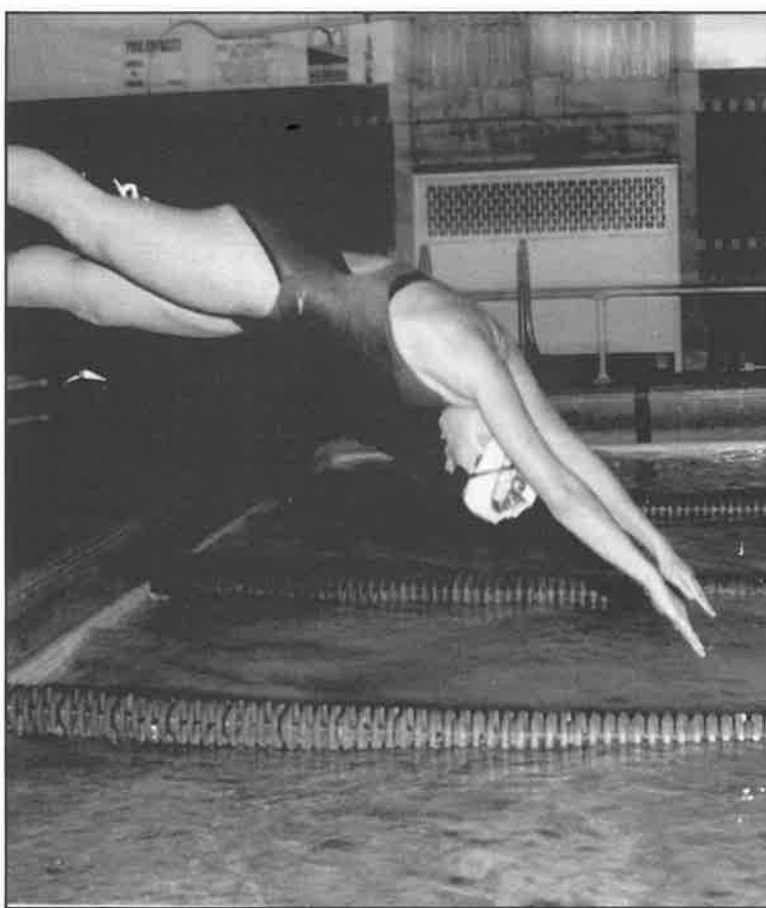


Photo by Mila Davenport

In preparation for the Maine East Relay, Freshman Kaia Tammen slices through the air during practice in the Sunny pool

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 Pentathlon**, August 28, away: Varsity placed 2 of 7 teams with 13,330 points; **Morton East**, September 6, home: Varsity won 111-57; **U-High**

**Urbana**, September 9, home: Varsity lost 81-87; **Riverside-Brookfield Invitational**, September 16, away: Varsity placed 2 of 8; **Northside College Preparatory**, September 19, home: Varsity lost 69-96, j.v. lost 67-91; **Walter Payton College Preparatory**, September 29, home: Varsity won, 85-73; **Evergreen Park**, September 29, home: Varsity won; 85-62.

## Tennis standout winds up saga

By Sarah Fischel  
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 Cocaptain Alex Guynn, 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 captains, 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 Julijana Lazarevich.

"We've worked on focus, dedication, team work 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 lost 1-4, j.v. won 3-2; **Elgin Academy**, September 7, away: Varsity won 5-0, j.v. won 4-0; **Francis Parker**, September 8, home: Varsity lost 1-4, j.v. 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 3-2, j.v. won 5-0; **Oak Park River Forest High School**, September 25, away: Varsity lost 2-3, j.v. won 4-1; **Sandburg High School**, Varsity won 5-2, **Morgan Park Academy**, September 21, home: Varsity won 5-0; **St. Ignatius** September 25, away: Varsity lost 2-3, j.v. lost 2-3; **Latin**, September 26, home: Varsity won 3-2, j.v. 3-2; **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 111-57.

# A FRIGHTFULLY SCARY COCONUTS STORY

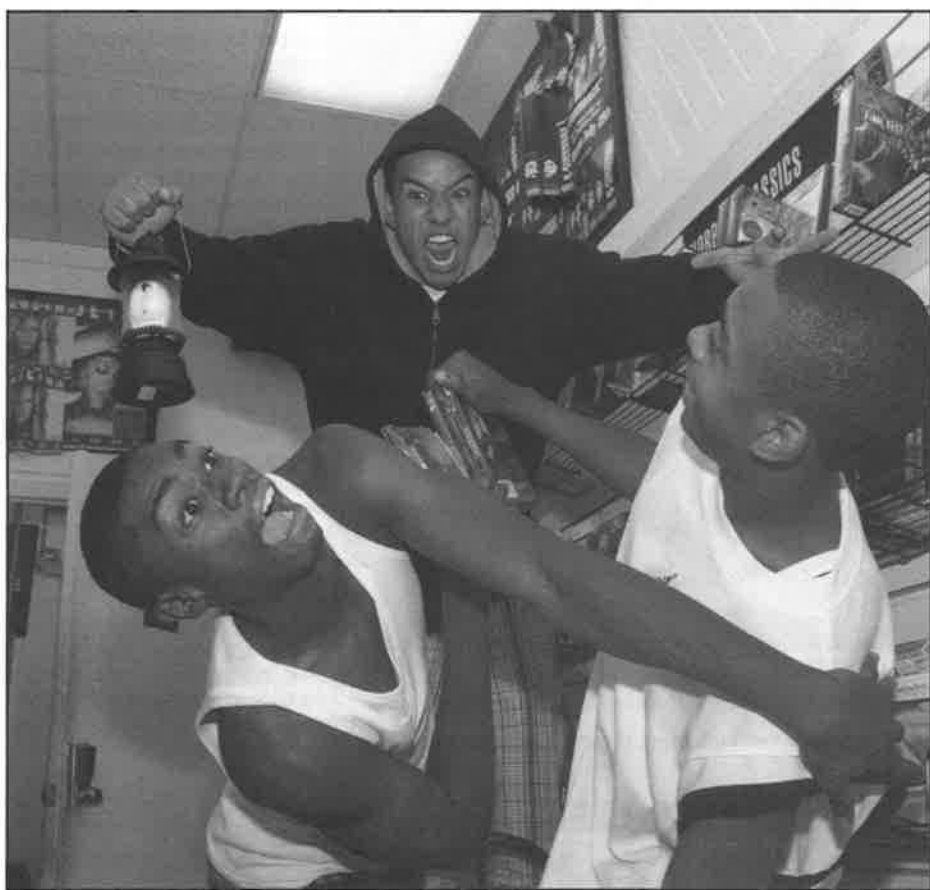


Photo by Steven Jones

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.

Art by Mara MacMahon



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"Nick is a good role model for us up and coming players. Someday, I hope to be half the golfer he is."

—Louis Baggeto, senior

## Kogelman a golf great

By Tom Stanley-Becker  
Associate editor

As U-High's senior representative on the All-Conference Team, star golfer Nick Kogelman, a sturdy, soft-spoken senior, has provided leadership and guidance to a team that has relied heavily on youth this season.

A second-year captain, Nick made all-ISL for his third consecutive year and advanced to Sectionals last week.

"It is a game I have played all my life," Nick explained. "My grandpa taught it to me and basically it stuck with me. I think it is because it is not a purely physical game. It is much more mental. There is no one to blame in golf. You are out there by yourself. It is sort of a game you can't win. You win tournaments but you can't beat a golf course."

Compiling a 6-11 record, the Maroons placed 4th in the ISL Tournament September 29. Coach Glenn Sharpe pointed to strengths at both ends of his team, highlighting Nick.

"Our main strength is leadership from Nick Kogelman," Coach Sharpe said. "When he plays, the team kind of solidifies behind him. He is great at pointing out mistakes of

underclassmen.

"The j.v. team has a good group of players that will move into varsity. We have a couple new freshmen that have been contributing and doing well. They have been playing on varsity and beating the upperclassmen. Evan Levin has been particularly good."

Scores are as follows:

**Parker**, August 18, away: Varsity lost, 163-161; **Westmont HS**, August 22, away: Varsity lost, 187-185; **Northridge College Prep**, August 24, away: Varsity lost, 168-166; **Northridge College Prep**, August 25, away: Varsity lost, 173-159; **Ridgewood**, August 31, home: Varsity won, 178-234; **Morgan Park Academy**, September 1, away: Varsity won, 194-199.

**Elgin Academy**, September 1, away: Varsity lost, 194-179; **Parker**, September 5, home: Varsity lost, 199-182; **Timothy Christian**, September 14, away: Varsity lost, 175-165; **Quigley Prep**, September 15, away: Varsity won, 171-178; **St. Ignatius**, September 15, away: Varsity won, 171-206; **St. Rita Shootout**, September 16, away: Varsity placed 18 of 32; **Chicago Christian**, September 18, home: Varsity lost, 166-177; **Lake Forest Academy**, September 19, away: Varsity lost, 177-166; **Latin**, September 19, away: Varsity won, 177-181; **Quigley Prep**, September 21, away: Varsity won, 172-199; **North Shore Country Day**, September 25, away: Varsity won, 171-178; **North Shore Country Day**, August 26, away: Varsity lost, 179-177; **ISL Golf**, September 27, away: Varsity tied for 4th; **ISL Regional**, October 3, Varsity placed 9 of 18.



Nick

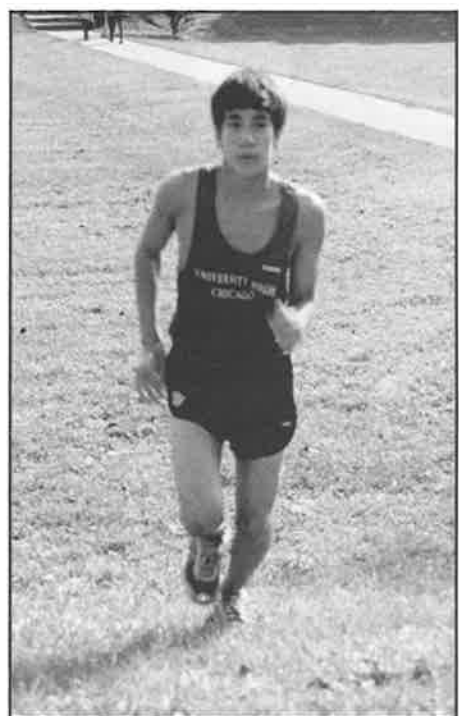


Photo by Sheena Anand

With so many talented freshmen like James Krull, the team has a promising future.

## New York subway series falls apart, changes the odds

STILL RECOVERING from the shock of the New York Yankees' elimination by the "scrappy underdog" Detroit Tigers in the first round of the American League Division Series, ball fans must look to another Big Apple team to bring their attention back to New York, a little over five years after the September 11 terrorist attacks.

My original plan for this column was to write about the looming likelihood of a subway series. However, the unexpectedly unhittable pitching of Tigers Kenny Rogers and Jeremy Bonderman shut down the modern day equivalent of "Murderer's Row."

Amid the gleeful criticism of the "Evil Empire's" monstrous payroll and failure to deliver a World Series title since 2000, it is easy to forget that the Yanks not only compiled the best regular season record but also the most runs in baseball. This feat is especially remarkable given



Sports  
Dana  
Alfassa

the loss of outfielders Hideki Matsui and Gary Sheffield to wrist injuries in May and the subpar season of Alex Rodriguez. The Bronx Bombers were able to fill gaps with clutch performances from rookies Melky Cabrera and Andy Phillips, the fast-rising Robinson Cano and the always dependable Jorge Posada. Not to mention Jeter,

whose 5-5 postseason opener highlighted what many expect to be an MVP year.

Despite notching yet another Division Title with a fearsome lineup of hitters, the Yankees' loss once more proves the truism: "good pitching beats good hitting."

Nevertheless, when all is said and done, even when the Yankees lose they are still winners. This is true because the Yankees set the standard by which all teams are measured. They symbolize a tradition of winning, professionalism and a demand for excellence. When the Yanks do lose, they deserve the satisfaction of knowing that they brought out the best in their opponents. This is what appears to have happened against Detroit. A limping Tiger team that had lost the Division Title on the final day of the season seemed to spring to life after losing the postseason opener to the Yankees.

For now, it's up to the Yanks' crosstown rivals to bring America's pastime back to center stage in New York. Despite the loss of three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez to a torn tendon that will leave him out of the rotation for the next eight months at least and the loss of postseason hero Orlando Hernandez, the Mets can count on big name players such as Carlos Beltran and Carlos Delgado for speed, power and contact. Though the greatest franchise in sports history has fallen early in the postseason once again, time will tell if the youth of another New York team can keep it on track to its first World Series Title since 1986.



Ben

out for me. It's not just on the team; they'll look out for me in school or anywhere else as well. That's the sort of spirit that makes us run well together and individually."

Competitive to a fault, Ben said he sometimes benefits from his aggressiveness.

"I tend to be very aggressive and competitive, so that sort of spirit helps me to run faster as I get closer to the finish line," he said.

## Worcester races with competitive spirit

By Harley Chang  
Associate editor

Off the track, Senior Ben Worcester laughs and jokes with friends, showing his friendly and talkative nature. Once the race begins, his competitive spirit takes over.

One of three cocaptains, Ben consistently places among the top runners. 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.

"I have many close friends on the team," Ben said. "But I know that everyone will always look



Photo by Eva Jaeger

Evan Levin is one of several talented freshman golfers on varsity.

"Sometimes, I concentrate too much on beating the person in front of me to have the strength to sprint the last stretch."

With the vast majority of the j.v. team able to compete on varsity, Coach Bud James predicts even better seasons ahead.

With several meets remaining, scores so far are as follows:

**Chicago Hope Academy**, September 12,

home: Boys placed 1st of 6, girls placed 1st of 6; **Illiana Christian**, September 14, away: Boys placed 1st of 11, girls placed 2nd of 10; **Quigley Prep**, September 18, away: Boys placed 1st of 7, girls placed 1st of 7; **North Shore Country Day**, September 21, home: Boys placed 1st of 6, girls placed 2nd of 6; **Loyola**, September 30, away: Boys placed 24th of 34, girls placed 23rd of 37; **Independent School League**, October 5, away: Boys placed 1st of 6, girls placed 1st of 5.

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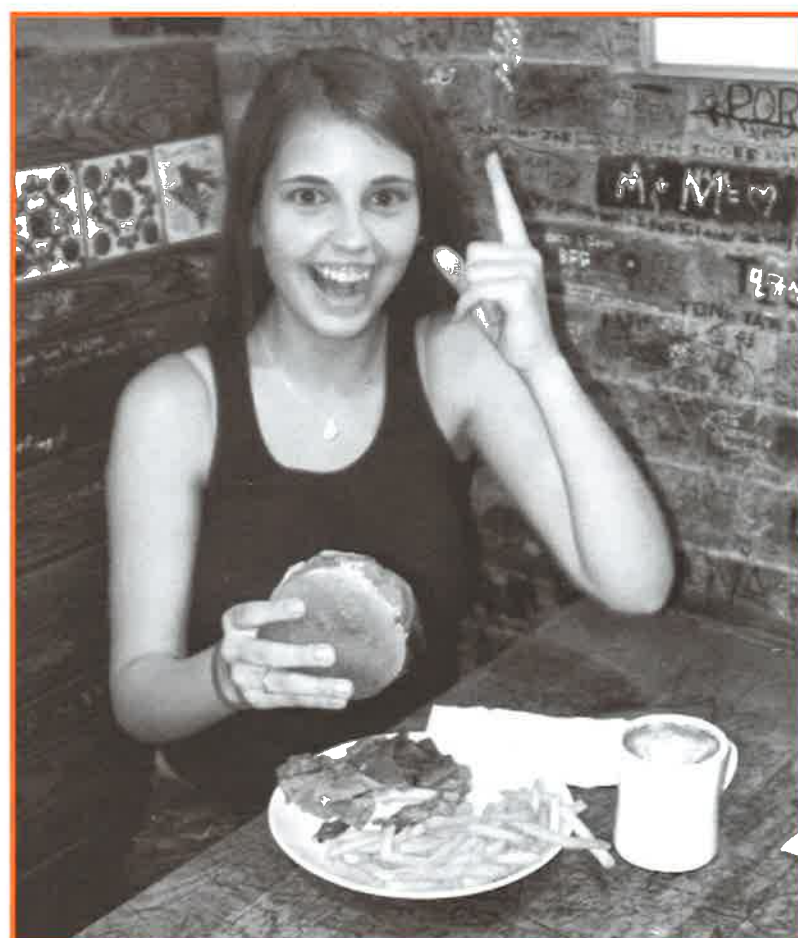
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# A Taste of Innovation



**CHEWING**  
over her numerous choices for a Halloween costume, Junior Marrison Miles-Coccaro decides to head over to **The Medici**.



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

*Photos  
by  
Alya  
Forster*

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



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