Making four go into one

Grade levels need to interact more, many here believe

By Mona Daugney
Associate editor

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

Student Council President 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 Naj, 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 connections 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 Ruja Taligophomore. “Walking down the halls and in the cafeteria, you see each grade with itself. You never really see the juniors with underclassmen and the seniors are usually in the Senior Lounge. Every year, the seniors sort of set the tone for the school. Last year’s seniors played a huge role in school unity. They set more of a social scene. There was a lot more mixing of grades then. Each grade sets a different tone. This year, the seniors’ tone isn’t bad or good, it’s just different. It just takes time to get used to the new tone.”

Freshmen see unity opportunities but more could be done.

“I got to meet seniors and juniors through the tennis team and other freshmen and I get to meet sophomores,” said varsity Tennis Player Gabby Clark, freshman. “It’s really hard to meet underclassmen through classes because I don’t have many with them. I would like an upperclassmen mentor for both social and academic reasons. Club shopping was nice because underclassmen 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 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 Housser, Science Department chairperson. “This year, I’ve actually seen more improvement between underclassmen and underclassmen than in the past few years. I feel like there’s been an attempt made by Student Council to bring the grades together. I’d also like to see more senior mentors. They should set a behavior example for all the younger grades.”

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

“I have no reason to believe there is less of a connection in the High School now then when 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.”

The school should be informing students of crime occurring one day after school began, U-High’s student body president says.

“Because of the recent attacks, I have expanded my sweep around school. Now a year later, I would book rooms, offer free food and bring in baked goods, but no one would come. About eight people would show up, five of them being underclassmen on Service Corp. The goal was to bring underclassmen and upperclassmen together and it ended up being something to write on a college resume.”

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

Photo by Steven Jones

Students want safety advice

By Evan Doffman
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 the building, so I have been keeping a close watch.”

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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.

“Because of the recent attacks, I have expanded my territory...”

Photo by Rachel Masson

Photo by Rachel Masson

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

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

“Just be smart about not walking alone at night and stay alert.”

“Wake up the holidays...”

The elephant at Midnight in Kenwood Mall.
Email: rasp@uchicago.edu

Recital to spotlight music talent

By Rohini Tobaccowala

Feature article

Wishing to give music students a chance to showcase their talents, Music Department Chairperson Brad Magill 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. Magill said. "In order to promote this, the Music Department saw a need for his occasion to show the Lab Schools community what the students have put their time and dedication to in a more formal setting."

Director decides quarters to stay, at least for now

By Stephanie Stern

Editorial

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.

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

Announcing his decision in a September 8 letter to Principal Matt Horvat and Faculty Chairperson Xenia 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 tricky, onerous calls for three trap doors, which we've never done before in our four years here. The lighting is also very tricky, because there are two different atmospheres: the 'Hamlet' world and the 'Rosenzweig and Guildenstern' world.

In the upcoming Fall Production, "Rosenzweig and Guildenstern are Dead," Aaron Weiss and Charlotte Long portray the two lead characters.
On the canals of Woodlawn
During the thunderstorms of September 19, Art Teacher Brian Wildeman set sail in his handy yellow kayak on 65th street and Kimbark Avenue, both drowning with more than eight inches of rain. "I thought it would make a funny picture," he said, chuckling. "It was kind of exhibitionist.'

Homecoming voting comes down to deciding each class King, Queen

By Julie Carlson

 Voting ends today for Homecoming King and Queen in each grade. Cultural Union (C.U.) narrowed the preliminary nominations, cast last Thursday and Friday, to the top five candidates from each class.

Winners will be revealed and crowned at the annual Homecoming Dance, 8-11 p.m., tomorrow (October 14) at International House, 1414 East 59th Street. Doors will close at 9:30 p.m., according to Dean of Students Larry McFarlane. Tickets can be purchased from C.U. for $8 a person and $15 a couple or at the door for $10 a person. Guests must bring their student I.D.s, according to Mr. McFarlane. Visitors’ hosts also needed to return a completed Guest Pass to Mr. McFarlane by last Tuesday.

Providing music for the evening will be D.I. Allan Cullen, also at last year’s dance. Senior From Committee members will sell beverages to raise money for Prom and Student Council will host a coat check.

C.U. set up voting booths this week in the cafeteria during lunch, in the lobby during free periods and after school to encourage students to vote, according to C.U. President Katherine Hayes.

“We’re hoping this voting system will make the election process a lot cleaner than it was last years,” she said.

Spirit Week came to an end today with ball 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,” McFarlane 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 Sahil 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 Donavan Mitchem, senior.

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

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

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

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

“The other advantage with this ISL Student Council idea is that we can compare our daily schedule to see if U-Highers are really 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 executive meeting last Tuesday. Taste of Lab, including Jewish Students’ Association, Asian Students’ Association, KICC, and Latinos Unidos, was hosted today in cafeteria, providing many foods.

Prom committee officers elected last Friday, October 6 are as follows:

President, Jason Hu; Vice President, Gary Remmie; Public Relations, Annette Shaker; Prom Coordinator, Daniel Hornung; Co-Chair, Kala Tuman; Co-Chair, Natalie Lowis.

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 Bradley and Music Teacher Dominic Pianez planned the programs, which included films, performances and speakers.

“Some schools start the day off with an all-school assembly meeting, where students get the news in the school,” Mr. Pianez 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. Bradley 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 in 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 uniformity but students can sniff that out.

Scholar programs cited six

Two seniors have been named Scholars in the National Hispanic Recognition Program, moving up from semifinalist status. They are Alex Canwill 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, Donavan Mitchem and Stephanie Stern. They are among 1,600 semifinalists nationally, half of whom are expected to receive scholarships as finalists.

Both pages are affiliated with the National Merit project.

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Jason Hu may think he’s read every book, but at Powell’s, Jason finds books that he’s never read or seen before!

As the Leaves Change Color so can your Hairstyle!

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Spirited, courageous teacher remembered

By Amanda Pappas
Associate editor

Contagious sense of humor, free spirited personality and interactive teaching style describe Middle School Science Teacher Florence Vaughan, who lost a two year battle with brain cancer September 6 at age 58. Born in Tennessee, Ms. Vaughan came to the Lab Schools in 1982 to teach 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 Kate, 1999 graduate, now teaching in Hawaii; her stepson Ben Carter, 1989 graduate; her mother and her brother. A memorial service is planned 3:40 p.m., Monday, October 23, in Judd 126.

Ms. Vaughan suffered from a series of recurring tumors. “Flo had a positive attitude for the most part,” Middle School Learning Consultant Susan Eisenberg, friend and colleague of Ms. Vaughan said. “She was courageous and had as much of an upbeat attitude as possible. Before she finally passed away, she took good care of herself. She ate right and did everything that the doctors told her to do. When she heard bad news from her doctors, she would be upset for a while, but it didn’t take her long to get into a more upbeat frame of mind.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 McCarth Park Day Camp, Niels Meyer and Alex Zimmer carried out one of three service site locations, including planting and harvesting at Troy Garden.

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 Mandell 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.

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

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

School to display its best

By Ronnie Fox

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 School Directors David Magill and Principal Matt Hovat will be given at 1:45, 2:30 and 3:15 p.m. in Judd 126. Teachers and, in many cases, students will represent each school department and the theatre and journalism programs will be at work on, respectively, the Fall Production and Midway and U-Highlights deadlines.

“I wanted to make Open House appeal more to the 18 and younger crowd,” said Admissions Director Michael Voich. “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.”

Caffe Florian

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

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Dancer suddenly finds herself teaching Latin pop star on unexpected journey

TWELVE YEARS I have been dancing for the Kaliyapa 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 encourage-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 8th Nthayam performance, Shakira, a Columbian accent, explained her interest in classical Indian dance, even complimenting me as the first of dancers' names. That included me.

After pictures of a tall, curvaceous dancing Shakira's 5 foot, 3 inch stature and twinkling brown eyes made me feel like her friend instead of just a silly fan. She then put on her paperazzi-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 had never danced with Shakira's backup dancers. Along with three other Kaliyapa 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.

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.

Before flying to the luxurious Westin Harbour Castle hotel, we were given barely enough time to change, wash our faces and gather necessary containers 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 especially 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 famous hip moves so fluidly in numerous music videos, it was astonishing to watch her sweat over our placement of people. "I have 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 reassemble with Shakira's other backup dancers backstage.

Praising every facet of last year's issues, the staff who go beyond the journalism basics to give their readers that "little extra," judges found the U-High Midway to be a superior product, to carry readers above and beyond what they expected. "This staff can put the basics together and practice beforehand so that they don't get miserable return home. I never received 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 nervous or developing a drill. The fact that we have not done the drill in a couple years is our weakness."
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.”

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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.

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Character Sketch

Newcomers from afar bring individual touches to school

By BJ Aran

Character Sketch columnist

OCKIN’ HIS AIR GUITAR to “Consequential Apathy” by the Strokes 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 wouldn’t have run for class president because I was a captain of the swim team, a freshman mentor and I played Ultimate Frisbee.”

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

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

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

“I was born in Mexico, and I immediately moved to London Central,” Corina said. “I spent 13 years of my life there so my entire culture and personality was developed in London. “I’m a big music fan, mostly hard rock and such. I love concerts and going backstage to see the bands. I usually went about two times a month and I actually started writing music reviews for our school newspaper in Mexico City. Just before I came here, I saw the Strokes in concert, and I went backstage through connections from a friend who worked at the venue.

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

“This will be the longest I’ve ever been away from home. I mean I’ve been away during holiday for about two months, but I’ve never actually lived in a different place like this.”

6 people & places

“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

Q: What Extra Curriculars Do You Have?

I SING FOR BLIND PEOPLE!

I COOK FOR ORPHANS.

I, Uh, I Save Pac-Man from Ghosts...

The University of Chicago Bookstore
A world traveler, to his surprise, comes to a school in Chicago which wanted him

By Phil Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief

I was 9 a.m. and I was in Pondicherry, India, recalling new English teacher Sonaar Luthra, describing the phone interview he had with members of the English Department last May. He had received an e-mail about an opening at U-High while vacationing in Pakistan. "I was really tired and I had to get out of the hotel room. I thought I messed up the entire interview." English Department members apparently thought otherwise; they flew to Pondicherry for an "audition" teaching an English 2 class.

On June 6, he was hired. With his easygoing, relaxed 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 last year.

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

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

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. He 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 1993.

Before coming to the U.S., Mr. Sun taught Chinese literature to high school students. "I love language," he said. "It's good for 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 knowledge of Chinese and English.

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 teach it off-putting. There is only a lot of grammar and rules. I'm only focusing on listening and speaking and usually don't correct them in mispronunciations. I also hope that the students will have fun playing Go, Chinese Chess and writing calligraphy. After all, learning Chinese is not just about the language, it's about the culture and culture as well. For this year, I just want the students to have fun and get the feel of what the language is like."

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

"As China becomes both a political and economical power, they will become more important as well. Ms. Sonia Oracova's grayish-green eyes widened as she spoke of her curiosity about America life. "I'm a scholar," he said. "I'm not good in teaching but I'm good in talking."

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

A hurricane blew him to a new life

By Gabe Blamp
Associate editor

A little more than a year ago, headways out of New Orleans were jammed with evacuues scrambling for shelter from Hurricane Katrina. Among those 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 lived there since 1990."

Then 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 elsewhere.

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. "It was an exciting environment, but I thought it was a joke. I thought it was a challenge that I can pass on. But it was very quiet and it was kind of spooky."}

I was there for about two weeks, and then went back to New Orleans. I got a new job teaching at the University of Texas. I was always teaching, but I was teaching at Phillips Exeter Academy in the summer of 1999, about teaching again. I 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 I feel with the winters."

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

By Holly Reid
Associate editor

Swiping her hands over a regional map of Europe in Sunny Gym, Phys Ed teacher Sonia Oracova proudly located 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'm responsible for creating curriculums in my school. This exchange will help me to professionaize because of teaching 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."
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 Bransham

History teacher

“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 because 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. Provided 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. promise as a land of opportunity, Latinos Unidos President Mr. Carlos Tello said, "People believe that they came to this country in search 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 Bransham sees parallels between the current immigration debate and the discrimination faced by African Americans.

“The fear of invasion is the link,” Mr. Bransham explained. “White Chicagoans viewed the migration of African Americans from the South as a 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. The fear of taking jobs from the local people. There was the belief that African American immigrants, like Latinos today, would take the jobs from whites. It was also a race issue. Whites feared employers would hire African Americans cheaply as strikebreakers and depress the wages of white workers.”

Seeing a similar historical parallel, 1980 U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, 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 unlawful immigration and respect labor standards,” Mr. Bell said. “The alternative to legalization is a hard 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 from their own neighbors. The border is the modern Klu Klux Klan. For African Americans, there was the fear they were being burned down.”

Illegal immigration is inevitable, believes 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, usually. Immigrants will risk life and their children to come to this country. They would have gladly stayed in their own country if they could be provided 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 cycle, they would be less likely to come. The governments in these countries have no infrastructure, no job opportunities, no human motivation will keep them from immigrating.”

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

“Tourism in Israel decreased 30 percent during the first two weeks of the war, according to the Israeli Tourism Bureau. 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 the Jewish, you can’t run away from going to Israel. If Israel means something to me, it’s going to mean more to me when I’m there fighting.”

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

“I feel sad because finally Beirut had been getting its act together, but the war has only just begun. 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.”

Initiative on undocumented immigrants right or wrong?
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 Bishka-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 issues it examines as well. A dark isolated hallway projects several satellite videos. These videos include flights in North America tracked across a 24-hour period and a sphere of space junk surrounding Earth on its walls.

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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-quarter-seminar 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 50-50 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 filed 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, 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.
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 sophomores and Marshall Field's lover Sophie Ortel and this columnist to check out the trends carried at Macy's, hoping they hadn't changed with the title.

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

“Contrary to popular rumors, not all the merchandise at Marshall Field's will change,” Ms. Schwartz explained. “But we will removing a few of the more urban brand names such as Baby Phat, J.Lo by Jennifer Lopez and Scratchy St行星.”

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 sense of what might have become of the second floor, formerly devoted to home environments.

We sketched the escalators and to our surprise, nothing seemed out of place. Le Tige 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.

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

“I was expecting that the dresses wouldn’t be of the same quality,” Sophie said. “The empire waist dresses by BCBG Max Azria, Jessica McClintock minidresses and the new red 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, while our favorite dress designers still lit up the fourth floor.

Budget game but not tame

FINALLY! THE statement, “budget games are always bad” is proven false by “Half Life: 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.” 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 advantage. However, if you 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 the 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: Episode One” can compete with any top of the line game.

FINALLY, THE statement, “budget games are always bad” is proven false by “Half Life: Episode One” a top notch computer game costing only $20. 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 announced its decision, Princeton University and the University of West Virginia, two prominent schools, 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 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 University admits.

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

THOUGH THE NAME invokes images of Odysseus ennarred by the mythical sea nymph Calypso a la Homer, the Caribbean theme Calypso evokes these days 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 decorated completely in tropical music.

Full of eccentricites such as Oatstew, $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 famous Jerk Wings, $8.95, with red beans and rice, plantains and mixed vegetables. The meal comes with four only wings but don't be fooled: they were big, meaty and as our guest managed to say between bites, "really good."

I've never been a fan of pineapple on anything, but the resonating tropical music and decorations pushed me to overlook this fact on order the Jerk Chicken sandwich topped with grilled pineapple on Calypso's own Cuban bread, $7.95, with sautéed rice on the side. Once served, I eyed the moderately bulky sandwich with skepticism, but a few bites won me over; the contrast between fatty 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.

CAYPSO CAFE: 5211 South Harper Court, (773) 953-3300. 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 "wanted to hate hip-hop," and that he was not originally a fan of Jay-Z, the album's executive producer. "If I had to pay boom-bap/jay-z-2, toy-cott/ Cause he said that he never prayed to God, he prayed to God / 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 Terriente," Lupe flashes his clever flow: "Now the poor Klu Klux man see that we're all brothers/n't cause things are the same but we lack the same color/That's green, now that's mean/Cann'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 soundscapes 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.

Energetic Dave Matthews Band provides his oldest act

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

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 born-again stint joined Matthews for half the set to provide a hugely vibrant sound. Or maybe it was because they wanted to finish the tour with a bang, playing one last show on the road before returning to their hometowns of Charlottesville, Virginia for two final shows.

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

Paranoid Funkadelic waggishly rejoiced over the crowd, getting the entire lawn dancing with their goofy, swinging beads, playing hits such as "We Want The Funk (Out The Roof Off The Sucker)." Matthews followed by the set running 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, "Fatty Naga Pampa," segwaying into "Rapunzel." Matthews packed the set with old classics for Dave fanatics, such as "So Much To Say" and "Two Much." For more casual fans, Matthews added some of his best new material as well, such as "Everyday" and "Dream Girl.

Overall, the set felt extremely upbeat. Matthews himself played with full energy, and his performance seemed especially impassioned as he spoke often and earnestly to the crowd. Violinist Boyd Tinsley also stood out with his dancing and showmanship.

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Other schools get basketball talent, but...

By Heany Africano

running springs on the Midwest and Atlantic Coasts, 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 difficulty of doing so, it sees it as a problem, according to Athletic Director David Ribbens.

"If you stop and look at the whole picture you can see that Lab has an exceptionally high retention rate," Mr. Ribbens said. "One thing I know for sure is that what happened, though it doesn't seem to be a trend. In their minds U-High's athletics were not 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 and I don't really have a football team," Nathan said. "But mainly, the academically here are pretty much as strong as they were at Lab and the athletics are, too."

Four of the football players last year went to Division I schools. Also, I wanted more competition. I wanted to work a lot harder than that on my policy. Finally, I wanted the independence too and that was kind of a bonus," Nathan said.

Recognizing that African American athletes are a definite strength. We always have four players that know what is fact that we are facing a higher level of competition than anyone in the conference: AA. But a lot of people probably don't know that that way. The kids feel three of the three were greener pastures elsewhere; I wish them nothing but the best but feel they would have benefited here."

Prohibited from recruiting, U-High's Athletic Department is working with 15 athletes before they enter high school. "Boys' basketball Coach Ron Ashlaw is in his second year of a Middle School connection program," Mr. Ribbens said. "Through this program, Athletic Department invites which 8th graders to join our team."

"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 think all we can do and we want more of that. Other schools choose to award financial aid to the Lab School doesn't share that philosophy."

By Peter Hepplewhite

Four years of soccer mania pay off for senior varsity powerman

By Tom Stanley-Becker

"I have no reason to believe that it will be a problem at University High," he explained. "It's a problem in college level studies but I just don't feel there are any grounds to say there is a need for testing for steroids at U-High."

As of Midway deadline, the 23 hour lab tests and are familiar to the coaches and the style of coaching. If we keep them connected we think all we can do and we want more of that. Other schools choose to award financial aid to the Lab School doesn't share that philosophy.

By Henry Africano

Playing explosive speed and superior ball control to the Maroons against the Independent School League, Senior Elan Weiner has refined his skills with four years of varsity soccer and off-seasons with Football Club Chicago. Two summers ago, Elan traveled to Israel on the American junior team for Maccabi, a Jewish sporting event taking place every three years. Named captain of this year's varsity squad along with Seniors Leo Carlson and Charlie Fisher and Junior Ben Packer, 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 confidence has improved, the reaction time during plays has shortened."

Applying skills from practice, the Maroons came away with only one loss in their eight games against the conference: AA. But a lot of people seem to think that's just a common misconception," Mr. Ribbens said. "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."

Other schools choose to award financial aid for senior varsity powerman.

By Henry Africano

"I have no reason to believe that it will be a problem at University High," he explained. "It's a problem in college level studies but I just don't feel there are any grounds to say there is a need for testing for steroids at U-High."

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Soph stars in the swim

By Stephanie Stern

Swimsly 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've 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've very low on numbers," Caroline said. "This year we lost nine swimmers and only two swimmers joined, so we have a smaller team than last year. Because of the way meets are scored, even if we have better swimmers than an opposing team, they still beat us because they have more swimmers to put in each event. Because of that, we have really focused on individual improvement and breaking your own personal records, as opposed to last year which was much more team-success oriented."

Other meet results are as follows:

**Bremen Pentathlon, August 28, away:**
- Varsity won 5-0, j.v: won 5-0.
- Varsity won 3-2, j.v: won 3-2.
- Varsity won 5-2, j.v: lost 2-3.
- Varsity won, 85-73.
- Varsity won 5-0, j.v: won 5-0.
- Varsity won 5-0, j.v: won 4-0.
- Varsity won 5-0, j.v: won 4-0.
- Varsity won 2 of 3.
- Varsity won 2 of 3, j.v: won 2-3.
- Varsity won 2 of 3, j.v: won 2-3.
- Varsity won 5-0, j.v: won 5-0.
- Varsity won 5-0, j.v: won 5-0.
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In preparation for the Maine East Relay, Freshman Kaia Tammen slices through the air during practice in the Sunny pool.

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Tennis standout winds up saga

By Sarah Flachel

Concluding her fourth year on varsity tennis, Senior Rebecca Resnick hung up her U-High tennis racket as first doubles player when the season ended last Tuesday. Partnering with Co-captain Alex Glayson, 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 extremely 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, Rebeccca 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, teamwork, and especially, consistency and strategy. I teach the girls to 'play smart,' which means getting the last shot into the court so their opponents make the mistake."

Other match results are as follows:

**Morgan Park Academy, September 6, home:**
- Varsity won 67-91.
- Morton East, September 15, home: Varsity won 3-2; j.v: lost 0-3.
- Walter Payton College Preparatory, September 20, away: Varsity won 1-4; j.v: won 1-4.
- North Side Country Day School, September 29, home: Varsity won 5-0, j.v: lost 0-5.
- Other meet results are as follows:
  - Varsity lost 2-3, j.v: won 2-3.
  - Varsity lost 1-4, j.v: won 5-0.
  - Other meet results are as follows:
    - Varsity lost, 1-4, j.v: lost 0-3.
    - Varsity won 5-0, j.v: won 5-0.
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Kogelmann a golf great
By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor
As U-High’s senior representative on the All-Conference Team, star golfer Nick Kogelmann, a sturdy, soft-spoken senior, has provided leadership and guidance to a team that has relied heavily on youth this season.

New York subway series falls apart, changes the odds
STILL RECOVERING from the shock of the New York Yankees’ elimination by the “scrapy undog” Detroit Tigers in the first round of the American League Division Series, half 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.

“The Y. team has a good group of players that will move into varsity. We have a couple of freshmen that have been contributing and doing well. They have been playing on varsity and being the underclassmen. Evan Levin has been particularly good.”

Scores are as follows: Parkers, August 18, away: Varsity lost, 163-161; Westmount, August 22, away: Varsity lost, 187-165; Northridge-College Prep, August 24, away: Varsity lost, 168-162; Northridge College Prep, August 25, away: Varsity lost, 173-169; Bridgewood, August 31, home: Varsity won, 154-126; Morgan Park Academy, September 1, away: Varsity won, 194-199; Eighth Academy, September 1, away: Varsity lost, 194-179; Parkers, September 5, home: Varsity lost, 199-183; Timothy Christian, September 14, away: Varsity lost, 175-165; Guillay Prep, September 15, away: Varsity won, 173-178; St. Ignatius, September 15, away: Varsity won, 171-200; St. Rita Shootout, September 16, away: Varsity planned 18 of 32; Chicago Christian, September 18, home: Varsity lost, 164-177; Lake Forest Academy, September 19, away: Varsity won, 177-166; Latin, September 24, away: Varsity lost, 177-199; Guillay Prep, September 21, away: Varsity lost, 179-194; North Shore Country Day, September 25, away: Varsity won, 170-192; North Shore Country Day, August 26, away: Varsity lost, 171-177; Hill Gold, September 2, away: Varsity tied for 4th; IL Regional, October 3, Varsity placed 9 of 18.

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

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

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 11; Guillay Prep, September 18, away: Boys placed 1st of 7, girls placed 4th of 7; North Shore Country Day, September 21, home: Boys placed 1st of 6, girls placed 2nd of 6; Sapogich, September 30; 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 6.
CHEWING over her numerous choices for a Halloween costume, Junior Marrissa Miles-Coccaro decides to head over to The Medici.

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

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

Photos by Alya Forster

MEDICI On 57th

1327 East 57th Street • (773) 667-7394
Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-11 p.m. • Friday 7 a.m.-Midnight
Saturday 9 a.m.-Midnight • Sunday 9 a.m.-11 p.m.