School strengthening security measures

By Henry Africano
Editor-in-Chief

Strengthened security measures are being implemented by the school in the wake of recent Hyde Park assaults, a national increase in school violence and a story and column in the October 13 Midway, according to Lab Schools' Director David Magill.

"We're looking at security but trying not to destroy the freedom of open campus," Mr. Magill said. "Most high schools aren't able to both have and want to not see that happen here. We're planning on having a lock down drill before the first of the year. Also, after Thanksgiving Break, we're only opening three doors in the morning at 7:15 a.m., the Blaine, Judd and the High School entrances.

"For after school there is already a security guard on patrol until 8 p.m. and we're thinking of having the students to be out by then. Whenever I know of a breech of security or an incident of violence I will send an e-mail to all parents and faculty members, put an announcement in the High School Bulletin and on the electronic bulletin board. At some point we might install security cameras at the three entrances looking out. But there are no definite plans for this.

The additional safety is worth any inconvenience, believes Mr. Magill.

"The new plans might create a debate for parents who drop their kids off early and teachers who tend to come to school early," he explained. "I think the extra 50 yards kids have to walk to the next open door is worth the added safety. Of course the new rules will permit teachers and students to engage in journalism, sports and theater to stay late, but we don't really want people at the school later than absolutely necessary."

Other planned security increases are as follows:

One additional part-time police officers to monitor Kimball Mall and the High School entrance from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.; remodel doors to the Senior Lounge and lock them at the end of the school day; improve lighting in Kenwood Mall; renew vigilance by requiring visitors and substitutes to wear identification tags; service all emergency equipment including portable communication devices; review the Crisis Management Plan with all faculty members.

Also new, the first fire drill in Judd Hall since the Lab Schools have moved in took place 10 a.m., Monday October 30.

Volume 82, Number 3 □ University High School, 1362 East 55th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 □ Tuesday, November 7, 2006

In governor race today, U-Highers go for Blago

By Graham Salinger
Midway reporter

With lingering uncertainty over the outcome of today's gubernatorial race, many say it's hard to predict a winner.

If U-Highers exclusively voted the same, the incumbent Rod Blagojevich, Democrat, would squeak by as the winner by 53-100 U-Highers polled said they would vote for Blagojevich. With scandals on both sides overshadowing the issues, Whitney and Topinka tied with 14 percent of U-High's voters and 19 percent said they didn't know who they'd vote for or didn't care about the outcome of the race.

Governor Blagojevich expanded preschools through programs funded through a $5.8 billion increase in educational spending. His health plan includes the "All Kids Program," which provides uninsured children with health care and the "Leave No-Child Behind" program, which protects seniors from losing prescription benefits.

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School renews quest for diversity

Facility survey, programs kick off search for what's needed, how to achieve it

By Jacqueline Chauldby
Managing editor

You can't have to be sick to want to get better.

So said Lab Schools Director David Magill of the schools' latest diversity initiative, designed to enrich diversity within the school.

Beginning with a facility survey by Diversity Consultant Pescy Nesbit, the school will try to determine what people feel is needed and how to get it.

The University of Chicago Likewise has been addressing student diversity.

Under President Robert Shapiro, father of Sophomore Alex Zimmer and graduates Ben and David Zimmer, sent letters to University of Chicago faculty emphasizing the need to offer more financial packages and to set up new international programs.

Diversity at the Lab Schools has been a topic of discussions for more than two-thirds of enrollment. This year, there is a reported 35 percent people of color.

Mr. Nesbit was brought to the school for a year and next month will release recommendations. Mr. Nesbit suggested faculty diversity training to Mr. Magill but did not provide further details on training specific to Mr. Magill.

"Diversity is a part of our mission statement," Mr. Magill said. "At a school, we are just trying to become a better model. The basic issue is race and something as name calling, achievement gaps, not feeling welcome, disenfranchisement and other issues but there isn't a specific reason for having a diversity initiative.

"After hiring Mr. Nesbit he referred us to the Eastern Educational Resource Collaborative for diversity training and we have pursued that. The two persons coming, Mr. Carter and Ms. Denenei, have worked well with Mr. Nesbit in the past."

Though Mr. Nesbit told the Midway he could not comment on the faculty survey results or the questions, he said he could identify some of the school's weaknesses.

"There are a few challenges that the school has that everyone knows about," Mr. Nesbit explained. "Everyone can agree that the faculty is not as diverse as it should be. There is also not a great deal of economic diversity either. Because of these weaknesses the leadership of the school does recognize that there is a need for diversity and that is a real asset in an educational institution today. I am very impressed with how much diversity is valued by people in the school including: parents, teachers and students and how they have voiced the importance of school diversity."

Last May at Mr. Nesbit's request, Student Council sponsored a diversity forum where U-Highers could discuss diversity in the school. This year, Student Council plans to host similar forums after Mr. Nesbit issues his recommendations, according to Student Council President Donavan Mitchem.

"To a certain extent the administration is going to assume a large part of dealing with the diversity issue but we as students should be involved," Donavan said. "Because we are the ones who are going to go out on diverse college visits. Students of different ethnicities and cultures who sit in the classes all day and are experiencing a certain culture at Lab if the students are the ones being affected then they should be involved."

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Special sports coverage

Look inside the Midway for stories and photos on U-High's astounding finale to fall sports.
Music groups to blend talents for Winter Concert

By Rahul Tobacowala
Associate editor

Surrounded by the majestic windows and ornamental paintings of the University’s Mandell Hall, the Band, Orchestra and Choir will offer performances ranging from classical to traditional British band music in their annual Winter Concert, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 7. Mandell Hall is at 1311 East 57th Street; the concert is free and open to the public.

Celebrating Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s 250th birthday, the Orchestra will play “Musica Brevis” in G major with the Choir, said Orchestra Director Roselyn Tito.

“Every year we blend the choir and orchestras in one song,” she said. “I wanted to make sure that, in this year’s concert, students could have an opportunity to play music by a composer known for his musical contributions in history. “Donna Brevis” is a very long, choreographed composition in which we are going to play the first five of six movements. This is one of Mozart’s classics, so it’s a perfect choice for students to experience and play.”

With challenging sections from Petrovich Massacrose’s “Hyooah,” the 16-member Orchestra, which includes eight violins, six violas, four cellos and one string bass, has been breaking up into instrument groups to master the piece, explained Orchestra Teacher Tomoka Asai.

“The tenor part, played by students, was chosen because we wanted to challenge our students,” she said.

Ophelia, Hamlet on the side

Based on Shakespeare’s “Hamlet,” the Full Production, “Requiem and Gothic Descent,” was sold out by Tom Stoppard almost sold out all three performances, October 27-29 in Belfield Theatre. Audiences praised the use of vibrant and complex costumes to help distinguish each character. Portraying Hamlet and Ophelia, Seniors Alex Crowe and Alex Quinlan’s students of Hamlet’s stage costume, won the audience.

Renaissance wins praise from readers

By Hayley Steinbarch
Associate editor

Lively and contrasting colors, appealing design, fold out covers, carefully selected art and photography, and a newly added DVD won U-High’s approval for this year’s Renaissance.

“Renaissance really drew me in with their lively, colorful design,” junior Daniel Greenberg said. “Even though I could tell the design was complex, it wasn’t overwhelming. Eric Cochran’s cartoons that were given their own section in the middle of the magazine were a really cool example of how Renaissance handled black and white and color to make artwork pop out. They went even further than an audio CD. This year and added a DVD. I liked how the DVD made the magazine even more modern and showed they were keeping up with the times.”

Moved by the portrait photography, senior Claire Reinsfeld said “Closet,” a photography by senior Nick Peder, as one of the most striking pieces in the magazine.

“The image of Nick in a closet and facing a mirror really struck me with me,” Claire explained. “The way he used his reflection in the mirror created the illusion of two self-portraits in one, which was a great idea. While most self-portraits I have seen were staged or sized, I thought the photo was natural looking. He really captures the moment, allowing the viewer to experience the mood he is presenting. I saw him alone with his own identity. We are all looking to figure out our true identities all the time and I think he expresses that search very well.”

Films and performances Renaissance chose for the DVD creatively presented a mixture of unique ideas, according to Senior Melanie McClain.

“I didn’t expect the DVD to have so many different styles of stories all together on one disc,” Melanie commented. “They even included a rating so you knew what to expect. The film ‘Chocolate Goddess’ by Ris Ptaszkala was probably my favorite piece. In the video, various student actors play a couple going on a picnic and filling in love. I thought the relationship was realistic because they built it up before any romance was involved. By doing acting, it made the whole piece, which really didn’t get the main characters Rosenzweig and Goaldenstein, played by juniors Chadwicks Long and Aaron Weiss, continue their bumbling journey through Denmark.

Author advises parents, ‘Relax’

By Anna Karla Zikowski
Associate editor

“Sunnybrook by the Sea,” an ideal imagi-

dary school, is what all schools should be like, according to Dr. Michael Thompson, Ph.D. But for some children, school is filled with pressure from parents, teachers and peers to excel in school. Dr. Thompson spoke to parents in a Parents’ Association-sponsored event, October 26 in Mandell Hall with more than 150 people attending.

Dr. Thompson, author of the New York Times best selling book “Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys,” is a clinical child psychologist currently working at a school in the Boston area. Dr. Thompson feels that while parents shouldn’t pressure children to do better, they could inspire them.

“Parents don’t understand or have forget-

ten about school,” he explained. “They’ve blocked things out and they don’t understand what kids are feeling. We’re regressing in our knowledge. When you ask a child, ‘How was school today?,’ that is such a loaded ques-

tion. They have so many thoughts and feel-
ings that they can’t express because they just don’t know how.”

Dr. Thompson spoke close to the audience with an open, easy attitude and gave many examples about children under pressure.

“School is not a race, it’s not a contest, at first everyone is trying to get a prize,” he said. “But, by high school, it’s just a few kids trying to be number one. By high school, 90 percent of students know what they want,” 10 percent still think it would be interesting to try.”

Dr. Thompson advised parents to be calm, themselves, in order not to stress their children out more.

“Parents can help their children by not panicking; they need to relax and just trust development. Children reflect their parents’ panic, so what they need to do to deal with their parents is to tell them to relax and not stress out.”

"I thought Renaissance was exceptionally cool this year. I couldn’t wait to open it up and see what new features they had." -Alexandra Bullock, sophomore
Another U. of C. high school (and it's in the neighborhood!)

Woodlawn charter school gives students high standards, big goals

By Phil Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief

Just a few blocks south of U-High's gothic architecture, past the Midway Plaza's trim expanse of green grass, in an area where recent development has spurred gentrification and the University of Chicago plans to begin construction on new facilities in 2008, lies the squat, grey building of Woodlawn High School, the University's third charter school and first charter high school.

Located at 6620 South Woodlawn Avenue, Woodlawn High shares space with Woodworth Elementary School. The school opened in September with 5th grade and 11th grade students admitted through a lottery system that doesn't consider testing ability. It gives priority to graduates of North Kenwood/Oakland Charter School and residents of the school's attendance zone. By 2009, it plans to enroll 590 students in grades 6-12.

Woodlawn High is not a typical school. It operates for 190 days as opposed to the normal Chicago Public School year of 175 days. The school day is also longer, stretching well into the afternoon; it begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 3 p.m.

Having previously worked in Boston, Chicago and San Francisco public schools, Director of Curriculum Barbara Crock always seems to be doing something. Sitting in her office in front of several college fliers hanging on the wall, she explained the thinking behind Woodlawn High's innovative curriculum.

"Our mission is to prepare all students for college regardless of socioeconomic or academic ability," Ms. Crock explained. "We think we can do it with all students. When we designed the school, we asked at what it takes to get into college and we found certain amounts of requirements. It's not enough that kids have good grades; you need cocurriculars. If we made it optional, kids might choose not to do it, so we required it. We try to have lots of different things to choose from so the kids have the chance to try everything and find what they're passionate about."

Students at Woodlawn High have a lot to choose from, with the wide selection of classes and cocurricular activities integrated into the daily schedule. To better prepare students for college, the school requires students to take five credits of math and English, which they satisfy by taking double periods freshman year.

"The school also takes advantage of partnerships with the Hyde Park Art Center and Court Theatre, among others, where they offer various art and drama activities. But perhaps most unique is the school's curriculum, which is its Signature Project."

"The Signature Project is a four-year endeavor in which students address an issue in the community," Ms. Crock said. "There are three areas: humanities, social science, and environmental science. This year they're doing sampling, so they take classes in each area, like Living History or Argumentation and Debate."

"By the time they're juniors and seniors, we hope they're forming independent groups and solving problems in the community. How might they help turn an empty lot into a play lot? We want to help them learn more about and understand the community and also to take responsibility for it."

University professors and graduate students also help lead classes at Woodlawn High College Assistant Professor in Humanities Fernando Edwards teaches Latin. Watching his children, a nursery schooler and 2nd grader who attend The Lab Schools, play in Kenwood Mall, Mr. Edwards spoke about his experiences at Woodlawn High.

"I wanted to teach on the high school level and I knew the University was opening a high school. I just asked about it, and here I am," Mr. Edwards said. "I'd never done it before, so I had no frame of reference for how a high school course should be taught. So far, I like it a lot.

"A 14 year old is different from a 20 year old, they're full of energy. When I do a drill, they show back. They're very enthusiastic."

"I'd like to keep going and develop a whole Latin program. I'm going to begin teaching Spanish in the winter and I'm doing an immersion on the Arabic alphabet in December."

It's about 3 p.m. on a Tuesday and a Student Council meeting has just begun. The topic of the day is the Homecoming Dance. In a maroon-collared shirt and beige pants, the school's uniform, one student steadfastly looks at Facebook pictures on his laptop. Every student at Woodlawn High has one. As all University Charter schools place a strong emphasis on technology.

Woodlawn High's students seem goal-oriented and enthusiastic about learning; in that way, they're similar to U-Highers. One student at the meeting, Freshman Lynette Chace, said she visited the Lab Schools before ultimately deciding on Woodlawn High. When asked if she knows where she wants to attend college, she instantly gave her top choices, which include Harvard and the University of Chicago.

"I want to become a lawyer," she explained, "and those are the top law schools. First I want to become a lawyer, then a judge, then a Supreme Court judge and then the President." Then she added with a smile, "I got my whole life planned out."
Classy, colorful, creative and unconventional

Finding the best boutiques the windy city has to offer

By Julie Carlson
City Life editor

Wrap dresses, winter coats and gold-plated leaf-shaped necklaces enchanted Sophomore Milla Davenport and Junior Sydney Marcus at Jade, a stylish and elegant Japanese-themed boutique, on a recent breezy Friday afternoon.

Frequently featured in Lucky and Chicago Style magazines, the Wicker Park store is among the neighborhood’s several upscale shops. In the rapidly gentrifying area near the Damen L stop, Jade, located at 1557 North Milwaukee Avenue, appealed to the U-Highers.

Behind Jade’s wood-paneled windows, customers browse the sophisticated but pricey clothes and jewelry by designers such as M Missoni. Owner Laura Haberman chats with customers, while paying special attention to selecting items the travelers will appeal to them. Both Ms. Haberman’s blonde hair and large gold necklace reflect her bright disposition.

Built on customer requirements, Ms. Haberman explained, Jade has been open for the past two years. “We thrive on customer service,” Ms. Haberman said. “We want to know what they want and find it.”

If it affects buying sizes, I can’t afford to buy something that isn’t going to sell. We really think about what the customer wants, as opposed to the Gap, they sell what they want. The store appeals to a woman or girl from 20 to 60 years old, or even in high school, who is casual, just looking to be unique.

In contrast with the dark façade of the surrounding business buildings, the U-Highers were shocked with the bright scarlet-red interior of Allee’s Designer Shoe Salon in Hyde Park’s Harper Court, 5210 South Harper Avenue. Expensive and European, kitten heels, pumps and boots are delicately displayed alongside belts and handbags on shelves and a large, centered platform. Owner Shawn Spencer-Kendall greets customers like old friends with stories and advice that establish an immediate connection.

Customers’ parking problems on the North Side for four

A Vegan Thanksgiving!

Photo by Eva Jungor

Junior Rebecca Steuer loves turkeys. In fact, she loves them so much, she’s going to protest Thanksgiving and go vegan for a day by coming to THIRD WORLD CAFÉ. Only minutes from U-High, Third World Café, Hyde Park’s only all vegan restaurant offers tasty options for Rebecca to have her own Thanksgiving feast!

Third World Café
1301 East 53rd Street

Open Monday through Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

"I thought the best boutique was Jade. It had the cutest clothes and accessories and the layout was really nice."
– Sydney Marcus, junior

At Breathe, Sophomore Milla Davenport browses modern yet chic beaded necklaces by a local artist.

At Breathe, Sophomore Milla Davenport browses modern yet chic beaded necklaces by a local artist.

Ms. Spencer-Kendall explained. “It allows people to come if they’re looking for a peaceful place. It gives them a feeling of acceptance, unlike larger stores. People should feel at home at boutiques; they should feel comfortable, welcome and excited to shop. This is my artistic expression; every one of these shoes has a part of me. Boutiques should be carrying items that you don’t find in department stores, and if they don’t then they’re not a true boutique.”

Once filled with deserted buildings and warehouses, the former Maxwell Street Market area, seven miles north of Hyde Park, was transformed into a small residental neighborhood six years ago. Passing popular businesses like Subway and Barney’s Books, the U-Highers headed into Breathe Boutique, 1252 South Halsted Street.

Adorned by abstract paintings, Breathe’s blue-green walls and ceiling suspend metal racks displaying both dresy and casual tops, sweaters and dresses.

The store’s laid-back philosophy has made it popular for a year and matches Manager Melissa Michael’s personality.

“The store is not intimidating,” Ms.

At Breathe, night, Sophomore Milla Davenport tries on a charcoal gray sweater and a fiery printed dress.

At Alice’s, lower right, Milla skims over the vast, vibrant selection of imported shoes.

Still longing for summer, Milla admires printed tank tops at Jade.
An artist revels in the joys of creating

By Jeffrey Ribicka-Aykul
Associate editor

Proudly showing off a digital rendering of a spiky-haired warrior, visual artist and award-winning Midway contributor Mara MacMahon, senior, demonstrates what her artistic talent has become after years of work.


Taking her first art class alongside her mother Katharine Liu, a general surgeon at the U. of C. Hospitals, about five years ago at the Art Institute of Chicago, Mara further developed her artistic abilities by taking Studio Art I at U-High her sophomore year and Advanced Drawing and Painting the next year. Playful and imaginative, Mara can often be seen smiling mischievously or laughing around her friends.

“When I was a kid I doodled a lot,” Mara said with a laugh, describing her early sketches. “I’d draw stuff little girls drew. I had a lot of princesses and castles and cute things like that. But high school is when I really started drawing seriously.”

Mara traced her interest in the visual arts to a variety of sources.

“I have had mainly literary influences,” Mara explained. “I used to draw a lot of evil rats, inspired by the Redwall series. I also became obsessed with the Lord of the Rings series when the first movie came out.”

“I would say my mom was not a huge influence, but whenever she drew something I always thought it was sort of cool. She was the one who always pushed me to go toward art. Whenever we visited cities in Europe we would go to museums and such.”

Art Teacher Brian Wildeman saw Mara’s potential when she first began his class.

“Mara was very good right off the bat,” he explained. “She was instantly good at figure drawing. She had a very good eye, especially with human proportions. But her style at first came only from being interested in fantasy art. I encouraged her to make her own direction and work on personalizing her style, which she has done.”

Mara added, “He’s been very supportive of my work. He even had this nickname for all the hobbit-like characters I would draw—‘furry gus.’”

Mara’s classmate Lilla Dent, senior, also recognized her talent.

“...think Mara has a defined style.” Lilla explained. “She’s found her particular field in digital art. To be good at digital art, you need to be a good sketcher and have a good art sense. She’s got both.”

Video games provide a source of inspiration for Mara’s work in digital art.

“One of my main interests is video game art,” Mara said. “I have some books on video game concept illustration. It would almost be like concept art for movies. But there’s some more constraint. If you have a character with a lot of necklaces on him, he’s not going to be able to move well on the screen. You have to try to keep tight, and you’re more limited in terms of accessories.”

“I also know a lot of people who do art. A lot of my inspiration comes from Deviantart.com. People who are 15 or 16 will draw and I’ll be blown away. There are a lot of different styles and lots of talent on the site.”

Finding time for her art can be difficult, but Mara said it remains a major part of her life.

“There will be times when I have a lot of time when I draw a lot,” Mara explained.

“Nothing else makes me feel as good as drawing. Sometimes I want to get some art out. But it can be a problem, because if I’m working on a piece and it’s not working out then it sometimes doesn’t stop until around 4 a.m.”

Still, Mara said she hasn’t yet known what to expect from the future.

“For some people only doing art really works. But I don’t want it to be the only thing I’m doing. I just have a lot of other interests, like piano. Maybe I’ll go into medical imaging, or game design.”

One of Senior Mara MacMahon’s pieces (art counter-clockwise from top) from her Advanced Drawing and Painting class last year, this painting depicts an abstract man on a horse. “It really like how it turned out,” Mara said. “It’s one of the few pieces that relies strongly on color.”

A picture she worked on in her spare time, Mara cited this pencil sketch as enjoyable to draw. “It started out as a doodle, and it wasn’t exactly planned out,” she said. “When you’re doodling you’re not important to get things done, so I could spend a long time without getting frustrated on details.”

Discussing this hand-drawn present for a friend, Mara said, “I guess in this picture I was working on the whole idea of character design and trying to work on coloring.” Sketching with pencil first, Mara went on to outline the sketch in ink and then use colored pencils.

—Lilla Dent, senior

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When mom asks the question, he’ll have to think about it
EVERY WEEKEND as I get ready to go out a similar routine ensues: shower, get dressed and wait for my mom to walk into my room to begin a line of questioning about who, what, where, when and why I’ll be doing for the rest of the night. There’s always one question that makes me ponder my answer. “Why, is he a responsible driver?” Most of the time I change the subject but I still think to myself “chicago from Gainesville.”

Answering that question has become more difficult as I consider the October 13 car crash in which two Deerfield High School students were killed. The driver had been drinking and was driving at a high speed. The victims were 17 years old and were on their way to their homecoming dance the next day. It’s a tragic accident because I have never personally suffered from the deadly result of ignoring these laws, which makes me less likely to follow them. Sadly, it might take a victim closing the door on the U-High student body to make us realize the need to start taking the number one killer of teens seriously.

Opinion
Say What?
Compiled by Arts Lewis

If you could enjoy Thanksgiving dinner with anyone you anywhere you wanted to, who would it be, where and why?

Gabrielle
GABRIELLE CLARK, freshmen: I would want to go to Las Vegas to meet Austin Under Agassi at the tennis court in his backcourt, after I’ve evolved in his distant room. There I would want to talk to him about how and what motivated him to start his tremendous acts. It would be an unforgettable experience to go to school as well as further progress in their tennis skills.

Abraham
ABRAHAM KOHRMAN, sophomore: Thanksgiving is a time literally when all of my family is in one place because my family lives all over the country. So I would spend Thanksgiving with none other than my cousins and my family in my cousin’s house downtown. It’s been a family tradition for at least eight years since I have come to Chicago. Florida, so it would definitely be a great occasion.

Johannes
JOHANNE PETER, junior: I would want to spend Thanksgiving with whoever the first President of the United States would be 100 years from now at the White House. It would be interesting to see who the President would be then, as well as how the holiday might have evolved.

Radhika
RADIKA ATTELE, senior: I want to spend Thanksgiving with actress Julia Roberts at her New York house. Since I’m interested in human behavior, especially the Rett Syndrome, which is a neurological disorder that prevents a child from developing new muscle fibers and their body movements. I would love to meet her for her involvement in the International Rett Syndrome Association. I would love meeting with actors helping in helping, in 2003, to appeal for Congress for a federal grant of $15.5 million.

Midway Mailbox
Dancing at a school in search of diversity
By Roni Johnson, Frances Parker, senior:
I WOULD LIKE TO inform the Lab school community about an act of discrimination that occurred to me Saturday, October 14 during homecoming. I was excited as I entered the doors of the International House given the spirit I felt, diversity I saw and music I heard.

Coming from a small, diverse high school, I was quickly drawn into the large dancing crowd. It wasn’t before long until I too tuned in the festivities and began to dance with several of my friends, particularly female. I saw teachers circulating the dance floor a few times to ensure that the dancing was appropriate but I never saw any chaperons act upon anything. It wasn’t until I began dancing with another male student that I was broken up by one of the chaperons.

The chaperons simply pulled us apart and walked away. I was perplexed as to why he had done this because I did not feel as though my guy friend and I were dancing any more provocatively than the couples and groups around us. I quickly became aware that this was a homophobic act in which the chaperon did, in fact, separate two gay males.

It was a moment of shock that brought a burst of sadness and rage to me and my friends, who witnessed this despicable act of homophobia. I do feel as though the teacher intentionally singled me and my friend out given our sexual orientation.

I have many friends that attend and have attended U-High and the one unique feature they have always emphasized is the community’s tolerance, acceptance and promotion for minorities and gays. Not to mention, U-High is known for having many of the “out of the closet” students and a powerful Queer-Straight Alliance. Ultimately, I had higher expectations for one of the country’s top private schools. I want to convey the message that if we cannot be supported in our very own high school, where can gays seek refuge, community and respect? This issue addresses our country’s historic yet imminent problem with the acceptance of gays in society.

Editor’s note: Attempting to provide a balanced account of what happened at the dance on more than one viewpoint and that because they necessarily questioned the letter writer’s account, the Midway’s editors contacted an administrator for a response. The administrator declined. The Midway will consider further letters on this topic for publication in the October 23 issue. Letters must be signed and can be placed in Mr. Brandon’s mailbox in the High School office.

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It was a moment of shock that brought a burst of sadness and rage to me and my friends, who witnessed this despicable act of homophobia. I do feel as though the teacher intentionally singled me and my friend out given our sexual orientation.

I have many friends that attend and have attended U-High and the one unique feature they have always emphasized is the community’s tolerance, acceptance and promotion for minorities and gays. Not to mention, U-High is known for having many of the “out of the closet” students and a powerful Queer-Straight Alliance. Ultimately, I had higher expectations for one of the country’s top private schools. I want to convey the message that if we cannot be supported in our very own high school, where can gays seek refuge, community and respect? This issue addresses our country’s historic yet imminent problem with the acceptance of gays in society.

Editor’s note: Attempting to provide a balanced account of what happened at the dance on more than one viewpoint and that because they necessarily questioned the letter writer’s account, the Midway’s editors contacted an administrator for a response. The administrator declined. The Midway will consider further letters on this topic for publication in the October 23 issue. Letters must be signed and can be placed in Mr. Brandon’s mailbox in the High School office.
Lavish prestige production lopped off at box office

CONFUSING, GENERIC PREVIEWS and bad word-of-mouth rarely make people want to see a movie. Unfortunately for "Marie Antoinette," the movie encountered both of these factors. What poor press and bizarre advertising failed to notice, though, was just how much fun lies in thisiccine film.

Directed by Sofia Coppola and based on "Marie Antoinette: The Journey" by Antonia Fraser, the film begins in Vienna, with the engagement announcement of 14-year-old Marie (Kirsten Dunst) to Louis (Jason Schwartzman), prince of France. She's shipped to the luxurious castles and gardens of Versailles where she struggles to adjust.

Five years into her less-than-ideal marriage, Louis's grandmother (Rip Torn) dies, making Marie queen of France. Over time, Marie becomes an early version of Paris Hilton, complete with small dogs, purple nails, and designer dresses. She even has to deal with constant gossip from the public and backstabbing friends. Of course, all the while Marie is in love.

In one moment of the film, a political adviser tells Marie her marriage may be annulled if she doesn't conceive a child.

She replies, "Letting everyone down would be my greatest unhappiness." Although she eventually gives birth, Marie probably wouldn't be happy if she looked at the box-office chart. Though it cost $40 million to make, the movie pulled in a disappointing $5,360,000 in opening weekend and has left French critics and history buffs flummoxed. But what if everyone's just taking it too seriously?

There isn't much dialogue in the film, focusing the actors to make the most of their few lines. By leaving much of her acting open to interpretation, Dunst fares better than she previously has in more straightforward roles like "Spiderman." Schwartzman, though, plays Louis like an 18th century Max Fischer or Jimmy Krah, from his earlier films "Rushmore" and "Shoplift." It's entertaining enough, but technology is where we're at.

Coppola obviously tried very hard to make history appeal to a modern audience and did a good job; she cut out all of the history, replacing it with a punk-rock soundtrack and frequent monologues of ringing speeches, Manolo Blahnik-designed costume shoes and decadent parties. There's no real content in these segments, except maybe to show the repetitiveness of Marie's life. Still, the excellent cinematography provides the film's memorable moments.

Even in its most emotional scenes, "Marie Antoinette" is not deep. But really, it's better that way. When the movie takes a serious turn toward the end, it completely fails apart and it's easy to forget you're watching the same film, quickly film that you were 30 minutes ago. All in all, "Marie Antoinette" should be treated like cotton candy — pure fluff, but sweet anyway.

A Japanese discovery in, yes, Little Italy

SPECIALTY SUSHI in an area dominated by Italian food isn’t what distinguishes Japonica so much as its contemporary style, reminiscent of a toned down Benihana and better suited to trendy North Side bars than Little Italy's whosoevers eateries. Unless you come on a Wednesday for lunch, as my guest and I did, reservations might be necessary because both the ground level (including patio) and the basement's sushi bar offer limited seating.

Japonica's refreshing use of natural light, which streams through open French doors and accent the greens and tan color scheme, adds to the heavily frequented American background music, contributing to the restaurant's trendy appeal.

Not for sushi novices, the menu's unexplained terms delayed the ordering process. In addition to traditional sushi varieties, dishes like the Philly Maki, $5, with salmon, avocado and cream cheese, reveal a distinct American influence. My guest ordered Spicy Udon Soup, $7.50, with egg, vegetables and what noodles and I ordered Rainbow, $12, so called because of the pieces of different fish colorful lined up on a cucumber, avocado and shrimp tempura roll.

Instead of a plate, the sushi came on a large wooden rectangular, which made me wish for $2, I had seen less wood and more sushi. Six bites later, I swallowed my meal, which turned out to be so good I never stopped to wonder what type of fish I was eating.

Drunken by the fragrance, I began eying my companion's enormous cast iron pot of Spicy Udon, which was initially too hot and spicy she was forced to sip slowly. The bowl grew bigger the more she tried to finish it, so I can speak from experience when I say it was wonderful. Apart from the spices, a high vegetable-to-noodle ratio added in its unique taste.

Japonica's diverse selection, including the Hawaiian, $12, fired on the outside and served warm with smoked salmon, avocado, cream cheese, shrimp and unagi (freshwater eel) sauce in the middle, a great alternative to bland cafeteria sushi, but the fear of unfulfilling portions and high prices will keep me from becoming a regular.

JAPONICA, 1423 West Taylor Street, (312) 421-3288. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday, 4 p.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, Closed Sunday.

Write us!

One of the Midway's biggest responsibilities is to provide a market place of opinion in the school. In fact, presenting an open forum provides the legal foundation for the Midway being a product of the journalism classes free of prior review and censorship. Or to put it plainly, we need your letters! Write about any topic which concerns you, sign your letter and place it in Mr. Brasler's mailbox in the U-High office and we will contact you and take it from there.
Why Getting Into College

Harvard drops early admissions and shakes up the odds (maybe)

By Evan Dorfman
Management

T

o quote Shakespeare, "It's much ado about nothing." That's what College Counselor Patty Kovacs saw when Harvard's recent decision to end early admissions would do just fine in the regular decision pool. I would advise U-Highers to not make too much of it.

Skeptical of the change's impact on applicants, Guidance and Counseling Department Chairperson Will Dix said, it's hard to predict what will happen in the long run because Harvard is a unique institution. "I was pleasantly surprised about the decision," Mr. Dix said. "It is an interesting challenge to other schools. You know the old way was better but we'll see how it goes. I think it's a good move for Harvard admissions." In terms of the impact of the decision on U-Highers, obviously they will have to wait longer, but I don't think the decision is all that huge and I don't think it will affect U-High too much." Understanding Harvard's motives, Harvard sophomore Anthony Carlson, U-High '05 graduate, believes eliminating the early admissions program represented a wise decision.

"A single process admission system is indeed more egalitarian," Anthony explained. "Insofar as I go to Harvard, I am glad that my school is trying to leverage in role as a trend setter to get even stronger classes of students. As for my own, I can't say I blame them. What school wouldn't want to get the best students? Of course, I should note that having already benefited from early admissions and not having to worry about college applications necessarily colors my view."

While the decision could possibly prove beneficial for Harvard, Anthony believes U-Highers may suffer. "On net, this will harm U-Highers," he explained. "Quite simply, we were a school that knew and used the early admissions option at Harvard and other schools extensively. Now that's no longer an option. Insofar as there have been statistical studies showing that early applications are roughly equivalent to a 100 point increase on the SAT, this change in rules may hurt U-Highers chances at some schools."

"However, I do know some colleges have opened minority scholarships to all races by making students who are the first in their family college eligible to apply, so their still helping those disadvantaged kids. Colleges set up race-based admissions and scholarships for all the right reasons; they are trying to address past injustices, trying to give underrepresented students the same kind of advantages as majority students," Anthony continued. "Unfortunately, due to recent lawsuits from white students, many colleges don't want to risk fighting a legal battle over the distribution of race-based scholarships."

"Because applicant pools for academic scholarships continue to get more minority students at U-High depending on that money to find colleges must rethink their possible payment options or their first choice colleges."

"As long as colleges see that minority groups simply aren't doing as well as the majority students, scholarships should be awarded to the most deserving minority students who deserve them." Senior Jacqueline Chau said.

"A lot of the colleges I am applying to I'm hoping are going to give me money. If they don't, I probably won't be able to attend or will have to figure out some other way to pay. As a disadvantaged minority student, I really bank on that money to help you out, when your apply schools you wouldn't be able to afford otherwise."
money, scores, minorities and more

SAT taking starting earlier; is that good or is that bad?

By Amanda Pappas
Associate editor

According to the March 21, 2006 issue of the New York Times, the concern over growing competitiveness concerning college entrance is increasing. Many news publications have been reporting on the topic of students taking standardized tests before entering high school. Administered by the College Board, the Scholastic Aptitude Test scores are a significant factor colleges consider when admitting students, according to CollegeBoard.com. Starting in grades early as 6th, students have begun to take the SAT younger whether the reason is for state requirements, showing a school's progress, summer programs or for practice, reported in many publications.

Concerned that students are starting to take the SAT as early as 12 years of age, College Counselor Patty Kovacs said she feels uneasy about summer programs minising the test. "One of the primary reasons that students are taking the SAT at such an early age is to fulfill the requirements of particular summer programs for gifted and talented students, usually not by the school," Mrs. Kovacs said. "Many summer programs, for example, Duke University in North Carolina and Northwestern University in Evanston, use the test as a guideline for enrollment. The students are required to get a specific score in each section of the SAT in order to be taken into consideration of the program. The programs don't necessarily evaluate the applicants' scores like an actual college would and the students who take the SAT definitely get no college admissions credit for it. The tests are readily available that many programs are abusing it's true purpose."

Among U-Highers who took the SAT before entering high school, Junior David McAlpine said taking the exam at age 12 improved his testing skills. "I first started taking the SAT in 6th grade because it was required to get into a summer camp at Northwestern University in Evanston," David explained. "I didn't have the experience of doing practice tests, so my score requirement was fairly low compared to the scores required to get into a good college. Later I realized the more I took it, the better practice I had for when I have to take it. Unfortunately, that backfired because between my 8th and 9th grade years, they changed the format of the test. Even though the format changed, I still feel like I had an advantage because of the fact that I have taken it four times already."

Unaware that 6th graders could take the SAT until David applied to his summer program, Ms. Kathryn McAlpine, David's mother, thought it was an excellent opportunity. "When I first signed David up into the Northwestern program, I didn't realize that they actually were taking the SAT; I thought they were taking some watered down version of it," Ms. McAlpine said. "When I realized that it was the actual test, I didn't have a problem with it. It was good for him to know where he was intellectually compared to his peers."

"Many kids in David's middle school were taking the SAT in 6th and 7th grade and we were just doing what the other kids were doing. I think that some people may feel that it is pretentious to push the kids into taking the test younger, but I have no objection to it, as long as the child is willing to. If it weren't for the summer program, I wouldn't have known the test was available for students David's age."

Disturbed by students taking the SAT before high school, Guidance and Counseling Department Chairperson Will Dix said it is impractical for students to take the exam too early. "Some school systems and states are using the SAT as prerequisite requests for their own use to see if students are improving as a whole," Mr. Dix said. "Other schools in states such as Maine are even considering the use of the test as a graduation requirement, which is not what they are designed for. There are plenty of ways to show a student's progress and this is certainly incorrect."

Why do some people get extra time on tests?

By Harley Chang
Associate editor

When friends take the SAT, one conversation is guaranteed: "I'm so tired of Sally receiving extra time on all of her exams!"

But what U-Highers don't know is that 16 percent of students at U-High receive accommodations. Some U-Highers receive extra time and use laptops or large block answer sheets for tests, which some other U-Highers strongly resent. Unknown to most students, every accommodation request requires a long process of psychological testing and then a review of the results by a team of U-High administrators and counselors before it is granted and requests are never casually granted, according to Learning Consultant Susan Snoek.

"Some students have trouble copying from the chalkboard and keeping their place," Ms. Snoek said. "Some have trouble with visual perceptual issues, or just the act of writing is hard for them. It's literally difficult for some students to get the information from their heads onto the paper. They have the information in their head but they are slow at getting it down. Sometimes it's cursive, sometimes it's printing. Using a laptop during tests makes the process quicker and it makes the student equal to the other test takers."

"For students with different learning styles, the accommodations they do get give them any advantages but make them equal," Ms. Snoek added. Standardized tests, such as the SAT and ACT, do not state to a college if a student has been given an accommodation or not. Impatient with students who believe extra time is cheating, one senior boy with Asperger Syndrome, a minor form of autism, who requested to remain nameless to fully express himself, discovered he needed extra time in 6th grade.

"I'm upset to know that some students think I'm cheating by getting double the time they have," he said. "These kids are just looking for an excuse to get better grades. My extra time is for situations where I'm in my comfort zone in math and science. For history and English, I'm just another student. I particularly have organization difficulties, especially remembering certain details. I've heard the point of view against extra time expressed many times and it definitely offends me but it's really just that people don't understand. It's pure ignorance. I think most people view this as a competition but I really need more time to level the playing field."

Understanding the need for some to receive extra time, one junior boy who wanted to anonymously speak his mind believes extra time won't prepare students for the real world. "Standardized tests are a quick and dirty measuring stick to see how well you'll do in the real world," he said. "If you allowed students with different learning styles to have extra time, you alter the scope of that measuring stick. Everyone prepares for the SAT and ACT knowing that they'll be competing with other students. All students' performances on these tests should be a comparison under the same circumstances."

And your greatest college admissions nightmare?

"A FULL-RIDE scholarship would be the cherry on top. Nightmare-wis it would be getting into the college of my dreams and then having my parents not let me go."

"I WANT a scholarship to Hamburger University in Oakland, Illinois, and then to get accepted into the middle manager course so I can eventually work at McDonald's. On the dark side would be getting caught by Zergnurk, god of technical schools."

"I WOULD like to be allowed by my college of choice's football coach to start a recruiting office for a year and be a working student at an A Circuit Bar, working with horses. My nightmare would be going far away from home and having any burns in the area."

"I AM into the sciences so I'm really excited by the idea of being a research assistant in a college with lots of interesting science classes. But then re-verse that and you get my nightmares, lots of boring classes without a good science program."

"I WANT to receive a full scholarship to college and my college voice is heard in the nation. But what if the day they were going to give me my diploma they told me I had no luck. What if the people on the college review board were from a school I had no love for? That is the worst thing that could possibly happen."

By Ronnie Fox
I WANT YOU!
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U-High ‘voters’ pick Blagojevich

Supporting Whitney because he distinets the other candidates. Junior Aaron Weiss said he doesn't feel Blagojevich has done a satisfactory job as governor.

"The number one reason I would vote for Rich Whitney," Aaron said, "Because I don't think Blagojevich and Topinka are smart enough to know the way the government should be run.

"Blagojevich obviously has no pulse on what needs to be done for the people. We've been seeing so-called politicians go around in circles.

"Right now we need change from our usual expresion with corruption. We need a real guy that represents the people."

Though History Teacher Earl Bell also thinks lowly of Blagojevich and Topinka, he said he would give his vote to Blagojevich.

"It's a hard state to lead," Mr. Bell said, "I think the campaign has gone in circles. Neither candidate has established a clear message. I will vote for the lesser of the two evils, the least weak candidate. It will probably be Blagojevich. The biggest problems facing the state are our public education. And the state infrastructure is crumbling.

"Blagojevich's progressive policies, which include raising the minimum wage, creating equal opportunity education and job structure and supporting stem-cell research are some of the reasons Illinois House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie believes he will win the race.

"We're fond of saying that Blagojevich is the real man in this race," Mr. Curtis said. "Blagojevich is a good Democrat that wants to do good Democratic things. A progressive liberal governace with creative reporting. Blagojevich has pretty much locked it up."

School renewes quest for diversity

Social and academic acceptance at the Lab Schools remains a struggle for some African American students, according to Junior Billy Stevenson.

"I've been a student at the Lab Schools since 6th grade," he said. "I feel like I'm being frowned upon as an African American male."

"It just seems like a vibe people give off sometimes, especially teachers. Sometimes they may not even mean to give off a bad vibe when I'm around but they do. And I really think its because they just don't know how to approach me."

"Sometimes I feel like I'm the only one in my class who is African American. I was so uncomfortable in one class that it became a contributing factor in my decision to drop the class."

African American parents formed a group two years ago where they discussed diversity issues. Parents' Association Communications Coordinator Adene Maye Johnson, parent of Sophomore Monique Johnson, said the topic is still a problem.

"We have been times to African American students and students of color in general, they are underrepresented," Mrs. Johnson said. "Look at the pictures in Lab Directions."

"There are times I still feel like I'm being frowned upon as an African American male."

"Billy Stevenson, junior"
By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor

With winter sports teams starting this week, some team look to their returning stars and ball handles waiting for them. "We lost eight boys from our team," Coach Ron Ashlaw said. "These eight seniors compiled a lot of our minutes played and points scored. The ball has to figure out how we win at the varsity level. It is a junior dominated group so the season will have ups and downs. It is sort of a two-year deal since we are underclass heavy. We are strong at playing team defense, screening and cutting on defense and getting shot attempts that we are able to consistently make, though. However, we lack height.

With the addition of senior, Tom Senior, Peter Heppler, seeing the coaching staff as a major strength. "Whenever we have an opponent that is much better than us, our coachee fills the gap," Peter said. "In my opinion, their coachees are the best in the ISL. They really come prepared. They are always working whether it is watching tapes of previous games or scouting other teams. Also when they scout, they figure our the other team's plays so we can be prepared for them.

Young players are expected to dominate the girls' basketball squad, besides Sophomore Johanna Heineman-Fipper. "Sophomore Emily Kno is a lot of steals because she is very fast," Johanns said. Sophomore Alexis Jenkins-Moore is a very solid ball handler, along with a freshman, Christina Smith. I improved my shot and ball handling over the summer. We also have a height advantage this year. There are a couple of tall freshmen. And the juniors and sophomores have been playing together for a long time, so we will run the plays we are supposed to run for them.

Only lack of physical strength will hinder the girls, feels Coach Christine Cunningham. "We are very quick and fast," Coach Cunningham explained. "But we need to get tougher. We need to push into the basket. We can have some shots, but we can't settle for three-pointers. We need to rebound a lot more. We push ourselves to keep the team going. However, we have not gained much experience this year. We will have a more sophisticated motion offense and half-court trap.

With a team from 15 to 20, will allow U-High to compete in races that went unfulfilled last year. "Now we have some numbers and will be able to fill spots," Coach Paul Granty said. "We are going to focus early in the season on shot mechanics. We want our boys to swim smarter instead of longer. We can make them do less and less yardage but only that will not help them. After they have mastered good mechanics, then they will be swimming for yardage they will be faster.

With the loss of two senior captains, Senior Zack Slouka now becomes the new swimmers' dominating short races. "Probably our strength is going to be the short one or the 50 free, 100 free, and 100 butterfly," Zack said. "We have to work on specializing our workouts, not having sprint swimmers do long distance practice and vice versa. New Senior Alex Coren is supposed to be wicked fast. If he can swim the 100 freestyle in less than 50 seconds that would be great motivation for younger swimmers.

In their second year in Class AA, indoor track runners are optimistic about the upcoming season, according to Senior John Enright. "We should dominate in the 4x2 and two mile runs and have many state qualifiers. So our strength will definitely be in distance, though we don't have the depth to fill the field with all events. We lack depth in sprinting and throwing events. If we could fill those events, we would have a very deep team. When we get to Sectionals against AA teams, they all have events filled. However, in the distance events, our individual runners can place very high. It is that last kick of 100 meters or so that is going to make the difference.""

By Dante Alfano
Sports editor

"Getting to the Regional Final was a real Cinderella story for us," varsity boys' soccer Forward Gate Bump, Sophomore, said with tears forming in his eyes after losing the Sect.

ional final to Mount Carmel 0-1 October 27, in Southwest suburban Park Heights.

"After Mount Carmel scored first we fought back with a lot of intensity, which we hadn't been known to do all season," Gate explained. "In the last few minutes I tried to kick the ball nearsighted on the ground because the goalie was so tall, but I shot it right to him. Then Evan Weiner made me a pass but it was on a weird angle, so I missed it a little too wide. Those last attempts were the hardest moments of my soccer career and knowing that missing them ended our season."

Coached by Mike Moses and Assistant Coach Carlos Acosta, the Maroons ended their regular season with a 4-3-2 Independen

School League record, 6-7-6 overall. The seniors tied for 2nd place in the ISL with Lake Forest Academy and Parker, behind

Morgan Park Academy, before claiming the Johannesburg religious tournament victory 3-0 against Kenwood October 17. The Maroons defeated the Marines buttck from a 0-1 deficit against Reavis on Jackman Field, to defeat the Rams in penalty kicks in the regular season.

Following a scoreless double overtime and penalty kicks, Ooiee Leo Carlson, coacapitan, with Eli Brown and Senior Ben Kerker, blocked the seventh Reavis shooter's kick. Right Defensive Back Evan Dorman, senior, clinched the victory for U-High, with Maroons fans flooding the field and topping over him in excitement.

"The Regional victory was one of the best soccer games that I've been associated with from both sides," Coach Moses said. "The game was filled with a lot of action and sportmanship from both teams. Unfortunately it ended in a loss for the other team, but it was an exciting game. It's not everyday that you win Regional Final.

On a brick October 24, varsity championed the Kelly Trojans in the first round of Sect.

ional at Brother Rice High School, after Forward Nate Wise, sophomore, scored off a header from a corner kick by Midfielder Phil Bolan, sophomore, 21 minutes into the first half. "At that point it wasn't about the win or the loss," Coach Moses said. "It was about tak-

ing in the atmosphere, coaching, making the right substitutions, with that type of attack the games become fun and we would be a reward for sticking out a season where we just weren't scoring goals and were losing games in the last few minutes.

Varsity overcame the transition to AA by approaching all nonconference matches competitively, according to Coach Moses. "We really had guys with a vested interest in soccer making improvements and even the ones that were treading water or just hanged on to keep the team concept of 'We are Gate the ASP team,'" Coach Moses said. "Charlie Fischer, Morgan Murphy, Simon Lockwood-Bean, Evan Dorman and Jamie Voorheen, in the MOD Squad, as they call themselves, gave us consistent defense so that if we were not scoring goals we would have won most of the games that we tried.

J.V. ended 1st in Conference with a 3-1-1 ISL record, 13-1 overall. Coach of the Year, Tim Piant, j.v. lost its last game against Lake Forest Academy 0-2. "The last game we really weren't working as well, Freshman Kiara Davis had some great blocks, Vanessa Ramirez had a couple good digs, Hanna Redleaf had some awesome passing and Alex Balabanov had some fantastic serve," Piant said. "Our good points were scored against MBA because we knew they would be the toughest to beat." Other scores are as follows:

Loretto October 10, varsity win 1-0, j.v. win 4-0; St. Rita: October 12, j.v. win 4-0; Lincoln October 12, Junior win 4-0, Varsity win 4-0; Lake Forest October 13, j.v. tie 0-0, j.v. win 4-0.

By David McAlpine
Assistant editor

Following a tense, emotional match, girls' varsity volleyball lost 22-25, 17-25 to West Suburban at the Regional Final October 28 at home.

We started off the first game in the wrong mind-set. We were dominating our opponents," junior, at one point, we were losing 5-14. We kept shanking our passes and spiking the ball and our opponents fought back, 16-18 and we thought we could pull out a win, but we didn't. The second game started out with us losing 0-7. We started fighting back again, but it just wasn't there for us. We gave them too many easy points; we dropped a lot of hits and free ball passes—the games should have been a lot closer.

"A lot of people thought that we didn't have the height we had last year because we didn't have three key players and that we wouldn't get to Regionals, let alone Sectionals. We got to class B and we feel we did to take it that extra step further, but we just didn't.

Ending its Conference season against Timothy Christian, away, varsity, 4-2 Conference match

, 23-25, 16-25. The Maroons fini-

ished with a 9-3 Independent School League record, 12-2 Conference and placed 1st in the Conference behind Morgan Park Academy and ahead of Lake Forest Academy.

An increase in the amount and intensity of practices, a new coach and other schools' recruiting of players proved fruitful leading up to the Regional Final. And it all paid off right there, according to Senior Rachel Haneman, coas-

tain with Junior Anne Sawyer.

"Our team had a lot of change to deal with at the beginning of the year," Rachel explained. "Morgan Park Academy recruited a couple girls from Bul-

gata, which made their team even stronger than it was before. Our team chemistry was already off at the start of the season, so to have that extra team was really hard for our team to handle.

Winning 4th in Conference with a 7-6 ISL record, 11-11 overall, j.v. ended its season October 21 in the U-High Tournament, place 3rd. "The team was disappointed with the loss behind us,"," coach

 with Amelia Acosta, both seniors.

were energized and we played really well, Freshman Kiara Davis had some great blocks, Vanessa Ramirez had a couple good digs, Hanna Redleaf had some awesome passing and Alex Balabanov had some fantastic serve," Piant said. "Our good points were scored against MBA because we knew they would be the toughest to beat." Other scores are as follows:

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Tennis threesome makes second day of State play

By Rohini Tochacwala

Advancing into the second day of State, Senior Rebecca Renick, Junior Alex Gray and Freshman Gabby Clark broke a 10-year streak, October 20 in Mount Prospect, Illinois.

Double partners for three seasons and 70 matches, Copacabana Rebecca and Alex won three matches against Trentopolis, Reeves and Beverly and lost two against Peris and Lincoln Way East. Singles player Gabby Clark, freshmen, won three matches against Normal Community West, Westfield and Glenbrook North and lost two against Geneva and Hinsdale. U-High placed 39th out of 99 teams with 384 competitors.

"Everyone worked hard and had a great year but Gabby, Alex, and Rebecca were the core of the team," said Varsity Tennis coach Gerald Hanck. "Alex and Rebecca have played together for so long that they know each other's strengths and weaknesses.

"Alex is really good at hitting volleys and Rebecca is really good at hitting high balls, which makes them the perfect combination. In singles, Gabby showed great promise throughout all her matches. She displays the kind of athleticism and competitiveness that will probably bring her back to the state finals next year."

Qualifying for State in her first year on varsity tennis, Gabby won a three-setter Thursday, October 19 against a peer from Woodfield.

"My first match was particularly difficult for me because I knew the person I was playing against," Gabby said. "I thought it was going to affect the way I played the match because she was stronger, older and more experienced than myself. But I didn't let that get to me and I ended up winning."
Senior exits as only golfer in A and AA finals
By B.J. Ariam
Assistant editor

Anyone up for a second serving? Senior Nick Kogelman continues his reign as the first golfer in U-High history to compete in both Class A and AA golf. IHSAA State Finals.

Shooting 10 strokes better on his second day at State, Nick placed 115th on October 14th and 15th. Attributing the team's development to dominant seniors, Coach Glenn Sharp stressed the importance of good role models.

"We have younger players with a lot of potential," Coach Sharp said. "The only way the younger players really learn to play is by observing the more experienced senior golfers conduct themselves on the golf course. For example Nick Kogelman, he really has a presence on the team and that really carries a lot of weight. Another one is Vinush Jervannah." In the last few weeks of the season he had a tremendous improvement and, watching him play and improve, the other younger players aspired to be more like him.

Returning to the familiar fairways of Prairie Vista golf course in Bloomington Illinois, Nick played in the IHSAA State Finals but found the future of the team and younger player's to be more important.

"I've learned now, that I'm a senior, that a team needs a combination of teamwork and competition," Nick explained. "When I was a freshman, the team was senior heavy, like it is now. That really helps the younger, less experienced players get used to the pressure, as well as high school and upper-classroom. I always try to help the younger players with their swing, while challenging them to play better." Collectively improving the team, Coach Sharp and Nick combine their skills to teach newer golfers, according to Vinush Jervannah.

"The golf team works like an aggressive family," Vinush said. "Coach Sharp is like your all-knowing dad, and Nick is like your experienced older brother. Coach Sharp helps us with our form and our bigger mistakes. Nick is a good role model, like an older brother will compete no matter what. We all look up to him." Cross Country Captain - Shannon Kimball, sophomore, exhibits the faithful practice and training which typifies runners this year as the track season nears. Photo by Zach Slivka

Coach gets quoted for what he never said in yearbook
When Cross Country Coach Brad James opened the 2006 U-Highlight, he was surprised to find a quote attributed to him that could be taken as him criticizing the team, of which he said, "You know I would never do that." He said he had never been interviewed for the yearbook story. Because the Journalism program has a system for checking quotes, editors spoke with the reporter. He explained that he had received a space in the story for a quote from Coach James, but never got the quote. Journalism Teacher Wayne Brader had seen and questioned the quote but the editors never followed up.

"This shows how people not doing what they are supposed to do can harm someone else," Mr. Brader said. "The reporter had placed the quote attribution in the story but never got the quote, so another person's quote got attributed to Mr. James. It was careless and irresponsible." Cross country not end of the story
By B.J. Ariam
Associate editor

Enduring more training between the cross country season and the track season, co-captain Iain Macdonald, senior, is looking forward to his second chance to place in IHSAA Sectionals.

Led by Iain and sophomore Emily Koo, the girls' and boys' teams finished 2nd in the IHSAA Argo Class AA Regional October 23. Both qualified for Sectionals October 28 at Niles West High School.

"We had high hopes for Sectionals but we did not perform as well as we thought we would," Iain said. "Our Sectionals had schools like York and Lyons Township, schools that had about as many cross country runners as there are students in our school. The York Dukes were also the State Champions last year and they are predicted to win State again this year, because they placed 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 at Sectionals."

Though the cross country season has come to a finish, team members continue to practice for the track season.

"Even though the season is technically over we're still training after school for the track season because it only lasts for about four to five months," he said. "That is not nearly enough time to get in shape, improve and achieve the level of performance that some of us want to reach. The sprinters usually lift and have a set workout out in the weight room. The distance runners have to listen to their bodies and feel what their body needs and wants to do."

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"If I were Yoda and the team consisted of my padawan learners, my advice would be Make the ball go in the hole you can not, let it in you must."
—Nick Kogelman, senior
EVAN: While the '96 Bulls' roster may be equivalent to the pantheon of the gods, there is another Chicago sports team starting with a B that has me feeling agog.

PHIL: Who? The Blackhawks?

EVAN: No, the Bulls baby. Now that their big off-season signing is in town, dad taller Ben Wallace, how can you not be excited for a team that has made the playoffs two straight years? And after Bulls General Manager John Paxson straight up robbed the Knicks of two first-round draft picks and Mike Sweeney, the pieces are in place for an eternal dynasty.

PHIL: An eternal dynasty? More like an informal truce. I wish I could believe the hype, I really do, but that roster has more holes than a piecewise function. With all the money they spent on Wallace, Paxson did nothing to address the team's most glaring weakness: a lack of interior scoring. That deal was worse than the Louisiana Purchase.

EVAN: That was an incredible deal. We got half our country for $15 million.

PHIL: Yeah, and that's exactly how much the Bulls are paying Wallace this year. We're paying him as much as it cost us to buy 14 cars, when we could have used that money on some post scoring.

EVAN: False. That $15 million bought a four-time defensive player of the year and an absolute deterrent on defense who will shut down Shaquille ONeal in the Conference Finals (yes, the Conference Finals). Plus, look at Detroit. They won it all with Ben Wallace at center and no real low post threat outside of Rasheed Wallace. And even Sheed's not a pure inside scorer in the Eddy Curry mold.

PHIL: He may not be Eddy Curry, but that's a good thing. With his offensive and defensive skills, Sheed wills the perfect complement to Ben. But when we play Miami in the first round, (yes, the first round,) our lack of size will be painfully obvious. Ben worked so well with Sheed because, although not an unstoppable man-to-man defender at only 6 foot 9 inches, he's at his best coming from the weak side to block shots. Sheed was a great one on one defender. FJ. Brown is decent, but he's too small and too old to lock anyone down.

EVAN: But look who else the Bulls have. They drafted Tyrus Thomas, who has already shown signs of being the Bulls' power forward of the future. They also have Forwards Malik Allen and Michael Sweetney coming off the bench to provide reliable inside scoring. Right there you have enough interior production to complement the Bulls' standout guard and small forward spots. And, hey, after leading the league for two straight years in defensive field goal percentage, scoring won't be what carries this team to the NBA Finals.

PHIL: Exactly. Because the Bulls aren't going to the Finals. Mike "I Love My Jelly Donut" Sweetney can't put the ball in the basket if he eats it first! He's come into camp out of shape for two straight years and while he's shown potential, his weight has rendered him ineffective. And don't even get me started on Allen; he isn't even worth my time. Thomas won't give them anything down low. He thinks he's a perimeter player; I remember him saying he sees himself as a small forward in the NBA. The Bulls didn't draft him for that. And they're in trouble if they have to rely on Kirk Hinrich and Ben Gordon to provide the bulk of their offense; their shooting percentages are disgusting.

EVAN: Do you have eyes? I seem to recall the great Bulls teams of the '90s being built on mediocre low-post scoring and stellar production from the guards and small forwards. A young, talented core is in place and with the Bulls' recent additions I just don't see anyone in the East stopping this team.

PHIL: My eyes, along with my ears, nose and tongue tell me that this abomination that is the Bulls' offense will surely lead them to an early playoff exit. Ben Gordon isn't Michael Jordan. And their future is bleak: they gave Wallace too much money and when it comes time to give their young players contract extensions, they'll realize the horrible mistake they so carelessly made when they won't be able to resign them. If only they gave Eddy Curry one more chance...

EVAN: Brown has one year left in his deal. Paxson is a financial wizard; the Bulls should be able to resign their core guys. All I have to say is with the Cubs signing Lou Piniella (paying the way for a World Series title) and the Bears ravaging the NFL, the impending Bulls title makes this coming year a juicy one for Chicago sports fans.

PHIL: But what about the Blackhawks?

CHECK OUT the full-length C.D. from 2000
U-High alumni Neil Dasgupta's hip-hop group Melodic Scribes, "Se Formo."
THIRTEEN NEW TRACKS featuring guest stars Anti-matter, Katastrope, Caroline Yohanan of Frequency Below (www.frequencybelow.com) and Billy Kirst of The Apollo Project (www.theapolloprojectband.com).
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Main Photo: Rachel Hennessey
007 comes home in '07

Flaunting knee-high boots and designer sunglasses, many seniors dashed out of the rain into International House for the Homecoming Dance, October 14, decked in glitzy James Bond-themed styles.

Carrying on the unofficial tradition of dressing in theme for their last U-High Homecoming Dance, the class of ’07 brought the 007 spirit to life with a variety of retro secret agent-inspired outfits. Girls sported an array of attire including Kelly Green sequins dresses, vintage jewelry, fishnet tights, mini-skirts and 70s style little black dresses. Senior boys chose classy James Bond looks, donning pin-striped suits, sleek ties, snappy black shirts and British flag cuff links.

Other U-Highers opted for more subtle informal fashions. Girls boasted fashionable party dresses or a chic top paired with jeans. Many dressed up simple outfits with chandelier earrings, stylish bangles and festive necklaces. Boys wore classic button-down shirts and timeless khakis or trendy brightly colored sweaters and jeans for a more contemporary look.

As hip-hop music blared, enthusiastic students formed a close circle around a few courageous students who broke danced for the crowd. Towards the end of the evening, C.U. President Katherine Hayes and Vice President Erica Zagaja announced the Homecoming Kings and Queens to the exhausted and tightly packed throng of students who kept the dance floor full all night.

Photos by Yoolim Kim and Rachel Hanessian

Dressed to impress, Pablo Lopez, chose classic aviator sunglasses to top off his 007 look. Francis Packer senior, Alicia Saude is behind him.

Adorned in eye-catching jewelry, Eeza Zagaja boasts a glamorous gold chain necklace, while Katherine Hayes wear bold retro red plastic earrings to emanate the Bond Girl look.

Music blasted as Pakka Makam, in a secret agent-inspired dress,_Mona Durgaputa and Nalle Wiese enjoy the much anticipated dance.

Packed tightly, the dance floor remained full of excited U-Highers, including D20s8-C Johnson, Ronnie Fox, Eric Ng and Jeremy Laccaipe, who danced all night. D20s8-C and Ronnie flaunted brightly colored tank tops.

Taking a break from dancing, Jeremy Laccaipe and Michael Hernandez, wear crisp button-down shirts, embracing the James Bond spirit much of the senior class conveyed, as they discuss plans for the rest of the night.

Dynamic and energetic, Dana Alfessa, in a Diane von Furstenberg dress with chain design and Sage Makam in a stylish black dress and bright red necklace, dance to Danny Kane’s upbeat hit, “Show Stopper,” surrounded by Jenny Harris, Emma Cowen and Eva Jaager, who chose fashionable dresses in black and purple.
Maroons sail into Sectional Finals for spectacular windup to season of successes... and plenty of surprises

In winning Semifinals showdown, Maroons show off great defense

On a bright, cold Tuesday afternoon, the boys’ varsity soccer team arrived at Brother Rice High School. Four days earlier, the team had beaten Resurrection in penalty kicks to win their Regional Final, prompting the animated home crowd to rush the field in a frenzy of excitement. Now, the team was about to play in its first Sectional game since Mike Moyer became coach 13 years ago.

Instead of top-seeded Argo, who had lost in an unlikely upset, the Maroons were set to face a Kelly team as favorites.

“We were in there pretty confident because Kelly was seeded lower than us,” said Forward Nate Wise scored off a header. With the lead in hand, the Maroons did what they do best: took advantage of their strong defense and played conservatively, according to Gabe. “We played really defensive in the 2nd half,” Gabe said. “I was the only forward and we played with six midfielders and three defenders, but the midfielders were mainly playing defense.”

Though it wasn’t the team’s best game, Right Defensive Back Evan Doffman, senior, said that they still played well enough to beat Kelly and move on to the next round.

“We were expected to win,” said Right Defensive Back Evan Doffman, senior. “We really didn’t win that cleanly. We dodged some bullets. We deserved to win and were pumped to go to Sectionals, but we were a little less celebratory about it than the Regional Final. We went in and although it was messy, we got the job done and advanced.”

With that victory, the team needed only one more to advance further than any previous U-High soccer team.

“We actually took Kelly for granted, they were a really good team,” Gabe said. “But by the end of the game we knew we deserved to be in the Sectional Finals. In our minds, we were thinking about the next game. We weren’t thinking ‘we beat Kelly,’ we were thinking, ‘we have to play Morton Carmel.”

Meet the Ministry of Defense, a formidable five-man force

Evan Doffman, Charlie Fisher, Simon Lockwood-Bean, Morgan Murphy and Jamie Veeneman. Together, the three seniors and two sophomores made up U-High’s impenetrable defense, or the “Ministry of Defense,” as they called themselves, and with Goalie Leo Carlson, senior, gave the Maroons a powerful foundation that helped carry the team on their magical postseason run.

Consistently effective, the defense never surrendered more than two goals during the season. They continued their strong play in the postseason, giving up only two goals throughout Regionals and Sectionals.

“Our defense is a lockdown unit,” Evan said. “All of us combined to win the Regional. If we go to the State Finals, I’d say he’s one of the best keepers in the state.”

Then we have Murphy at sweeper; he kept the defensive unit in order every single game and dominated in the air. On the wings, we have myself and Jamie, who shut down the passing lanes like they were going out of style. At the defensive mid, we got Simon and Chucky R., who locked down the middle. All in all, I’d have to say, we stepped up for Regionals and I’m proud to have been a part of such a dominant unit.”

All photos by Emma Lantos and Jeremy Handrup
And, finally, the Finals

The Maroons were one game away.

One game away from earning a victory over neighborhood rival Mount Carmel. One game away from playing under the bright lights of Toyota Park, home of the Chicago Fire. One game away from making U-High history and becoming the first team to win a Sectional championship.

Set to play perennial sports powerhouse Mount Carmel Thursday, October 26 at Brother Rice High School, the Maroons were without Defensive Midfielder Simon Lockwood-Bean because he had a previous engagement. So when the game was pushed back a day because of weather, they knew that they would at least go into the game with their whole team intact.

“We were sitting in the bus and we could see the light from the stadium,” said Right Defensive Back Evan Dufman, senior. “The whole team was amped. When they cancelled the game we were down, but we knew we would have Simon back for the game.”

On the downside, however, the team wasn’t able to feed off the emotions provided by the previous day’s pep rally and fan frolic. They knew they were in for a challenge and still hoped their strong defense would carry them to victory.

“We thought it would come down to them not scoring and our offense having to produce,” said Forward Gabe Rump, sophomore. “What Moses was thinking, and I kind of had in the back of my head, was that it would be 0-0 down to the last 10 minutes, then we would score once and hold them off.”

Under grey skies and in slippery conditions, U-High got off to a slow start.

“They dominated for the first 20 minutes, had a lot of chances,” said Sweeper Morgan Murphy, sophomore. “They scored right before the end of the first half, which hurt. We had the wind going against us, which put us at a disadvantage, so we were hoping to keep it tied going into the second half. It was a fluke goal, the guy just got it past Leo.”

Though they couldn’t hold off Mt. Carmel in the first half, the Maroons attitude changed as the team became increasingly desperate.

“After halftime we started to realize that our season was on the line and our intensity level doubled,” said Forward Donovan Mitchem, senior. “We played as if our freedom was on the line. Our chances were better, we played more solid at the front. They weren’t really taking us seriously when the game first started, but as the half went on and we started getting better chances they had no choice but to take us serious.”

Gabe added, “Because it was a game between two South Side teams. I felt like we had something to prove. Who’s the best team on the South Side of Chicago?”

Though trailing, the Maroons had the wind behind them during the second half, giving them the advantage.

“The rest of the half we dominated the game, pressured them, but we couldn’t make a lot of chances and when we did, we couldn’t finish,” Morgan said.

One of those chances came late in the second half. Behind and running out of time, the Maroons were in attack mode and Gabe got a shot off at the top box.

“I could hear everyone in the stands gasp,” Gabe said. “Right when I hit it, I turned and waited to see where it was going to go. When I saw it was to the right, I just couldn’t look anymore.”

Donning the special white jersey of the “libero,” a special defensive position, Katherine Hayes serves during the varsity girls’ volleyball team’s Regional Final against suburban Hinsdale Central. After surrendering an early lead in both games, the team lost 22-25, 17-25.

Volleyball powerhouse reaches Regional Finals

Don’t worry, Emma Lantos. Christina gets under the ball, coming up with a timely block for the Maroons.

Sports Extra written and reported by Phil Jacobson
Produced by
Henry Africano and Phil Jacobson

Photos by Jeremy Handrup

Photos by Eva Jaeger