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 incidents, 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 and we don’t want to 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’ll be adding the three doors the students to be out by then. Whenever I know of a breach 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 in 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 hassle 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 in programs like 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 Kimball Wood; 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.

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 could vote, however, the incumbent Rod Blagojevich, Democrat, would squeak by Three Term State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, Republican, and Private Attorney Rich Whitney, Green Party.

Unlike previous Midway-conducted Presidential elections at U-High, where the Democratic candidate has won comfortably every year since 1968, only 53 of 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 would 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 Senior Behind" program, which protects seniors from losing prescription benefits.

Student Council Vice President Dan Hornung, junior, said these issues are a big reason why he supports Blagojevich.

"I’m not happy that the trend of corruption has continued," Dan said. "But in terms of policy, Blagojevich is not getting enough credit for what he has done with state issues. I think that education is important because it is a state issue and not a national issue."

"If you look at their different policies, education is where they differ the most. Healthcare is also a state issue and Blagojevich has done a state issue and not a national issue."

"I don’t agree with all of Blagojevich’s choices and options like his free breakfast program for children you can’t deny healthcare to people who can’t afford it. I also agree with him in that we need more funding for programs like that without raising taxes. Blagojevich is not afraid to speak his mind, however, he hides himself from corruption and calls his plan by some seniors.

(continues on page 11)

School renews quest for diversity

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

By Jacqueline Chaudhry
Managing editor

"You can’t have to be sick to want to get better."

So said Lab Schools Director David Magill of the school’s latest diversity initiative, designed to enrich diversity within the school. Beginning with a facility survey by Diversity Consultant Pacey Nessbit, 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. Three years ago President Robert J. Zimmer, 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 the School’s latest diversity initiative, said Lab Schools Director David Magill. "There are a few challenges that the school has that everyone knows about."

Most high diversity is valued by people in the school including parents, teachers and students and how they have voiced the importance of school diversity in the planning stage. This year the School will try

"WE ARE still in the planning stage on the specific, so how long the faculty training will be or even what the diversity training will be is a little unknown.

- Mr. David Magill

"I’M NOT sure everyone is working with the same definition of diversity. It is a process that a school has to go through so that everyone has the same definition."

- Mr. Pacey Nessbit

"THE AFRICAN American population at our school may be increasing, but I feel like to only so the school can say ‘Yes, we’re diverse.’"

- Bill Stevenson, junior

"I KNOW as a parent at Lab that there is culture at Lab and it’s one that can be intimidating. There is the idea that everyone is wealthy and they are en-

- Ms. Arlene Mays Johnson

Denevi, have worked well with Mr. Nessbit in the past."

Though Mr. Nessbit 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 everyoneknows about," Mr. Nessbit explained. "Everyone can agree that the facility is not as diverse as it should be. There is also a great deal of economic diversity. Because of the school’s 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 voiced the importance of school diversity."

Last May at Mr. Nessbit’s request, Student Council sponsored a diversity forum where U-Highers could discuss the needs of the school. The forum included the creation of a diversity committee, similar forums after Mr. Nessbit 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 who knows who can collaborate on diverse issues. Students of different ethnicities and cultures 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."

(continues on page 11)

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 Tobaccowala
Associate editor

Surrounded by the majestic windows and ornamental paintings of the University’s Mandel 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. Mandel 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 Roslyn Toro.

“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. “Musica Brevis” is a very long, long 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 selections from Petrovich Massicott’s “Elblop,” the 12-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 Tomolael Arenal.

“Ms. Toro and I decided to set our standards high by picking Elblop because we wanted to Jazz Band to perform at the Checkerdboard

Chicago’s legendary Checkerdboard Lounge, recently moved to Hyde Park at 5201 South Harper Court, will showcase the U-High Band in a family program (no liquor served) 3:5 p.m. Sunday, December 3. The Hyde Park Jazz Society invited the U-High Band to perform. Admission and other details are being determined.

Bizarrevaloo booth gets a little messy

Pumpkin decorating, a haunted house and face painting attracted more than 250 students to Bizarvaloo, October 28. Parents’ Association Programs/Events Coordinator-elect Anne Miles organized the event. Volunteering at the Service Corps booth, Freshman Nicholas Elitzik prepares for a mud pie.

Each pie was $1 to make, $1 to throw, all proceeds went to UNICEF.

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-Highers’ approval for this year’s Renaissance.

“Renaissance really drew me in with their lovely, colorful design,” junior Daniel Greenberg said. “Even though I could tell the design was complete, 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 contrasted black, white and color to make artwork pop out. They went even further than an audio C.D. this year and added a DVD. I liked how the DVD made the magazine even more readable and showed they were keeping up with the times.”

Mowed by the portrait photographer, senior Claire Redfield cited “Closet,” a photograph 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 thought, I thought the picture 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 for 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 stories and styles all together on one disc,” Melanie commented. “They even included a rating so you knew what to expect. The film ‘Chocolate Goddess’ by Eila F. Pasik was probably my favorite piece. In the video, various student actors play a couple going on a picnic and falling in love.

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I thought the relationship was realistic because they built it up before any romance was involved. By doing this, it added more depth to the story,” said Melanie.

This year, we are going to perform ‘El Estucate Justi’ by an Italian composer, Libero Vadinana. This is a vocal composition that has parts for different voices of the choir, so there will be a lot of variety. Playing traditional music originated in England, the Band will be performing authentic hymns, according to Music Department Chairperson Brad Brickner.

“In previous years, we did songs based on famous films,” Mr. Brickner said. “This year, we are going to perform ‘El Estucate Justi’ by an Italian composer, Libero Vadinana. This is a vocal composition that has parts for different voices of the choir, so there will be a lot of variety. Playing traditional music originated in England, the Band will be performing authentic hymns.”

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**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, the University's third charter school and first charter high school.

Located at 6620 South Woodlawn Avenue, Woodlawn High shares space with Wadsworth Elementary School. The school opened in September with 56 6th graders and 110-9th graders 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. Monday through Thursday and ends at 3 p.m. Friday.

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 flag hanging on the walls, 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."

"Our mission is to prepare all students for college regardless of socioeconomic or academic ability." —Ms. Barbara Crock, Director of Curriculum, Woodlawn High School

The most unique aspect of the school's curriculum 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's three areas: humanities, science, and environmental science. This year they're doing samplers, 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 Collegiate Assistant Professor in Humanities Kirsten 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 shout 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 intenser ses on the Arabic alphabet in December." —Ms. Crock

"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 stealthily 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 Chadee, said she visited the Lab Schools before ultimately deciding on Woodlawn High. When asked if she knew where she wants to attend college, she said she had no frame of reference for how a high school course should be taught. So far, I like it a lot."

"I wanted 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." She added with a smile, "I got my whole life planned out." —Photo by Eva Jaeger

**Parading their politics**

Dressed to express their political views in homemade shirts, Juniors Jenny Haren, Cydney Weiner and Gretchen Eng were three of eight U-Highers who participated in a four hour liberal release of anti-Bush tension at the "World Can't Wait"-sponsored rally on October 5. After performances by African dancers and speeches by the organization's members in Grant Park, the crowd marched five blocks, carrying picket signs and shouting numerous chants such as "The world can't wait, the world can't wait, drive out the Bush regime!" to Dearborn Street and Adams Street.

**Scholar Semifinalists go to next step**

Test scores, cocurricular involvement, counselor recommendations, grades and essays will determine which of U-High's 600 seniors are Semifinalists on the basis of high standardized test scores (see related stories in this issue). Thirteen seniors, the same number as last year, became Semi­finalists on the basis of high standardized test scores (see related stories in this issue). Those seniors are: Peter Bush, Sally Cochrane, Lilla Dent, William Diamond, Andrew Kern, Katherine Lauderholm, Elizabeth Lin, Mara MacMahon, Katherine McIntyre, Jacqueline "Beanie" Meadow, Hugh Monag, Sen "Angel" Pp, Rieh, Darcey Reynolds, Karin Goring, Mona Sama, Bradley Spahn, Andrew Sugaya and Anne Wildman.

Four seniors, one more than last year, are Semi­finalists in the associated Achievement program for low income African American stu­dents. They are Megan Harris, Nieka McGuire, Donavan Mitchel and Stephanie Stern.

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There's something for everyone! Take a break and go get comfortable at the University of Chicago Bookstore today for a fun way to spend your day!
Classy, colorful, creative and unconventional

Finding the best boutiques the windy city has to offer

By Julie Carlson
City Life editor

With dresses, winter coats and gold-plated leaf-shaped necklaces enchanted Sophomore Miles 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 1357 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 knowles 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 why they come back. It even 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 30 to 60 years old, or even in high school, who is casual, yet 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 Alise’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 Shawna 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

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

Spencer-Kendall explained. “It allows people to come in 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 people should feel as if they’re looking for something that’s very diverse with clientele. Here, I get all customers from all nationalities. It’s artsy like the North Side and there’s nobody doing what I’m doing.”

Ms. Spencer-Kendall attributes the store’s appeal to her personal emphasis. “The spirit of the store is so unique; my personality is placed here,” Ms. Spencer-Kendall explained. “It allows people to come in 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 residential neighborhood six years ago. Passing popular businesses like Subway and Barbara’s Books, the U-Highers headed into Breathe Boutique, 1352 South Halsted Street.

Adorned by abstract paintings, Breathe’s blue-green walls and ceiling suspend metal racks displaying both trendy 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. Michael explained. “It’s a great place for browsing, it’s called Breathe, so you can just relax. Our denim, the True Religion, J Brand and Joe’s, is really popular. Another popular item is a dress by Rachel Pally that’s very versatile; it can be tied 12 different ways and even worn as a skirt. A typical customer looks generic. The stuff at Jade, Breathe and Alise’s would really allow CT-Highers to show their individualistic personalities.

“Chicago has a great variety of boutiques,” Ms. Michael noted. “That’s nice for U-High students, because nobody wants to look like a cookie-cutter in high school. Your style expresses who you are, so if you’re wearing clothes from Macy’s, you’re just going to look generic. The stuff at Jade, Breathe and Alise’s would really allow U-Highers to show their unique personalities.”

At Alise’s, lower right, Mila Davenport and Sydney Marcus were really nice.”

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An artist revels in the joys of creating

By Jeffrey Hidaka-Aykul

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 birthday 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.

"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." Artist 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 - 'fuzzy guys.'"

Mara's classmate Lilla Dent, senior, also recognized her talent. "I 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 life. "There will be times when I have a lot of work. 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."

For some people only doing art really works. But Mara said she doesn't yet know what to expect from the future. "No part of me makes a conscious decision. Sometimes I want to get some art out. But it can be a problem, because if it's midnight then it sometimes won't stop until around 4."

Still, Mara said she doesn't yet know 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 counterclockwise from top) from her Advanced Drawing and Painting class last year, this painting depicts an abstract man on a horse. "I really like how it turned out," Mara said. "It's one of the few pieces that relies strongly on color."

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Dancing at a school in search of diversity

From Benji Johnson, Francis Parker, senior:
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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's old house downtown. It's been a family tradition for at least eight years since I have come to Chicago from Gainesville, Florida, so it would definitely be a grand occasion.

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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 note, though, was just how much fun lies in this saccharine 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. Marie and Louis are shipped to the plushified castles and gardens of Versailles where Marie struggles to adjust.

Five years into her less-than-intimate marriage, Louis's grandfather (Rip Tomilson), making Marie queen of France. Over time, Marie becomes an early version of Paris Hilton, complete with small dogs, partying and financial obligations. She even has to deal with constant gossip from the public and backstabbing friends. Of course, all of this is to provide a marketplace of opinion.

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

She replies, "Letting everyone down would be my greatest unhappiness." Although the movie eventually gives birth, Marie probably wouldn't be happy if she looked at the box-office charts. Though it cost $40 million to make, the movie pulled in a disappointing $3,560,000 in its 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, forcing the actors to make the most of their few lines. By leaving much of her acting open to interpretation, Dunst fares remarkably well. She has previously had very little straightforward roles like "Spiderman." Schwartzman, though, plays Louis like an 18th century Max Fischer or Jeremy Knauf, from his earlier films "Rushmore" and "Shoplift." It's entertaining enough, but technique is far from central.

Coppola obviously tried very hard to make history appeal to a modern audience and she did a good job: she cut out all of the history, replacing it with a punk-rock soundtrack and frequent moments of raving parties, Manolo Blahnik-designed costume shoes and decadent pastries. There's no real effort to understand this period, except maybe to show the repetitiveness of Marie's life. Still, the excellent cinematography provides these scenes with a memorable mood.

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 falls apart and it's easy to forget you're watching the same film, quirky film that you were 30 minutes ago. All in all, "Marie Antoinette" should be treated like cotton candy — pure fluff, but sweet anyway.

Dining

Eliot Popko

Photo by Zack Stoops

In the colorful neighborhood of Little Italy, Eliot Popko and Zena Haddad discover an outstanding Japanese restaurant, Japonica. Their server is Patrick Frazer, a student at Columbia College.

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 wholesome 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 accents the greens and tan color scheme, is added to the heavily Americanized 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 piece of six different fish colorfully lined up on a cucumber, avocado and shrimp tempura roll.

Instead of a plate, the sushi came on a large wooden rectangle, which made me wish that, instead of a last minute reservation, I had 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 so hot and spicy I was forced to sip slowly. The soup was pretty good, too, but I didn't have a hint to finish it, so I can speak from experience when I say it was wonderful. Apart from the spices, 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 piece of six different fish colorfully lined up on a cucumber, avocado and shrimp tempura roll.

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Scholarships for the stars?

By Stephanie Sterz
Associate editor

Scholarships have always been awarded to two types of people: outstanding disadvantaged students and outstanding academic superstars from elite schools.

Over the last few years, however, administrators at more than 50 elite colleges and universities have begun to offer scholarships to disadvantaged students with few aid options by closing their minority-only scholarships, according to the March 14, 2006 New York Times article.

Several race exclusive programs have opened to all students to limit possible lawsuits, which means colleges are offering less aid and opportunities to minority applicants.

Many college administrators expanded scholarships in response to letters of protest from the Center for Equal Opportunity, an advocacy group promoting race blind equal opportunities, about minority only programs.

Beginning in 2003, the Center accused the schools of breaching Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination in education. The advocacy group then filed complaints to the U.S. Education Department's Office of Civil Rights about schools that ignored their requests, including more than six colleges.

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**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 recent publications have reported 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 as 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 ministering 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 test is just 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 intention of getting a perfect score because the test 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 in the future. 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 were actually taking the SAT; thought they were taking some watered down version of it,” Ms. McAlpine said. “When I realized that it was actually the 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 wasn’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 that it is impractical for students to take the exam early.

“Some school systems and states are using the SAT as gateway tests for their own use to see if students are improving or not 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 intended 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 Snook.

“Some students have trouble copying from the chalkboard and keeping their place,” Ms. Snook said. “Some have trouble with visual perceptual issues, or just the act of writing is hard for them. It’s literally difficult for them.”

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 have do give them an advantage but make them equal. 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 was 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 me to more consciously think about what I’m doing.”

Snook agreed.

“Some students have trouble with visual perceptual issues, or just the act of writing is hard for them. It’s literally difficult for them. 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.”

### And your greatest college admissions nightmare?

**VICTORIA THOMAS**

“I WANT a scholarship to Hamburger University in Oakbloom, 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 crushed by Zorgo, god of technical schools.”

**NATHAN WORCESTER**

“I WOULD like to be allowed by my college of choice to take a leap into the golf course this year and be a working student at an Area Golf Club, working with horses. My nightmare would be getting far away from the not so sunny areas in the area.”

**HANNAH CHASKIN**

“I AM going into the sciences so I would say my dream would be to get into a college with lots of interesting science classes. But then reverse that and you get my nightmare, lots of boring classes without a good science program.”

**CLAIRE WECHSELBAUM**

“I WANT to receive a full scholarship into an acting college before starting my child’s college. The worst thing that could happen would be getting into the school of my dreams and then my parents not having enough money to pay for it.”

**AARON WEISS**

“I WANT into the college of my dreams and have no worries about receiving the scholarship I need, but I want to be the cherry on top. Nightmare-wise it would be getting into the college of my dreams and then having my parents not let me go.”

**ANDREY DRINDLEF**

“I THINK getting into a college of my dreams is a big thing. But what if the day they were going to receive my admission the oil embargo had hit. The worst thing that could happen is that the oil embargo hit and I had no luck? What if the people on the college board wouldn’t vote for me? That’s the worst thing that could possibly happen.”
With the election season here, Uncle Sam (Shapiro) wants you to stop by the University Market to enjoy our wide variety of snacks, chips, sandwiches and drinks. Conveniently located just a block away from school, U.M. offers great selection and an even greater price. So come to the U.M. as any responsible citizen would.
There are times I still feel like I'm being frowned upon as an African American male.

—Billy Stevenson, junior

Supporting Whitney because he dismisses 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 approach 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 woman in this race," Ms. Currie said. "Blagojevich is a good Democrat that wants to do good Democratic things. A progressive liberal governor with creative reporting. Blagojevich has pretty much locked it up."

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 Nursery School and there are times I feel like I'm being frowned upon as an African American male," Billy said.

"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 Adriene Mays Johnson, parent of Sophomore Monique Johnson, said she too sees a problem.

"There were plenty of parents of color at 'Part-ci-party.' I was one of them.

"I had a friend of mine who called and said that she noticed that there was only one picture of someone with color and it bothered her. I think that the admissions books have plenty of students from different ethnicities in it but in publications like the Lab Directions and the school's website we are not included and that is a problem if the school wants to be diverse."

"To do well in the diversity issue I would hope that the school follows the recommendations of Mr. Nesbit. But as a school the Lab Schools has a history of hiring these consultants and bringing them in and then ignoring them."

"There was a consultant brought in on bullying and I thought she was going in the right direction but the consultant wasn't saying what the school wanted to hear so from what I have seen, the recommendations were ignored."

In response to Mrs. Johnson's point about the 'Part-ci-party,' an event to highlight the collaboration between the University of Chicago and Lab Schools, former editor of Lab Directions, Mr. William Harris, referred the Midway to Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Mrs. Sani Hoffeman, who chose 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 looks to their returning stars and wonder if they can win. Relying mainly on young talent, boys' basketball takes the court to compete.

"We lost eight guys from our team," Coach Ron Astlaw said. "These eight seniors compiled a lot of our minutes played and points scored. They have to figure out how to win at the varsity level. It is a junior dominated group so one season will have ups and downs. It is not a success or failure deal since we are underclass heavy. We are strong at playing team defense, screening and cutting on offense and getting shot attempts that we also can't settle for three-pointers.

Only lack of physical strength will hinder the girls, feels Coach Carolyn Cunningham. "We are very quick and fast," Coach Cunningham explained. "But we need to get tougher. We need to push into the basket and face up to everyone. We have some good shooters, but we can't settle for three-pointers. We need to rebound a lot more. We push a lot as we can't settle for three-pointers.

We have much more experience this year. We will have a more sophisticated motion offense and half-court traps." In this match, 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 stress mechanics. We want our boys to swim smarter instead of longer. We can make them do lots and lots of yardage but only that will not help them. After they have mastered good mechanics, then when they are swimming for yardage they will be faster."

With the loss of two senior captains, Senior Zach Sloka now has the new seniors dominating short races. "Probably our strength is going to be the short ones such as 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. Neighbors Alex Gomez is supposed to be a freak 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 Patrick Philizaire. "This year we basically have the same people coming in at the 50 free, 100 free, and 100 butterfly," Peter said. "We should dominate in the 4x2 and two mile runs and have many state qualifiers. So our strength is definitely in distance, though we don't have the depth to fill 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 have all 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."
Tennis threesome makes second day of State play

By Rohini Tobacowala

At a Triangular meet, October 17 at the Ramer Center, Sarah Sandmel helps the Maroons take on Whitney Young and Regina.

"Every group does something different. But we all work on the little things such as the starts and the flip turns. As a result people have been breaking personal records." 

- Senior Erica Zajaga

Girl swimmers go into State Sectionals

By Holly Reid

With contributions from doubles partners, Senior Liz Parsons and Sophomore Sofia Iatarola, the Maroons finished 3rd behind Mother McAleary and Morgan Park High School after a close fight for 2nd place at Sectionals, October 12 at U-High.

"The whole team played amazing as Sectionals and contributed something to the team, especially Liz and Sofia because they probably played their best tennis of the year," Rebecca said. "They narrowly missed qualifying for State against Morgan Park High School in a three setter, but the school couldn't have done so well without them because they earned points for our team."

Five days after varsity achieved 5th place in the Independent School League October 5, behind Woodlandia Academy, Lake Forest Academy, Francis Parker and Latin, j,v ended its Conference season 8-4 overall.

Accomplishing a 4-1 win against Ilinois Christian, October 10, away, j,v played its strongest game of the season, said Captain Madeline La Rua, junior.

"During the season, our team improved a lot," Madeline said. "I think one of the most memorable games was against Illinois Christian because we were losing pretty badly, but then all of a sudden we took a turn for the better and started winning. It was amazing. Our whole team played really well and ended up as champions."

J,V compiled a 4-1 record in the ISL, 0-0 overall.

Other scores as follows: Lane Forest Academy. October 3, home. Varsity won 3-2; ISL Tournament. October 5, varsity placed 5th out of 6 teams. Sectionals. Varsity finished 3rd behind Mother McAleary and Morgan Park Academy. State Tournament. October 10-11, every Varsity placed 39 out of 99 teams.

Enjoying the delicate beauty of nature's most stunning creations, Senior Hannah Rothfield brightens up her day with a beautiful selection from Cornell Florist's famous fall flower selection.

"The pool was really hard to swim in," said Stephanie Stern, co-captain with Senior Erica Zajaga. "Lain's pool was broken so we swam at St. Pat's. The blocks were hard to start from and the walls were hard to turn on. So it was difficult but everyone worked hard and it was a good thing we had been practicing our pull off the block. I think that really helped us.

"Our biggest rivals are Lane Tech and Latin. We expect to come in 3rd and we did. It has been closer in previous years but all the other teams have more players than us so we are at a slight disadvantage." Individual exercises helped the Maroons beat personal times and reach a peak, according to Erica.

"After we all warm up we divided into a few groups," she said. "One for distance, another for freestyle, and another for certain strokes, such as breast and back. By breaking people up everyone is more focused on their own performances much like a club team where you are more focused on personal progress. "Every group does something different. But we all work on the little things such as the starts and the flip turns. As a result people have been breaking personal records."

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Fresh Fall Flowers

Showcasing sunflowers, violets and much more, Cornell Florist offers a variety of fall flowers at reasonably low price. Located mere minutes away from U-High, Cornell Florist is your one stop shopping center for all of nature's best creations.
Senior exits as only golfer in A and AA finals
By B.J. Aran
Associate 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 IHSA 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 seniors 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 Vinesh Jervanandam. In the last few weeks of the season he had a tremendous improvement and, watching him play and improve, the other younger players aspire to be more like him."

Returning to the familiar fairways of Prairie Vista golf course in Bloomington Illinois, Nick placed in the IHSA 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 upperclassmen. 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 Vinesh Jervanandam.

"The golf team works like an aggressive family," Vinesh 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."

Coach gets quoted for what he never said in yearbook

When Cross Country Coach Bud James opened the 2006 U-Highlights, 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 even 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 Brasler 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. Brasler 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."

A.P. ECONOMICS LECTURE
"Chicago's Bid for the 2016 Olympics and the Chicago School(s) of Economics" Allen R. Sanderson, Ph.D
Senior Lectures, Department of Economics, U. of C.
Senior Research Scientist, National Opinion Research Center
12:25-1:10 p.m. this Thursday
Judd 126

Cross country not end of the story
By B.J. Aran
Associate editor
Enduring more training between the cross country season and the track season, cocaptain Iain Macdonald, senior, is looking forward to his second chance to place in IHSA Sectionals. Led by Iain and sophomore Emily Koo, the girls' and boys' teams finished 2nd in the IHSA Argo Class AA Regional October 21. 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. "This really helps the younger, less experienced players get used to the pressure, as well as high school and upperclassmen. "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 in the weight room. The distance runners have to listen to their bodies and feel what their body needs and wants to do."

Why be like the Pilgrims... When you can be like Pablo

Pablo knows the one and only interesting way to enjoy Turkey, a Medici Turkey Club Sandwich.
How far can Ben Wallace take the Bulls?

EVAN: While the ’06 Bears’ 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, stud baller 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 eternal travesty. 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 states, when we could have saved that money on some post scoring.

EVAN: False. That $15 million bought a four-time defensive player of the year and an absolute enforcer on defense who will shut down Shaquille O’Neal 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 Rashard. 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 was 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, P.J. Brown is decent, but his 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 isn’t even Michael John. With his offensive and defensive skills, Sheed was the perfect 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.

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Flashing 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 pinstripe 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 break-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.

"It was exciting for the seniors to all come together with the James Bond theme and do something so fun for our last homecoming at U-High."
—Palika Makam, senior

Photos by Yoolim Kim and Rachel Hanessian

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

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

Music blasted as Palika Makam, in a secret agent-inspired dress, Mona Dugapata and Nate Wise enjoy the much anticipated dance.

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

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

Dynamic and energized, Dana Alfassa, in a Diane Von Furstenberg dress with chain design and Sage Mahoney in a stylish black dress and bright red necklace, dance to Danity Kane’s upbeat hit, “Show Stopper,” surrounded by Jenny Harris, Emma Cowen and Eva Jaeger, who chose fashionable dresses in black and purple.

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Seniors

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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 Reavis 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 its first Sectional game since Mike Moses 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 went in there pretty confident because Kelly was seeded lower than us," said Forward Gabe Bump, sophomore. "We also were expecting a really nice field, but it was terrible. There were mud pits in the middle and they put sand over it to make the ball roll better, but you couldn't run in it. It was like quicksand."

The teams went back and forth, evenly matched for most of the first half. About 20 minutes in, 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."

Thought it wasn't the team's best game, Right Defensive Back Evan Dorfman, senior, said the team still played well enough to beat Kelly and move on to the next round. "We were expected to win," said Right Defensive Back Evan Dorfman, senior. "We really didn't win that cleanly. We dodged some bullets. We deserved to win and were pumped to go to Sectional Finals, but we were a little less celebratory about it than the Regional Final. We went in a little bit less prepared."

"Our D was a lockdown unit," Evan said. "It all started with Leo in the back. I'd say he's one of the best keepers in the state. Then we have Murph at sweeper, where he 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. And at the defensive mids we got Simon and Charlie, 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."

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

Evan Dorfman, 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.

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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," said Right Defensive Back Evan Dorfman, senior. "We really didn't win that cleanly. We dodged some bullets. We deserved to win and were pumped to go to Sectional Finals, but we were a little less celebratory about it than the Regional Final. We went in a little bit less prepared."

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"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 commitment. 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 Dorfman, 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 bus. 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 Bump, 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.”

Volleyball powerhouse reaches Regional Finals

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

■ Rising high, Christina Verdirame elevates for the block as her Hinsdale opponents watch on from below.

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