
Voices of Joy

U-Highers reveal in choir harmony

By Alex Gomez
Midway reporter

porting red polyester blazers, the eight U-Highers in the Chicago Children’s Choir stood behind light projected snowflakes as they sang Francis Poulenc’s “Mass in G” during a December 10 concert at Millennium Park. The “Songs of the Season” performance incorporated African, Latin American and Modern era music.

Many U-Highers began singing in religious choirs as children but became uninterested as they grew older. But those who wanted to continue singing joined the Children’s Choir.

The Reverend Christopher Moore founded the Choir in 1956 to unite young people from different backgrounds by making music together. Headquartered in the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 East Washington in the Loop, the Choir offers after-school programs and neighborhood choirs. About 3,300 children participate. This month, the Choir is traveling to private homes and business parties singing Christmas carols.

“The CCC is not religiously-affiliated, but the most famous choir songs are Christian religious songs,” Senior Beanie Meadow said. “We sing about a lot of things that I don’t believe in. But I like the songs because they’re pretty and if you let yourself enjoy the song, you can have what we call a ‘Magical Musical Moment.’ Whether or not you believe in it, the beauty of the song helps you understand the meaning of what you’re singing.”

Beanie and Sophomore Addie Epstein started singing in the Children’s Choir at KAM Isaiah Israel Temple in Hyde Park, where the choir would sing on Roth Hoshanah and Yom Kippur.

“It was a very big difference to go from the kids’ temple choir to the CCC,” Beanie said. “It is a concert choir, a top group, which means that everyone has at least some talent. The music is better and the execution and conducting is more professional.”

The Choir has released two world music C.D.s in the past two years, “Sita Ram” and “Open Up Your Heart.” It has sent many members around the world for concerts and volunteer work.

“Last year we went to Prague for a week and it was a wonderful experience,” Senior Nick Feder said. “You see how music is universal and how it’s appreciated wherever you go. Music is important regardless of any cultural conflict. Through traveling I learned how music can bring people from different backgrounds together. In the choir, we’re diplomats of peace. To have young children going to different countries to sing, it’s just so true.”

The music U-High singers learn in the Choir unites them with others when traveling in and out of the city, Addie feels.

“A lot of my closest friends are in choir and we hang out a lot,” she explained. “I travel all over with them, so we spend lots of time together. One time we were walking under an underpass on the North Side and we stopped and Nick started singing. The sound made an echo and we all knew the different parts of the piece, so we were all singing. It was so beautiful and cool too. It’s fun to always be with people who are so musical.”

Bringing her singing talent to U-High when she transferred from Lincoln Park High School last year, Senior Cortni’ Brown has sung in U-High’s assemblies and the national anthem for sports games. Cortni’ used to sing in Lincoln Park’s Advanced Girls’ Chorus and Gospel Choir and as a 4th-grader she sang in the Chicago Children’s Choir.

Volunteers reach out to serve

By Rohini Tobacowala
Associate editor

A 16-year-old girl locks herself in her bedroom to escape an abusive father banging at her door. Frigh­tened and with nowhere else to turn, she picks up the phone and dials 1-800-RUNAWAY. On the other end, Senior Rachel Hanessian answers the call.

Many U-Highers volunteer at community service sites outside of the Community Service Learning Program after serving their 20 hours as sophomores. Along with Senior Emma Lantos, Rachel volunteers as a crisis line worker. Tuesday nights in Lincoln Park at the National Runaway Switchboard, the country’s only 24-hour hotline for runaways and homeless youth. Guidance Counselor Will Dix is one of many members who train crisis line workers. The 16-year-old’s call was among 300 the organization received that night, Rachel said.

“I answered a phone call from a girl who was locked in her room,” Rachel said. “She was still on probation for stealing a car when she was 14. Her mom had just died, too. Her dad was pretty hard on her and he would say awful things to her but she would just have to listen. He always threatened her that if she didn’t do what he told her to do, he would...
Helping at holiday time

Plastic bags and cardboard boxes, bursting with canned food, were collected in October and November for the Black Students' Association drive aiding the Hyde Park Food Pantry. With the drives ending Friday, the Jewish Students' Association and Service Corps are collecting clothing and gifts for Brand New Beginnings Women's Shelter and La Rabida Children's Hospital, respectively. BSA President Alec Rice, center, joins Antonio Robles and Gabrielle Knight in sorting the nonperishable goods.

People of Color delegates return with ideas for U-High

By Sarah Fischel
Associate Editor

Walking into a large conference room at the Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, five U-Highers are surrounded by 1,000 students of nearly every race, background and sexual orientation, ready to begin the three-day People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Conference November 30-December 2.

Marking its 19th anniversary, this year's Color conference, with the theme "Uptown, Uplift, Up to Uc: Focusing on the Challenge Ahead" brought together students from independent schools around the country. U-High delegates include Juniors Melissa Gracia and Artis Lewis and Seniors Melanie McClain, Alexia Rice and Tara Summers. Guidance Counselor Aria Ahmed and History Teacher Charles Brumahn served as faculty delegates.

Discussions, led by students who had been to the conference before, took place in groups. "In small groups, we did trigger games to get discussions started," Alexia said. "One game had posters on opposite sides of the room, one saying I agree and the other saying I disagree."

"We were asked questions like 'Do you think gay marriage should be legal?' and we were supposed to stand representing how we felt. It was really interesting seeing where people stood."

"The affinity groups affected me the most. I had felt that I was alone in a lot of my thoughts but I learned that there were many people who shared how I feel."

"I never thought I'd say this as a grown man, but I'm perfectly happy walking around little shops with her, looking at stuff. It's very picturesque up there, it's quaint towns between Green Bay and Lake Michigan."


**What is a BLOCK schedule?**

By Dana Alfassa

Ed Tech

Reaching over to turn off his alarm clock at 5 a.m., Ted begins his morning routine of last-minute cramming before the 8 a.m. calculus test. But, what if Ted did not have math so early the next day? What if Ted did not have math that day at all? These are possibilities being considered by a six-faculty member Scheduling Committee with Principal Matt Horvat as changes to U-High's daily schedule.

Hailed by Science Department Chairperson Sharon Housinger, the Committee gave an in-depth questionnaire to faculty members in November. Including questions about likes and dislikes of the current schedule and a blank diagram, where teachers were instructed to draw out their ideal schedule. Following departmental discussions of the survey, responses are due back to Ms. Housinger by February 1.

Noting the lack of change in U-High's schedule, Mr. Horvat says U-High is the first school he has worked at where classes meet at the same time every day. Looking at a variety of schedules, the Scheduling Committee aims to have recommendations submitted to other committees throughout the school by March, according to Mr. Horvat.

"We plan to look at a 9 a.m. more schedules from other schools," Mr. Horvat said. "We don't want to create an entirely new schedule. By March, the committee should have more input to give to many other committees throughout the school for feedback. Part of the complexity is that we have a Lower School and a Middle School to coordinate with. Ultimately, the decision will rest with me, but I want to make one that is as amendable to all constituents in the school as possible."

Presenting various high school schedules from both Dallas and Chicago, Student Council led an open forum November 15: 40 U-Highers attended.

"The first open forum was Student Council's attempt at getting conversation going," Dean of Students Larry McFarlane said. "The faculty has to know how the students feel and I don't think the students can be ignored, but they also should not think they are the ones driving what is happening. It could turn up in the end that the schedule we have now is the one that works best."

"One issue I would like to see addressed is if upper level A.P. courses. A lot of teachers say that the instructional level of minutes is simply way too low and both students and teachers go nuts at that last part of the year because of it. I have three kids who went to U-High, who at times were stressed out of their minds. There have been all of those studies about deep sleep and the fact of the matter is that teens do not sleep well at night in the morning. I'm amazed at how little sleep the kids get and it reaches a point where you can't be productive no matter how hard you try. I do not know if changes to the schedule or a new schedule would really change that."

One option researched would limit the number of classes U-Highers can take from eight to six, putting many elective programs such as art, drama and journalism at risk. Journalism Adviser Wayne Brasier feels that changes to U-High's daily schedule would not affect its journalism program. "In some schools where block type schedules have been implemented, the journalism programs have totally crumpled," Mr. Brasier said. "At others, they have continued to thrive. At U-High, journalism has survived having having hands-off, no office, no budget, being kicked out of Fine Arts, attempts at censorship in the early days and everything else that has come along. We will always find a way to keep it going, which includes making journalism outside the school available for credit. I would not want the school to not try something different because of journalism."

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**Principal, faculty try new finals schedule to ease student pressures**

By Tom Stanley-Recker

As Winter Break approaches and tests draw near, students' minds are on the final days of the quarter, Principal Matt Horvat is looking back and evaluating the effectiveness of a new quarter end schedule.

After Mr. Horvat arrived at U-High last summer, one of the first topics students brought to him was the finals schedule at the end of the quarter. Students said that faculty deviated from last year's finals schedule, so Mr. Horvat decided to implement a new schedule incorporating students' suggestions.

Similar to this quarter's finals schedule, a tentative arrangement for the end of winter quarter is also being considered. Now each teacher can choose between three pre-selected days to administer tests, except Music and Computer Science teachers, who have two pre-selected days.

"There is a hysteria during these weeks," Mr. Horvat said. "The Curriculum Committee felt the new schedule would reduce stress. The problem last year was testing days didn't always correlate with class meetings. Now, faculty can dictate among the allotted days. This will also hopefully clear up teachers feeling pressured about doing grades on the last day of the quarter."

"I want students to know when their testing days are. Under the schedule, they won't have to deal with everything at the same time. The understanding is the tests aren't final exams but have the same value for grades and cover the same amount as tests at any other point in the year."

Though he hopes students and faculty will benefit from the schedule, according to Mr. Horvat, the finals schedule remains a work in progress.

"My whole idea is to be consistent," Mr. Horvat said. "No universal agreement yet exists among departments about homework during test weeks. At least the new schedule will give students and faculty a break between test days. However, if it causes problems, I'm open to further suggestions."

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**Parents will get access to grades**

By Marrisa Miles-Coccaro

Associate editor

If all goes well, parents will be able to access test scores, grades and attendance records online by the beginning of next year. As Mr. Horvat says, "We don't want to create an entirely new system."

Following a presentation to PowerSchool here, administrators have been suggesting that PowerSchool be used for parents' benefit. A six-faculty member Technical Committee, which has examined and evaluated faculty websites, are investigating those suggestions, according to Math Teacher Joe Canright, chairperson.

"Many parents have been asking why we aren't using PowerSchool for their benefit," Ms. Canright said. "But we have not started making a demo available to parents because we still have to show the teachers how to use PowerGrade effectively. We are trying to show a demo by February, but that may not happen."

Though some students interviewed believe making PowerSchool available to parents represents an invasion of privacy and will not help students at all, Junior Jason Rowley said, "Parents should prefer for parents to use his grades so they can stay informed.

"That's the way it was at my old school, Lyons Township High School in Western Springs," he explained. "It isn't a bad thing because it allows parents to track you, so if you start to slip, they can catch you."

"At my old school, it was part of my daily routine to see if my teachers had updated my grades. It made things easier because I didn't have to continually ask my teachers what I was getting."
when we get closer, walk by the front and tell me what the building reminds you of. Here's a hint, it's in Paris."

As Holocaust elective Teacher Susan Shapiro briefed us on what we were about to see, 17 classmates and I crossed 14th Street and independence to the white brick United States Holocaust Memorial Museum November 19. Also chaperoning the November 18-21 trip was Language Teacher Steven Faver. The museum, built in 1980, serves as a memorial to Holocaust victims.

"Touring the front of the building, the U-Highers whispered to each other, guessing what the dome building looked like.

"No one knows? It's the Musée d'Orsay. The railroad station in Paris," Mrs. Shapiro told us. "The architect was James Inigo Proust."

As we walked slowly around the side of the building, the brick changed from white to red. Mrs. Shapiro pointed out long metal beams that make the building structure and the light fixtures coming out of the wall.

The light fixtures gave the illusions of a showerhead, eerily reminiscent of those used for murder during the Holocaust. I shuddered with Senior Tyne Alexander. "It's cold," she shuddered.

We sat on a short ledge looking at a black sculpture that was separated into two parts, one about 30 feet in front of the other. Senior Delaney Nichols commented on the front sculpture, "It looks like an upside down house, like everything was lost and a person's world is completely messed up."

One end stickig up, the second piece comprised of deformed metal rectangular blocks. "It represents regeneration. Pulling yourself out of the ashes," Mrs. Shapiro said.

Slowly filing back to the front of the building, Mrs. Shapiro said, "Notice there are no windows in the Hall of Remembrance."

She pointed to a hall in the museum where people light candles in remembrance.

"The only windows that you can see cannot be seen through because they are fogged up. Everything, even the statue being separated, is put here on purpose; everything is supposed to convey a feeling."

"Comedian Senior Noah Breslau, "It's uncomfortable."

Mrs. Shapiro replied, "That's the point. It is meant to disorient you, to throw you off balance."

Strolling inside past the metal detectors, we walked briskly to the cost check. Behind me Senior Hannah Rothfield said, "I am going to keep my coat, it's cold here."

Inside the museum, the silence filled me with anxiety. Everyone slowly congregated around Mrs. Shapiro near a large gray metal and brick doorway leading to the atrium of the museum.

Mrs. Shapiro pointed out a huge staircase centered in the giant room, roped off for a Dorf fir discussion the next day. Pointing to the stairs, Mrs. Shapiro commented that they led to freedom but there was a large bolted door at the top that represented it was unattainable.

A single light shaped like a showerhead lit the corner where the class stood. Mrs. Shapiro explained as we walked back to the main floor, "You will get into an elevator that will take you up to the fourth floor. You will also be handed an I.D. card of a person from the Holocaust.

"Take the card and go through the museum. You can stay there as long as you like. We will meet at the entrance at 5:30 when the museum closes."

I stepped in the elevator with a few classmates; it was dimly lit and made from huge chunks of unidentifiable metal with marks on it. I read the I.D. card, that of a female gypsy who lived through the Holocaust. The elevator stopped and the doors opened—revealing everything.

Editor's Note: Others on the trip included: Tyna Alexander, Noah Breslau, Alicia Brudney, Alexandra Cullen, Max Cuneo-Grant, Sarah Fischel, Zena Hardt, Katharine Hayes, Emma Lozen, Katherine Leonerdseck, Katherine McFadden, Delaney Nichols, Bruce Natale, Claire Redfield, Hannah Rothfield, Jackie Shapero.

Jacqueline hopes that by exposing teenagers to new authors such as John Green, who recently moved away from Chicago and writes '95

"You will get me a few suggestions. I think Jacqui is really cool, the way she can balance Model UN and studies and still have a passion for recreational reading.

Jacqueline believes that with the help of the Teen Advisory Council, the library's collection has improved.

"The collection seemed to have a lot of classics, like 'Pride and Prejudice' and 'Jane Eyre,' but it didn't have any contemporaries or books by young adult authors like John Green," Jacqueline explained.

Senior Jacqueline was review books with a young adult focus and chooses books for the Chicago Public Library teen collection and teen discussion groups.

Jacqueline hopes that by exposing teenagers to new authors such as John Green, who recently moved away from Chicago, the library can serve the needs of teens so they can be more thoughtful.

"It is hard to balance the needs of the different parts of the city," Jacqueline said. "The main focus of our program is to promote teen literacy through author visits and teen discussion groups."

"Discussing books with authors changes your perspective. With young adult writers especially, you can identify with their ideas."

Hush & Hope

Holocaust Museum trip evokes deep emotions

By Holly Reid

Associate editor

The trip was life changing. I learned more than I ever could just sitting in a classroom reading...

-Holly Reid, senior

On library board, senior selects books, meets authors

By Graham Salingar

Midway reporter

It's a Wednesday in November and Senior Jacqueline Chaudhry walks through rows of brown shelves stacked top to bottom with books.

She makes her way to her monthly Teen Advisory Council meeting where she meets with eight other high school students from the city to select books that should be added to the Chicago Public Libraries' collection of young adult literature.

Members of the Council discuss books with their authors and work with authors to organize book discussions.

Funded with a grant from the McCormick Tribune Foundation, the Council meets at the Harold Washington Library, 400 South State Street, which was designed by Thomas Beeby, parent of U-High graduates Markus Beeby, which was designed by Thomas Beeby, and Johannes Beeby '98. The books selected come from a list developed by the Literacy Committee of the Chicago Public Library, 13 librarians.

Members of the Council were nominated by librarians from public and private schools. Candidates then filled out an application and interviewed with librarians.

Asked in March 2005 to recommend a Lab Schools student for the council, U-High Librarian Shirley Volka decided on Jacqueline.

"I knew she was a big reader," Ms. Volka said. "She came here as a freshman and asked for suggestions on what to read. She even
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peaking through the microphone of his bulky headset while hovering over his corner computer station in the new World Language Lab, U-High 207, Technical Assistant George Pezzuti Dyer explained to students occupying three rows of shining white iMacs how to use the software to record themselves.

With the previous Foreign Language Lab more than two decades old, the Parents' Association raised more than a quarter of a million dollars through its “Connections” benefit last year for a new lab.

The lab incorporates several methods for teaching four World Languages. Resources range from 28 Digital Language Lab-based iMacs to six conference stations with large presentation screens for groups. Construction was completed last year.

Six-hundred-thirty-six miles away, Mr. Dyer was searching for Chicago job openings from Charlotte, North Carolina.

“I saw there was a job opening and I put in an application. I was hired before the class started, and until after we moved,” he said. “I ended up going in for an interview later and then I was wondered at my working well before the construction was completed.”

This job really interested me because I have a background in language and technology. I worked as a computer programmer and taught Spanish. I speak Spanish fluently and some French. But I don’t speak French perfectly. My wife speaks it.

Previously a Spanish teacher at the McCallie School, a Tennessee boys’ academy, Mr. Dyer found a different feeling here.

“It’s like comparing apples and oranges,” he said. “I would say that the mood here is a lot more relaxed. I haven’t gotten to know too many of the students here but from what I’ve seen it’s more casual. There was a dress code at McCallie.”

“I used technology there a lot but there was no lab dedicated to just language.”

“There was no ability for students to record their responses on a computer. I was very interested in this job because it combined both language and technology.”

Once hired, Mr. Dyer chose DiLL, or Digital Language Lab, as the program the World Language Lab would use once construction was complete.

“What makes this lab uniquely different is the DiLL software because it extends what experience using evaluations and Science Teacher Sharon Houstinger presented further endorsements for the idea.

“The student teacher evaluations have proven to be very valuable to teachers at other places, including the University of Chicago.”

Mr. Magill told the Midway. “A few teachers at our school have even done this on their own. If students give serious, thoughtful responses, teachers can really benefit. Who could provide better feedback to a teacher than a student?”

We usually get listing assignments for the day,” Tara said. “I think DiLL’s pretty cool and I guess it’s good tool for learning language because you can actually record yourself and do other things with it.

“This lab is a lot different from the one we used to use because of the program and the technology. We used to only be able to listen to things, but now we can do a lot more.”

Teachers to try student evaluations

By Stephanie Stern

“Students could do work even when absent from class and class and it really drew people in and started the conversation for the next class,” Mrs. Walter explained.

“I liked the idea that the students could do work even when absent from class and catch up on things when they had missed them, particularly students.”

“But it was helpful for me because I was absent one day. I still was able to go and read what the students were thinking and able to jump right into discussion the next day. I got the idea during the first week of school, Planning Week. I had heard that the school would have in-house blogging capabilities and I was interested in that as a possibility for a teaching tool.”

“Decided to do it for ‘Beloved,’ because that was the most challenging text and I would be spending the most time on it. I don’t know if I will continue to do it next year. I will see

For ‘Beloved,’ teacher turns class to blogs

By Linda Huber

Midway reporter

Surely that is how students of English Teacher Carolyn Walter said they felt when they were informed they would be writing blogs for one of her classes studying Toni Morrison’s “Beloved”.

This quarter, “Beloved” was studied in Mrs. Walter’s “If Memory Serves,” English elective, featured in the October 13 issue of the Midway. Mrs. Walter incorporated blogs, or what would be called diaries in the late ’90s, as a part of daily homework.

She divided the book into 10 to 15-page chapters, and had two-page responses. Mrs. Walter posted the responses on two class blogs for other students to comment on as their nightly assignment.

Amateur writers began using blogs in the late ’90s to post their work and now everyone from high school students to professional journalists use blogs, as numerous newspapers and magazines have reported.

“I feel like the main reason I chose to do this project was because it provided a venue for continuing discussion outside the classroom and it really drew people in and started the conversation for the next class,” Mrs. Walter explained.

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New Language Lab leader forges future

...using technology for best learning

By Gretchen Eng

Midway reporter

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—Scott Craig, junior

World Language Lab Technical Assistant George Pezzuti Dyer with Tara Summers and Peter Heppeleworth.

and fluency and drastically increases the comprehension time—really. I look at the language. It all has to do with the idea of immediate feedback. We can record and also store what students say I can check what they say anywhere. I could go to Spain and do it. I think it will ultimately make things a lot easier.”

Many U-Highers who have used the lab think it is helpful to the Lab School’s language program, including Senior Tara Summers.

“We usually get listing assignments for the day,” Tara said. “I think DILL’s pretty cool and I guess it’s a good tool for learning language because you can actually record yourself and do other things with it.

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Teachers to try student evaluations

By Stephanie Stern

Political editor

U-Highers may find their teachers inviting them to evaluate instruction methods, curriculum material and courses soon.

Lab Schools Director David Magill brought up the idea of evaluations last year. During the faculty’s meeting November 7, English Teacher Darlene McCampbell described her experiences using evaluations and Science Teacher Sharon Houstinger presented further endorsements for the idea.

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Brain Power

U-High Midway • Tuesday, December 12, 2006

“I am excited to be able to teach freshmen because the newcomers show a good level of commitment and a lot of talent.”
-Rebecca Resnick, Science Team president

Academic teams stockpile resources

Science squads aim to repeat top placings
By Mariissa Miles-Coccaro

Facing four competitions in a three-month period, Science Team's 14-member Olympiad squad is building machines and studying old tests for their first try at the Loyola University Olympiad Invitational, February 3.

The 13-member squad Worldwide Youth Science and Engineering squad is preparing with weekly practice for Regionals, February 8 at Kanakee Community Rentals, and Sectionals last year.

The team also placed 1st at WYSE Sectionals, State and at Science Olympiad Regional last year and placed 6th in the Olympiad State competition.

With 19 returning and eight new members, the U-Highers aim to reclaim 1st place at both Science Olympiad Regionals, March 3 at Benedictine University in Lisle and WYSE Sectionals, March 15 at U-High and State competition, April 18 at the University of Illinois in Chicago-Urbana.

Science Olympiad squad also plans to attend the Prospect Invitational, February 17 at Prospect High School and State, April 21 at University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana.

"The team has been preparing since two weeks before school started," said Senior Andrew Sugaya, co-captain of the Olympiad team with Sophomore Rebecca Resnick. "We are more prepared that most years and that should pay off. We also have new members that show promise and are motivated.

They especially like building robots, though I wish they had interest in more areas of science.

WYSIE members led by Presidents Katherine Zhou and David Xu, juniors, individually take tests on Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, English and Computer Science. Both squads are helped by Sharon Hoogsting, Science Department chairperson, when studying for tests and building machines.

Eager Math Team revs up to resume competitions
By Mariissa Miles-Coccaro

Using a two-month break, Math Team has been preparing for the North Suburban Math League Conference, February 1 at Walter Payton and Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regionals, March 24, place to be announced.

Last year's team placed 11th in the NSML and scored 1st place in ICTM Regionals and 2nd in State.

Placing 16th of 14 schools with 481 points, this year's team has competed in two NSML meets, September 27 at Constant High in Hoffman Estates and October 26 at Proviso West in Hillside. Willowbrook High School's meet in Villa Park followed last Thursday, after Midway deadline.

Math Teacher Jean Cartright sponsors the 30-member team, evenly split between 15 returners and 15 new members.

"Our biggest strength is that we cover the math topics in depth for competitions during regular math class, while other schools have to teach their students new things for just the team," said Mr. Cartright. "Our weaknesses is scheduling problems with other class events. The freshmen were not able to attend the third NSML meet, which would have Band and Choir concerts which took away from our cumulative points.

Returning for a fourth year, Senior Katherine Lauderdale became the Oral representative, solving problems and representing Midway.

"The first meet was nerve racking," Katherine said. "But between the first and second meet I improved a lot. The first meet all my competitors were busy studying but during the second meet we all had a conversation and it was very relaxed.

Science squads aim to repeat top placings
By Mariissa Miles-Coccaro

Academic teams stockpile resources

Science squads aim to repeat top placings
By Mariissa Miles-Coccaro

Eager Math Team revs up to resume competitions
By Mariissa Miles-Coccaro

It's the day of your friend's Holiday party.
You've found the perfect outfit with perfect jewelry and perfect shoes, BUT your hair, !

Haircuts with Shampoo and Styling Ages 13 to 18 $21 for Girls $18 for Boys

Debaters ply busy agenda
By Leyla Tartagl

Headline into their eighth of 11 meets, Debate Team's 14 members are preparing for the LaSalle Tech Invitational, January 19-20. About five other teams are expected, according to Senior David Orlikoff, Debate Team president.

At the citywide Kelly High Invitational December 1-2, David placed 1st in varsity competition.

This team is advised by Math Teacher Anna Blimenti.

The club was founded last year by Myles Alexander and Eric Hsu, 2006 graduates. To compensate for the loss of the graduates, the team recruited returning varsity members.

"Well, even though there's a lot of age difference this year, that doesn't matter because age doesn't really make a difference in debate," David said.

"What matters is how much experience the members have had, and all the novices obviously had the same amount of time as each other, and so has varsity."
Renaissance man enjoys multiple talents, interests

He's the kind that comes to his Middle School Orchestra concert in a full tuxedo. He's the one doing grueling physical exercises in the school's weight room, working for that extra edge that allowed him to break U-High's triple jump record by a foot. He's the charming, academic wonder boy seldom seen without his shiny black loafers, khakis and signature Hawaiian shirt. He's Andrew Sugaya.

Moving to Chicago from Florida in 3rd grade, the senior has developed a variety of talents. He excels in track, is an accomplished violinist and devotes much of his time to scientific research. And on top of all that, he's managed to become a skilled magician.

"My father moved back to Florida four years ago to take a new job," Andrew said. "My mother stays here in Hyde Park with me during the year to take care of me so I can go to the Lab Schools, but we visit my dad regularly during break and birthdays. After I go to college, we plan on selling our place here so my mother can move back to Florida."

During those visits, Andrew conducts research at Central Florida University in a lab run by his father, Dr. Kiminobu Sugaya. There he runs tests and experiments to find solutions to health and environmental problems.

"It started when I was bored while visiting my father's lab when I was 8 years old," Andrew said. "Now I'm working on multiple projects. Working with embryonic stem cells is unethical so I used adult human cells in my research. Embryonic stem cells can change into anything, so after we implement certain changes to adult human cells, we can use them in the same way.

"Using a special treatment, we then change bone marrow cells into neurons by implanting dopaminergic neurons in the brains of Parkinson's rats. We studied them in the same way."

A modern day Edison, Andrew has strived to invent innovative natural light sources and develop super healing capabilities.

"I'm doing a project putting fiery genes into plants called bioluminescence. The final goal is to have plants that will shine bright enough to replace lights. Another project, I can't really release anything, but we're working on a project to enable people to regenerate body parts, like Wolverine from X-Men. If someone's finger gets cut off, the final goal is to allow a person to grow that finger back within an hour or so.

"Ultimately I want to make some money as a researcher. I would like to impact the world and I know that's what everyone says, but if I could find the cure to Parkinson's disease that would really be amazing. Stem cells are one of the hottest topics in research right now and Harvard has a great new stem cell program, so with my background I think I would really fit in well there."

Nine years ago, Andrew began playing the violin for school. Unlike many U-Highers who stop playing when they satisfy a requirement, Andrew stuck with it.

"I've been playing since I was 10, only because we had to pick an instrument in 3rd grade. I started taking lessons after two years and I've been playing in the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra for four years. I like playing concertos and romantic music."

"My violin is a romantic French violin made in 1720 which fits the music well. One of the coolest experiences I've had was my one week tour of central Europe. We toured through Prague, Vienna and Budapest."

"The violin is a nice way to express emotions but the best part by far, is that you get to wear a tuxedo."

With his natural ability to communicate with small groups of people, Andrew quickly mastered skills of illusion, says Senior Marcell Babai.

"I started teaching magic to Andrew freshman year and within a year he learned what it took me two years to figure out," said Marcell.

"Just like he plays the violin, Andrew knows how to perform. He loves impressing good-looking blonde girls."

-Marcell Babai, senior
Fiction class. A cold, barren stage. Lights. Powerful lights. A U-Higher stands before an audience and begins a comedic, one-man show of laughter within the cavernous walls of "the Second City Junior, Gretchen. Eng. Eva Jaeger and Tom Brewer have all undergone the same daily routine of Summer Boot Camp.

"For a while I wanted to pursue acting and therefore pursued an acting camp," Eva said. "It was tough to find a particular place that suited my brand of comedy, but I finally found it in Second City. "Although I no longer attend, I learned a lot about the art of comedy. I know this will serve me well later on in life."

Particular words can manage to stun and amaze an audience, Tom explained. "A friend knew I was interested in comedy and told me about Second City." Tom said. "It was a real edifying and enlightening experience. This is a place where everyone can feel comfortable. I learned improv like a pro. Gretchen leads a touring company and I'm part of it."

Improvisation provides the proper solution to describe the connection between a performer and spectator. Gretchen believes. "Improv is the ability to establish a relationship quickly with the other people on the stage and to present a character to the audience. It is part of improv."

"The audience plays a very important part in the scene because their response tells you the direction you want to go. Improvisation is entirely about playing to the top of your intelligence."

By Kyle Brunke Midway reporter

Learning adventures

Second City First step to stardom

U-Highers get taste of legend troupe in memorable 'boot camp' experience

By Kyle Brunke Midway reporter

Fresh incentives push history programs into future

Classroom makeover encourages discussion

By Nathan Bishop Midway reporter

Teacher works to improve standards for all schools

By Namratu Patel Editor-in-Chief

Contacting Illinois department of education, History Teacher Chairperson Diane Puklin, Illinois coordinator for the National Council for History Education, plans to start a campaign to improve the standards on teaching history education.

Mr. Puklin has served on the National Council for History Education since the organization formed in 1992. Through this nonprofit organization, state representatives discuss curriculums with school policy makers and help connect schools with history-focused conferences.

After Illinois' Board of Education members lowered the passing score required to become a history teacher on the Illinois state certification exam to 55 percent from 65 percent, Ms. Puklin saw the need to push for a change in state minimum score requirements.

"They are robbing students of important lessons of citizenship," Ms. Puklin said. "It is a terse disagree with this new implement of history. Today's generation focuses on math and science and the No Child Left Behind Act focuses on reading and math. Meanwhile, history is suffering all around the state."

"I plan on contacting Illinois' state representatives and department of education when I get the free time."

After observing history teaching around the state as part of her NCHE duties, Ms. Puklin said the realized few teachers had history knowledge past the high school level. To improve this problem, she plans to coordinate statewide educational conferences at libraries around the state for teachers.

"There are teachers in history classrooms who have had little coursework in history college," she explained. "The State's qualifying grade to teach history essentially puts people who have earned an F into history classrooms. I am hoping to plan professional development conferences, where these less qualified teachers can pick up their knowledge from experts in the field and discussions."

Already creating a connection between her students and the University of Chicago's graduate students, Ms. Puklin said she established a collaboration with the Center of Middle Eastern Studies because standard textbooks do not provide sufficient coverage of the history of the rise of Islam. The collaboration was also encouraged by the Center itself, as they received a grant to do outreach.

"The graduate students work with the information in the Center. Our collaboration provides the opportunities for our students to learn from the experts," she said. "It's great to see the grad students care about their little charges, giving them writing tips over the Internet."

Photo by Yenker Koe

John Behati, Chris Fadley, Dan Aykroyd, John Lithgow and many other Second City performers went on to become world-renowned comedians. "Second City was my college," Dan Aykroyd once said. "Saturday Night Live was my university." New York beckons. Come aboard.

"Mr. J's room is like one big vivid collage of the most fascinating moments in European history."

-Mona Dasgupta, junior

Second City program participants Gretchen Eng, Tom Brewer, and Eva Jaeger, joined by Nathaniel Worcester.

Photo by Laura Xi, Sheroes Around, Mita Davesport

A.P. ECONOMICS SPEAKERS

Ms. Jeon Tijer

Senior Vice President, Aetna Capital Management

Mr. Allan Sanderson

Sports Management University of Chicago

Mrs. Susan Gersch

Director of Human Rights Program, University of Chicago

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Loud hip-hop music rattling the tall, frosted windows of a townhouse breaks the silence of a quiet residential neighborhood in Lincoln Park. Kicking off his four-day weekend as a junior girl's costume party without her parents home, 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 1, a junior boy, without costume, walks up the steps and turns the handle of an unlocked front door into a crowded room filled with the stench of marijuana and more than 50 other U-Highers.

Receiving a beer can from the hostess, a girl dressed in a white, tight-fit nurse's costume, the junior boy looks around and sees some friends taking shots of vodka and stumbling around.

With a still closed beer can in one hand and his car keys in the other, the junior boy now wonders, before he takes his first sip, if he should be a designated driver for the night although he has managed to drink and drive before. He releases the bottle cap and drinks the beer.

Fatal figures

U-Highers likely know the consequences of driving under the influence but they may not know that teenage drunk driving is the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year-olds, claiming 5,000 to 6,000 lives each year, according to the website onlinedrankvortex.com.

Talking about a different occasion where he decided to drive drunk, the junior boy expresses no regret.

"One time, after a party, I was so drunk I accidentally drove myself all the way to Wisconsin," he said. "I was paying tolls and I had no idea where I was. When I realized that I was in Wisconsin I called my mom. She didn't ask how I got there but she directed me home. I don't think my mom knows I drive drunk but I just promise her I drive high. I don't think she cares. I don't think she's ever thought about it."

"I always have my own car and no one ever will drive for me. I know when I should and shouldn't drive. I always have limits and always tell people that I'm drunk when I drive them. I drive high about three times a week. People always try to hold me down and not let me drive. I've only been in a car once where the driver was drunk and I'll never do it again because we almost got into an accident. I trust myself driving, but not other people."

A senior girl said she drives a friend's car for him on Thursdays during double lunch, Fridays, Saturdays and some Sundays so that he won't drive under the influence.

"My friend will be sitting in the passenger seat of his car waiting for me by the time I get downstairs to the car," she said. "I drive his car because I won't let him drive it himself. When there's a specific time my friend has to be home he will come to my house before to recuperate. I'll make sure he does a test drive around the block before he leaves to make sure he's okay to drive."

"I like being in the responsible position. One time two of my friends were getting drunk in the back while I was driving. They got the beer and tequila from a friend that had a fake I.D. They apologized, but it wasn't a big deal for me."

Driving under the influence of marijuana doesn't pose a serious safety hazard, according to the senior girl. "I've driven high. It's not much different from driving normally," she explained. "It isn't really a big deal. I feel more in control, although it only happens once in a while when there's nothing else to do. We'll jump in the car and go to a hookah bar after."

Some U-Highers know personally a few teens affected by driving under the influence. When North Suburban Deerfield High School '06 graduate Daniel Craig drive intoxicated after the school's October 13 Homecoming, he lost control of his car killing himself and Senior Ross Trace.

Far-ranging tragedy

According to a fellow Classmate and close friend to both Daniel and Ross, Deerfield Junior Josh Kriegle, the crash deeply affected daily life at Deerfield.

"When I heard about Ross and Danny I was in shock," Josh said. "Ross and I were track teammates and good friends. Danny had been in my math class. I used to see them all the time. When it happened, I was so confused. They were so likeable and outgoing. It's a shame that fun becoming a bad decision had to come to this."

"The Monday after the crash, school was completely silent with the exception of those who broke into tears in class and in the hallways."

"You could feel the sadness in every classroom. Teachers would scold students from class when needed. It brought everyone together in such a sad time. People at Deerfield still do drive under the influence. They are slowly learning to be more cautious, but not quickly enough."

Unrealized impact

Without a drug counselor at U-High presently, Mrs. Courtney Francis, principal of Learn Charter School Who served as U-High counsel two years ago, said she believes teenagers continue to drive under the influence because they misunderstand the full impact of intoxicated driving.

"I think kids underestimate the power of a vehicle," Mrs. Francis said. "It's not the kid's desire to be irresponsible, they just have poor judgment. Kids think they can get away with it because the impact isn't as direct right away. I think kids misunderstand that marijuana isn't that harmful."

"They think with drugs they have more control, particularly in some societies where drugs are very accepted. Part of the problem is that parents think that when their kids do academically well, the rest of their lives are fine without thinking about the other pieces of their kids' lives. What kids see on T.V makes them think it will never happen to them. Young people like to think they are invincible."

Designated driver

As a designated driver, Junior David McAlpine said he enjoys being the sober, responsible one of his friends and would prefer to drive anyone home than allow them to drive with someone he believed to be intoxicated.

"Without any questions asked, at parties and in any social situation, I will take the role of looking out for everyone," David said. "I would want someone to do the same for me."

"When I hear one of my friends has driven drunk or drove with someone drunk it really scares me. I understand that it has to happen in extreme circumstances when there isn't an alternative and the kid doesn't want to call the parents, but I think that U-Highers would make smarter decisions than that."

Aware of David's role as a designated driver, Mrs. Kathy McAlpine, David's mother, said that although she dislikes David being around people drinking, she has confidence that he won't drive under the influence.

"I always have my own car and no one ever wants to let them drink and drive."

"I don't think anyone should ever drink and drive," Mrs. McAlpine said. "I never drank in high school. I think parents should explain themselves very carefully around their kids because that's who their kids learn from."

"I have a strict parental rule that I don't condone drinking in front of my kids. I think kids drinking is bad generally because if they get in trouble it could ruin their lives and they don't even know it. They don't think anything bad could happen, but why risk it? There are so many other things you could do."

"It's easy to go along with things but it isn't always easy for kids to make the right decisions. When something is popular it doesn't always mean it's right and the things that are right aren't always popular."

"There's a code of ethics that's hard for teens. It's a little easier for adults although even for adults it's sometimes hard because everyone wants to be liked. I think David has his own mind and I think it's good, but I like rules, they make me feel safe."

(Editors note: Sources were permitted to remain anonymous if they requested.)
A Loggerhead Shrike (photos from top left) photographed in Green Cay, Florida; the award-winning photo of a Double Crested Cormorant in the Florida Everglades; a Roseat Spoonbill on Merritt Island, Florida; a Brown Pelican shot in LatLng Cut, Florida.

With his camera, birder captures awards, too

By Jeffrey Bishko-Aykul
Associate editor

Passionately recounting an October trip to London for the BBC–Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year Awards ceremony, Senior Evan Graff thoughtfully describes the grand settings and experienced photographers which characterized the event.

“I went to London for the awards ceremony, and that was from October 17 to 19 this year, because that’s when they officially announce the images,” Evan explained. “Once I got there the first night, we attended a big banquet at the Natural History Museum in London. The ceremony is probably the greatest concentration of skilled nature photographers every year and it was fantastic to meet people like that.”

Evan won his award as a highly recommended photographer among 18,800 entries from 60 countries for a photo of a Double Crested Cormorant he shot in the Everglades. The previous year Evan received a scholarship to attend the February 2006 North American Nature Photography Association summit, a weeklong conference featuring several professional wildlife photographers and nine other high school amateurs.

Evan developed an interest in photography amidst family settings. “My family has always had a camera that we bring along on vacations,” Evan said. “I first got interested on our trip to Costa Rica. Once we got home, I just went around the city just trying to find things to photograph and it grew from there.”

Back in Chicago, Evan’s father’s interest in bird watching helped form a fascination with photographing them. “Almost three years ago, I went with my dad bird watching at this place near our North Side house called North Pond. I just decided I’d go along, as I had nothing better to do. At that time we had a decent little camera that didn’t do much, but I took pictures of the birds I saw. It was incredibly difficult and all my pictures were awful. Still, it was fun and challenging and I wanted to see if I could try and get good pictures.”

Evan uses the city’s parks and lake location to photograph an abundant amount of wildlife. “It’s surprising to most people how much wildlife can be seen in the city, especially in terms of birds,” Evan explained. “Lake Michigan is a natural flyway for birds. When they see the city it looks like a terrible place to rest. But then they see parks and little green areas, so these parks along the lakefront get huge concentrations of migrating birds.”

“You get very common stuff, but also very rare things. There’s this park I go to a lot called Montrose Point. Over 300 species have been sighted throughout the park’s history.”

These birds may be easily found in Chicago, but according to Evan, photographing them requires care. “It works best to move really, really slowly,” Evan explained. “Think about how you want to approach them and then approach them with a third of that speed. The style depends on the bird. You can get really close to shore birds if you crawl up on your stomach, but if you walk up they will fly away instantly.”

This Sandpiper on Montrose Beach on the North Side proved difficult for Evan to photograph. “This was actually pretty challenging to take, because shorebirds in general are difficult to approach,” Evan said. “But Evan felt his labors were well worth the effort. “One of the things that I think is really successful about this image is that the bird is entirely sharp while the background and foreground are completely cut out. This happened because the objects in the foreground and background were both distant from the actual bird.”

Evan’s photographs can be found in full color on his website, www.philzworld.com/evanzworld.
**By Amanda Pappas**

City Life editor

Speckled bold green and red accented with white, sophisticated duplexes featuring rusted iron windowed balconies and unique shops beneath characterize Little Italy, one of the Near South Side's many burgeoning neighborhoods. Enjoying the sunny yet crisp Friday afternoon, Junior Liz Messina and Sophomore Joe Boisvert walk and enjoy the alluring smell of warm pizza and pasta, later joined by Senior Amanda Faraone.

Spanning 12 blocks across Taylor Street bounded by Roosevelt Road on the north, 18th Street on the south, Ashland Avenue on the west and Racine Avenue on the east, Little Italy is known for its great restaurants and abundant pizzerias. Now a quarter of its original size because of the controversial expansion of the University of Illinois at Chicago, Little Italy houses many family-owned landmark restaurants such as Rosebud's, Pompeii, Francesca's and Tuscany. Interested in Italian culture, Liz said the food was right on target.

"After driving around for about 20 minutes looking for parking, we finally parked in front of one of the most famous lemonade stands called 'Mario's Lemonade Stand,' which was closed for winter," Liz said. "As I stepped feet out of the car, I instantly felt like I was back in Italy. I'm Italian and value my roots. Seeing Little Italy for the first time just really made me feel at home in a sense."

On my visit there, we checked out several restaurants and shops. Many of the storeowners spoke Italian, but I don't necessarily think they were born in Italy. The price ranges varied with each restaurant making it possible for all sorts of people with different socioeconomic classes to find an appropriate restaurant for them. "

Although already packed with pizzerias, Little Italy always seems to have room for one more. Joe Maggiollini, a short man with bright eyes and a kind smile opened Franco's Pizza, 1132 West Taylor Street, last March. Speaking enthusiastically with a clear Italian accent and sporty in casual jeans, a black polo and a black adidas cap, Mr. Maggiollini said he loves working in the small community. "I'm originally from Italy and moved to America 20 years ago," Mr. Maggiollini said. "Owning a restaurant is hard work but I love the industry and especially love the people who come. I previously owned a pizzeria near Midway Airport, but decided to change locations because the business near UIC is more profitable. There are about 10 pizzerias in Little Italy but they are all fairly spread out, so there is not much competition. Even since I moved to Chicago, I've lived in downtown but never in Little Italy. Even though I have never lived there, I have spent lots of time there and have noticed a change over time. When I first arrived, I noticed that many Italians who had just moved to Chicago from Italy lived there, but now most of the people who live there are Italians who were born in America."

Several blocks east of Little Italy lies University Village, a 1990's housing development. The area covers the old Maxwell Street neighborhood, which just five years ago consisted of boarded-up buildings. Now Maxwell Street has many bustling people.

Just 10 minutes east of Little Italy in University Village, Caribou Coffee on the corner of Maxwell Street and Halsted Street, one of the city's longest and best-known streets creates a cozy atmosphere. Liz and Joe drink their hot chocolates before walking into the brisk air towards their next destination. They notice the brand new UIC dorms and elegant single family homes, ranging in color from natural brick to shades of yellow and green. Liz and Joe pass by various pubs and restaurants before finally reaching the very popular and visible D&D Ryan Expressway, Maxwell Street Polish on Union and Maxwell.

Though Dearborn Park is mostly residential, nearby Printer's Row beckons with its variety of shops and restaurants. It is also known for its stylish brick townhouses and occasional apartment building, all accessible by the Red, Orange and Green line of the L. The area is home to many U-Highers, including Freshman Oliver Elfenbaum, who said he feels like he lives in his own separate community. "My parents moved to Dearborn Park II in 1988," Oliver said. "It's kind of a like a suburban town within the city, there is so much to offer and it is a good way to meet other kids. Separating complexes are huge parks, which are always occupied by people playing sports or children playing in the playgrounds. Dearborn Park is a comfortable place to live in with many kids and adults ranging in all ages."

Finally settling on a pizzeria Franco's Pizza, photos from top, Liz Messina and Joe Boisvert munch on warm pizza while enjoying each other's company.

Deciding where to enjoy their lunch, Amanda Faraone and Liz stopped in multiple restaurants on their visit to Little Italy.

**Blossoming areas bring revitalized atmosphere**

Sharing a bag of crispy Maxwell Street Polish fries to top off the day, Liz and Joe add salt and ketchup to their delicious snack.

*Photos by Emma Lantos, Midway photo editor*
not hungry and I haven’t eaten since yesterday.” The counselor agreed.

For the next three days, the senior girl sits with the same friend. When asked why she is not eating, replies the same way every time: “I’m just not hungry.”

Two years before, her psychiatrist had diagnosed the senior girl with bulimia nervosa, an eating disorder consisting of binging and purging, something she says she never thought she’d have.

“When I binged, I was in my own world,” the girl said in a interview. It was like an escape from everything wrong in my life. It was a source of numbness. There was absolutely no emotion involved. All of my problems at home with family and anxiety with people at school just disappeared. I stopped thinking about whatever I had with my mom that morning before I left for school, or whatever my boyfriend said to me the night before, I just became unaware of everyone and everything.

“I thought that in order to have an eating disorder, you had to throw up every day, a couple times a day. I didn’t realize that doing it every so often was a big deal, nor did I think it was such a serious eating problem. I thought I was a girl who had to take a couple extra steps to stay as thin as I wanted.”

The media glamorizes eating disorders instead of addressing them as a serious health issue, the girl believes.

“The media has seemed to turn the whole idea of eating disorders into this glamorous lifestyle, when it’s not at all,” she explained. “They’ve been portraying girls as if you tap a word on their head and they’re magically thin and beautiful. They don’t show the story, ugly side or anything like that. Eating disorders are still and destructive; they hurt everyone and everything you have. People with this affliction are helpless and the fact that the media exploits that is disgusting.”

Anorexia nervosa, a disorder where one eats minimal amounts of food, is the most common eating disorder, afflicting 65 percent of women with eating disorders ages 14 to 23 according to a 2005 Department of Health and Human Services study. A less common and more severe eating disorder, bulimia nervosa affects 10 percent of young women, and it’s impossible to reach out to them because they won’t ask anyone, to make it that much harder to reach out to them.

Many fashion magazine editors have noted a recent extreme decrease in the body mass index of some models. Dr. Steinhauser believes this development has contributed to increased media attention on thinner celebrities, but this phenomenon was not the first evidence of the media exploiting models for the image. Most of the people who have these disorders often feel troubled and ashamed and frequently don’t want anyone to know, which makes it that much harder to reach out to them.

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Plastic surgery attracts younger enthusiasts in ever-earlier quest for physical perfection

When U-Highers sit down to think about what new year goals they'll ask Santa for this year, do not be surprised if some brand new curves for around $4,000 tops a wish list too.

So-called recent more minors are undergoing plastic surgery, with 175,000 procedures performed on the age group last year according to the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

Liposuction, a procedure where fat cells are removed using a suction tube, tops one junior boy's wish list this holiday season.

“I feel like I'm constantly being looked down upon all the time because of the way I look,” the junior said. “I feel really out of place in social events and even in small groups of people because I keep comparing myself to everyone else. A lot of people tell me I'm not fat or whatever, but honestly I feel like I'm 300 pounds in certain situations and I don't want to feel that way anymore.”

“If I can see for myself that I'm thin, or I can see by comparison that I'm normal or less than normal, I think I'll be a lot happier. Even though I'd love to be in bed afterwards for a week, I don't care. Once I feel good about myself, I don't think I'll keep comparing myself to everyone else.”

One senior girl, who calls herself self-conscious, said she also wants Liposuction but feels torn about plastic surgery.

“I have a very hypocritical view on cosmetic surgery. Generally speaking I think it's sick and reflects very poorly on our society,” she said. “I don't want to condemn those who do it, I think it's wrong but I think it's a choice. Although I think that plastic surgery in general is immoral and naive, I really want to have my boobs done.”

“I'm really conflicted. I feel in me because for anyone else I'd say 'that's ridiculous, they're fine.' I have a very unique opinion of what I consider beautiful. I don't like the fact that everyone tries to be this perfect picture of the ideal woman or man. But for me, I hate my chest so much that I'd be willing to pay pretty much any great everything I stand for in order to change it.”

—By Cydney Weiner

Associate editor

PATTY KOVACS
LOUIS PILEGGI

“THERE IS no magic wand that is going to take eating disorders away. It's a symptom of things going on in the Lab Schools or other school. It is so multifactorial that there isn't even one thing a school can do. The school can support students but eating disorders are family related.”

“TEACHERS OR COUNSELORS need to find the long term effects of eating disorders. I don't think there's enough stock value. We hear about things but never see them or know how bad they are. The media constantly talks about it but not what can harm you in the long run.”

“COUNSELORS CAN be really easy to talk to but a lot of kids are afraid to talk to them. It's not easy to access those parents. In some cases, the kid's issue might be something they don't want to talk about with their parents but with another adult who could provide insight.”

By Cydney Weiner
As the Midway sees it

Safety takes getting used to

U-High has changed. Since returning from Thanksgiving break, students may or may not have noticed the new safety procedures involving safety at the Lab Schools. For many students, however, the changes are impossible to miss.

Introducing new rules at a Safety Assembly November 20 (see photo and caption page 19), Principal Matt Horvat explained these purposes. Then U-Highers had the opportunity to question Police Officer Rudy Nimocks.

New procedures include only three school doors being accessible to the majority: the High School Lobby, Baise Hall Lobby and Judi Hall Lobby, all opening at 7:15 a.m. The Senior Lounge will no longer remain open all hours but will be closed at a time to be decided after the school day ends. U-High 106 will be open for quiet study after school to discourage students wandering in the cafeteria and on the 2nd and 3rd floors. School buildings will be closed at 8 p.m. Faculty-supervised activities such as student publications and theatre can continue their work in the school after 8.

Administrators know these new procedures may represent a burden to some students but feel they are necessary.

Avoiding rush hour in the morning, many students who commute often get to school before 7:15 a.m. For those students, even leaving 20 minutes later may mean sitting in dense traffic for an hour or so. For other students who wait for rides home or sports practice to begin, a quiet study room can be helpful, giving them a place to work while they wait. But, for students who don't want to work and are now dismissed from going to the cafeteria, Senior Lounge and the top two floors, ending up outside of school hallways.

These students may do exactly what the rules mean to avoid. They will wander around and do so outside the permitted school hall. It's a hard balance to accomplish, but one must be found to keep danger out of school and students inside the school safely.

But U-Highers themselves can make the new safety measures work. Students who have to come early to school or leave late can try going to friends' houses in Hyde Park or take advantage of the quiet study in U-High 106. Students with other situations can find solutions to them, working with friends or teachers.

U-Highers, after all, were the ones asking the school to make the new safety measures. They may or may not have noticed the new rules.

'Tis the season to be jolly well mixed-up

CHRISTMAS TREES and plastic reindeer, Mennonite and clay dreidels. But Christmas in the corners will burnish on the mantel in the same house.

Many U-Highers look forward to celebrating more than one holiday even if it's a holiday that isn't celebrated in their religion. Yet I wonder, is it ethically right to celebrate a holiday that theoretically you don't. For example, you might celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas with a lim­ited budget. I would buy her as many boxes of Lindt chocolates as I could so that she doesn't eat my own private stash of them.

My mother is Catholic and my father, raised in India, belongs to the Brahmo Samaj, a branch of Hinduism. My family celebrates Christmas as well as the Hindu festival Magh Bihu, a month later, which commemorates the founding of the Brahmo Samaj.

My parents raised me Catholic and as a result I firmly believe in Catholic teachings. But sometimes when I celebrate Brahmo holidays I feel it's wrong not to attend services for a religion I don't practice. But simultaneously I struggle with the fact that being Indian is half of who I am.

Many U-Highers say they celebrate more than one holiday out of respect for a family member or just for presents. But when U-Highers celebrate a holiday by themselves, they do not have the option of receiving the same gifts as their friends or teachers. But U-Highers themselves can make the new safety measures work. Students who have to come early to school or leave late can try going to friends' houses in Hyde Park or take advantage of the quiet study in U-High 106. Students with other situations can find solutions to them, working with friends or teachers.

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A world citizen spins entrancing tale of growing up

WITH A KALEIDOSCOPE of different lives, forced into the harsh reality of adulthood and the world that encompasses them, author Karen Desai spins the timeless story of coming of age in "The Inheritance of Loss." Published this year by First Grove Press, "The Inheritance of Loss" won the English Booker prize, a contemporary fiction award.

Born in New Delhi, India in 1971, Desai lived there until she moved to England at age 14 with her family, where she lived for a year before moving to the U.S. in 1986. Desai, 35, also wrote the 1998 novel, "Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard."

"Loss" takes place in the 1980s during the Nepali revolution in India, when the Nepalese decided to fight back after years of being mistreated.

Opening with Sai, a 16-year-old orphan, living with her grandfather, a retired judge, his dog Mutt and their cook, the novel is set in a tiny replica house in Kalaignong, a small town nestled in the Himalayas.

Desai introduces readers to multitudes of characters in this small mountainous town, so many characters in fact, they are hard to keep track of. She weaves past and present together, finally ending the novel with Nepali attacks on Kalaignong, finally taking over the town.

Desai writes with such detail that readers can see the plot unfolding in a movie like scenario. She describes troubles of three young chairs, Sai, her sister, Gayan, each trying to find their purpose in life and dealing with the pains of growing up.

Growing up in India trying to make his father proud, make money and find out who he is and what he wants to become. Biju has a chance unavailable to his father, going to America and he wants to honor his father and his family by becoming successful. Fortunately, Biju is not treated equally in America and goes from one low-rent restaurant job to another, trying to save money to send back home. Since Sai never knew her parents, attending boarding school until their deaths in a car crash, she has never had a place to call home or known true love. When Sai falls in love with her first boy friend, Gayan, she doesn't know what to expect as he confuses her, sometimes tender and loving, other times ignoring her in the streets. Gayan doesn't know who he wants to grow up to be. His grandfather was Nepalese and Gayan feels that he should be true to the Nepalese cause; being treated equally in India. Gayan believes that by fighting back is hurting Sai, his girlfriend and his own family. Desai elaborates describes the mental and physical journeys Sai, Biju and Gyan go through, sometimes including the judge's memoirs of his first time going out in the world and losing his parents' protection.

Unfortunately Desai does not explain the history between India and Nepal and I had to look it up online to clearly understand the context of the novel. Overall I truly enjoyed this novel.

Desai addresses timeless issues, such as growing up and first times out in the world trying to find oneself. They are topics, I believe, many U-Highers can relate to.

Books

Anna Katia

Zibokis

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Opinion

Donavan Mitchem

School again schedules Friday night events

From Adina Levin, senior

Jewish Students' Association president: SHABBAT IS the single most important Jewish institution. It comes every Friday at sundown, and its observance is a commandment required of all Jews by the Deuterogike. Observant Jewish families attend synagogue services or remain at home for family celebrations. Even non-observant families are conscious of the flow of the week as defined by God's day of rest.

As representatives of the Jewish community at University High School, we are particularly disappointed that "Connections" this year has been scheduled for a Friday night. This unprecedented decision will have a profound and lasting effect on Jewish families, which comprise approximately 20 percent of the School's community, to choose between their religious identity and obligations and their commitment to the Laboratory School.

"Connections" is the most important fundraiser of the year and Jewish families have always been enormously generous in their support of this project, but this choice of date is profoundly offensive to our families and we believe it may have unintended impact on the success of the event. At a time when the Schools are examining their highly touted "diversity," this sends the message that the Schools' definition of sensitivity to diverse peoples stops at the Jews.

Two years ago, Prom was scheduled for a Friday night, this year, "Connections" is scheduled for a Friday night and, despite our best efforts, the date will not be changed.

As representatives of the Jewish Students' Association, we have written to Dr. Mitchem, the supervising administrator, and the support of the board, requesting that the date be changed. Two years ago, Prom was scheduled for a Friday night, this year, "Connections" is scheduled for a Friday night and, despite our best efforts, the date will not be changed.

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WHERE THERE'S A WILL, THERE'S A WAY

Directed by Marc Foster, "Strange Thang Fiction" brings together a wonderful cast with amazing chemistry. The plot keeps the audience engrossed by the thoughts and actions of Hardwick Crick (Will Ferrell), Jigga Jig (Elijah Wood), and Allende (Emma Thompson). In theaters November 10, "Strange Thang Fiction" has remained among the top 10 movies for more than three weeks.

In this imaginative comedy/drama, Jigga finds an exquisite vocalist with whom she shares a passion for the thoughts and life of Crick in her story but cannot, after 10 years, write his death. Jigga falls into a depression when faced with potential failure and starts to picture funerals instead of Crick's. Though Jigga continually ignores her assistant Penny Escher (Queen Latifah), she still opens her soul to Escher through gracefully disgusting monologues.

The submissive IRS agent, Crick begins to hear his life narrated by the mysteriously eccentric voice of tragedy author "Ferrell." Led by his voice, Crick finds love and compassion for his friends and baker Ana Pascal (Maggie Gyllenhaal), who he is assigned to audit.

Trying to find the author of his story, Crick recruits the help of College Literature Professor Jules Hibberg (Dustin Hoffman). After hearing Jigga plotting his death, Crick transforms himself from a boring walking calculator to a doing and thoughtful human.

I went to the film hoping not to see another typical Terry movie, with him naked and running around making jokes that had long expired. I had concluded from advertising that it would be cute and funny but did not expect the powerful climax to hit me so hard that I was near tears. Ferrell's performance was extraordinary; I had no idea that he could convert from stupid humor forces to intelligent, sophisticated films but he did. Ferrell was able to keep this dime-a-dozen film fresh and sharp.

He's back and he's (really) bad

HE FLAVOURS the most prolific low in the game. He runs the game. He is the game. And he has lost his mojo.

"Kingdom Come," Jay-Z's ninth studio album, marks the end of a short-lived retirement and the worst jiggam album to date. It's not all Jay's fault, though.

Production proves the greatest obstacle in the Kingdom's Coming. The album lacks first-rate beats standard to any Jay-Z album. The beats are so repugnant, not even Jay-Z can save tracks such as "Dig a Hole," produced by the ever-disappointing Swizz Beats.

Keep in mind, however, that the Jay-Z flow can save tracks such as "Dig a Hole" by being the ever-disapating Swizz Beats.

In all, the album suffers from a lack of consistency, not too surprising given a Hole," produced by the ever-disappointing Swizz Beats.

"Kingdom Come" shines. On the startlingly introspective "Lost Ones," Jay spits compelling vignettes over Dr. Dre's classy pianos and driven beat.

Jay-Z pushes the envelope further by penning a couple of tracks with Coldplay front man, Chris Martin, on the album's closer, "Beach Chair." Surprisingly, the Jay-Z/Martin chemistry brings about the album's high point.

"Frankly, Terry makes me so happy to see his transitions from sadness in the face of death to loving life without bringing melodramatic clichés to the screen. Terry throws away any assumption that he will be typecast by keeping his character real without getting extravagant. His honest depiction of his character's awkward confrontational behavior helps the audience understand Crick better than any words spoken by Thompson.

"Jay-Z's disk was a huge disappointment. Crick herself maintains her sensuality and is very enjoyable. But she presumably is a sensible, sensible and can eat all at the same time, and she showed that ability ten fold in this film. Her adorable tantrums against Crick also show her serious side, but she maintains her sensible within her confrontations. Jigga's gesticulations and turns make her distasteful monologues into beautiful views of her dilemmas.

Of course, Ferrell and Thompson do not do it alone. Gyllenhaal and Hoffman help them. Gyllenhaal is one of those girls who can be serious, sensual and cute all at the same time, and she showed that ability ten fold in this film. Her adorable tantrums against Crick also show her serious side, but she maintains her sensible within her confrontations.

"As common as the nativity scripted into the truly exorable "Hollywood." A small handful of tracks, however, reveal a new Jay-Z where "Kingdom Come" shines. On the startlingly introspective "Lost Ones," Jay spits compelling vignettes over Dr. Dre's classy pianos and driven beat.

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"In all, the album suffers from a lack of consistency, not too surprising given a Hole," produced by the ever-disappointing Swizz Beats.
Architect Leigh Breslau, Lab Schools parent, designed the set for the upcoming cooperative Museum of Contemporary Art and Court Theatre production of “Uncle Vanya.”

Uncle Vanya will be portrayed by veteran actor Kevin Gudahl.

**Uncle Vanya with touches for today**

A CLASSIC, DULL dark 18th century drama set in raggedy Russia. Some may wonder why they should watch such a play that can in no way understand or enjoy. I believe such an opinion is completely unsupported because the play will shock them as it witnesses characters running across the stage in a fury of excitement. U-Highers can laugh at Chekhov’s characters’ slapstick movements and gesticulations, when the play premiers at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) January 11. Court Theatre Director Charles Newell’s “Uncle Vanya,” based on the 1897 original of Anton Chekhov, will present a tragic Russian world in a hilarious, joyous way for a month. Ticket prices range from $28 to $54, with a discount for MCA members.

The play chronicles the tragedy that both Doctor Astrov, the county doctor, and Uncle Vanya lose the wife of Vanya’s brother. Meanwhile, Sonia, Vanya’s niece, loves Doctor Astrov. Throughout the play, Sonia is unable to profess her love to Astrov, a similar struggle U-Highers face.

However, the Director said the play would remain unaltered. “It is never lost. Seduction, vodka and murder add to tumult of the plot; themes U-Highers, I think, will enjoy. I believe that the Court Theatre and MCA production will show chaotic stage movement leaving unvoiced love in a contemporary theatre.”

“Unlike, Chekhov is played as dull, melancholy and slow,” explained Director Charles Newell, Lab Schools parent of Jake, a 7th-grader, and Luke, a 4th-grader. “I believe that’s completely wrong. My interest in presenting ‘Vanya’ is to tap into Chekhov’s outrageousness and ridiculousness so audiences can both laugh and cry. Many people see Chekhov bemoaning life; I don’t.”

It poses a conflict because the play is often known to be boring so the glamour of the downtown suburbs brightens up the stage.

“We are interested in the contradiction,” Mr. Newell said. “The reason for ‘Vanya’ at the MCA is to fulfill the contemporary world inside a contemporary room. The room is cold concrete. Producing Chekhov’s world in that space makes the room vibrate, whereas an old dilapidated room is boring.”

“Uncle Vanya” marks the first pairing of Mr. Newell with Set Designer Leigh Breslau, Lab Schools parent of Senior Noah, Freshman Jonah, and Jordan, a 6th-grader, in the Middle School. Mr. Breslau is an architect, who has worked on Millennium Park and Lab Schools projects.

It is a scenic that the set design is contemporary but yet influenced by a Russian Community Center built in the past. After Mr. Breslau showed me his set design, I felt that it would show many levels of interest and produce a sense that the play’s action could occur anywhere throughout the theatre.

“Charlie saw ‘Vanya’ as a triumph over adversary, coming through in a world that has a much harder life,” Mr. Breslau explained. “I conjured up a vision of the set: a famous Russian sculpture, a tower by Vladimir Tatlin dedicated to the Third International Worldwide Communist meetings, an amazing and powerful image of a tower that thrusts itself in an angular way into the sky. We kept pushing the set to a more abstract form. It can be imagined as anything you wish.”

MY CONGRATULATIONS to all of you who now have a coveted Playstation 3. Not because you can play mediocre games such as “Need for Speed Carbon” or “Tony Hawk’s Project 8,” but because you were obsessed enough to endure rain and cold to be first in line at Best Buy or spend thousands of dollars to buy one off eBay.

Relentless popularity, 17 in the U.S., the Playstation 3 comes in two versions: a $500 model and a premium $600 model. Hyped as the best among the new gaming systems, the sleek, black Playstation 3 console includes a powerful 20 gigabyte hard drive, wireless controllers and a Blu-Ray compatible disc drive. The premium model, in addition to what the regular console includes, offers 8 gigabytes for its hard drive, built in Wi-Fi, and comes in shiny silver.

When my hands finally grasped a Playstation 3 controller, shock them in excitement. Sadly, the Playstation 3 turned out to be a complete disappointment. Sure, you could use it as your Blu-Ray player, DVD player, player internet browser and photo viewer, but I still judge consoles by their appeal as pure gaming machines. And as a gaming machine, the Playstation 3 shows me nothing I haven’t seen already.

But when my turn came, one thing deserved deepest holiday gratitude: the opportunity to see Wilco perform the following evening. And the performance proved sweeter.

As I entered the jam-packed marble and gold leaf atrium of the historic Auditorium Theatre, at Congress and Michigan Avenue, middle-aged and teen fans crowded around merchandise tables and the alcohol vendors; Friday, November 24. Deth Calif., a 10-year avant-garde pop band, was vaguely audible from the stage over the crowd’s excited chattering. As the audience made its way to the open house seating, the fact became more evident that this band’s relentless stamina was头晕 inducing and even their keyboardist’s bizarre dance antics couldn’t save the set.

After a short intermission, the lights dimmed eerily and a man disguised in a derailed looking bunny costume began to play a metaliphon by Wilco’s distinct static effects, playing enigmatically for over 10 minutes. As the audience watched completely engrossed, the bunny bopped and left the stage, and Wilco sauntered onto the stage as the stage transitioned into electric applause.

Since its formation in 1994, Chicago-based Wilco, a country-punk rock band, has repeatedly sold out Chicago concerts appearing at Lollapalooza this past August.

Giving the audience reason to anxiously anticipate the new album, Wilco dominated the set’s first half with its material, particularly impressing the crowd with new track “Impossible Germany,” a classic in the works. In “Shake It Loose,” the song contained a “funky straight blues chord progression, invigorated with soulful drumming by Glenn Kotche.”

Wilco recently announced they are to a singing ultras old favorites as ”Handshake Drugs” and “Muzzle of Bees” featuring guitarist Nels Cline playing a twangy country licks. Cline had frequent guitar solos while Kotche soloed on “Trouble.” Wilco is proof you can count on Wilco to pull out the oldies, singing their full song influences, giving a dreamy, reflective feeling to the set. With an immediate turn in the set to an upbeat flavor, Wilco climaxed during an epic “Kingpin,” where Tweedy urged the audience to scream at this rock concert, explaining, “What better way to feel better, lighter and happier the next morning.”

After enjoying Wilco’s old favorites with new material to look forward too the audience could not help but go home feeling better, lighter and happy than when they came.

**Wilco mixes classic, new for another crowd pleaser**

EVERY THANKSGIVING, while gathered around the table, each member of my family in a few words shows appreciation for something important in their lives. This year, friends and family gave heartfelt thanks to spouses, god and food on the table. But when my turn came, one thing deserved deepest holiday gratitude: the opportunity to see Wilco perform the following evening.

And the performance proved sweeter.

If every big electronics store had 200 consoles and some smaller stores a few to sell, perhaps there wouldn’t have been long lines at Wal-Mart. Wilco dominated the set’s first half with its material, particularly impressing the crowd with new track "Impossible Germany," a classic in the works. In "Shake It Loose," the song contained a "funky straight blues chord progression, invigorated with soulful drumming by Glenn Kotche."
Suddenly Kathy has an idea! “Let’s eat at your house! Your mother makes the best tuna and persimmon broulee.” “No!” yells Nina, “I would never do that!”

Soon, after a bit o’ thought, Nina has her own idea. “Drive me to Chinatown! Surely we’ll find something tasty there!” “No,” yells Kathy, “No way, Jose!”

Finally, Kathy crafts a brilliant plan! “Let’s go to the Medici.” “Yes!” replied Nina, enthusiastically. “Their famous pizzas, fresh salad and tasty Moroccan Ragout, are definitely enticing!”

And so double lunch begins. Neither Kathy Hayes, nor Nina Massad, seniors, know where to dine.

Medici
On 57th

1327 East 57th Street ■ (773) 667-7394
Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-11 p.m ■ Friday 7 a.m.-Midnight
Saturday 9 a.m.-Midnight ■ Sunday 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
Safley Assembly was rockin' until some underclassmen embarrassed the student body as a whole with their obnoxious remarks. —Cydney Weiner, junior

Safety session
Following a series of crimes in the school neighborhood, the school has stepped up security. At a November 20 Safety Assembly, Principal Matt Horvat outlined the changes. Students were also given the opportunity to ask University of Chicago Police Department Executive Director Rudy Nimocks (in photo) about safety inside and outside of school.

ISL dance envisioned

Student government invites fellow schools to join in party

Our rivals are now potentially our colleagues.

Student Council and Cultural Union, in addition to planning the Winter Formal Dance, are organizing an Independent School League dance, tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 12. According to Student Council President Donavan Mitchem, senior, U-High is collaborating through e-mail with Latin, Parker and occasionally Morgan Park Academy on a dance location.

“Our big project is the Winter Formal and also doing something with the other ISL schools,” Donavan said. “So far all of our plans are tentative, but we have done other things before. We’ve had an art show, so a dance is definitely possible.

“Our first formal meeting will be over Winter Break. We expect to make some more concrete plans, come up with a schedule for the rest of the year, and delegate certain responsibilities to each school.”

The dance could attract a lot of students, believes Cultural Union President Katherine Hayes, senior.

“We picked these three schools in particular based on the location for our ISL dance,” she said. “We are hoping that because these schools are fairly close to each other and the kids live around the same neighborhoods, students will hopefully interact with one another. Out of the three schools that we have tried to keep in touch with, Latin is the most willing participant. They have even offered to host the dance at their school, which will make our job a little bit easier. I think this dance will be a lot like Homecoming and hopefully the variety of kids will attract more U-Highers to show up.”

Back at U-High, Student Council and Cultural Union have been urging each grade to plan at least one activity a quarter and to have executive committees from each grade be present at steering committee meetings, Donavan said.

“We have stressed to each executive committee that if they participate in our meetings we can get the ball rolling on class activities,” he said. “We’ve changed things up a bit this year and are now encouraging much more interclass activity. We are also going it take a third of their budget if they don’t plan one activity a quarter and add it to the all-school budget.”

On the First day of Christmas my true love said to me

“Head to Coconuts Music and Video…”

FOR...
1 new Song headset
2 new Grey’s Anatomy DVDs
3 scary movies
4 Justin Timberlake CDs
5 boxes of candy
6 bottles of Coke
7 Games for PSP
8 new CD posters
9 blank CDs
10 bubble gum packs
11 cameras A.N.D...
12 Coconuts Music and Video gift cards

Heading out to Coconuts Music and Videos, Ruqi Tang, Hannah Redleaf and Alex Bullock can’t stop piling up three scary movies, four Justin Timberlake CDs and five boxes of movie treats. They just can’t wait to tell their true loves!
As well as photography, Evan is a huge fan of wildlife.

"I enjoy photography for getting out and seeing wildlife and natural areas," Evan explained.

"I just find it amazing to see the variety of different species that you can see in the middle of a city like Chicago and then when you’re traveling to other places, the variety just gets even wider."

Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts has worked with Evan on his personal website’s design and considers his work very characteristic of his.

"I’ve taken time to look at Evan’s work when I assigned him to designing his website,” Miss Ricketts explained. “His work reflects a sense of peace and security. One can see Evan in all of his images. His love of nature and connection with the environment can be seen."

Forming a friendship with Evan his sophomore year, Senior Steven Jones admires Evan’s photography techniques.

“We really met for the first time on golf team in sophomore year,” Steven said. “I think we probably learned a lot from each other in terms of photo skills and shooting techniques. I think there is a lot of simplicity in his style. Evan gets very clean, very smooth looking backgrounds, which is pretty characteristic of most of his shots."

Eager to share their interest in photography with the U-High community, Steven and Evan helped jumpstart the Photography Club.

"Last year Steven Jones and I had the idea to start a photography club,” Evan said. “This year we were again talking about it and started the club with Jeremy Handrup and Max MacMahan."

"The club is in its infancy right now,” Steven added. “We’re not really certain about what we’re going to focus on. But it’s something like critique work in the future."

“Though unsure of specific future plans, Evan remains certain of his desire to work with wildlife.

“I don’t know what kind of job I would like to do, but it will probably have something to do with the natural science,” Evan said.

“Whether or not photography is involved in my job, I will definitely continue in my free time.”

Student Evaluations (continued from page 5) when I first started teaching, in part due to what students have said on evaluation forms,” Ms. Housinger said. “One year I remember in particular, I hadn’t given the students very much homework throughout the year because I didn’t want to overload them.

“However, in most of their evaluations they actually requested homework. I think they would be better prepared for the tests. So for the next year I tripled the amount of homework.

“I could see the improvement and that the students were learning the material better. Unless you get feedback from students, you might never know what really needs fine tuning in your course.”

U-Highers see potential in the idea, given that the surveys are sent by the teacher alone.

“First took Ms. McCampbell’s student teacher evaluation at the end of spring quarter last year and I have her again for my full quarter class this year,” Senior Anie Widman said. “For Ms. McCampbell there is not much to improve on, but I think that even simply writing up the evaluations shows that a teacher cares.

“i think it should be the prerogative of the teacher. I don’t think every class needs to have student teacher evaluations, but i think there are several courses that would benefit from them."

In a vote at its monthly meeting December 3, the faculty approved the practice of student evaluations using forms “prepared, collected, read and used only by the teacher of that class” and resolved that “teachers should give students in each of their high school classes an opportunity to provide written feedback for their teachers.”

Whether students would provide evaluations anonymously or not was left to each teacher.

Voices of Compassion (continued from page 1)

do and draw out possible options for the teen. Finally, we set up a plan of action.

Even though roadways are most of the calls we receive, we accept calls from parents of youth or just the youth who want to talk about their problems. However, if a child does want to run away from home, we have a messaging service where they can give us a message and we can call it in to our parent and vice versa.

If we hear about abuse, we can send a report to Child Protective Services. So the next year I tripled the amount of homework.

“I could see the improvement and that the students were learning the material better. Unless you get feedback from students, you might never know what really needs fine tuning in your course.”

A-Highers have also continued volunteering at sites they began for their Community Learning Service Project. Taking children on field trips for North Side Housing Program Cabrini Green’s “Saturday Dreams Program,” Senior Jacqueline Chaudhry said she feels a deep connection with the children.

“I’ve been volunteering at Cabrini Green since I was a sophomore for two Saturdays a month at the Saturday Dreams Program,” Jacqueline said. “I wanted to continue volunteering there because I’m attached to a group of three girls who were cousins of kids I had worked with the first year I volunteered.

“We go on field trips to places like Navy Pier, the movies, or ice-skating. These are things they don’t ordinarily get to do because of where they live. I really like the bus rides because that’s when I get to hear about their school,” Jacqueline said.

“One of the girls, Monique, is just a blast. She can’t stop talking and she always cans on the phone with me. Right now, she’s been teaching me dance moves from various music videos. She’s really the same age as a big sister and I’m glad that I can be her family.”

Volunteering for two hours each Sunday, Senior Hugh Montag serves at Montgomery Place, the retirement home at 50th and Lake Shore Drive.

“The purpose of Montgomery Place is to provide lifetime housing to the elderly. Hugh said. “We do a lot of gardening, art projects and visit the library often. I’ve been with this one lady, Ann Parks, for the two years that I’ve served here. I help her hang pictures and just talk to her.

“We talk about whatever comes to mind or what we are doing that day or how we’ve been. Sometimes she tells me about things that she used to do when she was young and how things used to be. It’s amazing to hear how different she was when she was my age and how much things have advanced today.”

Voices of Joy (continued from page 1)

“We had a choral competition where they took groups from all of the schools in the city and we all got together in a big school,” Cortni said. “With all the choirs and the directors, it was a big deal, like sports. The school I was in at the time was in the top five in the city. We would rehearse for weeks and weeks, but it was fun because all the students got to watch the choirs do their thing. I know what it takes to make a good choir because I’ve been there. I know what’s masterful and who’s tricky.”

Math Teacher Jane Carstign began singing in a religious choir at the age of 7 in the Methodist Church in Chesterton, Indiana. Ms. Carstign continued to sing in high school and currently sings in the same church’s adult choir of eight men and 17 women.

“Being in a church choir takes some element of expectation that I think has turned people away. I remember a couple of younger kids joining the choir and then realizing that it was a bit harder than they thought.”

Jazz at the Checkerboard At the famous Checkerboard Lounge, which moved to Harper Court last year, U-High’s Jazz Band drew an audience of nearly 50 Sunday, December 5. The program included standards such as “Misty and Blue Bossa.” The concert was the first time the entire band performed in public this year. Max Cuneo-Graff and Philip Vera were among the applause-generating musicians. Mr. Dominic Plano is faculty sponsor.

Wellness Services Acupuncture for general health Reiki Neck, back pain relief with acupressure Smoking cessation, acupuncture control Acu-detoxification Auc-facial rejuvenation Energy Boost, Stress Relief Hair Services Every Monday and Tuesday Hair cuts are $5 off Liscio Japanese Thermal Straightener Hair cut and Blow Dry Formal up-Do Hair weaving, Hair bonding Dread Locks Permanent Beauty Services Bioelements Facials Bioelements Body Treatments Waxing Monday - Sunday 9am - 7pm Saturday - Sunday 10am - 6pm 1530 East 53rd Street Chicago IL 60615 773-645-6999 www.japanese-spa-zen.com
Sheetal always thought design was compelling but never considered it a part of her everyday life. That all changed when she experienced the Massive Change exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Presented by Target, the exhibition immerses visitors in ideas that go far beyond what most of us think of as design.

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Giving over $2 million to communities every week.
Making a real difference in Chicago every day.
Boy cagers will utilize defense

By Henry Afflalo

Scoring team defense. Devastating motion offense. Superior play. If the Maroons hope to champion Illinois collegiate basketball, they also need to perfect their defensive game. With the loss of Senior Alex Cantwell to Lincoln Park Juniors last season, the team has been practicing timed mid-distance sprints and drills to prepare for its opener. With a 2-3 record last year (1-0 ISL) at last week's practice, the Maroons have had to adjust to new personnel. "We are a defensive team and that's who we are," Coach Ron Ashlaw said. "We still play along defensively, so what we need to do is build up our defense first to give our offense time to develop. System wise, we have different personnel, so this year we are focusing on perimeter play.

"The league this year is much better. In the last three years it has improved a lot. It's been the best it's ever been, with four top teams now. They have had faster, quicker and stronger talent. We are just going to play and compete as hard as we have been in the past."

The younger personnel is taking fresh approaches to game strategy, according to Senior Peter Hepplewhite. "Hey, I don't have to get in the water every day."

"We're a much more perimeter-oriented team this year. That will be a lot more slashing and cutting rather than grinding it out in the post. We just don't have the size for that."

The Maroons must also play smarter to compensate for their age and size, according to Senior Eric Ng. "We are very small compared to the other teams this year. Eric said. "The only way we'll beat them is with speed and better ball handling."

"We're just going to have to play smarter ball than the other teams.

"We're currently coming off of a pick to early or not making the extra pass, little things like this, over the period of a game, can really hurt us."

Better conditioned and better prepared, Senior Phil Jacobson feels the team's youth won't hinder its success. "Our weaknesses this year are our lack of offensive firepower and experience," Phil said. "After all, we lost seven seniors last year, two of whom are now playing college ball. But just because we have certain disadvantages doesn't mean we don't have strengths. We're better conditioned than pretty much any team we're going to face because of our grueling preseason running program."

"Also, our coaching staff makes sure that we are more than prepared going into every game. They're always going to see other teams play, figuring out their plays and personal strengths, which is a great help to us on game day because we always know what to expect from the beginning."

"If we can combine these advantages with great team defense and solid offense, we could have a great year."

Scores are as follows:

Pittsburgh St. Mol., November 20, away; varsity won, 47-42; St. Benedict, November 22, away; varsity lost 40-33; Walter Payton, November 24, away; varsity lost 52-39; CCIS-Northtown, November 29; away; varsity won 46-44; North Shore Country Day, December 1; away; varsity won 52-39; Prep Academy, December 4; away; varsity won 47-41.

"Usually seniors dominate the lineup and get most of the playing time, but this year we only have three."

-Peter Hepplewhite, Senior

Girl basketballers lay a trap (they hope) for arch rival Parker

By Mona Dasgupta

Heading north to face archival Parker, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, varsity basketball Maroons plan to use a hard press against the Colonels. "A hard press is where we have defense playing the whole length of the court," Coach Carson Cunningham explained. "We're going to use this type of play against every team. We want to play fast and score as much as humanly possible."

Parker had a strong team last year but finished below us in Conference. We grills games with an average weight range at a girls' varsity basketball practice. Lucy is co-captain with Alexis Jenkins. The team is composed mostly of underclassmen.

Junior Lucy O'Keeffe, co-captain with Sophomore Alexis Jenkins. "We've done better against some tough teams that we played last year but we're not yet at the level they play at. Our best game so far was against Illiana Christian. We lost but played a lot better than last year, which shows our improvement."

"For me, playing on a team with a lot of underclassmen provides more of a leadership role. I get to teach the level and game we play. We played Timothy Christian twice in the Thanksgiving Tournament and those were our hardest matches so far. They have a lot more experience. We're a younger team and so we don't have as much, especially if they're seniors."

Also playing Parker, noon, Saturday, away, is working on its running game.

"Parker is one of the better competitors in the League," Coach Meghan Anda said. "We want to use press to steal off and score."

"The girls are practicing at a varsity level. We have a lot of freshmen in who have played for us, so fundamentally we're already strong. We can improve on that instead of starting from scratch.

"Losing our first two matches of the season, 23-39 against Illiana Christian, away, and 25-26 against Timothy Christian, home, Freshman Gabby Lubin feels the team could have won.

"We need to get more shots up and work on our defense. But just because we have certain advantages doesn't mean we don't have strengths. We're better conditioned than pretty much any team we're going to face because of our grueling preseason running program."

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Scores are as follows:

Thanksgiving Tournament, November 15, home; varsity lost 55-45; St. Benedict, November 20; away; varsity lost 47-41; Timothy Christian, November 22; away; varsity lost 26-24; Illiana Christian, November 24; away; varsity lost 47-41.

"You can shoot, it's that none of us are really comfortable with it yet. We don't know how to drive it. Our defense is definitely our strong point. When we get back we can usually deep a shot.

Other scores as follows:

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POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Which sports city is better, Chicago or Los Angeles?

Phl: I've been feeling a little sick lately.

Evan: What's that?

Phl: It's all the Chicago sports I've been watching.

Evan: Frolicking through the unparalleled raucness of the Windy City wonder-squads?

Phl: Please. Chicago sports teams' so-called "rauness" is far from unparalleled. At best, it's paralleled. And one might even go so far as to say that in overparalled.

Evan: Overparallelled? What?

Phl: Yeah, overparallelled, by the raging pit of fire known only at the City of Angels, La La Land, the Wild West, where the wind carries that special scent of victory that, although undistinguishable to someone such as yourself--

Evan: Sweet Sid Luckman, you are sick!

Phl: If you want to talk sick, then let's talk about the mental state of Bears Quarterback Rex Grossman. He's the malfunctioning cog in the Super Bowl machine that is the Chicago Bears.

Evan: While at times flu can make you scratch your head, there's no denying the fact that the Bears are real. Stud or dud, Grossman has played well enough to keep the Bears atop the NFC. Sure all of Chicago is championing Brian Griese's name, but at the end of the day, it is what it is. Good luck, we hope that the Bears can still have a football team.

Evan: Fishy posh! Such a grotesque display of Neanderthal brutality is beneath the patron of the typical L.A. sports aficionado. Perhaps we can interest you in basketball, which requires a little more skill and finesse than that brutish "sport" Chicagoans so adore. Such a third class sport for such a third class town!

Evan: Of course. It's the city of big shoulders baby! And we know those big shoulders to carry the weight of such a rich sports history. You want to talk basketball son? Walt Bellamy, Jerry Sloan, Bob Love, Artis Gilmore, Reggie Theus, Michael Jordan, Kirk Hinrich, the list goes on. While I can sit here and name legends all day long, let's kick it to what really matters: great teams. I'd like to take you back to the golden age, the 90s, a decade dominated by the finest dynasty in the history of sports: the Chicago Bulls.

Phl: Please, that team only succeeded because of the depth of NBA talent in the '90s. They didn't have any real competition. Put that lackluster green coat up against the prodigious poses of any other era and they get destroyed. The Showtime Lakers of the 80's, with Magic and Kareem, or the earlier wonder squads of Wilt Chamberlain, Elgin Baylor and Jerry West? Even George Mikan, the bespectacled behemoth who bravely battled the Lakers to their first title, would have wiped the floor with any Chicago team.

Evan: Oh oh! The web of fallacies you've so callously spun has finally revealed you for a fool! George Mikan actually played for the Minnesota Lakers, before they moved to your so-called "first class town." And one other thing, your boy, Michael Jordan, was born in this so called "second class town." Chi-City baby.

Phl: Wait, what was that? My phone's ringing, hold on...Hello? Who? Jim Hendry? General Manager of the Cubs Jim Hendry? You sound terrible, what's wrong? Your team? It's the worst team ever! C'mon Jimmy, don't be so hard yourself, you've got some guys. What about Alphonso Soriano, he was a good...oh, you overpaid for him? Well what about Mark Prior? Isn't he supposed to be the future? Oh, he's been the future for the past five years! Gee Jimmie, I don't know what to say, maybe you should check out the L.A. Dodgers, they seem to know what they're doing.

Evan: Oh, oh hold on, my phone's ringing too. Hello? Jim Hendry? What? You didn't actually just call Phil? We just made that up, because he has no real argument?

Phl: Wonderful thinking Evan, wonderful thinking. If you keep talking like that, I'm going to go to the least two season game winner, Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush. Evan: You want to talk Heisman? Let me introduce you to an old friend of mine that goes by the name of Jay Berwanger. He was the first to win the Heisman and, oh yeah, he happened to attend the University of Chicago. Nothing's better than the original baby.

Chi-City made him pretty. When he was around, Chi town did not have Reggie Bush in a clown because Jay Berwanger was the first to wear the crown.

Evan: Real cute. Such simple rhyming schemes I've come to expect from a city that embraces mediocrity. Why don't you go to Mike Ditka's Restaurant and get yourself a plate of Chicago style hot dog. It's the City baby.

Phl: Real cute. Such simple rhyming schemes I've come to expect from a city that embraces mediocrity. Why don't you go to Mike Ditka's Restaurant and get yourself a plate of Chicago style hot dog.

Evan: You know, I am getting kind of hungry. I think I'll head on over to the Wiener Circle and grab a real meal. A Chicago style dog, hot dog.

Teacher keeps on track with running passion

By Harley Chang

Associate editor

During high school, Phys Ed Teacher Sona Oravcova shined brightly in track and field. The brightest in Czechoslovakia.

Ms. Oravcova is here on a Fulbright exchange program, exchanging teaching positions with Ms. Joan Vande Velde. Coming from the first independent school in Bratislava, Slovakia, Ms. Oravcova taught both geography and physical education.

Beginning track and field when she was only 8, Ms. Oravcova began seriously competing during her high school years. Sprinting the 100 meter dash, long jumping and competing in the heptathlon, Ms. Oravcova chose track and field for being an individual sport and attributes much of her love of the sport to her coaches.

"By high school, schools began competing with each other," she said. "Since I lived in a little mountain town, it was hard to travel to places. My coach was very good to me and allowed me to live with his family in the city. I think it was because he saw greatness in me and wanted to cultivate it personally."  

Ms. Oravcova believes long jump complements her running passion.

"I feel that sprinting the 100 meters is the best speed for me," she explained. "The fast pace makes it that much more exciting and all your effort goes down into those few seconds. I also feel that the short distance gives way to more competition. Like sprinting, I feel the same freedom when I jump. When I jump, I'm flying for those few moments without much to worry about."

By the end of high school, Ms. Oravcova had won the national championship for the long jump. Her talent and aspirations were cut short when she started having ankle problems during her college years and could not go on to compete internationally. Not one to take no for an answer, Ms. Oravcova tried repeatedly to get back to competing.

"By the time I heard that I could not compete, sports had become my life. It was very hard
From court to rink, athletes shine out of school

By Phil Jacobson

S
wish The basketball barely moves the net as Sophomore Zeke Uphaw, the Maroons’ starting point guard, lets it in from deep out of bounds after a varsity practice. But his impressive range hasn’t come from playing U-High basketball alone. Like many U-Highers, Zeke has further developed his skills by playing his sport on an out-of-school team.

During the spring and summer, Zeke plays AAU basketball for Maroons, a South Side organization. Its teams consistently rank among the country’s best. Last season’s 17-and-under squad featured prep star Derrick Rose, recently the subject of a Sports Illustrated article: “There’s a lot of AAU teams in the area, but Maroons is one of the best in terms of winning,” Zeke said. “We practice two times a week and play tournaments on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The really big tournaments are outside of the state. At the National AAU Tournament in Florida there are about 300 teams. College scouts come to the really big tournaments.”

“The players have a lot more talent than in high school basketball. It’s the best kids from each school on one team. You play with the best players in your age group against people from all over the country. It helps you develop more experience and better talent.”

Second-year varsity soccer team captain of U-High’s track team and hopes to continue that sport in college. Though the team may be out of school in the fall, Zeke adds, “I’ve been playing ice hockey for nine years. I play in the Metro Central League on Latin’s hockey team. It’s the best kids from all over the Midwest. There’s a lot more intense competition,” he said. “At the really big tournaments all the best colleges go to scout the players. It’s kind of nerve racking because everything you do is going to determine whether that person is interested in recruiting you.”

Senior Iain Macdonald plays a more uncommon sport. From late fall to early spring, he skates for an ice hockey team. “I learned to skate when I was 3 or 4,” Iain said. “It’s always been something that I love doing.”

Senior Alya Forster’s flexibility. “I’d like to play in college, but it’s not a necessity for me,” Forster said. “I don’t want to go to a small college just to play soccer. I’d be fine going to a big school like Michigan or Wisconsin and playing intramurals. When you’re in a school with that many people, the competition gets pretty intense.”

“Playing in front of scouts makes me play better. The more people watching, the better I play. You just get more adrenaline, you get your heart rate up.”

“I used to play travel hockey, but I stopped because they’re all competing for scholarships, so you can’t do both,” Forster said. “For me, skating is a lot more fun. I have more control over my body.”

“Baseball is intense in a different way. It’s more strength and endurance and more pain tolerance. The ball is bigger in softball, so it doesn’t hurt as much as a baseball when it hits you because it is a bigger part of your body. The body language is also different. You have to read peoples’ body language as catcher.”

At bat, Mari Topel looks to light up the scoreboard as her team competes in the American Fast Pitch Association Nationals in 2005 in Beaumont, Texas.
Fall teams wrap up, size up what’s needed next year

By Tom Stanley-Becker

Secesionals, November 18 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, girls' varsity swimmers matched the previous year's finish despite their top swimmer, Junior Anas Schäfer, not making the meet. Other fall sports teams have enjoyed success as well. Several squads advanced individual athletes to State tournaments, including Golfer Nick Kogelman, senior, and girls' tennis standouts Rebecca Rentner, senior, and Gabby Clark, freshman.

Boys' variety soccer and girls' variety volleyball made solid showings as well, just missing Super Sectionals and Sectionals, respectively.

Finishing behind St. Ignatius, Latin and Whitney Young, swimmers put in remarkable races, said Linnea Madsen, junior.

"Midseason we began to specify our workouts," Linnea explained. "Swimmers swam faster for a shorter time and long distance swimmers swam longer but less fast. In Sectionals, people brought in amazing swims, such as in the first event, when freshman Kaia Tammen had an amazing time drop in the 200 freestyle and both she and Junior Polina Rytkih row in pairs, inspiring us to duplicate their successes." Ranked 349 of 633 nationally, varsity tennis star Gabby Clark, freshman, hopes for more rigorous practices next year.

If a player misses a shot, coaches should immediately point out how to do it better in the future and teammates should give her support," Gabby said.

"In practices, we could do more drills in serving, volleyming and ground strokes, our weaknesses this year. Other schools are more focused on tennis and have tryouts. To improve on this year's record, the coaches and the team have to work together.

Playing for the first year in Class AA, a higher level of competition with teams from bigger schools, boys' variety soccermen fell one game short of the Sectional crown.

Peanut Butter and Jelly...Again

Disenchanted with his daily lunch choice, Sophomore Nate Wise is disgusted at the thought of yet another PB&J. Lucky for him (and you!) University Market offers a wide variety of snacks, sandwiches and drinks for your enjoyment.

University Market

1362 East 57th Street
773-363-0070

Open Monday through Saturday
8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Open Sunday
9 a.m.-10 p.m.
I really like Urban Outfitters. They have really cute clothes that are inexpensive and so many gifts.

— Tyne Alexander, senior

Luminous red ornaments (photos from left) and glitzy silver shoes in the windows of Stuart Weitzman, 900 North Michigan Avenue, catch Isabel del Canto and Katherine Hayes’ attention as they stroll between stores for holiday shopping.

Testing their DJing skills, Isabel, in a pink tank top ($28); and Patrick Philizaire in a striped sweater ($49) and corduroy jacket ($79) check out an Ion USB Turntable ($150) at Urban Outfitters.

Festive fashions dress up the holidays in style

Donning an Urban Outfitters gray cotton dress ($68), Katherine browses a pile of books searching for holiday gifts.

Perplexed, Isabel, in a Max Studio dress ($118), seeks Patrick’s help in choosing a pair of shoes.

Katherine and Isabel, in Max Studio dresses ($298 and $119) chat.

Exchanging a rack of sweaters in Diesel, Katherine is drawn to a bright red cotton sweatshirt ($130).

Boasting a blue cotton dress with green graphic at Diesel, Isabel opts for a causal look this season.

Neutral colors and warm reds fill clothing stores this holiday season, ranging from inexpensive shirts for gift giving to pricey dresses on a wish list.

Toned-down colors predominate in high-end department stores, single brand shops and big chain stores. Searching for holiday outfits, U-Highers can find great choices in a range of prices. For dresses, Max Studio, 900 North Michigan Avenue, offers an array of options most around $100. Many in simple black, brown and tan colors, the dresses seem ideal for holiday parties.

Fashionable outfits for boys can be found at Diesel, 923 Rush Street. The Italian brand boasts attire ranging from edgy button-down shirts to distressed jeans. For girls, Diesel offers European styles. Simple sweaters and intricate coats characterize the brand’s trendy look. Prices range from about $80 to $300, making Diesel’s clothes applicable to top students’ wish lists this season.

On the less expensive end of the shopping spectrum, Urban Outfitters, 935 North Rush Street, offers great presents for U-Highers looking to give this season, including quirky tee-shirts, satirical coffee table books, inexpensive jewelry and vintage turntables, making Urban a one-stop shop for gifts this season.