

U-High MIDWAY

Volume 82, Number 4 ■ University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637 ■ Tuesday, December 12, 2006

VOICES of Joy

U-Highers revel in choir harmony

By Alex Gomez
Midway reporter

Supporting 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 Motown 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 3,200 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 Rosh 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 there 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 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.

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Photo by Jeremy Handrup



Photo by Emma Lantos

Among U-Highers who pursue community service outside school, Senior Rachel Hanessian serves on the crisis line at the National Runaway Switchboard in Lincoln Park.

VOICES of COMPASSION

■ Volunteers reach out to serve

By Rohini Tobaccowala
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

send her back to a juvenile detention center.

"As we were discussing this, she stopped talking and I could hear her dad yelling in the background, saying he was coming in and then we got disconnected. I felt really bad after that and I couldn't stop wondering what could have happened to her. I just have to accept it. After that phone call, I feel like the hot line has helped me mature as a person and it gives me a fulfilling feeling that I helped out teens in need."

Rachel learned about the Switchboard as a Peer Leader during last year's March Community Learning Kickoff, when Community Learning Program site coordinators talked to freshmen advisories about specific volunteer sites. She said she wanted to volunteer at the Switchboard because she loves giving advice to peers.

"To be a crisis line worker, I had to go through 36 hours of training, where a group of us were taught how to handle different phone calls in unusual situations," Rachel said. "In every phone call, there's a five-step process. First, we have to establish a rapport and learn about the situation. We explore facts and feelings. Once we've heard enough, we focus on the main issues. Then, we see what we can

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"The first thing I'm going to do during Winter Break is sit down and relax with two bowls of cereal."
—Eric Ng, senior



Students, faculty ready to take a break away

Philippines, Lebanon among destinations

By Julie Carlson
Associate editor

Chowing down on fried pork and singing old boy band songs, Sophomore Jaya Sah and her family plan to island hop through the Philippines to Manila, Cagayan de Oro and Malaybalay during the two week winter vacation, starting this Saturday.

Vacations for other U-Highers and faculty include jetting to exotic countries, unwinding at home or traveling to other states with family.

Locals colorfully costumed as Mary, Jesus and Joseph parade past as Jaya, with their extended family, plan to cheer in their finest clothing Christmas Day, continuing an annual Philippine tradition.

"We have a huge amount of extended family in those places, so we have been gathering there each year of my entire life," Jaya said. "There's a Christmas mass that we go to, which is a big deal. You dress up for it and in the past there have even been parades with people acting like the Virgin Mary, carrying a baby and stuff."

"But what I'm most looking forward to is just hanging out with all my family. Even if we're just sitting around and talking or having meals together, it's a lot of fun to be with them. We usually eat rice and a lot of meat."

"It sounds weird, but we even have a pig with fried skin, which is similar to a Hawaiian Kailua pig. I don't sing much karaoke, but my family sings a lot of old '90s pop songs like the 'Titanic' theme and stuff by the Backstreet Boys."

Spicing up the break's second week, Junior Symone Buckner will attend a Michigan winter sports camp after extended family comes for Kwanzaa celebrations.

"I'm going to winter camp for the first time," Symone explained. "It's at Camp Pinewood, where I have been going every summer for five years. I'm really excited to go snowboarding and hang out with all of my friends from camp who I don't see during the school year."

"This isn't my first time snowboarding. Once I got kind of bold and jumped off a ramp, which was really exhilarating."

"At home, it'll be fun to celebrate Kwanzaa. We light red, black and green candles and recite different principles. It will be nice to see my uncle from Minnesota and to be together during the holidays. But I think that camp will be a good getaway, so I'm definitely looking forward to it."

Although plans may change for Senior Nina Massad's trip to Beirut, Lebanon, she hopes to spend Christmas with her grandparents.

"If violence breaks out, we might end up not going," Nina said. "I've been there a lot but I've never gone during the winter. There is lots of snow on the mountains so I'll probably go skiing for the first time."

"Most Lebanese teens go partying and clubbing at night; I'll probably go with the family friends my age."

"Over winter break, I'll be celebrating Christmas with my grandparents and family friends. Usually we stay with my grandparents in Hamra."

"My favorite food that we'll have is Lamb Shawarma. It's a meat sandwich that's a Lebanese version of gyros."

Amidst the quaint shops around Fish Creek's White Gull Inn, English Teacher Stephen Granzky and his wife will enjoy Christmas to New Year's Day in Door County, Wisconsin, an annual getaway.

"We have been going up there since 1981," Mr. Granzky said. "We like how

in the winter time, at night, you hear nothing."

"We bring up a lot of books and just read and sleep. It's a good rest. The road trip is nice because my wife and I get to spend five hours alone."

"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, in the quaint towns between Green Bay and Lake Michigan."

"Especially when there's snow, it's really beautiful."



Photo by Rachel Hanemann

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 Alexa Rice, center, joins Antonio Robles and Gabrielle Knight in sorting the nonperishable goods.

Find some holiday cheer at the University of Chicago Bookstore!

Looking for a new recipe to bring some holiday cheer this season or maybe a gift for a friend? Just a few minutes from U-High, the University of Chicago Bookstore offers a large selection of books, board games and magazines. There's something for everyone! Make a trip to the University of Chicago Bookstore for some holiday cheer today!



Photo by Emily Chiu

Finding the perfect recipe, Sophomore Sophie Ortel knows just the right place to get some holiday cheer.



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People of Color delegates return with ideas for U-High

By Sarah Fischel
Editor-in-Chief

Walking into a large convention 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 "Upstream, Uphill, Up to Us: 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, Alexa Rice and Tara Summers. Guidance Counselor Asra Ahmed and History Teacher Charles Branham 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," Alexa 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 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."

"A lot of people showed that their schools have a lot of the same problems some of the independent schools in Chicago have. It was good to hear what they've done or how they feel and get different opinions to be able to bring home."

Continuing diversity efforts at U-High, Melanie hopes her experience at the Conference will help with Flava Fest and Diversity Club. She said she wants more involvement from students not actively in ethnic clubs such as Black Students' Association.

"There were students from Parker, Latin, North Shore Country Day and Lake Forest Academy," Melanie said. "It was good to see students from schools we know. We told people from Illinois to come to Flava Fest this year; it could be like a mini POCC Student Diversity Leadership Conference."

"In the past, we had a speaker at Flava Fest and activities like those at the conference. It's also important to bring thoughts about diversity outside of clubs, to talk about it outside of BSA or JSA and to involve nonmembers in these clubs."



"I think not having the same first class period every day would be great, because I'm not the most punctual person."
—Natalie Lewis, senior

What is a **B L O C K** schedule?

Committee looks at needs, options

By Dana Alfassa
Associate editor

Reaching over to turn off his alarm clock at 5 a.m., Ted begins his morning routine of last-minute cramming and coffee before his 8 a.m. calculus test. But, what if Ted did not have math so early the next day? Or 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.

Headed 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 take a look at a lot more schedules from other schools," Mr. Horvat said. "We do not want to create an entirely new schedule. By March, the committee should have recommendations 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 reside with me, but I want to make one that is as amenable 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 to get 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 the 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 just stressed out of their minds. There have been all of these studies about sleep deprivation and the fact of the matter is that teens do not think well at eight 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 Brasler 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 crumbled," Mr. Brasler said. "At others, they have continued to thrive. At U-High, journalism has survived having no department, 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 day available for credit. I would not want the school to not try something different because of journalism."

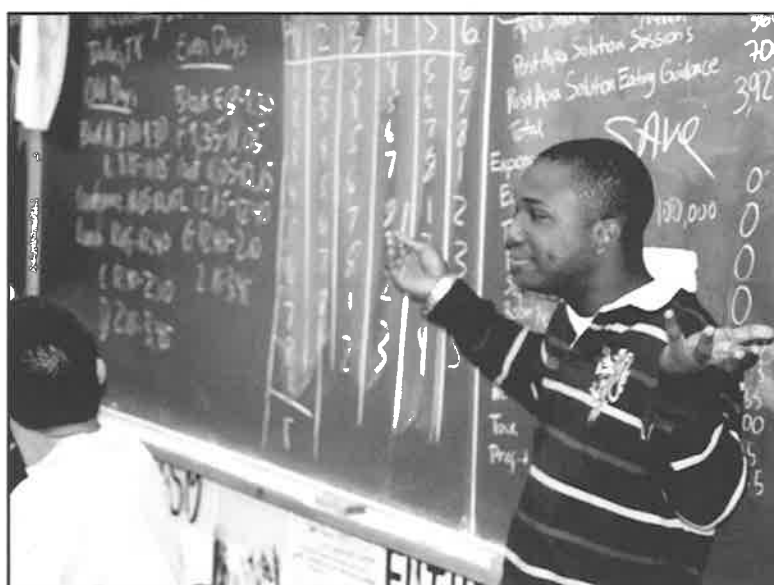





Photo by Zack Slouka

Student Council President Donovan Mitchem, senior, explains west suburban Sacred Heart's rotating six-day schedule at an open forum on scheduling, lunch, November 15.

BUILDING BLOCKS

-  A block schedule consists of 90 minute classes, every other day in a cycle (usually six days), alternating between "even" and "odd" days.
-  Pros include fewer passing periods, more class time for longer activities in class such as showing movies, science labs, or discussion and more focus classes throughout the day.
-  Cons include students having to focus for 90 minutes, faculty not being able to fill 90 minutes of class and certain classes without meeting times every day.

Principal, faculty try new finals schedule to ease student pressures

By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor

As Winter Break approaches and tests cloud students' minds in 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 devised a new schedule incorporating students' suggestions.

Similar to this quarter's final 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 options.

"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 decide among the allotted days. This will also hopefully clear up teachers feeling pressed 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 finals 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."

Parents will get access to grades

By Marrisca 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.

According to a statement on Apple Computers' website, more than 7,800 schools nationwide use PowerSchool, a large database program used to organize attendance, medical, test and grade records.

After two years of using 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 Jane Canright, chairperson.

"Many parents have been asking why we are not 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 would prefer for parents to see 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."

Who says you can't find the perfect apple flying down an aisle?

Looking for the perfect apples to keep healthy this Christmas season? Just a few minutes from U-High, Hyde Park Produce offers a large selection of produce from apples to oranges to pineapples and much more!



Photo by Sheena Anand

Flying down the aisle of Hyde Park Produce, Senior Melanie McClain knows just the right place to find all her favorite produce for the holidays.



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

—Holly Reid, senior



HELL & Hope

■ Holocaust Museum trip evokes deep emotions

By Holly Reid

Associate editor

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 Farver. 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 Ingo Freed."

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 made 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 huddled 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 sticking 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 was referring 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."

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

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

Strolling inside past the metal detectors, we walked briskly to the coat check. Behind me Senior Hannah Rothfield said, "I am going to keep my coat, it's cold in 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 atrium, roped off for a Darfur 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 to represent 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 by the entrance at 5:30 when the museum closes."

I stepped in the elevator with a few classmates;



Photo by Zack Slouka

it was dimly lit and made from huge chunks of stressed metal with marks on it. I read my 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: Tyne Alexander, Noah Breslau, Alicia Brudney, Alexandra Coleman, Max Cuneo-Grant, Sarah Fischel, Zena Hardt, Katherine Hayes, Emma Lantos, Katharine Lauderdale, Katherine McIntyre, Jacqueline Meadow, Delaney Nichols, Bruce Ratain, Claire Redfield, Hannah Rothfield, Zack Slouka.

■ At a class trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., Noah Breslau views the sculpture "Loss and Regeneration" by Joel Shapiro.

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On library board, senior selects books, meets authors

By Graham Salinger

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 '95 and Johannes Beeby '98.

The books selected come from a list compiled 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 Volks decided on Jacqueline.

"I knew she was a big reader," Ms. Volks said. "She came here as a freshman and asked for suggestions on what to read. She even

gave me a few suggestions. I think Jacqui is really cool, the way she can balance Model U.N. 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.

"What the Council does is 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 and writes about issues such as sex and death, libraries can better serve the needs of teenagers so they can be more thoughtful.

"I think 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 book discussions."

"Discussing books with authors changes your perspective. With young adult writers especially, you can identify with their ideas. John Green's writing, for example, seems so close to what teens feel."



Jacqui

Twenty-four get Merit program commendations

Twenty-four seniors have received Commended honors in the National Merit Scholarship program for high standardized test scores.

The scores were just under those required to make Semifinalist status among high school seniors in Illinois.

The Commended students are as follows:

Marcell Babai, Alicia Brudney, Leo

Carlson, Dan Engel-Hall, Zak Feldman, Evan Graff, Max Cuneo-Grant, Rachel Hanessian, Zena Hardt, Phil Jacobson, Helen Jin, Adina Levin, Nneka McGuire, Delaney Nichols, David Orlikoff, Elizabeth Parsons, Namrata Patel, Eliot Popko, Claire Redfield, Benjamin Rosner, Amalia Roth, Max Rothstein, Paul Schweiker, Ruoyu Wang.



"The Language Lab makes it easier for the entire world to cram into your head. It makes learning language fun. It's a blast."
—Scott Craig, junior

language of learning

5

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ DECEMBER 12, 2006

New Language Lab leader forges future

...using technology for best learning

By Gretchen Eng
Midway reporter

Speaking 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 explains 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 conferencing stations with large presentation screens for groups. Construction was completed last summer.

Six-hundred-thirty-six miles away, Mr. Dyer was searching for Chicago job openings from Chattanooga, Tennessee.

"I saw there was a job opening and I put in an application, but I wasn't hired until after we moved," he said. "I ended up going in for an interview later and then I was hired and started 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 combines 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 completed.

"What makes this lab invariably unique is the DiLL software because it extends what an analogue language lab can do by making it digital," Mr. Dyer said. "For example, there is lots of language content on the Internet and having a digital language lab connects students to it. It is also much more efficient in functionality."

"What I find interesting are the particular ways that you can use technology to be effective. If you use it too much it can take focus off the lesson and be ineffective."

World Language Department Chairperson Craig Reubelt, Spanish teacher, also likes the accessibility of the DiLL program.

"The program really gives students an opportunity to listen to themselves," Mr. Reubelt explained. "It helps pronunciation



Photo by Yoolim Kim

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

and fluency and drastically increases the contact time the student has with 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 Schools' language program, including Senior Tara Summers.

"We usually get listening 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."

"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."

For 'Beloved,' teacher turns class to blogs

By Linda Huber
Midway reporter

Surprised. That is how students of English Teacher Carolyn Walter said they felt when she informed them they would be writing blogs as a part of 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 web logs, into the course as a part of daily homework. She divided the book into 10 to 15-page segments then students wrote 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 guess 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 jump 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, theoretically."

"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."

"I 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

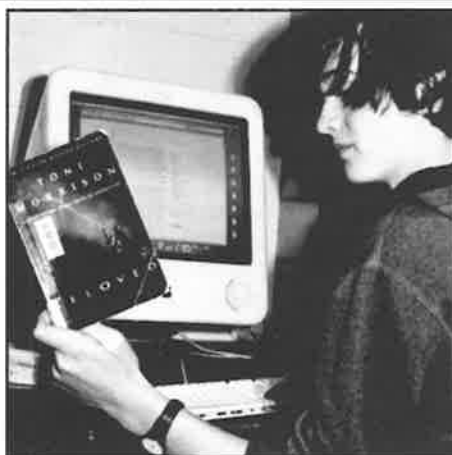


Photo by Yoolim Kim

Joining in a study of "Beloved," Tom Brewer adds a comment to the blog in Mrs. Carolyn Walter's fall elective.

what students have to say, but I think it has real potential as a teaching tool."

Students in the class said that generally the blogs proved a practical way to cover the book.

"It was a fairly efficient manner of communicating individual ideas and reactions about the text," Junior Tom Brewer said. "The papers were generally fairly decent, or at least readable and gave the class something to focus on for each night's reading instead of wildly trying to plow through a text as wildly complicated as 'Beloved.' Leaving comments was a lot of fun, too."

Despite the practicality of the project, many students said they experienced problems with commenting on the blogs, which had to be posted after 9 p.m.

"I think it would be nice to do again because it was really a useful tool," Senior Will Diamond said. "It has its pluses and minuses as a project but overall it was pretty useful. It was a hassle to post something everyday and you had to do homework on someone else's schedule. I would have to come to school and use my free period on English and there were some days I would have rather have been able to do my English at night."

Editor's note: The blogs can be accessed at memoryserves8.blogspot.com and memoryserves2.blogspot.com.

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 Housinger 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?"

"The department chair and principal already evaluate teachers throughout the school year, but it is my experience that the best and most valuable feedback comes from the students themselves because they are the ones who see the teachers every day."

"We are attempting to make the students feel as if they are part of the teaching-learning process and that their voices count. I'm sure some students will use the evaluations as an opportunity to unload issues with a teacher, but those who take it seriously and give real feedback are helping to improve the school and give themselves a better environment to learn in."

Among teachers already using evaluations, Mrs. Housinger believes student evaluations help figure out what works and what doesn't work in a course.

"My course has changed dramatically from
(continues on page 20)

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6 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 Marrisca Miles-Coccaro
Associate editor

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 Kankakee Community College, U-High placed 1st last year.

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

With 19 returning and eight new members, the U-Highers aim to reclaim 1st places 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 Champaign-Urbana. Science Olympiad squad also plans to attend the Prospect Invitational, February 17 at Mt. 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 Suguya, copresident of the Olympiad team with Senior Rebecca Resnick. "We are more prepared than 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."

WYSE 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 Sponsor Sharon Housinger, Science Department chairperson, when studying for tests and building machines.

Eager Math Team revs up to resume competitions

By Marrisca Miles-Coccaro
Associate editor

Using a two-month break, Math Team has been preparing for the North Suburban Mathematics 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 54 schools with 481 points, this year's team has competed in two NSML meets, September 27 at Conant High in Hoffman Estates and October 26 at Proviso West High in Hillside. Willowbrook High School's meet in Villa Park followed last Thursday, after Midway deadline.

Math Teacher Jane Canright sponsors the 30-member team, evenly split between 15 returnees 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," Ms. Canright said. "Our weakness is scheduling problems with other class events. The freshmen were not able to attend the third NSML because they had 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 explaining her answer to judges. Katherine scored 31 points of 50 at the September 27 meet and tied for 1st place with 44 points at the October 26 meet.

"The first meet was nerve racking," Katherine said. "But between the first and second meets 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."



Photo by Emma Lantos

From U-High teams: Alexandra Fryer, Model U.N.; Andrew Suguya, Science; and Katherine Lauderdale, Math. Debate representative Elizabeth Morant couldn't make the photo on the snowy, icy day it was taken.

Prize-winning Model U.N. next goes to Ivy League meet

By Matt Luchins
Midway reporter

Representing France, 27 Model United Nations delegates will compete at the Ivy League Conference, January 25-28 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, the third of six scheduled conferences.

In the most recent meet, December 7-10 at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, a 28-member delegation represented Russia and argued topics including human rights and disarmament. Results came after Midway deadline.

At the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, November 9-12, a 29-member team representing the United States won the Secretary General's Best Large Delegation Award.

Individual award winners were as follows:

BEST DELEGATES—Max Cuneo-Grant, Donovan Mitchem, Liz Parsons, Bruce Ratain, Jaya Sah, Paul Schweiker, Hannah Solomon-Strauss, Bradley Spahn, Jared Spitz.

HONORABLE MENTIONS—Chrissy Delicata, Kali Frampton, Alison Feder, Charlie Fisher, Alexandra Fryer, Muneeb Hai, Jenny Harris, Hugh Montag, Benjamin Picker, Karthik Sarma, Leah Sibener, Stephanie Tang, Sarah Wald, Katherine Zhou, Alex Zimmer.

COMMENDATIONS—Yoolim Kim, Max Rothstein.

"I was definitely excited before leaving for William & Mary," said Alexandra Fryer, who with other first-time delegates Chrissy and Alex won honorable mentions. "It was my first conference and I wasn't really sure what to expect. A lot of the older delegates had stories that they had shared with us and made it seem very intimidating. When we got there, everybody in my room was freaking out and working on speeches but

we still had an awesome time and now I have some stories of my own."

When asked for an interview, Model U.N. President Max Cuneo-Grant, senior, could not comment until he reviewed his remarks with the seven member Executive Board.

After Winter Break, U-Highers will compete February 1-4 at a conference sponsored by the University of Chicago at the Palmer House, then end the year with the National Model United Nations Conference, March 7-10 at the United Nations building in New York City.

"At Nationals we get to present our arguments at the real General Assembly chamber," said Senior Donovan Mitchem. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and the time I went we won Best Delegation, because we're raw like that."

More than 70 students are involved with Model U.N. Some members devote their lunch periods to working with Model U.N. Adviser Earl Bell, history teacher, and experienced members. At these meetings, students prepare arguments and speeches, having studied the viewpoints of countries they are assigned to represent.

"Because I'm the only faculty adviser and Model U.N. has so many members, much of the teaching is done by the more experienced members," Mr. Bell said.

For the first time in several years, a sophomore, Jaya Sah, is serving on the Executive Board.

"It's not normal for a sophomore to be on the Board," Jaya said, "but I feel that I'm equal to the other Board members."

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Debaters ply busy agenda

By Leyla Tartagil

Midway reporter

Heading into their eighth of 11 meets, Debate Team's 14 members are preparing for the Lane 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.

The team is advised by Math Teacher Anna Blistein.

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 six newcomers to join the eight 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."

Debaters nationwide are to argue National Service all year, chosen by the National Forensic League. Members prepare for meets during a frenzied day of reading and memorizing research, according to Novice Debater Claire Milsted, freshman.

"We didn't have to do much evidence prep for Lane," Claire said. "Researching is usually this frantic day of photocopying research and packing into these big boxes and carting them out. We all learn everything on the bus."

Other results are as follows:

New Trier Season Opener, New Trier, September 30: Team never received results; **East Grand Rapids Pioneer Classic**, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 27-29: Both varsity and novices won one, lost four; **Homewood-Flossmoor Invitational**, Flossmoor, November 10-11: Out of 45 teams varsity placed 36th and out of 68 novices scored 26th, 43rd and 48th; **Glenbrook North**, Glenbrook, November 18-20: Results not yet in.



"He talks funny and he can jump over people. If Andrew was a cartoon character he would be Tigger."
 —Marcell Babai, senior

Angry sophomore.....by Eric Cochrane



Character Sketch

Renaissance man enjoys multiple talents, interests

HE'S THE KID 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 wonderboy 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 breaks 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. They usually show signs of improvement."

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

"I'm doing a project putting firefly genes into plants called bioluminescence. The final goal is to have plants that will shine bright enough



Caricature by Lauline Gough
 Andrew Sugaya

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 with this project 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,

who is known around the school as a talented magician. "He is a really fast learner with skilled hands. When we do magic together, we compete with each other and bounce ideas, which in turn makes us better in the end."

"Andrew has gotten very good in casual situations with small groups and he knows how to make people respond. Just like he plays the violin, he knows how to perform and he loves impressing good-looking blonde girls."

Last summer Andrew frequently went to Disney's Epcot Center. There he charmed waitresses and other spectators with his magical talents.

"For fun on the weekends during the summer I go to Disney World in Orlando and I walk around doing magic. It's great

because everyone loves magic and it also scores me brownie points with waitresses. I regularly get free meals for it. I especially love going to Morocco at Epcot because they have the best food."

Determined to improve on his past achievements, Andrew has worked hard to become a record-breaking track star.

"I've been doing the triple jump for four years. I jumped 42 feet, 10 inches last year and this year my goal is to beat the outdoor record, which is only six inches more. I do it for the reasons similar to why I play the violin. Lifting and working out daily helps me feel great and it's actually the only thing that makes me tired. There's also one more thing about the triple jump. When I do it, I feel like I'm flying."

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

—Marcell Babai, senior

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

—Mona Dasgupta, junior



Second City First step to stardom

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

By Kyle Brunke
Midway reporter

Four chairs. A cold, barren stage. Lights. Powerful lights. A U-Higher stands before an audience and becomes a comedian, conjuring sounds of laughter within the cavernous walls of The Second City. Juniors Gretchen Eng, Eva Jaeger and Tom Brewer have all undergone the same daily routine of Summer Boot Camp.

Second City, 1626 North Wells Street, jump started both Saturday Night Live and the films, "Animal House," "Ghostbusters" and "Groundhog Day." Growing from theater groups within the University of Chicago during the late 1940s and early 1950s, The Second City soon evolved into an international phenomenon.

"This is a two week intensive program," Youth Program Coordinator Jeff Gandy said. "From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. students learn improvisation and sketch writing techniques to develop a show. Our method is very hands on; we play, we have fun. The students can redo a scene and improve on it. This is a group activity where working together is a key part."

Interested in joining Second City because of its sterling reputation, Gretchen yearned for a fun experience.

"My friend overheard me doing an impersonation and she thought it

was funny," Gretchen explained. "She recommended Boot Camp. Last summer I took both classes and had a wonderful experience in the sketch writing class. Improv is a little more difficult. It feels awful to deliver a bad joke, but part of improv is the recovery so I don't often think about it while I'm performing. The camp was something fun on the side. I really enjoyed it."

An elusive dream propelled Eva to join Second City.

"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 emulating 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 a spectator, Gretchen believes.

"Improv is the ability to establish a relationship quickly with the other people



Photo by Yoolim Kim

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

on the stage and to present a character you have absolutely no knowledge of," Gretchen explained. "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."

John Belushi, Chris Farley, Dan Aykroyd, Gilda Radner 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.

Fresh incentives push history programs into future

Classroom makeover encourages discussion

By Nathan Bishop
Midway reporter

Light reflects off the thick lenses of History Teacher Chris Janus' glasses. His mouth curls into a satisfied smile as his booming voice excitedly describes new wooden tables for his classroom.

He got the idea for the tables from Middle School Humanities Teacher Jan Yourist's room. Then at a seminar over the summer at Exeter Academy in Pennsylvania he became inspired by a teaching theory that students seated around large wooden tables participate more in class discussion.



Mr. Janus

"Principal Matt Horvat really came through," Mr. Janus explained. "I'm very happy with the tables. I like having the expanse of wood that makes it easier to put books on and aesthetically they're much more pleasing than the desk. They promote a seminar-like atmosphere. I enjoy when the room is changing. I think a lot of classrooms are sterile, so that's important to have visual change, it may seem stupid but it really helps. The tables have also created this new space in the center of the room, and I'm very keen on the idea of building a map of Europe there."

Students like the change, too.

"I think the tables will help discussion, and it's just nice to have more space to put your books," said AP European History student Paul Bissonnette, sophomore. "I also think it will help because people hide in the back when they have not done the reading. For one thing, it is easier to lead discussion when you can see everyone in the class. If it were up to me, we'd put these tables in every classroom."

Tables are not Mr. Janus' only innovation. He has also introduced new speakers and a lecture series. Lectures by professional economists are given during double lunch. In his A.P. European History class Mr. Janus invited Eric Triantafyllou of the Art Institute to give lectures. Aspiring history teacher Christie Girst and A.P. Testing Coordinator Chris Harper assist Mr. Janus in his A.P. Economics classes.



Photos by Liwen Xu, Sheena Anand, Mila Devenport

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Mr. Allan Sanderson

Sports economist, University of Chicago

Mrs. Susan Gzesch

Director of Human Rights Program, University of Chicago

Teacher works to improve standards for all schools

By Namrata Patel
Editor-in-Chief

Contacting Illinois congressmen and department of education, History Department 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.

Ms. 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 policymakers 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 terrible disservice with this new implosion 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."

Ms. Puklin

After observing history teaching around the state as part of her NCHE duties, Ms. Puklin said she 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 in 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 upgrade their knowledge from experts in lectures 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."





"I care too much about my friends to let them drink and drive."
—David McAlpine, junior

investigation 9

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006

driving under the INFLUENCE

■ Liquor, drugs, cars, teenagers producing fatal national epidemic

By Robin Shapiro
Associate editor

Loud hip hop music rattling the tall, frosted windows of a townhouse break the silence of a quiet residential neighborhood in Lincoln Park.

Kicking off his four-day weekend at a junior girl's costume party without her parents home, 9 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 onlinelawyersource.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 guess she knows when 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 know my limits and I 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."

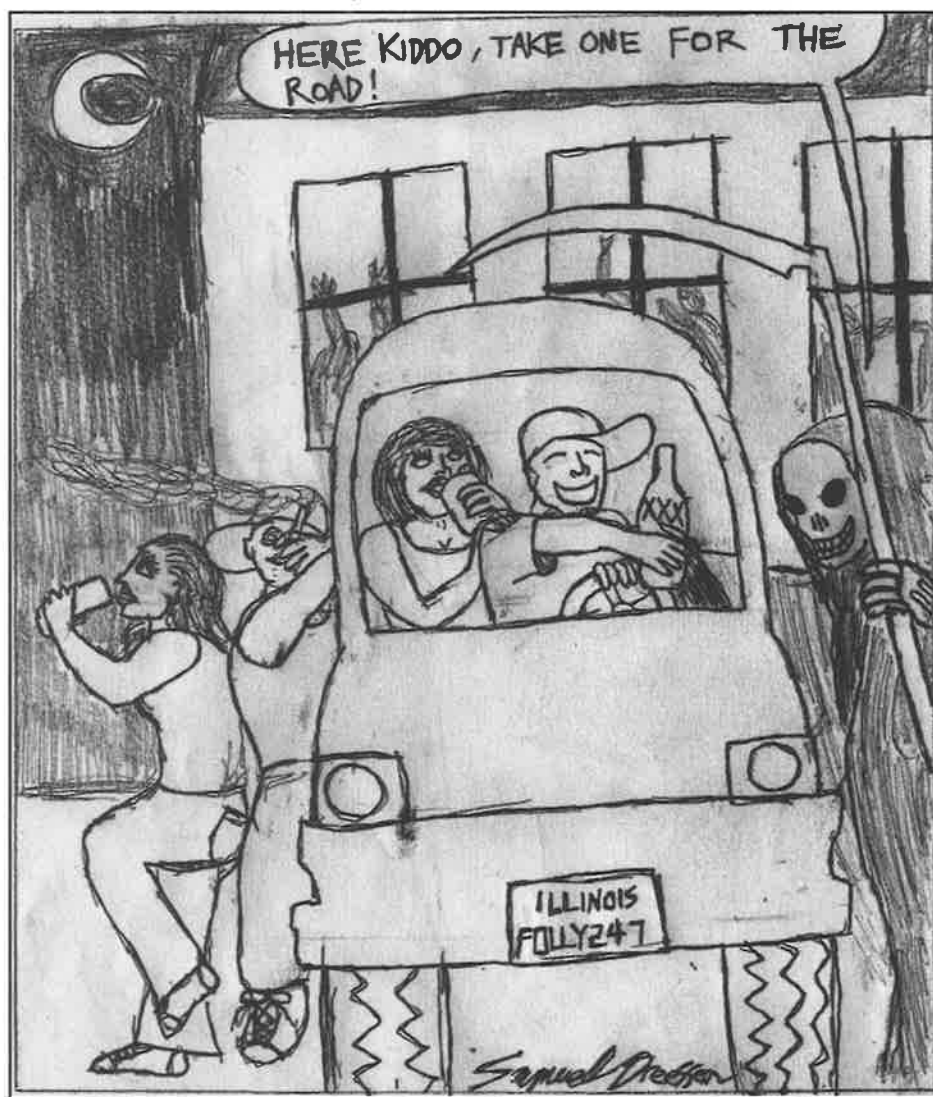
A senior girl said she drives a friend's car for him on Thursdays during double lunch, Fridays, Saturdays and some Sundays so that he won't drive under the influence.

"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 have driven high. It's not much different



Art by Sam Dreessen

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 Bell drove 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 Riegelhaupt, 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 excuse 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 counselor 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 under estimate 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 different from alcohol."

"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 driven 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'd think that U-Highers would make smarter decisions than that."

Aware of David's role as a designated driver, Ms. Kathy McAlpine, David's mother, said that although she dislikes David being around people drinking, she has confidence that he will not drink and get behind the wheel.

"I don't think anyone should ever drink and drive," Ms. McAlpine said. "I never drank in front of my kids. I think parents should conduct themselves very carefully around their kids because that's who their kids learn from."

"I have a strict personal 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."

(Editor's note: Sources were permitted to remain anonymous if they requested.)

- 53% of 12th graders have used an illicit drug, such as marijuana, in their lifetime.
- 66% of 12th graders report having been drunk.
- 45% of motor vehicle related fatalities involve alcohol.
- Drugs are used in 18% of motor vehicle deaths.
- Each hour in the United States, a car accident claims a teenage life.

These are national figures from Students Against Destructive Decisions and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

"After a party, I was so drunk I accidentally drove myself all the way to Wisconsin."

—Junior boy

"Shooting professional and vivid photos with an intriguing depth of field Evan's photography always blows me away."
—Jeremy Lacocque, senior



Photos courtesy Evan Graff

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 Roseate Spoonbill on Merrit Island, Florida; a Brown Pelican shot in Lantana Cut, Florida.

Nature-ally

■ **With his camera, birder captures awards, too**

By Jeffrey Bishku-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 18,000 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 amid quaint family settings.

"My family has always had a camera that we bring along on vacations," Evan said. "I would take pictures to show what we saw. 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 wild birds.

"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



Photo by Sydney Marcus

Evan Graff

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."

(continues on page 20)

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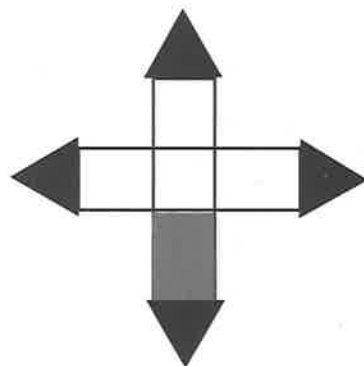
Photo courtesy Evan Graff

This Sanderling 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.



"My visit to the Near South Side was awesome; it really opened my eyes to a part of the city I never had seen before."
—Liz Messina, junior

Down South in South Chi-town



Blossoming areas bring revitalized atmosphere

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 foot 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."

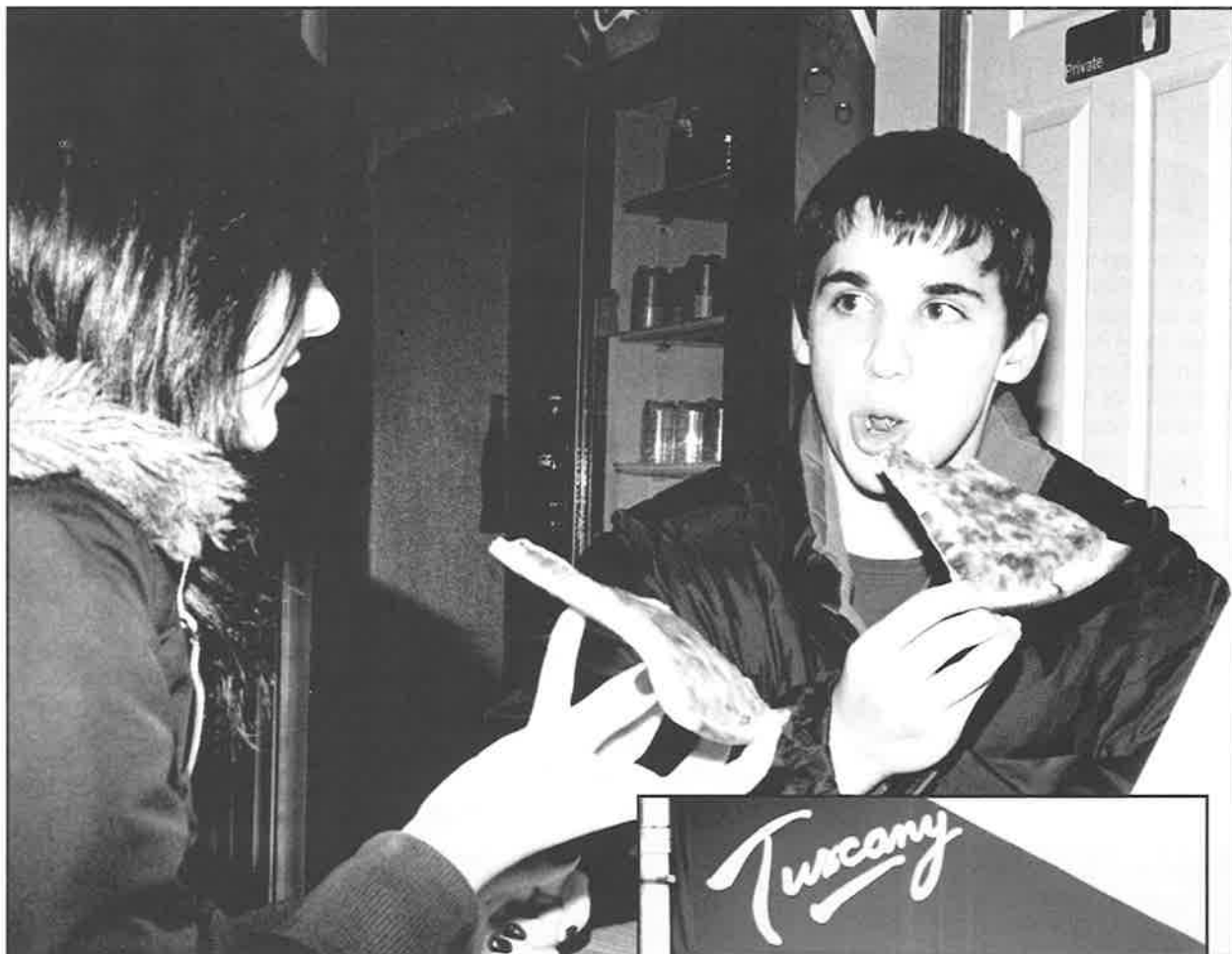
Although already packed with pizzerias, Little Italy always seems to have room for one more. Joe Maggiolini, a short man with bright eyes and a kind smile opened Franco's Pizza, 1132 West Taylor Street, last March. Speaking enthusiastically with his strong Italian accent and sporty in casual jeans, a black polo and a black adidas cap, Mr. Maggiolini said he loves working in the small community.

"I'm originally from Italy and moved to America 20 years ago," Mr. Maggiolini 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. Ever since I moved to Chicago, I've lived in downtown but never in Little Italy. Even though I have never lived there, I have always 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 1990s 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.



■ 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.



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 from the Dan Ryan Expressway, Maxwell Street Polish on Union and Maxwell.

Even further east, Dearborn Park I and II lie on opposite sides of the Chicago River, separated by the Roosevelt Road Bridge. 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.

Happy
Holidays
to
U-HIGH!



—From BSA



"There are huge psychological aspects to getting plastic surgery that need to be addressed in anyone."

—Courtney Conners, senior

PAYING THE PRICE FOR BEAUTY

SURROUNDING a bag of chips and hummus, five seniors and two juniors chat energetically during lunch late last month in the chatter-filled cafeteria. One junior boy turns to a senior girl and asks why she is not eating. The girl nonchalantly replies, "I'm

not hungry and I haven't eaten since yesterday." The conversation goes onto another topic.

For the next three days, the senior girl sits with the same friends. 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 bingeing and purging, something she says she never thought she had.

"When I binge, I was in my own world," the girl said in a Midway 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 fight 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 of times a day. I didn't realize that doing it every so often was such a big deal, nor did I think it was a such serious eating problem. I thought I was a girl who had to take a couple extra steps to stay as thin as I wanted to."

The media glamorize 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're portraying girls as if you tap a wand on their head and they're magically thin and beautiful. They don't show the gory, ugly side or anything like that. Eating disorders are selfish 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 22 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. Afflicted by both, a junior girl, diagnosed a year ago with an eating disorder not otherwise specified, found comfort in her eating issues.

"I had anorexic and bulimic tendencies for about a year," the junior girl said. "A year went by and I tried going to therapists and doctors but none of it seemed to help. I knew what I was doing was wrong and unhealthy but there was always a little part of

me that either thought or hoped that it was. I just kept thinking that there was always a little more fat on my body that I could and wanted to get rid of."

"A year later, I had a conversation with a friend and I was just able to let it go. It was something that I was able to hold onto it defined my comfort zone and then to find that same comfort with a friend allowed me to get better and I'm thankful that happened."

Teenagers in high pressure social and academic environments tend to breed perfectionist attitudes that often lead to the development of eating problems, according to U. of C. Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry Dr. Elizabeth Steinhauer.

"The fact is that eating disorders are really common in today's culture, especially in girls and women, who account for 90 percent of all eating disorders," Dr. Steinhauer said in a recent phone interview. "Twenty to 25 percent of college women have a diagnosable eating disorder, with many more having subsyndromal, milder conditions. Body image concerns, anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa often begin in middle or high school. They tend to occur in high-achieving, perfectionistic people."

They may feel that their weight is one thing they can control. Since many U-High students are driven, perfectionistic people, a place like U-High can be a danger zone for this type of behavior. The risk is even higher if someone is genetically prone to anxiety disorders, because they can start to obsessively worry about their weight and body 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."

Many fashion magazine editors have noted a recent extreme decrease in the body mass index of some models. Dr. Steinhauer believes this development has contributed to increased media attention on thinner celebrities, but this phenomenon was not the first evidence of the media's pressure on those in the public eye.

"We live in this bizarre culture where exalted models look like concentration camp victims," Dr. Steinhauer explained. "General standards of beauty have become more exacting and difficult to attain. Studies have shown that not only are models getting thinner, but Playboy centerfolds and Miss America contestants have



Art by Eric Cochrane

gotten progressively skinnier as well." All this is happening while the North American population is getting heavier, which is creating an increased discrepancy between real women and women presented as ideal. It's very confusing and often undermines a woman's or girl's sense of adequacy and desirability."

Also acknowledging an increase of attention to celebrities' bodies and weight, Guidance Counselor Asra Ahmed believes magazines such as People and US Weekly are putting the issue on the cover to increase readership.

"After fall fashion week in New York, people noticed that the models were thinner than ever," Ms. Ahmed said. "Not only are the magazines trying to stay current but they have a mission to do at least one public health story a year and this qualifies as one. It just happens to be very celebrity driven. The disturbing thing is that next month these magazines may have the same celebrities in a glamorous pose, which could send mixed messages to their readers."

An avid reader of fashion magazines, another junior girl, whose parents and siblings have suffered from anorexia and bulimia, believes nonchalant attitudes towards eating disorders are worsened by the media.

"I'm glad that I don't have an eating disorder because I've had so many experiences within my family," the junior girl said. "I've seen what it can do to you and people around you, and it's awful. I still know several people with serious eating disorders and some of them are happy when they see a bone sticking out of their body. It's things like that that are small cries for help, but the media isn't helping at all and it's impossible to reach out to them because they won't listen."

"I think it started off as small diets to lose a little weight, but it gradually became a lot bigger. Now actors and actresses embrace being thin and embrace eating disorders, which I think is really sad. I don't know why the world has become this obsessed with body image and being thin. It's just sad."

—By David McAlpine
Associate editor



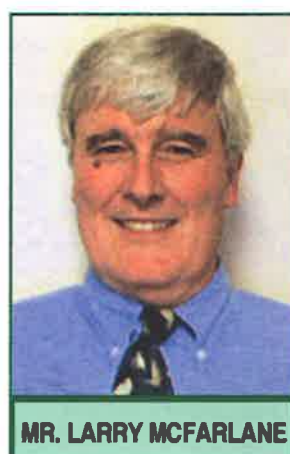
CAITLIN FINN



MS. JULIE LEMON



MS. SHARON HOUSINGER



MR. LARRY MCFARLANE



STEPHANIE HOLMES



MELANIE MCCLAIN

"IT'S PROBABLY really hard for a kid to just go and talk to a counselor about what's going on with their eating habits. Maybe there could be some sort of open support group where kids can go together to talk with counselors or teachers, so it's not as scary."

"THE MOST important thing the administration can do is to make sure they're trained to help students deal with eating issues. But it's the responsibility of the student and their family to get medical support. School can also help by lowering the stress level for its students."

"THE BEST thing a school can do is make sure that these issues are frequent topics of conversation. The more students are educated, the more they will learn how to recognize signs of a problem within themselves or their friends. The more aware students are, the more likely they are to seek help."

"STUDENTS' EMOTIONAL and physical issues should be assessed by the Counseling Department. While administrators should be trained to deal with student problems, in reality they're not going to be. That's why the counselors are specifically trained to help students with their issues."

"IF WE had healthier options in the caf, students with eating issues could feel better about eating at school. Also, maybe there could be a system where kids having a really bad day and wanting to calm down could talk to a counselor and not be counted absent from class every once and a while."

"MAYBE IF the school offered student some sort of access to personal trainer after school it could help promote healthy body image. If we had trainers then kids could learn about weight management and how to live a healthy lifestyle. If adults show that they are happy with the way they are and live healthily that could help."

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

When U-Highers sit down to think about what new gear and gadgets to ask Santa for this year, do not be surprised if some brand new curves for around \$4,000 tops a wish list or two.

Since 2003, 14 percent 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 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 Lipo would mean I'd have 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 mean to condemn those who do have it though because we live in a society that covets a certain type of beauty. I myself would like to make my nose a bit smaller, my boobs a bit bigger and have Liposuction.

It's not that I think I'm particularly obese but my weight fluctuates. I just think that

Liposuction would be a quick and easy way to get the results I want. It's not that I'm against working out, but it's very difficult to get to the gym regularly on top of school and everything else.

"A lot of my friends are thin and beautiful. When we go out and they look stunning and I'm with them it's kind of awkward when they get more attention from guys. Also at school people treat them differently from how they treat me. I feel they get a lot more positive attention from people than I do."

U. of C. Psychiatrist Dr. Angela Smyth, who has U-Highers among her patients, said that 15- to 18 year-olds are at a crucial developmental stage.

"They're very interested in self-image and how they look to others," Dr. Smyth said. "Teens that get surgery are probably on the wealthier, upperclass end where it's available to them. There's always the risk that someone clinically depressed about their

appearance gets plastic surgery thinking it will make them feel better and then finds out that in the long run it doesn't. Sort of like buying a new outfit thinking it will make your life better, but the way you feel won't change without addressing the underlying problems."

Teenagers should not have extreme cosmetic procedures because they are not secure enough with themselves, U-High parent and doctor's assistant Denise Alfassa believes.

"I think that for kids who know they are really unhappy with something, for example they hate their nose and they have a doctor's okay and the parents say fine, than it's all right," Ms. Alfassa said. "A nose job is one thing, but for a teenager to have a boob job or Liposuction I think is inappropriate. Do you really think a 16-year-old knows how she's going to feel about her body in 10 years? Parents should hear their kids' complaints and address them with understanding but also keep in mind what will be best for their kids over time."

Three thousand and six hundred teens last year had Breast Augmentation, a procedure that enhances breasts with silicone or saline implants,

according to the American Society.

One junior girl, who feels extremely unhappy with her chest, said she would strongly like to have the procedure when she is 18.

"Although I think that plastic surgery in general is immature and naive,

I really want to have my boobs done," the junior said. "It's a constant conflict 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 pretty much go against everything I stand for in order to change it."

—By Cydney Weiner
Associate editor

Editor's note: To encourage sources to speak freely, the Midway agreed to withhold their names.



PATTY KOVACS



LOUIS PILEGGI



BJ ARUN

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

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

"COUNSELORS CAN be really easy to talk to but a lot of kids are afraid to put their trust into someone who can easily access their 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 that could provide insight."

GUIDE TO EATING DISORDERS

Eating disorders are obsessions with food and weight often causing physical and psychological problems. Five percent of young women in the United States suffer from an eating disorder and as many as 15 percent have an unhealthy attitude and behavior towards food according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

ANOREXIA—Starvation, an obsession with dieting and being thin. Sufferers usually have low self esteem and fear becoming fat. Anorexia causes hormonal changes, amenorrhea (loss of menstrual cycle), osteoporosis (premature bone loss) and various kinds of organ damage including kidney and heart failure. One percent of women under 20 have anorexia.

People often turn to anorexia to deal with personal problems, according to U. of C. Psychologist Renee Rienecke Hoste.

BULIMIA—Overeating often followed by purposely vomiting, fasting or abusing laxatives. Bulimia causes lung irritation, damaged teeth, gastronomic problems and chronic loss of bodily fluids resulting in muscle spasms, kidney disease and heart failure.

Four percent of young women under 20 suffer from bulimia and about 10 percent of people with bulimia are male.

"As people are starting to learn more about bulimia, they are becoming more educated. Media messages about beauty and thinness are being targeted towards women rather than men," Doctor Hoste said.

BINGE EATING—Eating uncontrolled amounts of food in a short time until feeling overly full and bloated. Sufferers are generally overweight and eat uncontrollably periodically to feel better, fill a void or deal with struggles. Binging is also associated as a form of purposeful self punishment.

COMPULSIVE OVEREATING—An addiction to food, often a way of coping with problems. The sufferer eats more than the regular 'three meals a day' and uses food as a way to cope with problems and stress. Sufferers tend to be overweight and aware of their abnormal eating habits, compared to anorexia and bulimia sufferers, who often do not admit or realize they have a disorder. Risks include heart attack, high blood pressure and cholesterol, kidney disease, arthritis and stroke.

COMPULSIVE EXERCISING—Restricting or punishing the body by obsessive exercising. Frequently done to avoid feeling guilty when eating. Risks include dehydration, osteoporosis and amenorrhea.

BODY IMAGE DISTORTION—An unclear, false perception of one's body shape and weight. Sufferers are often embarrassed, uncomfortable and ashamed with his or her body, sometimes leading to the development of other eating disorders.

OTHER—People with irregular eating patterns who either have a mixture of disorders or who are a "healthy weight" but still suffer from anorexia.

—Compiled by Corina Stanton, Midway reporter

Say What?

Compiled by Artis Lewis

If you only had seven dollars and a quarter and you had to buy a gift for your brother or sister and your mother, what would you buy and why?

BEN WORCESTER, senior: My mother really enjoys reading history. I would buy her a novel about early American history from Powell's Bookstore. As for my brother, I would get him a jazz C.D. from Dr. Wax. I would buy one by Charlie Parker or Bill Evans, which are a couple of my brother's favorites.



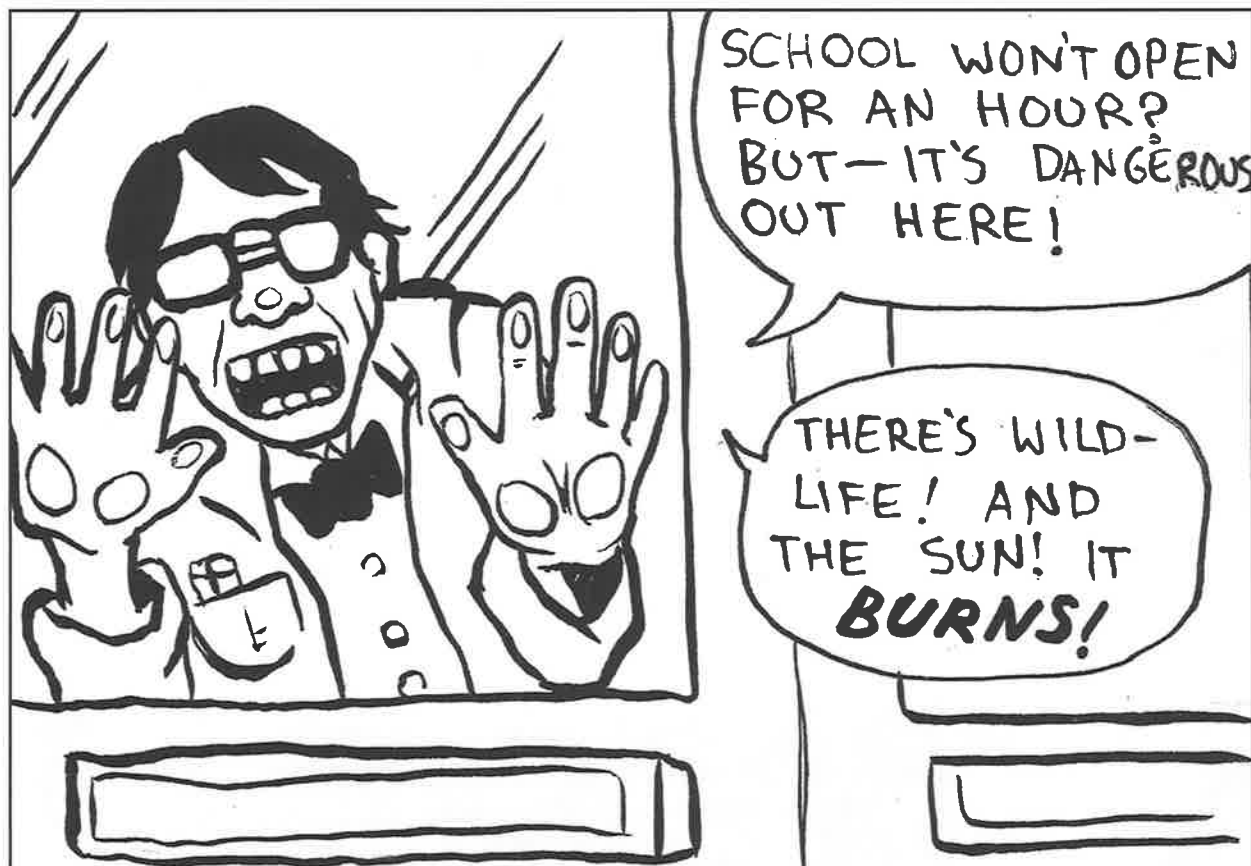
MADELINE HORN, sophomore: If I only had seven dollars and a quarter to buy my mother and sister something, well there really isn't much that you can do with seven dollars and a quarter. So, I guess I would buy them both cards and fill them with lots of love and hope that they understood that I was on a very limited budget.



SYMONE BUCKNER, junior: If I only had that much to spend on my mother, I would go to Target and clean up the whole dollar rack and buy as many presents for her as I could. On Christmas Day, I think my mother would look at me and smile and be surprised that I was able to buy so many presents for only seven dollars and quarter.



DANIEL SIMMONS-MARENGO, freshman: I have never bought my mother chocolates for Christmas before and she and I both love eating chocolates. Especially Lindt Sprungli assorted chocolates. Therefore, with such a limited budget, I would buy her as many boxes of Lindt Sprungli chocolates as I could so that she doesn't eat my own private stash of them.



Art by Eric Cochrane

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 myriad of new rules and 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 their purpose. Then U-Highers had the opportunity to question University Police Director Rudy Nimocks.

New procedures include only three school doors being accessible in the morning: the High School Lobby, Blaine Hall Lobby and Judd 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 opened 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 these students, leaving even 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 dissuaded from going to the cafeteria, Senior Lounge and the top two floors, ending up outside of school is likely.

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

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 a swift response to the safety issues in the neighborhood and communicate clearly to them about what is happening and what response is being made to it.

Now that communication and that response has taken place, the ball is in the student body's court. Inconvenience isn't pleasant but it's also not more important than safety.

'Tis the season to be jolly well mixed-up

CHRISTMAS TREES and plastic reindeers. Menorahs and clay dreidels. But a Christmas tree in the corner and a menorah 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 believe in?

My mother is Catholic and my father, raised in India, belongs to the Bramho Samaj, a branch of Hinduism. My family celebrates Christmas as well as the Bramho holiday Maghotshav, a month later, which commemorates the founding of the religion.

My parents raised me Catholic and as a result I firmly believe in Catholic teachings. But sometimes when I celebrate Bramho holidays I feel it's wrong 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 such a religious holiday, they are also attributing to the beliefs of a religion they don't believe in. When I attend Bramho services, I am praying and paying my respects just like other U-Highers who celebrate Christmas even if they aren't Christian.

My friend, Junior Dana Alfassa also celebrates a holiday outside the religion she practices.

"My mom is Jewish and I was raised Jewish," Dana says. "I had my Bat Mitzvah and I went to Anshe Emet. I'm very conservative and not super religious. I only go to synagogue on the High Holidays.

"However, my dad is Presbyterian. When I was growing up we would get a tree over Thanksgiving and a new ornament every year. My mom always supported my dad's love of Christmas. After my parents divorced, I continued to celebrate Christmas with my dad. For me, it's not a matter of belief. Spiritually, I believe in the teachings of Judaism. I celebrate Christmas to respect my dad and his beliefs. I don't think it's disrespectful to Judaism."

Another friend of mine, Sophomore Nate Wise was also raised in a Jewish household but says he never celebrates Hanukkah and only celebrates Christmas.

"My parents were both raised in Jewish households and didn't feel it was necessary to pass down Judaism to my brother and me," Nate says. "My family decorates the Christmas tree and when I was younger I would lay out cookies for Santa. On Christmas my extended family, even though they're Jewish, will come and we'll all celebrate together.

"Christmas to my family is not a day of religion. We don't sing or praise Jesus. It's not about the birth of Christ. It's a time for family to get together, like Thanksgiving. I think Christmas is a commercialized holiday and I don't think it's wrong to celebrate Christmas because it's a day for family."

As Christmas and Maghotshav draw near, I haven't yet come to a conclusion about celebrating religious holidays I don't believe in. Even though I am one of many U-Highers who celebrates different religious holidays, I still wonder, is it wrong?



Opinion
Mona
Dasgupta

U-High MIDWAY

Published nine times a year by journalism and photojournalism students of University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Copyright 2006 University High School, Chicago, Journalism Department. Printed by Metropolitan Press, Broadview, Illinois.

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Intellectual Titans Part Two...by Sam Dreessen



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 accompanies them, author Kiran 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 Man 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 four live in a tiny decrepit house in Kalimpong, 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 Kalimpong, 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 characters, Sai, Biju and Gyan each trying to find their purpose in life and dealing with the pains of growing up.

Biju lives in America 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 there.

Unfortunately, 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.

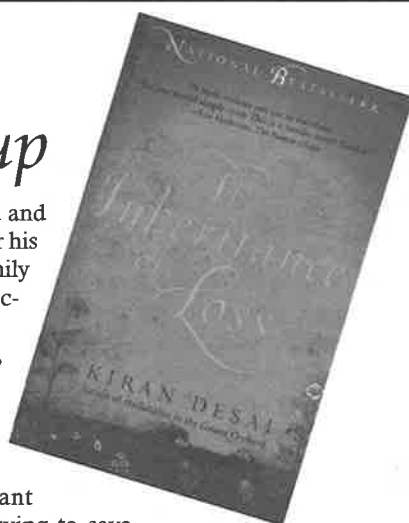
When Sai falls in love with her first boy friend, Gyan, she doesn't know what to expect as he confuses her, sometimes tender and loving, other times ignoring her in the streets.

Gyan doesn't know who he wants to grow up to be. His grandfather was Nepalese and Gyan feels that he should be true to the Nepali cause; being treated equally in India. Gyan believes that by fighting back is hurting Sai, his girl friend and his own family.

Desai elaborately describes the mental and physical journeys Sai, Biju and Gyan go through, sometimes including the judges' memories of his first time going out in the world and leaving his parents' protection.

Unfortunately Desai does not explain the history between India and Nepali and I had to look it up online to clearly understand the history behind the fight, but overall I truly enjoyed this novel.

Desai addresses timeless issues, such as growing up and becoming an adult, the events that force one into adulthood and first times out in the world trying to find oneself. They are topics, I believe, many U-Highers can relate to.



For Obama, taking Presidential path requires caution

I THOUGHT THAT I was going to be the first black President, but it's looking more likely that I thought wrong.

November's election are over and many Americans are now looking forward to the 2008 Presidential race. No potential candidate has received as much attention as Hyde Park's prodigal son, Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.).

Since his speech at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, Obama has gained national popularity. Obama certainly will seek the Democratic nomination for the White House, especially after the party's astounding victory in last month's midterm elections.

Obama claimed he would not run for national office in 2008 after winning the Illinois Senate seat, vacated by Peter Fitzgerald in 2004.

In recent weeks, however, Obama has taken the necessary steps towards a run, including a speech about the United States' policy regarding Iraq to the Council on Foreign Relations and trips to Iowa and New Hampshire, the first two stops in the primary Presidential elections.

Polling over 1,014 Americans in late October, the Opinion Research Corporation posed the question, "Who would you support for the Democratic Nomination for President in 2008?"

Competing against the likes of New York Senator Hillary Clinton and Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, Obama took a strong 2nd place, with 17 percent, trailing Clinton, who received 28 percent.

Despite Obama's recent popularity surge, I cannot help but to wonder whether or not the time is right for him to run for President. More than anything, I am skeptical of Obama's experience.

Outside of eight years as a state Senator and two inactive years as a U.S. Senator, Obama doesn't have the experience to match the other potential candidates in '08. This would serve as an exploitable weakness along the campaign trail.

Obama's accomplishments in the Senate leave a lot more to be desired. Since his initial election in 2004, Obama has worked on only three bills, one dealing with immigration remains log jammed in the Senate because of the lack of compromise between Democrats and Republicans.

But simultaneously Obama has found the time to jet set all over the world as the spokesperson for democracy, taking trips to the Middle East, Russia, Eastern Europe and Africa on goodwill missions.

Also running the risk of getting caught up with the wrong crowd, Senator Obama has just barely avoided a major political scandal.

Last month the Chicago Tribune reported Obama purchased property and accepted campaign contributions from Tony Rezko, a Chicago area businessman charged with exchanging political favors for payment.

If he hopes to not only compensate for his lack of experience but also make amends for the mistakes that he has made Obama has to tread softly.

He should also reconnect with his constituency and focus his attention on the job that he was elected to do. Senator Obama doesn't need to give all of his presidential aspirations, he just needs to remember that good things come to those who wait.



Opinion
Donovan
Mitchem

Books Anna Katia Zbikowski

MIDWAY MAILBOX

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 Decalogue. 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 compel Jewish families, which comprise approximately 20 percent of the Schools' community, to choose between their religious identity and obligations and

their commitment to the Laboratory Schools.

"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

an 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.

This affront to the Schools' Jewish families comes on the heels of a similar incident with regard to the Senior Prom. Two years ago, Prom was scheduled for a Friday night, causing an enormous split in the senior class and bringing pious assurances from the administrators that it would never happen again.

This year, Prom has once again been scheduled for a Friday night and, despite our best efforts, the date will not be changed. Once again, observant Jewish students are being asked to compromise their most dearly-held religious beliefs for the convenience of a thoughtless majority, with the explicit approval of the supervising administrator and the support of the highest levels of Schools administration.

Although the dates for Prom and "Connections" will not be changed from Friday nights this year, all U-Highers need to be aware of this unfortunate situation. Not only does it directly affect many of us, but it is an issue that goes against the integrity of our school and should end immediately.



Adina

Will Ferrell, funny and fully-clothed

WHERE THERE's a Will, there's a way. Directed by Marc Foster, "Stranger Than Fiction" brings together a wonderful cast with amazing chemistry. The plot keeps the audience engrossed by the thoughts and actions of Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) and Kay

Eiffel (Emma Thompson). In theaters since November 10, "Stranger Than Fiction" has remained among the top 10 movies for more than three weeks.

In this imaginative comedy/drama, Eiffel uses an exquisite vocabulary to describe the thoughts and life of Crick in her story but cannot, after 10 years, write his death. Eiffel falls into a depression when faced with potential failure and starts to picture her own death instead of Crick's. Though Eiffel 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 Eiffel. Led by her 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 Hilbert (Dustin Hoffman). After hearing Eiffel plotting his death, Crick transforms himself from a boring walking calculator to a doting and thoughtful human.

I went to this film hoping not to see another typical Ferrell 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 farces to intelligent, sophisticated films but he did. Ferrell was able to keep this dime-a-dozen film fresh and sharp.

"Stranger Than Fiction" exemplifies Ferrell's development into this sophisticated role. He amazed me with his ability to show his transitions from sadness in the face of death to loving life without bringing melodramatic clichés to the screen. Ferrell throws away any assumption that he will be typed cast by keeping his character real without getting extravagant. His honest depiction of his character's awkward confrontational behavior helps the audiences understand Crick better than any words spoken by Thompson.

Dark and twisted, Thompson exemplifies her ability to revamp herself by showing her character in a raw and open light. Playing this fantastically sickening author, Thompson does it without embarrassment. Wearing no makeup, she perfectly personifies the awful, repulsive chain smoker attitude. Thompson's gesticulations and tones turn 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 sensuality within her confrontations. As common as the nativity

story, this plot should prove a bore but Foster uses creative techniques to spruce it up. He works with graphic special effects to show the inner workings of both Crick's and Eiffel's mind.

He incorporates fast paced action scenes followed by silent dialogues that keep increasing the meaning of the film.

Keeping their sharp wit, Ferrell and Thompson keep this movie light without taking away from the darkness of the plot. Even with the chemistry between he cast, Foster uses too many silent moments of reflection and secret thoughts that bore the audience.

"Stranger Than Fiction" seems something of an intellectual film but with the direction of Foster and the exquisite performances by Ferrell and Thompson, the audience stays excited by the characters' daunting future. Unlike predictable films, the endearing conclusion will not disappoint anyone.



Film
Marris
Miles-
Coccaro

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

HE FLAUNTS the most prolific flow 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 Jigga 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's top-notch flow can save tracks such as "Dig a Hole," produced by the ever-disappointing Swizz Beats.

Keep in mind, however, that a bad Jay-Z album is still better than virtually anything in hip-hop today. "Kingdom Come" disappoints partly because of the soaring expectations coming with any Jay-Z album. Coming from anyone else, this would be a great album. But this is the "Mike Jordan of recordin'."

Music
Evan
Dorfman

On second thought, he truly is the "Mike Jordan of recordin'." build a legacy as the greatest in the game, retire on top, return from retirement as a mediocre pseudo original oldie.

Throughout most of the album we get a recycled Jay-Z rapping about nothing new, pathetically name dropping Gwyneth

Paltrow on the truly execrable "Hollywood." A small handful of tracks, however, reveal a new Jay-Z where "Kingdom Come" shines. On the startlingly introspective "Lost Ones," Jay spits three compelling vignettes over Dr. Dre's jazzy stumbling piano driven beat.

Jay-Z pushes the envelope even further collaborating with Coldplay front man, Chris Martin, on the album's closer, "Beach Chair." Surprisingly, the satisfying product forms an interesting juxtaposition of Jay-Z's whispery intensity and Martin's dreamy crooning.

But for every hit there is a bigger miss. Tracks such as "30 Something" leave me wondering: Do you even want to return from retirement Jay? A streak of seven mediocre, half-hearted tracks in the middle of the album leave me longing for the spirit behind "The Blueprint" or the intensity underneath "The Black Album."

Next time reach a little deeper into your bag of tricks, Jigga. Push yourself to something new. I'll still be waiting for the kingdom to come.



Fast food off the beaten track (the L track, in fact)

WHEN FAST food cravings strike, they strike hard. If such a craving hit near the Fullerton Red Line stop, the glaring McDonald's at the corner of Fullerton and Lincoln might look like the perfect place to relieve it. Don't be too hasty, though, because sharing a wall with McDonald's sits Allende, a tiny Mexican fast food restaurant that's worth a visit.

I must have walked past Allende a hundred times without seeing it; nothing seems to distinguish it from the dozens of mini burrito shacks sprinkled throughout the neighborhood.

After a parking hunt (suggestion: take the Red Line), my guest and I arrived Tuesday evening to find a familiar setup: white and red walls and a mirror along the left wall above yellow wooden booths, parallel to an ordering counter on the right. Only when we saw the menu above the counter did the restaurant begin to distinguish itself.

Price was the first standout. With Tacos \$1.55, Tostadas (flat Tacos) \$1.90, Tortas (a sort of Mexican sandwich) \$3.25 and Burritos \$4.50, the menu proved surprisingly economical compared to high end Chipotle-like fast food blocks away. Drinks, like Licuados (shakes) \$2 and Agua de Horchata (a rice, milk and sugar drink) \$1.25, created an authentic feel.

My guest ordered Carne Asada (skirt steak) and Pollo (chicken) Tostadas while I opted for a Carne Asada Burrito. This satisfied the restaurant's "equivalent of two Tacos or more" deal, meaning free chips and salsa during our brief wait. The salsa's perfect consistency, not too chunky, not too runny, did justice to Allende's crisp and fresh chips, though it could have been a bit spicier.

Served on a hard shell, the Carne Asada Tostada came topped with an avocado slice while the Pollo came on a soft shell with sour cream. Both saucer-sized tostadas

included lettuce, tomato, beans, cheese and a reportedly unremarkable flavor magnified by a salty aftertaste.

My Burrito, stuffed with the same basic ingredients in bulkier and less healthy proportions, extended four inches longer than its plate; it seemed more of an epic task than a burrito. However, the first bite proved otherwise. Remarkably well-wrapped and isolated ingredients didn't dissolve into an unpleasant juicy mix, which, apart from contributing to the taste, made it easier to eat and left few debris on my plate in the end. I did agree with my guest, though, that the steak contained too much salt.

Allende's sweet drinks fittingly countered the salty food. A Coconut Licuado, thick and satisfying with a defined coconut taste, relieved my guest's thirst, while my lighter, sweeter Agua de Horchata's unique honey-like taste competed with the meal for my attention.

Though cheaper, more authentic Mexican food can be found in neighborhoods such as Bridgeport, Allende has few if any North Side competitors.

ALLENDE: 2408 North Lincoln, (773) 477-7114. 9 a.m.-3 a.m. Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 a.m. Friday-Saturday.



Dining
Eliot
Popko



Photo by Zack Slouka

At Allende, near Fullerton and Lincoln, Eliot Popko and Zena Hardt enjoy a Burrito and Horchata.

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.

Photos courtesy of Leigh Breslau and Court Theatre

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 they can in no way understand or enjoy.

I believe such an opinion is completely unsupported because the play will shock them as they witness 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 premieres 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 love 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.



Theatre Tom Stanley-Becker

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

"Usually, 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."

I feel that U-Highers can transcend from their dreadful homework-filled lives to Uncle Vanya's idealistic almost unrealistic life that Mr. Newell puts forward in his production. The production poses a conflict because the play is often known to be boring so the glamour of the downtown affiliation will brighten up the play.

"We are interested in the contradiction," Mr. Newell said. "The reason for 'Vanya' at the MCA is to place the turn-of-the-century 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 ironic that the set design is contemporary but yet influenced by a Russian Communist tower built in the past. After Mr. Breslau showed me photos of 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 adversity, comic and absurd rather than tragic, with a set allowing for physical activity," 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."



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 than pumpkin pie.

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 alike crowded around merchandise tables and the alcohol vendors, Friday, November 24. Detholz!, 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 opera house seating, the fact became more evident that this band's relentless strumming was headache inducing and even their keyboardist's bizarre dance antics couldn't save the act.

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

Since its formation in 1994, Chicago-based Wilco, a country pop-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 new material, particularly impressing the crowd with new track "Impossible Germany," a classic in the works. In "Shake it Off," the audience enjoyed the diversity of Wilco's beats: funky straight blues chord progression, invigorated with soulful drumming by Glenn Kotche.

Jeff Tweedy later announced a switch to a singalong using old favorites as "Handshake Drugs" and "Muzzle of Bees" featuring guitarist Nels Cline playing a twangy country lops steel. Cline had frequent guitar interludes and solos especially on "I'm the Man Who Loves You," playing with passionate fervor, visible in his tense arms and body movement.

After finishing the main set, Wilco returned to the stage for a first encore, beginning with a hometown favorite "Hummingbird." The band then played "Via Chicago." During the verses, drummer Kotche would intersperse solos over the subdued melody, while the rest of the group continued at a normal pace, and then amazingly reconvened together as if nothing had changed.

Coming back for a second encore, Wilco played rarity "California Stars" written by Woody Guthrie, showing their folk 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 that they would feel better, lighter and happier the next morning.

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



Concert Christina Delicata



Wilco members Nels Cline, John Stirratt, Glenn Kotche, Jeff Tweedy, Mikael Jorgensen and Pat Sansone.

Frantic rush for Playstation 3 ends with dull thud



Photo by Rachel Hanessian

Harley Chang plays the slim, black Playstation 3, on the left side of the T.V. set. He wasn't impressed.

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.

Released November 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 three 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 model includes, offers 60 gigabytes for its hard drive, built in Wi-Fi, and comes in shiny silver.

When my hands finally grasped a Playstation 3 controller, they shook 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, 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. Wireless controllers have been around for years and the games themselves do not put it ahead of the Xbox 360 or recently released Nintendo Wii, whether in play or graphics.

But this does not mean the Playstation should be ignored. Everything could change in a year, when game designers know what the potential of next-generation consoles are. Looking back, however, the release of the Playstation 3 is both historical and laughable.

Sony, the company which makes Playstation 3, supplied a mere 200,000 consoles to big box stores across the U.S. Unfortunately, Sony did not anticipate the heavy demand and saw a terrible shortage on opening day. Deadly stampedes, armed robbery and shooting deaths for a Playstation 3 are just some of the many ridiculous incidents that

stores witnessed opening day. Many buyers were actually entrepreneurs, who sold their Playstations online for up to \$10,000.

Despite what society has become, I'd say much of the blame falls on Sony for not making enough consoles to meet the hype they created. 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 every Wal-Mart.

On a more local level, stores should've geared up for the scenario. Having customers play musical chairs for their Playstations, as one Wal-Mart did, is certainly not right. In fact, why would stores put up with 100 camped out customers, when there was only 10 Playstations in stock to begin with?



Games Harley Chang

YES...OR NO?



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



Suddenly Kathy has an idea! "Let's eat at your house! Your mother makes the best tuna and persimmon broulée." "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!"



Photo
by
Emma
Lantos



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

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"The Saffety Assembly was rockin' until some underclassmen embarrassed the student body as a whole with their obnoxious remarks."
-Cydney Weiner, junior

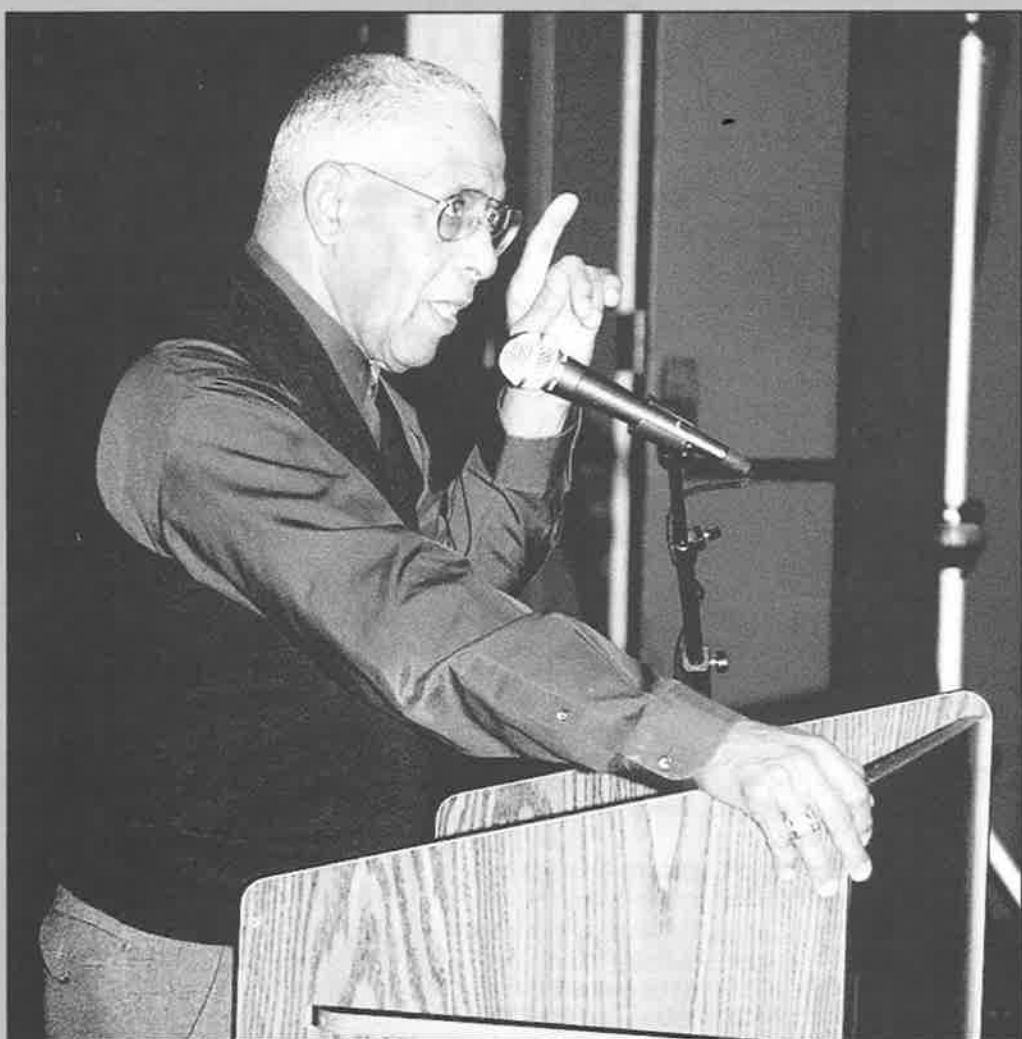


Photo by Rachel Hanessian

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 for of 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

By Henry Africano
Editor-in-Chief

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 Donovan 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," Donovan 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, Donovan 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 inter-class activity. We are also going to take a third of their budget if they don't plan one activity a quarter and add it to the all-school budget."



Donovan

On the First day of Christmas my true love said to me
"Head to Coconuts Music and Video..."
FOR...



Photo by Steven Jones

- 1 new Sony headset
- 2 new Grey's Anatomy DVDs
- 3 scary movies
- 4 Justin Timberlake C.D.s
- 5 boxes of candy
- 6 bottles of Coke
- 7 Games for PSP
- 8 new C.D. posters
- 9 blank C.D.s
- 10 bubble gum packs
- 11 camers AND...
- 12 Coconuts Music and Video gift cards

Heading out to **Coconut's Music and Videos**, Ruiqi 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!



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"The concert was a good chance for freshmen to get experience."

—John Swank, junior



Evan Graff

(continued from page 10)

As well as photography, Evan is a large fan of wildlife.

"I enjoy photography and 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 start traveling to other places, the variety gets even wider."

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

"I've taken time to look at Evan's work when I assisted him in designing his website," Ms. 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 learn a lot from each other in terms of Photoshop use and shooting techniques. I think there is a lot of simplicity in his style. Evan gets very clean, very smooth looking backgrounds. I think it's 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 Mara MacMahon."

"The club is in its infancy right now," Steven added. "We're not really certain about what it's going to focus on. But we hope to do 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 sciences," Evan said. "Whether or not photography is involved in my job, I will definitely continue it 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 overstress them."

"However, in most of their evaluations they actually requested more homework so they would be better prepared for the tests. 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."

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

"I first took Ms. McCampbell's student teacher evaluation at the end of spring

quarter last year and I have her again for my fall quarter class this year," Senior Anne Wildman said. "For Ms. McCampbell there is not much to improve on, but I still 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'm sure that there are several courses that would benefit from them."

In a vote at its monthly meeting December 5, 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 the class."

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 runaways 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 pass it on to the parent and vice versa. If we hear about abuse, we can send a report to Child Protective Services."

U-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 normally 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 lives and their hobbies."

"One of the girls, Monique, is just a blast. She's always outspoken and full of life when I'm with her. Right now, she's been teaching me dance moves from various music videos. She really leans on me like a big sister and I'm glad that I can be that for her."

Volunteering for two hours each Sunday, Senior Hugh Montag serves at Montgomery Place, the retirement home at 56th and Lake Shore Drive.

"The purpose of Montgomery Place is to make people active," 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 there. 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 over the city and we'd get 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 who's mastered and who's shaky."

Math Teacher Jane Canright began singing

in a religious choir at the age of 7 in the Methodist Church in Chesterton, Indiana. Ms. Canright continued to sing throughout 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 commitment," Ms. Canright said. "You have to know a little about music. There's an 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."



Photo courtesy of Nick Elizik

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 3. 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-Grant and Philip Verma were among the applause-generating musicians. Mr. Dominic Piane is faculty sponsor.

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There is so much hope in design.

— Sheetal, Coordinator of Public Programs, MCA, Chicago



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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"Peter can be dominant on the court, but his pregame rituals are kinda creepy."
—Phil Jacobson, senior



YOUNG & SMALL, READY

■ Boy cagers will utilize defense

By Henry Africano
Editor-in-Chief

Smothering team defense. Devastating motion offense. Superior poise. If the Maroons hope to champion ISL rival Parker and win their first home game 4:30 p.m., today, that's how they'll do it, according to Coach Ron Ashlaw.

Losing all five starters and the first two players off the bench to graduation, the Maroons have had to adjust to its new personnel.

With a 3-2 overall record (1-0 ISL) as of last week, the team has looked to maintain last year's strong defense but with its younger and smaller personnel has been focusing on developing a guard dominated offense.

"We are a defensive team and that's who we are," Coach Ron Ashlaw said. "We're still coming along offensively, 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.

"Also, the league this year is much better. In the last three years it has improved a lot. It's the best it's ever been, all teams top to bottom. All the teams have faster, quicker and stronger talent. We are just going to play and compete as hard as him."

The younger personnel is taking fresh approaches to game strategy, according to Senior Peter Hepplewhite.

"We're really young this year," Peter said. "We're starting two sophomores, two juniors and myself. Since we lost our two main post players, Evan Longmore and Matt Cleaves, to graduation last year, we don't really have a post threat.

"We're a much more perimeter-oriented team this year. There's going to 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 basketball I.Q. We're just going to need to play smarter ball than the other teams.

"Whether it's coming off of a pick to early or not making the extra pass, little things like this, over the period of a game, can

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

—Peter Hepplewhite, senior

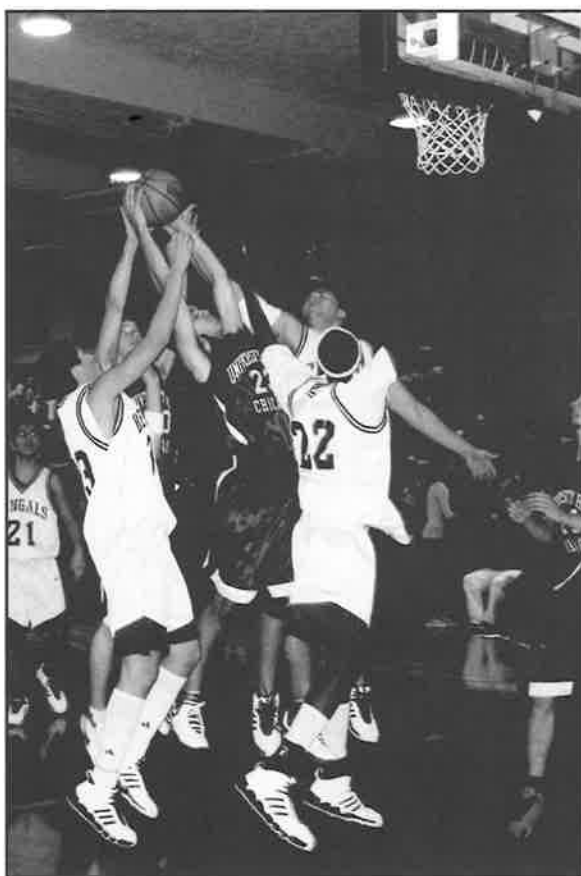


Photo by Rachel Hanessian

Surrounded by St. Benedict Bengals, November 22, Dan Hornung reaches toward the basket. Varsity Maroons won the away game 49-46.

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 which 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 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:

Providence St. Mel, November 20, away: varsity won 47-42; **St. Benedict**, November 22, away: varsity lost 40-31; **Walter Payton**, November 24, away: varsity lost 52-39; **CICS-Northtown**, November 28, away: varsity won 44-42; **North Shore Country Day**, December 1, away: cancelled; **Elgin Academy**, December 4, away: varsity won 47-41.

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

By Mona Dasgupta
Associate editor

Heading north to face archrival Parker, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, girls' 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 split games with them last year.

"This is a young team. Alexis Jenkins is a great presence and Lucy is a great scorer. Our senior, Victoria Thomas has been great so far this year. I hope she has a great ISL season filled with blocks, steals and layups."

Mainly compiled of underclassmen, varsity contains four returning players and one freshman and brought up all eight j.v. players as floaters. As of last week, the Maroons stood 3-4 overall and played their first Independent School League match against Morgan Park Academy, December 5, away.

"We did really well in the beginning of the season," said Junior Lucy O'Keefe, cocaptain 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, j.v. is working on its running game.

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

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

Losing its 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 boxing out," Gabby said. "Shooting is our main weakness. It's not that we can't shoot, it's that none of us are really comfortable with it yet. We don't know how to drive in. Our defense is definitely our strong point. When we get back we can usually deny a shot."

Other scores as follows:

Thanksgiving Tournament, November 15, home: Varsity placed 2nd of 4; **Illiana Christian**, November 30, away: Varsity lost 55-63, j.v. lost 23-39; **Timothy Christian**, December 2, home: Varsity lost 24-46, j.v. lost 25-26.



Photo by Raphi Cuenod

Junior Lucy O'Keefe banks it in from close range at a girls' varsity basketball practice. Lucy is co-captain with Alexis Jenkins. The team is composed mostly of underclassmen.

Swimmers lose, gain an Alex

By Namrata Patel
Editor-in-Chief

An Alex lost is an Alex found.

With the loss of Senior Alex Cantwell to Lincoln Park Juniors Rowing team and addition of Senior Alex Gomez, the boys' swim team has been practicing timed mid-distance sprints and starts for the season's 3rd meet against St. Ignatius, 5 p.m., Friday, at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Placing 2nd of 6 in the Bremen Pentathlon, December 1, the Maroons' performance wasn't a true indicator of the team's potential because only seven swimmers were allowed to attend, according to Senior Zack Slouka.

"We came into the meet and sort of knew who we were," he continued. "I see a lot more confidence this year. Won Hee and this other guy from Kenwood had this competition going on throughout the race and this kid had continually been beating him. But Won Hee in the last heat in the last race beat him. He now officially talks about being better than Cantwell.

"I think our young talent will come through this year. We have seven new freshmen this year. And at St. Ignatius, I see a lot of promise. Also, Paul, Homer and Won Hee having been training all yearround so we will probably see great things from them."

Competing in high school competitions since 8th grade, Alex said he has gone to Minnesota State competitions, once his

sophomore year for the 400 free relay and again junior year for both the 200 and 400 free relays.

Missing his Minnesota lane brothers and traditional pre-meet dinners, Alex said he worries he won't find the same camaraderie.

"At my old school, I loved growing up with my team members," he said nostalgically. "I was so close with the coaches; they were like my big brothers or uncles. It's hard to go from brotherhood of the team to something that seems scattered and un-united. Swimming doesn't seem as much as a part of their lives. I might be too focused and unable to open up to my new team members."

Choosing to focus on rowing, swimming powerhouse Cantwell, now four-year veteran and captain of the Lincoln Park rowing team, plans to spend his winter season training for spring regattas.

"It was just that time in life when I realized rowing was a bigger commitment for me," he said. "I like to think I'm not taking anything away from the team because I know the other guys will step up. Swimming was something I was doing my whole life and rowing was something new that I began to really enjoy. Hey, I don't have to get in the water every day."

Scores for a meet December 8, home, against Latin, Fenton and Quigley Prep came after Midway deadline and will appear in the next issue.



"I think Chicago is better because there are more rivers.....for more rowing"

-Alex Cantwell, senior

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Which sports city is better, Chicago or Los Angeles?

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

Evan: Why's that?

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

Evan: Feeling feverish from the unparalleled rawness of the Windy City wonder-squads?

Phil: Please. Chicago sports teams' so called "rawness" is far from unparalleled. At best, it's paralleled. And one might even go so far as to say that its overparalleled.

Evan: Overparalleled? What?

Phil: Yeah, overparalleled, by the raging pit of fire known only as 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!

Phil: If you want to talk sick, then lets 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 Rex can make you scratch your head, there's no denying the fact that the Bears are raw. Stud or dud, Grossman has played well enough to keep the Bears atop the NFC. Sure all of Chicago is chanting Brian Griese's name, but at the end of the day don't burn the book before you get past chapter six. Grossman is the quarterback of the future and like it or not, you gotta have faith. Plus, Grossman is infinitely better than that Los Angeles quarterback...oh wait, you don't even have a football team.

Phil: Pish posh! Such a grotesque display of

Neanderthal brutality is beneath the palette of the typical L.A. sports aficionado. Perhaps I 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: It's the city of big shoulders baby! And we need 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, lets 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 fiercest dynasty in the history of sports: the *Chicago Bulls*.

Phil: Please, that team only succeeded because of the dearth of NBA talent in the 90's. They

didn't have any real competition. Put that lackluster crew up against the prodigious posses 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 Geroge Mikan, the bespectacled behemoth who bravely battled the Lakers to their first series of titles, would have wiped the floor with any Chicago team.

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

Phil: 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 Jimmy, 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? He just made that up, because he has no real argument?

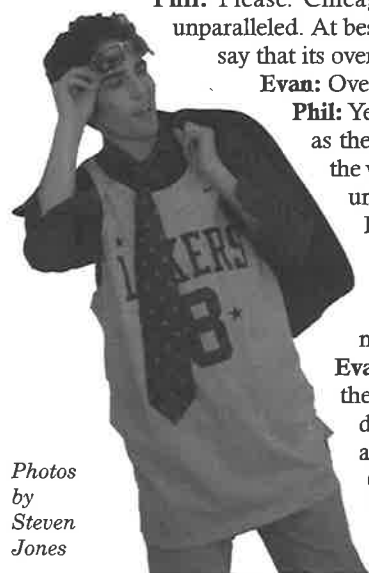
Phil: Wishful thinking Evan, wishful thinking. If you keep talking like that, I'll have to go to the last two Heisman Trophy winners, Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush.

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 ever 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 *frown*. Reggie Bush is a *clown* because Jay Berwanger was the first to wear the *crown*.

Phil: Real cute. Such simple rhyme 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 with a side of worst sports teams in western civilization.

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 char dog



Photos by Steven Jones

Phil Jacobson
Editor in Chief



Evan Dorfman
Managing Editor

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 Mrs. 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 great talent in me and wanted to cultivate it personally."

Ms. Oravcova believes long jumping complements her running.

"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."

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



Photos by Steven Jones

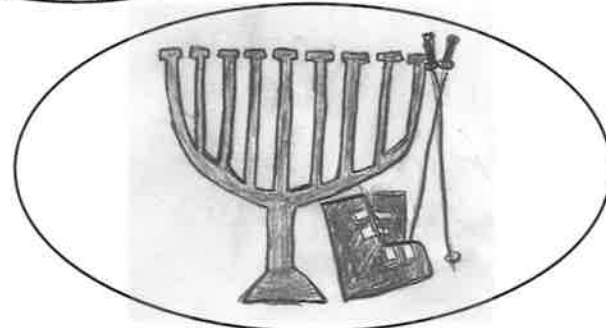
Her passion for running keeps Phys Ed teacher Sona Oravcova on a strict training schedule

for me to accept and I tried to start my training again many times, only to have my ankle give me trouble every time. Eventually, I learned that I must respect my body's limits and I do a lot more relaxing sports now, such as hiking and skiing. There's nothing competitive in me when I hike or ski, I do it simply to make my body feel good."

Cross Country and Track Coach Bud James said that Ms. Oravcova is fitting into her new school environment perfectly.

"Ms. Oravcova is a very nice person who is loved by both the kids and P.E. Department members," Mr. James said. "I hope that she'll be able to come to our track practices from time to time and offer her expert opinions on our kids' abilities. I know that she was very good at jumping; well over 20 feet. I look forward to seeing her get involved with our team, and I am sure she would enjoy it a great deal."

Happy Holidays



From
Ski Club

"Club indoor soccer is how we release stress by bashing other girls into walls."
—Erica Zagaja, senior



Figuring out fitness and its shortcuts



Photo by Mila Devenport

Administered by Phys Ed Chairperson Pete Miller, the sit-and-reach test measures Junior Alya Forster's flexibility.

By Sam Dreessen
Midway reporter

Admitting to cheating on the Presidential Fitness Tests administered by the Phys Ed Department, 42 out of 100 U-Highers randomly surveyed by the Midway said they made up scores for one or more of the tests conducted in the fall and spring of the past two years. Seventy seven said they do not take the test seriously. Phys Ed Department Chairperson Pete Miller declined to comment about students cheating.

Sponsored by the Presidential Council of Fitness, the test began in the 1950's and was brought back to U-High three years ago by Mr. Miller. Students from grades 3 through 11 are measured in sit-ups, a shuttle run, a sit-and-reach, a mile run and push-ups. Overall results in the 50th percentile qualify students for the National Fitness Award and participants who reach the 85th percentile receive the Presidential Award. Both prizes consist of an official certificate and a t-shirt.

After conducting the test once in 2003, the Phys Ed

Department decided to administer the test twice a year to mark progress, according to Mr. Miller.

"Probably the greatest weakness of the Presidential Physical Fitness Test is the inconvenience of ensuring absolute proper form, the inability to make sure that every student is performing exactly as the guidelines say they should," Mr. Miller said. "If we were to rigorously monitor every student it would be impossibly time consuming. Overall I would say that the fitness test has been good for one simple fact: it has provided for the first time in years decent feedback for students about their fitness levels."

Caught attempting to cut across the Midway during the mile run last spring, a junior girl said she had to run the mile a second time.

"One of the gym teachers saw me and made me run the mile by myself," she said. "When I got over 12 minutes the teacher said I had to redo the run at another time. During the test this fall, I made up the amount of push-ups and sit-ups I did and I got a an award for it."

From court to rink, athletes shine out of school

FIRST OF A SERIES

By Phil Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief

Swish! The basketball barely moves the net as Sophomore Zeke Upshaw, the Maroons' starting point guard, lofts 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 Meanstreets, 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 Meanstreets 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 go 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."

Captain of this year's varsity soccer team,

Senior Elan Weiner has played off seasons on Football Club Chicago, a club soccer team based in Skokie. The team goes up against other club teams and occasionally enters out-of-state tournaments.

Elan said club teams generally offer better competition than high school because they hold tryouts and attract more talented players willing to put in the extra time.

"There's a lot more intense competition," he explained. "The quality of play is a lot better; it's a lot faster. Just about every player is solid. Last spring I played 17 and under, which is very serious because that's the level at which you're getting heavily scouted."

"Playing in front of scouts makes me play better. The more people watching, the better I play. You just get more adrenaline, you get more pumped. I try to push myself."

"I'd like to play in college, but it's not a huge thing for me. I don't want to go to a worse school just so I can 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."

To stay in shape for girls' fast pitch softball, Senior Mari Topel plays for U-High's baseball team. Her suburban team, the Homer Hawks, practices several times a week for two to three hours. Mari said softball and baseball provide different challenges.

"Mentally, girls are different," Mari said. "There's a lot more on the line for them because they're all competing for scholarships, so they can be a lot more aggressive. A lot of girls use softball as an emotional outlet. Sometimes they'll hurt each other on purpose; girls will slide into each other with their spikes up to try to hit you in the face and pitchers hit batters on purpose a lot more in softball."

"Baseball is intense in a different way. It's a lot more physically challenging. It takes 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 hits a bigger part of your body. The body language is also different. You have to read peoples' body language as catcher."

Competition with her travel team takes Mari across the country, mostly in the summer when she plays a tournament every week. Last summer, she played catcher in the Amateur

Softball Association Nationals in Kentucky.

"All the best teams play Nationals. People go there because it's the best of the best. It took me like eight years to get into that tournament. You have to come in first in an ASA tournament and there's only a couple of those in each area. Teams will get on a bus in California and keep playing tournaments until they get 1st place and qualify. Sometimes they end up across the Midwest."

"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 going to want you."

"I got offers from a few Division I schools, but I want to play Division III because I want the normal college experience. If you play DI, it will just be school and softball. I want to have more free time."

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 my parents follow, so it was kind of natural. I've been playing ice hockey for nine years. I play in the Metro Central League on Latin's team, which has players from Parker, Latin, Whitney Young and Lab. We practice three or four times a week for an hour to an hour-and-a-half and usually play two games a week."

"I used to play travel hockey, but I stopped because it became too much of a time commitment. Travel is a higher level than high school. You have to try out, so it's a lot more competitive."

Hockey isn't Iain's only sport; he's also a captain of U-High's track team and hopes to continue that sport in college. Though the two sports don't appear similar, Iain said both provide opportunities for making new friends.

"I've met a lot of people through hockey. I actually know a lot of people from Latin and Parker. It's pretty cool. On the track team I know everyone; I can see them in school four or five times a day before practice."

"You can joke around a lot or make fun of them. I only see the guys on the hockey team when I go to practice, so it has to be more serious. That doesn't mean there's no joking around, but we want to win."



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Photo courtesy Mari Topel

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.



"The fact that we got so far in the season was a great achievement and I was surprised that we did so well in Class AA."
—Ben Picker, junior

Fall teams wrap up, size up what's needed next year

By Tom Stanley-Becker
Sports editor

Placing 4th of 9 in Sectionals, November 18 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, girls' varsity swimmers matched the previous year's finish despite their top swimmer, Junior Anna Schleusner, 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 Resnick, senior; Alex Guynn, junior; and Gabby Clark, freshman.

Boys' varsity soccer and girls' varsity 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. "Sprinters 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 Ryzhik rose in places, 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, volleying 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' varsity soccer fell one game short of the Sectional crown.



Photo By Raphi Cuenod
Gabby Clark

"The final loss to Mount Carmel in the soccer Sectional gave us an idea of where we stand in the State," said Defender Morgan Murphy, sophomore. "But it also gave us confidence, considering we did better than last year. It showed we could compete with Class AA teams."

With key seniors graduating, the cross country team will rely on younger talent next season, believes Jarus Singh, junior.

"Next year will be our second in Class AA, but we'll be losing three top senior runners," Jarus said. "We'll literally need to run their times to maintain our place in the league. We have a very strong middle school squad and some of those runners will make varsity."

Da Bears! A team but also an addiction

EVERY MONDAY morning for the past three months, while completing unfinished weekend homework in the cafeteria, I have heard friends talking about what happened in the previous day's Bears game.

As a die-hard baseball fan, I dread the end of the World Series every November. I think of it a lot like the moment after you've finished unwrapping your presents on Christmas morning. In the back of your mind you know that next Christmas is another year away. Yet, as I struggled to keep up with my friends' football talk, I had to wonder what all the hype was about.

I first turned to my friend Kat Smolarek, junior, who regularly goes to Bears games and even wears Bears paraphernalia to school, to find out what she likes about the Bears.

"I started liking the Bears when I was 10 years old as a way to bond with my dad," Kat said. "Every Sunday we watch the games together and yell and swear at the T.V. screen and I refuse to answer the phone. After games I talk about what happened with my friends online and then on Monday mornings I get the newspaper and read the sports section and all my friends know not to bother me when I'm reading about the Bears."

"My friends Sydney Marcus and Becca Foley go with me and we all wear our Bears hats and make fun of the other team and everyone high fives each other when the Bears score. This year our defense is on point and we have a really good chance of going all the way. I always believe in my home team."

Slowly, the Bears have turned baseball-loving, closet fans like myself into rabid maniacs. Or something close.

Even the most unlikely fans also became captivated by Bears football in 1985, the year of the dogmatic Mike Ditka, the gargantuan Defensive Lineman William "Fridge" Perry and the heroic Runningback Walter Payton.

Though today's Bears team may not have the same personalities, what they do have is a mandate for winning that may make them even greater.

In the end, the Bears will always attract their core fans who come out to support them. Yet this team, like the '85 team, has captured the attention and respect of even the most unlikely Chicagoans such as myself.

Though I cannot call myself a fan yet, I can say that I have a newfound respect for the game of football and the toughness of our Bears and I hope that their path to the Super Bowl remains as clear as it is now.



Sports
Dana
Alfassa

Peanut Butter and Jelly....Again



Photo by Jeremy Handrup

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

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773-363-0070

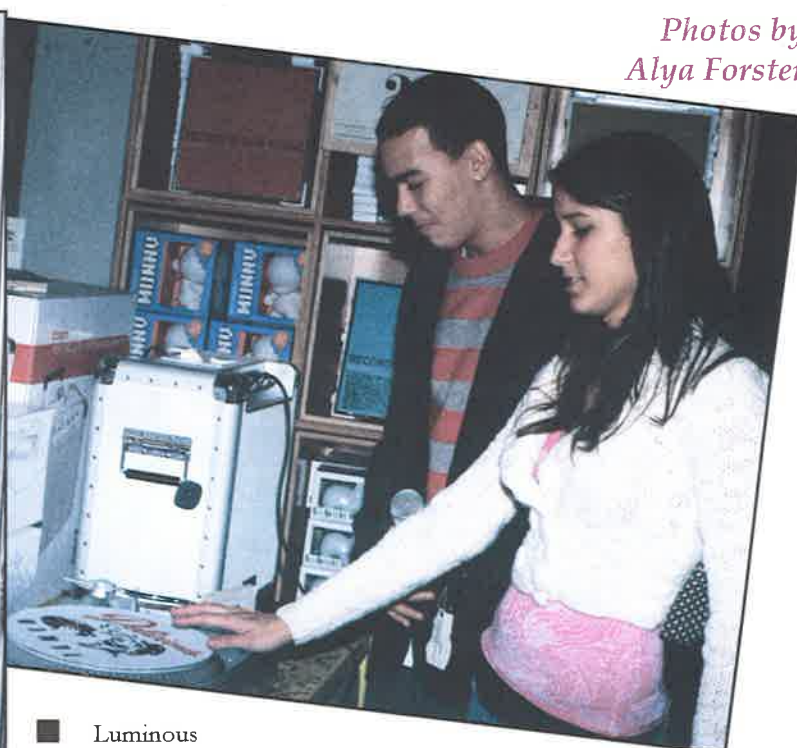
Open Monday through Saturday
8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Open Sunday
9 a.m.-10 p.m.

"I really like Urban Outfitters. They have really cute clothes that are inexpensive and so many gifts."

—Tyne Alexander, senior



Photos by
Alya Forster



■ 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 DJ'ing skills, Isabel, in a pink tank top (\$28), and Patrick Philzaire 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.



Bright jewelry ranging from \$18 to \$32 at Urban Outfitters attracts Katherine.



Cold weather inspires Katherine to try this vivid red cap (\$28) at Urban Outfitters.



Sporting a Diesel sweater, Patrick tries a classic look.



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

Neutrals are the new brights. Browns, beiges 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, proves great for personal shopping or gift giving. Striped sweaters and corduroy jackets offer a contemporary twist on a classic look for boys this holiday season.

For girls, surprising amounts of shorts and miniskirts fill the store, paired with leggings and boots for the winter.

Urban also 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.



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



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