Obama-Clinton possibilities heat up election talk, conjecture here

By Tony Woodley Becker
Associate editor

When Illinois Senator Barack Obama announces his run for President on Saturday, as expected, the race for the Democratic nomination will turn largely to putting an African American man against a white woman as frontrunners for the first time in American politics.

Senator Obama has several lab schools connections.

After working on the 2004 Obama Senate Campaign, Student Council Vice President Dan Horwitz, junior, believes Senator Obama can surpass racial discrimination.

"Obama is an inspiring personality," Dan said. "Before one of the primary debates, he came into the campaign office. He had just gotten his briefing. The big song playing then was 'Outkast’s 'Hey Ya.'" Obama and Senator Obama started doing the 'Harlem shake,' showing his lighter side.

"Both Clinton and Obama are pretty liberal-minded people, but both playing a center role to get elected. Hillary was a great advocate on health care and is now a hawk but national security. Barack had a liberal anti-death penalty position and is now taking on a family persona. I would be comfortable with either as President."

But a black man would be a greater breakthrough than a white woman because we see women in positions of power. Barack is the first African American in the Senate, but there are several female governors. Both groups have had tough times fighting for their rights."

Senator Obama may be spotted around the Lab Schools walking his daughters, 3rd-grader Malia and Kindergartner Natasha, to their classrooms. His wife, Michelle, is a member of Lab Schools Board of Directors. For the 2004, Evanston Assembly, a committee of students and faculty chose his autobiography, "Dreams from My Father," for U-Highers to read and discuss.

According to the Inside Obama’s Inner Circle article in Chicago Tribune’s January 14 issue, Obama's inner circle includes U-High graduate Ms. Valerie Jarrett, '73, and Lab Schools parents Mr. and three women portrayed, from left, by Kelly Kovacs, Claire Redfield and Linda Huber. (See story next page).

The only student-written play in Student Experimental Theatre’s upcoming production, "Beep," centers around a man portrayed by Xavier Winslow and three women portrayed, from left, by Kelly Kovacs, Claire Redfield and Linda Huber. (See story next page).

un CONNECTED?

Detaches in diversity drive stir dialogue

By David McAlpine
Associate editor

With the much anticipated results of the school’s diversity survey—well, some of the results—scheduled Friday for faculty members, Parents’ Association and selected alumni, why the whole report won’t be presented is already being questioned. And many people have wondered about how amidst a high-profile, expensive diversity initiative, the school could mis a problem right under its nose.

Prom and Connections were scheduled on Friday evening, the Jewish Sabbath, and some people saw that as a problem. It also happened with Prom two years ago; people complained and Lab Schools Director David Magill said it would never happen again. But it did.

"Unfortunately, I was not made aware of the date of Prom until after commitments had been made," Mr. Magill said. "The Prom Committee was so far down the road that there was no turning back. This mistake was an in-between thing; we had an interim principal last year and no solid chain of communication."

"We have realized after all this happened that we need an adequate system of checks and balances, which is what failed to happen this time. Now, we are putting rules in place about Prom and student-led events so this can be prevented from happening again. All events must be planned well in advance and the date must be approved by the Principal. We want the students to be involved in the planning of their Prom, but at the same time, guidelines need to be set."

Last March, this year’s Prom Committee chose a venue with a date and received a contract which Dean of Students Larry McFarlane signed. In November, some seniors, parents and faculty members began complaining about the date of Prom. However, the Prom Committee could only obtain its desired location on a Friday, according to Cultural Union President Katherine Hayes, Prom Committee member.

"Everyone got angry, but no one would talk directly to us," Katherine said. "We even talked to one person who we knew celebrated Shabbat every Friday and he told us it was not a big deal. One of the members on our Prom Committee is in the Jewish Students’ Association board and it bothered me that she had no objection after the fact that she talked to JSU."

"I would have liked people to come to us instead of talking behind our backs. We were in a class where Prom Committee was called antisemitic and I found it both offensive and inappropriate. There are lots of other commitments on Friday nights such as sports events and Model U.N. conferences that aren’t affected by this, so there’s an inconsistency. I don’t want to offend anyone, but this isn’t a religiously affiliated school, so it doesn’t make sense."

Mr. McFarlane said he believed the senior class was relatively content with the date when he signed the contract. "The senior class has done Prom on a Friday night before," Mr. McFarlane said. "I was not told that Prom had to be on a Saturday night, but from what I was told from Prom Committee, the class was polled and there was no problem. This is not a mandate, but it was their choice."

The only way to avoid a Friday Prom is to form a rule, believes Jewish Students’ Association President Adina Levin, senior.

"This promise that was made needs to be written down," Adina said. "Unless something is, there’s no reference to go back to. I want to make sure that if someone breaks this rule again, they can either be countered by this written rule or reprimanded for breaking it."

"I feel like the date of Prom was kept really hush hush and that bothered me. I don’t think anyone realized there should have been some sort of authority begs-to-an interim principal. As a student (cont.milled on page 13)
Comedy to open Artsfest, magic to conclude day offering 101 programs

By Gretchen Eng
Midway reporter

Competition for bizarria in a U-High–
customized show and inviting
audience participants, two teams from the
improvisational group ComedySportz
will launch Artsfest at the opening assembly
9 a.m. Thursday, February 23 in Upper
Kooyer Gym.

“We chose ComedySportz because it’s
interactive,” said Senior Hannah Rothfield,
chairperson with Senior Angel Pu. “The
opening ceremony is first thing and we wanted
something that will get everyone awake and
ready to be involved.”

Offering 101 Artsfest workshops and
performances by students, faculty members,
parents and guest artists, U-Highers have
registered for five 45-minute programs.

Attendance will be taken at opening and
closing ceremony as well as every workshop.
Students missing a workshop will receive a
cut for the workshop’s corresponding class
period, according to Angel.

Free Dunkin’ Donuts and raffle tickets for
$5 Aramark gift certificates to the Graham
School of Business will be handed out 8:30 a.m.
according to Angel. Sandwiched between 25 gift certificate winners at the
opening ceremony and 25 at the closing ceremony, an Edward’s Pizza lunch will
meet the grade which handed in the most
collections by January 26.

Expanding on his workshop-sized audience
from the past two Artsfests, Magician Marcell
Baba, senior, will star in the closing assembly,
2:40 p.m., also in Upper Kooyer Gym.

“We decided that, if I was going to do a
workshop open to everyone, we might as
well make it part of the assembly,” Marcell
said. “I’m a bit nervous. This is going to be
the biggest show I’ve ever done. Every year
my audience has gotten bigger. I’m used to
working with smaller, more intimate groups
but now I’m going to be performing a full-
scale show, which is really what I love to
do.”

From cheese connoisseurs to amateur ninjas,
U-Highers will jazz up Artsfest by offering 12 new workshops and performances such as
anime film music, Human Chess and ultimate
Riposte.

Adding onto the new professional workshops
of fiddling, printmaking and script writing,
three wildcard workshops, aromatherapy,
African dance and stain glass were offered
through the Daily Bulletin, but not the program
booklet.

Additionally, U-High parents and faculty
members plan to instruct U-Highers in
Chicago architecture, pie-making and Bob
Dylan while the U. of C.’s Russian Choir and
Ballet dance troupe plans to present 45 and 90
minute performances, respectively.

Organizing two raucous workshops new to
Artsfest, Junior Tom Brewer said he hopes
his noise-making workshop and rock band,
the Iconoclasts’ performance won’t break
catwalks.

“They’re both sort of obvious, probably
painful to the ear,” Tom said. “I hope they just
allow people to have a fun time and appreciate
the Iconoclasts for what they are. I’ve always
wanted to offer a workshop and I’m thrilled,
ecstatic. In noise-making, we’re basically just
going to make as much noise as possible.”

Unable to make Human Chess into a club,
Sophomore Joseph Brehm decided to bring
his idea to life as a workshop and Artsfest.

“I’m not too big on chess,” Joseph said.
But I wanted to make this workshop so anyone
who is interested can play from the view of
a rook or a king. Everyone who participates
will play as a piece in the back lines and we’ll
probably have chains to act as pawns. We’ll let
the people who play the pieces choose how to
direct themselves.”

Mixing beverages in the cafeteria all day,
the Jamba Juice smoothie company will donate
a quarter of the profits they make at Jamba
World Vision, a charitable relief and
development organization that aids victims
of the Darfur genocide.

Sold through order forms this year, Artsfest
t-shirt proceeds will also be donated to World
Vision’s cause.

SET to present five plays, one by senior

By Linda Hube
Midway reporter

A ringing phone cuts through the silence of
a darkened stage. No one answers and
the inevitable comes. “It’s Kevin. Leave
a message,” BEEP.

Lights come on a woman dressed in her
night robe standing alone. She speaks into a
phone then: “It’s not Kevin.” Then, in a hushed
voice, “We heard there was a fire on your
street last night.”

A one-act play written by Senior Nick Felder,
will be presented in the Student Experimental
Theater (SET) performance.

Directed by Nick and Senior Alice Quinlan,
the play focuses on three women who
dominate the life of a young man named
Kevin, played by Senior Xavier Winslow.

The three women, played by Sophomores
Linda Huber, Kelly Kovacs and Senior Claire
Redfield, leave a series of messages on Kevin’s
answering machine, all mysteriously centered
around a house which recently burned down in
his neighborhood.

“The play is about relationships,” Nick
explained. “It’s about these three women in
Kevin’s life whose relationships with him
affect Kevin’s thoughts and actions. He really
lets the people around him control him.
This is an extreme example of that, where his
identity is almost lost and he’s just saying
what disaster ensues.”

Additionally, four professionally written
one-act plays and a Sounds and Light Show
make up the production. The show begins
at 7:30 p.m. and runs Thursday through Saturday,
February 22-24 in Belfield
Theater. Tickets will be sold in the High School lobby for $9.

Other plays are as follows:

"WORDS, WORDS, WORDS" Three monkeys find themselves trapped in a room with three
typewriters and must attempt to write Shakespeare, find
direction to their lives and...

"I hope everyone will enjoy the Opening Ceremony. Laughter seems to open up people, I hope this
year’s Artsfest will open everyone’s mind." —Hannah Rothfield, senior

Photo by Sydney Marcus

Wowed by Senior Marcell Baba’s flashy card tricks, Junior Kenan Gungur
and Freshman Kennan Carnegie watch as Marcell practices for his Artsfest
closing ceremony show.

"THE ACTORS NIGHTMARE" — A tale of a couple who have just
split up and the way their break-up is affecting
themselves and everyone around them. Written
by Playwright Klaus Hobern and directed by
Junior Claire Sehested and Devon Worth. Cast:
Namoota Pinto, Kolee Southby, Sam Shapiro,
Xavien Wilgowski and Austin Warren.

"GRACIELLA" — Two cousins Elvis and
gracie will stop at nothing to be the first into Elvis’s
home. Written by Playwright Elan Byrom and directed by
Senior Claire Sehested. Cast: Amadez Pratome,
Sarah Forsman and Sydney Nagy.

Directed by Seniors Jeremy Lacocque, Liza
Burns and Alice Quinlan, the Sound and Lights
Show will feature dance troupe members
and bhanga-style dancers competing,
with live drumming and accompanying
light effects.

“The dancers will take what the
drummers do musically and express it physically.” Jeremy
explained. “Donovan and John Swank
will be competing with each other on the
drummers’ side. Each group of dancers will dance to
a drummer and compete with one another.”

SET board includes: Alice Quinlan, president; Liza Burns, publicity;
Kelly Kovacs, Maria Miles-Coccaro, Hanna Rothfield and Devika Worth.

"The dancers will take what
the drummers do musically and
express it physically." — Jeremy Lacocque, senior

Naming the Estate of Robert Donald Erickson
Lab School Art Teacher 1949–78
Instructor of Design Graduate Student 1943–45

311 West Superior Street
Suite 604-608
Chicago, IL 60610
Wednesday-Saturday
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
+1.312.787.3350
stephenhathersgallery.com
"I once gave Sam a scar on her face. But she has grown bloody noses." — Zach Feldman, senior

My funny Valentine? At U-High, don't laugh
But Cupid still has it tough here

By Holly Reid

Candy hearts, red roses and manufactured cards. With Valentine's Day a week away U-High hopes Cupid will shoot an arrow their way. U-Highers often say they do not have significant others because it is hard to find them. Yet a few have found romance in lifelong friendships or out of school relationships.

At the Lab Schools since Middle School, Junior Helen Vivas has found a boyfriend at U-High difficult. It is really hard finding a boyfriend at U-High," she explained. "I have known everyone in my grade for so long that when I look at the people in my grade, I only see them as friends. I have known them for so long, they are almost like my family. I dated someone older than me freshman year which made dating easier." Although U-Highers say finding a date is difficult, a few U-Highers such as Senior Zach Feldman and 300 graduate Samantha Meyer have their own issues because of their age difference.

"It was better dating someone older because I needed to know someone I didn't know since kindergarten," Zach said. "However it is hard with the distance with Sam being at Pomona. We talk every day.

"I am going to Pomona next year. I am not going to Pomona because of Sam but it is a plus. Sam is just amazing. I've struggled with girls at Lab just because you know everyone for so long. There is no variation."

I have known everyone in my grade for so long that when I look at people in my grade I only see them as friends.

—Helen Vivas, junior

Obama-Clinton dynamic inspires local talk

(continued from front page)

John Rogers, '74, father of Junior Victoria Rogers and a member of the Lab Schools Board, Mr. Martin Nesbitt, Lower and Middle School parent and also a member of the Lab Schools Board; and Mr. James Reynolds, Middle School parent; and Senator Obama's politics of reconciliation make him the stronger candidate, Rogers believes.

"I'm getting a lot of calls and letters from around the country from people who want to be part of the campaign," Mr. Rogers said. "I've worked in several Presidential campaigns and I've never seen anything like it. People have been inspired by Barack's message. It's an opportunity to have unique ability to bring people together, instead of being polarizing. Hillary doesn't have the same ability to bring people together.

"He's also incredibly smart, being a successful law professor at the University of Chicago, with a extraordinarily emotive voice. He has a great vision for our country and has been so vocal against the war right from the beginning. Hillary is not.""

"At Lab School we respect people who are very smart. Barack embraces diversity and so does Lab. We respect people of all different walks of life. That is an important part of Barack's message." Senator Clinton, who declared January 20, will visit Senator Obama.

"Just know Hillary because of Bill Clinton, not for what we can do," Sophomore Rachel Turner said. "I support Obama more than Clinton, partially because I read his first book and especially because he is from Chicago and I know a lot more about him.

"But I think, in general, that a woman President is a bigger breakthrough. Feminism is still going on. Last year, Chile and Liberia both elected women presidents for the first time. Usually we are ahead in acceptance of equality, so it seems like it is time for us to have a woman president, who would advance women's issues more because she is a woman."

History Teacher Susan Shapiro believes Senator Clinton will ever overcome the barriers of sexism with her political experience.

"Clinton is distinguishable from Obama," Mrs. Shapiro said. "She clearly had more years in the Senate. Obama is too young, too green. Clinton is also very smart and very strong. I have to believe she had her finger in the presidential pie. She knows more about management and has carved out a very moderate plan of action. I think that there is a very tiny proportion of the electorate who will vote for her because she is a woman. People will vote for her for her record. The anti-feminist crew will vote for Obama. Clinton is a much more palatable candidate."

Beyond U-High, University of Chicago professor expressed similar views. The rising popularity of Senators Obama and Clinton has brought celebrity politics, believes U of C. Professor of American and African American History Thomas Holt. MacArthur Fellow and Lower School parent.

"Celebrity is what our culture gravitates to," Professor Holt said. "Voters are drawn to the more flashy candidates who have the highest profile and who they think they are most like: Hillary as the First Lady and Obama because of his personal story. You feel like you are involved in their personal lives."

"But 30 years ago thinking of a woman or African American for President would not have been possible. It is a signal that something has changed. It does not mean that the change is complete but there still is a change. Yet I could see a lot of envy from African American leaders. Obama leapfrogged to the top."

On the divisive issues of the Iraqi war and abortion, Senators Obama and Clinton agree.

"I would think that Barack is more attractive because he opposed the war consistently from the beginning and pointed out all the flaws in the President's plan," said Ms. Martha Nurnburg, University of Chicago Professor of Divinity. "Racial and political differences are not as high, so some of the ethnic and racial issues are not as high, some of the ethnic and racial issues are not as high."

"I think Barack would probably be better for feminism, because he sticks to his principles and does not tailor his position to his perception of what's popular."
Director delays diversity report

By Jeremy Lacoeque
Editor-in-Chief

If anyone who participated in a diversity survey is waiting for a full report on Lab Schools diversity this Friday, they won’t be getting what they expected.

The Lab Schools community will instead see Lab Schools Director David Magill’s condensed, paraphrased version of recommendations from the official report and his response to each suggestion. The report followed a yearlong study of Lab Schools diversity by Mr. Prexy Nesbitt, hired for one year as a diversity consultant.

The official report, summarized by Mr. Magill, will include observations of faculty survey responses from last September; student, faculty and alumni interviews; and other data which influenced the report comprised of Mr. Nesbitt’s diversity evaluation and suggestions.

“Didn’t want to publish the official report for the time being because not only is it not in its final draft but I feel it can be easily misinterpreted,” Mr. Magill said. “The report was not designed to be given to anyone who wants it anyway, it was designed to give the director and the Board advice on the diversity issues at Lab.

“For the Lab community, mainly faculty, the Parents’ Association and selected alumni, I will write a summary consisting of a forward, introduction and Prexy’s observations and recommendations with my response to each.”

“The suggestions will be almost verbatim from Prexy’s report, except that I have a chance to respond to each. Once he is done with his final draft, I will show it to anyone who cares to see my office.”

After reviewing the official report with Mr. Nesbitt, Mr. Magill said he looks forward to using his suggestions.

“We hope to bring in alumni of color to retrospectively describe their experience at Lab to help our student body better understand what it’s like to be a minority,” Mr. Magill continued.

The diversity initiative has a long history at the Lab Schools. All Schools Council Steering Committee member Shirley Holbrook, math teacher, said she asked, on behalf of the High School faculty that the school appoint someone to investigate the school’s diversity years ago. Composed of faculty representatives from all schools, the All Schools Council is responsible for making recommendations beyond and about the boundaries of one school.

“Facility IV suggested that the school hire a consultant years ago to study Lab and its diversity,” Ms. Holbrook said. “He or she would then give suggestions based on problems they found, if any. The Director appointed a committee of parents and teachers to work with him to interview prospective consultant, and after a lengthy process, we hired Prexy Nesbitt.”

“We felt that an outsider would assess the school’s diversity better than someone within the school. Two years ago we suggested to hire a consultant, Mr. Nesbitt began his work and stayed for a year.”

Lab Schools Board Chairperson David Strauss, U-High parent, said he believes the Lab Schools Board discussing Mr. Nesbitt’s results with Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Magill was necessary before publication, but the meeting was not used to censor the report.

“We don’t really do anything other than just discuss the report amongst ourselves, and with Prexy, censoring or editing reports like this would really be no point, it would eventually get out into the public anyway.”

‘Connections’ at Navy Pier to benefit arts, theatre, music

By Rohit Tobacwala
Associate editor

Under the 80-foot domed ceiling of the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier, the Parents’ Association’s annual “Connections” benefit, 6:30 p.m., Friday, March 2, will offer a silent auction, buffet style dinner and a documentary featuring alumni and students in the Lower, Middle and High Schools. The program will include performances by the U-High Jazz Band and Blues Artist Lynne Jordan and the Shiners.

Proceeds will benefit the Music, Theater and Fine Arts programs at Lab. Tickets are $175 and can be ordered by mail or picked up from the Alumni and Development Office in Judd 101.

Last year’s event in the Winter Garden of the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business raised $50,000 for the new digital language lab.

“Usually, Connections receives most of its funds by underwriting gifts and tickets,” Alumni and Development Assistant Director Monica Wilczak said. “Another way that many parents support the event is through the silent auction.

“Typically, silent auction items have been more object based than actual experiences in the past. We wanted to change that so guests would not only be giving something to the benefit but also receiving something in return that would interest them.

“Some of these experiences include tickets to Opera, "Regis and Kelly" and "The View," a bowling party for 10 at Seven Ten and dinner with University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer and Mrs. Zimmer, as well as an opportunity to fly with world class pilots. Student art items will also be auctioned off.”

Planning Committee Cochairpersons Kate Collins, Charli Newell, Anita Blanchard and Marty Nesbitt believe the funds may help further students educational experiences.

“I think it’s very important that the school has decided to show greater support for the visual and performing arts," Ms. Collins said. “I feel like it’s necessary to encourage our students to excel in the mind, body and soul.

“Lab has a great academic environment as well as a superb athletic department. With new advancements planned for the fine arts, theatre and music, Lab will have everything there is to offer by enhancing students educational experience.”

Holding the event in the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier will allow the 2007 Connections Committee to show a video documentary and slideshow, featuring current students enrolled in art, theater and music programs as well as alumni art majors, on big screens, Ms. Blanchard pointed out.

“Having the occasion in such a big space was not only important because there has been large crowds in the past but because we wanted everyone in the same room,” she explained. “The great thing about the ballroom is that we can project the video on big screens. Throughout February, a cameraman will be going around to art, music and theater classes to capture students’ daily activities.

“Additionally, we wanted to get alumni and parents of alumni more involved in the event. So, there will be interviews with alumni who continued their art educations and have become professionals. Questions will include things on why art is important to them and why the skill is just important in general.”

Coming together

Stuffing falafel sandwiches during lunch, January 20 in U-High 105, Asian Students’ Association and Jewish Students’ Association members, from left, Kai Shafaw, Kai Tammen, Nisha Duara, Acife MacMahan, Danny Atkorn, Emily Kuo, Ethel Yang and Josie Mintel joined in celebrating the Islamic New Year, Muharram.

Tribute to a King

“I don’t believe there will be a next Martin Luther King Jr., and that’s okay,” said Illinois Senator Kwame Raoul, guest speaker at the annual King Memorial Assembly sponsored January 12 in Rockefeller Chapel by the Black Students’ Association. But what every person can do, he added, is uphold and seek to carry out Dr. King’s ideals and aspirations. Participants from the school’s ethnic organizations and both High School and Middle School music groups contributed to the program.

In photos from left top:
"Two South African folk song "Fikile Sowandla" and familiar hymn "Amazing Grace" were performed by Jewish Students’ Association members Jacques Montalvo, Natalie Abbott, Nick Feder and Anna Wildmon, seniors, and Addie Eptstein, sophomore.
"Black Student Radio, a 1983 U-High graduate, captivated the audience, reminiscing about his first years in politics and reminding students to be comfortable with their individuality.
Asian Students’ Association members Grace Chung and Katherine Zhou, juniors, performed "Proudly Congoanse Goose in A Minor, Opus 3, No. 4 Movement."
All performers received enthusiastic applause.

Photo by Eva Jaeger

Photo by Alex Farquhar

Photo by Alex Farquhar

Photo by Alex Farquhar
Kanye West is my idol. Having the opportunity to actually touch and see him in concert was the highlight of my life.

—Sydney Marcus, junior

special occasions

my Super Sixteen

Sky becomes the limit as parties themselves become special gifts

By Amandine Pappas

Cameras flashed against the pink colored lighting of the upscale New York club as platinum-toting Oscar winner actress Thandie Newton strutted her latest hit on MTV’s reality show “My Super Sweet Sixteen.” While watching the show, Junior Kat Smolaker couldn’t help but think of the similar atmosphere at another party. “My Super Sweet Sixteen” features teenagers celebrating their 15th, 16th and 18th birthdays by throwing elaborate parties for hundreds of guests with celebrity performances. But the party doesn’t stop there. Gifts including luxury cars often top off the extravaganzas. While these parties may seem unreal on the television screen, many U-Highers have found invitations to similar events in their own mailboxes.

Once in a lifetime

Feeling like she was a Hollywood party guest, Kat said Junior Victoria Rogers’ Sweet Sixteen celebration last May at the Park West was once in a lifetime experience. “When I pulled up to the curb of her party with my friends, there was a pink carpet and as we stepped out of the car there were actors pretending to be paparazzi taking pictures of us as if we were celebrities,” Kat said. “When I walked inside, I was speechless.”

“Tbe decorations were stunning. Everything looked so well thought out. During the entire night, you could just hear conversations between everyone about how unbelievable the party was. Every time someone noticed something different either in the decorations or food they would say an ‘Oh my god! Look at this!’ along with an expression of astonishment.”

“By the end of the party, there were rumors of Kanye West performing and I had hoped he would,” Kat continued. “When Victoria’s parents walked onto the stage we all thought it was the performer but they gave a nice speech about Victoria instead. After their speech we heard the beginning of ‘Diamonds’ by Kanye and everyone went crazy as if they had won the lottery.”

Awe and disbelief

“Some people were crying tears of joy and others were just in pure awe and disbelief. The party was so extravagant that even if Kanye West wasn’t there, it would still have been unbelievable. As we walked out the door, tie-dyed pants were handed to everyone with the logo ‘VR’ written on them.”

“The party was beautiful but unfortunately I don’t think my family could begin to think about throwing an event that large for me.”

Victoria’s party was intended as a treat for her friends and family. Ms. Desiree Rogers, Victoria’s mother, said she was disappointed when the Sun Times featured it. “We would have preferred that the party was not in the newspaper,” Ms. Rogers said. “It was a private occasion to celebrate Victoria’s birthday with friends and family. Victoria wanted to have a lot of people to celebrate the event with her. John, Victoria’s dad and I asked her what she would want at the party about 10 months before the actual event and we added anything we thought she would like.”

Different choices

“The typical thought would be that it was absolutely extravagant,” Ms. Rogers continued. “Everyone makes different choices and what might seem extravagant to someone may not be extravagant to someone else. We’ve made a decision that our family likes to celebrate birthdays.”

“Before the event, John and I had discussions about people viewing her differently after the party, but we decided that her friends are her family. We have larger birthday parties and we like everyone to celebrate them together. Participating minimally in the planning of her party, Victoria was surprised herself when she entered the Park West, but said people shouldn’t view her differently.”

“I can understand why people who don’t know me may think that I am a materialistic person after my party, but my friends know that I’m not,” Victoria said. “I don’t think it’s necessary for there to be a definitive limit on how big or small a party should be, as long as it is not taken for granted.”

“On the show ‘My Super Sweet Sixteen,’ there are girls and boys who say that they deserve all those big gifts and parties. I think that it’s just unfortunate that those people are so ungrateful and spoiled.”

Satisfied with only one large party during her teenage years, Sophomore Lusine Gough said she put a lot of time and effort into the organization and planning of her celebration.

“My party was my idea and given to me by my parents on September 29 at the Vision Night Club on Dearborn Street, which is right next to the club Jabulani,” Lusine said. “I began planning in June 2006 and invited close to 100 kids. I wanted to do something big for my birthday because it’s a big monument in my life and I haven’t had a birthday like this before.”

She did it all

“I probably won’t have another party again because it was so over the top to me that I don’t think I will need another. I chose the location, organized all the invitations and even sent them out.”

“We had a D.J. that played contemporary music that would be heard on the radio.”

Given an extravagant gift rather than a party, 2005 U-High graduate Kelsey Karo said she planned on receiving her present long before her 16th birthday.

“For my birthday, my parents gave me along with 10 of my friends a cruise to the Bahamas,” Kelsey said. “The trip was over Memorial Day weekend and was about four days long. The cruise began in Miami and ended in Ft. Lauderdale. Luckily everyone already had passports so that was not an issue when we all took a plane down there and back.”

A great time

“My parents paid for all expenses for each friend. I think my friends were grateful and had a great time. We went out for food every day and did normal things people would do on a cruise like going out to restaurants, swimming and just relaxing by the beach.”

“There were two rooms, one for the girls and one for the boys,” Kelsey continued. “Looking back at my trip now, I realize I was really lucky and fortunate my parents would do something that nice for me. I chose the 10 people that were the closest to me at the time.”

“I guess that some of my other close friends might have been a little upset or offended and other people might have just viewed me as a rich spoiled brat, but that’s just how it goes.”

“For the event, John and I had discussions about people viewing her differently after the party, but we decided that her friends are her family. We have larger birthday parties and we like everyone to celebrate them together.”

Most students are looking for a school that’s the right fit...
Council will again issue student course guide

Talent show, forums planned
By Matt Luchins
Midway reporter

Working towards finishing its annual student course booklet, Student Council expects to publish before course registration, February 20-22.

Presenting student ratings and opinions on every course in the school, the booklet is intended to help students choose the classes they will take next year.

This year’s edition of the student course booklet will resemble last year’s, according to Student Council Vice President Daniel Hormung, junior, in charge of the publication.

“We didn’t fully rewrite the booklet or change the layout much, because that’s typically done every three to four years and last year Student Council did it,” Dan explained. “But we did add sections for Mandarin Chinese and the new science electives.”

In other government developments:
- Student Council representative to the faculty’s Curriculum Committee, Senior Pakika Makam, intends to attend the rest of this year’s meetings and accidentally missing the first five meetings.

“It was just a miscommunication,” Pakika said. “I took over the position last year, and went to the final meeting. But I don’t think any of the teachers on the committee remembered that I was the new member, and Mr. Horvat didn’t know there was a student on the committee.”

“When I realized that the committee had met without me I talked to Mr. Horvat about it. He was very apologetic and we’ve been in contact since.”

Principal Matt Horvat said, “I didn’t know she was on the committee and I apologize for that, but she will be attending our next meeting, in February.”

“C.U. is sponsoring an ISL talent show at Lab that will take place sometime in April,” Katherine said. “We are also trying to set other schools about an ISL dance, but we haven’t been able to coordinate that so far.”

Student Council plans to arrange several forums.

“We’re looking to do follow-up meetings on diversity and block scheduling,” said Student Council President Donovan Mircham, senior.

“After that we’re going to try to hold some open forums with Director of Information Technology Curt Linnecer to help students learn new ways of using the school’s technology for research and studying.”

At its January 29 meeting, Student Council was instructed by Principal Matt Horvat to reschedule two Friday events, a senior skating party and freshman Lock Down, to either dates. Scheduling of Prom and Connections on Fridays this year has been a major topic of discussion in the school. Discussion on the latest announcement was expected to attend.

AT DEADLINE

Three seniors have been named finalists in the National Achieve program. They are Megan Harris, Nneko McGuire, and Stephanie Stern.

Show Her You Care With Flowery Fare!

S

searching for a way to  

catch her eye.

strir her heart or display your love on Valentine’s Day.

Well, look no further than Hyde Park's own CORNELL FLORIST, which offers a variety of fresh arrangements. If you want to show her you care, head to CORNELL FLORIST today!

Admitting Cornell Florist’s beautiful flowers, Senior Nina Massad struggles to decide which suitor to choose. Should she choose Zack, Jeff or tonight will it be Andy? Even if the decisions tough, at least the flowers are gorgeous!

CORNELL FLORIST

1645 East 55th Street (773) 324-1651
Open Monday- Friday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday

With this year’s booklet being the first with complete digitalization of pages with photos being placed electronically from C.D.s or scanned rather than photo prints being cropped, labeled and sent to the printer, and with all-color yearbooks likely in the future, Ms. Rickert is envisioning yearbook photography going all digital after this year.

“We need to speed up the process that is required for preparing the photos,” she said. “There’s no competition between traditional film development and digital photo development. Traditional film development takes about three days minimum. Digital sessions take a matter of seconds.”

“Black and white photography has its artistic merit, but we are not talking about art. Color is the way it’s understood.”

This year’s U-Highlights editors-in-chief are Junior Liwen Xu and Senior Michael Henderson. The photography editor is Senior Rachel Hanessian.

Managers are as follows:
- Business and advertising manager, Buang Ting, design editor, Ben Prisett.
- Section editors are as follows:
  - Life: Rebecca Rhee; Learning, Mary Pu; Organizations, Rebecca Swanson; Sports: Peter Hoppewich and BJ Akin; People, Sherron Annore; Community: Buang Ting.
  - Louis Baggeta this year is student adviser.

To submit your photos, please call 773-836-3300.

With this year’s booklet being the first with complete digitalization of pages with photos being placed electronically from C.D.s or scanned rather than photo prints being cropped, labeled and sent to the printer, and with all-color yearbooks likely in the future, Ms. Rickert is envisioning yearbook photography going all digital after this year.

“We need to speed up the process that is required for preparing the photos,” she said. “There’s no competition between traditional film development and digital photo development. Traditional film development takes about three days minimum. Digital sessions take a matter of seconds.”

“Black and white photography has its artistic merit, but we are not talking about art. Color is the way it’s understood.”

This year’s U-Highlights editors-in-chief are Junior Liwen Xu and Senior Michael Henderson. The photography editor is Senior Rachel Hanessian.

Managers are as follows:
- Business and advertising manager, Buang Ting, design editor, Ben Prisett.
- Section editors are as follows:
  - Life: Rebecca Rhee; Learning, Mary Pu; Organizations, Rebecca Swanson; Sports: Peter Hoppewich and BJ Akin; People, Sherron Annore; Community: Buang Ting.
  - Louis Baggeta this year is student adviser.

To submit your photos, please call 773-836-3300.

With this year’s booklet being the first with complete digitalization of pages with photos being placed electronically from C.D.s or scanned rather than photo prints being cropped, labeled and sent to the printer, and with all-color yearbooks likely in the future, Ms. Rickert is envisioning yearbook photography going all digital after this year.

“We need to speed up the process that is required for preparing the photos,” she said. “There’s no competition between traditional film development and digital photo development. Traditional film development takes about three days minimum. Digital sessions take a matter of seconds.”

“Black and white photography has its artistic merit, but we are not talking about art. Color is the way it’s understood.”

This year’s U-Highlights editors-in-chief are Junior Liwen Xu and Senior Michael Henderson. The photography editor is Senior Rachel Hanessian.

Managers are as follows:
- Business and advertising manager, Buang Ting, design editor, Ben Prisett.
- Section editors are as follows:
  - Life: Rebecca Rhee; Learning, Mary Pu; Organizations, Rebecca Swanson; Sports: Peter Hoppewich and BJ Akin; People, Sherron Annore; Community: Buang Ting.
  - Louis Baggeta this year is student adviser.

To submit your photos, please call 773-836-3300.

With this year’s booklet being the first with complete digitalization of pages with photos being placed electronically from C.D.s or scanned rather than photo prints being cropped, labeled and sent to the printer, and with all-color yearbooks likely in the future, Ms. Rickert is envisioning yearbook photography going all digital after this year.

“We need to speed up the process that is required for preparing the photos,” she said. “There’s no competition between traditional film development and digital photo development. Traditional film development takes about three days minimum. Digital sessions take a matter of seconds.”

“Black and white photography has its artistic merit, but we are not talking about art. Color is the way it’s understood.”

This year’s U-Highlights editors-in-chief are Junior Liwen Xu and Senior Michael Henderson. The photography editor is Senior Rachel Hanessian.

Managers are as follows:
- Business and advertising manager, Buang Ting, design editor, Ben Prisett.
- Section editors are as follows:
  - Life: Rebecca Rhee; Learning, Mary Pu; Organizations, Rebecca Swanson; Sports: Peter Hoppewich and BJ Akin; People, Sherron Annore; Community: Buang Ting.
  - Louis Baggeta this year is student adviser.

To submit your photos, please call 773-836-3300.

With this year’s booklet being the first with complete digitalization of pages with photos being placed electronically from C.D.s or scanned rather than photo prints being cropped, labeled and sent to the printer, and with all-color yearbooks likely in the future, Ms. Rickert is envisioning yearbook photography going all digital after this year.

“We need to speed up the process that is required for preparing the photos,” she said. “There’s no competition between traditional film development and digital photo development. Traditional film development takes about three days minimum. Digital sessions take a matter of seconds.”

“Black and white photography has its artistic merit, but we are not talking about art. Color is the way it’s understood.”

This year’s U-Highlights editors-in-chief are Junior Liwen Xu and Senior Michael Henderson. The photography editor is Senior Rachel Hanessian.

Managers are as follows:
- Business and advertising manager, Buang Ting, design editor, Ben Prisett.
- Section editors are as follows:
  - Life: Rebecca Rhee; Learning, Mary Pu; Organizations, Rebecca Swanson; Sports: Peter Hoppewich and BJ Akin; People, Sherron Annore; Community: Buang Ting.
  - Louis Baggeta this year is student adviser.

To submit your photos, please call 773-836-3300.

With this year’s booklet being the first with complete digitalization of pages with photos being placed electronically from C.D.s or scanned rather than photo prints being cropped, labeled and sent to the printer, and with all-color yearbooks likely in the future, Ms. Rickert is envisioning yearbook photography going all digital after this year.

“We need to speed up the process that is required for preparing the photos,” she said. “There’s no competition between traditional film development and digital photo development. Traditional film development takes about three days minimum. Digital sessions take a matter of seconds.”

“Black and white photography has its artistic merit, but we are not talking about art. Color is the way it’s understood.”

This year’s U-Highlights editors-in-chief are Junior Liwen Xu and Senior Michael Henderson. The photography editor is Senior Rachel Hanessian.

Managers are as follows:
- Business and advertising manager, Buang Ting, design editor, Ben Prisett.
- Section editors are as follows:
  - Life: Rebecca Rhee; Learning, Mary Pu; Organizations, Rebecca Swanson; Sports: Peter Hoppewich and BJ Akin; People, Sherron Annore; Community: Buang Ting.
  - Louis Baggeta this year is student adviser.

To submit your photos, please call 773-836-3300.

With this year’s booklet being the first with complete digitalization of pages with photos being placed electronically from C.D.s or scanned rather than photo prints being cropped, labeled and sent to the printer, and with all-color yearbooks likely in the future, Ms. Rickert is envisioning yearbook photography going all digital after this year.

“We need to speed up the process that is required for preparing the photos,” she said. “There’s no competition between traditional film development and digital photo development. Traditional film development takes about three days minimum. Digital sessions take a matter of seconds.”

“Black and white photography has its artistic merit, but we are not talking about art. Color is the way it’s understood.”

This year’s U-Highlights editors-in-chief are Junior Liwen Xu and Senior Michael Henderson. The photography editor is Senior Rachel Hanessian.

Managers are as follows:
- Business and advertising manager, Buang Ting, design editor, Ben Prisett.
- Section editors are as follows:
  - Life: Rebecca Rhee; Learning, Mary Pu; Organizations, Rebecca Swanson; Sports: Peter Hoppewich and BJ Akin; People, Sherron Annore; Community: Buang Ting.
  - Louis Baggeta this year is student adviser.

To submit your photos, please call 773-836-3300.
**Proposed laws would up teen driving requirements**

By Robin Shapiro
Associate editor

Three new laws proposed January 24 by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White, responding to the recent outbreak in deaths caused by reckless teenage driving, aim to increase safety for the 17- and 17-year-old drivers.

While proposed to triple the time a teen driver must hold their learner's permit to nine months, cut curb time by 2 hours, and require 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. weekend driving, the laws are to double the period when teen drivers are limited to one unlimited passenger.

During Chicago Tribune’s editorial articles responding to the recurring problem among teenage driving, there have been several fatal crashes in January alone.

After reading a December 12 Midway drunk driving story, several U-Highers said they weren’t surprised to read that U-Highers drive drunk.

“Virtually nothing had shocked to hearing the different stories in the Midway just because I’ve already heard so many others,” Junior Alan Atwood said. “This is the reason I would never have considered drinking and driving. However, I am a lot more determined now to stay away from not driving drunk from what I read in the article.”

Hoping to obtain his license this month, Senior Alex Zimmern noted he is aware of the dangers of drinking and plans to take the necessary steps and avoid drinking around friends. He said he pays little attention to the several published articles on the topic.

“Alcohol is a drug that is legal, while the Chicago Tribune on top of my breakfast one morning on drunk driving,” Alex explained. “I moved it to the side plate and finished the sports section. I really don’t think the media has changed my opinion on drunk driving.”

Although the Midway story didn’t shock some U-Highers, History Teacher Susan Shapiro said as a parent and teacher she was alarmed that U-Highers drink and drive so frequently and casually.

“I was upset to read the stories,” Mrs. Shapiro explained. “I really wasn’t surprised. It confirmed all of my guesses about what goes on during the weekends.”

“I am sure back a few, I think that probably most U-Highers have blew off the stories as humorous or by saying, ‘I’ve never got caught driving drunk’,” Shawn said. “I’m not sure what the school can do on the topic, and what we really need to do is to educate them on the dangers of drinking and driving.”

“I think what it is a more important obligation is dealing with adolescent substance abuse problems.”

“The school really doesn’t handle it right now. They do it only in a case by case basis,” Teacher John Smith said. “There is no prevention work being done in the high school whatsoever.”

A guidance counselor from the school said since 2004, the school has been unable to move forward, and to better quality position, fill the position, said Guidance Counselor Chairperson Jill Dux.

“A lot of a backlash issue,” Mr. Dux explained. “It came up when Ms. Francis left because she wasn’t here long enough to make a real change.”

“The question is if we should hire someone full time or someone from the University of Chicago, but periodically comes to talk to students.”

“The Guidance Committee definitely favors a person in a full-time job here. We don’t want someone coming in and lecturing students. We want someone to get to know the students.”

“We haven’t discussed it much this year, but we’re hoping Patty Wyoming, amount of our attention on hiring a new Learning Coordinator,” Ms. Snook, who took all of our energy.

“Maybe we can start discussing it a possible new Drug Counselor, although it would be helpful to hear from the students. Maybe a survey or something.”

“It is hard to find people qualified to work in the High School. They are hard to come by because they are in such high demand.”

**Safety initiative gets mixed reactions or no reactions at all**

By Evan Dorfman
Campus Chief

No change in school security has been noted since the U-Highers, but a few cite personal impacts.

On January 29, a male juvenile was shot on a street near Lake Park Avenue. This attack is part of an increase in local crime. After increased neighborhood assaults, attorney David Croft and the C. C. security guards, implemented a new visitor tag system and installed locking doors on the Senior Lounge. Three school entrances are unlocked at 7:15 instead of 7 a.m., including Blaine, Field and the High School.

“I don’t think a lot needed to change,” Director of Security and Facilities Tony Wilson said. “What we have implemented seems to be working well. We have hired two new police officers, so we have a total of three police officers in the School. By 8 p.m. the school is locked down. I haven’t talked to the University Police in a while, but I know that following the crimes, they increased police patrol in the area. That’s helpful, too.”

**Model U.N.ers head for the Big Apple**

By Kyle Brune

Midwest delegate


Model U.N.ers placed 2nd for Best Large Delegation and Best Freshman Delegation at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. during Ivy League competitions.

The Model U.N. delegation relies on the guidance of the older members, including adviser Earl Bell, history teacher.

“Leadership is what really matters,” Mr. Bell said. “We’ve told the team that we at Harvard, are largely handled by the veteran members. They are responsible for how well the delegation fares.”

Follow up

**Junior on Jeopardy?**

By Graham Salinger
Midway reporter

**H** eston Advanced His Position United States History class during a debate fall quarter with his ability to list every United States President with key accomplishments of each.

He amped his Camp Orrut make in Northbrook four years ago when he asked guest speaker Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig who won the 1913 World Series and answered “The Philadelphia Athletics” when Selig couldn’t.

Who is Junior Frank Fizke? Today, viewers of the T.V. show “Jeopardy!” will see Frank compete on the Teen Tournament. Frank, who can often be seen discussing politics with his friends, tested onto “Jeopardy!” last fall.

**Family tradition**

As a competitor, Frank is continuing a family tradition. His uncle Donald Fizke was a contestant in the early 90’s.

“Mum once told me that she saw a commercial for ‘Jeopardy!’ tests that you could do online,” Frank said. “So I signed up and took the test one night in October and then they e-mailed my parents the results. I didn’t think I had done that great but my dad came home one day and told me that I had gotten to the next round.

“I had to write a written test, interview with the producers and do a mock round of ‘Jeopardy!’ They called in early December to tell me that I made it onto the show.”

**Exciting arrival**

Feeling excited and uncertain, Frank arrived January 2 in Los Angeles with his brother Sam, a 2002 graduate, and his father Charles. They watched the filming of the show January 4 at Sony Studios in Culver City, the E.M.G. studio.

“Me with a legal council and signed same forms which said that you can’t be a candidate for political office while you are on the show, can’t plug products and can’t be on another game show within the next year,” Frank said. “You have to pay taxes on the winnings, you can’t reveal the outcome before the show airs and you can’t have any advance knowledge.”

“On Thursday the 4th we got up at 8 a.m. and they made sure we dressed appropriately, although I had anything that would clash on T.V.”

“Afterwards we played a practice game, shot some promos and then they separated us into the green room while the first three contestants played their quartagonal game.”

“The most extraordinary parts of ‘Jeopardy!’ Frank said, were the neon blue floors and the four-time Emmy Award winning game show host, Alex Trebek.

“I had read some books about the set and it was bigger than I expected,” he explained. “I was surprised that Alex and Johnny Gilbert, who does the voiceover, were encouraged to speak and interact with the contestants. When I read the questions, I usually don’t have much confidence in my abilities. I’m not sure what he’s like off set.”

**Stressed but focused**

Between each round, Frank kept the title in mind, but said he remained focused.

“It was very stressful, you are nervous from the time you wake up until the end of the game,” he said. “You are always thinking about what you did or what you didn’t do. When you are playing, you don’t think of the other contestants in the game. People are so quick and you are so concentrated, you are only focusing on the questions and the clues.

“The most important thing that people need to know is to remember, on the side of the board are lights and when they light up you can ring. The biggest thing I switched to was my index finger when buzzing in. You have to get a feel for the lights and for how Alex Trebek moves.”

**Breaks and retakes**

Contestants, who participated under stage lights and the watch of cameras, relied on commercial breaks and retakes to adjust to the rapidity of the show, Frank said.

“During the commercial breaks you spend most of your time trying to catch your breath,” Frank said. “Alex Trebek takes questions from the audience and there are people whose job is to take care of the contestants.

“They make sure everything is working and come to calm you down. They keep the contestants and the producers apart for the most part because they didn’t want any cheating.

“A couple of times Alex wasn’t sure if the response was correct, so the judges and producers talked about it, then they rolled the last 10 seconds of tape and we reacted to it. It was very stressful, the questions were tough and you really had to think.”

“On one question ‘How much is 19,’ which I think confused Alex a little bit. I was sitting on a chair with the run of the questions or the Daily Doubles. When you are in a zone, you really know how great it is.”

(Editor’s note: Tournament quart- erfinals began Monday on WLS channel 7, 3:30 p.m. and continue through Friday. Frank’s quartangular game show is tomorrow; semifinals and finale on February 12-18, 3:30 p.m.)
A gamer is typically defined as someone who spends a large portion of his or her leisure time playing games on a computer or video game console. There are many different kinds of gamers: casual gamers, hardcore gamers, competitive gamers, Path of Exile players, import gamers, glitched and cyber athletes who compete for money and are considered "professional."

Playing a game on a console or PC makes anyone a "gamer." U-Highers say, but it is the warped internal clocks and purchases such as $2,500 gaming computers or $50 a month game subscriptions that define the lives of more serious gamers at U-High.

Though gaming encompasses playing any kind of game, many different kinds of gamers exist. Some gamers game casually, playing only a few hours per week, while others work at their skills to game competitively against friends or even at tournaments for money.

A May survey of 25 U-Highers shows 79 percent of them engage in some form of electronic gaming. The Electronic Gaming Association, an American public relations association representing game manufacturers, states that minors now account for 30 percent of all electronic gamers.

Senior David Ottkoff, who games on consoles and PCs and plays titles of all genres except those with sports themes, cites gaming as time consuming.

"I game a minimum of four hours a day," David said.

"There's a rule where I don't play for more than five hours. Typically I play something in the order of eight hours and in the summer I play 20 hours a day. In the summer I have time to do this."

"I have a lot of free time to play."

"I don't particularly enjoy gaming."

"I think that I didn't game there would be nothing to replace it," he said.

"There is nothing inherent in gaming that reduces my sleeping." Conversely, Senior Leo Carlson noted a huge shift in his daily schedule because of gaming.

"He used to come home around 4, sleep until about 6:30 or 7 and then eat dinner and play games," he said. "I would start my homework at 12 and finish around 2:30. I'd be tired at school, but I couldn't get out of the cycle because I'd fall asleep again when I got home. Gaming can affect you like that." Not all U-High gamers, however, are affected so greatly by this hobby. Senior Steven Jones, who plays mainly first person shooters, games in which the player assumes the role of a gunman, only plays an hour a week during school and two or three hours a week during the summer.

"I can get bored of games," he explained. "You can only sit and stare at a screen for so long. I always wonder how people get addicted to video games."

"Steven" feels little need to constantly improve his existing equipment.

"I think it can be an expensive hobby if you are really into it and you need to stay at the cutting edge," he said. "For example, the PlayStation 3 costs $600. But I just have a PS2 and that's it."

For more involved gamers, however, playing can demand a constant financial investment.

"To play 'World of Warcraft,' $50 is the initial cost in the initial month and it's in between $12 and $15 depending on what subscription plan you use," Senior Daniel Wheaton explained. "During Sophomore year I played 'World of Warcraft' on and off, but eventually I got bored and stopped. In total, I probably shelled out about $300 over nine months."

For some, gaming can even involve a profit motive.

"A team will put $100 into a tournament," an anonymous senior said.

"Usually a team will have five people play at a time. Two people might know each other while three others might know one another. Usually if you are playing for money and you lose people get mad, but people who know you know don't get mad."

"Gaming is a lot more fun when you can lose something. When you put money on the line, you invest more time and it can be more intense. I just put in ten dollars every two months and if I'm involved in a tournament I put in $30."

Despite the large range of U-Highers who game, gamers remain a minority among the gaming world.

"I think it would be hard to find a game."

"It is really more dominated. When people online do badly they call them a girl as slang, a people don't respect girls as much in games."

Although only an occasional gamer, Senior Sarah Fischel said she enjoys gaming again for the first time since childhood. "I used to play 'Sonic the Hedgehog' when I was younger on Sega Genesis,' she said. "It's the only game I could play during my childhood."

"Then we got Nintendo 64 and my brother wouldn't let me play at all. Now that I'm the only one at home, I'm able to game more often."

"When not playing games that don't parallel my lifestyle, like 'Deer Hunter' even though I'm a vegetarian and 'Halo 2' even though I'm a pacifist."

"I want to be a game designer, so I'm not sure I've got the right mindset."

"I like playing games that don't parallel my lifestyle, like 'Deer Hunter' even though I'm a vegetarian and 'Halo 2' even though I'm a pacifist."

"I really like making other people feel bad. I like watching people lose. I like seeing people feel stupid, so when I beat them I can laugh at them. I also like the prizes and rewards you can get when gaming."
How to speak like a g@m3r:

PWNNED: BEING BADLY DEFEATED
OWNAGE: LARGE AMOUNTS OF "OWNING" IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME
NOOB/NUB: A DEROGATORY TERM FOR A NEW PLAYER OR A KNOW-IT-ALL
FRAG: A KILL
AGGRO: AN ATTACK, USUALLY BY A HOSTILE CREATURE

GTG: GOOD TO GO, GOT TO GO
GG: GOOD GAME, OFTEN USED SARCASTICALLY
IRL: IN REAL LIFE
AFK: AWAY FROM KEYBOARD
HAX: A GAME THAT HAS BEEN HACKED.

Compiled by Jeremy Lacocque, Editor-in-Chief

Networking

By Julie Carlson

Thrilling tournaments, countless websites and new gaming packages such as Xbox Live, which gives Xbox consoles Internet gaming capabilities, have inspired the world of online gaming, where players compete against each other using an Internet connection.

Once implying a lonely afternoon spent playing against artificial intelligence, gaming is now commonly viewed as a sport, with leagues hosting players as they compete for prizes. Many players consider online gaming a competitive sport for the energetic intensity and because players can compete worldwide. At tournaments across the country, aspiring professionals like Senior Sam Shaibel and Junior Dan Engel-Hall, seniors.

"I've been playing for four years, for about one to two hours a day," Sam explained. "Once I was on the third best team in the nation and I've won $1,500 in a couple of tournaments for the game 'Duty'. I think that essentially competitive gaming has the potential to be a sport, although it's considered more of a pastime right now. But you do have to practice a lot to be good, especially if you want to win. There are a lot of sports not as physical as athletic sports."

"I wasn't part of this, but there are online leagues with weekly matches, standings and playoffs. The major league is the Cash Prize League and they just signed a deal with the vice president of Major League Baseball. Its popularity is really growing."

By Julie Carlson

Playing poker on the Internet for three-and-a-half years, a senior who asked not to be named cited winning large amounts of money as his main incentive for continuing to play online at 'Full Tilt Poker'.

"At first, I just started playing online because I found it interesting," he explained. "Now I keep playing because I make a lot of money. The most I've ever made in one night is $5,000, but I've also lost about $5,000 during a couple of days."

"Those are really opposite ends of the spectrum, though. On average, I'd say I make about $100 per hour. I play on 'Full Tilt Poker' for about one to two hours a few times a week. "I don't spend the money on anything in particular. I just buy whatever clothing item or anything that I want as it comes up. I definitely don't think that online poker's a sport. It's not athletic, it's just a mind game."

"I play video games because I enjoy the storyline. Some games, like sports games help your hand eye coordination, and some games can sharpen your intelligence. Others make political statements. My favorite game is 'Final Fantasy 3 1/2'. Its graphics aren't so good, but it has music by my favorite composer."

"I PLAY video games because I enjoy the story line. Some games, like sports games help your hand eye coordination, and some games can sharpen your intelligence. Others make political statements. My favorite game is 'Final Fantasy 3 1/2'. Its graphics aren't so good, but it has music by my favorite composer."

"GAMING is fun because I get to crush my friends like little bugs."

Art by Eric Cochrane
As the Midway sees it
Diversity effort needs honesty, not management

"All progress is precarious and the solution of one problem brings us face to face with another problem."

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The latest diversity initiative at the Lab Schools, which began after Director of Development David Magill came in 2003 and resulted in hiring an experienced diversity consultant familiar with the school, Mr. Prexy Nesbit, for one year.

In the Fall Mr. Nesbit distributed a diversity survey to faculty members and interviewed them individually. He also recommended two workshop leaders who met one at a time with the faculty All Schools Council in November and December.

Everyone who gave time and energy into completing the survey was led to believe the results would be issued in January. But that didn't happen.

Instead the report went to the Lab Schools Board for review January 23. Then Mr. Magill, Mr. Nesbit and some Board members met February 29 to discuss and clarify elements of the report they felt may be misrepresented by the community. A summarized version is scheduled to be given to the faculty, administration, alumni and Parents' Association this Friday.

With the visits of the two workshop leaders some teachers said, "we hear again." They sensed, as in the past, an academic approach. They felt a heartfelt, round dialog about what's needed.

It's curious then that only a selected fraction of the community will be given information that supposedly pertains to everyone.

It's also intriguing that this year Prom and Connections were scheduled on Friday night, also the Jewish Sabbath. Especially since Prom took place on Monday last year and administrators said it wouldn't happen again.

If the school is going to ask faculty members, alumni and students to give up their time in an attempt to increase diversity, then the setup in the community should be fully aware of the study's results.

By providing the members of the community with the outcome of the diversity survey contracts with exactly the thing the school is trying to improve: diversity. Without the entire community being able to reflect on problems and positive points at the school, to me and my improvement efforts will be in vain.

Like Mr. King said with progress and solutions can come more problems. It's not that the school has not made an effort in the quest for diversity but that the leaders of the school may need to realign their efforts.

Bringing in experts who are one-time visitors to the school and summaries of surveys are unnatural ways to bring the changes.

If the power in diversity efforts is really power, then with a select few it is unlikely it can bring about change for the whole community.

This problem doesn't have to be precarious.

If the survey findings and subsequent responses are shared together with everyone, whatever dialogue responses, the school can move ahead.

Say What?

If you had to choose between going to Italy with your family for Valentine's Day weekend or staying in town with your boyfriend or girlfriend, which would you choose and why?

Nneka McGuire, senior: I would stay in Chicago. While I don't know what my boyfriend is planning for Valentine's Day in Chicago I will be at home by 8 p.m. watching my favorite show, "Medium" and cuddling up with my favorite guys, Ben and Jerry.

Nneka

Cory Keane, junior: I would pick the family vacation in Italy because first of all, that is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Second of all, I believe that it is more important to spend time with family because when I go to college it means less family time and more friend time. I would try to explain to my girlfriend, in hopes that she'd understand my rationale for going to Italy.

Michele Henderson, sophomore: I would definitely go to Italy because I've never traveled out of the country before and I think that going there would be a good opportunity. While in Italy, I would at least carry my boyfriend to see if she's okay and to make sure that no one else was carrying with her. When I come back I would make it up to her.

Michelle

Andrew Zheng, freshman: I would probably rather stay in Chicago. Going to Italy for a weekend, in my opinion, is a waste of time and money. I would probably be better off staying in Chicago so that I could catch up with my homework and still spend time with the people I care about.

Andrew

WE NEED MORE ANNOYING 'TIONS BOO! DIVERSITY HERE'S OUR TOKEN

A passionate violin performance and a slight about activities were just two of the many activities at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. assembly.

Unfortunately the assembly was appreciated by only a fragment of the community.

Noticable numbers of students were absent from the assembly which seems to receive less attention than other assemblies. It's strange that the work done in memory of a historic leader was missed by many and hopefully it will get a better crowd in coming years.

If some people have said it should be done to student organizations for theConnections booklet would affect Midway and U-Highlight ad sales. They wouldn't. But it would have been nice if someone had asked if our publications would have been affected. Given all the do or all the facts of the school is interesting how sometimes we seem invisible.

Just say no to the 'N' word

GROWING UP in a household with one black parent and one white parent, I remember some things that are rarely discussed. For example, how some South Side Chicago-church programs were supported by profit from their congregations, incidents involving the police and young black males, the public school system and how it's still failing African American youth and the "Niger."

Sure my parents have both heard the songs my brother and I listen to, which emphatically use the word. But when it comes to my brother and my saying whether that word is used many times it just isn't done. We were raised to hate the word.

It wasn't until this summer when I was taking a course at University of Chicago-New York City, where I was the only African American boy in the whole program, did I first encounter the use of the word so freely by people who weren't black. I never felt they were using it as a way to demean me or any other black person, but just in quoting a song or one of Dave Chappelle's stand up routines I still felt as if every time one of them used the word it was directly aimed at me.

So many times both here and in Seinfeld star Michael Richards went on his now infamous racist rant, where he repeatedly called an African American heckler a "Nigger" during a stand up routine. I began to realize how strong the word's meaning is.

After seeing the footage online, pure hate began to rise inside of me, not just the discomfort I felt at Columbia.

Anger quickly turned into confusion as I tried to reason through the difference between the kids at Columbia or Michael Richards saying the word or a black schoolmarm or a black comedian saying the word.

The word's connection with slavery is a strong explanation that leads many American's through or not use the word African Americans, who use the word in everyday conversation.

There are many explanations for the use of the word African Americans, including how they pronounce it "Nigger" instead of "Negro" and how it has become a term of endearment within black communities.

Many influential African American entertainers, who have vowed to stop using the word, have not forgotten the hated filled history.

But a few people aren't enough to abolish the only thing linking us Americans to the darkest time in U.S. History. So for Black History Month this columnist is eliminating the word up from his vocabulary, hopefully everyone else will follow.

Opinion

Gabe Bump

U-High MIDWAY

Published nine times a year by journalism and photojournalism students at University Laboratory High School, 1342 East 19th Street, Chicago, 60617. Copyright 2007 University Laboratory High School, Journalism Department. Printed by Metropolitan Press, Broadview, Illinois.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Henry Abravanel Jacqueline Chouinard

ADVISORY ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Evan Domorte

ART DIRECTOR

Phil Jacobson

EDITORIAL INTARS

Mamata Patel

PHOTO EDITOR

Evan Lasker

SPORTS PHOTO EDITOR

Evan Lasker

COLUMNS


COLUMNISTS


CRITICS


Three up to top position

Three new Midway editors-in-chief have been previoiusly appointed.

Seniors Jeremy Lacouve, Jacqueline Chouinard and Evan Domorte were promoted from the position of managing editor, making seven editors-in-chief, the most in the paper's history.

Big paper, big staff, big talk: "After a few years as a Teacher Wayne Reader, who advises the Midway with the Photojournalism Teacher Liese Ricketts. "It's rare to have this many leaders in any one year."
POINT/COUNTERPOINT
Who is the more electable candidate, Obama or Clinton?

EVAN: I'm in the mood to party! How about a Oly-mic Point-Counterpoint some competition that isn't "Bull's" drashing of the Sonics for the '96 cherry on top of Chicago's legendary 72-10 year, the team set a bar that not even Cuban high-jumper Javier Sotomayor could top. And although the Sonics lost, the series marked the ascent of Shawn Kemp's career, as he exhibited a previously unseen dominance.

PHIL: Please everybody, mean the NBA title? The Sonics had a Oly-mic sort of year, remember? I mean, they had the same number of wins as the Spurs, and they ended up in a tie for first. But the Spurs won in the playoffs, so it was a tough win for the Sonics.

EVAN: ‘Course, but seriously, the Sonics had a great season, and Kemp has really come into his own this year. He's really been the key to their success.

PHIL: I mean, honestly, the Sonics had a great season, and Kemp has been a force to be reckoned with. But seriously, the Spurs are the team to beat this year.

EVAN: I think Barack would be the funnier candidate, but Obama is the more serious of the two. With his八字 counselors at the 2004 Democratic Convention, he won the hearts of many and cemented his status as the main man's candidate. To many, Obama represents the beacon of hope that shines at the end of the tunnel of grinding, next to Obama's brilliant speaking ability, Lady Clinton sounds like a broken gong. Sir, she speaks with the voice of Damoclesmen, producing soothing melodies comparable to that of Hermy's lyre.

PHIL: Even you are missing the point, my young Mendoza. At the end of the day, the people will put all their shuckles on experience. And Lady Clinton is the embodiment of that experience. Oh, and Lord Bill doesn't even want to talk about it.

EVAN: Well, I'm glad that's clear. That both of these candidates is a perfect fit to command the great armies of the Republic. We need someone who has been absolutely chosen by all sorts of groups to relate to the people on their level and has a strong knowledge in the history of the Early Wokers.

PHIL: EVAN: So, as a result, there is only one who is perfectly suited to assume the Presidency.


EVAN: I'm not so obvious. The great Dr. Jack Nap.

---

Rising from the ashes, still elegant

PHIL Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief

A THANKSGIVING DAY fire gutted Sabri Nihari, a 30-year-old upscale Pakistani restaurant in Denver Street's South Asian neighborhood last year, taking down most businesses (some owners of which didn't have insurance) and apartments on the block.

Soon after, the restaurant managed to open a small temporary location across the street.

My companion and I visited Sabri Nihari's new site dinner on how well it survived the change and found three employees greeting us at this new location. The lovely, friendly 5-foot-6-inch, white-haired, middle-aged couple and their four children, all of whom had come over to open the restaurant, were friendly and welcoming.

The restaurant has a small menu with Indian and Pakistani dishes served mostly under $9 and an Americanized kids' menu with hamburgers, chicken nuggets and cheese fingers (mazza sticks) under $5.

Low prices don't mean small portions, however, as each entree generally feeds two or more. Even kids meals items filling grown adults. Also, if ordering only one dish, such as Brain Masala, $7.99 (presumably curry beef brain but I was afraid to ask), don't provide a desired range of taste, the waiter will gladly bring an unlimited combo plate.

While munching on fresh tasting onion and tomato cubes before our orders were delivered, my companion sipped Lassi, $2.99, a sweet frothy yogurt and sugar blend, while my Mango Shake, $3.49, a mango flavored Lassi, provided the thick and creamy satisfaction I later appreciate as a spice suppressant.

We shared three dishes. Goat Biryani, $7.49, the largest, is a long grain basmati rice dish with moderately spicy meat and crispy fried onion (available with chicken) and yogurt sauce on the side. The perfectly cooked-onion rice, crispily exuding a remarkable clove and saffron fragrance, set this Biryani apart from any other on the menu.

Chicken Boli, $7.49, boneless chicken marinated overnight in yogurt, ginger and garlic and fried over charcoal, tasted the least spicy despite the scary bright red tint. The chicken, cooked to a textural balance between too moist and too dry, made the dish an ideal supplement to spicer meals.

Sabri Nihari, $6.99, a Pakistani meat and curry dish which gave the restaurant its name and its pre-fire fame, completed our main meal. Traditionally cooked overnight in underground ovens, the ultra-tender beef served in a pool of light brown sauce brimming with such richness and creamy zest that simple beef will never taste the same again.

Nani, $1.39, a slab of warm bread resembling a fluffy soft tortilla strewed with as much Salvador Dalí's melting clocks with pizza puff, goes with everything. (Especially when dipped in the Sabri Nihari sauce or the Biryani's yogurt sauce) and provided an elegant starting amuse.

For dessert, I split my companion and I shared Greek, $4.99, a long-grain rice pudding hasting a taste of jasmine, less colorful than the rest of the meal. A staple in Hindu and Muslim wedding celebrations (and another good way to assuage the aftertaste of jasmine), this one was not impressive. The rice flakey and heavy and satisfied that Sabri Nihari's new location serves the same old great tasting low priced food.

On one of his daily visits to the U.M., Senior Jeff Bishku-Aykul chose an ice tea, a drink he had never bought from the store before. Suddenly he bumped into his girlfriend Senior Nina Massad, surprised that the apple juice aficionado chose the same brand of ice tea!

This was sort of hard to explain. But choosing the University Market wasn’t. With its wide variety of tasty subs, cold drinks, delicious cheeses, roasted nuts, crunchy chips, and well... most every delicacy a U-Higher could want, Nina and Jeff knew the University Market was a sure bet!

University Market
1323 East 57th Street
Open Monday-Saturday
8 a.m.-10 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
773-363-0070
Science Expo to offer 100-plus attractions

By Marrisa Miles-Cocarco
Associate editor

Tennis balls will bombard multicolored drinking straw towers causing the structures to implode in Sunny Gym as one of more than 100 activities, demonstrations and presentations at the third annual Science Expo 1-5 p.m. February 24.

The Expo will include new attractions such as nanotechnology, animal dissections, the Mendelian Inheritance at Hopkins and Cokee Minting. Building the tall straw towers, Middle School Science Teacher Marc Wagner will test the towers by adding the weight of a tennis ball.

Presenting her work outside of school, Junior May Fu will discuss research on alternative methods for curing cancer.

"The presentation is a extension of my fathers research," May said. "I want to be doing data; it's actually pretty impressive."

"The data might give hope to people who have a family members with cancer, that chemio and radiation are not the only cures. When my dad told me about his research, he always made it sound really interesting and I was interested because of all the deaths. If someone had cancer in their whole body then it would be suicide to try and get radiation on their whole body but this research could find a cure for cancer even in its latest stages."

Demonstrating their fall quarter project, entitled Maximm Descent, Physics Teacher Ira Nirenberg's students will showcase contraptions that make a ping-pong ball drop 50 cm in three minutes.

"Certain students who did well on the project will display theirs," Mr. Nirenberg said. "The project helps students appreciate the difficulty of turning an idea into a concrete creation. What the mind, in the abstract creates often won't work in reality, so it's back to the drawing board."

Working to organize the upcoming Expo, Middle School Science Teacher Diane Snider hopes students will benefit from the activities.

"Expo is a fantastic experience for students," Mrs. Snider said. "The students who present get to share their discoveries and the exciting things they are doing in their classrooms."

"Everyone has a bit of ham in them and likes an audience. Student presenters get to hone their public speaking skill at the Science Expo. Those students who are doing personal projects pick something they want to do and run with it. The Lower School students who come to see the expo get excited about science and learn a lot from their fellow Lab students. I hope people come to the Expo, it's free, it's fun and there are refreshments!"

(continued from front page)

I am a student at East-West University. After graduation I plan to start a career in social work as a counselor.

East-West University has made it possible for me...

To be, go to: www-eastwest.edu

or call toll free 1-877-398-9376 (9am - 9pm)
Boys’ basketball heads north for Conference rival
By Henry Africano
Editor-in-Chief
Ravaged by the loss of its top scorer Sophomore Zeke Upshaw to an ankle injury, the varsity boys’ basketball team is gearing up for its final Conference matchup against Parkers 6:30 p.m., Thursday, February 15, away. Racking up a 6-9 overall record (3-5 in the Independent School League) as of Midway deadline, the nine man team recently regained Junior Dan Horning and Senior Peter Hepplewhite, co-captains with Senior Phil Jacobson. Both were out with ankle injuries. Junior Derek Chiampas and Sophomore Tim Parsons also were faced with minor concussions causing them to miss practice. Headed by Coach Ron Aslaw, the team has only three games left.
“We’ve had a tough year in terms of injuries, especially recently,” Phil said. “Peter had just gotten back from a bad ankle injury and then we lost Zeke and Dan. We were already a team that struggled to put the ball in the basket and Zeke and Dan were our two leading scorers.”
“So it’s been tough. But we still have a few games left. We lost to Parker before at home, probably because we took them too lightly after being up going into halftime. We want to get them back at their place and to me, that would be the perfect cap to the season.”
Unlikely is hardly the word to describe the team’s injuries, believes Coach Aslaw. “This is the most injuries I’ve ever seen in my 17 years of coaching high school basketball.” Coach Aslaw said. “This many injuries, all to our starters, in such a short period of time is indefensible. So now it’s more about us; we are still preparing for our opponents, but we have to stabilize our ship. We have to make sure our guys are comfortable on the court and are able to stay confident. In the long run, not so much about the wins or losses now, but a couple years down the line, the experience our other players are getting will help out.”
The team may appear to be in serious trouble, but according to Peter, the schedule may permit a successful remaining season.
“We played our toughest Conference games in the beginning of the season,” Peter said. “So even though we’re not at full strength, our upcoming games are still winnable. At least the schedule is working in our favor. We are scheduled to play Nazareth Academy after Parker and we beat them last year. The fact that we know how they play is an advantage, so hopefully we will be able to manage without our entire team.”
Scores are as follows:
Lake Forest Academy December 8, home: Varsity lost 24-26, jv lost 24-38. Parker.

Feeling Love Sick?
Photo by Shenna Anand

Heartbroken? K & K Pharmacy has the cure. Doctor Simone Baggetto, freshman, prescribes Isabella Pretta Love Potion Number 9 to heal her heartache. Neighbor to a doctor’s office, K & K Pharmacy’s welcoming staff boast a myriad of pharmaceuticals and home delivery all over the Chicagoland area.

Maroons ride on strength of full roster to bring Sectional success
By Harley Chang
Associate editor
Heading into Sectionals Friday at the University of Illinois at Chicago Natatorium, the Maroons look to their powerful 400 freestyle relay team to claim their Sectionals performance, according to Coach Paul Gunty.
“Our freestyle relay team, consisting of Zack Smith, Alex Gomez, Homer Shew and Won Hee Lee, have ranked in the top 10 times of Lab School,” Mr. Gunty said. “Of those four, both Homer and Won Hee have been close to breaking school records, the 500 freestyle and the Individual Medley, respectively.”
Ending its Independent School League season with one win and two dual losses (2-3 overall) as of Midway deadline, varsity placed 4th of 8 at its final Conference meet at Evergreen Park, January 20. The Maroons also competed in the Bremont Nathional placing 2nd of 6 December 1 and in the Riverside Brookfield Invitational, coming up 7th of 9 January 13.
This year’s 24 man squad will help the team reach the top three at Sectionals, believes Zack, co-captain with Alex, both seniors.
“We haven’t had a particularly defining moment during the season,” Zack said. “But with all of our hard work, I think the varsity team will bust out during Sectionals and the team will lash out their potential and talent. Our team is also bigger, maybe seven or eight more members than last year. Since scheduled a few extra meets, we have a much better chance of being in the top three than last year. I think we should also do some cross-training and weight lifting to prepare for the big meet instead of just always working in the pool.”
The Maroons benefited from the depth of a large team, 11 more than last year. They
Tiny but Tough

Girl basketballers head into tough finals

By Mona Dagupta
Associate editor

We haven't played Ridgewood yet this season, but the way we've been playing, we can beat them,” Senior girls' varsity basketball player Junior Lucy O'Keefe, wing and co-captain with Sophomore Alexis Jerkin, the Maroons play their season's second-to-last match against the Rebels 7 p.m., today in northwest suburban Norridge.

"We lost to Ridgewood last year," Lucy said. "But this year we're more of a team. Everyone has their own special abilities from shooting, passing and driving to the basket. Last year we lost games we shouldn't have. However, this year we're winning more and not losing the games we should win."

With a 16-8 overall record, varsity lost to Latin, 38-66, January 30 at home, placing 2nd behind Latin in the Independent School League (ISL). Dance Team performed at halftime. Maroons will play their last game against Northside College Prep 6 p.m., Friday, at home.

"We played Northside in the Thanksgiving Tournament and we won," Lucy said. "They're a tough team. They have this girl who's really good at shooting. If we shut her down, we can definitely win." Seed 9th of 20 in Regionals, the Maroons will face Harper in the sectional's second round, 8 p.m., Wednesday, February 14 in Upper Kever.

"Harper is seeded 8th, so the competition is going to be close," Varsity Coach Carson Cunningham said. "We're going to press extensively, push the ball and execute our plays to win. We're going to go, go, go. We're going to fight, fight, fight. We're going to win, win, win." Latin was our last Conference game. It didn't go well, we didn't execute plays well and lacked energy. It was really disappointing.

With her team facing Ridgewood for the first time 7 p.m., today, away, JV Point Guard Margot Turek, freshman, believes they need more focus on plays.

"We need to show our skills more," Margot said. "Right now we're just playing to play and not using specific plays. Our defense is really solid because of our full court press. We get more points off steals than plays and we need to learn rotations better, they're key."

JV finished 1st in the ISL after beating Latin 57-17, January 38, at home, with a halftime jv Dance Team performance. The Maroons' season flew by victoriously, according to Coach Meghan Anda.

“We have good ball handlers and speed which allowed us to totally dominate teams,” she said. "Our full court press was pretty much unstoppable. Some games we'd have to pull off."

"Throughout the season, we practiced shooting. We practiced nonstop shots, which showed in games. Most of the time the girls would play up on varsity because our varsity team is small. It gave them more experience and they handled it really well."

Other scores as are follows: Morgan Park Academy, December 6, home, Varsity win 53-27, Holy Trinity, December 6, away, Varsity lost 57-63, Jv won 39-24, Eugene Academy, December 15, home, Varsity win 57-17, Jv won 45-34, Parker, December 16, away, Varsity won 66-29, Willow Academy.


Happy Valentine’s Day!

Dancin' scene
Making history as Dance Team's first male, Freshman Antonio Robles grooves with jv Dance Team members, Isabel Del Canto and Kennan Carnegie, to Beyonce’s “Ring that Alarm” remix. In the left photo, Alex Bullock, co-captain with Denise Akumah, steps to Clara’s “That’s Right” and, on right, Isabel points to the audience in Snoop Dogg and Akon’s “I Wanna Love You” during the girls' basketball halftime show, January 30 in Upper Kever.

Honors cite players, coach

By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor

First-year Girls' Volleyball Coach Amy Landis was named ISL Coach of the Year after her team finished 2nd in the ISL with the Sportsmanship Award. "I think we won the awards because we are genial and exhibited sportsmanship," Coach Landis said. "But also because they underlined our girls' skills because we lost a few key players from last year. But we proved them wrong and beat them."

Other fall sports honors are as follows:

ALL-SECTIONAL--Soccer: Ellen Weiner
ALL-CONFERENCE--Golf: Nick Koppelman and Evan, L hostname
ALL-STATE--Soccer: Leo Cudzin and Morgan Murphy
ALL-ISL FIRST TEAM--Soccer: Leo, Evan

If we shut her down, we can definitely win.

COACHES AWARDS-Boys' soccer: Leo Cudzin, girls' volleyball: Anne Sawyer, girls' swimming: Stephanie Stern, girls' tennis: Gabriele Clark, boys' golf: Nick Koppelman, cross country: Katie Mischelold and Ben Worcester, Shannon Kimbrell and Emily Kau.

From Ski Club
Two Nicks find satisfaction outweighs sacrifices in sports

SECOND OF A TWO-PART SERIES

By Phil Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief

Nicholas.

A combination of the Greek words "nike" and "tais," the name can be understood to mean "victory of the people." In this case, those people are Senior Nick Kogelman and Junior Nick Sisodia.

Though each plays sports at U-High, the two excel at golf and squash, respectively, outside school competition.

Chicago’s blustering winters may mean the end of golf season for many athletes, but for Kogelman, it’s just another beginning. When it gets too frosty to play outside, he heads indoors and works with his personal coach to tweak his swing and hit as many balls as possible. His golf regimen continues into the summer.

"As soon as school ends, I start playing tournaments," Kogelman said. "If school ends on Friday, I’ll be in the car on Sunday. In June and July I spend more time in a hotel room than my own room. I used to go outside the state, but there are enough golf tournaments in Illinois to keep me busy. There’s a big tournament in Springfield, a qualifier for a big national tournament. I played it for the first time this summer and missed qualifying by a stroke. In Quincy, Illinois, there’s the Pepsi Little People’s Golf Tournament, the second biggest in the country. I placed 12th in my field. Kids come from eight different countries to play.

"Normally, school competition is a lot less competitive. The kids that play in the summer are the kids that really want to be playing. They’re really dedicated themselves versus just doing something as an extracurricular activity, so the competition in the summer tends to be a lot tougher." Like anyone else searching for a college, Kogelman is looking for a good fit. Though he wants to play at the next level, he said he’s turned down golf scholarships at lesser academic schools because his ideal college combines quality academics with a spot for him on the golf team.

"I’d like to play in college, but I acknowledge that I’m a student and an athlete. I don’t want to go to a bad academic school just to play golf. If a school is offering me a place on the golf team and they’re a good academic school, but they’re not offering me a scholarship, I’d probably go there."

"Being a Nick is a blessing. It pretty much makes you unstoppable at all athletics."

—Nick Kogelman, senior

Devoting much time to his sport, Sisodia practices squash downtown at the University Club of Chicago six days a week for several hours each day. He’ll work on skills one day and do physical training the next; others he simply plays. All that hard work has paid big dividends, as Sisodia is currently ranked 7th in the nation, dropping from 5th.

"I’ve been playing seriously since I was 11," Sisodia said. "My dad played, so I got into it. I started going to the club three times a week and I gradually started going more and more. Now I’ll take off only one day a week.

"I work really hard at it and I’m really into it. I’ll follow the pros just like someone who plays basketball might follow pro basketball players.

At a Baltimore tournament he played several years ago, Sisodia met Bryan Patterson, a former player who coaches in Philadelphia and runs annual trips for young players to compete in junior tournaments around the world. He later accepted Mr. Patterson’s invitation to come along on one of his trips.

"This year, I went to my first international tournament. I played the Pioneer Junior Open in Cologne, Germany, which is a pretty huge international tournament. Then my group went to Amsterdam to play the Dutch Junior Open. It was a great playing experience because in the U.S., people do take squash seriously, but the major sports are baseball, football and basketball, and all the best athletes play those.

"Here, squash is more of an elitist sport, but in a place like England, squash is much more of a middle class sport; it’s much more open to society and a lot more people play, so the kids are better.

"Tournaments are always loads of fun. When I’m placing a friend, we do take it seriously and we won’t talk before a match. It’s very competitive; there’s high expectations. But I love the sport."

Planning to continue playing competitive squash in college, Sisodia frequently plays in front of college coaches who come to scout players at big tournaments.

"At the big tournaments, most of the coaches show up. They’ll roam around watching you play. I try to ignore it, but it’s hard. In the back of your mind, you know what your game is. I just try to play my game."

"It’s really great to be ranked top 10. If you have strong grades to back it up, then your chances of getting into a good college go up a lot.

"It just happens that some of the best squash schools are some of the best academic schools, so it works out really nice that way."

Get her something different for Valentine’s Day this year...

Instead of a cliche single stem rose or a box of chocolates, surprise her with a romantic candle lit meal. Share a delicious shake at a cozy table for two at the Medici.

MEDICI
On 57th

1327 East 57th Street ■ (773) 667-7394
Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-11 p.m ■ Friday 7 a.m.-Midnight
Saturday 9 a.m.-Midnight ■ Sunday 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
from "Video Diary: CUBA"

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY VIDEOGRAPHY
DAVIDSPEARMAN.COM
1-312-326-1311
Glacial weather didn’t stop U-Highers and guests from showing up in their best attire to the Formal Dance, Saturday at International House. As temperatures fell below zero, U-Highers ignored the stinging cold, turning up in a myriad of enticing fashions. From open-toed heels and short vintage-inspired dresses to contemporary printed dresses with wide colorful belts, U-High girls dressed to impress. Many wore empire dresses in deep greens and reds while some opted for simpler black dresses paired with bright patent shoes. Others chose fashions ranging from spandex and chic tops to elegant gowns, interpreting “formal” in a variety of stylish ways. Boys also channeled some vintage inspiration. In pin stripes and fedoras boys kept warm on the dance floor in classic looks as the temperature dropped outside.