

U-High MIDWAY

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Obama-Clinton possibilities heat up election talk, conjecture here

FIRST OF A TWO-PART SERIES

By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor

When Illinois Senator Barack Obama announces his run for President on Saturday, as expected, the race for the Democratic nomination will draw closer to pitting 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 Hornung, 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' and Obama started doing the 'Harlem shake,' showing his lighter side."

"Both Clinton and Obama are pretty liberal-minded people, but both are playing a centrist card to get elected. Hillary was a great advocate on health care and is now a hawk for 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 our 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 only 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 2005 First-Day 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 Jarett, '73, and Lab Schools parents Mr.

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Photo by Ramzi Dreessen

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).

CONNECTED?

Detaches in diversity drive stir dialogue

By David McAlpine
Associate editor

With the much anticipated results of the schools' 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 aloud how amidst a high-profile, expensive diversity initiative, the school could miss a problem right under its nose.

Prom and Connections were scheduled on Friday evenings, 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 Proms 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 on the Jewish Students' Association board and it bothered me that she had no objection after the fact that she talked to JSA."

"I would have liked people to come to us instead of talking behind our backs. I was even 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 besides an interim principal. As a student

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"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



Comedy to open Artsfest, magic to conclude day offering 101 programs

By Gretchen Eng
Midway reporter

Competing for hilarity 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 Kovler 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 Edwardo's Pizza lunch will treat the grade which handed in the most schedules by January 26.

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

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 plan to present 45 and 90 minute performances, respectively.

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

"They're both sort of obnoxious, 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,



Photo by Sydney Marcus

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

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 at 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 chairs 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 U-High to 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 Huber
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. "Kevin! It's Mom!" Then, in a hushed voice, "We heard there was a fire on your street last night."

"Beep," a one-act play written by Senior Nick Feder, 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 totally lost and let's just say that disaster ensues."

Additionally, four professionally-written one-act plays and a Sound and Lights Show make up the production. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. and runs Thursday to Saturday, February 22-24 in Belfield Theatre. 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,

above all, escape from captivity. Written by Playwright David Ives and directed by Junior Marissa Miles-Coccaro. **Cast:** Jon Pape, Varsha Raghavan and Katherine Vokes.

"THE ACTOR'S NIGHTMARE"—George Spelvin suddenly finds himself onstage in front of an audience, with no memory of who he is or even that he is an actor. Written by Playwright Christopher Durang and directed by Senior Amanda Faraone and Junior Cydney Weiner. **Cast:** Joe Boisvert, Kaitlyn Chang, James Krull, Victoria Rogers and Alice Quinlan.

"TELEPHONE"—A tale of a couple who have just split up and the ways their break-up is affecting themselves and everyone around them. Written by Playwright Ginna Hoben and directed by Juniors Claire Beatus and Devika Werth. **Cast:** Namrata Patel, Katie Raftery, Sam Shapiro, Xavier Winslow and Aaron Weiss.

"GRACELAND"—Two crazed Elvis fans will stop at nothing to be the first into Elvis's home. Written by Playwright Ellen Byron and directed by Senior Claire Redfield. **Cast:** Amanda Faraone and Safiya Nygaard.

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

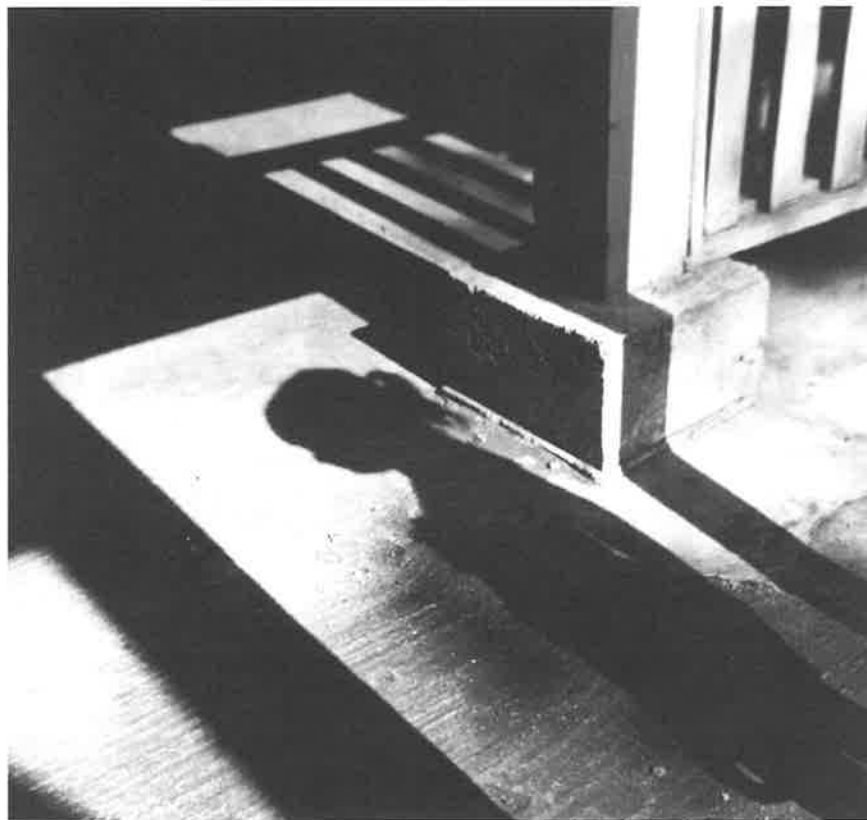
"The dancers will take what the drummers do musically and express it physically," Jeremy explained. "Donavan and John Swank will be competing with each other on the drums, then each group of dancers will dance to a drummer and compete with one another."

SET board includes: Alice Quinlan, president; Liza Burns, Amanda Faraone, Kelly Kovacs, Marissa Miles-Coccaro, Hanna Rothfield and Devika Werth.

"The dancers will take what the drummers do musically and express it physically."

—Jeremy Lacocque, senior

- Stephen Daiter Gallery
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"I once gave Sam a scar on her face. But she has given me many bloody noses."
-Zach Feldman, senior

hearts, minds 3

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

'My funny Valentine?' At U-High, don't laugh

♥ **But Cupid still has it tough here**

By Holly Reid
Associate editor

Candy hearts, red roses and manufactured cards. With Valentine's Day a week away U-Highers hope 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 finding 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 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 2006 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 haven't known since kindergarten," Zach said. "However it is hard with the distance with Sam being at Pomona. We talk every night."

"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

Slightly pushing Sophomore Gabe Bump in the High School lobby, Sophomore Addie Epstein giggles as Gabe gives her slight push back. Dating since November Addie and Gabe have been friends since Middle School.

"We have been friends for a long time," Gabe said. "We even dated twice in 5th grade. She broke up with me both times. We have the same friends so we are always hanging out together with a group of people and hanging out after school made us a lot closer."

"Dating at school is good because we get to see each other and hang out. When we hang out outside of school we usually hang out with all our friends and it is a lot of fun."

Addie commented, "I broke up with him for another man. Gabe and I aren't really nice to each other but it works. I have never thought about being in an interracial relationship. Those things never occur to me."

Remembering past relationships, Senior Allana Taucher says she has learned from her past and is creating a new future with Julian Edelman, a senior at Loyola Academy, in Wilmette.

"In the past I have had very dramatic relationships. It is also really hard finding a boyfriend at U-High after knowing everyone for so long. Because Julian is at another school trust is very important. In the past I've had the tendency to complicate my relationships with others which ultimately resulted in drama."

"I think the best thing is to be happy and put your trust in others and see where it takes you. Julian and I are not boyfriend and girlfriend but we are dating, which is a good way to slow things down."

Julian, a North Side resident, does not mind the extra gas mileage to pick up Allana, a Hyde Parker, for dates.

"She always makes me happy," Julian said. "On our first date we went to see 'The Pursuit of Happyness' and in the middle of the movie there was a line that said 'What is the fastest animal?' And the son said 'Jack rabbit' but Allana shouts 'No, it's the cheetah.' So I bought her a stuffed cheetah for the next weekend."

Coming to Chicago this year from the northern Suburbs of Minneapolis Senior Alex Gomez left behind his

girlfriend Annie Bairel, a senior at Mahtomedi Senior High School.

Alex decided he would rather be with Annie than without her.



Photo by Liwen Xu

Sophomores Addie Epstein and Gabe Bump
at Baskin-Robbins in Harper Court.

girlfriend Annie Bairel, a senior at Mahtomedi Senior High School.

Alex decided he would rather be with Annie than without her.

"In my last year at my old school I was trying to date a lot of people. No one was it. Annie just was," Alex said. "She went to another school. We lived about 20 minutes apart in Minnesota, so time and distance have always been a problem. She invited me to her Winter Formal even though I was dating someone else I went."

"By the end of the summer I really couldn't not date her. It would be harder to break up with her than to continue the relationship. We talk on the phone every night, at least one or two hours. We both have Cingular so it is free."

"We also do a web cam over the computer sometimes, so I can see her but it stinks sometimes because over the phone my voice can sound sexy and I can look terrible but over web cam she can see if I look bad."

Meeting in 6th grade, Seniors Elan Weiner and Hayley Steinbarth have become the best known couple in school. After dating for four years they decided they needed a break.

"Over the summer we both grew a lot," Hayley said. "We found out a lot about ourselves. We have been thinking about college and where we want to go in life. We

started to define more of who we were and what we wanted to discover. So we broke up."

"But once we figured out what our lives were like without each other we got back together. We got back together also to see if we would still work together even with all these changes and we missed each other."

After difficulties with break-ups and school drama Hayley feels it is easy to forget about it all and relax with Elan and his family every Friday.

"Dating someone at U-High can be problematic," Hayley said. "Because you have known everyone forever and everyone knows you and tries to know your business. There are constant rumors. It can be hard to separate school and your relationship" Hayley explained.

"Every Friday night Elan's family celebrates Shabbat. I am Christian but they always open up their home for me so we can enjoy it together."

"The whole family is over at his house, even his brother. His father makes a huge feast. We celebrate together, praying and eating."

"After it is over everyone goes off and does their own thing. But it is nice to unwind. And I know that I am always welcome and that is nice to know."

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.

Senator Obama's politics of reconciliation make him the stronger candidate, Mr. 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, his leadership style. He has a 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, which is extraordinarily intellectually vibrant. He has a great vision for our country and has been so vocal against the war right from the beginning. Hillary has not. That is critical."

"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."

Some U-Highers believe Senator Clinton, who declared January 20, will top Senator Obama.

"I just know Hillary because of Bill Clinton, not for what she has done," 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 overcome the barriers of sexism with her political experience.

"Clinton is distinguishable from Obama," Mrs. Shapiro said. "She clearly has had more years in the Senate. Obama is too young, too green. Clinton is also very smart and very shrewd. 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 population who wouldn't vote for her because she is a woman. People will vote for her for her record. The anti-feminist crew will find Clinton a much more palatable candidate."

Beyond U-High, University of Chicago professors expressed similar views. The rising popularity of Senators Obama and Clinton reflects 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 leaptfrogged 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 Nussbaum, University of Chicago Professor in the Philosophy Department, Law School and Divinity School. "I don't think that Hillary Clinton is a feminist."

"Of course having a female President would send a powerful signal to young women that no aspiration is too high, but let's face it, Clinton has moved to the right on many issues, including the flag burning issue and the abortion issue, so most of the feminists I know are not very enthusiastic about her."

"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."

Next issue: The race begins!



Cartoon by Sam Dreessen

"The responsibility of addressing issues of diversity belongs to all of us."
—Mr. David Magill, Lab Schools Director



Director delays diversity report

By Jeremy Lacocque
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.

"I 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 comes to 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 Lab 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 School Council is responsible for making recommendations beyond and about the boundaries of one school.

"Faculty 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 after 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."



Photo by Eva Jaeger

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:

■ The South African folk song "N'kosi Somandla" and familiar hymn "Amazing Grace" were performed by Jewish Students' Association members Jacqueline Meadow, Natalie Lewis, Nick Feder and Anne Wildman, seniors, and Addie Epstein, sophomore.

■ State Senator Raoul, a 1982 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 "Vivaldi Concerto Grosso in A Minor, Opus 3, No. 8, Movement."

All performers received enthusiastic applause.



Photo by Alya Forster



Photo by Alya Forster

'Connections' at Navy Pier to benefit arts, theatre, music

By Rohini Tobaccowala
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 Shivers.

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 105.

Last year's event in the Winter Garden of the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business raised \$250,000 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 'Oprah,' '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, Charlie 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."



Photo by Emma Lantos

Coming together

Stuffing falafel sandwiches during lunch, January 20 in U-High 105, Asian Students' Association and Jewish Students' Association members, from left, Kais Shawaf, Kaia Tammen, Nisha Duara, Aoife MacMahon, Danny Altkorn, Emily Kuo, Ethel Yang and Josie Mintel joined in celebrating the Islamic New Year, Muharram.



"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

5

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

My Super Sixteen

■ Sky becomes the limit as parties themselves become special gifts

By Amanda Pappas
Associate editor

Cameras flashed against the pink colored lighting of the upscale New York club as platinum-toting Oscar winning artists Three 6 Mafia rapped their latest hit on MTV's reality show "My Super Sweet Sixteen." While watching the show, Junior Kat Smolarek 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 extravaganza.

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 a 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.

"The 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, there was an 'Oh my god! Look at this,' along with an expression of astonishment.

"Before 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 16' 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 evening 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 friends. 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 Lauline Gough said she put a lot of time and effort into the organizing 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 Excaliber," Lauline 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 Karp 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.

"The gift from my parents was to do something special for me and there are always going to be people who criticize you if you do something extravagant or out of the ordinary."

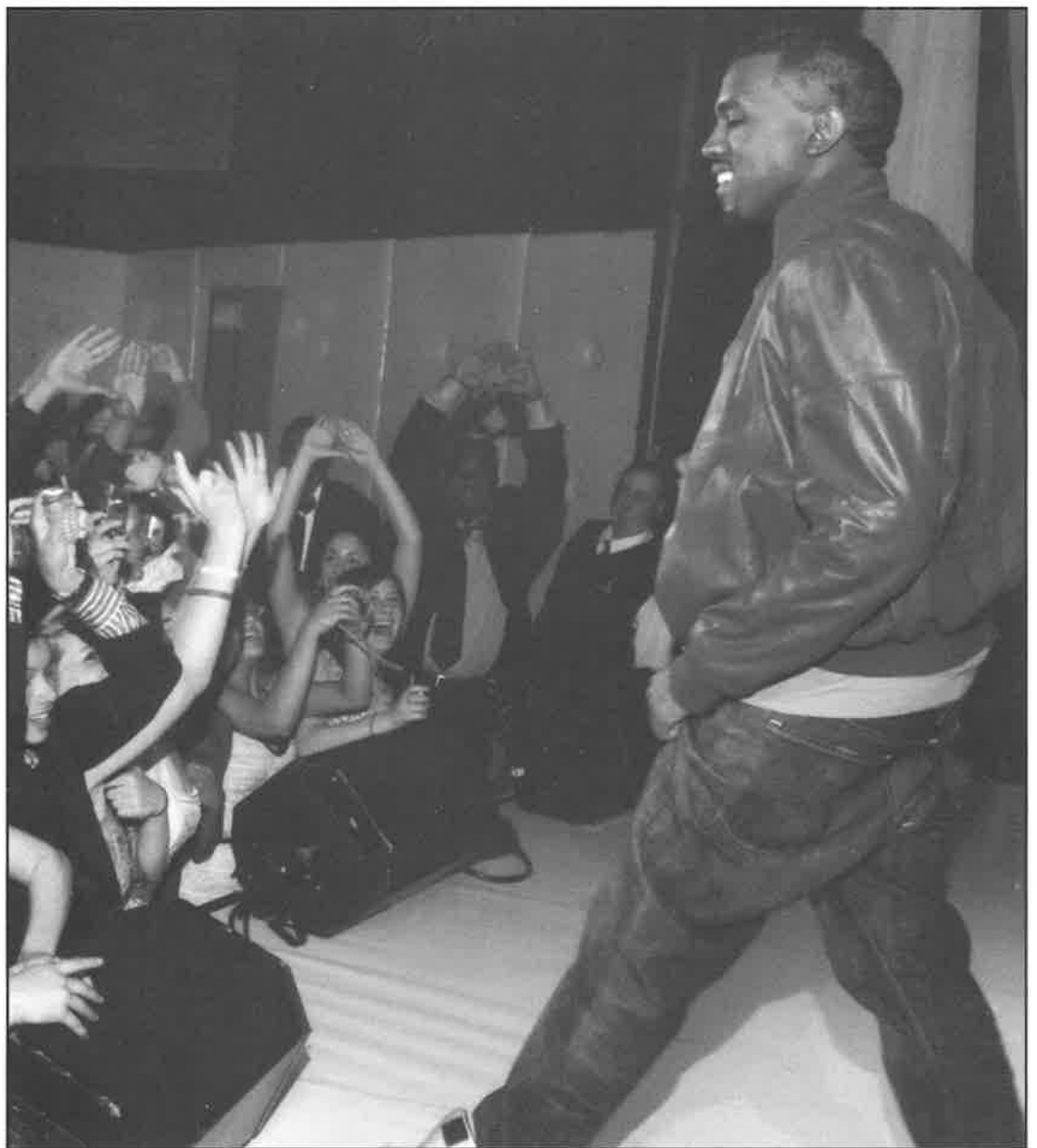


Photo courtesy of Victoria Rogers

Kanye West at Junior Victoria Rogers' Sweet 16 birthday party last May at the Park West.

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"We had two coat checks at formal this year. This really made everything a lot less chaotic at the end of the dance."

—Katherine Hayes, senior



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 Hornung, 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 years 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's representative to the faculty's Curriculum Committee, Senior Palika Makam, intends to attend the rest of this year's meetings after accidentally missing the first five meetings.

"It was just a miscommunication," Palika 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 talking to the 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 Mitchem, senior.

"After that we're going to try to hold some open forums with Director of Information Technology Curt Lieneck 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 other 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.



Daniel



Photo by Emma Lantos

Ton of fun

ONE, TWO, THREE...SUMO! Sizing up his opponent, Henry Africano prepares to attack Phil Jacobson during the night activity that has become a favorite tradition on Senior Getaway: sumo wrestling. After a three-hour bus ride from school, seniors enjoyed sledding, skiing, snowboarding and swimming among other daytime activities at Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa outside Galena near the Illinois-Wisconsin-Iowa border, Saturday January 20 through Monday January 22. At night, the class got together for ice cream sundae parties, human foosball and a trivia show. On Sunday evening students and teachers crowded around television sets in their townhouses and at the Chestnut Mountain ski lodge, anxiously watching as the Bears triumphant-ly took the NFC Championship, leading to the Super Bowl.

'06 yearbook tops state contest, '07 yearbook to go all-color

By Sam Dreessen

Midway reporter

Placing 1st in four categories in the Eastern Illinois High School Press Association's annual yearbook competition, the 2006 U-Highlights was named Best Overall Yearbook. The 1st place awards were given for Photography, Copy, Theme and Coverage.

Second place honors came in Dividers and Sports.

"It's very rewarding to see all the staff's hard work over 11 months acknowledged with these awards," said Junior Louis Baggetto, coeditor with Priyanka Rupani, now a freshman at Northwestern University. "I think all the staff deserves credit for this achievement."

The yearbook's photography editor was Ria Tobaccowala, now a freshman at Harvard.

The 2007 U-Highlights will be the school's first yearbook with all color photographs.

"Virtually every other major yearbook in the nation has already converted to all color," said Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, U-Highlights adviser with Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts.

"Administrators have agreed to let us try a full color book and then, after seeing how much the photography costs are compared to our projections, deciding whether to continue with full color for future books."

With this year's yearbook 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. Ricketts is envisioning yearbook photography going all digital after this year.

"We need to speed up the process that is required for developing the photographs," 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 merits, but we are not talking about art. Color is the way it's booming."

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

Managers are as follows:

Business and advertising manager, Ruiqi Tang; design director, Ben Picker.

Section editors are as follows:

Life, Rebecca Steuer; Learning, May Fu; Organizations, Rebecca Steuer; Sports, Peter Hepplewhite and BJ Arun; People, Shenna Anand; Community, Ruiqi Tang.

Louis Baggetto this year is student adviser.

Meadow, Hugh Montag, Delaney Nichols, David Orlikoff, Elizabeth Parsons, Namrata Patel, Elliot Popko, Sen Pu, Bruce Ratain, Claire Redfield.

Rebecca Resnick, Ben Rosner, Josh Rosner, Amalia Roth, Hannah Rothfield, Karthik Sarma, Paul Schweiker, Bradley Spahn, Jared Spitz, Zoe Stal, Stephanie Stern, Andrew Sugaya, Tara Summers, Mari Topel, Ruoyu Wang, Daniel Wheaton, Anne Wildman, Xiao Yi (Sherry) Zhou.

AT DEADLINE

Three seniors have been named Finalists in the National Achievement Scholarship program. They are Megan Harris, Nneka McGuire, and Stephanie Stern.

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Photo by Raphi Cuenod

Admiring 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!

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55 seniors get State Scholar honor

Fifty-five seniors have been named Illinois State Scholar Finalists, according to Guidance and Counseling Director Will Dix.

Based on standardized test scores, the honor is sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

U-High's Scholars are as follows:

Marcell Babai, Noah Breslau, Peter Bush, Harley Chang, Sally Cochrane, Courtney Connors, Lilla Dent, Will Diamond, Evan Dorfman, Dan Engel-Hall, Zak Feldman, Sarah Fischel.

Evan Graff, Rachel Hanessian, Zena Hardt, Peter Hepplewhite, Jascon Hu, Vinesh Jeevanandam, Helen Jin, Andrew Kern, Nick Kogelman, Katharine Lauderdale, Adina Levin, Ian Macdonald, Mara MacMahon.

Nina Massad, Katherine McIntyre, Jacqueline



"I think curfew is important for new drivers but once you hit 17, it's not necessary."
—Amanda Pappas, junior

following up

7

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

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 16- and 17-year-old drivers.

White proposed to triple the time a teen driver must hold their learner's permit to nine months, cut curfew back an hour to 10 p.m. on weekdays and 11 p.m. on weekends and double the period when teen drivers are limited to one unrelated passenger.

Despite the Chicago Tribune's several articles responding to the reoccurring 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.

"I wasn't very shocked to hear about the different stories in the Midway just because I've already heard so many others," Junior Alex Kleiman said. "Those stories are the reasons I would never have considered drinking and driving. However, I am a lot more vigilant now to my friends not driving drunk from what I read in the article."

Hoping to obtain his license this month, Sophomore Alex Zimmer said he is aware of the dangers of driving drunk and plans to take the responsibility as a designated driver for friends. He said he pays little attention to the several published articles on the topic.

"My mom put an article from the Chicago Tribune on top of my breakfast one morning on drunk driving," Alex explained. "I moved it under my plate and pulled out 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'm upset and sad because I expect that probably most U-Highers blew off the stories as humorous or by saying 'I'd never get caught doing that.'"

"I'm not sure what the school can do on the topic of teenage drunk driving in and of itself. What I think is a more important obligation is dealing with adolescent substance abuse generally."

"The school really doesn't handle it right now. They do it only on a case by case basis when something needs immediate attention. There is no prevention work being done in the High School whatsoever."

Since former Drug Counselor Courtney Francis left in 2005, the school has been unable to find another qualified prospect to fill the position, said Guidance Department Chairperson Will Dix.

"It's been kind of a back burner issue," Mr. Dix explained. "It came up when Ms. Francis left because she wasn't here long enough to make an effect."

"The question is if we should hire someone full time or someone from the University of Chicago that periodically comes in to talk to students."

"The Guidance Department definitely favors a person to have a permanent job here. We don't want someone coming in and lecturing every once in a while. We want someone to get to know the students."

"We haven't discussed it much this year, but we're developing a new job description. The thing is that last year we focused most of our attention on hiring a new Learning Consultant, Ms. Snook, which took all of our energy."

"So maybe this year we can start discussing 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
Editor-in-Chief

No change in school security has been noticed by some U-Highers, but a few cite personal impacts.

On January 29, a male juvenile was shot on a CTA bus on Lake Park Avenue. This attack is part of an increase in local crime. After increased neighborhood assaults, administrators hired two additional after-hours U. of 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, Judd 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 at night. 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 helped, too."

Model U.N.ers head for the Big Apple

By Kyle Brunke
Midway reporter

New York-bound for the National Model United Nations conference, the Model U.N. delegation will compete in the General Assembly chamber of the United Nations itself, March 7-10.

Within a two-month period, wearied Model U.N. delegation competed in three meets including the University of Pennsylvania, January 25-28, and the U. of C. at the Palmer House, February 1-4. The Model U.N. president and the adviser declined to give results of the University of Pennsylvania

New security plans have gone unnoticed to some U-Highers. One example is Senior Cultural Union Representative Natalie Lewis, who feels the changes aren't a problem.

"The new doors on the Senior Lounge are really the only noticeable change," Natalie said. "I feel like plenty of people still come into the school without visitor tags. The door locking is understandable and they really aren't too much of an inconvenience. I really don't feel like there is an overbearing security force around the school."

A commuter from southwest suburban Plainfield, Senior Eric Ng, feels the impact of the changes.

"The security changes, especially the 7:15 a.m. door policy, have really affected me," Eric said. "Before the change, I would generally come to school between 6:30 and 7 a.m., but since they moved the opening time back, I started waking up later."

"Because of this, traffic gets much heavier as I leave even 15 minutes later. Since the school announced their new policy, I have more tardies to first period than I have had my entire high school career."

conference on Midway deadline.

The U-High delegation placed 2nd for Best Large Delegation and Best Freshman Delegation at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, December 7-10.

During Ivy League competitions, the Model U.N. delegation relies on the guidance of the older members, believes Adviser Earl Bell, history teacher.

"Leadership is what really matters," Mr. Bell said. "Ivy League meets, like the one at Harvard, are largely handled by the veteran members. They are responsible for how well the delegation fares."



Photo by Liwen Xu

Junior Frank Firke watching "Jeopardy!"

Junior on 'Jeopardy!' knows outcome; you'll have to watch

By Graham Salinger
Midway reporter

He stunned his Advanced Placement United States History class during a debate fall quarter with his ability to list every United States President with key accomplishments of each.

He amazed his Camp Osui mates 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 Firke?

Tomorrow, 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 Firke was a contestant in the early 90's.

"My aunt 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 take a written test, interview with the producers and do a mock round of 'Jeopardy!'. They called in early December to tell me that I'd 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 former M-G-M studios.

"We met with a legal council and signed some 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 relation to Sony."

"On Thursday the 4th we got up at 8 a.m. and they made sure we dressed appropriately, no olive green or 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 quarterfinal 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 encouraging the audience to ask questions every day. Alex Trebek is very business like; even off camera he has a persona. But he doesn't really bond with the contestants much. 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 as people. The game is 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 when to ring in; on the side of the board are lights and when they light up you can ring. The biggest strategic change I made was switching to my index finger when buzzing in. You have to get a feel for the lights and for how Alex speaks."

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."

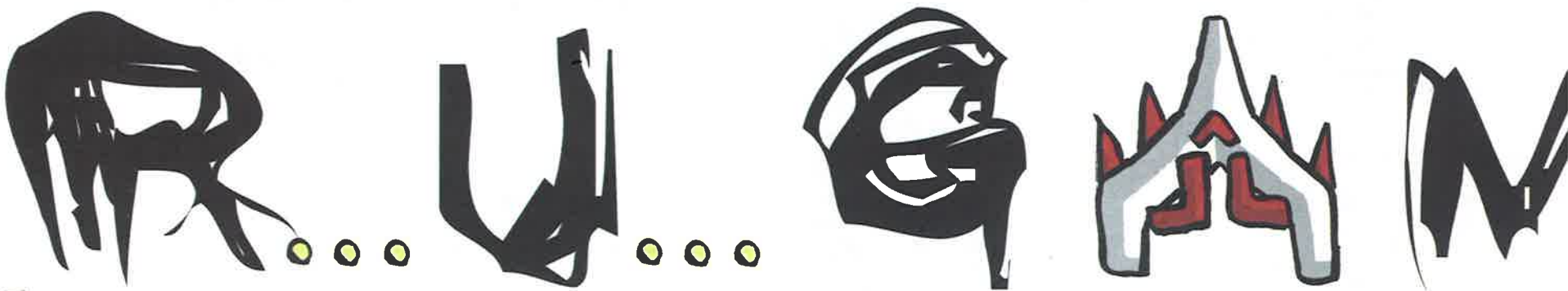
"They make sure everything is working and come to calm you down. They kept the contestants and the producers apart for the most part because they didn't want any cheating."

"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 what was just filmed. I answered one question 'How much is 19,' which I think confused Alex a little bit."

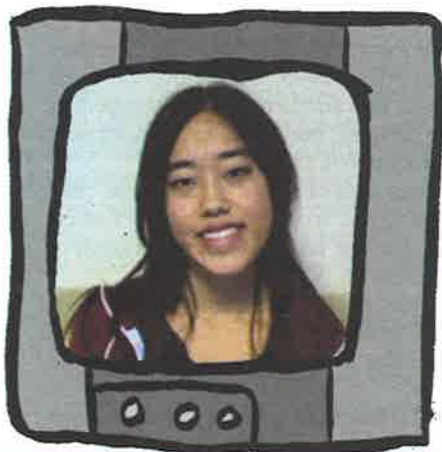
"I really liked getting on a run with the questions or the Daily Doubles. When you are in a zone, you really know how great it is."

(Editor's note: Tournament quarterfinals began Monday on WLS, channel 7, at 3:30 p.m. and continue through Friday. Frank's quarterfinal game airs tomorrow; semifinals and finals air February 12-16, 3:30 p.m.)

"Those who sadistically own noobs online are the ones who are owned in life."
—Daniel Wheaton, senior



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 gamer, hardcore gamer, competitive gamer, retro gamer, import gamers, glitcher and cyber athletes who compete for money and are considered "professional."



MAY FU
junior

"GAMING GIVES me an adrenaline rush. I can spend five hours playing 'Halo' and it's a good way to procrastinate. It gives you a sense of accomplishment, but it's not real life. It's not something I would want to do in real life."



CHRISSY SMITH
freshman

"I LOVE gaming because of the thrill of the action game and the fact that I defeat every game that I buy. I just keep playing until I win. Math and chess games are good because they build strategy, adult games don't."



ELAN WEINER
senior

"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."



By Jeffrey Bishku-Aykul
Associate editor

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 \$15 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 or month, while others will work at their skills to game competitively against friends or even at tournaments for money.

A Midway poll 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 Orlikoff, 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 rarely a day where I don't play something for four 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 game until I can't do it anymore and then I wake up and play more."

Although he gets on average five-and-a-half-hours of sleep a night, David believes gaming does not compromise his nightly sleep.

"I think that if I didn't game there would have to be something 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.

"I 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 also 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 is \$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 first 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 \$200 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're 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 could lose something. When you play for money you are more into the game, 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, girls remain a minority in the gaming world.

"I think I used to hang out with guys a lot instead of playing with dolls like other girls," Senior Xiao Yi Zhou, a former gamer, explained. "That kind of influenced how I like games. I watched them play games and I really liked it. I think a lot of girls don't find it entertaining."

Freshman Aoife MacMahon, an occasional gamer, also notices the fact that gamer girls are a minority.

"When I'm online it's hard to find girls," Aoife explained. "It is really male dominated. When people online do badly they call them a girl as slang, and people don't respect girls as much in games."

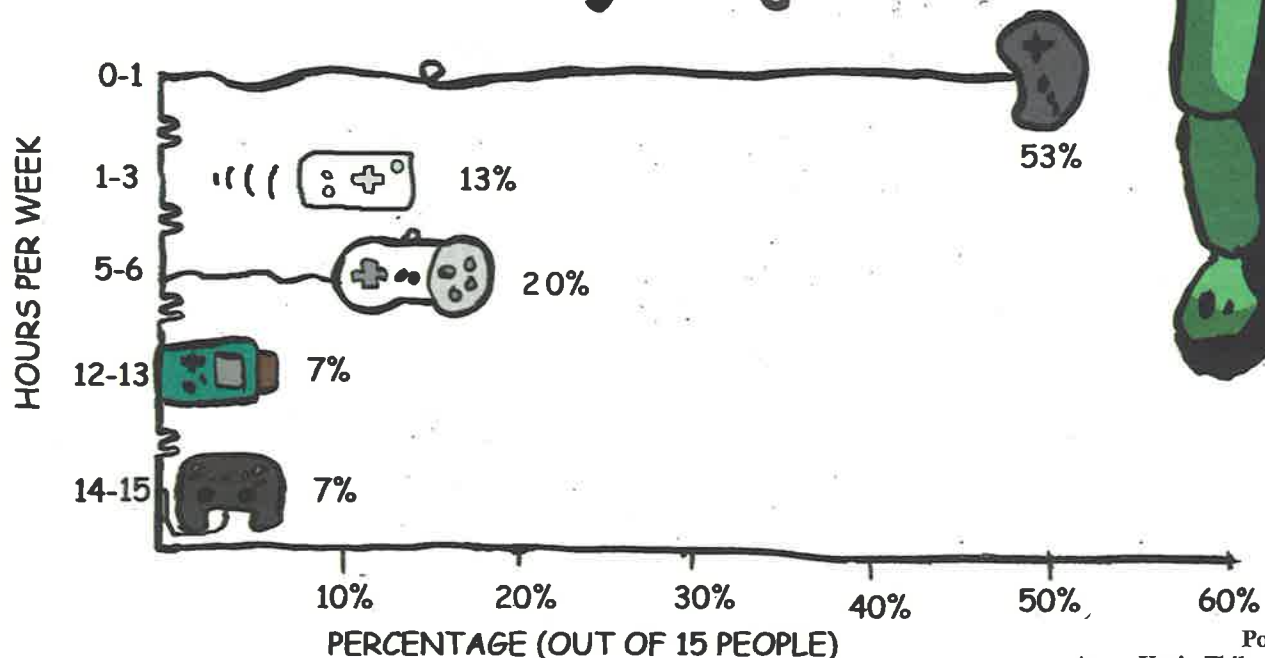
Although only an occasional gamer, Senior Sarah Fischel said she enjoys gaming again for the first time since childhood.

"I used to play 'Sonic the Hedgehog' when I was younger on Sega Genesis," she said. "It's the only game my older brothers let me play."

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

"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."

How much do you game?



Poll and interviews by
Anna-Katia Zbikowski, Associate editor



How to speak like a g@m3r:

PWNED: BEING BADLY DEFEATED

OWNAGE: LARGE AMOUNTS OF "PWINING" IN A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME

N00B/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

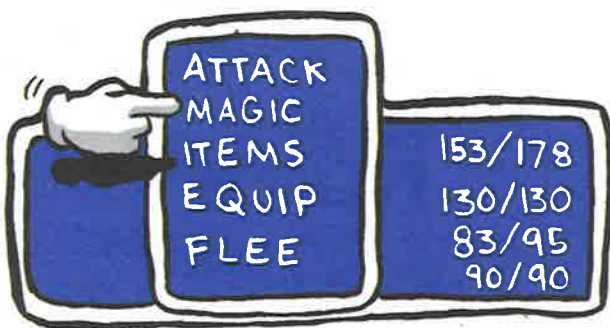
GG: GOOD GAME, OFTEN USED SARCASTICALLY

IRL: IN REAL LIFE

AFK: AWAY FROM KEYBOARD

HAX: A GAME THAT HAS BEEN HACKED.

Compiled by Jeremy Lacocque, Editor-in-Chief



SAMSON EDER
sophomore

"I LIKE gaming because it's mindless. After a long day of school you want to do something unrelated to work. My favorite game is 'Dance Dance Revolution,' it's great because I like to dance. For me it's great because I'm not as into sports, but I can still be energetic."

NETWORKING
KNIGHTS

By Julie Carlson
Associate editor

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 Shraiberg compete either alone or cooperatively.

With teammates from out of school, Sam won money and notoriety for playing "Call of Duty," a World War II first person shooter, after hunting terrorists in "Counter-Strike," with Pablo Lopez, Evan Dorfman, Leo Carlson and 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 elements, but it's not as physical as athletic sports."

Battling online gamers from around the nation with his U-High teammates, Evan enjoyed playing "Counter-Strike," although he games rarely now.

"In my freshman year, Leo introduced me to online gaming," Evan said. "I thought the other teams were going to be all nerds, but the kids who play are actually pretty cool. We played five on five games of 'Counter-Strike' online. I played more as an underclassman, but I thought it was cool to be able to play an online game at home against other teams."

"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."

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 \$3,500 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."

Once a gamer himself, Computer Science Teacher Baker Franke believes competitive and professional gaming have been getting more exposure.

"I don't think that competitive gaming and gambling has really increased over the past few years, from personal experience," Mr. Franke said. "I think it's still really popular, but that doesn't mean it's gone up. For as many new people who start gaming, I think that just as many drop out. For example, I stopped playing in college because I just lost interest and wanted to do more stuff in the real world. Some people may hear about professional gaming and say, 'Oh, that's weird,' but you probably would have said the same thing about professional skateboarding ten years ago."



JASON HU
senior

"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 3/6.' Its graphics aren't so good, but it has music by my favorite composer."



WON HEE LEE
junior

"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 David Magill came here in 2003, resulted in hiring an experienced diversity consultant familiar with the school, Mr. Prexy Nesbitt, for one year.

In the Fall Mr. Nesbitt distributed a diversity survey to faculty members and interviewed them along with alumni and students. 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. Nesbitt and some Board members met January 29 to discuss and clarify elements of the report they felt may be misinterpreted 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, "here we go again." They sensed, as in the past, an academic approach. They felt a heartfelt, candid dialogue is 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 nights, also the Jewish Sabbath. Especially since Prom took place on a Friday two years ago 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 attempt to increase diversity, then everyone in the community should be fully aware of the study's results.

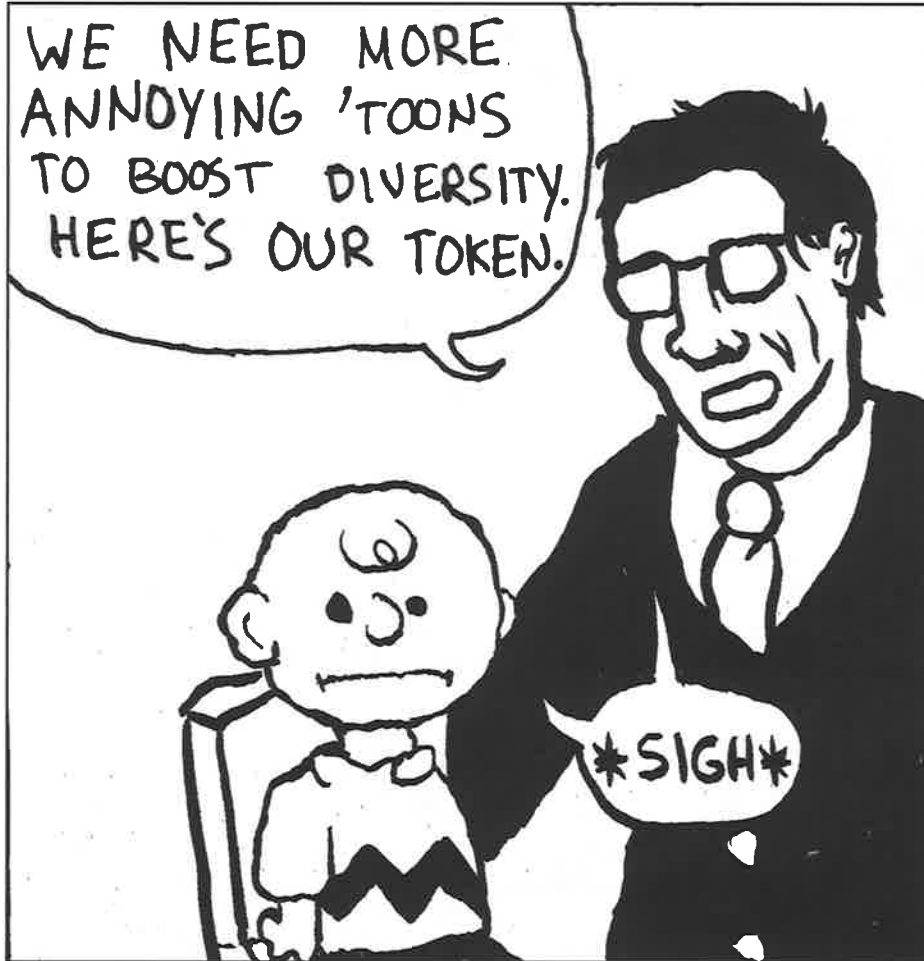
Providing only some members of the community with the outcome of the diversity survey contrasts with exactly the thing the school is trying to improve: diversity. Without the entire community being able to reflect on problems and positive points at the school, improvement will be hard to make.

Like Dr. 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 leaders of the school may need to reevaluate their methods.

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

If the power in this diversity effort remains with a select few it is unlikely it can bring about change for the whole community.

This progress doesn't have to be precarious. If the survey findings and subsequent responses are shared with and by everyone, whatever dialogue results, the school can move ahead.



Art by Eric Cochrane

10-second editorials

■ A passionate violin performance and a skit about activism were just some attractions at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. assembly. Unfortunately the assembly was appreciated by only a fragment of the community.

Noticable amounts of students were absent from the assembly which seems to receive less attention than other assemblies. It's a shame 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.

■ Some people have asked if ads sold to student organizations for the Connections booklet would affect Midway and U-Highlights ad sales. They wouldn't. But it would have been nice if someone had asked if our publications would have been affected. Given all we do for all aspects of the school it's interesting how sometimes we seem invisible. Just an observation, not a complaint.

Say What?

Compiled by Artis Lewis

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

NNEKA MCGUIRE, senior: I would stay in Chicago. While I don't know what my boyfriend is planning for Valentine's Day, I do know that on Wednesday, February 14 I will be at home by 8 p.m. watching my favorite show, "Medium" and cuddling up with my two favorite guys, Ben and Jerry.

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.



Cory



Michelle

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 call my boyfriend to see if he's okay and to make sure that no one else was messing with him. When I come back I would make it up to him.

ANDREW ZHENG, freshman: I would probably rather stay in Chicago because 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

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 ministers 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 word "Nigger."

Sure my parents have both heard the songs my brother and I listen to, which emphatically use the word. But when it comes to me and my brother saying that word inside the house 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 Columbia University in 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 rap 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 every time I heard the word used I took it upon myself to explain to that person about the hurtfulness of the word and hoped that would be the last time they used it.

A few months ago when ex-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 schoolmate or a black comedian saying the word.

The word's connection with slavery automatically gives it negative connotations throughout American culture, especially if used by a white person. But what creates confusion is the embrace of the word by large amounts of African Americans, who use the word in everyday conversation.

There are many explanations for the use of the word by African Americans, including how they pronounce it "Nigga" instead of "Nigger" and how it has become a term of endearment within black communities. But many influential African American entertainers, who have vowed to stop using the word, have not forgotten the hate 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 from his vocabulary, hopefully everyone else will follow.



Opinion
Gabe
Bump

U-High MIDWAY

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Three move up to top position

Three new Midway editors-in-chief have been appointed beginning this issue.

Seniors Jeremy Lacocque, Jacqueline Chaudhry and Evan Dorfman 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 talent," explained Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, who advises the Midway with Photojournalism Teacher Liese Ricketts. "But this is unlikely to happen again. It's rare to have this many leaders in any one year."



"I think it would be suprising if Barack won the election. But if he did, I'm sure all Hyde Parkers would have a party!"
—Sam Shapiro, *sophomore*

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

Who is the more electable candidate, Obama or Clinton?

EVAN: I'm in the mood to really matters.

PHIL: You mean the NBA title? The season? That Olympic

Point-Counterpoint some competition that Bulls' thrashing 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 zenith of Shawn Kemp's career, as he exhibited a previously unseen dominance.

EVAN: Cease your plebian mumblings, lest this Kemp you speak of is on the 2008 Democratic ticket. As the ancient Greeks before me, I'm concerned of the high matters of the democratic process. Step into the political arena and wield your Counterpoint!

PHIL: Very well, I accept your challenge. I will face you with the power of Poseidon and slay you with the prowess of Pericles!

EVAN: Summon Edwin the Scribe! This shall be a bloodbath for the ages!

PHIL: A bloodbath you say? The seventh day of the eleventh month of the eighth year of the 21st century approaches. All us lads (and lasses) of age can vote for the Republic's next ruler! What have you?

EVAN: Whilst I pray for Apollo to bless Sir Barack of Obama, I do feel he has entered the Presidential coliseum a wee bit early.

PHIL: Nay, his youth is his strength. Like JFK before him, Obama sports Athenian good looks amongst a field of Spartan-looking candidates. His charisma, charm and intellect further add to his near mythical stature.

Indeed, Obama will be 47 on election day, four years the elder of JFK on his election day and Obama's four years of Senate experience almost match JFK's seven. Obama must take advantage of his current

popularity to seize the White House!

EVAN: Oh ho! But the reason for Sir Barack's widespread popularity lies within his political decisions, or lack thereof. In his short time in office he has rarely touched controversial topics. Instead, he consistently backs popular efforts of other lords and knights, rarely risking his pristine popularity. Thus, he has ascended the political ranks nary a battle scar. This is not the Athenian way! He essentially won the Senate race uncontested as he vanquished only Jack Ryan, a gladiator tarnished by sexual scandal and Alan Keyes, who is crazier than Blotto the Court Jester. We need a ruler who is ready for battle, one who has drawn sword and shield! At this stage, Obama has defeated nary a visigoth. So how can he hope to overcome Lady Clinton?

PHIL: Simple! His youthful vigor and vitality are just what the people want. With his keynote address at the 2004 Democratic Convention, he won the hearts of many and cemented his status as the common man's candidate. To many, Obama represents the beacon of hope that shines at the end of this long political darkness. Next to Obama's brilliant speaking ability, Lady Clinton sounds like a broken pan flute. Sir Barack speaks with the voice of Demosthenes, producing soothing melodies comparable to that of Hermes' lyre.

EVAN: But you are missing the point, my young Medusa. At the end of the day, the people will put all their shekles on experience. And Lady Clinton is the embodiment of that experience. Oh, and Lord Bill wouldn't make too shabby of a First Husband.

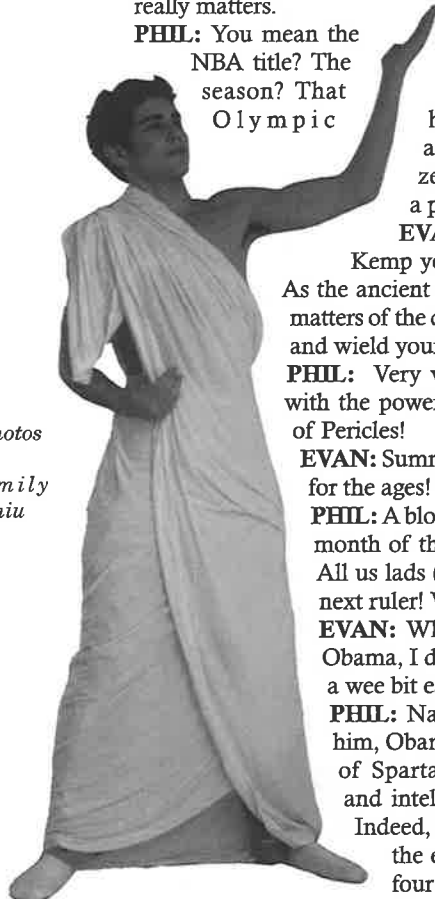
PHIL: Well, I think it's clear that neither of these candidates is a perfect fit to command the great armies of the Republic. We need someone who has been adequately seasoned in dealing with all sorts of adversity, can relate to the people on their level and has a strong knowledge in the history of the Early World.

EVAN: Then it is clear; there is only one who is perfectly suited to assume the Presidency.

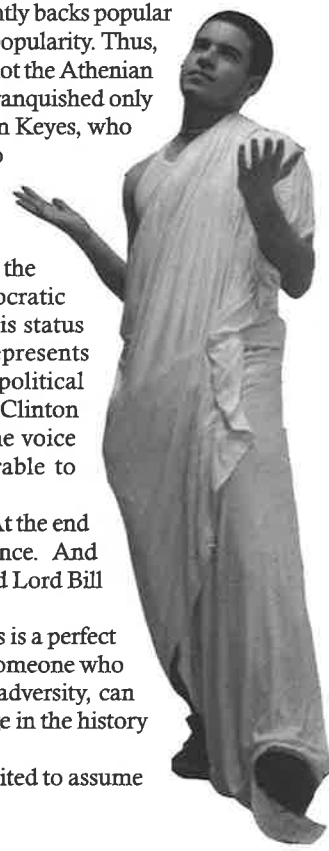
PHIL: Who could it possibly be?

EVAN: Isn't it obvious? The great Dr. Jack Knapp.

Photos
by
Emily
Chiu



Phil Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief



Evan Dorfman
Editor-in-Chief

Rising from the ashes, still elegant

A THANKSGIVING DAY fire gutted Sabri Nihari, a 30-year-old upscale Pakistani restaurant in Devon 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 for Sunday dinner to



Photo by Zack Slouka

At Sabri Nihari, Zena Hardt and Eliot Popko share Kheer.

see how well it survived the change and found three employees greeting us as if nothing had happened. The lively, brightly-lit whitewashed room resembled the restaurant's previously expansive interior, though the new location had about a third of the original space. A long mirror covering one wall attempted to fix that, but in doing so it took away some of the restaurant's original elegance.

Spatial compromises aside, the restaurant managed its relocation without changing the menu, with Indian and Pakistani dishes mostly under \$9 and an Americanized kids' menu with hamburgers, chicken nuggets and cheese fingers (mozzarella sticks) under \$5.



Dining
Eliot
Popko

Low prices don't mean small portions, however, as each entrée generally feeds two or more. Even kids menu items fill grown adults. Also, if ordering only one dish, such as Brain Masala, \$7.99, (presumably curried beef brain but I was afraid to ask), doesn't provide a desired range of tastes, the waiter will gladly bring an unlisted combo platter.

While munching on fresh tasting sliced onion, tomato and cucumbers 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 would 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 goat meat and crispy fried onion (available with chicken) and yogurt sauce on the side. The perfectly cooked orangeish rice, crisply exuding a remarkable clove and saffron fragrance, set this Biryani apart from any other on Devon.

Chicken Boti, \$7.49, boneless chicken marinated overnight in yogurt, ginger and garlic barbequed 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 spicier meals.

Sabri Ni hari, \$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 ultratender beef served in a pool of light brown sauce brimmed with such richness and creamy zest that simple beef will never taste the same again.

Nan, \$1, a slab of warm bread resembling a fluffy soft tortilla stretched out as if someone replaced Salvador Dali's melting clocks with pizza puffs, goes with everything (especially when dipped in the Sabri Nihari sauce or the Biryani's yogurt sauce) and provided an essential starchy balance.

For dessert, my companion and I split Kheer, \$4.49, a long-grain rice pudding hinting of jasmine, less colorful than the rest of the meal. A staple in Hindu and Muslim wedding celebrations (and an appropriate Valentines Day dessert), the filling dish left us heavy and satisfied that Sabri Nihari's new location serves the same old great tasting low priced food.

SABRI NIHARI: 2502 1/2 W. Devon Ave, (773) 465-3272. Noon-Midnight.

Shins head in new direction

PERHAPS THE SHINS' debut album title best describes their latest effort: "Oh, Inverted World!"

Careful my fellow Shins fans, we are in uncharted, dangerous waters. "Wincing the Night Away," the Shins' third studio album, is a far cry from the spankin' clean pop-rock we have come to expect from the Albuquerque quartet. Call it more mature if you want; I call it less cute. Guitars take a back seat as synths and other miscellaneous noises dominate the record. The songs feel like drearier, darker versions of what the Shins have done before. Lead Singer-Songwriter James Mercer foregoes his trademark intimacy for a larger, more textured sound. With so much change, one would expect the new-look shins to flop. Well guess what? It works.

From the opening seconds we hear Mercer and Company heading in a new direction. The album's first track, "Sleeping Lessons," opens with Mercer crooning over psychedelic arpeggios, ultimately breaking out into an all out rock fest, louder than anything we have ever heard from them.

Even on more classic Shins style songs, texture outshines arrangement as evidenced on the first single, "Phantom Limb," a buzzing bass driven piece topped by Mercer's strongest vocal work, packing the strongest melodic punch since 2003's "Caring is Creepy." It's distinctly Shinsian with a heavier, rougher tint, a microcosm of the new sound.

Even on failed experiments such as "Sea Legs," a hip-hop beat tinged number, one can't help but admire the ballsy direction the Shins are headed.

Mercer cited insomnia as a major influence while writing this record and through the album that is very clear. Each track feels like old Shins engulfed in a heavy post-rain fog. But you know what? I love foggy weather.



Music
Evan
Dorfman

Mailbox: Not so fast

From Math Teacher Jane Canright,
Technology Committee Chairperson:

I feel I must write to clarify the status of the Power School parent/student access which was reported on in the December edition of the Midway.

Contrary to the implication of headline and the lead paragraph and as I explained to the reporter who interviewed me, no decision had been made about if and when Power School online access will begin. The high school technology committee has been studying the implications of such a decision for the past two years and will be making a presentation to the faculty at the February meeting. The faculty will then have time for feedback and discussion at a later faculty meeting. The committee is also trying to determine a reasonable way to gather feedback from parents and students.

After these things occur a recommendation will be made about whether online access should be made available and if so what the timetable should be. If online access is to be made available, a great deal of education will be necessary to help teachers continue to learn to use Power Grade, the electronic gradebook component of the program, and to help parents and students learn about the program and how to appropriately use them. It is likely use of the program would be phased in over time.

HEY..HUH? WHOA!



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!*



Photos by Rachel Hanessian

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.- 10p.m.

773-363-0070



"This research could find a cure for cancer even in its latest stages."
—May Fu, junior

special event 13

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

Science Expo to offer 100-plus attractions

By Marissa Miles-Cocarro
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 Hogwarts and Cookie Mining.

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.



Photo by Rachel Hanessian
Anticipating Science Expo, February 24, Rabihah Simmons demonstrates her Maximum Descent project by dropping a ping pong ball on the highest ramp while High School Physics Teacher Ira Nireberg times the fall.

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 Maximum Descent, Physics Teacher Ira Nireberg'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. Nireberg 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!"

CONNECTED?

(continued from front page)

activity, it should have been given a date, not left up to people to pick one. I think as a result of all this, Prom really fell through the cracks."

While some U-Highers are now considering not attending Prom, Senior Elan Weiner, who regularly celebrates Shabbat, said he will still go.

"Shabbat is supposed to be a day of rest; you're not supposed to work, write, or watch T.V.," Elan said. "I don't really feel strongly about Shabbat, but my parents make me do it. Regardless, I would go to Prom, no matter what. I'm not personally connected to the religious aspects of Shabbat. I see it more as a way to spend time with family."

Before Winter Break, a junior class Prom Committee member requested a Friday for the 2008 Prom and Principal Matt Horvat denied the request. Later Mr. Magill and the Development Office set next year's Connections date for Saturday, March 1, 2008.

Last year the Development Office assumed Connections duties from the Parents' Association and chose Connections Cochairpersons Anita Blanchard, Marty Nesbitt, Kate Collins and Charlie Newell. They wanted to hold the event in the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier and Friday was the only available date.

"I was come to with a venue and a date on a Friday night and raised concern immediately," Mr. Magill explained. "We wanted to vet out the reactions, so the Development Office made a number of calls and the reaction was not strong either way, so we set the final date. We knew, however, that some people were going to feel left out and disrespected. We regret that anybody felt excluded and hope that future events will avoid that."

Upon learning of the Connections date, some students and parents complained and threatened to withdraw contributions to Connections.

"We talked to a large group of people that were orthodox or on the Board," Mrs. Collins said. "Most of them said it was not a personal issue and only one person told us that it was absolutely unacceptable. I thought we could consider alternatives, but issues with a venue, chair availability and extra staff support prevented us from making a change."

"After this all happened, the Development Office wrote a letter that the Chairs signed off on,

which we thought was an appropriate response. I got two angry phone calls and got called some very awful names, at which point I got concerned. I was being accused of antisemitism and intentionally excluding the Jewish community."

"I thought it was offensive and I really did not appreciate the emotional blackmail. We tried to be as inclusive as possible in that we wanted a large enough venue to accommodate anyone who chooses to come, even after the RSVP date. If the cochairs had been brought on prior to November 1, 2006, with the mandate to have this event before Spring Break, I don't think we would be having an event on Friday. But, as it was, we had very little time which desperately limited our options."

"I did meet with the JSA and we had a very productive conversation. From this conversation came the idea that the first Saturday in March always be 'Connections Saturday.' I'm glad that we already have set the date in 2008 as the first Saturday in March, and I'd like to see that continue as a new tradition. For those who feel they cannot trust the administration in that regard, I felt the only way to demonstrate this year was a fluke was to announce a Saturday date for 2008 and work on getting it set for the foreseeable future."

Having worked on Connections since 1995 and chaired the event in 2000, Mrs. Linda Levin, Adina's mother, believes without opinion from the Parents' Association, Connections became misguided.

"Connections has not been as inclusive as it was when it was parent-driven," Mrs. Levin explained. "We used to address teachers and get them involved because we felt by not asking we made the event exclusive. We had categories like 'Only At Lab' and it was truly a community event."

"The Parents' Association was not engaged at all like it has been in past years and it was disappointing to me that common sense did not even come into play and that putting Connections on Friday was even a question. The school acknowledged to the JSA that they were wrong about Prom and they made a huge mistake."

"Prom comes once in a lifetime, but the question is the same for both events and it puts people in a compromising situation. If they were sorry about Prom, how did this happen to Connections?"

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"I've missed a few practices this season. The other day I was digging a hole in my backyard and just lost track of time."

—Phil Jacobson, senior



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 Parker 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 Hornung and Senior Peter Hepplewhite, cocaptains 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 Ashlaw, 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."

Unlucky is hardly the word to describe the team's injuries, believes Coach Ashlaw.

"The injuries are unlike anything I have ever seen in my 17 years of coaching high school basketball," Coach Ashlaw said. "This many injuries, all to our starters, in such a short period of time is indescribable. So now it's more about us; we are still preparing for our opponents, but we have to stabilize our



Photo by Ramzi Dreessen

Taking it to the house, Forward Zeke Upshaw slashes past a North Shore Country Day defender on his way to the goal January 16 at home. The Maroons went on to champion the Raiders 69-35.

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 25-46, j.v. lost 24-38; **Parker**,

December 12, home: Varsity lost 39-49, j.v. lost 28-44; **Mount Carmel**, December 27, away: Varsity lost 26-87; **St. Anne High School**, January 6, home: Varsity lost 45-66, j.v. lost 20-43; **Latin**, January 12, away: Varsity lost 40-44, j.v. lost 40-48; **North Shore Country Day**, January 16, home: Varsity won 69-35, j.v. won 35-24; **Morgan Park Academy**, January 18, home: Varsity won 59-49, j.v. won 54-31; **Latin**, January 19, home: Varsity lost 37-56, j.v. won 35-33; **Lake Forest Academy**, January 23, away: Varsity lost 22-65, **Seton Academey**, January 27, away: Varsity lost 43-72; **North Shore Country Day**, February 1, away: results past Midway deadline; **Jones College Prep**, February 3, home: results past Midway deadline.

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 climax their Sectionals performance, according to Coach Paul Gunty.

"Our freestyle relay team, consisting of Zack Slouka, 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 (2-2 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 Bremen Pentathlon 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, cocaptain 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 j.v. team will unleash their potential and talent. Our team is also bigger, maybe seven or eight more members than last year. Since size plays a factor in swim 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

include freshman standout performers Ethan Chiampas, Max Craig and Joey Klonowski, according to Senior Paul Schweiker.

"Our team is bigger than the past three years, and I have no doubt that they will continue to be strong after the seniors leave," Paul said. "Both Won Hee and Homer are close to breaking school records and our freestyle relay team consistently do well too. The thing I'm most happy about is the new freshmen. All of them have a great deal of potential and I can see them taking the upperclassmen's places with no problem."

Only three seconds away from breaking the school record for the 500 meter freestyle, Junior Homer Shew attributes his success to his team and hard work.

"Team spirit contributes a lot as well as my training," Homer said. "Swimming with everyone else trying their hardest makes me want to do the best I can too. I hope the competitors at Sectionals will help me finally break our school's record. After I break it, I think I will also try to break the 100 meter butterfly record as well, although I will certainly still be working on my 500."

"St. Ignatius is always the favorite to win at Sectionals and although we may not be able to win it, I think we can achieve 3rd place instead of just 4th place like last year."

Scores are as follows:
Latin, December 8, home: Varsity lost 39-55, j.v. placed 3rd of 3 with 29 points; **St. Ignatius**, December 15, away: Varsity lost 49-129, j.v. lost 33-101; **Morton**, January 9, away: Varsity won 98-75, j.v. lost 35-54; **Northside College Prep**, January 16, home: Varsity placed 2nd of 3 with 103 points, j.v. placed 2nd of 3 with 83 points; **Lake Forest**, January 25, home: Varsity won 92-61, j.v. won 54-53; **Mount Carmel**, January 30, home: results past Midway deadline; **Whitney Young**, February 1, home: results past Midway deadline; **St. Rita**, February 6, home: results past Midway deadline.

Feeling Love Sick?



Photo by Sheena Anand

Heartbroken? K & K Pharmacy has the cure. Doctor Simone Baggetto, freshman, prescribes Isabella Prenta Love Potion Number 9 to heal her heartache.

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"This year we've skipped the building and gone straight to success."

—Emma Cowen, junior

Tiny but TOUGH

■ Girl basketballers head into tough finals

By Mona Dasgupta

Associate editor

"We haven't played Ridgewood yet this season, but the way we've been playing, we can beat them."

So said girls' Varsity Basketball Player Junior Lucy O'Keefe, wing and cocaptain with Sophomore Alexis Jenkins. 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."



Photo by Steven Jones

Varsity Point Guard Chrisy Smith, freshman, beats Romans to the backboard.

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."

Seeded 9th of 20 in Regionals, the Maroons will face Harper in the first round 8 p.m., Wednesday, February 14 in Upper Kovler.

"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, J.V. 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. But we need to learn rotations better, they're key."

J.V. finished 1st in the ISL after beating Latin 57-17, January 30, at home, with a halftime j.v. Dance Team performance. The Maroons' season flew by victoriously, according to Coach Meghan Janda.

"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



Photo by Steven Jones

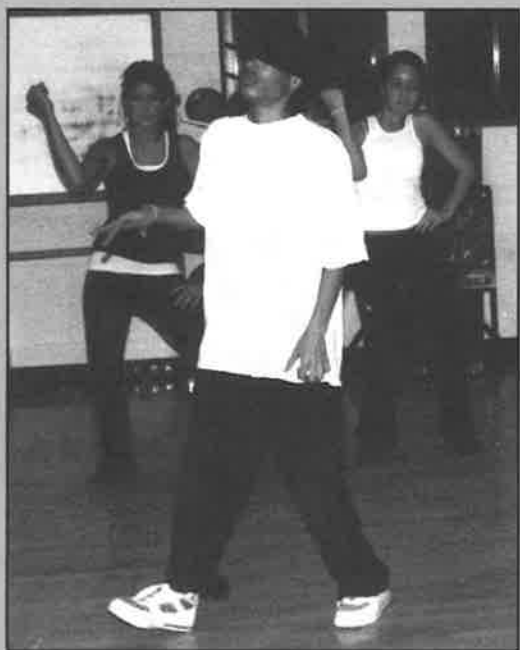
Varsity Wing Lucy O'Keefe dribbles past Roman Defender Caroline Flood, former U-Higher, January 30, home, ultimately losing 38-66.

because our varsity team is small. It gave them more experience and they handled it really well."

Other scores are as follows:

Morgan Park Academy, December 5, home: Varsity won 53-27; **Holy Trinity**, December 8, away: Varsity lost 57-63, j.v. won 39-24; **Elgin Academy**, December 15, home: Varsity won 57-17, j.v. won 40-24; **Parker**, December 16, away: Varsity won 66-29; **Willows**

Academy, January 5, away: Varsity won 59-40, j.v. won 64-5; **Latin**, January 9, away: Varsity lost 43-53, j.v. won 40-29; **North Shore Country Day**, January 12, home: Varsity won 63-46, j.v. won 62-8; **Lake Forest Academy**, January 16, away: Varsity won 64-46, j.v. won 44-13. **Morgan Park Academy**, January 19, away: Varsity won 63-49; **Parker**, January 22, home: Varsity won 60-7; **Woodlands**, January 24, home: Varsity won 65-13.



Photos by Emma Lantos

Dancin' scene

Making history as Dance Team's first male, Freshman Antonio Robles grooves with j.v. Dance Team members, Isabel Del Canto and Kennan Carnegie, to Beyonce's "Ring that Alarm" remix. In the left photo, Alex Bullock, cocaptain with Denise Akuamoah, steps to Ciara'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 Kovler.

Honors cite players, coach

By Tom Stanley-Becker

Associate editor

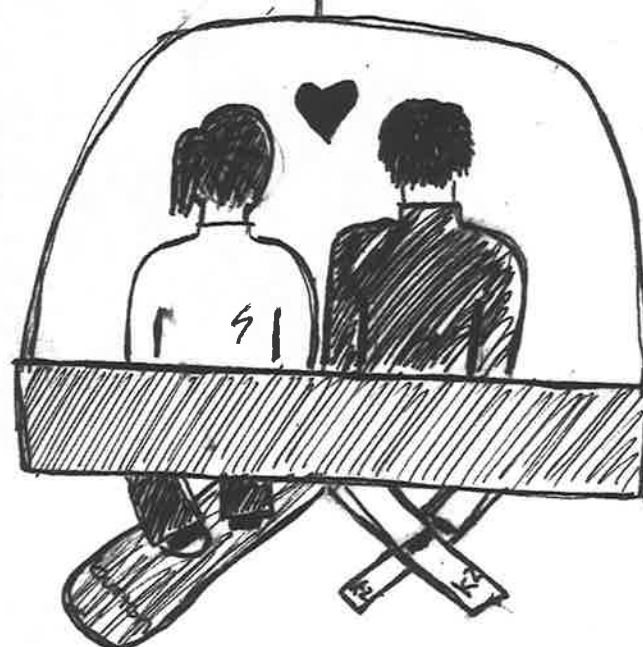
First-year Girls' Volleyball Coach Amy Landis was named ISL Coach of the Year after her team finished 2nd in the ISL with the Sportsmanship Award.

"First, I think we won the awards because we are genial and exhibited sportsmanship," Coach Landis said. "But also because they underestimated our team's 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: Elan Weiner
ALL-CONFERENCE—Golf: Nick Kogelman and Evan Levin. *Honorable mention—Soccer:* Leo Carlson and Morgan Murphy;
ALL-ISL FIRST TEAM—Soccer: Leo, Elan and Morgan; **volleyball:** Elizabeth Lin and Anne Sawyer. *Second team—Soccer:* Nate Wise and Philip Kemp Bohan.
COACHES AWARDS—Boys' soccer: Leo Carlson; **girls' volleyball:** Anne Sawyer; **girls' swimming:** Stephanie Stern; **girls' tennis:** Gabbie Clark; **boys' golf:** Nick Kogelman; **cross country:** Iain Macdonald and Ben Worcester, Shannon Kimball and Emily Kuo.

Happy Valentine's Day!



From Ski Club

**"Being a Nick is a blessing. It pretty much makes you unstoppable at all athletics."
—Nick Kogelman, senior**



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 "laos," 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 blistering 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've 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."

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 playing 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."

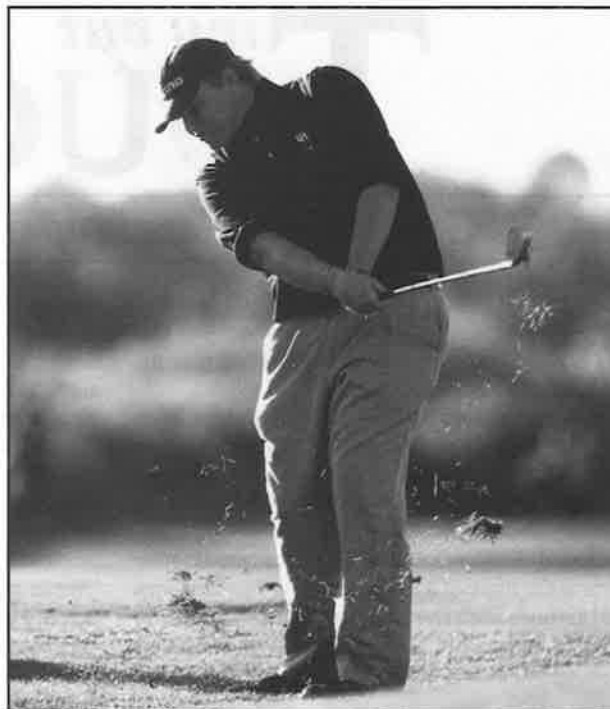


Photo courtesy of Nick Kogelman

NICK KOGELMAN



Photo courtesy of Nick Sisodia

NICK SISODIA

*Get her something different for
Valentine's Day this year...*



Photo by Rachel Hannessian

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U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007

"I think Formal was great; it was really nice to have the Valentine's Day theme. Everyone looked really good."

-Katherine Hayes, senior



SENIOR ROYALTY

Beanie Meadow
Louis Baggetto



JUNIOR ROYALTY

Mona Dasgupta
Van Miner



SOPHOMORE ROYALTY

Molly Simon
Jeremy Handrup



FRESHMAN ROYALTY

Nisha Duara
Mario Gage

Formally Fashionable

Page produced by Sarah Fischel

Photos by Jeremy Handrup and Mila Davenport

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.



Zak Smith, Gabe Bump



Sydney Marcus, Dana Alfassa,
Eva Jaeger, Victoria Rogers



Amanda Pappas, Chrissy Delicata,
Erin Buthman, Mona Dasgupta
(Erin attends Glenbard West in Glen Ellyn)



Graham Salinger



Zoe Lindner, Clare Casey, Selina Welsh,
Natalia Khosla, Jenny Rowley



Cortni Brown, Victoria Thomas



Alya Forster, Bianca Harris