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. "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," Mr. Magill said.

"We have realized after all this happened that we need an adequate system of checks and balances, which is what failed to happen 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 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 here--an interim principal. As a student
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 Po. “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 Edwards’ Plaza lunch will meet 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,” Babai 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 stanza glass were offered through the Daily Bulletin, but not the program booklet.

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

Organizing two rumbling 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.”

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 it to life as a workshop and Artsfest. “I’m not too big on chess,” Joseph said. “But I wanted to make this workshop so anyone who is interested can play from the view of a rook or a king. Everyone who participates will play as a piece in the back lines and we’ll probably have chains at exit points.”

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

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. “It’s Kevin’s Dad. Then, in a hushed voice, “We heard there was a fire on your street last night.”

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 lost and let’s just say that disaster ensues.”

Additionally, four professionally-written one-act plays and a Sound and Light 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...


THE ACTOR’S NIGHTMARE. George Speluin 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 and Katherine Vokes.

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I once gave Sam a scar on her face. But she has grown many bloody roses.

— Zach Feldman, senior.

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

Slightly pushing Sophomore Gabe Bump in the High School hallway, Sophomore Addie Epstein giggles as Gabe gives her slight push back. Dating since November Adie and Gabe have been friends for two years in 5th grade. We have been friends for a long time,” Gabe said. “We even broke up with each other twice. We have the same friends so we are always hanging out together with a group of people and all of a sudden after school made us a lot closer.”

“Dating at U-High is a good experience because you 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 a while, but then we broke up again. I wasn’t really nice to each other but it works. We have never thought about being in an interpersonal relationship. Those things never occur to me.”

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

“In the past I have had very dramatic relationships. It is also really hard finding a boyfriend at U-High. Being a U-Higher knowing people so for long. Because Julian is at another school, trust is very important. In the past I had a tendency to complicate my relationships with others which ultimately resulted in drama. I think the best thing to be happy and put your trust in others and where it takes you. I met Julian and I am not boyfriend and girlfriend but we are dating, which is a good way to slow things down.”

Julian, the Sophomore resident, does not mind the extra gas mileage to pick up Allana, a Hyde Parker, for their date night.

“She always makes me happy,” Julian said. “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 one of the first things you do when you have a girlfriend?’ And the son said ‘Jack rabbit’ but Allana says ‘No, it’s the children’.” So I bought her a stuffed cheetah for the next weekend date break.

Coming to Chicago this year from the northern suburbs of Chicago, Sophomore Nastassia Staniak, who is friends with Alex Gomez left behind his girlfriend Annie Baird, a senior at Mtahmodi senior High School.

Alex decided he would rather be with Annie without her. “In my last year at my old school I was trying to date a lot of people. One was it. Annie isn’t it.” Alex explained. “I wasn’t able to get in a relationship in the 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.”

“The end of the summer I really couldn’t not date her. It would be harder to break up with her 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 in reality sometimes because over the phone my voice can sound sassy 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 Steinbruch have become the best known couple in school. After dating for four years they decided they were going to 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.”

She is 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 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 with the realization what Clinton is capable of. People are waiting for her. The anti-feminist crew are going to say that Clinton is a much more palatable candidate.”

Beyond U-High, University of Chicago professor expressed similar views. The rising popularity of Senators Obama and Clinton is evidence of increased political confidence, believes U. C. Professor of American and African American History Thomas Holt, MacArthur Fellow and lower School parent.

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

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

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

“I would think that Barack is more attractive because he opposed the war consistently from the beginning and pointed out all the flaws in the President’s plan,” said Ms. Martha Nussbaum, University of Chicago Professor of Philosophy and Divinity School. “I don’t think that Hillary Clinton is a feminist.”

“Senators Obama and Clinton would send a powerful signal to young women that 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 war. “The barbarous people 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 new begins
**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 View," a bowling party for 10 at Seven Ten and dinner with University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer and Mrs. Zimmer, as well as an opportunity to fly with world class pilots. Student art items will also be auctioned off.

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

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

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

Holding the event in the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier will allow the 2007 Connections Committee to show a video documentary and slideshow, featuring current students enrolled in art, theater and music programs as well as alumni art majors, on big screens, and a cameraman will be going around to art, music and theater classes to capture students' daily activities.

"Additionally, we wanted to get alumni 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."

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"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."
"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

**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 winner winced. These 6 Madas ripped 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 extravaganzas. While these parties may seem surreal 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, they would say ‘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 West 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. “The party was beautiful but unfortunately I don’t think my family could begin to think about throwing an event that large for me.”

“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 Lusline 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 Eclat.” Lusline 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 milestone 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 planned on 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.”

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

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**Special Occasions**

**Sky becomes the limit as parties themselves become special gifts**

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**Special Occasions**
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Searching for a way to catch her eye, stir her heart or display your love on Valentine's Day? Well, look no further than Hyde Park's own CORNELL FLORIST, which offers a variety of fresh arrangements. If you want to show her you care, head to CORNELL FLORIST today!

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

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

By Sam Dreesen
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, Thme and Coverage.

Second place honors came in Dividers and Spreads.

“It's very rewarding to see all the staff's hard work over 11 months acknowledged with these awards,” said junior Louis Baggetto, editor in chief. “It was a great experience with Priyanka Rupani, now a freshman at Northwestern University. I think all the staff deserved to be honored.”

The yearbook’s photography editor was Ria Tobacco, 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 Lance Ricketts.

“Administration 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.”

55 seniors get State Scholar honor

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

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

U-High’s Scholars are as follows: Mordecai Rabot, North Beach, Peter Bahr, Harley Cheng, Sally Cudahy, Courtney Combs, Lisa Den, Will Diamond, Evan Doman, Don Engelhard, Zilk Feldman, Sarah Feldman.

Evan Good, Asiel Hansen, Jeni Harris, Peter Hoppeywhite, Jessica Hu, Vietnamese Levander, Helen Jin, Andrew Kern, Nick Kopelman, Katherine Leidner, Adam Levin, Ian Mandlaur, Mara MacMahon.


Teodora Roderick, Ben Roper, Josh Roper, Amodu Dibo, Hannah Booth, Karthik Savara, Paul Scholz, Bradley Spohn, Jared Spre, Zoe Strickland, Chrishen, Andrew Tagney, Trent Rama, Matt Topp, Roye Wang, Daniel Whitney, Anne Wideman, Xiao Yi (Sherry).

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

“We need to speed up the process that is required for turning the pages,” he 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 done in this day and age.”

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

Managers are as follows:

Business and advertisement manager, Bruny Tang; design director, Ben Phillips.

Section editors are as follows:

Life, Rebecca Reese, Learning, Mary Pau; Organizations, Rebecca Steiner; Sports, Peter Hoppeywhite and BJ Arun; People, Shenna Hernandez; Community, Bruny Tang.

Louis Baggetto, this year’s student editor.

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 Horning, junior, in charge of the publication.

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

In other government developments:

• Student Council's representative to the Faculty’s Curriculum Committee, Senior Palika Makam, intends to attend the rest of this year’s meetings, but 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 trying to get other schools about an ISL dance, but we have 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 Morshen, senior.

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

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

Ton of fun

ONE, TWO, THREE...SUMO! Sizing up his opponent, Henry Africani prepares to attack Philip Jacobson during the nght activity that has become a favorite tradition on Senior Getaway: sumo wrestling.

After a three-hour bus ride from school, seniors enjoyed sledding, skating, 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 created television shows for their digital television sets in the Chestnut Mountain ski lodge, anxiously watching as the Bears triumphant-ly took the NFC Championship, leading to the Super Bowl.

Council will again issue student course guide
Junior Frank Firke watching “Jeopardy!”

By Graham Salinger
Midway reporter

Junior on Jeopardy!’s news outcome; you’ll have to watch

blue floors and the fourth time Emmy Award winning game show host, Alex Trebek.

“Trek 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. People are so quick and you are so concentrated; you are only focusing on the questions and the clues. The most important thing that people need to know is when to ring in; on the side of the board are lights and when you ring it you can ring the big button that I made was switching to my index finger when buzzing in. You have to get a feel for the lights and for how Alex Trebek explained.”

Breaking 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 you if needed. They keep the contestants and the producers apart for the most part because they didn’t want any cheating.”

A couple of times Alex wasn’t sure if the response was correct, so he asked the producers to look into it, then rolled the last 10 seconds of tape and we reacted to what we thought was the correct answer.”

The most extraordinary parts of “Jeopardy!” Frank said, were the neon question “How much is 19,” which I think confused Alex a little bit. “I really liked getting on a run with the contestants and producers apart for the most part because they didn’t want any cheating.”

Information mixed reactions or no reactions at all

By Evan Dorfman
Institute-Chief

No change in school policy has been noted on some U-Highers, but a few cite personal impacts.

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

“I don’t think a lot needed to change,” Director of Security and Facilities Tony Wilson said. “What we have implemented seems to be working well. We have hired two new police officers, so we have a total of three police officers in the school. By 8 p.m. the school is locked down.”

“I haven’t talked to the University Police in a while but I know that following the crimes, they increased police patrol in the area. That’s helped, too.”

Safety initiatives get mixed reactions or no reactions at all

By Evan Dorfman
Institute-Chief

No change in school policy has been noted on some U-Highers, but a few cite personal impacts.

New security plans have gone unnoticed to some U-Highers. One example is Senior Cultural Union Representative Natalie Lowis, who said, “I’m not sure what the school can do on the topic of teen driving.”

“What I think is a more important obligation is to get someone to get to know the students.”

We haven’t discussed it much this year, but definitely it’s a problem.”

The security changes are noticeable, although some found them interesting. “I think they definitely added some new depth to the show, and I think they make us more aware of the problem,” senior Mark Smolenski said.

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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, import gamer, glischer and cyber athletes who compete for money and are considered "professional."

By Jeffrey Biskin-Aykul

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 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 Otkoff, 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 really a day where I don't play something for five hours. Typically I play something in the order of eight hours and in the summer I play 20 hours a day. In the summer I 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."

"I sometimes 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."

Not all U-High gamers, however, are affected so greatly by this hobby. Senior Steve 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 costs $600. But I just have a PS2 and that's it." For more involved gamers, however, playing can demand a constant financial investment. "To play 'World of Warcraft,' $50 is the initial cost in the first month and then 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. I think it's probably shelled out about $300 over nine months."

For some, gaming can even involve a profit motive. "A team will put $100 into a tournament," an anonymous senior said. "Usually a team will have five people play at a time. Two people might know each other while three others might know one another. Usually if you are playing for money and you lose people get mad, but people who know you know don't get mad. "Gaming is a lot more fun when you could lose something. When you put money on the line you have more drive. If you lose you invest more time and it can 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 and 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 I know 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's really my life dominates. When people online do badly they call them a girl as slang, a girl doesn't play video 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 to speak like a g@m3r:

OWNAGE: LARGE AMOUNTS OF "PWNING" 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

OWNED: BEING BADLY DEFEATED

GTG: GOOD TO GO, GOT TO GO

GG: GOOD GAME, OFTEN USED SARCASTICALLY

IRL: IN REAL LIFE

AK: AWAY FROM KEYBOARD

HAX: A GAME THAT HAS BEEN HACKED.

Compiled by Jeremy Lacocque, Editor-in-Chief

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 Shaulberg 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 energetic intensity and because players can compete worldwide. At tournaments across the country, aspiring professionals like Senior Sam Shaulberg compete either alone or cooperatively.

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"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 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."
As the Midway sees it
Diversity effort needs honesty, not management

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

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The latest diversity initiative at the Lab Schools, which began after Director of Enrichment Tim Shriver 2003, resulted in hiring an experienced diversity consultant familiar with the school, Mr. Perky Nesbitt, for one year.

In the Fall Mr. Nesbitt distributed a diversity survey to faculty members and interviewed them. He then recommended two workshop leaders who met one at a time with the faculty All Schools 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 32. Then Mr. Magill, Mr. Nesbitt and some Board members met February 29 to discuss and clarify elements of the report felt they may be ministered 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 and genuine 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 night, also the Jewish Sabbath. Especially since Prom took place on Friday a year ago and administrators said it wouldn’t happen again.

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

By including some members of the community with the outcome of the diversity survey contracts with exactly the thing the school is trying to improve: diversity. Without the entire community being able to reflect on problems and positive points at the school, improvement is hard to move forward.

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

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

Say What?

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

NNEKA MCQUIRGE, senior: I would stay in Chicago. While I don’t know what my boyfriend is planning for Valentine’s Day, I do know that I will probably be spending time with my family. I believe spending time with family is more important than spending time with a boyfriend or girlfriend.

CORY KEANE, junior: I would pick the family vacation in Italy because of all that it has to offer. I would like to see different cultures and experience new things. I believe that going to Italy would be a great opportunity to learn about the history and culture of a different country.

Just say no to the ‘N’ word

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?

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 churches promote 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 term ‘Nigger.’

Sure my parents have both heard the songs my brother and I listen to, which emphasizes 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 the University at New York City, where I was the only African American boy in the whole program, did I first encounter the use of the word so freely by people who weren’t black. I never felt they were using it as a way to demean me or any other black person, but just in quoting a song or one of Dave Chappelle’s stand up routines I still felt as if every time one of them used the word it was directly aimed at me.

So every time I heard the word used I took it upon myself to explain it 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.

U-High MIDWAY

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EIGHTH-SECOND EDITORS

- A passionate violin performance and a slide show about activities were just two attractions at this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. assembly.

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

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

Some people have said if ad sales to student organizations for the Connections booklet would affect Midway and U-Highlad 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 the facts of the school’s interesting how sometimes we seem invisible.

Just an observation, not a complaint.

Three move up to top position

Three new Midway editors-in-chief have begun issuing this issue.

Seniors Jeremy Lacovou, Jacqueline Chaudhry and Evan Dottman 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 and formal: Teacher Wayne Rader, who advises the Midway with Photography Journalism Teacher Lies Ricketts. “It’s hard to impossible that anyone in any case.”
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 dinner on how well it survived the change and found three employees greeting us at the front door. When we entered the brightly-lit whitewashed room resembled the restaurant’s previous 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.

Spacious compromises aside, the restaurant managed its relocation without changing the menu, with Indian and Pakistani dishes mostly under $10 and an Americanized kids’ menu with hamburgers, chicken nuggets and cheese fingers (mozzarella sticks) under $5.

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 unlimited combo plate.

While munching on fresh tasting onion chutney, 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 later appreciate as a space suppressant.

We shared three dishes. Goat Biryani, $7.49, the largest, if anything happens, is a staple in Hindu and Muslim entrees feeds two or more. Even kids menu items fill grown adults. Also, if ordering only one dish, such as Brain Masala, $7.49 (presumably curried beef brain but I was afraid to ask), doesn’t provide a desired range of tastes, the waiter will gladly bring an unlimited combo plate.

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On one of his daily visits to the U.M., Senior Jeff Bishku-Aykul chose an ice tea, a drink he had never bought from the store before.

Suddenly he bumped into his girlfriend Senior Nina Massad, surprised that the apple juice aficionado chose the same brand of ice tea!

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

University Market
1323 East 57th Street
Open Monday-Saturday
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Science Expo to offer 100-plus attractions

By Marrisa 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 Hogwater 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.

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 Nirenberg times the fall.

Demonstrating their full quarter project, entitled Maximum Descent, Physics Teacher Ira Nirenberg's students will showcase contraptions that make a ping-pong ball drop 30 cm in three minutes.

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

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

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

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

(continued from front page)

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

While some U-Vijehers 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 TV," 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 Forsvat 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 Azita 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 going to call 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 be showing data; it's actually pretty impressive.

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

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Boys’ basketball heads north for Conference rival

By Henry Africano

Russia is 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 Horaung and Senior Peter Hepplewhite, co-captains with Senior Phil Jacobson. Both were out with ankle injuries. Junior Derek Chiampas and Sophomore Tim Parsons also 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 Zuko and Dan. We were already a team that struggled to put the ball in the basket and Zuko 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 Gunty.

“The injuries are unlike anything I’ve 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 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.

Dec. 12, home: Varsity won 59-49, j.v. won 54-31; Morton.

Feb. 1, away: Varsity won 72-54, j.v. won 50-33; Lake Forest Academy.

Dec. 16, home: Varsity lost 69-99, j.v. won 54-33; Latin.

Jan. 19, home: Varsity lost 75-50, j.v. won 35-33; Lake Forest Academy.


February 1, home: results post Midway deadline: Jones College Prep.

February 3, home: results post Midway deadline.

Maroons ride on strength of full roster to bring Sectional success

By Harley Chang

Heading into Sections 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 Shew, 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 Pentathalon placing 2nd of 6 December 1 and in the Riverside/Brookfield Invitational, coming up 7th of 9 January 13.

This year’s 24 man squad will help the team reach the top three at Sectionals, believes Zack, co-captain with Alex, both seniors.

“We haven’t had a particularly defining moment during the season,” Zack said. “But with all of our hard work, I think the varsity team will bust out during Sectionals and the team will push their potential and talent. Our team is also bigger, maybe seven or eight more members than last year. Since we had a factor of 16 man 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 freshmen standouts performers Ethan Chiampas, Max Craig and Joey Klonowski, according to Senior PaulSchweiker.

“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 depth of our team. All of them have a great deal of potential and I can see them taking the upperclassman’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 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 meters.”

“St. Ignatius is always the favorite to win at the Conference, but according to Peter, the schedule may work 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.”

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We’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
Girl basketballers head into tough finals

By Mona Daugupat
Associate editor

We haven’t played Ridgewood yet this season, but the way we’ve been playing, we can beat them," said Senior guard Varsity Basketball Player Junior Lucy O’Keefe, wing and co-captain with Sophomore Alexis Jenkins. "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 are given athletic opportunities,"

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 shot her down, we can definitely win," Lucy said. "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 their team facing Ridgewood for the first time 7 p.m., today, away, JV Point Guard Margot Turek, freshman, believes they need more focus on plays. "We need to show our skills more," Margot said. "Right now we’re just playing to play and not using specific plays. Our defense is really solid because of our full court press. We get more points off steals than plays. If 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 at halftime. Maroons will play their last game against Northside January 30, at home, placing J.V. in the Independent School League (ISL). Dance Team performed at halftime. Maroons will play their last game against Northside January 30, at home, placing J.V. in the Independent School League (ISL). Dance Team performed at halftime.

Honors cite players, coach

By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor

First-year Girls’ Volleyball Coach Amy Romans leads her team to a 2nd in the ISL with the Sportsmanship Award. "We lost to 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 shot her down, we can definitely win," Lucy said. "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."

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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, co-captain with Denise Akumaoah, steps to Glara’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.
Two Nicks find satisfaction outweighs sacrifices in sports

By Phil Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief

Nicholas

A combination of the Greek words “nike” and “lais,” 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 inside and works with his personal coach to tweak his swing and hit as many balls as possible. His golf regimen continues into the summer.

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

“Normally, school competition is a lot less competitive. The kids that play in the summer are the kids that really want to be playing. They’re really dedicated 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 go to the next level, he said he’s turned down golf scholarships at lesser academic schools because his ideal college combines quality academics with a sport 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.”

As soon as school ends, Sisodia plays in the Pioneer Junior Open in Cologne, Germany, which is a pretty huge international tournament. Then his 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 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 stronggrades 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.”

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

Nick Kogelman, senior

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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.

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

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