U-High MIDWAY
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Diversity Report inspires dialogue but also skepticism
By Jeremy Lacroque
Editor-in-Chief

Some thought it worthwhile. Others thought it a waste of time and money. Many have yet to even read it. “It” is the recently-issued report by Diversity Consultant Prey Neubrt, February 12. According to students and faculty, they repeatedly cited three recommendations in particular: form a Diversity Committee, designing a Diversity Statement and hiring a Dean of Diversity.

Mr. Neubrt compiled his findings after a yearlong study of diversity at the Lab Schools. Three days before the report was issued, Lab Schools Director David Magill distributed an executive summary including his responses. “The results of the study are no secret,” Mr. Magill said. “It took a while for the executive summary of the report and the full report to be released because the entire process took longer than we expected. It wasn’t because the Board was censoring things.”

“If you’re a member of the Lab Schools community, seeing Prey’s report is just a matter of making an appointment with me. As for the executive summary, I’ve given copies of it to anyone in the community who has wanted it. They have also been welcomed to read the full report in my office and take notes.”

“People have come to me with criticism and some with praise about the report’s release and its content. Yes, it’s controversial, but I feel that it is in good faith. Of course everyone isn’t going to agree with the process so far and what’s ahead, I expect that.”

A Diversity Committee, he report explained, would allow administrators, faculty and students to agree on a diversity strategy. The Diversity Committee would compile a Diversity Statement. To execute these plans, the school would then hire a Dean of Diversity according to students and faculty who read the report. Mr. Magill, however, rejected the suggestion of a Dean of Diversity for the time being.

“It’d be open to the idea, however, I’m not familiar with what such a person could do here,” Mr. Magill explained. “Diversity cannot really be helped by someone in a 9 to 5 job, but is rather something that needs to be dealt with by everyone. As for someone overseeing that process, a Diversity Committee will be formed, composed of faculty, parents, administrators, some Board members and hopefully some alumni. I had a Board meeting earlier this month where we further discussed the report and Board members volunteered to be on the committee.”

“The committee will begin by constructing a Diversity Statement and will eventually oversee processes like diversity workshops and forums and so on. Hopefully this committee will help perpetuate the discussion we’ve started with this study about diversity.”

(continues on next page)

Biology Olympiad offers new challenge for science lovers
By Amanda Pappas
Associate editor

Tested in critical thinking skills in biological reasoning, 27 U-Highers took the seventh annual Biology Olympiad (USAJO) test, February 13. The exam was brought to U-High for the first time by Science Department Chairperson Sharon Hausinger.

The 50-minute test is sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education, located in McLean, Virginia. The Center runs a program emphasizing leadership in science and technology for academically talented high school students.

Senior Beanie Meadow and Junior Katherine Zhou scored within the top 10 percent in the country, enabling them to compete in the Semifinals, this week.

“After seven years of trying to figure out how to register the school, I’m so happy I figured out how to do it,” Ms. Hausinger said. “Although the test has no requirements to take it, I advised A.P. Biology classes to take it because of the difficult material. Before the students took the test I tried it out and could only answer 43 out of the 50 questions.”

“The exam consisted of questions, for example, about medicine, human physiology, genetics, ecology and plant anatomy. The test was on such a broad area of topics within biology, but had such specific questions about each topic. The (continues on page 6)

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Diversity Report

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The report also recommended the Lab Schools student body should reflect the Chicago area. According to Mr. Nesbit’s research, currently 2 percent of the Lab Schools’ student population is Hispanic as opposed to 17.4 percent of the Chicago population.

Also, the report states that Lab Park is African American, only 14.8 percent of Lab Schools students are African American.

Mr. Nesbit also emphasized the need in his report for the school to embrace its diverse alumni. Specifically, he suggested creating an African American Alumni Association. He believes by doing so, stronger connections between the alumni and school would encourage more diverse students to attend the Lab Schools.

Many students have said they are concerned about being unaware of any efforts being made to improve diversity, and some students, including the Lab Schools’ Student Council President, Donavan Mitchem, senior, say they are more concerned about the handling of the report after being involved in many months of Mr. Nesbit’s research.

“When I went into the High School office to see the report, it was handed to me reluctantly and I had to stay in the office to read it,” Donavan explained. “I don’t understand how a report that largely involves the student body can be kept from them. I think it’s just underhanded and wrong. They’re trying to trick the student body by not letting us see the report and we’re the biggest part of the community.

“I participated in an open forum at the end of the year, organized by Mr. Nesbit. It’s frustrating that I put time into his study and now I had to wrangle just to get the summary of the report, let alone the full report. I want to know what the administration is doing to better diversity so the student body can work with them and be part of the discussion. At the moment, we have no idea what’s going on.”

Discussing the report last month, the Faculty All-Schools Council plans to further confer about what to do next, according to the Lab Schools’ Student Council, member Shaila Holbrook, math teacher.

“After the reports were issued, there was some reaction; the initial reaction, the Lab Schools Council and Parents’ Association met with Mr. Nesbit,” Ms. Holbrook said. “Since then not much has happened. The Steering Committee met earlier this month and we discussed things we could do to continue our work on diversity, including following up on the report and gathering more information.”

Though united on diversity, some parents are divided about efforts

By Nathan Bishop

Midway reporter

United over the need for more diversity in the student body and faculty, African American parents divide when it comes to whether the school’s diversity effort should focus on race or economics.

Voicing concerns over the few African American teachers at the Lab Schools, Parents’ Association President Benne Currie, Lab School parent, believes last Saturday’s annual diversity job fair is a step in the right direction.

“Some black parents want certain things for their kids: they want a more diverse interaction and an alternative environment from Lab, so that when their kids graduate they can be more comfortable interacting with people of color other than their parents,” he said. “A lot of parents are saying that Lab should do a better job looking like Chicago or Hyde Park.”

“The more the school can attract faculty of color, the more African American students they will attract. When I went to see a lot of black people in positions of power who were role models for me and when you don’t have that it sends a subliminal message.”

“I think some parents have complaints that they feel other people are not validating or recognizing. That there are two black male students in the senior class is not just a issue for black people in the grade, it is an issue for everyone. I know there are a lot of black parents out there who can pay for Lab but are worried that they won’t get their money’s worth, they want to send their kids to places like Walther Premonitory and Whitney Young.”

“I’m hoping that the current effort to address the diversity issues goes well and that it is addressed passionately. David Magill will be the first to say that he was not forced or coerced into hiring the diversity consultant. We’re at a point where there is a level of concern, but I think those concerns have always been there.”

Hunting watched the school change for 21 years, Mrs. Deborah Bump, parent of Sophomore Gabriel Bump, 2006 graduate Mike Bump, and 2000 graduate Nathaniel Bump, believes African American parents of current and prospective students express discomfort over the scarcity of African American teachers.

“When Natalie was getting from 8th to 9th grade, the school had a big meeting and it wasn’t just with African American parents,” she said. “The meeting addressed the concern that the school was becoming a prep school and was going away from John Dewey’s ideas. People felt the school was becoming elitist and country clubish and I can understand parents seeing that.”

“My family has known many parents throughout our years at Lab and one thing I know is that many African American parents who have sons feel that this is not a place where their boys can be comfortable or adequately nurtured.”

“I think a big reason why some of these boys feel uncomfortable is because there are not a lot of African American teachers and it’s likely that kids will feel more comfortable and secure when they see someone like them teaching. I think that more and more, our society is moving to a class issue and I think that Lab is reflecting that.”

The issue is not the school becoming elitist, believes Middle School Testing and Admissions and Community Learning Coordinator Frances Moore-Bond, but that the school is not recognizing the needs of some students.

“Probably some African American parents have indicated that Lab is elitist, but I have not heard any African American parents refer to the school in this way. In terms of diversity and the changes in thinking of it as an economic concern
Fest celebrates art, ‘junk,’ magic and more

Principal works towards best finals schedule with faculty

By Namrata Patel
Editor-in-Chief

When Principal Matt Horvat visited the school last year before starting the job, students complained to him about faculty not following the finals schedule. He consequently made responding to them a primary goal.

Last quarter’s schedule required teachers to administer tests between three recessed days spread out during the last two weeks of the quarter. For this quarter, in response to faculty critiques, Mr. Horvat established back-to-back test dates plus a day during the half week and included music; the two week schedule started Thursday, March 1 and ends tomorrow.

“We are trying to make it so ‘all the departments have enough time to deal with the problem of having only four periods a week,’” Mr. Horvat said. “This time we scheduled back-to-back days since this was one of the concerns brought up by the faculty.”

“These last couple of weeks are stressful and the Curriculum Committee and I want to make it manageable.”

Sticking to his promise to enforce test dates, Mr. Horvat said he mailed schedules to department chairs, put them in faculty members’ boxes and posted it in the daily bulletin and first floor electronic bulletin.

“Last time we had good compliance and I talked to the faculty members that didn’t really follow the schedule last quarter to ensure more cooperation,” he said. “Sometimes faculty and students can forget which days are assigned.

“Students and faculty can come to me if they feel someone is not following the schedule and I will talk to them. I hope to make it standard after we work the kinks out of it.”

Tomorrow is left as a make-up day. The finals schedule Mr. Horvat set was as follows:


Juniors head for bonding experiences at April retreat

By Graham Salinger
Associate editor

Class bonding activities, as in previous years, will provide the focus of Junior Retreat, Wednesday-Friday, April 11-13, at Resurrection Center, a Catholic retreat house in far northwestern suburban Woodstock.

“Unlike other retreats, Junior Retreat is kind of an emotional journey,” Dean of Students Larry McFarlane said. “Some people might not like it but for others it’s a blessing.” It is supposed to bring the class together before entering senior year.

Juniors will participate in activities reflecting the grade’s personality and, during their free time, can view the rural setting from their recently renovated rooms’ window. Junior Class President Robert Strickling said,

“The activities we will do depend on what happened with the Steering Committee,” Rob explained. “We went down to the location in late February to speak to them about the direction of our grade and they asked us questions about the grade’s character. There will also be time for us to use the basketball courts and sports field they have.”

Reflecting on last year’s retreat, Senior Leo Carlson, then junior class president, said the activities bring the grade together.

“Most of our time was spent doing group activities,” Leo said. “Everyone was in a group of five to 10 and we stayed with those groups for the entire time. Each group does something different, although we did meet as a grade a couple of times. The candle lighting ceremony is the event that everyone will remember.”

Service Day moves to Saturday

By Linda Huber
Midday reporter

Seeking to increase both student and faculty participation, Service Corp has rescheduled the annual Service Day from a Friday to Global and National Youth Service Day Saturday, April 21.

Conceived three years ago, Service Day has been planned for the last day of Winter Quarter, which many students considered a relaxed day for classes. When faculty members began complaining about students missing class that day, the switch was made to a Saturday.

“Not many teachers schedule tests for the last day and it is generally an open day,” said Service Corp President Namrata Patel, senior. “But we understand that a lot of teachers are really dedicated to their classes and still don’t like missed school days.

“We’ve really focused on getting the passionate people to sign up; we got 150 people to sign up last year but many didn’t show up. That really hurt us. This year, we are focusing on getting faculty and parent support and about 100 students really into volunteering. It’s not just a day to get off school anymore.”

Students can sign up for individual sites in the cafeteria Tuesday, March 27. Preliminary schedule, according to Service Coordinator Maureen Gruenitzer, is as follows:

10 a.m.: Opening Assembly 11 a.m.: BUS to learn to false students to serving site 3 p.m.: Ruses return to school. End of Day Celebration.

Sick from studying for finals?

Sick from studying for a math final, Junior Zak Smith decides to call up K&K Pharmacy. Its great location next to a doctor’s office is perfect for Zak who needs to get the right medicine to cure him of his cold so he can ace his final. So if you are sick from studying for an upcoming final call K&K Pharmacy today!
Obama, Clinton sally forth into election territory with dukes up

SECOND OF A TWO-PART SERIES

By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor

As Democratic Presidential candidate frontrunners Senator Hillary Clinton (N.Y.) and Barack Obama (Ill.) continue to craft their campaigns, national attention has veered from the Iraq war to race and gender to Hollywood endorsements.

Announcing his candidacy ceremoniously in the image of Abraham Lincoln at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, February 10, Senator Obama declared the war, which he has always opposed, a "tragic mistake."

A day later, antiwar protesters interrupted an Obama rally at the University of Illinois at Chicago, unwilling to hear about energy policy, a section of Obama’s speech.

On the campaign trail, Senator Clinton has refused to apologize for her 2002 vote authorizing force in Iraq, though she now opposes the war. With Iraq dominating Congenral debate, Senator Obama introduced the War Decalation Act, January 31, which would bring home all U.S. combat troops by March 31, 2008.

Senator Clinton introduced the Troop Reduction and Protection Act, February 16, which would cap the number of U.S. troops at January 1 levels but set no exit deadline, according to U.S. Senate websites.

Voicing support for Senator Obama as he announced his candidacy in Springfield, Junior Victoria Rogers joined her father John Rogers, a key Obama campaign adviser, at Obama’s announcement and said she feels his views will appeal to voters.

"It was cool to be there," Victoria said. "I’ve known Barack since I was a baby. His speech was really inspiring. He said not being in Washington long was good since he wants a change. His ideas are right. I agree with his view on the Iraq war. Hillary’s position on the war will be hard for her to overcome. The war is such a hot topic. But racism will definitely be an issue."

"The Obama and Clinton campaigns are very good for our country. Their policies are pretty far left but the country might not be ready for a left President, though it might with Bush’s failures."

—Alex Zimmer, Sophomore

The candidates’ positions on Iraq could prove a major factor in their candidacy, believes Sophomore Alex Zimmer.

"The issues for the Democrats are how rich the rich are and how poor the poor are, especially the Iraq situation," Alex said. "The Obama and Clinton campaigns are very good for our country. Their policies are pretty far left, but the country might not be ready for a left President, though it might with Bush’s failures. Southern Democrats do better."

Predicting that political experience will decide the campaign, History Teacher East Bell believes politics based on race and gender differences will not prove an issue.

"I think and or hope Americans are beyond that," he explained. "Both Obama and Clinton better do a major voter registration drive because the Republicans are very experienced.

"It will be an uphill battle for both. Lack of experience will be a bigger problem for Obama. He could try an anti-Washington campaign, like Reagan and Eugene McCarthy. And both face a tough John Edwards."

While experts are debating over how “black” Obama is, History Teacher Charles Brantham pointed out that Obama’s campaign marks a new style of progressive politics.

"Something has to be appealing for the Democratic party, a little left of center on Iraq," Mr. Brantham said. "Both Clinton and Obama would be historic but Obama seems unique, post civil rights. People are attracted to him because he is multi-racial. His candidacy would be healing for the nation. Some would view his election as redistributive justice, making up for past sins."

Senator Obama framed himself in a Lincoln-esque way in Springfield, but Senator Clinton’s links to her husband Bill are tighter, according to Political Science Professor Cathy Cohen, director of the University of Chicago Center for the Study of Race, Politics and Culture.

"Like Lincoln, Obama is compromise-oriented," Professor Cohen said. "In that sense, the ongoing concern is electing someone who will not compromise on controversial issues such as the war and abortion rights."

"But Obama also has to make people believe he has enough experience. For Clinton, the issue is that she must straddle a line about how closely she associates herself with Bill Clinton. She’ll have to show she is an independent voice and less thinker, but she also has to build on the positive feelings from the Clinton Administration’s economic prosperity and decrease in crime."

By late last month, media attention had turned from the issues facing the nation to Hollywood democratic fundraisers. Producer David Geffen had criticized the Clintons, whom he previously supported, and backed Senator Obama. That led to questions about how well Obama can handle his instant celebrity. The upsurge over how Hollywood views Obama and Clinton will not have a dramatic effect on the outcome of the race, believes University of Chicago Political Science Professor Mark Hansen, a Middle School parent.

"The hard thing to figure out is what you say about how to get out of Iraq," Professor Hansen said. "And there are cultural stereotypes that women cannot be tough on defense and African Americans are more liberal. The whole David Geffen thing is a dust up. It’s all inside politics stuff. Voters are not paying much attention. In a month, no one will care about this. There will be Iraq and health care and other more important issues. It will all be forgotten."

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Midway editor wins $1,000 award, trip to conference

Dear, Dare. Do.

According to Al Neunharte, founder of USA Today and the Freedom Forum, that’s the defining quality of a “free spirit.” It’s therefore the major criterion used to select the Al Neunharte Free Spirit Scholarship Award winners, one of whom this year is Midway Editor-in-Chief Phil Jacobson, senior.

The Freedom Forum, which sponsors the award, selects a boy and a girl from each state and Washington, D.C.

Receiving a $1,000 scholarship, Phil will travel to Washington, D.C. to accept it at a conference March 17-22. There he will tour NBC studios and USA Today, interact with distinguished media leaders and attend a black tie dinner, where two National Winners will each get $50,000.

In his application, Phil was required to submit his high school transcript, several writing samples, two 500-word essays and a recommendation from his Midway editor.

“It was kind of a last minute thing,” Phil said. “My mom wanted me to apply after she found out about it online, so I did. I got everything together and barely made the application deadline.

“When I found out I won, I was pretty surprised. The contest required me to write an essay about why I wanted to go into journalism. Instead, I wrote about how I was a kid and I didn’t feel like I’m ready to decide what to do with my life.”

All American, the highest rating for overall excellence, has been received from the National Scholastic Press Association for the 2006 U-Highlights.

“You have the kind of yearbook that we would expect from a University-affiliated high school, very journalistic, complete coverage of the year,” judge commented.

Marks of Distinction for special excellence and creativity were awarded for Coverage; Concept, Design, and Writing; and Editing.

The award-winning yearbook was edited by Priyanka Rapunvi, 2006 graduate now at Northwestern University; and Senior Louis Baggetto who this year is serving as U-Highlights student adviser. The photo editor was Ria Tobacowalla, 2006 graduate now at Harvard University.

2006 yearbook gets top national rating

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Principal Matt Horvat sits in on the February 23 meeting between representatives of 10 different student organizations.

Photographers to shoot in Sicily on summer trip

By Leyla Tartagli
Midway reporter

Through the streets of Cefalù, a small coastal Mediterranean town, 11 U-Highers will use their cameras to capture the culture of northern Sicily during this year’s Summer Lab field study.

Summer Lab is offering programs to students June 18-July 27. Summer School courses available during these dates are: A.P. Computer Science, Latin 1, English Skills, Personal Essay, Geometry, Physical Education and Nutrition, Speed and Strength Training.

Described in a Summer Lab booklet, the programs must be applied for by April 30, although registration for this year’s field study has already been completed, according to Director of Auxiliary Programs Nick Becker.

Photography Teacher Lisa Ricketts, who will chaperon the field study trip with Art Teacher Brian Wilson, can hardly wait to hear the idea for the Sicily trip during a similar field study program in Oaxaca, Mexico last summer, Sicilian Ernesto Bazzan, who received the 1997 World Press Photo Competition award, will accompany Ms. Ricketts on the Sicily photography trip. Mr. Bazzan, who was also on the Oaxaca trip, holds photographs workshops around the world.

For Ms. Ricketts, the island’s local culture and natural beauty made it an ideal destination.

“T’s not too much night life,” Ms. Ricketts said. “But we’ll make our own entertainment. We will eat, and live, really together, as a group. We will go on day trips around the small fishing village along the coast and try to capture all the local culture.

“We’re trying to get to visit medieval and ancient ruins. There’s so many opportunities for great photos.”

Students will work daily with Mr. Bazzan to capture local culture and tradition. Their photographs will receive professional critique from Mr. Bazzan.

Student Council elections are scheduled for the week of April 23, with a Midway edition previewing the candidates appearing Tuesday, April 14.

The mighty Quinn

Invited to speak by the Young Socialist club during double lunch February 13, former U-High History Teacher Jay Quinn Brinen, civil rights activist, discussed his run for president as a member of the Socialist party and experiences teaching at Chicago’s public high schools.

Clubs join in dialogue

By Gretchen Eng
Midway reporter

All-school assemblies to discuss topics of concern including homophobia, censorship and diversity are being considered following a February 23 meeting of representatives from 10 student organizations and Principal Matt Horvat.

The meeting was organized by Queer Straight Alliance President Delaney Nichols, senior.

“My executive board and I were working together to hold a meeting with Mr. McPhetise after the incident at Homecoming and the Letter in the Mailbox,” Delaney said. “We didn’t get as far as we had hoped on the issue, and we sent a letter to all major administrators, asking them to join us.

“Mr. Horvat came during one of our regular meetings and, during our discussion, we thought that we should go broader with this and allow more clubs to participate."

The incident involved an adult separating two male dancers who were part of a larger group of people he split up because they thought they were dancing inappropriately.

At the meeting representatives of the student organizations discussed the issues they thought were most important and ended with suggestions on how to reach a school-wide audience. They also enjoyed pizza courtesy of Mr. Horvat. Organizations represented included QSA, Black Students’ Association, Asian Students’ Association, Jewish Students’ Association, Latinos Unidos, Service Corps, Young Socialists, Amnesty International, Feminist Club and Free Leading.

“I was really impressed with how many people came,” Delaney said. “I had a representative from pretty much every student organization. Mr. Horvat was really engaged, and I’m optimistic that we could make this work.

“At the meeting, we talked about things very broadly, but we hope to soon have a meeting only for students and formulate some more concrete suggestions. We plan to meet again around the first week after Spring Break with the administration and to share what we’ve come up with. Whether or not we will meet regularly after that, my hope is that this organization will become an institution that will be utilized as needed.”

In Student Council business, the Insider’s Guide, the annual Student Council course booklet, was not completed as promised. According to Student Council President Donavan Mitchem, senior, Student Council was too busy addressing Friday scheduling conflicts with a senior skating party, as well as the cancellation of the Freeman Lock In, which has been replaced by a March 10, in-school trip, to finish the project.

“Even after we got past the distractions, we knew there wouldn’t be enough time to have it published before class registration,” Donavanz said. “It has been updated and we are confident that next year’s Student Council will have an easier time revising and releasing it.”

The booklet’s adviser, Journalism Teacher Wayne Braider, said he regrets the booklet did not appear this year.

C.U. has been planning an ISL talent show, however, other ISL schools have not given definite responses about whether or not they will attend.

“As of now, I can say that we will probably be holding a talent show event,” Katherine said. “But I am going to contact C.U’s from other schools again to let them know that we are going through with it, and see if they would like to take part.

In the future, we will likely have a judge panel with C.U’s or Student Council members representing each school. Right now, we haven’t worked out many of the details, but we are planning tryouts for right after Spring Break.”

Student Council elections are scheduled for the week of April 23, with a Midway edition previewing the candidates appearing Tuesday, April 14.

Phil
Debate Team members Jennifer Glick, Eili Liput, Claire Milsted, Elizabeth Morant and Alma Schrage work with Debate Assistant Coach Scott Devold, a U. C. student, to organize evidence on National Service.

With biggest tourist, debaters anticpate coming rebuilding year

By Harley Chang
Associate editor

After preparing for the season's largest tournament, members of the Debate Team are now gearing up for their debaters headed into the J.V. and Novice State Tournament, March 8-10, at Homewood High School. Results came after Midway deadline.

The Debaters faced about 80 novice and 40 j.v. teams, according to Debate Team Adviser Anna Blinstein, Middle School teacher

"All the varsity students will graduate this year," Ms. Blinstein said. "Therefore, the team should focus on all the students who will carry on the tradition and have a team next year."

"All teams did well in the Evanston Invitational and I think they did better than average. In terms of improving for next year, I think we should meet more often."

After helping the novices and j.v. prepares for State, Debate Team President David Orlhoff, senior, believes they are ready for the competition.

"Both our novices, especially, were too timid. However, I think that experience is the simple cure for that. Our novices are much more experienced now than they were at the beginning of the season. I won't say that timidity is not an issue anymore."

"Improving their weaknesses, the U-Highers worked on a school aspect of debating, according to Sophomore Elizabeth Morant.

"Research is a big part of preparation," Elizabeth said. "But right now, we lack the experience and we did practice debates and practiced debate techniques to try and patch that as best as we could."

"This was a big tournament and many of the teams were very experienced. Our club is still young and we're at a few weeks on the good news was that we went in prepared."

Debaters not mentioned include: Jozef Glick, Kaiz Kennedy, Lenin Koe, Eli Liput, Christa Mauhit, Alma Schrage, Samuel Simmonds, Michael H".

Results as follows:

Glenbrook North, Northbrook, November 18-20, World Debate Society, J.V. team won first, last three. Kelly Invitational, December 3: Varsity and novice won first, last three. Lom Tech Invitational, January-29: Both novice teams won second, last three; third place teams won first, last three. Evanston Invitational, February 9-10: Novice team won second, last three; won one out, last three. Medin East Regatta, Park Ridge, February 29: Varsity: Alphonse Chang and Cherie Milsted won first, last three; won one out; and Lenin Koe and Alphonse Chang won no. win.

"The Invitational gave us a chance to experience what the events were going to be like. That was especially helpful for people who were doing events that they weren't even before or were completely new to the competition."

"We think we took the knowledge we gained about both the events and our competition to the Regattas and did very well."

"The Invitational gave us a chance to experience what the events were going to be like. That was especially helpful for people who were doing events that they haven't even done before or were completely new to the competition."

Science team victories

(continued from front page)

Semifinalists last year, who became qualified for Nationals, only scored 20 or more. For the students who were interested in taking the exam, I gave them a study packet but only a few students actually prepared for it.

Interested in majoring in biology, Senior Steven Jonek took the test.

"I only prepared for it for about an hour by skimming my AP Biology textbook," Steven said. "The test was difficult because there was some material that we didn't understand in class and I also took Biology last year, so it wasn't fresh in my mind. Going into the test, I think I had a good chance of advancing to the next round but after taking it, I don't think it's too realistic."

With more than 40 members, Science Team consists of two teams, the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE), which is preparing for Sections this Friday at North Central College. The team won 16 medals in competitions including chemistry, physics, Math, English and Computer Science.

The team members also taking the USABO, the Science team, with Presidents Rebecca Renick and Andrew Sugaya, seniors, placed 3rd at Regionals March 3 at Benedictine University in west suburban Wilmette. The team won 16 medals in competitions including chemistry, physics, Math, English and Computer Science.

The team members also taking the USABO, the Science team, with Presidents Rebecca Renick and Andrew Sugaya, seniors, placed 2nd at Regionals March 3 at Benedictine University in west suburban Wilmette.

A.U.N. roller coaster

By R.J. Arun
Associate editor

Receiving individual awards February 1-4 at the Palmer House, 30 Model United Nations delegates represented France in the U.S. and C. conference. The conference doesn't give team awards. Individual award winners were as follows:

BEST DELEGATES: Liz Asbell, Julie Solomon-Sternace, Sydney Small, Lucille Bennett, Paule Rohf, Monique Solomon-Sternace, Ammi Alcoven, Averi Him, Erin Furth, Dorian Williams

HONORABLE MENTIONS: Alon Shergu, Drusilla Katuru, Musiri Velpp, Stephanie Tang, Alex Frompston, Julen Fodes, Charli Baras, Alexandra Frye, Christina Verkhoeschkina, Josh Brezlow

COMMENDATIONS: Katie Tomy, Jake Fawley, Sarah Poaters, Rachel Rosen, Alexie Frompston, Tulo Nair, Willa Sullivan, Wasser Shaper

After the U. C. conference, delegates from the national delegations representing the United States March 7-10 at the United Nations in New York. Results came after Midway deadline. Earlier, 29 delegates represented France January 25-26 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

U-High delegates there were surprised when two of them were accused of using rewritten resolutions, according to Senior Tyne Alexander.

"We were arguing points that had been brought up but when we started proposing resolutions and new ideas, the chair was really taken back," Tyne told the Midway. "We didn't even find out until the second day on our own that we had been accused of having rewritten resolutions which was not allowed. We immediately went to Mr. Bell (History Teacher Earl Bell, Model U.N. sponsor) and he told us not to worry about anything."

After discussing their resolutions with fellow delegates, the two accused delegates, Junior Eva Jager and Senior Bradley Spham said they were accused of academic dishonesty after they loosely based their rough draft on Kofi Annan's 2007 Secretary Report, Eva said.

"In the report Kofi Annan makes 14 points," Eva explained. "We included those ideas in our operational clauses after discussing them. When we turned in our rough draft to our chair, Jeremy Sembl, he mentioned to Brad that our resolution were very close to the report. Brad explained that we did banished that and that we had cited it in our preambulal clause. Our chair then defended us against the Secretary General."

The next day they called Mr. Bell and we had been accused of plagiarizing because our material was too advanced." Eva and Bradley said no punishment followed the accusation, but they felt it was inaccurate and unfair.

The Model U.N. president, several members and the adviser declined to give the Midway information on awards won at Penn.

State next for Math Team

By Rohini Tobacowala

Placing 1st of seven schools with 796 points in the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regionals, February 24 at North Central College in east suburban Naperville, the Math Team is preparing for the State competition Saturday, April 3.

The team also competed in the North Suburban Math League Thursday, February 14 at Walter Payne College Prep and ended up 4th of 4 schools.

After competing in Regionals at Chicago State University last year, the team was put into a more challenging Regional by the ICTM organization, said Math Team member Katherine Landeslerse, senior.

"For the past few years, we've been competing in Regionals at Chicago State University," Katherine explained. "However, this year we were supposed to compete in regionals at College Prep but they were put into a different division earlier on. This left us with no schools to compete against. So, the ICTM organization put us into a new Regional, which ended up beneficial for us because we got to compete against other students that had similar strengths as ours."

To prepare for State, U-Highers are solving algebra, geometry and precalculus problems on contests from previous years, according to Math Team sponsor Jane Cargie on the team.

"This year things are looking good for us because the team lost to last year's Walter Payne Prep and they went into a bigger school," Ms. Carriage said. "With enough practice problems, I think the kids should be able to receive first or second place because they all work great together."

Slam Jam

In honor of Black History Month, the Black Students' Association sponsored a slam poetry jam February 9. Sharing his work, Spoken Word Poet Heru, 1990 graduate who in high school was Ezheli Alella, performs African American historical and other facts in his work. After reciting their own poetry, Senior Cortin Brown and other U-Highers answered questions posed by Heru about the African American hip hop culture and other topics. In the film "Mada's Family Reunion" February 15. BSA is now planning an ISL dance tentatively for April 14.
Angry sophomore

by Eric Cochrane

Character Sketch

Here's the rap: Ike Edgerton is one talented and cool dude

By B.J. Aron
Profile columnist

I wear a funny hat and they call me funny names! But I don't complain!
Cuz it entertains my intelligent brain.
My intelligent brain, my intelligent brain.
Ike Edgerton rapped in his first line in December 2004.

The loud, eccentric and quirky sophomore, dressed in his hand-me-down Brooks Brothers trench coat, self-made fischer, signature hat and khaki slacks, enjoys rapping, making clothes and painting cityscapes.

Entering the Lab Schools his freshman year from the Chicago Waldorf Schools, Ike made himself known to U-Highers with the release of his single "Slightly Uncomfortable" at the end of 2005.

"It began one night in my best friend's basement," Ike explained.

"No, actually it was in his car. You know maybe it wasn't right. I just had a vision. In this vision, I had the urge to pursue rap music."

"It was also because my best friend is a good musician and I am a good painter. We were growing apart and didn't really have much to talk about so we decided to experience each other's talents. I started recording my music using GarageBand prenatal and I did not use the looping."

"My music was very much influenced by Bill Mitch, a comical rapper that claims to be from Russia and raps with an accent. Dizzy Rascal because he is awesome and was Driver because he is similarly awesome or even more awesome."

"I rap about different things such as political issues like Darfur. In one of my raps, I even pretended to be an Islamic militant."

"I'm pretty good, but I'm not that good. I definitely don't believe that I will ever have a career in rap ever, period, ever in capital letters."

"In a turtleneck fisch adorned with warm colors, green sleeves and outlines of people, Ike said he discovered his own unique style during an art class at his previous school."

"People think I'm incredibly strange," he said. "Yes, I'm weird but I'm not totally disturbing. I'm cool and I fear no, I don't fear. I have a revulsion for shopping, so once I made my own fisch in Handwerk."

"Handwork was a class at my old school that was two hours long. We learned how to sew and do other handwork. I decided that I did not have enough fisch, so I decided to make one."

"When I saw the fabric, I thought, I must have this fabric." A painter for Gallery 37, a city art program mentored by Maggie Daley that provides artists with an endless supply of resources, Ike created artwork that was sold to fund the program over the summer.

"Last summer I took part in Gallery 37," Ike said. "I was paid to make art that was sold for about seven times as much as I was paid that summer. I was paid $800 and I used some of it to buy a picture."}

"I started drawing and painting when I was two or three years old. I've continued that hobby until the present time and I even submit to Renaissance from time to time."

"Art is useful because you can give it to people for their birthdays and they think it means something and it doesn't cost me any money."

"Fascinated by urban areas, Ike finds it difficult to adapt and restrict his artistic style for his viewers."

"It's hard to please your audience sometimes because most people get bored if you don't draw people," he explained. "I tried drawing people on the subway but they sometimes notice and I don't exactly want to show them because sometimes it turns out good but other times it can be a disaster."

"I love drawing cities. It's a deep, deep love for cities, so I continue to paint them. It's unexplainable, but there is something about all of the people, how fast everything is and the dynamic energy."
Learners steering their own course

Independent study opens opportunities

By Kyle Brunke
Midway reporter

The High School computer lab encloses the steady stream of students trying as Senior Andrew Arkzin attends the second session of his independent project, Computer Science, sponsored by Computer Science Teacher Baker Franke. Choosing studies not offered in regular subjects, 28 students have applied for and have received independent study projects approved and evaluated by a teacher. The assigned project can be worked on in or outside of school.

Independent projects allow for more student control and responsibility, Andrew believes. “Having already taken A.P. Computer Science I felt well-suited for independent projects,” Andrew said. “I won’t be constrained by the normal rules that usually are in other classes. Game programming and working with graphics are just some of the things I’ll do. It’s more lenient with a lot less pressure to perform.”

With his final year at U-High coming to an end, Andrew hopes to leave with one last permanent memory of his educational experience.

“I want Computer Science to be memorable,” Andrew said. “I expect from now on, I’ll remember how I went out with something fun. Graphing abilities and computer literacy skills will be very helpful on the road ahead. Plus, I learned the difference between the on and off button.”

Sponsored by English Teacher Darlene McCampbell, Senior Marcell Babai meets with her once a week for his study in writing. “I elected for an independent project that centered on writing because I plan to major in creative writing for college,” Marcell explained. “This class will improve my grammar and structure abilities. I’ve learned how to apply writing mechanics to my papers with the help of ‘Writing Down the Bones: Freeing the Writer Within’ by Natalie Goldberg.”

Advised by Art Teacher Anne Cussonnet, Rebecca Rentnick’s independent study centers on the rendition of animal forms.

“Art has been a key point in my life,” Rebecca said. “I am working on wire sculpture animals. This will definitely improve my constructing skills.” She said she’ll be able to make all my own decisions. “It’s cool because I’m essentially my own teacher. This project makes me more responsible, without the supervision of teachers. It’s very independent; all the attention is focused on the one student and there are no noisy distractions.”

Other independent study participants by subject are as follows:

English: Katherine McIntyre, Delaney Nolte, Jennifer Harris, history: Jennifer Harris, Breddley Stroh, Eli Popko, Sierra Hebert, Anne Wildstrom, foreign language: Donald VanAubel, MaKayla Schmidt, Katherine Zhou, Anne Smyrski, Harrold Redfield, Mic Foden, math: Karthik Suresh, Reclown Spohn, Victoria Thomas, computer science: Andrew Sch., Daniel Wheaton, science: Jeremy Landon, Emma Lentz, Jacqueline Chouzuriy, photography: Turi Feldman, art: Luka Danil, Victoria Rogers, Maria Macklin, Katherine Lissakides, technical theater: Johannes Peter.

Honeymoon’s over, new principal’s still happy

By Namrata Patel
Editor-in-Chief

A desk stacked with student registration forms. A banner spread with teacher appreciation resumes. A corner table occupied often by faculty and students. A Blackberry-type cell phone, which contains his filled and hourly schedule, kept in his top pocket at all times. His first year at U-High has proved hectic yet amusing so far, says Principal Matt Horvat.

A good thing

“A couple of months ago, I ended my honeymoon period,” Mr. Horvat said with a huge grin. “You know, there are those couple of months where everyone leaves you alone to get situated. But I think that’s a good thing.

“Whenever you’re at a new place, you want to develop a level of trust with people and I’ve been trying to be very available. What’s great about the student body is that there are a variety of students and they pursue many things seriously.

“When I was in high school, I did athletics and school. Here, some students work on the Midway, play an instrument, volunteer at a shelter on the weekends and so on.

“All, also, the organizations here are very active. You know, there are not many that are just a few but really do things. I’m happy my son goes here.”

Working with students

After the discussion about this year’s Connections and Prom being scheduled on Fridays, Mr. Horvat said he asked to meet with Junior Class President Rob Strzickling, Junior Class Vice President David McAlpine and Dave of Students Larry McFarlane to ensure next year’s Prom did not take place on a Friday.

“You can’t tell me we can’t find something on a Saturday,” Mr. Horvat said. “I’m wondering why don’t you have Prom in the middle of the week. It’s Senior Prom; what are you doing during finals week anyways! I don’t know why.

that’s never been discussed.

“We’re going to do what we can to not have an event on Friday. The rule is that we can’t host annual events on Friday. I mean if there is no option but to have an event on Friday, say they’ve called four venues and none are available or Saturday, then there just are events that are going to have to happen on Friday.

“But we do need to make sure we don’t have any events that they’ve been discriminated against, things probably aren’t communicated as well to the students and we take complete blame for that.

“It’s very hard to communicate with students and we need to have a venue to do that. We only meet four times this year: Opening Day, Security Assembly, MLK and Artistfest. I wish we had an assembly period, just a monthly one for general community purposes.”

Exploring possibilities

Hearing a similar suggestion at a February 22 student organization meeting arranged by Queer Straight Alliance President Delaney Nichols, senior, Mr. Horvat said he now needs to find a place and talk to faculty about the possibility.

“I’m going to talk to the Faculty IV Steering Committee,” he continued. “I want to possibly have it on Monday morning just once a month. We lack communication.

“You can do it electronically but nothing beats face to face time. I am willing and happy to hear concerns and areas of improvement to the school.”

Currently reviewing current from an extensive survey dealing with possible changes to the daily schedule that the faculty discussed by department, the Scheduling Committee will also be surveying students, according to Mr. Horvat, a Scheduling Committee member.

“We really hope they answer honestly and seriously,” he continued. “We are looking for a vehicle to make sure students do and we are working on that. Any scheduling change, however, would not happen until September 2008.”

Interviewing Middle School principal candidates with a committee which includes Lab School Director David Magill, High School Special Assistant Catie Bell, two Middle School teachers and two Middle School parents, Mr. Horvat said that also having to hire English and math teachers unfortunately keeps him from more student contact.

“Hiring fairs are like speed dating. I have 32 days one week with 32 candidates,” he joked as he pointed to the bench.

“It’s a lot easier hiring here because Lab has a good reputation. Many people want to see, so I need to sift through many resumes.”

Thinking diversity

Not yet having read Diversity Consultant Prexy Nembuts’s Diversity Report, issued February 12, after Mr. Magill issued his executive summary February 9, Mr. Horvat said he would look at it as soon as he got the time but believed that he wouldn’t find much difference since the report was available for faculty to read.

“One thing that stuck with me because of the hiring is that we need to be aware of trying to find new faculty that reflect the student body that we have,” he continued.

“I talked to someone at the Chicago Public Schools that deals with hiring and they are dealing with the same thing.

“We need to start thinking not only as a high school institution but also as an N through 12 institution.”

Principal Matt Horvat being interviewed in his office by Midway Editor-in-Chief Namrata Patel.

“After spending a year with Ms. Housinger in A.P. Biology, I know I need to spend another year with her on an independent project.”

–Jacqueline Chaudry, senior
Parents’ response

(continued from page 2)

rather than a racial one, I believe that both are correct. In many instances, individuals and schools do not separate these out when it comes to families who may have less money than others. However, all aspects of diversity—racial, social, economic, religious, or ethnic—go together to make up a family. Often, when it comes to race, individuals may have a more difficult time dealing with it and facing these issues.

"Children don't leave LA because it's 'country clubbish'; it's the little things that make a difference. It's not that it's elitist, it's about fulfilling children's wishes. I don't really see the elitist part of it. Sometimes students have a problem getting along with each other. Students may make fun of Asians, African Americans, Jews or other minorities. Is that elitist? No. It's simply not understanding.

"I see the school not really looking at students that are here, African American or not, and not giving the students what they really want. The reason why it sticks out with children of color is because the school is mostly white."

Despite the concerns of some African American parents, Mr. Magill believes the school has been making steady progress to increase socioeconomic and racial diversity among faculty and students, as recommended by the Diversity Report.

"There is no question that our endowment, which generates scholarship money, needs to grow. However, over the past three years our endowment has grown 35 percent, so we have greatly expanded financial aid," he said.

"Obviously the Diversity Report is not something we can accomplish in one week. I think more than anything the report should prompt all of us to reflect upon our own behavior.

"Trying to get the school to reflect the percentage mix of Chicago or Hyde Park is pretty unrealistic, to tell you the truth. This is the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and our first job is to be a service for University children. I don't measure people by their financial worth and the concerns of people who don't have wealth versus those who do has always been around, in and outside the Lab Schools.

"Involvement of both groups is what is care about, and I think that we have to be careful because without parents of wealth making donations to the school, our school would not be able to do what it does."

Buzzing in

Having debuted successfully on the Thursday, February 8 telecast of the "Jeopardy!" teen tournament, Junior Frank Firke, left, continued to the second round Wednesday, February 14. Soon after correctly answering a Daily Double question about explorer Captain Cook, Frank lost on the Final Jeopardy question of the second game. "The Final Jeopardy question is the one where you have to write an answer. I made the mistake of not warranting enough on the answer and that caused me to lose." Frank said, he enjoyed the tournament and the practice tournaments which proceeded the tournament. Above Frank buzzes in to answer a question in a practice tournament before the taping of the first show in January. The second show was taped the next day. "You got used to thinking quickly and timing when to press the buzzer," Frank said. "We practiced the morning of the first day and after lunch so we would be fresh. It helped me be less nervous and I was like 'Oh wow,' you see the show on the on T.V. but this is what it's really like."
Where do U-Highers learn ethics?

Science classes, history classes and U-High clubs may be among the expected places where lessons in ethics can be found but U-Highers also develop their ethics through interactions with one another in the Senior Lounge. Conversations with math teachers, U-Highers interviewed say.

Among concerns of cheating and stealing at school, students and faculty at U-High have several concerns. Though most students’ ethics are influenced by their family’s values, they believe some U-High classes, clubs and sports teams aren’t overemphasized in the teaching of ethics.

When it comes to defining what ethics are, a shared idea of morality and responsibility among U-Highers believe. College Counselor Kathy Kovacs.

“Ethics are found in the wrestling, the struggle between what is right and what is wrong,” she explained. She listened to a couple of students yesterday who were discussing whether it was right for the main character in the novel to stay and let her live in slavery. You can find ethics in every subject matter. You can’t avoid ethical discussions.

When it comes to ethical discussions, Senior Ben Philpport believes history and science classes have helped him develop his personal ethics.

“One class that you certainly learn ethics from is Biomedical Ethics,” he said. “I learned the basics of ethics as it applies to biology like euthanasia and assisted suicide and whether those acts are right but also I found myself learning about ethics in my history classes.”

Early World History, you learn about the foundation of civilization and the concept of human rights and the beginning of ethics. When I continued to Modern World History, I gained insight into society’s current ethics. Now, I’m taking United States History and I find myself seeing where ethics are expressed in the history of our nation.”

Math and foreign language coursework do not have a clear connection to ethics Senior Andy Kern says, but teachers of those courses offer themselves as role models for ethics.

“I think that you can learn ethics not necessarily from math or foreign language courses but from the teachers,” he said. “Mr. Derbes in the way he treats other students and how he handles certain situations that arise make someone I want to emulate and if I emulate him I’ll be following some of his code of ethics. It is really comes down to your interactions with others. I learn and share ethics with my friends.

“When I’m hanging out in the Senior Lounge there may not be a discussion of ethics but when we discuss what is going on in our lives and what we feel is the right or wrong decision to make in our lives, we are talking about ethics.”

Before Sophomore Talia Nast heads to her science class she says she gets a chance to learn about ethics through a Peer Leading session.

“Many clubs offer a group that helps you gain an outside view of the world like Peer Leading helps to instill a sense of ethics,” Talia said. “In my advisory we watched a video about public education and it gave a sense of how unfair things can be. There were kids who had the worst facilities and were expected to learn and excel like the kids at our school.”

Club mailboxes sit outside Dean of Students Larry McFarlane’s office as he observes that U-High is a community that shares the basic values of education and awareness, which help shape the ethics of U-Highers.

“When you can educate people about yourself whether it be about religion or ethnic groups, I think you are helping people to build their ethics,” he said. “At Lab High the service is Service Corps which provides help to different students. Whether it be a variety of ways and there are clubs like BSA and JSA that choose to make people aware about their culture and religion.”

“If you think of ethics as an umbrella with the golden rule you could do unto others as you would do unto yourself, these clubs are indirectly teaching ethics.”

Ethics can be found in more than the classroom and school clubs but also in the school’s many sports teams.

“Cheating is something that happens all the time and is nothing new,” - Mr. Larry McFarlane, dean of student here.

“Cheating is something that happens all the time and is nothing new,” - Mr. Larry McFarlane, dean of student here.

“Cheating is something that happens all the time and is nothing new,” - Mr. Larry McFarlane, dean of student here.
Cheating: An eternal high school problem in search of a solution

by Amanda Pappas

Cheating in high school seems universal, newspaper articles, television shows, and movies attest to its presence. According to U-High's principal, Ms. Houser, who interviewed me by the Midway, much of the cheating goes undetected. With incidences of suspected cheating in A.P. Biology, Modern World History and African American History late last month, U-Highers said cheating happens more frequently than noticed by teachers.

The Student Handbook states that if anyone is caught cheating, “the teacher and/or the Principal will notify your parents,” with additional discipline such as suspension or a failing grade of the quarter. The African American and Modern World History teacher chose not to comment to the Midway.

According to Science Department Chairperson Sharon Houser, the A.P. Biology teacher who caught a group of students cheating on her genetics test in the Science Office, she did not notify their parents or the principal.

“Any policy with my students is that I trust them completely until they do something that would make me not trust them anymore,” Ms. Houser said. “I have a really flexible test taking schedule and I understand if a student is absent a day from school and can’t take the test. I believe my students are honest and they can make up the tests, even if I’m not available.”

“rarely have problems with cheating but it happens sometimes. When people were caught cheating on my test last month, they were in the Science Office conference room, which has a huge glass window in front of it.”

This type of cheating was very blatant and I saw it with my own eyes. When I first walked into the testing area for the test, it was through the window, I gave them a warning and told them to stop. After that warning they stopped talking and discussed the exam.

“A couple of days ago, the kids of Mr. McFarlane is the only one who knows what the handbook says and I don’t believe I should be held to it if I don’t believe it. My students cheated and I understand that. If it’s repetitive than I will bring it to higher authorities. If it’s a small incident, I handle it internally and feel satisfied.”

One of the boys Ms. Houser suspected of cheating said he didn’t feel he did anything wrong.

“I walked into the Science Office conference room where I was told to take my test.” he said. “When I walked into the room, I couldn’t help but notice two senior girls discussing another question on the test. I felt bad because they were putting a lot of effort into a completely wrong answer. Later in the day, a really told them what he was doing on the floor of the locker rooms with their iPods and other valuables. It’s a shame that others would steal, but students need to be more responsible because it leads to...

One example of theft in the school occurred earlier this year when Justice Alex Kleiman discovered that her wallet and money were missing from her backpack in the High School Lobby after having left it there during lunch.

“I left my bag with wallet and some other stuff near the front desk in the High School Lobby,” Alex said. “When I came back, my Burberry wallet was gone. It had $50 in it for a present I needed to buy after school. Ever since, I won’t leave my bag unattended. I just keep it locked in my locker or in a teacher’s classroom.”

Junior David McAlpine said he has witnessed several thefts of books in the library and from backpacks left unattended.

“I’ve watched people rummaging through other people’s backpacks, and I’ve heard that people have left their backpacks open so anyone can take something. They don’t realize that when they leave an independent bag, it’s an invitation for someone to take something.”

I’ve also seen people using books to study at the tables and putting the books into their backpacks before returning them or checking them out. They don’t even think to put them back. I don’t know if they ever have returned the book, but I’ve seen this happen repeatedly.”

By Robin Shapiro

Associate editor

amount of cash.

I didn’t go out looking for something to steal, but when people left their things out, it was hard not to think about it. The administration found out and I was suspended for a week. I had to pay them all back.

“The problem in the school is that people don’t lock their stuff in lockers and they leave their stuff out in the hallways for people to steal them. They should at least put their stuff in a locker and then use a lock if possible.”

Another sophomore boy said he has stolen clothes repeatedly this year directly from unlocked gym lockers.

“If I smell it first, then check the size,” he explained. “I’ll take it and sometimes just put it in my own locker. I’ll do it every few weeks. I have to make sure when I take stuff from other people’s lockers that they aren’t in my gym period, so they don’t see me rummaging through their lockers.

“It’s not like I have to have a bolt cutter and break open the lock; I just go for the lockers without locks. This system has never failed me. I leave my locker unlocked because I am lazy, and so I purposely don’t leave any valuables in there to be stolen from me.”

Doors in Kovelr and Sunny gymnasia are now locked at all times. Director of Security and Facilities
As the Midway sees it
Ideals, reality and the dream of diversity

There's a difference between creating ideals and actually achieving them. But that doesn't mean the effort can't be productive.

In the Lab Schools' latest diversity initiative, which began when Director David Magill came on board in 2003, Diversity Consultant Penny Nebbit conducted a two-phase study, which he completed last fall. He then compiled his findings in a report that came out February 12. Three days earlier, an executive summary with Mr. Magill's responses was distributed and then presented by Mr. Magill and Mr. Nebbit at a February 12 Parents' Association meeting.

Among suggestions in his report, Mr. Nebbit first proposed defining the word diversity in the Schools' mission statement and hiring a Dean of Diversity. He encouraged prompt diversity training for the community and stressed the need for more faculty members of color, particularly African American males.

He also commented on the importance of the faculty and administrators' roles in the initiative, stating that the entire administration must embrace a diversity vision and develop the skills necessary to construct a learning and working environment that radiates with that shared vision," he said, also noting that parents serve key roles too.

Some parents who attended the Parents' Association meeting said they were surprised to learn how representative the school is of the city's racial and ethnic makeup.

Addressing that concern in his report, Mr. Nebbit advised the Admissions Department to put immediate energy into attracting more Latino, Native American and African American students.

But the desire to mirror the diversity of Chicago seems unrealistic. The Labs Schools are part of the University of Chicago and consequently reflect the makeup of the University faculty, whose families it evolved to serve.

It's ironic that now, four years since the initiative began, the Lab Schools are advised to define the word that tides its diversity. An understanding of diversity as it applies to the Schools should come first, as Mr. Nebbit suggested, but definitions can only bring the Schools so far.

"That's not to say a greater level of diversity can't be reached here. Diversity unique to the Lab Schools can hopefully be achieved with Mr. Nebbit's suggestions alongside genuine community effort, starting with defining that diversity.

10-second editorials
Congratulations to all who organized Artestiad. Chadilah and Jewett Making workshops were great presentations while new workshops, including Super Smalls Brothers, made popular debuts. Hard to miss were new business sponsors, Jamba Juice, Jimmy John's, Aaranak, Edwards, and Dunkin' Donuts and the delicious Jamba Juice smoothies sold in the cafe. This year's Artestiad team bucked its usual build-ups and maybe the schools' facilities could have otherwise earned high grades on the midterms could have ended up with lower grades as a result of having to retake the test on a lower level.

U-High MIDWAY

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Jacqueline Chandler
Bryan Dietz
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Phil Jacobson
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Manuel Pacheco
Henry Ribeiro

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR Emma Lantos

When breaking the rules, way more gets broken

Peeking over a classroom's shoulder, saving formulas on a calculator or getting the answer from a friend who took the test. No matter how it's done, it's all cheating.

Late last month, some A.P. Biology students were suspected of cheating while taking a test in the Science Office conference room. Then, Modern World History and African American History students accused fellow students of cheating on midterms, resulting in all students in both courses retaking the tests.

Ironically, some students said stress from school justifies breaking the rules. They claim their heavy workloads give them a right to cheat.

One senior girl quoted in our story on cheating in the centerspread, who said she has never cheated, explained that stress is one justification students use for cheating. She said they think cheating helps them when they feel overwhelmed by heavy workloads and extracurricular activities but that it will only hurt them in the long run. She said she feels the cheats must recognize that cheating is not in their best interest and must change their behavior.

The idea that students should take responsibility for their own actions led the Midway to ask an administrator about the possibility of creating an honor code, a set of rules based on ideals, at the Lab Schools. She said it simply would not work here. For an honor code to work, he explained, a school needs to have a common thread, such as religion, that the Lab Schools just don't have.

And there's another point, one the Midway has made in the past. For an honor code to work, it has to come from the students. Such a code won't work if it's just a set of rules. Thought in a perfect world students who would not be punished alongside those who did, cheating resonates far beyond the high school level and might have otherwise earned high grades on the midterms could have ended up with lower grades as a result of having to retake the test on a lower level.

Regardless of the motivations for cheating, attending a school with high standards does not cause a person to cheat. Expectations for high grades don't force students to cheat; students make the decision to cheat. And in doing so, they not only break their teachers' trust, but also undermine their own "class" and their school's integrity.

Although cheating seems like an independent act, one player's decision to not play by the rules can get the whole team disqualified. Maybe it's time to consider the rest of the squad and skip the cheating.

Say What?
Compiled by Arts Lewis

If you had the choice between going away to visit colleges or going away on a simple vacation with your family for Spring Break, which would you choose and why?

TARA SUMMERS, senior: Since it is my senior year, this is the last year that I have to bond with my family before I break away and go off to college, so I would definitely choose to go away on a family vacation. I would also go because I haven't really heard back from colleges yet and I desperately need a break from the school environment.

LAUREN STEWART, junior: College is a big step in everyone's life, but since we work to hard at Lab, we all need a break. Therefore, in this situation, I would have to make a compromise. For example, I would visit the University of Miami in Florida or Stanford University in California. That way I would be on vacation, while still planning my college career.

RUI LOU, sophomore: I would, without a doubt, go on vacation if I were given a choice between going on a vacation and going on an educational journey to a college. My belief is that you shouldn't worry about college until you're at least in your junior year. Also, by then, I will probably have so many things to do that I won't have any free time to enjoy myself. Using up some free time now to have fun will help prepare me for what is going to be coming up in my junior and senior years.

ANDREW ZHENG, freshman: I would rather visit colleges during the Spring Breaks of my sophomore or junior year. Especially, since college is very far away from where I live. I would rather get away and explore different places. I would rather go on vacation and visit my family in Thailand and China.
They make the pizza, you take and bake it

SOMEBWHERE BETWEEN DiGiorgio’s frozen pizza and Domino’s delivery lies an untrapped market of debatable consumer value: Unbaked, unfrozen and mostly organic gourmet pizzas for delivery or carry out, where the baking is left to the customer.

Chicagio’s HomeMade Pizza Co., which gets its ingredients from local all-natural farms, filled this niche when its first store opened in 1997. Almost a decade later, the successful business has opened its 12th location in the Hyde Park Shopping Center on 55th Street, December 26.

Cherry and energetic employees tending to a long list of customers met me on my Tuesday afternoon visit to the Chicago. While my pizza basked in my own oven, I ate the seasonal salad I had bought, $3.95 (small) or $6.50 (large), which included organic honeycrisp apples, Danish bleu cheese and caramelized pecans in addition to mixed greens and raspberry vinaigrette on the side.

The earthy lettuce and surprisingly complementing pecans and bleu cheese gave off such a strong scent that each ingredient seemed to have been freshly picked from some hidden garden in the back of the store.

After 15 minutes of baking, I eagerly sliced my medium Quattro Stagioni Pizza, $14.25, a tomato sauce based pizza with prosciutto, arachittes, wild mushrooms and Kalamata olives.

These ingredients, to my surprise, came isolated on separate quadrants of the pizza, though it turns out you can request they be mixed.

My initial assertion to such strange ingredient distribution melted away with each slice, as the unique pizza was made for a more engaging pizza experience.

For dessert I tried a HomeMade Pizza Co. original, a Big Cookie, $4.95. It essentially a pizza sized piece of dough. Ten minutes in the oven turns the dough into a giant, wonderful gooey chocolate chip cookie.

Part of pizza’s greatness lies in its ability to provide quick and inexpensive mass nourishment. While HomeMade Pizza Co. offers by far Hyde Park’s best pizza and may even become an occasional dinner option, it falls on any level of practicality.

The 15 minutes of time and effort needed to bake each pizza after waiting for delivery becomes increasingly unreasonable and costly. When I want pizza, I want it cheap and quick.

However, judging by the crowd I saw and the chain’s continuing rapid expansion in Chicago, public opinion differs.

Since the restaurant attained celebrity fame when it was showcased on the Oprah Winfrey Show in November, it may be a while before we know if the fashionable pizzeria proves itself more than a fad.

HOMEMADE PIZZA CO.: 1546 East 55th, Hyde Park Shopping Center, (773) 493-2000. 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Sunday. Delivery, 4:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m. every day.

Barack, Hillary and where they’re headed

AND THEY’RE OFF!! With nine Presidential candidates and 10 months left before the Iowa caucuses, the Democratic primary is heating up. Even in these early stages, two candidates have already separated themselves from the pack: Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y) and none other than hometown hero and Law School’s parent Senator Barack Obama (D-III) have emerged as front runners.

The two junior senators have very different political careers and experiences. Obama, whose recent surge in popularity has been one of the deciding factors in his White House run, has served just two years in the Senate, previously serving in the Illinois Senate.

Clinton, on the other hand, has experience as the First Lady of Arkansas, eight years in the White House as First Lady and seven years as a high profile senator. So, simply by going by the scorecard, it would seem Senator Clinton has a clear advantage over the rookie.

But in the genius of Mr. David Axelrod, the Chicago-based political genius responsible for both Obama’s successful senatorial campaign and the numerous re-elections of Mayor Richard Daley, along with a solid group of financial backers and a top notch grassroots campaign, Obama looks as if he is ready to give Clinton a strong challenge.

Obama is already gazing on Clinton. Many nationwide polls have shown the leads by a small margin.

The one place where Obama will have to play extreme catch up is in the realm of finance. Michael Toner, chairman of the Federal Election Committee, in an interview with the Daily News January 14, said the 2008 election is shaping up as “the most expensive election in American history” and that any candidate wishing to be “taken seriously” would need to raise $100 million by the end of July.

At the end of 2006, Clinton reported a campaign war chest totaling $13,142,837, which dwarfs the small $75,000 that Obama has for his Presidential run.

The Iraq war will also serve as a pivotal campaign issue. The edge on this one goes to Obama, who has been a long time critic of the President and the war.

Clinton will continue to face backlash because she was among the group of Democrats who initially voted in favor of the Iraq resolution in 2002. This parity will win Obama massive amounts of support from far left liberals as well as conservatives who oppose the war.

Not to be outdone, Clinton has done an amazing job of taking support from the black community, partly due her husband’s popularity with blacks. That’s something Obama has surprisingly failed to do outside of Illinois.

No matter if they choose the black candidate or the woman candidate, Democrats across the country are going to have to band together for the sake of change and a better tomorrow. Yes, even the South.

Appreciation, respect and why it really matters

AS SPRING BREAK approaches, I recently reflected on my busy, sleepless and snowy winter quarter. I recalled walking home from school after those nights through heavy snowstorms and seeing the Lab School’s cleaning pathways. Upon entering the High School lobby, I noticed the staff cleaning floors so peacefully.

It was then that I really appreciated the staff who serve the students, parents and faculty. That’s why when I learned the janitors’ restrooms were vandalized I realized that we don’t appreciate the people who do the work.

All the High School restrooms were vandalized last summer. I remember the first day of Fall Quarter and how I happily noticed the refurbished restrooms.

Fast forwarding to mid-February, I went to the third-floor restroom before my 5th period English class only to discover it was locked.

I asked my friend the reason for the lock up and they told me it was because someone had vandalized the restroom by writing poetry on the stalls. Vandalism has happened in the past, but this restroom was only six months old.

The third-floor restroom was closed February 12 until painters came. The girls’ restrooms in the Middle School and Judd Hall were also closed for vandalism. I asked Dean O’Students Larry McFarlane why he felt about the vandalism.

“Anytime there’s vandalism it’s a lack of respect,” Ms. McFarlane said. “From what I saw, the writings in the bathrooms weren’t obscene things, they were just someone trying to be creative on the wrong palette.”

“We don’t know who was behind it yet, but I’m very disappointed when someone adversely affects the community.”

“It costs money for the school to repair what was done. The more money it costs the school to run, the higher tuition will cost. When we find out who’s doing it, we’ll do disciplinary action and probably a bill.”

Also in February, Mr. McFarlane closed the Senior Lounge for three days, something that he said happens every year. This time he closed it because of gambling, uncleanliness and public displays of affection.

Although I’m not a senior, I see the same problem every day in the cafeteria, where students leave trash everywhere. As a 16- to 18-year-old student, why do we expect the teachers and staff to clean up after us? They shouldn’t have to throw away the trash we leave on the table.

I hope when U-Highers come back for the Spring Quarter, we will make a better effort to respect all of the staff by helping preserve a spotless U-High.
They shoulda left poor Hannibal alone

If "HANNIBAL" and "Red Dragon" didn't do enough to ruin the Hannibal Lecter series, "Hannibal the Cannibal" has more than completed the job.

Director Peter Webber attempts to justify Hannibal Lecter's (Geoffrey Unell) horrific mind during the prequel to "Silence of the Lambs" 1991.

Hannibal's family has been murdered, including his parents during World War II, his parents killed during a shoot-out and his little sister killed and eaten. After the war, he travels across Europe to get to his uncle's house, only to find his uncle dead and his wife, Lady Narasaki (Gong Li), alone.

Through his stay with her, he learns to fight with Chinese swords, which gives him the skills to cut up and eat people who offended him, specifically his sister's murderers. Though well produced, the film falls short of its potential as both glamorous and disgusting. Though short, the well directed clash sequences show sophisticated but rather tedious. Unell manages his weapons with grace and his opponents fake their fear well enough, considering others are scarier than Unell. Unell seems to have completely forgotten how to act and simply said the lines with an "evil" mincing of the tongue. Hannibal gawner a picture of Hopkins crying as his Academy Award winning character the set the world on fire, Unell's hysterial failure is unconvincing. After a death, this film fails to give the audience the disgusted and restrained emotions generated by "Lamb" but Unell is never able to produce that essence of evil that got Hopkins his Oscar.

Not nearly so scary as "Lamb," I cannot possibly see how this movie could fall under the genre of horror. And with the awfully boring writing I cannot see this movie in the thriller genre either. Within the first two weeks in theaters, "Silence" grossed over $22 million and stood on the list top 10 list according to rottenTomatoes.com. Those numbers make me feel sorry for all the people that were as disappointed as I.

"Raising" should have explained Hannibal's fascination with eating humans, but after averting his sister he continues to his cannibalism. This continuation, however, is never explained.

I hope Hollywood learned that no one wants Hannibal-lite films except in the comedy genre.

Canadian folk-rock trio broadens its scope with rich third album


Their third studio album, "Home to You," instants Po'Girl's versatility as they calmly hop from Dylan-driven folk-rock to Norah Jones' whisper ballads to beat-box rapping, all supported by brilliantly penned lyrics. Composed entirely of women, Po'Girl features two vocalists and a violinist.

"Home to You" sports a range of emotions, yet this emotional expansion is tamed and tied together by a lyrical sense of continuity. Each song deals with a proverbial "home," a varying distance from that point and a yearning to return to this "home." For example, on "Drive All Night," that road-weary desire to return home to family and friends is delicately conveyed through mid-tempo blues guitar and violin.

At the end of the day, however, Allison Russell and Trish Klein's voices prove the driving force behind Po'Girl. Russell's airy voice contrasts beautifully with Klein's thicker pipes. These girls achieve an undeniably soulful groove that separates Po'Girl frommost in the industry.

Although much of "Home to You" is arranged splendidly, the album definitely claimes on it's title track. It features Russell and Klein at their best, draped over solemn, gorgeous guitar riff. Three-and-a-half-minutes into the song, Klein explodes with a vocal bridge that solidifies this about Po'Girl: they're the real deal.

The sigh-inducing, irresistible sway to this band proves quite alluring. Do your ears a favor and check this band out. Let Po'Girl make your stereo sound rich.

Hometown band edges toward recording fame

JUST WHEN music lovers thought that every talented Chicago-based emo pop-core group had been scooped up by record labels, Dr. Manhattan is still fighting to make their music for the masses.

Adorning the Marquee on Sunday, February 20 at the Metro, 3730 North Clark Street, Manhattan joined contemporaries The Felix Culpa and The Moment for an unsigned band's night. Dr. Manhattan formed only six months ago and released their first E.P. "For the Lonely Lest the Wiser" in January. As ascending worn stairs, I entered the packed wall with more than 500 people crowding the stage, engaged in moshing.

The commotion was all for The Moment's hard punk melodies with light rock songs. The band's front man J.P. Heckinger worked the center stage by getting in the audience's face, engaging congercious in a singalong dance as they hung on to every angry word. Neither the style nor the lyrics came off as original by any means but this sheer talent and the rhythm and guitar, the crowd get back to moshing wildly in the center of the room. Quickly frontman Matt Engers's dorky indie style with glasses and plain white Keds matched his vaguely nasal voice, adding a quirky but cohesive tone to tracks.

By the third song, the drummer was stripped down to his gray boxer briefs and the band had thrown bounty relics to the crowd. Slowing down a bit, the band played a set with a love theme by the bands personal friends who dance eccentrically in the corner, Manhattan with them they could not only rock the solo but capture the heart.

If Dr. Manhattan can match their studio performance to their live shows, this local band is sure to become a Chicago classic.

Second City still hitting the mark against poke
ing politics

WHY DO WE LIKE! The answer is simple: to cover up the truth. Behind the endless slaw of laws on Second City's new album, "It's Its 4th Smash Year!" this unfortunate reality shines throughout the show.

Performed over the past month's end, the production pokes fun at everything from the Iraq War, race and immigration restriction to Oprah Winfrey partying Bowlby traffic and Britney Spears baring her son around during a parenting workshop. Since in 1959 founding, Second City has combined improv, musical sketches and political comedy written by the cast.

The racial, ethnic and gender diversity of cast members--Joe Canale, Brian Gallavan, Ishama Enriquez, Molly Erdman, Brad Morris and Amber Ruffin--beautifully highlights the themes of coalition and separation between nations and families all vividly acted out on a bare set with just four chairs.

The uniting theme of "Wart" is the lies: the Bush administration tells the American people lies their parents tell their children and we tell ourselves.

Juxtaposing hilarious scenes with serious ones, the cast sings about building a wall between Mexico and America and advises illegal immigrants to try Canada. But a poignent skit portrays an old woman volunteering for the Iraqi war at an army recruitment office, pleading that she can run fast and knows the medical requirements. Quickly, the scene shifts, parodying Americans buying their dogs designer clothes.

Almost every scene is funny but sometimes I felt it should have prepared for "Wart" by reading People magazine. Understanding the humor involved the knowledge of popular culture as well as current politics, I would have performed political humor rather than the vulgarity intended for cheap laughs.

Thankfully, the next skit comes quickly. While the acting is first rate and the skin funny and thought-provoking, the French fries were a mushy, undercooked disappointment.

"Wow! Now Its Its 4th Smash Year!" plays at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 7 p.m. Sundays at Second City, 166 North Wells Street. Tickets range from $19 to $34 and can be purchased by calling Second City's box office at (312) 335-3992 or online at www.secondcity.com/?id=theatres/chicago/mainstage.
Revivals give new styles touch of class

The days of midrift, cleavage-and-leg-bearing are out. A new, sportier type of sexy is in. Jackets have been cropped, hems risen, platforms grown zappier. Yet, with abundant spectrum-crossing styles, an unknowing shopper could easily lose her way this season.

Luckily, achieving Spring style can be as easy as adding a splash of color, metallic flats and a white bag to your wardrobe. For the season's dress drapes head to Neiman Marcus on Michigan Avenue. From structured sleeve dresses to Twiggy-esque minis, explore the range of colors and prints that the store has to offer.

In a technicolor season of mod mini-dresses and '60s prints, a classic white blouse will provide a much-needed contrast for your wardrobe. Wear it under the season's cropped jacket with slacks or even a simple pair of tan khakis to complete an understated, elegant look. Embellish it with ruffles, high collars and Minty Antoinette-esque sleeves, or try it with a zipper-closed piece for balance.

From Hepburn-esque trousers to graphic tees, classic white and black pairings also offer a breath of fresh air from the season's multicolored and highly patterned mood. The white blouse is an investment worth the cost.

Though you can't go wrong with a dress this Spring, for the of the moment look, choose something short and bright. To satisfy the current crave for drones, explore both Diane von Furstenberg's bold color and Milly's flirty frocks at Neiman's. From red and blue combinations to splashes of hot pink and yellow, Diane von Furstenberg offers a balance somewhere between the season's extremes of thigh-grazing and ankle-sweeping hemlines.

For the print of the moment, choose roses and for the pattern of the season: Milly's romper that looks provide the perfect balance of femininity and youthful gritlessness. Pair them with metallic or gunmetal flats or slingback wedges and you're ready for any occasion.

For Spring's "it" bag, think white. Whether a clutch or tote, leather or patent, a structured white purse will provide the perfect complement for the season's plethora of colors and looks. For finishing touches, opt for silver nail polish, matte skin, dramatic lashes and hair ornaments. Crimped hair has made a temporary comeback, but colorful headbands and elegant buns are always a safe and smart choice.

From white shades to oversized belts, touches of chain mail and mesh and layered bangles, explore the freedom to add color and texture. However, proceed with caution: Never more than one article of clothing in the same print at once. The look is chic, not cluttered.

For the feet, Lucite wedges, exaggerated platforms and silver heels will add that extra oomph to your outfit.

Remember, even with Spring's wide array of styles, filling your wardrobe can be as simple as mixing the classics with the current. With a splash of color, bold '60s prints, flats and some fabulous accessories you are good to go.

When you're looking for an escape from the brights, opt for an all khaki look mixed with silver and gold or graphic black and white. Whatever you choose, log, short or long, neutrals or punchy prints, embrace whatever it is that you love about Spring.

Dream, reality of pro gaming don't match up

Reading THE center spread story on professional gamers last issue, I couldn't help but wonder: Playing for money is something that many gamers dream of, but can a professional gamer make a living and still have fun?

As a hard-core gamer who plays 10 hours a week, I think of becoming a professional often. In 8th grade, I believed being a pro gamer would be awesome, but as time went on, I found out many aspects of the job.

True, it isn't hard to become a pro gamer; no resume or interview is required. All you need is to sign up for a competition and you're in. It's even easier to find out about competitions trumpeting everything from local $1,000 tournaments to international $500,000 tournaments. These are sent to my spam folder everyday as part of my subscription to online gaming sites.

But to actually win such tournaments, you have to be the best and that requires lots of practice. Just as pro athletes spend most of their time practicing to improve running speed or agility, pro gamers have to dedicate their lives to improve reaction speed or accuracy for their headshots. Just like serious athletes, practice is an everyday obligation and skipping a day is not an option, which makes playing more like a chore or, dare I say, work. Isn't gaming meant to be fun, a way to get away from work and chores for a while?

Unlike sports, in which skill defines the best, pro gaming relies not only on skill but also on luck, meaning no one stays at the top too long. A gamer might have a lucky day, when he starts right away with a golden run and concedes everyone else or he might have an unlucky day, mistiming a jump and falling off the stage to his death.

Because of the nature of games, no one can just win every tournament. Bad days happen just as much as good days, there is no telling when his next pro-circuit run will be. No matter what a player sacrifices or how hard he works, there will always be someone who didn't even try.

Luck makes all these differences in a game and can make or break your chances of advancing in a tournament. Half a million dollars is lot of money to sit around playing video games. But what if, while practicing for that next tournament, I lose my love for gaming, annoyed by the long hours of practice and the unrewarding pay? What is the point of video games, if they're no longer fun and relaxing?
Music makers go on record

Working at the Electronic Music Studio in Belfield music tower, Junior Zak Smith crafts a beat with the keyboard. Zak, who runs a record label, D.O.P. Entertainment, is also an Electronic Music Studio student.

Composer-performers produce C.D.s too

By Jeffrey Binkus-Aykel
Associate editor

There’s really nothing I’ve found that equals how you feel after a few hours of work in a studio,” Junior Zak Smith said. “There’s just nothing like sharing a finished product.”

Zak is one of several recording artists at U-High. Although recording music has traditionally proven expensive because of studio costs or hard-to-access equipment, more young musicians can now record their own songs using digital audio workstations such as Apple GarageBand or Sony Acid Pro. While some U-Highers record at home, others record in professional studios or even have their own record labels.

Inspired by his eight-track tape recorder, a Christmas present, Zak recorded his first songs in 7th grade.

“I’d get-bus and then rap over that,” he said. “Later, I started messing around with Acid Pro. I would download instrumentals and rap over those.”

“As far as I can remember my mom always had me sit around and listen to the Blues. Little Richard’s ‘Tutti Frutti’ was my favorite song. I also used to walk around with those baby toy microphones.”

Last year, Zak recorded at the home studio of Ben Gershman, ’06 graduate, and with Ben’s group, the Wiggles Crew. He has gone on this year to create and fund his own record label.

“This year I started a record label, D.O.P.E., a.k.a. D.O.P. Entertainment,” he explained. “As a radio host for 89.3 WKCR, I met a lot of artists, so I was able to use my connections and start a label.

“I use my own money out of my pocket. The studio where I record gives a discount, but I pay for recording, disc duplication and my artists get a cut.”

Digs digital
Senior Will Diamond, who has composed several pieces since Middle School, writes music inspired by both classical and electronic styles.

“When I was little, my parents forced me to take piano lessons,” Will said. “However, I hated it. My parents decided they weren’t going to force me to take lessons. Later, in 4th grade, I attended a symphony concert where they played Bach and I came home and decided to do piano. Until this year I took piano lessons. I quit because I was getting to the point where I would need to spend a lot of time to become any better.”

Will, who wrote his first classical piece in 5th grade and a piano sonata in 8th grade, first composed classical-inspired techno during his High School years.

“I started around freshman year, during the Fall Quarter,” he said. “I saw some free programs online for making electronic music. I liked composing electronic music, so I kept doing it. I didn’t need to keep equipment, so there was no real commitment.”

Although he enjoys composing pieces for the piano, Will said he believes that digitally created music has its advantages.

“I think one great thing about electronic music is that you have a lot more control than with other kinds of music.”

—Will Diamond, senior

Going downtown
Other U-Highers prefer recording vocals. Senior Simon Bean has helped record a recent rock E.P., “From Far Away and Across the World,” for Bury Me At Makeout Creek, the band he sings with.

“I got involved in composing about one or two years ago,” he said. “I had been playing guitar as a hobby and I met up with the guys who would later be in the band. We just kinda started playing music together. That’s more or less how it started.”

Afternoon and his fellow bandmates, Drummer Cooper Link, Guitarist Doug Yamarie and Bassist Charlie Springer, writing music and performing is a major part of life which requires hours of effort.

“The band is a pretty big commitment,” Simon said. “We plan to average about two shows or three shows a week. There are days when I get up at 8, leave the house at 10 and don’t come home until 1 or 2 the next day.”

“Cooper writes lyrics most of the time as well as a drum beat. I write the vocal pattern to the words, because I’m the only one singing right now. Then, Charlie Springer will write a bass part. Doug Yamarie writes the guitar parts.”

Having also recorded at Ben Gershman’s home studio on the North Side and with another Chicago based band, Walrus, Bury Me At Makeout Creek recorded their E.P. last year at Sentinel Studios downtown. It was their first experience working in a professional studio.

“It cost us about a thousand dollars to record and two thousand to press and release the album,” Simon said. “We had to borrow a lot of money and we pooled a lot of money at shows. It took us six to eight weeks to record.”

“We have an album out now that includes more or less the current lineup playing. We sell it online and we have a small record deal promoting it. Mono Records is a label that is supporting us in exchange for putting their name on our albums. We also sell C.D.s at the shows that we play for around seven bucks.”

Summer lovin’...

Junior couple Sage Mahoney and Christian Steinhart enjoy a Wiener’s Circle classic order of char’ dogs and fries.

...all year long at

The Wiener’s Circle

2622 North Clark Street
(773) 477-7444
I liked the Bleeding Heart Bakery a lot. The people were cool and the food was surprisingly good. —Liwen Xu, junior

Sweet Treats

Bakeries around the city dish out cookies, cakes, quiche, more

By Julie Carlson
City Life editor

Illuminated by light shining through glass doors, rows of pastries shine on gold platters. Customers of all ages examine gifts or chat as they wait to order sugar cookies, tarts and mousse at popular Bittersweet Bakery in south Lake View.

Remaining crowded despite competition from new bakeries, classic stores including Bittersweet retain their popularity through their unique atmospheres and food.

These qualities, paired with eclectic locations and customers, popularized Chicago bakeries and made them famous across the country.

Sophomore Emily Searles and Freshman Michael-Ann Angone visited three of these renowned shops on a recent Sunday afternoon.

Located just west of Halsted near the Belmont Red, Purple and Brown lines L stop, Bittersweet, 1114 West Belmont Avenue, offers traditional favorites such as chocolate soufflé cakes and apple brioche tarts in chic surroundings.

The store itself looks like a doll house, with patrons enjoying gourmet lunches at delicate marble tables and colorful sweets displayed like jewelry inside a large glass case.

Opened in 1992, Bittersweet's cheery atmosphere and high quality food make it notable, according to owner Judy Contino, one of Chicago's premier pastry chefs.

"When you're walking in the door, the atmosphere is bright and inviting," Mrs. Contino explained. "And the pastries are consistently excellent, which is the hardest thing to do in business.

"Bittersweet was a pioneer on Belmont.

Surrounded by delectable organic sweets at the Bleeding Heart Bakery in Ukrainian Village, Michael-Ann Angone points out her favorite delicacies to Emily Searles.

"I really liked the Bleeding Heart," Emily said. "One of the girls working there was wearing a shirt that said, 'Never mind the preserves, here's the Bleeding Heart Bakery.' It's a play off of a Sex Pistols' album, which I thought was awesome.

"The food was really delicious, too. It tasted the same as something that is nonorganic or not vegan."

Also serving organic products since its opening in 1995, vegan bakery breadsmith of Lincoln Park store, 1710 North Wells Avenue, maintains popularity with its rotating menu of fresh bread.

Baked in the store, fragrances from the

HAPPY SPRING BREAK!

FROM,

The Ski Club

Photos by Liwen Xu

■ At Breadsmith (photos from top left) Michael-Ann Angone and Emily Searles browse the wide selection of organic offerings.
■ Relaxing inside the Bleeding Heart Bakery, Michael sips apple cider.
■ Before deciding to order raspberry tart and espresso ganache, Emily and Michael survey the many delicious choices inside Bittersweet.
■ Emily and Michael gaze into cases of cookies at the Bleeding Heart Bakery.
Sizing up U-High’s winter sports season

It’s not just talent and skill, it’s the hunt and the kill.

In professional sports, good recruiting and deep pockets don’t always determine the winner. Some baseball fans say the New York Yankees’ success can be attributed to their monstrous payroll. Yet the past six years have proven this theory untrue. Instead, underdog teams such as the Chicago White Sox, Florida Marlins and St. Louis Cardinals have come out on top. Against unprecedented odds, Maroon athletes maintained desire and a winning attitude this winter.

Ending its Independent School League season 5-7, the boys’ basketball team took 4th in Conference behind Parker. "The Maroons began an unkeep streak of injuries when Robert Pedro Hepplestein, cocaptain with fellow senior Phil Jacobson and Junior Dan Horwag, sprained his ankle in early January," explained sports editor Dana Alfassa. "A few games later, Guard Zeke Upham, sophomore, and then Dan fractured their ankles. Next, Forward Derek Chiampas, junior, and Guard Tim Parsons, sophomore, suffered concussions. Nevertheless, after rotating positions and altering their mentality, the Maroons made adjustments that will serve them well next year," said freshman varsity player Derek. "It was as if someone put a curse on our team," Derek said. "All the injuries put a huge strain on us, but we kept our heads in it."

We changed the flow of our game. We tried to use our height and speed against teams, hoping to get our bench an opportunity to gain experience. If anything, it prepared us for next year. Our season was one obstacle after the next, but now we know we can make the adjustments when we need to.

"One factor even before the injuries was the low numbers of our team. We had 10 guys, which is already small and out of that two were freshmen and two were sophomores. So our team was really young. Also, it’s becoming harder to compete on the same level as teams like Lake Forest Academy that are stepping up their game and recruiting players. So to suffer that many injuries to that many of our starters was devastating to our season. It was just bad luck, really bad luck."

While injuries inevitably make winning more difficult, they should not take away a team’s drive. Some of Michael Jordan’s biggest career games came when he had the flu. While it is unrealistic to compare fractured ankles to flu and high schoolers to Michael Jordan, the point is that in the end, it all comes down to desire. For a flabergasted Jordan to rack up an astonishing 38 points in Game 5 against Utah in the 1997 Finals, I have no doubt that he had the drive.

For the girls’ varsity basketball team, luck wasn’t a deciding factor. Instead, the Maroons pooled their talent to form a cohesive unit with a winning attitude.

"I think a large part of our success this year had to do with determination," said Junior Lucy O’Keefe, cocaptain with Sophomore Alexis Jenkins. "Since we had to combine the j.v. and varsity benches, more than half the team would play a game before the varsity games. Even though it was tiring, it also warmed us up and got us ready to go for the varsity games. We would always try and score a lot of points no matter what. Our coach would tell us regardless of what kind of game it was, we should always try and score as many points as we could."

Despite their commendable 18-10 overall record, the lady basketballers finished behind ISL rival Latin for the ninth consecutive year. But let’s not forget the team’s accomplishments throughout the season. Like the Bears showed last month, losing a championship should not undermine the season that came before.

"The biggest disappointment was losing the ISL to Latin," Juniors Emma Cowen said. "Latin won the ISL for nine years now and this year we were so close. It hurt even more because we only lost two ISL games this season and both were to Latin. It was always a case of not being able to stop one girl on their team. It was the kind of game in which lost weren’t really close; they were blowouts."

Placing 6th of 8 at Sectionals, February 9, boy swimmers could have benefited from more extensive practices, believes Senior Zack Sluska, cocaptain with Senior Alex Gomez.

"We were hoping to place at least in the top three at Sectionals but took sixth," Zack said. "St. Ignatius took first, they’re just a powerhouse team that is virtually impossible to defeat unless you have-Olympic swimmers on your team. Almost every swimmer on their team made State, whereas none of our swimmers did which was disappointing."

"Also, we had beaten Whitney Young earlier in the season at home so we weren’t expecting them to come out and beat us at Sectionals. Overall there were fewer teams, but they were faster. A lot of us set personal bests."

"For a little while earlier in the season we tried training outside of the pool. Weight training and cross-training would have been really helpful at Sectionals. It was just one of those things that sounded really good but we never got into it. Overall it was a pretty predictable season. We trained hard, but we probably could have done more. The amount you train is proportional to how you perform. Our season wasn’t miraculous."

Teams that plan to win cannot succumb to intimidation. Facing the Yankees in the MLB last October, the Tigers could easily have proven their crust correct and admitted defeat. Yet the Tigers chose not to and it led them to the World Series. This sports season I participated only as a spectator. Yet, through watching each team I have found myself reevaluating my definition of winning and losing. As the starting pitcher for my Middle School varsity softball team at the Annie Emst Day School, I never once walked off the field feeling like I hadn’t won something. That something may not have been a trophy or undeclared record, but for me, that wasn’t how I defined winning.

After watching the Maroons battle injuries and low numbers, I believe my definition carries over to U-High sports. Winning certainly requires skill on some level, but beyond this it requires dedication and heart. Michael Jordan once said, "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships." For this column, winning still belongs to those who want it the most.

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KEEPING SCORE

BOYS BASKETBALL


GIRLS BASKETBALL


Photo by Evan Druisen

Slashing past Latin defenders, Sophomore Alexis Jenkins drives to the basket January 30 at home. The Romans suffered a 38-66 defeat by the Romans.
Fencing inspires dedication
By Marrissa Miles-Coccaro

Many U-Highers think of fencing as two people holding swords, yelling "en garde." But there's much more to the story.

More than 10 U-Highers fence on their own time, competing in regional and national tournaments. They could tell you fencing pits two players against each other until one reaches the set amount of points or time expires, or that players score by hitting each other with long, sharp swords.

Since the ancient Egyptians and Romans, fencing duels have been used to uphold men's honor and entertain audiences. Today, fences wear jackets, knickers, gloves, knee-high socks, shoes and masks, which usually cost $250. The U-High Fencing Club was free but the team pays $20 for their coach, while borrowing their equipment from the school.

Starting fencing in 8th grade, Junior Shannon Kimbald said her body has changed after competing in more than 15 national competitions, including events in Miami and Houston.

"I've had a lot of bad guys," Shannon said.

"I have an absurdly strong right thigh and arm and strong left calf." Fencing is a lot of money; you have to pay for plane tickets, hotel, competitions fees and equipment. I'm fortunate to do it. In college I hope to run so I will probably stop fencing.

Though Senior Andrew Sugaya never competed in a fencing tournament, he joined the Fencing Club his freshman year. He said he did it because he likes to stab people.

"Since I started I have become more graceful," Andrew said.

"Fencing has helped me be more concentrated in homework and the violin. You have to hold the foil the same way you hold the violin bow, you can't drop it but you can't break it. I love to stab my friends. I hope to continue fencing because it's a great way to meet new people."

Senior Marcell Babai said he most enjoys fencing because of the social encounters.

"I started fencing in 7th grade," Marcell said.

"At the Chicago Athletic Association, or the CAA, my coach was three time world champion Bhakty Abdulkalerov. I made good friends at the club and so I started the fencing club freshman year. It cost around $110 to practice three times a week at the CAA but it was free at the school. The club was doing really well my freshman year but it faded away because of the extra time commitment."

Two years after Marcell created a Fencing Club in 2004, Senior Bruce Ratzin turned it into the Fencing Team, increasing the number of practices and hiring a coach.

"Making the club into a team gave it a higher profile and makes it more visible to students," Bruce said.

"It's great to see people have pride because they are on a school team. Fencing is unique because it's almost like chess in a physical form; it's mentally and physically challenging."

Spring teams size up strengths
By Matt Luchins
Midway reporter

Pitching their hopes on several young stars, the boys' baseball team is focusing on improving last year's 4-15 record.

With last year's other spring teams scoring winning seasons and returning most key athletes, coaches expect another successful year.

Early standout cited by Varsity Baseball Coach Kerren Walker include Sophomores Mike Casey, Joe Hurst and Tim Parsons.

"We're doing a lot of strength, conditioning and agility drills to improve our overall fitness and athleticism," Coach Walker said. "This is a tight-knit group that has a lot of energy and good focus."

Girls' soccer will try to better last year's Sectional Finals triumph, a first for this sport.

"We're not working on anything other than being more fit to keep away the injury bug that hit us last year," Varsity Soccer Coach Mike Moses said.

Though losing key players to graduation, boys' tennis can rely on Seniors Benne Rosner and Josh Rosner, both state tournament qualifiers last year.

"We have to rebuild our lineup because we lost people from last year's squad," Varsity Tennis Coach Gerald Hanch said. "We have to decide who our singles players and doubles partners are going to be."

And field is returning their only male state qualifier, Senior Iain Macdonald, and several members from the girls' Conference Championship team.

"We're taking our indoor meets as practice to refine our skills for the outdoor season, which begins in April," Track and Field Coach Bud James said.

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