

# U-High MIDWAY

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Photo by Emily Chiu

"Gong Xi Fa Cai" (Happy New Year) signs adorned the cafeteria February 18 for the Asian Students' Association Lunar New Year celebration. Ade Echizenya from Indonesian Performing Arts of Chicago, in a

Balinese costume, danced to the rhythmic "Panji Semirang." Chinese and Korean cuisine including fried rice, sushi, sweet and sour chicken, crab rangoon, egg rolls and fortune cookies filled plates.

## Diversity Report inspires dialogue but also skepticism

By Jeremy Lacocque  
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 Prexy Nesbitt, February 12. According to students and faculty, they repeatedly cited three recommendations in particular: forming a Diversity Committee, designing a Diversity Statement and hiring a Dean of Diversity.

Mr. Nesbitt 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 Prexy'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 good controversy. Of course everyone isn't going to agree with the process so far and what's ahead; I expected that."

A Diversity Committee, the 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.

"I'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)



After working for the past three summers with her father on cancer research, May Fu displayed her findings at Science Expo February 24.



Victoria Thomas and Cortni' Brown experiment with a siphon, a hose that uses gravity to pump water, after learning about it in physics class.



Photos by Raphi Cuenod

Lower Schoolers gather around Helen Vivas to learn about the Van de Graaff, a machine that causes static electricity.

## 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 (USABO) test, February 13. The exam was brought to U-High for the first time by Science Department Chairperson Sharon Housinger.

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. Housinger 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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"I'm happy to see that the school has gotten to the point where it's comfortable addressing these diversity issues."  
—Donavan Mitchem, senior



# Concern over Fridays finally nearing an end

## Detaches over diversity becoming connected

By David McAlpine  
Associate editor

If you're sick and tired of hearing about events on Fridays, rest easy as you won't hear nearly as much about them anymore.

During Connections March 2, one of next year's Connections cochairpersons was announced, along with next year's event date of Saturday, March 1. This came after both a seniors' ice skating party and a Freshman Lock-In, scheduled for Fridays, were cancelled by the Principal, until the skating party was rescheduled to its original date.

The advance planning of both chairpersons and dates for next year's Connections are two important steps in the right direction, according to Connections 2007 cochairperson Kate Collins, Lab Schools parent.

"I'm hopeful that Connections can do our part," Ms. Collins said. "We've already set a Saturday date for 2008 and we're very close to announcing our cochairs. The only way that we can move forward and show that we've healed things is to take action."

"Connections is the most important fundraiser in the school and it's nice to see it being treated as such. The structuring has been a big problem in the past and it needs to change because, as it changes, we raise more money and the overall event goes better."

Trying to keep all parents' interests in mind, Parents' Association President Bennie Currie, Lab Schools Parent and Chairperson of the Multicultural Committee believes that administrators are making efforts to listen to all suggestions.

"I think that all parties involved in the whole debate knew that this is a secular school," Mr. Currie explained. "Our mission as the Multicultural Committee is to support the interest of all the parents and that's what we did throughout this whole situation. We worked with the administration so that everyone's considerations and the concerns expressed to us would be known."

"I spoke to many parents and lots of them were fine with Connections on a Friday, but both the committee and myself knew that there was a portion of the community that was unhappy with it. We were committed to being sensitive to the entire parent body, so we made suggestions to the administration and it's clear that they've taken them into consideration."

One unaddressed area by the Parents' Association, however, was the scheduling of class

events. According to Principal Matt Horvat, his inadvertent misinterpretation of administrators' suggestions led to confusion.

"What I wanted to stress was that if someone wants to plan an event, they should plan it far in advance," he explained. "If there's enough time, all options can be considered as to the date."

"We want to consider everyone, so there are certain times during the week such as Friday nights and Sunday mornings that we want to avoid. I just want to prevent last minute events that end up falling on a day that don't take into account everyone simply because of poor planning."

Worried that Jews would be singled out as the reason for a ban on Friday night events, Senior Class President Rebecca Resnick thinks that, in the beginning, the administrators' solution was unreasonable.

"I feel that this whole Friday night thing has been blown entirely out of proportion," Rebecca said. "After we had planned our ice skating outing, Mr. McFarlane told us that there were to be no events occurring on a Friday and that we now had to clear all events and their dates with Mr. Horvat. When I went to go talk to him, he said that Friday night events were trying to be avoided, but as long as the event ended before 6 p.m., it was acceptable."

"I think the end result turned out to be more reasonable than everyone else expected; it did not end up like how Mr. McFarlane explained it to me, which is good. This whole thing was a quagmire of disaster and I feel a lot of people were insensitive."

"I know the school is secular and has no obligation to accommodate everyone, but I was still disappointed. I don't think the solution was to ban all activities and then get all this backlash because people would hold one group responsible for it. There were unforeseen consequences of this decision, but I'm glad it got fixed before it got out of hand."



Photo by Zack Slouka

Seniors Eric Ng and Charlie Fisher enjoy cups of hot chocolate as they take a rest from the ice at the senior class ice skating outing on the Midway, February 8.

## Diversity Report

(continued from front page)

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

Also, though 70 percent of Hyde Park is African American, only 14.8 percent of Lab Schools students are African American.

Mr. Nesbitt 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, but some students, including 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. Nesbitt'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 shutting out 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 last year with Mr. Nesbitt. 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 Faculty All-Schools Council member Shirley Holbrook, math teacher.

"After the reports were issued, there were some initial discussions; the All-Schools Council and Parents' Association met with Mr. Nesbitt," 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 schools' diversity effort should focus on race or economics.

Voicing concerns over the few African American teachers at the Lab Schools, Parents' Association President Bennie 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 go on, they will feel more comfortable interacting with people of color other than their families," 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 school, I saw 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 Walter Payton 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."

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

"When Natalie was going 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 college prep school and was going away from John Dewey's ideas. People felt the school was becoming elitist and country clubbish 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 that the school has become 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

(continues on page 9)



"This Service Day we're looking for the dedication of students and especially faculty for being able to come together on a Saturday of a three day weekend."  
-Namrata Patel, senior

# coming up 3

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

## Fest celebrates art, 'junk,' magic and more



Photos by Rachel Hanessian

### 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 preselected 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 e-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:

**March 1:** Science, History; **March 2:** Science, History; **March 5:** Math, Art, Computer Science; **March 6:** English, Foreign Language; **March 7:** English, Foreign Language; **March 8:** Music, Math, Art; **March 9:** Math, Art; **March 12:** English, Foreign Language, Computer Science; **March 13 (today):** Science, History.

### 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 will be phenomenal. 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' windows, 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 nine to 10 and we stayed with those groups 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  
Midway reporter

Seeking to increase both student and faculty participation, Service Corps 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 Corps 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 Gauntner, is as follows:

**10 a.m.:** Opening Assembly; **11 a.m.:** Buses leave to take students to serving sites; **3 p.m.:** Buses return to school, End of Day Celebration.

From sushi making to human chess, Artsfest February 23 offered more than 100 programs. In photos from left:

■ Working from a sketch on a white third-floor wall, Sarah Lloyd and other students left a U-High Lifers' symbol as the subject of this year's Artsfest workshop "Mural, Mural on the Wall," a now removed tree near Rockefeller Chapel and the Oriental Institute, which students played on when they were in nursery school and kindergarten.

■ Donated by students and parents, computer equipment was placed inside an arena of tables, then beaten up and broken apart in the "Smashing Junk" workshop. With a baseball bat, Maya Marcus-Sells breaks open a printer as Amalia Roth, Stephanie Stern and Emma Lantos witness the art of destruction.

■ Marcell Babai mystified the audience in the closing ceremony. Pulling cards out of thin air, changing water into grape juice and setting his hand on fire, U-High's resident magician left the audience in both disbelief and amazement.

### Seventeen make Merit Scholar Finals

Seventeen seniors have been named Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program and are now eligible to win scholarships. The finalists are as follows:

Peter Bush, Sally Cochrane, Lilla Dent, William

Diamond, Alex Gomez, Andrew Kern, Katharine Lauderdale, Mara MacMahon, Katherine McIntyre, Beanie Meadow, Hugh Montag, Angel Pu, Bruce Ratain, Rebecca Resnick, Karthik Sarma, Bradley Spahn and Andrew Sugaya.

## 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!

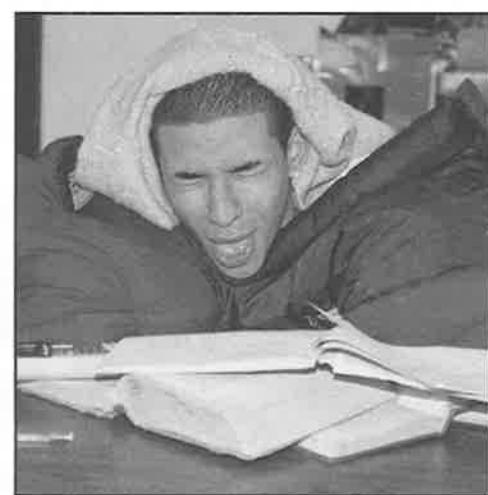


Photo by Sheena Anand

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# 4 current events

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

"Given the day and age I don't think anyone would be shocked if a minority is elected President."

—Aaron Weiss, junior



## 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 Senators 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 Congressional debate, Senator Obama introduced the War De-escalation 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 ideals 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 Iraqi 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 Earl 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 Branham 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. Branham 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 Lincolnesque way in Springfield, but Senator Clinton's links to her husband Bill are trickier, 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



Art by Eric Cochrane

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 free 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 uproar 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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"I think the meeting signifies the beginning of active communication between administrators and students."

—Sarah Fischel, senior

# what's up 5

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

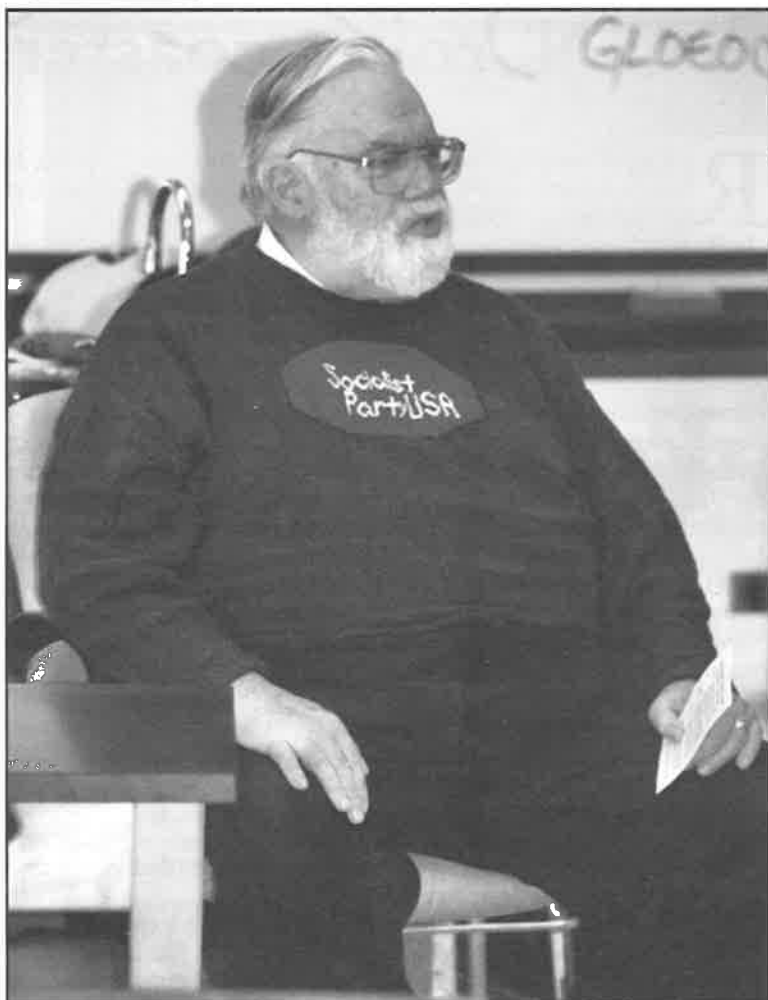


Photo by Raphi Cuenod

## The mighty Quinn

Invited to speak by the Young Socialist club during double lunch February 15, former U-High History Teacher Jay Quinn Brisben, civil rights activist, discussed his run for president as a member of the Socialist party and experiences teaching at Chicago's public high schools.

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

**D**ream. Dare. Do. According to Al Neuharth, founder of USA Today and the Freedom Forum, that's the defining quality of a "free spirit." It's therefore the major criteria used to select the Al Neuharth 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 the award as part of 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 Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler.

"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 wasn't sure if I wanted to go into journalism and about why I wasn't planning on going to journalism school as an undergrad.

"I may well end up studying journalism later on, but I just think it's more important to get a broader liberal arts education before deciding on any one field. After all, I'm just a kid and I don't feel like I'm ready to decide what to with my life."

Two years ago, former Midway Editor-in-Chief John Leggitino, currently a sophomore at the University of Southern California, became the first to win the award.

"The trip was by far one of the most incredible experiences of my life," John said. "I will never forget staying at the Watergate Hotel and hearing lectures from John King, the CNN White House correspondent, and Brian Lamb, the founder of C-SPAN.

"The best part was when we were invited onto the set of 'Meet the Press' and met Tim Russert. He spoke to us not like we were just a visiting school group but like we were fellow journalists. That will remain one of the defining experiences of my life."



Phil

## 2006 yearbook gets top national rating

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," judges 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 Rupani, 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 Tobaccowala, 2006 graduate now at Harvard University.

## 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. McFarlane after the incident at Homecoming and the letter in the Midway," 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 males dancing together who were part of a larger group of people he split up because he 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 Peer Leading.

"I was really impressed with how many people came," Delaney said. "We 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 Donovan Mitchem, senior, Student Council was too busy addressing Friday scheduling conflicts with a senior skating party, as well as the cancellation of the Freshman Lock-In, which has been replaced by a March 10 ski trip, to finish the project.

"Even after we got past the distractions,



Photo by Jeremy Handrup

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

we knew there wouldn't be enough time to have it published before class registration," Donovan said. "It has been updated and we are confident that next year's Student Council will have an easier time reupdating and releasing."

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

"Student Councils from previous years have been a pleasure to work with," Mr. Brasler said. "They were so self-reliant and professional. I am hopeful next year's Council can revive the curriculum booklet. It's an important service to the school. All next year's Council has to do is plan ahead, start on time, follow through and keep in touch with the printer."

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 it will probably be a U-High 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.

"If they would, we will most 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 24.

## Photographers to shoot in Sicily on summer trip

By Leyla Tartagil  
Midway reporter

Through the streets of Cefalu, a small costal 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 I, 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 Ned Reece.

Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts, who will chaperon the field study trip with Art Teacher Brian Wildeman, came up with the idea for the Sicily trip during a similar field study program in Oaxaca, Mexico last summer. Sicilian Ernesto Bazan, winner of the 1997 World Press Photo Competition award, will accompany Ms. Ricketts on the Sicily photography trip. Mr. Bazan, who was also went on the Oaxaca trip, holds photography workshops around the world. For Ms. Ricketts, the island's local culture

and natural beauty made it an ideal destination.

"There'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 villages 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. Bazan to capture local culture and tradition. Their photographs will receive professional critique from Mr. Bazan.



"I think that the novices are hard working and have great potential."

— Elizabeth Morant, sophomore



Photo by Sheena Anand

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

## With biggest tourney, debaters anticipate coming rebuilding year

By Harley Chang

Associate editor

After preparing for the season's largest tournament, both second-year j.v.ers and first-year novice 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 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.ers prepare for State, Debate Team President David Orlikoff, senior, believes they are ready for the competition.

"Both our novices and j.v. members have come a long way since the beginning of the year," David explained. "Our novices, especially, were too timid. However, I think that experience is the simple cure for that. Although our novices are much more experienced now than they were at the beginning of

the year, I won't say that timidity is not an issue anymore."

Improving their weaknesses, the U-Highers worked on technical aspects 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 a bit weak on confidence. The good news was that we went in prepared."

Debaters not mentioned include:

Jennifer Glick, Keira Kennedy, Loren Kole, Elli Liput, Claire Milsted, Alma Schrage, Daniel Simmons-Morengo.

Results are as follows:

**Glenbrook North**, Northbrook, November 18-20: Novices won two, lost four, j.v. team won three, lost three. **Kelly Invitational**, December 1-2: Varsity and novices won two, lost three. **Lane Tech Invitational**, January 19-20: Both novice teams won two, lost three, varsity team won three, lost two. **Evanston Invitational**, Evanston, February 9-10: Novice teams won two, lost three, and won one, lost four. **Maine East Regatta**, Park Ridge, February 23-25: Jennifer Glick and Claire Milsted won two, lost four and Loren Kole and Alma Schrage won three and lost three.

## Science team victories

(continued from front page)

semifinalists last year, who become qualified for Nationals, only scored 26 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 Jones took the test.

"I only prepared for it for about an hour by skimming my A.P. Biology textbook," Steven said. "The test was difficult because there was some material that we hadn't discussed in class and I also took Biology last year, so it wasn't fresh in my mind. Going into the test, I thought 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 Sectionals this Friday at North Central College in west suburban Naperville and the Science Olympiad team. Members from Science Team also took the USABO.

WYSE won 1st place at Regionals for the eighth year, February 8 at Kankakee Community College. The team competes in different written tests including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Math, English and Computer Science.

With many team members also taking the USABO, the Science team, with Presidents Rebecca Resnick

and Andrew Sugaya, seniors, placed 2nd at Regionals March 3 at Benedictine University in west suburban Lisle. The team won 16 medals in competitions including chemistry lab, circuit lab, genetics and ecology.

Varsity practiced for Regionals by competing in the Science Olympiad Invitational, where the team placed 1st, February 3 at Loyola Academy in north suburban Wilmette.

"We went to the Invitational knowing that it was practice but we were also ready to compete our hardest," said third year Science Olympiad participant David McAlpine, junior.

"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 either haven't done before or were completely new to the competition."

"I think we took the knowledge we gained about both the events and our competition to Regionals. I, along with the people who I worked on events with, worked after school and during lunch by going through texts books, taking notes and also taking practice tests."

Ms. Housinger recently received a Siemens Award, sponsored by the Siemens Foundation, which recognizes students in science and math courses who excel in A.P. programs and teachers who promote A.P. studying and examination.

## A U.N. roller coaster

By B.J. Arun

Associate editor

Receiving individual awards February 1-4 at the Palmer House, 30 Model United Nations delegates represented France in the U. of C. conference. The conference doesn't give team awards.

Individual award winners were as follows:

**BEST DELEGATES**—Liz Abello, Julia Solomon-Strauss, Sydney Small, Lucille Benoit, Phil Bohan, Hannah Solomon-Strauss, Amelia Acosta, Andy Harris, Don Traubert, Dorian Williams

**HONORABLE MENTIONS**—Alma Schrage, Danielle Kutasov, Muneeb Hai, Stephanie Tang, Kali Frampton, Alison Feder, Charlie Fisher, Alexandra Fryer, Christina Verdame, Jonah Breslau

**COMMENDATIONS**—Vicki Tsay, Alex Freyer, Sarah Posner, Rachel Rosenberg, Kali Frampton, Talia Nasr, Willy Sullivan, Warren Shepro.

After the U. of C. conference, delegates headed for Nationals 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 25-28 at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

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

"We were arguing points and ideas that had been brought up but when we started proposing resolutions and new ideas, the chair was really taken aback," Tyne told the Midway. "We didn't even find out until the second day but our chair accused us of having prewritten resolutions which are 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 affected delegates, Junior Eva Jaeger and Senior Bradley Spahn 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 operatory clauses after discussing them. When we turned in our rough draft to our chair, Jeremy Sembel, he mentioned to Brad that our resolution were very close to the report. Brad explained that it was done intentionally and that we had cited it in our preambulatory clause. Our chair then defended us against the Secretary General. The next day they called Mr. Bell and we had been accused of plagiarism 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 Tobaccowala

Associate editor

Placing 1st of seven schools with 796 points in the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics Regionals, February 24 at North Central College in west suburban Naperville, the Math Team is preparing for the State competition Saturday, April 28.

The team also competed in the North Suburban Math League Thursday, February 1 at Walter Payton College Prep and ended 3rd 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 Lauderdale, 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 play Jones 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 benefiting 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 Canright, math teacher.

"This year things are looking good for us because the team we lost to last year was Walter Payton and they were put into a bigger school division," Ms. Canright 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 Henry Ofori-Atta, employs African American historical and other facts in his work. After reciting their own poetry, Senior Cortni' Brown and other U-Highers answered questions posed by Heru about the African American History course and other topics. BSA members also viewed the film "Madea's Family Reunion" February 15. BSA is now planning an ISL dance tentatively for April 14.



Photo by Liwen Xu



"I like Ike's full name:  
Malcolm James Edgerton IV."  
-Krystal Martinez, junior

# Angry sophomore.....by Eric Cochrane



## Character Sketch

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

By B.J. Arun  
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," Sophomore Ike Edgerton rapped in his first line in December 2004.

The loud, enunciated and quirky sophomore, dressed in his hand-me-down Brooks Brothers trench coat, self made fleece, 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 Christopher's basement," Ike explained. "No, actually it was in his car. You know maybe it wasn't night. 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 presets and I did not use the looping."

"My music was very much influenced by Ill Mitch, a comedic rapper that claims to be from Russia and raps with an accent, Dizzy Rascal because he is awesome and Bus 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."

Clad in a turtleneck fleece 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 irrepressibly strange," he said. "Yes, I'm weird but I'm not totally disturbing. I'm corks and I fear, no, I don't fear. I have a revulsion for shopping, so once I made my own fleece in Handwork."

"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 fleeces, so I



Art by Lauline Gough

Ike Edgerton

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. A day is wasted without drawing a picture."

"I started drawing and painting when I was two or three years old. I've continued this 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.

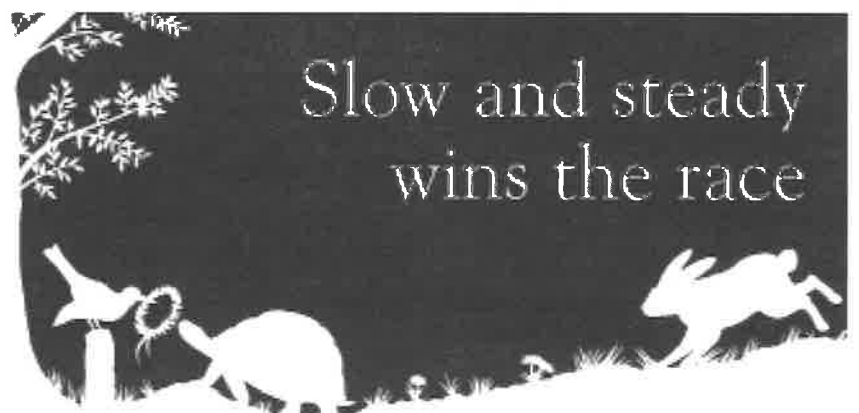
"I tried drawing people on the subway but they sometimes notice and I don't exactly want to show them because sometimes it turns out good but other times it can be a disaster."

"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."



Photo by Alya Forster

Chicago's architecture and exotic restaurants most impressed the three French students who left last Saturday after a four week stay as part of the Eliade Exchange Program. They were Lydie de Carvalho (upper left), Julie Bonneau (upper right) and Phuong-Anh Pham (center right) and lived with Juniors Katherine Smolarek (bottom left), Alya Forster (not pictured) and Yuwen Wu (bottom right), respectively.



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"After spending a year with Ms. Housinger in A.P. Biology, I knew I had to spend another year with her on an independent project."

—Jacqueline Chaudry, senior



# Learners steering their own course

## Independent study opens opportunities

By Kyle Brunke  
Midway reporter

The High School computer lab encloses the steady sounds of students typing as Senior Andrew Arkin 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 are participating in quarterlong 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 restrained 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. "Years from now, I'll remember how I went out with something fun. Graphing abilities and computer literacy skills will be very helpful later on in job descriptions. 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 Catterson, Rebecca Resnick'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."

"I'll be able to make 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 Nichols, Jennifer Harris; **history:** Jennifer Harris, Bradley Spahn, Eliot Popko, Zena Hardt, Anne Wildman; **foreign language:** Donald Traubert, Molly Schloss, Katherine Zhou, Anne Sawyier, Hannah Rothfield, Nick Feder; **math:** Karthik Sarma, Bradley Spahn, Victoria Thomas; **computer science:** Andrew Zich, Daniel Wheaton; **science:** Jeremy Lacocque, Emma Lantos, Jacqueline Chaudhry; **photography:** Zak Feldman; **art:** Lilla Dent, Victoria Rogers, Mara MacMahon, Katherine Lauderdale; **technical theater:** Johannes Peter.

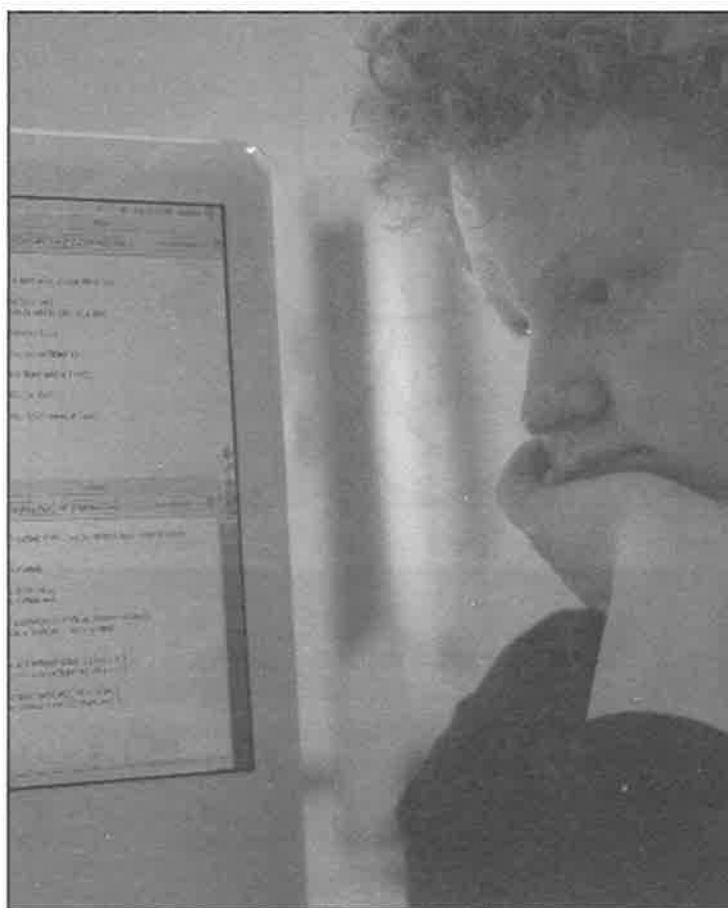


Photo by Ramzi Dreessen

Computer science courses inspired Senior Andrew Arkin to pursue independent study in program creation.

# Honeymoon's over, new principal's still happy

## Full plate feeds his enthusiasm

By Namrata Patel  
Editor-in-Chief

A desk stacked with student registration forms. A bench spread with teacher applicant resumes. A center table occupied often by faculty and students. A Blackberry-type cell phone, which contains his filled-up hourly schedule, kept in his top shirt 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."

"Also, all the organizations here are very active. You know, there are not many that are just a name 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 Strickling, Junior Class Vice President David McAlpine and Dean 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 on Saturday, then there are just events that are going to have to happen on Friday."

"But we do need to make sure we don't have anyone feel like they've been discriminated against. That probably wasn't communicated as well to the students and I 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 met four times this year: Opening Day, Security Assembly, MLK Assembly and Artsfest. 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 feedback 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 Schools 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 dates 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 me, so I need to sift through many resumes."

### Thinking diversity

Not yet having read Diversity Consultant Prexy Nesbitt'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."



Photo by Rachel Hanessian

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





"We are very proud of Frank, not only as a contestant on 'Jeopardy!' but as a person. His gruff voice brought a realness to the show."  
-Tom Brewer, junior

# here and there

9

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007



Photo courtesy of www.jeopardy.com

## 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 wagering 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."

## 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, et cetera, 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 those issues."

"Children don't leave Lab 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 concern 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 program has grown 75 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 I 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."

## 'Connections' draws elegant crowd

Elegant evening gowns, many of them sequined and favoring dark blues and blacks, for the ladies and dapper dark suits for the men dominated fashions at the Parents' Association's "Connections" benefit March 3 in the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier. The dinner-dance and auction will benefit the school's art and music programs.

Soul music, including vintage Motown, got the crowd dancing to the music of Lab Schools favorites Lynne Jordan and the Shivers. The dramatic, domed ballroom, a Chicago landmark, provided a dimly-lit setting for a buffet of salmon *en Croute*, Steamship Round of Beef, Portabello mushroom ravioli with Pesto cream, three salads including Shimp Caesar and for dessert tarts, mousse and creme brulee.

An estimated 660 people attended, raising an estimated \$414,000, according to Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations Sarai Hoffman. "This was the highest attendance we've had in the last couple of years, and as far as I know the most money ever raised. It was a really great community building event."

# Got a big appetite and a Small Budget?



Photo by Jeremy Handrup

Not to worry Tim!  
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# 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 and discussions with math teachers, U-Highers interviewed say.

Among concerns of cheating and stealing at school, students and faculty point out ethics still exist at the Lab Schools. Though most students' ethics are influenced by their family's views they believe some U-High classes, clubs and sports build upon their personal code of ethics.

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

"Ethics are found in the wrestling, the struggle between what is wrong and what is right," she explained. "I listened to a couple of students yesterday who were discussing whether it was right for the main character in 'Beloved' to slay her child or 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, Junior Ben Philipson 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 I also found myself learning about ethics in my history classes. In

Early World History, you learn about the foundation of civilization and the concepts of eye for an eye and the beginning of ethics. Then 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 were forgotten or remembered 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 him someone I want to emulate and if I emulate him I'll be following some of his code of ethics. It 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 Nasr heads to her science or math class she says she gets a chance to learn about ethics through a Peer Leading session.

"Any club or 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 me 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 there is Service Corps which provides help to people in 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 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

according to Junior Homer Shew.

"When I was into sports and I swam with the school team I remember Mr. DelCampo telling us to stay in the pool for good sportsmanship," Homer said.

"I would occasionally finish a little ahead of everyone else but it was the right thing to do, the morally right thing to do, and it helped to add on the ethics I had already developed for myself."

Ethics may be taught indirectly around U-High but Mrs. Kovacs feels the school could implement ethics workshops if the community expressed a need for them.

"I believe that the more you look at ethics the more you see that ethics is shaped by the community," she continued.

"We have an honor code here at Lab and it is basically not to take an unfair advantage but sometimes something gets in the way of ethics. Usually what gets in the way are self-service and gain. Ethics needs to be an ongoing conversation here at Lab without a clear cut end."

The school can build upon students' ethics but ethics begins at home believes Dr. Dona Perry Horn, mother of Sophomore Madeline Horn.

"When it comes to ethics I think students learn it at home like most things that students learn," Dr. Horn said. "The school environment is where students go to enhance what they have learned from home. Even when students go to school the ethics they develop is learned from one another as well."

"People tend to gravitate towards people who are like themselves and the ethics they share with one another are ethics from home. The Lab Schools certainly enhances the ethics students have from their homes but it isn't the foundation for students' personal ethics."

—By Jacqueline Chaudhry  
Editor-in-Chief

Art by Lilla Dent

## You get careless, thief gets lucky... still

"You get careless, thief gets lucky." That's what the headline of a front page story in the Midway claimed November 21, 1967. Forty years later, seemingly nothing has changed.

This year, after several thefts around the school including iPods from the Senior Lounge and calculators, and money from backpacks left out in the halls, administrators are encouraging U-Highers not to leave bags and valuables unattended in the High School lobby and gymnasiums.

It's not only thieves around school that distresses administrators. It's the carelessness that U-Highers have for their own belongings, Dean of Students Larry McFarlane believes.

"Students need to be more responsible about their valuables," Mr. McFarlane explained. "I see stuff left on the floor and it's really the students' responsibility. If they are too lazy to lock up their belongings, it's usually an open invitation for something to get stolen. That doesn't exonerate the thief, but I think the majority of things that are taken could be avoided if students were

more conscious of their things.

"I don't think anyone at Lab needs to take anyone else's stuff. There are definitely different ends of the socioeconomic status here but I don't think there's anyone at Lab that has so little that they need to steal. And I don't think it's just the students that don't have enough. I think it has to do a lot with morality."

Acknowledging that U-Highers have been stolen from continuously around the school, Mr. McFarlane feels the school has no other action to further prevent the theft around the school.

"I really don't know what more the High School can do about it except for more assemblies on morality and a couple cute messages in the Bulletin," he continued.

"I really think it has to come from the parents. This isn't a faith-based school, so there isn't really an honor code. What some people think is appropriate behavior, others don't. I think it comes a lot from the values and morals that are instilled at home."

"We don't really know what else to do to prevent it, but we do take everything as a case by case basis. If someone

is caught, they are clearly subject to disciplinary action. When something is stolen, the person should immediately report it to the U. of C. Police Department. We want everyone to feel as if they are in a community, but it is a problem that we have a still are dealing with. Do we have thieves at Lab? Yes. Why? I really couldn't tell you."

One sophomore boy said he has stolen repeatedly from the boys' lockerroom in Sunny Gym. He believes that he wouldn't be tempted to steal if U-Highers didn't leave their belongings out to be stolen. The Midway withheld some names to protect identities of the sources.

"The first time I stole, I was in the lockerroom and someone had left their pants out on the ground," he said. "Their stuff was just lying out on the floor to be stolen. If something is just lying out in front of me like that, sitting there in plain view, it's tempting to take it. I took the wallet out of the pants' pocket. People don't tend to keep large sums of money in their wallets at school, so I didn't steal a large







# Cheating: An eternal high school problem in search of a solution

Cheating in high school seems universal, newspaper articles, television and magazines indicate. According to U-Highers interviewed 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 Housinger, 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.

"My policy with my students is that I trust them completely until they do something that would make me not trust them anymore," Ms. Housinger 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 when I'm not available.

"I 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 saw my students discussing the test in the room through the window, I gave them a warning and told them to stop. After that warning they continued to discuss the test. It was clear that they had cheated.

"After the incident, I talked to all of them and told them what their consequences would be," Ms. Housinger continued. "I gave the students the opportunity to confess to cheating and all but one did. I didn't tell their parents because there were certain circumstances that made me not want to. There are reasons why I do not believe the school has a clear policy on anything and sometimes even administrators don't follow what the handbook says.

"I honestly think Mr. McFarlane is the only one who knows what the Handbook says and I don't necessarily believe I should be held to it if I don't believe it. My students cheated and I understand that. If it's repetitive thing and I can't handle it, I will bring in higher authorities. If it is a small incident, I handle it internally and feel satisfied."

One of the boys Ms. Housinger suspected of cheating said he doesn'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 the first question on the test.

"I felt bad because they were putting a lot of effort into a completely wrong answer I basically told them what was wrong about their reasoning to answer that specific question. During the rest of the period, the two girls continued discuss the test.

"While this was occurring, there were other people in the room who

chose not to participate, but about seven of the nine people who were there were at least contributing to the discussion."

Compared to his former school in Minnesota, Senior Alex Gomez said he is not accustomed to the immense amount of cheating he finds at U-High.

"For the most part cheating at my old school was really spur of the moment and as innocent as cheating gets," Alex said. "I didn't know that there was cheating until I heard about a history incident but I do know there were Lab students cheating on the October SAT.

"I know for a fact that some Lab School students cheated because I saw them bring a dictionary to the testing facility, put it into one of the bathrooms and during the breaks would go and check the vocabulary words that they were unsure of. After looking up words in the bathroom, the student then went back in sections of the test booklet, which had already been finished.

"During breaks I also heard students discussing math problems from the test, which is against the test taking policy. Besides the obvious moral shortcomings, it really shows how much the system of achievement has twisted the minds of kids and shows how competitive high school, especially Lab School students really are. They are bending the rules to make themselves do better. My previous high school had a very strict academic dishonesty policy, which discouraged kids to cheat."

Opposed to cheating, Senior Liz Parsons said she has never done it.

"I think cheating puts other kids at a disadvantage, especially in classes that have a curve because if kids who don't study are getting really good grades, it's hurting the other kids who study really hard and maybe don't do that well," Liz said. "I think in most cases, teachers are aware of instances of cheating especially if it happens repeatedly.

"A lot of times people just feel so overwhelmed by their work at school, sports and extracurricular activities, whatever it may be, I think they think that cheating will help them but I personally think that in the long run it's only hurting them. I think to a degree the changes have to be made by the people who are cheating and they have to recognize that it's going to be in their best interest not to do it."

According to Mr. McFarlane, cheating was an issue at U-High when he arrived in 1971.

"Cheating is something that happens all the time and is nothing new at Lab," Mr. McFarlane said. "I think that the kids here feel an unbelievable pressure to do well and will do anything to achieve that goal.

"I think that the people who recently cheated did so because they were either not prepared enough or they maybe felt the stress of the short Winter Quarter.

"There have been many cheating incidences and students have failed whole quarters, have been suspended or both. It's hard to punish those kids who cheat because a teacher could suspect it but it's especially hard to prove it.

"Students know who cheat and I think they need to monitor their own peers. Do people cheat at Lab? Yes. Some teachers do a good job of preventing the problem by giving different tests to students. I think the teachers know what's going on, but haven't come to grips with it."

—By Amanda Pappas  
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.

"I'll 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 take 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 Kovler and Sunny gymnasiums are now locked at all times. Director of Security and Facilities

Tony Wilson believes limited access to the gym has decreased the number of thefts.

"Prior to our new system, the doors would be open all day," Mr. Wilson said. "It wasn't just a problem with students but also strangers coming right in. We caught one stranger coming out of a lockerroom last year, who had taken some things and he was immediately arrested.

"It's important for students to lock their things up and don't let any of their valuables be exposed. Some kids just leave their bags laying on the floor of the lockerrooms with their iPods and other valuables. It's a shame that others would steal, but students need to be more responsible of their own belongings."

One example of theft in the school occurred earlier this year when Junior 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 in the library," David said. "And I know it isn't theirs. I don't say anything to them, but I don't think they know I'm watching them. I've also seen some U-Highers just leave their bags wide 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 some 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





## 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 here in 2003, Diversity Consultant Prexy Nesbitt 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. Nesbitt at a February 12 Parents' Association meeting.

Among suggestions in his report, Mr. Nesbitt 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.

"I think that, as is true with the faculty, 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 misrepresentative the school is of the city's racial and ethnic makeup.

Addressing that concern in his report, Mr. Nesbitt 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 Lab 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 titles it: diversity. An understanding of diversity as it applies to the Schools should come first, as Mr. Nesbitt 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. Nesbitt's suggestions alongside genuine community effort, starting with defining that diversity.

## 10-second editorials

■ Congratulations to all who organized Artsfest. Challah and Jewelry Making workshops made prominent comebacks while new workshops, including Super Smash Brothers, made popular debuts. Hard to miss were new business sponsors, Jamba Juice, Jimmy John's, Aramark, Edwardo's, Dunkin' Donuts and the delicious Jamba Juice smoothies sold in the caf. This year's Artsfest team flawlessly combined old favorites and new additions to take Artsfest above and beyond.

■ Trudging through the snow multiple days in mid-February, many U-Highers came to school despite heavy traffic and icy conditions. Some wondered why school remained in session as other schools called for snow days. But with many U-Highers living in Hyde Park, many parents with fulltime jobs and many University parents still attending work, the likelihood of a snow day seems doubtful.



Art by Eric Cochran

## When breaking the rules, way more gets broken

Peeking over a classmate's shoulder, saving formulas on a calculator or getting the answers 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 cheaters 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. He 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.

Though in a perfect world students who didn't cheat wouldn't be punished alongside those who did, cheating resonates far beyond the cheater. Some students who might have otherwise earned high grades on the midterm could have ended up with lower grades as a result of having to retake the test on a curved grade.

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 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.

## Mailbox

### Using words carefully

From Ms. Shirley Holbrook, math teacher:

I WAS DISTURBED to see in your last issue suggestions that anti-Semitism is a problem at our school. I disagree and I worry that such suggestions may mislead us.

I am among the most observant Jews at this school. I attend synagogue services two days a week, keep a kosher home and think and care seriously about my faith. I have been at this school almost 40 years and have not found anti-Semitism a problem here.

I certainly consider anti-Semitism around the world a terrible problem; and from fairly extensive reading, I believe that problem has grown more virulent in the last few years. It is precisely because I am so worried about anti-Semitism, that I think it important not to mislead people about its nature or distract them from confronting the real dangers. Calling anything that goes on in this school "anti-Semitic" thus seems to me not only unwarranted but destructive.

Further, I believe that there are indeed some problems here at school related to diversity, whether with respect to religion, race, sexual orientation or something else. I would hate to see us distracted from attending to those problems.

## U-High MIDWAY

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## Say What?

Compiled by Artis 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

**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 so 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 late 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 fairly far away, I would rather enjoy my Spring Break with friends. I would rather go on vacation and visit my family in Thailand and China.



Lauren



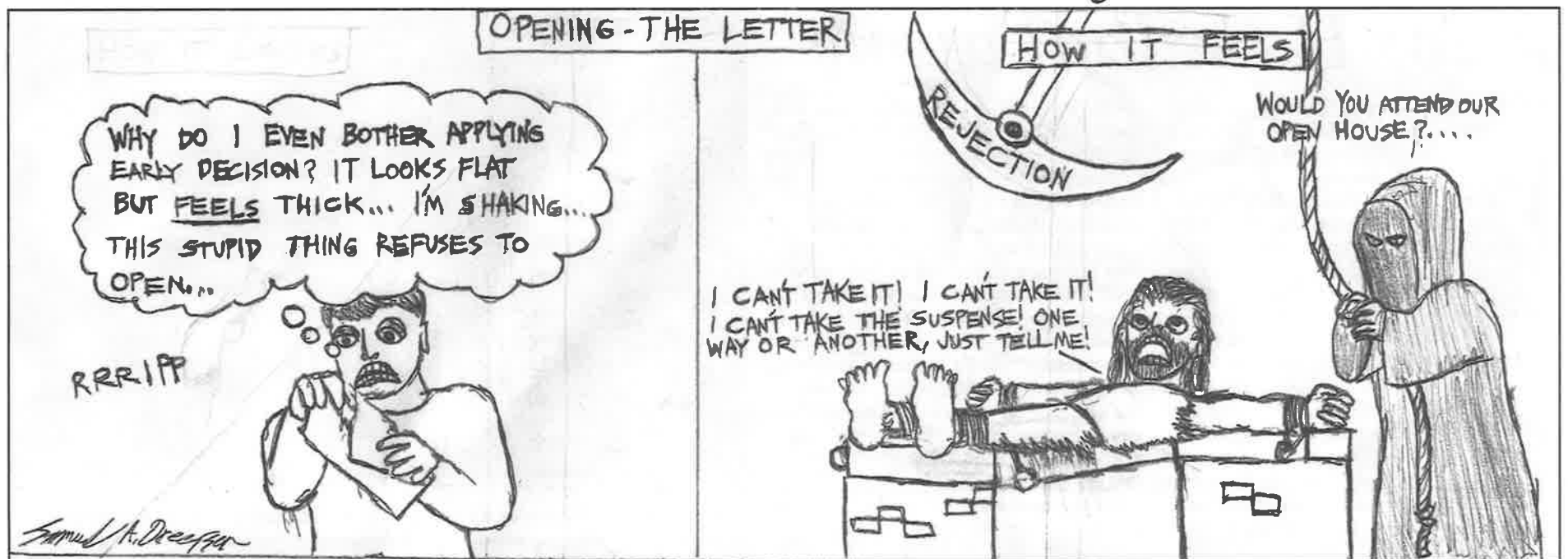
Rui



Andrew



## Intellectual Titans Part Three...by Sam Dreessen



### They make the pizza, you take and bake it

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN DiGiorno's frozen pizza and Domino's delivery lies an untapped market of debatable consumer value: Unbaked, unfrozen and mostly organic gourmet pizza for delivery or carry out, where the baking is left to the customer.

Chicago'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.

Cheery and energetic employees tending to a long line of customers met me on my Tuesday afternoon visit to the small but bright and airy store.

After deciding on my order, my meal was prepared (but not baked) while I waited; I then paid and took my meal home.

While my pizza baked 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,



Photo by Zack Slouka

Eliot Popko at the Hyde Park Shopping Center's new HomeMade Pizza co.

a tomato sauce based pizza with prosciutto, artichokes, 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 aversion to such strange ingredient distribution melted away with each slice, as the unique tastes made for a more engaging pizza experience.

For dessert I tried a HomeMade Pizza Co. original, a Big Cookie, \$4.95. It's essentially a pizza sized piece of dough. Ten minutes in the oven turns the dough into a giant, wonderfully 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 fails 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.-9 p.m., Monday-Friday; 1 p.m.-9 p.m., Saturday-Sunday. Delivery, 4:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m., every day.**

### 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 to school after those nights through heavy snowstorms and seeing the Lab Schools staff clearing pathways. Upon entering the High School lobby, I noticed the staff cleaning floors so people didn't slip.

It was then that I really appreciated the staff who serve the students, parents and faculty. That's why when I learned the girls' restrooms were vandalized I realized that we don't appreciate the people who clean up.



Opinion  
Mona  
Dasgupta

All the High School restrooms were redone 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 8th period English class only to discover it was locked. I asked my friends 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 9-19 until painters came. The girls' restrooms in the Middle School and Judd Hall were also closed for vandalism. I asked Dean of Students Larry McFarlane how he felt about the issue.

"Anytime there's vandalism it's a lack of respect," Mr. 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, they will face disciplinary action and probably a bill."

Also in mid-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, uncleanness 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 14- to 18-year-old students, 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 Spring Quarter, we will make a better effort to respect all of the staff by helping preserve a spotless U-High.

## 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 Lab Schools parent Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) have emerged as front runners.



Current  
Events  
Donavan  
Mitchem

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 State 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 going by the scorecard, it would seem Senator Clinton has a clear advantage over the rookie.

But add 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, and Obama looks as if he is ready to give Clinton a strong challenge.

Obama is already gaining on Clinton. Many nationwide polls have shown she 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 2007.

At the end of 2006, Clinton reported a campaign war chest totaling \$13,145,637, which dwarfs the small \$755,000 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 longtime 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 to 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 around the country are going to have to band together for the sake of change and a better tomorrow. Yes, even the South.

## They shoulda left poor Hannibal alone

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



**Film**  
**Marissa Miles**  
**Coccaro**

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

Hannibal's family has been murdered in World War II, his parents killed during a shootout 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 Murasaki (Gong Li), alone.

Throughout his stay with her, he learns to fight with Chinese swords, which gives him the skills to cut up and eat people who offend 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 fight sequences show sophistication. Ulliel manages his weapons with grace and his opponents fake their fear well enough, considering Furbies are scarier than Ulliel.

Ulliel seems to have completely forgotten how to act and simply said the lines with an "evil" smirk on his face. His awful portrayal of Hannibal gave me a picture of Hopkins crying as his Academy Award winning character gets eaten by Ulliel's hysterical failure at acting. After a death, this film fails to give the audience the disgusted and astonished emotions generated by "Lambs" but Ulliel is never able to produce that presence of evil that got Hopkins his Oscar.

Not nearly as scary as "Lambs," 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 theatres, "Rising" grossed over \$22 million and stayed on the top 10 list according to [rottentomatoes.com](http://rottentomatoes.com). Those numbers make



Photo courtesy of fangoria.com

In the prequel to "Silence of the Lambs," "Hannibal Rising," Gaspard Ulliel plays Hannibal Lecter when he is a young adult seeking revenge for his family.

me feel sorry for all the people that were as disappointed as I.

"Rising" should have explained Hannibal's fascination with eating humans, but after avenging his sister he continues his

cannibalism. This continuation, however, is never explained.

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

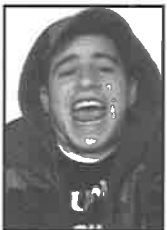
## Canadian folk-rock trio broadens its scope with rich third album

NORTH OF THE BORDER, in Vancouver, British Columbia, lies a hidden gem.

Amazing maple syrup? No. The folk-rock trio Po' Girl? Yes.

Their third studio album, "Home to You," flaunts Po' Girl's versatility as they calmly hop from Dylan-driven folk-rock to Norah Jonesy whispery 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 expanse 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.



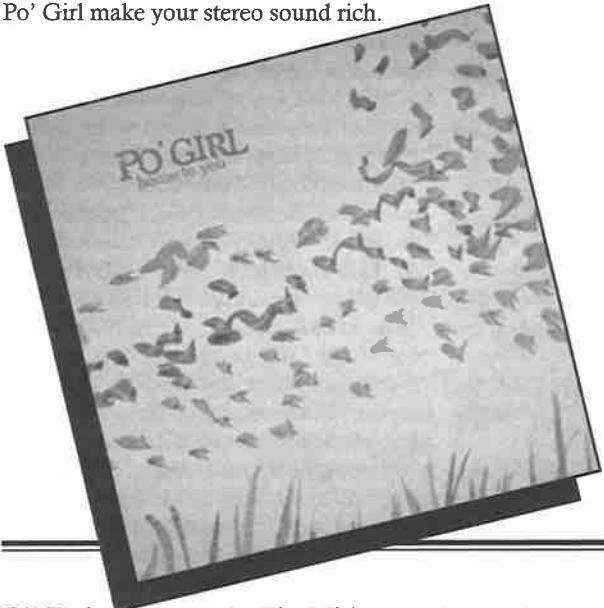
**Music**  
**Evan Dorfman**

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 from most in the industry.

Although much of "Home to You" is arranged splendidly, the album definitely climaxes on its title track. It features Russell and Klein at their best, draped over a 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.



**Write us!** The Midway welcomes letters to the editor. They can be placed in Mr. Brasler's mailbox in U-High 107. The only requirement is they be signed. Let your voice be heard.



Photo courtesy of myspace.com/drmanhattanboots

Dr. Manhattan played The Metro Sunday February 20. Members Matt Engers, Adam Engers, Andrew Morrison and Nick Vombrack appeared as part of a showcase for bands still without a record label.

## Hometown band edges toward recording fame

JUST WHEN music lovers thought that every talented Chicago-based emo pop-rock group had been scooped up by record labels, Dr. Manhattan is still fighting to play 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.

After ascending worn stairs, I entered the packed hall with more than 500 people crowding the stage, engaged in moshing.

The commotion was all for The Moment's hard punk melodies with fight song lyrics. The band's front man J.P. Heckinger worked the center stage by getting in the audience's face, engaging concertgoers in a singalong dance fest as they hung on to every angry word. Neither the style nor the lyrics came off as original by any means but this societal backlash punk reincarnation raised the temperature from 60 to 90 degrees.

But the intensity soon cooled with the set of The Felix Culpa and not in a relaxing way. Like a movie without a plot, song after song of pounding three chord progressions without any climax droned out of the amps.

Considering going home after Felix, I decided to tough it out and see if anything could redeem my faith in the local unsigned rock scene and Dr. Manhattan answered my prayers. The four members of Dr. Manhattan sprinted out onto the stage energetically, throwing American flags and loudly cheering. Immediately starting their set with "The Party Opinion," a fast-paced hard rock song with the right mix of melody and guitar, the crowd got back to moshing wildly in the center of the room. Quirky frontman Matt Engers' 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 boxerbriefs and the band had thrown bouncy balls to the entranced crowd. Slowing down the set with a love song for "Tracy," who was on stage along with many of the bands personal friends who danced eccentrically in the corner, Manhattan proved they could not only rock the soul 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 poking politics

WHY DO WE LIE? The answer is simple: to cover up the truth. Behind the endless slew of laughs in Second City's newest "War! Now In Its 4th Smash Year!" this unfortunate reality shines throughout the show.

Performed through the month's end, the production pokes fun at everything from the Iraqi war, race and immigration restriction to Oprah Winfrey parting freeway traffic and Britney Spears banging her son around during a parenting workshop.

Since its 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 Gallivan, Ithamar Enriquez, Molly Erdman, Brad Morris and Amber Ruffin—beautifully highlights the theme of confusion and separation between nations and families all vividly acted out on a bare set with just four chairs.

The unifying theme of "War!" is the lies: lies the Bush administration tells the American public, lies parents tell their children and lies we tell ourselves.

Juxtaposing hysterical scenes with serious ones, the cast sings about building a wall between Mexico and America and advises illegal immigrants to try Canada instead.

But a poignant skit portrays an old woman volunteering for the Iraqi war at an army recruitment office, pleading that she can run fast and knows the Medicare requirements. Quickly, the scene shifts, parodying Americans buying their dogs designer clothes.

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

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

"WAR! NOW IN ITS 4TH SMASH YEAR!" plays at 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays; 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays; and 7 p.m. Sundays at Second City, 1616 North Wells Street. Tickets range from \$19 to \$24 and can be purchased by calling Second City's box office at (312) 337-3992 or online at [www.secondcity.com/?id=theatres/chicago/mainstage](http://www.secondcity.com/?id=theatres/chicago/mainstage).



**Theatre**  
**Tom Stanley**  
**Becker**





Photos  
by  
Eva  
Jaeger

■ Donning Theory's take on "the little black dress" (\$290) in Neiman Marcus, 737 North Michigan Avenue, Alya Forster browses a plethora of patterned dresses.

## Revivals give new styles touch of class

**T**HE DAYS of midriff, cleavage- and leg-bearing are out. A new, smarter type of sexy is in. Jackets have been cropped, hems risen, platforms grown inches. 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 crave head to Neiman Marcus on Michigan Avenue. From structured sleeve dresses to Twiggy-esque minis, explore the range of prints and colors that the store has to offer.

**Fashion  
Dana  
Alfassa**

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 Marie Antoinette-esque sleeves, or try a simple, tailored piece for balance.

From Hepburn-esque trousers to graphic t-shirts, 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 well 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 dresses, 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, eyelet. Milly's romantic looks provide the perfect balance of femininity and youthful girliness. Pair them with metallic or gemmed 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 aim is chic, not clutter.

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

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 do choose, long or short, neutrals or punchy prints, embrace whatever it is that you love about Spring.



■ Ruiqi Tang (photos from top) in Milly (\$320) and Alya Forster in Diane von Furstenberg (\$425).

■ Alex Bullock in Milly (\$315) and Alya in Rebecca Taylor (\$425).

■ Ruiqi in Milly (\$285), Alya in Furstenberg (\$345) and Alex in Theory (\$195).

## Looking back to Little Rock 50 years later

**SCREAMING MOBS** of angry white supremacists pressed up against nine black students 50 years ago, as they made history entering the previously all white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dressed in their best, the students faced the crowds' taunts with stoic expressions, but inside they were terrified.

The students' epic journey that captivated a nation is the focus of Elizabeth Jacoway's "Turn Away Thy Son: Little Rock, the Crisis That Shocked the Nation," an account of the integration process in Little Rock and the events which led up to the historical day.

A white student at Central High School during the Little Rock crisis, Jacoway witnessed history when black students were introduced into her school,



**Books  
Anna Katia  
Zbikowski**

though she barely grasped the significance of it all. The niece of Little Rock's Superintendent of Schools during the crisis, Virgil Blossom, Jacoway didn't realize the importance of the desegregation process until studying for her history graduate degree at the University of North Carolina.

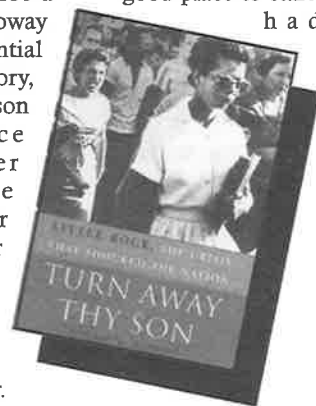
Since then Jacoway has spent 30 years researching the Little Rock crisis, interviewing everyone involved, including the governor, lawyers who fought the cases and the nine black students who integrated the school.

Leading the reader through the desegregation process through the experiences of Little Rock's most important characters, Jacoway explains the crisis from the Supreme Court ruling of *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, which overruled the legality of separate but equal in education, to Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus's election. Exposing the ugly underbelly of the crisis, Jacoway tells the reader about the migration of the white families to areas around the all-white suburban Hall High School, due to a tip-off from Blossom to his friends and family.

Though the history behind the story of Little Rock's integration greatly interested me, players in this story float in and out, confusing and annoying this reviewer. It's hard to keep track of the book's countless characters; many people are introduced at the beginning and not mentioned until several chapters later, by which time it's almost impossible to remember who they are.

For someone learning in depth about the Little Rock crisis for the first time, this book was not a good place to start.

Though Jacoway all the potential for a good story, her first person experience giving her an edge over other accounts, her confusing writing ruined the book for this reviewer.



## Dream, reality of pro gaming don't match up

READING THE centerspread 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 hardcore 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 nasty 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 ads 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 it, 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



**Games  
Harley  
Chang**

top for too long. A gamer might have a lucky day, when he starts right next to some powerful gun and wastes everyone 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 you'll start next to a rocket launcher or get shot in the head by an opponent who didn't even aim. Luck makes all the difference 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 unreliable pay? What is the point of video games, if they're no longer fun and relaxing?

**"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



## Music makers go on record



Photo by Sheena Anand

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 Bishku-Aykul  
 Associate editor

**T**here'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 beat-box 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 Wiggidies 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 WKKC, 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 very 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 music," he continued. "In a rock band you can mess with an amplifier, but you are still ultimately dealing with a guitar. With computer produced music, if you're good at it and you think of a sound you can probably create it."

### 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, and we just kinda started playing music together. That's more or less how it started."

For Simon and his fellow bandmates, Drummer Cooper Link, Guitarist Doug Yamate 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 play an average of about two or three shows a week. There are days when I get up at 8, leave the house at 10 and I don't come home until 1 or 2 the next day."

"Cooper writes lyrics most of time as well as a drum beat. I write the vocal patterns to the words, because I'm the only one singing right now. Then, Charlie Springer will write a bass part. Doug Yamate 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 Sentient 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 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 us. 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'...



Photo by Sydney Marcus

Junior couple Sage Mahoney and Christian Steinbarth 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



Photo by Eva Jaeger

Simon Bean



Photo by Yoolim Kim

Will Diamond





"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 mousses 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 bistro 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.

We've been here for 15 years and we've helped develop the area. I'm happy that we're here. When we first opened, my goals were to create the perfect hands-on job for myself and to make a learning environment for people who were interested in pastries. Also, I wanted to make good quality pastries available to everyone."

Often visiting Bittersweet with his mom, Senior Nick Feder adores its fresh, home-made treats.

"My favorite thing about Bittersweet is the chocolate chip cookies," Nick said. "They're not like normal cookies that you'd get out of a package; they're really crunchy and perfect. I also like it because they're so friendly. There's so much to look at when you go there, but nobody gets in your way. They just let you enjoy the amazingsness."

Hardly traditional, everything at the Bleeding Heart Bakery, 2018 West Chicago Avenue, exudes originality, from the neon walls to the employees' equally neon hair.

Opened by Michelle Garcia in 2005, Bleeding Heart sells classics including cake, croissants and biscotti with its own twist, using only organic and, in some cases, vegan ingredients. Although relatively new, the bakery has already earned prestigious honors and built a loyal customer base for its distinctive atmosphere.

Friendly servers with tattoos add to the store's individual punk rock vibe, according to Emily.



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 preservatives, 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, chain bakery Breadsmith's Lincoln Park store, 1710 North Wells Avenue, maintains popularity with its rotating menu of fresh bread.

Baked in the store, fragrances from the

preservative-free loafs waft onto the sidewalk and tempt shoppers from nearby chic clothing boutiques. Inside, the décor seems earthy, with specials written on wood paneled chalkboards and wicker baskets displaying novelty products such as dog treats.

Frequenting Breadsmith despite living in the South Loop, Michael-Ann's father Bob Angone believes the quality is worth the trip.

"There's such unbelievable variety at Breadsmith," Mr. Angone said. "The main attraction is that you can get any kind of bread and their products are so fresh. They serve everything."



■ 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.

Photos by Liwen Xu

■ Emily and Michael gaze into cases of cookies at the Bleeding Heart Bakery.

# HAPPY

# SPRING

# BREAK!



# FROM,

# The Ski Club



**"It was a season riddled with hardship, but we remained resilient through a time of absolute desolation."**

—Derek Chiampas, junior



## 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 only 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 unpromising odds, Maroon athletes maintained desire and a winning attitude this winter.



**Sports**  
**Dana**  
**Alfassa**

Ending its Independent School League season 5-7, the boys' basketball team took 4th in Conference behind Parker. The Maroons began an unlucky streak of injuries when Forward Peter Hepplewhite, cocaptain with fellow senior Phil Jacobson and Junior Dan Hornung, sprained his ankle in early January.

A few games later, Guard Zeke Upshaw, 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, believes two-year 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 out Tim as point guard and gave guys off the 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 flus and high schoolers to Michael Jordan, the point is that in the end, it all comes down to desire. For a flu stricken 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



Photo by Ramzi Dreessen

Carefully avoiding contact with an Elgin defender, Junior Dan Hornung soars to the basket February 17 in Upper Kovler. The Maroons went on to defeat the Hilltoppers 46-36.

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," Junior Emma Cowen said. "Latin's 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. One of them scored 26 points and we just couldn't stop her. Plus, when our shots weren't on, we lost. We're a guard-oriented team so our games were fast paced. Most of the games which we lost weren't real close; they were blowouts."

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

"We were hoping to place top three at Sectionals but took 6th," Zack said. "St. Ignatius took first and 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 it together. 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 critics 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 definitions of winning and losing. As the starting pitcher for my Middle School varsity softball team at the Anshe Emet Day School, I never once walked onto the field doubting my own ability or my team's. For that reason, I never walked off the field feeling like I hadn't won something. That something may not have been a trophy or undefeated 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 onto 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 win championships." For this columnist, winning still belongs to those who want it the most.

### KEEPING SCORE

#### BOYS' BASKETBALL

**Walter Lutheran**, February 10, away: Varsity lost 43-57; **Parker**, February 15, away: Varsity won 54-40, j.v. won 42-37; **Elgin Academy**, February 17, home: Varsity won 46-36, j.v. lost 52-53; **Nazareth Academy**, February 20, away: Varsity lost 41-60, j.v. lost 40-49; **Robeson (State Tournament)**, February 27, away: Varsity lost 41-61.

#### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

**Ridgewood**, February 7, away: Varsity won 71-42, j.v. won 52-19; **Northside College Prep.**, February 9, home: Varsity lost 38-48, j.v. won 37-10; **Harper (State Tournament)**, February 14, away: Varsity won 69-56; **Bogan (Regional Championship)**, February 16, away: Varsity lost 39-59.



Photo by Eva Jaeger

Slashing past Latin defenders, Sophomore Alexis Jenkins drives to the basket January 30 at home. The Maroons suffered a 38-66 defeat by the Romans.

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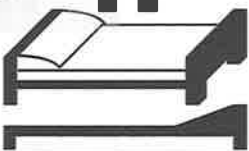
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**"Our biggest goal this year is to be crowned conference champs."**  
—Mike Casey, sophomore

## Fencing inspires dedication

By Marrison Miles-Coccaro  
Associate editor

Many U-Highers think of fencing as two people holding swords yelling "en guard." 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, fencers wear jackets, knickers, gloves, knee high socks, shoes and masks, which usually costs \$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 Kimball said her body has changed after competing in more than 13 national competitions, including events in Miami and Houston.

"I've had a lopsided body," 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, hotels, competition fees and equipment. I'm fortunate to do it. In college I hope to run so I will probably stop fencing."



Senior Rebecca Resnick

Photo by Steven Jones

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

"Since I started I have become more graceful," Andrew said. "Freshman year, I was a klutz and now I am more suave. When you are fencing everything is in slow motion and you start to know what is going to happen next, you are conscious of your surroundings; you feel alive."

"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 Bhakyt Abdukulov. I made good friends at the club and so I started the fencing club freshman year. It cost around \$100 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 Ratain turned it into the Fencing Team, increasing the number of practices and hiring a coach.

"Making the club into a team gives 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 standouts cited by Varsity Baseball Coach Keronn 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 Gerold Hanck said. "We have to decide who our singles players and doubles partners are going to be."

Track 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.

- Stephen Daiter Gallery
- Daiter Contemporary

Stephen Daiter Gallery offers fine and vintage examples of important American and European photography from the 20th century. Our areas of specialty are avant garde, experimental, documentary and photojournalism. They include the Chicago School of Design, the Bauhaus, the Photo League, and the André Kertész Estate.

Daiter Contemporary presents fresh and recent work by young as well as established mid-career artists. These artists reflect the ever changing ideas and looks of contemporary photography. Daiter Contemporary artists are evolving the rules of how photos are made as well as how they are looked at.

Stephen Daiter Gallery congratulates Art on his retrospective, "The Essential Art Shay: Selected Photographs," at the Chicago History Museum March 31–September 23, 2007. For more information visit [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org)



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# The Breaddock Saints



James Krull, Chrissy Delicata, Charlie Fisher

Photo by Raphi Cuenod

And shepherds  
we shall be  
for thee my hungry  
for thee.  
Power hath  
descended from  
thy Medici.  
Their feet may swiftly  
carry out thy food  
And the Medici shall  
flow forth  
hot chocolate to thee  
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