Gong Xi Fa Cai” (Happy New Year) signs adorned the cafeteria February 18 for the Asian Students’ Association Lunar New Year celebration. Ask 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.

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

Diversity Report inspires dialogue but also skepticism
By Jeremy Lacocque
Editor-in-Chief

S
ome 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 Prezy 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 Prezy’s report is just a matter of making an appointment with me. As for the executive summary, I’ve given copies of it to anyone in the community who has wanted it. They have also been welcomed to read the full report in my office and take notes.

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

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

"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)

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 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).
Concern over Fridays finally nearing an end

Detaches over diversity becoming connected

By David McAlpine

"I think that all parties involved in the whole debate knew that this is a serious school," Mr. Currie, Lab Schools Parent and Chairperson of the Multicultural Committee believes that administrators are making efforts to listen to all suggestions. "I feel that there were no events occurring on a Friday and that new, clear all bedtime after 6 p.m., acceptable. "I think 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 no events occurring on a Friday and that we now had to clear all events and their dates with Mr. Horvat. "If I'm happy to see that the school has gotten to the point where it's comfortable addressing these diversity issues." -Donavan Mitchem, senior

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

Focus on diversity 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 more people, the better," he added.

But, to continue then not much has happened. The Steering Committee met earlier this month and we discussed things we could do to improve diversity, but some students, including Student Council 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 serious school," Mr. Currie, Lab Schools Parent and Chairperson of the Multicultural Committee believes that administrators are making efforts to listen to all suggestions. "I feel that there were no events occurring on a Friday and that new, clear all bedtime after 6 p.m., acceptable. "I think 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 no events occurring on a Friday and that we now had to clear all events and their dates with Mr. Horvat. "If I'm happy to see that the school has gotten to the point where it's comfortable addressing these diversity issues." -Donavan Mitchem, senior

Focus on diversity 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 more people, the better," he added.

Though united on diversity, some parents are divided about efforts

By Nathan Bishop

Midway reporter

United over the need for more diversity in the student body and faculty, African American parents divide when it comes to whether the school's diversity effort should focus on race or economics. Voicing concerns over the few African American teachers at the Lab Schools, Parents' Association President 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 are away from their families, 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 our school as a reflection of that. But I'm glad it got fixed before it got out of hand."
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 final schedule. He consequently made responding to them a primary goal.

Last quarter's schedule required teachers to administer tests between three preserved 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 week's half and included music; the two week schedule started Thursday, March 1 and ends tomorrow.

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

"These last couple of weeks are stressful and the Curriculum Committee and I want to make it manageable." Sticking to his promise to enforce test dates, Mr. Horvat said he mailed schedules to department chairs, put them in faculty members' boxes and posted it in the daily bulletin and first-floor electronic bulletin.

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

"Students and faculty can come to me if they feel someone is not following the schedule and I will talk to them. I hope to make it standard after we work the kinks out of it." Tomorrow is left as a make up day. The finals schedule Mr. Horvat set was as follows:

March 1: Science, History
March 2: Science, History, English
March 6: English, Foreign Language
March 7: English, Foreign Language
March 8: English, Foreign Language
March 9: English, Foreign Language
March 12: English, Foreign Language
March 13: Science, History

"The activities we will do depend on what happened with the steering committee," Rob Smith decided to call up. "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 Corp has rescheduled the annual Service Day from a Friday to Global and National Youth Service Day Saturday, April 21.

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

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

"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.
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

A s 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 Decaloration 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 racsim will definitely be an issue.”

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

-Alex Zimmer, sophomore

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

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

Predicting that political experience will decide the campaign, History Teacher East Bill 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 Brabham 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. Brabham 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 distributive 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 right.”

But Obama also has to make people believe he has enough experience. For Clinton, the issue is that she must straddle a line about how closely she associates herself with Bill Clinton. She’ll have to show she is an independent voice and 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.”

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

East-West University has made it possible for me...
Midway editor wins $1,000 award, trip to conference

Dream, 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 criterion 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 six national cities.

Receiving a $1,000 scholarship, Phil will travel to Washington, D.C. to accept the award at a Sheilds and Sillars Luncheon at the November 10 event.

“I was very surprised when I found out that I won. I can’t quite believe it,” Phil said.

Phil was one of several Midway Newspaper members to win recognition at the Freedom Forum.

The mighty Quinn

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

Clubs join in dialogue

By Gretchen Eng

Midway reporter

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

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

“My executive board and I were working together to hold a meeting with Mr. McIntyre after the incident at Homecoming and the Jersey 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 administration, asking them to join us,” Delaney continued.

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

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

At the meeting representatives of the student organizations discussed the issues they thought were most important and ended with suggestions on how to reach a school-wide audience. They also enjoyed pizza courtesy of Mr. Horvat.

Organizations represented included QSA, Black Students’ Association, Asian Students’ Association, Jewish Students’ Association, Latinos Unidos, Service Corps, Young Socialists, Amnesty International, Feminist Club and 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 Donavan Mitchell, senior, Student Council was too busy addressing Friday scheduling conflicts with a senior skating party, as well as the cancellation of the Framingham Lock, which has been replaced by a March High School trip to finish the project.

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

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

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

Photographers to shoot in Sicily on summer trip

By Leyla Tartagli

Midway reporter

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

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

Described as a Summer Lab booklet, the program must be applied for by April 10, although registration for the year’s field study has already been completed, according to Director of Auxiliary Programs Ned Reedy.

Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts, who will chaperon the field study trip with Art Teacher Brian Wilderman, said one of the ideas 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 on the Oaxaca trip, holds photography workshops around the world.

“Mr. Ricketts, the island’s local culture and natural beauty made it an ideal destination,” Mr. Bazan said. “We’ll make our own entertainment. We will eat, and live, really, together as a group. We will go on day trips around the small fishing village along the coast and try to capture all the local culture.”

“We’re trying to get to visit medieval towns and the coast and try to capture all the local culture.”

Students will work daily with Mr. Bazan to capture local culture and tradition.

Their photographs will receive professional critique from Mr. Bazan.

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.

“Ask of now, I can say that it will probably be Purple 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.”

At the moment, 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 before Spring Break.

Student Council elections are scheduled for the week of April 23, with a Midway edition previewing the candidates appearing Tuesday, April 24.
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.

**Science team victories**

*continued from front page*

semifinalists last year, who became qualified for Nationals, only scored 25 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 didn't address 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 60 members, Science Team consists of two teams, the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE), which is preparing for Sections this Friday at North Central College in west suburban Naperville and the Science Olympiad team. Members from Science Team also took the USAO.

**A.U. roller coaster**

By R.J. Arun

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, Julie Solomon-Sherman, Sydney Small, Lorraine Menzel, Beth Behrens, Simon Roushan, Amanda Airoso, Acacia Hirsch, Morgan Tomlin, Dovon Williams

**HONORABLE MENTIONS**

- Abigail Schrage, Dara Collins, Xu Muhi, Stephanie Tang, Kali Frampton, Alison Feders, Charlie Stahler, Alexandra Frye, Christina Verdirame, Joseph Breslau

**COMMENTS**

- Harris Tan, Jake Ferray, Sarah Poobis, Rachel Rosenberg, Kali Frampton, Tuco Nass, Willy Sullivan, Waisen Shapiro

After the U. of C. conference, delegates representing the United States and other nations at the 2014 Geneva Conference. U-High delegates there were surprised when two of them were accused of using preserved 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 that our chair accused us of having preserved resolutions which were not allowed. We immediately went to Mr. Bell (History Teacher Earl Bell, Model U.N. sponsor) and he told us not to worry about anything."

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

"In the report Kofi Annan makes 14 points," Eva explained. "We included these in our ideas in our operational changes after discussing them.

When we turned in our rough draft to our chair, Jeremy Sembell, he mentioned to Brad that our resolution were very close to the report. Brad explained that it was draft done intentionally and that we had cited it in our preambular clause. Our chair then defended us against the Secretary General. The next day they called Mr. Bell and we had been accused of plagiarizing because our material was too advanced."

Eva and Bradley said no punishment followed the accusation, but they felt it was inaccurate and unfair.

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

**State next for Math Team**

By Rohini Tobacowala

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

The team also competed in the North Suburban Math League Thursday, February 8 at Walter Payne College Prep and ended 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 Landeacker, senior.

"For the past few years, we've been competing in Regionals at Chicago State University," Katherine explained. "This year, however our team was supposed to compete at 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 Payne Prep and they went to a bigger school also. We feel we have the strongest team we have ever had."

Slam Jam

In honor of Black History Month, the Black Students' Association sponsored a slam poetry jam February 9. Sharing his work, Spoken Word Poetry Hour, 1990 graduate who in high school was Michael Ogiri-Atta, enjoys African historical and other facts in his work. After reciting their own poetry, Senior Cortin Brown and other U-Highers answered questions posed by Heru about the African American History course and other topics. In addition, they also took a group photo.

"I think the novices are hard working and have great potential," – Elizabeth Morant, sophomore

Chair: 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 USAO, the Science team, with Presidents Rebecca Rensiek 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 Regions 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, 1, 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, which recognizes students in science and math courses who excel in P. A. programs and teachers who promote A. P. studying and examination.

"I think that the novices are hard working and have great potential." – Elizabeth Morant, sophomore

PHOTO BY LIWEN XU
Angry sophomore

by Eric Cochrane

Ike Edgerton is one talented and cool dude

By B.J. Aran
Profile columnist


Sophomore Ike Edgerton rapped in his first line in December 2004. The loud, eccentric, and quirky sophomore, dressed in his hand-made, 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 right. I just had a vision. In this vision, I had the urge to pursue rap music.”

“I 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 N.W.A., a comedy rapper that claims to be from Russian and raps with an accent. Dizzy Rascal because he is awesome and Bus Driver because he is similar. Awesome or even more awesome.”

“I rap about different things such as political issues like Darfur. In one of my raps, I pretend to be an Islamic militant. “I’m pretty good, but I’m not that good. I definitely don’t believe that I 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 impressively strange,” he said. “Yes, I’m weird but I’m not totally disturbing. I’m cool and I fear no, I don’t. I have a.revelation 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 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 mentioned 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.”

Character Sketch

Here’s the rap: Ike Edgerton

Ike is a senior at U-High who raps. His real name is Malcolm James Edgerton IV. He is one talented and cool dude.

Ike is an absolute rebel who has a passion for art and music. He is known for his eccentric style and his ability to create unique and powerful pieces of art.

Ike is also known for his rapping skills. He has released several singles, including "Slightly Uncomfortable," which has gained him a following among his peers.

Ike is a member of the Chicago Waldorf Schools and graduated from there. He is currently a senior at U-High.

Ike is a talented artist and a skilled rapper. He has a deep love for cities and enjoys painting cityscapes. He is also known for his unique style and his ability to adapt and restrict his artistic style for his viewers.

Ike is a talented and cool dude who has a passion for art and music. He is known for his eccentric style and his ability to create unique and powerful pieces of art.
Learners steering their own course

By Kyle Brunke
Midway reporter

The High School computer lab encloses the steady stream of students trying to 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 long have their 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 AP Computer Science I felt well-suited for independent projects," Andrew said. "I wouldn’t be constrained by the normal rules that usually are in other classes. Game programming and working with graphics are just some of the things I’ll do. It’s more lenient with a lot less pressure to perform."

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

"I want Computer Science to be memorable," Andrew said. "And, it’s funny to look back, I’ve always been a math person. I went out with something fun. Graphing abilities and computer literacy skills will be very helpful on later in job descriptions. Plus, I learned the difference between the on and off button."

Honeymoon’s over, new principal’s still happy

By Namrata Patel
Editor-in-Chief

A desk stacked with student registration forms. A bench spread with teacher suggestions. 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 was asked to meet with Junior Class President Rob Snickel, 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 vendors and none are available or Saturday, then there are just events that are going to have to happen on Friday.

"But we don’t want to do that, we don’t want to do that. We really don’t want to do that. But it’s very hard to communicate with students and we need to have a venue to do that. We only meet four times this year: Opening Day, Security Assembly, MLK Assembly and Artfest. 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 School Director David Magill, High School Special Assistant Carrie 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 candidates," he joked as he pointed to the bench.

"It’s a lot easier hiring here because Lab has a middle school. I wish we had an assembly period, only met four times this year: Opening Day, Security Assembly, MLK Assembly and Artfest. I wish we had an assembly period, just a monthly one for general community purposes.

"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."

"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."

Photo by Rachel Hanessian

Computer science courses inspired Senior Andrew Arkin to pursue independent study in program creation.
Buzzing in
Having debuted successfully on the Thursday, February 8 telecast of the "Jeopardy!" ten 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.'

Connections' draws elegant crowd
Elegant evening grows, 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.

Photo courtesy of www.jeopardy.com

Parents' response
(continued from page 2)
rather than a racial one, I believe that both are correct. In many instances, individuals and schools do not separate these out when it comes to families who may have less money than others. However, all aspects of diversity—racial, social, economic, religious, or ethnic—are part of our community and we try 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 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."
People don't tend to keep large sums of money for their own belongings, Dean of Students Larry McFarlane says, but teachers of those courses offer themselves as role models for others.

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

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

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

"I really don't know what more the High School can do about it except for more assemblies on morality and ethics around the school."

Acknowledging that U-Highers have been stolen from their homes but not at Lab that has so little that they need to steal. 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 cut in the halls, administrators are encouraging U-Highers not to leave bags and valuables unattended in the lobby and gymnasiums.

It's not only thieves around school that distresses students and faculty, U-Highers interviewed say. Among concerns of cheating and stealing at school, students and faculty blame a lack of discipline and a lack of concern for others.

"I really don't know what more the High School can do except for more assemblies on morality and ethics," Talia said. "In my advisory we watched a video about public education and it gave me a sense of how unethical 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 a variety of people and there are clubs like BSA and JSA that choose to make people aware about their culture and religion.

"If you think of ethics as an umbrella with the golden rule, you 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 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 classrooms with math teachers, U-Highers interviewed say.

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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 in sports I was always in the locker room with the school team I remember Mr. DeCampo telling us to stay in the pool for good sportsmanship," Homer said. "I would occasionally find a little bit of everything else but it was the right thing to do, the morally right thing to do, and it helped to add to the ethics I had already developed for myself."
Cheating: An eternal high school problem in search of a solution

Cheating in high school seems universal, newspaper articles, television and movies have depicted it as such. 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 every time I’m not available.

“I rarely have problems with cheating but it happens sometimes. When people 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 caught them cheating, I asked them to leave the test. If this 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 believe that the kids, and I'm only considering 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 then I can 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'm wrong about their reasoning to answer that specific question. During the rest of the period, the two girls continued to 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 thought it was okay," the student said, adding that his behavior was 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 spar 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 knew 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.

"According to Alex, 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 as 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 the 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 is the long run its 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 Ms. 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 U-High," Mr. McFarlane said. "I think that in most cases, teachers are aware of 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 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 I know 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 gymnasia are now locked at all times. Director of Security and Facilities
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 Mogill came here in 2003, Diversity Consultant Penny Nesbit 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. Mogill's responses was distributed and then presented by Mr. Mogill and Mr. Nesbit at a February 12 Parents' Association meeting.

Among suggestions in his report, Mr. Nesbit first proposed defining the word diversity in the Schools' mission statement and hinting 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 initiation of diversity. "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. Nesbit 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 it is diversity. An understanding of diversity as it applies to the Schools should come first, as Mr. Nesbit 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. Nesbit's suggestions alongside genuine community effort, starting with defining that diversity."

10-second editorials

Congratulations to all who organized Artfest. Chadah and Jewels Making workshops made magnificent comebacks while new workshops, including Super Smalls Brothers, made popular debuts. Hurd to missed 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 Artfest Ryan was a great reminder of old-fashioned by the addition of new and extra features to bring Artfest 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.

Say What?

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

TARA SUMMERS, senior: Since it is my senior year, this is the last year that I have to bond with my family before I break away and go off to college, so I would definitely choose to go away on a family vacation. I would also go because I haven't really had much experience with travel and I would love to experience a new place and see new sites.

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

RUI LOU, sophomore: I would, without a doubt, go on vacation if I were given the choice between going on a vacation and going on an educational journey to a college. My belief is that you shouldn't be worried about college until you're ready to go away to college in your senior 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.
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, unrefrozen and mostly organic gourmet pizzas 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.

Cherry and energetic employees tending to a long line of customers met me on my Tuesday afternoon visit to the shop, bright and airy store.

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

While my pizza baked in my own oven, I ate the seasonal salad I bought, $3.95 (small), 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, and ate it.

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 Barack Obama (D-Ill.) have emerged as front runners.

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

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 scoreboard, it would seem Senator Clinton has a clear advantage over the rookie.

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

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

a tomato sauce based pizza with prosciutto, arichokes, 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.

HOMEADE 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.

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.

Barack, Hillary and where they're headed

AS SPRING BREAK approaches, I recently reflected on my busy, sleepless and snowy Winter quarter. I recalled waking late 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 to prepare for school.

It was then that I really appreciated the staff who serve the students, parents and faculty.

That's why when I learned that the girls' restrooms were vandalized I realized that we don't appreciate the people who do this.
Canadian folk-rock trio broadens its scope with rich third album


Their third studio album, "Home to You," boasts 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.

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. Let Po' Girl make your stereo sound rich.

Hometown band edges toward recording fame

JUST WHEN music lovers thought that every talented Chicago-based emo pop-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 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 deal.

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

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

Second City still hitting the mark

WHY DO WE LIE? The answer is simple: to cover up the truth. Behind the endless slew of lies Second City's "War! Now!" hits the mark.

Its 4th Smash Year! This unfortunate reality shines throughout the show. Performers use the month's end, the production pokes fun at everything from the Iraq war, race and immigration restriction to Oprah Winfrey partying with Britney Spears by bringing 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. But the intensity this year, Second City has combined improv, musical sketches and political comedy written by the cast.

The racial, ethnic and gender diversity of cast members—Joe Cana, Brian Gallivan, Isabella Enriquez, Molly Erdman, Brad Morris and Amber Ruffinis—lights the theme of coalition and separation between nations and families all vividly acted out on a bare set with just four chairs.

Juxtaposing hysterical scenes with serious ones, the cast sings about building a wall between Mexico and America and advises illegal immigrants to try Canada. 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 dog 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 policies, I would have performed political humor rather than the vulgarities intended for cheap laughs. Thankfully, the next skit comes quickly while the audience goes first rate and the skin freaky and thought-provoking, the French fries were a mushy, undercooked disappointment. "Wolf! Now I'm in a Real Smack Ya!" 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/theat/chi/chicago/mainstage.
T
HE DAYS of midrift, cleavage-and-lag-bearing are out. A new, smarter type of sexy is in. Jackets have been cropped, hems risen, platforms grown zazhy. Yet, with abundant spectrum-crossing styles, an unknowing shopper could easily lose her way this season.

Fashion Dana Alfassa

A 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 shoes to complete an understated, elegant look. Embellish it with ruffles, high collars and Marie Antoinette-esque sleeves, or try something more modern for a polished 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 of choice: Milly’s romances to look provides the perfect balance of femininity and youthful girliness. Pair them with metallic or gemstudded 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 bobs are always a safe and smart choice.

From white shirts 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 trend is chic, not clutter.

For the feet, Lucite wedges, exaggerated platforms and silver heels will add that extra edge to your look. For the finish, try metallic wedges, exaggerated platforms and silver heels. Pair them with metallic accessories, a classic white blouse and the season’s plethora of colors and looks.

Look back to Little Rock

SCREAMING Mobs of angry white students press up against nine black students 50 years ago, as they made history entering the previously all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Drewed 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 book: “Away Thy Son, Little Rock, the Crisis That Shook the Nation,” an account of the desegregation process in Little Rock and the racism that led up to the historical day.

A white student at Central High School during the Little Rock crisis, Jacoway witnessed history when black and white students were introduced into her school, though barely grasped the significance of it all.

The mmce of Little Rock’s Superintendent of Schools during the crisis, Virgil Blossom, Jacoway didn’t realize the importance of the desegregation process until she was studying for her high school graduation degree at the University of North Carolina.

Since then Jacoway has spent 30 years researching the Little Rock crisis, interviewing everyone involved, including the govenor, 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, “...h a d all the potential for a good story, her first person experience giving her an edge over other accounts, her convincing writing ruined the book for this reviewer.

Dream, reality of pro gaming don’t match up

READING THE centerpiece story on professional gamers last issue, I couldn’t help but wonder: Playing for money is something that many gamers dream of, but can a professional gamer make a living and still have fun? As a hard-to-play sport that requires 10 hours a week, I think of becoming a professional often. In 8th grade, I believed being a pro gamer would be awesome, but as time went on I found out many aspects of the job.

True, it isn’t hard to become a pro gamer; no resume or interview is required. All you need is to sign up for a competition and you’re in. It’s 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 practice 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 top for too long. A gamer might have an unlucky day, mistiming a jump and falling off the stage to his death. Or he might have an lucky day, winning a tournament. Half a million dollars is lot of money to sit around playing video games for.”
Music makers go on record

By Jeffrey Bishku-Aykul
Associate editor

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

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

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

“I’d 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 ‘Turn Frut’ 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 WKRC, 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 it pays for recording, disk 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 and with an interest in music. While some U-Highers record at home, others record in professional studios or even have their own record labels. I got interested 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. From there, it 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 the time as well as a drum beat. I write the vocal patterns to a song. I also used to walk around with those baby toy microphones.”

“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 Makout Creek, the band he sings with.

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Summer lovin’...

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

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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 his fresh, homemade 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 amazingness."

Hardly traditional, everything at the Bleeding Heart Bakery, 2118 West Chicago Avenue, exudes originality, from the neon walls to the employees' equally neon hair.

Opened by Michelle Garcia in 2005, Bleeding Heart Bakery, 2018 West Chicago Avenue, maintains popularity with its rotating menu of fresh bread.

"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, is a learning environment for people who were interested in pastries and built a loyal customer base for its distinctive atmosphere.

"I really liked the Bleeding Heart," Emily said. "One of the girls working there was wearing a shirt that said, 'Never mind the 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.’"

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

"Hardly traditional, everything at the Bleeding Heart Bakery, 2118 West Chicago Avenue, exudes originality, from the neon walls to the employees' equally neon hair."
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 a deep bench don’t always determine the winner. Some baseball fans say the New York Yankees’ success must 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 unassuming odds, Maroon athletes maintained desire and a winning attitude this winter.

Ending its Independent School League season 5-7, the boys’ basketball team took 4th in Conference behind Parker. The Maroons began an unlikley 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 Uphaus, 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 training up their game and recruiting players. So to suffer that many injuries to that many of our starters was devastating to our season. It was just bad luck, really bad luck.”

While injuries inevitably make winning more difficult, they should not take away a team’s drive. Some of Michael Jordan’s biggest career games came when he had the flu. While it is unrealistic to compare fractured ankles to flu and high schoolers to Michael Jordan, the point is that in the end, it all comes down to desire. For a fl streaked 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.

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

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

“The biggest disappointment was losing the ISL to Latin,” 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 time when we lost, it wasn’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 Yaleles 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 definition of winning and losing. As the starting pitcher for my Middle School varsity softball team at the Annie Eust Day School, I never once walked off the field feeling like I hadn’t won something. That something may not have been a trophy or 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.

—Derek Chiampas, junior

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KEEPING SCORE

BOYS BASKETBALL


GIRLS BASKETBALL


Slashing past Latin defenders, Sophomore Alexis Jenkins drives to the basket January 30 at home. The Romans suffered a 36-68 defeat by the Romans.
Fencing inspires dedication

By Marrissa Miles-Coccaro

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

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

Since the ancient Egyptians and Romans, fencing duels have been used to uphold men's honor and entertain audiences. Today, fencers wear jackets, knickers, gloves, knee high socks, shoes and masks, which usually cost $250. The U-High Fencing Club was free but the team pays $20 for their coat, 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 15 national competitions, including events in Miami and Houston.

"I've had a lot of time to rest," 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."

Though Senior Andrew Sugaya never competed in a fencing tournament, he joined the Fencing Club his freshman year. He said he did it because it's almost like chess in a physical form; it's mentally and physically challenging. "Since I started I have become more graceful," Andrew said. "Frisbee 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 foils 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 to fence because it's a great way to meet new people."

Senior Marcell Babai said he most enjoys fencing because of the social encounters. "I started fencing in 7th grade," Marcell said.

"At the Chicago Athletic Association, or the CAA, my coach was three time world champion Bhakty Abdusaleev. 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 Rastin 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."

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Spring teams size up strengths

By Matt Luchins

Midway reporter

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

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

Early standout cited by Varsity Baseball Coach Keron Walker include Sophomore 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, boy's tennis can rely on Seniors Benne Rosner and Josh Rosner, both state tournament qualifiers last year.

"We have to rebuild our lineup because we lost people from last year's squad," Varsity Tennis Coach Gerald 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.

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