Student Council presidential candidate Dan Hornung, junior, and Cultural Union presidential candidate Alya Forster, junior. Both are running unopposed.

Mostly unopposed, candidates outline visions for government

By Nathan Bishop
Midway reporter

Creating an all-school e-mail list to keep U-Highers updated on Student Council plans tops goals for Junior Dan Hornung, S.C. presidential candidate. Forming a calendar of Cultural Union events at the beginning of the year represents the main priority for Junior Alya Forster, C.U. presidential candidate.

Elections take place all day tomorrow in the cafeteria outside Dean of Students Larry McFarlane's office. Candidates gave speeches at lunch today in the cafeteria. Serving as class president his freshman and sophomore years, Dan ran unopposed for this year's S.C. vice president position. He was also a Peer Leader and a varsity basketball co-captain.

In the summer of '84, Dan volunteered for Illinois Senate Barack Obama's Senatorial campaign and this summer he plans to intern for Obama's Presidential campaign.

"The first thing we will do is go into the e-mail list we already have for the Class of '88 and make sure everybody's e-mail address is up to date," Dan explained. "For the current sophomore class if there is already a preliminary list of e-mail addresses we will use those; if not we will create one. We will do the same for the current freshman class.

"Next year for upcoming freshmen we will get e-mail addresses directly from students around the second week of school or hopefully I can get Mr. McFarlane to agree to put a little note in the August mailing asking all freshmen for their e-mail addresses.

"I also want to try to get more students to come to games, plays, concerts and other things like that around the school. In order to increase attendance we have been putting notes in the Daily Bulletin and for years we have been trying to get teachers to read the Bulletin first period, but most don't.

"Signs sometimes work but most U-Highers are always rushing somewhere with their heads buried in their books."

A C.U. representative her sophomore and junior years, Alya is also a Midway and U-Highlighter photographer.

"I've been looking at what we've done in the past and one thing I feel strongly about is that we have to start planning things earlier," Alya said. "We need to have an outline of events we want to do in the year. This outline can be changed of course but we need to have it there to guide our planning.

On the inside

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"I'd like to organize more breakfasts in the morning, simple things like that are just fun and really nice for everyone in the school. Next year I'd like to see an all-school Six Flags trip, which is something we have not done in a while and everyone really enjoys.

"Reflecting on this year's events, Dan said that Student Council's plan to create the annual student course book, a collection of students' opinions on classes, was never compiled because of disagreement within Student Council.

"Half of Student Council thought it was necessary and the other half thought it was a waste of time and money," Dan said. "We wanted way too much time arguing about it and eventually we did decide to do it but couldn't get our act together in time to get it done. I will make the promise that next year we will poll the student body's opinions and find out if they think the course guidebook should be done and if they want it then we will get it done."

U-Highers may be surprised by the short list of candidates on the ballot with Dan and Alya running unopposed. In the race for various class president positions, only Junior Robert Strickling runs unopposed.

"We already have a paintball trip in the works," Robert said. "I plan to continue events like that, things that are of interest to a large portion of the grade. For the past two years we have had two extremely successful bowling nights, as well as ice skating events and free lunches and we plan to continue those and even more events next year."

Running for junior class president against Sophomore Denise Akamano, current sophomore vice president Ciara Zagaja believes her past experience will help next year.

"Hopefully next year we can get dances somewhere else besides the I-House," Ciara said. "I think this year especially more than last year we have focused upon forums that encourage people who aren't on Student Council to come and give their opinions, so it isn't just students on Student Council who are getting involved in the school."

Denise hopes to finally be elected in her third year running.
Assembly honors Holocaust victims, survivors, significance
By Linda Huber
Midway reporter
Sharing her experiences narrowly escaping the gas chambers, Auschwitz survivor Fritzie Fritzshall highlighted yesterday’s Holocaust assembly in Mandel Hall sponsored by the Jewish Students’ Association.
JSA has organized the assembly bimonthly since 1995 to observe Yom Ha- hoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and to educate students about Jewish culture and history. Traditionally, the assembly has included student performances and a guest speaker.
“I was put in touch with Fritzie Fritzshall, who is actually a very famous and very noted speaker,” said JSA President Adina Levin, senior. “She was 14 when she was in Auschwitz; she was the age of a freshman. She escaped during one of the marches from the camps by chance. It was the middle of winter; she didn’t have shoes and there was snow on the ground. It’s a truly amazing story.”
In addition to individuals who came forward during March auditions, student club representatives participated in the 90-minute assembly.
“Queer-Straight Alliance, Feminists’ Club, Asian Students’ Association, Amnesty International and Latinos Unidos all contributed,” Adina said.
“They’re pieces showed the universality of the message of human genocide. The assembly involved the whole U-High community. The Holocaust isn’t just exclusive to one group; it touches everyone’s heart.”
Poetry, original speeches and excerpts from Holocaust literature resonated the theme of hope for all humans to live together in peace.
“Addie Epstein and Becca Marks sang ‘Yisgaly Halihg,” one of the most beautiful statements of faith and hope ever heard,” said JSA sponsor Susan Shapiro, history teacher. “Also, during the assembly we had a performance which dealt with the issue of liberation; part of that was a 1945 recording of a Jewish service that took place at Bergen-Belsen immediately after it was liberated with people barely able to stand singing along and sobbing openly.”
Several presentations solidified a somber, respectful mood for the memorial service, Adina reflected.
“Amy Solomon and Molly Schoss put together a film of images from the Holocaust to set the tone at the assembly’s beginning,” she said. “And throughout the whole assembly we had the Reading of the Names, where we read off the names of hundreds of thousands of children who died in the Holocaust.”

Author speaks about black males in America
Using the imaginary character Tyrone as a metaphor for the black males of America, Ms. Moore talked about black masculinity and public perception, the dilemmas of gray black men as well as sexism and misogyny in hip-hop culture and black men and women in the corporate world. After her talk, Ms. Moore took questions from the audience.

New Task Force forming to oversee diversity issues
By Jeremy Laccoque
Editor-in-Chief
Early next month, Lab Schools Director David Magill is scheduled to select members for a Diversity Task Force, designed to advise school policies on diversity.
Recommended by Diversity Consultant Prexy Nesbit in his report released in February, the Task Force will include six parents, four faculty members, two U-Highers, one staff member and two alumni.
Lab Schools Board Members Andrew Neil, 1978 U-High graduate, and Sonya Maloof, U of C assistant vice president and director of community affairs, will serve as chairpersons. Also advising will be Mr. Angela C. Park, a consultant who helps businesses with diversity issues, and Kenneth Warren, U of C deputy provost for research and minority issues.
The group is scheduled to begin work May 12. The application deadline came last Monday.
“At the first Diversity Task Force meeting, we will begin planning our work and begin creating a Diversity Statement,” Mr. Magill explained. “It seems that hav- ing people nominate themselves is the best way to gather people so far. If more than one person applies for the same position, I will probably then decide based on the quality of him or her application.”
“I think the number of people in the group is quite arbitrary. I tried to have each part of the School’s community proportion- ately represented. I feel that a good group would have around 20 people in it before it starts getting too hard to communicate and this one has 22, so I’m happy.”
“The Task Force’s job, as Prexy Nesbit suggested in his study’s report, will be to oversee fundraisers for scholarships to allow for more socioeconomic diversity, to advise admissions about the importance of diversifying and helping. It’s a good job that would help diversify the school.
“I also hope to involve the University as much as possible. So far, we have the honor of having Kenneth Warren help the group. The University, especially since they’re a bigger institution than the Lab Schools are, will have dealt with diversity issues more of- ten than we have and will be able to give us guidance.”

Faculty day focuses on science
By David McAlpine
Associate editor
Some faculty members viewed and discussed Al Gore’s Academy Award winning documentary “An Inconvenient Truth.” Others learned how science and the arts relate through improvisational exercises during last Friday’s Faculty Professional Development Day.
Titled “Doing and Thinking: Getting to the Heart of Science,” and coordinated by History Teacher Andrea Martinuffy and English Teacher Catherine Bell, the day focused on science. A keynote program by Martha Rosner, University of Chicago biology and philosophy professor, and her husband, Robert Rosner, astronomy, physics and astrophysics professor, focused on learning as a lifetime process of discovery as opposed to the mere gathering of facts.
Teachers followed with a panel on teaching science creatively.
After lunch, faculty members chose from 11 workshops at school or the University of Chicago. Integrating the U of C science faculty was important, Ms. Martenuffy said.
“One of the tours visited the lab in the Gordon Center for Integrative Sciences,” Ms. Martenuffy explained. “It’s a model for integrating both clinical and research work and the biological and physical sciences. There’s so much to explore that we haven’t even touched; we enjoyed seeing at least the tip of the iceberg.”
“I think the keynote speakers promoted the excitement, the enthusiasm and the inven- tiveness involved with studying science rather than getting lost in the massive amount of knowledge we already have.”
Conference delegates return with Community Learning ideas

By Gretchen Eng
Midway reporter

Returning from the National Service Learning Conference, March 28-31 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, five Peer Leaders brought back ideas for next year’s Community Learning agenda. They include a joint service project with Kelvyn Park High School on the Northwest Side.

Chaired by Liz Parsons, the group presented a self-designed workshop describing how to build a student-led Community Learning program to a national audience of high school students and educators.

In addition, the U-Highers attended workshops led by other schools and organizations on subjects ranging from environmental protection to third-world country aid.

Panels said they got the idea of next year’s joint service program from Kelvyn Park High School representatives and their workshop on gang violence and ethnic issue in their communities.

“Most of their student population is Hispanic,” Daniel said. “And a large percentage are the children of illegal immigrants. Their community leaders had some really interesting ideas on educating the student population on their rights, specifically about financial aid and applying to college.”

Voice of experience

“If you are too proud and too bold, people will try to bring you down,” cautioned Mr. Rodney Glasgow, guest speaker at Flava Fest, April 7, sponsored by the People of Color Conference delegates. Director of diversity at Worcester (Massachusetts) Academy, Mr. Glasgow talked about what he has learned from his experiences as a gay black man. More than 30 students and faculty from U-High, Latto and Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences attended. Mr. Glasgow also led students in diversity-building activities including discussions on race, religion and economic class and viewing clips from the NBC-TV show “The Office” to see examples of stereotyping.

Auditions! The Protégé Philharmonic!

2007 Summer & 2007-08 Seasons
(Summer Season: June 13, 2007-July 29, 2007)

The Philharmonic

Audition Dates: Sunday, May 20, 2007
Friday, May 25, 2007
Saturday, May 26, 2007
Sunday, May 27, 2007
Friday, June 1, 2007

Location: Classical Symphony Hall
218 S. Wabash, 2nd Floor, Chicago

Summer Rehearsals: Wednesday evenings, 7 - 9:45 p.m.
Saturday afternoons, 2 - 5 p.m.

Fall Rehearsals: Saturday afternoons, 2 - 5 p.m.

For audition requirements and to register for an audition online:
www.classicalsymphonyorchestra.org
or Call (312) 341-1521 for additional audition information!

Writers, artists win honors

Three Midway staff members have been declared National Winners in an annual writing, photo and art contest sponsored by Quill and Scroll Journalism Society. After four years of drawing editorial cartoons and comic strips for the Midway, Senior Sam Dyosnesen received an award in the cartoon category. Another Senior, Jacqueline Chaudhry, senior, won an award in the news story category for her story on the school's diversity initiative in the November 7 issue. For writing a special sports section in the November 7 issue Editor-in-Chief Phil Jacobson, senior, won a sports story award. Phil also won in the feature story category for his story last year on Travis Omran, who directs the innovative and hugely-popular dining court at the Graduate School of Business across Kinzie Avenue from the Lab Schools. Each winner will receive a Quill and Scroll Gold Key award at the Awards Assembly in June and can apply for a college journalism scholarship.

In a similar contest sponsored by the Columbia (University, New York City) Scholastic Press Association, Senior Mara Macha- hon won an honorable mention certificate for her graphic art last year accompanying an in-depth centerpread on the phenomenon of high school popularity.
Class president candidates
Running for next year's class presidents are, from left, Jack Brewer for next year's sophomores; Denise Akuamosah and Clara Zagaja for next year's juniors; and Robert Stuckling for next year's seniors. Abound from the photo is freshman Alexandra Fryer.

Next year's Cultural Union candidates

"I've always wanted to run for C.U. and this is my last chance so I'd really like to make the most of it." -Mona Dasgupta, senior rep.

"I've never been in C.U. but I'm really dedicated to having a fun senior year. I'd be a good addition to the C.U. family. I hope to plan more events, like trips to Great America and free lunches." -Robi Naqvi, senior rep.

"Since I'm now I have a different perspective. I have new ideas and I can try and change things that way. I have a public school perspective." -Nico Gomez, junior rep.

"I was president freshman year and we planned a lot of social events, so I have the experience necessary for C.U. I'd like to have more outings like bowling and trips to Six Flags." -Soeta Ibarola, junior rep.

"I want to help make the dances run more smoothly especially coat check which seems to be a problem. I'd also plan more events like an all school Six Flags trip." -Julia Baird, sophomore rep.

"I'm on C.U. for the past two years so I have the most experience. I plan to have more events with other schools. I want to see what activities the grade wants to do and make them happen." -Isabel Del Canto, junior rep.

"I would be a good representative because I am good at planning activities. I know a lot of people don't like dances so I would make an effort to do more grade activities." -Kendall Gordon, junior rep.

"I want to make sure that communication between Student Council and the students is better. I'd also like to make C.U. a more prominent part of Student Council." -Natasha Khosla, sophomore rep.

Next year's class officer candidates

Seniors

"I am a Lab lifer and I think I know what to do to help the grade. I am organized and think I would be able to help run the school and get the opinions of the people." -John Wask, treasurer

"I want to be part of the planning of activities and implementing a variety of activities. I will make sure that everyone is notified, I can do this because I am very organized and determined." -Stephanie Tang, secretary

"I want to be part of the planning of activities and implementing a variety of activities. I will make sure that everyone is notified, I can do this because I am very organized and determined." -Stephanie Tang, secretary

Juniors

"Everyone is always stressed out senior year, so I will work to make it as fun as possible. I also want to get better communication within the grades. This year I personally felt the grades were divided and I want that to end." -Ty Sonney, vice president

"After my first year of being in Student Council I've realized the importance of being organized and getting things done effectively. We had trouble staying with the schedule, so next year as vice president I would like to get more things done and have activities that benefit the whole grade." -Rafiq Tang, vice president

Sophomores

"I was vice president this year and learned a lot from that. A lot of freshman activities that we tried to plan did not work out. However, I have learned from that and know how to make things work out better now." -Amelia Acosta Pacelli, vice president

Presidential candidates outline goals for office

(continued from front page)

"I think if I was president our grade would be happier," Denne said. "I would do all I could to fulfill my grade's needs. I would plan more class events and take what people say into consideration. I think this year a lot of things that have been said haven't been taken into consideration and I plan to fix that." Running for sophomore class president, Jack Brewer and Alexandra Fryer, freshmen, both expressed goals ranging from schedule changes to budget control.

"Both of us submitted a proposal and I would like to make it the 10 minute tardiness rule more lenient, perhaps 15 minutes, because for classes like gym you come a few seconds late and get kicked out of class," said Jack, who was freshman class president this year. "Student Council's role in the school is obviously getting bigger, but it isn't where it needs to be. Donavan and Dan have run Student Council effectively over the last year and I think the individual steering committees were a great idea because we were able to work with more focus in the smaller groups.

"The fact that Dan is running unopposed has to do a lot with how effective he has been on Student Council, it really demonstrates his strength as vice president and how he will be as president."
The golden David Derbes

attention shifted as he eyed a student walking toward the glass door.

"Come on in," he said to his student, Junior Raphi Cuemuda, who was taking a quiz in the hallway.

He lifted his thick, gold rimmed glasses over his eyes and squinted as he handed him a quiz she just completed. He scanned the paper. "Yeah, yeah, wait a minute kiddo." He reached for the pen that sat in the shirt pocket of his baby blue button down, scribbled down a formula and told her to "go out and try it again."

"Sorry, where was I? Oh yes, so when I drove through New Orleans with my daughter in June 2006 I did not recognize where I grew up. Hurricane Katrina had completely demolished it. I couldn’t sell the streets, I didn’t know where anything was. It was weird. The city is in terrible shape."

His daughter Catherine, born in 1987 after Mr. Derbes and his wife moved from New Orleans to Chicago, graduated from U-High two years ago and now attends Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

"I’m an indulgent parent," Mr. Derbes said. "We’re not strict, but she’s so sensible and rational. If she did anything bad growing up she got away with it because I don’t know about it. Basically I just drive her wherever she needs to go. Same with my wife."

Unlike Catherine, Mr. Derbes wasn’t an only child growing up in Old Metairie, a neighborhood in New Orleans. He and his sister Anne, who is five years his senior, bickered often and both attended Isidore Newman High School.

"In high school I was a lot like any Lab student here—I wasn’t the class genius though," he said. "I had this friend who was much better at math and science than me. Everyone sort of knew that he was the math and science guy. He went on to do math at Yale," he chuckled and gave his hands a break from talking as well as his mouth.

Coming from a family of teachers—his father and mother both taught at Tulane University—Mr. Derbes said physics wasn’t his first love in high school.

"At the time, I was really interested in chemistry. I collected elements... I’d read, ruminating about his collection. "You see, sodium metal reacts violently with water..."

"When we were kids we would take chunks of sodium metal and throw it into the swimming pools. It would make some sort of explosion, I don’t know. We were nuts."

He lifted his hands and placed them behind his head, now relaxed at a faint smile shaded across his clean-shaven face.

"This one time though, I left a piece of sodium metal in my paint pocket," he said. "My mom did the laundry and basically the whole machine just blew up, which would have been okay if my sister’s favorite dress hadn’t also been in the load."

As his hands came down, his black nylon strapped wristwatch knocked the table as he took a few seconds to think about what to say next.

"High school was the ‘60s," he continued. "It was different then. There were always different cliques. The jocks. The freaks. I was probably a freak. We had long hair and listened to weird music. We were into strange films and wrote underground newspapers. It wasn’t like I smoked a lot of dope or anything. Actually, the freaks drank wine."

"Wine, consequently, is what Mr. Derbes grew up for. I’m sure I read about it. Not sure to admit that he enjoys a good drink. Mr. Derbes said he found his wife in his pursuit of hard liquor.

"After I graduated from Princeton in 1974 with an A.B. in physics, I spent a year at Cambridge," he explained. "Then I went to study physics in Scotland for a while where I earned my Ph.D. at Edinburgh University. But when I came back in April of 1979 I decided to go to a college reunion. So I went over to the physics department and they were drinking tea."

"Now my idea of a Friday afternoon wasn’t drinking tea, so I headed over to the Russian department where I was sure I’d find some vodka. Anyway, there I met this woman who told me she had a friend who would like who was a grad student at the U of C. I started talking to her friend and two years later she was my wife," he said in a nonchalant manner, radiating the youth of a teenager as he tipped his chair back and balanced it on its two back feet.

Besides his fondness for driving long distances and his position on the board of the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, Mr. Derbes said he is a definite hermit.

"I spend a lot of time at home," Mr. Derbes said. "Oh—" he sparked up as something came to mind. "I belong to a book group! There are about nine or 10 other guys around the same age as me. We all get together and if the book is good we talk about it some but if it was bad we usually just go right to the beer."

"There’s this one guy, Powers, I know him pretty well... You know there’s a Scottish whiskey that’s called Powers."

He loses his train of thought briefly before eventually finding it again. "Other than that I’m basically really kind of boring."

One of six U-Highers the Golden Apple Awards Selection Committee interviewed about Mr. Derbes, Senior Angel Pu said Mr. Derbes is anything but boring.

"Besides the fact that Mr. Derbes uses a lot of different colored chalk, he’s just great because he’s really thoughtful," Angel said. "For example, this one time I missed a class and he spent an entire class period’s worth, well 45 minutes, taking the time to explain to me everything I missed. That’s the sort of person he is. I’m glad he won the Golden Apple."

Mr. Derbes is not this year’s only U-High affiliated Golden Apple winner. 71 graduate John Nashlet, now a teacher at Hinsdale Central High School, also won. Former U-High teacher John O’Connor, who now teaches at New Trier High School, was a finalist.

In addition to Mr. Derbes, Lab Schools teachers Ms. Rosa McCullagh, Ms. Spike Wilson, Ms. Catherine Bell, Ms. Jan Yourte, Mr. Randy Fowler and Ms. Hanna Goldschmidt are Golden Apple recipients.

Recounting the morning he won his Golden Apple, Mr. Derbes said that when he bumped into Chief Program Officer of the Golden Apple Foundation Gloria Harper in the High School office March 14, "the cat was out of the bag."

"When I ran into Gloria that morning I knew I must’ve won," he said. "So, it wasn’t a huge surprise when a bunch of people I didn’t know showed up in my classroom that morning. There was a lot of clapping and speeches and cameras. To be honest, I don’t like all that attention."

He landed his chair back safely on all four legs as Raphi reemerged, his active arms beckoning her in once again.

She handed him the paper. He looked it over. *Ahah* It’s a masterpiece. Good. Great."
School attempts to muzzle student expression thriving

By Graham Salinger

see lifting up a sign with a drug reference during the school day when you didn’t go to school or writing a newspaper column encouraging the tolerance of homosexuals justify high school administrators limiting free speech? Those questions are posed by two current cases involving high school students’ rights to expressing their opinions in writing. They are the Supreme Court Case of Frederick v. Moore and the suspension of Woodlan, Indiana’s Junior Senior High student newspaper adviser Amy Sorrell.

On December 1, 2006, the United States Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of Joseph Frederick of Douglas High School, in Juneau, Alaska. Frederick, on January 24, 2002, a day he did not go to school, held out a 14-foot banner with the words, “Bong Hits 4 Jesus” taped across it, among students dismissed from classes to watch the Winter Olympic Torch parade passing his school. Seeing the sign from across the school, Principal Deborah Morse approached Frederick and ordered him to take down the sign. When he objected, she suspended him for 10 days.

Frederick appealed his suspension first to District Court and then to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco before the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case. The decision is expected in June and arguments were heard March 19.

According to the Supreme Court transcript, Principal Morse and the school district argued that, by promoting drugs, Frederick’s speech was inconsistent with the schools’ “basic educational message.” They argued that for that reason under the Supreme Court’s 1988 landmark student press ruling in Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier such speech is not protected. They also argued that Tinker v. Des Moines, the 1969 ruling involving students wearing black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War, did not apply because by promoting drugs the sign was disruptive to the school’s educational mission.

Frederick’s lawyer Douglas Mertz believes the sign was not disruptive as defined by Tinker. He also argued that just because school officials disagreed with the sign doesn’t mean that they had the right to take it down, as defined by Hazelwood.

“Absolutely not,” Mr. Mertz said in a phone interview. “The main jettison from free speech is that it doesn’t allow for administrators, whoever they are, to deem messages as worthy of merit. “There is no doubt that children shouldn’t be exposed to lewd or obscene material or anything that promotes hate or violence. Beyond that, if it isn’t disruptive there’s no justification for the censorship of students.”

“It remains to be seen how much of a role politics will play in this case. Kenneth Starr is the key attorney defending the Alaskan school board.

In the second case Ms. Amy Sorrell, adviser of the Woodlan Junior Senior High newspaper the Tomahawk, was put on paid leave by school administrators after they objected to an opinion column, according to official site of the Student Press Law Center, an advocacy group for high school journalists based in Virginia.

Written by Sophomore Megan Chase, the column appeared in the January 19 issue of the Tomahawk and encouraged the tolerance of homosexuals, saying in part, “I don’t understand why we would put so much pressure on those people that they would feel that they have to end their lives because of their sexuality. Would it be so hard to just accept them as human beings who have feelings just like everyone else?”

Ms. Sorrell says she believes the column represented responsible journalism and not inappropriate reporting.

I think this is a case of overreaction which snowballed from there,” she said in a phone interview. “I really don’t know were it came from, board members, the principal, or maybe even someone higher up. Personally thought the staff (in the same issue) on pregnancy was controversial, especially an opinion piece by one of my editors on abortion versus safe sex. I gave it to the principal, who did a double check and he told the editor that she did good job. “I didn’t think a column on tolerance would be controversial. I think that this case is more about the First Amendment and different interpretations of Hazelwood and different judgments. I didn’t see a concern with something on tolerance. My training in journalism has given me a good understanding of cases like Hazelwood and Tinker.

“Students who are taught responsible journalism should be given the opportunity to practice what they learn just like real journalists, and just like real journalists, student (continues on page 13)
A FIERCE BATTLE raged in front of me. Surrounded by bright lights and high-tech equipment on the set of "Meet the Press," I watched politicians verbally duke it out over whether to redploy U.S. soldiers from Iraq. The experience clinched Day Two of the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship and Conference Program, March 17-22 in Washington, D.C.

The program annually honors a boy and girl from each state for achievements in journalism, awarding each a $1,000 scholarship. We were all brought to D.C. and put up in the Watergate Hotel, all expenses paid.

Before the live “Meet the Press” tap. Sunday, we were herded into rows of hard, meta bleachers inside the NBC studios. While waiting, we saw Rumsfeld going over his notes as various NBC people frantically ran around making last-minute preparations.

Not one to miss an opportunity to gain potential voters, guest Tom Delay, a former Representative (R-Tex.), schmoozed and took photos with our group after the show while others of us spoke with Rumsfeld. He graciously took about an hour to answer questions and tell stories from his years on the show.

On Monday, we heard from five journalists, including nationally syndicated columnist Betty Baye. She spoke masterfully, relating life experiences that produced laughter and inspired.

More speakers on Tuesday, then a trip to USA Today. Overlooking an artificial lake and grassy field, the large, angular building was made completely of glass and evoked images of the Emerald City of Oz.

We toured the offices and eventually had a Q&A session with three members of the paper’s staff and Editor Ken Paulson.

That night, I got sick with the flu and spent most of Wednesday in the emergency room, missing the morning sessions.

But I wasn’t going to skip the closing ceremony, the black tie dinner at the National Press Club with journalists and Free Spirit scholars. At the event, we got to speak with many media figures and saw CBS Chief Washington Correspondent Bob Schieffer receive the 2007 Free Spirit award.

Although I’m still unsure if I want to be a journalist, I learned a lot and was treated to a unforgettable experience.

A Visit From Germany

By Leyla Tatagulli

Midday reporter

Tomorrow, 11 German exchange students, here for three weeks from Stuttgart will hear many of their hosts sing in the Chicago Children’s Choir as a final group activity before returning home Saturday.

Since their arrival April 6, the visitors have been living with U-High families and experiencing Chicago, including a service at the Trinity United Church of Christ, 400 West 95th Street, one of the country’s largest African American congregations.

The visitors also toured Prologue High School in Flossmoor to see a specialized high school designed for the specific needs of the largely Hispanic, economically-challenged population. German Teacher Annette Neuharth, German-American Partnership Program coordinator, arranged the visit so that the group would see a school different from U-High.

Visitors and their hosts, in that order, are as follows:

As the Midway sees it

Why your vote still counts

When U-Students look over the few names on student government election ballots tomorrow, they may find many decisions have already been made for them.

With candidates for Student Council president and Public Union president many candidates, these few little to consider. Instead of making thoughtful, deliberate decisions, students will have the results mapped out for them.

In truth, a thriving student government would attract many candidates for every position. So many with so many reasons professors, students, and parents aren’t adding up.

Student government should be empowering, preparing students to make decisions that will serve in college and as adults. The number of candidates running unopposed indicates a new effort must begin to give student government a high profile and powerful punch at U-High.

That can start with tomorrow’s elections. Candidates who win without opposition should assume they won’t have to work out for them starting next year. Instead, they can rise to the challenge and start acting as examples for future governments.

They may want to start by learning from student government’s accomplishments this year, which include holding open forums on scheduling. But student government also made unfulfilled promises, including an Insider’s Guide to help students determine courses for the upcoming year, which was not produced for whatever reason.

What can be learned is that when student government’s plans fall through it directly affects the students and their view towards the government. When student government jeopardizes its reliability, support from students becomes weak.

Also, future representatives can demand respect from administrators. It’s clear that although administration may take student government seriously, they don’t always do so. This point became evident when S.C. president Dennis Mitchell asked to see the Diversity Report in February by Diversity Consultant Penny Nestle and administrators allowed him only to see Lab Schools President David Neilson’s summary, along with the rest of the community.

For the president of the central student advocacy group to have to request permission to see a pertinent report and then be denied access clearly reveals Student Council’s unequalized position in the school.

Dean of Students Larry McPakefan has said many times that he remains open to work with any active student government as the students choose to make it.

A strong student government needs strong backing from the student if it. If U-High wants to be taken and represented seriously, they must first take student government seriously. Student government can only live up to its potential when the students want it to.

The effort may be too little too late, but it’s up to the students to make it. For student government to have any authority, changes must now be made by those with the power to initiate them.

Apples for all U-High teachers

Congratulations to Science Teacher David Dobbs for winning the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Selected from 32 Chicago-area finalists, Mr. Dobbs, along with nine other winners, will accept his award Saturday, May 18 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. The televised event will debut at 8 p.m., Thursday, May 31 on WTTW Channel 11.

Two other U-High affiliated teachers were recognized by the Golden Apple Foundation this year. Jill High school graduate John Naughton, who teaches at IMD’s Central High School, won while former U-High teacher John O’Connor, who now teaches at New Trier High School, was a finalist but was not chosen.

Also recently acknowledged, Science Department Chairperson Sharon Housinger received the Siemens Award last month, which acknowledges teachers teaching and math courses who foster A.P. examination.

And Ms. Dobbs isn’t the first Lab Schools teacher to receive the Golden Apple. In fact, he is the impressive seventh.

Before him, Ms. Catherine Bell, Mr. Randy Fowler, Ms. Hanna Goldsmith, Ms. Ross McCullagh, Ms. Spoke Wilson and Ms. Jan Yount all won the award.

Having even one Golden Apple winner would make any institution stand out. But the Lab Schools have seven winners and other nods of recognition.

Some of them include Journalist Teacher Wayne Brasler and History Teacher Earl Bell, who are the two remaining semifinalists at U-High for the Lab Schools Masters Teacher Award. Mr. Brasler also has received the National Journalism Teacher of the Year Award from the Newspaper Fund, and other teachers have won other honors.

But whether a teacher is a plaque or a statue for it, all Lab Schools teachers strive to create elite learning environments and mold passionate students. Teachers embrace strong teacher-student relationships and always have open door policies. It’s rare not to see at least one teacher actively helping a U-Higher even after the school day, they do so. And it can be quite refreshing.

And although this expression can be appreciated in different ways, it’s the teaching staff as a whole that keeps U-Highers motivated and captivated in a demanding school. Rooting for their students to succeed while challenging them, teachers must have energy and skill. Anyone who devotes himself or herself to teaching deserves recognition far beyond any official prize.

10-second editorials

Notices of more seniors have been sitting in the cafeteria during free period and lunch time. Dean of Students Larry McPakefan closed the Senior Lounge April 11, the day of Junior Homecoming. That morning, juniors had been told to leave their luggages in the Senior Lounge while attending their classes before departing. When they retrieved their bags they discovered a few sensors had switched personal belongings within suitcases.

Although it’s wrong to invade private property, the irony lies in the fact that U-High prides itself on its community feeling, so why engineer such a thoughtless prank? Nonetheless, an apology has been made and a punishment has been served, it’s time to move on.

The recent shootings that left 33 dead at Virginia Tech again naturally raise a question as to how U-High would react in a similar situation.

If an emergency were to arise at U-High, designated personnel would alert the school by walking the halls with air horns. But given the school’s intricate layout, it seems unlikely that a prompt warning could occur, not to mention the plan leaves the designated person/vulnerable to intruders. Perhaps now is the time to consider investing in a schoolwide warning system.

Say What?

Compiled by Artis Lewis

If suddenly you woke up tomorrow morning and all of your third quarter grades were finals, what would you do, where would you go and why?

VICTORIA THOMAS, senior: First I would call my friends to commiserate. Then I would probably immediately go to the mall with my friends because it’s summer and I would just be in the mood to chill and kick back with friends.

VICTORIA ANDREY DRINFIELD, junior: I would first be in shock. Then I would probably immediately go to the mall with my friends because it’s summer and I would just be in the mood to chill and kick back with friends.

ALEXIS MURSAD, sophomore: I would first be in shock. Then I would probably immediately go to the mall with my friends because it’s summer and I would just be in the mood to chill and kick back with friends.

ALEXIS ARTHUR MARTIN, freshman: I would first have to pinch myself to make sure that I wasn’t dreaming. If I weren’t then I would be obligated to throw a party in Mr. McPakefan’s office to celebrate. Doing any school work would be illegal at that point.

U-High Midway

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When the extraordinary becomes commonplace

YELLOW RIBBONS tied around lamp posts and trees surround the Whitney Young High School campus at 211 South Laffin Street. But these ribbons aren’t decoration. They are symbols of mourning for senior Chris Fineda, a Near West Side resident who disappeared after the afternoon of March 12. He was found dead a week later in the Cal Sag Canal near Pike Island.

Chris had dropped his girlfriend off at a grocery store where the two were supposed to find each other on the Southeast Side. Wearing a black and yellow polo shirt, Chris may have been mistaken for a Latin King gang member. His colors are black and yellow.

According to family members and close friends, Chris was not involved in anything gang related and he was abducted while walking home from school.

Chris was a straight A student who was accepted into UIUC a few days before his kidnapping. Chris was also the first person in his family headed for college. His mother has been quoted saying in regards to her graduating high school, “My husband would pay, I’ll give you a thousand dollars, just show me your diploma.”

Facebook groups were started by classmates in honor of Chris, asking for information regarding his disappearance and murder. These groups were filled with comments extending condolences to Chris’ family and joyful memories.

The feeling of community created through such a trying time is something we need to come together. The fact that during the period between Chris’ kidnapping and discovery a whole school joined together for a single cause is inspiring.

Hundreds of mourners crowded the pews of St. Joseph Parish Shrine on South Hermitage Avenue during the funeral, “Chris’ Young Princes and Joye Kenner thanked students for their efforts, which included raising a multimillion dollar reward for information regarding Chris’ disappearance as well as countless flyers posted around the city. The memorial took place in the main gym the day Whitney Young students came back from their Spring Break.

Each student was asked to honor Chris by wearing a white T-shirt. Roughly 1,600 people sat and listened to songs, poems and personal stories from people close to Chris. It was announced that on graduation day Chris’ mother will walk down the aisle and accept her son’s diploma.

Since the memorial, the press has lost interest in the case, perhaps because newspapers almost daily are scattered with other stories about random killings that claim the lives of promising young people not involved in gangs or crime. These cases mostly just get written off as another unfortunate event occurring in a dangerous city.

Almost all of these killings occur in lowerclass neighborhoods. As a result, U-Highers, including myself, feel like we’re making no progress. We have friends, brothers or sisters, as a reminder that something like this can happen to you.

If this can happen to a teenager about to take the bus home who happens to be wearing the wrong colors in the wrong neighborhood, it can surely happen to anybody who goes to U-High.

Sadly, we live in a city with one of the highest murder rates in the country, so we are used to random killings and murderers being caught. The least we can do is partake in this seriousness of these tragedies, no matter what or where it happened.

Double-barreled film revives era of long, gritty movie nights

REWIND TO THE 1970s. Except with better special effects. Usually in the worst part of town, Grind House theaters showed B-movies at the local 8mm and 16mm theaters. B-level films together separated with trailers for upcoming features.

"Grindhouse" brings together two eccentric directors, Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino, replicating Grind House films with "Planet Terror" and "Death Proof.

The new film, including previews, runs for more than two hours, although both films were exhilarating enough to keep me awake during the 11:05 pm showing on a Friday night at AMC River East 21.

Using special effects, the directors replicate 1970s films by making the films look like they are being projected on worn reels. The body parts flung around in both films are incredibly realistic and sickening. Gun pouring out of zombies, pus and blood splattering walls and heads exploding show off these amazing special effects.

Rodriguez’s “Planet Terror” plots a Go-Go Dancer, Cherry (Rose McGowan) and her lover, Lusto ( Freddy Rodriguez), against a chemically generated zombie military.

The best part of the whole film, Cherry replaces her amputee leg with a machine gun and does serious damage with every step. If only Rose McGowan could have been a bit more expressive. Thankfully, the script doesn’t give her many lines. In fact, the only thing the script has are cliched lines that turn this horror into a brilliantly gross comedy.

"Death Proof," directed by Tarantino, features stuntman Mike ( Kurt Russell), who enjoys hitting beautiful women with his car. Contrasting women innocent cars with homicides.

Midway Mailbox

Are gun rights worth lives bulleted down?

From Angel Castaner, 45 graduate now at George Washington University:

TODAY I AM writing to the way to touch on the right to life. A sacred right, granted not only by our Constitution but by trust in our fellow Americans. This is a right threatened in a most horrific way Monday, April 16 an in institution of greater learning, Virginia Tech. It is very difficult for me to put for any kind of government interference or regulation.

Incidents such as the one April 16 and those of other school/mass murders, would incline me to believe that they are part of the growing problem of the “cultural” movement that many feel defines American norms. But I must ask you, are all these guns that are legal today necessary? What could a civilian possibly want to use in an AKM Assault Rifle? Or with “cop-killer” ammunition?

Senior officers apologize to journalists

From Natalie Lowis, Senior Chac Cultural Union Representative: DEAR JUNIOR CLASS, On behalf of the senior grade, the Senior Steering Committee would like to apologize for insensitive behavior. As leaders of the school, we should exhibit more self control and respect. The senior class accepts full responsibility and will compensate those whose lives were lost due to the prank. We hope that you can accept our apology and that we can all move on to end the year on a positive note.

Opinion

Gabe Bump

"Planet Terror" is the perfect horror movie and though the dialogue could use some work, the movie is exhilarating and a convincing return to the 1970s.

Photo by Zach Sliwak

Eliot Popko and Zena Hrard at Marrakech Cuisine on Ashland Avenue.

A tasty gift of Moroccan cuisine in Wicker Park

MELODIC MEDITERRANEAN instruments and the distinct smell of leather goods reach every corner of Marrakech Cuisine, a small Moroccan restaurant just a step in Wicker Park. They give the restaurant the feel of a North African bazaar.

My companion and I visited Marrakech for dinner on a Saturday afternoon and found a menu filled with goods from leather belts to handmade jewelry leading to a long, half underground dinner room. Plenty of hanging lamps made of leather and stained glass compensated for the lack of natural light and created a yellow mood.

In spite of the distractions, we remembered our main purpose, food and sat down to order. The heavy menu’s surprising number of options, considering the restaurant’s small size, invited us to share our entrees.

The Kafta Kabob, $7.95, a seasoned ground beef dish and Merguez, $8.50, a type of sausage, both came cooked in peppers and spices and were served with rice.

We topped off our meal with our Chicken Pastille, $9.50, a diced chicken dish wrapped in phyllo, a flaky pastry common to Mediterranean deserts, filled with toasted cashews and almonds, and powdered sugar and minted.

Though the Chicken Pastille’s description included diced chicken and sweet ingredients, the dish seemed lacking in both. However, a highly enjoyable almond and herb earthenness overpowered everything else, distinguishing the Pastille from both the most intriguing and best tasting item we ordered.

After our meal we enjoyed Moroccan fresh mint tea, 95 cents and Moroccan coffee, $1.50. Both exuded honey and herbal aromas that seemed to have more medicinal properties. For desert we split Selliou, $2.50, a toasted almond, sesame seed, anise seed and bread flour dessert dipped in honey and butter. It sounds flavorful, but to our dismay tasted bland compared with our rich meal and warm, fragrant drinks. Selliou aside, Marrakech Cuisine’s good food, serene mood and interesting merchandise make it an inexpensive and enjoyable Wicker Park oasis.

MARRAKECH CUISINE: 143 North Ashland Avenue, (773) 227-6452. 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.
With the weather getting hot, German exchange student Pia Seidel needs something to cool her off.

With no ice cream trucks in sight and the water fountains dry, Pia has hit the jackpot on sweets.

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A winning eye

By Jeffrey Bishko-Aykal
Associate editor

I didn't really enter a competition," Senior Steven Jones explained, describing when he was placed in Popular Photography and Imaging Magazine's 2006 Your Best Shot Competition. "I posted an image on the magazine's image forum and the magazine found it and contacted me about it. I consider it to be the moment that made me realize that other people would be interested in looking at my images.

The U-High photographer, who has taken photos since taking an 8th grade Beginning Photography course, went on to win 2nd place in Popular Photography and Imaging Magazine's competition and have his work published in the periodical.

Additionally, Steven's photo of a May 1, 2006 Chicago immigration rally has been published as the cover of a new book, Aviva Chomsky's "They Take Our Jobs! and 20 Other Myths about Immigration." Most recently, he has won a 3rd place photography prize in an Eastern European School Press Association contest.

I would say that Advanced Photography has the biggest influence on my photography," Steven explained. "I think the way I shoot outside of school helps me to shoot for the Midway more than shooting for the Midway helps me to shoot outside of school. The kind of candid approach I use directly applies to street photography.

Steven has focused this year on photographing the city for Ms. Lasse Rickett's class.

"This year I'm taking Advanced Photography and I'm doing what's called a street photography project," Steven explained. "Basically, I'm shooting street scenes of people going about their daily lives and trying to capture interesting moments.

Though the photographer shoots in a number of genres, such as wildlife photography at Jackson Park's Wooded Loke, in the most interested in human subjects in their environments.

"I consider myself to be more of a documentary photographer," he said. "I hate posing portraits, I'd rather shoot people as they are.

"When you pose a portrait you get the kind of snapshot aesthetic that everyone is familiar with. It's almost like a propaganda image; everyone looks happy all the time. It's just not interesting to look at.

Steven is also applying his photography expertise to a May Project golf instructional video he is making with Seniors Nick Kopelman, Louis Baggetto and Vinne Jeevanandam.

"We're doing a video about aspects of golf playing, like the things that have to be in place before you can actually swing the club," Steven said. "I'm going to be shooting some stills just so we can show some behind the scenes stuff for our May Project presentation."

According to Steven, while he enjoys it as a hobby, photography does not inspire any possible careers.

"I briefly considered looking into photojournalism as a career," he said. "But it's a very competitive field and it's extremely difficult to break in, and I think I had wanted to go into medicine for a lot longer."

Paul D'Amato: Barrio
May 11-July 28
Artist reception and book signing: Friday, May 11, 5-8pm

In 1988, just before leaving Chicago for a teaching job in Maine, Paul D'Amato drove through the Mexican community of Pilsen on his way to visit a friend. With no overriding interest in documenting Latino culture, he fell in love with the neighborhood, redoubled, and returned for 14 years to photograph. The images, along with a selection of journal entries, have recently been published by the University of Chicago Press in Barrio, Photographs from Chicago's Pilsen and Little Village (2006).

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Competitive teams wind up ambitious seasons notably

By Linda Huber
Midway reporter

Math Team heads to State Saturday at University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana after placing 1st among 7 schools in the Illinois Council of Mathematics Regions, February 24 at Chicago State University.

"This is the end of the season so right now there's sort of a hall where we prepare for State," said Math Team Sponsor Jane Carling, math teacher.

Members of the team participated in a series of exams to qualify for the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad.

Team members Katherine Launderdale, Karthik Sarma, Andrew Sugaya and Will Diamond, seniors and Andrey Drinfield, junior, advanced to the second round exams at the American Invitational Mathematics Examination but didn't proceed further.

Science Team has participated in two state tournaments in the past month.

Placing 1st at State Wednesday, April 18th at the U of I, the Worldwide Youth in Science squad is continuing a legacy, according to WYSE Team Captain Andrew Sugaya.

"We've gotten 1st for the past five years in a row, so it wasn't that surprising," Andrew said. "We had a really strong science team this year. Leadership was also really good this year, with David Xu and Katherine Zhou. Other than that, it didn't really change that much."

Individual WYSE results are as follows:

**CHEMISTRY:** Katherine Zhou, junior, 3rd. Karthik Sarma, junior, 5th.

**COMPUTER SCIENCE:** Karthik Sarma, senior, 1st.

**PHYSICS:** Katherine Zhou, junior, 2nd. Karthik Sarma, senior, 3rd.

The Science Olympiad team also went to State last Friday. Results will be published in the next issue of the Midway.

Following the resignation of Senior David Oskilloff, who left because of personal reasons, Sophomore Elizabeth Morant has taken over as Debate Team captain.

"Right now we're focusing on coaching the Middle School debate team," Elisabeth said.

"We might have a tournament at the end of the year, if there is enough interest. The season is pretty much over now. We have Districts this Saturday, but we haven't really been preparing because we haven't been certain whether we will be attending or not."

Debate Team results are as follows:

**STATE TOURNAMENT: March 9-10 at Homewood-Flossmoor High. Elk L upset and Elisabeth Morant, sophomore, won 2, lost 3.**

Jennifer Gluck and Almo Schrager, freshmen, won 1, lost 5.

Loren Kole and Claire McAlister, freshmen, won 3, lost 0.

Kristen Kennedy and Daniel Berrios-Maramongo, freshmen, won 2, lost 8.

Elizabeth Morant, sophomore, won 2nd of 2nd place.

Jennifer Gluck, freshman, won 17th novice speaker and Almo Schrager, freshman, 29th novice speaker.


Loren Kole and Almo Schrager won 3, lost 3.

Loren Kole won 25th novice speaker.

School has secure lockdown plan in place

By Kyle Brunke
Midway reporter

Offering specific security measures in the event of an intruder entering the school or an emergency occurring in the school, U-High provides the most capable procedure with the available means. So believes Math Teacher Paul Gunty, who as assistant to the associate director helps oversee the school's emergency plan.

Although the school doesn't have an emergency communication system, the current procedure is the best available, Mr. Gunty believes.

"If an intruder were to appear within the school, the various public safety coordinators would activate the safety procedure," he explained. "They would lock the outer doors and contact the business office. The University Police would be notified and alerted about the intruder."

"The school has no single alarm, but rather relies on sounding air horns throughout the hallways. The teachers would lock their classroom doors, turn off the lights and tell the students to be quiet."

Concerns about school safety were renewed April 16, when a student at giant Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg fired his Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistol and .22 caliber handgun first into a dormitory and two hours later into classrooms, killing 32 students and faculty members before shooting himself.

While Virginia Tech had one of the best security systems in the nation, including campuswide news and speakers, it did not use them until after the killings.

The most effective way to prevent an armed assailant from entering a building is to post individual security guards at each entrance," said Lab Schools Associate Director David Stafford.

"We rely on them to monitor and observe each entrance," Mr. Stafford said. "They contact the administration if anyone looks suspicious or appears to be a stranger and who is not a member of either the student or faculty body. They have the responsibility to lock the outer doors when an intruder appears."

The organizing of a security program takes time and work, believes Director of Facilities and Security Tony Wilson.

"There are many different factors that account for a security system," Mr. Wilson said. "It covers the entire school, so everyone has to do his or her job...I'm in constant motion throughout the entire day. The facilities itself are hard enough to maintain because we have some extremely old buildings."

The Lab Schools schedules a safety drill every school year.

"During the school year, there were talks about having two drills," Mr. Gunty said. "But since the entire school is involved in the drill, the age difference provides a learning barrie."

"Lower School students don't understand the implications of a possible intruder. This specific drill is stricter than a fire alarm. It would take a large amount of preparation and control in order for them to comprehend the current situation."

Memorial Service worldwde commemorated the V.T tragedy.

On their own campus, days after one of their own had exacted his hatred in the form of a raging massacre, the Hollies gathered on the expansive greenery of their Virginia campus to reaffirm the memories of those who were suddenly and brutally attacked, who only moments before, had been avidly listening to the lectures of their classroom professors.

Classes resumed last Monday, after a morning ceremony commencing with a moment of silence, a balloon release and the sounds of bell tolls.
High school speech rights

(continued from page one)

journals have to practice responsibility and ethics in writing and reporting. I personally
received no complaints from parents.

In February Principal Ed Yoder issued a
written warning to Ms. Sorrell, a Woodland
native who had been teaching there for four
years. The warning accused her of failing to
carry out her duties as a teacher. In addition to
Ms. Sorrell’s being put on notice, Mr. Yoder was
named publisher of the paper and a new policy
calling for the price review of all future issues,
was put in place. Assistant Superintendent Andy
Melin required all East Allen School District
newspapers to publish the new policy, according
to the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.

Mr. Melin says the school’s intent was not to
limit freedom of speech but to exercise caution
when dealing with issues it deemed potentially
harmful to younger students.

“The principal did not take issue with the
column but with the fact that he was not made
aware of the article prior to publication,” he said
by phone. “For our district policy, administration
and teachers may consider it a conflict of
interest. We expect our principal to promote a
collaborative relationship with journalism and
students. Their focus should be on protecting
students and not restricting them.”

“Our district goal is to allow student expression
in a proper manner and in an appropriate
forum. Our emphasis is not on restricting,
but protecting student interest.”

Tom Givids, president of the Indiana High
School Press Association and vice president of
student affairs at North Central High School in
Indianapolis, disagrees, arguing that the school’s
actions and policies reflect a national trend
of intolerance and student suppression.

"We laughed," he said in a phone interview.
“Some parts of this country have their heads
buried in the sand. This is something we should
be well past. To be a gay student at that school I
would feel like I was alone and could not turn to
someone like my principal or the school district
to counsel me if I had questions or were being
picked on because of who I am.”

The school board will decide whether to fire
Ms. Sorrell or reinstate her May 1.

Mr. Sorrell was granted the right to argue for
her reinstatement in a public hearing two days
before the school board decision.

Jack Groch, Indiana State Teachers’ Association
representative for East Allen, helped push for
Ms. Sorrell’s hearing and says that the school’s
crassness doesn’t deal exclusively with free press
but also with abuse of power.

“The lesson that kids have learned from this
is that power controls,” he said. “If you don’t
like something you can get power to change it.
It’s a terrible lesson. Students with the principal
having the final word as publishers learn how
to respond to power in an aggressive way.”

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It’s Getting Warmer...

Junior Emma Coven and Freshman Margot Tuzek laug
and indulge in a favorite pastime: cheddar burgers and cheese fries.
Work ethic pays off for baseball powerman
Sophomore excels on mound

By Dana Allsaa
Associate editor

"I am,” says two-year varsity baseballer Mike Casey, sophomore, without a moment’s hesitation. Though soft-spoken on the field, the 5 foot 11 inches slender pitcher and leftfielder for the Maroons rarely hesitates to voice his enthusiasm for playing the game. Before games, Mike listens to his favorite rap songs on his mini Hi-Fi to get in the swing of things. Anyway, Mike says his mental preparation really begins the night before he plays. "The night before a game I’ll think about whatever it is that I’m going to locate for the next day,” Mike said. “If I’m going to hit, I’ll visualize myself hitting the ball. If I’m going to pitch, I’ll picture myself pitching. In baseball, you don’t want to think too much, though. I like to associate baseball just a sunny day.

"I played basketball, soccer and baseball pretty much every year when I was little,” Mike continued. “As of 6 or 7, I started playing Little League every summer and on All-Star teams until I turned 12. Then I took two years off and started playing at Lab in 8th grade. Up until last year I was most serious about basketball actually, but I decided on baseball because I wanted to have the pressure to get in shape.”

Mike’s ties to U-High go deeper than baseball. His mother Cathy Casey is the school's Substitute Coordinator and his sister is a freshman.

"My family from Bridgeport so we’re all Sox fans,” Mike said. "All my friends are Cubs fans, but I live on the south side so I couldn’t be a Sox fan! My favorite player is Grady Sizemore on the Cleveland Indians, though. I started to pay attention to his game about two years ago when he was a young gun. It’s quick and he’s got power in his swing. He’s also an outfielder like I am, so I try to model my game after his.”

With an 11-man roster, boasting freshmen Ethan Champea and Daniel Levine, Mike believes having a small squad size has helped him take on a greater leadership role. "Last year I was kind of timid on the team,” Mike said. "I wouldn’t really talk to the older guys unless they talked to me first. But this year we have a much smaller, younger team. Before the season started, I took Danny and Ethan aside and told them that I’d told the coaches about us and that if they worked hard, doing the same thing I had to do last year, they might be given the same opportunity to play varsity like I was. For about three weeks in a row, I played catch with Ethan. I think I saw something in my freshman season that he wanted for himself.”

A fellow outfielder and close friend, sophomore Tim Parsons said Mike’s determination helped him succeed. "Mike has an element of concentration and focal focus,” Tim said. "As an outfielder, he has a strong arm and a good first step for the ball. He also has a lot more pop in his swing than in his freshman year. But more than this, Mike is willing to do whatever it takes to be the best. He’s the kind of guy that wants to get in batting practice on Saturday mornings.”

Winding up for the pitch, Sophomore Mike Casey delivers a stellar performance against Morgan Park Academy, April 10 at the U of C. Andersen field. Despite Mike’s allowing only two earned runs, the Maroons suffered a 0-10 loss to the Warriors.

Shooting skills, explosive speed put sophomore in spotlight

By Gretchen Eng
Midway reporter

Amid fans’ cheers and coaches’ instructions, Sophomore Emily Kuo mashes the soccer ball, winds up and takes a powerful shot from midfield. Her teammates stare at the ball whiz through the air and barely enters the goal’s frame, making the fourth goal, Emily’s second, of U-High’s 8-0 win against Lane Technical High School, March 20, at Jackson Field. “Well, that’s one way to score,” said Varsity Coach Mike Moses. Fretted in on April 13 Chicago Sun-Times story, Emily has played soccer for 10 years, starting on varsity last year as a freshman. Emily said she didn’t start out with the passion she now has for the game, but joined the sport only after her brother, 03 U-High graduate and Midway Editor-in-Chief John Kuo, decided to play. “It was originally his brother that begged my parents to play,” she explained. "I just sort of followed along. I started in AYSO and liked it, so I played that for five years. For the last two years I was playing on a traveling team as well, but I switched to just playing traveling, I’ve guest played on a couple of traveling teams such as Lake Front and Tazo, but mainly on the Hyde Park Storm.”

Knicknamed K-Ko by her teammates, Emily maximizes her speed and superior ball handling by playing center-midfield most often, though she frequently plays front-forward. "I usually enjoy playing center-mid,” Emily said. “But Moses puts me at forward a lot as well, which is great because I like taking shots. It’s a lot of fun. But it really depends on the situation, what people I’m playing with. I think I like playing mid more because of the running. Running is my favorite part of the sport, aside from playing on a team. I like passing and facing off with other people.”

She also played with a lot of the same people since the beginning, especially on traveling and continuing to play with them is a way of keeping in touch and being with them. Really don’t know what it is that keeps me coming back each season, but I always want to.”

Having watched Emily play with his daughter, Freshman Amelia Acosta, on her traveling team, Assistant Coach Carlos Cordova helped Moses decide to bring Emily up to varsity last year. “I saw Emily play the first time when she was in grade on the team with Amelia,” Coach Acosta said. “I could see right from the start that she was an extremely gifted athlete. She was and continues to be easy to coach and responds to what’s she’s asked very well. She’s got excellent endurance and has the very rare quality of being able to give 100 percent at all times.”

"There are so many spectacular things she’s done, but I particularly remember one game where she showed up really sleepy and told me that she just took a nap. During that game she scored three goals and everyone said she should take a nap more often.”

Offering constructive criticism where she sees fit, Emily has become a team leader, believes Senior Molly Schloss, co-captain with Seniors Allie Bradney, Natalie Louis and Erica Zagaja. "I had heard about Emily for several years,” Molly said. “But I first got to see her playing pre-season in her freshman year. I was impressed and right away I saw that she clearly knew her way around the ball. It can be a little scary for freshmen starting out on varsity, but Emily always played her game and didn’t let the age difference get in the way.”

"She’s just been awesome so far and she continues to be a great leader on the field, not only because she plays well and gives you something to copy, but because she will often stop to constructively correct you, which is very helpful to the team. It’s her way of helping out and letting you know that she’s there for you.”

Boldest lunging for the ball, Sophomore Emily Kuo confronts a Walter Payton defender, April 9 on Jackman Field. The Maroons lost 1-2.
Runners aim high in quest for excellence
By Harley Chang
Assistant editor

With just a few weeks left in the track season, Senior Iain MacDonald isn’t satisfied with 4 minutes and 39 seconds, the best mile time he has posted. He wants to break four minutes and 24 seconds, the school record set in 1990 by Dan McGinn, ’91 graduate, in his junior year. Dan McGinn is also Iain’s coach.

Iain comes from a family of runners, his father participating in marathons and both sisters running on the Lab Schools track team, but he didn’t originally plan to run.

“When I was a freshman, I started the year thinking I would just play baseball,” he explained. “But I decided to try out cross country and found out I was pretty good at it.”

“From cross country, it was kind of intuitive to move to long distance track. Mr. James has been a great mentor. He’s always there when you need him for anything and he’s always open to suggestions. Coach McGinn has also been great to work with. He’s the one who holds our school’s mile record so he knows what it’s like to be one of the fastest high schoolers out there.”

Originally running both the 4 x 800 relay and the 1600 mile, Iain committed to the mile this season.

“My commitment is something I’m always proud of, always showing up to practice when I can and staying with track all four years,” he said. “Actually, I wished I was more committed and trained harder than I did, especially during the breaks. I now know that past training is more important and prepares you for upcoming races better. Now, I run on Saturdays as well as going to practices on the weekdays and I maintain that schedule throughout the year, even during breaks.”

Proud and surprised that his record has remained unbroken for 17 years, Coach McGinn believes Iain is close to breaking his record, although he said it will not be easy.

“Seventeen years is plenty of time for my record to stay on the record board,” Mr. McGinn said. “I would feel really proud that someone I coached broke my own record and similarly, I’d feel disappointed for him if he didn’t.”

“Breaking the record is something Iain greatly wants, although, admittedly, it would be nice to have my name up a bit longer.”

Freshman Sarah Lloyd
Senior Iain MacDonald

Tennis standout enjoys following strict regime
By Evan Dorfman
Editor-in-Chief

Golf, soccer, weight lifting and field hockey. Not quite the typical tennis players’ off-season sports menu.

But for three-year varsity player Charlie Fisher, those sports provide the keys to preparing him for second doubles teammates with Junior Nick Siciliano.

“I always come in to preseason already in shape,” Charlie said as he picked up his racket, sporting a closely cropped, Nicole buzz cut and sharp blue eyes. “We have to run a lot on the varsity soccer team so from the beginning of the year I’m well-conditioned.

“After the soccer season I play a lot of golf and lift weights, so I maintain strength throughout the winter. I think my off-season is part of the reason I’ve started off the season well.”

“We won our first match and I think we’ll be winning a lot more. We have some good freshmen on the team and solid upperclassmen talent.”

Always enthusiastic and always hungry is how Nick described his partner.

“Charlie will always make sure to take team to dinner and hang with him,” Nick said. “He is a really funny guy and he is never afraid to voice his opinion. He is very driven and he’ll never lose his intensity. As a doubles team we have a few superstitions. We both wear sunglasses in every match and before every match we dedicate the game to ‘The Big Man on Top.’”

Charlie started playing tennis at the age of 6 at Arlington Club, his northern suburban golf club.

“Tennis was just a sport I started playing because it seemed like it would be a blast,” he explained. “I began playing more and more and when I came to U-High I figured I’d give tennis team a shot. I hope to play through college and into adulthood. I’m not good enough to play varsity tennis in college, but I hope to play in intramural leagues.”

Away from the court, Charlie said that school work dominates his time, however, in the free time he has, he enjoys playing video games and relaxing at home.

“Between Model U.N. and taking a history class at the University, I am usually always bogged down in work. In the little free time I have I love playing video games like ‘Command and Conquer:’ I really treat tennis practice after school as free time for me.”

Winter sports honors
GIRLS’ BASKETBALL
Freshman Christina Smith, Sophomore Alenta Jerkins and Junior Lucy O’Keeffe received All-ISL 1 team honors.

BOYS’ BASKETBALL
Sophomore John Vapnov received All-ISL 1st team and BSSCA All-State honorable mention.
Junior Dom Himmung also received All-ISL honorable mention.


THIRTEEN NEW TRACKS featuring guest stars Antimatter, Katastrophe, Caroline Yohanan of Frequency Below (www.frequencybelow.com) and Billy Kirst of The Apollo Project (www.theapollo-projectband.com)

Wheels and Things, located in downtown Harper Court, has brand name bikes such as Terry Precision for Women, Giant and Fuji, plus accessories at low prices.

With gas prices so high it’s expensive to drive a car. Luckily Junior Yuwen Wu knows where to go to get affordable transportation.

GREAT CHOICE YUWEN!

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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m
Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. • Sunday 10 a.m.-3 p.m.