U-Highers travel to Iowa for Obama

Iowa could hold key to Presidency bid

By Graham Salinger
Associate Editor

In navy blue "Students for Barack Obama" t-shirts, six U-Highers along with 37 students from other schools in Illinois traveled to Iowa City Saturday, November 3, by bus to campaign for Senator Obama.

The January 3 caucuses represent the first step in selection of delegate to the 2008 Democratic Convention. The four-hour bus ride to Iowa City, beginning at 6:30 a.m., included political discussion and a self-designed trivia game by students on the bus about Senator Obama.

For Senior Dan Hornung, state of Illinois high school director for Barack Obama, making his fourth trip to Iowa City, the ride provided an opportunity to calm the nerves of students making their first day trip to Iowa City and to explain how to go door to door recruiting Obama supporters to attend a caucus for him.

Among U-Highers making their first trip were Sophomores Keira Kennedy and Amelia Aceota and Seniors Victoria Rogers and Bianca Harris. Also joining them was Sophomore Amy Solomon, making her second trip. After being split into groups, students canvassed the Iowa City neighborhood designated by maps they received from the Chicago Obama Headquarters.

As an experienced canvasser, Dan says he plans to continue to canvass in Iowa during winter break.

"The most important thing for us to do is to engage voters and see what is important to them," Dan said. "It is also important that we tell them what is important to us, to show them why we are spending the day canvassing for Barack. Once we’ve talked to people we write down their response on a piece of paper, which we give to one of the Iowa offices.

"If they support Hillary Clinton it is good to know because then we won’t spend any more time on them. If they support Obama it is good to know because then we know to knock on their door on caucus night and get them to caucus.

"If they are undecided we know to spend more time finding out what is important to them so that the campaign can send them information.

"Iowa is the first Presidential contest in the country. It is also a caucus state, so instead of going into a voting booth, voters meet for about two hours on a cold January night to vote for a candidate. As we move closer and closer to January 3, people will pay (continues on page 13)

SIX U-HIGHTERS along with students from six other schools in Illinois traveled to Iowa City, November 3, for a day of campaigning towards the January 3 Iowa Caucuses. From left top: Victoria Rogers and Dan Hornung walk to find the next potential Obama supporter; Keira Kennedy and Amy Solomon prepare to campaign; Keira Aceota and Keira hear directions from Iowa field organizers; Victoria and Dan get ready to knock on doors; on the bus, Dan visits with other canvassers.

Public transportation cuts wouldn't affect most U-Highers

By David McAlpine
Editor-in-Chief

Though the first in a series of route cuts passed with no consequences, it's not over yet.

Proposed Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) cuts scheduled to take effect January 6, have parents and teenagers across the city worried about longer travel times and rerouting through dangerous neighborhoods. U-Highers, however, don't have much to worry about it, since hardly any use the CTA as a primary mode of transportation.

Most U-Highers who use public transportation to get downtown and to the North Side use the former Illinois Central Electric branch of Metra.

With service from 55th, 56th, 57th and 58th street stations to the South Loop, Millennium Park and Loop L stops, the train is a popular choice for U-Highers.

Cutting a ride with her mother most mornings, Sophomore Julia Baird takes a bus from a Metra stop to her Lakeview home. The January cuts threaten both bus routes she counts on.

"I'm quite dependent on the CTA," Julia said. "I take either the 145 or the 146 Michigan Avenue express buses from the Metra up north. "If those were to get cut, I'd have to take the 151, which is a much slower bus, taking at least another half an hour for me to get home. "If that didn't work, I would always take the L, but that would involve a lot more walking than I already do. I take the same routes on weekends, too, to soccer, art classes and violin, so it'd be really inconvenient if they got rid of my routes. I'd rather pay more and have all the routes available than to have to reroute."

Senior Melissa Gracia, who lives in Pilsen, south of downtown, relies on two CTA buses to get to school daily. Though some of the routes she takes were slated for elimination on November 4, none of them made the list for January 6.

"I take the 60 Blue Island and the 2 Hyde Park Express to school, then the 6 Jackson Park Express and 60 back home," Melissa explained. "I'm extremely dependent on the CTA and I'm really lucky that, now, none of my regular routes are scheduled to be cut."

"I have no idea what I would do without the CTA. It already takes me an hour-and-a-half to get to school, so to reroute would be absolutely terrible. I wouldn't mind paying a little more to stop the cuts, but as long as my routes are still in operation, I'm happy."
**Music groups to combine in festive concert**

By Marissa Miles-Coccaro

Arts editor

Combining for Antonio Vividio’s “Gloria,” the Choir and Orchestra will climax a concert 7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 6 in Mandel Hall. Two solos will be featured in “Gloria,” Senior Katherine Vokes, soprano, and Freshman Jackie Robertson, cellist.

“Gloria” is made up of several smaller songs,” Katherine said. “All the songs work together to make the whole piece very powerful. I’m nervous for my solo; I just have to make sure that I know all the words and can do it perfectly several times before the concert. I might end up writing the words on my hand.”

Jackie finds “Gloria” powerful.

“Gloria is heavenly,” Jackie said. “I hope it will give the audience a kind of bliss. It’s interesting that the Choir and Orchestra are doing this piece together. You usually don’t see that.”

Starting off the evening, the Band will perform four pieces. The Orchestra will also perform “A Charlie Brown’s Christmas.”

“I wanted to do another piece outside of the classical genre,” Orchestra Director Ronald Teite said. “A Charlie Brown’s Christmas’ is a great piece and it’s a contrast from ‘Gloria’, which is a more intense piece.”

The Choir will conclude the program with “Psalmite, unigenito” by Michael Prentenius.

“The Winter concert reflects the work we have been doing during the Fall,” Mrs. Sinclair said. “I look forward to this concert most of all because this is when the Band, Choir and Orchestra can come together to perform music of this caliber.”

The public is invited.

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**School family mourns beloved teacher**

Services November 14 remembered Ms. Barbara Wehr, Lower School science teacher for 44 years who died November 9. She had retired in 1997. Ms. Wehr was regarded as a “teacher’s teacher” who gave her students an exceptional learning experience. She was a 50-year member, past matron and grand lassosure of Betsy Ross Chapter #801 of the Order of Eastern Star.

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**Getting her blood drawn by medical attendant Adriennes Ron, Vivienne Ramirez was among 36 U-Highers donating blood to the Red Cross, October 22 in Upper Sunny Gym. Addie Epstein and Helen Vivas organized the much-applauded project.**

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**Student Council to sponsor discussion on A.P. courses**

By Tom Stanley-Becker

Associate editor

U-Highers will get an opportunity to discuss whether Advanced Placement courses should continue, change or stay the same at an upcoming forum sponsored by Student Council. Originally scheduled for Tuesday, November 13, it was moved to 12:30 Tuesday November 57, U-High 104 to include College Counselor Melissa Melzer Wareh. Members of the faculty’s Curriculum Committee began discussing options for A.P. courses last year. At its November meeting, the faculty followed up with a discussion.

The idea for faculty members to attend the Student Council discussion was suggested by students, said Principal Matt Horvat.

“Two students, Ruqi Tang and Stephanie Tang, who are part of the Faculty IV Steering Committee said at a meeting on Thursday, November 8, that it would be great to get some faculty members to come to the A.P. meeting just to answer questions,” Mr. Horvat explained.

“They asked for a faculty panel. What came up with the students is that they did not have enough information to answer all student questions. ‘I will only be an impartial third party. There will probably be only two or three faculty members at the forum.’

Student Council is encouraging students to attend, according to Student Council President Daniel Hornung.

“I know there are definitely juniors and seniors who have a bitter taste left in their mouth from the semester-quarter debate last year because student input was not valued enough early on. It was not valued until students went to the Principal and the Director.

“For the A.P. issue, we want to make sure that our input is valued from the start. We are simply having this forum to ask the question: ‘What do you think about the A.P. system at U-High and if you do not like it how would you change it?’”

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**Delegates to attend diversity conference**

By Rohini Tobacconwa

Associate editor

Selected by counselors and administrators, six students and two faculty members will represent U-High at the annual People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Conference Thursday-Saturday, November 29-December 1 at the Boston Convention and Exhibit Center.

Sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools, the conference for its theme has “Learning from the Past, Leading for the future: Re shaping Traditions.”

The event will focus on teaching inter racial leadership. “In the past minorities were oppressed and there were so many racial divisions,” said Senior Arts Lewis, who attended last year’s conferences. “But now we’re moving forward because of future advancements.

“The conference is a way for many individuals to gather to recognize the importance of diversity and how that will build our character. Through attending meetings, we’ll learn how to be shaped into better leaders within our present situation and for our futures.”

Other student delegates include Sophomores Krista Davis and Antonio Robes, Juniors Mila Devansport and Ruqi Tang, and Senior Lauren Stewart. Faculty members attending include Math Teacher Shanna Anderson and Counselor and Testing Coordinator Chris Harper.
Faculty Association prepares for bargaining with school

By Cydney Weiner  
Editor-in-Chief

Salary, class sizes and facility conditions top the Faculty Association's agenda as it prepares for University bargaining next quarter.

The teachers' union will begin negotiations after the New Year, said Lower School Teacher Spike Wilson, Faculty Association President.

"Right now we're finalizing the negotiating team," Mr. Wilson explained. "The Association decides on eight teachers to represent all of the teachers when we finally meet with the University. Usually the Faculty Association President is on that team, but I personally chose not to be. My feeling is to get as many people as possible involved."  

Lab Schools Associate Director David Stafford declined to discuss negotiations.

The current contract, in effect since July 2005, expires at the end of the school year.

"Each year we decide how long the contract will be in effect," Mr. Wilson said. "Sometimes it has been a yearly thing, the last time it was a three year contract. That's something we also have to figure out. But there's no rule about how often the contract has to be renewed."

Hoping to finish negotiations by the end of the school year, Mr. Wilson stressed the Association's preparation.

"I'd say around 70 percent is how well prepared we are when we actually start to negotiate," Mr. Wilson explained. "Right now we've split into groups that are discussing different issues. But the fervor that exists in the Association grows exponentially as we get closer and closer to negotiations.

"It used to be that teachers would individually bargain with the Director. So if that was something you were good at then that's what you got. If you weren't good, then that's what you got. Now, I think it's much more fair. Now, it's really a matter of service and how long you've been at the school and how talented you are in the classroom."
2 Current issues

U-Highers agree Global Warning poses real threat

By Anna Katia Zbiokowski
Associate editor

Melting glaciers, rising oceans, severe climate changes. That’s the portrait seen by many U-Highers, who all agree that Global Warming is coming.

In former V.P. President Al Gore’s Academy Award-winning film, “An Inconvenient Truth,” he illustrates his points with graphs and numbers to back up the Global Warming theory, points out Senior Ania Allenbaum, who has attended several protests.

“An Inconvenient Truth,” isn’t a knee jerk film. It predicts the future, using actual information,” Amelia said. “It shows that there isn’t an easy fix; all we can do is try to slow it down. We’ve already passed the point where Global Warming can be stopped. People don’t see the problem with weather. Just because it’s snowing in your city when it’s supposed to be snowing, doesn’t mean it’s that way everywhere.”

Involved in starting a new Environmental Club, Senior Adam Johnston believes that global warming imminent.

“All the research that says that global warming isn’t real is bogus,” Adam said. “Their main argument is that rainforests will suck in the carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, but it’s been proven that that will stop soon, or has already stopped.

“If you look at the science, their argument is already over. I think those people who deny Global Warming have been paid lots of money by large corporations to do that.

“I saw ‘An Inconvenient Truth,’ and there are clear graphs and pictures. You can see the polar ice caps and how they’ve changed in five to 10 years.”

With a different perspective, Senior Jason Rowley believes that Global Warming won’t affect him in the long run.

“I don’t think Global Warming is an issue unless you live in a low lying area and I won’t plan my life around it,” Jason said. “I drive a Prius, and buy eco-friendly when I can, but I don’t believe that one person will change anything. There needs to be a large shift in the way we live. I know I sound ignorant, but nobody really owns up to the fact that Global Warming won’t affect them.”

Based on a True Story

AFTER hours of drawing un-inspired University Market ads, Sophomore Matt Luchins needed a break and some food...

SO naturally he went to the place every U-Higher goes for after-school snacks and sandwiches — The U.M! — and an idea was born.

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Students find pluses, minuses in drug education program

By Marrissa Miles-Coccaro
Associate editor

As the only class to have experienced the new drug education program so far, freshmen are unsure of its worth. Created by Guidance Counselor Camille Baughn-Cunningham, a U-High graduate, the program is involving freshmen during their Monday or Wednesday advisory this quarter.

Sophomores will follow with a program next quarter.

Many U-Highers have questioned why the program does not extend to juniors and seniors, having heard stories of drug use and selling at those levels.

“The administration made a decision to start with students who were fresh to high school,” Mrs. Baughn-Cunningham said. “We are not ignoring the upperclassmen. We just feel that they need to focus on college and what it means to be an adult, and have the greater independence that they will get in college.”

Some freshmen told the Midway that the program could be improved.

“The drug program is boring,” Freshman Marias Guias said. “No one pays attention and no one takes it seriously. It probably won’t affect us if people here take drugs or not. It’s just a waste of time.”

Other freshmen said the program represents a valuable addition.

“I feel the more education we get, the better,” Freshman President Henry Bergman said. “When we did analyses of alcohol and cigarette commercials, it was interesting because I hadn’t thought about commercials that much. I think the program will make a difference but will not have the impact that they hope it will.”

Some seniors said a junior and senior program is needed.

“Quite frankly, it feels like a slap in the face,” Senior Aaron Weiss said. “We need a drug education program, especially now when marijuana and other drugs are more prevalent in today’s society.

“We should have some assembly, where the administration and students talk us up and has a conversation with us. I want reality and Lab is nothing about reality.”

Words of Wisdom

TRUTH IS important in founding a successful business. Mr. John Rogers, Ariel Capital Management president and founder, told A.P. Economics classes October 26 and November 7 in U-High 106.

Mr. Rogers is a 1976 graduate and a U-High parent. His business associate in the photo is Mr. Jason Tyler, ’89 graduate.

Photo by Sydney Maurer

PIANO, VIOLIN, trumpet and voices echoed through Max Palevsky Theater November 6 in the second of six all-school assemblies. Principal Matt Horvat planned the program.

Performers included pianist Linda Zhao, violinist Josie Mintel, trumpeter Robert Strickling and vocalist Billy Stevenson. The choir ensemble Bel Canto also performed.

In the photo, Billy, accompanied by Music Teacher Katy Sinclair on piano, performs the Italian classic “Cero Mio Ben” by Giuseppe Giordani.

All the musicians had previously showcased their skills at the Music Department’s Recital Night October 18 at Fulton Hall.

Photo by Richard Photography
"She's one of the nicest people at Lab. Even though she's new, she's friendly to everyone without having to be."
-Patsy Williams, senior, of newcomer Artemis Khazie

Calls from the Fire Swamp

by Eric Cochrane

THINGS I'M AFRAID OF: #16 TELEPHONES, BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE THE OTHER PERSON.

H'LO?

YES. WILL YOU COME TO A PARTY ON SUNDAY?

WHO IS THIS?

HE'S ON TO US, CHUCK.

#17: R.O.U.S.

CHARACTER SKETCH AMANDA PAPPAS

MOVING FROM Beantown to the Windy City, 17-year-old new senior Artemis Khazie is used to adapting to new places.

"My parents are both cancer researchers at the University of Chicago, so we've constantly had to move to different places for better job opportunities," Artemis explained.

"I've never lived in the same place for more than eight years but overall I've loved the experience.

"I was born in Heidelberg, Germany and moved to Paris after about seven years. I lived in Paris for a year-and-a-half then moved to Boston when I was 9."

While living in Germany, Artemis says she struggled with communicating.

"My Dad was born in Iran and my Mom was born in Greece, so I speak both Farsi and Greek at home," Artemis said. "There was a huge language barrier and I could tell that people thought I was weird.

"The biggest change was moving to America. I didn't know English and on top of that, when my Dad was teaching me English, he taught me English with an English accent.

"When I moved to Boston, people would always try and decipher my accent but it was completely unidentifiable.

"In fear of being held back a grade, I tried my best to improve my English before I moved to the States. People definitely made fun of my accent but I was used to that at that point. I still say some things like 'close the light' but I don't want to change how I say it because it reminds me of my travels and all my different homes.

"Living in all those places has really opened my eyes to a lot of cultures and different styles of living. It's hard to start over all the time but I feel really fortunate to have all these experiences and different perspectives on things."

Though Artemis has never actually lived in Greece, she says she is obsessed with Greek culture and earned the nicknamed "The Greek" among her close friends in Boston.

"I go there every summer to visit family and I really love it there," she said. "I like the life they have there because it's so much more relaxed.

"I like the traditions and especially love the food. I've adapted Greek cooking and have also developed the love for baking. I often cook for my family or bake with friends."

Having run track at school in Boston, Artemis says she plans on joining the U-High track team.

"I was really nervous to start at a new school, especially my senior year," Artemis said.

"Lab is a great environment and the people are really friendly. When I first came, people made a huge effort to show me around and help me out. I was invited to functions and really appreciated everyone's kindness.

"The feeling I get from Chicago is so different from Boston. Everyone is really outgoing and warm. I had more than one conversation with people I didn't know in restaurants and it felt completely natural.

"Chicago has left such a great impression on me that I'm applying to colleges mainly in the city."

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6 News briefs
U-High Midway ■ Tuesday, November 20, 2007

HERALDING THE HALLOWEEN PARADE

I feel the Jazz Band had great chemistry leading the parade." —Max Wagner, junior

"I feel the Jazz Band had great chemistry leading the parade." —Max Wagner, junior

Briefly
No staph infections here, but school is ready with state guidelines to use

Increasing awareness through education and posters, the administration hopes to prevent staph infections. This is the case for the Missouri State of Journalism in an effort to prevent staph infections.

For someone who teaches Islam, it’s a unique opportunity to share dialogue with people from an Islamic country in order to understand the learning methods and the participants in the environment and how they compare to those that are in my class," Mrs. Shapiro said.

NEW ADVISOR—Bringing more than two decades of experience in editing, designing and publishing magazines, Donna Teacher Allen Ambrose will advise Renaissance art, literary and music magazine.

I want to keep Renaissance on the same wavelength, but I want to sharpen the focus on the individual students," Mr. Ambrose said. "I want to keep including all the arts and keep doing the visual presentation on the DVD as well as the musical presentation on the CDS."

TOUGH TALK—Are high school journalists and their faculty advisors trying too hard to produce publications that resemble professional daily and successfully that the student element is being lost? That is the question. Journalistic Teacher Wayne Biosa, Midway advisor, poses in the current issue of Communications: Journalism Education Today, the magazine of the Journalism Education Association. Visit the admission’s page of the top school papers there’s little sense of high school students having planned them, diverse backgrounds. If you look at the numbers, Mr. Biosa said. "They look and feel just like city dailies. There’s little sense of youth, and sensationalism, of humor and taking a chance."

JAPAN VISTA—Featuring 92 graduate Mac Pianc Combo, the Chris Greenes Quartet has released their debut album, "Mac Pianc Combo," to critical acclaim. Mac Pianc believes the group fuses a unique sound of jazz among the diverse members. "We’re group-oriented players" Mr. Pianc said. "The members all have different jazz backgrounds and come from different places. The music isn’t your standard rhythm and jazz. We’re doing ‘Rogues On Baggage Women’ by Stevie Wonder, among others. It’s pretty fluid because we’ve been playing together for two years now."

Copies can be purchased at Dusty Grove Records, in addition to iTunes and amazon.com.

FOREIGN RELATIONS—Traveling to Cuba for a music workshop

IN LEAGUE WITH JOURNALISM GIANTS

IN CEREMONIES last month at the Missouri School of Journalism in Columbia, two individuals were honored. Karen Wayne Ambrose, a multimedia journalist, and Missouri Medal of Honor for distinguished service in journalism and "In recognition of his outstanding commitment to instill the importance of a free press in future journalists and readers," Mr. Bracher said. Mr. Bracher has taught at U-High since 1984. Also in the photo, from left, back row are: Acting Journalism Dean Darrel Thompson; Secretary Mary Beth Price director of Empower Marketing/Communications; Bill Price (Mediawire/Club); Susan Madison (Oscar’s University vice president of diversities); and Ruth Reichl (editor-in-chief of Gourmet magazine); and People’s Bank. Front row are Dick Goetz (publisher of The Digital Journalist). Frances Wittman (counselor for the Missouri School of Journalism's newspaper, the Columbia Daily) and Other views of Columbia News, an online line venture with more than 60,000 citizen reporters worldwide.

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Photo by Yollin Kim

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New teachers, students extol friendliness, diversity, excellence of their new school

By Julie Carlson
Associate editor

Feeling comfortable at U-High, new teachers and students said that they like it here. Thirty-two students and nine faculty members joined U-High this fall.

Having taught middle school in Denver years ago, Mr. F. Javier Saez found his transition back into education fairly easy. "I decided to come to Lab because it seemed like an interesting place," he said. "It also has a good reputation for having great students. I would say that it lives up to its reputation, my expectations have been met. All of the students are very talented and the people are friendly."

Senior Artemis Khazaleh has also found U-Highers welcoming. "I had heard the school was very hard," Artemis said. "I had also heard that everyone had been together since kindergarden, so I was nervous about that. Plus, I'd gone to public schools my whole life so it was intimidating to come to a private school. "But, the workload has been easier than I thought. I've been to really good public schools, so it's about at the same level. And socially, everyone's been very nice, very accepting."

Following in the footsteps of her sister Junior Christina, who also came to U-High as a freshman, Freshman Danielle Verdiramo believes extracurricular activities eased her transition.

I was choosing between a few schools before I finally settled on U-High," she said. "But my sister goes here and this is where I felt I would fit in the best. I was both excited and scared about coming in, but I was more excited than nervous. The workload is definitely more than I'm used to, but it's manageable for the most part."

Moving to Hyde Park from Berlin over the summer, Junior Anjuli Ublig said, "My parents were thrilled about the idea of a school designed by the University, and I kind of liked it too. "We heard that the Laboratory Schools were really great, but I had definitely thought the transition would not be easy. I had expected the school to be very academic, but I hadn't expected that I would miss my friends in Berlin so much and on a daily basis. "The teachers are really great. They want to teach you something, which is very different from those I have had in my last school. Also, they are genuinely interested in what problems their students might have. "When I first came to U-High, the students were really welcoming. The student body is very diverse, which I like, but wasn't used to in my other schools."

I just need to get used to there only being kind of extremes, which are not very 'normal' students at Lab."

Freshman Rafi Khan said, "I was told that the homework load would increase in high school, but so would your freedom."

"There's some class separation between freshmen and seniors, but people have been nice. I was on varsity soccer and that helped with the inner-grade integration, because I was around seniors and juniors and some sophomores."

PUTTING THE BEST FACE ON

A PUMPKIN for a day, a Lower Schooler got his face painted at Junior Julie Carlson's Bizzamival booth to raise money for her A.P. European History magazine. Saturday, October 27.

High Schoolers and middle schoolers helped oversee the day's events, sponsored by the Parents' Association.

Approximately 300 Lower Schoolers enjoyed offerings including apple bobbing and a hay ride with story telling around the midway.

Trade turkey for char-dogs and stuffing for fries.
Now that's a Thanksgiving feast.

FIERCELY FLIPPING through the 2007 U-Highlights, U-Highers flooded the Cafeteria after a highly anticipated wait, October 22. A culmination of more than 11 months work, the yearbook was edited by Senior Lileen Xu and '07 graduate Michael Hernandez. Juniors Nico Gomez and Mikey Cordoza check out the visually stunning graphics, including dynamic spreads on girls' basketball and the Winter Formal Dance. Filled with a plethora of student created literature and art, the Renaissance Magazine circulated the Cafeteria during lunch, November 9. U-Highers feasted their eyes on the masterpiece.

JUNIOR DOMINIC TWINE and Senior Jessica Mischel enjoy the mild weather with a perfect after-school snack: a basket of freshly made Wiener Circle's French Fries.
**Some U-Highers lack any parental counsel or help**

By Gabriel Bump

Associate editor

Though they seem to get along fine on their own

Stumbling through his front door early one Sunday morning after spending the night partying, a junior boy knows he won’t get into trouble. After all, he and his friends are mature enough to manage on their own.

Some U-Highers most school weeks don’t see their parents for days at a time, they say; forcing them to adapt to a life without an adult guiding them and instructing them on what to do. Without his father at home and his mother working long hours, an junior boy feels living on his own has made him more mature.

“I’ve been on my own since like 3rd grade,” the senior said. “I feel it’s made me more of an adult, but it all depends on how you look at it. I make my own rules, especially since my dad left. I’ve had to step up and be the man of the house. Basically, I’m already off to college.”

Without an adult at home to motivate him in school, the junior still feels the pressure to succeed.

“There are a lot of people in my family I don’t want to be compared to,” the junior said. “Whenever I do something bad, my mom uses my relatives as an example of someone not to be. She thinks that because some of my cousins are in gangs, if I do anything they have done, then I’m going to end up in a gang. For example, I get my ear pierced and she said that meant that I was in a gang.”

Even though the junior boy comes home to an empty house and doesn’t see his mother until 9 or 10 at night, making it possible for him to do anything he wants on his own.

“I’m just living my life. I completely make my own rules,” the senior said. “I do whatever I want. When I want. I smoke weed in my basement all the time because there isn’t anyone to say, ‘Don’t do that,’ Sometimes she’ll catch me and she’ll say, ‘You’re grounded’ and I’ll just say, ‘No, I’m not.’”

On rare occasions when his mother is around to tell him what to do, the senior boy doesn’t feel he has to take her rules seriously.

“My MOM knows what to do, but I don’t care,” the junior continued. “I know she cares about some things I do, like she doesn’t want me smoking crack or anything. I mean it’s like were just friends. We don’t talk that much and we just make jokes at each other. I think she’s scared to say anything to me.”

Since her parents divorced when she was 12, one sophomore girl has learned to cope with not having much contact with her mom and hardly ever seeing her dad. “It would have bothered me more if I was younger,” the sophomore said. “I spend most of my time with my mom’s because I don’t really look like my dad. But my mom is out of town two weeks a month. And when she’s not here, it’s just not good. I don’t think so. But there hasn’t affected my childhood, it’s easier to live my life.”

DESPITE NEVER seeing them, the sophomore still seems to do well in school.

“They’re just not that just type of parents, they are very supportive,” the sophomore said. “If I told them I wanted to become a florist, they would totally be cool with it. I know a lot of kids spend time with their parents. I’m left alone, but I can take care of myself. I’m really happy.”

With her parents divorcing when she was nine, one junior girl is still struggling to get over lingering physiological pain.

“It’s hard for me to have a strong relationship, the junior said. “My sister went through it worse because she was a teenager, while I just ignored it. I’ve been seeing a psychologist since it happened because I used to have bad dreams. After they got divorced I thought it was a joke, but there hasn’t been many relationships in my family that have worked.”

With her mom constantly traveling to visit her step dad, the junior finds difficulty in committing to relationships.

“It’s hard for me to feel close to her when she’s always leaving,” the junior said. “It’s hard for me to have a strong relationship with a guy; I have a lot of trouble trusting people. But I do have really strong relationships with my girlfriends. There’s not a lot that can break that up.”

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**‘Adopted’ U-Highers feel**

By Ruili Tang

Associate editor

For the fifth night in a row, a senior girl finds her self in her best friend’s kitchen. They are working on their precalculus homework when her friend’s mom comes home. Carrying bags of groceries through the entryway, the mother greets the girls. She grabs the take-out food from out of the bags and sets the containers on the counter for the couch, including for the senior girl.

For some U-Highers, their closest family isn’t biolog ical. Instead, they rely on best friends and their families to be their main source of support.

Rather than staying home alone, the senior girl says she spends more time with her best friend’s family than her own.

Some U-Highers become members of a friend’s family. Others accept their friends as family.

“I found myself alone at home a lot, the senior girl said. “My mom is frequently not home and my dad is always working, so at the beginning of the year, I found myself working alone at home and ordering in for myself. Since my best friend lived near me, I sometimes would go over to her house and we would eat dinner and do homework together.”

“At first, it was just once or twice a week when I would go home work and eat dinner at her house. I would also stay over the weekend. At one point, I just found myself at my friend’s house.”

Enrolling personal stories, the senior girl says she found her relationship with her friend’s family beneficial throughout her high school.

“Her parents are always home and have always accepted me there,” she said. “Her best friend is like my sister. I treat her brother like my own and, when I’m there, her parents treat me like I’m a part of their family. I can talk to my parents, too, but sometimes they’re just not there to talk to because they’re so busy.”

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**Teenagers’, adults’ personalities form crucial pieces of**

By Dana Alfassa

Editor-in-Chief

Teenagers’ personalities may challenge their parents to meet their particular needs. According to Psychiatrist Jacqueline Pardo, 78 U-High graduate and Lab Schools parent, figuring out how to communicate would be a good starting point.

The decision to initiate discussion may come from either the youngster or the parent, but it is important for parents to remain open to talk, believes Dr. Pardo, who works in the Student Counseling and Resource Service at the U. of C. and serves as a Clinical Associate in the University’s Department of Psychiatry.

"The bottom line for me is safety, as a professional and as a parent," said Dr. Pardo, mother of Senior Dan Hornung and 7th grader Max. "How do teenagers cope with and figure out who they are with telling their parents. It’s natural for kids to worry what their parents will say. For teens, talking about or even coming out, the question is how can they bring up the topic so that the response will be safe. It’s important to let him or her know it’s okay to talk about it. It’s important for parents to make it clear, though, that they are willing to talk.

"Parents encourage communication, Dr. Pardo says teens may feel more comfortable bringing up familiar topics as a starting point. It’s important to let the child know because of all the child’s expectations and fears of how the parents will react," she explained. "Down the line they may get into more difficult topics but the discussion may be easier because they have already opened up communication. It may have just been a warm up, but they’re not afraid to talk to each other."
The elusive close-knit family proves to be hard to find, but not impossible

The few who have them still claim it's hard to keep them

By Rohini Tobacowala
Associate editor

B
etween the stress of schoolwork and social activi-
ties, many U-Highers only wish they had a close-
knit family fall back on, instead convincing them-
themselves such families are nonexistent.
Some U-Highers who believe they have close families say it's because they share special passions, connections or just plain love.

Coming from a close family, Sophomore Isabella Pretina said the dinner table allows her and her parents to unwind and enjoy each other's company.

"For the most part, my parents and I sit together to eat dinner," Isabella said.

"It's important because it's really one of the only times we can just relax, sit back and enjoy each other's presence without worrying about what else we have to do. Eating dinner makes us closer because we spend time together to talk about how our day went and what we were up to."

Though she was adopted in Assam, India when she was one, Sophomore Nisha Duara said being adopted has not affected the closeness of her family.

"Most people feel bad for people who are adopted," Nisha said. "But they shouldn't. Just because my mom didn't give birth to me, doesn't mean she's not my 'real' mom.

She doesn't love me less. I think she even loves me more because she doesn't want to spoil me. When I was younger, my parents always told me that I was adopted and they even took me to my orphanage.

After we went there, I made peace with my adoption and my family grew extremely close. My dad's from the same place I'm from, so I stay connected with my family's heritage as well as American culture. With my mom, I can talk to her about anything. I tell her my social problems and the problems I'm having with my grades. When I was younger, I went through a lot. I had a low self esteem because I didn't have the best grades. But, the most important thing that I can remember about that was the fact that my parents were always very supportive and they never gave up on me. They made me try harder and because of that I try to push myself to my strongest abilities.

Having a positive outlook on life helps Nisha and Mrs. Juliet Duara, Nisha's mother, stay close, according to Mrs. Duara.

"Nisha is a very fun person to be with," Mrs. Duara explained. "She's really spontaneous and expressive and I love that. She's also really open with me, which is even more important. Because of that, we can really bond. In addi-
tion, there's this sense of phenomenon because I was adopted too. When adopting Nisha, we filmed the whole thing and showed it to her as early as possible."

We thought it was important to express that. I think because we were open and so honest, Nisha feels like she can do anything."

Sophomore Natalia Khosla said her family uses a similar passion as a source of connection.

"My whole family dances a lot," Natalia said. "My mom used to dance Kathak, a classical Indian dance, which inspired my sister and I to take other forms of Indian dance. So when we got to a lot family parties together, we'd dance. Even my dad loves to dance; it's just really fun to be able to share an interest like that with my immediate family because usually a lot of families don't like the same thing."

Despite their busy schedules, Kavita Khosla, Natalia's 13-year-old sister, who attends The Avery Coonley School in West suburban Downers Grove said Natalia is her best friend.

"Natalia and I are super close," Kavita said. "We hang out a lot and play video games together. We also are very honest with each other. Actual-
ly, Natalia might be the only one that's always honest with me, even if it's like, 'Wow, that skirt is ugly.' But even more so, we try to give each other good advice, as do our parents.

"For instance, Natalia had to make the decision to quit the dance team outside of school that she had been on. She didn't want to do it because she loved the team and she wanted to stay. Yet, she couldn't keep up with four hours of dance every night and school. As a result, my parents and I convinced her to drop it, so she could focus on other things. So, basically we try to do what's best for each other, even if the other person may not necessarily agree."

Similarly, Junior Richard Tomlinson said that he can count on his brother, Freshman John Tomlinson, to sup-
port him.

"John and I live a very busy lifestyle," Richard said. "He has his cycling and I have my soccer, so usually we're out at a game or race somewhere. But I try to make it to his races, so that I can cheer him on and support him. In return, he comes to my games when he can, too. If I'm having an argu-
ment on little things with my parents, he tries to back me up. Having that support means a lot to me, even if we can't spend a lot of time together during the school year."

The puzzle when it comes to building a relationship

The puzzle when it comes to building a relationship and maintaining a family is not an easy one, and many students may struggle with it.

It can be easier for the child to choose a circumscribed topic to give them confidence. Or they may want to start by trying to define rules for engaging in a discussion and of course these rules are that are agreed upon by everyone involved. Good communica-
tion is very important and one component of that is the feeling of safety.

Even with open communication, teens may feel pressure from their families and themselves, believes Dr. Pardo.

"We can break pressure down to internal pressure and external pressure," Dr. Pardo explained. "External pressure would be the parents' voiced expectations or other expectations imposed by society and internal pressure could include a child's feeling that they have to make up for a sibling's behavior or an only child's feeling that they may want to work on to succeed. It's a continuum and there are different layers for different people. The pros-
cess is about figuring out: 'What do I want to do and why do I want to do it?'

In a way, we can generalize pressure to all kids. There is the pressure that is reality based, which is the fear of parents' response, and a child's own fears, perhaps that their par-
ts won't respect them anymore. Maybe there is also some peer pressure involved. There may be a certain expectation not to share with parents or that it's not cool to share with your parents."

Whether or not teens choose to share informa-
tion with their parents, it's important to have support from adult figures, believes Dr. Pardo.

"Some teens may feel more comfortable talking to other adult figures like their friends' parents because there's a familiarity there," Dr. Pardo said. "There aren't the dynamics exist be-
tween a parent and a child. The fact that their friend's mom isn't their own mom may make them more receptive to the idea. It's important for them to have somebody to talk to, whether that may be a teacher or someone else."

It's no substitution for a child's own parents but while they work at their relationship, it's impor-
tant to have that support from other adult fig-
ures.
Projects show where their hearts really are

Some people say that U-Highers have a reputation of being snobby and self-centered because they attend a high-priced high school and come from families with prominent parents who live upper class lives. But, if you were to stroll through any issue of the Midway, the 2007 U-Higher or the Daily Bulletin, you’d be sure to find U-Highers giving abundant attention to the real world. Whether it’s T-shirt sales, petitions, book, toy and clothing drives, or merely lunchtime conversations, it’s obvious U-Highers care.

Take, for example, the recent Ubuntu designed T-shirt sales in the Cafeteria during the week of October 23. With profits going towards support groups for families impacted by AIDS in South Africa, Junior Emily Bioniek sold the hand made shirts side by side with American Apparel president Hannah Buskin. Encouraging U-Highers to sign a petition against the genocide in Darfur, Amnesty International also sponsored a letter writing week in the Cafeteria, November 9, raising money to fight modern slavery.

“We sold cookies and pad in that the cafeteria to raise money to donate to the Free the Slave Organization,” Hannah said. “It’s an organization against modern slavery. It shows how just $14 can go a long way. We did sell a letter signing for Darfur a few weeks before.”

“I think some people don’t feel responsible to do what they can for others if they’re on their own feet and have a roof over their heads. They don’t think about the people who are being beaten and killed in other countries,” Hannah said. “I think it’s important to help them achieve a better life.”

“Last year, Ubuntu International was only a couple of seniors, so Junior Mia Davenport and I decided to continue it this year. We’ve already attended an anti-war rally and in December we’re planning to have another letter signing and then participate in the Charity Days Friday. I think the people who aren’t proactive get wrapped up in their own lives and issues are not on their mind all the time. I think that’s really sad and disturbing.”

Many U-Highers other than Amnesty International have been proactive as well. Planning a book drive in honor of Martin Luther King, a second, highlighting outstanding student music talent, seemed to get a lukewarm reception. The difference may be that the first program was planned by the principal and student government officers. The second was planned by the principal only. There may be a message in that. We’d suggest that students always be involved in planning the assemblies.

■ THE FALL PRODUCTION of “Dracula,” with its blood thirsty villain and grim dark scenes, serves as a prime example of what makes the U-High theatre program different.

It’s safe to say that at many high schools the play’s most shocking scenes would have been modified to make the it more suitable for younger audiences.

But the U-High production was uncompromising. And, flabbergasted by the vivid acting, dramatic lighting and surprising special effects, audiences loved it. A classic story was told as a classic story should be told, respecting the art form of drama and just as important, respecting the audience.

■ PARENT-TEACHER conferences are considered important enough to dismiss classes for the day. But something seems to be missing. Most U-Highers say their parents never discuss what teachers told them when they get home. That doesn’t sound like much sense. Parents need to bring up the conferences at home and share what the teachers said so students aren’t left out of the loop.

■ EVERY SEVEN years the school conducts a self-evaluation in preparation for a team of educators visiting to compare what they see firsthand with what the school says it is trying to achieve. A look back into Midways of the past reveals that at one time students were broadly involved in the self-study. Today, it seems, students mostly are left out of the process. That makes no sense. Of all people in the community, students may see most clearly what’s up. They should be involved.

10-second editorials

■ STUDENT REACTION to the first two all-school assemblies contrasted interestingly. The first assembly, featuring a student-faculty basketball game, scored a big hit. The second, spotlighting outstanding student music talent, seemed to get a lukewarm reception. The difference may be that the first program was planned by the principal and student government officers. The second was planned by the principal only. There may be a message in that. We’d suggest that students always be involved in planning the assemblies.

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CURRENT EVENTS

ANNA KATIA ZBIKOWSKI

New ways to get involved in the game

"WHO'S RUNNING for the election?" I won't lie, I've heard these words from a friend recently and I hope I'll never hear them again. Politicians as usual have been encouraging the younger voting public to get involved in the upcoming Presidential election. By this time next year I look forward to hearing conversations about the election.

As a prospective voter in the next election, I'm curious to see how information will be presented to a younger crowd. Teens make up about 25 percent of the voting public and to boost that number, some young voters have become involved through the internet. They've launched such sites such as Scoop8, a news site with articles written by teens following the Presidential campaign. I read first about Scoop8 while perusing British Broadcasting Online. Scoop8, launched November 5, uses young student journalists' accounts of the 2008 campaign and video clips, blogs and podcasts. Operated by Alexander Heffner '17, and Andrew Mangino 20, the website looks for student writers to cover different aspects of the campaign.

With no party affiliation, Scoop8 lists news about all the parties and serves solely to inform the youthful public of the election, not direct it. Credited for helping promote Bill Clinton in 1992, Rock the Vote, a nonprofit organization, was founded 1990 by Jeff Ayeroff. While both of these sites encourage the involvement of teens, Scoop8 provides teens with information written by their peers while Rock the Vote uses celebrity power to interest young voters.

On Facebook, the social networking website for high school and college students, a new feature has been added providing members with the ability to post the candidacy they support on their page. With these new internet sites encouraging teens to vote, it's hard to escape the publicity of the election. Teens who neglected previous elections might now devote some time researching the election with all the available material. Learning about all these sites and organizations, I've become much more interested and involved in the election.

It's so simple to become occupied with the multitudes of information available that hopefully even more teens will vote in the next election.

FASHION

ROHINI TOBACCOWALA

New fashions build on classic themes

INSPIRED BY old school chic from the '70s and '80s, this season's fashions return to American classics.

With an odgier flair, classic pieces such as high waisted knee length skirts and big collared shirts appear sleeker and more sophisticated. Illustrating this lustrous and preppy trend, Ralph Lauren's Rugby store, 1900 West Armitage, displays radiant garments in its Fall and Winter collection.

Think timeless classic with an edge. Where Preppy collegiate tradition compliments innovative styles to form a rich sense of character and individuality, the Rugby collection offers rich and bright polos, oxfores, knits, sweaters and an eclectic array of denim, costing $50-$80. Rugby is something you want to wear and keep your whole life.

To dress up a casual look, girls can accessorize with a plaid vest or a glitter threaded wool scarf. For a more feminine approach, a printed sweater dress with dark leggings and polished calf length boots express confidence and poise.

For an athletic appeal, boys can sport a striped or solid colored rugby. Planning for a formal event, spice it up with a striped, checked, or plain button up shirt to create an elegant style.

Both boys and girls can select from the notorious skull and crossbones logo, rugby player, or "BRL monogram" to design their own unique rugby or Oxford shirts.

With a choice from long sleeve or short sleeve shirts, there is no problem wearing Rugby yearround.
MUSIC NATHAN BISHOP
Veteran rocker needs to rediscover his musical magic

LEVON HELM, a gold mine of classic American rock since the ‘60s, needs to dig deeper into his rock and roll reservoir. As the drummer and lead vocalist of The Band, Helm belted out powerful songs about the gritty old South while thumping on the drums with passion.

But on his new solo album “Dirt Farmer” (Vanguard), Helm seems less like a Dixieland rocker and more of a grandfather sitting on a porch, twangin’ away folk tunes he learned as a child on the Arkansas cotton farm where he was raised—in fact, most of “Dixie Farmer’s” songs are old southern covers.

For those who enjoyed The Band’s “The Last Waltz,” their famous last concert from 1976 that was later released on C.D. and as a documentary directed by Martin Scorcese, you’re in for an unexpected surprise. Sixty-seven years and a bout of throat cancer has strained Helm’s voice, but he still howls about love, land and age with a sincerity that whisks the listener away to a place of earthly simplicity and comfort.

Unfortunately, Helm’s voice is the only exceptional thing about the album. All of the songs on “Dirt Farmer” are well done but forgettable renditions of southern melodies.

Helm’s daughter, Amy, does harmony vocals on nine of “Dirt Farmer’s” 13 tracks. Her country twang is a nice touch in some places but generally laid on a bit too thick and too often. “Dirt Farmer” has solid instrumentals: Helm utilizes a mosaic of sounds including mandolin, fiddle, pump organ and accordion, but his talent on the drums, unfortunately, never gets exhibited.

Next time you’ve got a little extra money in your pocket and a hunger for a great rock album, stay away from “Dirt Farmer” and pick up “The Last Waltz” to see what Helm can really do with a mic and a drum set.

THEATRE GRETCHEN ENG
Instant enjoyment in a Shakespearean romp

QUICK WITTED and lyrical performers make “Improvshed Shakespeare” a must see for any well educated comedy connoisseur. These savvy improvisers take the stage Friday nights at 80’s Del Close Theater, 3541 North Clark Street. Adapted from a similar Los Angeles show, the production comprises a rotating crew of six or seven male improvisers, a throwback to the Bard’s times when acting was restricted to men. After an audience member suggests the title of an un-written Shakespearean play, these performers hatch into an hour and a half show delivered in Elizabethan English. Improvised in long form, intricate relationships and thematic struggles emerge as the elaborate plot unfolds. Built continuously, the story only breaks for a short intermission. The October 26 show will review attended, “The Gay Vender,” portrayed the typical Shakespearian themes of power struggle, love and betrayal. The tale itself presented a less than typical conflict involving a group of assassins plotting to kill the ill-fated Duke, whose bastard son must choose sides before the play ends. Packed into the Del Close Theater’s small array of rows, audience members rocked in their seats, receiving each witticism with tearful laughter.

Sonnas usually consist of two or three people, but the rest of the cast stands on either side of the action, intently watching their teammates. They appear comfortable together, allowing everything among the highest rated new shows of the fall line-up, prompting the network to order a full season pick-up. Applegate’s cute yet coy portrayal of a girl with full fledged amnesia meshes well with the comical stylings of Jennifer Esposito (Andrea, Sam’s equally evil best friend), “Gilmore Girl” Melissa McCarthy (Dena, Sam’s long lost childhood friend) and Emmy winner Jean Smart (Bezzi, Sam’s mother). Sophisticated plot lines are divided up into cleverly titled vignettes which allow separate stories to flow easily from one to the next, while still creating a cohesive episode. The hilarious situations that arise from Sam’s condition give the show a quick pace and wit unparalleled by any other new comedy. Samantha may have lost her memory, but you won’t forget the laughs garnered from watching an episode of “Samantha Who?”

TELEVISION DAVID McALPINE
Unusual premise sparks new comedy

A SECOND CHANCE at life is something not many people have. But in an ironic twist of fate, the title character in the new ABC sitcom “Samantha Who?” airing Monday nights at 8:30 on channel 7, has gotten just that when she wakes up from an eight-day coma. Samantha, a hit and run victim played by Emmy winner Christina Applegate, develops amnesia and cannot recollect personal memories.

Though some might call her amnesia a curse, Sam sees it as a blessing in disguise, as she soon finds out she was vain and willing to do anything to get to the top of the corporate ladder. After discovering her alcoholism and unfaithfulness to her boyfriend, Sam vows to make a change for the better.

“Samantha Who?” quickly surfaced among the highest rated new shows of the fall line-up, prompting the network to order a full season pick-up. Applegate’s cute yet coy portrayal of a girl with full fledged amnesia meshes well with the comical stylings of Jennifer Esposito (Andrea, Sam’s equally evil best friend), “Gilmore Girl” Melissa McCarthy (Dena, Sam’s long lost childhood friend) and Emmy winner Jean Smart (Bezzi, Sam’s mother). Sophisticated plot lines are divided up into cleverly titled vignettes which allow separate stories to flow easily from one to the next, while still creating a cohesive episode. The hilarious situations that arise from Sam’s condition give the show a quick pace and wit unparalleled by any other new comedy. Samantha may have lost her memory, but you won’t forget the laughs garnered from watching an episode of “Samantha Who?”

FILM JULIE CARLSON
‘Dan’ really should have tried harder for originality, insight

SOMETIMES CHEESY, predictable Hollywood blockbusters get tiring. When looking for a break from such tripe and fake films, “Dan in Real Life” seems promising...but don’t be fooled by the misleading title.

Despite being written and directed by the talented Peter Hewitt, who penned screenplays for “What’s Eating Gilbert Grape?” and “About a Boy,” the film delivers a surprisingly cliché platitudes. Advice columnist Dan (Steve Carrell), a widowed father of three, takes his daughters to spend the holidays with his parents and new girlfriend in Rhode Island. While on vacation, he meets a beautiful woman named Marie (Juliette Binoche), only to find out that she’s dating his brother Mitch (Dane Cook).

Known mostly for his work in outrageous comedies like “Anchorman” and “The 40 Year Old Virgin,” Carrell manages to portray Dan in a darker, more believable light. Sadly, aside from Dan the characters remain pretty one-dimensional. As Marie, Binoche devotes nearly all of her screen time to just laughing and smiling. Cook fares better as Mitch than in previous films like “Good Luck Chuck,” but the role could have been fleshed out by a more subtle actor.

In its opening weekend, October 26-28, “Dan in Real Life” came in at 2nd at the box office with $11.9 million but got only $7.5 million the following weekend. Judging by the modest earnings and generally good reviews, it seems the film’s a nice enough way to pass the time. If you haven’t gone to see it yet, though, just wait for the DVD.

Write us! Put YOUR opinion in the Midway! We welcome letters to the editor. Just write it, sign it and put it in Mr. Brasler’s mailbox in the principal’s office, U-High 106. We’ll take it from there.
"It was interesting talking to the people of Iowa about Obama and how they feel about his campaign."—Keira Kennedy, sophomore

At home, the candidate can do no wrong

Talking to Hyde Parkers about Obama can become a mystical experience

By Tom Stanley-Becker

A round the world, the message seems the same. Senator Barack Obama (D-Ill.) is in trouble. Exactly why the would-be Democratic candidate for the Presidency is on shaky ground varies. But one fact seems clear: Back home in Hyde Park, he can do no wrong, he is walking on water, he has a halo stop his politeness at the door.

Across the nation Senator Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) is commanding the spotlight as Democratic frontrunner. But while a Senator Obama Presidency may seem as unlikely as a Cubs World Series sweep, most Hyde Parkers view their hometown candidate as a can’t-miss contender.

FEWER THAN 10 blocks from the Laboratory Schools, on a quiet tree-lined street, the Obama family resides in a big red brick house with a white front porch, surrounded day and night by Secret Service. Until his 2004 U.S. Senate election, Senator Obama represented the Hyde Park community, while also teaching at the University of Chicago Law School, where he remains Senior Lecturer on leave.

Last month at the Lab Schools Lower School Halloween party, Senator Obama’s wife Michelle stood in a crowd on Kenwood Mall, watching her daughters Malia and Sasha wave to the past. A member of Laboratory Schools Board of Directors and a vice president at the University of Chicago Hospitals, Mrs. Obama mingled with professors and financial experts in the Lab Schools community who double as top policy advisers for the Obama campaign.

Though Senator Clinton has been dominating the news, everyone in Hyde Park knows Senator Obama, said Senior Syme Backer, a member of “Kids for Obama,” which rallies door to door.

“Obama is such a character in the Hyde Park community, which is a very liberal community,” Syme said. “He is a liberal politician. He fits the stereotypical Hyde Parker.”

Theimestone II Hyde Park everyone knows Obama even if they are not involved in politics. But Obama is not getting off the campaign trail to put himself out there. He needs to focus more on getting himself known in the nation.

In a sea of Obama supporters, only a few U-High students put their dreams of an Obama Presidency in writing.

“People in Hyde Park cannot see the reality. What it really comes down to, no matter how much things are moving forward, is that well over 80 percent of the country would not elect an African-American or woman president. There is a reason that all the White House Candidates are white Catholic or Protestant men.”

New to U-High this year, Math Teacher Heather Anderson finds political views in Hyde Park unrepresentative of those across the country, especially her former home in northern Virginia.

“I saw lots of ‘W’s on the back of vehicles,” Ms. Anderson said. “I lived five miles from the CIA headquarters. I was teaching at a boarding school, surrounded by these eight to 10 million dollar mansions. Many parents driving in were supporting the current administration. That was a different place to live, 15 miles away from D.C.”

“I BELIEVE LAB is a liberal school but I haven’t talked to people about it. I don’t know who I’ll vote for. I’m just glad the current administration is exiting. It would be a stretch, though, for me to believe people would support the Obama nomination. America is not a nation where race won’t play a part in whom people select as president. I know Obama has the ‘audacity of hope,’ I just don’t know if America is there.”

Neither an Obama nor Clinton supporter, Math Teacher Chris Freeman says he never engages Lab Schools Democrats in discussion because he believes they cannot see another position.

“The Democratic viewpoint is so pervasive,” Mr. Freeman said. “There are certain people who are going to support either Hillary or Obama. I avoid talking politics most of the time. There is no freedom to express Republican views. Obama’s major proposition would be to get American troops out of Iraq in three or four months.

“But I THINK a rapid withdrawal from Iraq would be devastating to both Iraqis and to American soldiers trying to leave Iraq. To me it is a matter of fascination. I think for Democrats to talk to people with contrary ideas are not worth listening to because they are so certain that they are right.”

Expressing no pessimism about the upcoming primary, high parents advising the Obama campaign believe that the special affinity between Obama and Hyde Park will quickly spread across the country.

“Hyde Park residents, who have followed Barack’s career, know he is very special,” said Mr. Larry Strickland, Obama policy coordinator and father of Senior Robert Strickland. “He is not a demagogue, meaning that he takes positions only after he thinks them through.

“HE IS VERY much a consensus-builder. That is a very strong academic idea. You can’t point to the other states and say well all the Hyde Parkers are wrong. When people know him, the experience will not matter.”

The hometown factor has been overlooked, believes University of Chicago Law Professor Cass Sunstein, Obama legal adviser and father of Junior Ellen Ruddick-Sunstein.

“People tend to support the Chicago White Sox because they’re the Chicago White Sox; people tend to support Obama because of his actual qualities,” Professor Sunstein observed.

“Hyde Park is a pretty bright, a very indenpendent-minded place, with appreciation for diversity and people, and diverse people, the Obama campaign has those virtues too.”

“An Obama defeat would mean temporary sadness and reduced donations. Obama might use his fifth floor law school office a bit more than he has of late.”

Campaigning in Iowa

(continued from front page)

more and more attention. Our goal in Iowa is to make sure Iowans get to know our Senator. When I went in June there were still a lot of people who didn’t know who Barack Obama is. But when I went in September I didn’t knock on a single door where people didn’t know who he was.”

Conversing with fellow supporters Amelia and Amy, Keira said that while it was too soon to gage the level of Obama support among Iowans, the experience prepared her for interviewing the caucus over winter break.

“I was excited but I was nervous going out to door for the first time,” she said. “As soon as I started going door to door by myself I was not at all afraid, although a few times it was intimidating because some people closed the door in our face. There was one guy who opened the door and hung up his shirt and told me that he doesn’t vote.

“We were with a few people from Iowa who are going door to door to house the woman I was with gave me pointers about how not to be rude but at the same time be assertive.

“We also had to take notes on people, we had a scale rating their level of interest, which she helped me fill out because it got a little complicated.”
14 Sports

AMBITIONS fall teams make history

By Gabriel Bump
Associate editor

Heartbreaking playoff losses along with rewriting school history books with state runs, defined a fall season filled with mixed emotions. Qualifying for State for the third time in U-High history as well as finishing 2nd in the Independent School League, boys’ cross-country runners put themselves among the elite with balance and teamwork, according to Jarus Singh, co-captain with Philip Verma. Both are seniors.

“MOST TEAMS only have one or two good runners, but we stuck together,” Jarus said. “Philip Verma ran his best and I see a great future for Freshmen John Worcher and Ben Jurrius. We only had one minute between our 1st and 7th runners.”

“We ran our best at Sectionals and State,” Jarus continued. “For example, we ran against Walker Lutheran earlier in the year and they beat us pretty bad. But when we faced them at Sectionals we won. I’m sad my career is over, I wish I had one more year.”

Girls’ cross country also qualified for State for the eighth time in U-High history, as well as finishing 1st in ISL. Winning Sectionals for the first time in school history, girls’ tennis set a strong pace at the beginning of the season and never looked back, according to Captain Alex Gwynn, senior.

“OUR VERY first match was great,” Alex said. “I expected us to be good but not that good. Then everyone played well at Sectionals. Margot Turek, who played doubles, won her first match, which helped us. Leah and Sofia also qualified for State, which is cool because this year we had two doubles team qualify. This year chemistry was very good; there have been ups and downs within the team previous years. But this year the team was the most cohesive.

“It’s funny because I played State at the same place I played State my freshman year. It’s great to be a part of history my senior year because I have more of a leadership role, being a captain and also a senior.”

With 17 best times at Sectionals, including Junior Caroline Back breaking the school record for the 100-meter butterfly, girls swimmers ended their season strong after struggling at times, according to Caroline.

“I HIT a plateau during the season,” Caroline said. “Everyone had a few frustrating meets, but collectively it was a good season. Breaking the record was the pinnacle of my U-High career because everyone was really happy. Even though it was a varsity meet, j.v. swimmers were there cheering us on, which really helped.”

Despite losing in triple-overtime to Brother Rice at Regionals, October 15 at home, boys’ soccermen experienced more positives than negatives during the season, believes Coach Mike Moses.

“Even though we didn’t win Regionals or 1st place, we still did well,” Coach Moses said. “It also felt like we were playing against two teams during the regional finals: Brother Rice and the refs. Calls that weren’t made favored the other team and during the game there was a lack of whistle blowing. But we could’ve been more calm, kept possession more, played with a slower tempo.

“YOU CAN’T over think situations, if it ain’t broke don’t fix it. However, a lot was learned this season. This group played better than what we were expecting. Nate Wisse turned it up to a higher level.

“With almost the entire team coming back next season we’re going to be even stronger. The table is set for things to be really great next year.”

Losing in the opening round of Regionals, girl’s varsity volleyball struggled all season to adjust to new coaches and small squad size, according to Captain Christina Verdiramo, junior.

“All insanity considered we did very well,” Christina said. “We could’ve mentally prepared better. We tried out new strategies during games and would have to adjust, we did eventually get home late in the game.”

“Senior night, against Timothy Christian, you could see we were playing together,” Christina continued. “But we had at least a week between that game and our Regional game, we changed formations from A-5 to A-5-1 which we weren’t use to. We played well in Regionals but it wasn’t Stores not previously mentioned are as follows:

CROSS COUNTRY--AA Region. October 30, home: Boys placed 1st, girls placed 1st; AA Sectional. October 27, away: Boys placed 5th, girls placed 4th; AA State, November 3, away: Boys placed 2nd, girls placed 10th.


GIRLS SWIMMING--AA Sectional, November 10, home: Varsity finished 4th of 10 teams.

BOYS SOCCER--Brother Rice, October 19, home: Varsity lost 1-0.


Photo by Lauren Xu

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Photo by Ramzi Drewsien

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With new coaches, Maroons sail right on

Returning stars have the power to lead teams to League titles

Matt Luchins
Associate editor

Though both losing their head coach, boys’ and girls’ basketball haven’t had to adjust to completely new coaches. Former varsity boys’ basketball Coach Ron Ashlaw accepted an offer to coach Waukegan High School, while former varsity girls’ Coach Carson Cunningham left for personal reasons.

THEY WERE replaced by the boys’ jv Coach, Troy Caldwell and girls’ assistant varsity Coach, Meghan Janda, respectively.

“We want to play an up-tempo style, get in transition and score easy baskets, while playing a tough-minded defense,” said Coach Caldwell.

“We feel that we can contend for the Independent School League championship.

“That’s because we’re a veteran team. We have five seniors and juniors, and our captains, Dan Hornung and Zeke Upshaw, both made the all-conference team last year.

THE TEAM’s first game came yesterday against Providence St. Mel in the annual St. Benedict High School Thanksgiving tournament. Results came past Midway deadline.

“I think we’re the favorites to win the tournament,” said Dan. “But we’ll have to play well, because last year we only beat Providence by 5.”

“After that we play St. Benedict, who we’ve beaten a few times but we’ve also lost to them, so it really depends on how well we play.”

Looking past the tournament, there are games against Chicago International Charter School Northtown, which resulted in a 7 point victory last year, Morgan Park Academy who split last year’s two-game series and Northridge College Prep, a new member of the ISL Conference.

With only 11 players, seven of them underclassmen, the girls’ basketball team is combining their j.v. and varsity teams.

“WE’RE GOING to play fast, with an in-your-face defense,” said Coach Janda. “Our main strength is our strong shooters and our goal is to win the ISL for the first time in 19 years.”

“The captains will be two seniors, Lucy O’Reife and Emma Cowen, along with Junior Alexis Jenkins.

Playing their season opener against St. Francis DeSales High School for the second straight year, November 14, the Maroons won 37-14. Sophomore Gabrielle Lubin and Junior Alexis Jenkins were the leading scorers with 11 each.

“I THINK we need to run our plays more efficiently, but we still moved the ball really well,” said Alexis.

Their next games were at home November 16 against Northside College Prep, who beat them by 20 points last game, and Walther Lutheran High School, November 19. Both games came after Midway deadline.

Boys’ swimming, which includes seven freshmen and 13 returnees, began practice today with varsity Coach Paul Gunty, math teacher.

“We have several strong veterans, including Homer Shew and Won Hee Lee, both of whom are chosen to swim record times in several events,” Coach Gunty said. “Our problem this year, as every year, is depth. We usually have one strong swimmer in each event, but we need two or three to compete with the bigger schools.”

“THERE IS no ISL swimming league, but we do compete in dual meets with Latin and Lake Forest Academy, the only other ISL schools with swim teams, however our most important meets are the invitational meets, where there might be six or nine schools competing. We’re usually competitive in those, finishing in the middle or a little above.”

SPORTS GABE BUMP

Bulls frustratingly give up chance to make a dream come

WITH THE acquisition of superstars Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen, the Boston Celtics have emerged as an Eastern Conference powerhouse, bringing basketball back to a city that has already won the World Series and has possibly the best team in the NFL.

Honestly, to say any fan of a Boston sports team has it good would be a gross understatement.

But while sports fans in New England celebrate the rebirth of an NBA dynasty, Bulls supporters are left wondering what could have been.

Just imagine if this summer a disgruntled Garnett was brought to Chicago from the Timberwolves, giving the Bulls that much needed star power in the paint.

That would probably have involved trading Luol Deng, the solid swing man, as well as some girls’ Coach

Though Deng is arguably the team’s best player, Garnett is a future Hall of Famer. So fans would soon forgive the front office for trading Deng after a few more wins courtesy of Garnett’s patented double-doubles. In fact, any win would be nice, as the Bulls have struggled through a 1-5 start to the season.

Even dreams of bringing defending scoring champion Kobe Bryant to the Bulls were nullified by General Manager John Paxson earlier this month, leaving Chicago falling further behind other rapidly improving Eastern Conference teams.

While the Bulls have reached the playoffs comfortably the past three seasons, failing to add a bona-fide star has left Chicago fans expecting little from a team with too many holes on offense.

Sure, Ben Gordon can drop 30 or 40 points every now and then, but he lacks the consistency to do it game after game.

Without a reliable go-to guy, the Bulls are going to have a tough time getting past Garnett and the Celtics, Gilbert Arenas and the Washington Wizards, or even LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

It’s time like these that make me want to pull out that Space Jam VHS and reminisce about the days when Michael Jordan could even score on monsters from another planet.

Congratulations to the U-Highlights and Renaissance staffs on the debut of two fine 2007 editions
Barbara Kasten: Constructs 1979-1983

November 2–December 22
Opening reception with the artist Friday, November 2, 5:00–8:00pm

Also on view: André Kertész: Elizabeth and Me
In the later years of his life Kertész celebrated the intimacy of Polaroid photography by using it explore his feelings of personal despair following the death of his wife. His small (3x3") images depict delicate still lifes constructed of highly personal artifacts.

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