Gangs hover in community challenges

By Gabriel Bump
Associate editor

Leaving footprints in the freshly fallen snow while walking home from a South Side school, a 16-year-old Hyde Park Career Academy student can’t appreciate the beautiful Christmas decorations adorning his South Shore street because he’s worrying about getting shot.

Just this school year, six Chicago Public School students have been killed in gang violence. Despite a decrease in gang-related violence since 2000, Chicago remains one of the most dangerous cities in the country, according to the anti-shooting initiative Ceasefire located on Chicago’s near Westside.

Identifying gang members before they come to school is the only way to reduce violence, according to Mr. Tio Hardiman, director of gang mediation and community organizing for Ceasefire.

“School officials have to get these kids before it happens,” Mr. Hardiman explained. “If they don’t, they’re always going to be too late. They have to identify the guy that has the most influence. Gang violence is very visible and prevalent. Most kids that go to school in gang-run neighborhoods know how to avoid getting into trouble.

“There are many levels of involvement with gang members,” Mr. Hardiman continued. “You have the guys that are in the gangs because it’s the cool thing to do, then you have the drug sellers.

“Finally, there are the people that take oaths and dedicate their lives to the gang. If you don’t have the backbone of a gorilla then you have to get out of the gang, because you got guys that will do whatever by any means. People get snatched into jails because they have the wrong belief system.

For Nick Rott, commander of the Chicago Police Department gang intelligence unit, the public’s perception of the crime rate rising in Chicago isn’t reality.

(continues on page 3)
**Holocaust trip reveals reminders of other historical legacies, too**

By Aaron Weiss

Midway reporter

Intrigued by the colossal illuminated stone wall at the FDR Memorial, one student excitedly pointed to the information desk and her group. "I have never seen such a beautiful stone wall before," she exclaimed. "I've heard stories about it, of course, but to see it up close was truly amazing."

As the group continued their tour, one student remarked, "I feel like I've grown so much from this trip. It's made me realize how much history shapes our world today." Another added, "I've always found history to be dry and uninteresting, but this trip has really brought it to life for me."

📸 Photo by Emily Clas

**FDR Memorial**

**TOYS for special needs children at La Rabida Children’s Hospital were collected by Sophomores Audrey Alexander, Nisha Dua, seen above, and Katherine Holt in UH 277. Sophomore Mario Gage and Zoe Lindner organized a gift drive, November 25, for clients of the Living Room cafe and family services.**

**THE SPIRIT OF GIVING**

**Student-conceived assembly to remember ’60 grad, a blues star**

By Isabel Del Canto

Midway reporter

Conjuring up memories of the 1960s Chicago blues scene, Juniors Kevin Brunke and Max Wagner are organizing a student-organized assembly for 4th period Wednesday, February 13, most likely in Max Palevsky Theatre, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the<sup>1</sup> death of blues guitarist and singer, and ’60 U-High graduate, Paul Butterfield.<n
What began as a casual conversation on blues music during a lunch period last spring between Kevin and Max developed into a benefit concert in remembrance of Mr. Butterfield. After the boys learned that Mr. Butterfield’s former bandmate, drummer and fellow former U-Higher, Sam Messina, was visiting them with all, they invited4 Nativity Parker and students at U-High, their intent was to raise money.

After graduating, Mr. Butterfield formed The Paul Butterfield Blues Band with John Frogham, composer of John, and lead guitarist Elvin Bishop, bassist Jerome Arnold, drummer Sam Lay, guitarist Johnnie May, and later organist Mark Naftalin, all of whom became famous. The band signed to Elektra Records and released their first album, "The Paul Butterfield Blues Band" in 1965. Mr. Butterfield died in 1987 of a drug accident 18 years after performing at Woodstock.

Kevin and Max presented the concept idea to Dean of Students Larry McFarlane, Lab Schools Director David Magill and Principal Matt Horvat.

"After talking to them about the idea of a concert, we decided to plan on having an assembly first," Kevin explained. "The goal was to use the assembly turned out, we would follow up with the benefit concert after a year or two of planning, to make it perfect."

"The assembly would be to honor Paul Butterfield and celebrate his life with a special assembly with a guest speaker," Max added.

The bands would perform any blues music or songs even similar to the songs performed by Butterfield or other famous blues musicians by keeping his music alive.

During the assembly Mr. Lacocque’s band The Rock N Roll 11 will perform, and his band The Mississippi Heat will play, as will the U-High Jazz Band, according to Max. A guest speaker also is being considered.

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**Teacher's trip to Egypt resonates back home**

By Mona Dasgupta

"W**

ow, I got to study, live and be in Egypt. I got to listen, observe and take part in conversation with other people devoted to education around the world."

So said History Teacher Shappir Shapiro of her trip to Cairo. Egypt November 26-December 2, as a part of the People to People Citizen Ambassador Programs. Founded in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower, who believed citizens of different nations could connect through values and goals, the program provides foreign educational travel for American teachers. Selected participants connect with people with similar professional interests through meetings, seminars and activities.

Egyptian education, school visits, and Great Pyramids tours were among the program's activities. Of 428 Conference delegates, Mrs. Shapiro was among 17 in the history delegation.

Mrs. Shapiro visited the Mubark City Teacher Training Institute, a training center for new teachers after college, in Giza.

"The director of the school gave a lecture and power point presentation about moral education and instilling 'values' in students," Mrs. Shapiro said. "Then we saw labs where science graduates learned how to teach science. Then we saw an IMAX presentation on the Galapagos Island's Darwin Experiment. This day was about science. Most of the education reforms tend to be about math, science and technology. Humanities is sort of on the back burner nationally in Egypt."

"This trip was truly amazing. I was intrigued. I'm interested in Islamic life and culture, in Egypt as a more liberal Islamic country. It was wonderful being in a country at the crossroads of antiquity and modernity."

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**CLUBS JOIN TASTY PROJECT FOR AID IN DARFUR**

Photo by Lwen Xu

CLUBS JOIN TASTY PROJECT FOR AID IN DARFUR

"Zesty Chefs really enjoyed participating in Taste of Lab this year. I mean, how often do you get to make a cookie 14 inches in diameter?" —Alison Feder, senior

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GLOBAL COORDINATOR ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICES  

by Rafi Khan  
Midway reporter

U-turning one perfect paper after another, Freshman Charles Du has proven among the Math Team's most promising newcomers. Among eight freshmen on the 35-member team, Charles had not gotten a single problem wrong in the North Suburban Math League (NSML) meets as of November 27.

Among eight freshmen on the 35-member team, Charles had not gotten a single problem wrong in the North Suburban Math League (NSML) meets as of November 27.

In NSML competitions, five schools vie for the highest cumulative score on individual written tests. During the first two of five NSML meets, October 3 at Neuqua Valley High in Naperville and October 25 at Lyons Township High in La Grange and Western Springs, Charles correctly answered all five questions in both freshman and sophomore levels. The Maroons placed third in one meet December 6 at Niles North High School in Skokie; results came after Midway deadline.

"I try to practice with textbooks and old contests whenever I can," Charles said. "But the attention is kind of overwhelming; it's really not that big of a deal." Charles has won praise from other members, such as Senior Rob Webber, who believes Charles will help the team win many meets.

"Charles is the best guy right now," said Rob, four-year member. "I mean, four straight perfect papers is like, epic. He's going to be better than me, I swear. But Charles isn't the team, man. He's just one person. We need three in each grade.

As of last week, U-High was ranked 9th of 55 schools in the NSML and 2nd of 12 in its division as of the second meet.

Math Team also competes in the Illinois Math League (IML), a series consisting of six monthly contests. Tied with seven schools for 15th place out of 102 after the first contest, October 22, the team looks ahead to its third test tomorrow.

Math Teacher Nadja Aquino, former assistant coach, replaced veteran Head Coach Jane Canright.

U of C. meet next up for Model U.N. team

By Julie Carlson  
Associate editor

Representing Grenada, 22 Model United Nations delegates will compete at a conference in the Palmer House sponsored by the University of Chicago, February 1-3. It is the third of four scheduled meets.

At last year's U of C. conference, 10 members won Best Delegate awards, eight won Honorable Mentions and seven won Commendations.

The team's most recent meet, December 6-9, took the team to Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"A lot of my skill on Math Team just comes from starting early, practicing problems at a young age."  
-Charles Du, freshman

Midway reporter

Debaters preparing for big event

by Andrew Sylora  
Midway reporter

Heading into their 10th meet this year, fourth varsity and four to six novice debaters are traveling north to the prestigious Lane Tech Invitational, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, January 18-19.

The members will compete in teams of two. At last year's Lane Tech event, U-High's novice teams each won two meets and lost three, while varsity won three meets and lost two. The topic chosen by the National Forensic League, why the U.S. needs to increase public health assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa, is being debated nationwide.

In the absence of Coach Anna Blinstein, a Middle School teacher who was on an educational trip to Japan, University of Chicago graduate student Sarah Grusin has helped the team prepare.

"Sarah helped the varsity develop a more solid base and understand more of what debate actually is," said Junior Elisabeth Morant, captain. "She also helped us realize we are really time-dependent. She drilled us with constant exercises dealing with taking notes, how to memorize things and having us do practice rounds during the team meetings.

"We've never done an invitational this early in the year before," said David McAlpine, Science Olympiad cocaptain with Maria Birukova. Both are seniors. "So it's really a chance for us to see what strengths and weaknesses the new team has and give us a chance to see what we need to work on. This year we intend to work more on the robot building and the physics events."

Potentially taking away some Olympiad participants, the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) math contest is also scheduled for Saturday.

"There is a large overlap between Math and Science Team," Morant said. "A couple of strong Science Team competitors are really torn about which team to compete with. We may lose some of our best participants."

After the Science Olympiad, Science Team members will participate in Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Regional academic challenge February 2, captained by Seniors Katherine Zhou and David Xu. Participants can choose to take tests in subjects such as math and physics.

Last year U-High placed 1st in Regional, Sectional and State divisions for WYSE.

Science Teams gears up for early Olympiad, other challenges

by Alex Kleiman  
Midway reporter

Building musical instruments, robots and model airplanes at the Science Olympiad Invitational, Saturday at Hinsdale South High School in suburban Darien, Science Team hopes to top last year's 7th place.

Teams of two from the 15-person varsity team, sponsored by Science Teacher Sharon Housinger, compete in three events at Olympiads. Events may be related to biology, chemistry, earth science or physics. Additionally, students pair compete in engineering and technology challenges requiring knowledge of several scientific fields. This year's events range from Forest Ecology to Experimental Design.

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"A lot of my skill on Math Team just comes from starting early, practicing problems at a young age."  
-Charles Du, freshman

Midway reporter

U of C. meet next up for Model U.N. team

by Rafi Khan  
Midway reporter

New, veteran talent propelling Math Team
Untraditional traditions (continued from front page)

excited. The holidays make the families especially down because their kids are really sick, and they can’t celebrate the way that they want to.

Starting her annual community service during Thanksgiving, Sophomore Isabella Pretto donates toys, clothes and presents to kids through her mother’s law firm, Francis Sullivan P.C. on Jackson Street and Wacker Drive.

“I love to donate little toys,” Isabella explained. “What happens is we decorate a tree and for every ornament we donate a present to put under the tree that we give to little children.

“There’s also a program where you can adopt a child for the holidays and the child tells you what they want. Last year we had a little girl that wanted a doll, a dollhouse, and clothes. “It was fun to shop for someone in need, and to think, ‘What is this girl going to want?’ I like doing the actual event is painful but finishing is really rewarding.”

Doing the actual event is painful but finishing is really rewarding.”

Eric Cochrane, junior. 

“I find drawing disgusting things about myself disproportionally funny because it’s fun drawing disgusting things.”

R. "My art tends to be bright and colorful and I try to draw and create art as often as something. Usually on the weekends I try and take once-two-hour solid blocks of drawing time. I find it therapeutic. It feels really good to be creating something and it keeps me happier.

“I spend a lot of time in Brian Wilderman’s room. It’s sort of become a hangout for my friends and me because we have access to art materials when we want to do something and it’s always fun to talk to Brian.”

Finding another haven in music, Tom says he often devotes time reading music blogs.

“I listen to all types of genres of music.” Tom said. “I have about 110 days worth of music on my computer. I listen to a lot of indie but I also like anything from guitar driven music to more synthesized or slow music.

“I listen to different kinds of music for different types of moods. If I’m feeling down I listen to something depressing so I can relate to like a singer or songwriter type person. If I’m in a really good mood I listen to funnier or more upbeat things. Whenever I’m in my room, I’m always listening to music.”

ALTHOUGH Tom listens to certain music depending on his mood, he turns to track and cross country for a constant high. “There’s a certain raw energy you feel when running,” Tom said. “I always feel better when I run. There’s something about competing at meets that’s really exciting. I usually run the 400-meter dash, the 100-meter hurdles and I hope to do the 800-meter dash this year. Doing the actual event is painful but finishing is really rewarding.”

Eric Cochrane, junior.
Chicago’s hottest spots for Hot Chocolate

Tasty cold-weather treat comes in tantalizingly tasty variations

By Anna Katia Zbkowski
City Life Editor

In search of the best hot chocolate in Chicago, four U-Highers traveled to the North Side on a blustery Friday afternoon to find the steaming, delectable treat. With squishy couches and brick walls adorned with local artists’ work, the café Dollop, 4181 North Clarendon Avenue, tempted Seniors Sara Sandmel and Liwen Xu and Freshman Chi Luppescu.

Promptly ordering, the U-Highers decided on four bowl cups of Ghirardelli hot chocolate, slathered in whipped cream and drizzled in melted chocolate. Raving over the piping hot drink, Chi said that hot chocolate wasn’t usually her favorite beverage. “I don’t always like hot chocolate, but this was really good,” Chi said. “And it looked really good. It was really sweet. I knew that hot chocolate was made with Ghirardelli and I really like that stuff.”

OPENED BY owner Phil Tadros three years ago, Dollop is his third coffee shop and fifth storefront business. Working behind the counter, Mr. Tadros, sporting dark rimmed glasses and a scruffy beard, explained that customers can add anything to Dollop’s hot chocolate. “Our hot chocolate is made with Ghirardelli chocolate and organic milk,” Mr. Tadros said. “But you can have soy milk, or add white chocolate, caramel, raspberry, anything really, that you want.”

After a half-hour drive to Wicker Park, Sara, Liwen and Chi managed to find parking and quickly entered the Alliance Bakery and Café, 1736 Division Street. With vivid blue and brown striped walls, Alliance looks like an old confectioners store.

To complement their hot chocolates, Chi and Sara decided on a piece of pumpkin pie and a vanilla cupcake with pink butter cream frosting. Savoring paper cups of hot chocolate topped with whipped cream were handed over the counter and the girls headed next door to find seating and enjoy their purchases.

“THE HOT chocolate was creamy and I liked the whipped cream,” Sara said. “It was kind of sweet but not too chocolatey and it was mixed well and didn’t have any of that gross syrup stuff on the bottom.”

Clad in a large blue sweatshirt and black earrings, Alliance’s owner, Josh, 20, a professional barista, stood behind the counter as he handed a customer a pie, warmly saying, “I baked that myself, it’s sure to be good!”

Purchasing Alliance only four months ago with his partner, a pastry chef, Josh explained that they are trying to keep Alliance the same for the dedicated customers, while also changing recipes to improve the taste of the pastries.

“10 p.m. is putting our own twist on things,” Josh said. “We have very dedicated customers and we don’t feel the need to change anything drastically. We’re changing recipes and taste, while keeping the same food and look.”

Another delicious option for those desiring a more rich treat, the colorful Angel Food Bakery, 1636 West Montrose, offers a thick decadent pudding like hot chocolate. Angel Food, which appeared on the Food Network Channel, specializes in pastries, but also allows North Siders to satisfy their hot chocolate craving, store bought hot chocolate can serve as a quick, easy and delicious alternative. Drinking Ovaltine, a store bought brand, since she was 6 years old, Senior Patsy Williams says that Ovaltine possesses a richer taste than other brands.

“When I’m walking home and it’s really cold, what motivates me to walk faster is the thought of delicious warm hot chocolate made with Ovaltine,” Patsy said.

ENJOYING THEIR hot chocolate, Sara Sandmel, left, and Chi Luppescu rest on one of Dollop Café’s couches and enjoy a novel they discovered on the Café’s bookshelves.

A Christmas Story...

While some good little girls and boys may ask Santa for a new bike or a baseball cap, Senior Van Minner would love nothing more than a simple U.M. sandwich. With fresh deli meats, rich cheeses and hearty vegetables to choose from, U-Highers can indulge themselves in a taste of the North Pole.

PLAYING SANTA, Nick Sisodia grants Van's Miner only Christmas wish, rewarding him for his good behavior with a delicious treat from the U.M.

With fresh deli meats, rich cheeses and hearty vegetables to choose from, U-Highers can indulge themselves in a taste of the North Pole.

DOLLOP—4181 North Clarendon Avenue, 773-755-1955. Open 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Take Lake Shore Drive north to Irving Park, turn left at the bottom of the exit ramp turn left and drive about two blocks west to Clarendon Avenue. Turn right (north) on Clarendon and Dollop is about two blocks north of the intersection of Clarendon and Gordon Terrace, on your right.

Alliance Bakery—1736 West Division Street, 773-278-0366. Open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday.

Take the Dan Ryan north, turn right on Wacker, turn right on Michigan, turn left on Rush Street, turn right on East Superior Street.

THE MEDICI—1327 East 57th Street. With vivid blue and brown striped walls, Alliance looks like an old confectioners store.

 여행 시의 열매는 가장 맛있는 후카또치에 대한 로드를 떠나는 것이다.
Spaghetti, but it's not Italian!

Standing in the kitchen of a friend's Hyde Park home, Junior Emily Chiu looks down on the spaghetti piled on the plate before her. "I've had trial and error now," she said, tossing a few drops of soy sauce, vinegar and sesame seed oil on the noodles.

After a couple squelches of spicy Sriracha sauce (a Chinese chili-pepper ranch) and a taste test, she decided it was time to add the meat and vegetables. Perfect for a quick dinner, Emily's Sriracha Noodle Surprise, a simple spicy Asian inspired pasta dish, works well with whatever leftover meats and veggies are in the fridge.

"Do it to your own taste," Emily said. "This dish is really good to cook when you have leftover meat and vegetables. I was hungry one day and my mom had to go somewhere and said, just boil some pasta quickly and I'll show you how to make a really yummy meal. Since then when I'm alone and hungry this is what I make."

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tbsp sesame seed oil
- 1 tbsp Sriracha sauce

Preparation

Bring water to a boil in a pot and cook 1/2 pound spaghetti. Once spaghetti is done strain the pasta and put it on a plate. Add soy sauce, sesame seed oil, Sriracha sauce, and veggies you may have to sauce. Need some sauce?

Add some water to the sauce and enjoy the flavor packed bowl of pasta and make sure to watch out for its lip tingling kick.

Shimmeringly tasty holiday flowers

INSPIRED BY A Mexican bakery window display, Music and World Languages Secretary Ms. Yolanda Corona creates intricate edible gelatin treats molded into flowers. "I took six to eight hour classes for three days from a baker in Mexico," Ms. Corona said. "All of the flowers are made from scratch from high end gelatin and delicately crafted with special tools and syringes."

She sells these marzipan Mexican masterpieces under the name "Bella Jolla" in different sizes. Flowers as seen in the photo sell for only $3. For special occasions she has made larger bouquets, which sell for more.

Now you know what Schnitzel is

Pop! Oil jumps out of the pan and hits Senior Hillary Gimpel's arm. "My grandmother always does the frying and now I see why," she exclaims, preparing schnitzel, a Viennese breaded fried veal (or in this case chicken) dish, alongside potatoes. Hillary says this is the first time she has made the dish alone in her Hyde Park home; usually she makes it with her Middle School sister, Jessica, when they visit their grandma and grandpa who live in Sun City Arizona.

"As long as I can remember my sister and I would always help her, but she probably only really trusted us when we were about eight or nine," Hillary said. "It's not just my grandma that cooks with us, my grandpa helped teach my sister and I too. We are sort of like a four man team. My grandma always fries though, that's her job."
"Since I've never been in an AP class, I haven't experienced a course that taught to such a curriculum. But based on what I heard, it sounds like a good idea to get rid of APs because teachers can go more in depth and students will get to really know the subject..." -Henry Bergman, freshman

"Although APs are necessary for providing a standardized basis for colleges to evaluate students, they also lure students away from learning solely for the subject. Students are more inclined to take the class to get a good score on the AP exam. Overall, I think it would be better for U-High to abolish APs." -Sherry Fa, sophomore

"I think U-High should continue with the AP curriculum because when the class specializes a student, they are more likely to need on the job. APs are a good demonstration of what you know and, since it's standardized, the AP is like a perception against which colleges can evaluate." -Almee Lucido, junior

By Ruiqi Tang
Associate editor

Educational freedom, nationwide prominence, and time to go in depth. These are some of the reasons why the AP courses are changing. AP courses eventually evolved into an important factor in college admissions.

AP courses involve a nationally standardized curriculum directed toward a final exam. "There is definitely a valid point in dropping APs because both teachers and students feel as rushed and it would provide leeway for us to go in depth," said Senior Stephanie Tang, who will graduate having taken nine AP courses. "But I also think we should respect what the faculty wants and how it will affect each department." Getting rid of APs would be beneficial for history classes because rather than adhering to a set course, we would get more freedom. For Math and Language departments, however, I think the AP curriculum provides a good framework to follow.

"After teaching AP Statistics for eight years, Math Teacher Rosa McCullagh said she doesn't see the AP Statistics curriculum as restrictive. "I've seen students get a rigorous first-year course in Math as well as prepare them for the exam." English Department Chairperson Carrie Kenen, Curriculum Committee member, said she hopes the school will continue its policy of each department making decisions on APs. "The English Department likes that we have been able to choose not to teach AP courses," Ms. Kenen said. "We hope that the school continues to respect a department's decision to choose what is best for their curriculum. The English Department doesn't want to teach to a test."" -Almee Lucido, junior

By Sam Frampton
Midway reporter

Although suggestions have been made recently that U-High stop offering AP courses, any final decision on the matter remains a long way off. While clarifying the theories behind making changes to Advanced Placement, Principal Matt Horvat states that if any changes are made to U-High's AP program, they will come no sooner than the 2009-2010 academic year. AP courses came under fresh faculty discussion last year, inspiring Mr. Horvat to distribute an extensive packet of his research.

Discussions among the faculty at meetings November 6 and December 4 have shown that individual departments vary on the issue. Making changes to the AP program is an idea that came from the faculty," Mr. Horvat said. "The benefit of discontinuing APs is that teachers would have more flexibility. Since they're not trying to teach students everything that's on the AP test, they have some freedom as teachers. If there is a certain subject that they want to go more in-depth with, they would have the freedom to do that."

I’ve liked all the AP classes. I’ve taken such classes would be the same if they were..." -Anne Sawyer, senior

"Furthermore, I don’t think it’s the philosophy of schools to teach students to a test. There should be a freedom for teachers to provide classes to students. At University, there is a freedom..." -Almee Lucido, junior

I've had a rep...
Dropping of A.P.s evidently hasn’t resonated in college admissions results

By Tom Stanley-Becker

T he at least four-decade rule of Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses in American public high schools has surely but steadily waned across the country. Educational Testing Service, a national organization formed last month to publicize more than 53 leading private and public high schools dropping A.P. courses, represents the latest symptom of a rebellion against what some educators thought would not occur.

At U-High, the debate on A.P.s has risen and died numerous times. Faculty debate, began two years ago on where A.P.s stand, and where they are going, is on-going.

Founded in the mid-1950s by the College Board and Educational Testing Service (ETS) to give talented youth a chance to challenge themselves, the A.P. program has become a ticket to college admissions through "college level courses" and exams in 37 subjects.

Last January the Board tightened curricular control by launching an A.P. audit requiring teachers to submit syllabi for Board approval, claiming "A.P. is an official trademark.

The audit intensified high schools' backlash, begun in 2002 when Fieldston Upper School, a New York City private school, created a national furor by dropping A.P.

Other prominent high schools followed, often led by history faculty opposed to teaching to A.P. exams, many schools joining a November 18th telephone interview. At U-High, Principal Matt Horvat and the faculty Curriculum Committee began controversially viewing A.P. last year.

"Some schools don't want an outside organization, the College Board, to direct curriculum," College Counselor Patty Kovacs said. "Some U-High history faculty say they don't want to be limited by A.P. No one is saying the A.P. curriculum is bad. It's limiting. Teachers have to teach to the test.

"We need to find a way to say to colleges that we don't teach A.P. but advanced courses. Students think they need to have a certain number of A.P. courses to suit 'Nirvana University.' That's just myth."

A.P. deals less with college-level courses than admissions credentials said the founder of excellencelouisvou, Dr. Bruce Hammond, history teacher and college counseling director at Sandia Prep High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico in a November 17th telephone interview.

"When faculty teach courses they design, they're freer to be creative," Mr. Hammond explained. "I put the website up because the number of schools moving away from A.P. is reaching a critical mass and we need to talk to each other.

"Also, it's to let the world know there are other paths to excellence than A.P. Many schools don't teach A.P. and their students still get into the top colleges. We're not saying A.P. is terrible; we're just offering an alternative."

"A.P. History is the worst because it's simply a factual outline. The audit has played a role in highlighting the fact that schools have lost control of their curriculum."

Faculty anxiety poses the main obstacle to dropping A.P. said Scarsdale Public High School (N.Y) counseling director Barbara Leifer-Sarullo in a November 18th telephone interview. At an October meeting of the National Association of College Admission Counseling, Ms. Leifer-Sarullo presented a session on dropping A.P.s.

"We talked to a packed room," Ms. Leifer-Sarullo explained. "A lot of the audience was interested in how we did this communication with colleges, creating curriculum with the help of university professors.

"But no matter how much research and data to support your argument, parents are worried about the impact of eliminating A.P. on college admissions and credit in college. The original purpose of A.P. has been absolutely corrupted. It has evolved more into an admissions stratagym."

Dropping A.P. doesn't hurt college admissions as high schools design other advanced courses, according to Mr. John Love, principal of Fieldston Upper School, a school in New York City who dropped A.P. in 2002.

"College counselors at Fieldston made calls to college admissions officers at schools to tell us we're doing a lot of interesting things," Mr. Love said. "The question asked was: Would you mind if we phased out our A.P. curriculum?"

"And the answer that came back was: 'No, we wouldn't mind, as long as your top students are taking the challenging courses you have.' After we phased out A.P.s, we looked at our college admissions results and they haven't changed."

On another side of the issue, Ms. Uma Venkateswaran, assessment specialist for the U.S. History A.P. exam, defended A.P. for setting national standards of excellence in a November 25 phone interview.

"It's a laudable goal to make sure there is a general standard," Ms. Venkateswaran said. "Colleges don't know about every school. A.P.s gives students a fair shot at getting into competitive schools. But the curriculum standard is extremely hard to implement. Teachers are now in the pressure of the audit. It's connected with No Child Left Behind."

Justifying a A.P. curriculum control, University of Delaware professor Christine Heyman, chairperson of the AP US History Test Development Committee, explained how educators write A.P. exams in a November 18th telephone interview.

"What we're interested in is asking questions that every college boy or girl should know about U.S. History," explained Professor Heyman, an author of a textbook used in U-High's A.P. U.S. History course. "A.P. is definitely beneficial. A.P. courses offer a more critical and analytical view of U.S. History than you'd get in non-A.P. U.S. history courses. Often history is poorly taught as a rote memorization of facts."

"Every A.P. teacher is interested in getting students to understand the essential historical relationships."

"The College Board is tightening the system to make sure the assignments are sufficiently rigorous and analytical to qualify as A.P."

With U-High reported by the Wall Street Journal as tied for fourth among other high schools for getting students into eight elite colleges and universities, promoting excellence at school should be key, believes U. of C. admissions officer Andre Phillips, who foresees no danger for Lab in dropping A.P.

"Schools make very compelling arguments that they want to teach students and offer subject matter beyond the constraints of an A.P. curriculum," Mr. Phillips said. "That teaching freedom is invaluable. We respect schools that allow teachers the latitude to teach their best. Not taking A.P.s doesn't put students at a disadvantage. My short answer would be, 'Be brave.'"
Common sense, vigilance hold keys to keeping U-Highers safe in community

A new sentiment seems to be creeping among the concerned citizens of the school community: Hyde Park has evolved into an apparent haven for crime, a place where midnight marauders control the streets and victimizes passersby for money and valuables, often at complete disregard for human life.

In the case of a graduate student Amado Cise, that fear became reality with his 1:38 a.m. death at 6120 South Ellis Avenue on a Monday. Nine days later, 16-year-old Eric Walker was charged as an adult with first-degree murder and one count of armed robbery. One day later, Walker's crime spree included two armed robberies on the same night of Cise's death, another nick added to the Hyde Park murder total in 2007. But don't solely rely on the specifics, ominous numbers that offer little or no improvement for the future. Numbers neglect concerned friends who serve as welcomed companions in a neighborhood walk. Numbers neglect the physical education teacher who tries to enhancing winds mindings with lessons of self-defense and numbers. Numbers neglect other numbers — according to the city of Chicago's website, murders were down 3.8 percent in 2007 as compared to 2006. With less than five reported murders this year, Hyde Park is one of the safest Chicago communities when compared to the more than 30 murders in both Englewood and Calumet City.

Even still, one person cannot provide as the tipping scale to shadow the otherwise unknown feelings of people who face death on a greater scale than the one outside of school. And so, when the time comes to "boldly" walk in the now seemingly foreign, corrupted neighborhood, there's no reason to overly react. Travel in groups and stay vigilant. Daylight remains crime's worst enemy. Take advantage of the new safety procedures enacted by both the Chicago Police Department and University. For there's no telling how, where, or when, something terrible can happen, be it in all four corners of the city. From January to October 2007, Chicago accumulated a total of 380 deaths. The Windy City doesn't deserve another monster-for-example, "sin city" No, that's too romantic for our statistics.

But that feeling of possible death can be found throughout the United States as well. Crime's hegemony spreads beyond Chicago's confines and deaths are not exclusive to crime. You have as much a chance to get shot as you are to choke on an apple core. Here's a suggestion: have someone else chew your food. Hanno the Centers for Disease Control for that statistic.

Co-Op's close could open new opportunities

After 75 years of existence, "Grocery store" and the "Co-Op Markets" have become synonymous in the minds of Hyde Parkers. But other multiple-facility business decisions the Co-Op may finally have closed its doors for good.

For many Hyde Park U-Highers the Co-Op, located in the Hyde Park Shopping Center owned by the University of Chicago, was the place where mom went to buy her favorite cereal when you were young and now where local U-Highers go to grab some chips and soda when friends are coming over. Some serious mismanagement and millions of dollars debt later and the neighborhood supermarket may not be able to keep the cereal and chips on the shelves much longer.

Left with two possibilities, the Co-Op's future will be decided by a vote of the shareholders of the Hyde Park Cooperative Society. In the first option, the U. C. of the Co-op about one million dollars in the 55th Street location and in return the Co-Op would go out of business. In option two the Co-op would file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, allowing it to exist at its 55th Street location. After filing for bankruptcy the Co-op would need to take out a $2.3 million loan and a $400,000 letter of credit, hold a capital improvement pledge drive, attempt to pay all of its creditors in full and get rid of its 47th Street location by paying a penalty of $2.3 million.

An ambitious undertaking that proved an enormous failure, the Co-Op's short-lived 47th Street store closed in 2005 for declining sales. This financial blunder forced the Co-op to close its 63rd Street location, the former Mr. G's, as well. Even though the 47th Street store is closed, the Co-op is contracted to pay rent on the building until 2022.

Some people don't think the Co-op deserves another chance. Many Hyde Parkers would prefer a larger, less expensive and more Scarcely. Dominick's and Treasure Island have expressed interest in the 55th Street location.

Others feel that "Save the Co-op" reads the giant bold headline of a free extra produced by the Hyde Park Herald. The Co-op has been a Hyde Park institution for 75 years and many say that before the Co-op opened its 47th Street location its prices were low and it was running smoothly and offered great variety. They say the Co-op is deeply involved in the Hyde Park community with its neighborhood book fair, as well as its "Shopping for Shut-ins" program in which volunteers take grocery orders from people who cannot leave their homes, get the groceries, and have the Co-op deliver them. Mismanagement may be inseparable because of the Co-op's very nature. As a Co-op, the store is a democratic institution in which board members elected from the community, who are not required to have any formal business training, run the store. After 75 years a cooperative management in Hyde Park isn't cutting it anymore. Nothing promises any Co-op board member present or future, would run the business any differently after a $2.3 million loan. Maybe the Co-op just simply isn't worth holding on to.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Published nine times each school year by journalism students of University High School, 1342 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Phone 773-702-0591, FAX 773-702-7455. e-mail: whgh Middleton@ucls.uchicago.edu. Copyright © 1996, University High School. All rights reserved. Printed by Metropolitan Press, Broadview, Illinois. EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Amy Tweten, Robin Sagoe

Photography EDTOOR: Benjamin Simpson

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR: Benjamin Simpson

BENJAMIN SIMPSON, sophmore: Ever since I was young, my family's been driving to Detroit for Christmas one year when our car slid on some ice and got totally wrecked. We had to stay a cheap motel for the night, but the next day we got to Detroit and all of my family was waiting for us.

BENJAMIN POSTONE, freshman: I was unzipping my Hannukah presents and I accidentally knocked over a menorah. It lit the wrapping paper on fire. I had burned down the entire house!
FASHION ROHINI TOBACCOWALA

Holiday looks turn toward classic Hollywood dazzle

BRINGING BACK old Hollywood glamour and elegance, holiday fashions are focusing on sparklers, metallics and jewels.

With a pop of fuchsia, violet and royal blue showcased on mannequins, bright and vibrant colors fill the windows of department stores such as Nordstrom, 620 North Michigan Avenue.

Looking for Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa gifts for family members, friends and significant others, U-Highers can select designer gift choices for men and women, said Via C Department Manager Jackio Stromh.

“We literally have items that suit everyone’s needs on every scale,” Ms. Stromh said. “For instance, in our department, we incorporate different colors, so that everyone can have something that they like. We have tons of sparkle dresses, sequins and pencil skirts. Even so, we have menswear for women like tuxedo jackets, vests, and wide leg pants.”

Popular in the men’s department, cashmere and silk blends provide a classic style with a suggestion of sophistication, added Ms. Stromh.

“For a boyfriend, dad, or uncle, I recommend looking at different cashmere styles,” Ms. Stromh said. “What’s great about cashmere is that it’s cozy soft and it provides classic elegance. Not to mention, they are extremely luxurious.

“Whether it’s plum, turquoise, pine green, or deep yellow, these sweaters can be dressed up for Christmas Eve dinner or dressed down for a day at home.”

“For cashmere tur­"lenecks, black, cam­
él a and a turtleneck, that can be paired with printed trousers or jeans,” Ms. Atkins said. “Cocktail rings, dangling earrings with unique designs, necklaces that are bold and colorful, and bracelets that call attention to your wrist, really polish off an outfit.”

LETTER FROM COLLEGE JEREMY LACOCQUE ’07

College life unfolds by the numbers

(Editors note: Jeremy Lacocque, one of last year’s Midway editor-in-chief, is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana. This column is the first in a planned series from Class of ’07 members about their college experiences.)

STREET LIGHTS cast shadows of innumerable queues of people along Green Street, the University of Illinois’ prime commercial street. I weave around the crowds and enter the Illini Media building, home of the Daily Illini newspaper. I swipe in and get to work editing copy.

Of all my 800-person lectures and participation in clubs consisting of thousands of people, most of them competing for leadership positions, working at the newspaper is the only thing that makes me really feel at home. Each night I come in, I am greeted with a smile, people are happy to see me. When I leave, I’m thanked and told I’ve done outstanding work.

At this 42,728-student, downstate public university, and with such huge class sizes, I, nor seemingly anyone I see around me, seem to feel unique, or even like a person in anyone I see around me, seem to feel unique, or even like a person in the eyes of the school, with his or her nine-digit student number. Scouring test sheet and electronically graded homework.

I have yet to be told I’ve done excellent work, or been greeted with a smile by the teacher, or encouraged or been given a “good job” on a homework or quiz. Most of my classes don’t even return the work and papers we turn in. We just see a grade online.

It has been an interesting transition coming here from U-High. Teachers at U-High (not teachers’ assistants) often encouraged different ideas and approaches to problems and allowed students to participate in class.

Lab also has an awards ceremony, giving students an opportunity to receive recognition and praise for achievements beyond grades and tests. These are all things that seem like they could not exist at a school like U. of I.

High School theater and journalism helped me find what I was skilled at, allowing me to feel strong and competent at something. Math and science could not do that as much. Everyone takes a test, you either do well, or you don’t. If you’re in a theater that you weren’t good at acting, you could be a costume designer or set worker or work for lights crew.

You could do whatever made you feel strong; there was less of a set curriculum or rules. Again, here, with almost everything you do, you either score above the curve or below, and that alone tends to determine how well you’re doing in your school life.

If you volunteer, work at some organization, no one knows you do except for you, so giving yourself praise and gratification is up to you.

I am just a first-year freshman and this is just the beginning, of course. I have much to learn; I have so much to discover in college and about the world. I, for now, can only say that I’ve truly realized that U-High has provided me with something so profound and irreplaceable.

OPINION MARRISSA MILES-COCCARRO

When ho ho turns into horrible

IT’S NOT that I don’t like the holidays; it’s just that I don’t like being told to be happy.

After watching television over Thanksgiving break, I began to dread the upcoming holidays. Every commercial offered a cute, little family celebrating Christmas with a huge pile of presents.

I thought, “What about the people who can’t afford those presents or don’t even celebrate Christmas?” My family actually doesn’t bother to see how many commercials included a different holiday besides Christmas, we only counted six.

Some of my friends have mentioned their distaste for the holidays, and after watching all those “I’m so happy, and our lives are perfect” commercials, I am more than happy to disagree with them.

“I hate the holidays” said a friend, who asked not to be named in this column. “They focus too much on consumer spending and overs­phorizing.”

“I hate the holidays” said Alex, in Sevens.

“I don’t like the idea of Christmas. People who may not even like you will give you a present because you are in the same social circle as the giver.”

“People get really fake during the holidays and even though I don’t like the holidays, I don’t like being excluded. I mean, no one likes to be on the outside.”

According to a survey of 400 teenagers by the New York University Child Study Center, 54 percent of females and 19 percent of males feel more depressed and isolated during the winter months.

According to the American Psychological Association (APA), reasons for these holiday blues vary from social pressures to financial issues to anxiety over holiday parties and to-dos.

Another factor to holiday depression actually occurs after the holidays end. Many people build up expectation for holidays to last for several months. When they are over, they are left with feelings of disappointment.

There are ways to cope according to the APA, including making time for family and friends. It’s important to let them help you get through the hard times during the holidays and move on.

Before you turn into Scrooge, that is.

ROHINI TOBACCOWALA WARNING: For your protection and for the protection of others, do not operate a vehicle or engage in any hazardous activity while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or prescription medications.
TALKING WOODLAND animals, princesses and simply the name Disney sound like enough to drive anyone over the age of 10 out of a showing of "Enchanted." Unfortunately for them, they'll miss the witty dialogue that makes the film among the season's most enjoyable.

The movie starts out in an animated world where typical princess Giselle (Amy Adams) becomes engaged to her Prince Charming, Edward (James Marsden). Fearing the marriage will end her reign, Edward's evil stepmother Queen Narcissa (Susan Sarandon) banishes Giselle to "a place where there are no happily-ever-afters" — a live-action New York City apartment building with a divorce lawyer Robert (Patrick Dempsey), who takes Giselle in his 6-year-old daughter's encouragement. But Giselle understandably has problems in the real world: She employs pigeons and cockroaches to clean Robert's apartment and spontaneously belts out songs composed by Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz. Sadly, you can probably guess the film's ending already if you know anything about fairy tales.

Just as Giselle has to adjust to the real world, Adams will undoubtedly have to adjust to the world of a box-office star. Despite earning an Oscar nomination for "Junebug" in 2005, her talent has gone largely unrecognized. Here, though, she steals every scene and manages to make up for the unintentionally laughable Dempsey. In fact, Dempsey's clear misfiring flaws the otherwise superb lineup — even Giselle's computer-generated punk friend is more believable than him.

After Disney put out a flop, "Underdog," and a hit, "Ratatouille," earlier this year, it seemed risky to release an innovative high-budget production like "Enchanted."

But having grossed $49.1 million in its opening five days, November 21-25, the film has quickly become the second highest-earning Thanksgiving opener ever. Unsurprisingly, director Kevin Lima already wants to do a sequel.

All in all, "Enchanted" is an unexpectedly cute film with a predictable plotline... But, of course, it is Disney.
Old air muffling her breath, Senior Marrissa Miles Coccaro methodically raises her paint can and quickly twists her wrist, completing a red and green graffiti apple on a 53rd Street brick wall near Kenwood Avenue on a recent Saturday night.

Satisfied with her work, she steps back to admire it on one of the few walls in the Chicago area officially designated for graffiti.

"Graffiti is a completely unique art in that it isn't associated with money and education like higher art forms," Marrissa said. "It still expresses who the artist is just like any other art. Graffiti is frowned upon by many people but I don't understand why."

Initially stenciling on walls, floors and t-shirts, Junior Ana Bezanilla said she too believes graffiti art a genuine form of expression.

"It is an art that makes you more aware of your surroundings. It pushes the boundaries, allowing the artist to be everywhere at the same time. And it makes you ask questions such as who made the art, what the artist's background was, and what influenced the artist to draw graffiti."

Senior Zak Smith, said he started graffiti in Middle School by drawing his tag name, an artistic alias, on random sheets of paper.

"Now I draw my tag name everywhere," Zak said. "Chicago is a very difficult place to do graffiti though because of the heavy law enforcement, so I do a lot of my work in the suburbs."

That strict law enforcement affected Sophomore Ian Simpson, who said he was caught doing graffiti by the police on October 27.

"I stopped doing graffiti after my friend was caught in the act of drawing his tag name," Ian said. "I was walking with him inside one of the alleys of the building by the dumpsters when he began drawing his tag name. Before he could finish it though, someone from a neighboring building caught us and they called the police. They took me home and I got grounded for a month but they took my friend to the police station and now he is in the system."

Avoiding public canvases, Senior Nick Mittlestead said he likes to stick to doing graffiti in his garage.

"Practicing is extremely important in graffiti," Nick said. "So I practice a lot on one of the walls inside my garage. I like graffiti because if the artist wants to convey a giddy feeling, he might use bright colored bubble letters. If he is depressed, he might draw really sharp, jagged, square-like figures with dark coloring."

Agreeing with Nick, Ana said artists can visually express themselves and their environment through the color and shape of graffiti drawing.

"Graffiti represents a city and its culture," Ana said. "It defines a city, giving you a sense of your surroundings."

There's no wrong way to drink a hot chocolate. With the Medici's Mexicana, an exotic Latin twist on an old favorite, Senior Gretchen Eng dives into this delectable treat.

Preferring to keep it simple, Senior Jenny Harris uses the Medici's Mexicana, an exotic Latin twist on an old favorite, as a canvas, Senior Nick Mittlestead adds green and gold to demon with fiery hair.

There's no wrong way to drink a hot chocolate. With the Medici's Mexicana, an exotic Latin twist on an old favorite, Senior Gretchen Eng dives into this delectable treat. Preferring to keep it simple, Senior Jenny Harris still savors a classic cup of cocoa.

Creativity is key at the Medici!

The rise of modern graffiti

By Marrissa Miles Coccaro

Board-tipped markers bulge from pants pockets and spray paint cans fill their backpacks but graffiti artists will travel anywhere and write on anything to continue the underground art of graffiti.

Derived from the Latin graphire, "to write," graffiti is defined as any unauthorized writing on public surfaces. Graffiti transformed from scribbles to elaborate and colorful works in 1980. After a New York Times article appeared. July 1971 chronicling the first graffiti artists, it became a subculture phenomenon as thousands of inspired youths picked up the trend. The first tags, or signatures, "Taki 183" and "Julie 204" written in marker popped on subway cars in New York City.

New York officials attempted to prevent the spread of the new art form by banning people under 20 from purchasing spray paint, board tipped markers and moved all vandalized subway cars to junkyards in the 1980s. The new fade never gave out; instead it moved above ground. Surviving today, the art has sparked thousands of articles and controversies about what constitutes art.
Basketball teams successfully strategize

Off to strong start, boys focus on details

By Nick Chaskin
Midway reporter

Stepping up the intensity level on the court during six sets of 30-second drills. Working on an aggressive man-to-man defense.

Varsity boys' basketball is doing all of this to gear up for a matchup against North Shore Country Day, 6 p.m. tonight.

Led by Co-captains Daniel Horning and Derek Chiampas, seniors, the Maroons boasted a solid start to their season, winning three of their first five games.

With a healthy team, Head Coach Trey Caldwell feels confident they will earn a win against the Raiders.

"WE ARE definitely the better team and would have beat them last time if not for those injuries. As long as we are healthy and play our game I am completely confident that we will win," Caldwell said.

For Coach Caldwell, lack of intensity and conditioning, especially on the defensive end, have emerged as major concerns.

"Defensively we need to be much more aggressive and get in the other teams' faces," he explained. "We nearly let CICS-Northtown catch us the other day because our defense was too timid; we let them get behind us.

"WE ARE also putting a lot of time and effort into getting our boys into the best condition possible. When we're in better shape than the other team, we are then able to dictate and control the game."

With new coach Marlo Finner, former assistant coach at Morgan Park Academy, JV has confidence for its upcoming game against North Shore Country Day, having defeated them twice last year, according to Sophomore Brian Carlisle.

"Last year we beat them easily twice this year we are better than ever," Brian said.

"WE JUST NEED to stay focused and play as a team. We have been giving up a lot of potential baskets because we're not winning the offensive rebounds and when we do we produce off of them as much as we need to."

After losing its first two games to Providence St. Mel and CICS-Northtown, the boys teams, led by new coach Cameron Mitchell, needs to work on playing as a unit to come out on top against North Shore, believes Julian du Buclet, co-captain with Justin Algee. Both are freshmen.

"Our main problem is team chemistry," Julian said.

"WE HAVE a large playbook which seems to be confusing a lot of people. This is keeping us from putting good passes together. We need to get on the same page as one another and communicate on the court."

Scores are as follows:


Morgan Park Academy, November 20, away: Varsity won 76-60, JV won 47-24.

By Matt Luchins

North Shore, believes Julian du Buclet, cocaptain with Justin Algee. Both are freshmen. "Our main problem is team chemistry," Julian said.

"We need to work on shooting more drills, and will use its women-to-women defense known as "Big Foot" to defeat top competitors, according to All-Conference player last year, Alexis Jenkins, junior.

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Girls focus on defense, shooting

By Emily Roberts
Midway reporter

Facing Notre Dame High School Thursday, December 20, as part of the Mather Holiday Classic, varsity girls' basketball will use strong defense.

Winning three of five games in the Thanksgiving Midway Classic, November 21-23, home, the Maroons are concentrating on staying focused and practicing fundamental defense according to Head Coach Meghan Janda.

"Compared to other teams we are consistent," Coach Janda said. "The other teams' scoring has been very inconsistent whereas we have been getting better and better.

"We aren't going to take two steps back before we jump ahead one. We have a couple challenging games ahead of us, but I think it will be a great time to come together as a team.

"Also, we are going to concentrate on a strong defense," Coach Janda continued. "Our fast break layup drills and 23 second sprints, where the team runs up and down the court twice before the time is up."
Swimmers get off to impressive start, taking three of five wins at opener

By Matt Luchins

Taking three of five events, boy swimmers racked up almost 2,000 points more than their closest competitor, Tinley Park High School, while placing 1st at the season opening Bremen Pentathlon, November 30 in Midlothian, the start of nine scheduled events.

Seven of the team's 20 swimmers racked up almost 2,000 points more than their closest competitor, Tinley Park High School, while placing 1st at the season opening Bremen Pentathlon, November 30 in Midlothian, the start of nine scheduled events.

Even teammates of Taylor broke down into tears in front of T.V. cameras upon hearing the news, leaving emotions exposed while their seemingly indestructible bodies shook as they cried for their fallen friend. They weren't thinking about playing a football game later that week, they weren't even thinking about practice that day. All they could think about was Sean. While living most of his short-lived, but brilliant, career in the media spotlight because of run-ins with the NFL and constantly receiving fines from the NFL for improper conduct during games, Taylor still managed to become one of the best free safety in the league. And with the loss of Sean Taylor it's hard for me to imagine football as anything more than it is: just a game.

When an ambulance rushed him to the nearest hospital, all of Taylor's money couldn't stop the ultimately deadly blood loss. Though Nick has gained recognition in Chicago, his love for squash started while growing up on the East Coast.

"We used to live in Baltimore and squash is huge there," Nick said. "My dad played a lot so I'd just hang around the squash courts and watch him play. I was always around it."

"Then we moved to Chicago when I was 2 and I started playing when I was 10." He added, "I could only play with adults because there isn't a lot of squash in Chicago."

"Either the adults were in good shape and didn't know how to play or they were in bad shape and did know how to play. So I didn't play with a lot of good adult." He then added, "But when you play with adults you have to be more mature and well behaved. When I play some kids they have really bad tempers but I'm good at keeping my cool."

After an impressive showing during the Under-17 nationals at Yale last year, Nick feels he has gotten used to regularly receiving e-mails and phone calls from college coaches. "I talked to the coaches on my slimmed down list at least once a day," Nick said.

"I've slimmed it down to; Dartmouth, Harvard, Cornell, Princeton, and Williams. I applied early action to Dartmouth."

"I see all my friends going bananas about where they're going to get into college, but I'm able to talk to coaches about my possibility of getting in. It's a real luxury."

While athletes who participate in "money" sports, such as football and basketball, are often accepted into colleges without having good grades and high-test scores, squash players have to meet a higher academic standard, according to Nick. The Ivys are very competitive academically," Nick said. "The schools go by an academic index which is on a scale of 240."

"The average student at one of these schools has an academic index of 220, for athletes it's about 200 or 190." Big sports athletes don't need a high academic index, but squash players do.

Fencer lands Olympic spot

Qualifying for Junior Olympics in the men's foil event, December 1 at Northwestern University, Fencing Club member Bill D'Andrea hopes to better his top 64 finish from last year. Bill finished 4th of 27 to book a place in Charlotte, North Carolina, in February, simultaneously qualifying for the younger Cadet division.

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But what most sports fans forget is that behind the pads and away from the cameras, these athletes are just men. When robbers broke into his Miami home, Taylor's athletic prowess didn't protect him from the intruders' gunfire.

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As much as I want to sit and frantically yell in front of the T.V. during the Bears game this holiday season, with the loss of Sean Taylor it's hard for me to imagine football as anything more than it is: just a game.

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Holiday visions

People frantically scrambling to get to all the stores on the Magnificent Mile for last minute holiday shopping, can’t help but notice the seemingly endless rows of twinkling holiday lights, adorning nearby trees and buildings. With the year’s second snow fall, these pictures capture Chicago’s magical winter scenes. Whatever holiday (or holidays) you celebrate, may the season greet you with joy.

Photos by Jeremy Handrup
page produced by Mona Dasgupta

“I WALKED into Water Tower, looked up, and saw all these incredible decorations,” Jeremy said. “I wanted to encompass the whole scene so I took a shot at the top of the elevator looking straight across at the ‘Macy’s’ store.”

“I TOOK this photo outside of Fourth Presbyterian Church on Michigan Avenue,” Jeremy said. “My eye was caught by the snow resting on the tree and ground as well as the people under the arch looking at the falling snow. I think the lights on the wreath around the arch makes the picture have more of a holiday feel to it.”

“THIS PICTURE reminds me of a winter wonderland with the street and horse covered in snow and the happy family,” Jeremy said.

“The DARKNESS contrasts nicely with the lights on the tree outside of the Hancock Center,” Jeremy said.

“I LIKED the way the Christmas decorations embezzled the elevator in Water Tower,” Jeremy said. “I wanted an interesting angle view, so I got down on my knee and shot upwards.”