

LOOKING INSIDE

6 CHICAGO'S HOT CHOCOLATE



Photo by Liwen Xu

KNOWN for its deep dish pizza, Chicago also boasts deluxe hot chocolate. Here Freshman Chinami Luppescu savors a bite of pumpkin pie in Alliance Café in Wicker Park, one of the hot chocolate havens a merry U-High threesome sampled. Hot stuff indeed!

Advanced Placement Loses 8-9 Its Place



Art by Eric Cochran

A.P. COURSES have been banished at numerous elite prep schools. At U-High, discussion over A.P.'s future has been going on a long time and it's expected a decision will be made.

13 GRAFFITI: TRULY AN ART



MANY THINK it's vandalism but at U-High, graffiti is an art form. This piece by Junior Ana Maria Bezanilla, represents an X poking through a question mark.

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 ROTI, 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)



Photo by Eva Jaeger

AT THE RONALD McDONALD HOUSE near 55th and Ellis Avenue, Santa's Little Helper (Senior Van Miner) will make and serve dinner and bring holiday cheer to parents whose kids are in the hospital on a day before Christmas.

Untraditional Traditions

■ U-High families give the best gift, concern and time for others

By Robin Shapiro
Editor-in-Chief

Women dressed in blue wait passively in folding chairs on a basketball court while tan dressed men sit in bleachers. These 500 inmates, segregated by gender, sit under the ceiling of a windowless gymnasium. Shaking the reachable hands down separated aisles of the Cook County Jail Gymnasium, Senior Victoria Rogers and the Reverend Jesse Jackson meet the peaceful faces.

Working with Mr. Jackson and People United to Serve Humanity, an organization working with African American communities in Chicago to stay out of trouble, Victoria serves at the Cook County Jail every Christmas day to inspire the inmates.

"**THIS WILL BE** my fifth year in a row," Victoria said. "Jesse Jackson's Operation PUSH gives inspirational talks to the inmates. I help support the people who are speaking."

"Sometimes I get to meet the inmates. I find that really interesting. I guess it just became a tradition. I keep doing it because I think it's really important to give back. It's a great opportunity to see something different, with a new kind of

people.

"When I go, there's usually a choir that sings. It really brings joy to the people in jail. Jesse Jackson gives an inspirational talk to inspire the prisoners to get out of jail, and to not come back. Last year, Jesse Jackson and I met and shook hands with almost all of the inmates."

"**I GOT TO** introduce myself, and I think it really makes them feel like they are not forgotten on Christmas. Especially since a lot of the inmates don't have a lot of family because they've done bad things in the past, Jesse Jackson really makes them feel like someone cares about them. I think that it helps them have a reason to get out. There's usually an auditorium where all of the inmates sit and the people who speak stand in front. They also all have the option of getting tested for AIDS or HIV if they want to. And, if they can, they can get registered to vote. It's also televised."

Similarly keeping the act of service a part of tradition in his own family, Senior Van Miner takes a day a week before Christmas, preparing food at the Ronald McDonald House Charities on 55th Street and Drexel Avenue.

"**MY FAMILY** and three other families with kids close to my age go to the Ronald McDonald house every year," Van explained. "We make dinner for the people staying there. While we wait, we usually get to sit and talk to them about how their kids are doing."

"The Ronald McDonald house is a place where families who can't afford hotels for long periods of time stay while their kids are in the hospital. They aren't from the neighborhood but come to the University Hospitals to get the best treatments. These kids are really sick."

"It's become somewhat of a tradition in my family. I definitely think it's important to go there every year because the foods the families usually eat are donated, or are cafeteria food."

"When we make the meal they get really

(continues on page 5)

A.P. DISCUSSION DRAWS CROWD



Photo by Liwen Xu

AT A November 27 Student Council-sponsored forum on A.P.s, Principal Matt Horvat explains to about 40 U-Highers why many elite high schools across the nation have dropped the long-sacred courses. Check out the centerspread.



"Going on the Holocaust trip really made it real for me.
All the displays and videos at the museum were very emotional!"
—Hillary Gimpel, senior

Holiday travels will explore distant lands

By Denise Akuamoah

Midway reporter

Spurging at her favorite stores Harajuku and Shibuya for hand bags and teenage outfits in Tokyo and visiting Buddhist temples with family in Kamakura and Kyoto, Sophomore Yoko Koide looks forward to celebrating the New Year in Japan during the two week winter vacation, starting this Saturday.

Other U-Highers and faculty will hike in the Basque Mountains, visit family in Belgium and escape Chicago's weather with a trip to California.

Natives dressed in fancy animal Japanese costumes parade through the streets of Tokyo during the traditional New Year's festival, which correlates with the American New Years.

"The trip is really important to me because I go every year and

it's the only time that I can really practice speaking Japanese, learn about traditions and eat traditional Japanese food," Yoko explained. "I'm excited to celebrate New Years. It's a bigger deal there than what Americans do. Basically, all the stores everywhere close including gas stations and drug stores.

"At midnight all the people around are basically given a chance to hit this massive bell that is rung about 110 times on New Years. Then on New Year's Day all the temples in Japan hold festivals; which is pretty much a lot of food.

"It's pretty insane and people pray at the temple and stuff because pretty much everyone in Japan is Buddhist and Shinto mix and then there is a lot of crazy, random stuff going on. For example, plastic dragons that chomp on your head for good luck, dancing monkeys, and so on."

Celebrating Christmas with family

and friends during the vacation after living in Chicago for three months for his new job, A.P. Physics and Physics Teacher F. Javier Saez awaits his trip to his hometown of Galarreta, Spain.

"I will be taking a plane on December 16 and will spend two weeks with my mother, father, brother, and three sisters," Mr. Saez said. "I am looking forward to my trip because I have not seen my family since August. I want to see the beautiful area with the beautiful landscape at the foothill of the highest mountain of the Basque Region, the Sierra de Urbia, again.

"The family reunions on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are important because my brother and all my sisters will be there. We will eat paella, a Spanish rice, turrón, a mix of dried fruits and honey and the yolk of an egg, and compota, a mix of dried fruits with cooked apple, wine, and sugar."

Indulging in big family dinners while visiting her parents' native country, Sophomore Lucille Benoit is excited for her trip to Belgium.

"I love going to Belgium for Christmas because all of my cousins, aunts, uncles, and other members of my family come to my grandparents house to celebrate," Lucille said. "There are usually so many people all sitting around one large table so that it is almost impossible to talk to all of them. My grandparents cook an extravagant dinner for everyone, both of them being excellent cooks.

"Desert is the best part because we eat a lot of waffles, chocolate mousse, meringue, and crêpes. After Christmas, I go with a few family members to several cities in Belgium such as Brussels and Bruges. It is a very gratifying experience to be able to see so many members of my family since I only go to visit them once or twice a year."

Holocaust trip reveals reminders of other historical legacies, too

By Aaron Weiss

Midway reporter

Intrigued by the colossal illuminated stone wall at one end of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, Senior Eva Jaeger, among 13 U-Highers on the Holocaust Class' trip to Washington D.C., made her way past waterfalls and statues. Fascinated, Eva read quotes from Roosevelt during his four-term presidency.

At the FDR Memorial, one quote particularly stood out to Eva. "I have seen war. I have seen war on land and sea. I have seen blood running from the wounded... war," Eva recited.

"The memorial was like a maze that led you through his life and phases. You are metaphorically walking with him. It set the tone for a very political trip.

The class visited the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, which was filled with images of families captured and imprisoned in concentration camps, artifacts from the camps and a recreation of a torture facility at Auschwitz, Poland.

Senior Billy Stevenson said the torture facility shocked him.

"The torture facility was so graphic," Billy explained. "The stuff from there was unbelievable. They had the table from where they did actual experiments

on people. You saw the actual artifacts from the facilities. They just took people who were dying or even healthy and did these horrible experiments on them."

The Museum's special exhibit, "Daniel's Story," showed the Holocaust through the eyes and written words of a child, according to Senior Emma Cowen.

"Daniel's Story' made you feel like you were in the Holocaust," Emma said. "You just saw this boy's life unfold, and watch this happy life with his family become ruined. It was like I could feel his pain, and his fear. It was really scary."

Some U-Highers took the opportunity to talk with Holocaust Survivor Helen Luxembourg, a volunteer enlisted by the Museum to tell her story to visitors.

"She told me a beautiful story about how she and her husband met," Eva said. "They met each other from across the fence while they were in a concentration camp. He told her that if they survived, he would marry her. Well time went on and she kind of forgot about him. But after the camp was liberated, they found each other through a bizarre series of events. Then she pointed to the information desk and her husband was right there! It was so romantic."

Editor's note: Also on the trip were Bianca Harris, Aaron Weiss, Sara Sandmel, Polina Ryzhik, Devika Werth, Robin Shapiro, Liz Messina, Amelia Eifenbaum and Sydney Marcus.

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 an assembly for 4th period Wednesday, February 13, most likely in Max Palevsky Theatre, in honor of the late famed blues harmonica player and singer, and '60 U-High graduate, Paul Butterfield.

What started as a casual conversation on blues music during a lunch period last spring between Kevin and Max developed into an idea of a benefit concert in remembrance of Mr. Butterfield. After the boys learned that Mr. Butterfield had a lot in common with them, all being native Hyde Parkers and students at U-High, their interest grew.

After graduating, Mr. Butterfield formed The Paul Butterfield Blues Band with '64 University of Chicago graduate and lead guitarist Elvin Bishop, bassist Jerome Arnold, drummer Sam Lay, guitarist Mike Bloomfield, 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 concert 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. "Depending on how the assembly turned out, we would follow up with the benefit concert after a year of planning, to make it perfect.

"The assembly would be to honor Paul Butterfield and celebrate his life and remember his amazing talent as a musician by keeping his music alive."

During the assembly Mr. Lacocque's brother, Pierre '90 U High graduate 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.

"The bands would perform any blues songs and maybe even some of Paul's songs. We would also want people who knew him personally, like one of his classmates and maybe even his son, Gabriel, as a guest speaker.

"The follow up concert would be a benefit concert for spring of 2009, to raise money for Gabriel's organization, The Paul Butterfield Fund and Society.

Along with other organizations like the Blues Heaven Foundation, founded by Willie Dixon to aid blues musicians. It would be on a Friday night, somewhere on campus, hopefully Mandel Hall, and people would pay to get in, and enjoy the performance of musicians."

One of Mr. Butterfield's classmate and friends, Patricia "Vickie" Kamberos, Lower School Teacher Emeriti recalls Mr. Butterfield's unique personality.

"He liked pushing the envelope," she said. "He loved to play music whenever and wherever he could. He played his guitar and harmonica at school assemblies and class parties, and even back then you could see his potential. There was a forerunner magazine

of the Renaissance, called the Concept, and Paul illustrated for that magazine. He was an amazing artist and kept debating between his abilities in music and graphic design.

"I'd be more than interested to go to the assembly, and if it was important for me to speak, I would when it came down to it. I'm just shy when it comes to

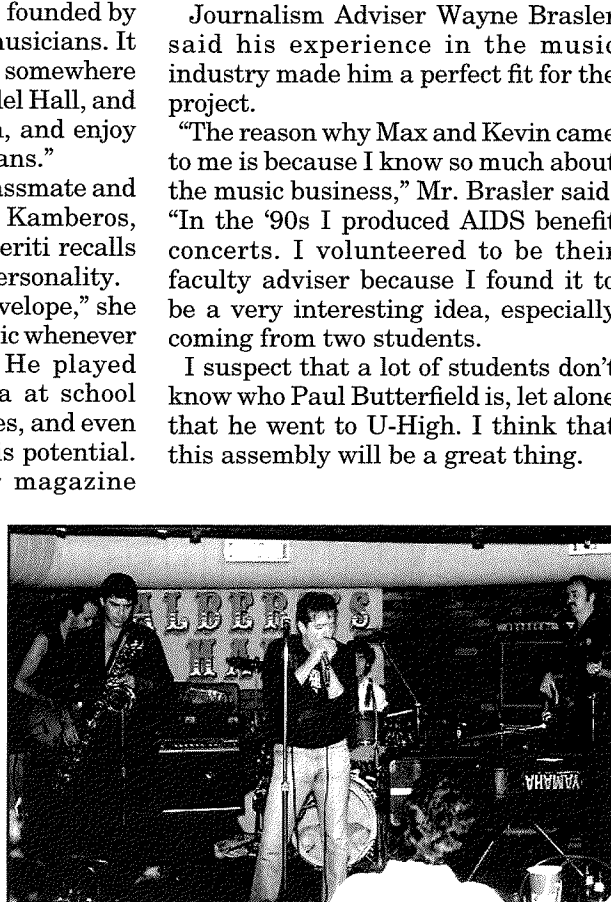
IN THE SPIRIT OF GIVING



Photo by Emily Chiu

TOYS FOR special needs children at La Rabida Children's Hospital were collected by Sophomores Audrey Alexander, Nisha Duara, seen above, and Kathrine Holt in UH 217. Sophomores Mario Gage and Zoe Lindner organized a gift drive, November 12-26, for clients of the Living Room cafe and Inspiration Café which cater to the homeless. Several other groups sponsored holiday initiatives.

PAUL BUTTERFIELD performing in 1984



"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



CLUBS JOIN TASTY PROJECT FOR AID IN DARFUR



PLANNING TO donate profits to an organization supporting Darfur, Taste of Lab, November 16 in the cafeteria, involved seven clubs.

"Each group brought something different," said Black Students' Association President Denise Akuamoah, junior. "The Taste of Lab is good because it gives everyone a chance to taste the food of different cultures and to raise money for a cause."

In the photo Jewish Students' Association member Hillary Gimpel sells a Manny's Deli corned beef sandwich to Addie Epstein while Liwen Xu chats with a customer.

Photo by Loren Kole

Gangs

(continued from front page)

"It might be popular to beat up on the police department," Commander Roti said. "But Chicago is on the cutting edge of violence prevention."

"This year, Chicago is the only major city in the country where the violent crime rate has gone down."

"We have different levels of enforcement. First we act on research we've done and intelligence we've garnered, then we go after sections of the city that are experiencing spikes in violence. Finally, we also do joint investigations with Federal Agencies."

"BUT CRIME will only exist if people allow it," Commander Roti continued. "The bottom line with 'Don't Snitch' is gang bangers trying to install fear in people."

"If someone kills someone you're close with and you tell police about it, I don't think that's wrong."

"The only ones that benefit are the gang bangers. Kids see 'American Gangster' and think they're going to be rich and powerful like Frank Lucas. But look at him now, he's spent most of his adult life in jail and now he's broke."

For Ricardo Williams, a Ceasefire outreach worker in Chicago's Englewood community, going to prison and afterwards starting a family is what made him give up the gang life.

"I grew up in Chicago and all you see are people on the streets," Mr. Williams said. "It took me going to the penitentiary to change me. I have three kids and I wanted to change for them."

"A LOT OF these kids in gangs don't have fathers and their mothers are using drugs, or sometimes you have both the parents getting high."

"Kids need good role models," Mr. Williams continued. "These kids go to

school and see other kids with this and that, but they don't have anything."

"In Englewood you see it all, man, a lot of kids are taking care of themselves. They don't get nothing at home, so they go to the streets. But it all starts at home."

Since most of his friends are members of Gangsters Disciples, Senior Zak Smith feels his tie with the gang gives him protection or what is often referred to as a "G-Pass" in his Morgan Park neighborhood.

"BEING FRIENDS with G.D.s makes me feel safer, at least in my neighborhood," Zak said. "I've heard stories where people have had to kill someone to get into the G.D.s, one day they actually asked me if I wanted to do that but I didn't want to kill anyone. They also respect the fact that I go to a good private school."

Knowing that he can't wear certain clothes in other parts of Morgan Park, Zak is always conscious of his attire and surroundings.

"I look at everything like it's gang paraphernalia," Zak said. "I know around certain people I can't wear my hat a certain way. I have to wear my wristbands on a certain arm and I can't even walk certain places."

"BECAUSE MOST people are in gangs, if you go somewhere where people don't know you, you're going to get messed up."

Growing up around gangs, one member of the gang Black Stones, who asked to remain anonymous, feels he had to just follow what his friends were doing.

"It's almost like the culture of the neighborhood," he said. "It's people you grow up with, go to grammar school with."

"When you see people getting into things, they make it look cool. You end up wanting to get into it because it seems like the cool thing to do. It's almost like peer pressure."

(Also see story on safety page 5 and editorial on safety page 10.)

Teacher's trip to Egypt resonates back home

By Mona Dasgupta

Editor-in-Chief

"Wow, 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 Susan 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 el-Nasr English School of Cairo where activities included discussions with teachers and classroom observations.

"The el-Nasr English School of Cairo is one of the best private schools," Mrs. Shapiro said. "They were concerned with showing us their uses of technology development in math and science. The history teachers there were fine teachers. One gave a multimedia presentation on the school and history education."

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 'value' 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."



Mrs. Shapiro

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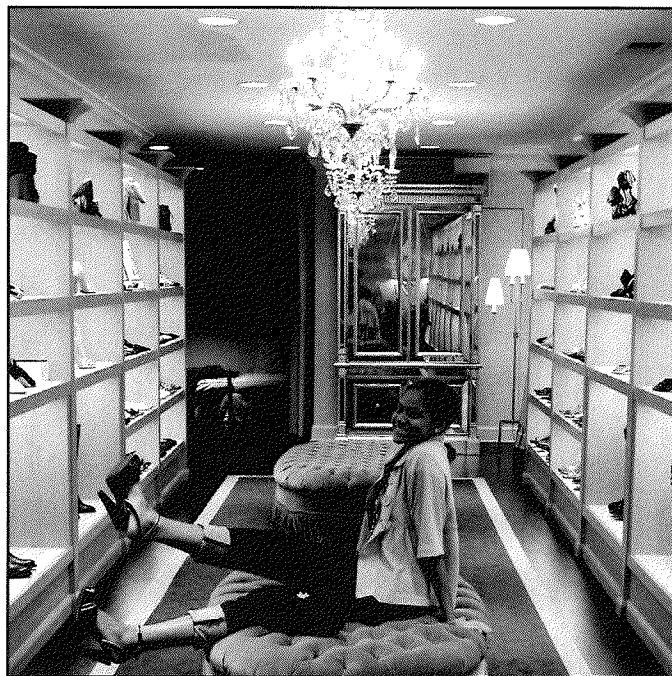


Photo by Eva Jaeger

AFTER A lengthy search for the perfect pair of shoes, Senior Sage Mahoney has finally found the ones!

Josephine is the perfect one-stop-shop for all of your holiday needs. You'll be dazzled by the incredible selection of shoes, handbags and jewelry. Whether it's a gift you need, or just a new pair of shoes, Josephine is sure to please.



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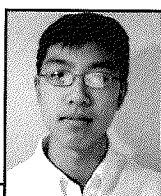
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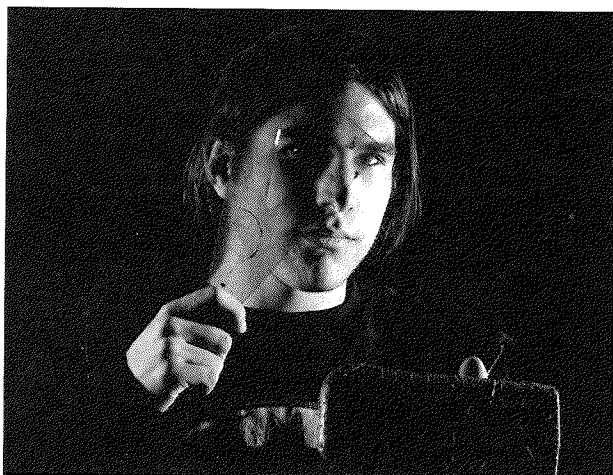
4 Teamwork

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007



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

New, veteran talent propelling Math Team



SENIOR FRANK FIRKE has participated on the Math Team all four years of high school. The team is benefitting from both veteran and new talent, including standout Freshman Charles Du.

By Rafi Khan

Midway reporter

Turning out 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.

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 participated in another 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 overrated; 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.

Debaters preparing for big event

By Andrew Sylora

Midway reporter

Heading into their 10th meet this year, four 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.

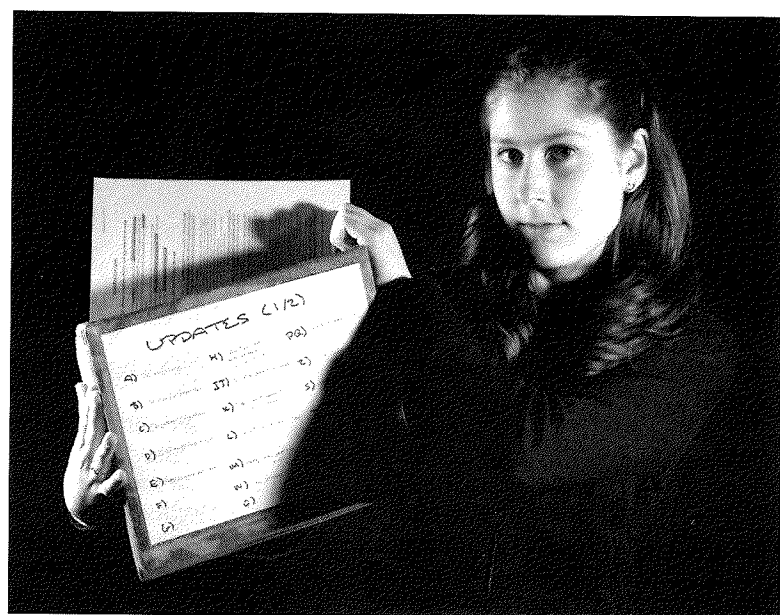
In the absence of Coach Anna Blinstein, a Middle School teacher who was on an edu-

cational 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 with research, since debate is really time-dependent. She drilled us with constant exercises dealing with taking notes, how to research and having us do practice rounds during the team meetings."

Boasting 12 members, the team is composed of eight freshmen, Sophomores Jennifer Glick and Claire Milsted and Juniors Elli Liput and Elisabeth.

"All of the novices on our team have shown outstanding improvement," Elisabeth said. "They're really motivated. One Thursday, the entire team gave up double lunch to prepare."



WITH NO SENIORS on the Debate Team, Captain Elisabeth Morant, a junior, and other returning members are providing leadership which is paying off.

Science Teams gears up for early Olympiad, other challenges



GUIDING THE Science Team, from left, are Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering Cocaptains Katherine Zhou and David Xu and Science Olympiad Cocaptains Maria Birukova and David McAlpine. All are seniors.

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, usually compete in three events at Olympiads. Events may be related to biology, chemistry, earth science or physics. Additionally, student pairs compete in engineering and technology challenges requiring knowledge of several scientific fields. This year's events range from Forest Ecology to Experimental Design.

"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," Maria 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.

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, Massachu-

setts outside Boston. A 19-delegate team represented South Africa. Results came after Midway deadline.

At the University of California at Los Angeles, November 9-11, a 23-member team representing the United Kingdom won the Best Extracurricular Delegation award.

Individual award winners at the meet were as follows:

BEST DELEGATES—Muneeb Hai, Sarah Wald.
OUTSTANDING DELEGATES—Jonah Breslau, Emily Crane, Robert Meyer, Sydney Small, Hannah Solomon-Strauss, Julia Solomon-Strauss, Willy Sullivan, Katherine Zhou.

COMMENDATIONS—Jenny Harris, Matt Luchins, Andrej Rosic, Mark Wittels.

"Before UCLA, we practiced speaking every day," said Senior Jenny Harris, Model U.N. president.

"We had a lot of rookies this year, so we wanted to make sure they were prepared. They did really well. By the end of the year, I hope that we'll have a very experienced team that really cares about national policies and issues."

After retiring as a history teacher last year, Mr. Earl Bell has kept coaching the team. History Teacher Paul Horton, who returned to U-High after many years' absence, is serving as the team's assistant coach.



MODEL U.N. President Jenny Harris, senior, will lead the team to two more conferences this year.

All photos by Ramzi Dreessen

"I find drawing disgusting things about myself disproportionately funny because it's fun drawing disgusting things."
—Eric Cochrane, junior



Calls from the Fire Swamp.....by Eric Cochrane



CHARACTER SKETCH AMANDA PAPPAS

King of being carefree

ROCKING TIGHT fitted jeans, bright zip up sweatshirts and seldom seen without some accessory, Senior Tom Brewer's eclectic style can be recognized in person or in art form.

Tom's tall and slender frame is complemented by his calm and carefree pensive personality. Voted Homecoming King along with brothers Sophomore Jack and Freshman Dan Brewer, it's clear his peers appreciate his natural charm and suave character.

ALONG WITH Seniors Victoria Rogers, Nick Mittelstead, Nathan Worcester, Tom is now editor-in-chief of Renaissance, an art, literary and music magazine.

"One thing the other editors and I have discussed thus far are ideas for the design of the magazine," Tom explained. "We really want to make sure the design supports the art and doesn't overwhelm it because some people thought the design was aesthetically pleasing

but occasionally detracted from the art. This time we're thinking about something simpler because we have less time to produce the magazine. We were thinking about getting it done by the end of the school year. My job is really the responsibility for developing the artistic vision and honing it."

IN ADDITION to exploring his passion for art through clubs, Tom enjoys producing art for himself.

"I do a lot of sketching of all types of people," Tom explained. "Sometimes my friends or sometimes people on the bus. If someone strikes me particularly interesting or unique, I try to draw him or her. I typically draw abstracted faces built of smaller drawings.

"My art tends to be bright and

colorful and I try to draw and create art as often as possible. Usually on the weekends I try and take one-to-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 Wildeman'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.



Art by Eric Cochrane

"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 or something 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 300-meter hurdles and I hope to do the 800-meter dash this year. Doing the actual event is painful but finishing is really rewarding."

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 Prenta donates toys, clothes and presents to kids through her mother's law firm, Franczek 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 being able to chose what they want, like in pink or purple.

"I've always thought the holidays were a time to give back and reflect. I've always loved giving presents than getting them myself. It's always been a part of my family tradition."

U. of C. steps up safety initiative

By Cydney Weiner
Editor-in-Chief

Lab Schools administrators don't anticipate any additional safety measures after U. of C. Graduate Student Amadou Cisse was shot and killed walking home at 6120 South Ellis Avenue November 19.

In response to the tragedy, Lab Schools Director David Magill notified parents, faculty and the Dean's Office by e-mail as soon as a police report was filed and Dean of Students Larry McFarlane and Principal Matt Horvat conducted a safety meeting in the cafeteria at lunch November 20.

"We are constantly being cautious whether because of this incident or just because of where we are located," Mr. Magill said. "I understand that these notifications sometimes raise a lot of

anxiety, but my feeling is, if it makes someone think the next time they go out then it's worth it.

"If anyone feels uncomfortable about walking to their car at night, they can call up the University at any time and ask that they be accompanied."

New safety services by the University include increased police patrolling in the area, blue light emergency telephones at 61st and Drexel and Greenwood Avenues and plans to install University phones at University, Woodlawn and Kimbark Avenues at 61st Street.

Other recent crimes in the area include the robbing of a U-High sophomore boy at 51st Street and Ellis Avenue November 25 and two Middle School boys robbed on 55th Street between Kenwood and Dorchester Avenues several weeks ago.

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"It's a shame that Dollop is so far away because it had really good hot chocolate. They did it just right."

—Liwen Xu, senior

Chicago's hottest spots for Hot Chocolate

■ Tasty cold-weather treat comes in tantalizingly tasty variations

By Anna Katia Zbikowski

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 Ghiradelli 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 Ghiradelli 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 Ghiradelli 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. Steaming 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 chocolately 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

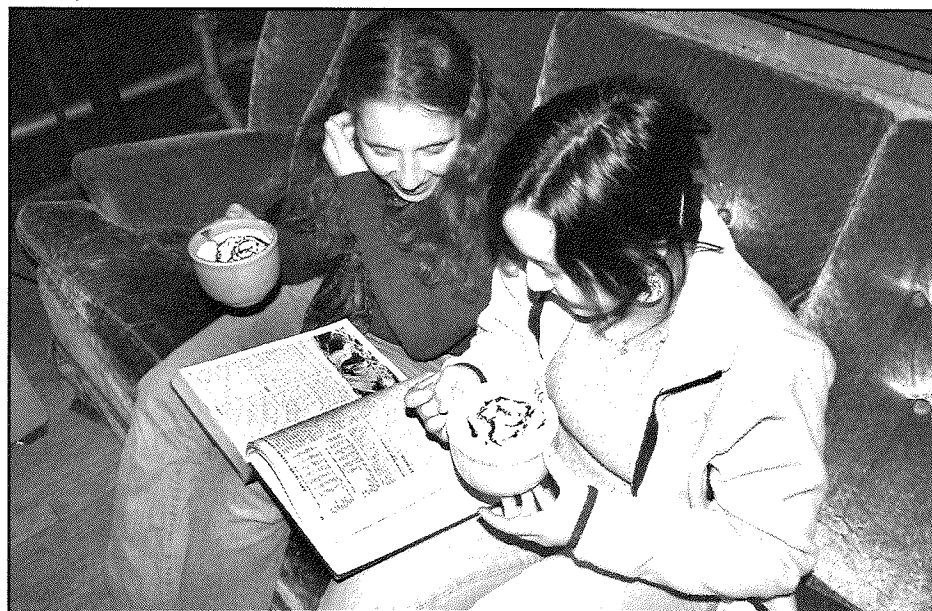


Photo by Liwen Xu

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

to improve the taste of the pastries.

"We're 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 fix.

PIERROT GOURMET, 108 East Superior Street in the Peninsula Hotel, offers Parisian-inspired hot chocolate with holiday embellishments such as chocolate covered spoons and spicy cinnamon topping.

Back in Hyde Park, the hot chocolate selection is smaller but still available. The Medici, 1327 East 57th Street,

boasts several exotic twists on hot chocolate, including the San Francisco and the Mexicana. Preferring the San Francisco brand, Senior Augusta Sturm says it has a creamier taste than the Mexicana.

"The San Francisco hot chocolate is so much more filling than the Mexicana," Augusta said. "It sticks to your bones and fills your insides and the whipped cream is so good. Starbucks hot chocolate has such a boring flavor and this has such strong creamy flavor."

FOR A SIMPLER option to satisfy a 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.

A Christmas Story...

While some good little girls and boys may ask Santa for a new bike or a baseball cap, Senior Van Miner 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.

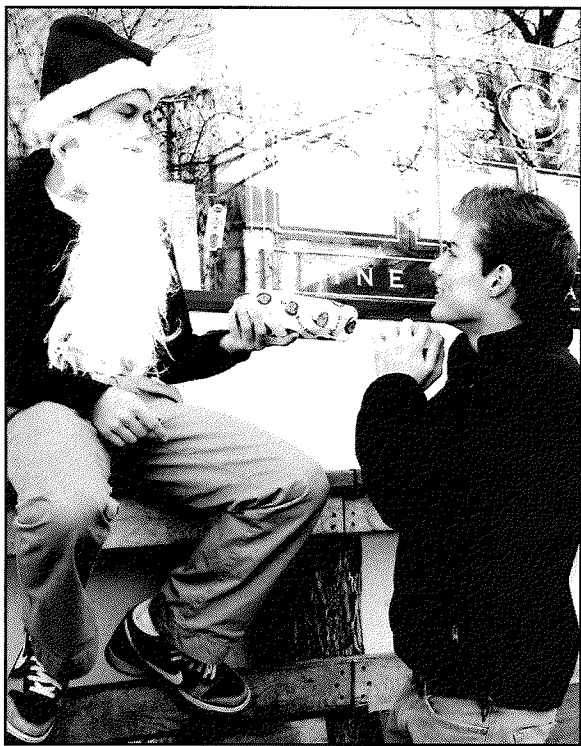


Photo by Sydney Marcus

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.

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A brief history of Hot Chocolate

EVOLVING FOR CENTURIES, the warm, sweet, childhood beverage of today, hot chocolate, can be traced back to the Spanish, who began heating and adding sugar to the original mix of ground cocoa beans, water, wine and peppers over 500 years ago according to whatscookinginamerica.net. Used as currency by the Aztecs

and valuable in cooking, chocolat—specifically cocoa beans—was discovered by the Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez and brought to Spain in the 1500s. With its growing popularity, hot chocolate can be made in a variety of different ways, from the simple powder and water, to the more complicated method of melting chocolate.

How to get there to get some

All the following directions are from Hyde Park.

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 Road; 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 at 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 to the Division street exit. Turn left at the bottom of the ramp and go west on Division Street about nine blocks. Alliance Bakery will be on your right; the next intersection is Wood Street.

ANGEL FOOD BAKERY—1632 West Montrose Avenue, 773-728-1512.

Open 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Take the Dan Ryan north, continue on the Kennedy, take exit #48 A, Armitage Avenue, turn right on Armitage, Turn left on Nashland Avenue, turn left on West Montrose, Angel Food is on the right.

PIERROT GOURMET—108 East Superior Street, 312-573-6749. Open 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 7 a.m.-10 p.m., on Friday and Saturday.

Take Lake Shore Drive north to Wacker. Turn left on Wacker, turn right on Michigan, turn left on Huron Street, turn right on North Rush Street, turn right on East Superior Street.

THE MEDICI—1327 East 57th Street (773) 667-7394. Open 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-midnight, Friday and Saturday

Every U-High family knows how to get to the Medici.

"My family is kind of unusual because the guys cook too. Often we all cook together, which is good bonding time."
-Emily Ehrmann, freshman



Can't-miss recipes from U-High chefs

Break out the pots and pans this holiday season and try some recipes fellow U-Highers enjoy. Cooking isn't just mom's mystical power anymore...

A sweet family tradition

Cinnamon fills the air of a Kenwood home with its sweet, calming scent. Two narrow unbaked foot-long loaves lie on a wooden kitchen table dusted with flour. Junior Ari Ehrmann sprinkles cinnamon sugar over a loaf of bread while his sister, Freshman Emmy Ehrmann, delicately molds the other loaf into the perfect shape.

Ari and Emmy explain they are making Bubba's "Famous" Mandel Bread, a family tradition started by their recently deceased grandmother on their father's side.

"My mom got the recipe from my dad's mother and we make it all the time for special occasions and for guests," Ari said. "My grandma used to make it, but when she got older she couldn't make it anymore, so she passed the recipe down to us. Usually my mom makes it and sometimes my sister and I help her out, it's fun. My mom doesn't even need the recipe anymore, she knows it by heart."

Mandel bread tastes like a softer, doughier biscotti and is partnered nicely with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.



BUBBA'S FAMOUS MANDEL BREAD
Makes Two Loaves • Total Time: 45 minutes • Cooking Time: 35 minutes

Ingredients	
3 eggs	cinnamon sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla	1 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup sugar	½ teaspoon salt
¼ cup canola oil	½ cup crushed walnuts
3 cups flour	½ cup raisins (optional)

Preparation
Mix 3 eggs, 1 teaspoon vanilla, 1 cup sugar, ¼ cup canola oil in a bowl. In a different bowl mix 3 cups flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder and ½ teaspoon salt. Slowly add the two mixtures and blend them together.

Add to the mixture ½ cup crushed walnuts or pecans (optional; add ½ cup raisins). Knead the dough on a table dusted with flour and add flour to dough until it is no longer sticky. On a cookie sheet mold the dough into two long and narrow loaves and dust the top of the loaves with cinnamon sugar. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Slice loaves in approximately one-inch strips, dust again with cinnamon sugar (optional), turn the pieces on their sides and put back in the oven at the same temperature for 3-5 minutes. Take out of the oven and let cool for a while. On a cold winter morning bite into the warm, nutty, cinnamon goodness of a piece of mandel bread followed by a sip of cocoa.

Page written and produced by Nathan Bishop



TWO LOAVES (photos from top left) of mandel bread are almost ready to enjoy as Junior Ari Ehrmann and Freshman Emmy Ehrmann put the gooey dough in the oven to bake.

STIFF STICKS of spaghetti boil to golden

Photos by Yoolim Kim

delectable noodles as Junior Emily Chiu begins her culinary creation.

BATTERING HER chicken slices to perfection, Senior Hillary Gimpel carefully assembles her delicious Viennese dish.



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. "It's all trial and error now" she said, tossing a few drops of soy sauce, vinegar and sesame seed oil on the noodles.

After a couple squeezes of spicy Sriracha sauce (a Thai chili-pepper hot sauce) 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."

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 marvelous Mexican masterpieces under the name "Bella Jella" 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.



Photo by Emily Chiu

Emily's Sriracha Noodle Surprise

Makes one big bowl • Total Time: 22 minutes • Cooking Time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
¼ pound spaghetti
1 tbsp soy sauce
whatever leftover meats and veggies you may have
1 tbsp sesame seed oil
1 tbsp vinegar
Sriracha sauce
lettuce & cucumber

Preparation
Bring water to a boil in a pot and cook ¼ pound spaghetti. Once spaghetti is done strain the pasta and put it on a plate. Add about a tablespoon's worth each of soy sauce, vinegar, and sesame seed oil, and squirt on a few drops of Sriracha sauce.

Do a taste test and then add more of whatever you want. Cut up some lettuce and cucumber, which cuts the spice nicely, and then add pork, chicken or beef. Sit down and enjoy the flavor packed bowl of pasta and make sure to watch out for its lip tingling kick.

SCHNITZEL AND POTATOES

Serves four • Total Time: 40 minutes • Cooking Time: 6 minutes

Ingredients
2 lb package of boneless chicken
12 red skinned new potatoes
1 ½ cups bread crumbs
1 cup flour
¼ cup canola oil
2 eggs

Preparation
Cut boneless chicken breasts in half and hit with meat hammer until the pieces become thinner. Crack 2 eggs into a bowl and for every egg add to the bowl ½ eggshell of water. In another bowl, mix 1 cup flour with 1 ½ cups bread crumbs and some seasoning of your choice.

Submerge pieces of chicken in the bowl of egg yolk and water and then dip the pieces in the bowl of flour and bread crumbs until they are all thoroughly coated. Fill a frying pan with ¼ cup canola oil, turn on the stove and put the chicken in the pan.

Deep fry the chicken until it turns a pretty dark orangey brown, and then turn over. Repeat process with every strip. Slice the 12 potatoes and put them into the same frying pan the chicken was in, to let them absorb some of the bread crumbs and flavor. Fry potatoes until golden brown. Savor this soul food while it's still hot.

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."

A delicious (but not so healthy) treat, schnitzel is the perfect comfort food for a dreary, homework laden night.



"I've liked all the A.P. classes I've taken such classes would be the same if they were not A.P."
—Anne Sawyer, senior

A.P.s have raised doubts

But opinions still vary widely here

By Ruiqi Tang

Associate editor



Henry

"Since I've never been in an A.P. class, I haven't experienced a course that taught to such a curriculum. But based on what I've heard, it sounds like a good idea to get rid of A.P.s because teachers can go more in depth and students will get to really know the subject."

—Henry Bergman, freshman



Sherry

"Although A.P.s 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 A.P. exam. Overall, I think it would be better for U-High to abolish A.P.s"

—Sherry Fu, sophomore



Aimee

"I think U-High should continue with the A.P. curriculum because when the class specifically prepares a student for the A.P. exam, the student is more likely to excel on test day. A.P. tests are a good demonstration of what you know and, since it's standardized, the A.P. is like a yardstick against which colleges can evaluate."

—Aimee Lucido, junior

Educational freedom, nationwide prominence, and time to go in depth. These values, some U-High faculty members and students believe, have increasingly been deprived here by restrictions on Advanced Placement courses.

Originally established by the College Board in the mid-1950s to offer talented high school students more challenging coursework and the opportunity to earn college credit, A.P.s eventually evolved into an important factor in college admissions.

A.P. courses involve a nationally standardized curriculum directed toward a final exam.

"There is definitely a valid point in dropping A.P.s because both teachers and students won't feel as rushed and it would provide leeway for us to go in depth," said Senior Stephanie Tang, who will graduate having taken nine A.P. courses. "But I also think we should respect what the faculty wants and how it will affect each department."

"Getting rid of A.P.s 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 A.P. curriculum provides a good framework to follow."

After teaching A.P. Statistics for eight years, Math Teacher Rosa McCullagh said she doesn't see the A.P. Statistics curriculum as restrictive.

"I don't feel tied down at all because of the A.P. test," Ms. McCullagh explained.

"I actually like having the exam to look forward to at the end of the year."

"It's not only a motivator for many seniors to continue working until the end of the course, but it's also an indicator for me as to how I'm teaching the course."

"The exam is designed by a board of very experienced educators, so there is a sense of a validity that comes from it."

Decision on future of A.P. here remains long way off

By Sam Frampton

Midway reporter

Although suggestions have been made recently that U-High stop offering A.P. 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 speculates that if any changes are made to U-High's A.P. program, they will come no sooner than the 2009-2010 school year. A.P. 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 A.P. program is an idea that came from the faculty," Mr. Horvat said. "The benefit of discontinuing A.P.s is that teachers would have more flexibility. Since they're not trying to teach students everything that's on the A.P. 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."

Around the country, reputable schools have found benefits to offering advanced courses that may be congruent with the College Board's curricula. High schools around the country which have made a decision to serve as a precedent and have inspired discussion in other schools, including U-High.

"I have done research on schools such as the Francis W. Parker School in Scarsdale High School in New York and The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is particularly notable because like Lab, it's a school affiliated with a University. All have a good reputation and have not encountered problems with discontinuing A.P.s. With that in mind, it's important to remember that right now we are only discussing A.P.s in general."

U-High's outstanding reputation will play a major role in any decision regarding A.P.s, Mr. Horvat said.

"When colleges see the 'Lab' name, that carries a lot of weight. The school sends colleges a

"While there is a certain pressure to teach everything on the exam, there are also topics of my own that I add to the course."

"I don't teach totally to the A.P. curriculum. I make sure that students get a rigorous first-year course in Statistics as well as prepare them for the exam."

English Department Chairperson Carrie Koenen, Curriculum Committee member, said she hopes the school will continue its policy of each department making decisions on A.P.s.

"The English Department likes that we have been able to choose not to teach A.P. courses," Ms. Koenen 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."

"We feel that we prepare our students for college work. If we had to teach an A.P. course, the elective program probably wouldn't exist."

"While emphasizing the same skills as an A.P. English course, the elective



program is much stronger and richer. In a traditional English course, you would find students spending an entire quarter working with a single author, and there wouldn't be a quarter dedicated to creative writing."

"We don't want a test to be the end all of our classes, the final goal for everyone to be a 5 on the A.P. exam."

"We want to foster a passion for literature in students and expose them to as many aspects of English as we can."

Having taken seven A.P. courses before she graduates, Senior Jenny Harris believes that the A.P. program has proven to be a uniform for U-High.

"I think that most of the courses at U-High definitely aren't as difficult as a first-year college course," Jenny said. "Some teachers do take the class more seriously than others."

"Also, the number of A.P.s a student takes doesn't necessarily affect college admissions because we know kids who have gotten into the best colleges who took A.P. classes."

"Furthermore, I don't think the school's philosophy is to teach to a test to students. There should be a way to provide classes to all U-High students with challenging, college-level curriculum without following the College Board's rigid syllabus, which allows no room to stop and enjoy learning."



Gretchen

"From my experience, it does not matter whether a course had an A.P. label on it or not because it depends completely on the teacher. I've had teachers who taught directly to the test and those who have decided to pursue their own curriculum and leave it to the students to prepare themselves. I believe getting rid of the A.P. title would give some teachers more freedom in planning, while others will lack a predetermined structure and might have more difficulty."

—Gretchen Eng, senior



Mr. DreessenH

"I'm confident that courses at U-High will be better and more honest without an A.P. label. A.P. designation paradoxically holds kids back because, at this level, students should be doing actual lab work or at the U. of C. mathematics department getting a hands-on experience. A direct experience of a scientific phenomenon is more valuable than taking a pencil and paper test and, as a whole, better for the student's life."

—Mr. Mark Dreessen, science

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High. I don't know whether or not labeled A.P., but I'd still take them."

rethinking the College Board

Dropping of A.P.s evidently hasn't resonated in college admissions results

By Tom Stanley-Becker

Associate editor

The at least four-decade rule of Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses in American high schools has surely but steadily waned across the country.

Excellencewithoutap.org, 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 many educators thought would never occur.

At U-High, the debate on A.P.s has risen and died numerous times. A faculty debate, begun 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 and credits through "college-level" courses

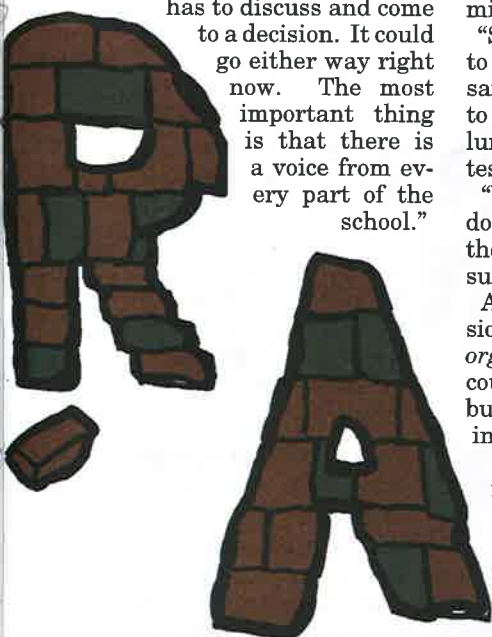
THE WALL

of which courses are the most advanced. As long as we make sure to label the profile with the most rigorous courses as 'honors,' for example, it shouldn't make much difference."

Confident in the inherent quality of U-High's courses, Mr. Horvat believes students will have a valuable learning experience no matter what decision is made.

"I believe that our teachers can design great classes no matter how they're labeled," he continued.

"The whole Lab community has to discuss and come to a decision. It could go either way right now. The most important thing is that there is a voice from every part of the school."



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."

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

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 where we do a lot of business," 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 admission 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 excel-

lence 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 give 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.P. curriculum control, University of Delaware professor Christine Heyrman, chairperson of the ETS' A.P. U.S. History Test Development Committee, explained how educators write A.P. exams in a November 18 telephone interview.

"What we're interested in is asking questions that every school boy or girl should know about U.S. History," explained Professor Heyrman, 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 excellent teaching 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.'"

A.P.s at a glance

■ Thirty-seven A.P. courses and subsequent exams.

■ All exams scored on a scale from 1 (lowest, indicating "no recommendation" from the College Board) to 5 (highest, indicating the student is "extremely well-qualified" to move onto the next level of material).

■ More than 1.3 million students took more than 2.3 million A.P. exams in 2006.

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Photo by Alya Forster

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AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT



Art by Eric Cochrane

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 victimize passerby's for money and valuables, often at complete disregard for human life.

In the case of graduate student Amadou Cisse, that fear became reality with his 1:26 a.m. death at 6120 South Ellis Avenue on Monday, November 19. Nine days later, 16-year-old Eric Walker was charged as an adult with first-degree murder and one count of armed robbery with a firearm. Walker's crime spree included two other armed robberies on the same night of Cisse's death, another niche added to the Hyde Park murder total in 2007.

But don't solely rely on those specific, ominous numbers that offer little or no improvement for the future. Numbers neglect concerned friends who serve as welcomed companions on a neighborhood walk. Numbers neglect the physical education teacher who tries to enhance wandering minds with lessons of self-defense maneuvers. 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 murder can provide as the tipping scale to shadow the otherwise unknown feelings of people who face death on a greater scale, both inside and 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 the University. For there's no telling how, where, or when something horrible 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 moniker—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. Blame 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 after multiple faulty 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 your favorite cereal when you were young and is 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. of C. forgives the Co-Op about one million dollars rent on their 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 \$400,00 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 lease by paying a penalty of \$2.2 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 53rd

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 2023.

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

Others feel differently. "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 feel 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 inescapable 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 that any Co-Op board members, 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.

10-second editorial

■ Student Council deserves thanks for organizing the A.P. forum during lunch period November 27.

Clearly the Council recognized U-Highers' desires to voice their opinions on the subject and that should be applauded. The productive discussion included Senior Dan Hornug, Student Council President, Principal Matt Horvat, Computer Science Teacher Baker Franke and roughly 40 students.

The turnout proved impressive, but even more students deserve a chance to make themselves heard. To keep on the right track, A.P. forums should definitely be continued.

SAYWHAT?

Compiled by
Marrissa Miles-Coccaro

What is your
favorite holiday memory?



Kyra

KYRA LINDNER, senior: One year, when I was having Christmas at my grandma's, all the presents I'd unwrapped were books. I thought there were no presents left, but my grandma pulled out one last box from behind the tree. When I opened it, it was a Harry Potter potion-making kit, something I really wanted. It made my Christmas.



Hanna

HANNA REDLEAF, junior: Since my family doesn't celebrate Christmas, we went to Jamaica one year for Winter Break. It was more beautiful than any place I had ever seen. I think it's probably the best trip I've ever taken.



Ian

IAN SIMPSON, sophomore: We were driving to Detroit for Christmas one year when our car slid on some ice and got totally wrecked. We had to stay at a cheap motel for the night, but the next day we got to Detroit and all of my family was waiting for us.



Benjamin

BENJAMIN POSTONE, freshman: I was unwrapping my Hannukah presents and I accidentally knocked over a menorah. It lit the wrapping paper on fire. I could have burned down the entire house!

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Published nine times each school year by journalism and photojournalism students of University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Phone 773-702-0591, FAX 773-702-7455, E-mail uhighpublications@ucls.uchicago.edu. Copyright 2007 University High School, Chicago, Journalism Department. Printed by Metropolitan Press, Broadview, Illinois.

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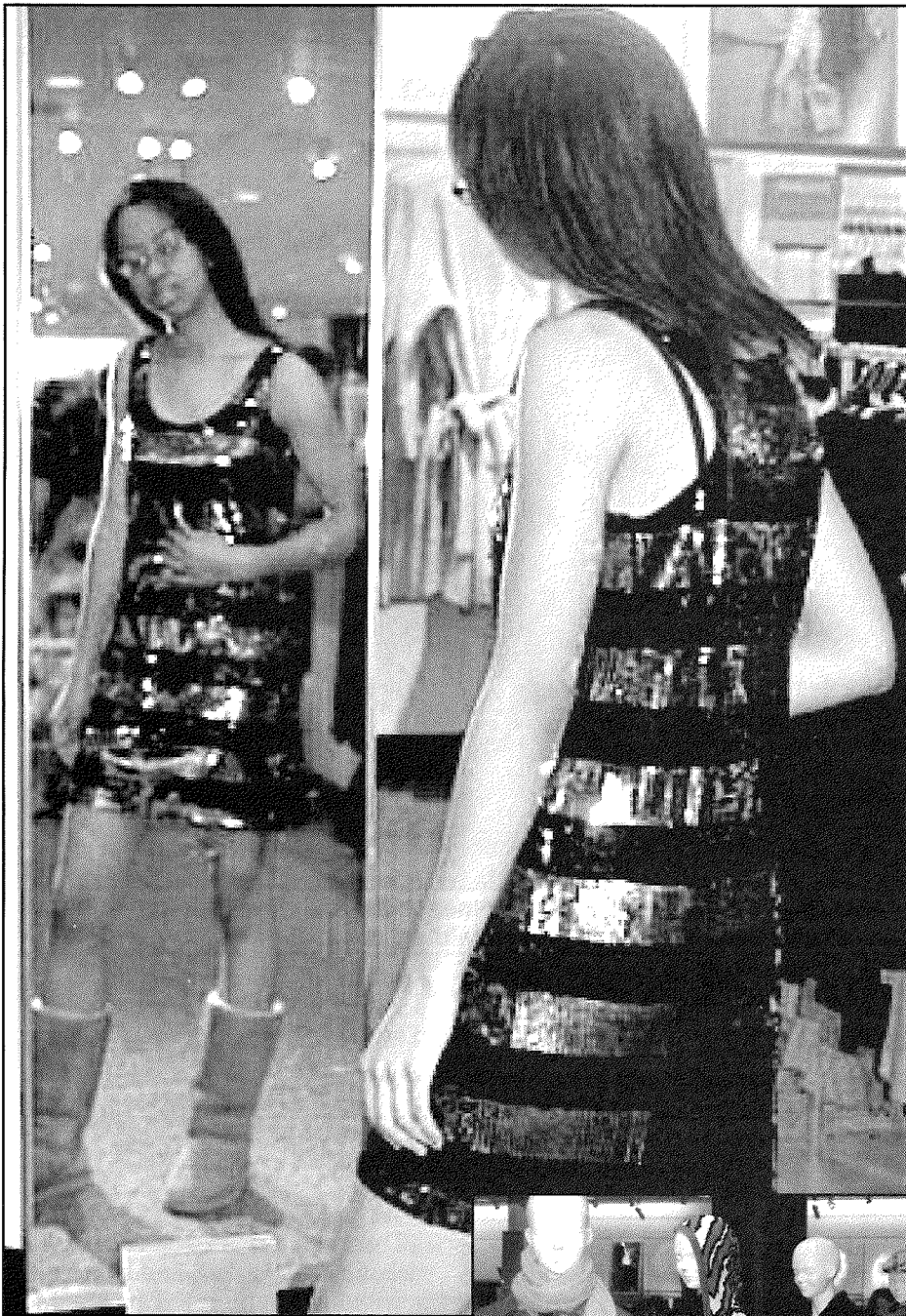
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Photos by Emily Chiu
AT NORDSTROM's (photos from top) on North Michigan, Junior Alex Bullock tries on a striped, sequined racerback dress by Betsey Johnson. The colors are black and silver and the outfit comes at \$389.

In Nordstrom's surprisingly large selection of jeans, Alex wears a Kensie sequined tunic in silver and grey, \$88. "I really like Nordstrom's jeans," said Alex, in Sevens.



FASHION ROHINI TOBACOWALA

Holiday looks turn toward classic Hollywood dazzle

BRINGING BACK old Hollywood glamour and elegance, holiday fashions are focusing on sparkles, 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, 520 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 Jackie Strohm.

"We literally have items that suit everyone's needs on every scale," Ms. Strohm said. "For instance, in my department, we incorporate different styles, 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. Strohm.

"For a boyfriend, dad, or uncle, I recommend looking at different cashmere styles," Ms. Strohm 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 turtlenecks, black, camel and winter white that can be paired with printed trousers or denim, look super chic. For cabled cashmere V necks, a simple ribbed tank top, wife beater or tight fitted shirt work underneath."

To accessorize, big and bold accent pieces as well as gem-encrusted jewelry are great to wear on New Year's Eve, according to Ms. Kristan Atkins, fashion jewelry sales associate.

"In addition, big rings are really popular now as well as black jewelry," 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."



Rohini

OPINION MARRISSA MILES-COCCARRO

When ho 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 started a game 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 agree 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 overemphasize Christianity."

"I hate feeling excluded, which is what happens to so many people during the holidays. I am Jewish and on Christmas there is nothing for me to do because everything is closed."

"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 them."

"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 female and 19 percent of male adolescents 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 family reunions.

Another factor to holiday depression actually occurs after the holidays end. Many people build up expectation for the holidays but after New Years, they are left with feelings of disappointment.

There are ways to cope according to the APA, including making good connections with family and friends. It's important to let them help you get through the hard times during the holidays and take a break from all of the celebration.

Before you turn into Scrooge, that is.



Marrissa

LETTER FROM COLLEGE JEREMY LACOCQUE '07

College life unfolds by the numbers

(Editor's note: Jeremy Lacocque, one of last year's Midway editors-in-chief, is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Champaign-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 300-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 the eyes of the school, with his or her nine-digit student number, Scantron 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 theatre 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 in theatre you weren't good at acting, you could be a costume designer or a 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-semester 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.



Jeremy

12 Reviews

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007

FILM JULIE CARLSON

Disney scores again in animated style

TALKING WOODLAND animals, princesses and simply the name Disney may sound like enough to drive anyone over the age of 10 out of a showing of "Enchanted."



Julie

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. There she meets cynical divorce lawyer Robert (Patrick Dempsey), who takes Giselle in at 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 bonafide 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 miscasting flaws the otherwise superb lineup — even Giselle's computer-generated chipmunk 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 big-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



AS A CARTOON character who comes to life and New York City in Disney's hit "Enchanted," Amy Adams is absolutely magical.

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.

BOOKS DAVID McALPINE

This confession is out of sync

BEING A HUGE fan of *NSYNC, I'll tell you what: I was extremely excited to read Lance Bass' autobiography "Out of Sync." But when the 208-page book hit shelves late last October, I realized the whole book, not just the title, was out of sync.



David

After the much-publicized financial problems of *NSYNC, the even more publicized breakup of the boy band, Bass' failed attempt to reach the moon in a Russian rocket and his coming out cover story for People magazine, Bass had a lot to write about. So when I first got the book and saw the cover itself was as thick as the book, I was disappointed. But when I opened it up and saw the dinky eight chapters, I was even more disappointed.

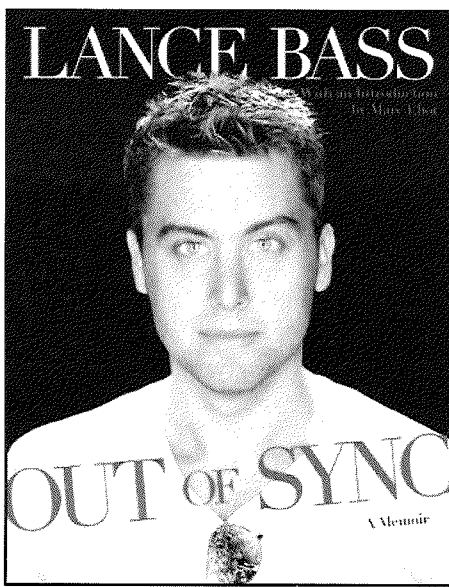
I wanted to believe that Bass hadn't denied millions of fans of what could be an insightful look into one of the biggest pop phenomena ever. But I suspected otherwise.

After I read the introduction, written by best-selling biographer Marc Eliot, and the first chapter, supposedly written by Lance himself, I stopped for a second. Hadn't I read this expression before? Doesn't this sound like the same person? Am I even reading Lance's work? I know I'm reading his story, but did he *actually* write this?

The upbeat tone that reminded me of Tiger Beat and J-14 magazines and the overemphasis on the words "flare," "jazz" and "fabulous" (or, as Bass puts it, "fab-u-lous") made it seem otherwise.

The lack of any depth in Bass' memoir leaves everyone, *NSYNC fan or not, high and dry. Besides a few color pictures of Lance and a shallow look of his life, "Out of Sync" doesn't live up to any of its buzz.

You can't help but turn the last page with a sweet taste in your mouth, but only because every line in the book is so sugarcoated.



Write us!

Where are the letters to the editor! It's so easy to write one to the Midway. Just sign it and put it in Mr. Brasler's mailbox in the Principal's Office. Our readers want to hear from you!

MUSIC ROBIN SHAPIRO

Veteran hit artist finds a great new groove

HOVA'S BACK.

Finally, an end to the year of disappointment after Jay-Z's last album "Kingdom Come." He has returned with a spin in his film-inspired "American Gangster" (Roc-A-Fella Records). With each song pertaining to a different scene from the movie, tracks such as "Say Hello," reveal Jay's reflection of his own hustling as a New York City drug dealer.



Robin

Fresh beats and creative lyrics claim Hova's 10th studio album a classic. Although incomparable to his finest works, the prowess of Jay's new album attest in tracks such as "Success" and "Roc Boys."

These early album classics rooted his formal rivalry with Nas. Hova didn't forget to incorporate Nas in his new album, though this time he brings a

TELEVISION DAVID McALPINE

Girl, don't miss this 'Gossip'!

LUXURIOUS PENTHOUSES, designer clothes and chauffeured towncars all seem ordinary to the main characters of The CW's new hit show "Gossip Girl."

Based on the original teenage novels by Cecily Von Ziegesar, "Gossip Girl," airing at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays on WGN-TV, has lived up to the book series' popularity. Set in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, the show is narrated by an omniscient blogger voiced by Kristen Bell ("Veronica Mars") who posts under the pseudonym "Gossip Girl."

Through her eyes, the viewer sees into the secret lives of "it-girl" Serena Van der Woodsen (Blake Lively), her on again off again best friend Blair Waldorf (Leighton Meester) and their party-hopping friends as they live a quality of life only dreamed about by

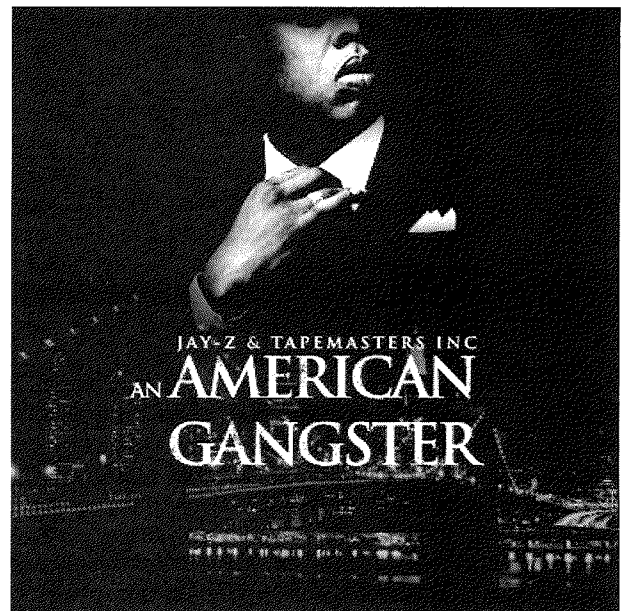
most teenagers.

The portrayal of the teenagers as rich, spoiled, backstabbing and mean-spirited has split initial reaction from both critics and viewers.

The New York Times pegged "Gossip Girl" as one of this season's must-watch new shows and The Washington Post put it near the top of its "Most Anticipated New Shows" list. Though the pilot got rave reviews from Variety, The New York Times and the Washington Post, other critics at the Boston Globe and the San Francisco Chronicle described "Gossip Girl" as more of a guilty pleasure because of the nasty nature of the characters.



David



"I started graffiti because my friends were doing it, but after being caught by the police I stopped."
—Ian Simpson, sophomore



Urban art that's street wise

By Mitchell Stern
Midway reporter

Cold air muffling her breath, Senior Marrison Miles Cocco 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," Marrison 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 Bezanila said she too believes graffiti art a genuine form of expression.

"It is an art that makes you more aware of your surrounds. 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 October 27.

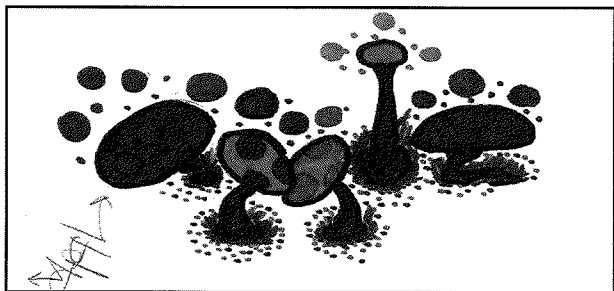
"I stopped doing graffiti after my friend was caught in the act of drawing his tag name," Ian said. "I was walking with him inside one of the alleyways of the building by the dumpsters when he began drawing his tag name. Before he could finish it though, someone from a neighboring building caught us 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."



THIS ART was created by Senior Marrison Miles Cocco.

The rise of modern graffiti

By Marrison Miles Cocco
Arts editor

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 *graphere*, "to write", graffiti is defined as any unauthorized writing on public surfaces. Graffiti transformed from scribbles to elaborate and colorful works in 1969. 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 "Julio 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 fad never gave out; instead it moved above ground. Surviving today, the art has sparked thousands of articles and controversies about what constitutes art.



USING THE garage wall with his parents' permission, as a canvas, Senior Nick Mittlestead adds green and gold to demon with fiery hair.



THIS GRAFFITI is by Junior Ana Bezanila

Creativity is key at the Medici!

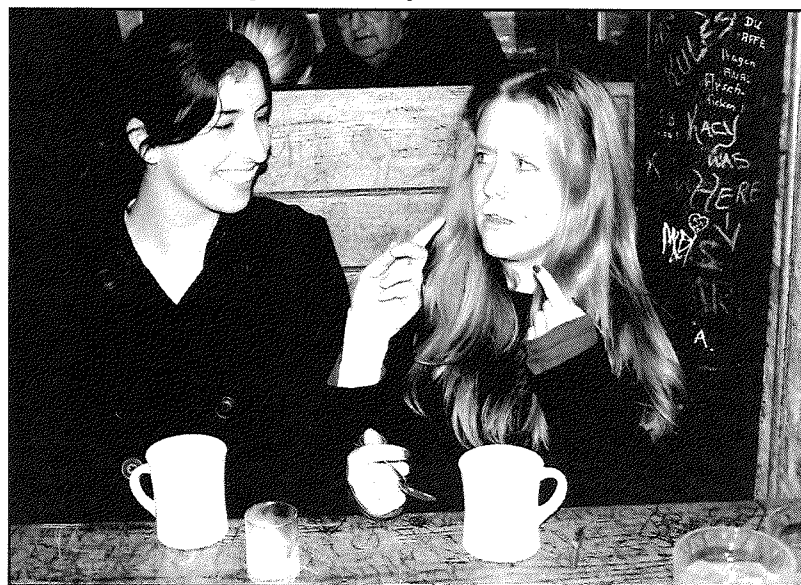


Photo by Joe Boisvert

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.

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"When I see an open basket, my only thought is to get the ball to Zeke. It hasn't failed so far."
—Michael Casey, junior

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. Running strenuous sprints and conditioning 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, away.

Led by Cocaptains Daniel Hornung 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 Troy Caldwell feels confident they will earn a win against the Raiders.

"LAST YEAR we lost to North Shore, but we had lost two of our best players to injuries," Coach Caldwell said.

"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."

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 face," he explained. "We nearly let CISC-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



SHOOTING OVER a CISC-Northtown defender, Junior Zeke Upshaw scored 29 points during a November 27 home game. U-High won 67-53.

Photo by Jeremy Handrup

coach at Morgan Park Academy, j.v. 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 and 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 don't produce off of them as much as we need to."

After losing its first two games to Providence St. Mel and CISC-Northtown, the freshman team, 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, cocaptain 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:

Providence St. Mel High School, November 19, away: Varsity won 78-76, j.v. won 46-40, freshmen lost 34-33; St. Benedict High School, November 21, away: Varsity lost 58-55; Academy for Scholastic Achievement, November 23, away: Varsity won 58-54; CISC-Northtown, November 27, home: Varsity won 67-53, j.v. won 44-29, freshmen lost 31-23; Morgan Park Academy, November 30, away: Varsity won 76-60, j.v. won 47-24; Northridge College Prep, December 5, home score past Midway deadline; Holy Trinity High School, December 7, home: score past Midway deadline.

Dance Troupe tries new moves

By Matt Luchins
Associate editor

Cheered on by a raucous crowd, Dance Troupe's 16 members burst onto the court to the beat of Flo-Rida and T-Pain's "Low" and "Calabria" by Enur for their debut, November 27, during halftime of boys' basketball's first home game.

"There was a lot of cheering from the crowd and I think they got really into it and showed a lot of energy," said Senior Sage Mahoney, cocaptain with Senior Angie Maciel.

"I was in the front so I couldn't tell if we were all in sync, but I didn't hear anyone say afterwards, 'Oh, I messed up,' so I thought it went pretty well."

One of two new dancers, Senior David McAlpine became varsity Dance Troupe's first male member.

"For me Dance Troupe is more of a de-stresser rather than something that just takes up my time," David said.

"I wish I had joined before this year, but I wasn't really aware of it until last year."

"I didn't join then because I thought it might be kind of awkward, but I've had so many fun experiences so far, that I wish I had joined as a freshman."

Adding a male dancer brings a new dynamic to the team, believes second-year Coach Allyson Ratliff.

"Having a boy really changes the types of dances we can do," said Coach Ratliff, a professional ballerina and ballet teacher. "We can do a lot of different blocking and mix up the partnerships a bit."

Led by Cocaptains Annchellie Akuamoah, Antonio Robles and Kennan Carnegie, all sophomores, j.v. Dance Troupe's first appearance also came November 27, performing to Kat DeLuna's "Whine Up" and "Wall to Wall" by Chris Brown.

Both teams practice in Kovler Gym three times a week.

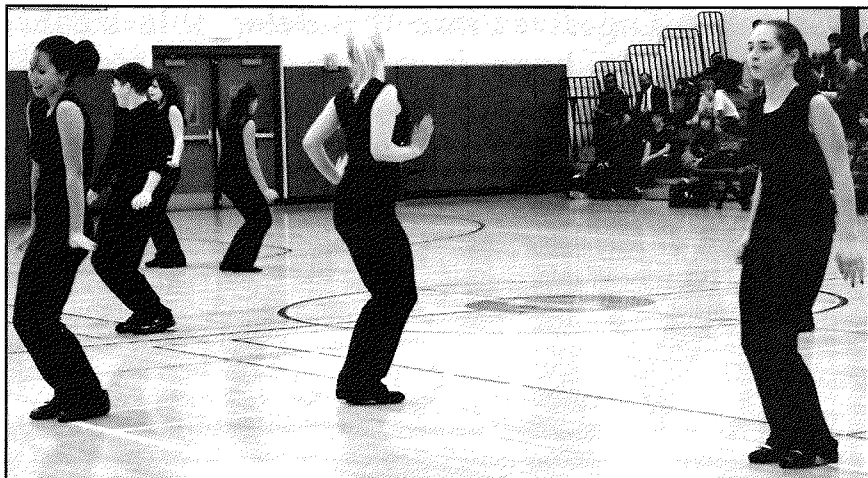


Photo by Jeremy Handrup

BREAKING IT DOWN to the hit song "Low" by Flo-Rida and T-Pain at halftime during a varsity boys' basketball game November 27 at home, Varsity Dance Troupe included, from left:

Bianca Harris, David McAlpine, Liz Messina, Gabby Knight, Eva Jaeger and Alexis Madara.

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 girl basketballers 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 each game."

"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 helpline," 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."

Led by Cocaptains Lucy O'Keefe and Emma Cowen, seniors, the team will concentrate on shooting and rebounding

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.

"We need to work on shooting definitely," Alexis said.

"Our rebounding got better in our last couple games, but we still need to work on it more in practice."

Scores are as follows:

St. Francis DeSales High School, November 14, home: Varsity won 37-16; Northside College Prep, November 16, home: Varsity won 41-37; Walther Lutheran, November 19, home: Varsity lost 34-50; Chicago Christian High School, November 21, home: Varsity lost 37-41; Seton Academy, November 23, home: Varsity won 60-34; Elgin Academy, November 27, away: Varsity won 61-33; Willows Academy, November 30, home: Varsity won 75-45.



Photo by Jeremy Handrup

BLOWING PAST a Willows Academy defender before scoring two of her 45 points during a November 30 game, home, Junior Alexis Jenkins led the Maroons to a 75-45 victory.

"Me and Won Hee, our goal this year is to take down Luke Schleusner's two school records."
—Homer Shew, senior



Excellence in squash puts senior in view of college recruiters

By Gabe Bump
Sports editor

Clutching his racquet and adjusting his goggles while clad in shorts, a plain white tee and a white sweat band, the petite Senior Nick Sisodia may not appear commandingly athletic, but looks can be deceiving.

Attending national squash tournaments four times a year, to which the top 32 players are invited, the 5 foot, 9 inch Nick currently ranks 12th in the U.S. among men under 19.

THOUGH NICK has gained recognition in Chicago, his love for squash started while growing up on the East Coast.

"We use 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 8 and I started playing when I was 10."

"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 adults."

"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."

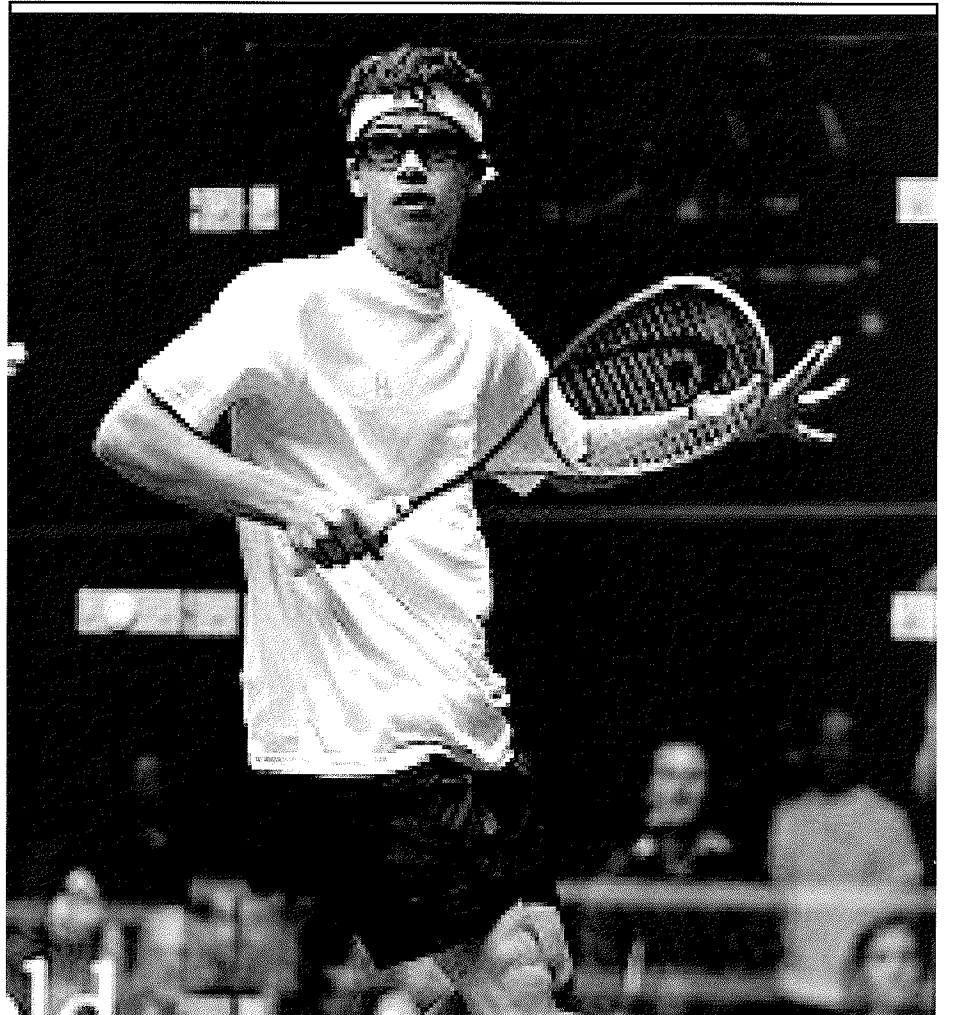


Photo courtesy of Nick Sisodia

EDUCATING YOUNGSTERS about squash, the MetroSquash Cup brought pros, amateurs and hundreds of children October 11 to the Field Museum of Natural History. Senior Nick Sisodia lost his match to pro Natalie Grainger.

Fencer lands Olympic spot

Qualifying for Junior Olympics in the men's foil event, December 1 at Northwestern University, Fencing Club member Bill Stueben 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.

Also competing for Lab Fencing were Kenan Gungor, Danny Traub and Paul Weichselbaum.

SPORTS GABE BUMP

Another tragic tale hits the heart

EVERY NOW and then something so dramatic and humbling happens in professional sports, that an athlete's fame and fortune are forced aside.



Gabe

With the shooting death of Washington Redskin Sean Taylor still in the mind of the sports world, Taylor's controversial past and immense talent don't matter.

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 law and constantly receiving fines from the NFL for improper conduct during games, Taylor still managed to become one of the best free safeties in the league.

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.

When an ambulance rushed him to the nearest hospital, all of Taylor's money couldn't stop the ultimately deadly blood loss.

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.

Swimmers get off to impressive start, taking three of five wins at opener

By Matt Luchins
Sports editor

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 competed, with Captains Won Hee Lee and Homer Shew, both seniors, accounting for the three victories.

"We beat out seven other teams for first place and individually Won Hee won the 50 and 200 Free and I won in the 100 Fly," Homer said. "But even though he didn't win anything, Michael Baroody, who's a freshman, had a

really good day. He was consistent in all the events and while I finished 4th overall, he got 2nd behind only Won Hee."

Even after the dominating performance, Coach Paul Gunty still expressed a concern.

"We're still looking for someone to do the I.M., which is four different strokes in one event," Coach Gunty said.

"We've gotten good results from Homer and Won Hee and the freshmen look good, especially David Chung, Alex Nirenberg and Michael Baroody., so otherwise I think we're set."

Results from the home meet against Latin, December 7, came after Midway deadline. The team's next meet comes this Thursday, December 13, at Northside College Prep.

Cool Cuts for the Holidays

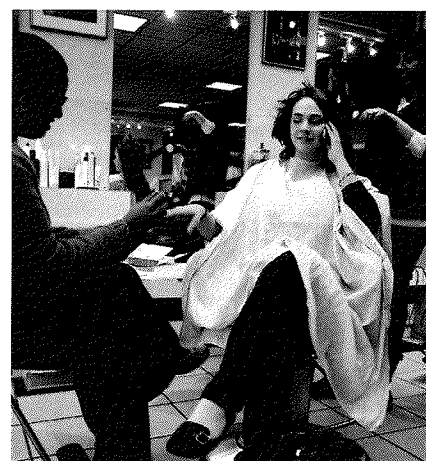


Photo by Jeremy Handrup

PRIMPING UP before a hot date, Junior Alex Balabanov gets a hair trim and style along with a manicure and eyebrow wax. Only 57th Street Salon could've helped her look so good.

Around the corner and down the block to 57th Street Salon we go. Just a short walk from school, U-Highers can enjoy a haircut, color and style. If you have trouble scheduling appointments, don't worry, 57th Street Salon welcomes walk-ins. So come on in and get a new do for the holidays!

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U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2007

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."



"Taking photos during the snow storm was a true experience. By the end of it, my fingers were numb but the photos were worth it."
—Jeremy Handrup, junior who did all the photos on this page



"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

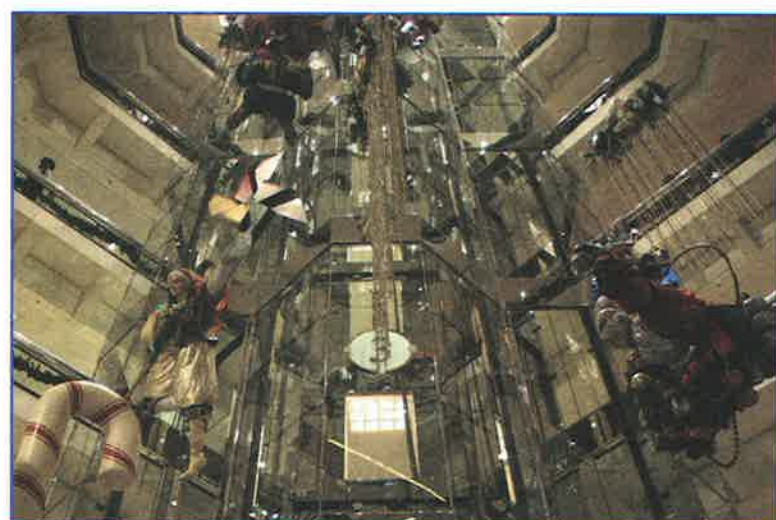
the people under the arch looking at the falling snow. I think the lights on the wreath around the arch makes the picture have more of a holiday feel to it."



"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 this tree outside of the Hancock Center," Jeremy said.



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

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