SET to offer five one-acts, sound-light show

By Nathan Bishop
Associate editor

Lights cast a golden glow on a woman seated in her New York City apartment. She is dressed in a robe and jeans. Her husband enters, cradling a box in his arms. He begins to talk, but she does not reply. "Lost in space?" he asks. David Ives' "Long Ago and Far Away" will be performed with four other professionally-written one-act plays and a student-produced sound-and-light show during Student Experimental Theatre's annual show 7:30 p.m., Thursday-Thursday, February 24-26, in Belfield Theater. Tickets are on sale in the High School Lobby for $9.

Directed by Juniors Joe Boisvert and Kelly Kovacs, "Long Ago and Far Away" details the experiences of the couple, played by Seniors Victoria Rogers and Aaron Weiss.

"Long Ago and Far Away" is a study of a man and a wife who are moving out of their apartment," Joe said. "It starts with them having a conversation about the move. From there it gets weird. The wife goes back in time and decides she wants to stay there. The play is all about people trying to get what they want and what happens to other people around them when they get what they want." Aaron says his character comes naturally because he doesn't express extreme emotions.

"The young wife starts getting real serious moving jitters and starts examining her life a lot," Aaron said. "Some very strange things start to happen involving time travel, suicides and disappearances. I play the husband. He's somewhat of a cynical New Yorker, he's very confused by his wife's behavior and is very calm and relaxed compared to his wife. "It's probably stranger than some of the other plays; it's not as sensitive the brain is to pain, Daniel Traub plans to make their rocket the longest flight at the fourth annual Science Expo, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, February 23.

The Expo will offer more than 100 presentations, inventions and demonstrations by students, teachers and parents spread out over three floors of U-High and two floors of the Middle School and Kovler and Sunny Gymn, with each High School hallway representing a different type of science.

HOMEMADE bottle rockets will be launched on Jackman Field as students compete to make their rocket take the longest flight at the fourth annual Science Expo, 1-5 p.m., Saturday, February 23.

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OPEN to students, teachers and parents, the Expo includes new attractions such as a paper airplane contest in Belfield Gym sponsored by Middle School Science Teacher Mark Wagner and Science Jeopardy, a game of science knowledge and quickness hosted by U-High students, according to Chairperson Diane Snider, middle school science teacher. Visitors can pick up grams in the High School Lobby.

"There is going to be Science Jeopardy going on in a room during the Science Expo," Ms. Snider said. "Because it will go on for four hours during the day, we want High School students to host the event. So like three different kids will host every hour. One person may sign kids in as they arrive, someone will keep score of the game and someone else would make sure everything runs smoothly with rules. Everyone is invited; anyone can walk in and play."

To participate in the rocket contest, students may sign up to participate with Science Teacher Dan McDonald.

"It is going to be with rockets that are based entirely on the generation of carbon dioxide," Mr. McDonald said. "The goal is to see how far the rocket will fly outwards and not just how high it can go. "Students will decide how much baking soda and vinegar they want to put into the 20 ounce bottle which will be the actual rocket, in order to get the

Photo by Hanna Redleaf

president opens with action

By Aaron Weiss
Midway reporter

"They're going to be showing a history of martial arts by way of demonstration, showing fighting styles like Capoeira and Aikido. It's going to be very exciting and hopefully something the students can really get into," Weiss said.

The Expo will offer five one-act plays in Student Experimental Theatre's production, February 24-26. "The Amicable Parting" focuses on the breakup of a couple. Bill will be played by James Krull and Alicia by Linda Huber.

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by Emily Roberts
Midway reporter

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Facility recommends departmental A.P. decisions

By Sam Frampton

Midway reporter

Mr. Horvat

By April 11 faculty departments will have to tell Principle Mathew Horvat whether or not they will be making changes to their A.P. curriculum. This deadline comes after an unanimous vote at their January 6 meeting when faculty recommended that each department decide whether or not to continue A.P. courses.

School policy requires faculty members to then seek approval from Mr. Horvat, Lab Schools Director David Magill and the Lab School Board of Trustees. The vote came after the Steering Committee began discussing a proposition in November.

The Faculty plans to begin the review process this Spring and make any changes in the 2009-2010 school year, according to High School Faculty Chairperson Baker Franke, Computer Science Teacher.

"The proposal was a collaboration by all members of the Faculty," Mr. Franke explained. "The Steering Committee proposed that all departments announce their decision at one time and outlined the protocol for making the change. Once we finalized it, it was distributed at the December 12 meeting."

"We thought that the decision should be made department by department because there are teachers that agree with A.P. curricula and teachers that don’t. If any departments are scheduled to drop the label, we will use next year as a time to prepare the Lab community."

"We have to make sure everyone knows that advanced courses will still be offered and that we made this change with the well being of the students in mind." Renaming advanced classes so they do not include the A.P. label can give teachers more control over the materials they teach, Mr. Horvat said.

"Departments that drop A.P. must discuss how their curricula will change," Mr. Horvat explained. "They still must have their new syllabi approved."

"Not using the A.P. brand name allows the teachers to decide what they teach. However, we will still teach advanced courses."

"Teachers may disagree within their departments on the subject of A.P., curricula, but we decided not to have individual teachers decide for the sake of clarity on college transcripts."

"Due to all the work it takes to drop the A.P. label, this is not something that we are going to revisit every year. It will be at least four more years before we have this discussion again."
Yearbook wins crown in 2007 state competition

Top state and national honors have come to the 2007 U-Highlights. The school's first all-color yearbook was named Best Overall Yearbook at the Eastern Illinois Speech Press Association's annual competition. Competing in the category of schools with less than 500 enrollment, one of three contest divisions, U-Highlights received first place awards in six of the eight categories. They were Best Use of Photography, Best Coverage of the Year, Best Copy, Best Graphics and Best Dividers. The yearbook placed third in Layout and Design and in Theme Development.

The National Scholastic Press Association awarded U-High its top rating, All American. Evaluating entries using a detailed scorebook, judges also gave the book Marks of Distinction for special excellence and creativity in Coverage, Concept, Writing and Editing, and Photography. They did not give the book an award for Design.

Editors-in-chief were Senior Liwen Xu and 2007 graduate Michael Hernandez. Photography editor was 2007 graduate Global Hansnecker.

"We wanted the yearbook to be about the students," Liwen said. "And to keep true to that we went with unconventional graphics and designs that, coupled with a full color palette, was vibrant and meaningful. It was well received, the students seem to enjoy it. That's always a reassuring sign that we've got it right."
Unconcerned with the outcomes of the earlier primaries, Junior Mike Casey believes that the results of larger states with more delegates matters most.

"I really don't think that the early caucuses and primaries make much difference since everything has turned out so inconsistent," Mike said. "The bigger states like California who have more delegates will really make a difference, in my mind. No one person seems to be holding ground at the top.

"Since Senator McCain not only fought in a war, but was also a prisoner of war, I think he would make the right decisions regarding the war in Iraq and I think people recognize that."

Please about a larger than usual turnout at caucuses, Sophomore Annchellie Akuamoah feels that younger voters are driving the election.

"I was very surprised that so many people attended the caucuses," Annchellie said. "It seems like Senator Obama got a lot of the younger voters to come out, more so than any of the other candidates. When I was watching the results of the New Hampshire primary on the news, I was surprised that Senator Obama didn't win because so many sources were predicting that he would.

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Ms. Ricketts plans to add to the a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday Noon-5 p.m. Sunday Open they could e-mail me, where I would give him or her more information on purchasing it. However, it's more about the recognition than the money.”

312-274-0359

II Chicago in Wells Street 1405 North

if photographs on my website,” Ms. Ricketts explained. “I really just want to show them to everyone else.

“I could care less about selling the

In December. Ms. Ricketts said. “Then, around the same time as the exhibition, I plan to write a book about it: a coffee table book full of my pictures. The pictures are going to be annotated with first-hand stories of how I got the image and why I think it's important. The portraits aim to capture the student's character.

Though he didn't broadcast his black belt achievement to his classes, still his peers who know him probably wouldn't be surprised. Especially since he has yet to lose a student-teacher arm wrestling match.

But there was a time when he only dreamed of such accomplishments, Mr. Saéz said. “I come from the village of Galarreta in the province of Alava in the Basque region of Spain,” explained Mr. Saéz, who is 46.

“My village is a very small farming community of 50 people. On the one hand it was wonderful to be in touch with nature growing up. On the other hand at times I was frustrated because I couldn't do things I dreamed about doing like martial arts or playing the piano. Those things were too far away.”

This frustration sparked a determination to study abroad as he became an adult, Mr. Saéz said. At 22, he made his first trip to the United States.

“I didn't know much about the U.S., but I thought, I love the mountains and I love the sun, I should choose Colorado,” he explained. “There I studied English for another three months in Denver before double majoring in meteorology and applied mathematics at the Metropolitan State College of Denver.”

After completing college, Mr. Saéz traveled to Ithaca, New York, for graduate studies at Cornell University, where he majored in Atmospheric Science. Finding a job after graduate school proved difficult, Mr. Saéz explained.

“When you are a foreigner, an alien, the first thing you need to do is get someone to sponsor you,” Mr. Saéz said. “You can't just get a job anywhere. As an international student office graduate school you have one year to find a job or you have to leave or become illegal. I wanted to, at least, find something stimulating. I wasn't going to stay here just to stay here. A couple of schools were interested in hiring me but I didn't feel they were the right type of schools.”

When he received an e-mail from Principal Matt Horvat offering him a job at U-High however, it felt right, Mr. Saéz said. Mr. Saéz heard about the position last March at a National Association for Independent Schools convention in Denver.

“I had no connection with Chicago and it took me a while to decide what I was going to do when I was offered the job here,” Mr. Saéz explained. “Moving was tough. But you just move forward. You cannot live in fear. “I just live one day at a time. If the situation becomes that I am forced to go back to Spain then maybe that is what is meant to happen. When you live abroad long enough it's almost like you become a foreigner everywhere, even in your own country. But that is not a bad thing after all.”

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Photo teacher spotlights students

By Mitchell Stern

Midway reporter

Hunched over in an old wooden chair with her arms in her lap, 8th grader Leslie Sibener sits as Photographer and Photojournalism Teacher Lissette Ricketts snaps a photo with her Hasselblad Manual camera.

Unveiling her latest portfolio ’13’, Ms. Ricketts posed 20 of 30 total black and white portraits of her 15-year-old 8th grade students on a personal website, www.poorpress.com in December. Ms. Ricketts began shooting for the ’13’ collection three years ago.

“I get to know my students well before I ask them if I can take their picture,” Ms. Ricketts said. “If they say yes, I send a permission slip to their parents to photograph and publish their pictures.

“i set up a time during school when we both are free to take the picture. And I find an interesting place inside the school to take the picture in.

“I'll look at the collection of pictures and then I’ll choose the picture that grabs my attention the most. Then, later, I'll put the picture on my website for anyone to see.”

Ms. Ricketts plans to add to the portfolio for 10 years, coordinating the time with the idea and name of ‘13’. “Once I’m finished with my portfolio in about 10 years I’ll have an expansion in another 10 years to showcase it,” Ms. Ricketts said. Then, around the same time as the exhibition, I plan to write a book about it: a coffee table book full of the ‘13’ pictures I’ve done.”

Priced at $65 each because of their platinum finish, Ms. Ricketts said the portraits aim to capture the student's character.

“One picture I find especially interesting is the one I took three years ago of Nicole Massad in the courtyard,” Ms. Ricketts said. “It's very reminiscent of Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland' in that she's sitting with her hands in her lap within the environment.

Taking pictures for her portfolio every other week, Ms. Ricketts said that making money isn't the reason she puts her pictures on her website. “I just live one day at a time. If the situation becomes that I am forced to go back to Spain then maybe that is what is meant to happen. When you live abroad long enough it's almost like you become a foreigner everywhere, even in your own country. But that is not a bad thing after all.”

Searching for the perfect birthday gift for your mother, Senior Victoria Rogers has finally found a perfect purse and even some shoes for herself!
Close-knit triplets are still individual in tastes, talents

By Graham Salinger
Associate editor

Without knowing the Brunke brothers, Kevin and Quinn, you wouldn't think they were related, much less triplets.

U-High's only triplets, the Brunke brothers were born February 11, 1990. They are Lab School Lifers and reside with their parents, cat Slippers and dog Jani in a four-floor, pink brick house near Oz Park on the North Side.

Dressed in colorful 1970s garb to match his closet covered with rock music idols, Kevin wears glasses and boasts the greatest height.

Often seen dressed in a gray sweatshirt, Kyle is the Midway's business ad manager, opinion columnist and reporter and writer for special feature projects.

Quinn, the oldest of the three, dons wrestling t-shirts and minus his hair.

THE BROTHERS' father Ken, grew up in Skokie and his voice projects with the flair of a radio personality. The brothers' mother, Lisa, has been a stay-at-home mom since the brothers were born. Her long, flowing blonde hair is reminiscent of Kevin's favorite decade. The parents say they didn't quite know what they were in for when they found out they were having triplets.

"When we learned that we were having triplets, it was the first time I saw my husband speechless," said mother Brunke, who grew up in Long Grove. "When Kevin, Quinn and Kyle were babies, I worked hard at establishing a schedule so they would all eat and sleep at the same time. Otherwise there would have been complete chaos.

It was difficult to prepare for the arrival of the brothers, explained father Brunke.

"When Kevin, Kyle and Quinn first arrived it was sort of a blur," he said. "You just had to experience it and it was hard to have much of a plan before hand. But the main thing we wanted to do was make sure that they grew up as individuals and is just seen as the triplets."

KEVIN, ALONG with Junior Max Wagner, has organized an assembly paying tribute to the late 1960 U-High graduate Paul Butterfield and the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, for tomorrow. He said that growing up as a triplet means never a boring moment.

"Living in the same house has its quirks," Kevin explained. "One time I came out of the shower and was washing off my face with what I thought was a towel, but it turned out to be Quinn's underwear. That was pretty disgusting.

"When I was about 8, Kyle took one of my stuffed animals and chased him all over the house. We finally ended up in front of a window and I pushed him. He fell back into the window and the toy shattered into pieces. The worst part of it was that our parents did not let us watch 'Rocky,' that night. Fortunately, that was it and we weren't grounded.

Our parents aren't the type of parents who ground their kids. As long as we know what we did wrong, and won't do it again, there is no reason to be grounded."

JOKINGLY, QUINN, who started U-High's Pro-Wrestling Club with Senior Aaron Weiss at the end of November, bragged about being the oldest of the Brunke triplets.

"Being older is stimulating," he said from his room, which Kevin jokingly said stinks, filled with his DVD collection and weights spread across the floor. "I have been in the world for one more minute than Quinn and we know more things than they do. We are pretty much opposites of each other. We have different looks, different levels of attractiveness and personalities."

Kevin likes reminiscing about his childhood years by watching family videos of his brothers, he said. "I love watching videos from when we were 5; our dad used to video tape everything. The videos range from our birthdays being celebrated in the lower school to all of us playing the recorder."

One of my favorite videos was of my grandpa playing the harmonica and tap dancing and then playing basketball with one of us which was hilarious because that's just what my grandma was like. It makes me miss him, but they are great.

QUINN SAID he loved putting on plays for relatives with his brothers when they were kids.

"We used to put on plays for our grandfather on Sundays. We would re-enact Jerry Springer with stuffed animals; we called in the Mike show. The stuffed animals would go up in fights and Quinn and Kyle would call him 'big pole.'"

"I like graphic novels, Quinn likes wrestling and Kevin likes music. Our interests have definitely changed but I would probably go crazy if Kevin or Quinn were not there. I'd end up talking to myself; after all we were three.

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Elegant in a white prom-prize gown and holding a white rose, a smiling teenage girl slowly walks up to a large cross and places her rose at its base.

Earlier that night, girls had eagerly filed into the Pleria Holiday Inn ballroom extravagantly decorated with balloons and streamers. But instead of teenage boys dressed awkwardly in tuxedos escorting these girls, their fathers guided them past a sign that read "Purity Ball 2007." FORMED 10 YEARS ago in Colorado Springs, Colorado by the Christian ministry Generations of Light, Purity Balls currently take place in most states and are growing in popularity.

A typical Purity Ball consists of a classy dinner, waiting, an exchange of vows between father and daughter, the daughter giving a gold key to her heart to her father and ends with the placing of the rose. By placing the rose next to the cross, the girl pledges her commitment to remain pure through abstinence before premarital sex, according to a recent story in the Chicago Tribune.

Subsequent letters to the Tribune’s editors criticized Purity Balls for the sexual connotations associated with the fathers’ involvement in the girls’ pledge to remain abstinent. But for Mrs. Janet Hellige, a volunteer at the Peerian Christian Center who organizes the center’s biennial Purity Ball, such opinions rooted from a lack of knowledge.

"You hear it everywhere, but there are some Purity Balls where girls do pledge their purity, but we don’t do that here," Mrs. Hellige explained during a phone interview. "We’re also outlining the fathers to be the man God intended them to be. If the father is pure then the rest of the house will probably follow. We’re asking the dads to step up; it’s their job to hold the key to their daughter’s heart. When a father is present in the life of a daughter, she isn’t likely to look for affection outside of her home. But when a dad is missing, she looks for someone else to tell her she’s beautiful.”

WITH 88 PERCENT of girls who take a pledge of abstinence engaging in premariital sex, according to a recent ABC news story, Mrs. Hellige knows there is a chance her two teenage daughters will end up breaking their pledge.

"The media thinks we don’t know about safe sex, STDs and HPV shots," Mrs. Hellige continued. "But we do know about all those things. I would be a bad mother if I didn’t tell my children about them. I don’t know if they will both remain virgins. The media is playing into something they don’t know much about. The picture is so much bigger.”

While taking part in a Midway-organized group interview about Purity Balls with four other U-Highers, Senior Victoria Rogers expressed how she feels parents shouldn’t press their values on their children.

"I think it’s bad if you’re raised to be something,” Victoria said. "It’s hard to break out of a tradition everyone around you is doing, but I still think it is possible to break out. For example, I had a first communion and was baptized. But once I started to practice for my Confirmation, I decided that I didn’t want to do it anymore and quit.”

IN RESPONSE TO Victoria, Sophomore Julia Baird explained that a girl’s age at the time she attends a Purity Ball has an effect on whether or not she will go through with her pledge.

"If they’re young, like 9 or 10, they’re not going to rebel,” Julia said. "At that age, if my dad told me to do something, I’d do it, because I was still under my parent’s wings. The older girls probably don’t care as much about what their dad says, so that will make it easier to rebel.”

Even with parental pressure, Senior Chrissy Delicata feels the decision isn’t about rebellion, but comes down to whether or not a person believes in remaining abstinence.

"Either you subscribe to it or reject it," Chrissy explained. "My brother went to Catholic high school and I remember he would come home and we’d laugh about what happened in sex ed class that day. While they were teaching about abstinence, most of the kids in the class had already had sex. I think society has put a lot of pressure on girls. When you get to a certain age you’re expected to have sex with someone.”

Dealing with peer pressure to have sex can be just as difficult for teenage boys as it is for teenage girls.

"It’s harder for girls to say what they really expect sexually from a guy. Despite the guy being left not knowing what she wants, the girl is also put in a terrible situation.”

ESCAPING SOCIETAL PRESSURES can prove difficult for some young adults, feels Professor Deborah Nelson, director of the Center for Gender Studies at the U. of C.

"We live in a society where a fantasy making machine goes 24/7," Ms. Nelson said. "It’s exciting desire and legitimizing sexual activity. There is still a pretty strong social double standard in sexuality. You can’t escape the fact that women are capable of bearing children.

One anthropologist has said that girls are exchanged like clams or caws. It is very difficult to dialogue the common feeling that a girl that has a lot of sexual partners is 'dirty’.

Purity Balls have become a way for a certain group of people to fruitlessly attempt to change common notions in society, according to Ms. Nelson.

"The problem in these communities is that they're trying to create a new aspect of purity,” Ms. Nelson said.

"You can’t change the context in which you’re raised. Think of how terrible it would be for a girl that has attended a Purity Ball to succumb to desire and engage in sexual activity. Imagine the shame she would feel.

"These type of movements don’t want to live in the world we have. Now we don’t have a perfect world, a lot of the media views women as nothing but their bodies. But you can’t wish away sexuality. You can’t count on people, in the heat of passion, to think about the consequences.”
U-Highers trek to D.C. to immerse in national world affairs conference

By Rohini Tobacconawala
Associate editor

Representing the only high school, 25 U-Highers were to attend the World Affairs Councils of America National Conference in Washington D.C. last Wednesday-Saturday. The delegates returned home after Midway deadline; a follow-up story will appear next issue.

History Teachers Paul Horton and Andrea Martonffy and English Teacher Catharine Bell chose the delegates out of 40 applicants. Each wrote an essay explaining why they wanted to participate in the conference.

Sponsored by the World Affairs Councils of America, a national organization that supports 87 local foreign affairs councils, the conference focused on “U.S. or U.S. and Them: Foreign Policy and the Next Presidency.”

Students were to attend panel discussions at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, where they were lodged as well as briefings at the National Press Club.

“For the past seven years, I have gone to the conference every year,” Ms. Martonffy said. “And, then I thought how wonderful it would be for kids to be there because they would be sitting right where change is happening. The conference committee told me they had 50 student tickets total. The other 25 were given to college students from various places around the country.

“We expected to attend a wide variety of panel discussions such as ‘Iraq and Beyond,’ where retired U.S. Army General Barry McCaffrey was to discuss how the next president should deal with the war in Iraq. In addition, we were also scheduled for a panel discussion, ‘The Effect of the Media’ led by USA Today, Newsweek and CBS News journalists, on the effect the media has on foreign policy and the next presidency.’

After returning from the conference, the delegates may arrange an assembly concerning something discussed from the trip.

“We hope to have an assembly that will deal with general political questions regarding the upcoming presidential elections,” Ms. Martonffy said. “Kids who are working on various campaigns and everyone on the trip will report to the school as a whole on matters we learned at the conference.”

Students who attended are as follows:

Senior Emily Crane; junior Emily Baierick; Keryn Ganzburg; Taiis Ha; Inowonce Pietsch; Katie Swett; Rachael Kroneberg; Joyce Sii; Matthew Suesh; Don Trumbett; Dorton Williams; sophomores: Alex Fray; Zoe Becker; Meike Minor; Isabell de Fez; Bill Shubin; Joshua Adrian; Aldouble; Henry Bergman; Frances Brown, Amir Hey; Sushab Kamat_popov; Robert Maye; Joseph Philpson; Ben Potom; Michael Shapiro.

The ONLY Leap Day babies at U-High, Sophomores Gabby Clark and Oliver Ellenbaum leap toward their 4th birthday, February 29.

Leap Day sophomores to become ‘4 years old’

By Ralf Khan
Midday reporter

“People used to make fun of me for only being 3, but I don’t care.” With his birthday approaching February 29 Sophomore Oliver Ellenbaum said he doesn’t mind that he’s only turning 4.

For most U-Highers, celebrating a birthday happens every year and comes and goes. But for Oliver and fellow sophomore Gabby Clark, this year marks only their 4th, something they share with raper Ja Rule and Pope Paul III whose birthdays also fall on Leap Day.

A day added every four years to keep the Gregorian calendar in sync with the Earth’s orbit, February 29 also became a traditional opportunity for females to propose marriage to males.

That tradition was echoed in Sadie Hawkins Dances at high schools and colleges, named after a man-hunting character in the comic strip Li’l Abner begun by Al Capp in 1937.

Sadie Hawkins Day in the strip occurred each November but many of the dances came in February.

Believing her birthday is better compared to having a birthday annually, Gabby said she usually celebrates March 1.

“It’s great that I actually get to celebrate it this year,” Gabby said. “But if it were not a leap year, I would just celebrate it on March 1, like anybody else would. When it’s a leap year it’s pretty exciting to have an actual birthday but in other years it’s not that big of a deal.”

Happy that he won’t be made fun of this year, Oliver said he’s excited to celebrate his actual birthday.

“When I was really young, none of my friends knew what Leap Day was,” Oliver explained. “But as we got older and people were old enough to find out what it meant, they used to make fun of me and say ‘Ha ha you are only 3.’

“However, I never really thought the jokes were annoying. I just didn’t really care. Now I just think it’s cool that it’s actually going to be on the 29th this year, I’m guessing I’ll get better presents or something. Most importantly, I don’t have to hear people saying ‘It’s not your birthday, but happy birthday!’”

Curfew idea doesn’t sail here

By Tom Stanley-Becker
Associate editor

Mayor Richard Daley’s January 8 proposal to extend Chicago’s youth curfew in response to the existing crime problems seems unnecessary to some U-Highers and faculty.

Youths under 17 would face arrest if found outdoors after 10 p.m. weekdays and 11 p.m. weekends if the City Council adopts Mayor Daley’s proposal.

At a South Side news conference, Mayor Daley cited the murder of 24 public school students last year to support raising the existing curfew by one-half hour.

The change would be insignificant and an intrusion on students’ autonomy, believes Student Council President Dan Horvatz, senior.

“If a person is coming from a school-sponsored event, they are allowed to be out past curfew but if not no. I do not know how the rule gets enforced since how does the Police Department know if a person is coming from a school event or from somewhere else.”

(Also see editorial page 12.)
Just because cheese can be served with fries doesn’t make them cheese fries. At The Wiener’s Circle, though, you get what you pay for.

Enjoying an anxiety-free snack, Senior Becca Foley dives into her favorite combo of hot melted Cheddar cheese and crispy, salted fries. Becca knows that she can count on The Wiener’s Circle for serving up perfect dishes every time, avoiding disappointment and hassle. Oh, and there’s free parking in the back...
U-HIGH MIDWAY • TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008

10-11 In-depth newsfeature

Guilty Pleasures

THE INSIDE STORY

By Amanda Pappas
Editor-in-Chief

Browsing through the aisles of Walgreen's on Illinois Street and Columbus Drive in Streeterville, Seniors Kyra Linder and Stephanie Holmes can't help but stare at the bold bright yellow headlines splashed on the magazines People, Us Weekly and the National Enquirer. Instinctively, Kyra grabs all three, two of which have pictures of Britney Spears' distraught face on the covers, and heads straight to the register. Once returning to the frigid January air, Kyra rips open the plastic bag and pulls out the magazines to analyze the covers with Stephanie before her fingertips freeze.

Premiering in 1952, Confidential magazine, one of the first tabloid magazines devoted to the misadventures of celebrities, changed celebrity reporting and gossip forever, according to a British Broadcasting Corporation documentary. At its peak, Confidential's sales reached nearly four million, but folded in 1969. Later, supermarkets started making space around their checkout stands for new publications like People, starting in 1974, then later Us Weekly in 1977, based on the demand for stories about celebrities.

Although some details contradict each other, the general angles of the stories in magazines like Us Weekly and People remain true. Though some magazines publish more controversial topics than others, few face lawsuits because they equip themselves with top legal representation, according to CNN.

Often altering photos and dramatizing stories, tabloids, a cheaper type of publication, face far more legal issues. Typically containing four or more headlines crammed onto a single front page, tabloids are generally unstapled and assembled with thinner paper. Starting her subscription to Star magazine, a popular tabloid, a year ago, Kyra said she feels she'll never be able to stop reading it.

"Star magazine is my favorite tabloid," Kyra explained. "As soon as the magazine arrives in the mail, I sit down and read the entire thing cover to cover, even the ads. If I don't get a chance to finish them at home, I bring them to school and read them during my free periods or sometimes even during class. "Once I started reading the magazines almost five years ago, I haven't been able to stop. It's almost like an addiction. A lot of the times, I read the magazines with friends and discuss every photo and everyone's flaw in them."

Avoiding magazines and tabloids completely, Senior Muneeb Hai believes society should focus around a different group of people. "I think people just like to know about the lives of others and reading about celebrities is the easiest way to accomplish that," Muneeb said. "To be fair, it's not even only Americans. The entire world is fascinated by celebrities too. For instance, my mom is and was very interested in Princess Diana. It seems like Great Britain is fixated with celebrities just as much as we are."

"The problem is that the people our society chooses to focus on are celebrities who aren't really doing anything. I think it would be much more interesting if instead of celebrities, the tabloids and magazines focused on cooperate or political people. That way, people could maybe actually learn something."

Disturbed by the invasion of privacy, Freshman Jeremy Woo said the paparazzi, an Italian word for photographers who take candid photographs of celebrities, should be less aggressive. "I really don't like magazines and tabloids and quite frankly find them ridiculous," Jeremy explained. "Most of the time, I wonder if anything in them is actually true. I can side with the celebrities because they're just trying to live their lives. I think it's sad that people actually enjoy looking at pictures of celebrities walking or doing everyday things like eating."

Tabloids and gossip have also become accessible through the internet and updates to cell phones. Following Britney Spears' story closely, Senior Angie Maciel said she'll do anything to get the inside scoop of Britney's life.

"There's something I love about drama and gossip and Britney match for both of those," Angie said. "Ever since the beginning of last year, she has caught my eye and I have been following her ever since. Something about how people are so messed up makes me feel better about myself. Although a lot of Britney's stories and pictures are disturbing, the most outrageous one was by far about how she almost killed herself and her children."

"The cherry on the top was when a picture was taken of her with a bald head flicking off a paparazzi. Normally I'll make a trip to a Walgreen's by my house once a week to pick up magazines but if I can't make it, I catch up online. Youtube is always a great site to see videos of her."

We asked six U-Highers...

"I think Britney is crazy. I just imagine her going to parties after party doing anything and everything that comes her way. After one of those parties, she's going to just end up dead from all the alcohol and drugs she does."

—Jack Powell, freshman

"I hear all these sad stories about Britney but I think she's going to end up happy. I think she's going to find a man with another kid or two."  
—Jenna Ann, junior

"Everyone needs just love Britney does. She's crazy and has had enough. I'm completely sympa-thetic at this point. She obviously needs help and needs to take some time out and grow out her hair."

—Fair Langdon, junior
The most disturbing thing I've seen in a tabloid was a photo of a celebrity tripping at a loved one's funeral. It really crossed the line."

- Mike Casey, junior

"The strangest thing I've ever seen was the idea that there was a potential link between Paris Hilton's tape and 9/11."

- Frank Firke, senior

"The grossest thing I've ever seen was Paris Hilton's private area covered with a star the magazine added."

- Gabby Knight, senior

"What's the most ridiculous thing you've seen in a gossip publication?"

"Though the school library doesn't specialize in gossip magazines, when U-Highers find time to relax, some occasionally resort to its comfortable chairs to catch up on celebrity news with their own copies. Getting their gossip fix, Anisha Sisodia and Anisha check out fashion tips."

THOUGH THE school library doesn't specialize in gossip magazines, when U-Highers find time to relax, some occasionally resort to its comfortable chairs to catch up on celebrity news with their own copies. Getting their gossip fix, Anisha Sisodia and Anisha check out fashion tips.

"Britney is definitely going to be forced to go to rehab again, which will force her to abandon her family and friends, who really need her in their lives."

- DJ Drake, freshman

"I think Britney will become a born-again Christian because she seems to be completely out of her body right now and maybe she has multiple personality disorder."

- Liz Mesina, senior

"I think she is bound to have a comeback. So many bad things have happened to her that it just seems right that she's going to get back in shape and be the same Britney she's always been."

- Hira Thomas, freshman

"What will happen to Britney Spears?"

"Who Wore It Best?"

Nate Wise: 49%
Eva Jaeger: 51%

Inspired by her favorite soccer team, senior Eva goes for the sporty vibe while junior Nate sports it casually.

Photo by Sydney Marcus

Though the school library doesn’t specialize in gossip magazines, when U-Highers find time to relax, some occasionally resort to its comfortable chairs to catch up on celebrity news with their own copies. Getting their gossip fix, Anisha Sisodia and Anisha check out fashion tips.
**LETTER FROM COLLEGE ALLANA TACHAUER, 2007**

College is what you make it, no experience needed

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Allana Tachauer is a freshman at the University of Illinois at Chicago. This column is the second in a series from Class of ’01 members about their college experiences.)

WALKING INTO the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Student East Center along with hundreds of other students every morning, I look around straining to recognize just one other person. Sometimes, if I’m lucky, a familiar face pops up among the crowd (usually recognizable from a French class). But usually it feels as though I’m thrown into an unfamiliar environment. Though UIC’s undergraduate school has more than 16,000 students, I still manage to feel like an individual in my class. With roughly 20 students in three of my classes and 100-125 students in my other two, I can easily get a word or two in.

The trick in college, in my opinion, is choosing appropriate classes. Coming from U-High, I am used to everyone knowing my name and then some. Of course certain classes are required and cannot be avoided, but the rest is the student’s choice. Wanting to discuss books as well as write, I chose small English classes to complete most of my credits this semester. Even my other two classes, Sociology and Psychology, are relatively small and engaging. I only had one small class last semester, decided to take a break from the general education requirements and explore possible majors.

I dislike most of my classes and there’s not much of a campus, taking away from the “normal” college experience. I looked forward to a senior. With only 15 to 20 percent of seniors graduating, it’s not unheard of for students living in the dorms, UIC is also a commuter school. This makes it a little tougher to meet people, seeing as there is only real time to socialize is right before, in, or right after class, something that took me by surprise.

In fact, one may ask what keeps anyone around at UIC, anyway? Looking around, I see most people, except for those walking the streets away from the heart of downtown Chicago, it is hard not to make excuses to stay. Born and raised in the city, the thought of not being here leaves a sinking feeling in my stomach. So, for now, I am giving up a sense of community, something about U-High that I have cherished.

But, I guess since I haven’t really gotten a chance to talk to anyone I know, I’m not into kind of thing.
FILM JULIE CARLSON

Performance worthy of a second Oscar

EXPECT DANIEL DAY-LEWIS to go home with Oscar gold in 12 days at the Academy Awards for his role in “There Will Be Blood.” The performer scored his fourth nomination for Best Actor in a Leading Role and the film is up for seven other awards, including Best Director and Best Picture.

Opening at an 1896 silver reser-
voir in California, “There Will Be Blood” focuses on miner Daniel Plain-
view (Day-Lewis) as he acciden-
tially strikes oil and discovers he can lucratively sell it. Despite his success, Plainview disgustingly se-
cures deals using slick talk and his infant son H.W. (Dillon Freasier) to project a fake wholesome, “family man” image.

Thirteen years later, a mysterious stranger named Paul Sunday (Paul Dano) sells Plainview informa-
tion about an unappetized oil deposit on his family’s land in the upstate town of Little Boston. Plainview and H.W. move to the small community and build a profitable rig there, after convincing the townpeople that they will benefit from his exploration. Not lured in by Plainview’s promises, Sun-
day’s manipulative preacher brother Eli (also played by Day-Lewis) suspects that he may be betraying the Sunday family — and the whole town — out of millions.

Writer and director Paul Thomas Anderson (“Boo-
gie Nights,” “Magnolia”) took risks with the Be Blood” film. He adapted the screenplay from Upton Sin-
clair’s 1927 novel “Oil,” confusingly cast Dano in two roles and juxtaposed authentic period costumes with a modern, high-pitched soundtrack. Somehow, every odd element just works.

This success can be credited to the actors, mainly Day-Lewis, who brilliantly portrays a man losing his ethics to greed. But even though Plainview de-
scends into complete moral bankruptcy, Day-Lewis subtly gives the audience glimpses into the charac-
ter’s humanity and it is ultimately hard not to feel compassion to toward him.

Not many actors could pull that off.

So “There Will Be Blood” may not win big come Oscar night, but there will surely be blood if Day-Lewis — who won before for “My Left Foot” — doesn’t.

OPINION KYLE BRUNKE

When the word ‘nerd’ is heard

WHEN THE questionning morphed into an exca-
vation revealing his basic conscience, the blond, blue-eyed bomber of math and science almost shied away. He disliked his assumed inclusion within the “nerd” definition offered for him, having never come to terms with its stereotyped attributes. Even when reminded that he attests U-High, a place known for its demanding workload and high standards, where fans could pay whatever they wanted to download the 10-track album. The website has stopped the offer, but the C.B.I hit stayed for a year and reached number one on the Billboard 200.

Packed full of frontman Thom Yorke’s amazing falsetto, fantastically strange and evocative lyrics, and innumerable instruments (the song “Reckoner” closes with a finger-cymbal solo), Radiohead has never been better.

On its last release, 2003’s “Hail to the Thief,” Ra-

diohead experimented with more punky vocals and lyrics. “In Rainbows,” however, focuses on atypical eerie romantic ballads and songs that, as Spin mag-
azine says, “embrace the claustrophobic loneliness of modern life.”

On the track “15 Step,” Yorke’s voice waives through scattered eclectic percussion, guitarist Johnny Greenwood’s infectious riffs and pulsating beats. “Nude” features delicate guitar and drummer Philip Selway’s light percussion with a crowning Yorke advising, “Don’t get any big ideas, they’re not gonna happen, you’ll go to hell for what your dirty mind is thinking.”

In “Weird Fishes/Arpeggi,” a love song with per-
fectly repeating guitar and drum riffs, Yorke gently moans, “In the deepest ocean, the bottom of the sea, your eyes, they turn me.”

“In Rainbows” provides a breath of clean, fresh air. No weak tracks, no bland processed lyrics, no win-
ing or screeching or rhyming, just pure brilliance.

DINING MONA DASGUPTA

Taste of Japan in cozy surroundings

MODERN INDUSTRIALISM meets Far East décor in the airy, bright and earth tone setting of Kamehachi. The Japanese favorite has five branches in Chicago, including one located at 240 East Ontario Street, two blocks east of Michigan Avenue.

On his high ceiling, pipes swerve to create an almost masterful piece of art that clashes perfectly with the palm trees in the corner of the largely brown environment. A sushi bar in the far corner, raised platform seating and a large cock-
tail lounge area for private parties add to Kamehachi’s elegantly tranquill atmosphere.

Looking for a place to lunch on a freezing Sunday last month, my friends Van Miner, Dana Alfassa and I were delighted to dine at Kamehachi. After we were seated, our waiter offered us hot towels for our hands. But our hands were still frozen from the chilly day, so we ordered traditional hot green tea.

Like the tea, most of Kamehachi’s offerings are delectable, classic Japanese options. The extensive menu includes noodles dishes, fish and meat entrees, soups and specialty sushi.

We all decided to begin our meal with miso soup, a hot soybean broth containing tofu and seaweed. Dana then ordered chicken teriyaki, served with steamed white rice and vegetables. The tangy chick-

en dish, like many of Kamehachi’s lunch entrées, costs $11.95.

Van went for shrimp and vegetable tempura and a spicy tuna roll. Sushi rolls range in price from $3.95 to $12.95, with individual pieces costing $2 to $4. I ordered a spicy California roll and shrimp temp-
pura. The delicate, deep-fried tempura exterior was complimented with steamed rice and dipping sauce.

After our meal, we bundled up to face the bitter cold, at least happy that we were full with delicious food from Kamehachi.

KAMEHACHI: 240 East Ontario Street, 312-
587-6600. 11:30 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday – Thursday, 11:30 a.m. – midnight Friday – Tuesday noon – 9:30 p.m. Sunday.
Boston diversity conference delegates bring ideas home

Revived club, possible school assembly among plans to raise awareness

By Ruiqi Tang

Joining more than 2,000 high school students from American, Japanese and Indian private schools, six U-Highers selected by administrators and counselors attended the People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Conference November 29-December 1 at the Boston Convention and Exhibit Center. The delegates were chosen from 14 U-Highers selected for their essays on the theme “Learning from the Past, Leading for the Future: Reshaping traditions.”

Sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools, an organization of independent schools, PCC sessions featured speakers and offered networking opportunities for educators, while SDLC engaged students in self-reflecting and cross-cultural activities.

MEETING HIGH Schoolers from New York City and Los Angeles, Sophomore Antonio Robles realized how fortunate he was for his educational opportunities. “Students were split into ethnic affinity groups,” Sophomore Antonio Robles said. “The Latino one talked a lot about the process of getting into college and getting a good education. Many students I met were from Harlem or southern neighborhoods near L.A., and they talked about their families being involved with gangs and themselves having to stay off the streets.

“Since most kids in the Latino group were on financial aid, we talked about how hard it is for Latinos to not only get a good education but to pay for it. The discussion made me realize how privileged I was. It actually motivated me to do well in school if I don’t, I feel like I’m letting the Latino community down.

FOR JUNIOR Milla Davenport, listening to multicultural students openly discuss negative experiences changed the perception of her own life. “From this conference I learned that I come from a much more accepting community and family than I had previously thought,” Mila said.

“I was affected by the sheer number of people who were victimized because of the way they looked. They had a lot to say about bad encounters they’ve had and the conference became an opportunity to pour out all their feelings. I feel lucky to have people who don’t judge me for who I am.”

Considering a diversity-oriented school assembly, Senior Lauren Stewart said, “This conference taught me how I can educate others about diversity and help people be less ignorant.

There is a hole in our knowledge of people who are different and I feel we need to educate everyone about accepting differences in others. Also, from interacting with other African American students who also want to change our society, I learned what steps are needed to make a difference in the black community.

“I think students at Lab should be more aware of this issue. As one of the most diverse private schools in China, we need to be changing our culture.”

The delegates are restarting the Diversity Club and are organizing the annual Flava Fest to give people a taste of what they have learned at PCC. The program offers similar experiences for those at the conferences.

“This year we want to advertise Flava Fest better so hopefully there will be a larger turnout, since it isn’t only for people of color,” Lauren said.

Also attending the conferences were the following:

Sophomore Kiara Davis and Juniors Ruiqi Tang and Vanessa Ramirez.

Faculty chaperons included Math Teacher Shanna Anderson and Counselor and Testing Coordinator Chris Harper.

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Artsfest programs (continued from front page) from the South,” Kevin said. “I’ve always had a fascination with folk music, you know? They’re just fun songs. We’re going to play a mixture of folk and blues and maybe a little bit of modern stuff.”

The band Purple blends several musical styles, playing both original and borrowed songs written by member Henry Bergman, freshman.

“Nobody else has an electric violin, nobody has red dreadlocks,” Henry said, referring to member Jon Pape, sophomore. “We just bring something that nobody else has. Every time we do a reggae song, we do a punk song. We’re always changing.”

While Senior Tom Brewer’s “ Dumpster Diving” workshop may sound unpleasant at first, the activity involves far more than just picking up garbage, explained Tom. “We’re trying to explore the vicious, brutal underbelly of the Lab Schools,” Tom said. “We want people to see their own garbage, to make them see the landscape. We’re not going to steal anything. It’s purely observational. The best way to understand people is to look at their garbage.”

Science Expo (continued from front page) best chemical reaction.

“The intention is to keep all the pressure inside the bottle while screwing the cap on, which could have a hole at the top, then slowly releasing the pressure to get a steady reaction, making the rocket go farther into the air.”

Having given his 8th grade Biology class a presentation about the way pain works, Freshman Daniel Traub intends to display a diagram about his presentation during the Expo (see photo from front page).

“Me, my dad, and my brother are pain specialists,” Daniel said. “It was presented to my class about the way pain works in the body and the small sensors that release pain through the body. Basically, when you get a pinch, chemicals go through a pathway in your spine up to two sections of your brain, which tells you that you are feeling pain. On the board at the Expo, there are going to be a bunch of images from my presentation to my class. The board will explain about what happens in your brain and spine when you feel pain.”

Among parent participants, Dr. Dan Margoliash, father of Junior Jonathan, will talk about birds and their songs to explain brain activity during sleep from his field study on modern neurobiology and sleeping habits in humans.

“I’d like to try to convey the way science involves human subjects,” Dr. Margoliash said. “The program hit a bump when the art teachers asked to be paid for the extra work they were doing on nights and on weekends and the school refused. That was a real insult to all the hard work they did and in a way to their status in the school and they understandably became less enthusiastic.”

In the day’s closing assembly, the Musical Theatre group will perform a revue featuring singing and acting from several popular musicals, according to member Katherine Vokey, senior.

“We’re going to be putting on different sketches and doing brief musical numbers,” Katherine said. “We’re doing it to give people a taste of what we do and to get you into the show.”
Demanding disease can be lived with, but branches out with multiple dangers

By Robin Shapiro
Editor-in-chief

Waking to the rumblings of an empty stomach, sophomore Andrew Cook is ready for breakfast. But first, he grabs a hand-held blood sugar test.

"I got diabetes so young, I don't remember a time I didn't have it," Andrew said. "It's hard to explain. I think it would have been worse if I had gotten it now and it had changed my entire life. "But I haven't noticed any problems it's given me growing up at all. I mean, it definitely gets frustrating."

After checking his blood sugar level, Andrew reaches for his diabetes pump and inserts the tube, through a needle, directly into his stomach. After an injection of insulin, Andrew grabs his breakfast and leaves for school.

Though Andrew is the only U-Higher known to have diabetes, nearly 20.8 million Americans suffer from the disease. Those people with the disease must regularly check their blood sugar level to make sure it isn't too high or too low. Eating certain foods, especially heavy sugars, may produce a drastic impact on one's blood sugar level. How often people check depends on the type of diabetes they suffer from.

TYPES ONE AND TWO are the two major kinds of diabetes. Type one results from the body not producing insulin, a hormone that regulates the amount of glucose in the blood. The most common among Americans, type one diabetes occurs when body cells ignore the production of insulin.

After his parents discovered his type one diabetes when he was age 4, Andrew said the best way he has coped with the disease is positivity.

"I got diabetes so young, I don't remember a time I didn't have it," Andrew said. "It's hard to explain. I think it would have been worse if I had gotten it now and it had changed my entire life. "But I haven't noticed any problems it's given me growing up at all. I mean, it definitely gets frustrating."

"I think having low blood sugar is the most annoying. I usually feel tired and detached."

- Andrew Cook, sophomore

Have you seen this man? Although his current whereabouts are unknown, witnesses attest that while studiously studying homework under intense stress and pressure, Junior Max Wagner spontaneously exploded in a pool of odd-smelling smoke. A fellow student believed that Max suffered from lack of Medici made food. After reading what a cheesy slice of Medici pizza can do for the body and soul, and how he had never been in the presence of its awe-inspiring radiance, Max apparently opted for a quick take out.

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New laws steer teen drivers wrong way, say U-Highers

They're not sold on idea revisions will pay off in safety

By Andrew Sylora
Midway reporter

A

noying. Useless. Unfair.

Many U-Highers dislike the revisions to the Graduated Driver License laws passed at the beginning of this year, supported by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to reduce traffic crashes and fatalities among drivers age 15-20.

Approved by Governor Rod Blagojevich August 20, the revised laws as a response to suggestions made by the Illinois Teen Driver Safety Task Force. Created August 29, 2004, the Task Force, composed of legislators, traffic safety experts and law enforcement officials, hoped to find ways to reduce teen fatalities in motor vehicle accidents.

The revised Illinois laws, among the strictest in the nation according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, include a 10 p.m. curfew for drivers age 15-17 on weekdays, holding a learner’s permit for nine months, and making teen driving records available for parents online.

Most U-Highers said the new teen driving laws impose unfair restrictions. Sophomore James Phillips feels the laws unnecessarily delay the time needed to obtain a license.

“It’s definitely the thing that’s making me just wait and get my license when I turn 18,” James said. “I mean, I’m not going to drive 50 hours in nine months and hold my permit for that long just for he heck of obeying these new laws. The old laws seemed to be successful in reducing the number of reckless teens on the road. If the law still works effectively, don’t fix it.”

According to the Secretary of State website, teenagers who received their learner’s permit before January 1 still fall under the previous laws, which limited teenagers to holding their permit to only six months.

Missing the old law by two weeks, Freshman Max Loy feels the new law is not fair for him and other new drivers.

“We’re always placed 1st in the competitions, so I’m not too nervous,” said Katherine Zhou, Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering co-captain with David Xu. Both are seniors.

“But it’s never good to be too confident,” Katherine added. “We all go into a big auditorium to take our two 40 minute tests with almost no break in between. We find out our results about three hours later at a big ceremony.”

The Science Olympiad team will go to Regionals without having attended an Invitational.

The team applied to participate in the Hinsdale South Invitational, December 15, in west suburban Hinsdale,” said Maria Birukova, Science Olympiad co-captain with David Michaline. Both are seniors.

“But after receiving no response from the Hinsdale South hosts after several weeks, the hosts finally told us that almost all of the spots were filled.”

David, Maria and Science Department Chairperson Sharon Housinger, faculty sponsor, have decided to hold a mock meet to make up for lost Invitational experience...

Missing the old law by two weeks, Freshman Max Loy feels the new law is not fair for him and other new drivers.


The team wants the law to stay as it is and hopes that the law still works effectively, don’t fix it.

According to the Secretary of State website, teenagers who received their learner’s permit before January 1 still fall under the previous laws, which limited teenagers to holding their permit to only six months.

Missing the old law by two weeks, Freshman Max Loy feels the new law is not fair for him and other new drivers.

“We’re always placed 1st in the competitions, so I’m not too nervous,” said Katherine Zhou, Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering co-captain with David Xu. Both are seniors.

“But it’s never good to be too confident,” Katherine added. “We all go into a big auditorium to take our two 40 minute tests with almost no break in between. We find out our results about three hours later at a big ceremony.”

The Science Olympiad team will go to Regionals without having attended an Invitational.

The team applied to participate in the Hinsdale South Invitational, December 15, in west suburban Hinsdale,” said Maria Birukova, Science Olympiad co-captain with David Michaline. Both are seniors.

“But after receiving no response from the Hinsdale South hosts after several weeks, the hosts finally told us that almost all of the spots were filled.”

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Model U.N.ers win U. of C. awards

By Matt Luchins
Associate editor

Following a winning performance in December at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Model United Nations delegates headed to the Palmer House.

The U-Highers represented two smaller nations, Saudi Arabia and Grenada, at the University of Chicago conference, January 31-February 3.

“We took a lot of rookies to U. of C. to prepare for next year,” said President Jenny Harris, senior. “Besides that we wanted to prove to the U. of C. that...
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Heaps of snow didn't stop U-Highers from trudging to Cultural Union's Formal Dance February 2 at International House. A raving crowd of 250 came out to pop lock and drop it to the tunes of disc jockey Wayne "Hustle" Hampton.

Cobalt blue and fiery red punctuated an evening of classic black and white and polka dotted waist-accentuating dresses. Though some girls opted to toss their heels aside while dancing, most sported patent-leather pumps with dramatic chunky heels. Many chose loose curls and natural waves, complementing the night's care free spirit.

Most boys strutted traditional sport coats and ties while others dressed down in classic black and striped Polos.

Photos by Loren Kole

SINGING TO 50 Cent's "I Get Money," Nisha Duara, Natalka Khosla and Ailile MacMahon kept dancing to the beat even on the crowded dance floor.

KEEPING IT classy, Derek Cham­pas and Inken Hoeller opt for head to toe black, except for Derek's patent-leather accented sneakers. Like Derek, many boys sported sleek shades to complement their formal attire. Other boys kept it casual in loose-button downs, topping off their looks with baseball caps.

POLKA DOTS added a fun twist to Chrissy Delicata's traditional little black dress. Tom Brewer looks polished in a white button-down shirt and skinny black pants.

DANCEGOERS GROOVED to fast paced songs all evening. Not a single slow song was played all night. The crowded dance tightly packed while some teachers doing chaperons circled the group looking appalled.

HOMECOMING ROYALTY, from left, included Freshmen Vince Sanders and Sheba Nelson, Sophomore Lida Woo, Juniors Sophie Ortel and Tim Parsons, Senior Yoolim Kim. Sopho­more Philip Kampf and Senior Rob Webber were absent.

MOVING TO "Crank That (Soulja Boy)" (top) Lauline Gough and Alex­is Madara show off their skills.

FLAUNTING A vivid red minidress Ailile MacMahon rests with Homer Shew who looks fly in suspenders.
League champion basketball girls head into Regionals

U-High to host IHSA play on home court

By Matt Luchins
Sports editor

Taking home the Independent School League championship for the first time in two decades, girls' basketball starts the state playoffs as Regionals host at 6 p.m. tomorrow, January 11, at Kolver, number the winner of yesterday's Kenwood-Tilden game.

Featuring standout sophomore guard Christina Suarez, the Kenwood Academy Broncos (15-3) were expected to roll past a Tilden team ranked last in their section. Results came after Midway deadline.

Although anchored by heavily-recruited point guard Alexis Jenkins, junior, Maroon Coach Meghan Janda also credits the Maroons' 51-32 record to contributions from other players.

"Lucy O'Keefe takes some of the scoring responsibility; she's averaging 10 or 15 points a game," Coach Janda said. "You never know with the rest of the team because someone else always scores 10 points. It has to do with the other team. If we find a weak player, we'll get the ball to the girl she's guarding. We also use our strengths to our benefit, we use our speed to get into transition and score easy baskets."

Two weeks after back-to-back losses dropped the team's record to 2-2, a December 4 home victory over rival Latin sparked success, according to Coach Janda.

"I would say the turning point of the season was the Latin game," Coach Janda said. "It was the first time we beat them in 14 years, and it kept us undefeated in the ISL. After that we realized that we could beat anyone and we did, as we had a 6-game winning streak."

Knowledge of fundamentals and tough defense propelled the team to its best season in recent memory, according to Assistant Coach Baker Frankes.

"We spend half of practice making lay-ups at full speed, which really pays off," Coach Frankes said. "All 11 girls can do that and it gives us a huge advantage."

"I also think that other teams have a hard time scoring against us, because we're an athletic team."

Playing comparatively less talented teams during the regular season, Coach Frankes feels the Maroons must ready themselves for an opponent with a quicker style of play.

"I think that the only thing we need to prepare for is a fast, athletic team that plays a full-court press," Coach Frankes said.

"Some teams have tried to press us this season and have stopped after five minutes because we've burned them. But we haven't played a really athletic team yet."

Scores not previously mentioned are as follows:

- Latin School, December 4, home: Varsity won 50-43;
- North Shore Country Day School, December 6, away: Varsity won 73-35;
- Holy Trinity High School, December 10, home: Varsity won 53-30; 
- North Home High School, December 20, away: Varsity won 61-28;
- St. Scholastica, December 21, away: Varsity won 65-58;
- Luther North, December 23, away: Varsity won 57-66;
- Woodland Academy, January 8, away: Varsity won 58-56;
- Francis Parker, January 11, away: Varsity won 56-10;
- Timothy Christian, January 11, away: Varsity won 50-32;
- Morgan Park Academy, January 14, away: Varsity won 70-11;
- Morgan Park Academy, January 24, away: Varsity won 67-50;
- Lake Forest Academy, January 29, home: Varsity won 56-62;
- Lake Forest Academy, January 29, home: Varsity won 56-41;
- Morgan Park Academy, January 31, away: Varsity won 61-34;
- SHC Championship, Willow Academy, February 2, away: Varsity won 58-43.

Boy basketballers push up aggressive playing style

By Denise Akuamoah
Midway reporter

Fast-paced, aggressive playing style will figure big as boys' varsity basketballers face Nazareth Academy, 6 p.m. today in U-Power at Kolver.

Bucking up an 12-9 record as of Midway deadline, the Maroons will utilize their up-tempo offense to champion the Midway Roadrunners, who defeated them last year, believes Head Coach Troy Caldwell.

"We're more athletic this year than last year," Coach Caldwell said. "We're a faster team. I think our athleticism and up-tempo style will suit us fine. We just need to play better than we did last time. But if we play our style of game, aggressive defense, up-tempo offense, we should win this time."

Steadily changing up defensive schemes will help confuse Nazareth, believes Zeke Upshaw, junior, co-captain with seniors Daniel Hornung and Derek Chiampas.

"This is a pride in our defense," Zeke said. "We have a lot of defensive packages like three-two zone, where our three guards defend free throw line extended and the two forwards defend the basket."

"This defense is meant to defend against good scoring teams and to protect our basket; one-three-one zone, which we use to put pressure on the team and force turnovers and man-to-man defense. We switch defenses a lot and we try to confuse our opponents."

"Suffering a loss to Nazareth last year, j.v. needs to focus on prime defense and pay attention to its opponent's offensive strategy, believes Head Coach Marlo Finner."

"We feel that if we come out and execute and play our style of ball, we should be okay," Coach Finner said. "We concentrate on being a good defensive team and by that we are able to concentrate on containing other teams' offensive schemes."

"No other team in our Conference teaches the skill level we teach our kids. We have a good chance of winning our Conference and going to the j.v. Tournament. We should have the number 1 seed."

KEEPING HER team motivated during a January 18 rout of rival Parker at home, Head Coach Meghan Janda evidently succeeded as the team went on to win 70-11.

Sisodia continues squash super saga

Continuing to solidify his place among the nation's elite squash players, Senior Nick Sisodia has moved into the top 10 ranking for U-19 men's squash.

Ranked 14th before competing in the Frank Millet Junior Championships, January 19-21 at Harvard University, Nick currently ranks 6th. Nick credits his rapid rise to wins over stronger competition.

"I beat people that had beaten some top five players, so that helped bump me up," Nick said. "But I was really shocked I moved up so much. I checked the rankings online the Monday after the tournament. It feels really good, because I beat guys that I haven't beaten before."

December 29, away: Varsity lost 53-52;
- Benedict High School, December 29, away: Varsity lost 53-43;
- North Shore Country Day, December 29, away: Varsity won 61-58;
- Forest Academy, January 8, home: Varsity lost 60-45;
- St. Scholastica, January 11, away: Varsity won 59-52;
- Francis Parker, January 11, home: Varsity won 72-59;
- Woodland Academy, January 15, home: Varsity won 62-50;
- Morgan Park Academy, January 15, away: Varsity won 58-31;
- Francis Parker, January 18, away: Varsity won 60-31;
- CSC-3B, January 23, away: Varsity won 46-42;
- Lake Forest Academy, January 29, home: Varsity won 72-46;
- Luther North, December 23, away: Varsity won 70-51;
- North Shore Country Day, January 29, home: Varsity lost 59-64;
- Lake Forest Academy, February 2, home: Varsity won 46-43;
- Lutheran Prep, February 5, home: Varsity lost 52-31;
- Lake Forest School, February 8, away: Varsity beat other Midway deadline.

Sun-Times spotlights star, athletic program

Racking up an average of over 20 points per game, Juniors Zeke Upshaw and Alexis Jenkins appeared in a Sun-Times feature December 17. The story covered their playing, personal lives and recruitment by Division I schools.

"I was happy about the article," Zeke said. "It gave Alexis and I confidence that we weren't getting before."

Junior squash player and U-High contributor Zeke Upshaw, junior, took the photo that accompanied the story, but did not receive credit for it. A Sun-Times reporter and comedian after contacting Zeke Upshaw asked on January 9, to create an overall profile of the Athletic Department scheduled to appear in the Sun-Times sometime this month.
Most people know it's fake. They're not really hitting each other over the head with chairs and shovels, but that's what people mean when they're engaging in wrestling. It's an empty form of entertainment, according to president of the new Wrestling Club Aaron Weiss, senior.

One of Aaron's main goals is to change people's negative perceptions of professional wrestling fans. "Wrestling has sort of a bad rep," Aaron said. "People tend to think of wrestling as a stupid white trash activity. But it's not, it's entertainment, we know that they aren't legitimately beating the crap out of each other."

"It's about resolving a conflict, and we're interested in that same way people are interested in action movies."

Promoting the club through flyers and word of mouth, Aaron is hoping to change people's negative perceptions of pro wrestling fans.

"We are doing several things right now. We are trying to get more members with lighthearted satirical flyers and raise money through bake sales and stuff to buy tickets for wrestling shows that come to Chicago," Aaron said.

"But we mainly watch DVDs of fights and discuss what things make the fights good, the action level, the conflict and how it's resolved."

Swimmers gearing up for Sectionalals Friday

By Anna Katia Zbikowski

Associate editor

Focused on longer workouts and a variety of strokes, the boys' swim team will concentrate on cutting times for sectionalals, this Friday, away.

With frequent pasta parties, Homer Shew, captain with Won Hee Lee and Michael Miller, all seniors, feels that building strong chemistry helps the team.

"We're doing a lot of cardio loading together and we've bonded as a team over pasta," Homer said.

"We're closer than in the past and this will help our relays. I think we'll take 3rd to Ignatius at Sectionals and we will slamming all the rest of the teams into the wall. We've beaten everyone except Northside and St. Ignatius."

Coach Paul Gunt feels precise workouts will compensate for inexperience. "If we can make even small changes in the strokes, that can take seconds off of their times," Mr. Gunt said. "This year we're lacking depth. We only have eight or nine swimmers on varsity and we're sworn well but we still get beat."

Recent scores as follows:

Texas and New Jersey as the only states to require random steroid testing for high school athletes during state playoffs.

Does steroids testing make sense for high schoolers?

ONCE AGAIN a controversial facet of professional sports has trickled down into high school athletics. Beginning next fall, Illinois will join Florida, Texas and New Jersey as the only states to require random steroid testing for high school athletes during state playoffs.

One has to question, though, the program's relevance to athletics at U-High.

Looking at members of U-High sports teams, there isn't a single person resembling Barry Bonds or Jose Canseco. There isn't any doubt that professional sports have entered an age of steroid use, which could potentially influence talented teenagers to emulate their role models.

But even the best athletes at U-High don't allow any effects of steroid use. Sure, basketball games attract a fairly large crowd on Friday nights, but for the most part, sports come second in importance to academics.

Most athletes here don't feel the pressure to succeed prominently weighing on their minds.

At other schools, where having fun on the weekends consists of Friday night football games, athletes feel clear pressure to perform at a higher level.

Some student athletes may find steroids are the only way to reach that next level and relieve the pressure. At U-High it's doubtful such pressure exists.

While every student at U-High can graduate and go on to get a college education, for students at disadvantaged schools, sports might provide the only collegiate sports view steroids as a way to quickly get bigger, faster and stronger.

With the demand for more athletic attractions a fairly large crowd on Friday nights, but for the most part, sports come second in importance to academics.

Fencing Club members place high in gigantic New Trier tournament

Finishing 8th and 16th at the New Trier Invitational fencing tournament January 12, Sophomores Bill Stuber and Paul Weichelbaum led nine Fencing Club members preparing for next year, when the club becomes an athletic team.

All nine, both male and female, competed in the foil divisions at the tournament, which hosted 304 students from 10 schools fencing in male and female foil, sabre and epee divisions. Other U-High competitors included: Clare Brady (42nd), Julia Goldsmith-Pickham (50th), James Grov (34th), Konan Gunger (21st), Peter Hansen (40th), Alexa Minc (54th), Danny Tresch (37th).

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Fifteen miles to the west of Albany, New York, rises a wall of rock nearly 1,100 feet in height, known as the Helderberg Escarpment. Since 2001, photographer John Yang has captured in detail the beauty of the landscape around this area, especially along Indian Ladder Trail. Yang's photographs are reminiscent of works by great nineteenth-century landscape photographers Carleton E. Watkins and William Henry Jackson. His seductive prints lead the viewer on a visual hike along Indian Ladder Trail, opening the eyes to expansive scenery at one moment and drawing one inward at the next, into dark and mysterious chambers of layered rock. A quiet timelessness pervades his scenes.

Yang's photographic journey along Indian Ladder Trail is a lyric one, filled with a sense of self-discovery.

John Yang
Indian Ladder: A Lyric Journey

February 1–March 15
Opening reception with the artist: Friday, February 1, 5:00–8:00pm

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