Down the rabbit’s hole to Alice’s Wonderland

Rites of May production animates wild fantasy, including sinister side

By Leslie Silbener
Midway reporter

For three nights this week, Blaine Courtyard will turn into a Wonderland.

One plus one won’t equal two, a rabbit will talk, a cat will continually disappear and a little girl will desperately attempt to make it out of this dream world.

The RITES of May play “Alice in Wonderland” begins at 8 p.m., Thursday and Friday and Saturday, May 14-16 on an elevated stage in Blaine Courtyard. Tickets are available in Blaine Lobby for $10. If a performance is rained out it will be moved to the next available evening.

The stage will complement the play’s ending and the play is set in the time when Lewis Carroll wrote the book are nothing compared to the creative world that is open for any century. It’s so timeless because children can relate to it and adults can look back on their own childhoods.”

A poetic script and motivated cast will help create a dynamic production, according to Senior Joe Boivert, assistant director with Senior India Cusack. “My goal for the play is for it to be interesting,” Joe said. “It has good large company scenes with a very unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script. One way that this year will be different from others is that Mrs. Ambrosini has chosen a unique script.
Two concerts spotlight groups

By Benny Wah
Midway reporter

Climbing with "May It Be" by Enya, two U-High choirs and two Middle School choirs will perform at the Choral Festival 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 21 at Mandel Hall, 1131 East 57th Street. Two evenings before, the U-High Orchestra and the U-High Band will perform, 7-9 p.m. at Mandel Hall.

Choral Festival groups include High School Choir and Bel Canto, directed by Music Teacher Katy Sinclair. Both concerts are open to the public.

"We will be performing everything from "The Little Mermaid" to "The Lord of the Rings," Ms. Sinclair said. "The theme of this year is to honor the seniors, some of who have been singing with me for eight years, and to show the Middle School children what's possible in their High School experience."

Performing five pieces including "Mission Impossible Theme" and "Ancient Aires and Dances," the U-High Band will close with "Encanto" by Robert W. Smith. "Encanto" opens with a full brass fanfare, according to Band Director Brad Brickner, Music Department chairperson.

"After dinner, a D.J. from Platinum Events will play songs from a playlist created to honor more than just the rap and hip hop typically heard at other school dances," Kendall said. "We're also going to have more slow songs.

"After Promgoers have had a chance to dance for a while, we will end the event with the crowning of Prom King and Queen. Voting will have taken place earlier that evening through a ballot box system and chaperons will have counted votes.

"Different from previous years, we won't have nominees, so the crowns could belong to anyone. At midnight, we'll end the event with the crowning."
Fine novel blends school culture, technology, more

By Amy Feldman
Midway reporter

Weaving teenage and Internet themes in her new novel, "Initiation," author Susan Fine will be signing copies at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 26, at 57th Street Books, 1301 East 57th Street.

Ms. Fine, wife of Principal Matt Horvat, has taught English at five schools across the country. Her second book, following "Zen in the Art of the SAT," which came out in 2005, "Initiation" is a fictional account of an Internet scandal in a boys' private school.

"There is something fascinating about the culture at all-boys' schools," Ms. Fine said. "Growing up with no brothers and going to a women's college, I find that so many popular books, TV shows and movies set in what are repeatedly referred to as 'elite schools' rarely show students doing my school work. I've also found that the teachers and administrators are often shown as rather foolish and I hoped to avoid that."

"Initiation" reveals what can go wrong on social networking sites, and how destructive what sometimes happens on them can be," Ms. Fine said. "I was interested in making sure that the academic culture of St. Stephen's came across, because I find that so many popular books, TV shows and movies set in what are repeatedly referred to as 'elite schools' rarely show students doing my school work. I've also found that the teachers and administrators are often shown as rather foolish and I hoped to avoid that."

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May Projects include racing, trip to Spain

By Bill Steuben
Midway reporter

Looking forward to speeding around a track in sleek Corvette Z06, Senior Myles Woerner will travel to Arizona to attend the Bondurant School of High Performance Driving for his May Project.

Since its creation by the Class of 1969, May Project offered an opportunity for seniors to explore careers, do community service and pursue independent projects. About 90 percent of this year's seniors 116 of 129, will go on May Project, compared to last year's 97 of 126, about 77 percent.

Seniors will present May Projects 7-9 p.m., Thursday, June 4, in Judd 126, Approving and organizing May Project presentations, Lower School teacher Becky Chmielski is serving as coordinator her second year.

"I HAVE BEEN CONTACTED by more students this year with questions," she said. "I've made them more aware of how they can reach me if needed." Ms. Chmielski said. "A lot of this year's ideas are similar to last year's. We have a few people traveling but for the most part people are staying in Chicago for their Projects."

"I want to learn the ins and outs of the driving world."

-Myles Woerner, senior

New S.C. president seeks involvement

By Nick Phalen
Midway reporter

Planning to get students more involved in scheduling decisions, Junior Jack Brewer emerged May 1 as next year's Student Council President.

Others elected are as follows:


CULTURAL UNION—President: John Bart. Vice president: Almaka Acsels.


Luncheon to honor community servant

Volunteer Coordinator for the National Runaway Switchboard headquartered in Chicago, Ms. Michelle Vas, will speak at the annual Community Service Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Thursday May 21 in the Chisler Club at Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 East 56th Street.

"Invited are people from the Community Service sites, Peer Leaders, freshmen and sophomore advisors, some staff and faculty and, of course, the sophomores," said Community Learning Coordinator Luis Fascione.

As in previous years, speakers also will include sophomores, who participate in Community Service as part of their school program, sharing their experiences.

(continues on page 4)

Photo by Rachel Turner

AUTHOR Susan Fine, wife of Principal Matt Horvat, will sign her new teen fiction novel 'Initiation' Thursday, May 26, at 57th Street Books.

Ms. Fine said U-Highers will be able to relate to the book because the main character goes through common teenage situations.

"There are struggles that the protagonist of 'Initiation' has that lots of kids experience. He's trying to be honest about who he is and who he wants to be, trying to find his place in his peer group, feeling anxious at times of his peers, feeling bad because he has moments of self-consciousness about his family, being in love with someone who doesn't — at least at first — even remember his name.

'Those are experiences that lots of young adults have. I also think U-Highers might identify with the piles of homework the boys get and the desire characters have to do well in school.'

April Showers Bring May Flowers

Come out and smell the flowers at University Market! And while you're here, check out our wide selection of beverages, snacks, and take-outs from local restaurants. Conveniently located, U.M. is the place to go for everyday goods and more! 

Photo by Hanna Redfield

WITH THE WEATHER warming up, Bullock finds a cause to celebrate. Stocking up on flowers and fresh groceries, Alex prepares for a dinner with her friends.

University Market

1323 East 57th Street

773-363-0070

(continues on page 4)
May Projects (continued from page 3)

Mayhem Music! (continued from page 4)

Orthodontist: Jashivni Anan; Design: a dress; Amanda Raffaele: Learn to make pottery; Caroline Bank: Learn the harp; Alice Bala: Apply for a scholarship to attend a music business proceedings of Harvard Art; Nathan Bishop: Study Bug: Make a cookbook; Zachary Burg: Research and write a short story; Alex H. Chang: Research and write a short story; Michael Casterton: Research and write a short story; Alex Chen: Research and write a short story; Emily Chip: Research and write a short story; Avery Cloud: Research and write a short story; Mike Cloud: Research and write a short story; Ben Coman: Research and write a short story; Max Coman: Research and write a short story; Meridith Dorr: Research and write a short story; Sarah Dunn: Research and write a short story; sidewalk: Research and write a short story; Michael Epstein: Research and write a short story; Michael Figueroa: Research and write a short story; Michael Fox: Research and write a short story; Malcolm Frampton: Research and write a short story; Jonathan Gonsalvez: Research and write a short story; and then get off quickly." Silhouetting the production, a painted background will depict images from Alice's imagination ... add to the Wonderland' feel of the production, with pictures of the wil­derness, plants and mushrooms," Sam explained. The images on the backdrop will add to the 'Wonder­land' feel of the production, with pictures of the wil­derness, plants and mushrooms," Sam explained.

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Suicides renew concerns over gay student harrassment

By Isaac Stanley Becker
Midway reporter

Schools need to be more concerned with the physical and mental safety of students who pursue an identity that deviates from the binary model. A 2009 study by the American Psychological Association found that 10% of high school students who self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (GLBT) experience harassment in their schools. This harassment contributed to their feelings of depression and anxiety, and can lead to a decline in their academic performance.

MOVING TO ATLANTA, Georgia, less than a year ago from the island of St. Croix of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Jahseen attended DeKalb County's Dunwoody Elementary School...
Looking to the past for Student Council’s future

There’s complacency and then there’s satisfaction. At U-High, the former appears to dominate student voices.

No more important student voice exists than Student Council, the elected officials whose role within the Lab Schools as outlined by its original constitution is to “promote the highest interest of University High School by the discussion of subjects pertaining to the good conduct and spirit of the school and the creation of a student opinion favorable to these ends.”

Stress, boldface, underline, italic: “student opinion.” Look through issues of old Midways; those two words almost jump off the page.

Delve roughly 40 years into the past when the 1968 Student Council organized December Month in America with Martin Luther King Jr’s assassination. The month included lectures exhibits, panel discussions and a poetry slam was added a year later.

A decade later, Principals Geoff Jones challenged Student Council to take a more aggressive stance towards representing the student body. A month later, S.C. amended its constitution as a means to do just that.

One day of May Project already completed. Eighteen days until Prom. Just one month until Graduation.

The end of senior year feels bittersweet. It doesn’t matter whether seniors are “Lifers” or if they have only been here starting freshman, sophomore, junior year.

Most of us feel the same way.

We want to get out of this prison. We are tired of our classmates, some even tired of our friends. We are sick of Hyde Park.

Rohini

So we are naturally counting down the days until we move into our dorm rooms, meet new people and focus on what we really like to study, unlike fulfilling requirements in Physical Education or United States History courses.

From now I guess you could say we got it “good.” Most of us get to sleep in, work on a May Project that we chose that interested us and we do not have to walk the hallways of U-High. And we are excited of the last major social event together: Prom, where we can see everyone look their best. But there’s still a bittersweet sentiment in the air. As much as some of us dislike many things about U-High and can’t wait to move on with our lives, there’s still a part of us that will miss little things like Mr. Farver writing “-1” on the board whenever he makes a mistake in French class or Mr. Janus’ stories in the middle of a discussion on the Renaissance.

Furthermore, some seniors who transferred to U-High in their freshmen, sophomore or junior year said student groups and sport teams create a tight family that encourages them to continue their passions in college.

It transferred to U-High my junior year from the American School in Tokyo, Japan,” Walter Bourdaghs said. “I joined track and the people on the team were really the first group of kids that I got to meet. They are really supportive and very family like. I don’t know that I feel directly affected by the swine flu but it’s kind of scary when people come to school and say they are sick and say that they think they have swine flu.

Vicki Tsay, senior: “It’s a big issue and it’ll just get bigger.

Amelia Acosta, junior: I don’t know that I feel directly affected by it but it’s kind of scary when people come to school and say they are sick and say that they think they have swine flu.

Vicki Tsay, senior: ‘I feel like I should be doing something big but no one in my family has gotten it and no one in school has gotten it so it hasn’t really hit home.

Put your opinion in the Midway! We welcome letters to the editor. Just write it, sign it and put it in Mr. Brasler’s mailbox in the principal’s office, U-High 106. We’ll take it from there.

OPINION ROHINI TOBACCCOWALA

Emotions mix as senior year ends

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CHICAGO'S 62ND ANNUAL
57th Street Art Fair

Saturday June 6, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday June 7, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Between Kenwood and Kimbark
www.57thstreetartfair.org
Soccer girls head into finale on top, ready

By Andrew Zheng

Midway reporter

F
acing their two toughest opponents, varsity soccer girls will travel tonight to Glenview to face off against Glenbrook South before making another suburban trek Thursday to Lake Forest Academy.

Glenbrook South midfielder Janelle Flaws has led the Trojans in scoring two consecutive years while earning an athletic scholarship to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. But U-High’s own star, Senior Emily Kuo, has been in stellar form, racking up an Independent School League-leading nine league goals.

Expected to breeze through Regionals, 4:30 p.m. next Monday at home, the Maroons begin their march to the playoffs on a high note. "Our team, regardless of who’s on the field, is gaining an understanding of the system that we use, knowing where people need to be, where passes need to go, no matter what’s trying to be accomplished when the ball is in a certain area of the field. There are the types of things that good teams understand and that’s what makes them successful." Senior Coach Moses said. "The section is basically what me make it. We can make it be easy, or we can make it be hard on ourselves. If we play up to our capabilities, we should be okay." Moses added.

"If we play up to our capabilities, we should be okay. BUT EVERYBODY learned the same crazed and entertaining techniques in the lower level of the Midway’s humble dip.

Running laps demanded perfect coordination and reflexes, just in case a crater the size of a manhole crept up from underneath the fields of untended weeds. I typically blamed a poor touch or embarrassing tumble on the dented field’s poor quality and I will continue to do so.

The Midway Plaisance and I was suddenly hit with a rocket of nostalgia. Such is the case with many U-Highers and Hyde Parkers alike; I started playing the beautiful game at 5 years old when the Girls’ City League was just getting its feet wet. I memorized the rules, and wilted on tiny feet chasing a usually frayed soccer ball between crookedly placed manhole covers in a hysterical attempt to score. BUT EVERYBODY learned the same crazed and entertaining techniques in the lower level of the Midway’s humble dip.

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The hours between 4 and 7 after school Monday through Friday bore countless Hyde Park legends.

Almost every South Side soccer player can remember a moment where ragged playing conditions combined magically with a fool of more than one gassed up, overeager teen. I haven’t played a game on the Midway since freshman year.

But once a while I walk along the dandelions and crab grass curiously thriving on the Midway’s stone hard surface and kick a rock or two. I faintly imagine my old coach Toby Emms directing me to use a left footed cross after sprinting down the sideline. Of course, I ignore his instructions and cut the ball to the touch of my right foot before the ball hits a patch of dirt just right before an eager foot sent it gliding majestically away to the touch of glory. That one ball that hit a patch of dirt just right before an eager foot sent it gliding majestically away to the touch of glory.

The boys.

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Tennismen look to move up in final standings

By Sydney Scarlata
Midway reporter

P osed to better last year's 4th and 2nd place finishes at the Independent School League Championships and Sectionals, respectively, varsity tennismen are entering the final stages of the season confident after several significant victories.

V arsity heads into the ISL Championship, 8 a.m. Saturday, home, with a 9-2 ISL record that bodes well for the tournament, according to Junior Bill Stubben, first doubles player.

"Based on how we've done this year against the teams in the ISL, I think we will do better than 4th place in the Championship," Bill said. "We lost to Parker, but it wasn't the team's best match. Our biggest competition is Latin, who is the top team this year. They have a really talented first singles player, Ben Quazzo."

Though victory over last year's Sectional winner Walter Payton 4-1, May 4, has boosted the squad's chances at Sectionals, 2 p.m. Friday, May 22 and 9 a.m. Saturday, May 23, Varsity Coach Gerald Hanck expects a more difficult rematch.

"The team played very well against Walter Payton," Coach Hanck said. "They were a good team to compete against because we will play them again at Sectionals. We won all three of our doubles matches. The overall match probably would have been closer but Win."er.

"It's been a slow season because we haven't played many matches due to the stormy weather," said Freshman Daniel Rimer, second doubles player. "We didn't get many chances to apply what we learn in practice to matches. Cancellations and postponements have prevented j.v. from playing a game in nearby three weeks. Its record stands at 3-1.

"Our season could be going better if we didn't have eight or nine games cancelled. We're out of rhythm because sometimes we go a week without playing a game."

--Mark Woerner, junior

Baseball Maroons ready to take on Parker powerhouse

By Tommy Wile
Midway reporter

C ounting on improvements made at before-school practices, varsity hopes to overcome Francis Parker pitcher Mike Van Pelt, an Illinois Wesleyan-bound flamethrower, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, at Washington Park.

Besides his 99 mile-an-hour fastball, the Maroons expect the right hander to hurl a variety of pitches.

"I played with him over the summer, so I've seen him work," said Senior Tim Parsons, centerfielder. "He has a great arsenal of pitches. He's got a fastball, curveball, changeup, and he even has a little knuckler."

The Maroons possessed a 4-3 record, 4-2 in the Independent School League, as of last Wednesday. After a thrilling comeback victory April 24, at Northridge, the Knights took the backhand of the doubleheader 23-9. The Maroons followed with an 11-3 loss, April 28, at North Shore Country Day.

"The first game against Northridge was probably the best game that our school has played in four years," said Senior Mike Casey, pitcher. "We made no errors. Andrej Rosie got a hit that ended up tying the game in the 7th. He really came through in the clutch. We ended up taking the lead in the top of the 7th and we held it for victory."

With the entire team contributing hits, j.v. amassed 10 runs in a near comeback effort against St. Benedict High School April 22, at Washington Park. The loss marked the Maroons third in a winless season.

"We started off hitting well, they took a five run lead in the first, but we matched that in the next inning," Freshman Luis Saldana said. "The guys at the bottom of the lineup pulled through for us. It was like that until the end of the game, where we were trailing 11-10, and we had runners in scoring position, but we weren't able to get them in, and we lost."

Scores are as follows:

Sandburg High School and St. Ignatius were cancelled and the match against Illiana Christian was postponed.

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Sandburg, home, April 23; Varsity won 3-2; Latin, home, April 29; Varsity lost 0-5; Elgin, Academy, home, May 1; Varsity won 3-1; Walter Payton, home, May 4; Varsity won 4-1.

Sports program to reveal Monilaw Award winners

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Midway reporter

C ounting on improvements made at before-school practices, varsity hopes to overcome Francis Parker pitcher Mike Van Pelt, an Illinois Wesleyan-bound flamethrower, 4:30 p.m. Thursday, at Washington Park.

Besides his 99 mile-an-hour fastball, the Maroons expect the right hander to hurl a variety of pitches.

"I played with him over the summer, so I've seen him work," said Senior Tim Parsons, centerfielder. "He has a great arsenal of pitches. He's got a fastball, curveball, changeup, and he even has a little knuckler."

The Maroons possessed a 4-3 record, 4-2 in the Independent School League, as of last Wednesday. After a thrilling comeback victory April 24, at Northridge, the Knights took the backhand of the doubleheader 23-9. The Maroons followed with an 11-3 loss, April 28, at North Shore Country Day.

"The first game against Northridge was probably the best game that our school has played in four years," said Senior Mike Casey, pitcher. "We made no errors. Andrej Rosie got a hit that ended up tying the game in the 7th. He really came through in the clutch. We ended up taking the lead in the top of the 7th and we held it for victory."

With the entire team contributing hits, j.v. amassed 10 runs in a near comeback effort against St. Benedict High School April 22, at Washington Park. The loss marked the Maroons third in a winless season.

"We started off hitting well, they took a five run lead in the first, but we matched that in the next inning," Freshman Luis Saldana said. "The guys at the bottom of the lineup pulled through for us. It was like that until the end of the game, where we were trailing 11-10, and we had runners in scoring position, but we weren't able to get them in, and we lost."

Scores are as follows:

Sandburg High School and St. Ignatius were cancelled and the match against Illiana Christian was postponed. "Scores are as follows:

Sandburg, home, April 23; Varsity won 3-2; Latin, home, April 29; Varsity lost 0-5; Elgin, Academy, home, May 1; Varsity won 3-1; Walter Payton, home, May 4; Varsity won 4-1.
I have always been interested in fashion and photography. I thought the idea for the photo essay was a great way to capture the diversity of the student body through displaying fashion individuality.

—Rohini Tobacowala, senior

**10 Photoessay**

**U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2009**

Where photography and fashion merge

Interested in fashion photography since taking classes at Oxford University in England last summer, Senior Rohini Tobacowala decided to focus on fashion individuality for her final Photojournalism project.

"The idea was how fashion showcases personalities," Rohini explained. "I'm an observer, so I kind of knew beforehand which students I was going to use for my project. Everyone I found had something about his or her fashion sense that distinguished them from the rest of the school. For instance, Ana Bezanilla is really artsy and she layers a lot, whereas Mario Gage is retro hip hop and you always see him matching or wearing some crazy bright pattern.

"I think the feature turned out pretty well and I like the students because everyone has something about them, in how they dress, that displays their personalities. At first I was mostly shooting images of students' entire outfits, but then I started taking close-up shots of accessories, to show details."

Rohini found her experience at Oxford motivated her to continue forward as a photographer.

"In my class at Oxford each of the students had to pick a final project to be in an exhibition," Rohini said. "I decided to focus on fashion and Photojournalism. I gained a lot of experience from that and that experience helped me in taking photos of U-Highers for my photo essay."

Rohini plans to continue photography in college.

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"I WAS leading a workshop in Polaroid painting during Artsfest and I just took my camera out and started shooting," Rohini said. "I noticed Annina Wanzung's sunglasses had gaps between them that revealed a mirror. If you stood in front of the sunglasses, you could see yourself. If you look closely, you can see people in the reflection."

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OVERWHELED BY (photo above) the diverse array of accessories, Jeremy Archer checks out a colorful t-shirt.

BROWSING RACKS (photo right) crowded with bikes, he finally picks a shiny, navy blue beauty

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