Sun-Times writer to address ‘09ers at Commencement

Kate Grossman herself is a U-High and U-High Midway graduate

By Katherine Holt
Midway reporter

A second-generation U-High graduate and former Midway editor-in-chief, Ms. Kate Grossman will return to U-High to speak at Commencement, 2:30 p.m. Thursday June 11 at Rockefeller Chapel, 59th and Woodlawn.


AFTER SEVEN years of education reporting for the Chicago Sun-Times, Ms. Grossman began writing for the editorial board two years ago.

Senior officers chose Ms. Grossman to speak from five possibilities. Dean of Students Larry McParland compiled a list of five former graduates at their request, said Senior Class President Nico Gomez.

“Everyone on the list was brilliant but we were particularly interested in Mrs. Grossman,” Nico said. “She has different views about how Lab was when she went here and how Lab has changed. Since she is a journalist, she has an interesting angle about what’s going on in the world as well as in Lab life. She was also really active in high school, which we liked because she could personally relate to U-High.”

Mrs. Grossman interviewed seniors and her own friends for her speech.

“I really loved Lab Schools and the whole educational experience you get when you attend Lab,” Mrs. Grossman explained. “I was really honored when I received an email from Ms. Mac asking me to speak.

“What I am contemplating for my speech is how students are taught to ask questions and how those questions lead to exploring what they are interested in. In writing this speech I am talking to a lot of former U-High friends and my two brothers, who also went there. I graduated from Lab 20 years ago so I’m interested in what Lab is like now.”

PERFORMANCES At Commencement will include Addie Epstein, Aimee Lande and Rebecca Marks singing Yoav Barwell’s “On Children” with Monique Johnson on the saxophones. Gabriel Bump will recite poetry.

The Class of 2009, clad in maroon caps and gowns, will march to Sir Edward Elgar’s “Pomp and Circumstance” played by Organist Thomas Weisflog on the Rockefeller Chapel organ.

Lab Schools Board members, administrators, faculty members and University President Robert Zimmer, father of one of the graduates, will enter in robes and hoods with colors signifying their colleges and degrees.

The Zimmer family hosted a reception for the graduating class of 2009, clad in maroon caps and gowns.

A DESSERT BUFFET allowed Kelly Kovacs to take a break for a donut. After enjoying appetizers on the rooftop terrace, Promgoers dined on the ground floor. Prom Committee assigned seating arrangements, with 10 Promgoers at each table.

IN THE COOL EVENING AIR, Gabriel Bump and Addie Epstein, enjoyed a brief moment with friends before entering the austerely decorated room. The deceptively nondescript exterior masked a neon-lit, high-arched ceiling.

SURROUNDED BY VINTAGE AUTOMOBILES, seniors and their Prom dates danced to speedy tunes courtesy of a Platinum Events D.J. May 30.

The Ravenswood Billboard Factory’s huge single room on the ground level served as both a dance floor and dining room.

A NEW VOTING PLAN for Prom King and Queen did away with nominees, allowing students to vote for any senior on Prom night. King Aaron Bukwama and Queen Vicki Tsay were the surprised royalty.

THROUGH ELABORATE CAST-IRON front doors, Promgoers followed a corridor to stairs that led to the terrace of the Billboard Factory. The rooftop view included the surrounding historic Ravenswood community.

THE ANNUAL Awards Assembly yesterday honored students for scholastic, curricular and leadership achievements.

THE ANNUAL Awards Assembly yesterday honored students for scholastic, curricular and leadership achievements.

Prom goes in unusual setting

All photos by Loren Kole
2 Looking ahead

U of C. gets most '09ers but one is heading for Merry Ole England

By Nick Chaskin
Associate editor

Crossing the Atlantic Ocean to attend Oxford University in England, Senior Emily Sears is the only member of the Class of 2009 headed for a school abroad.

I've had a large English presence in my life for a long time, as both my parents lived there for a short while," Emily explained. "I grew up hearing about it and, you know. But it was the really personal way the teach that I loved. They use the Tutorial System. Basically you have a professor you meet one-on-one with to write with and learn from. It's very unique and personal. I felt it was a great fit." Emily felt the application process was different than in the United States.

"FOR STARTERS, you only apply for five schools. Instead of writing why you want to go to the school of your choice, you talk about why you want to study the subject you want to major.

It's very unique and personal. I felt if..." (continues on page 9)

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By Andrew Sylora
Associate editor

Visiting her extended family and exploring the small shopping districts in the city of Stockholm, Sweden, in August, Junior Leyla Tatargil will stay with her grandparents and host family for her junior year for four days earlier that month.

Adam will be the first friend Leyla had in Stockholm and visit her and family in Sweden.

"ADAM WILL be doing a summer program in Poland, so from there he will fly into Stockholm to stay with me for four days in the beginning of August," Leyla said. "We don't have any huge plans for right now, but we might take a ferry to an island one day, and come back by night.

"I go to Stockholm every summer, so I know the city well aside from being able to speak Swedish. We've never had a friend come since it is usually just me and my mom, but I'm looking forward to showing Adam some of the downtown area and the shops, and I think it will be a great experience to share with him."

Adam hopes to learn more about the Swedish culture, particularly learning the language.

"I THINK this will be a really exciting trip for me, and since Leyla knows the language, it will be a total immersion experience for me," Adam said. "I can enjoy myself, have a good time, and really get to know the city of Stockholm too.

"Some of the things I'm hoping to see are the center of the city, which I've heard is beautiful and where some old palaces are, and the place where the Nobel Prizes are given out, though I'm not sure exactly where that is."
Cinematic May Project

CLIMAXING WORK by 116 seniors, May Projects were displayed Thursday in Judd 126 for large crowds of admiring family and friends. Jeremy Handrup, right, filmed a movie with Nate Wise, left. “It’s a character development piece on these two friends and how they both progressed in their different ways,” Jeremy said.

Six win Merit grants

Six (so far) of U-High’s 16 National Merit Scholarship Finalists have gone on to win scholarships. Three have received $2,500 Merit Scholarships. They are Caroline Bank, Aimee Lucido and Mark Wittels. Two others, Eric Cochrane, and Beth Yang, received University of Chicago Scholarships. And another, Malcolm Edgerton, received a Fordham University Scholarship.

Two of the Merit winners also have received Robert C. Byrd state scholarships. Caroline and Mark will get $1,500 one-time awards.

Freshman David Matthews has been selected for the Paul Green School Rock’s Midwest All-Star Tour in July. David was selected from 70 finalists for the tour.

He will be playing drums in engagements at 10 cities including, besides Chicago, Dallas, Austin and Detroit. More information is available at http://www.schooolrock.com.

Junior PT Bell conducted the Middle School 6th grade choir and eight musicians in a performance of his composition “Spring Rain” in a concert last month.

HONORED—Seven “Unsung Heroes” selected by sophomore advisors and their Peer Leaders were honored at the Community Service Lunch May 21 at Ida Noyes Hall.

The recipients are as follows:

Mr. Michelle Cheung, secretary and mail room coordinator; Mr. Neel Cooper, substitute teacher; Mr. Scott Griffin, facilities coordinator; Mr. Anthony Hunter, maintenance staff; Ms. Kayeutsche McClachlan, food services coordinator; Ms. Gail Poole, assistant to athletic director; Mr. Terry Shoma, locker room attendant; and Mr. Elaine Werner, admissions coordinator for Nursery School and kindergartens.

Guest Speaker Michelle Vos, volunteer coordinator at the National Runaway Center, shared her own story of becoming involved in community service and pointed out how getting involved in service affects both those serving and those being served.

LAUDED—Paul Sagan and Ann Burks Sagan, Classes of 1977 and 1976, have been cited for their philanthropy on behalf of free speech in the Spring 2009 "Freedom Matters" newsletter of the American Civil Liberties Union Campaign for the Future.

“When Paul was a high school journalist he developed a taste for free speech,” the front-page newsletter story began. “Through a distinguished career in journalism and beyond, it has stuck with him. “Paul knows that he was lucky; not all students enjoy the kind of free expression that existed at his high school on Chicago’s South Side. The administration treated us as if we had full rights and we took on issues from students and alcohol use to politics, which is not always the case on a high school level,” he notes. “I realize how lucky I was to have had that experience and I will never forget how it helped to shape my life and my belief in the First Amendment.”

UNION OFFICERS—Computer Science Department Chairperson Karen Putman has been elected Faculty Association president, a position she has previously held. Also elected were the following:

Ms. Moizeen Schmitt, vice president, membership; Mr. Mary Ogilvie, vice president, communications; Ms. Jan Cutlett, treasurer; Ms. Peggy Deoly, secretary.

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At a luncheon at the Executive Mansion in Springfield last Saturday, Senior Gabriel Bump, one of the Midway’s six students on the All-State High School Journalism Team. Ten student journalists from across the state were selected for the honor.

Here he chats with Science Teacher David Derbes.

Midway editor makes All-State Team

At a luncheon at the Executive Mansion in Springfield last Saturday, Senior Gabriel Bump, one of the Midway’s six editors-in-chief this year, was named to the Illinois Journalism Teachers Association’s All-State High School Journalism Team.

Ten student journalists from across the state were selected for the honor. It recognizes contributions to student publications and journalism programs beyond accomplishments with individual assignments.

Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, who advises the Midway with Photojournalism Adviser Lise Ricketts, nominated Gabriel for his strong leadership and his aggressive pursuit of coverage in the Midway of teenage violence in Chicago. Last year Gabriel won a best-in-nation award for one of his stories in a series on violence and this year he won both national and state awards for other stories. Senior Ruiqi Tung, U-Highlights editor-in-chief and design editor and Midway ad manager, also was nominated for the All-State Team.

At the luncheon in Springfield, Senior Tom Stanley-Becker, also a Midway editor-in-chief, was officially presented with his previously-announced award as Illinois Journalist of the Year.

Senior spotlight 3

U-HIGH MIDWAY ♦ TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009

Senior Spotlight 3

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2009 yearbook to showcase photography, elegant design

By Andrew Zheng
Midway reporter

With a clean design, the 2009 U-Highlights will feature a theme based on this year’s news, including the election and Chicago's candidacy for the 2016 Olympics, says Editor-in-Chief Ruiqi Tang, senior. She is also design editor.

The yearbook will be distributed in early Fall, and 2009 graduates will receive a letter when the yearbook is available, giving them the option to have it picked up or mailed.

The 192-PAGE full color yearbook will give notable attention to students' lives outside of school, including a feature story on the election which will figure into the U-Highlights theme along with other current events.

"We had to come up with a theme that encompassed several ideas," Ruiqi said.

"It was the election and the relationship between Lab and the Obama administration, and the Obama family; it was really the good news and shootings that has escalated this year, and that was also the fact that the Olympics are coming and Chicago is a likely candidate city.

"LAB IS going under a lot of important changes. There's the new building that will be built in Scammone, and also talk of removing some A.P.s from the curriculum. We had to incorporate this into the theme as well."

The yearbook's design will focus on photography, which is a simple approach and minimal use of computer graphics.

"Every year the staff looks to prominent magazines here and in Europe for ideas," said Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasier, U-Highlights adviser and current professional journalist Liese Ricketts.

"THE ONR that caught their eye this year was Martha Stewart's Living magazine, because of its simple design, focus on photos, easy-to-read type, lots of white space to visually open the pages, and graphics only when they really count for something."

Working on this with three editors including one editor-in-chief, the U-Highlights staff has fewer editors than in previous years.

"We've had to do a lot of leaping work," said Ad and Business Manager and Community Section Editor Simone Bagetto, junior, who stated that it's been better. Everyone has their own ideas, and we're able to mesh our ideas more easily when there are fewer people.

"Expectations of" low ad sales because of this election driven design, originally led U-Highlights editors to plan a smaller yearbook, but they returned it to its former size because of unexpectedly high personal ad sales, though the $3,570 total still trails figures of the previous two years.

"We figured we'd have our own,," said People Editor Isabella Prenta, junior, "so we combined some subjects."

"But the number of personal ad contracts we received exceeded the pages we had allotted for that section, so we were able to bring the book back up again."

Renaissance to unveil two issues

By Bill Stueben
Midway reporter

A 17th century plan of Manhattan on the cover will introduce maps as the theme of this year's Renaissance literary and arts magazine.

Delayed by unexpected computer lab closings, the Renaissance staff still hopes to get the magazine completed as soon as possible, distributing it in the Fall and mailing seniors' copies.

Selecting about 50 art works, this year's Art Board chose from more than 100 student submissions and class projects according to Editor-in-Ehief Ana Bezanilla, senior.

"The theme is any way of measuring land," Ana said. "We looked for topographical, city and physical maps to put in the magazine. Keith Kennedy found the Manhattan map and was a perfect fit for the magazine."

"This year we haven't had as many submissions as in earlier years but the issue will be about 30 pages. Most of the art has been selected from display cases and presentations."

One of nine members of the Art Board, Senior Editor Alex Fryer, junior, described the way maps would be incorporated into the magazine.

"Although actual student artwork isn't based on maps, the idea of maps is," Alex said. "People on the Art Board are both drawing maps and scanning them in or finding and editing them on Photoshop. We place the art and writing on the pages around the maps. No two pages will be look the same, but all will have a map design."

Last year's staff hadn't finished designing the pages for the issue by the end of the school year, according to 2008 editor-in-chief Victoria Rogers, and the issue wasn't distributed as planned.

"It was hard because the other three editors-in-chief stopped attending meetings after winter quarter which led to a lot of people following them," Victoria said. "At the end of the year, there were just five people left on Art Board to try and finish the magazine. We what we could to get it out but it wasn't possible."

This year's Art Board is finishing last year's magazine and both should come out at the same time, according to Ana.

"It's been a lot of work to finish last year's and this year's," Ana explained. "Unfortunately, as a result, this year's magazine probably won't be able to feature music or video because we just haven't had time for it."

"Twist n' Shout" is not an offensive song, it's a fun and energetic dance song. Mr. Magill was pointing out how certain lines could be taken sexually, but it really is just a dance song." -Kevin Brunko, senior
Yearround school unlikely here

By Andrew Sylors
Associate editor

"Not yet." Citing inadequate facilities and major adjustments for both students and faculty, Lab Schools Director David Magill feels adopting an all-year schedule is not a short-term possibility for the Laboratory Schools.

MORE THAN 7,000 schools nationwide and 43 Chicago Public Schools currently use the all-year schedule, which starts school August 1 and ends it in June. Winter, Spring and Fall breaks are in 15 day blocks with 30 days allotted for summer break. Research shows all-year schools have higher average scores on state tests according to the CPS, and the number of all-year Chicago Public Schools tripled to 132 this coming fall.

Lincoln Math and Science Academy, a high school in Englewood, became the first to adopt the new schedule this year.

Lincoln students are in class the same number of days, 170, as students in the city's other 115 high schools.

But ITS summer break begins June 30 and its fall session will begin August 29.

Lincoln students instead get month-long breaks three times during the rest of the school year.

Outside factors also are affected by the schedule.

"I think it's achievable and enhances learning, but the schedule does face obstacles other than the fact our facilities would have to be upgraded," Mr. Magill explained. "For example, things such as vacations camps or Summer Lab gears their operations towards these long summers, and a time alteration would be a big change in the business."

Longtime Registrar launches retirement

By Nick Cheakin
Associate editor

S tarting her retirement with a summer boating on Lake Michigan, Registrar Sandy Hrstich's 25-year career at the Laboratory Schools draws to a close.

Two faculty and staff receptions honoring Ms. Hrstich took place, one on May 28, another last Friday in Judd 126.

Ms. Hrstich came to the Lab Schools in 1980 from two jobs; her day job as a physical education teacher at the South Side YMCA and her night job as a dentist's assistant.

SHE SAID SHE came to the school for the tuition aid she would receive for her sons Marko and Luka. Marko graduated in '89, Luka transferred to Mount Carmel after 8th grade.

Ms. Hrstich started at U-High as library clerk before she moved to the business office in 1981.

"Lab School didn't have a registrar at the times, they hired women to come in part time and organize a main frame at the University," Ms. Hrstich said.

"The main frame was pretty much just a massive computer that the whole university shared. They didn't know who was attending the school let alone who was paying. Anyways they asked me to transfer mainframe data to a database, after 7.15. of C. notified Lab that they wouldn't support our mainframe access. They made me registrar to create a new system."

"I'VE BEEN RESPONSIBLE for student transcripts, financial aid, billing, the school directory; I do drop-in for rush and locker assignments, I do the students schedules and their attendance records and report cards; I coordinate student recommendations for Lower and Middle school students and am in charge of the mail room and buses; I even do demographic reports. Doing all this I have seen a lot about the school; I've seen eight Lab Schools directors, eight High School principals, nine Middle School principals, six Lower School principals and each school has had one principal named Feldman."

"I have seen a lot and learned a lot in these years and will be sad to go. But I'm ready, I'm going to go relax and live on my boat on Lake Michigan with my husband for the summer at least. I am looking forward to that, I haven't been able to do that."

"Because this is a 12-month job, it will be nice and I am ready to float."

"However, I have a very high opinion of it, and the interspersed breaks mean that there is not as much review in the fall to recover what learning was lost over the summer."

Faculty, parents and administrators also discussed the possibility of an all-year schedule with Lab Schools architects on three occasions during winter quarter.

"We brought up the topic with the architects in meetings, and things such as year round temperature control for all buildings have been planned," Mr. Magill continued. "We also brought educational forecasters to discussions about these, and they commented it was a good idea but they don't know if an all-year schedule would be possible in an environment such as ours."

"RIGHT NOW I think the schedule just stays the same as a topic of conversation, and we have to much more else that is on the plate and needs to be implemented in order for this to be considered vital at the moment."
In the northwest suburb of Lincolnshire, a short dart away from the tollway, is almost lost in the constant commotion of cars hurtling down the tollway at speeds exceeding 70 miles per hour. The street falters quietly and beautifully among the towering traffic’s revving engines.

Head west from Hyde Park to the Dan Ryan, head north towards downtown and merge onto the Kennedy Expressway near Van Buren Street.

Continue north for about 14 miles until the city’s skyline has long evaporated in the rearview mirror and the Kennedy fuses with the Edens Expressway.

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Continue north for about 14 miles until the city’s skyline has long evaporated in the rearview mirror and the Kennedy fuses with the Edens Expressway.
"One purpose of a high school education is to educate young people who are about to become decision-makers in the democratic arena to see and hear a variety of information and viewpoints and then make intelligent decisions in reaching their own conclusions. They can't have that learning experience if the information and viewpoints they see and hear are administrators were contacted by the Midway but never responded.

"There might not have been in any of the papers yet," Ms. Thill continued. "There was another story in the January 30 issue that the administration said was "false," and they have made comments to me, they've made comments to the kids on staff, they've made comments to the association members.

"But they haven't spoken publicly about it. It's a story about summer school at Stevenson.

"The story was about a change in the summer school schedule for this upcoming summer. Instead of it being a five-day week, it's a four-day week.

"What the faculty was told, at least some of the faculty, was the big reason the school was going from five days to four days was to try to attract more Stevenson teachers to teach summer school here. A lot of Stevenson teachers don't want to teach summer school.

"There are some areas of the summer school curriculum that they bring in teachers from other high schools. They bring in teachers from the theater schools around here. When they met with me on February 3, they were really bashing that story.

"What they were saying was that the story that spoke about just how difficult the school year is here. It is, it's a crazy pace.

"The administration was saying to me, "Why would you guys have her in the story, she hasn't even taught summer school here. She's a bad source." They would not accept the idea that the theme of that story was why teachers don't want to teach Stevenson summer school.

"While there is some speculation about what exactly led to the controversy which resulted in The Statesman program upsizing, The Statesman program upsizing Marketing Manager Jamie Hausman, senior, recalls the "insanity" within the student body. Sitting in front of her computer working on her specialty, design, Jamie's voice fluctuates between weariness, anger, sarcasm and despair.

"We printed it and after that everything was sort of a blur," Jamie hazily remembers. "Kids just went nuts over it. People were coming up to us asking for copies because they couldn't find any and we had never seen that before. Usually kids don't want it as badly. But the issues certainly didn't disappear because people wanted them. There were other things I'm sure.

"After that the editors just went nuts, they made the decisions that happened over that.

"I think that's what irritated the most. Normally when we had problems, Thill would tell us and then we would all talk about it. But the principal, our superintendent, even our department head, who normally talks to us about everything, didn't even come in and say, 'Everything was okay' or what the problems were.

"It was all with the adults. It was difficult because it makes you feel like a little kid. Then they just kind of attacked us.

"Most people don't know Barb," Jamie added while tearing up a heart sticker from her computer.

"If they knew her, they would know that this is her paper. It's not because she takes over, or anything It's because she educates us in a way that I don't think any other school really has. The level of our professionalism and the way that we do things on the staff really shows that she is a great educator.

"Jamie and other seniors on staff will not have to face the uncertain fate of The Statesman next year, but Copy Editor Evan Ribot, junior, will.

"When I was signing up, I was signing up to be with Thill for the rest of my high school journalism career," Evan said with a pasted-on smile. "I was really excited about working on the paper with her and everyone I know on staff. Now I'm just worried. As a student in the class, do we have to deal with it? But to feel like the paper will be a lot different and that's not what I originally thought it would be as long as we can keep teaching people what we learned and keep trying to make the paper better, despite the constraints, than no, the paper isn't destroyed. If we were to just give up, than yeah, that would be the end to the journalism program.

"Next year will be the ultimate test of education," Evan said while working on a copy for the upcoming issue. "We have two new advisers and whether they will admit it or whether they won't admit it, they don't really know what's going on. It's going to be up to us next year to fully take charge. Hopefully, more than it ever has been this paper will be a student driven newspaper.

"The position that we're in has sort of a hopeless quality to it. We're here, we're stuck and I have no intention of leaving staff. I plan on coming back and making sure that the legacy is carried on. That's really important to me.

"When I signed up it was just a random interest in journalism and I figured I'd take an elective freshman year as sort of a 'just give us, than yeah, that would be the end to the journalism program.

"I wish the administration would try to attract more Stevenson teachers to teach summer school, but the administration was saying to me, 'Why would you guys have her in the story, she hasn't ever taught summer school here. A lot of Stevenson teachers don't want to teach summer school.

"The Statesman controversy was going from five days to four days was to try to attract more Stevenson teachers to teach summer school here. A lot of Stevenson teachers don't want to teach summer school.

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The Year as viewed by... Gene Cochrane and Eric Cochrane

U-High's front row seat at history in the making

Change has come to America. You would be hard pressed to find a U-Higher who didn't agree with Barack Obama's election-day speech. From the start of his campaign, the former Lab Schools parent served as U-High's idol. By the busload, students traveled to campaign in Indiana. Several took a day off school and flew to Washington for his inauguration. But considering the student body's interest and support for the President and his campaign themes of change, the little activism within the school this year beyond the established community service and charity programs seems non-existent.

U-High's usual excellence was evident in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Holocaust assemblies. Both were well thought out and featured excellent speakers. The Blood Drive and Kids Involved in the Cure for Cancer's Dodgeball tournament have become annual charity staples. Beautifully planned and popular Homecoming and Formal dances drew well-dressed and well-behaved crowds. And some things changed for the better. Independent School League titles galore altered U-High's image as an academic powerhouse short on athletic prowess. An assembly on violence brought a long-ignored issue to the forefront with an attentive audience.

Yet at the same time that U-Highers under the legal voting age crossed state lines to support their President, candidates, important school issues were brushed aside. A long contract negotiation between the University of Chicago and the teachers' union went unnoticed by students until teachers, as a protest of difficult negotiations, halted their extracurricular activities, including chaperoning and club sponsoring. Students complained about the effects this measure had on their lives, but didn't seem to understand anything about the contract negotiations or the teachers' position.

Even a dramatic change affecting every student was met with inactivity. The proposed new weekly class schedule eliminates free 1st periods on Monday and Thursday double lunches, a cornerstone of school activities. A reduction of class periods from nine to eight threatens additional free periods and electives such as journalism and Acting Studio. Though student opinion has been generally negative and teacher support was far from unanimous (the schedule was approved by a 29-20 faculty vote), two months have passed with no protest, comment or planned student forum from Student Council.

In fact, it is hard to figure out what Student Council did this year beyond what it was told to do. The end of the year, as it so often does, has brought new issues to create fierce and heated controversy to not act upon.

Senior class officers chose the popular student rock band, "Mandolin Child" with seniors Kevin Brunke, Max Budwirth, Richard Tomlinson and Max Wagner, to play two songs at Commencement. Administrators originally approved Mandolin's application, but reconsidered two weeks before graduation, saying rock seemed inappropriate (in 2009? Someone tell 1959 the world is going nowhere).

They also said rock n' roll would be breaking with (continues on page 11)

SAY WHAT?

Compiled by Benny Wah

If you could change one thing you did this school year, what would it be?

CATHY LUDWIG, freshman: I wouldn't have worked as hard first quarter because it was easy and I was just tired for the rest of the year because of that.

RAJIV NORI, sophomore: I would have worked harder to improve my tennis game. I just wanted to be more disciplined and better.

LILLIAN ROSNER, junior: I wouldn't change anything. It's my first year here and it's been phenomenal and amazing really.

It was great.

ABRAHAM KOHRMAN, senior: I wouldn't have changed much really. It was my senior year so I had a good time.

OPINION KYLE BRUNKE

And in conclusion, may I say...

SURE, THIS COLUMN MIGHT seem repetitive and self-involved, but dammit, I'm entitled to a final opinion.

We'll end with a brief summary about an experience of mine during the summer before sophomore year. I had and still have an extremely tendency to collect and save all my schoolwork. This was a time in my life where I thought I was the second coming and wondered why no one had noticed yet. So over the summer I went through my entire grade school experience, trying to find out where I had gone wrong, where I had made the mistake that forced me to spend my entire life in a cycle of textbooks and lectures.

I began looking for an answer, some sort of forgotten, misinterpreted symbol lost among the pile of tests and quizzes — something to define who I was and who I was going to be. Everything was boxed and put away. My entire life encapsulated in a closet. It felt good.

It felt complete. There were fewer things to worry about. Maybe that old, bald guy on the public broadcasting service channel was getting to me. He sounded like he was on a mission—something about frugality and living in an organized environment.

My reasoning for complete clarity was a desire to get up in the middle of the night, Jimmy Stewart style, screaming my head off with the awareness of discovering something great. I'm specifically referring to a scene in "Vertigo" where Stewart awakens in a cold sweat following a dream—something like a sense of vision. That was the year I was most worried about is that the words I speak are not my own.

ROSNER, sophomore: I wouldn't have changed much really.

It was my senior year so I had a good time.

KOHRMAN, senior: I wouldn't have changed much really. It was my senior year so I had a good time.
As the Midway sees it

(continued from page 2)

They also said rock 'n' roll would be breaking with a tradition of classical music. But there is no such tradition of classical music.

In past years, the event has featured folk and popular music and one year there was an untraditional graduation (it was the age of Aquarius, dudes.)

But the Midway, a large part in the cultural heritage of the University of Chicago, Hyde Park, U-High and Chicago.

Members of Midway were lauded by administrators in 2007 for their generally honoring U-High graduates and Blues legend Paul Butterfield.

AFTER THE BAND was told it wouldn't be performing at Commencement. The students petitioned and students at many high schools. To have it at U-High, where leaders and independence have always been encouraged, is distressing.

Read the rest on what their students at many high schools. To have seen. The Statesmen, has gone through this year. The staff, which was defined in two Chicago Tribune editorials and received support from journalism organizations across the nation, found itself pretty much standing alone at its own school. No one wanted to get involved.

U-High sure isn't with the right company on this one.

Kyle Brunke column

(continued from page 8)

Sooner or later, someone will see behind the illusion and unmask the great fake. I attach this fear to my high school experience. Yes, we attend a school whose progressive vision remains unequaled by many. We

We also support a student whose curriculum produced criminal mas­

termind Richard Loeb, class of 1920. That was a joke. I've been saving it up.

But seriously, from my point of view, school is now reserved for random interactions in the class office - all the conversations reduced to homework talk, surrounded by old, business-minded professionals where I try to look so hard. And that's the greatest illusion I can think of.

Midway will still fail finally. But I don't think so. Not here. Not now. High school doesn't always have a solution to something. It can't teach you everything. That's why there's college. It's been said before. And in a less exaggerated manner.

Registrar retiring

(continued from page 5)

peaceful.

After buying a 40-foot yacht 18 years ago, Mr. Hrstich and her husband Joe joined the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and the Power Squad, a boating education program. She has since risen to the rank of captain in the Coast Guard and District Lieu­

A new member of the school family will be earning.

Mr. Lopez is coming to Lab Schools August 1 in the new position of associate director-educational programs. Mr. Lopez will take responsibility for the day-to-day educational pro­

Mr. Lopez, his wife Fernelle and their two sons are coming from Davenport, Iowa, where Mr. Lopez is superintendent, after serving as both a Middle School and High School principal in California.

In "reporting the story of Midway wanting to play at graduation, I realized I was getting different versions of what happened from many sources and my job was to keep out of it and not to be responsible for making my own judgment."

- Nick Chaskis, sophomore

Graduates' college destinations

(continued from page 2)

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Band's unsuccessful bid to play

(continued from page 4)

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IN A DRAMATIC scene (photo above), Alice yells at the forest after the trees tell her she isn’t real. From left are Loegan Wyatt, Shirley and Sahana Suresh. “The audience might have been surprised that the forest was talking in the play,” Loegan said. “This scene, in particular was spooky as opposed to the rest of the play, which was nonsensical.” “The people on stage can’t really see the audience because of the lights, but my guess is that they would have appreciated it.”

ON A yellow stage splashed with purple, red and blue, the cast of Lewis Carroll’s “Alice in Wonderland” performed May 14, 16 and 17. The Friday performance was rained out. Alice (photo below), by Shirley Qin, meets the Red Queen, Kelly Kovacs. “I’m trying to explain to Alice how everything works,” Kelly said. “Alice is new to the world, which is set up as a chest game, and I’m telling her how to play the game in order to get what she wants, which is to become queen in the end.”

RAISING MONEY for 2010 Prom, Katherine Holt and Clare Casey, Prom Committee members, coordinated a marriage booth. Fitting a ring on her newlywed’s finger, Caitlin Finn marries Julia Solomon-Strauss for fun.

SELLING SPRINGROLLS and other Asian food, Janu Aruh, Natalia Khosla and Aalap Herur-Rama, from left, raised money for ASA.

RACING TO finish his watermelon piece first, Antonio Robles competed in a fundraiser sponsored by Student Council.

Shinju Sushi

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www.ShinjuSushi.com

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Dine In - To Go - Delivery - Catering
"I always think that things are never an accident. I think we have to seek our character when we’re growing up and build on it. It helps shape us into the people we will be tomorrow."

—Father Michael Pfleger

By Denise Akuamoah
Associate editor


On an unusually warm Sunday morning, May 24, the Reverend Dr. Michael Louis Pfleger gaits through the center aisle of his church, St. Sabina at 79th and Racine. THE INFAMOUSLY confident 6-foot dirty blond haired 60-year-old, clad in a royal blue African inspired robe embellished with gold-threaded accents around the collar and center, follows two men and women dressed in kente cloth dashikis carrying a cross.

The choir of male and female African Americans, Caucasians and Hispanics, in white button-up shirts and black skirts and trousers, sings the solemn melody, “We Come to Praise Him.”

A dramatic keyboard, heavy drums and symbols, saxophone and violin resound as Father Pfleger’s command that the congregation proclaims “I declare to the heavens that I love you God and only you God” permeates the new gothic styled church.

BELLOWS OF “Yes! We love you Lord” in response to Father Pfleger’s command echo against the 17th century-styled beige mortar veneer with its intricately designed illustrations of the crucifixion of Christ on its wooden walls with various other depictions. Chandelier-styled light fixtures and faint light radiating from the beautifully-arched stand glass windows depicting various apostles and followers of Jesus highlight the earnest faces of 250 church members whose hands extend toward God, some bowing in worship and some crying in awe of God’s wonder.

Although fashion is not a focal point at St. Sabina, many congregants come in their Sunday best, dressed to impress the Lord in elaborate dresses, large floral hats, pin-striped suits, alligator skin dress shoes and other elegant accessories. Some parishioners come dressed more casually, in comfortable simple, yet chic bohemian skirts, dark colored jeans, graphic t-shirts, ruffled blouses, sneakers and gladiator sandals.

PRaise Dancers (right) throw their arms in response to the church secretary’s call on the congregation to “Taste and see that the Lord is good and his mercies endure forever.”
If you’re there, say ‘ Amen.’ If you’re not there yet, say ‘wait’.

RESPONSES OF ‘Amen’ and ‘Wait’ from the congregation follow.

‘If you don’t have your Bible, at least pretend to have one and follow me anyway,’ Father Pfleger says jokingly.

Sounds of laughter fill the church.

‘Those of you who have the new international version, please read aloud with me. There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven. A time to give birth and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to reap what is planted. A time to kill. A time to heal. A time to tear down and a time to build up.’

‘Everyone keep in mind, it takes a village to raise a child.’ But the problem is now, the village is sick and the village is broken. We don’t need a village that is good for some and not good for others. We need some construction workers who are going to take us.

Father Pfleger’s passion goes beyond his church. It goes beyond his 79th and Racine community. It extends toward revolutionizing Chicago’s mean streets, with its epidemic of murdered teenagers.

It extends to his fight against alcohol and tobacco billboards, drugs, racism, dehumanizing music that degrades women and advocates violent behavior, disrespect of women on “The Jerry Springer Show” and easily accessible guns to minors.

Born May 22, 1949, to an extremely religious family, Father Pfleger attended the now-closed Quigley Preparatory Seminary South school on the South Side. He moved on to receive his bachelor’s degree in Theology from Loyola University and then a Master of Divinity from the University of St. Mary of the Lake.

Ordained as a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1975, he became the youngest full pastor in the diocese when he was appointed Pastor of St. Sabina Church at the age of 31.

Despite this he has always been a moral issue dear to Father Pfleger because of a mentally ill sister.

“I GREW up on the South Side of Chicago, 81st and Racine, and I grew up in a house that always taught me to stand up for what I believed in,” he said during an interview in his office at St. Sabina, comfortable in a neatly-pressed white and yellow Nautica polo, khakis and brown loafers.

“My parents always challenged me to ask questions and it gave me the freedom to say what I thought, but I had to defend whatever I said,” his sister, father...
Spring teams ignite blazing finale of wins

By Matt Luchins
Sports editor

Capturing three Sectional titles (and counting as of Midway deadline), spring sports teams capped off a stellar year of athletics. All but one team won a title, broke a school record or sent a team member to State.

Boys’ and girls’ track teams both featured a deep stable of talented runners, but finished 2nd in the Independent School League because of comparative weakness in the field events, according to Coach Bud James.

THE GIRLS bounced back with their first sectional title and eight state qualifiers, while three boys went Downstate after a 4th place finish at Sectionals.

“We were hopeful the girls could pull off a sectional victory,” Coach James said.

“We won a District title in 1980, before the IHSA had the current system with Sectionals, but this is our best finish since then.”

AT STATE, May 23 in Peoria, Juniors Aiko MacMahon and Sherry Fu finished 16th and 18th respectively in the 3,200 meter. Seniors Leah Sibener and Emily Kuo set personal records in the 200 meter and 800 meter, respectively.

Running exactly a week later, Sophomore Robert Meyer stood out for the boys with a 14th place finish in the 3,200, while Senior Joe Hurst and Aaron Buikema also broke personal bests at State. Joe Hurst and Aaron Buikema also broke personal bests at State.

JOE COMPETED IN the 400 meter, while Aaron ran the 1600 meter. Aaron also placed 17th in the 3200. Despite finishing 6th at the ISL Tournament, a youthful boys’ tennis squad pulled off a Sectional victory and won their first singles and first doubles to State, a double-elimination tournament in Moline, May 29.

“Sectionals was fairly close until the second day,” Coach Gerold Hanek said.

“WALTER PAYTON was our main competitor and we had finished 2nd to them last year, so they were the team we were focusing on.

“We had a rough draw at State. Our first singles, Tyler Anderson, drew a seeded player his first match. He won his second, but it was hard to recover after that early defeat and he lost his third match.

“Bill Stueben and Evan Levin won their first match, but they played a seeded team their second match, then lost their third. Both seeds we played were top 10 in the state so it was difficult for us.

“WE’RE GRADUATING Mark Witters, Madhav Suresh and Alex Chiu, but Conrad Hannon will be a freshman next year. He’s quite a good USTA-ranked player.

“Our first doubles and first singles coming back we’ll have a strong group of veteran players and a promising newcomer.”

“Unexpectedly capturing their first Regional title, 15th-seeded boys’ baseball faced Jones in the Sectional finals last Saturday as the lowest seed left in Class 3A. Results came past Midway deadline.

WITH THEIR first seven games rained out, the low seed did not reflect the 10-5 Maroons abilities, according to Left Fielder Alex Zimmer, senior. “At that point in the season we hadn’t played enough games for them to judge us properly,” he said.

“Last year the team was seeded 9th with a worst record.”

IN TRUE Hollywood fashion, the Maroons played out a clutch 5-3 victory over 2nd-seeded Kenwood Academy, May 27, before riding Senior Mike Casey’s perfect game to a 1-0 rout of 18th-seeded Leo, May 30. Their playoff run continued with a 16-8 win against Walter Payton, June 4 at Gwendolyn Brooks High.

Against Kenwood we played our best foot deep to prevent the long ball,” Alex said.

“After the game, their coach said that a lot of hits that would have been homeruns against other teams turned into outs. We made some adjustments that allowed us to catch very deep fly balls.”

COMPLETING BOTH a team and spring season hat trick of Sectional titles, girls’ soccer cruised to their third consecutive plaque with a 7-0 victory over Richards, May 29.

Despite a new three-class system that kept the Maroons away from suburban behemoths, the girls couldn’t break their Supersectionals jinx, falling to Lemont 6-0 in a 30-yard wonder strike in double-overtime, June 2.

“I think we outplayed Lemont in the first half,” Coach Mike Moses said.

“WE DEFINITELY HAD better scoring chances due to our numerous corner kicks and deep runs down the sidelines. In overtime we were the team we could sub players in and out without seeming to lose experience on the field.

“I prefer to lose on a quality shot like it was a flaky thing like a poorly defended corner. Their #6 (Lemont Captain Tammy Contorno) is a decent player, but I think you give her that shot 10 more times and she’ll make it twice.”

GRADUATING SIX seniors, including five starters and three-time All-State Forward Emily Kuo, another Supersectional appearance will be difficult, according to Coach Moses.

“You can’t replace someone who scores on average 30 goals a season,” he said.

“We won’t be very deep again next year, but there is some talent there. It’s just a matter of coaxing out that talent.

“IF THE kids with us this year want to get better and train for it, we’ll do well, but if there’s this mentality that soccer season doesn’t start until March...”

“Many thanks to everyone I pestered, begged, cajoled and blackmailed for a page-top mug this year.”

–Matt Luchins, junior

Sports Night honors athletes, four win Monilaw Awards

Four seniors received the school’s highest sports honor Wednesday at the fifth annual Sports Awards Ceremony.

For athletic ability, sportsmanship and scholarship, the Monilaw Award honoring the school’s first athletic director, Dr. William Monilaw, went to Leah Sibener, Emily Kuo, Tim Parsons and Don Traubert.

Athletic Director Awards went to Zeke Upshaw, Alex Zimmer and Alex-

DODGEBALL FOR CANCER

PARTICIPATING IN Kids Involved in the Cure for Cancer’s Dodgeball fundraiser, May 22, Julia Baird readies herself for the 6th 6-action in Upper Kivier. KICC raised more than $400.

THE KEKUMBAS, a team composed of Juniors Mark Woerner, Jordan Gibson, Brian Carlisle, Danny Levine, Andy Harris and Oliver Ellenbaum, took the championship prize.

TIM PARSONS awaits a pitch during the Maroons’ 8-5 win over Latin, April 18 at home.

Photo by Loren Koe

Sports13

U-HIGH MIDWAY ■ TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009

Olympian to teach fencing at camp here

A former member of the French World Fencing Team will conduct a fencing camp here next week.

Mr. Philippe Omnès won the Gold Medal in men’s foil at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. His visit was arranged by U-High Fencing Coach Bakyht Abdikulov, according to Athletic Director David Ribbens.

Ribbens. Mr. Abdikulov won a Gold Medal at the 1993 World Cup of Fencing in Havana, representing the former USSR.

The camp will meet 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily beginning Monday and conclude Saturday with a competition. Information is available at abdikulov@yahoo.com

Photo by Loren Koe
ADMIRING A sleek silver bike and black helmet (*photo left*), with a colorful t-shirt slung over his shoulder, Jeremy Archer finds everything he needs at Wheels & Things for a day of cycling on the trail.

BROWSING A wall covered with biking extras, Jeremy chooses a Bell helmet and bright Froot Loops t-shirt.

WORKING EXPERTLY as Jeremy looks on, the store's owner skillfully repairs a customer's bike.

AS JEREMY INSPECTS an assortment of bicycles covering the floor, a silver Fuji Crosstown 1.0 catches his eye.

1340 East 55th Street  ■  (773)493-4326
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 a.m.–6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  Sunday 10 a.m.–3 p.m.