Faculty take on students for first assembly

By Charles Jiang
Associate editor
Seeking revenge for a 23-29 loss two years ago, faculty members will face students in a basketball game 9 a.m., 2nd period Friday in Upper Rector. It is the first of four assemblies being planned by Student Council.

A 15-member faculty team will compete against 12 students, chosen from each grade by Student Council, according to President Jack Brewer, senior.

"WE WANTED to start the year off with a fun sort of assembly," Jack said. "Student Council discussed it last year, but didn't make real plans. When Mr. Horvat talked to us two weeks ago and said he had enough faculty for a basketball team, we decided to do the game."

Principal Matt Horvat would like the game to become a tradition.

"I thought we'd try to have the game every other year, because it gets stale if we do it too often," Mr. Horvat said. "When we held the game two years ago, some faculty told me that, with the way we do it, people will be more aware of homophobia and acknowledge that it exists here."

But now, new faculty wants to admit that it's a problem.

"Many Student Council members and the ALL of Queer-Straight Alliance see homophobia as a big problem at Lab," Jack said. "We think these questions draw teachers' attention to how they can teach."

"An amazing thing happened. Not only did my students come, but my basketball players, too. The Mexican students, thinking I was referring to them, also followed. Soon, I was sitting in a room with 50 kids of every color and creed," Mr. Horvat said. "I think these questions draw teachers' attention to how much they know about students and how they can style their teaching to be conscious of everyone's differences. That's what we mean when we talk about appreciating diversity, not just having the same number of white students as Mexican, black and Asian students."

MR. LOPEZ discussed similar topics at a Parents' Association meeting September 14 and with veteran teachers at a Professional Renewal workshop series kickoff September 2.

"When Sebastian shadowed at Lab last year, he realized the uniqueness of U-High's perspective," Mr. Lopez said. "Teachers and students have relationships here like in few other institutions in the nation. Still, it's not perfect. I'm not saying anything's broken, but things can always get better. I'm here to find and improve those things."

An outsider finding his fit

By Rafi Khan
Associate editor

Jason Lopez hauls plenty of experience Lab Schools can use

"TM ALSO working to integrate the educational program from Nursery through 12th grade so that 8th grade students are building off the 5th grade curriculum, not relearning it. "To do that effectively, I need to learn the ways of the school, so I will attend every class, teacher meeting and pool back that I can and ask the questions that I do."

Mr. Lopez says his passion for community integration stems from feeling like an outsider all his life.

"I grew up in Colorado and went to a private high school of 900 kids where I was one of maybe 25 kids of color. I'm Native American and Mexican mix," Mr. Lopez explained. "I played on the basketball team, so hung out with the jocks a lot, but also was all-boys and experienced the nerd life, a combination that was rare and coupled with my race in making me feel different."

"AFTER GRADUATING from college, I taught honors classes and coached basketball at a public high school in Los Angeles. I was only 21 when the city was struck by the 1992 Rodney King riots, and the school where I was teaching was the same night the Watts riots were thirty years ago. I was teaching in a room with 50 kids of every color and creed, talking for four hours about the violence that was going on right outside the door."

"First I thought 'this is weird,' but then I realized, this can work. People want to grow, to learn about people not like themselves."

"AS FOR WHY do I do what I do, I believe in it and I love it. I've spent years as an educator, and it's more than preaching subject matter. It's when you know your students, their names and habits and what they look like when they're confused."

"When you know they practice a certain religion so you can be more a sounding board. "That's what I envisioned as the future of the Lab Schools."

Spirits Week to pitch pies to herald Homecoming

By Nick Phalen
Associate editor
U-Highers will show pie in schoolmates' faces tomorrow while dressed up as twins, don retro outfits Thursday, and display their class color Friday, all part of a Spirit Week leading up to the Homecoming Dance, 8-11 p.m., Saturday, at International House, 1414 East 59th Street.

Tickets are available for $10 outside Dean of Students Larry McFarlane's office. Students can cast votes for Homecoming royalty nominees there during lunch periods this week.

"I hope that we can keep people dancing happily and safely all night long," said Cultural Union President Julia Baird, senior, looking for a large crowd.

"The Senior Prom committee will be selling drinks and checking coats against the money for Prom. The decorations will be pretty simple. This year we are planning to decorate at least part of the room with a red theme, because that's the senior's color. We also will have some banners, paper ribbons and maybe streamers." U-Highers will be required to show ID cards; guests will need to show passes, available through tomorrow.

With a plan to award points to students who participate in Spirit Week, Cultural Union will award the winner cookies at the end of the week, according to Julia. "For Spirit Week this year we're planning to have a winner each day chosen by Mr. McFarlane," Julia explained. "Then the person who has the most points at the end of the week will win free cookies. I hope that people really get into it this year, that everyone gets dressed up and even maybe gets a little competitive."

"On Twin Day, we're planning to have the Pie Eating Contest at lunch, and the twins who Mr. McFarlane thinks are the best from each grade will bid each other pie instead of just eating it."

"Then on Decorate Day, the idea is that everyone gets to choose the decade that they like the most, and they think has the best style. The '50s are usually the most popular, but I like it when people choose something else and look really awesome."

"On Cheese Color Day the seniors' color is red, jammies, green; sophomores, blue; and freshmen, yellow."
AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT
Stop the madness...because it's dangerous

Contrary to what Americans hear and see on political talk shows, blogging, and national media, the most right-wing political figures have dragged down substantive debate.

Former Democrat President Jimmy Carter claimed that an "overwhelming portion" of opposition to Obama's health care plan is racially motivated. Yet every President in history has met with opposition, especially when trying to implement drastic reform such as Obama hopes to do with health care.

Former President Bill Clinton lost a similar health care battle in the '90s. Not many believe his plan failed because of racism.

Recently, conservative talk host Rush Limbaugh called the fasting of a white student in Belleville, Illinois by two black classmates an example of "how in Obama's America the white kids now get beat up with the black kids cheering." Police and the white student both called it a case of bullying, not exactly a foreign concept to anyone who has ever attended school.

Political mudslinging, character assassination, uncomplimentary generalizations about opposing parties, and baseless statements and ridiculous claims. But right now, with the U.S. fighting two wars in the Middle East, the level of animosity between the political parties is especially counterproductive. Legitimate issues such as health care and the economy are overshadowed by finger-pointing and ramming through reforms.

To quote another line in Vogue with the media, these verbal attacks present a teachable moment. Just because U-Highers aren't in the spotlight does not mean these failries do not warrant our thoughts and conversations. Though Obama's election signaled a step towards color and background blind politics, it was only a step. Those who oppose Obama's health care plan are not necessarily racist, just concerned about a rise in taxes or the increased intrusive government. Americans who support the plan are not necessarily socialists, but worried by increasing insurance costs and the 45.6 million Americans without health care. While Obama is still trying to fulfill his promise of bringing change to America, it's becoming less and less clear whether Americans are ready for it.

O P I N I O N
BENNY WAH
Health care and U-High do connect

Ask U-Highers if they support health care reform and you might get a surprise. While a majority of the 48 students I asked religiously support the plan, the dissenters included more than the occasional Republican. Generally Democratic opponents fear the plan would cause them to switch schools.

House Democrats introduced health care reform bill July 31 to extend health care coverage to the 45.6 million uninsured Americans. To fund the $1 trillion plan, Democrats proposed to tax individuals with an income of over $280,000 and families with an income of above $580,000, from 1 to 5.4 percent, according to OpenCongress.org

Finding out that students I talked with from high-earning families would struggle fitting the U-High tuition, $26,671, into their budgets was extremely disappointing. Right now, with the U.S. fighting two wars in the Middle East, the level of animosity between the political parties is especially counterproductive. Legitimate issues such as health care and the economy are overshadowed by finger-pointing and ramming through reforms. While the guest speaker, U. of C. Computational Institute Director Jan Poster, knew his topic well, students said they found computational thinking hard to process. Using the concepts of the speaker's field, students at the assembly could be grouped into three categories: bored with the speaker, ignoring the speaker or simply comparing. Compare that to the shorter and more interactive Student Council Assembly which had students cheering.

While it's difficult to create a First Day format that everyone will be happy with, these alterations have paved the way for more changes to come next year.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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SPECIAL FEATURES: Character sketch, Andy Zheng; "10-second editorial"...

10-second editorial: First-Day report card
their classes rather than a few. Clever student-designed workshops based on the summer reading novel, "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" by Mark Haddon, sustained a welcome change from discussions of often unread reading material.

But the unchanged format of the First Day Assembly full short on interest and excitement, as it had in previous years.

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Now that you're a U-Higher, what do you think of your new school?

Say what? Compiled by Sydney Scarlata

JAMIE HEBRUNN, Jamie from Fairview High School, Boulder, Colorado: I found Lab to be a really friendly and welcoming environment. The teachers are really helpful and understanding. I was out sick for most of my first week and they were very considerate.

BRIANNA BUCK, Brianna from Stevenson High School, Lincolnshire, Illinois: It's so new and nice, and they take lunch more seriously than at my old school. I like the fact that the students take a more active role in class discussions.

WILLIAM CHUNG, Freshman, from Whitney Young, Chicago: It's been going well. The students are really accepting of new students and everyone's individual talents. I made friends pretty easily. The homework has been tough, though that's to be expected.

TINA TRANSKY, Junior from Stevenson High School, Highland, Illinois: It's so much smaller than my old high school, and the students are more welcoming and less intimidating. Also, everyone has more expertise in a new school. Classes have been very similar to my old school and everything has been going smoothly so far.


ARTISTS...Gena Cochrane, Becky Fox

FACULTY ADVISORS: Bette and Barbara, Ms. Woyne Bresler, photography, Ms. LGos Ricketts.
FIRST-DAY MAZE
THIS PLASTIC SHEET plastic-sheet laby­
rinth was among several First-Day activities
recently sponsored by the School. The "Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" by Mark Haddon. Computer Science Teach­er Marty Billingsley sponsored this activity.

The day also included an assembly with U.

Briefly
Thirty U-High seniors reach Semifinals in two national scholarship programs

Twenty-seven seniors, 10 more than last year and the year before, have been named Semi­finalists in this year's National Merit Scholarship Foundation program.

Three others have been honored as Semi­finalists in the associated National Achievement Scholarship program for outstanding African-American students. Semi­finalist standing is based on standard­ized test scores. Those honored now will compete for Finalist standing based on test scores, curricular involvement, counselor recommendations, grades and essays.

Semi­finalists are as follows:


Fifteen chosen performers in grades

"For the epidemic, we have an emergency management team," Nurse Martha Baggetto said. "If there were reason, we could also work with the State Department of Public Health. It depends what the issue is. The cornerstone is communication, getting sound information out to students, parents and faculty.

"There is not a magic number of illnesses that would make the school close. Obviously, if you are sick, you can't go to school. What we are doing is gathering information on how many people are absent because they are sick.

"For example, if one third of the student body were out, I would have the Illinois Department of Public Health recommend closing the school.

"I don't think school is going to close for H1N1. The reason it's such a big deal is because it's so contagious and because it affects young people more often than adults."
Soccermen close in on 2nd ISL title
Boys' varsity soccer kick off at Latin, 4:30 p.m. today, seeking a victory that would clinch their second consecutive Independent School League title. "Along with Parker, Latin's one of the hardest games we'll play in Conference," said Senior Zack Renaue-Wedeen, co-captain with Senior Oliver Blumenbaum. "We beat Parker 3-0 but they fought hard and we expect the same from Latin." A win would take the boys' record to 10-1 before tomorrow's Sectional seeding meeting, where Coach Mike Moses expects the Maroons to take the #2 seed. "The key match against Woodlands is between U-High's Senior Gabble Clark and Woodland's Annie Sullivan," Coach Gerald Hanck said. "Annie finished in the top 10 at State last year, and has been Gabble's rival for a couple of years. For the ISL Conference, We expect North Shore Country Day to be the strongest team. We defeated Latin 5-0 and Parker 5-0 this season, so they are no longer threats." Opponents also include ISL competitor Elgin 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 1; Park Academy, 6 p.m., today, away; and Oak Park River Forest 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, away. "Elgin and Sandburg won't pose a huge threat to us, but Oak Park River Forest is always tough," Coach Hanck said. "Two of our players, Junior Maggie Carter and Sophomore Leila Sisneros were injured early in the season, which caused our doubles lineup to change. It's been hard on everyone, but now that they are back our team can stay stable until ISL." Scores of recent matches are as follows:

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tennis girls keep streak
Undefeated in ISL so far, girls face two more challenges
Coping with frequent varsity lineup switches, girls' tennis battles Woodlands 4:30 p.m., tomorrow at home aiming to stay undefeated against Independent School League teams.

"The Wildcats, who topped U-High's 4th place finish at the ISL Conference last year, pose a potent threat to the Maroons as the ISL Conference Tournament, 9 a.m., Saturday, October 10 at stag Field, nears. The key match against Woodlands is between U-High's Senior Gabble Clark and Woodland's Annie Sullivan," Coach Gerald Hanck said. "Annie finished in the top 10 at State last year, and has been Gabble's rival for a couple of years. For the ISL Conference, We expect North Shore Country Day to be the strongest team. We defeated Latin 5-0 and Parker 5-0 this season, so they are no longer threats." Opponents also include ISL competitor Elgin 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 1; Park Academy, 6 p.m., today, away; and Oak Park River Forest 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 15, away. "Elgin and Sandburg won't pose a huge threat to us, but Oak Park River Forest is always tough," Coach Hanck said. "Two of our players, Junior Maggie Carter and Sophomore Leila Sisneros were injured early in the season, which caused our doubles lineup to change. It's been hard on everyone, but now that they are back our team can stay stable until ISL." Scores of recent matches are as follows:

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Swimmers zero in on details
Building off momentum from a September 8 win over Morton, varsity girl swimmers take on Lake Tudor 5 p.m., today at the largest school in Chicago. Despite disabilities in two relays against Morton, the Maroons pulled off a 55-70 win.

Captain Bettina Wiesenthal believes better technique and closer attention during practice will prevent further disabilities. "I feel that if swimmers can focus more on technique and pay attention to the little details like touching with two hands on breaststroke and butterfly," Bettina said, "we can avoid DQs during meets, and several on a more competitive level against better teams like Latin." J.V. has progressed quickly, said Coach Marty Billingsley. "Already the swimmers have been dropping off time on their personal records and pushing themselves in races. The team has been working really hard and I'm really impressed by the seven new freshmen. I feel as though they are a great addition and will add a lot more depth to the team."}

"I think boys' varsity soccer will win ISL, but what really counts is that I get the most comfortable spot on the bench." -Giuseppe Zingales, senior