At U-High you look around and see Mexicans, and Asians and blacks, so we’re used to relating to other people and from other people, which really is the point of school.

Bloody good success

HAVING JUST GIVEN blood, Maggie Carton is shielded from the attendant as she works as Student Council President Emmy Ehrmann provides hand-delivered comfort. Fourteen U-Highers showed up at the Dance Studio October 22 to participate in the Student Council Blood Drive on behalf of the American Red Cross. Approximately 14 pints of blood were collected that day.

Emmy plans on organizing a followup drive Spring Quarter.

“Granted the turnout wasn’t great for this first drive,” Emmy said. “The students are coming around and the word is spreading.”

Suburban Wheaton North High School in the suburbs, is among schools accommodating cell phone use during school days.

“It’s one of those things, if you can’t beat them, join them,” Principal Jill Bullo told the Tribune. U-HIGH’s cell phone policy, on page 39 of the Student Handbook, states, “Cellular phones may not be used in the school building during the school day for calls, text messages or other means. If you are using a cellular phone during the school day (7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) within the school, it may be confiscated and taken to the Dean’s office.”

Dean of Students Larry McFarlane believes that policy will not change.

“I mean, are the inmates supposed to be running the asylum?”

-Dean of Students

Larry McFarlane

FACULTY MEMBERS interviewed by the Midway feel cell phone use during school doesn’t pose a problem here.

“I think it is a distraction,” Tony Gonzalez said. “I think I use it a decent amount of time during class.”

“I disagree with what others for comfort,” Mr. Horvat said. “When a student gets a test where he didn’t do as well as hoped, he can call friends, parents and others for comfort.”

“There’s no reason for us to change our cell phone policy. We don’t have any discipline problems here.”

Cell phones can be useful during class. Ms. Jurisson

“I give a test when others for comfort,” Mr. Horvat said. “When a student gets a test where he didn’t do as well as hoped, he can call friends, parents and others for comfort.”

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“Cell phone use should be still limited,” Tony Gonzalez said. “But plenty of kids use them that way and get good grades. It’s only a minor distraction. No one really follows policy, but a policy is necessary. Some things could just be changed. I’d like we should be able to carry in case of emergencies.”

“Cell phone use during school should be still limited. I disagree with what some of the schools did in the Tribune story because it’s only going to distract kids.”

“U-Highers use their phones to a lesser extent, because we know the value of our education.”

“Because students ignore cell phone policy,” Mr. Horvat said. “When a student gets a test where he didn’t do as well as hoped, he can call friends, parents and others for comfort.”

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Impressed by Chicago's landmarks and museums and U-High's academic rigor, 11 German exchange students stayed with U-High hosts October 15 – November 5.

Coming from Königstr-Katharina-Stift Gymnasium in Stuttgart, the visitors arrived in Chicago with two chess partners. None of the U-High hosts had stayed with exchange students in Stuttgart last July for three weeks.

The U-Highers for three-weeks visited Chicago attractions such as Millennium Park, toured NBC-TV studio, and visited numerous museums. Noticing the homework load, U-Highers bear, Max Kuder, staying with Junior Christian Castaneda, was surprised by the amount.

“All of the homework that people here have to do is really surprising,” Max said. “There are like three hours every night. It seems like everyone here seems to have a laptop to do it with though. You walk through the halls and there are laptops all over the place.”

Other hosts and their visitors, in that order, were as follows:


JUNIORS – Jesse Cusno-Grant, Ryan Shiroma, Grant, Max, Henry Harboe, Jonathan Winkler, Connor, Brian, Grant Hensel, Jan Hennings, Jeff Brehm, Patrick Schum.

FRESHMEN – Xander, Milli, Christian Castaneda, Max Kuder, staying with Junior Christian Castaneda, was surprised by the amount.

I told them I would come up with a way to have more freshman voices heard not usually seen by their classmates. This show is all about letting other U-Highers step out of their comfort zones and show a side of U-Highers not usually seen by their classmates.

Organizer Danny Ilyin, junior, expects the show to display a side of U-Highers not usually seen by their classmates. "That’s the show is about letting other U-Highers step out of their comfort zones and show a side of U-Highers not usually seen by their classmates. "That’s the show is about letting other U-Highers see others doing things that they love and hopefully drawing everyone closer.

Stop by our cozy studio just three blocks away from school for lessons on brass, guitar, piano, strings, voice, woodwinds, and world percussion. With music books, manuscript paper, and instrument accessories for purchase on site, Joan’s, a quality music institution since 1995, has something for every musician.

Photo by Elizabeth Gelman.
Teachers also enjoy life as performers

Jay Upadhyay
Associate editor

They teach music. But many of their students aren’t aware that they perform music too and that some of them are acclaimed artists.

Born in Washington, D.C., Orchestra Teacher Tomska Reid was inspired by music from her radio to pick up the cello in middle school. After earning her Bachelor’s Degree in music from University of Maryland-College Park, Ms. Reid moved to Chicago to earn her Master’s Degree at DePaul University.

Ms. Reid isn’t currently very busy, only participating in the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), the Great Black Music Ensemble, Nicole Mitchell’s Black Earth Ensemble, the Hear In Now Trio, Mike Reed’s Loose Assembly, Dee Alexander’s Evolution Ensemble, Chicago Sinfonietta, and the Chicago Jazz Philharmonic. Chicago Tribune music critic Howard Reich called her “one of the most promising and distinctive voices in jazz.”

“The AACM is a group of musicians dedicated to performing and composing original music,” Ms. Reid said. “We use a lot of improvisation, and some of our sets are completely made up on the spot, with just an idea for direction.”

“I perform regularly with vocalist Dee Alexander’s Evolution Ensemble, creative flutist and composer Nicole Mitchell’s Black Earth Strings, and drummer Mike Reed’s Loose Assembly.”

“I ALSO PERFORM in a trio that was brought together by an Italian performer, called Hear In Now, and we had the amazing opportunity to perform at the Chicago Jazz Festival this summer.”

“In this group we each contribute our own compositions. I have been extremely blessed to perform in Poland, Germany, Belgium, Amsterdam, Slovenia, Italy, France, Switzerland and even Brazil. That was amazing.

“Last summer I received a commission, along with five other composers, from the Jazz Institute of Chicago to arrange a composition of the late renowned jazz saxophone player Fred Anderson that was performed at Millennium Park. I also got the opportunity to perform this composition as well as an original composition of mine in Pisa and Perugia, Italy.”

“IN 2006 I got to play on the Conan O’Brien show with Common. That was probably the largest audience I have ever played for.”

“Earlier this year I got to record with a former Labbie, Carl Testa, in New York. We both were asked to play one of Anthony Braxton’s openers. It was an amazing experience overall and super cool to have made that Lab connection. It’s wonderful to see that students continue to play outside of school. Music has definitely accepted me many opportunities.”

A Texas native, new Music Teacher Francisco Dean also began his music career by listening to classical and jazz music as a child.

“A Texas native, new Music Teacher Francisco Dean also began his music career by listening to classical and jazz music as a child. “I draw influences from my classical, jazz, Latin and musicians of all kinds of styles. My hope is to keep playing and growing as a musician.”

Before moving to Illinois a few months ago, Ms. Dean received his Master’s Degree in music from Indiana University in Jazz Studies and taught at the African American Arts Institute at Indiana University (his bachelor’s degree is from Texas State). He also has served as director of bands at Thornton High School.

“DURING MY TIME in Indiana I composed and played with local musicians,” Mr. Dean said. “I was blessed to have several works performed and recorded while there.

“Two of my most memorable moments as a musician were opening for Luciano Pavarotti in high school and, more recently, for James Brown right before he passed away.”

“I feel that Chicago is a great place for me to advance my musical opportunities and continue my creative works.”

“RED-HEADED, BUBBLY, and always smiling, Choir Teacher Katy Sinclair has loved music ever since she can remember. Born and raised in Missouri, Ms. Sinclair, an avid pianist, singer, and acoustic guitarist, came to the Lab Schools in 2001.

“All of my life I have loved music,” Ms. Sinclair said. “I played by ear, and I learned to read music later. My mother played piano. In high school, I played piano for the choir but I didn’t play guitar. I didn’t actually sing in a band until I worked in Jackson, Wyo-
The President comes home to Hyde Park and thousands cheer

Rash Kahn
Editor-in-Chief

A crisp, clear air. The sun slowly sets over the tree-lined Midway Plaisance just across the street from the Lab Schools 6:30 p.m. Saturday, October 30, the chanting of 35,000 people floods through the crisp, clear air. They've packed into the grassy basin, where Chicago city officials had begun assembling two days earlier, complete with security checks.

Many rally-goers had waited for four hours, their moment has come.

RIGHT HAND WAVING. President Barack Obama steps onto the stage alone, sporting a pink dress shirt with no tie and his familiar navy blue jacket.

The immediate, deafening cheers from the crowd greet a jubilantly grinning Mr. Obama for a full minute before he strides confidently to the podium. The next half hour, the President bashes the Republican congressional leadership and encourages votes for Democratic candidates in the November 2 election such as Governor Pat Quinn, Senatorial Candidate Alexi Giannoulias and Cook County Board Presidential Candidate Toni Preckwinkle.

At TOWNS, crowd members break into chants of “Yes we can!” drawing memories of Mr. Obama's Presidential acceptance speech in Grant Park almost exactly two years ago to Senior Michael Shapiro.

The President gave a basically his stump speech, which I'd heard a lot of times before because I'd been following the campaign," Michael said. "It was a lot less emotional than the one he gave two years ago but the energy in the crowd was at the same, incredibly high level. I'd waited since 4 p.m. to see him, but it was completely worth it.

Many rally-goers had waited almost eight hours to see Mr. Obama speak. Throng of people, dozens of U-High-

20,000 supporters in Washington's National Mall. The Democratic rally, showcasing Stewart and cohost Stephen Colbert's satiric opposition media partnerships, features speeches and performances by pop culture personalities such as Ozzy Osbourne and Jeff Tweedy.

Chicago's Grant Park derivative, complete with local comedy and musical performances, is headed by Angie McMahon, the onstage comedian, Michael Patrick Thornton of ABC's "Spin City." Members show more interest in watching Jon Stewart on T.V. than the in-person rally, but the energy in the crowd was at the same, incredibly high level. I'd waited since 4 p.m. to see him, but it was completely worth it.

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"YES WE CAN!" chant the estimated 35,000 crowd members (photos from top) packed into the Midway Plaisance October 30 as President Barack Obama rallies support for Democratic candidates running for office November 2. Photo by Connie He.

"Let's watch the rally," someone yells, pointing at the large televised screen. "It's the Petrillo Music Shell, just north of Buckingham Fountain at Grant Park." Photo by Tim Thomas III.

CALLS FOR moderation and a freedom from fear and animosity defined Comedy Central funnyman John Stewart and Steven Colbert's Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear.

On screen, Stewart performs a comedic skit before more than 200,000 supporters in Washington's National Mall. The D.C. rally, showcasing Stewart and cohost Stephen Colbert's satiric opposition media partnerships, features speeches and performances by pop culture personalities such as Ozzy Osbourne and Jeff Tweedy.

Chicago's Grant Park derivative, complete with local comedy and musical performances, is headed by Angie McMahon, founder of Chicago's Chemically Inhalesalated Comedy Theatre. Despite initially being denied a permit by the City of Chicago, McMahon decided to use the park regardless, citing the First Amendment right to assembly.

Despite the lineup of scheduled performers, crowd members show more interest in watching Jon Stewart on T.V. than the in-person rally, but the energy in the crowd was at the same, incredibly high level. I'd waited since 4 p.m. to see him, but it was completely worth it.

The sun's rays, barely puncturing the clouds, shed little light on the disgruntled clump of large middle-aged protesters holding signs scrawled with slogans such as “My political affiliation cannot be reduced to a pithy slogan.”

Through the commotion, Terri, a 52-year-old from northwest suburban Palatine, holds a cardboard sign reading, "Bag the animosities." Red hair cut short, she wears a green sweater and blue jeans. At the rally to oppose the Tea Party, she feels nervous about the Democrats' future in the midterm elections.

"What I AM really opposed to is the money that all these conservative organizations are throwing into the election," Terri says. "You have Karl Rove and his American Crossroads organization and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and their foreign donors seriously pumping millions of dollars into the midterm campaigns saying whatever they want to about big government thing.

"It just can't be right that they are able to do that. I'm all in the interest of restoring sanity to the political system, but the truth is that it's the right that is already being insane. They just foster so much hatred between both sides that you can't be interested in politics without being partisan."

"I'm just here to see the President, because I've never seen him in person," he says quietly, barely audi- ble over the live rock 'n' roll by The Dead Deaf, a band popular among college students. "I'm not really interested in Pat Quinn or Giannoulias.

"To that, a nearby middle-aged African American woman, nearly invisible because she's sitting on the ground reading a newspaper, comments, "Is anyone here to see Giannoulias? I don't think anyone's here to see any- one except Obama."

THE WAIT DRAGS On as the President's speech is preceded by speeches from the candidates, Mayor Richard Daley, Senator Dick Durbin, among others, and a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance led by seven Lower School students.

Then, Common takes the stage around 6:30 p.m to raucous cheers from a now overflowing Midway. After performing two hit songs, he thumps a capella a capella about violence among South Side youth, a sailing with Mr. Obama and Mr. Obama.

Then, finally, after hours standing and listening to political speeches from elected officials and ordinary citizens alike, the moment 35,000 rally-goers had waited for all day comes.

RIGHT HAND WAVING, a delighted grin on his face, President Obama steps onto a giant stage. The crowd roars, baying signs that read "Vote" and "Mov- ing America Forward.

Calls for moderation and a freedom from fear and animosity defined Comedy Central funnyman John Stewart and Steven Colbert's Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear.

In Grant Park, another gathering of the faithful

Nick Ploumen
Editorial page editor

"Get off the stage!" a man shouts towards the pavilion in Grant Park's Butler Field on Saturday, October 30 at Chicago’s spinoff of Comedy Central funnyman John Stewart’s Washington D.C. Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear.

The rain comes of the thousand-odd people crowded around the Petrillo Music Shell, just north of Buckingham Fountain at Jackson and Columbus.

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In Grant Park, another gathering of the faithful

"Wink, wink, let's drive the Tea Party crazy, " sang along with the rest of the crowd. It was the Petrillo Music Shell, just north of Buckingham Fountain at Jackson and Columbus.

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In Grant Park, another gathering of the faithful

"We shared the details of the restrictions with the police and worked with them to find reasonable solutions," Mr. Jones said. He feels it's important to note many events were cancelled.

“We shared the details of the restrictions with the groups who had events planned and worked with them to find reasonable solutions,” he said.

School keeps events going

R фев
Associate editor

With only three days warning the area around the school would be all but sealed off to traffic and even parking, administrators worked quickly to reschedule or relocate the Fall Production, the annual Bazaarival and sporting events.

Director of Business Affairs Christopher Jones was pleased no events were can- celled despite the logistics of rescheduling them or moving them.

“Wednesday afternoon the University learned more about the logistics of the rally and the University of Chicago Police De- partment, working with city, state, and fed- eral agencies, as well as those planning the rally, shared with us street restrictions,” Mr. Jones said. It feels it's important to note many events were cancelled.

“We shared the details of the restrictions with the groups who had events planned and worked with them to find reasonable solutions,” he said.
The social fabric of U-High...under a microscope

U-High reexamined

Not a typical high school

To quote Optimus Prime of Transformers fame, in the U-High social structure “There is more than meets the eye.” Some students are “Lifers” who’ve spent their entire academic careers within the school’s confines. Others arrived throughout the years, each with the challenge of creating themselves into an established social hierarchy. Many have friends from other schools and spend their free time with them, rather than with the kids they see every day here at U-High.

There are also those who in one way or another don’t quite fit the bill. By choice or not, these U-Highers subsist on their own, whether to pursue academic success or because they simply don’t quite know how to fit in. One way or another, some slip through the cracks.

In these stories, the Midway peels off some layers to report what may go unnoticed day and the cracks. It’s a very different dynamic. The guys and girls are much more mixed; there’s no separation between groups. They like to sing songs together and tell stories. It’s very traditional. When I’m with U-Highers we just sort of hang out at peoples houses and the crowd can be much more judgmental.

“In Russia, people are much more independent at a younger age. There’s more of an understanding between people, and they’re really great conversationally. They always have something to say, and its very easy to feel accepted because of that.”

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Sydney Scarlata
Editor-in-Chief

“The thing about not going to the same school your whole life is that you can get a fresh start. That’s something that non-Lifers have that us Lifers don’t, and it’s also something that is preferable.”

Coming to U-High as a freshman from Arthur Avenue School, Sophomore Dominic Woodlaw lived in South Shore before moving to Hyde Park last year.

“The FACT that everyone has known everyone for so long is something that you really notice. I still notice it and I came to Lab more than a year ago. It’s easy to feel like you aren’t part of the crew if everyone has been together for so long. At the same time, I would say that the new start is a kind of good thing in some ways. If you know someone for so long, it has to get boring at some point. People are more interesting when you’re meeting them, and that is something I got to do in High School when all the Lifers were just hanging out with the people they already knew.”

“THERE IS MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE.” Ms. Shapiro said. “Of course, I can also think of examples off the top of my head of students who have become so enveloped in the environment that they are practically as integrated into the community as a Lifer would be.

“USUALLY THEY ARE DISTINGUISHABLE BY A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE THAT THEY HAVE BUILT UP OVER THE YEARS. I THINK IT IS ALSO EASY FOR THAT TO TURN INTO A RESENTMENT OF THE SCHOOL AND THE ADMINISTRATION.”

“RIGHT AFTER freshman year in a lot of cases you see students looking around at other schools. They realize that they have been at the same place for so long and that their environment has been the same for so long that they get bored, in some sense. In that way, being a Lifer is a blessing and a curse. You know everyone. You know everything. But you never get to have that fresh start. There is really a lot to the saying that familiarity breeds contempt.”

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The social fabric of U-High has been under a microscope lately. Through her family and her experiences, Badri has always been an active member of her Mosque, the Masjid-al-Other. U-Highers have introduced their U-High friends to their friends, and they've known me, something my U-High friends maybe don't since middle school. My other friends not only are good at comedy, but they keep me away from socializing with my U-High friends. I don't mind, so I like to keep the two groups away from each other.

“I have a lot of friends at my mosque who I've known because our parents were really good friends,” Sarah said. “One of my friends, Farah, her grandmother was actually best friends with my grandma in Pakistan and our families have stayed close ever since. She's practically my sister.”

Although her friends live just a car ride away, Sarah says their relationship is mostly phone conversations.

“In GENERAL, it's nice that if I'm having issues with friends at school or just need someone to talk to that isn't at Lab, I can always call them up and vent often. "My friends and I usually get to see each other at least two or three times a year, because they live in the suburbs. Every year we have this annual sleepover with my three best friends Maria, Zahra and Farah. Without fail, we go shopping, watch movies and stay up the whole night.”

With a boyfriend who goes to Wasatch Academy in Utah, Junior Rebecca Alexander spends her weekends with friends from Glenview South, DePaul, Northern Illinois University and University of Illinois in Chicago.

“I DO HAVE a boyfriend outside of U-High, we met because we worked together at a Park District day camp over the summer. As hard as it is to not be able to see him all the time, I actually prefer it that way as you can keep your relationship without any problems that you might have in a relationship at school.”

“My social lives just tend to stay so separate without me trying. Being able to have good times with everyone has become so much more important as we all get older since a lot of my friends outside have gone to college or are going there, so it's harder to get everyone together as a group but we manage somehow. They haven't changed me much as helped me grow up a little.”

SOMe OF My friends who have met my cousins who I consider to be my best friends calling. Being able to have good times with everyone has become so much more important as we all get older since a lot of my friends outside have gone to college or are going there, so it's harder to get everyone together as a group but we manage somehow. They haven't changed me much as helped me grow up a little.”

Rafi Khan
Editor-in-Chief

On a warm Tuesday morning last month, around 7:50, a senior boy trudged up the High School stairs in his favorite t-shirt and sport shorts so he could claim his usual spot in the corner of his 1st-period classroom. As his classmates entered, alone or chatting in groups, few, if any, said hi or noticed him.

He stayed largely silent during class and afterwards, quietly got up and left.

FOR HIM, and other U-Highers who don’t socialize much at school, every class, every day passes similarly. Though ‘loners’ seldom mingle during free periods or lunch, few say they feel excluded from the community.

When the boy gets home, he devotes two or three hours to homework before logging onto an on-line gaming site.

There he'll spend the rest of his night.

“IT ORIGINALLY was not intentional that I didn’t hang out with kids from school, but now it is,” said the boy. “A couple years ago, I started spending a lot of time on-line, so I’d say there was a two year gap where I didn’t spend time with any U-High friends.

“I regret that because in that time, people formed into groups that are hard for me to join them since I don’t know them as well. Once the friends I had who also played online games stopped, I lost touch with them too.”

The boy says he chose to socialize less than his fellow U-Highers, so he doesn’t blame anyone.

“The SCHOOL can’t change every-one’s mistakes. I like U-Highers, even if I don’t know them. In some ways, it’s nice to be on the outside, looking in all the rumors and gossip.

“Sometimes, if there are kids who have no friends, people suspect something wrong with the school or environment, but anywhere you go, there will be extremes. You can’t judge by the outsiders. And just because I don’t hang out with U-Highers so much doesn’t mean I feel any less a part of the community.”

Others who consider themselves loners or social outcasts say they opt to spend time alone and seldom feel shunned by other students.

“I ROLL with the ‘nerd herd,’ or whatever you want to call it,” explained another senior boy. “But I generally prefer to be alone, people kind of annoy me. And I think sometimes I annoy others and they might not want to be friends with me, but no one at U-High has ever shown me outright meanness.

“It’s really not something I spend a lot of time thinking about. I eat lunch with my little group and I don’t really care what other people think about me.”

Some U-Highers sacrifice social time to focus on class work or extracurricular activities.

“I DON’T REALLY talk to people in between classes, and during lunch I go to a club or study in the library,” one girl said. “After school, I go home and study. The library is a haven because you go in and you don't have to deal with where everyone is sitting.

“By this time, I’ve established a routine, and change will require a lot of effort. I used to feel bad about people at parties, when I’d see pictures on Facebook from two months ago and not even know that a certain party happened. But I learned to like my life: yeah, I'm not that popular, but I like my classes and what I’m doing.”

U-Highers who feel they don’t fit into school social circles find other people to spend time with, sometimes adults, College Counselor Patty Kovacs believes.

“The OPEN ACCESS to teachers and counselors at U-High seems to help, and the candy bowls in the counseling office aren’t just sitting there for us,” Ms. Kovacs said with a light laugh. “They’re an invitation for kids to come here and just hang out.

“Of course, some kids don’t want to socialize or come to us for help when they’re in trouble. But the thing about U-High is that someone’s always watching, but not in a pejorative way.

“Mike Cephus, the High School security guard, is a great thing for these kids. He watches carefully and always tells me when someone seems down. As a counselor, though, you have to find the balance between distance and always being ready to help someone who needs it.”

MS. KOVACS says that not every troubled student can be helped and some inevitably fall through the cracks.

“It’s hard to help someone unless they come for help and open up. The social dynamic at U-High is definitely not of a stenotypical high school. Bullying doesn’t happen in the same way, kids are a lot more accepting of the quirky personality. Also, social cache is academic cred, not cuteness of how you dress necessarily. U-Highers are a lot more forgiving to those who don’t fit the stereotype.”
Sustained student activism needs a kick

From Josh Koenig, junior: THE START of every new school year always brings a rush of student activism. New clubs are formed, new issues are found, and new posters literally cover the walls. But by midterms, the only remaining constant seems to be the posters. While as a community we bring so much drive and commitment to school, sports, music and a multitude of other activities, students seem to lose that drive when it comes to being socially conscious and actively participating.

For most of our school’s history, U-High students have been strong social activists. Take, for instance the 1967-68 school year, when labs have strong voices and we have diverse interests. This is still true today. We have students who want to help their fellow students, who want to make the world a better place. And we have students who want to be involved but aren’t sure how to get involved.

This doesn’t mean taking to the streets; it just means following through on your activism. If you’re interested in social justice, get involved in clubs and organizations that focus on those issues. If you’re interested in the environment, join the environmental club and work on projects that help the environment.

There is no denying that U-High students are among the most talented in the city, if not the country, but we don’t live up to our potential. While our clubs and organizations are successful, we are capable of far more. This doesn’t mean taking to the streets; it just means following through on your activism. If you’re interested in social justice, get involved in clubs and organizations that focus on those issues. If you’re interested in the environment, join the environmental club and work on projects that help the environment.

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DINING IN AND OUT  NICK CHASKIN

Godly Mexican fare well worth the price

Walking into Zapatista Mexican grill at 1307 South Wabash on a cold autumn night, the warm air and the bold savory scents gave me the sensation of stepping into a bubble bath. After finding my family along with my sister’s college friend in a back corner, I was greeted with a cold Coke to await the sensation of slipping into a bubble bath. After finding my family along with my sister’s college friend in a back corner, I was greeted with a cold Coke to await the sensation of slipping into a bubble bath.

**SEVERAL THINGS** recommend Zapatista as a dinner spot: a down-to-Earth atmosphere with high-end classic Mexican fare and -despite my father’s annoyance towards our server Miguel’s peppy enthusiasm — quick and efficient service.

Offering a wide variety of classics for appetizers, I chose Dos Tamales, which included chicken and cheese tamales with two different mole’s for $8.99. While both tamales were tender and flavorful, the chicken tamale paired with a dark brown mole was clearly superior, full of deep savory flavor.

Our entrees came and I think it’s fair to say I chose best. My SISTER was very happy with her burritos, her friend thrilled with her fresh chicken enchilada (which were the best I have ever had in my 18 years in Chicago). My mother loved her fish tacos and my father, well, he was too distracted by our giddy waiter to comment on his skirt steak. But it appeared perfectly cooked and smelted delicious.

No, I won with my carne asada fajita. Not your typical Americanized build-your-own-taco crap. This was perfectly cooked, flavorful steak, served in a hot bowl of volcanic rock in a bubbling molten sauce of tomato, steak juice, cheese, roasted poblano pepper and green onion.

**ALL ON WARM** fresh flour tortillas with dark refried beans and a garnish platter of lettuce and Pico de Gallo. This was the food of the gods, all for $17.

So yes, Zapatista can be pricey. Yes you’re probably only able to eat there with family or after saving up for a special date. But, when you are able to go, go. You will be happy.

**T.V. CHRISTIAN CASTAÑEDA**

Two brothers, one hunt for endless demons

**FIGHTING TO KEEP** their souls and protect those of others, two brothers work to overcome obstacles from demons to other devilish paranormal figures in the suspenseful favorite “Supernatural.”

In its sixth season, “Supernatural,” created by Eric Kripke, airs 8 p.m. Fridays on WGN-TV, Channel 9. The show follows Sam Winchester (Jared Padalecki) and his brother Dean (Jensen Ackles) who are destined to hunt down evil paranormal creatures and send them to where they belong: hell.

They face evil creatures from vamps to the Devil himself. Although Dean retired from hunting and swore not to return in the previous season, he finds himself helping his brother hunt evil like before.

“Supernatural” does an amazing job keeping its audience entertained. With constant surprises and twists, each new episode captures the Winchester’s interest.

Kripke does a great job keeping the plots going, even after five seasons the show never fails to keep the audience guessing. The intense drama in the beginning eventually loses focus as the film drags on. Of course, there’s always the debate of whether the afterlife exists, which has sparked debate since mankind has existed.

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**ALWAYS unsure of whether the other is possessed, Dean pulls a knife on his brother Sam in “Supernatural” to find out what he’s hiding. Photo from IMDB.com**

**FILM  MOIRA DIFFERING**

‘Hereafter’ takes forever to tell story

A CAR ACCIDENT. A tsunami. The ability to hear the dead. In Clint Eastwood’s “Hereafter”, a 12-year-old boy, a journalist and a psychic come together and Marcus (Frankie and George McLaren). After a car accident, Marcus can no longer hide his mother's drug habits from Social Services, who take him to a foster home while he tries to contact a dead relative. Having no acting experience, George and Frankie give the most genuine scenes. Their tears and expressions garner serious emotion and will draw tears as they struggle for life. The three stories come together and twist slowly, switching between the three at distinct intervals.

The intense drama in the beginning eventually loses focus as the film drags on. Of course, there’s always the debate of whether the afterlife exists, which has sparked debate since mankind has existed.

**RUNNING FROM** a massive tsunami, Marie Lelay grabs the hand of a young Thai girl, trying to keep them both alive. Photo from IMDB.com

**VOLCANIC ROCK** full of molten, cheesey sauce, steak and roasted peppers brings flair to Nick Chaskin’s carne asada fajitas at Zapatista Mexican Grill at 1307 South Wabash Avenue. Nick’s mother Kit enjoyed the unusual fish tacos. Photo by Christian Castastieda

**MUSIC ALEX BARBER**

Debut generates warm, fuzzy feeling

“ARDOUR.” FEELINGS of great intensity and warmth, provides an appropriate title for artist and producer Tees’ debut album.

A New York native and an accomplished skater and artist, unemployed 23-year-old Mwendere Mwandawo often painted as a hobby, including walls, album art and the art for “Ardoir.”

**TRANSITIONING FROM** album art to making beats using his SP-303 sampler, and moving to Southern California, Tees landed an internship with popular online radio stream Dublab, and after listening to his music, Floating Lotus invited Tees to room with him in L.A. and to join the Brainfeeder roster, a record label founded by Floating Lotus. The C.D.’s one vocal and 17 instrumental tracks sound like an incredibly relaxing electronic lullaby; chimes and bells over fragmented beats ring on each track, accompanying airy synthy sounding leads. SEEMINGLY NEVER-ENDING keeps the album moving. Some songs almost sound backwards, creating trembling tones and a distorted sense of rhythm defining one of the best sounding albums this year.

The first single, “Why Like This,” thumps with heavy off beat bass drum lines, accenting, but not over-whelming a hush, trance inducing synth lead. Gaby Hernandez’s soft and delicate voice sounds perfect in “Long Distance,” an atmospheric composition combining broken beats and sparkling bells.

“Ardoir” produces a euphonic vibe which adds to the flourishing instrumental hip-hop scene. Songs blend together smoothly, and the warm feeling given off by this C.D. shouldn’t be forgotten.

**T.E.E.B.S “ALLURE”** offers evocative cover art.

**TEEBS’ “ALLURE”** offers evocative cover art.
Junior makes golf history

T
aking up golf clubs at age 4, then again at 12, Junior Akila Raoul only started playing golf competitively when she arrived at U-High last year from Ogden elementary school.

Akila’s aunt and avid golfer Dorothy Davis first introduced Akila to the sport. “SHE BOUGHT me my first set of clubs when I was 4, thinking I would take up the sport with equal enthusiasm,” Akila explained. “I remember not showing interest until she tried again, when I was 12.”

Since then, Akila and her two brothers, Abdel, age 10, and Ahmad, age 6, have practiced on their own and with Personal Instructor Emanuell Whorley at Jackson Park Driving Range.

“Being on the team helped me learn what it’s like to play competitive golf, because before I’d only play for fun,” Akila said. “It’s a completely different environment.”

THE FIRST female golfer in school history to make Sections, Akila shot 20 over par at the tournament October 11 at Coyote Run Golf Course in Flossmoor.

That score, her personal best, came after placing 10th at Regionals, October 6 at Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen with a 94, 23 over par.

Akila was pleased with her performance at Sectionals, despite not qualifying for State.

“I know that if I start practicing, especially my putting, throughout the off-season, I will improve enough to have a performance at Sectionals, despite not qualifying for State.

“I know that if I start practicing, especially my putting, throughout the off-season, I will improve enough to have a performance at Sectionals, despite not qualifying for State.

“Going into State, I really had no idea. Despite missing her Regional due to her injury. The Maroons pulled out the victory 2-1, Photo by Jackie Robertson.

Coach Moses said. “We need to be accountable, and know that we could have done better.”

Despite finishing 2nd in Conference play, U-High took home its share of postseason honors. Rafi was named to the ISLCA Region I All-Sectional team, as well as to the ISL First Team with Junior Dean Balabanov. Juniors Martin Garrett-Gurie and Shane Veeneman made the second team.

The Coach’s Award went to Rafi Khan. Jeremy Woo received special mention.

FINISHING UP a strong campaign, junior varsity endured their season with a record of 11-5.

“As a whole, our team worked really improved over the course of the season,” said Sophomore Steven Glick. “We got to know each other better on the field, and had a sense of where to be.

“At the start of the season, we depended on through balls and our speed, but by the end we were able to send in crosses and score more easily.

Scores not previously reported are as follows: Jesm, October 22, home; Varisty won 3-0; Glenbard South, October 23, Varsity lost 0-1.

“There were two U-High teams this season and we never knew which one would show up to play. We learned that the best teams aren’t focused on statistics but on getting the job done.” – Josh Koenig, Junior.

Despite injuries, runners excel-lerate

N
o one expected the 10th annual U-High Marathon, held October 16, to be a success. The course was long, the weather was not pleasant, and the runners were exhausted.

But despite these challenges, the runners persevered and completed the race.

“The course and the weather were perfect,” Robert said. “Solid footing, not too warm, not too cold, and almost no wind.”

Coach Moses said. “We need to be accountable, and know that we could have done better.”

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Girl swimmers build memories
Rachel Sylva
Editor-in-Chief

Competing in Illinois High School Association Sectional’s last Saturday, November 13 at St Ignatius (after Midway deadline), girl varsity swimmers finished with a 4-3 record.

Led by Coach Mike Cunningham and J.V. Coach Laura Thomas, the Maroons placed at numerous meets and broke numerous personal records.

“This season I dropped 11 seconds on my 100 Free, and that’s just one example of how much I have improved in all of my strokes,” said Maya Fishback, captain with Tara Rajan, Brienne Ellis and Chinami Lupescu (all seniors). “Four years ago, I didn’t know how to swim at all, so it is really team focused.

“I am also really proud of the team for how much we have all improved. We got 2nd place at the Maine East Invitational October 16, which is my favorite meet because it is all relays, so it is really team focused.

“A main difference this season was that we have a new j.v. coach, Laura.

All of the j.v. members finally got to shave their legs. I was jealous.

—Chinami Lupescu, senior

SPORTS JR REED

In defeat, soccermen make statement

A TOP-20 team in Illinois, a 2nd seed in the Class 2A Regional bracket.

Two players with 13 goals in only 19 games. A goalkeeper with a 0.3 goals against average. Fourteen returning seniors.

A goalkeeper with a 0.3 goals against average. Fourteen returning seniors.

“IT WAS A ton of fun because it was an overnight trip, so the team had a lot of time to bond while we were at the hotel, at the meet and on the road. It’s different because all of the j.v. members are rested, and the varsity members are starting their recovery period, so everyone is ready to just have fun.

“Bloomington is also the last meet for the j.v., so it was really all about cheering on our teammates and celebrating our best times and memories. We swam well, too. All of the j.v. members finally got to shave their legs. I was jealous.”

Joining the team as a one of four freshmen, Lindsey Aronson appreciated and learned from the j.v. swim team’s competitive atmosphere.

“COMING TO the team I was a little bit nervous because I hadn’t swam competitively for a while,” Lindsey explained. “But by the end of the season, I had learned so much about competitive swimming. My times also improved a lot.

“Next season, I am looking forward to further improving my times. I definitely want to swim more than I usually do off-season because I don’t want to lose what I have gained this season.”

Scores of meets are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meet Type</th>
<th>Varsity Score</th>
<th>JV Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maine East Invitational, October 16</td>
<td>away: Varsity won 120 to 92, Saint Francis Wheaton, October 23, home: Varsity won 100 to 99</td>
<td>120th Annual Latin Invitationals, October 23, invite: Varsity placed 3rd out of 6 teams with a score of 200, Saint Ignatius, October 20, home: Varsity lost 57 to 109, j.v. won 79 to 66</td>
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“I think that the freshman swimmers have been such a great addition to the team this year. I am really sad that I only got to spend a year with them.”

—Maya Fishbach, senior

GASPING FOR air as she cuts through the water, Catherine Yunis and the rest of the girls’ varsity swim team battled Northside College Prep October 12 at home. The Maroons lost to the Mustangs 130-40. Photo by Elizabeth Grubman
Winter teams gear up for battle

Returning talent, promising newcomers make for potent mix

Matt Hansen
Sports specialist

Inter officially begins December 21, but five weeks earlier, winter sports are taking flight at U-High.

Things got started November 10, when seniors Michael Turner, basketball, and Tina Umansky, fencing, both signed official letters of intent with Northwestern University.

LED BY Michael, varsity basketball will use their youth, athleticism and energy to overcome Jones College Prep, next Monday, 5 p.m., in Upper Kovler.

Michael, varsity captain with seniors Matt Hanessian and Alex Nesbitt (also seniors), committed to Northwestern October 31.

He will join John Kinross, Class of 2006; Zeke Upshaw, Class of 2009; and Jordan Gipson, Class of 2010; as recent U-High-graduated collegiate basketball players.

MICHAEL JOINS MATT and Alex as seniors on the Maroons’ roster.

Last year’s team won U-High’s first-ever Regional Championship and won the Independent School League Title for the second consecutive year.

Alex feels optimistic about this year’s prospects.

“We have a young team with good talent,” said the All-Conference point guard. “I think that we can build on last year’s accomplishments by going deeper into the playoffs and winning big games.”

“This is ONE of the tallest teams that Lab has ever had. We will win a lot of games when we learn to use this new height to our advantage.”

Girls’ basketballers will be headed by Captain Rose Trubert and fellow senior Brianna Watson.

Sophomores Nadja Barbiera and Sophia Gatton return as well.

They look to develop their young talent, with a crop of 19 new players, including 10 freshmen.

“This season is going to be very different from the ones that we have had in the past,” Rose said.

“We are focused on teaching the new players what it means to be a high school basketball player, their role on the team, and specific skills that need improvement.”

The Maroons face St. Francis De Sales 6 p.m. today in Upper Kovler to begin the season.

LOOKING TOWARDS their first meet Tuesday, December 14, 4:30 p.m. at Morton West in Berwyn, boys’ swimmers have trained year-round for the upcoming season.

Varsity swimmer Michael Baroody, co-captain with David Chang, Alan Heru-Raman and Austin Morris, all seniors, has been notably determined and dedicated in his training regimen.

“I would really like to get morning practices and weight lifting going. I think that would really strengthen us,” Michael explained.

“This season I’m really aiming for the 100 breastroke record and maybe qualifying for State.”

Other returning seniors Amir Hay, Isaac Nicholas and Alex Nirenberg, as well as seven new varsity members, figure essential to the Maroons’ success in the pool this year.

With their eyes on the Illinois High School Association State meet this coming May, a man and experienced Indoor Track team looks to quality and compete at an exceptionally high level.

SENIORS Ben Buchheim-Jurisova, Thomas Aquino, Robert Meyerson and Justin Algee, all of whom qualified for State last year, look for even more success in the 2010-11 season.

“This year we have a number of people on both the boys’ and girls’ teams who will be pretty competitive at the State level,” Ben explained.

“We hope to win Conference for both the boys and girls, and then send a lot of people down to the state meet.”

Despite losing to Jones 25-12, 25-22, 25-19 at the Illinois High School Association Class 3A Sectionals November 2 at King High School, the volleyball girls were not disappointed.

“I played a very good game,” said Marissa Caian, captain with Danielle Verdi-rame (both seniors). “Jones has one of the best teams in the city and we gave them a run for their money, taking it to three games, with the last two being very close.

Even though we lost, we were really happy about our plays.”

Ending with a 10-20 record (2-5 league), the Maroons defeated Chicago Little Village for the IHSA Regional title 25-16 and 24-20 October 30 at home.

“At Regionals, Danielle dominated at the net, Emma Davis dominated in the back row, and Danny Zhang dominated at the serving line,” said Coach Lisa Miller. “Athletic Director David Ribbens said that to his knowledge this was the second time in school history U-High won Regionals, the last time being in 2003.”

Marissa admired the team’s ability to maintain an upbeat attitude throughout the game.

“It was a little intimidating having to play the final at a gym that was unfamiliar to us,” she said. “The other team we were playing against was really loaded with the experienced, so U-High decided to be loud as well. It was as if the power from every ‘Go Go Maroons’ fed into our bodies and gave us energy that kept us going strong until the end.”

Dedicating its season, jv finished 13-7 and with an RL Championship Title. Captain Rachel Buikema, sophomores, thought the game at Woodlawn October 12 proved the season’s defining moment.

“It was one of the toughest conference games we played, but we worked well and covered for each other,” Rachel said.

“On one play, I chased down a ball that was going way out of bounds. I managed to hit it, and one of the other girls followed through, and the team completed the play and won the point.”

Volleyball Maroons keep fighting to the bitter end

William Chung
Associate Editor

Even at the point of defeat, varsity volleyball girls gave Jones College Prep a “run for their money.”

The Saint Ignatius match was intense,” Rachel said. “Laura and I had a tough Semifinal match, so we were a little tired when we started to play the finals.

“But when we lost the first set we knew we had to get back on our feet if we wanted to win. Once we won the second set, the playing field was even. Laura and I pushed through our tiredness and soreness to win the match in the second set.”

Despite struggling tough opponents in the second round, Brianna thought the team fared well at State.

“State is the most important part of the season,” Brianna explained. “Everyone is fighting so hard to win one match, and to get to those two points for their team.

“All of it is also on a demanding schedule because in order to advance to the next day, you have to win three matches.”

“Leslie and I played a three-setter in our first match, and then drew Whitney Young in the second round. We fought hard and had a great time. It’s just the luck of the draw.”

Tennis girls cinch Semifinals

Rachel Sylora
Editor-in-Chief

Focus.

That word stuck in the minds of Senior Rachel Sylora and Sophomore Laura Anderson as they faced St. Ignatius in the finals of the Illinois High School Association Tennis Sectional Tournament October 15-16 on the Wolves’ court.

Dropping the first set 3-6, and winning the second 6-3, Rachel and Laura were only six games away from victory. Half an hour later, the girls left the court with a 6-2 third set win, and their second consecutive IHSA Sectional Title.

“The Saint Ignatius match was intense,” Rachel said. “Laura and I had a tough Semifinal match, so we were a little tired when we started to play the finals.

“But when we lost the first set we knew we had to get back on our feet if we wanted to win. Once we won the second set, the playing field was even. Laura and I pushed through our tiredness and soreness to win the third, and it was a perfect way to end the Sectional Tournament.”

Ending with an 11-3 record overall, and a 7-0 record in the Independent School League, the Maroons placed 5th at the IHSA State Finals October 21-23 at Mount Prospect.

The U-Highers grabbed 2nd at the IHSA Sectional Tournament, qualifying Laura, Junior Leslie Sibener, Rachel, and Senior Brianna Solola for the IHSA State Finals.

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WITH a forehand volley, Brianna Solola battles a St. Ignatius opponent September 21 at home. Maroons lost 2-3. Photo by Veronica Runtz.