

A day devoted to DIVERSITY

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Tuesday,
November 16,
2010

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University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

What will the day look like?

This Friday's diversity day looks like it could be one of Oprah's best episodes: a series of profound topics plus a celebrity appearance.

"Gender and Sexual Orientation," "Socioeconomic Status and Class" and "Power and Power Structures." How's that for discussion topics? The film "The Prep School Negro" with the director André Robert Lee present to discuss it. How's that for star power?

Beginning 8 a.m. in Sunny and Kovler gyms, Labscares, as the day is named, will start with a striking visual exercise.

The activity was borrowed from Flava Fest, an annual Saturday diversity workshop planned by U-Highers and including students from other schools.

The day will differ for different U-Highers as they attend student-led

workshops in groups, and view the film at different times.

"In the workshops we'll start with an activity, like reading a quote out or having everyone standing in line holding hands as we read statements," explained Senior Adrian Aldana, among six Labscares student organizers. "The students will then discuss the quote and talk about an experience they have relating to the quote, or what the quote means to them."

Tracing Mr. Lee's experience as a poor African-American attending a prestigious Philadelphia high school, "The Prep School Negro" deals with his self-identity struggle.

"The point of showing the movie," Adrian said, "is to raise awareness that a contrast can exist inside peo-

ple and can be one way around some people, but act differently with others."

Closing the day, a panel of U-High graduates will share their personal experiences. Also part of a faculty inservice day panel last April, the participants will include Sarah Abella, Class of 1993; Keith Horton, Class of 1993; and Mollie Stone, Class of 1997.

"We decided to have graduates from U-High to come and speak about their experiences at Lab because we thought it would be more meaningful to students to hear from people who have walked the same hallways, been in the same setting, and have had some of the same teachers as current students," said Middle School Teacher Charlotte Jacobs, among four faculty Labscares organizers.



ALEX LUNA, freshman: "I think Labscares is a really good idea. Diversity is part of what makes it so people at U-High don't become close-minded. That's worth celebrating."

What's it about?

You and everyone else.

Though U-High has a diverse community, U-Highers should feel more open discussing their identities and personal lives, believes Senior Justin Algee, among six Labscares student organizers.

"Labscares isn't going to focus so much on race but things we usually don't focus much on," Justin said. "The topics we're discussing have more to do with personal things, and are things people might not want to really talk about. We want everyone to be open to each other, and we want Labscares to be an eye-opener about things that might be happening in students' personal lives."

"At U-High you look around and see Mexicans and Asians and blacks, so we're used to racial diversity and don't make that big a deal of it. The clubs like BSA and JSA show diversity in the school. What we want to do is emphasize the point of how well diversified we are."

Who's sponsoring this?

Three students who attended the People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Conference in Denver last year, and three other students interested in diversity issues, plus four faculty members, have planned Labscares.

After attending last year's Conference and staging Flava Fest at school, these students proposed Labscares to present a diversity workshop to all U-Highers.

The students are Seniors Adrian Aldana, Justin Algee and Briana Watson, Junior Jonathan Reed and Sophomores Natalia Ginsburg and Jason Deng.

"After we went to the conference, we experienced a sense of commu-

nity and we wanted to bring that back to U-High," Adrian said.

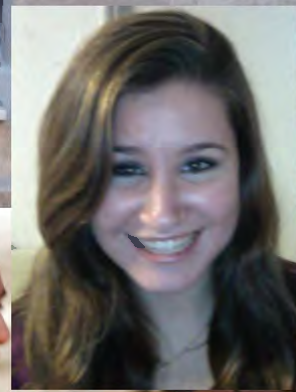
Helping to plan the day, faculty and administrator sponsors include Associate Director for Educational Programs Jason Lopez, Math Teacher Shauna Anderson, English Teacher Colin Rennert-May and Middle School Teacher Charlotte Jacobs.

"There are more students involved in planning Labscares than there have been planning Flava Fest," Ms. Jacobs said.

"Usually the six students to attend the SDLC plan Flava Fest, so the fact that many students volunteered to facilitate is really big."



SEBASTIAN LOPEZ, senior: "I think Labscares will help me learn more about other people and from other people, which really is the point of school."



CECI ELFENBAUM, junior: "Diversity is all over Lab, but I still think that it's important to have a day devoted to it. It should be a valuable experience."

What, where and when is the People of Color conference?

Back for more.

Attending the People of Color and Student Diversity Leadership Conferences for the second year, Senior Adrian Aldana will be among six U-Highers attending this year's conference, December 2-4 in San Diego, California.

From more than a dozen U-Highers who applied, the six delegates were chosen after writing an essay about their personal diversity experiences. Those attending besides Adrian include Seniors Justin Algee and Briana Watson, Juniors Victoria Bills and Lucy Cheng and Freshman Hebah Masood.

A annual project of the National Association of Independent Schools, the conference is expected to attract about 1,300 students from around the nation.

Participating in four 90-minute workshops, delegates will chose from more than 70, including workshops offered by Ernest Green, among the first black students to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Author Alma Martinez.

Learning and relating to other students' experiences is the most rewarding part of attending the conference, Adrian believes.

"One thing I really enjoyed about the conference was that everyone was starting with a clean slate," Adrian said. "No one knew anyone and we were able to learn about other people's experiences. People were really open in what they shared."

"We started out just talking amongst the people in our workshops, but at lunch we interacted with other people and learned their stories. It was a touching experience."

"One of the most moving parts was at the end of the conference, when they had all the students in a huge hall with microphones set up at four points in the room. There were facilitators there and they invited people up to say anything they wanted to about the conference. Some people said why they liked it; others shared deep, personal experiences."

What's in it for me?

Math Teacher Shauna Anderson has the answer.

"Labscares will give students and adults the opportunity to think how to define themselves and also give them the opportunity to understand how others self-identify," Ms. Anderson said.

"They'll be able to explore not only our differences, but hopefully during that process, realize how alike they really are. This will cause people to be more cognizant of our attitudes towards others, the media's portrayal of people different than us, and how stereotypes impact how we act and interact with others."



ADAM KELSICK, sophomore: "The day is all about meeting new people. And who doesn't like meeting new people?"

Stories by Akila Raoul
Photos by Cathy Ludwig



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 American Red Cross was really cooperative and positive throughout the day, and I didn’t hear of any students being disrespectful. We just need to work on getting the number of donors up, and I plan to open up the next scheduled blood drive to University students to try to increase participation, but we won’t spend a lot of energy or effort trying to recruit donors.”

For the junior class, an overnight lock-in is planned by officers for 7:30 p.m. Friday to 7:30 a.m. Saturday in Kovler Gym. Photo by Crystal Maciel.

Could cell phone policy change here as at other schools?

Rolland Long
Associate editor

Chicago area schools are relaxing their policies on cell phone use during school hours in favor of class and research use. But chances of that happening at U-High seem dim.

In an October 11 front page story, “Cell Phones Increasingly a Class Act,” Chicago Tribune reporters Tara Malone and Lisa Black found some schools integrating cell phones into their curriculum.

THEY CITED a report released in April by the Pew Internet and American Life Project that estimated 83 percent of the country’s 17-year-olds own a cell phone, up 64 percent from five years earlier. Among 12-year-olds, 58 percent own a cell phone, compared to 18 percent in 2004.

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 your 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.

“It’s not going to solve anything,” Mr. McFarlane said. “I mean, are the inmates supposed to be running the asylum?”

“OBVIOUSLY everybody has a cell phone here. Is there a problem? No. I don’t get many problems about cell phones. I think kids are good about that. I don’t think we have a problem, usually they just go out to make calls.

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

Mobile devices still hamper academic progress, Principal Matt Horvat believes.

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

“If you couldn’t text or call, you might reflect and recognize what you need to improve on. These days you don’t have time to ask yourself, ‘What did I do?’

“There are some complaints about students using cell phones inappropriately and we get phones sometimes, but it’s under control, so the policy won’t change.”

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

“In other schools, it seems to me that too much energy is spent enforcing rules, rather than ensuring that students are learning,” History Teacher Cindy Jurisson said.

“A school’s main goal is to maximize their students’ education, but in a lot of settings schools can get overly caught up with enforcing things like dress codes and cell phone usage.

“AT LAB, few kids seem to really misbehave much. My sense is that everybody here is focused while in class.”

Cell phones can be useful during class as learning tools, pointed out Art and Graphics Teacher Brian Wildeman.

“I’m perhaps a little lenient in the policy,” Mr. Wildeman said. “Sometimes I will allow it to be out, so they can use it as a camera.

“BUT WHEN I give a lecture, then I won’t allow it to be out. I do teach art history, and the obvious issue with cell phone use is that people can use it to cheat during in-class assignments. I have not

caught people using phones to cheat yet, but I admit plenty of students use it as a distraction.”

U-Highers hold varied views on cell phone use during school.

“I think I use it a decent amount of time during class,” Junior 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. Like, we should be allowed to carry it on vibrate in case of emergencies.

“CELL PHONE use 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, Sophomore Egle Tamulynas-Mendoza doesn’t see why the rules exist.

“TEXTING during class is just people talking to one another,” Egle said. “I look at my phone maybe two times every other class for messages, but I see people texting during class all the time.

“They’re really discreet about it, and people ignore the policy. I don’t see the policy changing any time soon since people really don’t get caught.”

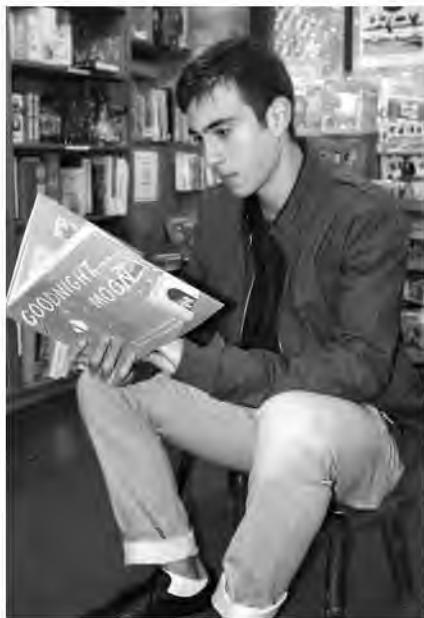


Ms. Jurisson

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

**-Dean of Students
Larry McFarlane**

FROM CHILDREN’S STYLES TO THE LITERATURE AISLES



FROM ONE ROOM to the next, Ben Postone’s interest is constantly piqued, surrounded by the endless shelves of 57th Street Books. Photo by Anna Rosensweig.

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Show goes on

Foiled by the Obama rally on the Midway, the Saturday night performance of the Fall Production got bumped to Sunday afternoon but still drew a crowd. Wilson Sinclair and McKenzie Kimmerman were among the ensemble presenting six Dave Ives one-acts October 28, 29 and 31. Photo by Remy Lewis.

Brief-ly

German visitors see town, remark on homework load

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 Konigin-Katharina-Stift Gymnasium in Stuttgart, the visitors arrived in Chicago with two chaperons. Nine 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 studios; 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. I guess 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:

SENIORS – Jeff Brehm, Patrick Schumacher; Grant Hensel, Jan Hennings; Henry Harboe, Jonathan Winkler; Alex Nirenberg, Daniel Henschke; Jonathan Worcester, Martina Kavassakali.

JUNIORS – Rosie Cuneo-Grant, Sina Shragle; Kristina Wald, Maren Bank; Catherine Yunis, Marilena Dittrich.

SOPHOMORES – Niko Friehs, Philipp Bessier; Adele Rehkemper, Gianna Raible.

WINTER CONCERT – For the first time in many years, the Jazz Band will perform with the Orchestra, Concert Band and Choir in the annual Winter Concert 7:30 p.m., Thursday, December 2 at Mandel Hall, 1139 East 57th Street.

New this year, Jazz Band and Band Director Mr. Francisco Dean chose to include the Jazz Band to give the group more recognition.

"The Winter Concert is a night to showcase the complete musical program that U-High has to offer," Mr. Dean explained. "Our two Jazz Band groups will open the concert and play music covering a variety of styles. After performances from Orchestra and Choir, the Band will conclude the performance with several pieces including two unique Christmas-themed pieces."

The Orchestra and Choir groups will unite perform Mozart's "Kyrie" from F-Major Mass KV 33.

A 1930s jazz ballad, Joseph Haydn's string quartet "The Bird," and modern English composer's Edward Elgar's symphonic piece "Nimrod" will comprise the Orchestra's portion of the concert. Singing four pieces, the Choir will perform music ranging from early 12th century Gregorian Chants to 20th century traditional spiritualist pieces.

DEDICATION – A bench in the courtyard and tree in Jackman Field in honor of the late Faith Dremmer, Class of 2010, will be dedicated in a brief ceremony 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 23, beginning in Judd 126.

The dedication was scheduled the day before Thanksgiving break so Faith's classmates who have been away at college can attend, said Principal Matt Hor-

vat.

In another special event before the break, University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer will address the faculty after school this afternoon. In previous such appearances, Mr. Zimmer has praised the Lab Schools' history of achievement and affirmed the University's appreciation and support.

President Zimmer himself is a former Lab Schools parent, the father of David, Class of 2000; Ben, 2003; and Alex, 2009.

COMMENDED – Eighteen seniors have been awarded Commended status in the National Merit Scholarship Corporation's annual program. Those Commended scored high on standardized tests, but not high enough to qualify for Semifinalist positions.

U-High's Commended seniors are Tom Aquino, Henry Bergman, Ben Buchheim-Jurisson, Layla Ehsan, Matt Hanessian, Andrew Hensel, Aalap Herur-Raman, Aleksandra Karapetrova, Jonathan Matthews, Martin (Alex) Nesbitt, Alex Nirenberg, Anastasia Ovtcharova, Joseph Philipson, Ben Postone, Joe Turner, Kiren Verma, Jeremy Woo and Amanda Yuan.

HOLOCAUST TRIP – Thirteen students in Mrs. Susan Shapiro's Holocaust elective will travel to Washington D.C. November 20-23 to visit and conduct research at the Holocaust Museum.

They are Ariane Carter, Nick Chaskin, Malvika Jolly, Jonathan Jou, Yael Litwin, Zoe McDaniel, Ben Postone, Emily Roberts, Shane Selig, Elliot Tom, Tina Uman-skiy, Briana Watson and Claudia Yang.

As in past years, World Languages Teacher Steve Farver will chaperon along with Ms. Shapiro.

VARIETY SHOW – Ranging from magic tricks and hypnosis to skits and music performances, a Winter Variety Show will showcase U-Highers' talents 3-5 p.m. Friday December 10 in Judd 126. Admission will be free.

Organizer Danny Ilyin, junior, expects the show to display a side of U-Highers not usually seen by their classmates.

"Last year," Danny said, "people came to me with ideas about their hobbies and I told them I would come up with a way they could show everyone these talents."

"This show is all about letting other U-Highers see others doing what they like, and hopefully drawing everyone closer. We are looking for anything entertainment related such as musical performances."

Interested talent can sign up in Dean of Students Larry McFarlane's office.

FRESHMEN CHOOSE OFFICERS – Elected Freshman President October 24, Alex Cohen says she will emphasize communication.

"My goal this year is to come up with a way to have more freshman voices heard in planning school events," Alex said. "I am ready to work with my other Student Council representatives to organize school events this year."

Also elected were vice president Phil Healy and Cultural Union representatives Tiffany Craig and Sabrina Holland.

Many students and teachers expressed concern with a few freshmen class candidates handing out free pizza and cookies before the election to generate votes.



'Bazaar' fun

DELAYED ONE DAY by the political rally which made travel with-in Hyde Park difficult, the annual Bizaarnival came to life Sunday, October 31 as popular as ever.

A haunted house, art projects and activities such as face painting drew enthusiastic Lower and Middle Schoolers. Junior Lucy Cheng served as president of the U-High student group which planned the day with faculty and parent advice.

FACE PAINTING (photos from top) brought Stefania Gomez happy (?) customers.

FOR A HALLOWEEN art project, Nadja Barlera helped her brother Adam.



Photos by Elizabeth Gelman.

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MASTERING HIS piano skills, Max Archer practices his repertoire at Joan's Studio. Photo by Jackie Robertson.

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Expert analyzes nation's economy

"THE PROBLEMS didn't happen overnight," said Ms. Penny Pritzker, member of President Barack Obama's Economic Recovery Board on the nation's financial condition. Ms. Pritzker spoke to Economic teacher Chris Janus' classes lunch, Thursday October 14 in Judd 126. She is the mother of Senior Rose Traubert, and Don, class of 2009. Photo by Tina Uman-skiy

MUSIC MASTERS

Teachers also enjoy lives 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 Tomeka 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 in Chicago.

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 Sinafonieta, 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,

NEW TO U-HIGH, Mr. Francisco Dean plays both trumpet and French horn. Mr. Dean performs as a jazz and classical musician.

Photo by Delia Privitera.



in New York. We both were asked to play one of Anthony Braxton's operas. 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 accorded 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. "**GROWING UP,**" Mr. Dean said, "I used to hear a kid down the street playing his trumpet. "His playing began to draw my interest toward music, and in 6th grade I began playing the French Horn."

"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, Mr. 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 was 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-



MUSIC TEACHER Katy Sinclair sings and plays keyboard for the Wah Wah Girls, a Boswell Sisters tribute group. *Photo by Delia Privitera.*

ming, for three summers on a horse ranch providing blue grass music for chuck wagon dinner rides."

Outside of the Lab Schools, Ms. Sinclair sings and plays keyboard in a trio with two Lab Schools alumni and a junior at alumni and other events.

"**I SING** in a trio called the Wah Wah Girls that sings the music of the Boswell Sisters," Ms. Sinclair explained. "I sing with Beth Fama and her daughter Sally Cochrane. Beth's son Gene plays guitar and bass for the group. The Wah Wah Girls was the brainchild of Sally, who transcribed all of the Boswell music from recordings to sheet music which we use to perform."

"It began in the spring of 2008. My favorite thing about performing is being able to maintain the tight harmonies of the 1920s, the era of the Boswell Sisters."

"**WE PERFORM** at folk music festivals and at alumni functions for the Lab Schools. We have also performed at the Opening Day ceremonies for the University of Chicago."

"My favorite performance so far was when we performed for the development fundraiser for the Lab Schools in the Willis Tower last fall at the Metropolitan Club. We got the opportunity through the Alumni Development Office."

"We also recorded a C.D. two years ago titled 'Roll On'."

WITH NUMEROUS musical projects, Orchestra Teacher Tomeka Reid has taken the Chicago music scene by storm, with Howard Reich of the Chicago Tribune calling her "one of the most promising and distinctive voices in jazz".

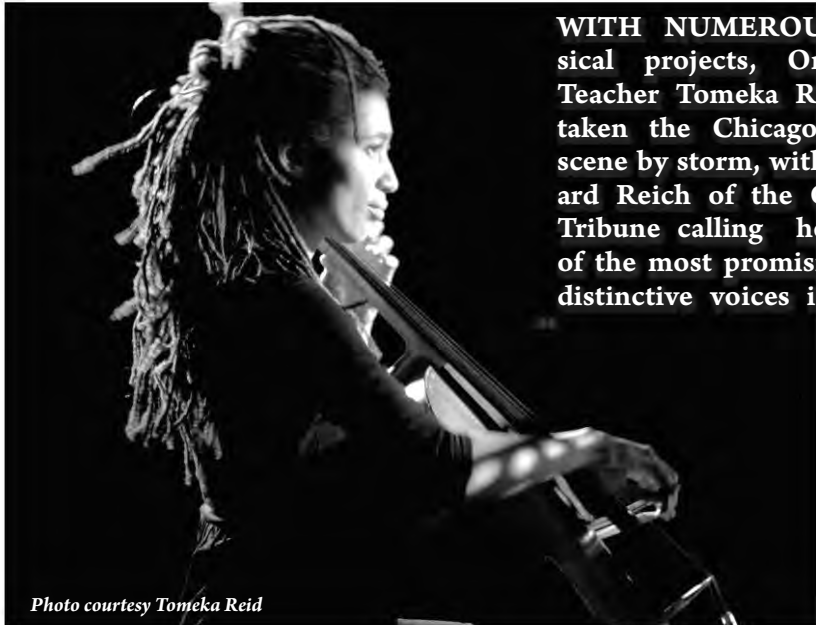


Photo courtesy Tomeka Reid

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The President comes home to Hyde Park and thousands cheer

Rafi Khan
Editor-in-Chief

As 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 chatter from 35,000 people floods through the crisp, clear air.

They've packed into the grassy basin, where Chicago city officials have set up towering floodlights, massive, black concert speakers and, its back to Dorchester Avenue, a colossal black stage, awaiting one man's appearance.

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN and U2 hits boom from the speakers as the people, mostly young adults, many sporting University of Chicago hoodies, here attending the Democratic Moving America Rally crane their necks toward the black stage or glance at their phones every few seconds to check the time.

The twilight gradually dims as sleek, unmarked black cars pass by the fence encompassing the entire Midway basin, which Chicago city officials had begun assembling two days earlier, complete with security checks.

After most 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 Giannoulas and Cook County Board Presidential Candidate Toni Preckwinkle.

AT TIMES, 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 speech he gave was 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. Throngs of people, dozens of U-High-



"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.*

AS EARLY AS noon, rally-goers begin forming a line along the Midway that stretches four city blocks, waiting to enter the fenced enclosure set up for the event. *Photo by Tim Thomas III.*

SEVEN LAB Lower Schoolers lead a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance before Mr. Obama speaks. *Photo by Tim Thomas III.*

ers among them, began forming a line along the Midway around noon that eventually stretches five city blocks.

WHEN CHICAGO POLICE officers opened the gates around 4 p.m., those waiting rushed down the Midway basin—some actually sprinting—after passing through airport-level security.

Though the rally intended to raise support for Democratic candidates, U. of C. Grad Student Jenny came early only so she could get a good view of Mr. Obama when he spoke.

"I don't know too much about Giannoulas or anyone else," explains Jenny, a red-haired Illinois native sporting a grey U. of C. sweatshirt and loose-fitting jeans, in between typing out text messages. "I'm here to see Obama and Common," she says, referring to the South Side native rapper scheduled to perform before Obama's speech.

OTHERS REPEAT that sentiment, including Penny, a

short, elderly woman in a white jacket who'd traveled alone from out of state.

"I'm just here to see the President, because I've never seen him in person before," she says quietly, barely audible over the live rock 'n' roll by Dot Dot Dot, a band popular among college students. "I'm not really interested in Pat Quinn or Giannoulas."

To that, a nearby middle-aged African American woman, nearly invisible because she's sitting on the ground reading a newspaper, comments with a laugh, "Is anyone here to see Giannoulas? I don't think anyone's here to see anyone 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 singles, he rhapsodizes a capella about violence among South Side youth, a failing education system and Mr. Obama.

Then, finally, after four 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, brandishing signs that read "Vote" and "Moving America Forward."

Finally, the President speaks. And from the Midway Plaisance in Hyde Park his words go out to the whole, wide world.



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 October 30 in Washington D.C. About 1,000 people attended Chicago's spinoff the same day in Grant Park. *Photo by Crystal Maciel.*

In Grant Park, another gathering of the faithful

Nick Phalen
Political 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 man is one of the thousand-odd people crowded around the Petrillo Music Shell, just north of Buckingham Fountain at Jackson and Columbus.

OTHER CROWD MEMBERS, setting down protest signs to cup their hands around their mouths, echo his sentiment, booing the onstage comedian, Michael Patrick Thornton of ABC's "Private Practice."

"Let's watch the rally," someone yells, pointing at the large muted television screen onstage, tuned to Stewart's rally.

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 satirical opposition media partisanship, 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 Imbalanced 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 assemble.

DESPITE THE LINEUP of scheduled performers, crowd members show more interest in watching Jon Stewart on T.V.

The sun's rays, barely puncturing the clouds, shed little light on the disgruntled clump of largely 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 mother from northwest suburban Palatine, holds a cardboard sign reading, "Bag the animosi-tea." 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' futures 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 campaign saying whatever they want to about anything."

"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 always being insane. They just foster so much hatred between both sides that you can't be interested in politics without being partisan."

Attending the rally to see if liberals and conservatives could put aside differences, Junior Daniel Eimer feels disappointed.

"I kind of thought that the rally did a bad job of fulfilling its purpose," Daniel says. "There were a lot of partisan people there who were really just out to react to the Tea Party. I really do believe in the message that people should get over their differences and try to forge a coalition together to get things done in American politics, but it was hard to find people who sympathized with that view."



Daniel

School keeps events going

JR Reed
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 Bizaarnival and sporting events.

Director of Business Affairs Christopher Jones was pleased no events were cancelled 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 Department, working with city, state, and federal agencies, as well as those planning the rally, shared with us street restrictions," Mr. Jones said. He feels it's important to note no 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 Social circles, beyond the w

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 integrating 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 to day.

Sydney Scarlata
Editor-in-Chief

From Chicago suburbs to Moscow suburbs.

For over a decade, Senior Sasha Karapatrov has traveled with her mom to Moscow, Russia and a number of family friends.

"I'D ALWAYS HANG out with my mom's friends, and one of them had a daughter, Ansesa. I got to know her better and over the past couple years we've gotten really close. Every couple of months we skype and I always hang out with her friends in Moscow.

"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 conversationalists. They always have something to say, and its very easy to feel accepted because of that."

AFTER TRANSFERRING TO U-High freshman year from Kennedy Junior High in western suburb Naperville, Senior Sasha Karapatrova still keeps in touch with her middle school friends who now go to Naperville Central.

"I hang out with my other friends about once a month, usually in the suburbs or during some event in the city," Sasha said.

"During the summer it's much different, I hang out with them much more often than I do with my school friends. I hang out with friends from outside of school who come stay with me during the summer for a week or two.

"My U-High friends know of my other friends and I have introduced them to each other a few times. But my U-High friends are usually not very interested and have different tastes in music, so I like to keep the two groups away from each other.

"IF ANYTHING MY social life with my other friends is kept away from socializing with my U-High friends. I don't want to, but I'm sure it keeps me from being super close with my friends.

"My suburban friends know me best, since they've known me since middle school. My other friends not only are good at understanding but understand my stories better because of it. They've known me, something my U-High friends may not know because they just haven't known me as long."

Other U-Highers have introduced their U-High friends to their other friends. Since she was in diapers, Junior Sarah Haddad has always been an active member of her Mosque, the Masjid Badri in Willowbrook. Through her family and her exposure to it at Sunday school, Sarah believes her friends are students from Naperville Central and other High Schools.

"SOME OF MY friends at school hang out with my cousins. I come to the beach with them."

Lifetime at Lab WELCOME TO LAB

Nick Phalen
Associate editor

Half and half.

Half of U-High graduates have attended the Lab Schools from kindergarten through senior year, half began somewhere in between. Plus, half have parents who work at the University of Chicago, according to Registrar Brent LaRowe.

SOME U-HIGHERS believe these Lifers have a social advantage, while others point out Lifers' lack of a fresh start in High School.

A Lifer who has lived in Hyde Park all her life, Senior Mollie Rotmensch believes newcomers have a more difficult social experience than Lifers.

"I feel like the dynamic between Lifers and non-Lifers is different. As a Lifer, I can honestly say that when I graduate and go to college I will have a lifelong group of friends."

"I THINK some people can have the same feeling if they came in Lower School or Middle School, but those who came in later years just don't graduate with the same amount of memories."

Another Lifer, Junior Benny Wah has lived in Hyde Park his entire life, attending Lab Schools since kindergarten. His father, a physicist, is a U. of C. professor.

"Really, there are a lot of advantages to both being a Lifer and not being one. For me, I think of U-High as being incredibly static, which is a bad thing in some respects.

"I MEAN, I've found that the constant environment really makes your legacy follow you. I did some things that I regret in Lower School and I really created a name for myself within the school. And sometimes, it's like I'm still paying for my mistakes."

"I don't think I'm the only one who has a similar problem. 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 Ariel Community Academy, Sophomore Dominic Wordlaw 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 much longer than you.

"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 I something I got to do in High School when all the Lifers were just hanging out with the people they already knew."

STARTING AT U-HIGH this year Junior Alekhya Mukkavilli and her family moved from New Delhi, India to Chicago last summer. Her father, a Texaco employee, was transferred.

"I feel like a lot of people at Lab want to meet new people," Alekhya said. "Some people are tired of each other, or at least that's what they tell me. I've changed schools a bunch of times, more times that most people at Lab, and it's new every time, which is great. That's not something that Lifers here really get to experience, so that's definitely a downside."

"On the other hand, I would imagine that it is kind of nice knowing who you're good friends are and who they will be. There is lots of security in that. But, truthfully, it's probably kind of overrated. It's probably better being new here."

A 28-YEAR FACULTY member, History Teacher Susan Shapiro can see the differences between



FRIENDS SINCE KINDERGARTEN, Lifers Caroline Montag, Meryl Charleston and Kira Fujibyashi, continue as swim team members and lunchmates.



Benny



Alekhya

lifetime Lab Schools students and newcomers.

"Really, in most cases I can tell who in my classes has been at Lab for their entire life and who hasn't," 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 if you have a student that has been here their entire life."

Photo by
Jackie Robertson
Art by
Michael Bissonette

a microscope walls of U-High

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friends, like Ary and Elizabeth. Once when I was in Florida with my cousins, Ary and my cousin Aamir got into this argument in French, trying to see who could outsmart the other in French.

"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.

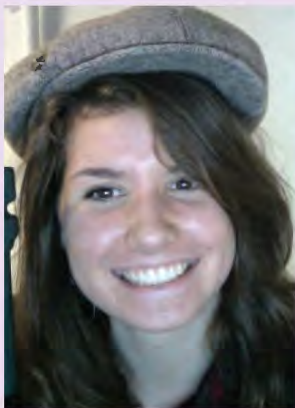
"**IN GENERAL**, it's nice that if I'm having issues with friends at school or just need someone to talk to that isn't at Lab, I can always call them up and vent often.

"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.

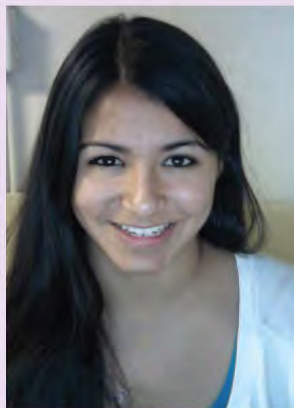
"My social lives just tend to stay so separate without me trying. Being able to have good times with everyone has become so much more important as we all get older since a lot of my friends outside have gone to college or are going there, so it's harder to get everyone together as a group but we manage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



Sasha



Rebecca



Sarah

Falling through the cracks of U-High

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 at 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 outliers. 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.

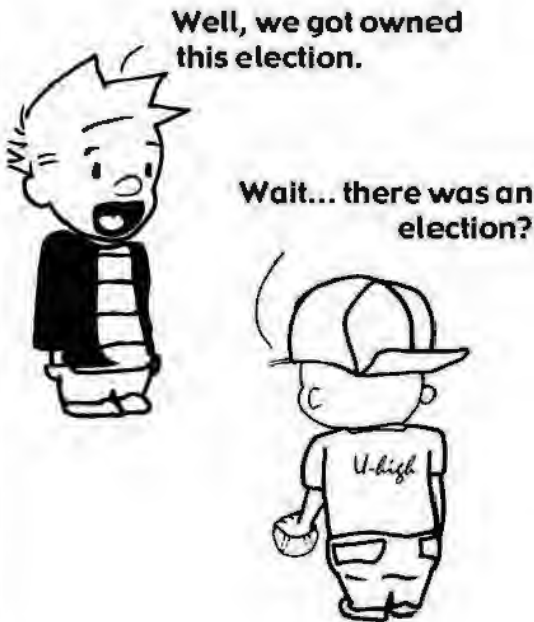
"It's hard to help someone unless they come for help and open up. The social dynamic at U-High is definitely not of a stereotypical high school. Bullying doesn't happen in the same way, kids are a lot more accepting of the quirky personality. Also, social cache is academic cred, not cuteness of how you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



AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT

2010 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION RESULTS

	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
U.S. House	188 seats	239 seats
U.S. Senate	53 seats	46 seats
Illinois governor	47% Quinn	46% Brady
U.N. Senate	46% Giannoulous	48% Kirk



Art by Michael Bissonnette

Seeing Obama lose leaves a mark

uch. For Democrats, and most U-Highers, Election Day probably felt like being dragged along a coarse carpet stretching from New York’s 20th district to Washington’s 3rd. Leaving in its wake an unhappy, red rug burn. Democrats lost six governorships, control of the House of Representatives and six Senate seats—including the one President Barack Obama once held. The President’s party historically tends to lose Congressional seats in midterm elections. But this year, it lost more House seats than any party since 1938, according to the American Presidency Project, an organization that archives government records. The Republicans’ strategy had centered on turning disapproval towards unemployment and government’s size and spending, particularly from centrists and Tea Party members, into votes. And so they did. Now that the Grand Ole Party has taken back some of its former weight, its priority one is rolling back legislation the former Lab

Schools parent supported and signed into law, starting with health care overhaul. Which means the same policies U-Highers passionately canvassed and campaigned for during the 2008 Presidential election are at risk of repeal. Yet, that prospect inspired few U-Highers to work for campaigns on either side of the political spectrum this time around. That may be because these elections were only for Congressional races, or because U-Highers found no candidates worth working for. Or that, even at the Lab Schools, once a virtually impenetrable stronghold for Obama support, approval of his policies is waning. Already droves of Obama’s close advisers, many from Chicago, including former Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, have abandoned him and the elections showed that many Americans have followed suit. There’s still time. Mr. Obama has two years left to fix what he couldn’t in the last two. And plus, rug burns heal quickly. Right?

OPINION AKILA RAOUL

Tea partiers rejoice!..for now

AFTER MORE THAN a year of campaigning, three Tea Partiers have made it to the Senate. And now, pundits speculate what exactly Tea Partiers want to do. **TEA PARTIERS** express conservative ideals, such as lowering taxes. They’re just a tad more outgoing in voicing their policies and, in my opinion, some are downright loopy. Yet, some members of the Grand Ole Party don’t even see Teabaggers as mainstream. Tea Partiers’ election was a huge achievement. I’ll give them that. But let me clarify, only three were elected to the Senate. Not 10, not 20. Three.



Akila

AND CONSIDERING how much money was spent in their campaigns what with rallies, posters and whatnot, this figure seems a bit slim. I felt flabbergasted so many made it to Senate what with their ideals of lowering the size of government. If they’re trying to reduce the size of government, going to Congress seems a little counterproductive. Yes, getting there comprised half the battle, but I wonder if their euphoria will be as short lived as President Barack Obama’s. During President Obama’s Presidential campaign two years ago, U-Highers volunteered to get people out to vote for him, people loved his charisma and toddlers ran around in their “I love Obama” jumpers. **BUT HERE WE ARE** two years later and we find some of Mr. Obama’s 2008 election campaign supporters have lost faith in not only him, but the Democratic Party altogether. I haven’t seen any jumpers for a while now. At U-High even, political shirts are a rarity at best, let alone volunteers. Similarly, those Teabaggers have spread their message to the world. And yes, we’ve all got it loud and clear (thank you very much). But I’ll be listening closely two years from now.

SAY WHAT?

Compiled by Spencer Lee

What’s your family’s weirdest Thanksgiving tradition?



Malvika

MALVIKA JOLLY, senior: My family doesn’t do much for Thanksgiving, so I hold an annual dinner party, where all my friends come over and make obscene foods.



Matt

MATT CHIU, junior: For Thanksgiving, my family eats turkey burritos instead of just turkey. We roast the turkey, slice it into strips then wrap it in tortillas. It’s delicious.



Lucas

LUCAS BUCHHEIM-JURISSON, sophomore: My family holds an annual Thanksgiving chess tournament. Family members allowed only.



Stacy

STACY STERN, freshman: For Thanksgiving, my dad makes this dish of greens called “Green Glop”. It’s basically a mix of collard greens and spinach. Delicious.

MIDWAY MAILBOX

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 active. For most of our school’s history, U-Highers have been strong social activists. Take for instance the 1967-68 school year, when a new club (Cousins, Brothers and Sisters) was founded for the purpose of aiding the integration movement at Lab. The club managed to organize an athletic boycott of Morgan Park Academy for its refusal to admit black students or shake the hands of black U-High athletes. Nineteen years later (1986-87), the issues had changed but student activism still flourished. Students created a Student Awareness Committee that hosted workshops on, among other topics, stress, drug use and sex. Flash-forward to today and the story reads far less dramati-



Josh

cally. While our student body has taken action on several issues, such as environmental change and the new schedule, we seldom follow through to our full potential. While 290 students signed a petition calling for a review of the proposed new schedule, fewer than five students have shown up to the informational meetings the administration has proposed as a response. And while the “350 Day” experienced great turnout, the mugs they handed out to the student body to replace plastic water bottles have seemingly vanished. 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 this standard as social activists. 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 and taking more responsibility. For example, Student Council used to publish a quarterly report on the activities of both clubs and itself. This is a simple practice that would help provide follow through to our activities. In a 1968 speech, a Student Legislative Coordinating Council official stated, “Student voice will depend on student interest and responsible participation”. This is still true today. We have strong voices and we have diverse interests. I just hope that we can find a way to ensure responsible and sustained participation.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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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 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 and made-to-order guacamole, still-warm house-made corn chips and a smooth and spicy salsa.

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

Offering a wide variety of elevated classics for appetizers, I chose *Dos tamales*, which included chicken and cheese tamales with two different moles 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 smelled 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.



VOLCANIC ROCK full of molten, cheesy 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 Castañeda



Nick

FILM MOIRA DIFFERDING

'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 closer to death sooner than they ever imagined.

Set in San Francisco, Paris, Thailand and London, "Hereafter" follows three different stories as they slowly converge into one.

In San Francisco, construction worker George Lonnegan (Matt Damon) possesses unwanted psychic powers that allow him to hear from others' deceased loved ones.

Throughout the film, Damon wears a somber, uniform expression. Is he sad? Angry? Constipated? Only he knows for sure.

Moving on, the next story starts in Thailand, where famous French news reporter Marie Lelay (Cécile de France) is enjoying a leisurely vacation with her lover and boss, Didier (Thierry Neuvic). A tsunami sweeps the beach and the surrounding village, crushing shops, buildings and sweeping up people, Marie included.

After miraculously being brought back to life by a native pumping her chest, she's plagued with visions of the afterlife. Troubled and unable to work, she researches the afterlife and her experience.

In the next story, heroin and alcohol drive the mother of identical 12-year-old twins Jason (George McLaren) and Marcus (Frankie and George McLaren). After a car accident, Marcus can no longer hide his moth-



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

er'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.



Moira



Alex

T.V. CHRISTIAN CASTAÑEDA

Two brothers, one hunt for endless demons



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

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 vampires 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 fact the Winchester brothers find shocks the audience.

Kripke does a great job keeping the plots going, even after five seasons have already gone by. He comes up with new problems for Sam and Dean to fix, while keeping all the details from earlier seasons. "Supernatural" sucks in the viewer. Even if it's not the most popular T.V. show, it's still worth making time for.



Christian

MUSIC ALEX BARBER

Debut generates warm, fuzzy feeling

"ARDOUR," FEELINGS of great intensity and warmth, provides an appropriate title for artist and producer Teebs' debut album.

A New York native and an accomplished skater and artist, unemployed 23-year-old Mtendere Mandowa often painted as a hobby, including walls, album art and the art for "Ardour."

TRANSITIONING FROM album art to making beats using his SP-303 sampler, and moving to Southern California, Teebs landed an internship with popular online radio stream Dublab, and was later selected for the 2008 Red Bull Academy, a travelling music academy.

By chance, Teebs met experimental hip-hop pioneer Flying Lotus. After listening to his music, Flying Lotus invited Teebs to room with him in L.A. and to join the Brainfeeder roster,

a record label founded by Flying 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 synth sounding leads.

SEEMINGLY NEVER-ENDING loops keep 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 overwhelming a lush, 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.

"Ardour" produces a euphoric 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.



TEEB'S "ALLURE" offers evocative cover art.

MIDWAY SPORTS

Junior makes golf history

Spencer Lee
Associate editor

Taking up golf clubs at age 4, then again at 12, Junior Akila Raoul only started playing golf competitively when she arrived at U-High freshman 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 Emanuel 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 Sectionals, Akila shot 20 over par at the tournament October 11 at Coyote Run Golf Course in Flossmoor.

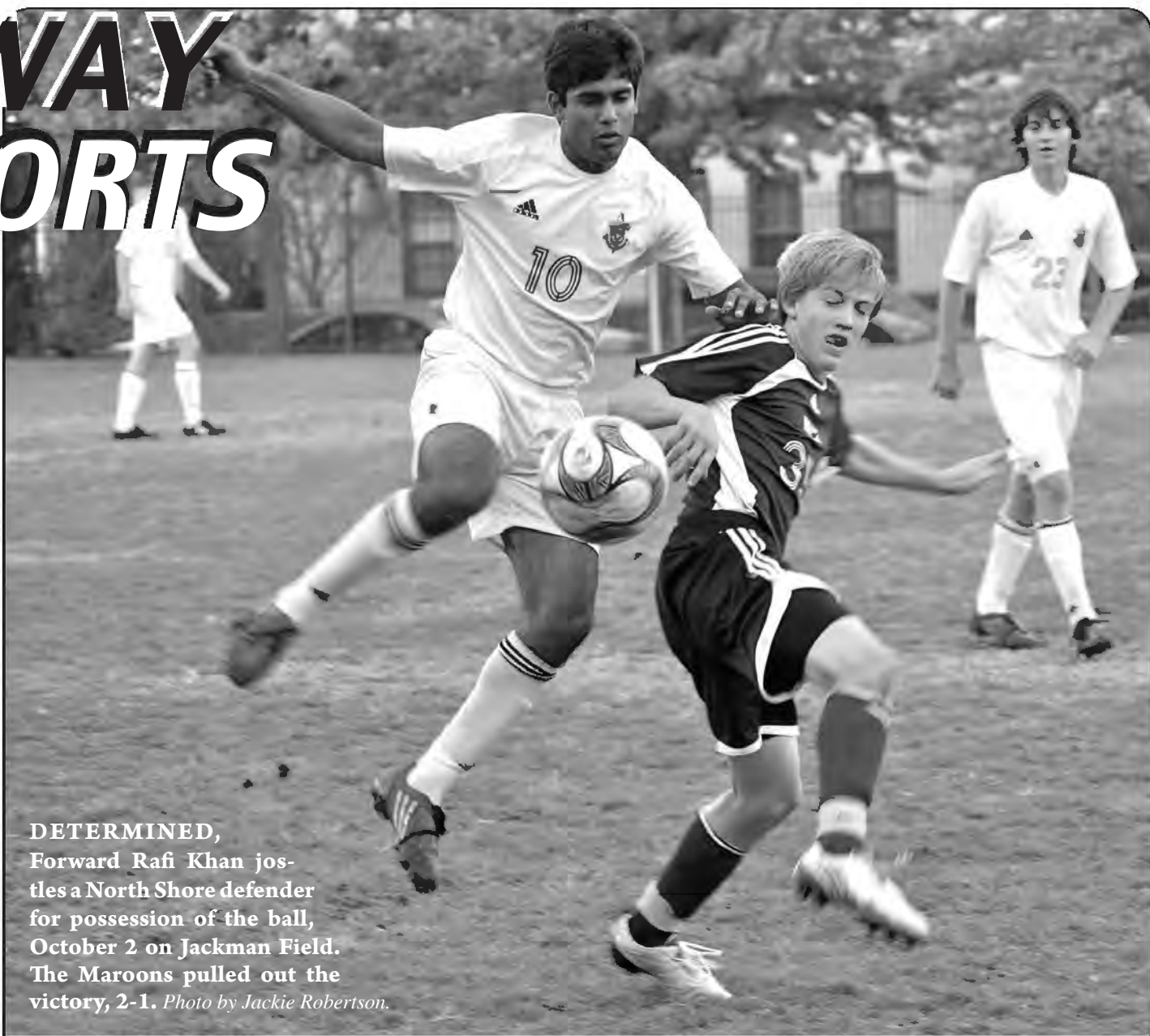
That score, her personal best, came after placing top 10 at Regionals, October 6 at Old Oak Country Club in Homer Glen with a 94, 23 over par.

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 shot at State next year."



Photo by Tim Thomas III.
AKILA RAOUL



DETERMINED,
Forward Rafi Khan jostles a North Shore defender for possession of the ball, October 2 on Jackman Field. The Maroons pulled out the victory, 2-1. Photo by Jackie Robertson.

Soccermen play great, frustratingly lose

Jeremy Woo
Associate editor

Inches.

That was all it took to determine boys' soccermen's fate, as the ball floated into the back of the net via the left foot of a Glenbard South midfielder. In Regional Finals, October 22 on Jackman Field, the Maroons had pushed the favored Raiders to overtime, when their season and eight-game win streak came to a halt in dramatic fashion, 1-0.

"THE REGIONAL FINAL was especially frustrating," said Rafi Khan, cocaptain with Nick Chaskin (both seniors), "because we were playing together most of the time.

"It was probably our second-best performance all season after the game against Brother Rice," he added, referring to a 3-0 loss September 16 on the Crusaders' field. "Our technical game, first touch and passing, was on against Glenbard, but we just couldn't turn that into goals."

Despite the agonizingly close score, Coach Mike Moses took pride in his team's effort.

"I FELT the other team dominated the run of play," Coach Moses explained. "Perhaps we could have changed the makeup of the game if we had been aggressive with our attacking opportunities, and put the pressure on them. We did the best we could under the circumstances."

The Glenbard South contest capped an 11-7 season that saw U-High come tantalizingly close to repeating as both ISL and Regional Champions. The Conference title hinged on a pivotal match at eventual champs Francis Parker, a 3-2 loss on a penalty kick awarded in the game's final minutes.

"IF WE had taken care of our business against Parker, then that penalty kick wouldn't have made a difference,"

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 IHSCA Region I All-Sectional team, as well as to the ISL First Team with Junior Dean Balabanov. Juniors Martin Garrett-Currie 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 ended their season with a record of 11-5.

"As a whole, our teamwork 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:

Jones, October 20, home; Varsity won 3-0; **Glenbard South**, October 22; Varsity lost 0-1.



Josh

"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

William Chung
Associate editor

Missing the Illinois High School Association Class 2A Regionals after getting slide-tackled in the ankle during a club soccer game didn't stop Sophomore Sarah Curci from placing 43rd at State with a time of 18:21, November 6 in Peoria.

She had managed to qualify for State at the Sectional meet, October 30 at Niles West despite running considerably slower than her personal best time of 18:16.

OVERALL, THE GIRLS placed 1st in three out of nine meets, with the boys taking 1st twice. Boys and girls finished 1st and 2nd respectively at Regionals, October 23 in Washington Park.

From there, Robert and Thomas ran 3rd and 16th respectively at Sectionals,

while Sarah took 4th, despite missing Regionals due to her injury.

"Going into State, I really had no idea what to expect after Sectionals," Sarah said. "I was really worried that I wasn't going to run well, but I tried to just think positively and forget about my performance at Sectionals.

"I JUST TRIED to stay focused, and not let my nerves get the best of me. I took the first mile out way too fast at exactly 5:40 and was at around 20th place for a good part of the race, but then people just kept passing me."

"Coming into the race I was planning on trying to run around a six minute first mile and then have negative splits, but as soon as I saw my first mile split on the clock it was already too late."

Robert Meyer, cocaptain with Thomas Aquino (both seniors), took 49th at

State, running a personal best of 15:32.

"STATE IS DIFFERENT from any other meet during the year, in terms of the quality of the competition, the hyped up, high-strung atmosphere, and the pressure one feels," explained Robert, reflecting on the ambience of the race.

"All the great runners from around the state are there, so it's competitive and also easy to get overwhelmed.

"There are a hundred school buses, and about as many school tents. There might be a thousand spectators and of course there are other runners, jogging around getting warmed up."

IDEAL CONDITIONS aided runners on the day of the meet.

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



ON THE WAY TO a personal best 18:55, Sam Neal runs at the ISL Championships, October 14 at Washington Park. Photo by Tina Umanskiy.

Girl swimmers build memories

Rachel Sylora
Editor-in-Chief

Competing in Illinois High School Association Sectional s last Saturday, November 13 at Saint 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’s pretty satisfying to see how far I have come.

“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

She is a great coach, and just understands us all so well.

“ONE OF my favorite memories this season has been Senior Night, when we played Saint Ignatius. I was really excited since it was our last home meet, so I dropped a lot of time on my 200 IM and my 100 Free. It was a bittersweet moment because I love the team so much, and have had so many great memories over the past four seasons. I will miss them a ton next year.”

At the Illinois State University Invitational November 5-6 in Bloomington, the swimmers placed 2nd of 6 teams.

“The Bloomington meet is a different experience compared to our other meets,” Chinami said. “The team drove to Bloomington after a two-hour practice of water polo, and the trip in general was really chill and relaxing.

“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



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 Gelman

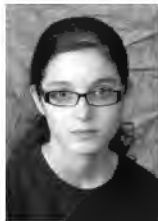
team’s competitive atmosphere.

“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:
Lane Tech, October 5, home: Varsity lost 53 to 116, j.v. lost 46 to 119; **Northside College Prep**, October 12, home: Varsity lost 40 to 130; **Maine East Invitational**, October 16, away: Varsity

placed 2nd with a score of 122; **Marist**, October 19, home: Varsity won 115 to 75, j.v. lost 63 to 92; **Saint Francis Wheaton**, October 21, home: Varsity won 100 to 59; **12th Annual Latin Invitational**, October 23, away: Varsity placed 3rd out of 6 teams with a score of 200; **Saint Ignatius**, October 26, home: Varsity lost 57 to 109, j.v. won 79 to 66.



Maya

“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 Fishback, 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 team that would undoubtedly put on a clinic against a U-High team playing on its home field.



JR

The Glenbard South Raiders brought a commendable 17-1-1 record to the Regional Championship October 22 against 7th-seeded U-High at Jackman Field.

The previous year, the 5th-seeded Maroons stunned the 2nd-seeded Raiders in overtime to capture the regional title.

The game left a bitter taste in the mouths of 14 Glenbard juniors, who watched their senior teammates walk off high school turf for the final time. The Raiders were determined to exact revenge on a Maroons team that lost 12 seniors and returned only four starters.

To say a challenge lay ahead would’ve been a gross understatement.

For 11 U-High seniors, it would be their last time taking Jackman Field clad in maroon and white. Eighty-plus students, faculty and families packed the bleachers to cheer on a team who, according to some, “simply would not be able to keep up with Glenbard South’s speed,” and “would be lucky to score one goal.”

To the surprise of almost everyone, including the Raiders, the Maroons survived both scoreless halves. U-High limited the Raiders’ chances with staunch defense, while nearly converting a few opportunities of their own.

But just three minutes into the first overtime period, Glenbard South Senior Brad Speakman lofted the golden goal past Senior Goalkeeper Jeremy Woo.

Yes, at U-High, we’re known for strong academics. But we can play sports as well, and anyone who endured the brisk autumn weather that afternoon saw exactly that. Unfortunately, sometimes schools in the Chicagoland area and some U-Highers themselves tend to forget that fact.

We’ve got some pure athletes on 59th and Kenwood and if anyone needs a reminder, they only need glance at the plaques lining the Kovler Hallway.

A D for Duncan

Placing 3rd among 36 competitors in mixed saber, Junior Duncan Holmes moved to a “D” ranking in fencing at the Purdue Fall Open October 16 in Lafayette, Indiana. Fencers ranked by letter designations, “U” being the entry level and “A” being the highest. So Duncan is moving on up! . Photo by Christian Castañeda.



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Winter teams gear up for battle

Returning talent, promising newcomers make for potent mix

Matt Hanessian
Sports specialist

Winter 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 Umanskiy, 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 Kinsella, 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 Traubert and fellow senior Brianna Watson. Sophomores Nadja Barlera and Sophia Gatton return as well.

They look to develop their young talent, with a crop of 16 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, cocaptain with David Chung, Aalap Herur-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 breast stroke 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 mature and experienced Indoor Track team looks to qualify and compete at an exceptionally high level.

SENIORS Ben Buchheim-Jurison, Thomas Aquino, Robert Meyer, 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."



SMASHING THE ball over a Holy Trinity High School defender October 8 at home, Kamilah Reid takes the point, supported by Danny Zhang. The Maroons won 25-13, 25-10 over the Tigers. Photo by Crystal Maciel.

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."

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.

"We played a very good game," said Marissa Guiang, captain with Danielle Verdrame (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 26-24 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 2005."

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 loud with the cheering, so U-High decided to be loud as well. It was as if the power from everyone's voices fed into our bodies and gave us energy that kept us going strong until the end."

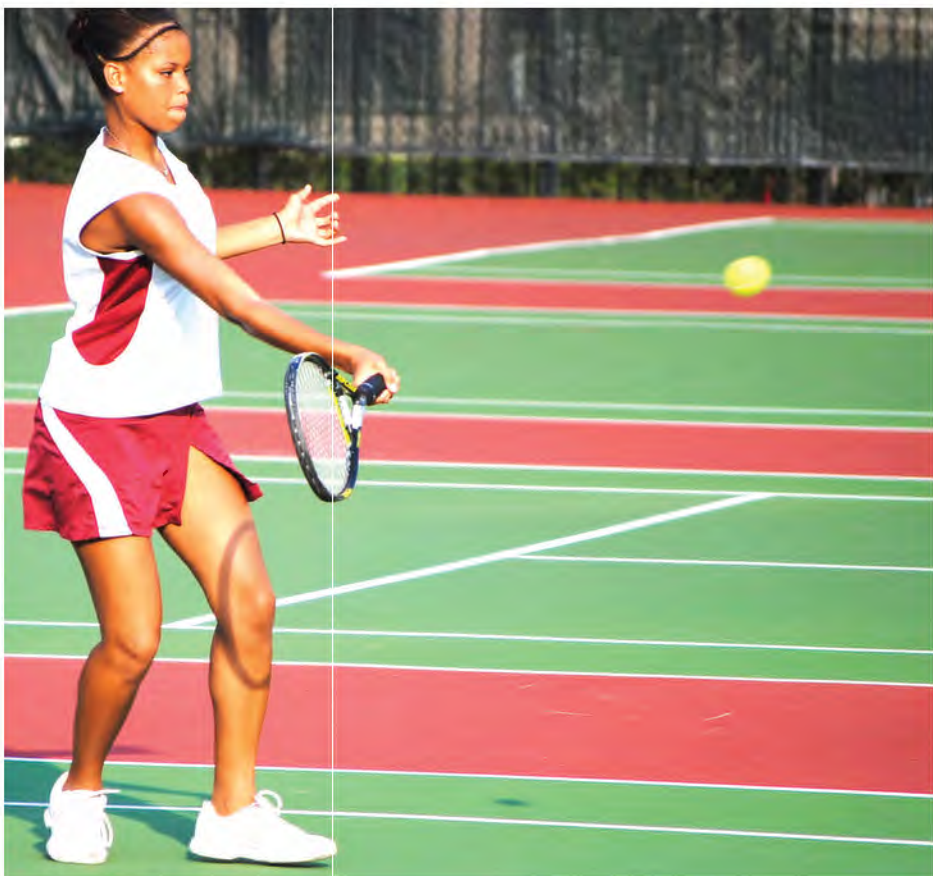
Dominating its season, j.v. finished 13-7-1 and with an ISL Championship Title. Captain Rachel Buikema, sophomore, thought the game at Woodlands October 12 proved the season's defining moment.

"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."



Jabria

Sophomore Jabria Lewis became a varsity volleyball player this year. "Jabria's like a ninja," said teammate Maya Hansen. "She comes out of nowhere, from a mile away, and manages to play a perfect set. She's everywhere."



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

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 56th 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.

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

"State is the most anticipated part of the season," Brianna explained. "Everyone is fighting so hard to win one match, and to get 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."