

Strange times: Histories and mysteries of the mayoral race

How did Chicago end up with *these* candidates
...and do U-Highers think they can do the job?

Nicholas Phalen
Associate editor

Through the recent turmoil in the Chicago mayor's race, students and teachers say they have remained focused on the city's future.

Following Mayor Richard M. Daley's announcement that he would not run for re-election after 21 years in office, more than 10 hopefuls announced their candidacies for the February 22 election.

SINCE THEN, two prominent African-American candidates have dropped out of the race, leaving Former White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and Former U.S. Senator Carol Moseley Braun as front-runners.

The two garnered the support of 44 and 22 percent of Chicagoans, respectively, in a Chicago Tribune poll conducted last month.

Mr. Emanuel, though, suffered a major blow to his campaign last week when the Illinois Appellate court ruled that he did not satisfy the one-year residency requirement for candidates.

WHEN EMANUEL moved to Washington, D.C. in 2009 to become President Barack Obama's

chief-of-staff he abandoned his Chicago residency, the Court ruled.

Emanuel quickly appealed the Appellate Court's ruling to the Illinois Supreme Court last week. The justices agreed to hear the case and ruled last Thursday that Emanuel could run.

Ms. Braun, too, has faced criticism. Her 2010 tax returns show that she has amassed about \$2 million of debt and her business, Ambassador Organics, is struggling to pay back loans as well.

SHE HAS also met renewed ethics scrutiny of her time as a U.S. Senator and Ambassador to New Zealand. During her tenure, Ms. Braun faced allegations including misuse of campaign funds and travel violations.

Focused on the city's expanding budget deficit and Chicago Public Schools, many U-Highers believe resolving the city's problems should be the new mayor's



EMANUEL

- PROBABLY A SUPERVILLAIN
- LOOKS LIKE THAT ONE GUY WHO SLEPT WITH YOUR WIFE
- LIKELY INELIGIBLE TO RUN



MOSELEY BRAUN

- MAY OR MAY NOT EXIST
- CORE POLICY IS "WINNING THE BLACK VOTE"
- NOT THE OTHER GUY

THE CHOICE OF THE DECADE!

first task.

The state of Chicago Public Schools is the biggest problem facing the city right

now, Junior Josh Koenig believes.

"THE REAL truth is that as long
(continues on page 7)



Winter Formal to sparkle

Annette Cochran
Midway reporter

Streamers, sparkles, and soda. Shimmering 2011 signs will adorn the International House's walls to celebrate the graduating class and the New Year for Winter Formal 8-11 p.m., Saturday February 5.

Tickets are available outside Dean of Students Larry McFarlane's office and at the door for \$10. Guest passes must be completed by February 2, and each U-Higher and guest must present a student I.D. at the door, according to Mr. McFarlane. Doors will close 9:30 p.m.

D.J. JAMAL SMALLZ, will play student-selected music including the immensely popular Waka Flocka Flame.

"Each C.U. representative compiled a list of top songs, based on their grade's preferences," said Sophomore C.U. representative Charlie Green.

"We combined all these lists and will present them to our D.J. as recommended music. Now people know that songs they like will be played.

"THE DRESS CODE isn't too formal," Charlie added. "For girls I would recommend a form fitting dress

or skirt, and bow ties are very classy for guys."

As the dance winds down, royalty will be crowned near the end of the night.

"The all-school king and queen was a huge success at Homecoming," said Cultural Union President Tara Rajan, senior. Previously, people got excited to vote for their own grade's king and queen, but the all-school royalty is something everyone got excited about.

"AS OPPOSED to paper ballots, we've initiated a voting system through LabNet, is easier for everyone. It saves a lot of paper and is available at all times of the day. Some students did not have the chance to vote before previous dances because their free periods didn't correspond with voting times. LabNet will make voting accessible to everyone."

Soft drinks and water will be available, and coat check will cost \$1, Tara said.

"Coat check will be handled differently at Formal, because it was crazy after our last dance," she added.

"We will keep it more organized by calling grades up individually. People who come together can also buy hangers as a group."



Remembering a King

"WE ARE TIED in a single garment of destiny," read the cover of the program for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial assembly January 14 in Rockefeller Chapel. Sponsored by the Black Students' Association, the annual event has grown into a major event in which a broad range of student groups participate. The U. of C. Multicultural Student Affairs Office and U.

of C. Medical Center joined in sponsoring this year's program, highlighted by the appearance of the legendary dancer and choreographer Judith Jamison as featured guest speaker.

EMOTING THE POEM (photos from top left) "Cantos Nuevos" by Federico Garcia Lorca, Crystal Maciel and Veronica Ramirez represent Latinos Unidos.

CONCERT CHOIR, Chamber Ensemble and Orchestra impressively join to presents U2's hit song "Pride."

BACKED BY Wolfgang Foulkes, Maria Conlon belts "What's Going on" by Marvin Gaye.

DECORATED WITH honors from the NAACP to Actors' Equity Association, Ms. Jamison, reflects on her childhood. Photos by Anisha Sisodia.

Dance-off to kick off active Artsfest

Lindsay Aronson
Midway reporter

A competitive dance-off complete with a fusion of pop songs will open Artsfest 9 a.m., Thursday, February 24 in Upper Kovler Gym, featuring performances by Glee Club, Bhangra Team and Dance Troupe.

The closing assembly, 2:40 p.m., also in Kovler, will feature professional musician Yuri Lane.

ARTSFEST BEGAN as Artsweek in 1966, created by Student Council. At one point, the program stretched to two weeks and included juried art exhibits. Later, the event faded out, then was revived.

With more than 50 workshops this year, students, teachers, parents and guest artists will offer performances, demonstrations and hands-on activities during 45-minute periods. Online registration for workshops will be available later this month.

Artsfest Committee President Henry Bergman, senior, suggested the beat box styling of Yuri Lane for the closing act after watching him perform at his synagogue several years ago.

"I HAVE FOLLOWED his career and music since

his performance," Henry explained. "Yuri's music will give an exposure to a type of music which U-Highers generally haven't seen before."

From fashioning duct-tape crafts to baking cupcakes, U-Highers introduce new workshops to the program.

Blending her own family heritage into her new workshop, Senior Chi Luppescu and her mother, Naoko, will lead a "Sushi Party."

"MY MOM used to make me sushi for lunch every single day in Lower School," Chi said. "We'll be making mostly vegetarian sushi because raw fish is hard to handle, but we'll have crabmeat pink and white rice. She'll be preparing that as well to bring in to the workshop for everyone to taste."

Adapting "Smash Stuff," a workshop previously offered at Artsfest where students smashed old electronics with baseball bats, Juniors Shannon Vavra, Sarah Husain and Marika Hein will lead "Anger Management."

"It's a spiced up version of 'Smash Stuff,'" Shannon said. "We've got two parts to our workshop. First, we'll be smashing cardboard boxes and other supplies of the sort.

"AFTERWARDS, we'll be making novel snacks; the

food we ate when we were younger, such as ants on a log, which is the combination of celery, peanut butter, and raisins."

A returning workshop leader, Sophomore Steven Glick will lead "How to Make Balloon Animals."

"I'll be giving step-by-step instructions for how to make various simple balloon animals, such as dogs," Steven said. "There's a lot of gratification that comes from being able to create an animal shape using a balloon, and I noticed last year that students in my workshop tend to get very excited when they find they are able to do it correctly."

OTHER RETURNING WORKSHOPS include "Make, Take, and Bake Apple Pie," "Ukrainian Egg Painting," and "Acting Studio."

Performing in the Senior Lounge, student bands including The Super Group, RPC/Shopping Moose, Falsett-Bros, and Kan-Zulu Experience will perform throughout the day.

Mixing beverages in the cafeteria all day, Jamba Juice will offer fruit smoothies for \$4.

T-shirts designed by Senior Amrita Singh will be sold in the High School lobby.

SET puts spotlight on fun in six one-acts

Evenings will also offer music

Nick Phalen
Associate editor

At the urging of her children, a middle-aged woman begins a bedtime story. She starts to spin a tale about the perfect bride and groom and their beautiful wedding. But almost immediately the very characters she invents begin to hijack their own story, contradicting her to tell their own.

So begins Julianne Homokay's "The Wedding Story," the first of six plays in Student Experimental Theatre's production, 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday February 24-26. Tickets, \$10, will go on sale next week in the High School lobby.

IN A DEPARTURE from previous years, the SET Board did not select any student-written plays.

"We had just as many student-written plays submitted this year; it was just that we decided to go with different plays," said SET Board Head Charlotte Lastra, senior. "Most of the professionally-written ones we chose were submitted by people involved in theatre or myself.

"We decided to produce most of them because we thought they were light and funny, but also had many redeeming qualities.

"THIS YEAR we are trying to focus on comedy, but also make it a worthwhile production beyond just being humorous."

SET will also include:

■ Craig Pospisil's "It's Not You," which documents three friends breaking up with another friend on a New York City subway.

■ Claire Reeve's "Stuck," where a woman stranded in an elevator befriends a security guard.

■ Nick Zagone's "I Can't Think of it

Right Now," featuring an extended argument about movies between a couple in their living room.

■ Rich Orloff's "Playwriting 101: The Rooftop Lesson," about a playwright who's characters rebel.

■ Jeff Goode's "Murder by Midnight," about a hotel detective bungling a murder mystery.

Directing for the first time, Junior Giorgi Plys-Garzotto will put on "It's Not You."

"WELL, the whole story has kind of a comedic feel to it even though it gets heated at certain parts," Giorgi said.

"It kind of brings a whole new perspective to the whole idea of breaking up, as with a girlfriend or boyfriend, because it is framed as three friends breaking up with one friend."

Directing "I Can't Think of It Right Now," Senior Mollie Rotmensch hopes to make the play relatable for U-Highers.

"THE REAL STRENGTH of this play is that people should be able to relate to it," Mollie said. "It's very realistic and human.

"I plan to have the characters on stage look not so much like actors on stage with all sorts of makeup, but rather make them look more like ordinary people just enjoying company in a living room.

"This should really make it so everyone in the audience sees the play as something they could imagine themselves going through as well."

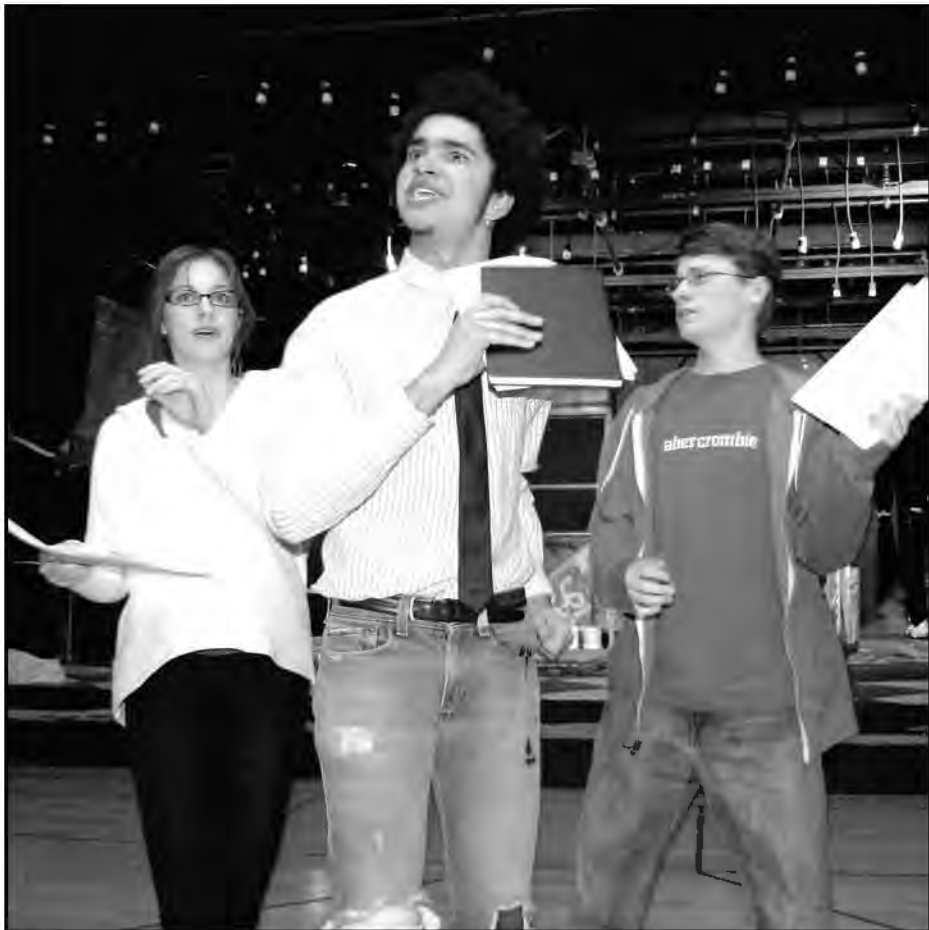
IN DIRECTING "Playwriting 101: The Rooftop Lesson," Junior Dylan Lambert-Gilliam hopes to bring out the play's humorous side.

"I think the real strength of the play is that it's different form the kind of stuff we usually do," Dylan said. "I think that people will really like that it's a different take on what a play is. It gives the play that kind of feeling that we are not taking ourselves too seriously, which is relevant and also very funny."

Hoping to take advantage of the dark

comedy of "Murder by Midnight," Henry Harboe wants to stress the parody aspect of the play.

"REALLY what the



ONE OF SIX plays featured in this year's SET production, "The Wedding Story", directed by Malvika Jolly, portrays a frame story in which an elderly woman, played by Adam Kelsick (center) tells a story of a couple, played by McKenzie Zimmerman and Wilson Sinclair, and their perfect wedding. Photo by Cathy Ludwig

play is trying to do is take the traditional detective story and satirize it," Henry said. "That makes for a very interesting plot, while also creating a unique kind of humor that is different from other plays. The situations that the characters get into are really strange, but also very funny."

Aiming to direct an emotional rendition of "Stuck," Senior Amanda Yuan thinks the play's strengths lie in its intense climax.

"I think that the play is really about what the characters are feeling," Amanda said. "Obviously it's a comedy, but what will make it more amusing is that the emotions of getting trapped in an elevator are something that all people can relate to, even if they haven't actually had the experiences themselves."

DIRECTOR OF "The Wedding Story," Senior Malvika Jolly wants to emphasize the play's unique structure.

"I think what is really intriguing about the play is that it breaks the fourth wall. The storyteller speaks almost exclusively to the audience, which effec-

tively makes them active participants in the play."

Casts are as follows:

"THE WEDDING STORY"—Adam Kelsick, McKenzie Zimmerman, Wilson Sinclair.

"IT'S NOT YOU" —Neil Mittlestead, Emily Hsee, Elle Hill, Rex Gu.

"STUCK"—Henry Harboe, Ramona Chapman-Morris.

"I CAN'T THINK OF IT RIGHT NOW"—Loren Sosnick, Stephanie Xiao.

"PLAYWRITING 101"—Staci Gusakova, Sydney Fishman, Santana Iafeta.

"MURDER BY MIDNIGHT"—Nick Phalen, Jolisha Johnson, Wilson Sinclair.

SET's production also will also include "Living Room Music," written by John Cage and performed by Seniors Yael Litwin and Wilson Sinclair, Junior Jolisha Johnson, Sophomore Adam Kelsick and Freshman Zoe Briskey.

Other SET Board members are as follows:

Charlotte Lastra, Wilson Sinclair, Sydney Fishman, Maddie Lindsey, Henry Harboe.

“We had just as many student-written plays submitted this year; it was just that we decided to go with different plays.”

— Charlotte Lastra
SET Board Head

Variety show parades panorama of school talent

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Drug abuse expert tells parents to stay involved

Duncan Weinstein
Midway reporter

“Visualize your child’s graduations. Nothing can mess that up more than drug abuse.”

So said Drug Expert Jeff Wolfsberg December 10 at an education and teen drug abuse meeting sponsored by the Parents’ Association, addressing about 150 parents in Judd 126.

INVITED TO SPEAK by the Parents’ Association, Mr. Wolfsberg also met with Peer Leaders, faculty and students the next day.

Mr. Wolfsberg advised parents to supervise their children, give them more freedom as they grow older and stay involved in their children’s lives.

He then addressed questions such as “What is salvia?” “How much video

came a homeless addict at the age of 23.

“**I HAD** my own troubles and people assume that’s why I do this but that’s not true,” Mr. Wolfsberg said. “I’m not doing it to save kids. While that’s a nice ideal that’s kind of hokey. I simply want to speak to students the way I needed someone to speak to me as a high schooler.”

“Drug knowledge at Lab was pretty typical of what I see in independent schools. Also, parents tend to be very involved in middle school, going to lots of workshops. In high school, kids become more independent and that sends the deceiving message that everything is okay. They still need as much parenting as ever.”

First hearing of Mr. Wolfsberg through Middle School Science Teacher Sandra

Bixby, who worked with him at her former school in Pennsylvania, Ms. Baughn-Cunningham believes Mr. Wolfsberg possesses a unique ability to connect with people.

“**PEOPLE** in this field have a lot of different approaches,” Ms. Baughn-Cunningham said. “Some have the standard ‘just say no’ abstinence position but his approach is more realistic.”

“It’s about reducing harm, being able to appropriately answer questions from kids and have a real discussion. He is a leader in that perspective.”

“I would say he’s very warm and engaging. He’s funny. He welcomes questions so that no question seems bad or stupid.

He’s really invested in helping.”

PRINCIPAL MATT HORVAT hopes parents were able to pull out the serious message from Mr. Wolfsberg’s frequent humor.

“As the principal, I’m thrilled he was able to offer helpful advice to so many parents,” Mr. Horvat said. “But personally, I have a math mind, and statistics really make more sense to me. I really latch on to numbers and facts and his talk was very anecdotal.”



AT A PARENTS’ Association-sponsored meeting January 10, drug abuse expert Jeff Wolfsberg met with Middle School and High School parents and encouraged them to stay involved in their child’s lives. Photo by Elizabeth Gelman

game time should I allow my child?” and “Does faith prevent drug use?” and spoke to parents individually afterwards.

For the past 15 years, Mr. Wolfsberg has toured the world presenting seminars, writing articles for the Boston Globe and producing a monthly podcast. Topics for the hour-long podcast have included dating violence, steroids and choosing a therapist.

Born to a middle class family in suburban Massachusetts, Mr. Wolfsberg was a stellar student through high school and college despite coping with a bipolar mother, childhood abuse and depression, he said. He treated these issues with cocaine and be-

“I simply want to speak to students the way I needed someone to speak to me as a high schooler.”

—Jeff Wolfsberg

FROM MAGIC TO stand up comedy, the Variety Show took place December 10 in Judd 126. The show was planned and emceed by Junior Danny Ilyin.

“**I WOULD DEFINITELY** want to plan another show next year,” Danny said. “It provides students with a great opportunity to learn what their fellow classmates can do. Everyone doesn’t know that, say, ‘John Doe,’ for example, is good at dancing. It was also nice to have people new to performing participate. It allows everyone to come together and have fun.”

APPLAUDING (photos from left) the previous act, Danny introduces the next performance.

ACTING AS A telemarketer, Joe Martin (left) calls Wolfgang Foulkes in a skit written by Danny.

EXPERIENCED PIANIST and singer Marissa Guiang debuted her composition “Tell Me Why.”

Other acts included Robert Radway performing magic tricks; Malvika Jolly eating an onion; Edouard Brooks, Marie Spak and Maria Conlon singing *Crystalized by XX*; Elena Skosie chinese dancing; Victoria Bills and Layla Aliev singing “Why” by Ayaka; Wolfgang Foulkes singing “Young Liars” by T.V. on the Radio; Ana Ovtcharova playing “Paparazzi” by Lady Gaga on the piano; Dylan Lambert-Gilliam doing stand up comedy; Glee Club singing “Stand By Me” by Ben E. King and People’s Republic of Funk band members Sam Frampton, Henry Harboe, Yael Litwin and Isaac Nichols playing music between the acts. *Photos by Remy Lewis*

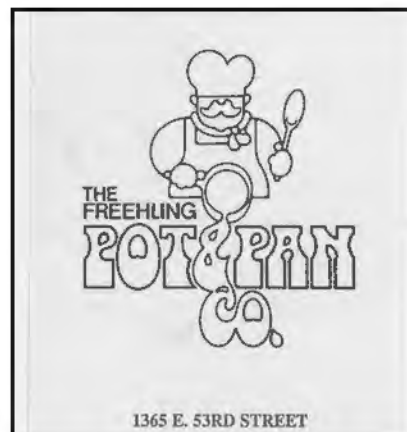
What’s cookin’, good lookin’?



CULINARY AFICIONADO Bolu Johnson gives Shira Fishbach a taste of the sweetness that awaits her on Valentine’s Day.

Photo by Nathaniel Green.

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GOING GRAPHIC

New English course focuses on literature of comic books

Alex Barber
Midway reporter

Don't underestimate the power of comics."

That's the message of English Teacher Carrie Koenen's new elective, "The Comic Impulse," offered this quarter in three periods to 51 juniors and seniors.

MRS. KOENEN said she has taught comic books in some of her other classes.

"I taught the graphic novel 'Maus,' Art Spiegelman's memoir of his father's experience of hiding from Nazis, in my Analysis and Composition classes," she explained.

"Teaching 'Maus' showed me the power of comics as a story-telling medium. But I came up with the idea for the course after finding Scott McCloud's 'Understanding Comics' on amazon.com."

"THE BOOK really developed my appreciation of comic books. It showed a whole new way to read literature. It's almost like a comic textbook on comics. McCloud's book teaches how comic book artists add layers to text with imagery.

"In regular books, layers are added through the use of figurative language. One thing you have to do when you read a comic book with depth is stop and take time to appreciate the art work, and the way it relates to the text."

A comic book uses more tools than what meets the eye, Mrs. Koenen explained.

"A COMIC artist has lots of control over his reader. Comics are engaging; they require you to participate. You need to fill in what happens between the panels.

"Comic artists can use tools such as

color, transitions between panels, and the obvious word-picture combination to conjure specific emotions from the reader, or to illustrate an idea in many different ways."

"To understand comics, you have to play with them. During class students experiment with drawing cartoons of themselves, or collaborate with another to make a comic.

"ONCE YOU try and make your own comic, you realize the amount of purpose, intent, and planning that goes behind designing a comic book."

Demonstrating the rarely shown story-telling capacity only comics hold, "The Watchmen," by Allen Moore and Dave Gibbons,

was ranked 91st by The Comics Journal on its 1999 list showing the Top 100 English-Language Comics of the 20th Century.

"I picked 'The Watchmen' as a course text because it is felt by a lot of critics to be a turning point in the history of graphic novels, taking them to a more sophisticated level, with quite complex characters," Mrs. Koenen said.

"NOW PEOPLE can step back after 40 to 60 years of comic book history and point to this book as marking the change from superheroes to sophistication in comic book history."

Mrs. Koenen was introduced to the superhero through a different medium.

"As a kid, I never really thought about comics. T.V. exposed me to superheroes. I used to want to be batgirl. Having sons opened up a whole new world to me,



IN ENGLISH Teacher Carrie Koenen's new comics course Tina Umanskiy and Mike Turner are among 51 students. Photo by Christian Castañeda

starting with the Tintin comics."

Generally sharing a positive consensus among students, in

the new course, Senior Henry Bergman, who regards himself as a comic enthusiast, said of his class experiences so far, "I've been buying comics my entire life, but I started seriously collecting in 8th grade.

"MY FAVORITE COMIC is The Punisher, because he doesn't have any super powers, and always gets into these complex moral conundrums that are interest-



Art by Gene Cochrane

ing to read about.

"I notice a lot more now while reading comics after being in this class, especially the transitions between panel to panel, and the different tricks the artist uses to enhance the writing with another layer of meaning.

"Taking this class has made me appreciate the comics in my collection even more than I already have."

Brief-ly: Two soph pianists strike gold in festival competition

They got the gold!

Sophomores Danny Zhang and Rex Gu each received a gold medal in the Piano Sonata-Sonatina Festival December 4, at Roosevelt University.

The Chicago Area Music Teachers Association, comprised of independent music teachers in Chicago who promote high standards of teaching and music, sponsors the annual program.

"Teachers entering students into the competition are required to be apart of CAMTA and have a record of the student's piano playing history," Danny explained. "Scoring above 95 out of 100 makes you a Gold Medalist. The results are based on two judges' scores of a student's piece.

"After winning, you're invited to an honors recital to perform your winning piece again in front of other gold medalists- which can be harder than playing in front of judges because you're on a larger stage in front of more people.

"In preparation for competitions like the festival I played one to two hours of piano every day up until the festival."

Also devoting time to refine his Sonata, Rex overcame tricky rhythm to perfect Sonata K 576 by Mozart.

"I practiced every day for the performance until I memorized my piece," Rex explained. "The passages were right hand and left hand deviations. The piece is light-hearted, like listening to a little mouse scur-

rying across the keys. It is graceful, and it feels cheery. It's always an intense process, but it gets easier as time goes on.

"I've played piano since I was 6 years old for nine years, seven and a half with my teacher Ms. Ivana Bukvich," Rex said. "Ms. Bukvich helped guide me toward the level of polish that we wanted so that we could capture the essence of the piece, allegro or spirited tempo.

■ ON THE ROAD-Traveling to California, six U-High debaters will participate in a national tournament at Stanford University February 12-16.

Several smaller debates will occur before the national debate. They include a freshmen only event February 3 at the Evanston Township High School, and an event at suburban Homewood-Flossmoor High School February 26.

"The Stanford debate stands out because it is a national tournament and there will be about 100 teams," Junior Jacob Rosenbacher said. "If we do well at the Stanford debate, we can go to the quarterfinals. We have to get to the quarterfinals in order to get a bid to get to the tournament of champions, the most celebrated competition in the national circuit."

The six debaters going to Stanford experienced a disappointing debate December 15-17 at Blake High School in Minnesota. The group included, besides Jacob, juniors Cory Stern, Charles Rafkin and Joyce Harduvel; Sophomore Mia Epner; and Freshman Lily Zhao.

"The last debate we had was the worst for me and my partner Jacob," Cory said. "It was very disappointing. I think that we will do much better than the three wins and four losses we experienced in Boston.

"If we win enough meets, we will get some of the bids we need. That's a summons to the Tournament of Champions, the big debate at the end of the season."

■ HONORED - Fifty-nine U-High se-

niors have been named Illinois State Scholars.

Those honored were selected among the top 10 per cent of seniors in the state based on standardized test scores and, in some cases, class rank at the end of the junior year.

Seniors from 725 high schools in all of the state's 102 counties were eligible for consideration.

The program is sponsored by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

U-High's State Scholars are as follows:

Adrian Aldana, Thomas Aquino, Alex Barber, Michael Baroody, Henry Bergman, Jefferson Brehm, Fraser Brown, Benjamin Buccheim-Jurisson, John Burns, Bianca Carter, Margaret Carton, John Chen, David Chung, Hannah Constantin, Charles Du.

Emmy Ehrmann, Layla Ehsan, Brienne Ellis, Maya Fishback, Joseph Wolfgang Foulkes, Sam Frampton, Sarah Garvey, Anjali Gundeti, Matt Hanessian, Henry Harboe, Amir Hay, Andrew Hensel, Adar Herur-Raman, Anna Hopkins, Jonathan Jou, Aleksandra Karapetrova.

Rafi Khan, Charlotte Lastra, Nathaniel Lemore, Jonathan Matthews, Robert Meyer, Nicholas Msaal, Sam Neal, Martin Nesbitt, Anastassia Ovtcharova, Joseph Philipson, Benjamin Postone, Delia Privitera, Naintara Rajan, Shane Selig, Michael Shapiro, Wilson Sinclair, Amrita Singh, Matt Soble.

Rose Traubert, Joe Turner, Jan Uhlig, Tina Umanskiy, Jay Uphadyay, Danielle Verdrame, Miki Verma, Jeremy Woo, Claudia Yang, Amanda Yuan.

■ MIDWAY STAFF PROMOTIONS-Journalism history was made at U-High last month, not once but twice.

Senior Jeremy Woo became the first staff member in the 47-year history of the program to be promoted to editor-in-chief in his or her first year of Advanced Journalism.

Freshman Marissa Page became the first Beginning Journalism student, and first freshman, to be appointed business and advertising manager.

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Another way for bullies to bully

An internet outlet for fun becomes a medium for harassment, too

Marissa Page
Midway reporter

YOU R REALLY UGLY!!! HAHHAHA *u should totally fix ur face, then maybe some actual boys will find you attractive, because these people on the internet are NOT REAL.*

A U-High freshman received this comment on Formspring, a social forum where people can post anonymous comments on users' pages.

"IT MADE ME wonder why I have a Formspring when basically all I get is hate," said the girl, who like others asked not to be named. "It made me wonder why anyone would have a formspring because it's unbelievably pointless and hurtful."

Launched in November, 2009, Formspring allows users to "respond, have fun, and get to know friends better," its homepage declares.

The website garnered media attention in March, 2010, when a 17-year-old girl from New York committed suicide after dozens of insulting comments had been posted on her Formspring.

BULLIED FOR a year, a U-High freshman girl believes cyberbullies feel protected behind the anonymity that Formspring offers.

"The difference between cyberbullying by sending an anonymous e-mail to someone and posting on Formspring is huge. E-mail is a common form of communication that everyone uses to get in contact while Formspring, on the other hand, is basically made for cyberbullying."

Another victim of cyberbullying, a U-High senior was unprepared for the hos-

tility she encountered on her Formspring.

"I'VE HAD many things said to me," she said. "However, I was most hurt when someone posted that I should commit suicide. I think of myself as a person that gets along with everyone. I'm very accepting of other people and I'm always making an effort to be nice and forgiving."

"It would have never crossed my mind that someone thought the world would be better without me, until I got that Formspring post."

On the other side of the computer screen, a sophomore girl admits to cyberbullying through Formspring even after being bullied herself.

"I HAD a Formspring, and I got some pretty mean comments," she said. "But I also got some really nice ones. The purpose of Formspring is for people to post what they really think about you."

"You can't pick and choose what people say about you, and you shouldn't pick and choose what comments you reply to."

Formspring isn't the only outlet for on-line bullying.

In the December 5 issue of the New York Times, a front-page story titled "As Bullies Go Digital, Parents Play Catch Up" detailed information about parent initiatives to shield their children from cyberbullying through Facebook and texts.

INCLUDED IN the article was the story of a boy nicknamed D.C. His identity was forged by three classmates, one of whom was a friend of his since preschool. They harassed D.C.'s classmates over Facebook and isolated him from his peers.

Parents and teachers have expressed concern at the potential for harm on websites such as formspring.



ACCESSING HER Formspring profile, a senior girl browses her inbox for new anonymous comments and questions. As some U-Highers ahve learned, the site is not all fun and games. Photo by Connie He.

Conversations between parents and their children would make young people more cautious of their actions on-line, believes History Teacher Susan Shapiro.

"I THINK that parents should have regular and open discussions with their kids about what is happening on the Internet and encourage them to share their concerns about school, friends, and social

issues with parents," Ms. Shapiro said.

"This is generally done best over a long period of time to build a trusting relationship between child and parent, but it is essential to ensure cyber safety. Teachers are not in as critical a position as parents, but their modeling is important. Computer teachers, in particular, need to listen well and promote healthy use of the internet."

Veteran activist, fired, will continue fight for rights

Sydney Scarlata
Editor-in-Chief

Fired and dealing with it.

Though let go December 16 from Equality Illinois (EI), an organization founded to protect and defend equal rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, founder Rick Garcia still looks to fight for the LGBT community.

AFTER HE FOUNDED founded EI in 1992, Mr. Garcia worked to pass Illinois legislation like the Civil Union Bill in November, which recognizes same sex couples and additions to the Illinois Human Rights act in 2005, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation.



Regarding his firing, Mr. Garcia felt EI CEO Bernard Cherkasov treated him unfairly.

"I'm the founder of the organization and I have years of experience passing legislation for the gay community," Mr. Garcia said. "There is no one there right now that has the political experience I have or the connections with politicians that I have."

"BERNARD AND my styles are very different. I speak freely on a number of issues. I think that he didn't like me speaking for the organization. He wants to get along with everyone."

"I'm a hard political person and he didn't want me to speak out on a number of things. I kept my eye on the prize: strong pro gay policies. He keeps his eyes on dollar bills, and on fund raising."

"In the past few years, a lot of legislature has been passed such as the statewide nondiscrimination bill and the civil union bill. Now Illinois is one of six states that recognizes same sex couples."

"I WANT to be an active part of making sure these laws aren't over turned. My goal at this point is to stay active in trying to pass same sex marriage laws."

Concerned with the treatment of homosexual students, Mr. Garcia feels the real problem is how school administrators and teachers address the issues.

"I worked closely with the Safe School Alliance for the passing of a bill to prevent gay bullying because we are losing some of the best and brightest students. They're really the lead organization on the bullying issue. I'm completely available to them."

"ABOUT FOUR YEARS ago, I was on Governor George Ryan's commission to address discrimination and hate crimes in schools. When we talked to students, I was shocked by how they all pointed to problems with the phrases 'you're so gay' or 'you're a fag'. The anti gay sentiment is rampant in our schools."

"If a student called another student a racial or ethnic slur, they'd be suspended but if someone is called an anti gay slur, most people turn a blind eye and don't address it at all. This is the real problem. The enforcement needs to come from teachers and administrators."

"They need to know if they see or hear something, it's not acceptable and they need to address it. We don't allow anti-ethnic behavior in this country and we shouldn't allow anti-gay behavior either."

THE ATTEMPT to create an all-gay high school in Chicago in October 2007 was not a practical solution to gay bullying, Mr. Garcia believes.

"I opposed the Pride Campus," Mr. Garcia said. "Every student is entitled to being treated fairly and every school should be safe, not just one pride campus."

"Kids should not have to travel from Englewood to Lakeview to go to school, students should go to their respective neigh-

(continues on page 7)

Love at First Cut



PLANNING TO IMPRESS her date, Victoria Bills scans the shelves for quality shampoo and other hair care products at Hair Design International. We offer an intriguing selection of hard-to-get brands. Photo by Christian Castañeda.

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A royal-class journalist who's been there, done that

From U-High, journalist James Reginato set out to conquer the world...and did

Hebah Masood
Midway reporter

On a recent evening in New York City, where he has lived for the past 21 years, James Reginato, U-High Class of 1979, attended a party. Not any party, but a leading art and social event where celebrities including Martha Stewart made an appearance. Mr. Reginato went to the party to rub shoulders with the rich and famous and look for his next story.

As editor-in-chief of 1978 U-Highlights, ranked among the four best yearbooks in the nation by a student press association, Mr. Reginato has been editor-at-large of Architectural Digest, America's top-selling interior design magazine, for the past year.

FOR 18 YEARS he served as features director for W Magazine, the Manhattan-based fashion publication, and now also writes for magazines including Vanity Fair and Harper's Bazaar.

He got billionaire Rachel "Bunny" Lambert Mellon, known for being private, to open her home to him. His piece on Ms. Mellon turning 100 ran last August in Vanity Fair. Last November Harper's Bazaar published Mr. Reginato's interview with Barbra Streisand about her new book on her Malibu, California, home.

Mr. Reginato says his extensive magazine career has been driven by his curiosity and love for telling stories.

"I LOVE BEING an editor, finding interesting stories, getting subjects before other publications," he explained.

"I've always liked writing and journalism. When I was younger I thought I'd like to live that life, and I have. Everybody has a story. I like hearing stories and telling them. Capturing and hearing those stories is what inspires the reader."

MR. REGINATO'S own story began in Beverly, the then largely Irish-Catholic neighborhood on Chicago's South Side.

"Beverly was very different from Hyde Park," Mr. Reginato said. "It was restricted and limited. Basically everyone I knew was Irish-Catholic. I'd never met anyone who was Jewish or Asian or whose parents were divorced. I went to a Catholic elementary school that had a much more limited point of view than Lab."

He said U-High proved liberating for him.

"THE WHOLE environment was exciting to me. The kids at Lab were amazing. Some of them even had parents who had won the Nobel Prize. It was daunting at first, but I was grateful for the diversity."

"U-High had so many good teachers. They taught you to think critically and to always have your mind open. There



THIS PHOTO of 1978 U-Highlights Editor-in-Chief Jim Reginato, '79, with his staff in the old Journalism Office, closed the yearbook, ranked in the top four nationally.

was a value for learning, just for learning's sake.

"There was beauty in literature and science. The teachers cared so much about what they taught. They taught you to look at different issues from all sorts of different points of view."

"I MISS THE strong sense of community and the value of student-teacher relationships. I vividly remember Normandy, Mr. Brasler's high school, through his stories. I miss the Medici pizza. U-High gives as good a preparation as one can have for real life, but you need to find what really interests you."

It was at U-High that Mr. Reginato discovered journalism.

In his sophomore year, a friend gave him a copy of Interview, a pop culture magazine based in New York. Reading the magazine inspired him to become a professional journalist, and drove him to become the U-Highlights editor-in-chief.

"I WAS THINKING ahead to my future career," Mr. Reginato said. "I always liked magazines. I wanted it to be user-friendly, to pull the reader in. As the editor, it's all about finding the best stories. I photographed a lot of the pictures myself. It was a hobby of mine. I printed them in my basement because that's what you did in those days."

In his junior year, Mr. Reginato wanted to intern at Leo Burnett, the top global ad agency based in Chicago. He wrote the company president a letter detailing why he wanted to work there. Soon after, he was interviewed and landed a summer internship where he worked in the photo-stat room, helping to create ads. He kept the summer internship the following year.

After graduating from U-High, Mr. Reginato went on to study at Columbia University in New York City.

"I'D NEVER BEEN to New York before I applied to Columbia University. I always thought I would belong in New York."

"My freshman year of college we went to a disco studio called Studio 54, which had some of the greatest disco ever, and it was this absolutely mind-blowing experience."

"It was certainly a big change though, moving from Chicago. It was scary at first but you become accustomed to it. Chicago was more polite and gentle place. In New York you often times find yourself wearing this suit of armor to protect yourself. But it's a great place to take advantage of opportunities."



MR. JAMES REGINATO at a recent New York Jets game. Photo courtesy of Mr. James Reginato.

"WHEN I graduated from Columbia, Vanity Fair was just starting up. It had shut down during the Depression. I had seen old issues and I thought to myself, 'this would be a cool place to work.' I wrote some letters and I got a job as an entry-level assistant."

He moved on to W Magazine, where he largely wrote about the lifestyles of the rich and famous, as well as doing travel pieces. His jobs have taken him over the world, including Italy, Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean, Qatar, and the Philippines.

"I've been to David Sedaris' apartment in Paris. He's as charming and funny as his book. I talked to Imelda Marcos, a very colorful lady who became famous for the nearly 5,000 shoes she left behind when her husband and she were exiled."

"I SPOKE TO Maureen Dowd, which was a privilege because she rarely does interviews, but she was incredibly sharp, a great sense of humor too. David Beckham was charming; he was just how you'd think he'd be."

"And of course there's Barbra Streisand. She was very Yenta, and Jewish-mother-like. Surprisingly, she was very down to earth. She liked being in control of the conversation. She is a singer turned writer who has a house in Malibu."

"Actually, she's never written a book or biography before now, which is why I was interviewing her. It was a more personal interview. I felt honored to do it. She talked about losing her father at a very young age, and yet she was very funny."

MR. REGINATO SAID that through his work he has also learned a lot about people around the world.

"You slowly see characteristics blur together but you go to different regions and there are so many similarities but so many differences at the same time between all the people and cultures. There are universal characteristics that you will find everybody has."

GET SMARTER



IN NEED of a research book, Rahul Mehta browses the outstanding collection at the U. of C. Bookstore for the perfect choice.

Just a short walk across the Quad, the U. of C. Bookstore offers research books, popular novels, school supplies and much more. Featuring a unique array of books written by faculty authors, the Bookstore offers the resources you need to get through *any* class.



BEDECKED in University of Chicago spirit wear, Rahul and Jackson Fahy lounge on comfy chairs as they enjoy a coffee and snack at the Bookstore Café. Photos by Nathaniel Green.

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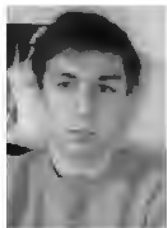
Jangled Mayor race inspires insightful reactions

(continued from front page)

as the candidate can help the city, I don't really think it matters who wins," Josh said. "The biggest issue in Chicago right now is definitely education, in my opinion, and it has to be solved by the mayor.

"Our class sizes can't just keep growing forever and we can't settle for having some of the worse schools in the nation. Anyone who can solve the schools problem effectively is fine with me.

"But to me, it seems like the best person suited to do that is Rahm Emanuel. You know, I think that politics has become a lot more about charisma in recent years, especially with the election of Barack Obama as president. But, I think that in the mayor's race what really matters more is conviction and that is what Rahm Emanuel represents for me.



Josh

not going to work forever and in order for schools and police to keep doing their jobs, somebody needs to put the finances in order. It's really the building block for everything else to be based off of.

"THE CITY really needs somebody who can be fiscally responsible without also cutting a lot out of the budget. I feel like the only person who can really do that is Rahm Emanuel, just because he has proved that he can accom-

plish things during his time in D.C.

"Carol Moseley Braun has pretty much done the opposite. She wasn't a very good Senator and it seems like she doesn't really know how to run a campaign either, so that makes her seem like a pretty bad candidate all around.

"I also don't like how she seems to run her entire campaign around race. Race should be part of the election, but it can't be all of it."

SKEPTICAL OF Ms. Braun's public service record, Senior Rose Traubert backs Mr. Emanuel's candidacy.

"I think that Carol Moseley Braun gets a lot of attention for being the one African-American candidate, which probably isn't really the best reason to get attention," Rose said. "The election shouldn't really be about race as much as it is policy, and I think it's an unfortunate reality that it comes to that a lot of times.

"I think being mayor of the city is really a lot about personality and to me Rahm Emanuel has the right personality for the job. Especially in a nonpartisan election where being a conservative or a liberal doesn't really matter it's a lot about who can get the job done.

"RAHM HAS the experience in Washington of having to make some tough decisions and manage a lot of people, and that is exactly what being mayor is all about."

The new mayor will need to institute education and fiscal reform to make an impact on Chicago, according to History Teacher Cindy Jurisson.

"Obviously there are plenty of problems facing Chicago. The issue that I think is most pressing is definitely the fiscal situation. The budget needs to be dealt with. And then second, of course, is the Chicago Public Schools situation.

"THE SCHOOLS are getting worse and worse and it is the mayor's job to try to change education policy in the city to make sure there is a change.

"As far as the candidates go, the main difference between them is whether or not they have shown that

they can get things done or not. Carol Moseley Braun has plenty of good ideas but as a Senator she showed that she is not capable of actually getting her agenda passed.

"On the other hand, Rahm Emanuel obviously is a guy who can make things happen, but the main question then becomes whether he wants to take on the big issues like weeding out corruption and changing the image of the state. I trust that he will, but, in any case, I would much rather have someone in office who is capable of getting things done than somebody who isn't."

IN LIGHT OF the recent decline in revenues, Mr. Emanuel stressed that he will not look to cut services.

"I do not look at our budget situation as a mandate to slash services," Mr. Emanuel wrote in an email, "but instead as a wake up call that we need to review the budget line by line and determine if we're delivering the right services in the most efficient way.

"I have outlined a number of cost-saving initiatives that will help to balance the city's budget changing the way the city collects garbage to save \$65 million a year, implementing a wellness program for city employees to save \$40 million a year, and changing the way the city procures goods and services."

REGARDING EDUCATION REFORM, Mr. Emanuel supports charter schools but not vouchers.

"I am open to any strategy that promotes the best educational outcomes for students while giving teachers the resources they need to succeed in the classroom," Mr. Emanuel explained.

"Charter schools are one option and serve as laboratories for new learning tools. But just like any other school, they must be closely monitored to ensure they meet academic standards and serve children and families in surrounding communities.

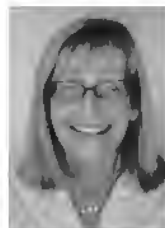
"I also believe in school choice, but I believe that school choice should happen through Chicago Public Schools rather than using taxpayer funds to finance a private school education.

"Our goal should be to make every school excellent so that families make the choice to stay in the system."

Editor's note: Candidate Carol Moseley Braun did not respond to requests for comment before Midway deadline.



Cory



Ms. Jurisson

How about I.D. badges, lanyards for students, too? It's an idea!

Rafi Khan

Editor-in-Chief

To improve school security, administrators are floating ideas of installing cameras monitoring entryways and locker rooms, hiring more security guards and requiring that students wear lanyards and I.D. cards.

In November, administrators invited the University of Chicago's Senior Director of Emergency Communications & Security Technology Daniel Pascale to discuss security with Student Council officers.

Administrators have also talked to parents and faculty about discouraging intruders and make them easier to identify, says Director of Business Affairs Christopher Jones.

"The increased security isn't tied to any particular incident," Mr. Jones explained. "But looking at national security trends, the new Early Childhood Center just blocks from the main building and how we rely completely on a few security guards to identify who belongs in the building and who doesn't, the administrators feel security improvements would benefit the community.

"We're continuing to look at the implementation of security protocols at the Lab Schools and expect to be in a position to utilize security technologies, including cameras at entrances, in the near term. As far as wearing I.D. cards, additional security guards

and visitor entrance protocols are concerned, we'll continue to look at them as part of the overall assessment of the Lab Schools' security.

"And we'll have to come up with effective locations for cameras, like by locker room entrances, and make sure they absolutely cannot see into the locker rooms themselves.

"It's just due diligence to review security, and it's also part of the U. of C. security enhancement initiative."

Though Student Council President Emmy Ehrmann supports using I.D. cards, she feels certain questions must be resolved before students begin wearing them.

"Question like, what's their explicit purpose, how mechanized will the cards be, what will they look like, all have to be specified," Emmy said. "If the problem that showing ID cards is addressing is theft within the school, I.D. cards won't eliminate peer-to-peer theft. It's reasonable that that's what happening, not people from outside school coming in and stealing things.

"Using I.D. cards and having cameras is not a huge adjustment, and not all that inconvenient. If the cards and cameras served their purpose, I would support that. It depends on what they are intended to do.

"In terms of security, though, I'm more worried that when I walk to Regenstein I'll get jumped, instead of thefts within the school."

Undaunted activist goes straight ahead

(continued from page 5)

-borhood schools and they should be safe and treated fairly."

According to Mr. Cherkasov, he followed protocol when he fired Mr. Garcia.

"We have a personnel policy and process that were adopted by the Board of Directors and that we followed directly as they dictate," Mr. Cherkasov said. "I cannot comment on the policy itself or on Rick Garcia's response to the separation, but we all have our own way of dealing with things. He's given a number of interviews and he's corrected a lot of initial misin-

formation, and I'm glad that those errors were corrected."

"We will continue to build on our strengths and protect civil unions. Currently, we're focusing on playing a role in the mayoral elections. We want to make sure that the voice of the LBGT community is heard. Also on the top of our agenda are transgender equality issues. We want to make sure that we continue to build bridges with other organizations and strengthen our relationships with our allies such communities of color, faith communities, and our heterosexual allies."

January 21- February 18



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The future of education: Tre

The tape is rolling, are you ready?

JR Reed
Associate editor

The goal: Help researchers find possible correlations between certain teaching practices and high student achievement.

The product: Evaluate teachers through video.

AT MANY U.S. schools, including U-High, administrators visit classrooms, sit in on classes, and fill out forms to rate teacher performance. In some schools, administrators also conduct teacher interviews.

Now, multi-billionaire Bill Gates has invested \$335 million to improve the personnel departments of seven school systems and finance research to develop a more effective system for evaluating classroom instruction.

AFTER USING VIDEO review only as a means of professional development at his first school, Principal Matt Horvat thinks evaluating teachers through video could work at U-High, only if agreed upon by the faculty.

"The current evaluation system here works well with administrators and teachers visiting classrooms, and faculty also receiving individual student evaluations at the end of each course," Mr. Horvat said.

"Because we have had this current procedure in place for a while now, a committee of teachers and administrators met over the summer to discuss our teacher evaluation process."

HEADED BY Associate Director of Educational Programs Jason Lopez, the faculty committee this summer reviewed the evaluation tool administrators use.

"When administrators evaluate teachers, a document is filled out, and we hadn't looked at that particular instrument in a while," Mr. Lopez said. "However, we only reviewed this tool in a study group format and never discussed the concept of videotaping teachers at Lab."

"The most talked about component of education right now is teacher evaluation, with the most pressing question being, 'How do you maintain teacher quality?' College, graduate school, and professional research has found that the number one factor in student success at any school is teacher quality. Class size, school quality, and any other aspects are all not as important."

DURING HIS graduate school years, Mr. Lopez was videotaped once by a teacher and found the experience invaluable.

"When one sees themselves, they become more critical, more reflective, and more aware," Mr. Lopez said. "In that setting, I learned more about where I was in my teaching development than in

any other evaluation process.

"The most important thing for us to do here at Lab is find the best way to teach a subject, and John Dewey, our school's founder, repeatedly stressed the importance of reflection throughout his writing."

THOUGH SCIENCE TEACHER Daniel West doesn't know if U-High can improve the current evaluation procedure, he sees videotaping teachers as something different and definitely worth a try.

"Every kid in every school sooner or later has a not-so-great experience with a teacher, which shows we're not currently perfect in sorting out teacher talent," Mr. West said. "Videotaping a class and then showing the video to the teacher makes it seem as if there's a mirror in the room."

"When you are teaching, there are at least six things going on in your head at one time. You are trying to remember all the material you need to cover, while also seeing if your students are absorbing the information, while also remembering what went well and what did not go so well in the previous class period, in addition to numerous other things."

AS A RESULT, you sometimes don't notice something about your teaching style or how exactly your class is responding to your lesson," Mr. West explained. "Using videos, teachers could self-evaluate and see what worked last time. It would be even better if we could have two angles for the videos, one showing the teacher and the other showing the students. Watching other teachers teach could also be beneficial but the reality is that all teachers have egos."

"I think a teacher at this school would be more open to watching an exemplary teacher at a California school teaching their subject as opposed to watching another teacher from this school."

Despite being in favor of trying video evaluations, Mr. West recognizes teachers might worry who exactly would have access to the videotapes.

IT'S ALWAYS TRUE that what I will do in class and the methods I use will be beneficial for some kids, but I will not succeed with others," Mr. West said. "Any given day, a parent could call me and talk about how my teaching style isn't working for their child. Videos could provide ammunition for parents to be mad at teachers and show in what ways they are not succeeding in teaching their class."

"In addition if the videotapes were widely accessible, certain teachers could worry that some of their proprietary ideas would be available to others. Some teachers want to own particular learning experiences they have created, and simply don't want everyone to see these techniques."

Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler believes videotaping teachers, while an interesting idea, shows a misconception of how a great teacher develops.

"VIDEOTAPING TEACHERS is like saying

'I will take you to a Barbra Streisand concert. Now watch exactly what Barbra does and watch her sing.' Then afterwards you tell them, 'I've gotten you booked for a concert tour. You've seen her, now you can be her,'" Mr. Brasler explained.

"Using videos to evaluate teachers shows a total misunderstanding of what makes a great teacher."

"We can videotape teachers till kingdom come, but it won't make a great teacher. Every great teacher here at U-High is an individual who hasn't imitated a single other person and instead has grown his or her own garden inside."

BEFORE BECOMING a teacher myself, I was fortunate to have nothing but great teachers and professors and I've come to understand that you can't create a great teacher.

"Great teachers are like great singers and artists, and they can't explain to someone else what makes them great."

Their teaching style is a product of themselves, and what weakens the teaching profession is the notion that you can make a great teacher if that person picks up enough skills and receives enough resources.

THE REASON why our faculty here is so outstanding is because we have found people who are obsessed with the subject they teach."

Watching speeches to help evaluate speaking style in Model U.N., Junior Rosie Cuneo-Grant believes evaluating teachers through video has potential.

"Speaking from experience, seeing a recording video of yourself can definitely be effective in helping to correct faults," Rosie said. "However, I would be hesitant to show another teacher's class because it might foster unhealthy competition between faculty."

"The great thing about the Lab Schools is that each teacher is an individual and pours their heart out into their respective subject area. Being told to watch another teacher and emulate them could definitely inhibit individuality."



Internationally, a matter of app

Moirra Differding
Associate editor

Democracy versus Communism. Thirty-second versus first in math scores. The U.S. and China are examples of how different forms of government influence test scores, and if they should even matter.

While many U.S. schools focus on creativity in addition to academics, different countries take an entirely different academic approach.

U.S. EDUCATION OFFICIALS struggle with the balance between creativity and rote learning, shown by the results of the 2009 Program for International Student Assessment Test, or PISA, taken by 65 other countries.

The U.S. placed 22nd, 17th, and 32nd in science, reading, and math respectively.

While a general consensus remains about increasing U.S. education standards, no one idea stands out.

Testing in countries such as China and testing in the U.S. differ in many ways, points out Lab Schools Director

David Magill.

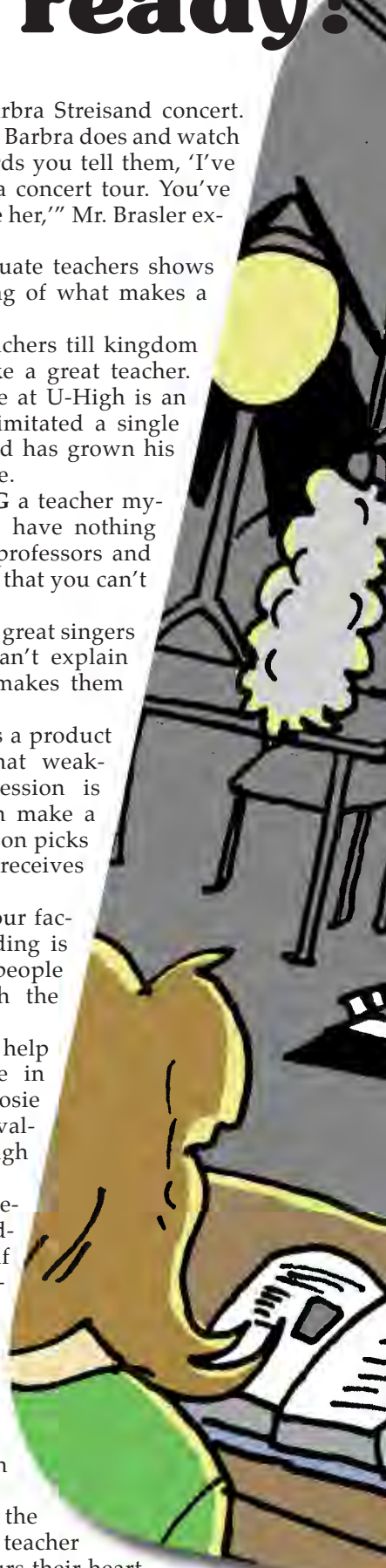
THE SCHOOLS in Shanghai and those in the United States test in different ways," Mr. Magill said. "On those going to select schools take these international tests, while U.S. students, irrespective of ability, take them here. I also believe that many of our best schools, including Lab, do not choose to take the international tests."

While some schools focus entirely on academics, it's not the best for all students, believes Lab Schools Associate Director of Educational Programs Jason Lopez.

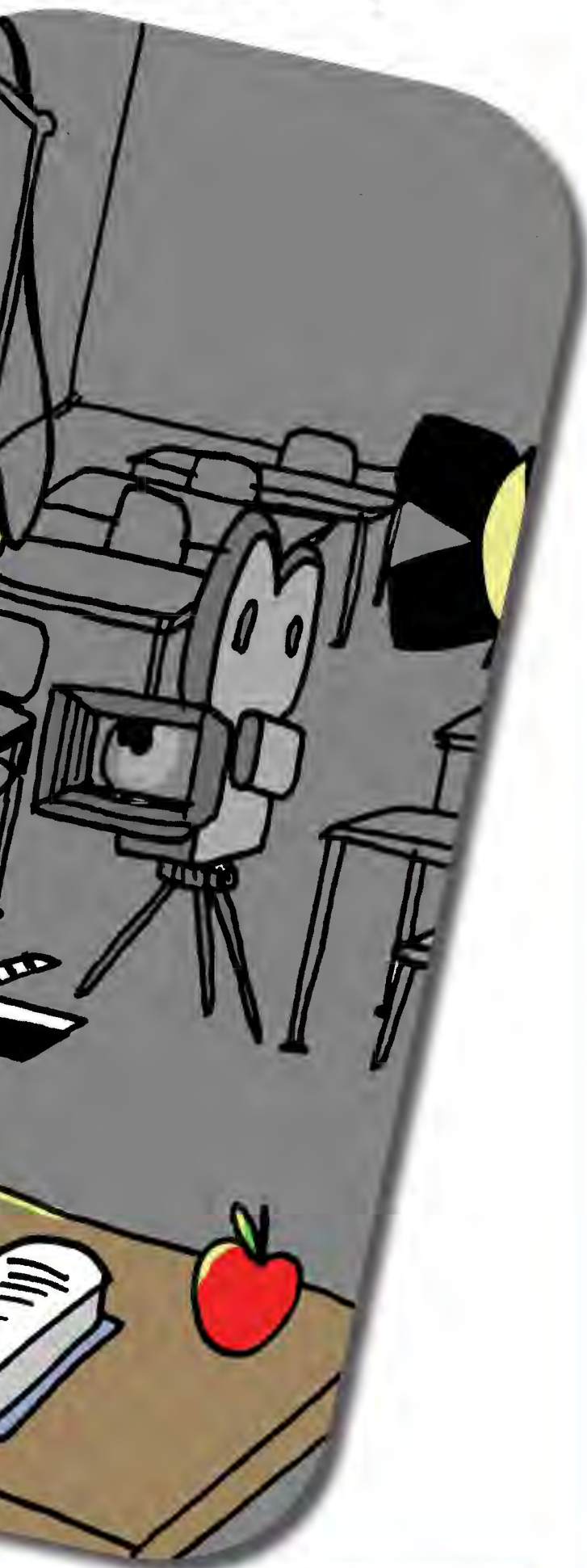
"But in my experience, here at Lab, we stress to parents of prospective nursery school students that we focus on a play-based curriculum," he said. "It's different from other schools that have a strong focus on academic areas from the start, such as reading."

WE'RE A progressive school. We teach the whole child. Learning by doing, community service, and social opportunities are some of what we offer.

"There's a lot more to determining a quality education than merely test scores. In my understanding



doubles, tests and tapings



Art by Gene Cochrane

bles and oranges

education systems in other countries, including China, students choose an area of focus, such as math and science or humanities, or maybe even a trade.

"THIS NARROW FOCUS and drive seems to have the danger of producing a community of one-dimensional members.

"The disconnect between countries numbers of Nobel Prize winners and high school tests results is very telling. Yes, test scores may help a student get to the next level, but beyond that, I wonder about ultimate value."

Education standards in the U.S. do need to be pushed up, but it's not entirely the schools' fault, believes World Language Teacher Ann Beck.

"THE U.S. NEEDS to improve education," she said. I think, however, that high scores come not just as a result of the school, but because of the parents also.

"Parents often serve as tutors for students in China. Lots of parents in the U.S. aren't as involved. You can't entirely blame the school systems for their failures."

As ever, Dewey's school looks at it all organically

Siobhan O'Muircheartaigh
Midway reporter

Test scores aren't everything. At least at the Lab Schools.

After 15-year-old American students placed 32nd of 65 countries in math on the Program of International Student Learning's (PISA) standardized test two years ago, U.S. policy-makers felt America's standing as a top economic competitor was ruined. If American test scores could improve, they said, its position could be raised.

BUT SOME ARGUE these scores alone do not provide a complete picture of student learning.

In a press release December 7, 2010, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, U-High class of 1982, maintained that the U.S. needs to improve test performance. Mr. Duncan believes American students are falling behind and will be beaten economically by countries with more successful education programs.

"The big picture from PISA is one of educational stagnation, at a time of fast-rising demand for highly-educated workers," Mr. Duncan said in the press release. "The mediocre performance of America's students is a problem we cannot afford to accept and cannot afford to ignore."

BEFORE BECOMING SECRETARY of Education in January, 2009, Mr. Duncan served as Chicago Public Schools' chief executive officer beginning in 2001, and Chicago high school graduation rates, teacher applications, and standardized test scores all increased.

At U-High, standardized test scores are used to identify strengths and weaknesses in students and curriculum, rather than a grading tool, according to Lab Schools Director David Magill.

"The Lab Schools' assessment approach begins with a program of studies and end objectives for each course we offer," Mr. Magill said. "In the end whether you have learned depends on whether you have met the objectives, which is determined by combining test scores, performances on papers, and oral participation."

"LAB SCHOOLS' AIM is to produce students who can think for themselves, engage in educated dialogue with each other, and consider all points of view to develop deeper understanding. We know we've succeeded if we teach kids to read critically, to learn, and to think.

"A move to standardized test scores as the main form of assessment would turn students off to learning in depth. All they would care about are the tests, whereas we want a greater emphasis on self-determination and knowledge of yourself. The Lab Schools have de-emphasized rote scores in favor of teaching our students how to think. As long as I'm here, we'll down-play the numbers."

In Biology Teacher Daniel West's class, test scores make up 50 percent of a student's final grade. He believes these tests can reveal error patterns, enhance student understanding, and help students make informed choices about their futures.

"WE TEACHERS MAY underestimate how much our general opinion of particular students affect the score we put on a student's paper," Mr. West said. "We might be surprised how different some scores would be if we eliminated any possibility of knowing which student wrote the paper. The sheer objectivity of outside input is a great benefit of using national standards and multiple choice tests, which are unaffected by bias."

Math Teacher Rosa McCullagh believes testing should be used as a learning tool.

"It is valuable to challenge students to solve problems without outside resources," Ms. McCullagh said. "The hope is that doing so helps them internalize methods and concepts learned in class and points out areas of misunderstanding or weakness."

"YET I WONDER if we are providing enough problem-solving opportunities in which the student has to really get inside the problem, which they may not get the chance to do on tests."

Like teachers, students are concerned with the negative consequences of overemphasizing tests, according to Senior Emmy Ehrmann.

"Boiling people down to a pure number makes the school atmosphere competitive and uncomfortable," Emmy said. "I know hardworking, diligent people who get poor test scores because they don't test well. Multiple-choice tests just don't account for all the exceptions to the standards. And that means in the end there are smart kids left behind because they performed badly on a few tests."



AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT

Political blame game doesn't help anyone



Art by Gene Cochrane

Six dead. Eighteen shot. Among them: Arizona Representative Gabrielle Giffords.

After a meet-and-greet outside a Tucson supermarket took a deadly turn when troubled Jared Loughner opened fire on January 8, Arizona became the symbol of political chaos. Flags across the country flew at half-staff January 10 when President Barack Obama called for a national moment of silence. But the nation was far from unified.

FOLLOWING THE SHOOTING, many observers questioned the nation's political discourse, gun control laws, how Mr. Loughner was able to purchase firearms in his fragile mental state, and security measures for government officials.

As a result, Arizona's liberal gun control laws were highly criticized. Currently, Arizona citizens can purchase firearms without a state permit or an owner license. And after a July 29 ruling, citizens over the age of 21 can carry concealed weapons without a carry permit.

Pima County Sheriff Clarence Dupnik de-

nounced the state's political environment, calling Arizona "the Mecca for prejudice and bigotry." Republicans hastily placed blame on Mr. Loughner's mental state and several Democrats criticized the harsh environment in Ms. Gifford's district.

RESPONDING TO accusations that she was responsible for the shooting, Former Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin, January 12, defended a map on her website showing cross hairs over several swing Congressional districts, including Ms. Gifford's, in last year's midterm elections. She charged her critics with "irresponsible statements" and spreading "blood libel."

The shooting exposed how passionate political thinking and extremist views have created a harsh, violent environment in the nation. A national blame game raged in an attempt to cope with the massacre. Mr. Loughner is in custody and his fate is now a decision of the U.S. court system.

And the courts, in the end, are the only ones with the right and responsibility to blame.

Midway Mailbox

Five simple ways to 'make the man' (no bowtie necessary)

From Dr. Daniel Calleri, science teacher:

THESE THOUGHTS are directed at the Lab Schools' young men as we near the annual Winter Formal Dance.

As many of your



Dr. Calleri

people already know, this is about choice of attire. Mark Twain said, "The clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society."

FEW PEOPLE know he was also heard saying "young men who dress like a cross between a homeless hippie and a dumpster-diver smell of low standards."

I agree whole-heartedly with this sentiment, particularly in the context of the upcoming dance.

So consider this a call to the community's young men. Put on your big boy undies and dress like your appearance actually matters. That's right, tuck your shirt in, pull your pants up, lace up your shoes, check yourself in the mirror and leave the house with bit of swagger.

IN ORDER to assist you on the path toward a more quality appearance for the occasion, there are several things I would propose.

Of primary importance is that you take your appearance seriously. That the young women do and the young men don't shows a serious disconnect between the genders. I

am confident that every date would like their escort to look handsome. Appearance should be an elevated goal, not a barely achieved minimal state.

Secondly, pick a style. This is the most complex part of my proposal, yet merely entertaining thoughts about how you appear and how you want to appear can be productive.

THIRDLY, make an event of finding the right look. Make a day of it. You don't have to call it shopping if you can't identify with that. Call it "clothes hunting" or perhaps a "thread search." Either way, take a couple of friends, find some stores and put your outfit together. Then celebrate by roasting a small mammal and shouting boisterously.

Adult males that don't throw stuff away can be good sources of vintage clothing. In my youth, a cursory search of the attic turned up a hip Nehru jacket that became the best part of my outfit for the junior dance. Damn I looked good.

(Googling Nehru jacket will not get you an image of the fine garment to which I refer.)

FOURTH, and I realize this is entering uncharted territory for most young men, try going to a tailor and having your outfit tailored. There is a particularly decadent feeling as a person measures you, pins your clothes here and there, and steps back to admire the progress all in an effort to make you look good.

Try it. You will like it.

Lastly, try getting ready as though the time you put into the process is just as important as the dance itself. I refer to

a good bout of grooming. So go get a haircut, get a shave, check your eyebrows, think about a cologne that makes you smell good and not nauseating like a lollipop or a wet dog. And no, Axe body spray does not count. This short list is not exhaustive, but merely an initial guide toward better dress for any event.

THERE IS A TIME and a place for different looks. A sleepy Saturday morning and a Friday night intended for dancing and socializing are two very different times requiring very different sets of attire. I really don't know if you even need to wear a tie.

But somewhere on the better-dressed side of wearing your PJs to school is an excellent start towards improving your dress, your appearance, your persona. It's relatively easy to execute the plan I am proposing and, besides, what's the worst that can happen? Are there possible drawbacks? Yes.

For example you may feel silly looking good and at the same time "dancing: like a copulating canine. People might take you seriously. Hell, you might even like it.

The big question as yet avoided; what about the bowtie? While I and many other well-dressed men have a predilection for them I realize that they are not for everybody.

AFTER ALL, we can't all look this good.

I'll see you at the dance gentlemen. I'll be the gentleman in the tux. And I expect to see you there, looking good, feeling good and acting like gentlemen.

Consider the gauntlet dropped.

The lyrics of a song, the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

From Mr. Daniel West, science teacher:

*"Imagine there's no countries It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for And no religion too
Imagine all the people Living life in peace..."*
—The Beatles, "Imagine"



Mr. West

"...there are some things so dear, some things so eternally worthwhile, that they are worth dying for. If an individual has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

"I just want to do God's will. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ONE CANNOT read or hear what Dr. King said without realizing that his faith in God was not the slightly embarrassing foible that we must overlook in the great man; it was the mainspring of his life. It was the foundation of his insistence on the equality of all. We do not honor him by singing that the world would be a better place without religion, and without anything worth dying for.

To present these words without comment at an MLK Assembly is remarkably inappropriate. The Lab Schools community includes many who find that their religious faith is the core of their lives. "Imagine" attacks with evangelistic fervor their deepest beliefs.

Do we really want to do this at an occasion that brings us all together to celebrate our diversity?

The Beatles failed to distinguish between willingness to

die for something and willingness to kill for something. Dr. King made that distinction, consistently, in his words and in his life, as did Jesus of Nazareth, as did Mohandas K. Gandhi of India.

Few distinctions are more worth thinking about and talking about. We should debate these ideas openly and freely in classes and forums, but never propound one view and attack another at an MLK Assembly.

Kayla and Ramona, you sang beautifully, and you made me think.

I am honored and delighted to be associated in any way with people of such ability and character. I thank you, and all the students and adults who made this assembly a beautiful and thought-provoking thing. Your efforts enriched all of us, and enriched me especially.

'Inner city' not a synonym for 'poor'

From Mr. Bennie Currie, U-High parent:

I JUST read the latest edition of the Midway and it looks great.



Mr. Currie

However, I must express my concern about a caption on page 18 regarding the U-High boys' soccer players and their effort to referee games for "inner city" kids. The term inner-city is often a code term for poor kids, usually kids of color.

Knowing what I know about the kids who go to U-High and where they live, it sends the wrong message to use such a term, given that U-High kids are mostly "inner-city" kids.

Many, including my son and others who live on Dorchester, live just a few feet away from CHA residents while others live just a few blocks away from the same kids who were being helped by our soccer players.

In other words, if our kids were helping poor kids of color why not just say so? I've never understood what "inner city" is supposed to mean to people who live, well, within our city.

Is that Bridgeport, where our mayor grew up? Is it Kenwood, where the leader of the free world owns real estate? Or perhaps Woodlawn, home of the Blackstone Rangers and the U. of C. Law School.

This is a discussion that I have had and will continue to have with my two kids and I bring up this subject in hopes that it will provide a teachable moment about accuracy and cultural sensitivity in journalism (and mind you, I raised the same issue during my time at the Associated Press).

(Mr. Currie is senior manager of communications at ComEd, former assistant press secretary of the City of Chicago, and was a reporter and editor for the Associated Press, among other positions.)

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New ‘True Grit’ offers different take on classic

SHOOTING, COWBOY HATS, Texas rangers, and a marshal who drinks whiskey like it’s water. Yes, “True Grit” is a true Western.

A remake of the 1969 classic that won John Wayne his only Oscar, the film is Joel and Ethan Coen’s latest masterpiece. After winning the 2007 Oscar for Best Director for “No Country for Old Men,” this remake marks the brothers’ 5th time directing together and 13th Oscar nomination. Set in 1880s Arkansas, the film focuses on hard-bargaining 14-year-old Mattie Ross (Oscar nominee Hailee Steinfeld), whose father was recently killed by low-life Tom Chaney (Josh Brolin).

UNABLE TO TRACK Chaney herself, she hires “Rooster” Cogburn (Jeff Bridges), an old marshal notorious for shooting everything that moves, to hunt him down.

By chance, they meet Texas Ranger LaBoeuf (Matt Damon), who has searched for Chaney for several months. The three venture into the back country,

aiming to arrest Chaney and bring him to town to be hanged.

Speaking in practiced Southern draws, the characters spend much of the movie adventuring through acres of visually-striking Old West scenery.

Long shadows and desert sunsets abound as the trio ride their horses off into the horizon in search of Tom Chaney.

AS THE GANG nears their goal, however, gunfights and duels become the norm. Loud bangs begin to emanate from the screen as good guys and bad guys alike fall from their horses onto the dusty plains.

Seasoned veteran Bridges, who won an Oscar last year and is nominated again for “Grit,” stays spot on as the smack-talking, whiskey-drinking Marshal Cogburn. Redeeming himself throughout the film, the marshal frequently struggles to decide between doing what’s right and following his own desires.

Taking both paths numerous times, Cogburn catalyzes many of the action scenes and supplies much of the exceedingly clever dialogue.

EMERGING FROM his recent slump,



ON A VOYAGE into Old West back country, bounty hunters “Rooster” Cogburn and LaBoeuf join 14-year-old Mattie Ross on a quest to avenge

her father’s death in the Coen brothers’ remake of the 1969 classic “True Grit.” Photo courtesy of wordpress.com

Hollywood veteran Matt Damon plays his role with precision, his genuine smile lightening the film’s mood in downbeat moments.

Every action seems to have a price in “True Grit.”

If a man shoots another, he’ll likely receive compensation later. And though

the topic of revenge is explored, the film seems to come to no clear conclusion.

No one hero is revealed at the film’s end, leaving viewers with a satisfying, if a little indulgent, Western.

“True Grit” runs 110 minutes and is rated PG-13 for violence and disturbing images.

T.V. CHRISTIAN CASTANEDA

Dropping doctors in Amazon takes medical drama off map

“OFF THE MAP” truly is off the map. New this season, “Off the Map” airs 9 p.m. Wednesdays on ABC.

An intense medical drama created by screenwriter Jenna Bans, “Off the Map” follows six doctors as they start new careers in medicine in the Amazon rainforest.

Relentless “life or death” situations emerge with finesse and planning to move the plot forward while giving opportunities for the young cast, led by Caroline Dhavernas of the cult classic “Wonderfalls,” to change into completely new people.

LILY, PLAYED by Dhavernas, is one of three American doctors constantly taking on new medical challenges with limited resources and the natural healing remedies of the South American wild.

Tommy, played by Zach Gilford of “Friday Night Lights,” brings humor and potential romance with his mas-

culine yet sensitive looks as well as providing the show with much-needed acting expertise.

His light attitude is counterbalanced by the uptight Mina, played by Mamie Gummer of the “Meryl Streep Dynasty,” whose prowess keeps the reality of life working at an understaffed and underfunded clinic in the show’s mood.

MINA IS the real standout character, turning the otherwise minor roles into memorable performances.

Unfortunately, her role is consistently derailed by the obnoxious and immature comic relief of Charlie, played by Jonathan Castellanos. While Mina is trying to save a patient, Charlie seems to ruin the mood by inquiring about another doctor’s love life.

Yet Charlie’s conversation with the patient illuminates a life-saving clue that transforms his presence into one intended by the clever writing and story line.

REGULARLY DELIVERING rewards after carefully planned set-ups, “Off the Map” takes the viewer through the



TAKING MEDICINE to a new level, a team of six American doctors travels to Brazil to treat patients in the Amazon in ABC’s new show “Off the Map.” Photo courtesy of fanpop.com

emotional palette, from the lame humor to ageless questions of mortality and love. Ultimately, the show carries some emotional substance beyond its exotic location.

Although in uncharted waters, “Off the Map” deserves a second look. Still early in its season, the show has much to offer.

THEATRE NICK PHALEN

Standout cast reinvigorates Albee classic

IN A LUXURIOUS bedroom, three women sit in wooden chairs and begin a conversation. One woman is near death. One is middle-aged. One is in her youth.

That’s Edward Albee’s premise in his 1994 Pulitzer-winning “Three Tall Women,” running through February 13 at Court Theater, 5355 South Ellis Avenue.

THE THREE women remain nameless, only referred to alphabetically by age.

“A,” portrayed by Lois Markle, spends most of her time telling stories about her life from her armchair.

“B,” Mary Beth Fisher, is her nurse, bustling about the carpeted stage making A comfortable.

“C,” Maura Kidwell, A’s worldly lawyer, frequently exercises her sarcastic wit.

THE FIRST ACT of the two-hour production is largely marked by character development, as the three women make their way through Albee’s characteristically dense dialogue.

The set, however, adds life. Designed by Leigh Breslau, it features giant lace curtains hanging from the theater’s ceiling. Lit from underneath, they frequently change colors, sometimes linked to characters’ moods.

The real fireworks begin in the second act. Albee reveals that the three women actually are differently-aged versions of the same character, probing the timeless question of life’s meaning. How can the three women go on living when they already know what will happen to them?

AS THE PLAY reaches its climax, the three seasoned actresses show their prowess. Blazing through long monologues with expert precision, Ms. Markle plays the old curmudgeon effortlessly, while also bringing out her character’s youthful wit.

Ms. Fisher and Ms. Kidwell help her along with equally standout performances, succeeding in keeping the dialogue lively and the audience engaged.

Seeing the trio in action proves well worth a trip to the theater.



Christian



Nick

MUSIC SAM FRAMPTON

Ghostface Killah energizes rap

VINTAGE FUNK grooves highlight skillful lyricism and an unmistakable flow in rapper Ghostface Killah’s ninth solo release “Apollo Kids.”

Ghostface’s 1993 debut with the Wu-Tang Clan established his position as a formidable force in hip-hop, with a distinctive gritty voice and powerful delivery. Through his successful solo career, he has adapted this trademark vocal style to a variety of instrumental contexts.

With productions ranging from the hardcore thump of 2004’s “The Pretty Toney Album” to the auto tuned R&B of his 2009 album, “Ghostdini: Wizard of Poetry in Emerald City,” Ghostface

has sought to extend his appeal to both underground and mainstream listeners.

“Apollo Kids” represents Ghostface’s return to the group energy and old school sensibilities that permeate the classic Wu-Tang releases. While “Ghostdini” featured no Wu-Tang affiliates in guest spots, “Apollo Kids” includes notable performances from GZA, Capadonna and Killah Priest.

In “How You Like Me Baby,” legendary producer Pete Rock mixes soulful keyboard riffs with heavy bass to create a sound that is at once modern and informed by hip-hop’s Golden Age.

With a meager 40-minute run-time and a slew of guest artists, “Apollo Kids” severely limits Ghostface’s time on the microphone. He ably handles the challenge with brevity, spitting impeccably crafted verses that incorporate intricate



storytelling and bold battle rhymes. As an elder statesman by hip-hop standards, he often conjures scenes from the music’s infancy. On “In Tha Park,” he raps, “Peace to Pylon discovering rap / and the D.J. that made the first scratch / paved the way for Flex, Mister Cee, ‘nuff of them cats.”

Through its head-nodding beats and relentless vocals, “Apollo Kids” resurrects the high-energy spirit that is sorely lacking in today’s hip-hop releases and creates a clear evolution of the original Wu-Tang sound.



DURING THE PREPARATION stage of his potato leek soup, Nick Chaskin dices vegetables to reveal their smooth texture. Photo by Crystal Maciel.

FIRST PERSON

ANEESH KANAKAMEDALA

A long journey to deliver cheer

I WAKE UP at 7 a.m. and make 30 mini-peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, shuffle outside onto the gravel street and distribute the small breakfasts to the passing hungry Haitians. Holding the sandwich tray, I wait alongside my travel companion, Dr. Christopher McIntire. Doc, as I call him, works with my mother at Saint Margaret’s Hospital in Hammond, Indiana, and makes at least two trips to Haiti each year. **HE WORKS FOR** the Hammond-based organization Life for the World, coordinating the Maranatha Orphanage in Source Matelas, Haiti. The orphanage takes in abandoned children who have lost their parents to the catastrophic Haitian earthquake last year. My mother, seeing this opportunity as a potential life-learning experience, convinced me to travel with Doc for one week during Winter Break. After landing in Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, Doc’s friend Simón, our Haitian guide, picks us up in a creaking, red truck. Crumbled buildings and tents line the way to Doc’s house. **ALL I CAN** see is darkness, and the outlines of children’s faces. They greet me kindly, but cautiously, curious to see an Indian American teenager in their home. When the sun finally rises, Doc and I run through our breakfast routine and leave for the general store. I hear the street bustle, as natives pull wheelbarrows laden with construction materials. High-priced American products fill the store shelves. Doc and I buy what food we can carry in the truck, spending more than \$100. The drive to the orphanage reveals a barren landscape. Densely-populated cities made of tents surround the rocky hillsides, infertile due to deforestation. We pass by buildings’ bottom stories, destroyed into rubble by the earthquake. The billions of dollars invested in Haiti

COOKING WITH NICK CHASKIN

Try this soup to brave the winter cold

ONE PARTICULARLY COLD morning this January, it occurred to me that this may be the last time I have to endure a Chicago winter. Victory. My buzz was almost immediately harshed when I realized I still have a long ways to go before I escape the brutal cold. At times like that I turn to one supreme comfort food, **POTATO LEEK SOUP**, warm, flavorful, smooth and the easiest thing I’ve ever made. You will need:
5 large leeks,
2 pounds or 8 Yukon Gold potatoes
3 large carrots
2 quarts of chick stock
Salt and pepper
4 tablespoons of butter



IN HAITI during Winter Break, Aneesh Kanakamedala helped care for youngsters at an orphanage.

by powerful countries seem nonevident. **THE TRUCK STOPS**, and Doc, Simón and I enter the orphanage. We are quickly surrounded by 100 children, dusty from playing soccer in the courtyard. I pass out wooden crosses to eager children, who constantly try to grab more from my hands. One wears several at once, parading them around like medals. Now the cooking begins. Doc and I make beans and rice, fried potatoes, squash mash and fruit salad with the help of the seven teenage orphan girls who call Doc’s house home. After we cook the feast and pass out the food, each child rushes back for more, asking for seconds and thirds. During dinner, I chat with an older orphan, who tells me the orphanage not only houses but teaches the kids, preparing them for future professions. **BUT MOST OF** all he talks about God. In Haiti, the natives’ faith is omnipresent. I saw small churches every couple blocks. Radio songs bore themes of love, God and how the government does nothing for its citizens. No matter how bad the situation, the Haitians believe that God will save them from their suffering. One week later, I wait for my flight to O’Hare. Every Haitian I met was sincerely grateful to see me. The houses were dirty, the food bland and the weather way too hot; but I would come back in a heartbeat just to see one of the kids smile.

1/4 cup of finely chopped chives.
THIS RECIPE is so easy, it only takes three steps; You chop, you cook, you blend, you eat. Okay, maybe four steps. Start by prepping your leeks, which are famous for getting dirt trapped in their stems. First, chop off the roots at the bottom, leaving as much of the base intact as possible. Then, cut of the tops just above the stalk so you are left with a four- to six-inch segment of stem. Cut in half length-wise and into thin semicircle slices. Set your chopped leeks to soak in cold water to wash dirt out. **NEXT, PEEL** and chop your potatoes as you did the leeks, so you are left with thin semicircle slices. Then peel and grate the carrot. In a large pot, melt the butter with a

OPINION RAFI KHAN

The dilemma of using a word that can pack a brutal punch

IMAGINE YOU’RE PLAYING “Wheel of Fortune.” You’ve made it to the Bonus Round and have a mere 10 seconds to guess the hidden word or phrase. **THE BOARD SHOWS “N-GGERS.”** Your hint: “People who annoy you.” Quick. Fill in the blank. Some people might recognize this scene from the 2007 season premiere of “South Park,” perhaps the most vulgar and intelligent satirical cartoon series ever created. But they’d be unlikely to have guessed, as Randy Marsh rashly did, a not-so-socially-acceptable word. **WHILE EVERYONE** in “South Park” shunned Randy after his game show appearance, the episode slyly drove home a simple point. No non-black person is likely ever tp understand what it feels like for a black person to be called a “nigger,” by someone who isn’t black. True, in the black community, the n-word takes a whole different meaning, often used as a term of friendship or in humor. And when said over a rap beat, it takes another meaning still...that I have yet to understand. **WELL PUT**, “South Park.” I wholeheartedly agreed with you, and still do. I thought of that episode because recently, there’s been fervent national discussion about the n-word. This time though, the focus is on something a little different. Last month, New South Books, an Alabama publisher, announced that in its new edition of Mark Twain’s “Huckleberry Finn,” the word “nigger” would be replaced by the word “slave.” All 219 times. **THE IDEA WAS** spawned by Alan Gribben, an English professor at Auburn University in Montgomery, who told the New York Times that whenever he taught the book, he found himself

touch of oil over medium-high heat. Add all your vegetables with a heavy pinch of salt. Let these sweat for 10 minutes, stirring regularly. When things begin to look soft down there, it is time to turn the heat down and add the stock. Let everything simmer for 30 to 45 minutes. **USING A BLENDER** or emersion blender, puree everything into the most comforting soup you will ever enjoy. But be careful; if you add to much liquid to the blender, it may squirt out the top, which could burn. Make sure there is plenty of solid matter in the blender before turning it on, and cover the top with a dish towel to protect you from burns. When it is as smooth as my writing, stir in the chives, season to taste, and enjoy a hot meal.

not wanting to pronounce the word. Along with avoiding discomfort, he hoped replacing the n-word would remove the literary classic from many schools’ no-read lists, increasing students’ exposure to the text. Around the same time, a U-High English teacher began teaching an elective on Huck Finn and his wild adventures. **BUT OUR** English teacher isn’t teaching a censored version. Instead, each student in the three sections was offered a choice of whether to say “nigger” in class discussions or not. If a single student in a section felt uncomfortable, that class would refrain from using it. In each class, somebody didn’t want to use the word. **PERSONALLY, I DIDN’T** understand why. No one was saying it with malicious intent and the teacher explained its historical meaning and use in the book. But I had a gut feeling, as many of the students I talked to in those classes said, that using the word could still be incredibly unsettling. I asked each the students in each class, then, if anyone would be willing to explain to me why they felt uncomfortable. No one came forth. It seems that though many educators cried foul at Mr. Gribben’s book, pointing out that “nigger” is an integral part of Huck’s dialect and is used, in fact, as commentary denouncing slavery, people will still choose to shy away from saying the word. **CERTAINLY, REPLACING** “nigger” with “slave” dulls Mr. Twain’s point, but Mr. Gribben’s concern with discomfort isn’t folly. As for people who annoy you? They’re *naggers*.



Rafi

Lorem Ipsum.....by Gene Cochran



U-Highers see complex issues in Arizona shootings

Sonia Bourdaghs
Midway reporter

National political atmosphere and mental instabilities led Jared Loughner to shoot in Tucson Arizona feel some students and teachers.

Mr. Loughner shot at 19 people while Representative Gabrielle Giffords called a public forum to meet with citizens outside a supermarket, January 8. Among the six killed were a 9-year-old child and a federal judge.



Sam

STUDENTS AND TEACHERS offered varying views regarding the political environment surrounding the shootings.

Responsibility for the shooting partially fell on the Republican Party, Senior Brienne Ellis believed.



Miranda

Political disagreement took the true meaning away from the incidents, feels Senior Sam Neal.

"I THINK THAT people sometimes try to blame events like this on politicians' rhetoric," Sam said. "I think it is horrible that such a tragic event has turned into a series of political accusations.

"Instead of turning it into a political debate we need to be compassionate and reflect upon what we can do to prevent such an event from recurring. We have room to improve in gun control, psychological health care and investigation and these shootings have shown us that.

"I do not know to what extent Loughner's mental instabilities affected his actions, however I think that most of the blame falls on him. It seems that Loughner's mental illnesses were not taken care of properly.

"IT IS HARD to catch a mental illness and to step up and get that person help. It is something that we as a people need to work on."

Said Freshman Alden Daniel, "It is disturbing that someone with such a mental state could get away with owning and wounding with a gun, killing and harming many.

"Even though I don't believe that one particular issue triggered the event, I think that the general political and economical state of America, may have affected this man's actions."

SOME PEOPLES' views on guns may have changed after the incident, feels Freshman Miranda Garfinkle.

"The amount to which guns have been

publicized and emphasized by both parties has affected many peoples' perspectives of guns," Miranda said. "Now when some people see a gun, they see an easy problem solving tool as opposed to a dangerous weapon."

Former Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin's use of "blood libel" in her video response drew disapproval from both students and faculty.

"I think it was tactically stupid to use the term 'blood libel'," Sam said. "She was responding to claims made against her that I think were ridiculous. However, her choice of words was not politically smart."

MS. PALIN'S response showed her ignorance, according to History Teacher Susan Shapiro said.

"I do not believe that Sara Palin is responsible for the shootings," she explained. "However, I think her response was in bad taste.

"She obviously does not understand the historical and political meanings of the term 'blood libel,' and her usage of it reflects an unfortunate lack of education."



Ms. Shapiro

Arizona restriction on Mexican-America course stirs anger

Spencer Lee

Associate editor

Violence isn't the only issue stirring strong debate in Arizona these days.

The State of Arizona recently passed a law deeming certain classes, such as those in the Tucson Unified School District's Mexican-American program at Tucson Magnet High School, illegal.

Tom Horne, Arizona's attorney general, outlawed certain classes all over Arizona for supporting the overthrow of the United States government, promoting resentment towards a certain race, and for being a program designed for "advocating ethnic solidarity instead of individuality."

Eleven teachers at Tucson Magnet High School have filed a suit contesting the constitutionality of the law passed.

Reactions at U-High are strong.

Learning opportunities are threatened, according to Latinos Unidos President Veronica Ramirez, senior, who feels discrimination towards Mexicans plays into the issue.

"To me, the most important aspect of this problem right

now is that the state of Arizona is trying to shut out learning opportunities due to the rise of illegal immigrants coming in and the law on immigration passed in April last year," Veronica said. "To me, the class doesn't seem to be teaching kids to become enraged at the government, it's about learning about your culture and accepting who you are.

"If they weren't discriminating, Mr. Horne and those behind him would attempt to make changes to the curriculum, instead of deeming the program illegal."

Miscommunication between advocates and opponents of the program, such as overstatements and cultural assimilation, are at the core of the law, according to Middle School Spanish teacher Becky Lopez.

"Ethnic studies courses aim to promote critical thinking, by reflecting present issues and relating them to events that happened in history. These courses heighten students' awareness of multiple perspectives in history. However, because Mr. Horne and those supporting him fear free thinkers and groups who share a similar heri-

tage, they respond by making these courses illegal, on the premise that these classes are promoting government hatred. But it's normal for individuals to want to celebrate their affinity with each other. Solidarity is a positive experience.

"What politicians who censor ethnic studies courses are actually saying is, 'We're too chicken to let our youth develop their own identity, so we're going to 'prescribe' to them how to be.' They don't realize that students have brains. Students de-gloss, process, and assert their own opinion into everything they learn. The most inflammatory teachers can convey the most outrageous concepts to their classes, but it's up to the students to listen, think, and decide.

"Acculturation, assimilation, and multiculturalism are processes that take time in society. Cultures naturally complement, complete, and propel each other, but this process slows when cultures try to dominate each other, by thinking the other is beneath them. Sometimes it feels like America is regressing."

STACK CHEDDA

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Sapana Anand and Emmy Ehrmann sit down to share a mouth-watering Medici sub.

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Photos by Anna Rosenzweig

Basketball boys keep up action as title time nears

Jeffrey Li
Midway reporter

Heading into the last stretch of their season, boys' varsity basketballers face Conference rivals North Shore Country Day, 6 p.m Friday in Upper Kovler.

With seven games remaining, and an 8-7 overall record (6-2 in the Independent School League) the Maroons look to clinch their third consecutive ISL title, and avenge last year's 50-47 loss to Harper in the Illinois High School Association 3A Sectional Semifinals.

UPCOMING CONFERENCE games include Northridge College Prep 6:30 p.m., Saturday February 5, and Morgan Park Academy 5 p.m., February 10, both in Upper Kovler.

"We match up well with North Shore Country Day," said Senior Matt Hanessian, cocaptain with Senior Mike Turner. "We beat them by 30 when we played at their place, so we need to bring that same energy and effort when they come to Upper Kovler.

"Northridge played us tough before, so we know we will have to be mentally prepared to play those games since we lost by 10.

"NORTHBRIDGE IS dangerous if you come out soft and unprepared and give them an early lead, like we did back in December. They have a couple of good shooters like Joe Stoll, so you have to put them away early, otherwise it is tough to make a comeback late in the game."

After finishing with their ISL opponents, the Maroons will face tough nonconference opponents starting with Nazareth 7:30 p.m., February 15, away.

"Our nonconference schedule was made to ensure that we have played many different styles and multiple tough teams before we begin the state playoffs," Mike explained.

"THE GAMES AGAINST Nazareth, Kankakee, and Chicago Vocational should be great tests of how far we have come and how far we need to go



ON THE VERGE of another Conference Win, Mike Turner drives past a Parker defender to the basket, leading the Maroons to a 44-37 win over the Colonels, January 14. Photo by Jeffrey Li

in order to be at our best when it matters the most."

The season finale against Perspectives Charter, 6:00 p.m., February 24 in Upper Kovler, features a faceoff between two future wildcats, the Maroons' Northwestern bound Mike Turner, and Perspectives' University of Kentucky Wildcat Senior Anthony Davis.

"The game won't be Mike Turner vs. Anthony Davis, it will be U-High vs. Perspectives," Matt explained. "Obviously, Anthony Davis is going to require a lot of attention, but if he tries to take us one on five, I'm confident we will give him a game to remember.

"WE WILL FOCUS on

defense and rebounding, like we always do, and play our style of basketball."

Despite a 4-7 record (3-4 league), the j.v. basketballers are happy with their play so far.

"I'm very pleased with the way we have been playing for the most part considering we only have seven guys on the team," explained Sophomore Max Hornung, j.v. cocaptain with Freshman Jon King. "We lost to Leo High School by only five points, considering they are ranked in the state."

Basketball girls plan strategy

Sonia Bourdaghs
Midway reporter

Battling Conference rival Latin 6 p.m. today away, girls' basketballers face the Romans for the first time this season.

With a 4-11 overall record (1-5 in the Independent School League), the Maroons also will take on International Charter School-Longwood 6 p.m. this Thursday in Upper Kovler and CICS-Ralph Ellison at 6:30 p.m. Friday, away.

"LATIN always has a strong team," said Senior Rose Traubert, cocaptain with Senior Briana Watson and Sophomore Sophia Gatton. "This year we are preparing specific plays and defenses in order to shut down their strongest players. Our goal is to dominate the inside."

Making Saturday practices optional for freshmen and cutting after-school practice by one hour, Varsity Coach Tai Duncan and J.V. Coach Baker Franke are focusing

on building the newcomers fundamentals with the help of the captains.

"Last year we only had 8 players and one team," Coach Duncan explained. "This year we have 21 players and a j.v. team for the first time in a while. We are in the rebuilding phase. The captains are doing a great job leading the new members. It will take a little while to put all the pieces together. However, everyone is adjusting well and working really hard."

WITH A 5-5 record overall, j.v. girls beat Clemente 35-33 in double-over time January 13. Emphasizing fundamentals has been key to their success, says Freshman Alex Cohen.

"In Middle School I learned plays but not really the fundamentals of basketball," Alex explained. "The team has learned a lot this season and improved as a group. We are pushing ourselves hard because we are all very dedicated to improving."

RIDE IN THE NILE



EAGERLY DIPPING their pita bread into the Nile's delicious hummus, Hiroki Lory and Anoop Herur-Raman relax after a hard day at school. Photo by Jeffrey Li

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Swimmers head toward Sectionals

Deborah Krull
Midway reporter

On the road to Sectionals, boys' swimmers face St. Francis and Wheaton in a tri-meet 4:30 p.m. today at Ratner Fitness Center. This is the second-to-last meet before the Illinois High School Association Sectional Competition Saturday, February 19, where the team placed 4th last season.

Despite a 2-4 record so far, team members remain determined as they continue breaking personal records. Senior David Chung, cocaptain with Senior Michael Baroody, is close to breaking the 2003 100 fly record of 56:61 seconds.

"I'M LOOKING forward to breaking the school record in the 100 fly," David said. "I beat it once over the summer with a 56:45, but I haven't managed to match that yet this season. I used to think that I didn't have the endurance for the fly, but now I'm comfortable with it and can finish strong."

According to Coach Paul Gunty, the Maroons' tough competition only motivates them to try harder.

"The boys expect other teams, such as Saint Ignatius, to swim faster," Coach Gunty said. "The Wolves are notorious for being a fast team, but it just pushes us to do better."

WITH A 4-2 record, j.v. swimmers are headed towards another winning season. Coach Tony Del Campo feels the team is putting their all into practice.

"The team is working really hard," Coach Del Campo explained. "There are a lot of talented freshmen; Kassim Husain and Noah Braendel could definitely be swimming varsity next year.

"Junior Adam Gray sets a great tone with how hard he works and Junior Mac Sinclair, j.v. captain, does a good job keeping the team's morale up. This team is one of the best, if not the best we've ever had."

Scores are as follows:

Walter Payton, January 11, home: Varsity won 116 to 80, j.v. won 106 to 23; Saint Ignatius, January 13, home: Varsity lost 59 to 111, j.v. lost 68 to 98; Lane Tech, January 18, home: Varsity lost 76 to 94, j.v. lost 74 to 83; Northside College Prep, January 25, home: Varsity won 86 to 82, j.v. won 76 to 73.

Tracksters head for indoor opener

Jeremy Woo
Editor-in-Chief

And they're off. Indoor track will face familiar competition in their first meet of the season, 7 p.m., this Friday, at Henry Crown Fieldhouse.

PERENNIAL Independent School League adversaries Parker and North Shore headline a field that includes Public League stalwarts Whitney Young, Jones, and Payton.

"Jones is going to have a really strong distance team, and they should be good competition for us," said Mr. Bud James, coach with Ms. Deborah Ribbens, Ms. Lynn Ingalls and new coach Ms. Nathalie Razo.

"Parker has good distance runners in Jonny Levin and a couple of other kids. The meet itself is hard to call at this point, because we haven't seen much yet. We've only had a few workouts on the track so far, and we don't quite know yet what we're going to get out of our new kids."

APPROXIMATELY 14 seniors, 10 juniors, 10 sophomores and six freshmen make up the current roster, which still may change as athletes arrive from winter sports. The runners compete as one team, rather than varsity and j.v.

Coach Razo arrived from the Hopkins School in New Haven, Connecticut. The addition of Coach Razo has paid dividends, according to teammates.

"Coach Razo and Coach Ingalls noticed that the injury we all seem to get is shin splints," said Junior Ary Hansen. "To fight injury, we've been doing new dynamic warm-ups before we practice, which are a combination



ZOOM. Ary Hansen flies down the Middle School hallway during indoor track practice. Photo by Sebastian Lopez.

of working out and stretching. So far, we've had no shin splints."

THE MAROONS run their final two meets 7 p.m. Fridays, March 4 and 11 with the luxury of Henry Crown Fieldhouse's familiar track. As a result of having only three invitationals, no conference standings exist. Despite the dearth of competitions, the team still finds inspiration.

"Our motivation right now is to get prepared for the outdoor portion of the season," explained Coach James. "The runners can't really peak right now physically; it's really to get used to racing and learning their teammates on relays and exchanges.

"For the most part, our group will stick around for the spring, and those are the kids that really benefit. Getting in shape is a 12 to 16 week process in order to perform at the level you are capable of, and so you can't expect to have your best performances after a five to six week indoor season."

Fencers gear up for season finale

Victoria Apponte-Blizzard
Midway Reporter

Facing off against schools across the Midwest, varsity fencers will finish their season at the Great Lakes Fencing Conference Championships, 8 p.m. Saturday at Culver Academy in Indiana. The final high school tournament in the area will decide Midwest rankings.

The Maroons excelled at the Great Lakes Fencing Conference Dual meet January 22, at New Trier High School in Winnetka. Captain Tina Umanskiy, senior, went undefeated and Freshman Harrison MacRae, ranked top three in the Midwest, won 33 out of 36 bouts.



Tina

Harrison and Junior Duncan Holmes both rank top three in the Midwest. The team is currently ranked 4th overall in Men's and Women's Epee, and 5th in Women's Foil.

"We should do really well at the championships," Tina said. "Since it's an open tournament, it will be a bigger competition. We'll pull out though."

"We're always the smallest team at conferences, but we usually get three or four medals."



Charlie

Harrison and Sophomore triplets Nathaniel, Charlie and Willa Green will compete at the United States Fencing Association (USFA) Junior Olympic Fencing Championships February 17 - 20 at the Convention Center, in Dallas, Texas.

"The event determines who represents the United States on the international team for the World Cup," Harrison said. "It's the most important tournament of the year for the age division."

Cherished tennis coach, substitute passes away at 71

Jeremy Woo
Editor-in-Chief

Mr. Bill Simms, tennis instructor and U-High substitute teacher, died in his sleep the night of January 23. He was 71 years old. Mr. Simms lived in downtown Chicago with his wife; they had no children.



Bill Simms

Mr. Simms was head coach for men's and women's tennis at the University of Chicago from 1979 to 2000.

A COLLEGIATE gymnast, Mr. Simms was inducted into the University of Illinois at Chicago Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994.

After his time at the U of C, Mr. Simms offered private tennis lessons around the Chicagoland area, including at Bally Total Fitness in Kenwood.

Mr. Simms subbed in physical education at U-High for six years. Many U-Highers devoted countless hours playing tennis under Mr. Simms.

Two such students, Senior Tyler Anderson and his sister Laura, sophomore, play

varsity tennis at U-High.

"WHEN I was 6 or 7, and Laura was 4 or 5 we started playing with Bill," Tyler said. "Once we started getting better, we moved on to a younger coach who could hit with us. Bill understood and was very honorable about it. To this day, we still consider him our coach."

"Bill could always make you smile; he was the funniest coach I ever had. We could just sit there and talk about tennis or whatever we wanted for hours. It's a big loss that he's gone."

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Photos by Anisha Sisodia