

# Schools in Crisis

## Teacher Firings

### Layoffs spread wider



**Marissa Page**  
Midway reporter

With thousands of teachers laid off from Detroit to Rhode Island and legislation in states across the country aiming to dismantle teachers' unions, U-High faculty and administrators say the trend will not affect U-High teachers.

Foreshadowing massive faculty cuts, thousands of teachers across the country received layoff notices this year. According to The Detroit News, more than 5,000 Detroit Public School teachers' union members and all 248 district administrators received termination warnings this February.

Nearly 2,000 Providence, Rhode Island, public school teachers received pink slips as well, as reported by CNN.

Union controversy remains ignited across the country as well, with new Republican governors from Indiana to Ohio attempting to break up their states' public unions. Last February,

Wisconsin Democrats fled a Senate session in February to a bill to limit collective bargaining rights for teachers. More than 20,000 teachers and students protested the bill in Madison last month.

Worried about the treatment of teachers nationally Faculty Association President Karen Putman believes education reform is multifaceted.

"The thing I worry about in the public discussion about education is that too often there seems to be one particular factor of the issue that gets highlighted," Ms. Putman said. "The scapegoat is, oftentimes, teachers. Generally speaking, the situation is much more complicated than that and teachers are a very important part of the mix."

"People should be wary that there is not one thing that you have to change to fix the entire educational system. Teacher accountability is a piece of it, but with a situation like this you have to look at all the pieces."

(continues on page 6)

## U-HIGH MIDWAY

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WHAT? BURN 'EM. ALL OF 'EM.  
RAZE THE SCHOOLS, RANSACK THE UNIONS,  
GIVE IT ALL TO THOSE CHARTER DUDES.



All art by Gene Cochrane

## Press Censorship

### Controversy in Colorado



**Duncan Weinstein**  
Midway reporter

Here it goes again. Another high school press censorship controversy.

Last month, a Colorado high school paper was discontinued, then reinstated, but may not stay in print next year.

The controversy began when Overland High School Scout Editor-in-Chief Lori Schafer, junior, wrote a story stating that Overland Sophomore Leibert Phillips died because of a high school wrestling injury he suffered last December, using the coroner's report as evidence.

As part of his prior review policy, Principal Leon Lundie saw the story before publication. He claimed Lori got her facts wrong and that the story was "too big for a high school paper," said Scout Opinions Editor Jaelyn Gutierrez in an e-mail interview.

In response, Lori asked Leibert's mother for a copy of his death certificate, proving her facts correct. Eight days later, Principal Lundie re-

moved Laura Sudik as Scout adviser and discontinued the paper through June.

In a press conference two weeks later, Cherry Creek School District Spokeswoman Tustin Amole revealed the District's plan for an online-only paper next year because of budget concerns. She cited University of Colorado's paper as an example; it has both print and online editions.

Lori and Jaelyn then contacted legal advocates, who told them that Mr. Lundie's actions violated Colorado state law.

After an April 4 meeting with the Scout staff, Mr. Lundie released a statement denying he discontinued the paper or prevented Lori's story from running. He also rescinded his prior review policy and called the controversy a misunderstanding.

Both Ms. Sudik and Principal Lundie declined to comment to the media.

(continues on page 6)

THINK OF THE CHILDREN!  
THEY MAY BE INEFFICIENT,  
BUT THOSE SCHOOLS ARE ALL  
SOME KIDS HAVE. WORK WITH  
THE SYSTEM, NOT AGAINST IT.



## Closings

### Schools shut, so now what?



**Akila Raoul**  
Associate editor

"Lab is almost at full enrollment and the closings of Chicago Public Schools could possibly increase applications here and at other private and parochial schools."

So said Associate Director of Education Programs Jason Lopez on the effect of the closing and consolidation of Chicago Public Schools.

The closure of public schools has led to more charter schools because closed schools are often taken over by organizations that sign contracts to open charter schools.

Based on students' test scores and attendance,

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## Test Scores

### The race to compete



**Rolland Long**  
Associate editor

While national politicians remain committed to linking teacher salaries with student performance, U-High faculty and administrators say they oppose the idea.

This month Florida became the latest state to pass merit pay legislation, with bills in Indiana and Utah well on their way to passage, according to Forbes Magazine.

Committed to merit pay on a national level, President Barack Obama praised the policy in his State of the Union address last January, aiming to include it in his education reform plan with Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, Class of 1982. This proposal follows last year's "Race to the Top" program, in which President Obama awarded states funding based on standardized test scores.

Nonetheless, Lab Schools Director David Magill believes merit pay is inappropriate for both U-High and all public schools.

"The Administration is well intentioned but they have reduced teaching and learning in ways that have not necessarily helped," Mr. Magill said.

(continues on page 6)

## Proposal would eventually give each student an advisory

JR Reed  
Associate Editor

Every U-Higher would eventually have an adviser under a proposal recently presented to the faculty.

Because increasing enrollment and a new class schedule, Principal Matt Horvat encouraged faculty members to form an Advisory Design Committee to examine and revise the advisory program.

**SUGGESTING EXTENDING** advisory over the next two years to all four grade levels and involving nearly the entire faculty in serving as advisers, Advisory Design Committee Chairperson Frances Spaltro, Latin teacher, presented the group's proposal to the faculty at its March meeting. The nine-member committee recommended every student have a faculty member to go to for personal or academic assistance.

Two weeks ago, an Advisory Board, chaired by Principal Matt Horvat and new Assistant Principal Asra Ahmed, succeeded the Advisory Design Committee. The new Board will consist of a lead adviser from each grade level, as well as Counselor Camille Cunningham and College Counselor Patty Kovacs.

Under the current schedule, freshmen and sophomores attend advisory 2nd period two days a week. Beginning next year, freshmen, sophomores and juniors will meet in advisories for 20 minutes Mondays and Tuesdays and 40 minutes on Wednesdays. The year after, the committee plans to extend the program to seniors as well.

**"THE ADVISORY PROGRAM'S** primary goal is to attend to the whole care of each student, so that there is always one person every student can go to," Ms. Spaltro said in an interview. "Unfortunately, as the advisory program currently stands with only eight advisers for two grades, it's hard for these eight teachers to adequately care for over 200 students."

"The work of the Advisory Design Committee has been to find a new vision for the advisory system, and, with the new schedule being implemented next year, every full-time high school teacher will serve as an adviser, except for department chairs, science teachers, cross-school teachers, and those with other administrative obligations.

"Teaching labs and churning departments are significant time commitments, and teaching across schools can create scheduling and workload conflicts, so we thought it best in the pilot year of the new advisory program to cull the advisers from those whose schedules permit."

**DURING THE 20-minute period,** advisers will check

in with students and read school announcements, while they will discuss topics with students such as healthy relationships and substance abuse during the 40-minute slots. Sometimes, students will hear guest speakers during the 60-minute Thursday block period as well.

"Freshmen and sophomore workshop will follow a similar programming plan as in previous years, with some tweaking," Ms. Spaltro said. "Junior advisers will work closely with the college counselors to help prepare them for the winter college workshops, but there will also be a continuation of the healthy relationship discussions."

Ms. Spaltro acknowledges some faculty members might think taking on the added responsibility will be a tough transition.

**"SOME TEACHERS MIGHT** be concerned about the transition to the adviser's role," Ms. Spaltro said. "Some might be concerned that they won't be able to put enough time and effort in to advisory because of the number of classes they are teaching. But numerous teachers here already are informal advisers, and very good ones, at that."

Advisers will meet this summer for three to five days of training, and the Advisory Design Committee has also planned to use other school year days to train faculty.

"We will organize these summer training days and conduct in-house workshops on how to advise academically," Ms. Spaltro said. "Many high school teachers might not even be aware of the academic requirements outside their own departments. But, at some point, nearly every teacher will become aware of Lab's academic offerings and requirements because of this new system. Training advisers will involve an on-going professional development, not only this summer, but throughout the year, during the Faculty Development Day next November and any other opportunities we can offer advisers."



Art by Gene Cochrane

## Counselors provide help, confidentiality within law, ethics

Rafi Khan  
Editor-in-Chief

A little more than a month ago, a junior girl walked with her friend nervously to her counselor's office. She'd spent the class period before in the bathroom crying because she felt overwhelmed and scared, largely due to her workload. At her friend's persistent urging, she softly knocked on her counselor's closed door in the Guidance Office.

After one look at her face, the counselor cancelled her appointment that period, invited her in, closed the door and consoled and advised her for more than an hour.

**AT U-HIGH, THIS** girl's story isn't unique. Some students can easily recount times when they confided or relied on their counselor. They point particularly to the counselor's guidance, not just for students but for parents and teachers as well, after Spring Break last year, when two seniors suffered serious injuries and one passed away following a bicycling accident.

The four guidance and two college counselors' offices host U-Highers, who say they visit their counselors to discuss personal, social or academic problems, or just to hang out.

But other students say they feel reluctant approaching their counselors because they believe their counselors won't be helpful or won't honor their confidentiality.

**"I HAD TO** meet with my counselor regularly because I was on academic probation," said one senior girl. "I thought my counselor always spoke to me with preconceived notions and in a condescending way without knowing anything about me."

"The counselor clearly had strong opinions about other students and shared those with me, and what illegal things he thought me and my friends were doing. It seemed that the counselor was more loyal to protecting the school's image than helping me. I guess that makes sense because the school stays constant while the students change every year, but to be a good counselor, students have to feel like you're not reporting to someone else."

Counselors try to keep private what students share, said Guidance Counselor Ronald Tunis, but in some situations, they are required to report to administrators or parents.

**"IF I FEEL** like a student will harm themselves or others, or knows someone who'll harm themselves or others, I'm mandated by law to tell somebody," Mr. Tunis said. "But before I do that, I'll assess whether the person has planned their actions out and is serious, or if they just had a bad day. There's also a big gray area of what constitutes as harm. "Personally, I'm mystified why students feel they can't trust counselors. We're not here to bust you or get you in trouble. We're here looking out for your best interest."

Though counselors must sometimes report a student, Guidance Department Chairperson Asra Ahmed says she would never go behind a student's back to do so.

"Sometimes, students do get mad and never come back," Ms. Ahmed said. "But many come back because they realized that us telling administrators or parents about their situation helped them in the long run."

## Do U-Highers feel there's an adult they can count on for personal advice?

Siobhan O'Muircheartaigh  
Midway reporter

Feeling confident and optimistic despite her Winter Quarter blues, Junior Leslie Kamel cantered confidently into the classroom of a former teacher during 8th period one February Thursday.

Many U-Highers share this optimism, able to name at least one adult here they would freely confide in, though most took a moment to think before identifying specifically. So with proposed advisory program changes centered on ensuring all U-Highers have an adult at school to confide in, many U-Highers already have a go-to adult.

**"THIS YEAR DURING** Winter Quarter I was overwhelmed by school work, prepping for standardized tests, and sports," Leslie said. "One day during my free period I walked into this teacher's classroom and just started talking. She helped me plan a schedule to get everything done."

"I really didn't hesitate to choose what adult to go to. I had her as a teacher my sophomore year. Since U-High classes each have only about 20 kids, she got to develop a relationship with each student."

Sophomore Rachel Buikema questions whether any adults here could impart the personalized advice she may need.

"I talked to an adult once about a problem in my group of friends, and the advice I got didn't end up fixing anything," Rachel said. "If I had a similar problem in the future, I don't know which U-High adult, if any, I would talk to."

**HAVING FOUND** A balance between authority and friendship with an adult, Sophomore Willa Green feels most comfortable with her adviser, one of eight homeroom teachers freshmen and sophomores currently meet with twice a week.

"If I had to choose an adult to spill my concerns or

problems to, I'd choose my adviser," Willa said. "I feel like if I confide in teachers they might grade me differently or change their opinion of me. In advisory you get a pass or fail grade, so it's a lot more relaxed than normal classes and we can discuss anything."

"It also helps that we've had the same adviser for two years. My adviser knows me more personally than my teachers do."

**FINDING SOMEONE OUTSIDE** U-High's academic focus makes communicating with adults here much easier, according to Senior Tyler Anderson.

"I'm comfortable opening up to a few adults here who aren't currently in positions to grade me," Tyler said. "I can think of a few adults here who aren't currently in positions to grade me. I can also think of a few I could confide in about colleges, tricky classes, or maybe even some friend struggles. I can't think of an adult here who I'd talk to about crushes or family problems."

"Some of the adults here seem distanced from me by their older ages. That said, I know a specific staff member and coach who's young and acts less like a parent figure than do a lot of other adults at U-High. When I've told him about my fears about track, he listens more than he talks, and he doesn't lecture me."

**A SOPHOMORE** girl who wished to remain anonymous fears what she shares with adults won't remain confidential.

"My teachers at U-High have told us they talk with each other about students, and I've heard teachers gossiping in department offices about specific students failing their classes," she said. "I guess sometimes they're joking, but it makes me uncomfortable. At the same time, two of my teachers make themselves available to students and really listen. So, if I had a problem to discuss, I might be able to find an adult to talk to. I just don't know who yet."



Tyler



Rachel

# GOTTA LOVE THAT CAR!

**From upgrading horsepower to 415 to just appreciating their usefulness, U-Highers love their cars**

**Moira Differding**  
Associate editor

**D**ark grey-green, white, and blue; the colors of U-Higher's houses? No. The colors of U-Highers favorite cars? Yes.

Having ridden in the family car since the age of 2, Senior Sasha Karapetrova now drives that 1995 Toyota Corolla.

"It's a 1995 Toyota Corolla that has a manual drive," Sasha said. "It rides really smoothly."

"I'VE TRAVELED in this car everywhere because my family has had since I was 2 years old, so I have plenty of memories in it.

"I love the way it drives, how it gets great gas mileage, and it's the perfect size for me. I couldn't ask for a better car."

Caring for his dark gray-green 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee, Senior Jono Matthews takes responsibility for all of his car's maintenances.

"MY GRANDPARENTS had the car but they used it rarely, as they live in Manhattan," Jono said. "They decided to give me it as a present for my 17th birthday. It's pretty much dark grey, but with a slight dark green tint to it.

"I like virtually everything about it, it has comfy seats, a great sound system, tons of trunk space for extra people, but mainly I like that I simply have a car.

"It gives me so much freedom, especially because I live on the Northside and almost all of my friends live far beyond walking distance."

"IT ALSO sort of has its own character, kind of like an extension of me? I've been driving it almost everyday for nearly two years now, and it's sort of like a part of me.

Though he loves his car, his Jeep come with responsibilities.

"Even though it's mine, I have to do some of the driving for the family, such as occasional grocery shopping, or driving my siblings to appointments and the like.

"I'M IN charge of taking care of it. I fill it with gas, get it fixed when it needs maintenance, clean it, everything.

"Driving and parking in Hyde Park is rough at times. Parking especially. When the snowstorm hit earlier this year, it was brutal.

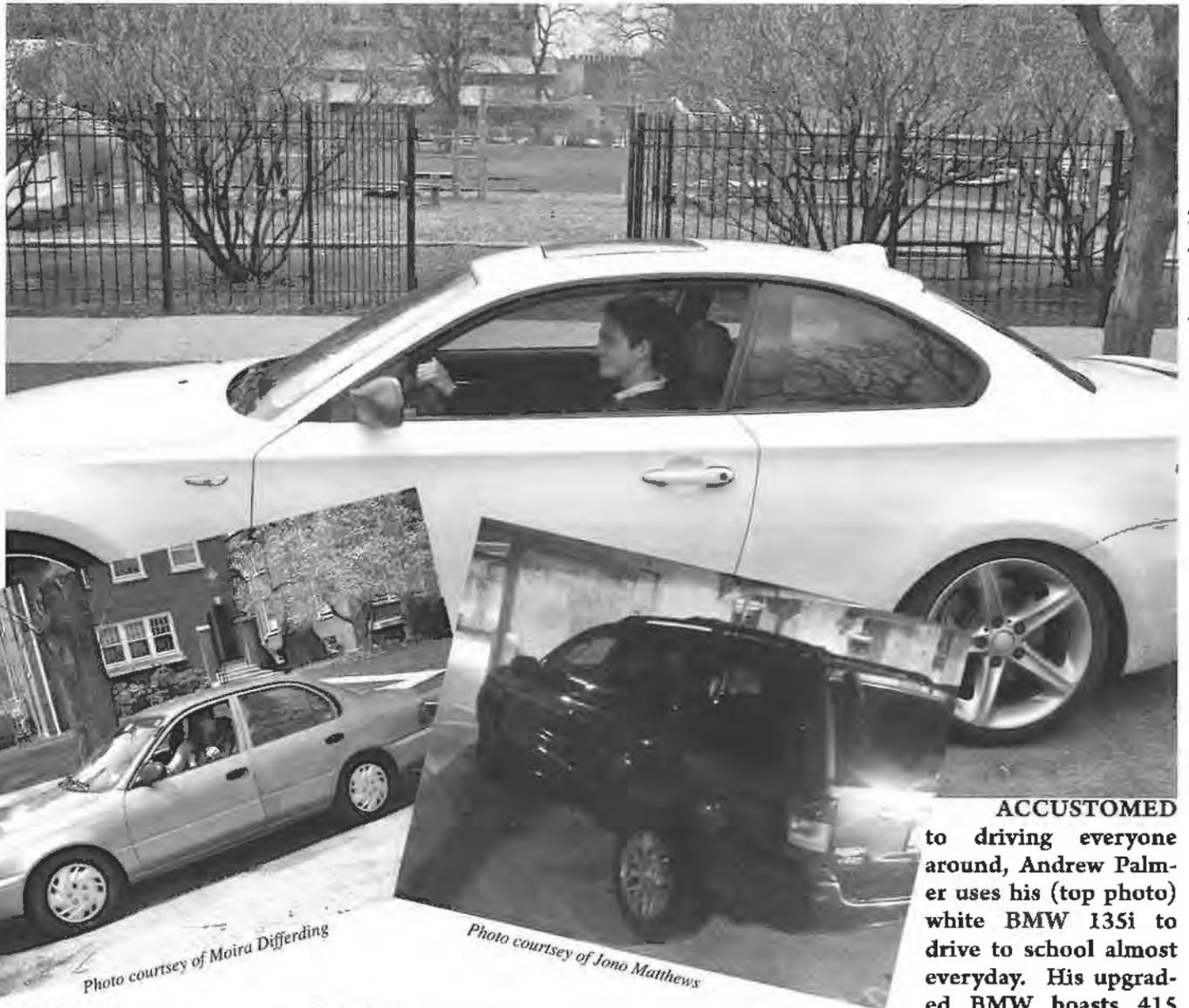
"After awhile you get used to it and know how to find a spot, which may not always be a legal spot, and get around quickly."

**RACING GO-KARTS** competitively both here and abroad, Junior Andrew Palmer also customized his white BMW 135i.

"It's white with a black leather interior," Andrew said. "It's lowered with racing suspension and has custom racing wheels.

"My BMW has Twin Turbos, a flashed ECU, full Berk Technology race exhaust, full Koni racing suspension by TC Kline racing, and Breyton Race GTS-R racing wheels with Michelin sport tires.

"I ACTUALLY have three sets of



**DRIVING TO school often (photos from left) Sasha Karapetrova's 1995 Toyota Corolla gets over 30 mpg and is useful for maneuvering the narrow streets of Hyde Park and the surrounding Chicago area. Using it frequently for visiting friends from his Northside complex, Jono Matthews parks his 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee.**

**ACCUSTOMED** to driving everyone around, Andrew Palmer uses his (top photo) white BMW 135i to drive to school almost everyday. His upgraded BMW boasts 415 horsepower in the rear and its roar has set off numerous car alarms.

Photo by Tim Thomas III.

wheels and tires. One for winter, one for summer, and one for the race track.

"I love the nimble handling of my car. The race suspension provides a very stiff ride and precise handling.

"With all the upgrades the car produces 415 horsepower to the rear wheels and around 430 lb-ft of torque. "Probably the thing I love most is the sound of my car.

"IT IS extremely loud. I have set off 12 car alarms and still counting. The full race exhaust has no muffler and no secondary 'cats'. Not quite sure if it's street legal though.

"I also love my manual transmission or 'stick shift,' meaning I have to manually change gears.

"People are surprised when they see a third pedal. It's an art form when mastered to perfectly execute heel-toe down shifting."

"I LIKE driving for the sake of driving. I love speed so when I take my car to race tracks and truly let it breath it's like nothing else. Driving calmly at night is also extremely relaxing, listening to the sound of the engine hum. I also like making fun of bad drivers."

While he loves the car, it takes a lot of responsibility, according to Andrew.

"I drive everyday to school and on weekends I'm 'the guy with the car'.

"I FIND myself not being able to say no and end up driving multiple people home everyday. Driving has truly changed my life. I am a lot more flexible with my schedule.

"I don't find myself doing family errands that often but I do make errands myself."

"It also means a lot more responsibility in terms of getting gas, paying for parking and 'obeying' the law.

"I HAVE been pulled over twice and had to go to court once for speeding.

"It's not my fault traffic flows at 65 on Lakeshore Drive.

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# Writers, artists gather honors

Annette Cochrane  
Midway reporter

Winning several painting and writing national awards, Seniors Layla Ehsan and Fraser Brown plan to either major or minor in their artistic fields in college.

Chosen as a finalist this year in the Chicago Metro History Fair contest, Layla will progress to the statewide competition.



Layla

"I am interested in Chicago's historical public artistic movements, so I focused on the Work Project Administration and Depression Era murals as political and cultural statements."

Also competing in the Scholastic Inc. Art and Writing Competition Fall 2010 to Winter 2011, Layla received the leading Regional Gold Key title for painting, an honor bestowed upon seven Midwestern high schoolers annually.



Fraser

The painting reflects the essence of West Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.

"At Gallery 37, my instructor Paula Martinez encouraged students to paint pieces that revolve around Chicago subject matter," Layla said. "My painting features elotes stands, food stands one can find everywhere on the streets of Chicago."

"These are typically filled with Mexican snacks like juice, horchata, a rice milk

drink, and fried pork skins. Though the woman in my painting is glowering at her food, the merchants are eccentric, outgoing, and fun. I tried to highlight this with bright colors and abundant food."

**HONORED IN** the same Scholastic Inc. Art and Writing contest, Fraser won a Gold Key for poetry and novel excerpt, a Silver Key for a short story and her General Portfolio, a compilation of her eight best works, and also an honorable mention for an other short story.

Fraser was also named a Commended Poet in Foyle's 2010 Young Poets of the Year contest and given a Young Arts merit award for a novel excerpt. Inspired by everything from conversation snippets to "Toddlers in Tiaras," Fraser's writing ranges from poems to stories.

"I have written two short stories," Fraser said. "One, called 'Ushering,' centers on a couple kids who usher a Kafka mash up play and absolutely ruin the night. The second is set in the future, and China buys Chicago from the Daleys."

"I WAS THRILLED with the Foyle Poetry Competition honor because it's in England. I am considering a creative writing minor in college, and I want to stay involved in the verbal sphere as an adult."

Similarly competing in a writing contest, Senior Jeremy Woo was named a finalist in the Columbia College Young Writer's Competition, and will attend an April 30 award ceremony. Jeremy submitted an original short story written for Ms. Darlene McCampbell's Stars and Dust elective last Spring.



## On exhibit, with honors

**AMONG FOUR U-HIGH** photographers on exhibit at 375 West Erie Street through May 13, Senior Delia Privitera won 3rd place for her photograph (in the photo above at the opening April 15) of U-Highers painting the box office in Belfield Theater.

Photos by Junior Elizabeth Gelman of a Revolutionary war impersonator Brent LaRowe; Sophomore Remy Lewis, of a snowed-in Chicago; and Sophomore

Lili Steffen, of falling candies, are on exhibit as well. Students from Barrington, Glenbrook North, Loyola Academy, New Trier and Saint Scholastica also displayed photos.

"I'm really excited that I won this award," Delia said. "This is the first time that I've won anything for my photographs and it's an honor to have won with all of the wonderful pictures that were at the gallery." Photo by Stuart Rodgers Gallery.

## Eleven vie for McGuire awards

Alex Barber  
Midway reporter

Writing a timed essay April 21, 11 juniors have been nominated for two Eunice Helmkamp McGuire Writing Awards for excellence in writing.

The award grants \$1,000 for senior year tuition and honors the late English Department chairperson.

**CHOSEN BY ENGLISH** teachers, the nominees include Grace Brody, Eugene Cochrane, Sydney Fishman, Katherine Garvey, Joyce Harduvel, Charlie Jiang, Reem Khondakar, Molly Petchenik, Nick Phalen, Ana Rosic and Kristina Wald.

"The English teachers judge the timed essays, with the students' names re-

moved, and we select up to five semifinalists," English Department Chairperson Carrie Koenen explained.

"Then, we send both the semifinalists' timed essays and their best-graded English essays, which the students submit in addition to completing the timed essay, to an outside panel of judges.

"HISTORICALLY, the outside judges have been some combination of retired and former English teachers, graduate students and PhD candidates from the University of Chicago, and professional writers," Ms. Koenen said. "The outside judges will select the two winners."

Winners will be revealed at the yearend Awards Assembly.

## Midway staff wins national, state awards

A funny thing happened to Junior Gene Cochrane on his way to winning a First-Place award in cartooning in the Illinois Woman's Press Association's annual high school communications contest.

Gene tied for the award with someone he happens to know very well. Gene Cochrane. Gene's award is among six First Places won by the Midway staff.

By category the others are:  
**Sports photo**, Jackie Robertson; **editorial**, Rafi Khan; **opinion**, Nick Phalen; **column**, Rafi Khan.

The students will be honored at a luncheon May 21 at the Union League Club downtown.

At the luncheon the Midway will be presented with the Association's Silver Pen Award for overall excellence. The U-High paper won the award the first

year it was presented, 2004, and won it again in 2007.

Other U-High winners were as follows:  
**SECOND PLACE-Sports photo**, Remy Lewis.

**THIRD PLACE-Opinion**, Rachel Sylora; **single-page layout**, Nick Chaskin; **centerspread layout**, Sydney Scarlata; **sports story**, JR Reed.

**HONORABLE MENTION-Sports photo**, Jeffery Li; **feature photo**, Anisha Sisodia; **single page layout**, Anisha Sisodia; **news story**, Nick Phalen.

At a luncheon in June at the Executive Mansion in Springfield, Senior Rafi Khan will be honored as runnerup in the Illinois Journalism Education Association's High School Journalist of the Year program. Rafi also has been named to the National Scholastic Press Association's Honor Roll of High School Journalists.

## Award winners follow up with more awards

Two U-High award winners have won again.

For the second year Junior Maddie Lindsey has won the National Center for Women in Information Technology award for Aspirations in Computing.

Recipients are chosen based on com-

puting and informational technology aptitude; leadership; academic record; and further education plans.

Sophomore Catherine Zou, winner at other competitions, took 1st place in both solo and concerto categories at the Illinois Music Federation State competition.

# Delicious, Deli-style



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## Real live boy to play wooden puppet!

Senior Wilson Sinclair was cast as the puppet who becomes a real live boy in the Spring production "Pinocchio" 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 19, 20, 21.

About 30 students tried out for the play during a four-day audition.

Freshman Loren Sosnick was selected to play Geppetto, the poor Italian woodworker who carves the talking marionette, Pinocchio.

Other cast roles include Junior Sydney Fishman playing the Blue Fairy,

while Sophomore Adam Kelsick and Senior Mollie Rotmensch will appear as the Fox and Cat. Mollie also shares the position of student assistant director with Junior George Plys-Garzotto.

"I was intrigued by the childlike world of 'Pinocchio,' and how different my character is from anything else I have performed," Wilson said. "He begins the play with a blank slate, and grows as a character with each mistake and decision."



**GROOVING TO TUNES** cranked by D.J. Phillip Ehrenberg's black Macbook Pro, from left Victoria Bills, Kevin Suarez, from Kenwood Academy, former Lab Schools Middle Schooler Jasmine Harris, and Staci Gusakova danced among other partygoers at Spectrum's Rainbow Ball, March 11 in Kovler Gym. Photo by Malvika Jolly.

# Spectrum brings outside world into U-High with results

Leah Barber  
Midway reporter

Leopard-print pants, glittery red dresses and silver-brushed masks brightened Upper Kovler Gym, Friday, March 11 as scores of colorfully dressed partygoers danced at the first Spectrum-sponsored Rainbow Ball.

The Rainbow Ball, to which students from Latin and Parker were invited, was among several events Spectrum has organized this year to connect with communities outside U-High.

"A DANCE was something Spectrum has considered since I started out in the club," said Junior Mara Weisbach, copresident with Senior Anna Rosenzweig.

"So, this year, we decided to make it happen. It was originally going to be called a Drag Ball, but we didn't want to be off putting to those who might want to come, but were uncomfortable wearing drag."

"INSTEAD, WE called it the Rainbow Ball, because of all the rainbow symbolism usually associated with gay pride. There were probably about 80 people there, 50 of them from other schools," Mara continued.

Students from suburban high schools including Oak Park River Forest, Lyons Township, and Glenbard East joined the crowds of students in Upper Kovler.

"EVERYONE FROM different schools was going up to each other and dancing," Anna Rosenzweig explained.

"At one point, everybody was sitting outside together, and we all started singing 'What Is This Feeling' from the musical 'Wicked.' We didn't even know each other, but we shared things in common, and that's what's important.

"Lab tends to be very insular in some ways, so I think the chance to spend an evening dancing with a bunch of great kids from around Chicago was really special."

SPECTRUM HAS brought well-received speakers to the school this year.

"We've had a U. Chicago student, Nory Kaplan-Kelly, come in and talk about his experience as a young person going through transition," Mara said.

"We've also had three University of Chicago professors come in, Martha Nussbaum, Geoff Stone and Mary Ann Case.

"Ms. Nussbaum talked about her book about homophobia called 'Disgust and Humanity.'

"MR. STONE talked about the constitutional history of gay rights and Ms. Case talked about the Obama administration's recent decision not to back DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act).

"Along with the dance, there have been speakers, events hosted for Ally Week, a clothing and toiletry drive for the Broadway Youth Center, a bake sale for World AIDS Day, and a Day of Silence," Mara continued.

"I think everyone has really enjoyed having speakers come in, and they've definitely contributed to our club's dedication to issues in the LGBT community."

# Science Team squads keeps victorious momentum going

Hebah Masood  
Midway reporter

If you've been near the Judd basement after school in the past few months, you might have heard some unusual noises.

That's because the Illinois Science Olympiad (ISO) team has been creating equipment for building part of the ISO competition including homemade flutes and rubber band powered helicopters.

THEY SOUGHT to prepare for ISO State Finals April 16 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where they placed 15th of 45 schools. Their goal had been top 10.

Most machines the team made didn't place, however, the team scored high on tests. ISO tests cover topics including Fossils, Chemistry, and Anatomy. Because they didn't place 1st, the U-Highers did not proceed to Nationals.

"A lot of building events didn't go as planned," said Senior Aalap Herur-Raman, captain. "They did a lot better at Regionals or in trial runs before the competition. More groups received medals at Regionals too. A lot of juniors received medals, so we're hoping next year's team will do a lot better."

THREE DAYS earlier, the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) team dominated 15 schools and received 1st place at State competition April 13, also at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, for the 14th consecutive year.

At the meet, the team took tests on topics ranging from Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Graphics, English, Math, and Physics.

The WYSE team took 1st place from 10 schools at Sectionals March 17 at North Central College in Naperville.

The following received awards:  
**WORLDWIDE YOUTH IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STATE-1st place-Mathematics:** Charlie Jiang; **Biology:** Charles Du; **Computer Science:** Jeremy Archer; **2nd place-Mathematics:** Charles Du; **English:** Alice Fine; **3rd Place-Chemistry:** Charlie Jiang; **Computer Science:** Joe Turner and Elliot Levmore; **4th place-Engineering Graphics:** Edouard Brooks; **5th place-Biology:** Yaming Zhang; **6th place-Physics:** Robert Radway; **Engineering Graphics:** Jonathon Jou.

**ILLINOIS SCIENCE OLYMPIAD STATE-3rd place-Robotics:** Robert Radway and Charlie Jiang; **Microbiology:** Aalap Herur-Raman, Hannah Greenblatt; **4th place-Markus Hockener, Hannah Greenblatt;** **5th place-** Charlie Jiang and Jonathon Jou.

**JUNIOR ENGINEERING TECHNICAL SOCIETY STATE-Varsity:** Jim Torpy, Joe Turner, Jonathon Jou, Peter Zhang, Charlie Jiang, Denny Ilyan, Jan Uhlig; **Junior varsity:** Alexandra Radway, Elena Skosy-Lalonde, Elliot Levmore, Adel Rehkemper, Max Archer, Arjune Nandy, Rush Brown, Lane Gunderman.

**WORLDWIDE YOUTH IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SECTIONALS-1st place-Biology:** Charles Du; **Chemistry:** Charlie Jiang; **Computer Science:** Jeremy Archer; **English:** Alice Fine; **Math:** Charles Du; **Physics:** Joe Turner; **2nd place-Computer Science:** Joe Turner; **Math:** Elliot Levmore; **Physics:** Robert Radway; **3rd place-Chemistry:** Stephanie Xiao; **Math:** Charlie Jiang; **5th Place-Chemistry:** Jennifer Pan.

# Model U.N. piles up victories

Duncan Weinstein  
Midway reporter

GOING two for two, the Model U.N. team won the Best Large Delegation Award for the second consecutive year in a row April 7-10 at Northwestern University in north suburban Evanston.

Competing against 24 other schools, U-High's 29 delegates finished with five 1st place awards, two 2nds and seven 3rds.

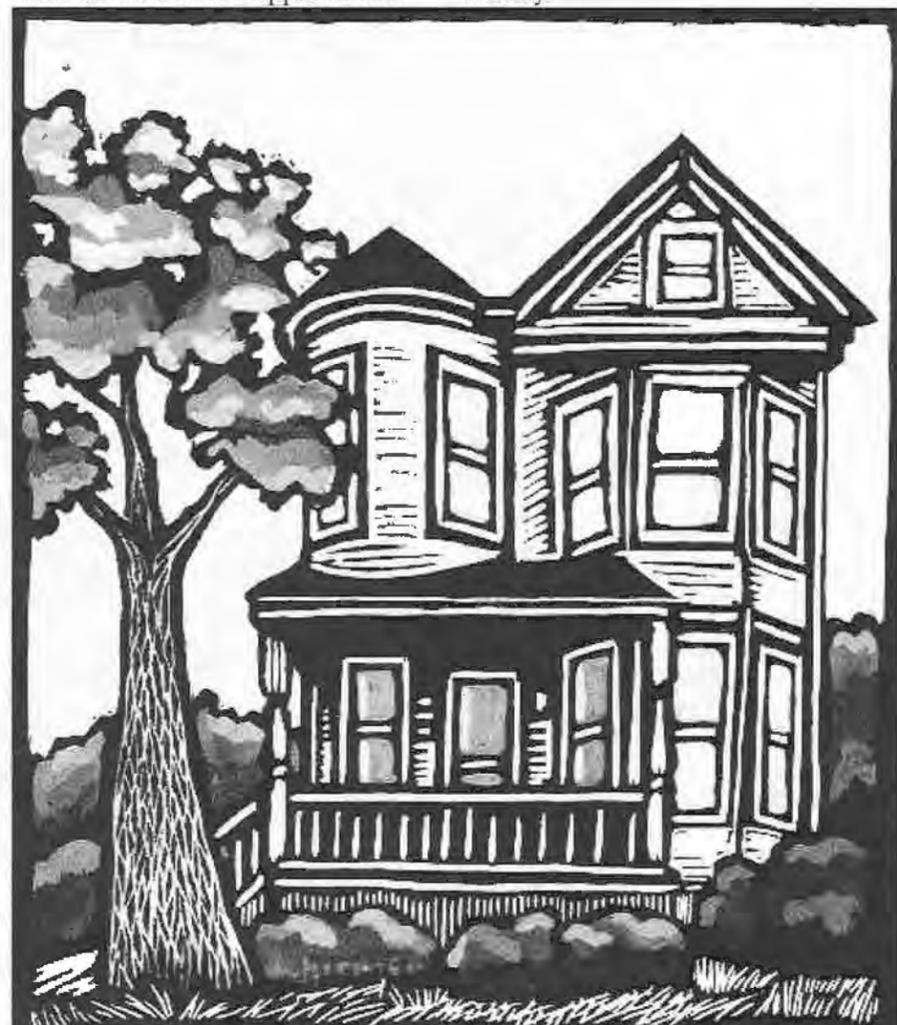
Competing without their junior members, on Retreat, they represented the U.K., Gabon, Indonesia and Japan on committees ranging in size from 11 delegations to 83.

Freshman Katie Harris, Sophomore Jordan Einhorn and Freshman Sophia Weaver placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd, respectively, on the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization discussing factory farming.

their third win out of four conferences this year, the team also won at the College of William and Mary November 12-14 and Georgetown February 17-20. Ranked the 4th best high school team in the country by the Model U.N. blog *bestdelegate.com*, the U-Highers competed at Northwestern with an unusually high number of delegates on each committee.

For the first time, Freshman Matt Davis went into his committee, the International Atomic Energy Agency, with three other U-High delegates.

"IT WAS NICE to have other Lab delegates on my committee so I could talk about what was going on," Matt said. "But at the same time, it was a little restrictive. They always tell you to be aggressive and I felt like I couldn't do that because it would interfere with other Lab kids."



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# Stories continued from the front page

SI

## Schools close, questions begin

this month Chicago Public Schools proposed closing and consolidating 14 poorly performing schools, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Parents, members of the Chicago Teachers' Union and more than 100 Chicago Public Schools students gathered outside the Chicago Public Schools offices on the corner of Clark and Adams Streets earlier this month to protest the closures.

**UNDERSTANDING THAT** neighborhood schools are valuable for the community, Associate Director of Education Programs Jason Lopez believes that closing public schools provides students with better education in some instances.

"It's tough to close a neighborhood school," Mr. Lopez said. "Many students who go to these schools have an advantage because their schools are often within walking distance for them. However, a lot of these neighborhoods have poor performing schools. If a student wants to go to school to receive a good education and the school they're attending is reconstituted, they might have a better chance of receiving a good education."

While Mr. Lopez believes charter schools can be successful, such as the University of Chicago's four charter schools, he also feels that they have a downside.

**THE UNIVERSITY** of Chicago has four charter schools and they all do very well," Mr. Lopez said. "Last year, Kenwood Charter had its first graduating class and 98 percent went to college, which is unheard of. Usually around 56 percent of students graduate from high school. The performance level is impressive and the great numbers give a lot of hope.

"But the downside of charter schools is that they are run by lottery so students apply to be in the lottery and they hope to be chosen. They are frustrating odds."

Believing it impossible to avoid problems with such a large public school system, Principal Matt Horvat finds Chicago Public Schools offer several good qualities.

**AS THE THIRD** largest public school system in the nation, there are bound to be problems but there are also great things," Mr. Horvat said. "Many of our students who come here in 9th grade come from Chicago Public Schools.

"When a failing school closes they have problems within. Oftentimes it's easier to close and start over than to try to fix them. The closing of the public schools is not only about the schools, but also about the community the school is in."

"Students who apply to Lab also apply to schools which are similar to Lab such as Whitney Young," Mr. Horvat said. "If the CPS system is shut down more students would begin applying to Lab. This is not a good situation for these students since they will then have limited choices.

**IN ORDER** to ultimately make the schools better it will take a fresh perspective. But it will also take money. They always say it's not about the money but it is. And money spent the right way."

Familiar with both the Chicago Public School system and U-High, Dorothy L. Wilson-Davis, Retired Associate Director, Chicago Urban Systemic Program, Chicago Public Schools' Office of Mathematics and Science, understands that closing the school is oftentimes the easiest way to solve the problem, yet she believes each school has its individual needs and school closures aren't the most effective means of meeting them.

"It is extremely important to work within all schools to improve education for all students," Ms. Wilson-Davis said in a phone interview. "The city must resolve problems within individual schools for all children as opposed to the 'easy way out' of closing the schools.

**EVERY STUDENT** in Chicago has the right to quality education and CPS has an obligation to ensure that happens. CPS should examine what they can do to improve every school in Chicago and not think that eliminating the schools will solve the problem.

"There are a number of things that must be done to improve education in Chicago, which is challenging. It would require involvement of all students, parents, teachers, community members and CPS administrators in the school. They would have to sit down and identify what is missing and what needs improving at each individual school.

"CPS would also have to make sure all teachers graduating from universities are highly qualified. Universities, the district and local schools would have to work together to ensure future practitioners will be able to provide high quality instruction. Many charter schools have universities that are involved with them but now more non-charter schools need to become affiliated with universities and corporate partners."

MS. WILSON-DAVIS also believes that these school closings will also increase gang violence.

"When schools are closed and consolidated there are a lot of additional problems that emerge," Ms. Wilson-Davis said. "One major issue is students from the school that is being closed oftentimes must cross several different gang territories to get from their homes to school."

## Test scores take over education

"In too many instances, 'Race to the Top', just like 'No Child Left Behind', has forced schools to teach to the test and students are not learning in depth. Unfortunately, most of the world focuses on standardized tests as well.

"In some European and Asian countries, a young person's future is based on a test score and, I know from my experience that this is an incomplete way to assess one's ability.

**I DISAGREE** with paying a teacher based upon their students standardized test scores but I do believe good teaching can be measured. Rigorous evaluation measures, if implemented well, can be of great assistance to teachers regardless of their experience.

"Standardized tests were never designed to measure a teacher's effectiveness. Instead, they have high value with diagnostic and prescriptive information to assist both teaching and learning. Also, the group results help inform the curriculum to be taught. We use our results to validate what we are doing both with the curriculum as a whole and to provide special assistance to those students whose profile shows gaps in learning.

"Lab has always distinguished itself by helping students learn how to think and to discern fiction from fact. We are not the first school, nor will we be the last, to move away from the A.P. curriculum in some courses. Depth rather than breadth has much more value at this time in history when the explosion of knowledge is exponential.

**THE POSITIVE ASPECT** of 'Race to the Top' is that those administering it are taking an approach that rewards progress. Providing incentives or 'carrots' is a far better approach than penalizing or handing out 'sticks' to those schools who have not met the government's measures of required improvements."

U-High won't be converting to a merit pay system either, since doing that would take away flexibility from courses, said Principal Matt Horvat.

"This isn't a standardized test driven school," Mr. Horvat said. "Teachers are more focused on teaching their material and not on how to take tests.

"Standardized tests aren't good measures of how well a teacher does his or her job, since there are just too many factors to judge them that simply. For example, depending on a student's background he may have a harder time to teach. If someone is worrying

about food, it's much harder to do well in school."

Merit pay tied to test scores has no place in U-High since the school emphasizes education more than standardized test scores, said Counselor Patty Kovacs.

**TEACHERS HERE** don't care about SAT, ACT, or PLAN scores so much," Ms. Kovacs said. "They care about college acceptance rates much more. Because we are such a good school, college trust our assessments of our students that we give them through their grades."

"Teachers here are all serious about what they do and what they teach. They don't try 'teaching the test.' What's much more important here is the relationship between teachers and students so that they can get the most out of their education. And that cannot be measured by a standardized test. I have children that attended Lab who have already grown up, and they still ask how their high school math, history or English teachers are doing.

"Standardized tests aren't important in a student's career either. Do SAT scores affect someone's ability to play piano or draw incredibly well? No, it doesn't. And it's their talents that got them into music and art schools. There is nothing a teacher loves to see more than have a student of theirs completely pursue their passion."

**STANDARDIZED TESTS** are an oversimplified way of measuring a teacher's ability, believes Math Teacher Joseph Scroll.

"You have to be careful when you link standardized test performance to teachers' salaries, since you're using them in a way they're not intended. If everything is based on these tests then teachers will start to only teach students how to succeed on taking tests, since there are a lot of tricks to doing them. There are a lot of students that aren't excited about tests. If you're trying to excite kids in a topic, teaching them how to take standardized tests is not how to do it.

"In a number of public schools I've been to, they'll spend a day per month or week just preparing for standardized tests. It doesn't contribute to learning. In, say, our discrete math course, we learn about standardizing data, how to calculate z-score, and a lot of other concepts which you can't learn just preparing for a standardized test."

## Another school paper gets bashed

"I'm not bitter about what happened," Jaclyn wrote in an e-mail. "I'm just frustrated, one that this did happen, and two that three weeks later I was told that he never said that and he never removed our adviser. It was all just very frustrating when I had to deal with Mr. Lundie or telling reporters that the spokesperson is telling them things we had never heard of. I've never been on the phone so much.

"As for next year, I'm very hesitant to say it'll be fine because I highly doubt it. They're trying to along with Colorado University so I'm not too sure we'll have a paper and if we do it will not be like it is now at all."

**THIS WHOLE** experience has just been a real lesson on how an article should have proof and be solid and really showed me what good journalism is all about. Also, that if it is something you believe in then it shouldn't be a question whether you're going to fight for it or not."

Lori contacted Frank LoMonte, Executive Director of the Student Press Law Center, a national First Amendment advocacy group based in Arlington, Virginia, to help negotiate the reinstatement of the Scout. Reached through e-mail, Mr. LoMonte remains skeptical.

"It's pretty obvious that the school recognized that its position was indefensible and backpedaled to avoid a lawsuit," Mr. LoMonte said. "The district's current position is that the students may publish as many papers as are in the budget, without mandatory prior review by the principal, and that the state of the program will be reassessed after the school year.

**WE ALL TAKE THIS** to mean that the district is simply waiting a few months for the heat to die down before once again removing Ms. Sudik and canceling the newspaper, and we'll be prepared to file suit on the students' behalf that time if it is clear that the school's retaliation was merely postponed rather than actually reversed."

Colorado is one of seven states with laws protecting high school press. It passed its Student Free Expression Law in 1990, prohibiting censorship unless the content promotes unlawful acts, causes disruption of school, contains profane or defamatory language or violates right to privacy.

"What is most troubling about the situations in Iowa and Colorado is that the state's legislators went on record overwhelmingly stating that censorship has no place in public schools," Mr. LoMonte said. "And that students, not principals, get to make the judgment calls about what goes in student publications, within the limits of the law and of student safety.

**IT'S ONE THING** for a principal to make a poor decision where the law is unclear or ambiguous, but it's another thing to run through a red stop light, as the principal Overland has done."

The issue at Overland is more an ethical than legal one, believes former National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year Steve O'Donoghue of California.

"Because of the reform movement in education, there have been two factors that damage scholastic journalism," Mr. O'Donoghue said. "The first is the increase in the number of schools, charter schools especially, which has produced a shortage of good administrators with experience working with teachers and students.

"The second is that people are viewing teachers as part of the problem. People assume teachers are at fault, which makes it easier for administrators who have a problem with scholastic journalism to punish them."

## Teachers and their unions find themselves under attack

A proponent of teachers' rights, Lab Schools Director David Magill hopes that educational reform will respect public school faculty.

"What is taking place with the slashing of budgets, demonization of teachers and blaming employees for the debts of states and municipalities is wrong," Mr. Magill said. "It's the wrong approach to improving education. Of that I am sure. But of all things that undergo change, sometimes you have to experience bad in order to get to the good. I'm optimistic that we all can become better at what we do.

"There are wonderful teachers all over the place," Mr. Magill con-

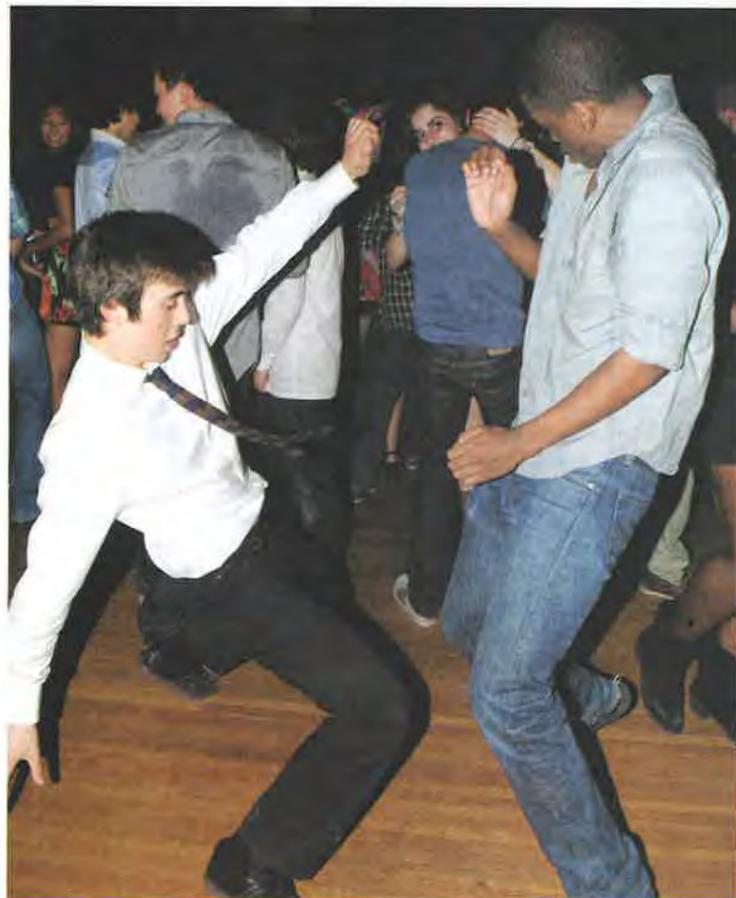
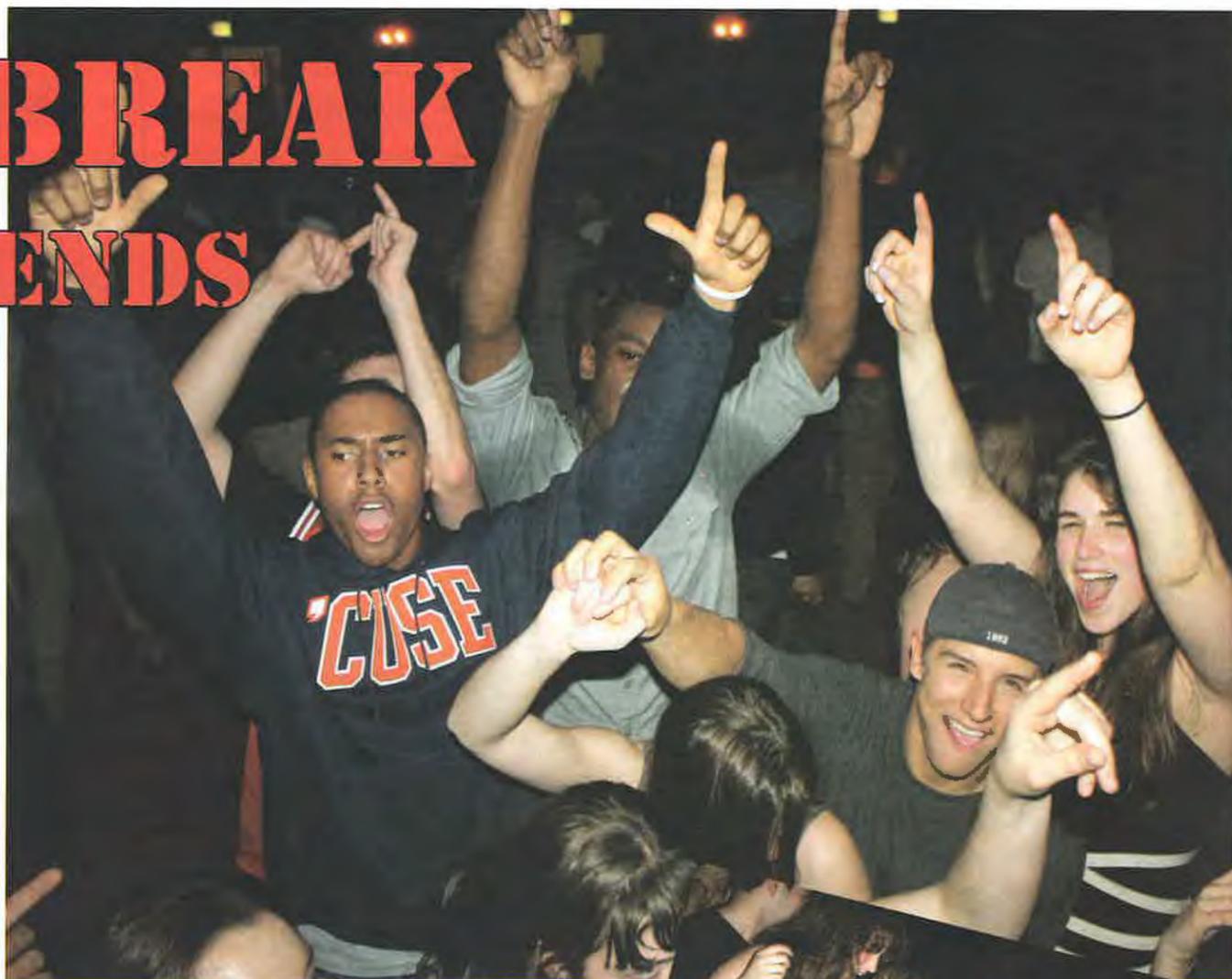
tinued. "There are five things that make a good teacher. They are being prepared, making the subject interesting and meaningful, providing frequent feedback, insuring that thinking is more important than acquiring facts, and getting to know your students as human beings rather than people in a classroom. I encountered many such teachers in my time with the public school system.

"Some teachers are fighting educational reform. For example, Texas superintendent John Kuhn is leading an uprising against educational reform through his 'Letter from Alamo,' in which he criticizes Texas' legislators stressing the importance of 'teaching to the test.'

"Teachers are protected by the same constitutional laws as everyone else. As long as they are not doing something illegal they have the First Amendment right to speak their minds. They should not be penalized for that."

# SPRING BREAK NEVER ENDS

**FISTS PUMP** as U-Highers jump to the beats of D.J. Jamal Smallz during the Spring Fling Dance, Saturday, April 16 at the International House. Despite the unusually cold April night, students met the theme "spring break never ends" with zeal. Girls arrived flaunting shorts and sheer summer dresses while boys were seen in light button-downs open at the collar. From left, Julian du Buclet, Austin Morris, Fraser Brown, Amy Northrop, Liam Mireles and Maggie Carton scream the chant "ONE ONE!" With index fingers raised as the show their support for the class of 2011. *Photo by Anisha Sisodia*



**STRIPED CRAVAT**, black slacks and a crisp white collared shirt made Ben Postone (left) stand out from the crowd as he busts some moves with Austin on the edges of the dancing crowd. The man providing the music for them, D.J. Jamal Smallz, has become a familiar face at U-High dances in recent years. His speakers blared hits including "Black and Yellow" by Wiz Khalifa and "Apple Bottom Jeans" by T-Pain. *Photo by Veronica Ramirez*

**AMONG** approximately 200 U-Highers who attended, seniors including (from left) Jono, Maggie, Austin and Veronica Ramirez crowded the dance floor and made a dance train to Flow Rida's "Low." Keeping with the Spring break theme, Veronica and Fraser Brown (back) wore floral dresses and Hawaiian leis. In addition, the ballroom was decorated with air-filled palm trees and the walls were covered with Hawaiian themed banners. *Photo by Anisha Sisodia*



**SPORTING** glow-in-the-dark glasses and a Hawaiian bowler shirt, Henry Bergman gives Akili King a congratulatory birthday hug as Thomas Aquino and Austin look on. *Photo by Anisha Sisodia*

**FLOWER POWER.** Rocking a high-waisted floral skirt and a basic grey tank, Maxine Nesbitt gets ready to return to the dance floor with Julian and Austin. *Photo by Veronica Ramirez*

## Spring Royalty



**FRESHMEN**  
Sam Kaplan  
Carolyn Voht



**SOPHOMORES**  
Amol Gundeti  
Jordan Davis



**JUNIORS**  
Christian Castenada  
Emma Davis



**SENIORS**  
Jay Upadhyay  
Maggie Carton



**ALL-SCHOOL**  
Martin Garrett-Currie  
Sabrina Holland

# AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT



Art by Gene Cochrane

## A point of clarification

It's a rare moment that the Guidance Office has no students in it.

Whether to talk about problems, get advice, or just to hang out, many students frequent the offices of U-High's five counselors.

AND FOR those students, the counselors provide support and a source of comfort.

But for others, that office represents something different.

When the Midway asked 10 boys and girls from each grade whether they felt they would go to their counselors with a personal problem and why or why not, only about half said they would.

OF THOSE that wouldn't, many felt confused about what could be kept confidential and what couldn't, and some also said they felt that sometimes, counselors were out to "get them."

By law, counselors are required to tell administrators or parents when they believe a student will seriously harm themselves or others or knows

someone who will. But that leaves a big gray area for what constitutes as harm and counselors are responsible for interpreting that as they wish.

This gray area is where it appears that students and counselors have a disconnect. Behavior that students believe causes no harm a counselor might feel compelled to report.

SO, WHAT starts as a counselor looking to protect a student may end with a student feeling like their trust was broken.

To make matters worse, counselors then get a reputation of being untrustworthy; a perception that seems to make some students reluctant to approach counselors with any problem, regardless of whether they may get in trouble.

And counselors can hardly be blamed for the misconception. They're just doing their jobs.

But it may prove helpful, as the counselors look to expand the advisory program, to try to clear the confusion.

## Education for democracy in danger

As education reform in America reaches a fever pitch, the country appears to be regressing.

As America's supposedly "democratic" government officials attempt to keep up with other countries, education in America slowly seems headed for becoming strictly test score-based. In the efforts to outdo competing countries in standardized testing, many elements of the American education system are being based on the results of these tests.

Even President Barack Obama, whose campaign platform revolved around abolishing No Child Left Behind, an act devised by the Bush Administration to enforce standardized testing, has made clear his emphasis on competing with China.

Increasingly, teachers are being evaluated based on their students' scores and an increasing number of teachers are being laid off. Not to mention the growing number of public schools being shut down because of decreasing test scores, higher drop out rates and diminishing attendance rates.

And while teachers are being laid off, teachers'

unions are being dismantled, as in Wisconsin, because they were spending too much effort on the teachers as opposed to the reform of the education system.

Abolishing teachers' unions represents a clear weakening of the democracy because the unions have protected the rights of the teachers and enabled collective bargaining. Once these rights are obliterated the government is no longer "for the people by the people."

In the government's efforts to compete with the global powers educationally, the country is actually regressing. While education in many other countries is free, oftentimes in America the best education is the most expensive. And even while efforts are being made, graduation rates are decreasing as are test scores. As a whole, it all seems counterproductive.

And while U-High is not affected by many of these growing issues in the United States, even independent schools are affected by standardized testing playing a major role in their education, such as the ACT and the SAT.

## OPINION RACHEL SYLORA

### Defacings insult respect for diversity

DIVERSITY—noun.

1. the state or quality of being different or varied
2. a point of difference
3. logic the relation that holds between two entities when and only when they are not identical; the property of being numerically distinct.

THIS IS a word that most, if not all, U-Highers know, understand and respect.

From numerous diversity-related assemblies to "Labsapes," the day-long diversity workshop fostering discussions around diversity, identity and community that debuted last November, U-High's emphasis on diversity is beyond significant.

Within our halls, diversity acts as a golden rule. There is no question that U-High is a diverse place, and tolerant to all types of diversity. Administrators, teachers and students acknowledge this concept and are proud of it.

U-HIGH TAKES pride in knowing that students as well as faculty and staff come from all different places, have different opinions, and are not blinded by stereotypes associated with different characteristics or backgrounds.

But we aren't perfect. Rules, even golden rules, are broken.

Earlier this quarter, the bulletin board of the Black Students Association was defaced by an unknown suspect or group of suspects.

WHEN I first heard about the vandalism, I found it hard to believe. Not only was I dismayed by the event, but I was even more shocked that it had occurred in the first place, especially at a place like U-High. When we enter the doors of U-High, all of these stereotypes and intolerant viewpoints quickly evaporate.

At U-High, we live in a seemingly perfect bubble of acceptance where all ignorant behavior and acts of unkindness, such as this, are not permitted.

I am in no way assuming that the culprits are U-Highers, but regardless of where you are from or what you believe in, we live in a society that is fueled by mutual respect.

OUTSIDE THE WALLS of U-High, diversity and acceptance drive our world and generation. Just a couple blocks away from U-High, we witnessed and participated in the election of the first African-American President of the United States, Barack Obama. We shouldn't have to deal with petty and immature acts of racism anymore.

At U-High, we're commended for our achievements and taught to respect those of our peers. Our motivation stems from many places. Some aim to attend an Ivy League school and others to become a Division I recruits, but regardless of what our goals are, we all live and contribute to the same great community that is U-High.

It's a shame to see that someone would try to break that.



Rachel

## SAY WHAT?

Compiled by Spencer Lee

### Who would be your dream Prom date and why?



Maggie

**MAGGIE CARTON, senior:** My dream Prom date would be Fraser Brown, because we could ride her horse, Velto, to Prom and back.



Gia

**GIA ROWLEY, junior:** Mila Kunis. Who wouldn't want to be Natalie Portman for a day?



Sam

**SAM LAWRENCE, sophomore:** It would be Cassie Ventura, the singer. She can sing, dance and is a beautiful girl. My life would be complete.



Emily

**EMILY HSEE, freshman:** My dream date would be Ed Westwick, the actor who plays Chuck Bass in "Gossip Girl" on T.V. I'm a sucker for English men who pose with American accents.

## U-HIGH MIDWAY

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## FILM MOIRA DIFFERDING

### Saga of teenage assassin chaotically spins adventure

**B**LOOD ALREADY spattering her face, Hanna pulls the trigger of a Mauser Luger 42, ending the life of another pursuing mercenary as she struggles to locate and kill her target: Marissa Wiegler of the CIA.

In Director Joe Wright's "Hanna," 16-year-old Hanna Heller (Saoirse Ronan), raised in the isolated wilderness of Finland by her father Erik Heller (Eric Bana), flees across Europe and Africa alone, trying to escape Marissa (Cate Blanchett), who wants to kill Hanna for mysterious reasons.

**THE FATHER** had defected from the CIA and fled the United States Erik with the infant Hanna. As she grew up, he trained her to one day kill the woman Marissa.

Intense fighting scenes grace "Hanna," so it's never boring. Action scenes following her pursuers being discovered end in long brawls involving physical moves, snapping necks with her own hands, knives, guns, and arrows.

Violence breaks out quickly during scenes, and by the time a chase ends, Hanna has showcased another creative killing method. It's not a film for the squeamish.

Even Hanna herself doesn't know the entirety of the situation she was trained for, but she catapults through it with ease until she meets a well-off English family vacationing through Morocco and the surrounding countries. Even as Hanna finally experiences friends, music, and fun, she gets side-tracked as she starts to make friends with the eccentric daughter Sophie (Jessica Barden), who is near Hanna's age.

**SHARP ANGLES** and quick screen changes help define the expansive scenery in "Hanna," including the deserts of Morocco, streets of Berlin, and pale tundra of Norway. Even without people, the deserts and tundras hold a life of their own as the lonely but determined Hanna trudges through them.

Quirky personalities make it easy to like the characters. Hanna's target Marissa has a life of her own that gets a few minutes of screen time, allowing viewers to see the tired woman behind her strong facade. Even the strange trio of hired mercenaries Marissa enlists to capture Hanna hold some dark charm.

While Hanna's outer shell seems impossible to empathize with, brief flashes of emotions show that she really is a sheltered child in her own way.



Moira

## MUSIC SAM FRAMPTON

### A rapper who's an original

**FRENETIC BEATS** and atmospheric vocals forge an avant-garde sound in Jeremiah Jae's latest E.P., "Rappayamatantra."

Through his independent releases "DXNCE" and "Eating Donuts," the Chicago-based rapper and producer introduced his peculiar aesthetic, informed as much by minimalist classical music as any hip hop of the past. These digital-only albums landed Jae a deal with Flying Lotus' Brainfeeder record label, placing him amongst the foremost experimentalists in hip hop and electronic music such as Daedelus and The Gaslamp Killer.

Throughout "Rappayamatantra's" eight tracks, Jae rejects conventions of current hip hop. Defying the glossy sound quality made possible by modern recording technology, Jae opts for deliberately low-fi mastering, simulating the sound of a scratchy vinyl record. "The Dirty Collector, pt. 1," the entirely instrumental opening track, features a shifty collage of obscure samples and found sounds, never resorting to predictable rhythms.

A catchy chorus paired with a soulful beat makes "\$Easons" the only track with some commercial appeal. Jae compensates for his clumsy lyricism by using echo and other effects to turn his raspy vocals into an instrument capable of defining a song's mood. "Raw Tape\$" best exemplifies Jae's weirder side. In a chaotic minute and a half, he spits a reverb-soaked verse with little regard for the grimy guitar riff that loops throughout. "Raw Tape\$" lacks a steady drumbeat, a daring move in a rap song.

"Rappayamatantra's" unconventional style of production makes for a challenging listen. Jae constantly toys with the boundaries of hip hop, creating an experience that takes time and thought to appreciate. The album successfully provides a thorough sampling of Jae's formidable abilities.



Sam



**DODGING A LETHAL** strike from a pursuing mercenary, Hanna Heller (Saoirse Ronan) prepares to subdue her attacker using deadly martial arts skills she learned while isolated with her father in the wilderness of Finland. Photo courtesy of bonzuko.com

## T.V. RACHEL SYLORA

### 'Happy Endings,' sad beginnings

**REVOLVING AROUND** a group of six friends, ABC's new comedy "Happy Endings," contrary to its name, does not leave viewers "happy".

Airing 10 p.m. Wednesdays on ABC, Channel 7, "Happy Endings," created by David Casper, debuted April 13.

The show follows the friendships of Dave (Zachary Knighton), Alex (Elisha Cuthbert), Jane (Eliza Coupe), Max

(Adam Pally), Penny (Casey Wilson), and Brad (Damon Wayans Jr.).

In the series premiere (the first of two episodes airing on April 13), Dave is ditched by Alex, his fiance and long-time girlfriend, at the ceremony of their wedding.

With Dave heartbroken, and the rest of the friends in an awkward position, the remainder of the pilot episodes focus on Dave's processing of the situation.

As the storyline continues, hints of dry humor are thrown into the mix of emotions, mostly from Penny, the group's desperate and single friend.

The sad part about "Happy Endings," is that it has the potential to be hilarious.

The acting isn't horrible, and the plot, although generic and cliché, doesn't lack excitement.

Despite having a stellar cast, the show doesn't have enough spark keep the audience interested.

As much as I want to, I don't see a "Happy Ending" in this show's future.



**CHEER UP!** Helping Dave (Zachary Knighton) after his recent heartbreak, Penny (Casey Wilson) and Jane (Eliza Coupe) bring laughs to ABC's "Happy Endings." Photo courtesy of IMDb.com



Rachel

# Lorem Ipsum.....by Gene Cochran



# Aftershocks

Japan quakes reverberate with concern at U-High

Spencer Lee  
Associate editor

Late in the evening of Thursday March 10, Twitter posts reading "PrayforJapan" flew down Senior Chi Luppescu's computer screen.

Her momentary confusion turned to horror as she uncovered online articles reporting the earthquake off the coast of Japan, and the resulting enormous tsunami.

**REACHING A** magnitude of 8.9, Japan's earthquake struck at 2:46 p.m. Japan Standard Time March 11. The death toll (when the Midway went to press last Thursday) registered at 13,895, according to the Japan National Police Agency, with a recorded 13,864 still missing.

Though she had family in Japan, Chi's family in Chicago initially underestimated the extent of the earthquake and the devastation resulting from the tsunami.

"My Japanese side of the family lives in Saitama, which is a suburb just north of Tokyo," Chi said. "I had no idea if my family was okay or not, but I didn't know the number to call them. Then the tsunami hit, and it took my full attention.

**"AS THE SITUATION** progressively became worse, my mother became worried and tried calling relatives. When the calls didn't go through, we tried email, and a response saying everyone was alright came the next day."

"My whole family is bad at expressing emotion," Chi reflected, as she recalled the tone of her grandmother's voice on the phone.

"My grandmother told us that there was nothing that could be done to prevent the earthquake and tsunami. Being sad wasn't the answer to their troubles.

"I think an important aspect that people might not



Sonia



Art by Gene Cochran

recognize is that health is extremely important in Japan. I admire that they're keeping up parts of their lives after most of it was washed away."

**Though the disaster** was unpreventable, U-High's relief efforts have been reviving to Freshman Sonia Bourdaghs, who also has family in Japan.

"More than anything I am impressed by the efforts that the Lab Schools community, put into helping Japan after the earthquake," Sonia said.

"With the bake sales going on and the national Cranes for Japan movement, it feels wonderful just to be able to do something other than sit around and wait to hear the news of some new disaster."

## Ms. Dremmer pursues campaign for tighten elder driver laws despite critics

Aneesh Kanakamedala  
Midway reporter

"This was a preventable tragedy."

So wrote Former U-High Parent Michelle Dremmer in an opinion piece about the death of her daughter, Faith Dremmer, Class of 2010, which appeared in the Chicago Tribune March 24. She'd asked the Tribune to publish the article to coincide with the date exactly one year after her daughter and her two friends, Julia Baird and Kaia Tammen, both also seniors at the time, were struck by an 86-year-old man driving a minivan during a Spring Break bicycle trip in southern Illinois.

**THE MAN HAD** dozed off at the wheel, crossing the center line and crashing into the three bikers, killing Faith and severely injuring Julia and Kaia. Two months later the same driver checked into a nursing home.

In her piece, Ms. Dremmer said that many senior citizen drivers can't drive safely because of diminishing eyesight and hearing. Within six days of her article's appearance, the Tribune had published five letters arguing that drunk, texting or emotionally-unstable teenagers are more dangerous on the road.

"I am not bothered by the criticisms in the Chicago Tribune," Ms. Dremmer said in a phone interview with the Midway. "I do not take offense. After all everyone is entitled to his own opinion.

**"MY LETTER** to the editor in the Tribune was a reminder that the problem exists and that similar accidents can be prevented. This is just the beginning of the discussion. I am not trying to cause an uproar. I just want to emphasize the need to have additional testing done to make ensure everyone's safety.

"I certainly do not want to take away anyone's freedom or driving privileges when they turn a certain age. I just do not want what happened to me to happen to someone else."

Outdated state driving laws are to blame for these types of accidents, Ms. Dremmer believes.

"Laws have been put in place for drunk and teen drivers and now for cell phone and texting drivers. But we have not dug deep enough on the issue of senior drivers. The baby boomers are getting older and more age related accidents will undoubtedly happen.

**"IN SOME STATES** senior drivers just fill out a form to renew their license regardless of age. To renew a driver's license in Oklahoma all one has to do is go on line and fill out a form at no cost.

"Completing forms does not qualify a person's ability to drive and puts everyone at risk. Illinois has one of the most stringent of laws pertaining to senior citizen license renewal. Here, you have to take a standard driver's test to renew your license every two years once you are past a certain age. Then at another juncture you need to be tested yearly."

Ms. Dremmer feels that solutions such as more modern driving tests or even eliminating the need to drive altogether are completely serviceable.

**"WE HAVE TO** come up with solutions. Transportation that caters to this group would be a start. I know in some parts of Illinois as close as Evanston services are beginning to take shape. We need to consider specialized testing that can calculate reactions, sight, and hearing abilities. Currently driving tests are just not enough. Those who do pass can surely drive but some simply are not capable of driving safely. They are just lucky at least for the time being."

While Ms. Dremmer believes restricting elders from driving could be efficient at preventing accidents, she understands the challenges that could pose.

"I have heard many examples from friends as to how difficult it is to even broach the subject with their parents. Yet they know it is the right thing to do. A friend's father hot-wired his old car because the family felt he was not able to drive any more. Another friend had to anonymously contact the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) to revoke her mother's license for the same reasons.

**"SOMEONE TOLD ME** that her mother complained about getting another big dent in her car and she was not sure what she hit. She ignored the entire situation because she did not want to be lectured. This just isn't right."

Among those Ms. Dremmer is working with are Julia's father James Baird.

"People like Tony Cox, the coroner who came upon the accident and Sandra Pihos, a state representative from the 42nd district, are a few of my supporters," she said. "Most importantly we need to gather information and do our due diligence as far as the research is concerned. The question is what it is exactly that we want to do? Is it a bill, or education or just testing? Meetings are being set up to strategize and delegate some of the tasks necessary to continue the campaign."



Faith and Ms. Dremmer

## School dining takes gourmet turn

Marissa Page  
Midway reporter

If you happened to walk into the Lab Schools cafeteria around lunch Wednesday, April 14, you might have noticed some unusual dishes.

That's because, as part of International Day, the inspiration of Head Chef Rodolfo Arellano, cafeteria staff members alongside students served spicy Indian samosas, sweet Mexican churros and fresh Greek salads.

**THE INTERNATIONAL** Day cuisine, for both Middle and High Schoolers, reflected a movement toward healthier and gourmet school meals.

A "Let's Move" initiative, which First Lady Michelle Obama launched February 9, 2010 from the White House backed by Cabinet members, health experts and celebrities, seeks to promote healthy living habits such as diet and exercise in children.

Last June, Mrs. Obama and hundreds of celebrity chefs met on the White House Lawn to show school chefs how to make edible and healthy lunches.

**BECAUSE STUDENTS** consume most of their calories at school, improving school lunches would lower childhood obesity rates.

Realizing students often look to their cafeteria for a sugary snack, Mr. Arellano says he has made unhealthy staples more nutritious and just as delicious.

"In kids' houses, parents are constantly telling them 'Eat healthy!' and 'No junk food!' but in the cafeteria, they have more freedom," Mr. Arellano explained. "They think, 'My parents aren't here, I'm going to have some fries.'"

**"KIDS DON'T WANT** veggies; they want potato chips. We take that to heart, and to try to keep kids healthy we no longer use trans fat oils on our fries, and we offer fruit juices instead of soda in the cafeteria."

The key to making healthy food attractive to children is choosing words carefully, according to White House Chef Sam Kass, senior policy adviser on healthy food initiatives and U-High graduate

from the Class of 1998.

"There has never been a time where kids have liked healthy food," Mr. Kass explained. "I think the best way to get kids to eat healthy food is to not call it healthy, but to call it delicious. If it looks good and it tastes good, the kids are going to eat it. The same goes for adults. Fundamentally, there is nothing different about kids and adults when it comes to eating healthily."

**A MANDATORY** Chicago Public Schools Breakfast in the Classroom program, which provides free breakfast to 86 percent of students, will go into effect in June in all district schools.

"There are school districts around the country working to serve breakfast in the classroom," Mr. Kass continued. "Schools want to increase attendance and kids' capacity to learn.

"Lots of kids come to school with nothing in their stomachs and don't eat anything until lunch, or they eat something unhealthy for breakfast like chips and cookies. Breakfast in the Classroom is a way to give kids a good start to their day."

**THE CHICAGO** breakfast program takes place in the first 10 minutes of the school day. But parents of children with severe food allergies are concerned their children might accidentally come in contact with their allergens during class clean-up time.

For Lab Schools Cafeteria Food Service Director Rachel Kovich, the pros of the breakfast program outweigh the cons.

"Breakfast in the Classroom can't be optional," Ms. Kovich said. "That is, either everyone participates or no one does. Kids who have breakfast in the morning are shown to focus and retain things better.

**"IT ALSO TEACHES** them healthy eating habits for the rest of their lives. I think it's a really good idea for Chicago Public Schools to implement this program.

"We do serve breakfast at Lab but I don't think we could ever make it mandatory here. Being a private school, we have very different rules and guidelines. It would have to be something that Lab itself thought was important enough to implement."

## Photojournalist Showcase

Second of a series of three pages

# Elizabeth Gelman



"I WAS walking with Gia and a couple of other people one day and we passed the bike rack and I thought it would add a cool aspect to the photo. So I picked a random bike and took some pictures."

## Photojournalist points camera up, up, up

Following the trend.

Inspired by her two older brothers to try photography, Junior Elizabeth Gelman has always been intrigued by taking photos.

"BOTH OF MY brothers took photography (Stephen, Class of 2006, and Adam, 2010) in high school," Elizabeth said. "I always saw them going off, taking pictures or seeing their photos displayed around the school. It looked like it would be fun to try I so I decided to take Beginning Photo last year, just for fun. I ended up loving it and so I decided to join Photojournalism this year."

"I wanted to do something a little different and something that I could try a lot of different things with. Instead of having a certain theme like a lot of the other photo essays, the only restrictions on my essay was the camera angle. I was free to bend my photo essay topic into whatever ideas I came up with. This allowed me to take a variety of shots."

"I like how all my different ideas turned out and I am glad that the pictures don't all look the same; there's a variety."

"THIS ESSAY was tough to organize because I decided to only take pictures with people in them so I had to find people who were willing to take the time to let me take pictures of them. Luckily I found people, but I think next year I am going to try taking pictures without people."

"In future photo essays I want to explore other things. I am still not sure what else I want to do, but I want to play with other things besides the camera angle."



"SARAH HUSAIN and I were wandering around the Lower School taking pictures and I thought it would be cool to experiment with the old staircases. I love how much detail the staircases have and wanted to show that in the photo, while at the same time going with the theme of my photo essay"



"THIS IS my favorite picture because it goes with the theme of my photo essay, but has a twist to it."

"I tried this shot a couple different times but it was never the right weather. I had to make sure it was a clear day otherwise the shadow from the clouds made it look like I was just taking a picture of the ground."

"I also had to make sure there was no glare from the sun so I had people stand behind me to block the light so I could get the shot."

"Luckily there was no one around to see how ridiculous we looked."

"I really like the texture of the puddle because you can still tell I shot the photo through a puddle and not just looking straight up."



"I REALLY like how the focus of this picture is on Lucy's shoes. It was after a big snow so there was snow everywhere and it got on her shoes, which adds even more detail to the shoes."



"FOR MOST of my pictures, I had to lay on the ground and point my camera to the sky. I got some weird looks from passersby. This picture was especially painful because I had to have woodchips dropped on top of me as I was taking photos. With pain, comes beauty I guess. I like how this picture has motion in it."

"It really adds to the essay."

## FIRST PERSON NICK PHALEN

### Junior Retreat lives up to its intense reputation

"It won't be that emotional, our class isn't like that."

So said one junior at U-High, a few days before the Class of 2012 embarked on its journey April 6-8 to Wonderland Camp and Conference Center in Camp Lake, Wisconsin.

AS THE RETREAT BEGAN, I agreed wholeheartedly with the junior I overheard. Midday on a Wednesday, most of the 128 juniors were ushered unceremoniously into three buses to make the hourlong trip to the camp.

After cruising along the highway for about an hour, we slowly drove into the camp's gates. Its appearance first struck me as similar to that of a prison. Wood buildings were spread across several acres with a maze of cul-de-sacs connecting them. But soon, my initial impression faded as the wide-open freedom of the area became increasingly appealing.

THE WIND CARRIED the fresh smell of damp grass. I began to sink into the rhythm of life away from school. It was better than being cramped up in a classroom, I thought.

Before long, we were corralled together. About 10 young men and women arrived on the scene, calling us into one giant circle. They were our facilitators, leaders from Adventure Center in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

After a quick group activity, we were divided into groups of about 10, and each assigned a leader. Jen, my group's leader, was a tall quiet woman. Dressed

in outdoor hiking gear, she began a discussion, working hard to encourage us to join in. The first topic she touches on is our names, asking us to tell the group their histories and opening a conversation. I enjoyed the atmosphere she created, and shared the story of how my parents came up with my own name.

SHE BEGAN TO ENGAGE the entire group, punctuating discussions with intermittent games and team-building activities. Then, she gave us our first assignment. We were to make a map of our lives. Any format was acceptable, Jen told us. Though, thoughts of our life maps left our minds when Jen dismissed us to go roast s'mores at a bonfire on the lake.

During the second day, we woke up to quickly present our life stories to the group, with other students asking questions and clarifications on what we told.

This all built up to the activity on the second night. The whole class was given bags and asked to write on one thing they regret and one thing they are thankful for. While it seemed cliché to me at first, looking back on my time at U-High was strangely powerful.

EVENTUALLY, THE LEADERS set up all the lanterns were set out outside the central meeting area before the junior class filed in, completely silent. Once all students had arrived, the fabled candle lighting ceremony began.

For all readers who weren't there, you can leave the contents of the ceremony to your imaginations. It suffices to simply say that the student quoted at the beginning of this story was wrong. \* Completely wrong.



Nick

## Gold Medalist Biology Olympian hopes to compete this year too

Spencer Lee  
Associate editor

Senior Charles Du, who last year made U-High history by qualifying for the U.S. Biology Olympiad team, is on the road to becoming part of this year's team.

Last year Charles won a Gold Medal at the International Science Olympiad, in Seoul, Korea, competing with the Biology Team.

This year he again has survived two rounds of exams and is headed for biology boot camp June 5-19 at Purdue University in Lafayette Indiana.

Charles will be going through intense training to make the team, participating in dissection labs, reviewing molecular biology techniques, and working with plants.

After two days of testing at the end of boot camp, four of 20 candidates will be selected for the team.

This year's Biology Olympiad will take

place in July in Taiwan.

Charles has topped himself by qualifying for the second round of the Linguistics Olympiad exams and qualified for the mathematics qualifying exams, the two-day United States of America Mathematical Olympiad.

About 279 of the top-scoring takers of the American Mathematics Competition AMC 12 exams, for students in grade 12 and below, qualify to take the AMSO.

In addition to Charles, Junior Danny Ilyin has qualified for the second round of the Chemistry Olympiad exam, another first in U-High history.

Senior Joe Turner already has taken the second round of the qualifying exam for the Physics Olympiad team.

The exam, which will take place tomorrow and Thursday, involves six challenging questions, a nine-hour essay, and a proof examination.

## Tuition to increase average of four percent next school year

Spencer Lee  
Associate editor

Lab Schools Tuition will increase an average of four percent for the 2011-2012 school year, Director David Magill informed parents in an April 18 letter.

It is the lowest increase in 26 years, Mr. Magill wrote.

"Prudent fiscal management, analysis of the independent school market in Chicago, and sensitivity to future costs associated with our capital program are responsible lower-than-average increase," he said.

For the High School tuition will be \$24,870.

"During the past few years of difficult economic conditions, we have been

most fortunate in not sacrificing any part of our educational program," Mr. Magill wrote.

"In fact, we have found ways to improve our program by adding learning specialists as part of a multi-year plan to provide needed services and by developing a new High School schedule with increased instructional time.

"Additionally, we have been able to assist an even greater percentage of families in need of financial aid due to the extremely generous gifts from parents and alumni as well as 25 percent of 'Connections' proceeds."

Financial awards, he added, have increased in value by 70 percent in the past five years.

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Tallying the days until May Project, Maggie Carton lusts to alleviate her senioritis...but how?



School concludes and Maggie beelines for her car, knowing what she needs to relax...



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Photos by Nathaniel Green

## Elgin looms next as tennismen aim to rise in League

Rachel Sylora  
Editor-in-Chief

**B**attling Independent School League Conference opponent Elgin Academy 4:30 p.m. today away, varsity tennismen aim to continue their drive to rise above their 7th place finish at the ISL Conference tournament last season.

Led by Captains Tyler Anderson and Sam Frampton, seniors, the eight-member squad started its season with a 3-2 win over Whitney Young March 31 at home. Debuting new varsity players including Freshman James Duran, the Maroons face De La Salle 4:30 p.m., tomorrow; North Shore Country Day 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 29, away; and the weekend Moline Tournament 8 a.m., May 6-7.

"NORTH SHORE COUNTRY DAY has a strong team," Sam said. "Last year, we lost to them as a team but I won my match. They have powerful doubles teams. North Shore is in our conference, and we take conference matches very seriously because our goal is to place in the top three of the ISL."

"The Moline Tournament is great practice for us because we get to play people from all over the state, who all play at a high caliber, which is a good taste of what we'll face at the Illinois High School Association State Tournament."

Also facing Elgin at 4:30 p.m., today away, j.v. tennismen have overcome their shortage of players to secure more conference wins.

"Elgin has gotten much more competitive in the past couple of years," Coach Julijana Lazarevich said. "During practice, we work a lot on doubles play, and as always we work on consistency and match strategy."

"WE DON'T have a big team this year but everyone's effort is amazing in addition to the team spirit. Junior J.R. Reed is the captain, and he has great team spirit and leadership."

Scores not previously reported are as follows:

**Whitney Young**, March 30, home: Varsity won 3-2; **Marion Catholic**, April 5, away: Varsity lost 1-4; **Scandburg**, April 11, home: Varsity lost 1-4; **F.W. Parker**, April 13, home: Varsity lost 1-4; **Latin**, April 20, away: Varsity lost 0-5.

## Soccer girls face crucial contest on way to top

Jeremy Woo  
Editor-in-Chief

Five straight Independent School League titles. Another in the process.

Looking to continue their march toward a sixth consecutive Conference championship, soccer girls engage in a crucial match with rival Latin School 4:30 p.m., today on Jackman Field. With a 3-6-1 record as of last Thursday, the Maroons await a tough 80 minutes against the formidable Romans.

"Last I heard, Latin was doing really well," Coach Mike Moses said. "We beat them last year, but they are well coached and bring a good level of competition. For us, it's more about what we need to do as a team than how our opponents play. So far we've played a tough non-Conference schedule that should give us an edge against many ISL schools."

Eight weeks into the season, the Maroons are focusing upon solving offensive struggles and still trying to fill the void left by forward Gabby Clark, 2010 graduate.

"We've been trying different people up top to find the best combination," said Sasha Karapetrova, cocaptain with Senior Fraser Brown (both are seniors). "Usually

## Watch the Birdie! Badminton Club forms

Sonia Bourdaghs  
Midway reporter

Looking forward to a possible competition this June, the recently formed Badminton Club hopes to achieve official school sport status.

Founded by Junior Edward Brooks, Sophomore Thanh Hien Ngo, and Freshman Alix Har, the club has met daily in the Upper and Lower Kovler Gyms beginning March 28.

Two weeks after starting, University of Chicago Head Coach Nguyen Antwon



**STEALING THE ball from a De La Salle forward, j.v. player Emma Polson keeps a scoreless game April 14 on the Midway. Photo by Elizabeth Gelman**

about halfway through the season the positions get situated, so I'm confident we'll find the right mix."

On the j.v. side, the team has notched a record of 2-5-1. In lieu of the scores, many girls have improved markedly, according to Coach Bannon Stroud.

"We've made very good progress over the past two weeks in particular," Coach Stroud said. "The team as a whole has improved, and different players have really stepped up their play from time to time."

began volunteering as coach.

"I started playing in high school in California, and am now head coach for the university team," Coach Antwon said. "I love working with high school students, so I decided to volunteer as coach when asked."

"At the moment, the team is somewhat chaotic. We don't really have a budget, and we are more recreational right now. I would like more time in the gym and with the students to form a more serious team."



**THUD! LIAM MIRELES follows through on a mighty swing against Holy Trinity March 30 at Washington Park. The Maroons would go on to lose 3-2. Photo by Anisha Sisodia**

## Baseball seeking revenge against Raiders

Jeffrey Li  
Midway reporter

Entering the home stretch of their Independent School League schedule, varsity baseball faces North Shore 4:30 p.m. today at Washington Park.

The Maroons sport a 4-2 overall record, 3-1 conference as of last Thursday, and look to avenge a tough loss at North Shore April 9. U-High allowed four runs in the sixth, eventually falling 10-6 despite being tied going into the inning.

"WE LOST to the Raiders mainly because we didn't execute when we needed to," said Jeremy Woo, one of six seniors on the team. "If we do what we need to do this time around, we should take one back from them. We need this win to stay near the top of the Conference."

"Our wins so far have been strong team efforts. Steven Glick and Mac Sinclair are pitching well, and Liam Mireles is doing great behind the plate. There have been some great moments already; Mac threw a no-hitter against Hales, and Sam Lawrence hit for the rycle against MPA."

After today's game, U-High hosts Parker Saturday, 10 a.m. at Washington Park, the first of three more key conference matchups. Then come Northridge May 3, and Latin 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 6 at Washington Park.

"NORTH SHORE and Northridge are typically hard opponents," Coach Keronn Walker said. "These upcoming games are the biggest of the season because they determine the winner of the ISL as well as the fact that they're the last conference games of the season."

Meanwhile, j.v. (3-1 overall, 2-0 Conference), takes on Pritzker College Prep 4:30 p.m. Thursday at Washington Park.

"J.V. baseball is fantastic," Coach Dan Dyra said. "We're averaging over 10 runs a game, a very fan friendly statistic. We have 17 players, including one girl, that go through j.v. to get ready for varsity competition."

"Our biggest game this year was a game against Parker that we won 17-4. We combined good pitching, defense, and consistent offense resulting in a solid win."

## Track teams head into final sprint

William Chung  
Associate Editor

Facing off against 20 teams 4 p.m. this Friday at the Chicago Christian Invitational, the track team is working out its lineups for the Independent School League Championships May 5 and the IHSA Sectional Competition May 13.

At the Homewood-Flossmoor Invitational, girls April 9 and boys April 16, the Maroons placed 15th and 17th out of 20 teams respectively. Coach Bud James thinks that the upcoming invitational will solidify the team.

"WITH THE ISL Championships coming in two weeks, and Sectionals and State coming in May, I think it's nice to have a meet where I can try out different runners and see what the final line-up will be," Coach James said. "We have also been losing kids to injuries and college visits. Hopefully by the invitational, we will have a consistent team."

"We took a fair number to State last year, and I think we can bring a lot more. Most of the runners have been preparing since the summer and pre-

season. I think they have learned to work as a unit."

Robert Meyer, cocaptain with Thomas Aquino and Benjamin Buchheim-Jurison (all seniors), faces longtime rival Jonny Levin of Parker at the Invitational.

"WE'VE BEEN rivals since sophomore year," Robert said. "He's a great competitor, he has a finishing kick. He won the indoor state two-mile. When it's between us he usually comes out on top."

"I've tried different tactics, like starting out harder than usual or kicking at a different time, and I've put some thought into learning new tricks. It's tough having a rival like that."

The runners use a special cheer called the "Woosh" to motivate runners, according to Freshman Sonia Bourdaghs.

"The team lines up at the end of every meet for the 4x100 relay, and as our runners start getting close we start by saying 'Ah' and build it up until they reach us and as soon as they go by, we shout 'Woosh.' I think it's a fitting ending to a meet."

## Sophomore wins ice skating title

William Chung  
Associate Editor

Impressing judges with five triple jumps, Sophomore Ariana Grymski placed 1st at the Greater Milwaukee Figure Skating Competition March 24, sponsored by the United States Figure Skating Association.

Ariana placed 1st and 2nd in the long and short programs respectively. She won her first competition, the Southport Winter Invitational March 4 in Gurnee.

Her five triple jumps proved the highlight.

"I was pretty nervous," Ariana said. "I had tried them in practice, but if I messed up I would have lost the

chance to place. Luckily, I managed to put them out there and I'm happy I got to try them out in a competition setting. I want to make Nationals which means I have to place in the top four in the region and in the section, but I think I can do it."

Skating at age 2, Ariana has competed at the novice level since she was 13.

"My babysitter took me to Navy Pier when I was 2 to skate and I loved it. A ballet friend recommended a place to my mom and she signed me up for classes."



Ariana



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*Photos by Jeffery Li*



Isaiah checks to make sure that the seat is on correctly, knowing that he can get it fixed if needed.