Schools in Crisis

Teacher Firing

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.

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 Opinion Editor Jaclyn 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 moved Laura Sudik as Scout advisor and discontinued the paper through June.

In a press conference two weeks later, Cherry Creek School District Superintendent Turpin confirmed the district's plan for an uninformed 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 Jaclyn 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 He also rescinded his prior review policy and called the controversy a misunderstanding.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.

Closings

Schools shut, so now what?

Allie Rons
Associate editor

"Layoffs are 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, U-High faculty and administrators say the trend will not affect U-High teachers.

Wisconsin Democrats filed 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)
Proposal would eventually give each student an advisory

in with students and read announcements, 

Because increasing enrollment and a new class 

Principal Matt Horvat encouraged faculty members to form an Advisory Design Committee to examine and revise the advisory program.

CONTINUING EXTENDING a program for 

over the next two years to all four grade levels and involving 

the entire student body in serving as advisors. 

Advisory Design Committee members 

Spanish and Latin teacher, presented the group's proposal to the 

faculty at its March meeting. The nine-member com- 

mittee recommended every student have a faculty mem- 

ber to go to for personal or academic assistance.

Two weeks ago, an Advisory Board, chaired by Principal Matt Horvat and new Assistant Principal Amin Ahmed, succeeded the Advisory Design Commit- 

tee. The new Board will consist of a lead advisor from each grade level, as well as Counselor Camille Cunningham and College Counselor Katy Kowarski.

Under the current schedule, freshmen and sopho- 

mores attend advisory 2nd period two days a week. Beginning next year, freshmen, sophomores and jun- 

iors will meet in advisories for 20 minutes Mondays 

and Tuesdays and 40 minutes on Wednesdays. The 

year around, the committee plans to extend the pro- 

gram to seniors as well.

"THE ADVISORY PROGRAM's primary goal is to 

serve the whole campus with students, as there is 

always one person every student can go to," Ms. Spaltro said in an interview. "Unfortunately, 

as the advisorship concept has only been tried 

with only eight advisers for two years, it's hard for these eight 

teachers to adequately care for over 200 students."

"This Advisory Design Committee has been 

able 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 an 

advisor; except for department chairs, science 

teachers, cross-school teachers, and those with other 

advisory responsibilities.

"Teaching labs and directing departments are signifi- 

cant time commitments, and teaching across schools 

can conflict with other workload commitments, so 

we thought it best in the pilot year of the new 

advisorship program to call the advisors from those whose workload is least.

DURING THE 20-minute period, advisers will check 

in with students and read announcements, while they will discuss topics with students such as 

healthy relationships and substance abuse during 

the advisory slots.

"Freshmen and sopho- 

more workshop will fol- 

low a similar program- 

ning plan as in previous 

years, with some tweak- 

ing," Ms. Spaltro said. 

"Junior advisers will work 

with the new counselors to help prepare them for the winter 

college workshops. But there will also be a continuation 
of the healthy relationships workshops."

Ms. Spaltro acknowledged 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 advisor's role," Ms. Spaltro said. "Some might be concerned that they won't be able to put enough time and effort into to advisory because of the number of classes they are teaching. But numerous 

teachers here already are informal advisors, and many have been very good at it, at that."

Advisers will meet this summer for three to five 

days of training, and the Advisory Design Commit- 

tee has also planned to use other student 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 of the system. But at some point, nearly every teacher will become aware of Lab's academic offerings and requirements 

as part of their system. Training advisors will involve an 

ongoing professional development, not only this summer, but throughout the year, during 

Faculty Development Day next November and 

any other opportunities we can offer advisors.

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

Stebbon O'Muircheartaigh
Midway reporter

Supported and optimistic despite her Winter Quarter blues, Junior Leslie Kamel confessed 

dentifully into the classroom of a former teacher during 

8th period one February Thursday.

Many U-Highers, according to Leslie, are able to name at least one adult here who 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 to 

confide in, many U-Highers already have go-to 

people.

"THIS YEAR DURING Winter Quarter I was over- 

whelmed by school work, prepping for standardized 

tests, and sports," Leslie said. "One day during my 

first period, I walked into this teacher's classroom and 

just started talking. She helped me plan a schedule to 

get everything done.

I can actually relate 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 Beikens ques- 

tions 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. "I had a similar 

problem in the future. I don't know which U-Higher 

an adult here who aren't currently in my classes, I'm also
could I confide in about college, 

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 have been very helpful over the years. My adviser knows me more personally than my 

friends, and other about students, and they see the counselors to discuss personal, social, or academic problems, or just hang out.

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

"I DON'T THINK I'd be able to talk to 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 I said would make him feel I was not trying to protect 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 report- 

ing to someone else."

Counselors try to keep private what students share, said Guidance Counselor Ronald Tunis. In some situations, they are required to report to administra- 

tors 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 situations are legal, but basically, I'm unsat- 

tisfied when students feel they can't trust counselors. We're not here to hurt you or get you in trouble. We're here looking to make you feel better.

Though counselors must sometimes report a student, Guidance Department Chairperson Amin 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."

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 was there in tears, thinking she had a dilemma crying because she felt overwhelmed and scared, largely due to her workload. At her friend's persistent 

questionings, the counselor said they would meet up with them that day, and they would visit their counselors to discuss personal, social, or academic problems, or just to hang out.

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

Associate editor


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 grey-green 2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee, Senior Jono Matthews takes responsibility for all of his car's maintenance.

"My Grandparents had the Jeep," Andrew said. "I decided to keep it, 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 comes 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 Turbo, a flabadish ECU, full Berk Technology race exhaust, full Konti racing suspension by TC Kline racing, and Breyton Race GTS-R racing wheels with Michelin sport tires."

"I actually have three sets of 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."

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"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 breathe 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.

Photo by Tim Thomas III.
On exhibit, with honors

Eleven vie for McGuire awards

Ali Berton
Midway reporter

Writing a timed essay April 21, 12 juniors have been nominated for two St. Ignatius College Prep Writing Awards for excellence in writing. The awards grants $1,000 for senior year tuition and honors the late English Department chairperson.

CHOSEN BY ENGLISH TEACHERS


"The English teachers judge the timed essays, with the students' names removed, 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 current 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 annual Awards Assembly.

Midway staff wins national, state awards

A fun thing happened to Junior Gene Cochran on his way to writing 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 Cochran. Gene's award is among six First Place wins by the Midway staff.

By category the others are:

Sports photo: Jackie Robertson; color photo, first runner-up; opinion; Nick Phalen, color photo, first runner-up.

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 award winners were as follows:

SECOND PLACE - Sports photo: Berry Love

THIRD PLACE - Opinion; Rachel Szur: single-page layout, Nick Chang; centerpiece layout, Sydney Schonberg; sports story, 2nd place.

HONORABLE MENTION - Sports photo: Jeffrey Liu; feature photo; Anisha Sisodia; single-page layout; Anisha Sisodia; news story, Nic Zien.

At a luncheon in June at the Executive Mansion in Springfield, Senior Rudi Khan will be honored as owner/publisher of the Illinois Journalism Education Association's High School Journalists of the Year program.

Rudi 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.

Recipient is chosen based on computing and informational technology aptitude; leadership; academic record; and extracurricular activities.

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

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" 7 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 19, 20, 21. About 30 students tried out for the play during a four-day audition.

Freshman Loren Bonnick was selected to play Geppetto, the poor woodworker who carves the talking marionette, Pinocchio. Other cast roles include Junior Sydney Fishman playing the Blue Fairy, while Sophomore Adam Kelsh and Senior Mollie Ruttenbach will appear as the Fox and Cat. Mollie also shares the position of student assistant director with Junior Georgie Gasparotto.

"I was intrigued by the childish world of 'Pinocchio,' and how different my character is from the wood I have performed," Wilson said.

"He begins the play with a blank slate, and grows as a character with each mistake and decision."

Writers, artists gather honors

Annette Cochrane
Midway reporter

Winning several painting and writing national awards, Senior Layla Elfan 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 submitted a paper written for History Teacher Cindy Johnston's U.S. History class.

"THIS YEAR, the competition's themes are debate and diplomacy, and how these relate to Chicago history," Layla said.

"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 Regional Gold Key for painting, an honor bestowed upon seven Midwestern high schoolers annually.

TAKING CHICAGO CULTURE classes at Gallery 37, a city program that has teams for art apprenticeships, since summer 2009, Layla was inspired to produce her submission "Botes."

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

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

"These are typically filled with Mexican snacks like tacos, banchos, a rice milk drink, and fried pork skins. Though the woman in my painting is gloomily looking 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 Forge's 2010 Young Poets Contest, and given a Gold Key for her General Portfolio, a compilation of her eight best works, and also an honorable mention for an other short story.

"I was thrilled with Forge's 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 Nix 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. Darkelle McCampbell's Stars and Dust elective last spring.

"I have writing a 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 Didleys."

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Science Team squads keeps victorious momentum going

Hobie Heidman
Midyear reporter

If you've been near the Judd basement alter school in the past few months, you might have heard non-usual 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 more than powered helicopters.

THEY Sought to prepare for ISO State Finals April 1st at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign where they placed 14th of 48 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 Feys, Chemistry, and Anatomy. Because they didn't place 1st, the U-Highers did not proceed to Nationals.

"If a lot of building events didn't go as planned," said senior Aalap Herur-Rankemper. "we didn't want to be off putting to those who might want to come, but were uncomfortable wearing drag." The team won the Best Large Delegation in a row April 7-10 at Northwestern University.

"Instead, WE called it the Rainbow Ball, because of all the rainbow symbols usually associated with gay pride.

"There were probably about 80 people there, 30 of them from other schools," said Marissa.

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

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Stories continued from the front page

Schools close, questions begin

This month Chicago Public Schools proposed closing and consolidating 14 poorly performing schools, affecting more than 100 Chicago Public Schools students. The district, under new leadership, is emphasizing education more than standardized test scores.

"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," said Lab Schools Director David Ma'gill.

"What is hardest to do on an American continent, a young person's future is based on a test score and, I know from my experience that this is an oversimplified way of measuring the value of 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 these results to validate what we are doing with the curriculum and to provide special assistance to those students whose profile shows gaps in learning," said Lab Schools Director David Ma'gill.

Teachers, their unions find themselves under attack

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

"What is strongest with the丧失 of budgets, demonstrates of teachers and sheltering employees for the deficits of state and municipalities is wrong," said Ma'gill.

"It's wrong the way is going to be funded. That is what people are doing if they continue to go to school. That is what we are doing if we are doing it. There are wonderful teachers about food, it's much harder to do well in school," said Lab Schools Director David Ma'gill.

"The second is that people are viewing teachers as just another number. The teachers are being viewed as just another number," said Elmo 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 School. Reaches out 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," said Ma'gill.

"The district's current position is that the teachers may publish as many papers as are in the building, without mandatory prior review by the principal, and that the state of the program will be reassessed after the school year in.

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," said Lab Schools Director David Ma'gill.

"What is hardest to do on an American continent, a young person's future is based on a test score and, I know from my experience that this is an oversimplified way of measuring the value of 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 these results to validate what we are doing with the curriculum and to provide special assistance to those students whose profile shows gaps in learning," said Lab Schools Director David Ma'gill.

"Teachers are more focused on teaching their material and not on how to test. "Teachers care about college acceptances, they care about the neighborhood schools are valuable for the community, Associate Director of Education Programs Matt Horvat finds. Chicago Public Schools offer several good qualities.

"STUDENT rights are an oversimplified way of measuring a teacher's ability to plan, to make the judgment call on what goes into a book, to make sure there are more than a number of public schools. I've been to, to spend a day or two per month or week just preparing for standardized tests. It doesn't mean there are only two factors that are important to teachers. I don't want to see standardized tests, 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 back ground he may have a harder time to teach. If someone is worrying about food, it's much harder to do well in school," said Lab Schools Director David Ma'gill.

"We ALL TAKE THIS to mean that the district is sitting there with a few books left for the best to descend before they throw them away, since you're using them in a way that they're not intended. If everything is based on these basic tests, teachers will start to only do things to score on these tests, since there are just too many tricks to do these things. There are a lot of students that aren't excited about tests. If you're trying to get kids to do the test, having them look at standardized data, how to calculate scores and list it in other concepts which you can't learn just preparing for a standardized test?"
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 Mineles 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.

AMONG approximately 200 U-Highers who attended, seniors including (from left) Jono, Maggie, Austin and Veronica Ramires crowded the dance floor and made a dance train to Flo 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 Julien and Austin. Photo by Veronica Ramirez

Spring Royalty

FRESHMEN
Sam Kaplan
Carolyn Voth

SOPHOMORES
Amol Gundeti
Jordan Davis

JUNIORS
Christian Castenada
Emma Davis

SENIORS
Jay Upadhyey
Maggie Carton

ALL-SCHOOL
Martin Garrett-Currie
Sabrina Holland
**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 assurance of confidentiality.

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 if they had problems, 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 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 do harm to himself or herself.

This gray area is responsible for interpreting that as they wish.

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 job.

But it may prove harmful, 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 out-compete 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 the belief that 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. Yet to mention the growing number of public schools being shut down because of decreasing test scores, higher dropout rates and diminishing attendance rates.

While teachers are being laid off, teachers' unions are being dismantled, as in Wisconsin, because they were seen as putting too much emphasis 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 actuallyregressing.

While education in many other countries is free, 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.

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**Defacings insult respect for diversity**

DIVERSITY—noun.

1. the state or fact 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 "Labscapes," 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.

This provides much-needed comfort for 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 person.

"This is a word that most, if not all, U-Highers know, understand and respect," said Spencer Lee, senior. "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've come to understand that diversity is beautiful, 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.

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**U-High Midway**

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**OPINION**

**RACHEL SYLORA**

Defacings insult respect for diversity

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**ARTISTS**

Gia Rowley, junior:

"My dream Prom date would be Frank Brown, because we could ride her horse, Volt, to Prom and back.

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**EMILY HSEE, freshman:**

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

**MAGGIE CARTON, senior:**

"My dream Prom date would be Frances Brown, because we could ride her horse, Volt, to Prom and back."

---

**SPENCER LEE,** senior:

"It would be Maggie Carton, because I like her and she would be a nice Prom date."

---

**EMILY HSEE, freshman:**

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

**MAGGIE CARTON, senior:**

"My dream Prom date would be Frances Brown, because we could ride her horse, Volt, to Prom and back."

---

**SAM LAWRENCE, sophomore:**

"It would be Cowlie Renee, the singer. She's very nice, sweet, and is a beautiful girl. My life would be complete."
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 fiancee 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 vengeful friend.

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

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

Despite keeping 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.

MUSIC SAM FRAMPTON

A rapper who's an original

PREFERENT BEATS and atmospheric vocals forge an avant-garde sound in Jeremi's latest E.P., "Rappayamatantra."

Through his independent releases "DONXCE" and "Eating Darnte," the Chicago-based rapper and producer introduced his peculiar aesthetic, informed as much by minimalist classical music as any hip hop of the past.

Though digital-only albums landed Jae a deal with Flying Lotus' Brainfeeder label, placing him amongst the foremost experimentalists in hip hop and electronic music such as Dntel and The Gaslamp Killer.

Throughout "Rappayamatantra's" eight tracks, Jae rejects conventions of current hip hop. Ditching 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 "Hassiree" 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 defying a song's mood.

"Raw Tape:" best compromises Jae's weirdest side. In a chaotic minute and a half, he spins a word-locked verse with little regard for the grimy guitar riff that loops throughout.

"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.

FILM MOIRA DIFFERING

Saga of teenage assassin chaotically spins adventure

BrOOD 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, Mattias Werner of the CIA.

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

THE FATHER had deserted the CIA and fled the United States with Erik and 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 and long workouts involving physical moves, snapping necks with her own hands, knives, arms, 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 catapaults through it with ease until she meets a well-off English family vacationing through Morocco and the surrounding countries. With Hanna finally experiencing friends, music, and fun, she gets side-tracked as she starts to make friends with the eccentric daughter Sophie (Jessica Barden), who is near her age.

SHARP ANGLES and quick cuts scenes 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 Mattias has a life of his own that gets a few minutes of screen time, allowing viewers to see the tired woman behind her strong facade. Even the stringy trio of hired mercenaries Marissa enlists to capture Hanna holds some dark charms.

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

LOO the film for its beautiful settings, its atypical action scenes, and its bold confident female lead. It's not for the squeamish.
Ms. Dremmer pursues campaign for tougher driver laws despite criticism

Aneeth Kaushik-Muratore

"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 asked the Tribune to publish this article, which was date exactly one year after her daughter and her two friends, Julia Baird and Kata 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. Two months later the same driver checked into a nursing home.

In her piece, Ms. Dremmer said that many senior citizens don’t drive safely because of their eye sight 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 criticism in the letters," Ms. Dremmer said in a phone interview with the Midway. "I do not take offense. After all everyone is entitled to his or her 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 upset. I just wanted to emphasize the need for additional testing done to make sure everyone’s eyesight and hearing abilities are tested."

Outdated state driving laws are to blame for these types of accidents, Ms. Dremmer said. "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 problem is that we have people over 80 who drive and more elderly accidents will undoubtedly happen."

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

"I would like some examples from as to how difficult it is to even break the subject with their parents. Yet they know it is the right thing to do. A friend’s father had died in a car accident and the family felt he was not able to drive any more. Another friend had to anonymously contact the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) to renew her mother’s license."

"SOMEONE TOLD ME that her mother complained about getting another big dent in her car and she was not sure who had hit her. She thought: ‘I shouldn’t be driving. She didn’t want to be lectured. This just isn’t right.’"

Among those Ms. Dremmer is working with are Julia L. James, from New York, and Faith and Mrs. Dremmer.

"People like Tony Cox, the coroner who came upon the accident and Sandra Pfieko, a state representative from the 49th district, have been supporting me," 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."
"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."

Elizabeth Gelman

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 so I decided to take Beginning Photography 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.

"THs 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."

"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."

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."
"It won't be the emotional, our class isn't like that." as the 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 gagged wholeheartedly with the junior I ever heard. Monday on a Wednesday, most of the 126 juniors were ushered unconsciously into three buses to make the hour-long 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 widespread 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 touched on was 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 ‘smores 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 camp was given bags and asked to write on one thing they regret and one thing they are thankful for. While we were sleeping in comfort, Jen would look through our bags and mail to us 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 simply say that the student quoted at the beginning of this story was wrong. Completely wrong.

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

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 next 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 5-13 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 tapped 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 Mathematics Olympiad.

About 379 of the top-scoring takers of the American Mathematics Competition AMC 12 exams, for students in grade 12 and below, qualify to take the AMSP.

In addition to Charles, Junior Danny Iljin 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.

"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 programs 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.

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

A Medici treat. Delicious cookies make a fantastic remedy for a long day of classes.

Whether you’re an exhausted senior, a hungry freshman, or anywhere in between, the Medici has the solution for all your hunger pangs. Just a block from school, let your belly run wild!

Photos by Nathaniel Green
**Elgin looms next as tennis aims to rise in League**

Rachel Sylora

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

Led by captains Tyler Anderson and Sam Framp


tons, seniors, the eight-member squad started its season with a 3-2 win over Whitney Young March 31. Among new talent are players including Freshman James Dunan, the Maroons' first La Salle 4:30 p.m. tomorrow, North Shore Country Day 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 29, and the weekend-Moline Tournament 8 a.m. May 6.

"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 singles 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 CSL.

The Moline Tournament is great practice for us because we get to play people from all over the state, who 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, jv tennismen have overcome their shortage of players to secure more conference wins.

"The team 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 focus on consistency and mental strength.

"WE DON'T have a big team this year but everyone's effort is amazing in addition to the team spirit. Just because a player is a captain, and he has great team leadership and spirit." Scores not previously reported are as follows:

**Friday, March 30**:

- Varsity vs. Moline: 5-2
- Varsity vs. La Salle Catholic: 6-1
- Varsity vs. Mundelein: 6-1
- Varsity vs. Libertyville: 1-4
- Varsity vs. Libertyville: 1-4

**Saturday, April 2**:

- Varsity vs. Libertyville: 1-4
- Varsity vs. Libertyville: 1-4
- Varsity vs. Libertyville: 1-4
- Varsity vs. Libertyville: 1-4

**Tuesday, April 5**:

"WITH THE spring in the air, the season is heating up for our varsity teams," Coach Dan Dyra said. "We're excited to face some tough opposition in the CSL this year, and we're looking to build on our success from last season."
Isaiah makes sure that drivers will be able to see him in a flashy yellow t-shirt.

Isaiah Bradley checks out the bike he wants on the rack of Wheels & Things.

If you're in the mood for a new bike, why not stop by Wheels & Things for one that will never let you down? If you're happy with your current bike and just want a change of pace, check out our variety of t-shirts.

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