

## ‘Absurd!’ describes Fall play

By Maia Boussy  
Editor-in-Chief

That’s absurd!  
This year’s High School Fall theatre production, “That’s Absurd”, is a collection of several one-acts and scenes from longer plays, which will take place October 30-November 1 in Judd 126 at 7:30 p.m. The scenes will be absurd theater pieces with many of the same actors taking on multiple roles throughout the production.

“We have a collection of very different and amazing works as well as some poetry and word play segments that make the play very unique,” junior Lizzie Sullivan, assistant director, said. “We lost some really good actors and crew members last year, but we have an amazing group of people in theater this year.”

According to junior Maeve Potter, stage manager and co-makeup mistress, the stage will mainly consist of various sized boxes.

“For the set, we’re building a bunch of different sized platforms,” Maeve said. “We are going to paint them and put chairs on them. They are going to be stacked on top of each other to create steps.”

Makeup will be kept basic and relatively toned down, says junior Maria Privitera, co-makeup mistress.



Photo by Della Brown

The title tells all in this year’s Fall Production, “That’s Absurd!” Among the ensemble cast are Emma Gossett and Sam van Loon.

“Because absurd theater is largely about everyday situations, the makeup is mostly going to be simple,” Maria said. “But there’s also a circus scene so there will be some cool clown makeup we’ll be experimenting with.”

“Since the people in this play are normal people, most will have the same makeup throughout the show,” Maeve said. “If we have clown makeup, we would just put it on the actor backstage between acts.”

“For this show we are trying to use more physical objects, such as a diner

bell, to create sound effects,” senior Val Gardner, sound mistress and theatre manager, said. “We are hoping this will create a more realistic atmosphere.”

“We are setting up a structure around the stage where we can hang lights,” sophomore Will Zich, lights apprentice, said. “Unfortunately, we can’t hang any lights over the actors, meaning we have to point out lights into the audience sometimes in order to light the actors properly.”

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## Dance to cap Spirit Week festivities

By Clyde Schwab  
Associate editor

Strobe lights. Neon balloons. Pastel colors.

With a disco-theme, this year’s Homecoming dance will take place this Saturday, 7:30-10:30 p.m. at International House.

Tickets are available outside Dean of Students Ana Campos’ office for \$10 or at the dance for \$15 until the doors close at 9 p.m. Guests must be registered by Friday.

Music will be provided by DJ Jamal Smallz. According to Cultural Union President Maryam Alausa, any dress styles are acceptable as long as they fit the school dress code and adhere to the theme.

“Our goal for the theme was to make it more open-ended,” Maryam said. “It is pretty easy to decorate for, and there is a lot more freedom to dress within the theme.”

“One of our big goals this year was to try to increase ticket sales before the dance,” Maryam said. “In the past ticket sales have been a big problem, so this year we want to encourage people to buy tickets before the dance by lowering the price.”

Homecoming will culminate a Spirit Week capped by a U-High varsity soccer game against Eric Solorio Academy October 17 at 4:30 pm on Jackman Field. Results of the royalty elections will be announced at the dance.

“As previously announced, the schedule during Spirit Week is that yesterday was ‘80s workout day, today is twin day, there is no school tomorrow for PSAT testing, Thursday will be grade color day where each grade is given a certain color to dress in, and on Friday everybody should dress in the school colors and support the soccer team,” Maryam said. “In addition, there will be a grade wide competition to see who has the most spirit and a

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Photo by Francine Almeda

Considering how International House’s ballroom can become a disco, student government presidents John Williams and Maryam Alausa take notes.

## With diverse experiences, new teachers value opportunities for autonomy here

By Grace Anderson  
Associate editor

Leaning back in his chair in the dimly lit photography room, new teacher Benjamin Jaffe gestures towards an image of a hunched old man that serves as the cover photo for the website he uses to help teach students.

Among seven new teachers, photojournalism and photography teacher Benjamin Jaffe succeeds retired teacher Liese Ricketts. A Chicago Public School teacher for the past 23 years, Mr. Jaffe most

recently taught at Senn High School and helped build its fine and performing arts program. He is also one of the founders of Illinois’s first statewide high school art exhibition and worked for over 10 years at the city-wide exhibition, All-City, through which he met U-High’s current Fine Arts chair, Gina Alicea.

“I found out about the position at U-High from Gina Alicea since we worked together to set up All-City,” Mr. Jaffe said. “The more I found out about the opening from her, the more I wanted to do it. Initially, a big draw

for me was that I live in Hyde Park and I did not enjoy commuting to the north side to teach.

“Something I’ve noticed so far at U-High is that everything is planned very thoughtfully and teachers are an integral part of that decision-making. There’s also a lot of support for teachers with unique or experimental ideas.

“One of my ideas is the website about photography I’ve been working on for about a year. Another idea I have is developing a film class where students could have the opportunity to work with professionals to create a film the summer after taking the class if they were interested. Especially when it comes to filmmaking there’s only so much that can be taught in a class before you have to go try it yourself.”

Clasping her hands together on top of the wood table in the history department office, Christy Gerst smiled and explained the circle of events that led her back to U-High. After obtaining a degree in law from Washington University in St. Louis and becoming a practicing attorney, Ms. Gerst went to Northwestern University to get her masters in history education.

“To me it’s always seemed like history and law are a perfect fit for one another because it’s all about

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Photo courtesy of Jim Andrews

New High School faculty members include, from left, Daniel Wheadon, computer science; Simon Jarcho, math; Jean-Franklin Magrou, Charles Campbell, and Jin Yin, language; Christy Gerst, history; and Benjamin Jaffe, photography. They were at orientation in Earl Shapiro Hall. Sunny Neater-DuBow, art, is also new.



# Council president eyes revised Constitution

By Julian Lark  
Associate editor

“I feel that as Student Council president, I’ve been left without room to negotiate with the administration.”

Student Council President John Williams, senior, said about his position following attendance changes made without Council involvement. John said he wants to strengthen its voice this year by providing student services and revising the constitution, unchanged since 2003.

**RETURNING CULTURAL UNION** to its charter of sponsoring dances and cultural events was discussed last year, and John said he will include that in the Spring Quarter change of the constitution.

“We have agreed that we should meet apart every other week, particularly as the two bodies still need to communicate about a lot of things,” John said.

By changing the constitution, John said that Student Council will be able to focus on dealing strongly with student issues.

In September, Ms. Campos asked seniors to leave both of the Senior Lounge’s doors open at all times. John disagreed with the request, saying it was unnecessary with the existence of a window in the Dean of Students’ office. The doors will stay open.

“**IT’S ALWAYS BEEN** an expectation that the doors will be left open, and if ping-pong balls rolling out are the issue, then this can be resolved through a creative solution,” Ms. Campos explained. “One of the roles of adults is to supervise students, and when I’m not always in my office, it should always be easy for an adult to hear and see what’s going on in the Senior Lounge.”

Ms. Campos said her job as the adviser is to make sure that Student Council’s plans are clear and achievable.

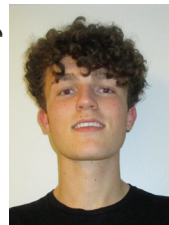
“I believe I should always be active and present at meetings and events, and try to be helpful,” Ms. Campos commented. “I generally scan the horizon to see things that might get in the way of Student Council’s ideas, and make sure they’re appropriate for a school environment.”

**THOUGH SOME** officers her presence at meetings affects Council decision-making, Ms. Campos said that she takes only a limited role in meetings.

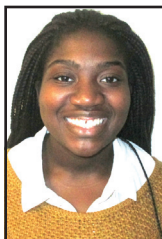
“In our meetings, I don’t actually talk that much, I just make sure that if there’s something they want to do, they do it the right way,” she explained. “I keep a pulse of the discussion, making sure things are going okay.”

A change this year has, the Dean of Students Office determining club

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John Williams



Maryam Alausa



Photo by Anna Funk

The cafeteria, essentially the same space as when the U-High building opened 55 years ago, will be transformed in upcoming renovations. The scene here is a recent Dig Pink bake sale.

## Construction moving on to new areas

By John Williams  
Associate editor

Lab Schools construction, which has become a part of school life for five years won’t end with the opening of the new Gordon Parks Arts Hall next year.

Major changes are coming to the interior of U-High, particularly the library, cafeteria and computer lab, and to other areas.

The Foreign Language Department will move to the fourth floor of Judd Hall, the English Department to the third floor of Judd and some math classes to the first floor of Judd, among other changes.

There also will be constructed long-awaited links to Judd from other buildings.

Associate Director David Stafford, who came to the school in 1991, has overseen the entire massive construction program which has resulted in a new Lab Schools campus, Earl Shapiro Hall and an overall transformation of the school

“We’ve been wanting to enlarge the U-High student body to about 600 from its current size of 500,” Mr. Stafford said. “These changes aim to accommodate those 100 students and to improve the overall quality of life at U-High.”

Principal Scott Fech explained, “There was a study conducted before I arrived at Lab on the population at U-High. Although we are not a University school, there is a large priority set on

accepting the children of University workers. It was projected that in a few years, the school would consist of 100 percent University students because of the current phase of growth at the University of Chicago.

“We are adding the 100 students to the school so that we can continue to encompass students of all cultural, socio-economic, and geographic backgrounds. These numbers are just for the near future, of course. We can’t project too far into the future. This ensures, though, that for now we can continue to be a well-rounded school in terms of background.”

Another major renovation will involve long-awaited expansion of the cafeteria.

“The Senior Lounge, Faculty Lounge and Dean’s office will be relocated to expand the Cafeteria, though they will remain in the basement.” Mr. Stafford said. “To compliment this expansion, there will be a completely different layout to the cafeteria. It will be more of a scatter system, with ‘islands’ for different food types: one for pizza, one for salad and so on.”

Mr. Fech said, “While the new cafeteria is being constructed, a temporary structure will be built for food services. It is still in the planning stages, so I can’t give the exact location or other specifics, but I can say that it will be on the U-High campus and it will be up, then down, a 100 percent temporary,

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## TRY SOMETHING NEW: A HOMECOMING HAIRDO!

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Photo by Della Brown

Unsure of what new style she wants to try, Maryam Alausa peruses our shelf of various hair products in search of the perfect one for her new look.

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## New attendance policy getting unhappy responses

By Clayton Surmeier  
Editor-in-Chief

“I guess I can’t get sick.”

So joked senior Max Brown in reference to the new attendance policy. Part of an overall Handbook revision, the new attendance policy specifies that students may only miss eight school days a quarter but no more than 20 over the course of the year.

**THE FORMER** policy that allowed students to miss 20 percent of their classes before being dropped.

Dean of Students Ana Campos was assigned the handbook revision by Principal Scott Fech in an attempt to update and reorganize what he considered outdated guidelines for teachers, students, and parents.

Mrs. Campos met with a group of faculty members throughout last year to discuss possible changes.

“Our goal was to clarify the expectations of students,” Mrs. Campos said. “Using a percentage in the attendance policy was confusing and vague, so we changed it to a number so that it’s easier for everyone to understand. Also, one new practice is that the school nurses are documenting when students visit with them because we had a few students last year report that they were going to see the nurse instead of going to class, but they didn’t.”

**“FOR BIGGER CHANGES** to the handbook we would of course look for the input of parents and students. They were not consulted for these revisions because the emphasis was on updating information that was out of date, reorganizing information, and clarifying existing policies.”

Many seniors have said that the new policy is unfair to students struggling to apply to college during Fall Quarter.

“It seems like a kind of crazy change with the college representative visits taking time

out of class too,” Max said. “It makes it difficult for seniors to manage their time when they are already juggling college work and school work. Last year I missed nine school days for pneumonia. What happens if I get sick again this year? Regardless, you should always be excused for things like debate and soccer.”

**NOT EVERY U-HIGHER** feels the new policy is problematic

“I honestly don’t remember the last time I missed school,” senior Jeffrey Jou said. “Overall, I don’t think it will affect me or any clubs that I’m in.”

Some teachers are concerned by the seeming lack of respect for non-Christian holidays.

“What about Jewish and Muslim holidays?” science teacher Sharon Housinger asked. “They should not count toward a student’s total absences. In a school that values diversity, we have to accommodate for the fact that Christian holidays are part of the universalized breaks and others are not.”

**U-HIGH PARENT** Bruce Gans, Class of 1969, said he doesn’t understand the overall goal of the changes.

“What’s more important?” Mr. Gans asked. “If you’re spending so much time at the clubs that your core subjects are suffering, that is an issue. But if it’s not then what’s the problem?”

In response to complaints, Mr. Fech said he will be discussing the attendance policy at a Principal Chat open to both U-High parents and students, this January.

“We are going to get data about how this is affecting students so we can effectively evaluate the changes,” Mr. Fech said. “We are asking questions like is eight absences excessive for seniors during Fall Quarter? Or, do juniors need more flexibility during fall quarter to accommodate college visits?”

**“EXCEPTIONS ARE MADE.** Nothing is black and white, but we have to have a conversation about it. Part of the problem here is we did not properly educate people about these revisions. There was a typo in the Handbook

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Ana Campos



# Venturers to China return with vivid memories

By Alex Harron  
Associate editor

"I wouldn't describe myself as exotic."

Junior Micaiah Buchheim-Jurisson was reflecting on his summer experiences in China. "In China I was shocked because everywhere I went people stopped me to take pictures of me holding their babies and tell me I was good looking."

Thirteen U-High students along with history teacher Cindy Jurisson and Lower School teacher Crystal Henricks, took a 13-hour United Airlines flight from Chicago to Beijing June 14 for a three-week trip. In Beijing, each student lived with a host family, spent mornings taking classes at Beijing No.4 High School and afternoons exploring museums, temples and other attractions. For the final week, they took a bullet train to Shanghai where they toured Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou by bus.

**MANY OF THE U-HIGHERS**, including junior Elizabeth Stolze, stayed with the families of the students they hosted last January when Beijing students came to Chicago for the first part of the exchange.

"I stayed with my exchange student Dong Ziyu," Elizabeth said. "Since there are so many people in China, most people live in high rises surrounding a courtyard within a complex. I stayed in a standard two-bedroom apartment. One of the differences between the Dong's apartment and a standard Ameri-



Photo courtesy of Cindy Jurisson

Packed in a crowded classroom, Elizabeth Van Ha and Nigel Van Ha sit in on an advanced geometry class at Beijing No.4 high school.

can apartment was that they had a manual washing machine you had to pump and instead of a dryer they hung their clothes on the balcony."

Leaving their host families and arriving at Beijing No.4 by 8 a.m., the 13 U-Highers reunited each day to attend class together in a separate classroom in the international wing of Beijing No.4.

**"THE SCHOOL**, as most everything in China, was huge," Micaiah said. "There were two campuses: an international campus for students planning to go to college in America and a main campus for everyone else. Each subject had its own building. Students have to walk outside to get from class to class. It reminded me of an American college campus."

Each morning, after devoting half-an-hour reflecting in journals, the students began class.

"Different teachers came to our classroom to teach us about aspects of Chinese culture and speak to us in Chinese," Elizabeth said. "At noon we took trips with Ms. Henricks and Ms. Jurisson to historical sites in and around Beijing including the Summer Palace and the Forbidden City. We would then return back to the school at 5 p.m. and be picked up by our host families for dinner."

"Everything was homemade. My host mother worked hard to make sure I liked the food and made some of my favorites like dumplings, noodles and wantons."

**A GIFT CEREMONY**, which usually takes place on the first or second day after arrival, is an important tradition at Beijing No. 4.

"I thought a lot about what we should bring," Ms. Jurisson said. "I decided on a combination of fiction and

non-fiction books written by U. of C. and Laboratory Schools faculty. Taken together, these books are a great illustration of our mission statement and who we are as a school. They demonstrate Lab's commitment to curiosity, creativity, kindness, academic rigor and cultural diversity. Also, one of the books, co-written by a former Lab parent, showcases the U. of C.'s efforts to help preserve China's cultural heritage. My hope is this gift helps them understand more about us and strengthens our relationship with them."

**IN THE FINAL WEEK**, the students stayed in various Holiday Inns. Visiting Hangzhou was junior Nigel Van Ha's favorite part of the trip.

"It was gorgeous," Nigel said. "It was such a refreshing change after being in the huge, crowded cities of Beijing and Shanghai. In Hangzhou, we visited gardens and spent a lot of time outside. The scenery and presence of nature was breathtaking."

Reflecting on the trip as a whole, Micaiah noticed major improvements in his Chinese.

"I didn't learn a lot of new words," said Micaiah. "However, I became much more comfortable speaking Chinese. I think my pronunciation improved."

Other U-Highers on the trip include: Freshman Elizabeth Van Ha; sophomores Tobias Ginsburg, Jonathon Lipman, Sarah Markovitz, Delnaz Patel and Zoe Rebollo Bam; and juniors Ben Glick; seniors: Leah Rosenzweig.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Jurisson

"It was a cute baby" recounted junior Micaiah Buchheim-Jurisson, cradling the newborn of a complete stranger in Suzhou. "I was surprised his mom let me hold him."



Photo courtesy of Cindy Jurisson

On a hot day in Beijing, juniors Micaiah Buchheim-Jurisson and Nigel Van Ha pose in traditional costume for a photo in front of a Buddhist temple overlooking the Forbidden City.

## Firing into freshman year



Photo courtesy of Scott Feh

Grey skies and summer showers welcomed the Class of 2018 to the first-ever overnight freshman retreat, September 4-5 at Cedar Lake Ministries Conference and Retreat Center in Cedar Lake, Indiana.

At the Retreat, 129 freshmen engaged in a panorama of community-building activities including kayaking, nine square, beach volleyball and finger-rocket wars, allowing for the twenty new students to connect with their class before the start of school.

Strapping on goggles and grabbing ammunition in the photo above, freshmen girls joined forces in a spontaneous rainy-day finger rocket battle against the boys while waiting for the storm to pass.

"Everyone was going nuts for finger rockets," Dean of Students Ana Campos said. "It was totally unplanned but a fantastic highlight."

## Sophomores lend a hand

"It was interesting to see how many people donate their time to help others."

Sophomore class president Matt Ferraro was reflecting on helping harvest more than 1,000 pounds of cabbage and potatoes at the Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens in Arlington, Wisconsin, during Sophomore Retreat, September 17-19 at Camp Chi in Lake Delton, Wisconsin.

Arriving to clear skies and fallen leaves, the 10th graders kicked off their trip with a visit to the Kalahari Water Park in the Wisconsin Dells. The next morning, students left for one of seven community service sites.

This year's sites, all in Wisconsin, included Festge Park in Cross Plains, where the sophs pitched in on park restoration; Renewal Unlimited for children in Baraboo, where they played and helped in the classroom; the River Food Pantry in Madison, where they stocked food and sorted clothes; Veterans Equine



Photo by Paige Fishman

Trail Services for horses and veterans in La Valle, where they helped maintain the horses; Oak Park Place senior community where they played games one-on-one with seniors; and Hope House for domestic abuse in Baraboo, where they organized donations.

At Renewal Unlimited in the photo above, Gabby Conforti plays ring-around-the-rosy with children ages 3 to 5-years-old.

## On Homecoming night grab a great bite!



Photo by Della Brown

After scanning the menu thoroughly, varsity soccer team members settle on pepperoni pizza and margherita pizza, in addition to an appetizer of guacamole and chips.

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# New teachers

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arguments,” Ms. Gerst explained. “While I was at graduate school at Northwestern I actually did my student teaching hours here at U-High with history teacher Chris Janus. While I was here I helped with U-High’s European History classes and I couldn’t imagine a better introduction to teaching.”

Ms. Gerst then went on to teach at Northside College Prep for six years, and taught at Jones College Prep in the Loop for one.

“**LAST YEAR I GOT** a call and found out that History teacher Andrea Martonffy was leaving,” Ms. Gerst explained, “which meant the history department was in need of a teacher for European and World History, which were the classes I taught at Jones and Northside. Something I’ve noticed as I’ve started again here at U-High is how small the class size is, so it’s really more like building a relationship with your students.”

Another new faculty member, math teacher Simon Jarcho, bobbed his head slightly as he recounted his path to U-High. Born in Chicago, he graduated from Colgate University in New York with a bachelor’s degree in economics. After that, he worked for two years as an economic research consultant out of Princeton, NJ.

“When I was as a consultant living in Princeton,” Mr. Jarcho said, “I did a lot of work for companies that made a lot of money and paid a lot of money. But, the outcome of the projects wasn’t fulfilling to me because what I wanted to do was work with people. I decided to teach because I’d sort of taught all my life since I had a work-study job as a tutor in college and made money each summer teaching sports. I ended up at a small boarding school called Vermont Academy where I taught high school kids for four years.”

**INITIALLY, MR. JARCHO** found out about the U-High opening through an online faculty placement program that fits teachers’ qualifications to their job search criteria.

“One of the biggest changes for me has just been the daily routine,” he said. “This community is a special one in that all the students go home to families that are thoroughly invested in their education. Whereas, in a boarding school environment we had to take on the responsibility of telling students to care about sleeping, eating and doing their homework.”

Other new teachers joining U-High’s faculty include the following: Art: Sunny Neater-DuBow; Computer Science: Daniel Wheadon; Language: Charles Campbell, Jean Franklin Magrou and Jin Yin.

New staff members include Dana Jordan, admissions assistant Brian Lipinski, Director of Finance; Alexzandra Wallace, manager of special projects and school outreach and Anthony Williams and Joe Wachowski, facilities specialists.

Moving to new roles are Kellyn Gawel, Director of Human Resources; Arcella Guerero, Project Assistant III in the Admissions Office; Andrea Martonffy, organizer of University Relations; Dawn Petrie, payroll supervisor; Fountain Walker, director of operations; and Tony Willson, senior associate director of operations for the Historic Campus.

# Student Council

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clubs in the past have come up with great ideas for an event, and it’s been too late to get money for it,” Ms. Campos explained. “I would also like to talk to Cultural Union about club fundraising, and whether the parameters for fundraising should include multi-day sales.

“Often, clubs want to take up numerous consecutive days to have a bake sale drive, but that means that other clubs are cut out of the fundraising opportunity for weeks at a time, and last year clubs expressed concern that more than one sale at a time splits the revenues.”

John said he sees club funding as something that should be handled, as it was for decades, by Student Council members who can really look into the effectiveness of clubs in improving U-High’s environment.

“Some clubs are legitimate, useful, and educational, but I can name a handful of clubs that are being funded that don’t do very much. The administration generally likes to use the number of clubs we have as a selling point for prospective students. But realistically, we need to make sure the clubs we have are contributing to the cultural and educational environment of our school.”

# Homecoming

(continued from front page)

schoolwide competition to see which grade has the most people wearing their colors on Thursday.”

According to Student Council President John Williams, the objective behind Spirit Week is to contribute some fun and excitement while celebrating the U-High community.

“Our goal behind spirit week was to celebrate our school and our community,” John said. “People should participate in spirit week to show appreciation for the great education and community we have access to, and to have fun while doing so.”

# Fall Production

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Company Players are as follows:

Valentina Gardner, Maya Ben-Shahar, Maria Privitera, Danny Kim, Alijah Futterman, Carly Pys-Garzotto, Sam Van Loon, Kellie Lu, Alex Rhind, Emma Gossett, Ayacan Asthana, Nicole Horio.

Crew heads not already mentioned are as follows:

**Lights**, Sam Van Loon; **Set Manager**, Emma Lichter; **House Manager**, Autumn Espinosa; **Costumes**, Pricia Parsad.



Photo by Della Brown

**Shouting and waving posters over their heads, club leaders try to get fellow U-Highers to join their organizations during Club Shopping September 30.**

**Junior Elizabeth Chon, founder of Off the Streets, found that the popular event provided new clubs, such as her own, to gain exposure.**

**“It also gave us the opportunity to talk to students instead of just hanging posters around the school,” Elizabeth said.**

**“There were a lot of things about my club I couldn’t fit into a poster, so it was nice to talk more specifically about what we would be doing.”**



Photo by Della Brown

**Off the Streets members will be speaking at Chicago public schools about runaway issues and youth crisis, as well as participate in service projects at local shelters for which sophomores can get up to 10 hours of Community Service credit.**

# Brief-ly\_

## Yearbook portraits underway

■ **IN YEARBOOK PHOTOS**—There were smiles aplenty yesterday and today, and there will be again Thursday, Friday in Blaine Courtyard as seniors are photographed for the 2015 U-Highlights. Schedules are posted on the Senior Board, says junior Nora Lin, Senior Section editor.

Meanwhile, freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be photographed Monday in the Journalism Office, Judd 14 (on the lower level west of the cafeteria).

Those schedules are posted on those clsss board, says junior Jacob Mozarella, section editor for the 9th-, 10th- and 11th grades. The 2015 editors-in-chief are Maddi Ross and Ross Tizes. Della Brown is the photo editor.

If rain prohibits senior phototaking any day, those photos will be taken Friday in Blaine Courtyard.

■ **OPEN HOUSE**—Sunday, November 2 won’t be a day off school for many U-Highers. They will be at school noon-4:30 p.m. seving as student guides fore the annual Admissions Open House.

Tours will begin 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. The Midway and U-Highlights staffs, which usually work Saturdays, will be working Sunday instead. Each tour will be preceded by an opening program in the cafeteria.

■ **U-HIGHERS RECOGNIZED**—Eighteen U-High seniors have been designated Semifinalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship program.

National Merit Semifinalists qualify by scoring in the 99th percentile on the PSAT in their

junior year ranked by state. Finalists will be chosen on the basis of test scores, cocurricular achievement, grades, counselor recommendations and essays.

Two seniors have been named Semifinalists in the National Achievement Scholarship Competition which recognizes outstanding African-American studemts.

Semifinalists are as follows:

**MERIT**—Rajan Aggarwal, Clara De Pablo, Adam Fine, Mike Glick, Jeffrey Jou, Clare Keenan, Alexander Kim, Kevin Li, Edward Litwin, Jackson Martin, Jane Maunsell, Walker Melton, Luke Newell, Nathaniel Posner, Maddi Ross, Madeline Sachs, Alexander Schonbaum and David Yunis.

**ACHIEVEMENT**—Maryam Alausa and Alijah Anne Futterman.

■ **MIDWAY ON TOP AGAIN**—“So. Much. Coverage.”

With that opening comment, judge Joe Humphrey award the Midway to top rating, All American, from the National Scholastic Press Association for last year’s issues.

It is the 49th consecutive year the Midway has won the honor; in the 1960s when judging occurred twice a year the Midway won two All Americans each year.

Mr. Humphrey praised the Midway’s content and coverage; writing and editing; editorial leadership; photos, art and graphics.

■ **MUSICAL FEAST**—For the 10th year, Middle and High School musicians and singers will be performing classical music in the Fall Afternoon Recital 2-4:30 p.m, Sunday October 19. at Fulton Recital Hall, 1010 East 59th Street.

# School renovations

(continued from page 2)

non-brick-and-mortar structure.

The U-High library will not only expand but also be completely relocated.

“The current U-High Library will also be considerably enhanced. With the exception of one space for the English office, the entire second floor of Judd will now serve as the new library, with air conditioned, specialized rooms for rare books. The current library will be fully dedicated to the Middle School.”

In addition, the computer lab will be transformed into a combined High School/Middle School lab.

“The current High School Computer Lab occupies HS 226. It will now be expanded to include HS 226 through 228, which is more or less half the second floor of HS.”

In response to the changes, some might expect a shift in the culture at U-High.

“I don’t expect the culture to change at all, to be honest,” Mr. Stafford said. “The construction is all geared towards the current programs and improving the livability of the space. For example, classroom usage at other schools is somewhere between seventy to eighty percent during any given period. At ours, we have about ninety to ninety-five percent usage during any given period.

“With the expansion, we’ll have much more room, giving more leeway for meetings and more room for new programs- not that any in particular are necessarily being considered now- should they be added to the curriculum.”





Photo by Francine Almeda

Newly-decorated, new Lab Schools Director Robin Appleby's office bursts with sunlight and color and visual clues to her favorite things. Here Midway editor-in-chief Mike Glick interviews her for the story below.

## New Director brings international experience, global education vision

After working in Dubai for the past six years as superintendent of Dubai American Academy, Robin Appleby accepted the offer to become director of the Lab Schools last Fall. During the 2013-14 year, Ms. Appleby traveled to Chicago from Dubai three times to acclimate to her new position while finishing her work in Dubai. She officially commenced her duties as director July 1.

On the sunny afternoon of Friday September 19, Midway editor-in-chief Mike Glick sat down with Ms. Appleby in her newly-decorated office to hear her initial impressions of Lab.

**You've worked everywhere from Ohio to Buffalo to Dubai. What drew you to Chicago, and more specifically to Lab?**

I started working as an English teacher at the Nichols School in Buffalo. Throughout the years, I got to know the Lab Schools because of professional development workshops that I attended. Lab is very well known for its historical founding by John Dewey and its ongoing approach to hands-on learning. The link between Lab and the University of Chicago was very intriguing for me. I appreciate the opportunities created by the relationship with the University community.

I love Chicago, and it was one of three American cities I would have moved to. It's a very appealing city now that I'm coming with my family.

**What do you hope to bring to the Lab Schools' community?**

My background in international education is definitely something that I bring to the table. I am into big ideas. When kids leave Lab, they enter not only college, but also the whole world, and we need to prepare students for this.

My guess is that over half of each U-High class will live abroad at some point before they turn 40. For me, global education is very important. It's something I'm very interested in understanding better, particularly now that I am back in the U.S.

I also want to see if we can further develop the relationship with the University of Chicago. We should be exploring more partnerships, such as with the Urban Education Institute.

And as we develop our relationship with the broader community, I want to see service programs become a part of what kids want to do, not simply a required number of hours they must complete.

**You've continually been spotted throughout the school, from the hallways and class-**

**rooms to the tennis courts to cheer on the girls' tennis team. What type of presence do you expect to have in the day-to-day life at U-High?**

I'd like to be seen as someone that people want to talk to. I don't want to be distanced from the kids; I want to be approachable. But it has to be a real relationship. A lot of kids don't know what the Director does, and I want them to. My hope is to be equally outward-looking and inward-looking.

My hope is that people will include me. I really don't want to be intimidating. I want to care about what the kids want me to care about, and I want to be as big a part of the Lab community as I can.

**What impressions do you have of the U-High student body so far?**

The kids here are incredibly friendly, from the high school down. Kids reached out to my daughter right away; her being new really wasn't a stumbling block. The teachers have been very welcoming, too. The faculty here is so talented.

I really like the idea of my daughter growing up in a community like Lab. Students take pride in their Lab backgrounds, and that's something my daughter didn't get quite as much growing up internationally before now because in expat life people are constantly in a state of transition.

It's also struck me how smart everyone here is. Everyone is constantly thinking critically: the students, teachers and even parents.

**The campus is undergoing monumental changes. In what ways do you feel the Schools should be connected, and in which ways should they be separate?**

I think it's really important that each school has its own identity. Kids should have a sense of graduating into the next stage of their educational life. Lab is a big school and a small school. You want to see differences between the experiences kids have at each school, but each experience should be connected to others.

Vertical learning is very important. A high school student should be able to relate what she's learning in high school to her experiences in third grade science.

It's important that goals are developed jointly. Whatever we set as goals should be rooted in the school's mission. When things get hard, which they will at times, we need to remind each other what the end game is.

## Charter School soph completes exchange here

By Jackie Walker  
Associate Editor

Surrounded by new faces, sophomore Anissa Sanders walks into Carolyn Walter's 1st period English class in U-High 303 on the first day of school. Though a sophomore, Anissa is unfamiliar with the school because she is here on an exchange program with the University of Chicago Woodlawn Charter School at 6240 University Avenue about three blocks south of the Midway.

Anissa is completing the exchange this quarter following sophomore Saskia Knowles attending the Charter School spring quarter of last year.

**MUCH DISCUSSED** and covered in the media for the opportunities it offers its students, the Charter School serves Middle School and High School grades 6 through 12.

Established in 2008, it is among four charter schools operated by the University of Chicago.

Saskia herself came up with the idea of doing the student exchange last winter, many people have been surprised to learn. She credits her father for the inspiration.

"I have always been interested in my dad's work," Saskia said in a Midway interview. "He is the director of the University of Chicago's Urban Education Institute, a research center that also runs lots of Charter Schools in Chicago. I talked to my dad, and we went in together to talk to the principals of both schools."

**HAVING ATTENDED UCW** since 6th grade, Anissa wanted to experience something new. The principal at UCW asked her if she would be interested in participating in an exchange.

Also initially nervous about meeting new people, Saskia found the UCW community welcoming.

"At UCW, I made so many friends but because I didn't know anyone at first, I learned to take initiative to talk to people," she said.

"At Lab, because I've been here so long, I don't really need to do that. I have a set group of people that I just go through life with year after year. People at UCW were incredibly warm and accommodating but it was hard to go into a completely new school."

"Since I'll only be here for a quarter, I hope to do the best I can academically," said Anissa.

**U-HIGH NEWCOMERS** this year, all of them freshmen, grouped by the schools from which they came are as follows:

**Akiba Schechter Jewish Day:** Tomer Keysar; **Avery Coonley:** Ayaan Ashtana; **Butler Junior High, Oakbrook:** Abdul "Matt" Atassi; **Clarendon Hills:** Hayward Melton; **Frances Xavier Warde:** Mizan Raoul; **Forest Ridge Academy, Schererville, Indiana:** Dheven Unmi; **Hinsdale:** Amber Huo; James Heart; **Homewood:** Christian Brookens; **Keller Regional Gifted Center Munster, Indiana:** Bryce Palmer; **Lakeview Junior High:** Chantaille Dupont; **Manuel Perez:** Daniel Martinez; **MCC Full Time:** Sahar Siddiqui; **Percy Julian Middle School:** Nathan Blevins; **St. Therese:** Vivian Lang; **Stone Scholastic Academy:** Aida Basic; **UNO Academy:** Briana Garcia; **Wilbur Wright:** Alexa Patrick-Rodriguez, Nicola Han; **Wilmette Junior High:** Matan Diermeier-Lazar, Oran Diermeier-Lazar.



Saskia Knowles



Anissa Sanders





# As the Midway sees it

## New attendance policy adds stress to school life

For the first time in 15 years, the attendance policy described in the handbook has changed.

Worried that students in the past have taken advantage of opportunities to miss classes, a committee of faculty members, led by Dean of Students Ana Campos, developed revisions to the attendance policy this year. Although Ms. Campos believes students may have overhyped the changes, that sentiment ignores the fact that the revisions have increased student stress levels exponentially.

What Ms. Campos describes as a simple change from a maximum percentage of absences to a maximum number of absences is not that simple in reality. According to the new policy, a student may only have eight absences each quarter. This number includes absences because of illness, religious holidays, college visits and school-sponsored trips.

As a result, many students have found themselves canceling plans from day

one. Having already missed three days for debate tournaments, senior Luke Newell has only five days left to miss this quarter before being dropped.

“I can barely make every debate tournament this quarter,” Luke said. “We miss seven days for debate, and I miss another day this quarter for a German field trip. That means that I can’t miss any other days of school, so I guess I just can’t get sick.”

Other students found themselves unable to skip school for Rosh Hashanah, knowing they would have to miss days later in the quarter for college visits and acknowledging that they could become ill. Members of athletic teams have been forced to miss their last period classes for games. The list goes on.

Despite recent administrative attempts to reduce stress, the attendance policy forces many students to drop the very activities that provide stress reduction.

“I don’t understand why there weren’t

parents and students in the group that met to revise the handbook,” said one U-High parent, who asked to remain anonymous so as not to affect his children’s lives in school. “There has to be an active discussion between students, parents and faculty about any major changes like this or we risk losing what makes this school so special.

“Similar to the schedule change a few years ago, this change puts a stress on the classes and clubs that don’t fall under the core curriculum. We shouldn’t be punishing students for following their passions, we should be rewarding them.”

U-High touts its academic and athletic teams’ accomplishments. The awards boost the school’s image and distinguish it for its diversity in achievement.

The double standard couldn’t be clearer. As students take the hit and cannot pursue their passions to the same degree as they once could, the school still reaps the benefits of their success.

# Lounge gives seniors more than just ping-pong

By Mike Glick  
Opinion columnist

When members of the senior class first walked into the Senior Lounge this August, a bare room sporting several couches greeted them.

Only the ping-pong table provided entertainment, and even it lacked a net and balls.

The Lounge’s bareness seemed to symbolize our class’ scarce unity throughout the past three years. We had had moments of togetherness—especially at Junior Retreat—but had never fully sustained that unity.

This year, however, our grade refused to continue down the same path. Within days, seniors united to address the issue, dramatically changing the grade dynamic in the process.

One senior took it upon himself to build a net for the ping-pong table, spending hours ensuring the net didn’t budge from its place. Another connected the Lounge’s television to Netflix. Many other seniors donated video games and

old video game systems to the lounge.

When we had finally set up the lounge to our taste by the first week of school, we already had a connection that we had never had previously—and that’s before we even started using what we created.

Teachers and administrators can say what they want about the loud music and bouncing balls in the Senior Lounge. They can’t, however, deny that the lounge has brought the senior class exponentially closer in just over a month.

It’s true. It doesn’t take more than a glance to notice the transformative power of the Senior Lounge.

Two seniors who have not had any classes since freshman year play FIFA together on the Xbox. Two others rally on the ping-pong table, catching up and reminiscing about their middle school experiences together. A dozen seniors congregate at the table next to the ping-pong table, jovially working together on problem sets.

Senior class president Whitney Beach has stressed the importance of maintaining a fun and relaxing atmosphere in the lounge since August. Yet, the extent to which seniors have come together surprises even her.

“When I filled out my junior question-

naire, I was asked, ‘who do you hang out with?’” Whitney said. “I answered, ‘Whoever is in the third-floor lounge.’ Everyone in our grade has taken that mentality this year.

“People have amazed me with how well they share. It may not sound like much, but no one is ever fighting over the video games or the ping-pong. We’re sharing the music; we’re sharing the games. Everyone is looking to talk to new people.”

The increase in the senior class’ togetherness is tangible, and it has everything to do with the Senior Lounge and seniors’ desire to use it as a place to connect. For three years, our grade struggled to find our class identity. In just a month, we found it.

# U-HIGH MIDWAY

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# In its 91st year, the Midway wants your input

It’s a Tuesday, 3:05 p.m., and as U-Highers excited to go home rush out of the classroom, the sound of fluttering paper fills the high school lobby.

The U-High Midway is back, in its 91st year and counting.

Here on the Journalism and Photojournalism staff, we work diligently throughout the year to bring you a complete picture of life at U-High. We will produce nine issues, which will be handed out about once a month, covering a range of in-school and out-of-school topics.

We aim to create an accurate representation of the school, capturing current events, people, and the community we live in.

This year we will focus on bringing the same high-quality journalism as last year, with further emphasis on life in Hyde Park and the changes that the neighborhood has undergone.

Though we decide what goes to print, the Midway’s unique publication relies on contributions from faculty, parents and students. These contributions give us a better idea of what you want to see in the Midway.

We encourage you to submit letters, opinions or ideas to journalism teacher Wayne Brasler’s office in Judd 14. If you want to write a guest column or letter or just want to suggest a story idea, we welcome you to speak with any Midway staff member throughout the year.

The Midway doesn’t print libel, obscenity or content likely to disrupt orderly running of the school. That is not to say that the Midway doesn’t tackle difficult or controversial topics, as it has done repeatedly in the past. We will continue to cover controversial issues, and we once again encourage readers to voice their agreement or disagreement.

While administrators have proven an important part of the Midway, offering opinions and guidance, they have never viewed the Midway before publication despite their legal ability to do so in a private school. Instead, administrators have traditionally played a vital role in unearthing news and giving feedback on how best to handle problematic stories.

Only Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler and Photojournalism Teacher Benjamin Jaffe assist the Midway staff, offering advice and answering questions. They do not censor the stories and photos that the Midway publishes. Rather, they act in their roles as teachers to help guide the students.

In the 91st year of the U-High Midway, we look forward to offering you a reflection of life at U-High.

# Midway Mailbox

## Handbook changes pinning us down

**From Benjamin Glick, junior:**

I should have been home in bed. Instead, I was in first-period gym with an aching body attempting to hone my golf skills. I blame my predicament on our new attendance policy. This year’s revised attendance policy does not place enough trust in students.

By lowering the total number of absences, without factoring in legitimate conflicts, the policy sets up students for too many complicated decisions. Face it: We all get sick and most of us are involved in sports, debate, Model U.N., Science Team, etc. It’s hard to predict how much school we’ll miss.

The handbook states, “The school considers two (2) or more absences in a quarter-long course to be troubling.” This sets up a ridiculous standard. With all the demands on our time, two absences are extremely easy to achieve with a completely reasonable explanation. Not

only does the policy force unreasonable individual decisions, but also it is unrealistic about demands on student time.

I’ve already missed one day of school. If I were in a quarter-long course, skipping school for the Jewish New Year would be an unnecessarily hard decision.

In the student health section of the handbook it says, “Students are encouraged to go to the nurse’s office during a free period or lunch.” That’s helpful guidance for students to manage school time when you are sick. But, if it’s true that the nurse has instructions to send sick (presumably mildly sick) students back to class if there’s a quiz, test, presentation or paper due before the end of the same day, that undermines any trust in student judgment.

I really don’t think most of us would use the nurse to get out of a quiz or test. We all know we’d have to make it up. We all understand the demands of U-High and faking sickness is just not something that is a common trick of U-Highers.

We’re simply not getting the respect we deserve and the trust we have earned.



Benjamin



# So much frozen yogurt, so little time

By Raghu Somala  
Dining columnist

The frozen yogurt dilemma: Kingoberry, Z-Berry, and Red Mango. All in Hyde Park. All frozen yogurt stores. All on 53rd street.

Kingoberry, 1307 East 53rd Street, opened this Spring. Its light brown walls partially covered in unappealing tricolored tiles create a dull am-



Raghu

biance barely offset by the one tv above the counter playing Sports Center. I walked into Kingoberry's shop, empty of customers, Tuesday evening to taste my first spoonful of Hyde Park frozen yogurt, only to be

disappointed by its lackluster appearance.

**FLAVORS OFFERED** include Probiotic California Tart, Dreamy Dark Chocolate, Blueberry, Cotton Candy, and more. Although Kingoberry isn't self-serve, it provides the Kingoberry Creations. My choice was the house favorite: the Kingoberry, composed of California Tart with kiwi, mango and strawberry. The slightly-sour taste contrasted with the sweetness of the

mango, and complimented the texture of the kiwis and strawberries beautifully. While it was delicious, a regular at \$3.49 was not enough to quench my thirst for frozen yogurt.

In the Harper Court development on 53rd Street, newly-opened chain store Red Mango offers a more modern take of the traditional frozen yogurt cafe. Along with a self-serve frozen yogurt station, Red mango offers on-the-go sandwiches such as Southwest chicken, fresh fruit smoothies, and fruit and yogurt parfaits.

With 10 frozen yogurt stations, you have the option to swirl two flavors together, along with various healthy toppings. Red Mango offers flavors like Creamy Peanut Butter, Salted Caramel, Spiced Pumpkin, Slam Dunk, White Peach Greek, Milk Chocolate, and more.

**I SWIRLED** the traditional Creamy Peanut Butter and Salted Caramel, and topped it off with blueberries, nuts, granola and cheesecake bites. One scoop of the Salted Caramel and Peanut Butter with the texture from the granola proved exquisite. At only 49 cents an ounce, Red Mango's health options are well worth the short walk from U-High.

Between Kingoberry and Red Mango stands the only family-owned frozen

y o g u r t cafe. Four years old, Z - b e r r y looks like an ordinary storefront from the outside, but the magic is in the product.

Though the ambiance and appearance is similar to that of Kingoberry, it exceeds all expectations with its six varying yogurt and sorbet flavors, its atmosphere and its one-man staff.

**I ONCE AGAIN** chose the house favorite, getting only a few ounces, a decision I would regret. I topped the Cake Batter froyo with crushed twix bars, marshmallows, and crushed ore-



Photo by Della Brown

Scooping various fresh fruit and sweet candy toppings into their cups, seniors Charlotte Elfenbaum and Raghu Somala create mouth-watering frozen yogurt delights at Red Mango's self-serve station.

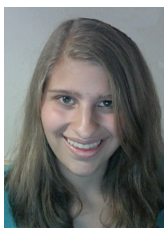
os. After paying and walking out, I ate one spoonful and stopped dead in my tracks. The sweetness from the cake batter flavor and the texture of both the oreos and twix bars was to die for.

No other froyo place can parallel the taste of Z-Berry's cake batter flavor.

## No trick needed when making easy-to-eat cake pop treats

By Ariel Gans  
Cooking columnist

As Halloween draws closer, thoughts drift to sweets. Give in to your sweet tooth with something easy to eat and fun to make like these tantalizingly sweet cake balls.



Ariel

Made popular by Starbucks, cake balls are thick like doughnut hole and frosted like cupcakes, making them great for parties. The flavor is up to you, so you'll want to make multiple

batches.

Here's what you'll need:

- 1 box cake mix (I use Betty Crocker's super moist yellow recipe but you can choose any flavor)
- 1 8x11 baking pan with raised sides
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup of water
- 2 bars of chocolate, unsweetened
- 2 tablespoons of frosting (preferably chocolate)
- 1 cup sprinkles
- 16 cake ball sticks

1 block of Styrofoam (can be purchased at craft stores like Michael's. Can be substituted for cardboard.)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a bowl, blend the cake mix, vegetable oil, eggs and water. Pour batter into pan and bake for 25-30 minutes until fluffy. Allow 10 minutes to cool.

In a bowl, break the yellow cake into crumbs and mix with the frosting until well-blended and doughy.

Roll spoonfuls of dough between palms, applying gentle pressure until round. Place balls onto the Styrofoam block.

On a plate, microwave the chocolate for 20 seconds, stir, and return to the microwave for 15 seconds. Pour sprinkles into a bowl before rolling each ball in the melted chocolate and then in the sprinkles until completely covered.

Insert cake ball sticks halfway into the balls and stick in the Styrofoam block. Freeze for 15 minutes to allow them to set.

After an hour of preparation and careful work, pluck the balls out of the Styrofoam and you've got 16 treats to go.



Photo by Mary Brady

As the aroma of sweet chocolate fills her kitchen, Ariel holds up her latest batch of delectable cake pops.

## Starkly different roles, great acting

By Elizabeth Chon  
Film critic

A woman opens her front door to a stranger who asks if he can use her telephone to call a tow truck for his wrecked car. As heavy rain pours and lightning tears up the sky, she invites him inside to wait. The man seems friendly and normal, but



Elizabeth

she quickly regrets her decision to let him in when he suddenly pulls out a gun and points it at her.

Directed by Sam Miller (also director of crime television show "Luther"), "No Good Deed" follows malignant narcissist Colin Evans (Idris Elba).

**AFTER FIVE YEARS** in prison for murdering a man and five women, he manages to escape one night. Hijacking a van and murdering the driver, he hits another vehicle in a rainstorm and then shows up at the doorstep of Terri, a mother of two and a devoted wife.

By utilizing suspense and surprise in the majority of the scenes, "No Good Deed" effectively keeps viewers cringing in their seats. Calm moments and quick bursts of violence keep pulses racing.

Though Elba is best known for his heroic roles in "Luther" and sci-fi action movie "Pacific Rim," his performance



ew.com

As he paces around the house, escaped convict Colin (Idris Elba) searches for and calls out to Terri (Taraji Henson) in "No Good Deed".

remains strong in "No Good Deed" despite playing a starkly different character.

Taraji Henson, who played an authoritative role in the crime television show "Person of Interest," portrays the character of Terri exceptionally, despite playing the role of a victim rather than authority.

**FILMED IN** suburban Atlanta, Georgia, the setting fits the image of a quintessential upper-middle class neighborhood. While the town seems safe and peaceful, all hell breaks loose in Terri's two-story home as she tries to defend herself and her two young children against Colin.

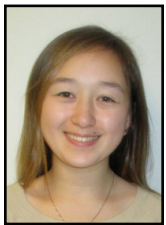
With a total gross profit of \$46.53 million and climbing, "No Good Deed" is a hit rated PG-13.

## Tweedy's psychedelic debut

By Christine Obert-Hong  
Music critic

With a mix of guitar and drums to a laid-back tempo, the alternative rock band Tweedy delivers a collection of 20 contemplative, yet sometimes hopeful, songs in its debut album, "Sukierae".

Jeff Tweedy, former member of the disbanded alternative country band Uncle Tupelo and current member of the alternative rock band Wilco,



Christine

formed Tweedy with his 18-year-old son, Spencer Tweedy, earlier this year. "Sukierae", named after Jeff's wife's nickname, also features vocals by band members Jess Wolfe and Holly Laessig of the indie pop band, Lucius, and keyboards by Scott McCaughey, singer-songwriter and leader of the bands The Young Fresh Fellows and Minus 5.

It's not hard to see why Rolling Stone called Jeff one of the most emotionally fluent American songwriters around in their review of the album. Each of the songs in "Sukierae" flood the listener with a mix of complicated feelings and

styles, ranging from psychedelic ballads to frustrated outbursts.

Many songs, such as "High as Hello", bring to mind some of John Lennon's early '70s music, with occasional vocal harmonies that add more color to the album's acoustics. Tweedy's lilting, breathy voice melds with the guitar and drums, creating an almost easygoing tone.

It takes commitment to listen to any 20-song album in one sitting, but each song in "Sukierae" gives the listener something new to think about by the end, and is definitely a



pitchfork.com

collection of songs worth listening to.



# Deep tournament run midseason sparks volleyballers

By Mike Glick  
Editor-in-Chief

Before turning their focus to the IHSA 3A playoffs, the U-High volleyball team will wrap up conference play today against the rival Parker Colonels in Upper Kovler, 5:30 pm.

With five new varsity players, U-High experienced an up-and-down start to the season. The Maroons (11-7, 3-2 ISL as of Midway press time) quickly rebounded, however, winning six of eight games in a 10-day span beginning September 20, highlighted by a 2nd place finish in the Westminster Christian Invitational.

**COACHED BY** Lisa Miller and Michael Soapes, U-High overcame a low ranking to qualify for the championship game.

“We were originally ranked 13th of 16 teams in the tournament, but we made it all the way to the finals,” Eleri said. “It didn’t come easily, and we never gave up which I’m really proud of.”

The Maroons also nearly defeated the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences September 12. Though U-High came up just short in their matchup with the Cyclones, losing in three sets, the game proved a testament to the Maroons’ improvement.

“**ALTHOUGH WE LOST**, that’s the best effort we’ve ever put in against that team,” senior captain Eleri Miller said. “We stepped it up this year. It came down to three sets, and ultimately three points.”

According to senior Carra Gray, several players have emerged as key pieces for the Maroons as the season has progressed.

“Junior Elizabeth Chon has really stepped up as a key back row player,” Carra said. “Junior Ellie Rousos has also played really well. She’s a little bit small for the position in the middle, but she always seems to get her hands on the ball.

“**SOPHOMORE TAMERA SHAW** has done a great job for us on the outside.”

After winning Regionals last year and qualifying for Supersectionals the year prior, U-High has set its sights on a run to State. The Maroons know getting to Supersectionals and State will prove difficult, but Carra says U-High has prepared well.

“We really want to win Regionals again, but we want to do more this year,” Carra said. “The furthest we have gone in my high school career is to Supersectionals. We want to do more than that this year. We want to get to State. It’s definitely possible.”



As she prepares to serve, Averie Miller keys in on the ball in the Maroons’ win over North Shore in the Dig Pink game October 7. A large collection of U-High students came wearing Dig Pink T-shirts to support U-High.

Photo by Mary Brady

## Soccermen defeat 4 ISL foes, take 2nd

By Luke Murphy  
Sports Editor

Wednesday, October 8. North Shore at U-High. The ISL Championship.

This one was for all the marbles for the U-High boys’ soccer team.

With a U-High win, the ISL title would belong to the Maroons. A tie or loss and the title would belong to the Raiders.

**EIGHTY MINUTES** of soccer wasn’t enough to decide who would take the crown, so the referee signaled for overtime.

After taking a 1-0 lead in the first half of overtime on senior Michael Glick’s header, the Maroons stood five minutes from their ultimate goal of an ISL title.

But It wasn’t to be. In the closing minute the Raiders were awarded a corner kick. The ball was played into the box and a scrum ensued. Goalkeeper Nigel Van Ha, junior, jumped on the ball, but not before it slipped inches across the goal line. Tie game, 1-1. The final seconds of the game slipped away and the whistle blew. North Shore took the ISL crown.

Captained by fellow four-year varsity starters Michael Horio and Michael Glick, U-High stands at 6-4-3 (4-1-1 ISL) as of press time. U-High has outscored opponents 32 to 10 this season.

**WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING** that it’s a cliché, Michael Glick says team unity has proven the difference this year for the Maroons.

“I think as a team we’ve grown a lot off the field,” Michael said. “It’s a cliché but one that rings true and speaks to our team dynamic. In past years you wouldn’t have seen the soccer team going to get Chipotle after a practice together, but that’s the norm this year. You can absolutely see the difference on the field when a team wants to win not only for themselves



Photo by Della Brown

**As the ball skips off the ground, Henry Utset prepares to strike it on goal in the closing minutes of U-High’s tie with North Shore.**

but also for their teammates.

“What has surprised me is the incorporation of underclassmen Benji Wittenbrink, Max Wigfield and Tomas Linquist. With 17 upperclassmen on the roster I was a little worried that there would be a distance between the classes, but the trio has accepted and excelled in their roles on the team. Tomas in particular has provided the team with a flair similar to what Isaiah Bradley provided last year. He works hard and always steps it up on the field.”

**THE DEFINING** moment of the year, according to Michael Glick, was when John Schuler of Latin missed a penalty kick, opening the floodgates for four unanswered U-High goals in a 4-0 Maroons’ victory September 16.

“If he had made his penalty kick it would have been 1-0 Romans and that would have put us in an early hole. The miss turned the momentum in our favor, though, and we went on to win handily. We have kept that confidence throughout the season.”

The Maroons’ defense—anchored by junior Nick Audrain and seniors Clay Surmeier, Michael Horio and Henry Utset—has stifled opponents throughout the season.

“**WE ALL WORK** together as a unit,” Clay said. “We’re all friends which makes it much easier to communicate given that we are very open with each other and look out for one another. Given that we are all upperclassmen, our skill level as a unit is higher than past units as well.”

Junior Schuler Small did not mince words when asked why this U-High team has been so successful.

“We have a particularly skilled roster with very good ball skills that has played together a lot both for the high school team and for club, too,” Schuler said. “However, I believe the number one reason for our success this year is Michael Glick’s leadership. He cares about the team so much that it is contagious, watching him give 100 percent everyday at practice makes you want to give the same, and his belief in us all has given us a confidence unlike past U-High teams I’ve played with.”



Photo by Della Brown

Controlling the ball in front of North Shore’s goal, Alex Foster blows by the defender in the Maroons’ 1-1 tie with the Raiders.

## Swimmers quickly develop record-breaking habits

By Luke Murphy  
Sports editor

Another meet, another broken record. Rewriting the record books has become ho-hum business for the U-High girls’ swim team this season.

Sophomore Zoe Rebollo-Baum, freshman Elizabeth Van Ha, sophomore Alexis Porter and freshman Amber Huo broke the 200-medley frosh-soph and varsity records and then re-broke their own record once again. The same group also broke the frosh-soph 400-freestyle relay record. Zoe broke and then re-broke the frosh-soph 100-backstroke record this year.

**IN HER** second year as the varsity girls’ swim coach, Kate Chronic has benefitted from getting to know her swimmers better, according to junior Ilana Dutton, co-captain with senior Katie Adlaka.

“In year two under Coach Chronic there is a lot more comfort,” Ilana said “She is much more comfortable in her position and understands us well as swimmers. Last year there was a lot of evaluating and practices dealt mostly with general skills. Now, she knows what we need to work on and we work on specific skills.”

While continuing to serve as captain, Ilana has been unable to swim this season due to an injury.

“**I HAVE** what is called ‘Swimmers Shoulder,’ which comes from overuse,” Ilana said. “It has improved a lot, by which I mean it doesn’t hurt all the time anymore. The joint is weaker than it should be, causing my shoulder to move around as it pleases and causing me great pain.”

The Latin meet September 30 at Ratner took a much different narrative than usual, according to Katie.

“The biggest meet so far was our dual meet against Latin,” Katie said. “J.V. and varsity got first. We destroyed Latin, which had not happened yet in my high school swimming career, so it was big. We have always, as a team, gone into our meets fearing Latin, but this time Latin left fearing us.”

In her transition to captain, Katie has kept it simple, pushing her teammates to improve and reveling in their success.

“The transition has gone really smoothly,” Katie said. “I love every girl on the team and genuinely enjoy watching them improve in the water. I try to be there for everyone with whatever they need in or out of the water so they can reach their personal goals and successes.

“**WITH US**, we see ourselves as one team. Our coach always tells us that we are only as strong as our weakest link, and I think this quote really represents what the swim team stands for. We are one big family regardless of JV and varsity, and we all practice together. We all do the same exact sets at practice, and J.V. just goes on a different time interval. This makes our J.V. team very strong as they are swimming usually the same amount of yardage as varsity.”

Underclassmen’s transitions to high school swimming have been vital to the team’s success, according to Katie.

“We have a lot of young talent on the team. Our underclassmen swimmers are very fast, but being new to high school swimming is tough, so it’s going to be crucial that our upperclassmen really stand as mentors to the younger girls. We also just need to believe in ourselves and stay positive throughout the season, as we have already accomplished many goals this season that we never thought possible, such as destroying Latin.”

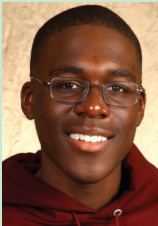
## Quick Q

How many assemblies do you think we should have each quarter and why?



Emilie

**EMILIE PORTUGAL, senior:** I think we need at least one a month just so the students and teachers can touch base. The first day assembly is probably the most important one.



Mbella

**MBELLA BESEKA, junior:** Assemblies should be more about what students are interested in. For me, it’s more about their content, not quantity.



Malika

**MALIKA RAMANI, sophomore:** The assemblies we do have should be directly relevant to our student body, about stuff we can enjoy or learn interesting facts from. They should be equally spaced throughout the quarter instead of in several consecutive weeks.



Miranda

**MIRANDA MEJIA, freshman:** Three assemblies per quarter would be a good number. But I tend to get ahead on homework during free periods, so less gatherings would be better for me to get ahead.

—Compiled by Marissa Martinez



# Tennis team ready for Sectional test

**By Julian Lark**  
**Associate editor**

Under the tutelage of new coach Dawuad Talib, the girls' tennis team will compete in the IHSA Sectional this Friday at home.

The Maroons came in fourth at the Jacobs Tournament in Algonquin August 30, but won Marian Catholic's tournament September 6 and Niles West's tournament September 27.

"We ended up playing Immaculate Conception Catholic Prep first and beat them four to one, with only one loss, in first singles," junior Grace Anderson said. "Then we had to play Niles and they were a really strong team. We ended up losing first singles and third doubles and winning first and second doubles so it was all tied up two to two with second singles—sophomore Delnaz Patel—still on the court. When Delnaz won the match we all ended up in a big group hug."

Varsity captain Della Brown, senior, and Grace played as doubles partners

for the first time for U-High this season, but Della said they played in two United States Tennis Association tournaments.

"In terms of doubles, Grace and I hadn't played doubles much before," Della said. "We played a little together last year out of season, but not enough to really have much experience together. But we're a good match, so it's been great."

"The new coach is also great. He's a really good asset to the program."

Coach Talib said he ended his time working for the Kellogg School of Management's alumni office, going on to deliver flowers, wait tables, and manage a section of Marshall Fields.

"All the while I kept up playing tennis, as it's something I really love," Coach Talib said. "That's how I eventually got into coaching. I was waiting for a friend to show up to play, and I saw this mother and her son playing on the court. Try as she may, her advice wasn't helping matters, so I asked if I could help and he became my first student."



Photo by Mary Brady

With her feet set and body positioned to return the ball, Florence Almeda delivers a fierce forehand in the Maroons' September 22 match-up with Payton.

# Chizewer brothers propel golf team to Sectionals



Photo by Gabby Conforti

As he prepares to putt in warm-ups, Jeremy Chizewer determines the slope of the putting green.

**By Mike Glick**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

No seniors, no problem.

Led by new coach Clint Naegelin, captain Andrew Chizewer, junior, and a deep sophomore contingent, U-High golfers placed 3rd at the IHSA 2A Regional at their home course, Lost Marsh, October 7 to qualify for Sectionals October 11 (results came after press time). Andrew shot an 82 to finish 4th in the Regional and sophomore Kyle Adlaka and freshman Jeremy Chizewer carded 98 and 99, respectively, for the Maroons.

"With the windy conditions at Lost Marsh, we used our home course advantage well," Andrew said. "Before the round we went over our strategy and decided that it would be to our advantage to play conservatively and this eliminated the 'big miss' as a team."

U-High opened match play with a win over Chicago-

land Jewish August 26. Despite consistent team scores, the Maroons lost close matches with Latin September 16, Parker September 20 and North Shore September 23 and placed 5th at the ISL Championships.

According to Andrew, Coach Naegelin has improved the Maroons' swings dramatically.

"Coach Naegelin is a golf professional from Bolingbrook, and he's worked individually with us on our swings," Andrew said. "In the past, we focused solely on strategy in practices, but now we can really focus on the physical parts of the game."

Although U-High struggled in ISL play, Kyle believes U-High's youth will prove an asset in the coming years.

"It is hard to compete with schools twice our size and go up against juniors and seniors every match," Kyle said. "In a year or two, though, we will have the juniors and seniors to make a run as a team."

# New running coach, same goal: ISL crown

**By Elizabeth Chon**  
**Associate editor**

Led by boys' captains Jacob Meyer, junior, and Zach Emanuel, senior, and girls' captains Jax Ingrassia and Madeline Sachs, seniors, cross country runners will compete in the Independent School League Championships 4:45 p.m. Thursday at home.

On the sunny morning of September 27, U-High runners participated in the Whitney Young Invitational. Crossing the finish line at 16 minutes, nine seconds, Jacob beat his personal record in the 3.1 mile race.

"We did well at Whitney Young because it is our home course, so we know it very well," Jax said. "No records were broken, but there were some personal bests."

In preparation for their match-up with their biggest rival, the Latin School of Chicago, the Maroons have used varied practice regiments and workouts.

"For practices, we alternate between easy runs and workout days," Jacob said. "We usually practice on the track, do tempo runs, or run longer distances, usually six to eight miles. We've been doing core workouts and weight training as well."

With three new freshman girls and three new freshman boys, the team has 15 runners on the girls' team and 10 on the boys' team. They also have a new coach, Chris Koutavas, who ran cross country at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois.

"Chris ran in high school and college, so he gives us new ideas and teaches us strategies he has learned from his own experiences as a runner," Jacob said.

Despite all the changes, U-High runners continue to push themselves as they anticipate their upcoming events, including the ISL Championship.

"We always keep the next event in mind when we're training," junior Grace Cain said. "We set goals to keep ourselves working towards specific times for the next meet. Cross country is a mental sport as well, so it's important to believe in yourself."

## 'I'll always remember the euphoria of the moment'

*At the heels of the ISL Championship, soccer captain Mike Glick brings you inside the huddle and shares his thoughts as his soccer career comes to a close*

**Sixty minutes after the boys' soccer team tied 1-1 to North Shore to finish 2nd in the Independent School League, sports columnist Luke Murphy sits down with team captain Mike Glick to hear his thoughts.**

**How're you feeling?**

Pretty crazy game, that's for sure. While I may not be feeling exactly the way I wanted to in the beginning of the day, I know that in a week, in a month, in a year, and definitely when I come back as an alumnus, this is going to be one of the days in my high school career that I remember—and for the good, not for the bad.

**What did you tell your teammates before the game?**

We always have a couple talks before the game. We talk right before and after we stretch and try to get in the zone right before the game. I just told the team, 'This is our day.' We've never had a chance to win the ISL title in my four years. I didn't think I needed to say much to the team. The guys were ready. I told the guys, as I tell them as much as I can, 'I love this team and I love every one of you.'

**Take me through the play you scored your goal on.**

It's funny, I couldn't tell you much about that play. I couldn't remember who had headed the ball to me or even what play it was on until someone told me.

What I'll always remember for the rest of my life was the euphoria of the moment. I was telling some of my friends afterwards that I've never been a big celebrator after goals. I usually just treat it as business as usual and then move on. I can't say that's what I did today.

It was one of the most exhilarating moments of my life to help the team do something that I've told them we can do. To be able to step up in the moment, you have no idea how much it means to me. When I saw the ball hit the post off my header, I stopped for a second because I was sure it was going to hit the post and go out. But luck has been on our side this year. Obviously, though, it didn't pan out in the end.

**What's the one moment that will be immortalized in your memory when you look back to this game?**

It has nothing to do with soccer. I'll remember the moments when the entire team came together and was screaming and was happy as a team. What I'm going to remember for the rest of my life is hugging

the guys before the game, during the game, after the goal and after we lost.

A little message I've had on my cleats since sophomore year says, 'Cherish the moment'. I wrote that on my cleats the day Donald Liu, a U-High parent, passed away. I only knew him from baseball games where he'd shown up to watch, and I'd talked to him about his son, Asher, at some of the B.I.G summer camps. But that's a man that loves his kids, the school and sports. Those are the kinds of things you need to stress to the team and make sure they know. You have to appreciate every moment you are given.

**What went through your mind when you heard the final whistle?**

A mixture of disappointment and pride. We didn't play in this game because of nothing. We worked this entire season to get to this point, and you know what, we didn't even lose! We tied. I knew I had to be there for my teammates. While it hurts, I'm still going to go home and do homework, go to school tomorrow, take my tests and hang out with my friends. Life goes on. Life has to go on.

**What did you say to your teammates after the game?**

I told them I loved them. What I have found out is that loving your teammates is the best and worst thing that can happen to a person. It's the best because we win together, we tie together and we lose together. It's the worst for the same reasons. You hate to see the guy next to you and think, 'Wow, I could have done something better for him.' That is the hard part. But I think we'll get over it. The reason people should play sports is because they are fun and they enjoy the people that they play with. If you can enjoy those two things, everything is a win. Would I have said that two years ago? Absolutely not. But I've gained perspective and I've learned that the relationships and memories are what counts.

**Do you have any what-ifs?**

I do. You have to have what-ifs. My 5th grade teacher, Mr. Kass, always told us, 'Don't ask what-if questions because if it is a what-if then it didn't happen.' But you do have what-ifs. Sometimes losing isn't losing, though. There will always be what-ifs, but I hope the focus always remains on what we did together as a team.





*Photo by Francine Almeda, all other photos on page contributed to the Midway last summer*

With cranes no longer hovering over the building’s skeleton and construction workers ready to move inside to work during the Winter once windows, the Gordon Parks Art Hall has dramatically risen, looking exactly as in the architects’ depiction.

# Arts Hall work will now move indoors



As he controls the excavator, a construction worker digs into the earth on Kimbark Avenue this summer.



Ripping apart chunks of Kimbark Avenue, construction in August made an obstacle course for Judd Hall users.



Its outlines more and more clear, the Arts Building rose during the Summer to great interest in the community.



Obstructing the Judd Hall entrance, this van-sized hole was dug so old pipes could be replaced along Kimbark.



“Toy Store” like construction equipment fascinated gawkers on Kimbark.



From across the street, was easy to watch construction crews at work all Summer. They had a lot of fans.



Making their way through a newly destroyed entranceway, construction workers tackle a new stairway and ramp.



This forklift scooted forward and back ceaselessly on busy August days.