‘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. “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.”

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

With diverse experiences, new teachers value opportunities for autonomy here

By Grace Anderson
Associate editor

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

Among seven new teachers, photogramery teacher Benjamin Jaffe succeeds retired teacher Liese Ricketts. A teacher Benjamin Jaffe succeeds to journalism and photography among seven new teachers, photography. They were at orientation in Earl Shapiro Hall. Sunny Neater-Dulow, art, is also new.

Dance to cap Spirit Week festivities

By Clyde Schwab
Associate editor


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 on 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 ’50s workout day, today is disco, student government president Maryam Alausa, any dress styles are acceptable as long as they fit the school dress code and adhere to the theme.”

Considering how International House’s ballroom can become a disco, student government president John Williams and Maryam Alausa take notes.
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 1989, has overseen the massive construction program which has resulted in a new Lab Schools campus, Earl Shapiro Hall and an overall transition 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 are 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 overall quality of life at U-High.”

Mr. Fech said, “While the cafeteria is being constructed, a temporary structure will be built for food service. 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.”

By Clayton Surmeier

Editor-in-Chief

“I guess I can’t call it.”

So said 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 allowed students to miss 20 percent of their classes before being dropped.

Dean of Students Area Camps 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 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, new provisions state that the school nurses are documenting when students visit with them because we had a few students last year who 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 those revisions because the emphasis was on updating information that was out of date, reorganizing information, and clarifying existing policies.”

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

“It seems like a kind of easy 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’re 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 EVERYTHING changes.

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Photo by Anna Funk

The Homecoming Dance is just days away, so it’s time to give your hair a new style! There’s no better place to help you do that than Hair Design International. We have talented stylists and great prices, and we’ll have your hair looking better than ever for this Saturday night.

Photo by Della Brown

TRY SOMETHING NEW: A HOMECOMING HAIRDOS!

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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.

Photo by Della Brown

Hair Design International

1309 East 57th Street in Hyde Park
773-363-0700
Open Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.–8:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

New attendance policy

Getting unhappy responses

BY CLAYTON SURMEIER

Editor-in-Chief

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Venturers to China return with vivid memories

By Alex Harron
Associate editor

“I wouldn’t describe myself as exotic.”

Junior Miciah 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 bus to Shanghai where they toured Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou by bus.

MANY OF THE U-HIGHERS, including junior Elizabeth Van Ha, 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 American 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 classes together in a separate classroom in the international wing of Beijing No. 4. 

“The school, as most everything in China, was huge,” Miciah 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 what 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, shows 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, Miciah noticed major improvements in his Chinese.

“I didn’t learn a lot of new words,” said Miciah. “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 Ginzburg, Jonathan Lipman, Sarah Markovitz, Delnatz Patel and Zoe Babello Bam; and juniors Ben Green; seniors: Leah Rosenweig.

Firing into freshman year

“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.”

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 100 pounds of cabbages and potatoes at the Madison Area Food Pantry Gardens in July, during Sophomore Retreat, September 17-19 at Camp Chi in Lake Delton, Wisconsin.

Having cleared skies and fair weather, the 10th graders kicked off their trip with a visit to the Kalahari Water Park in the Wisconsin Dells. The mini cruise included nights spent with host families 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 Trail Services for horses and veterans in La Valle, where they helped maintain the horses; Oak Park Place senior community; and Renewal Unlimited for children in Baraboo, where they organized donations.

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

On Homecoming night

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.

Grab your friends and head over to Medici! We have room for all your friends, not to mention a great menu to satisfy you. Once you try our pizzas, shakes and specials, we know you’ll be back soon!
New teachers

(continued from front page)

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 get enough of introducing the students to the Midway.”

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 Martenfoy 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, rebuffed his head slight from 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 several 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 was 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 openings through an online faculty placement program that fits teachers’ qualifications to their job search criteria. “The biggest change 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. Wherever I’ve worked 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 Wohlgemuth; Language: Charles Campbell, Jean Franklin Magrou and Jin Yin.

New staff members include Dana Jordan, admissions assistant Barbara Santoro, Director of Finance; Alexandra Wallace, manager of special projects and school outreach and Anthony Williams and Joe Wadowski, facilities specialists. Moving to new roles are Betty Gowan, Director of Human Resources; Arella Guerero, Project Assistant III in the Admissions Office; Andrea Martenfoy, organizer of University Relations; Rachel DeStefano, Walker, director of operations; and Tony Wissin, senior associate director of operations for the Historic Campus.

Student Council

(continued from page 2)

dues 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 selling on a Saturday are the same as for a Wednesday.”

“Often, clubs want to take up numerous consecutive days to have a bake sale,” Ms. Campos said, “but we ask that they 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.”

“If rain prohibits student photocopying anything, those photos will be taken Fridays by Blaine Courtyard.”

Meanwhile, freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be photographed Monday in the Journalism Courtyard.

The U-High library will not only expand its current High School Computer Lab, but also the renovations and more room for new programs— not non-brick-and-mortar structure.

The U-High library will not only expand but also be completely relocated. “The current U-High Library occupies Rows 7-9, and non-brick-and-mortar 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.”

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. Humphrey 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.”

School renovations

(continued from page 2)

briefly

YEARBOOK PHOTOS—There were scholarships awarded yesterday and today, and there will be again Thursday, Friday in Blaine Courtyard. Those seniors are photographed for the 2015 U-Highlights. Schedules are posted on the Senior Office, says junior Nora Lin, Senior Section editor. Meanwhile, freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be photographed Monday in the Journalism Courtyard.

Those schedules are posted on those class board, says senior Jacob Mazzarella, section editor for the 9th-, 10th- and 11th grades. The 2015 editors-in-chief are Maddi Ross and Ross Fish Joe, editor for the 9th, 10th and 11th grades. The 2015 editors-in-chief are Maddi Ross and Ross Fish. Those photos will be taken Fridays by 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, saving as students and those attending 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. Those groups will be preceded by an opening program in the cafeteria.

U-HIGHMEN 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 two scores, academic achievement, grades, counselor recommendations and essays.

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

Semifinalists are as follows: "So. Much. Photo by Della Brown

Schooling and more room for new programs—not just in any particular are necessarily be

Company Players are as follows: Valentine Sanders, Moyer Schreiber, Maria Perritano, Denny Kung, Edward Patterson, Chuy Pham-Goncho, Sara Van Loon, Kallie Lu, Alex Shand, Elaina Gossen, Alysia Astastra, Nicole Horio.

Crew heads not already mentioned are as follows: Lights, Sam Van Loon; Set Manager, Elaina Lichter; House Manager, Autumn Espinosa; Costumes, Nina Farnell.

In opening the new library, we’ll have much more room, giving more leeway for meetings and more room for new programs—not necessarily considered now—are they should be added to the curriculum.”

"We also gave 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 were doing.”

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.

Briefly

YEARBOOK portraits underway

(continued from front page)

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Katscratch.........................by Kat Flocke

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 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 also want to see if we can further develop the relationship with the University of Chicago. We should be much more connected to those communities.

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 facility 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.
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 a new attendance policy this year. Although Ms. Campos believes students may have overheard 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 already had 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 are forced to miss their last period classes for games.

The list goes on. Despite creative 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 strain 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 toasts its academic and athletic teams’ accomplishments.

The new policy also boosts the school’s image and distinguishes it for its diversity in achievement.

“Worried that students in the past have missed too many absences to use it as a place to connect. For seniors, this is a community where they can pursue their passions to the same degree as they once could, so the school still reaps the benefits of their success.”

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.

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

The Lounge’s bareness seemed to symbolize the senior class’ loose unity throughout the past three years. We had had moments of togetherness—especially at Junior Reunion—but it 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, dynamically in the process.

One senior took it upon himself to build a tent to which seniors have come together in 2014. We already had a connection that we had never had previously—and that’s before we even started high school.

Teachers and administrators can say what they want about the loud music and video games, but they simply can’t, deny that the lounge has brought the senior class especially closer in the past year.

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

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 questionnaire, 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 table. We share the music, we’re sharing the games. Everyone is looking to talk to new people.”

The increase in the senior class’ closeness in the past is only the beginning.

For three years, our grade struggled to find our class identity. In just a month, we found it.

As the Midway sees it

New attendance policy adds stress to school life

Midway Mailbox
Handbook changes pinning us down

Oh, You have a fever?

You should go home—

Oh, but you’ve already missed eight days . . .

Off to class then!

Lounge gives seniors more than just ping-pong

From Benjamin Glick, junior:

I should have been home in bed. In 2014, I was in first-period gym with an aching body attempting to hone my golf skills. I blame my predicament on our 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 absences, the policy sets up students for too many compliances. The policy is biased towards students who get sick. It is true. It doesn’t take more than a glance to notice the transformative power of the Senior Lounge.

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 it also is unreasonable because students have already missed one. I 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. The policy states, “Students are encouraged to go to the nurse’s office during a free period or lunch.” That’s helpful guidance.

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ARTIST.................................................................................................................. Kat Flocke

ADVISERS................................................................................................. Mike Glick

PUBLISHED BY:

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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, 1357 East 53rd Street, opened this Spring. Its light brown walls partially covered in unappealing tri-colored tiles create a dull ambiance 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, Dreamy Dark Chocolate, White Peach Greek, Cotton Candy, and more.

With a total of five 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, Dreamy Dark Chocolate, and more.

Between Kingoberry and Red Mango stands the only family-owned frozen yogurt shop, Red Mango’s health options are well worth the short walk from Kingoberry.

I SWIRLED traditional Creamy Peanut Butter and Salted Caramel, and topped it off with blueberries, granola and chocolate cheeses.

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The flavor is up to you, so you’ll want to make multiple batches. Here’s what you’ll need:

1 box cake mix (use Betty Crocker’s super moist yellow recipe but any flavor will do)
1 8x11 baking pan with raised sides
1/3 cup vegetable oil
3 eggs
1 cup of water
2 boxes of chocolate, unsweetened
2 tablespoons of cocoa (preferably chocolate)
1 cup sprinkles
16 cake ball sticks
1 block of Stroyom (can be purchased at craft stores like Michael’s)
2 boxes of chocolate chip cookies

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

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

Roll spoufnaf of dough between palms, applying gentle pressure until round. Place balls into the Stroyom block. On a plate, microwave the chocolate for 20 seconds, stir, and return to the microwave for 15 seconds. Pour the melted chocolate into a bowl and then mix in the sprinkles until completely covered.

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

After an hour of preparation and care, I work, pluck the balls out of the Stroyom block. For the next 20 minutes I stand the only family-owned frozen yogurt shop.

As Halloween draws closer, spooky tricks and treats are on the menu. This week’s feature focuses on theTricky Treats of the 2014 Halloween Season.

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 easy to eat and fun to make like these tantalizingly sweet cake balls.

According to Starbucks, cake balls are thick like doughnut hole and glazed like cupcakes, making them great for parties. The flavor is up to you, so you’ll want to make multiple batches.

I SWIRLED traditional Creamy Peanut Butter and Salted Caramel, and topped it off with blueberries, granola and chocolate cheeses.

I ONE AGAIN chose the house favorite, getting only a few ounces, a decision I would regret. I topped the Cake Ball froyo with crushed twix bars, marshmallows, and crushed oreos.

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 twix bars and twix bars to die for. No other froyo place can parallel the taste of Z-Berry’s cake batter flavor.

Starkly different roles, great acting

By Elizabeth Chon
Film critic

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

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 its 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 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 excep- tionally, 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, you can choose any flavor. 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, formed Tweedy with his 18-year-old son, Spencer Tweedy, earlier this year.

Along with a self-serve frozen yogurt station, “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 drummer Matt McNulty of the band The Young Fresh Fellows and Mimas 5.

For the song “Rolling Stone” called Jeff one of the most emotionally fluent American songwriters around in its review of the album. Elith 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 collection of songs worth listening to.

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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 collection of songs worth listening to.
Deep tournament run midseason sparks volleyballers

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

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

This one was for all the marbles between the U-High and North Shore. The ISL title was up for grabs.

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Swimmers quickly develop record-breaking habits

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

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

Sophomore Zoe Rehfeldt, freshman Elizabeth Van Ha, sophomore Alexia Porter and freshman Amber Hsu broke the 200-medley, 400-medley and varsity records and then re-broke their own record once again. The same group also broke the 400-free relay record. Zoe took out 200 free and then broke the 40-page-100-backstroke record, too.

INHERITLY the second year’s girls’ swims coach, Kate Czernecki has benefited from getting to know how important it is to keep it simple, pushing her teammates to work on specifics.

While continuing to serve as captain, Ilana has been unable to swim this season due to an injury. She said “I am much more comfortable in her position and understands us well as swimmers.”

Last year was the year of evaluating practices and general skills. Now, she knows what we need to work on and we work on specifics.

The swim team continues to swim with a flair similar to what Isaac Bradley managed to work 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 Romans’ 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 and we were able to put them away handily. We have kept that confidence throughout the season.

The Maroons’ defense—anchored by junior Nick Audrain and seniors Clay Smurie, Michael Glick and Henry Surmeier—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 we’re all very close with each other and look out for one another. Given that we are all upperclassmen, our level as a unit is higher than past units as well.

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

“We have a particularly skilled roster with very good skills that has played together a lot both for the high school team and club,” Smith said. “However, I believe the number one reason for our success this year is Michael Glick’s leadership. He’s great about talking about the team so much that it is contagious, watching him give 100 percent every single day. As a team nobody wants to give the same, and his belief in us has greatly contributed. It’s like past U-High teams I’ve played with.”

“Although we lost, that’s the best effort we’ve ever put in against that team,” senior captain Eleni Miller said. “We stepped it up this year, in terms of sets, and ultimately finished with three points.”

According to senior Carra Gray, several players have emerged as key players 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 Rousse 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.”

“SHEREE SHAW has done a great job for us on the outside.”

After winning Regionals last year and qualifying for Sectionals, U-High has its sights on a run to State. The Maroons know they need to play well 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 than that this year,” Carra said. “The reason we have gone this high in my high school career is to be Supersectionals. We want to do more than that this year, we want to get to State. It’s definitely possible.”

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 with the Cyclones, losing in three sets, the game proved a testament to the Maroons’ improvement.

"We were originally ranked 13th of 16 teams in the conference, so the referee signaled for a tie game, Tie game, Tie game, Tie game, Tie game, Tie game," Michael said. "It didn't come easily, and we never gave up which I'm really proud of." The Maroons, captained by fellow four-year varsity player John Surmeier, Michael Horio and Henry Surmeier, take 2nd in the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences September 12. Though U-High came up just short in their match-up with the Cyclones, losing in three sets, the game proved a testament to the Maroons’ improvement.

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Tennis team ready for Sectional test

By Julian Ark

Despite all the changes, 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 knew it very well,” Jakx 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 regimens 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 Keating, who ran track 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. Designating the changes, Coach Naegelin has improved the Maroons’ swings dramatically.

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.

“We played a little together last year out of necessity because if it is a what-if then it didn’t happen.’ Do you have any what-ifs?

Remember my tests and hang out with my friends. Life goes on.

I told them I loved them. What I have found out is that loving your teammates is the best and worst thing because if it is a what-if then it didn’t happen.”

Do you have any what-ifs?

“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

By Mike Glick

No seniors, no problem.

Led by new coach Clint Naegelin, captain Andrew Collins, junior, and sophomore contingent, U-High golfers placed 3rd at the IHSA 2A Regional at their home course, Lost Marsh, on September 27 to qualify for State.

Andrew shot an 82 to finish 4th in the Regional and sophomore Kyle Adjakia and freshman Jeremy Chize- wer brothers propel golf team to Sectionals
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.

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

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

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

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

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

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