

## Dress code debate sparks StudCo action

By Elizabeth Chon  
Associate editor

Despite the administration's efforts to implement a reasonable dress code, there is still confusion over the standards of appropriate attire.

This summer, Dean of Students Ana Campos and six faculty members met to revise the dress code to improve U-High's learning environment.

Meanwhile, Student Council is formulating a statement proposing that the administration lift some of its rules, such as the ban on tight and revealing clothing. The statement will be presented to the administration next Tuesday.

As students vocalized criticisms of the revisions made by the administration, Junior Class President Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest, also a member of Feminist Club, said that the topic of the dress code arose during one of their meetings.

"We pointed out problems with the dress code and discussed ways it could be improved," Fabrice said. "One of the board members of Feminist Club

**"I've heard a lot of complaints about students feeling uncomfortable with the way teachers call them out to tell them that their clothing is inappropriate. We will propose that the Dean of Students be the sole judge of what is appropriate attire."**

— John Williams, Student Council President

suggested that I bring it up to Student Council. I messaged [Student Council] President John Williams and asked if I could bring up the issue during our next Student Council meeting.

"After that meeting, John created a dress code revision statement on Google Docs stating Feminist Club's points. I also wrote my own letter to the administration.

"We've shared both documents with the administration to give them an idea about what we will be presenting next week. However, we're still working to create one document that encompasses all of our ideas into one cohesive statement."

John found that students were not only unhappy with the dress code itself, but also about how problems were handled by faculty members.

"I've heard a lot of complaints about students feeling uncomfortable with the way teachers call them out to tell them that their clothing is inappropriate," John said. "We will propose that the Dean of Students be the sole judge of what is appropriate attire because faculty members' perceptions of what is appropriate vary, so appropriateness is ambiguous.

"We will also be pushing to eliminate some individual clauses of the dress code, such as the ones banning

clothes that are tight or expose the midriff and shoulders."

Feminist Club co-president Fikayo Walter-Johnson, junior, explained some of the issues that came up during their club meeting, such as double standards and body shaming.

"People were sharing stories about their experiences with the dress code, and everyone was passionate about the subject," Fikayo said.

Feminist Club co-president Maria Privitera, junior, feels that the revisions focus excessively on females.

"The current dress code presents the idea that the female body is distracting, since females are not allowed to wear revealing clothing," Maria said. "This encourages rape culture and places responsibility on women to cover up their bodies in order to keep men from being distracted, implying that men have no control."

By reevaluating the need, or lack thereof, for many of the clothing restrictions, Student Council hopes that the administration will keep an open mind in revising the dress code.

## Despite cold, students flock to food trucks

*From hamburgers to doughnuts, trucks deliver*

By Natalie Glick  
Midway reporter

The cold wind whips along Ellis Avenue, moving the trees back and forth.

The high winds don't stop the 12 food trucks that stand in the heart of the University of Chicago campus. Inside each truck, people move rapidly in a tiny space filled with warm steam on a cold day, preparing food for the hordes they expect as lunch hour begins.

Although the University has no official role in having food trucks near the campus, students, faculty and staff flock to the trucks. There are more than 100 food trucks in Chicago, and many of them include the University on their stop list every week. Students can check the Twitter ac-

count @uchicagoNOMgo to see what food options are around each day.

While there's no official schedule or coordinator of the trucks, they have built up a network of support. Food trucks have been around the campus since the summer of 2011, according to Avi Schwab, the University of Chicago Web project manager.

"I started to see a few, so I started @uchicagoNOMgo in October 2011 as a way to try and get more trucks down here and to keep track of the trucks around," Schwab said.

The food trucks add welcome diversity to the usual choices for U-High students. Jeremy Chizever goes to the food trucks every Wednesday that he doesn't have Model U.N.

"The food at the food trucks is much higher quality," Jeremy said. "Some might say that the food trucks are too far, but I think that they are worth the walk, and it's nice to get some fresh air

every so often."

Freshman Florence Almeda believes the trucks' food merit the walk despite the cold weather.

"I think that people who have extended lunches should definitely try them out because it'll be worth the walk," Florence said. Some of Florence's favorite trucks are "The Fat Shallot and Beaver's Donuts. I could literally eat those doughnuts every day of my life. They're so good."

Senior Clea Braendel started going to the food trucks over this summer. Her favorite truck is Beaver's Donuts.

"I would buy half a dozen of the doughnuts and an ice coffee every day," Clea said. "I can't go as often now that school has started. The trucks are just far enough away that walking there to get food during lunch can be a little difficult in terms of time, especially with the snow in the winter. Once it warms up though I'll probably start going more often."



Photos by Gabby Conforti

After walking west to Ellis Avenue with her friends during lunch Jan. 21, Paige Fishman picks up her favorite fare at La Bou Langerie, one of many food trucks on Ellis. After scanning Porkchop's menu, Nikki Han decided to try out one of their famous barbeque dishes with a side of cornbread.



# Service Day strengthens bonds between U-High and community

By Talia Goerge-Karren  
Midway reporter

For the first time ever, students and parents from the Laboratory Schools joined University of Chicago students and faculty on Saturday, Jan. 17, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to carry forth Martin Luther King Jr.’s vision of community service.

U-High service coordinator Hannah Evans said that Martin Luther King Jr. valued the concept of service and being present for others and communities. The Day of Service allowed a group of more than 200 participants to put King’s vision into practice.

“A big part is connecting with our community,” Ms. Evans said. “The majority of the sites are on the South side and in our surrounding community. Working with them helps us realize that we are really tied together.”

More than two dozen organizations benefitted from

the volunteers. The organizations’ missions include services for seniors, families and women; after-school programs; and hunger prevention.

Senior Carly Plys-Garzotto volunteered at Parkway Gardens, an apartment complex near Washington Park.

“At Parkway Gardens, kids who live there come after school to get tutored, do arts and crafts, and play games,” Carly said. “But they have way too many kids, around 80, to fit in the space they have. So we cleaned up, painted and set up a room in one of the other buildings. It’s a great program because it gives kids a safe place to go and do positive things.”

After returning from various volunteering opportunities, the participants ate lunch, engaged in discussions with community leaders, and listened to Timuel Black, a historian and former adviser to Martin Luther King Jr.



Photo by Mary Brady  
**Adrian Castañeda, sophomore, helps package lunches for veterans during Day of Service.**

## Faculty, students, parents work to redefine success

By Clyde Schwab  
Associate editor

The idea behind Challenge Success is in its name.

The movement started in 2012 at Stanford University when professors Madeline Levine, Jim Loddell and Denise Pope looked at how we define success.

“Is success defined as getting great grades and getting into a good college, or more about things that aren’t taught like effort, resilience and persistence,” Faculty Sponsor and Dean of Students Ana Campos said. “Taking the question presented by Stanford, a few U-High faculty members, administrators and students wanted to figure out a way we can support and redefine success.”

After U-High faculty members and administrators attended the 2012 “Challenge Success” conference in

“ I think that at U-High we have an unrealistic idea of what success is and many think that if you don’t get all A’s you’re not ‘succeeding,’ which is inaccurate. ”

— Anna Knes

Chicago, they created three sub-committees: one of faculty, one of students and one of parents. In 2013, Challenge Success administered a survey to the student body on stress. A second will be administered in coming months. With these surveys, the committees seek to learn more about what, according to Ms. Campos, “works and doesn’t work” for student stress levels while examining how we define success.

According to biology teacher and Challenge Success member Sharon Housinger, a student’s goals play a key part in the movement, and while many students share a desire to go to a top “brandname” school, few have a specific goal behind it.

The importance of such a committee wasn’t lost on senior Anna Knes.

“As a senior, I would say that my stress levels were pretty manageable, but looking back as a freshman up to a junior they were too high,” Anna said. “I think that at U-High we have an unrealistic idea of what success is and many think that if you don’t get all A’s you’re not ‘succeeding,’ which is inaccurate.

“I don’t know much about Challenge Success but from what I’ve heard, it sounds like a great idea. When I’ve been asked by colleges what I would change about my school, I always tell

them that I’d institute a program to help kids deal with stress. I think that high school students need to learn how to manage stress now, otherwise they may never know how.”

Despite the importance of dealing with stress, junior Willis Weinstein contends that it may be part of the U-High culture.

“I feel less stressed than I did freshman or sophomore year, but I don’t think that has anything to do with U-High making progress,” Willis said. “A community with less pressure to do well would be good, but that isn’t something at Lab. I think its part of us being a private institution that places such high value on schools like Yale and Harvard. I think it’s up to us to decrease stress and take easier classes. It’s our responsibility, not something the administration can fix.”

## Semi-Formal turns Masquerade

By Alex Harron  
Associate editor

Masks handed out by student council and jars of “M&M’s” will play off the theme at this year’s Mystery Masquerade Semiformal Dance 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7 at the International House.

Student Council officers will sell tickets for \$10 during lunch Feb. 2 to Feb. 6 and during open time Feb. 7. Students can purchase tickets at the door for \$15. Royalty nominations took place in the cafeteria Jan. 13 and 14. Advisers will hand out voting slips tomorrow in advisory.

Cultural Union debated between “Frozen” and “Mystery Masquerade” for this year’s theme, according to Cultural Union Vice President Apoorva Gundeti, senior.

“We chose Mystery Masquerade be-

cause it’s easy for people to get excited about and participate in the theme,” Apoorva said. “We recommend everyone bring their own mask, but student council pass out simple ones there.”

Moving the date from the last Saturday of January to the first Saturday of February should improve attendance, according to Cultural Union President Maryam Alausa, senior.

“Hopefully there will be as many, if not more, people attending Semiformal as Homecoming,” Maryam said. “We strategically picked the date not to be during the big winter Model United Nations conference like it has been in previous years in order to increase attendance.”

Members met to discuss what went well and what needed to be improved from Homecoming, including the coat check.

## Poetry is Louder than a Bomb

By Dhevan Unni  
Midway Reporter

The U-High Slam Poetry Team plans to compete in Louder Than A Bomb (LTAB), an elimination style competition where students read aloud their own work. LTAB will take place during February and March.

Although LTAB is fairly competitive, the quality of the poetry takes precedence over getting as far as you can in the competition, according to senior Leah Rosenzweig.

“It’s much more performance based than other poetry,” Leah said. “Participants include students from both CPS and private schools. Everyone on the U-High team will participate, and everyone will perform at least once.”

According to senior Julia Mearsheimer, LTAB is an opportunity for young people to have their voices heard.

“It’s a beautiful thing to see people from so many different backgrounds come together,” Julia said. “At Lab, we operate in a bubble – we’re very isolated from the communities around us. Louder Than A Bomb is an opportunity to break that bubble and connect with other kids and schools and communities.”

“Before I came to Lab, I used to go to a poor public school,” said Julia. “We had to recycle old worksheets for paper and parents donated basic supplies like tissues and paper towels. I became aware of my privilege.”

“LTAB has been a place for me to talk about and hear perspectives from other students in Chicago. It’s helped me work through big questions on race and introduced other crucial questions. LTAB is really important because it starts difficult conversations.”

## On a cold winter 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.

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!



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# Teacher joins faculty on exchange

**By Elizabeth Meyer  
Midway reporter**

With graying hair tied back into a loose pony-tail, a woman leans over a student's coding worksheet. Wearing a warm sweater and boots to protect herself from the harsh Chicago winter, she looks completely at ease.

Sharon Byrnes is from an area known as the New South Wales Central Coast, about sixty miles north of Sydney, Australia. A place with a far milder winter than that of Chicago. She is a part of a program called the 'Teacher Exchange Program' which allows teachers to trade places with another teacher for a year, which she learned about from another teacher at her school. She is switching places with computer science teacher Marty Billingsley. Dean of Students Ana Campos explained that the exchange was mostly teacher driven and that the U-High administration supported it.

Ms. Byrnes arrived in Chicago on December 22. She explained that very few computer science teachers were looking to do an exchange, and it was just luck that she ended up in Chicago.

"Our first impression was that we loved Chicago, but we were disappointed that there was no snow

for Christmas," said Ms. Byrnes who is currently living in Ms. Billingsley's home. "It's quite unusual actually. You need to put a lot of trust in a person, who is virtually a stranger, to look after your home and your possessions. One thing I have found amusing is that we own quite a few of the same books which most people would probably never consider reading!"

There are several noticeable differences between U-High and CCGS, the school that Ms. Byrnes teaches at in Australia. The students wear uniforms, and the girls have to wear their hair up if it is longer than shoulder length. There is a twenty minute recess each day. There are also no corridors connecting the classrooms, instead the students walk outside to go to class.

Ms. Byrnes came to Chicago with her family including a daughter who is currently a Sophomore in U-High and a son who is in the fourth grade in the lower school.

"My two children have have come with me and are both here at school," Ms. Byrnes said. "They really have positive attitude about it and appreciate the unique opportunity of this experience. My family at home are very supportive even though they



Photo by Loic Khodarkovsky

Leaning over her computer screen as she presents sample code for her class, Ms. Byrnes is on exchange from Australia, taking the place of Ms. Billingsley.

are missing us. Luckily we have skype and keep in touch regularly. We all miss our cat, Dudley. He hears my daughter's voice on Skype and meows loudly."

# Academic Teams prepare for upcoming competitions

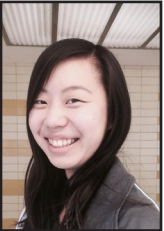
**By Jackie Walker  
Associate editor**

**Debate Team**

Just like the name of the tournament, junior team Alina Cui and Robert Bacon battled their way to finals of the Westside Warrior Invitational in Omaha, Nebraska, Jan. 9 -11. Robert and Alina also received their first bid, one of two "tickets" which qualifies them for the Tournament of Champions.

"It's really exciting to get a bid," Alina said. "It was funny how we got it; we won all of the elimination rounds on arguments we don't usually go for."

In addition to receiving a bid, Robert got fifth speaker overall and Alina got ninth speaker overall.



Alina

The senior-sophomore team Luke Newell and Asha Futterman reached the semifinal round, earning a "ghost bid" to the Tournament of Champions. When two teams from the same school go against each other in elimination rounds, only one can go on.

If the round is a bid round, then the team advancing gets the bid and team that was eliminated gets the "ghost bid." Luke was first speaker overall.

The sophomore team of Jennifer Jiao and Zora Navarre won three of

six rounds. In the novice division, freshmen Dheven Unni and Michael Hellie continued to the quarterfinals with Michael receiving first speaker overall.

Preparing for a tournament this weekend, the team is not only doing two or three practice rounds a day, they are mixing up partnerships.

At the Blake tournament in Minneapolis, Dec.19-21, all three partnerships of juniors Alina Cui and Robert Bacon, junior Reed Rosenbacher and sophomore Jennifer Jiao and sophomores Asha Futterman and Zora Navarre won three of four rounds.

**Scholastic Bowl**

In addition to competing at and placing sixth at the Tournament of Excellence at New Trier High School on Dec. 20, the Scholastic Team is starting a middle school team.

"We started the middle school team because we thought that this was something they would enjoy," Clare Keenan, senior, said. "We wanted a kind of 'feeder' program into the high school team."

"The best way to maintain an excellent program is to have kids be interested in joining before they even get to high school."

At New Trier, the "A" team of seniors Clare Keenan, Adam Fine, Maddi Ross, and junior Harry Ni placed sixth in the competitive division. The "B" team placed second in the second

bracket of the standard division.

**Model United Nations**

The team will travel to Cambridge, Massachusetts, for a tournament at Harvard University Jan. 31 to Feb. 1.

"We're focusing on reactive speaking as per usual," senior Alijah Futterman said, "but in the General Assembly prep group, we're focusing on giving the kinds of speeches that will appeal to large committees. We're practicing a lot of emotional speaking."

Because audience engagement is important to the team's success, members have been practicing using different tones and emotions.

"When you're promoting certain policies and solutions," Julian Lark, junior, said. "It's easy to slip into a

boring, monotone and technical tone."

**Science Team**

"Our strategy is to keep on doing what we're doing," Jay Dhanoa said, senior captain.

On Jan. 10, at the Niles West Invitational, the varsity team placed third, and the junior varsity team placed sixth.

"The performance at Niles West went really well," Jay said. "We went up against really good teams that are regularly in the top 10 at the state competition."

He said the science team attends invitationals to test the team and to tweak its performance.

The next competition for the team will be the Huntley Invitational on Feb. 22.

# Shakespeare contests draw varied attendance in 4th year

**By Marissa Martinez  
Associate editor**

Today at lunch, U-High students participated in the first of two Shakespeare contests held this winter. Lab has hosted the Shakespeare monologue contest, sponsored by the English Speaking Union, for four years.

During the contest, students recited a memorized monologue under twenty lines from one of many suggested plays in front of four judges, including Melissa Warehall, Cynthia Oakes, Patty Kovacs, and Audre Nakas.

The ESU Shakespeare Competition, created in 1983, has more than 15,000 students perform annually. Winners from the school move on to Chicago-wide contest Feb. 9, where they will perform their practiced monologue and a Shakespearean sonnet of their choice.

"I love that all different types of students participate," said English teacher Rachel Nielsen, organizer of the competition. "Some have extensive acting experience, and some

have little or none. Everyone shows tremendous heart and guts by even participating. We try to keep the vibe of the competition positive and fun, celebrating the risks students take in standing in front of others to recite monologues."

Sophomore Asha Futterman, who won the contest last year with her monologue from Romeo and Juliet, competed again this year.

"My favorite part was being a part of a new, small community, where everyone is really supportive," Asha said. "I also enjoy listening to Shakespeare out loud in a way that you can really understand what he was trying to get across because of the way the other competitors performed."

Students can also perform in the team competition called Battle of the Bard, a collaboration between Chicago Youth Shakespeare and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, which is set to include 30 schools in the lineup. Group rehearsal begins in late February and the competition starts in April.

## Step out of the cold and into Cedars!



Photo by Loic Khodarkovsky

Looking through the menu at Cedars Mediterranean Kitchen, Jason Lin, Max Rochester and Mary Brady decide on the crispy falafel and spinach-garlic flatbread.

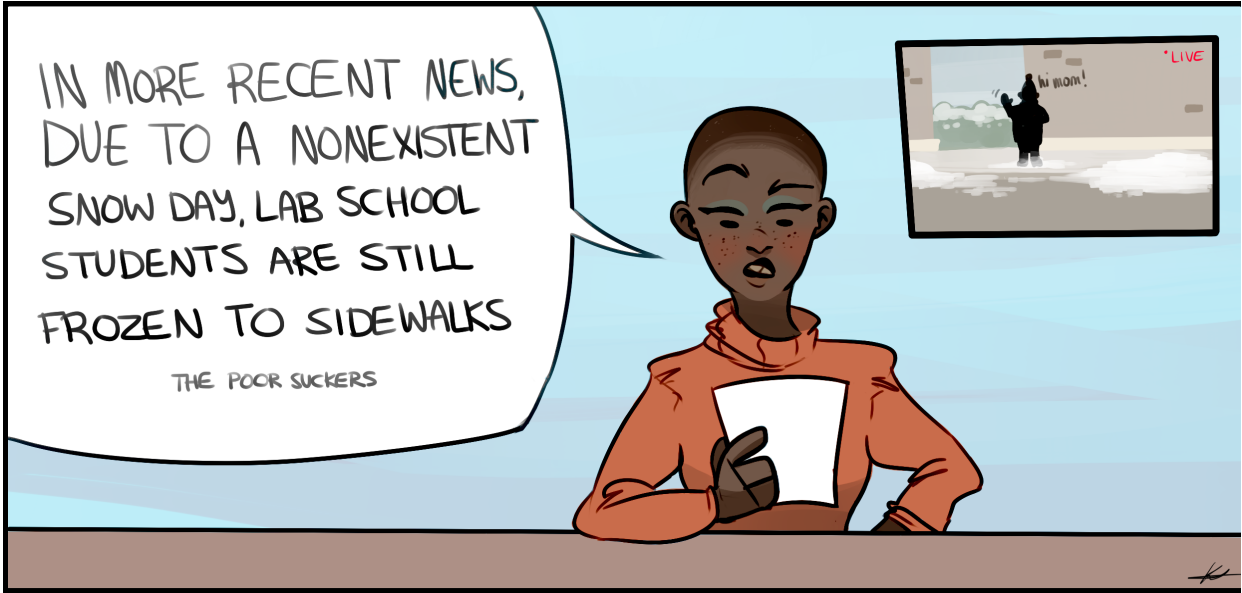
Filled with the traditional tantalizing Mediterranean aromas surrounding our open gallery kitchen, Cedars Mediterranean Kitchen is located only a few blocks away from U-High. Come taste our grilled lamb chops, marinated in lemon, garlic and fresh herbs and spices, and enjoy watching its preparation. If you want to enjoy our traditional food at home, order carry out and bring with you the mouth-watering aromas of Cedars' dishes.



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Editorial cartoon by Kat Flocke

# As the Midway sees it

## New administration addresses (c)old issue

Chicago Public Schools and St. Ignatius College Prep, among other schools, closed Jan. 7 and 8 with the National Weather Service Wind Chill Chart warning it would take less than 15 minutes for frostbite to set in with temperatures dropping below 35 degrees.

U-High did not close. Although U-High has a longstanding tradition of staying open regardless of weather conditions, parents and students alike were unclear whether that practice would be upheld. While there needs to be more communication between the administration and the Lab community, progress is being made.

The night of Jan. 6 was a roller coaster for many families. Like a widespread game of telephone, parents and students passed rumors of Lab being open or closed. Some sent emails to administration inquiring whether U-High would remain open. Director Robin Appleby received several emails herself that night, and after seeing the confusion first hand, she has assured the Midway staff that changes are coming.

Any day that CPS plans to close, she said the Lab website would display a pop-up on its front page explaining whether U-High would be open the following day. If U-High does in fact close, Ms. Appleby said, an email would be sent to parents in addition to the website notification. After years of confusion, it seems a system has finally been put in place that allows parents the opportunity to plan ahead.

One of the concerns the administration had with the previous solution of “optional school days” was decreased attendance. The week of Jan. 7, Ms. Appleby said attendance was seemingly unaffected by weather conditions. Whether going to school was the safest decision for everyone is unclear, but Ms. Appleby trusts that if U-High parents don’t believe they can reasonably get their kids to school, they of course should exercise the right to stay home.

This type of trust is consistent with Lab’s mission statement and close knit community. Hopefully next time there is a snow-storm, parents and students alike will make a more informed decision.

# Hebdo attacks bring into question world, journalistic values

By Mike Glick  
Opinion columnist

Journalism and freedom of speech go hand in hand. At least, they should.

In an Al-Qaeda-perpetrated attack on the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo January 7 that killed eight employees and several others, the murderers made their stance on freedom of expression clear.

Charlie Hebdo has built upon centuries of anticlerical writing and continually satirized the Prophet Muhammad. Although France prides itself on freedom of expression, Muslims have faced discrimination upon several occasions. Laws even prevented women from wearing hijab. Al-Qaeda sought revenge.



Mike

The world has changed since Charlie Hebdo’s founding in 1970. The world’s values have changed. Yet the core values of journalism, most notably a responsibility to write without outside influence, remain the same.

The journalistic world cannot allow Al-Qaeda to call the shots. Doing so would defy all ethical standards of journalism. Charlie Hebdo satirized many religions and people. Most people acquiesced. When they did not, including prior outcries regarding depictions of Muhammad, Charlie Hebdo still went forward with their ideas and saw them to fruition.

Stéphane Charbonnier, the newspaper’s former editor before his murder, believed this unwillingness to back down characterized his staff and journalists across the world.

“We have to keep at it until Islam is as banalized as Catholicism,” Charbonnier said. Whether the newspaper will continue in its attempts to fulfill its former editor’s wish remains to be seen.

Perhaps relenting to Al-Qaeda would mean handing them a win. But that’s not the most important issue here.

Whether they work for big time newspapers or high school monthlies, journalists must first and foremost adhere to ethics. Allowing a group in power to dictate what makes or does not make the front page would mean doing just the opposite.

The eight Charlie Hebdo employees who lost their lives on January 7 lived and died as journalists. We must help their spirit live on.

# Midway Mailbox: Midway headlines undersell StudCo achievements

**From John Williams, senior:**

There’s good reason why U-High hasn’t had an underground publication since 1967.

Since former journalism adviser Wayne Brasler’s enlistment on the faculty, honest criticism of Student Council (SC) and administrative decisions has become a regular topic for the Midway. Sometimes, though, trends are broken and yet people fail to perceive the change. Such is the case with Student Council this



John

year and the Midway’s center spread on SC in the December 2014 issue, which in my opinion unfairly insinuated we were comparatively weak to past councils.

I debated with other SC members to distinguish what our real purpose was last year. I was intent on engaging the prevalent political affairs within school, but the mentality that SC was exclusively an event-planning/role model/student leader group had been allowed to fester for two decades. Thank God we had articulate leadership — without it, the genuine lack of action taken within the school as elected representatives would have been exposed, and I believe our per-

manence in the school would have been jeopardized. The Midway was right to criticize SC, as it was for the twenty-some years prior.

For the first time in students’ lifetimes, SC has and continues to take action, starting with helping change the academic freedom policy, especially in regard to non-club associated events, with the dress code, and in Spring quarter, revising the constitution to keep SC’s activist model in place for years to come. I think the Midway was unfair in running the headline, “When U-High Student Government Wielded A Willful Power,” and juxtaposing easily-inferred as comparative pieces such as the former

and “When Government Presidents Faced Off With the Principal” with the Odeh/event policy story.

With no standard to follow, we have to excavate our own trench in the school’s political battleground. SC has had little opportunity to wield our power, but we have done so willfully, and will continue to explore other areas in which we can do so. I have no reason to “face off” with the Principal or Dean. If students believe we should exercise our power on other issues, they should approach one of their representatives or send us a message through the U-High SC Facebook page, or run for SC. There is now a place for them to make a difference.

## Quick Q

If you could go on a date with any celebrity, who would it be and where would you go?



Roxanne

**ROXANNE NESBITT**, freshman: Channing Tatum. We would go bungee jumping, because if I were to die his face would be the last one I would want to see.

**ALEX DU BUCLET**, sophomore: Frank Ocean. We would go out into the ocean on a sailboat. I would bring my guitar and we would make music together because I love the vibes I get from his music.



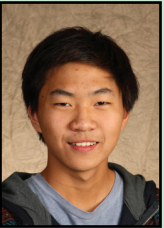
Tiffany

**TIFFANY SUWATTHEE**, junior: English actor Theo James. Skydiving because there’s a sense of closeness and trust.

**JEFFREY JOU**, senior: Justin Timberlake. We would go skiing, because I think he would be good at skiing, and I’m excited to see him ski.



Alex



Jeff

—Compiled by Sonny Lee

# U-HIGH MIDWAY

Published nine times during the school year by journalism and photojournalism students of University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.  
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Printed by FGS, Broadview, Illinois.

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# Well-produced crime show ‘Gotham’ continues season

By Christine Obert-Hong  
Television Critic

Fighting the mafia, corruption, and more, Ben McKenzie stars as Detective James Gordon in Fox’s crime and drama series, “Gotham.”

As a prequel to the Batman franchise, though separate from any of DC’s films, “Gotham” takes place after the murders of Thomas and Martha Wayne, major benefactors for the lower class citizens of the seedy fictional city. New to the Gotham City Police Department, Gordon and his corrupt veteran partner, Harvey Bullock (Donal Logue), are tasked with finding the murderer.

Fighting against both the mafia and the police and politicians in their pockets, McKenzie wonderfully portrays a hot-headed detective with no regard for authority. Known for his acting in Fox’s drama “The O.C.”, McKenzie dons his character’s righ-



Publicity photo

teous and stubborn personality like a glove. Logue, meanwhile, acts as Gordon’s sarcastic partner. Their quips and banter act as tidbits of humor, not misplaced in the slightest.

Each season of “Gotham” will also focus on the origins of some of Batman’s future villains, including Two-Face, Penguin, and Riddler. This season focuses on the ambitious underling, Oswald Cobblepot (Robin Lord Taylor), better known as Penguin. As a low-ranking member of the mob trying to make his way up the pecking

order, Cobblepot slyly makes his way around Gotham, forging connections and viciously killing anyone he deems unnecessary.

With ambitions much like Cobblepot, nightclub owner Fish Mooney (Jada Pinkett Smith) leads a gang directly under the Don of Gotham’s most powerful mafia family, Carmine Falcone (John Doman). And just like Taylor, Smith wonderfully portrays an incredibly sly and vicious leader, commanding a great deal of loyalty from all of her subordinates. All of her subordinates, that is, except for Cobblepot.

Filmed in Manhattan, New York, “Gotham” looks as if it popped right out of a comic book. Hazy lighting and 50s esque furniture help add to the unique atmosphere, helping scenes reflect the general mood of the scene, whether it’s laid-back or agitated.

Created by screenwriter, producer and director Bruno Heller, the series aired its mid-season premiere January 5. Heller also produced the award-winning drama television shows “Rome” and “The Mentalist.”



Photo by Della Brown

# A10: Classy yet comfortable

By Raghu Somala  
Dining Columnist

The odd man out. In a sea of reliable family owned and comfort classic restaurants, A10 stands as one of the few high-end restaurants in Hyde Park. On 53rd Street, this Italian restaurant was anticipated to give Hyde Park a taste of haute cuisine. Opened November 2013, it is the only restaurant south of Chinatown named to Michelin’s Bib Gourmand list in 2014.

When I received this assignment, I was initially excited to enter into this new realm of gourmet cooking, and promptly invited a pair of friends to join me. I found in retrospect that the experience, while pleasant, was generally overpriced and underwhelming. With a confusing interior and food that averaged out to mediocre, I suggest time would be better spent on a trip downtown to one of those highly regarded restaurants.

My party went to A10 on a Tuesday around 4 p.m. The overall atmosphere was lively while lacking cohesion, and the contrasting elements of the restaurant created an upscale-casual feel. Listening to pop music while looking at a classy wooden bar and tasteful tapestries confused me. After ordering our food in this sensory confused environment, we sat casually chatting.

I ordered the Smoked Salmon Bruschetta topped with Black Radish, Celery, and Caviar, for a bargain \$14. Although the overall dish was tasty enough with rustically toasted bread, I found the dish too salty. The thinly sliced salmon was perfectly smoked and the marriage in texture between the salmon and the bread greatly amplified the flavor. Regardless though, at \$14 and a minuscule portion size, I would rate this meal as merely average.

The rest of my party ordered a Genoa Salami & Pepperoncini with Parmigiano Reggiano and Arugula pizza. While my companions thoroughly enjoyed the dish, I was turned off by the plating. The toppings seemed to be haphazardly thrown onto the pizza, and the overall dish had an unappetizing dark red color. However, it was extremely flavorful and for only \$8, it was well worth it.

One of the first high end restaurants in Hyde Park, A10 is a great stepping stone, but still doesn’t compare to the upscale restaurants available downtown.

# Producer creates lackluster third installment of action film ‘Taken’

By Micaiah Buchheim-Jurisson  
Film Critic

“Good luck,” retired CIA agent Bryan Mills remarks sarcastically to Inspector Franck Dotzler at his promise to track him down, early in Olivier Megaton’s “Taken 3”. Perhaps it would have been more apt if Mills, played by Liam Neeson, had directed this line at the screenwriters, who surely needed some very good luck in getting this sequel to a sequel that probably shouldn’t have even been made onscreen. Unlike the rest of the unending stream of mindless action movies that come out of Hollywood, the bland “Taken 3” fails to deliver much excitement or arouse interest.

The basic premise of the movie, which ditches European locales for Mills’ home of Los Angeles, is that Bryan Mills’ ex-wife is mysteriously murdered, conveniently right when their romance is rekindled. Even more conveniently, as soon Mills discovers the body in his apartment, two LAPD officers happen to walk in and tell him to put his hands up. However, Mills instead feels the need to beat up the officers and run away in order to figure out who killed his ex-wife. Inspector Frank Dotzler, a thoughtful and intrigued police detective played con-

vincingly by Forest Whitaker, spends much of the movie tracking Mills to bring him in.

The largest issue with “Taken 3”, a movie in which, despite its name, no one actually gets taken (kidnapped), is the discrepancy between what the audience rightfully expects, and what the director delivers. The fact that the title hardly reflects the plot is the first indication of this. No audience member goes to see a movie like “Taken” or its sequels expecting to see a masterpiece of cinema; rather, they expect to see something fast-paced and exhilarating. For better or for worse, this is the pact between audiences and directors that for decades has allowed filmmakers to profit from unremarkable-yet-entertaining movies. Even if a story is lacking, the filmmaker can usually make up for it with excitement for viewers. Somehow, Megaton manages to fail even on this most basic level. This time around, the director relies on tired clichés (“good guy’s ex-wife’s new husband turns out to be the bad guy in a shocking plot twist”) and mostly unenthusiastic action sequences to produce a result that is, on the whole, insipid and unexciting.

As far as acting goes, it is difficult to complain about Neeson and Whitaker, whose performances lend gravitas to roles that deserve none. Maggie Grace and Famke Jansson, who respectively play Mills’ daughter and ex-wife, aren’t exactly going to nominated for



Publicity photo

awards, but do deliver what the audience expects. Sam Spruell puts on a truly terrible Russian accent as one of the film’s main villains. The music is typical action movie fare.

The fact that it took \$20 million to convince Neeson to star in this film, and even then only on the grounds that no one is kidnapped, ostensibly the basis of the franchise, is a testament to how seriously “Taken 3” should be taken. After “Taken 2,” there was originally not going to be another film in the franchise. Here’s to hoping that “Taken 3” really is the last one.



# Boys basketball roughs up Romans

By Grace Anderson  
Associate Editor

Following a strong victory over Latin, Jan. 20, the varsity boys basketball team will look to use their momentum during the game tonight against St. Laurence.

Led by new coach Rob Ley, the Maroons are 6-0 in conference as of Midway press time and continued this streak by defeating Northridge College Prep 46-22 Jan. 9, North Shore Country Day 58-38 Jan. 16 and Latin 54-23. During winter break, the team also went 2-2 at the McDipper Tournament, Dec. 26-28, with two losses to Bolingbrook and Richmond Central

as well as two wins over Perspectives Charter and Joliet Central.

U-High plans to continue this streak by using a team-oriented strategy.

“The Northridge victory was our most team-oriented game,” senior captain Ben Rhind said. “One thing we’ve been working on is how it’s not an individual shot, but it’s the whole team’s shot because the whole team is responsible for every play we make, not just one person. That way, people are more focused on making quality plays than just individual statistics.”

A greater focus teamwork in defensive strategy has also helped the Maroons to succeed.

“Many people think defense is simply not allowing the man you’re guarding to score,” junior captain Caleb Hill said, “when really it’s a team effort. If one of our teammates gets beat we have to be in a position to help and then recover back to our man in case that’s the next pass the offense makes. More or less it just comes down to our communication with each other and talking things out when needed.”

Ley, who served as assistant coach last year, saw the McDipper as a way to highlight areas for the Maroons to improve.

“The number one thing we learned is that we need to be more consistent,”

Ley said, “and it’s not just our skills on the floor, but also our toughness and our commitment.”

One of the things that Ley has really pushed for this year is an understanding of the team mentality.

“In our last game against Northridge, I think our patience really stood out,” Ley said. “We have a responsibility as a team and they did a good job passing and helping each other out on defense. My biggest challenge in my first year is helping players to understand that it’s not about who we are playing, it’s about playing at their highest level. It’s not just about beating a team; it’s about playing well.”

## Tempo runs, lifting prep track team for season

By Averie Miller  
Midway reporter

With long runs, speed training, and weekly weight room workouts, U-High Co-Ed Indoor Track has begun preparing this year for their outdoor season earlier than ever before.

Led by co-captain seniors Jax Ingrassia and Zach Emanuel, team practices focus mainly on speed work, meaning intervals at the track, as well as tempo runs, which are shorter, faster runs. Last year the team postponed its focus on speed until the season started, and, according to Jax, it showed during their meets.

“The idea is to build endurance, while having some speed work as well,” Jax said. “We are really just trying to get everyone in shape for the season, which is why we are focusing on mostly endurance, and core and weight training. The team is extraordinarily motivated and driven to reach our goals.

“As individuals people are trying to push themselves harder in practice and set new personal bests. As a team we are gearing up to try to take the boys and girls ISL championship in the spring” Jax said. “I think what sets this season apart more than ever is that we are striving towards goals as teams and individuals.”

The team begins competing in early February with their first meet and outdoor meets will start right after spring break. Zach hopes that this year’s home meets will have better attendance.

“We’re hosting three home meets on Friday nights at U. of C.’s indoor track Henry Crown” Zach said. “We’d love to have more people show up this year. They’re fun on Friday nights, and they run late, which is always exciting.”

## Big tests await fencers at Great Lakes Fencing Championship

By Ileana Minor  
Midway reporter

After returning from the tournament at Marian Central Catholic High School on Jan. 24, the fencing team will face two of their biggest competitors, Culver Academy and Stevenson High School at the Great Lakes Fencing Championships on Jan. 31.

Last year, the Maroons ranked well with womens foil, placing above both Culver and Stevenson.

This year, womens foil has potential to rank in first and men’s saber to rank in the top four overall. Results of the tournament on Jan. 24 weren’t available at Midway press time.

While competing at the Midwest High School Open tournament on Jan. 17, womens foil fenced well with junior Daphne Schneewind making it in the top 16 of 57 fencers, and sophomore Athena Chien and senior Jennifer Chien ranked third and first in their respective groups.

Mens foil also made it to top 16 of 63, and the womens sabre team’s Janine Liu placed in the top 16

while Julia Gately and Genevieve Nemeth placed in the top 32 of 50.

“The team did a pretty good job of supporting one another when someone is fencing,” team captain, Jennifer Chien said. “It is hard, because you have to balance cheering on a teammate and paying attention to when you have to fence yourself. Other than that, I always say there is room for more practice. Our school is small, so we don’t have as many people as other teams. In addition, we only practice twice a week while other schools practice at least four times a week.”

Assistant Coach Elle Hill, a U-High graduate and previous captain of the team helps the team prepare for the next tournament.

“Right now we’re trying to get as much fencing and drilling as possible,” Elle said. “The drilling allows fencers to practice skills and techniques that they need to improve on and the actual fencing allows them to utilize what they have practiced in real time.”



Photo by Nikita Dulin

During a heated bout at the Midwest High School Open Jan. 17, sophomore Athena Chien gets low to take a stab at her opponent. In the women’s foil competition, Athena placed 3rd of 57 competitors, along with her sister, Jen, who placed 2nd in womens foil category. “I was really happy with how I placed. It felt great,” Athena said. “But I was sad that I ended up losing the bout because we ran out of time. I hit a point just as the timer stopped. I’m looking forward to the next tournament, and I’ve been practicing my point control.” The Maroons will compete next Jan. 31.

## Basketball stars adjust to, embrace carousel of coaches

By Luke Murphy  
Sports editor

When seniors Ben Rhind and Jordan Moran are old and gray-haired, reminiscing about their high school hoops and a future generation asks, “Grandpa, who was your high school basketball coach?” they won’t have one answer. They’ll have four.



Luke

Jordan are the lone team members that date back to the Caldwell era.

It is clear these two have spent many hours together, whether it be at practice, in the hallway or staying up until 2 a.m. their freshman year, tasked with washing all the older players jerseys at an overnight tournament. They have the same answers for many of my questions, they have to

stop often when bursts of laughter render them otherwise mute, and, perhaps most importantly, they both love basketball.

For a team that has experienced this type of turnover it would be understandable if their end of year record looked indicative of a team in transition. Instead, in the last four years the Maroons have excelled, winning seventy percent of their games en route to a 70-30 record. Those 70 wins are even more impressive when considering many U-High teams have hovered around .500.

“Each coach has brought something different to the table,” Ben said. “I’m not saying one is better than the other but it is nice, or at least one of the nice things about all the turnover, just hearing different voices and seeing different approaches.”

I can see both Ben and Jordan searching for glass half-full answers, “I think in basketball, whether it be practices or games, what it all comes down to is fighting through adversity. What this [four coaches in four years] has taught me is really how to get through adversity.” Jordan credits the coaching carousel with strengthening his mental toughness. When I press them further, these two

acknowledge they’ve left wins on the table.

“Coming in since sophomore year I believe we could have been a better team each year if that coach, from the year previous, had stuck around,” Jordan said in a declaration of honesty.

Ben echoed Jordan’s comments.

“I think a lot of what has made it difficult is that each team has an identity due in large part to what the coach sees the team’s strengths as. For each year to have the evaluation process and identity formation restarted has been tough.”

Yet, last Tuesday, as the seconds trickled away in U-High’s 54-23 romping of rival Latin and the hoarse throated U-High faithful pushed through for one more “U-What? ... U-High!”, Ben and Jordan looked like two guys who wouldn’t want things any other way. Jordan didn’t touch the court in the second half. With the game safely in hand, he didn’t need to. With Tuesday’s game, Latin became the fifth ISL team to fall to the Maroons by at least 20 points. For a team bemoaning their lack of continuity, U-High boy’s basketball looks like a team just finding its stride. Ben and Jordan are ready for the ride.



# Boys swim team continues torrid pace with record breaking swims

**By Maia Boussy**  
**Editor in Chief**  
 After competing at Evergreen Park last Friday (results occurred after Midway press time), the U-High boys swim team will host the Illinois Math and Science Academy at the Ratner Center starting at 4:30 p.m.  
 The team is coached by veteran Paul Gunty, who has coached the team for 25 years, and second year coach Kate Chronic.

Eamonn Keenan broke the 500 and 200 freestyle varsity and frosh-soph records, with a time of 1:50.09 for the 200 and 4:59.48 for the 500.  
 Having fun while working hard, junior Jason Lin hopes to keep attendance up despite having practices canceled due to weather.  
 “I try to enjoy the time I have with my team and create a fun environment,” Jason said. “I want to get a good workout and have fun. A lot of people took vacations over winter break so that makes it mentally harder to come back and swim. It is also hard to get people who have low atten-

“I’m viewing it as motivation to see what we can do the rest of the season, building to sectionals and hopefully qualifying for state.”

— Eamonn on record-breaking swims

dance to start coming more. It is important for them to think of practice as just as important as meets.”  
 “Winter is a tough season to swim in,” agrees Mr. Gunty, “because the end of the first quarter is so hectic and then we have two weeks off for break where if you go on vacation, you aren’t swimming for two weeks. Also, there are long breaks in between meets that makes it hard for the swimmers to get motivated.”  
 Working together for the second time, Mr. Gunty and Ms. Chronic are involved with both varsity and J.V.  
 “Coach Kate makes up a lot of the workouts,” Mr. Gunty said. “She also

works with the newer swimmers who are learning to race for the first time. We both work on the lineups for J.V. and varsity.”  
 Last Wednesday’s home meet found swimmers more fatigued than usual according to junior Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest.  
 “Eamonn destroyed the 500 record which came at the heels of breaking the 200 record at our previous meet. It was a rough meet because j.v and varsity were not in separate heats. So many of us had events back to back. A lot of us were really proud of our 200 medley relays splits.”  
 A wrench was thrown into U-High’s post meet tradition when the opposing team switched up the order of congratulations.  
 “At the end of the meet after shaking hands with the other team we usually do a chant that goes ‘Potato chips ... potato chips ... munch, munch, munch we think (other team) is a mighty fine bunch.’ The other team started doing their own chant before we could start ours which was unexpected.”

# Newly formed co-ed squash team enjoying perks of becoming official high school sport

**By Sarah Pan**  
**Midway reporter**  
 After besting Latin Jan. 21, the U-High varsity co-ed squash team will travel to face off against Lake Forest Academy, Jan. 31.  
 At the Lake Forest Academy Invitational Jan. 10 and 11, the varsity team placed fourth while the j.v team placed third.

Formed at the beginning of this year, the varsity squash team started as a club sport three years ago. The team is now coached by Peter Wendt. Similar in form to tennis, squash has a few key distinctions. Using racquets, players hit a ball against a wall continuously with an opponent until one cannot return it. These distinctions add to the sports uniqueness according to senior captain Anna Knes.  
 “I think squash is unique because it involves an incredible amount of thinking,” Anna said. “A lot of sports involve strategy, but because we are playing in a room off of four walls, a lot of calculations have to be made before hitting the ball, geometry and physics are very helpful when deciding whether to boast the ball or drive it!”



Photo by Paige Fishman  
 Winding up, senior Ross Tizes measures his racket’s backswing before unleashing his fury upon the squash ball.

“I think there’s always room for improvement, whether it’s physical improvement or changing one’s strategy while playing,” said Anna. “In every game we get to exercise our minds and our bodies and have fun at the same time.”

Now an official team sport, the squash team has enjoyed the privilege of it’s new title.  
 “Being a team requires a higher level of commitment and organization,” Anna continued. “As a club, we didn’t have nearly as much power than we do now.”  
 “Thanks to Mr. Ribbens, we were able to formally book courts at Henry Crown for practice, hire a professional coach, and arrange official tournaments!”  
 Freshman John Grissom, an experienced squash player, was impressed with the team’s performance at the Lake Forest Academy Invitational despite their lack of practice time.  
 “I think the team performed really well,” John said, “for the amount of time we have been playing,”  
 Meeting three times a week, the team works towards integrating the influx of new members.  
 “Because the majority of the team still needs to learn the technical aspect of the sport, there isn’t such a heavy emphasis on strategy,” John continued. “Once people really master the technical aspect, we can start working on strategy.”

# Maroons take out frustration of Latin loss on Woodlands

**By Alex Lund**  
**Midway reporter**  
 After a 43-20 win against Woodlands on Jan. 20, the varsity girl’s basketball team improved its record to 5-7 and will challenge Elgin Academy tonight, and Morgan Park Academy on Jan. 30.

With a 66-36 loss against Latin School of Chicago on Jan. 13, the team was disappointed after losing their only scheduled game to the rival school.  
 “As a team we didn’t start out as aggressively as we ended, which is usually a large factor in our losses,” junior Autumn Espinoza said of the team’s faceoff against Latin. “Getting rebounds and making easy shots is something we definitely need to work on. On defense we were aggressive, which we are pretty consistent at.”

“There’s a lot of focus on learning how to anticipate each other as a team.”

— Autumn Espinoza

“On offense everyone needs to dribble more and not be afraid to make a mistake.”  
 Despite the loss, the team continued to use practices as a time to fine tune the players’ sense of communication and strategy for their next game against Woodlands.  
 “There’s a lot of focus on learning how to anticipate each other as a team,” Autumn said. “Our defense is pretty solid, so often our main concern is offense.”  
 “I think we improved defensively,” junior Helen He said of the victory over Woodlands. “We moved around the court more instead of staying in one place.”  
 “Although most of the time we were playing zone defense, we did a lot better at transitioning as the other team passed the ball around, and adapting to what our opponents were doing.”  
 For the upcoming game against Elgin, the team hopes to continue get off to a more aggressive start and continue their consistency on defense.

# Dance Team employs new coach, moves

**By Syrah Russell**  
**Midway reporter**  
 Integrating contemporary dance styles in weekly workshops, U-High Dance Team performed at Senior Get-away on Jan. 24 and will perform during Artsfest on Feb. 26.  
 A fourth-year student at the University of Chicago, new coach Miranda Cherkas has begun incorporating everything from ballet to hip-hop in the U-High team’s routines.  
 Co-captain Maryam Alausa credits Dance Team’s early success to Coach Cherkas’ willingness to apply team member suggestions.

“The team has been very receptive to the new coach, especially because she allows us to have some say in the music we dance to,” Maryam said. “Because of her background in dance, we can diversify our music choices which we haven’t done in the past.”

Coach Cherkas has incorporated moves from her own Dance Troupe into Dance Teams routines according to co-captain Whitney Beach.  
 “In workshops we are taught mostly hip-hop and modern dance moves like ‘bopping,’ which is the move from the D-Low shuffle, and ‘whacking,’ which is a kind of arm movement,” Whitney said. “Miranda has a really cohesive background, so we have been able to try a lot of different styles.”  
 Maryam wants to set the record straight: dance team is hard work.  
 “Some people disregard the effort the team itself puts into putting on a show,” Maryam emphasized. “It’s a large time commitment and involves a lot of physical training.”  
 “People are often pretty quick to criticize a dance they could never perform in front of the whole school.”  
 By incorporating moves from other

genres the team has taken a risk. Whitney believes it has only begun to start paying off.  
 “The first performance was definitely a test run for the team,” Whitney said.  
 “We pulled it off, and all the dances since have shown our resolve. We are really diversifying our music choices in a way we have never tried before.”  
 During last Tuesday’s halftime performance the sound system malfunctioned. Senior Apoorva Gundeti was proud of the team’s composure under pressure.  
 “This is an issue we’ve experienced in the past,” Apoorva said. “With their being so many new members to the team, having our captains set the example and stay cool was big.”  
 “Additionally, everybody in the crowd continued to cheer and support us which really helped us out.”



Photo by Della Brown  
 U-High Dance Troupe members Maryam Alausa, Jessica Stein, Alexis Porter, Kimya Buckner, Emilie Portugal, Jamie Williams and Apoorva Gundeti hold their pose during halftime Jan. 20. The team overcame technical difficulties to rock Kovler gymnasium.





# Justice, then and now

## MLK assembly stresses importance of equality

By Jullian Lark  
Associate editor

“What does justice look like?”

So asked the playbill for this year’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly, held Jan. 15 at Rockefeller Chapel and organized by the Black Students’ Association. Associate Professor of African American Studies and Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago Amanda Lewis gave the keynote address on the continuing effects of race relations in the United States on students of numerous age groups.

She followed presentations by numerous presentations by student organizations, including musical performances of U2’s Sunday “Bloody Sunday” by sophomores Alex du Bulet and Ben Lindau, “What’s Goin’ On” by the U-High Jazz Ensemble, and Pete Seeger’s “We Shall Not Be Moved” by sophomore Alex Lund.

Senior Mikal Muhammad delivered an untitled poem about justice and violence in the urban black communities of Chicago and across America.

Members of Latinos Unidos delivered the poem “Los Desparecidos”

(“The Disappeared”) by Pablo Neroda about the kidnapping and disappearance of the Ayotzinapa 43, a group of student teachers kidnapped by the police of Iguala, Mexico.

Though the keynote speaker is chosen by the BSA’s advisers, counselors Camille Baughn-Cunningham and Ronald Tunis, BSA President Karla Douglas said that BSA officers still have input on the contents of the speech.

“The speaker is found and chosen by Mr. Tunis and Ms. Cunningham every year,” Karla explained. “We just get to have a meeting with that person in order to present what we would want others to get out of his or her speech. So we did have a meeting with her and discussed everything we could possibly think of. I have heard nothing but good things.”

Karla also explained the the purpose of the assembly remains to educate U-Highers about the way Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s message of justice, something she said she believes was expressed uniquely through each of the presentations.

Feminist Club members Nora Lin and Fikayo Walter-Johnson, both juniors, solemnly hold up a sign while they perform “Flawless Intersectionality” written and composed by club member junior Maria Privitera.

*Photo by Francine Almeda*

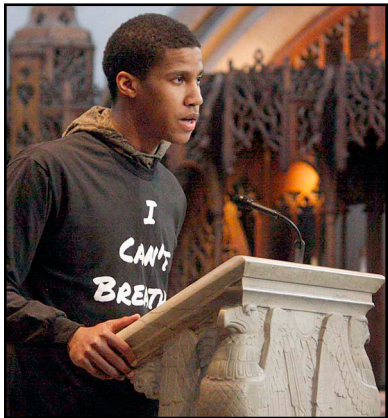
As the keynote speaker, Amanda Lewis speaks from both her personal experiences and those she’s observed about how race plays a large part in educational opportunities, and how ideas on race are integrated into everyday life. Chosen as this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly speaker by BSA advisers, Lewis is a professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

*Photo by Francine Almeda*



Along with Karla Douglas, BSA vice president Kimya Buckner, junior, helped introduce performers at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly, giving a brief summary of each one prior to the actual performance.

*Photo by Jarret Lampley*



Wearing a shirt with the symbolic words “I can’t breathe,” Mikal Muhammad reads his untitled poem he wrote about justice and violence in urban black communities across the United States.

*Photo by Alexandra Thompson*



Referred to as South Africa’s second national anthem, Bel Canto choir performs “Tshotsholoz” (“Go Forward”). The song was followed by the assembly’s keynote speaker.

*Photo by Jarret Lampley*



For the assembly’s final performance, Alex Lund sang Pete Seeger’s “We Shall Not Be Moved.” She encouraged members of the audience to participate by singing the last verse.

*Photo by Jarret Lampley*