Dress code debate sparks StudCo action

By Elizabeth Chon
Associate editor

Feminist Club co-president Maria Privitera, junior, feels that the revisions made by the administration are ambiguous. "We've shared both documents with them that their clothing is inappropriate," John Williams, Student Council President said. "We will also be pushing to eliminate some individual clauses of the dress code, such as the ones banning tight and revealing clothing."

Meanwhile, Student Council is formulating a statement proposing that the administration lift some of its standards of appropriate attire. "This encourages rape culture and places responsibility on women to cover up their bodies in order to keep men from being distracted," Privitera said.

"People were sharing stories about their experiences with the dress code, and everyone was passionate about the subject," Williams said. "The current dress code presents the idea that the female body is distracting, since females are not allowed to wear revealing clothing," Marla said. "This supports a rapist 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 nestle snugly 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 account @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. "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."

- John Williams, Student Council President
**Service Day strengthens bonds between U-High and community**

By Talia George-Karren

Midway reporter

For the first time ever, students and parents from every Chicago 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. Day of Service.

A U-High service coordinator Hannah Evans said that Martin Luther King Jr. vividly the concept of racial equity for others and communities.

The Day of Service allowed a group of more than 120 students and faculty members to work, donate and serve in the South side neighborhood and surrounding community.

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

More than two dozen organizations benefited from the volunteers. The organizations’ missions include services for seniors, families and women; after-school programs; and hunger prevention.

"A community with less pressure to do well would be good, but that isn't something at Lab. I think it's 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."

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**Faculty, students, parents work to redefine success**

By Clyde Schwab

Associate editor

The idea behind Challenge Success is in its name.

The event started in 2012 at Stanford University when professors Madeline Levine, Jim Lobdell and Daniel Pope looked at how we define success.

"In our society, the idea that success is equal to high GPA's and getting into a top college or university," Levine said in January 2012.

Effectively, they are teaching students that they need to get into a top college, graduate and get a job.

"I think that at U-High we have an unrealistic idea of what success is and many students see that as applying to a top 'brand name' school, few have a specific goal behind it," Willis said.

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

"As a senior, I would say that my expectations were made manageable, but looking back as a freshman up to a sophomore, I think that anything that you do want to do is going to be good, but that isn’t something at Lab. I think it’s part of us being a private institution that places such high value on schools like Yale and Harvard," Willis said.

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

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According to biology teacher and Challenge Success member Sarah Calam, a student's goals play a key part in the movement, and while many students share a desire to go to a top "brand name" school, few have a specific goal behind it.

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**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 Semi-Formal 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 taking place in 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 Apsenra Gundeti, senior.

"We choose Mystery Masquerade because it’s easy for people to get excited about and participate in the theme,” Apsenra 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 Alaua, senior.

"Hopefully there will be as many, if not more, people attending Semi-formal as Homecoming,” Maryam said.

"We strategically picked the date not to be during 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.

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**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 known across the city.

"LTAB is fairly competitive, the only competition where students read out their own work," senior Asia Knes said.

"It's much more performance based than poetry reading," 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 one piece.

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 surrounding areas. Louder Than A Bomb is an opportunity to break that bubble and meet 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."
Shakespeare contests draw varied attendance in 4th year

By Marissa Martinez

In the midst of their hair tied back into a loose ponytail, a woman leans over a student's coding worksheet. Wearing a warm sweater and boots to protect her from the harsh Chicago winter, she looks completely at ease.

Dr. Byrnes arrived in Chicago on December 20, the Scholastic Team is placing sixth at the Tournament of Champions.

"My two children have come with me and are both here at school," Ms. Byrnes said. "They really understand what he was trying to communicate. We were looking to do an exchange, and it was luck that she ended up in Chicago.

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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 very clear.

Charlie Hebdo has built upon centuries of antireligious writing and continually satirized the Prophet Muhammad. 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.

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 outrages 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 wishes remains to be seen.

Perhaps reuniting to Al-Qa'ida 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 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.

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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 Brasilier's enlisting on the faculty, honest criticism of Student Council (SC) and administrative decisions has been 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 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 was a year 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 significantly 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.

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Quick Q

If you could go if you could go with any character, which one would you go?

ROXANNE SUSWATTHEE, sophomore: Shimmering 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 he get from his music.

Tiffany Suwatthee, junior: English actor Theo James. Skyliving 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.

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Printed by FGD, Broadview, Illinois.
Katscratch

MAN.

30° WEATHER

CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

I JUST

Huh?

OH COME ON

by Kat Flocke

Well-produced crime show ‘Gotham’ continues season

By Christine Obert-Hong

Television Critic

Fighting against 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 York’s Gotham City Police Department, Gordon and his counterpart Harvey Bullock (Donal Logue), are tasked with finding killer Frank Dotzler, a thoughtful and vicious mobster. His whips and banter act as tidbits of humor, not misplaced in the slightest. 

Expectations for “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, Scottish fisherman 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 expertly portrays a mentally 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 “Home” and “The Mentalist.”

By Micahia Buchheim-Jurisson

Film Critic

“Good luck,” retired CIA agent Bryan Mills reminds sarcastically to Inspector Franck Dotzler at his prom post, “to track him down, early in Olivier Megaton’s “Taken 3.” Perhaps it would have been more apt if Mills, played by Liam Neesom, had directed this line at the screenwriter, who surely needed some very good luck in getting this sequel to a sequel that probably shouldn’t have been even been made on screen. 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 avoid interest.

The basic premise of the movie, which dictates European locales for Mills’ home of Los Angeles, is that Bryan’s 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 a hold on finding. 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 convincingly 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, 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 past 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 shooting plot”) 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 Janssen, who respectively play Mills’ daughter and ex-wife, aren’t exactly going to nominated for awards, but do deliver what the audience expects. Sam Spruell is 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

As individuals people are trying to push themselves harder in practice and set new personal bests. As a team we are gearing up to take the boys and girls ISL championship in the spring" Jax said. "I think what sets this season apart most 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 the spring break. Zach hopes that this year’s home meets will have better attendance.

“We’re hosting three home meets on Friday nights at 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 year record looked indicative of a team in transition, Athena placed 3rd in the top 16 of 63, and the woman's foil placement above both Culver and Stevenson." The Northridge victory was our most team-oriented game," senior Jordan Hill said. "The Northridge victory was our number one priority before 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 58-28 Jan. 16 and Latin 54-23. During winter break, the team also went 2-2 at the McPepper Tournament Dec. 26-28, with two losses to Bolingbrook and Richmond Central as well as two wins over Perspectives and Loyola Prep. U-High plans to continue this streak by using a team-oriented strategy. "The Northridge victory was for our most team-oriented game," senior captain Ben Rinhart said. "One thing working in our favor is that our whole team is responsible for every play we make, not just one person. That way, people are more motivated and driven to reach our goals. Tempo runs, which are shorter, faster runs. Last work, meaning intervals at the track, as well as some speed work as well," Jax said. "We are really focused on making quality plays than just individual statistics." A greater focus teamwork in defense strategy has also helped the Maroons to succeed. "Many people think defense is simply blocking 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 the next pass the offensive 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 won the McPepper 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 court but also our toughness and our commitment."

One of the things that Ley has really pushed for this year is building and reinforcing the team mentality. "In our last game against Northridge," Ley said, "I think our team really stood out." Ley said, "We have a responsibility as a team and that means helping each other out on defense. My biggest challenge in my first year is helping people to understand it's not about who we are playing, it's about playing at their highest level. It's not just about winning a game; it's about playing well.""
By Maia Boussy
Editor in Chief

After last meeting at Evergreen Park last Friday (results occurred after Midway press time), the U-High boys swim team improved its record to 5-7 and will challenge Evanston 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 facoff 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.

“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 our main concern is offense.”

“I think we improved defensively,” junior Autumn Espinoza 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 the opponents were doing.”

For the upcoming game against Elgin, the teams hopes to continue get easy shots as a team.

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“Last Wednesday’s home meet found Maroons and Stingers’ sense of communica- tion 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 our main concern is offense.”

“I think we improved defensively,” junior Autumn Espinoza 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 the opponents were doing.”

For the upcoming game against Elgin, the teams hopes to continue get easy shots as a team.
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 Duculet 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 Neruda 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 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.

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.

Along with Karla Douglass, 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.

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.

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.

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