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University of Chicago Laboratory High School

# U-HIGH MIDWAY

1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

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## Can Student Council be effective?

All-school president says anyone can be effective if they work hard, yet grade reps cite logistical concerns

by **DHEVEN UNNI**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With the Student Council election next week, some officers say their year has not been as effective as they expected, while others say achieving goals is possible with hard work.

Senior Cultural Union representative Nicole Horio publicly stated that Student Council is plagued by a lack of understanding about what officers can accomplish. Nicole is frustrated with lack of power granted by the administration and management of trivial issues.

Nicole has stopped attending Student Council meetings, saying they aren't a good use of her time. She wants Student Council to have a faster-moving, more public role.

“At the meetings, we discuss the same things week after week, and it seems like nothing gets done,” Nicole said. “It takes an entire year for little things to happen. At the beginning of the year, we were discussing bathroom stall doors and the gym lockers, and now the bleachers just got fixed and a lot of bathroom stalls still don't work.”

According to Nicole, others like the Principal's Advisory Committee and the organizers of the school-wide walkout, have taken over Student Council's role, while council members discuss what she described as trivial issues.

All-School President Elizabeth Van Ha sees Student Council as student leaders who initiate bills to help the students while also planning events to promote school spirit.

According to Elizabeth, any Student Council member can initiate a bill to solve a problem they care about if willing to actively support it.

“A common misconception of people that join Student Council is that everything will be given to them,” Elizabeth said, “but the way I see it is that once you are nominated, you are chosen to be a student leader and the grade sees you as a Student Council member, so it's up to you to initiate the changes that you would like to see.”

According to Senior Class Vice President Cole Summerfelt, Elizabeth is one of the few Student

**“Bills can be initiated by anyone, and that person organizes all the meetings and paperwork regarding that project.”**

— ELIZABETH VAN HA  
ALL-SCHOOL PRESIDENT

Council members close enough with the administration to accomplish these student objectives because she attends many of their meetings.

“All of the powers that people think Student Council has, Fafa has,” Cole said, using Elizabeth's nickname. He said the student body knows how involved Student Council is with the administration, but Elizabeth is typically the one who attends those meetings to share student opinions.

Cole said the All-School President is much more accountable than other Student Council members, and conceded few members take as much initiative as Elizabeth.

While Elizabeth believes the distinction between the executive board and the class boards may contribute to a Student Council hierarchy, no one has more power for getting bills passed.

“Bills can be initiated by anyone, and that person organizes all the meetings and paperwork regarding that project,” Elizabeth said. “Certain members are in those meetings, but that doesn't mean they're the ones leading. It does help to be a senior, but that's just because more administrators know you.”

Senior Class President Ayaan Asthana said he ran primarily to organize events for the class and was capable of doing so, but he said some students expect more from Student Council than student leaders can deliver.

Earlier this year, Student Council did respond to student demands to change P.E. course requirements for varsity athletes, but the administration did not make any changes.

Even when changes do happen, Ayaan says incoming members should be aware of how long it takes so they aren't disenchanted.

“Student Council is probably the best forum we have at the school right now to communicate some complaint to the administration and people who can actually make a change,” Ayaan said. “The limitation of Student Council is that ultimately it feels like we aren't doing that much substantive work because we're waiting for people to get back to us.”

### Speeches next week; voting on Thursday

Petitions for Student Council petitions are due today in anticipation of next week's election. For all-school positions, 60 signatures are needed, with 40 for class president or vice president, and 20 for class Cultural Union representatives.

The Midway will have an election guide with candidate information for voters next week.

Speeches for the Class of 2020 will be at lunch April 25. On April 26, Class of 2021 and 2019 speeches will be during assembly period, and finally candidates for all-school offices will be held during lunch. All speeches will be in Café Lab.

Voting will be online as in previous years from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 27.

The Director of Technological Service will be selected April 20 by the current Student Council. While junior Campbell Phalen, the current DOSTS, it eligible to serve another year, he has chosen not to so that he can train the new DOSTS.

Dean of Students Ana Campos encouraged students to take the election seriously.

“People should really listen to the speeches,” Ms. Campos said. “And vote on the people that will work really hard for their grade, and work to bring together and focus on their needs and interests.”

— MAX GARFINKEL

## First all-school sing builds community

by **TALIA GOERGE-KARRON**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

From “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” to “We Shall Overcome,” students from the youngest grades through high school sang together at the first-ever All-School Sing mid-day April 5 on Jackman Field. Created by Director Charlie Abelman, the All-School Sing was the first step in a more comprehensive plan to bring together the entire Lab community, even though attendance from high school students was low.

Evoking the nostalgic lobby sings held at the lower school, the event was one step toward building community through singing.

“I think song in and of itself has a very powerful ability to help create a sense of joy and spirit,” Dr. Abelman said, “and I also think that depending on the songs that you pick that the content of the songs convey important messages for a community.”

After noting that Lab's different schools had few all school traditions together, Dr. Abelman wanted to create something akin to an old traditions that existed when the school was smaller.

“My view is that healthy schools build and foster a sense of community spirit and that happens



Charlie Abelman

**“It was mainly lower and middle school kids. I didn't see many high schoolers there, and the ones that were were really just enjoying the ambience.”**

— VIVIAN LIANG, SENIOR

through all kinds of different traditions and rituals, and we are fortunate to have a lot of traditions and rituals,” Dr. Abelman said.

According to Vivian Liang, the attendance from U-High was less than other schools, but the general idea of a singing event was well thought out.

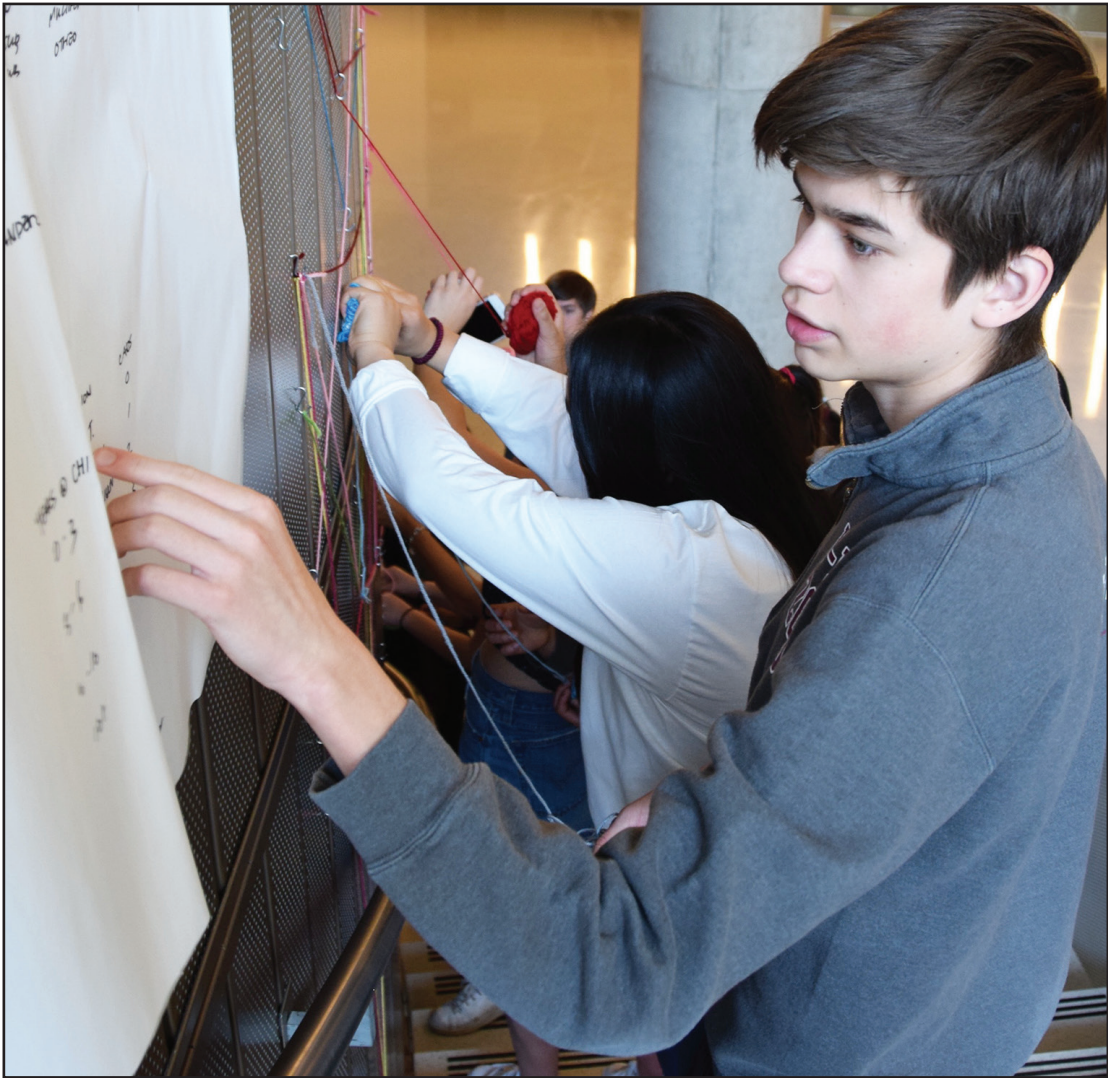
“It was a good effort,” Vivian, a senior, said. “It was mainly lower and middle school kids. I didn't see many high schoolers there, and the ones that were there were really just enjoying the ambience.”

In order to increase high schoolers' attendance and enjoyment, Dr. Abelman hopes the buddy system (which exists with some classes) expands to increase interaction at different age levels by matching all younger students with high school students.

Dr. Abelman wants to hear ideas from students for future events that could bring the whole community together.

He said, “My hope is that this event inspires others to suggest ideas for how we can come together as a community.”

### SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

**WHERE WE INTERSECT.** Sophomore Ethan Light writes down adjectives that describe him during a Social Justice Week workshop led by Elizabeth Van Ha during workshop periods April 11. Participants first wrote down their attributes. Then students hung hooks on the columns surrounding Gordon Parks Assembly Hall, with each representing an attribute. Each student then wrapped string along the hooks to represent their attributes and see where they intersected with others.



# Gun violence debate continues after marches

**by GRACE ZHANG**  
ASSISTANT EDITOR

In order to maintain the momentum of national movements, Illinois legislators are pushing for permanent action to restrict access to guns, while students are advocating to recognize the decades of gun violence on the South Side and to include more diverse voices in the discussions.

At the Lab Schools walkout March 2, students gathered on the Midway, receiving the attention from multiple news outlets. The walkout prompted discussion about how the Lab community is

approached the issue. Some students, including junior Alexis Tyn-dall, said the Lab community only recently addressed gun violence because the movement was a national trend.

“The fact that Lab has never really done anything about gun violence before especially since it’s such a problem where we live, ... wasn’t adding up to me,” Alexis said.

Alexis said community members should educate each other on police brutality and other local forms of gun violence. She also believes that students should

keep contacting local elected officials to make a difference in the Chicago area.

U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, a Democrat who represents Illinois’ 7th District which includes portions of Chicago’s south and west sides, shares Alexis’ concerns and is motivated to raise awareness about local gun violence.

For Davis, the issue of local gun violence is close to home. On Nov. 18, 2016, Rep. Davis’s grandson, Javon Wilson, then age 15, was fatally shot in a home invasion. Rep. Davis has pushed several pieces of legislation such as the Gun Vi-

olence Prevention and Safe Communities Act as well as a gun tax. The next steps, according to Rep. Davis, are to change perceptions of guns as necessary for self-protection, to improve mental health checks and to ban semiautomatic and automatic weapons.

“If we were to stop manufacturing guns in this country, I would not have a problem doing it,” Davis said. “I think that the [two] things we need to do, is strengthen our gun laws, keep teaching people the danger of guns.”

Rep. Davis encourages students and other youth to keep getting in-

volved as much as they can by voting and participating in marches to pressure policy makers.

Junior Anna Schloerb participated in Chicago’s March for Our Lives on March 24, where she held up signs and initiated several chants and sing-alongs.

“We were really uplifted by the fact that everyone was there for the same reason,” Anna said.

According to Rep. Davis, the key is what people do after media coverage of gun violence diminishes.

“We can’t let it die down,” he said. “If we let it die down, then nothing would change.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jackman turf field will pose no health threat

After months of disagreement, a committee of administrators and teachers has decided to install an alternate synthetic turf on Jackman Field. This specific type of turf poses no safety concern, according to Christopher Jones, Lab Schools associate director for finance and operations.

Mr. Jones said an alternative synthetic turf means that the recycled crumb rubber used in regular turf fields is replaced with the excess trim from athletic shoes. This type of infill comes straight from the factory, so there is no safety concern that comes along with it.

There had been debate earlier throughout the school over what kind of infill to use because some research suggests crumb rubber may be unhealthy.

Sophomore Eli Hinerfeld, one of the strongest opponents to the crumb rubber turf field, said he is satisfied with the decision.

“This decision is important to the health of Lab students and they should be proud of their choice,” Eli said.

The plan is to install the turf over the summer in time for the fall soccer season

— KATERINA LOPEZ

### Some staff background checks postponed

As of April 2, the process began for Lab employees hired since July 2007 to undergo fingerprint-based background checks to comply with state law, but a plan to fingerprint employees hired before that date has been suspended for now.

After the Faculty Association filed a grievance over a proposed mandatory fingerprint-based background check for all employees, Lab Schools Director Charlie Abelmann decided to suspend the plan to fingerprint those hired before July 1, 2007.

The current contract for faculty ends at the end of the 2018-19 academic year, so the administration and the FA will begin negotiating during the next school year, FA President Jim Catlett said. If the administration still intends to implement the fingerprint-based background check for all faculty and staff, it would be negotiated then.

The updated security policy, initially communicated to the faculty and staff by Dr. Abelmann, was intended to innovate the Lab School’s security policy and to utilize best practice, Dr. Abelmann said. Although, after facing criticism from the FA on behalf of the Lab faculty, the administration’s plan will not be immediately implemented.

Current practice is that before being hired all employees must undergo a criminal background check, which includes a check of the sex offender database.

—MICHAEL RUBIN

### Swastika scratched in middle school restroom

On April 6, students reported a swastika scratched into a middle school bathroom stall. Dean of Students Ana Campos notified the students, teachers and parents of the graffiti via Schoology and email. In her message, she said that the act “is in direct contrast to our core values of exhibiting kindness and honoring diversity, and our commitment to treating everyone with dignity and respect.”

Any student who sees graffiti should report it to an administrator.

— OLIVIA CHENG

### Model UN places first at Northwestern

Scoring particularly well in the individual awards, the Model UN team members also received Best Large Delegation honors at Northwestern University, their final con-

LABAPALOOZA



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ABIGAIL THINAKARAN

**PROMOTING PIPPIN.** Senior Katya Edwards, front, and sophomores Caroline Taylor and Joanna Rose dance a preview of spring musical “Pippin” during Labapalooza, an alternative to Spring Fling, April 14.

ference of the year, last weekend.

“We were really excited to see how people did, especially the freshmen and sophomores,” Jamal Nimer, a junior board member, said, “and we are really excited to see what they will be able to do next year.”

— ELLA BEISER

### Science team places second at Envirothon

The varsity science team placed second and the junior varsity team placed fourth at Envirothon April 11 at the Danada House in Wheaton. Envirothon is a competition centered around environmental

science and conservation, which includes five topics.

— ABBY SLIMMON

**Gala brings in record \$3.3 million for aid**

Attendees at the Connections gala event March 3 raised more than \$3.3 million — a record — which will be put toward financial aid and the athletics department. Since the \$2.5 million needed for Jackman Field was reached prior to the gala, the funds raised went towards the school’s financial aid program, according to the Connection 2018 website.

— NIKHIL PATEL

## Food service to improve with changes

**by SONNY LEE**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

Changes made to the Aramark’s food service operations in the past few weeks will speed the lunch lines but limit the hours students may be able to visit the coffee shop.

Among the changes are the appointment of new Food Service Director Amanda Molina and the use of the coffee shop staff in the cafeteria between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Six cafeteria employees left at the end of winter quarter. Chef Manager Efen Sosa said they had found new jobs.

In addition to improving communication with the cafeteria staff, Ms. Molina said her job is to watch the process and note any ways to provide better, more efficient service.

“I’m going to start seeing the glitches and fixing them,” Ms. Molina said.

Mr. Sosa explained the Judd coffee shop is closed during the lunch hours so extra staff can provide support in the cafeteria and help make the lines quicker during the lunch time rush.

Students who have visited the cafeteria during slower hours, have come to registers with no staff member available, meaning students possibly could leave the area without paying.

Ms. Molina explained that though the staff is often in the back restocking, there is should be someone attending the front. She encouraged students to find someone in the cafeteria office if no cashier is present.

Ms. Molina said students should soon see a difference in the food service culture.

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# Intersection

## Hyde Park's underpass murals spark conversations, community pride as art meets neighborhood history



MIDWAY PHOTOS BY TERESA XIE

**WRITINGS ON THE WALL.** Under the 57th Street underpass, “The Spirit of Hyde Park” (above), was painted in 1973 by muralist Astrid Fuller. Funded by the University of Chicago, Fuller worked with Chicago artist Bernard Williams in 2010 on the restoration and renewal of the mural. The mural depicts the intricacies of Hyde Park’s history: racism, the fight for civil rights, the unrest of urban renewal, poverty. Depicted under the same underpass, Fuller’s “Pioneer Social Workers” (right) was painted in 1977 and restored with help from the university in 2011 by Damon Reed and Max Sansing. The mural commemorates the work of Chicago’s Jane Addams, who is considered the mother of activism and social work.



# Celebrities should use social platform for activism

by **SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN**  
NEWS EDITOR

Normally a rainbow of colored gowns, the red carpet at the 2018 Golden Globes was powerfully uniform this year. Hundreds of celebrities wore black to the ceremony to stand with sexual assault survivors and show their support for the #MeToo and Time’s Up movements.

“We feel emboldened in this moment to stand together in a thick black line dividing then from now,” Meryl Streep said in an interview with Ryan Seacrest.

When it comes to activism, celebrities have the most potential to

### Analysis

be influential.

With their large following, financial resources and connections, celebrities can provide the support for citizens to enable change.

Having large social media platforms in addition to financial resources and power in the industry sets celebrities apart from other philanthropists, such as Bill and Melinda Gates.

Celebrities have the largest potential to effect change when their philanthropy goes beyond a faceless donation. For example, Nicki

Minaj privately donated millions of dollars to children’s education. However, she would have had a much larger impact if she had spoken out more publicly about the importance of education. Ms. Minaj could have shown young people, especially young girls, that they can both love school and be bold and feminine like her.

In contrast, Reese Witherspoon spoke out about the #MeToo movement and her own experiences with sexual assault publicly. She also donated large sums of money to help support assault survivors and utilized her connections to get lawyers for victims of

sexual assault in developing countries. As a result, Ms. Witherspoon is now seen as one of the many faces of the #MeToo movement.

Celebrities can inspire peoples’ support by making a cause more accessible.

When celebrities speak out about something they believe in, it gives a face to the cause they are passionate about. Many people see celebrities as role models and will support whatever their idol advocates.

By expressing their concerns about an issue, celebrities are giving people with a story to tell a large platform through which they

can be heard. The attention and financial resources that celebrities bring to an issue can help citizens jumpstart a social or political movement.

Celebrities are a powerful tool for citizen activism. With the #MeToo movement, celebrities’ activism has finally given the chance for the millions of sexual assault survivors to begin to be heard. Now, celebrities are speaking out about more issues such as gun violence.

Hopefully, the recent wave of activism from Hollywood will continue its momentum and spread to other issues.

# Dragon Lights festival exhibits Chinese culture, artistry

by **EMMA TRONE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The soaring sounds of traditional flute and guqin, a seven-stringed instrument, float over the crowds, who stroll delightedly through intricate displays of light. Visitors weave through heart-shaped arches, illuminated from within, or stand before a majestic dragon that stands two stories high, as the city skyline glitters in the background and cars rush by on Lake Shore Drive.

The Dragon Lights at Soldier Field is a nightly celebration of Chinese culture, which runs through May 6. While the glowing displays of Chinese folktales and cultural symbols are the main draw, the festival al-

so stages traditional Chinese performance arts and live handicraft demonstrations such as knotting and inner-bottle painting.

The festival opens for visitors daily at 5:30 p.m. and closes at 10 p.m. on weeknights and 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets are available both at the door and online at dragonlightschicago.com, and cost \$20 for adults, and \$13 for children ages 4 to 14.

The 39 lantern displays that provide the “lights” at the festival were handcrafted and built by artisans, who traveled to Soldier Field from China to assemble the intricate scenes. Beyond the strikingly prominent twin dragons, which are centrally located and tower above visitors and the other

arrangements, other displays depict cultural figures such as the moon goddess Chang-e, China’s first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di, with the famed terracotta warriors and actors from the Peking opera.

With the displays, one feels a sense of old and new aesthetics converging; while the subject matter depicted has ancient roots, the medium of lantern-making feels renewed with the energy of modern Asia’s technological advancements. With the twinkling lights from downtown Chicago as a backdrop, there’s no better place to explore Eastern culture, both old and new, right in your backyard. Catch this colorful celebration of Chinese culture before it closes.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMMA TRONE

**LIGHT UP THE NIGHT.** The Dragon Lights festival illuminates Soldier Field with its celebration of Chinese culture.

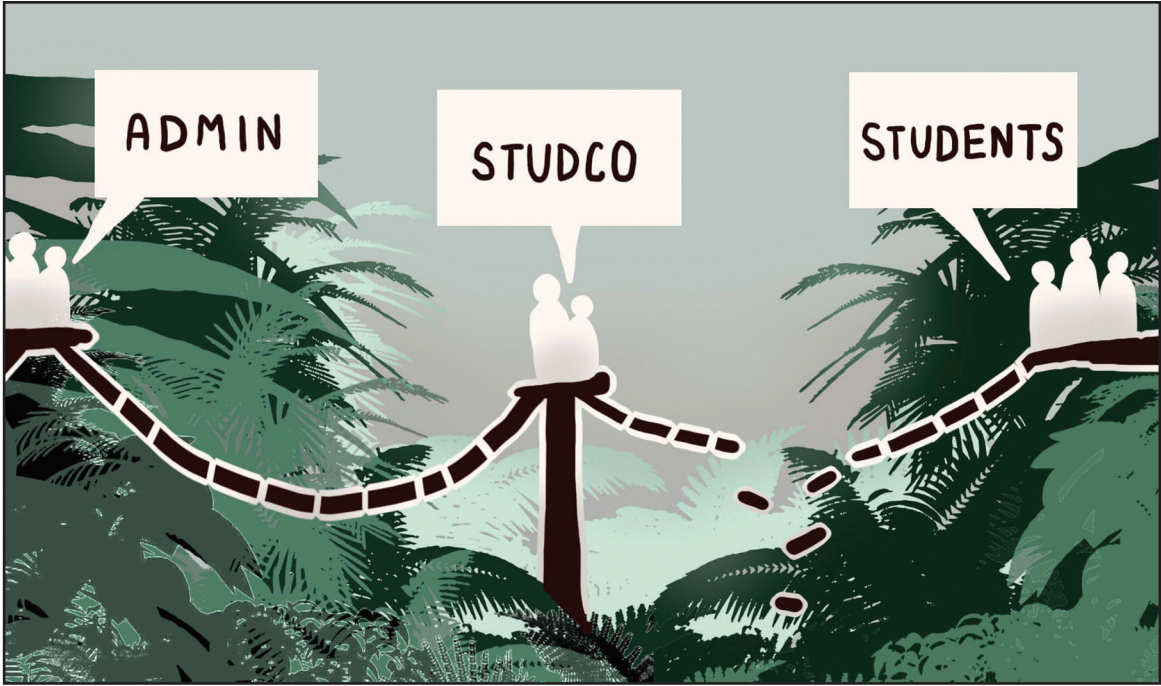


# Student Council must prioritize communication

As the Midway sees it ...

Student Council and Cultural Union have become ingrained into the school's culture. There is an illusion that the two groups are the connection between students and administration. But this isn't a reality. To many, it feels like StudCo and CU only plan the dances. While members of the two groups dispute this internally, students' inability to fully understand the need for a Student Council is the root of why some students believe the groups are irrelevant. This lack of understanding further fuels students' inability to take the group seriously.

The roles of StudCo and CU haven't been fully explained to the student body. The distinctions are unclear between the responsibilities of a CU member and other elected students. It's hard to understand that these groups do anything beyond planning social events when their roles aren't clearly communicated to the student body. Thus, StudCo and CU have to redefine their responsibilities. Stud-



ARTWORK BY AMBER HUO

Co should be making a more valiant effort in sharing what they do on a regular basis with the student body.

It appears both groups spend too much of their time planning social events rather than working on oth-

er issues required of them. For example, StudCo could start conversations about diversity and social awareness, or they could host community service events. From these conversations, StudCo can learn more about student issues.

Another solution to this issue could be to disband CU completely, with the exception of one person elected by students who would lead a committee to plan dances, just like Prom Committee does. The committee could be made

up of students who want to help plan the dances and other high school-wide events. This would allow elected leaders to focus their time on other relevant student issues. At a minimum, there needs to be a clear division between the two groups.

While there has been a recent attempt at transparency by publishing a quarterly report of what the grade-level leaders accomplished last quarter, there need to be more interactions between these leaders and their peers. The elected students currently seem disconnected from the needs of their peers, which is rooted in students not understanding the full potential of what StudCo and CU could do for students.

Whoever is elected next week should actively reach out to people in their grades and have conversations about their concerns. This will create a greater sense of community, and the student body will know their elected officials are actively working to improve the school.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Midway's Editorial Board.

# Swastika graffiti exposes lack of religious education

by MICHAEL RUBIN  
MANAGING EDITOR



As a fifth grader, I remember walking into a bathroom stall, noticing immediately a large swastika drawn in Sharpie on the maroon wall. Earlier this year, the word "Jew" was written on the wall outside the journalism classroom. Just two weeks ago, another swastika was found in a bathroom stall in the middle school.

Although I can't attribute these acts to miseducation by our school, I can say that we need to be doing a better job.

I am an observant Jew. I observe Shabbat, I attend synagogue and I am involved in the Jewish commu-

***"For students observing any religion, there is a tension in the student body whenever the topic of religion comes up in conversation. This lack of education about religion at Lab has contributed to a lack of exposure to religion firsthand and discomfort or intolerance during conversations about religion."***

nity across Chicago. My Judaism helps guide the decisions I make, the food I eat and the questions I ask. I feel proud to be Jewish and to be surrounded by Jewish family members, but I have never felt that

way at school.

At the Lab Schools, the student body is comprised of people from nearly every walk of life. Whether it is religious or racial, Lab is truly a melting pot of culture and presents the opportunity for students to gain true insight into the lives of people who are fundamentally different from one another. But for whatever reason, instead of discussing and learning about Lab students' identities, they often go ignored.

After years of facing questions about why I miss school every year to go to synagogue during fall quarter, why I never buy a Christmas tree and what foods I am allowed to eat, I have realized there is a lack of education in the required Lab curriculum concerning different religious identities and practices.

I have been a student at Lab for 14 years, and the only memorable experiences I have had learning about different religions was in Early World History class as a freshman and at the now-diminished Rites of May festival.

Although these attempts at education on religion may be sufficient for some, I believe it is inherent in any community to learn about how different identities shape the personalities and values of its members. Not only do we need more education, we need more acceptance and tolerance of those who are different from ourselves.

For students observing any religion, there is a tension in the student body whenever the topic of religion comes up in conversation. This lack of education about religion at Lab has contributed to

a lack of exposure to religion firsthand and discomfort or intolerance during conversations about religion. This creates an unnecessary limitation for relationships at Lab that can be easily avoided through open dialogue and platforms to discuss and learn about each others' religions.

We need to expose our students to this information and how it plays a role in religious students lives at Lab because it will create a more accepting, informed and cultured environment.

In order to serve as a truly diverse and enriched community, we need to invest in learning about those who are different from ourselves.

That way, maybe we can put a stop to anti-Semitic, racist and bigoted comments, actions and graffiti.

# Phones: distracting, disrespectful, don't belong in class

by GRACE ZHANG  
ASSISTANT EDITOR



In a classroom, phones are hidden behind books, on laps and under desks. The room is silent; students are inattentive. Looking around the room, a student hears the teacher rambling on, the occasional side conversations and phone alerts, and sees students looking down at bright screens.

Smartphones greatly weaken students' ability to focus in class, and both students and teachers should take precautions to make sure students aren't taking them out during class.

Smartphones are certainly useful in the world today. It seems impossible to get by without one, since you can easily contact anyone you need to contact, get directions anywhere and access the internet. However, while cellphones are already integrated into our lives, they have no use inside the classroom.

When smartphones are present or visible in the classroom, they limit the learning environment. They tempt students to check their phones and not listen, disrespecting their teachers.

Furthermore, the ion batteries in smartphones and other rechargeable devices emit radiations that many studies have proved harmful, possibly causing tumors, according to the American Cancer

Society.

I usually don't bring my phone to school, and haven't this year and most of last. I own an iPhone 7 and my mother constantly worries about my concentration and the effects of the radiation on me.

On days when I do have it, I find myself distracted. I am more tempted to check my phone. Not surprisingly, I don't feel distracted when I don't have my phone with me, and I can better focus on the lesson.

Everyone — students and teachers — can take small steps to make sure that phones aren't out during class. These aren't drastic steps or actions. In some of my classes, the teacher explicitly states at the beginning of the year that they do not allow phones out, and if they

***"On days when I do have [my phone], I find myself distracted. I am more tempted to check my phone. Not surprisingly, I don't feel distracted when I don't have my phone with me, and I can better focus on the lesson. Everyone — students and teachers — can take small steps to make sure that phones aren't out during class."***

see one or hear one they will hold on to them until the end of class, sometimes even reporting it to Dean of Students Ana Campos.

This encourages students to keep their phones on silent and in their backpacks or lockers.

Another effective method is to just be understanding the risks of using smartphones in class. In my case, the temptation to check my phone diminishes over time and I have an easier time understanding the lessons. It takes some stress away from having to relearn material while completing homework and studying for tests.

It helps me be active and ask questions in class, and I definitely think it's worth it. I think others would benefit from this method as well.

By avoiding my phone I ultimately learn more, get more out of a lesson, and get an education that is worth the time and tuition.

## U-HIGH MIDWAY

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**EDITORIAL POLICY:**  
In a time when the press is criticized, the U-High Midway seeks to inform, educate and serve the community of University High School. The Midway is created by students, for students.

**CORRECTION**  
**ISSUE 7, MARCH 8, 2018:**  
• Page B3: The caption of top-right photo was incorrect. The caption should read, "Laughing on a rooftop in Lake View, Henry Sowerby and Celia Garb spend time together in January."



# PETITE POWER PLAYER

Senior soccer star learns to strategically use her size



MIDWAY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAM FLEMING

**SOCCER STAR.** Captain Anna Kenig-Ziesler dribbles a ball down Jackman Field during practice. In her fourth year as a varsity girls soccer player, Anna has high hopes for a strong showing at state, with the chance to win U-High’s first state title.

**by SAM FLEMING**  
CHICAGO LIFE EDITOR

Anna Kenig-Ziesler holds back, studying the field. While everyone else frantically chases the ball, she seems laser focused on something else. She jogs slowly around mid-field still focused on that spot, then breaks into a full sprint just in time to intercept the ball with no defenders around and make a run up the field.

Anna, who stands at 5'0", may look tiny compared to most other girls on the field, but she has found a way to tailor her game to fit her needs. Next year she will be on the roster for the University of Chicago Maroons women's soccer team, which last year finished second nationally, and she hopes to continue her unconventional and strategic style of play.

"A lot of people like to do the funner stuff, but Anna realizes she needs to do the stuff that's not as fun also," her coach, Bannon Stroud, said. "Next year she'll be playing in, far and away, the most challenging Division III conference, but I think it's a challenge she'll be well equipped to take on."

Anna started playing soccer at age 5 and immediately found her passion.

"It's weird because I never really had one of those moments where I

came close to quitting the game," she said. "I've always just loved the game and been motivated by that."

Even though she has always been passionate about the sport, she didn't start thinking about playing college soccer until her freshman year of high school when she switched to an elite travel team in the city.

"When I was younger I didn't know anything about college sports because neither of my parents grew up in America," she said. "As I got older, playing in college became more of a focus, but I have always been motivated by my love for the sport. I knew I wanted to play in college so I only looked at schools I thought I could play at, and UChicago seemed like the best choice."

As Anna got more serious about soccer, she became more aware of how her smaller stature affected her game. Everyone around her told her how small she was and how that would affect her ability to play at a higher level, but that never deterred Anna.

"It's funny because everyone always says I'm so small, but I don't feel small," she said. "My size definitely makes some things harder, but I barely think about it anymore. It just means that tactically I have to understand the game bet-

*"It's funny because everyone always says I'm so small, but I don't feel small. My size definitely makes some things harder, but I barely think about it anymore."*  
— ANNA KENIG-ZIESLER,  
GIRLS SOCCER TEAM CAPTAIN

ter and figure out the best way to get to the ball first."

Now, rather than having her sights set on the future, Anna has all of her focus on the present. She has played varsity all four years of high school and looks forward to the current season more than anything, where she is a captain for the second time.

"Anna isn't only a great player," junior teammate Grace Watson said. "She really helps bring us together. Like, she always sends us motivational quotes before games. She is always there trying to motivate us."

Anna looks to lead the team to the school's first state title this year.

"We have a really good high school team this year, probably the most talented team we have had in my four years. Once we put the pieces together, I think we should have a really good shot at winning state."

## Despite complaints, head guards now in use



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

**HEADS-UP.** Senior varsity soccer player Isabella Light wears the mandatory concussion head guard at a practice.

**by ABBY SLIMMON**  
MIDWAY REPORTER

To minimize the severity of possible concussions, the girls soccer players have been wearing protective head guards while on the field in both practice and games after being fitted on the first day of practice Feb. 26. And the complaints began almost immediately.

One of the first complaints the girls had was the discomfort of the guards. Storelli Sports, the brand that Principal Stephanie Weber and the Athletic Director David Ribbens chose, sells head guards that come in increments of a quarter of an inch. Some players said their heads do not perfectly fit in any of the sizes offered, resulting in pounding headaches or the guards slipping off in the middle of games.

"A lot of the girls have really bad headaches while wearing them and after taking them off for hours after practice and games," varsity player Grace Watson, a junior,

said. "This is something that worried us especially towards the end of the season when it gets really warm, having those bad headaches while constantly running in the heat could lead to girls passing out."

Varsity captain Elizabeth Van Ha mentioned that during their first game, two of the players' headbands fell off because the sizing was not perfect.

"The point is to help protect our heads but it seems to be more of a detriment and distraction while playing," Elizabeth, a senior, said.

Mr. Ribbens mentioned that he is aware the sizing Storelli Sports provides is not perfect so they are looking into getting head guards with an adjustable, velcro strap for the 2018-19 boys and girls soccer seasons.

Another issue the team has with the gear is that heading the ball is much different than it was previously. Earlier in the season, the players spent one of their practic-

es learning how to head the ball in a new way.

"Because the heading is different, I get really confused with it on. I head in the wrong place so in the game I headed one with my eye and one on the top of my head in order to avoid the band," Elizabeth said.

The boys soccer players were sized for gear in the middle of the fall season, but the order did not arrive until a week before the play-offs, so it was agreed that the boys would not wear them. The Athletic Department plans to require the boys team to wear head guards from the beginning of the fall season.

Elizabeth, fellow varsity captains Tia Polite and Anna Kenig-Ziesler as well as manager Katie Stolze met with Ms. Weber before spring break to discuss their concerns about the head guards, but the captains said they have yet to hear any decision change from Ms. Weber.

**Teams train, bond on spring break trip**

Players on the girls soccer, baseball and track and field teams — 42 athletes in all — traveled to Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando over spring break, from March 14 to March 20. They trained and competed in or near the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex.

"There's huge value for all the teams for training, and weather conditions are really, really nice, obviously, so they're able to get a week's worth of training in," Athletic Director David Ribbens said.

Greta List, a freshman on the girls soccer team, went on the trip to form new relationships with the upperclassmen on the team.

"There were only 11 of us who went, but I think we got pretty close," Greta said.

John McKee, a senior baseball player, said the trip helped his team build chemistry.

"My favorite moment of the trip is the last game where we got a win against a really good team," John said. "I think it showed that we made a lot of progress over the course of the trip."

— OLIVIA CHENG

## TEAM RESULTS

*U-High scores are listed first.*

**Baseball, Varsity**

**Notable:** At a game at the Florida tournament, junior Brandon Latherow hit a home run and two doubles in his four base appearances. During the same game, Brandon made a diving catch followed by a 90 mph throw to be able to get the runner near home plate out.

Northridge	April 12	7-6
Parker	April 5	6-3
Pritzker	March 27	17-2
Checotah	March 20	3-2
Northside (AZ)	March 19	0-10
SSSAS	March 18	10-13
SSSAS	March 17	4-15
Lewisberg	March 16	4-9
TMI Episcopal	March 16	4-6
Rosehill Christian	March 15	5-15

**Baseball, JV**

Northridge	April 12	5-1
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**Girls Soccer, Varsity**

**Notable:** Although the team has had several games canceled due to inclement weather, they have already won a tournament game when they played

on March 27.		
Trinity	April 12	3-0
Latin	April 3	1-4
Walter Payton	March 28	0-1
Illiana Christian	March 27	3-2
Willows	March 26	1-1

**Girls Soccer, JV**

**Notable:** Despite the fact that many of their games have been cancelled due to weather, the team won their first game 7-0, a start to the season their coach Ross LaBaeu called "excellent."

Trinity	April 12	6-0
Willows	March 26	7-0

**Boys Tennis, Varsity**

**Notable:** The team found a new level of group bonding when they went to an Escape Room in downtown Chicago, allowing them to work together in a new form of challenge.

Hornet Quad	April 7	1st
Whitney Young	April 4	5-0

— COMPILED BY IVÁN BECK  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NEENA DHANOA



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAHAR SIDDIQUI

**DIVING IN.** Ethan Tyler lunges to catch a ball during practice. Players spent a week of spring break in Florida, where they played teams from across the country.





MIDWAY PHOTO BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON

Roman. Neapolitan. And ... Detroit? With a recent influx of new pizza restaurants, the scene in Chicago, a city that values its pizza, has grown to include a variety of different restaurants offering more than just deep dish.

— TALIA GOERGE-KARRON, AND AMANDA CASSEL



**Bonci • 161 N. Sangamon St.**

Opened in 2017, Bonci Pizza is the literal “new kid on the block.” The only other location of Bonci Pizza is in Rome, Italy. They sell their pizza slices by weighing them based on which toppings are on the pizza. Bonci Pizza serves Roman pizza or *pizza al taglio*, which translates to “pizza for cutting.” Pieces are cut from large pans with scissors. Bonci’s cuttable Roman-style pizza is unique to Chicago. The crust is somewhat akin to a focaccia bread with a chewier center. The restaurant offers a range of toppings, from ricotta and zucchini to traditional sausage and tomato sauce. Other unique toppings include potato and goat cheese, different colored peppers, and a mushroom sauce. Roman pizza is not commonly found in Chicago, nor is the pizza being cut and weighed. With only about 15 stools, this is not a place to linger during the night, as it gets very busy. The slices typically cost between \$5-7 and two is enough for a meal, and they do not accept cash.



**Eataly • 43 E. Ohio St.**

Opened in 2013, Eataly Chicago is owned in part by celebrity chef Mario Batali. The Eataly restaurant area includes full-service and stations to buy food such as meat, cheese and pasta. Eataly has five locations in the United States and several throughout Europe and Asia. Eataly primarily serves Neapolitan-style pizza, a style that comes from the city of Naples, Italy, and is made of thin-crust dough, tomato sauce, mozzarella and olive oil. With the rich decor and classic pizza, Eataly charges \$15 for a simple pie of about 1.5-2 servings. The crust has a light char, but the dough stays chewy despite the burnt edges. The pizzas range from very simple, with just fresh mozzarella balls and tomato sauce, to toppings like arugula and prosciutto. Airy and bright, the restaurants are open to the rest of the store. The ambience is light and modern, highlighted with white marble and furnishings throughout the grocery and restaurant. Seating includes tables and bar stools.



**Union Squared • 125 S. Clark St.**

With two locations, this Detroit-style pizza place serves up brick pizza both in Chicago and Evanston. Located inside Revival Food Hall, which opened in 2016, Union Squared is surrounded by other small vendors, each with its own seating area and common tables. Detroit-style pizza has a rectangular thick crust. Thicker than a Chicago-style, it is also very crispy on the bottom. Union Squared’s pizza, thick and chewy, has a lot of cheese, which means grease visible on the plate and top layer of the pizza. The thick coating of cheese gives the pizza a very heavy feel, but it satisfies in the moment and is filling. The restaurant offers toppings ranging from four-cheese to goat cheese with pesto. Bustling with the noise of the other restaurants and people, the food hall is perfect for a quick snack but not to have a lengthy meal or conversation. The pizzas cost from \$23-26 for a pie that feeds three to four people and has eight slices. Half orders with four slices are also available.

# Tech helper Justin Clark breaks grouchy stereotype

**by DHEVEN UNNI**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lots of people say they spent their day “putting out fires,” but for Justin Clark that’s a true statement. Dealing with exploding laptops — which happened last month — may not be in the job description, but Mr. Clark greets students with a warm smile regardless of their problem.

Down in the basement, Mr. Clark works in Information Systems troubleshooting and training people in the programs that show how to use Lab’s technological resources. The child of two educators, Mr. Clark knew he wanted to combine his love for computers with education but didn’t know how until he got to Lab.

“I really wanted to use my powers for good, for education,” Mr. Clark said. “I do a lot of quick troubleshooting because I’ve seen a lot of things.”

Outside of his job, he is an avid Chicago Cubs fan, even dressing from head to toe in Cubs gear for the first game of the season. After working at the Apple Store, Mr. Clark worked as the IT manager for the satirical publication The Onion. While working at Lab, Mr. Clark is also pursuing a master’s degree in adult education with a focus on learning technologies through DePaul University.

Mr. Clark uses this knowledge to

help teachers use the technology installed in their classrooms and to show students how to use their resources.

“I also work with teachers to create tutorials for them like on the printers, we work to design things so people understand technology,” Mr. Clark said. “I really like computers — I’ve been playing around with them since I was like 11 — and I really like teaching and education. It’s a great melding of those. I get to help people learn about this stuff while working with state-of-the-art-technologies.”

The relationship with the people he’s helping is one of the largest aspects of IT, according to Mr. Clark. “Being able to talk through someone’s problem and not make them feel like an idiot, not make them feel scared, not make them feel anxious is a huge asset,” Mr. Clark said. “A lot of IT guys are seen as being reserved, mean, grouchy, hating people because they use technology wrong, and I want to break that stereotype. A lot of the skills in IT is aligning with customer experiences and understanding how they feel. If I can tell people how to solve their problem without wanting to throw their laptop in a river, it’s really powerful. At Apple we used to say, you’re repairing the relationship with the customer first, then the computer.”

According to Malti Bahroos, a

technical support specialist with IS who works closely with Mr. Clark daily, that orientation towards both students and his fellow workers is exactly what makes him special.

“He is brilliant, he is knowledgeable, he is fantastic and he’s very approachable,” Ms. Bahroos said. “That approachability and kindness makes him very easy to work with. He explains things at a level where everyone can understand it, so no one feels inferior.”

Mr. Clark hopes to continue his work helping people, which he currently does with his wife at homeless shelters including Inspiration Kitchen, teaching residents how to use email or a printer. This gives them the skills that they need to be able to hold a job.

“I would love to create and design ways for people to use technology,” Mr. Clark said. “I want to give back with this knowledge in some way. Maybe it’s working in senior citizen homes and showing them how to use technology, because I feel like they’re a forgotten part of this society. They think they don’t like it, but they really need it.”

While Mr. Clark may see giving back as a goal for the future, the students with exploding laptops and crashing software receive all the help they need from him, with the consistently friendly manner that makes him fun to work with.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMERSON WRIGHT

**WORKING HARD.** Justin Clark, a member of the Information Systems staff who focuses on troubleshooting and training, works at his dual monitor setup in the basement of Judd Hall.



# Trapped in an ideological box

Some students say there’s no room to explore conservative views at Lab

by JACOB POSNER  
FEATURES EDITOR

As students file into a classroom during lunch, the clear liberal majority congregates on one side and conservatives on the other.

“It was the first conservative club meeting, and we were talking about transgender people in the military. That was when I could just feel people’s eyes burrowing into the back of my head as I stayed completely in the middle and just argued the conservative case for disallowing transgender people in the military,” senior John Grissom, who agrees with some conservative views, said.

Despite classifying himself as a “loudmouth,” John said he felt a little uncomfortable continuing to express this opposing point of view.

Even the most outspoken students are uncomfortable expressing divergent views. Lab’s mission statement says the school ignites curiosity, values exhibiting kindness, and honors diversity, yet some students don’t feel comfortable sharing their beliefs.

Kevin Van Eron, a high school learning coordinator, said conservatives have come to him, feeling they are outsiders because of their political views.

“I do know that there are small groups of people who feel that, politically, they are so far outside that they couldn’t stay in our school,” he said. “In a couple of instances, people have transferred out of our school.”

Ben Meyer, a freshman who agrees with some conservative views, said other conservatives have come to him saying they are afraid to voice their opinions.

“There are many more conservatives at Lab than one may think,” he said. “I’ve had plenty of people come up to me and say, ‘I’m scared to say what I think, I’m just gonna keep my mouth shut, my teachers are pushing their agenda up-

on me.’”

Ben said students frequently bring up conservative arguments he has made in the past as a way of socially discrediting him. They blur the line between emotion and logical argument — often making him too uncomfortable to continue a discussion.

“I don’t think the student body of Lab does a very good job at approaching conversations with intent of actually changing one’s opinions or holding open discourse rather than being malicious,” Ben said.

John said he thinks there are many others afraid to reveal they agree with some conservative views. He was in a group chat when the topic of school shootings came up, and John suggested that employing veterans as guards might work — given their experience in high-stress situations and experience with firearms. He said everyone in the group chat shut him down, but he said afterward some of the students in the conversation privately told him they agreed.

According to John, there are some beliefs that are unacceptable, even unutterable, in the U-High community.

He said, “There are some students at Lab who are pro-life, and that’s one view where people would jog the table: like, ‘How dare you believe in that?’”

In many cases he said they don’t discuss it, just shut it down.

John said he is most comfortable expressing his views in Economics class, partially because politics are relevant to the class, and partially because Christopher Janus, his teacher, works to have all views heard. If one person interrupts another, John said Mr. Janus will tell them to be quiet, to let the other person speak. He creates an environment where all views can be heard, as opposed to other teachers, who might just let the



MIDWAY ILLUSTRATION BY AMBER HUO

***“There are many more conservatives at Lab than one may think. I’ve had plenty of people come up to me and say, ‘I’m scared to say what I think, I’m just gonna keep my mouth shut, my teachers are pushing their agenda upon me.’”***

— BEN MEYER, FRESHMAN

students debate, John said, and only step in if someone says something out of line.

Mr. Janus said he will disagree with a student during ideological discussions, not just remain neutral.

“But I think the corollary to that

is if they disagree with my philosophy that I should create an atmosphere where they feel comfortable saying ‘I think you’re wrong,’” Mr. Janus said. “For me, the importance is a two-way street. They are not afraid of me or afraid to express their view — not afraid that if they do they will somehow get a lower grade or something like that.”

In Economics class, John said he finds himself changing his mind, questioning his political beliefs as a result of well-moderated discussion. But Ben said he has never found himself questioning his views after conversations with his more liberal peers.

In contrast, Isha Singh, a liberal junior, said she thinks U-High students treat conversations about ideology respectfully. She finds the

environment accepting, and said she feels buoyed by the liberal majority, comfortable enough to take action.

But Mr. Van Eron said this comfort might not be intellectually stimulating.

“The way that we learn the best is if we actually have the things we believe challenged, and we discover the ways in which we are right and ways in which we are wrong.”

He said he thinks of ideology — and just ideas in general — in terms of square watermelons. Because they are easier to stack, farmers in Japan grow watermelons into squares. Naturally, a watermelon can grow to be any number of oval or oblong variations, but, if boxed in, will grow into that box and no further.

## Day in, day out, junior gives back

by SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN  
NEWS EDITOR

On a cold snowy day, Alex Pietraszek holds the door for swarms of students coming in to the high school after gym class. The junior greets each and every student as they walk past him. The cold makes his teeth chatter, but he can’t help but smile when he sees the grateful expressions of his peers. Their smiles remind him of his own joy when Quinn Davis, a junior who is now his best friend, greeted him for the first time in fifth grade.

Alex stays humble and focused by concentrating on giving back to others through random acts of kindness such as holding the door for people or greeting his classmates in the hallway. Inspired to give back, Alex said he feels it is his job to spread the kindness that God, his friend Quinn, and his parents have shown him.

He wasn’t always friendly and outgoing. Alex said he used to be shy when he attended The Frances Xavier Warde School, a Catholic elementary school in downtown Chicago. He said his trouble focusing led him to have hard time relating to others. He only truly came out of his shell when he began attending middle school at Lab.

Alex still remembers how happy he was when Quinn came and said hello to him.

“Quinn’s friendliness helped me feel accepted and make new friends,” Alex said. “That experience taught me the value of everyday interactions such as saying hello or holding the door.”

Quinn remembers that first meeting just as well as Alex does.

“I remember going up to him because he seemed like a cool kid, but not many other people were approaching him,” Quinn said. “We became friends really fast. He is one of the most caring people I know. When I broke my leg, Alex was the one who always walked me to class and helped me carry my stuff, while my other close friends were more absorbed with themselves.”

Alex said his parents’ relationship is another source of inspiration for his desire to give back. According to Alex, his parents’ relationship models selflessness and kindness. He said he feels lucky to come home to such a loving home everyday.

Alex, who is Catholic, said his faith plays a key role in his desire to spread kindness.

“I read the Bible every day,” Alex said. “I know that God is watching over us, and that he does make sure that bad things don’t happen, but God can’t be everywhere at once. My faith in him is what makes me strong, but I know it’s up to me to spread kindness.”

Alex wants to pursue a career in data management because it will provide him with many opportunities to help a good cause, allowing him to keep his faith and values as a focus.

“You can write computer programs to help kids in poor countries get an online education,” Alex said. “You can also analyze statistics to identify problems, or you could make grids for farming. There are so many opportunities to give back in computer science.”

Currently, Alex volunteers every week at the World Computer Exchange, a nonprofit organization that sends computers to children in developing countries to help them get an education. Alex been volunteering at the organization since last year, mainly checking and repairing computers but also writing programs.

He said, “I love what WCE does because I think children’s education is one of the most important causes out there.”

Alex said that no matter what path he will go down, he would always hold firm to his belief that it is his job to spread the kindness that God, his friends and his family have shown him. If you run into someone 20 years from now holding the door patiently for streams of people at Starbucks, take a closer look. It just might be Alex from high school.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY JANIE INGRASSIA

**BRIGHTENING DAYS.** Holding the door and smiling, junior Alexander Pietraszek welcomes classmates Otto Brown and Derek De Jong as they enter the high school lobby one morning.



# All that *Chicago* jazz

**by PRIYANKA SHRIJAY**  
OPINION EDITOR

The sound of a snare drum rattles through the room. An E flat chord is struck and the crowd hushes. Hands grace the ivory keys of a piano with a high, lilting arpeggio. When listening to Ahmad Jamal's "Moonlight in Vermont," a classic Chicago jazz piece, one is immediately drawn into the room.

This is the epitome of Chicago's jazz culture: intimate and emotional.

Arriving from New Orleans in the 1920s, jazz became an integral part of Chicago culture as the city grew and prospered.

"I think as a result of that, the identity of the style of a jazz had a very New Orleans flavor to it," U-High jazz instructor Francisco Dean said. "Some of the big pioneers were 'Jelly Roll' Morton, Sidney Bechet, Louis Armstrong. Those are musicians that are very well known for being in the heart of New Orleans but really flourished in Chicago."

In jazz clubs, musicians could develop their music while making a living. That, in addition to the nightlife atmosphere, is why jazz culture in Chicago was largely concentrated in clubs. In classic jazz clubs, including the Green Mill Cocktail Lounge in Uptown or Jazz Showcase in Printer's Row, one can become immersed in the jazz music Chicago is famous for.

Walking into a jazz club in Chicago today, attendees would feel an immediate sense of intimacy. Low lighting and small tables, some right up close to the few musicians on the floor.

Mr. Dean described the way he experiences jazz clubs.

"I go into the club deciding where I want to sit because of the experience I want to get that night. If it's a group I'm hearing for the first time, maybe I want to sit further back so that I can take in all of it," he said. "If it's a musician that I know really well that I'm a huge fan of, I kind of want to get up close because for me it's being able to see a whole other dimension of



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

**JAZZ NIGHT OUT.** Members of the Alfredo Rodriguez band deliver a set full of Cuban-influenced jazz on a Thursday night set at Jazz Showcase in downtown Chicago. Some shows are all ages.

that person's playing."

The beauty of jazz comes from its unique improvisational style.

"You'll notice an interaction among them on stage that could easily take place if the hall was empty. There's something about their understanding of that music and their interaction with each other because they spend so much time together that it's like this inside thing that the audience wouldn't even be able to relate to, but for them, they're still entertained because it's great music," Mr. Dean said. "That energy from the crowd affects the performers, which in turn affects the listeners, so then it all becomes a very connected thing — everyone feeding off of everyone else's energy."

Outside the clubs, Chicago jazz culture involves jazz fests — the most popular of which are the Labor Day Jazz Fest and the Chicago

Blues Festival, each featuring local and touring musicians. Aside from festivals, to get the best sense of local musicians, Mr. Dean suggested Room 43 on 43rd Street.

"I think that the Green Mill and the Showcase, they're going to attract major artists that are on tour stopping through Chicago so it's hit or miss," he said. "Probably on an off night, like if you went during the week, you'd get a sense of Chicago people. But it's hard to know who all of them are because they're not marketed the same way that some of these bigger name New York people or LA or New Orleans people are."

Chris Greene of the Chris Greene Quartet said of jazz in Chicago, "Chicago has something. Louis Armstrong could have taken his musical gift anywhere when he left New Orleans, but he chose to make his home here for a brief

period. The great tenor saxophonist Sonny Rollins spent a considerable amount of time here after completing rehab."

Mr. Greene went on to name several jazz titans who made their home in Chicago, pointing at Chicago as a true hub for jazz musicians.

"I think my all time favorite Chicago jazz record is Miles Davis' 'Live at the Plugged Nickel,'" Mr. Greene said about the recording at a popular Chicago jazz club. "The musicians in the band felt comfortable enough at that popular jazz club to stretch out and spontaneously reconfigure Davis' repertoire of standards into something new and fresh."

Chicago remains a hub of jazz today.

Mr. Greene said, "Like I mentioned before — Chicago has something."

## Alumnus sees jazz as regional

**by SONNY LEE**  
DEPUTY EDITOR

Head down. Tongue out. Hands ready to dance across the electric bass.

Marc Piane's picture in the 1992 U-High yearbook shows him performing a self-composed piece, "Finally Some Funk" in Kenwood Mall, foreshadowing the musical career that defines him today.

Mr. Piane, bassist for The Chris Greene Quartet — which was awarded 2017 Best Jazz Band by the Chicago Reader and 2018 Best Jazz Entertainer by The Chicago Music Awards — and a 1992 U-High alumnus, explained that although he primarily plays with the band, he also does all things musical including private lessons, writing short film scores, collaborations and working for Summer Lab on Stage during summers.

Since his father was a music teacher at Lab, Mr. Piane couldn't escape music. He began his musical career on the trombone in middle school band. In high school, he picked up the electric bass. As a student at Knox College, Mr. Piane began falling in love with jazz — Knox was also where he began playing the upright bass, expanding his job opportunities. Mr. Piane played the electric bass in the house band for a jazz jam session in the town and also played in the top jazz combo for his college.

Since 1996 Mr. Piane has seen the jazz scene grow in terms of the number of musicians.

"I think that comes from a couple of things: One, I think the city has become more of a destination, people want to come here, and the other thing is that because the cost of living in Chicago is still reasonably low, you can actually make a career as a jazz musician here," he said.

With more musicians comes more creative minds contributing to the genre. Yet Mr. Piane believes there are still distinct sounds of Chicago jazz.

"There are a lot of musicians from the South Side who grew up playing in church," Mr. Piane said, "so I think there is a strong influence of — at least feeling-wise — of gospel in the Chicago jazz sound. That, and blues."

Rooted in improv, Mr. Piane believes that jazz is defined by its freedom and diverse palette — the reasons he enjoys the genre so much.

"My primary goal in all of this is expression, it's some kind of artistic expression," Mr. Piane said. "Part of the thing that drew me to jazz is the freedom within jazz, there's such an amazing diversity of what jazz is that your palette is large. The other part of it that I like is the improvisation part. Improvisation is such a defining characteristic of jazz. When you listen to a jazz tune, after the first 20 seconds or 30 seconds, which is the melody, everything after is improvised, it's within a framework, but you can really go anywhere with it."



**SHREDDING.**

Marc Piane, Class of 1992, plays the bass in a school performance as shown in the U-Highlights yearbook.

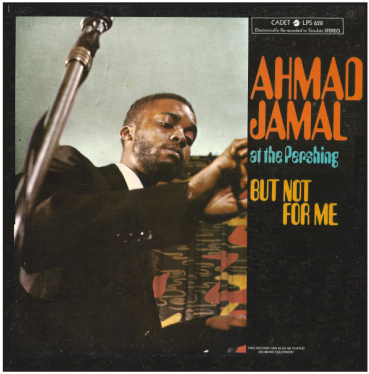
## New to jazz? Try out these classic Chicago albums



DISCOGS.COM

**"Soul Vibrations of a Man"**  
**Sun Ra & His Arkestra**  
**Recorded:** 1977  
**Venue:** Jazz Showcase

Sun Ra has always always explored a weirder and more experimental side of jazz. This album was recorded toward the latter, more prolific end of his career, when he was almost moving past jazz and into experimental soundscapes. "The Soul Vibrations of a Man," recorded at the Jazz Showcase lounge downtown, barely hangs on to its jazz roots, cycling through stretches of classical flute solos, drumming, blasting saxophone solos and soul music. This album shows the experimental side of the Chicago jazz scene, and shows how accepting Chicago jazz clubs were of this experimentation.



DISCOGS.COM

**"But Not For Me"**  
**Ahmad Jamal**  
**Recorded:** Jan. 16, 1958  
**Venue:** Pershing Hotel

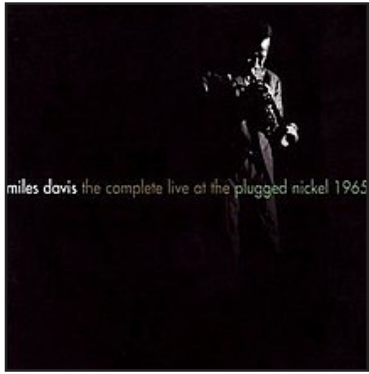
Ahmad Jamal set the standard for piano jazz, and "At the Pershing but not for me," recorded in Chicago at the Pershing hotel, is his magnum opus. "At the Pershing" is a great introduction for anybody looking for a relaxed introduction to early jazz music in Chicago. Jamal's minimalist style went on to inspire jazz legends like Miles Davis, who said "When people say Jamal influenced me a lot, they're right." "At the Pershing" was one of the first true jazz blockbusters, selling over a million copies and ensuring Jamal a place in the genre's history. This is a tight album that shows Jamal's incredible range and ability to craft melody.



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**"Live at the Bee Hive"**  
**Clifford Brown & Max Roach**  
**Recorded:** Nov. 7, 1955  
**Venue:** Bee Hive Lounge

One of the best jazz clubs in the city, the Bee Hive lounge, was located in the heart of Hyde Park at 1503 East 55th Street. Many famous artists walked through its doors including Thelonious Monk, Art Blakey and Charlie Parker. On this album, "Live at the Bee Hive," jazz giants Clifford Brown and Max Roach deliver a long and intense performance, not for the faint of heart. This is not an introductory jazz album, but it gives an incredible feel for what being in a Chicago jazz club in the 1950s was like. With wild solos and an engaged crowd, this album takes the listener for a ride.



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**"Live at the Plugged Nickel"**  
**Miles Davis**  
**Recorded:** Dec. 22, 1965  
**Venue:** Plugged Nickel

The story surrounding this legendary Miles Davis performance is that on the plane ride to Chicago, the Davis Quintet drummer challenged the band to play anti-jazz. For the next two days, the band would perform seven times, radically altering their style each time. This album is a great introduction to the experimentation that Miles Davis was prone to, and gives a great window into what made him such an incredibly influential musician. Although the entire album is over seven hours, the hourlong "Live at the Plugged Nickel" Highlights gives just as good a picture of Davis' genius.

— SAM FLEMING