Discipline board in limbo

Board cut from handbook during a legal review

by EMMA TRONE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The faculty’s discipline committee is pushing to reinstate the high school’s Discipline Review Board, which has been inactive since last school year while under review by legal counsel.

The Discipline Review Board originated as a three-way agreement between the administration, the faculty and Student Council to provide students the opportunity to weigh in on disciplinary decisions. In the case that a student undergoing disciplinary issues wanted to appeal the original decision made by the Dean of Students, the Discipline Review Board would review the case. Students elect classmates and faculty members to serve on the board.

Principal Stephanie Weber said the Discipline Review Board was temporarily removed from the Student and Family Handbook during a legal review by University lawyers.

“The whole handbook was reviewed by outside legal counsel, just to be sure that our discipline practices are in line with state law and independent school best practices,” Ms. Weber said. “She gave us some feedback, not so much about the discipline process, but there were some questions that she raised. She and I worked on this in fall, so I just need to move that process forward.”

In the meantime, students can only appeal their disciplinary decisions to the principal, Ms. Weber. The fall election of sophomores and juniors to the board were never conducted, resulting in no standing board for 2018-19.

Susan Shapiro is a member of the faculty’s discipline committee composed of faculty members selected to evaluate the principles of the Discipline Review Board. She said she is frustrated by the current lack of student or faculty participation in disciplinary matters.

“Being an old-timer, I find this very disheartening,” Ms. Shapiro said. “If there were things that needed to be tweaked or needed to be under consideration, (the Discipline Review Committee) certainly would consider those things. So just to throw it out, does not sit well with the committee. I can’t throw out the baby with the bathwater. It’s only the place students have an important role in decision-making.”

Ms. Shapiro said the Committee was not informed when the DRB was initially removed from the handbook, and that the committee has struggled to get information on the status of the DRB. In faculty meetings, Ms. Shapiro and fellow committee members have pushed for reports on the status of the DRB from Ms. Weber, including at the most recent meeting Feb. 7.

“We need to reconfirm the existence of the Disciplinary Review Board in whatever modified form,” Ms. Shapiro said. “On principle, faculty, students and administration working together to solve disciplinary issues should be reconciled.”

Ms. Weber said she supports student input in the discipline process.

“I believe in the idea of the review process, and I think it can be a great thing, but we just want to make sure it’s in alignment with best practices and legal requirements,” she said.

The search committee is looking for candidates who both honor and challenge U-High’s existing culture.

Through conversations with consultants from Dialogos, the committee was made aware of U-High’s renewed interest in unity.

“We have different divisions, but we are the Laboratory Schools, so the ability to connect across divisions is important,” Dr. Ellis said.

In addition to desired qualities, Carney Sandor helped the committee determine opportunities for growth within the school, which candidates should be eager to take on. Building trust between students and the administration is at the top of their list.

Principal search committee seeks resilient candidates

by AUDREY MATZEK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

By the end of winter quarter, the principal search committee plans to select a top candidate to forward to Director Charlie Abell- man, who will make the final decision.

Guided by recent discussions with outside consultants, the 10-person committee is seeking a replacement for current principal Stephanie Weber. Ms. Weber announced in November 2018 she would leave her position at the end of the school year.

The committee will begin with a series of video interviews with candidates to determine the finalists. These candidates will then visit campus, where they will demonstrate their communication and leadership skills through meeting with students, parents, faculty and staff.

“The plan is for the community to interact with finalists,” Assistant Director Carla Ellis said, noting the opportunity for wider involvement in the search process.

The committee is seeking resilient, community-minded candidates, according to Dr. Ellis, who is leading the committee.

The committee includes five administrators and five faculty members. Administrators are Assistant Principal Ashley Shumski, Dean of Students Ana Campos, Dean of Teaching and Learning Noah Rabin and Director David Bih- nes and Diversity, Equity and In- clusion Director Priyanka Vyas. Faculty members are Laura Do- to, learning coordinator; Sari Her- nandez, assistant director; and Naadwa Owens, history, and Fran Spaltro, world languages. Dr. Spaltro served as interim principal in 2015-16.

“The culture here is that people express their opinions from all angles,” Dr. Ellis said, and mentioned the importance of listening to different feedback.

Working alongside consultants from Carney Sandor, the school outlined six desired qualities in a future principal: confidence, resilience, vision, curiosity, sensitivity and independent school best practices.

“We have different divisions, but we are the Laboratory Schools, so the ability to connect across divisions is important.” — CARLA ELLIS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Semester switch official at last

by NIKHIL PATEL
WEB MANAGER

The last obstacle for switching to semesters has been cleared, allowing the school to plan forward with scheduling for the next school year.

The Council of the University Senate heard the proposal to switch from trimesters to semesters on Jan. 29. This was the final step in a process that began at the beginning of the school year, when the faculty vote Nov. 7.

The school year, holidays and breaks will remain unchanged according to Principal Stephanie Wer- ber, who advocated for the pro- position to the council, which is the academic decision-making body for the University of Chicago.

Concerns about the loss of as- sembly days and feedback are still being ex- plored, Ms. We- ber said. Winter and spring breaks will still be home-work-free, but the specific pol- icies to ensure this have yet to be refined, she said.

A working group has been formed by the administration to implement the calendar and to ensure that any problems with the shift are identified and solved. Ms. Weber said the group will be comprised of faculty, administrators and students, and will continue its work next year to review progress and make suggestions and improvements.

“We’ll focus on a classroom level, and we’ll focus on a calendar level,” Dean of Teaching and Learning Noah Rabin said. “For example, do we need to move par- ent-teacher conferences, do we need to make them more frequent since there will be less assessment days?”

The Program of Studies was published Feb. 6. Course regis- tration for 2019-20 began Feb. 8 and continues through Feb. 21 under the direction of Ms. PowerSchool.

P AGE 6 • ARTS

PROGRAM OF STUDIES University High School

HEALTH AND LIFESPACES 2019-2020

MIDNIGHT PHOTO BY CAROLINE WUELLICH

SELECTING STUDIES. Emily Chang and Isabel Randall look over the 2019-2020 Program of Studies. Students have the opportunity to choose a few new semester-long courses.
Math team ranks high in Illinois math league

This year, the math team has thrown itself into the Math Team Challenge, a competition where teams must solve math problems in order to advance to the next round. The team has been working hard to prepare for the challenge, and has already ranked high in the Illinois math league.

The team has been practicing problems from previous competitions, and has also been working on developing new strategies for solving problems. The team has been using a variety of resources, including online math problems and practice tests, to help them prepare for the challenge.

The math team has also been working on improving their teamwork and communication skills. They have been practicing solving problems together, and have been using games and other fun activities to help them stay motivated.

The team has been working hard to prepare for the challenge, and they are confident that they will be able to perform well. They are excited to see how they will do in the competition, and are looking forward to the opportunity to show off their skills.

NEWS IN BRIEF

French and Chinese students arrive

Exchange students from Beijing, China, and Shanghai, China, as well as students from La Rochelle, France, met students at U-High Feb. 9. U-High students will host them until Feb. 28.

Over the next few days, the exchange students will experience life at U-High, sitting in on classes and attending extracurricular activities. In addition to spending time with their host families, group activities, such as laser tag, have been planned.

Sophomore Lea Rebollo Baum, who has been attending Chinese school in Shanghai, exchanged ideas with her Chinese counterparts and expressed her admiration for U-High’s school system. "It is well organized and efficient," she said. "I enjoy the freedom to choose my classes and the opportunity to study what I am interested in."

"The students here are very open and willing to learn," said exchange student Anqi Wang. "I am impressed by the U-High students’ enthusiasm and willingness to communicate."

"The exchange students were very excited to be here," said exchange student Weiwei Zhao. "They were eager to learn about American culture and to practice their English."

The exchange students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, including attending school events and socializing with their American counterparts. They will also have the chance to explore Chicago and the surrounding area.

The exchange program is a joint effort between U-High and its Chinese counterpart schools. The program aims to promote cultural exchange and understanding between the two countries.

Lab reps attend school diversity conference

A group of five Lab school students, Niyako Rupani, Lea Rebollo Baum, Anqi Wang, Weiwei Zhao, and Anqi Wang, attended the Laurenville Diversity Conference hosted by the Laurenville Diversity Council.

Niyako Rupani, a Lab school student, said that she learned a lot from the conference. "I gained a better understanding of diversity and the importance of inclusion," she said. "I also learned about the challenges that people face in society and how we can work together to build a more inclusive community."

"The conference was a great opportunity to learn about diversity and inclusion," said Lea Rebollo Baum. "I was especially impressed by the keynote speaker, who gave a powerful message about the importance of empathy and understanding."

The conference was an opportunity for students to learn about diversity and inclusion, as well as to engage with other students from different backgrounds.

Science team wins regional and national recognition

The Science Team has performed well at the Illinois Science Olympiad and the World Wide Youth in Science and Engineering Program. They have also been invited to the American Association of University Women’s Science, Math, and Corporate Sponsorship Raffle, which will take place on Feb. 28. The raffle tickets are $25 each, and a variety of prizes will be awarded, including a $1000 scholarship.

The senior board at Harvard MUN was “beyond impressed with the dedication and teamwork” of the schools’ delegate, according to Janam Nijh, one of the U-High students. “Each of them met or exceeded their highest expectations,” Nijh said.

At Boston MUN Feb. 2, the Boston MUN delegate, african delegate, and arabic delegate were presented to a committee of judges.

"We were proud to see new members of the team step into their new roles for the first time," said Janam Nijh.

Debate team produces mixed results

The debate team spent the past two weekends competing with mixed results.

At the State of the Earth Regatta in Park Ridge Feb. 8-9, three novice teams placed in the top 2.5 and 2.3. The debate team also placed in the top 2.5 and 2.3. Two varisty teams ended up with 2.3 and 1.4 records. Sophomore Alex Brown earned ninth best speaker.

At the Golden Desert Debate Tournament hosted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Feb. 2-3, freshman Thomas Ramey earned third best speaker and junior Varun Ramey earned third best judge. The team went on to win their division.

"The team is working hard to improve and we are excited for the upcoming tournaments," said Thomas Ramey.

By OTTO BROWN

Artsfest will host ‘cha cha slide’ creator

Artsfest, a time-honored student-led tradition at U-High, will take place on Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In lieu of classes, students will attend all-school assemblies and work groups focused around the arts.

The theme for this year’s event is the “cha cha slide.” Students will participate in workshops such as painting, dancing, and photography. The event will also feature a raffle with prizes such as gift cards and tickets to a variety of performances.

"Artsfest is a great opportunity for students to explore different forms of art and express themselves," said Artsfest committee member BASSEM ALABED. "We are looking forward to seeing what our students come up with this year!"
City clerk, treasurer, council members to be elected

by JACOB POSNER

Along with the mayoral election, Chicago voters will cast ballots for a new city clerk, treasurer and all 50 aldermen on election day. If none of the candidates receive a majority of votes on Feb. 26, a runoff election will be held April 2.

Voting timeline

Feb. 11
A location for early voting opened in each of Chicago’s 50 wards.

Now to Feb. 25
Early voting for Chicago’s 2019 city election.

To register or file an address update, go to chicagovotes.org or call 312-222-VOTE (8683). To vote by mail, print out the application at chicagovotes.org/en/vote-by-mail-application.html or call 312-222-VOTE (8683) to receive a paper application.

Feb. 21
Deadline to apply to vote by mail.

Feb. 26
Election Day.

The 2019 election in Chicago is nonpartisan. The candidates need to win a majority of 50 percent plus one vote to be elected for a four-year term. In addition to voting for mayor, voters will also elect a city clerk, city treasurer and all 50 aldermen on election day. If none of the candidates receive a majority of votes on Feb. 26, a runoff election will be held April 2.

City clerk, treasurer, council members to be elected

With the city election underway, residents select a new mayor. Use this guide to make informed decisions in the voting booth.

GEST CHICO

Gery Chico is a 62-year-old lawyer born in Back of the Yards. This is his second run for mayor. He served as Chief of Staff under Richard M. Daley and held other numerous leadership positions in Chicago. Chico promises to hire police Superintendent Eddie Johnson and hire more diverse police officers. He wants to institute a police-neighborhood cooperation program called CAPS and re-purpose 50 closed schools into community centers and affordable housing.

WILLIAM DALEY

William Daley is a 70-year-old politician, and former banker from Bridgetown, Chicago whose father and brother were mayors. He was Chief of Staff under Barack Obama, and Commerce Secretary during the Obama Administration. Daley currently serves on the boards of the Chicago Community Trust, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the Innovation Foundation, and Third Way. He promotes safe, economically viable neighborhoods with strong schools and housing.

AMARA ENYIA

Amara Enyia received significant financial support from Black leaders for her campaign from Chicago native Chance the Rapper and Kanye West. Enyia relies on a public bank to avoid paying private banks. She also advocates for an elected school board as well as creating an office for Chicago Public Schools’ funding equity. In order to stop corruption, Enyia vows to strengthen the Inspector General’s office with expanded oversight powers.

TONI PRECKWINKLE

Toni Preckwinkle, the first African-American president of Cook County Board, served for 19 years as a Chicago alderman. Preckwinkle vows to create a Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice to reduce crime. Preckwinkle promises to ensure that funding for public schools is distributed equitably and that these schools are not closed or privatized. She advocates for an elected public school board. Preckwinkle pledges to implement a $15/hour minimum wage.

PAUL VALLAS

Paul Vallas, a 2002 Illinois gubernatorial candidate has been Chicago Public Schools CEO. He has also worked at the Illinois Economic and Fiscal Commission and Illinois Legislature. Vallas wants to leverage funds to pay for pension obligation bonds, cap property taxes, replace lead water pipes, and hire retired police detectives to improve the homicide clearance rate. He supports a Chicago casino, CPD reform, taxing marijuana, cutting spending, repurposing shuttered schools, and aggressive prosecution and war on gun laws.

WILLIE WILSON

70-year-old Willie Wilson is known for his philanthropy. He founded Omar Medical Supplies and is the Chicago Board of Education elected president. Wilson ran for mayor in 2015, where he took third. He wants to put four superintendents at the top of the Chicago Police Department, re-structure it and upgrade technology to improve the crime clearance rate. He wants an elected school board, freezing property taxes, reopening mental health clinics, free CTA rides for seniors, and taxing marijuana.

OTHER CANDIDATES

Other candidates include Robert Florett, alderman from the 2nd Ward 2007-2015, La Shawn Ford, member of the Illinois House of Representatives since 2007, Neal Sales-Griffin, Professor at the Northwestern University’s Farley Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Jerry Joyce, former Assistant States Attorney, John Kozlar, candidate for Alderman from the 11th Ward in 2011 and 2015.

City clerk, treasurer, council members to be elected
Disciplinary dealings need student voice

Review board ensures fairness, helps foster trust

As the Midway sees it…

When beloved science teacher Daniel Bo- Jones was fired last month, many U-High students felt angry, heart- broken and betrayed. They ex- pressed their outrage through pe- titions and colorful protest post- ers out of commission, but in re- sponse to growing necessity. Across U-High, students are des- perate for a voice in school pro- ceedings.

Despite recent circumstances, our institution was founded on the belief that student input ought to be welcomed and encour- aged. Untouched by administra- tive oversight, the Discipline Re- view Board represented that final frontier. When it was effectively suspended for 2018-19, the outcry that ensued wasn't hard to com- prehend. With unchecked administrative power, distrust and corruption of- ten follows.

The presence of a Discipline Re- view Board, operated cooperative- ly by administration, students and faculty, is essential to a fair and co- hesive community.

Initially, it seemed the election of new students to the board put an end to ad- dress legal concerns with the stu- dent handbook's description of the board, as well as what Princi- pal Stephanie Weber described as "best practices" for independent schools. However, it’s been several months since a lawyer recom- mended new terms, and since then, no update has been given. In the section pertain- ing to the board has been removed entirely.

Student privacy is at the root of administrators' concerns, we urge them to consider this: no student is compelled to appeal their pun- ishment to the board, and those who choose to do so knowing their case will be thoroughly examined by a group of both teachers and other students.

The board does not exist as a guaran- teed disciplinary proceeding, but as a third party, called up- on when students feel their cir- cumstances are inadequately as- sessed by administration.

No matter who’s in charge, stu- dents will always be reluctant to surrender their will to a remote body of all-powerful adults. In or- der to foster balance, adequate- ly informed perspectives, our ad- ministration emphasizes diversity.

Surely, student voice has a place in this initiative, as our peers contrib- ute unique, and often valuable, input to our administration truly values justice and not absolute control, they should seek our input in dis- ciplinary proceedings.

Social media acts as an echo chamber for your opinions

by Frances Wild

At this point it’s hard not to be really freaked out. The suspension of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty isn’t the final straw, but it comes close. When you put on top of that climate change, school shootings and a lack of access to health care, it’s su- perly reached that proverbial last ap- pellation.

The apocalypse seems like something out of an old TV show or mov- ies, but when you consider that ac- climation to climate change is irreversible, it’s hard not to reach a cer- tain realization.

how short 12 years is. Even the old- est among us (and by us, I mean students, children and young peo- ple) will barely be around by the time we’ve barely old enough to make most of these decisions. The devastation to be will be too late. Most of the grown-ups in the board mire and hear- ing rooms ar- tlessly ignoring. In fact, many of them are still debating wheth- er the Earth is even real, and then they wonder why I have nightmares the earth is melting.

While I do not condone the ac- tions of the irreverent- agers, the full picture of that of a generation’s situation more complicated. I was enraged when I think about the nachos disrespectful. The full pic- ture shows this is an example of how social media can be manipu- lated to spark reactions groups of people.

I’ve always been told it’s important to have a “grown-up in your life you can rely on,” but right now, it seems like you’ve all failed us. You’ve failed us by not staying focused on making our future a priority. I don’t want to be fighting for sectors war with both the literal kind and kind for basic human rights — when I think about the reason this may happen, or be prepared to be vot- ed out of office the moment we’re unfranchised.

A couple of nights ago, I was talking with my mom about gun- tionary election and spread con- siderable pro-Trump advertise- ments targeting “groups like Af- rican Americans, evangelical Christians and pro-gun activists to sow division, confuse voters and support the candidacy of Donald J. Trump.” Tactics include voting scamps like “Irak-Vote” and lead- ing votes about voting rules. Encouraging vio- lence to waste their vote on a third party and launch- ing social media campaigns such as “stay home on Election Day, your vote doesn’t matter” accord- ing to New Knowledge, the com- pany that produced the report on Russian disinformation in the

USA Today

“Americans need to be more diligent about where they get their news and what they believe. Consider cutting back on news intake from social media and consider professional newspapers.”

2016 presidential election.

By this method of deception, so- cial media acts as an echo cham- ber amplifying certain political views and targeting those most susceptible to them.

The New York Times describes this sort of disinformation as a “falsification war.” The IRA campaign included 10.4 mil- lion tweets, 1,100 YouTube vid- eos, 116,000 Instagram posts and 61,500 unique Facebook posts. “It’s the terrain on which our en- tire political culture rests, whose peaks and valleys shape our ev- eryday discourse, and whose pos- sibilities for exploitation are near- ly endless,” according to The New York Times.

Disinformation and manipula- tion of social media is not limit- ed to Russia and has been used to help both Republican and Demo- crat political campaigns.

To combat this phenomenon, Americans need to be more dil- igent about what they get their news and what they believe. Con- sider cutting back on news from social media and consider profes- sional newspapers.

“Now it’s time to talk with those of you who aren’t yet grown-ups. Get sad, get hopeless, and then get really, really angry.”

by Ella Beiser

No matter who’s in charge, stu- dents will always be reluctant to

As the Midway sees it …

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Peter Pu, Madeline Welch
A range of experiences led Susan Augustine and Shirley Volk to find their place as U-High librarians.

by AMANDA CASSELL
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Despite spending their days among books and computers, Susan Augustine and Shirley Volk did not expect to become librarians when they were kids. Ms. Augustine expected to pursue art or math, and Ms. Volk business. But looking back, neither can think of any job they would have been happier doing.

Ms. Augustine and Ms. Volk take their jack-of-all-trades experiences and apply it to their jobs as librarians.

Ms. Volk grew up in Chicago. Her parents owned a restaurant, and she would help out, doing dishes, cleaning and helping with cooking. She and her parents worked almost constantly. Their weekends and evenings would be filled with the goings-on of the restaurant. Ms. Volk said she felt like they didn’t have much time to just relax.

“After seeing how hard my parents worked, I just wanted a job where I could go on vacation and be with my family,” Ms. Volk said.

She turned away from small businesses, despite her parents’ encouragement to pursue business or marketing. She studied marketing in college and graduate school but ended up leaving the corporate world because she disliked sitting at a desk all day and got tired of the work she was doing.

“I just immediately fell in love with it,” Ms. Volk said, “I loved the library as a kid, but I didn’t think I would end up there.”

Ms. Augustine felt similarly growing up in a family with four siblings in a small Michigan town. She attended Western Michigan University wanting to study math or art and graduated a public history major.

“I really was passionate about art and math,” Ms. Augustine said, “I mean, I was good at those two, and I figured I should follow my heart.”

Ms. Augustine did not know she would find the same amount of passion as a librarian and would be able to apply both of those skills.

During college, she took a summer internship at the Museum of Science and Industry and worked in a café.

She fell in love with the city of Chicago and decided it was where she wanted to spend the rest of her life.

After college, she moved back to Chicago without a clue of where she wanted to work and just wanted to see where life took her. Still in Chicago, she loves her job as a librarian at U-High and couldn’t be happier in the city.

Today, Ms. Augustine and Ms. Volk spend their days at U-High and do much more than just sit behind the reference desk. The librarians research to add to school materials and sort for teacher book carts. They also sort new books and give them call numbers. Additionally, Ms. Augustine and Ms. Volk help teachers deal with research projects for their student and independent studies. Most of all, they spend lots of time sampling and reading.

“My favorite part of my job is working with students and helping them find what they need to do their very best,” Ms. Augustine said. “It’s just so satisfying to help someone find exactly what they need.”

Helping Study: Librarian Susan Augustine helps junior Annie Billings with an assignment. The librarians are often available to help students with their work, including conducting research and choosing appropriate books.

Virtue’s unusual flavor variety exceeds expectations

by IVAN BECK
FEATURES EDITOR

Biting through the crunchy outer layer, the tangy lemon flavor bursts forth, the perfect addition to the meal. Whether the meal contains a savory serving of mushrooms, a filling dish of pork chop, or a flavorful bit of broccoli, Virtue does not disappoint.

Virtue Restaurant and Bar, a restaurant specializing in Southern American cuisine, opened in Hyde Park on Nov. 15, 2018. It launched in a popular area of Hyde Park on East 53rd Street, moving into a space previously occupied by A10, a high-end French restaurant.

Inside, the restaurant is rather large, but the service finds the perfect balance of conversation without distraction or disturbance.

Although broccoli and Brussels sprouts do not usually cause excitement, the meals centered around these foods are so flavorful and surprising that they surpass expectations. The broccoli dish combined flavorful, sautéed broccoli and peppers, sharp cheddar cheese and sweet walnuts to make an experience for the entire palate. This combination of flavors is also present with the squash and the mushrooms, which together make a filling meal.

The portion sizes vary, with smaller plates for someone in a hurry, or larger dishes that are more filling. The prices are not cheap. Large dishes range from $18 to $28, but lower prices can be found with the smaller plates.

The service finds the perfect balance of cordiality and comfort, ensuring that all guests are well-served and content while also contributing to the rather relaxed atmosphere of the restaurant.

In contrast, compared to other restaurants in the area, Virtue is one of the more stylish and intimate locations.

It is closed Monday and Tuesday. Hours for other days: 5–10 p.m. on Wednesday; 4:30–11 p.m. on Friday; 5–10 p.m. on Saturday; and 5–10 p.m. on Sunday.

Virtue serves food that can rarely be found in Hyde Park, and creates a comfortable atmosphere for individuals to chat and enjoy unique dishes.

While the prices are rather high, the experience is fulfilling and the restaurant surpasses expectations.
Focus & Drive

Throwing his all at each part, actor-director Henrik Nielsen conquers difficult roles

by KATERINA LOPEZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

While walking down the street, roaming around his house and sitting in his room, Henrik Nielsen practices his lines for the new, unique role in which he has been cast. Henrik, a dedicated junior and a passionate actor, has been pursuing his interest in theater since sixth grade.

His interest in theater bloomed in middle school drama classes, inspired by the fluidity of his own persona and the characters he plays.

Henrik’s skills is playing unique characters well. He is able to switch in and out of characters and make them stand out and full.

While practicing lines, he follows a system he developed to embrace characters and give them their own flair.

“When I get a new character I normally memorize the lines pretty quickly, and then almost accustom to the character I get, I just transform the different line readings at the wall to see what sticks,” he said. “Like, ‘I’ll lock myself in a room and I’ll be mattering lines to myself as I walk down the street to try and figure out how works and what doesn’t.’”

Henrik strives to embrace every character and he tries to challenge himself with roles dissimilar to the ones he has tried before. “I think this started because I was kind of cheated on the same role again and again in middle school,” he said, “and I wasn’t so say I go tired of it, but once I started trying out new parts in high school I’ve tried not to stay with the same character archetypes for too long.”

Henrik has used this switch to take on his favorite role, Renfield in “Dracula” in fall 2017. “I really like, especially on stage, to play very physically active characters,” Henrik said. “It was a fun challenge to navigate the quick changes of emotions with the characters.”

“Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” military policy

people it critiques: entrenched by Bundy’s boy-next-door demeanour and seduced by the idea of his dark underside.

Shows like “The Assassination of Gianni Versace,” “The Ted Bundy Tapes” and the true crime genre raise questions around the ethics of storytelling, entertainment and murder. Although it’s not a perfect show, “Gianni Versace” can justify giving a narcissistic killer attention by illuminating the lives of his victims and the societal ills that bolstered him. “The Ted Bundy Tapes” can’t make that same claim, and instead it has only served to re-spark and elevate the attention and fear that fueled Bundy. At best, it’s a pointless addition to the long Bundy canon. At its worst, it gives him more of exactly what he wanted: 30 years after his death.

Netflix releases two shows on masterful murderers

by EMMA TRONE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The American fascination with serial killers is in the midst of another modern-day renaissance. People consume twisted tales of physical and psychological violence through their TVs, listening to podcasts like “Serial,” and watching movies. Netflix’s release of both “American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace” and “Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes” in the last month, our culture’s obsession with death and crime show no sign of slowing down.

Both deal with the serial killer tropes that have become ubiquitous: narcissus, a preference for elaborate facades over truth, and an uncanny ability to go unnoticed by police for ridiculously long periods of time. “The Assassination of Gianni Versace,” while not a masterpiece, aspires to be more than just a twisty thriller; “The Ted Bundy Tapes” on the other hand, embodies the worst impulses of the true crime genre.

Despite many similarities between Andrew Cunanan and Ted Bundy, the serial killer each explores in their own unique way, each show’s structure and purpose differ from the other. “The Assassination of Gianni Versace” is part of the scripted “American Crime Story” anthology, while “The Ted Bundy Tapes” is a four-part documentary series.

The cold open of “Gianni Versace” cuts right to the chase, and the famous designer meets his grisly fate within the first 10 minutes. From there, the show progresses backward in time, unpeeling each layer of the serial killer’s physical and mental. I think that that’s a step forward of a really good actor at work.”

Henrik’s classmates and friends also admire the dedication he puts into his work. “He really wants to get there and is very concentrated,” Anna Schloeb, his theater classmate, said. “There is a certain level that you have to work for and he’s definitely there.”

But, Henrik didn’t just become a phenomenon over night. He put in the time and now he can take on any role thrown at him. “I can kinda just flip a switch and dissolve into the character.”

Henrik Nielsen prepares for the production of Student Experimental Theater by demonstrating a scene from the play he is directing. He has been doing theater since he was in sixth grade drama at Lab.
**Artsitic conversations**

**Artistic conversations**

**Corvis Gallery exhibit questions inequality in laws**

**by GRACE ZHANG**

**ARTS EDITOR**

Minimal patterns and neutral color hang from the walls inside Corvis Gallery this winter quarter. Walking through the gallery and observing the art, one could notice specific details in the showcased art, not perceptible from a distance and drawing the viewer closer. However, these details emphasize deeper issues about discrimination and inequality.


For three artists were commissioned by University of Chicago’s Smart Museum to create artwork featuring place, culture, justice and inequality in laws as a moment to teach students and encourage critical thinking. Ms. Collins’ ‘Birmingham News,’ white-on-white embroidered articles from newspapers in 1963, used language to highlight how the arti-

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**Hostless Academy Awards delivers historical firsts**

**by ABBAGAIL SIMMONS**

**SPORTS EDITOR**

With many record-breaking and notable nominations, the 91st Academy Awards taking place Feb. 24 in Hollywood will be a night to remember.

The Academy Awards will go without a host for the first time in 30 years. Comedian Kevin Hart was originally supposed to host but stepped down after receiving backlash for homophobic comments he made in the past.

He tweeted and apologized for his comments and announced he was not going to host the Oscars anymore. Due to the fact that it was so late in the process, the Academy decided it would be best to go hostless.

Even without a host, the show must go on, and some nominees like "Black Panther" are making history.

With a primarily black cast, the Marvel movie became the first to win seven Oscars, including Best Picture, Best Original Song in "Roma" itself.

"Roma," the film to beat this season due to its success in the box office and strong reviews. Although "A Star Is Born" was nominated for five awards, the 2019 Golden Globes, it only took home Best Original Song in a Motion Picture for "Shallow." Unlike "A Star Is Born," "Roma" won two of its three Golden Globe nominations.

As for the Oscars, in addition to bringing one of the most nominated films, "Roma" also became the first film produced by a Latin American woman to be nominated for best picture. The film could also be the first to win both best picture and best foreign language.

After being awarded an honorary Oscar in 2015, Spike Lee has been nominated for Best Director for "BlackKklansman." Despite his long career, this is his first nomination for the award, becoming one of six black men to ever be nominated for the category.

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**True stories:**

"Roma" talks about the experiences of a maid in Mexico City, a live-in maid hums to better understand slaves’ history.

"People 'foodsteps' go with what it means to be an American during the Civil War," Ms. Collins said in a speech.

Mr. Jones’ "Boys Club" and "False Promises" are Middle-School level art for the showcase by creating protest signs after learning about these experiences.

Ms. Alicea said, “We've got three contemporary artists that are addressing these issues of the laws, recording news and how accurate the news is presented and the issues of segregation. So it’s not a lot of really important that we take a look at how not only artists have responded but also use this as a moment to teach students about discrimination and inequality.”

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**Guest historian discusses slavery through food lens**

**by PETER PU**

**INTERNSHIP EDITOR**

As Leo Davis, “He Promised,” which translates to “I have promised you,” blasts through the homes of a middle-class household in the Colonia Roma neighborhood of Mexico City, a live-in maid hums to better understand slaves’ history.

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**"Roma" sells ordinary life over art**

**by PRIYANKA SHIRALKAR**

**EDITORS- IN-CHIEF**

While the content is certainly informative, it’s not the main focus. The film tells the story of what everyday life was like for a maid in Mexico City, a live-in maid hums to better understand slaves’ history.

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**"Roma" is nominated for Best Picture**

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**SPORTS**

Turn it up — get moving

During practice and competition, fun, upbeat “hype music” gets fans and athletes invested in the game

by ELLA BEISSER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Entering Upper K lover Gymnasium, the scene is chaotic. Students sit in the bleachers, talking and laughing, nodding their heads to the loud rap music playing over the speakers. The whistle blows and the game begins.

Whether getting ready for the game or trying to hype the crowd, athletes on many school sports teams listen to music during warm-up and practices.

“Personally, I have specific playlists to get me amped up,” Donna Song, a swimmer, said. “I listen to them before the race because you know you’re going to swim, so we can listen to them while warming up.”

Many teams find that music helps create community, both within the team and between teams.

“Sometimes we listen to music in the locker rooms with other teams,” Donna, who likes the trucker style of country music, said. “Sportsmanship is big in the swim team.”

Donna described how in the summer the swim team runs to Promontory Point and then swim a mile. “We blast music through the whole run, so it’s pretty fun.”

To Donna, music is really personal. “I have some songs that will really remind me of my passion for swimming, but it’s also something that really brings the team together,” — DONNA TONG

**TEAM RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys Basketball, Varsity</th>
<th>Notable: The basketball team is preparing for playoffs starting Feb. 26. They will celebrate senior night at their home game against Latin Feb. 12.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| North Shore | Feb. 7 44-43
| Elgin Academy | Feb. 8 59-47
| Morgan Park | Jan. 25 71-70
| Northridge | Jan. 25 64-43

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys Basketball, JV</th>
<th>Notable: The team celebrated seniors at the final home game of the season against Morgan Park Academy Feb 4.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Elgin Academy | Feb. 7 49-47
| Morgan Park | Feb. 8 59-29
| Northside | Jan. 23 61-40
| Cantigny | Jan. 29 64-44
| Kelly | Jan. 24 43-37

**Girls Basketball**

| Notable: The team celebrated seniors at the final home game of the season against Morgan Park Academy Feb 4. |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Lake Forest | Feb. 8 57-53
| Evergreen Park Inv | Jan. 23 & 25 3rd

|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| DeLaSalle Inv | Feb 3 Win
| Proviso West Inv | Feb 6 Win

**Chicagoans hit the slopes close to home**

by KATERINA LOPEZ
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Though Chicago may have cold temperatures and great amounts of snow, it remains in the second flattest state in the country. Despite the lack of hills, students around U-High still find ways to ski close to home in the winter.

Junior Alex Witkowska skis at Cascade Mountain for its prices and the convenience.

“Since none of us in my family are extreme skiers we don’t really find it necessary to go out of the country to big mountain ranges,” she said, “so it’s cheaper and just as fun to go somewhere nearby via car where we can still get the experience.”

Staying close to home is optimal for people who might not be the best at skiing, but still want the experience.

**FLYING HIGH.** Soaring through the air, Alex Wyers goes over a jump on Seneca Road. Some seniors spent Feb. 3 skiing and snowboarding on Chestnut Mountain in Galena.

**Cascade Mountain, Portage, Wisconsin**

Cascade Mountain is 178 miles from Chicago. The drive is just under three hours, with the mountain being 1,276 feet tall, ideal for more advanced skiers. This location has the most trails, 33, with 10 chair lifts. This resort also includes lodging.

**Chestnut Mountain Resort, Galena, Illinois**

Chestnut Mountain is 161 miles from Chicago, making the drive a little over two and a half hours. “The mountain is 1,820 feet tall, perfect for intermediate skiers. This resort has 17 trails with 7 chair lifts. This resort has lodging.

**Alpine Valley Resort, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

About 64 miles from Chicago, Alpine Valley is a little over an hour’s drive from the city. This trail is perfect for more intermediate skiers, with an elevation of 1,400 feet. This resort has 20 trails and 7 chair lifts, along with lodging and food.

**Wilmot Mountain Ski Resort, Wilmot, Wisconsin**

Wilmot is a little over 67 miles away, making the drive around an hour and 15 minutes. For skiers who are less advanced, Wilmot mountain has a 748-foot elevation. Wilmot has 16 trails, 11 chair lifts and lodging.

**FLYING HIGH.** Soaring through the air, Alex Wyers goes over a jump on Seneca Road. Some seniors spent Feb. 3 skiing and snowboarding on Chestnut Mountain in Galena.