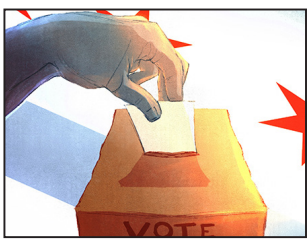


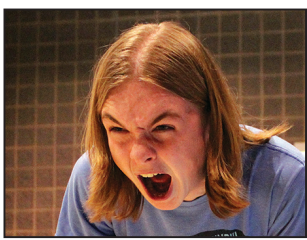
PAGE 3 • IN-DEPTH
With mayoral elections in just a few weeks, turn to the Midway to help inform your decision of who to vote for. Find summaries of each candidate's agenda.



PAGE 5 • FEATURES
Virtue, a Southern American restaurant, recently opened in Hyde Park. It provides a cozy atmosphere and flavorful food, but there are few vegetarian options.



PAGE 6 • ARTS
As a dedicated actor, junior Henrik Nielsen works hard to embody a range of characters both mentally and physically in school productions such as "Dracula."



University Of Chicago Laboratory High School

U-HIGH MIDWAY

1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Volume 95, Number 6

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 it this 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 disturbing," 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 these things. So to just throw it out, does not sit well with the committee. We can't throw out the baby with the bathwater. It's the only 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. 6.

"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 reconfirmed."

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 good one," she said. "I think having it as an option for students is a good thing, but we just want to make sure it's in alignment with best practices and legal requirements about confidentiality."

Grace Zhang contributed additional reporting.



Susan Shapiro

LUNAR NEW YEAR



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ISABELLA KELLERMEIER

GONG XI FA CAI. Aly Latherow and Eleanor Skish compete in a dumpling eating contest during a Lunar New Year celebration hosted by Asian Students' Association Feb. 5. The festivities included a chopstick contest and free lunch.

Principal search committee seeks resilient candidates

by **AUDREY MATZKE**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

By the end of winter quarter, the principal search committee plans to select a top candidate to forward to Director Charlie Abelman, 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 search process will begin with a series of video interviews with candidates to determine the finalists. These candidates will



Carla Ellis

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 Asra Ahmed, Dean of Students Ana Campos, Dean of Teaching and Learning Noah Rachlin, Athletic Director David Ribbens and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Director Priyanka Rupani. Faculty members are Laura Do-to, learning coordinator; Sari Hernandez, English; Cindy Jurisson and Naadia 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 dif-

"We have different divisions, but we are the Laboratory Schools, so the ability to connect across divisions is important."

— CARLA ELLIS,
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ficult feedback.

Working alongside consultants from Carney Sandoe, the school outlined six desired qualities in a future principal: confidence, resilience, vision, curiosity, sensitivity to school cultures and ability to navigate complexity.

According to the outline, the

search committee is looking for candidates who both honor and challenge U-High's existing customs.

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 Sandoe 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.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ODYSSEAS NIKAS

SELECTING STUDIES. Emily Chang and Isabel Randall look over the 2019-20 Program of Studies. Students have the opportunity to choose a few new semester-long courses.

Semester switch official at last

by **NIKHIL PATEL**
WEB MANAGER

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

The Council of the University Senate heard the proposal to switch to a semester schedule on Jan. 29. This was the final step in a process that gained traction at the beginning of the school year with a faculty vote Nov. 7.

The school year, holidays and breaks will remain unchanged according to Principal Stephanie Weber, who advocated for the proposal to the council, which is the academic decision-making body

for the University of Chicago.

Concerns about the loss of assessment days and feedback are still being explored, Ms. Weber said. Winter and spring breaks will still be homework-free, but the specific policies 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.



Stephanie Weber

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 Rachlin said. "For example, do we need to move parent-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 registration for 2019-20 began Feb. 8 and continues through Feb. 21 via PowerSchool.

Foote becomes Spectrum adviser

by **SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN**
MANAGING EDITOR

With the loss of their adviser, Daniel Bobo-Jones, senior Spectrum leaders are taking on the responsibility of mentoring younger students.

Club president Bassem Noghnogh says the student leaders have chosen Deb Foote, a middle school world language teacher, to be their new adviser. Ms. Foote had been attending some club meetings throughout the year.

Bassem explained that Mr. Bobo-Jones played an important role in working with underclassmen.

"Jones provided stability for the freshmen because he's their teacher, for a lot of them," Bassem said. "With him gone, I kind of have to fill the role of mentoring them. I don't necessarily feel comfortable doing that yet because I feel like I'm just as much of a kid as a lot of them."

Bassem also explained that Spectrum is in need of faculty input to help club members pursue creative projects and unconventional ideas.

"Mr. Jones would help us to pursue less conventional ideas," Bassem said. "Without him, I'm a little less secure in mixing things up. He would help me get my ideas off the ground. One example is a Jeopardy game we had. We had categories like pride flags, famous members of the LGBTQ+ community and history."

Bassem explained that Ms. Foote is al-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TOSYA KHODARKOVSKY

BUILDING COMMUNITY. Gesturing, middle school language teacher Deb Foote discusses with senior Robert Coats during a Spectrum meeting. Ms. Foote is the new adviser, taking over former teacher Daniel Bobo-Jones' position.

ready playing a more active role in leading discussions and group meetings. He hopes that she can fill more of the club's needs as she transitions into her new role.

Ms. Foote said she will help the club in any way she can and is happy to be the adviser, but she also said that she is proud of how the students are continuing the club

without Mr. Bobo-Jones.

"Mr. Jones was so important to them, but for them to keep running the club as they had been is really all anybody could ask," she said. "They're doing a great job, and Bassem is great at leading the group. I hope the students know that I am there for whatever they need. Whatever I can do, I'd like to do."

Artsfest will host 'Cha Cha Slide' creator

by **OTTO BROWN**
MIDWAY REPORTER

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 two all-school assemblies and four workshops centered around the arts.

Due to the increase in the U-High student population, more workshops will be offered this year, including more new and guest workshops, in addition to those led by students and faculty.

Students will sign up for workshops in advance. Descriptions of Artsfest workshops are now available on the the ArtsFest website at artsfest.ucls.uchicago.edu.

DJ Casper, a Chicago native and creator of the "Cha Cha Slide," will perform at the opening ceremonies, according to Artsfest board member Sofia Kouri. The keynote speaker at the closing ceremony will be Anthony Khan, known professionally as Twi-lite Tone. Khan has worked with performers such as Common, John Legend and Kendrick Lamar.

The Hunt, a scavenger hunt associated with Artsfest, will follow a similar structure as last year, with the winning team of up to five students winning four tickets to this summer's Pitchfork Music Festival.

Art in the Dark, an art- and music-themed event, will be Feb. 27, the evening before Artsfest, from 6-9 p.m. Activities will include student performances, tie-dyeing T-shirts and painting a mural in the senior lounge.

Artsfest adviser Brian Wildeman is excited about this year's event.

"I'm looking forward to the opening and closing ceremonies," Mr. Wildeman, an art teacher, said. "I really hope that Artsfest makes people happy and boosts their morale," Mr. Wildeman continued. "This is a really good chance for students to have a good time with one another while engaging in the arts while shaking off the February blues."



Brian Wildeman

Bobo-Jones grievance goes to arbitration

by **MIRA COSTELLO**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The grievance filed by the Faculty Association after the termination of Daniel Bobo-Jones will proceed to arbitration as of Feb. 4.

Through the grievance, the FA claimed that Mr. Bobo-Jones' termination violated the collective bargaining agreement between faculty and the administration. Director Charlie Abelmann wrote in an email Jan. 26 that he would not overturn the decision to terminate Mr. Bobo-Jones's employment, so the FA sent a written request to the school for an arbitration officer.

According to Sharon Housinger, FA vice



Sharon Housinger

president, an arbitrator will be agreed upon through the American Arbitration Association, but the process is lengthy. Ms. Housinger, a science teacher, said the FA has one week to find an arbitrator, but it can take weeks to get in communication with them. After this, it can take months to schedule a hearing, days to hold the hearing, and more months for the arbitrator to issue a decision. "It's what's called binding arbitration, which means both parties have to do it." Ms.

Housinger said. "Whatever the arbitrator rules, both parties have to just say, 'that's it.'"

Dr. Abelmann indicated in his Jan. 26 email that the Lab Schools would abide by the arbitrator's decision.

If both the FA and the administrations agree on an alternative solution after the ruling, it can be implemented. If not, the arbitrator's decision is applied, and there can be no further action by either party.

The charges Mr. Bobo-Jones filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, claiming discrimination and retaliation, are separate from the faculty grievance and can proceed after arbitration is complete.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Math team ranks high in Illinois math league

The math team has been a team to watch in the Illinois math circuit, ranking high in both the Illinois Math League and North Suburban Math League.

The team sits in second place in the Illinois Math League out of 33 schools after four completed IML contests. The IML is a test taken by the math team on occasion during open time on Tuesdays.

U-High is seventh in the North Suburban Math League despite cancellation of a Jan. 30 meet due to extreme weather. Additionally, the math team's sophomores are ranked first in the NSML.

Team captain Mili Shah said, "The teams ahead of us have five or six times the number of students than we have, making our ranking even more commendable."

Three out of five competitions have already proceeded at Illinois high schools, including one hosted by at U-High in the fall. The team is currently preparing for the ICTM regional competition, which will be taken by groups Feb. 24.

— CHRISTIAN GLUTH

French and Chinese students arrive

Exchange students from Beijing, China, arrived in Chicago on Feb. 8 and from La Rochelle, France, Feb. 9. U-High students will host them until Feb. 18.

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 planned to take her Chinese exchange student to the winter formal Feb. 9, and later to Chinatown.

"That should be really exciting to see," she said. "You can compare the food and the ambiance in general."

Xiaoli Zhou, a U-High Chinese teacher who directs the Chinese exchange, said these programs are a great opportunity to experience things that can't be learned in the classroom and find "new ways to use the language."

Over spring break, 14 students will travel to Beijing and 12 to La Rochelle to stay with their exchange students.

— CALEDONIA ABBEY

Lab reps attend school diversity conference

A group of five Lab Schools administrators and one art teacher attended the annual FORUM/Diversity conference hosted by placement agency Carney, Sandoe, and Associates in Philadelphia Jan. 25-26, interviewing potential job candidates and attending workshops about how to maintain a diverse community of teachers and administrators.

Lab has been attending the conference for many years, according to Director Charlie Abelmann.

"Even if we don't have a job open, we want to meet people," he said.

Priyanka Rupani, Lab's director of diversity, equity and inclusion,

said Lab also attends other hiring conferences each year, but that the diversity one is special.

"You don't want to be absent from a setting where we are living out our values," she said. "This is a way that we get to live out how we honor diversity."

According to Ms. Rupani and Dr. Abelmann, the delegation met with candidates for high school positions such as principal and fine arts teacher. These interviews are mostly informational, with the delegation acting as scouts for the committees that do the hiring.

— LELAND CULVER

Dewey Dance helps fund financial aid

To raise money for the school, parents and members of the Lab community will hop into Kovler Gym March 9 for the Dewey Dance wearing their Urkel glasses, "Clueless" costumes, trendy kicks, and other '90s apparel.

Bel Canto members will perform a series of pop songs, straying from their usual genres. To best fit this year's theme, their performance will include Nsync's "Bye Bye Bye," Will Smith's "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," and the Spice Girls' "Wannabe."

Director Charlie Abelmann said he hopes the Dewey Dance will create better relationships among parents and faculty, and raise money for student financial aid.

"Tuition doesn't cover the full amount of what it costs to educate students," Dr. Abelmann said.

The primary sources of funding for the dance are the \$90 tickets and corporate sponsorship. Raffle

tickets are \$25, which offer a variety of prizes such as free tuition to Summer Lab and parking spots.

— OLIVIA GRIFFIN

Science team wins regional competition

The Science Team has performed well at the at the Illinois Science Olympiad and the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering Program invitational they have attended, and members are resolved to keep improving.

At the Huntley High School ISO invitational on Feb. 9, the team placed fourth. At the ISO invitational at the University of Chicago Jan. 12, the team placed 15th of 43, while at the Harlem High School ISO Invitational Dec. 8, the varsity team placed first in 11 of 23 categories.

On Feb. 6, at the Fenwick High School WYSE regionals invitational, the team placed first overall.

— THEODORE NEER

MUN individuals win despite team losses

In the two trips to the Boston area in the past three weeks, the U-High Model UN team did not place for team awards at either conference, but individual scoring showed many U-High students placed highly.

The team spent the new year at Harvard University and Boston University from Jan. 24-27 and Feb. 8-10.

At Harvard MUN Jan. 24-27, every sophomore and junior placed first or second, but the individual awards did not result in an award

for the delegation.

The Senior board at Harvard MUN was "beyond impressed with the caliber of their performance," for the freshmen delegation, according to Jamal Nimer, one of the U-High team's secretary-general.

"Each of the freshmen met or exceeded our highest expectations," Jamal said.

At Boston MUN Feb. 2-8, the delegations were mostly underclassmen in contrast to the mostly upperclassmen Harvard MUN delegation. This was the first time that the underclassmen presented to a committee alone.

"We were glad to see new members of the team step into their own committees for the first time," Jamal said.

— JULIAN INGERSOLL

Debate team produces mixed results

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

At the Maine East Regatta in Park Ridge Feb. 8-9, three novice teams ended up with 3-2, 3-2 and 2-3 records and two varsity teams ended up with 2-3 and 1-4 records. Sophomore Alexandra Nehme earned ninth best speaker.

At the Golden Desert Debate Tournament at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Feb. 2-4, freshman novices Berk Oto and Brandon Bousquette advanced into quarterfinals with a 3-2 record. Seniors Roshni Padhi and Elena Liao, the other team that went to this tournament, finished with a 3-3 record after preliminaries.

— PETER PU

CHICAGO CHOICES

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



MIDWAY ILLUSTRATION BY RISA COHEN

GERY CHICO

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



fordable housing, an elected school board, investment in neighborhood schools, mental health centers, anti-gun violence programs, raising the minimum wage, Chicago Police Department reform, taxing marijuana, and abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

GARRY MCCARTHY

59-year-old Garry McCarthy, former Chicago Police superintendent, was fired by Rahm Emanuel in December 2015 after video footage of the shooting of Laquan McDonald was released. He was with the New York City Police Department until 2006, and was police director in Newark, New Jersey, before coming to Chicago. He opposes the federal consent decree to reform the CPD. Mr. McCarthy is critical of Emanuel's administration and says it ignored issues for political reasons. He favors a Chicago casino, taxing marijuana, progressive tax reform, and a partially elected school board.



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 of gun law violators.



WILLIE WILSON

70-year-old Willie Wilson is known for his philanthropy. He founded Omar Medical Supplies and is the CEO. Wilson ran for mayor in 2015, where he took third. He wants to put four superintendents at the top of the Chicago Police Department, restructure its racial makeup 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 Fioretti**, 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.

— COMPILED BY LELAND CULVER, BERK OTO, AND PRIYANKA SHRIJAY

CANDIDATE IMAGES VIA THEIR WEBSITES OR PUBLIC DOMAIN

Resources:

Find your ward at chicagoelections.com/en/early-voting.html

Apply to vote by mail at chicagoelections.com/en/vote-by-mail-application.html

Find your polling place at ova.elections.il.gov/PollingPlaceLookup.aspx

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 or a name change, one must show two forms of ID, one of which shows the voter's current address. Requirements for voting include being a U.S. citizen, being 18 years of age by election day, living in their precinct at least 20 days before the election, not claiming right to vote elsewhere and not being in prison or serving jail time for a conviction.

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.

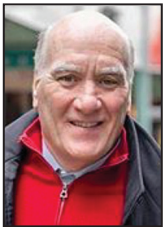
April 2 Runoff election.

Chicago uses a two-round runoff system if no candidate receives a majority. All candidates except the top two are eliminated, after which another round of voting is held.

— COMPILED BY GRACE ZHANG

WILLIAM DALEY

William M. Daley is a 70-year-old lawyer, politician, and former banker from Bridgeport, Chicago whose father and brother were mayors. He was Chief of Staff under Barack Obama and Commerce Secretary during the Clinton 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 vital neighborhoods with strong schools and housing.



AMARA ENYIA

35-year-old Nigerian-American candidate Amara Enyia received significant financial support for her campaign from Chicago natives Chance the Rapper and Kanye West. Enyia believes in 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 power.



LORI LIGHTFOOT

Former Federal Prosecutor Lori Lightfoot is the first openly lesbian Chicago mayoral candidate. After graduating from the University of Chicago, Ms. Lightfoot served as Assistant U.S. Attorney for Northern Illinois, and as president of the Chicago Police Board. She supports af-



SUSANA MENDOZA

Susana Mendoza, 46, has been Illinois comptroller since 2016. She is the first Hispanic person independently elected to a statewide office in Illinois, and focuses on funding nursing homes, hospice centers and schools. Mendoza served twice as the first female Chicago city clerk and six terms in the Illinois House of Representatives for the 1st District. Mendoza supports police accountability, job creation, reliable transportation, reducing corruption, fighting for LGBT rights, and a Safety, Health and Empowerment plan for women.



TONI PRECKWINKLE

71-year-old 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 make sure 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.



City clerk, treasurer, council members to be elected

by JACOB POSNER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Along with the mayoral election, Chicago voters will cast ballots for a new city clerk, treasurer and members of the city council. Residents of each of Chicago's 50 wards will elect one alderman.

The city council is Chicago's legislative body and addresses issues including taxation and utilities. As of Jan. 29, 160 candidates were on the ballot, according to ballotpedia.org. The treasurer manag-

es the city's investment portfolio, pension funds and runs programs for financial literacy, and the clerk takes notes during city council meetings and is the official record keeper for the city.

Anna Valencia, the current clerk, is unopposed. Two other candidates were removed from the race by Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.

Three candidates are running for treasurer: Melissa Conyears-Ervin, Peter Gariepy and Ameya Pawar.

Conyears-Ervin, a Democrat, currently serves as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives.

She was endorsed by the Chicago Teachers Union, according to an article in Politico, but is under fire from Equality Illinois, an LGBTQ advocacy group, for voting "present" for bills that would have added LGBTQ history to school books and would have allowed transgender people to change their gender on birth certificates.

In an email to Politico, Con-

years-Ervin wrote that she supports both measures but declined to answer why she chose not to vote.

Peter Gariepy, an accountant with degrees from Fordham and Northwestern, has not held any political office. The homepage of his campaign website reads, "Peter Gariepy, a CPA for City Treasurer because Chicago's future deserves to have a qualified financial professional, not another politician." He lost the Democratic primary for Cook County treasurer in 2018.

Ameya Pawar has been 47th Ward alderman since 2011. He was appointed to the Illinois Innovation Council, which works to jump start businesses, and to the State of Illinois Asian American Employment Plan Council by former Gov. Patrick Quinn.

Some of his work includes working against employment discrimination and founding GROW47, an organization dedicated to securing funding for schools. He manages \$300 million for his ward.

Disciplinary dealings need student voice

Review board ensures fairness, helps foster trust

As the Midway sees it ...

When beloved science teacher Daniel Bobo-Jones was fired last month, many U-High students felt angry, heartbroken and betrayed. They expressed their outrage through petitions and colorful protest posters, not out of pettiness, but in response to growing necessity. Across U-High, students are desperate for a voice in school proceedings.

Despite recent circumstances, our institution was founded on the belief that student input ought to be welcomed and encouraged. Untouched by administrative oversight, the Discipline Review Board represented that final frontier. When it was effectively suspended for 2018-19, the outcry that ensued wasn't hard to comprehend.

With unchecked administrative power, distrust and corruption often follow.

The presence of a Discipline Review Board, operated cooperative-

ly by administration, students and faculty, is essential to a fair and cohesive community.

Initially, it seemed the election of new students was put off to address legal concerns with the student handbook's description of the board, as well as what Principal Stephanie Weber described as "best practices" for independent schools. However, it's been several months since a lawyer recommended these adjustments, and since then, no update has been given. In fact, the section pertaining to the board has been removed entirely.

If student privacy is at the root of administrators' concern, we urge them to consider this: no student is compelled to appeal their punishment to the board, and those who decide 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 guaranteed disciplinary proceeding, but as a third party, called upon when students feel their circumstances are inadequately assessed by administration.

No matter who's in charge, students will always be reluctant to surrender their will to a remote body of all-powerful adults. In order to foster balanced, adequately informed perspectives, our ad-



MIDWAY ILLUSTRATION BY ACE ZHANG

ministration emphasizes diversity. Surely, student voice has a place in this initiative, as our peers contribute unique and valuable insight. If our administration truly values justice and not absolute control, they should seek our input in disciplinary proceedings.

U-High has a thoughtful, curious, and deeply critical student body, and ignoring our input will not affect this foundational truth. In fact, dismissal will inevitably lead to louder, more hostile criticism.

Lately, our administration has

placed strong emphasis on community, but if the community they seek cannot exist without our silence, we doubt students will want to engage in it.

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

Social media acts as an echo chamber for your opinions

by ELLA BEISER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A couple weeks ago, a video circulated depicting teenager Nick Sandmann wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat, inches away from Nathan Phillips, a Native American man singing in prayer surrounded by Nick's classmates sporting similar political apparel. The negative reaction to the teenager on social media was tremendous.

This encounter was amplified by the media, and was only a select portion of the encounter. In reality, Mr. Phillips clarified he approached the crowd and intervened. The large group of rowdy teenagers "vilified [them] out of context" and made them seem threatening, according to the New

York Times.

Social media can act as an echo-chamber, amplifying views regardless of their accuracy. Therefore, people must be mindful about where they get their news.

While I do not condone the actions of the teenagers, the full picture of that afternoon makes the situation more complicated. I was enraged when I saw the video, deeming Nick's actions disrespectful. The full picture shows this is an example of how social media can be manipulated to spark reactions groups of



Ella Beiser

people.

According to the New York Times, Russia's Internet Research Agency targeted the 2016 presidential election and spread considerable pro-Trump advertisements targeting "groups like African-Americans, evangelical Christians and pro-gun activists to sow division, confuse voters and support the candidacy of Donald J. Trump." Tactics include voting scams like "Text-to-Vote" and misleading tweets about voting rules. Encouraging voters to waste their vote on a third party and launching social media campaigns such as "stay home on Election Day, your vote doesn't matter" according to New Knowledge, the company that produced the report on Russian disinformation in the

"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, social media acts as an echo chamber amplifying certain political views and targeting those most susceptible to them.

The New York Times describes this sort of disinformation as a "high stakes information war." The IRA's campaign included 10.4 mil-

lion tweets, 1,100 YouTube videos, 116,000 Instagram posts and 61,500 unique Facebook posts.

"It's the terrain on which our entire political culture rests, whose peaks and valleys shape our everyday discourse, and whose possibilities for exploitation are nearly endless," according to The New York Times.

Disinformation and manipulation of social media is not limited to Russia and has been used to help both Republican and Democrat political campaigns.

To combat this phenomenon, Americans need to be more diligent about where they get their news and what they believe. Consider cutting back on news from social media and consider professional newspapers.

With adults failing, teens must step up to save their future

by FRANZI WILD
GUEST COLUMNIST

At this point it's hard not to be really freaked out. The suspension of the 1987 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, you've surely reached that proverbial last straw.

The apocalypse seems like something out of TV show or movie, but when you consider that according to the United Nations, we have only 12 years until the effects of climate change are irreversible, it suddenly seems like we're on the precipice of a self-made apocalypse.

Just take a moment, read that last sentence again, and realize

how short 12 years is. Even the oldest among us (and by us, I mean students, children and young people) will barely be 30 in 12 years. By the time we're barely old enough to make most of these decisions, it will be too late. Most of the grown-ups in board, committee and hearing rooms aren't doing anything. In fact, many of them are still debating whether global warming is even real, and then they wonder why I have nightmares the earth is melting. It's hard to find someone to rely on when it seems the ground is literally disappearing below us.



Franzi Wild

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 choosing not to make our future a priority. I don't want to be fighting inherited wars — both the literal kind and kind for basic human rights — when I'm "grown up." Change needs to happen, or be prepared to be voted out of office the moment we're enfranchised.

A couple of nights ago, I was talking with my mom about gun control, and she mentioned not having lockdown drills but duck-and-cover drills. It's scary to think that when she was my age, rather than being afraid of school shootings, she was afraid of a nuclear bomb dropping on her hometown of Ramsey, New Jersey. It's even

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

scarier to think that now I have to be afraid of both.

When my dad was 16, he protested the presence of U.S. nuclear missiles in Germany. Now that I'm 16, I've already attended two Women's Marches, the March for Our Lives and worked for a congressional campaign to try to change something, and I'm not nearly as politically active as a lot of my friends.

We called it the March for Our Lives because we acutely under-

stand the real and imminent danger posed by the apathy of the grown-ups in power. We understand that we're the only ones who really seem to care.

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. Channel all of that into action. We're grown up enough to do this. If they're not going to listen, we'll make them.

I've seen you channel your frustration about recent happenings at this school into action; apply that to the real world. I've seen you convince your parents to let you buy that and go there; apply that to the real world. I've seen you shoulder eight-plus hours of school, four-plus hours of extracurriculars and another four of homework; apply that to the real world.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Published 10 times during the school year by journalism and photojournalism students of University High School, University of Chicago Laboratory Schools.

1362 East 59th Street
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Printed by FGS, Broadview, Illinois

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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.

Catalogers, curators, learners, teachers

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, Ms. Volk business. But looking back, neither can think of any job they would be 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 on-goings 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.



Shirley Volk

"My favorite part of my job is working with students and helping them find what they need to do their very best. It's just so satisfying to help someone find exactly what they need."

— SUSAN AUGUSTINE, LIBRARIAN

Instead, she pursued education. She eventually ended up taking a part-time job as a paraprofessional at a Chicago public library.

This meant she could work in the library without being fully licensed.

"That job made me know I wanted to be a full-time librarian," Ms. Volk said, "so I went back to graduate school to get my library degree."

Working as a paraprofessional was the turning point for Ms. Volk. It would bring her to the U-High where she has been working for 17 years.

"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 five 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."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY MICHELLE HUSAIN

HELPING STUDY. Librarian Susan Augustine helps junior Annie Billings with an assignment of hers. The librarians are often available to help students with their work, including conducting research for classes about what books are needed for certain projects.

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 waited 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's 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."

Virtue's unusual flavor variety exceeds expectations

by **IVÁN 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 and Italian restaurant that closed in June 2018.

Inside, the restaurant is rather large, but

Virtue:

Address: 1462 E. 53rd Street

What it has to offer: A variety of Southern American meals in a comfortable, stylish venue

the small tables, candle lighting and quiet music make it a cozy place to eat. Patrons keep their conversations to a low volume, making this an excellent spot to carry out a conversation without distraction or disturbance.

As a vegetarian, I am unable to comment on the flavor and quality of the several meat-based dishes. Despite the fact that the restaurant has few vegetarian options, the meals they have do not disappoint.

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 flavor-filled 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 \$29, 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.

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–Thursday; 4:30–11 p.m. on Friday–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.

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MIDWAY PHOTO BY IVAN BECK

FLAVOR - FILLED CUISINE. Virtue's "Hen of the woods mushrooms" combines tangy and savory flavors. Virtue is located at 1462 E. 53rd St., and serves an array of Southern American dishes in a cozy, intimate environment.

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 skill 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 his own flair.

"When I get a new character I normally memorize the lines pretty quickly, and then almost any chance I get, I just throw different line readings at the wall to see what sticks," he said. "Like, I'll lock myself in a room alone or I'll be muttering lines to myself as I walk down the street to try and figure out what 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 cast in the same role again and again in middle school," he said, "and I wouldn't 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 character."

"It was a fun challenge to navigate the quick changes of emotions with the character."

— HENRIK NIELSEN

ter."

Renfield was a big step up for Henrik, but he puts his all into his auditions and focused his attention, so he found his own spin on Renfield and got the part.

"I try not to focus on one type of character that I want to be cast as and try to do as many different parts as possible to increase my range as an actor," he said. "Most of the time during auditions I'll pick out maybe one or two parts I want and try to tailor my auditions around those parts, obviously I don't have complete control in which parts I get."

His theater teacher, Liucija Ambrosini, appreciates his work ethic to master the development of his characters.

"I think he is very thoughtful," she said. "He really tries to get a good physical character and he works in a very concentrated manner and delves into a character — he really studies it. He then tries to show a full three dimensional character that's both physical and mental. I think that that's a sign 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 phenomenal actor. He put in the time and now he can take on any role thrown at him.

He said, "I can kinda just flip a switch and dissolve into the character."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY LILY VAG-URMINSKY

A MAN WITH MANY FACES. Clenching his face and screaming in rage, junior 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.

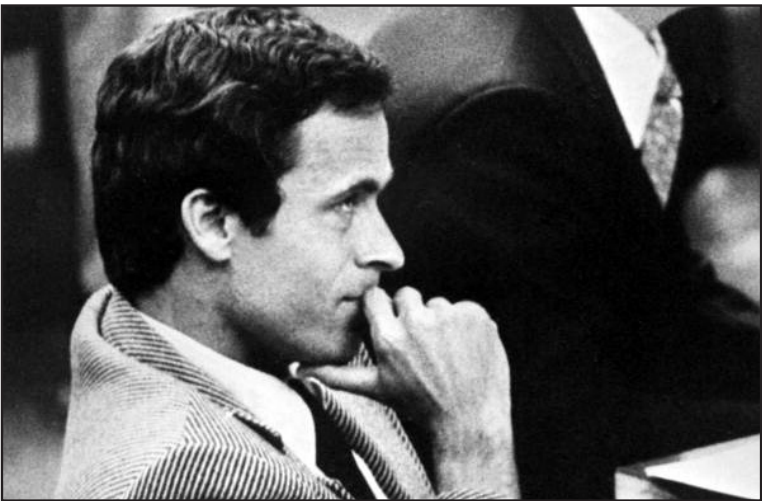
Netflix releases two shows on masterful murderers

by **EMMA TRONE**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The American fascination with serial killers is in the midst of a new Renaissance. People consume twisted tales of physical and psychological violence through their TVs, listening to podcasts like "Serial," and watching movies. With 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 shows no sign of slowing down.

Both deal with the serial killer tropes that have become ubiquitous: narcissism, 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 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 show examines, each show's structure and purpose differ from the beginning. "The Assassination of Gianni Versace" is part of the script-



SOURCE: PUBLIC DOMAIN IMAGE FROM FLORIDA STATE ARCHIVE

MURDER ON THE MIND. A master manipulator and sociopathic killer, Ted Bundy sits in court and attempts to control the room.

ed "American Crime Story" anthology, while "The Ted Bundy Tapes" is a four-part documentary.

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 it's studying: Andrew Cunanan. What unfolds is a slightly uneven but generally thoughtful look at how homophobia, classism and untreated mental illness created

a monster not only in Cunanan himself but which tormented the lives of his victims long before he reached their front doorsteps.

The attention paid to the lives of Jeff Trail and David Madson, Cunanan's first two victims, are the best examples of the show's more ambitious aims. Through the series' backward storytelling, they become fully-fleshed characters in their own right. An episode mostly devoted to Jeff Trail and the "Don't Ask Don't Tell" military policy during the '90s is a particularly

heartbreaking example of how the show humanizes the victims while building its case on how societal prejudice is a killer more pervasive and brutal than Cunanan could ever aspire to be.

"The Ted Bundy Tapes" doesn't do much of that, besides an off-hand reference to the brewing feminist movement of the early '70s that coincided with Bundy's killing spree. The documentary is really just a monster movie, without much else to say besides some light swipes at the media, law enforcement and even the women Bundy manipulated along the way. Bundy's numerous victims are only sometimes named, occasionally with a picture and comments about their physical beauty.

Because of its documentary format, the whole story is mostly one-sided. When Bundy is being filmed, he knows it and acts accordingly. His on-camera persona forces a separation between himself and the suffering of his victims and their families, and it's difficult to feel the full weight of the lives he's ruined. It's hard not to think of how much Bundy would have enjoyed continuing to be elevated as a smooth-talking charmer that was simultaneously unrivaled in killing ability. In the end, the documentary becomes just like the

Serial Stats:

"The Ted Bundy Tapes"
Documentary featuring archival footage; four episodes of 50-75 minutes each.

"American Crime Story: The Assassination of Gianni Versace"
Re-creation starring Darren Criss as Andrew Cunanan; nine episodes of 55-75 minutes each.

people it critiques: entranced by Bundy's boy-next-door demeanor 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 respark 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.

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Artistic conversations

Corvus Gallery exhibit questions inequality in laws

by **GRACE ZHANG**
ARTS EDITOR

Minimal patterns and neutral color hang from the walls inside the Corvus Gallery this winter quarter. Walking through the gallery and observing the art, one can see the many subtle details in the showcased art, not perceptible from a distance and drawing the viewer closer. However, these details emphasize deeper issues about discrimination and inconsistencies.

“Fault Lines,” the new exhibit on display through March 14 in the Gordon Parks Arts Hall gallery, includes Bethany Collins’ “Birmingham News,” Samuel Levi Jones’ “Boys Club” and “False Promises” and Amanda Williams’ “Chicago is Iraq?”

The three artists were commissioned by University of Chicago’s Smart Museum to create artwork currently part of the museum’s “Solidary & Solitary” exhibit. Alison Gass, Dana Feitler Director of

Smart Museum of Art and member of the Gallery Committee at Lab, recommended the previous works of Ms. Collins, Mr. Jones and Ms. Williams.

Gina Alicea, middle school art teacher and curator, chose the artworks to display and combine and the gallery committee grouped the gallery under a common theme, about fault lines, divisive issues or differences of opinion that have serious consequences.

“I think it really speaks to the issues of segregation and equality,” Ms. Alicea said, “and what’s happening in what’s happened for decades here in Chicago.”

The work of Ms. Williams, a 1992 U-High alumna, includes eight laser-cut maps of Chicago neighborhoods receiving the name “Chiraq,” such as Englewood, Woodlawn and Washington Park, framed by a cut out of a map of the nation of Iraq. The work highlights redlining on the south and west sides, a purposeful effort to segregate by denying African-Americans loans to those buying in certain neighborhoods. In addition, Ms. Collins’ “Birmingham News,” white-on-white embossed articles from newspapers in 1963, used language to highlight how the arti-

cles didn’t depict what was actually happening in Birmingham.

“Birmingham news was white-washed,” Ms. Alicea said, describing the articles. “There were riots in the street, and the Birmingham news kind of ignored what was actually happening around them.”

Mr. Jones’ “Boys Club” and “False Promises,” both canvases of deconstructed law books, explore the differences between the promises laws make and if they’re creating false hope.

Outside of the gallery, videos and maps about redlining are set up for viewing, providing more context and information to the gallery. Students in Ms. Alicea’s seventh grade class participated in the showcase by creating protest posters after learning about these issues.

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



MIDWAY PHOTO BY GRACE ZHANG

PONDERING. Olivia Pon looks at Samuel Levi Jones’ artwork “False Promises.” This quarter’s exhibit, “Fault Lines,” incorporates three artists’ works in a conversation about inequality.

Guest historian discusses slavery through food lens

by **PETER PU**
MIDWAY REPORTER

Michael Twitty, a culinary historian and the author of “The Cooking Gene,” touched on themes including place, culture, justice and what it means to be an American during his public keynote on the evening of Jan. 24 in Gordon Parks Arts Hall. His lecture was part of the Kistenbroker Family Artist in Residence program.

Twitty talked about his ancestry,

slavery and how transatlantic and domestic slave trade spread African culture and foods such as rice, coffee, sweet potatoes, black-eyed peas and okra.

African foods were introduced and cultivated wherever slaves went.

“People’s ‘foodsteps’ go with their footsteps,” Mr. Twitty said.

Twitty said he has visited slave castles in Africa and picked cotton to better understand slaves’

experiences. He said that everyone should visit these sites and it should be a relief, not painful, because the pain is nothing compared to what slaves experienced.

“You do not know what pain is,” Mr. Twitty said.

Among other examples of oppression slaves experienced, he said a slave castle in Senegal that he visited had a line marking two cubic feet of human feces that was once present.

“I had no idea how much I took for granted,” Twitty said.

After the event, chicken skewers, heirloom collard greens, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese, black-eyed pea hummus and small desserts were served. Guests also received a bottle of South African balsamic vinegar infused with rooibos and honey and could get their copy of “The Cooking Gene” signed by Twitty.

According to event organizer

Ruthie Williams, one of the reasons the team chose Mr. Twitty is his story and storytelling ability exemplified in “The Cooking Gene,” which won two James Beard awards.

In addition to his keynote speech, Mr. Twitty also visited the classes middle school World Cuisine, Advanced Topics African-American History and Smorgasbord Food Writing, an English elective.

‘Roma’ sells ordinary life over thrill

by **PRIYANKA SHRIJAY**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As Leo Dan’s, “Te He Prometido,” which translates to “I have promised you,” blasts through the home of a middle-class household in the Colonia Roma neighborhood of Mexico City, a live-in maid hums to herself and scrubs the house down. With this lulling humdrum the audience is introduced to Cleo, protagonist in “Roma.”

Director Alfonso Cuarón takes his time establishing Cleo’s mundane day-to-day activities as the film’s first seven minutes are dialogue-free and dedicated to her routine. In highlighting the monotony, Cuarón sets up the most brilliant aspect of the film: the portrayal of authentic ordinariness. It is this brilliance that makes the film worth watching. If you solely value action and thrill, it’s safe to say that this will not hold your interest. If you appreciate a beautifully made, ruminative film rich with intimate honesty, “Roma” will fascinate you and above all, keep you mulling over its intricacies and cinematic choices.

It is clear early on that Cuarón does everything he can to preserve that authenticity, and its effect is profound. From the non-rushed, unvarying routine to the no-holds-barred representation of ubiquitous personal plights to the entirely Spanish dialogue, “Roma” offers a look into a 1970s Mexican household from an entirely veritable point-of-view as opposed to being depicted through a sen-



SOURCE: IMDB

AWARD-WINNING. “Roma” is nominated for 10 Academy Awards, including Best picture and Actress in a leading role.

sationalized Hollywood lens. The household so intimately depicted in this film is not just representative of a single story thought up by a person with a pen in a writer’s room. It represents thousands of other Mexican households, and it does so deliberately. The beauty of the film is that it attaches emotional value to ordinary life rather than pulling at an audience’s love for spectacle.

Still, the film is not all kid-feeding and floor-scrubbing. From unexpected pregnancy to natural disasters to gun violence, cracks begin to appear in the stability of the household. Heart-wrenching depictions of a student demonstration-turned-riot and of a distraught woman holding a dying man in her arms settle the audience with a somberness. Around the focused depiction of this Mexican household, Cuarón sheds light on the social and political hardships of the time.

While the content is certainly not driven by spectacle, the cinematography is remarkable. The

entire film is shot in black and white, contributing the film’s air of clarity. As opposed to the classic still camera covering an expansive frame, the camera in “Roma” is often moving, adding a subtly impactful visual layer that allows for a less-staged depiction of Cleo’s story.

That this film is semi-autobiographical becomes evident through the cinematography and direction. Cuarón is present through the striking images he draws up from his childhood memories of a maid much like Cleo. More than in most films, the cinematography in “Roma” itself has character.

Where “Roma” lacks in excitement it makes up for in emotion and thoughtful depiction of ordinary life. It immediately puts viewers in a contemplative headspace. You won’t watch this film and feel adrenaline coursing through your veins, but you’ll be left with an appreciation for its beauty and poignancy. That itself makes watching “Roma” a fruitful experience.

Hostless Academy Awards delivers historical firsts

by **ABIGAIL SLIMMON**
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 a powerful example for the black community. It’s nominated for six Oscars including best picture, becoming the first superhero movie to ever be included in this category. It was released Feb. 16, 2018, and became the third-highest grossing film of all time.



SOURCE: IMDB

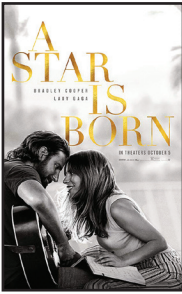
Additionally, “The Favourite,” a star-studded comedy, and “Roma” lead with 10 nominations each followed by “A Star Is Born” with eight.

Although it does not have the most nominations, the fourth remake of “A Star Is Born” featuring Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga was declared 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 one, 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 being one of the most nominated films, “Roma” also became the first movie 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 picture.

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.



SOURCE: IMDB

“A Star is Born”

Turn it up — get moving

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

by **ELLA BEISER**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Entering Upper Kovler 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-ups and practices.

“Personally, I have specific playlists to get me amped up,” Donna Tong, a swimmer, said. “I listen to them before the race because you know we’re in the water, 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 community.”

Donna described how in the summer the swimmers run 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 on bus rides, parties, practices

“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

— literally everywhere we go.”

Alex Stevanovich, a runner on the cross country team, said singing along to music on bus rides “fosters more of a sense of community and makes everyone want to work harder, so the team isn’t let down.”

According to Alex, cross country teams are not allowed to listen to music during their races. “That being said, I often pick a song before a race to sing on repeat in my head to help pace myself and to keep thoughts of wanting to quit out of my mind.”

It’s not just athletes who use music to set the tone. As announcers, Marisa McGehee and Loren Pope play music and announce games in the gym.

“At the beginning, the basketball teams were kind of wary of having us at the games just because it might distract from the play or something,” Marisa said, “but now at least I think it really gets them hyped up. It’s kind of like we are part of the whole experience now.”

According to volleyball player Sydney Rogers, music is an important method of getting the crowd engaged.

“Sometimes volleyball can get a little boring, especially if we’re not playing well,” Sydney said. “I think it gets them more involved like



MIDWAY ILLUSTRATION BY RISA COHEN

cheering and excited. We definitely play way better when the fans are cheering.”

Every season a soccer player is in charge of the music, and this year the job went to captain Jamie Miller.

Jamie said during bus rides he usually would just play popular rap music. However, when the team would get 15 minutes from the destination he would play a set list of six songs where everybody knew all the words.


“We all get up and shake the bus dancing and singing the words together,” Jamie said. “The main song was ‘Surfin’ by Kid Cudi last year and that was because when we randomly played it over that summer and Coach Potter started dancing to it, which was funny,” Jamie said.

According to Jamie, the team also uses music to discourage and scare the other team. “It’s always intimidating when you see a bus coming in jamming out to ‘One Kiss’ by Dua Lipa and Mo Bamba with the whole bus shaking and the whole team screaming at the top of their lungs.”

TEAM RESULTS

U-High scores are listed first.

Boys Basketball, Varsity


 **Notable:** The basketball team is preparing for playoffs starting Feb. 26. They will celebrate senior night at their home game against Latin Feb. 12.

North Shore	Feb. 7	44-43
Elgin Academy	Feb. 6	49-47
Morgan Park	Jan. 25	71-29
Northridge	Jan. 23	46-43

Boys Basketball, JV

Elgin Academy	Feb. 6	44-30
Northridge	Jan. 23	

Girls Basketball

 **Notable:** The team celebrated seniors at the final home game of the season against Morgan Park Academy Feb. 4.


Acero Soto	Feb. 7	39-21
Morgan Park	Feb. 4	51-45
Catalyst Maria	Jan. 25	44-30
Kelly	Jan. 24	43-37

Fencing

 Jonathan Liu, a freshman sabre, placed second at the


Illinois High School State Championship Jan. 26.

Squash

 **Notable:** The players had their last match of the season Feb. 10.


Chicagoland Champ.	Feb. 10	5th
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Boys Swimming

 **Notable:** The team held senior night at their home meet against Lake Forest Academy. Junior Charles Chen took first place in the 200 Free-style. Additionally, senior Mitch Walker ended first in the 200 IM.

Lake Forest	Feb. 7	Won
Evergreen Park Inv.	Jan. 23 & 25	3rd

Girls & Boys Indoor Track

 **Notable:** The track and field teams started their indoor-season Jan. 14.

DeLaSalle Institute Inv.	Feb. 3	Won
Proviso West Inv.	Feb. 9	Won

— COMPILED BY NICKY EDWARDS-LEVIN

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.

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 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.

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 1,020 feet tall, perfect for intermediate skiers. This resort has 17 trails with 7 chair lifts. This resort has lodging.

FLYING HIGH. Soaring through the air, Alec Wyers goes over a jump on Senior Retreat. Some seniors spent Feb. 1 skiing and snowboarding on Chestnut Mountain in Galena.

MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMERSON WRIGHT

