

# u-high midway

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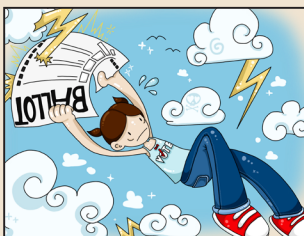
## PAGE 5 • FEATURES

Gym building security guard Brian Arcenaux was recognized for his service to Lab. His joyful, supportive presence for both students and teachers has created a welcoming community.



## PAGES 6-7 • IN-DEPTH

Going into the midterm election, students must seek out credible, accurate and trustworthy news sources amid the growing number of biased online media outlets and politicized mailings.



## PAGE 11 • SPORTS

After a major back surgery for scoliosis left him on the sidelines, Ethan Kucera is back playing golf on the varsity team. He has returned a stronger player than ever before.



# +Cost Convenience

Teachers choose open source, online textbooks

by KATIE SASAMOTO-KURISU

Assistant Editor

Junior Hannah Dinner added to her cart on the MBS website the newest edition of a \$110 online history book, just one of the expensive textbooks that she had to purchase for the new school year. But for her AT Physics 1 class, Hannah avoided this expense because her teacher decided to use an Openstax textbook.

Openstax, a free, open source and peer-reviewed online textbook site supported by Rice University, has been newly implemented for courses in the math and science departments such as AP Statistics, AT Chemistry and AT Physics 1.

These textbooks are a way teachers have helped cut down textbook costs for students.

So far, students have been finding these textbooks to be effective.

At first, Hannah was surprised not to have to buy a textbook for physics. Using it for studying, she's found that she appreciates how accessible and clear the content is.

Teachers are also pleased with the textbooks and their content.

AP Statistics teacher Julia Maguire has found that they fit her need for her course, which follows a structured curriculum determined by the College Board.

In discovering Openstax, she was pleased to find a resource that is easy to navigate and caters to different learning styles by offering a note-taking and highlighting function.

"I had to find a book that had all the topics, I felt was readable, easily accessible to students, easy to interact with," she said. "So for me, it was a win-win."

Ms. Maguire believes all students should have equal opportunity to access materials and resources and that the challenge of ob-

"I had to find a book that had all the topics, I felt was readable, easily accessible to students, easy to interact with, so for me it was a win-win."

Julia Maguire,  
AP Statistics teacher

taining them should not dictate a student's ability to thrive in a course.

"If there's anything I can do to make the course accessible for everyone, whether that's cost or anything else, I can do that," she said.

AT Chemistry teacher Zachary Hund also supported this switch within the science department to simplify the process for students.

"Switching to Openstax for chemistry allowed me to guarantee that students weren't paying for a textbook. They would have it every single day," he said.

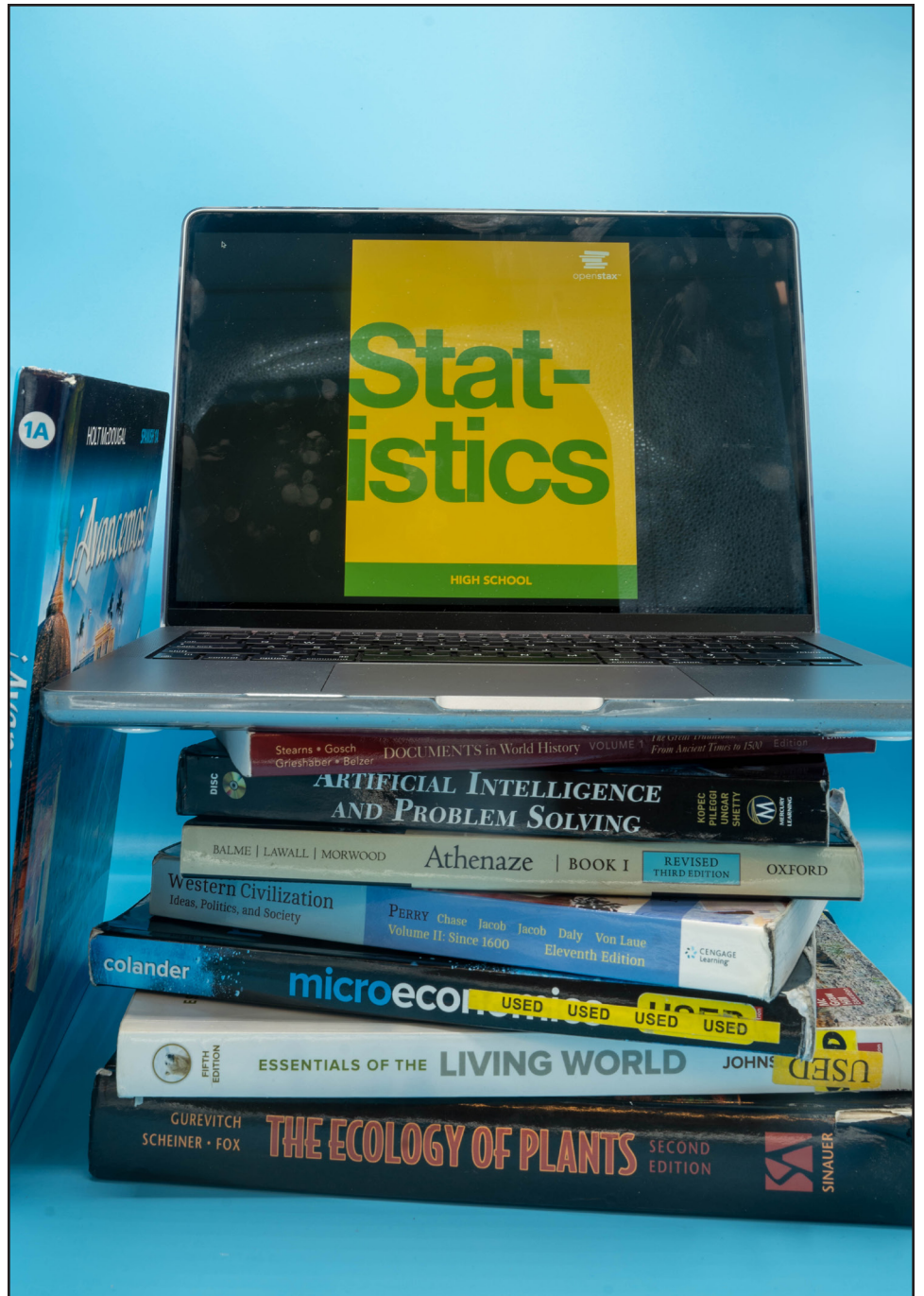
There have been discussions to use Openstax in other departments, and other courses within departments that are currently using them.

Dr. Hund, science department chair, said that use of these textbooks for a wider range of science courses has been an ongoing conversation.

In areas such as history, where Openstax offers textbooks on U.S. history and economics, this concept is less feasible.

In an email to the Midway, Christy Gerst, history department chair, explained that Openstax does not maintain books for the majority of classes in the department.

She wrote, "A one-size-fits-all approach does not appear on the immediate horizon."



Midway photo by Matt Petres

**OPENING ACCESS.** More courses within the science and math departments are now using the online, open source textbook Openstax to decrease costs for students.

# First Latinidad assembly celebrates diversity of Latinx culture



Midway photo by Mathew McGhee

**TRADITIONAL TUNES.** Marisa Cordeiro of the Afro Brazilian dance group Gingarte Capoeira demonstrates two traditional Brazilian instruments, the berimbau and caxixi, both used in the martial art form of capoeira.

by ETHAN SWINGER

Assistant Editor

Highlighting the diversity of stories, cultures and experiences among the Latinx community to U-High students, Latinos Unidos hosted its first-ever assembly "Celebrating Latinidad" on Oct. 20.

The assembly kicked off with featured guest speaker Teresa Barajas, a community engagement specialist at the Field Museum, who discussed how she works with many cultural different backgrounds at her job and the impact of her Mexican American heritage on her upbringing.

She pointed to the many famous Latinas both in and outside of her life as people who have provided her much inspiration and guidance.

"When I think about what motivates me to keep going, I can't give you one specific name or Latina superpower," Teresa said. "I think about so many amazing Latina women: Frida Kahlo, Dolores Huerta, Sonia Sotomayor ...

and so many more and the struggles they had to overcome to accomplish all that they did in each of their fields."

Latinidad also presented two traditional Brazilian dance performances from Gingarte Capoeira, an Afro Brazilian dance group. One dance was the maculelê, an Afro Brazilian art form, and the other was capoeira, a form combining martial arts with dance.

Student members from the Black Students' Association, Asian Students' Association and Muslim Students' Association helped co-host the assembly to expand on what Latinidad means for their communities.

"We really wanted to work with them to kind of bring out the diversity that really comes with being Latinx," said Juan Chaides, a co-president of Latinos Unidos.

Juan believes many Latinx people and groups are underrepresented, especially at Lab. Latinidad was an effort to bring awareness to the Latinx community at U-High.

Co-President Kariani Rojas expressed how Latinidad helps bring attention to Latinos Unidos and the multiculturalism within the Latinx community in Chicago and as a whole.

"It's basically meant to introduce the Latinos Unidos club to the community," Kariani said. "There's a lot of mischaracterization of [the Latino community] as just Mexican communities being here when there are a lot more."

Kariani hopes that Latinidad will set a precedent and this will become an annual assembly for the club.

Junior Katie Williams believed the assembly surpassed expectations and was captivated through its different segments that displayed the broad variety of Latinx culture.

"I kinda had high expectations and they fully succeeded," Katie said. "I was really excited to see the different aspects of the different cultures and the balance between performing arts and education."



# Striving toward gender equality

*Feminism clubs' shared goals fulfill needs, invite effort*

By CLARE MCROBERTS  
Assistant Editor

A sea of students flows throughout the cafeteria during Club Shopping as group leaders urge people to sign up. Amid the chaos — and more than 80 clubs — are leaders from at least five clubs that focus on the empowerment of women.

These U-High clubs tackle some of the same issues, but their leaders say there is room for all of them and that each fills a distinct need. In fact, they say, there is room for more.

"I feel like we're all kind of striving toward a similar goal," said Maggie Bai, a president at Girls Who Code. "So I don't think that there's tension between all the female empowerment clubs, because we're all kind of trying to empower women."

Girl Up vice president Sarina Zhao said that every group offers a different angle.

"There are benefits to each," Sarina said, "and I think it's really cool to see all these clubs around the school."

Girl Up focuses on gender equality, taking part in activities like fundraising and workshops focused on gender equity for middle school students. The club is part of an international organization founded in 2010 as an initiative by the United Nations Foundation.

“While we do different things, and we have different focuses, we do have a shared focus and overall goal.”  
Sarina Zhao

"I think a lot of the other clubs focus, again, just on a specific lens to view gender inequity," Sarina said. "Our club kind of does a more overarching approach to some of these issues."

Girls Who Code, a new club, encourages young women who are passionate about computer science to learn coding and pursue career interests in tech. Already, 34 students have expressed interest in joining the group.

A more established club, Women in STEM, also leans toward math and science. Its emphasis, though, aims more at networking and guidance, from science experiment days with younger students to mentorships with college students for club members. The group is part of a far larger organization with chapters across the country and beyond.



Midway photo by Sarah Abdelsalam

**EXPANDING FEMINISM.** Juniors Santana Romero, Norie Kaufman-Sites and Stella Sturgill converse during an Intersectional Feminism club meeting on Oct. 24. Intersectional Feminism club focuses on the empowerment of groups that are marginalized.

ization with chapters across the country and beyond.

Ana Cucalon, Lab chapter president of Women in STEM, said the club's unique focus on careers in STEM differentiates it from the other women-centered groups, and that there is more than enough room for all.

In the group Young Women of Color, members say they find ways to create a safe place to be their most authentic selves, supporting one another with their experiences at U-High and outside of school.

"YWOC is centered around the empowerment of women of color and the intersectionality of what it means to be a woman and of color," said Kiran Chinniah, the president of Young Women of Color.

Another club, Intersectional Feminism, looks more broadly at empowerment and groups that are marginalized — not only women.

"It's not constricted or restricted to women or to people with uteruses," said Stella Sturgill, a co-president. "It applies to anyone who experiences some kind of

system of oppression. I think that's one thing that really sets us apart."

While these groups share similar aims, leaders said they don't work together as much as they could. In fact, several said that more collaboration between the clubs might accomplish even more.

"I definitely think that it would be valuable to have more communication among all these clubs," Sarina said. "While we do different things, and we have different focuses, we do have a shared focus and overall goal."

## Committee advances four 2023-24 daily schedule models

by Amy Ren  
Assistant Editor

The high school schedule committee presented four models for how to revise the daily schedule to the high school faculty Oct. 12. The high school committee and administrators also met with middle and lower school administrators and part of their schedule change committees Oct. 20 to discuss models and begin coordinating possible schedules across Lab's Historic Campus.

The high school schedule change committee started their

process in November 2021, work that is necessary because beginning in September 2023, the school day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m.

"We have worked since last winter, researching and creating possible models and gone through many ideas and thrown out many ideas," said committee co-chair Jane Canright, a math teacher. "We worked it down to four models that have some significant differences from each other."

Co-chair Aria Choi, a counselor, emphasized that the meeting with

high school faculty was to share the models and provide an update on the committee's work, not to vote or determine which model to use.

Although the committee had met with department heads earlier, the Oct. 12 meeting was the first time high school faculty learned about the four models and had a chance to give feedback about their concerns.

However, since the presentation was on Zoom, the co-chairs said there were few opportunities for a full discussion.

"There were questions, there were some concerns expressed. I think a lot of people are still processing what the issues are going to be," Ms. Canright said. "So we didn't get a lot of feedback, but little by little, it's starting to trickle in by email and so forth. So I think mostly at this point, it's people asking questions and expressing concerns about certain things and clarifying whether those things would be possible in the different models."

On Oct. 20, committee members and administrators representing

the lower, middle and high schools met to compare the models each school has developed.

The P.E., art, music, computer science and world language departments share faculty and spaces across the historic campus, so schedules for these schools must fit together.

Ms. Choi said, "The plan is to identify common priorities and developmental needs of the students, to see how we can reflect that in a schedule that works for this campus, specifically in the shared time and spaces."

### news in brief

#### Model UN wins awards at training conference

The Model United Nations team sent ninth graders and sophomores to a training conference at Carl Sandburg High School on Oct. 15. Sophomores Victoria Washington, Angela Zhang and Helen Kraemer won best delegation, and sophomores Alexander Saratovsky, Olin Nafziger and Raza Zaidi won honorable delegate.

Lauren Tapper, one of MUN's secretaries-general, said that Carl Sandburg MUN builds morale by getting the ninth graders comfortable and sophomores back into the activity.

"The sophomores all did an incredible job. I can see how much they have matured over the summer," Lauren said. "It was great to see them all passionate about the conference and excited to jump back into MUN."

For the ninth graders, CSMUN was a way to test the waters of MUN conferences.

"CSMUN was really just a training conference to get them more familiar with the activity and excited about the season ahead," said Lauren.

— Chloe Alexander

#### U-High Midway finalist for national award

The U-High Midway has again been named a Pacemaker Finalist by the National Scholastic Press Association.

The Pacemaker was given to the Midway for journalistic excellence during the 2021-22 school year. The Midway has been a finalist in five of the last six years and 15 times in its history.

Just 33 high school newspapers in the country were named finalists this year.

Current Midway editor-in-chief William Tan said he was proud of the achievements of the journalism team.

"It's a reflection of the work that we have all put in as a team," William said, "and hopefully this coming year everyone will continue to work hard to make that award happen."

— Xander Feigenbaum

#### U-High welcomes new high school office secretary

Emese El Bissatine Pasztor started working as U-High's office secretary in late September after being a substitute teacher for 10 years.

"I always felt like Lab school is where I belong," Ms. Pasztor said.

After working for many years as a substitute teacher, Emese El Bissatine Pasztor has come to know and love the environment and positive values of the Laboratory Schools. Over the years, she has declined offers to go work at other schools because of not only the work environment, but also the people who are a part of the Lab community.

— Parmita Kashanipour

#### Lab community celebrates Diwali with two events

The Lab community is preparing for and celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights. The family celebration took place on Oct. 14, and a student celebration sponsored by the Asian Students' Association will be Oct. 27.

The family Diwali celebration occurred in C116 with golden lanterns and flower petals lining the hallways.

"I don't really get to dress up in Indian clothes very often, and it's amazing to embrace this part of myself at Lab," Vedika Dangi, ninth grader, said.

The theme of the celebration was "golden," featured in outfits, decorations and even some of the food.

"Our theme is gold, so it's like bringing in prosperity and happiness for the community," said Bhawna Singh, co-leader of the Parents' Association Desi culture group.

Diwali is among the major festivals celebrated by Hindus, Jains and Sikhs. The festival usually lasts five days and is celebrated during the Hindu lunisolar month Kartika.

The modern celebration usually includes dressing in colorful traditional clothing, lighting the inside and outside of homes with rows of lamps or other lights, and fireworks. Additionally, there are worship services, a large traditional feast and gift exchanges.

— Light Dohrn

### a cappella concert



Midway photo by Matt Petres

**SHARING SONG.** At an a cappella concert in Gordon Parks Arts Hall on Oct. 22, Dania Baig, a Class of 2020 alumna, performs with the Yale Wiffenpoofs. "It felt like a really big full-circle moment. High school is a huge part of why I got into the arts, why I got into singing," Dania said. "Singing is what I love and how I got into college, and being able to kind of perform for all my favorite teachers and my family and friends that have helped support me through that experience was really fun."



# ‘History is dope’

*TikTok historian preserves Chicago neighborhood histories through tours*

by **WILLIAM TAN**  
Editor-in-Chief

“And remember, everything dope in America comes from Chicago, the greatest city on Earth.” Those who recognize this phrase from TikTok know it’s the trademark sign-off of Chicago urban historian Shermann “Dilla” Thomas. Under the account 6figga\_dilla, Mr. Thomas’ brief and engaging videos on defining aspects of Chicago’s history have gone viral on TikTok to over 96,000 followers. From introducing deep-dish pizza and Italian beef to profiling Earl B. Dickerson, the first African American to graduate from the University of Chicago, Mr. Thomas wishes to challenge narratives that misconstrue Chicago history while teaching his audience about the city that he embraces as home. Mr. Thomas gave a lecture at the University of Chicago on Oct. 14 and later participated in an interview with the Midway.

Even before finding a platform to share his knowledge, Mr. Thomas has always appreciated the value of history. His father served in the Chicago police force and would drive his son around in his car, pointing out different neighborhood landmarks and encouraging him to memorize street names. “I’m the son of a Chicago policeman. He was a cop here for 32 years. And so just as a kid, anything we drove past, he kind of knew the history of it, just from being a cop,” Mr. Thomas said. “Either that was the former alderman’s office, or that’s where something tragically sad happened, or maybe that was where something good happened.” In 1992, when Mr. Thomas was 11, he witnessed native Chicagoan Carol Moseley Braun become the first Black woman to become a U.S. Senator. In this moment he

realized that understanding Chicago history could have powerful implications. “I remember being around Carol Moseley Braun as a kid, and just how she talked about Chicago history and the fact that it was her being from Chicago that even made it possible to become the first Black U.S. woman senator,” he said. “I would say that’s when I fell in love with Chicago history.” More importantly, Mr. Thomas recognized early on the growing negative narratives encircling his hometown. He saw people equating Chicago with untrue stereotypes and generalizations while failing to recognize its vibrant and unique cultural past. “People would say, ‘Such and such got killed on O Block, and then the hashtag would be ‘Chicago History.’ And for me, that is something that historically happened, but that’s not Chicago history, right?” he said. “We’re more than that.” Though he works as an electrician by day, Mr. Thomas started to dream of educating others about Chicago history as an avocation only a couple years ago. “I thought I was just gonna work for the Union, retire at 68, take my pension, and then I was going to drive a cab and bore the hell out of whoever got in about Chicago history,” he said during the UChicago talk. “Everywhere I dropped you off, I was gonna tell you a story. That was how I was gonna get it out of me.” But the chance to share his historical knowledge would come much earlier than expected. Stuck inside during the pandemic, Mr. Thomas saw an opportunity to use TikTok as a learning resource to correct misconceptions surrounding Chicago culture.



Midway photo by Ishani Hariprasad

**SHARING STORIES.** Shermann “Dilla” Thomas lectures on the history of Chicago. Mr. Thomas has always had an interest in history, but he started posting on TikTok about Chicago history during the pandemic.

“I thought history would be an activation, something I was good at. But then what made me go ahead and do it was what I was seeing on TikTok,” he said. “I just [wanted] to be a counterbalance to what was negative out there about Chicago. This was what really got me started. That, and wanting to bond with my kids.” Now, Mr. Thomas’s passion for history has become his work. In addition to making daily TikToks about all 77 neighborhoods of Chicago, he leads in-person tours of major landmarks with his company, Chicago Mahogany Tours. He’s also drafting a pilot episode script for a movie studio hoping to film a historical fiction series about Chicago. Mr. Thomas believes he didn’t choose to be an urban his-

“I just [wanted] to be a counterbalance to what was negative out there about Chicago. This was what really got me started.”  
Shermann “Dilla” Thomas

torian. Rather, history chose him. He’s always wanted to connect with others through a shared joy of embracing Chicago history. Now he has a platform and audience to make that a reality. “I figured I would put out the information that I loved, which was Chicago history, on TikTok,” he said at UChicago. “And the world told me that I was a historian. So I listened.”

## quick pics:

Shermann “Dilla” Thomas posts on TikTok @6figga\_dilla daily about Chicago history.



Chicago White Sox

A South Side native, Mr. Thomas covered the history of both Chicago baseball teams and how they have influenced their communities.



Mr. Thomas tells the story of an iconic piece of Chicago art. While it was designed by Picasso, he never visited the city.



Robert Sandifer was killed by fellow gang members when he was 11. Mr. Thomas wants to deal with the negative stereotypes around Chicago.

— compiled by Peter Cox

# Resturant offers upscale Gulf Coast food



Midway photo by Patrice Graham

**CLASSIC CUISINE.** A customer enjoys his food at a table at Daisy’s Po’ Boy. The restaurant, which opened this summer, is an homage to classic New Orleans sandwich cuisine.

by **AUDREY MATEI**  
Arts Editor

The multi-colored windows facing Hyde Park’s always-awake Harper Avenue illuminate the dining room with a kaleidoscope of colors as the headlights of cars pass by. The uptempo music and a droning chatter mix to create a vibrant atmosphere within the restaurant. Best of all, the scents of traditional New Orleanian food waft from the kitchen into the dining room evoking flavors of home-cooked shrimp, gumbo and even alligator. Recently opened Daisy’s Po’ Boy and Tavern has something for everyone looking for a taste of the American South. Daisy’s Po’ Boy and Tavern opened on 52nd Street and Harper Avenue in early August and is centered around the food and culture of New Orleans. The restaurant is the creation of Chef Erick Williams, a James Beard Award-winning chef who opened Virtue Restaurant and Bar only a few years ago just down the street.

The restaurant was named after Chef Williams’ Aunt Daisy and Uncle Stew, who started the chef’s love for the traditional food of New Orleans. Daisy’s has been lovingly designed around its theme. Everything from its Mardi Gras wall decor to its alligator-adorned napkin dispensers screams New Orleans. Unlike Virtue, Daisy’s is a much more casual dining experience. Patrons order at a counter, and multiple TVs display sports channels throughout the large bar area of the dining room. Chef Williams told Block Club Chicago that the restaurant was designed to mimic the spirit of New Orleans. “We’re a restaurant that has delicious food with the sounds and scenes of New Orleans,” he said. “It’s vibrant. It’s colorful” Daisy’s main selling point and namesake is the po’boy, a classic sandwich typically containing seafood or roast beef served on New Orleans French bread. They also serve other classic American dishes like gumbo, onion rings and wings.

I tried one of their signature dishes, the fried shrimp po’boy. The shrimp was cooked to perfection and was complemented by pickles, lettuce, tomatoes and mayo. The French bread was the perfect combination of crunchy outside and pillowy inside, allowing its contents to fully shine. Generally, the flavors were unsurprising yet delicious. The price range of the dishes stray toward the higher end, so Daisy’s may not be an everyday restaurant option. The 12-inch po’boys range from \$16 for the fried green tomato option to \$30 for the fried oyster option. Keep in mind that the 12-inch option is a more filling portion while the 6-inch po’boy is on the lighter side for a full meal. Despite this, Daisy’s offers an ambient place to sit down and enjoy a delicious meal with loved ones. So, if you’re driving by Harper Avenue and a flash of color catches the corner of your eye, give Daisy’s Po’ Boy and Tavern a try. The flavors and Gulf Coast atmosphere are worth a shot.



# From pre to post-Roe v. Wade

*Service provided women with safe, illegal abortions in Hyde Park*

by SAHANA UNNI  
Features Editor

Editor's note: The six women quoted in this story were interviewed throughout October, either in Hyde Park or via Zoom.

Before the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion nationwide, Dorie Barron, a Chicagoan who was only 23 years old, found herself unexpectedly pregnant with the child of a man who was unemployed, living with his parents and “freaked out.” As a young woman with her future in mind, Ms. Barron said she felt she had no other choice but to have an abortion.

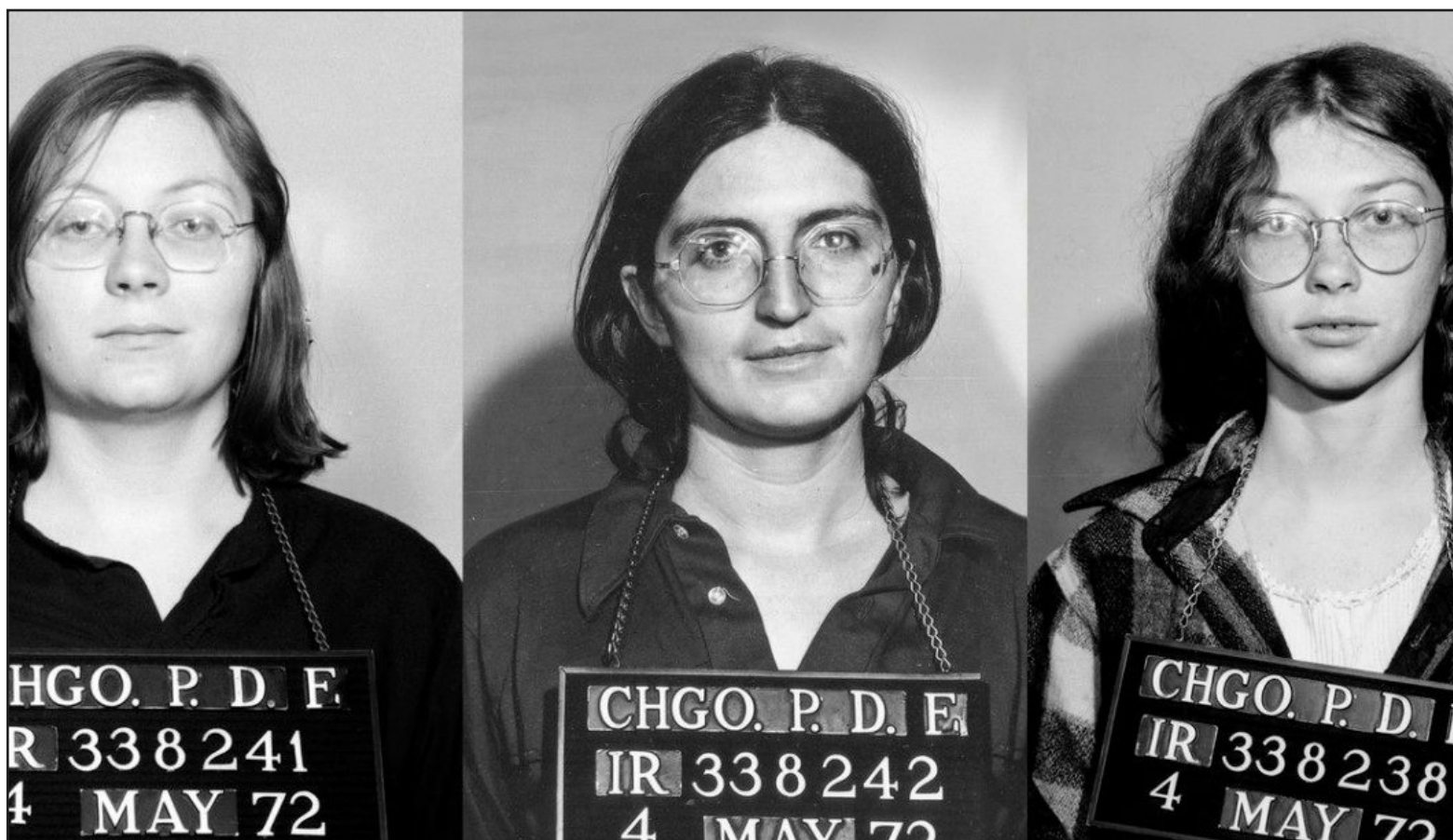
Not knowing what else to do, Ms. Barron put her life in the hands of the Chicago mafia, who quickly arranged for the procedure to be administered in a motel room and left her bleeding. It wasn't until she had another unwanted pregnancy a couple of years later, that she was introduced to and subsequently joined the Janes.

The Chicago Women's Liberation Abortion Counseling Service, also known as the Jane Collective, was an organization that provided beneficial counseling and safe abortions to women dealing with unwanted pregnancies in the South Side of Chicago from 1969-73. Despite the legal implications they faced, members of the Jane Collective persevered to ensure the welfare of the roughly 11,000 women they provided illegal abortions to.

“My experience with Jane changed my life,” Ms. Barron said, using a shortened version of the group's name, “because I had never seen women care about other women and be so kind, be so loving, so protective.”

The service was founded when Heather Booth, a University of Chicago student at the time, heard that her friend's sister was pregnant, nearly suicidal and looking for someone to provide her with an abortion. The Medical Committee for Human Rights put Ms. Booth in contact with civil rights activist and surgeon Dr. T.R.M. Howard, who performed the abortion.

“I really thought that was the end of it,” Ms. Booth said. “I thought there wouldn't be a second step, but word must have spread, and I didn't tell anyone, so it must have been the person who



**ABORTION ACTIVISTS.** Before abortion became legal in the early 1970s, seven members of the Jane Collective were arrested for conspiracy to commit a felony after getting caught performing abortions. In total, around 11,000 women benefitted from this service.

had the abortion. Someone else called, and I arranged for that, and then word must have spread, and someone else called.”

She soon realized she needed to set up a system. After getting informed about the intricacies of the procedure and negotiating prices with Dr. Howard, Ms. Booth decided to recruit other women at various community gatherings to help manage the influx of patients.

The service was soon nicknamed the Jane Collective, when members of the newfound organization created advertisements that read: “Pregnant? Don't want to be? Call Jane.” The use of the name “Jane” helped those whose phone numbers were displayed on the posters distinguish between personal and professional calls, because if caught, they could be charged with conspiracy to commit a felony.

“While the Jane grouping did take precautions and was trying to be very careful, we also believed that even in the face of risking your life or your freedom, it's still important to act for what you think is the morally correct thing to do,” Ms. Booth said.

Once a pregnant woman called for Jane, a member would reach out and schedule a meeting to explain the entire process.

“We wanted to make the wom-

en that came to us comfortable,” member Eleanor Oliver said. “We were not abortionists, we were counselors. We were other women who could get pregnant.”

One of the Janes would drive women who were having abortions from a waiting area referred to as “The Front” to an apartment that was either rented or volunteered.

As time went on, core members of the service desired to be more involved with the abortion process. According to member Martha Scott, member Jody Parsons learned the procedure and began teaching others, including Ms. Scott. At one point, Ms. Scott was performing 15 to 20 abortions a week.

“She said this is not something a layperson can't do,” Ms. Scott said. “This is a very narrow set of information and procedures, and if you are careful and watch what you do, we can do this.”

In 1972, Ms. Scott and six other women were arrested after the police raided their apartment. They were charged with 11 counts of conspiracy to commit abortion, and each faced up to 110 years in prison. The public labeled them the “Abortion Seven.” Ms. Scott described the experience as scary and said she did not expect it.

“It's not like we didn't know we

were doing something illegal. We knew we were doing something illegal, but we knew that if we chose not to do this, people would be in more trouble than they would be if we chose to do it,” Ms. Scott said. “So I personally did not think very seriously about the consequences because while I thought there was a possibility we would be arrested, I also thought we were kind of protected by kind of a social privilege.”

Jennifer Surgal, whose late mother, Ruth Surgal, was a Janes member, recalled the terror and concern members felt on the night of the arrest, as they walked around with a paper bag collecting cash for the seven women's bail.

“It was just like all the worst things that you could think of what could happen did,” member Eileen Smith said. “It was really horrifying. And then right afterwards, these people still needed abortions. We had people scheduled for the next day. We had to call them and arrange for them to do something else. I mean, it became so stressful.”

The women's case was purposefully drawn out awaiting the Supreme Court decision on Roe v. Wade. On Jan. 22, 1973, the 7-2 ruling ensured women the right to an abortion under the Fourteenth Amendment's “right to privacy,”

and all charges facing the Abortion Seven were dropped.

“In a way, I think that the feeling even in very Catholic, very rigid Chicago was, ‘Something's changing here, and we're just going to step back.’ So yeah, just mainly relief. Oh, thank goodness that was done,” Ms. Scott said.

Almost 50 years later, Roe v. Wade was overturned on June 24, 2022, when the Supreme Court ruled 6-3 in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

“My heart sank,” Ms. Barron said, “because I know, just as most people who are familiar with what goes on with abortion and what goes on in women's lives, I've lived long enough to understand that lives will be lost and that women are going to be compromised across the board. And sure enough, that's happened.”

Though abortion rights are protected in Illinois and a ban is not likely, Ms. Surgal said that education and participation in local politics is the key to protecting abortion rights.

“There's hope when you get people riled up about serious issues, and I want more people to think of abortion as a public health issue,” Ms. Barron said. “It is an issue that has to be called that, and not made to be something ashamed or secretive or behind closed doors.”

## ‘The Janes’ shows need for abortion rights at fitting time

By KIA DUTTA  
Opinion Editor

It was the late 1960s, and Dorie Barron lay in a sketchy motel room, frozen with fear. Within minutes, the procedure was complete, and she was left there to bleed.

“In the middle of nowhere, in a motel, bleeding,” Barron said. “If I had stayed in that room, I'd be dead.”

“The Janes,” a documentary directed by Tia Lessin and Emma Pildes, tells the story of The Jane Collective, an underground Chicago service founded by a UChicago student, that helped women access abortions and later provided abortions to women in the late 1960s and early '70s before the procedure was legalized with the Roe v. Wade ruling. The documentary includes interviews with patients, delivering emotional anecdotes about how terrifying the process of receiving an abortion

was during the time and the dangers of the situation.

With a combination of authentic and engaging interviews from women looking back on their experiences, those who were observing the process from the outside, and footage from protests during the time, “The Janes” successfully provides a snapshot of the tension and severity of the abortion rights movement at the time — highlighting the importance of Roe vs. Wade.

The documentary follows a narrative style to tell a compelling story. Within the first few minutes, the interview with Ms. Barron is featured, accompanied by videos of the motel where she recounts her abortion occurred, sets up the story to show, not just tell, the reality of the situation. The details further highlight the circumstances to the viewer, from the code names used over the phone calls



**CALL JANE.** “The Janes,” streaming on HBO, provides an emotional outlook on abortion rights, reflecting on the history of the movement.

to arrange the abortion to the description of her extreme bleeding after the procedure that was given absolutely no comfort or care.

“The Janes” moves beyond recollections from women who received abortions to those who

witnessed the issue externally, building on the importance of acknowledging the necessity of legalizing safe abortions. The documentary features terrifying recollections from nurses and doctors who watched perfectly

healthy, young women die due to unsuccessful abortions performed by underground providers.

The documentary also successfully displays the strength and struggle that went on behind the front lines of the movement. Women recall experiences of being talked over and having the severity of the situation with abortion rights downplayed. Further, the documentary goes beyond displaying just the first-wave fight for abortion rights to the second wave that highlighted the racial and class segregation in access to abortion care after the Roe decision in 1973.

“The Janes,” which has been available on HBO Max since January, successfully tells a story that instills fear about the uncertainty of the state of abortion rights today, and puts together a solid representation of why these rights are so crucial to women's health in the face of the future.



# FRIENDLY FACE

*Brian Arceneaux’s friendly character  
recognized with Billy Streeter Award*

by **CLARE O’CONNOR**  
*Editor-in-Chief*  
The doors to the Laboratory Schools gym buildings are always in motion. The Kovler doors squeak as people push in from outside. Students line up to swipe their IDs, signified by a high-pitched ping and a strip of red light flashing green.

While students and teachers filter in and out of the space throughout the day, Brian Arceneaux, the community service officer at the gyms, remains constant. He sits at his desk facing the entrance, breaking through the ambient noise with a loud “Hey!” greeting each student.

Mr. Arceneaux is a joyful and supportive presence in the school community, and this year, his contributions have been recognized by the school. In September, Mr. Arceneaux was awarded the 2022 Billy Streeter Award for Service Excellence, an annual award recognizing a nonteaching staff member who has exhibited excellence in supporting students.

Mr. Arceneaux started working at the Laboratory Schools in 2018 after a 32-year career as a Chicago Public School educator, including as an education to career counselor at Von Steuben Metropolitan High School. He said receiving the award was surprising and meaningful to him.

“I felt totally shocked. I was not expecting it,” Mr. Arceneaux said about the award. “It was one of the biggest but nicest shocks I’ve had in my life. I was never really recognized as a teacher, so it really makes me feel special that my efforts are so appreciated here even though I just feel like I’m doing my job.”

Mr. Arceneaux’s importance

within the school community is inarguable. Tasked with keeping everything running smoothly, his busy days are spent assisting teachers and students when needed. During the school day, he helps write out the gym teachers’ schedules, directs lost students, gives out Band-Aids and helps solve myriad other problems. After school, Mr. Arceneaux greets the incoming student-athletes, keeps the athletic directors informed during games and helps students connect with their parents after practices or events.

For students, the most important part of Mr. Arceneaux’s job is sometimes just his presence.

“During games, he’s really energetic, cheering us on and rooting for us. We really appreciate it,” Yaseen Sufi, a junior on the soccer team, said. “He’s one of our main supporters. You know when we think about our supporters, we think of Brian because he’s always there.”

Senior Zoe Stephens agrees with Yaseen, saying that Mr. Arceneaux’s support and kindness can really impact her day.

“Every time you walk into the gym, he will greet you by name,” Zoe said. “When you’re having a bad day, it makes a difference that he’s always grinning, he’s always optimistic. It’s important to have a friendly face in the gym because I think for a lot of students, the gym and the fitness center can seem intimidating, but we know Brian’s there and he’s going to give us a smile and ask us how we’re doing.”

Connecting with students is Mr. Arceneaux’s favorite part of his job. He said he loves watching the younger students’ excitement when connecting with older students.



Midway photo by Kaden Moubayed

**WARMING AND WELCOMING.** Community service officer Brian Arceneaux stands in front of the Kovler Gym building where he works. Throughout the day he is busy assisting and greeting students and teachers. Mr. Arceneaux was awarded the 2022 Billy Streeter Award for Service Excellence.

“It always makes me feel good to help other people and meet other people. the students here are just nice and respectful and just wonderful people,” Mr. Arceneaux said. “That’s what I enjoy the most about being here: the quality of the people I meet and the diversity of the people I meet.”

Mr. Arceneaux spends most of his time with student-athletes who practice and play in the gym facilities after school. In high school, Mr. Arceneaux wrestled and played football, so he said that he is reminded of his high school self when witnessing student-athletes bond with their teams.

This year, Mr. Arceneaux went to the boys soccer senior night for

the first time. He said being invited and participating is one of his favorite memories at U-High.

“I went in there and there was just so much emotion and so much positivity,” Mr. Arceneaux said. “It really touched my heart to see the kind of love the students have for each other.”

Yaseen, who was also at senior night, appreciated that Mr. Arceneaux came. Yaseen expressed that Mr. Arceneaux has become a part of the team dynamic and that all of his teammates love Mr. Arceneaux.

Beyond the big events, Mr. Arceneaux’s smaller gestures can really affect students. Zoe recalled a small interaction she had with Mr.

Arceneaux that has stuck with her, which occurred after she gave him a homemade brownie.

“I gave him a caramel brownie once, and when I saw him the next time, he was like ‘That was the best brownie I’ve ever eaten in my life,’ and it was just such a happy moment because he made sure to make me feel like it was a gift to him that he really enjoyed,” Zoe said.

Zoe feels that Mr. Arceneaux serves as a support for students when parents or teachers can feel inaccessible. She thinks it’s invaluable that Mr. Arceneaux is always available, promoting positivity and kindness every time the Kovler door opens.

# Ice cream galore: Museum focuses on Instagram



Midway photo by Sarah Abdelsalam

**SWEET TREAT.** A smiling woman holds out her phone to take a selfie with her family in the Museum of Ice Cream’s ball pit filled with plastic sprinkles. The sprinkle pit is surrounded by diving boards and a slide.

*Museum caters to  
social media with  
ice cream rooms*

by **ZARA SIDDIQUE**  
*Audience Engagement Manager*

When walking into the Museum of Ice Cream on Chicago’s Magnificent Mile, one is hit with an instant sensory overload. The scent of ice cream and candy permeates the air, and the walls are decked out in seriously graphic ice cream paraphernalia. Ice cream sculptures hang from the walls and the rooms are painted neon pink, six-foot cherries dangle from the ceiling and there’s even a pool-sized ice cream decor birthday cake.

Whether it be the history of ice cream or an ice cream-themed arcade, you can always count on the fact that ice cream will be coming at you from every angle.

With about six rooms, each bearing a different ice cream-related theme, the Museum of Ice Cream is a unique experience that is catered specifically toward social media users — a museum for people who visit with the intent of taking and posting photos and videos.

Each room offers a new theme.

With rooms dedicated to getting your ice cream fortune taken, playing ice cream themed miniature golf, ice cream themed arcade games, the history of ice cream and an ice cream sprinkle pool. Each exhibit also provides you with a new ice cream flavor to try, with unlimited refills.

“Every room has a different ice cream, so you’re basically eating ice cream the whole time,” senior Charlie Young said.

He described the museum as an aesthetically pleasing place to take pictures, but even if that isn’t one’s main goal it’s still a very enjoyable experience.

“I wasn’t even taking pictures there, and I was having fun,” Charlie said.

Tickets to the Museum of Ice Cream range from \$36-44 per person. Charlie described the museum experience as almost being worth the price but not quite.

“We had an hour to stay in the museum, like an hour worth of time, and we didn’t feel like we needed to use it,” Charlie said.

Junior Jessie Greenstone also went to the Museum of Ice Cream and was out in 30 minutes.

“I thought it was really fun, and it had really cool decorations, but it was really short, and there

“  
I thought it was really fun,  
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to do if you didn’t want to take  
pictures.  
Jessie Greenstone,  
junior  
”

wasn’t much to do if you didn’t want to take pictures,” Jessie said.

She noted that the museum seemed to be catered to a specific audience.

“I think I would only recommend the museum to someone who really enjoyed taking and posting pictures,” Jessie said.

Both Jessie and Charlie said they enjoyed the overall experience but also recognized that the museum is aimed at very active social media users. Much of the museum was set up for photo ops for social media.

“There’s not that much that’s there. It’s enjoyable seeing it for the first time, but after that it felt recycled,” Charlie said. “I wouldn’t go back.”



# So much at risk...

Much is at stake in the election just days away. Decisions surrounding local and national issues will crucially affect our generation. From abortion rights to inflation, students need to engage in the election as Illinois and the nation sit at a political crossroads. To become informed, seek diverse and credible sources and critically reject misinformation campaigns.

## Misleading campaign mailings circulating

by TÉA TAMBURIO  
Editor-in-Chief

Shoved in your mailbox, the Chicago City Wire looks like any other local newspaper. Printed on a newsprint and folded like a traditional tabloid, its front page reads: “Real data, real news.” Conservative groups, critical of current Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, have taken to this form of misleading election propaganda. Through printed publications, political action committees like the Chicago City Wire blast Democratic candidates and stances that support topics from a criminal justice reform bill to gender identity.

In the weeks leading up to the Nov. 8 election, conservative-funded mailers have been widely sent to Illinois voters. Styled as newspapers, these politicized mailings are not marked as campaign material and have gained traction in areas where local newspapers have been on the decline. “[These mailings are] put out by this right-wing network of newspapers that we all know exists in Illinois, and they’re trying to take over where local, real journalism unfortunately has receded,” Gov. Pritzker said in an interview with NBC5. As these mailings continue to circulate, there has also been a growth in politics-oriented and unbiased news sources this election cycle.

Students are encouraged to actively seek out credible and local sources.

“It’s important to look at if the organization follows the basic, principal journalistic ethics: does it retract factual mistakes, does it have a robust legal staff that keeps it on its toes? Where does it get its news from?” history teacher Cynthia Jurisson said. “Those are really important questions, so just a lot of the stuff you see [on social media] doesn’t follow those principles.”

According to Dr. Jurisson, some news sites have advertisements that use manipulative or deceptive headlines to encourage viewer clicking.

“They want you to click and click and click, and they know that more [emotionally manipulative] headlines cause people to click, and advertisers’ fees to advertise

### by the numbers

In a recent poll by the Midway, 180 U-High students ordered the importance of election issues and stated their political alignments.

70%

identify politically as left or left-leaning

17%

identify politically as right or right-leaning

Full results can be found at [uhighmidway.com](http://uhighmidway.com)

35%

see abortion as the most crucial issue in the election

31%

see climate change as the most crucial issue in the election

15%

see gun regulation as the most crucial issue in the election

are based often on traffic — how many clicks, how many listeners, how many viewers you get,” she said.

Dr. Jurisson emphasized the importance of fact-checking and developing familiarity with established and credible news outlets, specifically utilizing exterior fact-checking sites.

“You can look at sites that rate the credibility of news, like say [factcheck.org](http://factcheck.org) is a great site. Their attempt is to say, ‘Let’s determine if this is factually correct reporting,’” she said.

As the availability of local news declines, national news outlets and social media have taken their place. With this shift come concerns about credibility and accuracy.

Susan Augustine, a high school librarian, said, “I do think people are starting to realize that maybe social media isn’t the best place to find reliable stories and that they sometimes have to dig a little bit deeper or look at multiple sources to get accuracy.”

News outlets cannot be completely unbiased, but they hold a responsibility to acknowledge and try to prevent biases in their reporting, according to Dr. Jurisson.

“What’s best is to acknowledge we have biases, ones we are aware of and ones we’re not aware of, so we know that news sources also can not be completely unbiased,” she said.

She said that sources like The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal both have transpar-

ent editorial policies, which distinguishes them from being manipulative.

Ms. Augustine emphasized the importance of broadening the array of news media individuals consume by listening to political debates and interviews.

“Let’s say you read the [Chicago] Sun-Times, diversify that by reading the [Chicago] Tribune or reading the Hyde Park Herald, which is going to have information on local candidates,” she said.

When researching the major candidates in the upcoming election, Ms. Augustine suggests using a trusted organization to research the ballot.

“If there’s an organization that you trust, like the League of Women Voters, they have people within their organization that do the research and determine who they think is a good candidate and they will give you a list,” Ms. Augustine said, “and when you don’t have a lot of time to do all the investigation yourself, that can be really helpful.”

Additionally, Dr. Jurisson recommended subscribing to long-form journalism publications and websites to access and support credible journalism.

“There are journals – The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly, Harpers, a number of long-form essay journals that have similar principles of journalistic integrity,” Dr. Jurisson said. “You want to have credible news yourself but we need to support responsible, integrity-filled journalism.”



Midway illustration by Dalin Dohrn

## Students play active role in election, affect votes

by TAARIQ AHMED  
Reporter

If you are a U.S. citizen who is 18 or will turn 18 before Election Day, Nov. 8, you are eligible to register to vote. Since the deadlines for in-person, by-mail and online registration vary, those interested in registering should look for more information online. Once registered, online resources are available to find your polling places.

Although most Lab students are too young to vote, there are still ways to be a part of the process. Students can support candidates by encouraging their family to donate or by attending promotional events, can reach out to polling places looking for volunteers and can vocalize their opinions on political issues.

They can also encourage other family members, friends and fellow students to vote. Junior Maria Razborova is working to increase voter engagement at Lab.



Maria Razborova

Maria said that participation in the elections is extremely important.

“People are seeing how politics is directly affecting their lives,” Maria said. “And so I think [voting] is a great way to get engaged in democracy. Even if you think your vote isn’t doing anything, every vote counts.”

### How are you getting involved in the elections?

Through the League of Women Voters of Chicago, Maria Razborova is currently working within Lab “to get all the seniors that are eligible to vote to get registered.”

Maria said that “understanding the stakes of elections and why

midterms are important” is crucial for both those who can and cannot vote.

As part of a Student Council initiative focused on expanding voting education, senior Lena Stole is

### you should know

**Chicago residents:** If you are 18 on or before Nov. 8, you are eligible to vote in the election.

If registered, you can vote in person at any early voting location or in your precinct on Nov. 8.

If you have not yet registered, you can register in person and vote at any early voting location across the city of Chicago.

More information at [chicagoelections.gov](http://chicagoelections.gov)

**Non-Chicago residents:** Check your county’s election website for more details.

handing out mail-in registration forms and lists of resources for voters to conduct their own research on the elections.

“I think it’s really important especially to get high school students to vote,” Lena said. “We are sort of this younger generation and I think a lot of the time, our voices aren’t heard by politicians.”

On her social media, junior Katie Williams is spreading information relating to voter registration and applications for poll worker positions.

Katie said she is also learning about the “overall importance of youth advocacy... [and] how one’s voice truly matters” through Junior State of America, a club she is involved with.

“I feel like democracy [is only] what you make of it,” Katie said. “So I feel like if we have mass participation, then our changes will eventually come.”

## These national election issues should be critical to students, too

### abortion

by AMY REN  
Assistant Editor

When the Supreme Court decided the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case in June, activists across the country either celebrated the decision or mobilized for a fight.

At the center of the debate remains the question: “Does a person’s right to bodily autonomy and privacy trump a fetus’s right to life?”

The repeal of Roe v. Wade leaves the restriction or expansion of abortion rights solely to state lawmakers. Legislatures can also make “shield laws” to protect providers prescribing abortion pills across state lines.

Through telemedicine visits, where patients call or meet a doctor virtually and get a prescription mailed to them, activist groups like the Mexico-based Las Líbras help people get abortions in states where the procedure is now banned.

Some doctors in the United States are also planning to dispense pills this way, but without shield laws they risk getting arrested, sued and losing their medical licenses.

Generation Z is most affected by the repeal of abortion protection, as they will grow up, begin their careers and possibly start families during a time where their choice to have a child can be state-mandated.

On the ballot this year are governors, U.S. senators and representatives, but also state Supreme Court justices and legislators, who along with county and judicial positions, can influence or pass state-specific “shield laws” or restrict abortion access.

In the upcoming election, voters must understand that who they vote for will impact abortion access. Whatever the outcome of the elections, Generation Z will feel the effects for years.

### affirmative action

by ZARA SIDDIQUE  
Audience Engagement Manager

On Oct. 31, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in two cases pertaining to affirmative action, a policy hoping to correct past discriminations against individuals in minority groups. Students for Fair Admission, a group of anti-affirmative action students, brought cases against Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill alleging the universities discriminated against Asian and white students, are guilty of having predetermined racial goals and are basing admissions on this. These students seek to bar colleges from taking race into consideration and to find a different way to preserve diversity in schools.

This would cause most schools in the United States to fundamentally change how they admit potential students. Harvard’s president said, “Considering race as one factor among many in admissions decisions produces a more diverse student body which strengthens the learning environment for all.” He promised to defend the school’s admission process.

Affirmative action has protected the rights of minorities since President John F. Kennedy first referenced it in 1961. It is displayed as a crucial criteria for colleges to take into consideration, but as the percentages colleges boast become more prevalent, students worry how affirmative action impacts their college admission.

The Supreme Court’s verdict has the potential to fundamentally change the admissions process at all universities and possibly reduce diversity. As students reach the voting age, they are also entering college and universities; these cases have the potential to completely change the admissions process for all future college applicants.

### climate change

by TAARIQ AHMED  
Reporter

Of the thousands of global protesters that recently took to the streets to demand climate change action, hundreds were youth. Climate change is especially an issue of concern for Generation Z because of the likelihood they will experience its extremely severe impacts in the future. In addition to that burden, Gen Z is constantly reminded of the difficult job ahead — discovering an effective and sustainable solution.

The importance young people give toward climate change has been displayed within the Lab community several times: students attended the Chicago Global Climate strike in 2019, the community participated in a climate change panel in 2020 and the science department spread awareness about climate change through an official statement in 2021.

A steady rate of misinformation, skepticism, economic concerns and political polarization are emerging as the main obstacles toward catalyzing any major policies. Still, as warnings from scientific experts continue to increase rapidly, so do worldwide temperatures and the intensity of natural disasters. For many members of Gen Z, such as activist Greta Thunberg, these indicators demonstrate that the harsh realities of climate change cannot be ignored, especially by powerful governmental figures that have the ability to make substantial differences.

In light of 2022 events such as the Supreme Court’s decision in West Virginia v. EPA and the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, the government’s influence over climate change policy is clearer than ever. In this election, students and voters must choose politicians who will address climate change as if the world itself is at stake — because it is.

### gun control

by VICTORIA WASHINGTON  
Audience Engagement Manager

At the end of the summer, students returned to classes with the intention of furthering their studies and socializing, but for many schools across the United States, that process has been interrupted by school shootings and gun violence. According to USA Today, last year’s academic year saw more gun violence in schools than in the past decade.

While school shootings and gun violence are not new issues, the recent spike should encourage Gen Z voters to re-evaluate gun regulation policies.

According to data compiled by RAND Corporation, most Americans agree that the increase of gun violence and gun related fatalities is unacceptable, regardless of their stance on gun-related policies. F

or those passionate about gun rights, the current challenge lies in the outcomes of suggested policies.

Illinois legislation prohibits, with some exceptions, the possession of a firearm, stun gun or taser within 1,000 feet of school property.

While school shootings occur on a relatively infrequent basis, according to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, they often have the most detrimental impact on a school community.

The ICJIA attributes most school shootings to issues surrounding the school climate, bullying and in-school violence. The organization asserts the need for sufficient mental health resources and school committee work to reduce the effects of targeted bullying and harassment.

In the upcoming election, everyone should be aware of candidates’ ideas and potential policies surrounding gun regulation and how they plan to reduce firearm related fatalities in the future.

by MIA LIPSON

Assistant Editor

“There’s nothing wrong with Illinois that can’t be fixed with some conservative common sense,” reads the website Illinois state Sen. Darren Bailey, the Republican nominee for governor.

On Aug. 16, Bailey spoke at a rally at the Illinois Capitol sponsored by AWAKE Illinois, a conservative organization that focusses on parent advocacy, to address “radical sex education standards.”

AWAKE also targets school boards, objecting to critical race theory, aiming to ban books they find offensive and inappropriate, and protesting against nationwide sex ed curriculums.

Bailey has sought the organization’s support, and AWAKE has provided it, assured that he supports their goals.

The reach of groups such as AWAKE goes beyond school boards. Inflammatory causes are being used by candidates and advocacy groups to motivate voters using fear, playing into the polarization of political and human issues and the influence of elections.

At their core, these inflammatory issues spur voters to see their own freedom and livelihood as being on the ballot in the upcoming election, only a few votes from being taken away.

Candidates such as Bailey are incentivized to frame issues this way, prompting a passionate base

which is more likely to donate and vote.

“Funding is a major problem right now where candidates are trying to attract money for campaigns,” U-High history teacher Cindy Jurisson said. “They see that the best way to get money is to churn outrage and fear in voters, so they feel they are voting out of concern for their very survival.”

With the funds to advocate for issues, these groups frequently target marginalized groups.

Recently in west suburban Downers Grove, a Drag Queen bingo event organized by the public library was canceled after an onslaught of threats. The library also received a letter, addressed by “Your Friends at Maga,” and accompanied by a bullet and a Confederate flag.

Members of a Facebook group planned a protest outside, one member even suggesting people “bring weapons” to the LGBTQ youth-aimed gathering.

After the event was canceled, members of AWAKE Illinois rejoiced in a blog post, celebrating a “victory for the protection of all children.”

David Goldenberg of the Anti-Defamation League has witnessed extremism among a select conservative base gain momentum in past years.

The ADL’s Center on Extremism noted 100 right-wing extremists running for office in the 2022 elections, with many of the can-

“We have people who are dealing from a sense of profound fear because they no longer see a place for themselves in American society. That perception can lead them to use strategies and endorse claims that do not follow democratic norms.”  
Cindy Jurisson, history teacher

didates also holding ties to conspiratorial, fringe ideologies and groups.

While political groups have long sought and obtained influence over American politicians, the question arises as to why groups such as AWAKE seem to exert more power even as they become more radical.

Dr. Jurisson believes AWAKE has formed from a fear of belonging.

“We have people who are dealing from a sense of profound fear because they no longer see a place for themselves in American society,” Dr. Jurisson said. “That perception can lead them to use strategies and endorse claims that do not follow democratic norms, and they think that they’re justified in doing so because they have no other options.”



# Current events critical to education

*Students must monitor world news, events to participate in democracy*

Voter impressions of President Biden coming into the Nov. 8 election. Proceedings of China's 20th Communist Party Congress. The causes of higher gas prices. Iranian protests. These are all current issues in the news, yet most students may not even be aware of them, or are unable to properly discuss them at school.

In order to become productive citizens and participate in democracy, students need to engage with current events in the classroom.

Students must take the initiative to engage on their own with news and relevant topics, such as through the school's student media or the vast array of student-led clubs. The Midway's editors and reporters all work to bring newsworthy content to the school platform on a regular basis, while club leaders bring a specific lens to current issues.

By joining a club or even a journalism class, a student learns to engage deeply with relevant issues, analyze and observe them and share what they believe is important. These skills offer the individual the ability to think critically about worldwide problems as well as positively influence and inform peers.

**as the  
midway  
sees it.**

Students need guidance and structure, so curriculum should require certain courses to include relevant coverage. Courses such as English and history, which rely on active discussion-based learning, tend to cover current events more frequently.

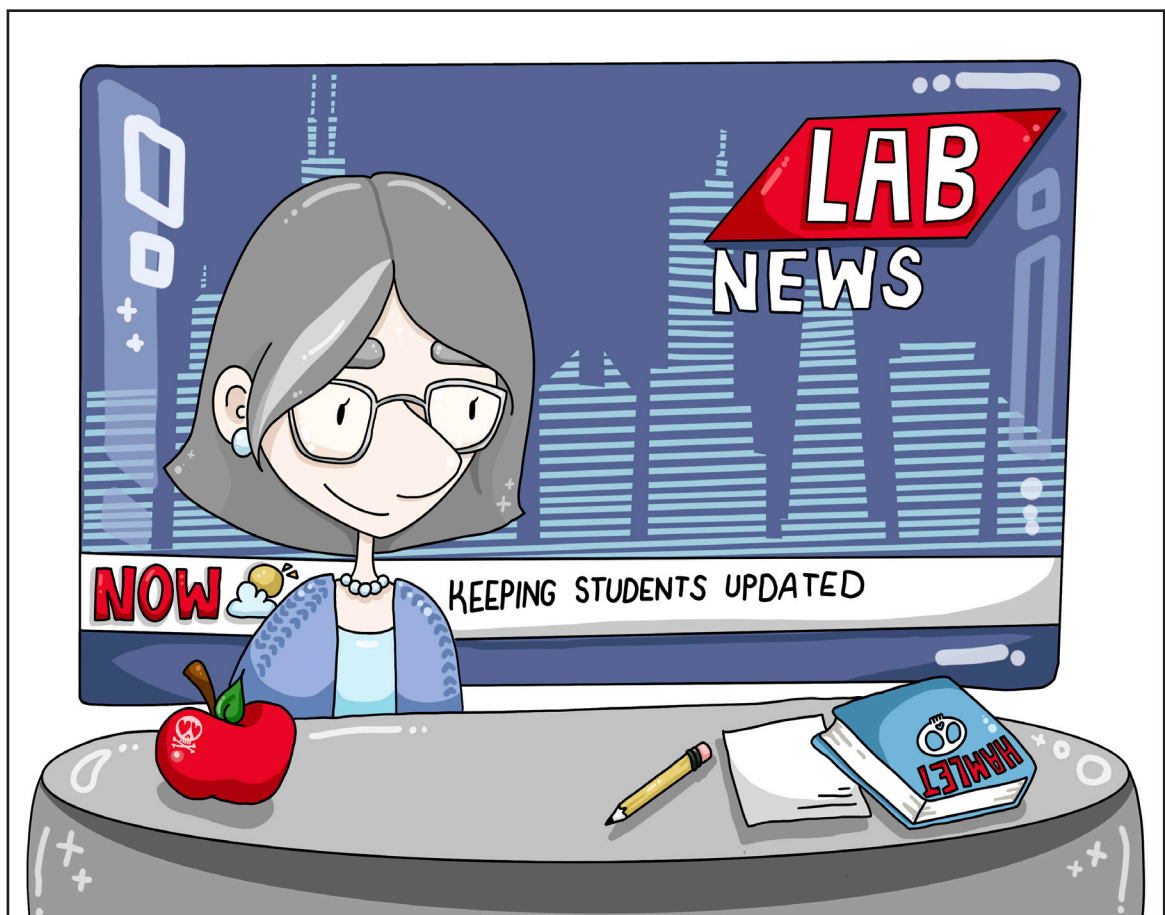
However, current events can be addressed through all subjects, not just those within the humanities. Science, math, P.E./health classes — all classes — can discuss relevant advances and breakthroughs as they occur.

Teachers can integrate current events through discussions and other class activities without having to forfeit much of the existing curriculum.

They could plan class or small group discussions that touch on headlines in the news, and student responses to a timely issue that relate to the class unit or chapter. In integrating this content into the classroom, teachers are able to contextualize the course concepts. It also makes material more interesting and relevant.

Beyond the classroom discussions and activities, advisory provides an effective place to discuss current events.

Meeting three times a week, advisory offers students structured



Midway illustration by Dalin Dohrn

time in a group outside a specific class. This can be a space to discuss what is not explicitly covered in the school curriculum.

Some advisory time should be used to implement dialogue on real-world topics and have students examine and discuss issues important to them. Advisers could

initiate a broad discussion on a news topic's significance or meaning, allowing students to learn about concepts or ideas that extend beyond any one subject area or focus.

Current events are an immensely important part of daily life, so faculty and students should take

responsibility and enable students to address these topics, increase the value and relevance of curriculum, and help them prepare for their life beyond high school.

It is to the benefit of all students and their education that important events happening in the world be discussed and taken seriously.

## America: Take concrete action to support Taiwan

by **LOUIS AUXENFANS**  
News Editor

When the Chinese military conducted four days of live-fire military exercises around Taiwan in August, I anxiously tracked the hour-by-hour live updates for fear of my family's safety in Taiwan. The day before, I had followed with pride House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to the island, but now I grew worried about the trip's misunderstandings that could spark a fuse.

Being half-Taiwanese from my mom, I have traveled there a few times to see my mom's family. My trips have been filled with fond memories of its cheerful, welcoming people and the iconic night market food, filling the streets with delicious fragrances of steaming black pepper buns and oyster omelets. To imagine that those experiences and my whole family could perish if China attacked Taiwan continues to play in the back of my mind.

With the precarious situation of maintaining peace in Taiwan, the

United States should focus less on diplomatic rhetoric and more on providing concrete support.

Taiwan, an island slightly larger than Maryland with a population of 23 million, is more than a trivial subject. It produces 90% of the world's most advanced semiconductors, a key component from artificial intelligence to cars and computers, and if Taiwan were attacked,

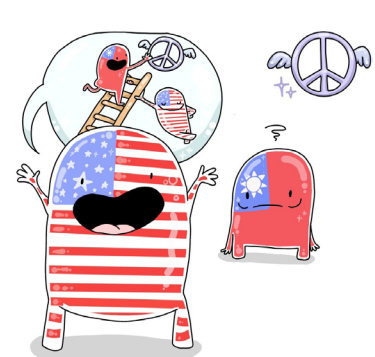
the destruction of its semiconductor factories would likely lead to a global recession. While Congress recently passed a bill subsidizing \$52 billion in domestic semiconductor manufacturing, it will take at least a decade for the US share of semiconductor manufacturing to even reach 10%.

Furthermore, Taiwan is a key democracy in the East Asia region. Its democracy has flour-

ished since it first allowed democratic elections in 1996, and it has an even higher degree of freedom than the United Kingdom, France and the United States, according to Freedom House, a watchdog for free societies. These dual economic and political factors make Taiwan's defense crucial not just for America's interests but also all democratic countries.

For the past four decades, America has taken a position of "strategic ambiguity" on Taiwan, staying opaque about supporting Taiwan's defense. But recently President Biden has repeatedly said that the United States would send troops to defend Taiwan — a break from past diplomacy. While this commitment is welcome for the defending Taiwan, it could backfire if the Chinese government manipulates the message to argue that America has upset the political balance, which it has already hinted at.

Rather than take rhetorical potshots that could inflame tensions, the United States needs to sup-



Midway illustration by Dalin Dohrn

port Taiwan with action. Taiwan has still not received \$14 billion in U.S. weapons, and Congress has yet to approve a \$1.1 billion arms sales deal.

The United States has the right intentions, but with growing uncertainty as analysts warn about war in the next decade, these efforts must be accelerated. The war in Ukraine has shown the importance of defense weapons to repelling attacks, and Taiwan needs a larger weapons stockpile before it could be too late.

Finally, America's allies in the region, like South Korea, Japan and Australia, should come to a collective agreement to enact economic sanctions on China and support Taiwan if it were attacked. While these partnerships could be interpreted as unnecessary escalation, they will clarify the larger consequences of potential war in Taiwan and force China to think twice about involving more countries in a war.

Forming a united military and economic strategy in case of a Chinese invasion, like the NATO response to Russia, can deter an invasion because of the potential global backlash.

Taiwan is more than a tiny Asian island but a symbol of the unifying power in freedom and democracy. Every day that I talk to my Taiwanese grandparents, I am constantly reminded of the importance of peace in Taiwan to maintain those principles. America's actions will speak clearer and louder than any words when it comes to supporting Taiwan.

### read more online

You can find more opinions at [uhighmidway.com](http://uhighmidway.com) or by subscribing to our newsletter.



### Consider e-books for increased class accessibility, sustainability

"Offering the choice to purchase either an e-book or a physical copy would allow students, regardless of ability, to access content in their preferred medium, ease annotations and result in more environmentally sustainable curriculums." —*Téa Tamburo*



### Students should strive to participate in extracurriculars earnestly

"We must remind ourselves that high school and extracurriculars are about us and our educational gain, and work to prioritize those values authentically." —*Audrey Park*

### u-high midway

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### mission and editorial policy.

The Midway is an independent newspaper that strives for excellence across all of our platforms. We are a student-run newspaper for the entire University of Chicago Laboratory High School community. We aim to not only represent the multitude of thoughts and experiences at U-High but also inform community members through transparent, timely and complete reporting.

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 developed and managed by students, for students.

In every story we write, the Midway should give a voice to the experiences of people at U-High. We will report on the people, activities and thoughts that make our school unique, striving to include the voices we haven't heard yet.

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# Food fight: Café Lab’s inconvenient options clash with students’ health and expectations

by CLARE MCROBERTS  
Assistant Editor

It’s lunchtime at U-High. Pans crackle at the stir fry station. Chefs toss rice noodles, edamame and tofu as a long, slow-moving line of students waits. The salad bar is bleakly deserted. All the action is by the grill, where students grab baskets of french fries, chicken tenders and burgers before racing to the cash registers.

With growing concerns over the mental health of students nationwide, nutritionists say there is a link between what people eat, how they feel and how they perform at school. Still, many U-High students regularly choose fried or processed foods over options that experts say are healthier.

The reason for these dietary decisions, students and Café Lab staff suggested, is a complicated combination of long lines, the cafeteria’s layout and, in truth, what students prefer to eat.

Café Lab sells about 150 pounds of french fries each day, said executive chef, Jonathan Sherman. He said that the idea of removing fried foods would be highly unpopular.

“It would be like telling McDonald’s: ‘Take off the chicken nuggets,’” Mr. Sherman said. “You would have every toddler in an uproar.” He added of Café Lab: “This is where kids come. It’s a safe place. They like this place. You want to have a good lunch, you know?”

Nutritionists have long focused on links between medical problems and unhealthy foods. This fall the Biden administration for the first time in decades held a White House conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, pledging to reduce diet-related disease by 2030.

Schools are a key aspect of any strategy to improve nutritional health. Edwin McDonald, a nutrition education expert and assistant professor of medicine



Midway photo by Ishani Hariprasad

**UNTOUCHED ENTRÉE.** Café Lab’s salad bar is stocked with uneaten sides and garnishes. Executive chef Jonathan Sherman believes the tucked-away location of the salad bar may contribute to its unpopularity.

at UChicago Medicine, said the dietary choices teens make are crucial. These choices affect both the short- and long-term future of their health, he said.

Dr. McDonald also emphasized the importance of school cafeterias advertising healthy food, and making students aware of it.

“If teenagers don’t understand that this should be one of their priorities, then they may not necessarily consume those things,” he said.

Some U-High students said that the location of the salad bar — in an alcove off the main serving area — makes it hard to notice. Sopho-

more Kate Jablonski said she has a salad every day and enjoys the selection of options. She thinks that not many students use the area.

“I don’t really see anyone else,” said Kate. “There’s usually no line.”

Café Lab officials acknowledge that the location of the salad bar may be part of the problem.

“It’s out of sight, out of mind,” said Mr. Sherman. “You’re not going to go there if you don’t see it, especially if you’re busy.”

But the location issue of the salad bar is difficult to resolve, Mr. Sherman said, because the bar was built into the electrical system of

Café Lab, so relocating it would require complex changes.

Café Lab staff note that there are fresh fruits and ready-made salads in the refrigerator section, but some students said they found those options less than appealing.

Zoe Alphonse, a ninth grader, said she wished for more options that are appetizing, convenient and nutritious. She said she usually has the stir fry for lunch, despite the wait.

Ultimately, student preference generally leans toward the greasy, efficient and comforting choices that come from the grill: fries, tenders, pizza and burgers. Café Lab

## healthy choices

Aside from the salad bar, Café Lab boasts nutritious options such as...

Chicken Caesar Salad  
**\$6.75**

Buffalo Chicken Wrap  
**\$4.75**

Chicken Caesar Wrap  
**\$4.75**

Veggie Burger  
**\$5.25**

Fruit Cup  
**\$2.25**

— compiled by Ainsley Williams

officials say they try to consider this along with the nutritional value of meals.

“It’s a tricky balance to strike. We’re trying to offer the widest range of foods that we think students are going to enjoy,” said Brian Lipinski, Lab’s director of finance. “So this way, if someone is feeling like they want to get something healthy, they can do that, because we have options that fit. And if students want to just get something tasty that maybe isn’t as healthy, we have that as well.”

Mr. Sherman vividly remembers what can go wrong when his staff breaks with students’ expectations — like the time they replaced regular fries at the grill.

“We did cheese fries one day,” he said, “and it was pure chaos.”

## Health and Fitness Club instills wellness in members

### New club partners with community outreach program

by TAARIQ AHMED  
Reporter

As weights of all sizes fly off the rack and words of encouragement fill the atmosphere, a positive, motivational energy flows throughout the fitness center. Every Tuesday during lunch, the Health and Fitness club educates members on the importance of nutrition and wellness through lessons and applications. The Health and Fitness Club aims to balance learning with utilizing gained knowledge toward exercise regimes.

Club meetings usually start with a presentation about nutrition or wellness delivered by club leader Carter Chang, a junior. Carter’s knowledge comes from an independent study he created last year to understand the different components of nutrition and wellness. After the presentation, Carter leads a synchronous workout typically related to the lesson taught that day.

Carter said he founded the club to share his knowledge and experiences with others.

“Health and fitness have been really impactful in my life, and I got into it over the pandemic,” Carter said. “It has done wonderful things to me and I feel like it’s something that I hope to share and to shine light on.”

“Health and fitness have been really impactful in my life, and I got into it over the pandemic. It has done wonderful things to me and I feel like it’s something that I hope to share and to shine light on.”  
Carter Chang, junior

Junior Kaden Moubayed has been a member of the club since its founding last year. Kaden is an active exerciser outside of school and enjoys the presence of similar-minded people in the club.

“It’s a really open environment,” Kaden said. “I think we’re all striving for the same goal of becoming fit, and keeping good nutrition, and getting stronger and taking care of our bodies.”

The nutritional education aspect of the Fitness Club was only introduced this year. In the past, the club members primarily focused on exercising. Kaden said the addition is a move toward a complete interpretation of fitness.

“I think it’s a great improvement,” Kaden said. “Fitness is not only weightlifting and getting stronger, it’s also keeping your body healthy and strong as well. I think it’s a really great addition by [Carter].”

Health and Fitness Club is a part of Yeast Whey, a community out-



Midway photo by Kaden Moubayed

**EFFORTLESS EXERCISE.** Juniors Carter Chang and Leyton Mueller spend time together in Sunny Gym as part of the U-High Health and Fitness Club. Meetings usually start with a presentation on nutrition before they exercise. The club is partnered with Yeast Whey, a youth community program that Carter created.

reach program that Carter created to teach children of all ages about the benefits of health and fitness. Through Yeast Whey, Carter has worked with schools and organizations across Chicago that focus on health education. Carter shares the same content that he uses at

the Health and Fitness Club and engages with kids through interactive games. Members of the Health and Fitness Club are also asked to contribute content to the program.

In the future, Carter hopes to spread his messages further by expanding his audience.

“I started by creating my club and then I created my program geared toward the youth, and then I linked the two,” Carter said. “My whole purpose now is to reach as many communities and people as possible to shine light on health and fitness.”



# Sharing the Spotlight: Theater community gives Anna Bohlen platform to uplift peers, find kinship



Midway photo by Matthew McGehee

**SHOWSTOPPING.** Senior Anna Bohlen serves as theater manager and plays the role of “Anna” in the fall play “the Firebugs.”

by **ERICH RAUMANN**  
Deputy Managing Editor

When she was only 7 years old, Anna Bohlen discovered her love for acting. It was her first production, a story about a lava monster that was part of a Lab afterschool class.

Before Anna started doing theater, she didn’t really like talking with her classmates. Performing allowed her to interact with others in a way she hadn’t experienced before.

“I was really shy when I was little,” she said. “It was really refreshing to be able to perform in front of others because I wasn’t really talking to other people outside of theater.”

What kept bringing Anna back to acting throughout middle and high school was not the desire to play someone else on stage, but the opportunity to show her own true self through the unique lens of a fictional character.

“It’s really fun to perform in front of other people,” she said. “You can give them your full self

“  
You’re taking  
parts of  
yourself and  
reshaping  
them to form  
the character.  
Anna Bohlen  
”

in a way that you can’t if you are just talking to someone. You can show all sides of yourself on stage. You’re taking parts of yourself and reshaping them to form the character.”

As a senior, Anna is at the top of her high school theater career, but she is not just using that opportunity to shine the light on herself but also to elevate other members of the high school theater community.

At U-High, Anna has been a highly active member of the theater program, having performed in almost every production since she entered high school. She worked with Lena Stole to choreograph last spring’s musical, “Seussical,” and served on the Student Experimental Theater board. Currently, she is the theater manager for the fall play, “The Firebugs,” Oct. 27-29.

“She’s really contributed enormously to the theater program,” director Lucija Ambrosini said. “Last year, she and Lena were in charge of the choreography for ‘Seussical’ and did a marvelous job. There’s a ton of creative stuff and technical stuff she’s contributed, too. She has been a part of almost every production — I can’t think of one where she hasn’t been.”

As an experienced and involved

theater member, Anna works equally hard to help other people excel as she does to develop her own acting skills.

“She’s wanted to be a person who not only benefits from the legacy of other former students who have graduated but also contributes to the theater, mentoring new kids and being extremely helpful with everybody she works with,” Mrs. Ambrosini said.

Both working as theater manager and playing a significant part in “The Firebugs,” Anna keeps the production working on a deadline while also practicing the scenes she’ll be performing in.

“She is a really great, patient person to work with,” costume master Martin Oliver said. “We are the only two seniors who are actually in the acting cast of ‘The Firebugs,’ and as a leader she has been amazing.”

Ultimately, Anna’s hard work in the theater doesn’t come from a desire to raise herself up but to help individual students come together and express themselves.

“Everyone has their own unique talents and skill sets,” Anna said. “Everyone works together to make the best production possible; there are so many different elements that go into it, and they all come together really nicely in the end.”

## Corvus Gallery collection evokes wonder

by **AMON GRAY**  
Sports & Leisure Editor

The sun glints off a metal lance clutched in one of the four green arms of an alien atop an eight-legged mount. Leaping out of the desert, science fiction hero John Carter swings his sword.

This illustration was created by J. Allen St. John was featured on the cover of “Amazing Stories” magazine in 1941, but several years later the original art was hung in the bedroom of a young Stephen Korshak by his father, Erle Korshak.

That piece became the first in their collection of fantasy and science fiction illustrations that they built together over the years. Through Nov. 18, 27 illustrations from the collection selected by Stephen Korshak and Gina Alicea, art teacher and gallery director are being featured in the Corvus Gallery in Gordon Parks Arts Hall.

Stephen Korshak, a 1969 U-High

alumnus, told the story behind the collection on alumni night, Sept. 30, at the opening reception for the showcase.

“He put that painting in my bedroom and I projected myself into that story and I just had this sense of wonder when I saw this painting and this passion and I wanted to collect different illustrations that display that sense of wonder,” Mr. Korshak said.

Both Stephen and his father were Lab alumni. Stephen Korshak talked about his experience at Lab during the gallery opening.

“That sense of wonder that was given to me by my father inadvertently by putting that painting in my bedroom, was nurtured by Lab and that critical thinking and how to analyze situations was helpful to me.”

The works in the collection come from a multitude of illustrators from a variety of backgrounds. Mr. Korshak emphasized

how while some of the artists were classically trained, others were not because at the time of their artistry, illustration was not considered real art.

Some of the pieces featured are covers of pulp magazines like the J. Allen St. John piece. Others include more classic book illustrations, calendar art, and made-for-display paintings. All of them contain different styles unique to the genre, time period, and artist. The diversity of the collection brings a fascinating, all-encompassing perspective on illustration as an art form.

Ms. Alicea said that she has been in contact with Mr. Korshak since before the pandemic to feature some of the collection in the gallery. The entire collection was brought to Chicago this September for the World Science Fiction Convention that would be honoring the late Erle Korshak, so they took advantage of the opportunity



Midway photo by Ishani Hariprasad

**EYECATCHING.** Seniors Asha Patel and Graham Robbins look at the art on display at the opening the Corvus Gallery showcase on Sept. 30. The collection belongs to U-High alumnus Stephen Korshak.

to display the art for Lab students.

“I want to inspire Lab students to never lose that sense of won-

der,” Stephen Koshak said. “There is a wonder to our life and a wonder to everything.”

## Play adapts 1919 Chicago race riots with nuance

by **AINSLEY WILLIAMS**  
Reporter

On July 27, 1919, 17-year-old Eugene Williams drifted over an invisible line in the waters of Lake Michigan. The line segregated swimming areas along 29th Street Beach by race. His mistake cost him his life when he drowned after being hit by thrown rocks, a brutal act that started bloody riots across the city, which would later be called The Red Summer.

This influential part of Chicago history has been given a contemporary adaptation in a new production from the Steppenwolf for Young Adults Program: the play “1919,” which explores the history and impact of the Chicago race riots in an artistic way that doesn’t hold back from the difficult themes that come with the subject matter. The production was adapted from a collection of poetry by the same name written by Eve L. Ewing, a scholar and professor at the University of Chicago focused on racism, social inequality and urban policy.

The play begins with a minimalist staging of wooden boxes arranged throughout the stage with



Source: Steppenwolf Theatre

**POETIC PLAY.** ‘1919’ is a retelling of the events of The Red Summer being show at the Steppenwolf Theatre. The production is adapted from a collection of poetry written by UChicago professor Eve L. Ewing.

a typewriter atop one and empty chip bags strewn around it. The only other set piece, a chandelier of blue glass bottles, looms overhead. The main character, an unnamed young writer, is introduced and expresses that she is struggling from writer’s block, repeatedly saying “I have to write,” while eating from a bag of Flamin’ Hot

Cheetos.

She is then greeted by five more characters, all dressed in colorful clothes — one even sporting roller skates — who influence her to return to her typewriter. They try to inspire her through lines that echo back to important events woven into Chicago’s history, like the CTA and Chicago Public Schools, and

all reflect the poetic quality of the text the play is adapted from. The writer calls them “her muses” and gives them names like “the griever” and “the s— talker.” The writer then talks to her muses about a report she found while looking for content to write about, a report published in 1922 by then-Illinois Gov. Frank Lowden titled, “The Negro in Chicago: A Study of Race Relations and a Race Riot.”

The report was produced by a delegation of six white men and six Black men to serve as a post-mortem of the eight day-long race riots spurred by the murder of Eugene Williams that left 38 dead and hundreds more injured in the summer of 1919.

The writer and her muses later play the parts of sharecroppers, a cruel and popular practice throughout the South where many newly freed people who worked on the same land, lived in the same housing and made minimal wages. During the scene, the characters contemplate the back-breaking work they do and their dreams of relocating to Chicago, which hints at The Great Migration.

The ensemble then becomes

characters conversing about the July 1995 heat wave, a deadly event that caused the deaths of 739 people mainly from Chicago’s poor and Black neighborhoods.

One of the final scenes of the play is spent remembering Emmett Till, a Black boy from Chicago, who was lynched by a gang of white men after he was incorrectly accused of catcalling a white woman in Mississippi in 1955. The chorus reflects on Emmett’s characteristic hat, by which the whole neighborhood knew him, and the memory of him in a grocery store quietly whistling to himself while eating a plum.

The play is a beautiful representation of an important yet commonly overlooked aspect of Chicago history. Told through a poetic and creative lens that captivates the audience, the Steppenwolf production forces viewers to reflect well after they leave the theater.

Performances will run through Oct. 29, but there will be a five-show tour Nov. 1-5 for youth throughout the city in neighborhoods including Bronzeville and South Shore.



# Never stop swinging

Training and dedication pays off for senior Ethan Kucera as he returns from back surgery a stronger golfer

by KRISHITA DUTTA  
Opinion Editor

He stands on the green, holding firmly onto his golf club. He looks off into the distance, directly at his goal: not only to score, but to prove to himself that he can. He swings, and the golf ball rolls into the hole.

After months of rebuilding his stamina, Ethan Kucera is finally back in the game.

Ethan, a senior, has played golf for nearly 10 years, including four on U-High's varsity golf team. In February Ethan underwent major back surgery for scoliosis, throwing an obstacle in his golfing career right before his senior season. Through an incredibly difficult period of physical recovery, Ethan learned lessons of perseverance and determination, and he returned a stronger golf player than he was before.

"I've struggled with scoliosis since I was 8, and while it was progressively getting worse, it was at a slow enough rate that doctors never worried about it too much," Ethan said. "It wasn't 'til the pandemic that it got really bad really fast, and so in February this year, I had to get surgery so that it didn't begin to affect my heart and lung function."

Ethan's scoliosis affected his day-to-day life, but he believes golf was always impacted the most.

"Golf was really difficult with scoliosis because since it kept getting worse, my body structure kept changing," Ethan said, "and so I had to keep adjusting to new swings in golf."

This hindered his ability to master his swings, since he was playing in a slightly different body every game.

Hence, when he was offered a chance to fix his scoliosis, he took up the opportunity.

"It was scary at first to hear that I couldn't play for so long," he said, "but I thought 'the sooner the better,' because I wanted to be ready for the fall season."

**"I didn't realize it before, but that's when I realized my surgery was only a temporary setback. In the bigger picture, it left me a better player than before, because now I was playing with a healed body."**  
Ethan Kucera

Surgery day was Feb. 15. He received the surgery in Boston and had to stay in the hospital for five days. The doctors told him it would be three months before he could engage in any physical activity and five months until he could properly go back to golf in order to rebuild his stamina.

The summer called for the most determination from Ethan. Day after day, he'd practice at his apartment building's golf simulator to get back in the swing of the sport. The golf simulator allows residents to practice playing golf in a room surrounded by screens that simulate a golf field. This allowed Ethan to practice his swings and aim, and by June 14, he managed to play his first full round since recovery.

"It felt amazing," Ethan said. "It was those smaller moments that made all the more frustrating parts feel worth it."

On July 4, Ethan set his overall personal record.

"I didn't realize it before, but that's when I realized my surgery was only a temporary setback," he said. "In the bigger picture, it left me a better player than before, because now I was playing with a healed body."

According to junior Alex Rupple, a captain, Ethan was one of the best varsity players during the season. He held the highest individual score for the team's last tournament; the 2A sectionals for the IHSA tournament on Oct. 3. Alex believes Ethan's strength through



Midway photo by Matt Petres

**EYES FORWARD.** Carefully measuring the distance, senior Ethan Kucera lines up his putt at the Harborside International Golf Course. After recovering from back surgery, Ethan spent the summer training his swing with a healed body while breaking personal records. Ethan returned to the golf team performing well in tournaments.

recovery makes his success all the more remarkable.

"Golf is a sport that is very spiral and very rotation related, so to see one of our players not only recover from a surgery so quickly and successfully within less than 12 months, but also give his absolute

best to the sport during the season right after surgery, is just incredible."

Golf has always been Ethan's happy place, helping him to bond with his friends at school and to escape stress. He plans to keep golf as a hobby as he goes into col-

lege to relax.

"Ethan's a great player and really an amazing friend," Alex said. "Ethan ended on a really amazing note, and while bittersweet, he has an amazing story to tell of overcoming a major obstacle and bouncing back."

## Dig Pink raises \$2,500 for breast cancer research



Midway photo by Matt Petres

**RAISING SPIRIT AND SUPPORT.** Junior Micayla Hatcher steps up to the ball during the Dig Pink game on Oct. 14 against the Latin School of Chicago. Through donations and a T-shirt sale, the team raised over \$2500 which will be given to the Side Out Foundaiton that provides research and treatment for stage 4 breast cancer.

by ETHAN SWINGER  
Assistant Editor

Feet planted, she bumps the ball upward. All eyes on the rising ball, the crowd is breathless in anticipation. Her teammate leaps into the air, hurling the ball over the net. It crashes onto the hardwood floor, accompanied by a blaring whistle. In unison, the sea of pink shirts and screaming fans erupt into applause.

The volleyball team raised over \$2,500 in donations for the annual Dig Pink fundraiser, surpassing its goal of \$1,500. Of the total, nearly \$1,000 came from T-shirt sales prior to the Oct. 14 game versus the Latin School of Chicago.

Dig Pink is a volleyball event throughout high schools and colleges nationwide that raises awareness for breast cancer.

Proceeds are given to the Side-Out Foundation, a charity that funds research and treatment for stage 4 breast cancer. Their mission is to help people with breast cancer regain control of their lives.

To garner support, the volleyball players dedicated a game to the cause and sold Dig Pink

T-shirts the week before the game.

According to captain Charlotte Henderson, a senior, Dig Pink is also an opportunity to bring recognition to the volleyball team.

"It's also a kind of chance to highlight the volleyball team, not just as a regular game," Charlotte said, "but as one we put a lot of energy to honor women who have gone through cancer and to raise money for the school."

Captain Emily Brennan, a junior, believes that Dig Pink is worth supporting because of the personal connection players have with it.

"I feel like it's great that we support this cause, especially because it's so close to a lot of our player's hearts and our coach as well," Emily said.

Head coach Lisa Miller, who had breast cancer earlier this year, believes that Dig Pink holds significance to the volleyball team because of how it has fostered a sense of community.

"It matters to this community, but really, the team," Ms. Miller said. "It's a very important team bonding activity because they really do work together."



# Staying Scenic

Indiana Dunes is stunning year-round

by **AUDREY MATEI**  
Arts Editor

The vibrant sun rays spill on to the blue waters of Lake Michigan like watercolor paints. From the top of the sand dunes, the canopies of lush trees stretch as far as the eye can see. With cicadas singing and waves crashing, the Indiana Dunes are drenched with summer fun.

Over the next few weeks, the duneland will transform into something almost extraterrestrial. The once-scalding sand will be covered in a crunching frost, the towering trees will transform into a tapestry of brilliant orange hues and the warm waters of the lake will be infuriated with the winds of late fall and early winter.

With the end of summer, many are hesitant to embrace the outdoors, but Indiana Dunes National Park offers enriching trails, beaches and wildlife all year round.

The national park is made of two separate stretches of shoreline, and the eastern stretch contains the Indiana Dunes State Park. Each section of the park offers different activities for visitors, including beaches, hikes and visitor centers.

The parks are located on the northeastern shore of Indiana and are around a 45-minute drive from downtown Chicago. The South Shore train line regularly runs directly to parts of the dunes from downtown Chicago, stopping in Hyde Park. The trip is around an hour by train and costs \$9.

The park is most popular in the summer. The West Beach Loop offers a mild hike up around the dunes, and hikers loop to the popular West Beach, where visitors can swim and relax. There are also biking and horseback trails throughout the park, and fishing is also available.

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With the end of summer, many are hesitant to embrace the outdoors, but Indiana Dunes National Park offers enriching trails, beaches and wildlife all year round.  
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The parks are popular with families and allow pets. This leads to crowding in the summer, but fall is an ideal time to visit.

Fall foliage and cooler temperatures make visiting perfect. The trails that pass through the woods of the eastern section of the park, such as the Bailey Chellberg Trail are scenic during the season. Additionally, the Calumet Dunes Trail is an accessible short boardwalk trail that runs right through the woods and puts saturated fall colors on full display.

Few people consider the Midwestern winter an ideal time for hiking, but Indiana Dunes offers trails for even that when trails are fairly empty. The Cowles Bog Trail looping around the lakeshore offers a beautiful and long hike through a forest, bog and dunes. Make sure to wear lots of layers, for the winds near the lake can decrease temperatures. Plan accordingly for earlier sunsets and your pet’s stamina on this trail.

If winter hiking isn’t your thing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are also options during the winter.

There’s still lots to do as the leaves transform from green to orange at Indiana Dunes National Park. Whether it’s swimming, hiking, biking or skiing, try something new in the upcoming months by visiting the dunelands.



Photo by Audrey Matei



**STILL A NATURAL TREASURE.** With dozens of stunning trails, Indiana Dunes National Park is not to be overlooked, even in the fall. What are lush green forests in the summer become flame-bright and crisp in autumn. As the Midwest weather cools in the fall and winter, foot traffic on the once-blazing sand dunes and the hiking trails decreases, providing an excellent opportunity to explore the trails.

**MORE THAN A BEACH.** The Indiana Dunes include many habitats boasting a wealth of diverse ecosystems. The gradual rotation of animal and plant species can be seen through the ecological Dune Succession Trail, located in the state park, where informational placards guide hikers along. The mile-long boardwalk takes visitors through the gradual transformation from barren sand to scraggly prairies to rich forests, and the vibrant fall colors make the walk even more stunning.

Photo by Kabir Joshi

## Five Halloween activities for festivities, frights and fun

by **PETER COX**  
City Life Editor

With Halloween right around the corner, it’s time to make some plans for what to do in the coming spooky holiday season. We have some suggestions to get you started:

**Pumpkin carving** is a fun, artistic activity that also provides you with some solid seasonal decorations. It’s also a classic fall group project. Get some friends together, buy a pumpkin at a grocery store or farmer’s market — or go out to a farm if you’re feeling up to it. As with any artistic endeavor, a lot of how you carve pumpkins is up to your own vision, but the Midway has a video tutorial to teach the basic techniques you’ll want to know.



The **Halloween movie** is a central part of the Halloween experience. Generally, Halloween movies are either horrors or comedies. Classics like “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” “Beetlejuice,” and the “Halloween,” and “Texas Chainsaw Massacre” series, have everything that you’re looking for in a good watch when sitting at home with the lights out, hoping no one else will ring your doorbell.

This year has some new releases, including the most recent entry in the Halloween franchise, “Halloween Ends” in theaters and streaming on Peacock, and a sequel to the 1993 classic “Hocus Pocus” is streaming now on Disney+. The quality of these newer movies isn’t guaranteed, but regardless they should make for an enjoyable watch anytime during the Halloween season.

season.

Attractions, like roller coasters, that offer a thrill have always been big with teenagers. **Haunted houses** are the Halloween equivalent of this trend. For people who are interested, Chicagoland has many haunted houses, with one of the closest being in Wrigleyville. Entrants under 18 must be accompanied by a paid adult. Tickets run around \$40.

The general haunted house experience is to go through a building that has been set up for the activity with the appropriate caution tape and fake blood splatters. Actors dressed as the standard Halloween spooks, zombies, clowns, evil doctors and more will put on performances as you move through the house. A lot of haunted houses have special nights where the lights are off or where the actors aren’t there. Haunted houses aren’t for everyone, but if you or some of your friends want to give it a try, then it’s worth doing.

A lot of people put time and effort into decorating their homes for Halloween or making the per-



fect costume. Luckily, for those of us who aren’t interested in all that hard work, you can still enjoy the fruits of their labor.

A casual **walk around the neighborhood** on this weekend or on Halloween night is an easy way to get into the vibe of the season. See the work that people have put into this holiday, the stunning decorations, the brilliant and original costumes. See how people have turned out to en-

capsulate the spirit of this magical season. Then head home and have some candy.

**Costumes** are probably the most iconic part of the Halloween experience. They also present a conundrum for the average teenager. Halloween, particularly trick-or-treating, is a ritual that is a huge part of our youth.

As we move away from that stage in our life, people are unsure if they should keep dressing up if they also want to seem cool and mature. It’s up to you whether to dress up, but some ideas for what to do if you decide are participating in a costume contest, taking out your younger sibling, and if the party invitations really aren’t forthcoming, you can always go trick-or-treating yourself.



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