

Turtel Onli's art uses a future primitive style to bring attention to the treatment of Black artists. His artwork is featured in the Corvus Gallery through Dec. 10.



This season, the volleyball team credits its success to strong team bonds and motivation. This team won the ISL championship for the first time since 2004.



Boxville, a shipping container marketplace in Bronzeville, is almost entirely made up of small, minority-owned businesses, such as bike stores and coffee shops.



University of Chicago Laboratory High School

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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Heavy workload aggravates students

Nov. 2 meeting follows memes, due date policies

by PETER PU & MEENA LEE

With students increasingly saying they are overwhelmed from school workload, Student Council hosted a meeting Nov. 2 for students to voice their concerns and discuss organizational strategies. Students had previously shared concerns with teachers, prompting new homework policies, and some even satirized Lab's culture through memes. Facing barriers, some have felt that proposing change has been like "talking to a wall."

At the meeting, students shared experiences about their homework "never ending" and the difficulty balancing classes with extracurricular activities. Some said that the key has been managing their time more effectively and spreading the work over the week.

Asher Grossman, Student Council's director of student technology services, said that in registering for rigorous courses, he knew that homework would come at the cost of socializing and working on activities like Robotics Team.

"The extracurriculars that Lab offers, you can't do those extracurriculars to the extent that you might want to and do the classes that you want to take," Asher said later in an interview.

According to Brent Pennington, all-school president, Student Council members were initiating conversations with department chairs even before the meet-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY MALCOLM TAYLOR

SPEAK OUT. At a Student Council-led meeting on Nov. 2., ninth grader Ayush Mishra shares his experiences with the group. The meeting was held for students to discuss strategies for workload.

ing, attempting to address concerns about student stress. Brent said faculty pushback to reducing workload has revolved around the need to fulfill course expectations. AT, AP and accelerated classes demand greater commitment from students. Brent said teachers told him part of the Lab education is college preparation, and some teachers have mentioned to imitate the university experience students should reach out to teachers on their own.

After hearing student input at

the Nov. 2 meeting, two stress-alleviating strategies emerged: implementing a "temperature check" for teachers to collect student feedback and increasing transparency about course expectations.

However, it is unclear whether another student survey will bring about change in the near future. Student Council has been working for seven years to implement a curriculum feedback system. The goal has been for students anonymously to provide input to teachers about how they feel about the

quantity and quality of assignments. But after the 2020 test run, it has not gained traction due to teachers questioning its value and preferring other forms of feedback.

According to Brent, revising the Program of Studies to better articulate course expectations remains a long-term goal.

"There is no specific direct Student Council involvement," Brent said. "It is largely Student Council members expressing concern to specific administrators and doing it in a specific and unified way

so that administrators or faculty members can bring those concerns to the meetings that they're having around the Program of Studies."

Earlier in October, an anonymous group of students, the Secret Meme Club, felt frustrated by lack of action from the faculty and administration. Looking for alternative platforms, they started putting up posters of memes around the school. They consider U-High's start time, the amount of assemblies and overall mental health of students to be the biggest issues.

"It really just feels like you're talking to a wall," the founder, who asked to have their name withheld, said about their time on a school committee. "We're at those meetings where [administration is] supposed to be listening to us and taking our opinions into account. It feels like they're just listening to parents who think they know what's good for us, or teachers who claim to have all this experience."

Student Council and the administration removed the memes because the club is not official, but the students in the Secret Meme Club feel that traditional methods of communicating are not effective.

"The purpose is to bring up the conversation, because until there is dialogue, nothing can actually be done," the founder said. "Then we want to also try and offer solutions, which, first of all, really shouldn't be the students' job to figure out. If it comes to that, we will offer solutions because that's the only way to really move this forward."

Students seek places to speak about accommodations

by LUCIA KOURI
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

One in five students receive learning accommodations at Lab, corresponding with the national rate of children with learning differences in the broader United States. At the tail-end of Learning Disabilities Awareness Month, some U-High students are seeking spaces to talk openly about their experiences, and to acknowledge that having a learning difference or disability at U-High is more common than many would expect.

Senior Ashley Hannah started receiving learning accommodations in ninth grade. She now receives extra time for reading-based assessments in classes but stresses that it can still be frustrating to get through readings when they take a long time.

"It can be challenging sometimes in classes where you need to read more — like English and history — because there's not really anything you can do because it just takes longer," Ashley said.

Ashley said that the process of receiving accommodations is extensive as well. According to high school learning coordinator Laura Doto, many aren't familiar with the legal documentation and com-

plexities behind becoming eligible to receive accommodations.

"It can be challenging. My counselors dealt with a lot of it, which is helpful," Ashley said. "But I had to go to a day-long testing to figure out why I needed accommodations."

After qualifying for accommodations, the responsibilities of the students don't always completely end. Even though teachers are responsible for remembering student accommodations, Junior Myla Allen often reminds her teachers before any event that might require them.

"I've had accommodations ever since lower school, when I found out I had a learning difference," Myla said. "Basically, how it works is the teachers have a document with what my accommodations are, and I also have to remind the teacher of them before a test."

While the majority of students at U-High do not choose to participate in student groups related to their accommodations, some students, such as freshman Katie Schmidt, turn to clubs that discuss learning differences and disabilities.

Katie is the vice president of the Students with Disabilities Association.

"We try to create a space where, if you want to speak about your disability, then you can," Katie said. "If you don't want to, then that's a personal thing and you don't have to."

As Katie sees it, what makes the club valuable is not defining people by their disability when they walk through the door, but acknowledging that disabilities affect many students within the U-High community — more than most know of.

Katie believes this mentality should be applied to classrooms.

"Personally, I don't think anybody should be forced to disclose if they have a disability or different accommodations because that's personal information," Katie said. "They choose when to disclose that information because it's theirs."

There is also a community of people who do not have disabilities and still show up to the Students with Disabilities Association — something Katie thinks is particularly important.

"Genuinely I think it's great to have people that are allies in the club," Katie said. "A lot of people don't know these things. We need to educate more people."

With such a large community of U-High students with learning dif-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY CHLOE MA

HELPING HAND. Learning Coordinator Heavenly Hicks and senior Ashley Hannah talk about accommodations. One in five students at Lab receive learning accommodations.

ferences or disabilities, it's valuable for all Lab students to learn about the experiences of their fellow peers.

"Nobody has a full understanding of, you know, every single disability and what it's like," Katie said. "It's a learning process."

New system fixes printing

by **ANATHEA CARRIGAN**
MANAGING EDITOR

Year after year, students rush to the printer island in the Pritzker-Traubert Library five minutes before the start of class to print their essays or other homework.

Groups of students huddle around the monitors and papers fly off the printer. People in long lines wait impatiently and dodge flying arms that snatch the documents and slam down on staplers. Panic fills the eyes of students who realize they won't get a turn as they peel out of the library, stressed and unsuccessful, heading to class unprepared and almost late.

During the first few weeks of this semester, the hassle of printing grew exponentially, but librarians say with just a few additional steps, students can avoid this logjam and print to any of 25 multifunction printers around school.

After a year of remote learning, students have grown accustomed to submitting assignments online. Printing for submission, which used to be second nature, now seems to be a foreign, stressful task.

"If I'm printing for a class, I get a little nervous because I don't want to go to class unprepared," junior Zara Baig said. "It gets stressful when there are long lines to print and only one, or no printers seem to work."

All multifunctional printers — MFPs for short — have been switched onto a new system, Mobility Print, causing students confusion and difficulty printing during the new school year.

The library is the main printing hub for Lab students, because of its central location among the four buildings where high school classes are held.

"For me, the library is the most convenient location to print at the last minute," Zara said.

Because they are the most commonly used printers, library desktop computers or laptops not be-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY CARTER CHANG

CUT THE LINE. Sophomore Michael Sawaged prints an assignment in the library. Students can set up Mobility Print on their laptops to print to 25 multifunctional printers throughout the school.

ing on the new system resulted in a rocky start to the school year.

"We were given just some general information on how to set up printing for our own work laptops," librarian Susan Augustine said. "But it seemed as if things weren't really thought through as to how the library might need printing to go really fast on day one."

Now, with the printers added to the library's devices, the source of initial troubles of printing, the ability to print from library computers has been resolved.

The remaining struggle is surrounding students looking to print from their own laptop to a MFP. They must first download a driv-

er, which can be time consuming, and then associate their student ID with the MFP they want to use.

The process for enabling the new printing system was detailed in the high school digital backpack.

"It was a little hard to find for students because it was one Schoology post near the beginning of the semester," Ms. Augustine said. "We ended up saying that this needs to be available, so we put it on our website."

While setting up the printing system has taken some getting used to, it has benefits to students.

"In the past we've noticed that everyone likes to congregate around the printer island," Ms. Au-

gustine said. "We get these bottlenecks at the front of the library on Monday mornings when everyone seems to need to print."

After students set up Mobility Print on their laptops, they have the ability to print to any of the 25 MFPs throughout the school.

"I don't think students realize that if they get into the system, they can print from their computers and pick jobs up from any of the MFPs," Ms. Augustine said.

However, students aren't all aware of the locations of these MFPs and therefore the system seems to provide little advantage.

Students can use the new printing system to avoid long lines and hustle and bustle of the library.

Adults learn to identify, respond to student distress

by **LUCIA KOURI**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In coming months, 122 Lab teachers, administrators and clerical staff will be trained to understand, identify and respond to signs of distress in youth, connecting them to supportive services.

Program members will be nationally certified in Mental Health First Aid, following a set curriculum produced by the National Council for Mental Well-Being.

While a specific curriculum is followed, Nicole Neal, Lab's director of student services, says the training will also cover scenarios specific to different parts of the Lab community. Data from Lab's annual health and wellness survey has been a guiding resource.

"We're working with our partners to provide them some context for some trends that we've seen at the Lab throughout the grade levels," Ms. Neal said. "So for high school, we'll be really thinking about stress — a rigorous curriculum relative to expectations from parents or peers, or even from yourselves."

According to Ms. Neal, the need for this training is particularly urgent in current times.

"Given everything that we've been through as a community with the pandemic — with the racial unrest in our nation, the elections and then just being children in this day and age," Ms. Neal said, "if you don't have solid support, or you don't have competencies of self-awareness, self-manage-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY MALCOLM TAYLOR

REACHING OUT. Junior Michael Pan speaks with science teacher Kevin Nihill about AT Chemistry. Teachers will soon trained from a set curriculum to be certified in Mental Health First Aid.

ment, social awareness, healthy decision-making skills and then healthy relationships, you can really struggle."

The training will take place in three parts: first, with a self-paced introductory course, followed by two synchronous sessions, each two hours long and separated by school division. School adults who did not participate in this round will have another opportunity for training in March.

Ms. Neal said the tremendous demonstration of interest, in particular from teachers, has been encouraging.

"Teachers really want to be able to help students," Ms. Neal said. "Teachers see things, they hear

things, they get to know students in ways that other adults in the buildings don't."

P.E. teacher Tom Piane, a training participant, said he has noticed significant interest from fellow teachers. He anticipates even more colleagues completing the training by the end of the year.

Mr. Piane said the material learned in the training could be incorporated into his own teaching, as it overlaps with the general curriculum of the P.E. department.

"So far, it's been good as far as giving adults good tools to help students or teenagers in general with mental health issues, and also how to care for ourselves," Mr. Piane said. "I'm teaching stress-re-

"If we can say 300 adults at Lab are nationally certified as Youth Mental Health First Aiders, I think that's a tremendous boost in our community around a topic that is so necessary."

— NICOLE NEAL,
DIRECTOR OF
STUDENT SERVICES

dux right now with my sophomores, and we discuss stress and freshman health. Hopefully we can intertwine them in our classes and make our program better."

The opportunity to be certified nationally, Ms. Neal said, contributes to the significance of the training on a broader scale.

"To me, it indicates a community of folks across the nation who are committed to this work and also a cohort of people who really do understand mental health and how it impacts children."

The training will be offered at least every three years, if not annually, so new adults can sign up and others can get re-certified. For now, Ms. Neal hopes the next offered round of training will garner as much interest as this one has.

"If we can say 300 adults at Lab are nationally certified as Youth Mental Health First Aiders," Ms. Neal said, "I think that's a tremendous boost in our community around a topic that is so necessary."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Transaction fee added for credit card users

Beginning Nov. 1, a 4% fee was implemented for credit card users at Café Lab or the coffee shop.

This new fee is intended to speed up the payment process and redirect students and faculty to use their MealTime account.

The on-site food service director, Alicia Culverson, said the fee is meant to prioritize efficiency.

To avoid the new fee, students can pay with cash or a MealTime account that is funded by bringing cash or a check. Online, users can preload their funds with a credit card, cash or check. A 4.9% MealTime transaction fee will still be charged when accounts are preloaded online. Ms. Culverson said the MealTime service is the ideal alternative to credit cards.

Some students have prioritized the speed of the MealTime payment option since the beginning of the school year, when credit card lines were long.

Other students disagree and prefer the ease of a credit card.

"I use the credit card option because it is easier because I always have my credit card on me," sophomore Carter Chang said.

— MIA LIPSON

Goal for Connections gala is \$1.5 million

Parents plan to raise \$1.5 million for financial aid and other school priorities at the biennial Connections Gala on Feb. 12, 2022, at the Museum of Science and Industry.

The celebration of the 125th anniversary of Lab will also feature heavily at the event, according to Heiji Black, a co-chair of the Connections committee.

"At the event itself, we're going to have many moments where our guests can see our incredible history, starting from John Dewey and his founding of the school, and how Lab has evolved over these 125 years," she said.

The committee also plans to highlight the achievements of current students and alumni at the gala.

"There will be videos and images highlighting some exceptional alums to come out of the school," Ms. Black said. "We'll also be celebrating the current brilliance of our students, highlighting exceptional work — whether it's writing or art — which will be displayed in the cocktail area as well."

The last Connections gala in February 2020 raised \$1.6 million.

— KIRAN COLLINS

Conferences to be held over Zoom Nov. 18-19

Students will start their Thanksgiving break two days early due to parent-teacher conferences being held Nov. 18-19. Similar to last year, conferences will be held on Zoom. Parents will schedule conferences on Calendly, allowing them to choose which teachers they want to meet with.

Assistant Principal Zilkia Rivera-Vazquez said this decision was made so parents can spread meetings with teachers over two days, thus making it more accessible for parents who work full-time jobs.

Administration scheduled conferences after midterm comments will be released on Nov. 10, so parents will have context about how their children are doing in classes.

According to Ms. Rivera-Vazquez, students should know that they should not be worried about conferences because teachers, parents and students are all on the same side. Conferences will only be held over two days instead of the usual three.

— CHLOE ALEXANDER

Social media apps increase body dysmorphia

Students battle eating disorders, low self-esteem

by CLARE O’CONNOR
ASSISTANT EDITOR

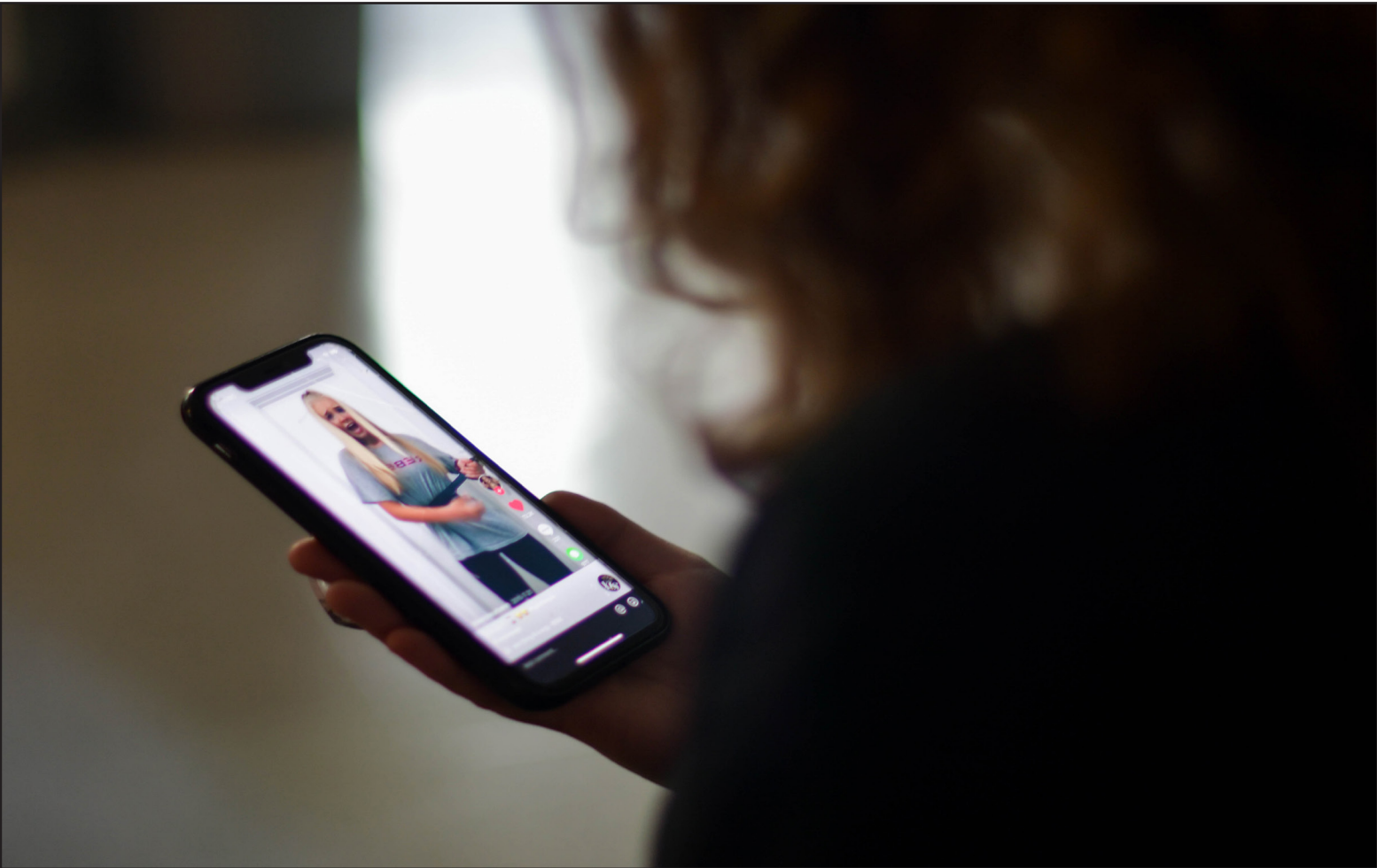
A trove of leaked internal Facebook documents exposed a frightening truth: Facebook has knowingly fostered an environment on its social media platforms that actively harms teenagers. One leaked presentation from Facebook’s internal message board said that according to internal research, 32% of teen girls believe Instagram has exacerbated their negative body image. Other social media sites are also known to glorify and encourage the development of eating disorders and body insecurity in teens. TikTok, YouTube, Twitter and Snapchat have all been linked to increased body dysmorphia and glorification of unhealthy behaviors in teens.

Many students feel the harm illustrated by this leaked information in their everyday lives. The U-High students who exemplify the impact of social media on teenage body image suffer invisibly.

One U-High ninth grader, whose name has been withheld, admits that she has suffered from her social media usage. After moving to distance learning, Ninth Grader A started watching hours of TikTok a day. In 2020, she ended up calling a support line multiple times and eventually began treatment for anorexia nervosa.

Looking back on her experience, Ninth Grader A believes TikTok heavily contributed to her health issues.

“I’ve been unhappy with the way I looked for a long time, but at some point, when school went online, I started just hating my body and physically damaging myself in order to feel prettier,” Ninth Grader A said. “When you can’t leave your house, the only people you see are the people on your ‘For You’ page and your own reflection. Compared to the girls I spent



MIDWAY PHOTO BY CHLOE MA

DANGEROUS TRENDS. Many TikTok trends, including the “wear it big” videos, promote body dysmorphia by broadcasting tiny waists and exaggerated beauty standards. When teenagers scroll on their “For You” page, they are consistently exposed to content which promotes the idea that only a certain size is attractive or acceptable.

all day watching on TikTok, I’m worthless.”

A U-High junior, whose name has been withheld, said Instagram makes her feel different from her peers. She feels alone in her inability to meet “expectations.”

“I mean, yes, I follow people like Kim Kardashian and Addison Rae, who I know have unrealistic edited proportions, but even my Lab friends who I follow always look so perfect in their posts,” Junior A said. “I’ve worked so hard trying to look like that but I just can’t.”

Ninth Grader A and Junior A are both undergoing treatment for diagnosed eating disorders. They both expressed that the effects of their health issues follow them to

school and impact every aspect of their lives.

Eating disorders can cause severe symptoms such as stomach pain, increased risk of heart failure, brain fog and stunted physical and neurological development. Extreme cases can result in life threatening conditions and permanently altered brain chemistry. Even small manifestations of an eating disorder often lead to decreased academic performance and mental health concerns like anxiety disorder and depression.

Some students have been able to open up to parents or doctors and get help. However, the process of seeking help can be difficult, and treatment itself can be taxing

and slow.

“I don’t think that I’m fragile or anything, but, I mean, even months though the recovery process, I’ll randomly see something that just really triggers me,” Junior A said. “At the start of the school year, I had to go home for the day just because I saw two students filming one of those ‘wear it big’ TikToks where a girl wears a really big shirt and then pulls it tight against her stomach. I know that I’m doing better, but stuff like that makes me doubt the whole recovery process.”

Counselors encourage students to reach out if they are struggling to communicate important concerns to their parents or other mentors.

Counselor Teddy Stripling said the counselors are aware of how serious body image issues can be and have tried to create an accessible support system.

“A lot of students are concerned that we are going to tell their parents or teachers about their concerns, but, as long as a student is not in immediate harm, our conversations are completely confidential,” Mr. Stripling said. “Students need to know that they are welcome.”

Students suffering from body image issues or eating disorders don’t have to suffer alone. The NE-DA Helpline is a free advice line that offers support, resources and treatment options.

Students combat skin irritation from wearing masks

by COLIN LESLIE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

You go to the store with a simple goal: to find a skin care product that can treat your acne. At least, it seemed simple, until you realize the store shelf is home to dozens of lotions and creams, and you have no idea where to start.

“Mascne” is a term that developed during the pandemic and refers to acne breakouts caused by mask-wearing, and it’s made the difficult task of choosing the right skin care products even more pressing.

According to biology teacher Elizabeth Hubin, the treatment for mascne is the same as the treatment for normal acne breakouts, and consistently moisturizing the skin is a good place to start.

“Because you’re wearing a mask, there’s just more bacteria introduced and staying on your skin,” Dr. Hubin said. “And also, your pores are just getting clogged with more sebum because you’re sort of blocking the natural diffusion of that sebum.”

Dr. Hubin said there are two products that are most effective when attempting to prevent breakouts: salicylic acid and retinol products.

“Salicylic acid is something that breaks up dead skin cells and removes them so that those pores don’t get as blocked,” Dr. Hubin said. “Retinol products just influence cell turnover, and so you’re



MIDWAY PHOTO BY HENRY BENTON

SKIN SAVIORS. Brands such as CeraVe carry products that are gentle on the skin’s natural barrier. Exfoliating too much or too often can sensitize the skin and inhibit the natural healing process. While many over-the-counter products can treat or prevent mild skin issues, a dermatologist is often needed to prescribe more potent products, according to Dr. Hubin.

basically clearing out the clogged pores or preventing pores from clogging because the cells in the skin are turning over more.”

For treating existing pimples, Dr. Hubin recommends benzoyl peroxide.

“Benzoyl peroxide is great for spot-treating spots that have already formed because it can help

reduce the amount of bacteria that’s producing that acne, but it also then has anti-inflammatory properties that reduce that inflammatory aspect of the pimples,” Dr. Hubin said.

Unfortunately, according to Dr. Hubin, while pimples such as whiteheads or pustules are easy to treat with benzoyl peroxide, other

types of pimples are more difficult to address.

“If you have cysts or nodules, which are those painful hard bumps that you feel under the skin, those don’t really get treated with over-the-counter treatments,” Dr. Hubin said. “I recommend seeing a dermatologist for more preventative measures.”

“Because you’re wearing a mask, there’s just more bacteria introduced and staying on your skin.”

— ELIZABETH HUBIN

Junior Charlie Benton started researching skin care products and methods during the pandemic. He had gotten reactions around his eyes from chlorine and the goggles he had to wear as a member of the swim team.

“I was using a lot of products that looked pretty and looked nice on the shelf that aren’t necessarily great for your skin,” Charlie said. “Sometimes you have to take a second to think, like, ‘this moisturizer might not look as pretty as this one, but it will be a lot nicer and gentler to your skin.’”

Charlie said some products he has found useful are the CeraVe face lotion and the Paula’s Choice 2% BHA solution, but there is one product, he said, that stands above the rest.

“There are these acne patches, like if you go on Amazon and search, ‘acne patches,’” Charlie said. “You put them on your pimple, and it’s like a life-changer.”

So before going to the store for a skin care product, it would be a good idea to start with some research, and the dozens of products on the shelf can turn into a single, simple choice.

StudCo must advocate change

As the Midway sees it ...

The Secret Meme Club, a group dedicated to raising awareness about issues the student body is facing, has faced increased tensions with the Student Council as a result of Student Council members removing their meme posters. Student Council chose to remove these posters because they violated regulations about possible locations of posters, and out of sympathy for upset teachers. The club has labeled the removal as censorship.

The Student Council's choice to remove these posters shows they do not unequivocally take the side of the students, as one would expect from a group of representatives elected to advocate for the student body.

Student Council should be actively seeking out student concerns and mirroring student opinions on controversial topics.

The Student Council has two bodies responsible for fulfilling its mission, published on its website. The main role of the Cultural Union is to plan enjoyable events, and the student government is responsible for representing student interests pertaining to school-wide political issues.

The Student Council has been successfully carrying out the first part of its mission through well-planned events, but the government does not always succeed in representing student interests.

Removing postings from the Se-



MIDWAY ART BY AMON GRAY

cret Meme Club worked against student interests, showing Student Council prioritizing the feelings of teachers and the administration over responding to students' concerns.

While it is understandable that any individual or group should be accountable for following specific rules about posting, Student Council is not responsible to enforce these rules by taking down the posters. Since Student Council neither created the rules nor violated them, the response to the

Secret Meme Club postings should not fall on them.

Student Council should have helped students to understand why the rules about poster approval exist.

The existence of the Secret Meme Club suggests a larger problem at play between the student body and the Student Council: Students are not feeling heard.

Student Council's reaction and response to student concerns raised by the Meme Club was slow. While the Secret Meme Club be-

gan posting in early October, it took until Nov. 2 for Student Council to host a town hall addressing homework and workload management. Although a step in the right direction, it came too late.

The meager attendance at the town hall suggests the time was inconvenient for most students. Trying to gain comprehensive feedback during a lunch period, when most students are at clubs or doing homework, is ineffective.

The blame does not rest entirely on Student Council. Although the

town hall was promoted on short notice, students who find homework and workload to be a pressing concern should have taken advantage of the opportunity.

Student Council could adopt asynchronous measures to ensure they are hearing student concerns. Linked on their website, the Secret Meme Club has a place where students can share concerns or problems they are having via a Google Form.

While Student Council has a "feedback form" on their website to collect information after school events, they currently do not have a place where students can share with their elected leaders their feelings about political issues at the school.

Student Council could easily add and publicize a Google Form on their website, use Schoology polling to periodically conduct a "temperature check" on students' stress levels, or create a physical suggestion box to survey and become better informed about the needs of the student body.

Students understand that creating real change takes time, and it is impossible for Student Council to address all needs within a week.

Student Council aims to represent student interests, and to make U-High a place where students want to be. When students feel they aren't being heard, and have to turn to anonymous postings to raise concern, Student Council members should remember why they were elected, to advocate for the student body.

Partisanship's true victims:

by SAMUEL BECK
REPORTER

Every few years, the national debt ceiling debate resurfaces and becomes a contentious political discussion. The Treasury Department defines the "debt limit" (or ceiling) as "the total amount of money that the United States government is authorized to borrow to meet its existing legal obligations, including Social Security and Medicare benefits, military salaries, interest on the national debt, tax refunds, and other payments."

Congressional Democrats want to increase the debt ceiling, while Republicans are threatening to practice the filibuster, a political strategy to stall and postpone the

judgement day.

It is the responsibility of these politicians to accurately represent their constituents by sacrificing partisanship in the name of upholding the traditional American value of business opportunity.

Deadlock borne of over-partisanship and unwillingness to cooperate across the aisle over the debt ceiling adversely affects working class Americans. The Treasury Department estimates that a government shutdown, induced by a default, would halt many of the



Samuel Beck

activities currently undertaken by the Small Business Administration. This means that the thousands of small business loans and grants still being processed for disaster aid, coronavirus assistance, working capital, and longer-term financing would be significantly delayed, with devastating implications.

Yet again, America's small business owners, often used as the hallmark of American opportunity, are left powerless, as affluent D.C. politicians debate and stall on their wellbeing. This is the very political complacency that motivated that exact demographic of the United States population to support dangerous politicians such as former President Donald Trump. There

While politicians debate spending, small business owners must suffer

is a reason terms such as "drain the swamp" became so popular. If America wants to avoid four more years of Donald Trump, or someone like him, it is essential to avoid a political deadlock that continues to further polarize the current political climate, which adversely affects business owners and manual laborers.

The American dream is built upon the ideals of opportunity, and small businesses epitomize that. People immigrate here because of the opportunity the United States promises, and an arbitrary political stalemate that disproportionately affects those very businesses spits in the face of that ideal. Any politician who calls themselves patriotic should sacrifice rigid par-

tisanship to foster an environment of opportunity that upholds classic American values.

Biden's administration has stated its inclination to move forward with a solution with only Democratic votes in Congress, a move Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has endorsed — because the Republicans refuse to budge from their opposition. While this might solve the problem for the coming years, it neglects addressing the underlying issues of partisan deadlock that we face.

Part of the responsibility of elected officials, including President Biden, is to advocate and represent their constituents by collaborating across the aisle, for business owners across the country.

Jersey day reinforces sexist norms in our school — let's change it

by AN NGO
CITY LIFE EDITOR

Every year, on jersey day you can walk out onto Kenwood Mall and see students dressed in jerseys posing together taking pictures for their Instagrams. Each athletic team has its own jersey day — usually during a week of significance, such as homecoming week or Dig Pink — where they give other students their jerseys to wear for a day. While athletes can give their jerseys to anyone they choose, the

gesture is often seen as a romantic one.

While not inherently harmful, jersey day has become another way to signify social status and desirability within our school, reinforcing a cycle in which certain boys are given the power to decide which girls can



An Ngo

feel valued.

One of my friends told me that when she wore a soccer player's jersey, another girl approached her and said, "You're so lucky. I wish I was you." This theme runs through certain friend groups where jerseys have become something to envy as an indication of attractiveness.

Jersey day can simply be a fun tradition for athletes and their friends. But the tradition had become a public display of athlete's

"While not inherently harmful, jersey day has become another way to signify social status and desirability within out school."

relationships and social status, with those off of the team associating their own worth with wheth-

er or not they receive a jersey.

Making jersey day a fun, inclusive tradition will require cooperation from both athletic teams and the rest of the community. The student body should stop making assumptions about the relationship statuses between athletes and those they give their jerseys to. Removing meaning from the jerseys will help athletes to feel freer to give their jerseys to anyone they want and for jersey day to be a positive part of U-High tradition.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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EDITORIAL POLICY & MISSION:
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.

‘Rhythymism’: Artist showcases unique genre

Politically emblematic art by Turtel Onli featured in Corvus Art Gallery

by SAHANA UNNI
CONTENT MANAGER

Watercolor, oil paint, comic books: all ways in which Turtel Onli chooses to express himself in his exhibit “Rhythmism.”

With vibrant paintings lining the walls, the exhibit stands out in the Corvus Gallery located in Gordon Parks Arts Hall and showing through Dec. 10.

Ever since he was a child, Mr. Onli has had a passion for art in his unique genre called “Rhythmism,” a future primitive style that brings attention to the way Black artists are treated.

“Black art or art that Black people do is typically suffering, misery or political statements, and even that isn’t considered a category,” Mr. Onli said. “Rhythmism is a way of doing, being and making the art.”

For Mr. Onli, art is the way in which he portrays himself, expresses his ideas, and makes political statements.

The pieces of art displayed in the Corvus Gallery range from pencil drawings to detailed watercolor paintings, each with a story behind them.

“Not only do I express myself, but I also communicate,” Mr. Onli said, “For some I do narrative work which might be about a story, politics or issues that may not be my own but those ideas flow through it. So self expression can sometimes be really esoteric.”

Mr. Onli has incorporated art into his professional life through working as a major marketing illustrator and art therapist before becoming a public school teacher in order to have more time to work on his company, “Onli Studios.” Since then, his work has been featured in different places such as the Museum of Contemporary Art.

Painting is not the only way Mr. Onli expresses himself. He also creates comic books with positive messages, which he believes impact society on a broader scale than individual pieces of art.

“Not only do I express myself, but I also communicate. For some I do narrative work which might be about a story, politics or issues that may not be my own but those ideas flow through it. So self expression can sometimes be really esoteric.”

— TURTEL ONLI, ARTIST

Many of the pieces featured in the “Rhythmism” exhibit include characters from his comic books.

“I looked at expanding the comic book industry because when I started the black character was usually a sidekick a lot of times done in a humiliating and insulting way, if there were any at all,” Mr. Onli said.



POWER OF ART. Artist Turtel Onli poses in front of three of his paintings featured at Lab’s Corvus Gallery in Gordon Parks Arts Hall. Onli uses his art style, Rhythmism, to express the manner in which Black artists are treated, alongside his political opinions and other parts of his identity.

MIDWAY PHOTO BY MATTHEW MCGEHEE

In these books, he also makes a point to diverge from the sexist stereotypes often present in graphic novels through only hiring female artists and illustrators

to create them.

Inspiration for Mr. Onli comes from all over, and often he doesn’t need inspiration to paint.

“I’m one of those people that

don’t necessarily need to be inspired,” Mr. Onli said, “because that thing in me that is an artist is my primary language. It’s always on.”

Smart Museum exhibit challenges visitors to see a new perspective

by NOA APPELBAUM
HEALTH & WELLNESS EDITOR

A man bends over a mirror, his face slackened with lethargy — or perhaps it’s merely a fatigued state of concentration. Intertwined between his fingers is a small paintbrush, and to his left an eerily similar man is painted on a canvas, the same size as his mirrored counterpart. The man drawn assumes the same position as the human figure, and watches as he paints his own self-portrait.

This picture can be found at the University of Chicago’s Smart Museum, in “Smart to the Core: Medium / Image, 2021,” showing through Dec. 12. To the untrained eye, the photograph is rather confusing, but it really encompasses the exhibit’s purpose: to challenge the observer’s perspective on pictures. It particularly focuses on who the image depicts, what it conveys about humans and society and how sensation, perception and art are intertwined.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY NOA APPELBAUM

SELF-PORTRAIT. Photogravure “Self-Portrait with Brush and Palette” by Edward Steichen as well as other intriguing art pieces can be viewed in “Smart to the Core: Medium / Image, 2021.”

blobs of color. Called the “Self-ish Gene Mirror,” this software reflects claims of Darwinian evolution, in that genes are what drives natural selection. Another interactive display, “Pulse Index,” encourages viewers to place their finger over a camera and watch as their fingerprints are reflected across a screen, each beating like a heart in different colors and dimensions. Interactive showcases like these help widen observers’ perspectives on what art and sensation really are, as well as force the viewer to consider the subject of an image and contemplate the connotations from it.

While the accompanying explanations could be a bit complicated (many lacked concise language

that succinctly summarized the artist’s intent), the art pieces spoke for themselves, and really opened the conversation about art as a whole.

Next time you’re enjoying an art piece, consider who the subject is, who the artist is, and why the medium is framed in such a way. Think about the societal implications and privilege that come from painting or taking a picture, as well as about the exploitation of certain subjects.

Overall, “Smart to the Core” expands people’s thinking in its small art collection, and is worth a visit. Located just a few blocks from U-High, the Smart Museum is free and open Tuesday to Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (8 p.m. Thursdays).

‘Dune’ impresses visually

by CAROLINE HOHNER
FEATURES EDITOR

A distressed teen holds up Frank Herbert’s novel “Dune,” dramatically lip-syncing to a TikTok sound, “What does it mean? Ah!”

The 2021 movie adaptation of “Dune” did more than pique Gen Z’s interest with its trailers featuring an all-star (i.e. extremely attractive) cast. While the casting’s target audience is more than prepared to stare at Timothée Chalamet and Zendaya’s faces for over 2 1/2 hours, teens like this TikTok-er put the book down feeling like they had bitten off more than they could chew.

“Dune,” directed by Dennis Villeneuve, is a visually stunning and faithful adaptation of Frank Herbert’s classic novel that succeeds in conveying both a complex plot and world to a larger audience but does so at the cost of any resolution to the story by the time the credits roll.



LEGENDARY PICTURES

“Dune” tells the story of Paul Atreides, the heir to a powerful dukedom in an empire spanning all of space. When his father, the Duke Leto, is given control of the desert planet Arrakis by the emperor, Paul must navigate the struggles for power and water in the sands of the planet nicknamed Dune.

BEAUTIFUL SHOT. Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) and Lady Jessica (Rebecca Ferguson) gaze into the desert.

“Dune” did a fantastic job of maintaining the weight of each plot point without the clarity that narration provides by adding in more visual conflicts. Major themes of the story are even conveyed visually; the emphasis on the value of water on Dune is shown through shots like dew on a desert mouse’s ears and burning date palms.

Speaking of shots: “Dune” is, to put it simply, a very beautiful movie. The colors, the orchestrated soundtrack, and the sweeping shots of otherworldly landscapes make “Dune” a movie you won’t want to take your eyes off of.

Ironically, the dramatic cinematography is also one of the movie’s weak points. Cool one-liner and stare combos are fun once or twice, but they start to feel tedious somewhere around halfway through the movie.

“Dune” more than accomplishes the task of bringing the story of Paul Atreides to a wider audience, but the movie fails to form a cohesive story. That confused TikTok-er might leave theaters with a better understanding of Paul’s world, but not with any sense of satisfaction or resolution.

“Dune” is visually engaging and filled to the brim with talent but still leaves audiences feeling like they watched over two hours of setup for the movie they actually want to watch. And to all my Zendaya fans out there: she’s barely in it.

DOING OUR PART

From unprecedented storms to record-breaking temperatures, the once-predicted effects of climate change are being felt around the world. Students, the Laboratory Schools and the University of Chicago are taking pragmatic steps to lower emissions and create a more sustainable future. That leaves the decades-old question: Is it enough to tame Earth’s warming climate?

Green initiatives to help reduce Lab emissions

Despite initiatives, Lab lacks strategic vision for future emission reductions

by **BERK OTO**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Imagine the yearly greenhouse gas emissions of 585 average American households, enough for a small town. These emissions total 4,390 metric tons — equivalent to the annual greenhouse gas emissions for the Laboratory Schools historic campus, according to the most recent data from the City of Chicago.

Although Lab has several initiatives to reduce emissions, and incorporates environmental thinking into decision making, the school lacks a long-term strategic vision for emission reduction.

One unique challenge, according to Joe Wachowski, Lab’s director of operations, is reducing the electricity used for lights, which composes a significant part of overall emissions.

“A lot of lights at school are on from 5:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. the next day,” Mr. Wachowski said. “The problem is that there’s always something going on after school. That means custodial staff have to stay to clean up, and they need the lights on.”

Even though Earl Shapiro Hall, opened in 2014, and Gordon Parks Arts Hall, opened in 2015, are Lab’s newest buildings, they also use the most electricity because they have more lights, according to Mr. Wachowski, and the lights are an older luminescent style. When the buildings were designed and constructed, LED lights, which are estimated to produce half the emissions of

**Lab:
Doing its part**

the luminescent ones used, were too expensive for mass use. As the bulbs are more widely produced their prices decrease, the University of Chicago now estimates it can save 5% in total energy costs by replacing all campus luminescent bulbs with LEDs.

UChicago contractors recently completed a lighting audit of Sunny Gymnasium, a first step to replace the luminescent bulbs with LEDs. The initiative to replace all old bulbs with efficient LEDs is part of UChicago’s sustainability plan to cut emissions by half by 2030.

Although institutional action to curb climate change is of paramount importance, Tony Del Campo, a middle school Earth science teacher, believes individuals can still have a powerful effect. He recommends students think critically about how their routine actions contribute to climate change.

“If you’re driving, then you should think about the gasses that you’re putting in the atmosphere, and decide whether it’s worth it. If you’re thinking of buying something new, ask yourself if you really need it,” Mr. Del Campo said. “Refusal is one of the most powerful tools at reducing emissions.”

Brian Hewlett, executive director of finance and operations, believes this framework of incorporating critical environmental think-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY BERK OTO

TURNING OFF THE LIGHTS. The Laboratory Schools’ lights stay on from 5:30 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. the next day, according to Lab’s director of operations Joe Wachowski. This is to accommodate faculty access hours and allow custodial workers to finish cleaning.

ing to routine tasks also works at a school level. “We try to think of environmental impact in our day-to-day decisions, whether it’s about reusing an old cabinet, or setting up a sustainable storm water drainage system for Jackman Field,” Mr. Hewlett said, adding that sustainability is always an important factor.

One example of day-to-day environmental impact is Café Lab contractor Quest Food Management’s EarthAware program, which works to minimize Lab’s carbon footprint by purchasing from local vendors and farmers. All leftover food is also composted daily in partnership with Healthy Soil Compost, a West Side waste management service.

Mr. Del Campo is pleased by the initiatives but hopes the school does more to come up with a long-term strategic vision for reducing

emissions. He wants the school to write a climate change statement alongside the mission and diversity statements.

“A mission statement would signal Lab’s commitment to addressing climate change, and I think it would help justify certain things to students, like having a no-meat day at the cafeteria,” Mr. Del Campo said, referencing the mammoth greenhouse gas footprint of the meat industry.

He said steps like the statement and hiring a director of sustainability would help with accountability. Mr. Wachowski acknowledged that he can’t think of a long-term set of goals in place to cut emissions at Lab, nor an administrator who works on improving sustainability.

“The way sustainability works at Lab is more volunteer-based. Some years there’s a lot of excitement

Sustainability initiatives:

Disposable products: Lab utilizes disposable products made of biodegradable and recyclable materials.

Sustainable food: Questfood’s sources cafeteria food from local vendors, lowering emissions while supporting local farmers.

Food disposal: All food waste is composted daily.

Motion sensors: Most lights are outfitted with light and heat motion sensors.

Transportation incentives: Free bus fares incentivize students and faculty to use public transportation.

from faculty and students and a lot of cool efforts happen, and other years there’s a lot less,” Mr. Wachowski said. “Otherwise, our goals come from UChicago’s sustainability plan.”

moved from the ocean. Within an hour of the videos being released, over \$1 million had been donated.

While this incredible effort was well received, it is an example of the often-criticized phenomenon of performative personal activism.

The people donating a few dollars to #TeamSeas and posting screenshots aren’t being socially condemned, but other more egregious displays of “environmental wokeness” are criticized and mocked as counterproductive hollow exhibits of activism.

However, the practice of personal environmentalist theater should be appreciated as individuals’ best tool

by **CLARE O’CONNOR**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

On Oct. 29 at 3:00 p.m., the YouTube trending page was flooded by content creators releasing videos marked with the #TeamSeas. This torrent of content coming from



Clare O’Connor

hundreds of popular creators was part of a charity initiative aiming to remove 30 million pounds of trash from our oceans; one dollar donated to the project corresponds to one pound of trash removed from the ocean.

While this incredible effort was well received, it is an example of the often-criticized phenomenon of performative personal activism. The people donating a few dollars to #TeamSeas and posting screenshots aren’t being socially condemned, but other more egregious displays of “environmental wokeness” are criticized and mocked as counterproductive hollow exhibits of activism.

However, the practice of personal environmentalist theater should be appreciated as individuals’ best tool



ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLOTTE HENDERSON



Scan the code below for more Midway climate content.

Performative activism is useful, sometimes

**All of us:
Doing our part**

“Viewing climate change as an issue that can only be remedied by faceless corporations or unseen political negotiations fuels an unproductive narrative that there is nothing we can do.”

in the fight against climate change.

Many people find performative activism indulgent, naïve and counterproductive. Performative environmentalism often seems like insubstantial annoying “virtue signaling.” Popular memes mock people who loudly brag about their metal straws and constantly mention their reusable grocery bags. Individuals’ annoying displays are also trivial, because corporations rather than individuals contribute to the bulk of harmful pollution; just 100 corporations are responsible for 71% of all greenhouse gas emissions from 1988 to 2017. Given this

context, one person’s decision not to use a plastic straw or drive a diesel car makes a minimal impact. Besides being mostly ineffective, performative environmentalism hinders progress by directing focus away from the companies and governments that can make impactful change.

However, trivial personal environmentalism is an excellent tool for influencing corporate behavior. As personal environmentalism grows more popular and more common, consumer and voter behavior favors companies and candidates that address climate change.

According to interviews in Forbes magazine, leaders from major corporations such as IBM, Ford and General Motors are moving to prioritize sustainability because of how environmental concerns are affecting consumer behavior. These companies are responding through eco-friendly initiatives. This year IBM committed to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and Ford announced that it plans to invest \$29 billion into electric vehicles through 2025.

Elections are also influenced by cultural focus on climate issues. During the last presidential election, the candidate debates included questions about climate change for the first time in over a decade,

responding to the 52% of Americans that now list climate change as a top priority for congressional and presidential elections. Politicians who can enact meaningful regulation on corporate pollution and other detrimental practices are beholden to these voters, and many are taking steps to respond.

Finally, personal activism is necessary for a healthy mental wellbeing. Growing climate concerns are directly linked to mental health issues, especially in young people. Small actions posted online let individuals feel powerful in the face of such a massive unapproachable issue. Small actions posted online make us feel less powerless in the face of such a massive unapproachable issue.

Viewing climate change as an issue that can only be remedied by faceless corporations or unseen political negotiations fuels an unproductive narrative that there is nothing we can do.

So go perform. Donate to #TeamSeas, bring tote bags to grocery stores, bike to school, buy from eco-friendly companies and go vegetarian if you can. When you see people making a big show about their metal straws or posting about how they thrift their clothing to fight fast fashion, try not to be annoyed. Congratulate them.

Teens adapt daily habits for the Earth

**Students:
Doing their part**

by **CAROLINE HOHNER**
FEATURES EDITOR

When it comes to reducing individual carbon footprints, it’s the little things that count. And sometimes, those things can be so little, so integrated into daily life, that they go nearly unnoticed.

U-High students, whether they recognize it or not, are already incorporating environmentally-friendly behaviors into their daily lives.

While second-hand shopping is an environmentally-friendly and affordable alternative to the fast fashion industry, students like sophomore Marlena Leuz are drawn to it mainly because of low prices and unique finds.

“Second-hand shopping has like an excitement to it that firsthand shopping doesn’t cuz you’re not. You don’t know what to expect,” Marlena said. “You don’t know what you’re going to buy, but usually end up finding some really cool, like unique things.”

For her English project on environmentalism last year, senior Ashley Hannah gave up eating meat for a month. She quit for ethical reasons, not wanting to support the meat industry’s major contributions to worldwide carbon emissions.

Her project stuck with her and a year later Ashley is still vegan. “I was kind of just thinking about the biggest factors of what impacts the environment and what I can personally change right then to make enough of an impact,” Ashley said. “Continuing it has made an impact.”

—ASHLEY HANNAH, SENIOR

Ashley originally allowed herself a day per week for any slip-ups, but found that dropping meat from her diet was easier than she had expected. Now, veganism has become a part of Ashley’s life and the lives of those around her.

“If you change your diet, and you impact other people, like you talk to other people about that, and they change their diet, that’s what’s making an impact,” Ashley said.

Like Ashley, Sophomore Amy Ji described her practice of reducing waste using reusable food containers as a natural part of her daily routine.

“I just know, we have like, a whole cabinet full of these containers,” Amy said. “It’s just like an automatic thing for us. Like we just grab and go and put our food in it.”

BY THE NUMBERS

69%

of UChicago’s greenhouse gas emissions come from electricity and natural gas.

80%

of janitorial supplies are green products.

50%

reduction in UChicago’s total greenhouse gas emissions anticipated by 2030.

40%

waste diverted from landfills in 2018.

1

sustainable stormwater drainage system installed at Lab, under Jackman Field.

MOVING FORWARD

Midway staff members share their ideas and analysis to create a more sustainable U-High.

DISPOSAL EDUCATION:

One way to reduce waste is to educate students on how to properly dispose of their garbage through a sustainability assembly. A Covanta survey found that 62% of Americans don’t know how to properly recycle, resulting in more waste being put in landfills. —BERK OTO

NO-MEAT DAY:

Implementing a weekly no-meat day and expanding vegetarian options at the cafeteria would reduce emissions. The energy used to prepare meat for consumption far exceeds that of vegetables. incentivizing vegetarian diets, can reduce emissions both in and out of Lab, as students change their eating habits. —ANATHEA CARRIGAN

TRAYS & REUSABLE ITEMS:

The cafeteria produces a gigantic amount of waste through single-use containers every day, but there’s an alternative. Our cafeteria could implement a tray system for those eating within the cafeteria and a closed-loop reusable container system. This would allow students to reduce their use of single-use items. —AN NGO

REUSABLE BOTTLES:

Providing all students and employees with reusable water bottles and ending the distribution of bottled water would reduce the amount of plastic pollution created by Lab. Eliminating the problem at the source would reinforce the concept of reusing and reusing. —AUDREY PARK

Aces & Queens

Volleyball team’s connection leads to successful season of competition

by **TÉA TAMBURIO**

DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR

Tied with Woodlands Academy 1-1 on Oct. 5, senior Sarah Solomon was tasked with serving the deciding point. That point was the one thing standing between the volleyball team and the ISL championship.

After Sarah’s serve and a missed hit by the other team, U-High finished league games in first place with a 7-0 record.

This was the first time U-High won the ISL championship since 2004, and team members credit the victory to their strong team bonds and motivation to succeed. The volleyball team won the regional championship Oct. 28, but the season ended Nov. 1, when the team lost to Chicago Christian High School at the sectional game.

For team captain Ariana Vazquez, the shared desire for success and hours of practices made winning the ISL championship feel like the team accomplished their goal.

“Everyone ran to the center and it was just like the feeling of the pressure definitely released. You felt everything let go,” she said. “We were all genuinely so happy for each other. And just being there with each other made it that much more special.”

“We were all genuinely so happy for each other. And just being there with each other made it that much more special.”

— ARIANA VAZQUEZ, CAPTAIN

According to Ariana, last spring’s shortened season and the pandemic united the team and brought forward the significance of being together.

“I think all of us, as a whole, just really realized how much we love to do this,” Ariana said. “How much we love to be together, to play this sport together and we just gave it our all this year, and it turned out great.”

Juliana Walker, a ninth-grader on varsity, thinks the team’s collective motivation and drive to win was a key aspect to winning the ISL championship.

“Overall everyone kind of has that competitive aspect within them to want to win. I think that everyone was kind of on the same page for wanting to win the ISL,” Juliana said, adding that when the team became cohesive, they could achieve their goal.

Ariana was injured during the week of the final ISL game and



MIDWAY PHOTO BY MALCOLM TAYLOR

TIGHT TEAMWORK. The volleyball team huddles together before a game on senior night on Oct. 21. The Maroons’ finished their season winning the ISL conference and the regional championship.

said it was hard for her to watch the close game while not being able to play.

“Just the feeling of ‘What if we don’t win?’ Like, we put in so much work to get here, like, just that ‘What if?’” Ariana said. “I was genuinely terrified because I had never wanted something so bad in the moment and knowing that I couldn’t go out there to help our team.”

Sophomore Santana Romero said since the beginning of the season winning the ISL was the team’s main goal.

“That moment when we got that final point just to win, and it was a close game throughout all the sets. It was amazing,” Santana said. “Ev-

everyone ran onto the court. We got videos of all of us going into a huge huddle together. We were screaming and yelling and taking pictures, and it was just a really amazing moment.”

Before games, team members make an effort to share small bonding moments.

Ariana stated that team manager Kiran Chinniah brought food from Medici, and players ate and socialized before stepping onto the court.

For sophomore Ella Cohen-Richie, team bonds extend outside of practices and games.

“Just talking to people outside of volleyball. We all got really close just from talking to each other in

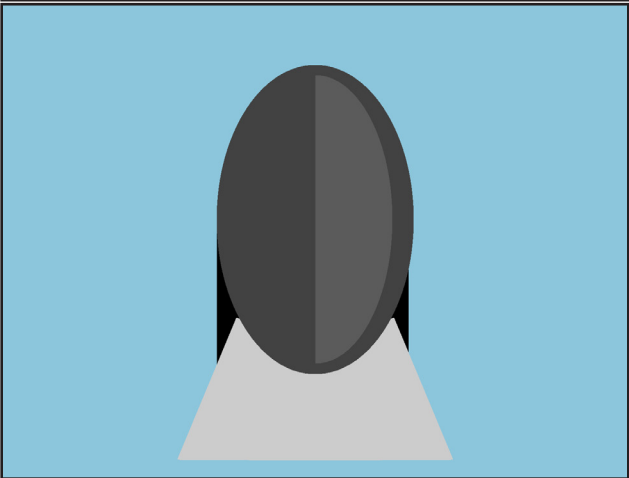
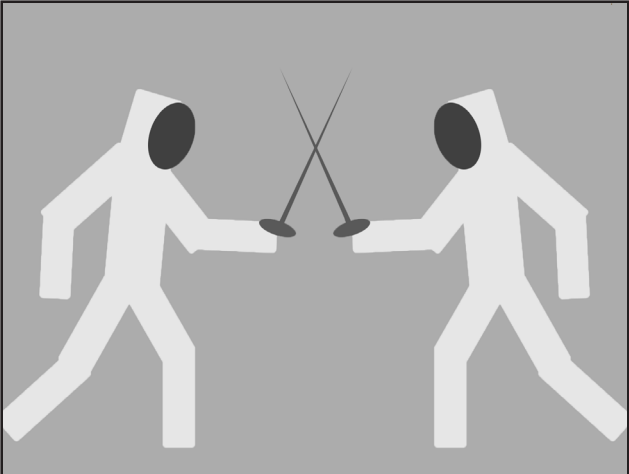
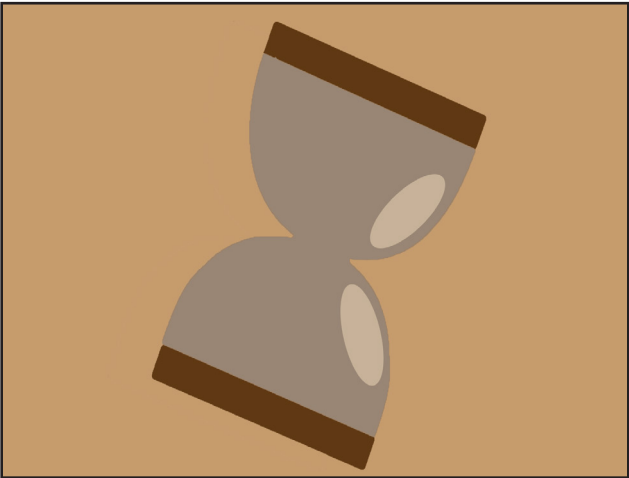
the hallways and on the court as well,” she said. “I guess the more time you spend with the people, the greater bond you build.”

Throughout the season, the team utilized cohesion to raise money for breast cancer research during the annual Dig Pink game. The players also held senior night, which was emotional for everyone.

Ariana, who has been on the team for four years, realized how much she cares for her team.

“Seeing us all together crying, like, you know these girls,” Ariana said. “We all hold special places in our hearts for each other, and I think that was genuinely shown with how unified our team is.”

Fencing 101: Sharp pointers to understand the sport



by **AMON GRAY**
ARTS CO-EDITOR

HISTORY

The origins of fencing as it is known today began in the 14th and 15th century in Germany and Italy. It gained popularity throughout Europe during the 17th and 18th centuries with the development of the foil: a light fencing sword. It was also featured in the first modern Olympics games in 1896. Women’s fencing was introduced to the Olympics in 1924 in Paris. The Fédération Internationale d’Escrime or International Fencing Federation was established in France in 1913. The FIE is recognized as the world governing body of fencing and it establishes the rules to which international competitions must be organized.

COMPETITION

A fencer earns points by striking their opponent with their blade while avoiding being touched. A bout is won when one of the opponents reaches 15 points. Three types of fencing blades are used in competition: foil, sabre and épée. Each event has its own rules and regulations. The foil is the lightest blade. It is rectangular and blunted at the tip. To score a point with a foil, one of the combatants must strike their opponent in the torso with the tip of the blade. The sabre is similar to the foil, but the fencers can also cut with the blade and the scoring area is from the waist to the top of the head. The épée is heavier than the foil, has a triangular blade, and the scoring area is anywhere on the body. A fencing bout takes place on a piste or strip that indicates what is out of bounds. Each bout consists of three three-minute intervals. If neither fencer has reached 15 points when the time has run out, the fencer with the most points wins.

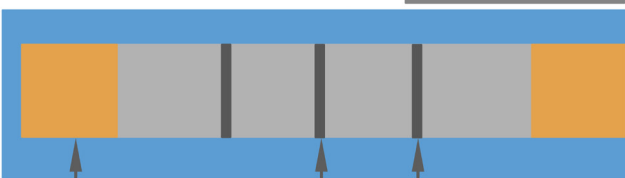
EQUIPMENT

Fencers wear protective clothing to shield themselves from their opponent’s blade. This features a mask as well as a bib to protect the fencer’s neck. Fencers wear flat shoes reinforced on the sides and back. Fencers also wear a jacket, breeches, gloves and a plastron that protects the side of the sword arm. The fast pace of the sport can sometimes make it difficult to see which combatant struck their opponent first and where, so fencers wear a lamé: an electrically conductive material worn over the target area. The lamé connects to either wired or wireless scoring boxes that record points more accurately.

The objective of fencing is to strike your opponent with your blade without being hit yourself. Each strike scores a point. The first fencer to 15 points wins.

A bout or round consists of three three-minute rounds.

Piste (field of play)



Warning zone: The last two meters of the piste

Center Line

En-garde line: Where fencers begin the bout

Foil

Length: 90cm
Weight: 770g
Points scored with the tip of the blade anywhere on the body

Epée

Length: 90cm
Weight: 770g
Points scored with the tip of the blade anywhere on the body

Sabre

Length: 90cm
Weight: 770g
Points scored with the tip of the blade anywhere on the body

MIDWAY ILLUSTRATION BY AMON GRAY

South Side parks offer scenic, relaxing walks

by **WILLIAM TAN**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A cool, clean breeze swirls through the air, sending up a kaleidoscope of soft reds, oranges and yellows. The leaves drop plentifully to the sidewalks and streets below, crackling satisfyingly under the footsteps of all who walk across them.

Fall is finally here, and the combination of crisp outdoor weather and vibrant scenery makes the perfect recipe for a comfortable walk in the neighborhoods surrounding the University of Chicago campus.

In the Hyde Park area, three accessible locations make for an enjoyable and scenic experience, and all offer rich historical pasts that make each trip worthwhile. At the west end of the Midway Plaisance is Washington Park and along Lake Michigan are the South Shore Nature Sanctuary and the Garden of the Phoenix, a Japanese Garden.

Washington Park: Located at 5531 King Dr., Washington Park is just five minutes from Lab, and consists of over 300 acres of greenery, lakes and educational spaces. It is the “western division” of the enormous 1,055-acre South Park, which encompasses both the Midway Plaisance and Jackson Park. The park was completed in 1871 and has been updated numerous times.

Washington Park features multiple sports fields, three playgrounds, a garden and an arboretum. There are paved trails for walking or biking and restrooms nearby at the fieldhouse or the DuSable Museum of African American History.

The property is home to the renowned Fountain of Time sculpture by Lorado Taft, an influential sculptor and artist from Chicago. The sculpture depicts a shadowy Father-Time figure who observes a group of humans across the water.

Garden of the Phoenix: At the east end of the Midway Plaisance, at 6401 S. Stony Island Ave., is the Garden of the Phoenix, a traditional Japanese Garden built during the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition to commemorate the relationship between the United States and Japan.

Situated on the Wooded Island, the gar-

den overlooks the East Lagoon and offers a tranquil view of the Museum of Science and Industry. Inside the grounds are cherry blossom trees that bloom in the spring and a traditional Japanese tea house. Small waterfalls and dense foliage mark a short but enjoyable route around the garden that should take around 10 minutes to walk.

Right outside the garden is the Skylanding, a metal sculpture created by the Japanese sculptor Yoko Ono, wife of the late Beatles founder John Lennon. Ono envisioned the sculpture as a lotus blossoming from the ashes of a phoenix.

South Shore Nature Sanctuary: A 15-minute drive from Lab, the South Shore Nature Sanctuary is located at the easternmost end of 71st Street within South Shore Cultural Center Park. The park contains six acres of dune, woodland, prairie, savanna and shrubland habitats that visitors can walk for free. A lake-front beach provides areas where swimming and grilling are also allowed.

A paved path borders the entirety of the Cultural Center, and visitors often come to jog the perimeter. Small gatherings can be held outdoors at one of two council rings, large circular benches. Restrooms can be found inside the Cultural Center facility at the front of the park.

The weather is perfect and the colors are dazzling. As fall arrives in full spirit, find some time to breathe in the fresh air and walk these locations to experience their vibrancy and cultural history.

TOP TO BOTTOM:
MIDWAY PHOTOS BY MATT PETRES,
WILLIAM TAN, MATTHEW MCGEHEE



MIDWAY SURVEY

Here’s how you spend your leisure time:

by **MEENA LEE**

SPORTS & LEISURE EDITOR

The U-High Midway surveyed 212 students Oct. 17-Nov. 5 asking how much free time they have during the week and the activities they are most likely to engage in. The survey considered free time to be any time that a student spends outside of class, clubs or school athletics, as well as time not spent on homework.

Compared to last year

3 out of 4

of students reported having **considerably less** free time compared to the 2020-21 school year.

Percentage of students most likely **watching TV or movies:** **18%** on weekdays **16%** on weekends

79% of students reported having **less than two hours** of free time during the week.

Percentage of students most likely **using social media:**
on weekdays **18%** | on weekends **12%**

Percentage of students most likely **spending time with friends or family:**

13% on weekdays **38%** on weekends

Percentage of students most likely **playing club sports:**

15% on weekdays

6% on weekends

39%

of students reported having **less than four hours** of free time during the weekend.

Outside the BOX

Minority entrepreneurs create innovative Bronzeville marketplace

by **PETER COX**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Barbecue smoke and music permeate the air on an unseasonably hot October afternoon as a Green Line L train rattles by overhead. People move among vibrantly colored shipping containers talking, eating and laughing.

Suddenly, the music cuts out and people cluster around the center of the plaza as a small marching band comes out to perform. The mood is celebratory, but this event is bittersweet as this is the last event of the season at the Boxville market.

The Boxville project began in 2017 with five “boxes” located at 51st Street and Calumet Avenue, adjacent to the 51st Street Green Line station. Since then Boxville has expanded, this season boasting 22 shipping containers and 12 businesses that operate out of the location year-round.

Boxville is almost entirely made up of small, minority-owned businesses. The market’s unique environment offers several benefits.

William Jamison, the owner of The Work Spot, a clothing print shop, said he felt the transition from a workshop in his basement to a storefront at Boxville solidified The Work Spot as a full-fledged business.

From the beginning, Boxville was designed to be a place where businesses from the community could get their start. The Urban Juncture Foundation, the non-profit which runs Boxville, specifically designed the market to mitigate a variety of issues small busi-

“It’s a market and then it’s like, it’s filled with just a lot of moving, like energy, inspiration and we all grow together as a unit so it’s really cool.”

— WILLIAM JAMISON,
OWNER OF THE WORK SPOT

ness owners on the South Side face when starting their enterprises including prohibitive start up costs, a lack of existing customer base in the neighborhood and a general absence of support mechanisms for the starting of a business.

Boxville is just one of five major initiatives in Urban Juncture’s Build Bronzeville project, which seeks to contribute to the revitalization of the Bronzeville neighborhood. The other four initiatives are the Bronzeville Incubator, an office space for local entrepreneurs who need a space to work; Engage Bronzeville, a project focused on the beautification of spaces in the neighborhood; Bronzeville Cookin’, a facility that offers more conventional storefronts than Boxville specifically for restaurants; and The Forum, an old community theater which provides space for creative performance.

Janeen Mays, a marketing consultant for Urban Juncture, said the value of the Build Bronzeville project comes from the variety of initiatives.

“There’s a synergy with all five groups to make the community a stronger, more viable place to do



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PETER COX

GROWING TOGETHER. Visitors cluster around the center of the plaza to watch the Chicago State University marching band on Oct. 17 during Boxville’s final event of the year. The innovative marketplace is located in the Bronzeville neighborhood by the 51st Street Green Line station.

business,” Ms. Mays said.

Some of the other businesses at Boxville include Natty Bwoy, a bike and skate shop; Southside Grinds, a coffee shop; Last Lap Cornerstore, an athletic wear store; and a location of the Bronzeville Historical Society.

Mr. Jamison thinks that the diversity of businesses present at Boxville benefits everyone involved.

“It’s a market and then it’s like, it’s filled with just a lot of moving, like energy, inspiration and we all grow together as a unit so it’s really cool,” Mr. Jamison said.

A unique development at Boxville this summer was the presence of Lululemon, by far the largest business that has ever used the Boxville space. Karla Huffman, Community Lead for Lululemon in Chicago, explained Lululemon wanted to open a South Side store and contracted for six months to do fitness classes for free.

Lululemon’s last day at Boxville was Oct. 17. They plan to open a permanent store in Hyde Park on

53rd Street in November.

Kayla Jeter, a Lululemon ambassador who ran many of the events at Boxville this summer, enjoyed interacting with the community.

“It’s been absolutely incredible,” Ms. Jeter said. “Not only the warm welcome and everyone supporting each other as individual businesses, especially minority-owned businesses, but the community itself just pulling up, showing up and being curious.”

Events are among the most important parts of the Boxville experience. Market days occurred once a week throughout the summer into October. The final event took place on Oct. 17 and was centered on an Open House Chicago exhibition, a program run by the Chicago Architecture Center which highlights unique architectural sites across the city. Most Boxville businesses were open for the event, which also featured a DJ and a live performance from the Chicago State University marching band.

Sandria Washington, the direc-

tor of engagement and partnership for Urban Juncture, argued that events are a core part of the strategy of attracting customers to Boxville, for the benefit of everyone there.

“They know it’s going to be vibrant, and exciting, there’s gonna be good food, good music, good people,” Ms. Washington said. “So we’re just giving people the best of what Boxville has to offer.”

Boxville is a success story of minority entrepreneurs working with each other and their community to improve their businesses and contribute to the revitalization of their neighborhood.

Betty Fair, Lead Steward of the Bronzeville Community Garden and owner of Grow Sumthin, a garden store that had a box at the market, believes that Boxville is a place of growth.

Ms. Fair said, “And that’s what Boxville is, a place where you grow, you grow something, your businesses, your ideas, your mind and opportunities, and that’s what Boxville is.”

Historian fundraises to honor trailblazing journalist

by **ADRIANNA NEHME**
NEWS EDITOR

Known as the “First Lady of the Black Press,” journalist Ethel Payne was a voice for Black Americans in a predominantly white news landscape. Along with covering historic moments in American history that included the March on Washington and Brown v. Board of Education, Ms. Payne was known for asking tough questions and being the first Black woman to join the White House Press Corps. She was even featured on a postage stamp in 2002.

Despite her notable accomplishments, Ms. Payne, a South Side native who died in 1991, is buried in an unmarked grave in Mount Glenwood Cemetery in south suburban Glenwood. Using a GoFundMe campaign, travel historian Tammy Gibson hopes to raise about \$9,000 to purchase a headstone for this trailblazing journalist.

Ms. Gibson, a contributing writer for the Chicago Defender, came across Ms. Payne’s story while doing research.

“Ethel Payne’s name kept popping up and I was like, ‘Who is this woman?’” Ms. Gibson said. “From there on I was just pretty much amazed and kind of obsessed with her story, and Ethel Payne has definitely paved the way for a lot of Black female journalists.”

According to Ms. Gibson, there is no clear reason why Ms. Payne is buried in an unmarked grave. After receiving permission from Mount Glenwood Cemetery, Ms. Gibson began raising money for a headstone with the goal of educating others about the life and legacy of Ms. Payne.

“I felt in my heart that I wanted to give her a proper headstone she deserves,” Ms. Gibson said.

Ms. Gibson began the GoFundMe campaign Sept. 6 with the goal of raising \$8,852. After various articles were published about Ms. Gibson’s effort, individuals became more aware of her mission, including Ms. Payne’s niece who decided to help fundraise with Ms. Gibson.

“At first, the money wasn’t coming in as I thought, but I was just like, ‘I have to have patience,’” Ms. Gibson said. “As I started posting on social media, it started getting coverage.”

Once Ms. Gibson reaches her goal, she plans to have an unveiling ceremony. Ms. Gibson is also working to see if she can get an honorary street in Ms. Payne’s name and make her childhood home in Englewood a historical landmark.

“I would just like people to know that all she wanted to do was make her community

“Ethel Payne’s name kept popping up and I was like ‘who is this woman?’ From there on I was just pretty much amazed and kind of obsessed with her story, and Ethel Payne has definitely paved the way for a lot of Black female journalists.”

— HISTORIAN TAMMY GIBSON

happy and make sure the Black community is treated just like everyone else,” Ms. Gibson said.

With Black History Month in February approaching, Ms. Gibson encourages others to research an individual that has contributed to this country that many do not know about.

“I always tell people Black history is more than Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Harriet Tubman,” Ms. Gibson said. “There are so many unsung African American heroes and sheroes that are not in the history books that have contributed to the fabric of this country, and one of those people is Ethel Payne.”



STYBERG LIBRARY

Scan to take a listen



Parade attendees express differing views of Columbus

Columbus Day has become a controversial holiday, as the national conversation around colonization has shifted in recent years. Spectators express a

range of viewpoints about the event — and the holiday as a whole. Many activists suggest changing the holiday into one to celebrate the Indigenous people

of the Americas, while others reassert the importance of Italian pride by celebrating Christopher Columbus.

JSA stabilizes after previous low turnout

Members focus on community engagement

by WILLIAM TAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A Hanukkah party, a Passover potluck. Collaboration with the middle school Jewish Students Association. Weekly meetings with games and videos. The Jewish Students' Association's annual agenda is filled with meaningful activities like these and numerous ways to connect with U-High's Jewish community.

This could have easily not been the case. In early 2020, JSA considered disbanding due to low turnout at meetings. Previous JSA adviser Susan Shapiro sent a message out to all U-High Jewish students with the goal of finding new members and establish a leadership board.

Ms. Shapiro's rallying call was successful, and this year's membership has stabilized. While JSA still looks to find more new members, the increase in engagement has come with a greater emphasis to connect with the Lab community through JSA's work in promoting the importance and traditions of Judaism.

JSA president Ava Eggener, a senior, said the club continues to see new students.

"That is definitely a big deal to us. Last year, we had basically two freshmen who would consistently come, and that was about it," she said.

Ninth-grader Edden Bartom has enjoyed his experiences in the club's weekly meetings so far this year.

"It's been especially nice connecting with the Jewish community, which I love," Edden said. "I haven't done that before."

According to Ava, connecting the club to a wider community will prepare younger members to take on leadership in the club and will afford them the opportunity to carry on Jewish traditions that were not possible during distance learning last year.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY CARTER CHANG

COMMUNITY CULTIVATED. During a JSA meeting at lunch, Marianne Zemil shakes hands with a JSA member. As a result of low-turnout at meetings last year and in 2020, JSA temporarily considered disbanding. This year, with increased community engagement, numbers have stabilized.

The club has reached out to U-High students through club shopping, the daily bulletin, as well as through word of mouth. In the near future, JSA also plans to put up posters advertising the club.

Ava is hopeful that hanging posters around the school to promote the club with a bagel snack incentive will bring more people in.

JSA adviser Marianne Zemil will

also reach out to advisers for other U-High affinity groups because she wants JSA to engage more in conversation with members of the groups.

"I'd love to see that kind of exchange amongst students. I think that it happens informally," Ms. Zemil said, "but I would love to see it happen in a more significant, organized and purposeful way."

Whether it's a party or a discussion, an event for club members or

the entire community, JSA members are determined to spread the importance of Jewish culture in its most authentic and engaging sense.

"Judaism has a lot of beautiful traits to it as a culture: there's music, there's film, there's literature, there's humor and there's the Yiddish language," Ms. Zemil said. "There are so many elements that can be shared and learned from throughout the community."

Zemil serves as new adviser

The Jewish Students' Association has selected German and French teacher Marianne Zemil to serve as its new adviser, following the retirement of longtime JSA adviser Susan Shapiro last spring.

Before her appointment, Ms. Zemil had a close relationship with both Ms. Shapiro and the JSA, but Ms. Zemil brings a fresh perspective on the club's role in the larger school community. As a Jewish person, Ms. Zemil shares a strong commitment to teach in her AP German classes important aspects of Jewish history such as the Holocaust.

JSA president Ava Eggener believes Ms. Zemil brings passion and perspective to every meeting.

"She's very motivated by social justice efforts, very passionate about Jewish issues and she's very well researched and knowledgeable," Ava, a senior, said.

Ms. Zemil believes that Judaism is more than just a religion — it's a culture also created and fostered in Lab's Jewish community.

"What I would like to see happen is more community awareness of Jewish culture, heritage, history and what it means to be Jewish in general," Ms. Zemil said.

Ms. Zemil sees listening as her main advising responsibility. She aims to support the members but makes it clear that decisions come mostly from the students themselves.

Ava thinks Ms. Zemil will help JSA achieve its goals.

"I think it is nice to have a new perspective on the club," Ava said. "She doesn't have years of background with the club, but she does have years of background with the school and with the Jewish community."

— WILLIAM TAN

Students explore emerging cryptocurrency market



MIDWAY ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLINE HOHNER

ALL-TIME HIGH. The cryptocurrency market is at an all-time high after existing for more than a decade. While some U-High students are sceptical, others are optimistic about cryptocurrency.

by ERICH RAUMANN
REPORTER

From letting people sell memes online to replacing an impoverished nation's currency, cryptocurrency has been everywhere in the news lately. Over the past years, it has gone from a niche tech trend to an impressive economic force with its feet in art, politics, and the future of society.

With the market still on the rise, some U-High students see the crypto market as a lucrative investment opportunity.

After being around for little more than a decade, the cryptocurrency market is at an all time high as its practical uses grow more apparent. With money-hungry and impoverished nations like South Sudan or Venezuela rendering their currency almost useless, many leaders are interested in cryptocurrency as a replacement for some national currencies.

"We were experiencing hyperinflation over the pandemic," sophomore Aditya Gupta said. "Governments were trying to compensate by pumping money into their economies, which really didn't work out that well in the long run. That made me start looking at crypto."

Cryptocurrencies are also being used in a different, but possibly more profitable fashion with the

support of online entrepreneurs. Aspiring and established artists can use blockchain, the technology behind cryptocurrency, to create and sell nonfungible tokens, or NFTs, a unique digital creation. People with new ideas can create their very own currencies easily.

However, these practices can be used to scam over-hyped investors.

"Blockchain makes it totally anonymous and encrypted, which could be a downside because it can be used for crime," Aditya said. "It's a double-edged sword. Anonymity is great for security, but it can also be used to do bad things."

Prevalent scams, on top of its large energy consumption, don't help the image of cryptocurrency, making many distrustful.

Sophomore David Ren invests in cryptocurrency, even though ultimately he believes it won't last.

"I don't really actually like the whole idea of crypto," says David. "The market is getting pulled up by people pumping their money into it. It's got people who trust it well enough, of course, until the bubble bursts."

Aditya has more faith in the technology's uses and usefulness.

"Wait until it starts rising again for the third time," says Aditya. "Then it won't be a game anymore, but an actual, concrete currency."

Fast Facts:

Cryptocurrency: Online currencies that represent real money. Funds can be traded anonymously without a centralized body approving transactions or printing more money. There are currently more than \$2.1 trillion worth of online cryptocurrency coins.
Source: CoinMarketCap

Miners: People using large amounts of processing power to approve crypto transactions. For each transaction approved, a small amount of cryptocurrency is created and given to the miner.
Source: Investopedia

Bitcoin: The leading cryptocurrency. One full coin is currently worth around \$61,000. Annually, 91 terawatt hours are spent mining bitcoin; more than the total energy consumption of Finland.
Source: Coinbase, Business Insider

Ethereum: The second-most popular cryptocurrency, often used in online art transactions. It is currently worth around \$4,000, and is switching to an eco-friendly, "proof of stake" system, that does not require mining.
Source: Coinbase

Pumped up for PUMPKIN SPICE

Even before the leaves turn brown, products turn pumpkin. No store does seasonal, novelty foods better than Trader Joe’s. In the spirit of the season, the Midway staff reviewed the best and the worst of Trader Joe’s pumpkin spice products, determining whether each item was too “weird” or “worth” it.

Non-Dairy Pumpkin Oat Beverage (\$2.49) • Ranking: Weird

The pumpkin spice oat beverage may not look or even sound appetizing, but it incorporates the pumpkin flavor decently well. The bright orange appearance was disconcerting, but the taste wasn’t too bad. The cinnamon flavor in the beverage is strong but complemented the pumpkin well. The beverage has the same consistency as milk. The oat beverage would be best paired with foods such as cereal or mixed into other beverages like coffee, but on its own, it’s not worth buying.

—PETER COX AND SAHANA UNNI

Pumpkin Spice Hummus (\$2.49) • Ranking: Weird

Pumpkin and spice do not pair well with hummus. While it was smooth and creamy, the pumpkin hummus was an unflattering brown color with off-putting gray undertones and dark speckles. It had a strong, sickly sweet pumpkin flavor, but it had very little spice and left a strange aftertaste, like rotted pumpkins. Trader Joe’s Pumpkin Spice Hummus is neither fall-flavored nor palatable.

—AMY REN AND TÉA TAMBURO

Pumpkin Spice Brioche Twist (\$3.99) • Ranking: Weird

While fluffy, the pumpkin spice brioche lacked a pumpkin flavor but was abundant with cinnamon. The brioche did not taste like pumpkins or any other typical fall flavor, as was hoped. The texture was light and airy, but it was dry and desperately needed a splash of milk on the side. It could even serve as the basis for French toast. The pumpkin brioche did fall short of pumpkin-favored expectations but made up for it in its golden-brown appearance and



SPICING IT UP. From left to right: Trader Joe’s Pumpkin Tortilla Chips, Non-Dairy Pumpkin Oat Beverage, Pumpkin Bagels, Pumpkin Spice Hummus and Pumpkin Brioche Twist. The Midway staff enjoyed the pumpkin bagels, but didn’t think the rest were worth buying.

MIDWAY PHOTO BY MALCOLM TAYLOR

fluffy texture. Although it’s not a complete flop, it’s not something to reach for when looking for a fall-flavored pastry.

—AUDREY PARK AND TÉA TAMBURO

Pumpkin Spice Bagel (\$2.49)

• Ranking: Worth

While not overpowering, the taste of fall in the pumpkin spice bagels was certainly notice-

able. The flavor of the pumpkin was distinct — perfect for pairing the bagel with toppings like cream cheese or enjoying with a warm drink. The bagel was brown with hints of orange, and its texture was comparable to a normal bagel: crisp and dense, but a bit too bready. The pumpkin spice bagels are a great choice for a simple yet subtly festive breakfast item.

—PETER COX, AUDREY PARK

Pumpkin Tortilla Chips (\$3.99)

• Weird

Although the pumpkin tortilla chips have hints of fall flavor, they have neither a strong pumpkin nor spice taste. They tasted like regular tortilla chips, with hints of cinnamon and a slight nutty flavor. They are barely distin-

guishable from other chips. The texture and appearance of the fall snack were appetizing, as it looked and felt like a slightly darker and saltier tortilla chip. Overall, there is nothing striking about the chips, making them not worth stocking up on this fall.

—AMY REN AND SAHANA UNNI

These items are seasonal, availability in stores is limited.

Alumna writing specialist cultivates student work



MIDWAY PHOTO BY MALCOLM TAYLOR

SUPPORTING STORIES. Lucy Biederman, 1999 Lab alumna and writing specialist, conferences with a student in the Writers’ Center. After discovering a love for writing while at Lab, Lucy now enjoys hearing students share who they are through their work.

by AMY REN
REPORTER

Ever since her Lab second-grade teacher, Donna O’Sullivan, gave her a journal, Lucy Biederman hasn’t stopped writing. Ms. O’Sullivan sparked young Dr. Biederman’s love of writing, and now, decades later, she works in the U-High Writer’s Center, helping high school students cultivate their writing.

“We wrote daily in our journals, and I filled my journal almost immediately, and she was like, ‘Oh, you need another one already?’” Dr. Biederman said. “I had written in the margins, in the back cover. I didn’t know that you could write like that, about yourself for yourself, and I just was so captivated by the idea.”

Dr. Biederman, a 1999 U-High alumna, credits Lab for teaching her how to write personally. She said it is very important to her and more impactful than any formal writing she has done. Before returning to U-High in September, she worked as an English professor at Case Western Reserve University and Heidelberg University. She filled the vacancy left by Michael Autrey, who left in June.

“I was so excited when I saw that Lab was hiring for a writer, because that’s what I love to do: work with people of their writing.”

—LUCY BIEDERMAN, WRITING SPECIALIST

“I, for a million reasons, wanted to come back to Lab,” Dr. Biederman’s said. “I was so excited when I saw that Lab was hiring for a writer, because that’s what I love to do: work with people on their writing.”

While conferencing with students, Dr. Biederman’s strives to be approachable.

“I just want to emphasize when I read people’s writing, I don’t think of it as student writing. I think of it as just writing,” she said. “That’s why I have you all call me Lucy, because I’m a writer, just like you all are writers, and so we call each other by our first names.”

This fall, she has worked mostly with seniors on their college applications. She said she appreciates their candidness.

“These are really conversations about who they are and what they want in their lives, and that re-

quires a lot of openness and vulnerability,” Dr. Biederman said. “I so deeply respect seniors for that and I’m grateful to them for sharing that with me.”

Senior Colleen Cardoza said her experiences working on college applications with Dr. Biederman are enjoyable and valuable.

“She’s been extremely helpful. She’s made a lot of great edits to my essays,” Colleen said. “She points out where I could change my tone or be more direct. She helps me find better word choices as well, and points out all these details that are really great. She makes me feel comfortable, and she makes me feel like I’m a good writer.”

Although sharing college applications is personal, so is sharing any writing, Dr. Biederman said.

“I think it’s another thing we normalize at Lab — showing people our writing, letting people into the process of our thinking, and that’s really special,” Dr. Biederman said. “It’s not normal, it’s something really wonderful and hard, and that’s really astounding, just getting to see how people think and getting to experience their willingness to include me in that.”