Nov. 2 meeting follows memes, due date policies
by PETER PU & MEENA LEE
With students increasingly saying they are overwhelmed by the amount of homework, Student Council hosted a meeting Nov. 2 for students to discuss how to make the university experience more efficient and effective.

At the meeting, students shared their experiences with their homework workload and discussed strategies for improving it. "It can be challenging sometimes to prioritize your time and find the right balance between schoolwork and extracurricular activities," one student said.

The meeting was held to address concerns about student stress. Students shared feedback about how they prefer to receive assignments and how they would like to see changes in their workload. "I think it's important for teachers to communicate more effectively with students," another student said.

Stress management was a key topic discussed at the meeting. Students expressed the need for better communication between teachers and students, especially regarding due dates and workload expectations.

The meeting was concluded with a call to action, urging students to continue having open conversations with their teachers and to seek support from the student council and other resources as needed.
A new system fixes printing

by ANAHEI m CAREG An D A" CHER
MANAGING EDITOR

Year after year, students rush to the printer in the Frazz- ter- Travis Library five minutes before the start of class to print their essays or other homework. Groups of students huddle against the walls and paper- way off the printer. People in long lines wait impatiently and dodge flying arms that snatch the docu- ments and slam down on staplers. Panic fills the eyes of students who realize they won’t get their assignment in time they feel out of the library, stressed and unsuccess- ful, heading class un- prepared and almost late.

During the first few weeks of this semester, the hassle of print- ing grew exponentially, but librarians say with just a few additional steps, students can avoid this log- jam and print to any of 25 multi- function printers around school.

After a year of remote learn- ing, students have grown accus- tomed to submitting assignments online. Printing for submission, which used to be second nature now seems to be a foreign, stress- ful 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 Ra-Vazquez said.

“Every semester when there are long lines to print and only one, or no printers seem to work.”

All multifunctional printers – Marketed as “all-in- one” – have been switched into a new system, Mo- bilePrint, causing students con- fusion 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 and the high school class- es are held.

“For me, the library is the most convenient location,” said junior Michael Pan.

Besides being the most com- monly used printers, library desk- top computers or laptops not be- ing on the new system resulted in a rocky start to the school year.

“We were given just some gen- eral information on how to set up printing for our own work tops,” 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 com- puters has been resolved.

The remaining struggle is sur- rounding 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 back- pack.

“It was a little hard to find for stu- dents because it was one Schoo- lology 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 bottle- necks at the front of the library on Monday mornings when they need the MFPs.”

The printing process has been resolved.

“Now, with the printers added to the library’s devices, the source of initial troubles of printing, the ability to print from library com- puters has been resolved.”

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

“I can feel the stress of the in- dex of self-awareness, self-manage- ment, social awareness, healthy decision-making skills and their healthy relationships, you can re- ally struggle.”

The training will take place in three parts, first, with a self-paced intro- duction on how to use the Online Pay System, 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 demon- stration of interest, in par- ticular from teachers, has been en- couraging.

“They 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.”

PE teacher Tom Plane, a train- ing participant, said he had no signifi- cant interest from fellow teachers. He anticipates even more colleagues coming to learn the training by the end of the year.

Ms. Plane said the material learned in the training could be incor- porated into his own teaching, as it overlaps with the general cur- riculum of the PE 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 al- lowing people to care for themselves,” Mr. Plane said. “I’m teaching stress-re- dux right now with my sopho- mores, and we discuss stress and freshman health. Hopefully we can intertwine them in our class- es and make our program better.”

The opportunity to be certi- fied nationally, Ms. Neal said, con- tributes to the significance of the training on a broader scale.

“To me, it indicates a commu- nity of folks across the nation who are committed to this work and al- so 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 an- nually, so new adults can sign up and others can re-certify. For- now, Ms. Neal hopes the next cycle 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, I think that’s a tremendous boost in our community around a topic that is so necessary.”

— NICOLE NEAL, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES
Students combat skin irritation from wearing masks

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 girls look for help online, a sign that their program has exacerbated their negative body image issues. Teens' images are also glorified to entice 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 visibly.

One U-High ninth grader, whose name has been withheld, admits that she has suffered from social media pressure. After months of distance learning, Ninth Grader A started watching hours of TikTok a day and used social media to provide a support line multiple times and eventually began treatment for an anxiety disorder and depression. 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 disorders 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 tiring and slow. "I don't think that I'm fragile or anything, but I mean, even months though the recovery process, I'm randomly seeing 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 real 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.

"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 simple, simple choice.
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 student 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, raising concerns about what the Student Council would expect from a group of representa- tives elected to advocate for the student body. Student Council should be ac- countable to our student concerns and mirroring student opinions on controversial topics. The Student Council has two bodies responsible for fulfilling its mission, published on its web- site. The main role of the Cultural Union is to plan enjoyable events, and the Secret Meme Club is responsible for representing student interests pertaining to school-wide events.

The Student Council has been out of the school for part of its mission through well-planned events, but the govern- ment has been leaving the responsibility of representing student interests. Removing posters from the Secret Meme Club worked against student interests, showing Student Council prioritizing the feel- ings of teachers and the administra- tion over responding to stu- dents' concerns.

While it is understandable that these rules must be followed for political correctness, adhering to the rules of Student Council is not responsible to en- force these rules by taking down the posters. Since Student Coun- cil neither created the rules nor vi- olated them, the response to the Secret Meme Club posts is not fall on them.

Student Council should have helped students to understand the rules of poster ap- proval exist. The existence of the Secret Meme Club reaction student posts 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 Coun- cil to host a town hall addressing homework and workload manage- ment. Although a step in the right direction, it came too late.

The meager attendance at the town hall was unexpected for most students. Try- ing to gain comprehensive feed- back during a lunch period, when most students are at clubs or doing homework, is ineffective. The blame does not fall entirely on Student Council. Although the town hall was promoted on short notice, students who find homework and workload manageable think a discussion should be held in a more accessible forum.

Student Council could adopt any grassroots measures to ensure they are hearing student concerns. Linked on their website, the Secret Meme Club has a place where stu- dents can share their thoughts and concerns about policies or stress levels, or create a physical suggestion box to survey and be- come aware of the information about the needs of the student body.

Students understand that creat- ing more paid positions is impossible for Student Council members, but Student Council can aim to represent student interests. Student Council aims to rep- resent student interests, and to remove the Secret Meme Club students want to be. When students feel they aren't being heard, and move to anonymous postings to raise concern, Student Council should remember why they were elected, to ad- vocate for the student body.

While politicians debate spending, small business owners must suffer. One of my friends told me that when she wore a player's jersey, another girl approached her and said, "You're so lucky I wish I was you." This theme runs through certain group friendships on campus. Student Council can become something to envy as an indication of attractiveness.

Jersey day reinforces sexist norms in our school. Like playing a sport, wearing a jersey denigrates the athletes who have worked hard to earn the privilege of being able to play. For both men and women, the gesture is often seen as a roman- tic, sense of belonging. While not inherently harm- ful, jersey day has become an- other way to affirm social sta- tus and desirability within our school, reinforcing a cycle in which-everyone's opinions are given the power to decide which girls can feel valued.

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Student Council members should remem-ber their role of raising concern, Student Council should also be accountable for following spec- ific rules about posting. Student Council is not responsible to en- force these rules by taking down the posters. Since Student Coun- cil neither created the rules nor violated them, the response to the Secret Meme Club posts is not fall on them. Student Council should have helped students to understand the rules of poster approval exist. The existence of the Secret Meme Club reaction student posts raised by the Meme Club was slow. While the Secret Meme Club began 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 was unexpected 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 fall entirely on Student Council. Although the town hall was promoted on short notice, students who find homework and workload manageable think a discussion should be held in a more accessible forum.

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Student Council members should remember why they were elected, to advocate for the student body.
‘Rhythmism’: Artist showcases unique genre

Politically emblematic art by Turtel Onli featured in Corvus Art Gallery

by RASHANA UNNI CONTENT MANAGER

Watercolor, oil paint, comic book industry because when Mr. Onli portrays himself, expression and contemplation of the art collection, and is worth a visit. Wonders of art that are not my own but those ideas flow through it. So self-expression can sometimes be really esoteric.

Many of the pieces featured in "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. So in a humiliating and insulting way, if there were any at all." Mr. Onli said.

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.

Mr. Onli has incorporated art into his professional life through working as a major marketing firm. "Rhythmism," as a genre, 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. "Some people do narrative work which might be about a story, politics or topics that they are not my own but those ideas flow through it. So self-expression can sometimes be really esoteric."

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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.
From unprecedented storms to record-breaking temperatures, the once-anticipated 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

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The Laboratory Schools have long prioritized environmental stewardship, with a focus on reducing emissions. The school has taken several steps to reduce its carbon footprint, including:

- **Programs and Initiatives**: Lab has implemented various programs and initiatives to reduce emissions and promote sustainability. These include energy audits, waste reduction initiatives, and recycling programs. The school has also established a sustainability council to guide its efforts.
- **Renewable Energy**: Lab has invested in renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and wind turbines, to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Transportation**: The school has implemented a bike-sharing program and encourages students and staff to use public transportation. This reduces the number of vehicles on campus and helps to lower emissions.
- **Food and Nutrition**: Lab has made efforts to reduce food waste and incorporate more sustainable practices. This includes using locally grown produce and reducing the use of disposable products.
- **Water Conservation**: The school has implemented water-efficient fixtures and practices to reduce water usage.

Despite these initiatives, Lab lacks a strategic vision for future emission reductions. The school has not set specific goals or timelines for reducing its carbon footprint. As a result, there is a lack of a clear strategic plan to guide the school's sustainability efforts.

In this context, one person's decision not to use a plastic straw or drive a diesel car may not make much of an impact. However, collective action can create significant changes. Lab's sustainability efforts can serve as a model for other institutions and inspire others to take similar actions. By working together, we can make a collective impact on the fight against climate change.

**Editor's Note**: This article is based on interviews with Lab students and staff, as well as research and data from environmental organizations and educational institutions. The information is intended to raise awareness and encourage action on climate change.

**By BRAYDA COHEN**
Fencing

“'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 just give 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 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 Romans 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. “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 Cooley, the team bonds extend outside of practices and games.

“Just talking to people outside of volleyball. We all got really close with 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’Épée 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’s goal is to strike 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 hilt 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 torso. The foil and épée can sometimes be a challenge to strike and difficult to see which combatant struck their opponent first and where, so fencers wear a lamé: an electrically conductive material over the target area. The lamé connects to either wired or wireless scoring boxes that record points more accurately.

TIGHT TEAMWORK

The volleyball team bumbles together before a game on senior night on Oct. 28. The Maroons’ finished their season winning the ISL conference and regional championships.

TIGHT TEAMWORK

The volleyball team bumbles together before a game on senior night on Oct. 28. The Maroons’ finished their season winning the ISL conference and regional championships.

THURSDAY, NOV. 11, 2021
U-HIGH MIDWAY • UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL, CHICAGO

MIDWAY ILLUSTRATION BY AMON GRAY

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: 86cm
Weight: 750g
Points scored with the tip of the blade anywhere on the body

Epée
Length: 90cm
Weight: 750g
Points scored with the tip of the blade anywhere on the body

Sabre
Length: 80cm
Weight: 750g
Points scored with the tip of the blade anywhere on the body

MIDWAY PHOTO BY MALCOLM TAYLOR

TIGHT TEAMWORK: The volleyball team bumbles together before a game on senior night on Oct. 28. The Maroons’ finished their season winning the ISL conference and regional championships.
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, cranking satisfactorily under the footstep 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 5331 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 hiking and restrooms nearby at the fieldhouse or 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 4401 S. Stony Island Ave., is the Garden of the Phoenix, a traditional Japanese Garden built during the 1893 Worlds’ Columbian Exposition to commemorate the relationship between the United States and Japan.

Situated on the Wooded Island, the garden 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 free, a lakefront 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 circular 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.

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. The survey considered free time they have during the week offered by MEENA LEE

18% of students reported having less than two hours of free time during the week.

19% of students reported having considerably less free time compared to the 2020-21 school year.

18% of students most likely watching TV or movies:

16% on weekdays

13% on weekends

12% of students most likely using social media:

18% on weekdays

12% on weekends

39% of students reported having less than four hours of free time during the weekend.

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

38% on weekends

15% on weekdays

6% on weekends

Percentage of students most likely playing club sports:

15% on weekdays

3% on weekends

Percentage of students most likely watching TV

or movies:

18% on weekdays

16% on weekends

13% on weekends

% of students reported having considerably less free time compared to the 2020-21 school year.
Minority entrepreneurs create innovative Bronzeville marketplace

by PETER COX

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Barbecue smoke and music permeate the air on an unusually hot October afternoon as a Green Line train rattles 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. For the past 10 years, this event is bittersweet as it is the last event of the season at the Boxville market.

The Boxville project began in 2012 as a pop-up event 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 an intentionally made-up of small, minority-owned businesses. The market's unique environment offers several benefits.

From the beginning, Boxville was designed to be a place where businesses from the community could get their start. The Urban Juncture Foundation, the nonprofit which runs Boxville, specifically designed the market to mitigate a variety of issues small businesses face. The Work Spot, a clothing print shop, said he felt the transition from a workshop in his basement to a storefront at Boxville solidified his business. "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 by 3rd Street in November.

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.

"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

According to Ms. Gibson, there is no clear reason why Ms. Payne was buried in an unmarked grave. After receiving permission from Mount Greenwood 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 the 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 efforts, 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 some patience,'" Ms. Gibson said. "As I started posting on social media, it started getting a lot of coverage.

Once Ms. Gibson reaches her goal, she said she would have an unveiling ceremony. Ms. Gibson is also working to see if she can get an honorary street in Ms. Payne's name and a historical landmark. "I would just like people to know that all she wanted to do was make her community happy and make sure that the Black community is treated just like everyone else," Ms. Gibson said.

With Black History Month in February approaching, Ms. Gibson encourages others to remember 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."
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 advisor 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 on connecting 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 freshmen who would consistently attend JSA meetings so far this year. “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 Eaden Bartond 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,” Eaden said. “I haven’t done that before.”

According to Ava, connecting the club to a wider community will prepare young members to take on leadership in the club and will afford them the opportunity to connect with U-High’s Jewish community.

“Then it won’t be a game anymore,” Aditya said. “It’s got people who trust it well enough, of course, until the bubble bursts.”

Sophomore David Ben 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.”

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 advisor 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 traditions and practices,” Ms. Zemil said. “There are so many elements that can be shared and learned from throughout the community.”

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

Students explore emerging cryptocurrency market

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-lipped 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 Ben 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.”

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 major advising responsibility. She aims to support the members but makes it clear that decisions come 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 doesn’t have years of background with the school and with the Jewish community.”

— WILLIAM TAN
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 “weird” or “worth” it.

Non-Dairy Pumpkin Oat Beverage ($2.49) - Ranking: Weired

The pumpkin spice oat beverage may not look or even sound appetizing, but it incoporates 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 consistencty 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 spice hummus was an unflattering brown color with off-putting grey undertones and dark speckles. It had a strong, sickly sweet pumpkin flavor, but it had very little spice and left a strange aftertaste, like rotten pumpkins. Trader Joe’s Pumpkin Spice Hummus is neither fall-flavored nor palatable.

—AMY REN AND TEA TAMUBRO

Pumpkin Spice Bagel ($2.49) - Ranking: Weired

While fluffy, the pumpkin spice bagel was certainly noticeable by its golden-brown appearance and 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 TEA TAMUBRO

Pumpkin Spice Brioche Twist ($3.99) - Ranking: 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 distinguishable 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

“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

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 write 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.

“So for a million reasons, wanted to come back to Lab,” Dr. Biederman 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 of their writing.”

—LUCY BIEDERMAN, WRITING SPECIALIST

“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.”

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

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

MIDWAY PHOTO BY MALCOLM TAYLOR

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