



ON A STROLL down State Street, Sabrina Holland and Kassim Husain admired the classic Macy's holiday decorations. Bustling with holiday shoppers and tourists, the store was decked out in its usual glamorous adornments, upholding the traditions of grandeur of the legendary Marshall Fields. Photo by Sarah Husain.



PONDERING THE MEANING of the iconic Bean statue in Millenium Park, Adam Gray, Jessica Hubert, Sydney Fishman, Jolisha Johnson and Maria Conlon see the brightly lit Chicago Skyline in the reflective surface of the sculpture behind them. Photo by Remy Lewis.



DRAWN BY THE elaborate decorations and stylish fashions in one of Macy's window displays, Maria, Jolisha and Sydney stop on their evening stroll down State Street to marvel at the intricate details. Photo by Remy Lewis.



SPOTTING A BRIGHT red sweater as the perfect present, Molly took advantage of the Black Friday sales to get ahead in her holiday shopping. Photo by Sarah Husain.



AMAZED BY THE intricate details on glass blown ornaments for sale at the Christkindlmarket in Daley Plaza, Jenny Huey debates purchasing as a present for her mother. Photo by Remy Lewis.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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Windy City bustles with Winter festivities

Brightly lit streets with colorful holiday lights and the ringing of bells by jolly Santa Claus on street corners can only indicate one thing. The holiday season in Chicago. And while Chicago transforms into a lively Winter wonderland, U-Highers enjoy traditions celebrated in Chicago such as strolling up down the bustling Downtown streets, enjoying the classic decorations and ice skating in the picturesque Millennium Park.

Bundled up against the frigid weather that gave the Windy City its iconic name, many days are spent wandering the enchanting streets and shopping for the perfect holiday presents.



BEFORE HEADING DOWN to Sydney, Adam and Jessica pause to rent their skates for an afternoon of skating and hot chocolate, Jolisha, the the rink. Photo by Remy Lewis.



SURROUNDED BY holi-day cheer and glamorous fashions, Ary admires the festive interior decorations of Macy's as she begins her shopping excursion in the makeup section of the bustling storefront searching for the best shade of lip gloss that will be sure to dazzle at any holiday party. Photo by Sarah Husain.

Vacationers will build fires, eat, bask in Florida sun

By Hebah Masood
Associate editor

Looking forward to gathering around a fire in Galarreta, a farm village in northern Spain, Physics Teacher Javier Saez de Adana will return to his hometown, like many other teachers and U-High families, for the Winter Holiday which begins Saturday.

The fire, called an *Arrepuyerre*, is a Basque tradition in north central Spain and southeast France, Mr. Saez says. Other Basque traditions include special foods for Christmas, including Compota, a dessert with fresh and dried fruits with cinnamon sprinkled over the top and some wine to add a liquid texture.

ANOTHER DISH, Turrón, consists of soft or hardened almonds covered in honey.

In another tradition, he said, people symbolize starting the year fresh by throwing bad spirits that lie in useless possessions into the fire.

"It's really nice," he added, "because there are so many people. The village only has about 50 or 60 people, but it's twice the size around that time of the year because villagers' children come home. I get to see people I haven't seen since summertime if I visit then. Otherwise, I only see them once a year during Christmas."

Yet another Basque tradition is receiving gifts from a villager dressed as a shepherd named Olentzero, instead of Santa Claus. Mr. Saez remembers as a child he had always wondered how Olentzero knew what he wanted.

"IT'S A VERY beautiful memory I have from before I realized that my parents were the one giving the shepherd presents for me," Mr. Saez. "I would always get the books I wanted. The holidays were a happy time. According to

Basque traditions Olentzero comes to town late at night on December 24 to drop off presents for children. In some places he arrives later, as late as December 31."

CLOSER TO HOME, Sophomore Tiffany Davis sets up Christmas decorations by putting up lights with her cousins and putting ornaments on the three Christmas trees in her grandmother's house, the main one holding 100-200 ornaments. Her extended family, 60 people, lives in Portland Oregon, from where she moved when her father came to the U. of C. seven years ago.

"After we eat my grandma's ham and turkey, everyone sits down in the living room next to the biggest Christmas tree and we all take turns opening presents," Tiffany said. "We have a 'Secret Santa,' so each kid ends up getting three or four gifts and before we open presents the entire living room is just filled with bags of presents. It takes forever to open them all but it's fun to see what everyone gets."

"Then we all go to the kitchen and bake things like pies and cookies for Santa. I still have cousins who believe in him. I remember one year my cousin had a Band-Aid on and we baked some cookies. When they were done we took them out and someone took a bite and bit her Band-Aid out of the cookie."

TIFFANY SAYS reuniting with her two older college brothers and her sister who live in Oregon, along with the rest of her family, never gets boring.

"We try to do something new every year," she explained. "Two years ago we split up the family into teams and made skits and saw who made the best one."

"Last year we played a game to see who could make the fastest gingerbread



Thanh Hien

house. This year we're seeing who has the ugliest Christmas sweater."

CHANGING UP a tradition, Junior Thanh Hien Ngo's family, which usually invites children of family friends who attend boarding schools and colleges in the U.S. to their house in Chicago, are inviting the students to a house they rented in Tehe Beach, Florida, this year for Christmas and New Year's Day.

Many of the families have known each other for a while. One of the girls' father

taught Thanh Hien's dad math. Another student's grandmother grew up with Thanh Hien's grandmother.

"INSTEAD OF GOING all the way back to Vietnam where our family's are from, a bunch of students spend Christmas together here in America," Thanh Hien said. "We're all very close family friends."

"Last year all the students decided spending the winter in Chicago was too cold. We wanted to get away from the snow so now my family is all really excited about going to Florida and enjoying the beaches there while it's snowing in Chicago."

Brief-ly

Tribute to embrace four themes

Four themes will be spotlighted at this year Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Assembly, sponsored annually by the Black Students' Association. It will begin 10:10 a.m., Thursday, January 12 in Rockefeller Chapel.

The themes all center around aspects Dr. King fought for during the Civil Rights Movement, explains BSA President Victoria Bills, senior. They are: The Little Rock Nine and Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court decision in 1954 mandating integrated schools, which resulted in African-American students in 1957 encountering violence at Central High School, to demonstrate how education has since changed for African Americans; and the Four little Girls killed in a church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963, and the 1955 murder of Chicagoan Emmett Till in Mississippi at the age of 14 to show the diminishing of racial violence.

An overall theme, "Dream," will examine Dr. King's Dream of equality for all men and women and examine if the world has reached it, Victoria added.

"The assembly is traditionally on a Friday but the faculty decided that we would have it on Thursday since there's an allotted time for assemblies," she also said. "This has been somewhat of a hindrance because we heard about a speaker who will speak at the University about Dr. King and the University was kind enough to pay for him to be contracted for us as well and since the assembly was originally scheduled for the Friday he was contracted for Friday. But when the date was changed we couldn't change the contract so unfortunately we lost that speaker."

As in past years, BSA is inviting all school organizations to apply to participate in the assembly with music, dance and dramatic performances.

■ **CONFERENCE OF COLOR**—Four U-Highers attended "We the People: Painting Our New Mural of Community," the People of Color Conference December 1-3 in Philadelphia sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools. The delegates were Senior Victoria Bills and Mara Weisbach, Junior Maricarmen Pachicano, and Freshman Maryam Alausa. They were accompanied by Middle School Teacher Beatrice Harris. Nearly 1,500 students from around the world attended.

■ **STATE CHAMPS**—Seventy-seven U-High seniors have been designated Illinois State Scholars. The honor is based on ACT scores and class rank and represents the top 10 percent of the state's graduating seniors. Recipients are as follows:

Leila Alieve, Jeremy Archer, Alex Barbara, Brenda Benitez, Jeremy Biskind, Michael Bissounette, Grace Brody, Edward Brooks, Maddy Campion, Alex Chang, Lucy Cheng, Gene Cochrane, Jessica Kim Cohen, Taylor Crowl, Emma Davis, Max Davis, Sonya Dhindsa, Lucy Doss, Nathan Eckstein, Daniel Eimer, Alice Fine, Sydney Fishman, Katherine Garvey, Elizabeth Gelman, Frank Gigler, Caitlin Goldwater, Rosellen Grant, Hanna Greenblatt.

Ary Hansen, Joyce Harduvel, Thomas Healy, Duncan Holmes, Jessica Hubert, Danill Ilyin, Charles Jiang, Tomi Johnson, Nabila Khondakar, Kavia Kosla, Josh Koenig, Sally Ladsaria, Dylan Lambert-Gillam, Maddie Lindsey, Philip Lockwood Bean, Catherine Ludwig, Joseph Martin, David Matthews, McTavish McArdle, Elizabeth McNally.

Michelle Ng, Alex Ortel, Andrew Palmer, Jennifer Pan, Molly Petchinik, Eric Pettinato, Nick Phalen, David Phillips, Adam Picker, Georgie Plys-Garzotto, Robert Radway, Charlie Rafkin, Asha Ransby-Sporn, Akila Raoul, JR Reed, Ana Rosic, Isadora Ruyter-Harcourt, Sydney Scarlata, Sarah Schacht, Leslie Sibener, Cory Stern, Louis Van Craen, Shannon Vavra, Benny Wah, Kristina Wald, Mara Weisbach, Andrew Xu, Grant Young, Catherine Yunis.

■ **TEACHER HONORED AT WHITE HOUSE**—Nominated by the National Center for Women and Information Technology, Computer Science Teacher Baker Franke was among 12 people honored December 9 at the White House as a part of President Barack Obama's program "Champions of Change" celebrating achievements of people ranging from educators to community activists. Mr. Franke was honored nominated for his achievements encouraging women in science technology, engineering and math.

■ **IN PRINT**—Two more U-Highers have articles appearing in the Concord Review, this time in different languages. David Tong's article on the Macartney Expedition to China is in Chinese and Patricia Perozo's article on Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz is in Spanish. Both authors are juniors.

■ **LAST MAN STANDING?**—What began with a bang ended up with a whimper. The Senior Assassination game apparently has slowly vaporized. Started by Senior Class President Ary Hansen, officially began Septemeber 25 and Cultural Union Representative Daniel Eimer and was scheduled to end when there was only one team left standing. "I've talked to some of the 30 players still in the game, and the reactions towards getting 'shot at' seem nonchalant," Daniel said. "The reason for the unofficial ending of the game is because seniors are worrying too much about college, and the fact that no one has actually been shot at with a water gun in several weeks. The hype has died."

■ **GETTING AWAY**—For the traditional Get Away, seniors will go to Eagle Ridge Lodge near Galena (near the Illinois border with Iowa and Wisconsin) January 21-23. Sledding, ice skating, bowling, bungee jumping and cross country skiing await the 2012ers, along with resort dining and accommodations in 20 guest townhouses. They will be chaperoned by administrators and faculty members. This is U-High's 10th year at Eagle Ridge, according to Dean of Students Larry McFarlane.

■ **PREVIEW, EXPO**—Presaging the Parents' Association "Connections" benefit in March, an auction preview combined with an expo spotlighting artistic and performing student talent will take place in Upper Kovler Gym Friday and Saturday, January 27 and 28, with the exposition both days and performances Saturday.

■ **ASSEMBLY**—Fall sports athletes and academic teams will be honored in a program 10:10-10:40 a.m. in Upper Kovler Gym.

■ **HIT SHOW**—Nearly 20 acts drew a crowd of 100 or more to the senior Lounge for the November 18 Variety Show organized by Senior Danny Ilyin. "A lot of people from the audience came up afterwards to tell me how much they enjoyed it," he said.

■ **ENROLL HER NOW!**—Another prospective Labbie has arrived. Liese Giselle Chan Volk arrived at the University of Chicago Hospitals 12:32 a.m. Friday, November 11, the first baby born there 11/11/11. Liese weighed in at 6 pounds and 4.8 ounces and measured 19-2/4 inches. Mom (Librarian Shirley Volk), dad Chris and sister Sophia are all doing fine.



Liese

Hot Haircuts for a Cold Season



READY FOR A NEW LOOK, Senior Saisha Nanduri considers what hairstyle to try this frosty season. Photo by Elizabeth Gelman.

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Academic teams fine tune strategies



Josh Koenig, Nathan Eckstein, Rosie Cuneo-Grant, Molly Petchenik. Photo by Katie Klespies.

Model U.N.ers next head for Harvard

By Natalie Holley
Midway reporter

Classified as a large delegation for the first time in five years, 29 U-Highers will compete at the Harvard Model United Nations conference, Thursday-Sunday, January 26-29 in Boston, at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. Representing the United Kingdom, U-Highers will compete against students from more than 200 high school teams, from as far away as India.

After Harvard, a conference at Northwestern University in north suburban Evanston, Thursday-Friday April 19-22, will remain.

At their first conference, the Model U.N.ers won Outstanding Delegation at Georgia Tech October 17-18 in Atlanta, representing Romania.

At the Princeton University conference in East Brunswick, New Jersey, December 1-4, their second event, 13 U-Highers won Best Small Delegation representing South Africa. Josh Koenig and Michelle Ng

were named Best Delegates, while Rosie Cuneo-Grant, Nathan Eckstein, and Ellie Reppy received Outstanding Delegate awards. Ryan Selig and Duncan Weinstein received Honorable Mentions, with Katie Harris collecting a Verbal Commendation.

Competing on the U.N. Committee on Special Political and Decolonization Matters, Best Delegate winners Josh and Michelle faced off against more delegates than usual.

"It was my first time ever competing on a General Assembly committee, which has more members than the average committee, and it provided me with a great learning experience," Michelle said. "We had to eventually merge our working paper with one of our rival schools, which was initially difficult, but worked out well for us."

U-Highers also attended the Chicago International Model United Nations conference December 8-11, sponsored by the Model United Nations Development Organization, after Midway presstime.



Reem Khondakar, Elena Skosey-LaLonde, Charlie Jiang, Robert Radway. Photo by Katie Klespies.

Science Team adds new projects

By Moira Differding
Associate editor

Focusing on new projects including a rocket and astronomy club named Skylarc is keeping the Science Team busy until Science Olympiad next month.

Now 65 members strong with 10 freshmen, adding new projects has been necessary to keep everyone in Science involved.

After partnering with the ScienceFIST Foundation, a group advocating science education, team members will allow disadvantaged Chicago Public Schools students interested in science to train in and use their power tools and guidance to work on projects of their own.

Following meeting the founder of ScienceFIST at a TEDx Conference in October, Science Team Coach Daniel Jones set up the partnership with ScienceFIST.

"The main goal is to eventually let CPS kids work here with us for a while," Mr. Jones said. "They don't have all the equipment we do, and by teaching them how to

use it here, they can learn how to take their own work farther."

"For Skylarc, our first project was test-launching rockets on the Midway. They are working on ways to gather meteorological data through them. We need to alter the rockets to consistently launch at the same altitudes to collect the data we want without changing the rocket's flight paths too much. When we get our new rocket supplies, we'll hold more tests."

Along with new projects, Science Team has also put new team policies in effect.

"Usually the captains just pick the teams," Science Olympiad Cocaptain Charlie Jiang said. "But this year we picked a provisional varsity and held an in-house test to determine who got placed on the final varsity team and also j.v. Anyone could take them, and those scores were taken into consideration when making teams. If Varsity members don't perform during the competitions, they might be replaced with J.V. members."

Debaters shoot for the moon discussing space exploration

By Duncan Weinstein
Associate editor

With eight new members, 12 returning, and three new coaches this year, debaters will compete at The Blake School this Friday through Sunday in Minneapolis, aiming to gain spots in the Tournament of Champions, sponsored by the University of Kentucky May 4-6 in Lexington.

Arguing this year's national high school debate topic, increasing American space exploration, debaters also competed at Dowling Catholic High School in Des Moines, Iowa last weekend, after Midway presstime.

In preparation, debaters are focusing on argument construction, according to Varsity Debater Charlie Rafkin, senior.

"Last year we focused purely research, but this year, we're focusing more on deploying that research into usable arguments, Charlie said. "For example, if I researched a new argument, I'd try it out in a round, whereas this year we practice it in meetings first. That might sound like a trivial distinction, but it makes a huge difference."

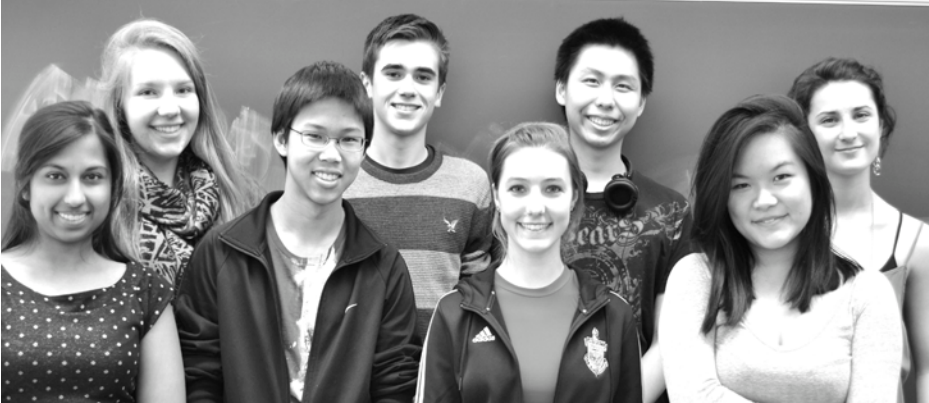


Josh Koenig, Nathan Eckstein, Rosie Cuneo-Grant, Molly Petchenik. Photo by Katie Klespies.

This year's coaches include Director of Debate Michael Ewald, Varsity Coach Carlos Penikis and J.V. Coach Ana O'Hara.

"Carlos is a great guy, but very intense," Charlie said. "Last year, we prided ourselves on being laid back but this year we're having more focused practice and more planning before practice."

"Carlos has a huge knowledge of the debate community, he can help us figure out what a judge is looking for before a round, and gives us insight into things we never would've considered otherwise."



Sally Ladsaria, Katherine Garvey, Charlie Jiang, Robert Radway, Katelyn Suchyta, Andrew Xu, Jennifer Pan, Catherine Yunis. Photo by Katie Klespies.

Math Team aims to rebound

By Christine Obert-Hong
Midway reporter

After a disappointing start this year, Math Team hopes to rebound at a North Suburban Math League (NSML) competition at Whitney Young High School, February 2.

After finishing fourth of five schools at the Illinois Math and Science Academy, in west suburban Aurora, October 26, U-Highers will compete against Whitney Young, Oak Park, and UIC College Prep High Schools, in February. 35 U-Highers also competed at Walter Payton High School last Thursday, after Midway presstime.

"The first NSML meet that we went to, we did pretty poorly mainly because a lot

of us were busy with school work and didn't have enough time to study," Senior Robert Radway said. "The second time we did decently, but a lot of people didn't come. We should do well this next competition though."

The NSML competition is U-High's fourth, and final, before NSML Finals November 29.

"It's really important for us to do well at this meet for two reasons," Robert said. "It helps decide who wins our division, which determines our place for finals. Also, there are individual awards at the end of the season based on cumulative score."

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BROWSING THROUGH 57th Street Salon's extensive collection of hair products, Shrija Sriram finally decides on a bottle of Paul Mitchell shampoo. Photo by Remy Lewis.

To the big stage (or page)

*Arts magazine
to publish teacher's
photography series*

By Clay Surmeier
Midway reporter

Death blooms in a weedy chaos." Taking photographs of untamed, aging farm landscape and her father, Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts put together the series "Falling Giants." Part of her series was chosen as part of the international competition "My Own Wilderness," sponsored by PHOTO/arts Magazine.

Searching for photographs of artists' "personal wilderness," the magazine sent out a call for work. One-hundred-and-fifty photographers submitted more than 700 images in response.

MS. RICKETTS WAS among 45 photographers chosen to have their work included. A book of all the selected work will be published next month.

"I was contacted about a call for work on the internet and decided to send in a couple submissions because I felt like this series expressed 'my own wilderness,'" Ms. Ricketts said. "Normally I don't write anything to accompany my work, but I wrote a prose piece for this series.

"Another thing that was different about this collection was that after only four months my artwork will be shown to the public. This was relatively new work, and sometimes it can take years for artwork to be shown to a large audience."

MS. RICKETTS feels her material for the series is personal, but relatable.

"'Fallen Giants' is made up of 12 pieces, all shot at my father's farm in Crete, Illinois," she said. "Artists always work with what is on their mind, and death was frequently on my mind with an aging father. I always use black and white because I think it's more beautiful. The main ideas of this series were about con-



TO BE FEATURED in PHOTO/arts magazine, Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts views a photo from her series "Falling Giants." "The tree really started the idea for the series," Ms. Ricketts explained. "Two gigantic trees fell down inches from my dad when he was a child, breaking apart close to his home." Photo by Katherine Garvey.

fronting one's own mortality and seeing the changes that life has for you and for others."

"**I LOOKED AT** the places I grew up in and they are all deteriorating. I looked at my 96-year-old father and could see all the physical wear on him. This is a way of coming to terms with death and accepting it. In Western culture people generally tend to not talk or think largely about death. I like how the Mexicans embrace the idea of death and even celebrate it, such as on the Day of the Dead.

"If someone has been in denial of death their entire life it will come as a shock to them. I think the Mexicans have a more human approach to dealing with death, and I think that's what I've tried to do in this time of my life."

U. of C. Police add patrols along Midway

By Sydney Scarlata
Executive Director of Special Projects

With a 22 percent decrease in crime on campus in the past year and all-time lows the past two years, the University of Chicago Police Department still has increased security along the Midway. To adjust coverage, the department has weekly meetings to assess the crimes of the past week.

According to Associate Vice President for Safety and Security and Chief of Police Marlon Lynch, new technology will help improve the station's efficiency.

"**FOR THE PAST YEAR-AND-A-HALE**, we've begun to install cameras on top of the Emergency Phones across campus that we can access at the station on our new video wall," Officer Lynch said in an interview with the Midway. "These improvements will be used mostly for investigative purposes after a crime has been committed, but if for whatever reason we wanted to use the cameras to observe a certain area in real time, we can do that as well.

"One thing we've also done in South Campus is station security officers along 59th and 60th from the train tracks to Ellis Street from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. There was an incident outside the Harper building last October or November where a student was robbed, consequently these new measures were implemented as an effort to prevent crime around the Midway."

New lighted Midway crossings have helped boost security, Officer Lynch believes.

"**I THINK THE MIDWAY CROSSINGS** were one of the best things the University has done to improve lighting," Officer Lynch said. "It provided lighting to the poorly lit area and provided a place for people to walk along the street instead of cutting through the Midway itself."

Moving to 64th and Dorchester two years ago, History Teacher Paul Horton believes the neighborhood south of the Midway is changing, partly because of the University's involvement.

Though the University has worked to improve to area, Mr. Horton disagrees with a few measures it has taken.

"The Midway walkway was symbolic of change and I think it was built to comfort prospective University students and families and them feel safe," Mr. Horton said. "I think the University needs to do more then just build a few light sabers and really use that money to save more jobs. I do think however, that the University has done a fairly good job of assisting the development of these neighborhoods."

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BROWSING THE WIDE selection of books at the U. of C. Bookstore, Freshman Emilie Portugal is surprised to find how easy it is to find perfect gifts for family and friends that fit into her budget. Photos by Remy Lewis.

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Q&A: Leaving at end of year, principal will miss school's diversity

By JR Reed
Editor-in-Chief

Moving to Redmond, Washington at the end of the school year, Principal Matt Horvat will take a new position as the head of the Overlake School. At the independent, college preparatory day school, Mr. Horvat will oversee a school population of 531 students in grades 5-12. During his six years here, Mr. Horvat has taken leadership in numerous High School initiatives including implementing a new schedule, assessing the A.P. program and a shift to an Advanced Topics program.

What have been your most memorable experiences?

I think one of my most memorable moments was a couple of years ago when the student-faculty basketball game ended in a tie, and then the students ended up winning in overtime and all the kids rushed the court. I was like, "Oh my god! Is this school spirit at the Lab

School?" I think last year, at the end-of-year award assembly, when Faith's mother showed up and Ms. Scheunemann was there and they gave the two awards to the two students. Ms. Scheunemann has passed away now and she was in failing health at that point, but that was definitely a memorable moment for me.

Do you feel there's a particular contribution that you have made over the last six years that you are most proud of?

Patience and listening maybe. Just being patient and listening to the concerns

of both students and faculty.

How exactly do you think your experience will influence you?

This is a really interesting and unique community because of the student body, faculty, parents, and the diversity as well. If you took the students here and compared them to any other independent school, you would recognize the differences immediately. It's a very diverse school, and I would say we have a lot of students that would be defined as middle class. That's not common for independent schools. Most independent schools have families that are very wealthy and families that are on financial aid. I would say we have a lot of students that I would put squarely in that middle.

Were there any elements of your experience here at U-High that you wished were different?

I think it's great that we're affiliated with the University because of the resources it provides our students. But, at the same time, that connection creates a level of bureaucracy in getting things done at the High School level. You have to follow a specific process, and that can be frustrating at times from an administrative perspective.

Is there anything else you'd like to say about your experience during your time here or your decision to change schools?

I didn't make this decision lightly. When I initially started considering the opportunity, I had to ask myself, "Am I really ready to leave this place?" Then, when they offered me the job, I definitely did not come to an absolute answer right away. I had to think about it, my wife had to think about it, and it was a really tough decision to make all the way around.

Beginning a search for a new principal, Lab Schools Director David Magill asked the faculty to choose four of its members to serve on a committee which also will include parents and students.



CHARACTER SKETCH BY HEBAH MASOOD

Athlete, journalist, team manager...and women’s advocate

VISITING ST. LOUIS at least four times a year to see his family including a grandmother suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease, Senior Martin Garrett-Currie plans to major in Biology, hoping to later research the disease. Easily spotted with gray-flecked hair, brightly colored t-shirts, and an occasional Maroons Letterman jacket, Martin cocaptained varsity boys’ soccer this year and plays club soccer outside of school. Named to the second Independent School League team, he ranked among the top 22 soccer players last year. IN ADDITION TO athletics, last year Martin became editor of scores and team photos on the U-Highlights staff, and joined Women Stand United (WSU), for which he is now the treasurer, while cooking in his free time. Having lived in Chicago his whole life, Martin wishes he could spend more time with his grandmother, who suffers from Alzheimer’s disease. “I see my grandmother most times I go to St. Louis,” Martin said. “My dad says she used to tell these incredible stories. Now she barely remembers who I am. I wish I could visit more and talk to her. Now it’s almost like when I visit she barely even talks.”



Art by Gene Cochrane
 MARTIN GARRETT-CURRIE

Famous grad gives big gift

A 250-seat production, rehearsal and performance facility in the long-planned new arts wing of the Lab Schools will be named the Sherry Lansing Theatre in honor of the long-prominent film producer and executive as the result of a \$5 million gift to the \$55 million Lab-Plus expansion campaign from her announced late last month. Ms. Lansing is a 1962 U-High graduate. Beginning in film as an actress, she became the first woman to head a major film studio, at 20th Century Fox, in 1980 when she was 35. She was instrumental in the production of films including “Forrest Gump” and “Titanic.”

WISHING TO STUDY Alzheimer’s in college, Martin also hopes to continue playing soccer. His parents signed him up for club soccer at age 4 with the American Youth Soccer Organization, a program which encourages children to play soccer. “I was a pretty destructive kid when I was younger,” Martin said. “When I was 1 in day care they moved me to the 2-year-olds’ room because I would shake people’s cribs and they thought I was going to kill someone or something. “My dad wanted to sign me up for football to get rid of some of my energy but my mom said it was too dangerous so they chose soccer. Now I play soccer outside of school because I really love it, just everything about it. It’s really hard to imagine not playing for even just a week or two.” JOINING THE RAIDERS Futbol Club, a high school soccer organization in southwest suburban Bridgeview this year, Martin now competes yearround. Through the Raiders, Martin said he became closer with Sophomore Kaleb Mazurek, also a varsity soccer player. “I’ve learned a lot about how important is to be close with people you work with,” Martin observed. “Our team this year was really tight not just as teammates but as friends, too, and I think that helps our team out a lot.

“Kaleb and I met through soccer, and he’s like a brother to me now. I didn’t know him until he joined soccer and yearbook last year. I told a lot of people to join, including him, because I liked it a lot. It’s a lot of fun, but still a lot of work. I like how it’s the whole staff together working on one book.” DURING LONG BUS drives to away games, Kaleb says Martin is always funny and unforgettable. “At first, when I met him last year, Martin just picked on me a lot, just jokingly,” Kaleb said. “We started talking a lot more outside of practice, during the school day. This year we got even closer. I pretty much tell him anything and everything. I’m going to miss him next year, a lot. I mean,

She is now involved in philanthropic projects including Stand Up To Cancer, which she helped organize, and the Sherry Lansing Foundation, which supports medical, education and civic causes. Ms. Lansing also has joined alumni John Rogers, 1976, and Andrew Neal, 1978, in cochairing a national campaign to connect alumni to the Schools. She has been married 20 years to Academy Award winning director William Friedkin. Ms. Lansing received an Oscar in 2007, with the Jean Hersholt Humanian Award for her work in cancer research. Ms. Lansing’s 1962 classmates tend to remember her as an excellent student and friendly, popular girl who excelled as a cheerleader.

he’s one of my best friends. He’s helped me out, and had my back. “He also motivated me to join yearbook in a bit of a forceful manner. I mean he was joking. He’d always say, ‘You have to join yearbook or I’ll hit your or something.’ I wanted to do it before, of course, but he’s the reason I joined.” OTHER THAN TAKING an active role in yearbook, Martin became the only male member of WSU after his friend Senior Aasha Holmes started it last year. “It’s not bad being the only male member,” Martin said. “People make jokes about it but I don’t mind. We raise money and donate to shelters for homeless and abused women. I wasn’t really into the cause before but when Aasha started the club I thought it was a cause worth supporting.” Martin also enjoys cooking, a hobby he started in 7th grade with a World Cuisine

project. “MY SPECIALTY IS Mexican food. Tacos, quesadillas, burritos, you name it. I can cocinar it,” Martin said, referring the Spanish word for ‘cook.’ “I also like cooking breakfast foods a lot like eggs and stuff but mostly I stick to Mexican food. “When my mom and dad aren’t home I cook often. I like that I can create something and make it over and over again to improve it. It’s like a different experience every time. “The first time I cooked was in 7th grade. I made this French soup and it didn’t really turn out that good. But I made it again later for my family and it was a lot better. I got involved with Mexican food because I made tacos one time when I was hungry and I really liked them. I kept making them but I’d always have left over taco shells, so I started making quesadillas.”

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EMBRACING THE holiday spirit, Ruby Koontz gives a grateful Laura Anderson a wonderful book from the large collection at Powell’s Bookstore. Photo by Fiona Potter.



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HUNGRY STUDENTS wait in line (photo at left) as Mr. Rodolfo Arellano grabs tomatoes for a wrap, toasting the entree if asked. Photo by Taylor Crowl.



HOURS BEFORE lunch service starts, cooks and assistants tend to two soups, bake sugar cookies, and wash pans briskly and efficiently. Photo by Taylor Crowl.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE CAFETERIA

By Aneesh Kanakamedala
Associate editor and cooking columnist

Seven o'clock on a cold, rainy Wednesday morning, November 9, and only the sounds of clanging pans, low-pitched refrigerator hums and soft hip hop music from a plug-in radio permeate the Lab Schools cafeteria kitchen.

Walking from the basement lunchroom to the kitchen behind the food service counters and cash registers is like day changing into night. Outside behind the blue lunch tables, the walls glow in cheerful bright green, blue, and orange.

THESE COLORS CONTRAST with monotone metallic grey tones accentuating the kitchen. Food information adorns the walls—how to properly maintain sanitation, which entrée to cook each day. Three main rooms compose the cramped kitchen. One holds cutting boards, another a large, grey, stovetop and a crusted grill. The last houses a small, dark, windowed oven, raised four feet above the ground.

"It's usually quiet here in the morning because no one is a morning person," said Cashier Alicia Culverson, outfitted in a black shirt and brimmed hat shortly before leaving her job last Friday to prepare for the birth of her first child. "When the lunch rushes start coming along, all eight of us start to open up more, joking with each other."

A brown grease-stained grill heats the entire kitchen. Mr. Armando Orozco, one of two assistant cooks, dressed in a black double-breasted jacket and chef's hat, rushes back and forth between the service counters and the kitchen.

MR. OROZCO ladles pizza sauce on pale white crusts while Mr. Jose Espinoza, the other assistant cook, wearing a hair-net and glasses, slices roast beef and turkey for today's lunch.

Standing over 6 feet with a slightly stained apron around his waist, Executive Chef Rodolfo Arellano, a little stylish stubble around his jaw, tends to a chicken tortilla soup and a boiling pot of sweet-smelling sauce for orange chicken, the day's entrée, once again to appear in three weeks.

Another worker spreads out cookie dough on sheet pans for Café Lab catering service, which serves meetings at school to events around the University of Chicago campus. The only talking comes from the song "Otis" by Jay-Z and Kanye West.

TODAY'S POULTRY arrives from the supplier at 8:45, packed in plastic with thermometers attached. Chef Rodolfo butchers the chicken while lunch scents fill up the kitchen. Small conversations erupt between the workers, sometimes in Spanish.

It is 9:30, and hot breakfast service finishes. The cooks shuffle back and forth between the kitchen and cafeteria, arms laden with omelet ingredients. One starts to load drinks into the coolers, getting ready. The kitchen sounds a lot busier. Burger meat

goes into the oven, display dishes are carried out, and egg rolls fry in vegetable oil. Every action practiced, the cooks still barely utter a word.

"I was once the restaurant manager of Wildfire, one of the restaurants here in Chicago," says Executive Food Service Director Rachel Kovich Brown. She oversees the kitchen staff, orders produce and helps during the lunch rushes. "I learned the basics of ordering, serving, and talking to people there. Now, I'm employed under Aramark Corporation," she explains in her friendly yet professional voice. "It's a large food service operator for cafeterias that serves hundreds of schools including the Business School and the Lab Schools."

"I THINK the students like the food, and more could like it if they try it. I understand that there will always be High School students who want to leave school for 30 minutes to go to the Business School, but they need to give us a chance. The prices are cheaper here and it is a lot more convenient."

Most of the cooks walk from the kitchen back to the cafeteria as more teachers and students come in for afternoon snacks such as bagels and muffins.

Mr. Arellano leaves the kitchen for his own lunch break, and the fryers turn on again as Middle School lunch approaches. Mrs. Brown and the others start cooking the fries and chicken tenders in their new Turbochef microwave oven.

EXACTLY 11:36, and loud Middle Schoolers start to file into the cafeteria hall, but the cooks efficiently control the noisy mob. Mr. Arellano takes sandwich orders, calling out to the kids in the congested line and joking with the kids he is serving.

"The kids at Lab have a lot more energy than adults, who I am more experienced with serving through my previous work at Wyndham Hotel in downtown Chicago," Mr. Arellano said. "I have more energy to work. When I have the time, I play around with them a little, and they even sometimes give thank you letters to me. The small things are why I like my job."

Cooks stick paninis and wraps in the Turbochef and clean pans as the lunch rush fills the kitchen with an excited energy. The lunch rush slows down to a small trickle and the cooks start cutting vegetables and fruit for the High School students.

TWENTY MINUTES later, they start coming in, less noisy and chaotic than the previous surge of students, but still packing the narrow hallway. Once again the cooks move back and forth.

Forty minutes go, and cleanup sounds permeate the cafeteria. The smell of coffee fills the kitchen; the tanks have been dumped. Vivid laughter fills the cafeteria and kitchen as the workers relax and dump the leftover chicken into grey trash bins. The cooks try to prepare just the correct amount of food each day, ensuring freshness.

Mr. Arellano peels eggs for tomorrow's breakfast while others clean the stovetops and cutting boards. By 2:30 they have all left, ready to come back early the next morning.



A FREQUENT CUSTOMER to the sandwich station, Dominic Wordlaw anticipates his customized creation made by Mr. Rodolfo Arellano. Photo by Taylor Crowl.

ABOUT THAT REPORT

Implementing daily, weekly and monthly sanitation tasks including power washing floors and additional pest control, Executive Food Director Rachel Brown says violations reported in a City of Chicago Department of Public Health annual Lab Schools cafeteria inspection have been addressed.

Conducting an inspection in October, the Department of Public Health found numerous violations in the cafeteria, including excessively dirty floors and mouse droppings.

"Most of the violations were in fact facility issues, not food violations," Ms. Brown said. "We have new sanitation tasks and have had Smithereen, a pest control company, come in more often to meet the City of Chicago's regulations. Since the October inspection there has been no activity."

PUBLIC SCHOOL

By Aneesh Kanakamedala
Associate editor and cooking columnist

Pressed by increased child obesity levels and lenient cafeteria food standards in the past, as reported several times recently in the media, Chicago Public Schools officials and the federal government are enforcing new standards to make cafeteria food healthier.

Sparked by First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Campaign for obesity reduction begun in February, 2010, a health cafeteria food craze has swept the nation. With programs such as Chefs Move to Schools, an initiative started by Mrs. Obama a year ago to promote healthy meals, public schools have redesigned cafeteria menus.

IN SPITE OF these efforts, some students and teachers have witnessed few food improvements, as reported in a October 5, 2011 Chicago Tribune story. One such teacher, Ms. Sarah Wu, in fact ate cafeteria food at her CPS school for all school days in 2010 after forgetting her lunch once,

CHICAGO CHEFS GET NATIONAL CELEBRITY

By Aneesh Kanakamedala
Associate editor and cooking columnist

Wearing a white double-breasted jacket buttoned to the neck and a slightly spotted apron with a pen hooked on the seam, native Chicagoan Chef Paul Kahan moves from frying pans to pots laden with sizzling vegetables and meats.

Sweating it out in a small, metal, bustling exterior kitchen exuding savory scents, Chef Kahan can be seen showcasing his knife skills to the evening diners seated in wooden chairs and gray felt booths surrounded by dimly lit white walls at Blackbird at 619 West Randolph Street.

FEATURED IN NUMEROUS recent New York Times and Chicago Tribune articles, Chef Kahan and two other chefs, Chef Arun Sampanthavivat of Arun’s and Chef Jun Ichikawa of Japonais, come from culinary backgrounds based in their younger years. Using their roots to spark their passions, these three chefs can serve as examples to U-Highers on how childhood interests turn into lifetime professions.

“My grandfather and even those before him were basically ‘jobbers’ on the market in Russia,” Chef Kahan said with an approachable demeanor and a wide smile. “They ran pushcarts, delivering produce to delis. Here, my father owned a smokehouse and a kosher deli on Devon Street. This gave me a lot of experience with food, but I really started getting interested when I was about 10 years old. I started reading cookbooks, cooking omelets and bread.

“At the same time, though, I was interested in Computer Science while at Niles West High School, and that’s what I majored in at Northern Illinois University. After working a short time at a computer design firm, I felt I wanted to do something with food.”

AS A PREP CHEF, Chef Kahan started his cooking career after getting a job at Metropolis Café at 1039 West Granville Avenue through a friend of his wife.

“We changed the menu every day, serving carryout orders that span the gambit, including everything from seafood to pâtés. I had a lot of opportunities to leave, but wanted to stay and work up. At one point, I even had the opportunity to open a restaurant with Rick Bayless as partners, but I realized it would always be his restaurant. All in all, I only worked for four chefs in Chicago. I started networking, finally getting a job as head chef at Blackbird.”

Before the opening of Blackbird, Chef Kahan determined to make his restaurant comfortable yet classy.

“DINING AT this time seemed more like entertaining and having only decent food,” Chef Kahan explained. “There weren’t any independent accessible restaurants. At Blackbird, we wanted a fun and high-end atmosphere with the highest level of comfort. But this only came with working our asses off. If you want to become a chef, you only become successful by working a lot. Be prepared for long hours. What you see on T.V., like Iron Chef or Top Chef, is all crap. Cooking is a craft, even an art, and you have to be passionate and driven to really succeed.”

Slicing carrot pieces for dish presentation in a large, aroma-filled kitchen a few hours before dinner dining service at Arun, at 4156 North Kedzie Avenue, Chef Sampanthavivat says he learned two different cuisines from his grandparents in Thailand.

“I had two food coaches while growing up. One was my Chinese grandfather and the other was my Thai grandmother,” Mr. Sampanthavivat explained with a slight accent, wearing a patterned blue shirt, glasses at his side.

“They only ate their respective cuisines. It was a great opportunity to learn both cuisines as there were basically two different kitchens and cultures in my home. I had to eat dinner twice, one with my grandfather and one with my grandmother. As I grew up, my father encouraged me to become a doctor, but I protested quietly. I flung my education in middle school on purpose, and I was going towards an unknown future. I didn’t go to a very famous high school, but I still went to the best university because of my hard work, majoring in English Literature and Thai.”

FINISHED WITH his studies for the moment, Chef Sampanthavivat dreamed to go West to learn.

“I wouldn’t accept money from my parents when I decided to go explore the world,” Chef Sampanthavivat said. “I started working at Siam Continental Hotel, and after one year I made enough money to travel. I went to America and got a scholarship affiliated with the University of California. Later I went to Germany to find a job, and then went to Japan, where I got a Master’s Degree in Foreign Communication at Sophia International. Finally I studied at the University of Chicago and got a Master’s in Game Theory.

“It was around this time that I was asked by some people in Hyde Park to invest with them in a good Thai restaurant. I felt that Thai cuisine should have a better future than what it had then, and so I joined. I think I scared them off with my intellectual thoughts for the restaurant, and I was left alone. I took over, planning the menu, hiring people, though I didn’t have that much experience in the restaurant business. I knew that there may not have been profit, but if it was good, I learned, and if it wasn’t, I would drop it.

“WHEN THE RESTAURANT finally opened, I had to do everything. I had to handle taxes, bookkeeping, busing tables, and cooking. With my education, though, I was able to create a framework about the restaurant business, basically an intellectual approach. The framework focused on five things: flavor, texture, aroma, form, and temperature.”

Focusing on perfection in Arun’s, Chef Sampanthavivat advises prospective chefs to explore cuisine while acknowledging the possibility of failure.

“If you know you love cooking, explore it and know that you will fail many times,” Chef Sampanthavivat warned. “But you have to come back up right away and conquer, promising to not fail the next time. Correct your mistakes. You don’t need to compete with other chefs. Compete instead with something higher, like being better than Japanese and French foods, ensuring price but with better quality. Be adventurous, but within a well-thought plan. Food is a big part of owning a restaurant, but it doesn’t guarantee success.”

COMING FROM a family of chefs, smooth black-haired Chef Ichikawa of Japonais at 600 West Chicago Avenue, aspired to be a sushi chef as a kid.

“There were a couple of chefs in my family, but I really drew my inspiration from uncle. I always watched him as a sushi chef. I always thought the art was cool as a kid, even though the discipline and training required by a sushi chef is quite intense. Now as the chef of Japonais, I consider it my duty and responsibility to cook well, just like my ancestors.

“The key to being a successful chef is to be honest with yourself, asking why you want to become one. Remember that honesty, basics and simplicity make a good chef. Many chefs take this for granted. Ultimately, have your own purpose and believe in yourself.”



CARROT BLOCKS to his side, Arun Sampanthavivat cuts pieces into flames and fish at Arun’s kitchen. Photo by Taylor Crowl.



EYES TRAINED on an appetizer, Chef Paul Kahan garnishes a dish during the Blackbird dining service. Photo courtesy of Blackbird.



A TRADITIONAL and modern Japanese food expert, Chef Jun Ichikawa reigns in the kitchen at Japonais. Photo courtesy of Japonais.

S GO GREEN, EVEN GOURMET

photographed them, and then commented on her blog Fed Up With Lunch.”

Writing under the pseudonym Mrs. Q to avoid termination by the Chicago Public Schools, Mrs. Wu described her cafeteria’s food as being “pre-fab” and “monumentally bad” on her blog, later revealing her identity in time to publish a book on her opinion of public school lunches that October.

Many parents have criticized the new school lunch rules, saying the new regulations do not fit their budgets or parenting styles. At Little Village Academy on Chicago’s West Side, as reported in the April 11 Chicago Tribune, students are not allowed to bring their own lunches, as many had been filled with unhealthy foods such as soda and chips. That policy has extended to other schools, and the federal government pays the school district for each free or reduced-price meal the cafeterias offer.

Further measures include replacing cafeteria food favorites such as French fries with alternatives including

oven-baked fries, baked potatoes, and mashes using skim milk. According to an August 23 story in the Chicago Tribune, starting in February, new federal nutritional requirements for the National School Lunch Program will go into effect.

Funded partially by the government for both public and non-profit private schools and residential child care institutions, the program will require school cafeterias to offer students no more than one cup of starchy vegetables a week. More regulations will include further varying the types of vegetables and amount of whole-grains served.

ACCORDING TO Lab Schools Executive Food Director Rachel Kovich Brown, this healthy-food trend will continue to prove a major government focus.

“Although I never worked in a public school, there is a big push for healthy foods for kids, especially since obesity has risen in the last couple of years,” she said. “It’s going to be a slow process, as the schools need money to get staff training and fresh foods, but the focus will stay.”

AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT

43 years later, same issue

The more time continues to change, the more things seem to stay the same. Stealing is not new to U-High, though it may seem that way.

EARLIER THIS QUARTER, two students' computers and revenue from a Spectrum bake sale were stolen.

Students who had belongings stolen from them have usually been robbed because of carelessness with them or leaving possessions in insecure locations. That includes hallways, lounges, classrooms, and even school lockers.

But the reported thefts are no more frequent than in past years.

In the November 15, 1967, issue of the Midway, the front page displayed three U-High girls posing as potential thieves below the headline, "You get careless, thief gets lucky". The story itself quoted Mr. Donald Conway, director of administrative services, commenting that thefts, as serious as they may be, were no more of a threat than ever.

THE REAL ISSUE, then, becomes why do students feel the need to steal? In a community known for academic excellence and a student body predominantly from upper class families, it seems improbable that students would feel the need to steal.

Factors other than necessity seem to be more evident. Stealing for convenience, for a sense of dominance, or just as a prank come to mind first. But these excuses for



Art by Lydia Cochrane

stealing do not excuse the crimes for being anything less than what they are.

In fact, because U-Highers might put theft on the backburner of the list of crimes makes it all the more important to recognize.

With the opportunities and resources of a private school, petty theft would not seem like something to worry about, as drugs and alcohol use potentially are. But it does matter, and it needs to be recognized that theft is still a relevant concern at U-High.

OPINION DUNCAN WEINSTEIN

Getting to the bottom line of the Penn State tragedy

"SUCCESS WITH HONOR."

That's the motto of Penn State athletics, where the winningest coach in college football history didn't report allegations Defensive Coordinator Jerry Sandusky molested a boy in the locker room showers in 2002.

He's been charged with sexually abusing eight boys over a 15-year span. Forty-six-year veteran Head Football Coach Joe Paterno was fired by the Penn State November 10 after failing to report allegations to authorities.

ACCORDING TO A November 5 Grand Jury Report, Graduate Assistant Mike McQueary said he witnessed Sandusky sexually assaulting a boy in the University's locker room showers in 2002, but didn't intervene or call the police. Instead, he passed the message to Paterno, who gave the news to Athletic Director Tim Curley but didn't take action himself. A few days later, he and Senior Vice President for Finance and Business Gary Schultz banned Sandusky from bringing children on campus a ban they admitted was "unenforceable." Neither called police.

They had two options: report the incident or hope it would magically go away. They chose the latter. Sandusky seemed like a good guy. He started a charity for underprivileged boys and made them part of his family.

But the truth was much more sinister, and McQueary, Paterno, Curley and Schultz all knew it. And did nothing.

TAKING AWAY Sandusky's keys to the locker room didn't prevent him from molesting boys. It prevented him from committing crimes on campus. Out of sight, out of mind.

But more allegations at more institutions are coming to the forefront. At Syracuse, an assistant basketball coach was fired November 27 after allegations he molested boys. His wife admitted in a recorded call that she knew of his abuse, a recording ESPN had in 2002 but didn't release.

In interviews with Bob Costas and the New York Times, November 15 and December 3, Sandusky painted his relationship with boys as a mentoring role, not an inappropriate one. He admitted to showering with boys, but denied sexual intent.

Entrusted to develop students into strong moral citizens, Penn State allowed Sandusky to assault more victims.

Adults were the ones who came first.



Duncan

Six years of achievement

Clad in a button down shirt, tie, and khakis, Principal Matt Horvat looks on at herds of U-Highers crowding the High School lobby with Dean of Students Larry McFarlane after a typical school day.

Mr. Horvat has never hesitated to give a friendly hello to students passing by in the halls. Since his arrival in 2006, Mr. Horvat has striven to maintain personal relationships with many U-Highers.

IN HIS FIRST interview with Midway reporters in the September 5, 2006 issue, he stated "I want to make myself as available as I can."

By the end of the year, students agreed. In a Midway editorial, the staff explained, "He not only knows many U-Highers by first name, but since September has instituted a youthful and regenerated tone in the school." In his first year, he faced challenges regarding the prom date planned for a Friday night and the beginning of the transition from A.P. to A.T. courses.

In 2008, Mr. Horvat handled problems with vandalism in the library and in 2010 he headed the change of A.P. to A.T. courses. In addition and Two years ago, he even began teaching the Algebra 1 class. Later that year, he even cut short his spring break vacation in California to fly back to Chicago and organize the

school after Faith Dremmer died and two other seniors were severely injured in a bike accident.

HE SENT OUT letters out to all U-High families notifying them about the accident and arranging class meetings to discuss what had happened and how to commemorate Faith.

But perhaps his most significant project since his arrival at U-High has been facilitating the change to a new block schedule, which was implemented this year. From the start, Mr. Horvat made it his mission to facilitate improving the four-decade old schedule and to include an all-school assembly period.

He created student and faculty committees to discuss possible changes and when the schedule was finalized, he educated students on how the schedule would work during four double lunch periods last October.

IN HIS SIX YEARS at U-High, Mr. Horvat has never hidden behind his desk in the High School office. On the contrary, he has made himself accessible to students and integrated himself into the community. He has cheered for the boys' basketball team at home games and played against the same students in the student-faculty game.

Mr. Horvat has surpassed his duties as principal and will be missed next year.

SAYWHAT?

Compiled by Spencer Lee

What is your worst and favorite holiday-time memory?



David



Portia



Deborah



Bella

DAVID MATTHEWS, senior: I don't think my worst and favorite memories during the holidays would be appropriate for the paper. I'm thinking about my family here when I say this.

DEBORAH KRULL, junior: My best holiday memory is when I got a massaging backpack for my brother James and discovered if you put it on the floor it moved, so we scared my cats with it. My worst would probably be my first Thanksgiving without turkey, but then I discovered green bean casserole, so it's all good now.

PORTIA WILLIAMS, sophomore: My favorite holiday memory was when I was seven, I worked in my uncles shop that sold holiday decor and trees and at the end of the week instead of asking for money I asked for three little robins and a Christmas train with a troll doll in it."

BELLA PON, freshman: I remember being snowed in one year during the holidays. My mother made hot chocolate and we watched a bunch of movies. It was very cozy.

10-second editorial

■ IN A CHICAGO TRIBUNE ARTICLE November 30, Reporter Barabra Brotman focused on Hollywood Producer Sherry Lansing's recent \$5 million donation for the Lab Schools' new Arts Wing.

What logically would be intended to serve as a report of the contribution, however, ultimately devoted more time analyzing the Lab School student experience. Focusing on the community's social aspects, Ms. Brotman interviewed students who transferred away including Amina Dreesen, daughter of former Biology Teacher Mark Dreesen.

After interviewing current students about their reactions to the new Art Wing, Ms. Brotman gathered more information about the school's social elements, asking students and counselors about unofficial senior Homecoming Dance themes and feelings students from unprominent families had learning alongside children of prominent families.

She also included a quote that the school really doesn't have as much a diverse student body as it's known for. The result: an illogical flow in her story with ideas that didn't line up.

The story really didn't describe the school as it is, though that may have been what she was trying to do. The donation got lost somewhere along the line.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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COOKING WITH ANEESH

Salty, sweet and totally perfect for the holidays

HOLIDAYS USUALLY entail spending time with family and eating desserts like fruitcake or frosted tree-shaped cookies. Why not try something different this year, surprising mom with Salted Caramel Cupcakes, a delicious salty and sweet dessert.

With a light vanilla cake base and fluffy, salty-sweet caramel frosting, this



Aneesh

minidessert serves as a tasty replacement for almost any classic holiday treat. With great taste comes some effort, though, as this recipe requires a couple extra pieces of cookware, a cupcake pan, a stand mixer

with paddle attachment, and sea salt, which is found at most supermarkets.

BUT AFTER the 35 minutes needed to complete this sweet-smelling dessert, you and 11 friends and family members will find it hard to stop eating these golden brown cakes topped with luscious gold-tinted frosting.

On the rare occasion of leftovers, refrigerate them for up to a week; although not as tasty as a fresh cupcake, these will still serve as a delicious midnight snack on those cold, winter nights.

You will need:

- 1 cup all-purpose flour, sifted
- ½ cup cake flour, sifted
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tbs. sea salt, split into 1 tsp. and 2 tsp.

- ¾ cup whole milk, room temperature
- 2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup (2 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 2 large egg whites, room temperature
- 3–4 cups confectioner's sugar, sifted
- Sea salt for garnish

For the cupcake:

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and combine the all-purpose flour, cake flour, baking powder, and one teaspoon of the sea salt in a medium bowl and set aside. In a small bowl combine the milk and vanilla extract.

With the paddle attachment on the electric mixer, cream one stick of butter until light and fluffy on medium speed. Gradually add sugar until the mixture is fluffy. Slowly add the egg and egg whites until just blended.

Put the mixer on the lowest speed. Add half the flour mixture until just blended. Then add the milk mixture until just blended. Finally add the rest of the dry mixture, yet again until just blended. Over-blending will cause your



IN CASE YOU'RE not a vanilla fan, substitute your favorite cupcake recipe and slather on the salted caramel frosting. For extra decoration, try burning a cup of sugar in a saucepan. When the mixture turns liquid, use a spoon to scoop some out and drizzle on a piece of parchment paper in a fan shape. Let cool for 10 minutes, and then mount on cupcake. Photo courtesy of Aneesh Kanakamedala.

cupcakes to become dense and tough, exactly the opposite of what any cupcake-lover wants.

DIVIDE THE BATTER among the lined cupcake pan, filling ¾ of each cup. Bake the cakes for 22 to 25 minutes, until the tops are dry to the touch. Remove from oven and let cool on a rack.

Now for the caramel frosting. In a large saucepan, melt butter and add the brown sugar over medium flame. Bring this mixture to a boil, stirring frequently

for one minute. Remove it from the heat and add milk, beating with wire whisk until smooth. Add vanilla and beat until just combined.

Gradually add powdered sugar, beating the whole time, until the frosting reaches your desired consistency. Add the leftover sea salt to the frosting, and then slather it on the cupcakes.

For garnish, sprinkle a little sea salt on top, and then bite into the little piece of heaven.

FILM MOIRA DIFFERDING



HIDING FROM the station's eccentric inspector (Sacha Baron Cohen), Hugo (Asa Butterfield) hangs onto the Montparnasse train station's clock tower, hundreds of feet in the air. Hugo frequently finds himself running to avoid being sent to the orphanage. Photo courtesy of pop-tower.com.

Scorsese crafts, surprise, a family film

LEGENDARY DIRECTOR Martin Scorsese isn't known for family friendly films; but that's impossible to know after watching the PG "Hugo," a brilliant post WWI era movie set in a Parisian train station, where viewers are sure to fall in love with Hugo as he reminds them what a good film actually is.

Based off Caldecott Medal-winner Brian Selznick's "The Invention of Hugo Cabret,"



Moira

"Hugo" syncs with the book, bringing it alive with Scorsese's charming cartoonish effects. They both serve as a warm tribute to French master cinematographer Georges Méliès, who pioneered special effects and color in silent black and white films pre-WWI.

Throughout the film, viewers get glimpses at Méliès' sad life through Hugo, a pre-teen orphan who winds the numerous clocks in the busy Parisian Montparnasse train station. Viewers watch Hugo switch from the warm, bustling comfort and noise of the station constantly filled with whistling steam-powered trains and people to frosty birds-eye views of Paris.

He always finds his way back to the station though, where his home resides in the nuts, bolts, and cold steel of the clock interi-

ors. They serve as the only thing remotely close to home for Hugo, and in them he finds comfort.

Viewers quickly learn that Hugo's motive for remaining in the station besides avoiding the orphanage is to fix his windup robot, a beautifully animated piece of machinery. It was the last thing his father gave him before he died in a fire, and the lonely Hugo desperately believes his father put a message in it.

Watching over the station, the Station Inspector (Sacha Baron Cohen) squeaks around with his leg brace over his war damaged leg as he chases after Hugo to send him to the orphanage.

Méliès is finally introduced in the film's second half, where flashbacks of his once happy life creating, directing, and acting in films with his wife dominate the screen.

Film lovers will delight in this half, as it focuses almost exclusively on his life, which revolves around his highly revered films. Scorsese's experience in documentaries clearly shows in this part, as every miniscule detail about Méliès life appears perfectly on the screen, down to every fanatical, colorful costume and stage set.

Though shot in 3-D, "Hugo" never once falls into the terrible, gimmicky tricks many 3-D films do. Scorsese has made an effort to bring back viewers' faith in the once gaudy technology, using it to add emotion and depth.

Meriting a showing with Scorsese for Prince Charles, it's worth a look at your local theatre.

MUSIC MARISSA PAGE

An off-beat artist throws an unusual snow ball

A BLIZZARD OF different genres, English singer-songwriter, pianist and all-around icon Kate Bush's 10th studio album "50 Words for Snow" starkly contrasts the cliché Christmas-y fare of typical wintertime music.

At age 19, Bush became the first British woman to hit number one on the UK Singles Chart for a self-written song with her debut single "Wuthering Heights" off her first album, 1978's "The Kick Inside" After appearing on "Saturday Night Live" the same year, Bush gained popularity in both the U.S. and U.K.

THROUGHOUT THE 1980S and early 1990s, Bush remained a musical superstar, lauded by critics for her experimental music, songwriting ability and talent as a pianist, and was nominated for three Grammy Awards and awarded countless other music accolades.

Almost 40 years since her debut, 53-year-old Bush's music still crosses boundaries. "50 Words for Snow," her first all-new album since 2005, proves just that, including a mix of rhythmic slam poetry and text painting.

Composed of seven recordings, the longest nearly 14 minutes in length, "50 Words for Snow" feels wintry without a hint of the cheesy holiday accouterment (jingle bells, anyone?) beaten beyond recognition by musicians every November and December. Each piece of the album, from Bush's quirky lyrics about ghosts, snowman lovers and the Abominable Snowman to her jazzy piano accompaniment, gives it a snowy feel. "50 Words for Snow" features a taste of several musical genres, from growly, gritty blues-rock to soft and shimmery art-pop, all repackaged with a frosty lightness unique to this album.

DESPITE ITS winter themes, "50 Words for Snow" isn't strictly seasonal. Songs like "Misty," about a woman in bed with a snowman, and the album's first Yeti-themed single, "Wild Man," suit both a summer's and winter's day with their springy melodies and poetic lyrics. Famous British musician Elton John contributes to the album in call-and-response ballad "Snowed In at Wheeler Street," which is conceptually similar to Canadian indie band Stars' acclaimed single "Your Ex-Lover is Dead." English actor Stephen Fry is also featured in "50 Words for Snow" on the album's namesake track, an intelligent piece, half-sung and half-spoken, in which Bush plays off the idea that Eskimos have 50 words for snow by creating her own list of snow-inspired terms.

The first two tracks—rambly, repetitive "Snowflake," which includes a part specifically written for Bush's teenage son Albert "Albie" McIntosh, and eerie "Lake Tahoe"—blur together and feel endless. However, by track three, "50 Words for Snow" finds its footing and never relapses.



Marissa



Strong girls’ basketball squad stresses strong defense, determination

By William Chung
Sports editor

Facing Willows Academy 4:30 p.m. today, at home, girl basketballers look to continue their undefeated Independent School League streak.

With a 4-2 (2-0 ISL) record, the Maroons have improved on last year’s record at the same point in the season. The team also defeated Morgan Park Academy November 11, 46-30, avenging their loss to the Warriors last year.

“WE ARE CERTAINLY further along than we were last year,” Coach Tai Duncan said. “We’ve been playing hard and stepping up defensively. They have definitely been executing my coaching more effectively as well.

“Morgan Park beat us last year pretty badly and we were determined to prove, in our first ISL game, that we put a lot of hard work into the off-season and in November.”

“Our games against Agricultural Science and Prospective were also representative of the work we put in, especially in finishing games,” Coach Duncan explained.

“IN BOTH, our lead was either cut or we were behind, but we worked through and won both with good free throws and crucial shots.

Junior Sophia Gatton, cocaptain, and Freshman Kendall Rallins helped the team step up offensively, according to Coach Duncan.

“Sophia and Kendall have been leading the team offensively, with both of them being guards,” Coach Duncan said.

“EVERYONE HAS stepped up and we have a team that has more depth, especially in the guard position.

“Willows is certainly going to be a tough team. They’ve always had good players and I think they are one of the few teams, along with Latin, which has improved from last year. Despite that, we expect to put up some stiff competition.”

Focusing on specific techniques during practice has helped the team, according to Co-captain Lillian Eckstein.

“OUR COACH always has distinct areas to focus on,” Lillian said. “We worked on forcing the other team’s players

to dribble left and boxing them out in order to lessen the number of offensive rebounds in the other team’s favor.

“Our team has shown a lot of improvement from last year, especially by playing tough down low in the post.

“One memorable moment during our first game was when we were down, Kendall stole the ball from the other team and raced down the court with Sophia to score a layup. It really energized our team to see complete dedication even though we were losing.”



RISING UP for a three-pointer, Nadja Barlera leads U-High to a 56-36 victory over Parker December 6 in Upper Kovler. Sophia Gatton scored 20 points for the Maroons, and Kendall Rallins and Maude Jansen scored 10 points each. *Photo by Elizabeth Gelman.*

Basketball boys intend to keep winning plays

By Michael Glick
Midway reporter

Facing the Holy Trinity Tigers in non-Conference play 6 p.m. today in Upper Kovler Gym, the 5-3 varsity basketball boys are seeking their sixth win in nine games (a 10th game, against Elgin last Friday, came after Midway press time).

From the Chicago Prep Conference, the 0-4 Tigers have struggled so far this season, losing to Stevenson 78-31, Christian Liberty 64-58, Christ the King 53-42 and Elgin High School 73-21.

IN THEIR opening competition, the Maroons lost to Timothy Christian 57-45 and Providence-St. Mel 62-56, but defeated Lisle 45-30, Chicago Christian 57-40 and Perspectives-MSA 66-47. Standout Captain Louis Van Craen, senior, averaged over 10 points and 10 rebounds in these first five games.

In their first Conference game December 2, the Maroons defeated Morgan Park Academy 51-21 at home. Junior Kyle Parker netted 14 points and snared six steals. The following day the Maroons played Chicago Vocational, away, and lost 49-35, but followed with a 56-53 win in triple overtime over Brooks College Prep.

Impressed with the team’s progress so far, Varsity Coach Troy Caldwell has his eye on making it to the State Championship in Peoria.

“OUR TEAM brought everything to the opening Lisle Thanksgiving Tournament,” Coach Caldwell said. “The cocaptains, Louis and Junior Brandon Green were impressive in the tournament, along with Junior Mike Dowdy, who received All-Tournament Team honors, and Kyle Parker, who emerged as a force at the point guard position.

“Sophomore Max Rothschild was also on his way to a fantastic start before he suffered a bad ankle sprain, and we hope to have him back in a couple weeks. Our team this year includes only one senior, Louis, but I don’t think this is an issue. The players have created great chemistry with each other, causing age to be of no importance.

“Our goal is to do what no Lab team has ever done: go to the State Championship in Peoria. We practice each day with this goal in our minds, and it is the reason we never let up. The players are confident that the team has what it takes to do this and with this attitude I know they can. We are tired of just win-

ning ISL championships. This year we want State too.”

THE MAROONS know that opposing teams see this year as an opportunity to beat U-High.

“Parker and Latin have both stated that they are confident they will beat us,” Louis said. “Both schools have two talented returning starters on their teams, Senior Judd Barron and Junior Langdon Neal from Parker and Seniors Ethan Lee and Chaz Stevenson from Latin, but I’ve been around our team long enough to know that we are at no disadvantage because of our age. We know how everyone plays, and we’ve built great chemistry as a team.”

Louis believes the small gap in players’ ages this season has helped new players Kyle Parker, Mike Dowdy, Sophomore Caleb Dowdy and Freshman Jordan Moran, among others.

“WITHOUT A GUY like Mike Turner who you can always turn to when you need a quick bucket or dunk, everyone on the team has to step up,” Louis said. “Our team has become much more team-oriented this season, and I think in the long run that’s a good thing.”

Jordan, the only freshman on the team, believes having only one senior will not cause difficulties.

“The older players are great role models, and they’ve been great leaders,” Jordan said. “Even during seemingly simple drills like shooting lay-ups, the older players demand each player give it their all and they lead by example. By hustling each and every practice, the team has become very close, and I think this will only help us down the road.”

“On days when we’re not feeling up to practice, the coaches are always quick to remind us of our goal of making it to State and how hard we have to work to get there.

J.V., 3-3, finished 2nd at the Lisle Tournament, and will face Holy Trinity’s j.v. team 4:30 p.m. today at home.

“Our team really stepped up at the Lisle Thanksgiving Tournament, especially Caleb Dowdy, a varsity player as well, who is averaging over 10 points a game for j.v.,” said Freshman Jeffrey Jou, one of six new players. “Our team really excels at pressing other teams, and we did this particularly well in our 59-20 win over Morgan Park Academy. Our physical defense helps us force many turnovers and score lots of fast-break points, which has helped us both hold leads and catch up in times of need.”

Reading...fun? It is at 57th Street!



Books, Homum Ahsan listens excitedly while Rex Gu reads Shel Silverstein’s “Where the Sidewalk Ends.” *Photo by Lili Steffen.*

Escape the Chicago chills and come explore 57th Street Books! Offering textbooks, standardized test study books, novels, even childrens’ stories, 57th Street Books is there to solve any book dilemma just two blocks away from U-High. Don’t hesitate to turn the corner for some great deals!



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Pioneering U-High fencer returns as assistant coach

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Associate editor

Returning to U-High as assistant fencing coach, University of Chicago sophomore Bill Stueben, U-High Class of 2010, is now coaching under Coach Bakyht Abdikulov.

With players split into competing in Epee, Foil, and Saber (three different types of fencing), Seniors Duncan Holmes and Lexie Barber are cocaptaining the team with Sophomore Harrison Macrae. The 24-member team, with 16 returning and eight new members, includes five seniors, seven juniors, four sophomores and seven freshmen.

CHALLENGING SCHOOLS including New Trier in Winnetka and Stevenson in Lincolnshire, the Maroons competed in its first three tournaments in Deerfield, Wisconsin, November 5; Stevenson, November 12; and in Waukesha, Wisconsin, November 17. At those tournaments, four team members placed in the top eight at the first, top two at the second, and top six at the third. Team members are now preparing for their next tournament, The Midway Classic, January 7 at home.

Mr. Stueben is replacing Mr. Francisco Boghicev.

“I really enjoyed competing for Lab in all ways and was a Lifer at Lab,” he said. “I thought it was a good way to give back to something I got so much from since I attend the University of Chicago now. It’s also fun to teach something that I’ve done for so long. Mr. Ribbens contacted me to see if I was interested, and I thought for a while how to balance my studies with this job, and I realized I could do it.”

AS A U-HIGHER Mr. Stueben besides fencing also excelled in golf and tennis; won the school’s highest athletic honor, the Monilaw Award, and the Coach’s Award for fencing two consecutive years; and was a Midway sports editor. He said he had been unsure what to expect from the current fencers.

“I have fenced since I was 9 with Coach Bakyht,” Mr. Stueben said. “When I was a sophomore I joined the club and when I was a junior I helped turn it into a varsity sport. I’d fenced individually and on clubs, but never in a team atmosphere like there was at Lab.

“Coming in I didn’t know what the talent level of the



They’ll be dancin’, dancin’ in the gym

“STEP OUT! In! Down! Kick up!”

Captain Sarah Husain, senior, cocaptain with Maxine Nesbitt, junior, yell the steps as the Dance Team runs through choreography during an after-school practice Friday, December 2. After 45 minutes of stretching and warm-ups, the girls practiced for their upcoming boys’ basketball halftime performance today.

In addition to performing during halftime, the 15-member team plans to collaborate more with the varsity boys’ basketball team to make the basketball experience at

team would be, but we have some really experienced members like Harrison, Duncan and the Greene triplets (Juniors Nathaniel, Charlie and Willa), which has really helped. They have created a winning atmosphere and, their experience helps us compete against much larger schools like Stevensen and New Trier.”

A MEMBER FOR seven years of the Windy City Fencing Club, a club for young Epee fencers in Chicago, Harrison attended the fencing World Cup over Thanksgiving as an individual.

“I was fortunate to compete because there are various national fencing tournaments throughout the year where you can get points, depending on how you do,” Harrison explained. “These points are added up to give

U-High more exciting. “We’re going to have a lot great performances this year and hopefully greater turnouts at the games,” Maxine said. “Something new we are doing this year is pairing each dancer to a member of the varsity basketball team to boost school spirit.

“We will be making lockers signs for the players before home games and wear their names and numbers on the backs of our shirts for big games,” Maxine added. “We will also take part in the Pep Rallies during lunch before big games, to get students excited to come and support U-High.” Photo by Elizabeth Gelman.

you your national ranking. The top 15 fencers who want to go the tournament went to this one, and I was 17, but since two of the top 15 did not want to compete, I was able to go.

“The way it works is, there are the national tournaments, and then three tournaments in Europe per year that count the U.S competes in,” Harrison said. “It was my first time at an international tournament, and also my first time out of the country. I got really nervous but it was a good experience.

“I finished 38 out of 140 fencers, which was not quite as well as I would have liked. However, it was great to fence people from other countries and communicate through a common activity.”

Swimmers hopeful even after losing nine seniors

By Max Brown
Midway reporter

Maroon swimmers will take on much larger Morton High School 4:30 today at its east campus in Cicero for their first major challenge of the season.

Morton boasts an enrollment of over 3,000, dwarfing U-High’s 496, and makes a win for the boys’ swim team seem near impossible. Nevertheless, Head Coach Paul Gunty said that in previous years, the meets have been evenly matched.

“IF YOU LOOK at the meets for the past couple of years, you’ll see that the wins between the schools are pretty much split half and half,” Mr. Gunty said. “However, this meet is at the beginning of the year so it will be tough to be fully prepared for them, especially for j.v.”

U-High swimmers will look to continue their good start today after placing 3rd in an invitational at Bremen December 2 and 3rd-to-last at in invitational at St. Viator December 7. Competing with 36 swimmers, the Maroons return five seniors and add one newcomer.

“We lost a number of strong seniors last year,” Mr. Gunty said. “The current seniors will really have to step it up this year because they weren’t starters as juniors.”

AMONG THE YOUNGER swimmers, Junior David Tong is returning after breaking a school record in the 100 meter butterfly during last year’s Sectionals. Mr. Gunty also noted Junior William

Chung, Sophomore Elliot Levmore and Freshmen Alex Kim and Justin Whitehouse look poised for solid seasons.

“I think we have a lot of talent on our team,” Alex said. “With that and all the hard work we put in during practice, I don’t see why we can’t do really well this year.”

Five other freshmen have also joined the swim team at the j.v. level.

AFTER WINTER BREAK, the Maroons face two new opponents at home. First comes daunting Glenbard North, a large suburban public school, Friday January 6, then Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center Tuesday January 10. Both meets will take place at the University of Chicago’s Gerald Ratner Athletics Center at 4:30.

Next comes St. Ignatius away at 5 p.m. Thursday January 12. Ignatius has won IHSA Sectionals in the Maroons’ division the past nine years and last year defeated U-High in Hyde Park 111 to 59 at Ratner. Saturday January 14, the Maroons swim at Riverside-Brookfield and three days later, visit Northside, who U-High narrowly defeated the previous year. The Maroons will then swim against Evergreen Park, Saturday January 21, away; Latin 4:30 at home, January 24; Conant, away, January 28 and St. Rita, away, January 31 to end the month of January.

The team’s four cocaptains have yet to be announced, but will all likely be seniors.

“I think we have a lot of talent on our team. With that and all the hard work we put in during practice, I don’t see why we can’t do really well this year.”– Alex Kim, freshman

Put the holidays in bloom!



DECK THE HALLS, the dining room, the front porch, deck whatever you feel like decorating! Make the holidays merry and bright with life! Plants and flowers from CORNELL FLORIST will brighten any holiday! Selecting a present for her mother after school, Senior Ana Rosic admires her bouquet of baby’s breath.

Photo by Christian Castaneda.

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The face of everyday U-High fashion caught candidly



WARM UNDER a knit sweater, Ary Hansen flashes an H&M frock. “I like that my dress was made of fake leather which could be tacky but the looseness gave a princess feel.”



SIMPLE BUT fashionable, Kevin Goldwater sports \$53 fabric dyed Levi’s skinny jeans and leather Top-Sider Sperry shoes he got on sale for \$60 at DSW.



CLAD IN hand-me-downs, Jolisha Johson enjoys color. “I don’t want to walk into school wearing something someone is wearing, so I try to look as original as possible.”



SHOPPING ONLINE, Jason Deng finds rarities. “I like to dress differently. I feel like everyone is unique and there’s no point looking like the person next to you.”



BOLD IN a leather skirt, Catherine Yunis’ scarf adds color. “I like clothes with character which is why this is my favorite skirt. I also like a lot of color so I wore the scarf.”



COLLAR POPPED, Adam Picker dresses stylishly but comfortably. “My clothes are nice but you know, it’s not like I’m going to a ballroom dance. My shirt is still untucked.”



BUNDLED FOR winter, Dom Wordlaw wrapped himself in a \$20 thrift store scarf and an Urban Outfitters cardigan, his outfit was topped by a bright green belt.



DRAPED OVER Kendall Reynolds’ shoulders is a Gucci sweater brought together with BCBG shoes.

Photos by Taylor Crowl



ENZYME WASH JEANS balance Sam Van Loon’s \$20 light pink Hollister shirt and a \$90 hat from his godfather with combat boots he found online.



VINTAGE YET preppy, Andrew Palmer loves Rugby Ralph Lauren. “I love the tweed blazer. It’s classic preppy 1930’s. I try to wear bow ties whenever I can.”

Surprise encounter with famed Holocaust denier punctuates trip

By Sydney Scarlata
Executive Director of Special Projects

Hunched over and frustrated with her reading in the United States Holocaust Museum library in Washington D.C., Monday, November 21 on a Holocaust class trip, Senior Rosie Cuneo-Grant struggled to read about Holocaust denial, the topic of her final paper. “That’s my book,” she heard a voice say.

TO HER SURPRISE, Rosie turned around to face tall, grey haired, 73-year-old David Irving, British author of “Hitler’s War,” Rosie’s book, and 30 others, and World War II speaker, known for his open denial of the Holocaust. In many of his controversial works, Mr. Irving has sympathized with the Third Reich and openly criticized the Jews.

For his claims regarding the Holocaust in a 1989 speech, Mr. Irving was banned from entering Germany, Austria, Canada, Italy and later Australia. Seven years later, Mr. Irving filed a libel suit against Holocaust author Deborah Lipstadt and Penguin Books, for stating that he was a Holocaust denier who distorted real documents, and lost.

AFTER ILLEGALLY VISITING Austria in 2005, Mr. Irving was sentenced to three years in prison in Vienna. He appealed and was later released after 13 months.

Initially distressed, Rosie accepted Mr. Irving’s invitation to have coffee.

“It was a shocking experience,” Rosie

said. “When he first approached me, I was definitely unsettled. However, after discussing it with Mrs. Shapiro (Holocaust course teacher), I realized the magnitude of the opportunity, and decided to agree to his offer of an interview with you. The entire interaction was definitely outside of my comfort zone.

“His opinions on the Holocaust were disturbing. He basically said that Hitler was victimized, and didn’t know about the final solution until much later in its implementation. I think his ideas were valuable of course, coming from the Lab history program, we’ve always been considerate of others’ opinions, even if we disagree.

“SO YES, I appreciated and recognized ideas, but what struck me the most was how much he believed that his opinions were fact. I think that element was also the most terrifying. I’m very glad I had the opportunity. After the initial shock wore off, I realized I’d learned a lot from the experience, mainly how to cope with someone who personally offended me because I am Jewish.

“He referred to Jews going through gas chambers as facilities ‘processing meat,’ and he explained that another Holocaust against Jews will emerge from Occupy Wall Street because he knows that all Jews are wealthy. When I asked if he had sympathy for the Jews that were victims of the Holocaust, he changed the subject.”

Students praise 2011 U-Highlights

By Max Brown and Michael Glick
Midway reporters

Handed out last month after several delays because of printer errors which required reprinting a page and then having the yearbook staff paste the new version of the page over the original version in more than 580 copies, the 2011 U-Highlights got rave reviews from students, faculty members and parents.

At 208 pages, the yearbook is the largest in U-High history and the first chronologically organized book since 1991. The book also restored club group photos for the first time in 40 years and for the first time gave sports

teams and scoreboxes their own section.

The editors-in-chief were Seniors Sarah Husain and Ary Hansen and the photo editor Jackie Robertson.

“I really like the chronological order of the book because it brought back a lot of good memories and it was kind of like re-experiencing last year as I went through the pages,” said Junior William Chung, brother of one of the book’s sports editors, David Chung, now a freshman at West Point Military Academy.

Many readers praised the use of facing pages which featured one large photo, “especially the pages of Ellen Ma in the snow,” said Sophomore Rooby Koontz.

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BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER or just a fun get-together, the Medici is a guaranteed successful setting for good times with friends or family. You can always rely on this classic Hyde Park gathering spot for the best in delicious dining and relaxing socializing. Under the Medici sign, from left, Amelia Mazzarella, Willa Green, Maya Barody and Charlie Green await another friend to arrive before going in. Photo by Nathaniel Green.

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