



A new Principal

After a search far and wide, a principal from a large, suburban high school is ready to step into the U-High spotlight.

See Sydney Scarlata's interview on page 3.

SET rolls out comic relief in six parts

Student-written play tops show of one-acts

By Marissa Page
Associate editor

Three cave dwellers deliberate how to hunt a wild bison. One throws a rock at the animal, killing it and thus beginning the Stone Age.

The only student-written play in this year's Student Experimental Theatre production, Senior Dylan Lambert-Gilliam's "In the Beginning" will be among six one-acts Thursday-Saturday, February 23-25. Tickets, \$10, are on sale in the U-High Lobby.

PARTICIPATING IN playwriting workshops at The Second City Theatre since age 12, Dylan said he drew inspiration for "In the Beginning" from British comedian Eddie Izzard.

"I'd like to say I had this sudden flash of inspiration and came up with this play, but basically more and more ideas came into my mind leading up to the deadline and I just kind of wrote something," he explained.

"The script was based loosely off a joke about the Stone Age by Eddie Izzard, and my experience writing comedy stemmed from workshops I took at Second City. I tried to funnel that into a short time frame appropriate for a one-act, while at the same time adding good character development."

JUXTAPOSING THE comedic plays with serious poems also being presented, SET will display students' abilities in different genres, says SET Board Head Sydney Fishman, senior.

"Of the seven student-written works, only three made it into the final lineup for SET this year: two poems and one play," Sydney said. "The student-written play that was chosen fits well with the others, since all of them are com-

edies. Most SET plays the past few years have been comedies, as a good number of one-acts are comedic.

"The poems, conversely, are more serious, which gives the actors and directors an opportunity to experiment with two very different styles of theatre. In addition, compared with the plays, the more serious poems provide the audience a window into the actors' stylistic range."

The staging for "Illusion/Separation," one of two poems written and directed by Sophomore Maria Conlon, requires two actors to recite parts of the poem while mimicking each other's movements, while the other five poems feature one speaker and minimal staging.

"**I CAME UP** with the idea for 'Illusion/Separation' in the middle of a dry writing season," Maria explained. "I was desperate to write something, so I turned to my friend in class and asked for two words to base a poem off of. She came up with 'illusion' and 'separation,' which I mulled over for a few days.

"The end product is basically about one person looking in the mirror and feeling separate from what she sees, and then trying to break away from that. Two actors will recite the poem together. They will be facing one another right in front of the audience and mirroring one another as they speak."

A Sound-and-Lights show will combine techno music and bright light patterns designed to energize the audience, explains Sound Master Maddie Lindsey, senior.

"**I'M USING** A cut of 'Satisfaction' by Benni Benassi for the sound because it's catchy and most people know it," Maddie said. "Two freshmen, Apoorva Gundeti and Carly Plys-Garzotto, are performing a dance to it. As for the lights, we're using a lot of pulsing vibrant colors, like oranges and reds



AMONG SIX one-acts featured in this year's Student Experimental Theatre production, "In the Beginning", directed and written by Dylan Lambert-Gilliam, tells the

story of the beginning of the Stone Age, depicting the hunting adventures of cavepeople Nicholas Phalen, left, Staci Gusakova and Joe Martin. Photo by Taylor Crowl.

with shots of green. The show will hopefully energize the audience for the last two plays and break up the pattern a little bit."

Other plays are as follows:

"**PITY THE FOOL**"—Two women go to an art gallery to see a "live sculpture," and one woman becomes more interested in the statue than the other. **Cast:** Zoe Briskey, Catherine Yunis, Jeremy Biskind, Carly Plys-Garzotto. Under-

study: Jarrett Lampley. **Written by** D.M. Larson and Loren Sosnick.

"**COME RAIN OR COME SHINE**"—A man goes to visit his mother with a male friend in tow. The mother believes their relationship is more than platonic. **Cast:** Clea Braendel, Harry Thornton, Philip Lockwood-Bean. Understudies: McKenzie Zimmerman, Sameer Sawaged. **Written by** Jeni Mahoney and Sydney Fishman.

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Action-packed assemblies to bookend Artsfest

By Aneesh Kanakamedala
Associate editor

Assembling snow globes for needy children in Uganda, performing stand-up comedy, and facing off in free-style rap battles, will be among activities in 55 workshops being presented by students, faculty members, and guests for Artsfest Thursday.

Following an opening assembly at 9 a.m., five 45-minute periods beginning 9:55 a.m. will be offered. Students signed up last week through Google Docs and attendance will be taken at each workshop. Absences will result in "work details,"



PERFECTING MOVES for their Artsfest Opening Assembly performance, Bhangra dancers Emily Altkorn, Angira Shirahatti and Maxine Nesbitt rehearse after school in U-High 304. Photo by Sarah Husain.

including cleaning around the school, according to High School Dean of Students Larry McFarlane.

MANY U-HIGHERS may not know Artsfest started more than 50 years ago as Arts Week, created by Student Council. At one point, the program stretched to two weeks and included judged art shows. The program began diminishing when administrators refused to give sponsoring teachers pay for evening and weekend work.

With opening and closing assemblies in Upper Kovler Gym bookending the day, Dance Troupe and Bhangra Team will perform to a fusion of pop and Indian music in the morning assembly. Other performers will include standup comedian Dylan Lambert-Gilliam, senior; an unnamed singing group led by Junior Caroline Montag; and a secret performer.

The closing assembly at 2:40 p.m. will feature improv group Comedy Sportz, a Chicago favorite for almost 25 years. Troupe members will perform short "themes" and songs based on audience suggestion and relate them to U-High current events.

"**TO REALLY CONNECT** with the viewers, we ask about the audience before we perform for private performances, like the one for Artsfest," said Mr. Greg Werstler, Comedy Sportz director of creative sales and chief financial officer.

"We just want to know what's been going around at school, whether it's an idiosyncratic issue or some high-profile teacher, and we use this information to customize each performance."

"During the performance itself, we ask the audience for suggestions like a relationship or a setting. All of our scenes also involve a game format. So for instance, in one game we play a scene that

lasts three minutes and then the performers have to replay that same scene in two minutes, then one minute, then 30 seconds, then 10 seconds."

IMPLEMENTING A NEW on-line method for students to look up workshops, Artsfest Committee head organizers Ary Hansen and Molly Petchenik, seniors, hoped to make sign-up for workshops easier.

"We wanted to make sure that all students could sign up early and use a method that would be both effective and efficient," Ary said. "We did sign-up on Google Docs, which hopefully made workshop sign up easy. Students just had to post their names and choose their workshops according to period via a drop-box menu. Also this year we are using hall monitors to ensure attendance, and are addressing the music content to tone down inappropriate language."

AFTER APPROXIMATELY 80 students attended Senior Josh Koenig's "The Art of Freestyle Rap" workshop last year, he plans to incorporate more school themes into his workshop this year.

"I try to rap about subjects related to high school students instead of a lot of the stuff on the radio," Josh said. "Basically, the audience suggests themes at first, like 'Family Guy' or 'ocean', and I have to string them together in a freestyle rap."

"I wanted this workshop to be more introspective, and will inspire students to seek alternative forms of expressing themselves. I don't think I'm the best at freestyle rap, but I still like it and because of that I do it. I want other U-Highers to think the same way, doing what they want regardless of how good they are."

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Principal brings extensive experience

Dr. Scott Fech has rich history in schools both as a student and an educator

By Sydney Scarlata
Executive Director of Special Projects

I always knew I loved school. I loved learning new things and I've always connected well with teachers. In college I tried a couple of different majors but I always came back to education."

So says U-High's new principal, Dr. Scott Fech.

FOLLOWING MONTHS of deliberation, Principal Search Committee members recommended their decision to Lab Schools Director David Magill in late January and Mr. Magill announced his decision February 9.

Growing up in Northwest Indiana (and making frequent trips to Chicago with his family), Dr. Fech remained in Indiana for college where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary French Education from Indiana University at Bloomington.

He then went on to receive his Masters of Theological Studies from the University of St. Michael's College in Toronto, Canada, his Masters of Educational Studies in Administration from Purdue University back in Indiana and his PhD in Administration and Supervision from Loyola University Chicago.

"SOCIAL JUSTICE has always resonated with me," Dr. Fech said in a phone interview. "I did my dissertation on leaders in high poverty areas in the state of Illinois. I looked why do some students succeed while others do not and how does the principal fit into this structure. I found a few commonalities like the fact that they all had a vision for how to keep a school committed to education and achievement."

After six years as principal of Bishop Noll Institute in Hammond, Indiana, and serving as principal, director of staff service and assistant superintendent of personal at Grayslake North High School in Greyslake, Illinois, Dr. Fech hopes to become an active participant of the changes the Lab Schools is undergoing.

"Something that I loved about U-High is everyone's committed to excellence," Dr. Fech said. "Everyone has a shared understanding of this mission. I hope to co construct the next step with the community in

future planning. Because there are huge expansion plans underway, my job will be to take a look at how we are going to prepare for these changes and how we are going to maintain excellence in the midst of construction. I think patience and listening will be key elements."

While visiting U-High January 20 (he was back February 20), Dr. Fech was struck by how students approached their work.

"I ONLY POPPED into a few classes when I visited but I was very impressed with what students were working on," Dr. Fech explained. "The conversations were amazing. In one class, students were talking about multiple renaissances. They weren't typical conversations. It was an interesting way to approach the subject."

"What I found interesting is the amount of freedom the students have compared to a typical high school. Student time is their own to use which is something I'm not used to. The students I saw in the halls were serious and focused and having a good time. I think this freedom is important because in post secondary schools, freedom does exist. It is great that they will be prepared for that."

During his visit, Mr. Fech devoted some time talking with a panel of students about their thoughts on U-High.

"FROM LISTENING to the student panel, the main concern students voiced to me was the lack of school spirit," Mr. Fech said. "I think it is difficult at U-High because everyone is coming from a variety of places. I think the advisory program is a great place to start."

"Back at Bishop Noll, I created a one semester advisory program for freshmen. Students studied the school traditions, history and alumni to teach them about the importance of school. I hope that I can help students by providing opportunities, like sporting and fine arts events, for them to come together and support each other in and out



DURING A JANUARY VISIT as a Principal candidate, Dr. Scott Fech met with the Director, Lab Schools Board members, parents, administrators, and faculty members staff members. Photo by Christian Castaneda.

of the classroom. I really think the social aspects of school are as important as academics.

"My goal as principal is to remain focused on what's important and to be driven by the needs of the students, not the adults. I have a great ability to listen and connect well with people."

"I'M ALSO GOOD at remembering peoples names. I think this is important when getting to know students and is the first step to figuring out where they need more support."

"With the faculty, my mission is to work with them to provide the best social, athletic and academic opportunities for the students. The teachers are working more directly with students and I hope to support them and try to remove obstacles I can to support their ideas."

Mr. Fech begins work at U-High as principal July 1 for the coming school year.

A decision made after broad collaboration

By Sydney Scarlata
Executive Director of Special Projects

Four teachers. Three administrators. Three parents. Two students.

After on going deliberations which began after Thanksgiving break, Principal Search Committee members recommended their principal choice for next year to Lab Schools Director David Magill Tuesday January 31 and Dr. Fech was named Principal Thursday February 9.

COMPRISED OF 12 members, including Mr. Magill, the committee was created after Principal Matt Horvat announced in November this school year would be his last.

The final candidates, Dr. Scott Fech and Ms. Mary Elizabeth "Lisa" Baker came in to get acquainted with the school and speak with board members, administrators, teachers, students, parents and staff members January 24 and 26.

Initially beginning with between 50 and 60 applicants, the committee narrowed down the candidates to seven, then after close deliberation agreed on two according to Mr. Magill.

"I think the process went great," Mr. Magill said. "I wanted a person who would be here for a while, someone who was not looking for the next career step. I was looking for a person who could bring people together and was good with students. I also wanted someone who could deal with the new changes and would not be scared to make hard decisions that come with these changes."

"BECAUSE WE'RE in the process of building a new art wing, I wanted someone who had a deep appreciation of the arts and held arts up high.

"I've been doing this for a long time. I really believe the committee was a good representation of the community. The teachers were picked by their colleagues and represented four different sectors of the school."

"Also the entire community had a chance to participate in this process. Anyone could give feedback and the final candidates were even able to meet with parents, teachers, students and administrators before I made the decision."

"On the committee, I was the facilitator. I screened all the applicants and did the background checks. I wanted the committee to be able to go deeper and discuss their opinions, while I listened carefully."

"THIS WAS my process and it has been a process I've used in many searches. I like it because I don't have to do all of the work and have a discussion with community members. In the end, everyone came to a conclusion and they felt they could live with either candidate."

For Math Teacher Shauna Anderson, the process was an opportunity for her to hear faculty members' ideas and concerns about the school.

"People definitely want academic excellence to continue," Ms. Anderson said. "So we wanted to make sure that our next principal understood that. People also talk about stress at this school, and how much pressure the kids are under to work hard."

"Though we want to maintain an academically rigorous environment, we also want to find a balance between the stress and academic work."

"I THINK IT was important that all

(continued from page 8)

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LAUGHING GLEEFULLY, Michelle Ng enjoys discovering yet another of Powell's unique books. Photo by Reem Khondakar.

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Arts Expo draws enthusiastic crowds

MARVELED BY the intricate details (photos from top) of a photograph on display, Lucy Doss was among U-Highers at the first-time “Connections” Art Expo last month.

THE SHOW featured almost 1000 pieces of student artwork from all the schools with musical performances throughout the day by Bel Canto; a musical group consisting of Gene Cochrane, Jolisha Johnson and Alex Ortel; and Catherine Zhou, among others.

HARRY Thornton, among about 10 musical performances at the expo, played Bach’s Cello Prelude to an enthralled audience. *Photos by Elizaeth Gelman.*



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Brief-ly

Concert will offer talents of student musicians, singers

Classical musical again will keynote the next Afternoon Recital showcasing talent from U-High and the 7th and 8th grades in the Middle School. The program will take place 3 p.m. in Fulton Recital Hall in the Goodspeed Building on the U. of C. campus. The public is invited and there is no charge.

“This is a great opportunity not only for the musicians, but for Lab students and families to hear so many of our outstanding young performers,” said Music Teacher Bradley Brickner, who founded the program and has coordinated it ever since with Music Teacher Katy Sinclair also working on it.

■ **BILINGUALISM**—Hoping to explore the benefits of bilingualism and biculturalism in and outside the classroom, a panel discussion, “Why a Second Language? Linguistic and Cognitive Advantages,” will take place 3:30 p.m. tomorrow in Judd 126.

Professors Anastasia Giannakidou of the University of Chicago, and Kai Gonzalez and Kara Morgan-Short, directors of the Bilingualism and Second Language Acquisition Labs at the University of Illinois at Chicago will speak about the benefits of bilingualism, according to World Languages Department Chairperson Suzanne Baum.

■ **FINALISTS**—Nearly 30 seniors have made the Finalist stage in two prestigious national scholarship programs.

Twenty-one seniors have been named Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship program and are eligible for scholarships. They are:

Grace Brody, Gene Cochrane, Emma Davis, Nathan Eckstein, Alice Fine, Sydney Fishman, Ary Hansen, Duncan Holmes, Charles Jiang, Tomi Johnson, Nabila Khondakar, Molly Petchenik, Eric Pettinato, Nicholas Phalen, Robert Radway, Charlie Raffkin, JR Reed, Ana Rosic, Benny Wah, Kristina Wald, Catherine Yunis.

Five seniors reached the Finals round of the National Achievement Scholarship program and are eligible for scholarships. They are Alexander Barber, Jessica Hubert, Tomi Johnson, Asha Ransby-Sporn and Akila Raoul.

In the Intel Science Talent search, Senior Robert Radway has made the Semifinals.

■ **MODEL U.N.** —Awarded Outstanding Large Delegation at the 59th annual Harvard Model United Nations January 26-29 in Boston, the Model U.N. team will begin preparation next week for their final conference.

Twenty-one team members are expected to compete at the last event, April 19-22 at Northwestern University in north suburban Evanston. The group will consist of freshman, sophomore, and junior delegates. Seniors completed their year with the Harvard meet.

At Harvard, the U-Highers participated against delegates from over 36 countries, 3,000 students in total. John P. Stevens High School of Edison, New Jersey, won Best Overall Delegation. Two U-High team members were disqualified after they copied an online source and used it in their resolution, confirms Model U.N. President Rosie Cuneo-Grant, senior.

“We’re taking the disqualification as an opportunity to improve our own research methods and working on how we articulate ideas clearly in speeches,” Rosie said.

History Teacher Paul Horton announced to the Harvard Model U.N. team February 1 that he plans to resign as Model U.N. Adviser at the end of the year.

“After five years of doing this at U-High and sponsoring at two other schools previously, I think it’s time to finally rest,” Mr. Horton said. “It wears you down, and it gets harder and harder to recover after conferences.”

■ **DEBATE** —Having made it to the elimination round at a Debate Tournament late last month at Emory University in Atlanta, debaters

experienced defeat in a final round.

The debaters also attended a tournament at Berkeley University in California last weekend, after Midway press time. and is preparing for a tournament at Homewood-Flossmor this weekend, according to Charlie Raffkin, cocaptain with Joyce Harduvel. Both are seniors.

“In January we had a string of three tournaments in four weeks which was really intense and stressful but prepared us for the upcoming tournament,” Charlie said. “We have intense practice and we’re preparing new arguments so the other teams won’t be used to what we’re going to say. We’ve also held two full practice debates to prepare.”

■ **WINNERS**—Four U-Highers have won awards in this year’s Alliance for Young Artists and Writers regional competition. Established in 1994, the nonprofit organization recognizes teenagers with outstanding artistic and literary talent. U-High winners are as follows:

MATT JUNGERT, *senior*—Gold Key, three of them, sculpture; Silver Key, design; honorable mention, design; honorable mention, portfolio.

CATHERINE YUNIS, *senior*—Gold Key, poetry; honorable mention, poetry.

EMILY HSEE, *sophomore*—Gold Key, two of them, painting; honorable mention, painting.

ELLEN MA, *junior*—Silver Key, three of them, painting; honorable mention, three of them, painting.

The Gold Key winners now progress to the national competition and one of Matt’s winning sculptures is nominated for the national American Visions award.

■ **T-SHIRT CONTEST**—The Medici on 57th restaurant is sponsoring a T-Shirt contest with a March 1 deadline. The contest rules and entry form are available at medici57.com. The contest is open to all artists of any age, though U-Highers under 18 years old will need to have a parent or guardian submit their entries.

■ **THEATRICALS** —Receiving 1st place honors at both an in-school competition and a Chicago branch competition, Freshman Harry Thornton will proceed to the English-Speaking Union’s National Shakespeare competition April 22-24 in New York City.

The 30-year old program encompasses 16,000 participants nationwide every year and was brought to U-High by English Teacher Rachel Nielson.

Eighteen students participated in the school-wide event, reciting monologues from a Shakespeare play of their choice.

This was not Harry’s first experience with Shakespeare.

“I’ve been acting since I was nine years old and I’ve been doing Shakespeare that long as well,” Harry said. “I’ve done more Shakespeare than any other kind of play. The town I lived in had a great youth Shakespeare program that helped to cultivate that interest.”

The Chicago competition featured 19 actors, with an audience of teachers, students, judges, and alternate performers the school could choose to bring.

■ **HELP THE ANIMALS**—U-High’s Students Against Cruelty Club will accept contributions to its drive for old clothes through Friday. The box is next to Officer Mike Cephus’ desk in the library. The clothes will be fashioned into toys for animals at the Anti-Cruelty Society.

■ **SAFETY FIRST** —Following a recent assault of a U-High student at 5:30 p.m. on 57th and Dorchester February 9, Mr. Christopher Jones, Lab Schools executive director of finance and operations, urges students to stay alert when walking around campus and other surrounding areas.

“The simplest things people can do are walk with a buddy and stay aware of their environment,” Mr. Jones said.

Club to support military charities

By Rolland Long
Associate editor

A ping pong tournament sponsored by Armed Forces Support Club members next quarter will raise funds for military charities.

Seniors Adrianna McKenzie and Jessica Hubert formed the club last Spring to provide funds for military charities. The club, with about a dozen members, meets every Wednesday lunch in U-High 307.

While Adrianna considered forming a military club in the past, she says reading “The Things They Carried,” a Vietnam War novel surrounding the trials of an ensemble of soldiers in Ms. Carolyn Walter’s “Memory Serves” English elective last year, pushed her to create the club.

“I had been thinking about starting a military club before since my grandfather was in

the Vietnam War,” Adrianna said. “But it really hit me to step up after reading ‘The Things They Carried.’”

“After reading about the mentally damaging effects that Vietnam had on the characters, I became very interested in the subject matter. I realized that I wanted to help the people who put their lives and mental health on the line for our country. So, with the help of Jessica Hubert, I cofounded the club.”

The club is broadening projects to include fundraisers that go beyond bake sales, Adrianna says.

“Last quarter we just raised funds through bake sales, but right now we’re organizing a ping pong tournament which people would need to pay \$2 to \$3 to play,” Adrianna said. “It’ll take place in the cafeteria using tables lent from the University.”

Lorem Ipsum.....by Gene Cochrane



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CHARACTER SKETCH BY HEBAH MASOOD

An artist and entrepreneur everyone knows

IS THERE anyone at U-High who doesn’t know Danny Ilyin?

Often seen wearing button down shirts and a brown suede jacket, every year Danny single-handedly runs the Variety Show he founded three years ago.

GROWING UP in Moscow, Russia, Danny came to the United States when he was in 3rd grade and his parents took positions teaching physics at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. When they accepted new positions when he was in 7th grade, he came to Chicago.

“At first when I moved to California it was a hard to get used to,” Danny said. “There was a different culture and I didn’t know a lot of English. I knew some but I couldn’t speak it fluently; Russian was still my first language. At first, it was hard learning the culture, how people think and interact, and the difference in cultural values.

“In 3rd grade they made us learn the recorder. I’d never actually seen a recorder before, and based on my English I thought the teacher was teaching us how to record ourselves with a tape recorder, and when they gave us the actual instrument I was really confused.”

AT AGE 3, after his parents saw his curiosity in their piano, Danny had started taking classical piano lessons. Two years ago, he started playing jazz piano, and recently started recording a cappella versions of songs like “Honesty” by Billy Joel and “L-O-V-E” by Nat King Cole. He also plans to record more modern songs such as “Party Rock Anthem,” by LMFAO.

“I like how the a cappella lets me explore existing

songs in a different way,” Danny said. “I can’t recreate the song exactly, for example, you can’t mimic a drum set with your voice, but the ways you can approach the sound are very interesting. I love performing because it allows me to express my emotions and feelings and communicate with the audience in a language that is universally understood.”

AFTER NOTICING U-Highers had interesting talents that others didn’t know of, in May, 2010, Danny founded and created the Variety Show to present their abilities.

“There are really cool things that people don’t usually do in school, talents that are not widely known, like performing magic or stand-up comedy,” Danny said.

“It’s great that even though the Variety Show idea was mine, everyone who participated helped put it together. The show lets people display their creative sides. For instance, this year, a guy who rarely performed acted out very cool parody of Beatles’ ‘Yesterday,’ describing all the files he lost. During the November Variety Show this year there were over 100 people in the audience.”

A PERFORMER in sketches Danny has written and directed for the Variety show, Senior Joe Martin describes Danny as “a really crazy guy. He’s kind of like a robot. He barely sleeps and packs more in a day than is really humanly possible. He’s been part of a bunch of activities and basically puts on the Variety Show once or twice a year completely by himself.”

In addition to the founding the Variety Show, Danny also created the Swing Dance Club last December.

“I started swing dancing three years ago,” Danny said. “When I lived in California I learned some Russian folk dance. I really enjoyed taking the Russian dance classes because it allowed me to interact with other Russians and because it’s part of my heritage and of who I am. Swing dance is American folk dance. I wanted to see what it was like so I took lessons and got really into it. I like the social aspect, because you interact with many interesting people while you’re dancing.”



Art by Gene Cochrane
 DANNY ILYIN



Speaking of genders

THREE SPEAKERS from GenderQueer Chicago, an organization dedicated to creating safe discussions and thought about gender, spoke to about 15 Spectrum members during lunch February 2 in U-High 106.

Beginning their talk by asking U-Highers present to identify the gender pronoun they use, the speakers addressed the idea of non-binary gender, having an identity that is neither male nor female, as they told stories of their own lives and answered questions. The speakers were, from left, Katherine Scott Nelson, ellie june navidson, and Hyacinth Piel. Photo by Carolyn Voth.

Yearbook wins top state contest honors

Winning 1st place honors in five of eight contest categories, the 2011 U-Highlights won the top award, Best Overall Excellence, in the Illinois Journalism Education Association’s annual yearbook competition.

The U-High book competed in the category of schools with under 500 enrollment; it won more First Place awards than any other yearbook in all three enrollment categories. The First Place awards came in Best Photography, Best Coverage of the School Year, Best Sports Coverage, Best Copy and Best Layout and Design.

From the National Scholastic Press Association headquartered at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, U-Highlights received a First Class rating with Marks of Distinction for Coverage and for Writing and Editing.

Judge Emily Norton praised all aspects of the book and noted “You have wonderful attention to great writing. Your stories show great detail and tremendous attention to honest and thorough story telling.”

She also praised the photography, theme, chronological approach and other aspects of the book.

“I can see much of your school’s diversity in population as well as the varied experiences your student body is able to have because you are housed on the campus of a major university.”

The judge did not give U-Highlights NSPA’s top rating, All American. Editors-in-Chief Sarah Husain and Ary Hansen, seniors, said they don’t understand why not, since the judging comments consist mostly of praise for the book along with a few recommendations for improvement. Photo editor was Jackie Robertson, now a freshman at Boston University.



BSA forum discusses interracial relationships

ANSWERING QUESTIONS about interracial relationships such as “Do you feel pressure from friends and family to date within your race?” 35 U-Highers, about evenly mixed between blacks and whites, participated in a Black Students’ Association forum February 3 in U-High 203.

Leading the forum, BSA President Victoria Bills, senior, revealed that studies show the most common interracial relationship consists of black men and white women.

“I was expecting a little more shock and awe about the statistics,” Victoria said. “That the majority of interracial couples are African-American males and Caucasian females didn’t surprise people. Going to Lab, we’re diverse, and to some extent follow that trend.”

Also in the photo, from left, are Jamie Toepp, Tony Shaw, Elle Hill, Kayla DeSouza and Jabria Lewis. Photo by Asha Ransby-Sporn.

AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT

A new principal, a difficult road

Welcome to the family. After a month-and-a-half of deliberation among Principal Search Committee members, Lab Schools Director David Magill announced February 9 that Dr. Scott Fech will become U-High's new principal next year. A committee of three administrators, three faculty members, one junior, one sophomore, and three parents met approximately seven times between November 25 and January 31 to help select the successor to the school's principal of six years, Mr. Matt Horvat.

Committee members narrowed the candidates from 60 applicants to nine. From these nine, the committee chose two finalists, Dr. Fech and Ms. Lisa Baker. Each committee member then recommended his or her first choice to the Director, who weighed their input to make the final decision on who will lead the High School next year.

AND WHAT A critical year it, and the years to follow, will be. With school-wide issues arising from the now six-month-old schedule, this community needs someone with strong managerial skills to lead the High School in the midst of a period of change.

In addition, with the Lab Schools' significant expansion underway, including the Early Childhood Center and the new Arts Wing, our new principal must have the instincts to make the significant decisions involved in the largest fundraising effort in the school's history.

And it appears as though Dr. Fech is primed for these challenges, given his past seven years of experience in the realm of high school administration.

NEVERTHELESS, Dr. Fech did work at Grayslake North, a large suburban high school, the past year and, before that, at a school in Hammond, Indiana, neither comparable to U-High. It's fair to say he might be entering unfamiliar territory.

It's hard to truly grasp the unique setting that is the Lab Schools, with its connection to the University of Chicago and proximity to downtown, not to



Art by Lydia Cochrane

mention the diverse backgrounds of the U-Highers who walk the halls each day.

Dr. Fech will have to learn fast to say the least, and he will have little time to settle into his new office come next September.

And let's not forget about students, who are looking for someone who will be as engaging as his predecessor and just as well.

IN HIS SIX YEARS at U-High, Mr. Horvat built a reputation as someone who strove to maintain a close connection with many U-Highers and fully integrated himself into the community. He never hesitated to greet students in passing and never hid behind his desk in the High School office.

Not that Dr. Fech's experience from prior positions as classroom teacher, tennis coach, and activity sponsor for several years in Indiana don't suggest he has the character to make strong personal connections just like his predecessor.

The truth is, we won't know whether the transition will be smooth until Dr. Fech begins his term July 1.

What we do know: Our new principal has monumental tasks that lie ahead.

Welcome to the U-High family, Dr. Fech, and good luck.

OPINION DUNCAN WEINSTEIN

When state, religion clash, trouble follows

BATTLING OPPONENTS on issues such as contraception and gay marriage, religious groups are hoping to mold public policy in this presidential election year.

Opposing the Obama administration's decision to require all insurance plans cover contraceptives in the wake of the 2010 health care law, groups may try to turn contraception into a campaign issue.

But that's not this year's only conflict between religious groups and government. This month, the day after a federal appellate court undid Proposition 8, the California law banning same-sex marriage, Washington became the 7th state to legalize gay marriage. And, following the legalization of civil unions last year, three Illinois legislators introduced a bill to legalize same-sex marriage.

After the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Prop 8 violates the Constitution's equal protection clause, advocates of the law will likely appeal to the Supreme Court.

Also arguing their freedom has been compromised, religious groups are considering taking the Obama administration to court over the contraceptives decision.

While religious groups bring up real concerns, contraceptives, cheaper than abortions or unwanted pregnancies, make for good public health policy. Plus, contraceptives are an important part of health care and should be covered by insurance just as dental and preventive cancer screenings are.

Religious groups want an exemption from providing contraception because it violates their beliefs. But by that logic, they could get out of anything.

Also, religious universities and hospitals often employ people who don't agree with them on contraceptives and want a full range of options.

In the end, discriminatory beliefs, religious or not, cannot be enshrined in law.



Duncan

SAYWHAT?

Compiled by Michael Glick

If you had to be something other than a teacher, what would you be?

SHAUNA ANDERSON,

Math: I would be a travel agent. I've lived in a couple other countries as a teacher, and I just loved my experiences. Every chance I get to go on an airplane, I take. Being a travel agent, I would get to travel even more frequently.

DANIEL CALLERI, Science:

I would be a furniture maker. Of all the things humans build and make, taking one of nature's most phenomenal materials and constructing something as simple as a table around which a family can sit together is a calling second only to teaching.

CRAIG REUBELT, World Language:

Since travel has always been a passion of mine, I think I would love to be a travel writer. Searching for new places, making travel arrangements, plotting routes and itineraries, meeting new people, writing my thoughts and observations, and making recommendations to other travelers; I could easily see myself making a living doing that.

DIANE TAYLOR, Phys Ed: I would be retired. I like what I do, and the only reason I would stop would be to retire.



Ms. Anderson



Mr. Calleri



Mr. Reubelt



Ms. Taylor

MIDWAY MAILBOX

Formal brings unexpected new policy

From Cultural Union President Tom Healy and Vice President Josh Koenig, seniors:

IN EARLY NOVEMBER, Student Council was informed of several anonymous complaints regarding conduct at the Homecoming Dance.

While Student Council had previously received complaints from parents about inappropriate behavior, we often assumed these came from individuals who didn't fully understand the social dynamics at U-High. However, anonymous student complaints of sexual harassment signaled a need for immediate change. Both administrators and Student Council were on the same page. We needed to create a safer environment for U-Highers.

A committee of students, faculty, parents, and administrators met twice to propose changes for the Winter Formal Dance. We agreed upon improvements, including brighter lighting, a space for activities other than dancing, and an extra squad car at the dance's entrance. And, as rumors of change spread, we assured students the only changes made would be the ones agreed upon in committee.

Then came Formal. As students began to dance, chaperones intervened, targeting a specific style of dancing and stopping it. Throughout the evening, Student Council members were asked why we hadn't mentioned that there would be a "no-grinding" policy at the dance. The simple answer was that we did not know.

Conversations with administrators have since clari-

example, is an easy fix to give U-Highers other options than dancing, if they feel uncomfortable.

The fact that faculty were on the dancefloor actively breaking up U-Highers dancing in ways they deemed inappropriate, however, seems excessive.

The same style of dancing has been acceptable at every prior dance in recent memory, and the administration suddenly decided to change the policy.

Protecting U-Highers from feeling uncomfortable is entirely called for, but the administrators changing their entire attitude is unjustified.

fied that miscommunication over the "more active role of the chaperone" led to the separation of students. As we understood it, chaperones would only intervene if students displayed inappropriate public affection.

Administrators had another idea. Had they explicitly outlined their intentions, we would have provided that information to students.

"Grinding," while perceived as sexually suggestive by many administrators, is simply another form of dance that our generation embraces. To completely eliminate it displays disregard for student individual expression and today's musical culture. And, while some argue that "grinding" has never been sanctioned by the Administration, its prevalence at dances throughout our high school years without Administration intervention, tells a different story. The Administration has tolerated it.

Student Council remains committed to the suggestions of the Dance Committee and the goal of developing safer dances. But, by working outside this committee, administrators have broken the process and bypassed student opinion.

Don't simply take our word on this issue: ask your classmates and friends how they felt about Formal. Ask those students who left the dance early and those who decided not to come at all.

As we move forward in planning our spring dance, we continue under the implicit agreement that the administration will bring any proposed changes to our attention. If this condition cannot be met, we will explore alternative options. Dances have long served as one of the only effective ways to bring together the U-High community and celebrate school spirit.

In the words of one dance-goer, "This is the worst thing since the new schedule".



Tom



Josh

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Published 10 times this school year by journalism and photojournalism students of University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Phone 773-702-0591. FAX 773-702-7455. E-mail uhighpublications@ucls.uchicago.edu. Copyright 2011 University High School, Chicago, Journalism Department. Printed by FGS, Broadview, Illinois.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Akila Raoul, Spencer Lee, Nicholas Phalen, JR Reed

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR SPECIAL PROJECTS
Sydney Scarlata

FILM MOIRA DIFFERDING

Finally, a horror film with some originality

STROLLING THROUGH a overgrown, misty London suburb a day's train ride away from home, Arthur Kipps (Daniel Radcliffe), decked out in a crisp, black English suit, uncovers the town's dark secrets.



Moira

Set between 1907 and 1914, "The Woman in Black" stars Daniel Radcliffe in his first major film role after the "Harry Potter" series. His presence, combined with Director James Watson's talent for developing a true horror film among a year full of flops for the movie genre, make it a standout film.

THIS AND THE plot of best-selling novel "The Woman in Black" by Susan Hill make this horror a standout worthy of occupying its number two opening spot at the box office.

Still mourning his wife Stella, who died giving birth to his 4-year-old son Joseph (Misha Handley), Kipps relies on himself and Joseph's nanny (Jessica Raine) to raise his son as best he can. His grieving, however, has

affected his work, and his law firm job gives him one last chance to redeem himself by sending him to get widow Alice Drablow's legal papers from the mansion she died in.

Abandoned by the townspeople because of a local urban legend regarding children and Mrs. Drablow's mad sister Jennet Humfrye, Kipps finds out that some of the urban legends about the mansion hold true.

WHAT SEPARATES the typical cobweb-and-dust-covered Eel Manor from other horror mansions lays in the film's sound effects. Alongside footprints which appear in the dust alongside Kipps, long silences explosively punctuated by loud creaks, bursting water spigots or tinkling wind-up clowns make viewers stay on edge all film.

The setting of Eel Manor, an isolated estate covered in mist and surrounded by a dense marsh complete with eerie stone crosses, keeps viewers on edge as the environment around the house changes to encompass dark secrets of the quaint town.

The disconcerting rhymes, children's faces and shadows will give you tremors long after you leave the theater.



AN ISOLATED man in an isolated mansion in, Arthur Kipps (Daniel Radcliffe) finds it empty except for wind-up toys that begin to eerily tinkle by themselves in "The Woman in Black."

FASHION LINDSEY ARONSON

Mix and match stirs up boys' style

A FUSION of bold colors, boxy suits and pants, khaki hues, and structured jackets dominate boys' fashion this winter.

Careless, simple looks created by mixing luxury fabrics and eclectic pieces prevail in boys' fashion. Incorporating this season's runway trends into their personal style, U-High boys roam the hallways.



Lindsey of my favorite brands are Marc by Marc Jacobs and Prada, I try to mix the upscale with the casual. By mixing and matching, I make sure I don't look like a mannequin."

COMBINING STREET-WEAR and high-end fashion, Senior Myles Gage epitomizes this season's look.

"I like to incorporate a little bit of skateboard culture and punk-rock into my wardrobe," Myles said. "While some

Sporting striped ties, vintage blazers, and collared dress shirts to school, Junior Graham Lewis embodies the colorful, structured style of this season.

"I OWN a pair of khaki cords from Topman that I wear on the regular," Graham said. "They're the best pants in my wardrobe. For an overcoat, I always wear my tan American Apparel peacoat, which I have fallen in love with. American Apparel's style is similar to mine, being preppy with a rough edge to it."

A lover of fashionable suits, Sophomore Kassim Husain embraces this season's suit trend.

"If our school required us to wear suits everyday, I'd be happy," Kassim said. "I love black two-button boss suits. I feel elegant, classy, and fashionable when I'm wearing a suit. Suits are now a little looser-fitting and boxier, and I'm hoping to find a new one resembling this trend."



LOUNGING IN A H&M collared shirt, \$20, a gray Urban Outfitters cardigan, \$45, and Banana Republic khakis, \$60, Kassim Husain sports this season's look. Photo by Sarah Husain

COOKING WITH ANEESH KANAKAMEDALA

Celebrate the Dragon with Chinese Dumplings

WITH THE CHINESE Year of the Dragon underway, eating *Xiao Long Bao*, a delicious dumpling filled with sweet meat, is a great way to celebrate.

A popular "dim sum" or "bite-sized" food, the dish originates from China and can serve as a lunch or a dinner appetizer. I got the idea for this recipe from *steamykitchen.com*. After tweaking it, I made it Super Bowl night for seven family members and friends. The dough was moist and soft, the filling tasted savory and slightly sweet on the tongue, and the hot soup inside perfectly complemented the other flavors.

TAKE WARNING. The dish takes about four hours to make and requires a bamboo or metal steamer, available at a supermarket or Asian food store. Assembling the dumpling may discourage even the most adventurous cooks, but it is worth it. If home-made broth is too hard to make, use a store-bought one. Be aware, however, that this shortcut dramatically decreases the flavor profile.



Aneesh

You will need:
2 quarts plus 1/4 cup of cold water
3/4 cups boiling hot water
2 pounds chicken bones
2 inch piece of ginger, sliced
6 green onion stalks, 2 cut into 3 inch pieces and the rest finely minced
2 large garlic cloves, smashed
1 tablespoon unflavored gelatin
1 lb ground pork
1/2 lb shrimp, shelled, deveined and finely minced

3 teaspoons sugar
3 tablespoons soy sauce
2 teaspoons of rice wine vinegar
1 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
3/4 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
1/4 teaspoon sesame oil
400 grams of all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon canola oil

■ Place the two quarts of water, chicken wings, ginger coins, garlic, and three inch green onion pieces in a large stockpot over medium heat. When all ingredients come to a boil, turn to low heat and simmer for two hours. After the soup is done, strain and discard the solids. Reserve four cups for the dumplings and the rest for another purpose.

■ Place the four cups of broth back in the pot, and turn on the heat to medium. When the broth is just about to boil again, turn the heat off and add the gelatin, whisking until dissolved. Pour the broth into any container and refrigerate until set, about three to four hours.

■ Mix ingredients from the ground pork to the sesame oil to make the filling. When the broth gelatin is set, run a fork through to break it up into very small pieces. Take one-and-a-half cups of the broth gelatin and add to the filling mixture. Mix well. Refrigerate until ready to use.

■ Put about 90 percent of the flour in a large bowl. Pour a third of the hot water in the flour and stir vigorously. Continue to add water and stir until a stiff dough forms. Add the 1/4 cup cold water and



For the perfect dumpling, start at one point of the dough circle and pleat around until it tightly covers the filling. Photo courtesy of Aneesh Kanakamedala

canola oil. Keep stirring the dough until it firms up more.

■ Dust counter with the remaining flour. Place dough on the floured surface, and knead the dough for eight to 10 minutes, until it becomes soft, smooth and bouncy. Cover with plastic wrap and let it sit for 30 minutes.

■ Divide and roll the dough into two inch balls. Using a rolling pin, roll them out into very thin circles. Do not forget to constantly flour the work surface to prevent the dough from sticking. Fill each circle with two teaspoons of filling, pinching and pleating the dough over the filling to cover, finishing with a twist to seal the dumpling off.

■ Place all the dumplings in the steamer, and steam for about 10 minutes. Carefully remove the buns, and serve with a little bit of soy sauce. Bite carefully and enjoy the steaming-hot dumpling, savoring both the filling and soup.

MUSIC MARISSA PAGE

Glam-funk band, Psychedelic vibe

PUNCTUATED WITH syllabically overloaded lyrics, the melodies of glam-funk band "of Montreal's" new album "Paralytic Stalks" embody genres from all across the musical map.

Known for singles "Gronlandic Edit" and "Id Engager," of Montreal formed in 1996 Athens, Georgia. The band's name refers to lead singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Kevin Barnes' failed relationship with a woman "of Montreal." The band released its first three albums under different record labels before signing with Kindercore Records in 1999.

UNDER KINDERCORE, of Montreal's sound evolved from an easy trip-hop to a glam-funk dancehall fused with experimental rock. Band members continuously left and joined the band, making Barnes the only constant in its music.

Three years after singing with Kindercore, of Montreal released its sixth album, this time with Polyvinyl Records. Many songs from this album gained international fame, including in television and radio commercials.

"Paralytic Stalks," the band's latest venture, sounds dark and outlandish. Each song includes bits of multiple genres, most notably psychedelic rock and techno with grim undertones. Barnes' lyrics teem with long words tricky to incorporate into any beat pattern, and rhythm is abandoned in this album.

THE ALBUM'S first single, "Dour Percentage," breezes along with Barnes' voice and an enticing pan flute foundation. "Wintered Debts," begins as soft folk and rapidly transforms into trippy rock and electronica, often resembling a mechanized version of The Beatles' "Getting Better."

Starting with a strong indie vibe and eventually becoming another raging dance anthem, "We Will Commit Wolf Murder" dissolves into the airy, pleasant "Malefic Dowery," including subtle notes of pop band Beach House mixed with tropical instrumentation.

The flow of songs in "Paralytic Stalks" binds together this rhythmically chaotic album.



Marissa



Expert gives advice on beating ‘choking’ under pressure

By Akila Raoul
Editor-in-Chief

Lots of practice, deliberate practice and varying experiences.” That was advice offered by U. of C. Professor of Psychology Sian Beilock, at an all-school assembly February 2 at International House.

She was discussing the phenomenon of choking under pressure and how to defend against it, after giving a similar program for the Parents’ Association.

AUTHOR OF THE BOOK, “Choke: What the Secrets of the Brain Reveal About Getting it Right When You Have To,” Ms. Beilock informed U-Highers of the many ways people choke under pressure and the best way to overcome these obstacles to succeed.

“Ms. Bielock was here a few years ago working with students for her research about stress and test taking strategies,” said Principal Matt Horvat. “This year the Parents’ Association had the idea about having her come to speak to the parents and the students. When Ms. Beilock was doing her research here she mentioned that she would want to

come back in a few years to the present the information she found.

“I thought she was a good speaker and presented the idea of stress and how to manage it well. One of the things she suggested was to have you write down things you were worried about before a test and that is something I want to do in the future with my students.”

USING EXAMPLES from New York cab drivers to junior golfers, Ms. Beilock showed how starting any activity at a younger age, deliberate practicing and varying your experiences in life can improve brain and memory capacity.

“What we do to train our brain is what makes us reach higher levels,” she explained.

Ms. Beilock blamed choking under pressure on analyzing a situation and movements too much. “Just do it,” is the advice she gave to U-Highers, quoting Nike’s famous motto.

AFTER HER presentation, Ms. Beilock answered student questions ranging from the best way to prepare for a test to studying outdoors.

Artsfest offerings

(continued from front page)

Hoping to expose students to works by Chicago poets and architects by giving them a Chicago “tour” within U-High 204, English Teacher Carolyn Walter will lead the workshop “Poetry and Architecture in the Loop”.

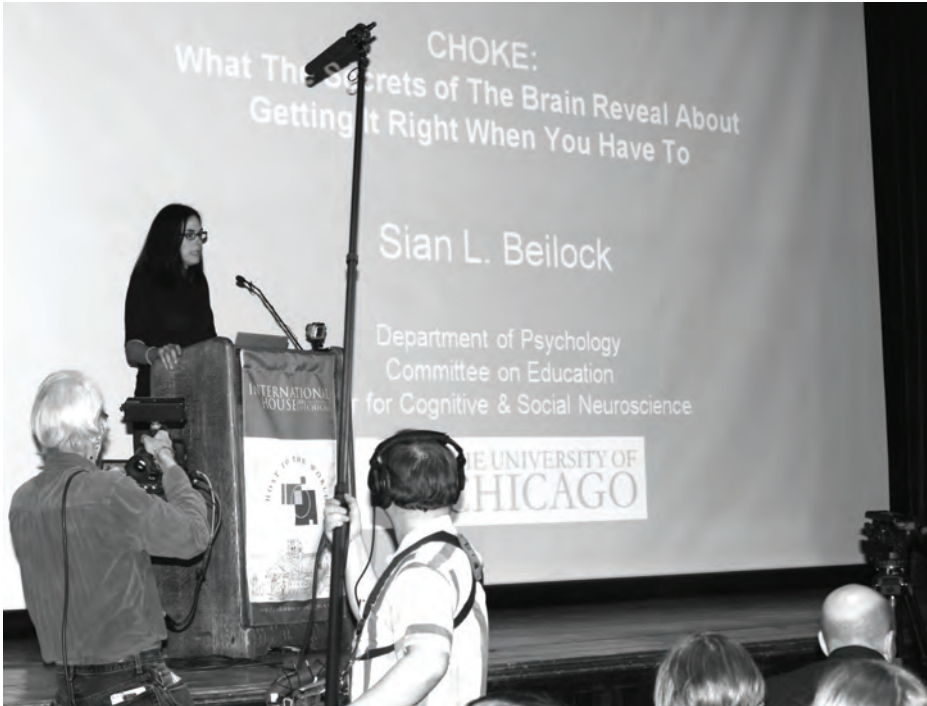
“I am definitely trying to investigate more ways of getting poetry to students because it’s a great form of self-expression, and this workshop is just one of the ways to do that,” Mrs. Walter said.

“I am involved in a professional

development project this year with other teachers who are trying to do the same thing.

“For the workshop, I am going to draw materials from the Poetry Foundation to expose students to Chicago poets and use knowledge from working as a docent for the Chicago Architecture Foundation for 10 years.”

Serving fruit smoothies all day, Jamba Juice will sell drinks in the cafeteria, \$4, and T-shirts designed by Freshman Lydia Cochrane imitating the Mona Lisa will go on sale before Artsfest starts.



ACCOMPANIED BY A CREW filming a documentary on her work, U. of C. Associate Professor of Psychology Sian Beilock provided U-Highers with information and advice on how to correctly identify what is most stressful and how to effectively cope with it, at an all-school assembly February 2 at International House. Photo by Asha Ransby-Sporn.

After the assembly, Senior Jennifer Pan found she could relate since she feels a lot of stress as a senior.

“I thought one of the things she mentioned that was really important was to focus my attention on one thing, usually the end goal or the product rather than paying too much attention to the nitty gritty things,” Jennifer said. “In test taking, giving a speech or playing a musical piece it’s really important to just concentrate on one thing and I could really apply that to myself.

“I ALSO thought it was really cool

that she told us how we influenced her research and I find it awesome that we contributed to her research in the field.

“I can see that I choke sometimes when I over analyze myself and a lot of the things Ms. Bielock talked about were things that would work.”

Though U-Highers can identify stress situations on their own, Jennifer added, “it was nice to have them reiterated. Many people at Lab know about a lot of the things that she said but it was nice that she made it a formula for us to follow.”

Principal Search Committee

(continued from page 3)

constituencies were represented on the committee. I was please with the information of the committee for this reason. I’m glad there were at least as many teachers as other members because we will be working very closely with the principal and I think there was definitely a good balance between the groups.

“Ultimately, Mr. Magill runs the school so naturally he should be in charge of selecting the new principal. I don’t think his seat outweighed anyone else’s.

“I am very comfortable stating my opinion, even in front of my superior, so having the director on the committee was not an issue for me.

“I think he wanted people to state their opinions and have an open discussion about their feelings towards particular candidates.”

The process was well thought out and well organized according to Mr.

Ben Fine, parent of Senior Alice Fine and Freshman Adam Fine.

“With anything like this, you never know what will happen until the candidates arrive,” Mr. Fine said. “I think our main role was to engage in conversation and hear what every sector of the community was looking for.

“I thought the group worked well together and after everything got going, everyone felt comfortable expressing their opinions.

“I think because Mr. Magill was on the committee, the process was an on-going discussion with him, rather than a presentation at the end.

“I think we were looking to build on school strengths and move forward. We all had different goals but I think we all want a school that can prepare our kids for college.

“We want someone who will work well with other leadership and will fit nicely into this large expansion project Lab is involved in. Ultimately, we want what’s best for our kids.”

Student Experimental Theatre

(continued from front page)

“DOUBLE MURDER”—A husband and wife attempt to poison each other. **Cast:** Benny Wah, Nell Mittelstead. Understudies: McKenzie Zimmerman, Ross Tizes. **Written by** Scott Klavan and **directed by** Jolisha Johnson.

“THE NEWS FROM ST. PETERSBURG”—The news of a revolution comes from St. Petersburg, exciting the servants of an upper-middle-class Russian family. **Cast:** Sam van Loon, Maya Ben-Shahar, Elle Hill, Eric Pettinato. Understudies: Alijah Futterman, Ginny Differding, Ross Tizes. **Written by** Rich Orloff and **directed by** Giorgi Plys-Garzotto.

“A MATTER OF HUSBANDS”—A woman visits a famous actress and accuses her of trying to seduce her husband. **Cast:** Valentina Gardner, Gloria Zingales. **Written by** Ferenc Molnar and **directed by** Giorgi Plys-Garzotto.

Other poems are as follows:

“WAKING”—Apoorva Gundeti. **Written and directed by** Maria Conlon.

“YOU ARE A PHARMACY”—Dylan Lambert-Gilliam. **Written by** Nate Slawson and **directed by** Maria Conlon.

“YOU ARE ZOOEY DESCHANEL”—Jolisha Johnson. **Written by** Nate Slawson and **directed by** Maria Conlon.

“YOU ARE A BOOMBOX”—Gloria Zingales. **Written by** Nate Slawson and **directed by** Maria Conlon.

“YOU ARE THE RAIN”—Jarrett Lampley. **Written by** Nate Slawson and **directed by** Maria Conlon.

“YOU ARE OHIO”—Harry Thornton. **Written by** Nate Slawson and **directed by** Maria Conlon.

SET Board members include Maddie Lindsey, Giorgi Plys-Garzotto, Loren Sosnick, Caitlin Goldwater, Sarah Hecht and Jiji Plecha.

The faculty advisers are Drama Teachers Liucija Ambrosini and Allen Ambrosini.

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TANOORI CHICKEN is Freshman Jeffrey Jou's choice among the large selection of great dishes at Rajun Cajun. Photo by Nathaniel Green.

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DELIVERING A STIRRING speech in front of the crowd, Laboratory Schools Board of Directors, Chairperson John Rogers, Class of 1976, was congratulated at half-time in the game against Northridge February 8 by a packed Upper Kovler gym after the court was

named in his honor. Mr. Rogers had given a gift to the school in support of the Athletic Complex in 1999. He is the founder and chief executive officer of Ariel Capital Investments, the largest black-owned investment firm in the United States. *Photo by Taylor Crowl.*

Basketball boys ready to charge into Regional

By Mike Glick
Midway reporter

Defense. That's what varsity boy basketballers will need to win their IHSA 2A Regional packed with high-scoring teams, according to Head Coach Chad Stewart.

U-High finished with a 7-5 record in the Independent School League, 5th place behind Cochampions Latin (9-3) and North Shore Country Day (9-3), Parker (8-4) and Northridge (8-4). U-High was unable to win a fourth straight Conference title.

BUT A CHANCE at a Regional Championship and maybe more has kept U-High diligent, says Coach Stewart.

"We feel we can win our Regional, but it will take team basketball and even more focus on defense," Coach Stewart said. "We've beaten top teams in Brooks, last year's 3A third-place finisher, and Leo. Those games showed us that we could beat anybody."

U-High (15-10 as of last Friday), the 4th seed of seven in its Regional, matched up with 5th seed Walter Dyett High School, located in Washington Park, yesterday in the Regional Quarterfinal at home (game came after Midway press time).

WITH A WIN over Dyett (9-17 as of last Friday), the Maroons would take on 1st seed Seton Academy, of South Holland, in their Regional Semifinal February 22 at home. According to the Chicago Tribune's PrepsPlus Section, Seton (22-4) ranks 17th in the state (as of February 14).

Led by Point Guard Jordan Foster, senior, and Guards Kamal Shasi and Mark Weems, juniors, Seton's starting backcourt averages 36.4 points a game.

But, according to Coach Stewart, Seton's front court, consisting of 6-foot-9 Russell

Robinson and 6-foot-5 J.R. Tolliver, seniors, poses an even bigger challenge for U-High. Robinson averages 10 points, seven rebounds and three blocks a game and makes 60 percent of his field goals, while Tolliver averages 12 points and seven rebounds.

Seton's bench also chips in 28.5 points a game to the team's high-scoring 86.9 points a game. Stats from Seton's 97-75 win over Hope Academy February 14 are not included in the totals.

THE MAROONS recognize the challenge Seton presents and they are prepared.

"Seton was ranked 4th in the state at one point this season," Coach Stewart said. "They've beaten top-ranked teams. But if we share the basketball and play unselfishly, we can compete with them. We can't let Russell Robinson get the ball where he is comfortable and that will require team defense."

If U-High defeats Seton, it will likely take on 2nd seed Hales Franciscan, the defending 2A State Champion, in the Regional Final.

WITH A WIN in the Regional Final, U-High would face the winner of the Seneca Regional in the Sectional Semifinal February 29. If the Maroons win the Sectional Semifinal and Final, they will face the winner of the Lisle Sectional March 6 in a Super-Sectional matchup. A Super-Sectional win would send U-High to State for the first time.

The Maroons are confident that if they win their Regional they will have a legitimate shot at a trip to State.

"We definitely have one of, if not the toughest Regionals at the 2A level," said Captain Louis Van Craen, senior. "Whoever wins our Regional will be a real contender to win State."



POISED FOR A DRIVE, Kendall Rallins gets ready to set up for a layup during Senior Night. The Maroons beat Clem-

ente 40-38 February 3 in Upper Kovler. Senior Brenda Benitez was congratulated at half-time. *Photo by Asha Ransby-Sporn*

Girl basketballers proud of success, look to future

By William Chung
Sports editor

Despite a 28-36 loss to St. Francis De Sales February 4 in their first IHSA playoff game, girls' basketballers believe their season proved a success.

U-High finished its regular season with a 15-6 record, with a 40-38 victory over Clemente, February 3, after losing to them 22-55 last year.

THE MAROONS had lost earlier in the season to St. Francis, their Regional opponent, 32-50 November 15. But Coach Tai Duncan believes U-High could have beaten the Pioneers.

"We lost by 18 in the first game against St. Francis, and in the Regional we lost by 8," Coach Duncan said.

"I think we could have won that game if a few things had gone our way, namely better defense in the 4th quarter and going to the basket more on offense."

THE CLEMENTE GAME proved a better indicator of how the Maroons' play had progressed, Coach Duncan believes.

"Our season was not defined by the De Sales game," Coach Duncan said. "Clemente was a good marker of the progress we made."

"We lost to them by a lot last year and there were basically the same this year. Our team really came together and we played good defense. There

are times when other teams are hot, but we frustrated Clemente's primary scorers and we came out with the win. To beat Clemente was a big victory."

Cocaptains Sophia Gatton, junior, and Lillian Eckstein, sophomore, are both returning next year, as well as starters Nadja Barlera, junior, and Kendall Rallins, freshman.

Senior Brenda Benitez is the only varsity player who will not return. Nadja believes that the team's consistency will contribute to its success next year.

"EVERYONE HAS improved so much," Nadja said. "We were undefeated at home during the regular season. Plus, we are a young team."

"Kendall and Sophia provided most of our points, and Lillian was a great floor support."

Winning the ISL is the main goal next year, according to Coach Duncan, herself a former U-High basketball star.

"WE SHOULD WIN the ISL," Coach Duncan said. "We came in 3rd behind Latin and Willows, and both will lose some of their best players."

"With all our starters coming back I think we have a chance. We're at a point now that I can be nitpicky. We did well this season and they have responded to that. We're ready to go onto the next level."

Both Sophia Gatton and Kendall Rallins advanced to the IHSA Sectional 3-point shootout.

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Association honors Athletic Director

Selected Athletic Director of The Year for schools in Class 1A/2A, Mr. David Ribbens has been honored by the Illinois Athletic Director Association.

"It is always an honor to be recognized by your peers that are in the trenches with you," said Mr. Ribbens, in his ninth year at the Lab Schools. "I am honored and humbled to accept this award. I am

also thrilled for our U-High community, our students, coaches and families for making the athletic experience a valued part of their children's education at Lab.

"For over 100 years the ideal of being a true student-athlete has been upheld to the highest degree here at Lab. I am very grateful to be a small part of that tradition."

Fencing team thrives with growing interest

By Clay Surmeier
Midway reporter

Silence. Blade poised midair. Match point.
“Fence!”
Both blades clash in an instant. In the blink of an eye, the tip of Senior Duncan Holmes’s blade hits his New Trier opponent’s, Ian Gallagher, chest.
With that final touch, Duncan captured his 2nd win en route to a 2nd place finish in men’s saber at the Great Lakes Championship at Main West, Wisconsin, February 29.
AT THE Championship, other notable U-High finishes included Junior Charlie Green (2nd in women’s epee) and Sophomore Elle Hill (4th in women’s



LEANED BACK, Duncan Holmes prepares for his opponent’s thrust at the Midway Classic, January 9. Duncan took first in Men’s Saber. 300 fencers attended. Photo by Reem Khondakar.

foil). Freshman Jennifer Chien, Juniors Nathaniel Green, Willa Green and Chumin Wu made the top 16 as well.
In its fourth year as a sport at U-High, fencing has attracted new members from all grade levels.
“A fantastic improvement this year was the addition of many new fencers,” said Assistant coach Bill Stueben. “To field a full team, without subs, we need 24 fencers. The larger schools we compete with can get that many, but we need underclassmen fencers to play larger roles throughout the season.”
SENIOR LEXIE BARBER says many kids stepped up into leadership roles this year due to a great team dynamic
“Some of the friendships that were maintained outside of practices added to everyone’s enjoyment at practices and meets,” Lexie said. “Anytime a Lab School kid was fencing, there was at least one teammate or coach there to cheer them on.”
Growing up and going to the same fencing tournaments with fencers from other schools have created lasting friendships for many of the upperclassmen fencers.
“MEETING and getting to know people from other schools is also very easy to do through fencing,” Lexie said. “For some of the upperclassmen, a lot of the kids at tournaments have sort of grown up with us from freshman year.”
Harrison and Junior triplets Nathaniel, Charlie and Willa Green will compete at the United States Fencing Association (USFA) Junior Olympic Fencing Championships February 17 to 20, at Salt Lake City, Utah.
“This event determines who represents the United States on the international team for the World Cup,” Harrison said. “It’s the most important tournament of the year for fencers our age.”



RISING OUT of the water, David Tong takes a breath during his breaststroke in the 200 Medley relay against Latin. David swam the second leg, helping contribute to the 2nd place finish, January 27 at Ratner. The Maroons lost 97-74. Photo by Lili Steffen.

Swimmers geared up for Sectional charge

By Max Brown
Midway reporter

Heading into Sectionals last Saturday (results came after Midway press time), boy swimmers built momentum through a solid week of practice after ending their season with a 5-3 record.
Before falling to the Whitney Young Dolphins 92-78 February 7 in the season’s final meet, the Maroons defeated St. Rita Tuesday January 31 and De La Salle 101-52 Thursday February 2 in solid back-to-back wins.
DURING THE SEASON, U-High also finished 2nd out of nine teams at the Evergreen Park Invitational January 21. The Maroons then placed last at the 24th Annual Conant High School Cougar Classic January 28 and lost to Latin January 24, 94-74.
Coach Paul Gunty said that Evergreen proved among the swimmers’ best meets.
“We had a lot of good times at Evergreen,” Mr. Gunty said. “There were a lot of personal bests and a lot of really good relays. It was the best meet we’ve had all season in terms of working together as a unit.”
JUNIOR DAVID TONG provided two of the meet’s highlights, seizing first in the 200 Individual Medley and the 100 Fly.
Eliot Levmore placed 2nd in the 100 Free and Justin Whitehouse was 2nd in the 100 Breast.
U-High also finished 2nd in three ad-

ditional relays: the 200 Medley, the 200 Free and the 400 Free.
EXTENDING OFF an invitation to State last year for the 100 yard Butterfly, David served as one of the swimmers the team rallied around.
“One of our biggest goals at Sectionals is for David Tong to make High School State again,” Sophomore Eliot Levmore said. “He’ll have to either make a State qualifying time or win a Sectional event.”
Mr. Gunty felt that one of the difficulties that the team struggled with was leadership.
“WE’VE HAD NO real leader throughout the season,” Mr. Gunty said. “No one has stepped up and taken charge the way we needed to reach the next level. This is partly because we only have one senior, Mac Sinclair.”
Two records were also broken during the last week of January. At Latin January 24, Sophomores Eliot Levmore, Noah Braendel, Rex Hughes and Freshman Alex Kim broke the record for U-High’s Freshman/Sophomore 400 yard Freestyle Relay.
Then, at the Conant Invitational January 28, James Sinclair, Justin Whitehouse, Alex Kim and Miles Grogger broke U-High’s 200-meter Medley Relay record.



David

Nearby Deals with Yummy Appeal!



ISABELLE BERTEN and Caitlin Goldwater discuss ordering a world-famous deep dish peperoni pizza to share. They look forward to a cheesy delight at their favorite restaurant just down the street from school. Photo by Leslie Kamel.

World-famous and just a block from U-High, the Medici serves delicious pizzas, scrumptious shakes, mouth-watering pastas and more! Head on over for an energizing mid-day snack, or a heart-warming rich hot chocolate. With our conveniently close location, you can stop by the Medici whenever hunger hits!



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Hockey player repeats as All Star

For the third consecutive year, Senior JR Reed has been named to the Metro Central Conference All Star Men’s Hockey Team.
JR captains the Latin varsity team, which includes 17 other players from U-High, Francis Parker, Whitney Young, Walter Payton, and Lane Tech.
A starting defenseman for the Romans, JR is U-High’s only representative on the squad.
THE ALL-STAR GAME took place January 29 at the Seven Bridges Ice Arena in northwest suburban Ridgewood.
JR and 20 players from the other Metro Central Conference teams, including Barrington and Crystal Lake South, took on players from the Metro



JR

West Conference, which includes state powerhouses Waubonsie Valley High School (ranked 8th in the state as of February 17) and Sandburg (ranked 14th in the state).
JR tallied one assist, but the Metro Central All-Stars ultimately fell 4-3 after giving up a goal late in the third period.
The Latin varsity team will honor JR and four other seniors at Senior Night this Friday at the American Heartland Ice Arena in Lincolnwood, with the puck drop against Lake Forest Academy set for 9:20 pm.
AT U-HIGH, JR also plays tennis and, among numerous leadership positions, serves as Midway editor-in-chief and Student Council vice president. He previously was class president his sophomore and junior years.

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First Session | April 13, 6 - 7:30PM | Blue & White Scrimmage | April 14, 12:10 - 1:40 PM

For more information about this event please contact Blake Sorensen at 1-773-988-8797 / bsorensen21@yahoo.ca



SPORTING A TIGHT black dress with tights, Eleanor Schuttenberg huddled in a circle with Akilah Harris, in a strapless grey dress, and Sophia Weaver. Photo by Fiona Potter.

Some Formal changes

By Sydney Scarlata
Executive Director of Special Projects

“Make room for Jesus!” So yelled a group of seniors in the middle of the dance floor at the Winter Formal, February 4 at International House. Their comments on how close they should be dancing with each other soon became a joke among students at the dance.

After parents and chaperons voiced concerns to administrators regarding student behavior and dress at Homecoming, administrators created a community committee to address such issues. Changes to the Formal Dance included brighter lights, more active chaperons and an extra University of Chicago squad car outside.

WHILE MANY students laughed, teachers chaperoning the Formal made a concerted effort to keep dancing appropriate by commenting when they felt students were dancing inappropriately and, in some cases, even pulling students apart.

Student Council officers set up a new sitting area equipped with cards for students who did not want to participate in the dancing activities.

“Change is always viewed with some skepticism around here,” Dean of Students Larry McFarlane said. “Because of some complaints after Homecoming, changes were addressed by Student Council and administrators to create a safer environment at the dance. There was a wider variety of music, the lights were slightly less dim and the chaperons were more active during the dance.”

WHILE SOME STUDENTS were unhappy with these new rules, Mr. McFarlane felt the changes were necessary.

“I don’t think behavior is negotiable with students. The school is responsible for the students. I understand that Student Council believes they were misled about the chaperons’ role, but we were just trying to be more vigilant and make sure that every student felt comfortable.”

To promote classier attire among the approximately 250 dancegoers, Student Council officers announced an official “Mad Men” theme, based off the T.V. show set in the 1950s.

“The dress was much better this dance,” said Mr. McFarlane. “There were some short skirts but I think because there was no unofficial theme, like at homecoming, people dressed more appropriately.”

“ACCORDING TO STUDENT Council, the number of people who seemed inebriated was the same. This concerns me a bit and makes me question why we’re even doing dances. Some have suggested breathalizing but it’s expensive and also sends a negative message to the 90 percent of students who do not behave inappropriately.”

Mr. McFarlane believes the point of dances is to provide an opportunity for students to have fun in a safe environment outside the classroom.

“I wish that everyone could have a good time and I’m sad that many students did leave the dance in the middle,” Mr. McFarlane said. “The new rules established at Formal are not final for every dance. The Dance Committee will reconvene to discuss how to keep everyone safe.”



MACHINE GUN KELLY’S “Wild Boy“, a part of DJ Jamal Smallz’ stylings, boomed in the background as Martin Garret-Currie fist bumped the air. Student Council officers provided the DJ a setlist of sixty songs to select from and play during the dance. Photo by Katie Klespies.



TWO OF the many dance-goers who joined in the official Formal theme, “Mad Men,” Shannon Vavra and Nathan Eckstein both donned 1950s apparel. Shannon, center, arrived in a long blue dress from Ragstock. Photo by Katie Klespies.



MATCHING A BORROWED purple velvet dress Magda Glotzer paired with fishnets and A’Gaci combat boots, while Aurielle Akerele proved fashionable in multicolored BCBG shoes and a black dress from Akira. Photo by Remy Lewis.



DISHING OUT change to dancegoers at the coat check, Student Council officers Tiffany Davis, Josh Koenig, Sabrina Holland, Phil Healy and Andrew Palmer handed out classy pearl necklaces to promote the “Mad Men” theme. Photo by Remy Lewis.

Royalty

Royalty photos by Remy Lewis and Elizabeth Gelman



ALL-SCHOOL
Sonia Bourdaghs
Zach Emanuel



SENIORS
Nick Phalen
Sydney Fishman



JUNIORS
Laura Anderson
Kyle Parker



SOPHOMORES
Sam Leiter
Ellen Audrain



FRESHMEN
Ela Stojimirovic
James Sinclair