

Clamping down

Illinois high school attempts to narrow students' privacy rights with searches

By Sydney Scarlata
Executive Director of Special Projects

While taking notes in A.P. Environmental Science, Adlai E. Stevenson High School Senior Curtis Hill was approached by two school deans.

After packing his stuff, Hill was escorted to the Dean's office where school officials began searching his backpack, claiming Hill was a suspect in an expansive drug investigation at Stevenson. School administrators claimed that the alleged campus drug dealer's phone records revealed a text message concerning drug use from someone named "Curtis."

SITUATED ON a gigantic campus in upscale northwest suburban Lincolnshire, Illinois, the 4,000-enrollment Stevenson has been in and out of the national spotlight since January, 2008, when school officials deemed a school newspaper spread on hooking up too provocative for the student body. Since that, administrators and faculty advisers have reviewed each issue of the Stevenson Statesman before it goes to press.

Since December, when one student became suspected of drug use on campus, school officials have been conducting on-going investigations on others involved in the alleged sale of drugs, specifically marijuana. This search, in which Lincolnshire police have participated, has resulted in multiple student suspensions and juvenile charges against two teenagers after police recovered less than 10 grams of marijuana, according to the February 1 and February 2 articles in the Chicago Tribune.

Despite Hill's attempts to explain his innocence, school officials demanded

Hill give them his phone password. Hill refused and said he would not cooperate without his mother and a lawyer.

ACCORDING TO Stevenson Spokesperson Jim Conrey, school officials were being diligent and thorough.

"Our number one responsibility as a school is to maintain a safe learning environment for our students," Mr. Conrey said. "There's an obligation to follow any leads that still exist out there. We had suspicions and so we investigated these claims. We even informed the police in some of these cases."

"The reasoning behind pulling students out of class was because in some cases the school cannot wait until after school to deal with certain problems. Depending on the information, we determine whether or not we should pull a student out of class."

"It is perfectly within our rights as a school to gather information from student text messages. If schools have credible evidence that cell phones are being used in some kind of trafficking, we have every right to take the phones. Federal courts have determined that schools can examine student cell phones if the school has suspicion to support the search."

In 1985, the Supreme Court ruled in



Art by Lydia Cochrane

New Jersey v. TLO that "maintaining security and order in the schools requires a certain degree of flexibility in

school disciplinary procedures, and we have respected the value of preserving

(continues on page 6)



Photo by Carolyn Voth

Dancing to begin the day

KICKING OFF a highly-acclaimed Arts-fest, Bhangra Team offered an energetic hip-hop dance. Sarah Husain, left, and Kavia Khosla performed to Gym Class Heroes' "Ass Back Home."

Dance Troupe also received enthusiastic applause and other U-High talent kept the show moving along.

Ellen Ma, junior, got a big response to

her dance routine as well, which she performed masked before finally revealing her identity.

The assembly set an enthusiastic mood for what followed: nearly six dozen workshops and performances by students, faculty members, parents and guests, capped off by a closing assembly starring the improv troupe Comedy Sportz.

For Spring Break, some to travel afar, others to stay home and serve

By Nicholas Phalen
Editor-in-Chief

As Spring Break approaches, some U-Highers and faculty members will leave the country to travel, while others prefer to stay closer to home.

Taking a sabbatical Spring Quarter, Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts will travel to Sabandia, Peru, staying in her grandparents' estate and shooting a series of portraits.

"I'LL BE DOING a photo project in Peru next quarter living in my grandparents' country estate in the southern part of the country for five weeks," Ms. Ricketts said. "I've done other photo series in Peru many times before, but I haven't been to the estate in probably 30 years. It's still furnished in early 1900s furniture and is reportedly haunted, so the experience should be very unique."

"I'm planning to shoot about 100 rolls of film, probably mostly portraits, in the village where the estate is. Then I'll spend the summer organizing my work for publication online and in print."

"I think that this opportunity is very exciting, and I'm glad the school is now allowing teachers to take paid sabbaticals to focus on their professional fields. I really believe that any sort of enthusiasm a teacher can develop for their own field is something he or she can take back to the classroom. That's what I'm hoping to do with this project."

AFTER VISITING the summer before 8th grade, Junior Duncan Weinstein will return to Australia and New Zealand to sightsee and experience the culture again. Traveling with his family since a young age, Duncan enjoys vis-

iting other countries, and found New Zealand especially rewarding during his last visit.

"On our trip, we'll mostly be traveling throughout the southern islands of New Zealand, getting around by train and staying in small hotels," Duncan said. "I've been there once before, but I'm really excited to go back."

"What I really think makes New Zealand so unique is that there's a huge variety of topography and climate within such a small place. Within a two or three hour train ride you can go between alpine mountains, tropical forests, and a city of a half a million people. It's just really cool to have so much available to see compressed into a small space."

STAYING IN CHICAGO, Sophomore Kassim Husain will make up his required community service hours volunteering at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago five hours each day.

"I think I'll mostly be helping out in physical therapy sessions for people undergoing rehab," Kassim said. "They need a lot of spotters during exercises and things like that, so that's what I envision myself doing a lot of."

"I'm not looking forward to the fact that I'll have to be working for so long every day, but the service project is something that I care a lot about."

"I THINK I want to go into health care when I get older, probably because both my parents are doctors and I've been hearing about it ever since I was really young."

"So, in that way, I think it should be a cool opportunity to actually experience something I hope to learn a lot more about."

Celebrating the arts flavorfully and colorfully



Photo by Nathaniel Green

SANDWICHED BETWEEN an opening assembly of five student performances and a closing Assembly featuring the ComedySportz improv troupe, U-Highers joined in dumpling-making, screenplay-writing, face-painting which were among 55 workshops in five 45-minute periods during Artsfest February 23. Among other popular workshops were Tea Making, Balloon Animal Making, Take Home Apple Pies and Fortune Cookie Making.

IN THE FORTUNE COOKIE SESSION (photos from



Photo by Carolyn Voth

left) Willa Green, Francesca Baio, Maddie Anderson, Charlie Green and Hannah Resnick search the internet for fortune cookie designs before they decorate their own.

COLORING IN A MURAL sketched by Gene Cochrane on the second floor, Maddy Campion and Sally Ladsaria were among a crew of painters who completed the project during the day.

Picturing extraterrestrials leaning against school lock-



Photo by Jeff Li

ers, the mural is captioned "I don't get it. Is it supposed to be some kind of monster high school?"

GREENS, PURPLES AND YELLOWS splashed onto the cafeteria floors in addition to Jordan Davis' white t-shirt in Maya Baroody, Natalie Lubin and Amelia Mazzarella's "Tie-Dye" workshop. From left are Gabrielle De-maio, Kate Franks, Amelia and Jordan.

Students and faculty praised the day as well-planned and well-executed and provided a welcomed break.



Photo by Leslie Kamel

The Principal meets The Press

VISITING THE SCHOOL Monday, March 5 after a visit January 24, new Principal Scott Fetch sat in on classes, had lunch in the cafeteria and stopped by the Journalism Office for a conversation with Midway and U-Highlights staff members, who sat in a group circled around him. Dr. Fech has received every Midway issue published this year and received a gift copy of the 2011 U-Highlights.

"Meeting with Dr. Fech really gave us an idea of how he will fit into the commu-

nity," said Akila Raoul, one of the Midway's four editors-in-chief this year. "He told us how he would like to increase communication between students and administrators and I think this is something that will truly benefit the school in the future. He knows exactly what needs to be done to make this school the best environment for the students."

In the photo Elizabeth McNally, a U-Highlights editor-in-chief, describes the production process involving reporters, editors, photojournalists and designers.



skyscraper.com

Glimpse of the future?

THIS STRIKING BUILDING, as envisioned in an architectural rendering, could rise at 53rd and Hyde Park as part of a redevelopment of the Harper Court business district. The 12-story office building could ultimately be accompanied by a five-story retail building and a Hyatt Place hotel of 12 to 16 stories. A condominium tower and two rental unit buildings are also being considered. The City of Chicago and University of Chicago have been working cooperately on the proposal. The University owns the land.

For future U-Highers the project could mean dramatically expanded shopping, dining, entertainment and part-time job opportunities in the neighborhood.

Stories in the Hyde Park Herald and front-page Business section story in the February 12 issue of the Chicago Tribune alerted U-Highers to the project.

As part of a related project to rejuvenate the 53rd Street shopping strip, several new businesses have opened or will open soon. They include Akira clothing at 1539 East 53rd Street in the former Borders Bookstore

building expected to open in November; Five Guys Burgers and Fries at 1456 East 53rd Street; Clarke's Restaurant, a 24-hour diner at 1447 East 53rd Street; a new theater owned by the University, to show family and art films, at 53rd and Harper, also expected to open in November.

Chosen in a bidding process, the developer is Harper Court Partners, which involves Vermilion Development and JFJ Development Company.

The original Harper Court, constructed between December, 1964, and September, 1965, was envisioned as a combination shopping center of unusual independent businesses and art colony centered in three low buildings surrounding a sunken courtyard. Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, who came to U-High and Chicago in September, 1964, said, "It was a very hip and eclectic place which attracted a great crowd of University and community people. The Medici had a classy, high-concept restaurant there, originally The Court House, with live music. People went there for special occasions."

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Brief-ly

Spring Fling dance could get flung over dancing

Begun last year to provide a Spring Quarter social event, the "Spring Fling" dance, originally planned for Saturday, April 7 and then moved to Saturday, April 21, may not take place, according to Cultural Union President Tom Healy, senior. The event was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. in Upper Kovler Gym.

Student government officers, Tom said, are concerned that chaperons at the Winter Formal physically separated students they felt were dancing inappropriately, which students on a dance review committee had not been told would be done.

The review committee, which included Tom, Senior Class President Ary Hansen, Principal Matt Horvat, Science Teacher David Derbes and four parents, was formed after complaints from some students, some chaperons and some parents about how some students at the Homecoming Fall Quarter had dressed and danced.

The committee came up with plans to brighten lighting for the Formal, have the disc jockey play a wider variety of music, add a second University of Chicago Police squad car outside International House, where the dance took place, and create a theme, "Madmen," to encourage less sexual dress and dancing.

Student government officers say they want to know why the agreed-on policy was not maintained and what rules for student behavior at the Spring Fling would be, with a promise nothing they had not agreed to would be instituted.

If they can't get that, Tom said, Cultural Union may consider alternatives to dance, such as a concert.

"Whatever ends up happening, it needs to be clearly communicated to us and agreed upon by the dance committee. Otherwise the only activity we will have Spring Quarter will be an outing to Second City."

Committed to ensuring student safety at dances, Principal Matt Horvat said he plans to hold future meetings of the committee.

"Our committee is just working to make the dances safe during and after the dance," Mr. Horvat said. "The committee will meet again after Spring Break. I assumed the dance would be happening but if the students don't want a dance, then there is no point in hosting a dance no one will attend."

■ **JUNIOR RETREAT NEXT MONTH**—Juniors who have heard since freshman year about "the candle-lighting ceremony" will find out first-hand what it is all about at their Retreat, Wednesday, April 4-Friday, April 6 at Wonderland Camp and Conference Center at Camp Lake, in Kenosha County, Wisconsin. Wonderland Camp is a highly-regarded Salvation Army facility with roots back to 1903, with a lodge, activity center, expansive dining hall, dormitories and hotel accommodations, one of the largest camps and conference centers in the Midwest.

"The Retreat is designed to get juniors together to help them prepare for the trials and tribulations of senior year," said Dean of Students Larry McFarlane, "as well as rekindle friendships and come away with a new understanding about other students."

"There will be group-building activities without any faculty presence, so students can talk about things they wouldn't normally talk about with adults."

The candle-lighting ceremony represents an emotional culmination of the bonding activities, Mr. McFarlane explained, taking place on the last night.

"People can say things about their new understanding of the people around them," he said. "You might say you're not going to cry, but most of the time a lot of the more macho guys are crying at this point."

■ MODEL U.N.

WINDING UP—Looking to win for the third consecutive year, Model U.N. delegates—juniors, sophomores and freshmen—will end the season competing at Northwestern University's conference April 19-22 in north suburban Evanston.

Representing China, Australia and Kuwait, 21 U-Highers will face the legendary St. Ignatius College Prep, founded in 1870 as Chicago's first Jesuit school, hoping to avenge a loss to the "Wolf Pack" at the Chicago International in December. Seniors won't participate in the conference, according to Model U.N. President Rosie Cuneo-Grant, senior.

"This was an incredibly difficult delegation to make," Rosie said. "We've had a surge of interest this year, and unfortunately Northwestern did not have enough available spots to accommodate a larger delegation. The decision not to take seniors was twofold. We worked to include more underclassmen in the delegation in order to give them an opportunity to develop their skills. However, we also wanted to provide our junior board members another leadership opportunity before next year."

■ **NO DEBATE ABOUT IT**—U-High debaters have been showing championship form in recent meets.

At a Berkeley, California, meet February 18-20, freshmen Luke Newell and Kevin Li made octafinals in the novice division and Luke was ranked 12th speaker. In the varsity division, the U-Highers placed three teams in the elimination rounds.



Photo by Reem Khondakar

In person, dancers! On video, singers!

DANCING THE historic song "Simple Gifts," and Places." More than 700 parents, alumni, faculty and staff members and friends of the Lab Schools turned out for the gala evening, which after-dinner entertainment reflecting the theme of the Parents' Association annual benefit March 3 at the Grand Ballroom at Navy Pier, "Green Spaces

Sophomores Alice Yu and Lily Zhao together reached the triple octafinals with Seniors Joyce Harduvel and Cory Stern.

Senior Charlie Rafkin and Junior Mia Gil Epner also reached the octafinals and earned an invitation, for the second time, to the Tournament of Champions in Lexington, Kentucky, this year May 4-6, in which the top 72 teams in the nation will compete.

At a tournament at south suburban Homewood-Flossmoor High School February 24-26 two U-High teams won four of six debates and ranked among the top 20 teams. The teams were Sophomores Lily Zhao and Sam Kaplan, and Seniors Cory Stern and Joyce Harduvel.

■ **PHOTOJOURNALISTS SHOWCASE**—U-High photojournalists are expected to be among those from nine area high schools with their work showcased at Stuart-Rodgers' Photographers' annual high school exhibit Friday, April 13 through Sunday 13 at the studio's gallery, 375 West Eire Sreet.

The exhibit will open April 13 with a reception 5:30-8:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Discovery 2012: Documenting the Action, Emotion and Stories of Student Life."

Explained Stuart-Rodgers representative Angela Singer, "The exhibition focuses on images that show school spirit, best represent the school and include photography as an art, which includes having a foreground, subject, background and infinity."

Photojournalism Liese Ricketts selected the work of five U-High photojournalists to enter; she has not yet been notified whose work has been chosen.

Stuart-Rodgers has been U-High's yearbook portrait photographer for many years; the students' work will be for sale, with half of the profits being returned to the schools' yearbook photography programs.

Other schools participating are Barrington, Evanston Township, Glenbrook, Loyola, New Trier, Northside College Prep, Roycemore and St. Scholastica.

■ **AUTHOR VISITS**—Dan Greenstone, author of the well-reviewed book "A Theory of Great Men," visited English Teacher Steve Gevinson's English classes last Thursday to discuss his experiences being a novelist.

A teacher at Oak Park and River Forest High School, where Mr. Gevinson also has taught, Mr. Greenstone is a 1989 U-High graduate.

The book tells the story of a suburban Chicago high school history teacher who debunks the "Great Man" theory of history, telling his students that people's lives are shaped by forces beyond their control and sometimes understanding. As the story proceeds, he learns otherwise.

Mr. Greenstone, 39, worked six months on the novel, written in first person; it was published in June. He moved from his native Hyde Park to Oak Park in 2001. His wife, Ms. Heidi Lynch, is a guidance counselor at the high school.

■ **ADVISER TO GET HONORED**—

Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler, Midway and U-Highlights co-adviser, will be honored Friday in New York City by the Columbia (University, New York) Scholastic Press Association at its annual convention for his 48-year career at U-High.

Mr. Brasler will receive the Charles R. O'Malley Award for Excellence in Teaching, named in honor of a former executive director of the Association at a luncheon in the Rotunda of Low Memorial Library at the University.

In notifying Mr. Brasler of the award, CSPA Director Edmund Sullivan wrote, "Due to your long and distinguished career of a half-century working with students who write and produce newspapers and yearbooks at the Laboratory Schools of the University of Chicago, the CSPA considers it an honor to present you with the O'Malley Award."

"In addition, it is not the sheer length of your tenure as adviser, how impressive that is, but the persistent integrity of your practice as an adviser and teacher that motivates this recognition."

At the convention Mr. Brasler will be presenting a workshop on using the New York Times in high school journalism classes with Mr. Robert Greenman, longtime journalist, journalism teacher and publications adviser and educational consultant for the Times. Mr. Greenman and Mr. Brasler have teamed up for similar workshops previously.

Mr. Brasler previously received CSPA's Gold Key for outstanding advising in 1975; he was the Dow-Jones Newspaper Fund National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year in 1981 and leading up to that honor won two Distinguished Adviser awards; is a National Scholastic Press Association and Reader's Digest Foundation Pioneer Award winner; and was the first recipient of NSPA's Walt Clarkson Outstanding Adviser Award in 2005.

In 1996 NSPA named a news award after him to recognize an outstanding story published in the high school press each year. In 2007 he received the University of Missouri School of Journalism Gold Medal for his defense of high school press rights.

■ **RITES DATE CHANGE**—Because of the NATO summit in Chicago May 20-21, expected to make travel in part of the city difficult, the Rites of May has been delayed a week, and shifted from Thursday through Sunday to Wednesday through Friday.

The dates are May 23-25; club and game booths will be open the first two nights followed by the Spring Production. On Friday night only the production will take place.

The International Festival for younger children has been moved earlier by two weeks, to Saturday, May 5.

■ **CORRECTION**—In the February 21 Midway a caption identifying a fencer as Duncan Holmes evidently was incorrect and a quote in the fencing story was worded wrong. The reporter apologizes for copying the quote from his notes incorrectly.



Photo by Leslie Kamel

In support of multiple language learning

EMPHASIZING THE BENEFITS of multilingualism in other academic areas, a panel of multilingual experts spoke in a faculty program on Bilingualism Wednesday February 22, in Judd 126.

The panel, organized by World Language Department Chairperson Suzanne Baum, included Anastasia Giannakidou (from right), Professor of linguistics at the University of Chicago; and Kay González-Vilbazo and Kara Morgan-Short, assistant professors at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The speakers stressed the benefits

learning more than one language brings to the quality of a person's life overall, including using the brain in different ways, and traced misconceptions in the past about learning more than one language resulting in learning difficulties rather than learning benefits.

Teachers who attended said they found what the panelists offered fascinating and sometimes surprising.

An evening program the same day was presented for a receptive audience of parents.

AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT

Something has changed...but why?

School tightens the reins when they never needed tightening

Freedom. It's a word U-Highers used to hear a lot about.

A double lunch period once a week when students organizations could meet and students could socialize. A laid-back Artsfest each February allowing U-Highers to learn from one another, school guests, and faculty members.

Now, both are not what they used to be.

MOVED TO Thursday morning and now known as Assembly Period, the free time which once was double lunch has become decidedly less useful and more strict.

Sure, having a time for the large Martin Luther King Day assembly is a great thing. But, throughout the rest of the year, the period can rarely be put to good use.

Instead, the entire school must attend assemblies or presentations that often feel simply like time fillers. It isn't necessary for the whole school to hear an entire presentation about a specific club or activity.

ON THE CONTRARY, double lunch served a real purpose. Clubs could meet and students had a time to unwind.

And next year, when advisory is extended to seniors, all U-Highers will only have one 35-minute open period on Fridays.

The results are made even worse by the reduction of schedulable class periods, giving students even less free periods.

It's as though the school is punishing each and every student for misusing his or her free time.

BUT, THE problem is that most U-Highers weren't up to no good in the first place. Student organizations met during the time, socializing took place, and U-Highers got an opportunity to relax with their friends.

The atmosphere at U-High is not the same as it was.

And then the school decided to go a step further when it instituted a work detail to punish students skipping Artsfest workshops.

ARTSFEST HAS LONG been a symbol of student freedom. In a structured curriculum, students have little time to learn from each other or showcase their talents.

So why force students to be in strictly prescribed locations with a threat of detention? If they miss Artsfest workshops, it's their loss. That's how college works. That's how life works, in fact.

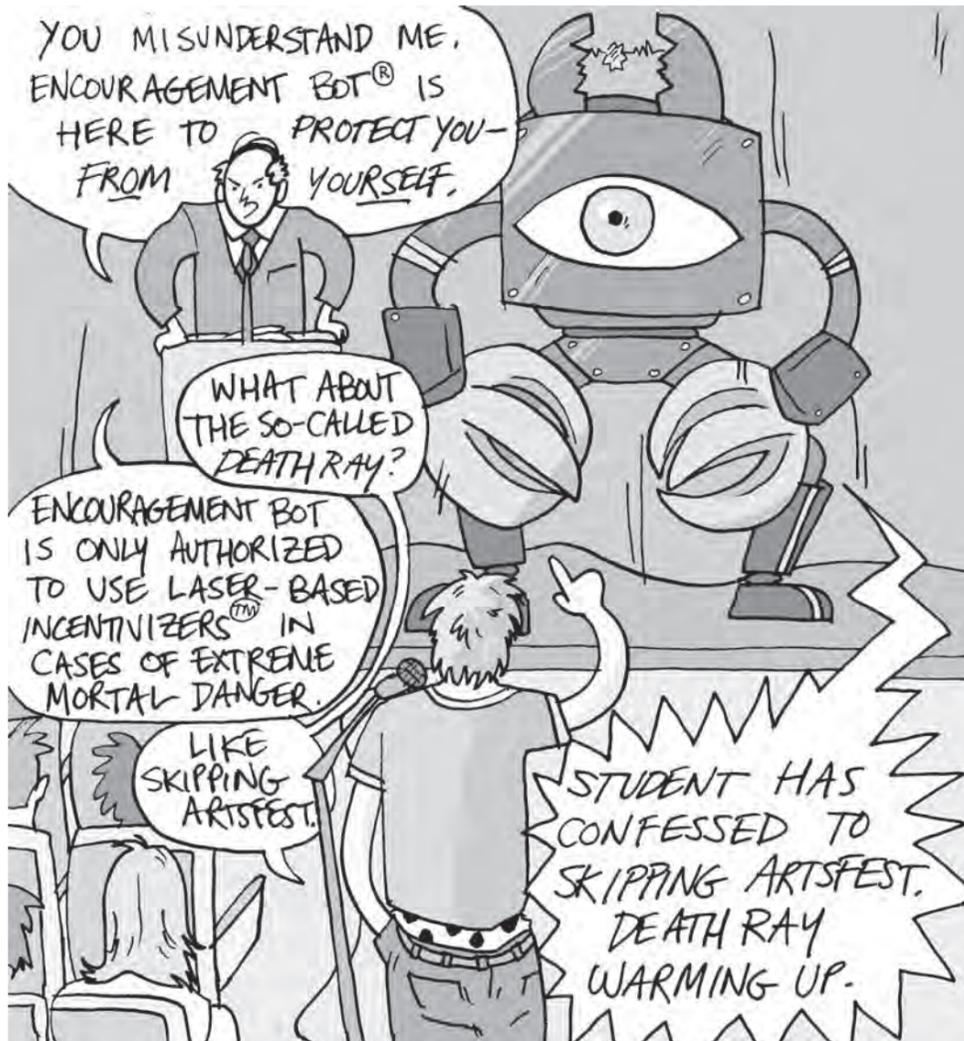
Giving U-Highers responsibility and freedom now, within the context of the school still running in an orderly and

productive manner, can only help them later.

AND WITHOUT any seemingly substantive arguments that student freedom was abused in the first place, the

changes to what has always made U-High a special school are even more puzzling.

It's all making someone feel better, but certainly not U-High students.



Art by Gene Cochrane

OPINION DUNCAN WEINSTEIN

Unanimously for a bad outcome

APPROVING MAYOR Rahm Emanuel's plan to close 14 schools, the Chicago Board of Education voted unanimously February 22, after listening to hours of testimony against the closings.

During their daylong meeting, the seven school board members, all appointed by Mayor Emanuel, voted to completely restaff 10 schools, close three others, and phase out one, after hearing 70 speakers, only a portion of those who wanted to speak.

BEFORE THE VOTE, school board members held 60 community forums where parents, teachers and community activists spoke out against the closings. Protesters marched on Mayor Emanuel's house, and staged demonstrations at schools scheduled to be closed.

But, all the schools included in the plan have been on academic probation for at least four years, by consistently failing to meet standards, and have shown few signs of improvement.

Emanuel wants to get rid of underperforming schools because if Chicago students score higher on standardized tests, he can claim to have fixed Chicago's huge education problem, almost ensuring his reelection.

PLUS, HIGHER TEST SCORES attract federal funding, and encourage people to stay in the city at a time when Chicago's population is declining. But not everyone benefits from the changes.

Students attending closed school can apply

to already competitive selective enrollment schools, but most of them will have to make the trek to another neighborhood school, or the district will have to fund buses to get them there.

And performance at those schools may dip as teachers must handle larger classes expanded to accommodate transfers.

BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) contract with Chicago Public Schools (CPS), CPS CEO Jean Claude-Brizard can't fire individual teachers, so he has to restaff whole schools to change anything.

Headed by Karen Lewis, the CTU has opposed school closing and restaffing, because teachers will lose jobs.

The teachers' union worries that relaxing tenure rules could allow principals to fire teachers arbitrarily.

FIRING CONDITIONS can be strict; teachers could only be dismissed for bad performance reviews from colleagues, students, and principals as well as bad students' scoring poorly on standardized tests.

But there has to be a way to fire teachers that by consensus aren't teaching well.

The union asked the district for 30 percent raises over two years as part of new contract negotiations February 17, according to the Chicago Tribune.

FINE, BUT ONLY for great teachers, and in exchange for allowing bad ones to be fired.

In the disconnect between CPS and the teachers' union, students and parents lose.



Duncan

Put your thoughts in print for all to see

The Midway is committed to providing a marketplace of opinion in the school. To do that, we need letters to the editor from students, faculty members, administrators and parents.

Just place your letter in Mr. Brasler's

mailbox in the U-High office and we will take it from there. We will contact you and help you prepare your letter for publication.

The only requirement: You must sign your letter. Please write the Midway!

SAYWHAT?

Compiled by Michael Glick

If you could go anywhere you wanted for Spring Vacation where would it be?



Martin

MARTIN GARRETT-CURRIE, senior: I would go to Spain, for two reasons. I would get to watch a lot of good soccer games and I would be able to test my Spanish-speaking skills.

NADJA BARLERA, junior: I would go to Italy because I have a lot of friends there. Italy also has really good food, especially ice cream.

CARAH ALEXANDER, sophomore: I would take a trip to somewhere warm, like Hawaii, because I am tired of the clouds and cold weather of Chicago.

NATANIEL POSNER, freshman: I would go the Moon because the idea of going somewhere few people have been really intrigues me. I really enjoy unique experiences.



Nadja



Carah



Nathaniel

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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MUSIC MARISSA PAGE: *Smooth rustic, catchy music from a Chicagoan*

PACKED WITH a wide arsenal of instruments, folk singer-songwriter and native Chicagoan Andrew Bird's "Break It Yourself" combines toe-tapping rhythms and whistling.



Marissa

Raised in the Chicago North Shore suburbs, Bird graduated from Lake Forest High School in 1991. He released his first solo album, "Music of Hair," in 1996, upon graduating from Northwestern University with a bachelor's degree in violin.

Collaborating with Chicago-based acts such as Squirrel Nut Zippers and Quality Six, and eventually leading the band Andrew Bird's Bowl of Fire, Bird forsook his solo career in the late 90s to focus on group work. After three widely-acclaimed albums,

the band informally dissolved in 2003, which gave Bird a chance to explore his solo career. Since then, Bird has produced five albums under an assortment of different labels. Each has garnered him praise from music critics.

The fusion violin playing with folk, jazz and blues in his early music remain a key element of his style today. Notably displayed in his single "Oh No" from 2009 album "Noble Beast," he makes great use of his whistling talent on four of "Break It Yourself's" 14 tracks.

Percussively innovative and aesthetically pleasing, this C.D. marks Bird's sixth solo venture. Ideal for a bike ride in the summertime, his rambling, inoffensive tunes are natural, breezy, and peppered with sentimentality.

From space-rock to bluegrass, "Break It Yourself" encompasses elements of several musical styles. The album's second track, "Danse Carribe," combines Caribbean steel

drumming with folk undertones to create a balanced sound, whereas lovesick "Lusitania" is a soulful, bluesy duet featuring an unnamed female vocalist. Another standout includes "Orpheo Looks Back," consisting of a layered foundation of sounds, combining patterns of the gypsy scale with plucky banjo.

While each track maintains semblance of originality and difference from each other, they flow perfectly, connected by the omnipresent violin and inherent rustic, down-home-y feel.



COOKING WITH ANEESH KANAKAMEDALA

Easy Italian treat can satisfy taste for something crunchy

RAINY AND THUNDEROUS March weather become easy breezes with a piping hot drink and Almond Cherry Biscotti, a tasty Italian hard bread with a crumbly interior.



Aneesh

These diagonal pieces of bread originate from Prato, Italy, and complement almost any beverage. Toasty and subtly sweet, these biscotti crunch in the mouth, yet do not break teeth. This recipe draws from *bonappetit.com*, but I changed up the proportions and ingredients to my liking. Experimenters can utilize almost any nut, dried fruit and sometimes chocolate to make delicious pieces of biscotti.

Biscotti requires double baking, meaning

the first baking period toughens up the crust while the second session toasts both sides of individual pieces.

Cooks need not worry. Although biscotti take about an hour-and-a-half to make, this recipe requires few ingredients and satisfies any guest. One batch makes around 14 pieces and serves as a light breakfast or snack. Doubling the recipe or hiding the leftovers is recommended, as they tend to disappear within two days of baking.

You will need:

2 1/2 cups all purpose flour, plus a pinch to dust the counter
2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
7 tbs butter
2 eggs
1/2 cup sugar
1 1/2 tsp vanilla

zest of one lemon

1 1/4 cup almonds, roughly chopped
1 cup dried cherries, roughly chopped

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Cover a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Next, sift the flour, baking powder and salt in a medium bowl to remove lumps.

Beat butter in a mixer bowl until fluffy, about three minutes. Add the sugar and beat for three more minutes until the mixture resembles coarse little crumbs. Beating butter and sugar together is



FOR AN extra burst of flavor, melt some high cacao percentage dark chocolate and dip or drizzle it over your biscotti. Photos courtesy of Aneesh.

known as the creaming method, which ensures the end product has a consistent texture and doesn't contain huge air bubbles.

Add the eggs one at a time, mixing until thoroughly combined. Add in the vanilla and zest and mix. Pour in the flour mixture and mix until just combined. Do not overbeat, as the biscotti will end up hard and unpleasant to the tongue. The dough should be stiff but sticky.

Finally, add the almonds and cherries, by folding them into the batter.

Place the biscotti dough on a flour-dusted surface and divide into roughly two equal portions. Roll each piece into foot long, four-inch-wide logs and place them on the baking sheet, making sure to space them a couple inches apart.

Next, begin the first portion of baking. Put the biscotti into the oven and bake for 30 minutes, until the dough starts to set but is still slightly pliable. Remove the baking sheet from the oven, and maintain the 325 degree temperature for the second baking. Let the biscotti rest for 10 minutes.

Take a serrated knife and gently saw through the biscotti on a diagonal, cutting half inch thick pieces. Lay them on the baking sheet on one of their cut sides and bake for nine minutes. Flip them over and bake for another nine minutes.

Carefully remove them from the oven and let them rest for two minutes, until they are not too hot to touch. Finally, take one of these delicious, toasted treats, dunk it into your favorite beverage and enjoy.



VOILA! When cutting the biscotti, make sure to use a serrated knife to get clean slices.

FILM MOIRA DIFFERDING

Out of control but still massively funny

BOOZE, BUD, BABES, and a bouncy house. "Project X" is no ordinary high-school house party film.

For Thomas Cub (Thomas Mann), his 17th birthday hasn't gone well so far. His parents gave him their old beat-up mini-van and some popular kids called him gay and shoved him against his locker. His eccentric Mexican friend Costa (Oliver Cooper), who wears an old-man sweater-vest and constantly talks about sex, decides that it's time for a change.



Moira

Instead of sitting around moping, Costa decides to take advantage of Thomas' parents absence and throw a huge house party designed to attract girls and boost their popularity. He definitely achieves it through his own ingenuity, a friendly but psychoic gun-wielding drug-dealer, and pint sized security armed with tazers.

Instead of the small party of 50 Thomas agreed to, Costa invites the entire school, random people on the street, a drug-dealer and lists the party on Craigslist. That, combined with Thomas' incredibly awkward, overweight friend J.B. (Jonathan Daniel Brown) attempts to plan the party, result in a disastrously crazy party.

What stops "Project X" from becoming a glorified porno lies in Director Nima Nourizadeh's brilliant casting and scenery. By picking three no-name actors, viewers have no idea what to expect when they walk into the theater. Costa's vulgar, troublesome behavior

seems cute, even mischeaveous despite committing a list of felonies under the perfect acting of Cooper. Mann portrays Thomas as a perfect, innocent boy who just wants the girl-next-door and is more nervous about the party than he is excited by it.

Filmed through the trio's reliable but creepy friend Dax's camera, the viewer feels as if they're getting ready for the party too. Unlike the horror film "Cloverfield" which also used this technique, "Project X" isn't shaky and won't give anyone motion sickness.

Hilarious lines punctuate every scene in the movie from the gnome kidnapping, the adventures party-goers have inside the bouncy house Thomas rented when shopping for the party. While mostly vulgar in content, the jokes are undisputably hilarious. So many one-liners and bizarre scenarios line "Project X" into a perfect comedy.

This is no stereotypical house-party anyone may have seen in theaters before. "Project X" is wild, literally bringing-down-the-house crazy. People pass out everywhere, everyone is pumped full of alcohol or drugs and people commit many a felony.

The beats pumped by the D.J.s vary drastically, but all songs are awesome chart-topping hits like "Pursuit of Happiness" by Kid Cudi, "Party Rock Anthem" by



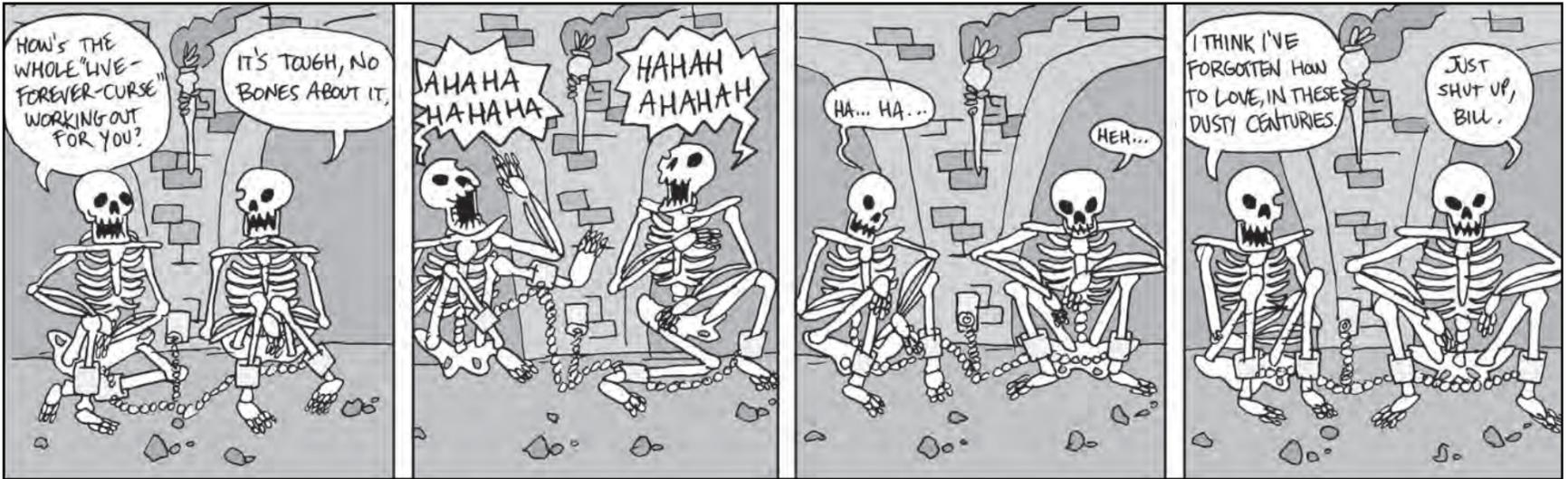
CELEBRATING AT the peak of the party, host Thomas (Thomas Mann) finally lets loose and begins to enjoy the unexpected massive party along with the other thousands present. Photo from *projectxmovie* and Warners Brothers.

LMFAO, and dubstep. It's intense.

While "Project X" won't win any awards come Oscar time next year, it will undoubtedly find itself a special place in the hearts of many viewers.

Though loud, wild and crazy, "Project X" pulls a simple plot, hilarious script and lovable actors together with the one desire of countless highschoolers: to be cool, even for a night. "Project X" runs 88 minutes and is rated R for crude and sexual content throughout, nudity, drugs, drinking, pervasive language, reckless behavior and mayhem - all involving teens.

Lorem Ipsum.....by Gene Cochrane



Illinois school cracks down, searches students

(continued from front page)

the informality of the student – teacher relationship.”

While school administrators have the ability search student belongings, the authority of schools is not unlimited according to Frank LoMonte, the Executive Director of the Student Press Law Center, located in Arlington, Virginia.

“**THERE ARE BOUNDARIES,**” Mr. LoMonte said. “The school has to use their judgment on how deep the intrusion will be and there are certainly boundaries they can’t cross. Two years ago, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of a student who was strip-searched in order for school officials to find non-prescription pain medication. There is a difference between taking extreme measures to find machine guns within a school and trying to find Tylenol in a student’s possession.

“There is greater latitude for schools to search students than for police stopping people walking down the street. I think some relaxation about how to conduct searches within schools is absolutely necessary. There should be some flexibility to act if a school receives a tip that a person is doing something dangerous. That being said, if there is no imminent danger, there certainly is not a different fourth amendment right for students. There is no relaxed constitutional

right because of your age.

“I do have some concerns about a case like Stevenson because school officials were not looking for drugs but evidence. The school was acting as a prosecutor and investigator.

“**IT IS HARD** to justify why a school can use its public safety to gather evidence when a student is not doing anything physically dangerous. If what their doing is to prove that students have bought and sold drugs, that is a grey constitutional activity.

“If the search was just based on a student’s first name, it is awfully hard to justify an extensive investigation. The risk is too great that school officials will search people who were not involved.

“I have to ask what caused Stevenson officials to believe that the search was urgent? If all they were doing was trying to find people who had previously bought and sold drugs then they may have gone too far.

IF THERE IS no imminent danger, Mr. LoMonte feels schools officials should give the student involved time to seek advice.

“I think if a student has any discomfort that the search is going to far, it’s always legitimate to ask to pause the investigation and consult with a parent or with lawyers,” Mr. LoMonte said. “They should give you the opportunity to get advice and be willing to

tell you the basis of why you are being searched.

“There is a point at which you have to be careful not to set yourself up for insubordination by refusing to cooperate, but if you think the school is going too far, then students can refuse. If the school provides no reason at all for wanting to see a phone, and you haven’t broken any other rules, then you ought to refuse.

IN SOME CASES, like bullying, Mr. LoMonte believes schools may be taking unnecessary measures.

“Students phones are being taken away to find bully type messages,” Mr. LoMonte said. “It’s one thing to use your authority to prevent a physical danger, but if you’re just trying to catch someone on past behavior, then you have to observe basic constitutional rights.

“If students are violating the rules by having a cell phone then authorities are within their rights to confiscate the phone but they do not have the authority to read the contents on that phone.

“I think as we rely more and more on cell phones, we run the risk of another type of privacy invasion. Schools can overstep their bounds. They should not be allowed to read the contents of a student’s phone, especially when phones are no longer used for the sole purpose of communicating.”

(See editorial page 4 on another kind of cracking down.)

Every Bite a Tasty Delight!

Give your taste buds a delicious treat this spring and head over to Medici. We’re located just a block away from U-High, so you can come over during lunch, free periods and after school. You can choose anything from cheesy delights like our famous deep dish pizza and pasta alfredo to crisp spring salads with our extensive menu. We promise you will find the perfect meal at Medici to bring in this spring!



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CELEBRATING THE coming of warm weather with a trip to Medici, Zoe Briskey and Sophia Weaver choose to split a mouthwatering pasta alfredo and fresh house salad. Photo by Leslie Kamel.

WINTER SPORTS ROUNDUP

Basketball boys

Despite being stunned by a 64-72 Illinois High School Association Regional Semifinal loss to Seton in double overtime, February 22 in Upper Kovler, boy basketballers believe they performed well despite the coaching change up midseason.

Ending their season with a 17-13 (7-5 ISL) record, the Maroons dominated Dyett in Washington Park in the first Regional game 47-28 February 20, with Sophomore Max Rothchild scoring 15 points.

The team was well on its way to a win over Seton as well before everything started falling apart, according to Captain Louis Van Craen.

"THERE WERE 6.8 seconds left in first overtime," Louis said. "We were up by 4, and Max had a chance for a shot. He missed and then they got the rebound. The Seton player chucked the ball up and the ball banks in, and he gets fouled in a process, a 4 point play. So here we are now, there's 2.8 seconds left, and the kid is at the free throw line."

"Now the entire game, Seton had been missing free throws. But he knocks it in and it's a tie game 53-53. We take a time out but at this point all the momentum was on their side. We miss and we go into second overtime, and they go on a 6-0 run. We lost."

The Seton game proved an emotional rollercoaster, according to Louis.

"SETON WAS the best team we had faced so far and we had a good chance to beat them. We were already celebrating before the end of the game, and I went from the biggest emotional high to feeling horrible 10 minutes later."

The Maroons thought that the mid-season replacement of Coach Troy Caldwell by Mr. Chad Stewart did not change their performance significantly.

"Coach Stewart's not a rookie," Junior Kyle Parker said. "He coached Morgan Park High School, one of the best public teams in Illinois as well as one of the best AAU teams in the nation, the Mac Irvin Fire."

"He does have a different coaching style, he's more relaxed and lets us play our game. With him coaching us, we were just as good if not better."



POISED TO DRIVE to the hoop with his weak hand after faking a shot, Captain Louis Van Craen drives past a Seton guard and scores a layup in 64-72 defeat in the Sectional Semi-final. Photo by Asha Ransby-Sporn



UP IN THE AIR, Freshman Jordan Moran executes a pass to Louis. Seton went on to play at IHSA State Semi-Finals. Photo by Asha Ransby-Sporn.

Boy swimmers

Finishing 5th out of 16, behind Ignatius, Whitney Young, Latin and Walter Payton at the Sectional meet at the UIC Pool February 18, boy swimmers placed in two of the three relays.

Coached by Mr. Paul Gunty, the Maroon's finished with a 5-3 record. The 400-freestyle relay, consisting of Juniors David Tong, William Chung, Sophomore Eliot Levmore, and Freshman Alex Kim, placed 5th at the meet while taking 3rd in the All Time U-High record board.

THE 200 Medley Relay, consisting of David, William, Ju-

nior John Lin and Sophomore Noah Braendel, placed 5th at the meet, while placing 9th in the U-High top 10 records.

David made the Open State cut in the 100 fly for the second year in a row with a 55.1 second performance, but missed the IHSA State cut for the 100 backstroke by .7 seconds.

"Going into the 100 backstroke, I wasn't expecting to place in the top 5 let alone 2nd. I had been swimming around a 1:00 before, and I was the slowest in my heat. When I got off the wall, I felt amazing and I was going really far in my turns."

"I think that really helped. I was leading for the first 75 yards, but off the last wall, my body just gave out and I got out touched. It was a disappointment, but now I can't wait to take that next year."

SPRING PREVIEW

Soccer girls

Facing off against Northside College Prep 6:45 p.m. today in Jackman field, the Maroons are expecting to compete at Illinois High School Association State, which no soccer team has done in U-High history.

Having switched into the smaller Division 1A from 2A, the Maroons are facing teams with more similar student populations like Lincoln Park High School. U-High had lost to Nazareth, with a student population three times that of U-high. The game against Illinois Christian March 12 came past Midway press time.

"WE'LL FACE Payton at those tournaments," said Junior Liana Manuel. "We're playing all the big schools then and we're looking forward to it. We're working on playing intelligently, getting a sense of the game and making smart decisions."

U-High is not deficient in leadership with four captains returning.

"We have four captains this year," Senior Sydney Scarlata. "Seniors Lexie Barber, Sarah Schacht, Katie Klespies and me. With four captains as opposed to the two last year, it will be easier for us to share responsibilities and head the team. We have a lot of potential and we're bringing up four freshmen, Kasey Kozak, Miranda Scarlata, Ivana Jureta and Sylvie Manuel. These freshmen will be crucial to our success."

Boy, girl runners

With several runners running personal records in preseason, the track team is looking to finishing strong in preparation for the Spring season, starting with the Timothy Invitational April 4.

At the Midway Miles Meet, March 2nd, Senior Katelyn Suchyta broke 6 minutes in her mile for the first time, while Sophomore Frank Waggoner ran a 5:04, both personal records. The freshmen runners improved from Fall cross country, according to Junior Sarah Curci, cocaptain with Seniors Katelyn Suchyta, Alex Chang, Andrew Palmer, and Junior Ben Meyer. The 4th Midway Miles meet results came past Midway press time.

"GABBY DEMAIO, Tristan Acevedo, Sebastian Labossiere, and Alex Thompson are really building the core of the sprinting team, like the 55 meters and other shorter events," Sarah said. "Zach Emmanuel, Madeline Sachs, and Arthur Chang, are doing the same with the distance team, who do the longer events. They're all working really hard and improved a lot. I feel like our Spring season will have even more improvement."

Baseball boys

Heading to their fourth annual retreat in Florida over the Spring Break, the baseball team is looking forward to see how extra practice during the offseason has changed their game.

Several returning varsity players have worked on fundamentals during the offseason in an attempt to win the Independent School League conference title, with the Maroons have not won in four years according to Junior Steven Glick.

"I NEVER like to get over-confident, but I like what I'm seeing in the first few weeks of practice," Steven said. "The 'twins,' Juniors Matt and Sam Lawrence, have always, since their freshman years, been vital to the team."

As upperclassmen they likely will have even more impact. Junior Max Hornung did a lot of hitting on his own in the offseason and



PACING THROUGH the 4th lap, of the 800 meters Seniors Katelyn Suchyta, Alex Chang, and Junior Hannah Tomio, gather strength before making push at the Midway Miles Meet February 3. Katelyn finished 6th out of 17. Photo by Katherine Garvey

it is clear based on his big hitting so far. We haven't won the ISL title in four years, and we were behind North Shore Country Day last year. We're looking forward to taking it this season."

Tennis boys

After losing three seniors last year, including prolific first singles player Tyler Anderson, to graduation, boys' varsity tennis players will look for large contributions from underclassmen as they head into the season.

Out of eight varsity team spots, Senior Anesh Kanakamedela believes four will likely be taken by freshmen and sophomores at the first match. After taking the first week to focus predominantly on conditioning, the Maroons have been practicing stroke work and team drills outside everyday after school since last Monday.

FOLLOWING SPRING BREAK, varsity players will take on the Whitney Young Dolphins March 29 at home. According to Senior Daniel Eimer, upcoming tough contests include Sandburg April 9 at home; Francis Parker, away, April 17; and Fenwick April 25 at home.

"I think we have a good chance this year of making it far in the State Tournament if we continue effort," Junior Amol Gundeti said. "We have some good new freshmen like Jeesae Kim and Rajan Agarwal. They have been consistent and they know how to finish points. Not only that, their defense is strong as well."

All stories reported and written by William Chung, sports editor

Showcasing four prolific personalities

ROBERT RADWAY

By Clea Braendel
Midway contributing reporter

Is there anyone at U-High who doesn't know Senior Robert Radway loves math and science?

At U-High, Robert has been a member of the Science and Math teams since his freshman year. He now serves as Science Team cocaptain with Senior Charlie Jiang.

ROBERT'S INTEREST in math and science began in 4th grade.

"I transferred from Saint Clement to Lab in 6th grade," Robert said. "I wasn't very challenged at my old school, so my mom also tutored me at home. I was enrolled in an online academic program called EPGY, Education Program for Gifted Youth, which is provided by Stanford University."

Hoping to further his academic interests, Robert is taking two college classes this year at the University of Chicago.

"I'M TAKING a college course called Comprehensive General Chemistry, which covers content similar to what you would see in AP Chemistry," he said. "My chemistry class has been really helpful in learning new techniques and methods working in the lab."

"I'm also taking Honors Calculus, which is a proof-based calculus class. I have enjoyed both classes, because they are more challenging and meet fewer periods during the week than U-High classes."

"Even though I have about 10 hours of homework each week from the two classes, it is still manageable because I am only taking four other classes and so the workload evens out."



AT A Science Team meeting, Robert Radway advises teammate Katelyn Suchyta on how to best design an experiment. A cocaptain this year, Robert has been a team member since freshman year. Photo by Katherine Garvey.

ROBERT BELIEVES the classes have shown him what to expect next year.

"I hope the classes make the transition to college a little easier," Robert said. "The only time I regret taking the courses is when it is one o'clock in the morning, and I still haven't figured out how to approach solving a problem."

On the weekends, Robert works as an intern at Magic Inc., one of the country's oldest magic stores located on Chicago's northwest side, and shows various magic tricks to customers. He has practiced magic since he was eight.

"I mostly do close-up magic, which includes card and coin tricks," Robert said. "I work for about six hours on weekends and also during breaks, demonstrating and then pitching the final product. I often see a pretty wide range of customers; everyone from kids who are just starting to become interested in magic to professionals who are looking for supplies."

CAITLIN GOLDWATER

By Clea Braendel
Midway contributing reporter

Most U-Highers don't get the chance to see Senior Caitlin Goldwater in her favorite high school environment: dissecting animals with Biology Teacher Daniel Calleri.

Caitlin has attended the Lab Schools since kindergarten, but she has only worked on dissections with Mr. Calleri and Mr. Daniel Jones the past two years.

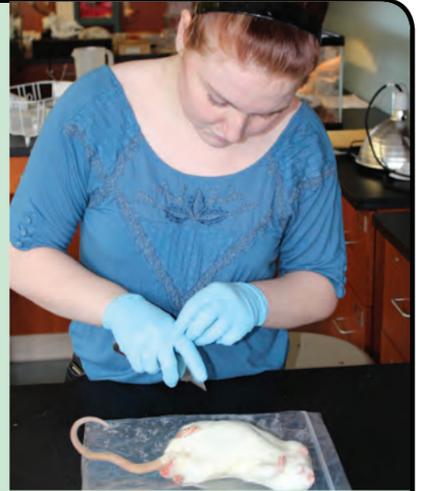
THIS YEAR, Caitlin created an independent study out of what had previously been a hobby.

"It's one thing to look at a picture in a textbook and it's another to observe that picture first-hand," Caitlin said. "I've worked on possums, squirrels, rabbits, and I once dissected a cat Mr. Calleri found. I have even dissected a deer head."

"My independent study meets during 7th period on Wednesdays, but I meet with one of the teachers whenever a new animal comes in. It is a pretty informal class, and I haven't had to write any papers. At the end of the dissection, I just discuss my findings with Mr. Calleri or Mr. Jones."

IN ADDITION to biology, Caitlin has been involved in the Chicago Children's Choir since she was 11. She traveled to The Republic of Georgia for one month last summer with the group.

"It was a life changing experience because the music is so different from our own, and it's amazing how much their culture is ingrained with



STARTING TO dissect a rat during her independent study period, Caitlin Goldwater works with teacher Daniel Calleri close by. Photo by Katherine Garvey.

their music," Caitlin said. "Georgia has been at war on and off with Russia for a while, so people use their music as strength. You hear people singing and you are just transfixed."

Caitlin also serves as an active member of the U-High theatre program, where she is a makeup mistress and a Student Experimental Theatre board member.

"ORIGINALLY I started theatre because my friends were doing it, but, the more I took part in it, the more I liked it," Caitlin said. "The theatre program has a very close-knit group of people, which is one of my favorite things about it. I also think it is fascinating how things come together, and all the different aspects you never think about when you are just watching the play. Being on the SET Board was exciting because we started from a completely clean slate, and built up the play on our own, so it was very rewarding."

ERIC GIGER

By Louis Harboe
Midway contributing reporter

Right-red earbuds in place, Sophomore Eric Giger navigates the halls, drowning out his peers' chatter with electronic artist Sonny Moore, commonly known as Skrillex.

Since transferring from Immaculate Conception Middle School in Elmhurst in 7th grade, Eric has used advice from his friends and teachers to improve his skills as a musician and composer. Assembling a playlist of electronic music the past three years, Eric plans to pursue a career as an electronic musician.

ERIC BEGAN his foray into music early, writing his first song, a simple piano piece, at age 6. While his first song lacked words, it was the first time Eric showed his fascination with music.

"I started playing piano when I was either 3 or 5," Eric said. "You could say that I'm in a musical family. My mother had my two sisters, my brother, and I take piano lessons before moving on to any other instrument of our choice. When I was 9, I taught myself to play guitar using tabs and took lessons briefly in 6th grade."

Eric says his brother Charlie has inspired him to stay committed to music. As a junior at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Charlie currently plays guitar and piano, and gives live performances around his college campus.

"MY BROTHER is the reason I love music so much," Eric said. "He was in a band during his early high school years but started to write his own solo stuff senior year. He introduced me to Blink-182 and that early-2000 punk



DURING LUNCH, Eric Giger plays a piano piece to possibly include in an original song. His mother made him take piano lessons, then he moved on to learn other instruments. Photo by Sarah Husain.

music, which set off a chain reaction."

Now a sophomore, Eric has found interest in much more than just punk. First writing songs on his guitar, Eric now uses synthesizers, electronic keyboards, and over 70 gigabytes of sound effects to produce different styles of music. His Facebook profile features a selection of classical piano, upbeat guitar, and dubstep remixes.

"I DON'T REALLY have a genre," Eric said. "The music I write depends on what I'm listening to. Last year, Mr. Brickner's music history class inspired me to make classical pieces. Other times I mess around with house music or progressive punk."

Eric posts only a small selection of his best work to his nearly 400 Facebook fans, which include fellow sophomores and his brothers' friends. He hopes that an online following will ultimately lead to widespread success.

"I want to have music in my life no matter what," Eric said. "When I went to my first concert in 7th grade I found something so mystifying about being in an audience. I hope one day I'll be on that stage."

ZACH EMANUEL

By Christine Obert-Hong
Midway contributing reporter

Clad in a track team jacket and blue jeans, Freshman Zach Emanuel can often be seen eating a chicken wrap and talking with his fellow track members in the cafeteria during lunch.

Tall, slim with brown hair and brown eyes, Zach has a warm personality that makes others gravitate towards him.

ZACH LIVED in Chicago for the first 11 years of his life, then moved to Washington, D.C., after his father got a job working for President Barack Obama's administration. The family lived on the northwestern side of Woodley Park in D.C. for two years before moving back to Chicago last August because his father's job changed once again.

"The biggest difference between Chicago and D.C. is that D.C. is a bit smaller, so my friends and I would walk wherever we needed to," Zack said. "We would sometimes go to Chipotle or see a movie on Friday nights. We would also spend time at someone's house and order Chinese take-out. I wasn't as keen on coming back this past summer, because I just really enjoyed living in D.C."

During his time in D.C., Zach attended Maret School, located in his neighborhood of Woodley Park.

"I REALLY appreciated my experience at Maret, because it had a very well-rounded student body and curriculum," he said. "The student body was also diverse, integrated and it was very easy to make friends. Maret has some similarities to Lab because the students are very similar, it's easy to



READY TO start the first lap of his mile event at a track meet March 2 at Henry Crown Field House, Zach Emanuel finished with a time of 5:43. Photo by Sarah Husain.

make friends, and both schools are very focused on building well-rounded students in arts, academics, and athletics. I didn't do any activities at Maret, though, unlike here."

At U-High, Zach's main extracurricular activity has been running for both the cross country and track teams.

"So far, becoming a runner has been one of the best choices I have made since I came here," he said. "Pre-season for cross country definitely helped me get a couple of friends in my grade, and in other grades too. So, I knew some people before I started school, which was really beneficial."

FIVE MONTHS into his first year here, Zach was voted as the All-School Winter Formal King, an unusual honor for a freshman. Sophomore Sonia Bourdaghs was chosen Queen.

"I definitely didn't expect to win Formal King, especially as a freshman," Zach said. "I guess it showed me that I have good friends throughout the High School, and that was nice to know."