



WHEN EXCELLENCE IS AN IMPERATIVE, NOT AN OPTION

U-Highers from Asian families can face unyielding expectations

By Rolland Long
Associate editor

Almost every day after school before Science Team's season ended earlier this month, a junior girl from an Asian family joined every afternoon in building towers for upcoming competitions.

Afterwards she walked to her home one block from school and devoted the rest of her night studying to maintain her 4.0 Grade Point Average (GPA).

In addition to having almost no time for friends and family members, she says constant criticism from her parents adds to her academic stress.

WHILE SHE ISN'T representative of all 68 U-Highers with Asian backgrounds, she is among many who say they struggle to balance their academic and social lives.

Early last year, people across the country debated "Chinese" parenting methods after Yale University Law Professor Amy Chua published "Why Chinese Mothers are Superior" in the Wall Street Journal. In her article, Chua advocated stricter parenting styles while including excerpts from her parenting memoir "The Battle-Hymn of the Tiger Mother."

In contrast, some Asian U-Highers say they have felt great pressure because of their parents' strictness. Those interviewed asked not to be named to protect their dearly held family reputations.

DESPITE HER HIGH grades during her first two high school years, the junior girl believes her parents sometimes set impossible expectations.

"Just to be clear, I know I have less

pressure than a lot of other Asian kids. At the end of last year I had a 3.93 GPA, although this year it's been a 4.0. When I told my dad about my grades last year, he told me it could have been better. Basically his attitude was, 'good job, you didn't screw up.'

"My parents pressure me more on things like music, where they might be proud for a couple of days if I perform well, but then start complaining about my performance later on. My parents are still angry at every single A minus I bring home, but basically, if I do well, they tell me I did a good job, and might say something like, now you get to use the Internet for a couple more days.

"OFTENTIMES THEY LIKE comparing me to Charles Du, a senior last year who was a finalist in the Science Olympiad. It was only recently that my mom convinced my dad they should stop. I tend to deal with these things by venting out and even sometimes start acting strange."

Academics do rank most important, according to an Asian parent of one junior and one graduate. He believes parents should be strict with their children.

"Academics is first priority because it makes you knowledgeable," he said. "It also makes your life easier, and most importantly, it makes you a productive member of society.

"IT IS THE MOST important thing in our family and hopefully that's not much different from other Chinese families. Traditionally, Oriental people invest more money and more time into education. The tradition is that you get a good education, rise fast in society, and bring glory to your family.



LIKE MANY Asian U-Highers Ellen Ma and Jeff Li (photos from top) find it difficult to maintain high grades while having a social life.

CHECKING HER math homework with her father Mr. Li Ma, a diabetes researcher, Ellen says she and her parents have worked out agreements about keeping academic pressures reasonable. Photo by Reem Khondakar.

AN AVID soccer player, Jeff says team and club practices make getting homework done even more of a challenge for him. Photo by Elizabeth Gelman.



"I definitely expect children to study hard and get better grades, because it looks good to colleges and because it's a traditional expectation. Both of my daughters study hard because we supervise them every time they do their homework. My children don't complain often.

"Asian Americans are a pretty good minority, but the American perception of the tiger mom and tiger dad is not overblown. I think it's good, because you see the results.

"MY OLDEST DAUGHTER is living

a pretty good life and making a lot of money. I don't know if my other daughter will go down the same path as my oldest one, but I think she might be successful doing something else."

Noticing Asian U-Highers talk to him about academic issues more than anything else, Guidance Counselor Ronald Tunis says he has many come through his office door.

"It's hard for me to give a percent-

(continues on page 4)

Something LOST... Something GAINED

The name's the same, but U-High has changed direction significantly

1963-2012. In 50 years, some aspects of U-High remain, but many have disappeared...for better or worse.

8:20 a.m. late start Mondays were once 8:50 a.m. late start every days in the late '60s and early '70s. Spirit Weeks, established in the 1970s, were as now sponsored by Student Council, but took place Spring Quarter. Artsfest once covered two entire weeks devoted to music, visual and performing arts and until 1978 included judged exhibitions. U-High was even



Ms. Fama

the prime filming location for Director Franco Zeffirelli's "Endless Love" starring Brooke Shields in 1980. Two-hundred U-Highers participated as extras in the film.

IN 1990, Student Council took on a year-long project to address teen sexuality and relationships while today Spectrum brings in a variety of speakers to tackle similar topics. In 1991, when the first Iraq war broke out, students organized the Students

of Peace Association (SPA) and brought in speakers to discuss various views towards the war. Similarly, in early March 2003, when conflict with Iraq escalated again, the faculty initiated all-school assemblies to discuss the possibility of war. Later that month, after fighting had begun, 40 U-Highers cut class to engage in a war protest at the University of Chicago.

For Beth Fama, Class of 1981 and mother of Sally, Class of 2006, Eric, Class of 2009, Senior Gene and Freshman Lydia, life at U-High in the 80s was similar to U-High today.

"There was still a healthy connection to the University, and the focus on thinking critically and writing well," Ms. Fama said. "Those things are the essence of U-High.

"I LIKE the way U-High is still accessible to regular athletes. I appreciated the mix of faculty kids with community kids, and I still do. I wished back then and still wish that the theater

would put on musicals.

"The only thing I didn't like about high school was feeling a bit unnoticed. Although I was friendly with a lot of people, and I always had a close friend, I actively avoided cliques, and the corollary to rejecting cliques is not having anyone take you under their wing. It's tough to watch other girls be popular when your skill set is just as good as theirs. I mean, at 47 I can say with some objectivity that 1980s Beth was funny and smart and cute.



Mr. Magill

The "Old Lab," according to Ms. Fama, was much less concerned with being a prestigious college-prep school.

"THERE WAS ROOM for the cut-ups and the screw-ups and the pot-heads in class," Ms. Fama said. "Those kids didn't get nudged out over time as they sometimes do now, and they were a vibrant and refreshing, and sometimes highly creative, part of the school atmosphere.

"My brothers are perfect examples; don't tell them I said so. They're successful adults who got a lot out of the school but didn't take it too seriously and didn't excel in the traditional ways, although every teacher remembers them better than their straight-A sister. My brother Chris had an actual slogan about it: 'Cs get degrees.' Kids today feel pressured to perform and conform, and they dutifully sign up for extracurriculars instead of finding their true passions outside of school, which I think we did more of back then through unstructured personal projects."

While May Project offers seniors the chance to explore a topic of interest, Ms. Fama believes U-High should offer more similar opportunities. In 1970, a group of students and teachers founded the Student-Teacher Coalition (STC) to effect changes that would give each student a larger role in determining his own education, according to a 1970 Midway article. Among their suggestions, the STC proposed that students should plan their own curriculum with the help of advisers. The program lasted two years and 40 U-Highers participated.

A SIMILAR PROGRAM in the '60s allowed freshmen to design their own class plan to ease them into high school.

"I'd like us to get back that rangy edge we used to have, and find ways to encourage kids to do large projects instead of organized, structured activities that look good on your college

applications but don't light your fire for the rest of your life," Ms. Fama said. "For many kids, May Project is the first time they've defined a project that interests them and completed it, and that's a shame."

Lab Schools Director David Magill believes U-High has maintained a rigorous but creative environment since he came to the school in 2003.

"I WAS DRAWN to Lab by the motivated, inquiring kids and the emphasis on thinking," Mr. Magill said. "It really is



Ms. Housinger

a special place in this way. I do think U-High has changed since I've been here, but the most important qualities are still here. The open and inquisitive students definitely still remain.

"Over the years, teachers have had more opportunities for professional development and growth by going to conferences and through individual study. For the students, there are more occasions to go in-depth in a subject. With the switch from A.P. to A.T. classes, teachers can really dig and explore their topics instead of just skimming the surface quickly. The new language lab and the addition of Chinese allow students to further their language studies. And the instructional time has increased with the introduction of the new schedule."

The obsession all students have with getting into top colleges may not be realistic goals for some, according to Mr. Magill.

"I think the desire to get into top schools follows parents at the University of Chicago," Mr. Magill said. "I think there is a direct correlation between the academic background of parents and their children. There is a huge pull to apply to the top schools. U-High is not a selective high school in the sense that there is no test to get into the school. U-High is known for being a rigorous program but we don't expect everyone to go to an Ivy.

"The reality of a person's success isn't where you go to school, it's what you do in life. I think people ought to wake up and think about what they're expecting from themselves. Everyone wants to go to top, Ivy Leagues schools but there are many other choices to be examined. I think the guidance counselors do a great job of giving students a pretty good feel for what is a reach and what is a good fit."

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“There was room for the cut-ups and the screw-ups and the pot-heads in class. They were a vibrant and refreshing, and sometimes highly creative, part of the school atmosphere.”

— Beth Fama, Class of 1981

Venturesome travelers spring ahead



Photo courtesy of Jacob Rosenbacher

TRAVELERS SPANNED the globe during last months Spring Break. U-Highers and their families ventured to destinations ranging from Thailand to Turkey to sightsee, experience culture, and spend time with family members.

ON A TRIP, photos from left, to Thailand with both their families, Senior Jacob Rosenbacher, Sophomore Noah Braendel, and Freshman Clea Braendel sailed the coast of Thailand starting in Phuket and visting many islands. "I really enjoyed seeing all of



Photo courtesy of Nicholas Phalen

the beautiful uninhabited islands from the boat, the coastline was amazing," Clea said.

ENJOYING A weeklong cruise in the Caribbean, Senior Nicholas Phalen and his family visited St. Maarten, St. John, and Turks and Caicos. Each island presented a different culture and opportunity to explore, Nicholas explained. Their first cruise, they were shocked by the amenities available on board. "My favorite part by far were the all you can eat buffets open all day," Nicholas said.



Photo courtesy of Reem Khondakar

WITH HER mother and father in Turkey for nine days, Senior Reem Khondakar had the chance to visit the city of Kusadasi on the coast of the Aegean sea. While also visiting the ruins of the ancient Greek city of Ephesus, Reem said her favorite part of the trip was experiencing the city of Istanbul. "It's the only city built on two continents, and we were able to visit both parts. I thought it was really interesting to see both Asian and European culture in one place," Reem said.

Cellphone-banning driving state law proposal raises mixed reactions

By Duncan Weinstein
Associate editor

Believing the proposal is well intentioned but won't be obeyed if it becomes law, many U-Highers expressed concerns about a bill the Illinois State House passed banning drivers from using hand-held cell phones.

The bill, which would only allow drivers to use cell phones on speaker or with a hands free device, passed the House 62-53. The State Senate is now considering it. Drivers could use their hand held phones if they pull over, or if they're stopped in traffic.

Junior Max Hornung believes people will ignore the measure.

"WHEN PEOPLE HAVE phone calls to make, they make phone calls," Max said. "In a society today, where people are always connected to the world via internet, texts, and twitter on their smart phones, people feel a need to check their phones in some way.

"I know a lot of my friends who check their phones during red lights and phones won't if the measure becomes law."



Max

While Senior Andrew Palmer also agrees that some people will ignore the measure, he feels the law can cause others to second guess themselves before using their phone in the car.

"WHILE I THINK a fair number of people will choose not to abide by the measure, I still think it can change the social pressure," Andrew said. "People who are set in their ways and use their phones while they drive will still do it, but I think the law can influence other people not to.

"I know lots of people who put down their phones whenever they see a police officer, but I think there are also lots of people who will abide by the law and that it will do some good."

Junior Gabe Knight believes people will obey the law because they fear they will receive a ticket.

"THE ONLY WAY to discourage people from doing these unsafe things is by giving them a ticket," Gabe said. "There are other driving rules, like stopping at stop signs, that people don't ignore because it's unsafe, and you get a ticket for doing it. I think this measure will work the same way."

Freshman Karen Reppy believes the bill doesn't go far enough.

"I support this measure, even though I think the use of any kind of mobile device, including bluetooth, serves as a distraction while driving," Karen said. "The use of hand-held mobile devices further escalates this distraction, taking the driver's focus of the road. I see it as a step in the right direction to addressing this issue."

FRESHMAN CHARLOTTE ELFENBAUM argues that good drivers should be allowed to use hand-held cell phones.

"As long as it's a responsible person and they have a clean driving record, I think they should be allowed to use their phones, Charlotte said. "Of course, if they don't have a clean record, they shouldn't be allowed to use them. As I see it, it's a privilege that can be earned."



Andrew



Gabe



Karen



Charlotte

Senior named 'Illinois Student Journalist of Year'

By Natalie Holley
Midway reporter

While working on the March 13 issue of the Midway, Sydney Scarlata, Senior, was surprised when adviser Wayne Brasler walked into the editors-in-chief office and announced he had received a telephone call from Mr. Stan Zoller, president of the Illinois Journalism Education Association. "I think there's an issue with your award application," Mr. Brasler said.

Sydney later recounted, "I picked up the phone to call Mr. Zoller, and he told me that after close deliberation, I had been chosen 2012 Illinois High School Journalist of the Year."

SYDNEY, WHO HAS held the positions of reporter, associate editor, editor-in-chief and presently executive director of special projects for the Midway, will be honored at an luncheon June 2 at the Executive Mansion in Springfield.

Applicants were required to compile a selection of work to submit for the competition.

"The portfolio took me about a month," Sydney said. "First I found all the articles and page layouts I wanted to include," Sydney said. "I tried to include the work I was most proud of but I also wanted to include a variety of different pieces.

"It was really fun looking back over my work. The thing I love most about journalism is talking to all sorts of people and writing about current events. It's sort of thrilling to know the news before anyone else."

DEMONSTRATING HER publication and presentation skills, Sydney formatted her portfolio using InDesign, the software used to create pages for the Midway.

"This gave the portfolio a really organized, fresh and clean look," Sydney said. "I was able to number the pages of the book and also label the issue date that all the articles were coming from."

Mr. Brasler believes that Sydney won the award because of her impressive work ethic and the in-depth projects she's done for the paper.

"SHE HAS A HISTORY of doing investigative reports, especially stories on schools narrow students' civil rights," he said. "Her coverage of Stevenson High School censoring their award-winning student newspaper, The Statesman, even scooped the daily press."

Sydney is the third U-Higher to win the award, following Tareta Lewis 1993, now the Director of Public Affairs for Hospira, Inc., in Lake Forest, and Tom Stanley-Becker, 2009. a junior at Yale.

Additionally, John Kuo, 2005, and Rafi Kahn, 2011, came in First Runner-Ups.



Sydney

Celebrate Spring at the Medici

As temperatures rise and blue skies appear, head on over to Medici for a delightful meal. We have fresh, crispy vegetables, savory pastas, and our world famous deep-dish pizza! Since we're just a block from U-High, you can come over anytime, and enjoy spring weather on the way!



STOPPING BY DURING a Thursday open period, Charles Chamberlain and Arjun Nandy meet at the Medici to celebrate Spring with a yummy pasta. Photo by Leslie Kamel.

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Brief-ly: *Spring Fling flung; alternatives weighed*

Student Council and Cultural Union have given up on a Spring dance and are considering alternative possibilities.

Student government officers protested not having been told that chaperons would stop dancing such as “grinding” at the Winter Formal after a committee including them, administrators, teachers and parents had conducted discussions at two meetings to address parents concerns about dress, dancing and behavior at Homecoming last Fall.

The officers felt the interventions in dancing without student leaders knowing it would take place represented bad faith.

“There will be no dance this quarter,” said Cultural Union President Tom Healy, senior.

“There was plenty of discourse between Student Council and the administration regarding this issue. Considering the student body’s reaction to the changes for Formal, we came to the conclusion that no one would really want to attend.

“We’re currently planning another event-like a field day, or a combination of Labstock and a pep rally.

“We’re also attempting to make Lambapalooza, the lamb roast in the Courtyard which was started unofficially by last year’s seniors, into a yearly tradition. There will also hopefully be a softball game between grades and lots of other activities.”

■ **NO DAY OFF FOR FACULTY**—While U-Highers enjoyed a day off school last Friday, faculty members came together to work in groups on professional develop-

ment projects they had earlier proposed.

“A one-day May Project may be making it a bit general, but both May Project and In-Service day strive for a similar goal; to help those participating grow and learn in a way not possible simply through sitting in a classroom, teaching or being taught,” explained Mr. Jason Lopez, Lab Schools associate director for educational programs.

“Teachers had teamed together with fellow coworkers of their subject to pursue a common interest, wrote up a proposal, and brought it to an administrator familiar or sympathizes with their idea.”

■ **MORE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC**—Classical music and festive marches will fill Mandel Hall, 1131 East 57th Street at the High School Band and Orchestra concert 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 8. The public

is invited.

The Orchestra will perform “Putting on the Ritz” by Irving Berlin; “Arlington Sketches” by Elliot A. Del Borgo; and “The Moldau” by Bedrich Smetana.

The Band will perform “March from Third Suite” by Holst; “Defiance” by James Newton Howard, from the 2008 film, including a flute solo from Freshman Geri Ross; “Algorhythms” by Gary Fagan; and “Canto” by W. Francis McBeth.

As a finale, the Band and Orchestra will combine to perform Beethoven’s “Egmont Overture.”

The Band is paying tribute to the late Dr. McBeth, a world-renowned composer and longtime professor at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, following his death in January.

Former Midway editor on Romney campaign

By Michael Glick
Midway reporter

Four cities. Four days.

Just an average week for John Legittino. Since February, Mr. Legittino, U-High Class of 2005, has worked as the Director of Production for Republican Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney. He and his company, The Legittino Group LLC, assist in producing Romney’s televised events. This requires work with lighting and staging among other logistics. While still managing his company’s other events, Mr. Legittino travels across the country with the campaign.

HE BECAME interested in politics at U-High as a writer for the Midway under Midway Adviser Wayne Brasler. He was editor-in-chief of the Midway as a senior and received the Al Neuhaarh Free Spirit Award, ranking him the top male journalist in the state.

“Journalism was a huge part of my experience at U-High,” Mr. Legittino said from Milwaukee in a phone interview. “I started out covering sports for the Midway, but later on Mr. Brasler began encouraging me to write stories about politics.

“I was whole-heartedly convinced I wanted to be a reporter. The idea of learn-

ing about something different everyday really intrigued me.”

AT THE UNIVERSITY of Southern California, Mr. Legittino wrote major pieces for the campus newspaper, The Daily Trojan. A journalism major and business law minor, Mr. Legittino frequently covered politics for the Trojan, getting numerous front-page bylines as a freshman. However, by the time he graduated in 2009, Mr. Legittino was considering going into other journalistic careers.

“It’s important to note that in my four years of college, the print journalism industry was beginning to fall apart,” Mr. Legittino said. “When I was on the road reporting in college I realized there were other applicable jobs that didn’t necessarily involve writing for a newspaper. I began to get increasingly involved in communications and public re-

lations with organizations on campus, and began communicating with the media frequently.”

In 2010, after college, Mr. Legittino founded The Legittino Group LLC, a company to produce live events for television. He set his sights on producing for Steve Poizner, a gubernatorial candidate of California.

“**I MET WITH** my former Professor Dan Schnur to see what I should do,” Mr. Legittino said. “He ultimately told me to send an e-mail to Steve Poizner’s campaign. In August 2009, they agreed to listen to my pitch.

“When I didn’t hear from them for months, I pretty much just dismissed it as being done.

In January when they called to ask me to do an event in Sacramento I couldn’t believe it. I flew up to do the press conference with very little prep time. Two weeks later they called to ask me to do a televised town hall meeting and pretty soon after I became their exclusive event services provider.”

Soon after he decided to pursue “the big gorilla in the room,” Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney’s 2012 campaign.

“**I HADN’T WORKED** that hard on the road for nothing,” Mr. Legittino said. “I put everything in my car, shipped lots of the equipment and moved to Boston

to try to get on Romney’s campaign. Very soon after I arrived in Boston, I met Governor Romney’s Director of Operations for an interview over lunch. Although he had never heard of me, he invited me to start hanging around.”

While Mr. Legittino has enjoyed travelling across the country with the campaign, he says coming back to the University of Chicago’s International House March 19 on a campaign trip proved especially exciting.

“When the Illinois Primary came around, it was a real thrill for me,” Mr. Legittino said. “It’s one thing to get to travel to new places and see things you’ve never seen before. It was a whole different thing to get to be working where I went to high school. To have my dad and Mr. Brasler in the audience to see the work I’m doing, that’s the highest honor.”



JOHN LEGITTINO
Testing the sound system
at International House
before Presidential Candidate
Mitt Romney speaks



Visiting professor

SUBSTITUTING AS AN artist-in-residence for Photography Teacher and Photojournalism Adviser Liese Ricketts while she is pursuing a project in Peru, Columbia College Adjunct Pro-

fessor of Photography Bryan Steiff has been working with photojournalists including Midway Photo Editor Taylor Crowl. He is also teaching Ms. Ricketts’ classes. Photo by Christian Castaneda.

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Vietnam Veterans recount historic experiences

“**THE MILITARY** is a career. Combat is not a career. Combat is a reality.”

That was among numerous memorable statements and recounted experiences shared by a panel of Vietnam veterans in a panel March 8 sponsored by the Armed Forces Support Club. Adrianna McKenzie, club copresident with Jessica Hubert, introduced the panel. It included, from left, Herbert Chapman, Gary

Jordan, Robert Graham and Leon McKenzie, Adrianna’s grandfather.

The veterans discussed their experiences in being shipped out the day they enlisted with no preparation and being discharged with no debriefing and not emotionally ready to come back to the world outside the military.

A rapt audience of students and faculty members packed the room for the panel.



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Asian culture impacts youth positively, problematically

(continued from front page)

age for how many of the kids who see me are Asian students,” Mr. Tunis said. “but I talked to a number of them, and a good 98 percent of them come because of grade induced stress.”

“I GET SOME freshmen and sophomore Asian students, but mostly they’re upperclassmen. Sometimes the issue is for the most part, a student always gets A’s and maybe B’s, and then they let it slip and they get something lower than they are expecting.”

“It is my feeling that parents can set very high expectations without realizing the emotional toll that it is taking on their child’s emotional well being. Having high expectations is beneficial for wanting to go to a good school or college. However, what I don’t know is what happens to them emotionally once they become adults.”

Mr. Tunis finds it interesting that, in his 13 years here, only one Asian student has come to him with relationship problems.

“I DON’T KNOW if this is good or bad. It could mean that these students aren’t focusing so much on relationships as they are on school, or it could mean their relationships are outside of school, or it could mean they work that sort of thing out privately.”

“I think there could be an element of shame involved. In fact, I’ve had one student talk to me, telling me it was so hard to talk about his problems because that student didn’t deserve my help. The student gave me the impression that his or her deep rooted shame might be part of the culture, but I can’t really know for sure.”

In contrast to the junior girl, a senior boy says he does not feel any sort of academic pressure at all.

“I’VE NEVER HAD a problem with my grades,” he said. “I do well in school because of myself, not because of my parents. My parents gave me quite a bit more push for colleges, though. They kept making me revise my essay, and whenever I got tired and felt I finished it, they always had something new to say about it.”

“When my parents first came to America, all they knew about were good universities like Caltech or Harvard, and they were most anxious about having me try to get into them. They told me that colleges were what made everything I did in high school matter.”

This senior also appreciates that his parents have let him make his own decisions about his extracurricular activities throughout high school.

“I WAS IN the Midway Aquatics Club for a bit, and I did a couple practices, but then I realized mid- year that I hated it, like really hated it. When I told my parents I wanted to quit, all they requested was that I finish the season.”

“If I don’t like something, they just sit down to talk about things, and see if I could justify to myself, not them, that I should quit. I’m in the academic club I am in right now because I enjoy it, not because it looks good on a college application.”

One junior boy, however, said academic stress hurt his social life during the first two years of High School.

“A LOT OF the things I did, like trying on different clothes and bleaching my hair, was an effort to break away from the Asian stereotype,” he explained. “Starting as far back as freshman year, I was really prone to breakdowns due to these pressures. At the same time, I don’t think I can say not being Asian would have caused me to behave much different. The unique environment of this school could have contributed to my problems as well.”

When he got to High School, the junior felt he became discouraged by periodic rejection by others.

“I did the opposite of what I wanted to do, because I was spending most of freshman year study-

ing and not talking with friends,” he said. “I guess, for me, a lot of this had to do with an inferiority complex I developed around 6th grade.”

“I STARTED FEELING like my friends were leaving me behind, and I wanted to make an impact. Some of my friends were getting, quote unquote, popular. And the reason being a stereotypical Asian was becoming so unattractive was because I’d have to study all day. For me, there was a lack in social immersion.”

“Sophomore year, I wanted that to change. So I tried compensating by changing my hair; that way I could make an impact without so much interaction. Right now I feel I’ve reached a solid medium between studying, being with friends, and relaxing alone. I’m really glad, because it’s made me a lot happier.”

In addition to academic pressure, he says his parents’ lack of understanding the social lives of typical American teenagers has often infuriated.

“MY MOM HAS actually asked me before why I would ever need friends, or need to talk for that matter,” he said. “For me, that has made me furious to the extent that it’s been hazardous to my sanity. I yelled a lot and also dyed my hair to try to change how they saw life in America. I don’t have prime examples of how my upbringing affected me socially, but I still sometimes find it hard to talk in group situations, and I strongly prefer to talk with people one on one.”

“I guess even if I’m on top of academics and being with friends, that feeling that my parents didn’t understand my point of view has always bottled up emotions. I mean, I could talk to them about school, but nothing else. It was frustrating.”

“I was often misunderstood by friends, who thought I was just antisocial, and my parents, who thought I was a slacker. So it was always a battle inside, and I felt like I needed to go to a different place, which led up to the need to escape, which I touched on earlier.”

LIKE THE JUNIOR boy, the senior boy says he sometimes felt isolated because of being Asian.

“In the past, all my friends were pretty much white,” he said. “So sometimes while hanging out with them, I’d feel a shock and realize I’m not white.”

“This was mostly Middle School and a little bit of freshman year too. I’ve never lost sleep over this, but it has crossed my mind. I think it’s mostly about physical appearance, but I’m not sure I want to talk about that.”

“In terms of how I define myself, I’m more American than Chinese, since my parents haven’t taught me about the culture as other traditional families have. My Chinese is also pretty bad.”

“I CAN SPEAK a little, but I can when my friends speak in Chinese, I feel a little ashamed because I can barely understand them. I wouldn’t say I’m always out of place, but I have noticed these things. I tend to hang out with mixed groups, because I feel most comfortable around them.”

The junior girl said she also feels isolated from her peers, although for her, her isolation results mainly due to her parents.

“My parents are really overprotective sometimes, and it’s not necessarily a bad thing, but it’s just so frustrating,” she said. “Unlike a lot of other students, I’m not from a rich, upper-middle class family.”

“AND, ASIDE from academics, my parents care about reputation a lot, like a lot of Asian families do, so they never let kids into our apartment. My dad always told me that kids with larger houses will look down on us because we can’t afford anything larger than our apartment.”

“As a result, I don’t do the same things a lot of other people do. I don’t go out shopping, unless my mom drags me there, and I never go to the movies.”



Talent on exhibit

TWO U-HIGH photojournalists had their work displayed at the Stuart-Rodgers Gallery as part of its annual high school photography exhibit. This year’s theme was “Discovery 2012: Documenting the Action, Emotion and Stories of Student Life.”

Reem Khondakar took one of her two photos (above), “Faceless,” in October at an Occupy Movement rally in the Loop. Her other photo, “Girls for the Cure” was taken at a U-High girls’ varsity basketball game to raise money for cancer research, also in October.

Sarah Husain’s photo, “Last Lap,” captured Magda Glotzer swimming the 200 meter freestyle at the girls’ varsity swim meet on Senior Night October 25. The exhibit, which opened with a reception April 13, will continue through May 11. The Gallery, at 375 West Erie, is open Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Something lost, something gained

(continued from front page)

Initially drawn to U-High in 1967 because it was a private school, Ms. McCampbell believes the teachers are trusted to create their own curriculum.

“When I moved back to Chicago, I called up all the private schools I knew,” Ms. McCampbell said. “I wanted to be at a place where teachers were trusted to do the work that they wanted to do. My hope is that at this school, teachers will always have the most say about how they teach. This school has such a passionate faculty and the students are so committed to their work.”

Looking back, Ms. McCampbell believes that students in the 1960s and 1970s were more rebellious and questioning of everything.

“I THINK because of what was going on at the time, kids weren’t as worried about finding work and there was a lot more political activism in and out of the classroom,” Ms. McCampbell said. “This kind of passion is not here today.”

“Overall though, this is not a loss. The school is still very spirited, they just aren’t as rebellious about everything. It’s funny, one year a student walked down the aisle at graduation on his hands. The student body back then was so fun, funky, silly and really in your face. Students still get excited and passionate about a book in class. There’s one student today who I e-mail regularly about the Bulls! There are kids who love music and sports and I think that has always been the case.”

“Today students are more worried about grades. Their schedules are packed and they are not as relaxed. It’s sad that there is such a craziness about grades. I understand it is appropriate given the competitive nature of college today.

WHAT WORRIES MS. MCCAMPBELL however, is U-High’s large administration.

“Currently we have a very administrator-heavy school. I think there are teachers not in the classroom that should be. I’d also be nervous if the ability teachers have to make decisions was taken away. I think for the most part though, administrators open their doors to the faculty if they are having problems, and the teachers in turn also open their doors to students.”

“Personally, I think faculty meetings are horrible and don’t accomplish much. I much prefer faculty seminars where everyone is talking about teaching, but it is not all business. I absolutely love talking about teaching.”

ACCORDING TO MS. MCCAMPBELL, student independence has not changed dramatically.

“For Freshman Project, four or five teachers were assigned to a section of the freshman class,” Ms. McCampbell said. “This was nice because teachers could talk to each other about specific students because we all taught them. It worked really well.”

“There was also a time when 8th-, 9th- and 10th-graders could participate in the Student Oriented English Curriculum. The administration and parents hated it, and looking back on it, I think they were right. Some of the electives, like guitar playing, had nothing to do with the subject.”

“I THINK TODAY students are much busier and it is just harder for them to pursue a passion independently. There are less chances to develop and maybe it is less encouraged because of the structure of these students schedules and maybe also the new schedule. For May Project though, I think if it is a legitimate project, students are allowed to do it.”

The main quality Science Teacher Sharon Housinger, who came to U-High in 1996, likes about U-High is that students are more than just smart.

“They are serious about their education and they are extremely motivated,” Ms. Housinger said. “Most of my colleagues are the same way. They are all very professional and passionate about their subject.”

“IN THE EARLY years that I was here, faculty and students participated in a high level of conversation about how the school should be run. For example, students came to us to petition to bring back Artsfest. They brought us a written evaluation about why they thought Artsfest was a good idea and should be brought back and then the faculty had a serious conversation about it.”

“Since then, there has been both a change in the students and in the faculty. Students still come to us with proposals. But they are solely asking for permission. Faculty meetings have become a place to share news about the school and voice complaints. There are no high level discussions anymore. Some faculty say that others are hostile and it’s difficult to have a conversation. The students in turn are now responding to the inability of the faculty to debate. Because of this there is a detachment from the students.”

Today, Ms. Housinger believes students are more grade-oriented than when she began teaching.

“Today, I think the students are less concerned about the community and more about their personal success,” Ms. Housinger said. “I think they are under a lot more pressure. I think today, students are better at book learning, which may be a good thing. They have better study habits, which will be beneficial in college but there is less creativity in the classroom.”

“Kids are more focused on tests and less on subjects outside of the classroom. When I first started teaching, there were many detailed discussions on topics that may not have been on the test but were aspects the students were interested in. Now students are very concerned about what’s on the test. If it’s not on the test, they don’t bother with it.”



Cotillion debutante

AFTER MONTHS of preparation Senior Aasha Holmes made her social debut at the Links Cotillion dinner dance Saturday at the Oyssey Country Club.

Thirteen debutantes performed community service and raised a minimum of \$2,500 each for the Chicago Cotillion Charities Foundation and sold tickets for \$100 a seat to a crowd of more than 500 people.

Beginning in February, the deb's learned and rehearsed six dances, some including their escorts and parents, to music ranging from the waltz to the cha-cha. They took etiquette workshops and found white formal dresses with met strict cotillion requirements. Aasha’s elegant gown was from David’s Bridal.

Escorts wore white tie formal attire. Aasha’s escort was Martin Garret-Currie; Myles Gage also was an escort.

The gourmet dinner began with an elegant fresh fruit plate; followed by baked chicken with chardonnay sauce, fresh Spring vegetables and whipped potatoes; and for dessert assorted ice creams.

Photo from Victor Powell Photography



CHARACTER SKETCH BY HEBAH MASOOD

Triplets share fencing, friends, but not personalities

THEY FENCE together; they cook together; they were even born together: Juniors Charlie, Nathaniel, and Willa Green make up U-High’s only triplets. All dressed in hipster fashion with wavy brown hair behind their ears the triplets often eat together at lunch. Though they all fence with their club, Windy City Fencing, all year each Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday for two hours each day, at the Menomonee Club for Boys and Girls on the North Side of Chicago, they keep up with a large social life Saturday nights. They live with their parents, Grace Dodier, a U. of C. law professor, and their father William Green, a Neurobiologist

THE TALLEST, Nathaniel, often mistaken as an older sibling and described by Mrs. Dodier as thoughtful and intelligent, and Charlie, described by her mother as enthusiastic and outgoing, have fenced for seven years. Willa, the oldest and shortest described by her mother as kindhearted, joined them in 8th grade. Come Friday nights and Saturday mornings, fencing practice interrupts their social lives. “Saturday nights we can basically do whatever we want,” Charlie said. “But Saturday mornings stink because we have to wake up early for fencing and then we don’t get home until 3 p.m. We usually have a friend over



CHARLIE GREEN

or go see a movie afterwards. “A **BIG THING** that takes away from our social life is Friday night practice, though. We get home from fencing late and

we’re all sweaty. Then you’re just tired and you don’t want to hang out with anyone. Fencing is more important to me, though, than going out on a Friday night because I enjoy it so much.” Despite fencing practices on the weekends, the triplets are friends with most U-Highers. “It’s nice because we kind of know everyone in the grade,” Charlie said. “When one of us has friends over it’s impossible not to become friends with them. We’ve gone here our whole lives so combined we’ve had class with everyone. I’d say about 70 percent of the grade has been to our house at some point. “**WE USED TO** have huge birthday parties,” Willa said. “We’d invite the whole grade, but now we just go out with our parents to a really nice dinner and they let us go shopping or to a movie.” Becoming friends in nursery school, the triplets consider Junior Hannah Resnick their quadruplet. Living three and a half blocks away, the four of them hang out at least once a week.



NATHANIEL GREEN

“Sometimes I would go to the supermarket with them and people would think we were all siblings,” Hannah said. “Once I was walking up to their house and the neighbors started saying ‘Hey Charlie!’ Then they realized it wasn’t her and started calling me Willa. Finally they realized it was neither of them, but it was hilarious.” **THAT’S NOT** the only mix-up they’ve had. Pushing the triplets’ stroller to the Museum of Science and Industry, Mrs. Dodier, said she got many reactions from passersby. “We always spent every Saturday at the Museum of Science and Industry,” Mrs. Dodier said. “People would usually say ‘Oh, you have triplets; they’re so lovely.’ “But once this woman came up to me clearly confused and said ‘Oh my gosh! Are those twins?’ She obviously didn’t know the difference and I really wanted to tell

her, ‘No, there’s three of them, that’s called triplets,’ but I just felt too bad.”

THOUGH MRS. DODIER and her husband were ecstatic when they found out she was pregnant with triplets, the couple knew little about how to raise triplets.

“Bill and I were just delighted,” Mrs. Dodier said. “We thought it was the best news in the world. I found a pediatrician who had some experience with triplets, Janis Mendelsohn from the U of C Hospital.



WILLA GREEN

“Through her I met another triplet mother and got advice from her. I was nervous because I’d never raised a kid and now there were three on the way. Anyone who has kids can tell you they’re hard to raise.”

THOUGH THEY’VE been together their whole lives, the triplets might not go to the same college.

“Obviously if I get into my first choice I’ll go,” Nathaniel said. “If Charlie and Willa get in too, that’s great, but it

won’t change my decision. I’ll probably like it at first because I’ve been with them my whole life. After a while I might get lonely though.”

According to Willa, Charlie and her often don’t feel like they’re living in the same room and yet says she’ll miss her siblings when they move apart.

“**WE’LL PROBABLY** email and Skype a lot,” Willa said. “Nathaniel wants to invent a system of carrier pigeons. I’ll definitely miss asking Charlie if my outfit looks okay every morning. I can’t imagine life without these guys though. We all have a similar sense of humor and we cook together and fence together. I can’t imagine doing that stuff on my own.”

Emphasizing the pros and cons of being a triplet, Charlie says she identifies herself as the alpha of the three. She likes spending time with Nathaniel and her roommate Willa, but also likes her space, which she hopes to find at college.

“I love my brother and sister!” Charlie said, interrupting herself to tell Nathaniel and Willa to stop taking her chips. “We are never bored, but being triplets can be annoying sometimes, because we get in each other’s business.

“**I WOULDN’T MIND** having another roommate at college, especially because Willa always wears my clothes. I won’t miss Nathaniel using my phone to call his friends since he doesn’t want his own. As for our clothes, I’ll just take mine and Willa will be out of luck.”

Caricatures by Gene Cochrane

Students fondly remember teacher

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Associate editor

Remembered for the fun science projects in her Lower School classes, such as creating colorful pancakes, Leslie Hornig is being commemorated as a great scientist, teacher and colleague.

A 4th grade science teacher, Ms. Hornig passed away April 18 at age 54. She had been diagnosed with metastatic endometrial cancer, a form of uterine cancer, in May, 2011. In December, she learned her cancer had spread.

Her husband, David Kleeman, president of the American Center for Children and Media, helped her maintain a blog entitled “Adventures in Cancerland,” throughout her illness, with updates on Ms. Hornig’s health and life.

HER DAUGHTERS Caroline and Emily Kleeman both graduated from U-High, in 2006 and 2010, respectively.

Ms. Hornig, Mr. Kleeman and their children went on a five-day Caribbean cruise late in December after learning she had developed a new tumor. The blog’s entry for January 1 included photos of Ms. Hornig swimming with dolphins, riding a wave machine and cave kayaking on the trip despite her cancer.

Ms. Hornig received her undergraduate at Harvard, and her Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology at the U. of C. in 1995. She came to the Lab Schools in 1998 and worked until she was diagnosed as needing immediate care.

MS. HORNIG’S decision to work at the Lab Schools was unusual given her background since she did not major in education, said Science Department Chairperson David Derbes.

“Leslie was brilliant, highly educated, and a forceful intellect,” Mr. Derbes explained. “She was always very calm but she spoke her mind. When she found out about the evidence that her cancer had spread, she took it calmly and said ‘once a scientist, always a scientist.’ She was so incredibly brave.

“I met her at an organization for University of Chicago newcomers, and I’d known her for about 20 years. She was always devoted to her children, and was also a fervent gardener.

“**DURING HER** research for her Ph.D. she worked with rats, and she had a license plate that read ‘Rat Pup 1.’ The Science Department is hoping to memorialize her life with brass baby rats placed around the school.”

Several U-Highers, including Senior Nathan Eckstein, have cited Ms. Hornig, for her participation in the Hyde Park School of Ballet’s annual “Nutcracker” performance, where she danced as the mother of Clara, the central character, and as a party guest.

“She was just a really great person at the ‘Nutcracker’ because she always knew the steps and what she was talking about,” Nathan said. “You could tell she really cared about the performance and that she had tons of fun doing this every year, even after her daughters left the company.”

FUNERAL SERVICES were pending as the Midway went to press.



Ms. Hornig

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OPINION DUNCAN WEINSTEIN

Romney close to nomination, far from Presidency

WITH HALF the necessary delegates and his closest rival, Rick Santorum, out of the race, Mitt Romney appears to sit on the Republican throne, waiting only to be crowned by the national committee in June.

A contender for the Republican Presidential nomination in 2008, Romney will all but certainly face President Barack Obama in the general election.

For many U-Highers, especially those who ventured to Indiana on Obama's behalf



Duncan

in 2008, Romney's presumed victory could serve as a call to arms. Months of amused observation of the Republican primaries has ended, and the general election has effectively begun.

But the election won't be entirely decided by the U-High faithful. National polls show Obama with a slight lead over Romney, but with low voter enthusiasm on both sides.

According to a recent Gallup poll, self-described "very conservative" voters have reservations about Romney. But those voters tend to vote every election. Unenthusiastic or not, they might come out in force when the threat of a second

Obama term becomes closer, delivering a win for Romney, and helping Republican congressional candidates farther down the ticket.

Plus, many voters blame high unemployment on Obama, and may be attracted to Romney's history as an executive at Bain Capital. Romney, however, has garnered a reputation for flip-flopping, the topic of many attack ads against him. He's changed his positions throughout his career, especially on healthcare, perhaps one too many times for some voters.

But Congressional elections lower down on the ballot will prove just as

important.

Obama's last two years have yielded at least one lesson: an unfriendly Congress can seriously hamper the President.

Plus, the new district maps following the 2010 census will debut this election. In Illinois, the Democratic-controlled state legislature redrew the map to favor Democrats, but in many states Republicans drew their own maps.

In a low turnout election that will likely be closer than in 2008, U-Highers' services as political missionaries may mean more for a certain famous Hyde Park resident than ever before.

AS THE MIDWAY SEES IT

In a college preparatory school, counselors, seniors need backup

After years of the school splitting seniors and juniors between just two college counselors, a third will be added for the 2012-13 school year. Finally.

Class sizes have risen over the years from as few as 103 students in the Class of 2007 to as many as 133 students in next year's graduating class.

AS A RESULT, Counselors Patty Kovacs and Melissa Warehall have felt increasingly overloaded between conferences and writing recommendation letters.

Ms. Kovacs says she stays at school until 5 or 6 p.m. on average, and as late as 9 p.m. during the peak season in Fall and Spring, advising mostly juniors and seniors about college applications.

After having their first choice for the added counseling position turn down the job for one on the East Coast, administrators are still narrowing down choices among the roughly 200 other people who applied.

ADMINISTRATORS SAY the school has waited until now to hire a third counselor because of budgeting constraints and the recent increase in class sizes.

However, U-High's college counselors have been struggling with up to eight meetings a day for

years now, and that does not factor in time spent writing letters of recommendation.

While it is commendable that another counselor is being added, that's not enough.

THE RATIO of college counselors to students at U-High is low compared to some comparable schools such as Francis Parker, which provides six counselors.

The saying "better late than never" comes to mind, but for this year's seniors it has come too late.

Current and past seniors have already faced the colorful blocks filled with names and meetings when opening Ms. Kovacs and Ms. Warehall's schedule books.

THEY ALSO HAVE been well-aware of the hours

and dedication these two counselors have put in. Hopefully future seniors, and counselors, will find more blank spaces.



Art by Lydia Cochrane



Photo by Katie Klespies

Photo-editorial: Prom mob

SUDDENLY IT'S that time of year again.

Yearly invitations to Senior Prom are back, with the evening only a month away.

Droves of hopefuls have asked prospective dates to go with them, but one attempt has proven especially creative.

Filling the cafeteria with dancers, Senior Nathan Eckstein organized a flash mob to win his friend Senior Leslie Sibener's hand for the big night.

Initially, Nathan said he sent out a Facebook message to more than 40 of his friends asking them to participate in the mob. Most attended a rehearsal in the Dance Studio the day before the performance.

Shortly before lunch Wednesday, April 11, a

crowd of students, faculty, and administrators gathered in the cafeteria to watch the show.

"Hey Juliet" by LMNT began to play over the loudspeaker as Leslie walked in, signaling students of all classes to join Nathan in his dance.

Planning the entire routine in one day, Nathan worked wonders. He had the whole school transfixed, and those who weren't involved wished they had been by the climactic ending.

Rows of students stood to applaud when Leslie accepted Nathan's invitation.

On his knees, he deserved every minute of the ovation.

More power to him. For the rest of the hopefuls, consider yourselves stiffly challenged by his accomplishment.

SAYWHAT?

Compiled by Michael Glick

If you could be any U-High teacher, who would you choose?

KATIE KLESPIES, senior: I'd be English Teacher Darlene McCampbell because she starts class each day energetically with a fun and different approach.

JESSIE GIMPEL, junior: I would be History Teacher Cindy Jurisson because she's so passionate about what she's teaching, which makes her class that much more enjoyable.

VIVEK SHARMA, sophomore: I would be World Language Teacher Steven Farver because he always knows how to make students laugh, and while he is very funny, his students still learn a lot in his classes.

JEFFREY JOU, freshman: I'd be Science Teacher Daniel Jones because he seems to be a teacher that isn't afraid of being himself.



Katie



Jessie



Vivek



Jeffrey

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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FILM MOIRA DIFFERDING

Much-discussed, child bullying emerges into the glare of a disturbing, acclaimed film

EVERYONE'S SEEN it happen. Middle schoolers and high schoolers being pushed, kicked, teased by their schoolmates. But the majority of Americans probably haven't seen the darker side of bullying. Isolation. Strangulation. Suicide.



Moira

Director Lee Hirsch captures the multi-layered issue with his candid documentary "Bully," which follows the stories of five kids across the United States. Having won a battle with the MPAA to change the film's rating from R to PG-13, "Bully" raised eyebrows even before release.

THE FILM starts by following 12-year-old Alex of Sioux City, Iowa. "Fish-face" as his buddies call him, faces daily abuse both at school and, especially, on the school bus. He laughs when his assailants hit, stab and taunt him. The principal doesn't do anything. The bus driver witnesses the violence in her mirror, but just continues driving.

Watching how his principal handles bullying cases at her school deals a sobering glimpse of what actually happens when adults say they'll "deal with" the problem. Absolutely nothing. At one point, she yells at a kid for allowing himself to be bullied. Unreal.

AFTER "BULLY" was released April 13, she issued a public apology, but still has her job.

Later in the film, Hirsch follows 17-year-old Shelby in Tuttle, Oklahoma. She came out as a lesbian a year

earlier and quickly became the town's social leper, and now deals with being ignored by her old friends.

Her parents support her, but the entire town rallies against her. Once a star basketball player, she quits under pressure from the abuse given to her by once-friendly teammates. Once again, her principal looks the other way.

IN YAZOO COUNTY, Mississippi, 14-year-old Ja'Meya quickly tires of taking daily verbal abuse on the bus from her peers. Infuriated, she snaps, and though she doesn't hurt anyone, ends up with more than 40 felony charges against her.

Her mom's disbelief that her honor student could be responsible for such charges delivers a sobering dose of reality. It's heartbreaking.

It gets worse. Back in Murray County, Georgia, David Long watches baby videos of his adorable, playful son Tyler. Then he drops a bombshell on viewers: 17-year-old Tyler is dead.

THAT'S NOT ALL. At 11-years-old, kids should be playing with their friends. Ty will never have that experience. Because at 11-years-old, Ty killed himself.

Though Hirsch couldn't capture the events leading up to Tyler and Ty's deaths, he follows their parents as they start a campaign, "Stand for the Silent," aiming to help eliminate bullying by speaking up for those who can't.

From the sometimes shaky viewpoint of Hirsch's camera, one gets a revelatory glimpse into America's schools. And it isn't pretty. For one child, Hirsch broke the sacred



CROSSING parked trains at Tuttle Oklahoma's trainyard, Kelby, a teen the film follows, recklessly follows whatever her friends do. *Photo courtesy of thebullyproject.*

rule of documentaries by giving footage of the bullying to the kid's school and parents.

THROUGHOUT "BULLY" something chilling becomes visible throughout the recordings of superintendents and principals dealing with this problem. Whether they sincerely don't notice or more chillingly don't care, there's ignorance present in school administrations allowing this violence to happen.

Weinstein Company and Hirsch have won dozens of awards for this spectacular film. As long as its new PG-13 rating encourages others to see it, more kids won't have to consider reaching for the noose. "Bully" is rated PG-13 and runs 99 minutes.

T.V. CHRISTIAN CASTANEDA

Hit series bring new ideas to horror stories

IN ORDER TO leave behind their East Coast lives, the Harmon family decides to move into a house considered haunted, including a creepy maid and the murder site of its previous owners. Not the best idea.

Recently completing its first season, the television series "American Horror Story" brought one of the biggest thrills to T.V. this season. Created and produced by Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk, famous for "Glee," the series airs on the cable television channel FX. This horror-drama centered in its first tale on the Harmons, Ben (Dylan McDermott), Vivien (Connie Britton) and their teenage daughter Violet (Taissa Farmiga).

BEN IS a psychiatrist and unfaithful to his wife Vivien, who is still insecure and damaged after her miscarriage. Their daughter, Violet, is a strange teen who becomes so depressed about her life that she starts cutting herself.

Six months after her miscarriage, "American Horror Story" starts its first episode with Vivien finding Ben cheating on her with one of his patients, which will bring the family to move into a Los Angeles Victorian house.

With them living in such a house, the viewers stumble upon many odd circumstances with this interesting trio and their new acquaintances. For example, Vivien ends up having physical relations with a dark rubber-suited man that she mistakes for her husband, Ben, and she never learns the truth (which *you* should be watching).

THE MORE INTERESTING characters are the ones you later find out are not what you assume they are. Tate Langdon (Evan Peters), one of Ben's new patients who ends up befriend his daughter, has a particularly disturbing past, and present.. Then there is the role shared by Frances Conroy and Alexandra Breckenridge, that of the a housekeeper. Vivien sees her as an older woman while at the same time, Ben sees her as younger and a lot more attractive one that would not mind being a little naughty if given consent.

After 12 intense episodes the nation was hooked. Next season: Some of the same actors, but all-new characters and a new location. Interesting, huh?



A FIGURE CLAD entirely in rubber is only one of many odd people Ben Harmon (Dylan McDermott) encounters in "American Horror Story." *Photo to courtesy of imdb.com*



ASIAN BRAISED GOAT RIBS on white rice with cilantro provides delicious color contrast.

Photo courtesy of Aneesh.

COOKING ANEESH KANAKAMEDALA

Scrumptious, savory, succulent, that's goat ribs

STEAMY, SPICY, and just a little tangy, Asian braised goat ribs will surely impress any Memorial Day house guest without emptying the wallet.

What makes this dish unique are the goat ribs, available from a butcher on Devon Street, and the usage of a pressure cooker, which helps stack complex flavors together in a unified dish. My family usually avoids beef and pork, the common rib meats, so I made this recipe with goat in mind three weeks ago.

THIS INGREDIENT LIST may be lengthy, but everything adds another dimension to this comfort food dish. The carrots and wine give the ribs a strong floral flavor, while the ginger, soy sauce and sambal, a staple Asian ingredient made of garlic, vinegar, and red chilies, bring a flavorful spice kick to every bite.

This dish will take no more than three hours to make, much of which takes place when the goat ribs stay in the

pressure cooker. Take warning, as some of the ingredients aren't commonplace. Garam masala, an Indian spice mix, and sambal are sold at many Asian markets.

Serve this for a family dinner of four as a main course.

1 medium onion, diced
2 carrots, cut into rounds
10 cloves garlic
3 jalapenos, diced
1/4 cup canola oil, plus more for pot
3 oz tomato paste
1/2 bottle of red wine
3 large pieces of ginger, peeled
1/4 cup soy sauce
1 kiwi
1/4 cup sambal
2 lb goat ribs (ask the butcher to cut into three-inch pieces)
1 tbs cumin
3 tbs garam masala
1 cup canned broth, preferably beef
Salt and pepper to taste

ADD THE onions, carrots, half the garlic, and jalapenos to a pot over medium heat. Once the onions and garlic turn golden, add the tomato paste and continue to cook for five more minutes. Add the red wine and reduce to half the liquid's volume, about ten minutes.

Meanwhile, puree the rest of the garlic and the remaining ingredients except the broth. Salt and pepper the goat ribs. Brown the pieces in a pan on both sides.

Now, add the wine mixture, puree, and ribs into a pressure cooker. Put the pressure cooker with lid on over high heat until it hisses. Turn the temperature to a low flame and cook for one hour.

AFTER AN HOUR, carefully release the pressure from the cooker, either using the release valve or running the pot under cold water. Open the lid and remove the brown pieces of goat, placing them in a bowl.

Continue to cook the braising liquid until thick. Strain solids out if desired. Add the goat pieces back to warm them. Serve quickly, and enjoy the Asian flavors.



Aneesh

MUSIC MARISSA PAGE: *A chill, summer-y album*

FILTERED THROUGH layers of vocal distortion, the 1950s-60s vibe and simple lyrics of singer-songwriter M. Ward's seventh album "A Wasteland Companion" make it an ideal summer record.

A 38-year-old Newbury Park native, Matt "M." Ward began his career as a solo artist. His debut record, 1999's "Duet for Guitars #2," and two subsequent albums were released by different companies until he settled with Merge Records in 2001.

In 2006, he recorded a duet with actress and singer Zooey Deschanel, leading to the formation of their band She & Him. While the duo's music showcases almost solely Deschanel's voice, the band transformed Ward from a relative unknown to Zooey's musical partner in crime. She & Him released three albums together from 2008 to 2011, during which he only produced one solo album.

"A Wasteland Companion" fits perfectly with the rest of Ward's repertoire, as the record emulates a summery spin on early rock with a folk feel. His mild vocals are



Marissa

made raspy by distorters and editing, and sound projected through the speakers of a grainy transistor radio. The tracks average about two and a half minutes in length, the whole album clocking in at just below 40 minutes.

Highlights include the intricate, soaring "Wild Goose," which directly mimics the melody in Ward's previous song "Shangri-La"; and the album's first single "The First Time I Ran Away," a soothing, expansive track with beautiful lyrics and a poignant music video. Both songs have minimal but poetic lyrics.

Overall, "A Wasteland Companion" feels a bit choppy. "Clean Slate," the album's wispy opener, begins upbeat and dissolves into an understated track that displays Ward's talent as a singer and guitarist. That calm tune awkwardly segues into the uproarious "Primitive Girl." While both are good in their own right, the lack of flow between songs detracts from the album.



Changing Bridgeport

Once a working class Irish neighborhood, now home to artists, young professionals

By JR Reed
Editor-in-Chief

Alternative indie beats deflect off the walls of the 87,000 square foot Zhou B. Art Center's main gallery as Chicagoans peruse 30 local artist studios and galleries organized by Chinese-American owners Shan Zuo and Da Huang Zhou.

Beginning in 2004, the two brothers established the Center in the city's Bridgeport neighborhood to showcase international artists in Chicago. Studios and galleries are open to the public the third Friday of every month.

It's these up and coming artists and young professionals, coupled with a surge in Hispanic and Asian immigrants, that have helped shake the prevailing image of this area as only a working class, Irish-Catholic stronghold.

FIVE CHICAGO MAYORS, most recently Richard M. Daley, hailed from Bridgeport, also home to the Chicago White Sox's U.S. Cellular Field and several prominent Catholic churches. Situated on the near South Side and bordered on the north and west by the River, east by Canal Street, and south by Pershing Road, this predominantly residential neighborhood boasts renowned restaurants including Freddie's Italian Eatery and Schaller's Pump, the city's oldest bar.

In recent years, young people have started to move in to this neighborhood, taking advantage of relatively low rents and trendy establishments. Young professionals have also been drawn to the neighborhood, in part by convenient transportation, spurring the shift from a traditional atmosphere to a trendier setting.

But there are still plenty of lifelong residents. Seated in a wrought iron rocking chair on the porch of her town house (built in 1888) and sporting a White Sox hat and with Chicago Tribune in hand, Rudy Wilson, a middle-aged woman, explained why she has stayed in Bridgeport her whole life.

"IT JUST HAS the feeling of living in a small town, and that's something I've really appreciated," Rudy said. "I've grown up around a diverse group of people, and, though there are definitely more renters coming into the community nowadays, I still always see people walking their dogs down the street and I can easily strike up conversations with them. You drive down the street, and there are always people waving hello, and most you've known your entire life.

"You have homes and shop windows covered with White Sox logos and pennants, and that's the way it's been since the early '60s. I've got a lot of fond memories, and I believe Bridgeport has become an even better neighborhood.

"I guess the only thing that's a little disappointing is there aren't a lot of sit-down restaurants in the neighborhood, so my family typically goes the take-out route."

DESPITE THE LACK of sit-down restaurants, Rudy did mention Schaller's Pump, founded in 1881, as one of the most popular spots in Bridgeport. The tavern's main bartender, a 27-year-old neighborhood resident, has worked there for five years.

"The bottom line is that everyone who stops in here knows each other," he shouted across the bar while serving a couple watching the White Sox game on T.V. "I've only been living in Bridgeport for a year, and seeing the type of people that come in here on a regular basis made me want to move here. I used to live in the Bucktown area.



This bar and the neighborhood, in general, have a great old-school feeling.

I would say there's generally an older crowd that comes in, but for White Sox games, we get everybody. This place is packed, and I'd say baseball is something that really brings people together."

In addition to Schaller's Pump, the Bridgeport Diner, with its neon sign dating back to the early '50s touting "snacks" and "fountain," has been another favorite spot for residents. The Diner's Hispanic manager and her husband bought the space two years ago from the previous owners, signaling the changing demographics in the area. The restaurant has had only two different owners in its 55-year history.

"SURPRISINGLY, ALTHOUGH most of the community is now made up more of people in their late 20s, a lot of our customers are actually your age, teenagers," she said as she served up the diner's famous vanilla milkshakes. "Especially during the weekends, teenagers are here the most often. It's only in the mornings when you see a lot of retired folk. I like this neighborhood a lot, and, for the most part, people who come through these doors are really friendly."

Working at Grandstand Sox, a baseball paraphernalia store located two blocks away from U.S. Cellular Field, Mikey, a middle-age man, says he appreciates the stadium's presence in the neighborhood.

"I've been working here for five years, and people have been nice both here at this job and in the neighborhood," Mikey said. "I've been living here for a while now, and I think it's a pretty safe neighborhood too. I have a four-month old baby girl now, and my wife and I think this is a pretty good place for a kid to grow up. I would guess she will probably even live here when she's older."

A RESIDENT for just eight months, a man in his early 60s wearing suspenders and a white physics t-shirt displaying the words "May the 'm x a' be with you" moved to Bridgeport after living in Hyde Park for 20 years.

"There's a lot of diversity here," he said. "You see a lot of Asians, Mexicans, Italians and African-Americans nowadays, whereas I think, back in the day, this place was once largely Irish, Italian, and eastern European.

"I would say I like this place even better than Hyde Park, because there's a family-oriented focus. You've got a Boys 'and Girls' Club, a Little League, and other sports for kids to play in McGuane Park, which is a popular family place. At the same time, I would say the thing I don't like about Bridgeport is that there's too much vulgarity sometimes."

BRIDGEPORT HAS become a popular place for U-High families and students as well, including Senior Michelle Ng, who has lived at 2616 South Throop Street for 14 years.

"I'd say McGuane Park is really the heart of the community," Michelle said. "Anyone who lives in Bridgeport know where it is and more than likely goes to the park once in a while. It was once a huge empty plot of land, but it has been turned into a recreation center for swimming, ping pong, basketball, volleyball, and there's a nice baseball field outside as well.

"However, I would say my favorite place to go in Bridgeport is Palmisano Park, just across the street from McGuane. It opened up about two years ago, and it's basically a beautiful hill. There are huge rocks that you can sit on at the top of the hill. There is a good view of downtown from there, and, at night, you can look down and see all the lights of the neighborhood."

FOR MICHELLE, her favorite part of living in Bridgeport is its close proximity to downtown and other neighborhoods.

"It's only a five-minute drive from my house to Chinatown, and transportation is so convenient," Michelle said. "There are the Orange and Red Lines on 35th Street, and you have CTA buses that go right into the Loop too.

"I also love living in Bridgeport, because the people are friendly, and it's a relatively safe and peaceful neighborhood. It's not as tight-knit as Hyde Park, but it's also not as noisy and bustling like downtown. To me, it's the perfect balance. Bridgeport is relatively safe too. I've hardly ever felt in danger walking down the streets, but I do see some graffiti in some areas of Bridgeport. Then again, that's probably because of the rise of artists coming into the area."

IN TERMS OF EDUCATIONAL opportunities, Michelle thinks Bridgeport offers decent options for kids.

"I know that Mark Sheridan Math and Science Academy and Healy Elementary School are two of the big-name elementary schools here," Michelle said. "Both schools are great. However, there aren't many community centers that

ALTHOUGH NO

longer home to a Chicago mayor, the public often takes tours of the residence of two Mayor Richard Daleys—father and son—on week days. Recalling Bridgeport politics, JR Reed and Christian Castaneda stand outside the fabled Daley family home on Lowe Avenue, just off of 35th Street.



ON BRIDGEPORT'S eastern border, U.S. Cellular Field was built in 1991 in a neighborhood filled with die-hard White Sox fans. Pointing to where the Sox's old home, Comiskey Park, formerly stood, JR recounts his first trip to the stadium with his father when he was 6 years old.



NEIGHBORHOOD NAMESAKE, the Bridgeport diner provides a teenage hangout at a fun Halsted Street restaurant. After enjoying the restaurant's chocolate pancakes, JR and Christian share one of the diner's signature vanilla milkshakes. Good thing it wasn't spaghetti!

offer educational opportunities. I'd say most of them come either through the school or from outside organizations."

Senior Spencer Lee has lived with his family in an 100-year-old apartment building in Bridgeport his entire life, and, over the years, he's seen more and more immigrant families settling in the neighborhood.

"NOW THERE ARE two main types of people you can easily find here," Spencer explained. "First, you'll see many Italian folks donning White Sox gear and driving Cadillac Escalades. The second is the typical Chinese immigrant who speaks little English, and their American born children.

"The economic statuses of Bridgeport residents differs greatly, and you can see people living in poorly built apartments and hanging laundry out on their doorstep, while a couple blocks down admire the impressive five-lot houses and shiny cars parked in front.

"However, more and more young professionals and artists have been coming into the neighborhood recently, and I think it's making the whole community more interesting than it was even 10 years ago."

Photos by Taylor Crowl

Bridgeport Lore

- Settled by Irish immigrants digging the Illinois-Michigan Canal in the 1830s.
- A historically Irish neighborhood, Bridgeport is becoming home to increasing Asian and Hispanic populations.
- Dining choices include Italian beef sandwiches, pizza, Chinese and Mexican restaurants, and recently, a British-style pie shop.
- Historically Democratic, and home to five of Chicago's 45 mayors, including one 46-year long stretch from 1933-1976.
- Bounded by the Chicago River to the north and west, Pershing Road to the south and Canal Street to the east.
- A Buddhist temple, Ling Shen Ching Tze, lies just a few blocks from St. Mary of Perpetual Help, a Polish style Catholic Cathedral.
- A historically-working class neighborhood. Many Bridgeport residents used to work at the Union Stockyards, lumber mills and ports along the river.
- Accessible by the Stevenson Expressway, number 8 bus route, and 35th street Red Line stop.

—Compiled by Duncan Weinstein



Having a Ball

AMONG 150 GUESTS—some from other schools—at the Second Annual Rainbow Ball March 2 at the Quad Club sponsored by Spectrum, Miranda Scar-

lata and Maya Ben-Shahar danced in bright stripes and colorful necklaces, contrasted by a dark skirt, hair dye and fish nets. Photo by Fiona Potter.

Writing, art awards distinguish writer, sculptor in competition

By Clea Braendel
Midway reporter

Winning national awards in the Alliance for Young Artists and Writer's Scholastic Art and Writing competition, Junior Hannah Resnick and Senior Matthew Jungert will be honored at June 1 at Carnegie Hall in New York City, as well as being rewarded with scholarship money.

From a field of 200,000 submissions in various categories, 1,500 entries, judged by panels of professional artists and writers, were selected as National Winners.

SUBMITTING HER piece "Stargazers" into the Flash Fiction category, Hannah won a Gold Medal.

"My story is about a child who lost a parental figure and their grieving process and her road to acceptance," she said, "I originally wrote the story for Renaissance magazine, and I wanted to write about something that students could relate to, and I decided that parental death was something I wanted to explore, I got the idea when the father of a boy in my class passed away."

Learning of her award while on a family road trip, Hannah felt ecstatic.

"I **KNEW** the results were coming out that day, so I was checking my e-mail every 10 minutes. I was very excited because when you write you put a lot of your own emotions and feelings into it and having other people appreciate it is a great feeling because it really validates what you've done."

Winning two medals, Gold and Silver, Matthew entered two masks into the Sculpture category.

"The first won a Gold Medal and was titled 'Refurbished.' The mask is made of grocery bags, tape and zip ties; its theme was environmental sustainability.

"The mask that won the Silver Medal is called



MADE OF grocery bags, "Rupture," a mask created by Matthew Jungert won a Gold Medal in Alliance for Young Artists and Writer's Scholastic Art and Writing competition's sculpture category. Photo courtesy of Matthew Jungert.

"Trapped" and is supposed to convey the feeling of being stuck in a class that you don't want to be in. It is made of tentacle balloons made out of trash bags that are attached to a ski helmet and blown up using a refurbished leaf blower fan.

"I **DIDN'T EXPECT** to win any national awards or anything so when I found out I was pretty psyched, and also relieved because I had been waiting a long time to find out.

"I absolutely want to be an artist, and I've already been accepted into some pretty good art schools, so I was also pretty happy about the scholarship money."

Twelve reach McGuire Scholarship semifinals

Twelve juniors wrote a timed essay last Wednesday as nominees for two Eunice Helmpkamp McGuire Writing Awards for excellence in writing.

Mrs. McGuire was a beloved English teacher who for many years served as English Department chairperson. The award was founded by one of her former students and grants \$1,000 for senior year tuition.

ENGLISH TEACHERS CHOOSE the nominees, with the students' names removed, and select

up to five semifinalists. The semifinalists' timed essays and best-graded English essays, are then forward to a panel of judges outside the school.

The winners will be revealed at the Awards Assembly the last week of school.

This year's nominees are as follows:

Emily Aitkorn, Sarah Curci, Jason Deng, Nora Engel-Hall, Natalia Ginsburg, Stefania Gomez, Audrey Hart, Deborah Krull, Siobhan O'Muircheartaigh, Hanna Resnick, Hannah Tomio, Duncan Weinstein.

Math Team heads for State challenge

Coming into the competition with solid accomplishments behind them but some complicating factors, the Math Team heads for the State Math Contest Saturday, May 5 at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

The U-High team has won the State competition, sponsored by the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics, five consecutive years.

"**WE DID** very well at the Regional Contest in February," noted the team's faculty adviser, Math Teacher Nadja Aquino, "scoring the highest among schools in our division statewide. However, the 2nd-place team scored just three points less than us. So it will be a close contest on May 5.

"Adding to the uncertainty, we are losing three juniors from the Regional team because May 5 is an SAT test day. We can't be sure how the SAT test date will affect other teams."

Regionals took place February 25 at North Central College in Naperville.

THE U-HIGHERS aren't taking anything for granted at State, despite their string of victories.

"We have been practicing every Wednesday and Thursday during lunch since late February," Ms. Aquino said.

Science Team racks up multiple victories

Despite being moved to a division with larger schools—a challenge many U-High academic teams and student publications have faced over the years after repeatedly winning top honors—the Science Team won its 15th consecutive championship in 16 years at the World Youth in Science and Engineering Championships April 4 at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Senior Alice Fine captained the team, which also included:

Seniors Jeremy Archer, Edward Brooks, Hannah Greenblatt, Danny Illyin, Charlie Jiang, Eric Pettinatto and Robert Radway; Sophomores Charles Chamberlain, Eliot Levmore, Rahul Mehta and Emily Xiao; and Freshmen Jay Dhanoo and Adam Fine.

EVENTS U-HIGHERS participated in included Computer Science, Physics, Engineering Graphics, Biology, Math, English, Biology and Chemistry.

U-Highers have participated in a dizzying series of competitions this year. Among their latest achievements were a 2nd place for the 9th and 10th grade team and a 4th place for the 11th and 12th grade team at the Technology Student Association Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) State Competition March 9 at the Illinois Institute of Technology. The theme this year was "Smarter Energy, Cleaner Planet."

EACH TEAM included eight students and took a 90-minute written test of 80 questions, then tackled six teamwork tasks.

At the United States Department of Education Envirothon Tournament April 3 at Prairieview Nature Center in McHenry County U-High placed 3rd in the county and 5th in the Northeastern Illinois Regionals. U-High delegates included:

Alice, Charles and Juniors Moira Differding, Mia Epner, Lane Gunderman, Aleeze Quadir, Izzy Soble, Elena Skosey-LaLonde, Hannah Tomio and Catherine Zhou.

At the Illinois Science Olympiad Regionals March 10 at the College of DuPage U-High came in 5th, then proceeded to take 8th place April 14 in state competition at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Participants included:

Hannah, Daniel, Charlie, Robert, Emily, and Seniors Kavita Khosla, Jennifer Pan and Katelyn Suchyta; Juniors Amartya Dass and Yanning Zhang; Sophomores Max Archer, Arjun Nandy and Alexandra Radway; and Freshman Jay Dhanoo.

Debaters again make National Championships

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Associate editor

The second consecutive U-High team to make it to the National Debate Championship, Captain Charlie Rafkin, senior, and Junior Mia Epner will compete this weekend at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Representing U-High against 71 other teams, Charlie, who went to the National Championship last year, prepared with Mia everyday after school.

"**WE'VE HAD** a great season," said Charlie. "Our team really became more diverse in the argument we deployed this year and more comfortable across the full brow of arguments from all across the spectrum."

Laughing as he recalled the energy of some of the sophomores, Charlie was excited by the large numbers of freshmen and sophomores on the team.

"I faced coordinating a team that almost doubled in size this year," Charlie said. "The sophomores gave the team a different feel. There are a lot of energetic, really driven kids, who really worked incredibly hard. Their energy and intensity has pushed everyone to work harder this year."

THE ONLY JUNIOR on the team, Mia hoped to get extra debating practice before the Championship.

"Charlie and I are doing lots of research and debating each other for extra practice," Mia said. "As the debate gets closer we will debate some sophomores and seniors, and maybe have some informal competition among other schools. It's very exciting to know we qualified two teams in two years and it definitely shows our program has progressed."



SAFE. MATT LAWRENCE outruns North Shore’s ball in a 3-4 loss, away, April 14. North Shore hit a walk off home run on a hard hit ground ball between short and 3rd on the bottom of the 9th. The Maroons will get an opportunity to avenge their loss next Tuesday, May 1, at home. *Photo by Reem Khondakar.*

Baseballers determined to regain ISL Championship

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Associate editor

Facing off against North Shore Country Day 4:30 p.m. next Tuesday May 1, varsity baseballers, with a record 7 wins and 4 losses as of last Saturday, hope to win Conference Championships for the first time since 2002.

In an away game at Northridge College Prep, April 19, U-High won 4-1 in what Senior Christian Castaneda, cocaptain with Senior Mac Sinclair, called the most exciting game this year.

“WE WERE LOSING by only one the entire game and we were able to pull four runs during the last inning,” Christian said. “We had all the bases loaded, and two outs when Benny Friedmen, a freshman, got a double.

“After that we were able to stop them with a couple more runs. It was great because Northridge did the same to us last year when we were up by about four and they beat us in the last inning.”

Five days before, The Maroons lost to North Shore Country Day, a rival for the Conference Championship, in an away game April 14, a rival for the Conference Championship.



Mac

“That was also a close game,” Christian said. “We went up to the ninth inning. We got ahead when Mac hit a homerun in the ninth inning, but they later scored two runs on us.

“WE CAN’T just slack off or think we have a game in the bag. We see what happened, and we’ll just have to focus on every play.”

Playing U-High baseball since his freshman year, Mac made varsity as a sophomore.

“My sophomore year I pitched during our trip to Florida, and I guess I did well so they kept me on varsity,” Mac explained. “I found I really enjoyed it, and I think I’ve improved at it since.

“HITTING-WISE, over the years I’ve played, the coaches have taught me to let the ball come in further

than I think it should, and then to just drive it into right field.

“After the North Shore game we talked about how we can’t have mental lapses during a game, because other teams will only beat us if we lose focus. Our next game against North Shore will be at home, and I’m looking forward to it.”

Following Tuesday’s game, the Maroons will face Chicago International Charter School the day after, and Francis Parker the following Saturday, both away games at 4:30 p.m.

WITH A 3-3 record j.v. won 13-4 against the Universal School despite having juniors at retreat.

“It was just a very impressive moment when I came back from retreat and heard we had won slaughter rule,” Junior Ryan Selig, who leads the team along with Senior David Philips said.

“The other players were just able to step it up, and since we already have a really small team of 11 players, it was especially impressive.

“WE ALSO WON our first Conference game which was against North Shore, 16-6 with the slaughter rule. It was a remarkable moment when Michael Glick, a freshman, threw the ball to me and we ended the game on a double, which is rare for j.v. games especially.

“Our goal is to win Conference, and it’s been great to see how much the team has developed. I hope we become more consistent overall and become a team to be feared by the conference.”

Upholding a five-year tradition to devote Spring Break to training and cameraderie in Florida, 16 baseballers traveled to a Disney World camp in Orlando with Varsity Coach Keronn Walker, Assistant Coach Micah Christensen, and J.V. Coach Dan Dyra.

ENJOYING THE change in scenery this year—previous trips were to Cocoa Beach—, Junior Steven Glick went on the Florida trip for his third time.

“We had a three-day pass to go to rides so it was a lot of fun,” Steven explained. “We were there for a week, and the hotel we stayed at was surrounded by other athletes, which was great.

“The team got pretty close and we really got to know each other, which is part of the reason we take the trip.”

MIDWAY SPORTS

Soccer girls go up against long North Side rival

By Luke Murphy
Midway reporter

Emphasizing circulating the ball to improve scoring, varsity soccer girls will face Conference rival Latin, 4:30 p.m. next Tuesday, May 1, away.

The Maroons stand at 2-6 as of last Saturday, including an 8-0 loss to Lincoln Way North in Frankfort at the Pepsi Showdown Tournament. The U-Highers are still dealing with the loss of two former varsity stand-out midfielders Junior Sarah Curci and Akili King, according to Senior Lexie Barber, cocaptain with Seniors Sydney Scarlata, Katie Klespies, and Sarah Schact. J.V stands at 2-2-2 as of last Saturday after losing their last game 2-0 to Northridge Prep April 28.

“I FEEL like this year is unique in that we don’t have the same skill level as in years past, which has forced us to pass more and be less selfish,” Lexie explained. “We don’t have any superfast forwards, but since we’re playing as a team this really hasn’t been a huge problem.”

The Maroons are dealing with lack of depth in the forward position by focusing on being a passing game.

“What I really like about the team this year is that everybody contributes,” Varsity Coach Mike Moses said. We play a possession style with the intent of building up play to get into attacking third.

“WITHOUT A DOUBT,” Mr. Moses added, “we are our biggest obstacle, we simply need to score more goals. We only have about eight conference games that actually count toward qualifying for the Independent School League Championship and we lost one to Parker, so it’s going to be hard to win ISL.”

That loss to Parker came in a 2-0 heartbreaker April 3.

“Parker really moved the ball well,” Mr. Moses said. “Although their skill level wasn’t much better than ours, they built from the back and capitalized off opportunities, both things are something we are working on. They also used the diagonal back to create scoring chances, something we’ve been working on.”

PLAYING WITHOUT a star player has led the team to become closer on and off the field, believes Senior Lexie Barber. Being declared out for the year after tearing her ACL March 27 near the south sideline of Jackman Field, Lexie played every position.

“In the last two years, the team has become very close. In my freshman year, as a floater, and my sophomore year, there was always one person who was expected to score. This year, we can’t depend on that one person anymore like we had in the past.

“The one frustrating thing is that I don’t even know what happened when I got hurt,” she reflected. “I just took a weird stride and felt a pop. I hope to be fully healed in six to eight months. I wish I could be on the field, but as a senior, I’d love to see us win ISL. When I was healthy and playing, I played a lot of different positions.”

Upcoming games for the varsity girls include: At Latin May 1, Deerfield HS May 4, and an opponent to be determined May 5 at the Glenbrook Cup.



DRIVING PAST two Parker defenders on Jackman Field, April 3, Junior Audrey Hart, helped forward Katie Klespies make an attempt on goal. The Maroon lost 0-2. *Photo by Elizabeth Gelman.*

“I hit my second homerun in High School this year against North Shore. Even though we lost, it was a really good game. It was exciting to see my infield and outfielders back me up so I could pitch confidently.”

—Mac Sinclair, senior



Track teams going for ISL top spot

By Mike Glick
Midway reporter

With long-distance runners and team captains Andrew Palmer and Sarah Curci injury-free, boys and girls track expect to go head-to-head with Latin for the Independent School League title May 4.

The boy runners have competed in six meets thus far, placing 3rd at Timothy Christian April 4 and Luther North April 10, behind Conference rival North Shore Country Day. The girls have competed in five competitions, winning at Luther North over conference foe North Shore and four nonconference teams. Coach Bud James feels both teams can perform well in the Independent School League and at State.



Sarah

BUT WITH ONLY 13 runners, Mr. James realizes that winning is a challenge for the boys.

With 24 runners, size does not pose an issue for the girls according to Mr. James. He believes the girls are likely to improve on last year's fourth place ISL finish.

"I definitely think we can win the ISL title," Mr. James said. "We have a very talented group of girls this year who each excel in different events."

COMING TO U-High after 8th grade from Chicago City Day School, on the North Side, Andrew, measured 5-feet, 1-inch. He has since grown 11 inches. Over the years, Andrew, senior has suffered numerous rapid-growth-related injuries.



Andrew

They have included several back spasms, and, according to Andrew, consequently stunted his progress significantly as a runner.

"I've been doing track, indoor and outdoor, since my freshman year at U-High," Andrew said. "As a freshman, I constantly had to overcome my smallness and injuries, which was hard to do. In my sophomore and junior years I suffered many minor injuries as well."

"This year has been the breakthrough year I've been waiting for. I've gotten my mile time down to 4 minutes, 49 seconds, and I'm also continuing to improve in the 800 meters. Occasionally, due to our small team, I'm even running the 4-by-400 relay."

SARAH'S INJURIES have proven much more severe. Since 5th grade, she has broken her ankles six times combined and torn ligaments in them three times. She has also suffered a stress fracture and an overuse injury in her hip in the last three years. This year she has left soccer behind and is focusing completely on running.

"As a freshman, I mostly did running to stay in shape for soccer, but as I ran more I really began to love it," Sarah said. "Throughout the past three years I've begun taking running much more seriously, and this year I'm 100 percent about track."

"In the end, it was about what I had grown to love more, even though I will always love soccer, and what I want in the future. I want to run in college so I needed to run track and get faster."



RUSHING UP to the net for a swift return, James Duran suffered a 1-4 loss with fellow Maroons in a home match against Marion Catholic, April 3. The Maroons will play Elgin Academy next Tuesday, May 1, at home. Photo by Katherine Garvey.

Tennismen plan to keep winning momentum going

By Max Brown
Midway reporter

Facing St. Ignatius in their 10th meet 4:30 p.m. today at Roosevelt Road, varsity tennismen look to continue their momentum after defeating DeLaSalle 5-0 April 18 at home.

With 2 wins and 5 losses in season and 1 win and 1 loss in the Independent School League, the Maroons look to hit their stride. But, 4-2 St. Ignatius can be expected to prove a tough opponent.



Aneesh

"Ignatius isn't one of our rivals, but they're always a really deep, strong team," said Varsity Coach Gerald Hanck. "Also, at this point of the season, every match is important to build momentum for the ISL and Sectional tournaments."

ANEESH BELIEVES that the match tomorrow will decide the team's goals for the rest of the season.

"Most years we win our Sectional Tournament, which takes place at U-High, and get into the State competition, but we usually don't make the second day," Aneesh said.

"This year, though, more of my teammates are hoping to make that second round. Since St. Ignatius is always a very strong group and deep at every position, it's a great indicator to where we've come from the beginning of the season and what we need to do to improve to meet our

goals."

Only Lucas advanced to the second round of State last year.

RESULTS FOR recent meets are as follows:

Whitney Young, March 29, home: Varsity lost 0-5; **Marion Catholic**, April 3, home: Varsity lost 1-4; **Sandburg High School**, April 9, home: Varsity lost 2-3; **North Shore**, April 11, home: Varsity won 3-2. **Parker**, April 17, away: Varsity lost 0-5; **DeLaSalle**, April 18, home: Varsity won 5-0; **Payton**, April 20, Varsity lost 3-2. Results for the Latin and Fenwick meets came after Midway press time.

Upcoming games include the following:

Elgin Academy, 4:30, Tuesday May 1 at home; the **Moline tournament**, May 4 and 5; **Stagg**, 4:30, Monday May 7 at home; **Morgan Park**, 4:30, Thursday May 10 at home; the **ISL tournament**, 8 a.m., Saturday May 12 at home; and **Sectionals**, 2 p.m., Friday May 18 and 8 a.m., Saturday 19 at home.

A STRONG J.V. TEAM as of last week remained undefeated, with six wins so far. Coach Julijana Lazarevich believes trying different combinations of the 20 players has paid off.

"The way we're building a strong team is by constantly switching the doubles lineup, so each player gets to play with different people," Ms. Lazarevich explained.

"The idea is to get everyone on the team comfortable with each other, and they've been adapting very well."

J.V. also will play St. Ignatius, Elgin, Stagg and Morgan Park Academy.

SPORTS JR REED: *Let's settle down*

FULL-LENGTH BEARDS, golden goal sudden-death overtime, and 16 teams just starting to battle against each other in what could be given the title of greatest test in professional sports.

Yes, boys and girls, it's that time of year again.

The National Hockey League Playoffs have just wrapped up the first round, and, each of the eight opening round series have displayed some of the greatest intensity in recent memory.

These first two weeks have been pure madness, yielding 12 overtime periods as of Monday April 23. And it is these thrilling overtime periods that have helped propel the play-off's ratings to an all-time high.

Three playoff games on NBC two weekends ago av-

eraged a 50 percent increase compared to last year's coverage.

However, the first round of 2012's playoffs has also been marked by wild brawls, questionable hits, and an unprecedented string of suspensions.

While it is true that, in the case of the casual viewer, this physical element has put the playoffs on their radar, avid hockey fans, including myself, are frustrated.

The incredible speed and amazing play-making ability that makes hockey one of the most exciting sports to watch has somewhat disappeared.

It's true the physical intensity must be increased during the playoffs, but let's not go overboard boys.

In the end, finishing the puck, not the man, is going to enable you to lift that Cup over your heads come the first week of June.

Varsity basketballers get 'new' coach for upcoming season



Mr. Stewart

Mr. Chad Stewart has been named varsity basketball coach after mentoring the team as interim coach following Mr. Troy Caldwell's departure in early January.

Mr. Stewart led the team to a 7-5 end of season run. The Maroons lost to Seton Academy in Sectional Semi-Final, February 22.

Mr. Stewart coached the j.v. team for five years prior to the season leading them to consecutive Independent School League Tournament Championships.

He also coached Morgan Park High School's basketball team as well as the Mac Irvin Fire, an AAU team.

The Athletic Department received more than 50 applications and conducted four interviews for the job.

THE ART OF GRAFFITI



ONLY INTERPRETABLE to other graffiti artists, this wall outside the Shedd Aquarium bears the tag of “Syke,” a U-High senior boy. “Different writers have different hand styles and letter designs, so my writing would be totally unreadable to someone who doesn’t do graffiti,” he explained. *Photo courtesy of Syke.*

graffiti | grə'fē-tē |
plural noun (sing. graffiti | -tō) [treated as sing. or pl.]
writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in a public place: the walls were covered with graffiti | [as modifier] : a graffiti artist.

Graffiti is nothing new

While a popular way for some students to express themselves, graffiti is hardly a contemporary development.

An ancient tradition dating back to 30,000 BCE, the term “graffiti” began connoting illegal, gang-affiliated artwork in the 1960s.

Contemporary graffiti originated in the Philadelphia and New York City subways as Sharpie-drawn symbols and letters, and later became a segment of hip-hop and gang culture as an appealing illegal means of expression.

Street artists began using spray paint to create their designs, and the brighter, larger works caught on with artists and marketing companies alike. The oft drink distributor Dr. Pepper-7-Up Group famously enlisted artist Peter Max to create an ad campaign for its lemon-lime “7-Up” echoing graffiti.

Gangs adopted the art form as a method of communication, marking their “tags,” or signatures, to indicate the parameters of their allocated “turfs.”

Famous street artists such as the Englishman Banksy, who works most notably in London, Bristol and New Orleans, represent another facet of graffiti, and are staples of urban culture. Sometimes commissioned, but often working illicitly, they create street art with an underlying statement about culture or politics.

Graffiti painted on public or private property without authorization is illegal in all 50 states, although there have been established some “free spaces” where artists can do graffiti legally. Chicago anti-vandalism legislation ordains that any person caught in the act of creating graffiti is subject to a fine and possibly jail time for up to one year.

Other U-High graffiti artists

FRESHMAN BOY—Uses Sharpie markers, pencils and spray paint to mix old and new styles of graffiti. “I combine simple, brightly colored old school graffiti with abstract, cryptic new school graffiti by incorporating partially ‘wild,’ or illegible to the untrained eye, letters, but also using a wide range of colors as do traditional graffiti. When I sketch out my designs, I use Sharpies and pencils, but when I transfer it to a wall I use strictly spray paint.”

JUNIOR BOY—Creates abstract faces on stickers using vibrant pencils, pens and spray paint. “A lot of my art has a creepy flavor to it. I don’t try to put any meaning behind my work. I guess the meaning is individual to the person looking at it and their emotional response. I make what I think looks cool.”

An underground of highly-visible culture

By Marissa Page
Associate editor

Approaching a wall surrounding the Shedd Aquarium one night two years ago, a U-High senior boy stealthily pulled out a spray can, quickly painting the word “SYKE” in block letters.

This senior, known by his tag, or signature, “Syke,” says that part of the appeal of being a graffiti artist lies in its illegality.

“THERE’S SOME street art that people admire, stuff that takes lots of skill and time and incorporates lots of colors, but the graffiti I and most other people do is not about being artistic, and usually just one or two colors of spray paint,” he said. “It’s a rush for a graffiti artist to go out and see their work everywhere. The illegal edge is probably the most appealing part for anyone, myself included.

“That said, I don’t plan on continuing to do graffiti after I turn 18. The legal punishments become much worse, and I’m not willing to risk that just to tag a building.”

Graffiti by U-High artists such as Syke decorate various locations around Hyde Park and the entire city of Chicago. Abandoned buildings, such as the Stony Island hospital before it was demolished, train rights-of-way and several designated legal locations provide common canvasses for student graffiti artists.

STUDENTS SUCH AS Syke follow a long line of graffiti artists, such as Billy “Upski” Wimsatt, who graduated from U-High in 1990 (see story below). Since Upski’s time at U-High, the number of graffiti artists has diminished. Several graduated last year, leaving only four such artists here now.

Syke, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of legal repercussions, became interested in graffiti freshman year.

“I was on Facebook freshman year and saw one of my friends send a drawing to another person using the Graffiti app, back when using that was cool,” he said. “I thought their art was really awesome, and I was just sort of drawn to the idea of making some like it after that. When I started actually doing graffiti, I picked the name ‘Syke’ for my tags.”

“**WORK THAT** takes a lot of time is obviously very risky, since graffiti is almost completely illegal in the state of Illinois, save these free spots. If I go out to do graffiti, I like to go with a group so we can watch one another’s backs while we paint.”

Some U-High graffiti artists also choose to etch their tags into school tables and scribble them on bathroom walls, which makes them legally vandalism. According to Senior Max Davis, an artist who refrains from graffiti because of such legal ramifications, most graffiti qualifies as vandalism that invades the public eye.

“I work with graffiti materials, like spray paint and markers, but I don’t actively put stuff up on buildings out of fear,” Max said. “Traditional graffiti is kind of dumb. A tag doesn’t really mean anything; it just invades the public eye. Some street art is awesome, but most graffiti is adolescent and lame. People who can use a spray can to leave a meaningful mark are much cooler than people who just go around tagging things.”

SEEING GRAFFITI as an act of rebellion, Art Teacher Brian Wildeman says he encourages students interested in the art form to be careful.

“I play a rather cautionary role in aiding students who are interested in graffiti, if any role at all,” Mr. Wildeman said. “I help them do graffiti art in my classroom loft space, in a safe space, and only there. There are safe-spot graffiti walls everywhere, and while I don’t go looking for student graffiti, when I see it I’m concerned.

“I think that the impetus for young people doing graffiti is a sense of control. There are so few things in most teenagers’ lives that they are permitted to control, and some of them have a desire find their own thing whether it’s legal or not.”

U-High grad holds historic place in the culture

By Clay Surmeier
Midway reporter

Upski.

Former graffiti artist and Midway editor-in-chief, William Wimsatt is an important figure in the history of Chicago graffiti. Starting his first book, “Bomb the Suburbs,” published in 1994, he went on to write two more books, “No More Prisons,” published in 1999, and “Please Don’t Bomb the Suburbs,” published in 2010.

Mr. Wimsatt lives in Brooklyn with his wife and is political director at Rebuild the Dream, a campaign focused on helping the economy and making the American Dream possible.

Considered a terror in Hyde Park Mr.

Wimsatt promoted graffiti everywhere, went to Kenwood Academy, then came to U-High his sophomore year and graduated in 1990.

“I went to Kenwood Academy for 7th, 8th and 9th grade,” Mr. Wimsatt said in a phone interview. “I got sent back to Lab my sophomore year because I had been arrested like seven or eight times for graffiti and was out all night without my parents knowing where I was.

“When I got to Lab, everyone seemed pretty spoiled and sheltered. I felt sorry for my friends who only got to live in one. I had a message to get across; that there shouldn’t be two separate worlds. At first I expressed this through graffiti.”

Becoming involved in the Journalism

program at U-High, Mr. Wimsatt utilizes writing to get his message about politics and hip hop out to a much larger audience. In past years he has written op-ed pieces for The Washington Post, Huffington Post, and The Nation.

Mr. Wimsatt wrote his first book, “Bomb the Suburbs,” while at U-High and Oberlin College, where he studied political science.

His second book, “No More Prisons,” published in 1999, describes the flow of money into the U.S. prison system, and where Mr. Wimsatt believes it should be going.

After the book’s publication, Mr. Wimsatt launched a nation wide graffiti campaign to spray paint “No More Prisons,” and educate the public on this issue.

“I wanted people to be walking and see all these states on the ground and wonder, what is this,” Mr. Wimsatt said. “I wanted to spread the movement. I used graffiti as a practical political organizing tool, and it worked.”

Mr. Wimsatt did not see a transformation occurring, and wanted to find a new tool with which to tackle his goal.

“I founded the League of Young Voters in 2003 to get more people voting and educated about voting, specifically younger people from the hood. I am far from satisfied with what my friends and I have accomplished, but the pattern that was set in high school, of connecting those two different worlds, is what motivated me from such a young age to today.”

Art by Gene Cochrane