Parents who were U-Highers, too

PAGE 6

North Side Home, South Side School

PAGE 7

A Portrait of Courage and Spirit

PAGES 10-11

Colorful Holidays in the Windy City

PAGE 20

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U. of C.’s rising rankings impresses some, amuses others

By Rolland Long 
Editor-in-Chief

A decade ago, when U.S. News and World Report published its best U.S. colleges ranking, the University of Chicago was nowhere in the top 10. Nine years later, U.S. News and World Report ranked the U. of C. as the 5th best university last year. Just last September, the U. of C. rose in rank again, tying Columbia University for 4th, behind only Harvard, Princeton, and Yale. The U. of C. has since received 10,936 Early Applications, 19.5 percent more than last year and the most in the school’s history. But both U. of C. faculty and students, including U-High graduates, believe the new ranking does not reflect any change in the U. of C.’s academics. The U. of S. News and World Report college rankings, published annually since 1983, are based on the ratings of seven categories. They are undergraduate academic reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources, graduation and retention rates, financial resources, alumni donations, and graduation rate performance. Each category is rated according to quantitative measurements such as average graduation rate and class sizes. Because the rankings are calculated according to such measurements, the actual significance of the U. of S. News and World Report rankings is often disputed. Dr. Jose Quintana, U. of C. Master and Dean of Undergraduate Biological Sciences, believes the ratings of seven categories. They are undergraduate academic reputation, student selectivity, faculty resources, graduation and retention rates, financial resources, alumni donations, and graduation rate performance. Each category is rated according to quantitative measurements such as average graduation rate and class sizes. Because the rankings are calculated according to such measurements, the actual significance of the U. of S. News and World Report rankings is often disputed. Dr. Jose Quintana, U. of C. Master and Dean of Undergraduate Biological Sciences, believes the (continues on page 9)

Standing outside Max Palevsky Residential Commons, U. of C. Freshmen Max Archer, Tom Healy and Adam Picker of U. of C.’s rise in rankings.

Protesting mountain-top removal mining, Dorian Williams (middle), Class of 2009, and other protestors locked themselves to a “U-Truck” at Hobet 21 coal mine in Charleston, West Virginia. “When the police did arrive they were very excited to see us taken off the trucks and arrested,” Dorian said. “I like to think we provided a little entertainment for an otherwise exhausting and unpleasant day.”

Photo courtesy of Dorian Williams

Protester mines some surprises

Dorian Williams, Class of 2009, can tell you what prison is like

By Duncan Weinstein
Editor-in-Chief

“It took about two minutes for one of our group members to stop the truck so that we could climb up the ladder and lock to the railings. We used bike locks, chains and pipes to make it as difficult as possible to remove us from the truck. Meanwhile, another member tried unsuccessfully to establish communication with the truck’s driver. So recalled Dorian Williams, Class of 2009, describing how she helped shut down the Hobet 21 coal mine in Charleston, West Virginia, as part of a protest July 29. A member of Students for a Just and Stable Future, Dorian, a senior at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, cares most about global warming. At U-High, Dorian played varsity soccer, served on the board of Renaissance, and participated in Model U.N. “In high school, I wasn’t very interested in activism or organizing,” Dorian said, speaking quickly during a phone interview. “I went to one protest downtown for marriage equality with Quia. Otherwise I just did Model U.N., which helped me appreciate that there are solutions. They may be hard, but change is possible.” “People often excuse themselves from making change because they think no change can be made, Model U.N. helped me begin break away from that,” Dorian said. “Going to Lab helped me gain critical thinking and learning to ask the right questions, but I think I got my sense of social justice more from my home life and at Brandeis.”

“I began turning that critical eye away from academia and towards our socio-economic political system. Learning how unjust our system is can make it hard not to get upset. It can seem overwhelming so it’s easier to continue with our lives and believe that things will be ok. But they won’t be okay.”

“We are facing an unprecedented global crisis that connects straight to the way that we have been our lives: on fossil fuels. But fossil fuels are fundamentally altering the kind of earth we live in. We have to do something now so we don’t lose this world forever.”

According to Junior Loren Snickick, Dorian’s brother, she remains pretty much the same as she was at U-High. “She’s more active in her opinions now, and much more likely to protest,” Loren said. “I think she supported those things in High School but wouldn’t have taken part in them like now.”

(continues on page 14)

Freshmen say they live a balancing act

By Natalie Holley
Associate editor

Approaching the end of the first quarter, freshmen say they are beginning to understand the difficulties of balancing U-High’s school work, extracurricular activities, and a social life. Now to the Lab Schools from the University of Chicago Carter G. Woodson Charter School, Freshman Mira Jacobs says the academic transition to U-High was smooth. “The most challenging thing has been trying to balance my academics with my personal life,” Mira said. “I try to use my free periods, plan out my assignments, and stay on top of my work, but it still feels as though I don’t get enough work done.”

Dealing with the added difficulty of being on a sports team, Freshman Tiffany Suwatthee said she struggled to find free time between homework and swim practices. “You have to dedicate a lot of time to your sport, but you make a lot of good friends and in the end it’s worth it,” Tiffany said. “Plus the upperclassmen try their best to help us with homework and other things, their encouragement and support has been really helpful.”

Sophomore Anna Knes recalls having similar problems balancing time last year. “The biggest problem I had was learning time management,” Sophomore Anna Knes said. “Last year I would normally spend every free period in the library doing homework and not spending any time with my friends, but now I’ve learned to balance my friends with my work.”

Going to her advisor, Mrs. Cunningham, Math Teacher Farukh Kahn, and counselor, Camille Baughn-Cunningham, for help with difficult classes was key according to Sophomore Sam van Loon. “AAT (Accelerated Advanced Algebra and Trigonometry) affected my stress the most,” Sam said. “I dreaded doing my homework every night and it was the most challenging thing about the entire school year.”

“Mrs. Cunningham recommended a really great tutor who helped me improve a lot. She’s really understanding and standing as a counselor. I knew that her main goal was to help me understand the work and to help me raise my grade and I trusted her completely.”

Sophomore Alex Thompson said he also found solutions to his struggles in math by going to his adviser. “I had a lot of problems in geometry last year, especially in the algebra aspect of it, so my teacher and advisor arranged for me to audit an Algebra 1 class,” Alex said. “I basically got to sit in on every class.”

(continues on page 14)

PAGE 1
Holiday travels will take families to far-away places

By Julian Lark
Midway Reporter

Visiting her grandmother in A Coruña, Spain, Maria Kahan Modi and her family is planning on relaxing on the beach at Andalucia for the holidays. “My grandmother lives in a small coastal town in Spain, and we always look forward to spending Christmas with her,” said Maria.

“Choosing a new destination every year is exciting,” said her sister, Kiana. “We always try to explore new places and make memories that last a lifetime.”

Last year, the family went on a safari in Tanzania, and Maria said she would love to visit East Africa again someday.

“Tanzania and Kenya were just totally different from any other trips I had been on. The elephant and the giraffe are amazing animals and the landscapes are breathtaking,” Maria said.

This year, the family is considering visiting Fiji or New Zealand. “I’ve heard so much about the South Pacific, and I’m curious to see for myself,” said Kiana.

Getting ready for the trip, Maria and her family started planning their itinerary and researching the best places to visit. “We want to make sure we experience as much as possible, from the culture to the local cuisine,” said Maria.

“Traveling with family is the best thing ever,” said Kiana. “It’s a great way to bond and create new memories.”

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Senior get paper published, fourth from same history class

By Duncan Weinstein
Editor-in-Chief

“I found out just as I was walking into my Holocaust class with Mrs. Shapiro. She congratulated me as soon as I walked into the room, but I had no idea why she was congratulating me. Then she told me that my paper was being published in the Concord Review and pulled up the e-mail from Mr. Horton on her computer to show me the final copy I was stannned for the first five minutes.”

Senior Alecce Qadir was excited to find out she had been accepted into the Review, a collection of high school history papers. “I wrote it mainly because my entire family is interested in Southern Asia, and I was always fascinated by the British Empire’s influence in the region,” said Alecce.

The fourth paper from Paul Horton’s 2010-2011 AT World History Class to appear in the Review, Alecce’s piece is in the Winter 2013 issue.
Freshman year a balancing act for many

By Jordan Einhorn
Guest reporter

“Advisories are a place for everyone to feel comfortable. Whether you’re a new student or you’ve been here all of your life, I think that having someone to talk to is really important.”

The advisers are supposed to help you with any issues you might have. Anna said. “Being able to talk to Ms. Maguire about anything, whether it’s holiday plans or sports, is so great. By the end of the first quarter of freshman year everyone in my advisory had formed a personal relationship with her and we finally felt like a group.”

“Advisories are a place for everyone to feel comfortable. Whether you’re a new student or you’ve been here all of your life, I think that having someone to talk to is really important.”

An emotional experience
Trip to Holocaust Museum leaves history students with deep impressions

By Jordan Einhorn

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Aleeze Qadir.

Many freshmen and sophomores also stress the importance of advisers. Beyond assistance with academic work, Anna believes getting to know her advisor, Ms. Julia Maguire, helped her feel at ease during freshman year. “The advisers are supposed to help you with any issues you might have,” Anna said. “Being able to talk to Ms. Maguire about anything, whether it’s holiday plans or sports, is so great. By the end of the first quarter of freshman year everyone in my advisory had formed a personal relationship with her and we finally felt like a group.”

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Debaters will next go South in busy season on the road
By Duncan Weinstein, Executive-in-Chief

Rearranging their partnerships this year, debaters will next compete at Montgomery Bell High School January 5-6 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Discussing this year’s national school debate division resolution, whether the federal government should increase infrastructure investment, U-Highers last competed at Bowling Catholic High School in Des Moines, Iowa, December 7-9.

There, Juniors Janes Duran and Sam Leiter finished 21st, and Senior Mia Egner and Sophomore Adam Fine finished 14th, with Mia named 4th speaker out of 150 participants.

Instead of the same-grade partnerships which competed in past seasons, this year debaters are pairing juniors and seniors with sophomores, James said.

"Having seniors and juniors debate with sophomores allows us to put out one or four very good teams as opposed to one or two. Plus, it’s better for the long term development of the program."

The way I debated as a sophomore, paired with other sophomores, was very difficult, and I think it contributes to why some people haven’t continued to debate. As a sophomore you’re dominating the varsity division and, you lose most of your rounds to juniors and seniors. Putting sophomores with seniors and juniors will help their development, and make for a better team in the aggregate."

When it comes to research, debaters say they have gotten help from coachess, alumni and friends.

"Charlie Raftik did most of our preparation last year, so losing him was tough," James said. "Mia, myself, Juniors Sam Leiter and Alice Yu have picked up the slack to good effect. I think. We have our coaches Michael Ewald and Anna O’Hara, Charlie and Cory Stern, who graduated last year, and their friends who are helping us with debate research files. It feels like we have 10 coaches helping."

Debate results so far as follows:
NIKE INTERNATIONAL in north suburb Niles, September 14-16 – Mia Leiter and Sophomore Daniel Bissonette won 3, lost 2.
J.P. Stevens School from New Jersey, September 29-October 1 – Mia and Adam won 5 lost 1; earning their first bid to the Tournament of Champions, hosted by the University of Kentucky. Maryland 3-5 in Lexington Kentucky. Mia was ranked 2nd speaker.

(continues on page 9)

Academic teams reaping rewards of tough preparation
By Mia Luo

Midway reporter

Duncan Weinstein, Janine Einhorn, Natalia Ginsburg, Amartya Das.

Model UN heading East again
By Laghu Somala

Midway reporter

From assembling magnetically levitating trains to hitting the textbooks, Science Team members are preparing for the Invitational Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) contest Tuesday, February 12, at Fenwick High School in west suburban Oak Park, and the Illinois Science Olympiad (ISO) Regional February at an announced school. In-school tests during open periods have determined teams last Tuesday for the test focused WYSE tournaments, while Build Captains for the construction and lab focused ISO contest were determined by experienced merit three weeks ago. All club members got equal opportunity to make the varsity or junior varsity teams this year as well, according to All-Event Coordinator Elena Skoskey Lalonde, senior.

A lot of kids assume that if you are older then you automatically make varsity and if you are younger then you are junior varsity, but this year if you score better you are a going to take their place," Elena said. "This process allows us to attract talented lower class men."

According to WYSE Co-captain Yaning Zhang, senior, U-High will have to make up for the especially capable seniors of the graduated class.

The departure of important seniors such as Charlie Jiang and Robert Radway, has affected the team dearly.” Yaning said. “They have led us to many championships such as

(continues on page 9)

Science Club gearing up for WYSE
By Laghu Somala

Midway reporter

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Duncan Weinstein, Janine Einhorn, Natalia Ginsburg, Amartya Das.
There was this talent show during the second credible therapy session that felt intimate even than diversity,” Kaleb said. “It was like this in-”

“...The conference was about something bigger...”

...Although 2,500 delegates attended both con-...”

“Students at the conference were divided into...”

“African-American to walk in space; and Bara-...”

“Students at the conference were divided into...”

“Teachers and administrators at the PoCC at-...”

“Senior class will get away to resort lodge...”

“AWAY FROM IT ALL– To the...”

“Busy in the buttery aroma of latkes, potato pancakes served during the Jew-...”

“...network with every person there.”

“...the word ‘color’ did not connote the...”

“The conference was about something bigger...”

“...and moved on to get married and...”

“...she had forgiven the bombers, and...”

“...what it means to be black, white, bisexual, overweight.”

“...Math Teacher Shauna Anderson said the PoCC has let her to connect not only with...”

“I've attended the PoCC five times over the past 13 years, and every conference is an in-...”

“...Teachers and administrators at the PoCC at-...”

“He's widely known as the na-...”

“...Other than on Friday, we have includ-...”

“...awaiting them after a three hour or so...”

“...the seniors will return Monday, Janu-...”

“...depending on the cost of those things, we might have to raise...”

“...refreshments including chips and punch, Mr. Fech said. “It is imperative also that we make sure every student has access to food and water during the dance, and that we have a surplus of refreshments so that everyone can remain hydrated and nourished while dancing in the hot International House. “Either at an assembly after break or through advisory, we’d like to survey students to see what type of snacks they’d like to have at the dance, things like veggie trays and bottled waters. Depending on the cost of those things, we might have to raise the ticket price, unless Student Council has money left over.”

“...one speaker we heard from, Kim Phoe Phan Thi.”

“Above all, I wanted to hear how she had forgiven the bombers, and moved on to get married and have a family.”

“...At first, I thought it was called the ‘People...”

“...I've attended the PoCC five times over the past 13 years, and every conference is an in-...”

“...Math Teacher Shauna Anderson said the PoCC has let her to connect not only with...”

“As of now, we’ve raised $9,400, 100% of which will go to the Lab+ campaign to fund expansion of fa-...”

“...Beth Wittbrodt, director of the school’s...”

“...to the faculty and staff Decem-...”

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Racquet up in anticipation, Beth Fama prepares to serve at her Lake Forest Academy opponent in a 1980 U-Highlights photo.

U-Higher parents of U-Highers see similarities, differences in school life

By Clea Braendel
Midway reporter

“My senior year they shot a movie at school called ‘Endless Love’ that starred Brooke Shields. I remember there was an actor that played the best friend of the male lead, who would play soccer with guys from school and he was really weird. He kept saying, ‘Call me Tommy’ and that he would make $1 million and then get out of show business. That kid became Tom Cruise.”

“That’s the thing about Lab, everything’s happening all at once so you never know what’s going to happen.”

The personable lady talking brightly in a phone interview was Elizabeth Evans, U-High Class of 1981 and coeditor-in-chief of the yearbook that year and mother of another U-Higher, freshman Ben Glick.

Ms. Evans is among 28 U-High alumni from the classes of 1950 through 1987 who are U-High parents, a lengthy check by Alumni and Development Office staff members for the Midway reveals.

Teachers are the thing Catherine Braendel, Class of 1981, and mother of junior Noah Braendel and sophomore Clea Braendel, remembers most.

“One teacher used to throw chalk at people.” Ms. Braendel said, “Mr. Montag was a history teacher that everybody loved. And he would throw chalk—with ninja-like precision—at anyone who talked during class. I think you would get in trouble for that now.”

Remembering his years as a teenager fondly, David Rosenbacher, Class of 1979 and father of Gaba Rosenbacher, Class of 2012, and son Yachnin (Class of 1979), four other siblings, “The Fellows.” Craig Truitt, Class of 1980 and father of soprano Faye, son Tom (Class of 1981), and brother Joel (Class of 1981), our friend Ben…

“The quality of the kids at Lab intimidated me when I entered the school in the 8th grade,” Mr. Truitt said. “Lab Scabs” is what my friends and I used to call them before I became one. When you get an amazingly talented group of people together it causes your life to be amazingly fun.

“The teachers are cool, too; there have been some quality teachers. They keep bringing in cool teachers. That is a lot of what goes into the kids—in-school teaching.”

Mr. Truitt recalled one teacher in particular.

“Mr. Alan Haskel was a very tall and very lean math teacher when I went to Lab,” Mr. Truitt said. “I being a U-High Midway and U-Highers cartoonist, taped three pieces of paper together and drew him. Then, I taped the picture to the little window in the door of his classroom, banged on the door, and high-tailed it out of there. I didn’t get to see his reaction but I was told that Mr. Haskel, a man who never laughed, screamed with laughter.”

Reminiscing about the art scene at U-High, Elizabeth Fama, mother of sophomore Lydia Fama, remembered the beginnings of the U-High arts and literature magazine.

“I was one of the first few kids who did the Renaissance magazine,” said Ms. Fama, who left U-High after her junior year in 1981. “Ms. Joan Koblick, who taught art history, got a bunch of artistic types together which included my brothers and sister, who were more artistic than me. I did, however, submit to Arts Week, which I also helped organize. I submitted my drawings and 10 eggshell drawings with some of ladybugs and let them loose in the school. Also, somebody once dismantled a Volkswagen Bug and reassembled it in the building.”

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**U-Highers who live on North South Side, go to school**

on South Side experience differences, similarities

By Clay Surmeier

**Associate Editor**

3:30 a.m.

That’s the time freshman Chris Healy wakes up to catch the yellow school bus that picks up approximately 15 North Siders at 8:40 a.m. The trip typically takes between 30 minutes and an hour, bringing him to school by 7:50 a.m. and returning him home by 4:45 p.m.

Drawn by the liveliness of North Side neighborhoods when they moved from Connecticut in 2008, the Healys—Tom, Class of 2012, Junior Phil, and Freshman Chris—chose a three story brick home in Wrigleyville, the fabled community around the ballpark.

“We picked out a house in Wrigleyville and haven’t moved since we got to Chicago,” Chris explained. “It’s closer to my dad’s job, my mom’s interests, and overall more things to do. There’s just a lively feel around my neighborhood. There are always people walking dogs, biking or playing soccer at the local public school’s astroturf soccer field. Also, I can walk a block to get something to eat no matter I’m craving, from sushi to comfort food.”

“My family’s favorite spot is Southport Lanes where we can catch a game of bowling and some nice beer food. The Lanes is also right by my house so it gives me an easy way to around the city on my own.”

Another popular mode of transportation, a privately run van system has brought many U-Highers together.

“When you see someone every school day, be it when they’re almost completely asleep in the morning or ready to get home after a long school day, you’re bound to make some friendships,” Junior Matthew Davis said. “It’s great to get out of school and just joke around for the 45 minutes it takes me to get back to my condo in Old Town. You get to bond with some new people that you probably never would have had the chance to otherwise.”

Also riding the van, Sophomore Ben-fry Friedman eats and breathes North Side, from the food to the sports, he said.

“I get out of my house in Lakeview at 6:50 a.m., just about when my van driver Peter starts yelling at me to hurry up,” chuckled Ben. “When I get home around 4:20 p.m. after a long day at school, I can walk over to the Art Institute to get a snack. On weekends, after grabbing a bite to eat, my friends and I usually walk down the block to Hamlin Park for a ball around.”

“I play baseball almost every day over the summer and when baseball comes around during the school year, I need to get my fix. Living so close to a baseball field makes this possible. I’ve played there since I was 4 years old.”

“I’ve played on the Hamlin Park Lions traveling baseball team for years. When I was on the Hamlin Park Lions traveling team we went to Cooperstown, New York, and played in a national tournament. I mean, sure, it’s hard going to school so far away, but I’ve lived in the same house, rooted for the same Cubs, played at the same Hamlin Park my whole life, and I love it.”

“I dance in Andersonville for Gus Giordano’s and because of it I’ve made friends that go to Lincoln Park, Walter Payton, and Whitney Young.”

“Extracurricular opportunities and ample shopping opportunities all increase the North Side’s appeal to Se-nior Natalie Lubin.

“I dance in Andersonville for Gus Giordano’s and because of it I’ve made friends that go to Lincoln Park, Walter Payton, and Whitney Young.

“It’s great today because there are so many places to shop like Urban Outfitt-ers, which is right around the corner from my house. If I’m ever in the mood for something to eat, I might go to “The Counter” where I can make my own burger or just get some sweet po-tato fries.”

Ellen enjoys living in Bucktown, she said. “I know there aren’t a lot of restau-rants in Hyde Park, but usually I can manage without going Downtown or something for a bite to eat.

“Sometimes I feel like the majority of my life is in Hyde Park though, and I don’t see a lot of other parts of Chicago. School is here, most of my friends are here, there isn’t always a reason to go out. It’s nice at some point because there is a close community of people. I will see someone I know if I go out for a walk, it’s a different type of life than the North Side.

“The majority of people on the South Side seem to be academically driven students. On the North Side every-thing seems more diverse in a way. It always seems like more is going on and it overall has much less of a University campus feel.”

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**Soccer club draws city-wide team**

By Clay Surmeier

**Associate editor**

For North Side and South Side soccer, Magic brings them together.

Drawn by high level coaching, U-Highers from both sides of the city joined the Chicago Magic, a traveling soccer club South Side Freshmen Alex Foster, Scholar Small and Nigel Van Ha, joined by North Side Freshmen Nick Andrus, Joey Cohen, and Chris Healy make a bulk of the under-15 team.

“I play for Magic because I want to play re-ally competitive soccer at the highest level I can achieve, and Magic, being such a large soccer club, gives me many options,” said Alex, who lives in Hyde Park. “I also immediately found that the coaching and players are superior to any other club I have played for in Hyde Park.”

The group displayed their friendship and came together when Chris broke his ankle, rendering him unable to play soccer for three months.

“When I broke my ankle, they all helped me off the field and some of the guys were on the side line so they gave me water and helped take my sock off. Then they helped me get back to my car when the game was over and got me ice.”

“No matter what happens we support each other. We all are different and unique as in-dividuals but we come together when it mat-ters most, like a family.”

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**Warm up this Winter with great reading and a tasty treat**

On the fun upper level of the U. of C. Bookstore, sophomore Belle Pon looks over the great collection of stylish book bags a visit after school.

Get away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday sea-son! Get lost in finding a book or magazine of your choice for reading over the Winter Holiday. Curl up as you con-duct your quest with a beverage or snack from our in-store Starbucks Café and take a breather before tackling the busy upcoming days.

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**Photo by Matthew Garvey**

Getting off at the Sedwick Brown Line stop, Clay Surmeier, left, Mat-thew Davis and Maria Gibfoil, stroll by The Second City, home to the busy upcoming days.

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**Photo by Mathew Garvey**

Photo by Aurielle Akerele

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**Photo by Matthew Garvey**

Photo by Aurielle Akerele

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They talk with the animals

(continued from page 6)

We have all sorts of animals other than dogs. You’re not just walking and feeding the animals, you also have to help them. You have to be gentle.

“It’s fun to see the baby animals grow up. There was a baby raccoon there, and we had to raise it because the mother died. I hate this one duck though. It comes out of no where some days, attacks my shoe and tries to jump on my back.

“Because it doesn’t have a fully developed voice box, it hisses at me. Then there are times when it comes towards me, hisses, jumps in my lap, and just sits there.”

Also on Sundays, sophomores Eleri Miller and Carra Gray volunteer at the Animal Welfare League, in South Suburban Palos Heights. The shelter’s one-story brown building is surrounded by bushes and small trees.

“There are mostly dogs and cats, with three rooms just for dogs, and two rooms just for cats,” Eleri said. “There are about 1,400 animals, including rabbits and parrots, because we have a policy that states we aren’t allowed to turn down any animals. Because of this, there are animals such as cougars up at the shelter.”

The Animal Welfare League doesn’t believe in turning away or euthanizing animals. The non-profit organization accepts all types of animals.

“The reason why we chose to volunteer at an animal shelter is because we wanted to work with animals and thought it would be a good experience,” Eleri said. “We’re usually the only ones up there on Sunday, but on most days there are about three to four volunteers at once. We mainly walk animals, but the work done is by volunteer work.”

“One time, this woman with a Miniature Pinscher pulled me over,” Carra said. “She was crying and asked me to see if the dog was okay, but she didn’t want him to be stuck in a cage at a shelter. She really loved the dog, but she just couldn’t take care of it because of her schedule. Finally she said, ‘OK,’ and let the dog go.

“Riding horses since 1st grade, sophomore Justine Silverstein began volunteering this year at the Hanson Center Riding Arena, just north of suburban Burr Ridge, about eight minutes away from her house on North Elm Street in Hinsdale.”

Serving disabled adults and children, the arena offers a range of recreational programs for children and adults both with and without disabilities.

“Consisting of an indoor riding arena and stable, horse pastures, and a small animal farm, the Hanson Center Riding Arena is surrounded by bushes and small trees.”

“Horsefeathers gives horseback riding lessons to help with physical and emotional disabilities. My job there is to take the horses out to graze and put the saddles on them. My job is also to side walk, where I walk next to the rider and make sure they don’t fall off. There are a lot of kids that go to Horsefeathers who can’t communicate or walk properly,” Emilie said.

“But I think it’s pretty impressive that their parents still bring them every single week and just how nice they are. I never expected to see that level of dedication among the parents. I guess that even though their children’s physical or emotional behavior might not change really dramatically, these parents still hold out to the hope that one day their child might be able to walk and talk normally. And even the littlest improvement makes them happy.”

Vacation plans include horseback riding, photograph printing

(continued from page 2)

Squeezing at the sight of visitors, “Jeffrey,” a Muscovy Duck, waddles towards me, hisses, jumps in my lap, and just sits there.

“I’ve gained a lot of respect for the volunteers and workers since I began working there. It’s much harder than it looks.”

Also working with horses, Sophomore Emilie Hussein volunteers at Horsefeathers Therapeutic Riding in Lake Forest. Emilie works in the stable and arena.

“I’ve always liked horses, but I never really rode them or anything, so I thought this would be a great opportunity to work with them,” Emilie said. “I also like working with kids and a lot of kids go there. I go there on Saturdays for about three hours, and work with the kids that come to ride.”

“Horsefeathers gives horseback riding lessons to help with physical and emotional disabilities. My job there is to help them get onto the horse, and to hold the horse steady while the rider mounts. Then I help them carry the horse, and help them ride it.”

(continued from page 2)

Speaking of brain waves

Presenting their research to Sharon Housing-er’s Human Behavior classes December 6, U. C. Professors Nicholas Hatsopoulos and Cath- eline to his mother of the Freshman Tomas Friehs, explained how neuro- science can heal both physical and mental illness.

Speaking first, Mr. Hatsopoulos, in the photo, described how an individual’s physical abilities can be measured by brain waves. Ms. Ojakan- gas explained how stimulating certain brain ar- eas, and to look at patients with mental illness. After the presentations, the speakers answer- ed questions from the class.

alns based upon his or her actual or perceived gender-related identity, whether or not traditionally associated with the person’s designated gender at birth,” Rick Garcia, a political analyst for TCRA told the Huffington Post. “The Act makes clear that elementary and secondary schools are considered places of public accommodation. As a public accommodation, the school district is prohibited from denying or re- fusing a transgender individual the full and equal enjoyment of the facilities, goods and services pro- vided to all students.”

In response to parent complaints on both sides of the issue, the district formed a 22 member commit- tee including School Board members, district resi- dents, teachers, administrators, religious leaders, a statewide anti-bullying expert, civil rights leaders and transgender community rights activists. The committee will supervise attorneys writing the new policy.

However the committee has postponed its future meeting because of concerns over a possible back- up.”

“Several people said they were worried about their own safety,” Anita Lewis, the committee chairman told the Beacon News, an Aurora newspaper. “I just decided I want to take all of this information to the full board to talk about whether we’re doing the right things or not.”

“I have this one day their child might be able to walk and talk normally. And even the littlest improvement makes them happy.”

“Although the dogs are much harder to work with than dogs. You’re not just walking and feeding the dogs, you also have to help them. You have to be gentle.

“It’s fun to see the baby animals grow up. There was a baby raccoon there, and we had to raise it because the mother died. I hate this one duck though. It comes out of no where some days, attacks my shoe and tries to jump on my back. Because it doesn’t have a fully developed voice box, it hisses at me. Then there are times when it comes towards me, hisses, jumps in my lap, and just sits there.”

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(continued from page 2)

jump grids and courses with trickier turns. There’s a big arena with few people so we have more room to move things around. We don’t have the time to ride that often when we’re home, so for us Arizona is an opportunity to spend four or five days just on horseback.”

Driving to Rochester, New York, Photograph- er Beth Ritchets will peel her pictures from metal sheets there, before she takes them in March for an exhibit at the Museum of Contempo- rary Art in Arequipa, Peru.

Ms. Ricketts explained that there is an advanced process used in Rochester to laminate the metal images, and that she prefers the aesthetics of her images printed onto metal. She shot the photog- raphs for this exhibition in Peru during Spring Quarter of last year.

“The show, called Entre Q’alas Y Long’os,” she said, “is about those people in the desert of southern Peru who breed, and revere, fighting bulls,” Ms. Ricketts explained. “The photographs are portraits of those people, called Lana’on, and is really an ex- pression of what I saw in my travels in Peru. I shot the photographs last year from spring break to the end of summer vacation, and the school has been extremely supportive, it’s a symbiotic rela- tionship.”
Art Expo to spotlight student talent in two-day extravaganza

Student talent in art, music and theatre will take the spotlight at Art Expo, being sponsored the second weekend by the Parents' Association. Friday, November 1, and Saturday, November 2 in Upper Kovler Gym.

For many years student art and musical and theatre talent were part of the Association’s annual dinner-dance benefit, “Connections.” Then people started suggesting that student talent be moved from the background to center stage. The “Art Expo” was born.

The event this year is being planned by a Lab Arts 2013 committee including Cynthia Huesing, who is one of three “Connections” chairmen this year; Jennifer Rhind; and Tracy Cie.

They have been working with Fine Arts Department chairperson Gina Alicea.

The exhibition is quite an ambitious undertaking,” she said in an e-mail. “The committee will be hanging more than 1,000 pieces of art work from Nursery and Kindergarten through 12 grades.

As always, it will be a two day event from the Thursday evening setup of temporary walls in Upper Kovler, and hanging all the work, to student tours on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Friday evening will be the opening event from 6 to 8 p.m., with music and theatre performances 6:30-7:30 p.m. The exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with music and theatre performances from 1 to 4 p.m.

“Although this year is a bit different because of a larger space, there is still a lot for the community to get involved with and enjoy. The Affordable Art Sale that we planned for this weekend has been postponed to the China Ball, which will be held Friday evening, November 1 and Saturday, November 2.”

Science Team prepares for WYSEx

(continues from page 4)

in state and other competitions. New lead- ers are going to have to step up to fill their positions.”

To help maintain the team’s winning streak at WYSEx, held since 1997, Sci- ence Teacher Sharon Housinger as Assis- tant Coach has joined Head Coach Daniel Jones.

Mrs. Housinger had been Head Coach be- fore Mr. Jones for 12 years, but gave up the position when she gave birth to her second child nine years ago. She is excited about returning to her former coaching position.

Fifteen to 20 members will compete at the engineering focused Junior Engineer- ing Technical Society, Inc. (JETS) contest and Environiroth this March. JETS is a non- profit organization dedicated to providing engineering education programs for students, while Enviroiroth is an environment- ally themed annual competition.

Debaters head out to regain

(continues from page 4)

James and Kevin won 4 lost 2; Alice and Sophie- nora Kubel won 4 lost 2; Sam and Damiel won 3 lost 1.

ST. MARIES INVITATIONAL in Dallas, Texas Oc- tober 19-20 – Included Alice won 4 lost 2; UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN in Ann Arbor, Michi- gan, November 1-2 – Mia and Adam won 5 lost 1; Bronx with Sam and Julia won 4 lost 3; James and Sam Leiter won 3 lost 4; Freshmen Robert Bacon Mohammed Monin won 2 lost 4 in JV.

GLENBROOK NORTH AND SOUTH, in north sub- urbans, November 17-19 – Mia and Al- ice won 5 lost 2; James and Sam Leiter won 4,.
Dr. Jennifer Replogle Bremer, U-High '85 graduate, earned her MD at the University of Chicago and is currently practicing on the consult service at Massachusetts General Hospital. She worked with cancer patients primarily on the gynecological unit of the University of Chicago Hospital, scheduled an appointment May 19 at Loyola Hospital. Dr. Bremer underwent an x-ray and MRI, and her doctors said he most likely had a fracture, possibly explaining an unusual mass found in his ankle. The next day, Kaiwen returned for another MRI and was told the mass could be a tumor, confirmed May 21 with a needle biopsy.

Anxious about whether or not he could continue practicing the Korean martial art Tang Soo Do, Kaiwen underwent an open biopsy May 24. A few days later, he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a malignant form of bone cancer. He was amputated below the knee September 15 at the University of Chicago's Duchossois Center for Advanced Medicine and he received his prosthetic December 5.

Despite being on medical leave, Kaiwen, also the Student Council Treasurer, is often seen at school in jeans and a black t-shirt joking with friends or practicing with the Martial Arts Club he founded in junior year.

He lives with his father, Hongge Luan, mother and sister Kathy, 10, in a pale stone apartment building on 57th street. His father lives part-time in New York, where he is a neuroscience researcher.

At home, Kaiwen devotes most of his time reading manga (Japanese comics) and novels, watching movies, taking photos and thinking about martial arts techniques. As for his feelings concerning his illness, Kaiwen says simply, "Nothing."

He expands on that one-word response explaining, "I guess my philosophy is if you can't do anything about it stop worrying about it and focus on something else. I'm not the type of guy that wants to waste time and energy. I was shocked at first. Who wouldn't be? I guess I was shocked to find out and that's it. If there's nothing I can do about it then quit worrying about it.

I wanted to get my leg amputated in the first month I knew I had cancer. I knew it's a part of me but if it's infected or diseased and you can't totally cure it, just get it all off and move on."

Occasionally swinging the eskrima sticks he bought from his Martial Arts Club, he recently interviewed at his family's home, Kaiwen explained that martial arts helped him stay strong. He has a third-degree black belt in Tang Soo do, also has experience in boxing, Taichi, Tai Kwan Do, Karate and Capseo, a Brazilian martial art including dance and music.

"Martial arts is more of a lifestyle, and I grew up in it since I started when I was five," Kaiwen said. "It's something I enjoy; it calms me down and relaxes me, and I take pride in it. I learned discipline, respect and calm from it and that helped me throughout the process."

"I miss it, I miss going to class, my martial arts friends, learning, trying new things and competing. Of course I want to take it up again. It's a good form of exercise, and I need to regain my title. Three years ago at the 2009 National All Martial Arts Championship Youth Division I got first place in weapons, second in sparring, and third in breaking."

Also an avid photographer, Kaiwen is often seen with his beloved Nikon camera around his neck. "I started with wildlife photography and took photos at track meets when I wasn't running freshman year," Kaiwen said. "Then other friends started asking for photos for sophomore year. I started Gallery K1, my online gallery of photos, two summer ago. I've been hired three times now. It's interesting capturing people's expressions, and life in general. Before the surgery I thought, 'at some point in time I'm going to see my leg. I better take a picture.'"

Proudly showing photos taken during the amputation to anyone who's interested, he remembers little from the first days after the surgery.

"I was shock, numb, fatigue, and I was in a haze the first day after the surgery. I took pictures of all the staff, the nurses, say he has so many friends. At first his visitor's list would take three pages, and later we just said anybody could come up."

Visiting Kaiwen frequently before starting as a freshman in the Fall at Stanford in California, Charlie Jiang, Class of 2012, became close friends with him junior year.

"He is really upbeat and happy," Charlie said. "I once asked him, 'Why aren't you devastated? Most people would be.' He just said 'I know.' I think he is handling it so well, and I respect that so much. I was definitely surprised at first how he handled it so well. Afterward, the way his behavior hadn't changed at all made me just accept it. With his personality and his strength, I think what happened, happened to the person who could get through this."

Also close with Kaiwen, Senior Laura Anderson describes him as quiet and loyal.

"He's a really good friend, always there for you whether you need someone to comfort you or talk to you," Laura said. "He's always there when you need a friend. I feel a little silly sometimes complaining about my problems when he has bigger issues. Sometimes when I'm sad or complained to him I'll apologize for complaining, but he always says it's okay and that everyone has their own problems. He's kind and selfless and he's very much able to keep things in perspective. He always tells me it's all going to be okay in the end."

Having known him since they were both five years old, Senior David Tong said he felt disbelieving when he first heard Kaiwen would be getting his leg amputated.

"At first I thought the cancer was going to be benign for sure," David recalled. "I still don't believe it. He's always trying to be so optimistic. I know he must be handling it so well, but he always tries to show that it isn't hurting him that much. Kaiwen's always been the strong boy; independent and mature, so his reaction doesn't surprise me at all."

In addition to chemotherapy and amputation, Kaiwen may receive additional treatment in Beijing, China, during the spring of 2013.

"I get to relax while in China and maybe do some other treatments: herbal stuff and acupuncture," Kaiwen explained. "My parents decided to do it, as a safety precaution against remission. I don't really care, better safe than
in martial arts you don’t feel the pain at the moment because of the adrenaline. Looking in retrospect I realize he was losing weight at the time and that he had the face of really, just pain; not normal pain. He had the face of really, just pain; not normal pain.

“I would always say to him to slow down, relax; give yourself time to think through everything. Any calculation we needed in class he did it right away. Kaiwen’s a really bright student. He thinks so far ahead sometimes it doesn’t allow him to go through all the little stages. Sometimes, being so smart it’s hard to focus on one thing. But even that is just won-
derful.”

Mr. Luan said he was amazed by the emotional strength he saw in his son.

“His strength is from friends, from school, and from practicing martial arts for 10 years,” Mr. Luan said in a phone interview from Rochester. “For Kaiwen it does not just physically make him strong but also mentally. You have to do it every day, every week, for over 10 years.”

“Really as a parent, I never thought he would have to face that kind of disease. Now that he’s on the treatment track I feel better and cross my fingers so that hopefully everything works out for him. I see him really differently now because he’s a very strong boy. He said it’s not a big deal; the treatment, chemo and amputation.

“I try to talk to him as often as possible; I feel like he needs support right? I try to call him, and text him a lot. I also take a lot of vacation days off to go back to Chicago. Probably right now I’ve come to understand a lot more about parenting. Before I felt like, oh, that’s my job; to send them to a good school, then to college, make sure they have money. But it’s actually not that simple. It’s more than that.

“We, my wife and I, realized Kaiwen really did talk too much to us. No matter how old are you, you’re always learning, right? For me I really appreciate having my family. Kaiwen and my daughter are treasures and something I realize their value more than before.”

Feeling that the basics of life haven’t changed, Kaiwen says he is optimistic for the future.

“It’s definitely a life changing event; it’s a physical alteration and a mental change, ” he said. “But quit worrying and stressing. I don’t have any problems other than the fact that I’m bored. How far ahead people see things might have to do with how they re-
at to something like this. Most of us are living day-
to-day or week-to-week. I try to look ahead a little more. The future will be better. I think that helps.

“It taught me that time is very valuable, although I still waste it. Life’s life, enjoy it. There’s no point living if you’re going to be stressed the whole time so I choose to ignore it. I don’t know why everyone’s making such a big deal out of it when it’s something that’s mostly treatable.

“I gave up after the first 10 times trying to explain that it’s not a big deal. Everyone’s entitled to their own opinions.”

By Sonia Bourdaghs

Editor-in-Chief

Having diagnosed Senior Kaiwen Luan with Os-
tosarcoma last May, Dr. Charles Rubin prescribes and monitors his chemotherapy treatment.

As a pediatric oncologist, Dr. Rubin said he works with children of all ages, and types of can-
cers, starting from the diagnosis procedure and through treatment. He attended the Univer-
sity of Pennsylvania for college, and Tufts University for medical school, having now been at the U. of C. for 26 years.

Osteosarcoma, like other bone cancers, requires intensive chemo-
therapy, Dr. Rubin said.

“We don’t want some of the cancer cells to become resistant. Having the highest possible dose kills the cells, and the faster we kill them the less of a chance there is that they’ll learn to get around the drug. Using more than one drug also attacks the cells in different ways so we can make sure it dies.”

Pediatric oncologists learn to develop relationship-
ships with patients as a part of their training, Dr. Rubin said.

“The most satisfying thing is when a patient is going back to normal,” Dr. Rubin said. “I’ve never been any happier. I’ve never felt better. I think that’s the best thing...ever.”
As the Midway sees it
Give students a break next time

As U-Highers walk in before school each day, invariably Principal Scott Fech, smiling and well-dressed, greets them. Sometimes flanked by Dean of Students Asra Ahmed or both, Mr. Fech acknowledges teachers and students alike, occasionally stopping them for a brief chat. Mr. Fech has done an admirable job spreading holiday cheer all year so far. And when a group of students dressed up as characters from the TV show "Arthur" for Halloween, they asked Mr. Fech to join in, as Arthur’s principal, Mr. Ratburn. He did, drawing black whiskers on his face.

In the words of one U-Higher, "That’s awesome.”

A math test the coming Tuesday. Both claimed the assignments for a history quiz on Monday. A sophomore had to research some science tests early in the week, write an English narrative and review for a history quiz. While their friends and family gave thanks, ate leftovers and watched the parade, they were left to study for math and science tests due before the holiday. Procrastination is a personal prerogative, and a separate issue.

Christmas breaks are over before we know it, and Science Team. But I would also love to read about what students in our many non-competitive extracurriculars are doing.

What are Latinos Unidos, Latin Club, Linnane Society, and Spectrum up to this year? What about JSA, ASA, or BSA? Are there any poetry clubs? Cooking clubs? Are there groups interested in reading? Watching movies?

Beating other students in a contest isn’t the only cool thing U-High students do.

Ballet and Model U.N. go surprisingly well together

By Duncan Weinstein

Opinion columnist

"Ballet requires a lot of commitment so people who do ballet seriously are up to what is expected by you for Model U.N."

So said Sophomore Karen Reppy, explaining one reason so many ballet students at the Hyde Park School of Dance join Model U.N. at U-High. Many dancers are encouraged to join Model U.N. by their older friends, Karina and Kosha.

"Molly (Petchenik, Class of 2012) really pushed for me and all the other freshman who old ballet to join. Ballet has provided a connection for upperclassmen to lower classes, which they have taken advantage of.”


"It’s sort of a tradition and there was some pressure to continue that tradition,” said Sophomore Alijah Futterman, who pursues both activities with Junior Katie Harris, Sophomore Kennedy Thomas and Freshman Lily Olson. "Also, since a lot of my friends did Model U.N. and people at dance I looked up to did Model U.N., I made me want to join as well.”

"It’s also something that really brings people together,” said Sophomore Erikka Keide, who began ballet when she was five years old. "And once you try MUN out you kind of end up loving it, and the same went for ballet for so many years ago. Also, the head delegates that did Model U.N. were really aggressive promoting MUN, so that was the reason for initially starting. Of course, staying with it is because the activity and the people involved are so much fun.”

Both activities help facilitate bonding, Alijah said.

"At MUN we’re all really focused and we have different attitudes than we do at ballet, when it’s a little more relaxed.” Alijah said. "In MUN we work together as a company and in ballet we work together as a company and in ballet we work together as a company. Ballet and Model U.N. are so much fun.”

I enjoy reading about the amazing achievements of U-High athletes and academic team members every month in your pages. Our students really make the school proud in swim competitions, races, math contests, debates, MUN, contests, debates, MUN, and Science Team. But I would also love to read about what students in our many non-competitive extracurriculars are doing.

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From Science Teacher


to feature

Say What?

What is your favorite thing about the holidays and what is one thing you hate about them?

FRANCESCA BAIO, senior:
My favorite thing is popping it to holiday music and my least favorite thing is the stomach ache when I get up too much ham. Also, I hate when my sister Veronica makes us listen to Christmas music in the car.

MICHAEL HNORIO, sophomore:
I love getting to spend time with family and seeing my crazy cousins. I hate last-minute shopping because of the rush and the madness.

BRIAN DEAN, freshman:
I love hitting kids in the face with snowballs. I hate kids hitting me in the face with snowballs. I also enjoy cooking and nearly setting my house on fire.

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'Pi' takes the cake

By Luke Murphy

Film critic

A stunning visual and emotional experience, Ang Lee’s “Life of Pi” tells a story of faith and loss at sea between a young boy and his unlikely friend, a Bengal tiger.

Based on Yann Martel’s 2001 novel, “Life of Pi” retells the remarkable fictional story of Pi Patel. The film opens with an adult Pi (Irrfan Khan) recounting stories from his life. A young Pi (age 5, Gautham Balu; ages 11 and 12, Ayush Tan- don; and age 16, Suraj Sharma) experiences these events as his older self narrates.

After drifting over land with the Indian government, Pi’s parents sell the zoo they own in Pondi- cheri. The family moves with the animals to a zoo in Canada, travel- ing on a freighter. When a storm hits, Pi and a tiger, named Richard Parker after the man who captured him, fall off the boat and are forced to battle for their survival atop a raft in the middle of the ocean.

While lost at sea, Pi explores his relationship with religions such as Islam, Christianity, and Hinduism. "Life of Pi” earned $55 million, and considerable Oscar buzz, in its opening weekend. Critics widely praised its impressive special ef- fects, especially the entirely computer-generated Richard Parker. Despite being composed solely of pixels, the animal looks and acts unbelievably realistically. Remark- ably, Sharma convincingly acted every emotional scene between himself and Richard Parker alone. Like its source novel, the film is conceptual. If you try to interpret its contents literally, this movie will seem average. Granted, the vi- suals are undeniably stunning, but “Life of Pi’s” subtlety sets it apart. If you look past the plot, this movie is not merely an action/adventure film, but a profound and allegorical spiritual experience.

While many movies with deeper religious meanings come across as preachy or condescending, “Life of Pi” retains its simplicity as a personal tale of one man’s relationship with religion, making it inately like- able. This story feels like a classic that has been passed down from generation to generation, rather than a heavily religious story sapped of its fun. Rated PG.
"We've always gotten along, and to me she's perfectly normal. I'm proud of her, but I would never do it. I don't think she's atypical, just more passionate, and more willing to put herself on the line." Dorian explained. "In my eyes, mountain-top removal is one of the most glaring injustices happening in this country right now. People are being displaced, driven from their homes, often from land that has been passed down for generations, threatened with spills from giant sludge impoundments and poisoned. Then, they are forced to live with disproportionately high rates of asthma, cancer, and brain damage due to this process. 

"And to me, one of the fundamental issues here is that no one should have to die so that we can keep the lights on. We have means of producing energy that do not involve poising our citizen's air and water, causing over 43,000 premature deaths a year. Burning coal has, and mountain top removal is the most egregious form of coal extraction."

Along with about 20 other people, Dorian was arrested for the protest, organized by Radical Action for Mountain People's Survival, an activist group.

"Before the police arrived, the miners pretty much kept their distance and just took lots of pictures and video," Dorian said. "Some would mutter or shout things but mainly they kept to themselves. When the police did arrive, however, they were very excited to see us taken off the trucks and arrested. I like to think we provided a little entertainment for an otherwise exhausting and unpleasant day.

"Many arrests chose to utilize the tactic of non-compliance which can include things like not agreeing to stand or walk during the arrest or giving them any identification. This tactic has been used historically as a way of emphasizing the legal system's role supporting injustice.

"There were two male-bodied folks in my van who were participating this tactic and I saw the police drag one of them out by his ankles, allowing his head to hit every part of the van and the ground. What they never tell you in movies, is that witnessing physical violence in person is nothing like seeing it on TV. I was truly shocked. I felt as though the breath had been knocked out of me and another of my partners burst into tears."

Given property-only bail she couldn't pay, Dorian remained in jail for jail for 10 days before paying a $500 fine for trespassing. Deciding to get arrested wasn't easy, Dorian said.

"Getting arrested was a really hard decision to make. You don't know what bail will be, you don't know how the police will treat you. I still don't know about my arrest record. There are some things I might not be able to do, like work for the government or adopt kids. I took a long time reflecting on it. But once I got out there, it was incredibly empowering. I had the power over our injust and corrupt system. I saw injustice, I knew it was wrong, and I could see it stop, at least for a couple of hours."

"When you are arrested, even if you are the one physically sitting in jail, it is everyone else who cares about and supports you that goes through that experience with you. I am truly lucky to have the friends, family and colleagues that I have who I could trust to support me in taking this action. Jail is designed to dehumanize you and more than anything I didn't want them to be able to take away my ability to smile."

"I made some pretty amazing friends sitting in jail who I hope to keep in touch with, including some of the inmates. There were about fifteen women already there when we arrived who welcomed us more than I could have imagined. They showed us the ropes, lent us good books and played cards with us."

"The family was vacationing on Lake Tahoe when Dorian was released, making her return from West Virginia difficult. Although not completely surprised, Loren was shocked to hear she was arrested."

"When she first got out of prison, she had no money or phone and she had to get from West Virginia to California when we were in Lake Tahoe," Loren said. "She flew into L.A. and met my aunt. She smelled terrible because they left the clothes she got arrested in next to some rotting fruit. She spent the night with my aunt then flew to Sacramento where we picked her up."

"Dorian attended her first protest three years ago, and has been arrested three times since. She says she became more involved after attending Power Shift, a national youth conference in April 2011."

"In the immediate future I'm looking to graduate. I'd love to be a full-time organizer but those jobs are very hard to get. I'll see what I can get, and I'll definitely continue with this on the side. I'd love to go to graduate school in the long run but it's hard to do something for myself when we have four or five years to stop climate change. It's hard to think about other things, but maybe I can do both. We know what we need to do, but we don't do it. The more I learn, the more pressing I realize this problem is."

Alumni protestor

(continued from page 1)

Walking to the Hobet 21 mine in Charleston, Virginia, Dorian Williams, left, didn't know where she would be protesting until immediately before July 28. The secrecy was meant to keep police from arriving at the site before protesters.
In a day of endless variety school nurse gives help expertly with gentle touch

By Hebah Masood
Associate editor

On a cloudy Tuesday morning just before 8 in early November, Nurse Martha Baggetto walked briskly from her home on Blackstone Avenue near 58th to the medical office in Blaine Hall. A Lower School mother and her son were already waiting for her.

With rectangular glasses edging her forehead, Ms. Baggetto starts this particular morning patiently coaxing the boy to drink his doctor prescribed antibiotics. Frustrated that the boy wouldn’t take his medicine at home, her mother was waiting first thing in the morning to ask if Ms. Baggetto could give him his medication because he resisted taking it at home for his double ear infection.

In her 13th year at the Lab Schools, she sees 20 to 30 students a day ranging from six year olds to High School students, not to mention teachers. She said about the job, “It has been exhausting at the time she was a Lab Schools mother of Monica, Class of 2003, Louis, Class of 2007 and Simone, Class of 2010.

Besides giving out pain relief medicine, cough drops and applying bandages she also works closely with school counselors and deals with medical emergencies. After school nurse Molly Hiling takes over.

“I view my job as a way to optimize the health of students, faculty and staff,” Ms. Baggetto said. “There are emergencies at least weekly at school. They vary from fainting to broken bones. One recent one involved a boy who had a bad grip, falling to the woodchips, but unfortunately fell onto her arm and broke her humerus.”

When her office is free of visitors, rarely for more than half an hour, Ms. Baggetto works at her computer, responding to e-mails and scanning immunization forms and other important documents.

Sometimes when her office is full, she believes, her neat desk seems like a background object in her job, only used to alert the attendance office when a child goes home sick or to look up a parent’s phone number and inform them that their child needs to be picked up.

Working with children of all ages is very humbling,” Ms. Baggetto said. “It reminds me of the basis of humanity and everything is very genuine. Kids don’t have alternative agendas. They’re pretty honest.

“I can have an impact with kids in crisis. Earlier today a Lower School student came in because he got hit in the face. There was blood running all over his hands because he was holding it by his nose so the blood wouldn’t drip. I felt really nice that was able to clean him up and wash his hands and get him back to his day.”

Growing up in south-suburban Tinley Park and graduating from Tinley Park High, Ms. Baggetto earned her bachelor’s and masters degrees in nursing from Loyola University.

There she met her husband, then a truck driver and now owner of a prominent kitchen-designing store in west-suburban Lombard. Throughout the day they check in with each other periodically via text or emails. “In high school I worked part time in a veterinarian’s office,” Nurse Baggetto said. “I knew there were a lot of things I didn’t want to do but I liked animal care. In high school I was kind of a free spirit, so my mother recommended that I go to nursing school.”

“My mom was a nurse. I have three sisters and we’re all nurses. My niece and nephew are both nurses, and I also have a niece in nursing school, so I have a lot of family from my mom’s side in the health field, but none of my children are into healthcare.”

Prior to working at the Lab Schools, Ms. Baggetto was a Nursing Assistant at the U. of C. Hospital for a year until she graduated nursing school. Soon after she lost her job at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke’s Hospital for nine years.

Even though the majority of her patients aren’t U-Highers, one of the many challenges Ms. Baggetto faces is dealing with U-Highers who have anxiety from high work load. She works closely with the counselors to solve a lot of problems children talk about with being tired, anxious and sick at school.

“It’s a big challenge having kids describe how they’re feeling, especially the little ones,” Ms. Baggetto said. “In general, kids don’t want to talk about anxiety. Then there are a lot of older students who are sick and still come to school. A lot of people take it to the nurse without any apparent reason, but they’re just exhausted. I’m a big fan of the nap.

“If students have free time I think it’s appropriate to let them have a nap. It’s a life skill and it really helps. Some U-Highers come in with fevers to take some exam or to give a presentation for class even though they just threw up that morning. This is not recommended.

“If they seem anxious I first communicate with the students. I ask them if the anxiety is why? What has changed? What has helped in the past? Who has helped in the past? I then connect student with their counselor to help.”

Other kids visit the office for their regular doses of medicine for numerous things including difficult digestion to seizures. Though few people come during lunchtime, students slowly roll in during the afternoon. Most U-Highers visiting her office lie down from exhaustion or to take some Tylenol, according to Ms. Baggetto.

“There are slow days when I just bring out the bandages or the cough drops,” said Ms. Baggetto. “But there are days when I have to call 911. Since last year I’ve had to call three times for kids that needed stitches.

“But I never plan on retiring or quitting. I feel like I can be effective here, and I’m happy. The last nurse here retired in her 80s. There’s still a lot I can do here. I can’t take major health problems away. I can’t solve all the problems of a 3-year-old, but I can make small impacts on students’ lives that make a difference.”

Warm up with a delicious treat!

When U-Highers get sick and still come to school

By Duncan Weinstein
Editor-in-Chief

“At the beginning of this year I had the flu and I came to school anyway. I felt kind of bad that I might be infecting other people, but I had an appointment with my college counselor and a deadline right around the corner, so I showed up anyway. I feel like I was really unproductive at school though.”

So explained Senior Maya Blackstone, who decided to come to school because she fell behind in her schoolwork last year after missing a few days with strep throat. Among many other U-Highers who have come to school sick, Maya felt like she had to do double or triple the work to catch up, she said.

“I fell really far behind, especially in classes like math, where it’s really helpful to have a tutorial if you’re not in class, because when I got back I had to take a test right away. I also got behind in classes like English and History, where my teachers made me make up participation work.

This year, I was worried my teachers wouldn’t be understanding.”

Counselors, working with advisors and teachers, can help students plan for extended absences. Counselor Camille Baughn-Cunningham pointed out.

“I would love to hear more from students,” Ms. Baughn-Cunningham said. “Particularly, if what they’ve encountered is unfair. It’s not always easy, as it requires some extra effort. I want students to be aware that we’re here in making their health a priority. Without their health, none of the other stuff really matters.

“Of course, students feel pressure. I think students put some of that pressure on themselves but that humanity definitely plays into that. Teachers will often be flexible. They’ll say, ‘let’s make a plan.’ But it requires some extra effort once the student returns.”

But some U-Highers wish their teachers had been more understand- ing after an illness.

(continues on page 17)
By Elena Maestripieri
Midway Reporter

"It’s imprudent to battle a Jackson. If Jesse Jackson Jr. wanted to run again, the Democrats would allow that. Low and behold, the 2nd District voted for him once more; overwhelmingly I might add." History Teacher Susan Shapiro said regarding the former Illinois Congress man.

Just 15 days after winning his sixth term in Congress, Jesse Jackson Jr., the son of a Civil Rights leader Reverend Jesse Jackson, resigned from his Congressional seat five months after taking a medical leave of absence.

Undergoing treatment for a mood disorder, Jackson Jr., was also under investigation for alleged misuse of campaign funds. Federal investigators revealed that he had offered Former Governor Rod Blagojevich money in exchange for the Senate seat vacated by President Obama’s election. However, Jackson Jr. was never formally charged for this bribery attempt.

Given his medical and legal troubles, Jackson Jr. shouldn’t have run for re-election, many U-High students and teachers said.

"Jesse Jackson Jr.’s resignation was unfortunate especially given the timing of events," Counselor Camille Baughn-Cunningham said. "There were a lot of rumors going around about his involvement in the Blagojevich scandal, and then came this mysterious illness later diagnosed as bipolar disorder. It is a bit odd and suspicious. I don’t want to be insensitive to his condition, but I’d hate to think he might have used that to buffer the consequences of his actions."

Jackson Jr.’s predominantly African-American district will feel his absence. Black Student’s Association Vice President Kayla DeSouza, senior, said.

"I think his resignation was justified," DeSouza said. "It’s tough to have something like this happen, and when you try to better yourself, you know that you have the pressure of a whole community looking up to you. But I think that most people would say his resignation was necessary, and people who support him were hurt by it, and I think it will be hard for the next person who fills his position to make as much of an impact as he did."

But Freshman McKenzie McNally says she’s baffled that he was elected at all.

"I am confused as to why he was re-elected," Freshman McKenzie McNally said. "I think it would have been better if he took a leave for a while once his issues and problems were settled and then possibly come back, but even then he seems like a loose cannon."

Some people are bothered on a personal level that Jackson Jr. chose to run for office, such as Freshman Tiffany Suwatthee. "It’s upsetting that Jackson Jr. ran again, even though he was already facing some trouble," Suwatthee said. "It’s even more unbelievable that he won in the midst of all of that."

Mrs. Shapiro was said she was shocked to hear about how Jackson Jr. handled his diagnosis.

"My heart goes out to Jackson Jr. because being bipolar is a nightmare to live with and I wouldn’t wish it on anyone," Mrs. Shapiro said. "I was a bit surprised that when Jackson Jr. was diagnosed with this debilitating disorder, he did not recognize that his health needed to come before his work. I think he should have resigned before the general election."

A special election to fill the seat will take place April 9 and will determine who will next represent the 2nd District from a field that has grown to seven candidates already.

"I am thrilled that there are more possibilities in the primary, and it gives the District the opportunity to validate new people," Mrs. Shapiro said. "I think there are a couple new candidates worth their salts, and I want them to be asked hard questions."

He won, so now what does Obama tackle first?
‘Fiscal Cliff’ poses his first challenge, many here believe

By Maia Boussy
Midway reporter

After winning re-election, President Barack Obama must now achieving a compromise to avoid the “fiscal cliff,” many students and faculty believe.

Comprised of tax increases and spending cuts, the “fiscal cliff” resulted from the debt ceiling negotiations in 2011. Although Democrats expanded their majority in the Senate, Republicans retained their majority in the House, making a compromise unnecessary, U-Highers said.

"Obama will need Republican support to accomplish anything major," Senior Maxine Nesbitt said. "Both the Republicans and the Democrats will have to find a middle ground for compromise and solve the issues facing the United States."

"The economy should be the president’s priority in his new term. With the fiscal cliff coming at the end of the year, ending tax cuts, solving this crisis should be his number one priority," Nesbitt said.

"The economy should be the President’s main priority, Counselor Tracy Graham also believes.

"The economy should be the president’s priority especially with the fiscal cliff looming," Ms. Graham said. "The parties need to see past their political differences and focus on working together for the greater good. Obama needs to be cognizant of different opinion and open to varying ideas."

Foreign relations also must be a focus for the President, History Teacher Susan Shapiro said.

"The job of this president is to guide the country in foreign relations, but he has not been as clear as he should have been with the situations in Syria, North Korea, Israel, and Palestinian territories," she explained.

"The Congress needs to take care of domestic policy, though the President should still be a leader there. The president needs to take stronger stances on foreign policy and not concentrate all his efforts on domestic policies."

Mrs. Shapiro doesn’t believe Mr. Obama will get Republican cooperation.

"There seems to be no cooperation on either side. The parties need to find some common ground so they can collaborate and solve this crisis. Obama need to nurture discussions and compromise between parties."

Mr. Obama should make birth control and abortion a priority, Senior Anastasia Dervin believes.

"Obama should make birth control and abortion a priority because of the health complications and kills associated with pregnancy," Anastasia said.

"Women don’t have as much of a voice as they should when it comes to their bodies. The issue is getting more attention, but it still needs more.

"Cooperation between Democrats and Republicans has been difficult so far, but I am still hopeful. Obama needs to be more inclusive and compromising if he wants Republican support."

Jesse Jackson Jr. is out, so who comes in now?
Scandal-plagued politician should not have run again, U-Highers say

By Lena Maestripieri
Midway Reporter

"I think his resignation was justified," DeSouza said. "It’s tough to have something like this happen, and when you try to better yourself, you know that you have the pressure of a whole community looking up to you. But I think that most people would say his resignation was necessary, and people who support him were hurt by it, and I think it will be hard for the next person who fills his position to make as much of an impact as he did."

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Shelved in Bookcases

Even if you’re staying in town for the holidays, you can still take a vacation and go on an adventure. Tales of great mystery, romance and excitement await just two blocks away from U-High at 57th Street Books. You will be fascinated with our ample collection of current best-sellers, longtime favorites and books you didn’t even know existed. Stop by, stay a while, and take home a vacation!

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**Teacher finds self on BBC radio show just by walking across U. of C. campus**

“This kind of stuff is always happening to me,” said Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler after recording an appearance on a British radio show. “This kind of stuff is always happening to me,” said Journalism Teacher Wayne Brasler after recording an appearance on a British radio show.

“It all began in late October when I heard from Maggie Ayre, a BBC Four radio producer in Bristol, about a comment I’d made somewhere about the Peggy Lee record ‘Is That All There Is?’ I’d said it sort of represented my life growing up in St. Louis, where even if something surprising or dramatic happened, no one reacted to it but me.

“Well, I did get a surprise when she told me she’d arranged to interview me by phone in the studios of WHFK over at the Reynolds Club. That was fun, because in St. Louis I was a kid on radio and it brought back nice memories.”

**Producer, activist to speak at assembly**

Producer of the acclaimed civil rights documentary “Eyes on the Prize” and well-known activist Judy Richardson will be keynote speaker at this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly, 10 a.m., Thursday, January 17 at Rockefeller Chapel, if Black Students’ Association plans work out.

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“Most teachers are so set on their fast paced curriculum that missing a day puts you so behind, and teachers don’t seem to care,” Senior Ava Bibergal said. “They just want the work done. That’s not true for all teachers, though.”

Sometimes, U-Highers feel pressure from their parents to go to school sick.

“I have personally never missed a day of school in my life, even when I was a toddler,” freshman Chris Healy said. “No matter how sick I was, my parents decided it was for my own good to go to school. But I also decided that I would rather go to school sick than miss new lessons in any of my courses. Catch up is not a game I would enjoy playing. I’m afraid I won’t have the will or the energy to catch up.”

But when U-Highers do push through an illness, they help get other people sick, according to Nurse Martha Baggetto.

“Some kids think ‘I threw up this morning, to Nurse Martha Baggetto.

“Some kids think ‘I threw up this morning, so time consuming, there’s enough time to just barely finish homework and then you have about 30 minutes left before you pass out.’

Asked which they would pick if they had to choose one, the consensus seemed clear.

Sorry, Model U.N., ballet wins.

**Ailing U-Highers still come to school even when they feel sick**

(continued from page 15)

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**Ballet, Model U.N. gel well**

(continued from page 12)

While some teachers believe in preserving Thanksgiving break as a breather from work, others claim that slowing the workflow mid-quarter can seriously disrupt the pace of their class. Regardless, it is unfair for U-Highers to waste their Thanksgiving stressing over time-consuming papers and exams instead of enjoying a break from the pressures of school with family. Teachers can help this holiday reclaim its initial purpose by encouraging students to appreciate their privileges, not pore over textbooks.

While school’s importance is undeniable, some things in life, like family and self-reflection, matter more. Next Thanksgiving, instead of loading U-Highers with work, teachers should let their students spend time appreciating and giving thanks. Those five days are called a “break” for a reason.

**U-Highers deserve a break over break**

(continued from page 12)

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**Prohibition of linking**

Please note the prohibition on external linking.

**Prohibition of scraping**

Please note the prohibition on scraping.
Maroons surge to big victory over Colonels

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

Game day. Rolling out of bed 7:25 a.m. Friday November 30, Senior Sophia Gatton slips into her required striped dress with brown boots and a grey scarf. An outfit she, along with her teammates, had been debating, as fashion concerned them little. Thirty-five minutes to get to school.

The rest of school comes and goes, each class leaving her more stressed by the minute. Finally, 3:00 is upon her. The team manager, Sophomore Kate Franks, runs to Medi cine in the unreasonably warm weather and gets both Sophi and Kendall their normal pre-game meal, a ham, cucumber, and lettuce sandwich on a baguette. Both the varsity boys and girls were to ride on one bus, while the j.v. teams would ride on an earlier one. However, the plan falls through as half the girls’ varsity team departs on the j.v bus, while the j.v. teams would ride on an earlier one. Sophia and her teammates eventually give up and all pile into the 2012 Infinity Sedan of Assistant Coach Ashly Cargle.

As the three starters sit in Kovler lobby, they stress about the fact that their bus has not arrived despite their game beginning in an hour. Sparing her and her teammates eventually give up and all pile into the 2012 Infinity Sedan of Assistant Coach Ashly Cargle.

One minute and 35 seconds remain in the 4th quarter of the j.v. boys’ game when the last three remaining players gather in the stands, bickering about their team mates in a circle and warms them up. Game time. As Imperial March blasts, the U-High varsity girls enter with their names announced by the PA announcer.

Wait. Back-to-back thrashes from Kendall and Sophia start to the game kick the Maroons to an early 8-3 lead. After the j.v. players step up, Sophia leads her team to a 14-8 lead in the 1st quarter. She thinks to herself, “This is too close for comfort.”

The Maroons, after last year’s disappointing loss, enter the court in short sleeve maroon hoodies. “Starting for U-High, number 15, Kyle Parker!” screams U-High guard Kyle Parker that would create a three-point play for Parker. U-High and its loyal fan base of parents, faculty and over 20 students applaud a charge call against Parker junior guard Cornell Jackson.

“The defender was there!” screams the official over the crowd’s yelling with an animated skip, jump and a hop, leading to an in-fouling of Maroon cheer. After a loss on Parker’s court last season, the Maroons stand on the verge of defeating the Colonels November 30.

Three hours before game time, the Maroons board a Beckham Transit bus, the 14 varsity boys bas-ketballers ranging from five-foot-seven to six-foot-seven. Waves bounced from Lake Michigan as the bus sped through Lake Shore Drive before hitting heavy traffic at Buckingham Fountain.

Two hours before tipoff the bus pulled up to the Francis Parker School, a century-long rival and an Independent School League foe for decades. The Francis Parker School, a century-long rival and an Independent School League foe for decades.

In the closing minutes, key offensive rebounds from Neal with seven seconds left, Parker cannot make a put back. 11 U-High points later, Mike shifts momentum back to the Colonels favor with a hard drive to the basket resulting in an and-one. On the ensuing Parker inbound pass, Kyle follows with a diving steal.

In the closing minutes, key offensive rebounds from Senior Curtis Henderson and turns around defensive three-point arc, Max receives a quick pass from Neal with seven seconds left in the game, Mike shifts momentum back to the Colonels favor with a hard drive to the basket resulting in an and-one. On the ensuing Parker inbound pass, Kyle follows with a diving steal.

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BOYS’ BASKETBALL–Lisle, November 19, away: Varsity won 52-38; j.v. lost 41-32; November 24, away: Varsity won 43-26; j.v. won 36-32; November 24, home: Varsity won 48-54; December 1, home: Varsity won 65-14; Perspectis Charter, December 5, home: Varsity won 65-59; Latin, December 11, home: Varsity won 54-37.

By William Chung

Editor-in-Chief

Swimmer finding his niche

With his bright red hair, Junior Rex Hughes is hard to miss at swim practice 3:30 p.m. every day in the Sunny Gym pool. Rex started swimming in 4th grade at the Midway Aquatics Club mentored by Coach Michael Cunningham, also the Maroons’ swim coach.

“I initially started because my parents wanted me to try out a sport,” Rex said. “It was great because it felt like a community, and I felt like I was finally getting a commitment. I wasn’t that focused on competition when I first started, it wasn’t about getting faster, and more about having fun at meets and helping each other.”

“Coach Mike made sure I didn’t mess around, but he also balanced things out so I would continue to improve. The team was fast, and I’ve been swimming with people that I swim with now since I started.”

He started his U-High swimming career in j.v. as a freshman. Captain Daryl Tong, senior, believes that Rex has grown both physically and as a leader.

“Rex broke the Top Ten 500 freestyle, swimming a 5:32 at the Bronson Invitational in the southwest suburbs October 7. ‘I became sick before Sectionals last year and I don’t think he’s used to that. I’m proud of him for that and how he’s grown over the year. Rex might not be the fastest, but he has a knack for creating turnovers when the right time, and a ferocious defense with a knack for creating turnovers and wreaking havoc in the backfield. If the cards fall in the Bears’ way, they have all the pieces to punch their ticket to New Orleans. MIKE: That’s just the issue. With Jay Cutler under center, when the last time the cards have fallen in the Bears’ favor? Certainly not last year, when Cutler broke his thumb against the Chargers November 20, sidelining him long enough for Caleb Hanie to ruin their promising season. Certainly not in the 2010-2011 season, when Cutler injured his knee in the NFC Championship game against Green Bay. The playoffs have not been friendly to Chicago in recent years, and the Bears will have no special treat- ment this year.”

Deliciously New Delhi

With 15 different kinds of curry and as many different kinds of chicken (from Tandori to Southern Fried), added to the fact you can get an entire meal for less than $10, Rajun Cajun is one of the best dining experiences in Hyde Park. And we deliver!
Famous for its extravagant holiday window displays Macy’s, formerly Marshall Field’s, on State Street presents images through the decades. Senior Homum Ahsan follows the rotating wheel. The gold section represents a golden holiday season in the 1920s while the pink tree and bellbottoms showcase a 1960’s winter. "There were tons of people going home from work on State Street, where the displays were, so there was a lot of hustling and bustling going on," said Photojournalist Catherine Zhou.

Twinkling lights draw attention to Dinkel’s Bakery in the festival Christkindlmarket, where Lili Steffen picks out strudel. "It was delicious," Lili said. "Strudel is flaky, sweet and apple flavored with sugar on top."

Adorned with a wreath and bright red bow for the holidays, the Art Institute Lion stands on a base covered in striped wrapping paper.

The scent of hot chocolate, curry sausage, cinnamon and roasted nuts fill the air of the Christkindlmarket German Market as Meryl Charleston ponders whether to take home the heart-shaped cookie bordered with pink frosting that says, "You are sweet" in German for her friend. She resisted the temptation.

Multicolored lights illuminate the Lincoln Park Zoo annually from Thanksgiving through January 6. Besides the neon zebras, other zoo-themed decorations, sponsored by ComEd and Charter One, included light-up dragons and giraffes.

Red and blue Christmas lights color the trees reflecting into the water surrounding the sea lion exhibit in the Lincoln Park Zoo. Dozens of families and small children gather around the water looking for the slick animals in the dim light of the zoo at night.

Attracted to the small store at the Christkindlmarkt German Christmas Market because of its bright lights, Ellen Ma examines a wooden angel. "I was instantly struck with how fragrant the market was," Photojournalist Jason Deng said. "There were nuts, jelly beans, waffles, lollipops, pastries."

In the Field’s tradition, Macy’s displays a gigantic Christmas tree. Other landmarks showing off their holiday spirit include the Daley Plaza, home of the Christkindlmarkt German Market, a 64-foot Christmas Tree, and a menorah, which Jewish Mayor Rahm Emanuel lit Monday, December 10, the third day of Hanukkah.

At the same time, people were stopping to look at the window displays and all the other Christmas decorations around the store. In the Field’s tradition, Macy’s displays a gigantic Christmas tree.

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