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# U-HIGH MIDWAY

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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 10,316 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.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.S. News and World Report rankings is often disputed.

Dr. Jose Quintans, U. of C. Master and Dean of Undergraduate Biological Sciences, believes the

*(continues on page 9)*



Photo by Catherine Zhou

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



Photo courtesy of Dorian Williams

**Protesting mountain-top removal mining, Dorian Williams (middle), Class of 2009, and other protesters 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."**

## Protestor 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 latter 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 28. 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 QSA. 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. Going to Lab helped me gain critical thinking and learn 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 on. We have to do something now so we don't lose this world forever.

According to Junior Loren Sosnick, 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.



**Mira**

New to the Lab Schools from the University of Chicago Carter G. Wookson 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 learn-



**Tiffany**

ing 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 his advisor, Math Teacher Farukh Kahn, and counselor, Camille Baughn-Cunningham, for help with difficult classes was key according to Sophomore Sam van Loon.

"AAAT (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."



**Anna**

"Mrs. Cunningham recommended a really great tutor who helped me improve a lot. She's really understanding 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 her struggles in math by going to her 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 3)*



**Sam**



# Holiday travels will take families to far-away places

**By Julian Lark Midway Reporter**  
Visiting her grandmother in A Coruña, a small Galician town in northwestern Spain, Freshman Maria Priivera will join in a Christmas Day dinner of calzones, lentil stew, shrimp, crab and clams. The seafood is a Galician tradition, Maria explained, adding that Galicians are famed for their

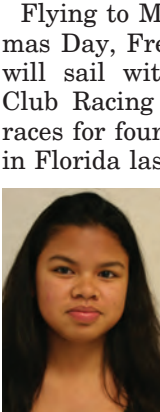


Celtic heritage, including bagpipes and kilts for men.  
Her great aunt does most of the cooking, Maria said, although her dad brings his specialties.  
“My dad is from Sicily,” she explained, “so he usually makes calzones, but the rest of dinner has a lot of lentil dishes in it.”  
Choosing a new destination every year, Junior Kahan Modi’ family is planning on relaxing on the beach at a resort in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.



Last year, the family went on a safari in Tanzania, and toured Nairobi, Kenya.  
“It was great!” Kahan said, “Tanzania and Kenya were just totally different from any other trips I had been on. The most memorable part was when we were following an elk around in our jeep, and out of nowhere, a cougar chases after it and kills it. Just being that close to the action was amazing.”  
Flying to Pattaya, Thailand, a resort city on the gulf of Thailand

and the hometown of the bride, 7th grader Elizabeth, 3rd grader Ethan and Freshman Nigel Van Ha says his family is attending one of his 46 adult cousins’ wedding.  
“My mother is the oldest of her siblings, so now they are all grown up and marrying,” he said, “There will be 50 people going to the wedding in Thailand from our family alone. Having a big family is the best, it’s really great because you’re never bored, there’s so many people to have fun with.”  
Flying to Miami, Florida on Christmas Day, Freshman Phoebe Lincoln, will sail with the Columbia Yacht Club Racing Team, and compete in races for four days. Phoebe competed in Florida last year for the first time,



but has raced often in Illinois and Michigan.  
“I heard about going to the Orange Bowl International Youth Regatta last year and I had really gotten into sailing that year so I was determined to go because everyone said it was a big deal,” she explained, “It was the first time I had spent Christmas without my family so if felt weird but this year it feels fine. I’d like to race in a regatta in February that’s in Florida too.”  
Staying in the United States, but at a warmer destination, Senior Molly and Sophomores Leah and Sophie Rosenzweig will ride horses at Twisted Tree Farm in Scottsdale, Arizona. The sisters ride horses when in Chicago as well, Molly explained.

“We work on different things in Arizona compared to here.” Molly said, “For example, in Arizona we got to

*(continues on page 8)*



Photo by Matthew Garvey

## Voice from a far-away place

**Speaking to approximately 45 U-Highers, Rosette Serwanga, founder of the Namugongo Fund for Special Children, which provides health care, food, and education to orphans, discussed the state of HIV/AIDS patients in her native Uganda November 29. She was invited by Friends of Namugongo, a U-High club raising money for the Fund, the first high school group to do so.**

# East Aurora High School changes mind about transgender policy

**By William Chung Editor-in-Chief**

There and back again.  
Under pressure from the Illinois Family Institute (IFI), a conservative Christian group labeled as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the school board of East Aurora High School reversed a decision that would have allowed transgender students to use their desired restrooms and locker rooms October 19.  
The school board unanimously passed the policy as an amendment to an anti-bullying measure October 14. The school’s attorney, Berney Weiler, said that rescinding the decision came in order to ask the State for guidance.  
But two board members said IFI pressure pushed them to reverse their decision, with one member saying that Institute supporters sent over a thousand emails to her.  
This isn’t the first time the Wheaton-based IFI has been embroiled in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender controversy. In 2010, IFI encouraged Stevenson High School parents to keep their children home during the school’s Day of Silence, an annual international protest meant to raise awareness of anti-gay bullying.  
In a memo, IFI Cultural Analyst Laurie Higgins asked supporters to take action in the Aurora case.  
“The school board is now imposing

non-objective, ‘progressive’ moral, philosophical, and political beliefs -- not facts -- about gender confusion on the entire school,” she wrote.  
“This feckless school board has made a decision to accommodate not the needs of gender-confused teens, but their disordered desires and the desires of gender/sexuality anarchists who exploit public education for their perverse ends.  
“Gender confusion affects approximately .003 percent of males and .0001 percent of females. Aurora East High School is now accommodating the disordered impulses and unproven beliefs of a statistically miniscule segment of their population and in so doing ignores the beliefs of the majority.  
“Some would argue that this policy also reflects a gross distortion of compassion and profound ignorance about what truly helps the few students who suffer from gender dysphoria or Gender Identity Disorder.”  
Citing the Illinois Human Rights Act, The Civil Rights Agenda, a group working for the rights of the LGBT community supported the initial decision as crucial to carrying out the law. The Agenda, along with other civil rights groups, have gathered support to keep the policy intact.  
“The Illinois Human Rights Act man-

*(continues on page 8)*

# Senior gets 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 stunned for the first few minutes.”  
Senior Aleeeze Qadir was explaining how she found out her research paper, “The Fall of the Mughals: How the British Colonized Mughal India” would be published in the Concord Review, which prints what it considers the best high school history papers.  
Aleeeze, whose great-grandfather was a Pakistani tribal chief, felt especially interested in Southern Asia.  
“My paper was about the Mughal Empire in India and why the British were able to colonize India with relative ease,” she explained. “I chose to write it mainly because my entire fam-

ily lives in the Indian Subcontinent, and I was interested in the collapsing empire. I wasn’t sure why an empire that was so solid during the time of Shah Jahan, who ruled from 1628 to 1658, fell to the British Empire.”  
The fourth paper from Paul Horton’s 2010-2011 AT World History Class to appear in the Review, Aleeeze’s piece is in the Winter 2013 issue.  
“The Mughals fell when the British colonized India, and intolerance did indeed help in weakening the Mughal Empire before it fell to the British,” Aleeeze wrote in her paper.  
“However, the British were able to colonize India because of other reasons as well, which included the political fragmentation of the Mughal Empire, the economic and trade problems that Mughal India was encountering, and the increasing influence of Europe affecting Asia.”



Aleeeze

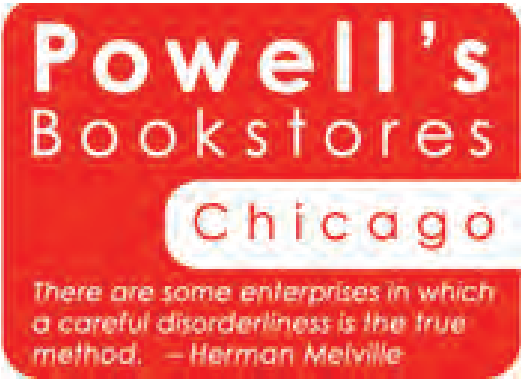
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# Still meeting people, still making new discoveries

By Duncan Weinstein  
Editor-In-Chief

"It's certainly been an adjustment, and I've seen how students react and engage. Students here are far more engaged than typical high school students. On something like the dance, which was tricky, students are strongly opinionated, and not afraid to share that opinion. You are not afraid to react. At my old school, if I said something as principal, it goes, but that's not true here. I think that's forced me to be better."

So reflected Principal Scott Fech, sporting a "Casual Friday" outfit of a button-down shirt and matching sweater, in his office during a recent interview. Wrapping up his first quarter here after four years at north suburban Grayslake High School, Mr. Fech said he has especially enjoyed getting to know students.

"I adore you guys. I've enjoyed getting to know you, and seeing especially all the activities. With athletics I've been to at least one of everything, and I loved the music recital. I love reading the

Midway, and loved reading even last year's year-book.

"I have enjoyed being in classrooms, and seeing what's happening. I love having great conversations about teaching, and trying to strengthen what we have. I've enjoyed meeting parents as well. I love being a high school principal, so I find all the things associated with that very fulfilling."

But coming to U-High so recently has also created difficulties.

"Working with the Schedule Committee and the Dance Committee was challenging because I didn't know what to expect. Everything is new for me, and I understand it's frustrating rehashing old conversations to get me up to speed when everyone just wants to move forward.

"Just meeting everyone has been challenging. There just hasn't been enough time to get to know everyone as I'd like and try to maintain a balance outside of work. But it's always that way at the beginning of a principalship, and I expect things will return to normal."



Photos by Lili Steffen

**PRINCIPAL SCOTT FECH**  
being interviewed by Midway Editor-in-Chief  
Duncan Weinstein in his office.

## Freshman year a balancing act for many

(continued from front page)

do the homework, take notes, and take tests and quizzes without any of it counting towards my grade point average.

"My adviser really paid attention to my progress in the class and made sure that the solution to my geometry issues was working. Because advisers are focused on a smaller group of people I think that they're able to be help you out a lot."

Freshmen can benefit by consulting advisers, affirms Counselor Ronald Tunis.

"The advisory program is probably the best mechanism we have for helping students transition from Middle to High School," he said. "Advisory provides a

place for students to check in and hear programming on different topics, and it's where they get the chance to first meet their counselors.

"When freshmen students come to me for help, for example, if they're stressed about school, I try to get an idea of how many majors they're doing, what their course load is like and what outside activities they're involved in.

"The issues freshmen tend to have usually deal with keeping up with the pace of the academic program. Sometimes they only stay on top of the work for the subjects they enjoy or are good at. In other classes they can miss assignments

and they don't follow up with teachers when they run into problems."

Mr. Tunis added that as school gets underway each Fall and classes pick up he starts to see more freshmen.

"Usually around late October and early November I'll begin to see more students," he observed. "It's when the first major assignments, essays, and tests start and they begin to get stressed. By seeking help from counselors and advisers they can find realistic solutions."

Many freshmen and sophomores also stress the importance of advisers.

Beyond assistance with academic work, Anna believes getting to know her adviser,

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."

"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  
Guest reporter

Shoes as far as the eye can see.

Varying shades of black and gray, sizes and styles, piled on each other. Paired with the pungent smell of old rubber and a poem by Holocaust survivor Moishe Shulstein,

*We are the shoes, we are the last witnesses.*

*We are shoes from grandchildren and grandfathers,*



Jordan

*From Prague, Paris and Amsterdam,*

*And because we are only made of fabric and leather*

*And not of blood and flesh, each one of us avoided the hell-fire.*

Many visitors to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., which 12 U-Highers in Ms. Susan Shapiro's Holocaust elective visited November 17-20, slow down and peer over the railing containing the expanse of shoes.

The student historians explored the museum's exhibits and library, accompanied by Mrs. Shapiro and Assessment Specialist Chris Harper.

Thoughts of who the shoes belonged to, the owners' fate and life before the Holocaust entered their minds, the U-Highers said.

"Trying to put yourself in the mindset of the victims of the Holocaust and relate to their experiences was the most fascinating part of the trip," senior Amelia Mazzarella related.

"All quarter we have discussed how to actually relate to the victims and perpetrators of this genocide since none of our experiences are comparable.

"In the museum there is a train car that they used to transport Jews and other victims from ghettos to concentration camps. We all spent a lot of time in the train car trying to imagine it filled with hundreds of bodies. It is such a hard concept to fathom.

"The whole museum had components that resembled images from the examples. For example, the elevator looked like a gas chamber, and the architecture of the museum as a whole made visitors feel like they were going back in time. Moments in the train car and in the elevator were the most thought-provoking and depressing."

After 17 years of the trips, Mrs. Shapiro said she has come to expect emotionally-drained students.

"The trip is centered around the students," she explained. "My job is to set it up so it is as painless as possible. It is a good combination of very intense intellectual and emotional experiences and the right kind of down time to get past the stress.

"Mr. Farver (World Languages Teacher Steve Farver, a previous chaperon) used to say that you don't truly know what will happen on the trip until you are there."

Others on the trip, all seniors, were as follows:

Nadja Barlera, Maya Blackstone, Ellyn Butler, Jordan Einhorn, Conrad Harron, Adam Kelsick, Anna Leopold, Thanh Nien Ngo, Ryan Selig, Angira Shirahatti, Aleeze Qadir.

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Photo by Nathaniel Green

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# Academic teams reaping rewards of tough preparation



Photo by Carolyn Voth

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

## Model UN heading East again

By Mia Luo  
Midway reporter

After winning a Best Small Delegation award at the Princeton University Conference November 29-December 2 at the Hilton East Brunswick in New Jersey, Model U.N. members will compete in the Large Delegation category at the Harvard Conference, January 31-February 3 at the Sheraton Back Bay Hotel in Boston.

With 32 U-Highers attending, U-High will be placed in the large delegation category at Harvard, instead of the 15-person small delegation at Princeton. At Harvard, U-Highers will compete with public and private schools from across the country, and from countries such as India and Turkey.

Having already won a Best Small Delegation award at Washington University in St. Louis October 19-21 and attended a conference at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, November 9-11, U-Highers will head to the Boston Invitational Conference February 22-24 and Northwestern University April 11-14 in addition to Harvard.

After winning the Outstanding Large Delegation award, 2nd place, last year at Harvard, U-High looks

to defeat defending champion J.P. Stevens School from New Jersey, and the Dalton School from New York, which won two years ago, but didn't go to Harvard last year.

"Last year was the first time we competed as a large delegation at Harvard in a couple of years, and we lost to J.P. Stevens, so they have that confidence boost coming in," Senior Jordan Einhorn said

"Meanwhile, Dalton had been undefeated for four or five years so they seemed invincible, but they lost at two conferences last year, so we are very excited that we have the chance to do what seemed impossible a couple years ago."

U-High's competitors at Princeton included Dalton School and the Horace Mann School, ranked best in the nation last year by the Model U.N. blog *bestdelegate.com*. Three days before the conference, U-High chose to switch representation from Spain to Russia.

"The school that was supposed to be representing Russia dropped out so the conference sent an email to all schools asking if anyone wanted to take their spot," Jordan explained. "Since Russia has more extreme policy we knew it would serve as a way for everyone to stand out as a little. It gave our delegates a mental edge."

## Debaters will next go South in busy season on the road

By Duncan Weinstein  
Editor-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 high school-debate resolution, whether the federal government should increase infrastructure investment, U-Highers last competed at Dowling Catholic High School in Des Moines, Iowa, December 7-9.

There, Juniors James Duran and Sam Leiter finished 21st, and Senior Mia Epner and Sophomore Adam Fine finished 14th, with Mia named 4th speaker out of 180 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 three 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 with debate. As a sophomore you're debating in 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

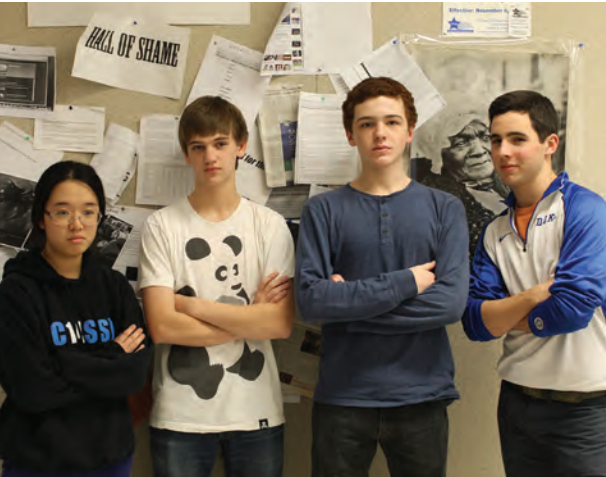


Photo by Carolyn Voth

Alice Yu, Luke Newell, Sam Leiter, James Duran.

a better team in the aggregate."

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

"Charlie Rafkin 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 create research files. It feels like we have 10 coaches helping."

Debate results so far are as follows: **NILES INTERNATIONAL** in north suburban Niles, September 14-16 – Sam Leiter and Sophomore Daniel Bissonette won 3, lost 3; James and Sophomore Kevin Li won 4, lost 2.

**GREENHILL** in Dallas, Texas September 21-24 – Mia and Adam won 2, lost 4; Alice and Luke won 2, lost 4.

**MID-AMERICA CUP** in Des Moines Iowa, 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, May 3-5 in Lexington Kentucky; Mia was named 2nd speaker;

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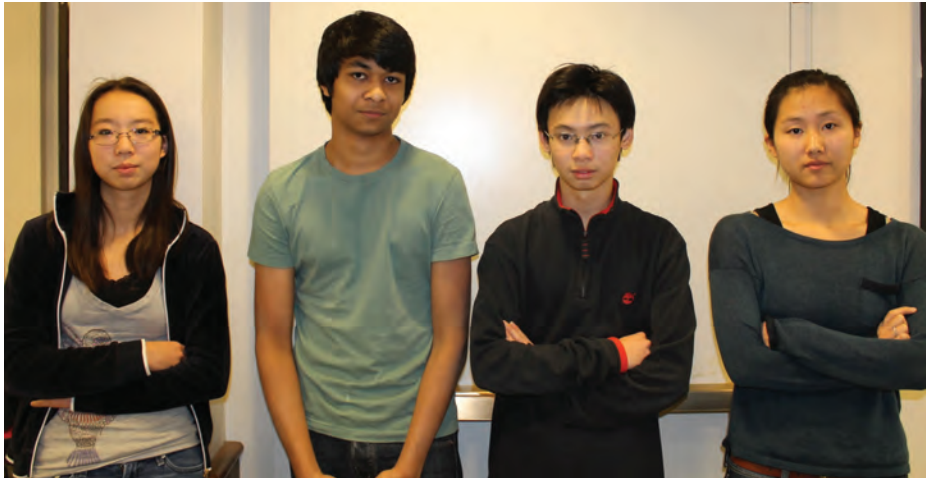


Photo by Carolyn Voth

Yaning Zhang, Amartya Das, Arthur Jiang, Danny Zhang.

## Science Club gearing up for WYSE

By Raghu 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 unannounced 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 experience and 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 Cocaptain 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

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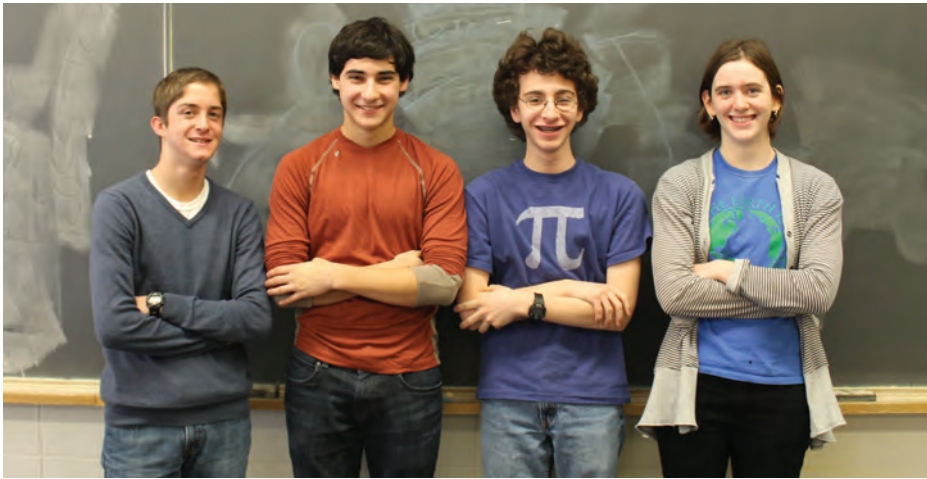


Photo by Carolyn Voth

Michael Glick, David Yunis, Adam Fine, Clare Keenan.

## Math Team getting high placings

By Raghu Somala  
Midway reporter

After ranking 2nd in the second Interscholastic Mathematical League (IML) competition November 14, the Math Team hopes to continue its success in an IML competition tomorrow.

Eighty schools, including the high-powered Illinois Math and Science Academy and Walter Payton College Prep, competed in the first two IML contests by completing shipped tests at their own schools October 17 and November 14.

Sophomore Adam Fine received a perfect score at both contests. Sophomore David Yunis and Juniors Eliot Levmore and Mohammed Monin received perfect scores on the November 14 test.

After placing 2nd of five schools in the second North Suburban Math League (NSML) contest November 15 at Naperville North High School, U-High sent 40 representatives to compete against Downers Grove South, Willowbrook, York, and Lyons Township at the third NSML contest last Thurs-

day at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, Illinois. The NSML is a group of 55 schools that compete in five math competitions throughout the school year to determine who goes to State.

The U-High team's strength lies in its ability to help new members, said senior Lane Gunderman.

"As a group, we tend to leave the freshman coach, Mr. Paul Gunty, in charge of giving out practice packets, but if someone doesn't understand how to do a certain problem, everybody on math team is more than willing to help that student," he explained. "We are a very collaborative group and that's part of where we get our strength."

Newcomers, he added, have already proven invaluable.

"Mohammed has contributed greatly to our team's score. He has gotten two perfects NSMLs and a perfect IML, both of which are very challenging tasks. In addition he has provided some new talent to our group. He is a clear thinker and often helps explain complex problems."



# Refreshments for all? Possibly, with a ticket price change for all

By Marissa Page  
Associate editor

To provide refreshments to U-Highers without charge inside dance doors, ticket prices for Winter Semiformal, 7:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, February 2 at International House, may increase from the previous \$10 to at most \$15, according to Principal Scott Fech.

After students, parents and faculty complained about inappropriate dress and behavior at school dances last year, a committee of faculty, teachers, parents and Student Council representatives implemented changes to dance policy for the winter dance. Attendance turned out low, and chaperons separated students on the dance floor, a policy change which Student Council had not been informed of prior to the dance.

Citing higher attendance as the potential key to Semiformal's success this year, Cultural Union President Rex Gu said that Student Council will inform students of any changes to dance policy immediately.

"The goal this Semiformal is to create an upswing in attendance from the dance last year," Rex said. "In order to achieve that, we're going to put up more ads around the school and start voting for dance royalty earlier. We want to get the word out sooner too.

"We haven't finalized any decisions regarding theme and music, but our plan is to inform the student body as soon as we're aware of any changes or decisions."

Ticket prices may increase to provide dancegoers with free refreshments including chips and punch, Mr. Fech said.

"Hydration is important, and the one or two fountains in the I-House are not going to sustain a few hundred U-Highers throughout Formal," Mr. Fech said. "People need a place to take a break and get something to eat or drink like chips, water or punch. That said, we might need to increase the ticket price so students don't need to bring money to pay at the dance.

"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."



Photo by Lili Steffen

## Potato pancakes for all!

Breathing in the buttery aroma of latkes, potato pancakes served during the Jewish holiday Hanukkah, Jewish Students' Association members Natalia Ginsburg and Emily Altkorn fry up a batch during

assembly period Thursday, December 13. The Association distributed hundreds of free latkes to U-Highers in the cafeteria during lunch, offering apple sauce and sour cream as toppings.

## Diversity summit leaves lasting impressions

By Marissa Page  
Associate editor

"At first, I thought it was called the 'People of Color Conference' because it referred to race and ethnicity, but by the end my interpretation was that the word 'color' did not connote the color of people's skin, but all the different colors of people's personalities and characteristics."

So said junior Kaleb Mazurek about the 19th annual Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC), which accompanied the 25th annual People of Color Conference (PoCC) Thursday through Saturday, December 6-8 at the Hilton Americas Houston and adjoining Geroeg R. Brown Convention Center. Sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools, the SDLC for students and PoCC for educators to discuss diversity in private schools.

Teachers and administrators at the PoCC attended one of 65 workshops, participated in discussions and heard from eight guest speakers. SDLC attendants joined them for three speakers: Helene Cooper, New York Times White House correspondent; Bernard Harris, the first African-American to walk in space; and Bara-tunde Thurston, author of "How to Be Black."

Students at the conference were divided into "family" groups of 60 to 70 discussing seven core cultural identifiers: race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, age, gender, religion and socioeconomic status.

Although 2,500 delegates attended both conferences, Kaleb said he felt an emotional connection with every person there.

"The conference was about something bigger than diversity," Kaleb said. "It was like this incredible therapy session that felt intimate even though it was between thousands of people. There was this talent show during the second

day at lunch. People sang, danced, did slam poetry.

"They shared amazing poems about their identity, what it means to be black, white, bisexual, overweight."

Math Teacher Shauna Anderson said the PoCC has let her to connect not only with teachers from other private schools, but speakers as well.

"I've attended the PoCC five times over the past 13 years, and every conference is an incredible experience. It lets me reconnect with colleagues from schools I worked at in the past, as well as with other black faculty members from around the country.

"What stood out to me this year is one speaker we heard from, Kim Phuc Phan Thi.

"She is widely known as the naked 'napalm girl' from a famous photo of a bombing during the Vietnam War.

"She talked about how the napalm gas burned off all her clothes, and she underwent 18 surgeries.

"I saw the photo years ago, and always wondered about her. I actually visited a temple in Vietnam near to the site of the bombing.

"I was so inspired to hear how she had forgiven the bombers, and moved on to get married and have a family.

"I got to speak with her afterward, and she hugged me and gave me an autograph."

## Brief-ly

### Senior class will get away to resort lodge

■ **AWAY FROM IT ALL**—To the famed Eagle Ridge Lodge near historic town of Galena a few miles from the Mississippi River and where the states of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin meet, seniors will depart from school Friday, January 26.

Awaiting them after a three hour or so journey by coach bus will be winter activities which in past years have included skiing, skating and walks through the picturesque Galena Territory resort (home of a famous golf course and high-end vacation residences), catered dining designed especially for the high school crowd, an indoor pool and spa and even a general store.

With faculty chaperons, the U-Highers will stay in deluxe townhomes to which deer are known to be frequent early morning visitors from nearby woods.

The seniors will return Monday, January 28.

■ **ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE**—Pamela Winthrop, director of the Alumni Relations and Development Office, has left the school, Lab Schools Director David Magill announced in an e-mail to the faculty and staff December 6.

Beth Wittbrodt, director of the school's Lab+ campaign to fund expansion of facilities and programs, will serve as acting executive director.

## THE GREEN CUP CHALLENGE



January 16 – February 13 Lab students, faculty, staff and administration will work to reduce energy consumption and Lab's carbon footprint. Weekly electrical meter readings will be recorded and compared to last year's usage. (Stay tuned for progress reports!)

Here are some simple things *you* can do:

- turn off lights
- keep windows shut to reduce wasted heat
- utilize natural lighting in classrooms and offices
- unplug already charged iPods, MP3s, cell phones
- shut down computers or use quick sleep mode
- replace incandescent light bulbs with efficient fluorescents

*Make a Difference - Accept the Challenge!*





To Kool & The Gang’s“Celebrate,” Elizabeth Evans dances with Chris Fitchen, ’80, at the 1981 Senior Prom in a1981 U-Highlights photo.



In a stylish hard hat, Craig Truitt, ’80, constructed musical instruments for May Project in this 1980 U-Highlights photo.



Racquet up in anticipation, Beth Fama prepares to serve to her Lake Forest Academy opponent in a 1981 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, noticed a change in tolerance of student behavior.

“We used to be able to get away with a lot more,” Mr. Rosenbacher said. “Now getting caught and facing the consequences can be much more tragic. Teenagers don’t necessarily make the best decisions and they definitely make a lot of mistakes. It’s how teenagers learn.

“I remember my senior year there was a huge snowstorm. And my brother Joel (Class of 1981), our friend Benson Yachnin (Class of 1979), four other guys, and I decided to jump off the roof of the school into a seven-foot snow bank while Mr. Bell’s modern history class looked on from a window. I don’t think we got caught, but I do remember being chastised a little. I think if that happened today, the kids would get in a lot more trouble.”

Mr. Rosenbacher’s nephew Jacob Rosenbacher, Class of 2012, and son of Joel Rosenbacher, was a member of a group of senior boys affectionately nicknamed “The Bros.” However, they were not the first such group to think up the idea. At U-High in the late 1970s, a group of students called themselves “The Fellows.” Craig Truitt, Class of 1980 and father of sophomore Fen Truitt, was part of this group.

“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 always been quality teachers. They keep bringing in cool teachers. That is a lot of what goes into the kids—inspired 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-Highlights 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 drawings and lithographs and Ukrainian eggs, which I used to do in front of the TV for fun. I liked that we had Arts Week for the whole week instead of a day. Now there are more workshops but there used to be more exhibitions of performing.”

Ms. Fama also remembered Senior Pranks near graduation.

“We used to have good Senior Pranks. The important thing is you have to do something that is really inconvenient but not damaging. I remember one year somebody ordered a whole bunch of ladybugs and let them loose in the school. Also, somebody once dismantled a Volkswagen Bug and reassembled it in the building.”

## Joan's is the spot to get into the musical Zone!

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Photo by Jeff Li

Plucking out “Roxanne,” the famous Police hit, Nell Mittelstead practices on a guitar she found and purchased at Joan’s Studio.

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## Animals get loving care from U-High volunteers

By Christine  
Obert-Hong  
Midway reporter

On a recent cloudy Sunday morning, senior Moira Differding and sophomore Ginny Differding made the 20-minute drive from their Olympia Fields home to volunteer at the wildlife rehabilitation center Paws Critter Crossing in Chicago Heights.

Entering the main building, a shed filled with wounded and baby animals in cages, Moira and Ginny inhaled the familiar scents of hay, cut grass, dog food, wet dog, and musk. Other than occasional bird calls and screeches of baby raccoons, the place remained quiet.

A red barn out back houses oxen, goats, a horse and an alpaca.

Among several U-Highers who volunteer at animal shelters and care facilities, Moira initially wanted to volunteer at a raptor rehab center. These centers help birds of prey recover from injuries, but Moira could not find any to volunteer at.

“I first found Paws Critter Crossing when I was looking online for a raptor rehab facility,” Moira said. “It looked interesting, so I went to go take a look, and the older couple that runs the center said they could use more help.

“My job ranges from feeding fawns to helping injured raccoons back into their cages to cleaning. When I first started, I thought my favorite job would be feeding the fawns, but they’re actually heartless. When I go



Photo by Jason Deng

Gently holding her reins, Moira Differding with her sister Ginny (back to camera) guides Irish, an American Quarter horse, back into her barn at Paws Critter Crossing, 20227 Stony Island.

outside to feed them, they will jump up and kick my legs while they’re trying to get the bottle first. Because they’re still so young, it doesn’t hurt, but it’s extremely annoying. Now, it’s my least favorite job.

“My favorite job was feeding this raccoon I named Chubbs. Like his name suggests, he was a fat raccoon. We found him digging in the garbage.

At Paws Critter Crossing, there’s a pen outside where we put all of the animals that are about to be released back into the wild, so that they can get a feeling for living outside. Whenever I would go out the pen to feed Fatty, he would run up to me, stretch upwards and hold his paws out, begging for food. Afterwards, he would take the food and dip it in his water bowl.

“I don’t know, he was just really dainty when he was eating.”

Ginny added, “I like it there because it’s not just a shelter, it’s also a farm.

(continues on page 8)



# NORTH and SOUTH

## U-Highers who live on North Side, go to school on South Side experience differences, similarities

By Clay Surmeier  
Associate Editor

5:30 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 6:40 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, talking or playing soccer at the local public school's astro-turf 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 bar food. The L 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



Photo by Matthew Garvey

**Getting off at the Sedwick Brown Line stop, Clay Surmeier, left, Matthew Davis and Maria Gilfoyle, stroll by The Second City, home to the famed improvisational comedy troupe, and under the bronze "Old Town" sign on their way to La Fournette bakery.**

brought many U-Highers together.

"Whenever 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 Benny 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 Benny. "When I get home around 4:20 p.m. starving after a long day at school, I can walk over to the Art of Pizza to get a snack. On weekends, after grabbing a bite to eat, my friends and I usually walk down the block to Hamlin Park to throw 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 Cubbies, played at the same Hamlin Park my whole life, and I love it."

Extracurricular opportunities and ample shopping opportunities all increase the North Side's appeal to Senior 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 Outfitters, which is right around the corner from my house. If I'm ever in the mood for a something to eat, I might go to "The Counter" where I can make my own burger or just get some sweet po-



Photo by Matthew Garvey

**In the center of Old Town, Benny Friedman, right, with Matthew Davis, snacks on a beignet, a traditional French doughnut rolled in cinnamon-sugar, at La Fournette Bakery on Wells Street. Originally in the Alsatian village of Schnersheim, France, the Bakery moved in 2009 with its owners, the Zimmermann family, to Chicago.**

tato fries."

Ellen enjoys living in Bucktown, she said.

"My parents bought our house and redid it together, my dad's an architect and my mom's an interior designer. We live in Bucktown, which is full of hipsters and families with young kids, it's a lot of fun. American Apparel and other clothing stores are close by which makes shopping easy when friends come over or I just feel like getting a new shirt."

Among U-Highers who have lived in Hyde Park their entire lives, Junior Emily Hsee believes there are both pros and cons to living on the South Side.

"I live right next to school, less than a block away, which is really convenient if I want to stay after school for an extracurricular or school project," Emily

said. "I know there aren't a lot of restaurants 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 everything 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."

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



Photo by Aurielle Akerele

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

**Get away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season! Get lost in finding a book or magazine of your choice for reading over the Winter Holiday. Curl up as you conduct 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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## Soccer club draws city-wide team

By Clay Surmeier  
Associate editor

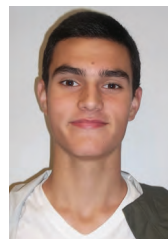
For North Side and South Side soccermen, Magic brings them together.

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, Schuler Small and Nigel Van Ha, joined by North Side Freshmen Nick Audrain, Joey Cohen, and Chris Healy make a bulk of the under-15 team.

"I play for magic because I want to play really 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.



Chris

was over and got me ice.

"No matter what happens we support each other. We all are different and unique as individuals but we come together when it matters most, like a family."

"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



# They talk with the animals

(continued from page 6)

They 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 nowhere some days, attacks my shoelaces, 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. Most of 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 take the dog because she didn't want him to be stuck in a cage at a shelter. She really loved the dog, but she 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 spans across 12 acres.

"I started riding horses because my sister did it and my dad thought it would be good for me," Justine said. "I am slightly impaired with my eyesight and hearing and since Hanson gives lessons to the disabled my dad thought it was a good idea. I used to go to Hanson on Wednesdays every week for lessons. Now I go every Sunday to volunteer, at whatever time I wake up and get there."



Photo by Jason Deng

**Squeeling at the sight of visitors, "Jeffrey," a Muscovy Duck, waddles over to greet Ginny, left, and Moira Differding. Jeffrey was raised as a pet, but his voicebox never developed, so he can only hiss, not quack. Paws Critter Crossing, where Moira and Ginny volunteer, takes in many former pets given up by their previous owners.**

"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 Emili Husain volunteers at Horsefeathers Therapeutic Riding in Lake Forest. Emili works in the stables 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," Emili 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 take the horses out to graze and putting 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," Emili 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 on to the hope that one day their child might be able to walk and talk normally. And even the littlest improvement makes them happy."

# Aurora-area School Board, pressured, quickly reverses transgender policy

(continued from page 2)

als 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, this school district is prohibited from denying or refusing a transgender individual the full and equal enjoyment of the facilities, goods and services provided to all students."

In response to parent complaints on both sides of the issue, the district formed a 22 member committee including School Board members, district residents, 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 backlash.

"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 what we're doing is helping us or hurting us."

Known as Mara at U-High, Jamie Weisbach, as well as Neal Fine, formerly known as Alice, both Class of 2012, switched genders in college.

"I think every school, high school or college needs to have policies in place for helping transgender students," Jamie said. "One big one is a policy enforcing that professors honor students' preferred pronouns, and that each professor knows enough about transgender issues to understand the importance of that."

"I think there also need to be policies that help the school work with students on locker room/ bathroom situations. Ideally, the student needs to be able to use the lockers and bathrooms that they're comfortable with, and the school needs to make sure that it's safe for them to do so. While I recognize that this is a much more long-term thing, I think there need to be gender-neutral or single-stall bathrooms available in every building."



Photo by Jason Deng

## Speaking of brain waves

**Presenting their research to Sharon Houser's Human Behavior classes December 6, U. of C. Professors Nicholas Hatsopoulos and Catherine Ojakangas, mother of Junior Niko and Freshman Tomas Friehs, explained how neuroscience can heal both physical and mental illness.**

**Speaking first, Mr. Hatsopoulos, in the photo, discussed his research programming prosthetic limbs by measuring brain waves. Ms. Ojakangas explained how stimulating certain brain areas can help patients with mental illness.**

**After the presentations, the speakers answered questions from the class.**

## Vacation plans include horseback riding, photograph printing

(continue from page 2)

jump grids and courses with trickier turns. There's a big arena with few people so we have more room to do more things. 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, Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts will print her pictures on metal sheets there, before she takes them in March for an exhibit at the Museum of Contemporary 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 photographs for this exhibition in Peru during Spring Quarter of last year.

"The show, called 'Entre Q'alas Y Long'os,' is about these people in the desert of southern Peru who breed, and revere, fighting bulls," Ms. Ricketts explained, "The photographs are portraits of these people, called Long'os, and is really an expression 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 relationship."



# Latest U. of C. ranking gets intriguing range of responses

(continues from page 1)

rankings cannot evaluate the intangibles of what truly make a good college.

“Rankings are not that important, because they are based on a rigorous scientific way of evaluating a complex academic product,” Dr. Quintans said.

“They’re not necessarily arbitrary, but rather shortsighted in their scope and approach. But a rise in our college ranking is long overdue, because we were always a phenomenal college. We always had a very good and intense curriculum, and we are always very serious about what we do.

“The new ranking is a result of a variety of things, like polishing the image we present to the outside world, which includes building things like the new dorms. It also had to do with a change in process of college admission, because more attention is focused on the quality of the undergraduates admitted. I haven’t noticed any changes caused by the rankings, although it has affected our ability to instruct larger student cohorts.

“However, the U. of C.’s ranking has made many students, faculty and particularly, administrators, happier.”

Dr. David Bishop, graduate and undergraduate professor at the U. of C.’s Cummings Life Science Center also believes that rankings affect the public’s perception of the University, although they don’t indicate any change in the way academics are taught.

“I don’t think it changes how we think, but the college ranking is still a positive thing since people take it seriously,” Dr. Bishop said. “Of course, whether or not people should take these rankings seriously is a different question.

“The recent rise in ranking hasn’t really affected me at all. I don’t think the faculty cared too much; we haven’t patted ourselves on the back. I think U.S. News and World Report uses different quantitative measurements to determine college rankings that we don’t have much to do with, like the fraction of freshman that matriculated who have a degree in six years, and the acceptance rate.

“The faculty, we just care that the students still do interesting things, and I don’t think I have

noticed that change.”

Something Dr. Bishop has noticed however, is the U. of C.’s new friendliness towards social life.

“I think 20 years ago, there was a greater notion that the U. of C. was a monastic institution that was all about studying, ‘Where fun goes to die,’” Dr. Bishop said.

“I’m not sure if they still have this, but there was a survey where students used to rank different aspects of their own schools, and in terms of partying, the University was ranked lower than West Point and Brigham Young University. We were dead last.

“But I think students used to pride themselves in all that. The academics now are still rigorous, and there are still many students that work a little harder than they like too, but the atmosphere of the University in general is less gloomy.”

Among many undergraduate students, however, news of U. of C.’s 5th place last year proved exciting. But for Bill Stueben, U-High Class of 2010 and U. of C. junior, college rankings don’t mean much.

“When the University moved up to 4th, it sort of blew up on Facebook,” Bill said. “People were excited and proud of the recognition. But, of course, there was also a counter reaction, with people saying that we shouldn’t care too much about the ranking because we didn’t put much weight onto them when we weren’t so high.

“For me personally, I don’t pay too much attention to it since rankings are pretty arbitrary. I mean, all of those schools in the top 25, and more, are great.

“If you work hard and find a few good teachers, you can get a lot out of your college experience. Similarly, if you don’t put much into it, you won’t get much out regardless of the college.

“I am not naïve enough to pretend it isn’t great for the University to have the higher ranking, though. I’m sure it means higher endowments, better programming, and an increase in the face value of degrees for alumni.

“I do think that part of the changing dynamic of the student body has to do with the rankings. With them, and the common app, the University is on the radar for prospective students who

wouldn’t have considered applying in the past. In the process, it loses the self-selecting aspect of its admissions process, since more people apply because it’s a great school, rather than the their favorite school.

“Many people I’ve talked to about it say they came because it was the best school they got into, and with more and more applications, the admitted group is probably much different than what it was 20 years ago.”

To Tom Healy, U-High Class of 2012 graduate and U. of C. freshman, the University has always been an elite school regardless of college ranking.

“I’m not quite sure why the University’s ranking has increased so much recently,” Tom said. “But I think it’s always been a top school. If you see the number of Nobel Laureates the U. of C. has in just Economics, you’ll see there’s no way the school could have gone unnoticed to a greater population forever.

“I didn’t think that much about college rankings when I decided to come here. To be honest, I did not share the typical perspective of the University of Chicago coming here.

“I knew kids taking college courses back in U-High, and I knew some professors as well. Going to U-High, I walked by the buildings everyday and I was exposed to the University. I already knew the school was good and had a feel for the campus culture. I’m loving it here. The academics are great, and I have friends that I love spending time with, and my social life is great.

“Although right now the University is a whale of work, I haven’t had the experience of staring at a page without understanding anything that’s on it, but that can change when I get into harder classes further along in sequences.

“I think there may be a distinction between the University of Chicago and other colleges in terms of rigor. A lot of schools have similar workloads, but an equal amount of input here as in another college won’t give you the same result. I don’t want to over generalize, but getting an A at the University of Chicago is hard.

“While clocking hours at U-High got me A’s, you need to put in the work and a bit more flair, find that something else, to get one here.”



Photo by Jason Deng

## Talent showcase

Sponsored by Spectrum, “ClubPalooza” showcased U-Highers’ poetry, dancing and musical talent December 7 after school in the Senior Lounge. Emily Altkorn, left, and Angira Shirahatti performed an Indian dance to the song “Bhoomi Mangalam.” “The dance is about the elements,” Angira said. “In classical Hindu mythology, there’s more elements than American mythology. There’s earth, wind, fire, water, wind, air, sun, body, spirit and basically all aspects of life. It was nice to get a chance to support each other at Clubpalooza.”

## 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 year 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 parents began suggesting that student talent be moved from the background to center stage and “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 Coe.

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.

“It will be a whirlwind of events 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.

“Saturday the exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with music and theatre performances from 1 to 4 p.m.

“After all that activity, the committee has the arduous task of taking down the show, dismantling the walls and returning all the art work to their classrooms.

“This is a tremendous undertaking and shows great respect and support for the arts at the Lab Schools.”

## Science Team prepares for WYSE

(continued from page 4)

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

To help maintain the team’s winning streak at WYSE, held since 1997, Science Teacher Sharon Housinger as Assistant 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.

Fifteen to 20 members will compete at the engineering focused Junior Engineering Technical Society, Inc. (JETS) contest and Envirothon this March. JETS is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing engineering experience to high school students, while Envirothon is an environmentally themed annual competition.

## Debaters head out on the road again

(continued from page 4)

James and Kevin won 4 lost 2; Alice and Sophomore Luke Newell won 4 lost 2; Sam and Daniel won 3, lost 3.

ST. MARKS INVITATIONAL in Dallas, Texas October 19-20 – Mia and Alice won 4, lost 2.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN in Ann Arbor, Michi-

gan, November 2-4 – Mia and Adam won 5, lost 1, Juniors Sam Kaplan and Lily Zhou won 4, lost 3; James and Sam Leiter won 3, lost 4, Freshmen Robert Bacon Mohammed Monin won 2, lost 4 in j.v.

GLENBROOK NORTH AND SOUTH, in north suburban Glenview, November 17-19 – Mia and Alice won 5, lost 2; James and Sam Leiter won 4,



# ‘I don’t know why everyone’s n

## With courage and spirit, Senior Kaiwen Luan faces a life challenge with only one complaint...he’s bored!

By Sonia Bourdaghs  
Editor-in-Chief

An active martial artist, Senior Kaiwen Luan didn’t think twice when his right ankle started hurting late last April. He continued walking and exercising, assuming the swelling was from a minor sparring injury. When the pain and swelling didn’t go away for three weeks, his mother, Huihong Zhang, a nurse in the cardiology unit of the University of Chicago Hospital, scheduled an appointment May 19 at Loyola Hospital.

Kaiwen underwent an x-ray and MRI, and his 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. His leg was amputated below the knee September 19 at the University of Chicago Duchossois Center for Advanced Medication and he received his first prosthetic leg December 5.

Despite being on medical leave, Kaiwen, also the Student Council Treasurer, is often seen at school



Photo courtesy Kaiwen Luan

**The first days after the amputation September 19, were a blur, Kaiwen Luan said. He had decided to get the surgery last June.**

in jeans and a black t-shirt joking with friends or practicing with the Martial Arts Club he founded last 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 parttime in Rochester, 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 and cars.

As for his feelings concerning his illness, Kaiwen says simply, “Nothing.”

He expands on that one-word response explaina, “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 know it’s a part of me but if it’s infected or diseased and you can’t totally cure it, just get rid of it and move on.”

Occasionally swinging the eskrima sticks he bought for Martial Arts Club during a recent interview 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, but also has experience in boxing, Taichi, Tai Kwan Do, Karate and Capoeira, 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 teams started asking for photos 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, this is the last time I’m going to see my leg; I better take a picture.”

Proudly showing photos taken during the amputation to anyone who asks, Kaiwen said he remembers little from the first days after the surgery.



**Visiting school December 6, a day after receiving his prosthetic, Kaiwen Luan hangs out with McKenzie Zimmerman, Rolland Long and Cortney Hill in the**

“When I first saw my stump I thought it looks like a teddy bear foot,” he explained. “I thought it was pretty funny. Then I thought, ‘ouch, that really hurts.’ The first two days I don’t remember who came to visit me. It sucks not being able to walk on two legs, life’s so slow.”

Ms. Zhang says Kaiwen remained positive after the amputation.

“He’s pretty strong and determined,” she observed. “I saw that during this process in fighting the disease. He never complained. He showed amazing strength; I don’t know where it’s from. At first I was really concerned whether he would develop depression. I had psychiatrists talk to him at the beginning of the process and after the amputation but they just said they had no worries at all. It at least made me feel a little relieved that he can have the courage to face it.

“A main part of his courage is from friends and classmates coming to see him. I really appreciate friends and their parents coming by. So many people go to the hospital that even 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 and a little shocked. When I saw Kaiwen afterwards, 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 disbelief 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 it must be hard for him but he always tries to show that it isn’t hurting him that much. Kaiwen’s always been the strong guy; 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 a trip there this summer.

“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

## How family, friends can prove good ‘medicine’

By Sonia Bourdaghs  
Editor-in-Chief

Family and community support, compartmentalization and a balanced lifestyle can help cancer patients maintain a positive outlook, say both medical experts and friends of patients.

Senior Kaiwen Luan’s family and friends have expressed amazement at his upbeat attitude throughout his cancer diagnosis, amputation and treatment.

His school counselor, Camille Baughn-Cunningham believes the support Kaiwen’s friends and family offered him has helped him stay strong.

“Being able to adequately educate yourself about the illness so that you can advocate for yourself is helpful,” Ms. Cunningham said. “But doing so without being completely immersed with that one aspect of your life is also important. I think we saw that with Kaiwen.

“He really worked diligently to maintain his student identity and found a balance between that part of himself and his patient identity.”

Dr. Jennifer Replogle Bremer, U-High ‘85 graduate, earned her MD at the University of Chicago and completed her residencies in adult and child psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital. She worked with cancer patients primarily on the consult service there.

“Some enter medical illness with factors predisposing them to emotional illness,” Dr. Bremer explained

in an e-mail interview. “Emotional symptoms can be severe and can even get in the way of treatment or health. If depression leads a child to be noncompliant with a life- saving treatment, this can be dangerous.

“For many, there is a need to put emotions aside in order to get the nitty-gritty work of medical treatment done. Medical care takes vast time as well as vast toleration of discomfort and pain.

“To get through this many push their emotional needs aside and break the large, overwhelming medical treatment task into small pieces; the one-step-at-a-time approach. In some ways our brains are hardwired for compartmentalization.

“Sometimes well-meaning individuals interrupt this process. I worked with children in the hospital who would be happily absorbed in some sort of game despite their overwhelming illness, only to have a kind adult unnecessarily interrupt the play to talk to them about how they were or about their illness. Let the child play. I feel this is not unlike what many adolescents and adults also need.

“Having a safe time and place to talk and process everything one is going through is also essential. This is often in a private, quiet place with family or dear friends or in therapy or support groups.

“I have often been awed by the coping I have seen, especially in young people. I wonder if the ongoing development of teenagers’ brains allows them more flexibility in the face of tremendous stressors than



# making such a big deal out of it'



Photo by Fiona Potter

third-floor lounge. "Walking is weird," Kaiwen said at the time. "I feels heavy because my leg got used to not having anything there."

sorry. Treatment is treatment and it's better to just get it over with."

Although he calls his cancer an "irrelevant detail," Kaiwen says he has experienced numerous side effects from chemotherapy.

"Delayed nausea was the worst part because you don't know when it'll come," he explained. "It could be anywhere from two days to a week-and-a-half after chemo. Other side effects I have experienced were mucositis and messed up taste buds. Things started tasting differently. I can't eat as much spicy food, which is annoying since my favorite food is Flamin' Hots. Chemo targets the fastest growing parts of the body: skin, hair, taste buds and cancer cells.

"I also lose my immune system during every cycle and there can be liver damage, heart damage and kidney damage, along with fungus growth, dry skin, blood deficiency, hearing loss and a ringing in my ears. You know the buzzing sound the TV makes when it's turned on? I heard it constantly and it caused headaches and some sleep loss.

"Hearing loss is a sad reality. I can't hear the top pitches anymore, and it's a permanent chemo side effect. There's a very small chance that it'll come back. I had pretty good hearing before; it was above average actually. It's sad to lose hearing because it's a part of life. I mean, you only have five senses."

Despite such side effects and the direct effects of cancer and amputation, Kaiwen had originally hoped to continue attending school.

"It's boring not coming back this quarter," he said. "I'm in the hospital most of the time and I'm so far behind in school. Life's just boring without school. It's boring at home, that's the problem. School gives me something to do. You can only read manga, play video games and read books for so long. Boredom's my biggest emotion right now."

His school counselor, Ms. Camille Baughn-Cunningham, explained that a medical leave seemed necessary.

"We advocate for students to do what is in their best interest in regards to their health and academic progress," Ms. Cunningham said. "It is asking a lot for students to endure a significant medical procedure and recovery along with the workload of our high school. We looked at making a lot of changes to his work-load and decided it was important to take time off. It can be difficult for students to give themselves permission to take a rest. Maybe that fits with the Lab Schools mindset of having to work diligently at all times. It's hard to take a break."

Sponsor of the Martial Arts Club and Kaiwen's Physics teacher last year, Science Teacher Francisco Javier Saez de Adana said he and other teachers also advised Kaiwen to take time off from school.

"The way he is dealing with everything is pretty amazing," Mr. Saez said. "We were trying to tell him to take some time off. He wanted to carry on with everything. He can be stubborn in a good way.

"He always has some new dream. I think that helped him in some ways by always thinking about other things. Being at home is probably very hard for him. I can see him being afraid of being at home. It's too much time to think about what is happening.

"Everything happened towards the end of last year, and we thought the injury was just a sparring pain. Sometimes

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.

"I remember towards the end of the year when he had a group presentation of modern physics. He was really struggling with pain and I said to him if he couldn't do it, it was okay; I'd give him the same grade as the rest of the group. He still came and did it, which was pretty amazing.

"I would always say to him to slow down, relax; give yourself time to think everything through. Any calculation we needed in class he'd do 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 wonderful."

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 teach us. No matter how old you are, you're always learning, right? For me I really appreciate having my family. Kaiwen and my daughter are treasures and nothing can replace them. 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 react 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."

## How Kaiwen's treatment is designed, assessed

By Sonia Bourdaghs  
Editor-in-Chief

Having diagnosed Senior Kaiwen Luan with Osteosarcoma 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 cancers, starting from the diagnosis procedure and throughout treatment. He attended the University 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 chemotherapy, Dr. Rubin said.

"We'd like to have it so that it is targeted and doesn't cause side effects but that hasn't happened for osteosarcoma," he explained. "Almost all patients with osteosarcoma have cancer spread to other parts of the body, especially the lungs.

"It spreads from the primary tumor site, through the bloodstream and attaches to the lungs. We really give as much chemo as we can safely without causing large side effects; the max tolerated dose with no fatal, dangerous side effects. That gives the maximum chance of being cured. That means



Photo by Jason Deng

Fellow photographer Jason Deng did a photo shoot with Kaiwen for his website, gallery K1. The two often do photo shoots together.



Photo by Fiona Potter

Meeting up during lunch, Izzy Soble, Roland Long, Kaiwen, Cortney Hill and Markus Hoeckner enjoy time together.



Photo by Kaiwen Luan

An avid photographer, Kaiwen took this picture the day before the amputation. "Hey see ya later," Kaiwen said, taking the photo.



As the Midway sees it

# Give students a break next time

This Thanksgiving, many U-Highers counted their blessings after getting through a busy break.

While their friends and family gave thanks, ate leftovers and watched football, U-Highers devoted the holiday to writing essays and studying for tests in the remainder of the quarter.

That said, some students received assignments days or even weeks before Thanksgiving and chose to put off their work until the five-day break. Still others used the time to catch up on late assignments due before the holiday. Procrastination is a personal prerogative, and a separate issue.

The real problem lies in the amount of work assigned students specifically over break. One junior had to study for math and science tests early in the week, write an English narrative and review for a history quiz on Monday. A sophomore had to research and write a history paper, begin an English essay and study for a math test the coming Tuesday. Both claimed the assignments took more than eight hours of their break time.

(editorial continues on page 15)



Photo by Jason Deng

## Photo-editorial: Warm welcomes

“Good morning!”

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 Larry McFarlane or Assistant Principal 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.”



Cartoon by Lydia Fama

## Mailbox

### For more club coverage

From Science Teacher Sharon Housinger:

I enjoy reading about the amazing achievements of U-Highs 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,



Ms. Housinger

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, Linnaean Society, and Spectrum ccup 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.”



Duncan

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, Karen said.

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

Along with Molly, Nathan Eckstein, Class of 2012, and Karlin Gatton, Class of 2011, helped recruit ballerinas into Model U.N.

“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., it made me want to join as well.”

“It’s also something that really brings people together,” said Sophomore Eriko Koide, 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 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 teammates and in ballet we work together as a company and we all bond over the amount of work and time we have to put in for both activities.”

(Duncan’s column continues on page 15)

## U-HIGH MIDWAY

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## Say What?



Francesca

**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 I get when I eat too much ham. Also, I hate when my sister Veronica makes us listen to Christmas music in the car.



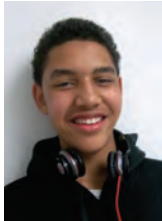
Max

**MAX ROTHSCHILD, junior:** I love the Mariah Carey song “All I Want For Christmas Is You.” I hate burnt Christmas cookies.



Michael

**MICHAEL HORIO, 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

**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.

—Compiled by Michele George-Griffin



# Dolor Sit Amet.....by Lydia Fama



## For an unusual holiday treat, festive French Apple Tart a tantalizing touch

**By Moira Differding**  
**Food editor**  
Ringed by scorched, steamy apples, the French Apple Tart gives off a tantalizing and festive aroma worthy of any holiday dinner table.

Originally crafted by Renaissance chefs, tarts are a popular cousin of the pie. Their crusts are firmer and less flaky, the fillings smoother, and the toppings more carefully arranged than they are with most pies.

While more difficult to bake than an apple pie, this French Apple Tart is easier if you have a friend helping you, and takes about an hour and half.

**INGREDIENTS:**  
**1 9-inch pie crust**  
**For the filling:**  
**6 granny smith apples**  
**1/2-1 cup sugar- I use 1 cup.**

**1/2 teaspoon cinnamon plus extra**  
**1 tiny pinch of nutmeg**  
**Juice of half a lemon**  
**For the topping:**  
**2 to 3 honey crisp apples**  
**1 to 2 tablespoons lemon juice**  
**2 tablespoons melted unsalted butter**  
**2 tablespoons sugar**

Preheat your oven to 400 F. Put the crust in a 9-inch pie or tart pan and cover with foil. Fill with dried rice to weigh it down, and then bake until golden, but not brown, roughly 25 minutes. Set aside.

For the filling, lower the oven temperature to 375 F. Combine the cinnamon, nutmeg and sugar in a mixing bowl. Peel and core the six granny smith apples, and then cut each into 10 slices. Add the apples to the mixing bowl and stir. Add the lemon juice. Taste the apples and adjust the cinnamon and sugar to your tastes.

Cover a baking sheet with aluminum foil and keeping the juices from leak-

ing out of the bowl, lay out the apples in a single layer across it. Bake 20 minutes, or until you can see lots of juice around the apples and they're soft to the touch. Puree them in a blender until smooth. Taste; add more lemon juice if you'd like. Alternatively, use a big spoon or a potato masher to crush the apples. Cool for 20 minutes, then spoon filling into the crust. Set aside the mixing bowl with leftover juices.

Put the lemon juice in the mixing bowl with the leftover filling juices. Peel and core the honey crisp apples. Cut into 1/4-inch slices and rub with the mixture as you go.

Arrange the slices in an overlapping circle just touching the crust so each covers a quarter of the next. Once the first circle is complete, make a second ring that slightly overlaps the first, as



Photo courtesy Moira Differding  
**This just-baked French Apple Tart needs 20 minutes of cooling so the filling has time to firm up and is easier to cut.**

they shrink during baking. Brush with butter and lightly sprinkle with sugar.

Place the tart on a baking sheet and bake 25-30 minutes, until the apple slice's edges are slightly scorched black. If the apples look done but the crust isn't golden-brown, cover the top with aluminum foil and finish baking.

Serve with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream, and gorge yourself; after all, it is the holidays.

## Sufjan Stevens' cheery holiday collection unites soul, tradition

**By Marissa Page**  
**Music critic**  
With 58 tracks, indie rock singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens' nearly three-hour-long, five-CD collection "Silver & Gold: Songs for Christmas, Vols. 6-10" comprises the second half of a long, fiercely joyous opus to the Christmas season.

A prolific composer and native of Detroit, 37-year-old Stevens, a Brooklyn transplant, released his first album, "A Sun Came," in 1999 on Asthmatic Kitty Records, a label that still represents him 13 years after he and his father cofounded it. Since "A Sun Came," he has composed hundreds of original songs, amassing a cult following and songwriting accolades.

In 2003, Stevens released "Michigan," a record dedicated wholly to his home state, and announced that he would embark on the "Fifty States Project." He said his aim was to create a full-length album about every state in America, releasing the second installment, "Illinois," in 2005.

"Illinois" is his most prosperous venture to date, ranked on Pitchfork's, Metacritic's and Rolling Stone Magazine's lists of best albums of the decade. Despite the commercial success of both "Illinois" and "Michigan," Stevens terminated the Fifty States Project in 2009, calling it a "promotional gimmick."

Stevens' deeply Christian background shows through in the slew of Biblical references he employs in his lyrics. In 2006, he released the first half of his massive holiday venture, the 42-song, five-album compilation entitled "Songs for Christmas." The total collection contains 10 discs, 100 songs between them,



demonstrating Stevens' near obsession with the holiday and, by extension, his faith.

While "Songs for Christmas" contained mainly traditional hymnals, "Silver & Gold's" volumes incorporate time-tested classics including "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and "Silent Night" with contemporary Christmas tunes, such as Burl Ives' "A Holly Jolly Christmas," some of Stevens' original pieces and a cover of Prince's "Alphabet St." The result is a brilliantly discordant and bizarre celebration of Yule, complete with sampled tracks from English rock band Joy Division, copious guest artists and snippets of Stevens' chats with others in the room.

Notable tracks include supremely catchy "Lumberjack Christmas," one of Stevens' own; the simple "Auld Lang Syne," beautifully concise and largely unembellished; chaotic "Ding-a-Ling-a-Ring-a-Ling;" and the previously mentioned "Alphabet St.," a swanky revamp of the original. While the collection is comprised of 50-something Christmas songs, "Silver & Gold" is never overwhelmingly religious or gratingly cheesy, as holiday music can often be.

## '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 Pattel. The film opens with an adult Pi (Irrfan Khan) recounting stories from his life. A young Pi (age 5, Gautam Balur; ages 11 and 12, Ayush Tandon; and age 16, Suraj Sharma) experiences these events as his older self narrates.

After disputing over land with the Indian government, Pi's parents sell the zoo they own in Pondicherry. The family moves with the animals to a zoo in Canada, traveling 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 \$50 million, and considerable Oscar buzz, in its opening weekend. Critics widely lauded its impressive special effects, especially the entirely computer-generated Richard Parker. Despite being composed solely of pixels, the animal looks and acts unbelievably realistically. Remark



movies.ndtv.com  
**After drifting aimlessly for weeks, "Life of Pi's" lead character Pi and his Bengal tiger named Richard Parker scan the Atlantic Ocean, desperately searching for food.**

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 visuals 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 conceited, "Life of Pi" retains its simplicity as a personal tale of one man's relationship with religion, making it innately likeable. This story feels like a classic fable that has been passed down from generation to generation, rather than a heavily religious story sapped of its fun. **Rated PG.**



Marissa



Luke



# Alumni protestor

(continued from page 1)

“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.”

At the mine, Dorian protested a technique called mountain-top removal mining.

“Mountain-top removal mining essentially entails blowing up mountains to mine the coal seams and then push all the rubble into nearby valleys and streams,” 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 poisoning 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 arrestees chose to utilize the tactic of non-compliance which can include things like not agree ing 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 a 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 unjust 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 in Nevada 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 where we were on 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.



Photo courtesy of Dorian Williams

**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.**

“There were three speakers there who were very influential for me,” Dorian explained. “A man named Tim DeChristopher pointed out, that with only the people in the room, we could send 30 people onto a mountaintop removal site, shut it down temporarily, and start to clog up the West Virginia court system. And we could send 30 people the day after that and the day after that and the day after that every day for a year. But we would never get to the end of that year because mountaintop removal would end before we reached that point. Feeling the power of that potential for change led me to get arrested for the first time at the Department of the Interior for giving permits for these sites.”

Regardless of what she pursues after college, Dorian plans on remaining active, she said.

“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.”

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# 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 hurriedly 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, his 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 heard about the job because at the time she was a Lab Schools mother of Maude, 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 Hillig 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 the monkey bars. A student lost her grip, falling to the woodchips, but unfortunately fell onto her arm and broke her humorous."

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 onto her desktop computer.

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 boy 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. It 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 bachelors 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 landed a 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 have the words to talk about anxiety. Then there are a lot of older students who are sick and still come to school. A lot of people come to the nurse without any apparent reason,

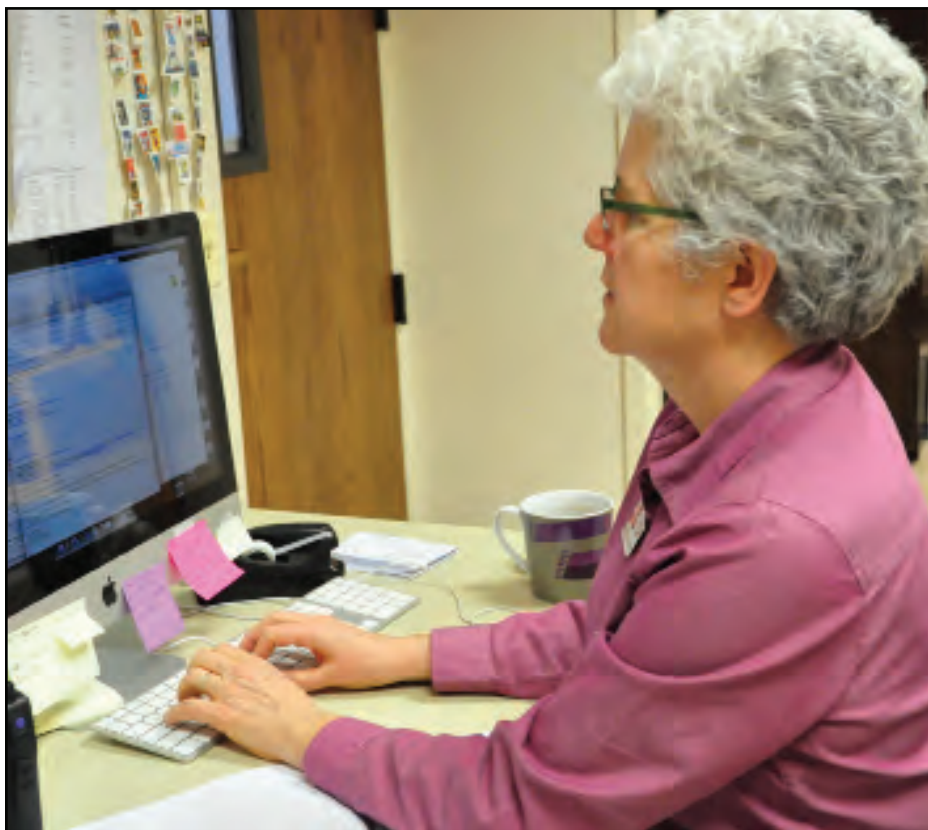


Photo by Lili Steffen

## LAB SCHOOLS NURSE MARTHA BAGGETTO IN HER OFFICE Every day is an adventure.

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 sick 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 they're anxious? 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 medication 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!



Photo by Fiona Potter

Escaping the chill, Grace Broderick and Jessica Stein visit the Medici to warm up and sweeten up with steaming cups of hot chocolate!

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## 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 came in 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 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 hard to understand the material 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 hear that we're genuine 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 the community 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 understanding after an illness.

(continues on page 17)



# Jesse Jackson Jr. is out, so who comes in now?

## Scandal-plagued politician should not have run again, U-Highers say

By Elena Maestriperi  
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 Congressman.

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 predominately 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 upsetting 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,” Freshman Tiffany 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



Political cartoon by Lydia Fama

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 do think there are a couple new candidates worth their salts, and I want them to be asked hard questions.”

## Shelved in Bookcases Exciting Places Await

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 amazing 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!



Photo by Emma Polson

Emphatically pointing out a hilarious sticker, Nathan Decety enjoys shopping at 57th Street Books, where you’ll find the unusual, the best-selling, the surprising, all in a comfortable setting the community loves.



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## 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 focus on 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 necessary, U-Highers say.

“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.”

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

“The economy should be the presidents 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 the president is to guide the country in foreign relations, but he has not been as clear as he should have been handling 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 bills 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.”



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

(continued from page 15)

“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 then 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, I have to be in school,’ where you’re sharing your germs. The community needs to be well. If you’re sick, stay home. The common cold maybe you can come, but if you have vomit-

ing, diarrhea, or a fever you should not be in school. That’s not what we do in a community. There’s no award for perfect attendance, and there shouldn’t be.

“People have different constitutions: what’s a common cold for you could be pretty bad for someone with asthma or on steroids for another condition. The pressure needs to be greater for better citizenship, and the system needs to be set up so you can catch up. Learning to care for yourself is a more important life skill than physics or AAAT; it will serve you every day.”

Ms. Baggetto sees an increase in students at times when they’re especially sleep deprived.

“A lot of the increase I see is seasonal,” Ms. Baggetto said. “But also just before the play, people are up late, they’re not sleeping and trying to keep up, so they get injured when they drop a piece of stage on their foot or something. Before the November college application deadline, people aren’t getting enough sleep, or people who have too many extracurriculars. The Monday after Model U.N. is also bad. Students say they can catch up on sleep the next weekend, but they can’t.”

# Ballet, Model U.N. gel well

(continued from page 12)

work and time we have to put in for both activities.” Occasionally, there’s competition for a delegation spot or a performance part, but that’s quickly forgotten, according to Eriko.

“It doesn’t get awkward really, Eriko said. “The people you’re around have seen you since you were really little, and you’ve embarrassed yourself, cried, and fallen in front of them, so everyone’s really close and like a family. Also, there’s endless stuff to talk about between rehearsals, studio drama, and Model U.N.”

With rehearsals often running into the evening, and conferences taking up an entire weekend, discipline and work ethic become critical, Eriko said.

“When I really enjoy something, I always find the time to do it,” Eriko said. “Despite ballet being 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.

# U-Highers deserve a break over break

(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.

# 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 Broadcasting Company radio show last Friday.



Mr. Brasler

“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 he she’d arranged to interview me by phone in the studios

of WHPK 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.

As in previous years, readings, musical performances and dramatic pieces will be offered by members of the school’s organizations representing the diversity of the community in celebration of the birthday and life of the revered civil rights leader.

L A B  
A R T S  
E X P O  
  
FEBRUARY 1-2  
UPPER KOVLER GYM  
FRIDAY 6:00 - 8:00 PM & SATURDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM



# 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 dress clothes on game days: a green and blue 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 first few classes of her day are nothing special, mostly taken up with playing out different scenarios for the game and daydreaming about hitting a game winning shot. She swaps a text or two with her good friend and teammate Kendall Rallins, sophomore, about the game plan they hope to execute in 10 hours.

Finally. As 5th period class lets out she strides to the lunchroom and plants herself at the table with the rest of her teammates. Fellow starters Nadja Barlera, senior, Kendall Rallins, Audrey Hart, senior, and Maud Jansen, junior, join her at the table.

The rest of school comes and goes, each class leaving her more stressed by the minute. Finally, 3:05 is upon her. The team manager, Sophomore Kate Franks, runs to Medici in the unseasonably warm weather and gets both Sophia 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, leaving Sophia, Kendall, and Maud stranded at school.

Waiting. 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. Sophia 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 walk into the stands. Sophia gathers her teammates 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.

Wet.  
Back-to-back threes from Kendall and Sophia to start the game kick start the Maroons to an early 8-3 lead. After dropping seven points, Sophia leads her team to a 14-8 lead in the 1st quarter. She thinks to herself, 'This is too close for comfort.'

"BZZZZ." The scoreboard rings as Maud, the Maroons' center, receives her second foul with 5:46 left in the 2nd quarter, designating her to the bench.

The half time buzzer rings with the scoreboard reading U-High: 27, Parker: 12. Again Sophia leads the surge, scoring nine points in the 2nd quarter, tallying 16 points at the half. But the Parker girls' hacking has taken its toll on her. She gathers up her teammates, telling them they're not going to blow their 15-point lead no matter the officials' influence.

Foul trouble remains an issue as Maud gets her third and fourth fouls within a 40 second space and, as if it can't get any worse, Kendall gets her third leaving the Maroons without two of their starters. Sophia manages only five points, but her teammates step up, including a corner jumper from Alex Cohen, junior. The Maroons hold a 17-point lead after the 3rd quarter.

The physicality continues as Parker fouls Sophia hard with 4:41 in the 4th quarter, but she checks right back in four seconds later. She does not let this physicality get in the way of a Maroon victory. While she only manages two points, Maud, back from the bench, puts in six points and protects the rim valiantly with several big blocks.

As the last seconds tick away, with the Maroons leading 52-28, the final buzzer erupts along with the U-High fans who traveled to see Sophia lead U-High to victory.



Photo by Daisee Toledo  
**Talking game plan before their 75-24 win over Woodlands November 28 at home, from left are: Nadja Barlera, Kendall Rallins, Lillian Eckstein, Sophia Gatton, Audrey Hart.**



Photo by Aurielle Akerele

**Struggling for possession with a Parker defender in U-High's 55-48 victory over the Colonels November 30 on the opponent's court, Jordan Moran stretches out for the basketball as Jonathan King closes in on the play.**

## Avenging losses, U-High shows Parker who's boss

By Mike Glick  
Sports editor

"Blocking foul!"  
"That's a charge!"

All eyes in Francis Parker's gym turn to the referee under the basket. The Colonels and their supporters, packing the home stands, hope for a blocking foul on U-High varsity senior basketballer 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 await 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 influx of Maroon cheers. 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 boarded a Beckham Transit bus, the 14 varsity boy basketballers 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

Maroons arrived for the tail end of the j.v. boys' 40-31 hard fought loss and an impressive and physical 52-28 victory for the varsity girls over Parker, including 23 points from Senior Sophia Gatton, before suiting up and

entering the court in short sleeve maroon hoodies. "Starting for U-High, number 15, Kyle Parker! Number 21, Mike Dowdy! Number 35, Logan Crowl! Number 33, Max Rothschild! And, number 10, Jordan Moran!"

All Maroon players gather in a circle, shifting vigorously from side to side with chants of "Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!" blanketing the announcement of Parker's starters. Kyle stands in the middle, pumping up the Maroons. Simultaneously, Parker's starters—Cornell Jackson, Junior Henry Peters, Senior Langdon Neal, Junior Zack Kupferberg, and Junior Fran Rosenberg—slap hands with their subs and jump together in the air.

"We must win this game!" screams U-High Coach Chad Stewart to the Maroons. "We must win this game!"

Parker Coach John Bongiorno paces in front of his bench, breathing deeply, eyes focused on the ceiling.

Wearing a long sleeve maroon shirt under his maroon jersey, Max, the Maroons' junior center, jumps for the tip against Parker's equally tall Kupferberg. He tips the ball to Jordan, U-High's sophomore

guard, giving U-High first possession. Eight game minutes and 11 U-High points later, Max shifts momentum into U-High's favor.

Facing his defensive basket at the top of Parker's defensive three-point arc, Max receives a quick pass from Senior Curtis Henderson and turns around without a dribble and drains a three, beating the buzzer and getting U-High within three points of Parker.

Shouts of "yeah Max!" resonate from the U-High bleachers, an approving nod from Director David Magill and an exuberant fist pump from U-High faculty member Chris Harper.

Carrying their momentum into the second quarter, U-High forces Parker into calling a timeout after an underhand reverse lay-up by Mike, U-High's senior guard.

But the timeout does not help the Colonels. U-High continues to improve, with four offensive rebounds on one possession leading to an eventual Jordan lay-up.

In for the first time with four minutes and 50 seconds left in the third quarter, Junior Jonathan King sparks the Maroons. After 24 seconds on the court, Jonathan causes a near turnover under Parker's basket, but the ball bounces off his leg out of bounds. Moments later, he successfully forces a turnover under Parker's hoop before forcing another at half court.

Max erupts as well in the quarter, reeling off six

points and a huge block on a Jackson lay-up. Near the end of the quarter Jordan rejects a Neal bucket in a similar fashion, swatting away the attempt just before the ball meets the backboard. Going into the

final quarter, the Maroons lead the Colonels 40-30.

"Manage the clock," Coach Stewart says to his team. "Take care of the basketball."

To start the quarter, Parker's six-foot-seven Kupferberg banks in a three, resulting in loud applause from the Colonel fans. However, with six minutes and 57 seconds left in the game, Mike shifts momentum back in the Maroons' 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 Brandon Green and Jordan lead to four foul shots, three of which filter through the net. The scoreboard shows 50-41 after Jordan hits the second of his pair with one minute and 12 seconds left and U-High relaxes. Despite an NBA range three from Neal with seven seconds left, Parker cannot narrow the margin any closer.

U-High inbounds, already slapping hands.

The Maroons, after last year's disappointing loss, can finally celebrate on Parker's court with their 55-48 victory.

**"We must win this game!  
We must win this game!"**  
**—Boys' Basketball Coach  
Chad Stewart**



# DUELING VIEWS

## Da Bears! Defensive or offensive, this saga never ends

With an 8-5 record as of December 9, the Chicago Bears look poised for a berth in the NFL playoffs.

Lead by a potent defense sporting arguably the most dynamic corner-back duo in the league in Charles Tillman and Tim Jennings, the



LUKE

Bears had let their defense lift them near the top of the conference. That's not to say the offense had not performed, for Jay Cutler, while healthy, had directed an energetic group with explosiveness on all fronts. Assuming a healthy Jay Cutler, are the Bears a Super Bowl team?

**LUKE:** Defense wins championships, the old saying goes. This Bears team's defense is historic. It goes beyond the 33 sacks that the unit had accumulated in 13 games. A great defense has takeaways:

how are 21 interceptions, with seven returned for touchdowns through 13 games for you? How about 21 forced fumbles? That's about three times a game the Bears have ended a team's drive without giving them the chance to score, attempt a field goal, or even punt. That is a defense with a championship pedigree.

**MIKE:** While it's true that the Bears have gaudy defensive stats, more than just turnovers and sacks measure a defense. Against a potent San Francisco 49ers offense, the Bears gave up 32 points. I guarantee you Jay Cutler's absence had no impact on that.

Furthermore, against three of the league's top defenses in San Francisco, Houston and Detroit, the Bears' offense combined for just 26 points and one win. Not only does the Bears' defense have unconquerable faults, but also its offense cannot match up with the elite defenses it will need to if the Bears hope of making a Super Bowl run.

**LUKE:** Yeah, that game against San Francisco was embarrassing. But they came into that week knowing they were going to be without their starting quarterback. You can hype yourself all you want, but knowing you're going against one of the best teams in the NFL without your most important player does not bode well for team morale.

And the Bears don't have the offense to match up against the NFL elite? Through 13 games the Bears had scored 308 points and given up 219, which is already outstanding.

Now if you take away the two offensive outputs in the games Jay Cutler

was out, and replace those scores with the 27 points a game the Bears average in the games where he is healthy, the Bears have scored 349 points this year. That's a differential of 130 points. With Jay Cutler on the field, the Bears are a Super Bowl team.

**MIKE:** Again, stats don't account for key parts of the Bears' season. While the Bears may average a high total of points per game, their offense has tacked on many of those points at meaningless moments against mediocre teams. Against an awful Jacksonville squad, the Bears pounded out 41 points when the Jaguars managed only three. Against the Titans who mustered up 20 points, the Bears scored 51.

The Bears offense has potential firepower with Jay Cutler at the helm, Matt Forte in the backfield and Brandon Marshall at wide receiver. But their offense has shown too little consistency this season to encourage one to think they can win two games, maybe even three, in the playoffs to find themselves in The Superdome.

**LUKE:** The Bears stood at 8-5 as of December 9, with upcoming games against Green Bay, Arizona, and Detroit. Realistically their goal should be to win two of those games, with Green Bay and Detroit posing challenges. That would leave them at 10-6 and in the playoff picture.

Besides maybe Atlanta, who has never proven capable of advancing in the playoffs, there are no elite teams. What did the Giants have last year? An inconsistent offense that got hot at 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:** And that's just the issue. With Jay Cutler under center,



MIKE

when's the last time the cards have fallen in the Bears' favor? Certainly not last year, when Cutler broke his thump 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 treatment this year.

—Photos by Matthew Garvey

## Swimmer finding his niche

By William Chung  
Editor-in-Chief

With his bright red hair, Junior Rex Hughes is hard to miss in 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 Maroon girls' 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 making 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 out.

"Coach Mike made sure I didn't mess around, but he also balanced things out so I would continue to like swimming. The team itself was great. I've been swimming with people that I swim with now since I started."

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

"I remember him when he was a freshman; he was on the shorter side and always liked playing around," David said. "But as time progressed, I saw him grow taller than me, and ultra motivated. He used to be good in practice but less so in meets, but now he does well in both."

Coach Paul Gunty believes that Rex has started to find his niche. "He's leading a lot in practice right now which is good for a junior," he said. "He gets in the water and does what he's supposed to do. He's also done really well recently in longer events. I wouldn't have thought about putting him the middle and longer distance events like the 200 and 500 free before, but now he seems more comfortable in them."

Rex broke the Top Ten 500 freestyle, swimming a 5:32 at the Bremen Invitational in the southwest suburbs October 7. "I became sick before Sectionals last year and I was really disappointed," he said. "I was really hoping to start off the year well and do better during the first few meets, so when I was first trying to prepare for the season, I did a lot of distance to try and get back in shape. That definitely helped me build up my endurance. I wanted to try the 500 free once and Coach Gunty put me in it. When I looked at the clock when I finished I felt so good. I was planning on breaking some record when I was a junior and hopefully the 500 will be possible."



Photo by Remy Lewis  
**REX HUGHES**

## SCOREBOARD

**BOYS' BASKETBALL**—Lisle, November 19, away: Varsity won 52-38, j.v. lost 41-32; **Perspectives Joslin**, November 20 at Lisle: Varsity won 52-39, j.v. won 39-19; **Timothy Christian** at Lisle: Varsity won 45-42, j.v. lost 36-32; **Providence-St. Mel**, November 24 at Lisle: Varsity lost 83-68, j.v. lost 46-30; **Parker**, November 30, away: Varsity won 55-48, j.v. lost 40-31; **Elgin**, December 7, away: Varsity won 69-19, j.v. won 51-21; **Morton**, December 8, away: Varsity lost 55-52; **Latin**, December 11, home: Varsity won 54-37.

**GIRLS' BASKETBALL**—Cristo Rey Jesuit, November 12, home: Varsity won 67-37; **Pritzker**

**College Prep**, November 14, home: Varsity won 68-19; **Agricultural Science High**, November 24, home: Varsity won 48-54; **Kenwood**, November 24, away: Varsity won 43-26; **Woodlands**, November 28, home: Varsity won 75-24; **Parker**, November 30, away: Varsity won 52-28; **Perspectives Charter**, December 5, home: Varsity won 65-14; **Elgin**, December 7, away: Varsity won 52-26; **Latin**, December 11, home: Varsity won 47-25.

**BOYS' SWIMMING**—Bremen, November 30, away: Varsity placed 2 of 7; **St. Viator**, December 5, away: Varsity placed 6th of 9.

**GIRLS' SOCCER**—The traveling Hyde Park Storm finished 1st in the Illinois Women's Soccer League U19CS Division with a record of 8 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie.

## Deliciously New Delhi



As Alijah Futterman discovers, the choice of goodies at Rajun Cajun is truly gigantic! No wonder it's a favorite with U-High. Photo by Nataniel Green



1459 East 53rd Street  
773-955-1145

Open Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m.

Sunday Noon-7:30 p.m.

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With 15 different kinds of curry and as many different kinds of chicken (from Tandoori 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!





Photo by Catherine Zhou

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.

"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. 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.

# City Lights, Holiday Sights



Photo by Catherine Zhou

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



Photo by Jason Deng

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."



Photo by Catherine Zhou

The scent of hot chocolate, curry sausage, cinnamon and roasted nuts fill the air of the Christkindlmarkt 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.



Photo by Jason Deng

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.



Photo by Catherine Zhou

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



Photo by Jason Deng

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.