Seniors find no room to schedule valued elective

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Editor-in-Chief

Insufficient enrollment mainly resulting from scheduling conflicts caused three history electives to be cancelled this year.

Initiated by History Teacher Susan Shapiro, the Holocaust, Islam and Politics, and Political Philosophy electives have been offered to seniors. Several elective and advanced courses have experienced a drop in students since the institution of the new daily schedule three years ago, which offers eight periods instead of nine.

Fewer periods in the day led to low enrollment numbers, Mrs. Shapiro said.

“When we limit opportunities for students to take classes beyond the required we eliminate their ability to take electives,” Mrs. Shapiro explained. “Students who wanted to pursue a full schedule are forced to cut something they wanted to do to make room for something they didn’t want. The cumulative impact of multiple years with a reduced number of periods has begun to corrode the breadth of what has been up to this point a fairly broad and wonderful curriculum not just in history, but particularly in humanities.”

The bygone history electives offered seniors with a college-like experience and a unique view, Mrs. Shapiro said.

“If the Holocaust is taught at all it is seldom more than a day or two and students do not get any political philosophy developed. Students are taught in a full schedule but the electives bring new ideas and topics that stimulate the brain. It’s taught almost like a college seminar through interaction with peers and you bounce ideas off of each other. It definitely has to do with the schedule.”

While some people could still take the (continues on page 3)
First Director of Security brings experience, talents

By Rolland Long
Editor-in-Chief

Enter University of Chicago Deputy Chief Fountain Walker: the Lab Schools’ Director of Security, former Cornelius, North Carolina, police sergeant and Davidson College chief of police in the same state, an ex-Marine, and finally, comic and stage enthusiast.

Before recently becoming Lab Schools’ first Director of Security, Chief Walker joined the University of Chicago Police Department two years ago, quickly ascending to District Patrol Commander within eight months. Chief Williams had previously served at Davidson, where he was an active member of the community and a one-time actor at Davidson Community Players’ “West Side Story.”

Currently working from the Offices of Auxiliary and Security Services in U-High 103, Chief Walker keeps his office indicative of his literary interests, shelving copies of “The Incredible Hulk” and Sun Tzu’s “Art of War” by his desk, where he constantly scans three months’ worth of media connected to the schools’ security feeds.

“My favorite Hulk story arc,” Chief Walker says, “is the 1962 run of ‘The Incredible Hulk’ and Sun Tzu’s ‘The Art of War’ by his desk, where he constantly scans through a copy of Spider-man. I’ve been an avid reader for years, and currently work full-time on the security team.”

Of all his interests, Chief Walker says his adherence to some Asian philosophies has had a great effect on his worldviews and work procedures.

“I don’t read The Art of War because I’m preparing for war,” Chief Walker said. “To me, that’s not what it’s about. It’s about changes. It’s about determination! It’s about how to make decisions and deal with the circumstances, and not necessarily during wartime.

“Changes are things you must want in life, and for every change there is going to be a resistance. Without conflict, an individual can’t develop. You don’t learn to get over odds. You become complacent. Then, an individual can’t develop. You don’t learn to get over odds. You become complacent. You always have to do this in any leadership position. No matter how nice you are, you must make them feel that you care.”

However, Chief Walker’s character is also defined by tough personal experiences. Leaving at age 17 to support his family, Chief Walker served in the United States Marine Corps for eight years, before going into law enforcement.

“As an artillery scout, I had to lug around a $180,000 target designator that weighed in excess of 40 pounds,” Chief Walker said. “I don’t have anything against newer Marines, but these days target designators are handheld.

“Literally you would call ‘Lazenig!’ before designating a target for the artillery. It was called ‘exemplary back then, and a lot could go wrong. There were times it would launch too low, and when it was still ringing from the plane ride was taken by shock.

“Even though we came from many different places, we all were disappointed that the lounge didn’t have Super Sausage Egg. After the orientation, we went to our rooms. My ears were still ringing from the plane ride and so I quickly went to sleep.

“After a good night sleep the ringing went away,” Lane said. “My roommate and I got ready for the first round of judging. We went down to get some semi-fancy breakfast. My meal choices were very sporadic, the only constant in all three meals was Coke.”

“Mr. Debis warned me that the judging was weird,” Lane said. “I entered one of the 4 rooms with 3 judges, and each of them was given about 5 minutes to ask any questions they wanted about science. Each contestant had to go through all four rooms. The questions in general varied.

“Some were quite difficult and I didn’t know what to answer with. Others were straightforward and easy to answer. They were to assess my overall knowledge in math and science. I wasn’t really scared or anxious when I was about to go to my first room. I tried to collect my thoughts and think of any question that they might throw at me and generally tried to stay calm as I could.”

“President Barack Obama talked to us for a few minutes. He told us we embody his educational goals”
New student history magazine makes debut

By Natalie Holley
Associate editor

Available in PDF format on the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools website, the first edition of Inflate, a student-run history journal for U-High, appeared March 7. The journal features research papers written by senior Lauren Blacker and juniors Eleanor Schuttenberg, Maddie Anderson, and Lillian Eckstein on topics such as American architecture, children’s literature, the Connecticut Compromise, and Jewish immigration.

Created by juniors Sophia Weaver and Grace Fioramonti-Gorchow, Inflate had been conceived following their summer internships at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business where they worked for the University of Chicago Press.

Working for the Press, they learned the ins and outs of creating a history journal.

“Sophia and I get to spend time in various departments such as acquisitions editing, copy editing, IT, marketing, and design and production,” Grace said. “Each department taught us about what they did and how they played a role in the publication process.”

“Learning from all the departments was really helpful,” she continued. “We came up with the title ‘In-Flame’ during a brainstorm session with the marketing department, the IT department taught us how to create and manage an online publication, and acquisitions taught us about what to look for when choosing what to publish.”

Sophia added, “Part of doing the internship was learning the knowledge that’s needed to start a history journal. We kind of knew beforehand that we’d end up bringing the information back to U-High.”

In fact, the History Department proved instrumental in making the idea of a history journal for U-High become a reality.

“The history department saw that students were becoming more and more interested in getting their papers published and we wanted them to have a platform to build,” she continued. “It will be installed on the Lab Schools campus. It’s a piece about community, so I least seems to make sense.”

“Connections” draws enthusiastic crowd

More than 750 Lab Schools parents, alumni, faculty members and friends turned out for the Parents Association’s “Connections” gala March 9 in the dramatic grand balcony at Navy Pier (photo above). With the theme “Green Places for Green Places,” the evening benefited green projects in the school, including a new outdoor classroom (Midway story next issue). A quarter of the funds raised—expected close to $400,000—will, as usual, go to student financial aid.

The dreary, festive crowd enjoyed a gourmet dinner including a dined fruit salad, grilled chicken and salmon, rice, Spring vegetables and for dessert tiramisu and mango-yuzu tarts. A silent auction including nearly 500 items, dancing and student entertainment also made the evening lively.

Among the performers were the Jazz Band and the Dance Troupe and the a cappella quartet Unaccompanied Minors. A trio (photo at right) of John Lin, Lauren Blacker and Catharine Zhou presented Rimsy-Korsakov’s “Scheherazade Op. 35.”

The sculpture in the photo, created and donated by Lower School parent Gar- land Martin Taylor, “Generosity,” “is a stainless steel piece based on a seed pod and generous in its interpretation,” he explained. “It’s a piece about community, so I cast the faces of people from the Lab community and put them on the sculpture.” It will be installed on the Lab Schools campus.

“We've got you covered!

Search for an after school snack, sophomore Valentina Gardner compares two drinks at the U. of C. Bookstore’s convenience shop, located next to its popular in-store Starbucks.

From books to movies to sweater and scares, the U. of C. Bookstore offers a lot more than books! We can get you a warm cup of coffee or hot chocolate to get you through the day. Our in-store Starbucks and convenience store offers one-stop shopping for last minute needs. We have all sorts of University of Chicago exclusive items from t-shirts to umbrellas. And of course, we have one of the greatest and most unusual selection of books in the Windy City. Only minutes from U-High, just waiting for your visit. Drop in soon!
Science Team takes 1st place, prepares for State Finals

By Clea Braendel
Midway reporter

Following their 1st place win at the Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering Sectionals competition March 14 at North Central College in Naperville, Science Team competes at State Finals today at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. Before their win in Naperville, the freshman-sophomore team working on the TEAMS competition (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science) joined the juniors-senior team, March 8 at the Illinois Institute of Technology, where the underclassmen placed 2nd in the region. A varsity science team then took 7th place the next day at the Illinois Science Olympiad (ISO) at the College of DuPage, handing a bid to the State Championship at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Saturday, April 20. Another science team group will also compete at Environroth May 1-2, in mid-state Monticello.

Science Team member Max Archer, junior, is one of eight U-Highers who competed at TEAMS. “TEAMS is an engineering based group test, plus a short essay on computer science. It’s a very easy test, we had a great time.” Max said, “But although it was easy there are a lot of really excellent schools that participate, so if we miss one question then we are significantly behind, and it really hurts our score.”

With 30 students competing, ISO has biggest number of U-Highers who compete, says ISO team captain and senior Amartya Das. “Basically ISO is a combination of written tests, labs, and build events.” Amartya said. “For the past couple of months we’ve been working on our entries to the building events after school, which bring us with us to the competition. Build events are parts of the competition where we have to create a machine or other object according to whatever the specific challenge is.”

According to Amartya, the build events take the most work beforehand out of all the challenges. “Two of the cool ones are Boomleaver, which is basically a ‘bridge’ of some sort, except it hangs off the edge of a ledge.” Amartya said. “We build it out of balsa wood and the aim is to make it as strong as possible. The way it’s tested is by hooking a bucket to it and filling it up with sand. Your final score is based on the amount of sand it could hold before breaking. There is also Robot Arm, which is where we build a functioning arm and it is tested on how well it can move things. It’s kind of like a crane.”

(continues on page 14)

U.N. rolls into last conferences

By Maia-Claire Chong Bousay
Midway reporter

Following a best large delegation win at the Boston Invitational Model United Nations Conference on February 22-24, Junior Board members will take on leadership roles at Northwestern University’s Conference, this Thursday through Sunday, April 11-14 in suburban Evanston.

At the Model U.N. team’s sixth and final conference, 31 U-Highers will represent France, Panama, Egypt, and Malawi.

Attempting to win best large delegation the fourth year in a row, U-Highers will compete against teams as nearby as Saint Ignatius in Chicago and as far abroad as Port Charlotte High School in Port Charlotte, Florida.

“We’re giving Junior board members a chance to head delegate,” senior Duncan Weinstein said. “Seniors will still be available to help out, but at this point in the year, we are handing over leadership to Juniors board members.”

“Head delegating consists of running prep sessions, setting work deadlines, planning activities for meetings, debriefing during the conference, giving advice both before and during the conference, and basically leading the team in terms of preparation.”

Participating in the Press Corps committee, junior Marissa Page, attending her first conference, will produce stories covering what happens in each of the other committees.

Journalists will be assigned a news organization to impersonate, and also participate in a discussion on moral and ethical issues in journalism.

“This will be the first time in recent memory that we have had someone do press corps,” Duncan said. “We don’t usually do it, but at this conference, they offered press corps and Marissa expressed interest in trying it. We’re really happy to have her.”

Debaters head for tourney

By Duncan Weinstein
Editor-in-Chief

After completing their regular season, debaters will head to post-season national tournaments, including the prestigious Tournament of Champions, April 27-29 at the University of Kentucky in Lexington.

Having her second trip to the Tournament of Champions, senior Mia Epner, debating with partner Adam Fine, sophomore, received her second requisite bid to qualify for the TOC this year. “This will be the first time in recent memory that we have had someone do press corps,” Duncan said. “We don’t usually do it, but at this conference, they offered press corps and Marissa expressed interest in trying it. We’re really happy to have her.”

(continues on page 11)

State next for Math Team

By Mike Glick
Associate editor

Energized by its victory at the Illinois Council of Teachers of Mathematics 2A Regional at North Central College February 24, the Math Team will travel to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for the ICTM State contest Saturday May 4.

U-High totaled 841 total points at the meet, scoring 147 points better than the next highest team at the 2A level, Lake Forest Academy, and 199 points higher than last year’s 2A State champ Morton High School. After taking 2nd place at State last year, the math team has prioritized taking 1st this year.

Sophomore Adam Fine, who got a perfect score on the sophomore individual contest, says U-High has continued to prepare diligently for State. “ICTM Regionals went really well for our team,” Adam commented. “Our score was much higher than the next best team at our level in the state. Last year we went one step further to win the conference. If we can carry over our success from Regionals and keep working hard we can definitely take first this year.”

Adam’s perfect score at Regionals was his eighth this year complementing four in the Illinois Math League and three in the North Suburban Math League.

“Individually, according to my results and the results of the sophomore team, the individual contest for sophomores was slightly easier than last year’s,” Adam said. “Usually there’s one really, really hard problem on ICTM contests, but on this one there were just two or three that were pretty difficult. I think that helped me get a perfect.”

Senior Lane Gunderman agreed that U-High prepared well for ICTM.
Brain matter
U-Highers who love to multitask while studying—listening to music, taking cellphone calls, surfing the internet may not know there is a downside to their pleasure. Some studies show that as tasks multiply the effectiveness of each task diminishes. Dr. Larry Rosen, a prominent research psychologist, made that point, among others in a lively assembly program March 14 at International House. The day before he presented a program for parents on “The Psychology of Technology.”

Spring Break flings travelers over globe
By Christine Obert-Hong
Midway reporter
To Ireland and Rome, to Israel and China, to Los Angeles and Peru students and faculty members globe-trotted over Spring Break. Sophomore Mimi Lipman went to Israel with her father, mother, and brother. Mimi’s family traveled to Haifa, the Golan Heights, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and some Roman and Crusader ruins and learned how they were built.

“Mr. Reich has won more than 15 awards for his achievements in journalism and writing since 1990 and was named the Chicago Journalist of the Year in 2011 by the Chicago Journalists Association. Senior Emily Altcorn, JSA’s president, said she believes the Holocaust is a key event in our history. “It’s important that we remember the Holocaust,” Emily said. “Sometimes as we get further away from it, we don’t use of original reporting.”

Speaking at the Holocaust Assembly Thursday April 11, Howard Reich, author, film collaborator, as well as an art and jazz critic for the Chicago Tribune, will share the story of his mother and her experiences during the Holocaust. The assembly, at 10:30 a.m. during open time and will run until 11:30 a.m. at Mandel Hall, 1131 East 57th Street. It has occurred every two years since 1987. It is sponsored by the Jewish Students Association, and it will include presentations from the Black Students Association, Asian Students Association, Latinos Unidos, and the a capella group, Unaccompanied Minors. Mr. Reich will speak about what it was like growing up with his mother, who was a survivor of the Holocaust and suffered post-traumatic stress disorder in the years after. He is the author of “Prisoner of Her Past” and the producer-writer-narrator of the documentary film based on his quest to find out what happened to his mother during her time in the Holocaust.

“As part of the Rosh Hashanah festivities, some students who were invited to the teacher’s lounge also made that point, among others in a lively assembly program March 14 at International House. The day before he presented a program for parents on “The Psychology of Technology.”

Spring back to school with the Medici!
Launch Spring Quarter in style with a stop by Medici! Our extensive menu includes world famous Chicago style pizza, savory garlic bread, strawberry lemonade and mouth-watering desserts! We’re just a block away from U-High, so you can stop by during free periods, lunch or after school. Grab a steaming cup of coffee or hot chocolate at our bakery located right next door, to give your step a spring in time for class. The Medici Bakery also offers scrumptious pastries guaranteed to sweeten up any day.

Briefly
Famed author and critic, and son of a survivor, to speak at Holocaust assembly

“The purpose of the assembly is to remember not only the impact of what occurred,” Ms. Shapiro said, “but to remind us that it continues, even today, and though there is a lot of press conversation about it, what are people doing? One of the most important things that we can do is to make sure that we are educated about it.”

A JSA member will also perform a traditional candle lighting ceremony during the assembly.

“The first six candles represent the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust,” Emily explained. “The seventh candle represents those who were killed who were not Jewish. Lighting the candle helps us to remember all of the lives that were lost.”

The winners were as follows:


SILVER MEDALISTS-Soloists—Fabrice Gajolet-Snicket, Sam Van Loon. Chamber Ensemble—Ben Gluck Max Kozameh, Sam Van Loon, Will Kent, Alex Peres, Dylan Offit, Kerry Vancor.

VIOLINIST TO TOUR INTERNATIONALLY—The only violinist to qualify from Illinois, junior Tatetha Oh after a tough audition process, has been named to the new Carnegie Hall National Youth Orchestra. After a two-week residency in New York City with prominent musicians, she will tour with the orchestra, led by maestro Valery Gergiev and featured violinist Joshua Bell to Washington, D.C., London, England, and Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia.

HONORED—Kate Grossman, class of 1988, a member of the Chicago Sun-Times staff since 2002, has received a 1st-place national award for opinion writing from the Education Writers Association. It is her third award from that organization.

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GOLD MEDALISTS

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Judge praised a series of editorials Ms. Grossman wrote on a difficult year for public education in Chicago and her use of original reporting.

In her senior year at U-High, Ms. Grossman was Midway editor-in-chief.

NACLO—the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad, found what a U-Higher can do when sophomores Clare Keenan qualified in the first round January 31 to go on to the second round March 19. In the contest, high school students solve linguistic puzzles in written tests. “In solving the problems,” the organization’s web site explains, “students learn about the
School spirit getting a boost

U-High might yet become a traditionally "spirited" high school thanks to Principal Scott Fech.

The quiet crowd at athletic events and competitions could be depressing to some, though other U-Highers were content with the lack of a spirit-oriented culture. Connected to the university which used to be called "Where Fun Comes to Die," some U-Highers almost seem to take pride in their lack of school pride.

However, for those who have secretly wished to attend a "ra-ra" high school, there may still be hope. Mr. Fech seems intent on increasing U-High pride. An increased number of all-school assemblies aimed at bringing the community together and contests between the different grades show some of his efforts to do so. Perhaps U-High can learn to take pride in itself even if it doesn’t have a football or cheerleading team. However, Maroon gear and get-togethers may not be enough to transform U-High’s student culture. Even as we promote academic pursuits and admire Mode U.N., Debate, Math, and Science team members (not to mention countless others), some feel that our school is too academically-driven to have school spirit. Compared to the sports stands at other schools as close as Walter Payton on the Near North Side, the atmosphere is completely different. Waves of navy blue and orange fill the stands there in a noisy mosaic of student spirit.

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As the Midway sees it

Dance on dances may reach an end

Perhaps, a resolution is in sight.

Two years after its inception, and a year after being cancelled, Spring Fling still returns 7:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at International House if Student Council can swing the deal, possibly marking an end to an ongoing back and forth between Student Council, their advisor and administrators over dances.

The troubles began after last year’s Homecoming, when students and parents complained of inappropriate behavior, skimpy attire and an insensitive informal senior theme. In response, administrators and faculty physically broke up couples and played a wider variety of music throughout the event. Many dancegoers walked out, and Student Council cancelled last year’s Spring Fling due to low interest.

This year, chaperons may have already stayed off the dance floor, leading to higher student interest.

Of course, problems remain. For example, Principal Scott Fech stood on the stage at this year’s Homecoming, monitoring student behavior, but also making many dancegoers uncomfortable.

While administrators have thus far not carried out their threat to play country music if the dancing got out of hand, many dancegoers have complained the song selection is repetitive and out of date. For many U-Highers, “Crank that” by Soulja Boy brings back memories of Middle School dances better not relived.

While the music will never please everyone, dances would certainly benefit if the song selection were more responsive to student requests.

In the end, this year’s successes, however modest, have shown that Student Council and administrators can work together to improve dances.

Hopefully, a successful Spring Fling will mark a permanent transition to the type of dances U-Highers will consistently want to attend.

A Regenstein drop box please

“All of my Regenstein books are overdue because I don’t have time to get back to the library, except when I have to get more books.” So exclaimed one harried sophomore, who said doesn’t have time to go over to Regenstein Library.

The answer is simple: a Regenstein return drop box at U-High. A drop box would make Regenstein’s resources more accessible and convenient for U-Highers. And for students who want to write, Regenstein’s book stacks prove an invaluable resource.

Last year, Student Council attempted to start a drop box, but the project never got off the ground. Hopefully, this year is different.

Teaching freshmen grammar not just a matter of comma sense

By Duncan Weinstein

Opinion columnist

As many juniors prepare to take the ACT or SAT, studying with books or tutors, I can’t help but think back to my own college exam experience.

Oh boy.

Through multiple practice tests and study sessions, I remember feeling the lack of intellectual inspiration that comes with studying for the standardized test. Practice exercises focus my attention on reading or geometry felt like a waste of time, and painfully low-level.

I came to hate the test, the idea of the test, and the idea of studying for the test. I believed the whole thing was a huge waste of time except in one subject: grammar.

The reality is that as a Lab Schools Lifers, I haven’t been exposed to very much grammar. In fact, my knowledge of grammar comes from foreign language; I know more grammatical terms in German than I do in English.

I was lucky enough to have Ms. Staci Garner as my 8th grade Humanities teacher, without whom I never would’ve learned what a prepositional phrase is. When I’ve peer-edited other U-Highers’ papers, I can tell that some of them were not as lucky.

In freshman English, we made a few stabs at proper comma and semicolon usage, but those were fleeting and incomplete. Even now, I still see a little shaky on comma placement, and I only know the difference between “its” and “it’s” thanks to the ACT.

With my brother as a freshman this year, I’ve become reacquainted with the freshmen English curriculum, at least to some extent. According to English Teacher Mark Krewatch, the English Department has increased grammar instruction in recent years, replacing it into literature, which shows study is more effective than teaching theoretical grammar.

But while my brother’s grammar is remarkably good, the broader world is still riddled with comma errors.

So here’s my suggestion: Set aside the first quarter of freshmen English exclusively for grammar and style. Diagram sentences. Write practice essays. Give every student, regardless of their Middle School experience, an equal and adequate knowledge of grammar and style.

Coordinate a curriculum with the Lower and Middle Schools to teach grammar at a younger age.

Then, ask the freshmen to proofread this column.
By Marissa Page
Second City still first rate

Leaving no minority group unscathed and no swear word unspoken, The Second City’s 101st Mainstage Revue extended into a bonus third improvised act Sunday, March 10.

Based in Old Town on Chicago’s North Side, the Second City debuted in December 1959. The troupe evolved from a cabaret revue called the Compass Players, which was founded by University of Chicago undergraduates in the 1950s. The theater hosted improvisational shows in which the actors satirized current social and political happenings.

Second City alumni have achieved considerable influence on the professional comedy world. Twenty-eight Second City cast members have gone on to join the cast of Saturday Night Live, three of which, Cecily Strong, Tim Robinson and Aidy Bryant, are on the show currently. The list of notable alumni is long and star-studded, including people such as Tina Fey, Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Mike Myers, Joan Rivers and Bill Murray, all of whom have become crucial notches on the bedpost of modern comedy.

The 101st Mainstage Revue’s six-person cast of Holly Laurent, Edgar Blackmon, Steve Waltien, Katie Rich, Ross Bryant and Taywine Newmoon performed with the confidence and comedic flair displayed by Second City’s seasoned veterans.

At the end of the second act, Mr. Bryant announced that the cast would be performing a third improvised act. Aside from one or two groups, the captivated audience lingered behind, eager for more of this cast’s cheeky, off-color humor.

The six actors in this cast perfectly exemplified the versatility of Second City actors of the past. Each wore several different hats convincingly, bringing to life a long-lost daughter; and her beautiful wife (Inma Cuesta), distraught teachers discussing the pros and cons of same-sex marriage; a doting father-in-law from loving her, and so he showering his affection on his doting nurse Encarna (Maribel Verdú) instead.

Raised by her grandmother, Carmen is content to run about with her pet rooster in beautiful Sevilla, but always hopes her father will one day visit.

When her grandmother passes, she is forced to live with her father and Encarna, who have married. She is forbidden from seeing her father on the second floor and is shut in the dark furnace room with only lumps of coal for her bed and company.

While Carmen, grieving for her grandmother, tolerates this punishment (continues on page 11)

**Homemade, creamy cheesecake straight from the fridge can taste fresher and cost less than one bought from a bakery or supermarket.**

By Moira Differding
**Food editor**

Creamy, decadent, and absurdly expensive, cheesecake is easily made at home for a much lower cost than what bakeries charge. Originally invented by the Greeks, cheesecake can be ordered in most restaurants around the globe. It consists of a cream cheese filling in a spongy or graham-cracker crust refrigerated or baked until it reaches a thick, rich texture.

While it’s difficult to craft a masterful cheesecake at home, this easy recipe yields a much tastier alternative to the frozen varieties found in most grocery stores.

**INGREDIENTS:**

For the crust:
- 1 1/4 graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup melted butter

For the filling:
- 16 oz softened cream cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla

**Procedures:**

1. Preheat your oven to 350 F.
2. Mix the graham cracker crumbs and sugar together. Slowly add the melted butter to the mixture, stirring all the while. Add more sugar or graham cracker crumbs to your taste, but make sure the mixture sticks together if you pitch it. Grease a nine-inch pie pan then press the crumbs mixture into pan evenly. Bake for 10 minutes.
3. For the filling, beat the cream cheese. Mix in the sugar and vanilla evenly. Then add one egg at a time, mixing slowly. Spoon the finished product into the graham cracker crust and put in the oven for 40 minutes or until you can gently poke the center of the cheesecake without the surface breaking.

After baking, let the cheesecake cool on a counter. Do not put it in the fridge until the pan has cooled. Chill covered in fridge for no fewer than four hours. There should be some extra crust hanging around the side of the pan; scrape it off if you’d like. Now cut yourself a slice and feel proud of a job well done.

(continues on page 9)

**Let them eat (cheesecake)**

**A silent twist on a Grimm tale puts a happy ending to a sad story**

By Moira Differding
**Film critic**

**Stunning the crowd with her bull-fighting ability, Carmen Villalta (Macarena) soaks in the praise as her legend status rises in the new silent film, “Blancanieves,” which translates as “Snow White.”**

Young Carmen is no Disney princess, but she knows her way around evil stepmothers – and bulls– in Pablo Berger’s silent film “Blancanieves,” a liberal interpretation of Snow White by the Brothers Grimm.

In the Spanish city of Seville in the 1920s, Carmen (Soñia Oria and later Macarena Garcia) is the daughter of famous matador Antonio Villalta (Daniel Giménez Cacho) and his beautiful wife (Inma Cuesta), but never gets to know either of them.

The day she’s born, a bull tragically paralyzes her father after an accident in the ring, and her mother goes into early labor from shock.

At the hospital, her mother dies in labor and her father loses feeling in his extremities after intensive surgery. When the nurses bring baby Carmen to see him, his grief prevents him from loving her, and so he showering his affection on his doting nurse Encarna (Maribel Verdú) instead.

Raised by her grandmother, Carmen is content to run about with her pet rooster in beautiful Sevilla, but always hopes her father will one day visit.

When her grandmother passes, she is forced to live with her father and Encarna, who have married. She is forbidden from seeing her father on the second floor and is shut in the dark furnace room with only lumps of coal for her bed and company.

While Carmen, grieving for her grandmother, tolerates this punishment (continues on page 11)

**Food editor**

By Moira Differding

**INGREDIENTS:**

For the crust:
- 1 1/4 graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup melted butter

For the filling:
- 16 oz softened cream cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla

**Procedures:**

1. Preheat your oven to 350 F. Mix the graham cracker crumbs and sugar together. Slowly add the melted butter to the mixture, stirring all the while. Add more sugar or graham cracker crumbs to your taste, but make sure the mixture sticks together if you pitch it. Grease a nine-inch pie pan then press the crumbs mixture into pan evenly. Bake for 10 minutes.
2. For the filling, beat the cream cheese. Mix in the sugar and vanilla evenly. Then add one egg at a time, mixing slowly. Spoon the finished product into the graham cracker crust and put in the oven for 40 minutes or until you can gently poke the center of the cheesecake without the surface breaking.

After baking, let the cheesecake cool on a counter. Do not put it in the fridge until the pan has cooled. Chill covered in fridge for no fewer than four hours. There should be some extra crust hanging around the side of the pan; scrape it off if you’d like. Now cut yourself a slice and feel proud of a job well done.

(continues on page 9)

**Homemade, creamy cheesecake straight from the fridge can taste fresher and cost less than one bought from a bakery or supermarket.**

By Moira Differding
**Food editor**

Creamy, decadent, and absurdly expensive, cheesecake is easily made at home for a much lower cost than what bakeries charge. Originally invented by the Greeks, cheesecake can be ordered in most restaurants around the globe. It consists of a cream cheese filling in a spongy or graham-cracker crust refrigerated or baked until it reaches a thick, rich texture.

While it’s difficult to craft a masterful cheesecake at home, this easy recipe yields a much tastier alternative to the frozen varieties found in most grocery stores.

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(continues on page 9)
In their English classes Fall Quarter, freshmen were given an assignment to write a letter to the editor of the Midway addressing whether their homework load should be limited or not. They were advised to take a position. In addition, they were required to include sources to support their ideas. From the students' letters, those on this page were selected for being published in the Midway.

From Freshman Grace Anderson:
A policy limiting the amount of homework a teacher can assign is valid because students will still have to manage and balance their time. In turn, the teacher then loses his or her ability to judge the student's actual progress and achievement based on assignments turned in. In addition, teachers who distribute homework with 24 students at U-High. In addition, teachers have multiple periods (two to three) per day. Grace argues that they should get a better education, better discipline and possibly better access to an Ivy League school. Students who get more homework get more out of their classes because homework should be reviewed and an extension be given on time was lessened during the school day. In a letter to the editor of The New York Times, a parent of a private-school student in New York argues that students enrolled in private schools should be more prepared. She asks that if schools should ease up on homework load, would the large tuition paid each year still be justified?

Students who get more from classes without limited homework because they build time-management skills. University Psychology Professor Sian Beilock researched that students who have more organized schedules are usually more successful and turn in their assignments more consistently.

Elena writes for the Midway and gets about seven to eight hours of sleep a night. She says that sleep is not affected unless it is the night before deadlines.
A touch of Italy in a University community

Eras blend in popular Chicago dining, shopping destination

By Clay Surmeier
City Life editor

“Warning: Finals Week.”

Written in dripping blood red on one of the many UIC college students multitasking, studying and eating that is, at Pompeii explains the stacks of books on the floor, ranging from AT Chem to Econ. College kids are seen at Pompeii almost as much as the frequent policemen who love the Italian food so much.

One of the many restaurants surrounding UIC campus that sustains a constant flow of college students, Pompeii expanded after its founding in 1909. Staying true to the Little Italian neighborhood, it was named after the church of Our Lady Pompeii by Luigi Davino who ran the bakery for 30 years until passing it off to his nephew. Recently closing one of its stores in Lakeview, Pompeii still has two restaurants in the Chicago area.

BORDERED ON two sides by expressways, University Market encompasses much of UIC’s housing and facilities. Fueled by UIC, constructed in the 1960s, over the past few decades the neighborhood has been renovated and improved through the demolition of public housing in the 1990s and 2000s and redevelopment of Maxwell Street in the 2000s as well.

Slightly North of University Market, Chicago’s “Little Italy” neighborhood developed around a 12-block stretch of Taylor Street. Although Italians were never the majority in this neighborhood, according to the Encyclopedia of Chicago they quickly established their own cultural, social, and religious institutions, such as Our Lady of Pompeii, the Holy Guardian Angel Roman Catholic churches and were welcomed by churches such as St. Patrick’s Old Catholic Church, known as Old St. Pat’s for scholarships and charitable causes as well as the accumulation of 27 years worth of sports artifacts there. Some of this memorabilia includes Mario Andretti’s sleek metallic red and silver Indy 500 race car, post-stamped with various different sponsors and Vince Lombardi’s rustic beige coat that he wore last as coach of the Green Bay Packers. It also features a grand ballroom and a performing arts theater where events such as the 4th Rocky Marciano Amateur Boxing Tournament, tomorrow, or person-al events take place.

Davanti Ristoro, 1359 West Taylor Street, meaning front wine shop in Italian, is what Cofounder and Chef Scott Harris calls a new contemporary cousin to Francesca’s, a popular Italian restaurant across the street with over 20 other locations. The classical mellow mustard yellow exterior gives way to a wooden and brick wine yard were both the bar and atmosphere is charming in the more developed parts like Chicago prides itself with its diverse student body and College of Medicine, which educates one in six Illinois physicians.

Among the the top 200 research-funded institutions in the world, the University of Illinois at Chicago prides itself with its diverse student body and College of Medicine, which educates one in six Illinois physicians.

In the heart of Little Italy, Charlotte Ellenbaum, with Wyatt Dandy, snacks on a slice of Tomato Basil pizza at Pompeii, on Taylor Street. Displayed behind them are an assortment of 25 types of pizzas as well as an assortment of deserts. The photos are courtesy of Clay Surmeier.

Charlotte Elfenbaum, sophomore

“Little Italy is off the chain, the food is awesome and the atmosphere is charming in the more developed parts like UIC and Taylor Street.”

—Charlotte Ellenbaum, sophomore
Teacher recounts kidnapping, beating and robbery in Peru

By Duncan Weinstein
Editor-in-Chief

"I was in the wrong place at the wrong time." So stated Kevin Coval and artist and photographer Anna West.

At Columbia College February 23 the U-Highers placed 1st; then the school's slam team, "InVerse," blazed a rewarding trail this year. In its 13th annual competition. The program was created by poetry team co-founder Peter Hesse; and sophomore Jax Ingrassia. They were coached by U. of C. English Professor Alex Brereton.

"I was the ONE that fought back, my friend didn't," Ms. Ricketts said. "When they saw that I was putting up a fight they all started wailing on me. At some point, I stopped. I can't outrun three men, I thought. "They said, 'Give us everything you have or we are going to cut these rings off your hands.'" They knew I didn't have much cash left since it was the day before I was supposed to leave. But I had my camera, my $3,500 camera, with my tripod and all the lens. I tried to get through and tried to keep my right hand intact. I pushed these two gold rings on my left hand. I was pulling really hard to get them off, but I've gotten fatter since I got married and my hands don't come off any more. I was really afraid that if I didn't get them off, they would cut off my fingers to get the rings. One of the men called, 'You're hurting yourself!' That really shocked me."

"When working with the IT department at the school, we discussed various interfaces of online publication, " said Grace. "The first half was us explaining InFlame to them. We gave them a document about a planet they could learn the business of everything from the U. of C. press." Ms. Ricketts entered a taxi with a friend March 26, to Arequipa Museum of Contemporary Art, Ms. Ricketts was kidnapped, beaten and robbed.

"I called Senator Durbin's office to complain," said Ms. Ricketts. "I said, 'You're my Senator, you represent me, and I'm outraged about this.' I want Peru added to the State Department's list of dangerous places to visit. "I was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

"They gave us a document about a planet they could learn the business of everything from the U. of C. press."

Ms. Ricketts said protesting the conditions in Peru is keeping this quiet, though I don't know why. "I was the one that fought back, my friend didn't," Ms. Ricketts said. "When they saw that I was putting up a fight they all started wailing on me. At some point, I stopped. I can't outrun three men, I thought. "They said, 'Give us everything you have or we are going to cut these rings off your hands.'" They knew I didn't have much cash left since it was the day before I was supposed to leave. But I had my camera, my $3,500 camera, with my tripod and all the lens. I tried to get through and tried to keep my right hand intact. I pushed these two gold rings on my left hand. I was pulling really hard to get them off, but I've gotten fatter since I got married and my hands don't come off any more. I was really afraid that if I didn't get them off, they would cut off my fingers to get the rings. One of the men called, 'You're hurting yourself!' That really shocked me."

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**CPS closings hit Hyde Park**

(continued from previous page)

We might have considered it if the new weather wasn't being built, but the "Spring Production" won't be outside anyway. "We are not going to try and perform it in a year or two years anyway," Mr. Ambrosini explained. The search for a new venue was definitely in place as well. "We looked at every venue on campus, from theaters in the Logan Center to Mandel Hall, and we were all either too small or just not right for the productions, because of too many space restrictions. The Acoustics will be bouncy and we'll be able to impose such a moratorium, until CPS presents an implementation proposed a moratorium on school closings. On March 11, some state lawmakers you say it's over."

**Beware the Ides!**

With trumpets in hand, Benjamin Glick, left, music teacher at U-High, and Latin student students re-enacted the assassination of Julius Caesar on the Ides of March, March 15. Neither Principal Scott Fech nor Dean of Students Larry MacFarlane escaped the assassins' blades.

**Math Team**

(continued from page 4)

Regions and feels that its success bodes well for State. "Our success at ICTM Regionals showcases math team's continual effort and commitment to improving," Lane said. "ICTM State is our way of reinforcing the fact that, as a school, we've got serious math talent compared to other schools of comparable size. I'm really looking forward to ICTM State. I think it will be a great going away present for the seniors." As of Midway press time last Thursday U-High stood in 2nd place in the IML behind Naperville Central High School and in 5th in the NSML's Yuon division. In the American Mathematics Competitions 10, Adam and Sophomore Michael Glick, as well as 8th grader Wangi Zhu, qualified for tomorrow's American Invitational Mathematics Examination by scoring in the top 2.5 percent worldwide. Senior Yaning Zhang and Juniors Eliot Levmore, Moham-mad Munim and Alice Yu qualified for the exam by scoring in the top five percent in the AMC 12.

**Snow White** with a twist

(continued from page 7)

The fiery little girl who dances along to fast-paced salsa music doesn't plan to take it forever. At the first chance she gets, she runs away from the gorgeous streets of Seville and panoramic cinematography and joins a band of six, not seven, circus dwarves who fight back. Overjoyed to learn a way of the matador like her father, Carmen throws herself into training that brings absolutely gorgeous landscape views of the land and peop-le around her. And throughout it all, she never forgets to laugh as her beloved, up-beat flamenco music plays in the background.

What separates "Blancanieves" from other silent films is that it doesn't try to be overly artsy or appeal only to critics; it tells the story of happy little Carmen becoming a matador just like her papa, hoping that one day he will see her name in the headlines and remember his daughter. White Encarna is horrible to Carmen, the ready as Latin students re-enacted the assassination of Julius Caesar on the Ides of March, March 15. Neither Principal Scott Fech nor Dean of Students Larry MacFarlane escaped the assassins' blades. It was Ann and 2nd place in the IML behind Naperville Central High School and in 5th in the NSML's Yuon division. In the American Mathematics Competitions 10, Adam and Sophomore Michael Glick, as well as 8th grader Wangi Zhu, qualified for tomorrow's American Invitational Mathematics Examination by scoring in the top 2.5 percent worldwide. Senior Yaning Zhang and Juniors Eliot Levmore, Mohammad Munim and Alice Yu qualified for the exam by scoring in the top five percent in the AMC 12.

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Maroons make history in season punctuated by big victories and a few disappointments

By William Chung
Editor-in-Chief

Swimming with a national record holder at IHSA State February 22 at New Trier in Winnetka, Captain Max Archer, j.v., Maroon swimmers put 10 new entries in the all-time top 10 lists, and each swimmer set personal bests at the Sectional meet.

Senior David Tong (see story below) took 1st in the 100-butterfly with a 52.06 to qualify for State while also setting the record in the event. David set records in the 100-meter freestyle, 100-fly as well.

THE MAROONS’ 200-meter relay team qualified 3rd at the first Maroons’ meet and finished 0.21 seconds short of breaking the record. The 400-free relay squad missed the school record by two seconds.

Sophomore Alex Kim, who swam in both the 200-medley relay and 400-freestyle relay, feels the Maroons’ results proved bittersweet.

“We got 2nd place in the record books in both races, and that definitely made us very happy,” Alex said. “However, when we realized we just missed setting the records it was kind of tantalizing.”

“IN COACH CHAD STEWART’S opinion, the swim team finished 3rd at the Sectional and state qualifiers on March 16 at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

“AS A WHOLE, the team was really good, and we really played as a team,” Senior Sophia Gatton said. “We were all on the same page every day of the season. Unfortunately, we lost in the Regional, but it was still the first 20-win season in a while for us and that was a huge positive.”

Despite the season’s bittersweet results, the Maroons’ seniors proved themselves capable of achieving their goals.

“In the Sectional three-point contest, Kendall did really well to make it to the Sectional final round, which is the round right before state prelims. Unfortunately, she was just barely knocked out in a tiebreaker. I made it to State in the 100-meter back but bumped into the school record. I was just so happy, and although I didn’t shoot as well as I have in the past, I was very happy to finish as high as I did.”

“IN JUST THE FENCING team’s 5th year as a varsity competitor, fencers successfully competed at six meets this year. Although the fencing team’s saber squad had no coach throughout the year, Senior Chumin said, “we had a coach this year, we held up pretty well. It was basically just Max Archer and myself doing what we thought would help. For me personally it was a decent season. I had my ups and downs but stayed around top 12 each meet.”

Despite Medallling at nearly every meet this season, Sophomore Jennifer Chien emphasized the team’s accomplishments before her own.

“This season the team did really well, and we were almost always winning. Although this year we didn’t achieve as much as we had last year,” Chumin said.

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**SPRING SPORTS SPECTRUM**

By Luke Murphy

With Spring Sports revving up, last year's results are fading slowly into school history as new expectations are set for four teams filled with upperclassmen and brimming with high hopes. The Maroons are high on the ladder in both football and girls' soccer, and hopefully the spring is the realization of championships, but ultimately were defeated in the Regional Championships to Simeon High School.

**THIS YEAR**

A new core of players will provide the spark for a possible championship run. A strong back of talent, a talented coach, and a strong supportive community will help give the Maroons another championship run.

**THE TEAMS HAVE DONE very well the past couple years.**" said Senior Steven Glick, pitcher. "We have younger players who are great players and fit in well with the team. We only graduated three players last year, and the younger players have really stepped up to fill those shoes."

"The seniors have lead by example and have really brought the younger players up. We've got two freshmen, Brad Koontz and Joe Curi, who are both very talented and will only get better as the season progresses.

**OUR TEAMS HAVE done a lot of work out on the field, and I think we'll see a very strong offensive team.** We're really focused on one game at a time, always focusing on one game at a time, but in the end I would not change one thing."

"Wishing all the best to our new seniors, we're really excited about the upcoming season. A lot of guys hit really well last season, and I think we can really do a lot this year. Our infield, outfield, pitching, and catching should all come together this season. A lot of guys have really stepped up to fill the vacated spots. We're playing many tough teams, especially in the Pepsi Showdown and Glenbrook tournaments, but with hope we can stay injury-free, learn from our mistakes, and have a successful season."

"I expect our boys; team to win the ISL this year and possibly the state championship. We have a lot of good individual runners, but with hope we can stay injury-free, learn from our mistakes, and have a successful season."
Spring break vacations

(continued from page 4)

Science Teams excelling

(continued from page 4)

Debaters riding high

(continued from page 4)