

Meet the first
Security Chief

PAGE 2

Lane Gunderman's
Capital experience

PAGE 2

It's academic!
U-High rules!

PAGE 4

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Volume 89, Number 6 • University High School, 1362 East 59th Street • Chicago, Illinois 60637 • Tuesday, April 9, 2013

Specter of public school closings raises concerns for communities

By Julian Lark
Midway reporter

A saga pitting Chicago Public Schools against their teachers and community leaders, has made an impact near home.

Located one mile northeast of U-High, Canter Middle School will close this summer, one of 53 "under-utilized" lower and middle schools Chicago Public Schools (CPS) plans to shutter. Community activists, and Chicago Teacher's Union President Karen Lewis in particular have lambasted the decision, announced March 21 and meant to help close a projected deficit of \$600-700 million deficit.

CPS CHIEF Executive Officer Barbara Byrd-Bennett, appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel, father of U-High sophomore Zach Emanuel, formed the Commission on School Utilization last November to determine which schools to consolidate. Beginning with a list of 330 schools, the advisory commission whittled that list down to 129 March 6 and then 80, March 21.

Kozminski Elementary, one mile north of U-High, and Reavis Elementary, two miles away, were among the 80 schools in the last commission report, but were removed from the CPS list. Instead, one mile from Lab, Canter Middle School students will see their school closed, and find themselves attending the Bret Harte or William H. Ray schools instead.

Ray School, one of a number schools which shed their 7th and 8th grade programs 10 years ago, to redirect students into Canter, will now have to make space for 7th and 8th graders once again.

"I DON'T KNOW where Ray School is going to put the extra kids," said Freshman Angela White, a former Ray student. "The classes were already over 39 kids and one teacher, so having even more kids will make it



Art by Lydia Cochrane

even more hectic."

Basing their suggestions on 30-student class sizes, the commission sought to decrease the District's projected budget deficit by eliminating empty classroom seats. However, the majority of so-called "under-utilized" schools are on the South and West sides, leading many communities to feel that the closings affect them disproportionately.

"Just look at the example of Price Elementary school on the South Side, which was closed, and the kids are bussed 22 blocks to the National Teacher's Academy," said Jitu

Brown, Education Organizer for local activist group, the Kenwood Oakland Community Organizatio. "If you talk to them, they regularly talk about how they are targeted both by teachers and fellow students. They're labeled, 'the Price kids' and are regularly jumped and beaten up. A kid from there was sent to the hospital a while ago. The district has shown they can't close one school properly, how can they do it with 53? It's asinine."

Most highly-affected neighborhoods involve high rates of poverty, gang violence and building vacancy, according

(continues on page 10)

Seniors find no room to schedule valued elective

By Sonia Bourdags
Editor-in-Chief

Insufficient enrollment mainly resulting from scheduling conflicts caused three history electives to be canceled next year.

Initiated by History Teacher Susan Shapiro, the Holocaust, Islam and Political Philosophy electives have been offered to seniors. Several elective and advanced courses have experienced a drop in students since the initiation 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 need to. The cumulative impact of multiple years with a reduced number of periods has begun to corrode the breath 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," she explained. "The difference between ancient and modern politics or how modern philosophy developed is not taught. Some students will also be graduating with hardly more grasp of Islam than the five pillars, which we do in Early World. That's just a travesty."

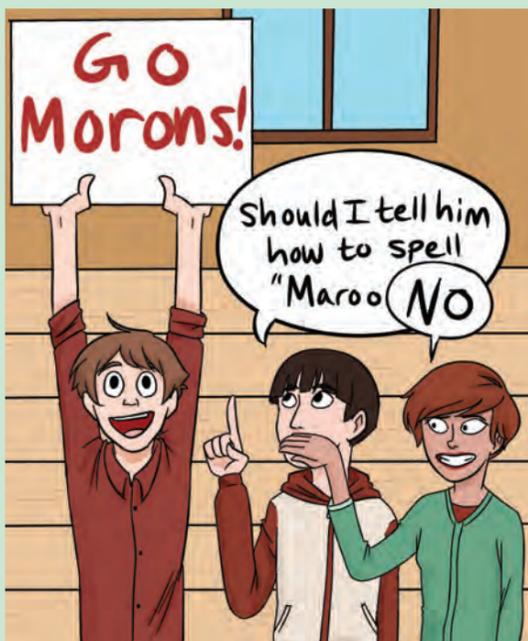
ENROLLED IN THE electives this year, senior Aleeze Qadir spoke with juniors in the Muslim Students' Association about signing up/

"It's really a loss for the incoming senior class," Aleeze said. "I understand that people have 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)

Traditional school spirit? At U-High? Some people say, well, yes (!)



Art by Lydia Fama

By Marissa Page
Associate editor

Thanks to Principal Scott Fech and the senior class, school spirit has permeated the U-High community this year.

Always present in some form among U-Highers, according to Dean of Students Larry McFarlane, school spirit peaked this year. Grade cheers resound loudly through Upper Kovler Gym during assemblies. Students engage in large-scale demonstrations of spirit, such as a senior flash mob to Macklemore's "Thrift Shop" at the end of Artsfest, a student-run day of workshops and performances, and Mr. Fech's contest to see which advisory could don the most spirit wear.

After joining the U-High community last summer, Mr. Fech felt that encouraging school pride was crucial.

"School spirit definitely seems to be developing," Mr. Fech said. "It's really important to me that students take ownership of the school. People have told me since the beginning of my interview stage last year that spirit doesn't exist here, but I think the issue was that there were very few forums in which that spirit could be conveyed. Students take a lot of pride in their academics here, but I think if we allowed them room to have fun and show spirit, they could take more pride in this community too."

According to Mr. McFarlane, the new principal has helped increase school spirit at U-High.

"Mr. Fech has definitely contributed to the rise in spirit this year," Mr. McFarlane said. "He's always very quick to congratulate students on their accomplishments, and he makes sure the student body recognizes their peers' successes through the quarterly recognition assemblies."

After senior David Tong broke four boys' swimming records at sectionals, becoming the first U-Higher to qualify for state since 1996, fellow senior Steven Glick displayed camaraderie and spirit, according to Mr. McFarlane.

"I was blown away when Steven Glick made the balloon figurine of David Tong after he qualified for state," Mr. McFarlane said. "It perfectly demonstrates the obvious care students have for each other and pride they take in one another's accomplishments. In general, sports teams seemed to be supported better this year than they had been in the past."

By planning events using Facebook, seniors were able to put on large displays of spirit this year, according to Cultural Union President Rex Gu, senior.

"Spirit became a really big thing for the seniors at the beginning of this year," Rex said. "The Class of 2013 Facebook group became really instrumental in encouraging class and school pride. The group kind of brought out this innate enthusiasm seniors had for doing grade-wide things. No one felt obligated to participate, they just wanted to do it."

Student talent, flash mob keep Artsfest lively



Photo by Daisee Toledo

Counting his "Monopoly" fortune (left photo) freshman Logan Young, left, plays an intense round of the famous game with sophomore Edward Freeman, middle, and freshman Marcel Dupont during Board Games on Artsfest day, February 21. The workshop, sponsored by the



Photo by Fiona Potter

Artsfest committee, as usual proved popular. To the tune of "Thrift Shop" by Macklemore (middle photo), seniors participated in a choreographed flash mob during closing ceremonies. While many seniors danced, some wearing apparel they bought from thrift shops,



Photo by Nathaniel Green

others rode scooters around the gym. "Unaccompanied Minors," the a capella group comprised of seniors Caroline Montag, left, Katie Rosengarten, Jordy Breslau and Helen Cain, inspired enthusiastic applause for their workshop.

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

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 monitors connected to the schools' security feeds.

"This is my favorite Hulk story arc," Chief Walker said, handing over five issues of "World War Hulk" to see. "I started collecting comics when I was 12 with 'The Amazing Spiderman.' As a matter of fact, I gave my Spiderman collection to my son just recently.

"But I started getting into Hulk comics when I was in middle-school, when they did a reprinting of 'The Incredible Hulk' #5, which was originally from the 1960's. I have the Hulk DVDs too. Just so you know, I'm also an avid cartoon watcher. I'm a big fan of classic cartoons like 'Dexter's Lab.'

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.

"These philosophies have also made me realize the importance of good planning and involving all stakeholders. My current plan is for me to talk to all students, so they understand they have a say in what happens. 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 'Lazing!' before designating a target for the artillery. It was called 'experimental' back then, and a lot could go wrong. There were times it would launch too low and whiz almost right above you.

"It affected my world view in that it taught me to look at failings and say, 'I can get through this.' That, and that there's always an opportunity to help people."



Photo by Bill Giduz, davidsonnews.net

On stage, as in real life, the Lab Schools' new security chie, Fountain Walker, portrayed Office Krupke in a production of "West Side Story" presented by the Davidson, North Carolina, Community Players. He was chief of police at Davidson College at the time.



One of 40 finalists, Lane Gunderman points to his name at the Intel Science Competition in Washington, D.C. Lane provided this photo.

Among top science stars, U-Higher gets big honor

By Raghu Somala
Midway reporter

A planet, light years away from U-High, just received a U-High name.

Named Gunderman, after U-high senior and Intel Finalist Lane Gunderman, it was one of 40 planets named after 2013's Intel Finalists. Along with the Planet, Lane also won \$1,000 for advancing to Semifinals and \$7,500 for advancing to Finals, with a total of \$8,500 in prize money.

As his project, Lane submitted his computer simulation of the hypothesized motion of molecules in photosynthesis, before flying to Washington, D.C. to present it to judges.

He recalls being nervous. "When I saw that it took place in Washington D.C., I realized that I needed to take a plane ride, my first. I wasn't really worried, but I remember being pretty excited, or maybe it was just my anxiety.

"I began getting ready. I got a nice haircut and packed my bags to go to the airport. I sat in the aisle seat, but after the takeoff my ears started ringing with a deafening sound. I couldn't hear in my left ear for the entire day."

"When we arrived at the hotel, I saw that it was only two blocks from the White House," Lane said. "The lobby was beautiful with old-fashioned architectural features and magnificent chandeliers. All the finalists went

downstairs and chatted with the other contestants and played video games. Everyone one was extremely smart, some of them more than me, but also humbler

than I expected. It was a quality that took me by shock.

"Even though we came from many different places, we all were disappointed that the lounge didn't have Super Smash Bros. After the orientation, we went to our rooms. My ears were still ringing from the plane ride 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. Derbes 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 them with. Others were straightforward and very 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 as calm as I could."

continues on page 10

"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 *Inflame*, 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, *Inflame* 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 got 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

(continues on page 10)



Photo by Daisee Toledo

"*Inflame*" co-founder Grace Fioramonti-Gorchow holds a printed copy of the web economics journal beside co-founder Sophia Weaver, right, and editors Edward Litwin and Mimi Lipman.

After 44 years, Spring play leaving the great outdoors

By Mia Luo
Midway reporter

Goodbye open-air courtyard, hello climate-controlled indoor stage.

Theatre members will perform this year's Spring Musical, "Godspell," in Upper Kovler Gym, moving the Spring Production inside for the first time since 1969.

The Rites of May, begun as an outdoor Shakespearean Faire with Renaissance-style booths, first surrounded U-High's 1969 production of "The Tempest" in Scammon Garden, eventually growing into a yearly fest of games and booths drawing thousands of people at its peak. For 44 years the Spring Production, the festival's centerpiece, has been performed outdoors on an annually reconstructed stage. However, after last year's Rites of May, University administrators the stage needed to be redesigned to meet new requirements. Theatre teachers Liucija Ambrosini and Allen Ambrosini said they chose Upper Kovler Gym as their venue instead, as the new required stage wouldn't be worth the money to build.

(continues on page 11)



'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 ballroom at Navy Pier (photo above). With the theme "Green Places for Green Places," the evening benefitted 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 dressy, festive crowd enjoy a gourmet dinner including a dried 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 capella quartet Unaccompanied Minors. A trio (photo at right) of John Lin, Lauren Blacker and Catharine Zhou presented Rimsky-Korakov's "Scheherazade Op. 35."

The sculpture in the photo, created and donated by Lower School parent Garland Martin Taylor, "Generosity," "is a stainless steel piece based on a seed pod and generous people," 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.



Photos by Jason Deng

Seniors squeezed out of elective

(continued from front page)

the Holocaust elective offered after school you still can't learn about Islam and Political Philosophy and get the benefit of having it during the day. In the fall, we look at the Holocaust really in depth in a way you wouldn't have looked at it before. It's fascinating and you get a better understanding of genocide in general."

One history class not held this year because of insufficient enrollment will, however, return next year. Instructed by history teacher Charles Branham, African-American History will be taught next year according to Department Chairman Chris Janus.

"We have a very qualified teacher in Mr. Branham and it's a good alternative for US history students," Mr. Janus said. "It gives an emphasis on African-American history and it fits in well with our diverse curriculum."

"I'm sad to see that Mrs. Shapiro's electives will not be taught next year. All three are very valuable. The Holocaust class is a nationally recognized course and the Islam class is very important with respect to 9/11. It doesn't mean that they won't be taught again, however."

The new schedule may have affected enrollment numbers to some extent, Mr. Janus said.

"I think it is a very interesting hypothesis that the schedule affected enrollment numbers and probably

has some merit. One less slot for classes to me logically limits the amount of student choice. I'm not an expert on scheduling but the hypothesis seems worth examining, and on the surface at least seems to make sense."

We've got you covered!



Photo by Carolyn Voth

Searching 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!



970 East 58th Street in Hyde Park n 773-702-7712

Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ■ Closed Sunday

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, landing 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 Envirothon 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 building events," Amartya said. "For the past couple of months we've been working on our entries to the building events after school, which we bring 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 Boomilever, 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)



Photo by Jim Andrews

Middle Schoolers pile their plates with fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, cobbler, and more at a Black Students' Association soul food fundraiser February 22. The cafeteria catered the event and food was served by BSA members and faculty advisers.

U.N. rolls into last conferences

By Maia-Claire Chong Boussy
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 north 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 far afield 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 occurs in 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."

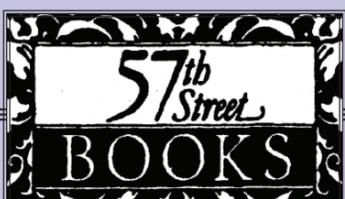
You never know what you'll find!



Photo by Jason Deng

A nearly 600-page biography of Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson, catches senior John Lin's interest on a visit to 57th Street Bookstores. The author conducted hundreds of interviews over two years to produce the acclaimed best-seller.

Dictionaries, novels, comics and more! History, physics, cooking galore! Best-sellers you've been planning to read and books you've never heard of. You never know what you'll come across at 57th Street Books. For school or for leisure, come on by! We'll show you an exciting time!



1301 EAST
57TH STREET
OPEN DAILY 10 A.M. - 8 P.M.
(773)-684-1300

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.

Making her second trip to the Tournament of Champions, senior Mia Epner, debating with partner Adam Fine, sophomore, received her second bid to the TOC at the University of California-Berkeley tournament February 18-20.

They qualified, along with junior Alice Yu and Sophomore Luke Newell, and juniors Sam Leiter and James Duran, to attend the National Debate Coaches Association Tournament April 13-16 in Las Vegas.

Alice and Luke also got one of the two requisite bids to qualify for the TOC, making this year more successful than last, James said.

"I think the thing to take away from this year is that we're getting another step closer to our goal of sending two teams to the tournament of champions every year."

"We also had three teams qualify for the NDCA tournament, which operates a point system based on the number of wins you get. There are fair number of teams who will go to 15 tournaments and have mediocre performances and get enough points that way, but we managed to qualify going to about eight tournaments."

Additionally, U-High debaters have increasingly partnered with a revived

(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

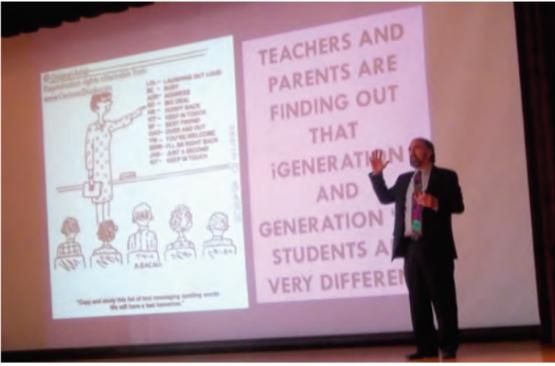
score was much higher than the next best team at our level in the state. Last year we took second at State, but if we can carry over our success from Regionals and keep working hard we can definitely take first this year."

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

(continues on page 11)



Brain matter *Photo courtesy of Jim Andrews*
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, 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, Tiberius, and some Roman and Crusader ruins and learned how they were built.

“My dad and grandma have been to Israel before, but my mom, brother, and myself had never been there before,” Mimi said.

“I was excited for a lot of things in Jerusalem, as well as for the Dead Sea. We got to ride camels, helped excavate some Roman ruins, saw some caves, and rode in an ATV to the border between Syria and Israel. We were there during Passover, and participated in a Seder with one of the families

(continues on back page)

Briefly

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

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 10:10 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 1997.

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.

“On the frigid evening of February 15, 2001,” Mr. Reich writes in an article about his mother, “a silver-haired woman who stood less than 5 feet tall packed some skirts, blouses and underwear into two brown shopping bags. She put on her dark gray winter coat, locked to the door to her Skokie home and fled.”

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 that people should not forget what happened, because 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 talk about it as much. And we need to prevent something like that from happening in the future.”

History teacher Ms. Susan Shapiro, the JSA adviser, also said that the purpose of the assembly is to look back, among other things.

“The purpose of the assembly is to remember not only the impact of what occurred,” Ms. Shapiro said, “but to remind us the genocide has not been eradicated. There is no question 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 candles helps us to remember all of the lives that were lost.”

■ **IHSA MUSIC CONTEST**— Medals were earned by every U-High Band student who competed at the Illinois High School Association ensemble and solo Regional competition March 2 at Reavis High School in south suburban Burbank. Musicians from about 20 schools participated.

The winners were as follows:

GOLD MEDALISTS—Soloists: Harry Ni, Julia Hedges, Nigel Van Ha, Will Kent; Chamber Ensemble: Fabrice Guyot-Sionest, Grace Cain, Harry Ni, Julia Hedges, Nigel Van Ha.

SILVER MEDALISTS—Soloists: Fabrice Guyot-Sionest, Sam Van Loon; Chamber Ensemble: Ben Glick Max Kramer, Sam Van Loon, Will Kent, Alex Foser, Dylan Olthoff, Kerry Vinson.

■ **VIOLINIST TO TOUR INTERNATIONALLY**—The only violinist to qualify from Illinois, junior Tabitha 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, its famed 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.

Judges 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 sophomore 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

(continues on page 10)

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.



Photo by Matthew Garvey

Stopping by during lunch, John Williams and Eleanor Kallo look forward to a filling garbage burger and creamy Fettucini Alfredo. Chatting about their Spring Breaks, they wait for

their freshly-prepared strawberry lemonades with real strawberries. Conveniently located near U-High, the Medici offers the perfect opportunity for a midday break.



1327 East 57th Street ■ (773) 667-7394
 Monday-Thursday 7 a.m.-10 p.m.
 Friday 7 a.m.-11 p.m.
 Saturday 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
 Sunday 9 a.m.-10 p.m.



Cartoon by Lydia Fama

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 will return 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, parents and administrators on 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 at last year's Formal. Many dancegoers walked out, and Student Council cancelled last year's Spring Fling due to low interest.

This year, chaperons have largely 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 with papers 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 a standardized test. Practice exercises in 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 Lifer, I haven't been exposed to very much grammar. In fact, most of 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 gerund 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'm still 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, incorporating it into literary analysis, which studies show is more effective than teaching theoretical grammar.

But while my brother's grammar is remarkably good, the broader problem remains.

So here's my suggestion: Set aside the first quarter of freshmen English exclusively for grammar and style. Diagram sentences. Write short 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.

School spirit getting a boost

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

The quiet crowd at some athletic games and competitions can be depressing to some, though other U-Highers seem 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 Model 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 cacophony of color and shouts.

For those hoping for a traditional school experience, Mr. Fech seems to provide an answer.

Say What?

What do you think 20 years from now you will remember most about this time in your life, for better or worse, or both?



Cortney

CORTNEY HILL, senior: Best year ever! Being able to graduate with all of my friends—who are really my family—words can't explain. The worst part I having to start over somewhere else. But it's something I can't wait to do because I get to explore away from the bubble of Hyde Park."

ZOE BRISKEY, junior: I'll remember all of the amazing people I've met who have changed my life so greatly, and who I am so grateful for. I'll look back on what choices got me where I will be. Almost like a labyrinth, except I'll be looking back in memory rather than trying to find my way through it.

JENNIFER CHIEN, sophomore: I don't think that 20 years from now I'm going to remember how much fun I had just goofing around with my friends. It's not always the things that are super crazy that we remember the most, but the things that we have become accustomed to that might change as we get older.

CHRIS HEALY, freshman: I will most likely remember the Newton, Connecticut, shootings, to be honest. It may sound sad and gloomy, but it's true. I lived there for nine years and spent my entire childhood there. My first memories were there."



Zoe



Chris

—Compiled by Michele George-Griffin

U-HIGH MIDWAY

Published 10 times this school year by journalism and photojournalism students of University High School, 1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Phone 773-702-0591. FAX 773-702-7455. E-mail wbrastle@ucls.uchicago.edu. Copyright 2013 University High School, Chicago, Journalism Department. Printed by FGS, Broadview, Illinois.

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Sonia Bourdaghs, William Chung, Moira Differding, Rolland Long, Duncan Weinstein

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR

Moira Differding

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Lili Steffen

PAGE EDITORS THIS ISSUE

1, news, Sonia Bourdaghs; 2, news, Duncan Weinstein; 3, news, Rolland Long; 4, news, Natalie Holley; 5, news, William Chung; 6, editorial, Moira Differding; 7, opinion, Marissa Page; 8, special feature, Hebah Masood; 9, city life, Clay Surmeier; 10 and 11, news, Duncan Weinstein; 12, sports, Mike Glick; 13, sports,

Luke Murphy; 14, news, Duncan Weinstein

COLUMNISTS

Opinion, Duncan Weinstein; food, Moira Differding; music, Marissa Page; student opinion, Michele George-Griffin; sports, Mike Glick and Luke Murphy.

CRITICS

Film, Luke Murphy; music, Marissa Page.

REPORTERS AND WRITERS:

Christine Obert-Hong, Clea Braendel, Elena Carroll-Maestripietri, Julian Lark, Maia-Claire Chong Bousey, Mia Luo, Raghu Somada, Will Kent.

EXECUTIVE PHOTOGRAPHERS

Carolyn Voth, Fiona Potter, Jeff Li, Lili Steffen, Nathaniel Green.

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ariele Akerele, Catherine Zhou, Daisee Toledo, Emma Polson, Jason Deng, Matthew Garvey.

ARTIST

Lydia Fama

FACULTY ADVISERS

Wayne Brasler, editorial, business
Liese Ricketts, photography

Dolor Sit Amet.....by Lydia Fama



Photo courtesy of Ginny Differding

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

Let them eat (cheese)cake

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 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 3 tablespoons sugar

For the filling:

- 16 oz softened cream cheese

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs

Preheat your oven to 330 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 pinch it. Grease a nine-inch pie pan then press the crumb mixture into pan evenly. Bake for 10 minutes.

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.



Moira

Second City still first rate

By Marissa Page
Theatre critic

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, Steven 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 Tawny Newsome 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, seamlessly transitioning from a scene about Barack Obama to a rap battle.

Highlights from the show included an improvised group-told story about flatulent swashbucklers; a tense conversation between a lesbian and an African-American while stuck in a coal mine; emotionally distraught teachers discussing fundraising tactics at a faculty meeting; a dramatic exchange between a suicidal South American poet and his long-lost daughter; and a horrifying tune called "Super Cute," in which the actors threateningly entreated the audience to either join them in appreciating "cute" things including Pinterest or kittens or perish.



Marissa



Photo courtesy of The Second City

Two of the 101st Revue's six cast members, Holly Laurent and Edgar Blackmon, notably performed as a South American poet and Barack Obama, respectively.



Photo courtesy of imdb.com

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

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

By Moira Differding
Film critic

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 (Sofia Oria and later Macarena García) 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 in to see him, his grief prevents him from loving her, and so he showering his affections on his doting nurse Encarna (Maribel Verdú) instead.

Raised by her grandmother, Carmen is content to run about with her pet rooster in beautiful Seville, 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 punish-



Moira

(continues on page 11)

LIMITED HOMEWORK: HELPFUL OR HURTFUL

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 challenged with creating original arguments and with developing a plan to limit homework if they were advocating that position. In addition, they were required to include sources to support their ideas. From the students' letters, those on this page were selected by editor Hebah Masood for being published in the Midway. Some have been excerpted.

From Freshman Grace Anderson:

A policy limiting the amount of homework a teacher can assign should be instituted at U-High for two reasons: Classes based primarily around homework can lead to student inequality and if more work is done in class students will be accountable for their own work. Student inequality is an important issue, and homework is a major component of it. Studies by the Center for Public Education and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics show that factors including income rate, ethnicity, parental education and the number of siblings affect students' gain from homework; these factors cause some students to benefit from homework more than others. Limited homework would reduce level of student inequality. My second reason for instituting a homework policy at U-High is student accountability. Many students receive homework help from tutors, parents, friends or other family members. It's possible then that the student did not solely do that the worked turned in. In turn, the teacher then loses his or her ability to judge the student's actual progress and achievement rate. Studies show that having little or no homework forces students to be accountable for their work.



Grace

Grace loads up on extracurricular activities with piano, tennis, Model U.N. and soccer. When she manages her time well she is able to get about seven-and-a half hours of sleep, she said.

Freshman Elena Maestriperi:

As you may know, homework at U-High is not limited. This means that there is not a maximum amount of homework that a teacher can assign. Although some students may believe that this is a real problem, I believe that there is nothing wrong with having large amounts of homework. In the short term, having it can be stressful and overwhelming, but in the long run, lots of homework is preparation for the future.

Students who get more homework get more out of their classes because homework should be review and an extension of what was learned 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 argues that they should get a better education, better discipline and possibly better access to an Ivy League school. She asks that if schools should ease up on homework, then would the large tuition paid each year still be justified?

I think that homework should continue to help students to learn about subjects and prepare for the future. If decreasing homework load affects students poorly it should be avoided.

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

She says students who learn to organize time in high school apply their skills in

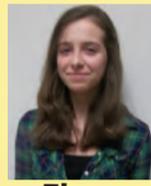
college. It is better to learn how to manage time in high school where there is support from teachers, parents and counselors.

According to the an article by Northwestern University Human Development and Social Policy Professor James E. Rosenbaum, students who don't do homework in high school end up with 1.2 years of higher education and 19 percent lower earnings on average. Students doing an estimated 15 hours of homework in high school per week end up with 1.5 years more of higher education and 16 percent higher earnings.

Homework greatly affects students' success level, and if U-High students have been assigned the same amount of homework for years, and still are relatively successful, there is no reason to change the policy.

One of the main goals in U-High is that students will learn effective ways to accomplish tasks in college and in their careers. Homework here hasn't been limited to a set amount of hours or problems or anything, but if it does become limited, then what does that say about U-High students' success in the future?

Is it possible that a few years down the road, students would wish that they could have done more and learned more in their years as a high school student? The homework system isn't broken, and therefore shouldn't be fixed.



Elena

Elena writes for the Midway and gets about seven to eight hours of sleep a night. She says Journalism doesn't affect her sleep unless it is the night before deadlines.

Freshman Daniel Zhu:

Many students at U-High struggle with completing their homework assignments. They appear drowsy and stressed the next morning and their performance in school is not as strong. This is not good because homework is an important part of student life.

While homework is a necessity, it should be assigned in lesser quantities. My first reason in favor of limiting homework quantity is related to the health of students.

A study conducted by Denise Pope (Stanford University professor: educationnews.org), shows that the majority of students in high school are stressed by their homework load.

Pope surveyed 10,000 high school students in California, and 67 percent of them claimed that the homework was overwhelming and that it had become a stress factor. That is not a small number. If conducted a survey in the city of Chicago, we would likely realize how the current homework amount affects students in terms of stress.

Stress is not something to take lightly. Stress is a symptom of many serious disorders that students have, such as ADHD and anxiety. It can lead to long term health issues including depression. In addition, students may be too focused on their homework to fulfill the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended 60 minutes of exercise a day for adolescents.

Failure of body functions may ensue (cardiovascular problems, type two diabetes, hypertension, insulin resistance, liver inflammation etc.) Some may say students could learn to budget their time better, but it is extremely difficult for anyone to budget extracurricular activities with an extremely large amount of homework.

If extracurricular is able to fit, sleep would be deprived from the student. Therefore, the amount of homework not only negatively affects mental health but also physical health.

My second reason in favor of limiting homework is related to teachers. According to a study by Joseph Carducci (a former Pittsburgh teacher: New York Times: How

much homework is just right?), less homework makes a better teacher because it gives them both necessary, and extra rest to be prepared for the next day's class.

Carducci's claim is valid because I have witnessed overwhelmed teachers not only at this school, but also at my old school. Each class ranges from 10 to 24 students at U-High. In addition, teachers have multiple periods (two to three) per day. Teachers who distribute homework with 24 students will have up to 72 assignments to grade per day.

Each assignment a teacher grades means a teacher who had an already stressful day at school won't get to relax at home while trying to finish grading stacks of homework. The more homework teachers have to grade, the less rest they receive. The last thing tuition payers here at Lab School desire is a tired, unenthusiastic teacher educating their children.

Parents want a healthy, well-rested teacher ready to work for the next day. As a counterargument, people have suggested that teachers don't necessarily have to hand graded homework assignments back the next day. However, there are always upcoming exams in school.

The faster that homework assignments are handed back, the more studying a child can get done and the more prepared they'll be for the test. Greater amounts of homework negatively affect teachers as well as students.

The limitation of homework can improve the success of students and teachers not only in Lab School, but in schools everywhere.



Daniel

Daniel played basketball outside of school in the all and Winter and now plays baseball and gets about six or seven hours of sleep. "Sports make me tired, so it's hard to focus when I try to do work," Daniel said. "To cope with my lack of focus, I take a two hour nap right when I get home."

Freshman Nathan Isaacs:

I believe that UHigh should adopt a homework policy limiting the amount of homework that students receive. I myself have experienced the horrors of homework at U-High. I have had more than six hours of homework a night on many occasions. Over one weekend, I had over ten hours of homework! For many reasons, UHigh should implement a homework policy limiting homework.

For one, too much homework prevents students from participating in extracurricular activities. According to an article published in the Huffington Post, a student's participation in extracurricular activities is extremely important. It is important for students to engage in extracurricular activities, such as art, music, athletics, or clubs so that they become well-rounded individuals and develop self-confidence in spheres other than the academic realm.

Moreover, colleges use the applicant's personal attributes in deciding the candidate's application. Participation in extracurricular activities can only enhance the candidate's chance of being accepted. If UHigh wants to keep up its current high representation in selective universities, the amount of homework needs to be limited.

Some people argue that there should be no policy limiting the amount of homework. Their main claim is that homework is necessary to succeed in school. However, the policy that I am suggesting does not ban homework. It merely limits it to reduce students' stress and fatigue and allow them to participate in activities other than academics. Another claim that rejects a homework policy is that homework teaches students time-management skills and responsibility.

However, limiting homework does not interfere with the learning of time-management skill and responsibility because students will still have to manage and balance their academics and their extracurricular activities.

My proposal is to institute a policy limiting homework. I would set a maximum amount of homework that a student can receive at no more than three hours. Each one of the five majors can assign up to 40 minutes of homework a night.



Nathan

Nathan's extracurricular activities include the Jewish Students' Association and Model U.N. He believes it is essential to finish your homework efficiently and go to sleep early. On average, he gets about eight hours of sleep a night.

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 Pompei explains the stacks of books on the floor, ranging from AT Chem to Econ. College kids are seen at Pompei almost as much as the frequent policemen who love the Italian food so much.

CITY LIFE

One of the many restaurants surrounding UIC campus that sustains a constant flow of college students, Pompei 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 their stores in Lakeview, Pompei 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, ac-



In the heart of Little Italy, Charlotte Elfenbaum, with Wyatt Dandy, snacks on a slice of Tomato Basil pizza at Pompei, 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.

from behind the store counter. “I’m pretty new to the area, was my first time coming here for this job. I just wish I found this place sooner.

“It’s nice to be able to walk over to any of these Italian restaurants over here because they’re all really good. A new used bookstore just opened up and the Chicago Public library is close, which is always a cool place to hang out. The stretch between Racine and the beginning of UIC campus seems to have stayed the same for the most part since I’ve been here. To be perfectly honest I’m not totally sure why all these vacant lots are around, it’s a mystery to me.”

ACROSS THE STREET from a fountain and small garden, the modern concrete and glass styled National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame, 1431 West Taylor St, sits at the center of Little Italy as a temple to many famous Italian American athletes.

Built in 1977, the Italian American Boxing Hall of Fame’s success led to the Italian American Hall of Fame known today. There are now over 200 inductees enshrined, over six million dollars raised 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 racecar, 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 personal events take place.

Davanti Enoteca, 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 tables steam with conversation and showcase the sophisticatedly plated Italian favorites and American classics throughout the evening.

“**I HAVEN’T HAD** a good authentic Italian meal in a while but this was really good” said Sophomore Charlotte Elfenbaum who splits most of her time between her Hyde Park and Downtown houses. “I’m

vegetarian so it was great to find a really good pizza place, the pizza D.O.C. looked and tasted amazing. It was actually worth trekking out here in the cold. My Dad works in Greek town which is close by, but I’ve never actually made it over here.”

Sitting down on the plastic blue-carpeted train chairs on the way back downtown on the L Blue line Sophomore Benny Friedman says what he thought of Little Italy. Born and raised in Lakeview, Benny took a first look at the area on a recent Wednesday afternoon with Charlotte.

“This neighborhood seems sort of half done,” Benny said. “There are some really great restaurants but there are also fast food chains and a lot of empty space. UIC’s campus and Ignatius College Prep. seem like the only two areas where everything is finished. Walking down Taylor Street, which seems to be the heart and intersection of these neighborhoods, there are some cool stores and restaurants but if you venture off there will be a block or two with nothing but run down looking places.”

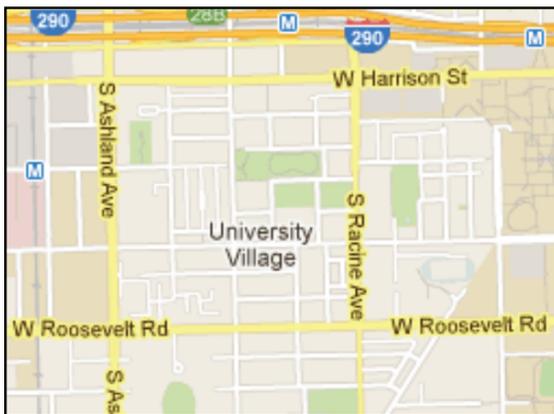


Among the few remaining buildings from before the Great Chicago Fire, St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church, known as Old St. Pat’s attracted Wyatt and Charlotte. But the doors were locked.

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 Cathedral.

Further down Taylor street and down the couple of steps into a super-hero fan’s dream, First Aid comics, 1142 W Taylor Street, has everything a comic lover could want. From the newest releases to oldies but goodies, comic books line the walls of the dimly lit room, top to bottom. After selling a collectors edition Spiderman comic to a UIC student, Manager Tom Seymour turns his attention to me. Upon hearing about Lab School, he mentioned the First Aid Comics store on 55th street.

“We opened up our second store in Chicago September 26 this year and so far it’s been great,” he said



Famous for its chilled slushlike lemonade, Mario’s Italian Lemonade stand provides a nice place for Wyatt and Charlotte to get a cold drink in many different flavors, such as fruit cocktail, pina colada, chocolate and banana.



Among 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.

“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 Elfenbaum, sophomore



Welcoming party

Photo courtesy of Jim Andrews

Prospective 9th-graders and their families were greeted by Lab Schools Director David Magill, among others, at a reception February 13 in Rowley Library. "The eats were great," quipped one young visitor.

Briefly

(continued from page 5)

diversity and consistency of language, while exercising logic skills. No prior knowledge of linguistics or second languages is necessary.

"Professionals in linguistics, computational linguistics and language technologies use dozens of languages to create engaging problems that represent cutting edge issues in their fields.

The competition has attracted top students to study and work in those same fields. It is truly an opportunity for young people to experience a taste of natural language processing in the 21st century."

The Illinois competition takes place at Northeastern Illinois University on the North Side.

■ **POETRY TEAM SLAMS**—U-High's Louder Than A Bomb poetry slam team, "InVerse," blazed a rewarding trail this year.

At Columbia College February 23 the U-Highers placed 1st; then the following Thursday finished 2nd. Team members included seniors Nora Engel-Hall, Stefania Gomez, Alexa Greene and Gloria Zingales; juniors Maddie Anderson, Lindsey Aronson, Leah Barber and Emily Hesse; and sophomore Jax Ingrassia. They were coached by U. of C. sophomore Nina Comes, who participated in the group when she was a student at Northside Prep.

Louder Than A Bomb is the largest youth poetry festival in the world; this was its 13th annual competition. The program was created by poets Kevin Coval and artist and photographer Anna West.

■ **GOING UP!**—Here's another incentive for U-Highers to get all As on their grade reports next year.

Tuition for all grade levels, and all grade levels throughout the Lab Schools, are going up \$1,770.

The announcement was made March 14 in a letter to parents from Lab Schools Director David Magill and Lab Schools Board Chairman John Rogers, Class of 1976.

The letter cited expansion of the school's facilities and programs. It also said financial aid will be increased 30 percent next year.

■ **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**-- Providing a chance for teachers to learn in a collaborative environment, Professional Development Day will take place for the faculty Friday, April 19.

"We hold it two times a year," Directional of Educational Programs Jason Lopez said.

"One is in the first week of November and the one coming up in the third week of April. We have activities that help bring all three divisions of the school together, the faculty, staff, and administration. When students are at school, teachers don't really have the time to focus on themselves, which is why I think it is useful to have two days with no students present."

"In the morning, we decided to divide into three divisions so they can focus on internal issues. For the afternoon, we are going to focus on professional growth projects, where teachers are able to pursue their own learning, either in small groups or as individuals.

"For example, some go to other schools to visit and research other learning environments, which a few of our language and arts teachers did this past November."



Ms. Boykin



Ms. Rachel

■ **SWITCH-UP**—Longtime Judd Hall security guard Jamie Rachel is now Lab Schools mailroom coordinator and previous longtime guard Cynthia Boykin is back in Judd Hall at the security desk.

And in a promotion on the Midway staff, senior Moira Differding, ad director and editorial page editor, has been appointed an editor-in-chief.

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 recalled Photography Teacher Liese Ricketts about her trip to Arequipa, Peru during Spring Break, during which she was kidnapped, beaten and robbed.

IN PERU to exhibit her photography at the Arequipa Museum of Contemporary Art, Ms. Ricketts entered a taxi with a friend March 26, the day before she was due to leave.

On their way to a friend's house for tea, the cab took an unexpected right turn. Ms. Ricketts' friend protested. "You can go this way too," the driver said.

Then, the driver took a left into a seedy neighborhood in the city of approximately two million people. He pulled over. Three men in black ski masks opened the doors and began beating the women.

"**I WAS THE ONE** who 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 outnumber three men,' I thought.

"They said, 'Give us everything you have or we'll kill you.' 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 me. I gave them the two silver rings on my right hand.

"But I had 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 they 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 said 'don't, you're hurting yourself.' That really shocked me."

AFTER TAKING her friend's credit cards, the men then used a radio to report the information to some sort of central operation, according to Ms. Ricketts. The men were evidently then to drive the women around for a few hours until the money had been retrieved from their accounts.

"They put hoods on our heads, so we couldn't see where we were going. I tried to tell where we were based on the sounds. When we got

Intel Science Search finalist's journey

continued from page 2

Afflicted with a headache all weekend, Lane was satisfied with his answers to the judges.

"I didn't talk to the other contestants as much as I would have liked to, but Saturday and Sunday cheered me up a bit. I didn't want to let a little headache ruin my chance, so I just pushed through it and tried to keep my head in the competition and tried to keep socializing with other contestants."

Saturday and Sunday the finalists presented their work to the judges and the public, Lane explained.

"We got to present our work to some of the judges and pedestrians interested in science. It was really fun talking to people about my research and also looking around at the other finalist's research.

"They gave us a document about a planet in our galaxy Sunday night. I looked at it and turns out I had a planet named after me, which really helped me with my headache.

near a crowd of people, they turned the radio volume up really loud in case we screamed.

"We stopped somewhere in the country, where they stopped, had some water, and offered us some. When we said 'no,' the men swore at us. That really stunned me, that they could offer us water one moment and curse at us the next."

THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE ordeal, Ms. Ricketts was terrified that the men would kill her, she said. "I kept asking the man next to me not to kill me. I said, 'I'm a grandmother, and a mother, and a daughter, think about your mother, please don't kill me.' He asked me why I was so afraid. 'I'm just terrified,' I said.

"He kept saying they only wanted my money and I didn't believe him until I heard a crinkling sound, and then he pressed a piece of paper in my hand and closed it. 'Here's money for you to get a cab when we drop you,' he whispered. I understood that this was a secret so I kept my hand closed. He had given me back all the cash I gave him."

After being dropped off in the desert and told to walk without turning around, Ms. Ricketts and her friend reached a roadside tire repair shack, where they were able to borrow cell phones and get home. It was there she first discovered something that outrages her still.

"**THE NUMBER** listed on the U.S. embassy page doesn't work. I had printed it up in case I needed it, but it doesn't work. I went to the police but they refused to make a report. I had to pay them to get a police report taken. I sent it on to the American embassy, but I've never heard back from them."

Unsure whether she has suffered psychological trauma, and seeking counseling, Ms. Ricketts said protesting the conditions in Peru is helping her recover.

"I called Senator Durbin's office to complain," Ms. Ricketts said. "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 really do believe the American government and the Peruvian government are complicit in keeping this quiet, though I don't know why. But I want answers, and I'm not going to stop until I get answers. It's important not to feel like a victim, and this helps me not to feel like a victim."

I wasn't really that surprised since I knew about it from Mrs. Housinger. Beckett Sterner, a Lab finalist from 11 years ago also got a minor planet named after him."

On Tuesday, the finalists met the President. "President Barack Obama talked to us for a few minutes," Lane said.

"He told us we embody his education goals and went down the line shaking everyone's hands and asking us where we're from. I felt proud and embarrassed, because I didn't research for the compliments. I researched because I wanted a nice challenge.

"We returned to the hotel and packed up. I was really excited to get back home to my family. I felt that I'd tried my best and my family would be proud of me for that.

"Intel was one of the things that clearly distinguished me.

"Colleges I could only dream of going to accepted me because of my Intel accomplishments."

History journal produced by students debuts first issue

continued from page 3

papers published and we wanted them to have a chance at not only publishing their work but working on an actual journal," history teacher Paul Horton said. "We decided to make editorial training part of the internship program so that students could learn the business of everything from the U. of C. press."

Mr. Horton, along with history teacher Charles Branham, became the faculty advisers for InFlame.

"There were meetings every week but they were mostly student run," Mr. Horton said. "We were involved with deciding on an editorial policy, a style sheet, and how to screen admissions."

Papers were submitted and then selected by an editorial board which consists of Sophia, Grace, and sophomores Edward Litwin and Mimi Lipman.

"We received seven papers, ranked them by using 'Jesse Hingson's General Rubric for Argumentative

Essay in History as a rubric, discussed the rankings and our thoughts on the paper as a group, and then we decided to publish four of the seven submissions," Sophia said. "Everyone on the board was assigned a paper and had to work with the author on stuff like word choice and syntax. We had to edit the papers while keeping the author's voice, so working with them directly was really important."

Inflame is available online in hopes of being viewed by a larger audience.

"When working with the IT department at the press, we discussed various interfaces of online publication," Grace said. "Ultimately, we decided it would be best to create InFlame as a PDF because it would allow people to download it from the school website and it would be easier to format."

"Beyond that we also want more people to be able to see it, because eventually we want this to be a citywide thing," Sophia said. "It's kind of a dream to

get others involved."

Hoping to form relationships with other schools in the Chicago area, the group traveled to the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy in Aurora, to present at an annual meeting sponsored by the Illinois Council of History Educators.

"At IMSA we did an hour-long presentation," explained Grace. "The first half was us explaining InFlame to the group and then we got the chance to share some of the content from the current edition. We also had a discussion about interactive history programs at other schools, such as St. Ignatius."

"We haven't begun the process of actually working with other schools yet, but we found out that a lot of them actually have history journals or something similar," Sophia said. "The difference is that they aren't student-run, they're done by their history department. Our goal is to get other schools involved, make it more collaborative and inclusive."

CPS closings hit Hyde Park

(continued from front page)

ing to the U.S. Census and Chicago Police Department (CPD). Nine out of ten CPS students affected in the March 6 report containing 80 schools are African-American, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Many African-American neighborhoods have become less dense in the last decade as a result of population decline, according to the U.S. Census, at least partly explaining why the school closures hit African-Americans hardest.

LATINOS CONSTITUTE the largest racial group in the student body of CPS schools, comprising 44.1 percent of students according to CPS. However, because majority-Latino schools tend to be overpopulated, they are rarely considered for closure under utilization-based policies.

"These closings will be devastating," Mr. Brown said. "In the end, policy reflects values, and there is no evidence for the effectiveness of school closings in improving quality, actually there's evidence against it. Our priority is school improvement, not school sale. The district is starving schools in low-income, African-American areas. That's full-fledged racism. I think the City of Chicago is moving all of its resources away from people that need them."

The Chicago Teacher's Union (CTU) has organized several actions against the planned closures, including a protest March 21, just hours after the official list was announced. Many of those present emphasized the disproportionate consequences CPS plans would have on African-American neighborhoods.

"LET'S NOT PRETEND that when you close schools on the South and West sides, the children affected aren't black, let's not pretend that's not racist," Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis said. "It's not over, brothers and sisters, until you say it's over."

On March 11, some state lawmakers proposed a moratorium on school closings until CPS presents an implementation plan. However, whether the state holds the ability to impose such a moratorium, and whether sufficient support for it ex-

ists, has been widely questioned.

"I stood in support with the heads of the Latino and Black Caucuses in Springfield of a moratorium," Fifth Ward Alderman Leslie Hairston, U-High Class of 1979 said. "I am outraged by this. We are having non-educators decide our education policy. They're not discussing education, they're looking at the bottom line. This is bad, this is really bad."

SUPPORTERS OF THE moratorium point to the practical difficulties of closing 53 elementary and middle schools.

"Given CPS's history, there is no way it has the capacity to shut down 13 percent of our entire school district without mass chaos," Ms. Lewis said in a March 6 press conference, responding to the 80-school list announcement. "Every school that is closed impacts another in the broader community. That's one more child exposed to Chicago's rising tide of violence."

Many educators and parents have said that they fear students will be in danger as they commute to school across gang boundaries. CPS unveiled security plans on March 14, outlining a number of strategies, including increased security presence, to improve students' safety during the coming transition.

"Nothing will be more important than the safety of our children and CPD is committed to working with CPS throughout this process," CPD Spokesman Adam Collins said. "CPD Chief of Patrol Joe Patterson, Deputy Chief of Patrol Steve Georgas and the team at CPD are working closely with CPS to support students in the transition."

ALTHOUGH U-HIGH may not be directly affected by the closings, Jason Lopez, associate director for Educational Programs, said U-Highers could be affected by these cuts in their neighborhoods.

"Local education is in crisis, but we need to make sure that we understand that things like this don't happen overnight," Mr. Lopez said. "The difference students need to see, is that we are a part of a larger community, and we have the responsibility to be involved."



Photo by Jeff Li

Beware the Ides!

With trumpets in hand, Benjamin Glick, left, music teacher Francisco Dean and Max Kramer stand 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.

Math Team

(continued from page 4)

Regionals 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 Yuen division. In the American Mathematics Competitions 10, Adam and Sophomore Michael Glick, as well as 8th grader Wanqi 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, Mohammed 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)

ment, 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 bulls.

Overjoyed to learn the way of the matador like her father, Carmen throws herself into training that Berger supplements with absolutely gorgeous landscape views of the land and people 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.

While Encarna is horrible to Carmen, the sad tracks that follow don't last long; soon enough, she's shoveling coal and doing the dirty work around the house while swinging her hips and keeping a beat.

Wherever she goes, the flamenco music follows, and Berger's masterpiece has no need for overused intervals of text as dialogue; his characters express what they're saying with their faces and the soundtrack beautifully. His sparing use of text only serves to enhance the emotions viewers feel by watching, and it works.

Her evil stepmother isn't ugly, but after watching how awful she is to Carmen she certainly seems to become more so, and Verdú's slightly crooked teeth sometimes seem stained with blood as she smiles while watching Carmen struggle.

But struggle she does, and García seamlessly picks up where the child actor Oria left Carmen; determined, stubborn, and full of spunk.

So while "Blancanieves" isn't a film one can just pop in a local theater and watch, it's well worth the price of renting it online or finding someone to borrow it from.

"Blancanieves" runs 104 minutes and is rated PG-13 for some violent content and sexuality.

Rites of May play moves inside

(continued from page 3)

"We might have considered it if the new Arts Wing wasn't being built, but the Spring Production won't be outside anymore after the new theater opens in a few years anyway," Mr. Ambrosini explained.

"The search for a new venue was definitely challenging," he continued. "We looked at every venue on campus, from theaters in the Logan Center to Mandel Hall. They were all either not available or just not right for the productions, because of too many space restrictions."

"UPPER KOVLER is a great open space. The Arts Expo shows held there turned out really well, which helped convince us we could do the production in that space."

"Of course, a gymnasium is a gymnasium. The acoustics will be bouncy and we'll definitely have to adjust the set pieces differently than on the stage outside. That's the real challenge, to transform the space into a theater."

"Godspell", previously presented as U-High's 1977 Fall Production, sets the story of Jesus and his disciples to modern rock music.

Mr. Ambrosini said that its minimalistic set would help with the move.

"GODSPELL, UNLIKE most musicals, doesn't need huge set pieces flying in and out," he explained. "The production's atmosphere is very simple because it's really an actor's show, and less about an elaborate set. Once we realized what we would be going through with redesigning the gym, Godspell seemed perfect."

Theatre Teacher Liucija Ambrosini said she actually anticipates moving inside to avoid challenging outdoor conditions.

"Of course we'll have to adapt, but I'm definitely looking forward to not having to deal with the wind, dust, snow, and rain," Mrs. Ambrosini said. "We've attempted to do musicals outside before, but it's really been difficult."

"We've tried using a full band in the past, but weather factors - the humidity, the temperature - mess with the instruments' intonation and we often just end up using a single piano. The inside venue will be a big advantage for the instruments in the rock band we'll be using for Godspell."

MR. AMBROSINI ADDED that a climate-controlled situation would benefit the production.

"Every other year we've had at least one rained out performance," Mr. Ambrosini said. "In fact, I remember one year we were rained out three nights in a row, which was just terrible. Many years we've dealt with intense cold as well. One thing we can definitely look forward to is no rain dates and no cold weather."

Mrs. Ambrosini said that the move not only will affect the production's dependability, but also opens it up to more of the school and community.

"ONE OF THE BIGGEST upsides of Upper Kovler is, once we have all the chairs set up, it will seat 300 people, which is much larger than the last time we did Godspell," she explained.

"The last time, it was performed in Belfield Theater, and the demand was just crazily overwhelming. We had to run two weekends and every show we had to have standing room, with lines out into the hallway. By using Upper Kovler we'll be able to make this great show accessible to a lot more of the school."

But Mr. Ambrosini also said a cherished theatre and U-High tradition is being lost.

"Kids used to come here and say, 'when I was little and I saw the spring play performed outside, that was when I decided I wanted to join the theatre program once I got to high school,'" Mr. Ambrosini reminisced. "Actually, kids will often audition only for the Rites of May, to perform outside. I don't doubt that people will really miss the outdoor production."

Winter teams break records, pile up honors

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

**MIDWAY
SPORTS**

By Mike Glick
Sports editor

An IHSA 2A Regional Championship. IHSA State qualifiers in two sports.

Led by a boys basketball championship and state qualifiers in boys swimming and the girls basketball three-point shooting contest, sports teams made school history.

COMPILING A 7-3 dual-meet and tri-meet record, varsity boy swimmers capped their season February 16 with a 4th place finish at their IHSA Sectional at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Coached by Paul Gunty, varsity, and Larry McFarlane, 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 time of 52.06 to qualify for State while also setting the school record in the event. David set records in the 100-backstroke and 100-freestyle as well.

THE MAROONS' 200-medley relay team finished 3rd at the Sectional and finished 0.21 seconds short of breaking the school record. The 400-freestyle 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. With that said, I felt the team did really well and it was great that three school records were broken and two others were almost broken."

IN COACH CHAD STEWART'S first full year as the boys' varsity head

coach, varsity boy basketballers closed their season with a 21-8 record.

In the IHSA 2A Regional Semifinals in Upper Kovler, U-High came from behind to defeat Leo 33-29 with key free throw shooting from Sophomore Jordan Moran. They proceeded to knock off CICS-Longwood 68-37 to capture the Regional Championship before losing 55-44 to Tilden despite Junior Max Rothschild's game-high 23 points in the Sectional Semifinal.

Sophomore Ben Rhind said the Maroons were happy with their achievements but felt they achieved less than they could have.

"I WOULD SAY we should definitely be proud of the season we had," Ben explained. "We earned the number one seed for Regionals and we were just the 2nd Lab team to win Regionals, so in that sense we had a lot of success. At the same time though, we know we could have achieved more."

"We lost out on winning Conference because we lost a game we should have won against North Shore, and then in the Sectional Semifinal we lost to a team that really wasn't more talented than us. So even though what we did win was great, and we had a really good year, it's tough to know that we could have achieved even more."

Despite finishing with a 21-5 record and a 6-1 record in the ISL, girl basketballers ended their season with a bad taste in their mouth following their narrow loss in the IHSA 2A Regional Championship.

U-High, coached by Tai Duncan and Assistant Coach Ashly Cargle, defeated ACE Tech 66-3 in the Regional Semifinal before losing 47-37 to St. Francis De Sales in the championship game.

"AS A WHOLE the season 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."



Photo by Matt Garvey

Tipping off against North Shore's Riley Hall (24) December 14 at home, Brandon Green (22) gets the Maroons rolling in their 57-39 win.

"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 event for the second year in a row, and although I didn't shoot as well as I have in the past I was very happy to finish as highly as I did."

With changes to the coaching staff and workouts this winter providing a spark, boy and girl runners finished 3rd at the 3rd U-High Invite of the season March 1.

JOINING COACH Lynne Ingalls and Assistant Coach Nick Puaca, Debbie Ribbens was named coach and Austin Warner came on staff as an assistant. While Coach Ingalls and Coach Puaca coached mainly the sprinters, Coach Ribbens and Coach Warner coached the distance runners.

At State March 23 in Bloomington, Senior Sarah Curci finished 5th in the 3200 meters and Freshman Jacob Meyer finished 8th in the boys' 3200.

Sophomore Zach Emanuel, who has dropped his mile time to five minutes and 21 seconds, says the team's new workouts helped all runners improve.

"COACH WARNER and Mrs. Ribbens have pushed us to our full potential," Zach said. "The presence of new coaches has meant a lot of changes to our practice regiment, including pool workouts as well as longer runs. Workouts have been getting increasingly difficult, especially at Henry Crown on Monday mornings."

With significantly more runners in the program this year, runners have been able to focus upon particular areas to improve in.

"With our workouts getting more difficult, my times have gone down sig-

nificantly," Zach said. "I think since we have to work so hard in practice everyone is really motivated to improve. Within two weeks I dropped 15 seconds off my mile time, and I feel that my growth as a runner and the improvement of each runner has really helped the team as well."

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 Wu and Junior Max Archer stepped up as leaders.

"For the whole U-High fencing scene, it was a very good year," Chumin said. "We got new people and had people placing highly all around. Although the saber team didn't have 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 MEDALLING 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 always improving and trying to make top 16," Jennifer said.

"Daphne Schneewind, a freshman, has been fencing around three years so far and did extremely well at the Midway Fencing Classic and made top eight, receiving a medal. Freshman Nora Lin, in her first year fencing, did very well for a novice. Junior Elle Hill did awesomely and got a bunch of medals. Individually I did relatively well. All last year I medalled only once, but this year I medalled a lot more."



Photo by Catherine Zhou

After their final home meet February 5 at Ratner, U-High swimmers heaved coach Larry McFarlane into the pool, an end-of-the-season tradition.

Record-setting senior realizes his dream, goes to State

By William Chung
Editor-in-Chief

Swimming with a national record holder at IHSA State February 22 at New Trier in Winnetka, Captain David Tong, senior, became the first Maroon in seven years to advance to State.

David broke three school records at Sectionals February 16 at the University of Illinois at Chicago, the 100 back with a 56:02, and the 100 free with a 49:54, and broke the school and Sectional records in the 100 fly with a 52:06.

"It was my dream since I was a freshman to swim at State," David said. "The experience of being able to swim with the best is something I will never forget. My only real regret was that the team wasn't able to swim with me. But my competitors there were great, and I was really impressed with their focus."

"My coaches really helped me with what I had to do to get to State. I worked out on my own in the morning with Mr. Dyra (phys ed teacher Dan Dyra), every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. I also focused on my flexibility this year, and that definitely helped my speed. I never took a weekend off from lifting."

As a freshman, David got his inspiration from the older swimmers, especially Michael Baroody and David Chung from the class of 2012.

"This swim team was a main component of my high school experience starting freshman year," David said. "I thought advancing to State was just a dream, and when I touched the wall at Sectionals, I couldn't believe that was my time. I double and triple-checked that my lane matched up with the score board."

Going into State seeded 26th of 43, David finished 40th overall with a time of 53:50. He swam in the last heat with Mundelein's Connor Black, who broke the 100 fly short course public school record with a time of 46.71 two days later.

"When he's swimming in the Olympics, I'll tell everyone that I got to swim next to him at State," David said. "He beat Michael Phelps' record and he is definitely going to go on to do big things."

David expects to swim when he goes on to the University of Chicago.

"I talked to the coach, Jason Weber, and he guaranteed me a spot on the team. I would really like to make All-American times, and while it may seem impossible, maybe even qualify for the Olympic Trials."



Photo by Catherine Zhou

Preparing for his final home meet as a U-Higher February 5, David turns up his jams before the tri-meet with De La Salle and Mt. Carmel.

Spring sports shaping up as challenging, promising

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

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.

Last year baseball Maroons moved high on the ladder of championships, but ultimately were defeated in the Regional Championship to Simeon High School.

THIS YEAR, despite losing to graduation ISL Player of The Year Mac Sinclair, second basemen Christian Castaneda, and utility man Luis Saldana, a Conference championship is the expectation for the Maroons.

The boys put Spring Vacation to work competing at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida March 15-22.

"This is a very talented team," said Senior Steven Glick, pitcher. "We have a lot of young guys 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."

"Sophomores Luke Murphy and Miles Grogger both pitched great games in Florida, and James Sinclair has been doing very well behind the plate. We've got two freshmen, Brad Koontz and Joe Curci, who are both very talented and will only get better as the season progresses.

"OUR TEAMS HAVE done very well the past couple years, winning Regionals in 2011 and winning Conference last year, and I think we're ready to repeat both of those feats this season."

"Right now, it's all about repetition and getting a feel for the game. Once everyone gets more comfortable and confident at their positions, I think we will play very well. The eight games we played in Florida helped us to work out most of the kinks, and I think going into the season we are ready to win.

"We don't have any weakness at a particular position; our infield, outfield, pitching, and catching should all come together this season. A lot of guys hit really well on the Florida trip, and once we start using metal bats again I think we'll have a very strong offensive team.

STEVE SAID for him anything short of a Conference Championship this year would represent failure.

"I expect we'll win Conference, win Regionals, and make a run in the playoffs. We've done it before, and we'll do it again," he commented. "We'll take it one step at a time, always focusing on one game at a time, but in the big picture, I think everyone on the team is looking to put a plaque up in Kovler. Like I said, we're a tal-

ented team and we're hungry for every win. I think this is shaping up to be a very strong season for the U-High baseball team."

FOR SOCCER GIRLS, after ending a strong season last year with a 5-0 loss to Manteno High School in Sectional Semifinals and the loss of seniors Katie Klespies, Sydney Scarlata, Lexi Barber, Brenda Benitez, Cathy Ludwig, Gia Rowley and Sarah Schacht, getting new players who can step up provides an immediate challenge.

According to Senior Siobhan Aislinn, defense, staying healthy and team unity will prove crucial.

"We lost Lillian Eckstein to an ACL tear in our very first game of the season," Siobhan pointed out. "She's a key player in the midfield and forward positions, so that's a big loss for the team. I've been pleased by our team's defensive pressure and general ball possession. We're focusing on working together as a cohesive group rather than playing an individually centered game. Team unity is key with such a big roster; we're getting together more outside of practice this year, which I think will help us play more thoughtfully and collaboratively.

"TM HUGELY impressed with the team's energy this year. From our very first indoor game this winter, it was obvious that every girl on the team is passionate about the game and wants the team to do well. Most of us have played together in the past, so we know each others' strengths and weaknesses and have been stringing together great passing sequences.

"A lot of very talented seniors graduated last year, but we have a great group of freshmen rising 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 early mistakes, and have a successful season."

AFTER A 3RD PLACE finish last year in the Independent School League, Track and Field team members see a brighter outcome this year.

"I expect our boys; team to win the ISL this year and hopefully the girls, team as well." Junior Max Volchenboun said. "I think we have a lot of good individual runners who have a good chance at winning their events. I also expect that we will send at least three runners from both the boys team to State, with the most likely being freshman Jacob Meyer, junior Frank Waggoner

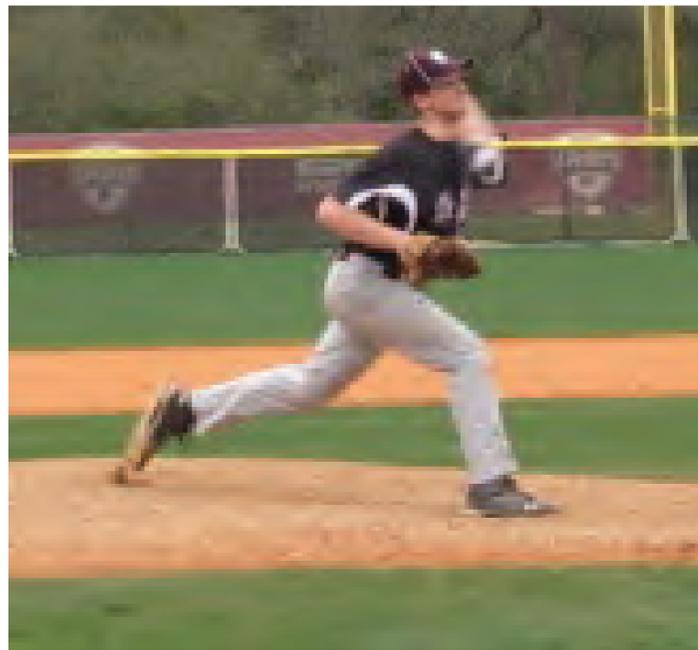


Photo courtesy of Dan Dyra

Senior Steven Glick mixes in his diverse arsenal of pitches during the second of his two starts as the baseball team competed in Florida over Spring Vacation. Maroons went 1-6-1 on the trip.

and junior Bolu Johnson."

Senior Sarah Curci said the track program offers participants life-affecting benefits.

"My experience on the U-High running teams is probably what I will take away from the most when I leave high school," she explained. "I have made some of my best friendships, with teammates and coaches, through the team.

"WHEN I FIRST joined the running family as a freshman I had no idea running was something I wanted to pursue past the high school level, it wasn't even my favorite sport. Now running is my true love. I'm forever grateful for the opportunities joining the team and continuing with the sport have given me. As cheesy as it sounds, running is like life. There are always the ups and the downs and my four years have definitely not always gone how I imagined or worked towards, but in the end I would not change one thing."

Tennismen see an opportunity to raise their fortunes because of a strong back of talent, believes Senior Lucas Jurrison.

"We haven't had any significant losses from last year, and many of our players have improved dramatically. We are also adding Senior Conrad Harron, who is a top ranked tournament player and a Williams recruit. He's very good and has beaten a lot of the kids who placed very well last year."

(Editor's note: Scores for season opening games and meets will appear in the next issue of the Midway.)

Spring sports schedule offers fans plenty of action

BOYS' VARSITY BASEBALL beginning Tuesday, April 9—**Morgan Park Academy**, 4 p.m., away; **St. Francis De Sales**, Wednesday, April 10, 4:30 p.m., away; **Latin**, Friday, April 13, 4:30 p.m., away; **Parker**, Tuesday, April 16, 4:30 p.m., Kroc Center; **Northridge College Prep**, Friday, April 19, 4:45 p.m., away; **North Shore Country Day**, 10 a.m., Saturday, April 20 away and Tuesday, April 23, 4:30 p.m., home; **Morgan Park Academy**, Friday, April 26, 4:30 p.m., home; **Latin**, Tuesday, April 30, 4:30 p.m., Kroc Center.

Grayslake Central, Wednesday, May 1, 4:30 p.m., home, Kroc Center; **Parker**, Friday, May 5, 4 p.m., away; **Jones**, Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. and noon, way; **St. Francis DeSales**, Monday, May 6, 4:30 p.m., Kroc Center; **Northridge**, Tuesday, May 7, 4:45 p.m., home; **Chicago Christian**, Thursday, May 9, 6 p.m., home; **St. Ignatius**, Thursday, May 16, 4:30 p.m., away.

ISHA Regionals begin Monday, May 20. **Sectionals** following beginning Monday, May 27.

BOYS' JUNIOR VARSITY BASEBALL beginning Tuesday, April 9—**CICS-Ralph Ellison**, Tuesday, April 9, 4:30 p.m., away; **Latin**, Friday, April 12, 4:30 p.m., away; **North Shore Country Day School**, Tuesday, April 23, 4:45 p.m., away; **Elgin Academy**, Wednesday, April 24, 5 p.m., away; **Latin**, Tuesday, April 30, 4:30 p.m., home.

Grayslake Central, Wednesday, May 1, 4:30 p.m., Washington Park; **Parker**, Friday, May 3, 4 p.m., Waveland; **Uno Charter School Garcia**, Tuesday, May 7, 5 p.m., Washington Park; **Northridge**, Wednesday, May 8, 4:45 p.m., away; **Chicago Christian**, Thursday, May 9, 4:30 p.m., Kroc Center.

GIRLS' VARSITY SOCCER beginning Tuesday, April 9—**Pepsi Showdown Tournament**; continues Wednesday, April 10 with **Elgin Academy**, 4:30 p.m., home, then Thursday, April 11, away; and Saturday, April 13 at Olympic Soccer Park in Schaumburg.

St. Francis de Sales, Tuesday, April 16, 4:30 p.m., Jackman Field; **Willows**, Friday, April 19, 5 p.m.,

away; **Latin**, Saturday, April 27, Latin, 11:30 a.m., Jackman Field; **Woodlands**, Monday, April 29, 5 p.m., away; **North Shore Country Day**, Tuesday, April 30, 4:30 p.m., Jackman Field.

Glenbrook North in the Glenbrook Cup Tournament 6 p.m. at Techny Park; second day at Glenbrook Cup, 8:30 or 10 a.m. at Techny Park.

Uno Charter School Garcia, Tuesday, May, 4:45 p.m., Jackman Field; **Eric Solorio Academy**, Wednesday, May 8, 6 p.m., away.

IHSA Regional Semifinals begin Tuesday, May 7; followed by **Regional Championships** Friday, May 17 at 4:30 p.m., Jackman Field; **2A Sectional Semifinals** Tuesday, May 21 and Wednesday, May 22, location to be announced; the **2-A Sectional Championship** Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25; **2A Super-Sectionals**, Tuesday, May 28 and the **2A State Championship Final Four** Friday, May 1 and Saturday, June 1.

GIRLS' JUNIOR VARSITY SOCCER starting Wednesday, April 10—**Elgin Academy**, 4 p.m. p.m., Jackson Park Turf Soccer Field; **Fenwick**, Tuesday, April 16, 4:30 p.m., Jackson Park Turf Soccer Field; Friday, April 19, **Willows Academy**, 5 p.m., away; **DeLaSalle**, Monday, April 22, 4:30 p.m., home; **Parker**, Tuesday, April 23, 4:30 p.m., away; **Morgan Park Academy**, Friday, April 26, away; **Latin**, Saturday April 27, Jackman Field; **Woodlands**, Monday, April 29, 5 p.m., away; **North Shore Country Day**, Tuesday, April 30, 4:30 p.m., home.

Uno Charter School Garcia, Tuesday, May 7, 4:45 p.m., Jackson Park Turf Soccer Field; **Eric Solorio Academy**, Wednesday, May 8, 4:30 p.m., away.

BOYS' VARSITY TENNIS beginning Thursday, April 11, **Fenwick**, 4:30 p.m., away; Brother Rice Crusader Invitational, Saturday, April 13; **Morgan Park Academy**, Tuesday, April 16, 4:30 p.m., U-High tennis courts; **St. Ignatius**, Wednesday, April 17, 4:30 p.m., U-High tennis courts; **DeLaSalle**, Friday, April 19, 4 p.m., U-High tennis courts; **Latin**, Tuesday, April 23, 4 p.m., Waveland; **Payton**, Tuesday, April 25, 4 p.m.,

U-High tennis courts; **North Shore Country Day**, Friday, April 26, 4:30 p.m., away; **Elgin**, Tuesday, April 30, 4:45 p.m., away.

Parker, Thursday, May 2, 4:30 p.m., U-High tennis courts; **Moline Invitational**, Friday, May 3 at 3 p.m., and Saturday, May 4 at 8 a.m.; **Whitney Young**, Tuesday, May 7, 4:30 p.m., U-High tennis courts; **ISL Championships**, Saturday, May 11, 8:30 p.m.; followed by Sectional Tournament Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18; **State Championships**, Thursday, May 23 and Friday, May 24; and Saturday, May 25.

BOYS' JUNIOR VARSITY TENNIS beginning Thursday, April 11, **Fenwick**, 4:30 p.m., home; **Morgan Park Academy**, Tuesday, Harold Washington Play Lot Park Tennis Courts; **St. Ignatius**, Wednesday, April 17, away; **DeLaSalle**, Friday, October 19, Stag Field Tennis Courts; **Latin**, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 23, Waveland; **North Shore Country Day**, Friday, April 26, 4:30 p.m., away; **Elgin Academy**, Tuesday, April 30, 4:45 p.m., away.

Parker, Thursday, May 2, 4:30 p.m., home; **Whitney Young**, Tuesday, May 7, 4:30 p.m., home.

GIRLS' AND BOYS' TRACK AND FIELD, beginning Tuesday, April 9—**Luther North Invitational**; **Bartlett High School Boys' Track Invitational**, 9 a.m.; Saturday, April 13; **Hinsdale Central Girls' Invitational**, 1 p.m.; **St. Ignatius**, girls, 4 p.m., away; **Elmwood Park Invitational**, Friday, April 19, 4:30 p.m.; **ISL Championships** begin Friday, May 5, 2:30 p.m., Benedictine University in Lisle; **IHSA Girls' Sectional 2As**, Thursday, May 9, 4 p.m. at Chicago Christian; **Lake Forest Academy**, boys, Friday, May 10, 4 p.m.

IHSA Girls' State Championships Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17, at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston; **IHSA Boys' State Championships**, Thursday, May 23 and Friday, May 24 and Saturday, May 25 at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Editor's note: Events may be rescheduled because of rain and other weather factors. Changes also may occur in the schedule as the season proceeds.

Spring break vacations

(continued from page 5)

living in Jerusalem. Seder basically means order, and is basically different rituals before dinner to remember when the Israelites escaped Egypt.”

Sophomore Tatum McCormick traveled to Rome, Paris, and London with her parents and younger sister. In Rome, Tatum and her family visited the Coliseum, a fishing village, the Vatican, and took a cooking class. During their time in Paris, they saw the Eiffel Tower, Versailles, and the Louvre. The last few days of their vacation, Tatum and her family saw the London Tower, Hampton Court and the Harry Potter set.

“We decided to visit these cities because they are the biggest European sites to see.”

Freshman Elena Maestripieri also traveled to Rome with her grandparents, aunt, uncle, and cousin on her father’s side.

“We flew with United Airlines and the flight was around eight hours long,” Elena said.

“While we were there, we just visited family and explored the city like we do every year. We definitely ate some pizza! The most unexpected thing that happened was that I got sick and spent a day or two in bed.”

Photography teacher Liese Ricketts has been in Arequipa, Peru since the beginning of March. She was there to install the exhibition *Entre Q’alas y Longq’os* in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Arequipa. Q’alas originally referred to the rich, white people who would raise bulls to fight, while Longq’os referred to the farmers who raised bulls for farming as well. For her gallery however, she used Q’alas to refer to the bulls themselves. The gallery composed of 29 portraits of these farmers with their bulls, all printed on aluminum with a muted silver look and framed by metal. While she was there, she went to her great great grandfather’s home and visited her Peruvian friends. (Also see story on page 10.)

Principal Scott Fech traveled with his friend Rick to Ireland for nine days. They arrived in Dublin, and visited Galway, Kilkenny Castle, Killarney National Park, the Cliffs of Moher, and Waterford among other places.

“We visited County Down, which is a place where some of my ancestors lived.” Mr. Fech said, “The flight was about seven hours there and a little longer back. We first went through the airport in Dublin last year when we were heading to France. After spending a few hours in the airport, we felt we should come back and stay longer. With my family heritage, in part, coming from Ireland, we wanted to visit.”

Diversity assembly, day set

Returning after a year’s absence, this year’s Flava Fest will come in two parts: an assembly Thursday, April 18, followed by workshops and speakers the next day, Friday, April 19.

Attendance the second day is optional because it is a Professional Development Day for the faculty. Students who come to school Friday will receive food, buttons, wrist bands, and extra credit from some teachers. Senior Nadja Barlera said some faculty members and administrators wanted the Diversity Day scheduled Friday so that students wouldn’t be missing classes on a regular school day.

“Finding a balance between what we want, what the administration and teachers want, and what’s better for the community as a whole has been a challenge,” Nadja said. “But I think in the end, with a couple of compromises, we have something really special. It’s all student-led, so I’ve been lucky enough to work closely with some really passionate and amazing students. It’s a tricky kind of event to plan—it’s very sensitive material—but we all really care about this and want it to go well. And to make U-High reflect on itself a little in the process.”

Science Teams excelling

(continued from page 4)

Once finished, each build event must be replicated before the competition date so that both the varsity and j.v. teams can enter them.

U-High will compete the ISO State Championship Saturday, April 20, downstate at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

The WYSE team consists of 14 members, each of which takes two written exams in subjects ranging from Biology to Engineering Graphics. Sophomore David Yunis is on both WYSE and ISO.

In competition March 14 at North Central College in Naperville, the U-Highers competed in the category of more than 1,500 student (U-High has 503) and won Sectionals. They advanced to State Finals today at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

The U-High team has won the State Championship 13 times since 1997.

Starting to plan for Envirothon, Captain and Chief Operating Officer of Science Team, senior Elena Skoskey-Lalonde thinks that the team will do well this year.

“Two years ago we got 3rd, last year we got 2nd so we are hoping that the steady progress will get us 1st this year.” Elena said, “Envirothon is a competition that is half testing half lab. So it combines hands on and multiple-choice questions it’s all environmentally based so there are four topics and one ‘special’ topic that changes from year to year. The topics are Soils, which is the study of soils in the environment as well as their economic values, Wild life, which is identifying different animals and knowing their background, Aquatics, which is everything there is to know about water and its various inhabitants, and Forestry, which is the study of forests.”

Debaters riding high

(continued from page 4)

increasingly partnered with a revived U. of C. debate team, both coached by Director of Debate Michael Ewald. U-High’s two assistant coaches, Ana O’Hara and Alex Bahls, formed the U. of C. team’s first partnership this fall.



Photo by Emma Polson

Discussing her final paper, analyzing “The Things They Carried” by Tim O’Reilly, senior Nadja Barlera goes over a tricky sentence with Writer’s Center Tutor Ben Shurtleff.

A writer’s haven on the second floor

By Hebah Masood
Associate Editor

Tucked away in a small room in the midsection of the U-High second floor hallways on a recent Thursday, Ben Shurtleff, one of three Writer’s Center tutors, scribbles comments onto a senior girl’s English paper.

As the 15-minute block the senior signed up for ends, Mr. Shurtleff talks her through organizing the rest of the paper.

STARTED ABOUT 15 years ago by a former English teacher, the Writer’s Center provides U-Highers with tutors to improve their writing and learn new techniques to help students write future papers.

Back in October, Mr. Shurtleff heard about the Writer’s Center through a colleague at the U. of C. who knew a former tutor.

The second tutor, Noah Cruickshank, read about the Writer’s Center tutoring opportunity in a November Alumni newsletter. The two tutors graduated from the same U. of C. Humanities program last year. In addition to running the Writer’s Center, open daily 9 a.m.-1 p.m, English Teacher Carolyn Walter also tutors.

GROWING UP IN CHICAGO, Mr. Cruickshank attended Latin and proceeded to study math, philosophy and creative writing at the U. of C as an undergrad. Apart from tutoring at U-High on Tuesdays, he also freelances for various magazines including the A.V. Club, an arts and cultural newspaper published by the Onion and is a personal assistant to famed mystery writer Sara Paretsky, a Hyde Parker.

“I write for a living, so I’m more than happy to pass along what I know,” Mr. Cruickshank said as he ran his hands through his dark brown hair.

“More people could use the Writer’s Center though. The last three weeks I’ve seen almost no one. This might have to do with the fact that I work on a Tuesday. Earlier this quarter I probably saw four or five students a day. I don’t know what has been going on the last few weeks. It’s nice; you have a service to help you with your essays. I would have loved this when I was in high school.”

HAVING TAUGHT part time at the U. of C, tutoring comes natural to Mr. Shurtleff, now working here Wednesday through Friday.

“I was teaching first year students at U of C how to write in small classes,” Mr. Shurtleff said. “We went over writing techniques and the professor of the course and I split grading duties for their papers. I taught them different things like how to write an introduction, or how to engage with evidence, how to construct and develop an argument. In addition to the class I worked intensely with individual students and gave them a lot of individual feedback.”

“I usually see several students a day. Some days not many people come, but right before a big paper or something six or seven students will come, and it will get really busy. Writing is hard. It takes time, and it’s difficult to fix an entire paper in a single meeting.”

Mr. Shurtleff believes it’s better a student

learns a new technique rather than him re-writing the paper for them.

“**PEOPLE WHO** I really see benefiting though are people who come in and learn a technique that will help them in the future. Something they get from the meeting, but that they also take with them when it’s over.

“**I even see** people bring in new papers that are better than their last ones. We are here to help fix papers, but we also want students to take away skills that they can apply later. We have to schedule people into time slots to give everyone a chance to get help, but writing a good paper takes longer than what anyone can accomplish during a short meeting. That’s why it can be so helpful to work on a portion of the paper with a tutor and use their tips as you continue writing and editing.”

THOUGH SHE LIKES teaching students in her own class, Ms. Walter said she also loves coaching students in the Writer’s Center.

“I really love working in the Writer’s Center, even though I only tutor one day a week and during the assembly periods and I hire and train the other tutors. I’ve also started other programs like the college essay workshop in August. I really like working with students when I’m not involved in the grading.

“I really love it because it’s like pure teaching when someone comes in and says I have this problem or my teacher says I need to work on this and I’m able to help them. Sometimes when I talk to my students I feel as if they’re looking for a subtext while we’re meeting for a paper, like they’re thinking, ‘What does she want?’ When I’m coaching I can say, ‘try this,’ and it’s not the same because I’m not involved in the grading, so they don’t feel obligated to listen to my advice.”

THOUGH HE doesn’t see as many students as Ms. Walter and Mr. Shurtleff, Mr. Cruickshank says he still enjoys helping with papers. “It’s fun to see you guys work. It’s fun to see people engaged and how they’re tackling books. I like looking at English papers because I have an English background.”

The most fulfilling aspect, Mr. Shurtleff said, about working in the Writer’s Center is seeing U-Highers improve over time.

“**IT’S SATISFYING** when someone seems to be really into improving the kind of writer they are, ready to learn things that will help them in the long term. It’s also satisfying watching people learn and say, ‘Oh, I see what you mean’ when you make a suggestion...understanding and starting to apply a rule or a technique that is going to help them.”

“Students who keep bringing back work, and you see them improving and you see that they’re more capable as writers. It’s satisfying to see someone progress and learn how to come to ideas and apply the tricks and rules that will guide them through the process of writing, and learning how to implement those things when they start their newest draft.”