Scholastic Bowl

By Marissa Page

Circus-themed outfits, vibrant make-up and a band will round out U-High’s Spring Production, the musical “Godspell,” 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, May 16-18 in Upper Kovler Gym. Tickets, $7, are on sale in the High Lobby.

Written in 1970 by John-Michael Tebelak, a senior at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, in 1970, “Godspell” was first performed there a year later. The play is comprised of contemporary, topical renditions of parables from the Gospel of Matthew.

While THE 10-person cast is meant to represent Biblical figures including Jesus and John the Baptist, the characters have retained the names of their original actors from the Carnegie Mellon performance.

This is U-High’s second production of “Godspell.” The first, like this one directed by Drama Teacher Lucija Ambrosini, took place in Winter of 1978. Drama Teacher Allen Ambrosini is technical theatre director.

All 10 actors remain on stage throughout the play, which, Ms. Ambrosini points out, makes this a strongly ensemble-based musical.

“Godspell” is a good actor’s show,” Ms. Ambrosini said. “Yes, there are leads, but there isn’t one ‘main’ part. The ensemble, since it’s so small and balanced, makes the show, and there are so many things of all of our actors to do.”

For the first time since it was begun in 1969, the Spring Production will take place inside instead of in the courtyard. The outdoor performance became an integral part of the annual Rites of May festival that also included food and game booths and entertainment, which will not take place this year.

“PUTTING ON a show outside versus doing one in Kovler is like day and night,” Mrs. Ambrosini said. “In the past, we’ve built an elaborate stage outside to fit our specifications. Now we have to work in a new space with new acoustics, learn how to do lighting, adapt the seating and staging. Everything is different.”

While learning to put on a show in Kovler has its difficulties, the space’s size provides new benefits, said Jack, lead actor for the part of Jesus that people are already familiar with.

“On the other hand, I can’t totally abandon that ideal Christ since it’s there a little bit in the writing. I have to strike a balance between real-world cynicism and Jesus’ purity to make the character believable.”

Representing both Judas Iscariot and John the Baptist, senior Adam Kelsick appreciates the duality. “I love working in historic and modern times, and it’s a great opportunity.”

Costuming for “Godspell,” led by Costume Designer Loren Sosnick, is being done to look like modern day wear to build on the spectacular, colorful nature of the original play. (continues on page 8)

New event will bring prominent universities’ representatives to juniors

Juniors from U-High and Woodlawn Secondary School, a U. of C. Charter School, will meet with deans from five prominent universities for “Day with the Deans” 8 a.m.-noon, Wednesday May 22.

Seven juniors from Woodlawn Secondary School, founded in 2006, will join U-High’s juniors, each of whom is invited to bring a parent. About 400 participants are expected.

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“Day with the Deans” will U-High alumni from various schools.

“The idea of this project is to bring in as many experienced, respectable guys guiding the admissions process as possible. There are a lot of good colleges and there are prestigious colleges, like the ones they’re bringing in. There are good college admissions; they can look at regional differences and size differences.”

“We have to take a lot of precaution against misunderstandings. Jesus is always doing one in Kovler is like day and night,” Mrs. Ambrosini said. “In the past, we’ve built an elaborate stage outside to fit our specifications. Now we have to work in a new space with new acoustics, learn how to do lighting, adapt the seating and staging. Everything is different.”

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Also rehearsing are freshmen Will Kent, left, and Autumn Espinosa.

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Mostly parents head search for Director

By Rolland Long
Editor-in-Chief

With Lab Schools' Director David Magill retiring in July 2014, members of a search committee selected by the Lab Schools Board aim to fill the vacancy by mid-November.

First meeting the second week of February, the search committee consists of the eight Lab Schools parents on the Board, along with Parents' Association co-president Christie Henry and Midway reporter Emily Buss.

The Board, which mostly includes Lab School parents, selected up to six faculty members to participate.

“I don’t know specifically why they chose me,” Ms. Moy said. “I do know that 8th grade Humanities Teacher and the Faculty Association president Jan Yurist was approached by the Search Committee’s chair, Emily Buss, to recommend three faculty members. But only one of the three was intended to be chosen.”

Though there are no students on the committee, candidates will still meet students during the interviewing process.

“While there are no students on the committee, there will be contact between potential Directors and students, which is important,” Mr. Magill said. “When I was hired here, there were no students on the committee either, but I met students throughout the interviewing process and while being introduced to the school. After meeting a representative group of students at U High, I was convinced I wanted to be here.”

So far, members of Chicago-based executive search firm Spencer Stuart have begun advertising the vacancy, Mr. Magill said. After potential applicants fill the applicant pool, the selection process will begin with the search committee. Committee members will begin interviews the second week of July.

The two Spencer Stuart employees overseeing the process created the application requirements based on interactions with the Lab Schools community over a two-day period. They began posting the position last month.

“They generally assessed what people wanted to have in their new director,” Mr. Magill said. “After the firm begins receiving applications, there will probably be a certain amount of vetting to cut down the applicant pool before the search committee starts their task.”

The committee’s final selection serves as a recommendation to University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer, who ultimately will determine the next director.

Diversity speaker at assembly precedes busy Flavafest program the next day

By Elena Carroll-Maestripieri
Midway reporter

Founded a year ago, U-High’s Scholastic Bowl team placed 5th in the State Tournament March 15, in downstate Peoria. Tested on academic subjects covered in the High School curriculum, U-Highers, captained by junior Carah Alexander and senior Lane Gunderman, competed in five tournaments.

Coached by English teacher Colin Rennert-May, the team had won the Regional and Sectional tournaments, to qualify them to go to State.

Thanks to upperclassmen leadership, the team was fully composed, leading to a successful trip, sophomore Michael Glick said.

“Competing at State was really thrilling,” Michael said. “We were definitely stressed about the competition, but the composure the starters had was incredible. Our captains, Carah and Lane, made sure everybody was enjoying the time we spent there.”

“Defining Diversity,” a workshop where participants debated whether diversity is a useful construct they broke into small groups, based on the color of their Flavafest wrist band.

Leading the “Social Position” workshop (photo above), Senior Nadja Bariera, sitting, guided a discussion of socioeconomic status at U-High. Other workshops included “Dating Game,” about sexism, “Facebook” about race and “Spoken Word,” about stereotypes.

After a potluck lunch provided by the Diversity Club, the approximately 35 participants.

Stop by Medici It's Spring!

Medici offers a perfect lunch option for juniors Zoe Briskeley and Hiroki Lory, who look forward to tasty reubens and refreshing strawberry lemonades!

At the Medici on 57th, we offer cool refreshments, savory dishes, and scrumptious pastries as our mouth-watering chocolate croissants. Sip on a chai tea or strawberry lemonade to sweetener the day, or have some of our famous deep-dish pizz. Best of all we are located just a block from U-High!

In second year, Scholastic Bowl team takes high place in state competition

By Elena Carroll-Maestripieri
Midway reporter

For me, Scholastic Bowl is like no other club or team at U-High. “To be honest, Scholastic Bowl is the sound of the buzzer” said Mr. Rennert-May. “It’s a very enjoyable to wait for a question you can answer.”

This year, the team travelled to destinations around Illinois including, besides Peoria, Rockford, New Trier and Dwight. Team members described the bus rides to and from tournaments to be long but exciting.

“We often play Contact, a game of spelling and inside jokes, on the bus ride back from tournaments,” Carah said. “We also have many fans of Russian Rhapsody, so we sing that on the bus rides as well.”

“Usually we go to Chipotle for lunch during tournaments. Often deciding where we go for lunch can be more heated than the actual competition!”

Questions for each tournament come in sets that are generally created by the school hosting the tournament.

“Sometimes we get some really interesting questions,” freshman Lauren Onel said. “There was one about types of ducks and places that they are found, which was really strange. Also, there was one about Catherine the Great of Russia supposedly having sex with a horse!”

“We never know what will come up at these tournaments.”

“Of kids do Scholastic Bowl recreationally for one very big reason: it is a ton of fun,” Michael said. “As Mr. Rennert-May likes to say, there’s nothing like buzzing and hearing the sound of the buzzer.”

- Mike Glick, sophomore.
Senior finds heavenly rewards playing harp

By Christine Obert-Hong
Midway Staff Reporter

On a recent Friday, April 12, outside Sherwood Conservatory of Music at Columbia College on Michigan Avenue, out-of-season snow was persistently falling. But inside, the sweet sound of the harp and flute floated in the air as harpist Senior Meryl Charleston, elegant in grey pants and a sleeveless, aholeveless shirt, performed a duet with a flautist, Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest, and we performed 'Chant d'Amour' by Gabriel Versailles. I then performed a duet with my teacher, Junelle Lake, and played 'Pa parazii' by Lady Gaga.

"The reason I was wearing a sleeveless shirt, was so that I can move my arms more freely. Outside, I saw people practicing an instrument, like the piano and percussion, but because we were in the hall, it was completely silent except for the harp. Overall, it went pretty well, although I was nervous. The recital marks the end of my time at Sherwood, and after that I’m going off to college."

"Most of my friends were there and so were some of the families and other people I invited. My orchestra consists of middle school students and the talent students, but it’s primarily middle school students."

"I’ve played in competitions but I can’t really compare them to senior recitals because it’s a lot more different."

Meryl had wanted to play the flute at the tender age of 5, but after being turned down because of her age and lack of lung power, she instead chose to learn to play the harp.

"We had been going to a program at Sherwood Conservatory of Music that was for singing and dance," Meryl’s mother, Robin Charleston, said with pride, "we had been going since she was 2½, and after that I open my schedule so I can move the harp, and I move it there and back."

Meryl’s harp journey has been one of progressions. "I started on a lever harp, which is how everybody starts on the harp," she said. "It’s a smaller harp. You can raise each string half a step, so a C can become a C sharp but not a C flat, which limits what you can do."

"When I got to 8th grade, I got a lot more serious because I had finished books one and two of the Suzuki method. The Suzuki method is a teaching technique. There are three books in the Suzuki harp method, which increase in difficulty. Each piece teaches different harp techniques. After I had learned all of the technical things, I could play more interesting pieces."

"As for the future, “I don’t think I’m studying harp in college, but I do plan on continuing to take lessons and do concerts,” Meryl said (she is headed for Brown or Princeton). "Hopefully, I’ll get into an orchestra in college. However, I’m not going to take my harp with me, because I’d have to drive it, and it’s a really long drive, but I’ll rent one on campus."
As the Midway sees it:

Teachers’ obsession weakens May Project

Seven-eighths. That’s the credit seniors on May Project will get for their non-AP math classes, a longstanding policy instituted only by the math department. (World language dropped it this year) Since seniors are missing three weeks of material in school, Math Department Chairperson Jane Cancright said, they shouldn’t receive credit for that time.

But following that logic presents a number of challenges. Giving seniors seven-eighths credit needlessly complicates transcripts and grade point average calculations. For anyone evaluating a senior’s transcript, the strange number of grades and the questions it raises—how do those grades translate?—may be beneficial for a handful of students. However, for many it represents the final obstacle to finishing an academic career that otherwise feels complete.

Seniors leaving math for May Project have already completed their three-year graduation requirement. They are, by definition, done with high school. Withholding credit seems like a way of trying to hold them back.

So if I need 1/8 more credit, then I have to pass 1,438 of tests, turn in 4,172 More homework assignments, pass 0,748 quizzes and the probability of doing that with all right, all right, you pass high school math.

By Duncan Weinstein

Opinion columnist

A few hours after two bombs exploded at the Boston Marathon, I got a call from my grandmother making sure I was okay. Never mind I was in Providence, Rhode Island, not even in Boston.

Dozens of people contacted Sam Volchenboum, father of senior Max Volchenboum, after he finished the race to check up on him, he later said in an e-mail.

The bombings have provided Americans plenty of moments to exhibit tenderness and kindness. The Chicago Tribune sent pizza and a note to the Boston Globe staff.

Even in the usually divisive world of sports, there were prominent displays of unity after tragedy.

The day after the bombing words “We are Red Sox. We are Chicago Cubs. We are Chicago Brutis. We are Chicago Patriots. We are Chicago Revolutions.”

The explosions also affected sports sections. On the front page of the Chicago Tribune’s sports section. The arch rival of many Bostonians, the New York Yankees, displayed the words “New York Stands With Boston” on the scoreboard during a pre-game moment of silence.

As the third inning ended, stadium speakers played “Sweet Caroline” by Neil Diamond, the Red Sox’s unofficial theme song.

But the response to the bombings have also revealed moments of ugliness in the way we as a nation deal with terrorism.

Some unscrupulous media outlets expressed defiance against what they assumed was a foreign —read Muslim— attack. Hearing it made me cringe, and turn off the radio.

Plus, the cable news networks’ coverage of the attacks was exhaustive, often with the same video playing on loop for hours on end. The same news bulletin ran at the top of every hour on public radio, often with features on Boston in between.

All the while, I was struck by how little we knew, but how much we felt a need to know it. Throughout the coverage, talking heads hypothesized over who the perpetrator of the attacks, with some outlets initially suspecting domestic, anti-government radicals. That turned out to be complete misinformation.

Clearly, the 24-hour news cycle tried desperately to fill the public’s desire for information, even when that information was not completely clear. While the coverage was remarkably current, it often lacked substance.

Ultimately, the round-the-clock coverage filled a desire for drama, and a demand for certainty, even if limited by the lack of available answers.

I guess that’s one way of showing the nation’s solicitude for Boston.

Mailbox-Mailbox

Student Council office candidates promise fresh initiatives

From Juniors Sam Kaplan and Louis Harboe:
Dear fellow students,

This is a plea for you to take the Student Council election today seriously.

For too long, popularity rather than actual issues have decided Student Council elections. This year, we are committed to actually making a difference.

We decided to run for Student Council president and vice president because we, along with many of our friends, feel like there are major issues, which haven’t been addressed.

Though few people know it, the Student Government constitution actually requires meeting agendas to be publicly posted. For years now, meetings have been behind closed doors.

This is a plea for you to take the Student Council office seriously.

From Liana Manuel:
Senior: “What do fish say when they swim into a wall: dam.” It’s dumb.

From Jaquell Iamelini:
Junior: “What’s the difference between bird flu and swine flu?: Bird flu you need treatment, and swine flu you need oxygen.” It’s scary, and not funny.

From Ivan Jureta:
Sophomore: “There is a girl who has really long hair, and a guy looks at her and goes, ‘That’s a hairy situation.’” It’s dumb.

From Reed Rosenbacher:
Freshman: “Why couldn’t the bicycle stand up? It was too tired.” It lacks humor beyond pun.

Compiled by Michele George-Griffs
Despite the trancelike repetition underlying its tracks, British singer-songwriter James Blake’s second full-length studio record “Overgrown” set in the 1940s, explores the themes of brotherhood, redemption, and the preservation of self-worth.

Working off Stephen King’s short story, “Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption,” director Frank Darabont crafted a timeless piece of cinematography. The plot begins when banker Andy Dufresne, falsely accused of murdering his wife, is sentenced to life in Shawshank State Prison. Physically disregarded as a square, Andy finds a place in the complicated prison society filled with abusive guards and inmates. He develops a deep friendship with Ellis Boyd “Red” Redding, who runs a business smuggling goods into prison. Together, they battle against the prison’s attempts to institutionalize them, as strict routines and restrictions are placed upon them.

“The Shawshank Redemption” is not a prison drama in the sense of a shoot-out, prison drama in the sense of a shoot-out, multiple gunshots, and blood. It is a story of friendship, loyalty, and the human spirit’s ability to prevail.

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Comfy Frankie’s offers appealing Italian specialties

By Marissa Page

Dining critic

Nestled among the shops in the 900 Michigan Mall, Comfy Frankie’s proves an ideal spot for a family dinner. The fettuccine, $14.95, brought the pasta and vegetables together with a creamy sauce to create a filling, rich dish.

For dessert, we ordered a personal favorite, a deep dish cookie, skillet baked with two scoops of ice cream smeared on top. It was devoured in a matter of minutes.

As we tried to decide what to order, the waiter told us that one pizza is a good serving for one person or possibly two younger children. I settled on a Margarita Pizza, $10.95, which arrived within maybe 10 minutes, appropriately deemed slightly small, filling, and delicious. Although a little sauce heavy, the pizza nicely balanced the taste with an airy thick crust.

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Putting it together

Juniors symbolically created puzzle-piece-shaped people to describe themselves on the last day of Junior Retreat, April 3-5 at Resurrection Center. "The basic message was everyone is himself/herself," said John Davis Jr. "He was the Multicultural Center was renamed to his brother John Davis.

"I think right now most Republicans are still too rigid, or too afraid of being liberal," Sam said. "I definitely think the Christian church is still a barrier to the bill because it's where Republicans are afraid of losing constituents. In fact, they probably will lose constituents if they side with the bill, because Republicans are now realizing that it hasn't always been this way," Jordan's grandfather passed away beginning of the year, and the heritage of his grandfather will be honored at the Model United Nations conference, just to name a few. In the same vein, "there's a growing consensus about the Illinois Institute of Technology should have been able to pass the bill, according to a state representative from Speaker Michael Madigan's statement. So far, only two State House Republicans have backed the bill. They join a slowly rising tide of Republican Congress members in favor of same-sex marriage including Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois who announced his support April 2.

"I'm glad that our documentary will be shown at the assembly because it'll be a really great for students to learn about Lab and the University of Chicago during the Civil Rights Movement," Jordan said.

"While our community is different now, it's important for the students to realize that it hasn't always been this accepting. It took a lot of work from people like my grandfather to get where we are today, now its our job to make it even better."

U-Highers believe Illinois will approve same-gender marriage

By Mia Luo

Midway reporter

Because of endorsements from the Illinois Senate and Governor, 95 percent of 40 U-Highers polled by the Midway said they expect same gender marriage will be legalized here this year.

The marriage equality bill, passed by the Illinois State Senate in February 14, will make Illinois the 10th state, following Maryland, to recognize same gender marriage, after six years of recognizing the same sex unions. According to the Statehouse, the outcome of the bill was "inevitable," but, the House of Representatives still remains 12 votes shy of the 60 needed to pass the bill, according to a statement released March 13 from Speaker Michael Madigan. So far, only two State House Republicans have backed the bill. They join a slowly rising tide of Republican Congress members in favor of same-sex marriage including Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois who announced his support April 2.

"I'm really in support of this issue." Arun explained. "They really in support of this issue."

"I was a crisis delegate this time around, which meant that my committee would receive news briefs that they probably will lose constituents if they support the bill because it's where Republicans are afraid of losing constituents. In fact, they probably will lose constituents if they side with the bill, because Republicans are now realizing that it hasn't always been this way," Jordan's grandfather passed away beginning of the year, and the heritage of his grandfather will be honored at the Model United Nations conference, just to name a few. In the same vein, "there's a growing consensus about the Illinois Institute of Technology should have been able to pass the bill, according to a state representative from Speaker Michael Madigan's statement. So far, only two State House Republicans have backed the bill. They join a slowly rising tide of Republican Congress members in favor of same-sex marriage including Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois who announced his support April 2.

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"While our community is different now, it's important for the students to realize that it hasn't always been this accepting. It took a lot of work from people like my grandfather to get where we are today, now its our job to make it even better."
The skating is judged according to the international judging system, Maria explained. “It’s pretty complicated but basically there is a technical score and a component score,” Maria said. “For the technical score, each element can be awarded between a minus and a plus three. There are different levels of elements, the highest level being four, but it can be reduced if the judges don’t like how the team executed the move.”

“The component score, also known as a creative score, is based on the choreography, skating style, interpretation, performance, and basically how the team sells the program. These scores are added together to create a score for each program. Finally, these scores from the short program and long program are added together to create the final score, which determines the team’s place at the competition.”

Finding the time to participate in other activities is hard, Maria said. “I was on the Model UN team in freshman and sophomore year,” Maria said, “I couldn’t do it this year because all the conferences were at the same time as the competitions and I had already signed a contract with my skating team stating I would show up to all the competitions. Throughout the years, I have participated in many other clubs at school. “I don’t really have time for other sports because skating takes up most of my time. However, I do take some art classes outside of school, and outside of team practices, I try to skate every day on my own.”
Day with the Deans

(continued from front page)

a prep school but also a charter school. It’s the first time we’ve really done anything with them.”

Mr. Nordorf came up with the idea to invite Woodlawn Secondary School, a school with a mission to offer students a pathway to college.

“The Charter Schools are extremely important parts of our community with excellent students who are going on to college, and this is one good way of reaching out to students there,” Mr. Nordorf said.

“In general, this kind of event is part of the outreach that I and other admissions deans do on a routine basis with schools around the country. They talk about the admissions process at selective institutions, inform the public, and try to demystify that process and lessen the anxiety that many students might feel about it. It’s always great to include students from U-High, which is one of the excellent schools whose students we hope to attract to the college at the University of Chicago.”

“It’s also unclear to me what the Day of the Deans will accomplish. so the tradeoff doesn’t seem worth it to me. I was notified about the event just before Spring Break but I don’t think my opinion would change if I was notified at the beginning of the year.

“Even in my class, which is primarily made up of juniors, I will teach a new lesson on the day the juniors are excused. If the administration is willing to take students out of class, I wonder what sort of message that sends to the Deans about how much we value time.

“If we’re pulling students out of class it also creates more stress and puts pressure on them to learn material by themselves. From what I understand, this kind of event is better suited to after school.”

First ‘Godspell’ star recalls excitement

By Clea Braendel

U-High parent and graduate Andy Neal, class of 1978, played the lead role in “Godspell,” this year’s spring production, the last time it was performed at the Lab Schools in 1977 in the newly renovated Belfield theatre.

Written by Stephen Schwartz and John-Michael Vehilak, Godspell premiered at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, in 1971. The modern day musical is based on the parables described in The Gospel of Mathew from the Bible.

After practicing law for twenty years, Mr. Neal now divides his time between his family and volunteering for Lab School where all of his five children attend or graduated from. Mr. Neal is currently serving his fourth term on Lab School’s Board of Directors.

He played Jesus for the delayed winter production in 1978; the first performance at Belfield Theatre after its remodeling during the summer of 1977.

“The theater underwent renovations that put it in its current form,” Mr. Neal said. “These included: the construction of the balcony and light and sound booth level; the installation of the lighting grid and what were then fairly sophisticated lighting dimmers and control equipment; and the construction of the section of seat risers at the south end of the theater.

“The new seating permitted us for the first time to put the set in between the two seating sections, so the show could be performed sort of ‘in the round.’ The production had a completely different feel to it than anything we had done previously. Playing a musical on a newly renovated stage with brand new equipment and live music was simply exhilarating.

“The thing I remember most, because it was so outside my skill set, was having to learn how to tap dance for one of the musical numbers—a dancing and singing duet with my classmate Michael Trosman, who had the Judas role. I think the gym teacher who coachees said that I found my dance talents quite lacking!”

Fried chicken or chicken samosa, Rajun Cajun offers an extensive choice of dining, from Indian to Southern U.S. specialties.

You can visit our welcoming restaurant to dine in or take out. We are the perfect spot to enjoy dining with family and friends. See you soon!

Smokin’

You can visit our delicious eating, Dehli style spot to enjoy dining with family and friends. See you soon!

‘Godspell’

(continued from front page)

look a bit more realistic, like something you would see on the street. We want to keep it eccentric though by incorporating lots of colors.”

Fitting with the colorful costumes, the makeup for Godspell was vibrant, junior Zoe Brisky, co-Makeup Mistress and Assistant Music Director, said.

“My inspiration was also Godspell’s original Broadway poster, but with a more colorful twist,” Zoe said. “Not only are the actors in makeup, but the stage and choruses are as well. The makeup corresponds to each actor’s preference and idea for their character and we really took individual interpretation into consideration. Like, for the chorus, we tried to stick with the yellow and white from the poster but added curl, sparkly Gl’s around their eyes to convey a sense of uniformity but in a cool, flashy way.”

Godspell’s accomplishment will be a four-person band composed of U-Highers, according to Zoe.

“The music for Godspell is going to be live,” Zoe said. “For the most part, we’re sticking with the original score as much as we can. However, we did cut out the music from the act two of the first act of the show. Our idea is to try assignments parts that match up with their characters’ personalities. Other acting and stage veterans are as follows: Julie Mummert, Sarah Perri, McKenna Pietsch, Chelsea Elliott-Kirshen, Austin Brookman, Zoe Blandy, Loren Smarick, Alex Soto, Will Kent, Victoria Glaeser, Fritz Reoco, Mike Blass, Shraya Shriver.

Other house masters are as follows: Lights, Sam Reynolds; Publicity, Sarah Redell; Props, Sam von Loon.

McGuire Awards—Twelve juniors wrote timed essay Wedneday, April 24, as nominees for two Eunice Helminkamp McGuire Writing Awards for excellence in writing. Mrs. McGuire was a prominent English teacher who for many years served as English Department chairman. A former student founded the award, which grants each winner $1,000 toward senior year tuition.

From the essays, from which the students’ English teachers will select up to five semifinalists, their 1000-word essays will be forwarded to a panel of judges outside the school.

The nominees are as follows: Mckenna Pietsch, Leah Babas, Logan Crook, Elizabeth Goen-Curie, Rye Lawrence, Sarah Melkon, Tadhg O’Ch, Mira Phulpac, Eilis Schutzenberg, Sheridan Smidt, Juli Utj, and Emily Xian.
Junior, synchronized skater, with team will compete in Italy

By Maia-Claire Chong Boussy
Midway reporter

After qualifying to represent Team USA at the 2014 World Championships, junior Maria Gilfoyle will compete with the Chicago Jazz Synchronized Skating Team April 4-5 next year in Courmayeur, Italy.

First skating at Chicago Skates, a team close to her Lincoln Park, Chicago, home, Maria started skating eight years ago. But she didn’t like that team, she said, and joined the Chicago Jazz team, with which she has been skating for five years. Maria’s eight-year-old sister, Pauline, is a part of the Chicago Jazz team, which practices in Glenview, Illinois, half an hour away from their home.

Maria’s team practices at least two hours four days a week. Training involves on-ice practice, choreography rehearsals, ballet, a trainer, and sports psychology, which mentally prepares the skaters for performance.

“Synchronized ice-skating usually involves 12-20 skaters,” Maria said.

“Synchronized skating doesn’t have as many jumps as regular ice-skating. We do more footwork and spins. We have provided consistency at the plate, with Joe hitting for power and Brad a ditch to get on base each time he comes to bat,” managers Matt Klotz and Jonny Dimaio said.

Sophomores Miles Grogger, Benny Friedman, and James Sinclair spent the winter organizing workouts that centered on hitting, and it has been well evidenced in the games. This team’s hitting ability is light years ahead of that of last year’s team. Freshmen Joe Curci and Brad Kromitz also make formations, such as circles. People say it’s a little bit like synchronized swimming except for skating.” Maria and her team mostly compete in America, though they occasionally qualify to compete internationally.

“Our competition season is from November through March. The top 12 teams in the Midwest. The top 12 teams in the U.S. get to go to Nationals and four to five teams, depending on the year, get to represent the USA as a part of Team USA. We placed fourth at Nationals.”

Maria and the Chicago Jazz team have competed in Italy before, at the Spring Cup competition in Milan, Italy last February, representing the U.S. along with teams from Lexing- ton, Massachusetts, and New York City.

“We were really excited at the Spring Cup because we got to go skate against international teams,” Maria said. “I am excited to show up to do something I love. A cool part was when kids that were in the stands came down and asked us for autographs. It felt really, respectively, to take first in the events. And let’s not forget about the sprinters on the boys’ team. Sophomore Clay Surmeier is giving the speedy Bolu Johnson a run for his money in the 200 and 400 meters.

LUKE: As if the boy’s team’s three first-place finishes weren’t already impressive enough, the girl Maroon runners finished with an astounding seven first-place finishes. Sophomore Gabrielle de Maio won the 200 meters and the triple jump, while senior Sarah Curci captured the 1600 meters title, Sophomore Alex Thompson won the 400 meters, and three relay teams took first. I’m sure girl soccer players wish they could have used the track team’s speed in getting off to a better start than they did, but there are still many games to be played.

MIKE: There certainly are, and there’s no reason for them to stop. Against Illinois’ top soccer programs at the Pepsi Showdown in Schaumburg, U-High kept their matches close with Marian Catholic and Wheaton Academy but fell in penalty kicks to Whitney Young.

After making a deep run into the HSA playoffs, there’s no reason to think the boys’ team must have confidence that they can make a similar run this May. The energy, hard work, and skills of Sopho- more Sylvia Main and the talent of the other underclassmen coupled with the leadership of four seniors and juniors give the Maroons a great shot to win every time they step on the pitch. And speaking of talent, the boys’ tennis team is loaded this year and also looks to be a force in the State playoffs.

LUKE: The team has to be thinking make or break this year, despite a dis- appointing start to the season. Senior Conrad Harron, a Williams College commit, and his ranked player, has set his eyes on winning state this year. He’s been hot starting from his opening match as a member of U-High’s squad after spending his first three high school years on tennis. The tennis circuit sharpens his skills af- ter a nearly fatal 2007 car crash.

In addition to Conrad, Seniors Lucas Buchheim-Jurisic and Amos Gumbel led the way for the Maroons, with Sophomore Jeejee Kim and Junior James Duran adding to the incredible amount of talent. With the groundwork set and the talent in place, the Maroons have all the pieces in place to make history.
**HONORED JOURNALIST, TEACHER IS SHOWN THE DOOR**

By Sonia Bourdaghs, Editor-in-Chief

Honored twice by the Dow Jones News Fund for his journalism advising accomplishments, journalist and teacher Stan Zoller, at Rolling Meadows High School in Arlington Heights, is widely respected in the journalism education community. Mr. Zoller received the 2010 Peter Lisagor Award for Best Blog, and is Illinois State Director of the Journalism Education Association. He has been at Rolling Meadows eight years.

Mr. Zoller's teaching schedule has been diminished over the past few years from three classes to one this year, and he was told in early March that he would not be offered his job again.

**SOME OF HIS** fellow advisers believe that Mr. Zoller's dismissal from Rolling Meadows was resulted from Rolling Meadow's paper, The Pacer, covering stories including controversial material. Those stories include the school's failure to meet state standards, and a coach's arrest for driving under the influence, both published during the 2010-2011 school year.

Administrators told Mr. Zoller that his dismissal resulted from a reduction in forces, and that The Pacer will continue.

According to junior Joe Salvator, appointed coeditor-in-chief for the 2013-2014 school year with Julia Dacy, Mr. Zoller's successor, will come the English Department at Rolling Meadows, although school administrators have yet to announce whom.

**THE PACER** has received, among other distinctions, a Pacemaker Finalist award from the National Scholastic Press Association, a Silver Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and four consecutive Gallup awards for leadership from the Quill and Scroll high school journalism honor society.

The staff has produced two consecutive Illinois High School Journalists of the Year, and six All State Journalism Team members under Mr. Zoller's advising.

The monthly paper publishes on average 12 to 16 pages and is produced by 26 students this year led by coeditors-in-chief, Lium Brady and Britney Frazier, seniors. The Pacer is one of few high school newspapers with a Spanish section, Las Vistas, partially influenced by Rolling Meadows' 30.7 percent Latino community.

"IF YOU'RE GOING to fool with an award-winning program and you're going to make a change you should have a plan in effect and a reason," Mr. Zoller said. "Our young people need to be versed in solid journalism. We always say that you are not a high school journalist; you are a journalist in high school, and we're going to treat you accordingly.

"The tools are the same. High school students get more instruction but that doesn't mean you can't cover this or that. Administrators don't like aggressive journalism.

"If someone wants to get mad at me for aggressive journalism, I ask what's the problem? We know what's going on in the school and if a good story lands in your lap you don't say this might offend someone, and so we shouldn't do it. I have great kids and if I do something to get them going, that's great. I'm not sure what the rationale was to cut me back.

"I HAD THREE journalism classes, two first semester and one second semester, when I came, then they stacked my classes so that my Journalism One class was in the same class as news production. The message they're giving us is that we're expendable. I think it's driven by the fact that there is no AP Journalism test available universally; it's a skill set that's not quantifiable. They're cutting electives to accommodate the interests of more classes.

"Some people say 'Why would you take journalism?' It's a dying art.' It's not dying. Our delivery system is changing. Listen to the police broadcast, or radio, or watching TV, or getting twitter from the New York Times and then you're still going to need journalism.

"If there's ever a time when you have to have greater trust in the media, it's now because so much stuff, and I have to call it stuff because it's not always news. As the public's distrust in the media grows, so must our trust in the media. To think students have any business speaking, no information, nothing real. As she rattled off the virtues of the paper she extolled its fine public relations for the district. When I think of great public relations it does not make me think of great newspaper quality.

Frank LoMonte, executive director of the Student Press Law Center, in Virginia, committed to student First Amendment Rights, and former Illinois State Director of the Journalism Education Association, also believes Mr. Zoller's dismissal follows a nationwide trend.

"I THINK the mentality is widespread that administrators don't believe students have any business criticizing their school or questioning policies," Mr. LoMonte explained.

"They have especially thin skin when critical stories appear in the paper they pay for. It's hard to look at what's happening to Stan with thinking back on all the dozens of teachers that have been retaliated against over the years. This is not an isolated incident. It's unfortunately a part of a larger trend of teachers pushed out of jobs. I think it's like a warning shot over the heads of the students. It can only be intimidating. Imagine blaming yourself and thinking you caused a good teacher (continues inside on page 7)