

**Scholastic Bowl
team triumphs...**

PAGES 2

**...as do other
academic teams**

PAGE 6

**Synchronized
and world class**

PAGE 9

**Honored and
shown the door**

PAGE 10

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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'Godspell' starts new era of Spring plays with musical favorite

By Marissa Page
Associate editor

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, \$10, are on sale in the U-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 Liucija 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 actors' 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 lots of things for 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 junior Jiji Plecha, set mistress.

"We have to take a lot of precautionary measures while working in the Kovler space," Jiji said. "For example, we're using wooden legs for the stage as opposed to metal to protect the floor. We're going to build the majority of the stage, the platforms, and set in general in the theatre and then carry it over to the gym before show time so it can be used for classes while we plan the show."

"FOR THE STAGING, we're going to try to incorporate things like aisles and smaller runways jutting off the main stage because the space allows for stuff like that. That will give the performers more room to move around and dance. Thanks to Kovler's size, we have 900 tickets to sell across three nights, which makes this a pretty big production for us."



Photo by Fiona Potter

When "Godspell" was first performed at U-High in 1978, it was the first production in the newly-renovated Belfield Theatre. This year it will be the first indoor Spring Production since the Rites of May were begun in 1969. Junior Jack Reece will portray the Jesus-like central character. Also rehearsing are freshmen Will Kent, left, and Autumn Espinoza.

Playing the lead role of Stephen, who represents Jesus, junior Jack Reece plans to infuse his own personality into his depiction of the Messiah.

"As an actor, I'm trying not to get hung up on the traditional idea of Jesus," Jack said. "I have to liven up the ultra pared-down, religious shell 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.

"AS JUDAS, my job is to harbor criticism among Jesus' uplifting disciples," Adam said. "I often have to deliver splashes of realism through puns. It's a challenge to play the darker role of Judas in contrast with John the Baptist, but I enjoy working in both of those mindsets. It's an interesting pair of roles."

Costuming for "Godspell," led by Costume Master Loren Sosnick, is being designed to look like modified circus 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

By Hebah Masood
Associate editor

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.

Seventy 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.

U. of C. Dean of Admissions Jim Nondorf, who earlier this year published an insider's view of the admissions process at the U. of C. and other selective schools on the Lab Schools website, brought the event idea to Principal Scott Fech. Deans from Amherst College, Massachusetts; Stanford University, California;

University of Michigan; Duke University, North Carolina and University of Chicago, are attending as will U-High alumni from various schools.

Juniors and parents will work with deans in small groups to go over examples of good and bad essays and hold mock interviews. Afterwards in Max Palevsky Theatre at Ida Noyes Hall the deans will answer questions from students or parents.

Lodging in the Intercontinental Hotel downtown, the Deans, will be here for two days. Tuesday night they will dine with counselors and administrators and Wednesday morning they will meet for breakfast with counselors from both schools.

"This is the first time we're trying it here," Mr. Fech said. "Our primary goal is to help students with the college admissions process. I think it will help students

greatly to hear from the deans exactly what they want. It could potentially give our students an edge, and I think it's important for the Lab Schools to hold good relationships with these schools."

"In the future we plan to rotate in different schools with the exception of U. of C. because of our affiliation. It was hard, especially with these selective schools, to get their deans to attend this kind of event. We are very fortunate to be able to bring them in. I can't imagine that any junior doesn't want to attend. It's a great opportunity."

Though she was not part of the organizing team with Mr. Fech and the college counselors, English Teacher Catharine Bell said she hopes the day will help juniors get into these schools.

"It's good that they're able to bring in

five deans to get a sense of our school, the quality of our faculty and hopefully to see our students as more than just data points," Ms. Bell said. "They can look at an applicant from Lab and say, 'Oh I know that school,' and remember our unique qualities as an independent school. If that gets accomplished I think we've achieved something valuable."

"On the other hand this brings up the question, is our emphasis on the process of education or on the endpoint, the students going to college. It emphasizes the importance of getting into college. What's a good college? There are a lot of good colleges and there are prestigious colleges, like the ones they're bringing in. There are good colleges that may not be considered prestigious that may never participate in the Day with the Deans."

"I've been here for 27 years. My sense is that over time it has become more difficult for students to get into prestigious schools simply because this business has gotten harder. This day may help to make the admissions process more transparent."

College Counselors Patty Kovacs, Abigale Wagner and Melissa Warehall, brainstormed ideas over Spring Break.

"I can't wait for people to be able to see five of the most experienced, respectable guys guiding the admissions process," Ms. Kovacs said. They're funny, candid, honest and love their business. We can say something in Junior College Workshop about applications and students can roll their eyes and say, 'yeah, right.' But to hear it right from the deans themselves is so different. There were many schools on the list when we brainstormed. We tried to look at regional differences and size differences.

"I'm also really excited we get to do this with the Woodlawn Charter School. Now they're not just seeing

(continues on page 8)



Photo by Fiona Potter

Detailed planning has gone into "Day with the Deans," the new event for juniors and their parents May 22, with representatives of five prominent universities visiting. The planners are Principal Scott Fech, left, and college counselors Melissa Warehall and Patty Kovacs and Abigale Wagner.

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 Middle School Humanities teacher Janice Moy.

The Board, which mostly includes Lab School parents, selected no students or other 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 Yourist 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 through 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 by talking to the students, parents, and faculty of the Lab Schools community in order to put together a position vacancy announcement that would go out online and through other methods," 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

Asking U-Highers to stand up for identifiers they believe apply to them, diversity speaker Rosetta Lee (photo at right) discussed the historical origins of stereotypes at an assembly for seniors and juniors April 18 in Upper Kowler. Sophomores and freshmen, led by Diversity Club members, experoemced the same activity in the Cafeteria.

That set the stage for Flavafest the next day. After "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 Barlera, sitting, guided a discussion of socioeconomic status at U-High. Other workshops included "Dating Game," about sexism, "Racebook" about race and "Spoken Word," about stereotypes.

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



Photos by Catherine Zhou
heard Dr. Carol Adams, CEO of the DuSable History Museum, speak on issues of obesitty and mental disability.

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

By Elena Carroll-Maestriperi
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 qualifythem 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."

"To be honest, Scholastic Bowl is like no other club or team at U-High that I can think of. Competitions are very far away but also very frequent. While the bus rides are long, the team plays word games to pass the time. It's a very close-knit group."

Only 10 or 12 of the team's 20 members compete in tournaments, while the rest play for recreation.

"A lot of kids do Scholastic Bowl recreation-ally 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."

"There's nothing like buzzing and hearing the sound of the buzzer."

—Mike Glick, sophomore

Stop by Medici! It's Spring!



Photo by Fiona Potter

Medici offers a perfect lunch option for juniors Zoe Briskey 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 such as our mouth-watering chocolate croissants. Sip on a chai tea or strawberry lemonade to sweeten your day, or have some of our famous deep-dish pizz. Best of all we are located just a block from U-High!



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Senior finds heavenly rewards playing harp

By Christine Obert-Hong
Midway 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 white, ruffled, sleeveless shirt, performed a duet with a flautist, and later with her teacher.

About 30 people, including her family and friends, heard Meryl's performance that night. By 7:15, the scent of flowers and cookies flowed through the air, as at a reception family and friends congratulated her on her performance.

"It was actually my senior recital, so it was mostly me playing. I played two duets—one with a flautist, Fabrice Guyot-Sionnest, and we performed 'Chant d'Amur' by Gabriel Verdalle. I then performed a duet with my teacher, Janelle Lake, and played 'Paparazzi' by Lady Gaga.

"The reason I was wearing a sleeveless shirt, was so that I can move my arms more freely. Outside, I could hear other people practicing an instrument, like the piano and percussion, but because we were in the concert 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 my extended family and other people I invited. My orchestra consists of middle school students and high school students, but it's primarily middle school students.

"I've played in competitions but I can't really compare them to my senior recital because it was so 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 Community Music School that was for singing and dance," Meryl's mother, Robin Charleston, said with pride in a telephone interview. The family lives in Hyde Park; Meryl's father is Gomez Charleston.

"We had been going since she was 2-1/2, and so when she was 5 we went to a program there that had teachers and their students playing different instruments, and she was so interested in the flute. The teacher said, oh you're too little, you don't have enough lung power, and we went to where another girl was playing the harp, and she was really fascinated. So I made sure the teacher wasn't going to tell her she was too little to play the harp, but the teacher said that would be great, that now's a good time to start.

"It's a concert harp," Mrs. Charleston continued. "And it has the pedals where you have to change the keys, and it's a very complex instrument, and it's very beautiful. The harp is one of those instruments that is always beautiful to listen to, even if the person playing it should make errors, which Meryl doesn't often make. I think it's impossible to play something on the harp that doesn't sound very lovely.

"It's an unusual instrument, and it's something she gets a lot of satisfaction out of. Meryl plays the concert harp now, which is a 42-string harp, so it's a major life activity to move the harp. It's one of those things that distinguishes the harp; it's almost like trying to move a piano.

"It's well over 100 pounds. I have a special dolly that I maneuver it with, and I never actually pick up the harp. We keep it covered with a lot of insulated padding, you know, so we don't scratch or dent it. It's more of a one-person job, and I've moved it in all sorts of weather, rain, snow, extremely cold weather, and extremely hot weather.

"And you know, I do it for Meryl. She's a wonderful child and daughter, and whatever event she has to play at, 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 play. When I got my pedal harp in 8th grade, I got a lot more serious because I had finished books one and



Photo by Lili Steffen

Acclaimed harpist Meryl Charleston began taking lessons at age 5.

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 doing 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."

Briefly Student government elections for next year's officers today

■ **STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS**—Candidates for next year's Student Council and Cultural Union offices, and class offices, presented their qualifications and goals during yesterday's lunch period in the cafeteria. Filing deadline came before an early Midway printing deadline this issue, so the Midway forewent interviewing the candidates as the editors originally had planned.

U-Highers are casting their votes today. "Often I think people vote based on who they already think is the best candidate," Student Council president Amol Gundeti said. "It's important to see the speeches and get to know who's running because then you'll know who actually has the best ideas for next year."

A letter from two candidates appears on the editorial page this issue. Election winners will be featured next issue.

■ **NO SPRING FLING**—After U-Highers were told a Spring dance likely would take place this year Saturday, April 27, Student Council determined it would not.

The dance had been cancelled last because student leaders, administrators and faculty could not come to an agreement about behavior and dress rules for it and the role of chaperons.

"Spring Fling wasn't officially on the calendar for this year so chaperons weren't signed up for the event," President Amol Gundeti explained. "To remedy the situation we've made sure that it'll be put back the school calendar for next year."

■ **U-HIGH BLOOD DRIVE**—Organized by senior Deborah Krull, a blood drive

benefitting the American Red Cross will take place 9 a.m.-3 p.m. today in the Dance Studio on the main floor of Kovler Gym.

U-Highers ages 16 and up are qualified to participate, although those who are 16 must bring a consent form filled out by a parent, Deborah said. U-Highers can get the form from her or at the website <http://www.redcrossblood.org>.

The Red Cross advises that U-Highers planning to donate are advised to drink plenty of water beforehand; bring a donor card, driver's license or two other forms of identification to verify their age; have a healthy meal before donating, avoiding fatty foods; bring a list of medications they are regularly taking; and wear clothing with sleeves which can be raised above the elbow.

They will be asked about their health and travel history; and have their temperature, pulse, blood pressure and hemoglobin level checked from a sample of their blood taken with a quick, easy pin prick.

The blood is taken also with what feels like a quick pinch, followed by about 8 to 10 minutes of resting comfortably. After 10 to 15 minutes including a snack and drink, the process is completed.

■ **GOLDEN APPLE FINALIST**—Computer Science Teacher Baker Franke is among 32 finalists for this year's Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching.

Begun in 1986, the program awards 10 Chicago area teachers with a \$3,000 grant and a tuition-free semester at

(continued on page 8)

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Photo by Matthew Garvey

Engrossed in a copy of "The Dead Republic by Roddy Doyle, Harrison MacRae enjoys browsing Powell's bookshelves.



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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 Canright 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 raises distracting questions.

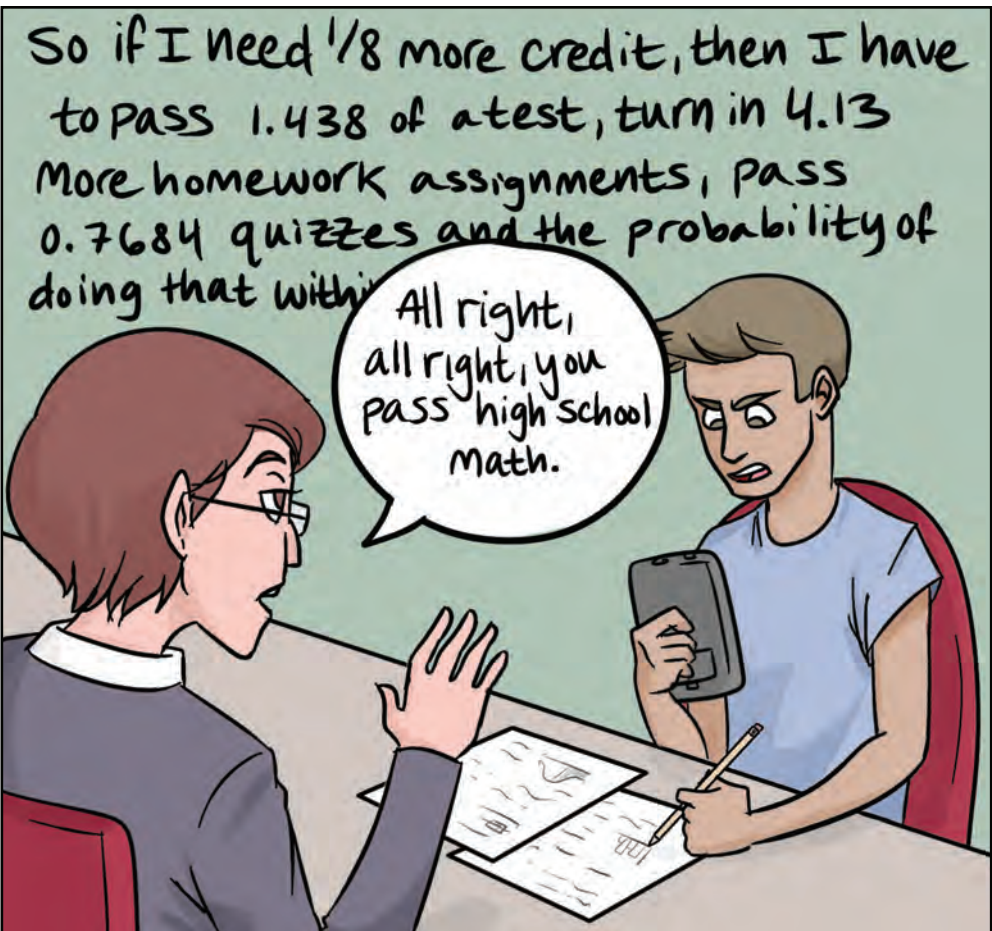
The distinction undercuts May Project, begun by the Class of 1969 to help students let go of high school, allow the school to let go of them, give students a novel learning experience and combat senior slump. It tells students that their projects aren't equivalent to attending class. While that doesn't stop many seniors from going on May Project, it does show resistance by some teachers to one of U-High's signature programs.

Ultimately, the seven-eighths logic relies on a belief that every tiny bit of credit must be earned in class with a teacher. But given the spectacular quality of U-High's teachers, most students end the year, in May or June, with adequate knowledge of the subject matter.

Plus, for weary, college-bound seniors who have worked long and hard for four years, enthusiasm for the final month of school is understandably low. While the final months may be beneficial for a handful of seniors, 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.



Cartoon by Lydia Fama

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.



Sam

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 and schedules be publicly posted. For years now,



Louis

they haven't been. As part of our campaign, we have isolated a few issues.

We will provide further transparency with a new, intuitive website we will build. We will work to stem the flow of mandatory assemblies by having Student Council take advisory votes to determine which assemblies should be mandatory. To improve the quality of variety of available foods, we will push to attract food trucks to the streets outside Lab We urge you to visit our website, fb.me/samandlouis, to learn more about the issues. Thank you.

(Editor's note: Matthew Davis and Alex Cohen were also running for Student Council president at Midway presstime.)

Boston Marathon attack coverage presents a paradox

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 junior 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.



Duncan

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

The day after the bombing words "We are Chicago Red Sox. We are Chicago Celtics. We are Chicago Bruins. We are Chicago Patriots. We are Chicago Revolution," along with team logos, ran on the front page of the Chicago Tribune's sport section.

Even the archrival 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 the perpetrator of the attacks, with some outlets initially suspecting domestic, anti-government radicals. That turned out to be completely off-base.

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.

Say What?

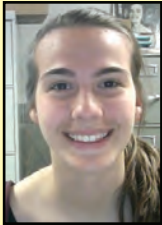
What is the worst joke you have ever heard, and what made it so bad?



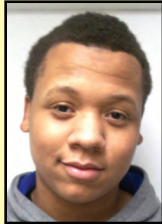
Liana

LIANA MANUEL, senior: "What do fish say when they swim into a wall: dam.' It's bad because it's really stupid.

IVANA 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.



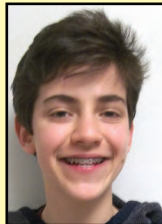
Ivana



Jaquell

JAQUELL HAMELIN, junior: "What's the difference between bird flu and swine flu?: Bird flu you need tweetment, and swine flue you need oinkment." It's corny. and not funny.

REED ROSENBACHER, freshman: "Why couldn't the bicycle stand up? It was too tired." It lacks humor beyond pun.



Reed

—Compiled by Michele George-Griffin

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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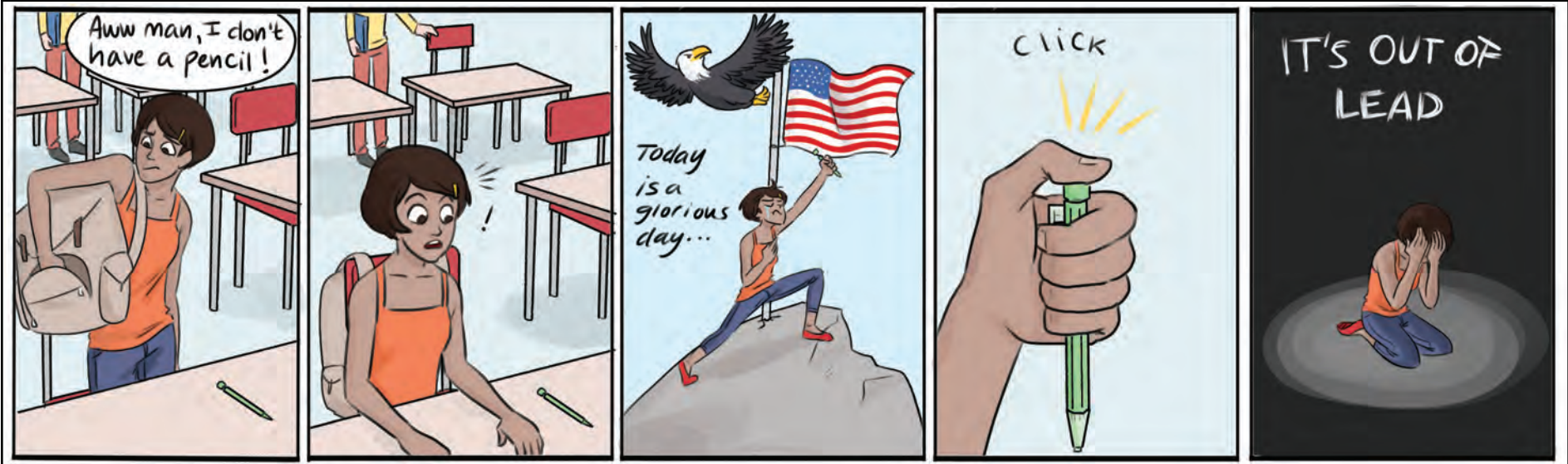
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Dolor Sit Amet.....by Lydia Fama



"I'm known to locate certain things from time to time," Red (Morgan Freeman), left, assures Andy (Tim Robbins) in their first meeting in the 1994 classic "The Shawshank Redemption." To resume his former life as an amateur geologist, Andy asks Red to smuggle a rock hammer into prison for him, drawing skepticism from 'Red.' "You'll understand when you see the rock hammer, Andy responds.

audiorush.com

After 19 years, still seeking 'Redemption'

By Luke Murphy
Film critic

Some movies you just have to see. Turning back the calendar to 1994, seven-time Oscar nominee "The Shawshank Redemption," 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 Dufrense, falsely accused of murdering his wife, is sentenced to life in Shawshank State Prison. Although initially 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,

edge-of-your-seat thriller. While there are moments of absolute excitement, for the most part the pace of the movie most closely resembles that of our characters. It's often a trudge, and not always pretty. For them, every day follows the same routine. So instead of depending on a change of scenery for excitement, Darabont instead relies on the personal relationships between characters, as their mental and physical fortitude is tested. Despite not having initially performed well in theatres, the film's longevity has proven remarkable, and a testament to the complexity of the characters. You'd be hard pressed to find a movie with two characters as well developed as Andy and Red. This solid base allows for the multitude of unexpected turns the plot eventually takes. Because the characters are so realistic, they are easy to root for. One final thing you need to know before seeing this movie: Don't let anyone you know spoil the ending.



Luke

Blake's trancelike new release infuses techno with rap, gospel

By Marissa Page
Music critic

Despite the trancelike repetition underlying its tracks, British singer-songwriter James Blake's second full-length studio record "Overgrown" is not in fact broken. A native of London's Enfield neighborhood, Blake released his first EP, "Air & Lack Thereof," on the Hemlock label in July 2009, just before entering his senior year at Goldsmiths, University of London. Recorded largely in Blake's bedroom, "Air & The Lack Thereof" caught the attention of BBC Radio 1's DJ Gilles Peterson, who later invited Blake to guest mix



Marissa

on his show. During 2010, Blake released two EPs through two different record companies. A year later, Blake began to sing and play keyboard for British electronic music duo Mount Kimbie during their live shows, earning him widespread recognition in the British electronic music scene. By the time his first full-length album, "James Blake," came out on his record label ATLAS in February 2011, the album's first single, a cover of Feist's "Limit to Your Love," had already made its rounds on radio stations internationally. While Blake had his professional start DJing dubstep music, his own tracks use the electronic sound more subtly by marrying it with pure gospel vocals and simple piano. On both

his self-titled first album and "Overgrown," he uses repetitive, borderline trancelike techno beats to convey an overarching sense of anticipation and progression. Blake's smooth, sonorous voice sounds equally strong in the higher and lower regions of his range, allowing his music a sense of versatility despite the uniquely dark timbre of his vocals. On "Overgrown" specifically, Blake reaches out to other artists on collaborative tracks. Legendary producer Brian Eno makes an appearance on "Digital Lion," a propulsive track punctuated by electronic, jungle-y shrieks and howls. Additionally, rapper-producer RZA of the Wu-Tang Clan is featured urgent yet ethereal "Take A Fall For Me," a more hip-hop twist on Blake's cyber-



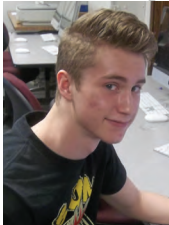
Atlas Records

gospel fare. Other highlights from the album include its futuristic first single "Retrograde," a haunting, pleading ballad; "Dlm," reminiscent of Blake's first endeavor thanks to its gorgeous piano melody and discordant vocals; and bonus track "Every Day I Ran," which features samples from Big Boi, Andre 3000 and Raekwon among the sound of a crashing waterfall and heavy breathing.

Comfy Frankie's offers appealing Italian specialties

By Clayton Surmeier
Dining critic

Nestled among the shops in the 900 Michigan Mall, through the freshly-cleaned-smelling halls and down the escalator, Frankie's 5th Floor Pizzeria serves salads, antipasta and 10-inch individual pizzas, affordably priced from around \$9 to \$15. Frankie's also serves a comfortable array of other Italian dishes in its adjacent restaurant, Scaloppine. With both an adult menu and a kids' menu, complete with crayons, a maze and tic-tac-toe, the restaurant offers a relaxing night out for the family or a table for two. It's one of the famous Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises' 130 popular restaurants known for their



Clay

creative concepts, which at this point have topped 70. A bright, wide-open dining area, with umbrellas scattered around the tables, almost gives the impression of being outside, whereas a dimly-lit inside dining area provide a more intimate atmosphere. Benny Friedman and I decided to sit outside. Greeted immediately by our server, we sat down to bread and were soon presented with our choice of soda or lemonade. 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, along with Benny's Fettucine Primavera. Although a little sauce heavy, the pizza nicely balanced the taste with an airy thick crust.

The fettucine, \$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 seconds. With an affordable, hearty menu and a relaxing ambience, Frankie's proves an ideal spot for a delicious night out. FRANKIE'S SCALOPPINE & 5TH FLOOR PIZZERIA. Scaloppine specializes in "Chicago's most extensive list of scaloppini variations—veal, chicken, seafood, even vegetable. 900 North Michigan Avenue at East Delaware Place. Phone: 312-266-2500. Open 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and noon-8:30 p.m. Sunday. Reservations available at opentable.com. Takeout available. Accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover cards.



Putting it together

Photo by Jeff Li

Juniors symbolically created puzzle piece-shaped people to describe themselves on the last day of Junior Retreat, April 3-5 at Resurrection Center in far northwest suburban Woodstock. "The basic message was everyone is human and vulnerable, which created a better sense of appreciation for each other" said junior class president Alex Cohen. "That's what really stuck with most of us afterwards." Working on the puzzle, from left, are Katie Harris, Leah Barber, Caleb Dowdy and Julie Utset.

Assembly to spotlight civil rights pioneer

The first tenured African American professor at University of Chicago, and grandfather of Senior Jordan Davis, the late Allison Davis Sr., will be honored at an all-school assembly 10:10 a.m., Thursday, May 9 at Max Palevsky Theatre in Ida Noyes Hall.

Jordan's father, Allison Davis Jr., will speak and Jordan will show a documentary film she made with History classmates on her grandfather.

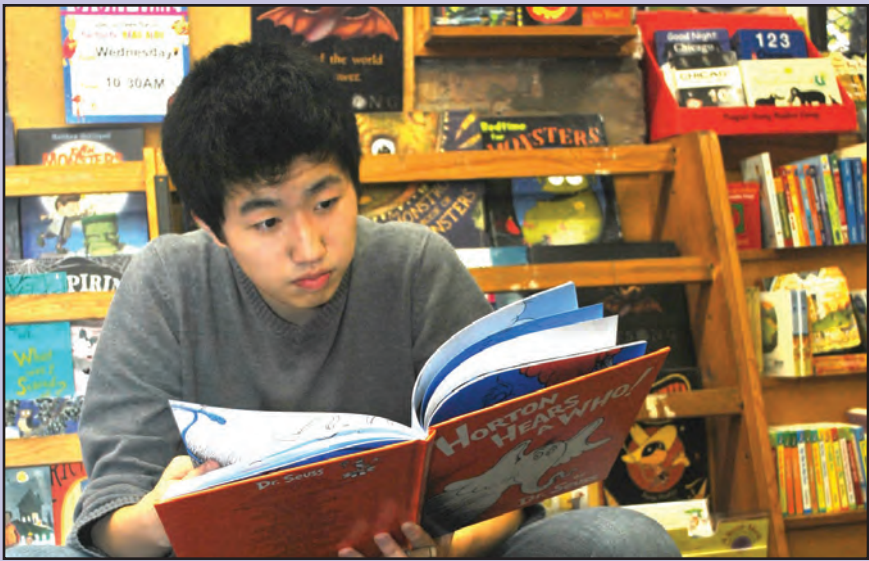
History teacher Susan Shapiro suggested the assembly after seeing the documentary at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where the Multicultural Center was renamed in October in honor of Mr. Davis Sr. and his brother John Davis.

Last year, Jordan's documentary advanced to the finals of a Chicago Metro History Education Center competition, Jordan's grandfather passed away before she was born.

"I'm glad that our documentary will be shown at the assembly because it'll be 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 it's our job to make it even better."

Books by the Boatload, just a block away



REJOICE! After finding his much needed AP Physics C Textbook, Senior Rex Gu cools off with an intense read of his favorite Dr. Suess book.

Photo by Aurielle Akerele.

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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 say they expect same gender marriage will be legalized here this year.

The marriage equality bill, passed by the Illinois State Senate 34-21 February 14, would make Illinois the 10th state, following Maryland, to recognize same gender marriage, after six years of recognizing same gender civil unions.

But, the House of Representatives still remains 12 votes shy of the 60 needed to pass the bill, according to a statement March 13 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..

Increasing Republican support makes the bill's realization "inevitable," believes senior Natalia Ginsburg, vice president of U-High's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) club, Spectrum.

"There will always be people who'd like to stall it as long as possible, but support for same-sex marriage has really been becoming a trend across the country," Natalia said. "More Republicans are eventually going to start coming out in favor of the bill. I think they know the reason why they lost the Presidential election is because they aren't appealing to enough of our citizens, and by stand-

ing against same-sex marriage they've also been alienating the LGBTQ community."

Junior Sam Curry said he is skeptical about the imminent likelihood of Republican support for the bill.

"I think right now most Republicans are still too rigid, or too afraid of looking liberal," Sam said. "I definitely think the Christian church is still a big barrier to the bill because it's where Republicans are afraid of losing constituents. In fact, they probably will lose constituents if they support the bill, especially from communities like the Catholic Church."

A younger generation of supportive Republicans and Democrats will push the bill through, junior Loren Sosnick believes. "A lot of younger Republicans are actually in favor of same-sex marriage," Loren said. "There are a few stragglers in our generation but it feels to me that there's a growing consensus about the issue within the Republican Party, although I don't know whether they've actually changed their ideas or whether they've just recognized that they're fighting a losing battle."

Freshman Arun Sharma noted a recent trend of social media support for same-gender marriage.

"The whole fad with setting red equal signs as your profile picture in support of gay marriage really took over Facebook for awhile," Arun explained. "They were only good for showing support, so I'm not sure how much political effect they really had, but I think this trend's hugeness shows how much the youth is really in support of this issue."

It's academic! U-High teams continue to bring home honors

By Natalie Holley
Associate editor

Soon to become the first U-High Science Team group to compete at a national event, the freshman-sophomore group of the Science Team which participated March 1 in the TEAMS Competition at the Illinois Institute of Technology, received 3rd place in Illinois and 2nd place nationwide, qualifying them for the national championship tournament in Orlando, Florida, this June.

Science Team members also had returned to U-High with a first place win from the WYSE (Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering) state championship, April 9, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A group of 30 U-High students, led by senior Yaning Zhang, participated in the competition.

AT WYSE, team members completed a series of tests in subjects such as Chemistry, Computer Science, and Biology. Along with the 1st place award team win with 492.5 points out of a possible 500, were the following:

Seniors Yaning Zhang and Lane Gunderman placed individually in the Chemistry category, receiving 1st and 4th place respectively. Yaning also 2nd in Biology, with junior Eilot Levemore 3rd in both Computer Science and Math, junior Emily Xiao 1st in English, junior Rahul Mehta 4th in Computer Science, sophomore Adam Fine 5th in Computer Science and 2nd in Math, sophomore Walker Melton 2nd in Computer Science, sophomore David Yunis 5th in English Graphics, and freshman Mohammed Munim 1st in Math.

IN OTHER academic team triumphs, Model United Nations completed its final competition of the school year, receiving Best Large Delegation April 11-14 at Northwestern University in suburban Evanston.

One of three Head Delegates for the Model United Nations conference, junior Sophia Weaver participated on a committee that represented Pakistan.

"I was a crisis delegate this time around, which meant that my committee would receive news briefs that we had to respond to and fix immediately," Sophia explained.

"MY COMMITTEE was involved in a midnight crisis, where we were trying to defuse a terrorist plot that involved both our committee as well as the India committee, which we were joint with for the entire conference.

"We received news around midnight that the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a terrorist group, had stolen a nuclear weapon in Pakistan, taken it to India, and demanded that we have a referendum over disputed land between the two countries.

"In the end both committees decided to agree to the referendum but the group still detonated the weapon."

U-HIGH COMPETED against schools coming from as far as New York and Florida.

"Northwestern this year was much more intense than it has been in the past," Sophia said. "Some of the schools we were up against, like Port Charlotte High School from Florida and Lyons Township from La Grange, are much more competitive than the usual schools that are there."

Freshman and sophomore members of the Debate Team traveled to Iowa City, Iowa for the Great Midwestern Novice and JV Championships April 5-7. Sophomore Kevin Li and freshman Mbella Bseka won four out of six debates, with Kevin being ranked 10th place out of 80 students.

"I think the conference works well for the team as a whole because it gives the freshmen a chance to develop their skills on their own," Kevin said.

(Editor's note: In the April 9 Midway the freshman-sophomore group at the TEAMS competition in March at the Illinois Institute of Technology should have been reported as placing 1st. Our apologies.)

Holocaust assembly keeps alive historic tragedy and its victims

By Raghu Somala
Midway reporter

“On the evening of February 15, 2001, my mother packed some clothes into two brown shopping bags, put on her gray winter coat, locked the door to her home in Skokie, Illinois and fled, screaming that someone was trying to put a bullet in her head.”

So said Chicago Tribune Music Critic Howard Reich, describing how his mother, a Holocaust survivor, developed late-onset post-traumatic stress disorder at the Holocaust Memorial HAssembly, April 11 in Mandel Hall.

Sponsored by the Jewish Students’ Association (JSA), the Holocaust assembly has taken place every two years since 1997. “Unaccompanied Minors”, a student a capella group, performed, as did members of the Asian Students’ Association and Black Students Associations.

Remembering the Holocaust remains important, JSA President Emily Altkorn, senior, believes, but thinking about Holocaust in the 21st Century, the assembly’s theme, is just as important.

“It is not enough to remember the Holocaust,” Emily Altkorn said, opening the assembly. “We have to create change in places like Bosnia to mold a better world for current and future generations. We cannot forget to talk about the Holocaust in order to prevent anything as devastating to occur again.”



Photos by Nathaniel Green

Describing his mother’s late-onset post-traumatic stress disorder (photos from left), famed Chicago Tribune arts critic Howard describes the impact the Holocaust had on his family at the Holocaust Memorial Assembly April 11. Members of the U-High Band and Orchestra were among the performers. Dedicating a candle, Reed Rosenbacher remembers rescuers who lost their lives.

In his speech, Mr. Reich contrasted the assembly his knowledge of the Holocaust growing up.

“When I was growing up, the Holocaust was not something we discussed, and programs like this never existed. However, it is important for us to talk about the Holocaust in order to understand the events and prevent them in the future.

“When tragedies happen, and when we witness them, it’s our duty to speak out, to spread the word, to try to prevent them from happening again. To me, this is what being a witness is all about. It’s a sacred duty and privilege.”

“The Holocaust was an incomprehensible crime, the murder of millions, the near destruction of a culture. This is an event that must be remembered

and revisited through all time. It tells us how tragically humanity can go awry, and how heroically some people will be have in the face of great risk to themselves. Further, we must remember the people who were executed for no reason but their identity -- who they were born to be. The seven candles we light help us do so.”

Between performances, JSA members lit candles, dedicated to victims of the Holocaust.

“Each candle represented different people who died as a result of the Holocaust,” JSA faculty sponsor Susan Shapiro, history teacher, said. “The first six candles are for the six million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust, and the seventh candle represented the people who were killed that weren’t Jewish.”

An honored teacher is told he’s through

(This story begins on the back page and is concluded here.)

to lose his job. It would intimidate you from speaking your mind again. The message would be loud and clear that if you continue to ask questions, teachers will suffer.

“**I THINK** the reaction to Mr. Zoller’s news was a combination of people being shocked and sad on one hand, and on the other hand shaking their heads and saying ‘Here we go again.’ We see good advisers run out of the profession so often that it can’t ever be considered a shock. The people who lose their jobs tend to be the ones who encourage their students to push boundaries. If you want a long career, you should have a sweet paper that never challenges authority.

“Honestly, we were in a bit of a quiet year. I don’t have exact numbers because we don’t always find out about the cases but certainly well over a dozen got pushed out of the door under very highly suspicious circumstances in the United States in 2011. But the cycle often starts up towards the end of the school year. Around spring people find out if they will be hired again.

“**WE ARE** unfortunately bracing ourselves for more bad news. We find out about a tiny fraction of incidents since most people don’t want to draw attention to being fired. For every one great adviser like Mr. Zoller that gets fired, many other teachers change the ways they teach. At one convention an adviser told me that they have been telling students not to pursue controversial stories because they know their newspaper is under a microscope.”

Former journalism teacher and newspaper adviser of a weekly paper at Johnsburg High School,

Randy Swikle, was the 1999 National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year. Currently a high-profile activist for high school journalism censorship and a member of the Illinois Press Foundation Board of Directors, Mr. Swikle said he believes Mr. Zoller’s dismissal resulted from the content of The Pacer.

“Student news media can be recognized as a designated public forum or a closed public forum,” Mr. Swikle said. “The former status affords student journalists with maximum First Amendment rights within the parameters of scholastic press law. Closed public forum gives student media minimal protection and some administrators would like to use student news media as a public relations vehicle where the understanding is that they don’t want you to print bad news.

“**THE BEST STUDENT** news media understand that printing bad news does not have to have a bad affect. By identifying a problem, whatever the source of the bad news is, the student news media then help garner the resources of the community to resolve the problem.

“But if you don’t identify something that’s bad news then how are you going to fix it? When advisers advocate on behalf of their students and support the right of students to practice the functions of American journalism, those functions include covering stories in a way that’s independent of their supervisors’ personal attitudes.”

MANY ADMINISTRATORS are using prior review to censor student papers, Mr. Swikle said.

“So many oversight strategies are more effective than prior review. One way is for administrators to hold press conferences with students if it’s a

controversial issue so that administrators have the option to give students background information. Oversight strategies help the students to cover the story responsibly.

“Prior review tends to teach obedience more than responsibility. An administrator looks over the copy of the news media and they decide if it puts the school in a bad light or they don’t agree with the perspective of the editorial. The idea is that ‘I don’t agree with them, therefore the student is wrong.’

“When you have prior review and a closed forum you are taking away the responsibilities that belong to the student and you are teaching obedience instead of responsibility.

“**IDEAL SCHOOL MISSION** statements have a part concerning student empowerment, and prior review diminishes student empowerment when it leads to arbitrary censorship. When you say you can print anything so long as we agree with it that’s not real empowerment.

“When a person who has Mr. Zoller’s kind of credentials is dismissed from their journalism teaching responsibilities, you just have to question the motives. If it was something other than trying to control the content of the paper then you’d think the administrators would try to remedy the situation by telling the teacher what they should do to improve. Schools in most circumstances don’t have to tell non-tenured teacher why they are not rehired.

“In fact they are advised to not tell because if they do, then that teacher could appeal, and if they can prove that the reason is not valid, then the school may have to hire them back. We’re seeing more and more threats to scholastic journalism and we need to get the school officials to respect students.”

Figure skater and her team compete internationally

(This story begins on page 9 and is concluded here.)

ally good to be an inspiration to kids across the world, and I am excited to represent the USA at other competitions.

“The competition consisted of a short and a long program. The short program is about two and a half minutes and the long program lasts about four and a half. We were happy with our performances because we had two clean skates, meaning we didn’t make any mistakes.

“We placed eighth in Italy. Most people say, ‘Eighth, that’s not that great,’ but they have to understand, this is an international competition. We were competing against some of the top teams in the world. Eighth is pretty good.”

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 skill, 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.”

Natalie, Prom?

Paid advertisement



Photo by Jason Deng

Smokin’

Juniors and seniors gathered on a cool Thursday, April 25 for a barbecue picnic sponsored by Student Council. President Amol Gundeti helped serve up hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixins.

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. Nondorf 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. Nondorf 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.”

Because the juniors who sign up for

the event are missing half a day of class, some teachers, including Math Teacher Nadja Aquino, question its worth.

“Class time is precious to me,” Ms. Aquino said. “I introduce new material in class almost every day and if a student misses the lesson he or she must learn it on his or her own.”

“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 class 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.”

‘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 will also be vibrant, junior Zoe Briskey, co-Makeup Mistress and Assistant Music Director, said.

“My inspiration was Godspell’s original Broadway poster, but with a more colorful twist,” Zoe said. “Not only are the actors in makeup, but the band and chorus 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 red and white from the poster but added curly, sparkly G’s around their eyes to convey a sense of uniformity but in a

cool, flashy way.”

Godspell’s accompaniment 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 one character from the cast, so we’ve been splitting up the music for that part among the other characters. Our challenge is trying to assign actors parts that match up with their characters’ personalities.”

Other cast members are as follows:

Julie Murnann, Sarah Pan, Maria Privitera, Charlotte Elfenbaum, Autumn Espinoza, Zoe Briskey, Loren Sosnick, Alex Soto, Will Kent, Valentina Gardner, Fritz Reece, Maya Ben-Shahar.

Other house masters are as follows:

Lights, Sam Reynolds; **publicity**, Sarah Hecht; and **props**, Sam van Loon.



Thirty-five years ago, Andy Neal, center, Class of 1978 and now a Lab Schools parent and Board member, starred in U-High’s first production of “Godspell.” From left are Janina Edwards, Susan Marks, Judy Solomon, Monica Bock, Andy, Sonia Blumenberg, Brian Ragan and Michael Trosman. This Midway photo was taken by David Yuffit.

First ‘Godspell’ star recalls excitement

By Clea Braendel
Midway reporter

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 Tebelak, Godspell premiered at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburg, 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 five of his 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. Doing 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 coached us found my dance talents quite lacking!”

Brief-ly

(continued from page 3)

Northwestern University. Recipients become members of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, which develops programs to help teachers become more effective.

Eight Lab Schools teachers have received the award, including former High School teachers Hanna Goldschmidt (who also became principal) and Randy Fowler; current teachers David Derbes, Rosa McCullagh and Catherine Bell; Middle School teacher Jan Yourist; Lower School teacher Michael “Spike” Wilson; and Kindergarten and Nursery School Teacher Christina Hayward.

For this year’s program, honoring high school teachers—the grade levels honor rotate from year to year—510 nominations were received and 215 applications.

■ **MCGUIRE AWARDS**— Twelve juniors wrote timed essay Wednesday, April 24, as nominees for two Eunice Helmkamp 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’ names are removed, English teachers will select up to five semifinalists. Their timed essays and highest-graded English essays will be forwarded to a panel of judges outside the school.

The nominees are as follows:

Maddie Anderson, Leah Barber, Logan Crowl, Elizabeth Garrett-Currie, Eliot Levmore, Rahul Mehta, Tabitha Oh, Mira Philipson, Eleanor Schuttenberg, Sheridan Small, Julia Utset and Emily Xiao.

Delicious Dining, Dehli Style



Photo by Nathaniel Green

ENJOYING A VISIT the cozy setting of Rajun Cujan, juniors Christian Morris and Gabrielle Rosenbacher decide which of the numerous tempting menu offerings they will try.



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Sports editors Mike Glick and Luke Murphy talk U-High spring teams

The first goals have been scored, the first home runs and aces hit, the first shot put thrown. Spring sports season has begun, with the baseball, track and field, soccer and tennis teams off and running.

MIKE: After working out their kinks at spring training in Florida, the varsity baseball team's tremendous talent has begun to show. Following their mercy-rule loss to Washington High School in Chicago's frigid weather April 2, U-High has brought fire to the field each time they have played.

The Maroons pummeled Hales Franciscan 23-1, with Sophomore Luke Murphy on the hill and Senior Dan Klonowski and Junior Logan Crowl leading the way with homers. Strong pitching from Sophomore Miles Grogger and an opposite-field blast from Senior Sam Lawrence helped U-High dismantle Leo. And, most impressively, the Maroons sent a fundamentally sound St. Francis de Sales team packing after five innings with stellar pitching from Senior Steven Glick and another homer from Sam in an 18-3 win.

LUKE: The Maroons' recipe for success thus far has pegged on the combination of senior leadership, an influx of new talent, and the massive steps forward many players have taken.

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 Koontz



LUKE

have provided consistency at the plate, with Joe hitting for power and Brad a cinch to get on base each time he comes to bat. J.v. has gotten rolling as well, with a home run from Freshman Kenny Koenen leading the Maroons to a 15-5 victory over CICS-Ellison April 9.

MIKE: How about the Maroons on the track? Freshman Jacob Meyer continues to tear through the competition on the boys' side, finishing first in the 1600 meters with a time of four-minutes and 56 seconds at the Luther North Invitational April 9.

The four-by-400 and four-by-800 meters relay teams, consisting of Jacob, Sophomore Arthur Chang and Juniors Frank Waggoner and Max Volchenbom, finished in three-minutes and 58 seconds and nine-minutes and nine seconds,



MIKE

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, junior, 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 pout. Against Illinois' top soccer programs at the Pepsi Showdown in Schaumburg, U-High kept their matches close with Marian Catholic and Wheaton Academy and fell in penalty kicks to Whitney Young.

After making a deep run into the IHSA playoffs last year, the Maroons must have confidence that they can make a similar run this May. The crafty dribbling and skills of Sophomore Sylvie Manuel and the talent of the other underclassmen coupled with the team's large core of juniors and seniors 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 disappointing start to the season. Senior Conrad Harron, a Williams College commit and nationally 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 the youth tennis circuit sharpening his skills after a nearly fatal 2007 car crash.

In addition to Conrad, Seniors Lucas Buchheim-Jurisson and Amol Gundeti lead the way for the Maroons, with Sophomore Jeesea 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.

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 also skates with 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 performances.

"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

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 first few competitions of the season take place mostly in Michigan or other places 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 Lexington, 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 re-

(continues, back, on page 7)



Photo courtesy of Linda Cruz

Maria Gilfoyle and Chicago Jazz skate at Nationals March 3 in Plymouth.



Photo by Jeff Li.

Despite Jackman Field's tough playing conditions resulting from days of rain, Fiona Potter (23) skillfully traps the ball in the Maroons' 2-1 loss April 6 to Whitney Young.

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

Washington, April 2, away: Varsity lost 12-2; **Hales**, April 6, home: Varsity won 23-1; **Leo**, April 8, home: Varsity won 17-4; **CICS-Ellison**, April 9, away: j.v. won 15-5; **St. Francis de Sales**, April 10, home: Varsity won 18-3; **Parker**, April 16, home: Varsity lost 11-6, j.v. lost 13-10; **North Shore**, April 24, away: Varsity won 5-0; **Elgin**, April 25, home: j.v. lost 13-7; **Morgan Park**, April 26, home: Varsity won 12-0, Varsity won 11-1.

Girls' soccer

Lincoln Park, March 14, home: Varsity tied 1-1; **Manteno**, April 2, home: Varsity lost 7-0; **Wheaton Academy**, April 6, Pepsi Showdown Tournament: Varsity lost 3-0; **Whitney Young**, April 9, Pepsi Showdown Tournament: Varsity lost 2-1 in penalty kicks; **Elgin**, April 10, home: Varsity won 1-0; **Joliet Catholic**, April 11, Pepsi Showdown Tournament: Varsity lost 6-0; **Marian Catholic**, April 13, Pepsi Showdown Tournament: Varsity lost 3-1; **Willows**, April 19, away: Varsity lost 1-0; **De la Salle**, April 22, away: Varsity lost 2-1; **Parker**, April 26, away: Varsity lost 3-0; **Latin**, April 27, home: Varsity lost 1-0.

Boys' tennis

Scores from some matches are not included because they were not available online. **Marian Catholic**, April 2, away: Varsity lost 3-2; **Sandburg**, April 8, away: Varsity lost 3-2, j.v. won 3-2; **Morgan Park**, April 16, home: Varsity won 5-0.

Track and field

Luther North Invitational, April 9, boys and girls: Jacob Meyer placed 1st in the boys' 1600 meters, Gabrielle de Maio won the girls' 200 meters and the triple jump, Alex Thompson won the 400 meters, Sarah Curci placed 1st in the mile; **Hinsdale Central Invitational**, April 13, girls: Sarah Curci won the 3200 meters and Lucy Kenig-Ziesler finished 3rd in the event, Gabrielle placed 5th in the frosh/soph 200 meters; **Flying Hawk Invite**, April 13, boys: Clay Surmeier placed 8th in the frosh/soph 200 meters and 7th in the frosh/soph 400 meters; **Elmwood Park Invite**, April 19, boys and girls: Bolu Johnson placed 2nd in the boys' 400 meters, Akili King took 2nd in the girls' long jump, the girls' 4-by-400 relay team, consisting of Olivia Perozo, Akili King, Alex Thompson and Sarah Curci, placed 1st in the event.

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 junior 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-chiefs, Liam Brady and Brittney Frazier, seniors. The Pacer is one of few high school newspapers with a Spanish section, Las Vistas, partially influenced by Rolling Meadows 30.7 per cent 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



Photo courtesy of Stan Zoller

Coeditors-in-chief of the award-winning Pacer at Rolling Meadows High School, Brittney Frazier, left, and Liam Brady may be the last to be advised by award-winning adviser Stan Zoller, director of the Illinois Journalism Education Association.

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 AP 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 journalism, comes from various forms."

CONFIDENT IN next year's staff despite Mr. Zoller's absence, Brittney plans to study Journalism at the University of Missouri at Columbia next year.

"I was very sad to hear that Mr. Zoller won't be returning," Brittney said. "I know next year's staff is worried because we don't know who will replace him, but I'm really confident that they will be able to maintain the excellence of The Pacer.

"I don't know if it has anything to do with having more control over the paper. What I do know is that we have always had the freedom to publish what we want because Mr. Zoller always defends us and makes sure that what we have is newsworthy whether it's positive or negative.

"The administrators have been helpful," she added after consideration. "They are always helpful with our stories and we have no problem getting sources from anyone in the building."

Joe and Liam were both winners in the 2013 Quill and Scroll National News Writing and Photography Contest.

"MR. ZOLLER is probably one of the most passionate guys I've ever met," Joe said. "He deeply cares about what he does and his expertise just proves that. He is one of the most qualified teachers I've ever met and we will sorely miss him next year.

"Next year is going to be hard. We know that the adviser is going to be a person from the school already working as an English teacher so we are fairly certain they won't have any journalism experience. The administration has not told us whom they are going to be

choosing. We've been kept very in the dark for next year.

"I do feel there is going to be a change in student leadership. We have to take the information he taught us in class and carry it through to next year. Julia and I are going to have to step it up more than in past years.

"I'M NOT exactly sure what the reason Mr. Zoller was let go is. Reduction in forces to me seems vague. From what I've heard he hasn't gotten a direct reason besides reduction in forces and to my knowledge I don't know of many other teachers being laid off.

"The contents of The Pacer are always the contents that need to be there, positive or negative. We absolutely need to keep reporting the news. If they try to control the news, that will be a troubling future."

U-High Journalism Adviser Wayne Brasler, 1981 High School Journalism Teacher of the Year, believes administrators look to The Pacer for a role in public relations. Having taught at U-High for 49 years, Mr. Brasler has also received numerous awards for his career as a journalism teacher, student publications adviser and defender of high school press freedom.

"FIRST I WANT to say that this is just the latest in at least 10 years of outstanding journalism teachers and advisers being removed from their jobs," Mr. Brasler said. "So this is nothing new. We've had many such cases right here in the Chicago area.

"What struck me were the responses of the principal at Rolling Meadows, which were totally public relations speak, 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 litigation attorney, also believes Mr. Zoller's dismissal follows a nationwide trend.

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

"They have especially thin skin when criticism appears in the paper they pay for. It's hard to look at what's happening to Stan without 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)

The PACER

Rolling Meadows High School 2001 Central Rd., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008 March 8, 2013 Volume 42 Special Edition

A SEASON TO REMEMBER

Trip to state championship highlights historic girls basketball season



FINISHING STRONG: The 2012-2013 girls varsity basketball team is shown with its second place trophy last Saturday at Illinois State University's Redbird Arena. The team finished with a record of 30-4, with most players returning next year.

Liam Brady
Editor-in-Chief

Mid-Suburban League East Champs, Regional Champs, Sectional Champs, Super-Sectional Champs, State Runner-Up.

This year, the girls basketball team undeniably put together the best season in the program's history, and despite losing to Marian Catholic High School in the State Championship Game on a last second shot, the future looks promising for the squad.

Nine of 30 players on this year's regular season roster are juniors (including all five starters), and it was Head Coach Ryan Kirkorsky's first year coaching at Meadows. With a season under their belts, the group hopes to be back at the state tournament next year, this time with the first place trophy.

"For next year as a goal, absolutely it's to win state, and I believe we can do it," junior Alexis Glasgow said.

Kirkorsky has the same high expectations for the record breaking team.

"Our kids are pretty self-motivated and they really have the expectations for themselves," Kirkorsky said. "We will run our summer camps and do some offseason conditioning things, but it's really the kids that are juniors now, that will be seniors, that will be the driving force in terms of what we do and how hard we work and having that mindset for the younger kids in our program as well."

Juniors Glasgow, Jackie Kemph, Ashley Montanez, Katie Sheuon, Elizabeth Vasilogambros and Jenny Vliet will also continue playing in tournaments sponsored by the American Athletic Union (AAU).

"AAU helps us keep in shape and work with trainers, also AUU is a different kind of game. You play with a ton of great players and the competition is very tough. Also, it's a great time for college coaches to see us," Jackie said.

The players know the offseason work will be essential to stay at the top. In the final area rankings by the Daily Herald, Meadows was the number one team, and it is certain that other teams will go into next season with the goal of knocking them off.

"Being top ranked I think that's just going to fuel us even more because everyone is going to be wanting to beat us, and I think that is just going to make us want to win even more," Vliet said.

-Additional reporting by Allison Brand

Principal: Team set goals and met challenges

I remember reading a book by Vince Lombardi, the long time Green Bay Packers football coach. In the book he made the statement that, "individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a society work, a civilization work." In my mind, that statement perfectly describes the 2012-2013 girls basketball team.

The girls basketball team set goals that have not been previously attained at Rolling Meadows High School. This team set out to win a sectional, a super-sectional, and to head down state to compete for a state championship. If you set a goal that is easily attainable, that does not require much work, or that does not require much desire and/or passion, you have a goal that is below your true potential and skill level. This team did the opposite. They demanded the very best of themselves, wrote down challenging goals they aspired to reach, practiced each day with discipline to detail, and left everything they had out on the floor at the end of each game.

Thank you so much for the exciting season! I, like so many, enjoyed watching the team compete. The school spirit of the students, staff, and community members at the Regional, Section, and IHSA State Series games was aggressive and filled with Mustang Pride. It will always be a season to remember. Thank you Alexis, Ashley, Jackie, Jenny, Sami, Allie, Morgan, Chloe, Elizabeth, Megan, Nora, Katie, Hannah, Coach Kirkorsky, and Coach Nichols for the terrific season.

Congratulations on nourishing, protecting, and reaching your dreams as MSI, East Champions, Regional Champions, Sectional Champions, Super-Sectional Champions, and by finish second in the state in the IHSA Class 4A State Tournament.

Eileen Hart, Principal



CELEBRATE: Principal Eileen Hart and School Board member William Doubling hoist the second place trophy during Monday's assembly.

In this recent extra edition, the Pacer, award-winning student newspaper at suburban Rolling Meadows High School celebrated and special moment in the school's sports history.