**Semiformal theme puts it down in black and white**

By Marissa Page and Sonia Bourdaighs  
Editors-in-Chief

Streamers, necklaces and bubbles decorate this year’s Semiformal Dance with a Black and White theme, tomorrow 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the International House.

Tickets will be sold for $10 at the door until they close at 9:15 p.m. Royalty nominations took place last Tuesday and Wednesday, and voting was scheduled to take place yesterday and today.

HOSTING THE DANCE at the International House instead of Upper Kevler Gym should improve attendance and audio, according to Cultural Union President senior Tiffany Davis.

“After Homecoming happened I had to contact the I-House just to confirm that there was a date that we could have,” Tiffany said. “Once they said yes we just set it up, and it was pretty easy. That kind of avoided the problem of having bad sound because we’ve never had problems with sound at I-House.

“As far as the DJ, Student Council President Phil Healy, who ran the music at Homecoming, voluntarily said he does not want to do it, so we knew that we should just go back to DJ Jamalz Smalls.”

FOR ATTENDANCE, I’m expecting to probably have more people just because it is back at I-House. Then again it’s kind of hard to tell because homecoming didn’t necessarily leave a good impression. I just think that having the I-House avoids a lot of the issues that we ran into at Homecoming.”

After debating themes including “Casino Royale,” Student Council decided on an easier theme instead, according to Tiffany.

“We knew in general that people never really follow the theme that much,” she explained. “We wanted to do black and white and kind of try to promote people to try and dress cohesively slash to the theme because a lot of girls wear black dresses anyways. We were also hoping to make it distinct from Homecoming by promoting a little more formal dress than usual.”

ROYALTY NOMINATIONS have traditionally seen a low turnout, Tiffany said.

“The voting is by hand, like usual. We’ll have a list by each grade and just do it manually,” she explained. “I think our struggle with getting people for elections might just be because dance royalty isn’t as big of a deal as it is at other schools.”

“So, even though we’re expecting less technical problems and less loose ends and changes - after all, we’re back with a venue and a DJ that we have experience with. I still don’t see much of a change in this dance as far as royalty goes. I guess we’ll have to see.”

Far as royalty goes. I guess we’ll have to see.”

It is back at I-House. Then again it’s kind of hard to tell because homecoming didn’t necessarily leave a good impression. I just think that having the I-House avoids a lot of the issues that we ran into at Homecoming.”

Senior science wiz heads to Intel award final in D.C.

By Raghu Somala  
Associate Editor

Excited he will meet professionals in algorithms in computer science, senior Rahul Mehta will be the sole Illinois finalist at the final round of the Intel Science Talent Search held in Washington D.C., March 6-12.

Rahul and senior Mohammed Munim were the only Illinois students to make the semifinalist round. Rahul later became the only finalist. Intel STS is the nation’s most renowned science research competition for seniors in high school. Each year, judges pick 300 semifinalists and later 40 finalists. Finalists go to Washington D.C., earning $7500 in addition to the $1000 semifinalist award. The winner of the competition will be awarded $100,000.

RAHUL SUBMITTED his algorithm for sparse networks in computer science for the competition.

“My project was in the field of theoretical computer science, and specifically involved designing a new algorithm for the so-called ‘maximum flow problem’ in sparse networks,” Rahul said. “It has significance in routing, scheduling, and image processing applications.”

“I got the idea from my independent study with Professor Janos Simon of the University of Chicago Computer Science Department,” Rahul said. “I took a graduate Algorithms course with him the winter of my junior year, where I was introduced to various research level open problems through his lectures. After that class, I started an independent study with him, originally to study approximation algorithms, but he suggested I write journal articles on road flow problems.”

AT WASHINGTON, Rahul joins other finalists for further consideration.

“Our schedule says we will be judged by a panel of four judges, two from the specialty in the field of our project, for example computer science for my project, and two generic scientists,” Rahul said. “Essentially they are trying to glean on my knowledge of my work and my general ability to problem solve. We will also have two-poster presentations one open to the public at the National Geographic Building and the other for the judges. I’m looking forward to them because it’s a more intuitive way to present my project than through a paper, because some of the more complex ideas can get lost on paper.”

Mohammed qualified as a semifinalist with his project in nanotechnology and material science.

“I STUDIED the physics-chemical properties and applications of synthesized biomaterials,” Mohammed explained. “The innovative advantage of the novel nanostructures I developed lay in their inlaid patterns of gold structures on the silicon nanowire, ultimately enhancing the nanowire’s electronic interaction with cells and laying a better building block for more effective circuits, and better diagnosis and medical treatments.”

“Professor Boylii Tian at the Department of Chemistry at the University of Chicago opened me up to an abundance of resources and opportunities at his lab. He helped me develop my premature idea into a working research project, and guided me through the whole thing. Physics teacher David Derhov and biology teacher Sharon Housinger were the ones who really pushed me to work on the project over the summer.”

After working through Summer Link last July, Mohammed continued working independently throughout the summer and school year.

“EVEN WITH the packed hours, it was completely worth applying to Intel,” he explained. “Not only was I able to demonstrate my scientific passion but I was able to show my abilities in the context of some of the brightest minds in the country.”

Warm welcome, frigid weather greet Beijing visitors

At a welcome breakfast, 13 exchange students from Beijing No.4 High School and their host students were welcomed by Director David Magill, Associate Director Jason Lopez, Principal Scott Fech, Dean of Students Ana Campos, and Assistant Principal Asra Ahmed. Arriving January 11, the Chinese exchange students visited Chicago for three weeks and leave Sunday morning for a week in Los Angeles before they head back to Beijing.

While in Chicago they went to museums and tours including the Chicago History Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, the Field Museum, an architecture tour and the skydeck tour.

Senior Hebah Masoud’s exchange student, Jianing Yao said she enjoyed the Willis Tower skydeck the most.

“I was fascinated by the transparent floor and the view of Chicago,” she said. “I got really excited standing on the glass looking down at the foggy city.”

In the picture are the exchange students, hosts and members of the Chinese 4 class, which performed a song at the welcome breakfast. From left, they are:

- Back row–Haoxiang Xu, Micaiah Buchim-Jurisson, Xiyuan Cui, Kelvin Xie, Jonathan Lipman, Ben Glick, Jinggu Yao, Yunjia Bao, Isabel Levin, Tobias Ginsburg.
- Middle row–Julian Bendelac, Andrew Chizewer, Reed Rosenbacher, Maria Privitera, Thomasina Fizdale, Paula Herbst, Elizabeth Stolze, Sofia Fioramonti-Gurchen, Helen He, Nigel Van Ha, Ziting Wang, Zoe Baum, Xiaoqiu Zhu, Xiacdan Ding, Lila Wilson.
- Front row–Avik Herur-Raman, Jianing Yao, Hebah Masoud, Sarah Pan, Grace Broderick, Yifei Wu, Mary Brady, Reece McCormick, Ziyu Dong, Di Xu, Yuchen Xiang.
Teacher with a lot to say gets award for saying it a lot

By Grace Anderson
Midway reporter

Leaning back in his chair against a wall covered with newspaper clippings and photographs, history teacher Paul Horton talked about becoming a recipient of the Upton Sinclair Award for his advocacy on education issues, published papers and the work of his students. Mr. Horton described learning that he received the award. “I was visiting in Madison and was in the hotel room when I found out,” he explained. “I actually just saw it online, I was completely surprised.”

The award is given annually to six recipients by the Haberman Educational Foundation for exceptional contributions in the field of education and “worked to help children pursue the American Dream.” William Korech, Class of 1962, also was a recipient. “I think a big reason I received the award is because I’ve taken on a lot of education advocacy issues, particularly through publications and newspapers,” Mr. Horton said. “I fight for history education and against corporate education, particularly the Common Core legislation which is national curriculum that essentially dictates that a school’s quality is determined by its standardized test scores.”

Mr. Horton said he is part of a national network attempting to combat corporate reforms and raise public awareness of them. “Before Christmas I gave the faculty information through email on how some legislation was rewritten in order to allow unqualified teachers to take care of special needs kids,” he recalled. “I also tied in some other aspects of corporate education reform like the declining role of the teacher.”

Yearbook tops State contest

Named Best Overall Year, the 2014 U-Highlights also won five First Place honors in individual categories in the Illinois Journalism Education Association’s annual competition. Yearbooks competed in six divisions based on school enrollment. U-High’s individual category honors were for Best Copy Writing, Best Sports Coverage, Best Use of Photography, Best Graphics and Best Coverage of the Year. The U-High book also received 2nd place honors in layout and design and divider pages.

Editors were Maya Hansen, Meryl Charleston and Jordan Einhorn, seniors last year, and Sabrina Holland, a junior last year who this year, as a senior, is again a U-Highlights editor-in-chief. Additional members of the editorial team were Zach Zabriskie, Ryan Sowden, Spencer Farnsworth, Ethan Richman, Jan Newman and Ben Morley.

U-High’s individual category honors were for Best Copy Writing, Best Use of Photography, Best Graphics and Best Coverage of the Year. The U-High book also received 2nd place honors in layout and design and divider pages. Editors were Maya Hansen, Meryl Charleston and Jordan Einhorn, seniors last year, and Sabrina Holland, a junior last year who this year, as a senior, is again a U-Highlights editor-in-chief.

Photos by Della Brown

U-Highers come face to face with crime, get safety advice

By Ariel Gans
Midway reporter

In the wake of several U-Highers experiencing robberies, refraining from using technology on the street is the best way to reduce the likelihood of victimization or injury. Director of Security Fountain Walker is again advising.

In the past two months, three U-Highers have been robbed in Hyde Park. So far two men have been brought in as suspects for a late November robbery of a Lab Schools junior. The men have neither been identified as the robbers nor charged for the crime though they are currently being questioned.

AT 10:50 P.M. on Friday, November 29, two males approached a junior boy, alone on 50th and Drexel. “I had just closed the front door of my friend’s house and was listening to my iPod and walking my bike,” said the junior boy. “I then noticed two guys on the steps who looked suspicious.”

“I jumped on my bike and started peddling but one of them grabbed my backpack and asked me like five times ‘why you peddling G?’ Then I jumped off my bike and threw it to the side. I was about to punch them when two more came from across the street.”

“ONE SAID, ‘We have a knife’. I remember getting nervous when I heard that because I realized that they could do some serious damage. Then two of them put their hands on my neck and brought me to the ground. They said, ‘empty your pockets,’ and I did.”

“They told me to make this as easy as I could for myself. They took my wallet, iPhone, hat, sweatshirt, my dad’s bike, and left. They were loud, comfortable, and employed intimidation. They kept threatening me until they got what they needed.”

At 3:31 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, a senior boy and junior girl crossing at 55th and Kenwood were on their way home when an unknown male came up from behind them.

“I TURNED AROUND and saw part of a gun, not pointed at me but enough to recognize what it was,” said the senior boy. “I didn’t see the gun,” the junior girl said. “I couldn’t understand what the man was even saying at first and I ignored him because I assumed he was crazy. Then I heard him ask, ‘Do you wanna lose your life?’ He was quiet, calm and friendly, I didn’t know what was going on. Then looking at my friend he said, ‘Give me your phone.’

“My friend thought he was joking. He gave him his phone and the guy ran off to a waiting car that drove off super fast. He never even looked at me.”

“IT ALL HAPPENED in less than 10 seconds. Then we stood there confused. When I talked to my mom she freaked out. I wasn’t that upset until later. It was just weird because it happened in broad daylight.”

Added the senior boy, “He was so nonchalant and not threatening, neither of us were scared. But guns have never really scared me.”

“The first thing that I thought when he showed me the gun was, ‘Judge, I just got this phone’. I give it to him and just like that in 10 seconds it was over. He just sprinted away and jumped into the passenger seat of a waiting car and (continues on back page)
Grad tenaciously pursues getting chess into public schools for its multiple values

By Sonia Bourdahgs
Editor-in-Chief

Hoping to increase interest in the game of chess in Chiago, Jerry Neugarten, Class of '65 and board member of the Illinois Chess Association (ICA), started working towards making the sport available to Chicago Public Schools (CPS) in August 2010.

After graduating from U-High, Mr. Neugarten attended the University of Chicago, Florida, and later Harvard Law School. Now retired, Mr. Neugarten is an active member of the Association and has been pushing to offer free or inexpensive chess instruction in CPS schools.

ICA took back control from private companies, Mr. Neugarten reports, “When I was at U-High, John Levi connected the chess association to then-CEO of CPS, Ron Huberman. Since then, the ICA has been involved in a long and drawn-out negotiation with CPS.”

“The efforts seemed to sputter,” Mr. Neugarten said, “but we were working quietly and behind the scenes, sending letters and offering to pay for the material they requested, doing whatever we could to answer their questions about the game. But it was years before we thought we were close to getting agreement on a new program.”

“Several members of the staff we were dealing with would leave town for another job, and we’d have to start all over again with someone else.”

So Mr. Neugarten started a new direction.

“We PUBLISHED an editorial last August on our website laying out what had happened and criticizing the CPS plan as too small.” Mr. Neugarten said. “Of course CPS is going through horrible problems and the second-source funding that was supposed to make up a top priority. But CPS took it a step too far when they issued a public statement saying they couldn’t afford the program we were proposing. We were offering it for free!”

The writer of a photo caption accompanying the story then picked up the story did not mention chess. Administrators the mystery of a mention in the headline on the story did not until a quote from a student commenting on a relocation there. “THE STUDIES flesh this out and it is now widely accepted that chess improves grades, test scores, strategic and critical thinking, ability to deal with loss and gain. Another significant benefit of chess is that most chess programs are held after school, when the rates of violence are the highest. Chess clubs usually become the city's most popular after-school activity as well as a safe haven.”

A top-100 nationally ranked chess player, senior Arjun Nandy started playing chess when he was 5 years old. “If you look around internationally, a lot of places have mandatory chess in schools, and the reason why they do it is that they use it more as a life lesson,” he said. “They want you to learn to chess to develop the sense to have concentration and focus. You have to think the cold way to win at chess. It can all translate to school. When you win a chess game you feel great. It’s a great way for kids to develop a work ethic for future years.”

neuproposes that chess should be taught in public schools for its multiple values.

“Mr. Neugarten hopes to utilize what he calls "tiered" coaching for chess programs.

In his model we advocate that once you get a group of kids at higher level, you bring in a new coach,” he explained. “There are many chess players in the area who are out of coaching for fees. In my program in Highland Park we bring titled players in to teach the strong kids, and an International Master teaches the best players in multiple schools. This notion of tiered coaching is important.”

PERKS TO GAIN: And the chess program in CPS schools continue as ICA urges the city to consider setting up a new program patterned after the Chicago Public Schools Debate Commission. “We’ve had successful negotiations with CPS and an independent nonprofit. The Commission raises most of the money and supplies much of the staff. Meetings have taken place recently to consider the Debate Commission model for chess.”

Despite difficulty in getting various parties to agree on something, Mr. Neugarten said, “I think the Chess Commission is working now” and, since Mr. Brian Wildeman’s art room is now in Blaine Hall, he assumed that the move of the Senior Lounge never “and, since Mr. Brian Wildeman’s art room is now in Blaine Hall, he assumed that the move of the Senior Lounge never destined for Blaine Hall

— In a Midway story in the December 17 issue of the Midway, the Senior Lounge being relocated to Blaine Hall has been solved.

The headline on the story did not mention Blaine Hall, the second headline that the story did not until a quote from a student commenting on a relocation there. The reporter, who was doing his first feature story for the Midway, explained to the editors he had been told the Lounge would be relocated to “where the art rooms are now” and, since Blaine Hall, in the same hall, is being renovated.

The writer of a photo caption accompanying the story then picked up “Blaine Hall” from the quote.

Although, the space into which both the Dean of Students and the Senior Lounge are actually moving, west of the cafeteria, originally was constructed as a faculty lounge for the University’s School of Education and the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office.

— ANOTHER STATE SCHOLAR—In another Midway story, a student from the University of Illinois Scholarship was missing one class, Elizabeth Corby, the story did not until a quote from a student commenting on a relocation there. The reporter, who was doing his first feature story for the Midway, explained to the editors he had been told the Lounge would be relocated to “where the art rooms are now” and, since Blaine Hall, in the same hall, is being renovated.

The writer of a photo caption accompanying the story then picked up “Blaine Hall” from the quote.

Although, the space into which both the Dean of Students and the Senior Lounge are actually moving, west of the cafeteria, originally was constructed as a faculty lounge for the University’s School of Education and the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office, the Lab Schools, and across the hall stood the Dean of Student’s Office.

— CUT THE DRAMA OUT OF haircuts!

Looking to give his hair extra flair for the winter season, Miles Grogger discusses Hair Design International's hair gel's stylist Imogene Santiago.

“Flipping out of you’re having a great time!–In

— FOCUS ON WEALTH—

Opening Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.–8:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tired of spending too much time getting your hair cut? It’s time to stop in at Hair Design International. Our efficient and experienced stylists will have you looking good and out the door in no time. With great options for better prices, Hair Design International is the place to go.
We vote for a strong student government

STUDENT COUNCIL of the United States of Amer

Quick Q

Write us!

Published nine times during the school year by journalism and photojournalism students of University High School, 1342 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637. Phone 773-732-0691. FAX 773-732-7465. E-mail: editor@ucls.uchicago.edu. Copyright 2014 University High School, Chicago, Journalism Department. Printed by PGE, Brooklyn, Illinois.

PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR...........................................Jeff Li
ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Mona Brusay, Nattalie Hickory, Mia Lux, Brian Maeder, Juliette Lock, Luke Murphy, Christine Qian-Hong, Ingrid Sotomayor, Clay Sueker.

IMAGE EDITORS: this issue: Maria Balducci, 1, news; Sarah Broatch, 2, news, Elena Menstriot, 3, news, Mona Brusay, 4, editorial and opinion, Nattalie Hickory, 5, reviews and columns, Massimo Pagliaro, 6, sports, Mike Glick, 7, sports, Luke Murphy. A deep thanks to photo assistants, Rachel Marcus.

STAFF REPORTERS: Grace Ancellini, Elisabeth Chon, Aziel Gena, Alex Huren, David Hedges, Mike Helfert, Monica Matzak, Clyde Schrider, Willa Weinman, John Turner Williams.

EXECUTIVE PHOTOGRAPHERS: Matthew Geary, Jeffrey Li, Piyo Potter, Delicious Toledo.

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS: Francine Almeida, Debra Benson, Mitchell Rachman-Jansen, Wy el Duncky, Carl Fohran, Jamey Lemay, Ly Shokes, Stacy Stern, Alexander Thompson, Monica Valenzuela.

ARTISTS...............................................................Lydia Fama and Karl Flocke

ADVISORS..........................................................Wayne Brasl (editorial, business), Liza Lizzi (photography)
Shines in complex film

By Christine Obert-Hong

Film critic

With a Critics Choice Award for Best Actress and a Golden Globe for Best Actress in the Drama category already in hand, Cate Blanchett has a great chance of winning the Oscar for Best Actress for her performance as Jasmine Francis in Woody Allen's film, “Blue Jasmine.”

Jasmine, a formerly wealthy Manhattan socialite with a penchant for drinking and talking to herself, moves from New York to San Francisco after her husband is arrested for fraud and her stepson cuts all connections to her. Now broke, and with no prior career experience, she goes to live with her adopted sister, Ginger (Sally Hawkins), in hopes of starting a new life.

And Jasmine unmistakably is a reference to the equally alcohol-loving and talkative character Blanche DuBois from Tennessee Williams’ play “A Streetcar Named Desire.” Blanchett’s performance has been rightfully lauded by critics, but the character herself may push away viewers. From start to finish, the film, Jasmine wins that category.

This allusion to another theatrical work isn't anything new for Allen. While “Blue Jasmine” is a very good film, earning Allen an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Screenplay, it is unlikely that Allen will win that category.

Blanchett’s performance has been rightfully lauded by critics, but the character herself may push away viewers. From start to finish, the film, Jasmine retains a holier-than-thou and entitled attitude, which makes it practically impossible to feel empathy for her or attachment to her.

Still ‘Scandal’ous, series continues to intrigue

By Natalie Holley

Television critic

Season three of ABC’s “Scandal” has proven a blowout of extremes. In 12 episodes Olivia Pope and Associates, the crisis management firm owned by main character Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington), has experienced a national emergency, the outing and consequent murder of a politician’s spouse and the exposure of Olivia’s parents. After several melodramatic moments per episode, “Scandal” has earned its reputation as a late-night soap opera.

Although last season ended with a cliffhanger surrounded by what clifhanger, the reveal of Olivia’s father as the head of secret government-organized torture group B613, “Scandal” failed to cash in on the anticipation it had established among its audience, explaining the bombshell minimum.

“Considering ‘Scandal’ is known for its over-the-top reveals, this was a missed opportunity,” the moment that had captured the audience’s attention for an entire season was swept under the rug, with the show instead opting to start new, complicated storylines.

As the season continued, plotlines surrounding missing people, military secrets and more clouded the main focus of the show. Most scenes seemed overwritten and characters got pushed aside for showy action scenes and over-the-top flashbacks.

“Scandal” has begun to get back on track. Episode 8, “Virginia Is for Lovers, Too,” featured the hot and heavy romance between Olivia and Fitz (Tony Goldwyn), evil political plotting between Cyrus (Jeff Perry) and Mellie (Bellamy Young) and new revelations about Olivia’s parents. The show is back to what it does best: displaying the lack of morals within Washington, D.C. By focusing on plotlines the audience already cares about instead of telling on unknown people and places, “Scandal” is already reverting to its old self.

Enjoying a romantic meal, U-High couple Ruby Koontz, senior, and David Yunis, junior, munch on fruit, pretzels and marshmallows dipped in warm chocolate fondue.

Make sure to keep the mixture warm and melted in a fondue dish or crockpot while enjoying your meal.

What else could top off this dinner except some classic chocolate fondue? If you really want the night to be a knockout, rinse your saucepan and fondue dish and whip up some melt-y dessert.

For the chocolate fondue, you will need:

1 1/2 cups heavy whipping cream, with 1/4 saved just in case the fondue gets too thick
1 and 3/4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
Any dippables you prefer (I recommend strawberries, cherries, pretzels, marshmallows or cake).

HEAT 1/2 CUP of the cream in a medium sized saucepan over moderate heat on the stove until it comes to a low boil. Then remove the pan from the heat and add the chocolate. Let the chocolate stand in the hot cream about 3 to 5 minutes to soften, and then mix. If the fondue becomes too thick, stir in the reserved amount of cream, 1 tablespoon at a time, until it is the consistency you want.

Finally, keep the mixture warm and melted in a fondue dish or crockpot while you dip, eat, and savor the sweetness!

Magazine showcases photo teacher’s project

By Jackie Walker

Midway reporter

PH magazine, a well-known monthly photography magazine, is featuring the work of photography and photojournalism teacher Lasse Ricketts’ work in its current issue.

For her project “The Magic Bench” Ms. Ricketts in the Summer of 2011 captured people on a park bench in Lima, Peru. Born in Peru, Ms. Ricketts has returned there in the ‘70s. I knew I wanted to work that way some day and, by the time I returned to Peru to do the project, there were no timelapse film photographers left, just guys taking digital snapshots of people and selling them.

“Many of the same local people came every day to the park. We became friends, drank Cokes together, talked, told stories and laughed. When another subject walked by, I would pause, get up, and start my introduction. The others would wait until the session was over and we would continue our social hour.”

PAGE 5 • REVIEWS AND COLUMNS • U-High Midway • Friday, January 31, 2014
Boy basketballers flying high in ISL, take down Northridge

By Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief

Before playing their final four Independent School League games—against Elgin, North Shore, Latin and ISL power Northridge—var- sing boys basketballers will travel to Orr High School to face Westinghouse in the Orr High School Shootout tomorrow. The 13-4 Maroons, 7-0 in the ISL as of Midway press time, have competed in two tournaments, the Laie Thanksgiving Tournament and the McDipper Tournament. Led by new coach Marlo Finner, U-High won the Laie tour- nament and finished with a 1-3 record at McDipper. Excited to have the boys’ talent against Westinghouse, a perennial CPS power, three- point specialist Jon King, senior, says U-High has set its sights on a victory. “There will be a lot of good teams at the Orr Shootout,” Jon said. “We got into a lot of dif- ferent tournaments this year, including the Laie Thanksgiving Tournament and the McDipper Tournament. Led by our new coach, Marlo Finner, we’re working on some defense. We’ve had some good wins against some good teams. I think we can compete with Westinghouse.”

The Maroons defeated conference foes North Shore 51-41 January 10 away, Parker 58-37 January 14 at home, Latin 58-35 January 17 at home and Northridge 53-39 January 22 in front of Northridge’s always passionate fan section to gain momentum heading into the final stretch of the season. Despite starting off the games against Parker and Latin slowly, U-High used defense to produce comebacks in both games. “We played North Shore coming out of McDipper and got a hot conference win,” senior Logan Crowl, co-captain with senior Max Rothschild and junior Jordan Moran, said. “To beat Parker and Latin in front of our home crowd was huge. We came out slow in both games, but the rust came off and we pulled it out. In the Latin game, our big run all started on defense. A lot of the runs we make start with three-pointers, but this one started from getting it going on the defensive end. We got a lot of steals off the press, especially Jordan, and we finished them off with several and-ones. We were really flowing.”

With the IHSA 3A playoffs approaching, Logan says Coach Finner has instilled in the Maroons confidence that they can make a deep run. “Coach Finner stresses everyday the fact that we are a team. We have to shoot, we have to get in the paint, we have to play defense. If we think we can beat anyone, we can.”

Swimmers taking down records at torrid pace, heading into final stretch

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

In the second portion of their home-and-home, swimmers will look to defeat Jesuit College Prep for the second time this season today at 4:30 p.m.

Captained by seniors Rex Hughes and Eliot Levmore, the Maroons have encountered a rigorous schedule with returning coach Paul Guntly, new JV coach Kate Chronik has also contributed to the varsity team for her first year at the school.

Senior Noah Braendel has been impressed with the team’s perfor- mance so far this year. “We’ve begun the season by facing some tough opponents such as Latin and St. Ignatius,” Noah said. “We have been performing very well, which I feel stems from our ability to rise to the occasion and swim to the level of our op- ponents. Since the swimmers we are fac- ing off against are fast we are able to pace ourselves at a faster time.”

Much of the team’s success can be cred- ited to the underclassmen, says Eliot. “The underclassmen will smash or have smashed all of the underclassmen records,” Eliot said. “In particular, sopho- more Jason Lin has already broken a fresh-soph record, the 500-free, and is on track for the varsity record, and the fresh-soph 200-medley relay team im- proved on their previous record by 11 seconds at the Riverside Brookfield Invitational January 18. It’s clear to everyone that they are the hottest underclassmen we have ever had.”

After finishing second in a rough turnover after losing last year’s seniors, Rex has been pleasantly surprised with the unity of the squad this year.

“I was favored this season started, I was unsure of if I could win a meet or not. I was surprised by just how well we did. The team was close, and we all go there to train. I’m hoping to compete internationally, so Junior Olympics this summer,” Hiroki said. “Basically, I want to go to as many big tournaments as I can, and I guess I’ll see where to go from there.”
devotion to track among the sprinters that we will have a stronger sense of training and a lot of work on training than in previous years. Workouts have included more cross training and distance events. A son, junior, led preseason practices. Damien Johnson, senior, and Alex Thompson, junior, and sprinting co-captains Bolu Okigbe, senior, and cross country co-captains Frank Waggoner, Max Volchenkov, and seniors have been added.

The meet will be the first away meet for indoor runners. One other away meet is scheduled. Prior to the official season, distance co-captains Frank Waggoner, Max Volchenkov and Sonia Bourdaghs, seniors, and sprinting co-captains Bolu Johnson, senior, and Alex Thompson, junior, led preseason practices.

According to Alex, the workouts have included more cross training than in previous years. “We’ve been doing a lot of weight training and a lot of work on strengthening our legs and arms,” Alex explained. “For the team I hope that we will have a stronger sense of devotion to track among the sprinters, and that we will commit more time to practice. The addition of away meets provides new competition, said Frank. “It is just another opportunity to race with people we haven’t really seen before,” Frank said. “Home meets usually have the same people every year. It will be nice to run on some new indoor tracks.” Also hoping to add more cross training to workouts, Coach Deborah Ribbens attended the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association (ITCCA) for more ideas.

“We will do 7 a.m. Monday morning workouts and a double practice on Wednesdays in the morning and afternoon,” Coach Ribbens explained. “We will also incorporate swimming, yoga, pilates and two days of weight training a week.” “We have a large team, with approximately 61 athletes. We want to work this season on field events like jumping and throwing, too. At meets all those points add up.”

Away meets add new, positive element to runners’ season
By Sonia Bourdaghs
Editor-in-Chief
Preparing for the first meet of the season February 22 at De La Salle High School, U-High runners began practice January 21. The meet will be the first away meet for indoor runners. One other away meet is scheduled. Prior to the official season, distance co-captains Frank Waggoner, Max Volchenkov and Sonia Bourdaghs, seniors, and sprinting co-captains Bolu Johnson, senior, and Alex Thompson, junior, led preseason practices.

According to Alex, the workouts have included more cross training than in previous years. “We’ve been doing a lot of weight training and a lot of work on strengthening our legs and arms,” Alex explained. “For the team I hope that we will have a stronger sense of devotion to track among the sprinters, and that we will commit more time to practice. The addition of away meets provides new competition, said Frank. “It is just another opportunity to race with people we haven’t really seen before,” Frank said. “Home meets usually have the same people every year. It will be nice to run on some new indoor tracks.” Also hoping to add more cross training to workouts, Coach Deborah Ribbens attended the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association (ITCCA) for more ideas.

“We will do 7 a.m. Monday morning workouts and a double practice on Wednesdays in the morning and afternoon,” Coach Ribbens explained. “We will also incorporate swimming, yoga, pilates and two days of weight training a week.” “We have a large team, with approximately 61 athletes. We want to work this season on field events like jumping and throwing, too. At meets all those points add up.”

Final test looms for fencers
By Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief
Prepared to take on the top teams from the Great Lakes Fencing Conference, fencers will travel north to Lincolnshire to Stevenson High School tomorrow morning for their final tournament of the season, the Great Lakes Fencing Championships.

Coached by Bakybt Abdikulov and assistant coach Damien Johnson, the Maroons participated in the Great Lakes Fencing Conference (GLFC) Team Meet December 7 at New Trier and December 14 at Maine West, with the women’s foil team taking 1st place. The Maroons also had several individuals, including junior Jennifer Chien, place highly in the Culver Academy Midwest Open January 11. While U-High’s women’s foil took 1st place at the Culver Open, the Maroons also sent fencers in the saber and epee divisions.

“We won our regionals and qualified for nationals in most of the teams they will face,” Coach Johnson said. “This year for epee named Damien Johnson has been very good for all of us.”

I think our other teams have a chance to win our regionals and make it a much harder tournament. Senior Charles Chamberlain performed particularly well, seeding himself in the top eight, 6th overall. The Culver Open was not the first meet of the season for epee named Damien Johnson. “I think that for the most part we know and have faced who we will be competing against at the conference championships,” Charles said. “We’ve seen most of the teams.

New Trier has a pretty well-rounded team for the men’s epee, and Culver Military Academy also has a couple good fencers and one really good one. Our women’s foil can do really well I think, and I think our other teams can do really well too.”

The Maroons have benefitted greatly from Coach Johnson, Charles said. “We have a new coach this year for epee named Damien Johnson. He’s just an epee coach, but he has made it easier for us when our main coach isn’t there. We don’t have a purely saber coach, but Damien’s presence on the court.”

Kendall says he has placed more of an emphasis on creating offense for the Maroons this year.)”I feel like in my first two years in the program I tried to do a little bit of everything and just help the team however they needed, whether that be as a scorer, rebounder, distributor or defender,” Kendall said. “This year I’ve definitely focused more on creating offense both for my teammates and myself.”

Riding hot streak, girl basketballers set for Trinity test
By Lake Murphy
Sports editor
Winners of 11 of their first 15 games and three of their last four, varsity girl basketballers will take on Holy Trinity today in Upper Koffer, 4:30 p.m.

With an unblemished 4-0 record in the ISL, including recent wins over Parkside, MPA and North Shore, the Maroons look poised for a run in the 2A playoffs. U-High defeated the Colonels 45-39 December 17 at the Mater Holiday Tournament, before victories January 22 at North Shore.

While recent wins look nice in the standings, senior Lillian Ekestein believes that the team has the potential for many more decisive victories.

“Our recent games have been wins but not necessarily good wins,” Lillian said. “We have started a little shakier than we would’ve liked but we end up pulling off the win in the end. Our leading scorer has definitely been junior Kendall Bullis since the beginning and it has continued that way.”

Practice for Maroons places a large emphasis on fundamentals, according to Lillian.

“In practice we have been focusing a lot on dribbling, passing and shooting technique,” Lillian said. “We do not run complicated drills in practices or plays in games, but we are working on perfecting the abilities that we have.”

One of the key players in recent memory, Sophia Gatton, now a freshman at Grinnell College, has been greatly missed, Lillian said.

“Not having Sophia on the team is definitely a challenge,” Lillian said. “It puts a lot more pressure on Kendall to take over all of the ball control, passing, and playmaking, but she has become an even bigger presence on the court.”

Kendall says she has placed more of an emphasis on creating offense for the Maroons this year.

“I feel like in my first two years in the program I tried to do a little bit of everything and just help the team however they needed, whether that be as a scorer, rebounder, distributor or defender,” Kendall said. “This year I’ve definitely focused more on creating offense both for my teammates and myself.”

With a quick movement, Zach Minor (left) attacks his opponent in the 4th Annual Midway Classic, hosted by U-High January 25. Upper Koffer, Lower Koffer and Sunny Gym housed the tournament.
Student government may revisit its activist legacy, officers say

By Julian Lark

Political and student government editor

Having spread two dances and two Spirit Weeks this year, Student Council officers say they have begun to realize there is more than they could.

Student government at U-High, a historically activist organization, has traditionally tackled major issues, from budget concerns in the late 1990s to shuffle dancing to the present.

In 1969-70 the Student Legislative Coordinating Council (SLCC) was formed to give a voice for a time to give more representative power, represented students worried about school-wide budget cuts by jumping the fence. The SLCC was a chance for students to feel their presence from administrators so that students could understand the process better.

SLCC Thursday approved a statement drafted by student Steve Pitts, protesting the administration’s poor communication with the school community concerning the budget problem. SLCC also decided to write and circulate a petition stating displeasure with the administration’s budget solution, a January 13, 1969 Midway story for the Spring quarter, we thought it made sense to continue with that.

“I’m sure what kids are feeling today is similar to what we experienced when I was president,” Mr. Pitts said. “There was a lot of non-Student Council activity going on. A lot of students were engaged in Vietnam War protests, and some were even involved in the anti-war organization. Even when there was a student protest in 1970, student government was not involved.

“We mostly just determined what clubs and organizations got what portion of the budget,” Vice President, senior Matthew Davis said. “There were many other factors at play. The SLCC was in the late 1960s, and I’m sure kids are less active, seeing as times are different.”

A PETITION FOLLOWED in Fall of 2010, started by Shannon Vane, a designed area of study and eating during lunch. "I’m pretty much satisfied with the results of having this rule in place for the fall quarter, we thought it made sense to continue with that.

“Generally the kids should use common sense in terms of avoiding a mess, seeing as food on the floors just means more creatures around, and nobody wants that,”

Phil described Student Council as running in a way that most of their actions represent suggestions and the goal is to find solutions amenable to both students and administration.

THAT’S JUST BECAUSE there’s been no major issues in our eyes over which we’d have to fight with anyone,” Phil said. “There’s nothing big like spending cuts or schedule changes over which we’d have to be forceful. I mean, I’ve never liked filling free periods with assemblies, apart from the awards assemblies and assemblies where there are a lot of announcements to make, but I have been able to finish my work, so I don’t think it’s too big a deal.

Students around the Journalism Office have debated about other issues that could be addressed, including whether “Challenge Success,” a program run by the Stanford Graduate School of Education intended to help students at rigorous high schools balance school work and personal health, when the school adds on assemblies and other obligations for students. Many students also said they didn’t plan on being in the SLCC. "I think it’s fine," he said. "I still have to think about that." An where the students have been listened to a number of Students from prestigious universities give application advice, is supposed to send. Many feel the event should incorporate an opportunity for over-extended students.

Phil said that he is realizing that students are under-represented in important meetings and decision-making committees. Phil said he would like to have a student representative at important administrative meetings. "I’ve thought of asking, as I’ve never seen this as a problem," Phil said. "I don’t think its fair for me to sit at meetings where things are going on that have deep consequences. I should probably be more involved in the future, but I haven’t been sure the decisions made so far.

Ms. Campos said her experience with U-High’s Student Council is similar to her previous experience with student government at the University of Chicago.

"The student government bodies that I have interacted with before were housing organizations,” Ms. Campos said. “They were very similar in that their goals were also to build community through activities and such, and that is exactly what is happening here.

IF IN THE University area use the ‘Blue Light’ phones, instead of walking or running through beyond acquiring your material items at this point. "If you don’t want your belongings, don’t fight back, just give them to the police as quickly as possible."

"Despite what you hear, Hyde park is the fifth safest community in Chicago.”

Sorting out this year’s early college admissions picture

Some seniors express shock at results, but from another viewpoint nothing unusual happened

By Marissa Page, an editor-in-chief; Luke Murphy, an associate editor; and Willis Weinstein, a Midway reporter.

The early bird catches the worm. Early admission college applicants in U-High’s Class of 2014, however, feel unsatisfied with their decisions, released last week.

Fifty-eight seniors, 46.4 percent of the class, applied for early admission this year. Of those, 36, 62.1 percent, were accepted to their first choice. This is a decrease from the 71.1 percent in the Class of 2012, and was signed by 290 students. It was unsuccessful.

"I don’t want the new schedule too much of a focus on taking away freedom from the students and putting them in class for me," senior Matthew Davis said. "I think it’s fine," he said. "I still have to think about that." An where the students have been listened to a number of Students from prestigious universities give application advice, is supposed to send. Many feel the event should incorporate an opportunity for over-extended students.

Phil said that he is realizing that students are under-represented in important meetings and decision-making committees. Phil said he would like to have a student representative at important administrative meetings. "I’ve thought of asking, as I’ve never seen this as a problem," Phil said. "I don’t think its fair for me to sit at meetings where things are going on that have deep consequences. I should probably be more involved in the future, but I haven’t been sure the decisions made so far.

Ms. Campos said her experience with U-High’s Student Council is similar to her previous experience with student government at the University of Chicago.

"The student government bodies that I have interacted with before were housing organizations,” Ms. Campos said. “They were very similar in that their goals were also to build community through activities and such, and that is exactly what is happening here.

IF IN THE University area use the ‘Blue Light’ phones, instead of walking or running through beyond acquiring your material items at this point. "If you don’t want your belongings, don’t fight back, just give them to the police as quickly as possible."

"Despite what you hear, Hyde park is the fifth safest community in Chicago.”

Matthew said, "I wasn’t initially intending on applying anywhere early, but I looked at my list and decided that if got in everywhere I applied I would apply to this place for sure, so why not take out my hat in the early round.

The college counselors and I thought I had a pretty good chance, and I didn’t want to assume anything but I was surprised by my deferral." Senior Louis Harboe got rejected from his early pick.

"YOU SEE the decision and immediately made up my mind that was the right choice, maybe it read wrong, there has to be a way to reverse it," Louis said. "I kept thinking that maybe it was a stress related, and not a mistake, it was just a mistake in stone. It took a few days to really set in, but that's the decision and I'm sticking with it."

Louis said that all that started on early December and he was just going through. You are just not going there.

"The worst part is that you wonder if they really got to know you, if they took into account your interview that went so well, if they really read your resume. At this point with so many applications there's no way anyone can really be reading everything, and it's basically a lottery," he said.

Despite the shared conviction among seniors and pure teachers that it has been a disappointing year for acceptances, college counselor Patty Kovacs insists this is not the case.

"EVERYBODY SEES things through self-reference," Mrs. Kovacs said. "Sure, for the students who said ‘no’, it feels like a terrible year, but for the students who said ‘yes’ it wasn’t a terrible year; in fact, very good year.

For the students who were told ‘maybe’ it is an uncertain year. In the moments before students receive their results, there is a feeling of anxiety and uncertainty. In the days following, there is a feeling of relief and excitement. The day students learn to go to their college of choice, it is a day of celebration and reflection. Students reflect on the process and look forward to the future. Students reflect on the process and look forward to the future. Students reflect on the process and look forward to the future.