



Artsfest kicks off with new feature, 'Art in the Dark'

By David Hedges
Midway reporter

"Art in the Dark," a new prelude to Artsfest, kicks off 6 tonight in the Senior Lounge and the cafeteria, offering through 9 p.m. U-Highers performing music, poetry, and dance, with a Fat Shallot food truck outside of Judd Hall to fuel the fun.

Artsfest tomorrow offers more than 50 workshops, performances and guest presenters including "808s and Pancakes," "Aloha Ukulele Jam" and "Flower Crowns," during 1st period.

A PERFORMANCE by the celebrated South Side group Kaotic Drumline will highlight the opening assembly 9 a.m. in Upper Kovler according to senior Lindsey Aronson, copresident with seniors Katie Harris and Liv Rhodes. Dance Team and U-Highers from the Chicago Children's Choir will star in the Closing Assembly at 2:35 p.m..

"Kaotic Drumline came a few years ago, so we know they are good," Lindsey said. They're a local group from the South Side."

As for "Art in the Dark," "There's a ton of activities and performances planned for Art in the Dark," Katie said. "There will be performances from student bands, U-High poets, and a number of very talented U-High singers. Also, juniors Karen Reppy and Cat Eng will be showing excerpts of their own dance choreography from their upcoming show at the Logan Center in late May."

SOME PAST FEATURES have been dropped.

"We decided not to hold the 'Fort Wars' and quiet study workshops and did our best to keep workshop capacities under 20 students, in order to increase contact with the workshop leader," Katie said.

Lower Schoolers will also get in on the fun and learning.

"There will be two workshops in Blaine and Earl Shapiro Hall, 'Throwback Thursday' and arts and crafts workshop with the 4th graders" Liv explained.

With seniors Louis Harboe and Sam Kaplan, the coordinators set up a web site describing all the programs U-Highers could choose from and then register for electronically.



Photo by Fiona Potter

Rehearsing for "Art in the Dark" tonight, Phil Healy, left, Marissa Page, Max Volchenboun and Louis Harboe will perform with Rahul Mehta and Matthew Garvey and their band, "Bespoke."



Photo by Monica Valenzuela

Directed by Nell Mittlestead, "English Made Simple" is among 11 plays in this year's Student Experimental Theater production February 27-March 1. In "English Made Simple," the character Jack (Jack Reece) has his inner thoughts voiced by Charlotte Elfenbaum.

SET production offers 11 plays, five by students

By Elizabeth Chon
Midway reporter

A fairy roams around a forest and falls madly in love with a human, only to find that he is about to be taken away from her.

"Costumes and Makeup," written and directed by senior Loren Sosnick, is among five student-written pieces in this year's Student Experimental Theatre (SET) production, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 27 through Saturday, March 1 in Judd 126. Tickets, \$10, are on sale in the Lobby.

This year's production showcases a larger number of pieces than in previous years, according to SET Board head Jiji Pleacha, senior.

"This show has more student-written work compared to previous years," Jiji added. "We received more student-written submissions this year, about six or seven out of 30 submissions total."

Loren said he wrote "Costumes and Makeup" because he wanted to write a piece about taking away from one's self.

"I was talking to senior Zoe Briskey, the head of makeup design, about how we don't do anything too interesting with costumes and makeup," Loren said. "We started sketching things up for

characters, but we realized we needed stories to make our plans happen. The night before submissions were due, I wrote a three-paged piece about a fairy, which ended up being the play 'Costumes and Makeup.'"

With fewer actors than in past years, new challenges arose concerning rehearsal scheduling, according to senior Nell Mittlestead.

"Having fewer actors has made it difficult for us to manage our schedule," she said. "Our actors have to perform in more plays, and we have to do a lot of juggling."

Student-written pieces are as follows:

"#TEENANGST"—Written and directed by Loren Sosnick. **Cast:** Nikki Kuper, Autumn Espinoza, Carly Plys-Garzotto.

"TICKLE ME ELMO EXTREME"—Written and directed by Zoe Briskey. **Cast:** Charlotte Elfenbaum.

"LOSING CLIVE"—Written and directed by Valentina Gardner. **Cast:** James Sinclair, Sam Van Loon, Kell-Sam van Loon, Kellie Liu.

"COSTUMES AND MAKEUP"—Written and directed by Loren Sosnick, Zoe Briskey. **Cast:** Autumn Espinoza, Kellie Liu, Lizzie Sullivan, Nikki Kuper.

"THE CONDITION"—Written and directed by Valentina Gardner. **Cast:** Valentina Gardner.

(continues on page 8)

Can Diversity be taught or must Diversity be experienced?

With long history of initiatives, U-High still may have been missing something, believe some observers

By Elizabeth Chon, Natalie Holley, Marissa Martinez, Julian Lark, Elena Maestripieri, Marissa Page and Sonia Bourdaghs

During Black History Month, African-American culture is celebrated annually throughout the Lab Schools.

This tradition isn't new; "100 Years of Learning at The University of Chicago Laboratory Schools," the definitive history by William Harms and Ida DePencier includes a chapter entitled "Schools Find Value in Diversity."

It recounts the Council on Race formed at U-High in the 1970s to "share the students' concern about the need for systematic inclusion of black and other minority group experiences in the Laboratory Schools curriculum."

Such initiatives have continued through the years. But some students, faculty members and parents say that they still experience social frictions caused by ethnicity, sexual orientation and differences in economic status that are seldom discussed..



Carah

"I think our biggest issue is not being culturally aware," Carah said. "I think U-High is a pretty diverse place, but we still face a lot of micro-aggressions. When I'm in those sorts of situations, the first thing I want to do is get angry and make the other

Black Students Association Vice President senior Carah Alexander said she has experienced insensitive jokes.

person understand what they said is hurtful, but what I end up doing is either laughing it off or just politely prompting them to expand on their comment.

"So if someone tells me something they did was 'so black' I ask them, 'Why?' 'What's so black about doing what you did?' I try to get them to realize how their comment was hurtful, and avoid using the word 'racist' because in my experience, people tend to respond really badly towards being accused of racism, as you can imagine.

"I think one of the first things we can do, along with being more thoughtful about what we say, is to establish a dialogue with each other so that everyone can feel comfortable telling others when they've said something hurtful."

People sometime focus on diversity statistics, Associate Director of

Educational Programs Jason Lopez said, but may be missing bigger issues.

"Personally, I feel like diversity isn't the bigger topic we should be focusing on," he explained. "The school's biggest



Mr. Lopez

problems are equity and social justice, things you can't measure. I think we often look at numbers; we can count people of color in classrooms, we can congratulate and pat ourselves on the back for that, but those numbers say nothing about equity or social justice. We have work to do in regards to addressing those issues."

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‘Connections’ adds online auction bids

By Alex Harron
Midway reporter

With the addition of online bidding to increase opportunities for fundraising, the annual Parents’ Association “Connections” gala is expected to draw more than 900 guests to the dramatic and historic window-lined Grand Ballroom of Navy Pier Saturday, March 8, 6 p.m. to midnight.

This year’s theme, “Inspire, Nurture, Ignite,” embodies the spirit of the two honorees, Laboratory Schools Director David Magill and Lab Schools Board President John Rogers Jr., Class of 1976, according to Kate Collins, Connections vice chairman with Christopher McGowan. The chairperson is University of Chicago president Robert J. Zimmer.

Mr. Magill is retiring the end of this year. He and Mr. Rogers have a long history of collaboration on behalf of the welfare of the school..

THE GALA fundraiser will offer for dining, following cocktails, a gourmet menu with three options: gluten-free beef, chicken or a gluten-free vegetarian entrée. Student talent following dinner will include the Dance Team performing to music by DJ Vince Adams and sophomore David Hedges and freshman Alex Lund offering musical numbers.

Ms. Collins and Mr. McGowan said four prizes will be given out to raffle winners. “The prizes include a \$5,000 Lab tuition credit, a weeklong getaway to a beach house in Saugatuck, Michigan, an American Club escape with a Tesla for the weekend and a MaxMara coat,” Ms. Collins said. “This year we have chosen to enhance the raffle prizes but keep the tickets affordable at \$20 each.”

Both the raffle tickets and the online auction were posted under the “Parents” tab on www.ucls.uchicago.edu February 18.

“THE ONLINE AUCTION this year focuses on teacher, parent and alumni led experiences,” Mr. McGowan said. “We have four professional day-long experiences for U-High students, including being an Illinois State Senate Page, a lawyer-in-training, a trader-in-training or an architect-in-training. These auction items generously donated by parents are available under ‘Only-at-Lab Student Experiences’ and geared towards U-High students.”

All Connections proceeds this year will benefit Lab Schools student financial aid, Ms. Collins said.

“Our main goal was to give people every opportunity to donate to Lab student financial aid,” Ms. Collins said. “Whether it is a dollar or \$25 thousand we have identified what Lab’s financial aid could use that for. For example, the \$200 ticket could go to a semester of books, school supplies and a backpack or a week of after school care.”

MR. MAGILL said he was looking forward to accepting his honor at Connections with his family by his side.

“I am humbled to be an honoree,” Mr. Magill said. “This year will be different from previous years because my three daughters and five of my seven grandchildren will be attending. John Rogers is a good friend of Lab and of mine. It is ironic that we will be retiring the same year, but we have had a fun time working together.”



Photo courtesy Jim Andrews

Treats for the Sweet

As Valentine’s Day approaches, clubs and committees raised funds for future events during lunch and free periods.

Holding a flower sale to raise money for Prom (photos from top), Committee members Lily Zhao, right, Rachel Conley and Grace Fioramonti-Gorchow sell pink carnations to Sophia Fioramonti-Gorchow.

Selling chocograms and cupcakes (bottom), Artsfest Committee copresident Liv Rhodes collects funds from Clea Braendel, right, Eriko Koide and Jane Maunsell February 10.



Photo by Jarrett Lampley

Rock your locks!



Photo by Della Brown

As Julia Mearsheimer discusses what style she has in mind, a Hair Design International stylist expertly combs through Julia’s hair, preparing it for her new hairdo.

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Brief-ly

Senior performs her way to Regional Shakespeare contest

Zoe Briskey, senior, represented U-High February 10 at the Regional Shakespeare Competition at Roosevelt University.

Zoe placed 2nd among six contestants in U-High’s third annual Competition January 30-31, but could not proceed to the Regional competition because the rules prohibit anyone who has been a paid actor during the school year from competing.

In the U-High competition, sophomore Maria Privitera placed 3rd. Participants performed a monologue of fewer than 19 lines from any Shakespeare play.

In Regionals, Zoe performed a monologue from “As You Like It” and a sonnet. She ended up among seven finalists, with the regional winner proceeding to New York City for finals May 4-6 at Lincoln Center.

The program is sponsored by the English Speaking Union, a historic global educational and charity organization dedicated to bringing together people who speak different languages and adhere to different cultures.

“This year the Chicago branch of the ESU has teamed up with an organization called Chicago Youth Shakespeare and will have a second team competition in April consisting of an insult-a-thon, a scene performed by two to four students and an ensemble performance,” English teacher Rachel Nielsen said. “I am hoping to get a group of students to participate in this competition as well.”

■ FOR CRYIN’ OUT LOUD!—Sophomore Grace Anderson won the Chicago Regional Poetry OutLoud competition and now proceeds to State Finals Friday, March 14 in Springfield.

At a Poetry Slam Team competition

last Saturday at Columbia College U-High took 1st place and proceeds to compete Friday at Columbia College, hopefully to end up at Semifinals Saturday, March 8 at Metro on Clark Street and Finals Saturday, March 15 at the Cadillac Palace Theater in the Loop.

■ MUSICAL TREAT—The next Sunday Music Recital at Fulton Hall showcasing outstanding student talent will take place Sunday, March 2. Start time to be determined.

■ KICKSTARTIN’—The enterprise Kickstart, which promotes creativity through entrepreneurship, will be discussed by Victoria Rogers, Class of 2008, at a meeting during lunch Thursday, March 13 in U-High 103.

The Red Cross Club will hold an informational meeting lunch this Friday, February 28, also in U-High 103.

■ HONORED—Coach Deborah Ribbens was inducted into the Chicago Christian High School Athletics Wall of Honor in ceremonies Saturday, February 15. Four graduates of the school are also being honored. The school is located in southwest suburban Palos Heights.

Ms. Ribbens taught Phys Ed and Health there for 11 years and coached basketball, volleyball and track and field. In 1981 her basketball team won the Class A State Championship.

■ THE MIDWAY APOLOGIZES—Two names were incorrect in the January 31 issue of the Midway. In the “Quick Q” column freshman Jameel Alausa was incorrectly identified as his brother Mohammed Alausa. On the back page, in a photo caption, the same Midway writer misidentified Junior Class President John Turner Williams as John Turner.



Photo by Stacy Stern

Renewing the discussion

Gathered to discuss diversity at U-High, Natalie Holley, left, Lily Olson, Alijah Futerman and Maryam Alausa were among approximately 15 students who turned out for a workshop led by the group “Diversity Initiative Collaboration Efforts” (DICE) after school Thursday, February 20.

DICE was restarted in 2011 by Natalia Ginsburg, Class of 2013. The group evolved out of the former Diversity Day planning club after an all-school Diversity Day didn’t get repeated because of mixed reception from the community. The DICE workshop focused on sharing experiences of insensitivity and was mentored by Guidance Counselor Tracy Graham, DICE’s faculty supervisor, and Dean of Students Ana Campos.

Senior Loren Sosnick is serving as DICE president and said further workshops are envisioned.

Diversity at U-High

(continued from front page)

And there’s another issue people bring up.

ACCORDING TO Librarian Jamelle St. Clair, it’s difficult to lead discussions about race with the few Black, Latino and Asian teachers on staff.

“The general population of the school is diverse, and has been that way for a long time,” Ms. St. Clair said. “For faculty, though, it’s not. I’m sure there is an attempt to hire more people of color, but I believe the numbers have gotten smaller over time.”

Making assumptions about socioeconomic class can also result in a feeling of exclusion for working-class students believes Guidance Counselor Camille Baughn-Cunningham, herself a U-High graduate of 1984.

“IT’S EASY TO assume everyone’s got the same amount of comfort at home, but that’s not true,” Ms. Baughn-Cunningham said. “Internet, computer access, transport, there are many students in our school who are trying to keep up academically but don’t really have all these assets. I think we really need to educate students about the actual differences between us.”

Spectrum President Isabel Mitchell, senior, believes that outside of Spectrum, the school’s multicultural organization, finding people to speak with about sexual orientation diversity can be difficult.

“It’s one thing to come out, it’s another thing to actually talk about my own experiences and feelings,” Isabel said. “I’ve felt shut out a lot of times, even

among friends. I’ve had people tell me that we don’t have problems at Lab, straight people telling me as a queer person that there aren’t issues here.”

THE ALL-SCHOOL Diversity Day three years ago which got a decidedly mixed reception didn’t achieve its possible strength, believes senior Jen Xue. Last year, an optional “Flava Fest” celebrating diversity took place instead during a day off for U-Highers on Friday, April 19.

“Three years ago there was controversy over how Diversity Day was handled,” Jen said. “It was essentially canceled after that. Making people feel forced to talk about those issues is damaging towards the image of Diversity Day.

“It has so much potential that we never seem to reach. It wasn’t effective because there was a negative attitude towards it from most of the school. We need to find ways of celebrating diversity that people actually enjoy and want to participate in.”

IN INSTANCES of discrimination, Principal Scott Fech feels that the key to making U-High an accepting and diverse community is to establish respect.

“It’s hard to change someone’s belief system, but we can change how kids act on their beliefs,” Mr. Fech said. “The Latin root for the word for ‘discipline’ stems from the Latin word ‘discipulus,’ which means student.

“When students discriminate against one another our goal is to change their behavior and prevent similar instances in the future through disciplinary action and education.”



Photo courtesy Jim Andrews

Brain matters

Juxtaposing scientific diagrams with real world examples of overcoming psychological pain, Alex Lickerman, M.D., spoke with U-Highers about suffering and how it manifests itself in the human brain in an all-school assembly February 6 in Max Palevsky Theater in Ida Noyes Hall.

Author of “The Undeclared Mind: On the Science of Constructing an Indestructible Self” and vice president of Student Health and Counseling services at the University of Chicago, Dr. Lickerman said that by attempting to avoid pain, people often prevent themselves from achieving their goals. Instead, Dr. Lickerman encouraged U-Highers to face their fears and concluded his presentation by asking students to write down three goals or dreams they were afraid of pursuing. Before wrapping up, he prompted students who felt comfortable to share their responses.

Much-heralded, loved new building isn’t loved by everyone

By Clay Surmeier
Associate editor

“We felt like we were in a snow globe.” So described 2nd-grade teacher Lisa Harrison after a shivery, snowy February day. Among 87 teachers who moved this year to Earl Shapiro Hall (ESH), Lab Schools’ new Nursery, Kindergarten and Primary School building, she has taught here for 14 years.

THREE BLOCKS EAST of what is now called the Historic Campus, ESH stands at 5800 South Stony Island Avenue, the former site of the Doctors Hospital. The building shares its space with a Daily Care center run by the University.

Joe Valerio of the Chicago firm Valerio Dewalt by Train Associates, with FGM Architects, designed the \$52 million, three-story building with the goal of creating a school in which students and faculty could experience the outdoors.

FLOOR-TO-CEILING soundproof windows in every classroom showcase Jackson Park and the Museum of Science and Industry across the street while blocking out the occasional rumbling of the Metra train.

With every first floor classroom leading to an outdoor play area, students spend time more efficiently in classrooms and playing outside, according to Primary School Principal Susan Devetski. However, with less time spent outside the classroom, ESH feels less intimate, according to Mrs. Harrison.

“I think ESH has made it easier to get to recess and P.E., but by reducing the time spent walking around the school, I have lost some of the intimacy that Blaine had,” Mrs. Harrison said. “I no longer see kids or colleagues walking the halls in between classes.”

THE LOCATION of the faculty workspace poses an inconvenience, according to Mrs. Harrison.

“The faculty work space is great but the location takes away from how useful it could be. It’s all the way at the end of the other side of the second floor, down the hall. I have to remind myself to check my mailbox there sometimes because it is so out of the way.

“I think that it has helped create a better sense of community for security guards and janitorial staff but almost all teachers spend lunch with their students, leaving little time to socialize there during the day.”

ON THE FIRST FLOOR, Nursery teacher Sarah Abella, Class of 1993, offered a different experience.

“The best part of ESH for me is being with a lot more of my colleagues, it’s a lovely experience,” Mrs. Abella said. “Before, I worked at Woodlawn, were there are only four other head teachers. I didn’t realize how isolated I felt until I started working here. It’s great to get to see my former students, which is another bonus as well.

“One of the downsides to the new classrooms has been space. We didn’t notice this at first but the room has started to get really crowded. As the kids have grown we’ve started to notice things like the cubbies and two handicap accessible bathrooms taking up a lot of space.”

TO COMBAT the unexpected traffic clogging Stony Island Avenue and its surrounding streets, there may be staggered dismissal times in the future, according to Lab Schools Director David Magill. Although the problem has not been resolved, Mrs. Harrison believes the time it takes has decreased.

“It was a little difficult to adjust at the beginning of the year,” Mrs. Harrison said. “We now know the ins and outs of dismissal. We can recognize parents’ cars and other little things that help keep things moving. On the bright side,

(continues on page 8)

the teacher down the especially t days. However

For a quick bite Medici will delight



Photo by Alex Thompson

With chocolaty pastries from Medici Bakery in hand, Kendall Rallins and Ilana Dutton stepped outside to enjoy the relatively warm winter weather after school.

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As the Midway sees it

Life issues of diversity need deeper digging

Despite all of the resources, committees and reports devoted to diversity within the school, U-High’s efforts to address complicated problems related to minority students and to educate students about social justice often miss the mark. To make a true, lasting impact on how the school tackles these issues, U-High would benefit from using an invaluable resource integral to the community: students.

Black History Month (along with National Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, LGBT Pride Month and many more) is the perfect time for exploring this need.

WHY ARE SO MANY students here uncomfortable about discussing their own personal identity?

What happens when children and teenagers are raised to believe that their racial, religious and ethnic backgrounds are mere character traits rather than factors which will affect them socially and politically for the rest of their lives?

Are U-Highers being shielded from a harsh reality in favor of having them participate in comfortable and predictable programs?

Are we happy with the way students talk with each other? Are we happy with the focus of our history and English classes? Does our curriculum encourage bias or unearned privilege? Does the school-wide culture convince students

that their emotional needs don’t figure into the grand scheme of what U-High plans for its future?

THESE ARE the questions worthy of everyone in the school considering.

It is not a math problem that can be solved with formulas and proofs, nor a research activity done through essays or academic papers.

“There’s no one-size-fits-all solution,” Associate Director of Educational Programs Jason Lopez said. “What works for the faculty might not work for students. What works for students might not work for administrators.

“We have to address specific issues across all these groups. Ideally we should all have education on equity and social justice, I think that would lead to more efficient communication between the groups.”

THE SCHOOL HAS the capacity to dig deeper, and it needs to. That means broadening horizons and taking note of the ways other schools and communities deal with issues of diversity.

That means breaking through the “Lab Bubble,” where students live in a different orbit than the rest of Chicago and its suburbs. U-Highers seldom have experienced everyday life at other high schools, met high school students living radically different lives than them, or for that matter invited those students into



Art by Lydia Fama

the school to share their experiences.

U-Highers know the neat and politically correct statements to make about prejudice but don’t know how to treat the people around them that actually have to live with its consequences.

IT’S NOT THAT the school is unaware of these problems, but solving them takes a lot of education, communication and cooperation from everyone in the school.

Ultimately, this is not about turning U-High into some kind of social justice utopia. It’s about making every student feel safe and comfortable in his or her

own school environment and it’s about eliminating the damaging practices and beliefs that prevent minority students from reaching their full potential.

. The majority of students, teachers and parents are not ignorant to the way they treat each other. It’s just that they need to think more about how they treat each other.

Maintaining the nurturing and open environment that is supposed to define U-High can’t just happen automatically. The effort needs deeper digging. So let’s get busy and dig.

Midway Mailbox

Student government will continue to pursue activism

From senior class president
Lillian Eckstein:

I would first like to start off by congratulating you and your staff on another successful publication. For the past four years, I have continued to be impressed with your excellent stories



Lillian

and breadth of topics covered by the Midway.

In the latest issue of the Midway, there was an editorial titled “We vote for a strong student government” that raised issue with the current state of the Student Government at

our school. Although I respect the opinions expressed in this piece, as a representative of the Student Government, I would like to oppose some of the claims.

AT THE BEGINNING of the piece, past years of Student Government are glorified, claiming a more professional and activist body. The piece then continues on to negatively compare the current officers, as well as the past few years of Student Government, accomplishments to those of years past, citing that we are now less significant and more socially-focused on joint-events with the Cultural Union.

Although I would agree that the Student Government has become a more cohesive body, including a more active dialogue and sharing of responsibilities with Cultural Union, I do not think it is fair to claim the insignificance of the accomplishments this past year.

The Student Government meets once a week on Mondays and we have an open-door policy with which we encourage any member of the Lab School community to observe, contribute, and aid future changes.

DESPITE THIS POLICY, we have not had a single person come to a meeting. Articles such as, “Student government may revisit its activist legacy, officers say” make claims about future plans without attending a single meeting and additionally, only cite one officer, instead of the claimed plural “officers.” We field many complaints about events both school-wide and grade-specific but mostly they are only complaints, and not ways that the student body wishes to see changes in their lives.

We have been elected for a reason-although agreeably not in the most

serious manner--by our peers. Despite the lighter humor of most of our election campaigns, we were still given the faith and confidence of our peers in a democratic process and we were chosen to represent U-High in front of the faculty, administration, and the University.

We are a body of representatives and in my opinion, we have been active and properly representative.

In the past six months, I personally met with multiple administrators on an array of different topics both academically-oriented such as the overburdened workload and the not-so-respected testing schedule, as well as socially-oriented such as giving students more opportunities for enjoyment and opportunities to take full advantage of club, athletic, and all extracurricularly related activities.

AS A WHOLE Student Government we met with the new director, Robin Appleby, to discuss the future of Lab, assisted the Parents Association with plans for Connections and fundraising campaigns, planned two successful dances, advocated for fewer and more productive assemblies, coordinated successful grade retreats, and facilitated discussions between faculty, administrators, and students.

We know that we are not perfect but I can promise that we will continue to work to be activists for our student body. We are not representatives of ourselves but instead, we represent the entirety of U-High and every week we meet to discuss new policies and plans in order to aid the success of everyone in the school.

In the coming months, I encourage everyone, including the editors and staff of the Midway, to attend meetings or speak directly to any Officer if they are interested in the current plans of the Student Government or see issue with the current policies at U-High. We are and will remain to be, the direct representatives of U-High student body, elected by the students, for the students.

(Editor’s note: The Midway does not have reporters at government meetings because it could not promise to keep anything said confidential or to not report projects in the planning stage not ready for announcement. The facts on previous student governments were not glorifications but accurate and easily verifiable in past years’ issues of the Midway. The reporting of student government considering renewing activism came from an interview with the Student Council president.)

A snow day to talk about

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Midway columnist

United in the extreme and unending cold this winter in Chicago has brought, U-Highers can’t help but hope for more snow days even as February nears its end and warmer weather is predicted.

But the funny thing is, a day off from school is often more appreciated as an extra study day than as a day to lounge about. For many students, an extra 24 hours of exam study is preferable to frolicking in the snow. Though perhaps, the extreme cold has something to do with that.

I see the giant banks of snow in my backyard and wonder when those white blankets started to make me cringe.

During the snow days in the winter of 2010-2011, I remember suiting up in a pink space suit in order to dive in the snow.

However, during the snow day on January 6 and the late start

January 27, I spent minimal time outside. Choosing to blame my newfound weariness of the outdoors on the cold, I searched to see if this winter really is as bad as it seems.

An opinion column entitled “Editorial: Worst winter ever? Discuss” on the Chicago Tribune website disputes whether or not this season counts as the worst winter the city has seen.

According to the article, the winter of 1978-1979 with its 89.7 inches of snow was arguably worse.

The winter of 1985 still holds the low temperature record at negative 27 degrees Fahrenheit on January 20.

This year’s “Chiberia,” a term coined by Richard Castro from the National Weather Service, according to an article from the Huffington Post, did however set the record for coldest temperature on January 6 at minus 16, according to the Tribune.

Whether or not it’s the coldest winter in the books, one fact is certain:

The weather is providing exceptionally good small talk this year.



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‘Monument’-al cast, little publicity equal poor box office

By Christine Obert-Hong
Film critic

Despite its star-studded cast and blockbuster storyline potential, World War II dramedy “The Monuments Men” disappointed at the box office perhaps because of little publicity. **BASED ON** the true story of the self-professed “greatest treasure hunt in history,” the film follows seven museum directors, curators and art historians (George Clooney, Matt Damon, John Goodman, Bill Murray, Jean Dujardin, Hugh Bonneville, Bob Balaban), assembled by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1943. Called the Monuments Men, the group had two missions: instruct Allied soldiers what European architecture must be preserved and retrieve any art stolen by Nazis during their occupation of other countries.

As explained by the film, the Nazis were stealing artwork for both Adolf Hitler’s proposed Führermuseum, which would have been one of the largest art museums of its time, as well as to gift to Nazi senior officers.

For a film covering a wide geography, the set designs were all recreated convincingly. Though the scenes located in cities were usually filmed at night, while those in more rural or destroyed areas were mainly filmed during the day, you can still clearly make out the architecture and iconic posters characteristic of the 40’s.

EVEN MORE convincing is the vast array of air carriers, battle ships, trucks and soldiers seen practically everywhere. Thousands of extras were cast as soldiers for the military scenes, helping to create a sense of reality for



Museum directors James Granger (Matt Damon) and Frank Stokes (George Clooney) discuss the particulars of the Monuments Men’s mission over drinks at a local bar.

the film. Another notable, and noble, feature of “The Monuments Men” is its representation of the significance of the Men’s work. Through their dedication, the group was able to save thousands of pieces of artwork, most of which would have been destroyed by order of the Nero Decree, which stated that all German possessions, including looted art, would be destroyed should Hitler die or Germany fall. **IN MY OPINION**, the film so far has been underrated, scoring a 52 out of 100 on the review aggregator site Metacritic. “The Monuments Men” arrived on the tail end of an announcement in November that more than 1,400 paintings by artists like Henri Matisse and Marc Chagall had been recovered after being stolen by Nazis in 1939. Other than that, the movie received little publicity, only garnering interest from its well-known cast and sparse TV and movie trailers.

Musical veteran Beck returns to folk ‘Phase’

By Marissa Page
Music critic

On his 12th studio album “Morning Phase,” alternative singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Beck focuses on lush folk-rock craft in lieu of his trademark inter-genre experimentation. Known by his stage name Beck, Bek David Campbell was born in Los Angeles, California in 1970. He dropped out of school after junior high and began his music career in his teens by frequenting coffee shops and other performance spaces in the L.A. area. He received critical acclaim for his third studio album “Mellow Gold,” released by DGC Records in March 1994. The album’s first single, “Loser,” remains Beck’s most famous track.

WHILE BECK’S musical ventures are almost all rooted in folk and blues, he has experimented with nearly every musical genre throughout his career, from punk to hip hop to alternative rock to country. “Morning Phase,” one of Beck’s more sophisticated and cohesive ventures, is meant to accompany his 8th album, 2002’s “Sea Change,” noted for its poignant lyrics and full-bodied instrumentation.

“Morning Phase,” released on February 21 jointly by the Fonograf and Capitol labels, beautifully follows “Sea Change.”

The album is marked by a deep, complex optimism born out of struggle and experience. The bright but lush guitar riffs and layered instrumentals are hopeful, yearning, not yet happy but far past the point of being sad. Rightfully titled, this record feels like waking up on the morning of an important day, not knowing what lies ahead but remaining in good spirits despite doubt or fear that something might not go as planned.

HIGHLIGHTS OF the album include “Say Goodbye,” with its staggeringly rich guitar line, and the subsequent track “Blue Moon,” a softer, more lullabic turn on this previously folk- and country-heavy album.



Marissa



Piccolo Mondo offers classic atmosphere, dining

By Raghu Somala
Dining critic

Hidden on 56th Street between Cornell Avenue and Hyde Park Boulevard lies the obscured entrance to Hyde Park’s gem of an Italian restaurant, Piccolo Mondo.

Nestled into a classic residential building, Piccolo Mondo is located in the former Hotel Windermere’s west wing. The Hotel was originally built for the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Attracting University of Chicago students and tourists visiting Museum of Science and Industry across the parkway, Piccolo Mondo offers a semi-formal alternative to the usual casual restaurant options in Hyde Park.

Founded 30 years ago by Norberto Zas, the venue underwent remodeling last August, reopening after two weeks with the addition of an Argentinian bakery, Piccolo Bakery.

The spacious restaurant was outfit-

ted with white and dark orange wallpaper, Tiffany-style lamps, wooden chairs and tables covered with white tablecloths.

Giant arched windows look out onto the parkway and Museum of Science and Industry. Operatic music playing through the restaurant added to Piccolo Mondo’s classy vibe.

Because we were visiting on a Wednesday afternoon, Piccolo Mondo seemed almost empty. Other than my party of five, there was only one other group in the restaurant. It wasn’t the best place for friends to chat, but seemed ideal for dates or business meals.

The menu includes all the staples of a classic Italian restaurant, including bruschetta, paninis, soups and various meat dishes. Browsing through the menu, I chose to stick to my usual choice, chicken, and went with the pollo Vesuvio. While we waited, I ate a sliced baguette with olive oil.

My dish arrived on a large plate with a layer of gravy sprinkled with fresh rosemary. Placed at the center of the dish, the chicken breast was

surrounded by baked potato wedges and two chicken legs. The chicken was tender and perfectly complemented by the gravy surrounding it. The baked potato wedges were

well-seasoned and rounded out the dish. For \$15, Piccolo Mondo’s pollo Vesuvio proved an expensive choice. Though not economic, Piccolo Mondo is great for a romantic evening out.



Photo by Fiona Potter

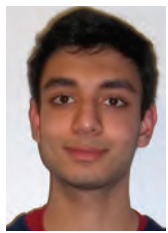
Offering a spread of traditional Italian fare, this tempting lunch enjoyed by five U-Highers included calamari, pollo Vesuvio and Caprese salad.

Winning Model U.N. team gears up for Cornell trip

By Willis Weinstein
Midway reporter

Facing several of the top-ranked Model U.N. teams in the United States, U-High's Model UN team will travel to Cornell University's prestigious conference to compete against 650 other participants Thursday-Sunday, April 10-13 on the school's campus in Ithaca, New York.

Model UN has already competed this year at Southern United States Model U.N. November 1-3, earning the 1st-place award, Best Large Delegation at the conference. Additionally the U-Highers won 2nd place Outstanding Large Delegation at both Princetonn'sand Harvard's conferences, December 5-8 and January 29-February 2.



Rahul

AS OF MIDWAY press time, a small delegation of 12 U-Highers had tackled Boston University's Model U.N. conference, at the Park Plaza Hotel Friday-Saturday, February 21-23, facing around 700 other delegates.

Having lost Best Large Delegation to the Dalton School of New York at Princeton and Harvard, U-High must bolster delegate skills to win Best Delegaton at Cornell, according to Board President Rahul Mehta, senior.

"Compared to other schools, our research and written work is far more nuanced," Rahul said. "However, Dalton and Horace Mann are up to par with our quality of research, but our partnerships of underclassmen with upperclassmen have proved very useful at generating clear, specific resolutions within committee.

"THAT BEING SAID, we must make sure delegates can get into the character of our assigned country, and ensure that we effectively adhere to and defend the policy of that country, which was something we found challenging to do, say, as a delegation given the Russian Federation's controversial policy on topics such as Syria.

"With especially aggressive delegates from Dalton and Horace Mann at the conference we have to remain focused and dominant during committee, which can be difficult at a competi-

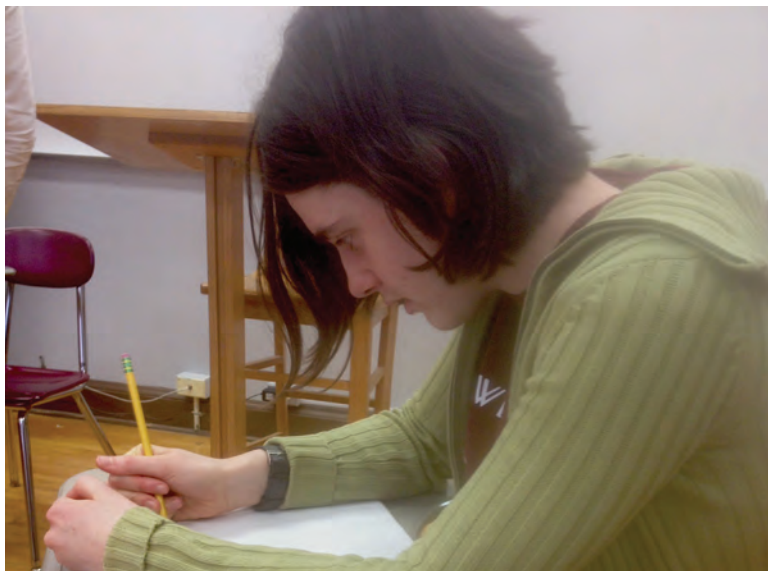


Photo courtesy Maddi Ross

Linguistics Olympiad

After qualifying for the invitational, Clare Keenan prepared for U-High's participation in the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad open round at Northeastern Illinois University January 30. Open round results come out this Saturday.

Bowl-ers head for Regionals

By Maia Boussy
Associate editor

After placing top 16 with the frosh-soph team and top 32 with the varsity team at the Fremd Invitational January 18 and 4th at Masonic Sectionals February 15, the Scholastic Bowl team will compete at IHSA Regionals, March 10.

The Fremd Invitational offered tough competition in northwest suburban Palatine. Sophomores Lauren Onel, Harry Ni, Micaiah Buchheim-Jurisson, Daniel Zhu and Marcel Dupont competed against 48 other frosh-soph teams and won four of their seven matches. Juniors Adam Fine, Raghu Somala, Alex Schonbaum, vice president Clare Keenan and senior and president Carah Alexander composed the varsity team, winning four of their six matches. Clare Keenan, Adam Fine, Carah Alexander, Kevin Li, Daniel Zhu, Harry Ni and Maddi Ross competed at Masonic Sectionals at Fenwick High School in west suburba Oak Park.

Fremd proved disappointing for varsity, Clare said.

"For the varsity, the Fremd Invitational was disappointing, as we did not place as well as I know we could have," she explained. "We had to play on a faulty buzzer system and even though each packet was 20 questions long we only went through 16, which we felt affected the outcome of some of the matches. The frosh-soph team was composed of only one returning player and the rest were new this year so it was very impressive that they did so well.

"At Masonic, we were undefeated in the morning five rounds, but we lost our two afternoon matches. The Masonic structure is different from other tournaments. Every team gets the same number of bonuses rather than the teams having to answer a question correctly to earn them. The bonuses seemed really stacked against us and that led to some disappointing results."

Math Team eyes rebound with Evanston competition

By Mia Luo
Associate editor

After placing 3rd among four schools at a North Suburban Math League (NSML) contest at Whitney Young Magnet High School February 5, the Math Team hopes to rebound at their final competition Thursday, March 6 at Evanston Township High School. Thirty-one U-Highers competed among 55 schools in the league. The five best-scoring U-Highers from previous competitions from each grade level will compete at finals.

U-High's small team proved a disadvantage when facing competitors from large public schools including Whitney Young and Walter Payton College Prep at the Whitney Young competition, said team member Alice Yu, senior.

"The top three scores from each team count, but even so, the team dynamic definitely does change a little bit with a bigger school," Alice explained. "Naturally there will be more high scorers coming from a school with more people on the team in total. So those two huge teams are what made Whitney Young a really hard meet."

Math teacher Rosa McCullagh, head coach with math teacher Paul Gunty, said that the U-Highers could at least expect high individual scores from some members at Finals.

"The competition is tough," Ms. McCullagh commented. "But we will definitely have individuals that will do well at the final competition. For example, freshman Wanqi Zhu has scored a perfect score at each of the four NSMLs he has attended so far, and there are definitely other standout kids like freshman Emma Mueller, sophomore Hajira Afreen, junior Adam Fine and senior Mohammed Munim."



Alice

Perfect score advances Science Team to Sectionals

By Micaiah Buchheim-Jurisson
Midway reporter

Scoring a perfect 500, Science Team's World-wide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) team placed 1st at Regionals, Tuesday, February 4 at Fenwick High School in Oak Park. The team's win at Regionals advances them to Sectionals Thursday, March 20 at North Central College in Naperville.

Science Team consists of four individual teams: WYSE, International Science Olympiad (ISO), Junior Engineering Society/Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (JETS/TEAMS) and Envirothon. Only WYSE and ISO have attended competitions this year. Replacing biology teachers Dan Jones and Sharon Housinger after many years, chemistry teacher Jim Catlett advises the Science Team this year.

COMPETING IN EVENTS including Computer Science, Engineering Graphics and English, the WYSE team brought 26 competitors to Regionals, 18 new.

"I'd say our success was due to the composition of the team, with individual members focusing on their own subjects and contributing to the team's overall success," WYSE captain and ISO deputy captain Emily Xiao, senior, said. "WYSE tends to work best when preparation is self-directed and individual."

Much-traveled debaters rack up wins

By Jackie Walker
Midway reporter

Coming off a successful tournament at the Cal Invitational at UC Berkeley February 14-17, U-High debaters finished their season last weekend at the Homewood-Flossmoor Tournament (after Midway deadline).

Partners at UC Berkeley, senior Alice Yu and junior Luke Newell had five wins and two losses at the tournament. Alice was ranked 42nd speaker among 472 competitors.

"THE TEAM DID really well. Everyone ended up with positive records," Alice said. "We brought three teams over, sophomores Reed Rosenbacher and Robert Bacon in varsity, and freshmen Jennifer Jiao and Jackie Walker in JV. To this particular tournament it was a little less than usual. The Berkley Debate tournament is huge. There are 236 partnerships there in the varsity division.

"I think that ideologically the Berkeley debate tournament is similar to Luke and my style of argument; generally it tends to lean more philosophical than governmental policy."

U-Highers reign in Regional Young Artists, Writers contest

By Ariel Gans
Midway reporter

"It can be scary to put your work out there, especially since art and writing involve so much personal investment, so when there's somebody somewhere who's able to connect to it and find value in it, that's validating."

So said senior Emily Xiao, among 22 U-Highers recognized for their artistic endeavors in the Chicago and

Midwest Regional Competitions for the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

From September through December since 1994, The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers has sponsored both the art and writing contests. Around 90,000 junior high and high school students submit over 185,000 pieces of art and writing to the competition's 28 categories. A panel of expert artists, writers and educators

judge the submissions based on originality, technical skill and personal voice. Recognized pieces receive a first place Gold Key, a second place Silver Key or third place Honorable Mention. Those awarded Gold Keys advance to the national competition, with winners announced March 17.

By class, U-High recipients are as follows:
(continued on page 8)



Photo by Della Brown

Despite hard pressure from a Parker defender, Xavier Smith powers forward to the rim in the JV Maroons’ 44-37 win January 14 at home.

Boy basketballers steamrolling as IHSA 3A playoffs approach

By Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief and Sports editor

After beating Northridge to finish undefeated in the Independent School League, boy basketballers will look to make a deep run in the IHSA 3A playoffs beginning next week.

The Maroons (17-6 as of press time) defeated Northridge 52-34 February 14 at home to wrap up a 12-0 ISL season and 1st place in the conference. U-High, coached by Marlo Finner, defeated each team in the ISL twice, once at home and once away. The Maroons defeated Northridge 53-39 January 22 away, lost to nonconference foe Westinghouse 55-42 February 1 and beat Latin 42-32 February 11 away.

DESPITE THEIR ISL play, junior Jordan Moran, cocaptain with seniors Logan Crowl and Max Rothschild, says the Maroons have remained grounded.

“I think the game against Westinghouse really humbled us,” Jordan said. “We went through conference beating up on teams, but we came out slowly against Westinghouse. They were the aggressor in that game. Going into the playoffs, playing a 3A team like that was a good experience. We were well-prepared for the game, but we didn’t come out with enough energy. If we approach every game with the same energy, we’ll come out on top.

“We set a couple of goals this year. One of them was to win conference and another was to go further in the playoffs than we did last year. We all had a



Photo by Jeff Li

With players swarmed around him, Max Rothschild puts in a lay-up in the Maroons’ 52-34 dismantling of Northridge February 14 at Upper Kovler.

sour feeling after the Sectional Semifinal last year, and we want to get further. We have to take it step by step, though. The first step is winning the Regional. If we can do that, then we’ll start thinking about Sectionals and State.”

ACCORDING TO LOGAN, the Maroons’ chemistry will aid them in the adversity of the playoffs.

“Going undefeated in the ISL brings a lot of pride,” Logan said. “That should only be viewed as part of our season, though. I’d love to see further success in nonconference play. We have accomplished part of what we want to, but there’s more to accomplish.

“I definitely think that in the playoffs, you don’t just win on talent but by having your team play together. It’ll be a huge asset if there’s adversity in the playoffs that we can come together when other teams might turn against each other.”

JORDAN AGREED with Logan, saying that the Maroons’ depth has helped them greatly.

“Our ability to play with any group of five on the court speaks to our team chemistry,” Jordan said. “It doesn’t matter if Max has a 30-point game or if I do or if anyone else does. We all have the mindset that if someone is hot, we’ll feed him the ball. When seniors Jon King and Caleb Dowdy are knocking down threes, it opens up the court for everyone else.

“Players on the other teams need to stick on them and that opens up the lane for other guys. When they’re hot, it gets all of us going.”

SET production Brighton Park

(continued from front page)

Lukas Mireles. **Cast:** Marissa Martinez, Emma Gossett, Kellie Liu, Emma Mueller, Alex Soto.

“ONLY THIS”—Directed by Alex Soto. **Cast:** Lauren Onel, Maya Ben-Shahar.

“OLD COAT”—Directed by Alex Soto. **Cast:** Loren Sosnick.

“ARGUMENT SKETCH”—Directed by Sam van Loon. **Cast:** Emma Mueller, Charlotte Elfenbaum, Lauren Onel, James Sinclair.

“POLAROID STORIES”—Directed by Zoe Briskey. **Cast:** Lukas Mireles, Maya Ben-Shahar, Marissa Martinez.

“ENGLISH MADE SIMPLE”—Directed by Nell Mittlestead. **Cast:** Jack Reece, Carly Pys-Garzotto, Charlotte Elfenbaum.

Planned but dropped was **“TICKLE ME ELMO EXTREME”**—Written and directed by Zoe Briskey. **Cast:** Charlotte Elfenbaum.

Play crew members are as follows:

Set: Jiji Plecha, Sarah Hecht; **costume:** Loren Sosnick; **makeup:** Zoe Briskey; **sound:** Jack Reece, **Valentina Gardner**; lights: **Sam van Loon, Sam Reynolds.**

Other SET Board members are:

Jiji Plecha, Sarah Hecht, Valentina Gardner, Sam van Loon, Mattie Greenblatt, Loren Sosnick, Zoe Briskey.

A popular feature of previous productions, poem readings between plays, may return, Loren said. “We realized the poems would help break up the more high-energy plays.”

(continued from page 7)

violence. It was my brother who suggested that I should apply to Lab because I didn’t even know Lab existed until I began to apply. My parents didn’t actually want me to come to U-High and it would require a lot of money.”

Initially, Monica couldn’t decide what to do her photo essay on but wanted to do something that most U-Highers wouldn’t know a lot about.

“I had a hard time figuring out what my photo essay should be on, so I asked my friend Hebah,” Monica said. “She suggested that I do something to represent who I was, so I decided to photograph my neighborhood where I have lived my whole life.

“People from U-High might not have an accurate idea of what the Mexican community is like. Many people haven’t talked to somebody from a Mexican

neighborhood. But in reality it is colorful and tightly knit.

“I had always been into drawing and painting, but I decided to try photography. I started thinking about photography when my sister-in-law let me borrow her camera last year to take pictures of her baby shower and her pregnancy photos and because I really enjoyed doing it I was interested in buying my own camera to take more pictures.”

Monica plans on studying at an art school and majoring in photography.

“Last year I really started thinking about photography career-wise,” Monica said. “I want to become a photographer who takes pictures for magazines.”

“Photography is great because it depicts not what you want it to depict; it shows the truth. You usually can’t tell people how to pose or change their facial features, and instead you capture a real instant.”

Earl Shapiro Hall

(continued from page 3)

the teachers don’t have to walk down the car line, which I’m especially thankful for on rainy days.”

However, this streamlined dismissal broke a connection between parents and teachers, Mrs. Harrison said.

In final tourney, senior fencer takes 3rd place

By Mike Glick
Editor-in-Chief and Sports editor

Led by a 1st place finish by the women’s foil team, fencers wrapped up their season at the Great Lakes Fencing Championships at Stevenson High School February 1.

Senior Elle Hill and junior Jennifer Chien guided the Maroons with 3rd and 7th place finishes, respectively, in the women’s foil division, and sophomore Daphne Schneewind and freshman Athena Chien also placed top 16. The Maroons sent epee and saber teams to the tournament, as well.

IN HER FINAL tourney as a U-High fencer, Elle had to defeat a competitor who she had battled with closely throughout the season.

“Heading into the Championships, I went in with a really positive attitude,” Elle said. “There was one girl from Stevenson, Kristen Rehberger, who I had fenced several times before in the season and had lost to by just a little each time. I came in knowing that she had beaten me before, which definitely changed my outlook on the bout. But I beat her 15-4, which was incredibly exciting.

“Jennifer placed 7th and I placed 3rd, and Athena and Daphne did really well, too. Athena is just coming into high school fencing, but she had outside experience coming in.

“SHE WAS ONLY knocked out because she unfortunately had to face Jennifer, but if she had faced someone else I think she would have gone further.”

Jennifer, who will lead the women’s foil team next year in Elle’s absence, says she wishes Athena had had a different opponent in the elimination rounds.

“I had to face Athena, which was horrible,” Jennifer said. “I really did not want to fence her. We all made top 16, though, which was great. In order to get 1st place for women’s foil, we needed everyone to at least make it into the round of top 16. You don’t really know when you finish fencing if you have won a trophy, so we had no idea.”

ACCORDING TO JENNIFER, Elle has helped the team develop a better team dynamic this year.

“I don’t know what we’ll do for women’s foil next year without Elle,” Jennifer said. “Elle definitely stepped up to the plate. She helped us be supportive of one another with a lot of different events. Elle was so into it, and how passionate she was about it put everyone in a better place.

“At the beginning of the year, we were very much all about our individual performances but by the end we came to really support each other and the team.

“I know that next year we’ll have to try to get people to sign up for fencing. After that we have to get them to really commit to it because it takes time to learn. I think that will definitely be hard next year with Elle gone. Athena, Daphne and I all do club in the offseason, but we definitely need that fourth person.”

Art, writing awards

(continued from page 6)

SENIORS—Maddie Anderson, 2 Gold Keys for Poetry; **Leah Barber**, a Gold Key, 7 Silver Keys and an Honorable Mention in Poetry; **Maria Gilfoyle**, Gold Key in Architecture, Silver Key in Mixed Media, Honorable Mention in Printmaking; **Akilah Harris**, Gold Key in Flash Fiction, Silver Key in Poetry; **Emily Hsee**, 2 Gold Keys, a Silver Key and Honorable Mention in Drawing; **Emily Xiao**, Gold Key in Art Portfolio, Gold key in Personal Memoir, Gold Key in Poetry, Gold and Silver Keys in Flash Fiction.

JUNIORS—Francine Almeda, Gold Key in Flash Fiction; **Maya Ben Shahar**, 2 Silver Keys in Painting; **Gabriella DeMaio**, Honorable Mention in Printmaking; **Mike Glick**, 2 Silver Keys in Personal Memoir, 1 Silver Key in Humor; **Jacquelyn Ingrassia**, Silver Key in Poetry; **Jeesae Kim**, Silver Key in Drawing; **Julia Martinez**, Silver key in Short Story Writing, Science Fiction/Fantasy and Flash Fiction; **Tatum McCormick**, Gold Key in Photography; **Aya Nimer**, 2 Silver Keys, 3 Honorable Mentions in Poetry; **Fen Truitt**, Gold Key in Painting, Silver Key in Drawing.

SOPHOMORES—Joe Curci, Honorable Mention in Sculpture; **Julia Hedges**, Gold Key and Honorable Mention in Drawing; **Lucy Kenig-Ziesler**, Silver Key in Science Fiction/Fantasy; **Monica Lewis**, 2 Honorable Mentions in Painting; **Kellie Lu**, Silver Key in Humor and Flash Fiction, Honorable Mention in Poetry.

FRESHMEN—Liza Edwards-Levin, Gold Key in Poetry.

Loss in playoffs denies girl basketballers shot at Regional

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

With high expectations after a 14-6 regular season, including an 8-1 stretch through December and January, girl basketballers fell to Hope College Prep 55-53 in the Regional Semifinal at Upper Kovler February 11.

Finishing with five wins and two losses in the Independent School League, the Maroons came into the playoffs as the 2nd seed of five in their Regional, seeded below top seeded Bowen. Heading into the postseason the Maroons defeated Holy Trinity 50-19 January 31 at home, beat Parker 48-46 February 3 at home, lost to Willows 46-18 February 4 away and fell to Latin 42-35 February 7 at home.

HOPE, THE 3RD seed, used timely shooting to spur a 2nd half comeback. Despite a strong start, U-High could not cool down Hope's shooters at key moments of the game, ultimately leading to the loss.

"We started out playing pretty solid defense and converting on the other end offensively," junior point guard Kendall Rallins said. "We got out to about an eight-point lead and then we started getting into foul trouble. I sat out about half of the 2nd quarter and we went into the half with about an eight-point lead. After the half we came out flat and

our defense was handicapped because of foul trouble to senior Maud Jansen and myself. We let them go on a run and our lead turned into a deficit. It was a close game from then on. It ultimately came down to the last minute and we just couldn't get it done."

Emphasizing U-High's foul troubles, senior Lillian Eckstein said the loss proved hard to swallow.

"**WE LOST** our Regional game by two points, so it was obviously a hard loss," Lillian said. "We were in the lead for most of the game, but ultimately the game came down to them hitting a couple of lucky threes and we fell down a bit on defense. They had two good shooters who hit some really critical three pointers at the end of the game and the fouls were not in our favor. It's hard to look back now and think about what we did wrong that caused the loss, but obviously it didn't feel very good."

Knowing that she will have to shoulder even more of the scoring next year, Kendall said she plans to devote the offseason to improving her game.

"The loss is so much motivation to come back better next year," Kendall said. "Everyone thought we had a chance to win the Regional, including myself, so not being able to get it done only makes me want it more. This summer will be all about improvement and coming back as strong as possible."



Photo by Liv Rhodes

As she leads the Maroons up the court, Kendall Rallins dribbles the ball quickly in U-High's 42-35 Senior Night loss to Latin February 7 in Upper Kovler.

Underclassmen lead swimmers to record year

By Luke Murphy
Sports editor

If you walk by the swim record board, one color will pop out at you: red.

The amount of red type on the U-High records list shows just how dominant swimmers have been this year.

LED BY a deep group of underclassmen, boy swimmers rewrote many of the school records on their way to the Sectional meet this past weekend at the University of Illinois at Chicago (results came after press time). The Maroons, mentored by varsity coach

Paul Gunty and JV coach Kate Chronic, have matched up closely this season with historically dominant teams in their Sectional, including losing narrowly to St. Ignatius and Whitney Young.

"This year we had a really strong underclassmen contingent that swam varsity," Coach Gunty said. "They broke a ton of records and we had a good dual meet season on both levels. Kate Chronic, our new JV coach, has been leading the workouts because she has more experience doing so and

she coached the guys growing up. Kate and I also compare and contrast our lineups before every meet."

Along with the contributions of the freshmen and sophomores, the Maroons have benefited from the leadership shown by seniors, including captains Rex Hughes and Eliot Levmore.

"**OUR SENIOR CLASS**, while it was large, is down to three seniors for Sectionals," Coach Gunty said. "Those three seniors will be Rex, Eliot and Alex Luna. We just wanted to send our best swimmers and not force any-

body to make a huge leap."

With an experienced core of swimmers, including seniors Chris Lawson, Jack Reece and Domagoj Jureta, JV used harder practices to cut down their times.

"We really had a diverse team, in terms of grade level, this season," junior Michael Glick said. "Some of the freshmen, including Nicky Woodruff, Kyle Adlaka, Tobias Ginsburg and Nigel Telman, combined to make a really good relay team that won just about every race."

Rain, snow don't stop runners as they prep for away meets

By Sonia Bourdaghs
Editor-in-Chief

After competing in their first away meet last Saturday at De La Salle Institute on the South Side, Maroon runners will run in the first of three Midway Miles meets 7 p.m. Friday at Henry Crown Field House.

In addition to two new away meets, indoor track runners added two weekly double practices as well as two days of strength training to their regimen. Hoping to concentrate more on cross training and field events, coaches Deborah Ribbens, Nick Puaca, Chris Harper and Lynn Ingalls added yoga, pilates, swimming and weight training to the program.

AN ADVOCATE of cross training, Coach Ribbens said she hopes to broaden runners' experiences through the away meets.

"Well, the whole idea was to find other competition," Coach Ribbens said. "Last year we invited different schools to our meets, and this year we are adding the De La Salle and ICOPS invitational meets. ICOPS is a big meet for Catholic Schools at Louis University on March 2. It's a good opportunity to race at a more competitive level."

"Besides the weather as a factor, so far we haven't been able to go outside on the track as much as we had hoped. I think everyone is getting strong. We have a small boys team but with lots of talent and many girls with returning talent."

LONG JUMPER and sprinter Carah Alexander, senior, also noted that athletes seem in better shape than in previous years due to extensive captains' practices.

"For sprinting the turnout has been much better," Carah said. "What's really nice this year is we've been working more on our technique. We just

run in circles around the high school and coaches Chris Harper and Lynn Ingalls sit in a corner and tell us 'run taller' or 'run on your toes.' We never really focused on that before."

After coaching cross country this fall, Coach Harper joined Coach Ingalls as sprinting coach. Coach Nick Puaca, who coached sprinting last track season, joined Coach Ribbens on distance this winter.

"**I WAS SO** excited when I found out that Mr. Harper would be a sprinting coach," Carah explained. "He really focuses on our technique and even when we do our dynamic warm ups, he talks about how we are almost fighting with gravity."

"The way he explains things, he uses physics, talking about levers and our striking points. For me it's very helpful to think about running in that almost scientific way."

Cocaptain with seniors Frank Waggoner, Max Volchenboum, Sonia Bourdaghs and junior Alex Thompson, senior Bolu Johnson believes the double practices and increased focus on technique have helped runners.

"**I LOVE** the double practices. I feel like it's exactly what the team needs," Bolu said. "It gives us the satisfaction to know that we are doing just as much if not more than the rest of the teams in the state."

"We have two practices on Mondays and Thursdays and sometimes Wednesdays. I've always thought that getting up in the morning and working out shows dedication and helps bring the team together. It also shows who's dedicated to the sport. When it gets tough they drop like flies, and our team has stayed together through this. Everyone on the team knows the goals we have. These morning practices are helping us achieve those goals."

With move from 2A to 3A, U-High won't host Regional

By Mike Glick
Sports editor and columnist

February 22, 2012.

It's the night before my first Arts-fest as a U-Higher. No homework due the next day, no test to study for. Just a night to have fun.

AFTER A DOMINANT win over Walter Dyett High School in the Regional Quarterfinal, the boys' basketball team solidifies its place in the Regional Semifinal February 22 against the top seed Seton Academy Sting.



Mike

The Maroons don't seem to stand a chance against Seton, which enters the game averaging a whopping 87 points per game. Its bench players alone average a combined 29 points per game.

But never count out the underdog.

IN ONE OF the most epic games in U-High history, with over a hundred passionate U-High fans in the crowd and a completely packed Upper Kovler, the Maroons stay neck-and-neck with Seton. Max Rothschild, Louis Van Craen, Kyle Parker, Mike Dowdy, Brandon Green—all of the Maroon players make one big play after another to keep U-High in the game.

A key U-High three-pointer sends the game to overtime, and it takes one more extra period for Seton to finally emerge in triumph following a four-point play. The U-High players can't believe it; neither can the fans. None of us had sat down since the third quarter, three times

thinking we would storm the court.

When I heard that the boys' basketball team will not be hosting a Regional this year, I couldn't help but recount the atmosphere of that Seton matchup my freshman year. The amount of excitement the game generated was incredible.

WHILE U-HIGH didn't win against Seton, that game has played a huge role in the transformation of school spirit at U-High sports events since then. It's understandable that few U-Highers can make it to the games against nonconference opponents, even against some teams in the ISL. But the number of students that has attended recent playoff games has been tremendous.

At the boys' soccer Regional Final against Kennedy this past fall, hundreds of U-Highers lined the sideline—not sitting but animatedly cheering. The players on the field were not only creating memories they will never forget but also ones the U-High students who came to watch won't forget.

U-High sports are on the rise, without a doubt. The boys' basketball team just defeated Northridge at home to finish 12-0 in the ISL, with highlights of the game against Northridge provided on CSN Chicago. Boy swimmers lost narrowly to perennial powers St. Ignatius and Whitney Young in their regular season, carrying over the success of the girl swimmers' season filled with broken records.

With so much on the horizon for U-High athletics, it's unfortunate that we won't get to watch the next big game in Upper Kovler.

Rainbow of Color glows for 'Black & White' night

Whatever went wrong with last Fall's Homecoming Dance at Kovler Gym seemed to go exactly right at this month's Semiformal Dance (which evolved into a Formal Dance) Saturday, February 1 back at U-High's usual dance home, International House.

A large and happy crowd of U-Highers turned out in a rainbow of classy fashions with plenty of black and white to enjoy music, dancing, socializing and a nice selection of snacks and soft drinks. Even the faculty chaperons seemed to enjoy the evening.

"I think securing our spot back at the I-House avoided the problems we experienced in Upper Kovler," said Cultural Union President Tiffany Davis, senior. "The lighting was dark enough where students could feel like they could enjoy themselves but bright enough where teachers could monitor student behavior without being too intrusive. DJ Jamal Smallz did a good job of changing the music every now and then to satisfy the wants of the students, while still being appropriate.

"I think our theme prompted cohesive and appropriate attire throughout the students. Similarly, our theme made decorating a bit easier as we used leftover black and white streamers from Homecoming.

"I was surprised that so many students were willing to show up after our setback from Homecoming and, given the weather conditions on that night, I think overall, Formal was a very fun and appropriate dance that hopefully students enjoyed as well."



Photo by Carl Fohran
Flashing peace signs with Caleb Hill, and Julian Ehsan, Eric Giger, center, wears a white bowtie and suspenders for the "Black and White" theme.



Photo by Jeff Li
Classy in an American Apparel dress, Thomasina Fizedale takes a dancing break with Jonah Berg.



Photo by Jeff Li
Alex Soto, far left, dancing with Lauren Onel and Danny Kim, paired a simple black dress with flashy jewelry from Carson Pirie Scott.



Photo by Carl Fohran
Black, white and light-up necklaces were offered to dance arrivals when they checked their coats with Student Council Secretary Tommi Tsao.



Photo by Jeff Li
Student Council President Phil Healy prepares to announce formal royalty to anticipating dancegoers.



Photo by Daisee Toledo
All dressed simply in black, Sabrina Holland, Gabrielle Rosenbacher and Tiffany Davis used their shoes to accent their dresses. Sabrina's black-and-yellow heels are from Jimmy Choo while Tiffany's and Gabrielle's boots are from Nordstrom's and Sam Edelman.



Photo by Jeff Li
"Get Low" by Lil John booming from DJ Jamal Smallz's speakers, Karla Douglas, in a black-and-white striped dress from Akira, admires Autumn Espinoza's shining sequined dress, black for the theme, from H&M.

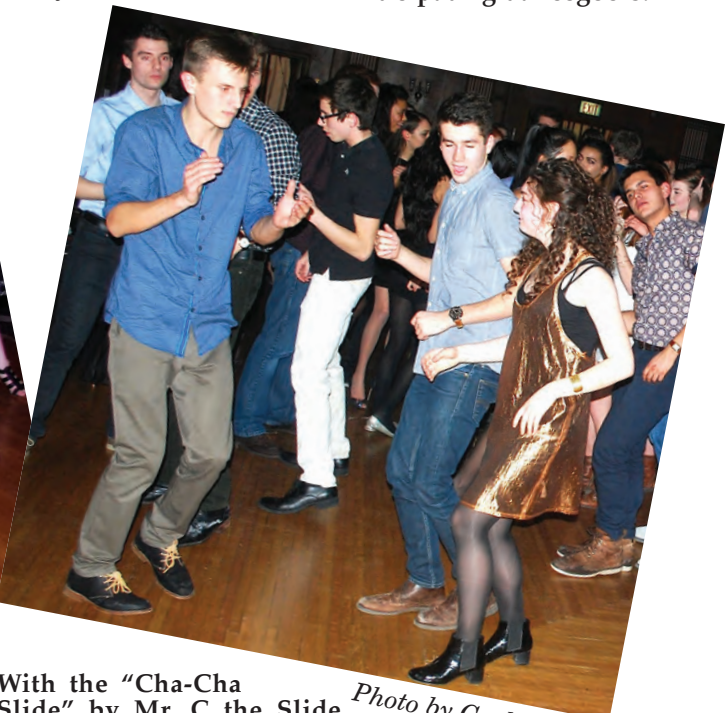


Photo by Carl Fohran
With the "Cha-Cha Slide" by Mr. C the Slide Man playing in the background, Glenn Decety claps to the beat. Noah Braendel danced alongside Genevieve Nemeth, in a shimmering gold dress from American Apparel and black Topshop booties.

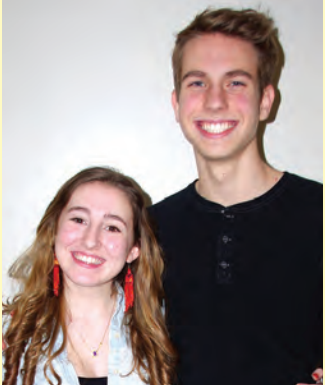
ROYALTY



ALL-SCHOOL
Samuel Adams
Francine Almeda



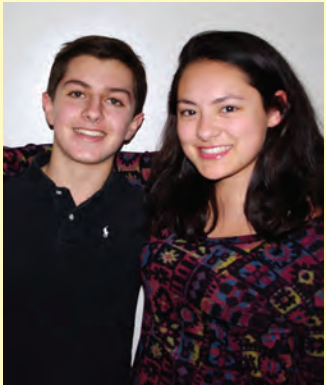
SENIORS
Akilah Harris
Loren Sosnick



JUNIORS
Storm Taft
Carly Plys-Garzotto



SOPHOMORES
Jason Lin
Mira Jacobs



FRESHMEN
Alec Kaplan
Sarah Markovitz