

U-HIGH MIDWAY

1362 EAST 59TH STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

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Affinity clubs respond to Trump win

After presidential election, club members hold discussions, events

BY MICHAEL RUBIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With a new presidential administration entering office in just over a month, student organizations at U-High are attempting to find solace through facilitating club discussions and through writing group statements, addressing the possible effects Donald Trump will have on minority groups in America.

Throughout the campaign, President-elect Donald Trump was known for making comments that target specific minority groups, worrying many Lab students of his future actions.

According to The Huffington Post, Mr. Trump has publicly stated that he believes "laziness is a trait in blacks," that Mexican immigrants are "criminals" and

"rapists," and that "we should definitely disallow any Muslims from coming in. Any of them."

His comments have caused members of minority groups in America to question whether President Trump will follow through on his racist and discriminatory claims, and dwell on how his presidency will affect the American people.

On Nov. 15, members of seven U-High affinity groups — Latinos Unidos, Black Students' Association, Asian Students' Association, Jewish Students' Association, Muslim Students' Association, Feminist Club and Spectrum — and Diversity Initiative and Collaborative Efforts gathered to share written statements on how the results of the election had affected the



Elizabeth Van Ha



Daniela Garcia



Emma Rafkin

constituents of their clubs. Club leaders created written statements and presented for up to two minutes.

ASA Vice President Elizabeth Van Ha said U-High students can and should rely on each other for support moving forward.

"During our meetings, we have discussed our reactions towards not just how the election affected us, but how the media affects us as a large group of culturally diverse people," Elizabeth said. "As a result, all of the affinity clubs came together to remind all of us that we are stronger together."

Daniela Garcia, BSA vice president, believes the discussion effectively provided a platform for students to decompress and begin focusing on the positive.

The statement she wrote with BSA President Tamera Carter stated in part, "It's extremely important to let people vent and express their opinions on the current political situation of our country. Although the results may have not been what we expected, we only turn to positivity and take this as a way to fight for what we, as citizens of the United States, deserve. It is extremely important to engage people in these important conversations which affect and target many different cultural, religious and racial groups."

A Trump presidency will affect

each minority group in different ways. JSA President Emma Rafkin noted that Jews at Lab are concerned about the effect Trump has had on Americans in terms of hate crimes and public discrimination.

"The rhetoric of this election have caused all minorities to worry and has caused hate crimes to spike," Emma said. "The number of Neo-Nazi references has drastically increased since the election as well."

The Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil rights and education organization based in Montgomery, Alabama, released statistics stating that in the 10 days following the election, it received almost 900 reports of harassment and intimidation in schools across the nation.

Many harassers were reported to have invoked Trump's name during assaults, making it clear that these events stemmed from the results of the election.

New MLK Day plans intend to unite students

BY SONNY LEE
FEATURES EDITOR

The annual Martin Luther King Jr. assembly will be held Jan. 12, but unlike past assemblies, according to Black Students' Association liaison Ariel Toole, this year's assembly will be less of a talent show where students are performing their own pieces, but rather, have a common thread that connects the acts. Performances by cultural clubs will be prefaced with short speeches and explanations to state how each one connects to this year's theme.

"We're trying to make this year's assembly very memorable and to not shock people, but to make them think," Ariel said.

Thomas Holt, a professor of American and African American history at U. of C., will be speaking on this year's theme: "Be The People." Ariel, a senior, explained that the theme is a play on the preamble of the Constitution.

"We took it as a play off of the preamble and crossing 'we' out because 'be' is more proactive and 'we' is more passive about the issues that are going on right now, and it's actually not a true representation of our society and culture in America, and we still have lots of work to do," Ariel said. "So we're hoping that this year we can bring all the cultural clubs together and instill this idea with other people."

A Day of Service will also be held in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s lifelong service. Like the past two years, this year's Day of Service will

partner Lab, University of Chicago Community Service Center and the University of Chicago Charter Schools.

The idea is to get students from all three schools serving alongside one another on the southside or in the city of Chicago depending on what the projects are," Service Learning Coordinator Hannah Roche said. "It's in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and the legacy of service and community action that he had."

Families can sign up to volunteer together, students can sign up individually as a club, and then they leave campus for sites around the city to serve for the day.

Unlike past years, Mrs. Roche explained that this year's hope for the Day of Service is to connect almost all families with more than 20 off-campus service site. But there will still be one project on campus with Kraft Heinz Micronutrient Campaign in partnership with Stop Hunger Now.

"In the past two years, we've had a large majority of the Lab School volunteers and Charter school kids — the youngest ones — stay on campus to do projects," Mrs. Roche said. "So we had them in the cafeteria making sandwiches for a shelter and doing no-sew fleece blankets. This year our hope is to connect all families and all students no matter their age with a community service off campus."

Breakfast, lunch and transportation will be provided. Registration deadline is Jan. 9.



Ariel Toole



Hannah Roche



MIDWAY PHOTO BY PAIGE FISHMAN

GETTING JAZZY FOR WINTER WITH MILES DAVIS. Freshman Riya Chadha plays the clarinet with her fellow Jazz Band members at the Jazz Band fall concert in Gordon Parks Art Hall on Dec. 6. This was the band's first concert of the season and performances included "Love Remains" by Bobby Watson, "Four" by Miles Davis, "Pick Up The Pieces" by Average White Band and "Monaco" by T.S. Monk. The band is conducted by Francisco Dean.

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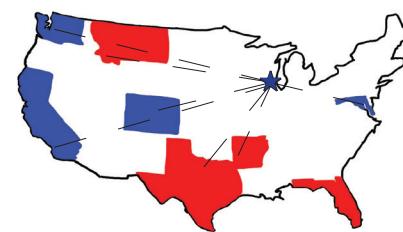
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For senior Lucy Ordman, spray paint and photography are her preferred artistic media, through which she finds emotional connection.



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Students from beyond Lab's "bubble" explain their support of President-elect Donald Trump.



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Seeking new experiences, Sam Fleming spent fall quarter studying in Spain, while Simone Einhorn studied in California.



Climate survey influences diverse changes

Administration holds discussions, while students attend conference

BY EMMA TRONE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

In the wake of the AIM Survey results, the call for improvements to the Lab diversity climate has been undertaken by the administration while students attended the Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC) in Atlanta to engage in discussion about diversity with students from across the country, as well as students holding celebrations of diversity on campus.

Principal Stephanie Weber and Student Council members moderated student discussions around the results of the AIM report the week of Nov. 7. The purpose of the discussions was to gain insight into student's priorities in shaping the diversity of the school, according to Ms. Weber.

"The conversations about the AIM study and some of the open forums I've had with students in the high school has really revealed the need for specific programming and education around the aspects of student life that aren't necessarily academic," Ms. Weber said. "We want to have conversations around diversity, around gender, around race, around socio-economics, and just about the components of what it means to be an adolescent and a young adult in a school with our mission."

The responses received from the study revealed that some students, parents, faculty, staff and board members who are black or Asian felt less included on campus, according to Ken Garcia-Gonzales, Coordinator for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Although the results shouldn't be seen as a uniform experience of the entire group, the administration plans to address the concerns

of these subsets of the community primarily through student affinity groups, Mr. Garcia-Gonzales said.

"Being intentional in potentially reaching out to those groups and seeing if there's feedback as far as what the school can do to potentially meet their needs is one of our next steps," Mr. Garcia-Gonzales said.

According to Asian Students' Association president Victoria Gin, addressing microaggressions by faculty towards students of color would greatly improve the environment of inclusion among marginalized groups.

"I think it would be effective if there was a way to have a faculty meeting about diversity, and allow the faculty to know how the students are feeling. If the students present how they're feeling it won't be taken seriously," Victoria said. "It would have to be the faculty members saying 'this is how the students feel, I've had a lot of people come up to me about these issues, and this is how we proceed."

Assemblies on terminology surrounding cross-cultural interactions, coordinated by the Learning and Counseling office, Dean of Students Ana Campos and Mr. Garcia-Gonzales, have been presented to the freshman class during what would normally be used as advisory periods.

Faculty members also attended professional development around diversity and inclusivity on Nov. 11, which was well received according to Ms. Weber.

According to Mr. Garcia-Gonzales, a broader goal for the rest of the school is to have everyone on the same page in terms of cultural competency. Currently, the plan is to construct programs that will take place during advisory, as well as supporting student groups such



MIDWAY PHOTO BY BENJI WITTENBRINK

AROUND THE WORLD IN 50 MINUTES. At the DICE-hosted a cultural club food festival Dec. 12, Jacob Beiser, sophomore, plays with dreidels at the Jewish Students' Association booth. The festival included dishes provided by six cultural clubs, and DICE held a raffle for participants with Starbucks gift cards, a dessert basket and the book "Humans of New York: Stories."

as the Asian Students' Association, the Black Students' Association and DICE.

"Knowing the terminology, knowing what is appropriate, knowing what is respectful, and knowing what is microaggressive is a starting point," Mr. Garcia-Gonzales said.

Six U-High students who have a strong investment in diversity attended the SDLC from Dec. 8-10. Over the course of three days, the 1600 participants at the confer-

ence formed affinity groups for discussions, attended workshops, and listened to speakers such as Congressman John Lewis, the sister of Martin Luther King Jr., Christine King Farris, and baseball player Hank Allen.

According to sophomore attendee Saige Porter, the conference renewed her interest in diversity and her own identity. Through workshops on dialogue vs. debate and how to better facilitate conversations, she hopes to start dia-

logue back at Lab, she said.

Beyond Lab, Saige hopes to improve the diversity climate in other independent schools.

"I'm connecting with a lot of people and one of my initiatives right now is trying to get Independent Schools to start cultural clubs and make that a priority, because a lot of these schools have almost no minorities. So we're trying to start this initiative so that those minority students who are there are able to get involved."

CLUB NEWS

Pivotal MUN victory scored at Princeton

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe; catch the Bronze Tiger by its toe. Lab Model United Nations captured the Best Large Delegation award at the Princeton Model United Nations Conference, held Nov. 17-20 in East Brunswick, New Jersey.

The 19 Lab delegates were able to score a victory in the conference with over 1,000 competitors from across the country, to take home the top prize, the Bronze Tiger. Partners Genevieve Liu and Alexis Tyndall and Jamal Nimer won Best Delegate in their committees, while many of the other Lab delegates placed second in their respective committees.

According to senior board member Alexander Azar the team's victory was made sweeter by the defeat of the Dalton School in New York City, considered by many to be the nation's top MUN school.

"For the past six years our team has constantly gone to conferences primarily on the East Coast against teams such as Dalton and Horace Mann. In our team's history we've had a lot of difficulty beating Dalton at these conferences," Alex said. "But for the first time in these last six years we were able to win a conference where Dalton was also competing."

Team members hope to take advantage of their momentum into January when freshman and sophomore delegates will train at the University of Michigan conference, and more experienced

delegates compete at the Harvard University conference.

— EMMA TRONE

Spectrum hosts health workshops for LGBTQ+

In past few weeks, Spectrum has been busy raising money, hosting candle lighting ceremonies and planning health workshops for U-High students.

Spectrum is promoting one in a series of health workshops which will answer students' questions about LGBTQ+ health, pertaining specifically to sex education. Science teacher Sharon Housinger will be present to answer questions about LGBTQ+ health, which Nikki Kuper, Spectrum's vice president, says will fill supplement Lab's sex education curriculum.

Two health workshops in the series were held last week, separated by gender with science teachers Sharon Housinger leading the girls workshop and Daniel Calleri leading the boys workshop—but Spectrum was affiliated with either.

Nikki explained that the sex-ed curriculum does not address questions from members of the LGBTQ+ community and the health workshop will help to clarify questions students have.

Spectrum has also raised \$100 through bake sales for the Broadway Youth Center — a program that provides guidance and shelter to homeless LGBTQ+ youth.

On Nov. 29, a candle-lighting ceremony took place in the courtyard gazebo in honor of the Trans-

gender Day of Remembrance. Spectrum members and other attendees lit candles and read off the names of victims of anti-transgender hate crimes, including both victims from the United States and around the world.

"This year we decided to leave out the ways in which they were killed in order to be more respectful and instead read the things that their loved ones said about them when they died," Nikki said.

— SONNY LEE

Math team continues strong performance

Members of the math team have maintained their season's high performance at their North Suburban Math League competition in Oak Brook on Dec. 8, as they came in first place.

The NSML is a league constituted of schools in Chicago that compete in five NSML competitions a year. Each school also put forth an oralist, who is given three questions during competition, 15 minutes to solve them and 10 minutes to verbally present their solutions. Emma Mueller, a senior, was the oralist from Lab.

According to sophomore Neena Dhanoa, schools are then ranked both by how the entire team performed and how grade levels compare to one another.

"[At the competition] the freshmen were perfect. They were the only team of any of the competitors at the meet we were at to be perfect. So that was extremely

encouraging," math team coach Joseph Scroll said. "The thing that happens with the math team a lot of times is that in senior year, it's sometimes hard to keep the participation up because there's so many other responsibilities that the seniors have. That's no different this year. We've lost a handful of kids, but I think our outlook for the future is pretty bright."

— PRIYANKA SHRIJAY

Certamen starts path to state championship

The Certamen team won both competitions it has participated in so far this year: the first on Nov. 2 at Kenwood High, and the second on Dec. 7 at Walter Payton College Prep.

The Lab team is made up of novice Tomohiro Sawada, who competes alone, and Chloe Schneewind, Hazel Martello and Hayward Melton who are in the upper group. According to Hazel, team captain, Lab's toughest competitors are Walter Payton, Whitney Young Magnet High School, and Northside College Prep.

Certamen is styled similarly to Scholastic Bowl: teams answer questions to earn points, and the team with the most points wins. There are four Certamen competitions per year: three regional competitions and one state competition. Lab's next competition will be at St. Ignatius, on Feb. 1. According to Hazel, Lab has a good chance of going to state this year.

— JACOB POSNER

Science team kicks off at Science Olympiad

The Science Team placed fifth at its first competition on Dec. 10, and according to senior Emma Mueller, a captain for the recent Science Olympiad competition, the team is developing a game plan for placing higher at future competitions by assessing and overcoming the difficulties they faced at this competition.

Science Olympiad is one of the four kinds of competitions that Science Team takes part in. Topics range from broad topics such as chemistry to obscure topics relating to "weird stuff like bugs and ecology," according to Emma. There are also five different build events, which are engineering-based.

The Science Team worked on build events in particular to prepare for the Science Olympiad.

Emma explained, "Our build events are new compared to last year, so we have to kind of start from scratch."

As a result, Emma sees a clear path to improvement.

"For the build events, it's a matter of taking what we have and making them lighter, stronger, faster, and more accurate," she said. "For study events, by taking the first test we figure out what will really be expected for the whole season."

She hopes to target their shortcomings and improve them over the course of the year.

— PRIYANKA SHRIJAY

Recognition assembly puts focus on club activities

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN
MIDWAY REPORTER

At the Fall Recognition Assembly Dec. 1 in Gordon Parks Arts Hall, faculty and students recognized U-High individual awards and club accomplishments.

Code at Lab

Capture the Flag Online Contest. Team Fun and Good: Louis De Pablo, Elbert Du, Daniel Martinez, first place; Team Fresh CS: Benjamin Cifu, Paul Staley, Gabriel Ran, second place.

STEM Club

STEM Club organized Discovery Day on Nov. 10 to prompt students to reflect on how science, technology, engineering and math influence the Lab community and the rest of the world. They organized 15 workshops for students and an high school assembly for all students to attend.

Eye to Eye

Bailey Litwin and Sammy Rodman introduced a program for students with learning disabilities at the lower, middle and high schools to work together through art-based projects that foster self-advocacy, accommodation and metacognition.

Social Justice Week

In October, the Social Justice Committee hosted a lecture by Jeff Chang, the author of "We Gon' Be Alright: Notes on Race and Resegregation."

Music: District

Orchestra: Jasmine Wang
Jazz Band: Mat Ferraro, Ben Grobman, Will Curry.
9/10 Choir: Leland Culver, Ariel Montague, Adrian Ovsiew, Zoe VanderVelde

Senior Choir: Helena Abney-McPeek, Sam Adelman, Alex Billingsley, Nicole Horio (second year).

German

German Exchange Program Hosts: Leah Edelson, Nicholas Merchant, Whitney Merkle, Jamie Miller, Fionn Stamatakis, Franziska Wild, Alec Wyers and Rachel Zemil.

Germany Trip Participants: Averie Miller, Zoe Rebollo-Baum, Sam Rezaei, Paul Staley and Ariel Toole.

Math

Perfect Papers in Math Competitions: Neena Dhanoa (two), Elbert Du (two), John McKee, Roshni Padhi, Jessica Pan (two), Danesh Patel, Campbell Phalen and Shaunk Puri.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMERSON WRIGHT

GO TEAM GO. Athletic Director David Ribbens announced th U-High sports achievements. Among the top awards were Dhanya Asokumar being selected as ISL Player of the Year.

Learning and Counseling

Senior Ben Lindau attended the 2016 Paralympic soccer training camp in Chula Vista, California.

Sports

Soccer: All-Conference: Connor Smith, Jacob Leslie and Ben Lindau; All-Sectional Illinois High School Soccer Coaches Association: Connor Smith.

Cross Country: All-Conference:

Elsa Erling, Liza Edwards-Levin, Franziska Wild, Abraham Zelchenko and Harrison Shapiro; 2A Regional Champions: Boys Cross Country Team; IHSA State Qualifiers: Elsa Erling, Liza Edwards-Levin and Abraham Zelchenko.

Golf: ISL Girls Golf Championship: Nikki Menta, first place; Golf State Championship: Nikki Menta, 36th Place. Nikki was the highest finisher in U-High history.

Volleyball: All-Conference: Averie Miller, Tamera Shaw, Anissa Sanders and Troy Johnson; 2A Regional Championships: Girls Volleyball Team; ISL Volleyball Player-of-the-Year: Averie Miller.

Swimming: 200 Free Swim Record: Zoe Rebollo-Baum; 200 Medley Swim Record: Ava McKula; 50 Free Swim Record: Alexis Porter; 100 Fly Swim Record: Ava McKula; 100 Free Swim Record: Amber Huo; 200 Medley Relay Record: Zoe Rebollo-Baum, Taylor Thompson, Ava McKula and Alexis Porter; 200 Free Relay: Alexis Porter, Qin Taylor, Taylor Thompson and Amber Huo.

Sailing: National Championship Regatta: Sailing team: Colleen Baumann, Lillian Nemeth and Sam Morin, 12th Place.

Tennis: IHSA Sectional Champions; IHSA Single A State: 6th Place; All-Conference: Dhanya Asokumar, Julia Gately, Isabella Kellermeier, Delnaz Patel, Florence Almeda, Reese McCormick and Sarah Gray; ISL Player of the Year: Dhanya Asokumar; State Championships Singles: Dhanya Asokumar, third place; State Championships Doubles: Delnaz Patel and Florence Almeda, top 8; State Qualifiers: Isabella Kellermeier and Julia Gately.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lab Associate Director retires after 26 years

On Nov. 30, Associate Director of the Schools Dave Stafford retired after 26 years of dedicated and loyal service to the Laboratory Schools.



Dave Stafford

After joining the University as a human resources consultant in the late 1980s, Mr. Stafford entered Lab's administration in 1990 as associate director. In his first 20 years at Lab, he oversaw capital projects such as the addition of the middle school building and Kovler Gymnasium, and had day-to-day leadership responsibilities for a large part of Lab's administrative functions.

Mr. Stafford's responsibilities transitioned almost exclusively

to overseeing Lab's all-campus construction program after the University's approval of the Lab+Renovation & Expansion Project, which included the renovation of Blaine Hall, Belfield towers, middle school, Judd Hall and U-High, as well as the construction of Earl Shapiro Hall and Gordon Parks Arts Hall.

"What I will miss most about my time at Lab," Mr. Stafford said, "are the people I worked with and for — the administrators, the staff and the faculty."

— ALEX LUND

Student paper published in history journal

After months of work, senior Benji Wittenbrink will have a paper published in December edition of The Concord Review. His paper is about George Pullman and how he and his railroad car company attempted to foster a paternalistic utopia, as well as how

that affected the strike and future labor movements.

Benji wrote the paper in AT U.S. History with Charles Branham during winter quarter last year.

Getting a paper published in The Concord Review, a journal that publishes the papers of students from around the country, is a rigorous process, with a 5 percent acceptance rate.

The last paper published from a Lab student was by Alexander Tyska in Fall 2015.

"I only submitted the paper as a recommendation from my teacher," Benji said. "I wasn't sure if it would be accepted but I'm really excited that it was. It's a really great thing."

Benji said he used a variety of sources to build an accurate and inclusive representation of the life of George Pullman, his attempts to create a model "company town" and the effects of the strike on the labor movement.

"Aside from it just getting accepted, I spent a lot of time on the

paper," Benji said. "I spent a lot of hours working on this, so it is very rewarding to see it in the paper and know that all the hard work paid off."

— KATERINA LOPEZ

Midway adds 5 editors

Five staff members have new roles as assistant editors beginning this issue: Samira Glaeser-Khan, Jacob Posner, Michael Rubin, Priyanka Shrijay and Emma Trone.

The new editors will rotate among assisting with the news, sports and in-depth section or working with social media.

— TALIA GOERGE-KARRON

Newspaper highly rated; Lee wins best opinion

A national journalism organization recently recognized the U-High Midway newspaper as well as an individual article.

The National Scholastic Press

Association placed features editor Sonny Lee's story, "Don't try so hard to fit in that you lose your own identity" second in the nation.

NSPA, an organization that honors student journalists and promotes the teaching of journalism, selects the best student journalists in the United States based on entries submitted by member publications. Submitted in the category of editorial/opinion Story of the Year, Sonny's story was initially announced as one of 10 finalists.

"I think it just shows that when you write honestly, and from heart, it pays off," Sonny said about his story.

Each publication could only submit one entry. In previous years, the NSPA has recognized Midway writers with the Story of the Year honor.

The Midway was also rated as All-American with five stars of distinction, the highest ranking available in this system.

— IVÁN BECK

Clubs raise funds for charity

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Blood drives, bake sales, and refugee families. This quarter, five U-High clubs aim to make a difference in the world — one fundraising project at a time.

Refugee Club is working with RefugeeOne, a relocation agency, to sponsor the relocation of a Syrian family of five to Hyde Park by the end of December.

"They are coming over winter break, which is super exciting," President Olivia Issa said. "It's a very real and tangible thing. Refugee Club has collected over \$9,000 in donations for the family over a website."

Latinos Unidos is also contributing to help the Syrian family. The members plan to give most of the money from their Dia De Los Muertos bake sale to Refugee Club.

Latinos Unidos also sold churros on Dec. 1 to raise money for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, a Latino civil rights organization that

runs educational programs for Latino communities and provides lawyers for immigrants involved in court cases. The organization tries to encourage participation of Latinos in all aspects of society.

GirlUp at U-High is also fundraising for an international cause. They are raising money for GirlUp, a United Nations organization that provides girls in developing countries with health care, educational opportunities and empowerment. The club has already had a bake sale and a cookie decorating event. They also sold hot chocolate on Dec. 12.

Club president Roshni Padhi said, "One thing I really like about GirlUp is that you can see exactly where your money's going and how many people it's affecting."

In order to support the American Red Cross search and rescue teams, Red Cross Club also raised money through a food sale. They organized a waffle bar on Dec. 8. In addition to fundraising, club members will also hold a blood drive after winter break.

Club member Cole Summerfelt said, "I love every moment working with my club members because we all recognize the great privileges we have and we all want to give as much support as we can to the people who lost everything."

Besides fundraising to support non-profits, new clubs at U-High hope to raise their profile through their projects.

Ethical Choice, a new group funded by juniors Paryssa Khazaei and Madeleine Ward-Schultz, had a bake sale for PAWS on Dec. 2 in honor of National Mutt Day.

"I really like how PAWS is a no-kill shelter," Madeleine said. "When an animal gets older, they can still have a chance of being adopted."

—Roshni Padhi, GirlUp president

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Club president Roshni Padhi said

Art gives identity for senior

BY KATERINA LOPEZ
MIDWAY REPORTER

Spray paint isn't usually associated with fine art, but in senior Lucy Ordman's case, it is her favorite medium. When she wants to create a piece of art, she first picks out a medium to use — and spray paint is her favorite. From there, she lets her subconscious guide her.

Lucy has been working on art throughout her life. To continue with her love of art, she is currently working on two independent art studies with art teachers Gina Alicea and Sunny Neater. With Ms. Alicea, Lucy curates art, while with Ms. Neater, Lucy works with mixed media and photography.

Lucy has visited different exhibits and has helped install and deinstall the exhibitions, such as an exhibit at the University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art and the exhibit in Lab's Gordon Parks Arts Hall.

In addition, with Ms. Neater, Lucy has worked in a darkroom to hand alter different photographic prints. Her projects include hand-altering prints, working in the darkroom and taking pictures.

Lucy has been an artist since she was a young girl. She started off by drawing cartoon characters from TV shows.

"Drawing was a big part of my life when I was younger," Lucy said. "Every morning, I would wake up really early and turn on the TV and just draw what I saw."

As she got older, she contin-

ued working on art, but had to find a balance between art and dance. During this time in her life, ballet was her main artistic ability.

"I was dancing 24 hours a week, so ballet consumed my artistic abilities," Lucy said.

Lucy has been working on independent studies since last year.

"Around last year, I had my first independent study with Ms. Neater," Lucy said. "That was the beginning of me entering back into art and approaching it as more of an identity instead of a extracurricular activity like ballet was. I had more time to explore it in general."

Now, her art has evolved and now focuses on more abstract pieces. She creates a lot of portraits of herself and her friends. Her focus when working on these pieces are identity and exploring different art media as a way of producing content.

"Now my work isn't super observational," she said. "When I was younger a lot of the work that I did was more of me seeing things and drawing them from memory. Now my art revolves around more abstract things. A lot of my work is more subconscious and less concrete. They are more doodle based, less of an observational rendering that looks very realistic and more of me getting into the zone and going with what my subconscious is thinking."

She said she uses portraiture to create a dialogue between her inner thoughts and the outside world.

"I'm interested in working with identity and sort of how that is portrayed in different mediums as a way of producing content instead of actually having a really strong narrative in my work," she said.

Lucy uses art as a way to escape her everyday life, to get away from the stressors and let her subconscious mind take control.

"Dance for me was super conscious. You have to be very alert and thinking constantly about technique and being aware of your own body and the spacial dimensions of everything. There's a lot of stuff to deal with in the moment," Lucy said. "Art is more of an escape for me. It's something I can go in and not think."

When Lucy decides she wants to create something, instead of deciding what she wants to create, she thinks about which medium she wants to use.

"My work is also very medium-driven, it's less of what subject do I want to work with and more of what medium I want to work with. Before, when I was a kid, my ideas of what to draw came from what I see on TV, but now I focus on what medium I want to use and let my creativity flow from that."

Whether working with spray paint, pencils or markers, Lucy's abstract style is distinct.

"My artwork definitely has a strong aesthetic in terms of all of the pieces being very similar. When you look at them, you can tell that they have a very strong style and



MIDWAY PHOTO BY KARA COLEMAN

GETTING ARTSY. Lucy Ordman looks through some of her many photos from her photography independent study with art teacher Sunny Neater.

that they have been made by the same artist," Lucy said.

Lucy and Ms. Alicea have been working on their independent study since last year.

"Lucy not only helps with the exhibitions, but she also writes reviews and does an analysis of the exhibitions with not only content, but also how the exhibition is laid out," Ms. Alicea said.

Lucy and Ms. Neater have been working on different photographic media such as liquid light, Vandyke (sepia print) and cyanotype (cyan-blue print). From there they build

off of them and create hand-altered prints.

"Right now we're working on mixed media and photography," Ms. Neater said. "We are working on darkroom experimentation and then post-darkroom and mixed media application."

Ms. Neater praised Lucy's work and creativity.

"Lucy's work is totally inspiring," she said. "I think her work ethic is beyond admirable. Her brain takes in the world around her and incorporates her personal experiences into her artwork."

The Weeknd shines on 'Starboy'

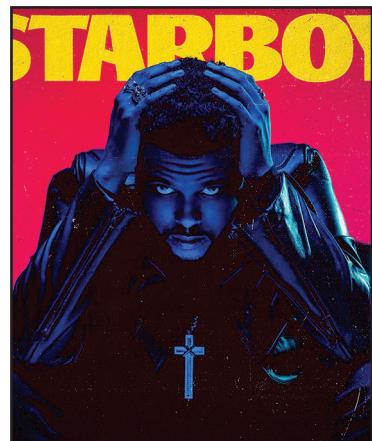
BY DHEVEN UNNI
SPORTS EDITOR

Count your lucky stars, because the Weeknd's new album sets an example for how to switch up themes and genres.

Even though the album sounds very different from his past work, "Starboy" still has the same stunning high notes and dark themes that made the Weeknd famous. With vocals soaring over syncopated rhythms, the first songs evoke his previous work and paint a picture of him embracing his new fame, trying to grow accustomed to life in the spotlight.

It's obvious that "Starboy" is a very different album than anything he's done before. Though more polished, the beat is still unlike other songs in the genre, and the chaotic beauty of his last albums is replaced with a rhythmic tone mirroring other artists in the genre.

As the Weeknd rages against the way that the spotlight has erased his own personality, the concept of the album changes. Singing that he is "not a Teen Choice," he warns people to not forget who he is at heart. This is a new theme



THEWEEKND.COM

MOVING ON. In new album, the Weeknd reflects on his new fame, while maintaining original charm.

for the Weeknd, but he pulls it off, incorporating the same mix of confidence and reflection that brought him to fame.

In the middle of the album he departs further from his usual style. The album feels like an experiment as the Weeknd tries his hand at different genres, like jazz and rock. While each of them is in-

dividually exceptional, "Starboy" begins to feel mismatched when jumping from style to style.

By the end, the Weeknd settles into a more familiar theme: love and loss. As he speaks to the way that his lifestyle inhibits his relationships, the album takes on a more poignant feel. While they sound similar, the end songs distinguish themselves with unique production styles. The songs don't feel mournful as the Weeknd stops describing his sadness and starts to talk about rebuilding. Accompanied by the Weeknd's signature voice, the improved production highlights each high note.

After listening to "Starboy," it's undeniable that the Weeknd has changed his style. None of the songs sound like they would belong on any of his previous albums. By keeping just enough of the stylistic themes that have defined his career, however, the Weeknd has made an album that demonstrates evolution without alienating his fans. This is perhaps the best part of "Starboy": a perfect balance between new, interesting music and songs that are recognizable.

SET comes to life

Student board prepares for February show

BY ALEX LUND
OPINION EDITOR

From absurd comedy to melodrama, students are once again in for a dynamic treat this winter. The Student Experimental Theater production, an annual project run entirely by students, will take place in the Sherry Lansing Theater at the end of February. Tryouts will be Jan. 4-6.

The SET board, composed of students, has just finished selecting 15 script submissions to be a part of the 90-minute production. As they are now ironing out the production plan, the board is coordinating with directors, designers and preparing for auditions.

The board also approved 16 design and directing submissions.

"It's a variety of materials," theater teacher Lucija Ambrosini said, "and it looks like it's going to be a really exciting show. We have student directors and student designers and they're going to need

a lot of support and people to be willing to try out and help them build the show. We always need tech people. We always need actors to come forward."

SET board member Charlie Flocke, a senior, said the process of approving pieces was complicated and lengthy.

"You always want to keep in mind what pieces will work well together and which pieces are practical for the space we've been given when putting a show together," Charlie said. "We could have a wonderful script, but there may be too many scene changes, or it might be too long, which can overextend a show."

Board member Nicole Horio, a junior, wrote and will be directing two pieces in the production.

Nicole said she is looking forward to the variety of theater the board has selected to be part of the show.

"We have several modern pieces and a good mix of different genres," she said. "I'm also looking forward to directing and learning how to direct two of the pieces that I submitted and seeing them come to life on stage."

2016: Year marked the end of an artistic era, beginning of

BY SONNY LEE
FEATURES AND LIFESTYLE EDITOR

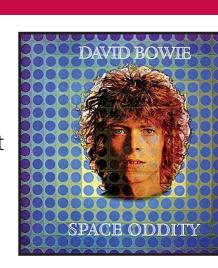
With 2016 coming to an end, it's important to reflect on the year we have had. Although many artists, actors and celebrities were lost this year, it's important to celebrate their work and celebrate the work of others who are still producing great art today. Although sad and unfortunate, there is always a silver lining. Finding Dory, Beyoncé's album "Lemonade," The Magnificent Coloring Day Concert and Chance the Rapper's album "Coloring Book" are all highlights of 2016 and also deserve to be celebrated. "Coloring Book" are all highlights of 2016 and also deserve to be celebrated.

JANUARY

David Bowie's death

On Jan. 10 singer and performer David Bowie died at the age of 69. "David Bowie was the person who helped me connect with my dad through a shared taste in his music. Although he is gone now, the relationship he helped us build is stronger than ever."

— Alexis Tyndall



ROLLING STONE

JANUARY

Alan Rickman's death

On Jan. 14 actor Alan Rickman died of cancer. "Alan Rickman had a major role in the Harry Potter series, and seeing a major figure from my childhood die was a bit of a wake up call that I'm not really a kid anymore. It felt sort of strange, having a part of my favorite book and movie series not live anymore."

— Dania Baig

FEBRUARY

2016 Academy Awards

On Feb. 28, the Academy Awards took place in the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood. The Academy and film industry were criticized for a lack of diversity, with no black actors nominated for any of the major categories. Among the awards given, "Spotlight" won Best Picture, Leonardo DiCaprio won Best Actor for "The Revenant" and Brie Larson won Best Actress for "Room."

APRIL

Prince's death

On April 21st, beloved musician Prince died at age 57. According to the Rolling Stone, Prince will be remembered as an "icon of artistry and individuality," as well as an artist who "embraced controversy, presenting himself as an androgynous sexaholic in his album art and lyrics." Prince's albums "1999," "Purple Rain" and "Sign 'O' the Times" continue to influence artists today.

APRIL

"Lemonade"

On April 23 Beyoncé released a new album, "Lemonade." "The album, to me, was about accepting and acknowledging black beauty and giving appreciation to black women. Each song represented something different that happened in Beyoncé's life. I think a lot of it spoke to me as a young black woman myself trying to find myself in the midst of our crazy world."

— Alex Du Buclet



TIDAL

For band members, music is a way out

The Folies aim to increase awareness about mental health through music

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Sending a message. That's what sophomores Sam DuBose and Michael Harper hope they are doing with their music. Sam and Michael's indie rock band, the Folies, is currently working on an album of songs focused on mental health issues. They hope to release it this year.

Sam contributes to the band on piano and voice with Michael on guitar. Three additional sophomores round out the band: Henry Cassel, bass; Grant Fishman, drums; and Abraham Zelchenko, trombone and guitar.

According to Michael, the five musicians formed the group last spring during a jazz band trip to New Orleans. He said they were inspired by the numerous street bands.

"These people were just really original," Michael said. "They weren't trying to be anyone. They were just being themselves. They did it for the music and you could just tell that they really loved it."

So far, the Folies have performed last June at Labstock, U-High's annual student concert in Kenwood Mall. They have also given a summer concert on Michael's rooftop.

This year, the musicians plan to



MIDWAY PHOTO BY LILLIAN MEMETH

HARMONY FOR HEALTH. Sophomores Abraham Zelchenko, Sam DuBose, Grant Fishman and Michael Harper rehearse in Gordon Parks Art Hall. They hope to record an album next quarter.

focus less on performing and more on recording their album, which they will do in the new recording studios in Gordon Parks Arts Hall. Nicholas Merchant, a sophomore, will help the group with the technical aspect of recording.

According to Michael, many of the songs in the album focus on teen mental health issues.

"There are a lot of problems that you wouldn't think would be happening in high school for people mentally or emotionally," Michael said. "But everyone has problems."

Sam said that the band members take inspiration for their songs both from their own personal emotions as well as from people they know. According to

Sam, knowing friends with eating disorders has strongly affected him and inspired him to write music. He has also written songs about his experience of pursuing a career in music.

"One frustration I have that inspired a song of ours is that people don't really take me seriously when I say that I want to go into music professionally," Sam said. "It's really hard when people say that it's just a phase because for Michael and me, it's just not a phase. We really do want to go into music."

Michael said he and his band members not only hope to express themselves through their songs, but they also hope to help others going through similar emotions.

"I think that by getting our stuff out there we can just really release what we mean and what we think," Michael said, "but then the best thing would be if others would identify with that and feel inspired."

Besides being a way for the band to help others, music also has an important personal meaning for the members.

"It makes me feel good both to play it and to listen to it," Henry said. "It just makes life more enjoyable for me."

Putting out songs is also an important career step for Sam and Michael, the only two members of the band who plan to do music professionally.

'Allied' doesn't live up to hype

BY PRIYANKA SHRIJAY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With beautiful imagery and an old Hollywood flare, "Allied" tells the story of two lovers involved with the Allied powers during World War II. Although it possesses the air of an iconic Hollywood film in its story and production quality, "Allied" falls a bit flat in its ability to convey the central love story in an enrapturing manner.

Released on Nov. 23, "Allied," follows Canadian wing commander Max Vatan (Brad Pitt) and his relationship with French Resistance fighter Marianne Beausejour (Marion Cotillard). The two meet behind enemy lines during a mission in Casablanca for which they are paired and ordered to pretend to be married. Beausejour explains to Vatan that she approaches her job by keeping her emotions genuine, even though her line of work requires her to hide her identity. This plays an integral role in the plot of the second half of the movie as their relationship grows past the requirements of their mission and into surprising complications.

The central love story is a common trope in film: two spies who risk the integrity of their work for love, and uncertainties that follow. However, in "Allied," this beloved theme is compromised by the unconvincing chemistry between Vatan and Beausejour, particularly because their romantic storyline was promising when the characters were first introduced in the film. A mutual, undying love is especially essential to the plot's ending, and was ultimately not conveyed with enough vehemence to justify the events in the film's final moments.

Still, the film's visual experience is nothing short of ravishing. The first shot of the film is of Vatan parachuting over the mesmerizing sand dunes of the Moroccan desert as the sun begins to rise. Later, Beausejour gives birth outside during an air raid — a scene complete with bombs whizzing through the sky and frantic civilians running for cover. Down to the wardrobe, scenery, atmosphere and thoughtful details like the film's many nods to the 1943 film "Casablanca," "Allied" is saturated in timeless Hollywood cinematography that captures the vestigial charm of early 20th century culture.

Although certain choices made by Vatan and Beausejour may seem unfounded, the sincerity of the central relationship itself may be called into question, and the culmination of the nail-biting journey lacks fervor, the overall story's intensity, premise and gorgeous cinematography make "Allied" worth watching.

'Fantastic Beasts' revisits world of Harry Potter



WARNER BROS., USED WITH PERMISSION
IT'S FANTASTIC. David Yates directed J.K. Rowling's "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," which takes place in 1928 and follows wizard Newt Scamander.

BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON
NEWS EDITOR

Open Newt Scamander's trunk and find Nifflers, Thunderbirds, Erumpents, some of the dazzling creatures from "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," a new movie based on the 2001 book by J.K. Rowling, who also wrote the screenplay. Viewers dive into a pre-Harry Potter world of wizards, magical government and evil forces.

While this movie is not a prequel for the Harry Potter series, it is a good stand-alone film and introduction to the creatures and world of magical zoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne). The cinematography creates an enchanting world with wild and fantastic animals in Newt's collection.

The beauty of the magical creatures and the wild colors of the set all provide a backdrop for the adventure story. The beasts are unimaginable, so they allow viewers to broaden their

understanding. While nothing can replace the legendary adventures of Harry Potter, Newt Scamander's escapades provide some solace that was missing from Rowling's magical world.

When Newt accidentally lets loose some of his magical creatures in the city, the audience is taken on a journey through New York magical filled with gangster goblins, wicked wizards and dangerous dark forces.

By chance, a "No Maj," a non-magical human, Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler), sees one of the creatures and gets taken for a ride until being caught by former-Auror, magical police, Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston).

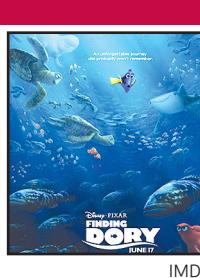
As an unknown dark force disrupts New York, the three travel the city looking for Newt's lost magical animals. Meanwhile, the Magical Congress of the United States of America is working to calm No Maj disruptions in the city, while combating the dark force.

"While this movie is not a prequel for the Harry Potter series, it is a good stand-alone film and introduction to the creatures and world of magical zoologist Newt Scamander."

The movie's four main plots combine for a cinematically thrilling film. Newt's empathetic relationship with his animals is sweet. The director creates a whole new world for Harry Potter fans and newbies with Newt's fantastic creatures and their magical powers.

By delving deeper into the Harry Potter world, J.K. Rowling has allowed spinoffs of this story and its supporting characters. The fact that J.K. Rowling wrote the screenplay makes it even closer to her imagination and her world of the beloved Harry Potter.

change, continuation of great entertainment

MAY	JULY	AUGUST	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
"Coloring Book" On May 12, Chance the Rapper released a 14-song album, "Coloring Book." "Coloring Book" proves that Chance is growing as an artist. He has all kinds of different styles within each song. Chance is at a point in his career where he's really starting to make it big. He stays true to who he is, and the product of this, 'Coloring Book,' in this case, is magnificent." — Jonathan Ruiz	"Finding Dory" On June 17, Disney Pixar released a sequel to the 2003 hit "Finding Nemo." "Finding Dory" was so funny. It obviously wasn't as good as 'Finding Nemo' because there was no hope for that since 'Finding Nemo' is a classic, but it was as good as I hoped it would be because it consistently made me laugh, had touching moments and a good plot." — Alex Stevanovich	"Blonde" On Aug. 20, Frank Ocean released his new album, "Blonde." "I think it's really cool that Frank Ocean has been so successful without a record label. After his album 'Channel Orange,' I'm sure he faced some difficulty in producing something even better, but somehow he did it." — Nicole Horio	Gene Wilder dies On Aug. 29, Mr. Wilder died due to complications of Alzheimer's. "Gene Wilder's 'Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory' was a family favorite. Even today, I can remember every scene almost perfectly. When Wilder passed away I felt as though a small part of my childhood had died." — Nicholas Slimmon	Magnificent Coloring Day "The concert was even better than I could have imagined. I was able to have fun with some of my closest friends and see some of my favorite artists at the same time. The best part was obviously Chance." — Nikki Han
	 IMDB			 CHANCERAPS.COM

ALLIED BRAD PITT MARION COTILLARD
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *FORREST GUMP*, *CAST AWAY* AND *FLIGHT*
NOVEMBER 23

WORKING TOGETHER. Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard together made the action flim.

BEYOND OUR BUBBLE:

Hyde Park sits in an ideological bubble. Students went to bed on election night shocked and could not understand why the nation would vote for Donald Trump to be the next president.

The Midway asked eight high school students from around the country why they supported him. Their reasons varied slightly, but they shared similar sentiments — Americans need to wait until he takes office to make judgements.

★ WASHINGTON

AJAY ARCHAMBEAU
Mount Si High School, Snoqualmie
Age: 18
Grade: Senior
Voted: Yes



What were specific things that you experienced growing up that helped you form your values?
Well the main thing would be growing up my parents are much older than probably most parents of kids my age, so they're definitely not on board the whole political correctness movement, and so growing up I always kind of looked at some of the instances of over-policing some of the words people use. And some of the silly things the PC does as silly, so that was probably the main thing.

How did your parents really do to instill these values in you?

It wasn't like my parents politically brainwashed me — it wasn't a big thing, it was just small moments. Like for one thing they would watch Fox News a lot, which is a conservatively biased, so I learned a lot of things growing up from that viewpoint. I mean it wasn't like they would show me propaganda films or anything.

What are some of the specific reasons that you support Trump and supported his campaign?

I would say there were kind of two main things. I mean he supports something new. He seems like the symbol of change, kind of like how Democrats thought Obama was. He seems completely new in that he is not a politician, and Clinton seemed like the status quo. And she seemed kind of like the phony politician that people like me were tired of. ... The main thing is that it was kind of like a revolt against the politically correct movement. I just kind of When the whole PC movement when they label people and when they have these absurd, like in some colleges when they wouldn't let Bill O'Reilly or Ben Shapiro speak, and Trump was kind of the symbol of "we are sick of the politically correct." It was a revolt.

For a lot of Republicans there

What were specific things that you experienced growing up that helped you form your values?

My parents are both teachers, so we grew up in a very liberal household. My parents are both teachers, so we grew up in a very liberal household. My parents are both teachers, so we grew up in a very liberal household.

Were there certain things that made you dislike Clinton or stray away from her?

Well mostly I think he is more of a capitalist. I think kind of the big difference economically between Republicans and Democrats is Republicans are more pro-business and Democrats are more pro-working man, and I think it is better for the economy to be more pro-business. His business background and his business philosophies would be something I agreed with.

And Clinton, I mean, she's certainly had a lot of scandals. I mean the Benghazi scandal was something that didn't make her seem the most intelligent, like she didn't really know what was going on. The email scandal made her seem like another politician that wasn't the most honest, and then her speeches to the bankers made her seem like another politician who just kind of fit in with the bankers just for money. Her policies were more liberal than the policies I like, like she said she liked open borders, and she is anti-Second Amendment.

I was never gonna vote Clinton — it was either third party or Trump, and the thing that kind of made me vote Trump was actually Democrats calling Trump supporters names like racist and sexist. And it was the over PC movement. If you're a Democrat and you're looking to blame someone I would blame how you treated the opposing side.

What specifically do you like about Donald Trump?

I think that one of things that I like about Trump personally, which is also one of his biggest downfalls, is his brash nature, his indecisiveness and his lack of

INTERVIEWED BY EMMA TRONE

★ TEXAS

MIKE MAHOWALD
Episcopal School of Dallas
Age: 17
Grade: Junior
Voted: No

Many people have considered some of Trump's statements that are perceived to be sexist, racist and xenophobic have disqualified him from the presidency. Do these statements hold as much weight in the minds of voters in Texas?

Yeah you'd have to. I've always kind of viewed the Republican party as more constitutionally based, and banning Muslims was something that I don't think would be a good idea, so that was the specific moment. But yeah, I mean, other things that I thought were exaggerated didn't bother me. The "Access Hollywood" tape didn't bother me, but yeah, the one moment that stood out was probably the moment where I was most likely to vote for someone else was when he talked about banning Muslims.

What are the expectations for a Trump presidency?
Honestly, what I think he says, he said some pretty outlandish things in his campaign, just from

INTERVIEWED BY EMMA TRONE

★ MARYLAND

WILL WEINFELD
Gilman School, Baltimore
Age: 18
Grade: Senior
Voted: Yes

What was your most notable memory from the months leading up to the election?

I am the President of my school's Young Republicans club and we happened to have a meeting the day of the election, which was obviously pretty electric. When people started to come in, especially a lot of guys in the underclassmen range, they were all really excited about the future, and they were very optimistic about what the election meant for the Republican Party.

How did you support Donald Trump after the tapes were released?

What he had said in the tapes was extremely upsetting to me, even prior to that he has often been accused of being sexist. I think that if we want something to get done, for better or for worse, Trump is going to get something done.

INTERVIEWED BY MICHAEL RUBIN

What are the thoughts on some nationwide protests against the Trump victory?

The protests against Trump are kind of shocking. I understand that Clinton won the popular vote, and people were pissed about the Electoral College in the election, but I think that protests are totally unwarranted. As Americans, we have the right to vote. And people chose, and Donald Trump got elected as our president, and I think we just need to accept what happens.

I think all those things about anti-hate rather than worrying about who won the election is what people should really be worried about. This is creating so much divide within our country, and I mean, it's a hugely impactful decision, but when it comes down to it, it's all about uniting. So I think coming together is most important.

INTERVIEWED BY EMMA TRONE

★ COLORADO

AMIRA MEHARZI
Smoky Hill High School, Aurora
Age: 18
Grade: Senior
Voted: Yes

Why did you support Donald Trump?

I wasn't a supporter initially. I had supported Marco Rubio in the primaries. But as the RNC came, I realized that Trump was our nominee and we had to support him, that's when I started supporting him. I am a conservative Republican, my parents are — my father even works for the Conservative Republican party of Colorado. I myself had this bias against Trump.

How did you feel about Trump not having any political experience?

I am a big proponent of outsiders in leadership positions in government albeit I would like to see him appointed in his cabinet a healthy balance of politicians and outsiders because I think that in positions like Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State, it is important to have people who know what they're doing. I have been pleased with some of his cabinet appointments, but I do think that it is important to have someone who is not, I don't want to say corrupt, but a corrupt politician who knows what they are doing. I think that if we want something to get done, for better or for worse, Trump is going to get something done.

INTERVIEWED BY NATALIE GLUCK

What policies of his appealed to you the most?

I have way more in common with his views on immigration, foreign trade deals, health care reform, energy independence and foreign policy, than I would ever have in common with Hillary Clinton. It's time for a change, and he is the change we need. I think people need to have some respect for him and give him a chance.

INTERVIEWED BY NATALIE GLUCK

What changes are you looking forward to seeing during the Trump presidency?

He would be deemed sexist. I don't think that's what sexism is, but I do think what he said in the tapes was absolutely wrong, but I don't think he is sexist. I dismissed his personality and behavior and just focused on his policy. He is the president, and I am not befriending him or anything, but he is our president. At the end of the day it's his policies that matter not his personality.

One of the fundamental things that I have learned through my father's job, is that every politician is externally controlled. Donald Trump will not be swayed by any vested corporate interest. There are no large behind-the-curtain people who will influence him. He is a businessman. He is self-funded. He is himself. That is what I love most: he is just himself.

What policies of his appealed to you the most?

I feel like he gets inaugurated there's still going to be some backlash, some very upset people, but I feel like as they start seeing improvement and changes in our government that are actually going to be very beneficial, I feel like he isn't a politician.

— INTERVIEWED BY NATALIE GLUCK

What do you feel about the protests against Trump?

They absolutely have the right to protest — that is their right — but I just feel like their protesting isn't going to accomplish anything. The saying that 'He's not my president' is pretty weird to me because he is going to be their future president. So I feel like it is a bit of a waste of time because they're not going to achieve anything.

What was your community's reaction to the 2016 presidential election results?

I feel like it's very divided. After the day of the election, half the people I knew were very upset and very angry and the other half were very excited like I was. So I feel like when he gets inaugurated there's still going to be some backlash, some very upset people, but I feel like as they start seeing improvement and changes in our government that are actually going to be very beneficial, I feel like that whole negative sentiment is going to decrease.

INTERVIEWED BY PRIYANKA SHRIJAY

What do you think about the protests against Trump?

They absolutely have the right to protest — that is their right — but I just feel like their protesting isn't going to accomplish anything. The saying that 'He's not my president' is pretty weird to me because he is going to be their future president. So I feel like it is a bit of a waste of time because they're not going to achieve anything.

Why didn't you like Clinton?

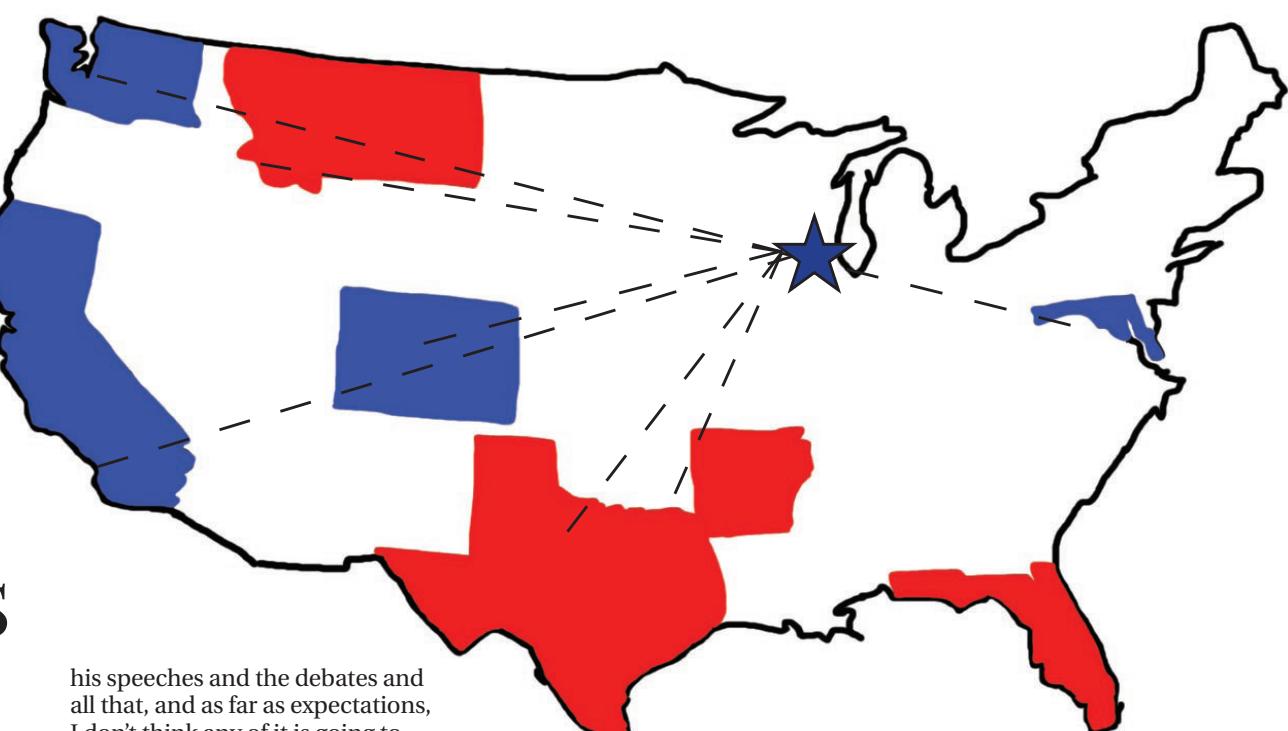
In terms of not trusting Hillary, it has more to do with her political career as a whole. She never was convicted of anything — no big scandals against her — but there were so many questions and black spots on her record. The Clinton Foundation gets a lot of funding from several large donors in the Middle East, which could entail some political relations with those countries. It's no coincidence that that stuff keeps happening. She has a shady record and she can't be trusted with important information.

INTERVIEWED BY PRIYANKA SHRIJAY

What made you decide that Trump was the best candidate

I try to take a more objective approach, and try to understand the other side, and try to be less impassioned about things. If someone, a Clinton supporter, was scared of him and his decisions, I would tell them to give him a chance, don't judge him right out of the gate, don't say he's destroyed our country when he hasn't even done anything. I think they should give him a chance to lead the country. He's innocent until proven guilty. We should let him go and see how the country is faring.

INTERVIEWED BY CLYDE SCHWAB



★ MONTANA

RYAN STAGG
Bozeman High School
Age: 18
Grade: Senior
Voted: Yes



Why did you support Trump?

I feel like if any of what is viewed by many people as very negative or xenophobic or misogynistic or anything of that sort, any of that radical policy that he may try and implement, even if he does get Congress to propose it, which they won't. It's not going to go anywhere because Congress is not made of people like Donald Trump. These radical policies can be controlled by Congress and the Supreme Court. These people aren't in danger, although it may seem that way. There's checks and balances in the Federal System that will protect them.

What issues make you support Trump?

I believe in a rule of law through immigration policies that support legal immigration. I feel like to allow illegal immigration violates the rule of law. I support lower taxes. For the most part, and there are situations otherwise, I am anti-abortion. I do support putting tariffs on foreign trade. I do support fixing trade deals with foreign nations. I feel that Trump will have the ability to do so with his background in business, and so he will have a negotiating ability.

How do you think a Trump presidency will affect you positively?

I feel that he has the ability, if he plays his cards right, to improve the American economy and to strengthen national security through enforcing rule of law especially along the southern border. I am in full support of all sorts of legal immigration, but that which is illegal I see as a threat. As these people are illegal, there's no way to see who's coming in and going out of the country.

I feel like through his policies he can improve national security.

What would you say to people who are worried about a Trump presidency?

I feel like if any of what is viewed by many people as very negative or xenophobic or misogynistic or anything of that sort, any of that radical policy that he may try and implement, even if he does get Congress to propose it, which they won't. It's not going to go anywhere because Congress is not made of people like Donald Trump. These radical policies can be controlled by Congress and the Supreme Court. These people aren't in danger, although it may seem that way. There's checks and balances in the Federal System that will protect them.

What advice would you give to students your age regarding Trump's presidency?

To them I would say, if you don't agree with him or you do, you should take an active in your local and state governments, because especially in small towns and your own local regions, the Federal government does have a say, but the state and country government has an even closer impact on your daily life. I would say get involved and educate yourself. You should have an active voice in politics because that's important for a civic, active population.

INTERVIEWED BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON

★ FLORIDA

JAMIE ZIPPER
Pine Crest High School, Fort Lauderdale
Age: 18
Grade: Senior
Voted: Yes



Why does Trump appeal to you?

Trump appeals to me because I don't really think that politicians who have been in charge over the past decade have done a good job, and to me he isn't a politician, so I think we need a change. He appeals to me because he cannot be bought, and many politicians have been bought by lobbyists, but Trump campaigned for himself — he used his own money for the campaign and I believe he truly will do what's good for the people. He's in favor of a hands-off government, so businesses will control the market more and there will be fewer taxes and more room for businesses to hire and such.

What do you think about the allegations that he is untrustworthy? That he doesn't keep his word.

In my opinion, he's more objective because he cannot be bought by lobbyists — he doesn't really have an ulterior motive like money or fame because he's already famous.

What are your expectations for a Trump presidency? What kind of change do you think it will bring about?

I think that our economy will start booming again because of

the trickle-down effect he'll create. I hope that he, in general, becomes a little more presidential than previous presidents. I'm expecting him to understand what the job is and be able to exceed expectations and prove he belongs — that he can be presidential even though in the past he's said things that aren't totally presidential. I hope that he's able to bring our country together right now because I think that there's a lot of division, and a lot of anger in the Democratic Party. Hopefully, when he is able to improve our country, people will see him in a different way.

What do you think about the allegations that he is untrustworthy? That he doesn't keep his word.

I don't think those allegations are true because there hasn't been history where he goes back on his word — he has proven to be a trustworthy candidate. There hasn't been a specific instance where he was untrustworthy. He has never lied, I don't think. He always says what he feels. Even if it's maybe not what people want to hear, he says what he feels. Even if it's maybe not what people want to hear, he says what he feels.

INTERVIEWED BY JACOB POSNER

"I was never gonna vote Clinton — it was either third party or Trump, and the thing that kind of made me vote Trump was actually Democrats calling Trump supporters names like racist and sexist. ... If you're a Democrat and you're looking to blame someone I would blame how you treated the opposing side."

— Ajay Archambeau, Washington state

★ ARKANSAS

CALEB JOHNSON
Jessieville High School
Age: 18
Grade: Senior
Voted: No



Why do you support Donald Trump?

The reason I supported Trump is that he was the best alternative to Clinton. I did not agree at all with what Clinton had to say and I didn't believe that she was a trustworthy person and I wouldn't trust her with the presidency. I know Trump isn't the best person in the world — he has made mistakes and said things I don't agree with — but I did support him over Clinton because he's so different than the average politician that he could bring some change about.

What would you say to a Clinton supporter concerned about a Trump presidency?

I try to take a more objective approach, and try to understand the other side, and try to be less impassioned about things. If someone, a Clinton supporter, was scared of him and his decisions, I would tell them to give him a chance, don't judge him right out of the gate

As the Midway sees it...

Assembly indicates signs of progress

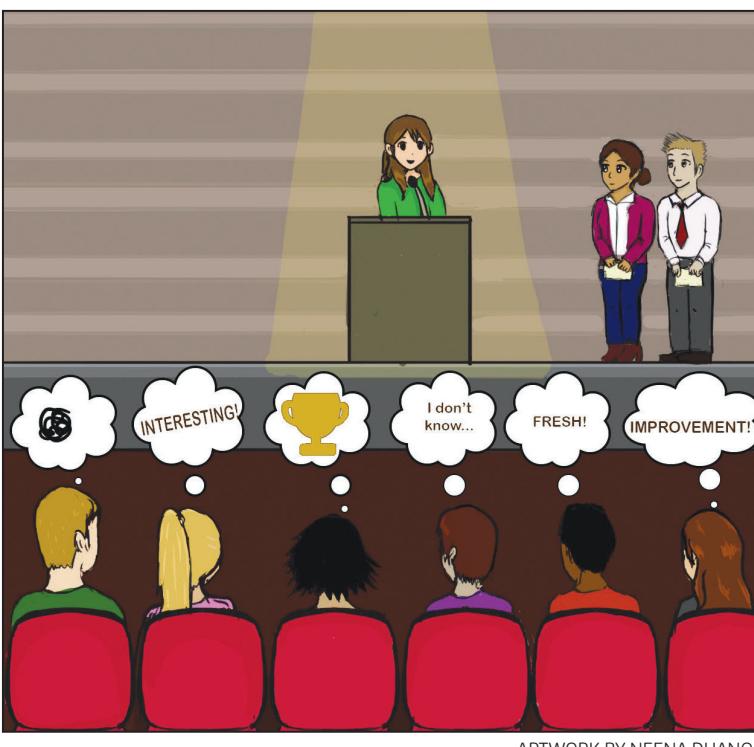
Exasperation, frustration and annoyance — these qualities define the experience at assemblies for many students.

Yet this year's Fall Recognition Assembly heralded a shift in that mentality. While the new focus on student engagement was a welcome change, there's still more that can be done.

There's a reason there were large gaps in the audience, and it was not solely due to a lack of interest from the student body. For some students, the inconvenient timing of the assembly was the problem. Each year between Thanksgiving and winter break, students receive an increased workload as the quarter comes to a close. For many, the hour of study time that the assembly period provides is a necessity.

Faced with missing an assembly or potentially failing a test, students skip the assembly. The dragnet of counselors and faculty positioned at exits might increase the body count in the Assembly Hall, but this tactic cannot always command the attention of students who are caught and forced to attend.

The best way to improve student attendance is to improve the quality of the assemblies. The move away from reading long lists of student names combined with the use of student presentations were both valuable steps toward progress and much-needed student



ARTWORK BY NEENA DHANOA

engagement.

That approach showcased student accomplishments, highlighting organizations that created change like Refugee Club. By placing the focus on Lab student initiatives rather than just academic certificates won by only a handful of students, the assembly favored inclusion. With a more casual approach and an early ending, the Fall Recognition Assembly exceeded expectations in its presen-

tation.

Looking forward, more should be done. Moving the assembly to the first week of winter quarter would rectify the issue many students have with its timing. They might be less stressed and more open to attending. It is difficult to appreciate an assembly while simultaneously worrying about grades and finals.

The success of the new Assembly Committee has proven the im-

portance of student involvement. The best assemblies have each been geared toward students — in some cases even run by them. It would be disappointing if assemblies reverted to being formulaic and monotone as if they were organized just for the sake of having an assembly. If the administration and Assembly Committee restrict assemblies to those which actively try to keep the student body's interests in mind, assemblies will transform from a chore to a more highly regarded community-building experience.

While the Assembly Committee members are responsible for planning and organizing assemblies, it would be unfair to place all the blame on them. The committee of students, faculty and administrators, can't improve the assemblies on their own. Students bear a responsibility to show up. The committee has demonstrated a willingness to listen to our voices, but that's useless if those who have grievances do not express them.

If students aren't participating because of past disappointment, they should give the assemblies another chance. If students don't believe the assemblies have improved, they should voice their criticisms — and trust in the Assembly Committee to work out solutions.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Midway's Editorial Board.

Gender-neutral spaces should be identified

BY ALEX LUND
OPINION EDITOR

Imagine feeling anxiety pulsing through your body as you enter a space that does not acknowledge your gender identity. Imagine feeling like an outsider in a community that does not explicitly show that you are welcome and supported. Imagine feeling alone.

Now imagine a future where these feelings are quashed before they even have the chance to develop. This future could exist if the administration full-heartedly embraces its commitment to inclusivity and unequivocally supports marginalized groups at Lab.

According to Dean of Students Ana Campos, administrators met last year to address legislation about gender neutral spaces in schools. They discussed existing policies and what could be done to promote inclusion. It was a commendable attempt to be proactive, rather than reactive, to student needs before being raised by indi-

vidual students or student groups. This kind of progress needs to continue.

Ms. Campos identified six "gender neutral bathrooms" on the historic campus: two in the faculty lounge, two in Gordon Parks Arts Hall, one in Blaine Hall, one in Sunny Gymnasium. This does not include private changing areas in the locker rooms. The administration has its bases covered in terms of available facilities, but when it comes to how these spaces are actually labeled and whether students and faculty are aware of them, the administration has unfortunately missed the mark.

If these spaces truly are intended to be "gender neutral," they are not explicitly labeled as such. Using labels like "family restroom" or simply "private changing room" on these spaces is not enough to indicate the administration's definitive stance on gender inclusion. It leaves the issue in limbo. The administration succeeded

in creating accessible, physical spaces that genderqueer individuals can use, but it did not create a sense of inclusion. Most students and faculty are not even aware that these "gender neutral" spaces are available.

Using labels like "men," "women" or "family" invalidates transgender or gender-questioning individuals by giving them only three options. Gender nonconforming individuals should not be forced to group themselves in categories that don't necessarily include them.

The conversations around gender-neutral spaces throughout the country highlight how dividing spaces with a male and female binary is heavily politicized. It also demonstrates how the division denies individuals who don't identify as "male," "female," or a "family" a designated safe space to call their own. Not having an explicitly labeled "gender neutral" space leaves trans and gender-noncon-

forming people in a position of potentially being discriminated against through gender-policing by cisgender individuals.

An initiative that would quell this issue is as simple as changing a few signs. The administration should designate some of the family and single-user restrooms to be specifically "gender neutral," if that was the true intent behind these spaces' construction. Doing so would not only send a message to older members of the Lab community in providing a definitive stance on this issue, but would teach a younger generation of Lab community members to be open-minded, kind and welcoming to individuals who don't conform to politicized standards.

Lab is unique. It is diverse. It is progressive. If the administration, as it continues to claim, wants to foster a more inclusive environment, then this is one way to at least create a sincere expression of their intent.

Slacktivism strikes again through safety pins

BY MARISSA MARTINEZ
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The safety pin movement has the potential to be a platform for non-marginalized people to cop out of doing something substantive. However, wearing one needs to be combined with actions for the biggest impact.

The social media venture was conceived on Twitter after the British exit from the European Union prompted xenophobia, according to The New York Times. After seeing similar hate-crimes in the United States, well-meaning Americans began to wear safety pins the week after Donald Trump was elected president.

The premise is that people who are not systematically oppressed, like white people or straight people, can publicly show solidarity and support to people who are. In

theory, it is meant to give a small-but-powerful reminder of alliance from someone who is not harmed by the election as severely as other people in this country.

It is comforting to know there are complete strangers who do not condone the flood of hatred that erupted after the presidential election, but wearing a safety pin is a cheap way to show this sentiment.

This movement means nothing without genuine action. Proving or showing how "woke" someone is to any particular cause is not enough. The ease of pinning something to a shirt is meaningful — but still small in impact.

This country has enough silent support from the majority. Now, more than ever, it needs loud, questioning voices from people in privileged positions of power. The act of wearing a safety pin alone

is a silent way to show alliance with strangers, but the movement cannot and should not stop there. The effects of taking much needed action, not just wearing a thin piece of metal pinned to your shoulder, will lead to true progress in this country.

It is not risky or hard to wear a safety pin. It is risky and hard to rail against systems of American privilege. Yes, wearing one can be a simple way to show support if a

"This movement means nothing without genuine action. Proving or showing how "woke" someone is to any particular cause is not enough."

person does not have the resources to deeply immerse themselves in social movements. However, other ways exist to get involved that don't cost anything yet make more change.

While it is valuable to have a growing network of citizens who oppose hate, people should use this momentum to pursue meaningful opportunities for equality and justice.

Safety pins are a small step forward in the right direction, but this momentum should be channeled into powerful gestures that take the same amount of energy. Reading articles, calling legislators or even following activists on social media takes as much time as donning a pin. These actions make a more tangible difference and lead to more lasting effects.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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CORRECTIONS • ISSUE 2, OCT. 13, 2016:

- Freshman Adria Wilson's name was misspelled on page 4.
- Kara Coleman took the Adventures in Greek Town picture on page 9.

QUICK Q

What did you think of the recognition assembly?

AVERIE MILLER, SENIOR:



"The thing that stood out to me was Mr. Ribbens and what he said about the school. I really liked when Mrs. Wagner walked up and started talking about disabilities. I thought it was a cool addition."

FLORENCE ALMEDA, JUNIOR:



"I think that the recognition assembly was really well run! The photos that were playing in the background were a great addition because it made me feel a lot more connected to the people being recognized. I think it was also really meaningful to hear students talk about their clubs and what they've done so far this year."

NAINA JOLLY, SOPHOMORE:



"I liked that the assembly was shorter than usual, which still allowed students to be recognized just rather in a more concise manner. I think that the brevity definitely helped keep people's attention for longer during the assembly."

MOTIVATION FOR INNOVATION

For 34 years Curt Lieneck has aided teaching with tech

BY DHEVEN UNNI
SPORTS EDITOR

Striving to realize all of the potential for growth that he sees in Lab, a constant drive to improve the school through technology is what has gotten Curt Lieneck out of bed for the past 34 years.

While Mr. Lieneck serves as the Director of Information Technology, that wasn't his first job at Lab. In his first years at the school, he taught classes in middle school. Citing his own free spirit as a reason, Mr. Lieneck transferred into Information Systems when a need opened up.

"I've always been restless professionally," Mr. Lieneck said. "Even as a teacher, I would change grade levels every couple of years just to have something new. I never really liked doing the same thing over and over again. When I taught fourth grade, in the very early days of the internet, I got excited about the potential to enhance instruction with new technology. For the first couple of years, I worked with the technology staff we had at the time, and as it began to grow the administration decided they needed someone who was solely focused on technology."

Having worked with Mr. Lieneck for over 15 years, Information Systems Manager Rob Koontz can personally testify to his skill.

"Curt is highly regarded around the country," Mr. Koontz said. "He's a leader in the national independent school organization. There's a lot of people that ask him to consult, a lot of schools around the country for their technology, growth, or plans for the future. He came from the classroom, so he's got a lot of knowledge about teaching. Bringing the technology together with that gives him a skill set above a lot of other people."

"Even as a teacher, I would change grade levels every couple of years just to have something new. I never really liked doing the same thing over and over again."

— Curt Lieneck, Director of Information Technology

When Mr. Lieneck began, one of his first projects was improving the hand-me-down computers that teachers would inherit from the Computer Science Department. Establishing a new process led to Lab's current infrastructure, and Mr. Lieneck takes pride in the idea that the technology he works with can empower teachers in their lessons.

After finishing massive audio and visual updates in Gordon Parks Arts Hall and subsequently the rest of the school, Mr. Lieneck is now turning his attention toward printing issues.

We have enabled students in the high school much greater printing access this year, and we're also getting ready to roll out uniFLOW, which is a much better printing process that will make it much easier for people to add printers," Mr. Lieneck said. "Right now, faculty and staff have to call IS to add a printer. We think that's an obsolete way of doing business, and uniFLOW will allow us to do that much more easily with just a few prints. It also allows for much more secure printing, so that you can send your print job to a server, identify yourself with your card, and print it right there."

The new process will be complemented by new printers that should alleviate excessive lines for the library. Mr. Lieneck sees up-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMERSON WRIGHT

SUPPORTIVE, MOTIVATED, HIGHLY REGARDED. Sitting in his office space, Curt Lieneck fires off emails as he reaches out to different departments. With experience both in the classroom and Information Systems, Mr. Lieneck has found ways to assist teachers in the classroom with innovative technology.

dated printing as the next step in the progression of technology that he's helped facilitate at Lab.

That expansion allows him to cooperate with and help a greater number of people, representing what he loves about the school.

"I'm one of the only people in the building that really works with everyone," Mr. Lieneck said. "It allows me to see things from a different perspective, unlike some other folks who are rightly focused on their departments. Technology touches every part of the school. It's critical to our operations in a way it certainly wasn't when I started. I take that responsibility very seriously."

Working with Mr. Lieneck has been beneficial to Mr. Koontz, who appreciates his candor and listening skills.

"Curt's the best boss I've ever had in my career," Mr. Koontz said. "He's extremely supportive. He'll

listen to ideas. Sometimes he'll go along with them or say we're not quite ready. Curt tells you straight up, he doesn't mix words and make confusing statements. It's been a great pleasure working for him."

For Mr. Lieneck, motivation comes from a drive to fully realize all of the potential that he sees in Lab.

"When we get things right here, nobody does it better," Mr. Lieneck said. "That's what keeps me coming back year after year, because I know how much potential we have, and I keep looking for those opportunities to realize it. No matter what hat I'm wearing, whether it's as a teacher or director of operations, I'm trying to take all of the potential we have and put us on the national stage when it comes to thoughtful innovation, mindful use of technology, and learning tools. That's what gets me out of bed in the morning."

Behind the scenes

Monika Bahroos: mother, tech specialist, avid reader



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SOPHIE HINERFELD

HELPING HAND. Setting up iPads for younger members of the Lab community, tech specialist Monika Bahroos' job consists of many diverse tasks. Many days, she can be found delivering iCarts, doing technological checkups and providing tech assistance to the members of Lab.

Monika Bahroos is a technical support specialist and a member of Lab's Information Systems Department. For the last four years, a typical work day has included delivering iCarts, performing AV set ups, checking voicemails, doing technological checkups on equipment, replacing toners, and providing tech help to faculty, students and staff on the fly. In the early 2000s, working with new technologies began to become more prominent, and this helped shape Ms. Bahroos' interest in technology while she was in college. During her time at Ryerson University in Toronto, she was enrolled in a Business Computer Systems program. Her two children, Asha and Gaurav, attend Lab in 7th and 4th grade respectively.

What do you wish people understood about your position/department?

That we're always happy to help, and we'd love anyone to stop by anytime — faculty, staff, students. Everyone is welcome here.

What's your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of the job is helping someone learn how to use what they already know, and maybe help them advance their tech skills.

What's the most difficult part of your job?

I don't think we have a difficult part of the job — it's great. It's always pretty smooth. Sometimes we are brought tech issues that we're not familiar with, so we end up needing to do a little bit of research.

What's some things that you do in your free time?

In my free time I love to read. And I discovered NPR, so I listen to NPR, and I love listening to "The Moth" story hour.

What's one piece of advice you have for students our age?

Stay motivated. I know it feels sometimes like it's never going to end, but it will. You're just climbing up that mountain now, but you'll get to your peak.

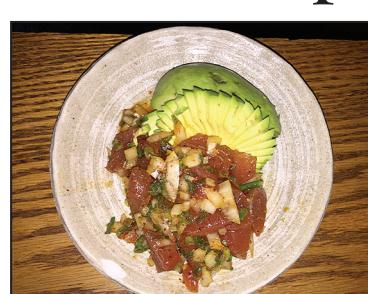
Hawaiian fish salad pokés its way into town

BY EMMA TRONE
MIDWAY REPORTER

Poké stops are popping up around Chicago, and this time they're not for Pokémon Go. Poké (POH-kay), the Hawaiian raw fish salad, is a food phenomenon sweeping Chicago's restaurant scene. Although almost ubiquitous in Hawaii, found everywhere from gas stations to fine restaurants, the newest food craze has only recently been spotted across the country, from Seattle to Washington, D.C.

Traditionally, poké has been prepared by chopping fresh, raw ahi tuna or octopus into thick chunks, and marinating them in soy sauce, scallions, and sesame oil. In the Continental United States, the dish is more often seen with ahi tuna, in a bowl with either rice or greens on the bottom and myriad colorful toppings, and is a subset of the "bowl" food craze, also seen in açaí bowls and taco bowls.

Chicago foodies were introduced to the dish by Aloha Poké, once just a small stand in the Chicago French Market. Now expanded to a Lakeview shop, other standalone poké shops have popped up on the North Side and the Loop, and trendy Asian and Asian-fusion restaurants have begun to integrate poké into their menus.

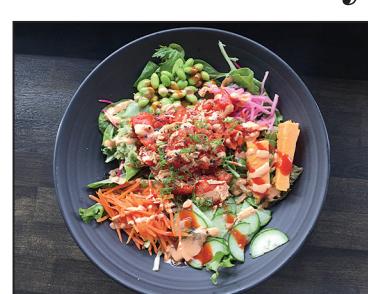


Yuzu Sushi and Robata
1751 W. Chicago Ave.

Hours: Sun-Thurs: 11:30 a.m. -3 p.m.
5 p.m.-10 p.m.
Fri-Sat: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
5 p.m.-11 p.m.

Dish: Tuna, soy sauce, onion, scallion, chili flakes: \$13

Yuzu Sushi offers poké as an appetizer. Their poké proves that a simple approach is the best. Besides the traditionally marinated fish, the only other main element of the dish was a perfectly ripened avocado, artfully displayed on the side. The fish was firmer but fresher than the other two examples, and given just enough kick with the chili flakes to keep the dish flavorful. Although the price was the highest and the amount of food was the least, the quality of the fish makes their poké worth the cost.



En Hakkore 2.0
1467 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sat: 11:30 a.m. -9:30 p.m.
Sun: closed

Dish: Tuna, mixed greens, edamame, guacamole, sweet potato, cucumber, green onion, pickle radish, carrots, sesame seed, spicy mayo, and gochujang dressing: \$12

Though better known for their sushi burritos, En Hakkore 2.0 also offers poké as a salad. Despite being beautifully displayed, the salad presented many different components, which detracted from what should be the main focus of the dish — the tuna. The tuna was also noticeably still thawing out, presumably after being frozen. However, all of the greens and the cucumber in particular were very fresh and crisp.



Aloha
843 W. Belmont Ave.

Hours: Mon-Sun: 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Dish: Ahi Tuna, white rice, pineapple, cucumber, scallion, jalapeño, Maui onion, sesame vinaigrette: \$7.50

PHOTOS BY EMMA TRONE

Aloha Poké is regarded as the shop that introduced Chicago to poké. With the specialty Aloha bowl, the balance between warm rice and cool tuna, along with the crunchiness of cucumbers and onions compared to the softer yet chewy texture of tuna made for a dynamic experience, but later those qualities became muddled as the dish sat out in the open. Over time, the tuna's blandness became overpowered by the toppings, especially the pineapple which tasted like it had been previously canned in syrup.

Students find glory, fulfillment in gymnastics

Training pays off for dedicated gymnasts

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Freshman Sebastian Ingersoll skillfully maneuvers the handles of the pommel horse as he performs his routine. His legs stay straight and his toes are pointed as he gracefully completes each circle. He scissors his legs, swings down, and ends with a stuck dismount.

This routine won Sebastian a third place award on Pommel Horse at Nationals last year. Sebastian and his teammate senior Shaunak Puri are two of the few gymnasts that attend U-High, which does not have a gymnastics team.

Both train six days a week at the Lakeshore Academy of Artistic Gymnastics. Shaunak and Sebastian are level 10, the highest level recognized by the USA national committee of gymnastics. A gymnast is said to have reached a certain level if he can do all the skills required for that level in his routines at competitions. Shaunak and Sebastian had their first competition this year on Dec. 10. Their meet season lasts until spring, culminating in the state, regional, and national championships during March, April and May.

Sebastian recognizes that the long hours he puts in at the gym aren't for everyone.

"You have to be at the gym every day from a very young age and it's



Sebastian Ingersoll



Shaunak Puri



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SHAUNAK PURI

HANGING LOOSE. Senior Shaunak Puri performs gymnastics at Mount Prospect gym. Shaunak is at the 10th and highest level for gymnastics, meaning that he can perform the most difficult skills required by the USA Gymnastics organization. He hopes to continue competing in college.

really physically demanding," he said. "Most people don't want that kind of time commitment."

Not only is gymnastics time consuming in general, but Shaunak and Sebastian both think that especially men's gymnastics is often overlooked as a sports option.

"When you're 4 and your parents want you to start sports, there is a general list, like basketball, soccer and baseball," Shaunak said. "Gymnastics is not usually on that list for boys. But for girls, I think that gymnastics is usually on that list, and that's just because there are a lot more opportunities in gymnastics for girls."

Shaunak thinks that another reason why boys don't consider entering gymnastics is because they unfairly see gymnastics as unmasculine.

"I think that when most people think of gymnastics, they think of the dancing on floor and beam that women do," he said. "Women's gymnastics is a lot about artistry, grace and flexibility, but men's gymnastics is not so much about that. For example, men's gymnastics has completely different events than women's gymnastics. The apparatuses that we compete on are more about strength."

"You have to be at the gym every day from a very young age and it's really physically demanding. Most people don't want that kind of time commitment."

— Sebastian Ingersoll, freshman

Sebastian agrees with Shuanak. He thinks that many people don't realize how much pain is involved with learning a new skill.

"You fall, fall, fall, fall again, and then finally you get the skill," he said. "There is as much strength training in gymnastics as in any other sport."

Now that he's applying to colleges, it's even more apparent to Shaunak that men's gymnastics is less popular than women's gymnastics. While he hopes to continue gymnastics at college, he doesn't know if he will be able to. Only 16 NCAA gymnastics programs are available for men, compared to 83 NCAA programs for women.

"Going into college as a female gymnast is much more realistic. It's much more widespread than for men," Shaunak said. "You even see at the Olympics — there is a lot of focus on women's gymnastics. If I say names like Gabby Douglas or Simone Biles, everyone knows who they are. But if I say names like Jake Dalton or Sam Mikulak, well, nobody really knows who they are, and they are the top male American gymnasts."

Despite not knowing if they will be able to continue gymnastics in college, Shaunak and Sebastian both remain motivated by their passion for the sport.

"I think gymnastics is not only hard but really fun when you get to a high level," Sebastian said. "I really like getting a hard skill and then working to perfect it. It's really fulfilling."

Sebastian also likes the feeling of doing well in competitions.

As he put it, "last year when I won third on horse, I felt like my whole life paid off in that one moment."

Gymnastic Events

Floor Exercise

Within the category of rhythmic gymnastics, floor routines consider only the youngest gymnasts, who perform their routines freehand.

Vault

The vault event consists of a gymnast running down a padded or carpeted runway before hurtling onto a springboard and then onto a vault with their hands.

Pommel Horse

A typical pommel horse exercise involves both single leg and double leg work. Single-leg skills generally include small-scale moves such as scissors, whereas double leg work makes up the main event.

Still Rings

Still ring exercises consist of swing, strength and hold elements. Generally, still rings routines include a swing to held handstand, a static strength hold, and an aerial dismount.

Horizontal Bars

Horizontal bar routines include various grips including in-bar work, turns, release and regrasp skills and dismounts.

Parallel Bars

Parallel bar routines involve swinging skills in support positions, hanging positions as well as upper arm positions.

— MICHAEL RUBIN

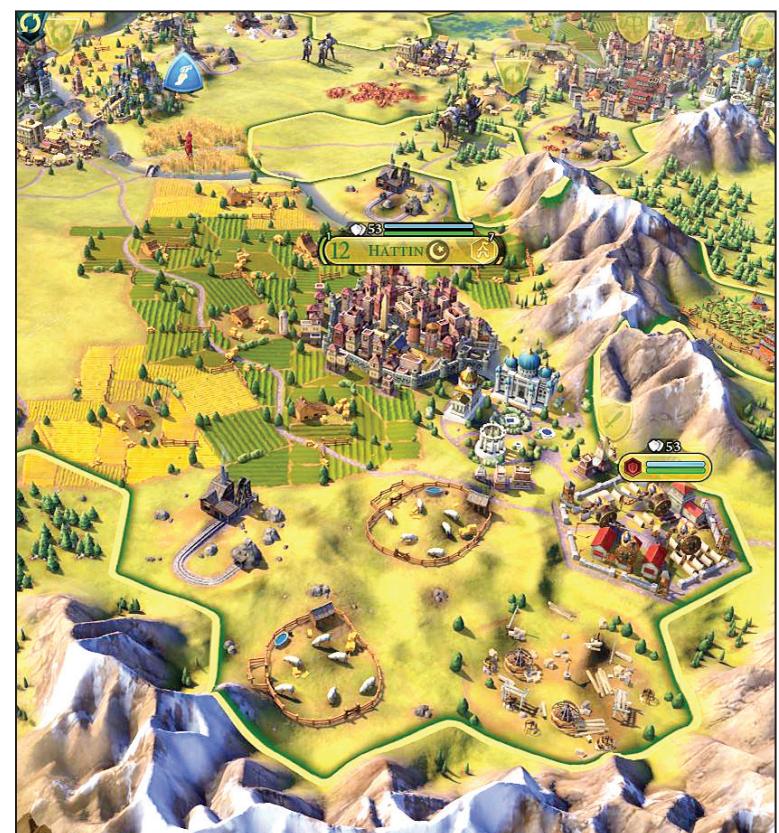
Meet the Recreation section

With this issue, the U-High Midway introduces the Recreation section, which will host previously undercovered stories about student activities and competitions. This allows us to write about important events that may not necessarily be school-affiliated and expand our coverage. This will include more features and news with a student focus.

We hope you enjoy it!

— DHEVEN UNNI, SPORTS EDITOR

'Civilization' improves visuals with sixth installment



MIDWAY SCREEN CAPTURE BY JACOB POSNER

BY JACOB POSNER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Sapphire oceans, vibrant colors and elegant music, all accompanied by a grand sense of accomplishment.

That is what draws the player to "Civilization VI" — the ability to create an awe-inspiring empire limited only to historical realities and imagination.

Firaxis Games released "Civilization VI" on Oct. 20 to an eager group of die-hard Civilization fans and strategy gamers alike. Leading up to the game's release, the developers posted a series of sneak-peeks, prodding an already impatient fan base.

Before the game begins, the player chooses from a wide variety of civilizations and rulers, all of whom have historically accurate special abilities. The leaders range from peace-loving Gandhi and his elephant warriors to warmongering Cleopatra and her Maryannu chariot archers. At the beginning of the game, the player has a settler that can found cities and a warrior. The game is played from a bird's-eye view, with each unit occupying one hexagonal tile. The settler can only found one city, and in this case it will be the capital city — usually the player's most important city for the rest of the game.

Once a city has been founded, the player can begin playing in earnest: creating military units, granaries, workers, and then using those workers to build farms, mines, plantations and so on. The player must lead their civilization to victory by nurturing it into the leading power of the world, whether that be militarily, scientifically, culturally or religiously.

While the first Civilization games were not the first of their kind, they popularized the "4X" (Explore, Expand, Exploit and Exterminate) genre and paved the way for other strategy games. "Civilization VI" has come a long way since the pixelated, 2D start of the franchise, building on previous games while adding new, exciting twists. The most notable feature added to "Civilization VI" is "city-unstacking." In previous versions of the game, all buildings — such as the barracks, circus, or temple — were built inside the city walls.

In "Civilization VI," these buildings appear in specialized districts that are within the city's territory instead. The barracks would be in the encampment district, the circus in the entertainment district and the temple in the holy site.

This new feature is especially exciting because it adds another level of nuance to gameplay: city-

planning. The player must spend much more time considering which improvements — for example farms, mines or districts — should be built on which tiles.

On the other hand, district building adds another layer of confusion onto an already complex game. "Civilization VI" is not relaxing. For those who use video games to recover from a hard day, steer clear.

The combination of empire planning, unit movement, diplomacy, technological development and governmental choices can be overwhelming and sometimes even acutely stressful. Additionally, games can take longer than 6 hours to complete — although the player can pause and take breaks — so patience is a necessity.

While better than previous versions, the artificial intelligence system of "Civilization VI" is clunky, and at times, outright confusing. The game can also be hard to get into, especially for those who have not played other Civilization games or 4X games in the past.

Even though it may not be for everyone, "Civilization VI" gives players historical insight, allowing them to shape the greatest empires in history into whatever they may desire, making for a remarkably enjoyable playing experience.

SIXTH TIME'S THE CHARM. The town of Hattin sits in a valley surrounded by mountains in Sid Meier's "Civilization VI." The hugely successful franchise released this installment Oct. 20, making improvements to visuals and artificial intelligence systems while also creating entirely new features.

Athletic coordinator inspires growth

BY CLYDE SCHWAB
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For Ms. Poole, it's about the little things.

From checking out physicals, an otherwise boring clerical procedure, to passing out uniforms, students can always count on by the same bright, warm smile from Athletics Coordinator Gail Poole. After 10 years at U-High, Ms. Poole reflected on her time here working in athletics and with students.

Ms. Poole grew up in the Chicago area, and while she planned to work in a museum after graduating from Northern Illinois University with a bachelor's degree in art history, she ended up working at Lemont High School as an athletic coordinator before coming to U-High.

Ms. Poole described her job as someone who does the background work to set the for athletic events and for coaches to do their jobs.

"Somebody has to get all the transportation details together, you have to make sure all the officials are going to be here, make sure schedules match between teams, as well as process improvements," Ms. Poole said.

Ms. Poole's involvement in the U-High community isn't limited to athletics. She helped found Green Team in 2008, served as a chaperone for the debate team and is the assistant faculty adviser

"I felt like I had to hover at first, and I've come to learn how independent and capable they are. Lab students are just fantastic. When you give them more freedom and try to act as more of a facilitator, they can grow themselves."

— Gail Poole, athletic coordinator

for Model United Nations.

"I felt like I had to hover at first, and I've come to learn how independent and capable they are," Ms. Poole said. "Lab students are just fantastic. When you give them freedom and try to act as more of a facilitator, they can grow themselves. I tried to really be hands-on initially, and now, to be with a group that's as independent as they are, you can really see what students can do if they are left to their own ideas."

Ms. Poole said that while she loved working in athletics, the best thing about her work was the relationships she's made in U-High.

"If you're at a school, you want to feel like you're making some impact," Ms. Poole continued. "One of the nicest things I got was from Jax Ingrassia. Before she graduated, she said, 'Little did I know that when I walked in as a



FILE PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

HARD AT WORK. Gail Poole sits on a yoga ball and responds to an email. In Ms. Poole's 10 years at Lab, she has acted as both athletics coordinator and sponsor to Green Team, helping students both academically and athletically.

freshman and I saw your smiling face that that was gonna change what I wanted to do in life.' It's a powerful thing."

Having been with the school for ten years, Ms. Poole described how the school's expansion meant growth for athletics generally, what she saw as a vital part of her job moving forward.

"I guess this is more the nuts and

bolts, but for me it's always about process improvement," Ms. Poole said. "Our school is expanding. In a normal year, we might have 17 cross country runners, but this year we had 57. I'm really curious what the face of Lab is going to look like with the increase in size, but [the new students] are going to come wanting athletics and extracurriculars."

Squash team's expansion may be harmful

BY MICHAEL RUBIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR



Michael Rubin

Change begets change. Sports teams at U-High are growing at unprecedented rates, affecting the dynamics of teams as well as the individual focus each player receives during practice. Squash, a team that I love and that prior to winter 2015 had around seven committed players, now has 35 students, five times the amount the team had three years prior, registered to play.

Since I am known for being embarrassingly unathletic, the prospect of joining a varsity team where anyone could participate, immediately piqued my interest. Shortly after joining the team, squash became an integral part of my

life, allowing me to meet upperclassmen while learning the ropes of an exciting new sport. The close-knit nature of the team made me feel at home, which helped me through a difficult transition into high school.

A groundbreaking number of freshmen, 14, have registered to play squash this season. However, it is unclear how many plan on fully committing to the team.

In past seasons, many students have signed up to play through PowerSchool, but never followed through. This lack of dedication to the team contributed to various last-minute cancellations of matches, practices and tournaments, making it impossible for the team to thrive competitively.

If everyone who submitted interest commits to the team, it will be difficult for the coach to accommodate for the needs of every player, resulting in less individual time with the coach. With only five squash courts in the Henry Crown Field House, the amount of practice time for each player will decrease significantly.

While the structure of the team last year did not prove to be successful, I am concerned that the increase in size will diminish the aspects of squash that I have come to appreciate most over the years. It is unclear what the future of the squash team holds, but I am hopeful that this season will balance competitive success with an inclusive team dynamic.

TEAM RESULTS



MIDWAY PHOTO BY JANIE INGRASSIA

SHAKE IT OFF. Sophomore Hannah Herrera practices at a Dance Troupe meeting Dec. 5. The practice was to prepare for their first performance, which took place Dec. 13. Dance Troupe members hope for success this season as they try to expand the team. Showing promise, new recruits have shown up to practice and been successful, boding well for the team.

BOYS BASKETBALL, VARSITY

Notable: Senior Jameel Alausa committed to play basketball at Yale University before the Maroon vs. White game Nov. 11. Record: 5-1.

Recent Results: Beat Hyde Park High School at Chicago Elite Classic Dec. 3, 51-45; lost to DePaul College Prep Nov. 27, 45-39; beat New Trier Tournament Nov. 26, 47-41; beat Benet Academy Nov. 23, 54-41; beat St. Ignatius Nov. 22, 55-48; won at Lake Forest High School Nov. 21, 45-38.

BOYS BASKETBALL, JUNIOR VARSITY

Notable: The team members have become more confident with one another. They've become better players as a collective unit and show the ability to communicate with one another. Some team members that stand out are Johnny Brown, Blade Clark, Jamie Miller and Eddy Rose. Record: 1-0.

Recent Results: Won at UNO Charter Dec. 6, 74-16.

BOYS BASKETBALL, FROSH/SOPH

Notable: The team as a whole

has shown lots of improvement over the years, showing promise for upcoming seasons. Record: 1-0.

Recent Results: Won at North Shore Country Day School Dec. 6, 34-27.

GIRLS BASKETBALL, VARSITY

Notable: Roxanne Nesbitt, junior, scored 35 points against Francis Parker School in a decisive win. Roxanne, along with Tia Polite, will remain the captains. Record: 3-2.

Recent Results: Beat Francis Parker Dec. 6, 51-19; beat Morgan Park Academy in a shootout Dec. 2, 62-27; lost to Northside College Prep Dec. 2, 41-59; lost to Jones College Prep Nov. 29, 33-53; beat IMSA Nov. 19, 44-19; lost to IMSA Nov. 18, 37-26; beat Indian Creek High School Nov. 17, 44-39; lost to Rosary High School Nov. 15, 30-61.

BOYS SWIMMING

Notable: Horace Shew and Eamonn Keenan were named varsity captains. Varsity record: 2-0. Junior varsity record: 0-2.

Recent Results: Beat Jones College Prep on Dec. 12 95-85; beat Latin School of Chicago on Dec. 6, 112-81; placed second at

Fitness center set to reopen in winter quarter

BY LEAH EMANUEL
MIDWAY REPORTER

By early winter quarter, students will once again be able to use the fitness center above Sunny Gymnasium, which has been closed since the beginning of the school year.

The athletic department announced that it will also hire a strength and conditioning coach whose duties will include monitoring the fitness center.

Since opening 17 years ago, the center has been available for students to work out before and after school to promote health and wellness for all students, P.E. teacher Thomas Piane said.

The primary focus of the fitness center will be for student athletes. The goal of the strength and conditioning coach is to allow student athletes the opportunity to train in the fitness center during their offseason, to ensure fewer injuries during their regular season, athletic director David Ribbens said.

The fitness center had been staffed with a gym teacher who received compensation for staying extra hours. However, at the beginning of this school year, an executive decision was made to close the fitness center, Mr. Ribbens said.

The department recognized that an adult needed to be in the center to supervise students, resulting in the creation of a specific position to do this job.

The Athletic Department and the administration have been working together to reopen the fitness center as soon as possible.



David Ribbens

Lincoln-Way Pentathlon Dec. 2 with 246.50 pts.

FENCING

Notable: New fencers Zoe Dervin, Tiangang Huang and Tom Ben-Shahar won their first direct elimination bout, showing a lot of promise for the new season. Multiple team members, including Athena Chien, senior, and Clemente Figeroa, junior, participate in club fencing year-round in order to supplement their regular season practices. Both have seen success in recent competitions.

Recent Results: Placed second in women's sabre and women's foil, ninth in men's foil and 26th in men's sabre at Culver Military Academy Dec. 10; placed second in men's sabre and third in women's épée at the Conference Dual meet at New Trier Dec. 3; placed second in women's sabre, third in men's sabre and third in women's foil at the Catholic Memorial Invitational Nov. 19.

DANCE TROUPE

Notable: They performed at their first game on Dec. 13.

— COMPILED BY PRIYANKA SHRIJAY AND KATERINA LOPEZ

EXCHANGED

Students swap Chicago lives for transformational experiences in new schools in Napa Valley, Seville

BY LEAH EMANUEL
MIDWAY REPORTER

Crammed with five other kids in the back of a four-seated car, Sam Fleming rubs the sleep from his eyes and prepares for another day at school. Their lively conversations consume the car, and fill the darkness outside. Driving through their small community within Seville, Spain, Sam peers out the window squinting his eyes to see waving neighbors in the darkness. He smiles and waves back, soaking in everything around him.

For the first quarter of his junior year, Sam traded Chicago for Spain. He traded his two moms and brother for four new people who would soon become his temporary family. He exchanged English for Spanish, and the close-knit Lab community, which he had been a part of his whole life, for a new, foreign school.

Lab strives to offer students a place where they are challenged by the curriculum, and given the opportunity to develop independence, determining who they are as a student and as a person. Students are encouraged to take advantage of everything the school has to offer.

Sam is one of two students this quarter who searched for a temporary experience beyond what Lab could provide.

Sam said one of his moms had gone abroad in high school, and it had been incredible experience for her, so Sam said he knew he wanted to go abroad in high school as well.

For Sam, the decision to study in Spain was a combination of parental encouragement, a desire to improve his Spanish skills and his

drive for a new experience.

Similar to Sam, senior Simone Einhorn, is spending the fall quarter away from Lab, at The Oxbow School, an art school in Napa, California.

Last year Simone followed a friend on social media who attended the same program. Witnessing the incredible program through pictures and captions, Simone was motivated to attend the school as well.

"It's been incredible," Simone said. "I feel like I have totally changed from this experience and if anyone is considering doing something like it I would definitely encourage it."

Similar to Simone, one of the main reasons Sam decided to study in Spain was to explore who he is, and what he wants to do in life.

"Instead of just taking normal classes, and experiencing a normal junior year," Sam said, "I am able to take a minute to breath and think about what I really want to do."

At The Oxbow School, Simone studies all different types art, including painting, sculpture, new media, and printmaking. The first few weeks of the program were more structured. Simone had designated classes and a more strict schedule. However, now after determining which type of art to focus on, Simone and fellow students have a lot more freedom to work on their individual projects.

Meanwhile, in Spain, Sam's daily activities correlate to his regular schedule in Chicago. He goes to a normal high school where he takes English, math, physics and philosophy. He plays tennis five days a week, and spends a lot of time with his family and friends.

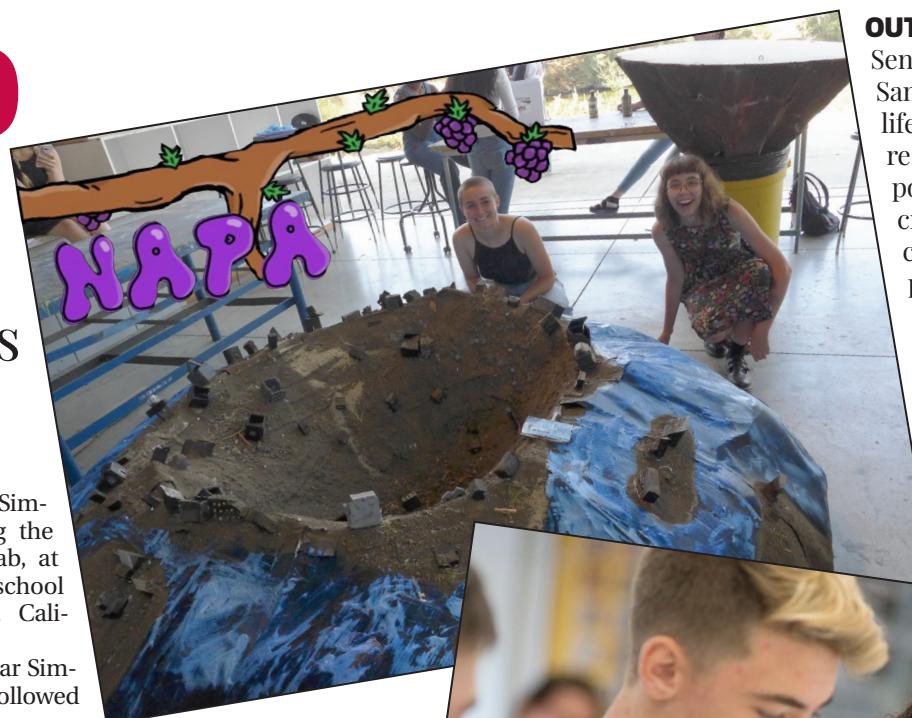
"It's really cool to see how simi-



Sam Fleming



Simone Einhorn



lar the education systems are between the two countries," Sam said.

However, for Simone, Lab and The Oxbow School are very different.

"The school here is a lot more self directed," Simone said. "It's really up to you to motivate yourself."

Since all the students at The Oxbow School focus on individual art projects, the students receive a lot less direction from the teachers. If you want a teacher's opinion, it is up to the student to seek their help.

While Simone traded primarily academic classes for an art oriented school, Sam found many similarities between his school in Spain and Lab.

"Aside from everything being Spanish it's pretty much the same," Sam said. "I'm taking the same classes and learning the same material as I would be in Chicago."

For the first few weeks Sam had a really difficult time taking all of his classes in Spanish, but now that he's settled in, it's been an incredible experience.

"Building relationships in another language was really difficult," Sam said, "but I have learned how important it is to get out of my comfort zone, and how many different things I can achieve when I do that."

Going halfway across the country by yourself when you're only seventeen can be a scary experience. However, each morning as he sits in the car driving through the darkness, Sam is appreciative of the incredible opportunity.



Exchanges also require work from student's counselors

Studying abroad involves a lot of work — especially from a student's counselors.

When a student decides to study abroad, counselor Camille Baughn-Cunningham explained that she looks at the course descriptions for each of the courses that they are planning to take at the other school. She determines if there is any material that the student will need to study over the summer to make sure that they are not missing any specific content.

In helping Simone prepare for her semester in California, college counselor Patty Kovacs met with her frequently towards the end of her junior to insure that she would be well prepared to apply to college when that time came.

"A lot of planning went into the process," Ms. Kovacs said.

"Last spring we set out a timeline together, and while she's been away we have been communicating through email and skype."

Additionally, Ms. Kovacs and Simone have been communicating with the college counselors at The Oxbow School. Simone said her time at the school helped her prepare for college admission through essays in her English class and by building an art portfolio.

Though a lot of work goes into the process, Ms. Kovacs said, studying abroad is an incredible opportunity, and she would encourage any student who is interested to do it.

Ms. Kovacs said, "Studying abroad is a way of defining education beyond the straight and linear approach."

— LEAH EMANUEL



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY TOMER KEYSAR

SPICE IT UP. With the aroma of food filling the kitchen, Ashwin Aggarwal sautés onions with cayenne, coriander powder and chat masala. Inspired by his parents and grandparents cooking, Ashwin's cooking has made use in other parts of his life.

Junior finds secret ingredient to work ethic and skill set

BY MICHAEL RUBIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Smells of frying onions, cumin and cayenne pepper fill every inch of the kitchen, prompting mouths to water, stomachs to ache and patience to thin. One can feel the pride and talent of the chef simply by inhaling the scent of the nearly ready Indian cuisine.

Darting between chopping potatoes and attending to four pots and pans sitting on the stovetop, junior Ashwin Aggarwal is a natural, carefully inspecting and attending to each dish calmly and with poise.

Due to his strong dedication to cooking over the years, Ashwin has developed a skill-set and work ethic that he applies to other activities unrelated to cooking.

"It comes in handy when I need to apply myself to schoolwork," Ashwin said. "Cooking has taught me how to not procrastinate."

Daniel Whealon, a computer

science teacher, has witnessed Ashwin's work ethic outside of cooking and has seen his determination firsthand over the past two years.

"He's been running into a lot of problems, but he's persisted through some very challenging assignments that they've been given in the class," Mr. Whealon said via email. "I don't know if there are many students at Lab who would be able to persevere with it as he has."

Long before Ashwin began coding, he began watching his parents and grandparents create complicated Indian dishes in preparation for Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, when he was five years old. This exposure to cooking and its connection to his cultural life stuck with Ashwin, prompting his fascination with cooking and the mastery of recipes many years later.

Ashwin began independently experimenting with Indian cook-

ing around age 12, competing with his older brother to master new recipes. Since then, cooking has become integral to Ashwin's week, though his brother departed for college three years ago.

"It has become a hobby that I do every weekend," Ashwin said. "It is just really enjoyable to know that you made what you are eating and that it is all fresh ingredients."

Although cooking is an unusual hobby among students at U-High, Ashwin has derived a unique meaning from cooking that he applies to other areas of focus outside of the culinary world.

"The work ethic I get from it is a dedication to what I do and a motivation to get things done," Ashwin said. "A lot about cooking for me is that I want to get it done and have it finished the same day that I start it. If I am going to start something I am going to finish it, and that is how I apply myself to school work as well."

OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE. Senior Simone Einhorn and junior Sam Fleming traded U-High life for California and Spain, respectively. At left, Simone poses with a friend behind the crater dystopian earth that was created for an assignment about place. Below, Sam looks on as he and a classmate study, going through homework and other assignments. Simone and Sam both spent fall quarter miles away from home, gaining new experiences.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY SIMONE EINHORN AND SAM FLEMING