Gender-neutral royalty titles used for Winter Formal

Rollyy winners

All-School Queen: Campbell Phalen
All-School Top Secret Agent: Harrison Shapiro
Senior Suavero: Elle Wise
Senior Top Secret Agent: Clyde Shapiro
Junior Suavero: Jackie Brown
Junior Top Secret Agent: Corin Smith
Freshman Suavero: Sophie Hood
Freshman Top Secret Agent: Nick Beach

“Suavero” and “Top Agent” winners also welcomed the change.

"I thought it was an interesting addition to the whole James Bond theme, for sure, but it didn’t make that big of a difference to me," Campbell Phalen, sophomore Suavero winner, said. "I think it’s really the thought that counts anyway, which I appreciated."

For 20 years, often entails guiding students in decisions and providing a helping hand.

"The point of an adult presence, because of our experience, is to nudge or shape or guide students as we’re deliberating the theme for a particular year," Mr. Tunis said. That like his predecessor, his goal is to ensure programming and activities are interesting and represent the school well.

“We’re not only there to provide logistical support,” he said, “but when it comes to maybe getting speakers from the outside, to make suggestions. But most of the time, the students generate those ideas.”

Mr. Tunis said he has increasingly allowed the BSA board to handle recruitment, programming and club management, even as the group size has fluctuated.

BSA President Tamera Carter described the split between the responsibilities of faculty advisers and the BSA board.

“The BSA’s main goal is to plan MLK Day, but also providing a safe space for students at Lab and having a voice to communicate things going on in our own community,” Tamera said. “Mr. Tunis and Ms. Baughn-Cunningham give a guiding hand planning MLK Day, especially with dealing with teachers and administrators, and scheduling speakers, but the BSA board does day-to-day stuff.”

Senior Emma Rafkin, Jewish Students’ Association president, said BSA adviser Susan Shapiro provides logistical support for their events but lets the students operate independently, even in planning large events, such as the upcoming Holocaust Remembrance assembly.

“She provides support for our ideas and helps us implement them effectively but gives us the freedom to run the club and form whatever plans we want on our own,” Emma said.

“I think it’s really strengthened my passion for being between club members and especially board members,” Emma said.

federated a Model United Nations team, one of the best in the nation, is in some ways an anomaly — while faculty advisers Kevin Van Ern and Gail Poole provide oversight, the inner-workings of the club are managed almost exclu-
sively by students, a structure not shared by most clubs at U-High.

Mr. Van Ern, a learning coordin-
tor who also advises both Model UN and Stop the Stigma, said his philosophy on advising echoes Ja-

"Most of the time, my job is to stay the back out of their way," Mr. Van Ern said. "I don’t want them doing anything which causes them to feel like they have to check with me first or second guess what they might be interested in doing. I can clear obstacles if they come up or make suggestions that they might not have thought of.

He said his responsibilities usually involved acting as a buffer between school faculty and administrators and the student board and providing logistical support, such as the occasional Diet Coke deficiency. However, it was always students who “at the end of the day, brought the passion to get involved and make a difference.” Mr. Van Ern said.

Whether it comes to the relationship between advisers and students for other clubs, one size doesn’t fit all. Some are run almost solely by student leadership, while others rely on faculty advisers to make decisions and organize, with each structure having a significant impact on the group’s culture.

In planning last month’s Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly, the Feminist Club’s planned presentation wasn’t approved by the Black Students’ Association, a decision which raised questions about the roles of students and advisers in planning and participating in the event.

Mr. Tunis noted that the faculty advisers and the board made decisions unanimously after a discussion. His role as adviser, a position in which he has served for 20 years, often entails guiding students in decisions and providing a helping hand.

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Community prioritizes mental health education

Student Council and junior peer leaders advocate for mental health

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-VHAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In the last quarter, Student Council members and junior peer leaders are working to improve student wellbeing and mental health. Student Council members are launching a tutoring program, while junior peer leaders have completed a mandatory mental health seminar.

A committee within Student Council recently pitched a proposal for a Lab School tutoring program in which older students help younger ones. The committee consists of sophomore presidents Shiva Menta, senior vice president Benji Wittenbrink, and ASB School Vice President Alexander Wilson.

According to Shiva, the program will provide senior students with an organized and community-based way of getting help. He said that students will be able to request a tutor through their counselors.

Benji hopes that the new program will supplement a pre-existing one. According to Benji, Lab already has a program offering tutoring positions for high-school students to tutor middle school students. However, Benji said the program is neither very popular nor very successful.

“We wanted to mitigate the cost of having a tutor and also facilitate a relationship that is beneficial to both students in a tutoring pair,” Benji said. “We wanted to provide additional personalized praxis of teaching material to younger students and thereby learn the material ourselves.”

In addition to having new opportunities for academic help, students will now also have more mental health support from their peer leaders. Junior peer leaders attended a mandatory mental health training session Jan. 11 in order to continue preparing. The training session lasted four hours and covered substance abuse, depression, anxiety and eating disorders.

Peer leading adviser Hannah Jacob mentioned prepared peer leaders had to help organize the How to Help a Friend discussion over the weekend for sophomore advisors on March 1.

“‘The goal of the How to Help a Friend program is to foster authentic dialogue between students about safety and decision-making with regard to alcohol and drugs and to help you affirm yourself in a sticky situation,’” Ms. Roche said.

“The juniors not only prepped for the discussion, but also practiced real-life skills by participating in a role play about anxiety and depression.”

“I thought it was really helpful because we were presented with real life situations which we will face in our future,” junior Reanne Neibutz said. “I think that I’ll be able to better represent and manage a situation like that in real life.”

CLUB NEWS

MUN takes second place at Harvard University

The Model United Nations team received the Outstanding Large Delegation award and placed second overall at the Harvard University MUN conference Jan. 26-29. Even though the Dalton School barely beat Lab, this has been one of Lab’s strongest seasons.

That’s because Brunel and HMUN’s weighted point system and the different awards each team received, according to Jacob Mazzarella, a senior Secretary General. Despite this, the team said the U-High team is still neck-and-neck for the best team in the nation. The team members have disagreed to have just barely lost, but their strategy is to be better and more inclusive than ever before, Jacob said.

He explained that there has been a culture shift in the team from a more aggressive and inwardly focused group to a more inclusive, which has led to a close and strong relationship among members.

“There always has to be a hierarchy, you have leaders and you have people at the bottom,” Jacob said, “but we are all friends at the end of the day, and we’ll support each other no matter what. This has given more of an incentive to take more responsibility, and that has made the whole team stronger because when you have a more responsible team, you do better.”

— LEAN EMANUELE

Debate team strives for redemption in Kentucky

The Tournament of Champions at the University of Kentucky is the goal for the varsity debate team. In order to go, the team needs to win two bid rounds.

“It is the pinnacle of your senior year to get to the Tournament of Champions,” team member Michael Hellie said.

Michael and Alex Blocker, the team’s debaters, have managed to reach five different bid rounds at national tournaments, but have not qualified for the TOC. The 43rd Annual National Harvard Forensics Tournament from Feb. 18-20 is the next chance for the championship bid. So is the Kanellis National Invitational Feb. 24-26 in Iowa.

“We are shooting for the bid at Harvard because it is the most prestigious. We’re puttin’ in a lot of work.”

The team is working hard to prepare for their next competition by making speeches every night, and increasing their strategizing.

“We are working towards the end goal of our varsity debate team. We’ve got a lot of work to do.”

— FAVIN BECK

Math team takes first steps to Math Olympiads

“We’ve had a lot going on this past week,” Math Team coach Joseph Scoll said.

On Feb. 7, 10 U-High students participated in the American Mathematics Competition, the first step of many to qualify to compete in the Math Olympiad as part of many students.

“It’s like the Olympics for math and it’s a huge honor to be a part of,” Junior Malika said.

On Feb. 1, U-High hosted three teams to compete the North Suburban League where the team of juniors placed sixth.

On Jan. 29, teams took part in the Illinois Math League where Rushini Padavi, David Pan, Carlos Cedeño and senior Dina Muradyan earned a perfect score.

Rat Magazine brings comedy to U-High

“The Rat,” a new comedic magazine initiative by Lab, had success in the first issue. The board hopes to publish the magazine’s first edition sometime at the end of the year.

“Love comedy,” Isabel said, “and felt like a humor magazine would be a lot of fun to put together and could benefit the Lab community. So much of comedy is just trying stuff out, so I liked the notion of the board trying new things.”

According to Isabel, the magazine is open to submissions. Cartoons, dialogues, poems, premise-based essays, short stories and “pretty much anything else that’s funny,” according to Isabel, will be considered for inclusion in the magazine.

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 Refugees Club’s plans prevented by travel ban

Refugee Club’s effort to sponsor two Syrian families’ resettlement to Hyde Park has halted after President Trump’s executive order, which bans refugees from Syria and six other nations from entering the United States. Even though the club has temporarily been halted, the likelihood of the resettlement starting up again is low.

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The magazine is open...

Latinos Unidos writes letters, promotes action

In an effort to empower Lab students and show their initiative in their protest against the Trump Administration, Latinos Unidos members began a letter-writing campaign to senators and representatives in order to communicate the importance of their action in controversial political issues.

Vice President Mica Pacheco, senior, noted that Latinos Unidos came up with a list of bills circulating in Congress regarding reproductive rights and immigration among other current issues. On Jan. 25, five U-High students decided to partake in the letter writing campaign and wrote letters to legislators expressing their opinions on legislation.

After seeing recent marches and protests, members of Latinos Unidos used the letter writing campaign to encourage students to take action in the face of palpable action.

Mica sees their goal as an opportunity to spread awareness about Latinos Unidos and to take further action with the letter writing campaign.

“I feel like here, there is a lot of funding and donating which is amazing but it only goes so far. I think more direct approaches are really valuable,” she said.
As the Midway sees it...

Clubs should strive for transparency

Communication is crucial in order to achieve balance between leaders

Students, teacher conflicts persist as old as time. So, what happens when a club's students and faculty disagree? For most clubs, the answer is far too ambiguous. Advisors and club leaders need to make their decision-making processes transparent. Clubs need to have predefined rules for leadership positions and boards, as well as the rules of the club. Adviser roles need to be clearly defined before club leaders are chosen and other students join.

While students may not want to give up control in their respective clubs, it is important that advisors be able to step in to act as referee, ensuring fairness and holding students accountable. While students need to be able to make their own decisions, some oversight from faculty advisers is necessary. Students who come to faculty leaders with an issue, a clear process by which advisers can address the issue should be developed. It is unfair for students to have to go through the next several years, students of University High School, to be able to step in to act as referee, ensuring fairness and holding students accountable.

“While students may not want to give up control in their respective clubs, it is important that advisers be able to step in to act as referee, ensuring fairness and holding students accountable.”

Clubs that plan high-school-wide events need to clarify the process for deciding who will perform and participate. Organizers of these events need to give auditing and students a long memory of times when students get to make decisions regarding student participation with very little oversight from faculty advisers. While students need to be able to make their own decisions, some oversight can be necessary for appropriate decisions to happen.

Homework, standardized tests, extracurriculars like Model UN, clubs, and sports are a tale as old as time. However, it was easy to forget its seriousness given the numerous things students have to manage. Students who joked around at the Homecoming dance and struggled to keep up in whatever sport they participated in a two-and-a-half month season. I faced a similar situation playing squash my freshman and sophomore years and on varsity soccer and swim team the past two years, where shoddy practice attendance had a negative impact on the quality of practices and overall team performance.

In no way was this the fault of dedicated coaches or faculty members. It was simply the players’ decision to goof off. While there's nothing wrong with some goofing around, this mentality has infiltrated many parts of the athletic culture here, preventing teams from being a productive ac-

“Struggling through difficult sets in swimming or trusting teammates while coordinating a counterattack in soccer have been a significant experience and camaraderie in a way a classroom environment never could.”

tivity and athletic outlet.

I'm not the picture of a natural or gifted athlete. I've never had any natural talent and always had to work to keep up in whatever sport I'm in. However, no matter how natural talent was, it never proved to be integral part of my life at U-High, and they have been far more important in my development. Conversing with players who found humor in our mistakes while coordinating a counterattack in soccer have taught me teamwork and camaraderie in a way a classroom environment never could.

The next generation, by showing their desires of men.

Desires of men.

Getting a new best time in swimming, instills the value of hard work in a way I never got from an English paper. It's easy to write all of this off as a result of U-High's smaller talent pool. There are exceptions to this. Especially successful individuals in athletics and teams exist, but they are far from common. In general, in the U-High community, sports are seen as little more than a check on the resume which prevents him from being recognized as an es-

“Final say should be up to the students to come up with decisions because they know themselves better than anyone else. They should let students do their own thing unless it gets out of control!”

What is the role of club advisors? My advice is this.
Students build confidence, determination through training

**By Sonny Lee, FEATURES EDITOR**

A head of sweat slides down the side of her face. Fists clenched, body braced, back turned to her opponent, Victoria Gin lets out a low-toned scream before turning to her opponent to continue their match. This scream isn’t just to intimidate the opponent, it also gives Victoria a boost of confidence that she says is one of the most valuable lessons that martial arts has taught her—along with many other skills that she can use outside of fighting.

“With karate, you not only learn how to be able to protect yourself at all times,” Victoria said, “but you also learn about different culture. When you do karate, you learn about the Japanese culture, you learn their language while you do it and how they were able to protect themselves during that period of history.”

Lessons from karate taught Victoria valuable lessons that she can apply to any tasks.

“A really wise sensei once told me that if you lose an arm,” Victoria said, “You fight with the other arm, if you lose a leg, you fight with the other leg, and you never stop giving up.”

While she is involved in several different clubs and extracurriculars, Victoria cites karate as her primary source for a good work ethic and persistence in all of her activities, as well her confidence.

“Karate has tremendously built up my confidence,” Victoria said. “Because when you go to tournaments and competitions, you have to compete in front of hundreds of people all staring down at you on your floor and from that, I’ve gained so much confidence in order to perform and speak in front of others.”

Participation in martial arts has also built up senior Ajay Chopra’s confidence — but in a very different way.

“The biggest thing that Muay Thai has given me is a real sense of independence and confidence,” Ajay said. “I can walk into a lot of situations and feel as though I can defend myself and others around me.”

**FIGHT CLUB**

Senior Ajay Chopra practices his Muay Thai kicks in Sunny Gymnasium. Ajay initially began participating in Muay Thai after a physical therapist offered him lessons, and he’s kept going ever since. While he does believe Muay Thai has made him more capable of defending himself, Ajay also feels more peaceful and confident as a result of his training, a sentiment that was expressed by other members of the Lab martial arts community as well.

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— Ajay Chopra, senior

**Paintball Fever**

Junior strives to continue his passion

**By Jacob Posner**

Tiangang Huang slips from tree to tree, careful to make as little noise as possible. This mission is to recon an enemy-controlled town. Tiangang and two other members of his squad observe enemy movements while hidden in the thick brush. On his mark, the assault team charges in and paintballs erupt from carefully aimed barrels, spattering people, trees, and bushes with bright colors.

This is the average mission for a squad in Mag-Fed paintball — a type of paintball designed to be as realistic as possible.

One paintball event Tiangang played in, Operation End War Seven, took place in 20 heavily wooded acres in Texas with 100 players per team.

As opposed to the less realistic, more spectator-friendly “speed ball,” Tiangang only plays Mag-Fed paintball because he enjoys the tactics, communication and physical conditioning the game requires.

“Sometimes you feel like you’re playing chess, but as one of the pieces on the board. People play military simulation paintball because a normal person doesn’t get to just join the army and do that kind of thing. It’s a novelty.” — Tiangang Huang, junior

**Martial Arts**

**Muay Thai**

The national sport of Thailand, Muay Thai involves heavy use of the knees, elbows and shins, as it is an adaptation of kickboxing.

**Ju Jitsu**

Originally from Japan, ju jitsu offers physical training as well as training with short weapons.

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Ju Jitsu: Originally from Japan, ju jitsu offers physical training as well as training with short weapons.

Karate: Also from Japan, karate is based on using hard movements to block blows and literally translates to “empty hand.”

Kung Fu: A Chinese martial art, kung fu is composed of several hundred fighting styles practiced for spiritual growth as well as self-defense and exercise.

Tae Kwon Do: Tae Kwon Do, which teaches self-defense primarily through learning different kicking techniques.

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Jameel Alausa leads team by example

Star player works up to varsity captain through extreme dedication

BY EMMMA TRONE


It’s all just a part of what has propelled 6-7” senior Jameel Alausa. Once self-admittedly “the worst player on the 7th grade team,” a Yale-bound, varsity co-captain, currently chasing down the team’s second consecutive Regional title.

“One thing that has always stuck with me, that my coach told me, is if you work hard, you will achieve the results that you want,” Jameel said. “I really never thought I would be playing on a high level. In 7th and 8th grade, I was the worst player on the team at the time, so something I always try to tell my teammates is that’s not too late. If you work hard, the results you want will be achievable.”

Jameel’s philosophy, informed by his own experience, is apparent in how he interacts with his teammates, according to varsity coach Rob Ley. Work ethic is what sets Jameel apart, according to Mr. Ley.

“He’s learned how to communicate with his great work ethic to the rest of the team, and not only model it but also verbally encourage others,” Ley said.

After being named varsity captain his junior year, Jameel and the team have grown with and around each other, to remarkable success.

“The team trusts me, and I trust my teammates. When I say things to my teammates, they definitely listen and see me as a leader figure on the team. But we’re also able to talk to each other on an equal level,” Jameel said. “In the beginning, it was more focused on the individual, and a lot of people were trying to be the star of the team by themselves. But we’ve grown to see that we need everyone on the team. From 1 to 15, even the people on the bench who are just cheering you on.”

Dribbling his way to perfection.

Senior Jameel Alausa drives in a game against Northwestern College Prep Feb. 3. Jameel went from self-described worst player to varsity co-captain.

This trust that the team has cultivated was put to the test last season, when Jameel fouled out with a minute left during overtime against Seton Academy at the Regional Championship.

“It was a really tight game the entire time through,” Jameel said. “But even after I was ejected from the game, I didn’t lose faith in my teammates and my teammates didn’t lose faith in me, and they trusted themselves to win the game. And that’s so far been my favorite moment on the team.”

The team won the game with a buzzer-beating shot by Caleb Hill to put the Maroons up 56-55 over Seton.

“I’ve learned a lot of things from my teammates just by being a leader and adjusting how different people team, so I have to, maybe for one person, pull them aside and talk to them, and for other people, I just talk in front of the whole group,” Jameel said.

According to his teammate and younger brother, sophomore Mohammed Alausa, Jameel has nearly perfected the art of giving constructive criticism.

“He knows how to talk to people, so all the things he says, you don’t feel like he’s attacking you, and you know he’s trying to help you,” Mohammed said. “And as a captain, you try to emulate everything that he does because he works really hard at practice; he doesn’t talk back, and you know he’s just always trying to make everybody better.”

As a member of the U-High team to the Division I, Ivy League 2015 and 2016 championship winning Yale team, Jameel isn’t planning on straying from the incredible work ethic that took him to the top of the U-High game.

“A lot of people didn’t think I could play varsity, my freshman and sophomore year, so I really just had to come in and work,” Jameel said. “It’s the same thing for Yale; a lot of people are like ‘you’re going to play, but in the end, anything can happen. They say that to get you over there, but I know instances where they just totally bench you. So, I’ve always told myself, the team in any way I can, and I know I’ll have to compete for a spot. But that’s something I really like doing, and I’m going to work as hard as I can.”

Team results

BOYS BASKETBALL, VARSITY
Notable: The team beat Northridge College Prep Feb. 3 in an exhilarating double overtime victory. They are also undefeated through extreme workouts up to 465x1109.


BOYS BASKETBALL, JUNIOR VARSITY
Recent Results: Beat North Shore Country Day School Feb. 10, 46-38; beat Glen Academy Feb. 7, 50-28; lost to Northridge College Prep School Feb. 3, 35-37; lost to Christ the King High Feb. 4, 41-47.

GIRLS BASKETBALL, VARSITY
Notable: The team won the regional championship Feb. 7, 57-46, advancing to the Sectional Championship. The outcome was an upset, as Tilden Academy was the higher seed. The team made 15 of 25 three-pointers. Record: 13-8.

Recent Results: Beat the team scheduled to play at the Lisle Sports Complex Feb. 14, but results were unavailable at press time; the team was scheduled to play at BSA Sectional Championship Feb. 13, but results were unavailable at press time; beat Tilden Academy in the IHSA Regional Championship Feb. 9, 57-46; beat Collins Academy in IHSA Regional SemiFinals Feb. 8, 50-17; beat Kelly High School Feb. 3, 58-18; lost to Wilmette Academy Jan. 31, 45-46; beat Mather High School Jan. 27, 60-29; lost to Latin School of Chicago Jan. 24, 33-68.

DANCE TRUPE
Notable: Dance trupe is transitioning to a more traditional choreography styled after cheerleading, which is also accompanied by the addition of pops to the routines.

SQUASH
Recent Results: Lost to Latin School of Chicago Feb. 7, 5-7; results were unavailable for the MetroSpash Invitational Jan. 28; lost to Lake Forest Academy Jan. 24, 10-3.

FENCING
Notable: At the state championship, senior Athena Chien placed second in women’s foil, senior Ja- mine Lui placed third in women’s sabre, junior Clemente Figueroa placed fourth in men’s foil, and senior Danny Kim placed seventh in men’s sabre, junior Clemente Figueroa placed second in women’s foil, junior Athena Chien placed third in women’s sabre, senior Ja- mine Lui placed second in women’s sabre, junior Clemente Figueroa placed fourth in men’s foil, and senior Danny Kim placed seventh in men’s sabre, junior Clemente Figuera placed second in women’s foil, junior Athena Chien placed third in women’s sabre,

BOYS SWIMMING
Notable: Senior Eamonn Keen- an has set three new school records: 1:44.89 in the 200 meter breaststroke, 1:01:80 in the 100 meter freestyle, and 54:11 in the 100 meter backstroke. The team is now getting ready for sectionals, which they will compete in Feb. 18. Re- cord: 5-4.


——-COMPILRED BY JACOB POSNER AND DHEVEN UNNI——-

Fitness trainer collects data for workouts

BY DHEVEN UNNI

Senior fencing instructor Alyssa Weishaar is in her element working with athletes at the carefully crafted regi- mens. Ms. Weishaar was initially hired to help students transition to a more traditional cho- ice of training. Ms. Weishaar said, “I’m not logging the data on who comes in, what sport they are doing, what their goals are, and I’m creating data that they sign in to calculate who really un- derstands who is working and how that student is progressing.”

Injury prevention is especially important to Ms. Weishaar, whose gymnastics career was ended by a series of injuries.

“Strength is something that I’ve always been interested in, interested in the science of it,” Ms. Weishaar said. “I did a lot of train- ing with anatomy and cadavers when I was in massage school, and how the body works has always been ingrained in me because I love the human body. The majority of people need to build strength more than flexibility.”

There’s a different kind of drive to strike between too intense and too easy when creating workouts, but Ms. Weishaar said, “As a running coach, Ms. Weishaar got into personal fit- ness. “I love pushing the envelope with people, without pushing it too far,” Ms. Weishaar said. “When I started working with them, I was pushing them as hard as I can.”

But while Jameel is determined to push himself and his teammates to achieve the best possible workout routine.

“Right now, with track season — and sprinting — and all the girls soccer, there’s at least 20 to 30 students in the actual weight room on a daily basis,” Ms. Weishaar said. “I’m creating data that they sign in to calculate who really un- derstands who is working and how that student is progressing.”

Competing routines is the fun of being a workout trainer, she said. “It’s about the programming, their science and math behind everything that he does because you don’t feel like he’s attacking you, and you know he’s trying to help you.” Mohammed said. “And as a captain, you try to emulate everything that he does because he works really hard at practice; he doesn’t talk back, and you know he’s just always trying to make everybody better.”

As a member of the U-High team to the Division I, Ivy League 2015 and 2016 championship winning Yale team, Jameel isn’t planning on straying from the incredible work ethic that took him to the top of the U-High game.

“A lot of people didn’t think I could play varsity, my freshman and sophomore year, so I really just had to come in and work,” Jameel said. “It’s the same thing for Yale; a lot of people are like ‘you’re going to play, but in the end, anything can happen. They say that to get you over there, but I know instances where they just totally bench you. So, I’ve always told myself, the team in any way I can, and I know I’ll have to compete for a spot. But that’s something I really like doing, and I’m going to work as hard as I can.”
Black at Lab

Similar experiences bring them closer together, but black students stress they are not all the same — they have varying backgrounds.

BY LEAH EMANUEL MIDWAY REPORTER

“In lower and middle school when you’re talking about slavery in class people are going to look at you, and I’m pretty sure that’s an experience all black people can relate to,” junior Whitney Thomas said.

Throughout her years at Lab she said she had had various experiences that have created a sense of mild discomfort.

Within a predominately white community, brief instances and small exchanges can make some African-American U-High students feel different or separated.

“If there really is a high school that we started talking about that discomfort,” Whitney said, “which is something I really appreciate.”

When surrounded by African-American students from other Chicago schools, Nick Telman, a senior, described how he sometimes feels judged.

“They don’t think you are as black because we go to a private school with a lot of white kids,” he said, “so I think that is something that brings a lot of the black kids at Lab together.”

Uncomfortable situations create a divide between the African-American students and the remaining U-High community, but these experiences at school and beyond have helped bring U-High’s black community closer together.

“I think that just strengthens Lab’s black community,” Whitney said. “Because we’ve all had these similar experiences outside of Lab where you are acting as an outsider, so we can all come together for that reason.”

Freshman Ariel Montague agreed with, and explained that people will say to her, “Oh you’re not actually that black, or ‘You’re too white.’

She finds these comments offensive because black and white should not be stereotyped.

She said, “It’s your ethnicity. It’s what your parents are, it’s what your ancestors are, it’s what you are.”

Sophomore Robert Coats expressed his frustration when people assume he will act a certain way because of his race. Once a Sunday school teacher was surprised at how well he and his family spoke.

“Back then I took it as a compliment but sometimes I look back at that conversation and kind of cringe a little bit,” Robert said, adding that he knows the comment was meant positively, but he can now understand the negative connotation that others should emulate his “proper” speech.

Robert said that it’s unfortunate the teacher felt the need to point that out because people shouldn’t have to act a certain way and should be themselves.

Another way black students feel the separation is when people touch their hair.

“People always ask me to touch my hair, and sometimes they just come up and touch it, which I consider disrespectful.” Ariel said.

Senior Kara Coleman said she can understand how people are curious about something different, but it can be frustrating.

Kara said, “By pointing out differences you are making them more obvious and separating us further.”

Kara chose to do a feature on black hair for a photography project this fall to address the issue of how some companies won’t hire women who wear their hair natural.

To do this she photographed her friends with their natural hair.

“She doesn’t define you part of you, and you should be able to wear it however you want.”

The aim of Kara’s project was to highlight everyone’s natural hair and natural beauty that goes hand-in-hand with their hair.

“People have experienced similar situations before, but it can be frustrating.”

Though the black community at Lab remains close-knit, each individual student has a unique background, so has everyone else.

“All of us come from different backgrounds. Although we may all be friends, we’re not the same black person,” she said. “We all have different experiences, and it gets frustrating when it’s like, ‘Yes we are different. We come from different places. We don’t all feel the same.'
A s the summer sun slowly starts to set over the horizon, architect John Kelley and Bet Hillel’s senior, Tomer Keysar, wait for the sun to set to strike Mr. Kel- ley’s glass-accented building at the perfect angle. Ninety minutes tick by, but the light doesn’t reach the angle needed. Tomer backs up his cameras and lenses. And then, through his viewfinder, Glittering re-fections are seen across the floor and the walls, highlight- ing the building’s architectural art- istry, and the architect took notice.

“As I was walking to my car, he called me and was, like, ‘Tomer, Tomer, the light’s back. It’s here.’ And when I got back the light was good for like, 30 seconds,” Tomer said. “And that’s why I do photography. It’s for that one mo- ment, where it’s all worth it and you get the shot.”

Through his lens, capturing fleet- ing moments like these for as long as he can remember, starting with 36-pan- el disposable cameras, his mother would give him for his birthday.

“I don’t remember even getting those developed, but I definitely remember taking those pictures often. That was my first real intro- duction to photography,” Tomer said. “It just became a very reg- ular thing.”

Since his early days as a photo- rapher, Tomer has evolved tech- nologically and stylistically from using a Sony point-and-shoot to photograph zoo animals, to a Sony DSLR with several lenses at his dis- posal to take pictures of everything from landscapes to street art.

His newest interest is older film cameras, some of which were his grandfather’s. Part of the appeal of film, while producing lower qual- ity images due to age, is gaining tactile, building the photo- graphic development process in ways that can’t be seen with a digi- tal camera, according to Tomer. And although he’s also dabbled in drawing and painting, the quick pace of photography has always kept Tomer on his toes.

“I used to take drawing and painting lessons, but I was never really good at that, I needed to work on patience. I didn’t want to hey how to do it, I just wanted to go out and do it,” he said. “That’s what’s so cool about photogra- phy. You learn by doing it, and the process is exactly how you evolve and that’s how I’ve learned; just by practicing.”

Even when Tomer can’t bring his DSLR or film cameras along, he still remains primed to capture scenes that catch his eye, also us- ing his phone to take pictures in a pinch.

“I think always having any cam- era on you is so important, be- cause, and I know it sounds corny, you’re preserving a moment in time that will never happen again. And that’s just such a cool, beauti- ful thing, and something that you can never predict.”

Photography provides new lens for life

THROUGH TOMER’S LENS. This photograph of the Osaka Garden in Jackson Park, located at 6401 S. Stony Island, demonstrates Tomer Keysar’s artististry and vision. In taking fall 2014, this photograph shows Tomer’s thought process early on, specifically his distinct focus on lighting and framing.

Artsfest will offer famous guest, new workshops

BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON

Matte Magic: Bibs & Pancakes. The Visuals of Punk. These are some of the workshops and options for the annual Artsfest on Feb. 23. The daylong celebration of the arts fol- lows the annual Artsfest at Dark, to be held the evening of Feb. 22 in the cafeteria.

The biggest change to Artsfest is a reconfigured schedule, which includes workshops with eight dif- ferent art forms: fine arts, culinary arts, performing arts and a flex pe- riod, which will be used for work- shops of overlapping genres, per- forming art or leaders who need a double period.

According to board member Eli- nora Wexner, the board members chose to reconfigure the schedule because they wanted to give stu- dents the opportunities to explore all genres of art and to have more opportunities to try new activities.

The closing ceremonies will fea- ture a keynote speaker, Michael Feldman, Director of the founder of ‘Hamilton’ Chicago. According to Wexner, the board reached out to Feldman about ways he could speak for Artsfest’s clos- ing ceremonies. Artsfest is paying him to speak.

“They are the other board member at that time because they’re really wonderful to bring in an outsider that people were fa- miliar with, who can speak to students in some way about art’s role in the world,” Wexner said. “That’s when the idea came to me to reach out to someone related to ‘Hamilton,’ a show that captures history and activism into musical theater us- ing music from various genres.”

Alex du Buet, a senior on the Artsfest board, remarked that the community wished to go a differ- ent direction this year for the clos- ing ceremonies entertainment to show students that they can purs- ue careers in art.

“Normally in the past, we have done performances for the closing ceremony, but I think this year we wanted to find a way to art into real life forms of jobs and careers,” Alex said. “We wanted to show stu- dents that they could make a living out of any career whether it is paint- ing, dancing, singing, etc.”

Art in the Dark, an event on Feb. 22 from 6-9 p.m., will return to its original location in the cafeteria. The event includes activities such as “Hands of U-High,” a mural of hands; here for the first time.

Students can buy food from the Fat Shalott food truck or Insomnia Cookies.

Featured Workshops

Art of Pendulum Physics

This workshop will explore the physics of pendulums, pendulum painting techniques, choreography. Led by Jacob Shkol.

Kathak (Indian Classical Dance)

In this workshop, students will learn the fundamental aspects of Kathak. As well as an introduction to the five major Indian classical dance forms. Led by Dana Baig and Roma Nandy.

A-What? Acai Bowl!

In this freestyle workshop, students will be able to perfect their own acai bowl and eat their final product! Led by Mya Shuh.

#OscarsSoWhite may not trend this year

BY MARISSA MARTINEZ

Editor-in-Chief

This year’s Oscar-nominated performances are as qualified and deserving as they are past, but they look a bit different this last year.

Four out of nine films nomi- nated for Best Picture feature people of color in substantial roles, and in acting categories seven out of 20 nominees, 38 percent, are ra-
tional minorities. While this number may not seem like a lot on its own, it is in stark contrast to 6 percent from just last year.

2016’s Twitter campaign OscarsSoWhite highlighted media at- tention to the inequities within Holly- wood after all its slow seasons went only to white talent. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, noted to fix its bio- nogenous voting board, which is now comprised of 314 women (40 percent) and 238 people of color (41 percent).

As a woman of color, I was plea- surably surprised. When I looked through the 2017 list, I saw more people of color included in the biggest movies of the year. Barry Jenkins (“Moonlight”) and “Fences,” garnered multiple nominations, including Best Picture for both. Barry Jenkins (“Moonlight”) is the first black writer to be nominated for Best Director, Best Screenplay and Best Picture. Lin-Manuel Mi- randa, who wrote a song for Dis- ney’s “Moana,” could potentially snatch an “EGOT,” an acronym for winning Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony awards. And with her “Fences” recognition, Viola Davis became the only black actress ever to receive three nominations in her career.

I still find myself wanting more. Six black actors and one Asian ac- tor garnering nominations is cer- tainly an improvement over last year. However, Latinos, Asians and other ethnic groups aren’t close to being highly represented in the Academy’s 88-year history like their white counterparts.

Our one simple reason for more African-American nominees was that more films were made for them. “Hidden Figures” is based on the real-life stories of three black scientists, “Moonlight” and “Fences” are each adapted from powerful plays about every- day African-Americans. Instead of another historical narrative about slavery or the civil rights move- ment, audiences received real, re- latable stories about black people that differed significantly from typical Oscar “baa.”

This inclusivity needs to con- tinue. Contemporary narratives about powerful Asians need to be judged alongside films about ordinary Native Americans or documentaries about outstanding Latinos.

The movement shouldn’t even be confined to just racial diver- sity. People of different religions, sexualities and abilities need to be showcased in an honest light with- out complicating the need for a good plot.

In Screen Actors Guild award- speech in late January, Ms. Da- vis said film and television shows need to start representing their di- verse American audience.

“It is just going to be a trend to talk about inclusion — and I’m not really say inclusion than diversity — or if it is going to be a norm that we’re all part of the narrative, that all of our stories deserve to be told, and that art indeed has to reflect our life and our culture?” Ms. Davis said.

Art is meant to represent out current reality. When we don’t see people who represent us on screen, it’s disheartening. It reminds us that our stories, our culture and our values don’t matter. They aren’t ‘mainstream’ or ‘commercial’ to garner Hollywood’s attention.

“Art is meant to represent out current reality. When we don’t see people who represent us on screen, it’s disheartening. It reminds us that our stories, our culture and our values don’t matter. They aren’t ‘mainstream’ or ‘commercial’ to garner Hollywood’s attention.”
Bright colors, dramatic storylines and extravagantly choreographed dance routines are all hallmarks of Bollywood, India's Hindi film industry. But Bollywood is just not a physical space. Though it has been criticized for perpetuating traditional stereotypes, some say it is evolving to become a...

Bollywood

Film industry often maintains patriarchy

According to Rochona Majumdar, a University of Chicago professor who studies modern Indian history, many have accepted the term “Bollywood” as the official title of the well-developed and booming Hindi film industry for decades, the term really only gained recognition in the early 1990s. “The expression ‘Bollywood’ is a very recent vintage. People argue it was actually an American reporter who first came up with the term in the 1970s,” Professor Majumdar said. “It wasn’t until 1991 when the term really started catching on.”

Seeing commercial opportunity, American studios, such as Disney and Warner Bros., expressed interest in helping the industry thrive globally. The impact of these interest has been significant. The Hindi film industry — a time when women are beginning to be depicted as powerful, and when uncomfortable topics that reflect hard-hitting, serious and universally relevant issues are beginning to emerge in films.

Shaunak elaborated on his notion of Bollywood stereotypes, explaining that many people expect Indians to be intelligent and that certain topics, like gay relationships, have been considered taboo in Indian culture.

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