Students disagree about hate speech

Fewer students here than nationally would protect unpopular opinions

By Shamina Glades-Khan April 20, 2018

Whether about Milo Yiannopoulos, Kanye West or YouTube star PewDiePie, a hot debate on campuses across America is whether controversial speech—hate speech that should incur re- percussions, or if it is protected under the First Amendment. A recent study conducted by the Knight Foundation on the extent of acceptable free speech shows young people in America value the First Amendment more than in previous years, but just 45 percent support the right to express hateful or discriminatory speech. The survey included nearly 12,000 high school students and 750 teachers. Meanwhile at U-High, a Mid- way survey of 80 students represents 12 percent of the student population and 29 percent supported the right to express hateful or discriminatory opinions.

Some U-High students who support this right think members of the community have a blurred definition of a hateful opinion, confusing it with an unpopular one. Others who don’t support this right think U-High students are quick to call an opinion hateful and prioritize protecting every- one’s feelings.

Shaunak Puri, a senior who supports a person’s right to express any opinion, attributes the discrepancy between the U-High and national polls to a general unwillingness at Lab to listen to differing political opinions. He says people don’t easily call out an unpopular opinion for being “offensive.”

“Because Lab is such an elite school with many very smart people, many of us are so confident in our opinions that we think we can’t possibly be wrong,” Shaunak said. “So any person who might speak out against our general opinion is more easily considered to have a ‘hateful’ opinion.”

Shaunak said that this problem was recently apparent at the No Ban No Wall discussion hosted by Refugee Club, Muslim Students’ Association and Latinos Unidos after President Trump’s immigra- tion ban.

“The ban wasn’t really a discussion at all,” Shaunak said. “It was just a whole bunch of people railing against the ban. So basically any one with a different opinion was shunned out of coming because they knew their opinion would be shut down.”

Isabella Light, a junior who also supports broad freedom speech, agrees with Shaunak and speaks from personal experience. Isabella said her views differ from those of most at Lab because her views affected the way she views the First Amend- ment’s guarantee of free speech.

“Because I have a lot of life- style and political opinions, and I also have other opinions that people here don’t have with,” she said. “I don’t usually feel very free to talk about politics be- cause I know that my views won’t be accepted.”

Isabella said the low tolerance for other people’s opinions is a result of Lab’s lack of diversity of opinion. She said that when she is outside of Lab and in a more diverse environment, she is less likely to receive criticism for her speech.

“When I go on social media, I’m exposed to a lot more diversity,” she said. “Seeing more people with opinions like mine makes me feel like it’s okay to have opinions and seeing a lot of diversity makes me feel like it’s okay to be different.” In contrast, Alex Pietraszek, a sophomore who supports limits on expressing speech, thinks that the low support at Lab for the right to express hateful opinions is not necessarily due to a lack of diver- sity, but rather to a general willing- ness to protect others.

“I think people at Lab are very willing and not afraid to call out an opinion for being offensive,” Alex said. “That’s because when someone says something hateful, more people than only that one person are crashed. Making sure that people don’t feel attacked by someone’s opinion is a priority.”

Social Justice Week From April 17-20, optional workshops led by both students and faculty will be held during lunch. The week’s theme is “Crossroads,” and will focus on the connections between communities and the greater society.

Holocaust Remembrance Assembly Sponsored by the Jewish Students’ Association, the assembly will be held during an extended assembly period April 20. It will use a theme of “Never Again!” to explore relations between political events and the Holocaust.

human prejudice coming out from under the rocks where it’s been hidden for the last four decades. Where even the American govern- ment seems to be supporting a kind of ethnic prejudice that has virtually no foundation in fact and certainly not in this country.”

The readings, commentary, po- ems and explanations of the as- sembly will connect the elements that led to the Holocaust with a comparison to the actions Presi- dent Donald Trump has taken so far in his administration, which many people have seen as prejudi- ced.

Mike Shapiro also is collaborat- ing with Social Justice Week to run a workshop about “The Road to Genocide,” in which they plan to compare and contrast events that gave rise to events of mass murder, by doing so hope students more deeply to examine the state of the country.

Isabella Light, junior — Isabella Light, junior

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2 Social justice events in April

Workshops, assembly shown within context of current events

By Nolan Beck

This year, both Social Justice Week and the Holocaust Remem- brance Assembly will work to ap- proach and discuss the new presi- dent and the policies that have come with his term thus far. In addition, both events fall on the same week, April 17-20, changing the usual schedule.

Social Justice Week has a limited amount of time in which it develops with the biennial Holocaust Remem- brance Assembly. Therefore, all workshops will be voluntary throughout the week. Students and faculty will also attend run- workshops during the lunch period on April 20 and faculty-run events throughout the week.

Similar to last year, the Social Justice Week committee is working to pair students and teachers with similar interests and issue stances.

“I think the assembly has a certain interest in what’s going on at U-High and also a certain interest in what’s going on with the election,” said Elizabeth Van Ha, one of the leaders of Social Justice Week.

The 2017 theme is “Never Again!”

Students, faculty and advisors will have the chance to share their views on the current events that are on their minds,” explained Elizabeth Van Ha, one of the leaders of Social Justice week.

Refugee Club and Latinos Uni- dos will run a workshop to ap- proach and discuss the opinions that have of immigrants and refugees in this country.

Finally, Lab will partner with two University of Chicago writing professors to bring their project “Migration Studies” to Lab. Stu- dents will submit stories of mi- gration they have experienced or witnessed.

Organizers plan to present the project as part of the culminating event of Social Justice Week, al- though they have not confirmed the time or the venue, the Stony Island Arts Bank.

This project is connected to the Social Justice Week’s theme of “Crossroads,” an exploration of the interconnectedness of several different aspects of society. This theme includes how aspects of one’s identity are related, the con- nection of the issues the country is currently discussing and the inter- action between communities.

The Holocaust Remembrance Assembly will also be different from previous years due to the recent national election, and will explore how national events have some relationship to the Holo- caust.

The 2017 theme is “Never Again!”

“Although I think it’s really important,” Susan Shapiro, Jewish Students’ Association advisor, said, “in a year when we are seeing the ugly side of
French visit despite post-election fears

Despite concerns about Donald Trump's presidency and the violence in Chicago, French students from lycée Saint-Exupéry in Paris are staying with Lab families.

On Feb. 11, 10 French students from the city of La Rochelle in Charente-Maritime, France, arrived in Chicago to stay with U-High students through Feb. 29. Junior Briana Garcia said that when she went to meet her French exchange student, Louise Dry, at the airport, she saw people at the international terminal holding signs asking if travelers had been questioned about their race or religion.

Briana felt that for students already worried about coming to a foreign country, this was not a welcoming sight.

Freshman Macy Beal's exchange student, Charles Belloin, said he was worried his host family would not support Donald Trump.

Charles said, "In France all the media has this image of him, which is really bad and mean. We only have the bad image of Trump. We don't have the great image you may have in the U.S.

"French student Louise Dry said one of her biggest concerns about Trump in France that made her worry about coming to the United States. However, rather than nerves about Trump, Louise was more worried about her coming to Chicago.

"My mother was more nervous because of how Chicago is seen as one of the most dangerous places in the world. Louise explained how her father travels to the U.S. a lot and pushed her to come because he loves Chicago, but a lot of people in France thing she is nuts because her mother worried about the violence.

"However, regardless of their initial fears, all of the exchange students are learning that there is more to Chicago than the violence. The exchange students also observed many differences between Lab and their school in France.

Charles said, "Your school is great; they really care about the whole student. Campus is really nice. I live in a really small city, and it feels great to be around so many people.

Louise said her favorite thing about Lab is the people. She loves how friendly and open everyone is, and she thinks it's great that everyone is so welcoming.

Macy said Charles already wants to buy his first German car.

She said, "So I think that's a pretty good sign."
Beloved security guard Mike Cephus retires after 16 years

I t’s 7:45 a.m. and students rush to get to school on time. Some prepared for the long school day ahead of them, while others still wipe toothpaste from their faces or zoom by, their mood seems to change. Students’ faces grow brighter as almost everyone is greeted individually, by name, by one of the most recognizable voices and faces of almost every student’s morning here at U-High.

Michael Cephus, or Mike as almost everyone called him, worked as one of Lab’s favorite security guards — but his job went beyond just being a security guard, at a celebration in Mike’s honor on March 2. Students, staff and all crowds around Mike, who retired at the end of fall quarter but returned to say goodbye and give hugs and high fives to hundreds of well-wishers.

“i will miss the faculty, staff, student. I’ll miss the environment. I totally feel like I’m a member of that community.” — Mike Cephus

During his double-shift years, Mike would work at Lab until 4 p.m., and make his way over to the Law School where he would work until midnight, and often until 2 a.m. Even with the long hours, Mike’s good mood was never phased.

“Mike works the longest hours and he works through the summer and on some of the days that we have off,” Megan said. “But he was always in a good mood and I can’t believe that he did that and was still able to make everyone around him so happy.”

With retirement opening precious time with family and friends, Mike has time to reconnect and spend time with his wife, children and grandchildren. In his free time, Mike enjoys playing tennis, basketball and going on family outings to places like Wisconsin Dells, amusement parks and diners — especially the Weber Grill restaurant downtown.

“I will miss the faculty, staff, students. I’ll miss the environment. I totally feel like I’m a member of that community,” Mike said.

With Mike’s retirement, evenings may seem a little more dull as students will no longer be welcomed by the warmth and energy of Mike. But his lessons in life and leadership will continue to serve in the role until a new director is selected.

Search for new director will begin again

As much as we’re interviewing them, they’re interviewing us. So I think it’s important to understand that just because we’re exercising due diligence, doesn’t mean they’re guaranteed to be excited about us after they visit,” Mr. Fithian said. “So in terms of that interview process, Mike going forward one would be making sure candidates have ample time even before public campus visits, to get to know more about us and various constituents across the Lab community.”

The search process over again when counselor Ronald Tunza retired after serving 17 years. They plan to start the search process in Fall 2017 or January 2018.

“The interview committee members just finished reviewing applicants and are preparing to invite finalists to campus to meet with the administration, members of the department and students.” "Our goal was initially by spring break,” Ms. Graham said, “but because we have had so many applicants, I don’t think that will be possible.”

With a new director on the back, the department predicts to have the new counselor selected by the end of April. The new director will have to start the process over again when counselor Ronald Tunza retires after serving 17 years. They plan to start the search process in Fall 2017 or January 2018.

“We know it’s coming, so we can plan and be prepared for when we are ready to start the hiring process.”

Health fair provides self-care options

“it’s kind of a gradient,” she said. “We have the most lower students, a few middle schoolers, and not many high schoolers. High schoolers are just so busy with school that they don’t have time to attend, which is a shame because everybody should be able to make time for their health.”

Last year, U-High’s Red Cross Club and Green Team both did a presentation at the fest, which helped increase high schoolers’ attendance.

This year, however, high schoolers are not giving any presentations, and are not expected to attend.

“It helped because other students wanted to support their friends who are in the clubs,” Ms. Taylor said, “but this year we don’t have any high school clubs presenting, so we’re expecting to have mainly students from the younger grades there.”

Health fair vendors:

- AIQ, Yoga
- Enso Karate
- Medulla/Chiro One Wellness Centers
- University School of Medicine
- U. of C. Cellia Disease Center
- U. of C. Medicine Transplant info
- U. of C. Dermatology
- U. of C. Police: street safety
- Dental check ups
- Student Health, Epigen, hygiene, concussion, blood donation
- Vertical Adventure guides: rock climbing, kayaking
- Bodhi & Sage: Chinese medicine (health screening)
- New York Life: free Child ID cards

Fourth counselor to be hired

More than 100 people applied for the position of U-High’s High counselor and the district is selecting the best candidate going through applications since January.

The learning and counseling department will hire a fourth high school guidance counselor to support the growth of the school.

The job was posted at the beginning 2017 year and after receiving applicants, according to Tracy Graham, learning and counseling department chair.

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“Our goal was initially by spring break,” Ms. Graham said, “but because we had so many applicants, I don’t think that will be possible.”

Even with the short set back, the department predicts to have the new counselor selected by the end of April.

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The search for Lab’s new director will be extended despite two finalists visiting on Feb 13-14. Former Evanston resident Mark White withdrew from consideration after the visit, and the search advisory committee declined to pursue the candidacy of finalist Scott Fech.

Going forward, the search advisory committee is meeting with University of Chicago Executive Vice President David Fithian and Lab Board of Trustee chair, William Albert, will continue to work with search firm Isaacson, Miller to attract a new set of applicants or reopening against candidates who withdrew due to the July 2017 start date.

The renewal of the search does not yet have a defined timeline, but the earliest date for a new director to take office would be July 2018. Interim director Beth Harris will continue to serve in the role until a new director can be selected and installed.

According to Mr. Fithian, the community and the Lab committee should take more into account both sides of the search — that of the school choosing a leader, and of a candidate choosing a job.

“As such as we’re interviewing them, they’re interviewing us. So I think it’s important to understand that just because we’re exercising due diligence, doesn’t mean they’re guaranteed to be excited about us after they visit,” Mr. Fithian said. “So in terms of that interview process, Mike going forward one would be making sure candidates have ample time even before public campus visits, to get to know more about us and various constituents across the Lab community.”

The interview committee, the new 18 months will not be idly spent.

“We’re eager to not think this period of time as a time to stand still,” he said. “We’re all eager to get on with the business of improving our educational offerings, putting the school’s facilities to better and best use, and really using this time.”
Dystopian novels parallel current events

Alternative facts. Fake news. A fictitious “Bowling Green massacre.” A president who threatened the First Amendment, with possible ties to the Russian government. For many Americans, today’s political landscape is breathing new life into popular dystopian novels.

In the wake of Donald Trump’s election, dystopian novels are flying off the shelves. In January, after President Trump’s counseloress Kellaney Conway coined the phrase “alternative facts” in a TV appearance, George Orwell’s “1984” climbed to the top of the Amazon bestseller list, leading to a reprint of 75,000 copies. Sinclair Lewis’ 1925 satirical novel of fascism in the United States published as Hitler rose to power, topped the same list the next day.

Dystopian stories like “1984” and “It Can’t Happen Here” may have been written years or even decades ago, but they are helping readers understand a changing world today.

In “The Plot Against America,” Philip Roth imagines a detailed answer to the question: what if Hitler had won World War II? What if the United States published as Hitler rose to power, topped the same list the next day.

“What is the importance of dystopian literature in today’s societies?”

IAN TAYLOR, ENGLISH TEACHER: “There are truths to those metaphors that can help us to more clearly see the structures of our government. The reasons why they might do things, and I think it’s always necessary to listen to the people who are trying to tell us something. I think it’s always in our best interest to monitor the way that things are now and to listen to the cautionary tales from the people who have come before us and who are telling us things now in order not to be caught by surprise.”

CHRISTINE HUMMELFARB, ENGLISH TEACHER: “In times of transition, people often turn to art, whether for escapism, answers, options, or common language. While dystopian novels might feel right to some readers in this political landscape, I can also imagine in increased interest in books about the history of our country’s founding or those that give voice to American values.”

Shirley Volck, Librarian: “People are reading about these scenarios and may think, ‘Wow, these parallels and these exaggerations are kind of happening now.’ Seeing that kind of prompts you to some action. You may think, ‘Oh my goodness, what could the outcome be? How can I, as one person, protect the environment, protect the process of our democracy?’

Quick Q

What is the importance of dystopian literature in today’s societies?

IA: “There are truths to these metaphors that can help us to more clearly see the structures of our government. The reasons why they might do things, and I think it’s always necessary to listen to the people who are trying to tell us something. I think it’s always in our best interest to monitor the way that things are now and to listen to the cautionary tales from the people who have come before us and who are telling us things now in order not to be caught by surprise.”

Christine Hummelfarb, English teacher: “In times of transition, people often turn to art, whether for escapism, answers, options, or common language. While dystopian novels might feel right to some readers in this political landscape, I can also imagine in increased interest in books about the history of our country’s founding or those that give voice to American values.”

Kevin Elliot, Manager of 7th Street Books: “I think people are confused and scared right now and are looking to these kinds of books for a couple of reasons. One is to look for the root causes and signs that our world might be going in the direction of these novels’ narratives. Another is perhaps to make them feel like things aren’t as bad as they might seem at the moment.”

In “The Handmaid’s Tale,” Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves. But unlike most dystopian novels, Offred, a young woman, narrates the story of a society where race and reproductive status alone determine a woman’s fate. Some women, like Offred, are designated “handmaids,” birth vessels for couples who cannot conceive children. Others are domestic slaves.
I Am Not Your Negro’ starts conversation

BY SAM FLEMMING TIMES REPORTER

The story of the negro in America is the story of America: Samuel L. Jackson narrates over a distant slare hymn in Raoul Peck’s powerful documentary “I Am Not Your Negro.” People like Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X are remembered as leading the 1960s civil rights movement, however, from an ideological perspective, author, essayist and playwright James Baldwin challenged the nation’s ideas of race in America.

“I Am Not Your Negro” reinforces the relevance of Baldwin’s views on race today and directly addresses this country’s failure to accept Baldwin’s ideals. The film is not solely an exploration of what it means to be black in America but is an exploration of the pride and guilt that comes with being American.

In 1979 Baldwin wrote a letter to his agent describing an “unavoidable endeavour,” which he was to tackle. He described a novel he had in mind about the lives of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Medgar Evers, which he would work on until his death in 1989. “I Am Not Your Negro” acts as a collaboration between Peck and Baldwin to complete this novel in documentary form, extending Baldwin’s writings to a new generation and connecting the lives of well-known victims of gun violence to anonymous everyday black Americans.

“I Am Not Your Negro” does not take the form of a typical biographical documentary. It attempts to tell the story of America today, rather than present facts about the past. The film delves into the lives of King, X and Evers, while exploring the deep and complex relationships Baldwin had with each of them and their ideas. Clips of Baldwin speaking are interspersed with scenes of protests, or with audio from the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin, bringing his ideas to life for a new generation.

This is part of what makes “I Am Not Your Negro” so intriguing. This documentary is just as much about this nation’s present as our past. Everything that Baldwin says in the film is immediately relevant to our country today. Nothing in the film reassures or soothes. If anything, “I Am Not Your Negro” is crushing evaluation of America which hides absolutely nothing. Even after death, Baldwin continues to be one of the most insightful voices on race in generations. His ideas continue to influence American race consciousness and the movie feels like an extension of his wisdom.

S.E.T. 2017: A New Hope

Photo exhibit showcases social change in ’70s Japan

BY NATALIE GLICK ARTS EDITOR

It was 1989.

In Japan, the consequences of World War II were still alive. The country was young and increasingly western. Protests and the tension and uncertainty of change sent long ripples through Japanese culture. In other words, the future was uncertain.

All of this was captured by Provoke, a magazine, a movement, a moment in Japanese history, which is getting a revival at The Art Institute of Chicago. This is the first, and only time, this collection will be seen within North America. This exhibit will give you a new insight into today’s politics and how photography can capture history, drawing a straight line back to World War II.

For three issues, which were published in between November 1968 and August 1969, Provoker featured photographs that tell stories of the cultural changes that occurred in Japan in the late 1960s. The Provoker staff was made up of visionaries who each had a different background. Provoker tightly followed the theme of making viewers see the parallels of life then and now. Fifty years ago, he had the answers to so many of the racial problems which America now faces and this film highlights that these problems have not disappeared.

Prime Facade at the Art Institute of Chicago

STANDING STRONG. A protester stands among a group of students speaking against the building of an airport in Tokyo. This photo and the rest of the collection are part of an exhibit called “Provoker,” on display at the Art Institute of Chicago through April 30.

standing head-to-head with the police mirror images from recent protests across the nation. The photos strike close to home, making viewers see the parallels of life then and now.

Many of the protest images tell the story of the anger created after the war and the distance many sought to draw between Japanese culture and the Western world. Sentiment that helped create a new generation of artists.

As a companion to the larger “Provoker” exhibit, an entirely gallery on the first floor of the museum celebrates the modern reemergence of Provoker. The exhibit is made up of close to 200 photographs. This is an exhibit that all should see and learn from.

Exhibit in school gallery highlights political issues

BY KATHERINA LOPEZ MANAGING EDITOR

“Constellations” by Paul Chan reflects his concern of the government through naming previous drawings from 2005. The 10 large inkjet prints show Chan’s worries of democracy, for things such as freedom of the press and are now on display in the Corvus Gallery in Gordon Parks Arts Hall.

Chen created these pieces to give viewers a sense of hope and comfort.

“When we are worried, we reach to the heavens for hope,” Gina Alicea, fine arts department chair, said, “so he decided to research the actual constellation maps, make 10 prints, and rename each one as parts of the Constitution.”

Chan was born in 1973 in Hong Kong. In 1980, he moved to the United States and attended school at the Art Institute of Chicago from 1992-1996. He then continued his work as an artist, creating many provocative pieces.

Chan’s works are normally extremely provocative, they are different and make people question his pieces. They also tend to pose philosophical questions in order to promote awareness and debate over his works, according to the exhibit materials.

The gallery committee of parents and board members chose this exhibition because it relates to current national events.

“Years ago when Paul Chan created this artwork, he was concerned about the president who was in office at the time, and that he wouldn’t uphold the Constitution,” Ms. Alicea said.

Next month, the gallery will feature the Senior Exhibition, followed by another student art exhibit at the end of the year.

When we are worried, we reach to the heavens for hope. — Gina Alicea, fine arts department chair
Students say drug usage is now normalized

Since Colorado and Washington legalized recreational marijuana in 2012, marijuana has come to the forefront of national politics, causing divisive conflicts over its use and sale of marijuana. While the fight over pot has become a prominent issue in our politics, its identity is just pot in our culture. It’s no secret; there’s pot at U-High. Students are a part of changing social attitudes toward marijuana in our school, state and country. Its effects, dangers and uses remain relevant to life here.

Current drug laws are too harsh, need reform, state senator says

Sen. Kwame Raoul, D-Chicago, is one of many senators who believe current marijuana laws need to change. Raoul, who has been involved in this issue for over 20 years, believes it’s time for the state to legalize marijuana.

Raoul argues that marijuana is the product of the driers and流泪 from the earth. He says that there are scientific quantities of the non- psychoactive THC in marijuana.

According to the 2012 Illinois Youth Survey, 38.5 percent of high school seniors reported having tried marijuana that pre-year year, compared to 36 percent of seniors nationally. From 2007 to 2012, drug use among high school students in Illinois already above the national average. Student B believes Lab school’s drug culture is a result of students finding an escape through drugs. While the level of drug and alcohol use varies widely among the grade levels, Student B believes that in the junior class, most U-High students have done drugs in common consensus, never fear.

I think someone because I just enjoy the feeling of it.” Student D, a junior boy, says. “It’s a fun experience and if you’re not really in it and you’re麥田里，it can pretty much stay out of trouble.”

This attitude is exactly what Student Council officers and peer leaders are trying to combat. These designated student leaders want to create a group of drug-conscious role models within the student body, promoting drug and alcohol abstinence.

I choose not to drink or do drugs for my own reasons. Three times a year, a senior peer leader and student council member number votes on a “High or Low” task. Without drink or drug use, a student is able to participate and therefore be in it, or be in an emergency. Regardless of the results, student council officers and peer leaders support this decision as a way to encourage students to make a decision for themselves.

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**Free speech essential to democracy**

**By Samantha Glaeser-Khan**  
**By Alex Stamatakos**  
**Artwork by Neela Chand**

As the Midway sees it...

I t would be impossible to de-  

t on any issue that a democracy's crown jewel:  

the First Amendment.  

A recent survey by the New York Times concluded that 80% of Americans believe in the First Amendment. However, when it comes to free speech, there is a lot of debate about what is protected and what is not.  

Free speech, as defined by the First Amendment, protects an individual's right to express themselves without government interference. However, the Supreme Court has ruled that certain speech is not protected by the Constitution, such as speech that incites violence, threats of violence, or fighting words.  

The First Amendment guarantees the right to free speech, but it does not mean that students have the right to say anything they want. The constitution protects the rights of students, but it also protects the rights of other students who may be offended by the speech.  

The issue of free speech in education is a contentious one. Many people believe that students should have the right to express themselves freely, while others believe that schools should have the right to limit certain types of speech.  

In conclusion, free speech is a fundamental right that is essential to democracy. However, it is important to remember that free speech does not mean freedom from consequences. Students who engage in speech that violates the rights of others may face disciplinary action.

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**Artstyle tradition facilitates individual growth**

**By Dhiren Unni**  
**SPORTS EDITOR**

With another Artstyle over, its critical to reflect on the past few seasons. Some teachers question the need for such programs, but in my opinion, they are essential in fostering creativity and self-expression.  

Artstyle, as a program, provides students with an outlet to explore their passions and develop their talents. Through the program, students are encouraged to think creatively and to take risks.  

As the Artstyle season comes to an end, I look back at the past year with a sense of pride and accomplishment. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of this program, and I am excited to see how it continues to evolve and thrive in the years to come.

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**Should hate speech be protected by the First Amendment?**

**By Torey Keyser, junior**

There is a long-standing debate about whether hate speech should be protected under the First Amendment. Some argue that it is necessary for free speech, while others believe that it should be regulated to prevent harm to others.

In my opinion, hate speech should not be protected under the First Amendment. It can be harmful and offensive to others, and it is important to create a safe and inclusive environment for all students. However, it is also important to ensure that free speech is not restricted in any way.

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**U-High Midway**

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**LAWON EMEJIELE, Copy Editor**

University High School
Chicago, Illinois
Neighborhood connects old, new cultures

A cross from Bridgeport Coffee House, and next to Maria’s Packaged Goods, a bar known as a community favorite, sits a funky but simple storefront with a small seating area. Kimski, an extension of Maria’s, serves a Polish-Korean street food style fusion. On warm, spring days and evenings, the bustling, renovated patio of the aged building captures the core of the neighborhood home.

Once a small, otherwise unassuming residential and industrial neighborhood, Bridgeport now stands as a historic, geographical and, increasingly, cultural heart of Chicago. Bordered on the north by the Chicago River, on the west by Bloomingdale Creek, on the south by Pershing Road and on the east by the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, the neighborhood is accessible by the CTA Red Line train and the #22 bus, though parking is plentiful and cycling paths cross-cut the neighborhood.

One of Chicago’s oldest neighborhoods, Bridgeport began in the 1800s as an enclave for Irish immigrants, site of stockyards and factories alongside working class residential homes. The neighborhood has grown from this — diners, community bars like Schaller’s Pump or Maria’s Packaged Goods, and old-school coin laundromats like Pump or Maria’s Packaged Goods, a bar known as a community favorite, sits a funky but simple storefront with a small seating area.

A familiar face to many in the neighborhood is Peter, who, with his unmistakable long, dark beard and expansive colorful grass hat, cruises around the neighborhood for 15 years. He said the neighborhood is accessible by the #22 bus, though parking is plentiful and cycling paths cross-cut the neighborhood.

He described the strength of the neighborhood: “You have some infusion coming and going. For example you have the Latinos moving in and out, and parking is plentiful.”

However, the neighborhood has grown into a diverse patchwork of groups, including Asian, European, and Middle Eastern. Originally a Presbyterian church, the building was converted to a Buddhist temple as Bridgeport’s population changed. The temple provides a relaxed, quiet atmosphere amidst the busy neighborhood. Even non-Buddhist visitors can appreciate the beautiful statues and artwork within the temple.

Bridgeport Coffee brings great roasts into an old-style cafe setting. With old wooden bar stools, chairs and counters lining turquoise walls covered with framed artwork, Bridgeport Coffee makes customers feel at home with its relaxed vibe. The rich, dark coffee has just the right amount of bitterness. For customers looking for more than just coffee, the shop also offers light snacks, including sandwiches and wraps. With a separate, quieter work space in the back, Bridgeport Coffee is the perfect place to start a day wandering the streets of the neighborhood or spend time studying.

Views. Across from McGeeane Park, along Halsted Street between 27th and 29th streets, lies Palmisano Park. A large field of grass sits atop the hill, from which visitors can see across the neighborhood toward the downtown skyline.

Walk in the Park. With a long walkway spanning one end of the hill to the other, the park’s greenery provides a great setting for a lazy Sunday afternoon stroll. Visitors can follow the path down the north end of the hill to a beautiful pond and fishing area with amphitheater-like seating on rocks that lead into the water. Originally a quarry, the park represents the changing face of Bridgeport as the neighborhood changes from industrial, to up-and-coming.
Dedicated boxers find new passion

Boxing bobs and weaves its way into academics while improving health

by Michael Rubin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, Manny Pacquiao. These figures, all internationally renowned for their boxing proficiency, have affected students at Lab, encouraging them to move outside their comfort zones to explore and become passionate about this physically rigorous activity.

Despite her anti-violence perspective, senior Gabby Conforti experienced an ideological shift last year, in which she realized the benefits of boxing in terms of stress relief.

“I immediately fell in love with boxing. The fast-paced nature didn’t allow me time to mull over homework and chores. During my boxing sessions, I had a one-track mind: hit or be hit.”

— Gabby Conforti, senior

For more than a year and a half, Gabby’s passion for boxing developed more recently, but she believes it is a product of generations of fascination with the sport.

“Boxing must run in my family’s blood, because my father and grandfather were passionate about the sport long before I was born,” Gabby said. “My dad had a punching bag in the basement, and to lower the risk of high blood pressure, my grandfather would persuade me to watch clips of Pacquiao’s previous fights or video highlights of Saturday night’s big match by bribing me with chocolates.”

Though she was rather indifferent about boxing while growing up, Gabby has gained a retrospective appreciation for its long-term appearance in her life.

“My dad had a punching bag in our backyard, and would always ask me to try a jab or a hook,” Gabby said. “I always refused, for a combination of reasons including my distaste for the violence and my lack of enthusiasm for working out.”

Unlike Gabby, junior Sophia Campbell’s relationship to boxing was minimal growing up, but in recent years, the sport has become a prevalent factor in her life.

“I started officially in the beginning of last summer,” Sophia said. “Growing up, I always really liked watching boxing on TV, and knew a few people who had tried it, so I went ahead and tried it myself.”

According to Harvard Health Publications at Harvard Medical School, although there is no proof that fitness boxing is superior to any other types of exercise, the aerobic exercise of fitness boxing has been proven to improve certain brain functions and to lower the risk of high blood pressure.

Although boxing has evident health and recreational benefits, making it a priority can be difficult.

“I try to do it at least twice a week,” Sophia said. “It requires my schedule getting crazier every day, it can be tough to make it to the gym.”

Gabby shares this sentiment, but she believes the benefits of the activity are enough to motivate her into training.

“As much as I love boxing, there are definitely days when I drag my feet to the gym,” Gabby said. “Boxing has become an essential in my life, though boxers do much for me, physically and mentally. And this thought propels me every time I try to think of an excuse not to train.”

Photo submitted by Sarah Palson

PREPARED TO ROW. The team rows up to the start line at the Clark Park Boathouse for their only home regatta. While rowing can be physically difficult, the members of the team see it as a benefit. According to sophomore Olivia Jarard, the rigor of the activity allows competitors to completely focus while they row.

by Talia Coeirg-Rabin

Senior Sarah Polson has been rowing with the Chicago Rowing Foundation for almost two years. After her older brother took up the sport in college, she decided to give it a try as well. Rowing has since become a way for her to leave her stresses behind on the water.

“I think it’s a really good way for me to mentally de-stress from school and put my mind into something else,” Sarah said. “It’s a place where I don’t have to think about anything else. I just have to go there and practice.”

Sarah’s dedication gives her a heavy practice schedule, where she spends 10 hours a week on rowing during the season. In the fall, it jumps to 12 hours, while spring practice can exceed 16. That fierce drive is part of the fun for Sarah, who sees rowing as a place where she can let her competitive side flourish.

“I think I’ve learned that I’m pretty competitive,” Sarah said. “I knew that already because I did soccer before rowing, but it has definitely affirmed that fact.”

For more than a year and a half, Sarah, a sophomore, has served as a coxswain, the person who motivates and directs while on the boat. To be a coxswain, one has to be confident enough in their ideas and their strategies to motivate their teammates while they maintain morale, speed and conditions of the boat.

Celia said her experience as a coxswain has taught her to be more confident in her own opinions and not let other girls sway her.

“To be a coxswain, you have to have a lot of confidence in your opinion and your talent,” Celia said. “You are yelling your personal thoughts and opinion to a boat of eight girls. You have to have a lot of confidence in what you have to say. That was probably something I didn’t have a lot of when I started doing this. I built that confidence from there. It’s taught me to be believe in what I say and not second guess myself.”

Rowing gave Celia a drive to win that she had never had before, turning her more competitive.

“I was never a very competitive person,” Celia said. “I used to do competitive swimming in middle school, but I hated it. I felt like I was being forced to do that in sports, and then I started rowing. Instantly, that aggressive part of me kicked in.”

Sophomore Olivia Jarard has been rowing for more than three years, though a recent knee injury has stopped her. While she is unsure whether she will be able to return to the long, intense training hours that rowing requires, Olivia has found more than competition in rowing. For her, rowing is a challenge to persevere through weaknesses and pain.

“I think it’s extremely mentally challenging because all my coach-es tell me that it is all mental, so when you are rowing you have to tell yourself to keep going as hard as it is,” Olivia said. “You can keep going as long as you tell yourself to keep going.”

With the Chicago Rowing Foundation, Olivia’s first-place finish at the Midwest Championships has become her most treasured memory from rowing. While Olivia does love the competitive aspect of rowing, she also uses her time on the water as a break from a her life and as a way to understand her current problems.

“What I love about rowing is, even though it is extremely difficult and takes a lot of time and a lot of energy,” Olivia said. “It’s something that I can get my anger out with, and wherever I row I do not have to think about any-thing else. It’s time for me to think for myself, and time to not have to worry about school, or friends or family.”

Chicago Rowing Foundation builds confidence while still having fun

by Jenna Goerge-Karron

To sync or sink? This is the question for six current Lab rowers as they try to balance homework, social life and rowing.


Sarah Polson, a sophomore, has been rowing with the Chicago Rowing Foundation for almost two years. After her older brother took up the sport in college, she decided to give it a try as well. Rowing has since become a way for her to leave her stresses behind on the water.

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— Olivia Jarard, sophomore
Some coaches work for both school teams and independent clubs.

BY CYDIE SCHWAB
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For elite U-High athletes and coaches, the end of the quarter rarely means the end of the sea-
son. From swimming, fencing and squash to golf and sailing, many varsity athletes continue working with these same coaches outside of school for club teams, continuing valuable additions to the athlete’s ability and a creating more seamless transition into the school-season.

While much of this out-of-

school contact occurs outside the season in a student-athlete’s off-
season, continuous contact with a coach, single coach can have a powerful impact on athlete’s performance. This contact is often before school sports, but when it continues into the U-High season, it can have powerful effects. According to U-High Athletics Director David Ribbens—while instances where coaches came to U-High after training a student were coinciden-
tal and student-drivers-sharing coaches for high school and club seasons had a positive impact on athletes and teams alike, allowing athletes to keep a consistent training partner.

“A lot of time, the outside coach-
es’ and kids’ decision will be stu-

dent-driven. We wouldn’t require our students to join the University Club and play tennis, for example,” Mr. Ribbens said.

Citing senior Eamonn Keenan’s success inside and outside of high school swimming, Mr. Rib-

bens noted, “He benefited from his participation as a student, and that’s why I would encourage other students to participate in high school athletics. I think that’s just different than a club ex-

perience.” However, according to Mr. Rib-

bens, the decision to coach for a high school team in addition to clubs is regulated by the Ill-

inois High School Association to prevent conflicts of interest. However, Mr. Ribbens also noted that at times, athletes will be compul-
ted to continue with a club team during U-High season in order to continue with the same coach, thus forcing athletes to choose between staying with their school or their club coach.

The notion of continuity was emphasized by the head coach for the U-High girls swim team and Midway Aquatics, Kate Chronic. Saying that the largest benefit of coaching year-round was the abil-

ity to train with the whole team rather than schedule in mind, rather than just the 12-week high school season, and working at U-High gave her the chance to really make swimmers improved at a steady rate through-

out the year.

“At the beginning of the year, we set up a calendar to set up a program for the year,” Coach Chronic said. “There’s mac-

rocycles, or long, around long peri-

ods of time, then microcycles, based around when we want to rest kids when they should have a race when they’re tired, what their end of the season championship meet is going to be. What could happen is that you get somebody who isn’t familiar with the bigger picture of the year-plan and field season. She said run-

ners peak dur-

ing the outdoor season, often meeting their goals. The less intense indoor season helps them prepare for the spring, where the sea-

son and offers chances for ex-

pertise. ‘It’s definitely different than it’s been in previous years. I think people are excited,’” Elsa said. “Right now, it’s this period when everyone is try-

ning out different events to see what they would be good at.”

The indoor team also has a great track record with very few injuries, high morale within the team and more support from the Lab com-

Team finds motivation, unity during indoor season

SQUASHING PLAYERS’ DOUBTS.

Assistant squash coach Mark Heath

gives team members pointers at the Beacon Tri Meet Feb. 26. While he now coaches U-High, he began as the personal coach for the team’s two captians.

“‘It’s definitely a different team than it’s been in previous years. I think people are excited. Right now, it’s this period when everyone is trying out different events to see what they could be good at,’” Elsa Erling, distance captain of the U-High squash team, said.

This is because they host more meets at the Uni-

versity Club of Chicago than they have in pre-

vious seasons.

Bringing the team together has been a goal of team captains, ac-

curring to Mr. Ribbens. Because the distance and sprint subgroups of the team train differently, they often train separately. How-

ever, spending much time as a sports team and independent clubs

BOYS BASKETBALL, VARSITY

The team defeated the number one-seeded Leo Lions 45-

41 to win the 2A Regional Cham-

pionship. Nick Tolman contributed 10 points, Jared Alaua 9, and Mohammed Alaua 7. Their playoff run ended with a close 45-50 loss on a buzzer-beater three-pointer to Naperville Central March 10. The Mustangs moved on to the Sectional semi-final. Senior Ja-

meel Alaua was named Player of the Year along with a player from Francis W. Parker School.

Recent Results: Beat Leo High School at the 2A Regional Cham-

pionships on Feb. 25, 45-41; beat UCCS Windhaut at the HSA 2A regional semi-final on Feb. 22, 74-

36; beat Morgan Park Academy on Feb. 16, 85-87; beat Latin School of Chicago on Feb. 1, 50-35.

BOYS BASKETBALL, JUNIOR VARSITY

Recent Results: Beat Elgin Academy at the ISL JV Cham-

pionship Feb. 18, 40-26, lost to Latin School of Chicago on Feb. 14, 43-51.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Recent Results: Lost to Illiana Christian at the HSA Sectional Championships on Feb. 14, 28-60.

DANCE TROUPE

Notable: Dance Troupe had their last performance this season during the closing ceremony at the Lab. They have had an attended a workshop at the University of Chicago in preparation for next season.

INDOOR TRACK

Notable: The girls team finished second and the boys finished third at the Indoor Sweep Indoor Track and Field Race in Henry Crown Fieldhouse. At the ICSOPS invita-

tionals on Feb. 11, Arne Carlstrom and Eddie Marks posted a 51.41 in the 400 meter event, the fastest time in Illinois to date. He finished se-

cond at the meet. Freshman Israel Figueroa also medaled in the 400 meter event, finishing fourth with a 54.05.

Recent Results: Placed 11th at the ICSOPS Invitational on Feb. 26; placed 3rd at the U-High Chi-

cago Midway Miles #1 on Feb. 24, placed 5th at the Hill Girl Quad #2 on Feb. 15; placed 3rd at the De la Salle Blue Invite on Feb. 5.

SQUASH

Notable: The team overcame being down two players to pull off a win at the Metrosquash, Beacon Tri Meet Feb. 26. Recent Results: Second an-

nual U-High/Metrosquash high school championships tri match was cancelled; won at the Metro-

squash, Beacon, U-High tri match on Feb. 25; placed second at the four-team Round Robin tournament on Feb. 18.

BOYS SWIMMING

Notable: Senior Eamonn Keen-

an is an HSA and school record holder in the 200-yard individual medley event with a time of 1:54.43, the third fastest HSA state champi-

onship qualifying time in Illinois. He also competed at the state championships on Feb. 24, where he placed twelfth in the 200-yard individual medley event. This is the first boys swim state medal for Lab in 65 years.

Recent Results: Placed 4th at the HSA sectional championship on Feb. 18.

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COMPILATION BY SABRIE LAIBER-XIAN

Squirting to the Point. Lilia Wilson races at U-High Chi-

cago Midway Miles Feb. 24, where the team placed third.

BY PREVANIA SHIRVAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

To the indoor track and field team begins its season, Lab run-

ners find motivation in celebrat-

ing their team dynamic and each-

ner’s eyes. Reflecting on her four years of running track and the rea-

sons behind doing so, she found that she loved the friends she made through the track team.

“I’ve been doing track since middle school, and part of it is that it feels good to work at something and see yourself improve,” Elsa said. “But also that the people that I’ve met through track, I really re-

ally liked spending time with those people.”

“It’s definitely a different team than it’s been in previous years. I think people are excited. Right now, it’s this period when everyone is trying out different events to see what they could be good at.”

Elsa Erling, distance captain of the U-High squash team

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Notable: Senior Eamonn Keenan is an HSA and school record holder in the 200-yard individual medley event with a time of 1:54.43, the third fastest HSA state championship qualifying time in Illinois. He also competed at the state championships on Feb. 24, where he placed twelfth in the 200-yard individual medley event. This is the first boys swim state medal for Lab in 65 years.

Recent Results: Placed 4th at the HSA sectional championship on Feb. 18.
IN FULL COLOR. Mixed students at Lab have occasionally struggled with their racial and cultural identity in a primarily appearance-based system, that doesn’t necessarily reflect the full extent of their racial backgrounds. While membership in their respective racial communities may be questioned externally and internally based on their physical appearance and the presence of other racial identities, they emphasize their wholeness as a mixed person rather than their segmented ethnicities.

Multiracial students say that despite their mixed heritage, they shouldn’t be forced to choose a side

Nurse heals, supports, connects

Behind the scenes

Calm under pressure. Nurse Mary Toledo-Treviño takes the blood pressure of junior Teresa Xie. Besides spending much of the school day tending to students in the new high school nurse’s office, Nurse Toledo-Treviño is an avid foodie.