

David Derbes resigns in protest as faculty chair

Insufficient information following non-renewal spurs resignation

BY CLYDE SCHWAB
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

David Derbes has resigned as faculty chair and from the steering committee. In an email sent to faculty on April 4, he said his resignation was to protest the non-renewal of science teacher Matt Martino.

Mr. Derbes' email denounced what he said was a lack of communication from the administration regarding Mr. Martino's non-renewal.

The steering committee sets the agenda for monthly faculty meet-

ings. The other five members decided to share leadership for the remaining meetings. Learning coordinator Kevin Van Eron will fill Mr. Derbes' seat for the remainder of the year.

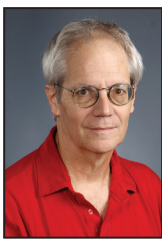
Mr. Derbes said in an interview that Principal Stephanie Weber should have communicated more about the reasons for Mr. Martino's non-renewal. Mr. Derbes is also a member of the science department.

The administration may choose to not renew any teacher during an

initial three-year probationary period without providing a reason. Mr. Martino's probationary period was extended an additional year, making this his final year. However, Mr. Derbes wrote that the manner of the non-renewal was "in utter disregard of past practice."

"There is a standard procedure by which third-year teachers are evaluated," Mr. Derbes said in an interview.

He explained that in his experience a decision has always been



David Derbes

reached following discussion between the department head and the administration, and that they usually come to the same conclusion.

"What was very remarkable was that there was absolutely no discussion between the administration and the department," Mr. Derbes said. "It's one thing to have a disagreement. We understand the administration has the right to make this decision. No one is faulting their authority to do that. ... That it was reached without any involvement whatsoever of the department is very disturbing, and a really dangerous precedent."

Both Interim Lab Schools Director Beth Harris and Ms. Weber

were contacted but declined to comment, citing confidentiality regarding personnel matters.

Mr. Derbes noted that while he doesn't think that his resignation will result in the reversal of the administration's decision, he hopes it can serve to prevent this from happening in the future.

"In all candor, I don't think anything can be done or will be done for Mr. Martino," he said, "but maybe we can prevent the next very promising young teacher from being dismissed in such a cavalier fashion."

According to Mr. Martino, he received no feedback during Ms. Weber's series of observations in the winter quarter.

Interfaith leader stresses need for diverse opinions

Create a club that brings together different faiths, Eboo Patel says

BY NATALIE GLICK
ARTS EDITOR

Building a bridge between faiths is no easy task, but it's something Eboo Patel wants students at U-High to attempt.

The Lab Schools Parents' Association brought Mr. Patel to campus April 4 for a series of talks throughout the day open to the community.

Based in interfaith leading, Mr. Patel has seen all kinds of conflicts between different groups of people, but he has learned how to help groups learn how to build bridges instead of barriers. Mr. Patel worked closely with the Obama administration on interfaith issues and now runs the nationwide Interfaith Youth Core, which focuses on creating strong interfaith leaders within their school communities.

He said the IYC works within colleges and universities and places like Lab that are nurturing young people to become interfaith leaders.

"Which to say is acquiring an appreciative knowledge of different religious traditions, knowing something about the history of interfaith cooperation in America, reflecting on their own connection to religious tradition and what role that plays into their life," he said.

A lunchtime discussion left junior Amanda Levitt both confused and intrigued.

"Eboo Patel brought up a very interesting conflict that we don't have many spaces where everyone

"That's the ideal of a diverse democracy. It's not creating like-minded groups of people with different ethnicities, races, religions, nationalities. An ideal diverse democracy is a place that can create spaces where people who have different very different and divergent viewpoints can come together in respectful and relational ways."

— Eboo Patel

can openly express their religious opinions, but he didn't offer any solutions to fix that problem. I left with a sense of wanting change, but not knowing how to," Amanda said. "I'm not saying Eboo had to tell us exactly what we should do, but some suggestions would have been helpful. Overall though, I would say the talk was worth going to because he asked questions that made me think more about the issue."

Much of the success of Mr. Patel's work involves students stepping up and meeting the challenges of being an interfaith leader. This role requires them to take time learning about other religions and the history behind religious corporation leadership within America, he

said.

Mr. Patel strongly encourages students to form an interfaith club at Lab as a way to broaden their community.

"The activities that the club should focus on is everything from people sharing aspects of their own religious tradition to creating awareness weeks across the school interfaith service protects," Mr. Patel said. "It's a space for people who really care about a topic to come together regularly and then two or three times a year that group does a big event for the whole campus."

The campus needs leaders who are passionate about interfaith issues and view fixing problems as their responsibility, Mr. Patel recommended.

During one of his class visits on April 4, Mr. Patel said he noticed that certain viewpoints were accepted as the mainstream opinion in the community. For example, students said the phrase, "I am pro-choice, but..." before expressing an opinion that their peers might see as controversial. He said the phrase was used as a badge of honor, which is a problem. Diversity is important, Mr. Patel stressed, but not just diversity that every student likes. For good dialogue to happen, you need to hear all viewpoints.

"That's the ideal of a diverse democracy. It's not creating like-minded groups of people with different ethnicities, races, religions, nationalities," Mr. Patel said. "An ideal diverse democracy is a place that can create spaces where people who have different very different and divergent viewpoints can come together in respectful and relational ways."



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

COLLABORATING BETWEEN FAITHS. Eboo Patel visited the school on April 4 and had an interview with the Midway. He spoke at lunch to a packed room of students at an Muslim Students' Association-sponsored event, where he said that interfaith initiatives are difficult, but they need to happen. Throughout the day, Mr. Patel talked about the need for different opinions to be talked about, even if they are unpopular.

Student Council election speeches begin tomorrow

BY KATERINA LOPEZ
MIDWAY REPORTER

With Student Council elections around the corner, speeches for candidacy will begin April 27. The all-school candidate positions will be held at lunch in Café Lab on

April 27.

On April 26, current Class of 2019 candidates will give speeches. On April 27, current Class of 2020 and Class of 2018 candidates will give speeches.

Voting will take place April 28

from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. using an online system, which was new to Lab last year. The system was created by current senior and all-school president Jonathan Lipman.

Results will be tallied by the system and posted online between

3:30 to 4 p.m. that same day, and vocally announced at the same time.

To vote, students will log onto sc.ucls.uchicago.edu with either their personal computer or one set up in the high school lobby during

the end of every period.

No campaigning is allowed within 20 feet of the voting area.

Current student council officers who are also candidates cannot serve as election judges during any period.

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One thing's for sure, the spring musical will not be drowsy, despite being called "The Drowsy Chaperone." The musical will be performed May 18-20.



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To honor animals, junior Arjun Dhar taxidermies them. He preserves animals regularly using different methods from stuffing to wet specimen, a water alcohol mixture.



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Hyde Park is changing — again. Is the neighborhood repeating its history or moving toward forming a more diverse community?



Relocation, migration dominate Social Justice Week

BY PRIYANKA SHRIJAY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

From sharing migration stories to breaking down community barriers, U-High Social Justice Week, which took place April 17-20, offered students the chance to discuss political and social issues, with an emphasis on relocation.

As part of Social Justice Week, Rachel Cohen, a University of Chicago professor, collaborated with the Shoe Empathy Project and led a workshop on April 21 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Arts Incubator in collaboration with a colleague. Ms. Cohen said she wanted to help U-High students to tell their own or others' migration stories.

For Ms. Cohen, the 2016 Presidential Election influenced her perspective about migration and immigration.

"I think that really everyone who's a current resident of what we call the United States came from somewhere and that we're a country with a long history of everybody moving around," she said.

In addition to working with U-High students, Ms. Cohen hopes to engage students from Kenwood and the University of Chicago. The project consists of writing workshops and also includes public readings and anthologies of the migration stories submitted to the project. Students at U-High can submit their migration stories by May 1 by sending email to starshagill@uchicago.edu or submitting an anonymous entry at the Pritzker Traubert Library.

Ms. Cohen sees the writing workshops as an opportunity to enrich students' understanding of their own as well as others' migration stories.



PHOTO BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON

BUILDING BRICKS. Olivia Issa builds bricks of community for Refugee Club's Social Justice Week's activity of building origami bricks. The activity was done for SJW in Ms. Neater's art class on April 19.

"I hope that the artistic crafting of those stories and the presenting of them to other people would have satisfaction and I hope that the students who look around for stories in the community would also learn things about their own community and feel a richer sense of what that community is," she said.

In addition to the story sharing, several other events were part of Social Justice Week. To name a few, Refugee Club led a community-based workshop, a film about Chi-



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

USING THE PEN TO FIGHT. Freelance writer Ben Austen speaks to history and journalism students on April 17. His workshop, titled "Is the pen mightier than the sword?" focused on his article about the Laquan McDonald shooting, and the response after the shooting toward the Chicago police.

cago public housing was shown and discussed, and there was a Holocaust Assembly.

Refugee Club worked on understanding and educating others about the refugee crisis and helped the relocation of refugees to Hyde Park. Considering this and President Trump's plans to build a wall between United States and Mexico, Refugee Club led a workshop during which students responded to prompts about community and wrote them on paper bricks, and built a wall out of them.

On Tuesday during lunch and sixth period, there was a screening of filmmaker Ronit Bezalel's documentary about Chicago public housing. The documentary explored the public housing of Cabrini Green and the struggles of their African American community as their homes underwent destruc-

tion and became mixed-income neighborhoods. After the showing of the documentary, students had the opportunity to discuss it and racial/societal issues with Bezalel and one of the people she filmed.

The Holocaust Remembrance Assembly, themed "Never Again?" featured students' performances as well as discussion about national events and their relation to the Holocaust.

State officials disagree with Trump's new agenda



Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson said he would resist infringement on civil liberties

Illinois state marijuana legalization in jeopardy with Trump Administration

BY EMMA TRONE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Despite vocal opposition from U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to legalization of marijuana for recreational use, two Illinois state lawmakers introduced a bill last month to expand marijuana use from just medicinal to recreational.

Meanwhile, the attorney general of Washington state, which legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2012, has pledged to resist any federal government crackdown on legalized marijuana.

"If the federal government tries to

stop what's happening in Washington, we will resist them in the courts," Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson said to a group of gathered student journalists and educators during the National High School Journalism Convention in Seattle on April 7.

Eight states and the District of Columbia have passed laws approving recreational marijuana use, but they face new uncertainty under the Trump Administration.

Ferguson is no stranger to challenging the Trump Administration. He received national attention in January after filing a successful lawsuit challenging Presi-

dent Trump's order banning travel from seven Middle Eastern countries.

Despite Ferguson's personal distaste for the travel ban, the lawsuit was filed entirely out of the interest of his constituents, he said.

"The first question that I asked my assistant counsel was, 'Are Washingtonians being harmed?' And the answer to that was pretty easy: Yes," Ferguson said. International students, families traveling to see loved ones, and economic harm to companies like Amazon and Expedia were some of the consequences of the ban in Washington, he said.

After securing both constitutional and federal law arguments, the State Attorney General's office filed the suit in the court of James Robart, who later put a temporary halt to the executive order.

"If the federal government tries to stop what's happening in Washington, we will resist them in the courts."

— Bob Ferguson,
Washington Attorney General

Students win big at Chinese speech contest

BY SAM FLEMING
MIDWAY REPORTER

Senior Isabella Khan won a scholarship to Taiwan at the Midwest Chinese Speech Contest at Northside College Prep March 11. Isabella competed alongside 12 other Lab students

Out of the 12 students, 11 received medals, and senior Isabella Khan earned one of the prestigious scholarships in addition to medaling.

"I've never actually been off of the continental United States," Isabella said, "so I'm really just looking forward to going abroad and immersing myself in the language and culture."

They were divided into groups based on the number of years they had studied Chinese, and the highest level of the contest offered two scholarships to study abroad either this summer or next summer in Taiwan.

"I've never actually been off of the continental United States, so I'm really just looking forward to going abroad and immersing myself in the language and culture."

— Isabella Khan, senior

"I'll probably use the scholarship next summer, since I am going to college," said Isabella. "I think it'll be fun."

Students prepared for the contest months in advance with their Chinese teachers, working on perfecting their speaking skills.

"I started preparing for it about a month before," junior Giulia Shaughnessy, who won a silver medal, said. "I went to my Chinese teacher every week to practice with her."

More teachers, students for 2018

Tuition increases by 4.5 percent

BY MAX GARFINKEL
MIDWAY REPORTER

Additional students. Additional teachers. Additional tuition. That's the plan for U-High's growth next year.

For 10 years Lab has been planning to increase the number of students, said Christopher Jones, Laboratory Schools associate director for finance and operations.

Mr. Jones said, "The freshman class of next year will be gaining at least 30 new students, and every freshman class after that will gain students until at least 2020."

He said the plan is to increase high school enrollment to at least 600.

With more students comes more teachers, next year the high school will hire an additional part-time history teacher and an additional

Admissions information for 2017-18

Nearly 2,000 people — potential students and parents — visited Lab in person.

175 high schoolers came for shadow days and to meet with faculty

In September, Lab will increase by approximately 250 students, which will bring enrollment up to 2,100.

counselor to work with the growing student population. Other hires will be to replace departing teachers.

The departments and administration are still in the hiring process, Assistant Principal Asra Ahmed said.

"Every department is at a different stage," she said. "Some have just begun interviews, some have



Asra Ahmed



Christopher Jones

just finished all of their interview rounds and are moving onto the finalists, and some are still vetting people in phone interviews."

High school tuition for the 2017-18 school year will increase from \$32,106 to \$33,558. The \$1,452 difference is a 4.5 percent increase.

"The Lab School, like any other organization, is on an economic cycle that sees increase in costs, on of the reasons we need to increase tuition every year is because of those increases in costs," Mr. Jones said.

Lab coders win ‘Facebook’s Favorite’ recognition

Students created Bitcoin-trading strategy software

BY DHEVEN UNNI
SPORTS EDITOR

After winning an endorsement from Facebook, four U-High programmers will head to the San Francisco Bay Area to compete against some of the best coders in the world.

Junior Ashwin Aggarwal and seniors Alex Gajewski, Jonathan Lipman and Wanqi Zhu teamed up for HackIllinois, a programming competition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Feb. 24-26. While the competition is restricted to college students, the team was allowed because each team member takes computer science courses at the University of Chicago. After they created a Bitcoin analysis

algorithm from scratch, Facebook representatives awarded the four students the title of “Facebook’s Favorite” with an all-expenses-paid trip to Facebook headquarters in Menlo Park, California, for the annual Facebook Global Hackathon.

With approximately 3,000 competitors, the Illinois competition is the largest of many Hackathons in the Midwest. College students often attend to find jobs with companies that are surveying the field for talent, according to Ashwin.

As the projects are open-source, the team decided to analyze the constantly-fluctuating Bitcoin market.

“You can tell a computer to buy or sell Bitcoins based on certain rules that you give, which is a really big thing that a lot of finance companies do trying to figure out what patterns to follow,” Jonathan said. “Our software will rate your rules, and it can give you statistics on it.”

Going in, the students didn’t

“It was always in the back of our heads that we were doing this for fun. We only came out there to make a cool project and to see all the lectures.”

— Ashwin Aggarwal

think they had a chance at winning. Since they were determined to make a product they were proud of, they stayed up until 8 a.m. to work on their program.

“It was always in the back of our heads that we were doing this for fun,” Ashwin said. “We only came out there to make a cool project and to see all the lectures. The relationship with the rest of the team was really good because we were all doing things that played to our strengths. Alex did the Python, I created a lot of the app stuff, and we all just didn’t want to let each



Ashwin Aggarwal



Alex Gajewski



Jonathan Lipman



Wanqi Zhu

other down.”

At the end of the competition, the team presented the project as representatives from companies picked their favorites. Facebook was one of the largest companies at HackIllinois, and the “Facebook’s Favorite” prize is highly coveted.

The team had learned at the opening keynote session that winning a prize would be a possibility. The U-High team’s program, called Coin TK, received one of the last prizes announced, which caught the team members by surprise.

“It felt fantastic,” Alex said. “We beat probably 3,000 college students for that prize.”

According to Wanqi, Facebook will invite only about 100 people to its Global Hackathon. CEO Mark Zuckerberg will be a speaker.

“They evaluated the projects made at the Hackathon and they thought that ours was the best,” Alex said. “This was kind of a qualifying round, and Global Hacks is where the winners compete for the top prize. I don’t know what that prize will be, but we’ve moved on to the next level.”

History students move on to state competition

BY ABBY SLIMMON
MIDWAY REPORTER

Seven U-High entries qualified to compete at the History Fair state competition on May 4 in Springfield.

Juniors Michael Hellie and Jonah Bauer each had exhibit boards which qualified along with five other documentary groups.

Both exhibit boards and three of the documentary groups are competing to advance to the national level while the other two documentary groups are competing for state-level awards.

Every student in Cindy Jurrison’s AT U.S. History class competed March 11 in the first round of the fair, which was the city competition at UIC.

“It was a long process overall, but we ended up doing well enough for state.”

— Michael Hellie, junior



Michael Hellie



Jonah Bauer

sis skills.”

Although there’s a wide range of students topics, each entry must be related to Illinois and must be related to the 2017 theme of “Take a Stand.”

“Both Jonah and I presented exhibit boards for the fair. It was a long process overall, but we ended up doing well enough to qualify for state,” Michael said.

Michael’s board was titled “Out of the Gay Club and into the Day Club” and Jonah’s board was titled “Jane: Taking a Stand Against Roe v. Wade.”



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

M.C. MCKEE TAKES THE STAGE. Ayaan Asthana watches as John McKee adjusts the turntable as the DJ at the Spring Fling dance April 8. The dance took place at Ida Noyes Hall with a theme of “Pink.” John, who uses the alias Sound Vigilante for his music, posts his original music on SoundCloud. Although he has released 2 EPs, this was his first time performing as a DJ at a school event. John wasn’t the first U-High student to ever DJ a school dance, but it has been several years since a student has expressed interest. Attendance was just 75 students — more than half were freshmen.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Annual LabArts festival will begin Thursday

LabArts, the annual all-schools art festival, will be open from April 27 to May 12. Located in Gordon Parks Arts Hall, the festival will feature several U-High as well as middle and lower school artists and collections from art classes.

This year’s highlights will include a digital music concert; the U-High film festival; the middle school spring musical, “The Sound of Music” and an interactive community art project.

The theme of the interactive art project is “Art Connects the Lab Community” and will take place on May 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Gordon Parks Arts Hall.

Each day of the festival features different pieces and special events.

On April 30, for example, there will be a jazz brunch, a reception for the senior art show and a performance from the middle school and sophomore jazz bands.

On May 9, there will be an Obama Presidential Center model

reception from 5 to 6:30 p.m. as well as another jazz band concert featuring middle and high school musicians.

— MICHAEL RUBIN

Band students win big at IHSA competition

An unprecedented number of U-High students attended the IHSA Band Competition March 4 in Bloomington. Each student who attended also earned a gold or silver medal.

In the 24 events the Maroon Band entered, 26 students earned a gold and 13 students earned a silver.

Every student in the U-High band is encouraged to go to a separate pre-competition to compete by themselves, and/or in groups or both, according to band director Francisco Dean.

Not everyone entered the pre-competition, but every student medaled. The judge decides which students get to compete in the IHSA competition, and this year

around half of the team could compete at the IHSA.

“This year has been exceptionally excellent because this is the largest number of kids ever to compete,” Mr. Dean said. “Usually we’re at around one-fourth of the band who will go, but this year it was around almost half. The kids really went out there and gave it a shot, which I’m very proud of.”

— KATERINA LOPEZ

Maroon Key Society recruits new members

Fourteen students have been chosen to join the Maroon Key Society, also known as the “Ambassadors of Lab.” The new members will replace graduating seniors.

To be selected, students were first nominated by faculty members and then completed an application process.

New members are freshmen Anne Billings, Benjamin Cifu and Eve Grobman; sophomores Priyanka Shrijay, Jamal Nimer, Ruxandra Nicolae, Saige Porter, Mo-

ammed Alausa, Mili Shah and Shiva Menta; and juniors Cole Summerfelt, Christian Brookens, Olivia Cheng and Camille Reh-kemper.

The Maroon Key Society, which began during the 2015-16 school year, hosts tours to groups including parents and alumni, as one of their duties, according to Amanda Lissak, Lab Schools development associate.

Also, students in the Maroon Key Society help at school-wide events, such as the Dewey Dance, by working the registration table as well as talking with and otherwise helping attendees.

— IVÁN BECK

U-High Midway staff receives national honors

Three journalism students — Talia Goerge-Karron, Jacob Posner and Emma Trone — attended the National High School Journalism Convention in Seattle April 6-9, earning two individual writing awards and one award for the Mid-

way staff’s seventh issue.

The Midway was awarded third place in the Best of Show contest for tabloid newspapers of 16 pages or fewer, where newspapers from all types of schools across the country are evaluated on their coverage, writing and design.

Emma earned an excellent rating in news writing and Jacob earned an honorable mention in sports writing after competing in “write-off” sessions, where students listened to a speaker and wrote a story in less than 90 minutes.

Emma, Jacob and Talia spent the weekend participating in educational workshops led by guest speakers, touring the city of Seattle and critiquing the Midway with fresh eyes. Midway adviser Logan Aimone also led workshops.

“There was a lot more to the conference than really just going to listen to 5 different people speak a day,” Emma said. “It’s really gratifying being able to talk and work with so many people who are so passionate about journalism.”

— LIZA EDWARDS-LEVIN

Dramedy promises a bold show

Larger production team puts on ‘The Drowsy Chaperone’

BY DHEVEN UNNI
SPORTS EDITOR

More lights. More people. More costumes. For this year's spring musical, the theater department will hope bigger is better as they present “The Drowsy Chaperone,” a Tony-award winning musical set in the 1920s.

The show will be directed by Liucija and Allen Ambrosini with assistant directors Will Zich, Sophie Hinerfeld and Zoe Goldberger. The directors have taken a number of steps to ensure the spring musical will be more visual and colorful than previous plays, which they hope will motivate students to attend in place of the name recognition that last year's “Bye Bye Birdie” performance had to attract students.

With the assistance of sophomore Campbell Phalen as lights master, they also plan to use a much more extensive lighting system than they have in past performances to make it visually stand out from other, non-musical performances.

Campbell estimates that the production will use more than 200 lights.

“For most shows, we only hang one kind, but we get all different shapes, sizes, and colors for the spring musical,” he said.

According to sophomore Dania Baig, who is designing the sets and costumes, the enhanced lighting and costumes are all part of the unique setting for “The Drowsy Chaperone.”

Not only will it take place near the time of the Great Depression, but the play will be narrated by one of the characters, who comments on the plot throughout the play.

“It's almost like a play within a play, because it's this man reminiscing about musicals he loves,” Mrs. Ambrosini said. “As he starts talking about one musical set in 1928, it comes to life.”

He comments on the musical while the musical is happening. The story of it is about a wedding that is supposed to take place, and the star of a Broadway show is the one getting married. The producer wants to stop the wedding because he doesn't want to lose his star, and a lot of complications start from there.”

One of the attractions of the spring musical is the comedic aspect, on which the Ambrosinis plan to put a new spin.

“There's singing, dancing, lots of comedy and slapstick,” Mr. Ambrosini said. “It's



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

NEVER A DROWSY MOMENT. Junior Sophie Hinerfeld helps direct junior Bryce Palmer, and sophomore Jacob Beiser during play rehearsals after school. “The Drowsy Chaperone” premieres May 18, and will run through May 20.

“It's almost like a play within a play, because it's this man reminiscing about musicals he loves. As he starts talking about one musical set in 1928, it comes to life.”

— Liucija Ambrosini, director

kind of old-fashioned in the sense that it's a bit like vaudeville with a story line. There's a modern framework, and all of the characters are always commenting on themselves. That's how things are now: kind of meta, winking at the audience a lot.”

Viewers will see a wider variety of students than before, as the cast was recruited from groups like Bel Canto to sing.

The number of roles and costumes has been expanded, which is another reason to attend, Dania said.

“A lot of people are really invested in this,” she continued. “The theater department is really rigorous. If you want to see your friends rollerblade and tap dance and be gangsters, you should come. Derek and Bryce are gangsters and also pastry chefs together, which should be enough on its own to make people come. We put a lot of time and effort into this.”

Cast List

Jacob Beiser	.....	Man in the Chair
Anna Schloerb	.....	Mrs.Tottendale
Daniel Martinez	.....	Underling
Tommy Hsee	.....	Robert Martin
Michael Rubin	.....	George
Danny Rubin	.....	Feldzeig
Izzy Knowles	.....	Kitty
Bryce Palmer	.....	Gangster #1
Derek De Jongh	.....	Gangster #2
Nicholas Merchant	.....	Aldolpho
Nicole Horio	.....	Janet Van De Graff
Alex Billingsley	.....	The Drowsy Chaperone
Isha Singh	.....	Trix the Aviatrix
Danny Kim	.....	Superintendent
Nikhil Patel	.....	Reporter #1
Sofia Damer-Salas	.....	Reporter #2
Sophie Hinerfeld	.....	Chorus Leader
Caroline Taylor	.....	Chorus Trio
Sofia Damar-Salas	.....	Chorus Trio
Joana Rose	.....	Chorus Trio
Nikhil Patel	.....	Chorus
Danny Kim	.....	Chorus
Ryan Lee	.....	Chorus
Jenny Lewis	.....	Chorus

Time-traveling warrior Samurai Jack returns

BY ALEX ABBEY
OPINION EDITOR

In a low, husky voice floating on top of an ominous intro track, “Samurai Jack” opens with a baiting monologue and striking Japanese-inspired illustrated visuals.

“Long ago in a distant land, I, Aku, the shape-shifting Master of Darkness, unleashed an unspeakable evil! But a foolish Samurai warrior wielding a magic sword stepped forth to oppose me. Before the final blow was struck, I tore open a portal in time and flung him into the future, where my evil is law! Now the fool seeks to return to the past, and undo the future that is Aku!”

Aku, which translates to ‘evil’ in Japanese, is naturally the show's main antagonist, while the protagonist Jack, a hunky, clever and compassionate Samurai, continually sacrifices his well being to fight for righteousness and uphold his family's honor.

Samurai Jack, a young Japanese prince, is sent on a quest by his father to destroy Aku — a supernatural and demonic wizard who threatens the precarious balance of yin-yang on Earth with his evil antics and power.

The show, created by Genndy Tartakovsky for Cartoon Network in 2001, was recently rebooted for a fifth and final season on March 11 on Adult Swim. It was discontinued after the fourth season in 2004. Fans were thrilled at its return.

With a magic katana strong and pure enough to defeat Aku, Samurai Jack travels throughout the transformed, strange, and retro-futuristic world in search of Aku and a portal to transport him back to the past. In his journeys, Samurai Jack encounters

Where to watch
The first four seasons are available to stream on Hulu. The new season is on Adult Swim Saturdays at 10 p.m.

ever-changing landscapes, creatures, aliens, bounty hunters sent by Aku, robots and monsters.

The time period and setting is fluid; it seamlessly shifts from theme to theme. While one episode might find Jack in medieval Europe, another may place him in an Ancient Greece inspired setting, or even early 1920s Chicago as a part of a street gang in an attempt to reach Aku.

Each time Jack gets close to defeating Aku, something goes awry.

The music is upbeat and mesmerizing — perfect for running on the treadmill or just decompressing after a long day of school. Composer James L. Venable weaves techno with funk, gagaku, Japanese folk and instrumental music and more all into one fascinatingly catchy soundtrack.

With beautiful animation that confronts a viewer with touches unique to each episode, watching ‘Samurai Jack’ feels like being thrown into a portal yourself. Each episode is skillfully interconnected and enlightening.

Thrown into this eclectic, dystopian future dominated by Aku and his evil forces, Jack faces as many battles with unique characters as he does with his own spirit, body and mind.

His obstacles and conquests teach not



ADULT SWIM, USED WITH PERMISSION

DETERMINED SAMURAI CHARGES.
A swordless Samurai Jack fights off evil bounty hunters sent after him by Aku, the antagonist of “Samurai Jack,” in an ominous forest clearing. The screenshot is from season five, the final season of the show.

only compassion and kindness, but also the importance of perseverance, focus and confidence. Samurai Jack is the epitome of cool.

The fifth season follows Jack 50 years after first being flung into Aku's portal. So far, it is darker and more mature than previous seasons. Although Jack is currently without his magic sword, he remains determined to defeat Aku and restore both the earth and his life to its rightful balance. Hopefully, he will be able to do so.

Senior artwork showcased in school gallery

BY MICHAEL RUBIN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

This month, seniors at Lab will showcase their artwork in the Gordon Parks Arts Hall gallery space — thanks in part to the efforts of Lucy Ordman. The gallery opened on April 3 and will close on June 8.

In the weeks leading up to the gallery's installment, senior Lucy Ordman played a lead role in both curating and organizing, marking the culmination of her career in the arts at Lab.

“For me personally, my own piece has been a challenge to install,” Lucy said. “I am creating an installation piece as a kind of culmination of all the work I have done, from my very process-driven practice to my curation of work. It takes a certain kind of attention and creativity that pushes me.”

Lucy's close relationship with Gina Alicea throughout this past year has allowed her to realize that a future in curation may be on the horizon.

“I have enjoyed working in this hands-on way with Ms. Alicea and I have learned so much from her — she's extremely knowledgeable,” Lucy said. “I'd like to see if I can work in the gallery at Scripps in the fall and potentially curate a gallery or museum someday.”

Kara Coleman, a member of the photojournalism staff, submitted a photography series in the gallery.

“My photo teacher, Mr. Jaffe, encouraged me to submit my photos to the senior show because I worked really hard on this particular series and the photos features some remarkable seniors at Lab,” Kara said. “It's so nice to see my work showcased with other great senior artists.”

Similarly grateful for the opportunity to participate in the senior art gallery, Eliana Waxman recognizes the unique qualities of the gallery.

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to showcase my artwork,” Eliana said. “Until I took Ms. Neater's mixed media class sophomore year, I didn't really consider myself an artist. I feel very lucky to have been able to work with her over the past three years with different medias and explore the fine arts more than I ever thought I would.”



Lucy Ordman

“For me personally, my own piece has been a challenge to install. I am creating an installation piece as a kind of culmination of all the work I have done, from my very process-driven practice to my curation of work. It takes a certain kind of attention and creativity that pushes me.”

— Lucy Ordman



MIDWAY PHOTO BY KARA COLEMAN

DEAD COOL. Charlie Flocke's “Ghoul Friend” is one of many art pieces in the senior art show, which is in the Corvus Gallery in Gordon Parks Art Hall.

As the Midway sees it...

Interfaith intiatives unite communities

Lab is an extremely diverse community: religiously, ethnically and racially. In order for U-High to fulfill the expectations its diversity promotes, students must recognize and be aware of their peers' beliefs; a willingness to listen and engage in contentious discourse is extremely important. In order to unite diverse perspectives, Lab should strive to promote more interfaith initiatives.

To be a good member of the community, each person must understand the perspectives and experiences of their peers. For this to happen, according to guest speaker Eboo Patel, conflicting opinions cannot be ignored. Those who do not agree with others' opinions should consider and then respectfully contradict them. Differing opinions can be learned from.

Faith is an important part of many students' lives, and cannot be separated from their identities. All students, religious and non-religious, must be open-minded toward that integral part of their peers.

The Jewish Students' Association, Muslim Students' Association and Young Life have all been successful in helping other students learn about their respective faiths, but there is no interfaith group — a club that would foster communication or collaboration among people of different faiths. While it is easy to see the differences be-



ARTWORK BY AMBER HUO

tween faith groups, we should accept those and work to find areas in common as well.

According to Mr. Patel, Lab doesn't seem to have as many blatant religious conflicts as other schools he has seen. While the need for an interfaith group may not be urgent, we shouldn't wait to see if problems to occur before making an effort to connect with others. For example, religious clubs could take some kind of collective action against recent national waves of anti-Semitism and

anti-Muslim sentiments.

Organizationally, this might be difficult to manage. It is hard to predict what this club might look like. Differing opinions on key religious issues or texts and qual representation are potential challenges. While we have strong foundations for the Abrahamic religions — Islam, Judaism, Christianity — we need a space for other systems of belief, like Hinduism or atheism. In addition, club leaders could organize an interfaith day — something organized similarly

to Social Justice Week, or the Holocaust Remembrance assembly.

Lab is a fertile ground for such initiatives to grow and develop. The existence of school-founded clubs like MSA and JSA are great examples of inclusive religious groups, and proof that U-High is ready to take the next step. We need to turn diversity into inclusivity by bringing these different groups together.

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

To overcome illness, have an open mind

BY LIZA EDWARDS-LEVIN
MIDWAY REPORTER

The Sweet Briar College dining hall smelled of mystery meat. Noise filled the room: clattering trays, clanging tongs, and voices everywhere: clustered in line, around tables, near the soda machine.



I wasn't close with Lily (not her real name) at summer camp, but her restraint fascinated me. Every morning, she rose for her morning run at 6:30 a.m., a full hour before the rest of us. At breakfast, she drizzled yogurt over a few slices of cantaloupe. Come lunch and dinner, she arranged spinach, carrot shavings and pumpkin seeds into

a flat, flowering salad. One day, incredulous, I watched as she ate only a cup of fat-free yogurt before embarking on a three-hour hike.

I heard rumors of Lily indulging in almond butter, but never witnessed it myself. Instead, I caught a glimpse of her counting the calories of seven strawberries on an iPhone app. Sometimes Lily's food rituals perplexed me, but even from a distance I admired her. At 16, Lily was by far the healthiest person I had ever known.

Or so I thought. Two years later, sitting in the doctor's office, I thought back to Lily as I began to confront my own anorexia—and its detrimental health impacts.

These days, ultra-restrictive diets are very in. Attach the word free to the end of any food-group and it promises a mystical form of whole-body freedom...sugar-free,

gluten-free, dairy-free, the list goes on. Take the Whole 30 diet, founded in 2009. How should one begin a healthy lifestyle? "Strip [sugar, alcohol, grains, legumes, and dairy] from your diet completely."

Health magazines are peppered with catchy phrases like clean eating. But is it truly healthy to classify only a handful of foods as clean?

As I spiraled into increasingly restrictive food habits, no regime was pure enough. No matter how much I pared down my intake, stylish health websites told me there was always yet another category worth eliminating: starches, sugars, fats, most dairy, anything containing ingredients I couldn't pronounce. For months, I remembered Lily's minimal and obsessive food choices as inspiration. Now, I see them as warning signs.

Granted, not everyone who at-

tempts a fad diet ends up restricting obsessively. Many yo-yo dieters abandon fad diets or cleanse after just a few days. But isn't this just another symptom of a larger problem? The perfectionism of today's fad diets is exhausting, unsustainable and counterproductive.

I've spent the past few months rediscovering "feared foods" — food groups or ingredients that I once banned entirely. Through the recovery process, I've realized firsthand that there is a whole world of possibility beyond excess control. It is completely possible to lead a healthy lifestyle while still enjoying the foods you love, and you don't need a meal plan to do it. Instead of punishing your own cravings, try listening to yourself with an open mind — and see what happens.

Actual change requires youth-driven activism

BY LEAH EMANUEL
MIDWAY REPORTER

I rubbed the sleep from my eyes and grudgingly slid out of bed. The lingering emotions from the previous night consumed me — I still couldn't grasp what had happened. I grabbed my phone and went to favorites. Clicking on my grandmother's number, I waited patiently.



"Hello," she said, her voice was shaky but strong.

"Hi Bubby," I mustered quietly, swallowing the lump in my throat.

As I sat there talking to my bubby on the phone, I felt lost, confused and helpless. I couldn't grasp that Donald Trump would be our next president. I couldn't accept the outcome of the previous day's election.

As I desperately tried to un-

derstand how no one saw this coming, Bubby reminded me that what's done is done. She told me I couldn't change what had happened last night, but that I could affect what will happen in the next four years.

"Protest for me," she said through the phone. I thought of her strong will within her now-fragile body. I thought of everything she has fought for and everything she has accomplished. My grandmother was a determined civil rights activist who continued to fight through victories and setbacks. My heart sank when I was forced to come to the conclusion that my grandma — the strongest, bravest woman I know — would very likely never see a woman president. What had seemed so close was now so uncertain.

When I first heard the results of the election I felt completely powerless. But talking to my bubby made me realize that this event must inspire me, and it must pro-

"My generation has an obligation to carry forward this mission."

pel me forward rather than stifle me.

I felt the words of Martin Luther King Jr. resonate through our conversation: "I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land."

My generation has an obligation to carry forward this mission. Through protesting, reading, discussing and continuing to be aware of what is occurring in the world around us, we must continue what past generations started so many years ago.

I am inspired every day by my Bubby. Because of her, I am dedicated to getting more involved in activism. I felt this drive at the Women's March in Chicago, when among thousands of other men and women marching for a bet-

ter future, I walked for my grandmother and me.

I felt this drive as I worked to understand Trump's views on the Israel-Palestine conflict and his thoughts on Obamacare. I felt it as I witnessed violent acts spur across the country following his election and inauguration.

I still feel it when I wake up every morning.

Through this drive I've resolved to consistently find ways to be involved.

Next time you see an event for a protest on Facebook don't just like it, make a plan to go. Next time you read about a decision Trump made, don't just shrug with frustration, learn what our state legislature can do to be a check on Trump's power.

I'm going to continue to fight for my Bubby. I'm going to continue to fight for everything she believed in and everything she worked for. I'm going to continue to fight for everyone who fought before me.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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1362 East 59th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637
Phone 773-702-0591 FAX 773-702-7455
Email laimone@ucls.uchicago.edu

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EDITORS-IN-CHIEF* ...Marissa Martinez, Clyde Schwab

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ARTISTSNeena Dhanoa, Amber Huo

ADVISERSLogan Aimone, editorial Benjamin Jaffe, photography

* Members of the Editorial Board include the editors-in-chief, news editor, opinion editor, features editor, arts editor and sports editor.

CORRECTIONS • ISSUE 7, MARCH 9, 2017:

• Page 2: Tiboo Mehta's and Rachel Schonbaum's names were misspelled.

QUICK Q

Are interfaith initiatives important? Why or why not?

EM MA RAFKIN, SENIOR:



"Yes, it is important to communicate with people who have different cultural identities and beliefs in order to grow as a

community. A couple ways to start would be to host events between the already established cultural clubs."

AMAR SHABEEB, SENIOR:



"In order to become the fully accepting school that Lab thrives to be, we all need to make that effort to learn about others' faiths and the impact it has on their lives."

OLIVIA ISSA, JUNIOR:

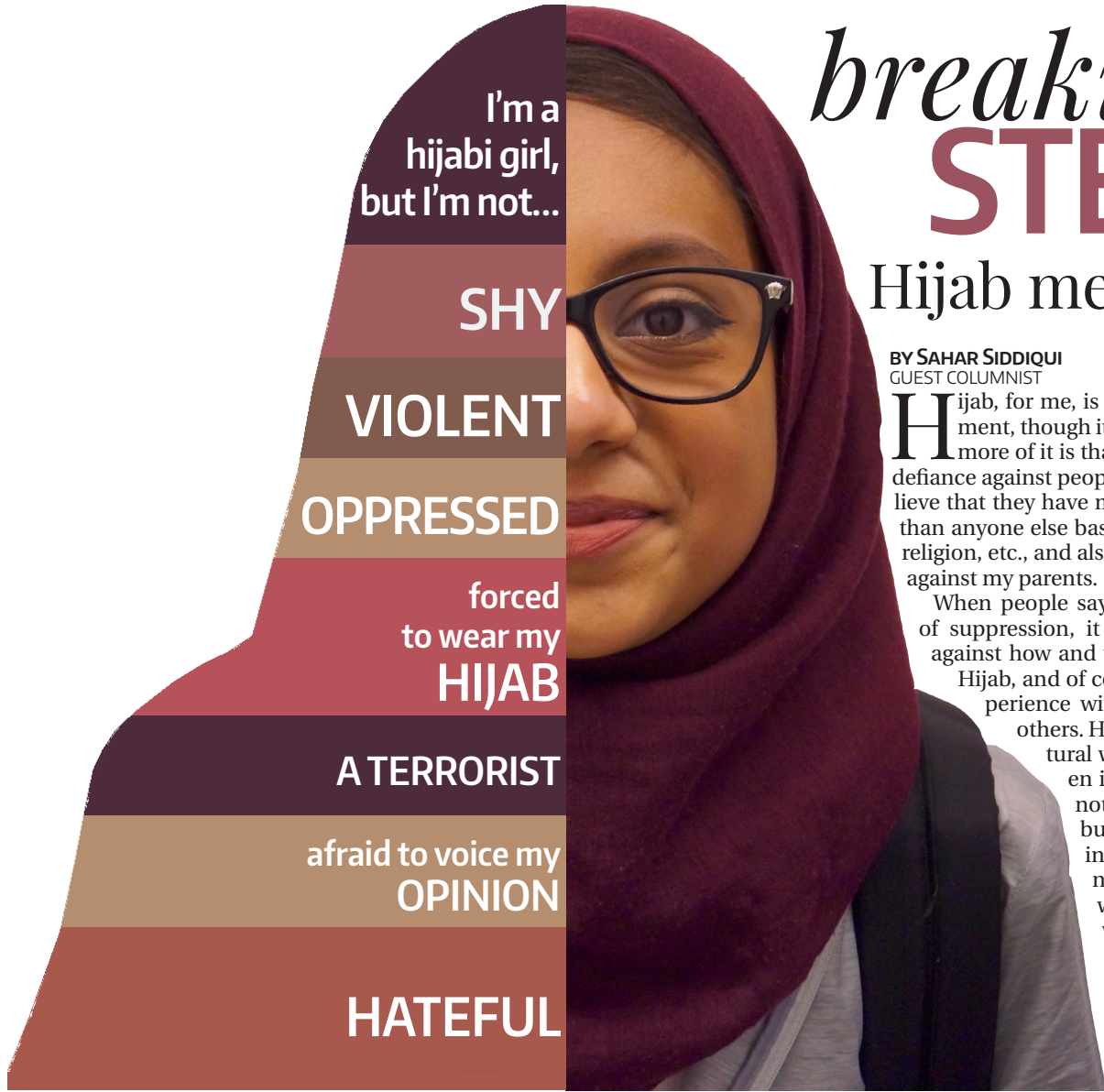


"I think interfaith discussion is crucial to understanding elements of the different perspectives each of us bring to the table, and for recognizing overlaps and differences in morals and values that we have."

MOHAMMED ALAUSA, SOPHOMORE:



"I think people can get along without discussing the ideas of their religion. These discussions always bring about conflict."



breaking STEREOTYPES

Hijab means defiance, junior says

BY SAHAR SIDDIQUI
GUEST COLUMNIST

Hijab, for me, is less of a religious garment, though it is to some extent, but more of it is that I wear it as an act of defiance against people in America who believe that they have more of a right to exist than anyone else based on their sex, color, religion, etc., and also as an act of defiance against my parents.

When people say that Hijab is a form of suppression, it kind of goes exactly against how and why I started wearing Hijab, and of course my personal experience with it is different than others. Hijab has become a cultural way to suppress women in some countries. I'm not going to deny that, but how I began wearing it was in the beginning of freshman year where my parents were against me wearing Hijab to school because of how much hate and negativity surrounds it, and for safety reasons, but I wanted to prove to

them that I was strong enough in my identity to do it. I wear Hijab to basically piss off my parents, not because I'm being forced in any way to.

To me Hijab forces me to be the best person I can be, even on my worst days, because I know that I'm representing 1.6 billion misrepresented people. It also kind of forced me to have this amazing confidence in myself and this unbreakable self identity that I think is something I would definitely be struggling to withhold had I not worn Hijab.

Wearing Hijab represents, to me, my freedom to express myself in whatever way I choose to, and it also reminds me of how blessed I was to be born in America where I'm able to wear Hijab and am given the choice to choose to wear it.

At this point Hijab has kind of become a part of me and I don't think about it a lot, but I do remember in the beginning I was much more tuned into the stares and glares, especially in my neighborhood. I do remember only one major instance of discrimination where a Whole Foods employee told me that I don't "belong in this store or in this country," but besides the occasional micro-aggression I really don't think there is any major discrimination I've faced based on it.

Sahaar is a junior.

Girls say wearing hijab serves as guideline for actions

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Most people wouldn't think twice about taking a run to the grocery store, but senior Amar Shabeeb has a more important job to fulfill than remembering her shopping list. As a Muslim girl in 2017, she knows from experience that many people have preconceived notions of Islam. She is hyper-aware of her actions, taking extra care to be polite and respectful as her colorful headscarf garners stares. To her, this outing is an opportunity, however small, to change the way others see her religion.



Amar Shabeeb

In a time of many misconceptions about Islam, Muslim girls are finding new meaning in their hijab and their religion as a way to take control of their appearance and to serve as a guideline for their actions.

According to Amar, wearing hijab helps people see her for something besides her physical appearance.

"When I go out in public with hijab, I feel like that's what people see me for," she said. "While you could definitely take that as a negative thing, I actually appreciate it because it means that people are seeing me for my identity and not for my physical appearance. You have to be really confident in your identity as a Muslim and not just rely on your physical appearance to make an impression on people."

Wearing hijab is empowering

for Amar as a female. Thus, she says it frustrates her when people say that Islam is sexist.

"In my experience, wearing hijab is empowering because it's all about valuing the mind over appearance, and I also know that a lot of hijabi girls feel that way. It frustrates me when people say that Islam is sexist because they are actually discounting the experience of many Muslim girls."

The attention Amar receives for wearing hijab leads her to be more watchful of her actions in public, she says.

"I always feel like people in public have each their own preconceived notions of Islam and that it's my duty to put forth a positive image of my religion," she said. "Wearing hijab gives me that sense of responsibility and meaning that causes me to constantly check my actions."

"Everyone has a voice, and its up to you to use it wisely. Use your talents and get recognized as a Muslim for them."

— Dania Baig, sophomore

Even for girls at Lab who don't wear hijab, Islam provides guidance for their actions. However, according to sophomore Dania Baig, not everyone understands that.

She said she has experienced misunderstanding most frequently at parties where there is peer pressure to drink. Many Muslims, including Dania, refrain from drinking alcohol.

While misunderstanding from non-Muslims around them can be disheartening, Myra Ziad, senior, says she can feel at home in

a newly-emerging online community of Muslim women.

"Especially now, the hijab is becoming something a lot more wearable," Myra said "I love that there is a rise in the number of Muslim fashion bloggers. They show that hijabi women also have unique senses of style and that they are not limited because of their hijab."

Although she doesn't wear hijab, Dania herself recently began contributing to the online community of Muslim bloggers. Her new blog, Liberty and Liberteas, focuses on the social justice issues that accompany being a Muslim in America as well as celebrating Muslim art and music.

"Everyone has a voice, and it's up to you to use it wisely," Dania wrote in a recent post. "Use your talents to your advantage, and get recognized as a Muslim for them."

Beauty in death: Junior taxidermies to honor creatures

BY PRIYANKA SHRIJAY
ASSISTANT EDITOR

A freeze dried alligator head stands on a sill. Rodents and birds fill jars. Insects are pinned to boards. Deceased animals line the shelves of junior Arjun Dhar's home as he honors their lives through taxidermy.

Arjun, who has always been devoted to animals, found his calling in the 8th grade. He stumbled upon a dead bird, and wanted to preserve it when he noticed the bird's "beauty." The following year, with the help of biology teacher Daniel Calleri, he learned how to do it.

"We dissected one of his pythons — of course, after it died — and we put the bones back together," Arjun said.

Snake in hand, Dr. Calleri described his experience with Arjun.

"Arjun was in my freshman bio class, and he'd already been doing a lot of his own kind of collection, you know, that general fascination someone has with bits and pieces of formerly living things — and living things," he said. "And he just started doing stuff which is how we work around here. Somebody shows an interest, we try to find a place to do that."

From insect pinning to mummification,

Arjun has tried as many methods of animal preservation as he could get his hands on, particularly jar preservation.

"I'm more into wet specimens, where you basically preserve the animal in liquid," he said. "So you just keep everything inside the animal. You don't have to remove the body cavity. You don't have to remove the organs. You just inject them with alcohol and put them in a jar and let them stay there."

Arjun has preserved birds, invertebrates, reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals like mice and rabbits. To build upon his taxidermy collection, Arjun obtains his specimens in a number of ways.

"There's the Starbucks at Saieh Hall, they've provided me with birds that hit the window," he said. "I've done a few mice because you can buy [dead mice] at PetSmart for snakes."

Looking to the future, Arjun finds that he would like to further his interest in taxidermy through entomology.

"I want to be an entomologist — I want to study bugs," Arjun said. "You can tell a lot about an environment — an ecosystem — based on the insects you find there, and preserving them is a really good way to go because what you do now might not seem

"Don't just let the animal rot, don't let its memory fade away — preserve it."

— Arjun Dhar, junior

important, but years from now researchers can use your collection."

When contemplating his interest in entomology, Arjun deliberated on the compelling characteristics of insects.

"Their movements, their diverse forms and behaviors, their predatory attributes — I just find it fascinating and have always collected living and dead insects," he said. "Most of my favorite living pets are insects or arachnids."

In considering taxidermy relative to other hobbies, Arjun deliberated on its ability to honor the lives of animals.

Taxidermy is definitely an odd hobby because of what we perceive what 'odd' is. There are not that many taxidermists around," he said. "Taxidermy, as long as it's ethical, it's kind of like a tribute to the animal ... Don't just let the animal rot, don't let its memory fade away — preserve it. It was beautiful in life. It can be beautiful in death."



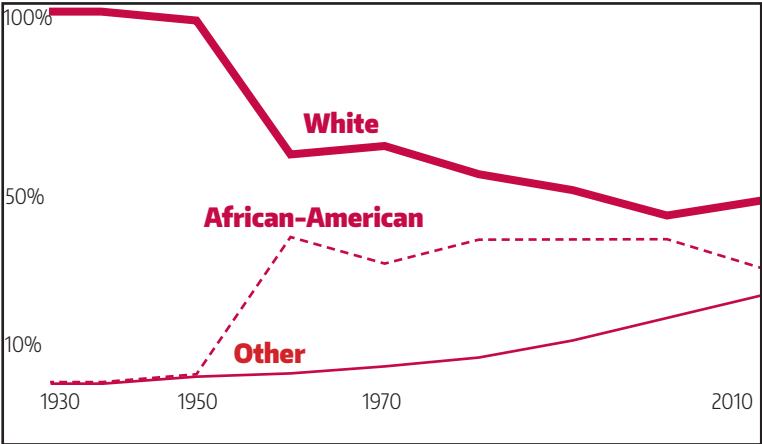
MIDWAY PHOTO BY LILLIAN NEMETH

ME AND MY ETERNAL CROW. Junior Arjun Dhar pets his taxidermied crow. He preserves insects, rodents, reptiles and birds. This bird was preserved using the stuffing method.

Changing Hyde Park – for better or for worse?

The University of Chicago and other neighborhood groups shaped Hyde Park into what it is today. It changed the community according to racial biases in the name of “urban renewal,” driving lower income people, mainly African-Americans, out of the neighborhood. Today, the U. of C. and Hyde Park community groups are encouraging the development of commerce and new housing. It is hard to say whether this is history repeating itself or a new step toward diversity and income equality.

TIMELINE, GRAPH AND TEXT BY JACOB POSNER



DATA SOURCE: ROB PARAL AND ASSOCIATES CONSULTING FIRM

GROWTH TOWARD DIVERSITY. Nearly a century ago, Hyde Park’s population was 98 percent white, but beginning around 1950, the white population decreased in proportion to an increase in the African-American population. Over the next decade of urban renewal, the Asian, Hispanic, Latino and mixed race populations grew, leading to the more racially diverse neighborhood today.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ALEC WYERS

FROM THE GROUND UP. Developers Antheus Capital and Mac Properties started building “Solstice on the Park” high-rise in October 2016. It is estimated to cost \$85.6 million and will open in spring 2018.

TERMINOLOGY
These terms and definitions help understand the usage in the timeline below.

Urban Renewal
Focused on housing reform and sanitary and public health measures, followed by growing emphasis on slum clearance and the relocation of population and industry from congested areas to less-crowded sites.
— ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA

Gentrification
The process of renewal and rebuilding accompanying the influx of middle-class or affluent people into deteriorating areas that often displaces poorer residents.
— MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY

Timuel Black, a civil rights activist and member of the Hyde Park Historical Society board would define gentrification, in the context of Hyde Park, as “organizing a specific community by class and income rather than race or any other divisive factors.”

Susan O’Connor Davis, author of “Chicago’s Historic Hyde Park,” would define gentrification in general as “the turnover of the demographics in a community, typically from those on the lower end of the economic spectrum to the higher end.”

HISTORIANS’ OPINIONS

While discussing whether the University of Chicago continues to have racial motivations today, historian and civil rights activist Timuel Black said, “Not by design, but in effect [the U. of C.] has that racial effect because of income — because of the money factor. Housing in Hyde Park is very, very expensive now, more expensive than it was in the days when I first moved in.”

Today’s strong, functional neighborhood of Hyde Park would not exist without urban renewal, according to author Susan O’Connor Davis.

“I don’t think the community today would exist had it not gone through urban renewal. If you drive further to the west, you can see what happened to communities,” Ms. Davis said. “Especially if you drive further north — you have to understand that in 1952, the only mechanism that the city had for dealing with urban blight and declining neighborhoods was clearing vast swaths of land.”

Past and present: U. of C. had hand in urban renewal, gentrification

Hyde Park has undergone shifts over the past 60 years — mainly at the hands of the University. While these shifts have displaced residents, they have also helped to rebuild the community and to increase its diversity.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 1949

Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference established with the objectives of “urban renewal, stabilization and neighborhood safety.” Representatives from 300 organizations attended the meeting, including the University of Chicago. The U. of C. was a major source of funding for the conference.

Present

According to the HPKCC website, the organization is still quite active. For example, it has a “disabilities task force” and has hosted open forums on the development of 53rd Street in recent years. The website also notes that HPKCC has advocated for “zoning changes to allow restoration and adaptive reuse of major aging assets.”

ENHANCING THE QUALITY 1952

South East Chicago Commission founded by the University of Chicago. Its purpose was “to enhance the quality of life” in Hyde Park, Kenwood, Oakland, Washington Park and Woodlawn.

Present

The SECC still influences Hyde Park, though it no longer plays as important a role in the development. Additionally, the U. of C. has started 20 community-engagement programs, the overarching purpose of which is to improve the surrounding environment. Through the Offices of Civic Engagement, the University is “anchoring communities” and “extending education” in Hyde Park and the mid-South Side.

TRANSFORMING COMMERCIAL AREAS 1955-1963

During this period of urban renewal, many restaurants and bars were demolished along with densely populated housing.

2007

U. of C. started a program which collaborates with the City of Chicago to “help revitalize the 53rd Street corridor,” according to the 53rd Street Blog which is run by the U. of C. The program has created over 1,100 jobs and helped over 20 businesses to develop.

TRANSFORMING RESIDENTIAL AREAS 1955-1963

Urban renewal led by the U. of C. and sanctioned by the HPKCC occurred. Older and derelict buildings were demolished, including walk-up flats on 55th Street, according to historian and author Susan O’Connor Davis. Almost 20 percent of the built environment was destroyed and longtime residents were displaced and forced into surrounding neighborhoods.

Present

A new apartment building being built at 56th Street and Stony Island Avenue. At City Hyde Park, new apartment building on Hyde Park Boulevard and Harper Avenue, monthly rents range from \$1,800-\$6,000, well above most others in the neighborhood.

La Pasadita: Best Mexican burrito for your buck

BY SAM FLEMING
MIDWAY REPORTER

Stepping inside one of the gray buildings lining Ashland Avenue, the bland concrete is suddenly interrupted by a burst of yellow light and the smell burrito and taco meat cooking on a grill.

You won’t find anywhere better in the city if you are looking for a great and cheap taco.

The sound of music in Spanish fills the steamy air as customers of all colors flow through the doors, ordering both in English and Spanish before sitting down on corn-flower yellow benches to dig into their food.

La Pasadita has been serving the Ukrainian Village community authentic Mexican food since 1976, and recently has become nationally famous for its award-winning burritos. But when you walk through the door, the atmosphere inside the restaurant is nothing but warm and welcoming.

The Espinoza family, which has owned the restaurant for all 41 years of its existence,

has managed to create a chain of Mexican-themed restaurants all over the north side of the city.

“My grandfather started the business and it has been passed down through the family for years,” said manager Cindy Espinoza. “We have been serving the community as long as I can remember and this restaurant has always been a large part of my life.”

Although La Pasadita specializes in Mexican food, it has become a staple in the community, working with local schools and Little League teams whenever asked. The restaurant has seen the neighborhood change a lot in the last few years, but it has remained constant.

At \$1.75 per taco, La Pasadita is the perfect place for a snack or a meal. The menu consists primarily of traditional tacos and burritos with choice of meat without many toppings, but if you are looking for a little more, their “loaded burrito” also comes with rice, beans, guacamole, tomatoes and lettuce.

La Pasadita
1140 N. Ashland Ave.
Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-1:30 a.m.
Friday-Sunday: 10 a.m.-3 a.m.

They also serve a host of dishes, like tortas and paradillas, not found at many other Mexican restaurants in the city and which are ideal to share with larger parties. Finally, they have \$8 “platillos,” perfect for a small dinner with friends.

La Pasadita has a wide variety of choices at every step and the staff is more than willing to provide recommendations if you get stuck not knowing exactly what you want.

“If you are only a little hungry grab a couple tacos, but if you’re starving go for a burrito,” Espinoza said. “For any first time customers I would recommend our steak burrito, but I can honestly say that everything on our menu is good.”



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

THAT’S A WRAP. Fragrant smells of grilled meat wrapped with fresh vegetables in a cozy tortilla fill La Pasadita as customers flow in and out. With great tacos for cheap prices, La Pasadita is a hot spot for late night snacks.

Spring on the trail

Chicago’s walking trails offer unique ways to enjoy the season

BY TALIA GOERGE-KARRON
NEWS EDITOR

With 570 parks, Chicago has greenery around every turn. Here are four different parks perfect for spring walks.

JACKSON PARK
Nearby to the school, starting on 6401 S. Stony Island Ave.

Close to the University of Chicago campus, Jackson Park’s location is unbeatable for residents of Hyde Park at 500 acres of land. Built in 1893 for the World’s Columbian Exposition, the park has a Japanese Garden called the Garden of the Phoenix, built for the government of Japan in 1893.

It now hosts Yoko Ono’s first American public art installation called “Sky Landing.” The Wooden Island, which was refurbished in 2016 and got “180 trees, 11,000 shrubs, and over 600,000 native plants” added, and is also the home to the Garden of the Phoenix. The park is the future site of the Obama Presidential Library.

Perfect for: A peaceful stroll through Hyde Park, a place to watch wildlife in the city.

What to expect: A large scale park with many different gardens and walking paths.

Make a day of it: Visit the park and the Museum of Science and Industry, located on the north end of the park. In addition the

park is close to the U. of C. Lab Schools, Promontory Point and the South Shore Cultural Center (7059 S. South Shore Dr.), which was the site of Barack and Michelle Obama’s wedding reception, and currently hosts events such as art showcases.

THE CHICAGO RIVERWALK
Lakeshore Drive to Franklin St. with major access points across the river at the DuSable Bridge, State Street, LaSalle Drive and the Franklin Street Bridge.

For a walk along the Chicago River, visit the Chicago Riverwalk. Located at the heart of downtown Chicago, the Riverwalk is located near shops on Michigan Ave, restaurants in the River North, and a 10-minute walk from Museum Campus to see the Chagall stained-glass windows.

Perfect for: Dates, a break from shopping or museum-going, a path to restaurants, shopping in the multiple venues on Michigan Avenue.

What to expect: A newly remodeled walkway right on the river with fantastic views of the Chicago skyline.

Make a day of it: Take the water taxi from Ping Tom Park, located in Chinatown at 1700 S. Wentworth Ave., and travel to the Riverwalk’s Clark Street stop for \$6 one-way or a \$10 all-day pass.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

LAKE SHORE WALK. The sun rises over the golf course by Jackson Park. The course will only look this way for a limited time, as it will be redesigned by golf star Tiger Woods next year. Walkers can continue along to reach the Lakefront Trail, which follows Lake Michigan to the North Side.

CHICAGO LAKEFRONT TRAIL
Starts at 71st Street (7100 S. South Shore Drive and goes until Ardmore Street (5800 N. Sheridan Road).

Spanning 18 miles, the Chicago Lakefront Trail starts at 71st Street (7100 S. South Shore Drive and goes until Ardmore Street (5800 N. Sheridan Road). After going through South Shore, the trail passes next to Museum Campus, Navy Pier, Lincoln Park Zoo, and ends in Edgewater.

Perfect for: Runners, a lazy walk next to downtown Chicago, a walk after going to Museum Campus or Navy Pier.

What to expect: A get-on-get-off trail that is accessible from any of Chicago’s lakefront neigh-

borhoods from South Shore until Edgewater.

Make a day of it: Walk from Museum Campus to Navy Pier, or vice versa. Walkers can also go from the Chicago Riverwalk to the Lakefront Trail, and take a stop at Millennium Park and the Bean.

THE 606 TRAIL
Between 1600 W. Ashland and 3750 Ridgeway, located near the CTA Blue Line. There are 17 entrance points, all accessible to people with disabilities.

Ready for a walk in the city? Located in Logan Square, the 606 trail opened in 2015 and goes for 2.7 miles. The old Bloomingdale train line closed in 2001 and Lo-

gan Square was 99 acres short of matching the quota for green spaces in the city of Chicago. The city decided to convert the old train line into an elevated trail for bikers, runners and walkers. The trail includes sites of Chicago manufacturing and parks like Kimball Park and Churchill Field.

Perfect for: Running, leisurely walking, sightseeing of old Chicago industry.

What to expect: An old elevated train line path.

Make a day of it: Go to Lillie’s Q (1856 W. North Ave.) for great barbeque or grab a delicious fried chicken sandwich at Parson’s Chicken & Fish (2952 W. Armitage Ave.).

New measures to protect athletes from head injury



MIDWAY PHOTO BY TERESA XIE

FIGHT FOR THE BALL. Junior Anna Kenig-Ziesler plays against North Shore Country Day April 6. The team is increasing safety regulations this year to avoid concussions.

BY SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With only a few minutes left of the soccer game, junior Katie Stolze is given the opportunity to play. Scoring is all she can think about. She goes for the ball full force and effectively kicks it into the goal, but falls from the force of her momentum. She didn’t know it yet, but the goal she scored came at the price of a severe concussion.

In order to prevent impact injuries such as Katie’s, Athletic Director David Ribbens and Principal Stephanie Weber will require that soccer players wear protective headgear during practice and training.

“Basically the inspiration for this measure was some research that came out recently,” Mr. Ribbens said. “American Orthopedic Sports published a study that showed first of all that soccer players incur the most concussions, and second, that protective headgear can actually diminish the effect of concussions.”

The girls soccer players have already been fitted for their head-

gear, and the shipment arrives next week. Mr. Ribbens explained that the boys will also be fitted for headgear in the fall.

“If there is any opportunity to keep our players safe, then we want to take that,” Mr. Ribbens said. “If two players run into each other during a game, then it would be optimal if both players were wearing headgear, so this is definitely an idea that we want to bring to the IHSA to get headgear for more soccer players in the state.”

Impact injuries, especially concussions, can have a negative effect on a player’s academics, mental health, and physical well being. Athletic trainer Ashley Alonso said she has seen by far the most concussions from soccer players.

Soccer players say that most outsiders don’t realize how aggressive the sport really is. Some girls say that the level of aggression in the sport is likely second only to football.

“Aggression is probably half of soccer,” Katie said. “Even if you don’t have much skill, just getting in there and getting the ball is al-

“I’m either going to get in there and get the ball or I’m going to be more careful and risk hurting my team.”

— Katie Stolze, soccer player

ready half the battle. Our coaches do tell us to play aggressively but safely for that reason.”

Katie has experienced that playing aggressively leads her to easily get injured, but that playing more carefully would mean that she wouldn’t be able to succeed to her fullest potential.

“I’m either going to get in there and get the ball or I’m going to be more careful and risk hurting my team,” she said.

Alyssa Russell, sophomore, has experienced that the level of aggression allowed in each soccer game is unpredictable. It all depends on the referee, she says.

“People get really into the sport, which is great,” she said. “But sometimes that leads to play which could cause someone to get

injured, and then it’s the ref’s job to step in. A few times when I got injured, people, including me, were just getting hit really hard and the ref wasn’t doing anything about it.”

Alyssa, Katie, and Sammy Rodman all agree that, since aggressive play is unavoidable, they all said that they appreciate the new headgear. According to Sammy, it would also be helpful if the players received training on how to stay safe in those situations.

“A lot of people think that it’s unattractive, but it’s better to be able to play your best without getting hurt than to play unprotected,” Sammy said. “Better safe than sorry.”

Katie feels that these new safety measures might help her balance playing safely while still being aggressive.

“My coaches tell me to play aggressively but safely, but that doesn’t happen for me and I just play aggressively,” she said. “I think headgear will help me prevent injuries without having to think about it all the time while I’m playing.”

TEAM RESULTS

GIRLS SOCCER, VARSITY

Notable: Both the varsity and junior varsity teams have been practicing together in the absence of a junior varsity coach. Bannon Strout has been hired on as the new head coach for the varsity team.

Recent Results: Lost to St. Ignatius College Prep April 18, 0-1; beat Prosser High School April 15, 3-0; lost to North Shore Country Day School, April 6, 0-2; beat F.W. Parker, April 2, 3-2; beat UNO Charter School-Garcia, March 28, 8-1.

GIRLS SOCCER, JUNIOR VARSITY

Recent Results: Lost to Willows Academy April 19, 0-4; beat Prosser High School April 15, 3-0; lost to F.W. Parker April 12, 2-0; lost to DeLaSalle April 8, 0-1; beat UNO Charter School-Garcia March 28, 1-0.

TRACK AND FIELD

Notable: Chavon Hussey broke a two-year girls long jump record at the Eric Nelson Invitational April 1, with a 17-00’ jump.

Recent Results: Placed ninth at the Niles West Boys Track and Field Invitational April 8; girls placed second and boys placed third at the Eric Nelson Invitational April 1; Charlie Marks placed ninth in both the 200m and 400m, while Lilia Wilson placed ninth in the 200m at Illinois Prep Top Times-Indoor Championship March 25; girls placed first, boys placed third at Midway Miles Indoor Meet #3 March 10.

BASEBALL, VARSITY

Notable: The team played 7 games on the annual spring training trip at Disney’s Wide World of Sports April 15-20, finishing 1-6.

Recent Results: Beat Jones College Prep

April 18, 7-3; beat North Shore Country Day both games in a double header April 15, 11-1 and 4-3; lost to F.W. Parker April 12, 3-1; lost to Benet Academy April 8, 8-2; South Shore International April 1, 10-0; beat Northridge College Prep March 31, 5-0; beat Golder College Prep March 28, 14-0.

BASEBALL, JUNIOR VARSITY

Recent Results: Lost to F.W. Parker April 12, 6-3; lost to Chicago Christian High School April 8, 9-3; beat Morgan Park Academy April 7, 14-3; beat Forest Park Academy/ South Shore International April 1, 16-3.

BOYS TENNIS, VARSITY

Notable: Jonathan Kutasov with Arjun Asokumar placed first in doubles, James Dill placed second in singles and Sam Fleming with Ajay Chopra placed second in doubles

at the Brother Rice Invitational April 15. The team placed second but is undefeated in singles matches.

Recent Results: Beat North Shore Country Day April 18, 5-0; placed second at the Brother Rice Invitational April 15; beat F.W. Parker April 12, 5-0; beat Morgan Park Academy April 11, 5-0; beat Marian Catholic High School April 6, 5-0; placed first at Jacobs High School Tournament April 1; beat Marist High School March 28, 5-0.

BOYS TENNIS, JUNIOR VARSITY

Recent Results: Beat North Shore Country Day April 18, 3-2; beat F.W. Parker April 12, 3-1; beat Morgan Park Academy April 11, 4-1; beat Marian Catholic High School April 6, 4-1; beat Marist High School March 28, 5-0.