

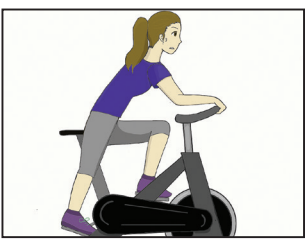
As student body grows, some worry about how Lab's culture will change with an influx of students who did not grow up in the Lab community while others welcome change.



Annual Martin Luther King assembly addressed social, gender and racial issues continuing into the present day, including use of the N-word.



Spin classes, healthy eating and meditation can help you keep a healthy mind and body for the new year, so you will be motivated to keep your resolutions.



University of Chicago Laboratory High School

U-HIGH MIDWAY

1362 East 59th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

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Club promotes equity within STEM field

Aiming to inspire girls in STEM, sophomore starts national club

by **LEAH EMANUEL**
ARTS EDITOR

A new U-High club is promoting equity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics through mentorship and outreach programs.

Women in STEM, a national organization founded by sophomore Ananya Asthana, bridges the gap at U-High between social activism clubs and academic clubs by creating a space for women who are interested in STEM fields, to network both academically and socially.

WiSTEM is a nationwide collaboration that now has chapters at eight schools in four states: Illinois, Pennsylvania, Indiana and New York. Each chapter follows approximately the same agenda, which is set by Ananya, but adjusts the program to for what is needed in their community.

The organization has a mentorship program pairing high school students with college students in STEM fields, and the U-High chapter will host an outreach event for elementary school girls.

After joining both math and science team as a freshman, it became apparent to Ananya that there are few junior and senior girls in the clubs.

Ananya said, "Especially at Lab, where we do have a whole culture of social justice, you still see that

See editorial on Page 7

disparity at junior and senior year. It's pretty disheartening to see, especially as a freshman."

Recognizing this disparity at U-High, Ananya began to learn more about the gender disparity issues in STEM fields, and wanted to find ways to empower girls to pursue STEM.

Sophomore club member Eve Grobman said, "I think for me it's most important to cultivate a love of STEM and have younger women realize they have the potential to go into fields that they may not have thought they could of and I think it's really important for me for everyone to either fulfill their dreams or realize their potential."

Ananya said she was inspired to start the mentorship program after reflecting on the impact of guest speakers. While she appreciates the value of guest speakers, but she said high school girls can find it hard to relate to speakers.

"It seems really disconnected when you just see successful women because you don't really know how they got there and it just seems like a story that you can't really relate to but that you can aspire to," Ananya said.

By pairing U-High students with University of Chicago students, Ananya hopes to better illuminate the path to a successful STEM career for high schoolers.

"It provides a tangible inspiration for high school girls to see what they can do in three or four years and where they could be,"



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

MUTUAL MOTIVATION. Sophomore Kaley Qin, right, talks with her mentor, Melis Ozkan, over coffee at Hallowed Grounds. The Women in STEM mentorship program is designed to provide girls with tangible inspiration for achieving their goals.

Ananya said.

Natalie Bakwin, a sophomore who serves as club's vice president and head of community service, said she especially values the independence of the mentorship program because it allows students the freedom to talk about whatever they want with their mentor. This can range from helping each other through a discrimination they may have experienced or celebrating a successful achievement together.

University of Illinois at Chicago.

Ananya's inspiration for the outreach program was to help young girls see their potential from an early age. She said that it is often recognized that gender disparity starts at a young age, but not a lot is done to prevent it from occurring early on.

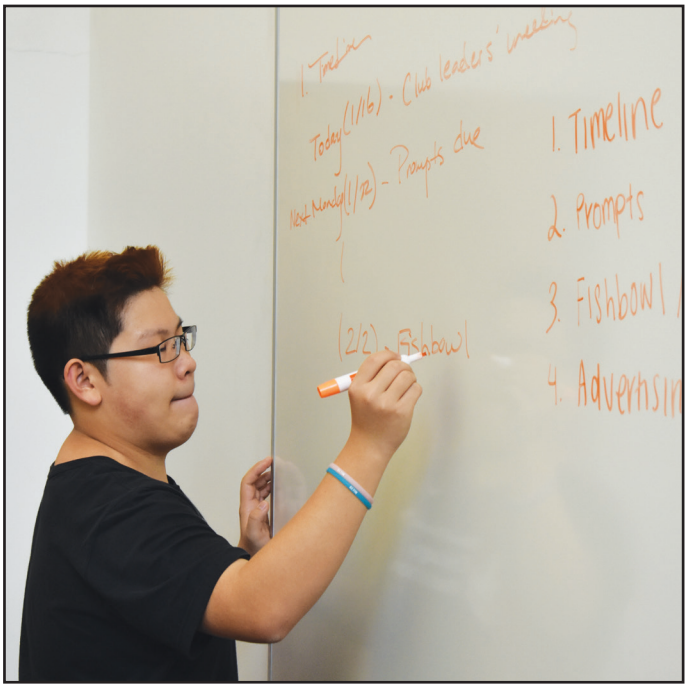
Natalie said, "Empowering girls at a younger age is really the best way to effect change."

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DICE DISCUSSION



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

FISHBOWL DISCUSSION. Junior Hongjia Chen writes plans for the Diversity Initiatives and Collaborative Efforts fishbowl discussion on a whiteboard. To promote progress, empathy and dialogue within the community, DICE will host the discussion Feb. 2 with prompts written by clubs. "There's been a lot of tension in the Lab community," Madison Christmas, a DICE leader, said, "so I feel like having a discussion with the sole purpose of helping bring the community together and highlight intersection between perspectives and identities is a good way to do that."

New classes added to course catalog for 2018-19 school year

by **SAMIRA GLAESER-KHAN**
NEWS EDITOR

When students begin to register for 2018-19 courses next month, they will have new options for core classes in English and science as well as new electives in other subjects.

Program of Studies booklets will be distributed next week. Course registration begins Feb. 5 and continues through Feb. 18.

As an extension of a decision last year to divide the English curriculum into English: Expository Writing or Literary Analysis, the department will offer to juniors English 3: Argument.

Students must have completed English 2: Expository in order to take English 3: Argument. The first part of English 3: Argument will focus on analyzing and assessing of logic and rhetoric in arguments about philosophy and current events. In the later half of the



Asra Ahmed

Timeline:

Jan. 26: Program of studies books distributed.

Feb. 5-18: Course registration in PowerSchool

Early May: High school schedules posted online

Week of Aug. 20: If needed students can meet with counselors to change their classes.

course, students will apply their argumentative skills to literary works.

Second-year science students have had the option to take either Chemistry M or Chemistry C, the former with a focus on math and the latter with a focus on practical applications. For next year, the science department will also split AT Chemistry into AT Chemistry M and AT Chemistry C.

After several years of low enrollment in AP Music Theory, the class will be replaced by Music Theory for the 21st Century Musician.

The elective will focus on theory and analysis of 21st century works and will cover a diverse variety of genres.

"The decision was designed to accommodate students who are looking for an advanced music theory course but who are not necessarily interested in the AP curriculum," Assistant Principal Asra Ahmed said. "The focus on modern music and the broad range of genres will hopefully make the course more interesting to a variety of students."

The world language department will offer Intensive Spanish, directed at students who have completed graduation requirements for language and are looking to start a new language their junior or senior year that they can continue learning in college. Intensive Spanish does not count as a graduation requirement.

Other changes to the courses offered are new biology electives: Evolution, Biomedical Ethics, and Environmental Science; and the renaming of several art courses to coincide with College Board requirements.

Lab to start hiring earlier for diverse options

by EMMA TRONE
SPORTS EDITOR

In order to attract and build a more diverse pool of applicants for open faculty positions, including four at U-High and others across the schools, the administration is moving up the timeline of the annual recruitment process.

According to Lab Schools Director Charlie Abelman, the diversity recruitment efforts of past years were less successful because of delays in advertising and starting the interview process. The administration and departments worked to confirm and advertise vacancies earlier in the year, Dr. Abelman said.



Charlie Abelman



Stephanie Weber

"The later you are in the market, the harder it is to get a robust pool of candidates," Dr. Abelman said. "If you want that robustness to include candidates of color, or other aspects of diversity, it's just more difficult later."

Dr. Abelman said he intends

to become involved in the recruitment process much earlier in his role as director, differing from his predecessors who were only involved in the final stages of the search.

"One of the things I'm going to do is ask the selection committees, before they finalize the list of who they're inviting to campus, to be able to see that group of people," he said. "By involving myself earlier in the process, I can be more informed and help influence the hiring."

In the high school, the search for candidates to fill English and History teaching positions and two counseling positions is already

"In all hiring in the high school, we have the commitment and the concern that we really need to be more successful in bringing in and hiring more candidates of color."

—STEPHANIE WEBER,
PRINCIPAL

in motion, owing to the moved-up recruiting timeline. Principal Stephanie Weber, other administrators and faculty members plan to attend hiring conferences, including one in late January, that

focus on diversity hiring in independent schools. Hiring conferences give both schools and teachers the chance to network and allows schools to interview potential faculty members.

"In all hiring in the high school, we have the commitment and the concern that we really need to be more successful in bringing in and hiring more candidates of color," Ms. Weber said. "Not only are there very highly qualified people, but it's also important for the educational environment for everybody — for students of color, for white students, for educators — to really work with a diverse population that brings diverse perspectives."

Coders named finalists at Facebook Hackathon

by IVÁN BECK
ASSISTANT EDITOR

It is widely accepted that teenagers have strong opinions and feelings about social media, but does social media know about human feelings? Can Facebook comprehend our emotions?

Those are questions that a team affiliated with U-High tried to answer at Facebook's national hackathon, a marathon coding event where teams have 24 hours to create innovative code. The event was held in Menlo Park, California on Nov. 17.

The U-High team of senior Ashwin Aggarwal and 2017 graduates Alex Gajewski, Jonathan Lipman and Wanqi Zhu placed as a finalist with an application that can read a person's mood.

The app combines biometric data

from smart watches with a person's Facebook posts to determine whether an individual is sad.

"The project ended up being successful because of its social impact," Ashwin said. "It's one of the few legit applications of smart-watch data that tries to combat sadness."

The team from Carnegie Mellon University won the event.

The Lab team had been designated "Facebook's Favorite" at HackIllinois, held at the University of Chicago at Illinois in February 2017. The team members enjoyed working together.

"In the end, I really enjoyed hacking with the other three," Ashwin said. "I definitely think we all learned a lot, not only from the project but from meeting other hackers or employees."



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ASHWIN AGGARWAL

CODING FOR THE WIN. A U-High team of senior Ashwin Aggarwal and 2017 graduates Jonathan Lipman, Wanqi Zhu and Alex Gajewski placed as finalists in Facebook's national Hackathon, which took place on Nov. 17, in Menlo Park, California. Their submission was an app that determined a person's mood using biometric data from smartwatches.

SNOW DAY



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

FRESH POWDER. Throwing snowballs in the freezing cold, seniors James Woodruff and Christian Brookens went out to enjoy the cold weather Jan. 16.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Back to the '20s with winter formal "Great Gatsby" theme

With a "Great Gatsby" theme, the winter formal dance will be held from 7:30-10:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in Ida Noyes Hall.

Student Council has hired a new DJ for the dance, called DJ Enigma. Tickets will be \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Student Council will also host a spirit week leading up to the dance, where students are encouraged to dress according to specific daily themes: Monday, Pajama Day; Tuesday, Twin Day; Wednesday, Denim Day; Thursday, Beach Day; and Friday, Grade Color Day.

The coat check system will change. Instead of writing numbers on people's hands, Student Council will give out colored wristbands to write numbers on instead, Cultural Union President Florence Almeda said.

— KATERINA LOPEZ

New alumni relations director to replace interim director

Nora Hennessey has been named Laboratory Schools executive director of alumni relations and development. She began Jan. 17 and replaces Alice DuBose, who has been working as interim director for two years.

Most recently, Ms. Hennessey worked at the University of Chicago as the Associate Dean and Director of the Development Division of the Humanities. Within this role, Ms. Hennessey worked with the dean to advance the activities of 200 faculty members and over 800 graduate students. She also oversaw \$60 million in fundraising.

"All around Lab is evidence of learning. I am inspired by seeing the students and teachers in action," Ms. Hennessey said. "The University of Chicago is also a remarkable place. Having worked here for several years, I am excited to get to now be a part of Lab and to help create new collaborations across campus that positively benefit students and teachers."

— NATALIE GLICK



Nora Hennessey

Asian Students' Association hosting New Year food celebration

For the celebration of Chinese Lunar New Year, which is from Feb. 15-17, Asian Students' Association will host a three-day festival to welcome the Year of the Earth Dog.

ASA members will serve a different cuisine each day of the festival, beginning with Chinese food Feb. 14, Vietnamese food Feb. 15 and Korean food Feb. 16. ASA will also host Lunar New Year-themed games at the festival.

— SAM FLEMING

Submit Social Justice Week workshop, speaker ideas by Feb. 7

The social justice committee is now accepting workshop, T-shirt design and button design submissions through Feb. 7, for Social Justice Week, which will take place April 12-16. The theme is "WE ARE," an acronym for Woke, Equal, Activist, Resisting and Engage.

Each day will focus on a word of "WE ARE," such as Woke for Monday, and so on. An extended assembly will be held Feb. 15 for students to attend workshops, similar to Social Justice Week 2016.

Questions can be directed to committee president Elizabeth Van Ha or to Franz Wild.

— IVÁN BECK

Debate team receives fifth bid to the Tournament of Champions

After a month off, the debate team won two more bids to the Tournament of Champions in the opening weekends of winter quarter.

At the Billy Tate Southern Bell Forum Jan. 6-8 in Nashville, Tennessee, seniors Michael Hellie and Dheven Unni went to octafinals as the 12th seed. The two also competed at the Lexington Winter Invitational Jan. 13 in Boston, where they placed second.

With five bids to the Tournament of Champions, which are won by placing highly at competitive tournaments, Michael and Dheven are tied for the fifth most bids in the country.

— TALIA GOERGE-KARRON

Great depth, beauty within powerful poems

Though differently, all readers can relate to ‘The Sun and her Flowers’

by **PRIYANKA SHRIJAY**
OPINION EDITOR

Indian-Canadian poet Ru-pi Kaur writes about the universal experience of self-doubt and the process of healing by accepting herself in her October-released poetry collection, “The Sun and her Flowers.” Although seemingly simplistic and banal in concept, Kaur’s poetry is set apart by the raw, straightforward emotion with which she writes.

Separated into five chapters whose titles — “wilting,” “falling,” “rooting,” “rising” and “blooming” — describe the narrator’s emotional state, the book begins with Kaur’s portrayal of personal heart-break, then it explores the root of her emotional difficulties, and in using the pages to examine her post-abusive-relationship depression and honor her heritage, she finds a way to move forward and find value in herself.

Reading this story told in verse allows a reader the unconventional opportunity to read through a thought-process, a recovery process. The narrator goes through extreme self-doubt; she writes, “i wondered what if nothing wants me because I do not want me.” She

has to actively work to undo said self-doubt and find the roots of her qualms. Kaur writes, ““i think i just wanted something was ready to give myself to something i believed was bigger than myself and when i saw someone who could probably fit the part i made it very much my intention to make him my counterpart.” She eventually, and inspiringly It is not a clean-cut story with a direct plot. The reader watches the narrator work through her problems with a natural uncertainty and authenticity, having setbacks, but ultimately pressing on.

Glancing at a page of “The Sun and Her Flowers,” readers will find a verse written in deliberately simple language with little to no punctuation: poetry in its most stripped down form. Paired with the stanza is an understated, doodle-style illustration in black and white. Unlike many poetry books, Kaur’s work is not a collection of distinct, unrelated poems; it is a string of conceptually different strophes which constitute an emotional journey.

While the syntax is simple and broken down, some lines hit the reader with an unexpected, intel-

lectually-stimulating depth. Lines like her address to refugee camps, “you are an open wound and we are standing in a pool of your blood,” contribute to that effect. She says of her heartache, “you are waiting for someone who is not coming back meaning you are living your life hoping that someone will realize they can’t live theirs without you — realizations don’t work like that.” Even in their apparent plainness, some lines are thought-provoking enough to warrant several rereadings.

A great deal of the power lies in Kaur’s refusal to hold back or sugar-coat her thoughts. She is not afraid to let the reader feel uncomfortable in certain instances if in doing so, she is writing honestly.

In addition to being a personal exploration, Kaur’s release shines a light on critical issues: immigrant hardships, sexism, abuse and rape culture to name a few prominent themes.

Kaur writes in an exposing way which is transformative enough to touch all readers, so even if one has not experienced the kinds of heartache and loss described in “The Sun and Her Flowers,” they still undergo the emotional journey. As a lesson in empathy — as a reminder of the significance of self-acceptance — this book is a well-written, worthwhile read.

*this is the recipe of life
said my mother
as she held me in her arms as i wept
think of those flowers you plant
in the garden each year
they will teach you
that people too
must wilt
fall
root
rise
in order to bloom*



THE RECIPE OF LIFE. Above, a poem and illustraton from the back cover of “The Sun and Her Flowers.” The poetry book is available for check-out at the Pritzker Traubert Library.

Familial connections create love for country music

by **IVÁN BECK**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Each year, over 150,000 people gather in Indio, California, to listen to several performers at the world’s largest country fest. But Chicago country music fans don’t have to travel far to experience a big festival. The LakeShake Festival welcomes about 50,000 fans for three days each June at Northerly Island Pavilion.

In 2016, country music had 10 percent of all U.S. album sales, and a study in 2016 showed that the country music fanbase is be-

coming younger and more racial-ly diverse. But that large and growing fanbase is not reflected at Lab.

The music, for the most part, has a differing style and audience than people encounter at U-High. However, for some people who find country music entertaining, the tunes connect them to their roots and to their families.

One student who enjoys country music is junior Sammy Rodman.

The primary reason she listens to country is because it allows her to connect with her dad, since they listen to it together.

She explained that the two of them often listen to country songs when they have to travel somewhere in the car.

Zach Leslie, a sophomore who also enjoys country music, agrees.

He said, “I think it has helped me connect with my family and friends when we go to Arizona for spring break. On that trip we listen to a lot of country music, and it’s really fun to sing along with my friends.”

Although these students have found connections through the music, both agreed this connec-

tion was often not found at Lab.

“I feel like country music is not the most popular genre at Lab,” Zach said, “so there isn’t a lot of time where country is being played publicly.”

The fan base among U-High students may grow soon.

Sammy said she often urges her friends to listen to country music, explaining that by overcoming the idea that the music is “redneck” or “hillbilly” people would find country music to be relatable and enjoyable.

The themes of living in the

South, working hard and finding love combined with the sound of a guitar, banjo, or accordian are not only relatable for Southerners, as several U-High students have discovered.

The Lake Shake Festival, June 22-24 on the shore of Lake Michigan, provides an upcoming opportunity to explore country music.

The event will feature prominent artist such as Blake Shelton, Dylan Scott, Tracy Lawrence, and others, in what the Chicago Tribune called “Chicago’s biggest weekend for country music.”

‘Downsizing’ provides complex characters, strong cinematography

by **GRACE ZHANG**
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Being small is a big deal. Hosting parties every day, relaxing at home instead of working, and living the rich life of one’s dreams are all part of reality in Leisureland.

In a land where big problems disappear and there’s no stress, it’s easy to forget one is five inches tall, until they see a vodka bottle on its side with a faucet at a party.

Despite the lack of a strong political message, science fiction comedy-drama “Downsizing” is a worthwhile film that features funny, mesmerizing scenes and a charming storyline.

In theaters since Dec. 22, the film stars Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz, Hong Chau, Kristen Wiig and Rolf Lassgård.

“Downsizing,” a procedure that shrinks people to a height of five inches, is a solution for lack of resources caused by overpopulation.

Although it is part of the plotline, global climate and issues are not primary focuses. Characters and their development throughout the movie is a bigger, important aspect.

Damon and Wiig play Paul and Audrey Safranek, a couple from

Omaha who decide to downsize to improve their lives. Downsizing, in addition to helping

the planet, is also a stress reliever and a chance to start over. Money is worth more, and resources are cheaper.

Convinced by the benefits, Paul and Audrey move to the Leisureland community, a so-called “paradise,” for those who downsized. Audrey’s sudden withdrawal from shrinking right before the process leaves Paul on his own to start over in Leisureland.

A question constantly tested is how far Paul is willing to go to become rich and help the environment.

The film has important, benevolent, complex and compelling characters such as Ngoc Lan Tran, played by Chau, who earned a Golden Globe nomination for Best Supporting Actress.

Ngoc Lan speaks with a strong Vietnamese accent and is a dissident who also had her leg amputated.

Living in the most impoverished parts of the downsized community, she is an activist and able to care for herself and is eager to help everyone and anyone, despite having a disability.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

SHRINKING SMALL. Paul Safranek, played by Matt Damon, leans down to talk to his friend Dave Johnson, Jason Sudeikis, about the benefits of downsizing. In the movie, the process of downsizing was created as a solution to the climate change crisis, but the movie also includes character exploration and a comedic outlook.

Ngoc Lan has a sense of purpose in life, is determined and not afraid to convey her thoughts — a character most movies do not include or highlight.

Paul’s character falls a little bit short of expectations, though.

He seems adamant about his decisions but lacks his own point of view, instead following others.

Nonetheless, how he loves to help others is admirable, and he is funny. It’s interesting to see what decisions he makes next.

Downsizing also provides an appropriate and amazing opportunity to film from unique angles.

The cinematography is enthralling and captivates audiences with its special effects.

The details enhance the difference between life-size and downsized objects and it’s amusing to see that difference, such as seeing dandelions towering over people and Dave Johnson, Paul’s high school friend, sitting on a snack box in the kitchen while talking about the benefits of downsizing.

“Downsizing” is a worthy movie to sit in with parents and eat with popcorn that will guarantee laughs. It is rated R for language, drug use and nudity.

S.E.T. will have more original writing

This year Student Experimental Theater’s production will feature 11 short plays.

Auditions for roles began on Jan. 3, and performances will be Thursday through Saturday, Feb. 22-24.

A different student director will manage each short, making a total of 12 to 13 directors.

Tommy Hsee, a junior and one of the directors, explained that this year more original works were included as opposed to previous years.

Each of these works were written by students.

He also said all the directors are veteran members of the theater, a fact that is different from previous years.

“Hopefully, that will bring exciting theater to the audience this year and increase the level of professionalism that U-High Theatre is known for,” Tommy said.

Junior Dania Baig, another director, emphasized that the plays being performed this year will be more rigorous.

The directors and cast members will practice for one to two hours until the day of the production.

— IVÁN BECK

After expansion, student body must adapt

by **MICHAEL RUBIN**
MANAGING EDITOR

Lab is at a crossroads. In the aftermath of the planned expansion, dynamics within the student body have shifted. The U-High student body is faced with a decision to either resist the expansion or welcome the benefits of added diversity and new perspectives.

In fall quarter, Principal Stephanie Weber spoke to the school at an assembly about inappropriate messages posted to social media. She said at the time that the messages ran counter to the Lab Schools' values. Some students were quick to assign blame to the influx of newer students who did not grow up as part of the Lab Schools community.

Suzanne Baum, a French and Spanish teacher, who has been a member of the Lab school community as a student, teacher and parent, believes the growing size of the high school may encourage more hateful comments on social media.

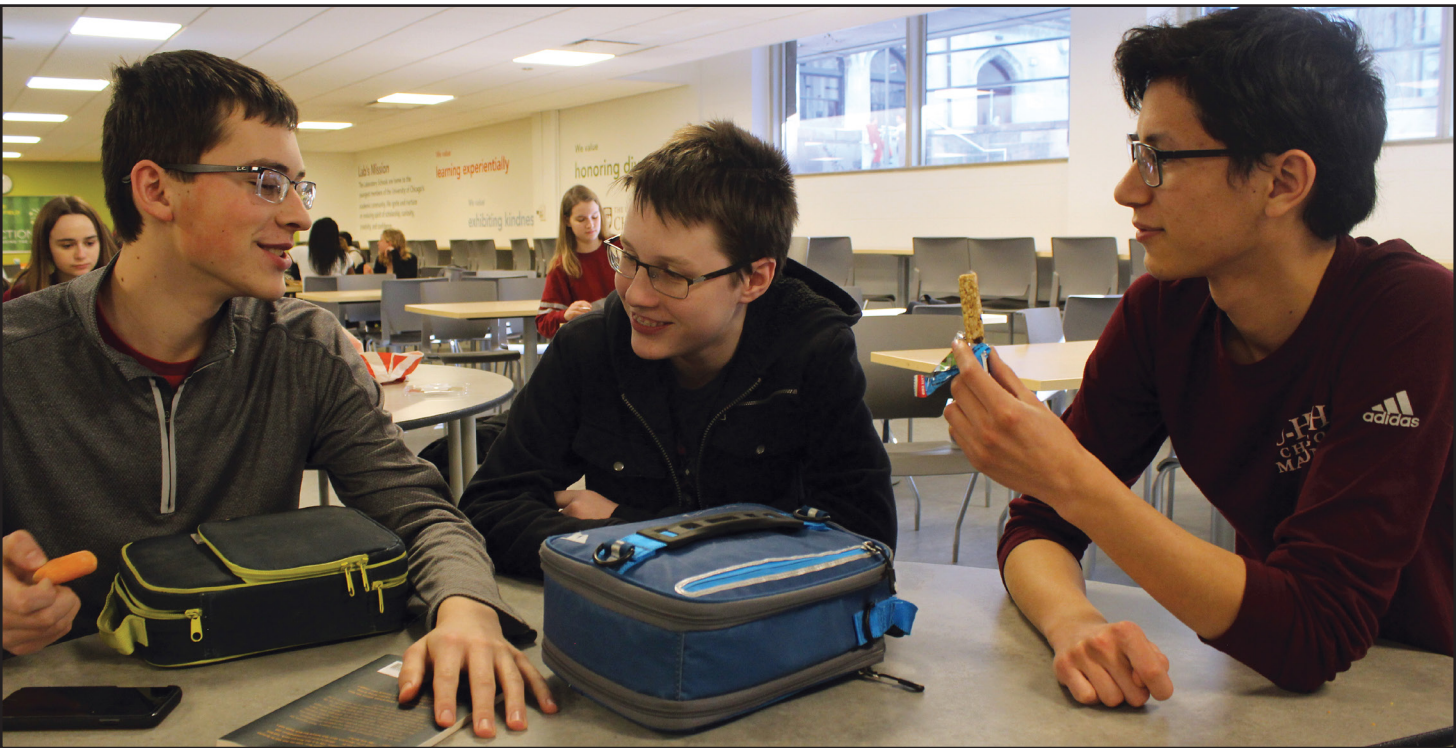
"One fear I have is based on recent events in the high school on social media. With the negativity, the racism, the anti-Semitism, I fear that we are going to lose a sense of community," Ms. Baum said. "We can't just blame the new people, but I think that there is a deeper sense of responsibility and giving back to the community when you've been going to the school since pre-school."

Ms. Baum also feels that the student body is less diverse than when she began attending the Lab Schools in seventh grade in the 1980s.

"The first thing I noticed in 1993 as a teacher was many fewer African-American students and many more Asian-American students," Ms. Baum said. "I feel, today, still, there are fewer African-American students than there were in the 1980s."

According to Irene Reed, a Lab alumna who now serves as Director of Admissions, the Lab Schools has ongoing efforts to diversify the student body by advertising to communities of across Chicago.

"Each year, members of the admissions team visit more than 20 K-8 schools, as well as school fairs through organizations like High Jump and the Daniel Murphy Scholarship Foundation," Ms. Reed wrote via email. "The purpose of these fairs is to meet prospective families and explain the tremendous value Lab can bring to a student. While



MIDWAY PHOTO BY EMERSON WRIGHT

ENJOYING COMMUNITY. Juniors Ben Epley, Derek de Jong and Abraham Zelchenko talk at a cafeteria table during lunch. Ben came to Lab as a freshman, Derek

in fourth grade and Abraham in Nursery 3. Their different lengths of time at Lab haven't affected the strength of their friendships.

"Anytime you have a community that people have a deep sense of ownership for, and a deep commitment to, and you start to grow that community ... people always want to hunker down."

— ANA CAMPOS, DEAN OF STUDENTS

some of the schools admissions [staff] visits have an established relationship with Lab, admissions [staff] makes an effort to reach out to new and different schools in underserved communities, and in communities where families may know less about our school."

Ms. Weber views the growth as a long-term acclimation process. To help guide the school during this change, the administration will monitor the growing classes and address issues as they arise.

"Growth takes careful planning, and the administration has had a long-term plan to grow the schools. Part of that planning took into consideration the impact on program and school culture including sections and staffing, athletics, student services, and aspects of school culture and community that are not easily measured," Ms. Weber wrote via email. "Growth by its nature is not seamless, and we will continue examining the impact of growth for the next several years even after the growth is complete both to address concerns and identify opportunities."

In a similar vein, Dean of Students Ana Campos is confident that the expansion will yield positive results in the future, and she believes that returning members of the Lab Schools community should focus their efforts on welcoming new students.

"Anytime you have a community that people have a deep sense of ownership for, and a deep commitment to, and you start to grow that community, and it starts to feel

different, people always want to hunker down," Ms. Campos said. "I totally understand that, but I'm not afraid of it because in the grand scheme of things these are the decisions made over 10 years ago by people who aren't here anymore. I can either focus on what's challenging about it, or I can spend my energy on developing strategies to try and work within the situation."

Moving forward, Ms. Campos believes increasing school-sponsored events will help unify the student body and further welcome new students into the community.

Ms. Campos said she feels one challenge is figuring out how people get to know and to recognize one another and how to encourage more of that within the Lab community.

She said, "One of the things I have been thinking about is how we can create additional grade level events throughout a school year in order to encourage more class unity and all-school events in order to bring together the whole school."

Hyde Park cafés warm winter with coffee

by **PRIYANKA SHRIJAY**
OPINION EDITOR
and **KATERINA LOPEZ**
MIDWAY REPORTER

High school students, fatigued by their schoolwork and busy lives, often rely on coffee to get through the day. Luckily for them, the U. of C. campus vicinity is packed with cafés.

Walk into **Plein Air Cafe**, and you are greeted with the buzz of conversation, the sight of fingers flying across keyboards, and a scent of coffee and eggs wafting from the kitchen. The café is warm with

plenty of natural lighting. The decorations vary in style, from modern paintings to a vintage speaker hoisted on the café's wall. Seated throughout the venue are students and professionals of all ages, many hard at work. Heading toward the quaint, white counter, customers are greeted by smiling, energetic employees. A 12-ounce drip coffee is \$2.50. It is strong, on the bitter side and thicker than Starbucks' medium roast coffee.

Starbucks located in Judd Hall offers a drip coffee that is weaker and sweeter than that of Plein Air

but appetizing nonetheless. The shop bustles with eager students craving a caffeine fix. Employees are friendly and familiar with students. Seeing and conversing with one another frequently creates an evident bond between students and baristas. A 12-ounce coffee is \$1.40.

Also with an inviting atmosphere, **Dollop Coffee Co.** has more modern decor. Busy college students fill the café, typing on computers and concentrating on heavy books. There is mid-toned conversation throughout the café

between students. Employees greet you and take your order in a friendly way. It has a more quiet environment than other coffee shops without a stressful feeling. A small drip coffee is \$2.10. It is not too strong but the taste of the coffee bean still comes through.

Dubbed "where God drinks coffee," the U. of C. Divinity School coffee shop, **Grounds of Being**, offers a variety of coffees. The standard drip coffees are strong and diverse in roast. Given the excellent and renowned coffee shop is often full of chattering,



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

CREAMY EXCELLENCE. Plein Air Cafe, 5751 S. Woodlawn Ave., offers a variety of excellent coffee.

Freshman check-in After completing their first quarter, freshmen feel more comfortable in the high school community

The Midway checked in with five of the freshmen interviewed in September. The students spoke about the integration of new-to-Lab freshmen into the existing class — the students who had been at Lab during eighth grade — and the transition to normalcy after the culture shock of their arrival.

Both freshmen new to Lab and returning students have now spent four months within a new community, experiencing the disquieting transition to high school: daily interactions with older students, affinity clubs, high school drama and the looming threat of college. But they have begun to understand and adapt to the new environment.

— NATALIE GLICK AND
ABBY SLIMMON



Mikaela Ewing



Noor Asad

"I think that because the structure of the classes vary, students really need to get the layout of each one so that we know which to spend the most time on and what the teachers expect to see. There are also a lot of resources we can use to get help with including teachers and tutors and even counselors."

"The friends I've made don't treat me any differently than their old friends anymore. The disconnect kind of left. Small things come up from previous years but it's not a big deal and not very apparent in my daily life. I'm pretty happy with my classes and my experience at Lab so far."



Joshua Ravichandran



Iris Xie

"Since the beginning of the year, everyone has gotten to know each other better. We've all become closer friends and I've felt welcomed by the kids that went to middle school here. The hallways used to feel very hectic but now they don't because the people that I see moving through are people I know now."

"As the year progressed, the new kids have gotten more integrated and you can't really tell who's new and who's not. Classes have been going okay but they are much more fast paced than I expected, but as the year has gone on I've gotten more used to it."

Assembly shines light on hidden discrimination

Coordinators use theme to show MLK’s legacy

by **DHEVEN UNNI**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Topics from the N-word to sexual assault were broached at this year’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. assembly Jan. 11 in Gordon Parks Assembly Hall.



Ron Tunis

Black Students’ Association, chose the theme “The Path We’re On: Civil Rights 1968-2018” to observe Dr. King’s 89th birthday. BSA put the assembly together with faculty sponsors Camille Baughn-Cunningham, Naa-dia Owens and Ron Tunis.

“In the past, the assembly has been geared towards the history of the Civil Rights movement, but this year since we have a newer board we wanted to focus less on the history and more on the legacy of what Martin Luther King did,” junior Soundjata Sharod, BSA public relations officer, said. “I think that’s really important to move towards imagining the future. That can be very beneficial to orient ourselves towards new movements and political activism like Black Lives Matter.”

Keynote speaker Randi Gloss, who founded Glossrags, a company that makes apparel memorializing the lives of black women and men, focused on the use of the N-word.

While Mr. Tunis said he enjoyed the speech, he said the content was unexpected and that her talk was shorter than he thought it would be.

“Normally when we have a speaker, we don’t ask what they’re going to say but we certainly give them an idea of the direction we want them to go,” Mr. Tunis said. “I didn’t have a problem with the direction she went, but it was a slight departure from what our goal was.”

As he is retiring later this year, Ron Tunis attended his last MLK assembly as BSA sponsor. Mr. Tunis has been involved with the MLK assembly for 20 years.

“It felt very different for me,” Mr. Tunis said. “The words ‘last’ and ‘final’ are uncomfortable terms for me. When I think about the cycle of life, it’s inevitable one moves on and does different things.”



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

TABOO TERMS. Keynote speaker Randi Gloss speaks about the social implications of using the N-word in any conversation. Ms. Gloss runs the clothing company Glossrags, which is famous for placing on T-shirts the names of young black men shot by police.

“It was more brief than what we thought it would be. Normally when we have a speaker, we don’t ask what they’re going to say but we certainly give them an idea of the direction we want them to go. I didn’t have a problem with the direction she went, but it was a slight departure from what our goal was.”

— RON TUNIS, COUNSELOR

Just as Feminist Club looked at how women’s rights have changed globally in the 20th century to now, many of the performances looked back on how issues of social justice have changed throughout history. Feminist Club members cited statistics from a survey the club conducted of about 100 U-High students regarding catcalling, sexual assault and other microaggressions.

Aside from BSA, contributing groups included the Concert Choir, Asian Students’ Association, Feminist Club, Jazz Band, Jewish Students’ Association, Chamber Collective, and individual students and faculty.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAM FLEMING

SPEAKING TO THE BEAT. Sophomore Ariel Montague speaks the lyrics of “The World” by funk musician Gil Scott-Heron while Jazz Band plays the rest of the song. Mr. Scott-Heron is most widely known for his use of music as a form of protest, which made it fitting for Ariel to use it as spoken word.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY ISABELLA KELLERMEIER

SHOCKING STATISTICS. Senior Miranda Mireles shares statistics gathered by the Feminist Club about students’ experiences with sexual violence and harassment. The club used a survey shared to Facebook in order to highlight that experiences with gender discrimination was not a problem exclusively outside of Lab.

For respectful discussion, N-word use must stop

by **SAM FLEMING**
CHICAGO LIFE EDITOR

I know you and your friends say it when nobody is around to call you out. I know because I’ve heard it slip out a few times and the awkward silence and apology that comes after. I understand that you don’t like being told what you can and can’t say, and I get that it really doesn’t make sense to you for one race to claim ownership of a word. But although I understand that you feel you have the right to use the “N-word,” I don’t get why you do.



Non-black people should not use the N-word. I am more than happy to have a

“Non-black people should not use the N-word. I am more than happy to have a conversation about the nuances of black people using the N-word, but in order for anything productive to come from them you need to respect me by not using it first.”

conversation about the nuances of black people using the N-word, but in order for anything productive to come from them you need to respect me by not using it first.

The N-word offends me and it is important that everyone in the Lab community

knows that we have the right to be offended. People being offended starts important conversations; whether you’re offended about use of the N-word, PC culture, affirmative action or one of the variety of other issues being talked about in whispers around the school, you should never feel afraid to start a conversation. These conversations need to happen, but in order to have any successful dialogue there needs to be a basis of respect.

Using the N-word behind closed doors gets rid of that basis of because using it shows a complete lack of respect for my voice in any conversation. The N-word doesn’t offend me because of the deep-rooted history of the word, and it doesn’t offend me because I believe anybody who says it is inherently racist. It offends me because

using it shows that respecting me and respecting what makes me comfortable is not something that you value. It is cowardly to use the word only when nobody black is around to object, because you are creating an echo chamber where your language can never be challenged. Although you may not see using the N-word as a big deal, as a member of your high school community, I want you to respect that I do.

So although debate can be open as to whether black people’s use of the N-word creates a double standard, or whether it should be socially acceptable to use the word in song lyrics, it is more important to recognize that the N-word makes people within our community feel disrespected and hurt.

New year, new healthful habits

Resolutions can be hard to maintain; Here are three easy, impactful ways to improve your mental and physical health throughout 2018



Spin classes provide fun, full-body workout

If the beginning of a new year has inspired you to strengthen your body, look no further than Chicago's countless spin studios and classes. Classes at studios such as SoulCycle in the Loop, Old Town, Lake View and North Shore, or Cycle Therapy in Hyde Park offer not only a full-body workout but an encouraging atmosphere with upbeat music to match.

"I think it's just so fun to be in an environment with a bunch of other people who are motivating you to work as hard as you can, and that sense of community is really awesome," said Alyssa Hannah, who attends a SoulCycle studio class once a week. "The music is also super-fun, and the instructor that I go see is very motivational."

With classes ordinarily clocking in at around an hour or shorter in length, you can easily attend a couple of classes a week without overwhelming an already packed schedule. When staying fit can be this fun and community-oriented, keeping your body healthy won't feel like such a chore.



Meditation apps offer space for relaxation

While meditation has been in practice for centuries around the world, modern tools have made it easier than ever to improve your mental health and lower anxiety.

According Terri Greene, who teaches meditation as a part of the Stress Redux P.E. class, "Most of our struggle as people is that we're continuously thinking about so many things that we can't relax. But when you're meditating, the thought is that you're trying to empty your mind and focus on the present."

The free app Stop, Breathe & Think offers an easy introduction to meditation and relaxation, with 15 unique, guided meditations tailored to a particular mood or psychological need. After introducing basic meditation practices, the app can help you customize your meditation routine.

Spending as few as 5 to 10 minutes meditation guided by this app or a similar one each day has been purported to help stabilize your mind and make you feel more connected to the world around you.



Meatless Mondays help environment and body

If eating more healthfully is one of your commitments for the new year, participating in Meatless Mondays might be a good stepping stone to more intensive diet changes, such as vegetarianism and veganism. Consuming less meat has been proven to not only improve physical health, but also the wellbeing of the planet as a whole.

"Meatless Mondays" have a century-long precedent, including the World War I-era movement to reduce meat consumption to fuel the war effort.

The modern Meatless Monday movement encourages people across the world to abstain from meat products each Monday as a way to reduce the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes. Environmentally, cutting meat for one day of the week reduces greenhouse gas emissions, water usage, and fuel dependence. This small tweak to your diet might mean all the difference for your body and the Earth.

— COMPILED BY EMMA TRONE,
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NEENA DHANOA

Boys diving finds coach, participants

by EMMA TRONE
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time in more than 15 years, the boys swim team will compete in the diving segment of swim meets.

Diving practices began the week of Jan. 15. Coaching the divers will be Will Guedes, a 2015 Kalamazoo College graduate, NCAA championship diver and two-time Academic All-American.

According to Athletics Director David Ribbens, within the last two years swimming coaches have pushed to train divers on both the boys and girls teams. A lack of divers has affected the team's performance at meets.

"We go into a lot of the meets losing points to the diving competition because we didn't have anyone entered," Mr. Ribbens said. "So particularly for the Sectional competition, that will be helpful, so we can win more points and potentially place higher."

Sonny Lee, a member of the swim team, approached Mr. Ribbens and Head Swim Coach Kate Chronic with two other students to express interest in diving.

"I wanted to try diving because I'd always been comfortable doing flips, and I love the water, so putting the two together just made sense. About two years ago, I found out I could do backflips on a mat, which was pretty insane because I just thought gymnasts were the only ones who could do it," Sonny said. "I also love trying new things, and whether I flop a bunch of times or turn out to be decent at it, I think diving is going to be a really fun experience."

Boys interested in diving can contact Kate Chronic or Sonny Lee for more information.



David Ribbens

Meet the Coaches: Head and assistant fencing

by MAX GARFINKEL
MIDWAY REPORTER
Bakhyt Abdikulov

Mr. Abdikulov is a former World Cup Champion and Olympian. Besides coaching at U-High, he is head coach at the Fencing Center of Chicago.

When did you start fencing?
When I was 14 years old.

How did you become a coach?
Because I wanted to.

When did you become a coach?
I started in 1993.

What do you love about being a coach?
Producing good fencers.

What are your goals for the U-High team this year?
To see improvement because we have lots of beginners and I would like to get 4 medals: Clemente [Figueroa], Jacob [Shkrob], Tian-gang Huang, and Zoe [Dervin].

What do you do when you're not coaching?
I coach all day.

Who is your favorite artist and why?
Stevie Wonder, I love his songs.

How do you motivate the team?
With practice and giving interesting things, encouraging, convincing, and getting them good results.

Lawrence Shelven

Mr. Shelven is a 2017 Dartmouth graduate and a fencing instructor at Hyde Park Fencing.

When did you start fencing?
In freshman year of high school.

When did you become a coach?
I just started this season.

What do you love about being a coach?
Sharing all the things I've learned through my years of fencing and seeing people catching on.

What are your goals for the U-High team this year?
To get a lot of people to go to tournaments, to do well, and to have people enjoy the sport and have confidence.

What do you do when you're not coaching?
I have a job at a restaurant and another coaching job, and volunteer at a homeless ministry, and I hangout with my roommates.

Who is your favorite artist and why?
Chance the Rapper, because he has a very particular style of music but it touches on a lot of issues.

How do you motivate the team?
By being hard but understanding since I've been a student as well. Have them know that you start as a beginner and work your way up.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY AMANDA LEVITT

BEND, DON'T BREAK. Head coach Bakhyt Abdikulov works with a fencer at an afternoon practice. Mr. Abdikulov has been coaching for nearly 25 years, internationally and in the United States.



MIDWAY PHOTO BY SAHAR SIDDIQUI

TAKE A BREATH. Robert Coats comes up for air while swimming breaststroke against Agricultural Science High School at a Jan. 9 meet. The boys swim team were able to defeat their opponents.

TEAM RESULTS

U-High scores are listed first.

Boys Basketball, Varsity			
	Notable: The team participated in the Martin Luther King Holiday Tournament at the Wheaton Warrenville South High School on Jan. 13 and Jan. 15.		
Plainfield South	Jan. 15	55-41	
Huntley	Jan. 13	50-55	
York	Jan. 13	51-73	
F.W. Parker	Jan. 9	71-44	
Northridge	Jan. 5	37-57	
John Hope	Dec. 15	60-56	
Elgin	Dec. 12	60-31	

Boys Basketball, JV			
F.W. Parker	Jan. 9	54-53	
Northridge	Jan. 5	54-37	
UNO Rogers Park	Dec. 15	56-24	
Elgin	Dec. 12	50-25	

Boys Basketball, Frosh/Soph			
Scores not provided by team.			

Girls Basketball

 **Notable:** According to Head Coach Kiara Connor, the team been able to develop a high level of team chemistry with the help of both dedicated seniors and energetic freshmen, despite the small team size.

Latin	Jan. 11	33-51
St. Francis DeSales	Jan. 9	55-19
Cristo Rey	Dec. 15	53-21
North Shore	Dec. 12	42-45

Fencing

 **Notable:** On Feb. 3, U-High will host the Great Lakes High School Fencing Conference, a tournament that will bring together 14 different teams, for the first time in school history.

Scores not provided by team.

Squash			
	Notable: The team will participate in the Chicagoland Squash Conference Feb. 3, the first conference championship in the history of the team.		
Beacon	Jan. 10	14-1	
Latin	Dec. 14	4-3	

Boys Swimming			
	Notable: According to Coach Paul Gunty, the team has developed a high level of dedication to attending practice and growing during these meetings, as well as supporting each other at practices and meets.		
Riverside-Brookfield	Jan. 13	8th	
Agricultural Science	Jan. 9	Win	
Northside	Dec. 19	Loss	

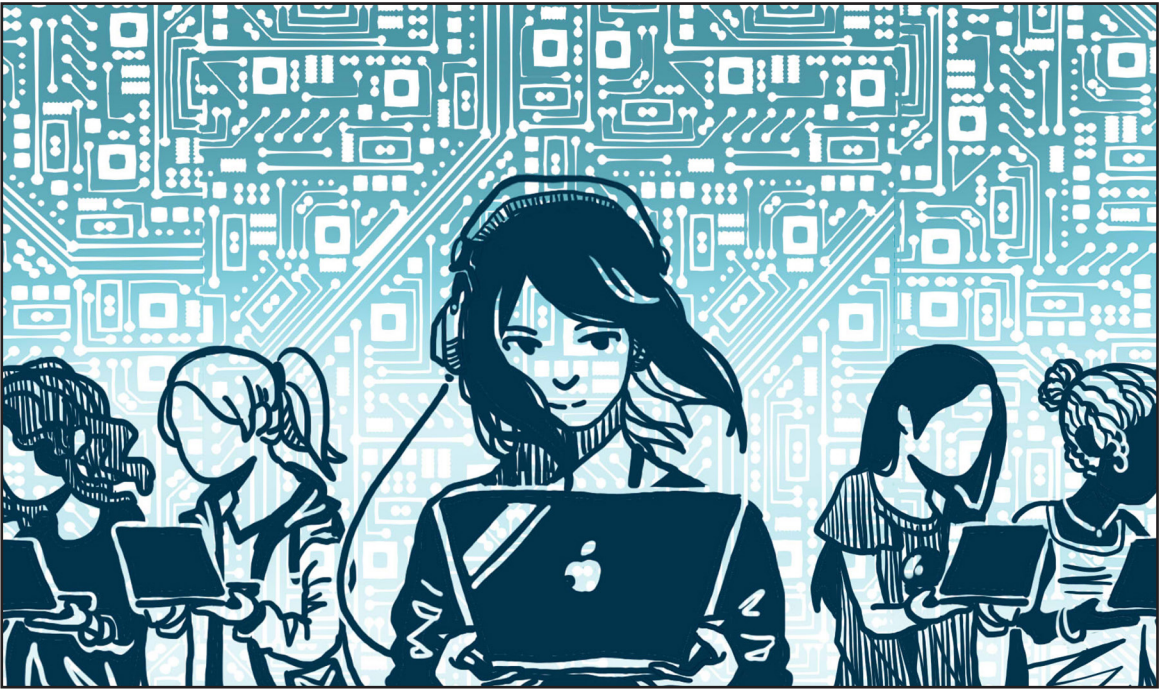
— COMPILED BY IVÁN BECK

Women in STEM lead active change

As the Midway sees it ...

Since last spring, young women at U-High have been paired with female undergraduates from the University of Chicago who study science, technology, engineering or mathematics. This partnership has given students both a mentor and an example to follow when it comes to being successful in STEM. This partnership has also provided the teens a sense of hope because gives students someone they can interact with on a more personal level, more than someone who comes to speak during a club meeting.

The Women in STEM club has also set up partnerships with other high schools across the country, giving students an opportunity to discuss inequalities of roles of women and men in STEM with other women outside of the Lab Schools bubble. This broadens the discussion from the typical Lab student to kids from all different backgrounds. Additionally, an



ARTWORK BY AMBER HUO

outreach program for elementary school students will instill in the youngest students the idea that going into STEM fields can lead to success.

This club was created not just because one student was interested, but because U-High lacked a place where students could voice their opinions on the significant topic: the bias toward men in STEM. The U-High community really needed this club. Tangible work such as this is what clubs at U-High could use more of.

Founded by one student, Ananya Asthana, Women in STEM is for students and run by students. Ananya and other club members were able to take a passion and make a solution tangible. It's important to recognize that the club was not created by the administration or by a teacher. It is driven solely by students, and the efforts they put into the club are contributing to the club's success.

Women in STEM's focus is to empower young women at Lab and prove that although historically men have dominated in STEM, women can be just as successful. We encourage more clubs that empower students to strive for goals that may seem unattainable, that discuss inequalities and are geared toward solving problems with experiences.

As students think about starting clubs for the rest of this year and into next year, they would benefit from following the path that Women in STEM has laid.

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

Trump supporters thwart Boy Scout ethics at camp

by LELAND CULVER
GUEST COLUMNIST



In the year since Donald Trump became President of the United States amid a wave of populist fervor, he rapidly became one of the most divisive and controversial presidents in American history. His base regularly gets riled up at his rallies, and there are heart-wrenching videos and controversies surrounding the hate that his presidency has inspired. Last summer, I experienced that hate at my summer camp with the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts is a youth group organization with a mission "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

My troop is based in Chesterton, Indiana, about an hour from Lab. In contrast to other troops in the area, the disposition of Troop 929 is fairly liberal, and it is filled

"Camp wasn't supposed to be like this. Boy Scouts is strictly not a political organization, and the red 'Make America Great Again' hat is definitely not part of the dress code. Yet the camp administration had no problem with what was going on."

with compassionate and personable people.

Scouting in general had never been a politically charged atmosphere for me until the 2016 election, when I was relieved to find that almost all of the friends in my troop supported Hillary Clinton. There was political discussion at our meetings, but it always stayed to the level of a friendly debate.

Then, last year, the troop decided to go to a new place for summer camp, deep in central Indiana. At this camp were dozens

of vocal supporters of the president. Several Scouts from different troops walked around in bright red "Make America Great Again" hats. People made crude jokes about jailing Hillary Clinton or building a wall on the Mexican-American border. When they found out I was a liberal, their comments, while not directed at me, increased. The hate in their words was discouraging.

As a strong liberal I felt stranded in a hostile environment. Everything that people were saying about the American political climate, everything I read about Trump's ardent and zealous supporters, every Trump rally I saw on TV, became real to me there. They were no longer abstract concepts.

Once, as I walked back to my camp, a large kid in a red hat approached me and asked pointedly, "Are you the liberal?" When I answered him, he laughed, walked on, and told his friend that he was disappointed he hadn't gotten a rise out of me.

The experience was draining. Throughout the week I experienced a whirlwind of emotions: fear, confusion, fury, isolation,

solidarity in the affirmation that my troop embodied none of this, abandonment by the camp who seemed willing to let this happen. Most of all, I felt despair that these people who were so young were already so hateful.

My troop will return to that camp this year. This will be the first year I have been with Troop 929 that I will not be going with them. Camp wasn't supposed to be like this. Boy Scouts is strictly not a political organization, and the red "Make America Great Again" hat is definitely not part of the dress code. Yet the camp administration had no problem with what was going on. They seemed to turn a blind eye to it all.

We need to open the eyes we have blinded to these problems. Scouting is about instilling American morals in young people, and pluralism is a big part of that, which is not something that happens in a camp where only one man's ideas are accepted.

Leland is a sophomore at Lab and an Eagle Scout — the highest rank — in his Boy Scout troop.

Racial and class segregation curb public school progress

by PAUL HORTON
GUEST COLUMNIST



Because I have been asked to comment on problems facing public schools in the United States, I would like to begin by saying that there are a great many things right with public education. Two friends, Ellen Alenworth, Director of the UChicago Consortium on School Research, and Chris Lubienksi, professor of education policy at Indiana University, tell me that public sector innovation in the classroom in Chicago and beyond surpasses much, if not most, of the innovation that we see in the charter and independent sectors in the United States. The problem is that willingness to

innovate and implementation of innovation in public schools is largely unreported.

With this in mind, I would say that the single largest factor facing public education today is inadequate funding in rural areas, inner cities and inner-ring suburbs. We still face a situation in this country with what Jonathan Kozol once called "Savage Inequalities" that are made worse by increasing income inequality, structural unemployment, and persistent segregation. Black, brown, and white families are facing what Thomas Shapiro calls "toxic inequality" that makes it almost impossible for poor families to gain any measure of financial stability.

Richard Rothstein of the Institute for Policy Studies has recently written a book, "The Color of Law," that argues that public policy created segregation and that segre-

gation is most responsible for underfunded schools and the "hype-poverty" that education reformers are attempting to target.

I part ways with many policy makers when they advocate for charters, vouchers, and an end to neighborhood schools. Like John Dewey, I believe that schools should serve as community centers and that public schools have an important role in the construction of strong community institutions beyond buildings.

In my view, many of those who support public education reform have good intentions, but mixed motives. I tend to agree with the MacArthur Award-winning New York Times reporter Nikole Hannah-Jones who said in an interview for the Dec. 14, 2017, issue of The Atlantic, "White communities want neighborhood schools if their neighborhood school is white. If their

neighborhood school is black, they want choice. We have a system where white people control the outcomes, and the outcome that most white Americans want is segregation."

Every statistical study done about test scores in the United States for the last 50 years points to one fact: the biggest gains in test scores in the United States were achieved in the mid-1970s when schools reached their zenith of integration. We have gone back toward racial and class segregation since, and the charter and voucher movements are accelerating the pace of segregation in the opinion of a consensus of policy experts.

Mr. Horton has been a history teacher at Lab for 18 years. He taught at public school for 12 years and parochial school for 5 years — 35 total.

U-HIGH MIDWAY

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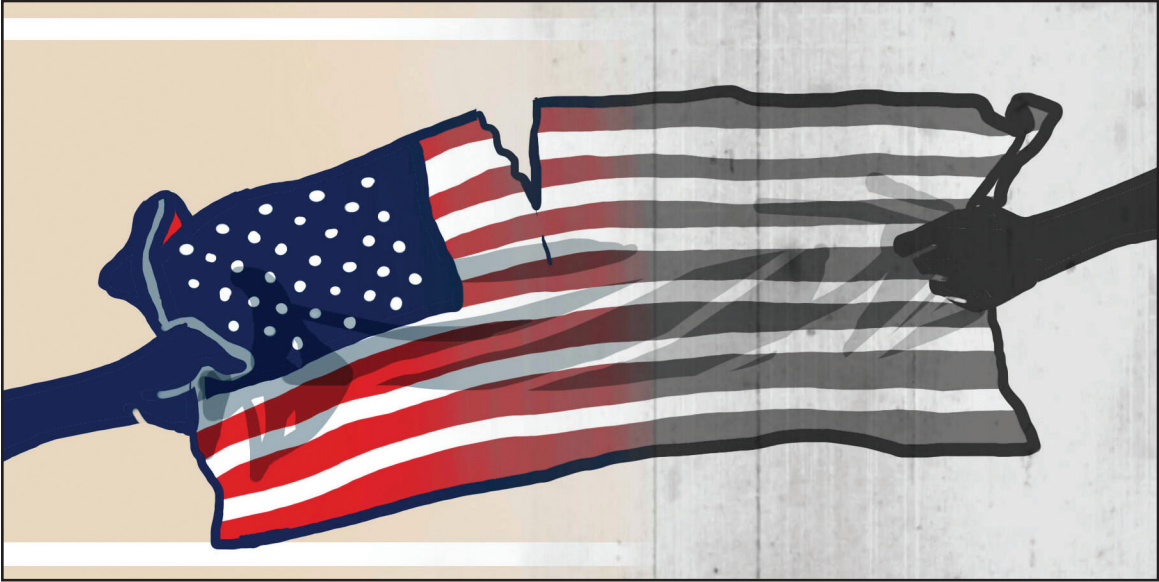
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In a time when the press is criticized, the U-High Midway seeks to inform, educate and serve the community of University High School. The Midway is created by students, for students.

CORRECTIONS
ISSUE 4, DEC. 14, 2017:
• Page 1: Photo credited to Sam Fleming should be credited to Lillian Nemeth

5 DECADES & MORE DIVIDED

1968 wasn't just another year. Turmoil defined 1968 with assassinations, riots and movements for underrepresented minority groups. Tension still holds 50 years later within America. Inequality among groups may never be fully resolved, and protests against inequality continue today. From Americans' consumption of news to political polarization, 2018 shows the American people have become increasingly divided in opinion.



ARTWORK BY AMBER HUO

50 years later, racial inequality protests remain at forefront

by **TALIA GOERGE-KARRON**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Racial tension. War. Gender inequality. Protests. A nontraditional election and a choice that was unconventional. Is this today? No, it was 50 years ago in 1968.

With riots at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, 1968 was filled with turmoil. An unpopular Vietnam War forced President Lyndon B. Johnson to forgo re-election, resulting in the election of Richard M. Nixon, who had lost just eight years earlier.

Fifty years after one of the nation's most turbulent years, progress on many of the same issues may be hard to notice. Americans in 2018 are sharply divided on issues from politics to equal rights.

Political polarization continues in 2018

Just as 2018 saw political polarization between Democrats and Republicans, 1968 was the culmination of intense divisions between the two major parties, whites and African-Americans, and the North and South. According to Duke University Professor William Chafe, an expert on African-American history and the civil rights movement, the divisions in 1968 led to a breakup of social movements.

Professor Chafe said, "It's the most fragmented the country had been since the Civil War."

During the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City, two black athletes, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, each raised a black-gloved fist as a Black Power salute. Nearly five decades later, NFL players protested racial inequality by kneeling, linking arms as a team or sitting on the sidelines during the national anthem.

According to Rutgers University Professor Charles Payne, an expert on urban education and African-American history, recent years have seen similar kinds of protests on racial inequality as 1968.

"1968 was a year of intense polarization," Professor Payne said.

"Of hard hats and hippies. A good deal of racial tension."

Contemporary protest groups learned from '60s

King led the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which was led by black, male ministers throughout the civil rights movement, but modern-day movements like Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter both did not develop a top-down leadership structure. According to Professor Payne, modern-day protest groups learned from 1960s movements.

"Groups like Black Lives Matter seem to me to be more sophisticated than some of the earlier protests just because they have the advantages of the hindsight they've learned from the past," Professor Payne said. "On questions like leadership, the Occupy Movement and Black Lives Matter were both very self-conscious of not allowing the creation of top-down, charismatic, usually male leadership. That's their reaction to what they thought went wrong in the 1960s and how they can sustain themselves."

By 2018, Black Lives Matter and protests against racial inequality have brought policy changes to policing in the form of some departments mandating body cameras and the formation of oversight committees. Professor Payne said the mass action of Black Power movements in the late 1960s and protests led by Black Lives Matter have had an impact on the pattern of police brutality.

"Despite the fact that some people don't like the movement, that they're angry about it," Professor Payne said. "It has had some impact — the fact that more police departments require body cameras, although I'm not sure how much difference they're going to make. It's still a policy response to a grievance."

Racial resentment still present in America

However, policy is separate from individual attitudes. The same racism King dealt with in 1968 still plagues Americans today, according to Dr. Bart Schultz, Senior Lecturer and Director of the Civic

"1968 was a year of intense polarization. Of hard hats and hippies. A good deal of racial tension."

— CHARLES PAYNE, PROFESSOR

Knowledge Project at the University of Chicago, who said that much of the backlash against Barack Obama's presidency is similar to the racism King faced throughout his life.

"We have witnessed a really dreadful reaction to Obama's presidency, an extraordinarily violent and bizarre attempt to discredit him," Dr. Schultz said, "and it's very reminiscent of the type of ugly racism that King confronted." A clear difference between 1968 and 2018 is America's consumption of news. In 1968, most American families received the same news as other Americans. With the rise of online media and niche news outlets, Americans in 2018 can stay read a variety of sources.

"One clear difference is that there is no analog in 1968 to cable television/Fox News," Professor Payne said. "That is, that everyone watched Walter Cronkite back then, so that even people who were on different sides of many issues, tended to have the same information base. Where as now, if you read The Washington Post, you get one set of 'facts.' And, if you read Breitbart News, you get another set of 'facts.'"

Nation survived 1968 — can it survive 2018?

While 1968 may have felt like the world was unraveling, looking at the year in hindsight, Professor Payne said that the consequences were not as dire as many people expected at the time. There are lessons to be learned 50 years later.

"The assassination of Robert Kennedy coming so soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King, in the context that we were beginning to lose a war for the first time, in the context of changing gender roles," Professor Payne said. "All of that gave many people the sense that society was falling apart. It wasn't as bad as it looked at the time."

1968: MILESTONES

In the United States and in Chicago, 1968 was a year of demonstrations and tragedies as Americans voiced opinions through election and protest about issues ranging from war to gender to racial equality.

JAN. 30

85,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attack 36 major Vietnamese cities and towns, surprising U.S.-led forces and weakening public support in the United States. The **Tet Offensive** — named for the Vietnamese celebration of the Lunar New Year, the day of the attack — marked the beginning of America's withdrawal from Vietnam.

MARCH 28

Martin Luther King Jr. leads what would be **his last march** in Memphis, Tennessee, to support black sanitation workers who were striking for better treatment. There were conflicting casualty reports, but, according to "The Whole World Was Watching: an oral history of 1968," one person was killed, 60 injured and more than 150 arrested.

APR. 30

Students and faculty protest Columbia University's connection to the Vietnam War, culminating in their occupation of five campus buildings. At 2:20 a.m. 1,000 police officers stormed the buildings, **forcibly removing students while mercilessly beating them**, according to a New York Times reporter present at the scene. 132 students, 12 police officers and 4 faculty members were injured, and 720 demonstrators arrested.

AUG. 28

Thousands of anti-Vietnam War protesters **marched toward the Democratic National Convention in Chicago**, clashes with police culminating in the so-called "Battle for Michigan Avenue." Over the course of five days, 589 arrests were made, 119 police injured and 100 protesters injured.

NOV. 5

Former Vice **President Richard Nixon beats** Vice President Hubert Humphrey, becoming the 37th President of the United States. Dogged by the lack of progress in the Vietnam War, President Lyndon B. Johnson had decided not to run for re-election.

DEC. 24

Apollo 8 becomes the first manned spacecraft to **orbit the moon**. Jim Lovell, Bill Anders and Frank Borman escaped earth's orbit, orbited the moon and returned to earth safely. They were the first to witness an earthrise and see the whole earth, among other achievements.

FEB. 18

State Department reports **highest casualty rates** of the Vietnam War with 543 Americans killed and 2,547 wounded over the previous week.

APRIL 4

King is assassinated by James Earl Ray in Memphis. King was shot at 6:01 p.m. while he stayed at the Lorraine Motel. He was pronounced dead at 7:05 p.m. Riots broke out in more than 100 cities.

JUNE 5

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, a leading Democratic presidential candidate, is **shot** by Sirhan Sirhan after after giving a speech in the Ambassador Hotel ballroom in Los Angeles. He died 26 hours later.

OCT. 16

American Olympic athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos, two black medalists in the 200-meter dash, perform the **black power salute** at the Summer Olympics in Mexico City. They were expelled from the team two days later.

NOV. 22

In an episode of "Star Trek," Captain Kirk, played by William Shatner, and Lieutenant Uhura, played by Nichelle Nichols, share the **first interracial kiss** on American TV.