

# Conservative students entitled to safe space, too



The founding of the U-High Conservatives club sparked massive backlash from liberal students, leading to an attempt to shut the club down or prevent them from speaking. Liberal students are in the majority at Lab. That does not give them open license to shut down other perspectives.

Doing so is unacceptable if students want to hold true to our school's founding ideals.

A club designed to explore an ideology, particularly a less prominent ideology in our school community, should be encouraged to exist and flourish here.

The founding of the U-High Conservatives club is an understandable decision by those involved. There need to

## As the Midway sees it ...

be more spaces where students can learn from and even respectfully disagree with one another.

Within a school comprised mostly of liberal students, having a space to explore uncommon ideas, both those who identify with this ideological group and those who don't, need to maintain respect when having conversations.

Members of the majority view do not have the right to silence the U-High Conservatives. Conservative students deserve a place where they feel comfortable to share and explore their beliefs without fear of being silenced by their peers. Liberal students regularly do share within and outside the classroom with little restriction.

Our country is politically divided. Hearing another side's ideas can help fix the divide because it helps students understand one another. Interpersonal respect should be a priority when a student enters a space where their beliefs aren't dominant. More importantly, a space that is setup to explore an

ideology that isn't often discussed.

Students shouldn't enter the U-High Conservatives' space with the intent of shutting down their views. Students should enter club meetings with respect and the intent to learn and to understand their ideas.

When all students are open-minded and listen to the other side, their arguments and understanding grows stronger.

If the club truly wants to explore hot-button issues, and wants to have open conversations about current political problems, then the club has to create a universally safe space to have these hard discussions, and respect has to exist on both sides of the argument. It is also essential to understand that in some cases, conservatives and liberals may find issues on which they can find agreement.

All students are a mix of Republican and Democratic ideas, which allows them to have a mix of different ideologies. Exploring different opinions may help build bridges rather than extend divisions.

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

MIDWAY ARTWORK BY MAYHER KAUR

## Look beyond your bubble to understand why you resist

by TALIA GOERGE-KARRON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



"I must resist."  
"When they go low, we go high."  
"I impeach him!"

After the Women's March last January, these were the posts

that cascaded down my Facebook timeline. Now, it is dead silent, and no action has followed. I texted my senator and attended a protest, but that is not enough. We need acts of resistance, and they can be smaller and simpler than attending protests.

There are ways to take the messages from the Women's March to heart. Like most liberals, I am angered with President Trump's threats from building the border

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wall to his hateful Twitter messages. In an age of political division, opposing political parties need to humanize the "other," and recognize that we all have dreams. Engaging in dialogue, an exchange of ideas, with someone who has a different background is one way to resist the hatred that is prevalent in the United States.

I believe in bringing people to-

gether. For instance, I worked with two other students to create a partnership between the University of Chicago Woodlawn Charter School and U-High. The goal was for students who would not normally meet to engage each other. It is important to talk with people who do not have the same experiences. By bringing together different groups, U-High and the charter school can better understand each other. Dialogue is the possibility for a different kind of future, and this group opens up that possibility. I tried to create a new channel of resistance through a newfound community.

Through this partnership, I've laughed with Zion, a jokester who giggles about the girl he loves. I've commiserated over the "joys" of planning events with Keira as we organized an open mic. Through

a dialogue-based summer program, I met KeJuan, an adventurous biker as curious about Chicago as me, and John (whose name has been changed), a passionate singer, I learned the people who go to school right across the Midway are no different from me.

Yes, John survived a gunshot wound and deals with gun violence in his neighborhood, but his dream of going to business school is the same as that of a lot of Lab students. I want John never to have to deal with gun violence again. I want KeJuan to travel the world. These people and their real experiences from racism to gun violence are why I resist inequality.

I encourage every U-High student to go out and get to know people who are different. By doing this, we can understand that everyone goes through the human

experience, and that is a point of connection. Liberalism cannot just exist as broad-based ideas, there need to be reasons behind ideas. This means that we all have to realize that people are affected by issues: gun violence, lack of education, hunger. To truly resist, we need to get to know the people behind the issues, and realize that that is what they are: just people.

By stepping outside of U-High's walls, we can start to understand people who have different backgrounds, but also recognize that they possess the same needs, hopes and dreams as all of us. One of my rabbis once said to me at a soup kitchen, "The people coming to the soup kitchen to eat just people like you and me who had to decide whether to pay their electric bill this month or eat." That is what we need to remember as we resist.

## Allergies shouldn't restrict chance for new experiences

by JACOB POSNER  
FEATURES EDITOR



"Peanuts, tree nuts, chickpeas and green peas."

I say this phrase to every server of every restaurant I visit. It has an almost rhythmic quality

to it. A mantra.

I have said this phrase thousands of times. As my parents brought in more and more doctors, I became aware of the seriousness of my allergies, I became deathly afraid of a reaction. They kept saying the word, repeating it, describing it: "anaphylaxis." I could die. I was terrified.

At first, doctors said I was allergic to soy, peanuts, tree nuts and beans. Over the years, through endless blood tests, scratch tests and food challenges, my doctor eliminated all but cashews, pistachios, peanuts, chickpeas and green peas. But the fear stayed.

As my number of food allergies decreased and I grew older, I began to experience a wonderful transformation — becoming independent.

No longer was I held back by my parents' vigilance. I could travel the city with my friends. But there was always a cautionary voice in the back of my mind warning me to stay in Hyde Park instead — to just eat what was in my refrigerator or what my mom was cooking.

I knew most adventures in the city are accompanied by food. But to experience them I would have to repeat that awful mantra and put myself at unnecessary risk.

I knew the consequences: wheezing, EpiPens, ambulance, hospital, doctors — I had done it all before. My worst experience involved a fateful summer day, a peanut-contaminated cake, suffocating anxiety, breathless running, EpiPens and a visit to the emergency room.

I had never eaten Chinese food, Thai food, Middle Eastern food, Indian food or gone anywhere without my parents on the North, West or South sides, except to visit friends' houses. I avoided tarts from French bakeries for fear of

pistachios, store-bought cakes at birthdays for fear of peanut contamination, and veggie bowls for fear of hummus.

Slowly I began to realize that I was trapped in a food — and therefore cultural — bubble. Caution had been so ingrained in me that it took me years to realize how little of my city I'd seen, and of the potential adventures I was depriving myself. I realized that continuing on this path would hinder personal growth because I was not exposing myself to a range of experiences.

If you have food allergies — or any fear, any phobia — do not allow them to keep you trapped in a bubble, as I was. You should do what I did earlier than I did it and

expose yourself to what may produce life-changing experiences.

I was depriving myself unnecessarily. All I had to do was ask the waiter — or parent, or caterer, or friend — if I was allergic to the meal.

I try all restaurants now, regardless of whether one of my allergens is common in their dishes. This means I visit places I otherwise would not have, and I get to experience what goes along with a food adventure: peeking into shops, finding dessert, wandering through parks.

Of course, I must still repeat the terrible mantra and read ingredients and politely decline food, but I no longer allow my fear to control 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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EDITORIAL POLICY:

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 2, OCT. 12, 2017:

• Page 1: Jasmine Tan's name was misspelled.  
• Page 9: Kennedy Coats's name was misspelled.