



# ECHOES

## UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

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## Snow day

by Meghan Orvis

Unbelievably, many of us had grown discouraged hoping for snow this year at UCA. Although some students dread the snow, others fervently watch at their windows for the first sight of a snowflake floating by. However, no students anticipated the constant snow that would soon arrive.

While many of the students weren't keen on the idea or having an enforced snow day, we were all grateful when the school announced that Snow Day was going to replace a complete Sunday School with only a home leave day schedule for classes. Just when we thought we couldn't get any more blessed, the intercom interrupted our Saturday-afternoon nap to inform us that Sunday School was cancelled. However, all students would still be required to attend a three hour snow day. Because it was 10 degrees outside with winds that made the air feel like it was in the negative temperatures, the cafeteria remained open throughout the entire event. I suppose this occurred because you can't very well make hundreds of students stand in the freezing weather against their will.

There was only a small number of students who ventured out to go sledding and enjoy the snow. The lack of sleds resulted in Pastor Fred volunteering his truck's bed liner, which was taken out and marched to the top of the hill beside Johnson's house. This "sled" fit about 10 people and with the accumulated weight it barreled down the hill throwing up a cloud of fluffy snow behind it.

However, not all the students enjoyed the weather. Many opted to stay in the cafeteria and catch up on weeks of procrastinated homework while bundled in blankets and sipping steaming drinks. After a long day of sledding, homework, Taco Bell, hot chocolate, and pizza, UCA students can agree that an enforced snow day is much better than Sunday School.

## A second chance

by Asiah Brazil-Geyschick

First semester was a piece of work—never really being where you want to be but striving to better than you are.

Junior year has put a lot more strain on our brains. Teachers pile more and more homework on to the never-ending pile of stuff we already should have done, but haven't.

Freshman year was just us being wee little kids, getting used to living with one another and trying to make good friends we could keep for all the years at this school.

Sophomore year was about the easiest, depending on what classes we took. We had finally made some good friends and felt comfortable enough to explore and be involved in more than we could when we were freshmen.

Junior year has been fun and exhausting all in one. Some of my friends say it is absolutely horrible; but, honestly, we all had fun through first semester.

Second semester is bringing new challenges and crying sessions and a second chance to raise our grades a little and make our lives a little livelier.





# SENIOR RECOGNITION

# SENIOR TALENT SHOW

20

19



the speakers



Mrs. C.



Ellie Schumacher



Annie Wirtz



Pastor Sid







## Spanish I eats out

by Josh Cho

In the evening of the final day of Choir Clinic, both of the Spanish I classes went to Atilano's Mexican food. Dorm students went on the bus while some village students used their own cars. It was a great excursion, but it had one drawback: all students had to speak in Spanish the whole time, and this would count as a test.

When we arrived at Atilano's, everyone was having a great time trying to speak in Spanish when they couldn't. When it came time to order, nobody wanted to be first, so we stood around arguing about it for a couple of minutes.

There also was a little problem for dorm students because they were given only \$5 from the cafeteria to buy their food, but most of the food cost at least \$5.10.

Eventually, after a couple of people worked up the courage to order and many loans were given, the line started moving. The popular orders were burritos, quesadillas, and nachos, and there was much conversation using translation apps on our phones.

Overall, this was quite the experience.

## Choral Clinic succeeds

by Abbie McAdams

This year's UCA Choral Clinic was a very eventful weekend. It started on Thursday afternoon when students from local elementary and high schools started arriving on campus. They made their way to the dorms after registration, found the rooms where they would be staying, and began to settle in. They were greeted by a few UCA students, but many were still in class and didn't meet them until after lunch.

After lunch was the first rehearsal, led by Mr. Anderson. Most of the time was spent getting kids separated into the part they would be singing (soprano, alto, tenor, bass), as well as finding everyone a seat in their section. After the first rehearsal, students were given a 15-minute break to get a drink of water or play basketball in the gym. The rest of the evening followed that pattern: 45 minutes of rehearsal followed by a 15-minute break. In the evening, Choraliers, octet, and orchestra performed a mini concert for the students so they could see another side of our music program at UCA.

On Friday, UCA's choir students had their classes excused all day to come to rehearsals. The boys and girls were also split up into two separate groups to have a voice lesson with a voice teacher. The main focus for the rest of the day was finishing touches on each song that needed to be slightly adjusted. On Sabbath, we were finally ready to perform the songs we had been learning.

After a long couple of days, straining our voices, and singing each song the best we could, it was time for us to show what we had learned. During church we breezed through our collection of songs, and when it came to the very last one, "Grace," we left the stage and surrounded the audience to sing. Some of the children's parents were there to watch them perform, and it was nice to be able to have visiting students participate in solos.

Overall, Choral Clinic was a success and it was thanks to the hard work and dedication of the students, the parents, the music teachers, and, of course, Mr. Anderson for patiently directing us.

## Walla Walla what went wrong

by William Frohne

The men's basketball team went to Friendship Tournament with expectations through the roof. For the drive down to Walla Walla the bus might as well have been a party limo. The guys were in great spirits and were ready for a clean sweep of the tournament. The return trip could not have been more different. A bystander might have confused the bus for a prison transport taking its occupants to the gallows.

So what went wrong? In our first game, we steamrolled the other team whilst playing our bench most of the game. This secured us a spot in the semifinal against Auburn. They had been struggling and the game was tipped to be an easy win for us. It started close; it was neck and neck all the way to the half; however, when the buzzer sounded and the game was over, we had lost by ten. Everything had gone wrong.

Auburn hit an unprecedented number of threes: they just didn't seem to miss. On the other hand, we were one for twenty-two from the three-point line. As a whole, our team shot 23%, a record low. The team was in shock. Their perfect season had just crumbled into dust and blown away. Even though they had a game left to play, they were beaten, and their tournament was over.

On Saturday night in the third place game, the guys were only a shadow of their former selves. Not even the fans felt like cheering, and we lost by ten to a team we had beaten by twenty-one just a few nights before. After the tournament, our once confident team had morphed into a fractured group of guys, desperately trying to come to terms with what went wrong.



The men's varsity basketball team poses with their coaches at Walla Walla University.

## Rec Ski

by Kailey Nash

It was dark out, the wind was howling, and the alarm was blaring. She knew it was time to get up.

Hurriedly grabbing her things, she rushed out the door, through the halls, down the stairs, and into the frigid morning air. Rushing to load the bus before it left, she jumped on board, throwing her stuff down into the nearest seat. It was six o'clock in the morning. Some people were wide awake while others walked to the bus with just one eye open.

With a loud rumble from the engine, she shot upright, checking her watch and looking about. She had slept the whole ride up and missed the spectacular sunrise over the snow-peaked mountains.

Stepping out under the clear blue sky, bitter cold hit her like an icy brick wall, and the wind sent shivers down her spine, numbing her in an instant. However, it was worth it.

Twenty inches of fresh snow awaited her, and the clear blue sky made for a glorious view. The day she had been waiting for had finally come, and it was worth braving the low temperature and the wind. She would ride the fresh snow no matter the cost.

## Friends 2,400 miles away

by Sasha Paago

Highland View Academy sounded unfamiliar to UCA students as Coach reminded us they were traveling with the basketball team to the WWU Friendship Tournament.

HVA is a boarding academy much like UCA, located in Hagerstown, Maryland—approximately 2,418 miles away. They were traveling all the way to Walla Walla during their home-leave to play the great game of basketball. Soon after they landed, the HVA boys were warming up to play the Lions in a friendly matchup. Although they lost, they gave us a great game.

At 7 a.m. the next day, both schools' basketball teams loaded the bus. The bus was full of laughter and joy as the players from both schools mingled with each other, agreeing to be friends even if they played against each other again at Friendship.

HVA boys were the first to play. Being fans of HVA, the UCA basketball players went to their game to cheer them on, even learning a couple of their chants and cheers as the HVA boys got the win over Puget Sound. The small crowd of HVA fans were ecstatic. After their game, the Lady Lions played. Returning the favor, HVA cheered for them. This happened all throughout Friendship. Both schools cheered for the other to succeed.

Both schools played well at the tournament and had lots of fun. UCA has made a long-lasting friendship with HVA that will last as they come to Friendship with us for years to come. The friendships that were made during the four long, exhausting days can't be broken.



## Acro Soul tours

by *Elaijah Alvarado*

The Acro Soul gymnastics team's first tour took place on February 8, 2019. All prepped and ready, the team left early on Friday morning to show what they have been working on for the past several months. They had two performances that day: the first was located at the Spokane Valley Adventist School, while the second was at the Coeur D'Alene Adventist School. However, a third performance was scheduled; but, unfortunately, due to inconvenient weather, it was cancelled and the tour was cut short.

The team had an outstanding performance—the younger audiences especially enjoyed the routines. A favorite with the audiences and even some of the team members was the clinic. In the clinic the team members introduced the show watchers to different moves and routines they used in the performance. Overall, the Acro Soul team provided the schools with great performances.

The team did not go unrewarded. Once both performances were complete, the team traveled to Triple Play, located in Hayden, ID. Equipped with a fully functional indoor jungle gym, Laser Tag Arena, and more, the team was able to enjoy a set of exciting activities to finish off the day.

Overall, the duration of the tour was short, but exhausting, but providing a great insight in to what goes on in the UCA Gymnastics team to the schools made it all worthwhile. With big hopes, the team is looking to improve even more and will work hard to be prepared for the longer tour which is coming up in April.

## The not so Super Bowl

by *Braden Reitz*

February 3 was Super Bowl Sunday, the day when everyone sits down and watches the most watched televised sporting event ever. If you enjoy watching punts and incompletions, this was your kind of game; in fact, the longest punt in Super Bowl history happened—a whole 65 yards!

At halftime the score was 3-0 Patriots. Things went back and forth until the game finally ended with a score of 13-3 with the Patriots winning their sixth championship, tying the NFL record for most championship games won.

Let's hope next year it will be a more exciting, high-scoring game.



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and Stephen Lacey, Sponsor

## Surviving Valentine's singles edition

by *Beverly Talakua*

'Twas that time of the year again. Flowers or chocolates were everywhere and gushy couples proclaimed their love for each other. Valentine's Day.

Most in a relationship look forward to the day when they receive thoughtful gifts from their "true loves." Single misfits, however, get yet another reminder of how single they really are. If your current status says "in a relationship," this survival guide is not for you.

First and foremost, February 14 is JUST ANOTHER AVERAGE DAY. If you really feel lonely, hit up some friends to hang out. Gal-entine's is way better than Valentine's anyway. Second, keep yourself busy. Studies show that distracting yourself positively can help get your mind off situations that are stressing you out. Cleaning your room or spending some extra time in the gym are just two examples. Third, TREAT YO SELF! You're on a diet? Bah! Who cares! You deserve that triple chocolate fudge chunk ice cream! Lastly, on the real, stop complaining and get your act together. There's no use in sulking on a day that's defined by a fat baby who holds sharp sticks. Oh, and don't forget to visit a grocery store for half-off goodies on February 15.

## Senior Night

by *Lauren Threadgill*

The Lion's final home game wrapped up on Senior Night. All four of the basketball teams played and won against Kootenai Thunder.

They played hard in front of fellow classmates, visiting family, friends, and other teammates. Then then out came the many balloons and gift bags so generously put together by some of the team moms. All of the teams were called: seniors of the volleyball, soccer, and basketball teams. They were recognized with diplomas and cheering.

Coach Wiggins was given an awesome gift of a signed Kobe Bryant jersey for his many years of coaching the girls' varsity team. Even coaches have to move on sometimes, but we are very thankful for all the nights and hours Coach Wiggins put in, as well as for the other coaches' time and dedication.

Many of these seniors had participated all four years in sports and had played in many games and tournaments. So, this final night wrapped up their high school sports career. It's sad to see our seniors go and leave to many different places, but the up and coming students, with hard work and dedication, can keep up the Lion pride and lively spirit!

## Changes

by *Jonathan Joplin*

Many changes have occurred here at UCA over the past four years: new laptops, a renovated men's dorm, and, of course, the schedule, which is always changing. There have also been some smaller changes that make our lives a little more convenient.

Staff have been coming up with more ways to make the dreaded Sunday School more bearable such as having snow days, watching a movie on historical events, having HOPE, or having guest speakers.

Also, although not perfect, the cafeteria is always improving the food so that students can have enjoyable meals.

Another thing that has happened and is making students' lives easier is starting the class day later. Just two years ago, breakfast started at 6:30, and the first class was at 7:15. Now, everything is 45 minutes later.

Many students complain about how things are now when they don't know how they used to be or how staff are trying to make things better. There will always be complainers, but let's remember to appreciate what we have now.

## Cabin fever

by *Jacquelynn Meza*

Dorm life has become more interesting over the past weeks due to the copious amounts of snow that decided to bury our beloved campus. As the cold stretched on, some of the inhabitants of the girls' dormitory become more and more restless, resorting to running down the halls screaming and being rowdy in general.

Unfortunately, there is nowhere to escape these dorm demons, for they dwell on every hall and wander the dorm looking for their next victims. Many of us hope that the snow melts soon so that these dorm dwelling creatures will go back into hibernation and the claustrophobia disappear.

As always, dorm life is exciting and full of memories; some of them are just ones that we don't want to make.

## The extra inhabitant of room 211

by *Hannah Petrie*

When most people think of a pet, the first thing that pops into their mind is a furry creature such as a dog or a cat. Unfortunately, the girls' dorm is a not a very welcome place for animals who shed because in a dorm with over 100 people, some girls suffer from allergies and so there is a strict no pet policy. Being forced to live our daily lives in the wheat fields without any furry companion, we have to resort to other means to meet our needs.

Two weeks ago as I sauntered over to make my tea in my hot water heater. I noticed movement on the wall, and as I glanced up in surprise, my eyes spotted a miniscule spider staring back at me. It was crawling up the wall cautiously but with fierce determination. My first instinct was to catch it and throw it out the nearby window, and I even considered how easy it would be to smash underneath a napkin, but a part of me knew I would feel guilty, so I let it continue its trek up the wall.

Now, every so often when I go make my daily cup of tea, I spot Frank the spider. Sometimes he is on a journey up the pipes. Most of the time he scurries under the microwave when he sees me coming, and on occasion, he stares right back at me. I have to admit that now I enjoy Frank's constant company, and he is a gentle reminder that God loves all things no matter their size or importance.

## student art



Jordan Walker



Josie Clark



Elena Petrie



Carly Haeger

Students create wonderful art in Mrs. Kramer's art classes. Be sure to check the display case between the science classrooms to see the latest projects.



# Seat friends (ode to Katy Luke)

by *Hannah Petrie*

All students need a good seat friend in their classes.

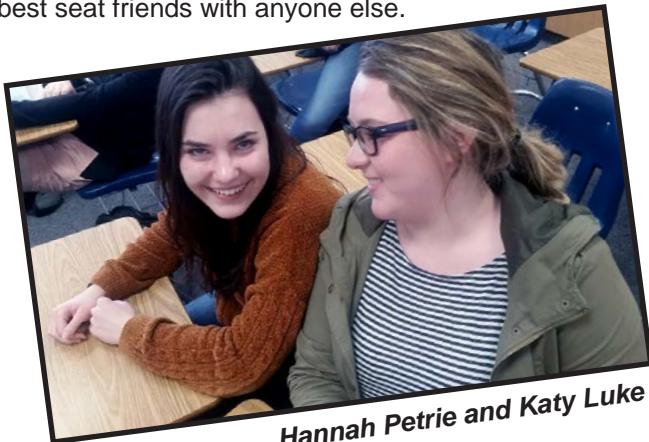
In Mr. Lacey's sixth-block English class, I sit next to Katy Luke. She is always smiling and positive and brings sunshine to my day. Not everybody that you sit next to is positive, and sometimes they can make your day a lot worse, so having a positive person to sit next to makes me grateful.

Sometimes when we are working on a difficult English assignment, we have discussions and work together to find the answer. I like having somebody who is smart and knowledgeable and thinks critically.

There are times when the cold winter months make your hands dry, but you do not want to walk all the way down to the library to use the handy-dandy lotions that are left in there. Once again, Katy comes through in the clutch because she always has lotion she is willing to share with me. My hands have never been more appreciative.

Lastly, Katy Luke is always drawing pictures for me to bring a smile to my face. She has many artistic talents such as drawing rainbows, flowers . . . and my name in fancy cursive.

If you do not sit next to Katy in any of your classes, I highly recommend that you become her seat friend. She is a fascinating person to sit next to, and I would not want to be best seat friends with anyone else.



*Hannah Petrie and Katy Luke*

## Cell phone risks

by *Vanessa Bambe*

About five billion people in the world have a mobile phone connection, and about 67% have a cell phone. Americans check their phones on an average of 300 times a day, but studies show there are thousands of effects of so much phone use. One effect is the increase in the stress and depression level of people all around the world.

Phone usage increases sleep loss due to the light given off by phones. There is also an increase in accidents when drivers use phones while driving. There is an increase in anxiety, as well, especially among teenagers who use their phones a lot. The radiation coming from cell phones is suspected to cause an increase in cancer. There are so many harmful effects, but we choose to ignore them.

