

# ECHOES

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This issue's feature and news spotlight Coach Reading and Principal Johnson. We thank them for their dedication!

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## To Mr. Johnson, From UCA: Thank You By Ally Benado



Mr. Eric Johnson has been at UCA for five years. His first year, he acted as vice principal under Mr. John Winslow then continued as the principal for the next four years. Over this time, Mr. Johnson has brought a "new norm" to the UCA campus. Since he became principal, new programs and policies have been created. The drug and alcohol policy, equestrian program, and the wellness center are just a few.

Mrs. Castrejon, our science teacher who has been at UCA for six years, said this about Mr. Johnson's character: "He is a man of his word, a very spiritual man, and he is very transparent. There is no hidden agenda with him. He is very open and approachable. To me, we are losing a well-rounded guy."

Mr. Spano, our history teacher who has been at UCA for six years and has been a principal before, said, "I have worked for 18

different principals in my career and as I compare Mr. Johnson to other principals, he is a visionary. The other thing that makes him head and shoulders above everyone else is his ability to fundraise. Those are the two outstanding strengths that I see that he has. He is just a nice, likable person."

Students and staff have also appreciated the spiritual aspect Mr. Johnson has incorporated into daily life at UCA. Our principal operates in a way that brings God into everything. He has brought a culture of hands-on learning and authentic spirituality, instead of "get this done because you have to."

In his own words, Mr. Johnson said, "It's been my focus to really work on campus projects, such as the boys' dorm, the weight room, the new wellness center, etc., that I am proud of and that God has really worked on to rally people to give to and support."

On behalf of the student body and staff, we are all going to miss our dear principal, but support him in his new journey.



# CAMPUS NEWS

EDITOR: ISAAC GESSELE



Photo Credit: UCA Facebook

## Until We Meet Again: Interview with Reading and Johnson

It is always difficult to see people leave, whether it be staff or students. Yet life is much larger than campus. It is important to think outside of our own personal lives; to remember that sometimes God calls the people close to us to serve him elsewhere. The staff who are leaving this year include Mr. Lacey, Principal Johnson, Dean Price, and Coach Reading. Coach Reading and Mr. Johnson were interviewed for insight on their plans and some final thoughts.

Isaac: Could you remind us why you have decided to leave campus?

Reading: "It has nothing to do with anything up here, it's wonderful here actually. It's mostly for family, all of our family are in Tennessee, so we just need to be down there with them again."

Johnson: "I received an offer to work for a healthcare company in Tennessee. It doesn't have anything to do with UCA, It's actually very hard for me to leave too. I do believe that God is calling me to

take this opportunity, though."

I: What are you going to miss the most?

R: "The people, staff and students alike. Everyone on campus is amazing, and I'm going to miss interacting with everyone."

J: "The people, especially students. It's been truly something to be able to connect with the students here at UCA."

I: What is your favorite campus tradition?

Both: "Class night. It is very energetic, and the students have so much fun. There is a special kind of fellowship you see that night more than any other time."

I: Is there anything you would like to say to everyone reading echoes?

R: "Thank you. Thank you to all the Acro kids, everyone on the farm, sports, just everyone. It's been a pleasure."

## Upcoming Events

### Upcoming Events:

**Academy Day** – April 30

**ASB Officer Petitions** – May 3

**AP Calculus Test** - May 4

**MAPs Growth Testing** – May 4 & 5

**Cinco de Mayo** – May 5

**Week of Prayer** – May 3-8

**Mother's Day** – May 9

**Spring Picnic** – May 10

**Mother + Daughter Picnic** - May 16

**Spring Banquet** – May 18

# CAMPUS NEWS

EDITOR: SKY SEONG



## One Call Can Change Everything

By Ayden Lee

There was a point in time when I had not planned to go to UCA. It was the middle of my freshman summer, and I got a phone call from some random number and being the responsible kid I was, I didn't answer but saw that the number had left a voicemail.

The voicemail pretty much said, "Hi Ayden this is Mr. Johnson, I'm the principal of UCA and I'm calling to talk to you about our desire to see you here in the fall. I hear that you are the best basketball player ever and if you came here, you would totally take Evan's spot."

I might be remembering that last part wrong but that's not the point. I never actually called him back. Thinking back on it, I kind of ghosted him on

accident. Later that summer he got my dad's number and arranged for a meeting with me and Kirk. He flew back from Hawaii straight to my hometown just to talk to us about UCA. He talked about how there were going to be dual credit classes, how junior internships were now a thing, and how UCA was now in league sports.

The meeting had me convinced but I still didn't want to say anything for sure. After the meeting, we went outside to say goodbye. Mr. Johnson was so prepared, that he had two basketball jerseys and had me and Kirk pose with them for a picture.

If Mr. Johnson hadn't come down to talk to us, I wouldn't be at UCA today. UCA has given me more than I can

say, and I cannot thank Mr. Johnson enough.

Thank you, Mr. Johnson, for changing not only my life for the better, but all the kids who have attended UCA under your leadership.



## Volley-Bald

By Anonymous Caring Student

So...

I may or may not have been involved with the volleyball team this school year. It was a few days after the glorious shaving-head-ceremony at Senior Rec. Mr. Johnson, our wonderful volleyball coach was standing in the middle of the volleyball court during warm-up just like any other games. I was sitting on the bleachers on the side of the gym. Now, these bleachers were high up so you could look at the court from the top. I was just casually looking around and then I noticed....

A guy without a head walking around on the court. I was so confused and looked again.

Mr. Johnson's bald head camouflaged with the shiny court.

Mr. Johnson, we love you and

we will miss you next year on the volleyball court!



# SPIRITUAL LIFE

EDITOR: MAKENA VONBERGEN



## Closing the Gap

Our relationship with God is not supposed to be exhausting. But sometimes, we make it just that. When we mess up, get busy, and pull away from God, we look at how far we've fallen and get overwhelmed by the distance between ourselves and Him. It seems like re-initiating closeness with Him will take several Redbull's-worth of energy, the energy that we often don't have. And so, we find ourselves giving up a relationship with God before we even try. But here's what's cool and SO easy to forget: our relationship with God has SO little to do with us and what we can do, and SO much to do with Him and what He can do.

The story of the prodigal son (you know it, I know it, and I have a 400-word limit and carpal tunnel), so, I'm not going to review the whole thing—just the end. After the prodigal son disappeared and messed around for a while, he decided that even life as his father's slave was better than life without his dad at all. And so, he headed back home.

Now here's what's beautiful: when the dad saw his son returning, the dad BOOKED IT towards him. The father wasn't thinking about how badly his son messed up—he just saw that his son was finally making moves back towards him and ran to help close the gap.

When we've lost our way with God, we don't need to worry about finding the strength to fight our way back to Him. The dad in the story didn't force his son to run a marathon back home to prove his worth. The second you open yourself up to Him, Jesus is running to close the distance. For every step you're taking back, He's taking three towards you. James 4:8 says, "Come close to God, and He will come close to you."

CLAIM THIS PROMISE.  
MAKE IT YOUR ANTHEM.

Run towards God, not away from Him. Rest in the assurance of the words he has spoken: no matter how far you feel from Him, He will draw nearer to you. He has chosen you as irrevocably worthy of His love. We just have to choose to believe Him.

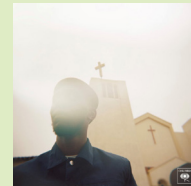
## ~Lamb Jams~

YA'LL I ABSOLUTELY CAN'T WITH THIS MONTH'S LAMB JAMS! I have NEVER been this stoked while writing something at 10:45 p.m. Samm Henshaw is a hugely gifted, young, incoming artist whose retro-soul, R&B sound is often compared to musicians like Chance the Rapper. His single "Church" is audible stoke and needs to be played at full volume.

On a wildly different note, John Mark Pantana's song "Strawberry Fields" is one of my favorite Christian-indie songs. Picture dancing with your best friend on a summer night. That's what this song sounds like.

**"Church" by Samm Henshaw (FEAT. EARTH-GANG)**

**"Strawberry Fields" by John Mark Pantana**



## Verbatim

What would you say to someone who's just messed up and is coming back to God?

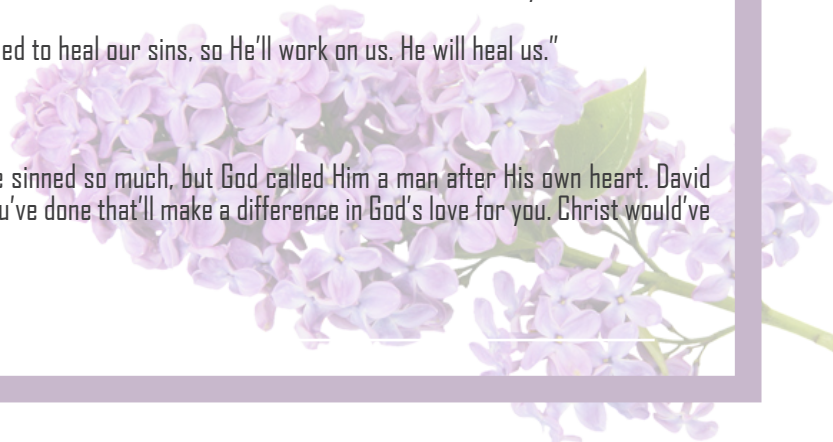
"As humans, we think that when we mess up, we have to find a way to fix our problems. It's always us trying to fix our mistakes. But that's not how God works. He's perfect. Our problems aren't ours to fix. We can't heal ourselves, no matter how hard we try.

If we drift away from God, He doesn't hold that against us. He died to heal our sins, so He'll work on us. He will heal us."

Alyssa Ruud

"Even the best people in the Bible messed up. Look at David—He sinned so much, but God called Him a man after His own heart. David killed someone to marry their wife; there's absolutely nothing you've done that'll make a difference in God's love for you. Christ would've died on the cross for just you."

John Coleman



## UCA ATHLETICS

EDITOR: ASHLEY COX



# A Volleyball Update

After not practicing for a week and a half due to Spring Break, the varsity volleyball team returned to play against Asotin Highschool for 5th place in the league. After several close sets, the varsity team lost 1-4. They finished their season with a 6-4 record and 6th place in playoffs, while junior varsity finished 5-5 before Spring Break. Both teams saw great improvement from last year. With most of the teams consisting of lowerclassmen, the ladies should be pretty good for the next couple of years. However, seniors Annika Geschke and Gracie Reynolds will be missed on the court next year.

Mr. Johnson was also varsity's head coach, and his positive presence will be missed on the volleyball team. Genevieve Harbour had the opportunity to play for him this year. She summarized

the loss well. "He is super supportive of the team, and whenever you make a mistake, he keeps the morale up so that you never feel discouraged when you mess up. He always focuses on team mentality and keeping a good attitude. As a principal, he is someone who you could just walk into his office and talk to about anything because he is really open. I've noticed that a lot of people feel super comfortable talking to him at any time."

To top off the season, both teams got to play the Men's Volleyball Club. J.V. played the practice squad while varsity swept the Men's Volleyball Club. Three of the club's members promised to shave their heads if they lost the game. A delivery of that promise may happen after banquet.



PC: Laura Pierce

## Next Up: Basketball!

With the volleyball season coming to an end, UCA athletes are looking forward to their delayed basketball season. Unfortunately, because the WIAA season lasts longer than the school year, many athletes will not be on campus for the last two weeks. This created a scheduling challenge for Mr. Johnson and Coach Irwin. They came to the decision that instead scrapping the season altogether, the basketball team will not play in the league this year. This will allow UCA to schedule five games, all in the month of May. Although it may not be what the athletes wanted, they are excited to finally play basketball.

The arrival of basketball is bittersweet, as this will be coach Reading's last season. He was such a genuine, knowledgeable, and supportive leader. Although tempers sometimes flared during games, he kept the team grounded with his calm demeanor. "Something that I admired about Coach Reading is that even in dark and dire

situations, he would keep a positive attitude. If you messed up, he wouldn't make you feel bad about it. He would reassure you that mistakes are a part of learning," said Ayden Lee. The Acro team is also mourning the loss of their beloved coach. Freshman and Acro member, Maddison Threadgill, very much included. "I always liked how Coach is really good at describing how to do things, especially since it was my first year in Acro and I was unsure where to be and what do and I will miss having that learning experience at school that teaches me things in a fun way. Knowing him I know that he is going to make a difference wherever he goes. it's sad to only have him for one year, but I'm glad I at least got him for that one!"



PC: Laura Pierce

# ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR: TORI STAFFORD



## Spring Appreciation

### RANDOM QUOTES

“God is wine, so therefore DRINK!”

~**Abbey Threadgill**

“Baby lock them doors and turn them lights up cuz I ain’t no bat!”

~**Graham Oakley**

“The only way to tune two flutes is to shoot one of them.”

~**Mr. K**

“Is this even a class?”

~**Kale Patzer**

“Mrs. Riffel, you look like someone who owns a bookshop and then drives a bus on the weekends.”

~**Corban Hardy**

“Fire can’t get burned, it’s already fire.”

~**Kole GreyEyes**

While it’s true that each season does have beauty of its own, the beauty of spring is unmatched, and here are a few reasons why:

#### 1. More SUNSHINE

One of the most beautiful things about spring is the sunshine hanging out with us a little longer. The cold darkness of winter can be enjoyable at times, but nothing can beat being able to go outside and feel the sun soaking into your skin. Also, it allows for a comfortable temperature to say goodbye to excessive amounts of layering clothes.

#### 2. Flowers Are in Bloom

The amount of serotonin I get from going outside and seeing all the little buds on trees and flowers is indescribable. (I’m sorry if you have allergies. Maybe enjoy it from inside?). Flowers and trees blooming also brightens up the entire scenery by adding different colors and smells.

#### 3. Fruit, Fruit, FRUIT

- Strawberries
- Pineapples
- Kumquats
- Lemons
- Kiwi
- Grapefruit
- Cherries
- Mangos

Need I say more?

#### 4. Birds

I know sometimes birds are possibly the most annoying animals on the planet, but they come back to sing their songs during spring. The sun shining and the birds singing; they go together.

#### 5. Baby Animals

Spring is the time of year when all the cute baby animals make their entrance into the world. You may be wondering why animals have babies in spring. Spring provides ideal living conditions for animals by providing accessible and plentiful amounts of food.

After I’ve provided all this information, I think it’s safe to say that spring is one of the most underrated seasons of the year.

#### Songs that Beethoven

and his homies had

absolutely no

business making:

1. The Moonlight Sonata
2. Symphony #5
3. Für Elise
4. Waltz in C-sharp minor, Op. 64 No. 29 (Homie Chopin)
5. Symphony No. 25 in G minor, k. 183 (Homie Mozart)

# NATIONAL NEWS

EDITOR: RENAE REINKE



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Follow

## Guy With The Digger At Suez Canal

@SuezDiggerGuy

PC: AP Images

Trying my best. No promises.

PC: Anonymous

# The Suez Canal Incident

People make memes out of international crisis.

On the 23rd of March 2021, another strange event occurred for the news and social media to talk about for weeks to come. After tracking a strange course in the Red Sea, winds from a sandstorm pushed the boat named the Ever Given into a narrow space of the Suez Canal. Typically, this sort of thing would not be a big deal, but because of how long it took to get the boat back on track, World Trade was effectively put on hold and billions of dollars were jeopardized. Like most national crises, social media has effectively blown up with memes.

Because of the weeklong blockage, other cargo ships had no choice but to make the venture around Africa's Cape of Good Hope. The cape's route substantially lengthens most ventures from 11

days to 26, costing thousands of dollars more in gas expenses. Finally, the labor from tugboats and a tiny excavator freed the Ever Given from its predicament and sent multiple ships that decided to wait out the delay back on schedule.

Despite having cost \$15 billion, the internet has still chosen to joke about it, as it does with most things. Many theories have popped up about the credibility of the sandstorm because of the very interesting shape of the course the ship took before entering the canal. Another person even made a website where you can lodge the Ever Given wherever you wish on a site called Evergiven-Everywhere.glitch.me. Even when those mistakes can be seen from space, people will always try to make light of a situation helps to avoid stress and, in its own way, lighten the situation a little.



PC: Anonymous

# HIGHLIGHTS

EDITOR: ROSALYNE FOOTE



## Spring

By: Anonymous

Winter is beautiful  
 Layers of snow blanket the ground and slow-falling  
 flakes drift downward  
 Trees lacking in leaves are covered in white  
 The scenery is peaceful and serene, without fault  
 Everyone overjoyed, living for the moment  
 But beneath this perfect appearance  
 There's another side, a dark, looming shadow  
 Growing, becoming more apparent  
 Draining the life from even the most vibrant  
 Until hope has departed, gone far away  
 Time stretches endlessly ahead and becomes suf-  
 focating  
 And the shadow seems about to take control  
 But suddenly—  
 A burst of light, hope reappearing  
 Burning away every trace of the shadow  
 Taking with it any memory of the dark  
 The days grow longer and time is again a friend  
 Spirits rising, laughter floating through the air  
 Everyone remembering the best parts of life  
 The sun shines upon a lively Earth  
 As birds' melodies are carried by the warmer winds  
 And flowers bloom and trees bud  
 Spring is beautiful

### My best friend gets covid

### Me to the nurse:



By: Kale Patzer

## Nothing Lasts Forever

By: Anonymous

When I wake up in the morning, love  
 It took me by surprise  
 You are so beautiful to me  
 Attracts me like no other lover

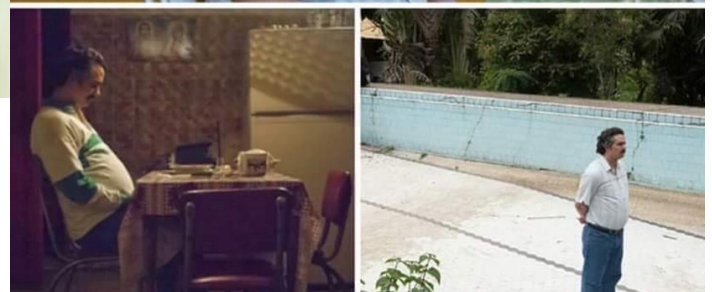
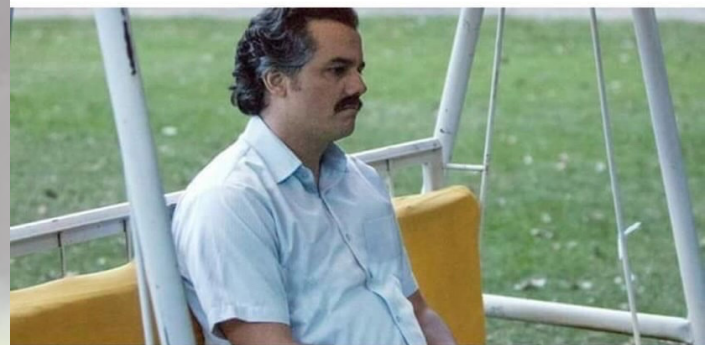
We're falling in love  
 I am yours now and always  
 I'm in your arms in central park  
 For I can't help falling in love with you

Losing light, I'm missing my same old us  
 Things started looking down  
 I think its time to walk away  
 When did you fall out of love?

I never should've said goodbye  
 Why you walk out my life?  
 Baby, please don't go  
 Don't give up on me

“Well at least we got to go home...”

The students that are stuck on campus:



By: Chantelle Olblekson



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Stained Glass Class:

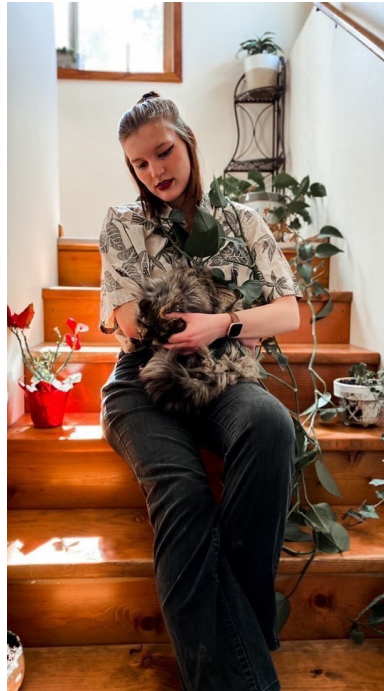
These are from the stained glass class taught by Mr. Plata.

Top left to right: Francesca De La Paz, Tori Stafford. Bottom: Russell Whitmore.



## Thanks for the Smiles: A Compilation of Gratitude for Our Principal

He always seems to be early and knows each and every student by name. And along with that, he gives us his trust. He'll always give you a smile and tell you hello. He deals with all our issues promptly, in a way that reassures us all. He shows us all what being selfless really means, whether some of us pay attention to it or not. His jokes of the day and other funny comments make us all crack a smile. It is always nice and easy to have meaningful conversations with a principal who will talk back. Thanks, Mr. Johnston.





# THE BACKPAGE

EDITOR: AYDEN LEE



## Literally and Figuratively Anything: Lemons Are Peculiar Things

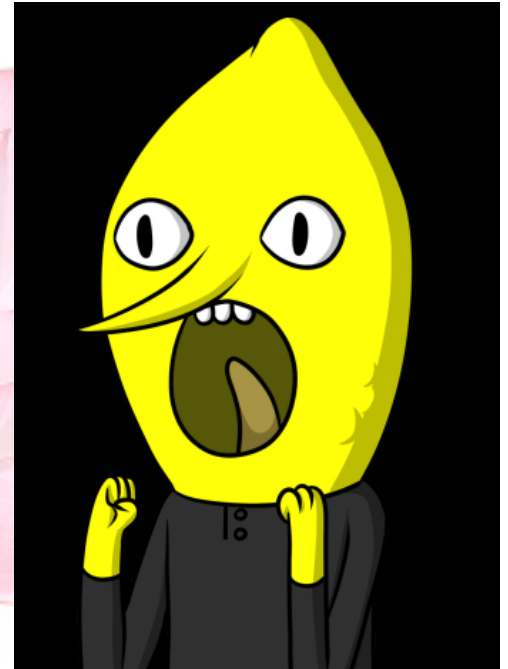
Lemons are peculiar things. Why are they relevant to life? We've all heard the saying "when life gives you lemons" then what. You should make lemonade? No that's dumb. Making lemonade is hard and not a good financial investment. If life is giving you lemons without wanting any financial commitments in return, then you should resell them to get money.

On the other side of things, you could create a lemon kingdom. If you have infinite lemons, then who can stop you. Guns are strong and all but if you have infinite lemons, then at some point the bullet will be stopped. Sure, an atom bomb makes a pretty big explosion, but infinite lemons are bigger. After you establish your lemon kingdom with walls infinitely thick and tall, you can make an empire.

First the dorm, then UCA

Campus, then Spangle, then Spokane, then Washington, then the West Coast, America, North America and then world domination.

With an infinite number of lemons, the problem of clean energy will be no more, and we can burn lemons as a fuel source. Once the issue of energy is solved, then a collaboration with Tesla will be made to make cars that run on lemons. Lemon cars will be the future of the world. Then maybe you will be able to make lemonade and sell it to your subjects and make a decent profit. If the subjects refuse to buy it, then they will be tormented to a life of getting paper cut and lemon juice into their cuts for the rest of their life.



PC: Google Images

Artist: Andrew Baker

