

ECHOES

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“TOP 5 IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS”

WITH JONAH ALVARADO

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Christmas Time Is Here at UCA

HEAD EDITOR: SKY SEONG



Thanksgiving is over, and December is here. That means Michael Bubl  on repeat, cookies and hot chocolate for days, and Christmas trees decorated with fun ornaments from preschool. Even though the students will not be home till the 18th of December, they will fully experience the Christmas joy with friends at UCA.

It started with the decorations in the girls dorm by the senior girls. There is a tradition in the girls dorm where the senior girls decorate the entire dorm with lights, trees, and color-coated ornaments in the evening secretly. Later in the night, around 10 o'clock, the deans pull the fire alarm for a fire drill. As the girls come back in from the cold, they are treated with goodies like cookies or donuts.

Then followed the ASB Christmas events and decorations in the AD building.

On December 2, the ASB team held the annual ASB Christmas Tree Lighting in the cafeteria with an enormous tree, Mrs. Karyl Kramer's Christmas storytelling, students singing and playing carols, and, of course, cookies made by Melody VanDoozer. Also, ASB decorated the Ad. Building with golden Christmas tree lights.

The teachers and their workers are fully decked out for Christmas, too. All the doors in the Ad. Building have been decorated with creative, historical, and funny themes such as previous presidents and Spanish-themed Christmas trees. The student workers are busy running around the Ad. Building to the library during fourth and fifth period for the craft materials for the doors. The annual door decorating competition judging took place on December 7. This year, the library won first place with their Hawaiian Christmas themed doorway, featuring staff members.

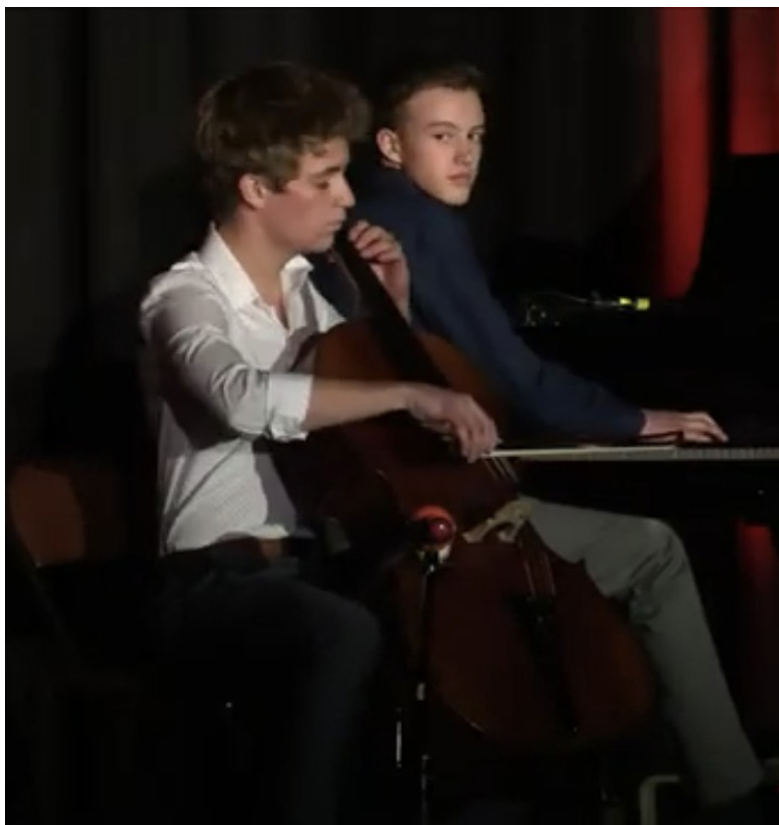
This Christmas is going to look different for many of us and our families, but let's look on the bright side: Christmas never fails to visit us with tons of joy and smiles!

We wish the merriest Christmas and happiest New Year to all our Echoes Readers!



CAMPUS NEWS

EDITOR: ISAAC GESSELE



Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Door Decoration Contest - Dec. 7

Student Week of Prayer – Dec. 7-12

ACT and Winter Banquet – Dec. 13

Sunset at 3:58 PM on Friday, Dec. 11

Christmas Break – Dec. 18- Jan. 4

Professional Amateurs

Amateur Hour comes around every year, and every year UCA students provide a completely unique experience. Most concerts or performances focus on one genre of music, but this talent show format provides a variety of styles and ideas. We saw skits, vocals and instrumental performances all night. Variety this year was especially on par, from Juliana Mason's performance of "Put Your Records On" to Carson Huenergardt and Kale Patzer's performance of the La La Land main theme. Some pieces were upbeat and lively, while some were morose or melancholy.

When asked about her thoughts on winning the skit category with her group, Alyssa Brown, junior, said, "It was really a lot of fun. It was such an adrenaline rush, and I would love to do it again. I think we practiced just the right amount, so that we knew

what we were doing, but there was still room for improv."

Juliana Mason, who won the vocal category said, "I was really satisfied with my performance. I don't usually play stuff that's so upbeat, so it was really fun to go out of my comfort zone and do that. I think I practiced enough too."

Freshman, Kale Patzer, representing himself and Carson Huenergardt, discussed his thoughts on their performance of the La La Land main theme. "I think we did good, it went better than I thought it would. The cello spin was especially [well executed]. We practiced quite a lot, but I still think it was just enough."

Senior, Christopher Kime played trumpet for the act that won the student's choice, "Sunday Best."

"I'm really happy with the way we preformed. I think we did really well. I think we practiced enough, but I do wish we had thrown in a few more vocals, or maybe added an electric guitar"

Amateur Hour was entertaining this year, and its sound performers are feeling good about how they did as well. Here's to a new variety of acts next year!



CAMPUS NEWS

EDITOR: ALLY BENADO



Winter Banquet 2020: City of Stars

It is an exciting time for UCA students. On November 11th, during assembly, Alden and Alex Wilfley constructed a PowerPoint about astronauts, aliens and space. At the end of the presentation, Men's Club announced that this year's theme was City of Stars from the famous musical film La La Land.

After the theme was announced, men from all grades rose to the occasion. Some noteworthy banquet asks came from Carson Huenergardt, Caleb Shirinzadeh and Ian Schroetlin.

Carson Huenergardt performed the theme for La La Land with Kale Patzer during Amateur Hour this year. After his act, he pulled a rose out of his cello and called Kelsey Judd onto the stage to pop the question. She said yes, and after a hug, she exited the stage.

Sophomore, Gianna Bolla, commented, "I was really surprised when Carson asked Kelsey at Amateur Hour! It was something that has

never been done before and it was a really sweet moment to witness. By far one of the coolest banquet askings!"

Another banquet ask worth mentioning was Ian Schroetlin's proposal to Abbey Threadgill. To be reminiscent of them going together freshman year, Ian decided to do a retake and ask her again. His asking included an actual "take 2" sign, complete with a production team to make the magic come alive. After his production manager, Tom Asaki, yelled "Take 2!", Ian jumped into his own rendition of "Would You Be So Kind" by Dodie. She was fully enchanted and everyone watching was enthralled. Safe to say, the fellow men at UCA could take some tips from our very own ASB President, Ian Schroetlin.

Lastly, the most energetic ask was from Caleb Shirinzadeh. On November 18, senior, Hannah Knipple walked into the band room

to get something for Mr. Melendy, only to see a group of boys with Caleb in the middle. They started to dance to the song, "Uptown Funk" by Bruno Mars. About halfway through, the music stopped after the line, "wait a minute." Caleb walked over to Hannah, got down on one knee, and opened a small box with the word banquet in it.

Hannah later commented, "It was the most creative, well thought out, banquet asking I've ever had!"



Warm Fuzzy Board Sparks Kindness on Campus

On November 6th, ASB put up a warm fuzzy board in the lobby of the Administration Building. The board allows students to leave uplifting notes to their fellow classmates around campus. Each day has a different prompt, ranging from who has the best laugh to who has helped you grow spiritually this year. The hope is to lift the spirits of students and bring joy to others.

Sophomore, Asher Mack commented, "The board is positive. In and of itself, it is a solid addition."

Mrs. Whitmore, UCA's Administrative Assistant, gave her thoughts about the popularity of the board: "This is so cool! It is something to always check and students are always looking for their name or other's names. It is so uplifting and good."

So, if you haven't already, go check out the board and write a sweet note to someone!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

EDITOR: MAKENA VONBERGEN



Verbatim: Featuring Luke Ganson and Tom Asaki

Two of this year's SWOP speakers, Luke Ganson and Tom Asaki, spit fire at us in these two interviews.

Why do you think it is so important to share your story?

L: "I want to show people what I'm struggling with and how God is leading me through it because I know that people might need to hear that. I want them to learn how God can lead them."

T: "Sharing your story is a way people can connect with you; you can share a bunch of things, but it doesn't mean a whole lot unless you live it yourself and people know where you're coming from. It's presenting a real person to people."

What would you say to people who have trouble being vulnerable and sharing their story?

T: "Be okay with who you are. You can only be vulnerable when you're not

worried about how someone is looking at you. Share who you are, not to try to change how people perceive, but because of who you can help. Being vulnerable is risky, but I feel like there's a certain degree of risk with everything that's worth getting."

L: "Don't be afraid. Sometimes I think that when I share [what I'm struggling with] that I'm going to be the only one, but the odds are that I'm not going through it alone--there are a lot of other people who are going through the same thing. You can also develop deep relationships with people through vulnerability; it builds trust. You'll be able to build meaningful connections."

What is the number one lesson you want people to be able to take away from your story?

T: "There's a saying: 'You can give a

man a fish and feed him for a day, or you can teach him to fish and feed him for the rest of his life.' I want people to learn something they can take with them through the rest of their life instead of just the next day. I want them to find God through my story. When it comes down to it, I'm just me. God is so much greater. I'm not doing this so I can be glorified or be the focus. It'd be a shame if I did something for God and expected me to get something out of it. It's all for God."

L: "Even though sometimes God may be quiet, or you can't hear His voice, don't give up. Keep pursuing your relationship with Him because

God won't leave you stranded. In every decision you make and path you take, give yourself a chance to pause and listen to God. Put in the time; you'll be able to hear His voice and know where He wants you to go and how He wants you to live your life."



LAMB JAMS

God is fresh, and His music should be too. Claudia Isaki's songs "Everyday" and "Milk & Honey" are two of the best Christian Indie/R&B songs out there. I'm STOKED about these two!



UCA ATHLETICS

EDITOR: ASHLEY COX



The Most Graceful Athletes at UCA: ACRO Soul

“Bring it in!” Coach Reading said after another successful practice. It was a Wednesday, meaning UCA’s gymnastics team had just finished 45 minutes of tossing. Groups of four doing the tossing, and a spotter working on blasting a flier into the air. These groups took turns working in the harness with the fliers attempting backflips each time the bases tossed them. Anyone watching would be impressed. That is the reason Mikayla Brenton, a senior, joined ACRO.

“I thought it looked really cool and I wanted to be part of some sort of team,” she said.

For others, it was about doing something they could not do on their own. “It is a time to get closer with the team and accomplish things you did not think you could do,” said senior co-captain Zach Damm.

“It has pushed me out of my comfort zone,” said senior Kyler Kramer, a first-year ACRO member.

When asked about the hardest or scariest activity in ACRO, all three members talked about tossing.

“If the top freezes and does not come down correctly, it can be kind of scary. We have had a couple times where we are tossing in a move and the top will stall and ball up, and so you have to catch them in a ball instead of in a sitting position,” Damm said.

“If you toss them wrong, and you catch it, it could be really painful to your back if you do not have the right position,” remarked Kramer.

Tossing is no small thing for a base or a top. However, there is so much more to ACRO than tossing. The team is working on a routine, which requires separate days devoted to different parts of the routine. Some days they work on their doubles routine, while other days they are assigned to tumbling.

Outside of practice, the coach requires gymnasts to do 50 push-ups, 50 squats, and 50 sit-ups before each meeting. At the end of the first semester, they must be able to hold a handstand free for 15 seconds or up against the wall for two minutes.

ACRO may not be very publicized on the UCA campus, especially now, due to the cancelations of tours. It is still an important, team-building part of UCA’s athletics.

If you are thinking about joining ACRO next year, Damm has some advice: “If you want to be a top, just work on balance, and if you want to be a base, just start working out to get stronger.”



School Sports Meet COVID

With COVID-19 on the rise once more, organized sports are not going unaffected. In his press conference, held on November 15, Governor Jay Inslee announced his four-week restriction plans. One rule being the prohibition of all indoor games and sports-related activities.

The fall season was originally extended to December 18, which cut summer season one month short. In addition to no practice, February 1 is basketball’s new starting date, and March 15 is now the scheduled beginning of soccer.



ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR: ALYSSA BROWN



WE NEED A LITTLE CHRISTMAS

By McKenzie Haskin



All I can say is that this album is absolutely amazing. The emotions, the remixes, the Christian addition--this album has so much to offer. I have so many favorite songs on this album. It was hard to just pick a few.

"My Favorite Things" was a part of this album. You know, the one from The Sound of Music. I think Pentatonix absolutely slayed with this one. The bass part, when listened to with earbuds, was piercing to the soul. I rate this one a solid 9/10.

"Amazing Grace (My

Chains Are Gone)" came up right after that glorious masterpiece. This was their first praise song, AND KEVIN HAD A SOLO FOR ONCE (he, as well as Matt Sallee, are Christians)! The beginning gave me chills. I was absolutely amazed (ha-ha, "Amazing Grace," really lived up to the name there). I honestly give it a 10/10. I almost cried.

"When You Wish Upon A Star," a Disney classic, made its way into the album. This one gave me chills, and it was cool because I

had never known there was more to the song. They made it very dreamy and soothing. This one gets a 9/10.

"Once Upon a December," from Anastasia, was so beautiful. It kind of gave me Tim Burton vibes. Definitely a 10/10.

They even included a collaboration piece of the classic "White Christmas" with a recording of Bing Crosby's voice and the London Symphony Orchestra. I absolutely loved this one, 10/10.

I highly recommend listening to Pentatonix's new album.

It's filled with emotion, fun, classics and their first Christian song. I give it 4.5/5 stars. I definitely think this would be an amazing Christmas gift for all the music lovers out there. Be sure to give this album a listen!



TOP 5 IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

By Jonah Alvarado



Hi everyone, my name is Jonah Alvarado, and I will be telling you about what I think are the top five ideal gifts to get for someone this Christmas.

Number 5: Candles

Candles! Candles are great gifts for family, friends and acquaintances. They are simple, yet elegant. They can be big, small, or medium-sized, and they come in a wide variety. Candles smell great and help to relieve stress. If you are looking for fancy candles, head on over to Bed Bath & Beyond or Yankee Candle.

Number 4: Water Bottles

Water bottles! They are useful and sufficient gifts for someone who does not like fancy or over-the-top gifts. It would be best to get some-

one a water bottle that is not made of plastic or some cheap metal. Get one that is high quality so that the person will be willing to use it and not leave it sitting in some cabinet for years to come

Number 3: Hoodies and Sweaters

Hoodies and sweaters are snazzy gifts to give someone for Christmas. They are warm, soft and cozy. They provide comfort and are fun gifts for your family and friends. You can get hoodies and sweaters that are ugly, cute, plain or fancy. This is an easy go-to gift for someone who could care less about what they want for Christmas. But make sure to find out what their size is or else it will be useless!

Number 2: Yourself or a Loved One

Another great gift for someone during the holidays is yourself or a loved one. Like many of us, if you have not seen your loved ones in a long time, now is your chance to surprise them and give them a Christmas they will never forget. Sometimes the thing that really matters most is that you are there to spend the holidays with those you love.

Number 1: The Bible

What better gift to give to someone than the Word of God itself? I mean, where can you go wrong with this gift? Especially during these trying times, everyone should be given this wonderful gift, and with

a new year coming around the corner, this will be a great tool for the future. And do not worry about offending someone. If the person does not like it or want it, I am sure the Lord will work in mysterious ways.

So, there you have it folks, my top five recommended gifts for Christmas this year. If you feel like none of these recommendations work for you, go back and look at gift idea number one. Also, remember not to worry about getting something fancy or extravagant. All that matters is that you give from the heart, because that is what Christmas is all about: the joy of giving.

NATIONAL NEWS

EDITOR: RENAE REINKE



The Anheuser-Busch Brewery in St. Louis relit its holiday light display.

CHRISTMAS IN QUARANTINE: HOW TO NOT LET QUARANTINE TURN YOU INTO A GRINCH

With people across the nation stuck inside small apartments and houses filled with antsy children, there is no doubt that everyone is searching for a good coping method. As early as July, popular social media influencers started posting 'serotonin boosters' of Christmas-themed slideshows that exploded all over the internet. That was the beginning of the early Christmas craze, causing people everywhere to bust out the holiday cheer early.

Over the past few months, people have been trying out Christmas recipes, decorating homes, inside and out, from elaborate light shows that can be viewed from the cars that drive by on the street, to cheery snowmen wearing cozy hats and draped in lights. There have even been large companies that have decorated their headquarters head to toe in Christmas lights. This

year, Christmas has been something that everyone can look forward to during such uncertain times. Now that the eagerly awaited holiday is nearly here, and a new year soon to follow, nearly everyone can agree that they just want this rollercoaster of a year to end on a happy note along with a greatly improved 2021.



(Photo Courtesy: Barbara Greenberg From CBS)

10 Things you can do During a Quarantine Christmas

1. Wear Christmas pajamas
2. Schedule a video call with Santa
3. Decorate your ENTIRE house
4. Order or make a commemorative quarantine ornament
5. Make a holiday playlist
6. Read Christmas books
7. Make cookies
8. Host a virtual Christmas dinner party
9. Drive around the neighborhood and find the best Christmas lights
10. Put together a holiday puzzle

HIGHLIGHTS

EDITOR: ROSALYNE FOOTE



CREATIVE KITCHEN: HOT COCOA COOKIES

By Melody VanDoozer

Prep Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Cook Time: 16 minutes

Total Time: 1 hour 46 minutes

Servings: 30

NOTHING IS BETTER THAN HOT COCOA AND COOKIES IN WINTER! WHY NOT PUT THEM TOGETHER?



Instructions

1. In a medium saucepan, melt the butter and chocolate chips, stirring frequently, over medium heat. Remove from heat and let cool for 15 minutes.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt.
3. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the sugar, eggs and vanilla at low speed just until smooth and combined. Mix in the cooled chocolate mixture just until blended. Add the flour mixture in 2 batches, mixing on low speed until just combined. Cover and refrigerate the dough for at least 1 hour.
4. Line 2 large cookie sheets with parchment or wax paper. Using a cookie scoop to form the cookies. Bake at 325 degrees F. for 12 minutes or until the tops of the cookies crack.
5. Meanwhile, cut marshmallows in half crosswise and stick 1 piece of chocolate onto each of the cut sides.

6. Remove the cookies from oven; gently press a marshmallow half, chocolate side down, into each cookie. Place back in oven and bake until the marshmallows are just softened, about 4 minutes. Remove from oven; let cool 15 minutes before serving.

Ingredients

- 1 stick 1/2 cup unsalted butter
- 1 bag 12 ounces semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups packed light brown sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 16 large marshmallows
- **8 ounces semi-sweet baking chocolate cut in 1-inch pieces**

The Tiny Things

People are not simple, but there is something about them that is: they love to feel special. They love having someone do tiny, sweet things for them. The simple act of smiling at someone can change their day, a kind word telling them they look nice can boost their confidence levels. It's so easy, yet so few do it. Too little take a second to appreciate the people around them. To acknowledge all the different lifelines floating through our world, even at UCA there are over two hundred students who have contact to maybe, fifty people each. We could change the world, maybe not forever, maybe not even for a week, but it would be for the better. People are so special; we just need to take a minute and love them for who they are.

We have a special opportunity because of banquet, a unique way, specific to UCA, to show people that we think of

them. To make them feel special. I've met a lot of the girls on campus, I can honestly say, I am rooting for them all to get dates. There are so many sweet girls, but on the other hand, there are a lot of nervous guys, it can be scary to ask someone to banquet. It's probably frightening to go out on that limb, showing the girl that you think of them specifically, and you think they are special. It leaves a big opportunity for a letdown. I understand, it would be hard.

I challenge you, not to ask someone to banquet if you're not comfortable with it, just to be nice to one person daily, it doesn't have to be the same person every day, it doesn't have to be a big gesture. It can be as simple as writing a warm fuzzy note to someone you think might need it, it can be as easy as complimenting someone on their clothes, a

new style that you like or just tell them how nice their smile is. It's simple, and, if everyone on campus did that to one other person, imagine how good everyone would feel, even if it were only for one week. Like I said, we could change the world, even if it was just part of it. I challenge you to be brave, to take the risk and tell someone why they're special. Everyone is. We could change the world. In fact, I dare you to.



By Bex Colcord

HIGHLIGHTS

70 Years of Echoes: "The One Word"

By Jordys Lithrop

"Christmas. Say it yourself and just see if your heart doesn't seem soft and warm inside, and your eyes light up as your lips smile.

Christmas. Wonderful, glorious, beautiful Christmas. A word that is brilliant, soft, bright and that makes us think of home---the warm spicy odor of the kitchen and mother's cooking. And there's always such a satisfied feeling inside of you as you look outside at the piling snow and think how good it is to be inside nest to the warm fire. And when you were little, wasn't

it so much fun? Presents, the wonderful scented Christmas tree---pumpkin pies, mother's good old-fashioned dressing. Dad even went sledding with you, and you and your pals in the neighborhood stayed out so long caroling your nose felt frosted over and your cheeks were ruby as little apples. But you felt good because of it.

Christmas. Such a glowing word. The glistening snow piled high---the wreathes of holly in the frosted windows, the crisp smell of winter, the carols floating through the

tangy air---is there anything so wonderful as Christmas.

One night long ago three lone figures darkened desert. One of the figures was a woman. The other two were a donkey and a man. The woman sat on the donkey, her body bent over and her head hung low. They were all so tired. And there, ahead of them was the inn.

But when they arrived there was no room, and they had to stay in a stable. Yes, there in the stable with the sheep and the cattle, the Son of man was born, as a shining glorious star

hovered in the sky above His bed there in the straw.

And wise men and shepherds came to pay tribute to Him. Jesus the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords.

Christmas. Such a touching tender word---and as you think of it, whether you're walking down the lighted streets of a snowy city, or though the snow of pasture back home on the farm---think of the glad shout of the angels as they came to tell the shepherds, 'Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men.'"

"Insecurities"

Have you ever looked into blue eyes?
Did you see sadness or lies?
Some people see happiness and joy.
Others see destruction, like in troy.

Girls see insecurities and pain;
Like you are being hit by a train.
Boys see who knows what!
Maybe closed off and shut?

I have blue eyes so I know,
A lot of emotions can definitely show.
When I look into a mirror, I see,
Nothing of who I wanted to be.

Sure, that might be a little mean,
But I'm just spilling the beans.
You may see whatever you'd like to see,
But all I see is me.

RANDOM QUOTES

"I love exploiting the young."~**Mrs. Riffel**

"AAAAAAHHHHHH my feminine body."
~**Ayden Lee**

"Sky, not every song in Spanish is 'Despacito!'"
~**Carson Cox**

"I don't know what words are!" ~**Malayna Logan**

"What if I pin a cat to the board? It is both warm and fuzzy." ~**Adam Colcord**

"Masks... They're like crop tops for your face." ~**Ian Schroetlin**

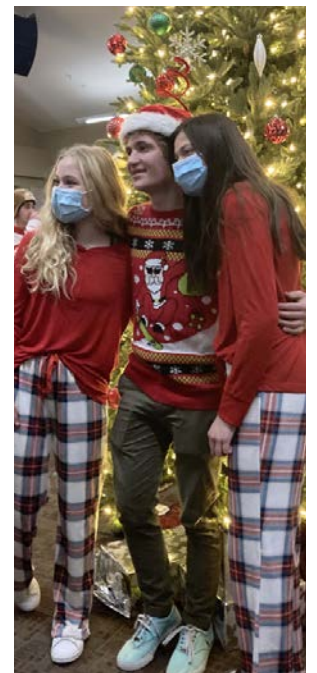
"I don't hate humans, I hate stupid humans." ~**Mrs. C.**

"Why should I get a chihuahua when I could install a doorbell?" ~**Andrew Baker**

"Your hands feel like angel's butts!" ~**Kate Byrd**

"I'm Alden Scissorhands." ~**Alden Wilfley**





THE BACKPAGE

EDITOR: AYDEN LEE



LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY ANYTHING: HOW SANTA IS DELIVERING PRESENTS DURING COVID

Many people wonder how Santa is capable of traveling around the globe and delivering presents to the children of the world in under 24 hours. The science behind it is not as simple as riding a sleigh pulled by reindeer. That is what parents tell their children because the actual method is much more complex.

Once a year, on December 25th, Santa Claus makes the Earth flat. That is right, Flat Earthers are right one day out of 365. He uses his pure strength and burns an insane number of calories. That is why there is the tradition of setting out cookies and milk; Santa needs an enormous caloric intake.

Once Santa makes the Earth flat, he gets on his sleigh and goes above the center point of the now flat Earth. Once there, all he does is use some simple calculations. He is

actually very good at math; you can spell Satan from the same letters as Santa, and everyone knows that math is from the devil.

Santa uses the Pythagorean theorem to calculate the exact angle needed to throw the presents down each chimney. The formula, for those who do not know, is $A^2+B^2=C^2$, but a less commonly known fact is that the variables stand for things. "A" means "All the good kids," "B" means "bad kids" and "C" means "coal!" On top of this, he also uses distance formula because duh and pretty much anything Mr. Gladding mentions.

Once Santa has calculated the angle to all 2.2 billion kids on Earth, he throws every single present. The reason Christmas was not canceled by COVID-19 this year is because this method is contact-free,

which has been approved by the CDC. So, when you see presents or coal underneath your tree, you can rest easy knowing that your gifts are COVID-free.

Campus Confessions

"I confess that Caleb S. isn't my real brother. We adopted him from an insane institute."

"Andrew Baker gave me diarrhea from a burrito he made."

