

ECH³ OES²⁰ April Edition

published by students of Upper Columbia Academy

9 - 12

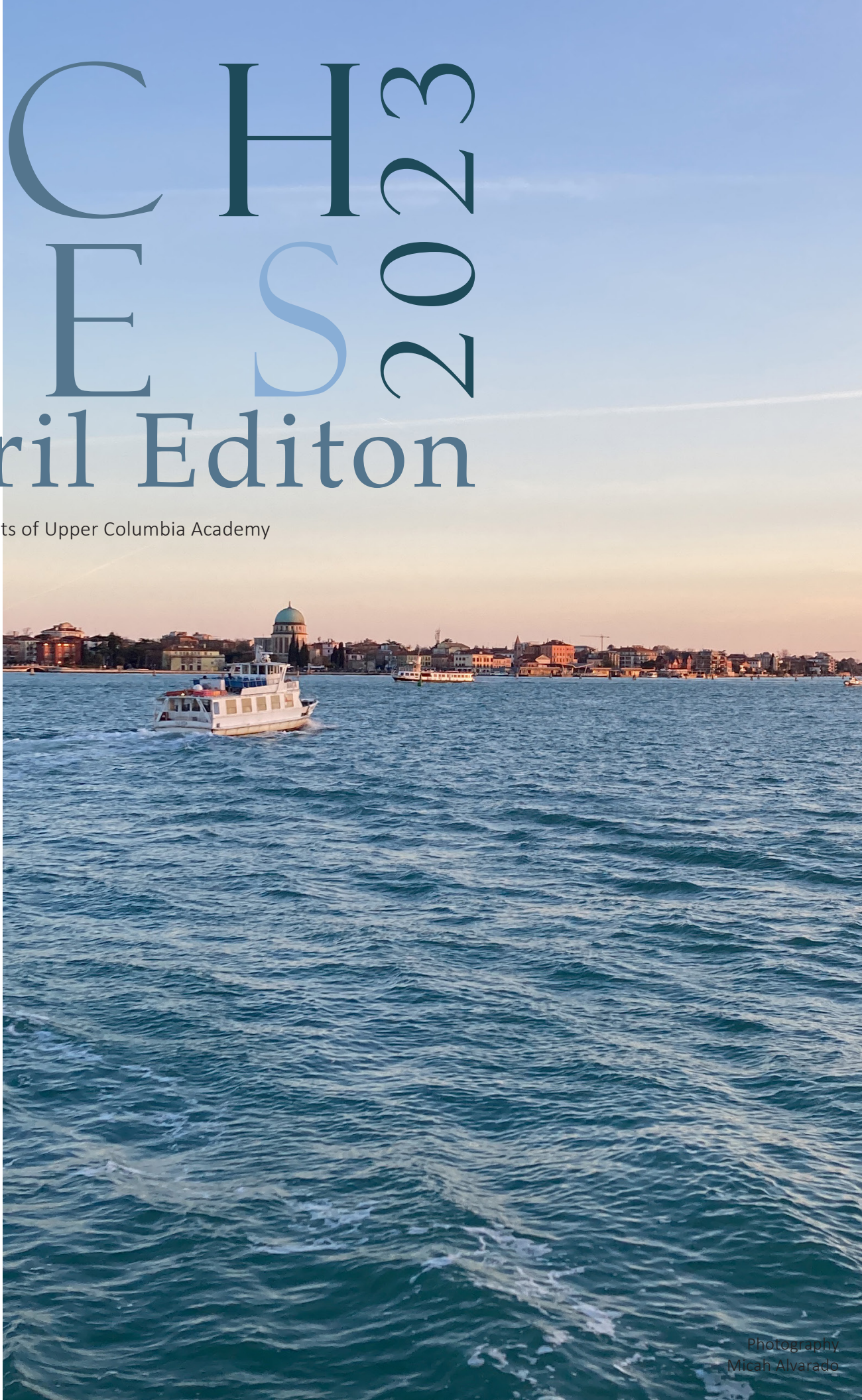
athletics
photohighlights
backpage

5 - 8

spiritual life
student highlight
entertainment
music

2 - 4

feature
campus news
national news



Photography
Micah Alvarado



FEATURE FEATURE

by Hailey Fischer

Touring Tuscany: ASB's Spring Party

On April 9, the ASB team set up a stunning Spring Party at the Upper Columbia Conference Office in Spokane. Following the theme Touring Tuscany, students dressed in their finest Italian attire or as tourists enjoying the countryside. Flowers and sparkling lights transformed the conference room into an Italian town. Students sat on pillows along rows of wooden pallets, which further complimented the charming atmosphere. The classic Italian cuisine of pasta, breadsticks, and salad were prepared by Mrs. Karen Schultz from the South Hill Church.

Madi Divers, the ASB Chaplin, commented that her favorite part about Spring Party was, "seeing how many [volunteers] showed up." The ASB team was surprised by how many people were willing to offer their help. After hours of preparation, it was a blessing to have the additional helping hands of so many volunteers. The combined effort of ASB, sponsors, and volunteers produced an event full of laughter and smiling faces.

UCA's Academy Day Recap

Friday, April 7, students from various school districts came to see UCA during the annual Academy Day. The day started off with a short song service from the UCA Octet, followed by a short worship from Pastor Sid. Groups divided up from there and visited each department. Each stop included scholarship opportunities with information based on the corresponding department. After a lunch of haystacks, the scholarship winners were presented. The event concluded with a short performance by the Music Department and a showcase from ACRO Soul. Academy Day is a great event to help incoming students know what UCA provides.

by Jonathan Haeger

Students Dive into Marine Life on Biology Trip

At the dawn of April, students in the Marine Biology class boarded buses and drove to Rosario Beach, located north of Seattle near Deception Pass. On the trip, students got to see different marine life in person. Following their arrival, students took pictures of the gorgeous sunset, then had dinner and went to bed. The next day started off with personal journaling, followed by classes on various topics within marine biology, such as plankton and seaweed.

The next day, the group took a ferry to the San Juan Islands, where they visited the iconic Whale Museum. After, they went to the Lime Kiln Point Lighthouse, where a hydrophone listens for nearby Orca Whale pods. The rest of the day was spent exploring Friday Harbor and other islands.

The final day, on the way back home, the group visited the Seattle Aquarium, which has an impressive set of marine animals. They are one of the few aquariums that has a Giant Pacific Octopus. The aquarium also has multiple petting areas, where people can feel sea urchins and sea anemones. They, additionally, have many exhibits of larger animals, like seals and otters.

Sophomore, Josie Littler, who went on the trip says, "I had lots of fun on the Marine Bio Trip. We stayed in little cabins, ate amazing food cooked by Mr. C, studied the ocean, looked at plankton, and we even dissected a squid. We got to roam around San Juan Island to see the shops and learned about some of the history. Overall, it was 10/10!"



NATIONAL NEWS

by Bella Smith

An American Taken by Russia

Evan Gershkovich, a journalist for the Wall Street Journal, was recently taken by Russia's FSB (Federal Security Service). Gershkovich was accused of espionage, which is the act of obtaining confidential information. Both the Wall Street Journal and the Biden Administration confidently deny this accusation. He was put in the Lefortovo prison on March 29. Many U.S. government officials have low hopes for the release of Gershkovich because the FSB holds trials in secret that tend to be unfair. There were times that Gershkovich had strange unidentified men follow and film his every movement. Gershkovich spoke about his terrifying

encounters, and he wondered what was to come. Mr. Gershkovich had grown up in a Russian household with both of his parents and grandma having immigrated from Russia. Because of his connection to Russia, he wanted to go back and see where his roots are from. So, about five and a half years before his arrest, he did journalism in Russia. He explored the culture, food, bands, and people. Sometimes he even got tours of where his parents grew up and spent their childhood, helping him connect with his heritage. He fell in love with the country that would later hold him in prison for the next 20 years.

China is Shrinking

Since the 1950's, China has had the largest population in the world. Because of the enforced policy that only allowed one child for each family, the population is shrinking. This policy lasted 35 years, from 1980 to 2016. If a woman were found with more than one child, she would either be forced to have an abortion, pay an extreme fee to keep them, or risk other consequences from hiding them. Women would have several abortions in their life, sometimes even four.

This created a larger elderly population and fewer young people to fill their positions and take care of them. This increased the cost of labor due to the smaller workforce. Because of all these issues, the number of children per couple was raised to two around 2016 and eventually to three in 2021. Currently, people are very reluctant to have more than one child because they do not have the financial ability to raise them.



SPRITUAL LIFE

Blessings From a Haircut

by Angie Buursma

Mission trips are such an amazing experience. They can either be extremely enjoyable or can serve simply as a memorable, eye-opening experience. For Makenna Shirinzadeh, it was both. After surviving flight delays, the group arrived in El Salvador, where they were met with humidity and old buses that often broke down. In fact, it was on one of these buses that the fund raiser for the kids in El Salvador began. While they were riding a bus to a volcano, Makenna noticed how long Isaac Acker's hair was, which sparked a thought.

She asked Isaac, "What are the odds you cut your hair?" to which he said something along the lines of "No way."

Still, she continued, saying, "What if it's for the kids?" This last question ignited something in Isaac.

"Actually, I might do that if it's for the kids," he replied. So, they all started to

pitch in money. Gianna Bolla and Caitlin Krause started a GoFundMe.

Their goal was to raise \$1000, and within 24 hours, they had raised \$1300. With that money, they bought the kids 20 pairs of shoes, some jeans, and some shirts. They gave the leftover money to the teachers. It was such a blessing for not only the kids, but the teachers as well. The teachers only received \$10 a week, but with the extra money, they had gained \$20 that week. That was a lot of money to them. Overall, it was quite an experience for Makenna and everyone else on the trip.

Not only did they help paint the school and fund-raise, but they also lead out in VBS, which was Makenna's favorite. After all the things that happened over there, Makenna said, "I wish I could do that every year."

Quote of the month

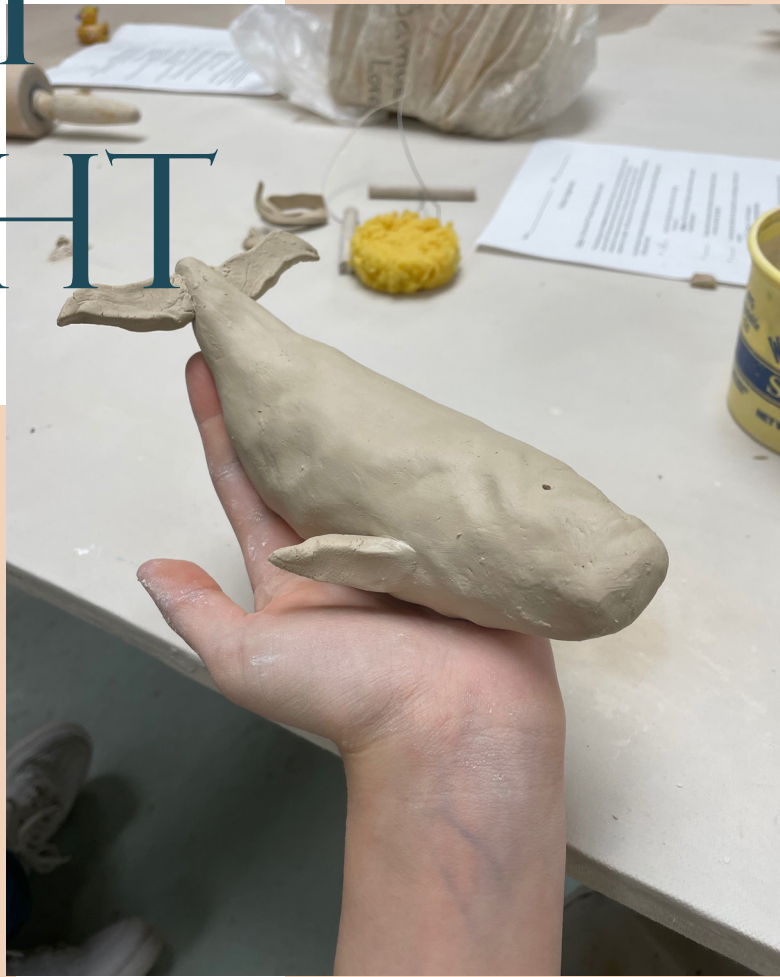
"Opportunities
don't happen, you
create them."
-Chris Grosser

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

by Sofia Pinell

A Rising Artist on our Campus

During the third quarter, Mrs. Kramer taught a pottery class. Pottery is an art class which includes creating projects like pinch pot figurines. Glasha Drumi, a senior, created a hollow whale that is formed with the “pinch pot figurine technique” in class. This is to avoid having the project explode while being fired in the kiln. Glasha decided to create a bigger pinch pot. She carefully formed the basic shape of the whale then smoothed it out. Now, after being fired, she has a beautiful whale figurine.



Girl's Dorm Scholarship

On Academy Day, the Girls Dorm had a scholarship planned out for the girls coming to tour the dorm. For the scholarship they had a question “How many pillows does the dorm have?”

The winner for the Girls Dorm scholarship was Jenna Wicklund, who is an 8th grader at Tri-City Adventist School. She made the closest guess, which was 601 out of 605 pillows. This scholarship will provide \$250 toward her tuition and fees at UCA.



Slash (Sound Poem)

by Deklan Duffy

Slash! went the sword
against a sturdy log.

So, by forging a sturdy blade
with strong minerals,

Slash! went the cleaver
through the tender meat.

Smooth cutting can become
a breeze.

Through and through blades
cut quick,

Now you never hear the
sound

And yet some shatter
against strong materials.

Of the mysterious withered
blades of old.

The sound of cutting can be
combined with shattering

Still, some seek to train in
the way

When a weapon loses its
durability.

To relive the medieval time
ages ago.

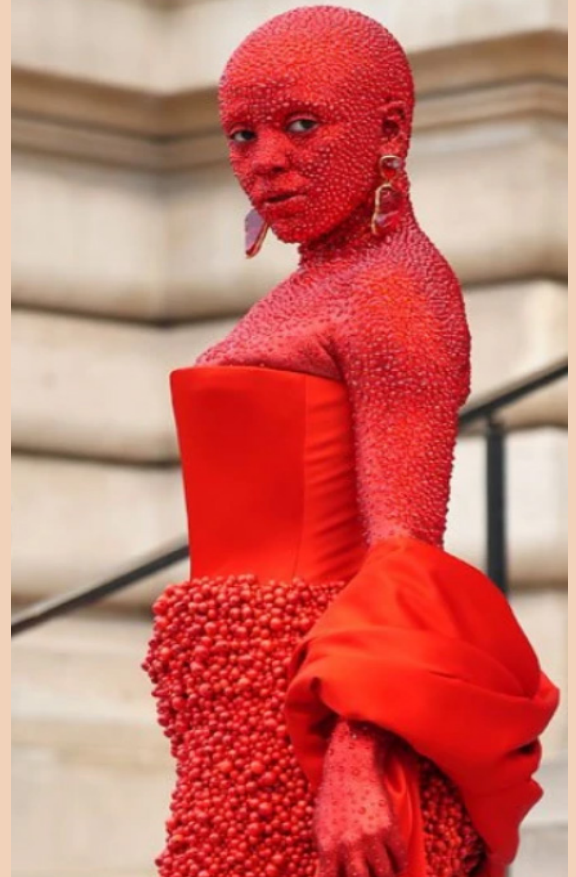
ENTERTAINMENT

by Sarah Cole

Some of Fashion's Iconic (or more Ironic) Looks

Fashion is indeed an art form. I don't know how else some of these looks would be accepted in society. Well, maybe I am giving our population too much credit for their taste.

I would like to know the purpose behind this design. Well, maybe if I "shift my perspective," I will see clearly the "angle" they are coming from.



This look is giving "a corseted Seattle dock piling, dripping with red barnacles" or "red caviar."

I have one question for the designer: do the zippers work? The third look gives depressed curtains and expensive lamp shade vibes. Also, the collar slightly resembles a cushioned toilet seat. Real, "high class."

As a side note: did you know "Eau de toilette" AKA "toilet water" is a perfume? It is French and is considered a very sophisticated fragrance. Now you have the perfect gift for your loved one.





MUSIC

by Megan Christensen

DISCUSSION

Robert Schumann's Fingers

A composer by the name of Robert Schumann lived in Europe in the 1830s. During the years of his young adulthood, classical piano became popular. Schumann decided he wanted to master this activity, and he made it his goal to quickly perfect his playing of the piano. He constructed a little invention made from a cigar box and wire. It was intended to prop up his fingers while he was practicing. The concoction was supposed to strengthen his fingers and develop their independence. Instead, he permanently injured two fingers on his right hand and ended up becoming a composer instead.

Spring Break Music Tour

Over spring break, 65 UCA students spent two weeks touring and performing in Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. This trip had been planned for over a year, and seeing it come together was very exciting for all involved. Leaving UCA at 4:30am, the students and staff bussed to the Seattle airport where the flight left at 11:00am. After a long flight and a layover in Frankfurt, Germany, the very tired group reached Tyrifjord School outside of Oslo, Norway. There was a busy schedule of exploring local areas during the day, followed by performances almost every evening. Six days and four performances later, the group packed up most of their belongings and headed for Stockholm, Sweden. They stayed in a school gym in the countryside surrounding Stockholm, spending a couple of days touring the area and performing a concert. Packing up again, the group loaded the bus and turned

south towards Malmo, Sweden, and set up camp in a church there. The next day they crossed the bridge into Copenhagen, Denmark. While there, they had a canal boat tour. The day ended with a performance in a church there. The second Sabbath on tour was spent in the church in Malmo, and that evening the group gave their last performance in Scandinavia. On Sunday, the buses were loaded and the long drive all the way back to Tyrifjord was made. Because of flight complications, the group left Oslo on three different flights within a 24-hour period rather than the same flight. However, everyone made it back stateside safely and showed up at school the next couple of days. This trip not only had a significant impact on the lives of the students and staff, but also on the people that they met and ministered to. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will not be forgotten.

ATHLETICS

by Ethan Hickok

Flipping Out

ACRO had the opportunity earlier this month to travel all around the Northwest. Prior to this tour, ACRO was able to capture the attention of potential new students to UCA on academy day. Though some things did not go as planned, many of the kids loved it and are hoping that they get the opportunity to perform with our ACRO team sometime in their own UCA future. For ACRO Soul's tour, they first traveled to Coeur d'Alene to perform for Lake City Academy. Next, they stayed in the same area and performed at Spokane Valley Adventist School. From here, they traveled a little bit farther, going all the way down

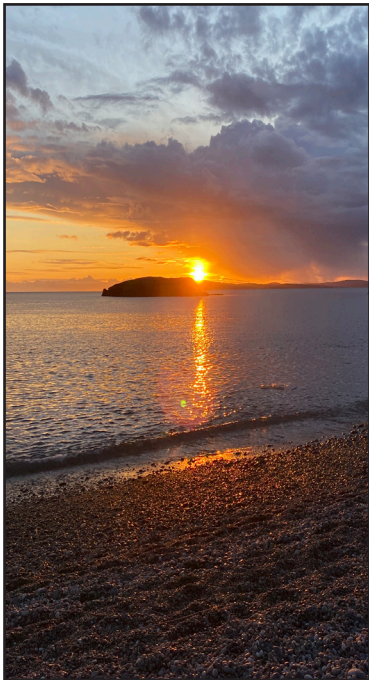
to Yakima Adventist Christian School. They even went all the way into Oregon. ACRO did a church service together along with a bunch of other team bonding activities, such as visiting a video game arcade with go karts and sharing a meal at an ACRO team member's house. After all of this, the team was very tired, but all of them were happy to have gotten the chance to perform in front of hundreds of kids and help inspire them to pursue similar activities. Next, ACRO Soul will prepare for their upcoming home show at the end of the school year for all of us to see. Make sure you don't miss it!

Fore!

Golf season is now underway. UCA has an awesome team this year with a lot of interest in competition. Compared to last year, the team has almost doubled in size. The team still is a little low on our female interest in golf though, so if anyone wants to try, talk to Coach Irwin about getting involved. The sport, if you can call it, is incredibly fun and can help teach you patience and precision. It is also fun to learn just as a recreational activity and to make new friends, especially when you get to spend hours with students from a bunch of differ-

ent schools. It is so fun to talk and play with new people. The team has already had a couple of tournaments this month and UCA is performing very well. The UCA guy's team is hoping to send more than five guys to State and maybe even win. All the male golfers have already qualified for sub districts, and almost all of our girls have qualified. Our next meet while be held in Colville this upcoming Tuesday and will be one of the few chances that our players get at qualifying for sub-districts. UCA is excited to see how the other upcoming meets







by Tanner Duffy

I Want to Be a Sloth

Hear me out. The school year is almost over. In fact, we have a little over a month until everyone leaves, and then the juniors get to clean everything (yay). Sometimes I wish we could have a moment of peace and quiet, wouldn't you agree? But no. Everyone at this school has been pummeled with trips, tours, performances, tests, and an endless slew of homework. There is not a single weekend where we do not have something going on. We just can't catch a break. And this is why, my wonderful readers, I have decided to become a sloth.



Think about it. As a sloth, I could spend all my life doing things that sloths do. I could marvel at my strength, which happens to be three times stronger than a human. I could just hang from a tree all day and sleep, never having to worry about anything like homework. Think you know all about sloths? Well, let me show you just how chill (and weird) they are.

Sloths are legally blind. They lack cone cells in their eyes, meaning they cannot see color. Overall, they have terrible vision. They confuse their own arms for a tree branch, causing them to potentially fall to their death. Sloths are actually designed to survive falls. They can fall from over one hundred feet without getting hurt. And trust me, they really need that ability since they fall from trees about twice a week. Sloths also only have to use the bathroom once a week! I would say that is a win. Even though they are known for being slow, they have a secret talent.

Sloths move three times faster in water than on land, and they love to use the backstroke. Just imagine a sloth chilling on its back, casually swimming through waters infested with all sorts of toothy munchers. Sloths just have the best vibe. But wait, there is more! The weirdest thing about sloths is that they are basically a living ball of dirt. Sloths can grow a layer of plants and algae on their skin and hair. This forest that they grow supplies habitats for thousands of small creatures.

Sloths are great! Okay, maybe not all great. They are clumsy and often accidentally kill themselves more often than predators kill them, but they are still cool. Honestly, we should give the sloths a chance to shine. Their lazy and chill nature is just what we need to emulate here at UCA. Why should you do your homework when you can do nothing? Okay, maybe not like that, but sloths do teach us important things. They are patient, kind, and they value the simple things in life, something we should all strive to do. So, whenever life gets too busy or you just cannot catch a break, just remember- be a sloth.