



As part of their HOPE project on November 21, Tyler Freeman and Ian Tsai stand outside a Rosauers supermarket on Spokane's South Hill to advertise Tom's Turkey Drive.

Celebrating Thanksgiving

by William Moore

Many interesting Thanksgiving traditions were reported by guys in the dorm.

Noah Wallace, a senior at UCA stated, "Thanksgiving is a time to be grateful for what you have." His family's tradition is to gather around in a circle and say what they are thankful for. Another interesting tradition came from Zach Weijohn whose family goes bowling during Thanksgiving. Zach Gilbert said that his family likes to hike and ski. Finally a very interesting Thanksgiving tradition came from an anonymous student who said his family likes to hunt their own turkey and then pay respects to it. After eating they read "The Third Wise Man" and make their Christmas lists.

Students from other countries also had interesting things to say about Thanksgiving. Devin McCann from Surrey, Canada, celebrates Thanksgiving on October 12. His family tradition is making a list of what they are thankful for and having a ping-pong tournament. Braeden Shipowick from Vernon, Canada, said that his family's tradition is to add in some Ukrainian dishes. Ian Tsai and his family, who are from Taiwan, celebrate the Moon Festival instead. His family has a big barbecue, lights fireworks, and usually celebrates till almost midnight. Hyun-Woo Kim from South Korea said that his family pay respect to their ancestors and leave food for them.

No matter where they are from, students and their families have their own way of celebrating the holidays.

A day of endurance

by Derek Riffel

On November 13, students from several schools came with their teachers for a day of gymnastics. Some of them were traveling over 4 hours to be able to attend.

The day started out with a simple warm up, led by the UCA Gymnastics Team, to help the students be able to work hard and not have their muscles give out on them. Some were very flexible while others were stiffer than a board. But no matter what their ability was, the UCA team tried their best to accommodate everyone.

After every one was warmed up, they split off into five groups to go around to different stations that had been set up for their enjoyment. The five stations included acrobatics, tumbling, pairs, balance, and juggling. After one hour spent at the first station, the kids would move on to the next and so on until all the stations had been visited. However only the first two rotations were completed before everyone went to lunch.

After lunch everyone came back to complete the final three events before they had to leave. These final rotations were a real test for the gym team and tested their endurance and will to help the kids.

When the day was drawing to an end and all the rotations had been successfully completed, the gym team had one final treat for the visiting schools. They decided to show them their half time show that would soon be performed at several basketball games.

According to Rachel Van Dyke, the Gymnastics Clinic was a great way to reach out to the surrounding Academies. The kids really seemed to enjoy trying all of the things they had seen the team do, and many cheers were shouted during the show at the end of the day. Even though many were exhausted and very sore, it was fun to be with the kids. So all together the day went better then planned, and everyone was happy and left with smiles on their faces and a warm feeling in their hearts.

Sacred Christmas Concert
Friday, December 19, in the UCA church
Christmas Concert at the Fox
Saturday Night, December 20

D-day

by *Brianna Woodruff*

Monday arrived bringing with it a mix of emotions to the UCA campus. Some felt excited, some were scared out of their minds, and others couldn't care less. It was official Guys Ask Girls Day for the upcoming banquet. Michael Woodruff and Logan Villarreal called it D-Day. The D was meant to stand for Drama; however, it could stand for a number of other things such as Date-Day, Dreaded-Day, Dysfunctional-Day, or Delight-Day. Classes met as usual, but there was something different about this day.

The guys who were brave enough to ask carried through with their creative plans while trying to act "normal." Girls waited to see if they might be lucky enough to get invited by whom they hoped to go with.

The ways the guys asked included putting up signs or paper banners, singing in class, and giving unique gifts. Some guys even kept the suspense going for multiple class periods without revealing their identity until later in the day. It wasn't uncommon for other people, teachers included, to be involved some way in the plot of asking.

Schoolwork kind of got pushed out of the forefront of students' minds as they were distracted by the events of the day. But some homework actually did get done, believe it or not!

This day was a delightfully happy day for some, but for others it was incredibly awkward or even heartbreaking. At least this wave of drama that hit the wheat fields of Spangle added a fascinating twist to the start of the week!

UCA hosts blood drive

by *Alec North*

On December 4, the Inland Northwest Blood Center came to UCA asking for your blood.

The Blood Drive is a way to help others. Mrs. Brophy, who is in charge of setting up the Blood Drive, says, "One unit of blood can save three lives."

If you feel like "giving the gift of life," the Inland Northwest Blood Center would love for you to donate blood. "Giving blood is virtually painless and is for a great cause," says student Travis Grabner.

According to the Inland Northwest Blood Center, 21% of blood donations come from high schools. That means that if high school students decide not to donate, the blood supply would be dramatically reduced.

If you ever decide that you want to give blood, there are a few things that you need to know. First of all, you must be at least sixteen to be eligible. Sixteen and seventeen year old donors will need a signed parental permission form to donate. You must weigh at least 120 pounds and be in good health. Also, you can't have gotten any tattoos or piercings in the last year, and you can not be on any antibiotics.

For more information on eligibility you should consult inbc2.org.



UCA talent shines on stage

by *Cassie Cantrell*

Many of UCA's students showed off their talents on stage on the evening of November 8th at the Annual Amateur Hour

After many hours of planning, practicing and work, the evening finally arrived for the nervous participants and tired out Girls' Club members. The theme of this year's production was "Twilight in the Forest" and the show was put on by the UCA Girls Club. Coach John Soule said it was a lot of work but the stage decorations were the best he'd seen in awhile and that the talent was superb. Chloe Johnson, a UCA Junior and member of Girls' Club, spent her October homeleave painting the amazing forest backdrop, but she was not the only one that spent hours preparing for the talent show. According to the Girls' Club President, senior Kelsi Wheeler, it was worth all the work put into it.

Several weeks before the show brave students took their acts in front of judges trying to make it through to the show. There were over thirty people trying out but only sixteen spots. "It was amazing; the talent of UCA students really did shine through," said junior Daniel Jenks. From music to skits the audience was left in awe after each act.

Too Amateur

By *Alyssa Robins*

While participants in Amateur Hour added the finishing touches to their acts, not all of the students who tried out were getting ready for the show. A few students who had performed, hoping to make the cut, were given a pink slip of paper that let them know that they were appreciated but could not be used.

The girls' deans, the principal, the music teachers and a few others were the selection committee for amateur hour. Their purpose was to make sure the content of the acts was appropriate and varied.

Judy Lin sang her song in front of the committee and later received a pink slip of paper. "I feel rejected," she said, but she did not hold a grudge and enjoyed seeing her fellow students on stage during the program. Brooke Gates and Abby Hochhalter also received the pink slip, but Brooke said that she was not really disappointed and her life "really didn't depend on getting in."

These contestants might have another chance to show us how talented they are during Senior Rec Talent Show. James Soule, son of the girl's head dean, was another performer who was told that he could not be used in Amateur Hour. "Do you have any idea how disheartening it is to be rejected by your mom?" Jamie said with a smile. He is still planning on using his act for Senior Rec.

Behind amateur hour

By *Zachary Weijohn*

Amateur Hour is one of those times of year when parents, friends, and family can come together and have a blast. Almost everyone would agree that amateur hour is one of the highlights of the year.

But much like life, Amateur Hour doesn't just happen. What really makes or breaks Amateur Hour are the men and women behind the scenes. It takes hours of grueling planning and work from many different people to make Amateur Hour happen, and this year was no exception.

It was the Girls' Club turn this year to shoulder the responsibilities of Amateur Hour. They worked long and hard on the many intricacies of the show and picked its theme, "Twilight in the Forest." They organized the painting of the backdrop, which was painted by Chloe Johnson over many painstaking hours. There were also many other people who contributed to Amateur Hour: the spotlight crew who shed light on our performers, the backstage hands that ensured that everything was set up correctly, and Mr. Mann and Mr. Williams, who worked tirelessly with Mr. Anderson and performers to ensure everything went as planned.

Without the contribution of everyone involved with Amateur Hour we would have a poor reflection of the talent that resides in the dorms and halls of UCA.

Grand Prize

Elise Kinne (Piano Solo)

Audience Choice

Men in Tights

1st Place Piano

Melinda Novak & Elise Kinne

1st Place Skit

Lindsay Gardner

1st Place Instrumental

Michael & Brianna Woodruff

1st Place Vocal

Kayla Schroetlin & Daniel Jenks



Lions finish season 8-4

by Logan Carter

On November 9, the UCA Lions won two out of three games in the final football tournament of the season, increasing their record to 8-4.

"It was a great way to end our football season," said Senior running back Noah Wallace, who had an impressive 16 touchdowns this season. Alec North, a Senior cornerback on the Lions' talented defense agreed, saying, "We had a lot of fun out there and I'm going to miss playing with this team."

Each year, the Fall Classic Tournament provides the Lions with their last chance to make a statement out on the football field. The team started the cold and foggy day by handily beating WWVA in a high-scoring game. Their second game against Boise resulted in the team's only loss of the tournament. The day wasn't over, however, as the Lions rallied to finish their season with an exciting win over Walla Walla University. A couple of weeks before the tournament, a special trip may have impacted how the Lions performed.

On October 17, the Lions headed up to Pastor Fred's cabin on the backside of Mt. Spokane to come up with a team goal. After spending the night in tents and talking about what the team wanted to stand for, a final team philosophy was reached: "Represent Christ with positive leadership, represent the 'Pride,' and give 100% focus." Junior cornerback, Derek Riffel, said, "It really brought us close as a team and gave us a great team goal to work towards."

Coach Soule stated that this year's team was a very talented group of young men. The Lions proved this as they had their best season in over four years by winning eight games and losing only four. This seemed to be no coincidence as Junior quarterback Trent Fisher threw for over 30 touchdowns to a skilled group of receivers, and the Lions' tough defense recorded 12 interceptions, several sacks, and a safety.

Overall, the Lions' season was an eventful and highly successful one, with the Fall Classic turning out to be an awesome final day of football.

Tis the evening to be jolly

by Jemi Morgan

The Christmas season is coming upon us quickly, and besides banquets, parties, and ASB functions, there is one area that is likely to be unknown to the students: the Staff Christmas Party.

The Staff Christmas Party is a time for the faculty at UCA to stop and relax and not worry about the classes, the naughty students, or the chores that have to be done at home. According to Mrs. Carol Ochoa, it is a time for fellowship.

The party is put on by the Social Committee, and headed up by Mrs. Ochoa. She works along with several others to put together the Christmas party, which is usually held in the multipurpose room at the elementary school. The 2-3 hour party usually includes delicious food, a gift exchange, and caroling.

Most of the staff attend the party, and most of them seem to enjoy it.



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

ECHOES

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Caitlin Laubach, Cady Graves, Tyler Shupe, Katie Norris,
and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

Brewster tour highlights

by Caitlin Laubach

The first UCA band tour of the year was full of fun and success. The band members not only performed twice in Brewster but were also able to spend an afternoon in Leavenworth, Washington. The two performances went smoothly and sounded spectacular.

The band's performance at the elementary school consisted of secular music, including the theme songs from Pirates of the Caribbean III and Gladiator, and sacred music. The principal, a former student of UCA, invited other schools to come listen to the performance in the hopes of encouraging students to get involved in band.

The band then headed to Leavenworth for the afternoon where the students wandered about the town looking in the tiny shops. Students tried on funky hats in a hat shop, ate ice cream, and tasted expensive cheeses. "I've never seen so much rotten milk that tasted so good in all my life!" said Sacha Kravig. While at the hat shop Dean Kravig bought a pirates hat to be worn while playing "Pirates" during a concert.

Saturday's performance was held in the gym because the Brewster church was too small to hold all the band members. Dean Kravig, the band director, commented on how he had never heard the band sound so good on the first tour, especially since the gym affected the acoustics. Afterward, church members provided a potluck for all the band members.

The band returned Saturday night so that students taking the SAT's could have enough rest the night before. The band members said they were glad to be back at school but that they really enjoyed the trip and are looking forward to the next tour.

The cafeteria experience

by *Caitlin Laubach*

The cafeteria experience is always being debated between students. There are students who love cafeteria food and are at breakfast every morning even if it is at six-thirty, and then there are those who would rather starve than eat at the cafeteria more than once a day. Most don't really look at how much work and time goes into preparing for hungry students three times a day and don't realize that there is quite a range of foods served every day.

The meals provided every day in the cafeteria usually have a wide variety of food to choose from. There are vegan substitutes for those who can't have or don't want dairy, salad is usually served with two meals, the cereal bar is always open, and there is a broad diversity of beverages served every day. A lot of energy goes into these meals for students.

Students working at the cafeteria can also gain a huge advantage by learning how to make meals and clean up after themselves. Erika Graves said that you can learn how to make numerous dishes every week while at home most students don't even cook. While working in the cafeteria students are expected to clean up after themselves as well as keep a sanitary condition around their workplace.

The cafeteria experience is what you make of it. It can be a fun time to eat and talk to friends while taking a short break from classes as well as—maybe—learning how to cook for the first time. The staff put a lot of work into making the food tasteful and diversified.



Ode to the waffle

by *Cady Graves*

In years past, UCA students had a powerful motivation to get out of their warm cozy beds in the morning and make their way to the cafeteria: a hot crisp waffle. Tragically, the waffle maker has apparently been confiscated. Or has it? The dilemma of the missing waffle makers has been making hearts ache and stomachs growl all over campus. Trevor Carstens, a four-year senior said, "If I could go to the café and make my own waffle, I would feel much more motivated to wake up in the morning!"

This great mystery has left many distraught, unsatisfied and perplexed. What can possibly be done about this matter? Why is this beloved piece of kitchen machinery gone? Was it stolen? Did it spontaneously combust? For the answer to this question I went to head of food services, Mr. Blankenship, who said, "We still have the waffle makers, I just haven't got around to putting them out yet." So there you have it! As soon as Mr. Blankenship feels the dire need to set up the waffle makers, the students and staff of UCA can once again be motivated to wake up in the morning! There is still hope that UCA students will have the option to make their own hot fresh waffles in the Cafeteria in the near future.

Band benefit concert

by *Tyler Shupe*

On Sunday, November 16, the UCA band traveled to Bonner's Ferry to perform in a benefit concert to help raise money for the local SDA school. The money raised will help the school start a band program. Choraliers and Octet were already on tour and met up with the band at the school. Some school volunteers had made a baked potato bar for supper for all of the UCA students and staff.

When the time finally came for the program to start, everyone was excited because they had been waiting for quite a while. The program went very smoothly under the direction of Mr. Kravig and Mr. Anderson, who, of course, were the band and choir directors. Mr. Beck, director for Walla Walla University band, was also present at the request of Mr. Kravig to evaluate the band. According to Mr. Beck, the band sounded very good. He also commented that the Choraliers and Octet also performed very well.

This was a great opportunity to go out and show people a little about UCA, which was demonstrated through the music.

Dorm students find creative ways to pass time

by Logan Carter

With several hours a day to kill, combined with the stress of classes, some dorm students resort to interesting activities in an attempt to stay sane.

“Sometimes you just have to break the monotony of dorm life,” Logan Villarreal, said. “You can find some pretty random things to do.”

Long periods with nothing to do leaves plenty of room for creativity. Besides doing massive amounts of homework and studying, here are several unique and not-so-unique activities some dorm students have come up with.

Janae Rose enjoys making movies with her friends on their computers. She also said that long showers really kill time. Brooke Bauer also likes to visit her friends in the dorm.

Across campus in the guys’ dorm, Sid Krall said that many guys like to listen to and make music. Also, shower parties are quite a popular event in the boys’ dorm. Trevor Carstens thought reading and wrestling were some more popular activities guys did for fun. He also said that some people inflate garbage bags and run down the dorm halls at each other with them.

As far as Spangle goes, Sean Kirk enjoys hanging out with friends at the railroad tracks. Janae said that quite a few students go to Spangle Foods for treats and some even have picnics at the park.

Although school can get crazy or boring, dorm students are quite able to find interesting things to do.



Rainy days

by Katie Norris

Rainy days can inspire you to read a book, bake cookies, or wrap yourself in a blanket. Rainy days can be a time for reflection, a time to look at life differently than you might on a sunny day.

Rainy days can also be boring and, sometimes, depressing. According to Josh Minor, rain is only good in little bits. “It can really mess with your plans sometimes,” says Logan Carter.

For some students, it brings a good change from the everyday routine. And, after all, with enough wind, there is a chance of power going out which gets everybody’s excitement up.

All in all, rainy days bring something to everybody. Rain makes the grass green and the flowers bloom. Rainy days are apart of life’s cycle . . . and the rain will soon be changing to snow!

Traveling Photographers

by Cassie Cantrell

A long time ago in a land not so far away, UCA’s budding photographers loaded a bus and headed down to Wallowa Lake to test some of their newly-acquired skills on the annual photography trip.

After spending Thursday night in Lewiston on Beacon Christian School’s hard gym floors, they continued on for about two more hours, finally arriving in Joseph, Oregon. Cameras began appearing out of the overhead bins as the first assignment was handed out. The students walked the town capturing the statues, antique items and life in Joseph. After several hours of wandering, the students gathered at the local bowling alley to try their skills and test some luck.

Mr. Brophy, the photography teacher, had reserved condos on the south side of Wallowa Lake for the students to stay in. There was an abundance of wildlife surrounding the condos for the students to capture on film, from salmon in the river to deer on the lawns. But photography was not the only highlight of the trip. According to senior Jemi Morgan, relaxing and being away from campus was one the best parts of the trip. On Saturday night the students had a choice between swimming or watching a movie, and the pool was definitely the popular choice. Katie Norris, a senior, felt that swimming was the highlight of the trip.

Overall, every photography student came back to UCA with memories and pictures that they’ll never forget.

Saturday night comes alive

by Jemi Morgan

One evening in October, I was in the dean's office, working, and chatting with Nicky Fritz, when I received a page over my walkie-talkie.

"Jemi! Jemi! This is Alicyn! There are some strange sounds coming from the ceiling on 3rd floor!"

I looked at Nicky; then, after telling Dean Kristen Merritt that I was needed on 3rd floor, Nicky and I raced up the stairs.

Alicyn Guernsey, girl's dorm R.A., had been sitting on her hall during study hall, doing her job, when she had heard what sounded like the feet of a small animal running on the ceiling panels.

When Nicky and I arrived, our first assumption was that it was mice, since the dorm has had mice in the past. Then we noticed a half-panel in the ceiling was missing. So, Nicky grabbed a chair and flashlight and began shining it around inside the ceiling.

"I see it! I see it!" Nicky shouted, and then she screamed along with a couple of other girls. When I glanced up, the small animal was no longer running around in the ceiling, it was hanging over the edge, and it definitely was not a mouse.

We were looking at a small bat, and boy he was a noisy one. Someone handed Nicky—who was still standing on the chair—a box, and in a short time, the bat was in the box, and Nicky was hurrying down the stairs to release the small creature.

New carpet, new rules

by Cady Graves

This year, the students and staff of UCA are blessed with brand new, stain free, beautiful carpet. But this beauty comes with a price. Once only certain teachers would not allow gum chewing in their classes, but this year, due to that fact that we received gorgeous new carpet, gum chewing in the ad building is completely prohibited.

Many students are saddened and distressed by this new rule since gum plays a very important role in the life of UCA teenager, and without it, we are completely lost and confused. It is very important study tool and helps keep students awake and focused on their studies. Sidney Krall, a junior, said, "If I chew the same flavor of gum when I study and when I actually take the test, it jogs my memory and helps me to remember key facts and improves my test scores."

Banning gum from the ad building does, however, keep the carpet cleaner longer. Mrs. Wickward was completely distressed when she found four pieces of gum smashed into her carpet. If only we could learn how to dispose of trash properly and control our habits of sticking gum under desks and smashing it into the carpet, then maybe this new rule could be obliterated and students could chew all the gum they want without ruining our beautiful new carpet.

There is, however, another solution to this problem: switching to tile! Tile is much more accommodating and practical and much easier to keep clean. Mrs. Wickward recommends tile because she believes it is more efficient and easier to manage. If we did have tile in the ad building, students could chew gum, teachers could easily keep their classrooms clean and everyone would be happy . . . until the problems with tile were rediscovered!

Tea Party

by William Moore

On Parent Weekend, the parents of any girls attending UCA were invited to the Parent/Daughter Tea Party. This even was in the cafeteria, hosted by the Girls' Club. "We do this to show the parents that we do appreciate them sending their children here," said Dean Teresa Soule, the mastermind of the Tea Party. At this brunch the Girls' Club was assisted by Mr. Blankenship and some of his staff.

The Parent/ Daughter Tea Party was originally a mother/ daughter event, but the fathers of the UCA girls felt left out; so, Dean Teresa decided to include them this year.

The planning of this party is masterminded by Dean Teresa, but she gets a lot of help from others. Dean Kristen Merritt helps with the planning, Mr. Blankenship helps with the planning and preparing of the food, and Girls' Club helps with the preparations, serving the food, and cleaning up. Let us not forget the few cafe workers who helped Mr. Blankenship in making the food and cleaning up afterward. This reporter was one of those cafe workers!

The food choices at the party included three kinds of quiche, hash browns and peppers, cream puffs, breakfast cake, and cheesecake treats. There was also a photo booth where parents could have pictures taken with their daughters.

The Parent/Daughter Tea Party is just one of the occasions that the school holds to show their appreciation to the parents.

Christmas
Vacation
December 21
to
January 4



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY
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CLASS OFFICERS

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