



## Amateur Hour fills the house

After the Upper Columbia Conference's *Go Mission Fest* weekend and after the first snow of the year had fallen, the gymnasium stage was set for the annual Amateur Hour on the evening of November 13.

Organized by girls' club this year and with Mark Janke as MC, the program was entitled "A Night in New York City."

The gym was filled with people ready to enjoy the 16 acts that ranged from serious classical music performances to humorous skits. Refreshments, a silent auction, and a raffle for two iPod Shuffles were also part of the three-hour program.

This years winners were River Davis, Elliott Berger, and Grayson Andregg who won both the Novelty and Audience Choice Awards for their skit "Bulbous Bouffant." Victoria Olson and Kristen Smith won the Grand Prize for their vocal duet "Flower Duet." Jon Watts won the Instrumental Award for the guitar instrumental "Drifting." Karalee Rhuman won the vocal award for "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," and Jae McPhee won the Piano Award for "Dr. Gradus ad Parnassum."



*Elliott Berger, Grayson Andregg, and River Davis*



*Victoria Olson and Kristen Smith*



*Jon Watts*



*Part of the group who played the Coldplay song "Lovers in Japan"*

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## Alumni flood UCA campus

by Jenna Carter

Approximately 900 alumni flooded UCA's campus on October 1, 2010. People of all ages attended, with graduates from last year and one from 80 years ago.

It was a monumental weekend for UCA. Yakima Valley Academy's 1930 graduate, Dr. Robert Bolton, drove himself to the reunion. (UCA keeps record of YVA alumni because their school closed and many students came to UCA to help get it started.) Dr. Bolton was the oldest in UCA's history to attend alumni weekend. The school celebrated his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, giving him a cake and a ball point pen that

was made of the old banister from YVA. Dr. Bolton was ecstatic to receive this gift as the school has been demolished.

Traditionally, alumni weekend has taken place in the spring. With this year's event occurring in the fall, fewer people were expected to attend. Thanks to everyone's efforts, though, the weekend was a huge success with only 200 fewer participants.



## Entertainers anticipate Amateur Hour

by Kaci Crook

Even at the start of the school year there is anticipation for our school's talent show, Amateur Hour. Students diligently practice and evolve acts in hopes of taking a spot on the stage.

Over 40 vocal recitals, instrumental performances, piano acts, and skits put their dignity on the line for auditions on October 19. But the available spots for the show consist of only four each for piano, skits, vocals, and instrumentals. After taking a few weeks to get their groups together, sculpt their performances, and plan their attire, each act appeared, undeterred, before a committee of judges.

As the night progressed, a mix of emotions crammed into the music building. After each audition there seemed to be a new feeling for every person who came out: fear confidence, unhappiness, nervousness, vigilance, joyfulness, and contentment. It became especially stressful for those auditioning with a vocal performance, for out of the large group that tried out 80 percent were vocal auditions.

As the night wore on, people continually repeated that there should be more spots made available for vocals. Backing their argument, these people stated that vocal performances are much more entertaining than other acts. They proposed making six spots for vocals, three for instrumental, three for piano, and four for skits. A large number of students supported this idea.

There are ideas to use the acts that didn't make it into Amateur Hour for other school programs, but should our school reform Amateur Hour? Should new spots be made available for the more popular vocal performances?



*Some happy party-goers assemble in the Gee's barn*

## Barn party

*by Alanna Augustin*

On Sabbath evening, October 16, two busloads of UCA students embarked on a 15-minute ride to the Gee's barn. They were going to participate in an annual party held by the Gees, members of the UCA church.

Students streamed into the old barn, where they mingled with other church and community members or sat against the walls on bales of hay.

Pastor Ken Wetmore led out in a short devotional thought, and then supper began. The meal was a chili and cornbread potluck, and many community members supplied the soup, chili and cornbread. A table loaded with cookies rewarded those looking for something sweet to end their meal.

After everyone had finished eating, they got together for some games. People competed in apple stacking and carving contests, a hidden dollar game, and a game from New Zealand, taught by Mrs. Hardy.

After the games, the visiting and relaxing continued until the UCA bus came to ferry the students back to school. Overall, although the night was a little chilly, the barn party was an excellent opportunity to get together and interact with community and church members as well as other students.

## Cafeteria saves money

*by Nathan Carey*

The cafeteria is saving a large amount of money every year from a small, simple adjustment to how food is served. Last year, the cafeteria came up with the idea to stop using trays and just provide plates and bowls.

Before this plan, students would put two or three plates on their trays and just load up with food. After they were full, they would throw away a large amount of the food. Now it is not so easy to take too much food. At first, many students complained that it was harder to get their food, but they gradually got used to not using trays.

An estimate on what the cafeteria saved with this and a few other changes is \$30,000. That is a substantial amount, and most of it was wasted food. So, overall, the cafeteria made a wise adjustment to save money.

## Cold showers

*by Kiana Wilder*

This year a lot of cold showers have been given in the dorms.

This giving of cold showers as a reward for romantic involvement is an old tradition here at UCA. It has been here for as long as anyone can remember, but there are mixed feelings about this tradition. One student from the girls' dorm said that there were more cold showers during first quarter than during all of last year. Maivnkauj Yang said that her first reaction when she hears the announcement that there is a cold shower is "Another one?" Noemi Manzano said they are really annoying and stupid and that we have way too many. Olivia Zaharie said, "They are amazing! And if we stopped doing them we would have lost a valuable UCA tradition."

Unfortunately, there are some injuries that can happen when someone doesn't go peaceably to a cold shower. When there is a struggle, bruises, scratches and pulled muscles can be the result with the injuries going to the person being given the cold shower and those who are giving it. The lesson seems to be either not to fight back or to be friendly with everyone equally . . .

## Senior pictures

*by Tim Redberg*

It was the week before the first home leave. In normal circumstances, it would have been a time of rejoicing, but for many in the senior class it was not. They had to have their senior pictures done over home leave and turn them in for the yearbook as soon as possible.

For those who hate having their picture taken, it was a tragedy. In the days before home leave they walked the halls in trances, waiting for the picture of doom.

Finally, home leave arrived and everyone went home. Facebook had much to reveal on the picture topic as senior pictures started popping up all over, and many weren't too bad after all. But you will be remembered most by how you act, your deeds, kindness and respect, not by your senior picture.



## Choosing to tithe

by *Megan Haeger*

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Tithing is a special arrangement, and it is important for students at UCA to understand why we tithe and choose to give back to God. But money for our tithe is currently being taken straight from our statements without us having to do anything. This is a way to get it done, but not a way to show us what tithing means, not a way to show us what returns to us when we choose to give.

The purpose of tithing is not only to give God back the 10% He asked for, but also to help us build our relationship with Him and gain trust in His Word. The instruction is very clear. “Every tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord’s; it is holy to the Lord. If a man wishes to redeem some of his tithe, he shall add a fifth to it. And every tithe of herds and flocks, every tenth animal of all that pass under the herdsman’s staff, shall be holy to the Lord.” (Leviticus 27:30-32) “Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.” (Deuteronomy 14:22) But God also gives us the promise that when we give back to him, he will continue to give back to us even more abundantly.

If we were to receive 10% of our income in cash every week or month, and then were given the choice to give it back to the Lord, there would, of course, be some of us who would not give back, who would chose to keep the money; however, wouldn’t it be better to have many or even some making a regular choice to give rather than none at all?

Loving God is a choice He gave us, not an obligation; so must be the choice of following Him, and His Word.

## The dreaded tests

by *Spencer Weijohn*

There we sat, trapped in a cage of terrors, left to our doom. There was slim hope this year for the juniors to escape the snares of PSAT. All the juniors knew they were to be locked away for life in the quiet rooms with those teachers looming over them watching their every move. But this was not the worst of it. No, it was the dreaded tests themselves, full of endless questions. And nobody can say what was in them for all are forbidden to speak of them again. I, myself, am risking much telling you of these horrors. What will happen to me for writing this, I fear to imagine.

Beware of the testing rooms. Don’t go too near them or even look in because you never know who might see you. It could be a teacher, also forced into the room to suffer. But if you ever find yourself in the depths of the testing room I hope you do not scare easily.

I cannot say more. My bravery is at an end. Those who have to take the tests next year: farewell and good luck!



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

### ECHOES

is a regular student publication of  
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## Strange phobias

by *Vanessa Voelker*

I have a very good friend that has some of the strangest and most interesting phobias. Her name is confidential, but she did give me permission to write about some of her bizarre and irrational fears.

Not only does she have the most commonly known fears such as heights, spiders, and snakes but she also has a great fear of wrists! Yes, wrists, indeed. She is also particularly afraid of veins that are blue or protrude from the skin in any manner. The fear of veins and wrists is called Cardiophobia. She cannot even look at her own wrists because of her fear of fainting right there on the spot. She must always face her wrists down or out of sight so that she does not feel queasy or light-headed.

If you think veins and wrists is a strange phobia, then you will be surprised to know that there is an actual phobia called Arachibutyrophobia. It is the fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of your mouth and giving the feeling of suffocation. I’m not saying I have this particular fear, but I certainly understand it! I rarely ever eat peanut butter because of the thick, creamy texture that can almost choke a person!

I also have a big husky dog that is afraid of the dark. He only stays in the light of our light post and porch light, that we have to leave on every night for him. He is almost 9 years old and is still a baby. I still love him, though, even if he is scared of the dark.

I think we all have our own strange phobias but just don’t always think about them; so when we find out other people’s phobias, we think they’re odd and unusual. In reality we’re all a little strange in our own way.

# Teachers spy

by *Arlene Bautista*

When in class, students scan their Facebook pages, they Skype, and they check their E-mail. But little do they know that teachers are on the lookout for those online.

It could be an ATTENTION PLEASE sign sent to your computer screen by your teacher that alerts you to the fact that you're being watched. You could even be disconnected from the Internet or have your computer shut down. Teachers get frustrated by inattentive students and have the ability to see what they're doing and to take action.

However, not all teachers warn you with an attention sign; some actually take away your computer until after class and then lecture you about the situation and your consequence.

Could it be said that computers are a huge distraction for some of the students and teachers? Pay attention, students, to the hints from our wonderful teachers, or you'll never know what they might do. Facebook could be blocked for good or Internet sites could be limited for class use only.

## Computer problems pester students

by *Dakota Anderson*

This year has been the first year for Upper Columbia Academy's new laptop program. UCA has wanted to give laptops to students for several years, and after almost five years that goal has been realized with every student receiving a Lenovo ThinkPad and a computer bag.

However, as with any large plan, there have been several problems that have arisen. Several students have had problems with their laptops including broken screens, dead hard drives, and fried motherboards. For example, Arlene Bautista, a senior at UCA, had a problem with her computer's motherboard but was able to get a new one the same day.

Hopefully the IT department can keep up with the problems and prevent new ones from arising, and students will treat their computers with care.



*Just one computer is quite a distraction for students in class*

## Making money at UCA

by *Latimer Betat*

Getting an education isn't the only thing to get at UCA. If you know what you are doing, there is money to be made as an entrepreneur. By supplying what fellow students are eager to buy, student entrepreneurs create wealth through the sale of concessions in UCA's dormitories.

In contrast to selling drugs and harmful substances, these enterprising business people deal in cookies, soft drinks, and potato chips, along with a host of other delicious and harmless appetizers. But you have to have the dean's permission. Dean Henson says that any students who get caught selling without permission will have their entire stock confiscated.

I asked one such student, who wished to remain anonymous so we will call him Roy, what kind of things he sells. Roy said that for the most part he sells Ramen, popcorn and soda. The items in greatest demand, though, are Ramen and soda. What about profit margins? For every dollar of food he sells, 50 cents is pure profit. His customers keep coming for more, and the handsome profits keep Roy in the business.

There are restrictions on what can be sold. Dean Henson said that when parents send their children to Upper Columbia Academy, caffeinated drinks are not on the menu. The cafeteria is not always open, so the dorm has its own little store run by the deans. Here they have drinks and snacks that can satisfy a resident's hunger for a treat. For the entrepreneurs who are interested in making a buck, Dean Henson said that with permission of the dean, there are possibilities for the student to sell items that may not be included in the dorm store.

While you may not be permitted to sell just anything, there will always be some hungry soul out there, and for a profit, there will always be some entrepreneur meeting that soul's need!

# Sneezes

by *Emily Fitch*

On average, people sneeze between 952 and 1196 times per year. Of course, there are various factors that may potentially affect this total, such as allergies or other conditions which create the need for excessive sneezing. But how do people really know how many times they sneeze? No one actually keeps track . . . do they?

One UCA student has been doing exactly that. For nearly eleven months, she has dutifully counted every single time she's sneezed. What could possibly inspire her to take on such an endeavor? "Well, it was New Year's Eve," she said, "and I was really excited for the beginning of 2010. Finally it was midnight! Then...I sneezed. So I just decided that my New Year's Resolution would be to count all of my sneezes this year!" When asked whether she ever forgets her current number, she replied, "Well, it's possible that I'm one or two off, but I never really forget to count. Whenever I sneeze, it reminds me of my resolution."

At this writing, this student (who wishes to remain anonymous) had recorded a total number of 424 sneezes since January 1<sup>st</sup>. In order to meet the average, she will need to sneeze anywhere between 528 and 772 more times before December 31. She estimates that she'll end up with a few less than that. "I'll probably get sick between now and then, so I think I'll get around 520 in by the end of the year."

Her final thought on the subject was that everyone should try something like this. "You don't have to do exactly what I did; just find something fun that interests you, and go for it!"



# A common addiction

by *Brennan Torretta*

Skype, Facebook, Minecraft . . . all are names of things that can be very addictive on our new computers. There are several ways to know whether you are addicted.

Do you spend an exorbitant amount of time on Facebook? Are you always on Skype? Is your Minecraft map over ten megabytes? These are some questions you should be asking yourself. Also ask yourself if you have the urge to check Facebook whenever you are near your computer. Is Skype the only way you talk to people? Do you hollow out whole mountains to make your house on Minecraft?

Some of the effects of computer addiction are subtle, but others are not.

When you are on the DF&I list in the guys' dorm, you have to be in bed by 9:30 in the evening and showered and in the study room by 5:30 the following morning. While you can end up on DF&I for many reasons, one major factor is computers.

Last year if your grades started to fall, your computer would be put into storage and be replaced by a dinosaur machine that existed sometime in the early 90's. Why? For incentive. Not being able to use your own personal computer was some of the best motivation possible. While that exact effect is not feasible this year, new incentives are getting put into place.

"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men, but as wise, making the most of your time because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:15,16) Make the most of your time. Spend more time with God and less time on your computer.

# Laundry

by *Allie Suppé*

Laundry is a chore, yet it can also be an enjoyable pastime. Laundry takes time with the typical load of wash taking about fifty minutes, but if you want to add an extra rinse, well, you can add an extra twenty minutes. Then you have to remember to dry. Jeans and thick fabrics take a good seventy minutes; whereas, cotton and other lightweight fabrics take as little as forty minutes.

After doing a lovely load of laundry, you feel accomplished. Although it is a small task, when completed, you feel good about what you have done. When you wash that load of laundry, removing all the stains and odors from the prior week, you also wash away the problems. So doing laundry can be therapeutic.

Sometimes when I do laundry, as I throw in an article of clothing, I remember an upsetting event that happened when I was wearing that item. As I throw it into the washing machine, I throw away all those problems that happened. When it comes out of the wash, clean and perfect, all of the poor memories are gone too. Sometimes a garment reminds you of a positive event, something you don't ever want to forget. That pleasant memory will be there no matter how many times you wash it.

After the washing process, you toss the clothes into the dryer to complete their transformation. When the warm clothes emerge, you begin to fold them, one by one. You begin to place them into drawers or hang them in your closet. The clothes are clean, ready for your next "wearing opportunity." Laundry refreshes your wardrobe, removing blemishes and issues. Laundry is like a new slate for you and your clothes.



## Photography class goes to Wallowa

by Hailey Hanson

Every year the photography class at UCA goes on a trip to a scenic area of their choosing. This year, that place was Wallowa Lake, Oregon.

Many unusual adventures were embarked upon on this journey of theirs, such as feeding deer, scavenger hunts, and long hikes. One member of the class, Maxine Chavez, states that she had the most fun going on a scavenger hunt in the small town and getting funny looks from all the locals.

Even though lots of fun times and memories were made, there were times that the students were able to get closer to God through nature. Jorge Hernandez tells how he got to feed deer out of the palm of his hand and how awesome it was.

## Home leaves bring happiness

by Jazmin Romero

Despite the fact that home leave is only a few days long, most people take advantage of it to catch up on their rest. Senior Vonnie Voelker says, "I love home leaves they're amazing because I get to sleep in and wake up at whatever time I want."

Most dorm students say that they love going home because they miss spending time with family and visiting friends that they haven't seen in a while. A lot of them say that they like going home because they get to eat their mom's delicious food. "It's not that I don't like the cafeteria food it's just that I miss my mom's food," said junior, Anahi Silva

For some kids like Nathan Black home leave isn't as fun as they would like because they have to work. Nathan said, "Home leaves aren't as fun to me because all I have to do is work, but I still appreciate the few days off school."

Day students don't get homesick like dorm students do, of course, because they get to go home every day but I imagine they appreciate a few days off school as well.

# HOPE TASKFORCE!



November 1 was the second of four HOPE Taskforce community outreach days this year. The next one is scheduled for March 13

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