



Emily Stafford, Riley Dieter, and Hannah Stafford lead singing during Week of Prayer

Amateur Hour nears

by Adreana Ward

As November drew closer, so did the biggest event of the fall season. If you noticed the practice rooms in the music building were more frequently occupied, anyone who plays the piano was constantly busy, and the music department staff were just a bit more stressed than usual, then you probably guessed that we were nearing Amateur Hour try-outs.

To most students, the show is a few hours of arresting performances that keep them entertained. For others, the weeks leading up to the show are taxing and nerve-racking with countless hours of practice and rehearsal. Piled on top of the homework we have, it can be maddening.

It will be great to see how it's all pulled together in the end after persevering through all the stress and work it took to get there.

Brave prayers

by Maddy Clark

It began. The first day of Week of Prayer crept up and grasped us.

When we walked into the church that morning for the first meeting, no one anticipated what was coming. Influential words came from Stephen Farr as he preached to us with all of his heart. The theme for the week was "He makes me brave," and in just one day, he taught us so much about being brave through God. He educated us to the true meaning of a week of prayer and invigorated all of the students to spend more time praying and talking to God.

Many students were impressed by the message. As we walked toward the cafeteria for lunch, a vast group of students stopped outside the cafeteria and prayed. They sang to God, devoting their whole lives to him, and prayed that He would take over the campus and embrace us in His arms. There will be a major difference on this campus and in students' hearts as they permit God to enter and make changes.



Autumn leaves and hot cocoa with God

by Monique Flores

In the air you feel it; on the ground you hear it: the crunch of those dry and yellow leaves, and the spike and bite of that cold winter breeze. You walk and look around, seeing the light fog in the air. Autumn is here, and soon it will be winter. We all realize that the old is gone and the new is coming once more.

As you walk into the dorm, the warmth consumes you, and it makes you feel all comfortable and safe. That is how we must feel with God—always feeling his warmth and protection. When you drink that nice cup of hot chocolate, you feel the warmth all inside your body, almost like those disciples in the past were filled with the warmth and love of the Holy Spirit.

This year, spend some time with God. Now that it is cold, and the old is leaving again, send your old self with those dying leaves and bring out the new and refreshed you. Take advantage of those piled up leaves and jump on in, for Jesus is waiting for you at this very moment, ready to share a cup of hot cocoa.

When three or more are gathered in his name

by Katherine Carr

UCA has many traditions that have lasted for many years. These traditions can be anything from open line Friday to Senior Rec, and they often can be considered the backbone of our community. Amongst these many traditions is Class Vespers.

Class vespers is a night where each class gets together in a designated location to spend time with each other and the Lord. The activities that take place during this time are chosen by the previous year's class officers and can include eating brownies in the Powerhouse, or, for tired Seniors just back from Senior Survival, napping in the church.

Although the activities can be fun, in the end, it's the idea that's important—the idea that we are all gathered as a class, celebrating the gift and opportunity to know God and each other. The hour that is spent together is just enough time to realize that even though for most of us family is far away, we have another family right here at our fingertips, a family that will catch you when you fall and encourage you to strive to be your best. It is a family with the Lord as our father and our guide.

Sabbath activities

by Kate Ruud

Feeding the homeless. What does that mean? It means doing something (feeding people) not for yourself, but for someone else. The Sabbath afternoon of October 8 UCA had a Sabbath afternoon activity which was going to downtown Spokane to feed people that live on the streets.

When we arrived, we found the South Hill church was organizing the event and had prepared an assembly line for nachos. Once all the UCA kids piled out of the van, we started to help make the food. At the end of the line, people could be prayed for and get free Bibles.

Doing something as simple as feeding the homeless can be the most amazing thing and touch hearts for Jesus. Chase Bezonsky said, "Feeding the homeless showed that people can be greatly affected by past events and although their current predicament may be bad, Jesus can still work through them." You don't have to go on an activity like feeding the homeless; you can be a shining light for Jesus wherever you go.



Alumni come home

by Daniel Stratte

Starting Friday, September 30, Alumni Weekend was held by UCA. This gave many alumni the opportunity to see their former classmates once again. Memories and friendships were refreshed, and there was surely joy at all the alumni events.

The activities started on Friday with the Annual Alumni 18-Hole Golf Tournament. This started approximately 9:30 a.m., which started with UCA's Octet singing "The Star Spangled Banner," their first performance of the year. The Octet also helped in any way they could to make the tournament run smoothly.

The next morning, church was in the gym and started at 10:00 a.m. with a prelude played by UCA's band. After the roll call of classes was taken, the CEO of Loma Linda, Kerry Heinrich, spoke. His sermon included an eye-opening perspective on the San Bernardino shooting.

This was followed by Choraliers singing "I Have Fixed My Mind." However, it was not just the Choraliers. The stage was filled with Choraliers, orchestra, and alumni. One alumnus remarked that singing again with old classmates brought back happy memories of being in Choraliers.

The UCA band played the postlude, and the cafeteria put on a pasta meal for everyone. This was not the end of Alumni Weekend, however. On Sunday morning, the alumni were able to exuberantly play against current UCA students in a flag football game.

Overall, Alumni Weekend was a success. Old memories were recalled and new ones made, past friendships were renewed, and everyone had a great time. Most of all, God was praised and glorified.

Fall Classic

by Thomas Warren

As the tension builds, boys and girls alike are preparing for the trials. Practices run late into the evenings, detaining village students who participate well past their normal dinner times. Serves are blocked and illegal throw-ins decline in number. Goals are scored and points are rallied. Stats are recited, and plays rehearsed. Accounts of rival teams are given, and past games are considered. This is all focused on one goal: Fall Classic.

Fall Classic is a large gathering of high school athletic teams at Walla Walla University in College Place. Only two sports are played at Fall Classic, soccer and volleyball. With over 700 student athletes from schools ranging from California to Colorado to Canada, Fall Classic is the pinnacle of the Adventist soccer and volleyball worlds. This year was no exception.

Soccer teams rise early in the morning to make their way to the sanctuary that is WWU. "A sanctuary?" Yes, it is just that—a place of unabashed sports enthusiasm for three days. As matches and games are won and lost, the ranking boards receive more and more attention. Tension builds until that last contest. Then it all breaks loose. With a noise to rival that of a Seahawks game, all the student athletes applaud their favorite team in the championship. Awards are received and MVP's recognized. And like that it is all over, except the memories and the anticipation for next year.

Fridays with Gladding

by Samuel Aufderhar

Weary students like wounded soldiers on the march make their trek into Mr. Gladding's classroom. It's Friday, everyone is exhausted, and most can't hold up their eyelids much longer. They finally throw down their packs carelessly, seeking the asylum of their warm class. Many happily realize just what the day entails and sigh in relief, glad that the burdens of the week are nearly past. Surveying the scene is Kyle Gladding, a teacher of mathematics at UCA. Viewing the assembled company, he pulls out a tome, and begins to speak.

This is a scene you'll encounter on any given Friday throughout all of Gladding's classes. Monday through Thursday we pupils vigorously study anything ranging from Geometry to Advanced Math. But on Friday it's different: instead of pulling out notes and their textbooks, everyone stops for a minute to enjoy a brief respite in their busy schedules. Mr. Gladding, with his Bible and often books such as the *Desire of Ages*, begins a class period entirely devoted to worship and Bible study. Mr. Gladding himself has stated that his classes make it further through the textbook with these worships, than before he started doing them. When asked what he thought about Friday's in Algebra II, Caleb Nelson responded, "It's a wonderful time to take my mind off the typical duties of school and spend a few minutes just learning more about God and His love."

Even after the bell rings and the class is forced to move along to their next appointment of the day, there's a noticeable difference in the atmosphere. People are refreshed and rejuvenated for the skirmishes to come. With strength to march on, they go out from that single room and disperse throughout the campus. They go out with a higher theme entertained within their minds, and a new motivating desire driving their feet forward.

UCA travels to Walla Walla

by Jonathan Terry

As the soccer and volleyball teams loaded the bus, there was collective nervousness. Even the scoreboard operator and statistician were nervous. "It was a combination of nervousness and excitement about what was to come," said Jose Montes, goalkeeper for the UCA Lions.

The teams had a welcome meeting, and then it was time to get mentally focused for the first game. The girls played five games the first day, winning two; and the guys played two, winning one. The teams went to bed exhausted but satisfied with their performances. The next day the girls played three games, winning one, and it was decided that they would play for seventh place. The guys played two games, winning in one of the most exciting soccer games they'd ever played. "The feeling was exciting and electric and I was on edge the entire time," said Aron Alfaro, captain of the soccer team. They would be playing for fifth place on Saturday night.

After a rejuvenating and restful Sabbath, the teams prepared for their games. Unfortunately, the girls and guys played at the same time so they were unable to cheer for each other. The girls lost the first set but rallied to win the next two and seventh place. After the game, everyone hurried to the field to catch the end of the soccer game, arriving just in time to see the tail end of the shootout between Auburn and UCA. The guys were unable to win in the shootout and finished in sixth place. "I was impressed by the sportsmanship of the players, both guys and girls, at Fall Classic," said Stephen Wilkinson.

Even though we didn't win, both teams can be proud of the way they represented UCA and Christ on the court and the field.

The trouble with 7:15 classes

by *Madison Bartell*

We've all heard the quote, "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise," and this quote is true . . . to an extent. But waking up before 7:00 a.m. to make it to 7:15 classes harms our health in many ways.

7:15 classes are taking a toll on the amount of sleep students get. Adolescents' "internal clocks" operate differently from those of adults. A major difference is that adolescents have a harder time falling asleep earlier at night due to hormone changes. However, as teenagers go through middle school and high school, their school days tend to start earlier. Does this mean that most teenagers will attempt to go to sleep earlier? In most cases, no. This leads to pathologically sleepy students.

Early classes also damage students' social lives. Sleep-deprived people tend to get irritated easily. This adds tension between friends, family members, and acquaintances.

Sleep deprivation also demolishes a person's ability to say "no" to peer pressure. Tired brains have a harder time deciphering the negative consequences of actions. This results in behavioral problems. The pressure to get school work done and maintain a social life can promote the use of stimulants and other medications. However, this is a vicious cycle because the later students stay up to finish homework, the more tired they'll be the next day.

If the time classes start remains early, the results on students' health and happiness will be appalling. Changing the time classes start would benefit everyone, and, after all, everyone deserves to have enough sleep every night.

Unconventional complaining

by *Eva Wiggins*

Every year around fall, a lot of griping and complaining begin to occur. Of course, there is always the typical whining about the woes of homework or the occasional bad weather day, but this has a different source of complaint. It reflects the vast differences in body temperatures among students. Half of the students are too cold when the dorm heaters are off; the other half want them to stay off as long as possible. Next thing you know, the previously cold students are now nice and cozy, and the students who used to be cheerfully comfortable are now upset because of the "extreme heat." When heaters are the culprit, there can almost never be a happy medium.

As with all differences and conflicts, this too shall pass. Maybe it will be in the winter when it is so cold everybody is forced to enjoy the heaters. Or, maybe, it will be in the spring when they are off, and the dreams of air conditioning arrive. Nonetheless, the griping and complaining will live on a while longer.

Dorm food

by *Andy Ruud*

Most people would be surprised by the ingenuity of the residents of a dorm when it comes to new ways to make and keep food. Whether it is making your own secret restaurant service of junk food for the members of your hall or learning how to store perishables in a refrigerator that does not have all-night power, dorm residents learn it all. Unless students live in the dorm, they may not fully understand the struggle to fit a combination of food items such as milk, coffee creamer, taquitos, muffins, and stripples into a tiny refrigerator. Residents acquire the skills of organizing and packing very quickly if they prefer unspoiled milk on their cereal and to have the luxury of edible taquitos while doing homework.

An onlooker may ask why dorm residents need lots of food in the dorm since the cafeteria provides three meals a day. The answer differs depending on a student's grade level. A senior with later classes may want to sleep in rather than deal with an early breakfast time. It's much simpler to fix breakfast in a dorm room than to get up early. A freshman, however, might suggest how important a bag of chips is to ease the pain of doing homework.

All in all, students eat food . . . a lot. Circumstances in the dorm only make them more creative about their food choices. As unhealthful as some of these choices are, a bag of chips or a hot drink may be what helps a dorm resident get through a stressful night of homework.

Spiritual lessons from digging potatoes

by *Jordan Judge*

On October 4, Pastor Fred's Bible class went to the field that is by the school and dug potatoes. It was a cold morning, with many of the kids thinking about their cold hands and dirty fingers. But the different classes worked hard at digging out the sometimes stubborn potatoes. The potatoes came in all different sizes, with the majority of them being small and sometimes very insignificant. As the students worked on pulling them out, there was probably more than one person who thought, "Why are we digging out the small potatoes?" Well, the small potatoes can feed a lot of people. But, also, Pastor Fred had told us that as we pulled potatoes out, we needed to think of a spiritual lesson.

There are many spiritual lessons that can be learned from digging potatoes. One is that we often think about how potatoes are small and insignificant. But, then, compared to the universe, we are very small and insignificant. But God cared so much about us that he came to this earth to die for us, even though we are so insignificant—as insignificant as those tiny potatoes. Another lesson that can be gleaned from digging potatoes is that no one is worthless: just like the small potatoes are useful for something, so are we. God has never made anyone worthless.

A third lesson is that sometimes people will see us as worthless on the outside, just as above ground a potato plant looks like a worthless weed. But underground, the plant is producing lovely potatoes. It's the same with us: we may look worthless on the outside, but we could be bearing good fruit inside.



Hailee Huenergardt

Broken alarm clocks

by *Olivia Medavarapu*

An issue that has probably occurred in every student's life here at UCA is oversleeping. If you're one of the lucky ones, you have had a saint of a friend wake you up 5 minutes before class. If you're not so lucky, you might have been one of the sad few that slept through all of your morning classes. Sadly, for most Juniors there is a deadly mix: little to no sleep and a 7:15 class.

Be aware of oversleeping and be sure to blame it on a broken alarm clock

Harvest your thoughts


by *Hailee Huenergardt*

The first Monday in October started out miserably cold and damp. Unfortunately, some of the juniors and seniors had forgotten a very important little detail. Yes, that announcement made in Bible class on Friday. It must have accidentally skipped the thought process during the Monday morning frenzy of getting out the door. As the village students arrived and the dorm students emerged they all saw a scattering of people on the potato field, and the forgotten detail quickly came to mind. Even though a great majority of us didn't want to stay outside, there was a nostalgic moment. When our hands and feet touched the dirt all of the complaints were gone, at least most of them. Light laughter was in the air and a joyous transformation took place. We traveled back to the time when we were younger and loved playing in the dry dirt and squishy mud. Who couldn't help but remember the delicious dirt pies, cookies and mud covered smiles of yesteryear. Picking potatoes really wasn't so bad after all.

The numbness of the cold prickling on our fingertips and toes can remind us of the Parable of the Sower. When the seeds fall on good earth, they grow quickly. Potatoes need special earth in order to thrive. They need well-drained, loose soil and consistent moisture. Hilling the potato once the plant is about six inches tall helps keep them from getting sunburned, which would cause them to taste bitter and turn green. Potatoes are a staple in diets, famous for their plainness, they come in an amazing diversity of flavors, colors and sizes. Markets today have a plethora of choices ranging from white, yellow, purple and red to fingerlings.

Our lives can be compared to the potato in many ways. We need enriched and loose soil in order to grow. Our thirsty hearts need to be consistently watered by the Holy Spirit. We all must "hill" ourselves with good influences, choice music, and positive social media to avoid being burned by the world and its many evil influences. We come with amazing diversity in personalities, height and size differences and in a variety of colors: red, yellow, black and white ALL are precious in His sight. So, keep yourself connected to the enriched soil, consistently watered, and you will grow into a beautiful harvest!

That first Monday in October was miserably cold and damp but it turned into a harvest of thoughts, not just potatoes.



UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

ECHOES

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Fortitude

by Caleb Nelson

Bright rays of the afternoon sun warm the sidewalk. Inside, students grow more and more restless as they gaze at the clock. Suddenly, books are slammed and backpacks zipped up in perfect timing with the bell. Hungry students rush to the cafeteria, but just outside, a small group of students begin to gather for a fight. No, they aren't gathering for a physical fight, but rather for something quite different. Pastor Fred leads the spiritual warriors in a few songs while more students join the group. Soon the students break into smaller groups of 2 to 5 and join together in the battle. From each circle rises many heartfelt petitions to the Lord as the students pray for His blessing on our campus. Students have chosen to continue this new tradition and gather to pray for everything from an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to current school issues as often as possible.

We live in solemn times. There is a battle going on, a very real struggle between supernatural forces. We need now, more than ever, to be engaged in this battle and to be prepared for the future. "The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers." 1 Peter 4:7 Whether it be because of the bountiful tests we have or for other reasons, our campus is full of prayer. Thursday, October 6, 2016, Vice Principal and Head Dean, Joe Hess, led us in prayer at the cafeteria for our friend Paul Tucker. Later that evening, the students in the boy's dorm again gather together and offered up their prayers for his quick healing. I don't know about you, but a school that takes the time to setup the sound system and pray for just one student, is a school at which I want to be.

It is my prayer that this year, God's love will be expressed, experienced, and seen on our campus like never before. Let us be the ones to invite God in and allow him to change and transform our campus into a spiritual stronghold. If you see someone who looks like they could use some prayer, don't hesitate to offer to pray with them! Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." My challenge to you this year is to pray with, or for, at least one other person every day. May we heed the call of 1 Thessalonians 5:17 and "pray without ceasing" as we continue in this school year. May our campus this year be a campus built on prayer.

Worship options

by Ashley Samuel

Wednesday night worships are different this year at UCA. Every Wednesday night students can choose where they worship for that evening. The worship choice benefits students because it allows them to worship in a way that best connects them to God. There are several different choices of worships that students can attend. Staff members open their homes to host Bible studies worships that let students dig deeper into the Bible and learn more about God and His wonderful works. Students also lead their own worships, and this allows students to grow closer to one another and, most importantly, to God. There are also worships for students who are musically inclined and find God through song. Students who want to pray or worship alone are also given the opportunity to be still and find peace in God in solitude.

Students really enjoy the Wednesday worship options because they give variety to evening worships, and the time with God helps them to forget about the stress of school. No matter the method or medium of worship, the main goal of the options is to draw students closer to God, and it can be vividly seen that God is working on the UCA campus to accomplish this goal.

Homeleaves

by Brielle Bartels

It's a calm, pristine morning in Spangle as birds chirp and doors rattle, announcing a new school day. Students hurry to breakfast and to classes, accompanied by carefully-held paper bags bearing their names and sometimes artistic additions. There's a distinct atmosphere known and recognized by student and teacher alike as classes fly by with little activity.

Some students are unable to contain themselves and burst with excited chatter and nervousness over things unfinished and fun to be had. By twelve minutes past noon, students pour from the ad building through every usable door. Instead of racing to the cafeteria as is customary, they scatter like clouds after rain. Today is home-leave day. Once tucked away into busses, cars, and planes for the trip home, students retrieve those paper bags to reveal sack lunches hand-packed that morning.

Home leaves last approximately five days, preceded by a glorious Sunday school in which students attend classes as they would on a typical school day—a form of penance. But we manage cheerfulness and learn lessons not only from our books, but also in self-discipline and perseverance. Happy home-leaves to all, and to some a good flight.

High heels a woman's world

by Emma Tucker

Women regularly suffer unnecessary pain and discomfort, all for the foolish idea of beauty. We pluck and paint our faces, wear stiff and ridiculously tight clothing, and spend hours each day in this unfortunate state—all for vanity. Perhaps the worst we bring upon ourselves is the suffering our feet endure. Women's shoes are notorious for their lack of comfort. Even simple flats are known for the vicious blisters they inflict upon our toes and heels, yet the misery imposed by these shoes cannot compare to the absolute agony of wearing heels.

High heels are the bane of a woman's existence, yet we cannot deny our love for them. We, as a species, are irresistibly drawn to them. We can't resist their delicate beauty and apparent innocence. The sound of heels clip-clopping across a solid surface is music to our ears. No woman can walk past a shoe store without at least one longing glance towards the heel section.

Even I have fallen prey to the irresistible lure of these shoes. Despite knowing better, I am guilty of purchasing a pair or two. Recently, I even dared wear a pair. The tricky thing about heels is that they don't hurt until you've walked just far enough to realize you should change, but too far to return. This was part of my mistake. Additionally, heels should come with a warning label stating whether they are stair-friendly. This pair had no label, so I had to test them for myself. My test was rather impromptu and unfortunately took place in front of many people. I successfully classified them as unworthy for stair travel after making a hurried descent down the stairs on my backside.

In addition to this delightful episode, I suffered several blisters on my feet, leaving them raw and bleeding. One might think this alone should discourage women from wearing, buying, or even looking at such shoes, yet I have a hunch that the high heel business won't be going out anytime soon. We women seem to find an odd joy in suffering, perhaps believing there is beauty in pain. Welcome to a woman's world.

Thanksgiving

by Serina Thomson

There is a time once a year when it is okay to eat until you feel like you couldn't eat another bite and then go and eat more. A time when you actually look forward to having leftovers in your lunch the next day. That time of year is Thanksgiving. The potatoes are on the stove as the turkey cooks to perfection in the oven. The parents all pitch in to help grandma with the meal as the cousins play a game of tag outside in the crisp fall air. The cat lies lazily on the couch and the dog looks through the window with begging eyes as you finish putting the food on the table. It is a relaxing day when you don't have to worry about work and you can focus on family and, of course, food.

There is a problem with Thanksgiving, though. The United States of America and Canada do not have Thanksgiving on the same day. Canada celebrates Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October and the USA celebrates it on the fourth Thursday of November. It is a tragedy for all of the Canadian students, though few in number, who attend Upper Columbia Academy because this could result in no Thanksgiving at all. When all of the Canadians are celebrating the glorious holiday with family and friends, the Canadian students are attending class. It is just a normal Monday to the people of the United States of America. When all of the students and faculty are celebrating their Thanksgiving it is just a normal Thursday in Canada.

If you think that it is no big deal, talk to the Canadian students. Sheyanne Dubyna stated that Thanksgiving was the day she felt the most down this whole school year. There could be a solution to this problem. If there was at least recognition of the holiday for all of the Canadian students, we could make the second Monday in October a less depressing day. The cafeteria could serve mashed potatoes and gravy or something festive. An adoptive family could take the time to have a dinner for the sad students who miss their families. Let's recognize the Canadians on their Thanksgiving and try to make the day a fun and memorable one.

Picture day

by Joanne Kack

It comes every year, a day when every girl tries to look her best. She does her hair, puts on her makeup and best clothes. What is this day? It's Picture Day when all students at Upper Columbia Academy must sit in front of a camera, wait while the photographer corrects their facial pose, and then SNAP. This picture, the one that could quite possibly be the most hideous of your life, will forever be captured in the UCA Yearbook. So, 30 years from now, you can look back and say, "Wow, I can't believe I looked like that in High School." or "That hairdo though."

We might think that Picture Day is kind of stupid right now, but years from now, when we look back at our times in high school, we will be able to look at that picture and see how much we've grown, how much we've endured, and how enjoyable life can really be. This is the reason for Picture Day—to capture the essence of high school years and provide memories we'll be able to share with whomever we wish.

CLASS OFFICERS

	SENIORS	JUNIORS	SOPHOMORES	FRESHMEN
President:	Kiara Welch	Colby Brookins	Chase Bezonsky	Micah Honner
Vice-president:	Ashley Samuel	Jonathan Terry	Michael Daley	Sophie Enjati
Chaplain:	Shantae Gallegos	Prema Pongrakthai	Jillian Lopez	Haylee Bruton
Secretary:	Taylor Kelso	Shine Alvarado	Chloe Paago	
Treasurer:	Ellie Springer	Kaitlyn Kramer	Jessica Ing	Robert Joplin
Sgt-at-Arms:	Andy Ruud	Katherine Carr	Sasha Paago	Tegan Smith
Musician:	Kaitlyn Seeley	Daniel Stratte	Davis Wiggins	Asiah Brazil-Geyschick
Sports coordinator:	Charles Buursma	Jared Wallen	Enlai Wang	Ian Nesteruk
Student-faculty council:	Katrina Santiago	Hailee Huenergardt	Jonathan Joplin	Bethany Coogan
Historian:	Brendan Coon Isabella Warren	Brielle Bartels		

This late summer evening

by Shine Alvarado

This late summer evening when families might be lounging in their living rooms watching a flickering screen, when couples might be strolling into theaters, or when people might be planning to party through the weekend, a group of young individuals is walking through a green campus to a glowing light by a gym.

The sun is setting so the glow gets brighter. It's a bonfire with its shadows dancing on random spaces. The individuals are students at Upper Columbia Academy, and it's Friday night. Daylight is saying goodbye, and Sabbath is saying hello.

The students sit on a little green slope and begin to sing. Their voices echo along with piano notes and the strumming of the guitar. But, to be honest, some students aren't really feeling the kumbaya vibe going on right now. Some stare at the fire, their thoughts about life in a jumble, just like the scattered flames. Others are laughing with friends, wanting to joke around and not focus.

And then after the gentle singing, a classmate comes up and begins to talk about her dreams for her class, dreams about much power she believes they can achieve if they unite with one goal in mind—to be a blessing at this school and then work to be a blessing to the world.

After the talks have faded away and the last notes of songs have disappeared into the air, the students begin to separate. Some are still jostling around, some are contemplative, others are energetic with apple cider or hot chocolate still lingering on their taste buds, but all are walking away with a sense of importance that one receives when they attend a vespers at Upper Columbia Academy on a late summer evening.



Monday tests

by Summer Davis

Every student at UCA would and should agree that Monday tests are a horrid and absurd act. What teachers may not understand is that the weekend is not part of the school week. We set aside Sabbath as a day of rest and Sunday is the next free day. Do we want to be captive to the bondage of homework and carry the burden of knowing we have to study for a Monday test?

Teachers seem gladly to announce that there will be a test on Monday and appear to be so lost in the delight of test giving that they do not remember the later chore of grading. Students desire a free Sunday to finish any lingering homework assignments or to enjoy time with friends or with projects that need doing. The last thing we students wish to worry about is a test taking place the first day of the week after a busy weekend. Recognize, as well, that no tests means no test preparation on a Sunday evening for teachers and no cramming for a test the evening before for students.