



A whole new year!

by Clayton Schmidt

The New Year, 2013, is finally here. In the Chinese tradition it is the year of the snake. But what do we expect at Upper Columbia Academy? What do you think we will achieve? What will we achieve as a school?

Of course we are all excited about the new semester, being halfway through the year with only one semester to go!

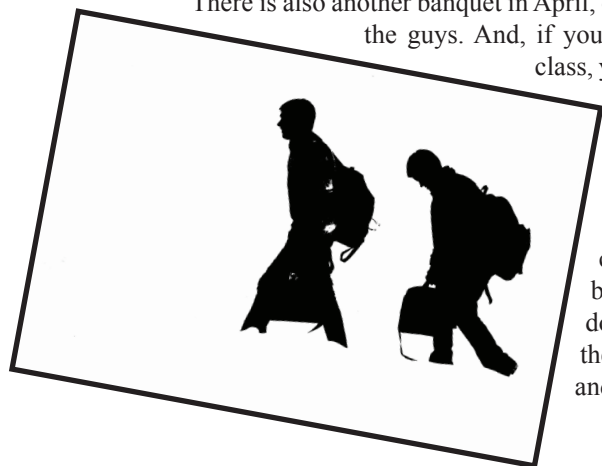
There are many things happening around the campus. The new cafeteria being built behind the ad building should be finished in time for the next school year. Band clinic is coming up, an awesome experience, where the Northwest conference schools and their bands go to Walla Walla University to play and perform music together. Another activity is the WWU Friendship Tournament where all the academy basketball teams compete against each other.

We can't forget about spring break! Some students will just hang out and relax from school, while others will do something more exciting and travel to different parts of the world like India or Guatemala.

There is also another banquet in April, only this time the girls will ask the guys. And, if you're in Mrs. Heager's Biology

class, you will get to go on a field trip which will be fun and exciting.

Also during all these months, there will be tours and performances for band, orchestra, choir, and gymnastics. And before we realize it, we will be done with this school year and the seniors will be graduating and off to summer vacation!



Preparations pay off

by Nick Anderson

As UCA's annual Fox Concert approached, the musicians realized it was time to buckle down and perfect all of their music for the concert. If any non-UCA musicians would have stepped into the music building, they'd have heard either a Christmas song being played or sung, or the frustrated cries of musicians who were *trying* to play or sing a Christmas song.

Although preparations for the Fox Concert are an enjoyable time (I mean, who doesn't love playing Christmas music?), there is also a certain amount of stress that the musicians feel. Many students ask themselves, "Am I playing this part right?" They repeat the same line over and over, trying to get it perfect every time they play it.

Not only do the students feel stressed, but the conductors also go through just as much stress, if not more, than the students do. But Mr. Anderson and Mr. Kravig have been through this process many times, so they know how to deal with it. They know that there will be some mistakes made, but they also know that at the end of the concert, many people will have been blessed, and, overall, it will have been a success.

And the people came and the performances went well . . . and all of the glory needs to go to God. He gave us our talents, and we should thank Him for them.

Left in the dark

by *Sophia Rich*

About 9:20 in the morning, the power in the UCA Ad Building went off. There were a few moments of shock before the excitement began.

"We were praying in Mrs. Turner's class when it happened," said Jared Humphreys. The Computer Lit class was presenting on the United States, so in order to keep going with the class, Mrs. Mann had the class gather around each presenter's laptop screen. Twentieth Century had a similar problem so they kept presenting without any visual aids. The yearbook class was watching an instructional video when the screen went dark and the class was dismissed early.

There were excited calls of "2012!" whispered through the darkened hallway. According to "experts" on the Mayan calendar, the world was supposed to end the next day. One student wryly commented that perhaps God was going to come today, one day before the world is supposed to end, just to throw everyone off.

Power outages are exciting, but with all the hullabaloo about the end of the world, this one may just have been even more exciting than most.

Top notch pianos to arrive

by *Zach Morrison*

This past November 30, representatives from the Kawai Piano Company visited the UCA campus. The names of the two gentlemen were Cody Colise and Steve Malcolm. The purpose for their errand was to inspect the music building and decide if it was an environment safe and ready for three new Kawai pianos. The visitors held a meeting with members of the UCA staff and Upper Columbia Conference.

One music monitor involved in the cleaning and preparation of the music building claimed she was required to vacuum all corners of the building. "I even vacuumed the ceiling in the practice rooms," she said.

Did all this hard work pay off? YES! The Kawai Piano Company decided to lend three pianos to the UCA music program. Mrs. Dalrymple will be getting a new grand piano, Mr. Anderson will be receiving a new upright piano, and a digital piano will be added to music department as well.

One talented musician named Louis LaRiccica exclaimed, "I'm just ecstatic!" He is not the only one. Even those who can only play chopsticks are excited.

Get ready to hear some great new sounds coming from the music building.



Pastor Fred sends out the twelve

by *Cameron Smith*

The group huddled next to the flagpole where we were told to meet that Sabbath afternoon. We were there to participate in the Sabbath afternoon activity. After a few minutes, Dean Caro drove up to the curb in one of the twelve passenger vans. After deciding who actually wanted to go, twelve of us piled into the van.

The ride took about thirty minutes. After driving around in a circle a couple of times we arrived at our destination—underneath Interstate 90. We were there to feed the homeless, and it didn't take too long until we'd set up our table (right underneath a "No Trespassing" sign). We had potato soup, crackers, apples, oranges, along with cider and hot chocolate.

Almost immediately, members of our group set out to spread the word. But we weren't there just to give the people physical food. We were specifically instructed to talk to the people even if they didn't want anything to eat. One of our first "customers" was a very interesting character. He talked for quite a while, seeming to enjoy being around people willing to listen. We stood around trying to keep warm as he recounted the tale of how he was hitchhiking from Sandpoint, Idaho, to Tacoma, Washington. He and Caro really hit it off when we discovered he was from Chico, California.

There was one lady whom I believe we helped even more that day, however. She was timid at first, but after helping her pick up some of her empty paint cans, I was able to convince her to have some hot chocolate. She accepted it, along with some fruit, and then resumed cleaning up the area to which she had staked her claim. She paused and hinted at prayer. I offered and she accepted gladly. Afterwards, I gave her two of the GLOW tracts that I had stashed in my camera case. She was an artist, she said, and looking briefly at the painting she had done, I offered to take a picture of it. She told me no because it was her "testimony," and that it wasn't finished yet.

All of us had a good time although it was very cold. When we were packing up the van to leave, someone suggested we do it again sometime. Everyone agreed.

Christmas Concert



Kubota conspiracy

by Chayse Brown

He was carrying what was left of the breakfast he had taken from the cafeteria. There was nothing out of the ordinary. Today was of no significance compared to other days, and he walked into the maintenance building, the place he came to everyday at 7:00. After he clocked in, the monotonous duties of the morning started.

Bob and his coworker Tom drove the four wheeled Kubota to make the trash run for faculty loop . . . until the Kubota just stopped running half way through the trip. This was odd because the machine was anything but undependable. It always ran without any problems. Bob tried to turn the key a second time. The diesel engine caught, rumbled to life, and then died. The significance of what was happening began dawn on him: The vehicle was out of gas. He had simply forgotten to check the gas gauge. This was not a problem because it was only a short distance to the maintenance building. But there was a different problem: They had to face the boss!

After they talked to Mr. Mann, they walked back to fill the gas tank. It should have been a simple matter to dump the fuel into the Kubota, but, to their dismay, they were not able to take the gas cap off. Try as they might, Bob and his coworker could not budge the cap. Certainly they could not go back a second time to ask for help. This would be even more embarrassing. However, there was nothing else to do, so in their frustration they walked back yet another time for help.

The boss Mann walked to the Kubota and simply turned the cap. With disbelieving eyes they watched the plastic cap come off. Not only had they run out of gas but they also had been out smarted by a plastic cap, and to top that, they had made the boss walk all the way out there so they could humiliate themselves. Life is good—all the time. *(Some names have been changed or omitted to protect the innocent.)*

Do the top ten

by Amy Conradt

Here in this lovely winter weather on the UCA campus we watch the snow fall and wonder what would be fun to do.

Before Christmas I talked to a few students and they suggested the top ten fun things to do on campus during the winter season. 1. Snowboard down the hill by the church, 2. Go sledding, 3. Make snow angels, 4. Go caroling around faculty loop (It's a little late for that.), 5. Have an egg nog drinking contest, 6. Watch a marathon of Christmas movies, 7. Have a contest of who can build the best snowman ever, 8. Have snowball fights and then drink hot cocoa, 9. Run and slide down the slippery sidewalks, 10. Bake cookies and decorate them for you and all your friends to enjoy.

There are tons of wonderful fun things to do here on our campus, so if you are ever wondering what you should do in your spare time, try some of the top ten and your snowy season will be filled with fun and excitement.

Sleepy students

by Sarah Blake

Picture yourself sitting in a desk in a UCA classroom. It is 7:15 in the morning and it is your first class of the day. The teacher takes attendance, prays, and then starts going over the lesson. You are paying attention for the most part but still are tired from the long night of homework, and it's hard to focus. Slowly, you feel yourself drifting off into dreamland. BAM! Suddenly you jolt back into reality, your teacher looming over you.

This is a typical in a junior's morning. It's a challenge for us to stay awake in class. It's not about the teachers being boring. Usually, it's the time. You see, a typical teenager tends to stay up too long at night. We can't help it. It's who we are. Also, acquiring a good amount of homework throughout the day doesn't help much. Dorm and day students both struggle with this, yet day students get less sleep because they have to get up earlier to drive to school. If you live in Spokane, that's an extra 30 minutes taken out of your day. Dorm students can get up 10 minutes before class starts and still make it to class on time.

Many believe 7:15 is too early for a class. This might be true. You see, when students do not get enough sleep, it affects their grades negatively, and no one wants that.

Students need more sleep for better grades. There are two solutions for this problem: The first is to have classes start a little later, but the schedule is pretty packed already. So, that leaves us with the second solution—less homework. You see, the less homework we have, the more likely we are to go to bed earlier. Yes, some may still stay up later than is healthful, yet other students would have a chance to go to sleep earlier. More sleep equals better grades.



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 This issue's contributors included:

Andrew Sharley, Reagan Dieter, Kaley Wolfkill, Ashley Lee,
 Myranda Codd, Cysla Schlehuber, Abe Baik, Brian Cazan,
 Jessica Wagner, Anthony Onstott, Amy Conradt, Sarah Blake,
 Cheyanne Welch, Alyx Yeager, Sophia Rich, Zach Morrison,
 Cameron Smith, Chayse Brown, Clayton Schmidt, Nick Anderson,
 and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

Laundry crisis in girls' dorm

by Cheyanne Welch

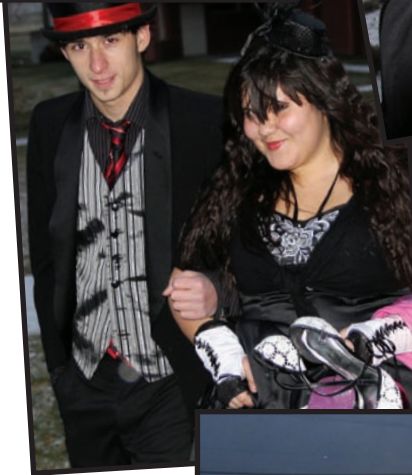
On December 18, a rare phenomenon occurred at Upper Columbia Academy: the washers and dryers of the girls' dorm fell silent. The cause: the entire dorm had run out of quarters. Assistant Head Dean Stephanie Gladding said the quarters in the machines simply had not been emptied by the business office. The deans were broke, the dirty clothes were piling up and the few girls who retained their precious laundry money dug holes in their sock drawers and buried the coins lest thieves break in and steal them. With home leave only three days away, panic was beginning to set in. Head Dean Michelle Hess even went so far as to raid her apartment for quarters in an effort to pacify the growing mob of discontented young women.

"About twenty-five girls come down every week asking to exchange money for quarters," say the deans.

Shared laundry loads became increasingly common as girls combined their most-needed items and split the cost between them, each contributing their last quarter. One girl said, "I hadn't done laundry in a week and a half. When I got quarters, I didn't have enough to do all my laundry and I had to share with a friend, and that's not the first time I'd had to do that."

Finally, at 3:15, Sara Ayers came to empty the machines. She patiently worked for half an hour to retrieve the quarters from the first floor dryer, revealing only a few. "The business office takes the quarters and rolls them into ten dollar rolls and bags them. The deans get some of the quarters to do guest room laundry."

Now, the laundry rooms have been repopulated, the washers sing again and the dryers have returned to their humming. Peace reigns once more in the girls' dorm.



Ahhh! Banquet!

by Alyx Yaeger

Sunday, December 9, arrived quickly. Girls got their [appropriate] dresses checked, the men purchased top hats, all who were going waited eagerly for this year's winter banquet to arrive. The theme for this year's banquet was cleverly titled "A Top Hat Tea Party," and those who took part were encouraged to dress formally.

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs also planned activities for after the banquet. Two options were ice skating and watching *Madagascar 3*. There was also broomballing, mini golfing, and laser tag at Wonderland. It was loads of fun!

So how might one ask another to a banquet? Doing something unique and creative, perhaps? It was the boys' job to ask the girls to the winter banquet, and, boys, we enjoyed seeing all over campus how creative you can be. It warms our girly hearts to read or hear the words "Will you go to banquet with me?"

The next banquet (which is an ASB banquet) is on April 14, and it will be the ladies' turn to take the stand and ask a man!



Christmas tree lighting

by *Ashley Lee*

Busy, busy, busy! As Christmas break approached, it felt like there was so much to do in so little time. It seemed like teachers were trying to cram in tests, quizzes, and mounds of homework in just one week. I'm sure you wondered if teachers really do secretly meet together and plan on which day to have all the tests.

It was nice to get away from the hustle and bustle of the week at worship Tuesday night, December 18. It wasn't just any ordinary worship, however. It was the annual Christmas tree lighting. Students came together in the gymnasium and sat around the Christmas tree on the stage. First they sang a few Christmas carols and then the countdown for the tree lighting started. Finally, the tree was lighted and sparkled in the dark.

Pastor Chelsea read a Christmas story, and then at the end of worship students picked a piece of paper off the tree that had another student's name on it. They were asked to pray for that student during break. Then everyone sang "Silent Night."

2012's Christmas Tree Lighting was a wonderful break away from the stresses and lists of things to do. It was definitely a great way to start getting into the Christmas spirit.

Students prepare for winter break

by *Abe Baik*

December 21 marked the day of a new beginning: the winter break was here at last! Many students had been planning for the 17-day long break for weeks.

Winter break is a great time to relax and sleep away your worries. Many students catch up on sleep, watch tons of movies, and spend time with their families. Cameron Smith, a Junior, said he would invest a lot of time on his broken computer. Taylor Oliverio said he absolutely couldn't wait to go hang out with his dad and have a major Nerf gun fight at his local mall. And Kaelan Barber reported he would watch hours upon hours of movies. But of all the students the main thing they were looking forward to was catching up on sleep.

Even though students like to spend their free time doing different things, spending time with one's family is very important and the most important of all is spending time with God.



Choraliers tour

by *Myranda Codd*

In December, Choraliers went on tour to Brewster and Oroville. The schedule then called for us to drive another two hours or so to get to Colville to do our annual Music on the Menu performance for charity. We were all looking forward to it big time! Unfortunately, our bus broke down in Oroville due to a hydraulic fluid leak, and we were stranded. Mr. Hartman was called around 11 in the morning to drive the other bus up to us. But that was a four-hour drive and we were expecting it to take even longer than that for him to finally arrive. So, for the next few hours we all hung out at the church, singing songs, enjoying a cat nap or just waiting around chatting with friends.

Finally, after about 3 hours, someone got the idea that we should walk to the local grocery store and sing our songs for them. So most of us got up and went to find Mr. Anderson to ask permission, and we were soon walking, in a mob, with our folders, down the street to find the grocery store. When we got there we asked one of the ladies at the check-out stand if we could sing for them. She seemed unsure about it but sent us to the manager, and he gave us the go ahead. We all gathered in a circle in the little café part of the store and right as we were about to sing, Xandroe's phone rang. It was Mr. Anderson calling to let us know that the other bus had arrived at the church. So we quickly sang one song, our liveliest number "I Can Tell the World." We had a blast.

When we were walking out, everyone in the store was cheering, and one little old lady even came up to a couple of us and thanked us through her tears for sharing our talents.. When we got back to the church, Mr. Anderson announced that it was too late to make it to Colville for Music on the Menu. We told him about our adventure in the grocery store, and he decided that we would all go back there and sing a few more songs. They were so happy to see us again! Then, on our way home, we stopped at Taco Bell in Omak. The employees there asked where we were all from, and when they learned we were a school choir on our way back from tour, they asked if we would sing for them. We did and had another great time.

Although we never got to Colville, it was still so rewarding to see other people, who wouldn't typically hear us, be touched by our music. God obviously had a different plan for us that weekend, even though we didn't see it right away.

Detention

by *Crysla Schlehuber*

The clock ticks on in silence, slowing down, doing all it can to keep you there. The air is still, reverberating silence, a silence that can cause you to lose consciousness. Not alone but separated from others vowed to silence, you focus on the clock. No time for sleep, no time for imaginative wanderings through consciousness. No time, and yet all the time in the world.

Those who have been in detention know that it isn't a huge deal. Some are terrified that it will be the worst experience of their life, but let me tell you something, it's not the end of the world. Well, I guess that depends on your parents. The school uses detention as a reminder that you should do your best to get to class or work. Yes, sometimes the school makes mistakes and you may have to serve detention even though you don't deserve it, but just see it as an extra opportunity to study.

Priso . . . err . . . lunch detention

by *Brian Cazan*

What seems to be the most common punishment here at Upper Columbia Academy is the dreaded lunch detention. Lunch detention is not something you should take lightly, you know. It is a key part of the system. It keeps the wheels of attendance turning.

If you innocently stroll through the ad building and happen to notice your name on the lunch detention list, it is most likely because you have been late to, or skipped, either work or class. Now the question remains whether you will actually sacrifice socializing time and regular food for silence and whole wheat bread. This, my fellow classmates, is an intense personal decision—so personal, in fact, that I refuse to give any advice on the matter.

One student has this to say about lunch detention: "It's really lame." Another student defended its purpose and is convinced that it motivates us scholars to attend every activity UCA has lined up for us. Just remember to be where you are supposed to be when you are supposed to be there and you can avoid this topic altogether.

Never-ending week

by *Jessica Wagner*

The alarm is ringing! Wake up! It's early Sunday morning and guess what—there's Sunday school today! After a Sabbath with parents visiting and the vespers sacred Christmas concert, we had to face a full day of classes on a Sunday.

The good news was that Christmas break was less than a week away. But with Sunday school, most people are thrown off. "What day of the week is it?" you ask yourself, but you don't know and neither does anybody else.

The week before a long break is notorious for lots of homework. Students are swamped in almost every class, and teachers push to have tests right before Christmas vacation. You're already tired and running on little sleep and now you have to finish homework and study for tests.

Besides all that, the weather also seemed against us. Colder shorter days made it dark so much of the time. Then on Monday, we finally had a good snowfall, only to have most of it melt by the next morning. Tuesday morning greeted us with a building evacuation as a fire drill was held during morning classes. B-r-r-r-r-r-r! As we stood outside freezing, we couldn't wait to get back inside into the warm classrooms.

After many classes and tests and lots of dark evenings, it was only Tuesday evening. We still had two more days of classes! If only someone had sped up the clock so we could have skipped ahead to Christmas vacation. The week was so very long!

Winter in the air

by *Anthony Onstott*

Sultry snowflakes fell slowly to their final resting place, nestling themselves beside their brothers and sisters only to slowly fade away into the gray.

Snowfall is always one of the most anticipated parts of Christmas and winter, and it is no different here at UCA. But the clouds seemed to have forgotten our small part of wheat fields, floating us by without so much as a second look. There was a small chance of hope when a small flurry covered the ground and created a soft blanket of beauty, making everyone jump with glee. But then a terrible wind took away our wonderful snow and students drearily looked outside, casting forlorn looks upon the crumpled, soaked brown grass



with its few white blotches of happiness strewn about.

But the snow wasn't done. Dashed hopes were fulfilled. Just before Christmas break the snow reappeared along with cold temperatures that made certain it didn't melt. Then, after two weeks with no more snow, eight inches of the stuff descended on the first day back at school—just in time for the start of the rec ski program.

UCA shares music in Fairfield

by Andrew Sharley

Mr. Kravig and Pastor Chelsea took nine Upper Columbia Academy students to sing and play Christmas Carols for the Fairfield Community Christmas Party. The bazaar was on Saturday, December 1, 2012, in the Fairfield Community Center.

The UCA students sang about Jesus amid sales of various Christmas wares by local vendors. With a population of just over 600 people, the bazaar was an important, well-attended event. Because of this, UCA's musicians had opportunity to share their faith with many by simply sharing their music. For instance, as the students were singing four-part harmony Christmas carols, a young man paused to listen, apparently interested. Another young man repeatedly watched the singing and playing from a sales booth off to the side. As the students began packing up to leave, one of the sellers spoke up, "Please keep playing 'till three when it's all over. Are you really leaving?" She clearly enjoyed the music.

While she had listened, Nick Rudd, Andrew Sharley, Roylan Messinger, and Mr. Dean Kravig sang the men's parts in the carols, while Melissa Petrello, Katie Folkenberg, Stephanie Ing, Ashley Lee, Madalynn Kack, and Pastor Chelsea English sang the ladies parts. The group started by singing carols, then they alternated vocal carols with string quartet carols. The recently formed string quartet included Katie Folkenberg, Ashley Lee, Roylan Messinger, and Nathaniel Srikureja.

Later, Mr. Kravig said what a blessing the event had been, and it appeared the students, too, were glad they had joined in.

The whole idea started with Pastor Chelsea. She knew some of Fairfield leaders who told her about the slot for music at their Christmas party. Pastor Chelsea then asked Mr. Kravig if he had any music that could take up 45 minutes. Mr. Kravig quickly agreed to pull a group together. Also, he and his wife had all the students who were available over to their home Friday night to practice carols and eat supper.



Players appreciate fans

by Reagan Dieter

Towards the end of October as football season came to a close, basketball tryouts were announced and guys and girls alike prepared themselves mentally and physically for them. As tryouts came and went, the teams were displayed on the gym doors for everyone to see. After the teams were chosen, there ensued rigorous basketball and conditioning drills meant to get each team to learn the fundamentals, improve their teamwork, and strengthen their bodies. This continued for the month of November up until the first games. Now the practices are more oriented to improving the weaknesses found during the games, regardless of whether it was a win.

The student body has been quite the audience during the games. The rule allowing for students to stay after the bell to finish watching the games has encouraged more support this year. As a member of the varsity team, I must say that there is nothing like representing your school in a game when your school is so willing to come out and support the teams.

As the season draws on, each team is working harder to improve as a whole so that they can play to the best of their ability. Be sure to come out and support your UCA basketball teams at their next game. GO LIONS!

'Twas the night before Christmas break

by Kaley Wolfkill

'Twas the night before Christmas break . . . If you walked into the girls' dorm, you would first notice the couple of young ladies watching a Christmas movie. But as you walked along farther into the dorm the sound of the intercom would interrupt your thoughts: "If you have laundry on second, please take it out." Then you would see a bunch of young ladies run into the laundry rooms, hoping to find an empty washer. Most, though, go away with a sad faces and in anguish for they cannot get their laundry done before curfew.

If you started peeking into the rooms you passed, you would see the effects of tornadoes. Yes, with students in the midst of packing, most rooms looked like disaster zones. Then you would hear caroling coming from a few rooms, but for some reason you would not be able to understand them. The carols are in Spanish for many had to teach the songs for class the next day.

"Are you excited for the FOX?" echoed through the halls. And, last but not least, you would find the RA's tucking in their girls for the night. And all through the dorm the girls were all stirring—even the fish.