

UPPER COLUMBIA ACADEMY

ECHOES

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Amateur Hour

By Dustin Billington

Thunderous laughter rocked the gym as two retired pirates stood on stage grinning at each other, trying desperately to make each other look foolish.

"What do you call a dog with no legs?" asked Señor de Oro.

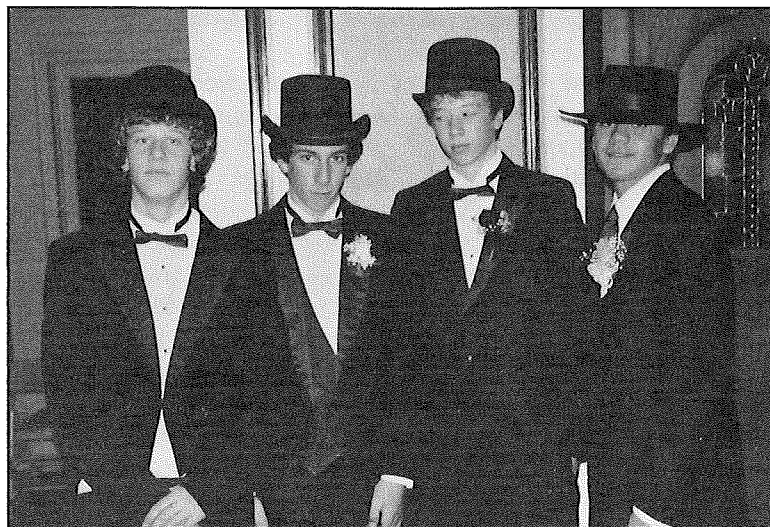
"I don't know," responded Mr. Opp.

"Well it doesn't matter what you call him because he still won't come!"

This was how the evening rolled along for the Men's Club Amateur Hour. Mr. Opp and Señor de Oro were the MC's who hosted the event.

The stage was set with a beautiful painting of a ship on the ocean with a gorgeous sunset for the backdrop. The MC's lounged in lawn chairs to the side. Meanwhile, on the main gym floor, waiters dressed in white collar shirts and khaki shorts scurried around the reserved tables to serve guests. Then suddenly the lights went out and Amateur Hour began.

The audience enthusiastically applauded each contestants' performance. Because everyone performed so well, the judges had a difficult time deciding the winners. But finally, after much careful consideration, the winners were announced. The piano award went to Lauren Schilt. Brent Davis won the vocal award. Sally Roth took the instrumental award. The novelty prize went to Joe Jenks, Jeffrey Lamberton, and Sam Derting. However, the performance by Philip Byrd, Kathilee Davidson, and Phillip Sherwood stole the show. They performed a western medley and strummed and fiddled their way to the audience award. The evening ended with Danelle Smith capturing the grand prize for her vocal performance, "Dream a little dream."



This year's girls' club banquet was held on November 16 at the Glover Mansion in Spokane. Dressed for the theme of the 1920's and 30's, Fletcher Wilkens, Nolan Kinne, Justin Davis, and Stephen Wallace survey the festivities.



Danelle Smith sings her prize-winning number



Barely-reformed pirate, Señor de Oro prepares to fill gaps between acts



Dissection causes no fur to fly

By Shawna Eisendrath

Imagine entering a room where your eyes immediately fill with tears, your stomach feels empty, and all you constantly smell is cat corpses. That is exactly what the Human Anatomy class puts up with everyday.

Throughout this semester, as in past semesters, the anatomy class at UCA has been dissecting cats as part of their studies. This year, however, for an extra cost, the cats came already skinned except for the head, tail, and paws. This was very convenient and made dissection less time consuming.

Now, you might be pondering, "Why cats and not rats?" Well, simply because the cats are larger than rats and so their muscles are much easier to see. But the main reason we use cats is because the anatomy of a cat is very similar to that of a human being. Students learn to identify muscles, bones, arteries, veins, lungs, intestines, heart and—for the daring students who got into the nitty gritty part—the brain.

These cats end up contributing to the advancement of science, even right here at UCA. Off and on for 10 years cats have been used here for dissection. This year, 18 preserved cats were ordered for dissection at a cost of 30 dollars a piece. Before the cats are sent, their veins are filled with a blue liquid, while their arteries are filled with a red liquid, so it is simple to distinguish between the

two. The cats arrive in clear, plastic bags where they sit in formaldehyde until they are in the hands of capable, well-instructed students.

So, the next time your kitten wants a bowl of milk, or you can't decide if you should read Garfield, remember the sacrifice of cats who help students learn more about their bodies.

Vacation to Camp Berachah

By Willis Maxson

It all started on Thursday, October 23, and it took the place of homeleave for the 16 people that went. It was a way to get off campus and to just have a good time with the company of friends. Was bible conference better than homeleave?

The conference, sponsored by Mariano de Oro and Kristen Johnson was held at Camp Berachah near Auburn, Washington. The main speakers were Larry Unterseher, who is the Youth Director of the Montana Conference, and Dwain Edmonds, the editor of *Insight* magazine.

According to Crissi Stilwill, the bible conference was a good time and very memorable experience. She also noted that the speakers were interesting and had good information as they addressed real life issues such as family, friendships, dating, and physical abuse. am

The conference lasted 3 days, from October 23 to 26. The schedule wasn't too grueling, as the participants didn't have a set time to get up, and went to bed at around 10. However, most participants wanted to get up at a decent hour, and get on with the soon-to-be enjoyable day.

Along with the spiritual benefit, the participants also had a great time meeting new friends from other Christian schools.

Technology fair excites young minds

By Evan Kinne

Eighty-five percent of the students who learned about various technologies at the UCA Technology Fair said they would like to return for another fair according to organizer Chuck Paulson.

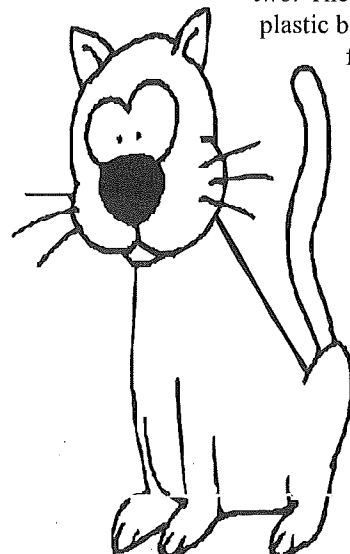
The fair held on November 4 was a smashing success. 160 students from Seventh Day Adventist schools around the conference met on the campus of Upper Columbia Academy to experience different aspects of technology and what UCA offers.

The students participated in a variety of hands-on workshops including welding, woodworking, photography, fluid powered pneumatics, robotics, aviation, desktop publishing, and AutoCAD.

AutoCAD is a professional drafting computer program that is used widely by architects and drafters. In UCA's new AutoCAD lab, students were able to learn the basic principles of the program. Three UCA students, Marlin Thorman, Alan Hayes, and Joe Stratte helped instruct the visitors. They taught the visitors how to draw fish. Some of the student's fish were cut out of steel with UCA's Plasma Cam—a high powered metal cutting machine that can take drawings from AutoCAD and cut them out.

UCA teacher Marvin Thorman taught a robotics and computer programming class. Students were able to watch Thorman write a program that controlled a robotic scanner. The program designed allowed the scanner to solve a maze printed on a piece of paper.

Overall the fair was a positive experience for many students. The hands-on experiences brought a lot of new knowledge to many young minds. Organizer Chuck Paulson is looking forward to another fair in the next few years.



Harvest party

By Danielle Pownall

On October 30th the Union Gospel Mission put on a harvest party for the homeless, and a group of UCA students had the privilege of helping out. Every year the Mission puts on this party for the homeless so they can have a little fun and bring a little joy into their lives.

This year they had all sorts of different games to play including basketball, penny toss, bingo, fishing, and name-that-tune. Winners received tickets they could trade for ice-cream, cotton candy, or whatever else looked scrumptious to them.

The UCA Octet sang a few numbers and participated in name-that-tune, which everyone enjoyed immensely.

Senior Amy Schwitzgoebel said, "It was fun working with other volunteers and to be able to bring enjoyment to the people there."

Overall, the special event turned out to be successful, and many learned that people really do care and love them.

Fun being smart

By Chelsea Skeels

When you've had a hard day, don't sit alone in your room, run down to the Administration Building for some fun and relaxation with the Science Club.

The Science Club is a group of students that gets together twice a month to eat popcorn and ice cream while watching the educational TV show CSI:, which portrays the different ways crime scene investigators interpret the scientific evidence left by criminals. Of course, all of the episodes are carefully screened by Mrs. Haeger before they are viewed by the students.

Mrs. Haeger is the club's sponsor and provides a place for the students to meet in her classroom. She also provides the refreshments for the events.

There are six officers in the Science Club: President Amy Schwitzgoebel, Vice-President Sam Gage, Sergeant-at-Arms Nate Ingersoll, Secretary Amanda Ward, Treasurer Katie Sailas, and Chaplain Patty Ketchum. These students plan all the activities for the club during the school year.

When the Science Club meets, they make sure flyers are up all over school to invite anyone who wishes to come. Amy Schwitzgoebel says, "We're planning lots of fun activities and we hope people will come check it out."

Besides being fun, being an officer of the Science Club can even help to get you scholarships, depending on which college you plan to attend.

So, if you ever see a flyer that announces "Movie Night Tonight in Mrs. Haeger's Classroom," go and have some fun with the Science Club.

Principal speaks of reverence

By Kathilee J. Davidson

UCA students and faculty, led by Principal John Nafie, explored potential solutions for a growing problem during joint worship Wednesday, October 29.

Nafie opened the evening with a short worship. He then addressed the student body concerning the issue of reverence and respect both in worship services and in other programs. Nafie said he wanted to hear the students' concerns and suggestions for solving the problem.

Microphones were passed around while students shared possible causes and solutions to the problem. Though Nafie had intended for students to discuss respect at other functions, they focused on reverence in worship services.

First, students gave possible causes for irreverence, such as having a short attention span or being tired after a long week of school and needing something to keep them awake. Some said sitting for two and a half hours after a whole week of sitting at school was difficult; others suggested boring speakers, being hungry, and not being used to sitting for that long were the problem.

Some students offered solutions dealing with changes to service structure, including a more interactive lesson study and more lively and interesting speakers. Others suggested having church in different locations (such as Camp MiVoden) or serving snacks during the service.

Other students addressed their peers on how to be more reverent, saying church was not meant to entertain but rather was an opportunity to meet with God. If you try, they said, you can get a message from a boring speaker. Others mentioned that some day we will be adults in the professional world and we will be expected to be respectful. The world will not cater to our needs.

Faculty also participated. One of their concerns was that the faculty at UCA is here in the place of parents. This means they are responsible for teaching students life skills including how to be responsible adults. They believed that respect is a part of that.

Martling, de Oro encite conflict

By Tommy Cutting

Chaos reigned during the 9:39 Spanish period when Senor de Oro's podium was found missing after a brief confrontation between him and Mr. Martling.

The Shenanigans began shortly after 10:00 A.M. when Martling strode into the room and announced the second Spanish American War was underway. An outraged de Oro chased him into the hall only to return to find that his podium had vanished.

"I was shocked," said de Oro. "But I guess this is what I should come to expect of these Americans."

Justin Shipowick had a different take on the matter. "I couldn't care less. It wasn't my podium," he said. "But I wouldn't be at all surprised if Ron Turner had a hand in this."

The podium was later recovered in the office of Mr. Nafie. Nafie declined comment, but de Oro assured several onlookers that he'd have no problem convincing Mr. Nafie to talk. It remains to be seen if de Oro will press charges against Martling and Nafie for grand theft podium.

Wind work

By Brent Davis

Throughout the last few weeks, trees equipped with leaves have had their assault on life as we know it.

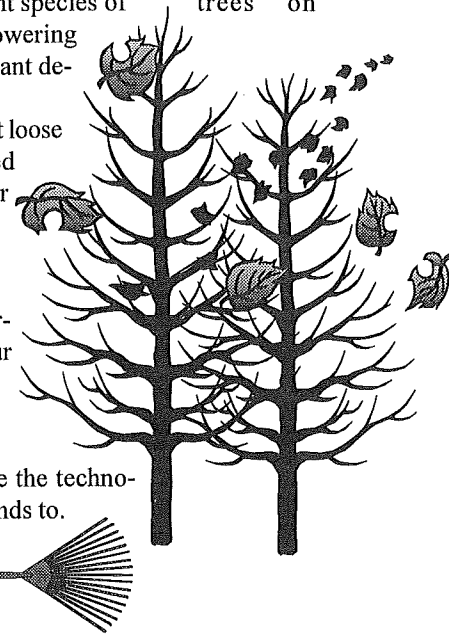
Deciduous trees nationwide have barraged every car, pedestrian and animal within their range. While this summons holiday feelings, it also brings a mountainous task for every leaf-conscious person. They have no choice but to confront the leaf attack armed with nothing but a rake and their own resolve.

While UCA's place among the wheat fields provides a safe haven from alien abduction, pollution, and door-to-door vacuum salesman, we are no match for the drifts of leaves received from our own trees. Resident tree expert, Mrs. Hager, reports that there are several different species of trees on campus. White birch, locust, poplar, and flowering crabapple trees are a few of the more abundant deciduous trees.

Thus, when the cold comes, the trees let loose with reckless abandon. And our esteemed maintenance department must wage war against the flurries. It seems that instead of the normal rake, a lawn tractor is simply driven over the leaves to pick them up. For those of us who have personally raked up to five square miles with our fork-sized rakes, this is a revelation.

A riding, driving, whirring leaf vacuum? It seems that now this leaf-raking barrier is broken down we have the technological ability to do whatever we set our minds to.

"To infinity and beyond!"



Three-night fight for first

By Heidi White

Many talented athletes showed up for UCA's annual basketball tryouts. However, not all who came could make the final cut. The coaches knew what qualities they were looking for before the athletes even started showing up. They also knew the different drills that would need to be performed in order to find out if those who came had these special qualities. Several of the athletes trying out were nervous as they looked around at all their competition, but they were pumped and ready for whatever lay ahead.

"I was really nervous. There were a lot of new girls trying who had a lot of good qualities that I knew would add to the team," Midnight Koski said, after being asked how she felt right before tryouts.

Some of the qualities the coaches were looking for were speed, eye-hand coordination, experience, and athleticism. Many drills were performed to see if the athletes trying out were varsity material. There was lots of running, jumping and, yes, sweating. Those trying out were also asked to do a number of lay ups and free throws.

For three nights approximately eighty UCA students fought for a position on one of the varsity basketball teams. Everyone trying out was worked hard. Their skills were put to the test. Many of the athletes possessed a number of the skills that the coaches were looking for and as usual it was hard to make the final cuts. But there were only twenty-four positions on the varsity teams to be filled. In the end, the athletes that possessed all the qualities the coaches were looking for were the ones who made the final cut.



Willis Maxson, Tiffany Weakly, Tommy Cutting, and Heather Scott settle in for a good time at the Glover Mansion.

Caught being good

By Jodi Myers

Many years ago a program was started to reward students at Upper Columbia Academy who show extra initiative in helping others. This program is called Student of the Week. Occasionally there is more than one person a week and other times there is none at all.

Vice Principal John Winslow says, "We want to see kids doing great things without being asked to; it brings a positive atmosphere, and they deserve to be rewarded." If any faculty member sees students doing random acts of kindness or sees them doing something outstanding that no one asked them to do, they inform Winslow.

The reward students receive is a gift certificate for them and a friend to Baskin & Robbins ice-cream parlor. This reward is given Wednesday nights at joint worship. Winslow gives the award and tells the whole student body what that individual did to deserve it.

Hopefully these acts of kindness will be contagious to the rest of the student body this school year and in all the years to come.

Tech students tackle projects

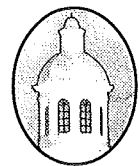
by Justin Pleier

In Welding and Advanced Automotive they have projects that they are either working on or will be working on. These projects include tanks, grills, and even engines.

In Advanced Automotive they are working on tearing apart seven engines. One group is going to take a 400 cubic inch Chrysler engine and put a 451 cubic inch stroker kit in it. Then they are going to put that engine into a 1974 Dodge Dart. Other groups' projects range from a Pontiac Fiero to a VW Bug, and from a little engine to a big 454 cubic inch Oldsmobile engine.

In Welding the projects are very diverse, ranging from yard gnomes to a barbeque made from the front end of an old truck. One student in Welding 2 is currently working on a robotic tank while another is working on a chess set.

The projects in Advanced Automotive are currently in progress, but the Welding projects are going to be taking place during the last quarter.



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Girls don't know what they missed

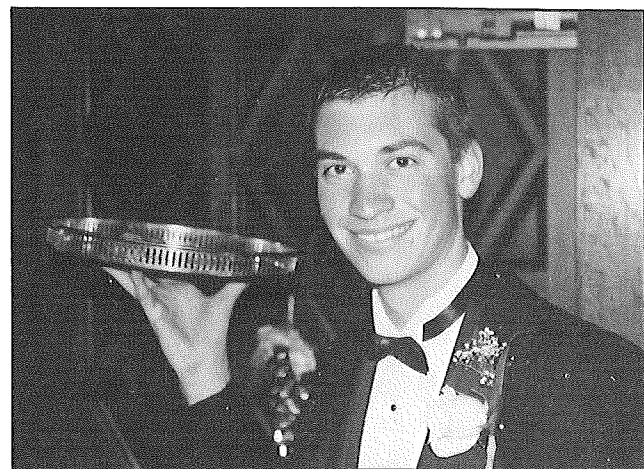
By Aaron Hays

Imagine girls coming to school wearing nothing but duct tape. This seems a little risqué. However, this exciting event, in the girl's dorm, was to be called Duct Tape Week.

Duct Tape Week was supposed to be a compilation of many events. Girls were supposed to make clothes out of duct tape and wear them to school. Also, they were going to have a fashion show. Of course there would be a creativity contest with the amazing duct tape.

Despite all the good events, Duct Tape Week was cancelled. Dean Denise, being new this year, didn't even know how it got on the calendar. She heard the idea came from last year's girl's club, but no one gave her the information. Indeed, no one seemed aware of Duct Tape Week. Many girls seemed confused as to what it was supposed to be.

Then Dean Denise looked at the cost of supplying all the girls with duct tape and rewarding the winners their prizes. With the banquet being at the end of this week, we are far too busy for anything else, she said. Maybe next year, she added.



Kris Kostenko gives service with a smile at the banquet

No more dorm raid; Seniors complain

By Carissa Hosey

In past years senior girls gave newcomers an experience they would never forget. They decorated the front lobby for the Christmas season and served hot chocolate and donuts. But that is not all. At about 1:00AM the senior girls would go racing up and down the halls waking the unsuspecting victims that were lost deep in slumber.

This year it will be different. The faculty decided that too many girls complained about interrupted sleep (a liability for success on early-morning tests) so they decided the tradition would have to be done away with.

Although it had to be done away with, the experience with the dorm raids is one most girls never forget. Jessica Trefz stated, "I want revenge." Kristine Garcia and Marissa McElvain didn't seem to see any problems with keeping the event. Kristine said "It was the bomb!" and Marissa added, "It is tradition and I think it should continue." Both girls would like to see the raids continue this year, but because others do not appreciate it as much, there will be NO dorm raid this year. It doesn't look hopeful for the future either.

So the chances of experiencing the historic tradition of the Girls Dorm Raid are microscopic, but the memory will live on for those who have experienced them.

A little solitude helps

By Evan Pavlic

Did you ever have a place where you could go and be at peace? A special place no one else knew was there? A safe haven from life's problems and challenges? Such places are necessary, and at UCA the students make do with what they have.

Sometimes it is hard to get away and be alone from everything because something is always happening on campus. But some find solitude in their dorm rooms. Others go for a walk. Some prefer the bathroom and a good newspaper. Max Lowry stated the best place he can feel at peace is in the hot tub early in the morning, just sulking in the water. Dorm students don't have that option, but some alone time is good for everyone.

Some admit they love the absence of sound and other human beings. Others don't. They say they hate being alone and go crazy when others aren't around. At UCA we have all types of people: the outgoing, crazy, fun, honest, and serious. We all make this a great school and student body, but we can all benefit from a little quiet time. What's so bad about being by yourself?

A teenager's job is never done

By Kristen Opp

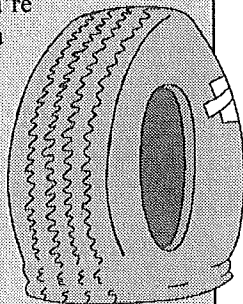
You're beginning to think that your freedom can't be taken away and your independence can't be broken. Then, without fail, something tragic always happens to remind you that you're never completely independent of the one person most famous for getting you out of questionable situations.

As you complete your morning rituals the time draws near to head off to class. So you hop into your car and buckle your seat belt, carefully positioning your hot mug of tea so it doesn't spill all over you. Then you put the key into the ignition and fire it up.

Next you set your tunes and begin to back out of the driveway. You pull up to the stop sign (so far, so good) and proceed with caution. Then it happens!

Suddenly, with no warning at all, your car careens off the road jerking you and everything in your car (yes, even the hot mug of tea) into disarray. You slam on the brakes and attempt to pull over. Cars whiz by, honking rudely, obviously not realizing the life-threatening danger you're in.

After you stop, you get out to investigate and realize in great dismay that your tire is most definitely flat. Your independence can be broken, your tea is spilled, and your spare tire is in a nice safe place...your garage! To top it off, you're late to Algebra class. So you do what any perfectly capable teenager would do: you call your dad.



Ready to embrace change

By Melissa Ekvall

Some may have noticed ice crystals forming in their noses. Others have felt the cold, crisp wind nipping at their bare skin. A big red flag signals their brain. Yes, it's that time: time to race to those ski swaps and boxes of warm sweaters and to mentally prepare for winter games.

Getting to the stores first ensures the best deals. "I got my new twin tip skis for seventy percent off," said Emily Wilkens, "and can't wait to try them out." There are also super deals on hats, gloves, coats, and other accessories to make this skiing season the very best.

Remember packing away your warm sweaters at the beginning of summer? Well, it's time to break open those old boxes and pull out your warm clothes. "It's hard for me to get used to having to put on a coat or sweater," said Danelle Smith. "But when I went home for the weekend I found all my winter clothes and brought them back to school. Now I'll be warm and ready for winter.

When the snow falls it is also time for creative outdoor games. Forget staying inside when the ground is covered with a soft, fluffy layer of snow. There are so many exciting games to play such as taking café trays behind the gym and using them as sleds. "Fox and Geese," snowball fights, and sledding are other fun activities. So head out into the winter wonderland for some fun and laughter.

Thanksgiving concert considered

By Amada Archer

At UCA, there are many concerts designed to send specific messages of one sort or another. For instance, "look at how capable and talented your children are," is the message at Parent Weekend or Winter Band Concert. Another message could be "come to UCA; we have a wonderful music program where you will learn to be just as capable as we are." According to some researchers, music helps a person focus, increases receptivity to new ideas, accelerates learning and may also increase harmony and social bonding. School concerts are thus a useful tool. With this in mind we come to the obvious conclusion: UCA needs to have a thanksgiving concert.

Thanksgiving has at its core elements that are very sacred to Protestant Americans. The fabled first thanksgiving celebration took place in 1621 when Plymouth Colony governor, William Bradford, called for a season of thanksgiving. The colo-

nists with the neighboring native tribes then feasted for three days. Then on November 26, 1789, President George Washington proclaimed a national day of thanksgiving dedicated to prayer and giving thanks to God. Thanksgiving finally became a national holiday on October 20, 1863. On that day the president credited God with prolonging the life of the nation and called the nation to offer "thanksgiving and praise to almighty God, the beneficent Creator and Ruler of the universe" on the fourth Thursday of November from that year forward.

A thanksgiving concert would make us more aware of how good we have it in America. Another good reason to have a thanksgiving concert would be to provide another opportunity for ensembles to play the sacred music in their repertoires. According to Amelia Magnuson, student teacher at UCA, "We have all this ensemble tour music to play and no concerts on campus until January."

With these wonderful reasons for a thanksgiving concert you're probably wondering why we don't already have one. The reason is logistics. According to Mr. Lange, music department director and band teacher, "We'd have everyone go up and play the same three songs." While the selection is a bit better for choral pieces, Mr. Anderson has a different objection. The thanksgiving season comes inconveniently right before Christmas. He feels there simply would not be enough time to prepare for two major concerts in a row.

As it stands, there is already at least one performance per month by some group in the music department. Perhaps we shall have to listen to sacred instrumental and praise and worship tracks on our CD players to receive musical thanksgiving blessings... or sing the hymns in church with some extra gusto.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC

19 & 20 Christmas concerts

21 Vacation begins

JAN

5 School resumes

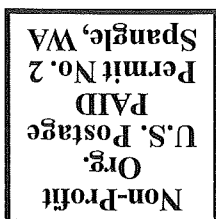
11 Rec ski starts

16 Semester ends

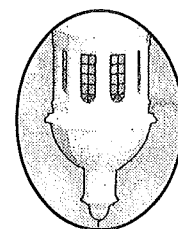
17 Winter Band Concert

25 SAT's

26-31 Student Week of Prayer



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Searching for the perfect gift

By Kathilee J. Davidson

It could be for a birthday, Christmas, graduation, or just about anything else. You have before you a gift wrapped in beautiful colored paper. The idea that someone has remembered you in this way completely boggles your mind. The gift before you dazzles your eyes, and you wonder if you should open it or just keep it as a beautiful piece of artwork.

Then the anticipation of what could lie beneath the colored paper overrides your desire to keep the beautiful package in tact. It could be a stack of the CDs you have been asking for, a cool designer shirt, a CD player.

You cannot wait any longer. You tear it open. There before your eyes in its beautifully wrapped box is number three of the set of five collector's edition furry bunny door knob covers! You wince internally before you try to put together a truly warm and heart-touching thanks. "Why, it's adorable!" you lie.

There are many gifts we receive that we "love" so dearly. There are the wacky elephant refrigerator magnets, the exquisitely decorated trinket box, the collapsible soda can cruncher, and the Bob's Hardware ball cap. We receive them with insincere gratitude then stuff them away in a corner somewhere to provide a warm environment for raising families of dust bunnies. We wonder how people could come up with such useless items.

Then comes your roommate's birthday and you want to buy the perfect gift to show them they mean so much to you. They are easy to shop for because you know them so well. It will not be a problem. You go to the store confident you will find a gift to charm the heart. You look at the clothes first. Nothing there seems to call your name. Nothing is the right style or size. You move on.

You arrive at the sporting goods store but have no more success there. You try so many different ideas, schemes, and places. You pick your brain clean. You are out of ideas. Your brain is numb. Then you see it. It is perfect! You knew with perseverance you would succeed. You check the price and it is in your range. You quickly make the purchase and have it beautifully gift wrapped for a small extra charge. It will be loved to pieces. What is it? Number four of the set of five collector's edition furry bunny door knob covers.

