

echoes

February/March 1998

Mexico!

On February 5, 27 UCA students embarked upon the famed Mexico Mission Trip with Mr. Peach. If they didn't know each other very well before that evening, they surely did after. Even the lightest sleeper learned to sleep under seats, in luggage bins, and across aisles. Personal space lost all meaning. The bus ride seemed never-ending.

The second night at Thunderbird Academy, which was like a resort after more than 24 hours on the bus, offered the students their last real showers. After a quick stop at San Xavier del Bac mission, they headed for the border.

They arrived at Benjamin Hill, Sonora, late that evening. On first glance, it wasn't very impressive, especially when everyone saw the toilet and shower (yes, those are singular). But, of course, it all looked better in the morning.

Sunday was their first day of work. Blocks were hauled, cut, and laid, cement and grout mixed and poured, ditches dug, sand sifted. This was how it continued for the rest of the week. They got a late start on the pews because the lumber arrived late, but it didn't matter that much--the boards were cut, planed, sanded, and stained in record time. It was hard work. At the end of each day one would see a bunch of very dirty kids, talking and laughing, ready for supper.

In the evenings, some of the boys would go into the street and play soccer with the children, while others in the group would



David Lopez, Crystal Foster, Joel Dickerson and Jen Gabel prepare wood for pews

sit around and relax off their feet. Some tested their Spanish skills, and despite the language barrier, friends were made quickly.

After a cloudy day at the beach on Friday, Sabbath was blessedly sunny. It was a great feeling for the students to be sitting in the church that they had built. That night the students left with feelings of sadness, happiness, and excitement at going home. The mission trip was a success; all worked for the glory of God. And though the church that was built had only one family as its members, surely the example set by our UCA group served as an attraction for others to come and hear about God's love.

Victoria Kildal



Debra Matson and Victoria Kildal enjoy carpentry in Mexico

Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day. We could go into the history of it, but is that really relevant to the day we know? We don't think to ourselves, "Well, way back when . . ." No, Valentine's Day is more than history, isn't it.

We could also say, "Oh, Valentine's Day. Whoopee." with sarcastic undertones. But, although Valentine's Day this year may not have been special, there have been some memorable ones. Silly hastily scribbled notes on red hearts that did wonders to my own. Roses carelessly tossed into my arms as if ordinary but betrayed by a look. Chocolates found in my car with a note almost more delicious than the chocolates themselves.

All of us have our memories. Perhaps Valentine's Day is a time to recall old memories and create new ones. This Valentine's Day I spent alone at home, but I was smiling inside to myself as I am now.

Amber Ames

Romantic faculty men?

What did you do on Valentine's Day? The majority of the United States consumed mass amounts of chocolate and bought cards or flowers. Couples shared the romantic time together, and single people protested the holiday. At UCA people were preparing for the Valentine's Banquet and sending little love notes to one another.

Have you ever wondered what the faculty do? Do the men buy their wives flowers and cards? Do they take them out and treat them special? Here is what a few faculty men revealed about the issue:

Every Valentine's Day finds Mr. Thayer and his wife working to make a wonderful banquet for the UCA students. Mrs. Thayer's birthday is the following week, so Mr. Thayer does special things for her then.

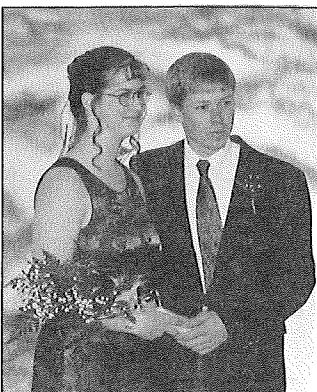
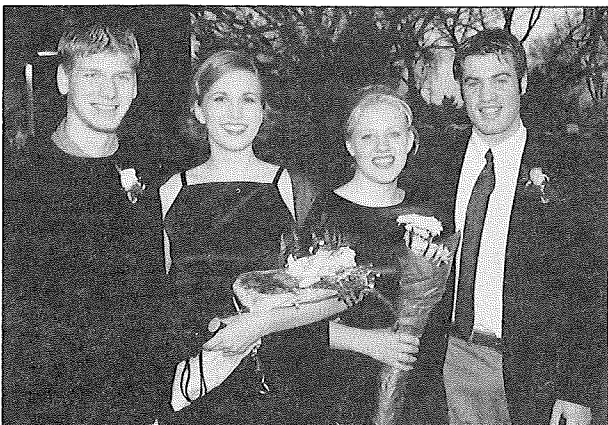
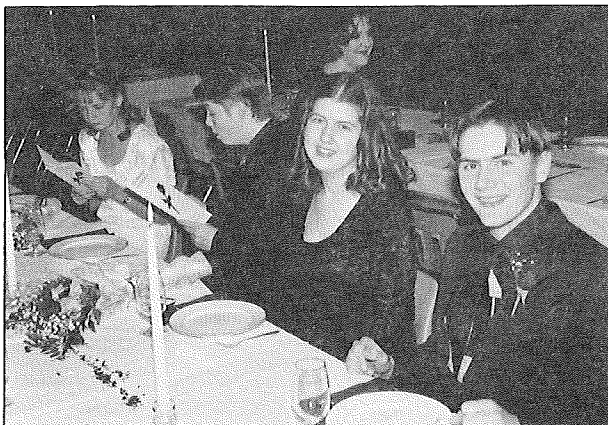
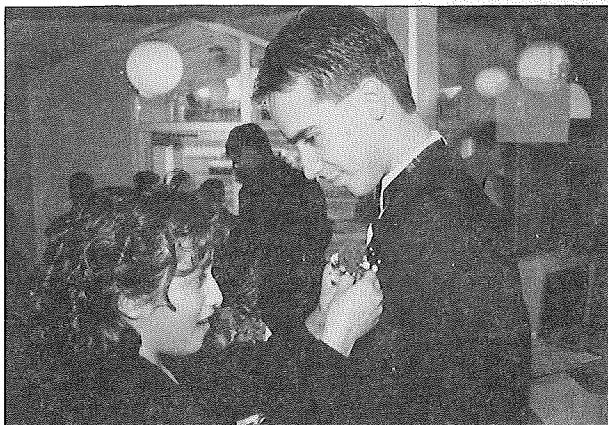
Mr. Davis planned to buy some flowers for his sweetheart. Since he is so dedicated to UCA and drives the homeleave bus he had a problem this year. "We'll see what happens," he said with a grin.

Mr. Patzer plans to wake his wife with some fresh flowers to start her day. After he takes their kids to the babysitter, he will whisk his lady away for a romantic candlelight dinner at Taco Bell.

Mr. Stevens planned to buy his wife one dozen roses and a card and hoped to treat her to the restaurant of her choice for dinner.

Mr. Adams hoped to buy his sweetheart some flowers, a card, and a Yesteryear mug for her collection. To top that off, he planned to do some things around the house that she has wanted done for some time.

Sarah Webster



top: Heidee Leno and Danny Hanson prepare for an enchanted evening at the Valentine's Banquet
middle: Christina Dickerson and Jeremy Welsner smile at the camera while Breanna Mayne and Branden Williams study some banquet literature
bottom: Nathan Lull, Melissa Hibbs, Becca Nutter and Jaron Sue strike a pre-banquet pose
left: Shanin Olson and Hans Helmstetter pose for the photographer

H.O.P.E. resumes

After taking January and February off, H.O.P.E. Taskforce resumed on Friday, February 6. A camera crew from the Midwest came and caught on film many students in action.

The most popular project was the Blood Drive. Over 50 people gave blood and walked away feeling queasy. Many stayed queasy for days. But it was worth it, some said, because they only had to spend one hour filling out paperwork and giving blood instead of spending four hours doing another project.

The biggest project, however, included taking the covers off 30,000 *Steps to Christ* and voiding an advertisement. An assembly line was set up in the gym and the books rolled through at an outstanding pace. Mrs. Corder was shocked to have all 30,000 books finished in less than four hours. Mrs. Corder quoted a student as saying, "It was neat to see the humongous stack of books descend and the bags of garbage accumulate."

The day ended with Pastor Curtis's summary of all the projects at Friday night's vespers.

Lisa Apigian



Student Week of Prayer speakers meet before the evening meeting. Back row, left to right: Rian Berry, Becca Nutter, Andy Edwards, Howie Munson, Melissa Hibbs, Michael Messervy, Hans Wijma, Laurie Griffin. Front row: Jeremy Vetter, Angela Larson, Manuel Perez and Malora Christensen

Elected students testify

"I will worship you. I will live in you. I will die to you. All the days of my life. All the days of my life . . ." The strains of our them song echoed through the campus church. The Student Week of Prayer had begun. Presented by twelve elected students, the evening services are UCA's favorite of the weeks dedicated to prayer. The speakers included Howie Munson, Becca Nutter, Malora Christensen, Michael Messervy, Manuel Perez, Jeremy Vetter, Andy Edwards, Angela Larson, Laurie Griffin, Melissa Hibbs, Rian Berry, and Hans Wijma.

Heartfelt words touched every

listener. Shared talents, including beautiful songs written by some of the speakers, gave new insight.

It's amazing how much you can learn about someone in only 20 minutes. Unashamedly, the speakers shared their fears, angers, struggles, and triumphs. They told how they discovered God was always with them—voiding the fear of being left alone. It's reassuring to know that others have parallel fears.

By voicing insecurities that many are afraid to admit, we were united. By seeing Him in a new light, we were united with God.

Heather Schultz

Second Semester A.S.B. Officers

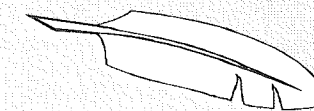
President, Jeremy Vetter
Vice-President, Marlan Kay
Treasurer, Danny Hanson
Secretary, Crystal Foster
Chaplain, Melissa Hibbs
Sergeant-at-Arms; Marcus Nutter
Chorister, Lisa Eslinger



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This issue's contributors included

Amber Ames, Allison Bacon, Chelane Canwell, Steven Ellison, Margie Jones, Victoria Kildal, Bryan Larson, Scott Parish, Bob Pielat, Bobby Sanborn, Heather Schultz, Andrew Sheidler, Cassi Shrock, Sarah Webster, and Stephen Lacey, sponsor



UCA snowmobilers start tradition

Winter Campus Day marked the first annual snowmobile trip up to the Priest Lake mountains. The day dawned rainy and early (about 5:00 am) as twenty-five students along with Mr. Paulson and Mr. Adams hitched up the five sleds and loaded fuel and oil.

Mr. Paulson pulled his two sleds behind his "ancient but fast" motorhome, and Mr. Adams pulled three of the student sleds behind a school van. We arrived at the mountain about three hours

after we left, unloaded, and received a dozen or so more rental sleds.

To warm up the sleds and get used to the new machines, we cruised around a snow-covered airstrip for about half an hour. Then, we started climbing the mountain. The first leg was very gut-wrenching and jarring as our caravan hurtled up the mountain. We stopped every few hundred yards to get our bearings, make

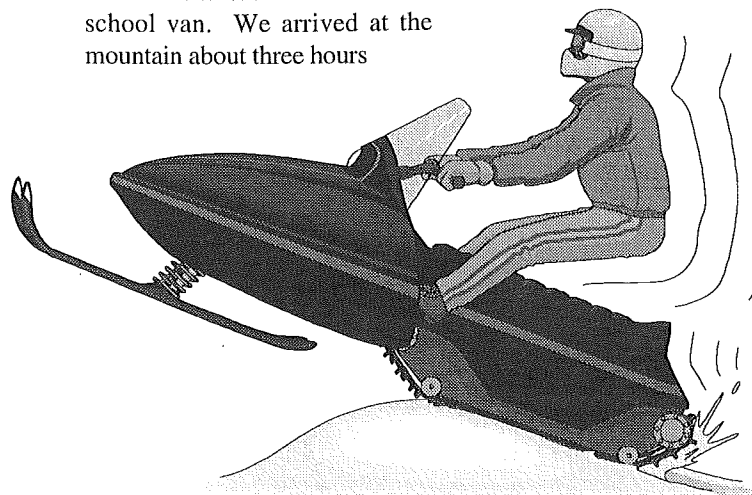
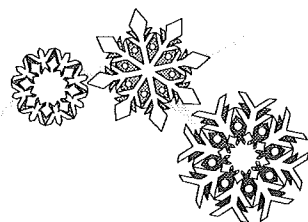
sure everyone was still there, and to take a rest from the beating ride over the bumps and hills.

After three hours or so we headed back down for lunch.

We ate and rested for about an hour and then headed back up the mountain by a different route. By this time the rain had turned to soft snow, and a little later the sky cleared and the sun shone for the rest of the day. The second ride up wasn't as bumpy, so we could go a lot faster and make sharper turns.

After getting big air, being ejected off machines, and trying to see who could beat whom in speed and skill, we left at about 5:30 pm. Fortunately, there were no broken bones or any other serious injuries. It was an adrenaline-filled fun day for all of us. We would all like to thank Mr. Paulson and Mr. Adams for the fun trip, and we hope they will do it again.

Bob Pielact



A short epoch of winter campus day

Tuesday, January 27, was Winter Campus Day at UCA. All of the students were given several different choices of what to do. There was skiing/snowboarding at Schweitzer, snowmobiling, ice-skating, cow-tipping, and even a good game of curling. The last two choices were cancelled at the last minute because of limited sign-ups.

Anyway, seeing as I had some money, I chose to go skiing. I packed my skis, gloves, coat and hot pink neck warmer. Yes, that is correct. A hot pink neck warmer. I get a lot of criticism over it. But it works, so what if the color is a little... strange?

We got on the bus and rode for close to three hours, I presume. I don't know for sure seeing as I was asleep for most of the time...

At the mountain, it was snowing

and we all exited the bus and stood outside for about four hours. (Okay, maybe it wasn't four hours, but when it's cold and windy, time goes by really slowly.)

Finally we got our tickets and the mountain was ours. I started off by riding the chairlift to the top. The most noticeable thing at the top was the absence of visibility because of fog. Thick fog. Once off the lift, enthusiasts had to blindly ski forward and constantly hope that they wouldn't hit a tree or a snowboarder. The worst thing about skiing in thick fog is that you don't realize you've gone off a 10-foot drop-off until it's too late.

After I got down to the lower part of the mountain, I could see again and actually knew where I was going. Of course, once at the bottom the whole process had to be repeated again. But,

all in all, it was enjoyable except in the cases where a SLOW sign was accidentally taken out on the way down the slope.

The bus left the mountain sometime after four o'clock in the afternoon, heading for a wonderful stop at Taco Bell in Coeur d'Alene where everybody got up and made a mad, chaotic rush for bean burritos, tostadas, and other fine Northwest delicacies.

Finally, the bus arrived back on campus without too many fatalities, and everyone went their own way. And so Winter Campus Day came to a close, the skiing being as successful as the snowmobiling and ice-skating. Hmmm. Anybody in the mood for cow-tipping?

Bryan Larson

Keep off the grass

Walking on the grass has become an issue lately. The student body and the faculty are divided as to whether we should be allowed to stroll across the lawns or be confined to the narrow sidewalks that cover some of our paths.

Many students find it inconvenient if not impossible to stay on the sidewalks. One of the most apparent and glaring problems is the walkway in front of the cafeteria. I'm sure there isn't one of us who hasn't noticed the reappearing lake that must be skirted in order to experience our campus's culinary arts. The problem is soon to be eliminated says Mr. Turner, who revealed plans for drastic improvements this spring.

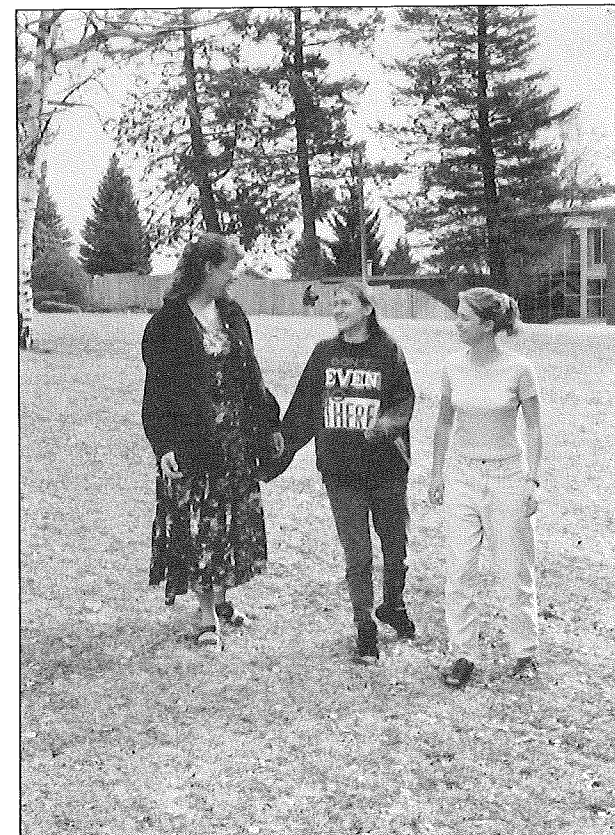
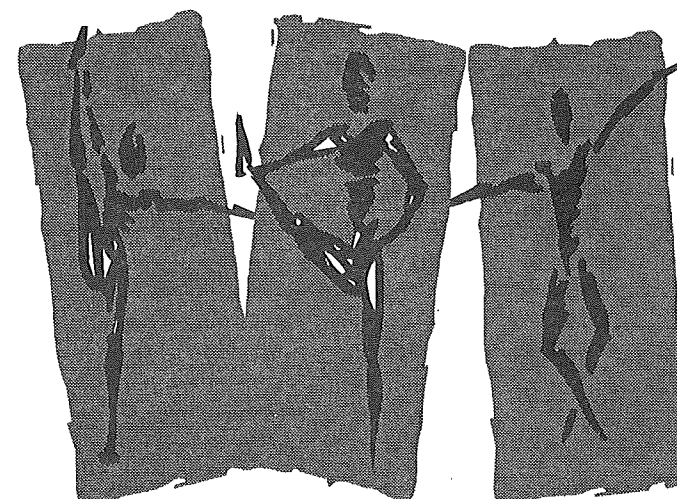
There is, in the end, no reason for an anti-grass walking campaign. It is merely a matter of correctly placing sidewalks and avoiding unnecessary destruction of landscaping. The administration is working toward the same goal as the students, and we must remember to point out a problem if we see it. "The students' comfort is a high priority," said Mr. Turner.

Pastor Fred commented that a major problem was that the new sod needs to be protected while it is taking root. "Especially at this time of year the grass takes a serious beating," he said.

Mr. Marsh assured me that plans for improvements were underway. His view, in light of the fact that tens of thousands of dollars have been spent on landscaping around the new ad building, was that students could take a few more seconds to walk on the sidewalks. The sidewalk design is not perfect, he said, and he hoped that if people saw an area that needed improvement, they would let the administration know.

Whatever the differences of opinion are, they can be resolved in a way that will leave our campus looking good. While all of the people can't be pleased at once, we can come to a generally satisfactory consensus.

Bobby Sanborn



Brooke Webster, Rebecca Oplinger and Lisa Apigian expertly demonstrate how not to walk across the grass

Injuries don't stop flexible gymnasts

Something is out to get the gymnasts of UCA. This statement may sound quite unbelievable, but I can assure you that it is not. It all started at the beginning of this winter. Some of the gymnasts got small injuries, like pulled muscles from football, and no-one thought much about it. Then the snowboarding and skiing season started and the injuries poured in. One person dislocated a shoulder and another broke a wrist and many suffered the soreness everyone experiences after winter sports. Not all the injuries can be blamed on snowboarding and skiing, however. There were a couple of bad falls in practice and we had a broken foot, a broken finger, and a shoulder that kept popping out of joint.

Despite all these injuries, the UCA gymnastics team has done very well. They have compensated for the losses and have given fun and entertaining shows and tours in January and February even though there have been major changes to the program each time someone got hurt.

We hope the injuries will heal fast so that the UCA gymnastics team can be complete once more.

Chelane Canwell

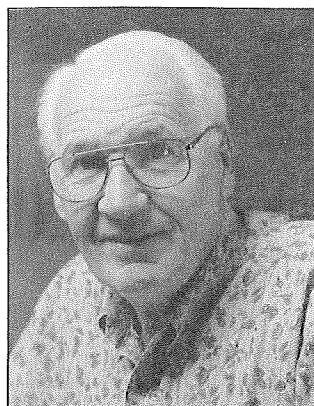
Some remember how it was

Recently three teachers were interviewed: Mr. Stevens, Mr. Peach, and Mr. Lange. These three teachers have had some of the longest stays here at Upper Columbia Academy, and they have many interesting insights and memories about the school. They told of what it was like long before many of us became acquainted with UCA. They described how the school has changed over the years. This time we will look at what Mr. Stevens and Peach had to say. Look for Mr. Lange's comments in the next issue.

For the last 34 years Mr. Stevens has been either a teacher or a boys' dean. The last 10 have been here at UCA. This is his 6th and final school. He believes he is here because he was called by God to come. When he first arrived on campus it was not as it is today. The landscaping was terrible. Patchy grass and black sand covered the ground. He and his wife had to take the tour in the rain, and when they had finished and left for home they both thought "NO WAY!" But by the next day they had changed their minds. From that time on, Mr. Stevens has seen the whole campus improve: the grounds, buildings, general attitude of the students, as well as the acceptance policy. Over the years the acceptance policy has become stricter, and that is believed to be one of the reasons for a better attitude on campus.

This is Mr. Stevens's last year here at UCA. I asked him what his experience here has been like. He responded by saying, "It's been good; I have enjoyed it here." As for his plans for after he "graduates from UCA," he is keeping things simple. He plans to go to Santa Cruz to take care of his mother.

Mr. Peach, one of the history teachers, has been here the longest of any staff member. He has been here



Mr. Chuck Stevens

at UCA for 35 years. He started his teaching career at Auburn Adventist Academy then went back to Walla Walla College to get more education. After that he traveled to Broadview Academy in Illinois and then to UCA.

For his first year he divided his time between teaching history and caring for the grounds. Later, he dropped the grounds and took on more history classes.

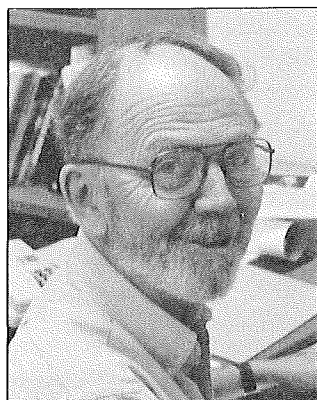
Mr. Peach has seen many changes in several areas. He has seen a barn, as well as chicken sheds, go down and Harris Pine come and go. Harris Pine was a furniture factory that provided jobs for UCA students. He was also one of the builders of the Industrial Arts building.

The social standards have changed as well. Girls and boys are given much more freedom and time with each other today.

Why has Mr. Peach stayed here so long? "I have had no reason to leave UCA," he says. "I like to teach, and I have found this to be a stable school." He also

prefers teaching at boarding schools. At a boarding school more than just classroom time is required of teachers. Evening recreation and weekend activities involve the staff, so teachers spend more time with the students. Another reason why he is still here is because he has had a good experience. The students have received him in a positive way, and he has seen hundreds graduate. He meets old students in many places, and many of them have had their children in his classes.

After Mr. Peach quits teaching, he plans to continue a small vending machine business. Also he plans on doing some traveling, including a trip to Europe this summer for students. He would also like to help with some Maranatha projects.



Mr. Olin Peach

Andrew Sheidler

Graduation garb prompts thoughts

Graduation is an interesting phenomenon. Those caps that everyone is made to wear—where do they come from and why do we wear them? Go down to the local mall and tell me how often you see people dressed in caps and gowns. If you do see some, how many of them are sane?

Graduation involves lots of expense too, and what are we getting for the money? A handshake from the principal and a few hundred photos of us decked out in our costumes squinting into the flash? Some graduates hope to make the experience more worthwhile and write letters to distant relatives and people they don't even know, telling them about their luck in being able to graduate. But these people don't care if you are graduating. Most of them have probably forgotten that you even exist, but from a sense of duty they still might send a nice gift or a little cash . . .

After you have officially graduated, after throwing your cardboard hat into the air, and after you have removed that heavy piece of steel from around your neck (that cost you dearly), ask yourself what the point of the whole ordeal was.

But don't let all this spoil the ritual. Just enjoy it and get on with your life.

Scott Parish

Band program expands

The UCA band is growing and so must the building. Presently there are 92 members, with more waiting to join. At this writing, just one more permit approval and the rest of the money is needed for the band room expansion project to start.

Phase 1 of the project will move the north wall toward the gym. This will increase the band room capacity to 100. Also it will allow for changing rooms and restrooms backstage. The cost is \$100,000.

Phase 2 would add architectural features to the building, including finishing the walls, peaking the roof, and making the overall appearance blend. Phase 2 will cost an additional \$70,000.

There is only a little money left to come in until the phase 1 goal is reached. Money has come from current and former band members, their parents, and a select few Choraliers. Construction should begin soon after school is out, and the new band room should be ready for use next school year.

Steven Ellison



Band members prepare to practice. Instrument cases are propped against the wall that will be pushed northward.

Spiritual atmosphere abounds

UCA has proven over and over to be a place where students can find God if they want to. One of the school's sayings is taken from 3 John 4. It says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth."

Mrs. Williams says that the school atmosphere is one of outreach, Bible classes and Bible studies. "Something I find rewarding is when I see students praying together in the hallways or helping fellow students in even more tangible ways." Charell Hetterle says that she likes it here at UCA. "UCA is uplifting for me and makes me think more about God," she says. "I like how people here aren't afraid to talk about God. They are willing to talk openly and discuss things at Bible studies. I really like that," says Breanna Roth.

Students can be involved in spiritual activities in many ways. Jeanette Cerda is getting involved with a small group who meets for prayer and Bible discussions. Missi Rau is involved with SOS, a girls' dorm prayer group that plans worship and prays for girls. There are numerous other activities students may get involved in to draw them closer to God and each other such as Monday night Bible studies at Pastor Fred's and Revelation studies at Mr. Thorman's. Students also meet at the flagpole to pray for each other and the school at 6:45 a.m. on weekdays. There are groups that go into Spokane to feed the hungry and to pass out Bible studies. Thursday nights, Mr. Thorman also has a Bible study at his home. Breanna Roth says that seeing the students get involved and help in the planning of the Sabbath School activities really inspires her.

It has been said that you find what you look for, and students here at UCA have proven that saying once again.

Margie Jones

Concerts cause curiosity, comment

One of the most amazing phenomena known to man occurs at various intervals between September and May of each year. Scientists have tracked the movement of a substantial number of people to Spangle, a remote village seemingly in the middle of nowhere. The presence of this drove of humanity nearly quadruples the population of the area. However, the mob, only a day or so after arriving, leaves.

In an attempt to explain this extraordinary happening, we have contacted MD, PhD, CPA and ATV Bob Blinns. He has witnessed the mass movement for the past few years and was very willing to speculate.

"Wall, as near as I can reckon, I says thars some big program or such that's a-happenin at that thar Upper Columbia Academy that all them kidses uncles and friends and family and grans want to come to."

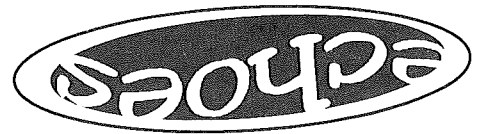
His wife, Prudence, articulated further.

"I'm pert-near sure the last time thar was so many peoples here was the Winter Band Concert. Ma neighbor, Martha, done went to it an' said it was real good. Real good. Said the kids been workin' real hard an' played plenty of hard music."

"I heard that thar Mr. Jerry Lange was a-raisin' some money fer a music buildin' rearrangin' project. I guess that band done growed too big fer its re-hersall room!" Bill remembered.

"Wall, slap me silly an' call me a yeller squash," Prudence concluded. "That thar music program at UCA sounds not too bad. Not bad at all."

Allison Bacon



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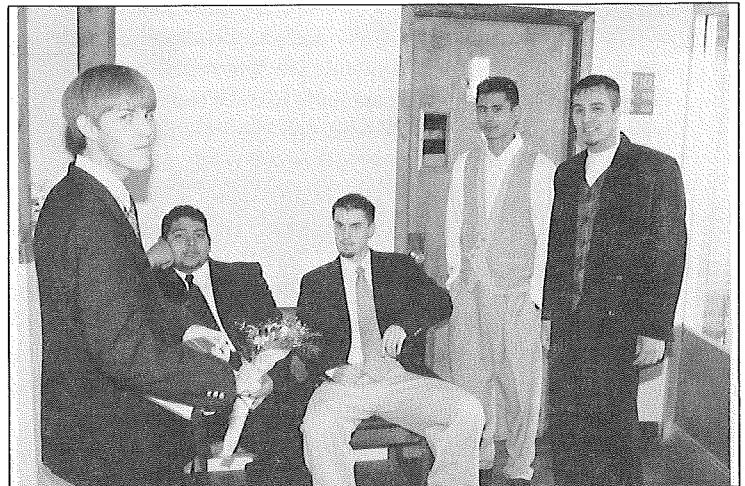
The students come with smiles to share.
They don't know how much I truly do care.
It means so much to see them all there;
Reaching out to me, as a dare.

On Tuesday nights they come,
For I know the day well.
Giving their time to me, a bum.
Why, I never can tell.

It may be in their eyes,
When they hand me the food.
It may be in their smiles,
Always in a cheerful mood.

Whatever their reasoning may be,
I know this one thing is true-
My life is forever changed,
Because they took time for me.

Cassi Shrock



Brandon White, Manuel Perez, Charley Snyder, Michael Lopez and Juan Castaneda linger in the boys' dorm lobby before heading to the Valentine's Banquet

UPCOMING EVENTS

	March		April
Senior Recognition	13&14	Music-A-Rama	4
Spring Break	18-29	WWC Days	5-7
Mission Trips	18-29	Alumni Weekend	10&11
3rd Quarter Ends	31	Academy Day	15