

echoes

March 1999

Seniors *finally* recognized

The Class of 1999 received their first official public recognition as seniors during the Senior Recognition Weekend, February 19 and 20. The weekend was packed with a special vespers, church service, and talent show put on by the Class of 1999.

The special weekend began with the Friday evening vespers service. Seniors marched up to the gym stage and listened to a message given by Pastor Mike Stevenson. His talk, entitled "Wobbling on the Edge of Eternity," seemed to fit the seniors just right. Stevenson's intriguing accent and awesome storytelling ability helped entertain and get his point across.

On Sabbath morning after an interesting lesson study by the Wilsons and Kostenkos, the seniors once again marched. During the service, each senior received a Bible and then listened to Tammy McGuire speak about "Nerd Phobia." The thought of becoming a nerd startled many in the class whose plans, up to that point, had been more along the lines of becoming great professionals.

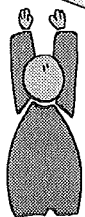
At Sundown Meditation that evening, students performed several musical pieces and a devotional thought was given by Kostenko.

The highlight of the weekend had to be the senior talent show, "Senior Night Live." Instead of having an MC, the acts were garnished with mock commercials which made the show much more enjoyable. The show was a huge success and one to be remembered.

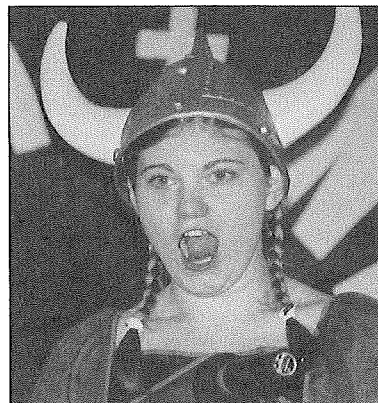
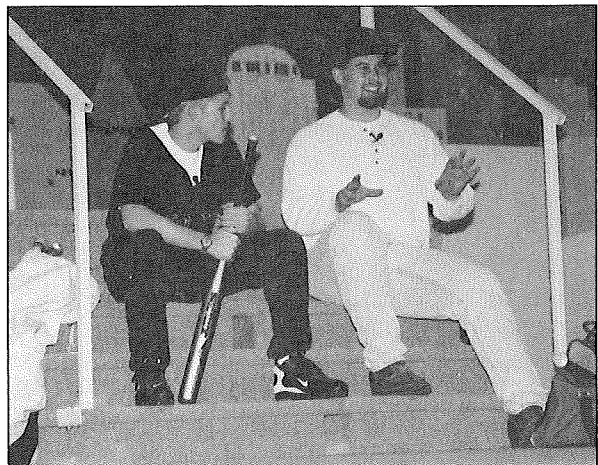
After the weekend's events, everyone had a new view of the senior class, and the seniors had jumped one more hurdle toward graduation.

*Eric Sayler
Jonathan Wagner*

Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington



I hope
you're a
SENIOR!



*top: a commercial
break from Senior
Night Live
middle: Brandon
White and Jared
Brophy warm up
for the classic
"Who's on First?"
bottom: Courtney
Pellow tries to stay
unrecognized*

Cafe, A.S.B. put on the Ritz

For most, the evening of February 14 started out much as any other banquet evening starts. At five, the girls were in their rooms putting on the finishing touches. At about five fifteen, guys began to congregate in the girls' dorm lobby to wait for their dates to appear. The girls were getting nervous. Did they look all right? Were their dresses wrinkled or was that their imagination? Maybe a few more squirts of hairspray would get that unruly curl to cooperate. And how do you pin on a corsage?

Were the guys feeling just as nervous? Many hadn't realized how long it took to shower, shave, and get dressed up for the Valentine's Banquet. Being rushed added to the nervousness. There was a bit of tension in the air, but eventually the couples got together, exchanged flowers and compliments and headed over to the cafe (the Ritz).

The cafe was darkened to a soft candlelight glow. The walls were swathed in black paper, overlaid with white paper cut to look like city buildings, people, cars and other things that went along with the 1920's theme. The round tables were covered with white tablecloths, and white and black gauze was put around the candles in the center.

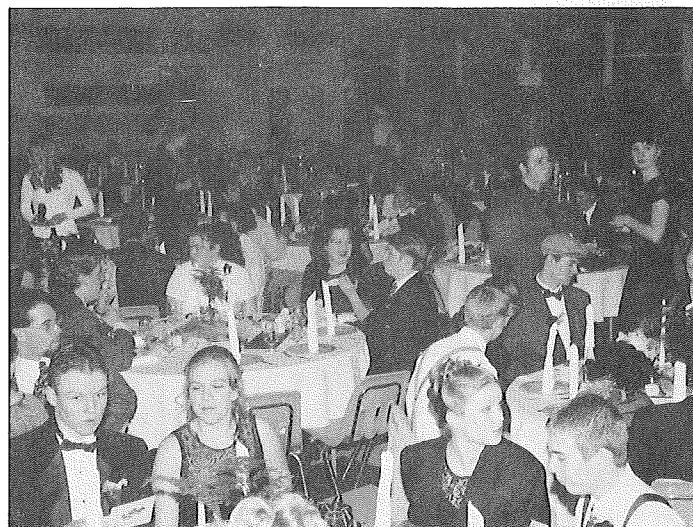
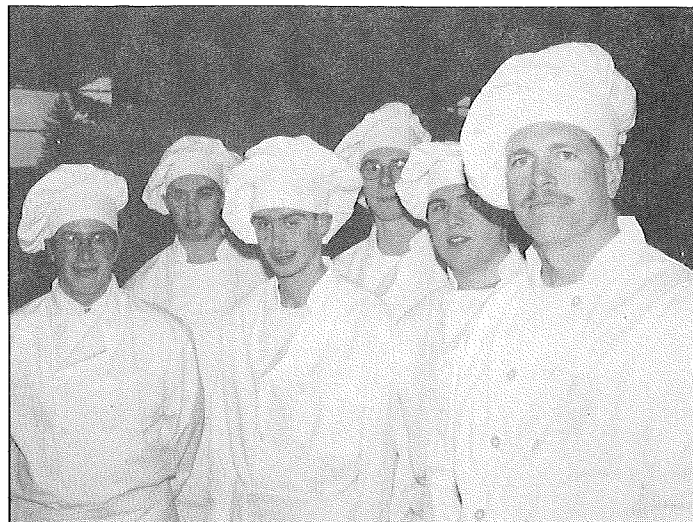
The evening's menu consisted of Ravioli, breaded mozzarella, fettucine Alfredo or marinara, green beans garnished with slivered almonds, Caesar salad, assorted fresh fruit, french bread, and a variety of cheesecakes.

Throughout the evening, people had been making their way to the back to have their pictures taken, and for entertainment there was a live band consisting of Bryan Larson, guitar; David Reinking, bass; Bob Renck, drums; Andrew Perrin, keyboard; and Nick Buchholz, saxophone.

After eating, taking pictures with friends, visiting, and listening to the music, all settled down to watch the movie "Chariots of Fire."

The evening was a success. "Of all three banquets I have gone to, this one was the best," said Tamara Fischer. Adriel Sherwood said, "The banquet was a fun evening spent with friends." And that was the whole point.

**Nathan Lull
Kelly O'Connor**



top: the gallant crew who made the evening possible
middle: banquet-goers settle in for a pleasant evening
bottom: gentlemen head for the girls' dorm

4-year seniors hold annual benefit

On January 30 at 5:45 P.M., a long line of people gathered outside the cafeteria, ready for an evening of good food and fun with friends. Once inside the door, dorm students were given \$2.50 in tickets to be exchanged at any of ten booths that were serving food. Tickets could also be purchased for 50 cents each.

There was a wide variety of nutritious food to choose from including elephant ears, rootbeer floats, burritos, donuts, pizza, spaghetti, candy, corn dogs and curly fries. The Four-Year Seniors sold burritos and rootbeer floats to raise money at their booth. They also collected a ten-dollar fee from each of the other groups that had booths. The money is used to help fund the traditional Four Year Senior trip.

Most of the classes considered the evening a success, with the possible exception of the freshmen who almost went into the hole.

As of this writing, the Four Year Seniors do not know where they are going on their trip or how much money was raised at the benefit.

Janine Fetke

Students join talents to make music

Early this year students had an opportunity to audition for a chance to be selected to attend the band clinic at Walla Walla College. Eventually, students from academies all over the North Pacific Union were chosen to form an elite concert band.

UCA students left Wednesday, February 10, for three days of rehearsals and a chance to spend time with students from other schools and from Walla Walla College.

A day at band clinic would start with breakfast in the college cafeteria and then six hours of practice at Walla Walla Valley Academy. In between each two-hour practice session, students had free

Twelve leave school to gain knowledge

Which college should I attend next year? This question prompted 12 UCA students to expand their February homeleave and travel to Andrews University and Southern Adventist University. A number of faculty members were worried about the days of school the group would miss to make the trip; however, the trip was worth the time. It gave an idea of what to look for in colleges, and gave a better feel for Andrews and Southern.

"The trip gave me an idea of what was out there besides Walla Walla," said Daryl Hamilton. After visiting the two campuses, the twelve could begin to compare the different aspects of college life such as food, housing, classes, and weather. They found things they liked and did not like at both places. The trip gave them a valuable insight into what to look for in a college.

Hans Helmstetler had already decided that he would attend one of the two universities next year and wanted to visit them to help him make his decision. At the schools, he and the others visited classes, ate in the cafeteria, and stayed in the dorms. This gave them a better idea of what it would be like to attend one of the schools. Each university took them out to eat and showed them some of the surrounding attractions.

The trip was well worth the time, money, and classes missed. The experience will help the students make the important decision of which college to attend.

Jim Drake

Gymnastics team tours

In the last two months, the gymnastics team has traveled to both ends of the conference putting on shows. This makes the team one of the most traveled groups on campus.

In January, they went to Lewiston-Clarkston and Hermiston and put on two shows. In February they went to Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene, putting on a show in each town.

The shows take lots of time and preparation, including practice four times a week with a late-night practice the night before the tour. According to Brian Jorgenson, it is hard work but also a lot of fun.

The gymnastics team has been well-received where they have been, and with a trip planned for Oregon and California in April, the best is yet to come.

Daryl Hamilton

The Upper Columbian



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Rex Wren

He won't let you fail

When the seniors returned from Senior Survival, the most important thing we had to talk about was the trust fall. At that first joint worship after we returned, we were extremely excited about the commitments we had made. We were on fire for God that first night. We were ready to change our school for the better, to be a positive influence on our school.

Now it's March. How many of us till have that fire burning, urging us to keep close to God? Are we doing everything we can to keep our promises we made to God, or are we more worried about less-important things? Right now, it looks more as if we don't even remember Senior Survival. With less than three months left until graduation, there are much more important things to worry about: gpa's, sleep, and keeping our fair-weather friends happy.

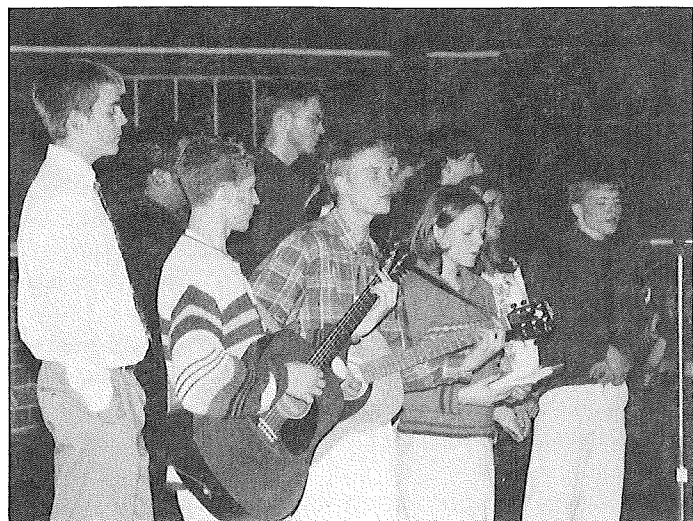
If you're not happy, it's not because you have too much homework and not enough time to do it all. It's because you don't have a strong relationship with God. Without daily devotions, we cannot really be calm and happy.

Now, I'm not talking about getting up at 4:00 AM and studying the Spirit of Prophecy until breakfast. I'm talking about spending 15 minutes reading your Bible and praying for your family and friends (and even enemies) and talking to God like He's sitting right beside you. Don't be embarrassed about devotions. Don't let your roommate or anyone else make you feel stupid for having devotions. You may argue, "But my schedule is already packed, and I'm so stressed. I can't possibly do anything more." Take a look at that busy schedule. Remember that half hour you spent talking on the phone, gossiping, or talking to your special friend? Remember that idle time spent in the library or the gym? Remember study hall and the time after it? Give some of that time to God.

Seniors, remember the commitments you made on the night of the trust fall. No matter how small they were, get them back. Recommit. Revive that small spark of spiritual closeness, that small spark of hope. And if you do have devotions, your stress will melt. Remember, God's a whole lot bigger than any teacher. He'll help you. He won't let you fail.

"Let your broken heart show your sorrow; tearing your clothes is not the answer. Come back to the Lord your God. He is kind and full of mercy; He is patient and keeps His promises. He is always ready to forgive, and not to punish" Joel 2:13

Joel Geisinger



Seniors lead out in song service during the Student Week of Prayer held January 25-30

Laughter is the answer

Laugh: to show mirth, joy, or scorn with a smile and chuckle or explosive sound; to find amusement or pleasure in something.

That's Webster's definition of laughter but I think it is much more than that.

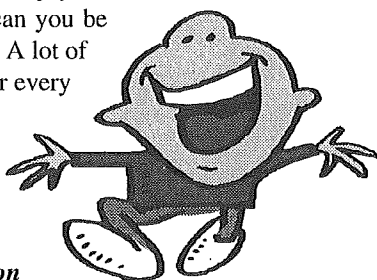
There is something so overwhelming about laughter that even if you want to stop you can't—even if you cry because you are doubled over in pain from laughing so hard. Once I was over at my grandparent's place having a good time. When it was time to go, I, being a little brat, took two bananas from the fruit basket and held them up to my grandpa. "Stick 'em up mister," I said. Okay, you might not find that very funny, but my grandpa started laughing so hard he had tears running down his face, and I thought it was funny also!

Smiles and laughter are always the answer. That is my policy. No matter what people say or do they can't change the joy that is in your heart. Sure you have bad days, but you can always laugh. I've always heard that it takes more muscles to frown than it does to smile. I have also heard that laughing makes you live longer. I think that is true.

Laughter is very contagious. Most of the time I will be sitting in my room, imagining things that I think are funny, and I'll start laughing out loud. I just feel bad for the other people that have to listen to me laugh without knowing what is so funny. Eventually, though, they'll start laughing too.

I love the Bible verse that says, "the joy of the Lord is my strength." Indeed, how can you be really happy if you don't have Jesus? A lot of times we are so weighed down by our every day lives that we don't think about laughing that much. But considering its benefits, try laughing for a change. It will improve your health and your attitude.

Laughing Angela Larson



Boarding school parents satisfied

Parents around the world deal annually with the decisions involving their children's schooling. What school is reasonably priced as well as spiritually stable? What school is also nearby and academically superior?

For many bewildered parents boarding school is becoming a more realistic possibility. The chance to have their children at a school where they can be assured of spiritual support, academic excellence, social opportunities, and mental development is enough to convince almost any parent to allow their child or teenager to move out of the house.

Most prospective boarding school

students are not immediately sold on the idea, however. Many students leave home unsure of whether they will enjoy being away from home, but willing to give it a try. Second thoughts are common as the family vehicle pulls up to the impressive campus, but it doesn't take long to make some good friends who make dorm life a whole lot more bearable and certainly very enjoyable.

The chance to spend all of one's free time around Christian friends is an invaluable experience as first-time boarders soon learn. Also, most of the teachers live right on campus and are willing and available to help whenever it is needed.

While private boarding academies are an excellent choice for many reasons, there are some downsides, too. Not every academy is stable enough to fill the spiritual, mental, physical, and social needs of children. Cost is much more than the cost of a regular day academy, and students lose important family time that they need to grow and mature properly. Despite these drawbacks, however, boarding schools are an important option that all parents should consider if a good day academy is not nearby. Respected boarding academies are worth the cost and can help fulfill students' needs as well as parents' desires.

Kyndre Corbett

T-Bird workers have less HOPE

HOPE Taskforce is the largest outreach program here on the UCA campus. It is designed to help the community through projects such as cleaning along roads, assisting the elderly, and telling the good news. Everyone on campus is involved with HOPE Taskforce including many UCA faculty and staff.

One third of the time, Thunderbird factory workers have to work up to eight hours in the factory on HOPE Taskforce days while most everyone else works three to four. They do

receive pay which goes on their school bill, but should they be required to do that on a day designed for outreach? All the other students have a choice as to which activity they will participate in.

The best thing to do would be to make HOPE Taskforce days like a Sunday where workers can volunteer to work if they want to earn some cash. That way, T-Bird workers would have the same chances as any other student and would not have to do the same thing as on any other day.

Eric Sayler



A group of Olympic hopefuls gathers on the ice at Riverfront Park on Winter Campus Day

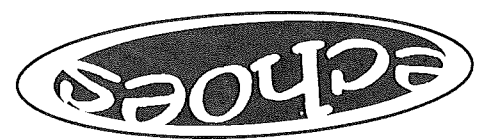
Singing students descend on campus

February 25-27 saw over 150 choir students from nine conference schools descend on UCA to experience the delights of dorm life, cafe food, and singing together with the UCA choir. Increasing student population by nearly fifty percent, the guests did cause crowding in the dorms and the cafeteria, but most seemed to take the experience in stride and with good humor. UCA choir students did not seem too disappointed to miss some of their regular classes.

Under the expert direction of Ms. Carmen Swigart, UCA choral director, and with Mrs. Lisa Thorman as accompanist, the 200-voice choir rehearsed with determination to prepare for the Saturday night concert that included both sacred and secular numbers. After the concert, a reception was held in the cafeteria.

The Upper Columbia Conference Choral Clinic is held every year, alternating with Band Clinic.

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left: Breanna Mayne leads out as Ellen White during Sabbath School on February 13



right: Cassandra Shewmake and Barry Grussling prepare to enter "the Ritz"
bottom: Chanel Brandt, Jodi Straub and Brooke Cummings warble a commercial.



**ONLY ONE
QUARTER
TO GO!**