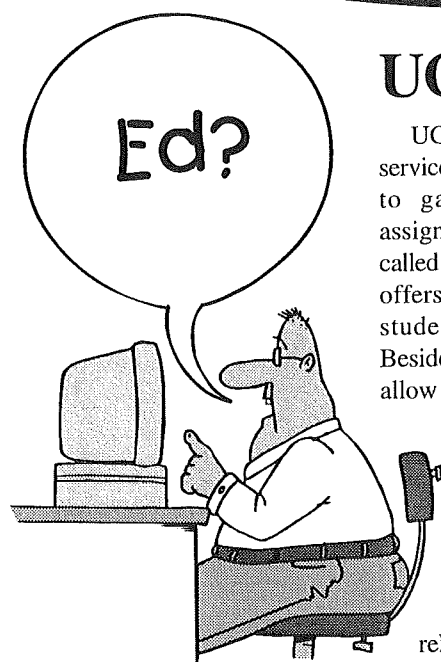


echoes

March 2000



UCA meets Virtual Ed

UCA has signed up for a new online service which will allow students and parents to gain information including past assignments and grades. This service is called VirtualEd. It is an online company that offers schools an interface for teachers, students and parents to communicate. Besides offering schools services, they also allow people to sign up for online classes at a fair price.

UCA has just started using this service. Plans are underway for teachers to post assignments to the VirtualEd web site, allowing students easier access to assignment information and help from related web sites. Students who miss a day of class will be able to get all the

assignments off the web site, giving the teachers one less thing to worry about.

Future plans include the posting of grades and attendance to the web site, allowing parents, not others, easy access to scholastic information on their student. Before the site is done, tests must be conducted to see how efficient and secure this system is. Mr. Davis is the computer support person in charge of the technical aspect of this service. He says, "It has potential if we can get the bugs worked out."

If you are interested in seeing the progress, check out <http://www.virtual-ed.org>. Simply click on School List followed by Washington and then Spangle. Be sure to check back as updates are made often.

Barry Grussling

Choraliers join mass choir

Choraliers attended the Walla Walla College Choral Festival on February 9-12 for the purpose of expanding vocal knowledge. The festival occurs every two years.

Once at Walla Walla, Choraliers checked in at the Fine Arts Center, then headed off to unload at the dorms. Dinner that evening was in the cafeteria. (Originally students were limited to spending \$4 for breakfast and \$6 for lunch and dinner. Later, the amount was upped \$2 for each meal.) The first practice was Wednesday evening. When the mass choir sang for the first time, the sound was tremendous.

The next two days were filled with many hours of practice with few breaks longer than thirty minutes. Eleven musical selections were learned by the choir with lyrics in Latin, Russian, and English. The mood of the different numbers included sadness, happiness, and powerfulness. Most of the learning was done standing up. That was hard for two and a half days straight and gave a feeling all of its own.

"The clinic was hard and tiring," said second alto Cassandra Shewmake. "After that ordeal my feet hurt from standing so long."

The final concert occurred on Sabbath afternoon at 4:00. The WWC Chorale joined the mass choir for three songs at the end, and for one song audience members who had sung the song before were invited to join the choir on stage.

Jeremy Smith, second tenor, had this to say about the choral clinic. "It was cool, but it was a lot of singing."

The Walla Walla Choral Festival was a lot of work, but it was worth it. It would be beneficial to go again. In two more years more students will be able to gain this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Jon Engelman

2nd Semester ASB Officers

President: Priscilla Jones
Vice-president: Kellie Hamilton
Chaplain: Kristen Axford
Secretary: Ashley Ross
Treasurer: Kim Tull
Sgt-at-Arms: Matt Byrd
Pianist: Dean Young
Chorister: Janna Loss

Upper Columbia Academy
Spangle, Washington

Names change, life goes on

In years past, Thunderbird Furniture, now Spangle Wood Products, has been an excellent source of income for many UCA students. Last year it looked as though the plant would be shut down. But that didn't happen. Instead, on September 1, ownership of T-Bird went from Thunderbird Furniture to the Upper Columbia Corporation.

In November 1998, the Thunderbird Furniture plant in Spangle was going to be closed down. But UCA and many students depended on the income earned at the plant.

"The plant," said Chairman, Elder Ted Lutts, "employs more than 65 students and 30 full time adults. T-Bird provides between \$250,000 and \$300,000 for the school."

As a result, the Academy Board decided to look for a purchaser. The Academy Board looked for five months with no buyers in sight. Without T-Bird, the school would have to find other sources of income—not an easy task. In late July and early August it was determined that the Upper Columbia Corporation would buy the plant. The school already owned the land and the equipment, so this purchase completed the ownership. Not only would ownership be changed, but also the name would now be Spangle Wood Products.

"Even with the new ownership," states Rick Claridge, new Spangle Wood Products manager, "we will still be producing the same stuff as before."

The search for contracts is a constant part of the plant's operation. In February, there was so much work that more workers were needed.

Jon Engelman

No place to chat?

As UCA students look forward to a new student center where they can go to relax and chat, the dilemma of where to relax and chat until the student center gets finished is a constantly under faced. The ad-building that was recently finished itself isn't a good place for the students to hang out because classes are going on throughout the day, and the classes are easily disrupted. The library isn't a good place to hang out either because it's supposed to be used for studying, and students can find themselves getting asked to leave when they become too social and raise their voices above a whisper. Yes, students can visit in the dormitories, but then what about those who wish to converse with a member of the opposite sex? Outside is an option when it's warm, but what about in the winter months? There are always the lobbies in the dormitories, but are they open at times that are convenient for the students? "I think that it's kind of funny that the lobby hours don't fit the students' schedule," says Talia Silva.

After being asked about the situation, Mr. Marsh commented, "The staff is aware that there really is no place right now where the kids can visit during inclement weather. So we are trying to be flexible in allowing them to visit in the hallways and library as long as they can do so reasonably." So, students evidently can use the halls and library to chat. The problem comes when the halls are over run with talking and laughing people, and the library becomes a place of loud conversation. Students must just make sure that they are quiet enough and courteous when using one of these locations for reasons. So until the power house is done, the halls and library are a good place to talk discreetly with friends.

Mandy Hebard



Art facility expands

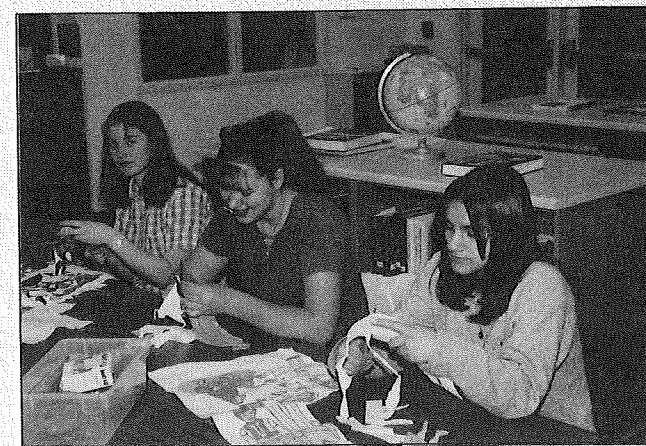
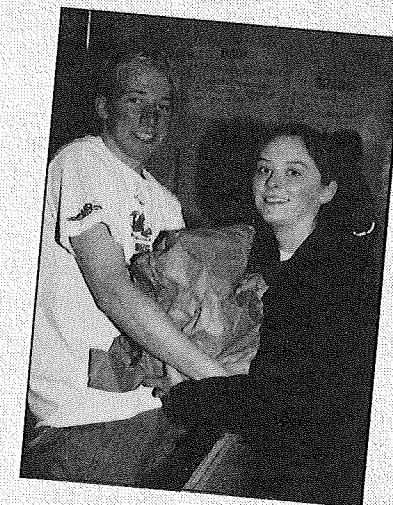
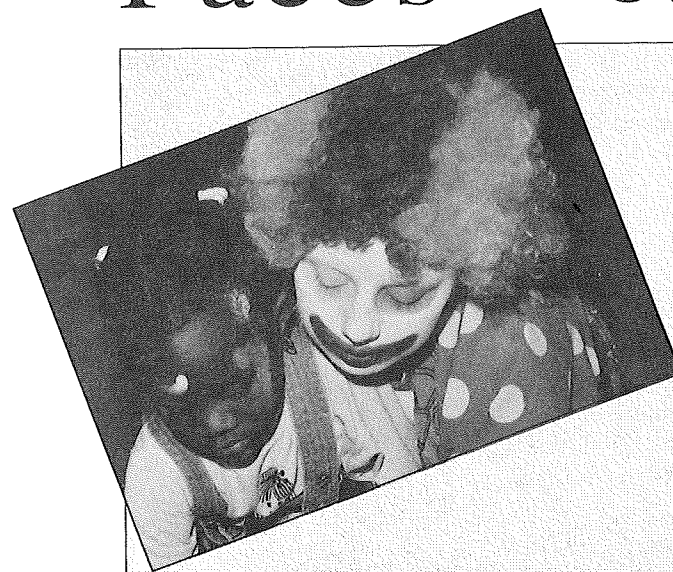
Due to a lack of space and expanding classes under the guidance of Mrs. Mann, the art department has been expanded. Jackie Wren left at the end of last year and Mrs. Mann took over the art and home economics departments. She wanted to add classes such as pottery. The problem was the only area the art class had was the home economics room. Since people have to cook there almost every day it would be difficult to make clay figures and then have to clean up the area to cook. A new classroom was needed.

Under the home economics room was an old storage area. It was decided to convert this into a classroom. Mr. Mann with help of 4-5 people cleaned this area out in about one week over the summer. Mr. Mann then adapted the electrical system, installed heaters, and installed the lighting. Plumbing was already in place so he needed only to install a sink, which he did, using a sink from the old administration building. The Maranatha people were nice enough to come in and paint the building. Mr. Mann said, "The cost of doing this project was minimal because we utilized old campus parts." Some things were borrowed, such as a kiln from Camp MiVoden.

The new classroom is a nice addition. It serves its purpose and gives students more space to work. The best part is it was made with almost all recycled parts, saving money and the environment.

Barry Grussling

Faces of H.O.P.E.



Studying far from home

At the age of fourteen, Sung Hee Park found herself leaving South Korea for the United States to receive her high-school education. When she decided she wanted to go to school in America, her parents supported her. They had heard of Oklahoma Academy because Sung Hee's second cousin had attended there. They felt it was a safe place for her to start.

When Sung Hee arrived in the U.S. she could not speak English. Not being able to communicate with others was shocking and frustrating. It also made her more determined to learn the language quickly. Not being able to understand those around her and homesickness made her first few months at OA difficult.

After conquering the language, Sung Hee was ready for more challenging classes and more subjects than OA had to offer. So she chose to come to UCA.

Sung Hee has found American schooling to be more practical than schooling in Korea. Also, she has been able to learn English. "If you really want to learn another language, go to school in a country that speaks the language you want to know. It's the best way to learn," Sung Hee says. "Learning another country's customs is good, too. It helps you understand people better."

She's also found that being so far away from her family has made her more independent. She's had to make choices for herself and learn how to take care of herself. Being away from home has also made her realize just how much her parents have done for her. "When you are away from your parents you realize how much you love them and how much they love you." Sung Hee is more thankful for her parents now than when she lived with them everyday and is really looking forward to living with them again. Christmas and summer vacations just aren't enough.

Sung Hee desires to go to a Korean University to become a surgeon. She is going to live in Korea, but will come back to the United States if she needs to for her education. "Coming to America has been the best thing for me," she concludes.

Sarah Rogers

UCA receives service award

On February 8, UCA was honored as the volunteer organization of the year by the Children's Home Society. Three staff and four students were guests of honor at the SweetHearts for Kids luncheon held at the Doubletree Inn in Spokane. The 2000 SweetHearts Award plaque and other awards the school has received from the community for its outreach program can be seen in Mrs. Corder's office.

The HOPE Taskforce program was not established to get awards, of course, but it is good to remember that no matter how mundane and unnoticed individual projects may seem at times, UCA's participation in the community is not only needed but is also appreciated. UCA does make a difference.

echoes

Being faithful in that which is least

One the average, fifty-three faithful students make it to all classes on time every day at UCA. They are 17% of the students who attend here. What does that signify on the drawing board of life?

In most business circles it is considered important to be on time. Missing just one day of work is reason enough to be fired. When asked about it Mrs. Marsh said, "When a prospective employer calls me about a student, they are definitely interested in the attendance record." Using awesome powers of reasoning it is clear that roughly two hundred students are attendance challenged. "This isn't just an academic educational facility. We at UCA are trying to educate the students for all aspects of life," says Mrs. Davis.

Each class absence costs the student \$8.45, and if they are forced to drop the class due to absences they waste \$760 for one semester or \$1,520 for a year. On top of all this, attendance also affects their grades.

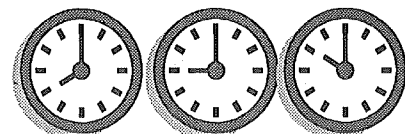
Are the students making the most of their investment, or the investment of others in them?

Are We?

Each day there are temptations to be faced at school and in the work world. Being faithful in small things is a battle everyone fights. E.G. White says, "He was as faithfully fulfilling His mission while working at His humble trade as when He healed the sick or walked upon the storm-tossed waves of Galilee. So in the humblest duties and lowliest positions of life, we may walk and work with Jesus."

He is always there. Make faithfulness the order of the day.

Staj Olson



echoes

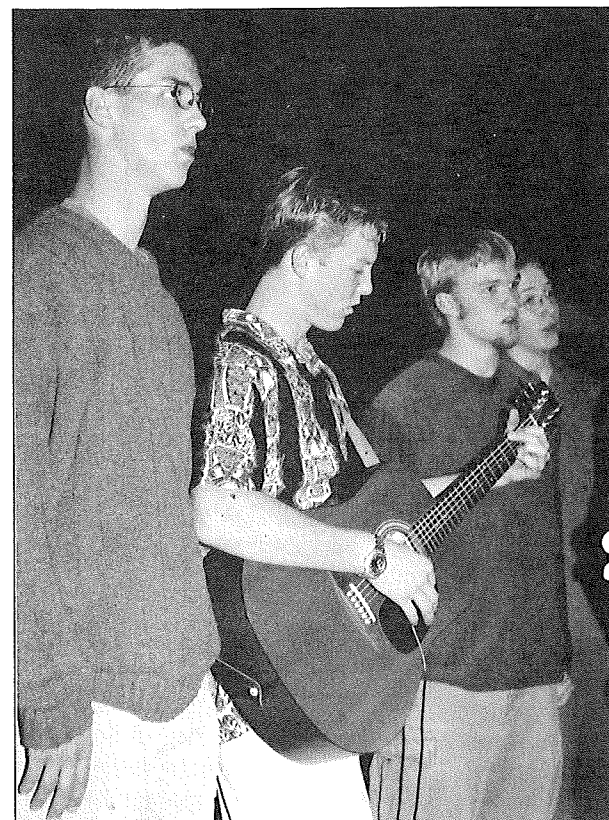
Reach out and touch

Here at UCA it is easy to get caught up in schoolwork, friends, work, and relationships. It can seem impossible to keep in touch with our families. Schoolwork is important--that is why we are here. We are here to build a relationship with God, too, but we also need to maintain our relationship with our families. It can be very easy to get busy and forget to call or write the people that we care about.

Parents and students want to be remembered, but phone calls are expensive, letters take time, and e-mail can be inaccessible. Home leaves can seem few and far between, but as in all relationships, members of families require positive time together. Be it basketball in the driveway or a phone call to the dorm, students enjoy every break they can get from the stresses of school life. Writing a letter provides a break for the writer and for the one who receives it. Pictures are great to include in letters, so take lots of pictures everywhere you go to help everyone feel included in your life. A phone call can show how much someone cares. Always take time to call on a holiday or birthday and let the person know you are thinking of them. Phone cards from the school can be bought for 3.9 cents a minute.

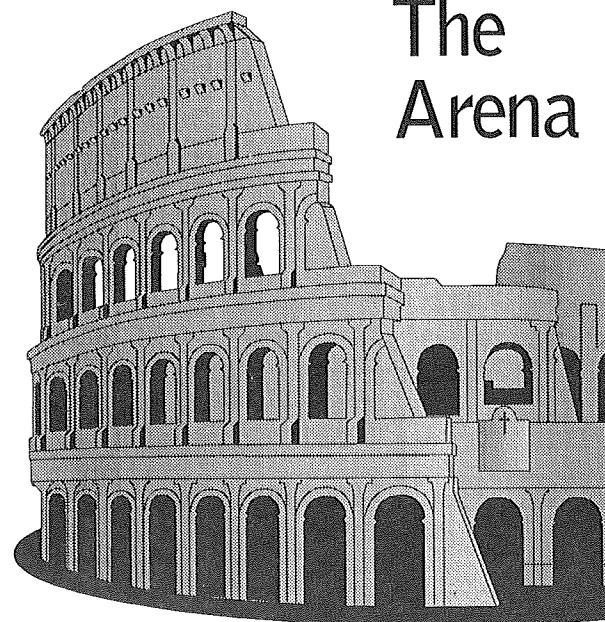
So pick up the phone, grab that pen and let the special people in your life know that even though you are busy and racked for time, you still care about them.

Eric Hatton



Staj Olson, Matt Byrd, Ben Reese, and Bob Renck lead out in singing during Student Week of Prayer

The Arena



Dark gates opened to the Roman mob;
a small child whimpered with fear.
Guilty only for worshipping God,
they knew that the end was near.

Weak with hunger, they slowly walked
onto the burning sands,
and as the lions were released--
they gave themselves into Christ's scarred hands.

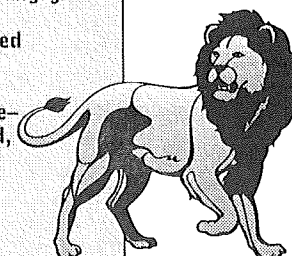
All of a sudden, one plain, lonely girl
began to sing with joy--
her palms raised to Heaven,
her sweet voice rang out
and reached the ears of one boy.

The lions attacked with sickening thuds.
For the first time, he turned away.
What made her so brave in the face of death?
For years he could not say.

But he always remembered that one young girl
whose faith was not in vain,
and he came to know God before he died
as a result of her faith and pain.

God works in mysterious ways, you see--
and though people may not understand,
everything now-ahead and past--
will end up according to plan.

Emily Cutting



The Upper Columbian

echoes

is a regular student publication of Upper Columbia Academy, a non-profit Seventh-day Adventist boarding high school, Spangle, Washington

—♦♦♦—

This issue's contributors included

Brian Catelli, Emily Cutting, Jon Engleman, Barry Grussling, Eric Hatton, Mandy Hebard, Mistie Imdieke, Brian Jorgenson, Staj Olson, Sarah Rogers, Cassandra Shewmake, and Stephen Lacey, adviser



Robert Bailey and Brian Catelli help Wendy Dale (as Annie Smith) off the platform during Heritage Weekend.

Tools or toys?

In many rooms of the boys' dorm you will find at least one computer. Most are there for "homework," but what really happens? Are they really used for homework or are they just a high-tech toy that takes extra time that most of us don't have?

No one can debate the usefulness of a computer for word processing or doing research on the Internet where the volume of information is staggering. For many purposes a computer is an invaluable resource. However, by looking at most computers in the dorm I noticed that many are overpowered for these elementary tasks. Other than some server applications, the only thing that can usefully take advantage of this power is game software. These computers cost hundreds of dollars more than needed to accomplish the educational tasks required.

Games can provide a stress relief from the pressure of school, but they can very easily become a habit that uses large amounts of time that could be spent on more productive activities. Sitting in front of a monitor in a semi-comatose state killing aliens quickly becomes a big waste of time.

If you own a computer, next time you are upset about not having enough time, look back over the last day or two and check on how much time you have spent playing a computer game. As long as our priorities are kept in order there should be no problems. Now if you will please excuse me, I think I'll go play a game.

Brian Jorgenson

Keeping the balance

Can students at UCA go to school here, get enough sleep, eat right, and have time with God? Can we do this and still get good grades? Is there time to study, work, and make friends? Have the school's efforts to provide a balanced lifestyle been successful?

Almost all students here have work of some sort. They work between two to four hours a day. Working takes up time that could be used to do school work or to sleep. Very few students can afford not to work.

It is possible to find healthful food in

the cafeteria, but you have to make the right choices. Some students are on such tight schedules they have less than 30 minutes to eat lunch. This gives them little time to make good choices and to enjoy their lunch.

If you have a heavy class load it is very possible to have over two hours of homework a night. We only have between 8:30 and 10:30 designated for study hall at night.

Going to rec. is a lot of fun. You can either visit friends or participate in sports. Not a lot of kids will give this up to do homework, and they shouldn't have to.

Stuck on gum

Most students here at UCA chew gum morning, noon and night. The beauty of chewing gum is that it works your jaw, gets rid of that nasty bad breath and basically gives you something to do while teachers ramble on. All you have to do is move your jaw up and down so your teeth can chomp on it.

Not everyone here at UCA chews gum all the time. There are some students and also faculty who chew gum only once in awhile. But most like the feeling of chewing, making bubbles, or snapping their gum even though it can irritate others.

It's hard to tell exactly what the favorite kinds of bubble gum are chewed on this campus. Mintaburst, Cinnaburst, and Juicyfruit are high on the list. And according to the Liverpool School of Dentistry, chewing sugar-free gum has a positive impact on dental health. Increasing the salivary flow during chewing helps to dilute and neutralize plaque acidity. When you get these health benefits, though, always remember to either swallow the gum or put it back into the wrapper after use. That way it doesn't get all over under people's shoes.

Chewing gum can be very beneficial and it gives something to do. So choose your favorite piece of gum and chew it all day long . . .

Mistie Indieke

A close personal relationship with God is most important, but with busy schedules it is hard to make time for Him. We have mandatory worships but that is not enough. We have little time for one-on-one with God.

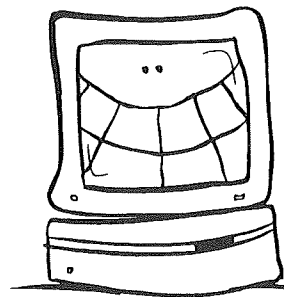
It appears that living a balanced, healthy lifestyle at boarding school is almost impossible. It is often hard to obtain life's goals but, by prioritizing our time and activities the goals can be more easily achieved. The school can do its part, but we still, individually, need to find our own solution.

Brian Catelli

On February 23, staff went door to door in the dorms and distributed 350 loaves of bread baked in the cafeteria by Miss Denise. Students were pleased and surprised by the gift, many saying they were glad it wasn't donuts or cookies. Village students also received a loaf bagged along with a knife and some margarine.

Be on the lookout for members of Mr. Paulson's new photography class who have been seen prowling campus with their cameras looking for unsuspecting victims.

The snow has rapidly disappeared and redwing blackbirds have made a noisy return to campus. Does this mean that winter is over? Can it really be time to put away the snowboards and take out the--hmm--spring stuff?



Library computers challenge students

In our library we have 25 computers. They range from 486's at 66 MHz to 486's at 100 MHz. This is old technology that was acquired in 1996. Many people would like to see them be replaced with faster Pentiums.

Upper Columbia Academy has a computer support team of five people. Four of them are students who only work part-time. With over 75 computers at UCA, this can be a very challenging job. The library computers are challenging for computer support to work with because they take a lot longer to execute commands than do newer machines. They are over five computer generations old. This means most of the time you work on them you sit and wait. You don't have to be in the library long to hear students complain about the speed of the computers. Mr. Davis is the main computer technician. He says, "The computers are old. They need to be replaced." All UCA needs to have good computers is money. Until then we will just wait and wonder if school budgets will now always be held hostage by rapidly-changing technology.

Some students can also cause difficulty. Kids go and download their favorite programs and try to install them. This is not what the library computers were intended for. It only slows the computers and aggravates other students.

As slow as our computers are, we must be thankful that we have them. Many schools don't even have our level of technology. Some don't have any computers available to students. So, while they are slow, they are better than nothing.

Barry Grussling

Close-up and personal

The survey's complete and toothpaste is in demand. There are several reasons why toothpaste is such a hot item. It makes breath fresher, teeth whiter, mouths cleaner . . . and prevents cavities. But, aside from the mouth, toothpaste has many other jobs. It can be used as a form of entertainment by watching it squeeze out of the tube and as a weapon of revenge on a sleeping enemy. It is much cheaper, easier and cleaner (not a pun) to use than drywall mud to cover up small nail holes in walls. It is also claimed by some that toothpaste removes tomato stains from clothing and helps in the eternal struggle against acne.

According to the survey, Aqua Fresh toothpaste is in the most demand for a variety of reasons. It tastes good, has cool colors, doesn't leave a bad aftertaste, and it makes teeth whiter and shinier. Other common toothpastes according to the survey are Mentadent and Crest.

It was apparent that most people do not think about why they use a certain toothpaste and what makes it special. They just use what is easily available to them.

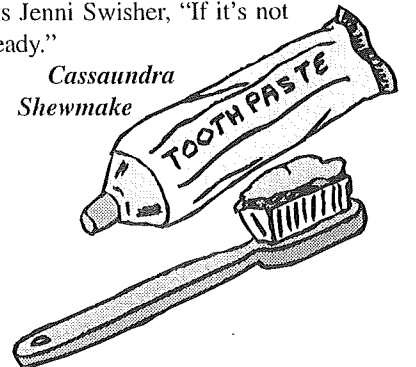
Although most people cannot live without toothpaste there are always the radicals that are against its use.

"Toothpaste is not necessary," states one such radical, Chrislyn Clayville, "It's only a fad."

While it may only be a fad for some, dentists and choral teachers say it is a necessity.

"I think it will become a must," says Jenni Swisher, "If it's not already."

Cassandra Shewmake



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Gone . . . or still with us?

The new millennium is quite a controversial issue. That whole Y2K thing was just bogus. Absolutely nothing happened—including the break into a new millennium.

Some people here at UCA believe that the new millennium started on January 1, 2000, while others, like myself, think it starts on January 1, 2001. Which is correct? When does the third millennium start? That is some issue.

David Cross, a computer technician for Mr. Davis, says using the Roman Calendar reveals the millennium ends December 31, 2000, and another starts the next day. It is quite simple to explain. You see, there was no year 0. We simply number the years from 1 B.C. to 1 A.D. Therefore, what we call 1 A.D. is the name of the first year in A.D. One year had not been completed until 1 A.D. had completed. What is the definition of a millennium? A millennium is one thousand years. Therefore, if we count two thousand years ahead of 1 A.D., the year 2000 is the two-thousandth year. After the two-thousandth year we can say a new millennium has come upon us, and that will be in 2001.

Pastor Barry Curtis remarked that there is a Biblical way of interpreting when the millennium ends. "Technically, Jesus wasn't born at the start of the A.D. time frame. He was probably born three or four years earlier."

B.C. stands for "before Christ." If Christ was born in 4 B.C. then we can count two thousand years ahead to find that the millennium really started in 1997. Guess what? **WE ALL MISSED IT!!!!**

Now you can decide from the evidence when you think the millennium ended. One thing I do know, though, is that a new one didn't start in 2000. We'd better keep those Y2K emergency candles on hand!

Jon Engelman

