

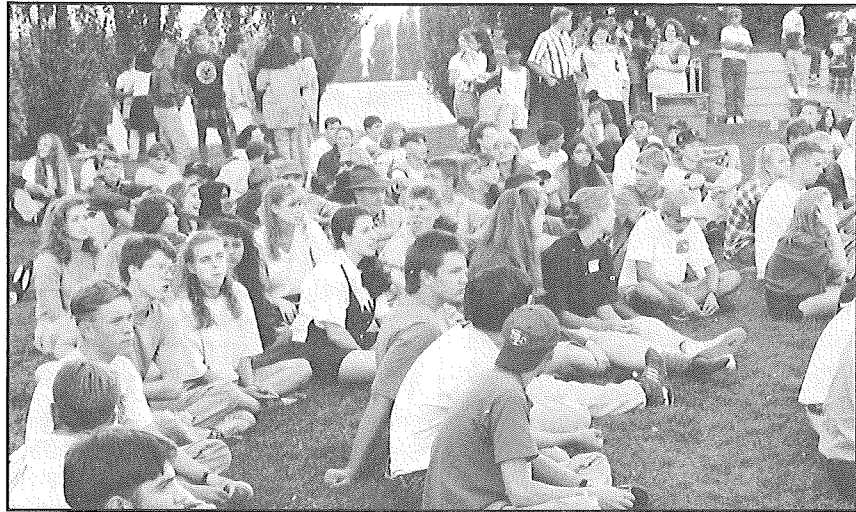
THE *ECHOES*

Volume 43, Number 1

Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington

Enrollment up again

For each of the last 5 years U.C.A.'s enrollment has increased. With 321 registered students, this year's enrollment is the highest of the last 13 years. It is an increase of 35 over last year and a huge leap from the 204 registered 4 years ago. Records show that the enrollment has never been higher than 329 (a record set in 1982).



part of the crowd up on the ballfield on registration day

*My grace is
sufficient for
you, for my
power is made
perfect in
weakness*

2 Corinthians 12:9

Students make front-page news

When Sarah Artz, Merwin Currie, Kirstin Elliott, and Katherine Hillmon volunteered to leave the fall picnic early to help Pastor Meidinger with the weekly feed-the-hungry outreach, they didn't know they would be front-page news.

As they were handing out sandwiches and soup in downtown Spokane, the quartet was approached by reporters from *The Spokesman Review*, and on Friday, September 16, they were featured in a very positive article on that paper's front page. Along with the article was a color photo of Merwin (and hat) and two grateful recipients of the food.

It's great to get recognition when we're doing something worthwhile. Let's remember that we are Christ's witnesses all the time.

Firebowls warm the heart

Firebowl vespers is a time when you can sit or stand in a circle of warmth and love... A time when you can sing songs with your friends or say something meaningful... A time when the words that are spoken and the songs that are sung always have a soothing effect. Firebowls are usually a special time when friends, family, and acquaintances can get together, learn more about each other, and bond.

At the end of the first week, U.C.A. experienced one of these "quality time" moments. We sang songs that some of us had never heard before, and several teachers and leaders got up and told their personal experiences with Christ. The atmosphere and the words they chose to portray their stories made that firebowl vespers an especially memorable one.

Firebowls have always been a lot of fun for me because I live for moments that will bring me closer to my friends and to God. As I thought back on previous firebowls, I couldn't help but wonder who thought up such an intriguing event. What is the fire there for? I decided that the fire was not there just for warmth. It represents something. I feel it can represent Christ. When mankind encircles their Creator, they will experience something special: a warming of their hearts.

Junelle Pellow

Roommates, live and let live

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Charles Dickens must have had a roommate.

Roommates are a bothersome blessing. A person can think them to be completely innocent and, in times of trouble, a roommate can be a real out for a person in need. It is always nice to share the latest joke and laugh until your face begins to implode. A roommate may be a whiz at the subject that is hard for you to understand. If a person feels that there is an idea that needs to be tackled, a roommate may be in the position to support it. With most roommates there is a trust that develops throughout the year. People can tell their roommates about their "love" for somebody of the opposite gender. Then at the end of the philosophizing there is the request, "Don't tell anyone, okay." And most of the time the promise is made and kept.

The opposing aspect of roommates is that they can be totally different from you. Their only interest might be underwater basket weaving. A roommate just might be the kind of person that could accidentally take your key and towel while you're taking a shower and put those "lost" items in the lost and found (The patient victim does not bare the naked truth about how he/she feels). Roommates might wait until you are almost asleep and then begin to talk about absolutely nothing. Or they may scatter their clothes so expertly that their unsuspecting co-habitants cannot make it to the door without having several day's worth of clothes wrapped around their legs. When asked nicely to do something, roommates can come up with any feeble excuse not to.

The best thing to remember is that all roommates bug each other periodically. But they can be the biggest ally in those downer times. So keep up with your medication and tolerate your roommate!

Broc Finkbiner



Jason Neil, Jill Lamberton, Jeff Stonebraker, Jeremy Roper and Sid Hardy practice cool detachment in one of the ski boats during the fall picnic

Weather smiles on fall picnic

Tuesday morning, 9:00 a.m.. A feeling of expectation washes over the crowd. Worship is listened to, almost intensely, as the excitement grows. As the last "amen" echoes through the gym, they're off!

I was walking into the gym after a long sack-lunch line at the cafeteria when just over 300 students stood up and began running straight toward me. They stamped by to the buses waiting outside. The ASB Fall Picnic had begun!

The majority of the returning students remember last year's MiVoden trip. It rained. All day, a continuous sprinkle dampened everyone's spirits as well as everything else.

This year was a complete 180-degree difference. The weather was beautifully sunny and clear--almost perfect by anyone's estimation. It was a day of fun in the sun, laughter with friends, and sighs of happiness all around.

There were activities for all to enjoy: volleyball, sunbathing, watersports (of every type, shape, size, and skill level), Rook and Uno games, swimming, wild boat rides (courtesy of Heidi Threadgill), and the ever-popular why-don't-we-see-who-we-can-throw-in-the-lake activity.

Many thanks to all involved for making the day such a great success.

Sarah Artz

New year! New students! New food?

This year in the cafeteria there is a special menu for students who are allergic to certain foods or who just want to eat a healthier diet. These students can go talk to Mr. Blankenship or Mrs. Robinson, and they will be put on the list of students who need or want the special menu. The cafeteria has non-fat and non-dairy products: tofu for the eggs as well as substitutes for other foods. There is also low-fat salad dressing and sour cream. According to Mr. Blankenship, any special recipes students can bring from home and give to the cafe would be greatly appreciated. The program is new and experimental so there are a few quirks to be ironed out yet. If you have comments, suggestions, or questions, please tell one of the adult staff members in the cafeteria, preferably Mr. Blankenship or Mrs. Robinson. That way the quirks may be ironed out sooner than expected.

Amy Robinson

The arts

In the past art has not been a point of interest, nor a part of the curriculum, on this campus. For a while Noana Hengen taught a part-time art class, and in the 89-90 school year Mr. Martling taught a small art class in the Industrial Arts building during his task force work. Not until last year, though, was there an official art class.

Mr. Martling, who started teaching here last year, decided to start the class again. He has put a lot of work into the class and wants the kids to have a lot of fun. One of his goals for the class is, "to let the students learn to enjoy art, and to have experience in more than one media." He also wants to have a class where the students can relax and develop a new talent and skill. Most of the students have a great time in the class.

The class is full of great kids this year. They are very enthusiastic, yet serious. The classroom is nearly silent when they start to draw. Mr. Martling has seen a lot of improvement already this year. The kids are loosening up their drawing style and a lot of talent is rising to the surface.

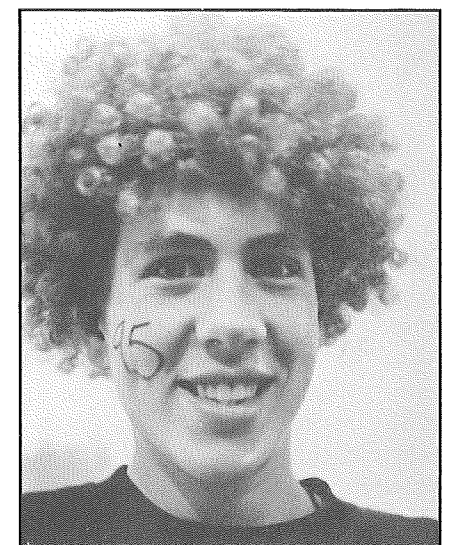
One of the projects Mr. Martling wants to start is a wall mural on one of the buildings on campus. This would give the campus a point of interest, and the kids a good place to do some productive wall painting. This idea should be popular with the student body.

The art on campus is not just in the art class. It spans from doodles on paper and desks in the classrooms and sketches during free time to nearly-professional color posters and paintings. The styles vary from real still life drawings and imaginative, but realistic, pictures to the extreme abstract. The art usually shows up in binders or in the dorms--occasionally on dressers and closets or on the desks. Mr. Martling keeps a good variety of art on the walls of his classroom, and every once in a while it shows up in other classrooms, but usually the students keep it to themselves.

We are fixing a display case for the clay sculptures and other three dimensional works and will probably have another art display this year during one of the school functions.

Overall, we have a strong and active art community here. It should be an excellent year for art on this campus.

Philip Cromwell



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This issue's contributors included: Sarah Artz, Alisa Bowker, Rose Brower, Kambra Buell, Rosemary Casareale, Charley Coleman, Angel Cox, Philip Cromwell, Matt Evans, Broc Finkbiner, Sarah Holmes, Zach Mason, Vashti Munson, Junelle Pellow, Amy Robinson, Justin Smith, Sarah Syth, Jennifer Wikoff, and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

Fun, fun, fun

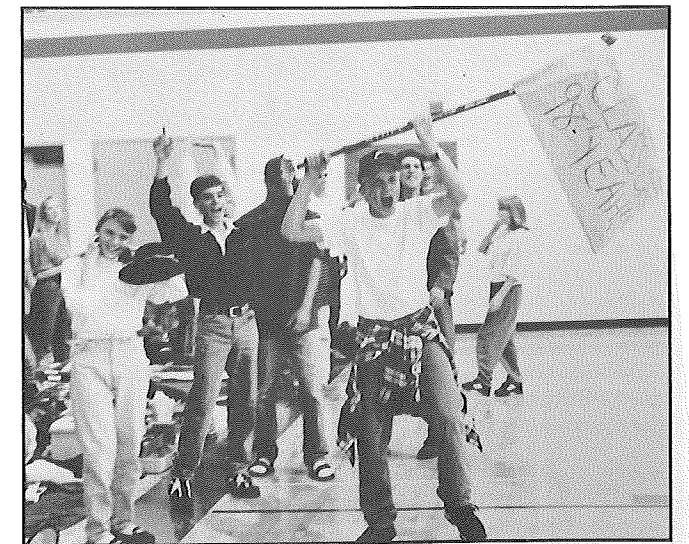
Every year at the end of the first week of school, U.C.A. people participate in A.S.B. class night. Class night is a pretty decent way to meet new people, promote class spirit and unity, and participate in some friendly competition.

This year's class night was kind of crazy with Grant's famous Elvis impersonation, a scramble for the sponsors, and a clothes relay race, among other things.

Grant stunned us with his amazing rendition of Elvis's "Can't Help Falling in Love with You". A few brawny U.C.A. people helped their classes out by carrying their sponsors to the mat, and the all-powerful Seniors pulled themselves up from second place to win an amazing victory in the clothes relay race.

After the Seniors won, the U.C.A. people went outside and ate donuts, which made everyone happy. So passed yet another happy A.S.B. class night.

Rosemary Casareale



The class of '98 almost catches the spirit during A.S.B. Class Night

New staff arrives

This year we have a few new staff members here on campus. They come to us from many different places and bring with them many new and exciting ideas. I think this going to be a great year because they're here.

Patricia Smith comes to us from Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she attended Southern College. Her responsibilities involve drama and aerobics in addition to being Assistant Dean. Some of the things she enjoys include drama, volleyball, tennis, gymnastics, reading, swimming, lifeguarding and working with young people. Her spunky personality will bring a lot of liveliness to our campus.

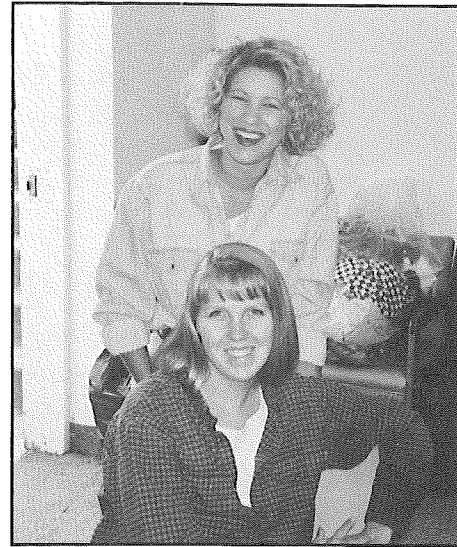
Charissa Crow is quiet and friendly. Her home state is Indiana; consequently, she attended Andrews University. She enjoyed her trip to UCA which included stops at Yellowstone, Mount Rushmore and other attractions. As AYA Director she arranges outreach and other religious activities for the campus. Snow skiing, reading, camping, and traveling are some of her hobbies.

Although Steve Hayes lived in Denver, Colorado, he was wise enough to attend Walla Walla College. On campus he is part of the Physical Education

Department. He also helps with gymnastics. His favorite sports are volleyball and gymnastics. If you go to the gym, you will get to know him.

Our new P.E. Assistant, Heidi Threadgill, is not new to our campus since she did her student teaching here last year. You can see her at the gym also, helping with varsity or a game or two. Jogging, hiking, and camping, top her list of fun things to do.

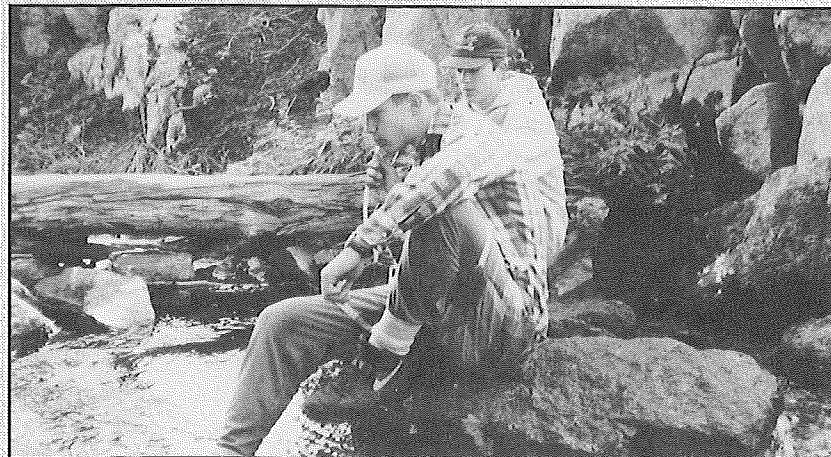
All in all, the new staff and their dedication should help make it a good year.



Patricia Smith and Charissa Crow

Rose Brower

Who is Outdoor Ed?



One Thursday evening the Outdoor Education class left UCA campus and stayed the night at Mr. Peach's cabin in the woods outside Joseph, Oregon. The next morning, Miss McGuire, Threadgills, and Hardys made a wonderful pancake breakfast for all the campers. Then it was time to head out to the Wallowa Mountains, where everyone started the treacherous eight-mile hike. Surviving the steep hills and the meadows, the hail and rain, and blistered feet, everyone made it to Mirror Lake where they set up camp.

That Friday evening and the next day were filled with rock climbing, hiking the many trails around camp, and fishing around the lake and streams. Some even ventured into the cold water to swim. There were many other activities that were also enjoyable for everyone. Many spent a lot of their time making the meals--the menus ranging from granola bars to pancakes and eggs. No-one was left hungry.

On Sunday morning the campers packed their belongings and once again hiked the long trail back to the bus. When they reached Clarkston, they had a choice to eat out at Taco Time, Arby's, or Pizza Hut (Pizza Hut seemed to be the favorite). The campers arrived back at UCA that evening with just minor bumps and bruises, but everyone had a fun and memorable time camping in the great outdoors.

Alisa Bowker

Lovestruck

When you look around at the new couples on campus, do you ever wonder what attracts people to each other? Is it their hair, their eyes, the way they walk, the way they talk? Is it that glowing smile and the shyness of their eyes when they look at you? Maybe it's just the way that person makes you feel when you're with them. The qualities that you enjoy might be the way they make you laugh or smile, or the way they always calm your nerves and seem to understand how you're feeling.

With a real friend you'll always have someone to eat your meals with in the cafeteria, always have someone to walk you to your next class, and, of course, always have somebody to sit and talk with during those energetic football games played for recreation in the evenings. Whatever it is that brings you and your significant other together, it's nice to be in love.

Sarah Syth



Latrine lessons

It was early Sunday morning as thirty semisomnambulant bodies dragged themselves to breakfast. Today was outreach, and we were going to help get the senior survival site ready.

After a hearty meal of fruitloops and cream puffs, we piled in the vans and got on our way. When we arrived, we noticed the surroundings were quite lush. Ferns were shoulder high, and rich grass draped off the bank and was caught up in the current of the gurgling creek. Little did we know what lay ahead, for up the dry, bushy, sunbeaten hill we went.

When we came to a stop, there was renewed vigor. People charged to the trailer carrying our tools, and grabbed rakes, gloves, and other handy work tools. When I finally got there, I realized why there had been pandemonium. All that remained were some posthole diggers, shovels, and a couple of six-foot iron bars for breaking up the ground. I, along with three other poor unfortunate souls, slowly, with iron in hand, began our first assignment: digging countless poity holes all over the mountain.

Looking down at our first dig site, we saw that roots weaved themselves under, around, and through the rock-infested ground. As work proceeded, beads of sweat formed on our brows and later formed into torrents of water. Hole after hole was dug, and, finally... we were almost done.

Dragging our tools back to the trailer and collapsing in the van seat, we realized a lesson had been learned: Those who are first (to get the rakes) SHALL BE FIRST (and least tired)!!

Charley Coleman



Ginger Robinson, Wendi White, Carrie Clarke, Elisa Speno and Lisa Momb helped at the humane society during the first H.O.P.E. Outreach Sunday

Adventures in outreach, students find cemetery

It becomes that time of year when the students of Upper Columbia Academy emerge from their sheltered corner of the earth to go out into the community. Their motto: Helping Other People Everyday.

Students, speaking loudly to be heard over the coughing, wheezing tones of the bus, fell suddenly silent as the cemetery gates rose into their vision. Peacefulness seemed to hang in the air as the bus passed noisily underneath the stone and iron arches and wound sluggishly through the well-tended grounds. Protesting loudly, the bus jerked to a halt. Removing their faces from the back of the seats in front of them, the students gathered their tools and filed out to stare in awe at what lay before them.

Surrounded by the cultivated greenery of the cemetery sat a section of ground overgrown with years of neglect. Within lay those who left the world in its infancy or without enough worldly possessions to purchase remembrance. Creepers and pine needles covered the forest floor which in turn held engraved stones. With faces set in grim determination, the students swept clean the forest floor to expose the names of those who came before. Suddenly the swish swish of the rakes combing pine needles from the ground was drowned out by the roar of a chainsaw. Students and faculty alike scrambled to avoid that roaring terror known only as "Soulé". As the roar moved slowly off to the other end of the cemetery, the workers returned to their task. Hastily, they piled debris into piles to be whisked away by wheel-barrow bearing boys.

As the sun began its journey down towards the horizon, the laborers looked at their accomplishment with satisfaction, knowing that in other places nearby their friends and classmates had had a similarly-rewarding experience. As the bus rumbled off and the stone arches faded in the distance, they looked back and imagined an old woman. Clothed in a simple green dress and knitted shawl, she comes once more to search for her husband's resting place. Her face lights up as before her she beholds his marker, clean and decorated as it once was. A smile touches her face.

Zach Mason

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Reality Bites

Summer was going to last forever. School was but a dream. Life was good. But as they say, "all good things must come to an end."

Reality rudely intruded into my blissful fantasy land, and I realized that school was going to start again after all. Eventually the initial shock wore off, and I actually started to get excited. I was looking forward to seeing all my old friends again. I wanted to meet a whole bunch of new people and planned on making this the most memorable year of my life.

Everyone goes back to school with a different attitude and perspective. I asked quite a few students what their goals were for the upcoming year. Most people hope to have a lot of fun, yet, surprisingly, a majority also plan to get good grades. A few brave souls even said they planned to get a 4.0 g.p.a. Making new friends seems to be a popular goal for everyone. The new students have it a little tougher than those of us that have been here before. But most of the new people I have observed are adjusting quite nicely.

Getting a boyfriend or girlfriend is on a lot of people's minds. Evidence of success in that area is noticeable already!

In all the goals I had heard, it seemed one was being left out: God! But I was not to be disappointed. At least one fun-loving academic-achiever is seeking a closer relationship with God.

So whether you are hoping to get a good night's sleep or are planning to be as busy as possible, try not to get too stressed out. Having fun is what academy life is really all about!

Kambra Buell



WELCOME BACK!