

The Echoes

Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington

Volume 45, Number 4, January 1997

Welcome to the '96 S.W.O.P. meet

This year December 9-14 was dubbed student week of prayer, bringing out the chosen twelve to show us their view of God. The speakers this year were David Evans, Benjie Maxson, Kevin Burman, Michael Messervy, Karl Meidinger, Renee' Hibbs, Becca Nutter, Rachel Jenks, Cameron Gray, Becky Porch, Paula Kildal, and Daniel Perrin.

It all started when the students received ballots and were asked to vote for six students they thought would be good speakers. In late November the chosen twelve were whisked away for a fun-filled weekend at Dr. Wilkens' house on Spokane's South Hill. They spent time in nature learning about God and praying. Renee' Hibbs, a senior, said, "We went out in the woods and prayed a lot, and got to know each other."

The speakers had about 3 weeks to get their speeches together, to choose a topic and to rehearse.

Throughout the entire week of prayer, the U.C.A. students were allowed a glimpse of their peers' walk with God, and this year S.W.O.P lived up to its reputation of being the most spiritually uplifting week of the school year. The words of peers are more honored, more listened to than those of



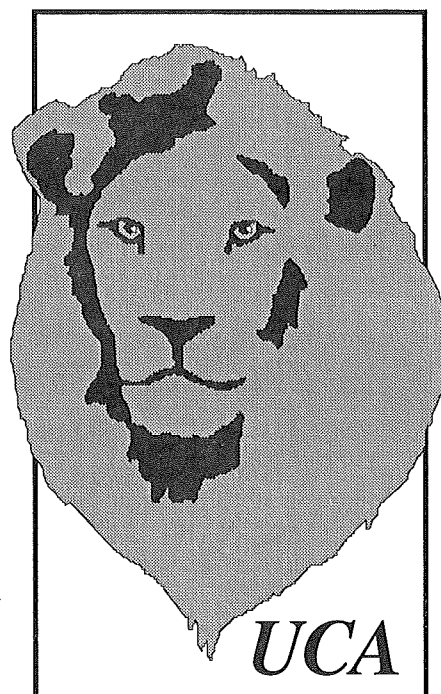
Week of Prayer speakers from left to right: (back row) Kevin Burman, Daniel Perrin, Michael Messervy, Benjie Maxson, Cameron Gray, Karl Meidinger, David Evans (front row) Renee Hibbs, Becky Porch, Paula Kildal, Becca Nutter, Rachel Jenks

any others. Wissy MacIvor said this, "It means more when you hear students speaking their views on God. You can have any pastor come in, but when it's your peers, you listen and it matters."

This year there were many role plays in the speeches, with the speakers donning the hats of Leah, Peter, and even the Prodigal Daughter. Many chose a simple role play followed by a short thought instead of a sermonette. Becca Nutter, a junior, commented how speaking up front effected her. "I was really nervous before, but after I was done it was worth it."

With Week of Prayer over, it seems that maybe the voice of the students should be recognized more often. Whether it seems so or not, somewhere inside of them, everyone has something inspirational to say.

Lynn Rae Belles





Mr. Thayer, Jamie Miller and Amy Brownfield liven up the ASB Christmas Party

Students discover true meaning of Christmas

Students excitedly found tables to sit at as they entered the cafeteria. Animated chatter followed while they waited for the incoming busses. For some, it seemed to take forever for the kids to arrive. And then the door opened, and in they came--boys and girls of all ages and temperaments. Noise and confusion reigned. Finally, the kids were connected to their hosts--the students. Some students were sorely disappointed because their child never came. Jonathan Kincaid said he was disappointed because he thought it would be fun to spend an evening giving someone who doesn't have a lot of happiness in their life a good time. Don Lopes wanted a kid and was upset that he forgot to sign up. He thinks it is a cool way to give less fortunate kids a good Christmas and make them feel needed. Brian Flemmer declared that this was the third year in a row that his child never came.

However, the reactions from the students whose child did come were varied. "Once I finally got him in the building, he was a holy terror. But after an hour he was good," said Crystal Towler. Ramona Hyslop said, "He was nice and sweet. Nigel and I even got to throw sponges at him." Brenda Pewitt said, "I enjoyed the experience of making a little kid's Christmas special."

According to Lynette Hillmon, "It was a way for us to be 'Santa Claus' to very special children." "I think this is a really neat thing to do and it helps spread a little Christmas cheer," said Margie Jones. "When our kid first sat down, she was the perfect little angel," declared Lisa Gilbert. "But then, we took her to the games and she became violent. We gave her our gift and she didn't like it, and she proceeded to bite, hit, kick, and pinch me. But by the end of the night, she decided she liked her gift after all, and gave us each a hug." And Bob Pielat said, "I think it was a good experience for future parents to have!"

Not all the fun was had with the kids, though. On Saturday night, several volunteers helped set up for the party and entertained themselves with music, drinks, and a general attitude of light-heartedness. Peter Sheidler smashed his finger at the beginning of the evening, and said, "It added a great deal of pleasure to the constructing of the booths." He declared the evening to be a smashing success.

Nearly everyone left that night tired but content in the fact that they'd made someone's Christmas just a little bit sweeter. After all, that is truly the most important reason for Christmas.

Tiffany Wright

UCA journeys south again

The Mexico mission trip will begin on January 25 when 28 UCA students leave for the two week expedition. When they arrive at Hermosillo, four days later, they will work at a church that will eventually seat between three and four hundred people.

During the months before the trip, the students try to raise \$14,000. They raise this by sending letters asking for money to relatives and friends with each student attempting to raise \$200. Some may raise more than this and some less.

The trip to Mexico is more than just a bus ride. The students drive through Las Vegas and take a tour of Hoover Dam. On the day they arrive, they take a trip to the beach at Kino for a few hours of fun. Then they return to Hermosillo to get a good night's sleep before beginning the five-day work week.

During that week the students will assemble about twenty hardwood pews and some may be asked to help with just about anything. That Sabbath they will get the pleasure of having church with the new congregation in the church they have just helped with. That evening they leave to head back to UCA.

On the return trip they will make stops at Glen Canyon Dam and Zion National Park. They will even spend a day at Salt Lake City where they can go see a basketball game, go skiing, shop, or just do nothing. The next day, February 5, they return to UCA.

"A lot of people used to go just for the shopping, but this year people really want to help someone else," said Chuck Gabel when asked about the trip. There was some talk about a second trip, but it was given up because of lack of interest.

Andy Dougherty

At press-time, the location of the Mexico project had changed and difficulties remained to be resolved. Stay tuned!

Now let us sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king; peace on earth and mercy mild..." The voices are melodic and strong, blending in perfect harmony as the door opens. "Hi, I'm from Upper Columbia Academy, and we're..." begins the lucky solicitor stationed at the door. The song continues, the plea for money is made, and then everyone trudges on to the next door to start all over again.

Ingathering. It's that wonderful winter activity where you learn all the Christmas carols there are, freeze your nose and toes, and generally have a great time bonding with your friends. "I like the singing, all the lights, and especially the way people smile when we sing to them," said Shelly Spady. From snowball fights to snow angels, ingathering is great fun. It's a time to escape from everyday pressure, have fun with friends, and still be helping a worthy cause. The money collected each year provides for needs both in your community and around the world.

Upper Columbia Academy went ingathering on two days this year, December 7 and 14. On the seventh, only one group of about 15 students went out. This was due partly to the weather and partly to the fact that so many students were sick with one thing or another. On the second night there was a much better turn-out. Three groups of students from the Academy and two groups of elementary students canvassed in Spokane, while a fourth group of UCA students went and helped Cheney with their ingathering. One of the groups that went in to Spokane was Mr. Soule and the varsity basketball team. These students wanted to help out in the ingathering, but they had to be back early for a game that night, so they organized a group of their own and followed their own schedule.

Ingathering can be a lot of work, but it is also rewarding. Pastor Meidinger commented, "We appreciate very much those who chose to go out and be a part of the ingathering this year."

Amelia Magnuson

UCA adds Philippines to mission list

Ah, the thrill of being a missionary and the great privilege and heart-stopping danger of taking the love of Jesus to head-hunting cannibals living in grass huts in a jungle. This year many students will be involved in taking the mercy of God to far-off lands, though they probably won't have to worry about head hunters or cannibals.

In March, approximately 20 UCA students will be a part of a 35-member team of volunteers who are headed for the Philippines, a group of islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean.

They will be going to Baguio, a relatively large city, on the main island of Luzon. The primary objective of the trip is to finish a church building that was begun but only partially finished five or six years ago. But other projects are planned as well. Volunteers will be helping out in the medical and dental clinics there, evangelistic meetings that will be held in the evenings, and a VBS program which is planned during the day for the kids. Students who are interested

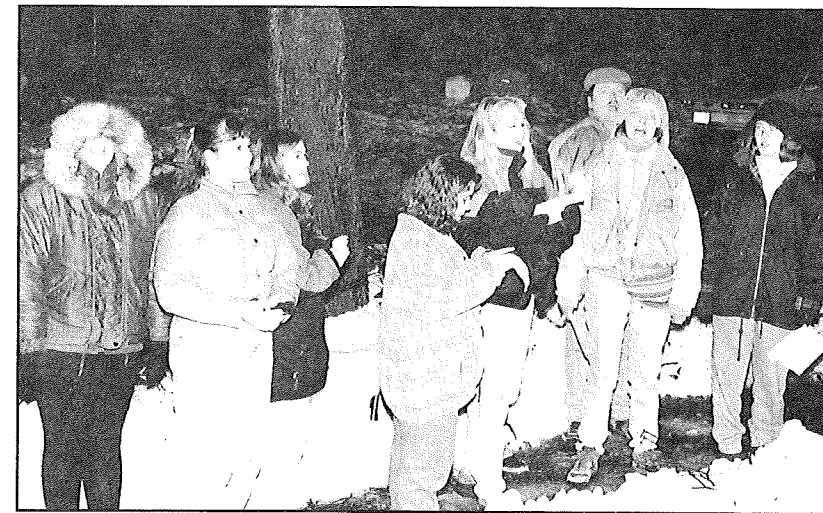
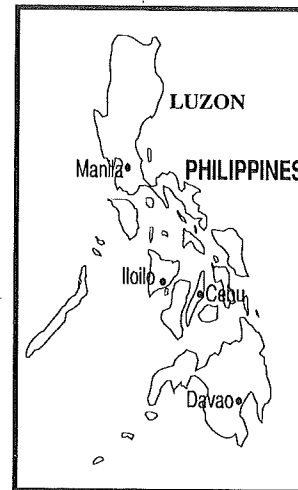
may also hold the meetings in the evenings.

The costs of the project are being covered by The Quiet Hour, so the only money students will need to raise will be the \$990 for the airfare over there.

This mission trip was purposely scheduled during UCA's spring break so that students who are interested in going won't have to worry about conflict with classes. And 20 of the 35 spots available are reserved exclusively for UCA students.

All those involved with this mission trip seem to be excited about it. Richard Parker, youth director for the Upper Columbia Conference, said, "We're really excited about this trip, and we're really looking forward to going over there to help!" Sara Strickland, a junior at UCA who is signed up to go, said, "I've always wanted to go on a mission trip. I think it'll be cool to get off the North American continent. I'm really excited!"

Amelia Magnuson



A group of brave first-night Ingatherers sings on Spokane's South Hill.

Christmas banquet draws couples to cafe

The SKS Christmas banquet was on Sunday, December 15, and was aptly fitted with a "Christmas" theme.

The night began with pictures, and many couples lined up at the last minute to get their memories framed. Although banquet seating was supposed to start at 5:00 p.m., many couples didn't show up for pictures until about 5 minutes before it was supposed to start.

After about 20 minutes of avid picture taking and general milling around, Peter Ellis, the assistant boys dean, quieted everyone down (kind of). After prayer, the tables were excused to fill their plates with--wait a minute--cafe food? More than a few people were surprised, and maybe a little frightened by the sight of Chicken a la King in the buffet line. After everyone was done, they had a variety of pies available, along with the punch and eggnog.

After everyone finished eating and were fiddling around with nothing to do, the entertainment was introduced. Joel Dickerson played a lively rendition of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," and then Melissa and Suzie LaPorte sang "Sisters." Finally, the saxophone



Marlan Kay, Kim Kaiser, Patty Mejia and Brian Hardin wait to have their pictures taken

quartet played three songs, and then everyone made their way up to the gym.

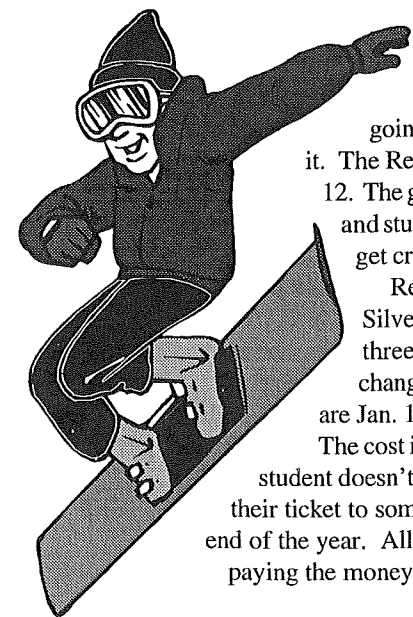
Once everyone arrived at the gym, they set up their own chairs and were shown a 3 Stooges segment, followed by the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life." Brenna Thomson remarked, "Didn't we watch this movie my freshman year?"

Although most people seemed to have a good time, there were some who were not completely satisfied and would have preferred more entertainment and a higher level of

service. However, everyone was not negative. Crystal Foster said, "The cafe looked really cool with all the white lights. The Boys' Club did a really good job of decorating."

Overall, the banquet atmosphere was cheery, with the usual blend of boredom and fun. Oh, by the way, about those wild rumors concerning the actual contents of the drinks . . . the punch was **not** spiked.

Lynn Rae Belles



Skiers nab credit

Most of the students of UCA will be going skiing and getting high school credit for it. The Rec. ski program costs \$160 and began Jan. 12. The group goes skiing six times during the year, and students must be there at least five of those to get credit.

Rec. Ski is currently scheduled to go the Silver Mountain twice, Schweitzer Mountain three times, and Red Mountain once. This may change according to snow conditions. The dates are Jan. 12, 19, 21, Feb. 9, 23, and March 9.

The cost includes transportation and lift tickets. If a student doesn't go on one of the trips, they can either sell their ticket to someone else, or they will get a refund at the end of the year. All of the money had to be in by Jan. 8, and paying the money automatically signed you up.

Students participating in Rec. Ski must be intermediate or advanced skiers or snowboarders. If not up to these standards, they may be asked to join the class program. This program is separate from the recreational program on the days of Jan. 12, 19, 26 and Feb. 9. Students taking the class program are required to be at their classes. The cost is the same as for Rec. Ski.

Andy Dougherty



Drives save lives

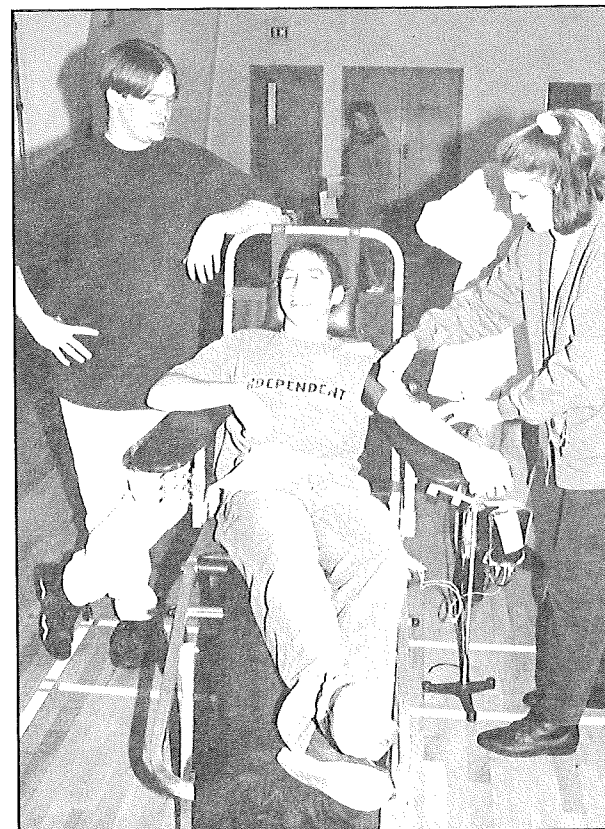
Every so often, you'll see posters or notices on a wall or perhaps even in your very own mailboxes that say, "Blood Drive" or "Sign up to save a life." More often than not, you just pass them up, thinking, "I don't have the time." or "It's not my problem." And you don't even think about it again until you see the next notice.

Well, the students and faculty at UCA and even some members of the town of Spangle believe that it is their problem. Many donate blood every chance they get, and Mrs. Torkelsen arranges for the drives to be in the gym a few times each year. There are many students who try to donate and are turned down. Leanne Straub said, "I really wanted to donate blood, but I couldn't because I had hepatitis once." And Olivia Noel said, "I wish I could give blood because I would like to be able to save someone's life."

After donating the first time, most people decide to do it again. It gives them a really good feeling to know that they saved someone's life. Sharna Aaen said, "It hurt, but it was cool to be able to save a life." And Daniel Perrin said, "I'd skip class every day to give blood."

It is a life-saving experience and gets you a nifty little sticker and some snacks, too. However, it is best to wait awhile after the needle is taken out before walking around. According to Brian Flemmer, "Light-headedness, while fun, may be dangerous."

Tiffany Wright



Cameron Gray donates blood while David Evans supervises and offers moral support

New year set to shock and amaze

Well, we've now arrived at a new year, 1997.

There will probably be quite a few shocking and amazing events that will take place during 1997, but many of them won't reveal themselves until they've happened.

One event of significance that we know will occur is the Pope's visit to Cuba. This event pretty much signals an end to communism in the Western Hemisphere. We all remember how John Paul II visited with Gorbachev less than a year before the lightning shift towards democracy in Eastern Europe. The journey to Cuba seems to portend similar things.

Another major event, though not as dramatic, will be the inauguration of Bill Clinton to his second term as President (an exciting event for some, downright boring for others).

If I were to have the freedom to

make predictions, I think that the peace talks in the Middle East will probably run into some major speedbumps, especially since the Arab states have vocalized their extreme disapproval of Ms. Albright's selection as Secretary of State.

As predictions go, the next one is a little iffy. I wouldn't be surprised if President Milosovic of Serbia is ousted. The extreme civil unrest in past months seems to be signalling a major change in that portion of the globe.

Admittedly, this is mostly conjecture, but still 1997 seems to be shaping up to be pretty active.

Seth Terry

If you take even one step toward Him in repentance, He will hasten to enfold you in His arms of infinite love.

E.G. White

The Echoes

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

This month's contributors included:

Lynn Rae Belles, Andy Dougherty, Amelia Magnuson, Seth Terry, Tiffany Wright and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

The Echoes
Upper Columbia Academy
E 3025 Spangle-Waverly Road
Spangle, Washington 99031

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2
Spangle, WA

Christmas Music

