

The Echoes

Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington

Volume 45, Number 5, March 1997



Students enjoy good food, conversation and a French theme at this year's Valentine's Banquet

Choristers unite to learn and sing

On February 20, over 150 students from 10 different schools in the Upper Columbia Conference arrived at UCA for the Choir Clinic, held here every other year under the enthusiastic direction of Carmen Swigart, UCA choral director. The visitors joined the 68 UCA choir members for two days of choral enlightenment. Numbers of participants from the different schools ranged from one, Kim Tull, from Beacon School in Lewiston to over forty from Lake City Junior Academy in Coeur d'Alene. Students came from as close as Spangle Adventist Elementary School here on campus to as far away as Harris Junior Academy in Pendleton.

In between hours of practice, the visiting singers got a taste of dorm life and cafeteria food, and UCA students got a little variety added to their lives as all worked to accomodate the large number of visiting students and teachers.

On Saturday night, February 22, the visitors, combined with the UCA choir (over 200 voices), presented the one-hour Choral Clinic Concert in the gymnasium.

Next year, Band Clinic will be held. Choir Clinic will return to the UCA campus in 1999.

Second Semester ASB Officers

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Olivia Noel,
Chaplain

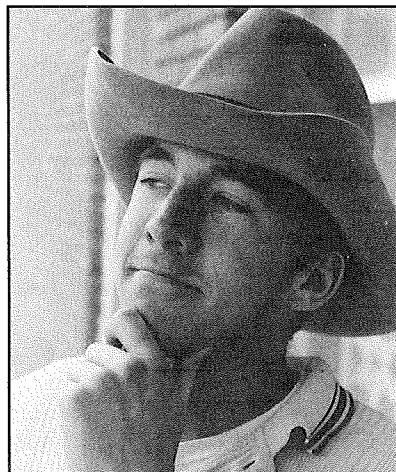
Katie Kyle,
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Pianist

Amanda McCoy,
Chorister



ASB President, Cam Gray, ponders the possibilities for second semester

Building on a firm foundation

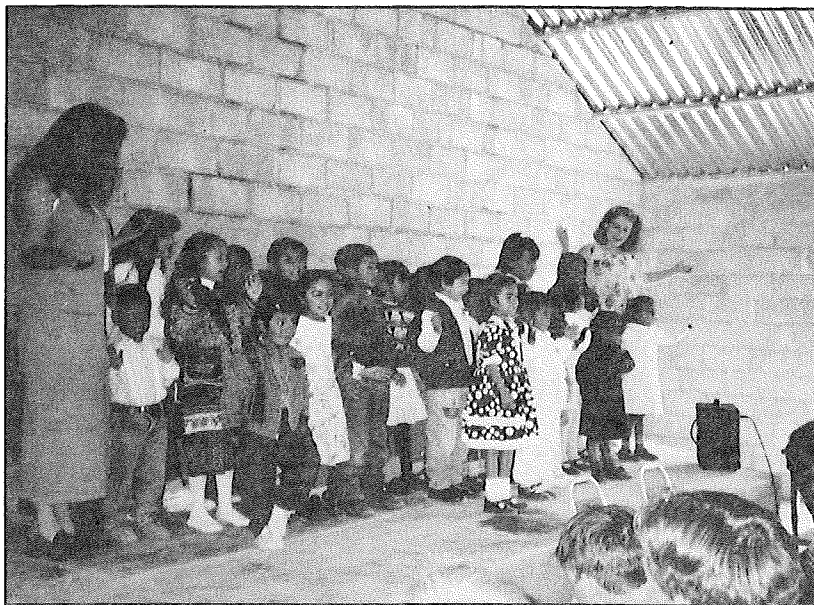
"What time is it Peach?" was my usual greeting when he woke me up every morning. "Six o'clock, boys," was his response. One must remember that San Luis, Rio Colorado is in the Mountain time zone, making Peach's answer five o'clock in Pacific time--too early for almost everyone. As Mr. Peach left to go pick up the women and take them to breakfast, I went back to sleep for another twenty minutes along with most of the others. Karl, Nathan, Matt, Don and I slept in the living room while everyone else chose to sleep on the porch, a place where the loud roosters greeted everyone at around 2:00 in the morning. One by one, we dragged ourselves out of bed and prepared for the long day ahead. Some started walking to breakfast while others were just getting up.

We ate breakfast in the dark as the horizon got brighter. Worship was over quickly, and we began our tasks as the sun crested the horizon. The job site was always buzzing with activity. The mixing crew worked hard trying to keep the block layers supplied with both mortar and cement. The block layers worked almost continuously as the walls slowly took shape. A group of us helped the brick layers by keeping them constantly supplied with fresh mortar and blocks. Others helped make pews from the lumber we bought. By the time lunch rolled around, everyone was ready for a break.

Lunch seemed to pass by too quickly for everyone. After a relaxing break, some of the women began preparing Vacation Bible School for the little kids that lived close by. Rick cut special blocks with the saw while Mr. Peach had some of us put on the roof after the outside walls were completed. Supper arrived as the sun started to set, and everyone quit for the day.



Students always enjoy the bus ride to Mexico!



Angie Sorenson and Julie Hone lead the children in a Vacation Bible School song

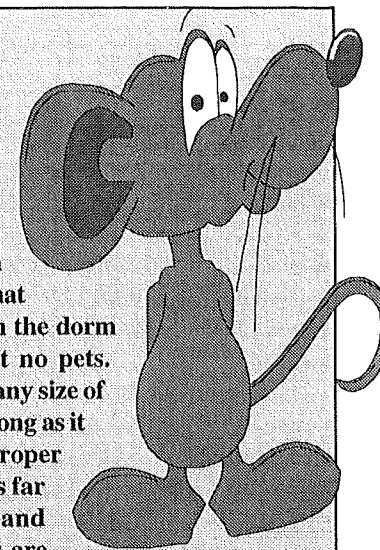
When supper was over, some of the guys would run the nine blocks to our abode so that they could get a shower before Peach arrived with a van full of women. Twenty-six people shared the one shower, and it ran non-stop for three hours each night. Some of us made trips to the local stores to buy snacks and other drinks to pass the time, while others did homework. Everyone was ready for some sleep when the women left for their housing. Not many people

had problems sleeping except those whom the roosters awakened.

Our schedule was like this for a week as we watched the church rise from a slab of concrete foundation. It took lots of hard work, but with the help of everyone, the church was finished Friday morning. I will never forget this Mexico trip.

Court Shrock

Dorm Pets



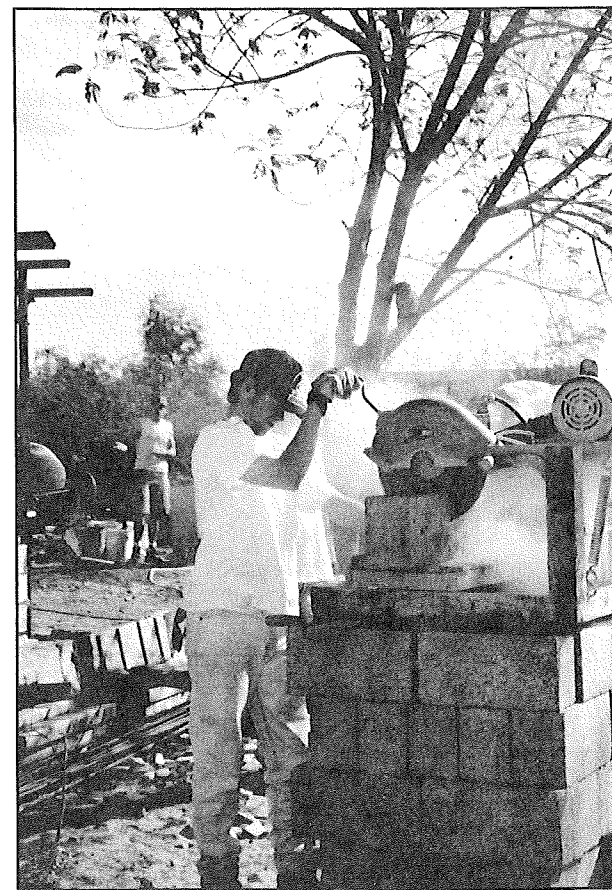
Upper Columbia Academy has a rule that no pets are allowed in the dorm rooms. Well, almost no pets. You can have almost any size of fish that you want as long as it is contained in the proper size aquarium. But as far as kittens, puppies and other furry creatures are concerned, well, that's another story. At first it seems like a good idea to have a snuggly kitten or a smart puppy, but consider all the problems that could occur if everyone were allowed to have pets in their rooms.

Pets would have to be left alone while their owners went off to class and work. That would be a problem. Aside from the obvious fact that pets would get lonely, there would be no way to control what the animals would do while their owners were gone. A pet puppy might decide he wanted out and tear the door to shreds in the attempt. A cat might decide to sharpen its claws on all the wooden furniture it could find. Let your imagination run wild. Things could get expensive in no time at all. Deans would have to charge a larger room deposit (several thousand dollars) simply to cover the possible damages. A new campus industry would have to be started to give away baby cats, dogs, hamsters, guinea pigs, rats, scorpions, tarantulas...

Pretend for just a moment that it is 2:00 a.m. and you are slumbering peacefully. All of a sudden, you are jarred awake by the shrill yipping of your neighbor's puppy. It appears that the poor dog has become lonely and has decided to wake someone to play with him. Cute? Maybe to some. Maybe once. Annoying? YES!

Finally, there are many people in the dorms who are extremely allergic to certain animals and are especially allergic to the hair that animals shed all over the place. It would be an invasion of their rights to make them live in the same building with a menagerie. They do, after all, have a right to breathe.

Amelia Magnuson



Rick Wetmore cuts custom block at the work site

Southern impressions

Things are very different in Mexico, and even though you know it's going to be, it's still a shocker when you cross the border. It is like a different world.

When you cross from Yuma, Arizona, you are on the main street of San Luis Rio Colorado. There are little stores and a few motels. Things seem darker--as if there was a film covering everything. People are everywhere and the smell of food filters through the air. The roads are paved until the 2600 block where they turn to dirt with potholes, and street signs start to disappear. It seemed as though people either drove 5 mph or 70 mph, and it was different to see people get out of their cars with a beer in their hand.

We stopped and asked directions a couple of times, and the people were friendly and glad to help. It seems to be a very social culture. They enjoy being outside and talking to family and friends. But some weren't socializing that Saturday night; they were out asking for money from those waiting to cross over into the United States. There were people selling things, and a father and his two sons played music while the daughter went around with a little bowl. It makes you realize we have many blessings to count.

Celeste Orcutt

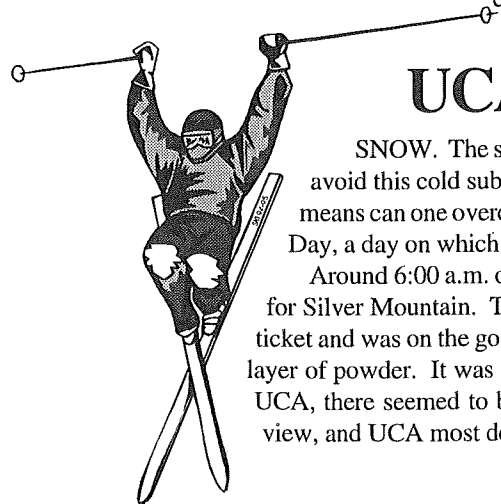
Stress

It's 3:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Your list of things-to-do includes studying for a history test, completing algebra worksheets, and attempting to be ready for the banquet at 5:00 p.m. As you start to feel overwhelmed, four common words run through your mind, "I am too stressed!"

Is stress always bad? No! Sure, prolonged and intense stress is, but (get ready for this) a moderate amount of stress can be good for you! The Yerkes-Dodson law suggests that moderate levels of stress enhance our daily performance. When perceived appropriately, stress can refine our character, deepen our sense of responsibility, and help us develop living a virtuous lifestyle. What are virtues? These are the positive character traits discussed in Galatians 5:22,23--love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

Stress can help us find direction in our life, therefore helping us discover joy. Gaining these benefits from stress can only be achieved by how we *choose* to perceive stress. If we view stress as a challenge and as a normal element of life that needs to be balanced, we can have victory over stress. By doing this, we become better people instead of victims of our stressed emotions.

Krista Wagner



UCA takes over the slopes

SNOW. The stuff seems to be, well, rather unappreciated! Most students try their best to avoid this cold substance by spending recreation time in the gym or doing laundry. By what means can one overcome this dislike of snow? Is there hope? YES! It's called Winter Campus Day, a day on which students can forget homework and school and just have fun. Remember? Around 6:00 a.m. on January 21, most of the UCA students loaded the busses and headed off for Silver Mountain. There was much confusion upon arrival, but eventually everyone had a lift ticket and was on the gondola ride to the top. The day was rather perfect: nice weather and a fresh layer of powder. It was a haven for beginners and experts alike. The funny part was that besides UCA, there seemed to be only thirty people there! With every turn a familiar face popped into view, and UCA most definitely ruled the mountain!

Lisa Gilbert



Exercising in the gym is one way to balance stress

Correspondence helps some

Correspondence courses are sometimes seen as a great solution. Heard a class is hard? Take it by correspondence. Have some graduation requirements missing? Take them by correspondence. But are correspondence courses the answer?

One advantage of correspondence courses is the amount of freedom they give you. You can get a week's work done in a few hours and have the rest of the week free. Also, correspondence courses are condensed with all the lecturing, waiting, and busy work removed.

Another interesting point that some people consider an advantage is the fact that you can plan your own schedule. While some programs require you to finish within a certain time period, most allow you to take as much time as you need. Students may work at their own pace, not having to keep up with, or stay back with, the rest of a class. You also don't have to worry about getting a teacher you won't like.

On the other hand, correspondence does have its problems. Some students lack the self-discipline to do the work without someone pushing them. Some courses, especially lab classes, can be duds, and it can be difficult to finish a course and get tests taken in time for graduation. Finally, students may have questions about classes which they are unable to have answered in a timely fashion.

Correspondence may be the answer to some students' school difficulties, but it isn't a wonder drug for everybody and can introduce some new problems. All students have their own style of learning, and correspondence isn't right for everyone.

Todd Graham

C'est Paris n'est-ce pas?

Dripping candles, dim street lamps, twinkling lights, and a romantic little bridge all created the atmosphere for the night of the Valentine's banquet. "Soirée de Paris" it was called, with a collage of city buildings lining the cafeteria walls, the white walkway underneath them set off by black light. The guests were serenaded with romantic violin music while they played the games that were provided on the backs of their programs and sampled hors d'oeuvres from the buffet.

Dinner was announced, and couples rose to get in line. Most said the food was much better than the Christmas banquet's. Desserts were fancy cheesecakes, petits fours, and mousse five inches tall.

After the eating was done and the honorary couples were announced, the students were invited to the gym for a show by illusionist Pete McLeod. The audience was dazzled by the show, especially when Mr. Marsh's tie was cup up and then magically reassembled. Finally, a movie, *The Scarlet Pimpernel* was shown, showing the dangers and excitement of the French Revolution.

Overall, the ASB's "Soirée de Paris" was a night to remember.

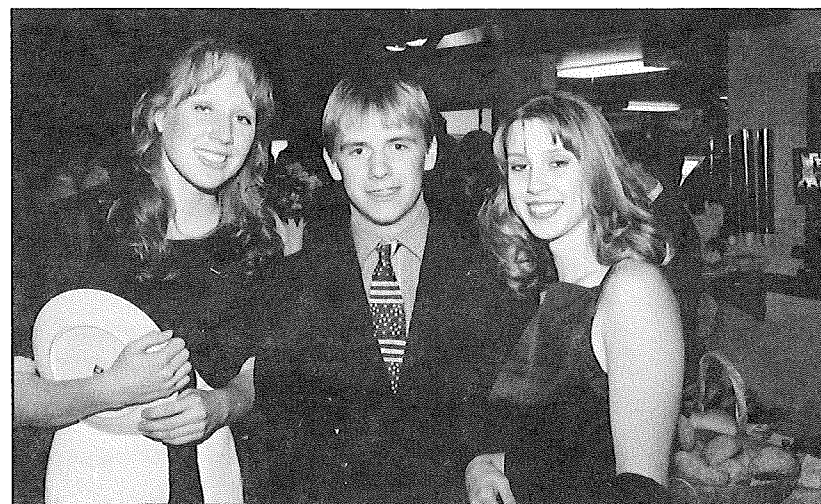
Victoria Kildal



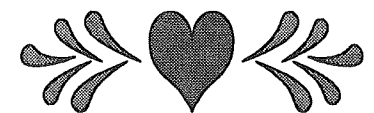
Olivia Noel helps Court Shrock with his boutonniere



Ryan Holcomb and Alyssa Rana are all set to enjoy a pleasant evening



Marshall Stagg keeps Beth Klein and Kim Parker from feeling lonely



The results of the poll at the Valentine's Banquet were:

SaraJyne Smith & Kevin Burman

Best-dressed couple

Becky Porch & Howie Munson

Most-romantic couple

Karl Meidinger

Ravishing Romeo

Krista Willinger

Gentle Juliet

Many said to question dress code

UCA has always had a strictly-enforced dress code for all special occasions. The current Sabbath dress for guys, for instance, is slacks, a suit coat or sweater, a collared dress shirt, and a tie. For vespers, guys are required to wear slacks, a collared dress shirt, and a tie. Many people, mostly students, think that this is very outdated. Most of the male student body would prefer more freedom in choosing what to wear. Lots of students think that worship would be more productive if they could wear clothes they are comfortable in.

Many of the faculty feel that when you are dressed up more you are in a more worshipful mood. They believe that when we go to church we should be dressed to meet God.

Many students believe that the dress code is overly strict, and that the school should set a more-relaxed minimum dress requirement. Students who wish to dress up more always can.

Many students are upset at always having to wear a suit and end up having a bad attitude. They feel that if the dress code weren't so strict, they could feel better and free to worship God in a more comfortable setting. Making a young man wear a suit coat on a hot day is probably not the best way to help him keep his attention where it should be. Also, if the students are never given any freedom of choice, how can they learn to make decisions?

The school should re-evaluate its current dress code and make changes wherever possible. Students should be free to dress as they want unless they are obviously not dressed appropriately to worship God. As long as students' dress isn't irreverent, it should be considered acceptable.

Andy Dougherty



Mud mountains stand guard along the banks of the creek

Campus muddy mess still lingers

Though hidden off and on by snowfall, the mess associated with the construction and other projects on campus still lurks, and with the approach of spring, it has become more obvious and difficult to deal with.

It all started months ago when the Spangle area was hit by a series of major rainstorms. All the rain in the soil made maneuvering the pieces of heavy equipment needed to finish the exterior brickwork on the new Administration building exceedingly difficult. However, with much flinging of mud and a few sheets of plywood, work got back underway. But the mud stayed where it had been flung. And the ruts stayed where they had been made. With the very important Family Fellowship Weekend rapidly approaching, cleanup became a high priority, and by the time the weekend rolled around, nearly all the mud was removed from the sidewalks and was covered with a layer of snow.

About a week or so after the Family Fellowship event, some new digging near the old Administration building displaced more mud and dirt. It seems this new digging was to lay pipe work to collect runoff from the roof of the new Administration building and send it into the storm drain. The project was completed rather quickly but a muddy scar still remains between the men's dorm and the administration building. Construction behind the women's dorm

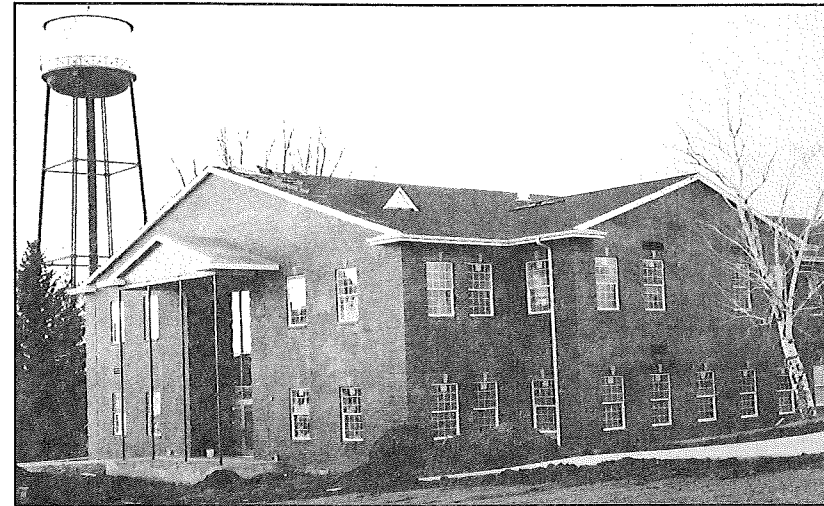
has added its own collection of ditches, debris and mud piles to the campus.

Yet another muddy project conducted near campus was the dredging and widening of the stream that runs near the cafeteria. This left some rather large piles of dirt and rock on either side of the stream. No longer covered by snow, these Spangle Mountains are the dominant feature as one approaches campus from the west.

Another unfortunate consequence of the early rain storms was that construction on the new Administration building was temporarily halted. No one seems to be very sure about when it will be completed, but Mr. Perkins said, "This year's Seniors will definitely get to attend classes in the building, even if it's on the last day of school." Currently, work crews are working on interior cabinets, wiring floor tiles and assorted other finishing projects. Completion is still scheduled for this school year.

With all the displaced mud and shrubbery, some wonder if the UCA campus will ever recover. Again, Mr. Perkins gave an answer, "Definitely. After the new Ad building is finished and the old one has been removed, and all the work related to it is done, the campus will look as good as new." This new look will also include fairly extensive recontouring of the grounds to meet State code.

Seth Terry



The Campbell Administration building as it appeared at the end of February

Closed weekends cause concern on campus

"If only there weren't so many closed weekends!" This is the cry of many forlorn UCA students who wish for more time off campus. Many students become frustrated with closed weekends. There are many reasons why some students are ungrateful for the 2 or so weekends a month when we must be here.

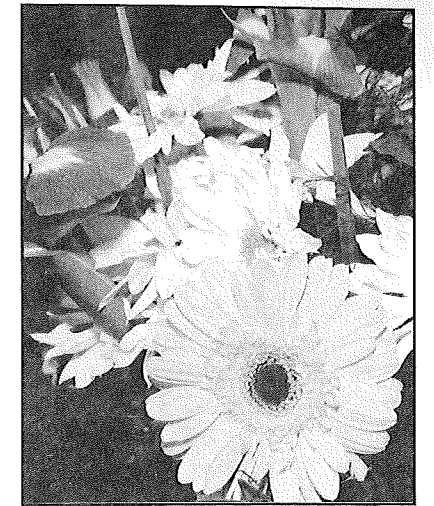
Ask any faculty for the reasons for closed weekends, and they will say, "We have weekends that we would like the entire student body to be involved in." According to Mrs. Torkelsen, even musical performance weekends include

participation by all the students. She said, "If the band played, and the weekend was open, who would they play for? Who would be standing there cheering for their friends? The students are the ones who listen and tell their friends what a good job they did." Although that is a good point, surely there must be consideration for the people who do not enjoy the cultural experience of choral and band concerts. These people would perhaps be more effective somewhere else, where they are not going to distract those who do want to listen. Therefore, why not make

those weekends open? Fred Riffel has the answer to that question. "If we made the music weekends open, all the musicians would leave too!"

If many students don't want to stay to listen to concerts, and many music students would rather leave also, the solution is simple. The administration should allow the willing and able to leave campus, and the smaller groups could perform for a smaller crowd, providing contentment (and nifty improvisational music) for all UCA students.

Lynn Rae Belles



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

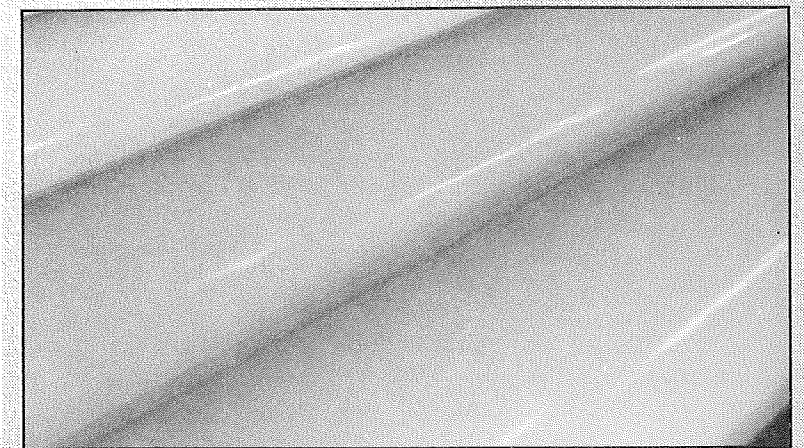
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This issue's contributors included:

Lynn Rae Belles, Andy Dougherty, Lisa Gilbert, Todd Graham, Mark Keymer, Victoria Kildal, Amelia Magnuson, Celeste Orcutt, Court Shrock, Seth Terry, Krista Wagner, and Stephen Lacey, sponsor

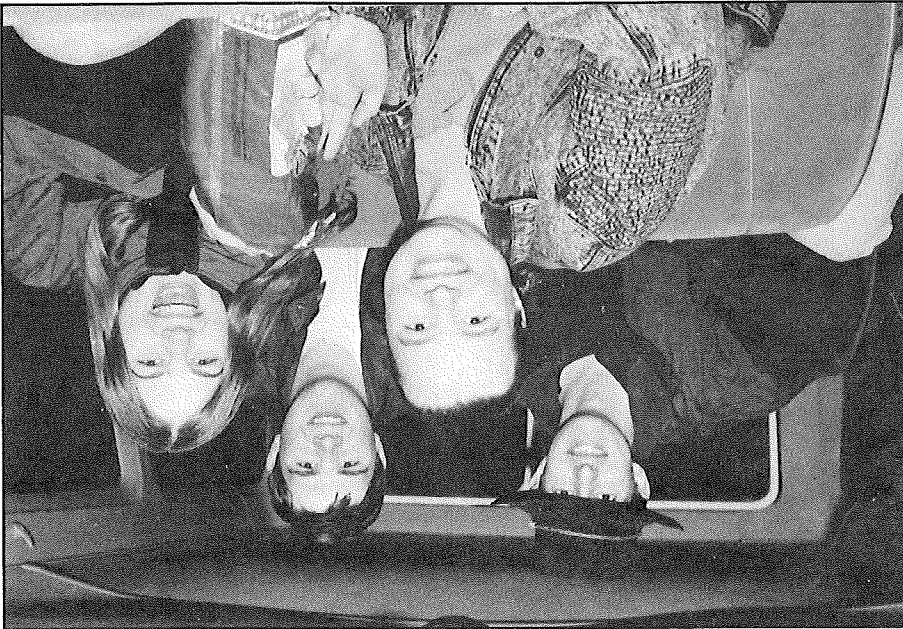
Mystery Picture

**This is a picture taken recently on campus.
Do you know what it is?**



Quiet outreach continues

Every Tuesday night without much fanfare three or four students and a staff sponsor load up a van and head out to the corner of 1st and Jefferson in Spokane to feed the hungry. The menu is predictable: tomato soup, cheese and lettuce sandwiches, and hot chocolate or juice. But the people seem glad for the food and for some conversation. The "Feed the Hungry" program has been a UCA outreach for years, and those who participate remember the words from Matthew 25:40 "... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



Murrie Currie, Shannon Oakes, Andrew Bigelow, and Malinda Brizendine wait in the van to go and "Feed the Hungry."

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