

Loreleis are a noteworthy vocal group

By JULIE BRASWELL
Features Editor

Most people couldn't have told you exactly who the Loreleis were four years ago. The 13-member a cappella singing group doesn't have that problem now.

The group has been called a female counterpart of the Clef Hangers, but there is no competition with the male capella group. The groups have worked side by side for such performances as last year's "Harmony on the Hill." The women are making a name for themselves by singing in the Pit, at Duke University, on Franklin Street and in residence halls.

"We've done more publicizing about the Loreleis, and we've had more performances," said senior Sara Levin, president of the singing group. "People know us now." Levin has been in the group for two years.

Although five of the girls will graduate this year, the group has had about 10 members who have been involved at least two of the four years since the group was re-established. This has produced a close-knit group that can sing together and have fun together.

"We go shopping together, to dinner together and to parties together a lot," Levin said. "I'm glad for the friendships that were gained and the ties I made through singing."

Senior Beth Klompmaker said, "We all have outside interests, but I feel really close to the group. You can talk things out easily. Since it's such a small group, if there's a problem you just go ahead and say what you feel."

The group has also become more polished in singing, since the same voices have been included for about two years. The group practices about four hours each week,

taking another hour to practice with individual voice sections. Levin, an English major, said that most of the members are not music majors, but the singing quality is evident.

"You can take a cappella music anywhere," said senior Margaret Moore. "If I go somewhere with another Lorelei, we usually wind up singing. All we need are our own voices."

The music of the Loreleis is as varied as the girls in the group. Selections include reggae, ballads, The Who, Elvis Costello, and for the upcoming concert, Christmas music.

"We experiment with a lot of different types of music," Moore said. "We emphasize the contrast in a performance. If we sing something religious or classical, we immediately follow it with something raunchy."

The group's music director,

Laurie Watel, is always searching for new music and new arrangements for the group to sing. Watel said the group is the best it has been since its revival. She credited its success to the group's closeness, the music and the students' increased awareness of the group.

"We have tons of fun together," Watel said. "I think that shows in our singing and our shows, too."

Klompmaker, who will be graduating in December, said she will remember the time spent with the group even after she is gone.

"The group was my outlet," she said. "It was one of the things that helped me get through school. I hope I'll keep singing even after I am gone from UNC."

The Loreleis will perform at 8 p.m. at Great Hall on Dec. 6. Tickets are available from group members and can be purchased at the door.

Students deck the dorms with lots of holiday spirit

By JULIE WOODS
Staff Writer

It is the season to deck the dorm rooms with boughs of holly and anything else UNC students can think of.

Homemade wreaths, wrapping paper on doors and handmade paper garlands are some of the different holiday decorations found in dormitories across the campus.

"Little trees in rooms, garland trimmed around doors, stockings in rooms, little cardboard cutouts of Santa on doors, lights in windows, 'snow' sprayed on windows are decorations that I've seen," said Sybil Madison, a resident assistant in Carmichael.

Darlene Tant, a resident assistant in McIver, said she thought most students made the decorations at home and brought them back after Thanksgiving break. Students also have purchased decorations at Chapel Hill stores.

"I've seen students go in drug stores and buy the cutouts," Madison said. "I think a lot of times it is a spur-of-the-moment type of thing."

Freshman Laurel Hershey and her roommate purchased some decorations and brought other ones for the holidays. They have fake snow on the windows and a true Charlie Brown Christmas tree decorated with earrings and a necklace. There are presents underneath the twig-like tree. A Christmas poster and a Christmas candle complete the decorations.

Students also have tried to spread

their Christmas cheer with others in many ways.

"We decorated everyone's room in our suite with snow on their windows and on the suite window," Carmichael resident Stephanie Richard said. "We also rolled a roommate's room with toilet paper for a Christmas present."

Some students are content to decorate only inside the dormitories, but others decorate bushes and trees.

"Some girls took tinsel and put it in the bushes outside the dorm," Tant said.

Most dormitories will have Christmas parties to celebrate the season. McIver residents plan to hang holly on the mantels and put up a Christmas tree.

"It's really neat to have the dorm decorate the tree," Tant said. "We will have hot chocolate and cookies with a VCR playing 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas' in the background."

Most students decorate their dormitory rooms to get a feeling of home during the season and to help relieve the stress of exams.

"It makes for a more happy atmosphere. It reminds them that they will be going home soon," Madison said.

Students are not allowed to have live trees in their rooms because of possible fire hazards. Any other decorations are acceptable as long as they aren't in the way of the housekeepers and the elevators, Madison said.

December graduates get head start on the real world

By KATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Sheepskins, not sugar plums, dance in the heads of some UNC seniors. These seniors, planning to graduate Dec. 12, look forward to a holiday free from scholastic worries.

"Hopefully, I'll have a job," said Constance Lewis of Thomasville. When she's not studying for exams in these next two weeks, Lewis is starting her job search during the holidays.

Lewis said she already has been job hunting, but she is keeping her options open in case she decides to return to graduate school.

Mitch Sams, an inter-disciplinary major from Charlotte, plans to cook for a local restaurant until May. He will then travel to New York City to enroll in a culinary institute. Sams said he is looking forward to going back to school to study with about 65 of the world's best chefs.

Sams has mixed feelings about leaving the University, as well as leaving the town of Chapel Hill.

"I don't know if I'll miss the academic community or not," he said. "Here, there's so much going on, you really get exposed to a broad range of experiences."

December graduates will receive their diplomas in the mail in January, according to Kathy Benzaquin, the associate dean of students. The one-hour graduation program will be held in Memorial Hall, and students will not wear caps and gowns.

"It isn't a formal commencement, and that often confuses people. They

come thinking it's cap and gown," Benzaquin said.

Although winter graduates are invited to participate in formal commencement in May, several students said they will decline that option.

"I've already been through one commencement ceremony," said Lewis. "I'm sort of a mellow person anyway, so it makes no difference if I don't have the cap and gown. I'm ready to graduate."

Michelle Shumaker, a political science major from Charlotte, agreed with Lewis. "I sat through two graduations here and it's entirely too hot."

Sams said he will miss the pomp

and ceremony of a formal commencement. "I wish I could go to it. I've seen pictures and it looks pretty amazing."

Last year, 899 students graduated in December, according to Benzaquin.

Reasons for early graduation are varied. Shumaker said she took summer school classes to finish up early so she can be married in January. Lewis said she wants to get a head start on the job market.

Because the graduation date falls in the middle of finals, several seniors will still be in Chapel Hill finishing up their exams after going through the graduation program. For seniors

who will be taking exams on Saturday, the day of their graduation, Benzaquin said they may request to move back the exam by an hour. The last exam starts at 2 p.m., and the program begins at 4 p.m.

Several seniors admitted to being nervous about taking exams after going through the graduation ceremony.

"It's sort of like tempting fate to do anything," said Shumaker. She has two exams left after graduation.

James Exum, chief justice of the N.C. Supreme Court and president of the General Alumni Association, will welcome students as new alumni. William Friday is the scheduled speaker.



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