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## By Tracy Urban

## Dear Santa,

Every year at Christmas time I write to you with a long list of material wants. This year my Christmas wishes may be a little harder to fill.

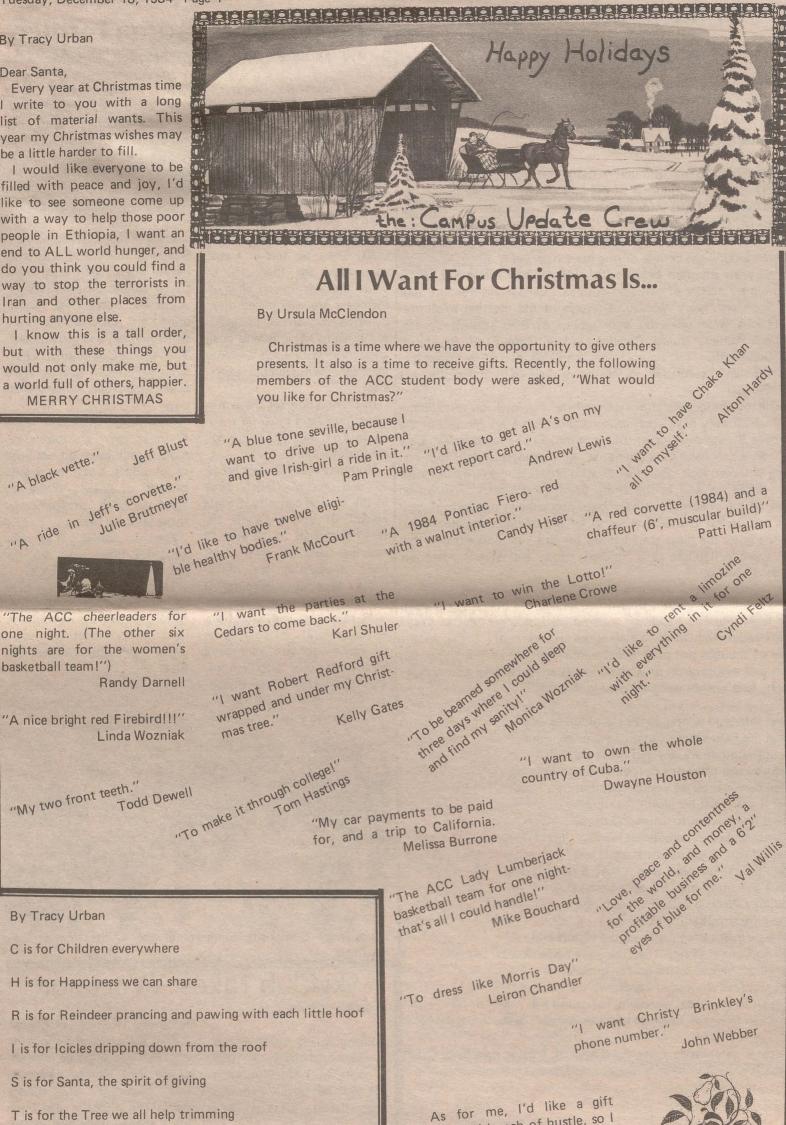
I would like everyone to be filled with peace and joy, I'd like to see someone come up with a way to help those poor people in Ethiopia, I want an end to ALL world hunger, and do you think you could find a way to stop the terrorists in Iran and other places from hurting anyone else.

I know this is a tall order, but with these things you would not only make me, but a world full of others, happier. MERRY CHRISTMAS

"A black vette."

basketball team!")

By Tracy Urban



wrapped bunch of hustle, so I

could be quicker at basketball

Ursula McClendon

practice!

T is for the Tree we all help trimming

M is for Mother who works hardest of all

A is for Angels we hang on the wall

S is for Stockings and stars in our eyes, waiting for Christmas sunrise.

lewish Festival ofLights

## By Connie Allen

In the Jewish religion the holiday time, between November and December, is the Festival of Lights or Dedication, called Hanukkah or Chanuckah. Jewish history relates that in 165 BC a large force of Jews led by Mattathias vanquished an army of Syrians. The Jews were fighting against being forced to worship the Greek gods. They wished to pray to their one God, Jehovah, from the time of Moses. Mattathias and his sons were called the Maccabees. Maccabee means "hammer" in Hebrew.

Hanukkah begins on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kisley. On the Roman calendar this day falls at the end of November or sometime during December. The holidays last eight days to celebrated the eight days the sacred oil lasted after the Maccabees reclaimed their temple. The Menorah, the temple lamp of old, was used to burn the oil in nine cups, the first cup being the Shamos or servant. Most modern Menorah's hold candles and one is lit for each of the eight days, beginning with one and adding another each night. Each night the Shamos is lit first and then used to light the others.

Small gifts are exchanged during this time, special foods served, games played, and other traditions observed.

All Jewish families remember their fight for freedom to worship as they chose, without fear. They share the spirit of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, with all people who love freedom.

\* To Dr. L. Aufderheide and the Journalism staff:

I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, and I would like to thank you for a good semester.

Renee Kaschner