

# December Graduates Prepare to Walk

By AMI SHAH  
Staff Writer

By Dec. 20, UNC's 2002 fall semester will be nothing more than a memory.

While most undergraduates will be on a three-week hiatus from classes, a handful of seniors will return to campus for UNC's December Commencement ceremony.

"Everyone is on break when we graduate," said Nolan Beall, a psychology and political science major who will be graduating in December.

"We are on break too, but it's a more permanent break."

December Commencement, which will take place at 2 p.m. Dec. 20 at the Smith Center, is notably smaller than UNC's traditional May Commencement ceremony.

In May 2002, there were more than 4,000 degree-seeking candidates.

Although the December Commencement ceremony also includes August graduates, it remains relatively small in comparison to May Commencement. About 1,052 seniors will receive their degrees at the December ceremonies.

"Sometimes I feel like I'm the only one graduating," said Salman Yusuf, a business major planning on graduating

this month.

Jane Smith, associate director of University events, said the December Commencement's smaller size is the reason the ceremony does not take place at Kenan Stadium.

"More students simply complete degrees in May, so number-wise, the Dean Smith Center better accommodates the December graduates," Smith said.

Ayana Griffin, a communications major also planning on graduating this month, is quick to dismiss the perception that December Commencement often goes unnoticed.

"I see just as many announcements for December and feel well-prepared in terms of knowing what to do," Griffin said.

Yusuf thinks a premier public university such as UNC should have secured a speaker as highly touted as the May Commencement speaker.

Professor James Leloudis is scheduled to deliver the Commencement address at the December ceremony.

"Look at the Commencement speaker for May - Bill Cosby," Yusuf said. "I don't even know who the December Commencement speaker is."

Leloudis, a 1977 UNC alumnus, serves as a history professor, associate

dean for the Honors Program and director of the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence at UNC.

Elsabet Fisseha, a senior also graduating in December, said she thinks professors often deliver better addresses.

"I don't think that one speaker will do better job than another just because he is more famous," Fisseha said.

Yusuf said that despite the differences, there are perks to graduating in December.

Yusuf took summer classes to complete his major requirements in time for December graduation so he could travel and pursue an internship in the spring.

Because of less competition, Yusuf said he thinks it is easier for December graduates to get a job or internship.

Griffin, however, disagrees. "Because of the economy and September 11, getting a job is difficult either way," she said. "Although I think I am getting a head start."

Regardless of whether it's December or May, their accomplishments cannot be diminished.

They entered as undergraduates and will leave as UNC alumni.

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

# Industry Combats Increased Cable Theft

By JACK KIMBALL  
Staff Writer

Cable companies are combatting rising cable theft on national and local levels with commercials and improved cable technology.

The cable industry is using paid commercials in its anti-cable theft campaign, which is the most commonly known method of informing people of the problem. Also, technological advancements, such as the use of digital cable instead of analog cable, make theft almost impossible and are more subtle ways of preventing it.

Kathy Thornton, attorney for the N.C. Cable Telecommunications Association, said cable theft is not a victimless crime - the victims are the paying customers whose cable bills increase. "Cable theft has certainly increased in the last four or five years."

Brad Phillips, Time Warner Cable's vice president of government and public affairs for the Raleigh area, including Orange County, said the campaign to stop unauthorized use of cable is not a new one and will continue. "It's an ongoing campaign," he said. "We are constantly vigilant about cable theft."

Nilda Gumbs, the assistant director in the Office of Cable Theft for the National Cable and Telecommunications Association, said the demographics for cable theft could not be attributed to one population group. "Cable theft crosses every demographic boundary you could possibly imagine," Gumbs said.

But the college-aged population is at least one demographic partly responsible for the rise in cable theft.

A UNC student who wanted to remain anonymous said he and his suitcases in Granville Towers share one cable box between them.

He said the method they employed to steal cable was to have one person pay for the cable box and the four of them split the cost. Each obtained use of the cable by splicing wires between the activated box and other boxes that are not activated.

"We're sharing between a lot of people," he said. "I didn't really see anything wrong with it."

A 1999 study by the NCTA said the cable industry loses \$6.6 billion in revenue per year. The figure does not include money lost to unauthorized viewing of pay-per-view programming.

Gumbs estimated that there are 30 to 50 criminal cable theft cases pending nationally.

Some people use decoders and de-scramblers to steal programming. A single illegal decoder will cost the cable industry \$3,849 in lost revenue over its lifetime. Cable de-scramblers are illegal in only 32 states.

Thornton said the cable theft awareness campaign has attracted the attention of the problem deserves and has helped get the laws enforced. "I think we're seeing a greater willingness of local law enforcement officials to prosecute cable theft crimes," she said.

Under the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act, all persons who "manufacture, import, offer to the public, provide, or otherwise traffic" copyrighted technology measures are subject to up to \$500,000 in fines and five years in prison for the first offense.

Gumbs said that although the NCTA did support the Millennium Act, it still remains to be tested practically. "If the law hasn't been tested, you can't know if it's doable."

The City Editor can be reached at citydesk@unc.edu.

Kudzu



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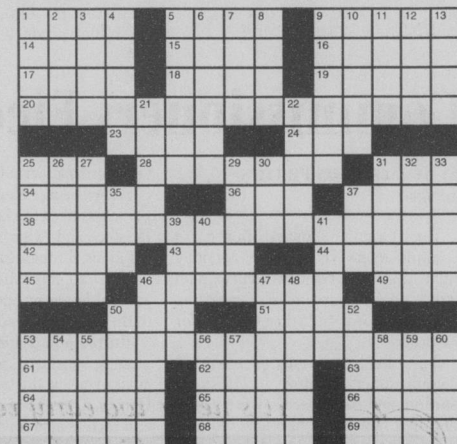
## THE Daily Crossword

By Gregory E. Paul

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Bluish green
  - 5 Doe's mate
  - 9 Animated Fudd
  - 14 Used to be
  - 15 Consequently
  - 16 Far out!
  - 17 Age after Bronze
  - 18 S.E. Asian country
  - 19 Magna
  - 20 Lemmon film of 1964
  - 23 Dryer deposit
  - 24 Decorative vase
  - 25 Strike sharply
  - 28 Waterfall
  - 31 Naval noncom
  - 34 Koran deity
  - 36 Covered up
  - 37 Succotash ingredient
  - 38 The Who hit of 1981
  - 42 Resistance units
  - 43 HMS part
  - 44 Vice
  - 45 Forty winks
  - 46 Non-Jewish
  - 49 Horned snake
  - 50 MacGraw of "Love Story"
  - 51 Of sound mind
  - 53 Classic sitcom of the 1950s
- DOWN**
- 1 Branchlet
  - 2 Architect
  - 3 End of a buck?
  - 4 Tennis player
  - 5 Title role for Jennifer Lopez
  - 6 Attributes
  - 7 Keenly eager
  - 8 Golly!
  - 9 Cry from the crowd
  - 10 Memorize
  - 11 Milky Way maker
  - 12 Jazz singer
  - 13 Ramble
  - 21 Cranny
  - 22 Chum
  - 25 Nylon cousin
  - 26 Ciao in Honolulu
  - 27 Portly
  - 29 Thorax
  - 30 Ventilate
  - 31 Charmer's snake

- 32 Squeeze
- 33 Standing by
- 35 Tummy muscles
- 37 Stage signal
- 39 "They Died with Boots on"
- 40 Soft metal
- 41 Baking chambers
- 46 John and Scott
- 47 Tristan's love
- 48 Attorney
- 50 Out in front
- 52 Waned
- 53 Young deer
- 54 Lotion ingredient, often
- 55 Chronometer information
- 56 Variation of lotto
- 57 Inert gas
- 58 Canal of song
- 59 Address for a king
- 60 Abound



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December

6

thru

Wednesday

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December

18

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| Saturday, Dec 7   | 10:00am - 6:00pm | Sunday, Dec 15     | 1:00pm - 6:00pm  |
| Sunday, Dec 8     | 1:00pm - 6:00pm  | Mon-Tue, Dec 16-17 | 7:30am - 8:00pm  |
| Mon-Fri, Dec 9-13 | 7:30am - 8:00pm  | Wednesday, Dec 18  | 7:30am - 5:30pm  |

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