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Entertaining study breaks

BY MICHAEL PUCCI
ASSISTANT ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

As another exam period descends on the students of UNC, it is important to remember what author Don Herold once said about the nature of work.

"Work is the greatest thing in the world, so we should always save some of it for tomorrow."

Worthy advice indeed, so here are some notable events to indulge in as you search for reasons to procrastinate.

Cat's Cradle highlights its schedule Dec. 13 with local country-rockers Southern Culture on the Skids.

To see the Cradle's full schedule, visit <http://www.catscradle.com>.

Go! Room Four is hosting a pair of benefit concerts Dec. 12 and 13. They might be the last chance you have to catch a show before the venue shuts down.

Local 506 is featuring Delta blues band T-Model Ford on Dec. 13.

On the big screen, "The Last Samurai," arrives Dec. 5. The film stars Tom Cruise as a Civil War veteran in 19th century Japan.

"Big Fish," the Tim Burton adaptation of the novel by North Carolina author Daniel Wallace, comes to theaters the following week, along with the Jack Nicholson romantic comedy "Something's Gotta Give," also starring Diane Keaton.

All of this, however, is mere prelude to the box office bonanza that will be "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," a post-exam treat raiding wallets everywhere Dec. 17. The trailers for the film have devotees salivating over the conclusion of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantastical epic — not to mention Oscar.

From the silver screen to the theater, the PlayMakers Repertory Company is staging a production of the Harold Brighouse play "Hobson's Choice." The classic English comedy runs through Dec. 21.

Any good study session requires a good soundtrack, and as the record industry prepares for the Christmas surge, here are a couple of titles that are sure to fly off the shelves.

The quest to get Clay Aiken off the airwaves begins Dec. 9, when American Idol winner Ruben

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ELF **PG** Daily 1:05, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
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