

GRADUATIONSHOCK

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by Lora Woodrum
Clarion Reporter

Graduation is almost here. For many it brings feelings of accomplishment, relief, and happiness. But the short time before graduation is thought to be the most trying for sophomore students.

The students are faced with the aggravation of deciding where to further their education after Brevard College, and the feeling of remorse and loss knowing that these are the last few days they will spend here among the friends and staff members that they have adapted to as their family over the past few years.

Adelaide Miller, the college's transfer counselor, said that many students could make their decisions concerning where to attend school after Brevard easier if they do not wait until the last minute. "Most of the students I have not even seen down in the transfer office," Miller said. "It is crucial that students have an idea of the school they would like to attend to assure that the classes they are enrolled in now are of the right sequence."

Most major schools have reached their deadlines for applications. For students who enrolled at a college and were denied, this means searching for any college able to fit them in at the last minute. "Students should apply to more than one college," Miller said. "It is better to get accepted by many than none at all."

A majority of freshman think it is too soon to be considering where to attend school after Brevard. The truth is, it is never too soon. By this time in a student's education they should have some idea of their major, and need to be aware of those schools best to attend for a degree in that area of concentration. "Students should think definitely of their career," Miller said.

The enrollment at major universities is very high. It is becoming more and more difficult for a student to be assured acceptance. Students should apply as soon as possible, she said.

But it is not all confusion and denial for graduating sophomores. Many were accepted to the college of their choice and are counting down the days until graduation. For those students not keeping track, Linda Wilson, the athletic department's secretary, has been marking down the final days left in this school year. Wilson worked in the Student Affairs office when she first started marking out the final days of the year on her calendar. "I would say, Oh, how much longer, how much longer," said Wilson. "Marking down the days gives me the courage to go on to the end."

If you were to look at Wilson's calendar today you would see that only 38 more days are left until "the end." This include weekends!

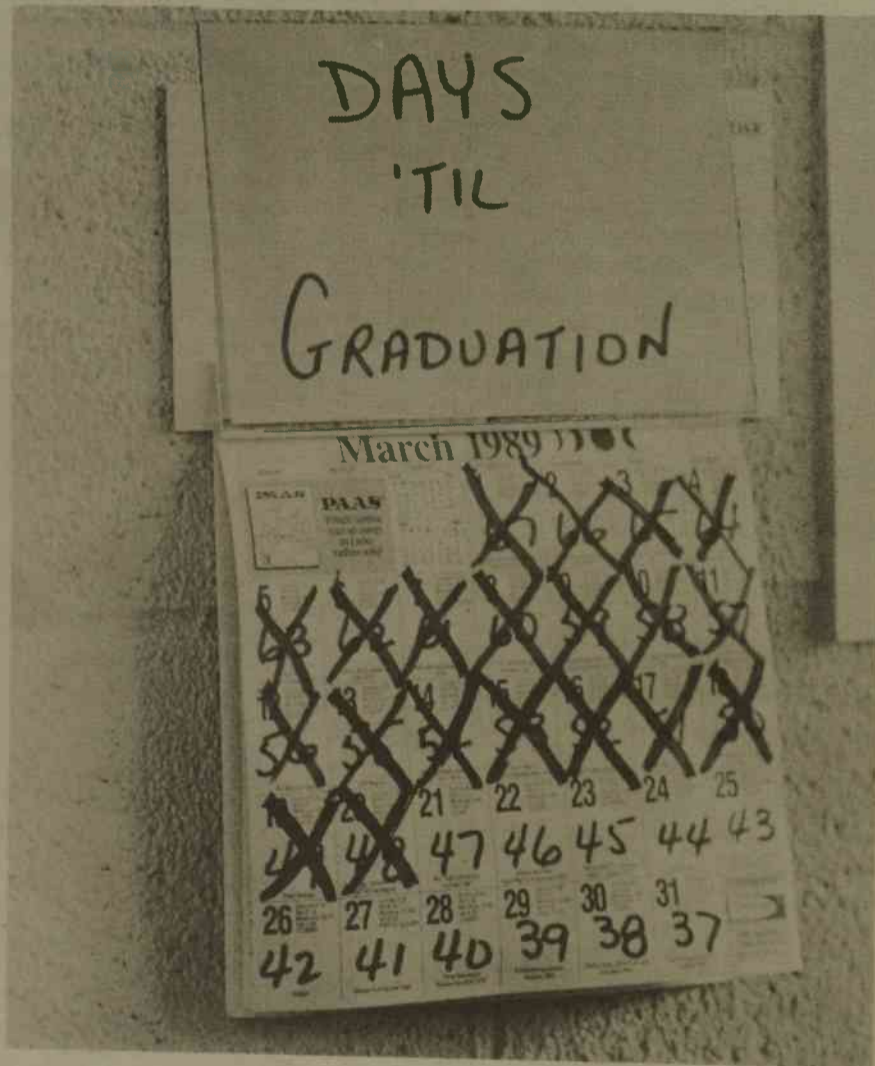
Many sophomores are aware that the end of their education here at Brevard College is quickly approaching, and for those sophomores who are not yet aware, the realization will hit them soon enough.

"It is the saddest thing to leave Brevard because it is like a big family here," said



Graduation Shock

Artwork by Matthew French



sophomore Jennifer Rett. "There are great memories here." Jennifer, who will be attending Boston University, said that the change from Brevard to a major university will be a definite culture shock. There she will be a number and not an individual like she is here at Brevard.

For sophomore Jill McDaniel, attending Brevard has not only been a learning experience but it has also given her a sense of identity. When asked what she missed the most when she leaves Brevard, Jill said, "For two years I built myself and my friends. I have given myself an identity." She also said that since Brevard is a small school she knows almost everyone. Going to a bigger university will mean new faces everyday. "Although Brevard is smaller school I have met a wide variety of people," Jill said. "Meeting the different types of people will help me when I go to a larger school."

Brevard definitely has its share of different students. Izumi Kikukawa is one of the many students here at Brevard from Japan. When Izumi first came here her freshman year she said she was always bored, but now that she looks back, and she has had a lot of good times and holds a lot of memories. Izumi will go back to Japan after this school year to work and says she will miss her friends the most. Studying has been harder for her than it was in Japan, but coping with boys was also an obstacle. "I did not talk to boys that often in Japan," Izumi said. "Now, especially during my sophomore year some of my best friends are boys." Izumi also said that she has become a more positive person.

"The most important part of my life has been spent here," said sophomore Benny Gandy. "I will miss the family atmosphere and how everyone seems to understand me and care for me." Benny said that if there was one thing that he could say to the freshmen and incoming students it would be to take their time to learn and do not rush getting out of Brevard. Take time to look around you, feel and be a part of what Brevard has to offer, he said.

Benny would like to thank all his friends that he has come so close to. "I can think of so many people that mean so much to me," Benny said. "I especially would like to thank my piano teacher Tony Serranni for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself."

Freshman Charlotte Safrin said, "a part of us will be gone without the sophomores. The sophomores and freshmen became one big family. It is not going to be the same." Charlotte, like a lot of other freshmen, said that she will remember all the good times and the comfort that she felt from the sophomores.

Sophomores experience several different emotions this time of the year. The majority feel though that attending Brevard College has helped to prepare them for the future. Here they have learned responsibility, independence, achieved self-confidence, will power and a sort of bonding even when the odds are against them.