

Audio Problems, Illness Put Damper On West's Commencement

BY SUSAN USHER

Neither severe audio problems nor the illness of two schoolmates could quell the excitement of commencement exercises for West Brunswick High School graduates last Thursday evening.

In the school courtyard Principal David R. Corley presented diplomas to 173 of the 174 graduates, referring to the faulty public address system when he said, "I'll bet you didn't know what a private little graduation you were going to have."

The absence of graduate Jonathan Clemmons and underclassman Richard Lancaster did cast a pall over the shortened ceremony, which ended with the rapid approach of black thunderclouds from the north. Clemmons, of Supply, remains hospitalized in New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington after surgery. He was struck and critically injured in a May 21 accident.

Special music by the West Brunswick High School Band was dedicated to Lancaster, just named the band's outstanding trombonist, who remains in critical condition in New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington following an aneurysm in his brain. His older brother, Eugene Wilson Lancaster III, was one of graduates.

"He is in our thoughts and our prayers," a band spokesman told the audience.

As seniors held on to their caps and tassels in gusting winds, their friends and relatives filled several bleachers and overflowed onto the sidewalks and the lawn of the courtyard.

Because of continuing difficulties with the public address system, many in the audience heard only fragments of the commencement program.

Speakers in addition to Corley included senior class officers on the class motto, "We've Only Just Begun." Superintendent of Schools John Kaufhold and Board of Education Chairman James Forstner.

"If you only remember one thing from high school, let it be a willingness to learn new things," Forstner advised. "I don't want to hear about any of you just getting by," he continued, urging students, "Whatever you do, do it well. You will be judged by your work."

In a brief inspirational message, Kaufhold told the graduates, "You are special," and advised them not to let others set limits for them.

"Don't let anyone tell you you can't do something," he urged. "Believe in yourself. If you believe in yourselves you can take control of your lives."

Dannielle Bettinger, secretary, welcomed guests, telling parents that the graduates "not only welcome, but we thank you."

Reflecting on the seniors' high school experience, Treasurer Shannon Bardin described the class as "a somewhat inseparable family."

"We've laughed together, cried together, and most important of all, we have made memories together," she said. "We will use these experiences to shape our futures, to mold what we will become."

"And though physically separated, we will remain one at heart."

President Felicia Stanley, close to tears, told classmates, "We will never say goodbye."

Noting its members' independence and aggressiveness, she proudly added, "I know my class will never have a problem making our stamp on the world. We've only just begun."



CO-CHIEF JUNIOR MARSHALS Jeremy Danford and Kelly Ward lead the procession of marshals, graduates, faculty and administration.

In her invocation Lee Scarborough, vice president, termed commencement "both a reward and turning point" for seniors.

Plyler, valedictorian, presented the class gift, a new entrance gate to the student parking lot. In turn, Corley recognized both Plyler and Sheila Kay Lancaster, salutatorian, with plaques.

Assistant Principal Sandra Robinson presented the class for diplomas, which they received from Corley.

Other honor graduates recognized on the program were Shannon Renee Bardin, Craig Dean Dasher, Jonathan Russ Gore, Tanya LaRae Gray, Wendy Dianne Hewett, Maria Maila Jackson, Joel Carlyle Johnson, Jeremy Lyle King, Jeffrey Neil Mintz, Robert Dwayne Parker, Jessica Anne Perkins, Sean Kevin Rogers, Phillip Jeffrey Russ, Virginia Lee Scarborough, Bonnie Lynn Stanley, Barbara Lee Tripp and Lewis Brent Tyndall.

Calendar Of Events

Thursday, June 16

CALABASH VFD AUXILIARY meets at the fire station, 10 a.m.
SHALLOTTE LIONS CLUB installs officers at Sandpiper Golf Club, 7 p.m.
HOLDEN BEACH PLANNING BOARD meets at the town hall, 7 p.m.
GAME NIGHT at the American Legion Post, one mile south of Shallotte, U.S. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 17

ROTARY CLUB of the South Brunswick Islands meets at Tavern On The Tee, Sea Trails Golf Club, Sunset Beach, 7:30 a.m. Visitors welcome.
CALABASH EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS CLUB meets at the Calabash fire station, 10 a.m.
PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be held at the Leland Branch Library, 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m., 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY will be held for the Leland Sanitary District business office, Village Road, Leland, (across from Leland Baptist Church), 3 p.m.

WEST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL Athletic Booster Club meets in the media room at the high school, 5:30 p.m.
GAME NIGHT at the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.
SHALLOTTE AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP meets at Camp United Methodist Church, 8 p.m. This is a support group for families of alcoholics.
CLOSED MEETING of Alcoholics Anonymous for individuals who have a problem with alcohol, AA Building, Grissettown, 8 p.m.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS meets at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, N.C. 211, Southport, offering 12-point program to help addicts overcome their desire to use drugs, fellowship among recovering addicts, 8 p.m. Call 762-6638.
SHALLOTTE WHEEL AND DEALERS Square Dance Club dances each Friday at the American Legion Hut south of Shallotte, 8 p.m. Public welcome.

Saturday, June 18

A TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP by the Brunswick County Literacy Council continues at the Leland Community Center, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., with space available for those who have not completed certification or want to refresh their skills. For more information, call the Council at 754-7323.
CALABASH VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD THRIFT SHOP, located beside the squad building on N.C. 179, will be open, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC at the Boiling Spring Lakes Volunteer Rescue Squad, Boiling Spring Lakes, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.
OCEAN ISLE BEACH Fire Protection Association meets at the fire station for its annual meeting. Officers will be elected and the annual report given, 10 a.m.
AUDITIONS will be held by the Brunswick Players to cast two women and four men in "Barefoot In The Park," a Neil Simon comedy to be presented in August, Southport Library, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Persons interested in any phase of production are asked to attend.
TOWN CREEK VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD serves fried chicken and barbecued pork dinners and holds a bake sale at the rescue squad station on U.S. 17 at its intersection with N.C. 87, Winnabow, \$3.50 per plate, starts at 11 a.m.
THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY FISHING CLUB serves chicken bog dinners at the clubhouse at Sunset Harbor, free to club members, small fee for others, 5:30 p.m.
A GOSPEL SING will be held at Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department near Holden Beach, sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary, 7:30 p.m.
OPEN MEETING of the Supply Group, Alcoholics Anonymous, every Saturday, for alcoholics and other persons interested in the disease, in the dining room, The Brunswick Hospital, Supply, 8 p.m.
GAME NIGHT will be held at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department, 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 19

FATHER'S DAY.
OPEN AUDITIONS will be held by the Brunswick Players for its August production of Neil Simon's "Barefoot In The Park," First Step Computer Systems, Village Pines, N.C. 179, Shallotte, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. Two women and four men will be cast; also, persons interested in participation in any aspect of production are asked to attend.
OPEN MEETING of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Grissettown AA Building, 8 p.m.

Monday, June 20

HOLDEN BEACH COMMISSIONERS meet in special session to adopt the 1988-89 budget, at the town hall, 9 a.m.
BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS meet in regular session in their chambers, Administration Building, Brunswick County Government Center, Bolivia, 6:30 p.m.
THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY AIRPORT COMMISSION meets at the airport, Long Beach Road, Southport, in a session rescheduled from June 13, 7:30 p.m.
THE SHALLOTTE PLANNING BOARD meets for a work session at the town hall, 7:30 p.m.
SUNSET BEACH'S Beach Access Plan Public Participation Committee meets to review its draft plan, at the town hall, 7:30 p.m. A revised draft will go to public hearing on July 18.
CLOSED MEETING BY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS every Monday for those who have a problem with alcohol, the AA Building, Grissettown, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21

IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS with the Coast Toasters Toastmasters Club. Because of restaurant holiday, meeting moved this week to Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. office, N.C. 179, Shallotte, breakfast meeting, 7 a.m.-8 a.m. Guests and prospective members welcome. Call 754-5082 after 6 p.m. and weekends.
PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be held at the West Brunswick Branch Library, Shallotte, 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m., 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
THE BEACHCOMBERS' SHELL STUDY GROUP meets for lunch and its monthly meeting, Sizzling Sirloin Steakhouse, Shallotte, 1:30 p.m. For more information call Louise Mason, 579-2178.
BRUNSWICK COUNTY SENIOR COUNCIL meets in the Public Assembly Building, Brunswick County Government Center, Bolivia, 2 p.m. Open to representatives of all senior organizations.
ISLANDER SQUARES DANCE CLUB meets at the Brunswick Community College Annex, North Lord Street, Southport, 7:30 p.m. The caller is Ray Pardue.

Wednesday, June 22

IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS with the Brunswick Toastmasters Club, Ship's Chandler Restaurant, Southport, guests and prospective members welcome, 7 a.m.-8 a.m., 754-5082 for information.
PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be held at the Southport Library, 10 a.m.-10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.-11:45 a.m.
BRUNSWICK COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE meets at Sizzling Sirloin Steakhouse, Shallotte, 12:30 p.m.
THE STROKE SUPPORT GROUP will hear from stroke victim Vance Shepherd on how he has overcome limitations in trying to live a normal lifestyle, at the Grand Strand General Hospital classroom, Myrtle Beach, S.C., 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m.
CLOSED MEETING for individuals who have a problem with alcohol, at the Alcoholics Anonymous Building, Grissettown, 8 p.m.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS meets each Wednesday at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, N.C. 211, Southport, offering a 12-step program to help addicts overcome their desire to use drugs and fellowship among recovering addicts, 8 p.m. For more information, call 1-762-6638.



ANXIOUS PARENTS wait with loaded cameras to snap "their" graduate receive a West Brunswick High School diploma. In the foreground from left are Larry Richardson, Phil Cheers and Rex Gore.

BACK INJURY!

That sudden sharp pain could mean a pinched nerve or slipped disc. Don't wait for the pain to go away! Get treated immediately! Back injury is a serious matter. Vital nerve functioning can be blocked often resulting in:

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| <p>1 LOW BACK & LEG PAIN</p> <p>2 NECK-SHOULDER & ARM PAIN</p> | <p>3 HEADACHE & DIZZINESS</p> <p>4 SWELLING & STIFFNESS</p> |
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LEAD -A CONSUMER ISSUE

If you have not already, you will receive by June 1988 a public notice from your water utility about the potential of lead contamination. The Water Quality Association (WQA) has prepared the following information to answer questions you may have about lead and drinking water.

Ask me about lead...

How does lead get into my drinking water?

Lead rarely occurs naturally in water. Lead contamination can enter a drinking water supply at any point in the water delivery system and through leaching from lead service connections, pipes, or lead solder in copper pipes in the home. Lead levels in drinking water may occur if:

- The public water system has lead pipes or lead service connections; or
- The home has lead pipes; or
- The home has copper pipes with lead solder.

In all three examples, lead leaching is more likely if the house is less than four years old; or water sits in the pipes for several hours; or the water is naturally soft. **DO NOT CONFUSE NATURALLY SOFT WATER WITH WATER TREATED BY WATER SOFTENING EQUIPMENT. THEY ARE NOT THE SAME.**

What is the difference between naturally soft water and ion exchange softened water?

There is at least one very important difference. Naturally soft water is found in areas across the country, and is very likely corrosive. It is the corrosive nature of the water that makes it a problem because it may contribute to lead leaching.

Some people, including a few experts, have wrongly equated softened water, produced by a water softener, with naturally soft, corrosive water. The water softening process does not cause or control corrosion.

If softened water is not a problem, why have some water utilities advised homeowners to either remove or replace the water softener?

Since some authorities experts misunderstand the difference between naturally soft water and that which is softened by an ion exchange water softener, they are mistakenly advising consumers to remove or replace their softeners thinking it will make the water less corrosive. This is simply not the case.

In fact, if lead is entering the water before it enters the home, such as in the service connections, removing the water softener could actually increase the consumer's exposure to lead.

Water softeners can help solve a lead problem because ion exchange softening can reduce lead in water.

How can I tell if I have lead in my water?

If you suspect you have a problem, you may want to have your water tested either by your local health authority, or a state certified laboratory. Make sure that the laboratory takes both a "first draw" sample (the water that immediately comes out when a tap is first opened) and a "fully flushed" sample (to open a tap several minutes to send large volumes of water through the pipes).

What should I do if my water is naturally corrosive and I have a water softener?

Just as a water softener does not create corrosivity in water, it cannot reduce it either. You may want to install an additional treatment method after your softener, which can adjust the pH or otherwise reduce the corrosivity of the water.

If my water is tested and found to contain lead, what can I do to solve my problem?

When the source of lead contamination is outside the home, WQA recommends the following technologies: ion exchange water softener, reverse osmosis or distillation. If the household plumbing is the primary source of lead contamination then distillation or reverse osmosis, installed at the point of use, are recommended.

Once I have equipment installed, should I check it regularly?

All equipment needs maintenance. Be sure to check product performance capabilities, warranty, maintenance provisions and the general operating instructions provided with the equipment. Consult your local water quality improvement professional or the manufacturer if you have questions.

Water Quality Association

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