

Threatening Skies Force North Graduates Indoors

BY DOUG RUTTER

For 122 North Brunswick graduates, the joy of finishing high school may have been of secondary importance Saturday morning to the relief of finishing commencement exercises.

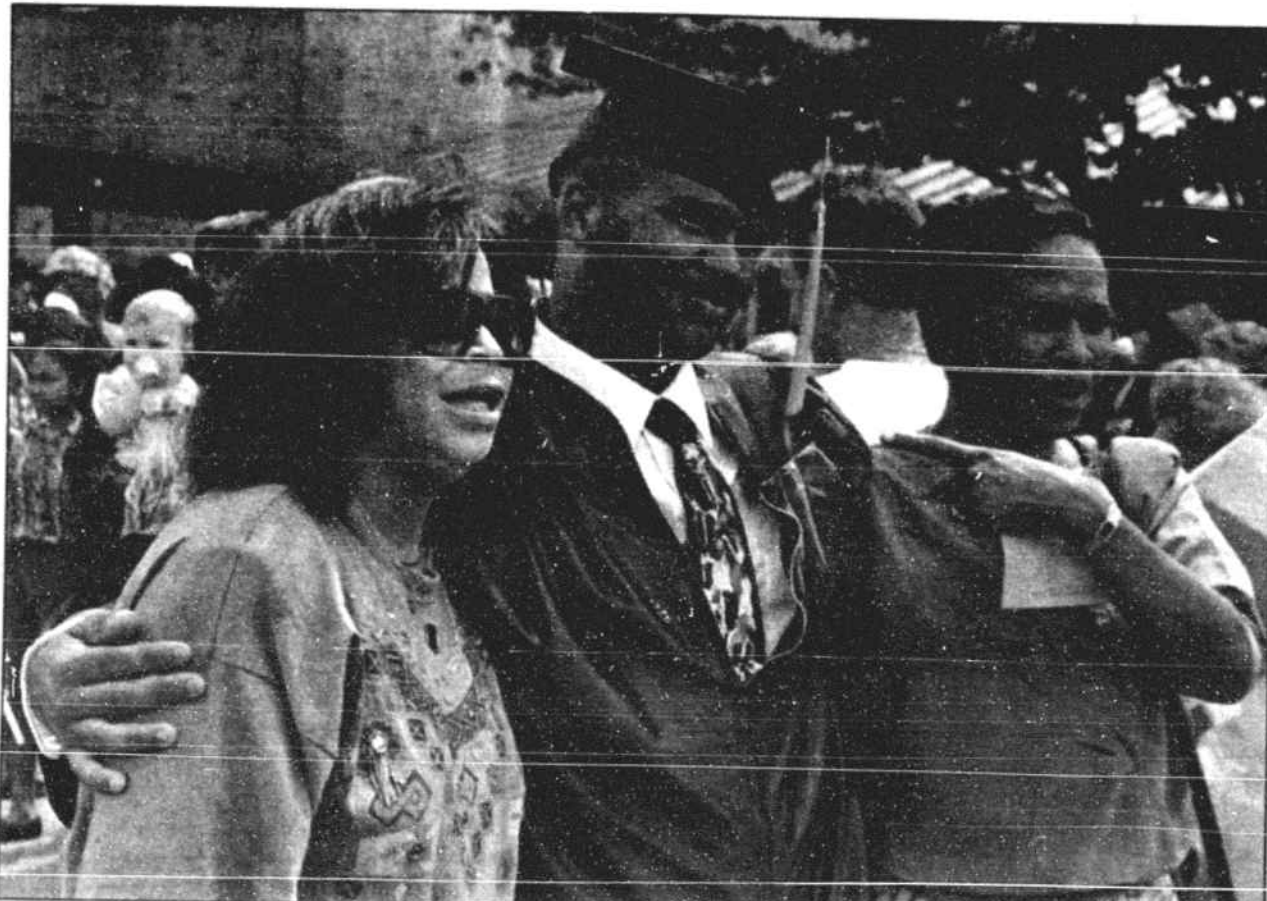
With dark clouds looming over Leland, graduation was moved from its designated site at the football field to the school gymnasium. It never did rain, but it felt like a tropical rain forest in the muggy gym.

Graduates, relatives and friends tried to keep cool by using graduation programs as hand fans. It seemed only appropriate when a beach ball started bouncing around the gym.

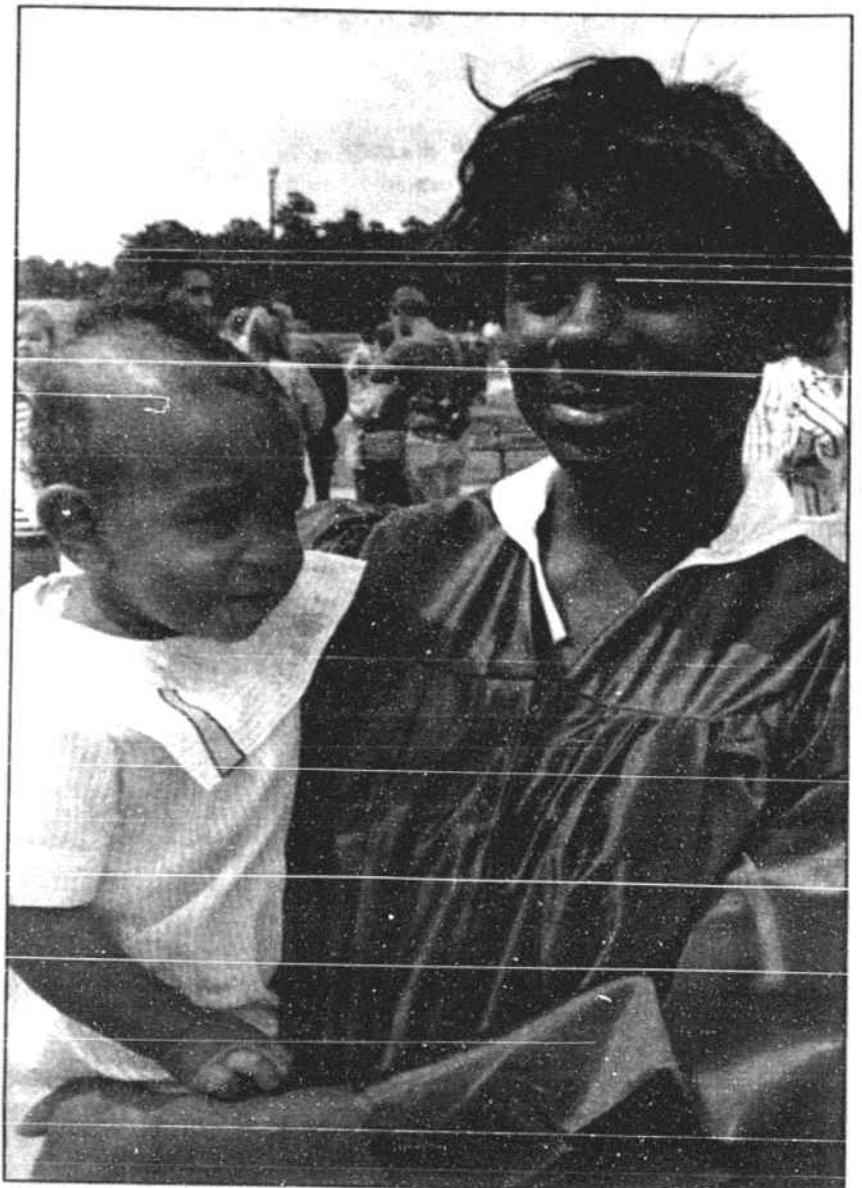
Parents and other well-wishers rushed outdoors as soon as the ceremony ended and the Class of '94 had marched out. Everyone was happy to breathe fresh air following the uncomfortable 30-minute program.

Of the 122 graduates who received diplomas from Principal Robert Harris, more than half, 80, plan to attend a community college or a two-year or four-year college or university.

In a brief address to the class, Brunswick County Schools Superintendent Ralph Johnston said every good accomplishment requires hard



DEAUNDRE SANSBURY (center) poses with his mother, Bertha Robinson (left), and aunt, Sandra Ross, while his grandparents snap a post-graduation photo.



GRADUATE L'KISHA PRETTY is congratulated by her cousin, Jeffrey Nelson, who should be donning a cap and gown around 2011.

work, perseverance, commitment and sacrifice.

"I salute, applaud and commend you for the quest and pursuit of excellence you have been engaged in for the last 12 years," Johnston said.

"Often it is the road less traveled that I submit to you is the road best traveled," he added.

North Brunswick valedictorian Zachary Miller said students have depended on parents, teachers and friends their whole lives.

"Now it's time for us to experience things on our own," Miller said, challenging his classmates to set high goals.

"Many of us will go our separate

ways...but the knowledge we have gained and the experiences we have will be with us forever," Miller added.

Salutatorian Christopher Rice said, "For some it's just another Saturday morning on the couch watching cartoons. For us, the Class of '94, it's the first day of the rest of our lives."

Donna Baxter, chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Education, offered congratulations on behalf of the school board.

Baxter urged graduates to stay involved in the communities, stay informed and use their vote wisely.

Recognized as North Carolina Scholars were David Brew, Shannon Dorsey, Alessandra Gibbs, Jodi Heath, Zachary Miller, Mark Mitchell, Christopher Rice and class president Andrea Dauphinais. Other honor graduates were Sharlene Bordeaux, Angelia Brown, Jeremy Child, DeAngela Cobb, Kerri Edge, Jennifer Loftis, Athelia Moore and Anika Walker.



CHAUNTRELL BURNS received red roses and a balloon in addition to her diploma Saturday morning at North Brunswick.

Waccamaw Celebrates Academic Recognition With Medallion Awards

Waccamaw Elementary students who made the A or A-B honor roll for the first three-nine weeks grading periods were honored with medallions in the school gymnasium June 2.

Brunswick County Schools Superintendent Ralph Johnston presented the awards, followed by a reception for students and their parents in the library.

Students receiving awards are as follows:

Grade 4: J.J. Fowler, Whitney Little, Gee Simmons, Dana Leggett, Rubi Romero, Christina Reaves.

Grade 5: Brandon Dyson, Ashley Hughes, Nicholas Jones, Maria Romero, Christina Faircloth, Bran-

don Hughes, Matthew Russ, Melvin Russ, Emily Pritt, Shanna Simmons.

Grade 6: Nicholas Tompkins, Nicole Babson, Amanda Bland, Will Gore.

Grade 7: Troy Simmons, Chris Russ, Aimee Long, Stacy Phillips, Natasha King, Crystal Duncan, Josh Thomas, Michael Stevenson, Cedric Grant, Cody Inman.

Grade 8: Ashley Cox, Melissa Mills, Carolina Rivera, Hollie Taylor, Michelle Hughes, Terra Milliken, Sam Mintz, Jason Norris, Amanda Smith, Raven Stocks, Stephanie Todd, Amber Inman, Leigh Milligan, Erica Minton, Tiffany Skaggs, Michael Stanley, Tasha Thompson, Kevin Anderson.

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