

GRADUATE SCHOOL: MEREDITH MABE

*Lexington, N.C. senior to begin
grad school...in June*

□ **Life after graduation is rushed for one woman heading to Boone.**

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In less than one month, senior Meredith Mabe will be beginning graduate school. By then the senior from Lexington, N.C., will have graduated from Meredith with a B.M. in vocal performance, and will be heading to Boone, N.C., to search for an apartment before she begins her first summer semester at Appalachian State University in June.

Mabe has always wanted to go to graduate school. She just didn't anticipate she would be going back so soon.

Mabe auditioned for the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian back in March. However, she said that she was unaware her first term would begin in the summer.

"I didn't find out until recently that I had to go in the summer," she said. Since then, this naturally organized and conscientious woman has been readjusting to a future moving in fast forward.

"I'm getting very stressed because this week has been filled with finishing up undergrad," said Mabe. "I think when I find a place to live [in Boone], things will get better."

During the week after graduation Mabe plans to travel to Boone to find an apartment, not an easy task considering she has never spent an extended amount of time in the small mountain town.

This past March when she was on the Appalachian campus for her audition, she "drove



Senior Meredith Mabe will graduate this Sunday with a B.M. in vocal performance. She will begin graduate study this June at the Hayes School of Music at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

around some and looked at the campus and...the areas around it," she said. But while she has been getting more familiar with the area, she said the frustrating reality she was facing was that she still didn't know a lot of the resources to consult in Boone, such as where to find safe, affordable housing, where to buy the cheapest groceries or even where to rent a movie.

Yet despite the stress of moving to Boone, Mabe is glad that she is going.

"I am looking forward to concentrated study in my field," she said. "No more general education classes."

She said that because of the size of the Hayes School of Music, it will offer her many opportunities to work one-on-one with professors and to get involved with extracurricular music activities--such as the school's annual opera production.

"I'll be able to audition and hopefully participate in them," she said.

Mabe hopes to obtain her Master's from Appalachian and work for a couple of years as an adjunct professor at a small college or as a choral director for a church. Eventually, she wants to get her doctorate and "teach voice at a college or university."

Yet while other Meredith graduates are enjoying the first post-graduation days, Mabe will be hurriedly planning, packing and organizing. She, however, says it is worth it. If all goes according to plan, she will have her Masters of Music in hand in "no more than a year."

"I will go to a summer session, a full year, and another summer session," she said.

"I'm very excited about that."

PHOTO BY JOHN WILSON