

EDUCATION

GRADS

From 1A

minor in Creative Writing and English Literature." She is aspiring to be an elementary school teacher, motivational speaker and an author. Moore currently has a tutoring program and over the summer she plans to continue her work through summer tutoring. She said that she will also teach dance, probably go to the beach and spend time with her mom. "I'm a Mommy's girl," Moore said with a big grin. One day, further down the road, she wants to travel the world and start a scholarship program for lower income adults and children who are seeking careers in education. "I believe that education is really important. In order to succeed in anything that you do, you have to have a back bone," she said.

Cantrell said that this summer will be a busy one for her. She will be working at the girl scout camp Golden Valley as a unit leader. "I

only have one week off during the summer. It's an over night camp so I'm gone 7 weeks out of the summer," she said, noting that she isn't sure what she will be doing besides resting that one week. She plans to attend Gaston College for a year and then transfer to Western. Like Moore, she too wants to major in elementary education but plans to minor in Child Psychology. "I want to be a teacher in Jamaica," she said. "I visited Jamaica with the girl scouts. We did a literacy program down there and it made me want to be there and teach them."

The three of them admitted that they knew this was where they would go their own separate ways in life. Although, they could tell that it may be a little sad to say goodbye, their future awaits. "I'm ready to go on in life and do other things," Cantrell said. "The exciting part is that I'm going off into the world to venture on my own. But the sad part is I'm going to miss all my colleagues I've made over my

high school career," Moore said. "I'm happy," laughed McClain, continuing with some hesitation by saying, "but I might as well say I'm a little sad."

They ran off with the rest of their class to their homerooms for final head counts and appearance checks around 6 pm. Every student had to wear black shoes to match their black caps and gowns. Young men had to wear white dress shirts and ties, but extras were at the ready in the office, for ones who forgot. In an effort to conform to the black shoe code, one student frantically colored his white shoes with a black magic marker.

A steady stream of cars, full of loved ones, were still pulling into campus as the graduates, teachers and Junior marshals lined up outside of the band room. Led by school and American flags, a river of black caps and gowns marched through the latecomers with heads held high, bright smiles and uncertain eyes.

Words of encouragement



Caroline Cantrell, Nicole Moore and Jeffrey McClain posed for a quick picture before running off to homeroom for the last time. Cantrell and Moore both have aspirations of teaching the world's youth. McClain plans to become a social worker.

and challenge echoed throughout the stadium as different speakers approached the microphone. Valedictorian Cody Barrett told his class to, "Journey into the world with arms

wide open." Principal John Yarbro told the crowd of anxious supporters, "I could not be more proud of how these seniors have met the expectations set before them." He told the graduating seniors, "You have completed a journey that has taken you down many roads to get to this point in your life. Not all of your roads have been smooth and easy. I applaud your efforts and the decisions that you have made to keep you on the right course. Taking advantage of your educational opportunities and graduating demonstrates your ability to succeed."

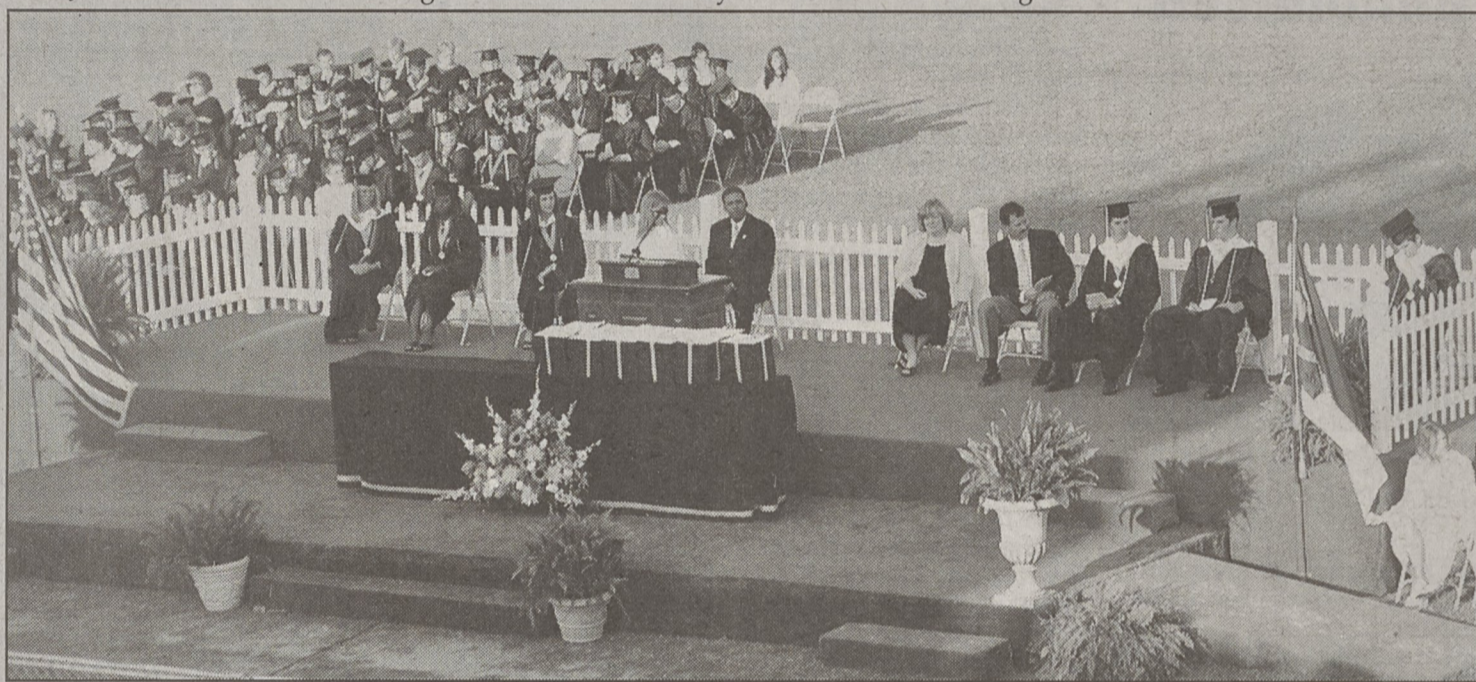
"As you begin a new journey, I challenge you to create goals and have dreams that will provide you a specific travel plan for the future," Yarbro said, continuing by telling them to stay true to their course.

"We are ready for the next step," said Salutatorian Trey Robinson. He finished with words from the poem, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" by Dr.

Suess, reciting, "You're off to great places! You're off and away! You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes you can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And you are the guy who'll decide where to go."

Yarbro and Cleveland County School Board members Shearra Miller and Terry McClain handed diplomas to the eager grads, as applause, cheers and the occasional airhorn broke the silence between names.

After all of the names had been called, Yarbro proudly announced Kings Mountain High School's Class of 2006. Some tassels were moved to the graduate position before hats were tossed in celebration. Relatives and loved ones cheered from the stands and their new roles were defined... as the grads begin their solo game of life, family and friends may not always be able to join them, but they will forever cheer from the sidelines.



Some graduates were ready for the night to be over but the loneliness of goodbye came as an aftershock. Sitting on the stage, were speakers Kristyn Funderburke, NaTara Fowler, Susan Potter, Angelica Adams, Terry McClain, Shearra Miller, John Yarbro, Cody Barrett and Trey Robinson.



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