

FEATURES

Graduation Speech

By Andrew Fung

—Delivered at Kentwood High School 2007 graduation ceremony

High school is like reading a good book, or in some cases – a bad one. There is a beginning and there is an end and whether you like it or not - your teacher assigned it – to be read without negotiation, dissent, or compromise. The book has a set number of pages which provide an ending to publicly required education.

The way the book ends can impact you in two ways. The first is a reflection back on the exciting and gut-wrenching chapters of the book which make you say “Man, that was tight! I remember that part when...” The second is a reflection on the tedious dialogue and loosely woven plot which only leads you to say “Wow. I definitely wasn’t a fan of it. I wouldn’t recommend it”. Now, I’m not here to say that any one of these responses is better than the other, because both are completely legit.

So as this story comes to an end, the climax has passed, the pieces of the puzzling plot are finally coming together, remember that whether you’re going to a big university, a small liberal arts college, community college or just happy that Mrs. Daughtry allowed you to walk at graduation today, there is a whole lot of life left in each one of us. So it’s up to you to shut this book, and whether you take a moment to savor the memories of your past or quickly tuck those years in your back pocket and move right along - remember that the rest of your life is what you decide to make of it. So make it good class of two

thousand and seven! Until then, I walk it out I walk it out.

No more finals.
No more tests.
No more homework. No more stress
No more teachers, no more pets.
The end of high school. No more no less.

The four hundred and fifty of us dressed up this evening donning green and black gowns are walking. We walk, to celebrate the achievement of our diplomas. We walk, to signify the end of publicly required education. We walk, because at graduation practice, we were told me we couldn’t run.

Some of us enjoyed our walk through high school more than others. Some of us will walk away from this Tacoma Dome teary eyed; already nostalgic of Kentwood. Some of us will walk away feeling relieved that we don’t ever have to look back. Some will say that it was an amazing experience for them. Others will say that it was anything but. I’m not here to say that either statement is right or wrong because both responses are completely acceptable.

The truth of the matter is, from this day forward, only a few people will really care who you were in high school or what you did. Whether you did running start and hardly recognize anyone at graduation, or you were the high-profile student who everybody knows.



Remember, the world will not judge you on your high school career.

But high school is important because it builds a foundation for further education and develops essential social skills for our futures. However, it was only three years of our lives. It was what it was and now is the time to look towards the bright futures we all have ahead of us. Whichever path you choose to walk on in the future is completely up to you.

Whether you felt your high school path was dark, cramped and lonely or well-lit and sociable, just remember that whether you're going to a community college, small liberal arts college, big university or just happy that Mrs. Daughtry allowed you to walk today, we all have our whole lives ahead of us. There is never a **single** road to success, but better yet, there are many **different** roads to success.

So many kids, so much promise.
So much potential in each that is honest.
So much honor, so much to give.
It's one life, one love and yours to live.

Thank you Kentwood class of 2007!

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Andrew's pastimes growing up consisted of rapping, basketball, football and track. In high school Andrew was able to excel at the 110 meter high hurdles barely falling short of the State competition. After ranking top 5 in the Mr. Kentwood competition in 2006, Andrew came back to win it the following year and he was named one of the five Tolo Princes his senior year. As Andrew attends the University of Washington next year, he hopes to make a decision between a major in pre-med or business.