



GRADUATION MARATHON

Grads plan how to kill time during ceremony

Jessica Sommerville | Staff Writer

Graduation survival kit: ready-to-toss cap and large-sleeved gown; 4G LTE smartphone; Subway sandwich; and four years' worth of patience.

This year's senior class has 828 students, making its graduation a marathon. According to senior Leyla Ashraf, this makes food crucial.

"I'm probably going to stick some snacks in my sleeves, honestly," Ashraf said. "I really will. The sleeves are huge."

Senior Faryaal Zindani, the last member of the class of 2015, said she will tweet pictures and chat to pass time, but her family is not as optimistic.

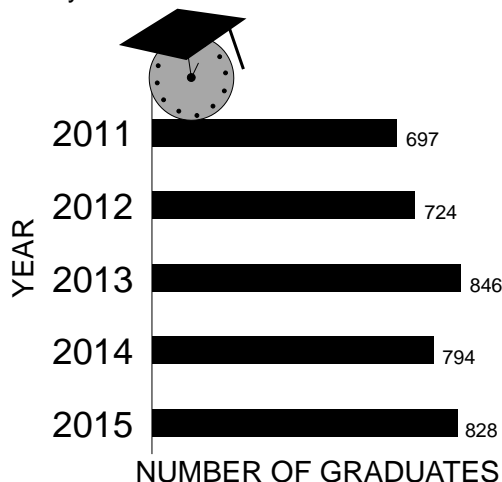
"A lot of my cousins (have said), 'Hey, we're just going to come the last 30 minutes of your ceremony,'" Zindani said. "But they're going to suck it up because we had to do that for my brother."

When Zindani at last crosses the stage, she said it may be difficult to return to her seat in time for the final festivities.

"(My brother) didn't make it back to his seat," Zindani said. "He was still getting his diploma when they turned the tassels in the air. So we're talking to administration and making sure that we're seated before the confetti and everything goes off because that would suck not being able to turn your tassel with the entire class. And it would be awkward just walking back from getting your diploma while everyone's standing up."

Despite this possibility, Zindani said she looks forward to being this year's last senior to graduate.

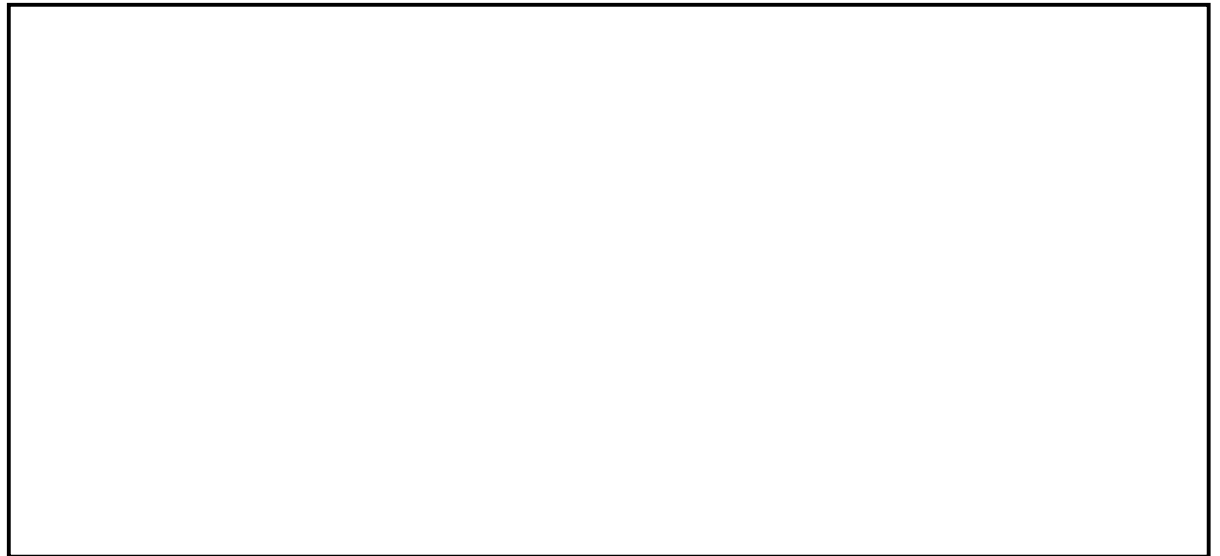
"I think it's awesome because...people are going to be so excited toward the end any ways to announce the graduating class," Zindani said. "I think it will be exciting to be the last one and that everyone will cheer on that we're finally done...it gives (me) something to look forward to while I'm waiting for everyone else."



Infographic by Gabrielle Stichweh

TICKETED

' U L Y H U V I D F H G Z L W K O L P L W H G



Assistant Principal Dan Distel patrols the parking lots in the mornings.

Photo by Matthew Marvar

Matthew Marvar | Staff Writer

It's 7:10 and junior Madison Miller is pulling into the first lot. Miller, who paid for a spot there, said that in a perfect world, there would be one open for her. But there were none.

Under the impression that she would receive a Saturday school if she parked in the teacher lot, she went for the only spot in the first lot that wasn't taken--the handicapped spot. Miller, however, said she wasn't trying to take advantage of the handicapped spot--she simply needed a place to park.

"If I was trying to benefit from getting a handicapped spot, I would park right next to the school. Parking in the pool lot (handicapped) spot, (is not) benefitting from it," Miller said. "A handicapped person would not benefit (from that spot) in walking to the school...(Even though) I parked there, I was not intentionally trying to take a handicapped spot."

Junior Andrew Boeres faced the same dilemma. He felt that the handicap marking could be an exception in this situation.

"The only spot left open was the handicapped spot," Boeres said. "And I thought to myself, 'If the pool isn't being used right now, then why do the handicapped spots matter?' because there are handicapped spots for the students in front of the school--so it's like those spots are just off-limits for no reason. Especially at 6:00 in the morning--who's going to the pool?"

Despite this technicality, both Miller and Boeres got slammed with a \$350 fine from the police.

Miller speculated that the source of the parking problem lay in the hands of the new student drivers who drive to school and park without a pass.

"I'm guessing there are probably more sophomores who have gotten their licenses recently," Miller said. "Who...probably haven't paid for (passes)...who are just now starting to park in first lot and are probably filling up second and third lot."

Assistant Principal Dan Distel, who is in charge of parking, said that because there are so many kids who use the parking lots, enforcement is a

difficult task.

"We do not have the manpower to be out there every single day," Distel said. "When somebody is out there, it's typically me--trying to be more visible, and to help kids to understand (the injustice) when you take another kid's spot or when you park in the wrong lot that you aren't paying for."

Nevertheless, according to Distel, victims of a filled first lot have an out.

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— ANDREW BOERES
JUNIOR

"They'll go and park in the teacher lot," Distel said. "They'll come see Mrs. Wood and say, 'Hey, I had to park here because there was no parking over there.' She records their license plates, identifies that the person does have a pass, and we're okay with that."

For the future, administration is exploring ways to police the lots more effectively. Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principals Annette Wood said she advocates for the system used in the senior lot because it's more effective than anything else.

"It would be much easier for a student whose spot has been taken to come to me and say, 'Mrs. Wood, this car is in my spot and this is the license plate number,'" Wood said. "That's what happens in the senior lot. And the number of infractions in the senior lot are so much less because of that. Because the seniors can help us police their lot."

Boeres said that it all comes down to convenience.

Everyone wants to come to school as late as possible," Boeres said. "And if they see an open spot, they're being lazy, but they just take it. They don't think they're going to get in trouble."