

Vista grads share memories

Students prepare to leave the past behind and look to the future

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VISTA — The diverse group of Vista High School gradu-



ates were reminded of their unity at their graduation ceremony

Friday evening.

Each graduate walked under a handmade floral arch held by a group of young women in colorful formal gowns and onto the Dick Haines stadium field.

Student speakers reminisced about shared memories — the white stinky trees near the quad and being forced to wear an extra-large "Go big red" shirt because their spaghetti-strap shirt showed too much skin.

In his commencement address, valedictorian David Freed likened the senior

Vista High School

There are 617 graduating seniors in the Class of 2006.

The first graduating class was in 1938 when Vista High School was located at the Lincoln Middle School site.

An estimated 30 to 35 seniors will not graduate.

It is unknown how many seniors will attend college.

class to antelopes and lions in his retelling of an African proverb.

"Every morning in Africa, when an antelope wakes up, it knows it has to outrun the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning in Africa, when a lion wakes up, it knows it must run faster than the slowest antelope or it will starve," said Freed.

Whether the graduates saw themselves as antelopes or lions, it was clear: both must run.

"Vista has such a diversity of economic groups, social backgrounds and races, it was really easy to grow up and be accepting here,"

said graduate Amy Seed. "Vista High School) is such a microcosm of the whole world."

Although many of the graduates have shared the last four years, they soon will be heading in different directions.

Several have plans of heading to college in the fall, but their individual goals are unique.

"I'm going to be a teacher here," said graduate Quin Chojnowski, who started taking sign language classes to communicate with a neighbor's deaf son. "My sign language teacher Lisa Jones (inspired me). I am going to come back here and take her place."

Other seniors have a few promising prospects to ponder over.

Graduate Trevor Cahill is a draft pick for the Oakland A's and has a scholarship to Dartmouth.

"I just wish the whole class well. They're great students and I wish them the best in their future," said Principal Larry White.

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