



Harrison graduate Nicole Leo gets a big hug from her father, Larry, after receiving her diploma.

DOUGLAS SUSALLA/staff photographer

# Harrison graduates turn tassel

**H**ARRISON SENIOR Stephanie Kallen had enough words of wisdom this spring for everyone.

The president for Harrison's Class of 1990 wrote a five-verse class motto for her classmates, and those attending graduation ceremonies at Ford Auditorium in Detroit June 14. She also gave a graduation address.

The motto concludes:  
These memories and friends  
Have now come together  
To make the Class of '90  
The best class forever.

Some 209 Farmington Hills Harrison High School seniors received diplomas during the ceremony. Many earned honors.

Other senior officers include vice president Senja Magdowski, secretary Joseph Richard George and treasurer Brian Ellison. The class

song is "Forever Young" by Rod Stewart, the class colors are silver and black and the class flower is the pink rose.

The symphony band, directed by Mark Phillips, and the Harrison High Choir, directed by Jan Brachel, provided music for the ceremony. Pre-ceremony music was conducted by senior band members.

Commencement speakers included Superintendent Michael Flanagan, principal Clayton Graham and school board president Helen Prutow. School board trustees James Abernethy and John Cotton presented diplomas.

Following the ceremony, Harrison graduates enjoyed an all-night party sponsored by the senior parents, with a "Beach Bash" theme. The evening was capped off with an auction, followed by a traditional balloon send-off at 5 a.m.



Harrison senior class president Stephanie Kallen gives her commencement address to fellow graduates.

Just-graduated Harrison seniors Brian Curtis and Katrina Mackrinn stroll past the Spirit of Detroit as they leave commencement exercises at Ford Auditorium in downtown Detroit.



It's one for the scrapbook, as Sarah McIntosh (left), Karen Najarian and Shari Barnes pose after Harrison graduation ceremonies. Karen's dad played shutterbug.



## Mandela's visit creates excitement waves in area

By Alice Collins  
staff writer

Irma B. Cooper of Southfield expects Thursday to be one of the most exciting days of her life — the day Nelson Mandela comes to Detroit.

Cooper and other members of the Southfield branch of the Women's Conference of Concerns are planning to attend a reception the national WCC is hosting for the Mandelas at the Westin Hotel and are to be among the 50,000 people expected in Tiger Stadium where Mandela is scheduled to speak.

"Being a senior citizen, I've been through a lot in my life," she said last week, "but being there and seeing this inspirational leader means quite a bit to me. It does me so much good to know that Nelson Mandela fought the whole 27 1/2 years he was in prison, and that he's still working to get rid of this apartheid thing."

"My prayers go with him and all the others who are working with him to accomplish their goal — freedom and respect for everyone, whether

they're black or white or belong to ethnic groups."

COOPER, WHO'S president of the local branch, said about 15 members have tickets to the rally and are planning to go. "We're also waiting for security clearance for the reception. We may not know who all's going until Wednesday, because we know everyone won't be able to. I feel I'll be one of them, but if not I won't be disappointed."

Gail Simpson of Southfield, also a member of WCC, said, "I don't deal well with large crowds. I'm going to be watching him from afar. I think his coming here will serve to enlighten people as to what's going on in South Africa and the true negatives of apartheid for all people, no matter what color, race or creed."

THE CHANGES in South Africa, Mandela's whirlwind tour of 13 nations and his crusade to raise money for his African National Congress has created an excited stir among

many in South Oakland County. Some will be at the stadium rally, others will be glued to their TV sets.

The North American leg of the tour began June 17 in Canada, arrived in the United States on June 20 and will come into Detroit Thursday and leave Friday morning. The U.S. tour ends July 1 in Oakland, Calif.

Many persons interviewed describe the changes in South Africa and the visit by Mandela as significant history in the making. Beverly Knight of Birmingham, a member of the Birmingham-Bloomfield Task Force on Race Relations and Ethnic Diversity, said she has been discussing the significance of Mandela and those events with her 12-year-old son Kai.

"I remember going to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s march in Detroit in the early '60s. I think our children will remember this just like we remember the civil rights movement. This has the same kind of excitement, importance and sense of history."

Knight hopes to attend the Tiger Stadium rally. "The only problem is, I'm in law school and I have a final exam the next day."

"I'm sure Nelson, as an attorney himself, will appreciate the fact that I need to balance that final exam with his visit."

DEBBIE MACON of West Bloomfield, also a member of the race relations task force, said she had just been discussing the significance of the tour with a 13-year-old guest at her house. "I was saying it's an opportunity to watch history be made. Current history books will be rewritten as a result of what he has stood for."

Macon said she expects many parents will be taking their children to see Mandela.

Among those making the trip to see Mandela will be the Rev. Vic Mesenbring, pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Farmington Hills and a member of the South African Committee of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights. The committee sponsors film series and speakers promoting anti-apartheid activities in the metropolitan area, according to Mesenbring.

"I'm thrilled to be hearing him in person. I hope the people hear his message of not to give up (economic) sanctions," Mesenbring said. SUNDAY, JUNE 17 was set aside by the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan as a day of special prayers and a free-will offering to be used for Mandela's work, according to Sheila Garner, assistant to the bishop.

Guest commentators following the film will be Ron Aronson, professor of humanities for WSU Weekend College and author of "Stay Out of Politics," a book about his recent South Africa trip; Sister Joannette Nitz, chairperson of the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights Southern Africa Committee; Roger Jardine, general secretary of the Southern African Students Committee; and Gloria House, WSU professor and human rights activist.

For additional information call the MCHR, 832-4400.

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## 'Free At Last' film presented at Wayne

People who want to learn more about the life of Nelson Mandela on the eve of his Detroit visit are being invited to a view a new film, "Mandela: Free At Last" Wednesday night at Wayne State University.

The film and a discussion will run 7-9 p.m. in 100 General Lectures Building at the university, at Wayne Drive and Warren in Detroit.

There will be no charge for admission but donations are welcome, according to the sponsoring groups — the Michigan Coalition for Human Rights, Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at WSU, Nelson Mandela Reception Committee Weekend College Program at the university and South African Students Committee. It was produced by South Africa Now.

"We decided to do this to give local people a real comprehensive background on Nelson Mandela's life," said Thomas Fenin, executive director of MCHR. "This film has just been done and is the best ever done on his life."

"This provides a way for local people to connect with us and other

anti-apartheid groups in Detroit. So they can plug into the movement. We're looking for volunteers," he said.

THE FILM, according to promotion material, "shows the man, the country and the struggle... what you didn't see on network television." It contains footage smuggled out of South Africa, including the uncensored, unedited first speech Mandela gave on his release from prison.