



Getting the point: Rob Walker (left) and John Walton look happy as their North Farmington High School graduates.



Graduation kiss: North Farmington graduate Steve Friedman has a big smacker from classmate Jamie Fienman.

## North Farmington grads glad; principal sad

BY BILL COUTANT

STAFF WRITER

For North Farmington High School principal Deborah Clarke, Sunday's commencement ceremonies were a bittersweet time.

Clarke, who became principal four years ago, said seeing the class she "came in with" graduate was sad — but satisfying.

"This was the freshman class

during my first full year at North," Clarke said. "It was such a pleasure to watch their talent show itself and watch them mature."

The In Ann Arbor at 1 p.m. featured a speech by class president Heather Rose Stoenman that Clarke called one of the best she'd heard. There were 284 graduates.

"Heather is an independent

young lady," Clarke said. "Her speech reflected strong values and a good sense of direction."

That sense of direction has been reflected by the high numbers of North Farmington graduates (95 percent or better) who go on to attend college. But Clarke said this class had other qualities that endeared it to her.

"When they were walking across the stage, I would look at

them and realize how much each one had accomplished not only academically, but in terms of extracurricular activities."

North Farmington does not honor a valedictorian, but rather honors its top 10 students. Those students were: John Daniel Abad, Julie Ann Chinitz, Brenda Sue Yong Cho, Renee Liney Chou, Alicia Renee Crossland, Melanie

Beth Downie, Amy E. Kelman, Danielle Ann Laborde, Allison Jane MacLennan and Shoko Maeda.

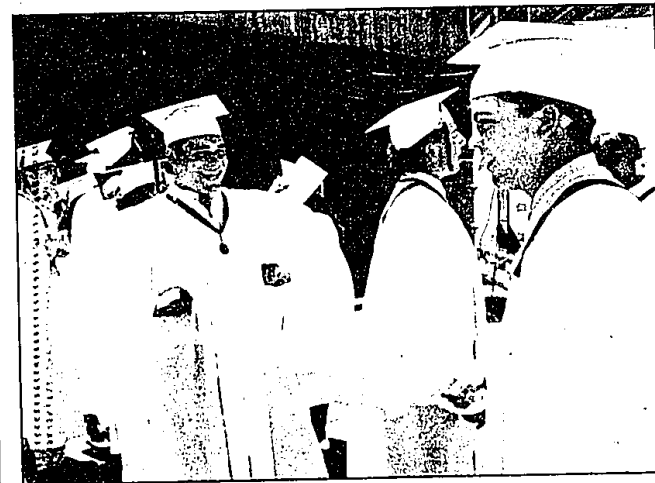
The class of '94 also distinguished itself in other ways, Clarke said.

"They showed a lot of senior leadership," she said. "And they were the first group really to get

involved with the community service program."

In fact, 37 seniors received special recognition for their community service contributions. Clarke said many of the seniors even suggested new programs for community service and then took part.

"I think they will be great role models," she said.



One happy Sunday: Above, North Farmington graduate Joe Baniewicz (left) is all smiles and so is classmate Dana Darnell (right). At right, Mike Sands probably didn't call anyone from Crisler Arena with the good news about his graduation, but he could have.



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