



STAFF PHOTOS BY SHARON LEMIERRE

Waiting for the 'skin: Emily Gerald, in line for a Mercy diploma, cracks a huge smile, at Meadow Brook. Behind her is Tameko Gordon. In front of her is Lisa George, Emily Gateward and Chloe Gadson.



Ovation: Mercy graduates Julie Angell and Angela Anderson are part of a standing ovation given to Valedictorian Maureen Murray.

Rain can't dampen spirits at Mercy graduation

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER
T hough raindrops fell on the celebration, Mercy High's 1995 graduates will be known for inspiration rather than precipitation.

Their commencement at shower-soaked Meadow Brook's Baldwin Pavilion in Rochester Hills was a time for reflection.

The June 2 ceremony coincided with the Farmington Hills school's 50th anniversary. In a half-century, Mercy High has produced 10,600 graduates. Many of those have gone onto college and had highly successful careers.

This year's 189 graduates were no different. They accomplished a great deal in four years, Mercy

principal Sister Regina Marie Doelker said.

"They are a class that has really picked up and worked together," Doelker said.

All graduates met the school's 26-hour volunteer service requirement, including a few who exceeded the standard by 600 hours. They volunteered in parishes and soup kitchens and helped rehabilitate houses in Detroit.

Their contributions to school spirit were noted by Doelker. Highlights included Human Relations Council presentations during Black History Month and Women's History Month.

Many graduates are planning careers in medicine. Others have

professional pursuits planned.

"When we interviewed some of them . . . a lot of them said in addition to having a career they also really wanted to be a mother," Doelker said. "They said it was a very important part of their lives, which was nice to hear."

Each graduate places a flower at the statue of the Blessed Mother during the commencement.

This year, they also took time to remember Jody Walter, who died in February 1992. She would have graduated this year.

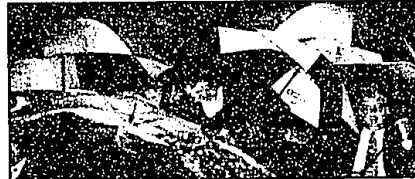
Marie Farrell-Donaldson, director of Internal Audit for the Detroit Board of Education, was

commencement speaker.

While graduation typically celebrates accomplishments, Valedictorian, Maureen Dwan Murray asked her classmates to ponder the future in a rousing farewell address.

"We, the graduating class of 1995, are faced with a question: Are we ready for the real world?" Murray said. "And tonight, we, if we may be so bold, are going to answer that question with yet another question: Is the real world ready for us?"

"Has the world prepared itself for 189 strong, multi-faceted human beings, each unique with her own talents and gifts. Is the world ready for women?"



Staying dry: Umbrellas are up as a sudden shower wetted Mercy's commencement June 2 at Oakland University's Baldwin Pavilion.

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