



>Hello marshmallow: The junior class produced the winning float. The Sta-Puff man happily steps on an opposing player.



Liza's big day: Harrison homecoming queen Liza Rubin poses proudly for yearbook photos with parents Lito and Clara.

## Harrison's homecoming: No 'marshmallow' spirit

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER  
**P**laces, love, fuzzy slippers and an inside-out shirt or two fashioned Harrison High's statement on school spirit.

The school marked homecoming week with a plethora of many activities, which included days where students wore pajamas, put clothes on backwards and donned duds to commemorate '60s hipplodrom.

On Friday, classes competed against each other in the field day competition. The freshman class — measured by the decibel meter — screamed the loudest

during the loudest cheer event.

And that was before homecoming Saturday.

"It was a long week," said Harrison principal Rande Horn, "but it made for a great week."

The day itself featured the usual trappings of a Harrison homecoming.

There was the parade.

The junior class toasted the competition with its Stay-Puff marshmallow float. The entry kept within the parade's cinematic theme, recalling the massive white spongy co-star in the film "Ghostbusters."

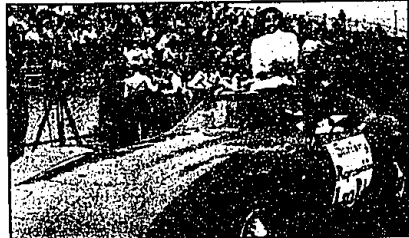
The marshmallow was also intended as a comment on the

firmness of the Hawks' opposition. Harrison hammered Walled Lake Western, 35-7, for its fifth-straight victory.

Senior Liza Rubin reveled in a similar triumph as she was chosen as homecoming queen. Her court included Jennifer Cleary, Allison Noe, Tanja Andrzewski, Melissa Lindgren and Christy Burger.

Rubin and her escort kicked off the annual homecoming dance Saturday, capping off an eventful day and week.

"The weather cooperated with us," Horn said. "It was unbelievable."



Quite a ride: Liza Rubin, representing Harrison's senior class, was driven onto the football field. Later, Rubin was announced as the 1994 homecoming queen.



On (color) guard: Juliana Turse (front) and Tanja Andrzewski perform during half-time.

## Schools form plan of attack to develop marching orders

BY LARRY O'CONNOR

STAFF WRITER  
 Farmington Public Schools will spend the coming months clarifying what it means for a student to be a "thoughtful problem solver" and a "collaborative team member."

Those as well as six other student learning outcomes and the district mission statement will be examined in formulating an overall five- to seven-year strategic plan.

District student learning outcomes and mission statement have been in place for awhile. Those goals need to be pounded home, school officials say.

More so, Superintendent C. Robert Maxfield wants to see them put into action.

"We needed to go the next steps," Maxfield said. "Now that we've got those goals, how do we go about implementing them?"

To accomplish this, parents and members of the community and school officials will be asked to serve on an ad hoc planning committee. Up to 500 people could be involved.

Those people will be split into action teams headed by one staff

and one community member. Each team will tackle one district goal.

They'll report to the district planning committee in three months. From there an action plan will be developed, which will become the marching orders for the administration for the next several years.

The board could see the strategic plan by May.

Farmington schools' mission statement calls for a district that is financially strong, promotes quality and innovative change and strengthens community involvement.

Student learning outcomes were approved by the board last year. They're intended to describe the qualities a student should possess once he graduates from Farmington schools.

The profile calls for an effective communicator, healthy individual, lifelong learner, quality producer and responsible citizen.

Critics of outcomes-based education say it shifts focus from traditional academic standards. Test scores and achievement are still a main focus in the district, Maxfield said.

"I don't think this has much to do with what people regard as OBE at all," Maxfield said. "That's become an umbrella term for lots of things people disagree with."

"Hopefully, it will let people know this is exactly what we're about."

This undertaking doesn't indicate dissatisfaction with the goals, board president Cathy Webb said.

At its annual retreat, the board reaffirmed its commitment to them.

"We're not going to change any of them," Webb said. "We're very confident in them. . . . We, as a board, feel we are not modeling them enough."

Berkley schools undertook a similar strategic plan, Maxfield said. This project is somewhat different since the goals and outcomes are already in place.

Marketing them to the community and even staff is the primary task.

"Until we remind people they must be sensitive to that, I don't think we can expect our staff to go home and put them up on the refrigerator," Maxfield said.

## Enrollment increase boosts district's funding from state

BY MARIE CRESTNEY

STAFF WRITER  
 Student head counts are especially crucial this year in all Michigan districts because funding is now affected by final student enrollment figures. The state requires districts to take two counts, one in mid-February, the second in early October, and average them together. That head count, multiplied by the per-pupil aid each district gets, determines the amount of money districts will now get from the state.

### CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOLS

Before school-financing reforms abolished property tax-based funding, student enrollment figures did not affect out-of-formula districts such as Clarenceville, Farmington, Public Schools and Livonia Public Schools. Clarenceville School District will get an extra \$5,000 from the state this year because of the eight extra students it has enrolled, said Ralph Skrocki, finance director. Clarenceville

gets \$5,577 per student from the state.

The extra money should be used to rebuild Clarenceville's fine equity, or rainy day fund, Skrocki said.

Schools were required to take their head count on Oct. 7 and file their report to the state by Oct. 21.

Clarenceville includes northwest Livonia, southeast Farmington Hills, and northwest Redford

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