

N. Farmington bids farewell to 254 grads

By TOM BAER
STAFF WRITER

Graduates usually get the applause at commencement, and that certainly was the case on North Farmington High School's big night June 6 at Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor.

But there was an ovation of sorts for the parents, too, especially those who were watching their youngest cross the stage.

Cathleen Webb, Farmington Board of Education president and a commencement speaker, asked those parents attending their final high school graduations to stand and take a bow. Lots did.

"It was fun to see," Webb said. "A lot of them jumped up and started waving their arms around. It was kind of a celebration for them, too, like they've finally made it."

In her remarks to the 264-member class of 1995, Webb stressed the importance of family and reminded the grads "of how their parents are and always will be their most important teachers."

Added Webb, "I told them that you don't have to be smarter, richer, faster, stronger or more talented to succeed. I said you should always believe in yourself, for within you is the ability to achieve any goal or any dream."

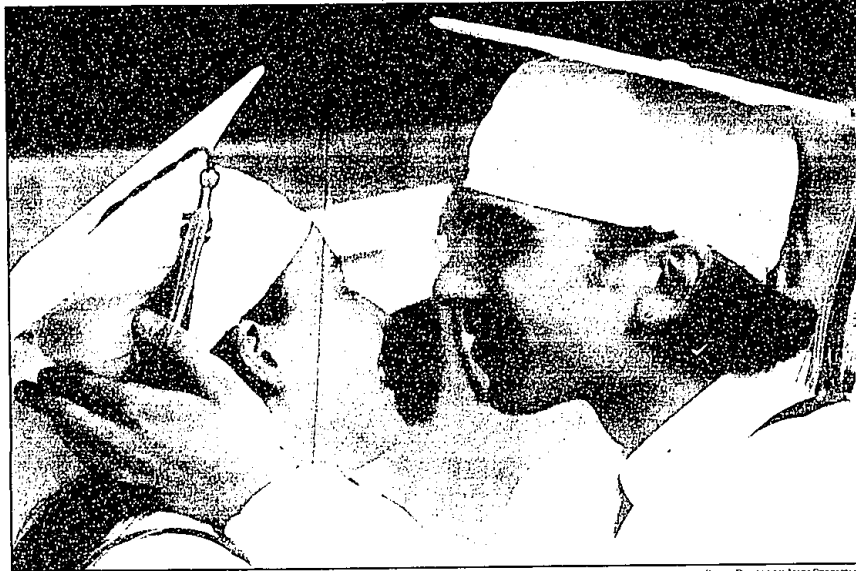
Success was also the topic of an address given by Erica Vincent, the class president who is headed for Michigan State University.

"She talked about the successes of the class and many of the experiences they'd gone through," said North Farmington principal Deborah Clarke. "It (the talk) really brought out some of the highlights of what they'd accomplished."

"I think we had more special programs run this year because of the leadership in that class."

Other officers of North's class of '95 are Amanda Markus, vice president; Taly Yaniv, secretary; and Jeremy Spoon, treasurer.

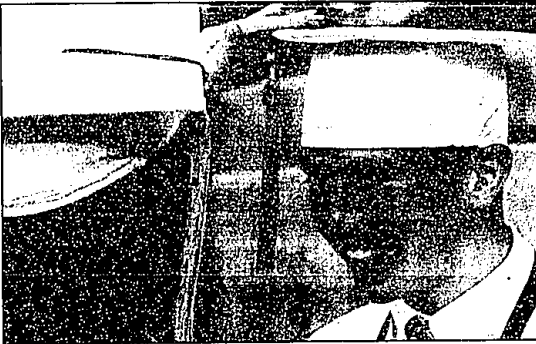
Principal Clarke had one more thing add: "The kids had a tremendous time at the all-night party that their parents threw for them afterward."



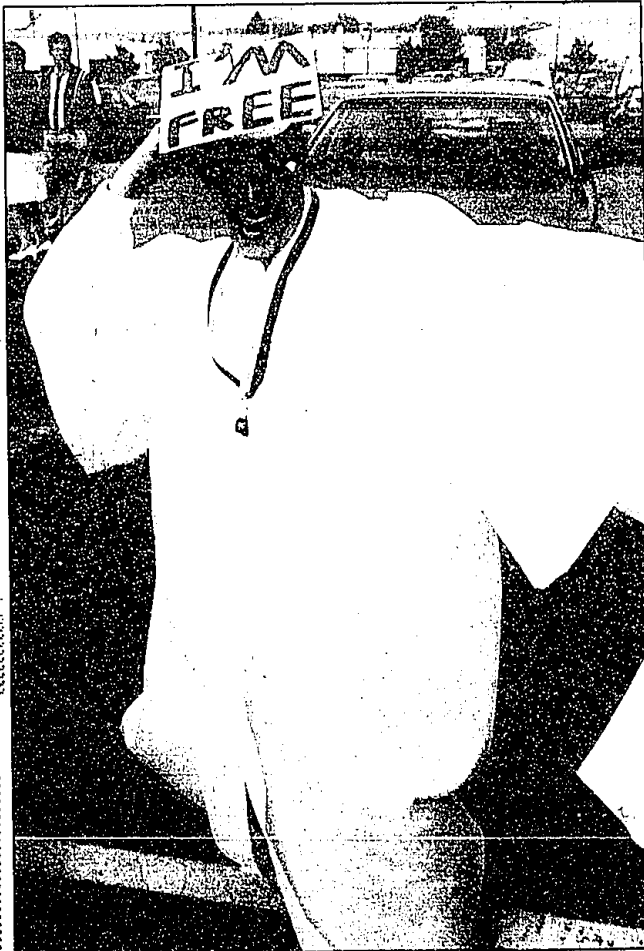
Happy grads: North Farmington graduate Dennis Firment has special words of encouragement for classmate Erin Proctor during the June 6 commencement at Crisler Arena.

STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMEANO

Capping a career: Mat Rainoldi has his cap adjusted by classmate Slavica Petrouski



Talking it over: Graduates (from left) Ben Sommers, Derek Sorensen, Lisa Sonne and Andrew Stoe talk over the big day.



Making a statement: A smiling Steve Kozle wears his feelings on his cap on graduation day.

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