



Central ceremony: A group of graduates became a little joyous while walking down the aisle during the ceremonies.



Capped off: Walled Lake Central seniors gathered together in the football field for commencement ceremonies.

## A grad time WLC class reflects on future

BY TIM SMITH  
STAFF WRITER

Throughout his first year as principal at Walled Lake Central High School, Jerry Hartsock watched the Class of 1996 grow and mature right before his very eyes.

That growth and maturity was exemplified with their graduation last Wednesday, June 12,

on Central's football field. Hartsock and others watched with pride as nearly 300 seniors collected diplomas and prepared to move forward to whatever they do next.

The Walled Lake school district includes a northwest portion of Farmington Hills. "They were fantastic," Hartsock said later last week. "I was so pleased with them. It was great to watch them grow through the whole year, (and) develop maturity, pride and class."

"It was almost visible, the growth that they went through as a class."

During the commencement exercises, those same concepts kept popping up during speeches by top students such as valedictorian Ashley Parker, salutatorian Charles E. Marckwardt, Dena Aho and Almira Alieva.

"All our honor grads talked about the kinds of challenges we as humans face," Hartsock said, recalling the special evening. "And that nothing comes to us without overcoming obstacles."

According to the principal, another important point made during the students' address was "We should not be ashamed and embarrassed to celebrate our

genius, to be proud of our intelligence and celebrate what we're good at."

"Some feel it's not cool to be smart. But one of the messages (at commencement) was that's not the case."

For the Class of 1996, there was plenty to celebrate.

Hartsock said more than 80 percent of the graduates plan on enrolling in a college or vocational training school this fall. One whole page of the graduation program was filled with names of student achievers.

Underscoring the latter was that, according to Hartsock, the honors assembly the week before graduation took three hours to complete.

Meanwhile, there were other program highlights:

■ The district's assistant superintendent of K-12 curriculum, William Hamilton, led the grand marshal.

■ The WLC combined choirs, under the direction of Paul Herber, performed "It's Hard to Say Goodbye."

■ A memorial tribute was done by graduate Stephanie Renauer.

■ The symphonic band performed "Amarita Roen."



Tribute: Walled Lake Central senior Stephanie Renauer sings a tribute to a fellow classmate that had died during their freshman year.

## Farmington man named to board for state polio research network

At the spring convention of the Michigan Polio Network, Farmington resident Don Nichols was named to the board of directors.

Created to support research on the late-life effects of polio survivors, the Network includes citizens throughout Michigan who also participate in an international association.

"In addition to getting financial support for future study," said Nichols, "we are interested in contacting survivors and members of their families to widen the network's influence base."

Like Nichols, most survivors are now in their 50s, 60s and 70s since most contracted polio during the epidemic of the 1950s when millions became victims. Effects of the virus ranged from life-long paralysis, years of rehabilitation, and for many death.

"When I was a child I can recall that parents wouldn't let

children go swimming, and some moms wouldn't let their kids play with me because of fear of contagion," Nichols said. I can remember going to St. Joseph's Hospital in Pontiac in 1955 and seeing the hallways lined with children in iron lungs. Some of those youngsters wouldn't be there the following week because they would have died."

Because of the success of the Salk vaccine program, polio has been almost eradicated throughout the world. Instead of millions, only 120,000 cases were reported in the world last year.

Even when the number of new cases becomes zero, according to the World Health Organization, there will be still 12 million polio survivors many of whom will be dealing with post-polio syndromes.

The Michigan Polio Network attempts to contact polio survivors so that information on later-life physical complications



Don Nichols can be widely distributed.

If you are a survivor or know someone who is, please contact Nichols at 340-6922, or write him at Oakland Community College, Auburn Hills Campus, Auburn Hills 48326.

### INKWELL

Inkwell provides information about educational issues and on people in the Farmington area. Mail information to: Inkwell, Farmington Observer, 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335, or fax information to 477-9722. Items can be sent by e-mail to: packy@mail.ooonline.com. Please include a daytime phone number on your news release. Items will not be taken over the phone.

#### DAR WINNERS

Lanigan (formerly Larkshiro) Elementary students won 39 chapter, 10 state, four division and four national awards in the Junior American Citizens contests sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Lanigan entries were sponsored by the Three Plugs Chapter DARL. This year's contest theme was, "Heritage of My Community." Students depicted buildings and events around the Farmington area. National winners included: Angela Van Wimmeresch, second place, kindergarten, Individual banner; Mrs. Irvin's class, third place, kindergarten,

Group Banner; Mrs. Tobie's class, honorable mention; first grade, Group Banner; and Brendan Sherry, second place, fifth grade, Video.

#### FAIR SHOWING

Our Lady of Sorrows eighth grade student Colleen Pauley won first place and a certificate of recognition and seventh grader Maureen Pauley won first place and a \$500 U.S. Savings Bond in the Detroit Science and Engineering Fair. Colleen Pauley received the certificate from Air and Waste Association Management Chapter and Maureen Pauley received the savings bond from Wayne State University Institute of Molecular & Cellular Toxicology.

Several Sorrows students entered and won awards. Anne Anushagian won second place and a Detroit Edison first place. In the eighth grade category, winners included: Bethany Besak, first place; Raymond Naglik, second place; Tom Saunders, third place; Sara Turnstall,

third place; Amanda Alexander, outstanding; Mark Konkol, outstanding; and Beverly Brown, excellent.

In seventh grade, they were: Carolyn Cappocia, second place; Robert Miller, second place; Robert Gavin, third place; Gregory Worosz, third place; Jeff Gebhart, excellent; Mike Larson, excellent; Sarah Nalett, excellent; Rebecca Stompion, excellent; and Mike LaCroix, honorable mention.

#### ODYSSEY EXPERIENCE

Our Lady of Sorrows team placed third out of the top 28 Division II teams in the state Odyssey of the Mind Competition at Central Michigan University. OLS student members included: Mandy Alexander, Kirk Kozol and Katie Matous. Other members included former OLS students Nicole Bobor of Mercy High and Alan Allman of U of D Jesuit. Siblings Greg Kozol and Jenny Matous rounded out the team.

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