

'World is now your home,' Lake-Lehman graduates told

By REBECCA MARTIN
Special Correspondent

LEHMAN - Happiness and tears. Bittersweet meetings, everyone knowing that nothing will ever be the same again. Everyone looking about at the people they'd known for as many years as they could remember, knowing the period of their lives spent with them was nearing an end. In an instant their time as a child would be over.

"How much can one moment change?" asked Lake-Lehman Valedictorian David Fine. So sets the scene for the 42nd commencement ceremony at Lake-Lehman High School, held June 9.

They'd grown up together. Experienced the act of growing up together. Laughed and cried over the triumphs and tribulations of childhood and their passage to the cusp of adulthood. In many ways, the graduating class of 2000 at Lake-Lehman High School never really saw each other until the day of commencement. For the first time they were faced with the possibility of never seeing the person they were sitting next to ever again. Maybe they'd never talked to that person, but that made the chance that they would never have the chance to see, let alone talk to, that person ever again. "And so it goes . . . Life moves on in its endless cycle."

Each of the four student speakers offered words of optimism and each asked the graduates to believe in themselves and their

dreams. Rick Hislop quoted Emerson; Jen Frank, the Bible; David Fine, Billy Joel and Bon Jovi; and Elizabeth Blidner the song "Glory Days." Each conveyed the silent prayer that they would all go on to find success and happiness.

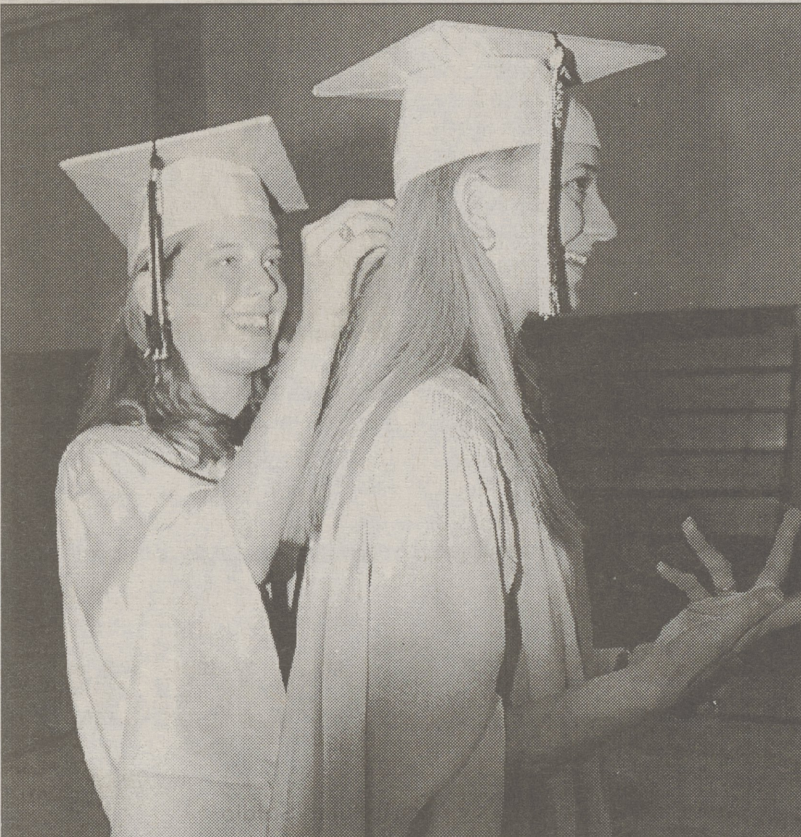
Dr. Joseph F. Litchman, MD, the featured speaker, told the graduates that the world was now their home and all the people in it their family. He told them that now it was their responsibility to face the severe problems of our world. He asked them to begin the journey towards solving the problems by first realizing that they exist.

The graduation ceremony was one of reflection and memories but most of all hope. "Believe in yourself and in your dreams, though impossible things may seem. Mountains fall, and seas divide before the one who in his stride takes the hard road day by day sweeping obstacles away. Believe in yourself and in your plan. Say not 'I cannot,' but 'I can.' The prizes of life we fail to win because we doubt the power within."

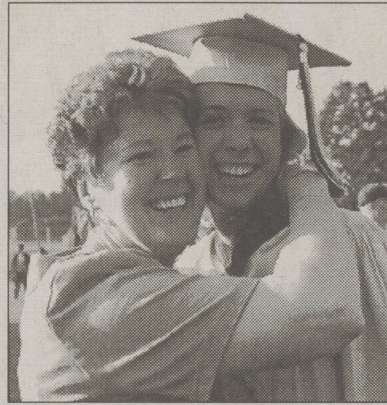
Rebecca Martin will be a senior at Lake-Lehman High School. She will be Co-Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper, KnightLife and plays on the Black Knights volleyball team. She plans to attend college and major in pre-veterinary medicine. She has a dog named Charlotte, named after Charlotte Bronte. "I Love English and literature," she says.



Brian Tarboro's niece, Skylah Watkins, was fascinated with his tassel.



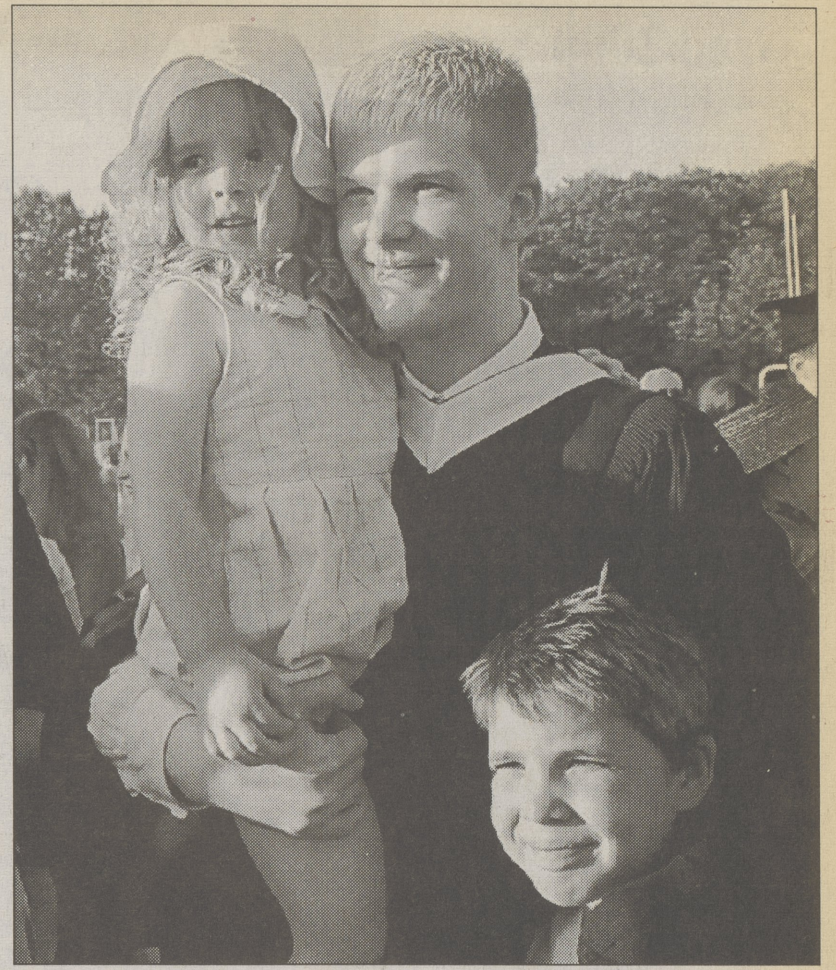
Jennifer Mihelski helped Crystal Kordowski prepare for the commencement ceremony.



Paulette Barney, wellness teacher, had a hug for everyone, including Jill Bloom.

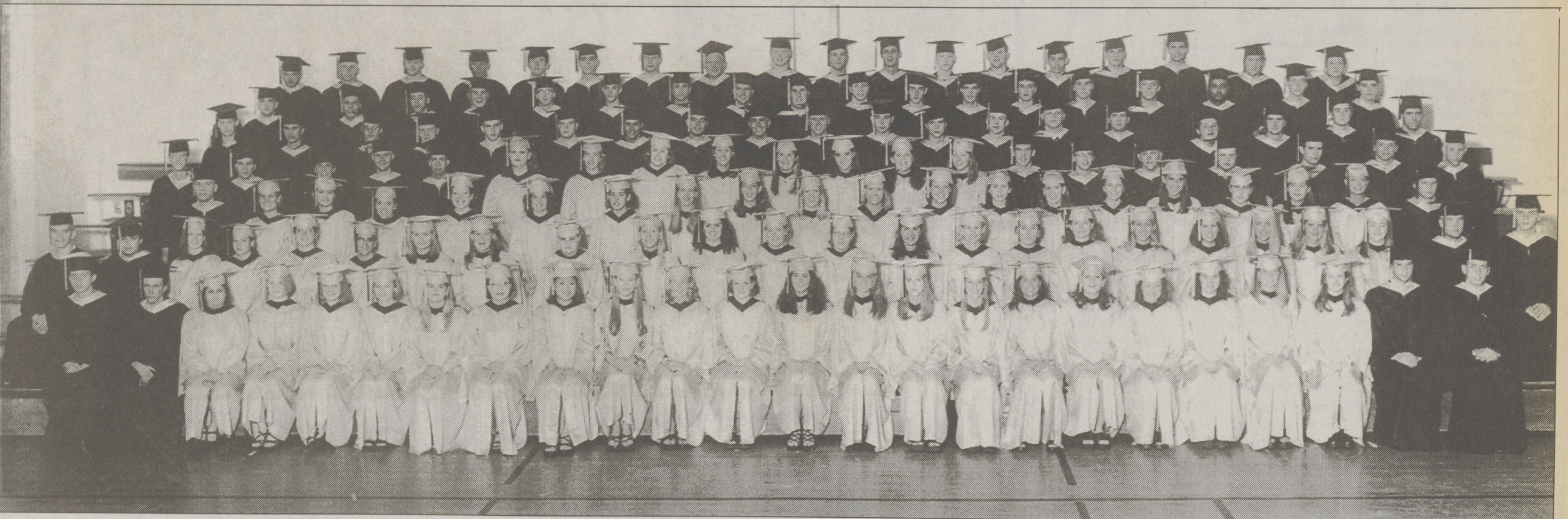


Katie Chollack, left, was congratulated by Morgan Turner.



Matt Duma pinned a boutonniere on Gary Miller, president of the Lake-Lehman School Board.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Lake-Lehman High School Class of 2000

Row 1:

Russ Mosier, John Folmar, Nicole DeLeo, Nicole Lee Parsons, Jacqueline Janelle Sikora, Melinda Louise White, Laura Maslowski, Tina Kathleen Shaver, Aron Kim Wesoloski, Carrie Ann Houssock, Janelle Marie Perlis, Marielle Rae Narkiewicz, Stacy Lin Rosenbaum, Jennifer Anne Alexis Holbrook, Tara Lynn Birt, Megan Ann Basar, Linda D. Monk, Kimberly Susan Boyle, Jannell Krysten Bucha, Kori Beth Clark, Sara Lindsay Rittenhouse, Mary Kathryn Sprau, Sean A. Manzoni, Alex Hillard.

Row 2:

Richard Ord Blaine, Jr., Kenneth D. Phillips, Jennifer Lynn Sutton, Victoria Toni Groff, Mary Genevieve Smea, Miranda Jo Shaheen Klaas, Sarah Rae Lozo, April Leigh Naugle, Lissi Ann Race, Angela Marie Simons, Amy Sorber, Samantha J. Teetsel, Nicole Krause, M. Monica Cabrera Aquilera, Leanne Browski, Janet Silver, Rise Catherine Scott, Jennifer Joy Frank, Melanie Lynn Borish, Carrie Ann Thorne, Rachel Erica Farley, Jamie Laubenstein, Richard Patton, Matthew Keller.

Row 3:

Andrew Nicholas Salko, Rachel Elaine Harrison, Grace Ann Sorber, Rgina Marie Sutton, Valerie Dianne Williams, Katie Boice, Adrienne Rigez, Crystal Lynn

Kordowski, Jennifer Ann Mikelski, Janel Lynn Bryant, Jillian Bloom, Rachel Lee Kasper, Melissa K. Brady, Elizabeth Nolan Blidner, Elizabeth Anne Albee, Olivia Hillard Anzalone, Emily Bost, Magen Taylor Anne Harleman, Cynthia Michelle Morris, William Matthew Baron.

Row 4:

Daniel Albert Nygren, John Anthony Bebey, Jonathan R. Bird, David John Kowalek, Gary J. Sagan Jr., Rhonda Lynn Yapple, Kimberly M. Bronson, Katie Lynn Chollack, Melissa Ann DeCesaris, Jessica Ann Carter, Rose Marie Morton, Rebecca Lynn Edwards, Jamie Platt, John Thomas Pitcavage, Brian Jay Shaver, Tanner Jay Heritage, Robert Roderick, Richard D. Hislop, II, Benjamin Richard Brown.

Row 5:

Bryon Williams, Aron Cramer, Shane T. White, Brian Daubert, Christopher Rogers, Jason Murphy, Jesse Matusek, George Maille, Dominic Carl Castrignano, David Michael DeLong, Shaun Osman, Giles Geoffrey Moore, Matthew Joseph Montgomery, Travis James McRoy, Anthony J. Bilwin, Jason Paul Race, Stanley Michael Chmura, David J. Fine, Alexander Werner Klaas.

Row 6:

Ryan Scott Sorber, Matthew Derek Gonzales, James Lyons, Brian Noler, Matthew

Loftus, James Robert Higgins Jr., David John Kapson, William Metzger, Thomas Pentangelo, Jeremy Yakus, Benjamin J. Kovaleski II, Jacob John Schmitt, Raymond J. Honeywell, Brian Christopher Sikora, Michael S. Fink, Brian Tarboro, Matthew Conor McMahon, Ryan Todd Watson.

Row 7:

Jack Dennis, Gregg Woronko, Tony VanScoy, Daniel J. Harris, Ryan Mariner, Mike Milunic, Jonathan Thomas Chipeco, Matthew Kehler, Randy Dale Boice Jr., Eric Messerle, Scott John Healy, Jonathan Edwards, Adam L. Lanning, Christopher Stroud, Thomas Vincent Brislin Jr., Noah Joshua Pickett, Andy Weaver, Nahum Kipp.

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