

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

Reflections of a graduate's mother

The following article was submitted to *The Independent/Free Press* for publication. It reflects one mother's thoughts.

What? Graduating from Grade 8 already... boy does time fly. NOT!

A conventional statement to which I can honestly reply... no, this has been the longest and most enjoyable 13 years of my life. Every step of the way a definite learning experience for both of us. Just when I thought I knew sooooo much, another stage transpires and there's sooooo much more to learn.

When at my first parent/teacher interview I was informed that my sweet little kindergartener would

regularly perch atop the jungle gym at recess, and pointing at unsuspecting peers, order them about, I couldn't believe they were talking about my darling child. That was my first and last interview I left in tears. And to the delight (I'm sure) of the fine teachers of the Christian School, I am a four plus interview a year mom, making some 35 meetings to date.

It has been a humbling, exhausting, wonderful, difficult at times, but endlessly gratifying business, guiding the growth of mind, body and soul of my daughter through these tender years.

My lackadaisical hours of picking strawberries and making jam

with her cuddled in her snugly strapped to me are now to be fondly remembered but still, we feel each other's heart beat when we hug.

Now at this very important time of graduation, memories of each and every year are paramount in my mind. Quiet times like our once a month special mother/daughter days, just the two of us off on our own for the day. What memorable occasions. The hundreds of books read, both alone and together. And the busy times, those last minute "I do better under pressure" projects, festivals, riding lessons, homework done hurry scurried on the bus, choirs, Battles of the Books, school trips, skiing, piano recitals,

Calvinettes, Catechism, swimming, tennis, skating, gym shirts forgotten and funerals for dead birds complete with grave markers in the back garden. Returning home from nature walks with the hood of her jacket overflowing with slimy grass snakes. The lost and found box searched through regularly for years until I came to the conclusion that this aromatic bin was my daughter's dresser drawer away from home. Hence much to her chagrin, her name was indelibly marked on everything from tupperware to calculators, running shoes to shorts. An inherited trait... NEVER! I wouldn't trade these years for the world.

Now Grade 8 — an emotional roller coaster, fundraisers for the Ottawa trip, preparations for graduation, what excitement! - the fun, tears, laughter, passion and intensity.

Cindy, you are to be commended for your perseverance. As Grade 8 comes to an end, I realize that it is really a new beginning for our young people ready to spread their wings.

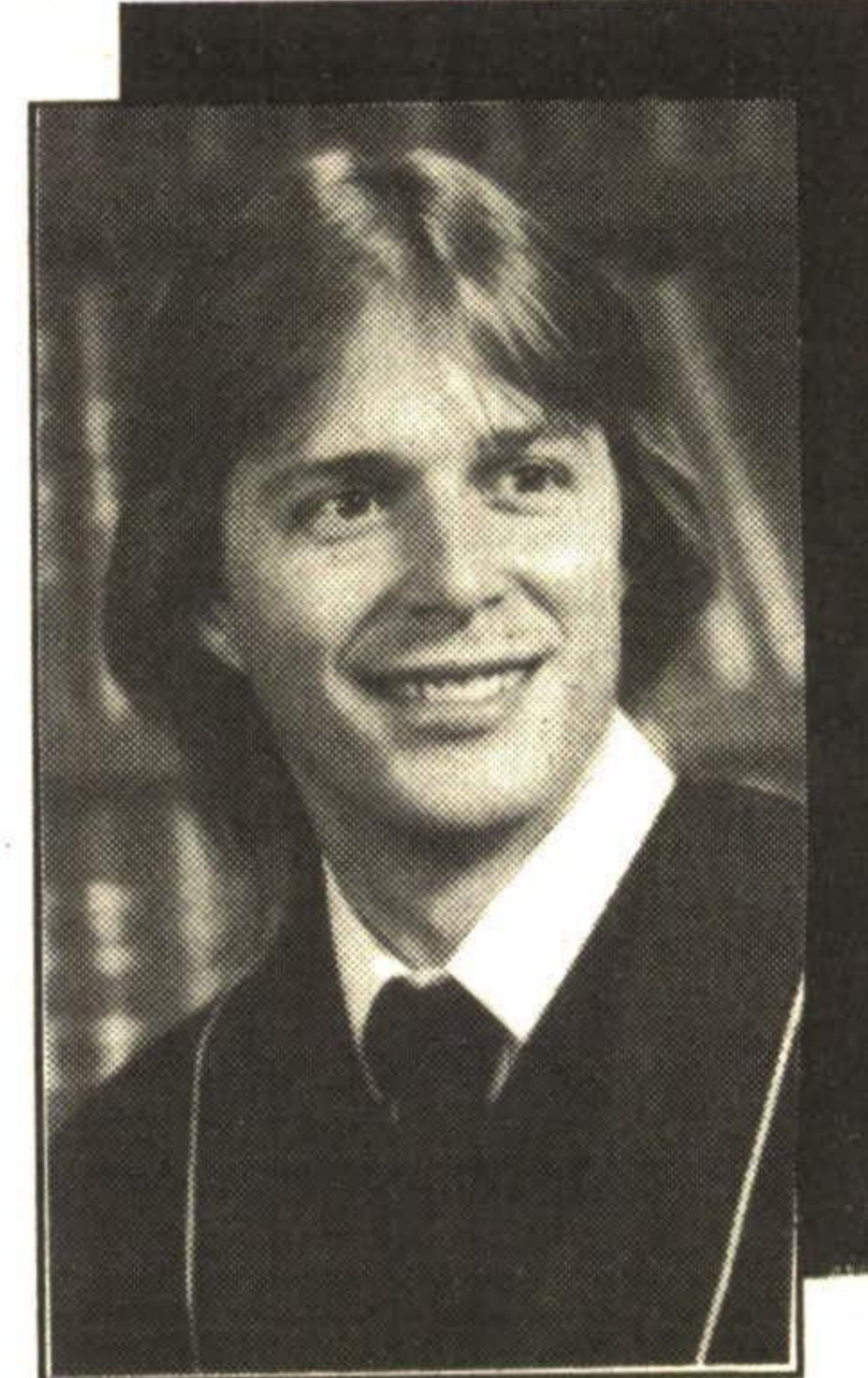
My prayer for my daughter as she spreads her wings, is that an angel of God is on each tip. That she may go forth in the name of Jesus to have a truly happy, fulfilled high school life.

—Name Withheld by Request



ADRIANNA RANGER

Arnel and Olga Ranger of Acton are pleased to announce the graduation of their daughter Adrianna from McMaster University with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Ranger will be joining the department of Neurosurgery at Victoria and University Hospital in London, Ontario

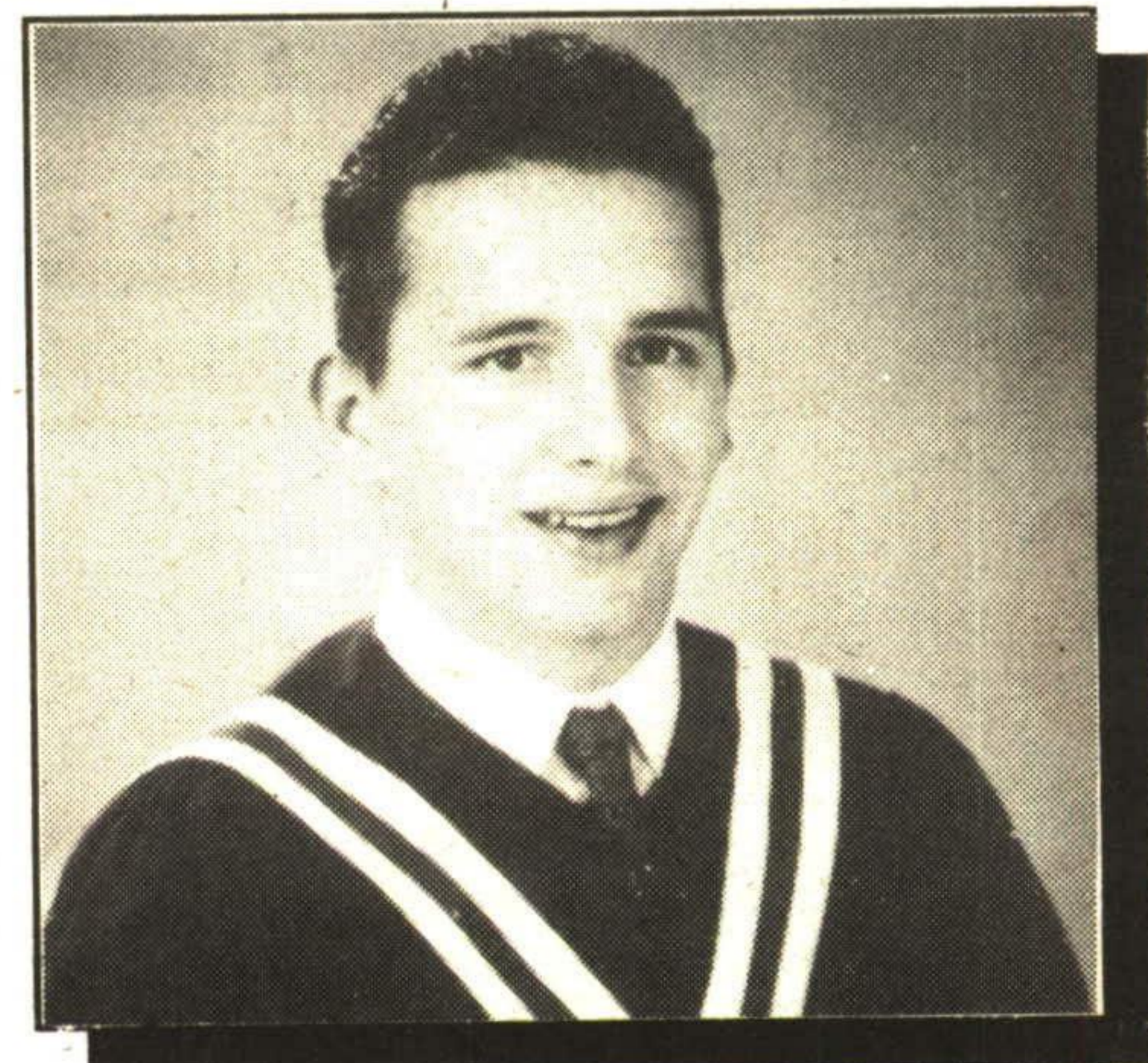


Ed & Betty Martin of Acton would like to congratulate their son Brian, who graduated from the University of Waterloo with a Bachelor's Degree of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering (1988-1993). He is now employed with Linamar Inc. in Guelph. Congratulations Brian! Love Mom & Dad



Tara MacDougall

*Congratulations
Tara and Chad!
Best of Luck in
Your Future Endeavours
Love from Your Family*

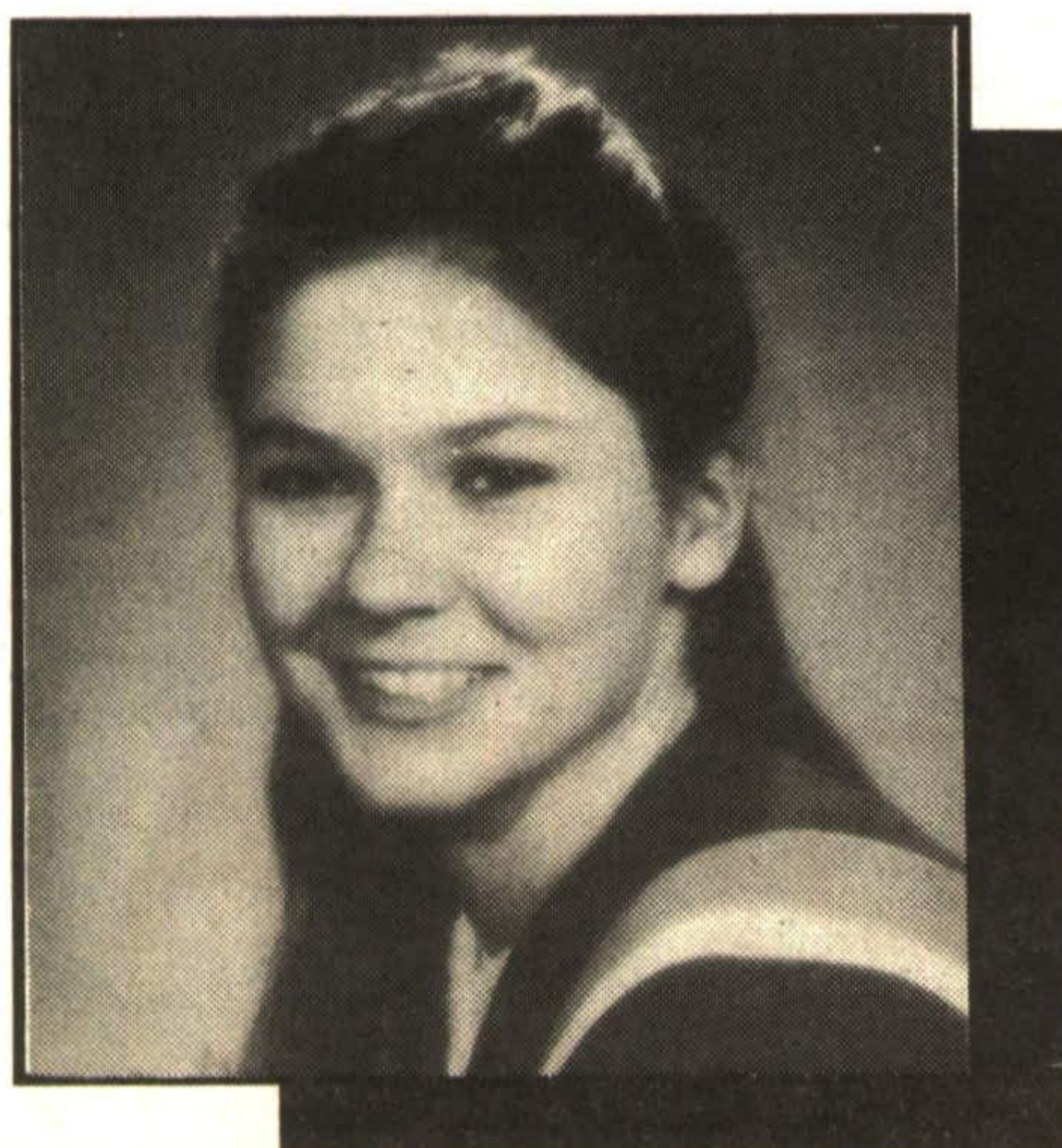


Chad Rowsell

Mr. & Mrs. James Richardson are very proud to announce the graduation of their daughter, Laureen Elizabeth from Ryerson Polytechnic University with a Bachelor of Business Management degree in Accounting and Finance.

Congratulations and good luck with your future endeavours.

Love Mum & Dad
Denise, Sandra & Jamie
XO



TARA-LYNN LEAVITT

Rex and Marilyn Leavitt are proud to announce the graduation of their daughter Tara-Lynn from Sheridan College E.C.E. Program. Tara was also recipient of the Andrew Love Memorial Award and has been accepted at Humber to further her education with Special Needs children.

Congratulations and Love From Your Family