

IN BRIEF

Going places!

Students in the Farmington Public Schools explored new continents met famous people and soared to new heights with creativity and imagination last month during a districtwide reading program sponsored by Farmington's Media Department. Over an eight-week period, 1,452 fourth- and fifth-graders from 13 schools read a total of 11,888 books from a Book Parade list. As each book was read, students met with their media specialist and discussed ideas and concepts. More than 500 students read eight or more books qualifying them for a special assembly with Canadian author Gordon Korman, who lives in New York City. He published his first book at the age of 12 through Scholastic Publishing. Students who read all 14 books on the list received a special gift — "The Random House Book of Humor."

"The really important aspect of this reading program is that all children, no matter what their ability levels, can take part in reading," said Peggy Schmidt, media director. "The hope is that children's interest in reading is ignited and that the enthusiasm lasts all year."

For the seniors

Harrison High School students will host an afternoon spring dance for senior citizens of the Farmington area on May 21 in the high school gymnasium. The spring dance will be sponsored by Farmington Community Education and the city of Farmington Hills Senior Adult Division. There will be no admission charge for the senior adults. Light refreshments will be served and music will be provided by the Harrison High School jazz band from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Registration forms are available at Mercy Center, the Farmington and Farmington Hills city halls, libraries and local businesses. For more information, call the Farmington Community School at 478-3333.

He's promoted

John Ferreira, a Farmington Hills resident, has been promoted to senior manager in the Detroit Management Consulting Department of Deloitte & Touche, a Detroit-based tax, audit and accounting firm. Ferreira specializes in operations and profit improvement for manufacturing companies. He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Massachusetts and a master's of business administration from Northeastern University.

Walkers display might for 20K hike

ARDA PERKINS lives in Dearborn, but she's happy to take a walk in Farmington Hills every year about this time.

Perkins, 85 years old and an avid walker, was a stalwart participant in the annual March of Dimes WalkAmerica fundraiser held Sunday in Farmington Hills and 11 other Detroit-area sites.

This is the third year that Perkins has walked the 20-kilometer (about 12-mile) course. She finished the walk with ease this year, one of about 1,200 who turned out for the Farmington Hills segment.

"She loves to come up because she has so many friends here," said Patti Radzik, special events coordinator for the March of Dimes. "She's really amazing. She finished the 20 kilometers and wanted to do some more."

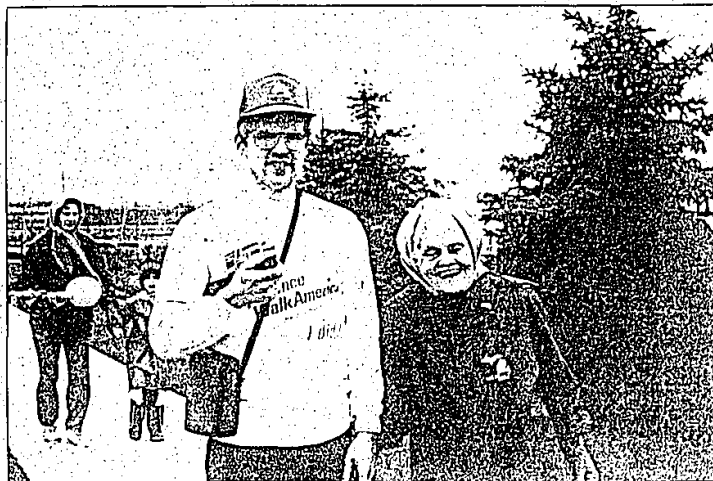
THE FARMINGTON-AREA walkers raised about \$116,000 in pledges, Radzik said, and that's a little down from last year. Overall, \$1.3 million was raised for the charity by 14,703 walkers at the 12 sites.

The Farmington Hills hike started and ended at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College.

"Despite the cold and the drizzle, most of our people finished the walk," Radzik said. "People who do this kind of thing are determined. They see it as a challenge."

A mini-WalkAmerica is planned for the Detroit area in the near future, Radzik said.

"We felt there were a lot of people who didn't come out Sunday," she added. "They'd collected their pledges and they wanted to walk. But I guess they felt it was too cold."



Arda Perkins flashes a big smile as she hikes the WalkAmerica course in Farmington Hills Sunday.

DEPARTMENT OF SPECIAL



Detroit Tiger broadcaster Rick Rizza and Daniel Eilman, the March of Dimes Youth Ambassador, got together at the walk.



Employees from Independence One Mortgage Company of Southfield pause during WalkAmerica. Carol Hyduk, coordinator, is in the first row, second from the left.

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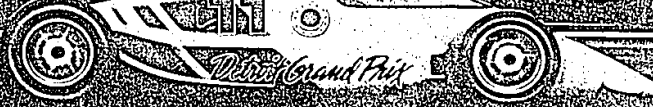
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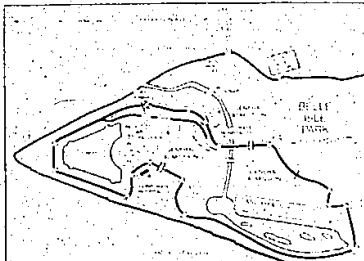
On Friday the Prix is free! First of America Free Prix Day is June 5, when you can be the first to see the time trials and qualifying rounds. Watch from a grandstand seat or walk the General Admission areas.

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