

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1996



WARREN SCHROEDER

Outcome of OBE defeats the needs of all children

Spring is in the air. College bound students' ACT test results are in the mail. As the envelopes arrive and are opened with trepidation, will parents and their children rejoice at the contents?

The ACT is the final exit outcome of a high school student's academic achievement. It can mean the difference between a competitive four-year college or a community college, or perhaps the difference between a scholarship or a second mortgage.

It represents how well our school system educates our children. Statistically we know that Farmington's public school students score on the ACT marginally (low 22's) above the national 20.8 average.

It takes the students 13 years to achieve that result.

As a frequent critic of the district's current educational experiment "Outcomes Based Education," I believe that there is a better way.

My daughter recently received her ACT test results. She scored a composite 26 on a scale of 1-36. Her score is at the 87th percentile of all high school students nationally that took the ACT in 1995. My daughter is 10 years old.

This article is not about my daughter's academic achievement, not about the thousands of dollars I have spent filling the academic pot-holes in the district's Outcomes Based Educational highway. It's about the district's academic mismanagement of our greatest na-

See SCHROEDER, 1-A

By MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

Laura Rainey is a woman of determination. Just four years ago, at age 41, the wife and mother of two daughters earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing from Mercy College of Detroit, fulfilling one dream.

Then she promptly joined the Army Reserve, another longtime desire fulfilled.

The Farmington Hills woman has added a new personal goal to her repertoire: Raising funds to benefit the Leukemia Society of America through Team In Training (TNT), a marathon training program in which participants solicit pledges to benefit the Leukemia Society.

Last year, Rainey walked her first marathon in Hawaii, 26.2 miles in 90 degree temperatures and 90 percent humidity on a course through downtown Honolulu, up Diamond Head, and down Waikiki Beach to make good on her pledges.

Her expectations differed from reality. "I had a certain (walk) time in my head but I thought, no, I just want to finish," she said, in seven hours and 15 minutes, raising \$3,600 for the Leukemia Society.

This June, she will participate in TNT's marathon fund-raiser in Anchorage, Alaska. Rainey donned her walking shoes just last week to begin training in earnest.

"The primary stimulus for me is my patients. You can't see the kids here and their families and not want to do something," she

said in a phone interview from Children's Hospital of Michigan, where she works with young cancer patients.

Rainey got involved with TNT last year through a fellow nurse and friend, a cancer survivor named Janet who works with various cancer support groups.

"She signed on to do the Hawaii marathon and I'd tease her by saying, let me be your manager and go with you," Rainey recalled. "She challenged me to get involved on my own. I signed up late in the game, the beginning of August. Then I promptly left for two weeks with my Army Reserve unit. I began training in September and the race was Dec. 8."

She recalls one grueling eight mile walk through Stoney Creek Metro Park last November where "I thought we'd die."

Somehow she persevered.

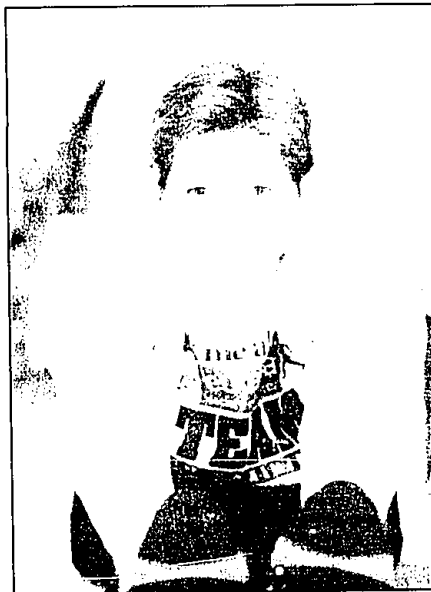
"The Honolulu Marathon was the most challenging and the most rewarding thing I have done in my life," said Rainey, who is almost 46 and the grandmother of two children.

Rainey moved to Farmington Hills in 1989 from California with her husband, Alan, who was transferred by his employer, Delco Electronics, and their youngest daughter, Liv, who is now a senior at North Farmington High. Her older daughter, Michelle, is married and lives with her family in Arizona.

She was inspired to become a nurse because of a myriad of medical problems her younger daughter suffered, including undergoing open heart surgery at a young

See WALKER, 14A

Just do it Walker treks the distance for leukemia



SHARON LEMMON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Quite a stretch: "The primary stimulus for me is my patients. You can't see the kids here and their families and not want to do something," says Farmington Hills' Laura Rainey.

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