

A sample of handicap's life is lesson for able students

The tables were turned earlier this week as handicapped students, for once, had the upper hand over their able-bodied counterparts.

Every year at Eagle Elementary school authorities give their non-handicapped students a lesson in what it's like to get around in school and learn their lessons despite crippling handicaps such as loss of speech or lack of mobility.

"It's not that we want the children to sympathize with the handicapped, we want them to empathize with the struggles handicapped students have," says

Claire Albertson, coordinator for the physically handicapped at the school.

Six different stations were set up in the school gym to acquaint the healthy students with various problems handicapped students face and the lengths they must go to overcome those difficulties.

At one station there was an electric typewriter handicapped use to type out messages with a headstick or other adaptation. Another station had students picking up books from a wheelchair and negotiating around an obstacle course.

"The stuff is hard," said Kristi Bosker, who typed her name on the typewriter with a headstick.

This year the teachers included handicapped students in the exercise by letting them try out stations that were designed for students with handicaps other than theirs.

DAWN MARIE Brasier, 10½, thought it was a good idea to let the rest of the school learn what handicapped students, like herself, face every day.

"I think it's a good idea," she said. "I think they can learn how it feels." Asked to describe how it feels, Miss Brasier said, "Well, right now it feels fine but when you're in a wheelchair a long time it doesn't feel as good."

Adam Bremen, who gets around in a wheelchair, wishes teachers would let him go full throttle on his motorized wheelchair. Teachers don't let him go fast, he says, because the other kids aren't allowed to run in the hall. So his "cruising" is restricted to the course of a local shopping mall.



Aaron Weckstein (right) learns how it feels to try to tie a shoe using only one hand. Donna Doyscher offers some help.



Using a headstick, Kristi Bosker types her name with an electric typewriter. All equipment for the day was donated by Wright-Fillipi and American Orthopedic Service



Six-year-old Elliot Sperber rolls through an obstacle course at Eagle Elementary School.

RANDY BORST/staff photographer

INSIDE ANGLES

LAKEWAY STREET residents will be sounded out before police implement a plan to restrict people from parking within 40 feet of Shilawasse. The view of the intersection is often blocked by cars parked close to Shilawasse on Lakeway, according to Farmington Lt. Frank Lauhoff. Many of the cars parked on the street belong to students at Farmington High School. Right now persons can legally park within 15 feet south of Shilawasse.

LOOSE TALK at Monday's Farmington council session. Mayor Alton Bennett suggested that at future meetings pitchers of water should be provided to cool politicians' parched throats. It's not his idea, Bennett said, but that of Councilman Richard Tupper, who was unable to attend the meeting. Bennett joked that Earl Billing, public service director, bring the water since he's in charge of the water for the city. The last word on the subject came from the usually silent city attorney Robert Kelly, who said, "Can we ship him the water? He doesn't come to the meetings."

WOMENCENTER puts out a call to 100 friends who want to share in the 10th anniversary celebration of the women-help-women center on Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College. The birthday party begins at 8 p.m. June 4 in J building. The celebration committee is compiling an update on the lives of all Womencenter friends who are willing to share their thoughts on how the center has affected their lives. Those who reply with information on what they are doing now and how the Womencenter has touched, helped or changed their lives, will have that information printed in the 10th anniversary 'printed program. Replies are to be addressed to 10th Anniversary Party, Womencenter, Oakland Community College, 27055 Orchard Lake Road. It must be received on or before May 14.

ENTHUSIASTS OF the Womencenter will be interested in knowing that T-shirt orders now are being taken. They come in a variety of sizes and are available in such colors as white, red, navy blue, green, pink, lavender and yellow. They cost \$9. Among the sayings on the shirts are: "Oh, that explains the difference in our salaries," "Men of quality are not threatened by women for equality," "Ladies Sewing Circle and Terrorist Society," "Uppity Women Unite!" and "I know he's pretty, but can he type?" To order, call the OOC Womencenter at 478-9400, ext. 508.

HATS OFF TO Enmy Alvey of Farmington Hills who will be honored by the American Red Cross on May 8 as she accepts an award for 25 years of voluntary service to the organization. A widow, she

first served as a volunteer registrar at the Red Cross Blood Center in downtown Detroit for 17 years. For the past eight years she has worked two days each week at the reception desk at Botsford General Hospital. When asked why she spent so much of her life in voluntary service, she said, "First, I'd be lost without the work, and second, I'm convinced that by volunteering my time and services, I'm helping those who most need help in their time of distress."

A BIG SALUTE GOES to Airman First Class Cheryl Elliot. The 1976 North Farmington graduate was honored recently as the Airman of the Year. She joined the Michigan Air National Guard a little more than a year ago and after completing basic training and technical school. She now trains in her military capacity one weekend each month at Selfridge Air National Guard base in Mt. Clemens. As the intelligence operations specialist for the 107th Tactical Fighter Squadron, she is involved with updating pilot training records and other information relating to the aircraft operations and mission of her unit.

SWEET ADELINES DAY is coming up this Saturday, and the prize-winning Farmington Hills chapter will be singing its tunes at Tally Hall that day from noon to 1 p.m. The chapter has been named the 1981 Region 2 champion and is preparing for international competition in Minneapolis on October 9. The group will be competing with champions from 27 regions through the world. They will be selling carnations on their day to raise funds so they may attend the competition.

THOSE ABOARD children just keep on reaping the honors. This time it's Paula Aboard who is receiving the accolades for her fourth-place finish in the Law Day essay contest sponsored by the State Bar. The Beahan Junior High School student joined other winners in Lansing last month to be honored. The 12 winners were selected from a field of 2,800. The featured speaker at the ceremony was Michigan Supreme Court Justice Mary Coleman. Pat Smith of Lansing chaired the competition, which was coordinated through the Lawyers Wives of Michigan.

HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL appreciation banquet will be May 10. The potluck supper will be enjoyed by parents and music students followed by election of officers for the coming year and awarding of scholarships. The entertainment for the evening will be Harrison's own jazz band.

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