

Land mines from page B1

plements, and bulk protein - not exactly a gourmet's delight. Everyone lost weight, from 15 to 40 pounds apiece.

Templer lost 38 pounds. He can't wear his prosthetic arm because of the weight loss.

"I'm on a beer-and-pizza diet right now to gain it back," he quipped.

A professional mine clearer was part of the team and put his expertise to use many times. Ironically at one village the group visited, a mine exploded, blowing off a farming woman's arm and leg, while the kayakers were at the local clinic.

There are an estimated 110 million active mines scattered across 70 countries worldwide. Angola is the worst-affected nation. Two thousand people are involved in land mine accidents worldwide every month. At least 80 percent of victims are civilians.

An eerie encounter

Templer experienced chilling *deja vu* in the area where his hippo accident occurred.

"In the spot where I got eaten, we almost recreated the scene," he recalled.

As the kayakers made their way downstream, a huge bull hippo sprang upon the group from underwater, its enormous mouth a gap-

ing vacuum.

"There were eight cameras in the group, and no one took a photo," said Williams. "Paul's kayak had a rooster tail behind it, the retreat was that quick."

The incident was over with in seconds as the hippo just as quickly submerged itself.

Ask Templer to name the best part of the three-month trek, and he's hard pressed to come up with an answer.

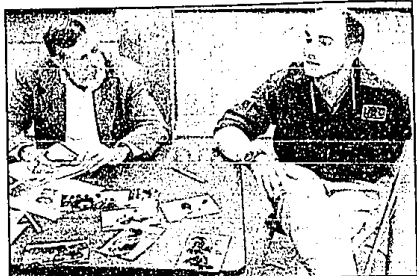
"There were so many highlights," he said. "I think the best part was just finishing the trip. I think I'm the one who benefited most. I proved to myself that I could do it."

Williams said Templer has become an inspiration to other amputees by proving that no goal is too difficult. Portions of the trip were documented on African satellite television news shows. In villages, other amputees wished Templer well, recognizing him from the publicity.

"I'm lucky I had this opportunity to experience this."

Added Williams: "Paul has come to grips with his disability. He grabbed a hold of life and shook it hard. He has an ability to handle things. He takes it to the limits."

Dave Williams, director of *Make A Difference*, can be reached at P. O. Box 160, Farmington 48332-0160, or phone 477-8400, Ext. 249.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL DAZLER
Memories: Dave Williams (left) and Paul Templer talk about the river expedition on the Zambezi River.

Chat room from page B1

that he shows. We are also signed to return to Euromed in twice next year.

In between trips to Euromed, Nick receives three hours of physical therapy per week. We have also re-created many of the devices used in Poland. We have two ropes strung across our deck for Nick to practice walking. In the basement we have built a rope-and-pulley device to continue his muscle-building exercises.

Even with all of this, we have noticed some regression in Nick's walking. While in Poland his feet straightened out so that they were parallel to one another, now they've started to turn in again. We're anxious to return to see if intensive therapy will return his feet to a more proper position.

The last week of the program was wonderful. I was in the hallway where the gym was located. Each room I looked into had its own miracle going - from a girl taking her first steps independently to a child being able to sit by herself to a 21-year-old woman being able to walk on her knees by herself.

She said it all when she gasped "I can do it. I can do it." I was crying and trying to get her on videotape. It was a moment I'll never forget. These kids worked so hard to make movements we take for granted daily. I was so proud of each of them.

Whether you are overweight, in a wheelchair, sit differently, or can't hold your head up, we are all the same inside. We all have feelings and care about others and want to be loved and appreciated for who we are.

Poland was and will continue to be a learning experience, not only for our son but our whole family. We've gotten a lot of support from family and friends and community.

Prior to leaving for Poland we were not sure that this was the thing to do. We didn't know how Nick would respond or even if the therapy would help him. I think that after the first week in Poland we knew that this was the right program for him.

The No. One question we've been asked is "Why don't we have that treatment in the U.S.?" Maybe one day soon it will come here. There are doctors working on bringing this therapy here. But it will take time.

As a parent of a child challenged in many ways, I feel that I need to look high and low to find those programs that will help make his life as independent as possible. As with our other children, we want Nick to be a healthy, productive member of society.

For the others the tools are more readily available. For Nick we have to work harder to find them. I think Poland is one of the ways to help him reach the stars.

Beth and Nicholas Pellerito are Farmington Hills residents. If you'd like to help defray the cost of sending Nick to Poland, send contributions to *Nardin Park United Methodist Church*; *Nicholas Pellerito Fund*.

24-hour 'Marathon of Hope' will benefit child amputees

The Make a Difference 24-hour Marathon of Hope, to benefit child amputees in Africa, will take place at 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, and end at 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25. Farmington resident and former All-State distance runner Dave Clinard will run for 24 hours to raise money for child amputees in Africa.

"I'm committed to the marathon because it's something that I can do to help children injured or maimed through no fault of their own," Clinard said. "I would like to invite and challenge the community to join me in this effort to help raise money to provide children with prosthetic limbs."

The marathon is seeking support through corporate sponsorships and individual gifts, runners using a sign-up sheet method, celebrity and special interest runners.

The marathon is a followup to the Make a Difference expedition, a three-month trip down the Zambezi River in Africa to raise awareness of land mine victims led by Paul Templer, a victim of a 1996 hippopotamus attack on the river and an amputee.

Make a Difference is working with a prosthesis center headquartered in Harare, Zimbabwe, to fit children with artificial limbs. Several children have already been fitted and the foundation hopes to raise money to help many more who are waiting. Thousands of adults and children are injured and killed every year in Africa by land mines.

Clinard hopes to cover 100 miles in 24 hours on the route, which will be run in the Farmington Town Center.

For more information, call the ZZAM Make a Difference Web site at www.zzam.org; MAKE-A-DIFFERENCE

Now Accepting New Patients

Christina DiMaggio, MD, recently joined the practice of David Clarke, MD, Robert Dodds, MD, and Kang-Lee Tu, MD. As a specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology, she provides prenatal care to women and their developing babies, as well as routine medical care to women throughout their lives. She has a special interest in childbirth, infertility, and wellness care.

Upon earning her medical degree at Wayne State University, Dr. DiMaggio went on to complete her internship and residency at Providence Hospital. She is a member of the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

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