

# Farmington Observer

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Twenty-five cents

## Diesel power brings jobs to the Hills

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

Holset Engineering will provide up to 300 jobs in Farmington Hills by 1987 at its new facility, the former White Motors world headquarters at 24500 Grand River.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Cummins Engines of England, Holset manufactures turbochargers for diesel engines as well as dampers (devices that reduce engine vibration).

Two English representatives are due to begin operating soon from the facility for which Holset paid \$4.5 million. The price tag includes 20 acres, 83,000 square feet of space and several \$700,000 dynamometers used to test engines. Holset's Alex Wallace, director of marketing in North America, and his colleagues plan to hire a core of 30 sales and engineering personnel locally. Staffing will gradually be increased from there.

Instrumental in the deal was the Farmington Hills Economic Development Corporation (EDC), which is loaning Holset approximately \$5 million for the purchase and improvement of the property.

NOT EVERYTHING in the arrangement has clicked like clockwork, however.

The firm, which also operates a manufacturing plant in Columbus, Indiana, is contesting its \$973,000 tax assessment.

Farmington Hills City Councilman Charlie Williams recently criticized Holset for its stance and asked whether EDC's agreement with the company is binding.

"I hate to see anyone turned down, but I have strong reservations about this," said Williams.

"It bothers me that, here these people are coming in for the purpose of adding to the tax base, and before

they're even here, they're arguing about their property taxes.

"I'm not sure why they'd contest their taxes when they've admitted on record to the fair market value of the facility."

Wallace is meeting with city assessors to contest the settlement was made, Farmington Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns said.

The company is challenging the city assessor's judgment as to how much of the facility should be considered personal property and how much should be classified as real estate, Cairns said.

Cairns defended Holset saying, "not only is it healthy financially — and competitive — but enticing the firm to Farmington Hills means the city would no longer have any industrial bonds in default."

(White Motors, which in 1980, was financed with tax-exempt industrial development bonds issued by Farmington Hills in 1974 with approval from the Michigan Municipal Finance Commission.)

The Council sided with Cairns, voting 5-0 to ratify the appointment of outside directors for Holset at a recent legislative session.

THE FORMER White Motors site, easily recognized by its expansive lawn and man-made pond, has housed a host of tenants.

The Star Cutter Company, a cutting tool manufacturer now based in northern Michigan, first occupied the facility 30 to 35 years ago, Cairns said.

From 1974-1980, White Motors anchored its world headquarters at the 20-acre site but experienced financial difficulties in 1975 when the bottom dropped out of the truck and farm equipment market.

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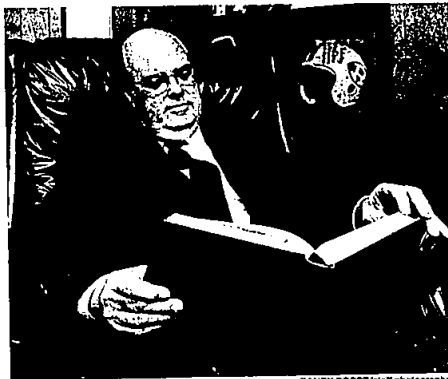
RANDY BORST/staff photographer

### Halloween war paint

As an alternative to all those ET masks out there, some Halloween celebrants are opting instead for face painting. It's original, scary but safe for walking or driving while in costume. Various busi-

nesses around the suburban area are decorating faces. During this session, Nancy Mantari, of the Total You Salon, applies a one-of-a-kind make-up mask to 13-year-old April See.

## North Raiders win one for team doc



RANDY BORST/staff photographer  
Dr. Murray Deighton relaxes at home while recuperating from surgery. His recovery has been bolstered by being honored as defenseman of the week by the North Farmington football team after that team's recent homecoming victory. Deighton has been the team's doctor since 1983.

By M.B. Dillon Ward  
staff writer

The chance to hand a football coach his 150th career win might be incentive enough for many a team to go out and win one for its answer to the Gipper. And the arrival of that emotional annual event known as homecoming also could add a tinge of determination.

North Farmington's football players had both factors working for them Oct. 16, but that's not why they clobbered Garden City, 29-6, according to coach Ron Holland.

Holland attributes the inspiration of his players that day to the presence of team physician Dr. Murray Deighton, who two weeks ago underwent a serious operation for the second time this year.

The surgery prevented him from attending two games — Deighton's first absences since 1983, when he joined the Raiders as its team doctor.

"I HAD TALKED to him Wednesday (before homecoming), and he didn't know if he'd be feeling well enough to make it. Well, we were walking through the gate into the game, and when we looked behind us, saw him," said Holland.

"His presence there was a great inspiration to us all. He got us fired up,

and the football team and the coaches did a better job for homecoming, 1982 because of it."

Defensive coordinator Ralph Temby wholeheartedly agreed.

Instead of honoring a player with the week's defensive decoration, the gold helmet award for outstanding defense went to Deighton, who has had a kidney, and now his gall bladder, removed.

The helmet, signed by each of the players, is kept for the weekend by the winner, then displayed at the high school.

"The victory was just a victory. As a coach you strive to do the best you possibly can, and this win was an outgrowth of Dr. Deighton, North Farmington, the coaching staff, parents and kids."

THE RECOGNITION was far from "just an award" for Deighton.

"It was quite a surprise and made me feel very good," Deighton said. "To be honored the same day coach Holland got his 150th career victory was a real honor."

"My rewards lie in the fun of participating in the whole North Farmington football program, and the satisfaction

of seeing the boys do well, progress and mature.

"I've been at it long enough that I've

delivered a number of the youngsters who play. Many of the boys who played

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## Jerry's Bookstore gets big auto jolt

By Craig Pichura  
staff writer

Anti-freeze fluid spilled in the middle of Farmington Road caused a driver to lose control of her car Wednesday evening and hit a car and a bicycle rack before slamming into the side of Jerry's Bookstore.

No one was injured in the accident which occurred at 7:57 p.m. on Farmington Road, just south of Grand River in downtown Farmington.

The driver of the car that lost control, Marcia Ann Rapnicki, 17, of Farmington Hills and two passengers weren't injured.

She was issued a ticket for failure to maintain control of her vehicle, a civil infraction. Family members say Rapnicki plans to contest the ticket on grounds that the spilled anti-freeze was a hazard that made the accident unavoidable.

The bookstore was closed at the time of the crash but was reopened. The impact of the collision knocked book shelves down and dislodged bricks and blocks from the wall.

Bookstore owner Bertha Cunningham of Farmington Hills says it's not the first time the store has been struck by a car and probably won't be the last. The closeness of the store to two drive-ways contributes to the problem, Cunningham says.

"It was a little after 8 on Wednesday when the police called me at home saying 'This is the Farmington Police,'" Cunningham said. "Right away I thought of the bookstore."

Not too long ago, she said, a driver drove too close to the building and tore the air conditioning unit off and, more than once, truck drivers negotiating a turn in the narrow driveway behind the bookstore have nicked the building.

## Merchant indicted in food stamp case

By Craig Pichura  
staff writer

A grocer from Farmington Hills was one of 31 merchants indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury and charged with buying food stamps for less than their face value.

It is illegal to purchase food stamps for cash, according to U.S. Atty. Leonard Gilman, and against the law to redeem coupons illegally acquired.

The grocer, Zouhair Youssif, lives in Farmington Hills and owns Samira Market, 21350 Schoolcraft, Detroit. Through a store spokesman acting as an interpreter, Youssif said he remembered someone coming in the store offering to sell him food stamps but claims he didn't purchase any.

The interpreter at the store, who refused to give his name, said Youssif was surprised to see stories about the indictment in the newspaper because he hasn't been notified yet of the indictment or arraigned on any charge.

Ast. U.S. Atty. Blondell L. Morey said the 31 persons who were indicted have been sent letters telling them to report to federal court in Detroit for arraignment within 10 days from last Wednesday when the indictments were handed down.

Conviction on a single count of unauthorized acquisition or possession of food coupons carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The indictment charges that Youssif purchased food stamps from undercover

er agents working for a federal task force on three separate occasions in 1982.

"WE HAVE HIM buying on July 9, 1982 \$145 worth of food stamps for \$100," Morey said. "On July 22 he bought \$130 worth of food stamps for \$80 and on July 12 he bought \$130 worth of food stamps for \$85."

In total, the federal government claims Youssif bought \$405 worth of food stamps for \$285. Of the 31 defendants, federal agents say \$13,175 worth of food stamps were bought by grocers at a price of \$2.434.

Undercover agents who approached the grocers were working for a task force comprised of members of the Secret Service, the FBI and the U.S. De-

partment of Agriculture.

"I'm sure that's going to come up," said Morey, when asked if questions of entrapment would be raised by grocers indicted in the grand jury probe.

"That's always a possible defense in cases of this type. The way it was done didn't constitute entrapment, I guess that's the government's position."

Morey said that after purchasing the stamps, Youssif turned some of the coupons in for full redemption price.

"Stamps were recovered from the Federal Reserve Bank that were sold to Mr. Youssif," Morey said.

In other cases, federal agents claim the food stamps were traded as a black market currency by other grocers indicted.

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