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Twenty-five cents

Metrovision tapped by consulting group

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Despite local officials' best attempts to keep the information secret, the Farmington Observer learned Thursday that an Atlanta-based cable television firm — Metrovision Inc. — has been recommended by a professional consultant firm hired to evaluate three competing bids.

The other two companies bidding for the franchise to serve Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi are United-Nederland, with national headquarters in Denver, and Omnicom, a wholly owned subsidiary of Capital Cities

Communication of New York.

The recommendation by Cable Television Information Center Associates (CTIC Associates) of Arlington, Va., doesn't guarantee Metrovision will be awarded the tri-city franchise contract.

OFFICIALS IN the three cities will vote to award the franchise to one of the three firms after examining the consultant's findings and listening to the recommendation by a six-member committee comprised of the three city managers and a councilman from each community.

But the local committee also is expected to recommend tomorrow that

Metrovision be awarded the bid for a potentially lucrative 15-year cable franchise that almost assures exclusivity.

"The committee's report will mimic the consultant's findings," Deadman said. "I suspect we'll come to the same conclusions."

ASKED IF that meant the local cable committee also will recommend that Metrovision get the contract, Deadman replied, "Sure I'm sure. I say that from my perspective, anyway."

Since the committee was appointed to investigate which offer was the best one for the three communities, Deadman was asked if he thought council members in the three communities would concur with the committee and CTIC in choosing Metrovision.

"My belief is all three councils will concur with the recommendations," Deadman said.

"Whether they do or not I'd be less than candid if, after all the effort this committee's gone through and all the careful review of all three proposals, I didn't admit I'd feel disappointed if one or all of the councils rejected the committee's recommendation."

"I don't think that's going to occur. I think they'll recognize this offer (Metrovision's) is the best buy for the three communities."

In its final report, CTIC Associates said consultants have reviewed the three bids and compared them and found "Metrovision has presented the strongest proposal and is offering the best buy."

A PRESENTATION by the director of the national cable consultant group, Harold Horn, will accompany the release of the CTIC Associates' final report, delivered at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at Farmington Hills council chambers.

"WELL, GOOD, good," said Henry Harris, president of Metrovision, when informed his firm was rated the highest. "I just hope it holds up in the final vote."

Representatives of the three companies bidding for the franchise — Metrovision, United-Nederland and Omnicom — will attend a meeting at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at Farmington Hills City Hall.

Omnicom and United representatives say they'll try to convince council members from the three cities who'll be present that the consultants' conclusion is faulty. Actual selection of the cable company isn't expected to take place until next month.

Omnicom and United-Nederland are expected to call attention to the

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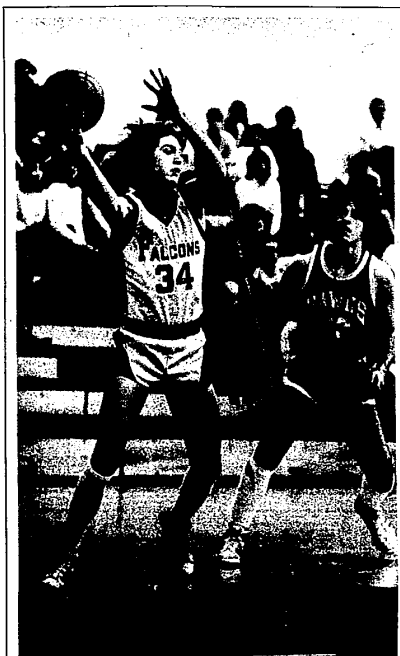
Last ditch effort spurs cable firms

By Craig Piechura
staff writer

Being recommended for a cable television franchise is a far cry from being selected. But Metrovision Inc. is definitely the front-runner in competition for the contract to serve Farmington, Farmington Hills and Novi.

The Atlanta-based cable company received the highest marks in the final report released Friday by the Cable Television Information Center Associates (CTIC Associates), a group of paid consultants headquartered in Arlington, Va., just outside of Washington, D.C.

A local committee comprised of elected and appointed city officials from the three communities also is expected to recommend that Metrovision be awarded the contract.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Falcons flatten Hawks

The Farmington Falcons scored an upset victory over the Harrison Hawks last Friday night. Here, Ken Faulkner (left) prepares to shoot a pass past Harrison defender Gus Kehagias. To read more about the Falcons' 47-38 win, please turn to today's sports section.

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Internal probe is launched

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

The Oakland County Prosecutor's office is investigating a complaint of sexual harassment filed against a Farmington Hills police sergeant.

The sergeant was suspended for seven weeks, beginning in November, after an internal police department investigation of a complaint made by a woman dispatcher.

The male sergeant returned to duty three weeks ago. Police chief John Nichols said he would remain reinstated until such time as a warrant is issued or there is a conviction. Officers said the prosecutor's office is checking to determine if a crime was committed. If so, a warrant would be issued.

Richard Thompson, chief assistant prosecutor handling the case, refused to discuss the investigation.

FARMINGTON HILLS Police Chief John Nichols said he had Sgt. John Kohls, administrative officer in charge of internal affairs, make an internal investigation immediately after the charge was first made and this led to the suspension.

Apparently it is possible that the sergeant could be charged with criminal sexual conduct in the fourth degree. Such a crime is charged when coercion is used to accomplish sexual contact, or the aggressor knows the victim is "mentally ineffective, mentally incapacitated or physically helpless."

Conviction carries a maximum penalty of two years in jail.

Nichols said this was the only time such a case has arisen in the police department.

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Ignoring overseas markets hurting industry



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Robert York of Scans Associates, Inc. in Livonia explains an automatic test system for automatic

transmissions. The machinery will be incorporated into an assembly line in an auto plant.

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Exporting is growing vastly in importance and quantity, and American manufacturers would be adjusting their views and policies accordingly.

So says Farmington Hills' Robert York, who recently was appointed to the Michigan District Export Council (MDEC) by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Malcolm Baldrige.

Comprised of international business executives from 40 companies, the MDEC works to create jobs by encouraging small and medium-sized firms to enter overseas markets.

York is vice president and general manager for Scans Associates, Inc., a designer and manufacturer of specialized automotive and aircraft testing equipment in Livonia.

"I BELIEVE in the importance of international business," says York, who has extensive overseas experience and has traveled throughout the world.

"I recognize the importance of showing the rest of the world what kind of goods and services America can provide."

In many cases, says York, international peace talks don't accomplish as

much as business executives do by building an understanding and solving common problems, despite differences in language, background and beliefs.

International political sessions are conducted so formally that the participants almost never learn to understand each other, York says.

YORK IS NO stranger to international trade.

From 1971 to 1976 he lived in Liege, Belgium, setting up Scans' European operation. Four or five times a year he travels to Japan and Europe attending to customers in 17 countries.

Among them are the Royal Australian Air Force, Willys Motors in Brazil, Citroen in France, Fos Polmo in Poland, Singapore Airlines, and Avtoimport in the USSR.

American customers include the U.S. Armed Forces, the Boeing Company, Braniff International Airways, the Caterpillar Tractor Co. and major auto manufacturers.

York was selected for the MDEC

post because, according to Raymond Riesgo, director of the International Trade Administration's Detroit office, "he can make a large contribution by advising and counseling small and medium-sized firms in the mysteries of export."

ALTHOUGH THE Department of Commerce's budget apparently will escape the pruning shears of Reaganomics, the obstacles confronting international trade are numerous, complex and difficult to remedy, York says.

For instance, he says, embargos and sanctions against Russia resulting from situations in Afghanistan and Poland have stifled trade with the Soviets, particularly in the automotive area. Import and export bans as well as import duties also complicate international trade and affect the United States' ability to remain competitive, he adds.

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Alcohol involved in traffic accident

By Judith Berne
staff writer

The official police report on the two-car accident in which Juan Bonds, 18, of West Bloomfield, was killed last month shows that the car which struck him was over the center line when the accident occurred, and that both drivers had been drinking.

Blood tests showed that Russell W. Brown, of Union Lake, had an alcohol percentage in his bloodstream of .19 while Mr. Bonds had .17.

Under state law, a reading of .10 is considered drunk and .07 indicates that driving ability is impaired.

The accident report states that Brown, 34, was driving east on Commerce Road near Indian Trail about 1 a.m. Dec. 14 when his car crossed the center line and struck Mr. Bonds' west-bound car. The report indicates there was no sign of rain, snow or fog and that the road surface was dry.

ORCHARD LAKE Police Chief Jack Nicholson said Thursday that police re-

port was turned over to Oakland County Assistant Prosecutor Richard Thompson. As of Friday, no criminal charges had been sought by the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. The case is listed as "open" on the accident report, suggesting it is still under investigation.

The accident report cannot be used as evidence in a criminal case," Orchard Lake Police Sgt. Edward Beyette said. It can be used in a civil case, he added.

Ms. Bonds, the daughter of WKY-

TV television newscaster Bill Bonds, was home on vacation from her freshman year at Michigan State University. She died at the scene of the accident.

BROWN was hospitalized and later released from Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

The accident report was compiled after investigation by state police experts in accident reconstruction aided by the Orchard Lake police, the Oak-

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