

Disaster from page 1A

lished reports.
Companies don't have to wait for hurricanes or floods to use the facility. Many conduct disaster recovery training seminars in order to be prepared.
Comdisco plans to staff the new facility with people from its Chicago area operations, nullifying the possibility of new jobs being created in the interim.
Nonetheless, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of

Commerce Director Jody Soronen is pleased with the news.
"I think that's a wonderful idea," Soronen said. "I don't know much about the company. I think it would be a fairly ideal location for that. It's easy to get to... though I wouldn't want to wish a disaster on anybody."
A simple power outage can seem devastating to a business, Comdisco officials said. Companies have used Comdisco's

service anywhere from a few hours to 31 days, as in the case after the World Trade Center bombing.
The Hills recovery center would serve Michigan and western Ohio and is the second site to open in the Midwest in three months.
Comdisco, which has been in operation since 1980, is a large player in a growing \$1-billion a year industry.

Germany from page 1A

starts in the classroom.
Teachers are strict, having been educated through the communist system, Hauptmann said. Students take eight to 10 courses, more than their American counterparts.
"It's quite difficult," Hauptmann said. "I'm really impressed with the level of English here."
She's often quizzed about life in America.
Students want to know if everyone here carries a gun. They ask about drugs and crime, and about the lack of a social welfare system.
She tries to debunk those American stereotypes, she said. The culture shock goes beyond what they see in the media, though.
The educational system is trying to adjust.
"They discuss things that students are not prepared for in everyday life, which I think was a big concern in America," Hauptmann said. "They learn all these academic courses, but they don't know how to balance a checkbook,

to do those types of things."
Also, (they have) to adjust to a new system of life because before, under the Soviet system, they didn't have to pay taxes. They didn't have to do these normal everyday things that are so familiar in Western culture."
While the schools retool minds, former East Germany rebuilds structurally.
Efforts are being made to clean up the Elbe River, which became a cesspool under communist-inspired industrialization. Many of the pollution-emitting factories have also been closed.
That washes environmentally but not economically as thousands have been tossed out of work.
Dresden is still trying to rebuild after it was devastated during Allied bombing in World War II. Builders are busy reconstructing a large church called the Sauer Church, which was a monument to peace.
"It's a city of total clashes," Hauptmann said. "You see the beauty, the older part of the city.

Then you see these huge socialist blocks called *raihers hauser*. They're city blocks long and 15 stories high. They are just living cells."
"You can see how the entire city was destroyed to nothing, leveled, and they built these really ugly buildings in place of it."
Dresden is also referred to as the "Florence on the Elbe." Hauptmann regularly takes in the cultural life, which includes many cafes, museums, and theaters.
German people, though, don't act out.
"They don't laugh as easily as Americans do," she said. "I have to be frank and say I felt they were a touch cold at first. I think once they get to know you and get to know your personality, they begin to thaw."
Of course, mention David Hasselhoff, Germans turn into puddles over the hot actor.
"He's definitely big over here," Hauptmann said about the co-star of TV's "Baywatch," "especially with the younger generation."

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Fieger from page 1A

Fieger and Botsford have locked horns in the past over medical practice, including another case where the jury awarded an \$18.6 million award. In that case, Fieger represented Jamie Martinez of Dearborn, who became a quadriplegic. A jury found in 1993 that actions by Botsford staffers caused the boy's problems at birth.
"That's really the only similarity," said Fieger

of the fact that they both involved Botsford during the birthing process.
Gorchow said that award is also in the appeal process, but the hospital and plaintiffs appear to be close to a settlement.
"I think that this is part of the cost of doing obstetrics," she said of the cases.

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