

# Dacta

## Students navigate for RoboCup

BY TIM SMITH  
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They won't build RoboHawk this year at Harrison High School.

But Harrison students continue to gear up on their favorite craft, planning and organizing the recent Lego Dacta competition, held Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Farmington district school.

Six teams of three students each, from East and Warner middle schools, navigated computer-controlled Legos through a course of ramps and holes. They used the toys and technology to move ping-pong balls from one side of the course to the other, said Harrison teacher Cristina Ero.

Winning the event and coveted RoboCup Trophy was a team from East. The "Alpha Gators," coached by teacher Darlene Egbert-Oliver, was comprised of students Brad Cregar, Brandon Lepisto and Bryan Theisen.

Broz said Harrison students "coached the younger kids and designed (the) playing field the kids played on."

"It (the competition) was planned and organized by Harrison kids as a way to promote robotics."

Broz said East students assembled their Lego Dacta kits during an after-school enrichment class while those from Warner did so as part of a tech-

nology class.

### Not this year

The previous two years, Harrison students - backed by a corporate sponsorship from TRW Automotive in Farmington Hills - built "RoboHawk" for entry into the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology competition at Eastern Michigan University.

But Harrison and TRW this year were not able to continue their previous arrangement, in which professional engineers and students worked side-by-side to build the robot. The school and TRW were not able to continue for a "variety of reasons," including how much staff time was available for the project, said Farmington Schools Superintendent Bob Maxfield.

But Maxfield indicated the collaboration could be resumed.

"This is a relationship we have valued and we look forward to (it) continuing," said Maxfield, describing TRW as an excellent corporate citizen.

TRW spokeswoman Chris D'Alleva concurred about the desire for both sides to team up again.

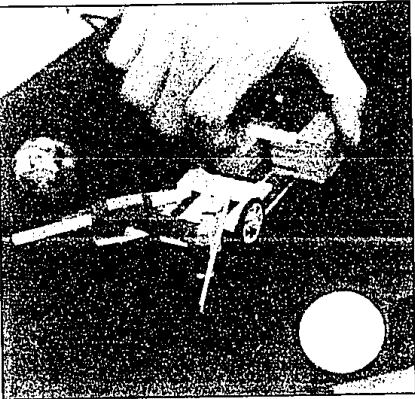
"We're real positive on Harrison," D'Alleva said. "It's been a wonderful relationship for both sides... We look upon them as friends."



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL DARRINER

Preparing: Jeremy Pitcher, Nicholas Link and Eddie Bellamy make last-minute adjustments to their robot before competition for the coveted RoboCup Trophy.

**Intense:** Students (at right) navigate the computer-controlled Lego through a course of ramps and holes during the competition Dec. 5. The RoboCup Trophy was won by The "Alpha Gators" from East Middle School. At left, The dacta robot's task was to pick up a ball and negotiate around the track.



## Fugitive team arrests man previously let go by mistake

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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Oakland County Fugitive Apprehension team arrested a Detroit man Wednesday who was inadvertently released from jail.

The man is wanted on a series of charges, including first-degree criminal sexual conduct and home invasion in Detroit. He could face additional charges for using a false identification, which led to his mistakenly being released from Oakland County Jail last week.

"The fugitive team got some tips on him and arrested him at

■ **Farmington Hills police arrested the 28-year-old man after he stole a bottle of vodka from a Rite Aid on 14 Mile Nov. 29.**

a party store in Detroit," said Capt. Michael McCabe, Oakland County Sheriff Department.

Farmington Hills police arrested the 28-year-old man after he stole a bottle of vodka from a Rite Aid on 14 Mile Nov. 29.

Though he gave a different name, Hills police said he matched the description - including a noticeable scar on his head - of a man wanted on criminal sexual conduct and burglary charges in Detroit.

Hills police asked that the man be held until a fingerprint analysis could be done. However, he was bailed out of Oakland County Jail for \$200 on the shoplifting charge.

Hills police weren't at fault for the mix-up at the jail, which was initially attributed to a paper work snafu, McCabe said.

The man was taken into custody without incident.

## Foreclosed building purchased

BY TIM SMITH  
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First, new owners bought the building. Second, workers cleaned and fixed it up, from basement to roof. Now, someone has to move in.

A long-vacant storefront, at 33409 Grand River, is part of the building now owned by Farmwell LLC, which includes Realtor Joyce Cornwell and descendants of the Gov. Warner family.

"We got (the name) Farmwell from (combining) Farmington and Cornwell," said Joyce Cornwell.

But the 1,750-square-foot storefront, suitable for retail or office use, remains without a tenant. The vacant space is sandwiched between Fun with Plaster and the Farmington Observer, where improvements to the former Richard Elsmann-owned building are continuing.

Cornwell & Bush, of Farmington, is the retail leasing agent and property manager for the building, which was bought from Standard Federal

Bank. The bank had taken the building from Elsmann and put it into foreclosure. Cornwell estimated that it would cost a tenant \$2,200 per month to use the space.

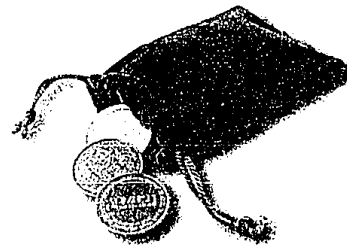
A rumor was circulating that a Farmington business might be interested in relocating to the building. That isn't so, Cornwell said.

"The space immediately to the east of you (Observer), we don't have a prospective tenant for," Cornwell emphasized.

She said people shouldn't now have any problem knowing about the availability. But that apparently wasn't always the case.

"I walk that area all the time," Cornwell said. "I did not know it did not have a tenant until we started actually investigating the property to purchase it."

Before the Farmwell purchase, windows of that space typically were covered, with little or no indication of an available storefront inside.



## FOR THE CHILDREN, FROM SANTA

Santa will be at Somerset North every day 'til closing. And for each child who visits, he has a special gift. A velvet pouch for three golden coins from Santa's treasure chest.

Children can use the coins for purchases at participating stores. Or tuck them away as mementos.

While you're waiting to visit Santa, the characters from "The Giving Season" will be on hand for rollicking entertainment, amusement and storytelling. If you wish, you can even join them for Saturday breakfast. (Reservations can be made at the castle.)

And for your entertainment, we've arranged daily performances at 1, 3 and 5 pm of "A Most Unusual Gift," a musical staged by The Children's Theatre of Michigan.

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