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participated in Student Government Day, shadowing officials and staff members for a day at city hall. They had a run at resolving some of the year's most contentious issues — like proposed development at 11 Pines, a city-owned property that includes an abandoned landfill.

Under fire from residents, council members spiked a plan that included multi-family housing on the 92-acre site. They're now leaning toward commercial development, as well as an expansion of San Marino municipal golf course from nine to 18 holes.

Noise problems from I-275, a long-standing concern of neighboring residents, prompted several presentations from asphalt and concrete pavers. The city commissioned its own noise study, due at the end of the year, and officials plan to meet with residents early this year to examine the results.

Rep. Andrew Raczowski will

take his oath of office in the State House for a third and final term, after winning re-election in November. His long-anticipated run for Speaker of the House proved unsuccessful, however.

A heavy voter turn-out included a large number of absentee ballots, which favored Al Gore by a narrow margin. Hills resident Marie Weigold was among the 18 electors who cast Michigan's vote for Gore in mid-December.

Hills voters also helped re-elect 11th District Congressman Joe Knol-

lenberg, and returned County commissioners Terry Sever and David Moffitt to office.



Home stretch:
George W. Bush spoke to a capacity crowd at Oakland Community College in late October.

STAFF PHOTO
BY BILL
BRZDZKA



Trial

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February 2000 preliminary examination. If convicted, McIntosh could be imprisoned for life.

The case stems from an alleged transaction on Jan. 26, 2000, in the parking lot of the Farmington Big Boy. According to exam testimony and a tape-recorded conversation, the woman met with an undercover police officer to discuss killing her live-in boyfriend. She also paid nearly \$350 in cash, with promises to quickly pay the balance of the \$2,000 contract.

The "hit man" turned out to be an undercover detective for Michigan State Police, previously made aware that McIntosh wanted to kill her allegedly abusive boyfriend.

Plymouth-based defense attorney Arthur Butler said conditions of the original bond have been modified. McIntosh no longer is required to live under her parents' supervision. But she does report each day to Plymouth-based 35th District Court.

"She's very stressed out because of the daily reporting in," Butler said. "But she's holding together."

Townsend said McIntosh remains electronically tethered, as ordered by Harris.

Judge Cooper began serving at Oakland County Circuit Court in December 1986. Her caseload will be assigned to the court's newest judge, Rae Lee Chabot, who takes the bench Jan. 16, Evans said.

Deb's

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colon cancer. The disease is now in remission.

"I decided I need my freedom and having a store doesn't give you any freedom," said Watson, also active with the Downtown Farmington Business Association.

A downtown Farmington business colleague and leading proponent of e-commerce, Marketing Communications Counsel Chairman Ron Baker, wished Watson well in the next phase of her business — one that will be largely Internet-based.

"She was the one person who was real supportive of (implementing) e-commerce in Farmington," said Baker, who last year was willing to help downtown shops participate in a community Web page that would help market their businesses.

Marketing Communications would have built and maintained the site for them at a huge discount. But the attempt was scrapped due to poor enrollment.

Although Baker wished Watson well, and said he would "be happy to help her" in the future, he stressed the importance for any business to maintain a physical presence somewhere.

"I don't think I'd advise anybody to be all on-line," Baker said. "I think it's important to have a brick-and-mortar location to come to. I see e-commerce as an extension of a business, a marketing tool."

Watson acknowledged that the proposed e-commerce plan for Farmington "would have been very good" for Deb's Crafts and other retailers, because Internet shopping is here to stay.

"That (e-commerce) is going to be one of our (retailers') biggest competitors," she said.

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