

# GRANHOLM

FROM PAGE A1

Granhholm supports every woman's right to choose. Protesters, who also picketed her home parish in Plymouth, say she can't have it both ways.

Granhholm delivered the commencement speech during the 2001 Mercy High graduation ceremony at Meadowbrook in Rochester, when she was serving as attorney general.

Why hasn't Granhholm brought up her warm reception then?

"This hasn't been an issue with us," said Genna Gent, Granhholm's communications director. "The governor is happy to accept the invitation."

Susan Neal Beaver, a 1999 Mercy High graduate pointed out that Granhholm's 2001 speech focused on women's success in the workplace.

"They (protesters) didn't have a problem with her that

time," Beaver said. The Stop Granholm Church and Truth Project, formed during Granholm's gubernatorial campaign, is only six months old, organizers said.

### ITEMS WITHDRAWN

Pam Gesund, a West Bloomfield resident, said her family has pulled donated car wash passes to Super Car Wash, which were donated to the auction.

"Supporting Catholic education is important, but it has to be rooted in the Catholic faith," Gesund said. "It has to be learning the truth."

Lynn Mills, a Livonia resident who has protested at abortion clinics for 22 years, brought her two daughters, Rachel and Lauren.

By not gracefully backing out of the auction, Granholm is scandalizing Mercy, Lynn said. "She is using them for votes. She can not be pro-life and pro-abortion at the same time."

The school's original decision to pull the auction item more than a week ago was wise, she said. "Who knows what pressures caused them to reverse that action?" she said. "We can't be sure about what she is doing about our Catholic faith, the true church."

Rachel Mills, a Church Hill High School student, said Granholm's views go against Catholic beliefs. "Maybe by going out here, it might open up the eyes of the students," she said.

Gracie Denton, a home-schooled seventh-grader from Novi, accompanied her mother Rosemarie to the protest.

"When they bring her into this Catholic high school and what it stands for, what is this supposed to say to the girls?" Gracie asked. "She's Catholic, yet she supports abortion? The girls are looking up to her."

Farmington Hills Police patrolled the Mercy High parking lot; protesters were not allowed onto the school's private property and were kept from blocking entrances and exits, as required by city ordinances.

Ed Starrett, a Livonia resident, complained that police wouldn't allow him to pass out literature as cars left the driveway because it was too obstructive to drivers' focus as they entered a busy road.

"There was no traffic, there was nothing," he said. "The lady wanted the literature. We have no rights."

With limited access, protesters shouted their messages to the drivers.

### SCHOOL RESPONSE



Then-Michigan Attorney General Jennifer Granholm was the keynote speaker at Mercy's commencement in June 2001.

Most students left the school by car; only a few walked. Approached by a reporter, one student started to share her comments but then friends put their heads down and turned away.

Seeing that, she shook her head and remained silent.

According to school president Sister Regina Marie Doelker, students were told about the protest, which was advertised on the Stop Granholm organization's Web site. Students were asked to treat everyone with respect.

"The students dearly love their school. I think our young ladies handled it very well by not saying anything back," she said, adding officials were concerned that the girls would be exposed to pictures of aborted

babies displayed by protesters. The protest was a first for Mercy. Sister Doelker said she doesn't know how people can make a jump from having a lunch to accusing the school of siding with abortion proponents.

She noted she is very much opposed to abortion.

"We live in a world where people can express their ideas," Sister Doelker said.

On Friday, the Observer received a feed-back comment through its Web site (www.observer-eccentric.com) from self-described "proud 1991 Mercy High alumna" Miranda Webster of Farmington Hills, who wrote:

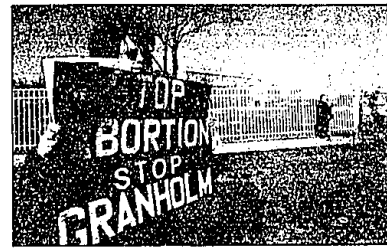
"One crucial point seems to have been lost in the whole Mercy High School debacle:

the luncheon in question is an auction item. Anyone who doesn't want their daughter to eat with Gov. Granholm need simply NOT BID on it. No one is forcing Gov. Granholm on unsuspecting, impressionable young women."

As cars left the gate Thursday afternoon, Mike Brissette of Warren recited prayers aloud, fingering every bead on his oversized brown rosary. He mentioned the Sorrowful Mysteries, the portion of the rosary that recounts Christ's persecution and crucifixion, after each decade.

"Have mercy on us," Gesund responded.

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BILL BRISSETTE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Longtime local pro-life activist Lynn Mills demonstrates in front of the school.

# SMOKING

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smoking in bars and restaurants remains in committee.

Aldo Vagnozzi, state representative for Farmington/Farmington Hills, said he has

n't seen it. "I will have to see what it looks like when it's out of committee," he said.

But if forced to choose, Vagnozzi said he would leave the issue up to restaurants, as they are allowed to do now.

"There is pressure from the customers that make it known to the owners, but at the same

time in some restaurants there isn't a good enough division between the smoking and non-smoking sections."

"I know the restaurant group is opposed to the bill," he said. Vagnozzi doesn't think the bill will make it to the House floor this year.

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# CLARIFICATION

In Thursday's editorial regarding citizen participation in the public process, it was inaccurately stated that citizens can watch Farmington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals meetings on city cable channel 8.

Only City Council and Planning Commission meetings are broadcast; however, ZBA meetings, held at Farmington Hills City Hall, are open to the public.

# RECREATION NEWS

For more information on the following programs contact the City of Farmington Hills Recreation Division at (248) 473-1800.

- Middle School Lacrosse Farmington Hills Recreation is offering a new middle school Lacrosse League for seventh and eighth grade boys and girls. The season will run April-May 2003 with practices starting in March.
- Adult Softball New team registration is now open for adult softball teams.

- Cabin Fever Carnival Enjoy some summer fun noon-2:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills. Get out those summer clothes and bathing suits and enjoy a picnic lunch of hot dogs, cole slaw and poppicles.
- Fun in the Hills Before registering for any program, be sure to see what the Farmington Hills Special Services Fun in the Hills Passbook has to offer. Free passes, giveaways, huge savings, plus more. The passbook is valued at over \$150 and sells for \$15. Passbooks can be purchased at the Costick Center and participating businesses.
- Swimming Lessons Session II starts the week of March 1.
- Preschool Classes Preschool classes begin the week of

- March 3, Look In the Farmington Hills Winter/Spring brochure for class description and times. Register soon, classes fill quickly.

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