

# Former ombudsman eyes run for U.S. Senate

By GREG KOWALSKI  
Staff Writer

Although she isn't officially in the running yet, Bloomfield Township resident Judy Miller already is talking like a candidate for the U.S. Senate.

The former Birmingham city commissioner and state representative has resigned as Michigan businessman ombudsman, a post she held for nearly three years.

"An opportunity presented itself," said Miller. When U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle recently announced that he would not seek re-election, Miller said she got the idea to run for office again.

"Once a political animal, always a political animal," she said. "I would be remiss if I didn't look at it."

Miller resigned as ombudsman to travel across the state and learn what kind of support she could generate in a Senate bid.

"I'm doing some very serious exploration, seeing what kind of grass-roots organization I could put together."

She said she will make a decision on running by February or March.

Miller said she enjoyed being Michigan ombudsman. She was appointed to that post by Gov. John Engler in January 1991.

As ombudsman, she served as a trouble-shooter and conduit of information between various state agencies and business people in Michigan.

"We solved over 1,500 individual problems and answered 50,000 calls from business people," Miller said. "Our philosophy was that we weren't going to send people from pillar to post."

The office helped business people solve problems or gave them direction to where they could find help. At the least, the office was there to listen.

"Often when we couldn't solve problems, at least they had someone to listen to them," said Miller.

Being ombudsman was a valuable learning experience, she said.

"(Being ombudsman) confirmed even more strongly that communication is critically important. It's essential that we have to build a communications link."

Miller said that business people are often frustrated by the red tape of state regulations and don't know where to turn for help.

If elected to the Senate, Miller said she would specifically like to focus on campaign reform and two areas of the federal budget procedure.

She said the federal government should follow the policy the state has in allowing the line-item veto and should limit amendments tacked onto bills.

In the state, the line-item veto

allows the governor to eliminate specific portions of the state budget without having to veto the whole budget. And the state allows amendments to bills only if they relate to the bills under consideration.

Miller said her interest in politics goes back to her college days when she majored in political science and was elected dorm president.

She was elected to the Birmingham City Commission in 1981 and served until 1985 when she was elected to the state House of Representatives.

She left the House in 1991 in a bid for the state Senate but lost to David Honigman.

Miller said Engler asked her to run against Secretary of State Richard Austin, and although she lost, she had a respectable showing.

"I did better than any Republican ever did against Dick Aus-



Judy Miller

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Judy Miller  
former ombudsman

tin," said Miller. "And I spent only \$3,000."

## Sweet Adelines singing spans entire barbershop-style era

The Highland Lakes Campus of Oakland Community College presents the Oakland Shores Chorus of Sweet Adelines International on Friday, Nov. 19. The performance, entitled "One Moment in Time," will include

selections that span the entire era of barbershop-style singing.

The concert begins at 8 p.m. in the Student Center Arena. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$6 for OCC students and sen-

ior citizens. For ticket information, call performing arts coordinator Sue Warner at 360-3057 or 360-3041.

The event is part of a continuing Performing Arts Series sponsored by the college, which brings

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