

Stars from page A1

ranking female executives.

Granholm, a Democrat, and Miller, a Republican, are both considered rising stars within their respective political parties. In response to questions about their futures, Granholm -- who is eligible to seek another term under Michigan's term limit laws -- reiterated a statement she has made many times before. She said she is happy being attorney general and wants to continue in that job.

The secretary of state was particularly vocal in her opposition to using the office to collect information that is unrelated to operating a motor vehicle -- including a move by the federal government to require her office to garner drivers' social security numbers to help the effort to track deadbeat dads.

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She said she also objects to selling information obtained by her office to various insurance companies or marketing consultants -- even though her office obtained more than \$1 million through the sale of such lists in 1999.

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She referred to gathering data on the Internet as "data mining," an activity that general public has a right to be greatly concerned. "It's no longer 'big brother' watching," she said, "it's 'big brother' watching."

Both candidates are concerned about campaign financing, individuals' right to privacy and getting more people -- especially younger people -- involved in the political process. "When you talk to young people about the possibility of (their) holding public office," lamented Miller, "they

look at you like you're nuts."

Granholm, who made her first bid for public office in 1998 after incumbent Frank J. Kelley retired, described the pressure on candidates to raise money as "grotesque" and "obscene."

Miller, who was unsuccessful in her attempts to end or restrict some forms of soft money contributions, said she is pushing for more disclosure on the part of political candidates.

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"We have far too much respect for each other to do anything negative," said Miller. "We would definitely stick to the issues."

Any campaign between them -- which pundits insist is inevitable -- would be characterized by civility and honest debate, said Granholm, who had earlier said Miller's biggest shortcoming was "being a Republican."

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Both were emphatic about gender bias, being on the wave. She was never convinced the so-called "glass ceiling" really existed, Miller said. "Gender bias still exists," she said, "but we've come a long way."

Granholm remembered an exchange with a Lansing area commentator who early in her campaign asked if having three small children at home would hamper her efforts. "I said Gov. Engler has the same number of small children at home," the attorney general recalled, "but I don't recall your ever asking him that question."

Oddly enough, their respective mothers had been culpable in the area of gender stereotyping, Granholm and Miller acknowledged.

After an appearance on national television, Granholm recalled, her mother being more concerned about her makeup and appearance than the issue Michigan's new attorney general was discussing.

Miller's mother still urges her to get out of politics and get a real job, said the secretary of state. "She wanted me to get into the marine business, like my brother," said Miller, the former Macomb County treasurer who in 1994 upset popular incumbent Richard Austin.

All things considered, however, Granholm said she is encouraged by the changing faces within the ranks of public officials. "Some of those faces are black and some of those faces are brown," she said, "and some of those faces wear lipstick."

Miller opposes sale of drivers' information

Within hours of telling metro Detroit journalists she doesn't like the idea of being compelled to sell information collected by the Secretary of State's office, Candice Miller held a press conference to support of a bill banning prohibiting such sales.

"I don't think it's the right thing for governments to do," Miller said at a Lansing press

conference in support of a bill banning the sale of information collected by state agencies to marketing companies, mortgage companies and other companies who use it to target customers.

Miller had voiced her opposition to selling such lists during her appearance at the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College.

Even though her office made more than \$1 million last year by selling such information, Miller said she opposed the practice as an invasion of personal privacy.

Attorney general promises to look into obscenity, violence allegations



STAFF PHOTO BY BELL BROWNE
Speaking: Jennifer Granholm makes a promise.

Michigan's new attorney general promised to look into obscenity and violence allegations against the state's largest magazine, *Maxxy*, and to review the state's training center for child abuse.

Granholm, who was elected in November, said she is

convinced of *Maxxy's* responsibility for some of the magazine's content.

The *Maxxy* case involved attorney Evelyn G. Miller of Plymouth, who was elected to the Michigan House in November following the appearance of Jennifer Granholm and Secretary of State Candice Miller at the Oakland Community College campus in Farmington Hills.

Miller, who represents a man whose wife was murdered at the training school, complained that a state agency -- in this case the Family Independence Agency that supervises *Maxxy* -- routinely

shows *Maxxy* stories which depict scenes of violence and sexual abuse, including one in which a man is shown fondling a young girl.

Miller was addressed such movies are inappropriate, particularly in light of Granholm's contention that magazines, such as *Maxxy*, depict women on their covers as sex objects.

The attorney general said she realizes the rights of adult individuals to view graphic material, but Granholm said she is a parent who is concerned about issue or publications that appeal to children.

Forbes to speak

Publisher and presidential hopeful Steve Forbes will be the key speaker at the annual Lincoln Day Dinner in Oakland County -- shortly before the Michigan's Feb. 22 presidential primary.

The dinner will be at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 11 at the San Marino Club in Troy. It will be preceded by a cash bar reception. Tickets are \$35 per person.

Additional information or tickets can be obtained at (248) 540-7262.

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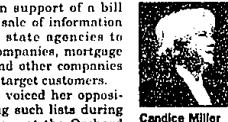
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