

Stars

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ranking female executives.

Granholtz, a Democrat, and Miller, a Republican, are both considered rising stars within their respective political parties. In response to questions about their futures, Granholtz — 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.

Miller, who can not seek another term as secretary of state, admitted the prospect of running for governor in 2002 — as political wags insist she will be — is intriguing. "But I haven't made any decisions," she said.

Following their two-hour appearance, the attorney general and secretary of state were each asked about the possibility of a head-to-head Granholtz-Miller race, possibly for governor.

"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 Granholtz, who had earlier said Miller's biggest shortcoming was "being a Republican."

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."

Granholtz, 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.

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 gather drivers' social security numbers to help the effort to trace deadbeat dads.

"I don't need to know your social security number to issue a driver's license," said Miller.

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.

Granholtz said her establishing a four-member to pursue Internet crime — and the subsequent arrest of a man in Colorado and another in Florida for drug dealing — had already put Michigan on the cutting edge of fighting cyber crime.

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

browser' watching."

Both were emphatic about gender bias being on the wane. 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."

Granholtz 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 you ever asking him that question."

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

After an appearance on national television, Granholtz 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 marina business, like my brother," said Miller, the former Macomb County treasurer who in 1994 upset popular incumbent Richard Austin.

All things considered, however, Granholtz 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."

Attorney general promises to look into obscenity, violence allegations

Michigan's attorney general promised to look into an allegation that the state's sex education curriculum is being shown in the W.J. Macey Training School, the state-run training center in Livingston County to which Nathaniel Abraham — believed to be the person in the picture — was assigned last week for sexual education.

The complaint came from attorney Evelyn G. Butler of Plymouth. She said the question and answer period following the presentation of Jennifer Granholm and Secretary of State Candice Miller at the Oakland Community College campus in Farmington Hills.



PHOTO BY GUY LAWRENCE

Speaking: Jennifer Granholm makes a promise.

Butler, 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 Macey — routinely

sends inmates to the school for sex education. She said she was not picky about the school and graphic low scenes.

Butler was adamant such movies are inappropriate, particularly in light of Granholm's contention that magazines, such as *Playboy*, 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 concerned about the state or public officials that are

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 \$55 per person.

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

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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.



Candice Miller

invasion of personal privacy.

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

She had tried to stop the practice, Miller said, but was thwarted by an attorney general's ruling that the secretary of state's office must make such information available.

"I want driving records to be available to the public (and the press)," Miller told journalists. "But other information about drivers should be private."

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