

Secretary of state to speak at Orchard Ridge

Oakland Community College concludes its winter/spring Distinguished Speaker Series with a presentation on "Virtual Customer Service" by Michigan Secretary of State Candice S. Miller. Miller will appear 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 30, at the Smith Theatre on OOC's Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Miller was elected Michigan's 40th secretary of state in November, 1994, and reelected to a second term in November, 1998. She is the first woman secretary of state of Michigan history. As such, she is Michigan's chief motor vehicle administrator, official historian, chief election officer and keeper of the Great Seal. She is second in line of succession to the governor and acts in that capacity whenever both the governor and the lieutenant governor are out of the state.

Miller began her public service career in 1979 when she was elected Harrison Township trustee. In 1980 she was elected

Harrison Township supervisor, becoming the first female to hold that post. After reelection to two more terms as supervisor, she was elected Macomb County Treasurer in 1992.

Since taking office in 1996, Miller has made customer service the operative phrase of her administration. She has used technology to expand customer service options, such as offering license plate and watercraft registration renewals by fax, touch-



Candice S. Miller

tone telephone and Internet. She has expanded instant title service to all regions of the state and implemented a new driver licensing system that paves the way for additional improvements in customer service. To ease access to the department and its information,

Secretary Miller established the department's web site and fax-on-demand service from which information can be obtained 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Miller is a member of the State Administrative Board, chairing the transportation, natural resources and environmental quality committees. She is also a member of the National Association of Secretaries of State, the Michigan State Safety Commis-

SPEAKER SERIES

sion and the Federal Elections Commission's National Clearinghouse on Election Administration's Advisory Panel. Candice Miller is a member of several other organizations including the St. John's Hospital and Medical Center Board, Selfridge Air

National Guard Base Community Council, Care House Child Advocacy Center Board, and the Detroit Economic Club.

For further information on the program call Professor Harvey Brunstein at (248) 622-3822.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696.

Ample free parking is available in campus lots near the Smith Theatre.

Genetic info won't be available

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
MMALOTT@HOMECOMM.NET

Health insurers won't be able to view genetic information about prospective policyholders before deciding whether to sign them up, under a bill approved by the Michigan House and Senate and now awaiting final approval by the governor.

"We don't want people to avoid getting the medical tests they need out of fear that the DNA information could be used against them later. They should not be afraid to have the genetic tests they need so that they can start getting the treatment they need, if there is a treatment that would be helpful to them," Rep. Gerald Law (R-Plymouth) explained.

Fear that genetic tests conducted to identify future health problems might later be used as grounds for denial of health care coverage had Michigan residents concerned, according to the Governor's Commission on Genetic Privacy. When the commission, created in 1997, reported back to the legislature last year that the fear could cause residents to begin avoiding getting genetic tests, it also recommended the pending legislation.

The commission also heard from researchers who said that fears DNA information might fall into the hands of health insurance companies was already having a "chilling effect" on state residents signing up to participate in genetic research projects.

The four bill package, sponsored chiefly by Sen. John Schwarz (R-Battle Creek) would prohibit Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance companies and health maintenance organizations from reviewing genetic information prior to issuing policies and from selecting customers based on genetic information.

Federal legislation has already been enacted barring the use of genetic information for group health care providers, but the law does not apply to insurance companies when customers are seeking insurance individually. President Clinton has called for the extension of the rule to all health insurance companies. But Schwarz' package would take care of the issue here in Michigan.

Weeding out prospective policyholders based on a predisposition to certain genetic diseases would defy the purpose of health insurance, says Schwarz.

"That's what insurance is about — shared risk," he said.

Law, who shepherded the package through the state House, agrees. Insurance premiums might be lower for some but prohibitively expensive for those who have DNA markers for some genetic diseases, whether they actually develop the malady or not.

The bills have seen little opposition. Blue Cross supports the package, as does the Michigan State Medical Society.

They received strong support in the Legislature. The main bill, Senate Bill 691, passed in a 37-0 vote in the Senate and a 106-0

Save Every Day from March 18-26

JCPenney®

Lucky 25 SALE

Get Savings.

Get Lucky.

Get Moving.

25%
off

\$1000
JCPenney
Shopping
Spree
One winner per store

EASY WAYS
TO SHOP

Save on regular
prices storewide
from March 18-26.
Includes most Catalog &
Internet orders too!

Discount does not apply to Sale prices, Red Ticketed Clearance prices, Value Right, Catalog "2-in-1" reduced prices, Cosmetics and Fragrances, Bower's, Boy's Collection, Calvin Klein, Dermatology, Easy Spirit, Even-Flow, Hanes, Orca, or to Services, Outlet Stores, Gift Cards, prior purchases, or in combination with any other offer.

1-in-10 cards
is a winner!

• One \$1000 JCPenney Shopping Spree in every store.

• \$10 off merchandise certificate on your next purchase of \$20 or more.

• Additional 5% off sale prices on your next purchase.

Visit your nearest JCPenney store today and get a chance to win every day!

① COME IN
Shop the store nearest you.

② CALL IN
1-800-222-6161 and ask for "Operator A8."
25% savings from our Spring/Summer '00 JCPenney Big Book and "Signature Series" catalogs.

③ LOG ON
www.jcpenny.com and key in "OPER A8"
when prompted for a promotional code.

Discount applies to regular-priced clothing, accessories and shoes, window coverings, furniture, home decor, bath, kids' and adult bedding and luggage orders.

JCPenney®

Come in. Call in. Log on.™

CONSUMER RIGHTS: No Purchase Necessary. Prizes are game pieces with any JCPenney purchase valued from JCPenney's Dubel above retail between \$17.00 and \$750.00. Game pieces also available without purchase at Catalog desk at participating stores. All and Or residents only may send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to: JCPenney Lucky 25, One Shopping Spree Piece Request, JCPenney Stores, 110 Chevrolet Lane, Interiors, MI 48305, postmarked by 3/27/00 for a free game piece by mail. Game pieces available through scheduled dates while supplies last. Must be a legal U.S. resident except Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands who is 18 or older to play. Employees of JCPenney, its affiliates, H&M, Inc., and the respective participating vendors, subsidiaries, advertising promotion and product suppliers, parents of game pieces, and the immediate families and household members of each are not eligible to win. Possibilities end 3/26/00 in store and 3/27/00 by mail. Grand Prize: \$1,000 JCPenney Gift Card. First Level Discount: 10% off merchandise certificate on JCPenney purchase over \$20. Second Level Discount: 5% off merchandise certificate on JCPenney purchase First Level Discount awarded are today's regular or sale price. Second Level Discount are percent off sale price only. Federal, state and local taxes, if any, are the sole responsibility of the individual winner. Some restrictions may apply to all Prize and Discount applications. Discount must be used in-store by 4/30/00. Void if any prohibited. Prizes/Discounts subject to effect's rules available at participating JCPenney stores.