



# TICKER T A P E

**BATISTATOS EYES RUN AT SEN. LANDSKE; OTHERS TARGETED:** Former Lake County Tourism Director Speros Batistatos is considering whether to run against Sen. Sue Landske, R-Cedar Lake. Batistatos was president and CEO of the Lake County Convention and Visitors Bureau before leaving to head the Atlantic City Convention and Visitors Center. "I have to fully consider my career and family, which are at the heart of why I moved back," Batistatos said (Steve Walsh, Gary Post-Tribune). "I think Speros can get a lot of support from the business community and we've never had a candidate like that before," said State Democratic Party Chairman Peter Manous. Batistatos may be one of the few chances for Democrats to take the offensive in the state Senate races, as they go into the general election. Republicans control the Senate 32-18. If Democrats lose two more seats, they cannot stop action in the Senate by walking out. "We are not going to solve that problem overnight. We simply have to keep looking for good candidates," Manous said. "We will make sure Sen. Landske has all the assistance she needs to win, that you can depend on," said Brad Hiller, campaign coordinator for the Senate Majority Committee.

*Continued on page 3*



## Sept. 11, *from page 1*

mail.

"However, we must stop the finger pointing. Finding solutions to improving communications between agencies and our elected officials is the highest priority," Fox said.

**At the height** of the controversy over the Aug. 6 memo, Pence condemned Democrats who questioned whether Bush could have prevented the Sept. 11 attacks. "By implying that President Bush had prior knowledge of the September 11 attacks, Democrat partisans have placed themselves close to the lunatic fringe of American politics," he said in a May 17 statement. "They share a place with those who claim FDR knew about Pearl Harbor before Dec. 7."

On the ground in the new 2nd CD, people are not blaming Bush for failing to prevent Sept. 11, said Chris Chocola, the Republican competing for the open seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Rep. Tim Roemer. "Everyone that I talk to in Indiana squarely supports the president and thought he acted appropriately," Chocola said. "They see (criticism of

Bush) as an attempt to get some political advantage out of the situation."

Although last week it looked as if Bush was going to suffer a significant setback on his strongest issue -- waging the campaign against terrorism -- the controversy has pretty much dissipated. A *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll shows that 58 percent of the people surveyed are satisfied with the measures the Bush administration took based on information it had prior to Sept. 11. A May 19 *Washington Post*-ABC News poll indicated that Bush's job approval rating is 76 percent. "All the early evidence suggests that there is no impact on Bush or anything else," said Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the *Rothenberg Political Report*.

**The problem for Democrats** is that they overplayed their hand, said Larry Sabato, a political science professor at the University of Virginia. The charge that Bush sat on information that could have prevented the Sept. 11 attacks "contradicts common sense. Had they framed it as a competence issue, it would have been very different," he said.

An alternative angle Democrats could have pursued is that law enforce-

ment and intelligence agencies were uncoordinated and failed to get the right information to the right place at the right time. Although Bush wasn't personally involved in that breakdown, the buck stops in the Oval Office. "Ultimately, the president is responsible for it," said Sabato. "The Democrats could have made that argument, but they didn't. They were too eager and went too far."

**In the aftermath** of the controversy, Roemer, a member of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, introduced legislation to establish an independent commission to investigate the Sept. 11 attacks. "It is imperative that we create a commission that is free of partisanship and independent of the intelligence community that can make a full and complete accounting of the circumstances surrounding the awful tragedy of September 11," he said in a statement.

Pence opposes an independent commission. "We are in a prolonged engagement with terror centered in a single terrorist organization," he said in a speech on the House floor Wednesday. "Let us stand with our intelligence committees as they rightly inquire into the institutional failures that have occurred over the

many long years of this war."

The hijack warning imbroglio might move defense and security spending higher on the election agenda. Chocola said he stressed maintaining a strong national defense in his 2000 campaign. "The issue may be consistency and sincerity in your view on national defense," he said. Long Thompson "has a record on national defense issues. The record speaks for itself. We need someone to go to Washington to work hand-in-hand with the president rather than against him."

**Long Thompson said** she has always favored adequate spending and resources for national defense, citing her family heritage (her father and husband are veterans) and her service on the Veterans Affairs Committee when she represented the current 4th CD. "I've also been fiscally conservative," she said. "If my opponent is saying that by supporting across-the-board budget cuts to bring the federal budget closer to balance is somehow reflective of my not completing supporting national security, then he's misrepresenting my record." ❖

## COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette** - The grass is barely sprouting on the graves of the people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks, and the Republican Party is already using the tragedy to raise money. With President Bush's full approval, two GOP committees are selling, for a \$150 minimum donation, a series of three photos. The party that found it so appalling when the Clinton administration allowed heavy donors to stay overnight in the White House Lincoln bedroom was absolutely flip about its own decision to cash in on the tragedy. ❖

**Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union** - Now in the blinding light of hindsight we have Congressmen ready to blame the President for the attack on the World Trade Centers. I was listening to Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., on CNN. He actually said W should be "held responsible" for 9/11 because he knew about the hijackers and did nothing. Indiana's own Evan Bayh was on, too. At least he had the sense to say we shouldn't be playing the blame game, that we should only be concerned about studying past experiences to prevent future problems. ❖

## TICKER T A P E

The GOP is targeting four seats held by Democrats. The party would pour as much as \$150,000 into Shane Stillman's challenge to incumbent Sen. Rose Antich, D-Merrillville, whose district was shifted largely into Porter County by redistricting. The party is talking to two people to run against Sen. Frank Mrvan, D-Hammond.

**KATIE HALL STILL WORKING:** Indicted Gary City Clerk Katie Hall will continue to be on the payroll for two city jobs while her case winds through the court system (Rich James, Gary Post-Tribune). A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from holding a state or local office in Indiana, said Bradley King, attorney for the State Election Commission. But he said a convicted felon can run for and hold a federal office. Should Hall be convicted, she could continue in office until time of sentencing. Hall and her daughter Junifer, who is her chief deputy, were indicted on eight federal counts of racketeering, extortion and mail fraud. Juniver also was indicted on six counts of perjury.

**STATE GOP TO MOVE:** The Indiana Republican Party headquarters is between a Hooter's and a Hard Rock, and newly elected chairman

*continued on page 4*

# TICKER

T A P E

Jim Kittle felt a more classy location was needed (John Ketzenberger, Indianapolis Business Journal). He has found one and signed a 12 1/2-year lease for the second floor of the Morrison Opera Place at Meridian and Maryland Streets. The lease is worth about \$2.5 million and gives the party 12,500 square feet, about 50 percent more than its current location. Since Kittle was elected, the full-time staff has grown and is expected to triple to 30 or more before long. The party will also have use of the Morrison building's ornate lobby for fundraisers and other events.

**LUGAR GOES TO THE MOVIES.** Next week, all of America will get a chance to see "The Sum of All Fears," a new movie based on a Tom Clancy book. The story revolves around terrorist attacks involving weapons of mass destruction, an issue that Sen. Richard Lugar has been working on for many years. On Monday, Lugar hosted a screening of the movie for about 100 Washington political and media glitterati. Spokesman Andy Fisher said that in his welcoming remarks, Lugar talked about a conference he will attend next week in Moscow designed to extend the Nunn-Lugar non-proliferation effort to further reduce nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons stockpiles. Nunn-

*continued on page 5*

## Secretary of State Showdown

### Four Republicans scramble for the top of the ticket

By **BROOKE BOEGLIN**

*The Howey Political Report*

INDIANAPOLIS - For the first time since 1990, the office of Secretary of State will be at the top of the ballot at the Republican nominating convention, scheduled for June 14.

Not only is the office physically at the top of the ballot, it is also at the forefront in importance for Indiana's resurgent Republican Party. If the Republicans are to capture the three vital seats in the Indiana House of Representatives in November, the new Secretary of State could would anoint the next House speaker in case of a 50/50 split.

"For 16 years the Democrats have been in charge of state government - that changes here and now," said Todd Rokita, one of the four candidates vying for the Republican nomination for Secretary of State.

While the Republican Party remains divided behind four competitive candidates, Mike Delph, Dr. John McGoff, Richard Mourdock, and Rokita, the Democratic Party has strongly backed a single candidate.

"The Democrats are really focusing on this race," McGoff said. "John Fernandez has a lot of resources behind him. The Republicans are looking for the best candidate to stack up against him."

Luke Messer, the executive director of the Indiana Republican State Committee, said he is confident the delegates will select the best candidate to do just that. "All of these guys have been working unbelievably hard over the last year and a half," said Messer. "If hard work counts for anything, we're going to have a great candidate."

For the last year, some as early as March of 2001, the four candidates have been touring the state attempting to secure

the support of the delegates. Each of the Republican candidates is campaigning for the support of the same 2,076 delegates who will attend the Republican nominating convention. The nomination will be given to the candidate who receives 1,039 votes, a simple majority. However, the real scramble for support is not in the days leading up to, but at the convention. If there is no candidate with a simple

## HORSE RACE

majority of the votes after the second ballot, the candidate who received the lowest number of votes will be dropped from the ballot, leaving the other candidates quickly trying to secure his votes.

With a little more than three weeks to go, the candidates are picking up the pace in their search for delegate support. Most of the candidates are on the road daily throughout Indiana in an attempt to meet and greet as well as secure the vote of each of the delegates. In fact, constructing this story was difficult because some of the candidates did not have a free moment until after 10 p.m. So as the weeks wind down, the candidates get busier.

Here is a roundup of each of the campaigns, followed by the latest Horse Race forecast:

### Mike Delph

He has taken quite a different strategy than his competition.

"You won't see a sheet with a bunch of names endorsing me," said Delph. "The only sheet I need is the vote on the 14th."

Delph has taken leave from his job as Senior Professional Staff Member for Congressman Dan Burton to campaign for the Secretary of State nomination.

However, it was during his job with Burton that Delph realized why he wanted the position.

"We need to be promoting civic participation. We have an obligation as the exporter of freedom and democracy," Delph said. "When you have a voter turnout as low as Indiana did for the May primary there is a problem. We have an obligation to practice what we preach."

Although Delph has a definite campaign strategy, he was unwilling to disclose it. Delph did say that he feels he has strong support in central Indiana and parts of the north.

"There are two reasons to run for office," Delph said. "To be something or to do something. I'm running because I want to do something."

### Dr. John McGoff

His strategy lies in infrastructure.

"I'm the only candidate who hired a professional campaign manager," McGoff said. "I have two offices, one here [Indianapolis] and one in South Bend. I have a staff of five. I am the only one who has the organization already in place."

It's this established organization that McGoff hopes will show the delegates that he is ready to hit the ground running if he wins the nomination June 14. "I am the only candidate who has a staff in place," McGoff said. "The day after this convention we already have a campaign plan and we're going to get this thing won."

The experience and demographics of McGoff's staff are also a key part of his strategy.

"Seventy-five percent of the votes are north of Indianapolis and a fourth of them are south of Indy. We wanted to establish a presence up there so we hired the only guy that had any background in that area up there," said Tim Sadler, McGoff's campaign manager, referring to McGoff's hiring of Chris Faulkner, who served in Chris Choccola's 2000 campaign

for Congress.

The work of McGoff's staff is a main source for his confidence in discussing a victory. McGoff has established a color-coded system showing which candidate each delegate supports.

"We have polled every single delegate so we know the numbers and we know we're in first place," McGoff said.

### Richard Mourdock

Richard Mourdock's campaign cites his experience and expertise in elected politics.

"Our candidate is clearly the most experienced guy running," said Jim Holden, Mourdock's campaign coordinator. "He's the only candidate that's run for and won a major election."

Mourdock won Vanderburgh County commissioner races in 1994 and again in 1998. Mourdock claims that having been successful in his pursuit of office as a Republican candidate in the traditionally Democratic county will prove advantageous for the Republicans if he receives the nomination. Mourdock also ran against U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey (D) in the 8th District in both 1990 and 1992. Although unsuccessful, Mourdock's electoral and political experience is his main strategy for winning the nomination.

"I think the delegates want maturity this time around," Holden said. "They are looking for someone who can hit the ground running."

Geographically, Mourdock has a bit of an advantage. Mourdock is the only candidate not from the Indianapolis area, giving him considerable support in Southern Indiana. "Richard does have a very strong base in Southern Indiana," Holden said. "But over a year ago he got out and worked the northern part of the state."

As a result, Mourdock's campaign can cite the numerous endorsements it has received. Mourdock has received

## TICKER T A P E

Lugar legislation was first passed in 1991, in the aftermath of the Cold War. Current funding for the programs is about \$400 million annually. "As 'The Sum of All Fears' entertains, it also raises some serious questions about terrorism and America's vulnerability to a rogue nuclear attack," Lugar wrote in an invitation to the screening. "With the U.S.-Russia summit scheduled for May 23 - 26, we hope the public takes the opportunity to more fully engage in the discussion of these terribly important issues."

SMITH, BOND TO SEEK DEMOCRATIC STATEWIDE NOMINATIONS: The candidates who will seek support from delegates at the Indiana Democratic convention Saturday in Indianapolis are: Barb Huston for auditor, Day Smith for treasurer and Jonathon Bond for clerk of the courts. They will join Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez, who already has announced he wants the party's nomination for secretary of state. Fernandez hopes to replace incumbent Sue Anne Gilroy, who cannot seek a third term (Associated Press). Huston, 54, is director of emergency services in LaPorte County, where she was coroner from 1992 to 1999. She hopes to defeat Auditor

*continued on page 9*

*continued on page 6*

# TICKER T A P E

Connie Nass in the November general election. Smith, 53, is a licensed real estate assistant from Columbia City who has been active in veterans issues. She serves on the Whitley County Council on Aging and is the Democratic chairwoman of the county party. Smith intends to challenge Treasurer Tim Berry. Bond, 27, is operations manager for the Indiana Economic Development Council. He joined the council in 1998 and is a lifelong resident of Patriot, in Switzerland County. If nominated, Bond would face incumbent Brian Bishop.

**HELMKE WON'T RUN FOR MAYOR; OKESON, OLINGER EYE GOP NOMINATION:** Former Fort Wayne mayor Paul Helmke says he has no interest in challenging current Mayor Graham Richard in 2003. "If I'd wanted a fourth term as mayor, I felt I probably could have been re-elected in 1999," Helmke said (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "I really have no interest." In addition to 1999 nominee Linda Buskirk, former clerk of courts John Okeson and Fort Wayne Community School Board member Jon Olinger are signalling interest. Olinger got a fair amount of press last year when he opposed the \$84 million tax-based Allen County Public Library expansion and sued to stop

## Indiana 2002 Racing Form

**Trendlines:** A Pew Research Center poll of 1,002 adults, conducted over May 6-16 (+/- 3.5%), shows: 44% are "satisfied with the way things are going in this country today. Approval rating: 44% are dissatisfied; 12% had no opinion; 49% approve "of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing"; 34% disapprove; 17% don't know; 80% of Republicans approve "of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing"; 13% disapprove; 7% don't know. 33% of Democrats approve "of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing"; 54% disapprove; 13% don't know. 44% of independents approve "of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing"; 35% disapprove; 21% don't know. 42% approve "of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing"; 37% disapprove; 21% don't know.

## Indiana Congressional Races

**Congressional District 2: Republican:** Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Jill Long

Thompson. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White

# HORSE R A C E

counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **Websites:** www.jilllongthompson.com; www.chocolaforcongress.com **2000 Result:** Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Forecast:** Chocola is attempting a little political jujitsu on the residency issue. He is under Democratic attack for running in a district in which he does not reside, after basing much of his 2000 campaign against retiring incumbent Democratic Rep. Tim Roemer on Roemer's decision to make Washington his primary residence. After redistricting, Chocola now finds himself living less than a mile outside the new 2nd CD. He calls the drawing of the lines politically motivated, and that his opponent, Jill Long Thompson, is the one vulnerable on residency. "It's a very risky issue for my opponent," he said. "I've lived in the community for 15 years. She's been all over the place, running for different offices. When the state party talks about that issue rather than my opponent, it shows she's vulnerable." Long Thompson represented the current 4th CD from 1989 through 1994. She moved to her husband's Marshall County farm after getting married seven years ago. She was an undersecretary of Agriculture during the Clinton administration, returning home every weekend. "I have lived my entire life in northern Indiana and I live in the heart of the district," she said. "I'm focusing on the issues of the campaign. I'm running because issues are important to me and voters in this district." **Status:** TOSSUP.

**Congressional District 7: Republican:** Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia

Carson. **Libertarian:** Andy Horning. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **Websites:** www.juliacarson.house.gov; www.broseforcongress.org **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** The McVey campaign released a document analyzing the differences between the new 7th and old 10th CDs. "It outlines 10 key reasons that this 'is not the old 10th district with its inherent difficulties', and Brose is going to be the energetic candidate to beat Julia Carson," said McVey campaign manager Tim Searcy. The McVey analysis notes that in 2000, Republican clerk of courts candidate Brian Bishop lost in the old 10th, 65,526 to 45,584. In the new 7th, Bishop lost 74,554 to 62,871, or as Searcy notes, "A net gain of 8,250 votes." The analysis said that Carson is "unknown personally" to 39,278 voters in the new 7th, a net gain of 11,230 for the GOP from the old 6th CD. McVey out-

raised Carson by a \$131,649 to \$60,165 margin in the first quarter of 2002. The analysis noted Carson's voting preferred position is 18 percent with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 5 percent with the National Federation of Independent Business, 0 percent with the Associated Builders and Contractors; 11 percent with the American Farm Bureau Federation; and 10 percent with the Americans for Tax Reforms. McVey notes that President Bush has the longest sustained support in the 75-80 percent range in history. And he predicts that Democratic turnout is at a potentially historic low with no presidential, gubernatorial or senatorial candidate atop the ballot. That "traditionally suppresses Democratic turnout," the campaign said, "while GOP voters still turn out at a predictable rate. The net effect of an off-year election is a gain for GOP candidates of 5,000 votes." Horse Race observes, however, that the Frank Anderson sheriff candidacy stands to make up for some of that lost top-ballot support. **Status:** *Leans Carson.*

## Indiana House Races

**House District 26: Republican:** State Rep. Sue Scholer. **Democrat:** Joe Micon.

**Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1998 results:** Scholer 5,750, Clapper 4,655. **2000 Results:** Scholer 9,086, Windler 5,186. **2002 Forecast:** Scholer advocated a generous increase in the state gas tax, pointing to the last increase of one cent in 1988 (Lohrmann, *Lafayette Journal & Courier*). "The reason we need to take such a big bite is because that was such a long time ago," said Scholer, who supports a 7-cent increase phased in over three years, similar to what the Senate approved during the regular session. "Right now, the need is out there and it's critical." Scholer indicated she might be able to support the tax and budget bill, if the gas tax is included. "I have to seriously look at the bill, but you know the gas tax is very important to me," she said. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

**House District 27: Republican:** Bob Hicks. **Democrat:** State Rep. Sheila

Klinker. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1998 Results:** Klinker 10,553, Julian (R) 5,512, Rumps (L) 287. **2000 Results:** Klinker (D) 12,544, O'Brien (R) 8,095. **2002 Forecast:** Klinker joined the Democratic majority to vote tax restructuring out of the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 60: Republican:** Bloomington Councilman L. David Sabbagh.

**Democrat:** Peggy Welch. **Geography:** Bloomington, Greene, Lawrence and Monroe Counties. **1994 results:** Bales (R) 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Results:** Welch (D) 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Results:** Welch 13,961, Shean (R) 10,495. **Forecast:** Welch joined the Democratic majority to vote tax restructuring out of the House Ways and Means Committee. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 75: Republican:** Vanderburgh County Clerk Marsha Abell.

**Democrat:** Rep. Dennis Avery. **Geography:** Evansville, Vanderburgh and Gibson counties. **1998 Results:** Avery 11,714, Spurling (L) 1,250. **2000 Results:** Avery 14,850. **2002 Forecast:** Avery, a member of the House Ways and Means committee, joined the Democratic majority and three Republicans to vote tax restructuring out to the House floor on Wednesday. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

**House District 86: Republican:** State Rep. Jim Atterholt. **Democrat:** Dr. David

Orentlicher. **Geography:** Indianapolis, Boone, Hamilton counties. **1998 Results:** Sturtz 6,677, Wonderly 6,385. **2000 Results:** Atterholt 17,320, Goodloe-Coe (D) 9,708, Perry (L) 1,178. **2002 Forecast:** A key development in this race will occur the week of June 3 when Atterholt will vote for a tax restructuring bill on the House floor. He voted against HB 1004 in February. If nothing happens, this district will be hit hard by property tax bill increases. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖

## TICKER T A P E

the local performance of "Corpus Christi." In recent weeks, he has become more and more serious about a mayoral primary race, likely pitting him against Helmke protege Linda Buskirk. "I'm a very loyal Republican," Okeson said. "I would never want to run a primary race in a way that it would damage the ultimate winner of the primary."

**KERNAN'S HIP SETS OFF AIRPORT METAL DETECTOR:** Hoosiers should be heartened to know that airport security officials around the state appear to be taking their jobs very seriously. Recently, Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan was leaving from Indianapolis International Airport when his artificial hip caused the metal detector to go off (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). But explaining that he had a hip replacement apparently wasn't enough for security, who made the second-highest-ranking state official drop his pants in a back room and show his scar.

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY SHERIFF CANDIDATE WITH-DRAWS:** John B. Rutledge, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, ran unopposed on the Democratic ticket for sheriff and filed a notice to withdraw Friday (Joe Gerrety, *Lafayette Journal and Courier*). Rutledge accepted a job with the U.S.

*continued on page 8*

# TICKER T A P E

Postal Service and the Hatch Act restricts political activity of employees of that service. Republican William Anderson also was unopposed in the primary.

**HOOSIER FARMERS GET BACK IN THE FIELD:** State statistician Ralph Gann, of the Purdue University agronomy department, said farms throughout the state are approximately four weeks behind in planting this season (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). Statewide, only 13 percent of corn and 4 percent of soybeans have been planted, compared to an average of 87 and 63 percent at this time over a five-year-average. From March 1 to May 13, Indiana received an average of more than 15 inches of rain this year, about six inches above the normal amount. It was the highest amount since records have been kept.

**PORTER COUNTY ELECTION FRAUD ALLEGED:** The Porter County Election Board is being called on to toss out the results of the May 7 primary and give voters another shot at the polls (Bob Kasarda, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). The request was submitted late last week by the two Democratic employees of the county voter registration office, who claim the recent election was tainted by wrongdoing and fraud. Among the more serious charges leveled by Helen Dame and Kathryn

# PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

## Hope springs ...

**Trivial Pursuit:** *Q.*) What do Joe Kernan, Ed Fiengenbaum and yours truly have in common?

*A: All Chicago White Sox fans.*

We know all about futility (hey, our last World Series title came in 1917, compared to 1908 for the Cubs). For every Al Lopez, there was an Eddie Stanky. For every Frank Thomas, there lies a Dick Allen. For every Magglio Ordonez, a No-Neck Williams. For every promise of a pennant, there lies a June swoon, or an end-of-season losing streak (1967), or a strike while in first place (1994). It's a team where a forfeit to the Tigers via disco demolition, brought not a championship, but at least the end of disco.

**Tax restructuring** in Indiana?

There was great promise last October when Kernan presented his plan, followed only by turmoil, petty politics, scattered leadership, and disco demolition.

Promise. Failure. Sniping. Frustration.

On May 14, the not-quite-special session of the Indiana General Assembly convened to the almost soaring rhetoric of Speaker John Gregg and Brian Bosma. Then paralysis and sniping. Gov. Frank O'Bannon was a target of a torrent of criticism. "Before we get much further in the special session, we need to hear from the governor personally, in a face to face meeting," Rep. Gary Cook said (Martin DeAgostino, *South Bend Tribune*).

By Wednesday morning, expectations had the clarity of tobacco spittle running down the chin of Smoky Burgess; as predictable as a Hoyt Wilhem knuckler.

One observer pointed to a meeting between the captains of business and industry (Lilly's Sidney Taurel, Charlie Fischer of Dow AgroScience, Martin Madous of Roche Diagnostics, and Ron Dollens of Guidant along with Dave

Goodrich) and Senate Republicans (Sens. Borst, Kenley, Johnson, Meeks and Garton). "It was a bloodbath, from the business community perspective," came the spy report. "Garton was rude, unresponsive, uncaring, and generally didn't seem to get it. Borst blamed the business community for his plan failing last session. Johnson blamed them for his primary loss. Meeks sat mutely during the meeting." The scenario in the Senate was likened to something out of *Apocalypse Now*: Destroying Indiana to save it in 2004.

A few hours later, three Republicans joined the House Ways and Means Majority to pass HB 1004 on to the House floor. It was as refreshing as a Wilson Alvarez no-hitter in his MLB debut. Rep. Bill Friend, R-Macy, choked back tears and revealed his true motives: "The time has come for us to act. I think we need to move forward."

State Rep. Jeff Espich said, "We have tried to compromise and understand the budget needs. House Republicans have come a long way, many of us would say too far" (Niki Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). State Rep. Peggy Welch, D-Bloomington, added, "We were very close on most things" (Kurt Van der Dussen, *Bloomington Herald-Times*).

**Some credited** the emphatic pleas of the Indiana Chamber, the IMA and Kernan, who should be spearheading the administration's assault instead of riding the pines, as making a difference.

Sen. Allen Paul, R-Richmond, said he believed Bauer had changed his pitch to get Republican support for the bill. "The last time it was presented it was a take-it-or-leave-it situation," Paul said (Shannon Lohrmann, *Lafayette Journal & Courier*). "This time, it is a little different."

Ummm, hope springs ... eternal? ❖



## Secretary, *from page 5*

endorsements from 22 county chairmen, over 50 elected officials around the state, and the endorsement of the entire 8th District.

"In terms of who has met with the most delegates and who has campaigned the longest and most aggressively, Richard is on top," Holden said.

## Todd Rokita

He is currently serving as deputy secretary of state and chief of staff for Indiana's current Secretary of State, Sue Anne Gilroy. This familiarity with the office is Rokita's main strategy for victory at the convention and afterward.

"I am the only delegate, Republican or Democrat, who has any experience in the office," Rokita explained. "This credibility will weigh heavily with the Hoosier voters."

Rokita is optimistic that his experience in the office will pay off when the delegates cast their votes June 14. Rokita said he believes that experience is what it will take to beat the strongly supported Fernandez.

"For nearly eight months I have taken myself off the state payroll to campaign personally," Rokita said. "I have met with delegates in their living rooms and in their offices."

As a result, Rokita has secured numerous written endorsements from officials throughout Indiana. "I have nearly 200 endorsements from party officials, local elected officials and, most impor-

tantly, delegates," Rokita said. "I have the support of the two people who know best what it takes to be secretary of state, former Secretary of State Bill Salin and current Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy."

These powerful endorsements may give Rokita an edge over his competition. Gilroy is actively seeking support for Rokita for the nomination and Roger Chiabai, the GOP chairman for Lake County, one of the largest voting blocks in Indiana, has also vocalized his support for Rokita. Influential Indianapolis attorney Bob Grand is also ardently pushing Rokita.

**Horse Race Forecast:** At this point, we don't think anyone has the nomination secured on the first ballot, making this a very fluid situation. Our sense is that Rokita and Mourdock have lined up the most first ballot support, but that could change. Rokita will stress geographical balance, touting his Northwest Indiana roots to help balance the ticket with Clerk of Courts Brian Bishop (Fort Wayne), and Auditor Connie Nass (Huntingburg). Mourdock believes he can translate his Southern Indiana base into a second ballot victory. Delph and McGoff could try and make the "everybody's second choice" argument if, indeed, our read on the first ballot plays out.

The key element will be whether Mourdock can translate his regional power base in a victory over the heavy hitters pushing Rokita. **Status:** *Tossup.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖

# TICKER T A P E

Kozuszek is their Republican counterpart in the office, Jane Pecor, had sent out an absentee ballot after the April 29 deadline and then processed it on her own when it was returned to the office by mail. This action is verifiable in that only Pecor initialed the ballot, rather than a representative of both parties, as is called for by law. "During canvassing of the votes, it is discovered that there are many ballots with only one set of initials on them," according to the complaint filed by Dame and Kozuszek. The pair go on to accuse Pecor's daughter of opening two sealed ballots because she forgot which party they belonged to. The action is said to have taken place while ballots were being distributed to those unable to make it to the polling places. Pecor is reportedly away from the office until the first of June and was unavailable for comment on the charges. Porter County Republican Chairman Michael Aylesworth, who is responsible for appointing the Republican workers in the voter registration office, declined comment on the charges. ❖

The  
Howey  
Political  
Report



Wei rd Scenes I nsi de  
the Statehouse Gol dmi ne

A speech by HPR's Brian A. Howey

For fees and scheduling call 317-254-1533 or  
e-mail [brianhowey@howeypolitics.com](mailto:brianhowey@howeypolitics.com)