

# The Howey Political Report



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Today we became engaged in the campaign, a brass-knuckled brawl. And there’s no one better at a brawl than labor.”

- UAW Chief Terry Thurman, to a labor rally for Joe Andrew at French Lick

## Labor flexes power for Joe Andrew

But EMILY’s List preparing to engage

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in *French Lick*

It was nothing less than a political spectacular in one of the most historic settings in Indiana politics.

When Saturday drew into night, there was no question that Democratic gubernatorial candidate Joe Andrew had flexed his labor muscle and walked away with a virtually uncontested 595-27 straw poll victory over State Sen. Vi Simpson.

Speaking before an overflow crowd under a huge tent pitched in front of the French Lick Springs Resort, Andrew exhorted an estimated 1,100 UAW and other union members. “I want the walls of the Statehouse to rattle, rock and roll with the sounds of a thousand working men and women,” Andrew said in a classic, old-style stemwinder. A half dozen Hoosier labor bosses stood behind him while running mate Bren Simon cheered from the front row.

**But at what cost**, both financial and political?

Did the Andrew campaign tarnish some of the luster by raising vote total expectations before the vote?

And would the angry chasms exposed like a cut to the bone be enough to debilitate a party despite the cries for calm and unity from Chairman Joe Hogsett and First Lady Judy O’Bannon?

The 25 buses that rolled to the historic hotel, the tent, the meals, the Moutaineers Band had some veteran Democrats putting the price tag on this show of labor force at around \$50,000. It was an expense Simpson decided was too costly for her fledgling campaign, opting to put on a brave face and ride out the storm. “I ask for your support, not today, but in May, when it counts,” said Simpson above

## INSIDE FEATURES

<b>Ticker: FBI probing Pastrick</b>	<b>p. 3</b>
<b>Horse Race ‘04: Miller on marriage</b>	<b>p. 4</b>
<b>Perhaps: McCloskey and genocide</b>	<b>p. 5</b>
<b>Horse Race ‘03: Fort Wayne poll</b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b>Columnists: Marcus, Kilbane</b>	<b>p. 8</b>

*Covering 10 years of Indiana politics*

# TICKER

## T A P E

**LUGAR SEES MILITARY ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST:** Military involvement by the United States and its NATO allies may be necessary to create stability between Israel and the Palestinians, a key lawmaker said Sunday. "If we're serious about having a situation of stability, a very direct action, I think, is going to be required," said Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, on CNN's "Late Edition."

**LAWMAKERS WEIGH IN ON IRAQ:** After a week of violence in the Middle East, members of Indiana's congressional delegation are pessimistic about the prospects for peace in Israel (Maureen Groppe, Indianapolis Star). But most of them say the bombing of the U.N. building in Baghdad proves that the United States was right to get involved in Iraq. "This is in essence a war of the civilized world against those who are trying to promote chaos," Sen. Evan Bayh, a Democrat, said of Iraq. "The rest of the world has a big stake in our success there, and it's about time they saw that and began helping out." The Bush administration is seeking more international involvement in Iraq, but some countries are unwilling to help without also having a say in the country's

*Continued on page 3*

the din of the voting line in the tawdry resort tennis center.

She gave a 12-minute speech -- seven minutes over the limit -- in a move that ultimately may have thinned out the labor ranks before the full vote could be delivered for Andrew.

Andrew, realizing his older supporters were peeling away, quickly walked to the podium after Simpson had finished and said, "I'm not going to waste your time. Let's vote!"

When 595 of the 1,100 mostly Andrew supporters voted, the Simpson campaign was left with one face-saver: That despite the unprecedented field operation that brought a thousand workers to the hotel, only 595 voted.

"We carried 94 percent of the vote," Andrew said. "That's not divisive. Fifty-fifty would have been divisive. I've often said this campaign is a journey, and today makes it clear that it is a journey that Bren Simon and I won't be making alone."

Simpson spokesman Jason Kinney pointed out the missing 400 to 500 voters. "They paid all this money to bring them here and they still couldn't deliver them to the polls," Kinney said.

### **Simpson in the hornet's nest**

It all begged the question of how Sen. Simpson, who compiled the fourth best labor voting record in the Senate, now finds herself at such acrimonious odds with Big Labor?

Her speech just before the straw poll touched some nerves in what had become a mostly hostile room. "Because Democrats can only win in November if we offer something Republicans can't: Experience money can't buy," she said. "And I'm proud to be the only candidate running for governor with a pro-labor voting record. I've marched with labor, carried bills for labor, fought the battle for labor. This week alone, I was honored to receive the endorsement of three more local labor unions. In fact, I've been endorsed by every union that's allowed

me to be heard before they endorsed."

And that was her big complaint: That the UAW and other labor bosses went with Andrew before she even had a chance to make a pitch.

She continued. "Let me ask you, what kind of message are we sending our daughters when we elected a governor based on gender, not on qualifications? Come to think of it, what kind of message are we sending our sons?"

Simpson began drawing boos and catcalls when she said, "My opponent has never answered a roll call for labor or seniors or homeowners. My opponent has only served in corporate boardrooms, never in elected office. My opponent sees the world through the partisan haze of Washington, D.C., not through the eyes of hardworking Hoosiers."

### **Brass knuckled brawl**

If Simpson had stoked up the dander of labor in a humid hall packed with its workers, UAW Chief Terry Thurman wasn't offering olive branches.

He bristled at Simpson's evasion of the straw poll, saying she had engaged in "sleazy, dirty politics." Thurman told the *Indianapolis Star*, "If you were getting your butt kicked, wouldn't you say it was meaningless, too?"

Speaking in the tent on the front lawn of the hotel 90 minutes before the straw poll, Thurman began, "There were people hoping and praying this afternoon would not materialize. We're union, we're proud and we're loud."

As the throng cheered, Thurman went for the jugular. "Today we become engaged in the campaign, a brass-knuckled brawl. And there's no one better at a brawl than labor."

AFSCME's Steve Fantazio, told the crowd, "This fight starts today. We've had fights among ourselves. It's all right to fight among ourselves, but nobody better pick on our family and Joe Andrew is our family."

Andrew then emerged and

unleashed a classic stemwinder, but he began it in an unexpected way. "I'm the only guy who owns a business and is a business lawyer," Andrew started, but later added that growing up in Poe, Ind., his grandfather had a "double shotgun rack in our pickup truck."

"I will not let labor down. I will create jobs in this state," Andrew exhorted. "You all know who owns this microphone. If we can do this in August when it's 85 degrees, we can do this in May."

Both Andrew and Simpson tried to place some of their anger at the man they expect one of them to face in 16 months. "Mitch Daniels was the senior economic adviser to Thurston Howell III," Andrew declared as he read from index cards and shed them like David Letterman.

Addressing the skyrocketing federal budget deficit, Andrew said, "If you don't have a budget, you don't need a budget director." And on the missing Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, Andrew cited "bogus intelligence" and asked of President Bush, "Wasn't that his nickname in college?"

Simpson said of Daniels, "Mitch Daniels signed his name to some of the most fiscally irresponsible budgets in our nation's history. He's made deep cuts in education and early childhood programs, leaving millions of children behind, despite what their slogan says. Mitch Daniels isn't the answer to Indiana's problems. Mitch Daniels is our problem."

## A Simpson debacle?

Prior to the vote, St. Joseph County Chairman Butch Morgan, who engineered a unanimous 2nd CD endorsement of Andrew last week, surveyed the scene of two dozen idling buses, the huge tent, and scores of white-shirted UAW members drinking beer and eating hamburgers and said, "This is history."

There was no question it was an unprecedented and formidable show of force. Others such as 8th CD Chairman

Tony Long, who called Andrew "one of the most brilliant politicians I've ever seen," observed that the selection of Bren Simon for the Andrew ticket was prompting many Democrats to hedge their bets. "It will be reeling in a lot of mouths," Long said, suggesting that future candidates might want to think before they alienate themselves from Bren Simon's huge checkbook.

A number of Democrats sympathetic to the Simpson candidacy quietly questioned her decision not to participate in the straw poll.

While many Andrew supporters saw the event as essentially establishing him as a frontrunner, others saw it as a temporary peak in what will be a long battle. Asked if French Lick buried the Simpson campaign, Morgan replied, "No. But people were skeptical that labor could muster those resources. I know people who are partial to Vi who were impressed when the buses started rolling in and the music and chanting began."

Other Andrew supporters who spoke on background believe that while the event positions him strongly for the coming fall sequence of the campaign, they don't discount Simpson's ability to fight back. But, they say, she's going to have to muster some vitality soon and consistently in order to stave off the perceptions that this election is Andrew's to lose.

One aspect of that will be Simon's checkbook. But Jason Kinney of the Simpson campaign noted a number of campaigns, including better days for his current boss, California Gov. Gray Davis, have won elections despite lacking a money edge. "Experience is the commodity we have that really can count," he said.

Simpson's campaign is signalling some developments in the next couple of weeks they believe will be "momentum shifters."

And then there's the answer to labor, EMILY's List. Martha McKenna, a political tracker for the organization

# TICKER

## T A P E

postwar operations. Sen. Lugar was in Turkey and Germany last week to help repair diplomatic bridges with those countries. Lugar, a Republican who supported the war, has criticized the administration for poor planning for Iraq's reconstruction. Other members of the delegation echoed that concern. "I think we need more international help, and I think we need a plan certain on how to remove ourselves from Iraq," said Democratic Rep. Julia Carson, one of three members of the delegation who voted against authorizing the use of force in Iraq. Rep. Baron Hill is critical of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld for maintaining that the United States has sufficient resources in Iraq. Hill and Bayh were the only Indiana Democrats to support the war. "He's in denial here," Hill said about Rumsfeld. "In order to restore stability, we need more troops."

**FBI PROBING PASTRICK PROPERTY TAX RECORDS:** Property records of East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick and two of his sons are targets of a federal investigation. (Steve Patterson, Post-Tribune). A grand jury subpoena recently was issued for records of properties owned by Pastrick, as well as Lake County Coroner David

*continued on page 4*

# TICKER

## T A P E

Pastrick and local developer Kevin Pastrick.

Investigators want to know how much the Pastricks, as well as other select North Township property owners, are paying in property taxes. According to a federal subpoena obtained by the Post-Tribune, the FBI is looking at the assessments of several properties in East Chicago, Hammond and Munster. Those assessments would be used to determine the property taxes paid by the owner. "We are looking for information on specific events," the subpoena reads, "where the system was accessed and changes were made to the existing assessment previously recorded on the property." In response, county officials provided boxes of evidence and reams of records. Each of the assessments under investigation would have been done by the office of North Township Assessor John Matonovich. Reached Friday, Matonovich declined to comment on why the Pastricks and other North Township residents would be the subject of a federal inquiry. "I can't comment on an ongoing investigation," he said.

**THIRTY PERCENT OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY HOMES MAY HAVE ASSESSMENT ERROR:** Indiana's new court-ordered reassessment system is supposed to move property

*continued on page 5*

assigned to the Simpson campaign, characterized the Andrew labor muscle flex as a "blip" on the screen. EMILY's List will send out a national mailing for Simpson in September that is expected to marshal financial resources before the year end financial reports that will be utterly critical for the Simpson campaign. "We haven't really begun yet," McKenna said.

She noted that EMILY's List played critical fundraising roles for Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano and Michigan Gov. Jennifer Grandholm. In Grandholm's case, she faced a former governor and U.S. Rep. David Bonier, who had most of the labor endorsements but still won the 2002 primary with the help of \$600,000 generated by EMILY's List.

Andrew, too, reminded his labor supporters that underdogs in Indiana can win. "Evan Bayh was 25 points behind Lt.

Gov. John Mutz at this time the year before and won. Joe Hogsett was 32 points behind Bill Hudnut and won. Frank O'Bannon was 26 points behind Steve Goldsmith and won," he said.

### That unity thing

Despite the angry rhetoric, some in the party were trying to restore calm. "We are all Democrats," said Chairman Joe Hogsett. "We are all here today to support whoever emerges from our party to be the next governor of Indiana."

First Lady Judy O'Bannon tried to salve some festering wounds from earlier in the day. "Are we going to let them goad us into self-destruction?" she asked at the Saturday night banquet. "When we look at the enemy, the enemy ain't us. Don't let the hard war keep us from winning the real wars." ❖

## 2004 Racing Form

**Governor 2004: Republican:** Mitch Daniels, David McIntosh, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris, Bob Parker. **Democrat:** Joe Andrew, State Sen. Vi Simpson, Roy Graham. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** What's the Horse's take on the Democratic straw poll? There's no question the Andrew campaign has been

emboldened by its flexing of labor muscle. In the past two weeks, Andrew has revealed his penchant for being shrew, bold and unconventional. And, as we said last week, this is a dangerous period for Simpson. But it is far too early to write off her chances of winning, particularly with EMILY's List preparing to engage. Andrew has some distinct momentum, and while he once again showed his oratory skills, it took a lot of fortitude for Simpson to walk into the voting place and speak to what was a hostile crowd. We pondered moving this race into a "leans Andrew" designation. But we'd like to see some independent polling and see if EMILY's List can get Simpson some financial traction. Indiana Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. reacted to Andrew's straw poll win with this state: "It does not surprise me that Joe Andrew, one of the Clintons' top political operatives, and Bren Simon, one of the Clintons' top financial supporters, would garner the support of Democrat party faithful. Joe Andrew is one of the most partisan Democrat politicians in Indiana history. He once compared Republicans to members of the Manson family. Indiana does not need that style of leadership." Eric Miller's Advance America has engaged itself to the "defense of marriage" issue. In an e-mail supporters last week, Miller said, "We have contacted the offices of each of Indiana's nine U.S. Representatives as well as the offices of Senators Lugar and Bayh to request their support for the constitutional amendment to protect the sanctity of marriage. Three have responded in support of the amendment. U.S.Reps. Chris Chocola, Mike Pence and Mark Souder. **Democratic Primary Status:** *Tossup*. **Republican Primary Status:** *Leans Daniels*. ❖

## HORSE R A C E

# PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

## Exploring genocide with a Hoosier saint

FRENCH LICK - Bald from chemotherapy and fighting a virulent form of cancer, former Congressman Frank McCloskey was surrounded by friends Saturday morning.

From Gov. Frank O'Bannon, to fellow mayor Bob Pastrick of East Chicago, to former staffers gathered to honor the man from Bloomington who didn't flinch at taking on genocide.

"I went from being an establishment lawyer to within a year sharing a bombed out apartment with him on a hill in Sarajevo," said Indianapolis attorney Ed DeLaney.

McCloskey grew up after the Nazi Holocaust of World War II and was learned, "Never again."

As a congressman from Southwestern Indiana when the demons of genocide flared in Bosnia, McCloskey became the most vocal advocate for intervention. DeLaney remembers the Frank McCloskey who had the guts to write a *New York Times* op-ed piece telling President Clinton to fire his secretary of state over Bosnia.

Later, in a White House reception line, McCloskey whispered to Clinton, "Mr. President, bomb the Serbs. You don't know how good it will make you feel."

DeLaney said that after five or six people passed through the line, there was McCloskey once again. He had circled around and, facing the president, he repeated the same thing to Clinton.

Clinton finally acted, using the U.S. Air Force to bomb the marauding Serbs into submission.

State Rep. Brian Hasler, a former McCloskey aide, explained, "Frank stood up to two American presidents on Bosnia. He told them they were wrong."

After he was defeated by John Hostettler in 1994, McCloskey convinced DeLaney to go with him to Bosnia to help create a new order. He had participated in the Dayton Accords. He helped convince the shapers of the new maps to keep Vukovar in Bosnia. "There are thousands of people who would be dead if it wasn't for Frank McCloskey," DeLaney said. The two went and found themselves in "what was one of the worst places on earth."

At one point, DeLaney said, he became fed up and told McCloskey, "Goddammit Frank, I can't live with a saint. Can't you just be a jerk."

Later, as McCloskey addressed the room of more than 100 people, he nervously jangled his keys and change in his pockets and told how his role in Bosnia "changed my life."

"Some say politics doesn't work and you can't do anything," McCloskey said. "But one person deciding to do things can change the world."

No one would have guessed back in 1971, when McCloskey was drafted to run for mayor of Bloomington when Monroe County Chairman Ed Treacy filed an unknowing McCloskey for the office after he couldn't convince Harry Gonzo to run, that McCloskey would play the role of a savior.

Many have noted that President Jimmy Carter became our best ex-president, a champion for human rights and fair elections in nations across the globe. Carter's efforts earned him a Noble Peace Prize.

McCloskey might well be the best ex-congressman this state, perhaps even the nation, has come across.

A reasonable follow-up for good friends gathering around a battling colleague might be to nominate McCloskey for a Noble Peace prize.



## TICKER TAPE

tax assessments closer to market value. But the new assessments may be off by more than 10 percent on as many as 30 percent of Tippecanoe County's 40,000 single-family homes, according to a Journal and Courier analysis of property tax and sales records. The new assessments, unlike the previous "replacement cost" reassessments of 1995, are supposed to be based on the market value of properties as of 1999. The Lafayette Journal and Courier compared assessments to sale prices of approximately 4,200 homes sold in Tippecanoe County in 1998 and 1999. Of that group, assessments were off by more than 10 percent 31 percent of the time.

**HOSTETTLER FIGHTING FOR 'ROY'S ROCK':** As protesters and politicians in Alabama fought last week over a mammoth monument of the Ten Commandments in Alabama's state judicial building, an Indiana congressman continued to play a pivotal role in the melee (Evansville Courier & Press). At issue is not just the debate over the so-called "Roy's Rock," but whether religious conservatives and proponents of freedom of religious expression will soon have a new weapon in their arsenal. Rep. John Hostettler, R-Ind., in late July led House passage of a spending bill

*continued on page 6*

# TICKER

## T A P E

amendment that would keep funds from being spent to enforce a federal court order to remove the monument from the state building. The amendment and the overall spending bill passed the House, and awaits Senate passage this fall, when Congress returns from its August recess.

**INDIANA RECEIVES GOOD CREDIT RATING:** The nation's major bond rating agencies affirmed Indiana's good credit rating, AA+ rating from Standard & Poor's and a rating of Aa1 from Moody's (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette).

**LOHRMAN TO HEAD ORENTLICHER CAMPAIGN:** Former reporter Shannon Lohrmann is now campaign manager for State Rep. David Orentlicher's re-election campaign in HD86. Lohrmann turned to politics after Gannett closed its Indianapolis news bureau.

**O'BANNON STUDYING VETOED BILLS SINCE 1972:** The governor's office is still combing through pages of bills, trying to judge the impact of an Indiana Supreme Court ruling that could throw out 30 years' of vetoes (Steve Walsh, Post-Tribune). Earlier this month, the state Supreme Court sided with the nursing home industry and threw out Gov. Frank O'Bannon's veto of a 2001

# 2003 Racing Form

**Trendline:** Americans are increasingly pessimistic about the U.S. mission in Iraq, saying the United States should reduce its spending and scale back its efforts there, according to the latest *Newsweek* poll. Sixty-nine percent of Americans polled say they are very concerned (40 percent) or somewhat concerned (29 percent) that the United States will be bogged down for many years in Iraq without making much progress in achieving its goals. Just 18 percent say they're confident that a stable, democratic form of government can take shape in Iraq over the long term; 37 percent are somewhat confident. Just 13 percent say U.S. efforts to establish security and rebuild Iraq have gone very well since May 1, when combat officially ended; 39 percent say somewhat well.

Nearly half of respondents, 47 percent, say they are very concerned that the cost of maintaining troops in Iraq will lead to a large budget deficit and seriously hurt the U.S. economy. And 60 percent of those polled say the estimated \$1 billion per week that the United States is spending is too much and the country should scale back its efforts. One-third supports the current spending levels for now, but just 15 percent of those polled say they would support maintaining the current spending levels for three years or more.

# HORSE RACE

## 2003 Indiana Mayoral Races

**Anderson Mayoral:** **Republican:** Kevin Smith. **Democrat:** Robert W. Rock. **Independent:** Linda Haynes. **1995 Results:** Lawler (D) 9,411, Graham (R) 8,817. **1999 Results:** Lawler (D) 8,395, Czarniecki (R) 7,002 Haynes (I) 1,950. **2003 Forecast:** Rock is confident that he will defeat Smith, telling HPR his fundraising is going well. **General Status:** *Leans Rock.*

**Evansville Mayoral:** **Republican:** Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Results:** Lloyd (R) 15,980, Borries (D) 15,461. **2003 Forecast:** Former U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey said of Weinzapfel at French Lick on Saturday, "I think he's very appealing and a gifted young leader." **General Status:** *Leans Weinzapfel.*

**Fort Wayne Mayoral:** **Republican:** Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Mayor Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Results:** Richard (D) 21,607, Buskirk (R) 21,531. **2003 Forecast:** A WPTA-TV poll conducted Aug. 5-11 had Buskirk leading Richard 38-32 percent. Richard's approval rating was at 64 percent. Elected officials across Indiana are fearing for their political lives as property reassessment has voters looking to punish anyone up for election - whether they have anything to do with rising property taxes or not. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard's re-election campaign felt the fear this spring when it became clear the Democrat's record of not raising taxes could be forgotten. Early forecasts expected thousands of homeowners to see their property taxes double or even triple. Now, much of that fear is gone (Dan Stockman, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Not because bills will not go up, but because taxpayers will not know what their bill is until long after Election Day: The process of reassessing the 150,000 properties in Allen County has taken so long, bills are not expected to be mailed until Christmas. In charge of the reassessment process is Allen County Assessor Pat Love, the only elected official in Allen County government who is a Democrat - like the mayor. Love said she did not hold up the process to help the mayor's election chances. "I can guarantee you I have nothing to do with that," Love said. Allen County Republican Party

Chairman Steve Shine said tax bills being mailed after the election is purely coincidence. "I don't think it's purposeful or intended," Shine said. "I don't think it's anything either party could control. . . . I could sit here and try to make hay out of it, but I've never felt that way." Love said she was grateful to be spared Shine's wrath. "That's good," she said. "That's one thing he's going to give me a break on." **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

**New Albany Mayoral: Republican:** Mayor Regina Overton. **Democrat:**

Councilman James E. Garner. **Libertarian:** Melanie Hughes. **1995 Results:** England 6,845, Real (R) 5,886. **1999 Results:** Overton (R) 5,512, England (D) 4,205. **2003 Forecast:** Overton and Garner say the city's \$44 million sewage system expansion will be among the most important issues in the Nov. 4 election (Ben Hershberg, *Louisville Courier-Journal*). Not surprisingly, they differ on who it will help. Overton thinks the voters will want to give her a second term so she can complete the ambitious project. "We're the ones who got it planned and have gotten it approved" by state and federal regulators, she said in an interview. "We're the ones who should be here to see it through." Garner agreed that the city must see the plan to completion, since any change would mean delays and probably more expenses. But he added: "If I'm in leadership, I believe it will be managed better." His education and experience as a business manager give him the skills needed to oversee such a big and complex project, Garner said. Political experts and some other observers agree that the construction project — and the costs being borne by sewer customers — are a major political issue in the city. Linda Gugin, a professor of political science at Indiana University Southeast, said sewers tend to be election issues when they are failing more than when they are getting fixed. "Once you get a solution to the problem, voters move on to something else," Gugin said, noting that she was speaking generally and hasn't done any research in the current campaign. Based on her reading and research in other local elections, Gugin said, some voters may give Overton credit for working out a solution to the city's sewage problem. Tom Wolf, a political science professor emeritus at IUS, said he expects the sewer expansion "to be the centerpiece" of Overton's campaign. Wolf said, "it will be a positive" for Overton. But sewer rates are up, Wolf said, and some voters may hold that against the incumbent. "The critical issue will be turnout," Wolf said. Since many more people generally vote Democratic than Republican in New Albany, Wolf said, a large turnout could overcome the advantages that Overton may get from pointing to the long-awaited sewer construction. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

**Hammond Mayoral: Republican:** Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Tom

McDermott Jr.. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Results:** Dedelow (R) 10,192, Philpot (D) 8,527, Robinson (L) 278. **2003 Outlook:** A small but determined group of Democrats has rejected its party's choice for mayor, opting instead to back the man who has led the city for more than a decade (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Don Kalina Sr., the man behind Democrats for Dedelow, said he's never voted for a Republican in his life. Through the May primary, Kalina continued supporting the full Democratic ticket, including mayoral candidate Louis Karubas. However, his party's choice to nominate Thomas McDermott Jr., a political novice who switched parties last year, for the city's top job sent Kalina reeling. The day after the primary, Kalina resigned his elected post as one of the city's Democratic precinct committeemen. He then called Harold Hull, one of Mayor Duane Dedelow Jr.'s campaign officials, and asked what he could do to help the mayor get re-elected. At age 73, Kalina said he isn't looking for a city job or any favors from the administration. He just wants to see Hammond continue moving in the right direction. "I'm not by any means a kid who had a wild dream or something," said Kalina, an ardent supporter of Democrat Thomas Philpot during the 1999 election. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

- Brian A. Howey in Indianapolis ❖

# TICKER

## T A P E

bill that would have prohibited the Family and Social Services Administration from reducing Medicaid reimbursement rates without statutory approval. The justices cited a 1972 amendment to the state constitution that requires all vetoes be returned to the house of origin either during the session or on the first day of the next session.

O'Bannon had sent the bill back to the House, just after he vetoed it in the spring of 2001. The administration has until Sept. 14 to ask the court to reconsider its ruling. Meanwhile, lawyers are poring over all vetoes the state's governors have made since 1972 to get an idea of how many bills may be affected, according to Mary Dieter, spokeswoman for O'Bannon. "Even a handful of bills could be a tremendous problem," Dieter said.

**GOP PROPERTY TAX PROPOSAL CRITICIZED BY COUNTY OFFICIAL:** With some homeowners still recoiling from the sticker shock of reassessment, Republican state lawmakers are asking Gov. Frank O'Bannon to step in and offer property tax relief (Bryan Corbin, *Johnson County Daily Journal*). Indiana House Republican leaders unveiled a five-part plan Wednesday to allow homeowners to pay their new property taxes in install-

*continued on page 8*

# TICKER T A P E

ments, waive late fees and qualify retroactively for the homestead exemption or credit, even if they missed the deadline to apply. But the Johnson County auditor said that last proposal could be an administrative nightmare for counties, cities and towns that already have prepared their 2004 budgets. If it took effect, it could force them to recalculate tax rates. The fiscal impact of the five proposals is unknown. It also could be blazing a new trail legally. The House Republicans are asking the governor to use his authority to order a state agency, the Indiana Department of Government Finance, to disregard the property tax deadlines spelled out in state law.

**HARTKE MAY RUN IN 8TH CD:** Bryan Hartke of Newburgh, who collected about 47 percent of the vote against Hostettler in 2002, said he hasn't ruled out joining next year's race. "What I need to look at is what it's going to take to free up time (to campaign)," Hartke said (Evansville Courier & Press).



# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Morton Marcus, syndicated** - I would be very satisfied to see our gubernatorial candidates resting sedately on their laurels or wherever they choose to rest. But they are on their feet already saying unwise things. For example, Mitch Daniels has fallen into the trap of declaring that the governor's role is similar to that of the chief executive officer of a company. No. Government is not a business. The constraints are different, the objectives are different, the instruments for action are different. No CEO has to contend with anything like a powerful, elected general assembly. No governor has the power to direct or even have much influence on the economic well-being of the state. The economy of Indiana is run by companies, workers, and consumers in and beyond the borders of the state. It is presumptuous to believe that the governor can have significant influence on the market forces that determine the collective well-being of Hoosiers. At best, the governor can tend to the state's business which is the effective delivery of education, public health, public safety, infrastructure, and regulatory services. Indiana led all states in the percent of jobs lost from June 2000 to the same month this year. Our decline was 5.4 percent while the nation lost just 1.5 percent of its jobs. With just 2.3 percent of all U.S. jobs in June of 2000, we accounted for 8.1 percent of the jobs lost in the nation. Did we lose those jobs because of our political leaders? I think not. We lost those jobs because of the mix of businesses in this state emphasized the type hardest hit by the recent recession. Specifically, manufacturing, which represented 22 percent of all non-farm jobs in Indiana in June 2000, accounted for 55% of our lost jobs. Is a new governor going to purge the state of manufacturing? Is a new governor going

to iron out the cyclical movements in the national economy? Can a state dictate what kinds of industries will locate within its borders? It is convenient to displace responsibility on the government for failures of the private sector. So-called 'business climate' studies may rank Indiana high or low, but the real issue is the energy of the private sector, the commitment of individual businesses to growth. ❖

**Kevin Kilbane, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel** - (Allen) County council will keep all options open when considering structural changes to reduce county government's operating costs and improve its efficiency. But most members don't see a unified city-county government as a likely solution. "We need to work with state legislators to create a new structure that makes sense," new councilman Darren Vogt said. Currently, Indianapolis and Marion County operate under a form of combined government called Unigov. Many Marion County towns remain independent, however, as do the city and county fire and police departments. Some people view Unigov as a silver bullet that would fix all our problems, said Andrew Downs, director of the Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics. But leaders of Marion County Communities not included in Unigov voice frustration about loss of control of utility rates and problems they have working with local law-enforcement agencies. "The intelligent move is to look where combinations make sense," he said, "and build from there." Ultimately, city and county leaders all must focus on what is good for the entire community, Vogt said. "Whether you are in Fort Wayne or Allen County, it still is a community," he added. "We are all in this together. There can't be any turf." ❖