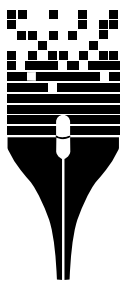


# The Howey Political Report



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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I could be governor of this state as well as running my business. I mean, it’s not the same, but it’s about teamwork and it’s about appointing the right people to the right positions....” - Bren Simon

## Gov. Kernan hasn’t weighed ‘04 options

### Simpson would support governor

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

The question Statehouse press corps supporters didn’t ask Gov. Joe Kernan on Monday was verbalized by Gary Democrats and Region business leaders on Wednesday.

Steve Walsh of the *Post-Tribune* reported it this way in today’s editions when Democratic partisans pressed the new governor in hope he would reconsider: Kernan repeated the comments he made at the Statehouse in his first news conference after being sworn in as governor, that nothing had happened to cause him to change his mind. But he left the door open. “I haven’t had a chance to think about anything other than the business at hand, so we’ll have that conversation at a later date,” Kernan said.

Meanwhile, the gubernatorial campaigns of Joe Andrew, State Sen. Vi Simpson and Republican Mitch Daniels sprang back into action after lying dormant the week of Gov. O’Bannon’s funeral. Only Simpson’s campaign would respond to the hypothetical question of what would happen if Gov. Kernan decided to seek a term of his own.

**Simpson campaign manager** Mike Draper explained, “Sen. Simpson has always had a great working relationship with Joe Kernan. He’s his own man and nobody is going to convince him of what to do and what’s in his heart. The Vi Simpson campaign will be supportive of whatever he does.”

Dennis Lee, speaking for Andrew, explained, “What Joe (Andrew ) has been saying is that it’s his job to make sure that he can do for Joe Kernan whatever it takes to be the best and most popular governor. Joe Kernan has been pretty clear that he’s not going to run.”

And if Kernan did run, how would Andrew react?

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*Covering 10 years of Indiana politics*

# TICKER

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**BUSH AT HIS LOWEST APPROVAL:** George W. Bush is in the worst political trouble of his presidency, according to a new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released Wednesday night. Bush's approval rating now stands at 49 percent, the lowest point of his tenure.

**BATTLEGROUND POLL SAYS BUSH IN FOR TOUGH RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN:** President Bush is likely to face a close campaign for re-election next year, according to a poll that shows his strength on fighting terrorism and his popularity matched by Democrats' advantages on the economy and other domestic issues (Associated Press). The bipartisan Battleground 2004 poll found people were evenly divided on whether they thought Bush should be re-elected or it's time to give someone new a chance to be president. He had a slight lead in a head-to-head matchup with an unnamed Democrat. Just over half, 53 percent, said the country is on the wrong track, while 39 percent said it is headed in the right direction, according to the poll conducted by GOP pollster Ed Goetas and Democratic pollster Celinda Lake. Bush had a 54 percent job approval rating in the poll and two-thirds said they like him personally.

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"That's hypothetical," Lee said.

Clearly, the Democratic establishment wants Kernan to reconsider. "I think he may still get in there," said State Sen. Earline Rogers, D-Gary (Walsh, *Post-Tribune*).

Close friends and associates of Gov. Kernan say that after going through two weeks of crisis with the illness and death of Gov. O'Bannon, the new governor now faces several daunting challenges: How to deal with decades of gubernatorial vetoes that courts have ruled to be unconstitutional, and the fate of an Indiana death row inmate whose execution was stayed by Gov. O'Bannon for 60 days. The veto constitutionality has the potential of rendering dozens of vetoes moot, wreaking havoc on Indiana code.

Then there is the decision on who his new lieutenant governor will be. On Monday, Kernan said at a press conference, "I need to sort through the different options. I'll be talking to people, looking for advice and counsel. I'm not sure when I'll be ready. It will be very deliberate. I'm not going to be rushed to judgment."

As for who might be on any short list, Gov. Kernan and his key advisers have not made any signals, and raising any names would be grossly speculative at this point.

### Reconsiderations

What might make this very private governor change his mind about 2004?

Friends and colleagues for months after his stunning December 2002 decision indicated that Kernan hates fundraising and didn't want to play defense on the O'Bannon record.

By leaving the scene as a sitting governor, what Kernan faces is a fractured Democratic Party, a potential assault on the O'Bannon-Kernan record in the 2004 sequence, and a rollback of many public policy elements supremely valued by the ruling party.

A classic example is the Hoosier

Healthwise program that enrolled more than 120,000 poor kids into state sponsored insurance programs. It was mentioned twice at Gov. O'Bannon's funeral. Yet Republican legislators have consistently cited the burden of its costs in today's deficit environment. Another would be education, such as the new standards, the ISTEP program, the Education Roundtable, that will clearly come under fire and face possible extinction.

Kernan, who has the option of running for one more term (and would have to endure only one more year of the dreaded fundraising), would also have to consider his legacy. Republicans such as Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. would like nothing better than to compare the O'Bannon-Kernan years to Herbert Hoover. Since Gov. O'Bannon died, there has been a steady drumbeat of thousands of job losses -- Lincoln Life, Dana, Arvin-Meritor, Chrysler Foundry, and Wells Fargo.

In Muncie on Wednesday, Kernan tried to lend context. Kernan noted that Oregon is cutting the school year back to 140 days; the University of Nebraska is laying off tenured professors; states up and down the East Coast are laying off state troopers; New York University is considering tuition increases of 30-40 percent. "And California, the poster child, with problems that will probably not be fixed in our lifetimes," Kernan said during a visit to Ball State University (Seth Slabaugh, *Muncie Star Press*). "These kinds of things have been going on all across America." Indiana is the only state in the union "that went on the offense" during "these very difficult times," the governor said.

*South Bend Tribune* columnist Jack Colwell, the journalist who knows Kernan best, observed, "Getting Mary (Downes) back as chief of staff and Tina (Noel) back as press secretary signals he is getting people in place either to go all out for a final 15 months or to go for a longer time as governor. Friends and advisers have told him to keep the door just a bit

ajar, not to make a hasty decision on emotion either way after Frank's death. I think he has done that -- just a bit ajar. He could have slammed the door but didn't. Chances that he will run still seem narrow. But he also is being told that no other Democrat can win and that he owes it to Frank and the party to run. He and Maggie will decide."

Other friends of the governor are saying that his LG decision won't necessarily be made before ruling in or out his 2004 options. One friend said Kernan is being urged by some to make it by the holidays.

## Re-emerging campaigns

Here's how the other candidates have re-emerged since Gov. O'Bannon's funeral.

**JOE ANDREW:** He and Bren Simon released a 22-page economic development plan during a five-city fly-around, covered this way by the *Associated Press*' Mike Smith: The Andrew plan calls for state vouchers to help businesses hire consultants, accountants and market researchers; one-stop shopping centers where all the state agencies that businesses need to work with would be grouped under one roof; new tax breaks for business investment; and facilitators to shepherd businesses through the state bureaucracy. "We're going to work hard to change the way Indiana serves businesses across the state," Andrew said. "We all know things change constantly in business. There's no way a bureaucracy can keep up." Andrew did not offer a specific plan to pay for the proposals, though Indiana faces an \$850 million deficit.

Simon's portion of the plan calls for facilitators within state agencies to act as "samurai warriors" serving as advocates for businesses and ensuring the state is responsive to their needs. Simon could not offer details on the plan Tuesday, saying it would be developed through the campaign's series of forums, called "Hoosiers

Being Heard," planned over the next few months (Smith, *Associated Press*).

What has occurred are further questions about Simon's credentials to be LG or governor. She answered the question in Indianapolis this way: "I could be governor of this state as well as running my business. I mean, it's not the same, but it's about teamwork and it's about appointing the right people to the right positions."

Newspaper editorials have been critical of Andrew's selection of Simon. The *Indianapolis Star* wrote: "Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Joe Andrew already has attracted some heat for proposing unproven Indianapolis socialite Bren Simon, who has never held elected or appointed office, as his running mate."

The *Bloomington Herald-Times* opined, "The events of the past week cannot have done Joe Andrew any good, given his rash selection a few weeks ago of Bren Simon, the wife of mall magnate Mel Simon, as his choice for lieutenant governor. When he made that selection we strongly questioned his judgment, asking whether Simon, no matter how articulate or intelligent or energetic, was qualified to step in as governor in the event of a tragedy. Now the state has suffered just such a tragedy. Andrew intended for his choice of Simon to look bold. All it did then was look silly. Now, in light of somber events, it looks rash at best. At worst it looks cavalier, flip, dismissive of the importance of the office to the point of disrespect for it."

And the *Times of Northwest Indiana* noted, "The events of the last two weeks show how important that second-in-command job is. Lieutenant governors often tend to be shuttled aside or ignored, but to O'Bannon's credit, he did neither. As a result, Kernan was well-prepared to step in. Whoever he chooses must be just as capable."

**VI SIMPSON:** Simpson was asked in Lafayette on Wednesday about her possible LG choice. She told the *Journal & Courier*, "I want to take time to do it. This

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**ARVIN-MERITOR PLANT TO CLOSE IN FRANKLIN:** News the community has dreaded for years became official Wednesday when ArvinMeritor announced it would close its Franklin exhaust facility (Scott Hall, Johnson County Daily Journal). The closure will occur in phases as production is moved to other ArvinMeritor facilities in the United States and Mexico. The moves are expected to begin in December and be completed by September 2004, when the hourly employees' current four-year contract expires. Workers affected by the first round of cutbacks will be notified within a few weeks, company spokeswoman Colleen Hanley said. Company and union negotiators expect to meet soon to craft a closure agreement, including specific severance terms and job placement benefits available to employees. The announcement is a major blow to Franklin and to Johnson County, already reeling from recent job cuts elsewhere.

**KERNAN ANNOUNCES RECORD HOOSIER EXPORTS:** Indiana exports saw an enormous increase in the second quarter of 2003, bringing the state's sales to an all-time high of \$4.4 billion. Gov. Joe

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Kernan announced today that the export sales increase over the first quarter of 2003 was large enough to make Indiana the 10th largest exporting state in the nation. The \$474 million increase from the first quarter of 2003 amounted to an annualized one-quarter increase of 47.9 percent and an 11.1 percent increase over the year before. U.S. exports only stood about 1.2 percent higher than the year before. "Once again, Indiana's hard work is paying off," said Kernan. "While most states are still struggling to climb back up to their previous numbers, we are looking at the highest numbers of export sales Indiana has ever seen."

**LUGAR SAYS CONGRESS WILL WATCH SPENDING:** Republicans have given signals that they will closely follow the spending on Iraq and the progress there. Sen. Richard Lugar, the Indiana Republican who heads the Foreign Relations Committee, said as much in his opening remarks (New York Times). "Our planning must reflect the promise to establish an Iraqi government that is representative, that is effective and underpinned by protected freedoms and a market economy," he said. "Many Iraqis have had a difficult time understanding how the most powerful nation in the world could defeat their armed forces in three weeks

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must be a person who can serve as governor."

Many observers believe the Simon selection as Andrew's LG gives Simpson the perfect wedge issue going into the primary. Many observers throughout the Democratic establishment are openly skeptical of Simon's credentials and relationships. The Simpson campaign has kept its criticisms of the choice muted thus far.

O'Bannon's death cost the Simpson campaign two vital weeks. "It's been kind of devastating," said Simpson campaign manager Mike Draper. "We've been in kind of a holding pattern. We're starting to reschedule events. We postponed three to four fundraisers."

The EMILY's List mailing did go out a few days before Gov. O'Bannon was stricken. As for the response, Draper said, "It's been going very well. Larger amounts are coming in every day. Money started coming in a week ago."

And Simpson has tried to restore the momentum of labor endorsements before French Lick. There will be five this week, the latest coming from the Communications Workers of America Local #4730 and Indiana State Nursing Association Nurse-PAC. "In her nearly 20 years in the Indiana State Senate, Vi Simpson has worked tirelessly to improve Indiana's health care system," said Ernest C. Klein Jr., executive director for the Indiana State Nursing Association and treasurer for Indiana State Nursing Association (INSA) Nurse-PAC. "She understands the issues our members face and has been there to help us time and time again. Her record, experience, and integrity are unmatched - and we proudly endorse her candidacy for governor."

Other nods came from the Indianapolis's International Union of Operating Engineers, Bloomington's International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and New Albany's Laborer's International Union of North America local, the five collectively representing

7,300 union workers.

**MITCH DANIELS:** The Republican is expected to conclude his "first lap" of all 92 counties with a "Mitch-A-Palooza" barbecue at the Fishers Town Hall on Oct. 5.

His travelogue included recent stops in Bicknell, Morristown, Marengo, Santa Claus, Orleans, Corydon, Greencastle and Shelbyville.

Daniels suspended campaign activities for a week immediately following Gov. O'Bannon's death on Sept. 13, including a scheduled endorsement from U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar.

"He's started back up again in earnest," said campaign spokeswoman Ellen Whitt. "I want to emphasize he has just concluded the first lap. He's going to continue. It's not like we were just buzzing through the state once."

Whitt said that as Daniels crisscrossed the state, stopping in small towns that rarely have seen a gubernatorial candidate, the former White House budget director has been "learning from Hoosiers" while working on policy development. "We'll start rolling some things out," Whitt said. "You'll be hearing more from him on economic development."

It's been a consistent theme from Daniels, going back to his speech before the Indiana Farm Bureau almost a year ago when he highlighted the need for revitalizing the economies of small towns in rural Indiana. The recent plant closings have become a dire threat to the Hoosier middle class outside the big cities.

Whitt said that whether Gov. Kernan re-emerges in a 2004 election scenario will have little bearing on Daniels' campaign agenda.

She said Daniels has no plans to wage an assault on the O'Bannon-Kernan record. "What we're all about is Mitch's ideas for the future," she said.

Whitt said that a Kernan re-entry was "too hypothetical," but acknowledged that if it happened, "It would change things" in the dynamic of the race. ❖

# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*** - Joe Kernan, who turned down one of the best opportunities to run for governor, now is the governor, thrust into the job under the worst of circumstances, the death of Gov. Frank O'Bannon. Now, a new opportunity to run for governor in 2004 presents itself to Kernan. As he concentrates on the memorial tributes to Frank O'Bannon and on ensuring continuity of state government, Kernan has said repeatedly that nothing in events since O'Bannon suffered a massive stroke has caused him to change his mind about staying out of the race for governor. Kernan changed the political landscape in Indiana last December with the surprise announcement that he would not run for the Democratic nomination for governor, a nomination that was his for the asking. Since then, Kernan has appeared to be happy with that decision. Happy in particular to be free of the necessity to spend countless hours of "call time," also known as "dialing for dollars." Kernan came to despise that pleading for money, which took so many hours away from the governmental duties of lieutenant governor, especially economic development responsibilities, that he enjoyed. It is quite likely that Kernan will continue to say "no" and mean it. But surely he will ponder if he should leave the door to candidacy ajar just a bit, with the possibility still of seeking to serve beyond the remaining 15 months in the term to which the O'Bannon-Kernan ticket was elected. Back when Kernan was a prisoner of war for 11 months after his plane was shot down over North Vietnam, he resolved that if ever he was free from the hell of that captivity, he would treat each day as precious, not to be wasted "on things that I didn't enjoy doing." So, what does he do now? A scenario that seems likely is that he will concentrate for 15 months on

being the best governor he can be, working with Republicans as well as Democrats to face challenges in state finance, education and economic development. Then he would return to South Bend. The other scenario? Since he is a man who welcomes a challenge and is competitive by nature, he could decide, if Democrats unite behind him, that he would like to lead the state for a longer period of time, for a full term as governor. If he is to choose that last scenario, he must do so quickly. ❖

**Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union*** - If I ran into W on the street, I would ask him one question. Who are you and what have you done with George W. Bush? I mean, really, what in the world has happened to W since taking office? When you consider what he campaigned on and what he has done in office, it makes a Republican scratch his head a little bit. Remember the W who advocated leaner government? He gave us the giant, ubiquitous Department of Homeland Security. The USA Patriot Act. The No Child Left Behind program. He talked about responsible, efficient government and has now presided over the biggest deficits in history. He was a neophyte when it came to foreign affairs. He seemed to not know much about foreign countries, let alone foreign policy. Now we are occupying a couple foreign countries and are immersed in some of the most sensitive foreign policy issues of our time, like North Korea, India, the Middle East and our relationships with other NATO allies. What happened to W? I think I have a pretty good idea what happened. Sept. 11 is what happened. I sense a certain uneasiness and skepticism. Yes, American is a vastly different place since Sept. 11, 2001. And I think that is exactly what the terrorists wanted. ❖

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and still have trouble getting the lights turned on."

**KERNAN WON'T SPEAK IN COLUMBIA CITY:** Gov. Joe Kernan won't be the featured speaker for Whitley County Democrats at the annual Marshall Dinner on Friday, his staff said Wednesday. With Kernan's new duties as governor, his schedule was redone to reflect the responsibilities of his new position. Whitley County's Democratic Party scheduled Kernan to attend the Friday dinner two years ago when he was lieutenant governor and expected to be a gubernatorial candidate, said Greg Hockemeyer, Whitley County Democratic Party chairman. "We're truly disappointed," Hockemeyer said. "Obviously, plans made two years ago won't be able to be fulfilled due to the death of Gov. (Frank) O'Bannon." Democratic gubernatorial candidates Vi Simpson and Joe Andrew will attend and speak at the dinner.

**GARY SCHOOL BOARD TOLD OF POSSIBLE STATE TAKEOVER:** An education consultant warned the Gary School Board this week the state could take over the city's schools if test scores do not improve (Post-Tribune). "I don't want that to happen, but you have major problems that need to be addressed," Ilene Block said during the public-com-

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ment period of Tuesday's School Board meeting. She said the state's Public Law 221 and the federal No Child Left Behind law provide sanctions for schools that fail to show improvement. School Board members did not appear intimidated. "For those people who are not in our school system," Dharathula "Dolly" Millender said later in the meeting, "I want to inform them it's going to be really difficult to take over our schools." She said it would be "a cold day in July" before that would happen.

**CARTER & CARTER LINK UP IN LAKE COUNTY VOTE FRAUD PROBE:** An investigation into Lake County voter fraud could be honing in on one influential instigator (Steve Patterson, Post-Tribune). At a Tuesday news conference, Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter was asked if one person could have organized, or had a hand in, absentee voter fraud across the county. "That's pretty accurate," he replied, declining to name anyone, but including his hope that a grand jury investigation will produce enough evidence to indict that person. "I don't buy into conspiracies, but there are some systematic aspects, certain patterns, that are very consistent and could lead you to believe that people conspired to get certain things done," he

**2003 Racing Form**  
**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:** The most important role for Anderson's next mayor is creating new employment opportunities, declared Smith (Ken de la Bastide, *Anderson Herald-Bulletin*). Smith outlined Monday what can be done to revitalize the local economy. Both mayoral candidates have been outlining how they would change city government if elected. "Too many abandoned factories dot our landscape," said Smith. "Too many people are struggling to support their families and our young people are leaving to find employment opportunities elsewhere." He said since 1999 the estimated unemployment rate for Anderson has increased by 80 percent, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Our leaders need an attitude adjustment," Smith said. "We need to let business leaders know that Anderson is open for business." Smith said Anderson has to retain the jobs it already has and work to encourage new investment. Both candidates agreed on ending the inventory tax. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

**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:** Lloyd and Weinzapfel squared off on a radio debate Tuesday. Lloyd said his priorities for a second term would include creating a certified technology park Downtown and developing the Pigeon Creek Greenway (John Martin, *Evansville Courier & Press*). The mayor attacked Weinzapfel's record in the Indiana House, noting he was ranked 99th out of 100 lawmakers on business issues by the state Chamber of Commerce. He criticized a Weinzapfel proposal to give city employees two hours of paid leave per month to volunteer in schools, calling it "a liberal pie in the sky idea" and saying it would cost "money taken out of the hide of city taxpayers." Lloyd, noting several proposals Weinzapfel has made regarding education, said, "It's as if Rep. Weinzapfel is running for mayor of the school board." Weinzapfel said the mayor should have a role in promoting education and said his proposal for education flextime for city employees is "leading by example." He said the proposal would have "a negligible impact on city finances" but did not specify what it would cost. Weinzapfel called for "renewed focus" on creating jobs and said city government should "get back to the basics of roads, streets and sewers." Asked about his statement at an August news conference that a basketball arena might be possible Downtown, Weinzapfel noted he made the comment in response to a reporter's question. He said an arena Downtown is "not necessarily something I would pursue," but if the University of Southern Indiana was interested in such a project, "I would sit down and talk with them." The candidates were asked if they consider the Downtown baseball stadium project dead. Weinzapfel, who called the shelved ballpark plan "a fiasco from start to finish," answered yes. Lloyd said the project is dead unless additional private funding comes forward, and "then it's something we need to look at." Neither candidate took a firm stance on the topic of consolidating city and county governments, saying they want to see recommendations made by a committee studying the topic. Weinzapfel on Thursday distanced himself from alleged political threats against Evansville's Fraternal Order of Police, saying his campaign was not involved in the incident (Martin, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Weinzapfel said he had no knowledge of the alleged threat by Evansville Police Patrolman Phil Luecke against FOP President D.J. Thompson, and would not have endorsed such an action. "It seems to me this is a conversation between two police officers; it's an internal matter," Weinzapfel said. **General Status:** *Leans Weinzapfel.*

**Fort Wayne Mayoral:** Republican: Linda Buskirk. Democrat: Mayor Graham

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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:** Richard expressed confidence that he will prevail, telling HPR he will have a significant money advantage, a month edge in television, and a job approval of more than 60 percent. "I'm not saying it will be a landslide," Richard said. "It will be close, but I am confident I will win." Richard said his coming campaign themes will be efficient government services, including extending services to 90 square miles of newly annexed areas, a \$23 million cash reserve, a flat tax rate and the safest city its size in the U.S. The city was cited for efficiency from Six Sigma Showcase. Wells Fargo is pulling the plug on its Fort Wayne call center (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). About 140 local workers received layoff notices Tuesday from the San Francisco-based financial services company. The call center will close Nov. 1. It all comes down to jobs. That was the message both of Fort Wayne's mayoral candidates gave to potential voters Tuesday in their first public debate. Mayor Richard and Buskirk traded barbs for an hour at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne and explained their campaign platforms. A consensus of the audience seemed to give Richard a slight edge as the winner according to Andy Gammill of the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, covering the story as a reporter, not an editorial writer. On almost every question asked, Richard and Buskirk returned to their campaign focuses of jobs, both keeping the ones already here and bringing more. "I don't believe in the close-the-door concept that the last person out of Fort Wayne has to turn out the lights," Richard said. "We've retained over 3,000 jobs and brought 12,500 new jobs." Buskirk criticized Richard for not making enough trips to talk with businesses. If elected, she said she would personally talk to more businesses and woo out-of-town executives to keep local employees before they even consider pulling out. **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican:** Treasurer Greg Jordan. **Democrat:** Mayor Bart Peterson. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Results:** Peterson (D) 102,870, Gilroy (R) 83,044, Horning (L) 7,772, Gibson (OP) 2,145. **2003 Forecast:** In a move that could delay the Nov. 4 election, four Democratic City-County Council candidates filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the Marion County Election Board over a ballot they said is too confusing. The four Democrats, all council incumbents, argued that the proposed ballot should not be used because it groups candidates by office rather than by party. Republicans control the three-member Election Board (*Indianapolis Star*). "Voters entering the voting booth need to have clear and concise information," said Joanne Sanders, an at-large council member who was among those filing suit. "What we have now offers nothing but confusion." Jordan defended his position of not using additional taxpayer money on the Indianapolis Colts, saying Mayor Peterson needs to make his position clear (*Indianapolis Star*). Jordan said Monday that if he were elected mayor, the city would not hike taxes to pay additional subsidies to the Colts. He also called on Democrat Peterson to disclose details of negotiations that have taken place between the city and the Colts in the past year. "What's going to happen with Colts funding is vitally important to our taxpayers," Jordan said. **General Status:** *Likely Peterson.*

**Valparaiso Mayoral: Republican:** Jon Costas. **Democrat:** Mayor David Butterfield. **1999 Results:** Butterfield (D) 3,532, Costas (R) 3,336. **2003 Forecast:** Costas won the endorsement of the political action committee of Valparaiso Firefighters Association, Local 1124, on Sept. 10. President David Nondorf said it takes a two-thirds majority vote for an endorsement. He said it was a difficult decision, especially since the union backed Mayor David Butterfield in 1999 (*Post-Tribune*). Nondorf said the decision was based on many issues within the department and that Costas had the energy to correct them. "When you quit going forward, you're pretty much going backward," said Nondorf. **General status:** *LEANS COSTAS.* ❖

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said. Carter's telling comments came as he announced a formal partnership with Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter to investigate and prosecute cases of voter fraud in Lake County. The collaboration, described as "ground-breaking," is an unprecedented partnership between a state office and local prosecutor, both officials said. They will share equally in resources and authority in the grand jury investigation into public corruption in the May primary and other elections. Steve Carter said this is the first time his office has entered into a formal, written agreement with a county prosecutor. This Friday, the grand jury will hear individual cases stemming from the May primary, Bernard Carter said. Once that begins, he added, "charges will be coming shortly."

'KING OF STEELTOWN' FILM TO BE ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE: Mayor Robert Pastrick was all smiles as the credits rolled in "King of Steeltown," a documentary film meant as a tribute to his 1999 re-election campaign. Federal investigators now are hard at work producing its sequel, a courtroom drama in which Pastrick's administration and legacy lie shipwrecked on \$20 million in concrete sidewalks and other public improvements hurriedly approved and car-

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ried out in an alleged scheme to buy votes in that election four years ago (Bill Dolan, Times of Northwest Indiana). "Steeltown," a cinema verite directed by expatriate Hoosier Chris Sautter, won best documentary at the New York International Independent Film Festival in 2001, but was never boffo at the box office. However, it apparently achieved cult status with one local group. "A while back, I received a call from one of the lawyers in the U.S. attorney's office about the sidewalk case," Sautter said. "The gentleman I spoke to said they had all seen the film. When I told him I was the only one authorized to sell copies and I had no record of selling to anyone in his office, he quickly ordered a copy." However, a source close to the investigation confirmed investigators have seen the film and suggested it may contain admissible evidence at the trial, which could begin early next year. Now available in DVD or VHS tape on the Sautter Films Web page, the 75-minute film can be examined frame by frame for any incriminating or exculpatory moments. Cut to the scenes of precinct committeemen collecting money in envelopes or Noah Atterson Spann, convicted bribe-taker and co-chairman of Pastrick's campaign, browbeating Pastrick supporters to get out the vote.

CLARK DRAWS THUNDER-

## Will Clark candidacy match Clark resume?

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.

WASHINGTON -- Democratic members of the Indiana congressional delegation have not endorsed any of their party's presidential candidates. But the latest entrant into the field, retired Gen. Wesley Clark, has at least one Hoosier Democrat saluting his resume.

Clark, a former NATO supreme commander who led allied troops in the 1999 war in Kosovo that broke Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic's grip on that country, has burst onto the national political scene since announcing his candidacy for president on Sept. 17. In a couple of campaign speeches since then, Clark has been highly critical of President Bush's foreign policy and the war in Iraq. A CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll conducted from Sept. 19-21 put Clark in a tie with Bush and ahead of the other nine candidates for the Democratic nomination.

But it's Clark's biography that impresses Hoosier Democratic Rep. Julia Carson (CD 9). Clark graduated first in his class at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University in England, where he studied politics and economics, and has had experience in business since retiring from the Army in 2000. "You'd be hard-pressed to surpass those credentials in terms of a candidate for public office," Carson said.

Although his poll numbers have dropped precipitously from their lofty heights following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, President Bush, and Republicans generally, have benefited from being perceived as stronger than Democrats on security issues at home and abroad. Clark may neutralize that advantage. "Gen. Clark brings to the table a lot of legitimacy in terms of the military and the things the military should engage in," said Carson.

Since his announcement, Clark, 58, has been portrayed as a fierce competitor

who usually succeeds in achieving his goals. But along the way he also has created his share of enemies in the military through clashes over strategy and tactics. According to published reports, his arrogance led to an early retirement from the military.

But Carson found Clark personable. She spoke with him for the first time when he called her on Monday before his appearance at DePauw University on Tuesday. "He didn't put on any airs or give me any political hype," said Carson. She also says that Clark's leadership in the Kosovo war, which was fought in large part to protect Kosovo Muslims from Milosevic's ethnic cleansing, shows Clark's strength of character. "That reveals a side of compassion we often lose in the political landscape," she said.

### Hoosier Dems Hold Back

Although she likes what she sees in Clark, Carson has not endorsed any of her party's 10 candidates for president. When she does, she says she will base her decision on one criterion: "Quality," she said. She defines quality as "integrity, true family values" and good policies on education and the economy.

Clark also spoke to Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh before his trip to Indiana to get a sense of Hoosier politics. Bayh has not endorsed anyone in the Democratic primary. "Senator Bayh believes that any credible candidate for president of the United States must meet two essential tests," said Bayh spokesman Mark Kornblau. "First, they must lay out a clear and proactive vision for how they will protect the American people while advancing freedom and democracy abroad. Second, they must have a plan to improve economic security and create jobs here at home. He is eager to hear more from General Clark and the other candidates on both of these important topics." Rep. Pete Visclosky (CD 1) has not made



an endorsement, according to spokesman Cliston Brown. The office of Rep. Baron Hill (CD 9) did not respond to an HPR interview request.

## Clark Battles Dean

Now that Clark is in the race, he may challenge former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean to be champion of the anti-Washington, disaffected voter. Dean has stunned the political world by generating millions of dollars in donations and building significant grass-roots support through the Internet. Dean has fired up his backers with his strident attacks on the war in Iraq and Bush's economic policies.

It is Dean who has the most visible support in Indiana. He was enthusiastically received as the only presidential candidate to appear at the Indiana Democratic Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner last spring. He was the only candidate to have a booth at the IDEA convention at French Lick. His list of supporters include Indiana Democratic counsel Shaw Friedman, St. Joseph County Chairman Butch Morgan, LaPorte County Chairman Kora Vidya, Melina Fox, Glenn Lawrence, 1984 gubernatorial nominee Wayne Townsend and 6th CD Chairman Ray Scheele.

"Clark is the one person who may be in a position to cut into Howard Dean's support," said Scheele, professor of political science at Ball State. But Dean has created a buzz on campus. Dean's use of the Internet is "the next step in the technological revolution of campaigns," he said. "I hear more talk on campus about Dean than I do about all the other candidates put together."

Clark seemed to appeal to DePauw students when he was on campus. "Students who were either apolitical or moderately conservative in their leanings were particularly favorably impressed," said David Bohmer, director of the Eugene C. Pulliam Center for Contemporary Media Studies at DePauw.

The Dean candidacy has also had an impact on campus. Bohmer, who is the

Putnam County Democratic chairman and the adviser to DePauw's College Democrats, said that attendance at campus Democratic meetings has increased thanks to Dean. "If they got 12 kids to a meeting last year, it was an accomplishment," he said. "Every meeting so far has had 25 kids, if not more. I would attribute a large part of that interest to Dean."

Bohmer said Clark would be attractive to the largely conservative voters in his area of western Indiana. "He would have a bigger appeal in Putnam County than any other (Democratic) candidate because he would neutralize if not remove the image of Democrats not being strong in fighting terrorism, not supporting the military, and not being strong on security," he said. "The fact that he is former military would neutralize the image of Democrats being anti-gun."

## Clark Appeals to Activists

Clark may also appeal to traditional Democrats who are wary of Dean's anti-establishment aura, said Chris Sautter, a Washington Democratic media consultant with more than two decades of experience in Hoosier campaigns. "General Clark is filling a vacuum," said Sautter. "Only one of the (previous) nine seems to be generating any enthusiasm. As a result, there are a lot of Democratic activists who are hungry for a candidate who is different from Howard Dean."

Sautter says that it is more difficult for an anti-establishment candidate like Dean to secure the nomination. Although he has raised nearly \$1 million since declaring his candidacy, Clark faces huge challenges in building an organization and raising money. He also stumbled last week when he said he would have supported a congressional resolution in favor of the war in Iraq and then reversed himself the next day. "Whether Clark is John F. Kennedy or John Glenn remains to be seen," said Sautter. "The real question is whether candidate Clark can measure up to resume Clark." ❖

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**OUS APPLAUSE FROM 3,000 AT DEPAUW UNIVERSITY:** In one of his first speeches since announcing his candidacy for president, Democrat Wesley Clark came to Central Indiana on Tuesday to declare war on President Bush (John Fritze, Indianapolis Star). Clark, a retired Army four-star general who led NATO forces in the 1999 Kosovo conflict, told a packed auditorium at DePauw University that the Bush administration has moved the country in the wrong direction since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. "How dare someone say you're either with us or against us?" Clark said, prompting thunderous applause from the 3,000 students and local residents who attended. "Americans understand that we're not going to be safe by building walls around this country." The hourlong talk -- heavy on the same international and military affairs issues that have so far defined Clark's candidacy -- came on the same day that Bush addressed the United Nations to defend the country's role in Iraq. It was a position that Clark repeatedly attacked throughout the evening. "When it comes to protecting America's interests in the world, we have a lot of other tools in our tool kit" besides force, he said. "We need a new American strategy."

