



HOWEY

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‘Communitarian’ GOP vs. the ‘anti-Big Tent’ right

Moderate Republicans begin to fight back

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis and MARK T. CURRY in Washington D.C.

On Wednesday morning, before the Indiana Humanities Council Leadership Summit, Gov. Mitch Daniels accented his moderate, progressive credentials.

“If we are going to become a state that is forward looking and ready to compete, willing to take risks and try new things, it will take leadership and that leadership should come from every sector of society. You know what is sometimes viewed as the definitive history of our state -- the Indiana way -- people of Indiana tend to navigate in the middle of the mainstream, drifting, if anywhere, a little closer to the more secure edge of the river. Some of us think it’s time to paddle a little further out into the current. Paddle a little faster. That’s what you do when you try to catch up, if we’re going to be a more tolerant state, more welcoming to immigrant capital as well as immigrant individuals.

“We must be a communitarian state,” Daniels continued. “We are in this together. We will not succeed if any large portion of Indiana does not move forward. The northwest. Small towns. The rural areas. Leadership of the kind I’m looking at right now provides that essential role of reassurance, of explanation, of demonstrating it is about all of us working together. There is no limit to what we might achieve.”

Three days earlier, Michah Clark of the Indiana Family Association of Indiana appeared to be anything but “communitarian.” He reacted angrily to Gov. Daniels renewing the EEOC non-discrimination policy. His comment to the *Indianapolis Star* -- “I don’t believe in the big tent. I don’t believe you get to be that big offending a large portion of your base” -- exposed a fissure within the Indiana Republican Party. It is a party where the evangelical Christian right can turn out between 25 to 32 percent of a primary vote for people such as John R. Price in the 1998 U.S. Senate race or Eric Miller in the 2004 governor’s race.

That leaves at least two-thirds of the Republican Party in the moderate col-



Gov. Mitch Daniels at the Humanities Council leadership summit. (HPR Photo by Thomas Howey)



“I don’t believe in the big tent. I don’t believe you get to be that big offending a large portion of your base.”

— Micah Clark, American Family Association of Indiana, to the *Indianapolis Star*

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Blog: Eric Miller makes a million	p. 4
2006 Horse Race: Kennedy mulls	p. 5
Howey Column: An F-1 thanks to Bob	p. 7
Columnists: Kristol, Colwell, James	p. 8
Ticker: Bayh in New Hampshire	p. 9

Covering a Decade of Indiana Politics



umn.

Modern Indiana Republicans had been about keeping government out of our private lives; of efficient, limited government; of low taxes. During the Gingrich revolution of 1994, it was about term limits, balanced budgets and Congress living under the same laws as the rest of us. During the Clinton impeachment era, it was about adhering to the "rule of law."

This is something we've been analyzing since the 2004 campaign, when Daniels ran on his moderate and progressive "aim higher" platform where core principles were not to be compromised; where one's character would not be denigrated, while House Republicans used the marriage wedge issue to launch severe and edgy attacks against Democratic opponents.

Clark is the first to denounce the "big tent" that President Reagan articulated three decades ago. It is further evidence that the band of Hoosier Republicanism is growing wider, stretching far, far to the right.

But since the evangelical right took over the Indiana House leadership with the ascension of House Speaker Brian Bosma and State Rep. Eric Turner, Republicans are a conflicted party even as they control the executive and legislative branches of government.

They blocked Mayor Bart Peterson's Indy Works reforms that could have easily been written by a Republican mayor (and, in fact, many provisions were blueprints from Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's Republican administration). It prompted Gov. Mitch Daniels to say in Southern Indiana last week, "I'm embarrassed to say members of my party blocked it."

They are in an uproar over BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman's reforms of an agency that has more branches than any state except much bigger California and Texas. They blocked the anti-discrimination ordinance in the Indianapolis City-County Council, insisting, as Eric Miller and Councilor Scott Schneider did, that the people were against it.

House Republicans opted for tax hikes over gaming, setting up the spectre of rising property tax bills to be delivered to voters just before the May primary and November 2006 elections. In Congress, Republicans invaded the Schiavo family calamity. They are now against term limits. They've presided over record deficit budgets. And the rule of law has become something to be compromised or defied.

And the Indiana GOP continues to press further out on the fringes. Look no further than U.S. Rep. John Hostettler who:

a. Likened the U.S. Supreme Court to the Soviet Politburo. "As few as five people in black robes can look at a

particular issue and determine for the rest of us, insinuate for the rest of us that they are speaking as the majority will. They are not," Hostettler said.

b. Is urging Gibson County to defy a court order removing a 10 Commandments monument. Hostettler amended a spending bill last week to block federal marshals from enforcing a court order to remove the monument from the lawn of the Gibson County Courthouse in Princeton, Ind. But some supporters of the display have questioned Hostettler's effort. "It presupposes the county would not follow a court order. That's ridiculous," said Gibson County Attorney Jerry Stilwell (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "If the ultimate ruling is that the monument must go, I feel confident our county commissioners will follow the court ruling."

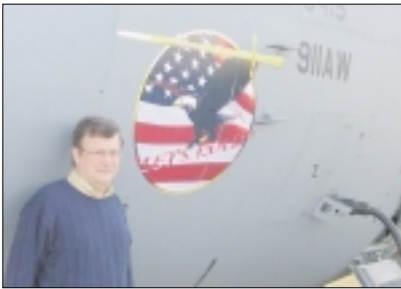
c. And earlier this week, Hostettler said this, and then retracted it under threat of censure: "Like a moth to a flame, Democrats can't help themselves when it comes to denigrating and demonizing Christians."

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence also believes constitutional framers intended this to be a "Christian nation" when many people, including politically moderate Christians, disagree. Pence hopes to move legislation such as the Constitution Restoration Act, partly crafted by former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, ousted last year for refusing to remove a Ten Commandments monument from the rotunda of the Alabama judicial center. "That would use the jurisdictional powers of the Congress to take some of these issues away from the purview of the courts," Pence explained, "particularly when it comes to the acknowledgment of God in the public square."

In the Teri Schiavo case, as Congress intervened in what had been a family matter, U.S. Rep. Mark Souder said on March 21, "This young woman isn't unconscious, comatose or brain dead. And she's not on artificial life support. She smiles, cries and responds to those around her. She's a disabled woman who needs help eating, just as many disabled people do." An autopsy released last week showed that Teri Schiavo's brain was half its former size and that she had no cognitive ability or sight.

What's the matter with (Indiana)?

In his acclaimed and controversial book, "*What's the Matter with Kansas*," author Thomas Frank observes, "Let us pause for a moment to ponder this all-American dysfunction. A state is spectacularly ill-served by the Reagan-Bush stampede of deregulation, privatization, and laissez-faire. It sees its countryside depopulated, its towns disintegrate, its cities



U.S. Rep. Mark Souder in Iraq.



stagnate -- and its wealthy enclaves sparkle, behind their remote-controlled gates. The state erupts in revolt, making headlines around the world with its bold defiance of convention. But what do its rebels demand? More of the very measures that brought ruination on them and their neighbors in the first place. This is not just the mystery of Kansas; this is the mystery of America, the historical shift that has made it all possible."

Frank adds, "And then think of the political changes that this sappy stuff has helped to sell: Privatization. Deregulation. Monopolies in every industry from banking to radio to meatpacking. The destruction of the welfare state. The beatdown of the labor movement. The transformation of the Midwest into the rust belt. And, shimmering in the heavens above all this, the rise of a new plutocracy, a class of overlords so taken with their own magnificence that they are moved to compare themselves to the Almighty.

"They have chosen a cultural battle where failure is a given, where it's absolutely certain before they even start," Frank said. "And why do that? There's a hundred ways they could challenge that Massachusetts court ruling if they wanted to, but they chose to go with a Constitutional amendment, the one thing that is absolutely certain to fail. I argue that failure is but part of the DNA of the cultural wars. The Republicans who have been very, very successful in remaking the economic landscape that we live in don't deliver on the cultural front. They always lose. Hollywood movies just get coarser and coarser every year. This is one of the most interesting aspects of the conservative world -- that these cultural issues that motivate people by the millions are never won. The gigantic contradiction in conservatism (is) that the free market capitalism that they profess to love delivers this culture that they find so offensive and so abhorrent."

Grubbing for votes

Don Blinzinger, a senior vice president at BoseTreacy and a former aide to House Speaker Brian Bosma, traces the further rightward movement of Indiana House Republicans to the ascension of Bosma and Rep. Eric Turner, replacing moderates such as former House Speaker Paul Mannweiler and John Keeler. In 2002, Bosma brought in an Iowa political operative, Steve Grubbs, who came up with the gay-bashing

campaign tactics that helped elect State Reps. Bill Davis, Billy Bright, Bruce Borders and Troy Woodruff last November.

"What I saw him do beginning in 2002 and even more so in 2004 was to play off the national Republican politics," Blinzinger said.

The evangelical right held sway in the House with the push for the marriage amendment, and taxes over gaming. They have set the stage for a perfect storm next April and May. That's when Daylight-saving time will kick in, along with increased property tax bills.

"I fully expect an increased number of Republicans will have primary opponents," Blinzinger said. "I can see Democratic ads out there that will say, 'The Governor and House Republicans gave the Colts a new stadium in 2005, but they couldn't find any additional money for your child's education.'"

And, Blinzinger said, "I see the Christian right becoming ever more strident."

State Rep. Luke Messer, the executive director of the Indiana Republican Party, said that in the House caucus "discussion on gaming was on-going into the final week of the session. There was a debate on sin tax. What was ultimately passed was a budget with no general tax, but which allowed locals to make those decisions."

Messer said he was "extraordinarily impressed" with the way Speaker Bosma dealt with his team. "At the end of the day, he brought everyone together. Everyone felt good about our plan. Any solution would have been imperfect."

As for Indy Works, he said that was a failure of Mayor Peterson to stump the state as Mayor Richard Lugar did prior to the passage of Unigov. "When you come to the legislature, relationships matter," Messer said. "Not press conferences. It started from a combative point of view. There was every reason to give the mayor his Indy Works program. Key legislators, Phil Hinkle, Mike Murphy, Bruce Borders, thought it was a bad plan. We as a caucus tend to side with the local legislator."

Messer explained that Republicans are now learning how much tougher it is to govern. "This balance has not been an easy balance to reach for several decades," Messer said. "You've had a lot of fiscal conservatives against the social conservative agenda. But without the social conservatives, we're not a majority party. Most Hoosiers are opposed to gay marriage, but they believe there should be certain legal pro-



State Rep. Phil Hinkle (left) blocked the Indy Works reforms and State Rep. Eric Turner (right) was instrumental in the taxes over slots debate that will insure that taxes are a prime campaign topic in 2006. (HPR Photo).



tections.”

Messer said, “We are committed to the big tent.”

Moderates fighting back

There is evidence that moderate Republicans are beginning to fight back. The First Republicans is a moderate group that was started Indianapolis attorney Syd Steele, who practices with Bosma’s law firm of Kroger, Gardis & Regas.

Its first guest speaker was former New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd-Whitman, author of the book, “*It’s My Party, Too: The Battle for the Heart of the GOP and the Future of America*,” She wants GOP moderates to “assert themselves forcefully.”

Her website, www.mypartytoo.com features quotes such as from President Dwight Eisenhower, who asserted that the GOP “brings people together, not drives them apart.” And there is a quote from Reagan, who said he views a modern Republican party that “is not based on exclusion. After all, you don’t get to be the majority party by searching for groups you won’t work or associate with.”

Indianapolis attorney Gary Welsh, a 1984 Reagan delegate and former aide to Illinois House Republican Leader Lee Daniels, started the *Advance Indiana* blogsite because of his repugnance of what he sees as “bigotry.”

“You can replace all the references to gays with blacks and women and see how calls for discrimination against all of them in the past were tied to Christian beliefs,” Welsh said. “The Party of Lincoln was always on the right side of civil rights.”

Remember the barn-raising

In HPR’s view, Daniels is a moderate, though he has delivered for the social conservatives on recent abortion legislation. What the Micah Clarks and Eric Millers don’t understand is that the more they beat on Gov. Daniels, the more friends he is likely to make in the middle, especially with the “late deciding women” who detest intolerance. Miller’s Advance America can deliver 2,000 people for rallies at the Statehouse or pump out a burst of e-mails. But they don’t win elections; they enforce litmus tests.

“I wouldn’t call it an escalation,” said Bill Oesterle, a top Daniels confidant, of Clark’s resistance. “My comments to our spring dinner were a fact. Republicans are going to be conscious of differing views. Micah Clark is operating at the fringes. Most people don’t believe in a party that is not inclusive.”

At the Humanities Council Leadership Summit, Daniels sought to raise the dialogue. “Let’s think deeper. Let’s be profound. Let’s be as smart about this as we can be. There are minds to change ... and there are apprehensive people to reassure, uplift and reach out to.”

He talked of leadership which explains the tough dilemmas, a striking contrast to the shrill and reactive response to the BMV closings from leaders such as Senate President Robert Garton.

“In my inaugural I raised the old image of the barn-raising,” Daniels said. “That community exercise where everyone took part; no one stayed home. Our comeback must look like that.” ❖

Eric Miller’s million

By GARY R. WELSH

www.advanceindiana.blogspot.com

INDIANAPOLIS - Like D.C. Stephenson used the KKK in the 1920s to personally enrich himself, Advance Indiana can report that Eric Miller has used Advance America’s non-profit status to personally enrich himself through inflated six-figure salaries, legal retainers for his law firm and other acts of self-dealing. Between 1998 and 2003 Miller pocketed more than \$1 million in tax-subsidized dollars for his salary, legal fees and other benefits from the organization he founded.

Miller served as the organization’s executive director continuously over the past 25 years, stepping down in 2004 to mount his unsuccessful bid for the Republican nomination for Governor. The period analyzed covers but a small period of Miller’s tenure at the helm of the organization, suggesting that he has personally benefited far more than the million dollars

he parlayed for himself during this six-year period.

Equally disturbing is Advance Indiana’s discovery that Miller’s private law firm shared the tax-exempt organization’s pricey office space and utilized the organization’s employee services throughout this period. As the organization’s executive director, Miller was paid \$621,168 in salary during the period of 1998 through 2003, averaging \$103,528 in annual pay. A survey conducted by Towers Perrin of 376 nonprofit organizations at the same time Miller was earning an annual salary of \$109,085 found that the average annual salary for the top executive of an organization with an annual budget of less than \$1 million was \$78,500, more than \$30,000 below Miller’s annual pay. Beginning in 2002, the organization also began making substantial contributions to Miller’s benefits plan to offset reductions in his annual salary. In 2002, the organization contributed \$11,000 to Miller’s benefits plan, and it chipped in another \$14,000 in 2003, upping Miller’s personal take \$25,000 during the two-year period. ❖



Indiana 2006 Congressional

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar.

Democrat: 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer. **1988 results:**

Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes

(D) 668,778. **1994 results:**

Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz

(D) 470,799, Bourland (L)

17,343, Barton (A) 15,801.

2000 Results: Lugar

1,425,150, Johnson (D)

680,046, Hager (L) 33,896.

2006 Forecast: In his *Roll Call* column, political analyst Stuart Rothenberg says that when Democratic activists "leaked one question from a poll conducted by Garin Hart Yang for the Indiana Democratic Party, they crossed a line that is etched in stone. In attempting to start a political bandwagon rolling for a Senate bid by former Rep. Tim Roemer, they attempted to mislead journalists and political observers alike." Pollster Fred Yang "did the right thing" and "set the record straight," noting that the "reported 41 percent to 39 percent lead by Sen. Dick Lugar (R) over potential challenger Roemer (D) was, in fact, a response generated only after those being polled received positive information about the candidates." Rothenberg adds that "releasing a second ballot as if it is an initial ballot is tantamount to political fraud." Roemer "very probably could not" defeat Lugar, "though he likely could run a credible race." A "mid-June American Viewpoint poll for Lugar, which smells far more reasonable and accurate than the informed ballot disseminated by Democrats, showed Lugar leading Roemer 58 percent to 24 percent. Lugar is well liked, well known statewide and widely respected." **Status: SAFE LUGAR.**



Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. Media Market: Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006**

Forecast: The rhetorical warfare came as the House considered a proposal by Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., to put Congress on record against "coercive and abusive religious proselytizing" at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Rep. John



U.S. Rep. Hostettler

Hostettler, R-Ind., criticized Obey and Steve Israel, D-N.Y., who offered a similar condemnation of academy officials earlier this year on another bill. "Like a moth to a flame, Democrats can't help themselves when it comes to denigrating and demonizing Christians," Hostettler said (*Washington Post*). Democrats leapt to their feet and demanded Hostettler be censured for his remarks. After a half-hour's worth of wrangling, Hostettler retracted his comments. The imbroglio broke out as the House conducted an otherwise routine debate on a \$409 billion spending bill to fund the Pentagon budget and provide an additional \$45 billion for the war in Iraq. **Status: LEANS HOSTETTLER.**

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Results:** Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Sodrel voted for the spending bill amendment that included U.S. Rep. John Hostettler's language that would urge Gibson County to defy a federal court order to remove its 10 commandments monument (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). The *Rothenberg Political Report* profiled this race in its June 7 edition. "In 2002, Hill won 11 of the 20 counties. But in his rematch with Sodrel in 2004, the Democrat won only nine counties and his vote percentage decreased in 17 of the 20 counties. Even though Hill previously represented the district, he faces an uphill fight in 2006. One Democratic insider insists that Hill has never really acknowledged why he lost, and he must resolve to take the fight to Sodrel. Last cycle, Hill chose to stay positive and run spots involving his wife and family. Hill must also improve his



fundraising. Unlike 2002 and 2004, Sodrel will be the incumbent and will likely be able to raise money from political action committees. Hill, on the other hand, will not have the benefits of incumbency and will need to work harder to raise a war chest. Democrats note that congressman won't be running with the benefit of President Bush at the top of the ticket, which could well improve the state's electoral environment for all Democrats. Hill and the Democrats are hoping that the overall dynamics of the cycle will benefit their party and provide an environment to defeat the freshman Republican. But the district's numbers favor Republicans slightly, and Hill will have a tough time convincing voters that they should oust Sodrel after a single term. **Status:** *Tossup.*



Deputy Mayor Melina Kennedy is becoming the consensus choice to challenge Brizzi. "She is considering it," said Michael O'Connor, the former deputy mayor now at BoseTreacy. "She is very detailed and exacting in her analysis." Kennedy was point person for Mayor Peterson on the Colts deal and she worked extensively on the Criminal Justice Council's \$12 million decision to reduce inmate early release. Kennedy clerked two years for the Indiana Supreme Court and handled death penalty cases. She also worked on the domestic violence roundtable. The emergence of Kennedy as a Democratic challenger produced a buzz about a "proxy fight" between the Peterson and Daniels camps. "It will certainly be a race that gets the attention of the Peterson team," O'Connor said. Former Daniels campaign manager Bill Oesterle called Brizzi's re-election the top GOP priority in 2006. But O'Connor cautioned on the Peterson/Daniels muscle flexing in the wake of the Indy Works and stadium controversies. "In the end, people vote for the two people on the ballot." Kennedy and Brizzi appeared at a Criminal Justice Council meeting. The \$12 million proposal, designed to speed the pace at which people move through the county court system, follows several cases in which inmates were released early to meet court-ordered limits on jail crowding only to be charged later with committing more serious crimes, including murder (*Indianapolis Star*). Mary Moriarty Adams, chairwoman of the Council's Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee, said she believes the plan will win approval because it was drafted by people in the criminal justice system. "They provided the options," she said. "They know best what their needs are." Mayor Bart Peterson called the decision to send the plan to the City-County Council a "historic vote in support of finally beginning the process of fixing the criminal justice system here in Marion County. It's been broken a long, long time." The plan drew criticism from Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi because it includes no money for adding jail beds. Brizzi, however, voted in favor of the plan at the end of the 90-minute Planning Council meeting. "People are still failing to appear in court but, all that said, without the funds necessary to actually add beds in addition to this, it is a step in the right direction," Brizzi said. Brizzi filed the charges Monday as what he called a last-resort tactic against "deadbeat dads" who won't take responsibility for their children. They were the first criminal charges for withholding child support since Brizzi became prosecutor in 2002, according to his office. The 10 men on the list owe up to \$121,709 each, for a total of more than \$624,000, Brizzi said Monday at a news conference. The missed payments date back to 1983 and include 19 children. **Status:** *LEANS R.* ❖

Indiana 2006 House

House District 64: Republican: State Rep. Troy Woodruff. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Results:** Woodruff 12,698, Frenz 12,507. **2006 Forecast:** *Indianapolis Star* columnist Matthew Tully wrote of Woodruff: Politically, many see him as a dead man walking -- likely to be tossed from office at the voters' earliest possible convenience. All because of The Vote. In Vincennes, Woodruff hears about it everywhere. "Hey," people bellow, "what time is it?" It's enough to make Democrats drool at the idea of grabbing back a seat they lost by 188 votes last year. At City Hall, Mayor Terry Mooney made the case for second chances: "If Troy learned one thing, it's that he won't say 'never, never' ever again." John Frenz thinks it's too late. He's the Democrat Woodruff kicked out of office last year. He is leaning against a rematch but, boy, would he like to even the score. Sitting in his office, Frenz played a nasty GOP radio ad from 2004. While the ad slammed Frenz for breaking his word, he can now laugh at its closing sentence: "When Troy Woodruff gives us his word, we can trust him to keep it." Unfortunately for Woodruff, time won't erase those words. **Status:** *Tossup.*

2006 Local Races

Marion County Prosecutor: Republican: Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Democrat: Deputy Mayor Melina Kennedy. **2002 Results:** Brizzi 103,478, Osborn (D) 89,541, St. Angelo (L) 4,997. **2006 Outlook:** Democratic insiders tell HPR that



Thanks, Bob

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - There's a reason why we don't let sportswriters run the (pick one):

- a.) city
- b.) state
- c.) nation
- d.) newsroom
- e.) dog pound

Witness *Indianapolis Star* sports columnist Bob Kravitz, who was steaming in his Detroit hotel room about the U.S. Grand Prix at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Sunday.

The first question that must be asked is why wasn't Bob at the speedway to witness the third largest annual sporting event on the planet instead of the NBA Finals? The Pistons moved to Detroit from Fort Wayne more than four decades ago. From 300 miles away and watching on TV, he called it a "disgrace," and "debacle." These adjectives came about after only six of the 20 Formula One teams competed due to the Michelin tire flameout.



"Simply stated, this race is done," Kravitz wrote. "Forget what any contract might say about future events. The Formula One gang has lost all its credibility with the American market, and has torn apart every relationship it needed to make this thing succeed."

The local TV stations spent much of Monday going around the city, asking everyone from Mayor Peterson to Joe Schmo "who to blame."

The sports writer was closing the books on an event that brings \$170 million to Central Indiana each year. It fills up our hotel rooms and restaurants. It allows the Indianapolis dateline to appear in thousands of newspapers and magazines worldwide.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the city of Indianapolis and countless other entrepreneurs have spent millions of dollars planning, building and executing the U.S. Grand Prix.

And it's not like other major sporting events or series haven't suffered some embarrassing turn of events. I suppose if Kravitz was around in 1919, he would have urged an end to the World Series.

Actually, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway folks dis-

played proper disapproval after the race, when Tony George refused to congratulate the winner.

"(The decision) is going to affect a lot of people. It's important that we understand our role in this and make some good decisions," IMS President Joie Chitwood said (*Indianapolis Star*). "It's safe to say we're in contact with the right individuals over the next steps."

Good.

Sometimes it rains when the games are to be played. Sometimes the flights are delayed. Sometimes there are problems with the tires.

But you shouldn't fold up the stadium, close the airport or end the race because there was one bad day.

I can remember a couple of Indianapolis 500s back in the old snakepit days where rain, wrecks and controversy with the governing body USAC produced debacles and angry Foyts, Penskes and ... sports writers. I can remember sports writers such as Kravitz whining that the IRL/CART split would ruin the Indianapolis 500 back in 1996 and 1997. Had we listened to them and decided the world's largest annual sporting event was forever compromised, we wouldn't have had the moment we did earlier this month when Danica Patrick helped restore the 500's luster ... on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. Had we listened to them before the first Brickyard 400, we never would have witnessed one of the greatest scenes in Hoosier sports history ... the NASCAR drivers kissing the finish line bricks. It was a scene that truly put into context what the Indianapolis Motor Speedway means to our state.



Indiana is fortunate that we have a visionary like Tony George.

In George, we have a Hoosier leader who is willing to think outside the box, take risks, and treat the consumer right. He doesn't ask the city and state for handouts. Tony George thinks ahead of the curve. He is the kind of guy who will think this thing through, make the right adjustments and, with some cooperation and luck, restore Formula One to its position that makes Indiana one of the great sports meccas of the globe.

Kravitz is quick to say, "Goodbye, Formula One. Good riddance, Bernie Ecclestone."

From a purely constructive viewpoint, perhaps Kravitz will decide to stay in Detroit. ❖



William Kristol, *Weekly Standard* - Warning: THIS IS SPECULATION. Obviously, I think it's somewhat well-informed speculation, or else I wouldn't be writing this. But it is speculation. (1) There will be a Supreme Court resignation within the next week. But it will be Justice O'Connor, not Chief Justice Rehnquist. There are several tea-leaf-like suggestions that O'Connor may be stepping down, including the fact that she has apparently arranged to spend much more time in Arizona beginning this fall. There are also recent intimations that Chief Justice Rehnquist may not resign. This would be consistent with Justice O'Connor having confided her plan to step down to the chief a while ago. Rehnquist probably believes that it wouldn't be good for the Court to have two resignations at once, so he would presumably stay on for as long as his health permits, and/or until after Justice O'Connor's replacement is confirmed. (2) President Bush will appoint Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to replace O'Connor. ❖

Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - I hope GM can turn things around. The last thing we need is the world's largest auto manufacturer going belly up. I think GM may have lacked a little automotive vision? I mean really, what did they think, that the Hummer was going to be the vehicle of the future? The Tahoe, the Suburban, the Yukon, the Escalade? Some companies positioned themselves a little more appropriately with hybrids and smaller vehicles. But, frankly, market share is only the tip of the iceberg when you consider GM's problems. And the financial difficulty GM faces is understated by the numbers you see in the news. A fascinating article by Nick Barisheff on HoweStreet.com, a noted investor commentary site, reminds us that while most people think of GM as a car company, it is also a finance company. In fact, 80 percent of GM's 2004 earnings came from GMAC, its financial division. Notes Barisheff: "While the auto divisions posted losses, the finance division provided all of the profits." ❖

Rich James, *Post-Tribune* - The People United for a Safer Gary are about to pull a scam on the city's residents. It doesn't take much of a detective to figure out that John Buncich, the former Lake County sheriff who is challenging Sheriff Roy Dominguez to win back his job, is at the core of the con. The People United for a Safer Gary was established in January. In a letter to elected officials inviting them to a June 26 gala, People United says, "Our mission is to partner with city officials and our local police departments to proac-

tively assist in improving the quality of life, while striving to find ways to promote and preserve a feeling of security, safety for the the citizens of Gary." Sounds like a noble cause until you read between the lines. The ticket stub is good for three cash raffles, which is fine as long as the Department of Revenue has given its blessing. It hasn't. The ticket also says "Public Safety is our Real Concern in our Community." To shore up that contention, one needs only to check the list of speakers — county Prosecutor Bernard Carter, Gary City Judge Deidre Monroe and Buncich, the candidate for sheriff. Kind of seems strange that Gary Police Chief Garnett Watson wouldn't be included in that group. But, what do I know? ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Puzzled over polls? Don't be. The rival polls on a Roemer vs. Lugar race both make sense. Any questions? **Q.** Heck, yes. The poll taken for Democrats showed former Congressman Tim Roemer just two percentage points behind Sen. Dick Lugar. The poll taken for Lugar showed the Republican senator ahead by 34 points. Did the pollsters just make up numbers to please their clients? **A.** No. Both had respected, professional pollsters. **Q.** Well, how could the findings be so far apart? **A.** All findings probably were not that far apart. In fact, they had almost exact percentages showing that a majority of Hoosiers think the nation is on the wrong track. But, as for Roemer vs. Lugar percentages, only a result after pushing to enhance positive name recognition for Roemer was leaked from the poll taken for Indiana Democrats to test chances in the 2006 Senate race. The poll taken for Lugar was a standard poll, no pushing. **Q.** So the Democrats conducted one of those nasty, negative push polls to destroy Lugar's reputation? **A.** No. Not according to sources involved in the Democratic poll. They insist that only positive information was recited about both Roemer and Lugar before the "who-would-you-vote-for?" question. **Q.** Do you think that's possible, considering the claimed results? **A.** Yes. So does Lugar's campaign manager, Nick Weber, who concedes that "push polls are not inherently negative," but he adds that pushing with positive comments about the candidates, especially if it's very, very positive about one, "does distort." **Q.** Do you think the Lugar poll was an accurate snapshot of what would happen if voters had to choose now between Lugar and Roemer? **A.** Yes, for an election right now. It showed these percentages: Lugar, 58; Roemer, 24. Lugar long has been shown in polls and at the polls to be the most popular political figure in Indiana. He remains so. Roemer is not nearly as well known as Lugar in most parts of the state. ❖





Bayh heading to New Hampshire

MANCHESTER N.H. - There has been a fair amount of national media speculation about the political future of Democratic Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh (*New Hampshire Union-Leader*). Soon, Granite Staters will be able to hear this centrist Democrat for themselves. The Status has learned that Bayh will be in the state on July 10 and 11. A schedule has yet to be finalized. Manchester's Steve Bouchard heads Bayh's All-America PAC and is planning the visit. In '04, Bouchard worked first with Florida Sen. Bob Graham, and then, after Graham dropped out, with retired Gen. Wesley Clark.



Johnson County approves stadium tax

FRANKLIN - The Johnson County Council approved a 1 percent restaurant tax on Wednesday night after debating the technicalities of the tax, such as how much the county could earn in interest by collecting the tax locally and how much it would cost the treasurer's office to print forms and envelopes and process the payments (*Johnson County Daily Journal*). Council member Paul Reed cast the only vote against the tax after approving it a week earlier. He said he disagreed with the plan by the state and Indianapolis to pay the Colts \$48 million to terminate the team's RCA Dome lease .

Daniels to issue report card in July

INDIANAPOLIS - Next month, Gov. Mitch Daniels said he will issue a

midyear report setting objectives for his administration that can be counted and measured. "It is but a start. I think a reasonable start," he said (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "But a great state is more than its economy. A great state is more than its quality of government. In the end, it's about the quality of life there."

Whitt leaves governor's office

INDIANAPOLIS - Deputy Chief of Staff Ellen Whitt has left the office of Gov. Mitch Daniels. Whitt told HPR that the burnout factor caught up with her. She was deputy campaign manager from 2003-04, laying a good deal of the groundwork for Daniels' successful campaign. She is taking some time off before deciding what career track to take next.



Whitt

Councilmen fire across Peterson's bow

INDIANAPOLIS - Shooting across the bow before Mayor Bart Peterson announces expected budget cuts, two Republican City-County Council members criticized the mayor Wednesday for spending priorities they said won't reduce crime. Councilmen Isaac Randolph and Scott Schneider criticized Peterson for threatening to reduce the number of police officers at a time when the violent crime rate is not decreasing, but they did not offer alternative plans for how to make the budget work. "We're here today to talk about resources not going to the right place," Randolph said at a news conference the two council members called at New Beginnings Church on the Near Northside.

Hoosier soldier killed in Iraq

CROWN POINT - Army Spc. Nick Idalski, a little more than a week shy of his 24th birthday, had been killed in action that day by small-arms fire near Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Idalski was assigned to the U.S. Army's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, attached to the Second Marine Expeditionary Force.

McDermott reverses himself on RDA appointment

HAMMOND - Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. plans to appoint Purdue University Calumet Chancellor Howard Cohen to a post on the influential Regional Development Authority, a source familiar with the appointment said (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). The appointment would mark a reversal for the mayor, who was criticized by some observers earlier this year for announcing intentions earlier to appoint himself to the authority. Gus Olympidis, the chief executive officer of Valparaiso's Family Express Corp., confirmed Wednesday he has applied to represent Porter County on the RDA. Ed Charbonneau's name also has been submitted to Porter County officials for consideration. Others are Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District Chief Operating Officer Jeffrey Lowe and Porter Police Commissioner and private security coordinator Arthur Heredia.

Clay makes second election board appointment

GARY - Lake County Democratic Chairman Rudy Clay is solidifying his position in his spat with Clerk Thomas Philpot over control of the County Election Board (*Post-Tribune*). Clay said Wednesday he will appoint Al Salinas Sr. to fill the vacant spot on the board. ❖