



HOWEY

Political Report

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Bayh gets mixed reviews after second New Hampshire stump *Speaks to 600 Democrats at sold-out event*

By JAMES W. PINDELL
PoliticsNH.com

MANCHESTER, N.H., - U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) returned to New Hampshire over the weekend introducing himself to a large gathering of the state's Democratic activists as a potential Democratic presidential candidate and to try out a few new lines on them.

Bayh's keynote speech at the annual Jefferson-Jackson dinner in Manchester was the biggest stage yet in his fledgling bid for President this year. More than 600 of the state's most active Democrats attended the sold-out event.

In his speech Bayh gushed over Gov. John Lynch (D-Hopkinton) and gored President George W. Bush.

He referred to Lynch's efforts during the recent floods in Southwestern New Hampshire by saying, "John Lynch could teach George Bush and FEMA a thing or two about responding to emergencies."

This was Bayh's second trip to the Granite State this year. He is one of seven Democrats so far to visit the state exploring a White House bid in 2008. New Hampshire Democrats are reveling in the highest non-election year turnout ever for a Jefferson-Jackson dinner (John DiStacio, *New Hampshire Union Leader*).

"It's not the mushy middle or



U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh called for "energy independence" in his speech before New Hampshire Democrats last weekend. (HPR Photo)



"No, I'm asking, why are you asking the question? That's a fair question."

— Senate President

Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, to WISH-TV's I-Team, over his dual employment at Ivy Tech and his Senate position.

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the consensus of the lowest common denominator, but instead a summoning of the American people to realize the true promise of this nation," he told the gathering.

He also called for an energy independence initiative.

"If I had been president of the United States, I would have looked the American people in the eye and said that the time has come for a new declaration of independence," Bayh explained. "Today it must be a declaration of energy independence."

Bayh said the country should not be dependent on unstable regimes in oil-producing countries. The federal government can promote energy efficient vehicles, invest in new technology and turn to American farmers to produce new fuels. "It's what we must do to set our children free," he said.

The reaction to his 25-minute speech was mixed. Many said he accomplished his goal of getting on their radar screen, but others such as state Sen. Lou D'Allesandro (D-Manchester) found Bayh a little rough around the edges.

"He is going to have to tune it up a bit," said D'Allesandro. "He is going to have to watch how he attacks Bush. The real issue for Bayh is how he can bridge the cultural divide that Bush has created and we heard none of that tonight."

While Bayh did not get explicit on the cultural divide, he did dance around it.

"President Bush sought our nation's highest office pledging to be a uniter, not a divider, and has proceeded to divide this country more profoundly than any time since the Vietnam War," Bayh said.

This was followed by the reminder that Bayh has been a very successful Democrat in what he said was a very Republican Midwestern state.

This fact, along with his credentials as a two-term former governor and a moderate were the three things most remembered in interviews with those attending.

"He has a little star power," said State Rep. Ricia McMahon (D-Sutton), who served in the Clinton Administration. "Obviously the people of Indiana love him or they would re-elect him along with President Bush."

Rob Werner, a New Hampshire member of the Democratic Leadership Council, the group Bayh just chaired, said he found Bayh interesting.

"He says a lot of the right things," Werner said.



What Bayh must do to draw distinction from Hillary Clinton

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - There is no question that U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton is the early frontrunner in the 2008 Democratic presidential race.

A WNBC/Marist College poll of 1,053 Americans taken October 12, 13 and 17 (+/-3%) shows: Among registered



Sen. Bayh calls for a "declaration of energy independence." (HPR Photo)

Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, 41% say they back Clinton, 17% said John Kerry; 14% said John Edwards; 5% said Joe Biden; 3% said Wesley Clark; 2% said Evan Bayh; 1% said Tom Vilsack; 1% said Mark Warner; 16% were undecided.

How does Sen. Bayh bridge the gap?

The area in which Sen. Clinton would be most vulnerable is the health care crisis facing families and businesses. Clinton headed up the ill-fated 1993 reforms for President Bill Clinton that helped ignite the 1994 GOP congressional takeover. Bayh has taken a lead role in the flu preparedness issue. A comprehensive health care reform initiative would be both dangerous, but potentially bold and advantageous

Both Bayh and Clinton have taken heat over their vote for the 2002 Iraq war resolution. But Bayh has been in the vanguard of questioning war planning after the takeover, as well as the lack of Humvee armor. Today, Bayh and U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, D-SC, lashed out at "wasteful spending" at the Pentagon, mounting debt, and the lack of basic equipment for troops.

"This kind of reckless spending is a perfect example of government waste," Sen. Bayh said. "It is especially inexcusable in light of our current budget situation and our continued efforts to provide our troops with much-needed equipment in Iraq. Wasteful spending is bad enough, but during a time of war, it literally becomes a matter of life and death, and it must be stopped." ❖



No Tata for now. Governing is different than running

What's more important: Efficiency or jobs?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - On May 20, 2004, the My Man Mitch gubernatorial campaign began airing a television ad that lashed out at the Kernan administration for buying university dorm furniture from out of state.

"My first day as governor, I'll stop hiring people elsewhere to do work Hoosiers can do just as well," Mitch Daniels said in the ad.

Fast forward to last week, when the Hoosier Lottery, under Gov. Mitch Daniels, awarded its television advertising contract with

Louisville-based Bandy Carroll Hellige. The company beat out Bloomington-based Hirons & Company and Indianapolis-based MZD Advertising. The contract was previously held by Roman Brand Group of Indianapolis.

The *Indianapolis Business Journal*, noting that the lottery's trademark television "giggle will soon be gone," added, "That decision has wiped the smile off many faces in the local advertising community. One local industry executive said agencies here are stunned, given the state's pledge to 'buy Indiana.'"

Thus, another chapter in the on-going lesson that what one campaigns on isn't necessarily the formula for good governance.

The nuance here is that Bandy Carroll Hellige has an office at 111 Monument Circle and employs nine Hoosiers, with plans to add two more.

But it brought predictable criticism from Indiana Democrats, who complained that the Daniels administration has awarded more than half a billion in state contracts to non-Indiana companies.

"As a candidate, Mitch Daniels spent millions of dol-

lars telling voters he would make it a priority to reinvest tax dollars in Hoosier businesses," said Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker. "It seems like that was just another empty promise he made to get into office."

The analysis used a contracts database from the Indiana Department of Administration and business information filed with the Indiana secretary of state to determine that of contracts worth \$1 million or more, roughly \$593 million in contracts went to companies with principal places of business or headquarters located outside of Indiana. The state party analyzed those contracts signed after Jan. 10, when Daniels took office.

The three largest contracts, totaling \$452 million, included: \$264 million to Missouri-based Correctional Medical Services for health services for the Indiana Department of Correction; \$135 million to Texas-based Electronic Data

Systems Corp. for fiscal services for the Medicaid program under the Family & Social Services Administration; and \$53 million to Florida-based GEO Group Inc. for the operation and management of an adult correctional facility under the Department of Correction

When the Daniels campaign aired the ads, then-Democratic Chairman Joe Hogsett called them "hypocritical in the sense that Mr. Daniels is calling for things that Gov. Kernan already is doing — improving how state government does business and maximizing opportunities for Indiana companies to do business with the state."

The Kernan-Davis campaign noted that Vincennes, Purdue, Indiana and Southern Indiana universities had purchased furniture from Indiana Loft Co. of Indianapolis.

The "Buy Indiana" campaign theme made for snappy politics, but there are other realities in "running government like a business."

Bandy Carroll's contract was for \$500,000 for the first nine months. Hoosier Lottery Director Esther Schneider told the IBJ, "Roman Brand's fee alone was \$700,000, so you can see we'll be doing this at a cost savings. We're going to start running this less like a government agency and more like a real business."

And there lies the irony.

Republicans like to talk about unfettered business in a global economy. Yet in 2004 it was Republicans such as State Sen. Jeff Drozda who bitterly complained about the state contracting computer services for \$15.2 million with Tata



Candidate Daniels with his "report card" of the Kernan-Davis administration in October 2004. (HPR Photo)



America International, a division of Tata Consulting Services Ltd. company based in India. Tata's bid was \$8.1 million less than its closest competitor.

Thomas L. Friedman in his book *"The World is Flat,"* observed, "In 2004, the state of Indiana put out to bid a contract to upgrade the state's computer systems that process unemployment claims. Guess who won? No Indiana firms bid on the contract, because it was too big for them to handle. In other words, an Indian consulting firm won the contract to upgrade the unemployment department of the State of Indiana! You couldn't make this up. Indiana was out-sourcing the very department that would cushion the people of Indiana from the effects of out-sourcing."

Friedman continued, "It became such a hot potato that Gov. Joe Kernan ... ordered the state agency, which helps out-of-work Indiana residents, to cancel the contract - and also put some legal barriers and friction to prevent such a thing from happening again."

Gov. Kernan ordered the contract broken up into smaller bits so that Indiana firms could bid. "Good for Indiana firms but very costly and inefficient for the state," Friedman said. A Hoosier firm, Haverstick Consulting of Carmel, ended up with the work Tata was going to do at \$23.9 million, a cost \$9 million more.

The *New York Times* author then wrote, "So now I have just one simple question: Who is the exploiter and who is the exploited in the India-Indiana story? The American arm

of an Indian consulting firm proposes to save the taxpayers of Indiana \$8.1 million by revamping their computers, using both its Indian employees and local hires from Indiana. The deal would greatly benefit the American arm of the Indian consultancy; it would benefit some Indiana tech workers; and it would save Indiana state residents precious tax dollars that could be deployed to hire more state workers somewhere else, or build new schools that would permanently shrink its roles of unemployed.

"And yet," Friedman wrote, "the whole contract, which was signed by pro-labor Democrats, got torn up under pressure from free-trade Republicans. Sort that out."

Workforce Development Commissioner Ron Stiver is doing just that. He has centralized operations, moving the unemployment claims operation to Indianapolis, with a savings thus far of \$2.7 million. It's been painful, with recipients waiting 10 weeks for checks this past summer, compared to three weeks prior.

Stiver, however, wouldn't blame it on the skewered Tata deal. "It was more just an ineffectual operation," Stiver said. "The way the process was organized."

"Remember the Commodore 64?" Stiver asked of the ancient PCs. That was the caliber of computers in use.

The claim backlog, Stiver said, will soon be eliminated. Thus a happy, albeit more expensive, ending.

So why not end this story the exact opposite way Pooh's friend, Tigger, would: TTFN! (Ta ta for now!) ❖

The Governor's approval

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - According to Survey USA tracking, Gov. Mitch Daniels has an approve/disapprove rating of 44/50 percent.

That would be particularly troubling if Gov. Daniels were on the ballot today. But he isn't, just as Ronald Reagan and Robert Orr weren't on the ballot in November 1982, and Bill Clinton wasn't on the ballot in 1994.

However, Gov. Daniels' press secretary Jane Jankowski questioned the numbers, telling the Times of Northwest Indiana, "SurveyUSA's numbers are unreliable, because participants use a telephone touch pad to respond, and pointed out the firm's estimates were 'way off' during last year's gubernatorial campaign."

"Having said that, Gov. Daniels has said on a number of occasions that the best way to be popular is to do nothing, and he is undertaking many efforts to improve the state's condition," Jankowski said.

On Oct. 30, 2004, Survey USA had Daniels leading Gov. Joe Kernan 52-44. Daniels won 53-46 percent.

Indiana Democrats spokeswoman Cruella J. Malice ... er ... Jennifer Wagner, pointed out in her pointy Democratic Party blog *Taking Down Words*, "Apparently Jankowski neglected to look back through GOP Chairman Jim Kittle's old newsletters. Had she done that, she'd have noted that Kittle, during last year's campaign, lauded SurveyUSA's polling numbers when they showed Daniels on top by 12 points.

On October 6, 2004, Kittle wrote. "Some will say the race is tightening. But that's not necessarily true. These new numbers tell us Joe Kernan's approval rating has hovered near 50 percent. As the *Star* correctly pointed out, that's a dangerously low number for an incumbent." ❖

Survey USA Tracking

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Mitch Daniels is doing as governor?

	<u>June 13</u>	<u>July 11</u>	<u>Aug. 15</u>	<u>Sep. 19</u>	<u>Oct. 17</u>
Approve	45	47	45	45	44
Disapprove	44	45	44	49	50



Donnelly hopes 2nd CD pays attention to GOP woes

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON--Kokomo denizens are concerned about the fate of the local Delphi plant now that the auto parts maker has declared bankruptcy. In LaPorte, baseball fans are likely still celebrating the World Series victory by the Chicago White Sox. In South Bend, people might be wondering what time exactly Notre Dame football games will kick off in the future.

One of the best things that could happen for 2nd CD Democratic congressional candidate Joe Donnelly is having likely voters in each city, and throughout the district, start thinking about the political problems besetting Republicans in Washington.

Over the last several weeks, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay was indicted on allegations of money laundering in the 2002 Texas elections and a top aide to Vice President Dick Cheney was indicted on allegations of lying to a grand jury investigating a CIA leak.

Incumbent GOP Rep. Chris Chocola owes much to both DeLay and Cheney. House leadership helped Chocola win his seat and has been instrumental in getting him appointed first to the Transportation Committee and more recently to the high-profile Ways and Means Committee. Cheney has visited the district a couple of times to campaign for Chocola.

"Chris and Tom DeLay have almost been tied at the hip since he's been in Congress," said Donnelly, a South Bend attorney who is challenging Chocola again after losing to him in 2004. "People want to know that their congressman is not just carrying water for Tom DeLay and the president."

In September, Donnelly called on Chocola to return nearly \$40,000 in campaign donations he has received from DeLay's political action committee since 2000. Chocola has said he will donate direct contributions from DeLay to charity if DeLay is convicted. Chocola was not available for comment for this story.

Chocola supporters say that the controversy swirling around DeLay and other Republicans is not resonating in the district. "Unless you're an information junkie and watch Fox News and CNN, it's just not that big a deal," said Chris Faulkner, chairman of the St. Joseph County Republican Party. "Local issues are going to be predominant."

Democrats also indicate that Republican ethical problems aren't changing 2nd CD political dynamics. It "simply

hasn't seemed to rub off on the electorate yet," said Julian "Jud" Rouch, chairman of the Marshall County Democratic Party.

Donnelly Trying to Improve on 2004 Run

Whether Republican fumbles in Washington will become a factor in 2nd CD politics depends in part on Donnelly. "It's not a problem until your opponent makes it a problem," said John Zentz, district GOP chairman.

Whether Donnelly can do that remains to be seen. Chocola, a former executive with a northern Indiana agricultural manufacturing company, defeated Donnelly 54-45 in 2004. Chocola raised \$1.6 million in the race compared to Donnelly's \$706,000. The race was not targeted by either national party.

For Donnelly to do better this time around, observers say that he must get backing from Washington. "Joe is a strong candidate who has done a great job raising money," said Adrienne Elrod, a spokeswoman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "We're excited about his candidacy."

But the DCCC is a long way from making decisions on which races to target. In the meantime, Donnelly faces an uphill battle. In this cycle, Chocola has raised \$696,923--two times as much as he raised at a comparable time in 2003. Donnelly has raised \$183,761. Chocola has \$753,937 on hand while Donnelly has \$160,064 on hand.

Politically, Chocola appears to be building a strong foundation in a district that was drawn to be split 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans. Democrats tried to achieve the balance in part by extending the southern tip of the district to include the city of Kokomo.

Faulkner touts the fact that Chocola got 49 percent of the vote in South Bend in 2004, an area that Democrats need to carry by a wide margin to do well in the district. He says the key is Chocola's appeal to conservative "Joe Kernan Democrats."

"Now that they see Chris in action, they realize they've got a winner," said Faulkner.

National Trends Favor Democrats - For Now

But Donnelly says that Chocola has a thin record of accomplishment on Capitol Hill. Add to it the quicksand engulfing Washington Republicans at the moment, and Donnelly believes voters will make the incumbent pay.

"The line I get the most is: 'Joe, I just don't get it,'" said Donnelly. "'We're trying to raise a family and all they do is play games.' What there is a hunger for is to change the





leadership in Washington. We don't need a national trend, but there appears to be one that will be helpful."

The latest Battleground Poll shows that if the election were held today, voters would support a Democrat for Congress by a 47-41 margin.

Meeting Voters One at a Time

Donnelly is trying to take advantage of that sentiment through meetings with small groups of voters--12 to 20 at a time. "He's doing a better job of presenting himself and the issues to the people," said Rouch. "He's a lot further ahead of where he was in the last cycle."

Chocola supporters say he has a positive story to tell--and a lot more resources with which to spread the message.

"There has been more job growth in this district than there has been in a long time," said Faulkner. Part of the upturn is due to increased Hummer production--for the military and the domestic market--at AM General.

Chocola's approach to fiscal policy also is in step with the district, said Faulkner. "His whole mission in Congress is serious budget reform." Ultimately, Donnelly hopes that history is on his side. "In this part of Indiana, Democratic candidates have always done well in the non-presidential election year," he said. ❖

Gorbachev and biosphere

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

GREENCASTLE - Mikhail Gorbachev, the former general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party, suggested that perhaps I shouldn't be driving my big, gas guzzling Ford F-150.

I would have been better prepared if Al Gore had made the suggestion. But Gorbachev? It wasn't a personal admonition. He spoke on Oct. 27 to 3,000 people packed into the DePauw University basketball gym about the impending crises in energy, water and population, or the "global environmental crisis."

"Looking at the situation, we understand that we need political will; we need to overcome the paralysis of political will," Gorbachev said, adding, "We see that world leaders are still stuck in the past century. They're still responding to events."

As founder of the environmental advocacy organization Green Cross International, Gorbachev said, "I've been working on these issues. I know the situation, and I believe the situation in the world today is a conflict between man and the rest of nature," the former Russian president, speaking through an interpreter, said. "We've come to a point where the biosphere is being destroyed. This is our home. This is the only environment in which we can live. It is being destroyed."

He offered up startling statistics. The world's GDP on a daily basis matches that of the year 1900. One billion earthlings live on \$1 a day; \$2.8 billion on \$2 a day. Two thirds of earth's women cannot read and write. The slums have grown by 50 million people. One out of every 11 newborn babies dies; some 2.46 billion people do not have access to sanitation. Between 1993 and 2003, the consump-

tion of oil grew by 17 percent, with 38 percent consumed by China, Russia and the United States. The U.S. has 4.3 percent of the planet's population, but consumes a quarter of its oil supply, which he believes will be exhausted in "41 or 42 years."

Looking out at this young collegiate audience, Gorbachev said, "A majority of you will see oil drying up."

He said 60 percent of the earth's ecosystems are in a state of atrophy "and it is not clear they can be restored." He predicted that future wars "will be fought over water, not oil." On this day -- Oct. 27 -- 25,000 people died of starvation. "Very soon," Gorbachev said, "China will become the biggest importer of grain."

As a baby cried in the audience, Gorbachev said the future of civilization "will depend on how global problems are addressed."

Gorbachev said of the war in Iraq, "The outcome of war and the defeat of the U.S., no one wants that." But, he added to much applause, that future conflicts

should not be unilateral efforts, but "must be addressed through common efforts."

"I would say that initially there was tremendous hope that after the end of the Cold War, which we announced when we met in Malta with President (George H.W. Bush)... that there would be enormous changes for the better, with great expectations," Gorbachev recalled. "That process slowed down, and the opportunities that we had are not fully used. Very little has been done to seize those opportunities on the international scene that perestroika opened."

Gorbachev concluded his Ubben Lecture by recalling a famous quote from another president. John F. Kennedy once said, "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it cannot save the few who are rich." ❖



Mikhail Gorbachev at DePauw University. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* -

Indictments at the White House and the Harriet Miers fiasco chewed up the airwaves. But the worst thing for President Bush last week? The fight at my house about whether to turn on the furnace. It was a bracing 58 degrees in the warmest part of the house – that dampish cold that seeps into toes and noses – but I have this thing about not turning on the heat till November. With the doomsday warnings of million-dollar home-heating bills this season, I thought my position was solid. Hah. I lost. I suspect that in other childless households across the country, people had similar tussles over the thermostat. If the heating bill's going to be \$300 or \$400 a month, can't we suck it up just a few days longer? ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* -

Meteorologists cited a nor'easter and effects of Hurricane Wilma in explaining wicked weather in the Northeast. Record October snow fell on much of New England. But the forecasters missed a bigger story. Hell froze over. Well, long has it been said that it would freeze over before Chicago won the World Series. It happened. I don't know if freezing New England weather really extended to Hades. But Chicago won the World Series. The Chicago White Sox not only got to the World Series, the first Chicago team to do so since 1959, but they won the Series with four straight victories in dramatic fashion. Hitting against the great Roger Clemens as though he were a batting practice pitcher. Paul Konerko's grand slam. Scott Podsednik's game winning shot. Prevailing in 14 innings. Great pitching, starting and relief. And Juan Uribe falling into the stands and still holding onto the ball for a catch in the final inning of a Series that included so many crucial plays in such close games. Last time a Chicago team won the Series was in 1917. That, too, was the White Sox. The Chicago Cubs, still No. 1 in the hearts of a majority of Chicago baseball fans and sentimental favorites elsewhere in the nation as long-time lovable losers, have not been to a Series since 1945, have not won the world championship of baseball since 1908. I'm a Chicago baseball fan. Sometimes I'm asked how it's possible to like both Chicago baseball teams. Easy. My father was a Sox fan. A favorite aunt was a Cubs fan. Since I didn't want to displease either of them, and the Cubs and Sox never played each other back then, the smart course was to root for both teams. Always have. The Cubs and Sox now do play each other during the regular season. The last time they played against each other in the World Series was in 1906. The 100th anniversary of that is next season. ❖



Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - Wow, it's

been a pretty tough week for W. There was the whole CIA leaks investigation where Vice President Cheney's chief of staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby was indicted and resigned. (What's up with that name? I think once you're past age 17 you should be forced to give up names like "Scooter.") I suppose the good news for W was that they didn't indict Karl Rove – yet. He's W's senior advisor, chief political strategist, and Deputy White House Chief of Staff in charge of policy. But the tough one for W had to be the Harriet Miers fiasco. I can't say I was really surprised by the fact that Miers' nomination was withdrawn. I know White House types were saying they were "stunned," but honestly, I don't believe they had no idea this was coming. After all, this was the first time in my memory when a Republican Supreme Court nominee was so roundly embraced by Democrats and renounced by Republicans. For cryin' out loud, it was Nevada Democrat Sen. Harry Reid who urged W to nominate Miers in the first place. ❖

Leslie Stedman Weidenbener, *Louisville*

Courier-Journal - Even after federal officials began considering time-zone requests, Daniels did not weigh in. So this week, when federal officials released their preliminary conclusions, it was a surprise when Daniels suddenly had something to say. "Obviously unworkable," the governor said of the Transportation Department's plan to put St. Joseph County into the Central time zone, splitting it from neighbor Elkhart County, which had not asked to move out of the Eastern time zone. He may be right. Elkhart County is a crucial part of the South Bend metropolitan area. One of the nation's top spots for RV production, the Elkhart area is one of the region's economic drivers. And people who live in one county regularly drive to the other for work or recreation. The problem for Daniels is that he has pledged to leave this decision to local and federal officials. He has worked hard for months to take himself out of the process -- other than to ask the Transportation Department to expedite the decisions. Even now, as federal officials plan hearings to gather public comment, Daniels said he only plans to support the desires of local officials and the public before federal officials. ❖



Bush at 35 percent in CBS poll

TRENDLINE: A new CBS News poll shows "the President's job approval has reached the lowest level yet. Only 35% approve of the job President Bush doing. Congress is rated even lower at 34% approve its work. Vice President Cheney's favorables are 19%. Can we say "anti-incumbent?"

2006 State Races

House District 64: Republican: State Rep. Troy Woodruff. Democrat: Greg Battles. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Results:** Woodruff 12,698, Frenz 12,507. **2006 Forecast:** Vincennes Lincoln HS teacher Greg Battles, 47, entered the race in a trend HPR reported would take shape last week. "I want to represent the people of the 64th District and address their needs," Battles told the Knox County Jefferson-

Jackson Dinner last weekend (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). "I don't think our current representative is doing that. Troy didn't keep his word. He said he would never vote for day-light-saving time, but he turned around and did it any-

way. My promise to the people is to keep my promises, even with the tough calls." Battles has been a teacher at Vincennes Lincoln for 26 years. "One big thing is honesty and integrity," Battles said. "I will keep my word. My students have known that through the years and others know that too. You gain respect if you keep your word and treat people fairly and equally." Battles said he would talk about education, taxes and time. Indiana schools have gone through a year of record funding cuts, resulting in teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, and program cuts. "For the first time ever, Lincoln High School could not have summer school because we couldn't afford it," he said. "There has been no remediation for kids who need it, either. The fallout from all of this is incredible." Taxpayers will face unprecedented property tax increases in the coming years, he said, due largely to legislation passed in the previous session by Woodruff and the Republican majority, another rubber-stamp move to pacify the governor. "If we have problems with our budget we have to address it," Battles said. "But we should not pass the responsibility on to someone else. All they've done is transferred costs to local governments and schools that can hardly afford it." There is nothing that is "more of a mess" than Indiana's time issue, he said. "At first they wanted to put all the state on the same time," Battles said. "Then it was 'most' of the state, and then they



put the burden on counties to decide what time zone they want to be in. People are confused and it's made Indiana a laughing stock; it's a bad joke outside of the state and that's a shame." In today's Evansville Courier & Press, it was reported that INDOT has hired Melissa Woodruff, wife of Rep. Woodruff. According to INDOT spokesman Gary Abell, officials first looked internally but found no current employee that met the skills requirement for the job. Abell said the department did not advertise the job opening, either via the state's job bank or local newspapers, but that it was not required to by state law. "We identified candidates on our own ... more through just discussion and contacting people and networking," Abell said. He said Melissa Woodruff and one other external candidate were interviewed for the job. Abell said Melissa Woodruff was a good fit for the \$43,000-a-year job because of her human resources experience. She worked for Charter Communications in Vincennes for 10 years. Indiana Democratic Party Executive Director Mike Edmondson said, "If it's true that was not advertised to people who don't have political connections, then it certainly has the appearance of political cronyism." Battles declined to comment. Woodruff said he resents any implication that his wife got the job because of him. "I didn't do anything to facilitate this," Woodruff said. Troy Woodruff said he called a House Republican staff attorney to see if there were any ethical problems. "That was the one call I did make," Woodruff said. He said the INDOT position isn't "a big pay increase" for his wife. "She chose to go to work for INDOT because she wants to contribute in public service," Woodruff said. "If it were any other legislator, I wonder if the same story would be written," he said. "Other lawmakers have family members who work for the state." HPR's take on this? Dum-da-dum-dum. The more Rep. Woodruff talks, the worse this gets. **Status: LEANS D**

Senate District 23: Republican: State Rep. Tim Brown, Hendricks County Councilman Dick Thompson. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Harrison (R) 21,175 Shelby (D) 11,436. **2002 Results:** Harrison 23,811. **2006 Forecast:** State Sen. Joe Harrison, R-Attica, announced Tuesday that he will not seek re-election, ending a 40-year political career (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). "I have enjoyed my years of service to District 23 and the state of Indiana tremendously," Harrison, 74, said in announcing his plans not to seek a 10th term. "It has been my great pleasure to be a member of the Senate and be involved in the many changes that our state has made since the beginning of my career." Harrison was first elected in 1966 and has served longer than anyone in the history of the Indiana Senate. Former Republican Sen. Richard Thompson of North Salem has indicated that he would run for the seat next year. Crawfordsville Republican Rep. Tim Brown also is considering a run, but said Tuesday he had not made a decision. **Status: LEANS THOMPSON.** ❖



Borders to push intelligent design bill

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana public schools would teach "intelligent design" along with evolution under legislation that some Republican lawmakers are developing for the 2006 legislative session (*Indianapolis Star*). Intelligent design is the theory that a supernatural hand, and not just the random process of natural selection, guided the development of life on Earth (*Indianapolis Star*). Recently, 36 of the 52 Republican state representatives, including House Speaker Brian Bosma of Indianapolis, sent questionnaires to constituents asking, among other issues, whether intelligent design should be given equal time in science classes. Rep. Bruce Borders, R-Jasonville, said he would file legislation mandating the teaching of intelligent design if no other lawmaker did. "It's a passionate issue for me, personally," Borders said. The proposal comes a little more than a month after Bosma and a handful of other House members met privately with Carl Baugh, host of the Trinity Broadcasting Network show "Creationism in the 21st Century," to discuss bringing intelligent design to public schools." Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton, R-Columbus, is lukewarm to the idea. He said he needed more information before he makes up his mind, especially since this involves dictating what is taught in school.



Walorski bill would repeal DST

INDIANAPOLIS - Sorry, folks, but the debate on daylight-saving time could rear its ugly head in the upcoming legislative session (*Fort Wayne Journal*

Gazette). Republican House Speaker Brian Bosma acknowledged at least two bills will be filed to potentially repeal action taken this year requiring Indiana to observe daylight-saving time. A third seeks a statewide referendum to decide whether Indiana should be in the Eastern or Central time zone. Most Indiana counties are in the Eastern time zone with just 10 in the Central time zone. But U.S. Department of Transportation hearings allowing individual counties to seek a change have complicated matters. Bosma said Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-Lakeville, will introduce a bill on Organization Day – Nov. 22 – to repeal daylight-saving time in the event that a disparity in time zones between Elkhart and St. Joseph counties is not resolved.

Elkhart Commissioners ask St. Joe to repeal petition

ELKHART - Elkhart County's message to St. Joe: Drop your petition for the region's sake. Responding to an invitation from St. Joseph County to discuss time, the Elkhart County commissioners asked their colleagues Wednesday to withdraw their petition to switch time zones (*Elkhart Truth*). In its place, the commissioners proposed pulling resources together to find the solution to the time problem "on a broader scale."

Indianapolis to pay child welfare bill

INDIANAPOLIS - City officials agreed Wednesday to abide by a Department of Local Government Finance order requiring them to plug a \$15.6 million shortfall in this year's Marion County child welfare budget (*Indianapolis Star*). The city's action capped a day in which state and local leaders traded blows over who's to blame for the funding crisis. At their nastiest, Mayor Bart Peterson accused the state-run agency of "spending like a

drunken sailor," and Department of Child Services Director James W. Payne accused Peterson of not caring about children. By day's end, city officials capitulated and said they had no choice but to follow the Local Government Finance order that requires them to borrow the money to cover the remainder of 2005 expenses or find it by cutting other budgets.

Consolidation has support on street, but not officials

CHESTERTON - The benefits of Chesterton, Burns Harbor and Porter merging to become one city are as plain to see as the nose on Jimmy Durante's face, said Porter County Commissioner John Evans (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). So why isn't it happening? Evans, a lifelong Chesterton resident, offered a list of reasons at Tuesday night's commissioners meeting that all boiled down to one issue: Elected officials in the three towns don't want it to happen, so it won't happen. But people on the streets of Chesterton on Wednesday seemed to favor the idea, which Evans first proposed in August. "It really makes sense," said Wheeler Stanley, a five-year Chesterton resident who retired from Ford Motor Co. "If you're going to truly reduce taxes, why not consolidate it?"

INDOT fires bypass contractor

TERRE HAUTE - Because of its failure to complete contract work on the first phases of construction of the Indiana 641 bypass in southern Vigo County, the state has fired the contractor (*Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). INDOT announced Wednesday that Sierra Bravo, of Sesser, Ill., will have its contract terminated. According to the news release, INDOT is meeting with the company's bonding agent to complete as much of the work as possible by the end of the year. ❖