



'Party of Lincoln' rejects Randolph in Circle City

Local GOP wastes inroads to diversity

"Thus began the Great Tar Fight, the origin of which proved, afterward, so difficult for parents to trace, owing to the opposing accounts of the combatants. Majorie said Penrod began it; Penrod said Mitchy-Mitch began it"

- Booth Tarkington, "Penrod," 1914

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

It was late October 2004 and Grand Old Party gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels was taping a TV show for the African-American Coaliton at the Madame Walker Theater.

He joined briefly in the lobby before the taping by City-County Councilor Isaac Randolph, one of the few black Republican office-holders in the state.



During the question-and-answer segment of the taping, Daniels was asked about the Party of Lincoln's relationship with minorities. "My party has been lousy, I believe, at reaching out to African-Americans," Daniels said. "I have no defense to make for it. I feel it's been a mistake. I'm very eager to try to have an open and honest discussion with people regardless of their party loyalty."

In October 2004, candidate Mitch Daniels and Indianapolis Councilor Isaac Randolph went to the Madame Walker Theater to make a pitch before the African-American Coalition at a TV taping. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Fast forward to December 2005. It is now Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Republican



"When we are pitted against each other, when we are disingenuous in our motives, we suffer, not just as an organization, but as individuals as well."

— Marion County

Republican Chairman Mike Murphy, after last week's SD29 caucus debacle

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Covering a Decade of Indiana Politics



who used a coveted visit by President Bush, not for the party faithful but the Indiana Black Expo last summer, in a not-so-subtle attempt to put a new face on the party. This is a governor who broke through decades of inaction to establish the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority, an economic development tool that could result in thousands of jobs for African-American workers in that part of the state.

And in December 2005, it is still City-County Councilor Isaac Randolph.

It could have been State Sen. Isaac Randolph, except that this latest generation of incompetent and latently racist Marion County crony Republicans completely mishandled, bungled and blew one of the greatest opportunities to put a 21st Century diversified face on the local chapter of the Party of Lincoln.

As the snow flakes fell and the dust settled on the December party caucus to replace the retiring Sen. J. Murray Clark, it was Hamilton County's Mike Delph who emerged with the title "state senator." Randolph had been sidelined about 48 hours earlier in a ridiculous smoke-filled room deal that was supposed to have given this coveted Senate seat to a 65-year-old white township trustee, Dan Gammon of Wayne Township. Now, there's the true future of the Indianapolis Republican Party.

Instead of elevating the young Randolph, an articulate firefighter who has credibly served on the City-County Council to become the only African-American Republican legislator, the party elders decided to give Gammon what was essentially a retirement gift. He was to serve in the Senate for a year where he could defend the antiquated township layer of government, and, so the deal went, step aside to allow Randolph to win the nomination in May 2006.

The problem was that Delph didn't follow the script. He worked his tail off. He consolidated his Hamilton County base and, with the help of arch-conservatives Bill Schneider, the former councilman, Paul Shoopman and his former patron, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, picked off enough votes from Pike, Wayne and Washington townships to make the thing close. Throw in a record snow storm, and ... voila! An upset. While Delph made sure his supporters trudged through the glistening white apron of snow, many of Gammon's supporters stayed home.

The end result was a majority Marion County Senate District now represented by the Carmelite Delph, who made it abundantly clear he plans to do what his boss did ... forge an upset victory on the cutting edge of a lengthy tenure.

"I had been told a guy from Hamilton County couldn't win in those areas," Delph said in the latest bit of conventional wisdom consigned to the dustbin of Hoosier history. "I got my people from Wayne Township there. We had a very elaborate get-out-the-vote strategy. It was just a matter of getting

the list. I went to all of their homes, their work places, talked on the phone and hustled. We passed out the peanut butter."

Delph then quoted President Lincoln, saying, "Good things may come to those who wait, but only those things left from those who hustle."

In 1999, when Democrat Bart Peterson ended more than three decades of Republican rule at the City-County Building, the prevailing analysis was that while Indianapolis was distinctly trending Democratic, over the next political generation it would remain competitive. Not only is Indianapolis becoming more Democratic, it is becoming blacker and browner. If the Republicans had their act together, they should be credibly competing for mayor, prosecutor, sheriff and the council.

The master political chess players such as Gov.



Republican Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi talks with Rev. Olgem Williams of Christamore House talk after President Bush's address at the Indiana Black Expo. (HPR Photo by Thomas Howey)

Daniels understand this. That's why he made the "lousy" comments at Madame Walker and played the White House visit on Black Expo. It's a long process to take a lily white party and retrofit it for an increasingly diversified population.

Marion County Republicans have done everything they could to smash those inroads to smithereens. At the party for disparity, they vomited in the punch bowl, wiped their flabby pasty white butts on the table cloth, ceded a long-time city Senate seat to a suburban county, and sent an unmistakable message to the 10,000 and growing African-American households making more than \$100,000 a year and who attend church and take a pro-life view of the world. *You're not one of us.*

If there is no seat at the table for an able young leader (such as Randolph), then how many others in this community will get a piece of buttered bread at the home of Jim Crow, R-Indianapolis?

And where does this leave Indiana Republicans in a generation? ❖



Sen. Delph & the class of '02

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

CARMEL - There are several ways to size up the concept of "State Sen. Mike Delph."

Since 2002, he becomes the third Christian, Right to Life freshman Republican to enter the Indiana Senate replacing a more moderate incumbent. The others include Jeff Drozda of Westfield defeating Steve Johnson in 2002, and Brent Waltz of Greenwood and his upset of Larry Borst in 2004.

The circumstances in each of these cases are vastly different. Drozda exposed the personal-turned-public misfortunes of Sen. Johnson. Waltz used a personal fortune and a well-connected family political base to zing the powerful Senate Finance Chairman Borst, using his pro-life credentials and the incumbent's cushy legislative health and pension benefits to pull off the huge primary upset.

Delph is the product of a thoroughly seized up Marion County Republican machine. There was a combination of cronyism and latent racism that allowed Wayne Township Trustee Dan Gammon to settle into a race many people didn't want him to make. He was to have been a caretaker, turning the keys over to Councilor Isaac Randolph next year. Randolph, long a darling of Republicans ranging from Gov. Daniels to WIBC talk show host Greg Garrison, was the rising star in waiting and would have been the only African-American Republican in the legislature.

Delph is the former aide to U.S. Rep. Dan Burton who earned a reputation as a hard-working candidate in 2002 when he battled Todd Rokita and Richard Mourdock for the secretary of state convention nomination which Rokita won.

A little more than three years later, all three are moving up the food chain. Secretary of State Rokita has been instrumental in reforming Indiana's election laws and is seeking a second term in 2006. Mourdock, the former Vanderburgh County Commissioner, will take a place on the state ticket (for treasurer) in 2006 with the full blessing of Gov. Daniels.

This was not supposed to be Delph's time. Daniels wanted Randolph to ascend to the Senate, but the long-time party township folks such as Gammon who have toiled for years in the trenches didn't like the reformist governor shoving in a new senator. The township folks, wary of any kind of change, saw an opportunity to place Gammon in the Senate as a staunch defender of the status quo.

Borrowing a page from his former boss, Delph seized the opportunity. In 1982, it was State Sen. Dan Burton who entered a congressional primary in a seat that had been drawn for Bruce Melchert. Burton won, and still holds the

spoils of victory two decades later.

The talk of Randolph or State Rep. Phil Hinkle taking on Delph in the May 2006 primary is fascinating. If Delph proved anything from his 2002 secretary of state campaign and his efforts in last week's caucus it is that he shrewdly played his ideological card and simply out-hustled the cronies in a Marion County GOP organization that has become little more than a '58 Ford Edsel.

"We held the line in Hamilton County and we were able to pick off support in Wayne, Pike and Washington townships," Delph said of his improbable victory.

Delph calls himself a conservative. He said he has taken the Grover Norquist anti-tax pledge. "No one should ever ask me to do that because it won't happen." Delph said he will seek a full term in 2006. After his victory, he prepared to take his family today to ... Disney World.

Supporters like his drive and panache, but also see him as an ideologue. "Sometimes I look at Mike and see him holding the melon over his head while Burton was firing .38 slugs in his backyard," said one Delph friend.

During his speech, Delph said, "I am a Republican because I believe in the limited role of government. The power of the individual. The economic power and stability of the free market. When elected as your state senator, I will stand up to the Indiana Civil Liberties Union in defense of our constitutionally protected 1st amendment right to worship the Lord as we individually see fit."

As far as Hoosier power centers go, the Indiana Senate has generally remained as consistent as a fossil. It has been run by economically cautious, moderate Republicans personified by Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton of Columbus and Borst who adhere to a top-down style forged in the back room.

But that may be changing.

One reason Murray Clark, the party's 2000 lieutenant governor nominee, quit was that Garton had relegated him to the back benches after he took part in an aborted coup attempt against the president in 2002.

But Garton, who has led the Senate since 1980, can take no solace in this emerging rightward trend represented by Drozda, Waltz, and Delph, all of whom could conceivably have greater statewide ambitions in a post-Daniels era. Given an opening, the amusing question is whether a future leadership challenge could emerge from this group of young mavericks who, by their very nature, got to the Senate by challenging the entrenched status quo.

Or, as Delph put it in his pitch to the Republican caucus last week, "I am a Republican because I don't believe in top down decision-making or back room deals, but rather the judgment of the grassroots and the will of the voter." ❖



Sen. Elect Mike Delph



The governor needs a hammer

"If I had a hammer, I'd hammer in the mornin'; I'd hammer in the evenin', all over this laa-and...."

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

Behind the diplomatic veneer of U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, whether it's in Senate Foreign Relations Committee mode or a re-election campaign, is Chief of Staff Marty Morris, who is rarely quoted and hardly ever seen. But his mere presence is that of a nuclear warhead for anyone daring to disturb Lugar World.

Gov. Mitch Daniels needs such a hammer.

After last week's Senate District 29 caucus, it is obvious that is missing from his tool chest. If you're going to wade into a political fight at the local level, you better make sure you win. Because if you don't, an acknowledged weakness in a political knife fight can bleed over into the public policy arena.

We've seen this a couple of times this year. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson got a black eye when he lost the police merger vote in the City-County Council. That's the kind of vote you don't even



call unless you know you've got the numbers. Peterson said that Councilor Sherron Franklin was deliberately coy about her vote. That should have been marked on the pre-vote tally sheets as a "no" and then an all-out effort should have been made to get Republican Councilors Scott Keller or Lance Langsford in the fold. That appears to be happening in the pending Son of Police Merger Vote. But had it happened in November, it would have spared the mayor a few uncomfortable weeks in a weakened state.

There is no question that Daniels is playing at the highest level on the public policy front and he's won some critical battles on things such as the Colts Stadium and inspector general, and less so on a budget deal.

But on the political front, the hammer is missing, which is somewhat surprising from the prodigy of L. Keith Bulen. Had there been a hammer, it would be Sen. Ike Randolph, not Sen. Mike Delph.

Bill Oesterle was the point man on the Senate caucus debacle. Oesterle ran one of the truly great and historic gubernatorial campaigns in Indiana history. It, along with the 1992 Dan Coats campaign, the 1996 Frank O'Bannon effort,

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the 1999 Peterson dynasty-buster, the 2003 Graham Richard re-elect in Fort Wayne, and Sen. Brent Waltz's 2004 primary upset, rank among top modern campaigns that should be poly sci textbook material.

But Oesterle hasn't fared as well delving into the reactionary, sometimes neanderthal, world of township politics in Indianapolis which ultimately drove the SD 29 caucus. He might have weakened himself last summer during a speech before Marion County Republicans when he froze at the podium after touting inclusion and non-discrimination politics while a table of African-American ministers and the township dinosaurs shuddered nearby with indignation.

Oesterle can make the trains run on time and implement the Daniels vision, but he's no hammer.

Commerce changes

Mickey Mauer is now in command of the Commerce Department. Commerce Secretary Pat Miller announced she was resigning. Gov. Daniels expressed sadness. "It'll be a somewhat less merry Christmas for me this year because duty has called back at the Vera Bradley company," Daniels said.

But key economic development players tell HPR that Miller played a more "ceremonial" role at Commerce. At meetings when both she and Mauer attended, "Mauer dominated," said one observer.

Miller follows Deputy Chief of Staff Ellen Whitt, General Counsel Steve Schultz and Legislative Director Jennifer Thuma as early exits.

Daniels acknowledged in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* that it will be tough to keep his all-stars. "It will be very, very hard to maintain the same level of talent, fresh thinking and ideals," Daniels explained. ❖



Farm Bureau wants tax reform

INDIANAPOLIS - Reforming the state's unfair property tax system remains a primary goal of the Indiana Farm Bureau, President Don Villwock said during his annual address at the organization's convention.

But among the bright spots is the "exploding" biofuels sector, Villwock said, speaking to the more than 1,600 attendees at the convention last week.

Villwock discussed the Farm Bureau's successful effort to lower the baseline assessment for farm land from \$1,050 an acre to \$880 an acre and freeze that value for two years.

"While this isn't the final answer to the state's unfair property tax system, it was a key victory for farmers across the state, and I can promise you that Farm Bureau will be at the table seeking permanent relief and reform for our antiquated tax system," Villwock said, adding that he has appointed a property tax task force that has been exploring options for a complete overhaul of Indiana's state tax system.

He also talked about the siting of livestock farms, referring to this issue as "one of our most difficult challenges in Indiana agriculture." The facilities are getting larger as farmers across the state face slimmer cropping margins and intense competition for land, pushing them to look for ways to maintain or increase their incomes.

Large livestock units require careful management, he said, but he added that farmers have been both "responsible and responsive" to the challenge.

"We need to remind our city cousins that these buildings must meet the strictest guidelines set forth by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. These new units must be designed and built to meet zero - I repeat, zero - discharge standards. Manure must be applied according to an approved nutrient management plan. Protecting the environment is not only important to the public, but it is also important to you and the farm families who operate these units," he added.

Villwock talked about what he referred to as "one of the brightest spots in all of agriculture": renewable fuels. Since many of these products are made from corn, soybeans and other ag commodities, this is great news for farmers, Villwock said. He cited as an example ethanol plants, which increase the price of corn as much as 12-20 cents a bushel in a 50-mile radius of each plant.

"Almost every month we are setting new records for ethanol production. We will in 2005 surpass 4 billion gallons of ethanol. The recently passed energy bill mandates 7.5 billion gallons of usage by 2012," he said.

Indiana, which has lagged behind some other states in ethanol production, is starting to make up ground. According to Villwock, Indiana now has 18-23 plants on the drawing board and two in production (New Energy in South Bend and GPC at Washington). Ground has been broken on at least four more, with others soon to come, he added.

Demand for biodiesel - which is often made from soybeans - "is growing in demand every day," Villwock said, adding that two production facilities are being built and others are being considered.

Villwock added that a little over a year ago, he was invited to be a member of the Ag Energy Working Group, a national task force promoting the use of renewable fuels. "Our parent group, called the Energy Future Coalition, is a national think tank that believes we cannot continually import over 50 percent of our fuel into this country. They also believe that a long-term American presence in the Persian Gulf is not morally or economically sustainable."

The coalition, Villwock said, "determined that renewable fuels are the solution and that agriculture held the key." The Ag Energy Working Group adopted the goal of having 25 percent of the energy in this country coming from renewable fuels by the year 2025 - summarized by the slogan "25 x 25," he added.

Villwock noted that this is an ambitious goal, but added that if all of the renewables such as ethanol, biodiesel, wind and solar, biomass and methane digesters are combined, "We can meet this challenge."

He called the effort a "win-win-win opportunity. It is a win for the environment as renewables are clean burning and safe to produce. It is a win for our rural communities where these new plants will be located, bringing high-paying jobs and economic development."

"Plus and most importantly, it is a win for farmers by increasing net farm income"; through the attendant increases in the price of corn and other crops as well as the economical feed sources for livestock that are a byproduct of the fuel-production process, he added.

He ended with a challenge to Farm Bureau members. "The days of letting someone else determine your fate are over. The opportunities for positive change are at the local level. You are the one that needs to visit with county commissioners, county council members and zoning boards. You are the one that needs to contact senators and representatives. Without your involvement, our actions at the state level often fall on deaf ears," he said. ❖



Jim Shella, WISH-TV - The behind-the-scenes struggle in the Republican Party that ended with the selection of Mike Delph as state Senator in District 29 leaves many unanswered questions. Here are a few: Why couldn't the governor get his way? Mitch Daniels wanted Isaac Randolph, an African American, to fill the vacancy created by Murray Clark's resignation and the major motivation was a desire to diversify the GOP delegation in the General Assembly. He couldn't overcome personal ambition on the part of Delph, and a Wayne Township organization that wouldn't let Gammon back out. That created a circumstance where Randolph was sure to lose, so the governor's staff tried to engineer a deal that would put Gammon in for a year and see Randolph elected next year after withdrawing this year. With Delph winning, all bets are off. Why didn't the deal work? Delph worked hard to win support and got a lot of help from his former boss, Congressman Dan Burton. Some precinct committeemen were offended by the governor's deal and that helped. So did the snow. Delph got more of his supporters to a poorly attended caucus. Sometimes timing is everything. Will Mike Delph be an effective Senator? The governor needs him now and party leaders don't run the Senate, so maybe. He's going to spend a lot of time and effort seeking re-election in 2006, however. Will Delph face Republican opposition in 2006? A Randolph candidacy is not guaranteed at this point, but it would make sense for party leaders to back a Delph alternative. State Representative Phil Hinkle may not be that person but he turned down a request to endorse Randolph before the Thursday vote. That will tell you something. There could be others. By the way, did Dan Burton really call the governor and tell him stay out of things, and, if so, why? I don't know what was said but Burton did call, from Paris, in fact. It was a heated conversation according to multiple sources. Loyalty to a former aide is the best explanation available. Who will be blamed for the inability to carry out the governor's wishes? Look for Marion County Republican Chairman Mike Murphy to take the rap. Is Mitch Daniels damaged by any of this? He is now distancing himself from the deal and praising Delph, but those who seek to challenge him in the future now know that it can be done. ❖

Abdul Hakim Shabazz, WXNT - After speaking to a number of insiders I later discovered that a lot of the precinct committeemen in Wayne Township were not happy with what was taking place. It wasn't so much about Ike, but the fact the Governor and party leaders told them who the candidate was going to be for the 29th District. They were

also very adverse to the idea of "diversity" (thus my open questioning about whether race was an issue, something everyone says was not an issue). So here's what happens, a deal is cut. Randolph drops out of the race for lack of support and in order to avoid intra-party war, Gammon (who told GOP County Chairman Mike Murphy he wasn't going to run, but later put out an e-mail saying he was) becomes the party's man. But he agrees to serve for only a year and then Randolph would run. If you're confused, I understand. You should have been me trying to follow this all week. And in the biggest political blunder since Mike Dukakis got in a Bradley fighting vehicle, the deal was printed in Matt Tully's political column in the Indianapolis Star. I maintain that is the straw that broke the dromedary camel's back. There was no reason for Randolph's supporters to back Gammon. And those Gammon supporters who thought it was their man's turn were so upset that they backed Delph. Thus, Delph (who by the way is Disneyland with his family) is now the new man for the 29th Senate District. Like I stated at the beginning, for the Mayor, Christmas came early. The fact that Delph is now the nominee, reveals a fundamental crack in the GOP foundation. This is a major defeat for Murphy because he was unable to get his man elected to the post. State Senator Mike Young and Representative Phil Hinkle (both Gammon supporters and Indy Works opponents) now find themselves politically weakened as well. The Governor's office will have to deal with some political embarrassment as its efforts to slate a candidate went by the wayside, and it was fellow Republicans who did it. This fiasco will make it easier for the Mayor to accomplish his agenda because his opponents are weakened because they did not have the organization strength to accomplish something that should have been relatively easy to do. I was told there were a number of precinct committeemen spots in Pike Township that were vacant, and had Murphy filled the spots this entire matter could have been avoided. In addition, not making political deals public may also help keep the rank and file in line. But this type of disorganization and mismanagement only emboldens ones adversaries, who in this case is the Mayor. ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - Call me Pollyanna, but I know Richard Lugar, Paul Helmke and Mark Souder. If any of them would sell a vote for an antique commode (one of Duke Cunningham's lapses), I'd perch on that commode in front of the newspaper building for an hour in today's temperature. In a bathing suit. And you *know* that ain't going to happen. ❖





House Democrats' void

TRENDLINE No. 1: With the deaths of State Reps. Tiny Adams and Jim Bottorff, the caucuses to choose a replacement are mandated to take place 30 days after the party chair schedules. Democratic Party officials believe that the replacements will be in place by the time the legislature reconvenes in early January.

TRENDLINE No. 2: House Speaker Bosma has an issue he can ride all the way to the U.S. Supreme court. "I believe it's a critical fight, really a cultural fight, for not just our state, but our nation today," said Bosma of the federal court ruling that puts curbs on prayer in the House. "I don't desire to be on the cutting edge of that, but this ruling overreaches so far, I believe it has to be vigorously fought."

2006 Congressional Races

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar.
Democrat: Open. 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: The Indiana Farm Bureau endorsed Lugar last Saturday, the first of the 2006 campaign. IFB President Don Villwock noted that his organization has a "long, successful relationship with Sen. Lugar" and added that his "recent efforts to expand the bio-fuels industry make this endorsement appropriate." Lugar doesn't appear to have a credible Democratic opponent taking shape in 2006. Lugar reported \$3.3 million cash on hand at the end of the third quarter. **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:** Immigration was on U.S.



Rep. John Hostettler's mind during a Town Hall meeting in Vincennes Monday, specifically the removal of illegal aliens (Twitty, *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). "There are three general issues with illegal immigration," Hostettler told a group of about 20 people at Vincennes City Hall. "First, when they come into our country they are violating federal law. And that gives us concern because their first act here is violating our law. Second, some come here and endanger U.S. citizens; and third, they take jobs away from Americans." A bill to curb illegal immigration by boosting border security and requiring workplace enforcement laws will go before the House this week. According to the Census Bureau there are 35.2 million immigrants in the United States and 9 to 13 million of them are illegal. Hostettler said there was a 1.7 million increase of employment in the U.S. this year, and 1.3 million of those workers are foreign born. Between 2000 and 2004 over 500,000 jobs held by Americans were lost. "There is no job that Americans won't do," Hostettler said. "With illegal aliens taking our jobs it is displacing a large number of Americans and stopping teens from entering the workforce." The White House is asking Congress for 210 new border agents, 143 new ICE agents (Immigrants and Customs Enforcement Agency), and 1,900 detention beds a year. Hostettler proposed significantly higher numbers. He wants 2,000 new border agents, 800 new ICE agents, and 8,000 detention beds, something Congress will have to ask for next year. Leona Conway of Vincennes asked Hostettler whether illegal immigrants were getting health care assistance. Not only are illegals receiving Medicaid, but Hoosiers are paying for it. "We also help support children born in the U.S. to illegal immigrants," Hostettler said. Ellsworth said he supports the White House's plan but not Hostettler's. Ellsworth said the bill needs to be looked at from all angles (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). "His (Hostettler) numbers sound good but it's not as simple as just adding people," Ellsworth said. "It has to be comprehensive. There are 11 million illegal immigrants working in the U.S. and Washington has ignored it for years. Something should have been done a long time ago before it became so out of control. In Vanderburgh County, when we catch an illegal immigrant and make the call to ICE, they tell us to let them go because they aren't coming to get them." *US News and World Report* reports that RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman, "worried about perceptions that the Republican Party is turning against Hispanic immigrants," plans to "court Hispanic voters more than ever next year. Mehlman is concerned that some conservatives are going too far with their arguments that immigration is out of control and illegals should be sent



home, which has resulted in promises by some Latino leaders of retribution against the GOP in the midterm elections next November. Mehlman reminds GOP strategists that the party suffered long-term damage among Latinos when Republican Gov. Pete Wilson pushed for enactment of California Proposition 187, which severely limited state services to illegal immigrants. Rep. Hostettler briefly discussed the war in Iraq, saying U.S. leadership needs to consider our military presence there and what the next step will be and what it will take to win and get out (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). "The elections in Iraq will be a tremendous milestone for Iraqi people," Hostettler said. Ellsworth believes the U.S. needs to make a bipartisan decision on what is considered a win. "We need to stop trying to up the other party and support our troops and bring them home," he said. **Status:** TOSS-UP

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill, Gretchen Clearwater. **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:** Moral values issues that dominated last year's 9th CD race between Sodrel and Hill--abortion, flag burning, gay marriage--are likely to rise again in a 2006 rematch (Mark Schoeff Jr., HPR). Outside groups erected billboards around southeast Indiana portraying Hill as out of step with the district on social policy in 2004. The national GOP spent \$1.8 million on the race last year, with some of the funds financing moral values television ads. "The national Republican Party in this last election, along with some 527s (independent groups) and Mike Sodrel, campaigned on the politics of fear, trying to paint me as an extreme liberal. Nothing could be further from the truth," Hill said. This time around, he vowed to be "proactive in my approach." He's not reticent to talk about his faith--and his wife of 33 years, Betty, will join him on the campaign trail more often. "I'm not going to proselytize to get votes," Hill said. "My relationship with Christ is very personal. But people want to know my beliefs." Hill's congressional voting record on issues important to social conservatives will continue to hurt him, according to a 9th CD GOP leader. "It's going to go back to values again," said Glenn Murphy Jr., Clark County GOP chairman. "People are still motivated by those issues."

Unlike other policy areas, which can appear on the political radar and then fade, "moral issues are stable issues," said Sodrel. But they shouldn't be emphasized just to win a campaign. "Religion's not something you stress. It's something you live." Sodrel voted on Thursday in favor of a bill that would extend cuts on capital gains and dividends through 2010, putting him at odds with his likely Democratic opponent in 2006, former Rep. Hill (Mark Schoeff Jr., HPR). The \$56 billion package, approved 234-197, maintains the lower tax rates on investment income that were passed in 2003 but set to expire in 2008. The bill, which includes a series of other tax breaks, will now have to be reconciled with similar Senate legislation. Sodrel asserts that lower taxes brought the U.S. economy out of the doldrums, leading to current growth and increased tax revenue. "It's avoiding a tax increase, basically," he said of the tax cut extension bill. "Without those tax cuts, our economy may have lost another 1.5 million jobs." Hill opposes the tax package in part because it came on the heels of a \$50 billion deficit reduction bill that the House passed before Thanksgiving. "It makes no sense to cut the budget and then vote for a tax cut mostly for the wealthy that washes out all those savings," said Hill. "For the ordinary person in my district, that doesn't make any sense at all." Sodrel is one of seven House Republicans who will benefit from a New York City fundraiser co-hosted by former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and acting House majority leader Roy Blunt. Like Sodrel, all but one of the other lawmakers benefiting from the event won in 2004 with 55 percent of the vote or less. The event which costs \$2,500 for an individual donor and up to \$25,000 for a political action committee. **Status:** Toss-up.

2006 State Races

Senate District 4: Republican: Portage Councilman Dave Fagen, Porter Councilwoman Sandi Snyder. Democrat: State Sen.-Elect Karen Tallian. **2002 Results:** Antich-Carr 16,011, Stillman (R) 12,583. **2006 Forecast:** After receiving her law degree at age 40, Democrat Karen R. Tallian 15 years later will be helping to write Indiana law (*Post-Tribune*). Tallian was unopposed in the District 4 Senate caucus and is scheduled to be sworn in Monday at the state Senate. "I think the first time someone calls me Sen. Tallian, I'll look around and see who they're talking to," said Tallian, 55, of Ogden Dunes. The seat became vacant when Rose Ann Antich-Carr stepped down to take the office of Merrillville clerk-treasurer. Before she knew about the vacancy in District 4, which includes parts of Merrillville, Valparaiso and all of Portage and Chesterton, Tallian said she was getting calls encouraging her



to run. While saying she supports abortion rights, she notes she is an attorney, and would have to look at any law's precise language before approving of it. Tallian said she could favor some abortion restrictions. As for gay marriage, another battle in the Indiana Legislature, Tallian doesn't take a stand, repeating her desire to review proposals to amend the state Constitution to ban gay marriage. But she states a general preference about social issues: "I think people's private lives are private," Tallian said. Her Porter County residency could be crucial as Republicans challenge Tallian next year (*Post-Tribune*). "I think (residency) is very important," West said. "Seventy-five percent of the district is out here." The Porter County Republican Party chairman said the party will target Tallian's seat in 2006. "I agree with Leon. ... I think it's certainly important we have a Porter County resident," said Chuck Williams, Porter County GOP chairman. "I just think it should be a Republican." Williams said several GOP candidates have expressed interest in the 2006 race, including Portage City Councilman Dave Fagan and Porter Town Councilwoman Sandi Snyder. **Status: LEANS TALLIAN.**

Senate District 29: Republican: State Sen.-Elect Mike Delph. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Clark 19,657, Fleming (L) 1,706. **2006 Forecast:** There are some rumblings that Councilor Isaac Randolph or State Rep. Phil Hinkle might seek this May primary nomination. Don't hold your breath. Delph worked his ideological base and found considerable support in Wayne, Pike and Washington townships. He will not ignore the Marion County portion of his district. **General Status: LIKELY DELPH**

House District 33: Republican: Bill Davis. Democrat: State Rep. Ron Liggett. **2002 Results:** Liggett (D) 9,143, Thornburg (R) 6,895. **2004 Results:** Davis 13,330, Liggett 10,924. **2006 Forecast:** Davis, R-Portland, told the *Muncie Star Press* that local government had to stop its growth and reduce taxes. Most Muncie tax districts are seeking maximum tax levies in 2006, and state budget officials are projecting an average five-to-six-percent hike in property taxes because caps have been placed on property tax relief payments. "We as citizens simply have to stop demanding more of government," said Davis, also a ways and means committee member. Davis said he was disappointed by Espich's bill because it was shifting the cost of welfare to other taxpayers. The state's budget is primarily funded by income, sales and corporate income taxes. "Somebody is still going to have to pay for this," Davis said. **Status: Tossup.**

House District 34: Republican: Open. Democrat: Delaware County Democratic Chairman Dennis Tyler. **2002 Results:** Adams (D) 8,134, Bennington (R) 5,362. **2004 Results:** Adams (D) 14,744, Dixon (R) 2,678. **2006 Forecast:** Dennis Tyler, the current Delaware County Democratic chair and a former Muncie mayoral nominee looks like the replace-

ment for the late Rep. Tiny Adams, who died last week of a stroke. In 2003, Mayor Dan Canan defeated Tyler 7,211 to 6,758. Tyler's problem is that the Delaware Democrats are not a generally happy bunch. If intra-party fissures are exposed and the right GOP candidate emerges, this could become a competitive race. **Caucus Status: Safe Tyler**

House District 71: Republican: Open. Democrat: Carlene Bottorff. **2002 Results:** Bottorff (D) 9,385, Singleton (R) 5,388. **2004 Results:** Bottorff (D) 17,949. **2006 Forecast:** Carlene Bottorff, the widow of the late State Rep. Jim Bottorff, appears to be the likely replacement for her husband in the soon-to-be-scheduled Democratic caucus. Bottorff is a former supervisor for the Census Bureau. Rod Pate, chairman of the Democratic Party of Clark County, said the district's Democratic precinct committeemen will choose Bottorff's successor during a caucus the last week of December (Davis, *Louisville Courier-Journal*). Jack Vissing, a deputy city attorney in Jeffersonville, called Bottorff "an incredibly smart lady" who would make an excellent legislator. Pate said he believed Bottorff would be the first woman to hold the 71st District seat. Bottorff said she realizes she might be viewed as politically vulnerable because she has never previously sought elective office. But she said she still plans to run next year. "People who really know me know that I'm willing to do whatever it takes," she said of next year's elections. "I like to be successful." Two other potential candidates -- Phil McCauley and Steve Stemler -- both said yesterday that they did not plan to run in the caucus out of respect for the Bottorff family. But Stemler, a former Jeffersonville City Council member, said he plans to run in the May Democratic primary for the two-year term that will start after the November 2006 election. Stemler serves on the boards of the River Ridge Development Authority and the Indiana Port Commission. McCauley is a Jeffersonville City Council member and a former deputy mayor. He said he was "seriously considering" running in the Democratic primary, but had not yet made up his mind. Glenn Murphy Jr., chairman of the county's Republican Party, said he is talking to several people who might run next year. **Status: LEANS D**

House District 92: Republican: State Rep. Phil Hinkle. Democrat: Robin Olds. **2002 Results:** Hinkle (R) 10,935, Kirkpatrick (L) 888. **2004 Results:** Hinkle (R) 16,158, Swinford (D) 9,488. **2006 Forecast:** This Wayne Township seat is trending Democratic and Olds, an employee of Planned Parenthood, stands to give Hinkle his first credible challenge. Marion County Democrats would love to pick him off after his efforts to derail Indy Works. So there will likely be resources available to Olds. Hinkle might seek a primary challenge to Delph in SD29. That would make Mayor Peterson quite happy. **Caucus Status: LEANS HINKLE ❖**



Howey, Phillips to wed Friday

INDIANAPOLIS - HPR

Publisher Brian A. Howey will marry Beverly Phillips on Friday at Union Chapel United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Phillips owns and operates Phillips Communications Group in Indianapolis. The couple will reside in Broad Ripple with their three children.



Budget numbers as gloomy as weather

INDIANAPOLIS - The state's updated revenue forecast is a bit more gloomy than expected (*Inside Indiana*). Budget analysts presented the revised picture to the state budget committee on Wednesday. Indiana is looking at \$74.2 million less to work with than it expected. Indiana's total budget appropriations for the two-year budget are about \$24 billion.

Richard Pryor had written St. Joseph County sheriff

SOUTH BEND - Comedian Richard Pryor and his wife sent a letter to the St. Joseph County sheriff about an animal cruelty case a week before Pryor died. A St. Joseph County police officer, Curt Seufert, was placed on administrative leave last month while state police investigated whether he killed his girlfriend's dog. The Pryors' letter called the reported circumstances shocking and vile. "If these allegations are true and because these officers are members of two different departments, we sincerely hope that this won't prevent a serious and vigorous investigation followed by an equally vigorous

prosecution," the letter read. "We respectfully ask you to not let this be 'swept under the rug.'" Canarecci said he received the letter Thursday. Pryor died Saturday from a heart attack at age 65. Jennifer Pryor confirmed Tuesday to the *South Bend Tribune* that the couple sent the letter to the sheriff. "Richard and I have always had a strong affinity for animals," she said.

Lake County commissioners sign on to Good Government

CROWN POINT - County commissioners took the plunge Wednesday. They are in the Good Government Initiative (Dolan, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). They voted 2-1 to let consultants from Maximus Inc., a Reston, Va., firm analyze whether their multimillion-dollar budget and payroll could be less costly to taxpayers.

Saunders' son gets plea agreement

RUSHVILLE - A state lawmaker's son pleaded guilty to leaving an accident that resulted in death, but the charge was downgraded from a felony to a misdemeanor and two other felony charges were dismissed as part of a plea agreement. Andrew Saunders, 24, the son of Rep. Tom Saunders, R-Lewisville, also pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated and endangering a person, a misdemeanor. Authorities say Saunders was driving home Feb. 4 after a night of drinking at the New Castle Elks Lodge when he struck Thomas Michael Jackman, 56. Saunders could face up to nine years in prison when he is sentenced Jan. 3.

Daniels hosts meth summit

INDIANAPOLIS - Restrictions on buying pseudoephedrine and \$70million for drug courts, both included in the

federal Patriot Act, would help fight the spread of methamphetamine production, the federal drug czar said at a summit of Midwest leaders Wednesday (*Associated Press*). John Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, said the highly addictive drug is hard to control because it can be produced cheaply in small labs. "Meth, there is not a drug that's worse," he said at the start of the two-day summit about combating problems associated with the drug. Gov. Mitch Daniels, who is sponsoring the summit, called meth production and addiction "the single most difficult and urgent problem in the entire drug abuse spectrum." "We can trace its path like a plague," he said.

ISTEP scores improve slightly

INDIANAPOLIS - Students are making modest gains in reading and math across the state, but as many as a quarter of the students at each grade level are still not passing, according to state standardized test results released Wednesday (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Across Indiana, the percentage of students passing the math portion of the ISTEP+ taken in September ranged from 64 percent in 10th grade to 78 percent in sixth grade. In English, the percent passing ranged from 67 percent in ninth grade to 75 percent in third grade. Improvement over 2004 scores ranged from no change to a 4 percentage point increase, with the biggest gains made on the math exam. "Every statewide percentage point increase represents about 800 more students passing ISTEP+, which means over 10,000 more students passed the math assessment this year," Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen Reed said. ❖