



Governor's funk in NIMBYland

Despite Illiana/Connector retreat, Ivy Tech, session has opportunities

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - It was inevitable. Every Indiana governor is going to have one of those weeks when nothing seems to go right. Gov. Evan Bayh had vetoed budgets, overrides and special sessions. Gov. Frank O'Bannon could never get his No. 1 priority - full-day kindergarten - passed even when Democrats controlled the House.

This past week was one of those weeks for Gov. Mitch Daniels. He pulled the plug on the Indiana Commerce Connector and a good portion of the Illiana Expressway after thousands of people from Shelbyville to Valparaiso turned out to rally against the projects in their backyards.

"Like you, I have been paying close atten-

tion to the vigorous public discussion around my proposal to explore new privately funded bypass roads in Northwest and Central Indiana," Daniels wrote to legislative leaders on Saturday. "After legislative action to date, some forty public meetings, and lots of other open debate, it is clear to me that we are far from the degree of consensus that is necessary before embarking on major public works projects of high local impact. Accordingly, I withdraw the

suggestion that any action be taken on an Indiana Commerce Connector, or an Illiana Expressway east of I-65. Either of these ideas might benefit from further research, and I would welcome some form of that if your committees are so inclined. But the people of the affected areas have spoken clearly enough to persuade me that these ideas are, at best, premature."

He was unable to get the IVY Tech board of trustees,



Gov. Mitch Daniels may be rethinking the notion of consensus.

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System of 'vast inertia'

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - It is not sufficient to be bright and right. You must have the love and trust of the people... and Hoosiers don't love or trust anyone enough to support change. The system has vast inertia, so great that no administration can do much but move it slightly up or down, left or right.



Morton Marcus
Column

That is the discouraging truth. Since no governor runs as the leader of a ticket with a platform, no governor commands the respect (obedience) of his party's



"If you don't like it, you can vote me off the council."

- **Howard County Councilman Stan Ortman after voting for a special income tax, saying he wanted to see the county as progressive on reducing property taxes (Kokomo Tribune)**



members. Since the spoils are distributed by the legislature more than by the governor, the latter has little candy to pass around.

A visionary does not abandon an idea to the short-sighted. He pushes the vision, knowing that it will not progress far today, but that it will have a better chance in the future if the path is cleared today.

The governor has shown little ability to get people behind his ideas in advance of announcing them. When he put forward the Commerce Corridor who was on the platform with him? Governing requires superior PR. If ideas are bold, their presentation must be differentiated from the ordinary. In brief, Daniels needs a team of realists who understand the legislature and the public to put through the programs of his bright abstractionists.



When your back is against the wall, knock down the wall

By **ABDUL HAKIM-SHABAZZ**

INDIANAPOLIS - I have to give Gov. Mitch Daniels credit. He is extremely gracious when dealing with people who don't get it. Public opposition to the Commerce Connector and portions of the Illiana Expressway

killed both ideas. Lottery Privatization is on its last leg. And who knows what will happen with the budget. Mitch has shown a lot of deference to his opponents. I would take a totally different approach. First, I would build a Death Star and deploy Imperial Stormtroopers. Well, I'm kidding



Abdul Hakim Shabazz
Column

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about the Death Star.

What I do think the Governor needs to do is remind people what life was like before he got here. If some lawmaker didn't vote for the expressway, fine. Then maybe the roads in that lawmaker's district don't get fixed right away. If someone has a problem with school funding, then maybe their district will get a little less next year or a slow payment or two is in order. This may sound cruel, but sometimes you have to show people who's boss around here. Good behavior is rewarded; people who don't get with the program are punished.

Now such power should be used judiciously and never used in an irresponsible manner. But sometimes, when your back is against the wall, instead of trying to climb over it, just knock it down. ❖

Two theories on Our Man Mitch

By **JACK COLWELL**
South Bend Tribune

Two theories about Our Man Mitch, each one with widespread belief, now appear to be as outdated as the theory that the sun revolves around the earth. One theory believed by many back when Gov. Mitch Daniels was arm-twisting for daylight time and peddling the Toll Road was that he wasn't interested in a second term.

This was based on belief that he was going to push for what he wanted, no matter how many Hoosiers he alienated, because he had no desire to serve more than four years anyway.

Even some of his fellow Republicans in the legislature grumbled that Daniels didn't seem to care how much he plummeted in the polls or the danger that he would pull GOP candidates down in the 2006 elections. He wasn't on the ballot in '06. And if he wasn't going to run again in '08, maybe Mitch didn't care. He cares. Now, it is widely expected that Daniels will be on the ballot for re-election in '08. While it's far too early for an official announcement, Daniels has made clear that he expects to run.

And why would he raise \$2.6 million in campaign funds, with an effort launched to get as much as 10 times that amount for a race, if he wasn't going to run?

The second theory with widespread belief back when Mitch was in the ditch in the polls was that he was a one-term governor even if he sought re-election. Since then, Daniels has bounced back some, especially in his base in the Indianapolis area, and is regarded now as likely to be a formidable candidate for re-election.

A factor in this is that the



JACK COLWELL



Democrat with the best chance of beating him, popular Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, decided on another term as mayor. Peterson would have neutralized Daniels' strength in the Indianapolis area and taken advantage of anti-Daniels hostility that smolders still in the northern and southern parts of the state.

Many factors will be involved in the '08 race for governor. The state of the economy always is a factor in a race for governor, even if governors really don't have a lot of control over the economy in their states. Health of the nation's economy and which economic sectors are in boom or bust will determine which way Indiana employment is headed.

which included nine of his own appointees, to slow down the process that saw the appointment of Thomas Snyder - a man lacking a Ph.D - as president over Carol D'Amico. Five Daniels appointees sided with five hold overs to appoint Snyder.

Former Indianapolis Star columnist Ruth Holladay wrote on her blog, "Insiders say the process was corrupt from the beginning, with Ivy Tech prez Gerald Lamkin doing everything in his power to keep the post from going to respected educator Carol D'Amico. So twisted, in fact, was the behind-the-scenes maneuvering, that references D'Amico listed were never even contacted. The fix was in. Why? Because D'Amico, hired by Lamkin and supposedly groomed to take his place, rocked the good-old-boys' boat too much. She was insistent on cleaning house in an educational system that has become far too political and is a shelter for incompetence. When key legislators are on the payroll as public relations speakers, etc., education is hardly the first priority. D'Amico would have made major changes, and Lamkin and Co. did not want that."

This came after his cigarette tax was snuffed out earlier this month.

Through the legislative session - the first with a Democratic majority in the House - the Daniels administration has appeared to have explored different footings. Gov. Daniels has been much more consensus oriented since the 2006 elections; some allies will say too much. Not caring about it made the lack of it hard to see in 2005-06; now shining the light on it makes the absence of it appear greater.

The job picture has not been bright, especially with woes of the automotive industry, but Daniels is seeking to play up a new Honda plant near Indianapolis for which ground was broken last week.

There will be other ceremonies in which he can participate for highway projects that will be funded at least in part by Toll Road lease money. But the start of higher Toll Road tolls no doubt will be portrayed by Democrats as "the governor's tax increase."

No, the sun doesn't revolve around the earth. And, no, you can't count out Mitch. ❖



Gov. Mitch Daniels participating in a groundbreaking at BioTown in Reynolds with Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. (Gov. Daniels Photo)

Some observers believe that this might be a scripted plan of the governor, a predictable evolution, to prove that waiting for consensus is a recipe for disaster. Some expect him to revert to the "strong leadership" he employed in 2005 and 2006.

Some Statehouse lobbyists see a "bunker mentality" taking hold in the governor's office. "He feels mistreated by the media, so he is less available," said one ally of the governor. An example of this was Gov. Daniels' January State of the State address was not televised in the South Bend media market. There is the Indianapolis Star's obsession with where he lives.

Those close to the governor said he assumed that the media would give him points for being available on a weekly basis,

but the opposite occurred, so "darker is better."

With the Illiana and the Commerce Connector, the governor's staff is indicating that "he's done taking the slings and arrows" and at least for the time being, it is the legislature that will have to provide the leadership.

Legislative Democrats were talking up the concept of mass transit as opposed to private companies building tollways with no tax dollars.

The problem is that virtually all American mass transit systems lose money and must be taxpayer subsidized.

Democrats control portions of the state where mass transit - i.e. the South Shore line, IndyGo - lose money and require significant tax subsidies. Democrats have resisted any kind of general tax increase, be it on cigarettes or income. While they have scored political points in dealing Gov. Daniels legislative defeats, there is little to be said



when the inevitable "now what?" leaves the lips of that Democratic voter sitting in chronic traffic jams on the Bor-man Expressway.

During the Major Moves debate, key Democrats like Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, former Gov. Joe Kernan (who now lives close to the Indiana Toll Road in South Bend), and former Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis, were all silent on the subject. Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel tacitly supported the plan because it would extend I-69 to his city.

One reason Mayor Peterson may have decided against a challenge to Gov. Daniels in 2008 is that his own administration has been at philosophical odds with the anti-privatization sentiments of Indiana House Democrats.

With the Illiana and Commerce Connector either dead or headed for a study committee, there are still plenty of opportunities for success that could be shared by Bauer's Democrats and the Daniels administration.

As one lobbyist told HPR, "Throughout this session, the governor has kept his head low and they were not exposing their hand. Now they are starting to show what's really important to them. They are starting to narrow down their scope."

Some form of full-day kindergarten is a good bet for passage. A balanced budget is a certainty and there has been little talk about the likelihood for a special session to do so. Democrats have slated the privatization of part of the Hoosier Lottery for the dustbin and it's hard to



believe that Bauer will let that be revived, but a number of Democrats want to see a slots bill pass and those will possibly be linked in the final days.

The governor's top priority is the health care plan and the revival of that after the House failed to pass a cigarette tax increase began on Wednesday. House Republicans promised enough votes to pass a 40 cent hike, with House Minority Leader Brian Bosma saying, "It's time to end this standoff. We're here to call your bluff. We're prepared to move forward with a responsible program."

Senate President Pro Tem David Long said he wanted the House to pass the plan first. House Public Health Chairman Charlie Brown said he was "committed to something happening this year" (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). "If (the Senate) passes a cigarette tax, we'll meet them in conference committee and try to work out a plan," said Bauer. ❖

2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels. Democrat: Senate Minority Leader Richard Young, Jim Schellinger. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Results:** Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644. **2008 Fore-**



cast: The move of Indiana Democratic Party Executive Director **Mike Edmondson** to the Schellinger campaign as a fundraiser and communicator lends credence to the notion that the IDP was hardly "neutral" in the early stages of this race. At the least, all the key players understand this now and this move is beneficial to both the Schellinger campaign and the party. Edmondson has a much better track record raising money than communicating, though his unsuccessful 2003 race for the Indianapolis Council was some of the best, positive direct mail we've seen. **Fred Yang** of Garin Hart Yang, which has polled extensively for the IDP and Govs. O'Bannon and Kernan has signed on. **JLT** appears to be undaunted in getting into the field. Close associates tell HPR that she has scheduled a number of Jefferson-Jackson dinner appearances and other events in the state in the coming weeks. **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette** editorial writer Tracy Warner wrote this week that the race was "wide open" and that other Democrats could be expected to jump in. The blog **Blue Indiana** observed: "First of all, I think that Jim Schellinger will prove himself to be very adept at fundraising, not the least of which because of the high profile supporters he has had sign on to his campaign already. Furthermore, I think that Mr. Warner is a little off in his assertion that the race is "wide open" at the moment. I am willing to concede that if a high-profile candidate were to jump in at this point, especially someone with statewide name recognition, there would certainly be some room for campaigning. As it stands though, the Schellinger train appears to have left the station while the rest of the field waits patiently for a sign to move. Richard Young has a campaign website that doesn't imply he is taking his run seriously, (so why should we?), and Jill Long Thompson seems convinced that the best way to compete with Schellinger is to give him a few months head start before starting her campaign. I don't know about you, but right now the Schellinger camp should be thrilled because while they are taking their institutional support to the bank, no one seems all that interested in challenging them." HPR pretty much agrees with this assessment. **Primary Status:** LEANS SCHELLINGER. **General Status:** LEANS DANIELS. ❖



Politics of marriage reaches critical mass

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - "The most powerful man in Indiana politics" - Eric Miller (sorry Gov. Daniels, Speaker Bauer, Pro Tem Long, Lt. Gov. Skillman) - sure can muster a crowd at the Statehouse. More than 1,000 showed up to press the Indiana General Assembly to pass the constitutional marriage amendment and to end property taxes.

Miller called it a "right versus wrong" situation.

It was an impressive show of force and it came as all eyes shifted to two House Democrats: House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, who had a **South Bend Tribune** ad aimed at him, and House Rules Chairman Scott Pelath.

Pelath had yet to schedule a committee vote on the matter. His concern wasn't over the "one man/one woman" aspect of the amendment, but the second section that reads: "This constitution or any other Indiana law may not be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents of marriage be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

If the amendment comes out of the Rules and Legislative Procedures Committee it will get a vote, Bauer said, "not because of this ad, because of the process" (**South Bend Tribune**). Bauer said the ad "is meant to be a poisonous dart at whoever they perceive as their enemy." The legislator said his office received few phone calls after the ad was published.

The biggest push against SJR 7 beyond the gay and lesbian community is corporate Indiana with heavyweights like Lilly, Cummins and Wellpoint actively lobbying against the resolution.

Tony Murphy, Lilly's senior vice president for human resources, sent a letter to Bauer. "As a result of this uncertainty some employees may choose to leave Indiana to work in a state where these benefits are perceived not to be threatened," Murphy wrote. "Given the great lengths Lilly takes to attract and retain top talent from around the world, we oppose any legislation that might impair our ability to offer competitive employee benefits or negatively impact our recruitment and retention."

Murphy added that the resolution "sends an unwelcoming signal to current and future employees making Indiana appear intolerant."

Cummins recruiting director Mark Osowich said, "Anything that makes Indiana less inclusive and less welcoming for our current employees and for our future

employees makes it more difficult for Cummins to compete. This amendment would do just that by sending a message that Indiana is not tolerant of diversity."

The political calculus is dicey.

The Lilly letter was released to the media by Bauer's press office, suggesting that the Democrat might be setting the stage for killing the amendment.

There were Statehouse whispers that Republican backers of the amendment were threatening to kill legislation Wellpoint was seeking, which sets up a clash between economic and social conservatives.

Despite the show of force at the Statehouse, polls both in Indiana and nationally show majority support for marriage amendments, though the numbers fall off dramatically when it comes to whether gay couples should be able to have property, benefit and deathbed rights.

The political template has also shifted significantly since this latest phase began in 2004 as part of the Karl Rove White House strategy to turn out the evangelical right. It helped win President Bush a second term, but by 2006 there were conspicuous defeats nationally (Ralph Reed in Georgia; the anti-evolution majority on the Kansas Board of Education) that suggested that

the political pendulum had swung about as far right as it could and was heading back to the center. A further piece of evidence is Rudolph Giuliani's double digit lead in virtually every GOP presidential poll. In Indianapolis earlier this month, on the topic of gay marriage and intolerance, Giuliani said, "I believe the way to deal with it is to have domestic partnerships. America is better than that. And the Christian religion is better than that."

The issue did little to stave off the House Democratic Majority in Indiana in 2006. You can bet that key Bauer Democratic constituencies are pressuring him to kill the measure, though he runs the risk of some attempt for retribution in 2008.

Yet the issue is hardly monolithic, partywise. It passed the Indiana Senate by a comfortable margin. Democrat Sen. Jim Lewis and Rep. Dave Cheatham signaled their support this week. "Marriage is sacred," said Cheatham, who defeated Rep. Billy Bright last year. Bright had been a big proponent of the resolution. "For thousands of years, marriage has been the center of the family" (**Madison Courier**). Cheatham, however, countered with another school of thought, telling the audience that he wasn't trying to prevent people from losing benefits, but trying to define marriage. "Let's not attach marriage to these rights," Cheatham said. ❖





The 'Elizabeth Effect'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards will be here for a fundraiser at noon Friday. His appearance comes after a week of intense scrutiny that centers of the health of his wife, Elizabeth, who announced a week ago that her breast cancer had metastasized into her bones.

John and Elizabeth Edwards appeared on CBS' **Sixty Minutes** last Sunday, igniting a debate on whether he should give up his campaign for president. She told Katie Couric that if the couple gave up the campaign, she would "stop living" and "start dying."

"There's not a single person in America that should vote for me because Elizabeth has cancer," Edwards said. "Not a one. If you're considering doing it, don't do it. Do not vote for us because you feel some sympathy or compassion for us."

Washington Post blogger Chris Cillizza notes that the Edwards campaign is on a different trajectory now. "Just five days removed from the public acknowledgment that Elizabeth Edwards' cancer was back, it's clear that her

illness - and the couple's decision to keep the campaign going - is having a profound effect on how John Edwards is perceived. Witness a speech Edwards gave this morning to the Communication Workers of America in Washington."

"**I have to tell you** a story about something that Elizabeth said yesterday," Edwards began. "She was in Cleveland, Ohio, yesterday, speaking to a group. And she said at the beginning of her talk, she said, 'You know, I turn on the television now and there I am. I pick up the front page of the newspaper, and there I am. I turn on my radio, and there's my voice.' And then she said, 'You know, I don't know about you, but I'm sick of me.'"



John and Elizabeth Edwards at Chapel Hill, N.C. last week. They announced that her cancer has returned. (Edwards Campaign Photo)

Edwards then said, "It's exactly the kind of woman that I'm blessed to be married to. And both of us believe so deeply in this cause, what Larry referred to as a crusade, which is exactly what it is. It is a cause and a crusade to end the two Americas that we still live in in the United States of America, to create and strengthen a growing, vibrant middle class."

Thus far, the huge amount of media trained on the couple has not translated to a bump in the polls. The latest Gallup poll has Edwards at 14 percent, just about where he was before this phase of the campaign began. ❖

2008 Presidential Polls

Republican	Date	Giuliani	McCain	Thompson	Romney	Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	27%	13%	9%	9%	Giuliani +14%
USA Today/Gallup	03/23 - 03/25	31%	22%	12%	3%	Giuliani +9%
Rasmussen	03/19 - 03/22	35%	15%	--%	8%	Giuliani +20%
Time	03/09 - 03/12	40%	20%	--%	7%	Giuliani +20%
CNN	003/09 -03/11	34%	18%	--%	9%	Giuliani +16%
Democrat	Date	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Gore	Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	32%	22%	13%		Clinton +10%
USA Today/Gallup	03/23 - 03/25	35%	22%	14%	17%	Clinton +13%
Rasmussen	03/19 - 03/22	37%	25%	17%	--	Clinton +12%
Time	03/09 - 03/12	34%	26%	10%	13%	Clinton +8%
CNN	03/09 - 03/11	37%	22%	12%	14%	Clinton +15%

Indiana Notes: Former Sen. **John Edwards** will appear at a noon Friday fundraiser at Ruth's Chris in downtown Indianapolis. Republican **Mitt Romney** will host a fundraiser at the Columbia Club on April 5.

Hoosier Support: **Giuliani:** Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. **McCain:** Gov. Mitch Daniels. **Romney:** Attorney General Steve Carter; Secretary of State Todd Rokita, James Bopp, Dan Dumezich, Bob Grand. **Edwards:** Former Chairman Robin Winston, 9th CD Chair Mike Jones, Ann and Ed DeLaney, Bruce Kehoe, James Voyles.



2007 Legislative Caucus

Senate District 8: Democrat: Jim Arnold,

Lake County Deputy Prosecutor Rob Neary, Robin Oshinski, Lynne Kaser, Debra Birkholtz, Michigan City School Board President Jeff Jones. **2007 Caucus**

Forecast: It took three ballots on Sunday afternoon, but former two-term LaPorte County Sheriff Jim Arnold will occupy the seat of the late State Sen. Anita Bowser, who died on March 4 (Brian A. Howey, **HPR**). Arnold won 35-34 on a third ballot over former NIPSCO union president Debra Birkholtz, a figure several party officials thought was the person to beat going into the caucus. Arnold edged Birkholz 29 to 27 during the first round of voting at the LaPorte County Complex (**South Bend Tribune**). Purdue North Central Assisant Vice-Chancellor Jeff Jones, who's also president of the Michigan City School Board, was third with eight votes. Arnold had trailed Birkholz by five votes on the second ballot. When the results of the third ballot were announced,

Arnold's wife, Lauren, let out a loud yell and exclaimed, "Oh my God." Arnold said he would run "without hesitation" for the seat in the 2008 election. Second CD Chairman Butch Morgan told HPR that an Arnold-Birkholtz primary race in 2008 is a possibility. Birkholz, 55, was president of the United Steelworkers Union Local 13796 out of Chesterton for 13 years before retiring in 2005. She was obviously disappointed yet gracious in accepting defeat. "It's unfortunate. You do the best that you can and you reach out and talk to

as many people as you can. I wish him the best," Birkholz said. Arnold, 62, said he will go to Indianapolis with an open mind to listen to what his constituents have to say (**Post-Tribune**). "I'll do what I think is right for the voters in Senate district 8," said Arnold, who intended to seek the seat in 2008. **Caucus Status:** ARNOLD WINS.



State Sen. Jim Arnold is congratulated by his wife after winning the SD8 caucus last Sunday. He replaces the late Sen. Anita Bowser, who died on March 4. (Michigan City News-Dispatch Photo)

2007 Mayoral

Anderson: Republican: Mayor Kevin Smith.

Democrat: Kris Ockomon. **2003 General Results:** Smith (R) 8,947, Rock (D) 7,821. **2007 Forecast:** Mayoral candidates must live in the city in order to run for office, and that has been the catalyst for both Democratic challengers to relocate. Anderson Police Officer Kris Ockomon said his residency status has been questioned by local Republicans (**Anderson Herald-Bulletin**). "It's a ploy by them to remove me from contention in the race," Ockomon said. "My work is in law enforcement, and I would never go against that." Ockomon, a former Anderson City Council member, relocated to Chesterfield several years ago to allow his daughter to attend a sign-language program not offered through Anderson Community Schools. When his daughter left for college, he decided to run for mayor and that meant coming back to the city.. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

Fort Wayne: Republican: Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters, Matthew Kelty, Ivan Hood, Wilbert "Duke" Brown. Democrat: Tom Henry, Fred Steinke, Tom Cook. **2003 Results:** Richard (D) 27,251, Buskirk (R) 19,701. **2007 Forecast:** Conservatism vs. pragmatism. Values vs. efficiency. MySpace.com vs. my elected supporters (Lanka, **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). This year's key primary race for the mayor of Fort Wayne pits two men who have worked together professionally and claim to be friends. Their campaigns up to this point, however, show two contrasting styles and plans for winning that election. Kelty and Peters are the two main players in this year's Republican mayoral primary. While three other candidates are on the ballot, Kelty and Peters have almost all of the name recognition and financial support heading into the May 8 primary. In the broadest sense, according to Andy Downs, director of the Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne, Kelty is making an idealistic appeal for the job, while Peters is focusing more on the duties of a mayor. Many – Kelty included – have dubbed the architect the underdog in the race. Peters has the support of almost every current elected official and gets plenty of free publicity from his current position as county commissioner, according to Kelty's press secretary. The underdog role is one Kelty and his campaign seem happy to play. Kelty supporters wear jackets reading "Kelty for Mayor," he was the first to appear on television – last Christmas – and was the first to announce his candidacy. "At this point, the biggest difference (in the campaigns) is Matt (Kelty) is going all out," said



KELTY



Kevin Knuth, local Democratic Party chairman. "I'm a little surprised (Peters) hasn't kicked it up by now." **Primary Status:** LIKELY PETERS; SAFE HENRY.

Gary: Democrats: Mayor Rudy Clay, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Chuck Hughes, Darren Washington, John Henry Hall, Larry Anderson, Ulysses (Lish) Burnett, Larry Evans, Norman L. Roby, Pierre Strickland, Theresa Moses Sturdivant. Republican: Jayson Reeves, Charles R. Smith Jr.

2003 Results: King (D) 10,028, Smith (R) 1,201. **2007**

Forecast: Clay, who is fighting to ease Gary's \$60 million budget deficit, has a campaign war chest flooded with steep donations, a

Times computer-assisted analysis of 2006 campaign finance reports shows. About 44.3 percent of Clay's itemized contributors gave \$1,000 or more. "I'm no stranger to the political arena," Clay said. "The people who support me know I'll do a good job for people in the community." Clay raked in

\$163,270.48 in itemized contributions, which are donations of \$100 or more. The 71-year-old raised another \$54,666 in donations of less than \$100. His biggest contributor was city contractor Baker & Daniels LLP, which donated \$4,000. That company's lobbying contract was chopped by 80 percent last December, Clay said. Clay won the endorsement, Captain James Reed said, with 15 votes. Karen Freeman-Wilson received five, Darren Washington, four, and Chuck Hughes, one. Hughes is asking the Indiana Secretary of State to expand its election inspection on May 8 into Gary (**Post-Tribune**). Todd Rokita and Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter announced a toll-free phone number last week for people to call if they suspect ballot tampering or voter fraud. In a letter to Rokita, Hughes said, "There is rampant fear in the city of Gary that organized efforts by people in powerful positions here will resort to any unethical tactics, illegal or otherwise, to influence the outcome of our elections." **Status:** LIKELY CLAY

Jeffersonville: Mayor Rob Waiz. Tom Galligan.

Republican: **2003 Democratic Primary:** Waiz 2,187, Galligan 1,708, Muncy 252, Ogden 166. **2003 General Results:** Waiz (D) 3,711, Raymond (R) 2,354, Fisher (L) 118. **2007 Forecast:** The Jeffersonville Board of Ethics criticized the re-election campaign of Mayor Waiz, ordering it to return more than \$3,000 in contributions that the



Hughes has asked Secretary of State Todd Rokita to monitor the Gary Democratic primary for fraud.

board ruled violated the city's ethics ordinance (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). The board also said the campaign of former Mayor Tom Galligan, Waiz's opponent in the May 8 Democratic primary, violated the ordinance by accepting \$200 from a law firm that includes the City Council's lawyer, Greg Fifer. The ethics ordinance sets the limit on a contribution from a firm doing work for city government at \$100 for a primary. Fifer could not be reached for comment, but Galligan said he misunderstood the ordinance and will refund \$100. Waiz, who has 30 days to comply with the board's decision or explain why he doesn't believe he has to, last night denied that his campaign violated the ethics ordinance and questioned the objectivity of the board. Waiz also said that he was pleased that the ethics board found that questions about the purchase of Internet domain names to keep them out of the hands of his opponent did not violate the ordinance. **Primary Status:** LEANS WAIZ.

Kokomo: Democrat: Councilman Greg Goodnight, Councilman Bob Hayes, Andy Castner. Republican: Mayor Matt McKillip, Councilman Rick Hamilton, Tom Hamilton. **2003 Primary Results:** Republican: McKillips 1,565, Donoghue 972, Bolinger 327, McKay 243, T. Hamilton 38. Democrat: Castner 1,360, Lushin 1,358, Alexander 969, Ellis 34. **2003 General Results:** McKillip (R) 5,229, Castner (D) 4101, Dunlap (I) 832. **2007 Forecast:** McKillip called for stricter regulations on local sexually oriented businesses, and said the city needs to grow its tax base during his annual State of the City address before city council Monday (Smith, **Kokomo Tribune**). During the 40-minute address, punctuated numerous times by applause from the mayor's supporters, McKillip made several references to "conservative government," saying he believes "more can be done to cut taxes." In particular, McKillip criticized efforts by Howard County government officials to institute a local income tax increase aimed at shifting criminal justice costs away from property taxes. "Like Ronald Reagan said, 'Government always finds a need for whatever money it gets.' Therefore a new income tax being proposed by the County to be stacked on top of our current taxes is bad for Kokomo," McKillip said. **Primary Status:** LEANS MCKILLIP; LIKELY GOODNIGHT.

Michigan City: Democrat: Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Joie Winski, Jim LaRocco. **2003 Results:** Oberlie (D) 3,316. **2007 Forecast:** Oberlie met with state legislators at the Statehouse on Wednesday to explain the need to restructure the state's property tax system or allow local government an alternative means of financing property taxes (**Michigan City News-Dispatch**). Oberlie told legislators that even though the city had removed all general obligation bonds from the city's levy, reducing property tax collections by 13 percent, tax bills still went up. "Many of the increases have been caused by recent state budgets," said Oberlie. **Primary Status:** LEANS OBERLIE. ❖



Horning leaves the city for Freedom; won't run in 8th CD

By BEVERLY PHILLIPS

FREEDOM, Ind. - Former Libertarian candidate for mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana governor, and the U.S. Congress, Andy Horning officially retired from politics in 2004 after challenging Congresswoman Julia Carson for a second time. He now lives in Freedom, Indiana, and works as a consultant on medical imaging technology projects.

On April 3 (11:30 a.m.), Horning will hold a press conference at the Statehouse rotunda on the topic of fair taxation. HPR heard a rumor that Horning is mulling a run against 8th CD U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth, so we went straight to the source for this HPR Interview.

HPR: Where is Freedom, and how do you come to live there?

Horning: Freedom is in the middle of Owen County. It was a post-War Between the States freed-man community before the KKK changed the demographics. But I love both the history and name of this place. We looked for farmland in Liberty, Freetown and Freedom, but it's hilly, cheap and pretty here. We've owned the place for a while, but at the end of the 2004 race we decided that since we home-school our kids, and I work from home as a consultant, that we'd leave the city hubbub and live in quiet, lush and natural Freedom (figuratively... to a degree, and literally). I'm building a barn, and I often get on my 1962 Allis Chalmers tractor in order to act like a farmer.

HPR: What exactly is the organization you formed called "The Freedom Farm?"

Horning: www.thefreedomfarm.com was to be a rule of law-focused 427 org, but after some initial interest, I had to sort of ignore it. The premise, if you look at the website, is too scary/bold for most people, and as a result I've done no fundraising or promotion at all in a couple of years. I've had to admit that we're not ready for rule of law or freedom, at least not just yet.

HPR: I recall you once burned a copy of the Indianapolis Star in protest, do you currently subscribe or read it online?

Horning: No, I do not, and would not subscribe to the Indianapolis Star. I do occasionally find something useful online by other reference (Google or something), but after years of experience with the New Pravda, I know not to trust what they print. I've caught them in fabrication and/or intentional omission too many times. You know



that they never came to or even called about a single press conference or event related to my '04 campaign? Not one. Is that amazing or what? And in their endorsement of Julia Carson they claimed that I wouldn't answer their questions. Judge for yourself whether it's likely that I'm the kind of guy who doesn't answer questions.

HPR: Now that a few years have passed since officially changing parties, do you still consider yourself a Republican?

Horning: Am I a Republican? I suppose that depends upon what that means, and I'm afraid that I am not able to tell you that. I consider myself a Christian, husband, father and mortal, error- and sin-prone human. I'm an American in the sense that I share the dream of our wiser forefathers and am dedicated to the rule of law under the Constitution of the United States as written and intended by those who wrote it. As far as club membership goes, I enjoy the company of lots of people. I don't know that anybody knows what it means to be a Republican; it never was the conservative party that most people think. Actually, the Democrats have a longer and more consistent tradition of supporting the ideology of freedom. But these days Democrats don't support freedom any more or less than Republicans do. In '04 I felt like I was fighting Republicans more than Democrats, and I don't believe that much has changed with the party since their shellacking in '06. Let's quit the pretense. The parties are election vehicles and nothing more. All of us really know that. We're fools to have given them so much power and trust, and we'll be ruined if we don't take it back soon. Both major parties contain wonderful people, but vipers lead them.

HPR: We have heard rumors that you may run against Congressman Ellsworth in '08. Care to comment?

Horning: Run for office? Oy vey. Ellsworth is tall, good looking, and sounds like a decent man. That's enough for most people, since ideology has become a bad thing. If the GOP doesn't have an epiphany and find some character and faith, then Ellsworth will have the office as long as he wants it. It's really only a few people who've been encouraging me to run. Personally, my finances aren't great at the moment. I've still not recovered from the tens of thousands I've thrown at my past attempts. It's a little late to jump in, since I've not really done the political rounds in the 8th. I've been kicking back trying to act like our government doesn't bother me. I do confess that I'd love to run. But I'm also sure that nobody hates politics as much as I do. I despise and loathe the stupid, deadly game we've made of political power. We care more about sports than we know about the force of oppression, slavery, genocide and war, and we're always trying to make government out to be a benevolent friend when there is no history of this in all of humanity's generations. It's interesting that y'all knew the rumor before I did, but I guess that's all part of the game too. Sheesh. Oy vey. ❖



THE BOAR'S NEST

Sabato's veep rant & Bayh

By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

Dr. Larry Sabato, who keynoted the HPR Forum in 2004, went on a rant this week about the 2008 veepstakes. "If there is one thing that we at the Crystal Ball cannot countenance, it is early conjecture about possible vice presidential running-mates for the 2008 major-party tickets," said Sabato, who teaches at the University of Virginia. "The wild rumor-mongering about VP nominees makes the situation worse, not better, turning the voters off to politics even faster than might have occurred otherwise."



Dr. Larry Sabato speaking at the HPR Forum, 2004. (HPR Photo)

Sabato said he decided to "do something about this degrading process. In this article we will attempt to exhaust the gossip, guesswork, and hearsay about Veeps, rendering further tittle-tattle unnecessary, and short-circuiting this destructive pastime for months to come."

Then Sabato laid out the criteria. The Veep should be disciplined, relatively scandal-free, and cause no major problems at selection time and throughout the campaign. • The Veep ought to be able to carry his or her home state. • The prior office experiences. • The Veep could help to reunite the party by being from another faction than the presidential candidate. Sabato then supplied a list, with U.S. Sen. **Evan Bayh** getting this treatment: "Centrist Democrat who could put IN and OH in play simultaneously, good family and media image, broad executive and legislative experience. Cannot guarantee IN, not a strong public speaker, low-wattage personality."

Rock Steady gives Parkinson's a punch

Former Marion County Prosecu-

tor turned DNA businessman and CEO of Strand Analytical Laboratories, has added the title of nonprofit founder of a boxing gym. **Scott Newman** discovered the therapeutic benefits of the sport in the management of his own Parkinson's disease. The physical workout and standard training for the ring inspired Newman to form Rock Steady Boxing.



Samantha Wolfe (left) and Jordan Kiffmeyer at Rock Steady Boxing class for mothers and daughters. The gym also offers Executive Boxing and Women's Only training to support free classes for people with Parkinson's disease.

All classes for people with Parkinson's disease are free and underwritten by corporate donations. Other classes for the general public, for a fee, include Executive Boxing, Women's Only, and a recently started Mommy/Daughter Class. All classes are taught by former professional and amateur boxers and are non-contact. Foundation Executive Director **Kristy Rose Follmar** is a former Indiana Golden Gloves women's champ and NABC featherweight and super featherweight champion. The boxing gym is located on the campus of Premiere Credit on the city's eastside. Premiere's President and COO **Todd Wolfe** donates the space and provided seed money for start-up costs, including a full size boxing ring. To donate or sign up for classes, visit www.rocksteadyboxing.org.

Weiser assumes new ED post

Jenny Hill Weiser, the daughter of U.S. Rep.

Baron Hill, has replaced **Mike Edmondson** as executive director of the Indiana Democratic Party. She previously worked in fundraising for the state party.



Indianapolis Star columnist Matt Tully and HPR's Brian A. Howey discussed the 2008 presidential race with the IU College Republicans at Ballantine Hall in Bloomington on Wednesday. (Indiana Daily Student Photo)

Goeglein returns

Tim Goeglein, Fort Wayne native and Special Assistant to **President Bush**, will give the keynote address at the Whitley County Lincoln Day Dinner on May 17 at Columbia City. RSVP: 260-248.8406 or jim@wabashconsultants.com ❖

Got a tip for the Boar's Nest? Send it to: phillipsgroup@comcast.net



Rich James, Post-Tribune - The exorcism, which has been in the works for several years, was completed Wednesday with the federal indictment of political operative Bobby Cantrell. Many thought Cantrell was too bright to get indicted. He's sharp, all right -- an evil genius if you will. Cantrell's two loves are money and power. The former did him in this week. Even if he beats the rap, he's done politically. You may have heard a collective sigh of relief when the indictment was unveiled. Scores of Democrats -- and Republicans, too -- were thrilled to have Cantrell cut out of politics. Many in politics loathed him, but were too intimidated to say anything publicly, fearing retribution. Cantrell was a guy with few true friends, largely because of his maverick political nature. He always said he was needed where there was a fight. But a man without a conscience doesn't fight fair. He thought nothing of jamming a ballot or coercing an illegal vote. As has been the case with most of recent federal indictments of public officials -- this was a stroke for good government. A cancer upon the Lake County system has been removed. ❖



to dismiss this as another example of politicians' outsized estimation of their own importance. But between them, Lugar and Solheim have already accomplished things that seemed impossible. It's not an exaggeration to say that both have made the world a safer place. Lugar was the co-founder of a program that set as its goal the destruction of left-over (and in many cases abandoned or insecurely stored) Cold War-era nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union. Who would have thought that two U.S. senators could have brainstormed that idea into reality? But in the past 16 years, more than 7,000 nuclear warheads have been deactivated, peaceful jobs for 58,000 weapons scientists have been found, and the program has been expanded to include chemical and biological weapons. For Solheim's part, he is credited with negotiating a truce in Sri Lanka's civil war. It's mind-boggling that a government official from Norway could help resolve another country's conflict that lasted two bloody decades. So when Lugar and Solheim say they're going to put some effort into trying to ratchet down the hostilities

caused by the growing need for energy in developing countries that don't have it, well -- it's just possible that they might succeed. ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - Picture this: A conservative Republican who backed the invasion of Iraq and is an avowed capitalist sitting shoulder to shoulder with a Socialist whose party says America is the biggest threat to world peace ... and be delighted to be together ... and say nice things about each other ... and do so in front of journalists with their TV cameras and tape recorders. Sen. Richard Lugar (the conservative capitalist, of course) and Erik Solheim (the Socialist Left Party member who is the minister of International Development in the Norwegian government) are, on most issues, an Oscar Madison-Felix Unger pairing. Yet together they hope to reduce the conflict over scarce energy resources, persuade countries to use their energy income wisely and with more transparency and urge broader use of alternative fuels so oil-rich nations don't hold such a big club over countries without natural resources. It's tempting

Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal - Under Sen. Luke Kenley's plan, the state would take over the full cost of those juvenile offenders and at least some of the costs of services for the abused children. That makes a lot of sense. So if the General Assembly passes Kenley's proposal -- and that's a mighty big if -- taxpayers could go back to the days of voting for local officials in part based on those tax bills. And when they thought their schools weren't getting enough cash, they'd know it was the state -- not some combination of state and local leaders -- responsible for that decision. It would be even better if lawmakers took steps to simplify tax bills so that property owners understood more about which local government was responsible for what and why. But that's probably wishful thinking for this year's session. ❖



Long seeks cherry master crackdown

INDIANAPOLIS - Senate President Pro Tem David Long said Wednesday that he plans to expand his proposal to crack down on illegal gambling, suggesting that the state should add a special prosecutor just to handle those cases. Long, R-Fort Wayne, said too many county prosecutors

view illegal gambling -- particularly by bars, clubs and other retailers using video machines with names such as Cherry Master -- as not worth pursuing. A state prosecutor based at the Indiana Gaming Commission could solve that problem, he said (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). "The number of these machines in the state has exploded," Long said. "I think we need to do something about it. We need to draw a line in the sand." The Senate Rules Committee, which Long chairs, already is considering his proposal to provide nearly \$2 million to fund 25 excise police officers dedicated to investigating illegal gambling and increase the criminal penalties for people charged a second time with promoting professional gambling.

Judge Hamilton drops IPALCO case

INDIANAPOLIS - In a long-awaited ruling following a 2006 trial, U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton found IPALCO had given members of the 401(k) plan access to solid investment advice through Merrill Lynch. That firm had described company stock as the highest-risk investment among nine options from which employees could choose (Indianapolis Star). Despite warnings to employees to diversify their investments, about 64 percent of the workers' company-

sponsored retirement assets were invested in IPALCO stock at the time the IPALCO board decided to accept the AES stock swap. "Without the benefit of hindsight, the AES transaction and investments in AES stock appeared reasonable," Hamilton wrote. "There is no evidence at all that the individual defendants had any negative inside information about AES or the prospects of its stock."

Mayors press for taxing options

FORT WAYNE - Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard, Bluffton Mayor Ted Ellis and Warsaw Mayor Ernie Wiggins participated in a statewide effort Wednesday to pressure the General Assembly to provide more taxing options for cities (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Richard said cities, towns and all local units of government should be given the opportunity to choose other methods of financing government than property taxes. Those include sales taxes on services or broader uses for a food and beverage tax. "We want more flexibility at the local level to have non-property-tax ways of funding local government," Richard said. Mayors across the state expressed similar sentiments as part of a push by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. Ellis said some taxes are available but must be adopted countywide, including income taxes. He said if counties don't feel the need for those taxes, cities and other governments should have the option of using them.

Espich unveils property tax plan

INDIANAPOLIS - A top House Republican proposed a property-tax restructuring plan yesterday, while several mayors urged lawmakers to give local governments new options to raise revenue and reduce their reliance on real estate revenue (Smith, **Associated Press**). Rep. Jeff Espich of Uniondale, the ranking Repub-

lican on the budget-writing Ways and Means Committee, said his plan would provide relief to homeowners on this year's property-tax bills and remove the burden of school-construction costs from property taxes. The plan also would give counties a yearly option of using local income taxes in lieu of property taxes to cover the rising costs of services. Espich said his ideas may be ignored since Democrats control the House, but said he felt compelled to put a proposal on the table as lawmakers get closer to their April 29 adjournment. "The concern I guess I have is that if I had to characterize one issue as more important than any other issue before the legislature, other than a balanced budget, it would have to be some form of property-tax control, relief, cuts -- whatever you want to call it," Espich told reporters.

Senate eyes tying minimum wage to fed rate

INDIANAPOLIS - A Senate committee might consider tying Indiana's minimum wage to the federal rate, an effort some lawmakers hope will beef up support for the proposal (**Associated Press**). The bill, in its current form, would raise the state minimum wage to \$7.50 per hour by 2008. That could be higher than the federal minimum wage, which Congress is expected to raise to \$7.25 per hour over two years.

Illiana group morphs

VALPARAISO - A group opposing the proposed Illiana Expressway is has agreed to team up with the Interfaith Federation and Save the Dunes Council to support what they are calling smart growth across the Region (**Times**). Citizens Against Privatized Illiana Toll Road also is distancing itself from a claim that it supports a 1 percent food and beverage tax to support regional busing.

