



# Time running out to catch Coats

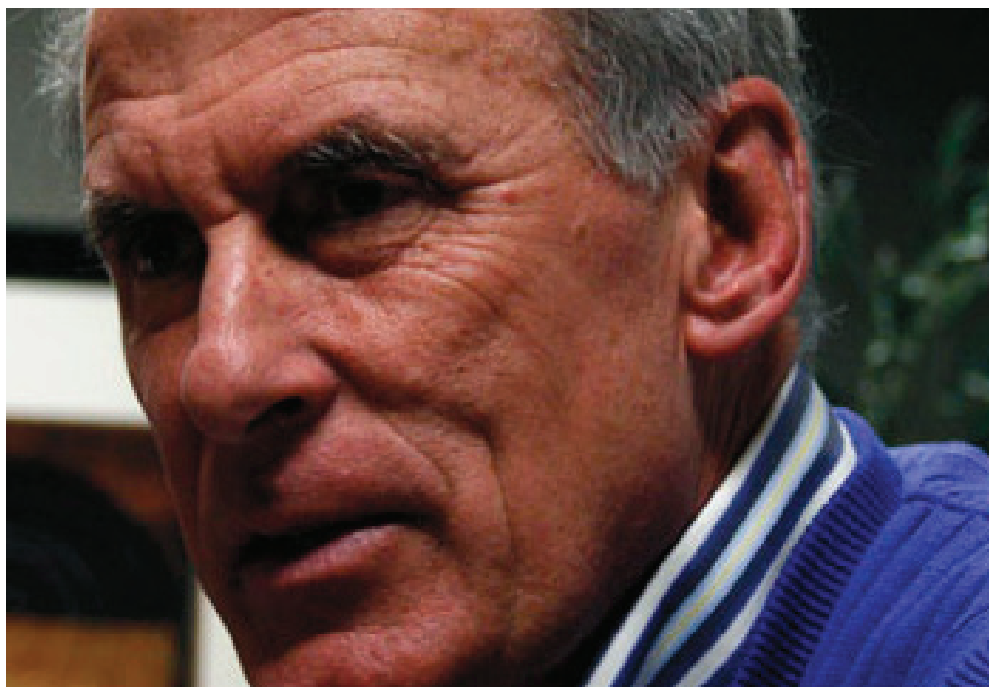
*4 rival GOP Senate candidates have less than a month to build ID and drive an issue*

**By BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – For a statewide candidate to drive up name identification in order to credibly deliver a message that could help win an election, even a primary, the price tag is somewhere in the \$1 million range to purchase 3,000 to 4,000 gross rating points, sans the Chicago broadcast TV market.

For that reason, with less than a month to go before the Republican U.S. Senate primary, the window is quickly closing on candidates not named Dan Coats.

To date, none of the five candidates are running any media or sending direct mail. None has demonstrated any robust early FEC numbers or leaked head-to-head polls showing that Coats is vulnerable. Coats is expected to begin his TV campaign next week. His perceived top challenger, former Congressman John Hostettler, told HPI he



will “do statewide radio over the last two weeks” along with phone banking during that time span.

Asked how much support he would need to wrest the nomination away from Coats, Hostettler drew on his 1994 primary victory in the 8th CD. “I’ll need anywhere

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## Marlin our Scott Brown?

**By CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - He’s never posed nude for Cosmopolitan and his children are too young to appear on American Idol. But Indiana State Senator Marlin Stutzman believes he is positioning himself to be the Scott Brown in this year’s race to succeed Indiana’s retiring U.S. Senator Evan Bayh.



Last week, Stutzman’s campaign sent out a national e-mail solicitation for funds portraying him as the next Scott Brown-type candidate who will capitalize on the “quiet revolution of ideas and action that is taking place among grassroots voters.” The



**“There won’t be any balance left in Indiana if we don’t keep the House.”**

**- HOUSE SPEAKER B. PATRICK BAUER AT DYNGUS DAY IN SOUTH BEND ON MONDAY**



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fundraising pitch follows a recent Washington Examiner Opinion Editorial by former Reader's Digest editor Ken Tomlinson entitled "Can a Hoosier farmer produce another Massachusetts miracle for Republicans?"

Tomlinson sees Stutzman, like Massachusetts's Brown and Florida U.S. Senate candidate Marco Rubio, as the kind of younger and fresher face the Republican Party needs to change its public image. Republicans are struggling to overcome damage to the party brand caused by its dismal 2008 presidential campaign and national Chairman Michael Steele's leadership, including the furor over the party holding a fundraising event at a North Hollywood lesbian bondage strip club. Some in the party fear they will blow their chance at regaining control of Congress if they put up the same old faces in this year's midterm elections.

**Stutzman fits the** definition of fresh as well as anyone in the party. Like Scott Brown, the 33-year old state Senator from rural Northeast Indiana is good looking, energetic, and comes across as genuine. He also has solid conservative credentials based on a voting record in the Indiana General

Assembly that makes him acceptable to both mainstream Republicans and Tea Party supporters.

**Stutzman was** motivated to get involved in politics by the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He told me in a telephone interview that it was a visit to Elkhart last year by President Obama that prompted his decision to challenge Evan Bayh for the U.S. Senate. Stutzman said that in conversations with local business leaders after the event, he was told that Bayh never meets with them and that calls to the Senator's office are routinely left unanswered. He concluded that Bayh had grown out of touch and didn't listen. He says Bayh's problem is one shared by most politicians in Washington and that the widespread disconnect is fueling the populist rage against government.

Stutzman touts his background as a farmer and businessman. He says he knows how to make government responsive and takes his share of credit for helping Gov. Mitch Daniels tackle Indiana's fiscal and economic challenges. Stutzman is promoting an agenda of "common sense ideas" for America. He wants a



moratorium on the capital gains tax to spur economic development. He also supports banning earmarks and prohibiting new spending on entitlements and bailouts.

**Stutzman's message** is resonating with Hoosier rank-and-file activists. He is racking up Republican straw poll victories and endorsements from colleagues in the Indiana General Assembly. Stutzman's campaign seems to be the only one so far to generate any real excitement at the grassroots level.

To be sure, former Senator Dan Coats is the clear frontrunner in the May 4 Republican primary. Coats holds all the advantages money and establishment support provide. Every time State Party Chairman Murray Clark speaks he makes it clear the organization is backing Coats. But Coats is also carrying establishment baggage in a year in which anti-establishment sentiment is boiling over.

To say Hoosiers greeted the Coats candidacy unenthusiastically is an understatement. Interviews by the Indianapolis Star and Evansville Courier-Press with ordinary voters reveal great reluctance to fall in line behind Coats' Washington-generated candidacy. Coats' years away from the state and work as a Washington lobbyist draw into question his commitment to the kind of change that is needed, according to some.

Those feelings have been exacerbated by a video which surfaced showing Coats talking about retiring in North Carolina because it is "a better place" to live than Indiana. Democrats have been highlighting controversial clients for whom his firm has lobbied, including an oil company that partnered with Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez.

But Coats still enjoys solid support among many if not most Republicans who regularly turn out for primary elections. His money advantage translates into substantially more television advertising than Stutzman will be able to afford. Stutzman concedes his name identification is low. He told me he raised about \$120,000 so far this year, nowhere nearly enough to overcome Coats' advantages even assuming Stutzman has a superior organization.

**But Coats hasn't run a campaign** since 1992, and the rust is showing. He brought former Education Secretary William Bennett to Indianapolis for a fundraiser, and Bennett's appearance seemed only to resurrect criticism that Coats was a Washington insider being foisted upon Hoosiers by Washington insiders. Bennett stressed Coats' federal government experience as a reason to support him.

Stutzman likes the contrast Bennett has set up. "The choice is between a new and fresh vision for the future and candidates who have been in Washington and bear some responsibility for our problems," he told me. "I'm not Washington, but I'm not inexperienced. I am the only candidate who can deliver practical common sense change." If Republican primary voters hear that case, Marlin Stutzman likely would be the next Scott Brown.

**Aside from Stutzman's** lack of cash, his problem is that Indiana's Republican primary is not simply a choice between Stutzman, the likeable Hoosier conservative with state experience, and Coats, the establishment candidate who has been in Washington too long. If Stutzman picks up steam, the ultimate beneficiary could be former 8th District Congressman John Hostettler. Public polling that has measured the relative strength of Republican candidates against Democrat Brad Ellsworth suggests that Hostettler is currently running even or possibly ahead of Coats.

While Stutzman's criticisms of Coats have been soft and subtle, Hostettler's have been hard and direct. In a 2-minute video ad entitled "What Happened To Dan Coats" released on April 5, Hostettler hits Coats for voting to confirm Ruth Bader Ginsberg, an "extreme supporter of abortion," to the U.S. Supreme Court and voting for the Brady Bill. The spot appears on conservative blogs, where some characterize Coats as a "Neo-Con anti-gun bailout lobbyist." These are Republicans, mind you.

Hostettler is a notoriously poor fundraiser and is also likely to have limited television advertising. Nonetheless, Hostettler is expected to hold on to support in his geographic base of Southwestern Indiana as well as his libertarian-leaning supporters throughout the state who tend to be very loyal to him.

**Although his campaign** has been sluggish, Coats can probably buy his way into the general election. The Republican establishment will do everything possible to avoid a Hostettler nomination, which is why Coats was recruited in the first place.

If Coats survives the Republican primary, he faces in the general election another good looking, energetic, but well-funded former sheriff named Brad Ellsworth. Dan Coats may wonder how many Scott Brown look-a-likes he has to beat to win back his old Senate seat. ❖

**Chris Sautter is a Washington-based Democratic media consultant and frequent Howey Politics contributor.**



**State Sen. Marlin Stutzman is making a national fundraising appeal while picking up the Indiana Right to Life endorsement. (HPI Photo)**



## **GOP Senate,** from page 1

from 35 to 40 percent to win the primary," Hostettler said while driving from Posey County to a town hall in Zionsville Wednesday night. "It will be dispersed similar to the '94 campaign. I received 35 percent; next person got 23 percent."

In a statewide primary scenario, Hostettler estimated he would need to attract 150,000 to 200,000 votes.

And time simply is running out as the field heads into a critical debate sequence that begins this afternoon at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis, followed by the April 19 Franklin College and April 20 Indianapolis WFYI-TV encounters.

The candidates challenging Coats are also seeking the Tea Party vote, which Hostettler estimated to range in the 10,000 to 20,000 range. He calls them highly motivated and different than the 1994 activists who were upset by what they perceived to be anti-gun votes forged by President Clinton. "The outside groups were single issue oriented," Hostettler said of the 1994 campaign where he won a crowded primary and then upset U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey. The Tea Party movement and other groups are not as single issue oriented. They cover a lot of different issues. That makes it a different. I think they will turn out in the primary. They want to make sure the right candidate goes into the fall. And they are going to be very involved in the fall."

Hostettler said they are motivated by a government they see as too big and intrusive. "The health care bill is the latest and greatest example of government intruding into every aspect of our lives," Hostettler said. "They are very motivated by this health care. All are asking if I am willing to repeal. That's the significant question on the campaign trail that is consistently coming up."

The problem for Hostettler and the other challengers to Coats is that they are all seeking to divide that Tea Party pie. State Sen. Marlin Stutzman won a Tea Party straw poll in Warsaw. "I don't know if I can be the dominant recipient of their vote," Hostettler said. "But I think I will receive a sizeable portion of it. There are a lot of

people interested in my record. I don't expect to get 50 percent of that vote."

Hostettler said he will also use Right to Life, 9/12 and 2nd Amendment circles, even though those groups don't intend to make an endorsement in the primary. "The people who have helped us in the past are very active," Hostettler said. "They are helping in the personal capacity. I do rely on the help of a lot of those folks with phone banks and get out the vote."

Hostettler has opted for a series of town halls like the one last night in Zionsville because, he says, the debates limit responses to one or two minutes while the town halls allow for a more thorough discourse. "The issues are just too complex for debates," Hostettler said.

There have been some interesting shifts among Coats' four opponents. Hostettler and State Sen. Marlin Stutzman are now talking about their own experience as opposed to restating their earlier anti-incumbency lines.



Former congressman John Hostettler at a recent town hall.

Hostettler also issued an attack on Coats via YouTube that was distributed by e-mail link to supporters. It charged that Coats voted for the nomination of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and quoted National Right to Life that calls the jurist an "extreme" supporter of abortion. "He voted for the Clinton gun ban and the Brady bill," the video states. The video describes Hostettler as a reliable "pro-life, pro-gun" candidate.

The Coats campaign responded by noting that Coats has a 90 percent American Conservative Union mark, compared to 89.35 for Hostettler. As for a vote cited by Hostettler as being a pro-abortion vote, the campaign noted that Coats supported a bill that prohibited the Peace Corps from using development assistance funds for abortions or involuntary sterilizations. Thirty-six of the 44 Senate Republicans at the time voted for the measure.

On the Ginsburg vote, Coats has said that "elections have consequences." There was a centuries-old tradition of respecting national electoral results by granting the President latitude in selecting nominees for the bench. Case in point: 42 of 44 Republicans voted for Ginsburg. Coats can also point to his assistance in helping Justice Samuel Alito through a successful confirmation process



in 2005-06. Alito has joined the conservative side of the Supreme Court.

Hostettler said he used the video to try and differentiate himself from the former two-term senator. "What happened there is everywhere I go, be it a Tea Party in Crown Point or Evansville or Columbus, there is always one question: what differentiates me from Dan Coats? I'm always asked. This is the response I give."

### Coats releases health care reform plan

Coinciding with the upcoming debate sequences, Coats is expected to be active in a number of areas. The campaign is indicating that it will post credible FEC numbers. Internal polling has indicated very good name ID, favorable/unfavorable and head-to-heads with the primary field. The campaign has been reluctant to release such data in fear of reshaping expectations heading into an expected fall campaign.

The campaign also expects to be targeted during the upcoming debate sequence by the other candidates. If that occurs, they see it as another vivid indicator that the field is attacking the clear frontrunner.

Coats will release the campaign's first white paper on what health reforms he would back if congressional Republicans can repeal the law President Obama signed in March.

"The take-a-number-and-wait government run Obama-Pelosi-Ellsworth health care plan is not the right plan for Hoosiers, it's not the right plan for Americans." The Coats plan reads: "We need to repeal it immediately!"

"Then we need to start over on health care reform, from scratch, from the beginning. Republicans and conservative Democrats need to work together incrementally, piece-by-piece, do what we can afford and when we can afford it. We must understand what the real issues are that need to be addressed and make the necessary changes without running America deeper into debt."

The Coats plan pledges to:

- Increase competition in the marketplace to drive down costs
- Access programs so those with pre-existing conditions receive affordable care
- Reform insurance and medical liability
- Strengthen transparency and accountability
- Keep our promises to our military personnel, veterans, and their eligible family members

Specifically, the Coats plan calls for insurance companies to be able to sell across statelines, encourage innovation in the states (he cites Gov. Daniels's Healthy Indiana Plan), expansion of the SCHIP program, reform liability laws, allow for the immediate creation of an Association

Health Plans for Small Businesses instead of making small businesses wait until 2014, expand health savings accounts, create incentives for healthy lifestyles, and advance electronic medical records.

### Stutzman receives Right to Life nod

State Sen. Marlin Stutzman received the Indiana Right to Life endorsement on Wednesday. "I am very grateful for the endorsement of Indiana Right to Life," Stutzman said. "My Senate campaign is a continuation of my work on this supremely important issue, and I am honored to add the Indiana Right to Life endorsement to my previous endorsement by the Allen County Right to Life PAC. Simply put, I am Pro-Life. The Declaration of Independence states that our inalienable rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Life is listed first in that famous line in the Declaration of Independence and it's first with me as well. Protecting innocent life, both

born and pre-born, is of utmost importance to me. It is the foundation of our Judeo-Christian culture. Voters who support the protection of life want a candidate who has put his convictions to work and who has a proven record of taking a strong stand for life."

Stutzman noted that he has a 100 percent rating from Indiana RTL. ❖



### The Dan Coats Hoosier Health Care Plan

*A Plan Of, By and For the People*

PAID FOR AND AUTHORIZED BY DAN COATS FOR INDIANA  
DAN COATS FOR INDIANA - P.O. BOX 301141 - INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46230 - (317) 251-2200



## GOP becoming the party of 'So'

By DAVE KITCHELL

LOGANSPOUR - Sometimes it's best to just say, "Nice job and congratulations," and move on to the next issue.

For the Republicans, particularly those who serve as attorneys general in several states, that realization has not hit home yet. There are actually attorneys general, maybe including Indiana's Greg Zoeller, who are willing to spend whatever taxpayer money they can to wage a political war aimed at overturning health care reform passed last month in Congress.



At the root of these challenges is a key question that could wind up in the Supreme Court: Can the federal government really require you to purchase a product or service from a private company?

Good question.

There are those who would say that if state governments can require licensed drivers to have car insurance, the federal government ought to be able to require anyone who would potentially consume

health insurance to have it.

Then there are the critics who argue another point: Not everyone chooses to drive, but everyone potentially should have a choice in paying for insurance or going without it.

The elephant in the room issue that Republicans are avoiding is the image makeover Republicans are willing to have if nearly a dozen attorneys general satisfy their litigious egos.

Members of the party of Lincoln have to think about these questions:

**Personal responsibility.** Republicans have established a brand in large part based on the idea of every American taking responsibility for their own problems. Government in any measure is administered whenever the public can't do something for themselves that government can. Even if the attorneys general won, would they want to be in the unenviable position of telling millions of people who pay their salaries and paid for their suits to be litigated that they can't have medical insurance?

**Financial fallout.** With increasing numbers of Americans failing to qualify for insurance or to pay for it on



U.S. Rep. Mike Pence is leading the charge to repeal the health reforms. (HPI Photo by Steve Dickerson)

their own, when they finally are treated, their bad debts are eventually absorbed by taxpayers as well. Unfortunately, that debt is often accrued through emergency room charges and major surgery expenses. Americans without health insurance may file for bankruptcy, but that won't do anything for a struggling hospital other than add to bad debt write-offs in accounting books.

**The legacy.** Republicans were able to run and win on the concept of prescription drug coverage for senior citizens, damn the cost of the torpedoes and full speed ahead. But to flip-flop on that philosophy and oppose health care that stimulates the same kind of private sector competition contradicts what helped Republicans build credibility in health care in the 21st Century. Republicans attempting to repeal health care reform now would be akin to those in the 1930s opposing the New Deal and Social Security, or those in the 1960s who supported the civil rights movement.

The time for health care reform has come and gone. The party's symbol is the elephant – an animal that supposedly never forgets. Yet, the party's leaders have forgotten what the party stands for and what made it strong. Until the health care vote, Republicans were known as "The Party of No" for opposing reform efforts, failing to lend even a single vote to passage. Yet 200 Republican amendments were included in the reforms that eventually passed.

Now that health care reform has become law, a few Republicans and tea partiers are trying to turn The Party of No into The Party of So, as if reform - that is the way of life in virtually every industrialized nation except America - isn't a big deal.

Sometimes, even the biggest elephants do forget.



**Kitchell is an award-winning columnist based in Logansport.**



## Rokita continues to press redistricting reform

By **BRYAN AULT**

FRANKLIN - As the fourth congressional district primary heats up, Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita, R-Indianapolis, on Wednesday talked about redistricting reform in an exclusive interview with HPI.

Rokita said he has used the "pulpit of secretary of state" to get people involved. He said his website - RethinkingRedistricting.com - has generated more than 1,300 letters from Hoosiers.

"It's overwhelmingly favored by the people," Rokita said. "I would say that 95 percent of the people are in favor of it."



The data agrees with the angry electorate, too. According to Rokita's website, nearly 40 percent of all Statehouse races have lacked majority party opposition. 60 percent of the Indiana senators running in 2004 ran unopposed.

In 2008, 26 Indiana House members ran unopposed. In that same span, only 11 races had winners getting less than 55% of the vote.

The 2010 Indiana General Assembly failed to pass reform during its short legislative session. Its attempts, in the Senate Bills 80 and 136, were sent to the Rules Committee by House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend. They died there. Senate Bill 80 would have kept cultural and traditional communities together. It also would have made an attempt to end gerrymandering by respecting county lines. Senate Bill 136 would have established a two-year, independent study commission to redraw maps. The five-member committee would consist of one representative from each of the four caucuses and the chief justice of the Indiana Supreme Court would appoint the fifth person as chairman of the commission.

"Senate Bill 80 did half (of what we want to do). It wasn't a bad start," Rokita said. "That was a good thing, but we knew where the bills were going - to Rules. My focus is how the maps are drawn. The independent commission should be held to the same standard."

Rokita calls Indiana the "Wild West" in redistricting reform, and said Indiana needs the best candidates with the best ideas. To do that, the state needs maps which serve its citizens.

"What we have here are people who are fed up," Rokita said. "I've been going to Tea Party rallies, and



they're in favor of reform. We need a candidate or party that figures out how to be on the side of the people.

"Gov. Daniels is looking forward to signing something with my name in it. What's great about that is, he won't sign anything else."

The 2011 Indiana General Assembly will be challenged to redraw maps when it convenes in January. Once all data is collected from the 2010 Census, it must be sent to the Statehouse by April 1, 2011.

"The census is critical," Rokita said. "They will have a month to come up with a solution."

Meanwhile, Rokita said his race in the 4th District has been "great."

"We have great support," he said. "We're running a great mail campaign. We have one commercial on TV and we have more commercials coming."

Rokita is promoting Rethinking Redistricting through the mail, as well as brochures and cards.

"This isn't a sound-byte issue," Rokita said. "We're not giving speeches. We are proving that it can be done."

### Rokita announces ballot initiative

Secretary of State Rokita announced today the launch of a new online service developed by his office to provide Hoosier voters with a complete list of candidates who will appear on their upcoming primary and general election ballots. "Who's On Your Ballot?" will be available to all Hoosiers online at [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com). "Voters want to know what to expect when they receive their ballot on Election Day or before voting absentee," Secretary Rokita said. "Previously, Hoosiers could not find a comprehensive candidate list for federal, state and local offices until they received their ballot. 'Who's On Your Ballot?' allows Hoosiers to find this information online ahead of going to the polls." ❖



## Calm before the 5th CD storm

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - As the 5th CD Republican primary race enters the homestretch, Luke Messer sat in the Athenaeum beer garden Tuesday afternoon and talked about his path to victory.

Forget conventional wisdom that insists that four credible challengers to U.S. Rep. Dan Burton will dilute the vote, assuring another term for the embattled Republican.

In his mind, Messer has built a war chest that will allow him to stay on broadcast TV through the May 4 primary. He has a grass-roots campaign that has made more than 40,000 phone calls and staged 100 events around the district. Messer insists he has more money and more endorsements than the other challengers combined.

And there's what he calls the "anti-incumbency factor." Messer said that it has the "uniqueness of 1974" when the post-Watergate election became a Republican debacle.

"This is a clear, anti-incumbent environment," Messer said. He noted that the February push poll Burton released five weeks later had five push questions. "And after that all he could come up with was 42 percent support," Messer said. That, combined with a poll released by State Rep. Mike Murphy that put Burton's re-elect at 29 percent, paint a clear picture of a hostile environment for Burton.

Fewer than half of Americans would reelect their member of Congress, according to a new Gallup Poll (Politico). Forty-nine percent of the 968 registered voters surveyed would vote to reelect the incumbent from their district. Forty percent said their member does not deserve reelection. Asked if most members deserve reelection, only 28 percent said yes. Sixty-five percent did not believe most members of Congress deserve to return to Washington. The poll, released late Wednesday, shows a strong anti-incumbent swing just in the past year, with the percentage of those who said most members do not deserve reelection spiking from the low 50s up to

65 percent. "Voters' anti-incumbent mood is like nothing Gallup has seen in the past four midterm election cycles," Gallup's Lydia Saad wrote in her analysis of the survey.

An April 1 Burton Town Hall in Peru drew only nine people, including Burton staffers. The Peru Tribune quoted former Miami County Republican Chairman Jeanette Meadows as wondering whether people were drawn by the good weather to do yard work instead. A town hall at North Central HS in Indianapolis drew 30 people, GOP sources told HPI. In contrast, former congressman John Hostettler drew 300 people at a recent town hall event in Evansville.

Another factor that points to Burton's erosion of support is the fact that only two of the county Republican chairs - Grant County's Jerry Shull and Howard's Craig Dunn - are backing Burton. In his 2008 primary against Dr. John McGoff, Burton had virtually all of the chair endorsements. This time, Huntington, Tipton and Wabash Lincoln Day dinners were keynoted by challengers instead of the sitting congressman. Burton did not show up at the Tipton Lincoln Day dinner.

Messer is on television with a 350-point buy that will go stronger in the following weeks. It appears Burton has a similar buy, but it is compressed into a three-week time span.

Messer began with a bio ad and he wouldn't reveal what themes would follow. Murphy launched an attack TV ad saying Burton's 28 years in Congress were enough. The Messer campaign believes it will benefit from the other challenger campaign attacks on Burton. Messer also believes that he is in the best position to consolidate the anti-incumbency vote behind his campaign with TV and a get-out-the-vote program.

Murphy supplied other anecdotal evidence that Burton might be in trouble. He said he made 100 calls to voters this week himself. "Not one of them said they were for Burton," Murphy said. "I've knocked on 5,000 doors in Hamilton County and I've had only five people tell me they're supporting Burton."

The campaign of Dr. John McGoff told HPI that it has made 15,000 calls to supporters and plans include commercials for two weeks at the end of the campaign. "We are going to have a TV presence," said Lou Quinto, McGoff's campaign manager. "We've got the ads in the can."

There are also two pieces of direct mail in the works that will go out next week.

McGoff came within 7 percent of Burton in the 2008 primary. Quinto indicated that McGoff will report under what he did in 2008. With two pieces of direct



U.S. Rep. Dan Burton (center) has not been drawing big crowds at his town halls. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)





mail ready to drop beginning next week and two weeks of planned TV at the end of the campaign, McGoff will be a later comer to the broadcast assault on Burton.

Brose McVey told HPI on Wednesday that while Messer and Murphy have television presence now, he doesn't believe their buys have created the "buzz."

McVey explained, "I'm not hearing people talk about their ads. I'm getting the sense that we're still in that calm before the storm, but only the calm is going to extend further than many of us expected."

McVey also noted that despite many columns and editorials complaining about Burton in the Indianapolis Star, that newspaper has not covered the race much to date. The lack of continued press coverage is partly to blame for a lack of interest, McVey said, and will probably help Burton.

McVey said he hopes to "scrape together" some broadcast TV by the end of the campaign.

McVey also suggested that Messer's campaign may have violated FEC laws by sending letters to McGoff and McVey campaign supporters. McVey said several of his supporters were contemplating filing a complaint.

Where does this race stand?

Despite the dramatic erosion of Burton establishment support, we don't believe any of the challengers have consolidated enough support and momentum to deny Burton a 15th term. That's not to say it won't happen, with Messer and Murphy (in that order) being the most likely to build that kind of scenario. **Horse Race Status: Leans Burton**

## 2ND CD: Donnelly kicks off jobs tour

U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly is pushing legislation intended to help businesses hire more workers, compete fairly with Chinese operations and make sure illegal immigrants don't fill jobs that should be for legal U.S. residents (Allen, South Bend Tribune). One piece of the package aims to stimulate hiring by offering tax refunds to employers in counties where the unemployment rate is at least 8.5 percent. Under the Targeted Job Creation and Business Investment Act, which Donnelly introduced March 25, businesses that hire more workers this year would receive a tax refund equal to 15 percent of new wage costs. Next year the refund would be 10 percent. The bill also would renew tax credits for research and development costs and make permanent two deductions for equipment expenses. Donnelly called the bill's elements "basic nuts-and-bolts ideas that lead to jobs" during a news conference Wednesday at trailer maker Wells Cargo in Elkhart. "These are not academic concepts," he said. "These are concepts coming from the manufacturers in our district." Donnelly is co-sponsoring two other jobs-related bills in Congress. The Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act attempts to neutralize effects of

China's currency manipulation. Donnelly said the Chinese government has undervalued its currency by as much as 40 percent to lure manufacturing operations. "It has been used as an economic tool by China to take our jobs," he said. "All I'm asking is that the field be fair."

"At some point Congressman Donnelly must be held accountable for his track record on jobs," said Republican candidate Jackie Walorski. "Last year he voted for an \$862 billion stimulus bill that has had little immediate impact for small businesses and working families. Two weeks ago, he voted for a \$1 trillion dollar government takeover of our health care system paid for by taxes and fees on those small businesses making them all the more reluctant to hire new workers. On issue after issue, time after time, Rep. Donnelly has voted against keeping government spending in check, against unshackling small businesses from government intrusion, and against getting Hoosiers back to work," said Walorski. "It's time Hoosiers hold Rep. Donnelly and Nancy Pelosi accountable for their abysmal record on jobs."

## 7th CD: May endorsed by councilors

All Republican City County councilors this week endorsed Carlos May to be the Republican party's nominee for the 7th District congressional seat. May is already the slated candidate of Marion County Republicans, but this endorsement carries extra significance as there are two candidates challenging May despite the party's decision to endorse him.

"Carlos May brings new leadership, new enthusiasm, and a new vision for the office of Congress and will be the type of representative that citizens of the Indianapolis area deserve," said Ryan Vaughn, president of the City-County Council. Vaughn said May has proven his dedication as a public servant to the city. "He is the best and most qualified nominee and will make an excellent U.S congressman."

## 8th CD: Bucshon starts TV ad campaign

Dr. Larry Bucshon, seeking the 8th CD GOP nomination, began his TV ad campaign on Tuesday. In the ad, Bucshon faces the camera and says, "In the military we listen as if our life depends on it. As a heart surgeon, listening is critical to my patients. But Washington is not listening. I'll fight to reduce wasteful government spending, balance the federal budget and reduce the national debt. I will always fight for you."

## 9th CD: Young goes up on TV

Indiana Right to Life has endorsed Mike Sodrel. Republican Todd Young told HPI that he has a TV cable buy and will have more than \$300,000 to use on his primary race against former Congressman Mike Sodrel.



"We'll use every penny," Young said.

The Young campaign points to a March poll released by Mike Sodrel's campaign that showed him trailing U.S. Rep. Baron Hill 43-42 percent. It was contrasted by a SurveyUSA poll in January that showed Sodrel defeating Hill 49-41 percent. "If you believe those polls, Sodrel is actually losing support," said Ryan Burchfield, Young's campaign manager.

Sodrel, Young and Travis Hankins - who is executing a yard sign campaign - will debate at 7 p.m. Saturday night at the Jennings County Fairgrounds.

Young is running TV ads and is dropping a couple of pieces of direct mail.

U.S. Rep. Baron Hill was at Community Action of Southern Indiana on Monday to see how more than \$1.4 million in stimulus funding is helping the public (Lammers, News & Tribune). CASI is set to launch its Early Head Start Project beginning May 3 that will provide aid to 12 pregnant women and 60 children for a two-year period. Assistance will come in the form of educational programs, socialization opportunities, nutritional health and prenatal programs and monitoring of children from birth to 3 years old and their parents for two years.

The program's funds - through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act - are specifically designated to be spent in a certain manner. Start-up funding for the program totaled \$235,086. Operating funds were \$216,000 and training totaled \$32,400 for the first year of the program. In its second year, the grant will pay \$648,000 in operating expenses and \$16,000 for training. But beyond two-years, funding has not been guaranteed.

"We are really hoping this will last more than two years," said Joy Shanks, director of CASI's Early Head Start Program. "We just feel like there is a real need in our community for early head-start."

While touring Afghanistan in February, Rep. Hill was convinced the war on terror must continue (Suddeath, News & Tribune). When visiting VFW Post 3281 Internet Cafe in New Albany on Monday, Hill was persuaded that the computer lab also holds a tangible purpose. "I know exactly how the soldiers in Afghanistan can take advantage of this," Hill said. The cafe was funded through donations, including a \$5,000 contribution from the city, \$2,500 from the Horseshoe Foundation of Floyd County and \$500 from a Louisville attorney. "I don't get impressed by things very often, but I'm impressed by this," Hill said. **Primary Horse Race:** Leans Sodrel

### HD30: Herrell's horse called into question

The Kokomo Perspective has raised questions about a horse, Hoosier Kingdom, owned by State Rep. Ron Herrell. Howard County Republican Party Chairman Craig Dunn thinks that Herrell should disclose to the public his

horseracing activities on the Statement of Economic Interests form that legislators have to complete each year.

Herrell claims that he has consulted with legal counsel and he hasn't done anything wrong by not disclosing the information on that form. The Statement of Economic Interests is a list of 10 questions asked of legislators to provide transparency about who legislators receive money from.

There are several questions on that form that could apply to Herrell's situation, including: "List the name of every sole proprietorship or professional practice operated by you or your spouse and the nature of the business; List the name of every partnership and limited liability company of which you or your spouse are a member and the nature of the business." Herrell responded "N/A" to both questions.

After reading an Aug. 6, 2009, article by Neil Milbert in the Chicago Tribune, Dunn is calling for Herrell to answer differently. That article explained how Herrell acquired his most recent horse, Hoosier Kingdom, and how he met the horse's two other co-owners.

The article said: "Doctors from our area came to lobby about different things I had found out; (one doctor's wife is a psychiatrist who uses horses sometimes in her therapy. We were talking about insurance reimbursement for doctors and stuff like that. After awhile I said, 'Doctor, enough of this. Let's talk about horses.' He asked if I had horses and I told him I had a racehorse."

According to the Tribune article, a few days later, Herrell got a call from the two, asking Herrell if he wanted to be a "trainer and partner."

"It's a non-issue. I asked legal counsel, and they said I don't have to list it," Herrell told the Kokomo Perspective. "It's not a registered business or LLC or anything else. My son and I own a tractor together. Do I have to list that? The reason I checked into it was I wanted to make sure. There is no place to list it. Two former representatives - Bob Alderman and Bob Kuzman - used to have standard bred horses together. I asked them. They never had to list it."

Herrell's response did not sit well with Dunn. "He was quoted as calling them lobbyists," said Dunn. "I looked at the disclosure reports. The disclosure reports I believe are written in as close to English as you can possibly get. It doesn't say with lobbyist; it just wants to know every business you are involved with. He has a business. He said that he made thousands of dollars after their first horse."

Dunn said it can't be any clearer than it is. "When you read the Chicago Tribune article, it is clear they were down in Indianapolis lobbying the legislature and when they finished that, they started talking horses. I have no idea if that is nefarious, but nobody will if that is not fully disclosed." ❖



## Brizzi, Ballard end up in the crosshairs

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The power centers of Indianapolis Republican politics went through an unforgettable 24-hour period this week with Mayor Greg Ballard being accused of "blatant racism" while a potential GOP successor to Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi called for the incumbent to resign.

Republican prosecutor candidate Mark Massa Wednesday called on prosecutor Brizzi to resign. "I believe the prosecuting attorney should inspire public confidence," Massa said, "and not cynicism. I'm very concerned about what reports like this do to public confidence. Very simply, you cannot have a prosecutor taking a 50-percent interest with no money down on a \$1 million office building (in a deal with) a defense attorney."

Massa was referring to reports in the Indianapolis Business Journal that Brizzi had purchased an Elkhart office building with no money down, then pushed for a plea deal for a client of his business partner, defense attorney Paul Page, over the objections of his own deputy prosecutors and law enforcement.

"This is not simply an academic question," Massa said. "We're starting to see the consequences of this in court."

IBJ reported that Brizzi has resisted calls from former supporters to resign, and he has a personal interest in sticking around: Brizzi will be eligible for a public pension if he finishes his current term, which ends in December. IBJ speculated last weekend that Massa might lead the call for Brizzi's resignation - particularly before Democrats Terry Curry or Greg Bowes do.

There has been no love lost between Massa and Brizzi. It was Massa who had long coveted the prosecutor's office, but was asked by the GOP hierarchy to manage Sue Anne Gilroy's unsuccessful 1999 mayoral campaign. With that defeat, some felt that Massa was unfairly burdened with the blame. He then watched as Brizzi received the mantle of the prosecutor's office three years later when Scott Newman declined a third term.

By late Wednesday afternoon, the most unlikely bookend came from Melina Kennedy, the Democrat Brizzi defeated in 2006. Kennedy called on Mayor Ballard to join Massa. "On election night in 2007, as television stations and thousands of viewers at home looked on, Greg Bal-

lard chose one person to introduce him as the next mayor: Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi," Kennedy said. "The rule of law is the basis of our system. If we lose confidence in the very person who is supposed to prosecute our laws, then our community's respect for the rule of law is deeply compromised. We are at a dangerous moment in the history of our city and we must take public corruption seriously."

Kennedy, who is seeking to challenge Ballard in 2011, added, "Mayor Ballard is uniquely positioned to influence Brizzi given the close relationship described above. Indeed, as Marion County's top Republican, and Indianapolis' top elected official, Ballard has both the ability and the duty to personally ask Brizzi to resign."

Marion County Republican Chairman Tom John and an Indianapolis Star editorial also called for Brizzi to step down.

**Brizzi told the Star** he will not resign. "It's ridiculous," he said, adding, "We're going to continue to relentlessly pursue the bad guys, and I'm not going to be persuaded by a political stunt."

Twenty-four hours earlier, Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy accused Mayor Ballard of "blatant racism" for moving Butler-Tarkington precincts to Hinkle Fieldhouse. "The move, clearly designed to disenfranchise thousands of African-American voters came just one day after the 42nd anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and in an unfortunate twist of fate, four of the 12 precincts relocated previously voted at the Martin Luther King Multi-Service Center," Treacy said. "Let's call this what it is, a blatantly racist attempt to disenfranchise thousands of African-Americans. In 2010, with an African-American president, the day after the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, I would hope that the mayor of Indianapolis would be above racially motivated political decisions, but it appears Mayor Ballard is not."

The irony of that charge is that Ballard participated in the 42nd annual Kennedy-King memorial service on Easter Sunday at Dr. MLK. Jr. Park.

**Ballard quickly retreated**, rescinding the order.

Chris Cotterill, Ballard's chief of staff and a Butler-Tarkington resident took responsibility, telling the Star he thought the change would make the process more efficient and provide a familiar place for voters to cast their ballots.

"This great idea I had wasn't that great. The intense reaction was, 'That's not more convenient,'" Cotterill said. "It makes me feel bad that anyone would attribute a racism element to it." ❖



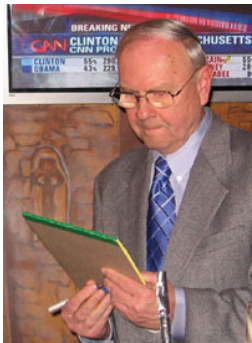
Prosecutor Carl Brizzi on election night 2007 before introducing Mayor-elect Ballard. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



## Donnelly, Ellsworth see Hoosiers split over health reforms

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Congressmen Joe Donnelly and Brad Ellsworth had to be as pleased as a Polish sausage fancier munching the perfect kielbasa sandwich this Dyngus Day.



They were loudly applauded and praised repeatedly for their votes for health care reform at the West Side Democratic & Civic Club's 80th annual Dyngus Day celebration Monday on South Bend's West Side. No sign of a backlash.

While the party faithful were energized in support of Donnelly, 2nd District Democrat from Granger who seeks re-election, and Ellsworth, 8th District Democrat from

Evansville who seeks to replace Evan Bayh in the Senate, both congressmen acknowledged that, overall, Hoosiers remain sharply split on health care reform.

"Most people are thanking me for the vote," Ellsworth said. But others are expressing disappointment, he said, with questions still asked about rumors of "death panels" and even "death camps" and claims that doctors will quit in droves.

Ellsworth said the health care reform, while not perfect, is "a step in the right direction." He said information about what actually is in the legislation will dispel wild rumors and that the endorsement of the American Medical Association should alleviate fears of widespread opposition of doctors.

Donnelly estimated that Hoosiers remain split "about half and half" over health care. But he said opposition drops among skeptics when he explains to them what actually is in the legislation. He said rumors he seeks to dispel include tales that it would diminish health care for veterans or unleash myriad IRS agents on the public.

**House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer**, D-South Bend, said passage of health care reform has rejuvenated Hoosier Democrats and will help in efforts to retain Democratic control of the Indiana House. Bauer called Gov. Mitch Daniels "petulant" for making cuts that Bauer termed unnecessary and designed politically by Daniels to blame the health care legislation.

Dyngus Day, the Monday after Easter, is celebrated here not only in Polish-American neighborhoods but

throughout St. Joseph County and in neighboring counties as well. Its roots go back to the mass christenings when Christianity came to Poland more than a thousand years ago, in the year 966.

Traditions carried from the old country included dousing with water, with young maidens the target of that and also of the switching of their legs with pussy willow branches, a method of flirting.

**No young ladies were** doused with water or hit with pussy willow branches Monday, but local tradition continued with mounds of kielbasa served along with liquid refreshments at Dyngusing events and with polka music featured in the evening.

The South Bend observance, always coming shortly before Indiana's May primary election, has had a distinctly Democratic flavor, largely because Polish-American neighborhoods have voted heavily Democratic. Historically, the wildest Dyngus Day was when Bobby Kennedy took the event by storm amid the presidential primary campaign in 1968. His triumph here and in the statewide primary was just a month before his assassination.

But Republicans don't just sit back and let Democrats have the day.

State Rep. Jackie Walorski, who appears certain to be Donnelly's Republican opponent in the congressional race, zipped through the crowd at the West Side Democratic & Civic Club just before the introduction of candidates.

Asked if she hoped to be introduced, Walorski acknowledged the Democratic Club tradition of only introducing Democrats and said that she had come only "to say, 'Hi.'"

Walorski, mounting a major challenge to Donnelly, is calling for repeal of the health care reform legislation. She was greeted in what is called "the friendly spirit of Dyngus," even though she was not welcomed to the stage for an introduction.

**Republicans also sought** attention at other events, including a breakfast fundraiser and a Dyngus lunch at an Irish restaurant, Fiddler's Hearth. Attendance at the lunch was less than brisk. But the GOP made clear it was not surrendering the day.

The only candidate to rival the loud and long applause for Donnelly and Ellsworth at the packed West Side Democratic & Civic Club was a South Bend candidate, Pete Buttigieg (pronounced "Boota-judge") who announced he will seek the party's nomination for state treasurer. The Harvard graduate and Rhodes Scholar appears already to have solid statewide support for the nomination, to be determined at the Democratic State Convention. ❖

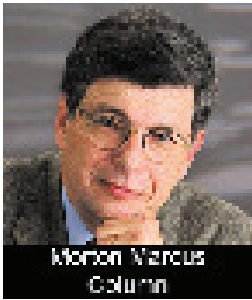
**Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune. His column appears regularly in Howey Politics Indiana.**



## Serial entrepreneurs vs. business ownership

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Many years ago Winslow Spoon decided he did not want to work for a big company. He did not like taking orders from people who knew less or had less vision than he did about the business. He felt he could do a better job, earn more for his family, and have less hassle in his life if he went out on his own.



Morton Marcus  
Column

Thus, Winslow started his own business with his own money and some borrowed from his parents and an aunt. He worked many hours to build the business where he now has more than 20 employees. The business has survived the recent economic crisis and looks to be OK for the foreseeable future.

The Spoons live well, but not extravagantly in southeastern Indiana. They see the Reds and the Bengals in Cincinnati from time-to-time and get to Indianapolis once or twice a year for shopping and entertainment.

Winslow thinks of himself as an entrepreneur, the rock upon which America is built. He fits the classical definition of an entrepreneur: a person who organizes, operates, and takes the risks associated with an enterprise. Nonetheless, some say Winslow stopped being an entrepreneur many years ago. Today, they say, he is just a business-owner and no longer an entrepreneur.

Winslow's critics believe that an entrepreneur is one who actively undertakes new efforts, a person who might be called a serial business innovator (SBI). The SBI often thrives on getting a business going, making it a success and then selling it off by taking the firm public, selling it to private investors or to another firm. Often the SBI turns around and starts another business enjoying the challenges of a start-up activity.

**The SBI seeks to expand**, to diversify, and to accept new risks. The business owner, by contrast, often remains in the same place, doing the same thing year-after-year. While the SBI seeks new seas and new ports, the business owner lies at anchor, subject to the tides.

Winslow should not be thought of as an inferior person because he doesn't venture into new businesses. He and other steady business owners are truly the rocks of our economy. We depend on them for our daily services. They provide the distinctiveness for our communities. But rocks are fundamentally stable entities. Their importance is

unquestioned, but they move and change only when subjected to earth-shaking events or the forces of persistent erosion.

The steady business owner may disregard opportunities and take too few risks. This behavior may deny society important gains. When the business owner shies away from expanding or diversifying, s/he may be under-utilizing the resources, skills and knowledge already resident in the firm. This "prudence" may open the opportunities that SBIs seize.

**Serial business innovators**, by contrast, may take too many risks and squander resources. But their failures may provide important information about opportunities and lessons for others to follow. If my attempts to sell stock tips as messages in fortune cookies fail, you might recognize that such an enterprise can easily crumble. Failure is not necessarily without value.

Our economy needs both content business owners (Winslow) and aggressive entrepreneurs. Should we, however, subsidize one or the other, or both? Because the mythology of small business is strong in this country, we have massive programs that aid and favor existing small and start-up businesses. But do we have enough factual information to justify this favoritism? Or do we suffer from a Disney-syndrome where everything small is considered cute and worthy of both our sympathies and protection? ❖

**Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.**





## Soul of Hoosier hoops shifts to Butler

(This column was written prior to the Final Four)

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - I suggested to a friend on Monday night as we headed into Broad Ripple for a beer, "Let's see what's happening at Plump's Last Shot. It may be the calm before the storm."

Sure enough, the first thing I saw was Bobby Plump hunched over a table with New York Times reporter Pete Thamel, who in that day's edition characterized the Butler vs. Michigan State Final Four game as the "junior varsity" matchup. Geez, the national guys just can't wrap their minds beyond anything outside the power conferences.

I am a Butler basketball refugee with an IU degree. After I took my two young sons to their first Big 10 game up at Evanston and they watched Bobby Knight get in a shouting match with the Northwestern band and a post-game shoving match with Coach Kevin O'Neill, we turned to Butler playing at what we call the "Cathedral" and others call Hinkle Fieldhouse.

A century into the Hoosier love affair with basketball, the soul of the game has returned to Hinkle and the Butler way. This occurred on Nov. 20, 2004 a day after the infamous Indiana Pacer-Detroit Piston brawl. Up to that point, the Pacers were favorites to win the NBA title that year, a continuation of a decade of prominence that coursed from Reggie Miller's icy veins and epic battles with Spike Lee and the New York Knicks - to that 1998 showdown with Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls. Game six in that series was probably the greatest basketball game ever played on Hoosier soil.

**The soul of the game** shifts over the tides of time. It was dominated by the high school game and the single class tournament from 1910 through the early '70s, with occasional spikes coming from the Fort Wayne Pistons, Branch McCracken's early IU champions, Purdue's Rick Mount, those riveting Notre Dame-UCLA histrionics, Ruth Riley's Notre Dame/Purdue women's title era, and Larry Bird's Indiana State showdown with Magic Johnson. It shifted to Knight's Hoosiers from 1973 through 1992 with the three NCAA titles and five Final Fours.

Then came Reggie Miller's Pacers up through The Brawl, which ultimately degraded the pro game here.

**Just about every available** metric suggests that when the IHSAA ended the single class tournament in 1999, the prep game has been in atrophy. When you don't have even a sectional game at the Wigwam, something's wrong. I couldn't tell you who won the Class AA title three years ago, but I remember Cloverdale in 1966, the Argos teams with the O'Dell boys in the late '70s and Bill Patrick's Whitko Wildcats who made the Final Four. I remember the Plymouth, Warsaw, Bedford-North Lawrence, Vincennes and Connersville teams claiming winner-take-all titles from small towns.

Within a short walk of Plump's Last Shot, there were two finalists this year in Park Tudor and North Central. I asked Plump if he saw either play. Nope. Neither did I.

Now we have the Butler Way with three Sweet 16 appearances and now a Final Four within the past decade. The Bulldogs remind me of Knight's earlier teams: suffocating defense, deadly three-point shooting, free throws and smart players who graduate. They come from small Hoosier towns like Connersville, Ellettsville, Yorktown, Kokomo,

Brownsburg and there's always a hot shooting guard from New Castle. The 'Dogs have a prodigy coach in Brad Stevens and a regular pipeline of NCAA Academic All-Americans. The players that come to the Cathedral stay for four years and leave with a degree. The Bulldogs are the antithesis of cheatin' John Calipari's Kentucky colossus that was sidelined hours after Butler advanced last weekend.

**In essence, everything** that's right about basketball comes together at the Cathedral. There is no place I would rather watch a game than at Hinkle, where my beloved Michigan City Elston Red Devils won it all in '66.

Everyone is asking Bobby Plump about this new "Milan of America." But he insists - and I agree - that Butler should not be the underdog this weekend, just as myth has it that the Milan Indians of '54 were in the same role. They had actually been to the 1953 Finals. But the story line of David slaying Goliath was too sensational to dismiss from Sports Illustrated to Hollywood.

"I think they'll win it all," said Plump, who also starred for Butler. "They've got a great system, they're just getting better players these days."

Yes, the heart and soul of the Hoosier game at the century mark beats loudly, proudly and with great integrity at Hinkle. ❖





**Rich James, Post-Tribune:** Does Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels want to be president? Yep. Is Daniels overtly seeking the 2012 Republican nomination for president? No. Is he working behind the scenes to let the party know he is ready to be courted? I highly suspect he is. Besides, why do you think he rides a Harley in parades other than to broaden his political appeal. Would most Hoosiers like to see Daniels become president? I'd have to say that is a yes as well. Although if you posed that question just in this part of the state, the answer likely would be a resounding no. And one of those who would work hardest against Daniels would be Lake County Commissioner Gerry Scheub, who said, "Daniels uses us as his poster child for getting ahead politically." Scheub is referring to a couple of things: 1. Daniels' insistence that Lake County adopt a local option income tax, and, 2. Daniels' comments a year ago about government in Lake County. The governor, during an appearance in Griffith, said: "You are entitled to all the lousy, crummy graft-ridden government you want and are willing to pay for. "I guess after five years of trying to speak always to the positive and encourage people to move in a positive direction, that I'm trying to express candidly my thought that I'm a little tired of waiting." Mitch was upset because Lake County's legislators refused to consider any of the government reform recommendations in the Kernan/Shepard report. Ever since essentially calling us all crooks in Lake County, Mitch has pretty much been a stranger. Maybe it's simply that he has been so busy working on that presidential thing. I actually think Mitch's campaign for president started a few years ago when he started balancing the state budget on the backs of the taxpayers. But be forewarned. The door has been left open for more irrational behavior during his last two-plus years as governor. He's taken care of the guns. Are God and gays next? ❖

**Joe Posnanski, Sports Illustrated:** What I think makes Indianapolis the perfect Final Four locale is ... well, it's Indiana. And yes, I buy into all the Indiana basketball stuff -- the Hoosiers poster of the sneakers outside with Indiana farmland in the background is enough to get me to tear up a little bit. This Final Four -- with little Butler playing in its hometown in some sort of Hoosiers remake while Bob Huggins leads his impossibly tough West Virginia team against irrepressible Duke -- is something close to perfect. It should only happen here. Yes, I do buy in. Not so long ago, I went on a basketball tour of the great state of Indiana. The main reason was Lisa. Well, there were other reasons too, of course -- like the story of Milan High (and the not entirely dissimilar movie "Hoosiers" that it sparked), the story of Larry Bird in French Lick shooting baskets in

driving rainstorms on the court behind his high school, the story of Oscar Robertson in Indianapolis learning the game by shooting worn and flat tennis balls at a basket in the projects where he lived, the story of a young John Wooden making free throw after free throw in Martinsville. There are just magical sports places. You think about just some of the baseball players from Alabama: Hank Aaron, Willie Mays, Ozzie Smith, Billy Williams, Willie McCovey, Don Sutton and Early Wynn, among others. Or think about the quarterbacks from Pennsylvania -- how could one state give us Joe Montana, John Unitas, Dan Marino, Joe Namath, Jim Kelly, Johnny Lujack, Babe Parilli, George Blanda and, hey, Matt Ryan and Matt Schaub? Indiana is just one of many places that takes pride in its hoops -- North Carolina, Kentucky, Kansas, New York City. But, yeah, I do believe there is something a little bit different about Indiana. Lisa was a reporter at a newspaper where I once worked, and she would play basketball with us sometimes. She was pretty good -- but what really stood out about her game was that she had the perfect jump shot form. Textbook perfect. Left foot forward. Elbow straight and close to the body. Hand under the ball. Wrist flick at the end. She wasn't especially quick or tall. But if she was open, she did not miss. "Where did you learn to shoot like that?" we would ask her. "I'm from Indiana," was her simple response. ❖

**John Kass, Chicago Tribune:** What's happening to President Barack Obama, America's No. 1 White Sox fan, is just absolutely terrible. OK, sure, the poor guy committed a grievous baseball sin. But now he's taking a beating, the kind Cubs ace Carlos Zambrano would give his own catcher, or maybe his manager. It almost reminds me of the time CBS' Katie Couric sweetly asked Sarah Palin what she liked to read. Palin drew a blank and reporters never let her live it down. But I say, let's leave the poor president alone. After all, he's a White Sox fan, isn't he? Obama's troubles started Monday after he threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Washington Nationals home opener. He threw lefty and missed the plate, which wasn't surprising. What was surprising is what happened after he joined announcer Rob Dibble in the booth for some happy talk. Dibble commented on Obama's hat -- a nicely faded black Sox cap -- which the president proudly wore on the mound reminding all of us once again of the heroic team from Chicago that has actually won a World Series in the past 100 years. Dibble asked the fateful question, one so easy that Hawk Harrelson would have called it a "can of corn." Dibble: "Who was one of your favorite White Sox players growing up?" Obama: "You know ... uh ... I thought that ... you know ... the truth is, that a lot of the Cubs I liked too." Ouch. ❖





## Gallup sees strong anti-incumbent trend

WASHINGTON - Fewer than half of Americans would reelect their member of Congress, according to a new Gallup Poll. Forty-nine percent of the 968 registered voters surveyed would vote to reelect the incumbent from their district. Forty percent said their member does not deserve reelection. Asked if most members deserve reelection, only 28 percent said yes. Sixty-five percent did not believe most members of Congress deserve to return to Washington. The poll, released late Wednesday, shows a strong anti-incumbent swing just in the past year, with the percentage of those who said most members do not deserve reelection spiking from the low 50s up to 65 percent. "Voters' anti-incumbent mood is like nothing Gallup has seen in the past four midterm election cycles," Gallup's Lydia Saad wrote in her analysis of the survey. "While that could have a negative impact on incumbents from both parties, the greater exposure of the Democrats by virtue of their majority status means greater risk for their candidates," she wrote. "Additionally, both parties have seen their majority control of Congress wiped out in midterm elections with less anti-incumbent fervor than is seen today. Simply put, the party in power seems to take the brunt of voters' wrath in these situations."



## Roberts calls for separation of powers

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts avoided controversy in remarks Wednesday to Indiana University law students -- unlike an appearance last

month in Alabama when he made headlines by complaining about President Barack Obama's public criticism of a court decision (McCleery, Indianapolis Star). Still, Roberts managed to bolster the same point he pressed earlier: that Americans should guard against encroachment by Congress and the White House upon the high court's functions. Roberts, who has Indiana roots, was the featured speaker at the James P. White Lecture on Legal Education at the Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis. This time, he referred to history to make his case about the proper relationship between the court and other branches of government. In 1937, Roberts said, President Franklin D. Roosevelt tried to force the retirement of justices who opposed some of his New Deal proposals on constitutional grounds. "He didn't like the idea the court was trying to block his efforts to lead the country out of the Great Depression," Roberts said. A "free and independent judiciary" is important to the nation, he added. Judges, for their part, should respect the roles of the executive and legislative branches, and stick to their responsibility of acting as neutral arbitrators of the law, he added. "You have to ask yourself: Is it something for the court to decide, or is it something for one of the other branches to decide?"

## Obama, Medvedev sign nuke reduction treaty

PRAGUE - Reaching anew for peace, President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on Thursday signed a treaty to shrink their nations' nuclear arsenals, the biggest such pact between the former Cold War foes in a generation (Associated Press). Tenaciously negotiated by even the leaders themselves, the treaty commits their nations to slash the number of strategic nuclear warheads by one-third and more than halve the number of missiles, submarines and bombers carrying them.

In a lavish chamber within the Czech capital's presidential castle complex, the two presidents put their names to history. The treaty must be now be ratified by Russia's parliament and by the U.S. Senate, where the White House lobbying effort is under way. "Today is an important milestone for nuclear security and nonproliferation, and for U.S.-Russia relations," Obama said. Medvedev hailed the signing as a historic event that would launch a new chapter of cooperation between the countries.

## Right to Life won't endorse Democrats

EVANSVILLE - The Indiana Right to Life Political Action Committee today announced that it has formally adopted a resolution denying endorsements to all Democratic candidates as a direct result of recent passage of the pro-abortion health care reform bill with support from Indiana congressmen Brad Ellsworth, Joe Donnelly, and Baron Hill. In addition, Indiana Right to Life is encouraging pro-life organizations around the nation to follow its lead in sending a message to the Democratic Party and its leadership that its support for abortion is unacceptable. In 2008, Indiana Right to Life PAC adopted a similar but non-universal policy when it opted to withhold endorsements only from Democratic candidates for Congress or the Indiana House of Representatives. The new resolution extends the no-endorsement policy to all Democratic candidates. "Our leadership anguished over this decision," notes IRTL-PAC chairman Mike Fichter. "Had Democrats like Brad Ellsworth held firm in opposing federal funding for abortion in the health care bill, we likely would have rewarded such action with a bipartisan endorsement policy. Ellsworth's collapse under pressure from the White House and Speaker Pelosi, as well as the collapse of his colleagues Joe Donnelly and Baron Hill, leaves us with no alterna-





tive. Leadership matters, and the reality is that Democratic leaders are advancing an abortion agenda at an alarming rate that will only be checked by a Republican majority." Fichter adds that Democrats who wish to see a return of a bipartisan endorsement policy must work to change the party's platform on abortion and to change its party leadership. "The ball is in the Democratic Party's court," says Fichter. "As long as it continues to advance an abortion agenda, its candidates will not receive our support."

### **Ellsworth has no regrets over health vote**

INDIANAPOLIS - Wednesday, as Ellsworth stopped in Indianapolis as part of his "Indiana Works" tour, in which he talks to businesses around the state, he acknowledged that the vote could cost him support at the polls. "You have to assume that it would," he said (Indianapolis Star). But, he added, "it may also gain votes from other areas." And, he said, he has no regrets. "I'm glad we took it on," he said of the issue. "It was a debate that needed to happen. Although the bill's not perfect, and it's certainly been controversial, to sit back and do nothing was not an option."

### **Sen. Klobuchar to keynote JJ Dinner**

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Democratic Party announced that U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota will headline the annual Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner on May 14. The party will also hold a \$500-a-head VIP reception honoring outgoing U.S. Senator Evan Bayh prior to the dinner.

### **Portage ROTC can't participate in Tea Party**

PORTAGE - Members of the Portage High School JROTC will not be participating in an upcoming tea party event sponsored by the Northwest

Indiana Patriots (Times of Northwest Indiana). The decision was taken out of the hands of the Portage Township School Board on Wednesday when the district received notification from the Marine Corps JROTC headquarters in Washington that directed the high school group not to participate in the April 14 event. The board canceled its Wednesday afternoon meeting to debate the JROTC's participation in the event. Second Lt. Brian Villiard, training and education command spokesman from the MC JROTC headquarters in Washington, said Wednesday the tea party appears, from its flier, to be a political rally. The Department of Defense directive 1344.10 prohibits the participation of any armed forces personnel, whether active duty or JROTC, from participating in such an event, he said. "We want to avoid the appearance of the military leaning towards one side or another, whether it is a conservative or liberal group," said Villiard, adding that the military must remain independent and unbiased when it comes to political activities. Faith Jones, founder of the Northwest Indiana Patriots, said she "respectfully" disagrees with the decision. "We are not a political party. We are about educating concerned citizens on their constitutional rights. We are nonpartisan," said Jones, adding she was disappointed the board meeting was canceled because she wanted to address what she feels is incorrect information disseminated about her group. "They have taken away our ability to speak," she said.

### **475 arrested in state DUI blitz**

INDIANAPOLIS - A statewide police crackdown on unlawful driving in Indiana between March 5 and March 21 led to about 475 alcohol-related arrests (Associated Press). Law enforcement officers logged more than 9,000 hours of overtime during the effort aimed at impaired, unre-

strained and aggressive driving. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute says about 12,000 citations were issued for violations that included failure to use seat belts, speeding, red-light running. More than 500 criminal arrests were made for various offenses such as illegal drug possession, outstanding warrants, and felony DUI. There were 424 criminal misdemeanor arrests made.

### **2,000 to be hired for conservation corps**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana's Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps is accepting applications for about 2,000 summer jobs with the Departments of Transportation and Natural Resources (Associated Press). The corps will hire people ages 18 to 24 for jobs paying \$8.50 per hour and lasting about 16 weeks. Some hired as supervisors will work 18 to 24 weeks and earn \$9.50 per hour. All of the positions will begin no earlier than May 3 and end by October 2. The state is using about \$12 million in federal stimulus funds for the jobs, which are open to residents of all but one of Indiana's 92 counties. Marion County uses its portion of stimulus funds on a separate summer jobs program.

### **Indiana lags in Social Security disability claims**

BELLEVILLE, Ill. - Indiana ranks among the worse in the nation in backlogs of Social Security Disability Insurance claims, according to a new report, exacerbating the financial straits of thousands of Hoosiers in desperate need (Straub, Evansville Courier & Press). Allsup, a Belleville, Ill., company that offers disability compensation services, reports that individuals seeking Social Security assistance in Indiana wait an average of 537.4 days for their applications to be processed. That compares with a national average of 442 days.