

# THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



## The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

The Howey Political Report is published 40 times a year by NewsLink, Inc. The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana. It neither endorses candidates nor advocates positions of public policy.

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**Subscription information: \$250 annually for 40 editions via fax or first class mail. Call 317-685-0883.**

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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I could be like Jason on Friday the 13th...he just keeps coming back ....”

—Chris Wilson, McIntosh’s ‘94 campaign manager and chief Ann DeLaney antagonist, on the possibility of his working for a GOP candidate in the 10th Congressional District in 1996

# ‘96 Indiana House battles take shape

## A dozen races will determine majority

MUNCIE - The 1996 fight for control of the Indiana House of Representatives will be a struggle for 12 seats, including eight Democratic districts the Republicans won in the 1994 sea change.

The *Howey Political Report* rates seven of the 12 seats as toss-ups, meaning that if polling were to occur, those races would probably fall within the statistical margin of error. Of the eight GOP coups in 1994, three of those races are toss-ups, four are seen as leaning Democratic, and one - State Rep. Sally Rideout Lambert - is seen as a safe Democratic seat.

Several other seats are coming into play. Specifically, those of Democratic State Reps. David Copenhaver in Henry County, Barb Engle in Adams County, and Republican Bruce Munson in Muncie are rated as toss-ups. The other 88 House seats appear to be safe for incumbents or the party that holds the office.

The backdrop to whether Democrats can regain the Indiana House, now controlled by the GOP with a 55-45 majority, is the national dynamic. HPR believes if President Clinton is the perceived winner of the Congressional budget showdown, does not sustain even moderate casualties in Bosnia, and faces Sen. Bob Dole in his re-election bid, a manic-depressive electorate will continue its pendulum swing for “reform” and this would favor Democrats. Another factor favoring Democrats is if Lt. Gov. Frank O’Bannon’s gubernatorial campaign can stay within the statistical margin of error.

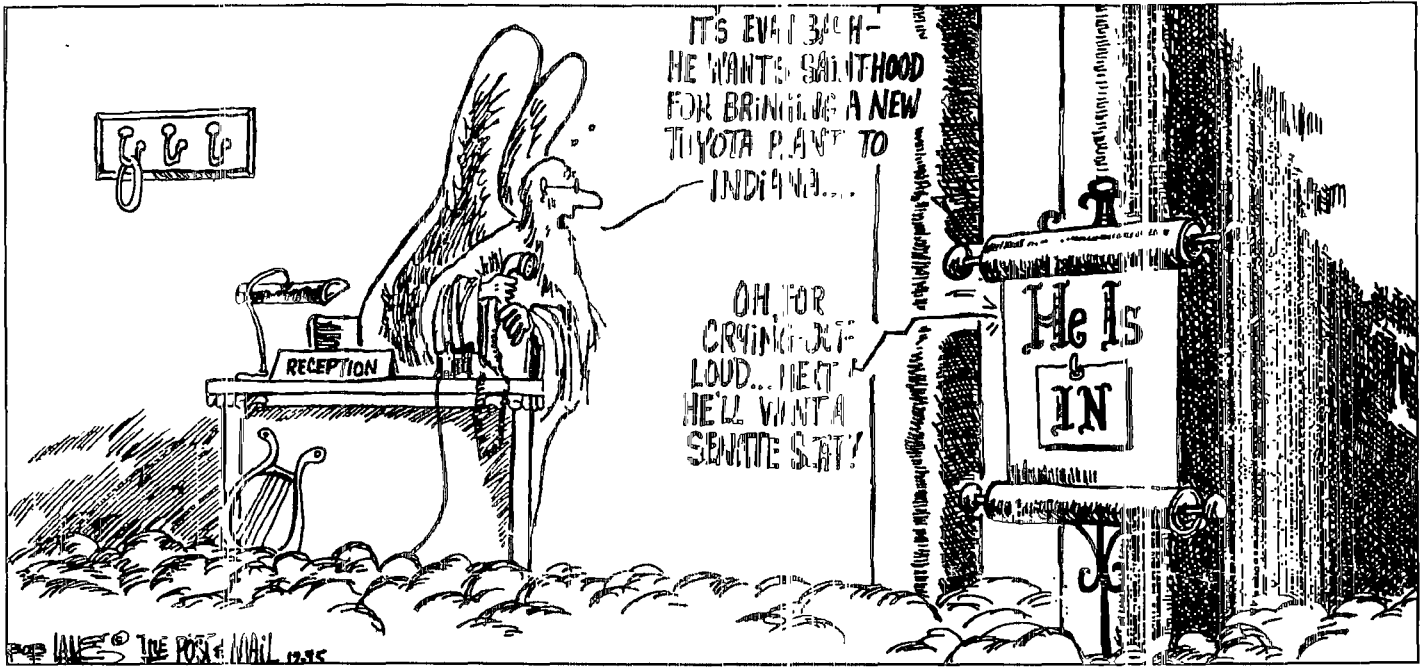
However, if Congressional Republicans can sell the fact that it forced a historic seven-year budget balancing, nominates someone other than Dole for president, and Clinton is embarrassed in Bosnia, the GOP at all levels would benefit from a “referendum” election.

HPR talked extensively with both state and local Democrat and Republican leaders and political reporters across the state to compile the first comprehensive look at the Battle for the House ‘96 in

*continued on page 2*

## INSIDE FEATURES

- **Cartoonist Bob Lang checks in with heaven** page 2
  - **HPR Interview: Borst and \$2.2 billion surplus** page 4
  - **Horse Race: The gubernatorial poll “spin”** page 6
  - **Columnists: Boston columnists on Lugar** page 7
- HPR: The perfect Christmas gift for your political animal



# HUMOR

M I L L

## Wendellisms

By Wendell Trogon, Indianapolis News

**Q.** What Washington figure absconded with \$20,000 in newly printed money?

**A.** We don't know, but he must have been an amateur.

## Devil's Dictionary

By Ambrose Bierce

**Grave, n.** A place in which the dead are laid to await the coming of a medical student.

**Happiness, n.** An agreeable sensation arising from contemplating the misery of another.

**Wedding, n.** A ceremony at which two persons undertake to become one, one undertakes to become nothing, and nothing undertakes to become supportable.

## Padfield's a "toss-up" in complex Kokomo currents

From page 1

this early stage of the campaign. Here is a seat-by-seat synopsis:

### 30TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Kokomo)

State Rep. Jon Padfield seemed to be a certain loss to the GOP majority when the 107th General Assembly went home last spring. Democrats are poised to use the issue of militias and prevailing wage against him in his big UAW city. But there are problems with that strategy. One is that while Padfield is painted as an "ultra right-winger," he doesn't come off that way in person. He is mild-mannered and intelligent and sticks to his main theme of working against government intrusion. His campaign strengths are effective use of direct mail and his "nice guy" approach in door-to-door and community group formats. He was the first legislator to hold an Internet town hall meeting. Padfield benefits from a strong Howard County GOP, where out-going chairman Bill Menges presided over the party's first mayoral victory in 16 years and, for the first time in 30 years, three Republicans sit on the city council. Plus, labor precinct Democrats simply didn't turn out seven months after the prevailing wage controversy.

Padfield's likely opponents will be 1992

Senate nominee Ron Herrell, who ran close to popular State Sen. Steve Johnson in Howard County, or at-large City Councilwoman Cindy Dunlap, who has run excellent direct mail campaigns and finished second in both the '95 primary and general elections. She has an uncanny knack for getting the job done.

Padfield is perceived to have hurt himself on the ISTEP challenge and must seek reelection in a 55/45 percent Democratic district. But if labor stays home, the GOP organization turns out, and Padfield gets core support from conservatives, Citizens Concerned for the Constitution and home schoolers, he could surprise many. As one GOP operative explained, "There are a lot of gun racks up there."

**1994: Padfield 4,589, Howard 7,363**  
**HPR forecast: Toss-up**

### 34TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Delaware)

Democrats may have blundered when they split up their strongholds between the 34th and 35th districts, making both volatile. The 34th is like gas on fire, having sent Billy Linville, Fred Winger, Ray Scheele and Bill Elliott to Indianapolis in the last 10 years before a black Republican, State Rep. James Vanleer, won in '94. Republicans note that he was one of the first blacks nationally to win while carrying black

precincts. Democrats say he has been a rubber stamp for GOP policies. The fractured Delaware County Democratic party appears to be coalescing behind firefighter and labor leader Rolla "Tiny" Adams. He might face a challenge from County Councilman Todd Donati, one of three family members who hold public office, so voters are used to the name.

Winger abandoned this district to run for the Senate in 1994, fearing he would lose, so Vanleer's victory was startling. Many observers are figuring this seat will have to go back to the Democrats.

**1994: Vanleer 8,491, Elliott 7,522**

**HPR forecast: Toss-up**

### 35th HOUSE DISTRICT (Delaware)

State Rep. Bruce Munson holds the seat of former Speaker J. Roberts Dailey. It is a swing district that includes Ball State University. He barely won it in 1992 against Patricia Eddy, then won comfortably in 1994 (with the tidal wave). By the end of the 1995 legislative session, Munson was questioning House leadership tactics for not cutting some slack for members in tough districts.

Munson will likely face either Eddy or Sue Errington, president of the Delaware County Council and associate director of Planned Parenthood. She is an independent Democrat and a primary matchup with Eddy might provide fireworks. In Munson's favor is the county Democratic Party, which has lost two straight mayoral races, and saw three dissident Democrats win council seats last month.

**1994: Munson 9,505, Eddy 7,694**

**HPR forecast: Toss-up**

### 43RD HOUSE DISTRICT (Vigo County)

State Rep. John Kimmel has won the respect of Democratic office holders in this Terre Haute district and counts a significant number of Democrats as friends and supporters. He is given high marks for helping to secure an airport development zone for Hulman Regional Airport.

Democrats tell HPR they expect a tough battle. Two seeking to challenge Kimmel include Cathy Wagner, a political novice who lost a city council race last May, or Vigo County Council-

man Clyde Kersey.

Organized labor in Vigo County was stoked up over the prevailing wage issue and Wagner promises to talk about working families, teachers and small businesses. Labor-backed candidates won all but one Terre Haute City Council seat last month.

**1994: Kimmel 8,549, Kearns 7,092**

**HPR Forecast: Toss-up**

### 46th HOUSE DISTRICT (Vigo, Clay, Owen)

This will be a rematch between Vern Tinchler and State Rep. David Lohr. The district is conservative, but if Democrats turn out, Tinchler will come back. A bricklayer by trade, Tinchler is been actively trying to reactivate labor since days after his defeat.

Lohr is a true maverick with a penchant for going after "fringe" issues. Last week, Lohr challenged the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* to a public debate over the ISTEP challenge.

Lohr has a significant core of conservative supporters. He will be painted as an extremist. One local issue that might hurt Lohr is a proposed bypass around the city.

**1994: Lohr 8,160, Tinchler 8,034**

**HPR forecast: Leans D.**

### 54TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Henry County)

Democrat State Rep. David Copenhaver succeeded the popular Doug Kinser. But before him, Republicans Mike Rogers and Tom Coleman held this seat forever. With Kinser gone, Henry County Chairman Tom Saunder and Clerk Linda Ratliff are expected to seek the nomination. The early edge in the GOP primary would go to Saunder, but remember: he endorsed David McIntosh before the GOP primary and Bill Fraizer carried the county. As for the general, one GOP operative told HPR, "Our biggest obstacle with this seat was Doug Kinser."

**1994: Kinser 9,176, Razor 7,853**

**HPR forecast: Toss-up**

### 67TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Greensburg)

Democrats believe they can defeat freshman State Rep. Cleo Duncan. Ed Goble is expected to give it another shot, but state Democrats are talking about Victoria Kellerman,

# TICKER T A P E

## Play of the Week

Indiana Democrats, who have assembled a 1996 coordinated campaign committee that will be headed by big names: Jeff Modisett, Pam Carter and Mike Harmless.



*Mike Harmless will not be running for either the 7th Congressional District or for lieutenant governor because he was appointed executive director of the state party. "I've spoken with Frank and we haven't exactly discussed that, but with the commitment I'm making, I'd say it's unlikely," Harmless said (Eric Bernsee, Greencastle Banner-Graphic).*

HPR asked Harmless if it was too late for a Democrat to get into a 7th CD race against U.S. Rep. John Myers. "I don't think so," Harmless said. "What we did in 1994 was bring the 7th into the mix. With the number of people expected to retire, it makes Myers even more vulnerable." Myers defeated Harmless in 1994 by a 65-35 percent margin.

In a story HPR broke in last week's edition, GOP operative Brose McVey will not challenge U.S. Rep. Dan Burton in the Republican primary. McVey said his chief concern was that Republicans will be enduring

*continued on page 5*

*continued on page 8*

# Borst sees \$2.2 billion surplus, but tax reform won't come 'til 1997

INDIANAPOLIS - The phone rang, and it was State Sen. Larry Borst, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and, in the vacuum of House budgetary leadership, the main man in Hoosier fiscal concerns.

The surplus, Borst announced, is going to be \$2.2 billion. In an exclusive HPR interview, Borst predicted no tax reform in the 1996 short session, a probable sea change in 1997, and expressed his views on the upcoming gubernatorial campaign.

**HPR:** Will there be any meaningful tax reform in the 1997 legislative session, or will politics cast a long, long shadow?

**Borst:** Well, it depends on what you call meaningful. Any kind is meaningful, I suppose. I don't think that's been decided and I know from our standpoint in the Republican Senate, there have been discussions on what to do. I think at this particular time we're at the point of not doing anything; waiting to see what the governor may have to suggest. Two point two billion dollars is what the surplus is going to come in at and that's an awful lot of money to sit on. But we've had the idea for well over a year that we're going to have a billion dollar surplus, and by golly, we came out of the session with a billion dollar surplus. It came in at \$1.3 billion on June 30th. The reason our caucus wasn't concerned about saving that money was because we were concerned about what Washington was going to do to us. But on the other hand, we also knew that property tax revisions should be attended to and we were willing to allow the gubernatorial candidates to come up with a plan. Right now, we really haven't changed our attitude any. My attitude is I don't have a problem letting these guys out there running for governor come back and tell their constituents just what they plan to do with it. Whether they plan to reduce taxes, or improve schools, or build roads, or give it all to the teacher's retirement.

**HPR:** But the real sea change in taxes will come in 1997, right?

**Borst:** Absolutely. When you say meaningful, that covers a lot of ground. Now property

tax in some areas is the No. 1 problem. In other areas, it doesn't mean a whole lot because it's not that high. But to have some sort of realignment or readjustment in property tax, the leadership has to come from the governor. Legislators can introduce all the bills they want to, but when it comes to property tax, somebody has to raise (them) some place to substitute and that won't be done without the leadership of the governor.

**HPR:** Would you prefer that substitute to come in sales tax? Or income tax?

**Borst:** I had a whole bunch of bills I was going to introduce this year to do away with a portion of the property tax that goes for schools. But, like I say, a funny thing happened. No. 1, we had a billion dollar surplus and No. 2, there were a bunch of Republicans over in the House, so I didn't introduce the bills. If I had, Bauer would have jumped up and down and said "Borst wants to raise taxes." So all the research I did - I spent the whole year, 500 pages - and our friend from Kokomo (State Rep. James Buck) - he's going to go one step further. He wants to eliminate property taxes, period. I don't think it can be done.

**HPR:** You have to replace it with something.

**Borst:** To get back to your original question, is there going to be anything done in this session? I doubt it. I don't see Gov. Bayh suggesting tax reform and I don't see the legislature taking it up in 60 days. I do see a long way around it and I have personally sat down with all the gubernatorial candidates and given them the research, the whole book. The only thing I've tried to impress to them is don't get yourself backed in a corner and commit yourself to no new taxes. If they want to say, "I want increase taxes to implement new programs," fine. But if they say no new tax increase, they've taken themselves out of the ballgame in property tax relief.

**HPR:** What is your sense of the impending load shifting from Washington?

**Borst:** I had gone to a columnist friend this summer and we figured out what was going

## HPR INTERVIEW

**"To have some sort of realignment or readjustment in property tax, the leadership has to come from the governor..."**

**- Sen. Borst**



to happen to Indiana if they went on this seven-year balanced budget. So last week, I got back into it and made my calls and I don't think it's going to cost us anything. I think, frankly, we're going to get more money out of Washington with the seven-year balanced budget than we thought we were. We're going to have a surplus in Medicaid.

**HPR:** Oh?

**Borst:** We're going to have a surplus in some of the other programs. We're going to be cut in education. We aren't going to be cut on highways at all. The only thing that will be cut from highways is the demonstration projects - that pork barrel project all the Congressmen go through. That's going to affect the Hoosier Heartland Corridor, and it's going to affect Columbus, Ind., on their Front Door Project. The governor's figures are going to show that, too. I did mine independently and we came up with the same figures. We're going to get a 9 percent increase, guaranteed. It's going to be 4 percent each year after that.

**HPR:** The other wild card is the teacher's retirement fund. Did the Pension Stabilization Fund get the state off the hook last year?

**Borst:** What we did last year was we gave a 2 percent COLA. We put \$55 million in. That puts us \$60 some million in the hole deeper, so we've lost ground. Again, I've given this to the governor, if we would put \$100 million or \$200 million into a one-time shot...and it's amazing what it shows. If we put \$200 million one time in and change the Constitution to allow 40 percent of the pension to be invested in equities that return 12.5 percent, this saves something like \$6.5 billion by the year 2032. Of course this thing, changing the Constitution, will mean a whole lot more. I don't think we're off the hook.

**HPR:** What do you think of the Gregg-Bauer plan for middle class tax cuts.

**Borst:** Well, really, it's the first Christmas tree of the season. I'm happy that John would bring that out. I'm sure we could negotiate and if someone were left out, we could give them a tax cut, too. Other than that, that's about all the consideration we'll give. I've found no support. I've been around too long. There should be allegiances built in the legislature, but the governor has never shown any allegiance, particularly to the House Democratic Caucus, or especially the

Senate caucus.

**HPR:** What are you expecting the governor to come out with?

**Borst:** I don't want to speculate because I know what he's going to come out with. We've sat down a couple times with him - the latest last Thursday. I know what he's thinking and I know the amount he's thinking and I'll tell you the same thing I told him: we (Senate Republicans) had no program. We met, looked at each other, and said, this is foolish. Why should we commit the state to year after year of tax deductions put in a 60 day time frame, with no research, just because it sounded good or just because a guy would like to run for re-election? That's not good enough reasons for the state of Indiana. Two years ago he threw us into a special session because he wanted a tax increase. I guess my antenna was a little bit better than the governor's was. It takes more than that to be governor. I'm not good at cutting ribbons.

**HPR:** Are the governor's proposals similar to Gregg's?

**Borst:** No-no. (laughs).

**HPR:** What do you think of Rex Early's \$25 license plate proposal?

**Borst:** Since I wrote that thing that we passed this past year, and since everybody likes it and it hasn't even started yet, it's a start. There's no question it has its bottom limitations. Rex is talking about all but \$25. We take in \$540 million. My bill will reduce it \$200 million. Rex wants to reduce it all but \$100 million. Some place he's got to come up with another \$140 million.

**HPR:** What about George Witwer's spending cap and 50 percent property tax cut?

**Borst:** It's pretty ambitious. There's kind of a real world out there. You can make anything work. You go back to the campaign of '72 and you had two candidates going around the state saying they were going to lower property taxes. But they also said they were going to raise other taxes. That's what Doc Bowen did.

**HPR:** What do you expect out of Mayor Goldsmith?

**Borst:** I don't talk to Mayor Goldsmith. I'm not on his Christmas card list. I take that back. I did get a card from the mayor.

## TICKER T A P E

"too many family feuds in '96. It really crowds the environment when I'd have to get my message out." McVey cited the looming gubernatorial primary and the 10th CD as potential airwave clutter. "It really came down to the environment was just not right." He did not rule out a challenge to Burton in 1998.

Speaking of airwave clutter, the Indianapolis political junkie will be in hog heaven between now and May. For on the ballot will be *Frank O'Bannon, Ann DeLaney, Rex Early, Virginia Blankenbaker, Julia Carson* and, in all probability, *Bill Hudnut*.

*Anderson Mayor Mark Lawler* has decided not to challenge *U.S. Rep. David McIntosh*. Democrats have been floating out the names of *Marc Carmichael, Bayh aide Ron Gyure, State Sens. Allie Craycraft and William McCarty, and State Reps. Rolland Webber and Dick Bodiker*. Second CD Democrats met last Saturday in an attempt to find a candidate, but Gyure and Carmichael didn't show up. Meanwhile, McIntosh forces are confident, explaining they've had the congressman back in the district over 51 weekends and will have \$500,000 in the bank by year's end. The McIntosh camp seemed intrigued at the prospect of Carmichael, a lobbyist,

*continued on page 6*

# TICKER

## T A P E

running.

More good news for McIntosh: the Democrats used "morphing" ads of Speaker Newt Gingrich and GOP candidate Tom Campbell in a California special election. The result, a 60 percent victory for Campbell, over Democrat Jerry Estruth. The race was used by national Democrats as a field test for the anti-Gingrich message. Had it worked, it almost assuredly would have been used against McIntosh and U.S. Rep. John Hostettler in the 8th CD.

McIntosh has added Jim Huston to his staff as district. Huston worked on U.S. Rep. John Myers' 1994 campaign and on Dan Quayle's Issues '96 committee.

Speaker Newt Gingrich will appear with U.S. Rep. Mark Souder in Fort Wayne in January.

Lake County Republicans will host a gubernatorial straw poll which will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 1 at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville. Each candidate will be allowed to speak beginning at 7 p.m. and the voting will take place at 8 p.m.

It's been a mixed week for U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar's presidential

## Flurry of polls in GOP gubernatorial race keeping campaign spinmeisters busy

This was the week of the "Poll Spin" in the 1996 Republican gubernatorial race.

The latest poll was published by *The Times* of Northwest Indiana, and conducted by Political Media Research, Inc., with 811 registered voters statewide between Nov. 29 and Dec. 1. It had the primary race broken down like this:

Goldsmith	44 percent
Early	16
Garton	4
Witwer	2
Undecided	34

It also included a head-to-head race between Goldsmith and Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon:

Goldsmith	41 percent
O'Bannon	34

The Goldsmith campaign released an Oct. 8-19 poll by the Terrance Group of Washington, DC. It had the race like this:

Goldsmith	59 percent
Early	10
Garton	4
Witwer	3
Undecided	24

In addition, the Terrance Group poll had a regional breakdown:

Region	Goldsmith	Early	Garton	Witwer	Other
Indpls	71	15	3	5	5
NoCentral	72	6	1	1	18
So Bend	31	11	6	0	51
SoEast	45	10	10	3	31
Ft. Wayne	42	4	4	7	46
NoWest	40	8	4	0	48
Terre Haute	61	11	0	0	28
SoWest	35	9	5	2	49

Former Indiana Republican Chairman Al Hubbard spoke on behalf of the Goldsmith campaign. "As the breakdown shows, Steve Goldsmith's appeal is strong throughout the

# HORSE RACE

state. He is the overwhelming choice of Republican voters statewide."

The campaign of Rex Early responded to the Goldsmith release by trying to turn their own numbers against them. "If he continues to drop on his own, we'll hold off on our TV," said State Rep. Mike Young, Early's campaign manager. This is what Early released:

### Goldsmith Test Ballot

	<u>Terr 5-95</u>	<u>Terr 10-95</u>	<u>Mas-Dix 11-95</u>
Goldsmith	69%	59%	44%

The Early campaign also released this comparison of the total votes in three of the last four Indianapolis mayoral elections:

Candidate	Year	Vote
Hudnut	1983	136,983
Hudnut	1987	110,735
Goldsmith	1995	64,209

"Goldsmith's own poll numbers, as well as an independent poll and the Indianapolis election returns, demonstrate that the Indianapolis mayor is rapidly losing support among Republican voters," Young said. "That Oct. 10 poll was taken before Goldsmith spent \$400,000 on TV. A month and two days later he's down to 44 percent.

Tom New from the O'Bannon campaign told Bob Brown of *The Times* that Goldsmith is at the peak of his visibility coming off the mayoral campaign. In contrast, New said, O'Bannon has not run a political ad since 1987.

"To be that close to him at this point without any media at all tells us we're in a very strong position and it's a wide-open race," New said.



# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**David Shribman, *Boston Globe***- The "character issue" emerged in modern American politics a dozen years ago because reporters were more comfortable using those five syllables to describe their uneasiness with Sen. Gary Hart when one syllable ("sex") would have done. But character wasn't invented with Hart. It arrived in this century, oddly enough, from the lips of banker J.P. Morgan, who argued in a famous Congressional hearing that property wasn't the principle element in winning commercial credit. "No sir," Morgan said, "the first thing is character." Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. explained the "cult of character" this way in his 1957 classic, "The Crisis of the Old Order": "The men of character had culture, responsibility, a feeling of noblesse oblige, a sense of standards. That may be good politics even now. A Concord Monitor poll showed that New Hampshire voters care more about a candidate's character (25 percent) than about a candidate's view on the economy (16 percent). Sen. Dick Lugar looks at some of his competitors - you know who they are - as "a group of bizarre, extreme people, all of whom are purporting to be presidential candidates." He believes he offers something else: "stability, sincerity, intelligence, confidence." The guy's got guts to say these things. Maybe the guy's even got character.

**Wayne Woodlief, *Boston Herald*** - If you want independence, a willingness to buck odds and old-fashioned honesty in a Republican presidential candidate, look to Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, who filed yesterday for New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary. Don't let Lugar's lack of charisma and single digit standing in the opinion polls discourage you. He has the kind of steady Midwestern grit that should appeal to New Hampshire's independent "live free or die" voters the more they get to know him between now and Feb. 20. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole has a big lead in a Powell-less race. But just ask Walter Mondale how fast big leads can melt in New Hampshire. Lugar has the blend of political bite and independence that could make him an appealing alternative if

Dole stumbles. A vote for conscience for a guy like Lugar isn't a wasted vote. And if he should catch fire, you could even be in on the ground floor of something big.

**John Krull, *Indianapolis News*** - A few days ago, Dan and Marilyn Quayle stopped by one of the morning news shows for a chat. One of the hosts began a question about Quayle's vice presidency with the qualifier, "If the media were unfair to you..." Quayle bristled immediately. What do you mean "if," he asked. Then he proceeded to argue, with considerable vigor, that he had been subjected to the worst media barrage in history. The onslaught was ideological, he contended. He was battered because he was a conservative. Somehow, I doubt that. Thus far, three baby boomer politicians with a taste for ideological conflict have been elected to nationally prominent offices. Dan Quayle, Bill Clinton and Newt Gingrich. None of those three men has had particularly good press since stepping into the nation's sight.

**Shari Finnell, *Indianapolis Star/News*** - A perspective on Gary's condition came from Gov. Evan Bayh last week, as state troopers completed their assignments in the city. Bayh said the troopers had accomplished their mission by letting murderers and other criminals know that their violent actions would no longer be tolerated. Gary, Bayh said, is "down the road to less crime and more peace of mind." There could be some truth to that. But while there's no telling how many lives were saved by the presence of 50 state troopers in Gary, it wasn't enough to save the life of Michael Anthony Walker. There will be others like him. The sheer magnitude of lawlessness in cities like Gary and Indianapolis - where 4-year-old girls like Danielle Eubanks can get killed in their front yards - warrants a much larger solution. Stiffer sentences, no matter how long, should be imposed. Increased gun control, no matter how ridiculous, should be enacted. Our retaliation against crime can never be enough.

## TICKER T A P E

campaign. A staff flub kept the senator off the South Dakota ballot, which dooms Lugar's chances of picking up 18 Midwestern delegates. However, the campaign was working on new TV ads that will run in Iowa and New Hampshire that sources say could have the impact of the famous Goldwater "nuclear holocaust" ads in the 1964 campaign. Lugar is expected to tell voters that the next American president will preside over the terrorist destruction of an American city unless a president can stay on top of security issues.

It was a bad weekend for Gov. Evan Bayh in Southern Indiana newspapers over his Toyota spat with U.S. Sen. Dan Coats. Mary Dieter of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* had a page 1 story under an above-the-fold headline: "Coats says Bayh faked Toyota crisis for political gain." Coats called the controversy "a bizarre series of frantic efforts" to smear Coats politically. Bayh responded, saying, "That's absolutely untrue." Doug Sword of the *Evansville Courier* wrote that contrary to statements by the Bayh administration, not all members of the Indiana Congressional delegation signed and returned the letter the governor specifically criticized Coats for not signing. In fact, Sword reported, five of the

*continued on page 8*

# TICKER

## T A P E

six Indiana GOP congressmen never received the faxed letter. And Democrat U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer made no mention of support for the state's incentive package, which Bayh had criticized Coats for.

HPR cartoonist *Bob Lang* took three honors at the recent Hoosier State Press Association journalism contest. Lang won first and third place editorial cartoon awards as well as an honorable mention.

The most endangered Indiana House of Representative incumbent to a primary challenge appears to be *State Rep. Vaneta Becker*, who will face attorney/pharmacist *Scott Minette* in the GOP primary. There's some indication that some key contributors in the Becker camp are defecting to Minette.

**"One of the best..."**

**That's how Washington Political Analyst Charles Cook describes the Howey Political Report**

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# Lambert voted the wrong way on prevailing wage

From page 3

who heads up the Batesville Economic Development Commission and served on a number of Southeastern Indiana economic committees. Republicans believe Duncan will be in good shape because her incumbency has allowed her to establish good ties in Goble's backyard, Decatur County. But she only won with 300 votes in the tidal wave.

**1994: Duncan 9,672, Goble 9,369**

**HPR forecast: Toss-up**

### 74TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Bloomington)

This seat has the makings of returning to secure Democratic territory. Russ Stilwell will shoulder "Phillips' Revenge" with lengthy, UMW ties. Stilwell was a coal miner when State Rep. Sally Rideout Lambert was born. He's been an international teller since 1992 and helped settle union election disputes nationwide. He's been the UMW's political and legislative director in four states. And Stilwell spoke at the St. Valentine's Day prevailing wage demonstration inside the Statehouse. A brother, Darwin Stilwell, is campaign treasurer and is a former president of the Warrick County Teacher's Association, so plug the fair share issue into this district. Another Stilwell brother, Jerry, headed up Gibson County's successful negotiations with Toyota, so strike that issue as a potential positive for Lambert.

State Republicans say they are committed to this race, but Lambert heard that throughout her improbable '94 campaign when she retired House Speaker Michael K. Phillips without much help. Lambert mixes with the people, keeps office hours and hosts town meetings. However, she voted the wrong way on prevailing wage.

**1994: Lambert 10,589, Phillips 10,314**

**HPR forecast: Safe D**

### 79TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Allen, Adams)

This is a newly contested district. State Rep. Barb Engle is about the only Republican nationally to switch to the Democrats. Imagine the spin Republicans could put on this seat if they win? Engle is popular and will tell constituents that she didn't leave the GOP, it left her.

Expected to get the challenge is Adams County Commissioner Mike Ripley, who ran in the Congressional primary in 1994. The line on Ripley after that was he needed seasoning in the legislature. He is also a popular officeholder who has won twice in a Democratic county.

**1994: Engle 8,812, Holt 7,489**

**HPR forecast: Toss-up**

### 80TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Fort Wayne)

This will be a rematch between State Rep. John Becker and Democrat Ben GiaQuinta, who's last hurrah will be to settle the '94 score. Becker won by only seven votes. If GiaQuinta can get a normal Democratic turnout, he'll win. Alien County GOP Chairman Steve Shine insists he will marshal his organization's resources to return Becker. Expect GiaQuinta to portray Becker as an ultra-conservative, using such props as the "Hatch Letter" and his involvement in the ISTEP challenge. Also, state Democrats will keep a closer eye on this one after GiaQuinta spent some of his 1994 funds to promote his son running for another office.

**1994: Becker 5,106, GiaQuinta 5,199**

**HPR forecast: Leans D**

### 97TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Indianapolis)

Democrat Eddie Mahern picks up the family mantle for a seat the party believes is theirs. Republican State Rep. Irene Heffley will have to stoke up the GOP organization and hope that lightning strikes twice.

**1994: Heffley 4,182, Cantwell 4,037**

**HPR forecast: Leans D**

### 100TH HOUSE DISTRICT (Indianapolis)

Another 100-year-flood seat, Democrats believe, except that John Day is seeking a rematch against Womacks. If that happens, Republican State Rep. Womacks has a chance. But if Democrats can convince '94 secretary of state nominee Tim Jeffers to forget his dodo plans to run against Ann DeLaney and Julia Carson for Congress, this becomes a better scenario.

**1994: Womacks 3,969, Day 3,818**

**HPR forecast: Leans D**