

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I think he would be a most appropriate candidate to speak at Purdue or IU, but we’re a national university...”

- Notre Dame senior class president Beth Nolan,
Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan speaking at the ND graduation

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GOP Senate race is too close to call

Each campaign has strengths (and big flaws)

INDIANAPOLIS - There are three scenarios for Paul Helmke, John Price and Peter Rusthoven to win next Tuesday’s Republican Senate primary. And there are three sharp pins poised to burst each bubble. The race is too close to call as each of the candidates hopes to work a different game plan.

Here are the scenarios to win (and the sharp pins):

RUSTHOVEN’S HOPES: He has a 1,100-point TV buy spread over the final two weeks of the campaign. It is divided between two media markets - 231 spots in Indianapolis and 176 in Fort Wayne. The Fort Wayne ads are designed to cut into Helmke’s power base. His second ad takes aim at Helmke, claiming “my friend” supported a 1993 Clinton tax hike (actually, Helmke supported the Clinton stimulus package). Rusthoven is also hoping the numerous Republican county organizations where the chairmen or legislators endorsed him will activate for a get-out-the-vote effort to complement the TV campaign.

RUSTHOVEN’S PIN: The 1,100-point buy is really pretty small. Some credible observers believe it takes 1,500 points to do what Rusthoven needs - to drive up name ID and win support. Others believe it really takes 1,500 points *a week* to accomplish what Rusthoven needs to do. Some believe the Fort Wayne buy is wasted, figuring Helmke’s support in Northeast Indiana has already decided one way or another. As for the party apparatus, it didn’t deliver for Rex Early or Stephen Goldsmith. Marion County Chairman John Sweezy could have slated and delivered Marion County for Rusthoven, but he passed up the chance (probably because he knew he couldn’t deliver). Thus, Rusthoven is staggering down the home-stretch.

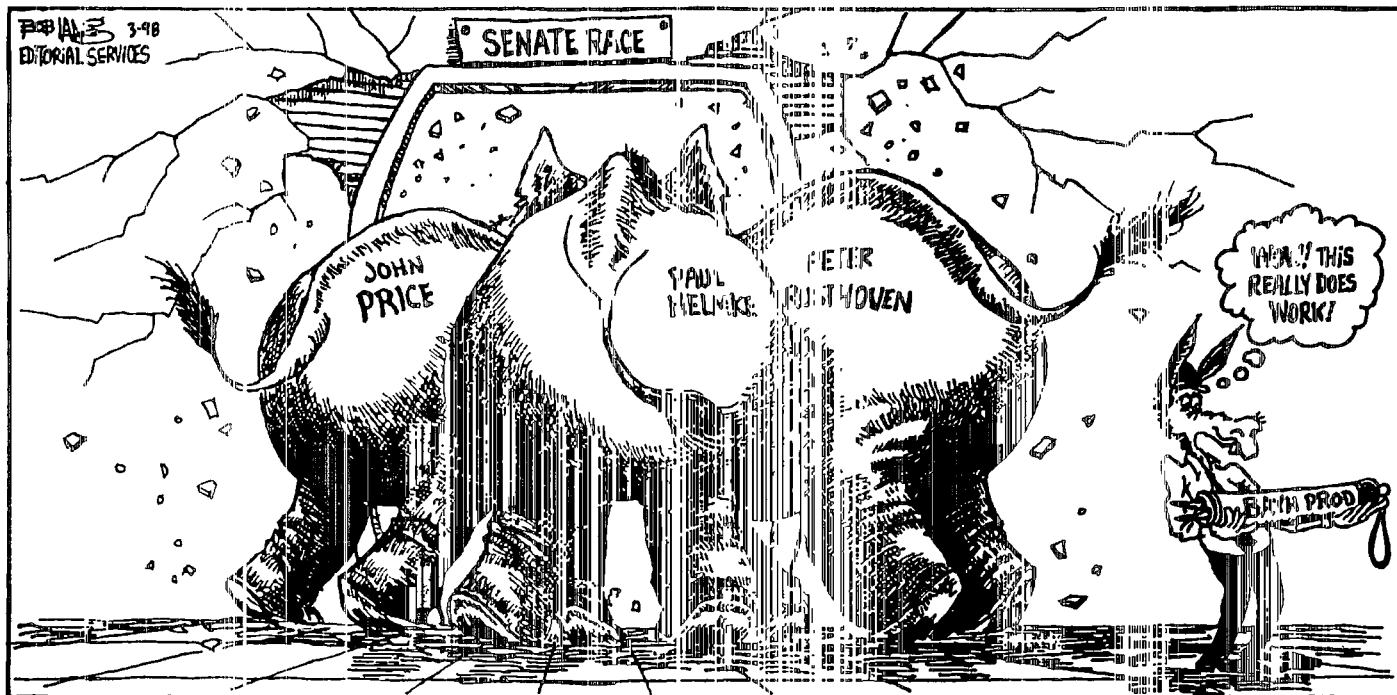
HELMKE’S HOPES: A WPTA-TV poll in Allen County gives Helmke a 45 percent lead compared to 13 percent for Rusthoven and

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Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

Indiana is making a serious challenge to host the Republican National Convention in 2000. GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel personally delivered the city's \$25 million bid in Washington. The convention is estimated to have a \$150 to \$200 million economic impact. The city's trump card? Hosting the Republican site selection committee to the Indianapolis 500 in May - an event that will attract about 250,000 people.

Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan was selected to speak at the commencement at his alma mater, the University of Notre Dame. But in a dazzling display of hubris, senior class president Beth Nolan complained of his selec-

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Senate, from page 1

5 percent for Price. It underscores Helmke's Northeastern Indiana powerbase. He was to go on the air Wednesday in Indianapolis with a 365-point TV buy in the Indianapolis market. Helmke is also hoping that a network of mayors in Hammond, Lafayette, Kokomo, Marion and Greenwood will activate their political organizations to turn out the vote.

HELMKE'S PIN: His TV buy is barely enough to - as one Democrat operative put it "buy 7:30 a.m. ads on Gilligan's Island." So Helmke spent about \$10,000 on TV ads that he can barely run. His reliance on mayoral allies to turn out the vote is interesting, but we're skeptical any allegiance or fervor can be transferred from mayors to precinct workers in Hammond when the campaign itself seems to lack energy. Helmke did not seem focused in this race.

PRICE'S HOPES: As we have detailed

extensively over the past two weeks, Price is attempting to put together a right-wing coalition of evangelicals, gun owners, and home schoolers. He is relying on an extensive network on the far right to get motivated and vote, while he used recent debate opportunities to display himself as a candidate palatable to more moderate wings of the GOP. In an environment where there is a lack of money, that strategy has slowly gained some credibility (notice the mainstream news media just picked up on this trend last week after HPR identified it on Feb. 19). Price can also hope to pick up support from lazy voters who look for familiar names.

PRICE'S PIN: No one has used the Christian right to fuel a statewide campaign in an open primary. And while he came off best in the televised debates, he has no money to capitalize. It can be cool to be poor, but in the end you're still poor.

PLAY of the week

Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy for putting campaign finance records on the Internet with the Indiana Campaign Finance Database. "One of the most powerful tools we can give voters is access to information," Gilroy said. "There is a lot of talk, but little action in this country toward real campaign finance reform." Find the site at: www.indianacampaignfinance.com

1998 Racing Form

Keep an eye on Price's potential impact down ticket

Here's the Indiana Democrat's dream scenario: Turnout on May 5 is light, John Price touches all the right buttons on the Republican far right and the church buses roll. Price wins the Senate nomination and pulls along with him Michael Bailey in the 9th, Gary Hofmeister in the 10th, as well as legislative candidates Jeff Ellington, Mark Higgins and Chris Dickson. They reason that a coalition on the right will move too far in that direction and won't hold up in November.

Republicans on the right dream of the exact same scenario. They reason that Ellington and Higgins can win in the fall, Dickson might, while Hofmeister and Price will absolutely terrorize Julia Carson and Evan Bayh. "Evan has never faced a bomb-thrower before," said one Republican. The Democrat responds: "The Republicans haven't gotten to within 24 points of Evan Bayh in six years and every time he runs he pulls in at least three new Democrats in the Indiana House."

In our status report, **Toss-Up** means the race is within a statistical margin of error or we're on to something; **Leans** is just outside the margin of error and up to 9 percent; **Likely** is 10 to 15 points; and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

Indiana Congressional Primaries

U.S. Senate: R Primary: Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, Peter Rusthoven, John Price. **D Primary:** Evan Bayh. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-Up v. Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats 1,267,972, Hogsett 900,148. **1998 Forecast:** There is no clear favorite as of Wednesday night. Pundits and polls anxiously await last Mason-Dixon poll to be released late this week. That could signal which candidate is moving. If Rusthoven isn't after a week of TV, he's in big trouble. WPTA-TV poll (463 registered Republicans +/-3.2 percent) in Allen County had Helmke leading there with 45 percent of the vote, compared to 13 percent for Rusthoven and 5 percent Price. But only 25,000 to 30,000 Republicans will turn out in Allen County and they won't all vote for Helmke. Yet Rusthoven's last TV ad criticizing "his friend" Paul Helmke for a "Clinton tax hike" has angered some Fort Wayne area Republicans. It is hard to see Helmke counting on any other concentrated areas of support. In fact, there may be some Northeastern Indiana backlash against their neighboring big city mayor. That is one reason that few mayors (Hartke, Lugar and Kernan the notable exceptions) move up the political food chain. No NE county chairs there have endorsed Helmke. But very few county chairs can deliver anymore, which is another potential hitch in Rusthoven's game plan. Former Rush County chair Jean Ann Harcourt carried her county for Rex Early in 1996, but was virtually the only one to do so. "Most of them today don't have the fight; they'll lend their name, but no work," said Harcourt, who supports Rusthoven. Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey drops mail to all county precinct committeemen supporting Rusthoven. Price was clearly the candidate with momentum. The mainstream media finally have realized that in the money vacuum, he's a player. His debate performances found moderate Republicans who know little of his hard-line stances impressed with his style. Even Helmke tells HPR, "Price has run a great campaign. He came across real well during the debate. He doesn't come off as threatening. I've connected more with him than Rusthoven." Price could carry some 8th and 9th CD counties and maybe even those districts. What could be dramatic is how he and Rusthoven split up Indianapolis and the collar counties, which is where everyone should have thrown their money. A rainy day could propel Price to a huge upset win. Bayh camp expects to pleasantly celebrate the victory at 7 p.m., no paid media, plenty of summer parades, and a conscious effort to lower stratospheric expectations. **Republican Primary Status:** Toss-Up.

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tion, saying, "I don't think he is someone who is relevant to (students') lives or someone they will follow when they leave here. I can't speak for the entire senior class, but I think it's a pretty big disappointment" (Marilyn Klimek, South Bend Tribune). Kernan responded, "I guess I was a little bit disappointed, but there is not anything that can take away for me the honor of having been asked and being able to participate in commencement exercises. The only thing I can promise is I will do the best I can, and I look forward to it." Not all Notre Dame students were complaining. "We haven't accomplished much that compares in light of the face of all Kernan's credentials," said senior Todd Mitchell.

Marion County Democratic prosecutorial candidate Joe Champion stepped up his campaign against Republican incumbent Scott Newman. He charged that Newman's office wasn't friendly to families of victims, using the case of a man who shot an unarmed woman during a fight over a birthday cake. Champion charged that the woman's family did not know Newman had decided not to file charges. He announced a three-point plan, one of which would "require the prosecutor's office to consult an

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Open Seats

- 1st - Tabaczynski
- 9th - Alevizos
- 10th - Wilson
- 37th - Webber
- 49th - Warner
- 50th - Stephan
- 53rd - Gulling
- 73rd - Heeke

Primary Toss-Ups

- 1st - Lawson v. Ceperich, Katic
- 10th - Moseley v. Cheney
- 39th - Irsay v. Torr
- 53rd - Maxwell, Dillon, Darley, Putt, Blandford, Coleman, Yingst
- 60th - Bales v. Ellington
- 73rd - Birk v. Oxley

Congressional District 6: R Primary: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, George Holland. **D Primary:** Bob Kern, Nag Nagarian, Carrie Jean Trammell. **Geography:** Greenfield, Franklin, Tipton, Indianapolis collar counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Burton v. Trammell. **1994 results:** Burton 136,876, Bruner 40,815. **1996 Results:** Burton 189,461, Dillard-Trammell (D) 58,362, Peterson (L) 5,295. **1998 Forecast:** Burton could call the Pope a "scumbag" and he'd still be re-elected. But he was mildly rebuked for calling President Clinton one by Sen. Orin Hatch, who said on NBC's *Today Show*, "He shouldn't do that." The 6th CD is the third most Republican in the nation. It doesn't matter who Burton's opponent is. Our silly guesses to who that might be would be... ah... Trammell? **Status:** *Solid R.*

Congressional District 9: R Primary: Jean Leising, Michael Bailey, Cecil Copley. **D Primary:** Baron Hill, Fred Holt, James McClure. **Geography:** New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Leising v. Hill. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459, Leising 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton 128,885, Leising 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Forecast:** State and district Republicans with standing in the party are saying Leising is not in trouble, but all the signs of big trouble are there. Three campaign managers thus far this year, only \$17,000 cash on hand, and the stunning lack of an endorsement from the Indiana Right to Life tell us Leising's campaign is staggering toward the primary finish line. Local press are telling us that Bailey has a shot at an upset, particularly if it's a rainy day, turnout is miniscule and Price is delivering the far right to polls up ticket. Bailey is running a campaign in Wal-Mart parking lots handing out his campaign newspaper. Recent debate at IU Southeast was a sparsely attended yawner. As Rex Early might say, "Wuh-oh." **Republican Primary Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Congressional District 10: R Primary: Virginia Blankenbaker, Gary Hofmeister, Marvin Scott, Jack Hartford, Jack Reynolds. **D Primary:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Suzanne Fischman. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Blankenbaker v. Carson. **1994 results:** Jacobs (D) 58,573, Scott 50,998. **1996 Results:** Carson 87,965 Blankenbaker 72,796, St. Angelo (L) 3,505. **1998 Forecast:** Hofmeister unloads TV ad assault against Blankenbaker in true Mike Young style. "We think it is important for voters to know who the real Virginia Blankenbaker is," Young said. Blankenbaker decides not to respond with TV - only radio - in a decision that could be as risky as Goldsmith not responding to O'Bannon in August 1996. She reports \$94,700 cash on hand. "We feel really good on where we are," said Blankenbaker CM Luke Messer. "Our basic response is Gary is way behind and desperate to win." That Blankenbaker decision is a critical one. If she loses, it will be a colossal miscalculation. If she withstands Hofmeister's attack, she'll have money in the bank to aim at Carson in the fall. Hofmeister ad claims Blankenbaker voted for the state's two largest tax increases as a state senator (1982 and 1987). Blankenbaker responds that Gov. Orr, Sens. Borst, Mills, Pat Miller, all voted the same way. He also accuses Blankenbaker of voting against a parental consent abortion bill. That ad is aimed at motivating the evangelical right. Hofmeister gets Ollie North endorsement. At this writing the feeling is Blankenbaker is still ahead, but her big lead is quickly dwindling. **Republican Primary status:** *Leans Blankenbaker.*

Indiana House

House District 1: R Primary: Michael Tiltges. **D Primary:** Linda Lawson, Peter Katic, Patricia Ceperich. **Geography:** Hammond, Lake County. **HPR General Forecast:** Lawson v. Tiltges. **1994 results:** Tabaczynski (D) 6,644 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Tabaczynski (D) 11,860 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** We think the momentum is shifting to Lawson. She is expected to get the *Munster Times* endorsement later this week and that comes atop an ISTA endorsement. Tabaczynski is personally doing a radio ad for Lawson that began running on Wednesday. And Lawson has a 10-1 fund-raising edge. It is interesting that Katic and Ceperich both filed their pre-primary reports on 1981 forms and both were rejected. Lake County Chairman Stephen Stiglich appears to be backing Katic, as is Hammond City Chairman Fran DuPay, and the rumored reason is so that Katic won't run for mayor in Hammond in 1999. But Lawson won the slating contest with Hammond precinct committeemen. East Chicago Mayor Bob Pastrick apparently is backing Lawson. But as

one senior Democratic official downstate told us, "That seems to change on a weekly basis." Our instinct is to put this race in a leans Lawson category, but strange things can happen when the Lake County chairman lines up on the other side, so this one will remain ... **Primary Status:** *Toss-Up*.

House District 9: **R Primary:** Bradley Allamong, Jeff Tucker. **D Primary:** Scott Pelath, Dennis Metheny. **Geography:** Michigan City, LaPorte County. **HPR General Forecast:** Pelath v. Allamong. **1994 results:** Alevizos (D) 11,202 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Alevizos 15,424 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** We expect Pelath and Allamong to win their primaries. **Primary Status:** *Leans Pelath and Allamong*.

House District 10: **R Primary:** John Cannon, Frank Jury II. **D Primary:** Chuck Moseley, Duane Cheney. **Geography:** Porter County. **HPR General Forecast:** Jury v. Moseley or Cheney. **1994 results:** Wilson (D) 9,701 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Wilson 15,672 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** The unions and Portage Mayor Sam Maletta are backing Moseley, but Cheney gets the nod from the ISTA. Retiring Rep. Esther Wilson was backing Moseley, but has since backed off and now appears neutral. Key Democrats say this one is too close to call. On the Republican side, we expect Jury to emerge because his home base of Valparaiso is where most of the GOP votes are. **Democratic Primary Status:** *Toss-Up*.

House District 20: **R Primary:** Rep. Mary Kay Budak. **D Primary:** Donna Kavanagh v. Tony Underly. **Geography:** LaPorte and St. Joseph counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Budak vs. Kavanagh. **1994 Results:** Budak 12,688 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Budak 12,672, Underly 8,313. **1998 Forecast:** Michigan City News-Dispatch reports that Underly paid himself \$6,000 out of campaign funds over the previous two years. We thought Kavanagh was going to win the primary and that story pretty much ices it. Democrats think Budak is potentially vulnerable in the fall. **Democratic Primary Status:** *Leans Kavanagh*.

House District 22: **R Primary:** Rep. Bill Ruppel, Wabash Commissioner Brian Haupt, Charles Tiede. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Wabash, Marshall, Kosciusko counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Ruppel. **1994 Results:** Ruppel 10,954 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Ruppel 13,714 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Conventional wisdom suggested that Ruppel might be vulnerable thanks to such legislation as the "wheelie bill." Haupt was seen as the one most likely to press Ruppel, but the late entrant - Tiede - is the one who appears to be pressing the incumbent. Still, this race has been way too quiet for an upset. **Republican Primary Status:** *Leans Ruppel*.

House District 39: **R Primary:** Rep. Jerry Torr, Nancy Irsay. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Lebanon, Zionsville, Carmel, Boone and Hamilton counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-Up. **1994 Results:** Willing (R) 15,974, unopposed. **1996 Results:** Torr 21,451, unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** Torr tells the *Noblesville Ledger*, "She has high name ID - no question. But does it translate into votes? I don't know." Ledger story notes that "Torr's support comes from 40 special interest groups and PACs and more than 60 individuals." Indiana Chamber of Commerce endorses Torr. House Majority Leader Paul Mannweiler and other Republicans have campaigned on behalf of Torr. But Irsay has been running a sizable radio ad campaign on stations like WIBC in Indianapolis. This race has signs of great volatility. **Primary Status:** *Toss-Up*.

House District 50: **R Primary:** Kent Maxwell, Gary Dillon, Scott Darley, Rodney Putt, Judy Coleman, Mary Blandford, Ned Yingst. **D Primary:** Raymond Scribner. **Geography:** Huntington and Whitley counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Maxwell v. Scribner. **1994 Results:** Stephan (R) 13,418, Yingst 5,392. **1996 Results:** Stephan 15,856, B. Yingst 5,855. **1998 Forecast:** Maxwell was seen as the man to beat because of his Huntington County base. But Blandford and Coleman have been working hard and observers in the local press and in both parties are telling us, "Roll the dice." **Republican Primary Status:** *Toss-Up*.

House District 53: **R Primary:** Councilman Robert Cherry, Mark Higgins. **D Primary:** Sarah Wolf. **Geography:** Greenfield, Cumberland, Hancock County. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-Up v. Wolf. **1994 Results:** Gulling (R) 13,945 unopposed. **1996 Results:** Gulling (R) 20,174 unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** This race is going down the wire. Cherry taking week off going door-to-door in Rushville is an indicator of how tight this race is. Cherry gets Indiana Chamber of Commerce endorsement and is predicting some crossover votes from Democrats. Higgins antes up about \$14,000 of his own money and lists it as an in-kind. Cherry shows 100 individual contributors. \$9,998 cash on hand with a total of \$22,000 raised. Cherry and Higgins both doing radio in Rushville since mid-March. Higgins' radio ad says, "I'm a life-long Republican, born in

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appropriate family member of the victim from the beginning of a case to its end."

Attorney General Jeff Modisett is investigating the Springs Valley Community School Corp. and the Orange County Common Construction Wage Committee over alleged violations of Indiana's Open Door Law. "We will press ahead and continue our investigation through discovery," Modisett said. "Violations of this law strike at the public's right to information from their government, the very cornerstone of our democratic form of government." Modisett said that at a meeting last Dec. 27, 1997, the Wage Committee announced rates for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers on a gymnasium project. There was no discussion or information presented at the meeting on how those specific common construction wage rates were calculated. Said Modisett, "The Open Door Law, which applies to Common Construction Wage Committees, requires official action to be conducted and taken openly at a public meeting."

A Monroe County Sheriff candidate has proposed arming firefighters. Republican Gary Darland sent a letter to area firefighters proposing to depu-

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HORSE RACE

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tize one firefighter on each shift and authorize them to carry a weapon (Jodi Burck, *Bloomington Herald-Times*). "I'm not sure the public's ready for that," said Ellettsville Fire Chief Jim Davis."

A coalition of Evansville banks plans to announce a campaign in May on behalf of the Interstate 69 extension (Jessica Wehrman, *Evansville Courier*). "We see it's for the bigger good - for the economic growth of Southern Indiana," said Joan David of Citizens Bank.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon announced that 11,000 new export-related jobs were created in Indiana during 1997. He estimates the state now has 195,300 such jobs. "These figures demonstrate the competitiveness of Hoosier businesses in the global market, which translates into more jobs at home. And not just more jobs - high-paying jobs."

Moderate Republicans in Tippecanoe County have formed two political action committees in what Max Showalter of the *Lafayette Journal and Courier* says is "an attempt to keep control of the party in the hands of the moderate wing of the GOP." That prompted West Lafayette Mayor Sonya Margerum to

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Rushville, a product of district schools. I'm an expert in finance. My passion is education; the future of our young people. I'm a Christian and will vote according to my duty to God." We still see this race as a toss-up. If John Price can motivate the evangelical vote statewide, Higgins would be a beneficiary of that. **Status: Toss-Up.**

House District 56: R Primary: Ken Paust, Chris Dickson. **D Primary:** Rep. Richard Bodiker. **Geography:** Richmond, Wayne County. **HPR General Forecast:** Bodiker v. Paust. **1994 Results:** Bodiker 7,142, Hamm 7,087. **1996 Results:** Bodiker 10,772, Hamm 8,159. **1998 Forecast:** Dickson uses 150 high school students wearing Burma shave signs at major Richmond and Centerville intersection, boosting his campaign. He has attempted to paint Paust a big spender not afraid to raise taxes as a councilman. Paust is relying on the party organization his wife heads his reputation as one of the builders of Richmond after the devastating 1968 explosion and as a community leader for three decades to win this race. As in the 53rd and 60th Districts, if Senate candidate Price can motivate the evangelicals to vote, this could be close. **Republican Primary status: Leans Paust.**

House District 60: R Primary: Rep. Jerry Bales v. Jeff Ellington. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Bloomington, Monroe County. **HPR General Forecast:** Bales v. Spice. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germain (L) 1,931. **1998 Forecast:** The momentum in this race is shifting back to Bales. Doc Bowen endorsed Bales this week. On Wednesday, IU Coach Bob Knight conducted a town meeting for Bales in Bloomfield. "Let's get Jerry back where he belongs," Knight told about 100 people at Bloomfield High. "I don't want him on relief, I don't want him on welfare, I don't know if he's qualified to do anything else. Let's get him back here." Knight is also appearing in newspaper and radio ads on behalf of Bales. "Knight is a friend," said Bales. "How can you not support a friend? He asked me, 'What can I do to help you?'" With Bowen and Knight helping offset Ellington endorsements from Gov. Bob Orr and U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, the Ellington campaign has been getting nicked up on the business front. Monroe County Surveyor Kevin Enright accused Ellington of turning his tree business in a residentially zoned area. Ellington tells the *Bloomington Herald-Times* that his business was grandfathered in. Ellington was also accused of misusing a building permit, but he responds that new construction was cosmetic and used to repair storm damage. Bales also charged Ellington with not keeping his state pesticide applicators license current. Finally, Ellington was criticized by a man who cut firewood for him last fall. Ellington said he was not an employee but a private contractor and asked him to sign a form saying so. The man, Sam Matthews, refused, telling the *Herald-Times*, "I'm not going to perjure myself." The *Herald-Times* reported that absentee ballots in Monroe County stood at 1,055, with only 260 for Democrat. Observers were split on whether that was a good sign for Bales or Ellington. Some see it as an organized effort on behalf of Ellington, figuring Bales was not well organized in the early stages of the campaign. Others see it as a potential Democratic crossover for Bales. Ellington is saying he will not contest Democratic crossovers for Bales. While the momentum appears to have shifted and we are moving it back into the toss-up zone, Ellington may benefit if the turnout is low, despite the efforts to get evangelical voters to the polls. This is a barnburner. **Republican Primary Status: TOSS-UP.**

House District 73: R Primary: Grayson Goodness. **D Primary:** Tom Birk, Dennis Oxley, Bernie Fallon. **Geography:** Jasper and Southwestern Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Oxley v. Goodness. **1994 Results:** Heeke (D) 9,629, Goodness 8,241. **1996 Results:** Heeke 12,371, Goodness 8,847. **1998 Forecast:** State Democrats are calling this one a "pure toss-up." Birk has out-raised Oxley \$14,000 to \$9,000. But Oxley could tap into Heeke's \$9,000. The trial lawyers are backing Birk, who is benefitting from a radio ad from U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton. The ISTA is backing Oxley. This race is too close to call. **Status: TOSS-UP.**

House District 94: R Primary: Rep. Candy (Morris) Marendt. **D Primary:** Jeb Bardon, Ricky Hence, John Steinkamp. **Geography:** NW Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Marendt v. Hence. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Forecast:** Marion County Democrats picked Hence during their slating convention, but Bardon is waging a scrappy campaign with yard signs. Indianapolis news media has virtually ignored this race. Conventional wisdom favors Hence. **Democratic Primary Status: Leans Hence.**

☞ Brian A. Howey

HORSE RACE

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

John Krull, *Indianapolis News* - With enemies like Dan Burton, Bill Clinton doesn't need friends. With just a few ill-chosen words, Rep. Burton managed to compromise his effectiveness as a committee chairman and made an inquisition-style investigation of his own personal life far more likely. That's quite a lot to show for a few minutes work. Burton's miscue came during an editorial board meeting with the *Indianapolis Star*. One of the editorial writers offhandedly referred to Clinton as a "scumbag." Another, smarter politician might have ignored the bait. But Burton lept for it like a starving guppy going after a worm. Within minutes, the honorable Mr. Burton also called the president of the United States a "scumbag." Burton even added, "That's why I'm after him." Now, that's class. Democrats in Washington now talk regularly of giving prominent Republicans the "Clinton treatment," an endless investigation that begins with a presumption of guilt. The honorable Mr. Burton may have just volunteered to be their first target. ☞

Morton Kondracke, *Roll Call* - American voters are endlessly willing to give politicians second chances. They did for Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton, so why not House Speaker Newt Gingrich? Gingrich right now is engaged in an almost painfully obvious attempt to court public reappraisal. He's lost weight. He smiles on TV instead of snarling. He wears a V-neck sweater even when it's warm out. Most substantively, he's acting like a statesman amid Clinton's sex scandals, withholding public criticism even as he prepares for an impeachment inquiry. His makeover effort parallels the one Clinton undertook after he and his party got clobbered in the 1994 elections. Clinton learned discipline, stopped yakking to the press, went on a diet, started acting "presidential" (in public, anyway) and quit trying to do too much too fast. Of course, Clinton didn't write a book saying, "See, I'm changing." But Gingrich has, titled, "Lessons Learned the Hard

Way: A Personal Report" and detailing all the big mistakes he's made during the last three years and what he's doing about them. ☞

Dorene Jackson Caudill, *Indianapolis Star* - Although he's a decorated Vietnam War hero, ex-POW and the guy second in line behind Indiana's governor, Lt. Gov. Joseph E. Kernan apparently isn't good enough to speak at the University of Notre Dame's upcoming commencement. At least that's what some Notre Dame seniors say about Kernan, Class of 1968. For example, the senior class president, Beth Nolan, said, "I don't think he is someone who is relevant to (students') lives or someone they will follow when they leave here. I can't speak for my entire senior class, but I think it's a pretty big disappointment," she said. I hate to break the sad news, but Ms. Class President is unlikely to turn out to be much of a national player herself. In fact, I think it's more likely than not that Kernan already has accomplished more than she and most of her 1,800 classmates will in their lifetimes. Perhaps he won't be able to impress all Notre Dame graduates with his credentials, but students most assuredly could look to him as an example of good manners in action. ☞

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - "In my lifetime, I have never seen anything that attracted a crowd like Bobby Kennedy," said (former city controller Don) Michaels. But the Kennedy campaign did not daw the unanimous support of all Democrats. In an editorial published by the *Hammond Times*, Logansport attorney Frank McHale, a former treasurer of the national Democratic Party, accused Kennedy of playing the race card by claiming African-Americans were bearing the brunt of the Vietnam War for America. McHale challenged that 93 percent of the casualties were white. The *Times* editorial concluded by calling Kennedy an "unprincipled opportunist." ☞

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announce a similar PAC. "The name is the Democratic Party of Tippecanoe County," she said. "It's formed to support all of the candidates on the Democratic ticket."

Retiring State Sen. Mike Gery will serve as campaign chairman for former Lafayette Mayor James Riehle. He'll face Republican Ron Alting in November. Said Riehle of Gery, "He knows the district, the issues, the public, and this community. And we're both committed Cubs fans. Maybe this will be the year for both of us."

Gary Mayor Scott King is in the midst of a showdown with the Gary City Council. The council rejected a \$1 million appropriation to clear 200 houses ready for demolition despite pleas from Councilman Roy Pratt. It also denied a request from Jewell Harris for a permit to park his trucks on property near I-65. Harris is a consultant to Mayor King. Lori Caldwell of the *Gary Post-Tribune* described the meeting last week as "Defer, deny, defer, deny."

The 1995 Republican nominee for mayor of Evansville - Lori Frary - has joined the Libertarian Party. Frary, who lost by more than a 2-to-1 margin, said the party will consider running a mayoral candidate in

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the 1999 election. HPR Publisher Brian Howey joins Eric Berman, John Okeson and Ann DeLaney for primary Election Night coverage on WIBC-AM 1070 in Indianapolis.

Howey was honored by the Indiana Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists for several NUVO Newsweekly stories. Howey received a first place for best investigative reporting for his story "What happens when a cop goes bad? Not Much"; and a first place for best feature for his story "West Baden Hotel." Howey stories received 2nd and 3rd place honors in the best public issues category.

Newt likes Indy for the convention

By Erik Hromadka
Howey Political Report

INDIANAPOLIS - The bid to have Indianapolis host the 2000 Republican National Convention got a boost from Speaker Newt Gingrich this week. "Indianapolis would be a great city to have our national convention in," Gingrich told more than 1,000 Republican leaders at the state committee's 1998 Spring Dinner.

However, Gingrich noted he is not on the selection committee and poked a little fun at the hard sell that Chairman Mike McDaniel and Mayor Stephen Goldsmith used to pitch the city. "Little did I realize that I would be met at the airport by your state chairman and spend 20 minutes on the ride in talking about hotel rooms," Gingrich joked.

In addition to complementing Indianapolis, Gingrich also took time to praise the Republican members of Indiana's congressional delegation. He cited Rep. David McIntosh for his participation in weekly meetings with the House leadership, praised Rep. Mark Souder for his conservative values, called Rep. John Hoschetter a strong voice for southern Indiana and predicted that Rep. Steve Buyer will become a great leader on issues of national defense.

Gingrich's greatest accolades went to

Rep. Dan Burton for his role in investigating campaign finance problems during the Clinton-Gore 1996 presidential campaign. Media attention to Burton's use of the word "scumbag" misses the point, Gingrich said. "Chairman Burton has been smeared, harassed, distorted and attacked," he said. "The American people have a right to know when the law has been broken."

Rather than focus on Burton's choice of words, people should look at the money that was given to the Democrats, especially contributions from China and other Asian countries. "I refuse to believe that the millions and millions of honorable Democrats will support Washington D.C. politicians who vote to cover up corruption."

In strange choice of words, Gingrich supported Burton saying "I would rather stand next to an honest man who uses clumsy words than next to an illegal man who has five sharp spinners any day of my life."

Gingrich concluded with a list of accomplishments by the Republican-controlled Congress and outlined campaign issues for the future that include drug use, education, social security and capping total taxes.



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