

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“This administration doesn't seem to trust Congress that much.”

- U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, to the Associated Press on the Bush administration

Democrat lonely eyes turn to a coupla Joes

A quest for a middle aged white male

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in *Indianapolis*

It might possibly be too early to toss out those “Joe in ‘04” buttons.

Both former DNC Chairman Joe Andrew and former Secretary of State Joe Hogsett are pondering entry into the 10-foot-pole Democratic gubernatorial race. Both are mum on their plans.

A key Democratic Central Committee source told HPR that the two Joes and State Sen. Vi Simpson will be conferencing in the next several days with party leaders to sort out a party in disarray. The source said there is a possibility that a consensus gubernatorial candidate -- and possibly a ticket -- could emerge.

Simpson told HPR today that she chatted with Manous Tuesday. “However, my conversation with Peter Manous did not touch on that issue at all” she said of a potential conference. “It was a cordial conversation, he offered help to me in the same way he would help any of the candidates. I am proceeding with the campaign, and I'm assuming there will be a primary.”

These developments continue one of the strangest political sagas in modern Hoosier history. It centers around an open gubernatorial seat that in years and decades past, would have gathered teeming masses of candidates ready to fight bitterly for the state's top job.

Yet, more than a month after Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan's bombshell, Simpson is the only declared candidate, forming an exploratory committee in keeping with the wishes of party bosses who didn't want the process to get too far along.

But those same bosses -- Gov. Frank O'Bannon,

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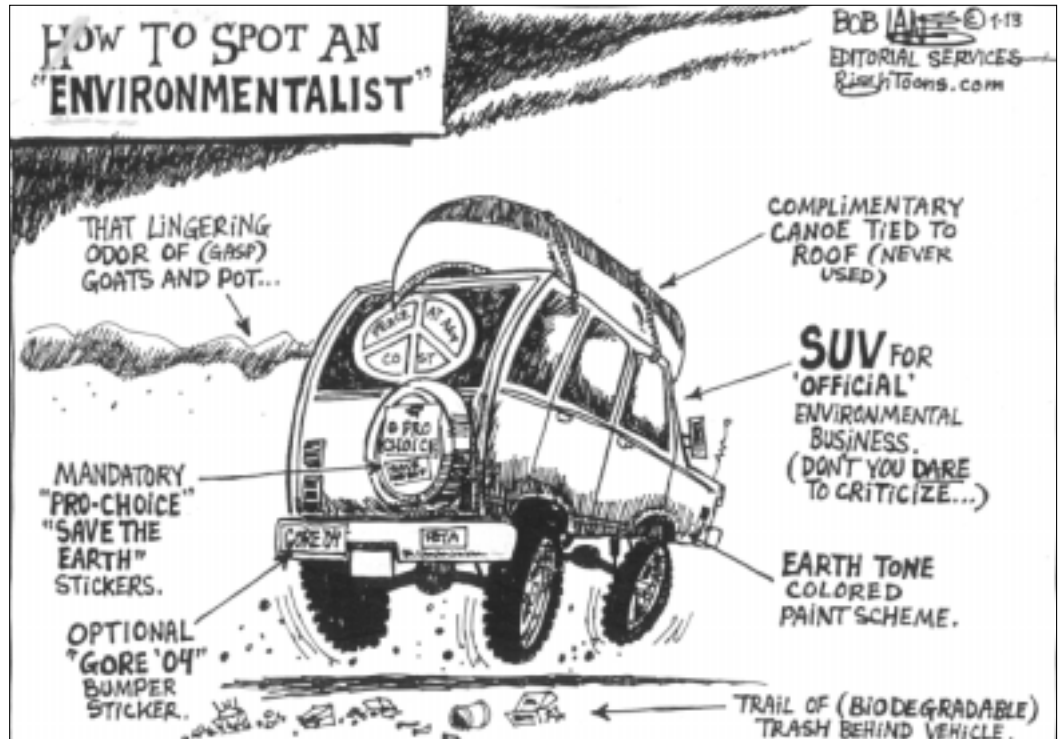
Next Week: 2003 HPR 50 Most Influential List

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BUSH POLL NUMBERS SAG TO 58 PERCENT: President Bush's job approval rating as he nears the middle of his term has dropped below 60 percent for the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks, a USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll has found. The number reflects a rising uncertainty about a sluggish economy and the prospects of conflict with Iraq and North Korea. The dip in Bush's rating to 58 percent from 63 percent last week is within the survey's margin of error of +/-3 percentage points, but it marks a steady decline in his approval numbers, which peaked at 90% days after the terrorist attacks. A sense that Bush's record-setting popularity is beginning to erode could make it more difficult for him to win victories on Capitol Hill. Even so, 58 percent is still a healthy rating, higher than presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton held at the beginning of their third years in office.

PENCE SEES WAR BY VALENTINE'S DAY: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence remains convinced the United States will engage in war with Iraq. Possibly soon (Richmond Palladium-Item). He said in Richmond Tuesday there is a "looming likelihood of military hostilities" and predicted they would happen in Iraq "by Valentine's Day."

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Kernan, U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, Democratic Chairman Peter Manous -- sent troubling vibes to a party that long prided itself as an inclusive endeavor. They seemed to dismiss the Simpson candidacy in their search for a warm, breathing, white middle-aged male who could raise money.

Manous clearly signaled that U.S. Rep. Baron Hill was the guy. Gov. O'Bannon told WISH-TV on Friday, "Certainly Evan Bayh was the one that we felt had the most experience and I think Baron Hill is the next that has statewide experience and certainly raising the money that needs to be."

Reluctant Baron bows out

Sources told HPR that the Bayh organization was promising Hill fund-raising capacity, Kernan's nest egg, and staff help. But Hill had to feel somewhat undercut when Bayh, in announcing his decision not to run, said he didn't think he could serve in the Senate and run for governor at the same time and do both well. Kernan said essentially the same thing.

Democratic sources told HPR that Hill and his wife, Betty, initially ruled out a run after the Kernan bombshell. Once

Bayh declined, there was a new wave of pressure from Bayh, O'Bannon, Manous and former Democratic Chairman Robin Winston for Hill to run.

It ended up placing Hill in a real quandary. Ninth CD Democrats were concerned about holding on to the seat if he left it open. There was talk that he would have to resign in order to avoid the withering criticism Democrats loaded on U.S. Rep. David McIntosh when he ran for governor in 2000, missing many floor votes. Hill had to be concerned about running on the O'Bannon record, one which Joe Kernan, Bayh, John Gregg, Bart Peterson, and Tim Roemer took a pass on for a variety of reasons. In another time and in sunnier circumstances, any and all of them would have leaped at the opportunity. There were personal reasons for Hill, such as being less than two years away from being vested in a Congressional pension.

And there was labor. Organized labor in Indiana seemed resoundingly against a Hill candidacy, stemming in part from his votes on free trade with China. The Indiana AFL-CIO declined to endorse Hill last winter, feeling they had helped

him win in 1998, only to be abandoned.

A mountain of intangibles

Then, there were the intangibles. Hill had a great deal to offer on paper. He was a moderately conservative "Blue Dog" Democrat who would fit into the Bayh-O'Bannon dynastic mode. He is a good orator, an aggressive campaigner, with a good personal story.

But in key pockets of labor and the news media, and from his 2002 campaign against Mike Sodrel, a different Hill emerged. He and his staff are not prone to develop relationships. This is critical. Frank O'Bannon spent eight years as lieutenant governor reaching out to both labor and the news media. With the latter, his developed rapport was crucial in September 1996 when his Republican rival, Stephen Goldsmith, aired TV ads accusing O'Bannon of voting for 38 tax increases. An animated O'Bannon went before the Statehouse press corps and exhorted them to "go out and find the truth!" That sequence of the 1996 campaign crippled Goldsmith in a race that was his to lose. O'Bannon relied on labor activists to help him in the trenches that year.

In essence, Frank O'Bannon had to run a virtually perfect campaign in 1996 – and he did, which, in tandem with Goldsmith's errors (wasting money on Chicago TV, foregoing key campaign aids such as yard signs and door hangers) gave the Democrats an upset.

Hill was looking at a race with three strikes against him when he would probably have to run almost as good a campaign as O'Bannon's 1996 effort, if not better, in order to have a chance to win in 2004.

There were questions about whether Hill had thick enough skin to run in a gubernatorial campaign. The Hill campaign seemed taut, humorless and suspicious of anyone who suggested his 2002 race had tightened up. That same attitude

was on display when the Hill-for-governor draft took shape in January.

In order to run for governor of Indiana or any state, one has to have the fire in the belly, be in a good mood about it, have demonstrable skills in building relationships, and work to get all cylinders hitting on a good stroke. Many of those vital elements were missing from the Hill portfolio. When Hill decided not to run, 9th CD Democrats like State Sen. Connie Sipes said they were "relieved" at not losing their congressman, which seemed to be more important to them than holding on to the governorship. Strange.

Maybe Vargus is right

Perhaps Brian Vargus is right. When he said Indiana wasn't ready for a woman to be governor, a number of quarters in the Hoosier political establishment were repelled.

But in the post-Kernan, post-Peterson, post-Bayh, post-Gregg, and now post-Hill sequence, the actions of the fathers appear to be a mode of "anyone but Vi." As Hill was pulling out, former Secretary of State Joe Hogsett's name was added to the mix, despite two consecutive losses to Sen. Dan Coats in 1992 and David McIntosh in 1994 in the old 2nd CD. The "party of inclusion" is looking anything but these days.

It could become dangerous territory for Gov. O'Bannon and Chairman Peter Manous. The unmistakable, underlying message coming from the leaders who took a pass was that they weren't comfortable to run in any kind of association with the O'Bannon record. There was a "pitchfork the dung out of the barn" mentality taking shape as the good ol' Democratic boys lurched from candidate to candidate, anointing one the savior, only to have him pass, before they went to the next.

Supporters of State Sen. Vi Simpson are appalled. The question through the Democratic rank and file is, "What's wrong with Vi?" The party

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President Bush, he added will lay out evidence linking Iraq to weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. Local voters, however, seem to be preoccupied with health care issues. That's the impression left by a town meeting with Pence here Tuesday.

DILLMAN TO JOIN DEMOCRATS: Susan Dillman, a former South Bend Tribune reporter and Indiana Week in Review commentator, will head up communications for the Indiana Democratic Party, replacing Daniel Yovich.

BAYH APPOINTED TO ARMED SERVICES: U.S. Senator Evan Bayh has been appointed to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee during the 108th Congress, which begins its work this month. The Armed Services Committee has jurisdiction over the U.S. Department of Defense, the Army, Navy and Air Force. Bayh will join the committee today for a closed hearing on the progress of U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq. The appointment puts Bayh - who also serves on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence - in a unique position to help shape and improve U.S. national security in the post-9/11 environment, while also giving a new voice to Hoosier work-

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ers who build the engines, trucks, and other goods to support the U.S. Military. The appointment will allow Bayh to further his efforts to create new jobs in Indiana industries that work in tandem with the U.S. Armed Services. The military depends on Indiana companies like AM General in Mishawaka, and workers at the Crane Naval Base in Martin County.

SHEPARD PUSHES FOR JUDICIAL PAY RAISES: Indiana Chief Justice Randall Shepard urged lawmakers yesterday to give judges, prosecutors and judicial officers pay raises ranging from 18 percent to 21 percent. Shepard, in his State of the Judiciary speech to a joint session of the House and Senate, said the increases would make up for "six years of standing still" (Mike Smith, Associated Press). "They are the only full-time employees of state government, local government or education or the private sector who have gone that long (without a raise)," Shepard said. According to an October survey by the National Center for State Courts, the \$90,000 base salary for nearly 320 Indiana trial judges ties for 47th lowest in the nation. The General Assembly passed a bill in 2001 that would have created such a commission and increased pay for legislators and judges. But Gov.

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fathers believe she is suspect at raising money, and doesn't have the "gravitas" to run for governor.

But those are two elements that can be developed. The Tim Roemer of January 1990 was a green, almost immature political specimen, and very different from the Tim Roemer of October 1990, on the eve of his upset of U.S. Rep. John Hiler, a 10-year veteran. Roemer went on to an illustrious 12-year career in the House. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson is another example of a fresh-face Democrat who was able to establish his own MO, play to the Democratic base with a kind of progressive populism not seen lately on the state level, while not spooking the business community on his way to ending a 32-year GOP dynasty.

Conversely, McIntosh was cast as the Republican Moses (the Biblical one) in 1999, only to follow his excellent six-year Congressional career with an unfocused, unsuccessful challenge of O'Bannon in 2000.

The only key players not dismissing Simpson were Gregg and Hill as they pulled away. Hill told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that political observers are underestimating the remaining Democrats in the field. "Vi Simpson would be a very good candidate," he said. "Joe Andrew would be an excellent candidate as well."

Why the Democratic fathers seem to be applying the same 10-foot-pole to Simpson as other candidates had on running on the O'Bannon record is puzzling. As the governor's State of the State address neared, some of the hysteria surrounding the lack of an emerging, credible, white, middle-aged male seemed to be subsiding. Manous said there was still plenty of time. He's correct; it's very early in the process.

Doug Richardson, a protege of Andrew, remembered a similar situation in South Carolina when he worked for the National Democratic Governor's Association. All of the early favorite candidates had backed away before House

Minority Leader Jim Hodges stepped forward, developed a good campaign and then upset Republican Gov. David Beasley.

Republican smuggerly

Want to bring a Hoosier Republican down to earth?

Say this: "1996."

For Democrats to fret and view the world amid a falling sky is to collapse into the idea of being stuck in time.

O'Bannon was a decided underdog in 1996, with few giving him much of a chance of winning. One perfectly executed campaign later, the Democratic dynasty was extended eight years.

Hoosier Republicans salivate at the notion of OMB Director Mitch Daniels returning (*See Horse Race 2004 for new developments at OMB*). But the backdrop to all of this is President Bush walking a tight rope on the war and the economy.

We can't remember a time in recent American history when the stakes of this three-dimensional chess game could be higher. The course Bush takes could well define the American empire well into this century, and missteps here could be calamitous. With so much focus on Iraq, there is paralysis over a third of the "Axis of Evil" (North Korea), and the Bush administration is utterly vulnerable to a political backlash if Al Qaeda can pull off its rumored "spectacular" next attack.

There are signs that Americans are becoming suspicious of the Iraq situation, with a number of polls showing that about 65 percent of them want to see compelling evidence of Iraq's destructive capabilities. Bush's popularity dropped to 58 percent in the latest Gallup Poll.

The economy, and Mitch Daniels, are intertwined in all of this. If Bush executes this strategy well, Daniels may very well look like gangbusters. Even he acknowledges that a bad turn of events could steal some of his luster.

Today's atmosphere seems to be driving Hoosier Democrats, when 2004 could be a very different world. ❖

Kittle issues his "Promises" report for 2002

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

I can still hear his voice now:
"A tie?!?"

No, this wasn't Indiana Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. opening a Christmas present. It was his incredulous response to a reporter who suggested it was all a wash the day after the November election.

A few hours after Kittle's incredulity, the Indiana House swung back to the Democrats, and one might have been compelled to retort, "Yes. A tie."

The scorecard in Kittle's first election read: Winning all the statewide offices (with at least 56 percent of the vote in each, with the exception of Secretary of State Todd Rokita, who won with 53 percent); picking up the 2nd CD with U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola's win; re-electing all five GOP Congressional incumbents; maintaining the status quo in the Indiana Senate; and picking up two seats in the Indiana House.

Kittle sent out a pamphlet reviewing his record earlier this month titled, "Year One: Promises Made and Promises Kept." Here are the highlights:

1.) Republicans defeated two Democratic House incumbents for the first time since 1994. Republicans House candidates received 55.8 percent of the popular vote (compared to 41.6 percent for the Democrats and 2.6 percent for the Libertarians). "All told, 750,000 Hoosiers voted for Republican legislators; 550,000 voted for Democratic House legislators. Only drastic gerrymandering allowed the Democrats to maintain a slim majority in the Indiana House," Kittle explained.

2.) The Republican Party raised \$6.3 million from March through December. "That is a state party record," Kittle observed.

3.) The Indiana GOP gave more than \$800,000 in cash and services to legislative candidates, nearly \$1.1 million to targeted Congressional races; and nearly

\$1 million in contributions, paid media and other direct contact for the statewide. "All of these efforts are state party records," said Kittle.

4.) The party provided 100 percent of personal licence plate funds to GOP county organizations, nearly \$700,000.

5.) The party invested \$125,000 to develop and improve the voter name list. A number of Republican candidates told HPR they found the list to be functionally better.

6.) The party funded \$2.5 million in voter contact programs with the Republican National Committee calling it "one of the best in the country."

7.) Kittle called the party's outreach program "historic" with the creation of the MBARI program for African-Americans and the selection of a Latino state director and five regional directors. The GOP also provided absentee mail ballots and phone calls to more than 400,000 Republicans.

Kittle noted that the party's newly designed website debuted June 1 and "received more than 30,000 hits, including 10,290 hits in November alone." More than 2,000 people requested the party's weekly digital newsletter.

Kittle cited his *Blueprint 2002* as a successful working strategy, and promised a 2003 version for the upcoming mayoral and city council elections. "We are off to a great start, but without a doubt, the success of any plan will require the teamwork of thousands of Republicans across the state," Kittle said. "In the end, we will be judged by our ability to come together, stay together and win elections. We have two years left until we reach our goal of electing a governor in 2004." ❖

Indiana Republican Fund-raising

2002	\$6.3 million	1997	\$1.9 million
2001	\$2.029 million	1996	\$4.8 million
2000	\$5.88 million	1995	\$2.16 million
1999	2.28 million	1994	\$3.19 million
1998	3.19 million	1993	\$2.96 million

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Frank O'Bannon vetoed it because of the state's budget deficit.

STATE OF STATE ADDRESS DIDN'T GET THOROUGH LIVE COVERAGE: Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon delivered his State of the State address Tuesday night, but not all Hoosiers saw it live, and many saw just selected excerpts on late-night newscasts (Evansville Courier & Press). The only local exception was WNIN-PBS9, which aired the speech on a three-hour delay at 9:30 p.m. While the major-affiliate Indianapolis and Fort Wayne stations carried the speech live, most stations in Evansville, Terre Haute and South Bend opted for news coverage instead. There were a number of reasons - many of them economic. The monetary issue is twofold for the TV stations. Not only have they already paid syndication rights for the programs they air at 6:30 p.m., but they also would lose all advertising revenue during that half hour. "If we covered Gov. O'Bannon's State of the State, we'd have to do the same for Kentucky and Illinois - and with three States of the State addresses and three nights of program clearances, the cost would be prohibitive," said Bob Freeman, news director at WFIE-NBC14. "We knew we could cover it well on

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our 10 o'clock news."

KITTLE DIDN'T SEE SOLUTIONS IN SPEECH: Indiana Republican Party Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. said today that the governor's seventh State of the State address offered few, if any solutions and seemed to be nothing more than a regurgitation of information that has already been shared with Hoosiers during recent weeks and months. "Gov. O'Bannon told us nothing new and offered no solutions to the very real problems facing our state," Kittle said. "He may as well have recited a collection his favorite poems from James Whitcomb Riley for a half an hour." While the governor touted his "Energize Indiana" plan and the projections for its success, he left out some other information that puts the plan into perspective for Hoosiers. Gov. O'Bannon said that his plan will lead to the creation of 200,000 new jobs in targeted high-tech fields in the next ten years. What Gov. O'Bannon did not tell us is that, under his watch, Indiana has lost about 135,000 jobs since June of 2000. "In the speech, the governor acknowledged that even if his plan works, it will take ten years to attract the projected 200,000 jobs to Indiana," Kittle said. "Therefore, under his own plan, it will take years to recover the 135,000 jobs

Indiana 2003 Racing Form

Indiana 2003 Mayoral Races

Crown Point Mayoral: **Republican:** Councilman Pam Roth, Garyle Van Sessen. **Democrat:** Bill Wirtz. **1999 Results:** Metros (D) 3,005, Kemp (R) 2,671. **2003 Outlook:** As city Democrats start lining up behind Bill Wirtz in this year's mayoral race, Republicans find themselves divided. On one side is Gayle Van Sessen, executive director of the Crown Point Chamber of Commerce, who has been planning a mayoral run for more than a year. On the other is Councilwoman Pam Roth, R-3rd, who decided to seek the job after losing a November bid to unseat Bob Kuzman, D-Crown Point (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Supporters on both sides trumpet their candidates' qualifications. But some observers say the candidates are so qualified that they could split the party, driving enough supporters of whomever loses the May primary to vote for the Democratic candidate, sabotaging the race for Republicans. **General Status:** *LEANS D.*

Evansville Mayoral: **Republican:** Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel, Steve Melcher, Commissioner David Mosby. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Results:** Lloyd (R) 15,980, Borries (D) 15,461. **2003 Forecast:** Former Democratic Mayor Frank McDonald II will not run for mayor or City Council this year (Herb Marynell, *Evansville Courier & Press*). That leaves local Democrats with two possible choices - state Rep. Jonathan Weinzapfel and County Commissioner David Mosby - to oppose Republican Mayor Russ Lloyd Jr. A letter from McDonald was read Tuesday at a meeting of Democratic elected officeholders to hear from potential mayoral candidates. McDonald's letter said Weinzapfel was the only potential candidate "that stands a chance of being a viable and successful candidate in the November election." Others might be able to win a Democratic primary but not the general election, McDonald said. Weinzapfel said he has spoken with Mosby in the past about the challenges of running for mayor and what it would take. And the two chatted by phone Tuesday evening. "We both discussed our interest in running for mayor," Weinzapfel said (Jennifer Whitson, *Evansville Courier & Press*). "We're probably in agreement that the party would be best served if there's no primary." Asked Wednesday if that is where the agreement ended, Weinzapfel said, "That's a fair statement." **General Status:** *Leans Lloyd.*

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Fort Wayne Mayoral: **Republican:** Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Mayor Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Results:** Richard (D) 21,607, Buskirk (R) 21,531. **2003 Forecast:** Richard raised \$196,421 in 2002. His well-stocked war chest could be a sign that the mayor's race of 2003 will be the costliest in the city's history. "I can see the possibility of a race certainly being in the \$800,000 range," said Richard, whose 1999 campaign brought in an all-time high of \$656,500 (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Jon Olinger said Tuesday he will not run for Fort Wayne mayor this year, likely paving the way for a repeat of the 1999 election for the city's top post (David Griner, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Olinger, owner of a real estate appraisal firm and a Fort Wayne Community Schools board member, has spent months preparing for a GOP primary fight against Buskirk. But he said he decided to spare the Republican Party from divisiveness in the mayor's race and shifted his campaign to a run for an at-large spot on the Fort Wayne City Council. "Either one of us in a one-on-one race with Graham would have an equal chance of beating him," Olinger said of himself and Buskirk. "But if we blow a lot of money in the primary, I think we're probably going to walk away the loser."

General Status: *Tossup.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: **Republican:** Treasurer Greg Jordan, State Rep. Phil Hinkle, Bob Parker. **Democrat:** Mayor Bart Peterson. **Libertarian:** Open. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R)

64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Results:** Peterson (D) 102,870, Gilroy (R) 83,044, Horning (L) 7,772, Gibson (OP) 2,145. **2003 Forecast:** Peterson is starting his re-election bid with a tremendous fund-raising edge over his potential Republican opponents. The first-term Democratic mayor plans to file a finance report today showing he had nearly \$1.9 million in his campaign account at the end of 2002. **General Status:** *LIKELY PETERSON.*

New Albany Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Regina Overton. **Democrat:**

Councilman James E. Garner. **1995 Results:** England 6,845, Real (R) 5,886. **1999 Results:** Overton (R) 5,512, England (D) 4,205. **2003 Forecast:** Overton as she announced she will seek another term in office. "The slogan is going to be that we've solved the tough issues," Overton said (Amany Ali, *New Albany Tribune*). "I've never shied away from a tough issue and I'm not going to start now." The tough issues, Overton said, include her attempts at solving the city's sewer problems and rebuilding the city's relationship with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Overton said she began tackling the sewer problem and eventually came up with a \$44 million solution/expansion. "It will be out of our minds," Overton said. "It will be gone." **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

Terre Haute Mayoral: Republican: Duken Bennett, Bill Dunbar. **Democrat:**

Mayor Judy Anderson, Jim Jenkins. **1999 Results:** Anderson (D) 6,791, Hooper (R) 2,608, Cronk (I) 1,178, Brour (I) 174. **2003 Forecast:** Duke Bennett, director of operations at Hamilton Center, has entered the race as a Republican. Still no word on whether Bill Dunbar has been talked into running for the same party nomination. Former Mayor Jenkins is signalling to supporters that he will run, but won't confirm it publicly. Democrats George Azar and Cliff Lambert and telling their potential supporters they will get in if Jenkins doesn't. If Jenkins runs, expect a gloves off primary. **General Status:** *Leans Anderson*

Indiana 2004 State, Federal Races

Governor 2004: Republican: Ambassador Dan Coats, David McIntosh, Sen.

Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, OMB Director Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris. **Democrat:** Joe Andrew, Joe Hogsett, State Sen. Vi Simpson. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** Another sign that Mitch Daniels is preparing leave came when the *Washington Post* reported Tuesday that Clay Johnson, the current head of White House personnel and a long time buddy of the President's, will leave that role and take over at OMB. While Hoosier Democrats work feverishly to consolidate behind one candidate or ticket, the Republicans will probably be in the same mode come next April, when a decision from Daniels could possibly come. Most observers think that Eric Miller is committed to the race, no matter what. McIntosh, who believes he would lead any poll at this point on the basis of his 2000 run, is also a long-shot to drop out, though he says he will sit down with Daniels should the time come. Clark is also non-committal. Indiana Republican Party Chairman Jim Kittle called State Sen. Vi Simpson, the first Democratic gubernatorial candidate, "the most prominent liberal Democrat in the state" (Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star*). But former U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, who lost his bid for governor in 2000 but is running again, disagreed. "Vi is much more mainstream," McIntosh said. "As a Republican, I'd think we'd love to do that (label her as too liberal), but I don't think it's credible." **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

U.S. Senate: Republican: Marvin Scott. **Democrat:** U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh. **1992**

Results: Coats (R) 1,267,972, Hogsett (D) 900,148. **1998 Results:** Bayh (D) 1,012,244, Helmke (R) 552,732. **2004 Forecast:** Despite Bayh's attempts to get Rep. Hill into the governor's race (is that Baron's arm he's holding?), we don't expect a serious threat against the Democrat. But Bayh's political organization takes nothing for granted, and that means it wants a strong gubernatorial ticket for the Democrats. It's that kind of approach that makes a great political organization ... great. **Status:** *Solid D.* ❖

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lost under his own leadership. That's just not quick enough."

SEN. SMITH TRIAL OFF UNTIL AFTER SESSION: Sen. Sam Smith, D-East Chicago, will not face trial until after the General Assembly adjourns for the year (Steve Walsh, *Post-Tribune*). A Marion Superior Court judge agreed with Smith's attorney, Linda Pence, that Indiana law required the court to grant the sitting senator a continuance until after the end of the session. "The judge and the senator's attorney had some concerns. Our office had similar concerns," said Randall Rogers, deputy prosecutor in Marion County. Smith was set to go on trial April 9. His new trial date is Aug. 19, to give ample time for the 30-day window, in case lawmakers go into special session.

LAPORTE MAYOR TO SEEK RE-ELECTION: Encouraged by her administration's effort to snap LaPorte out of its economic woes and other victories, Mayor Kathy Chrobak announced Wednesday she'll run for a second term (*Post-Tribune*). "As you all know there's been a lot of ups and downs. It's really been quite a ride. The ups have made me feel wonderful too," said Chrobak in front of about 50 Democratic supporters at

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LaPorte City Hall. No other candidates for mayor have yet emerged.

BROADCASTER EYES WEST LAFAYETTE MAYORAL RACE: Mayor Sonya Margerum's plans to leave City Hall has sparked interest among West Lafayette Republicans interested in succeeding her (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*).

Television sports broadcaster Bob Ford, a former Purdue University basketball standout, and Kelly Vaughn Busch, who owns WGLM-FM 106.7, have launched trial balloons with Republican Party officials.



COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* -

In Indiana, Pam Pattison, spokesperson for the Indiana Department of Correction, said the state has 41 death row inmates, 40 of whom are at the Indiana State Penitentiary in Michigan City and another in Ohio. For those serving time, the state is paying \$53.08 a day, and the average length of stay is about 12 years. Pattison says the number of death penalty cases in Indiana is decreasing and more inmates are sentenced to life without parole. "We have a number of offenders who are serving life without the possibility of serving parole. Some of those were plea agreements after the death penalty after the prosecutor said they were going after the death penalty," she says. Meanwhile, the United States and its justice system grapple with the notion of the Biblical principle that there is an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. If the trend against capital punishment continues, the revised translation will be an eye for a wink and a nod and a tooth for a warm room and a meal for the rest of your life. But to the wrongfully convicted who have been freed, the words of King himself have to resonate: "Free at last, free at last; Thank, God almighty, I'm free at last." ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* -

If Eastern Daylight Time were in force, St. Joseph County, Indianapolis and the majority of the state would always be on New York time, never on Chicago time. Fine with many folks in Indianapolis, especially corporate types who want to have the same lunch hour as the bosses at the corporate headquarters in New York. At the same time, it should be noted that people in South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart and other places up in this area feel closer ties with Chicago than with New York -- or Indianapolis. Maybe the business interests in Indianapolis who don't understand why there is always so

much opposition to forcing daylight time up here should concentrate on providing a highway so we can get to Indianapolis as smoothly as we can zip into Chicago. ❖

Scott Newman, *Indianapolis Eye* -

So liberals and conservatives implicitly agree on one thing: Police and prosecutors cannot do much to impact crime rates. The problems are simply much larger and more fundamental than these plodding criminal justice system players can conceive. Indeed, many cops and prosecutors bought into the implications of this logic; they measure success merely by how many "runs" they take, or how quickly they take them, or how many "dispositions" they ram through the courts. To dare to measure success (and failure) by reduced crime rates, or more boldly still, by measuring the number of evening walks in the neighborhood a law-abiding couple can safely take, is to court frustration and embarrassment. Yet to embrace the more cynical view can be dangerous; it is a form of corruption that accords power without the real moral authority that comes only with the belief that one can, and must, make a positive difference, in genuine service to the people who accorded the power in the first place. Fortunately, beginning in the early 1990s, a number of police executives and prosecuting attorneys around the country refused to accept their own irrelevance. They found the hurling of rhetorical brickbats tiresome, and they felt poignantly a need to come to the rescue of neighborhoods in pragmatic ways. Playing past the philosophical divisions, they set about harnessing the power of geographically based computer systems, crime-reducing environmental design, criminal opportunity deprivation, the re-weaving of neighborhood efficacy and standard-setting, and the revival of the very concept of deterrence. ❖