

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I plead with you to stop this nonsense now!”

- State Rep. Chet Dobis, in a letter to the Merrillville Town Council over its plan to issue a bond that he says will raise local taxes.

A wild weekend set for French Lick

Andrew’s mo a sprint, or a marathon?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Say what you want about the Democratic gubernatorial race between Joe Andrew and Vi Simpson. No one has the full picture. It’s all smoke and mirrors, mirages, propaganda, paranoia, fear and loathing, hyperbole and core faith.

I’d be an idiot if I attempted to tell you who is the true frontrunner: who will win the sprint, as opposed to the marathon. Conventional wisdom rests on its ear, or at least the one that didn’t attract Vincent’s attention.

There are too many pieces floating around with too little context ... Joe Andrew ... Vi Simpson ... Larry Bird ... Bren Simon ... George Hamilton ... Terry Thurman ...

The cards have been dealt, and to be first revealed at the French Lick Springs Resort this coming weekend. How the Simpson and Andrew camps play their hands will determine what is becoming the great modern Hoosier political saga. Whether the gathering of the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association at French Lick and Chairman Joe Hogsett’s controversial straw poll will shed any light, or create the wildest weekend since the Crash of ‘29 quaked the West Baden Hotel remains to be seen.

Straws in the wind

The week after Joe Andrew selected Bren Simon as his running mate wound down to whether Simpson would be sending a “trojan horse” into Saturday’s straw poll.

At first, Simpson declined to participate, leading some observers to question whether she was in the game and playing by the same rules. Her request to speak prior to the straw poll, reasoning that it would be her only chance to address

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ZOGBY POLL HAS BUSH APPROVAL AT 52 PERCENT: A Zogby International poll of 1,011 likely voters, conducted over August 16-19 (+/- 3.2%), shows: 52% approve of the way George Bush is handling his job as President; 48% disapprove. 45% say Bush deserves to be re-elected; 48% say someone new.

PETERSON, JORDAN SPAR OVER COLTS: The city's two mayoral candidates offered dramatically different approaches Wednesday to dealing with the Indianapolis Colts, making clear that this year's elections could go a long way toward determining the future of the NFL franchise (Indianapolis Star). In the first mayoral debate of this election season, Mayor Bart Peterson reiterated that he is committed to keeping the Colts in Indianapolis. Republican challenger Greg Jordan, on the other hand, said he would close the city's checkbook when it comes to the team. "We can't subsidize the Colts anymore," said Jordan. "It's just out of the question." Peterson countered: "I think the Colts are an essential asset." The issue of increasing public funding for the team has been a hot one for the past year, as officials estimate it could cost \$10 million to \$15 million annu-

the entire convention, left the two feuding campaigns firing off potshots Wednesday and Thursday.

"I welcome Sen. Simpson's decision to participate in this weekend's straw poll," Andrew said late Wednesday. "With more than 800 rank and file Democrats expected at French Lick, it will be the largest gathering of Democrats in one place prior to next year's primary. It's a great opportunity for candidates to make their case directly to the people who will be the key to a Democratic victory in 2004. More importantly, it's a great opportunity for party activists to see the candidates who want their support up close and personal.

"Now, thanks to Sen. Simpson's change of heart, Democratic activists will have a chance to compare our experience directly and that's good news for our party and, in the long term, for all of Indiana," Andrew said.

Simpson's spokesman, Jason Kinney, and newly appointed Simpson campaign manager Mike Draper both downplayed what Andrew described earlier in the week as an attempt to "sandbag" the straw poll. "It's the only opportunity to speak to the whole Democratic congregation and she is not going to pass that up. She is going to speak and in her speech I expect her to re-emphasize the fact that she doesn't want the Democrats to vote for her this weekend. She wants them to vote for her in May."

Draper said that Simpson is putting her energies into raising money for mayors, "which will be vital for the party heading into 2004, and honoring Frank McCloskey."

The straw poll, first suggested by HPR last winter, became even more controversial when Hogsett rescinded the \$20 registration fee that was supposed to raise money for mayoral races. When Cindy Miller, president of the UAW local in Anderson, sent out a letter offering to reimburse the registration cost for the hundreds of workers expected to show up

and vote for Andrew, Hogsett was faced with conducting an illegal enterprise. Hogsett decided to pull the fee to, as he told the *Indianapolis Star*, "avoid any appearance of impropriety."

Andrew's campaign originally said they expected "several hundred" supporters to show up, but many observers believe it could approach 1,000. His "sandbagging" comments came in the context of Simpson's Senate district being so close that it would be easy to motivate her supporters to pop over for the afternoon vote.

"Everyone is going to be looking at the size of the victory now," Joe Andrew said (Niki Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "Winning is important because it shows you are willing to play, that you are not going to back down from a challenge."

Battle over labor support

While Andrew can expect a vocal number of UAW members to show up, Simpson has been making some labor inroads of her own this week, trying to challenge the perception that Andrew had the momentum after his Bren Simon announcement.

Simpson picked up a Fort Wayne area Teamsters Local 414 and the AFSCME Local 832 (Indiana University employees) endorsements today, and from the Laborer's International Union of North America Local 741 in Monroe County on Tuesday. "That's three labor endorsements in three days, if you're keeping score at home," Jason Kinney said.

"Andrew got the early endorsements before Vi had an opportunity to address anyone," Draper explained. "One by one, she's getting a very good response when she gets in front of labor folks. She's got a very strong labor record."

Andrew countered by picking up the 1st and 2nd CD organization endorsements over the past couple of weeks. While Andrew is angling for a big straw

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Editorials on the Bren Simon LG selection

Here are a couple of editorials on the Bren Simon selection as Joe Andrew's lieutenant governor candidate:

BLOOMINGTON HERALD-TIMES: Bren Simon bright, personable, but hardly ready to be lieutenant governor. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Joe Andrew may have turned his campaign into a farce before it ever really got rolling. It certainly would seem to be a monumental, perhaps lethal, error to declare nine months before the May 2004 primary that your choice for running mate and future lieutenant governor is Bren Simon. For those of you not familiar with Indianapolis high society and big money, Bren Simon is the wife of mall magnate and Indiana Pacers owner Mel Simon. Her selection is akin to Arnold Swarzenegger announcing that his choice for lieutenant governor in California would be Arianna Huffington, the socialite conservative-turned-populist pundit. To be sure, Bren Simon is not some fluffy lightweight. She is a talented, tough, articulate person who has been integrally involved in a lot of the Simons' community projects. But her selection nonetheless casts Joe Andrew's decision-making abilities into grave doubt. Instead of looking bold, as he no doubt hoped he would, he looks bonkers. And we thought the Democrats had two serious candidates for governor.

FT. WAYNE NEWS-SENTINEL: Neither Andrew nor Simon has held office before. They are near-neighbors in Hamilton County (they have the same ZIP code), one of the suburban fringes of Indianapolis. But let's end the mystery as to why she got the nod so early: She's very rich. Her husband, Mel Simon, has a net worth estimated at \$850 million. She's the president of a property-management company with 90 employees. Their home is larger than Bill Gates', and it includes its own golf course. And they've given millions to Democrats in the last few years. Andrew dismisses suggestions that this choice is a grab for funding; he's quick to tout early obstacles Simon overcame in life. He says she'll bring a fresh perspective to the race. We'll see. But for now, her selection seems to confirm a widely held suspicion: People can buy as much political clout as they want, given enough money. ❖

poll victory this weekend that he believes will be sending hundreds of supporters out across the state with the perception that he will be unstoppable for the nomination, Simpson is viewing her candidacy in marathon, not sprint terms.

If she can withstand the Andrew assault this weekend, the next four months will be critical for her to show she can steadily build up her own momentum, prior to the return of the Indiana General Assembly and some potential huge obstacles it faces in January.

Andrew has to be hoping that by January, he will have independent polls showing he is leading, and a big money edge. By January, the events of this weekend in French Lick may seem like the distant past.

But as HPR observed last week, there are few tell-tales available that would determine who the frontrunner is. Neither campaign is releasing money figures. There are only the dueling lists of endorsements that provide little context. The race for the moment is hostage to the propaganda wars.

Big Mo

Some believe Andrew adding Bren Simon and her seemingly unlimited checkbook to his ticket gives him big momentum.

There are two schools of thought on that selection. One is that Andrew may have capped out at around \$350,000 on the amount of money he could raise from labor unions and was finding it hard to

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ally to keep the franchise. Peterson's pledge to help the Colts financially has brought him both cheers and boos. It didn't bring him either on Wednesday, but Jordan's statement brought some of the loudest applause of the evening.

REPUBLICANS OFFER PROPERTY TAX PLAN: Indiana House Republicans want Gov. Frank O'Bannon to issue an executive order to ease some people's property tax burden, they announced Wednesday (Jennifer Whitson, Evansville Courier & Press). But, they said, they don't know how much the most aggressive measure in their five-point plan would cost the state and local government. "Extraordinary times call for extraordinary leadership," said House Republican Leader Brian Bosma. The proposal would allow people with a 10 percent or more increase to go on a payment plan and get their late-payment penalty waived. It would also extend the deadline for filing appeals, limit how much local government can set aside to pay for appeals and allow people to retroactively apply for the homestead credit. O'Bannon's spokeswoman, Mary Dieter, said his office has already been considering these options, but won't be taking any action until more counties

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get done with reassessment. "We don't know that there is a statewide problem and until we know that there's a statewide problem, we're not going to take steps to have a statewide solution," Dieter said. "It's time to stop protecting government and start protecting homeowners," said Rep. Jeff Espich, the ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee.

BLOOMINGTON TAXES TO RISE: There's bad news and good news for most Monroe County home property taxpayers. The bad news is that fixing the recent \$370 million error in the recent county property reassessment is raising their property tax rates by up to 10 percent (*Bloomington Herald-Times*). The good news is that fixing the state of Indiana's own goof in calculating the property tax homestead credit at the same time will reduce the impact on November property tax bills by around 3 percent. The primary impact of fixing the reassessment error will fall on Bloomington residents, whose rates will go up by about 10 percent before the homestead credit correction is factored in to lower it some.

HAMILTON LAUDS HILL: When John Hamilton learned U.S. Rep. Baron Hill was going to discuss health

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raise additional money. Some now believe that with Simon in the Andrew camp, he might find it harder to raise money because people are reluctant to donate to rich candidates.

There were other dangers with the Simon choice (*see Columnists, page 8*). One was the idea of Andrew not consulting as many Democrats as might have occurred had he had to make the choice after a primary victory.

One prominent Democrat recalled that after Frank O'Bannon chose Joe Kernan in 1996, one labor leader wouldn't talk to the future governor for months. "It wasn't that he disagreed with the Kernan selection. He just didn't feel like he was consulted."

As for whether Simpson had considered putting a ticket together, Draper explained, "We're going to keep our options open. There are a lot of qualified people. These folks are normally selected at the state convention and they like to have a say."

While a handful of columnists did weigh in on the Simon selection, many Democrats we talked with were withholding any judgment, taking a wait-and-see approach.

The Andrew campaign seems to understand the magnitude of the choice. A senior adviser told HPR, "It will be seen as either a stroke of genius or a major mistake." ❖

2004 Racing Form

Governor 2004: Republican: Mitch Daniels, David McIntosh, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris, Bob Parker. **Democrat:** Joe Andrew, State Sen. Vi Simpson, Roy Graham. **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:** Who might make a good running mate for Vi Simpson? For diversity, how

about Grant County Sheriff Oatess Archy, Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez or Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson? Key legislators might include State Rep. Brian Hasler of Evansville, Bob Kuzman of Crown Point, Scott

Reske of Anderson, or Sen. Tim Lanane of Anderson. Other names would be Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard (if he's re-elected), South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke, and former agriculture official Melina Fox (who ran against U.S. Rep. Mike Pence) of Greensburg. On the Republican side, despite Eric Miller's vow to distribute thousands of bumper stickers this summer, we've yet to see a single one during our travels across the state recently. Conspicuously absent from Daniels' State Senate endorsements is President Pro Tempore Bob Garton. Our sources say his blood pressure is up over Sen. Murray Clark's position as chair of the campaign. Clark challenged Garton for his leadership role in 2002. In his "*Mitch Writes Home*" e-mail, Daniels wrote glowingly about his trip to the new Gary baseball stadium. "I'd be kidding if I didn't admit that the highlight of the trip was a night at the Steelyard, Gary's new baseball stadium, where we watched the hometown Rail Cats drop a tough one to St. Paul," Daniels said. "It was exciting to see a crowd of 4,000 or so people from all over Northwest Indiana in downtown Gary on a beautiful summer night." No mention was made by The Blade that the \$45 million stadium came in \$20 million over budget. Daniels commented on a report in HPR on how local communities face funding hurdles with the elimination of President Clinton's COPS program. "The money was always scheduled to end at 100,000 and it didn't," Daniels told HPR. "Every community agreed to take over the costs. Like all federal programs, it takes on perpetual life once communities get addicted to the money. Then they want to renege." Daniels added that studies have shown that communities that used COPS funding to hire police officers "showed no reduction in crime." **Democratic Primary Status:** TOSSUP. **Republican Primary Status:** LEANS DANIELS. ❖

HORSE RACE

Daniels campaign looks like a runaway train

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

Mitch Daniels' gubernatorial campaign is showing all the signs of a runaway freight train heading down that steep grade at Madison. Just as he begins weighing in on substantive policy issues, Daniels announced the endorsements of 45 Republican county chairs, 24 state representatives, 14 state senators, and 24 of the 54 GOP mayors.

Endorsements are not always a precursor to success, as Rex Early had more than 60 county chair endorsements in 1996 before losing the primary to Stephen Goldsmith. But 38 Republican legislators and 24 mayors are signals of deeper, grassroots support from local political organizations that could be expected to help turn out a primary vote for the former White House budget director.

Madison Mayor Al Huntington's endorsement was typical of Daniels' backing. "Mitch Daniels brings to the office of Indiana governor the total package -- integrity, education, unparalleled business and government experience, commitment to family, and a passion for the great state of Indiana and its people."

Daniels aboard his signature-laden RV1 has not only cruised through 49 of 92 counties, but he's hanging out, showing up in mom and pop cafes, truck stops, doughnut shops, pharmacies and softball diamonds. In Kentland, Daniels became an honorary conductor of the Newton-Jasper Community Band. These all get reported in "Mitch Writes Home" e-mails to supporters. It's a contrast to the normal gubernatorial campaigns that have relied in the past on fly-arounds to big city airports, newspaper editorial board meetings, and Lincoln Day dinners.

Daniels has met with 15 groups of teachers, and last week in Muncie, with 20 county sheriffs, all of whom have extensive political contacts in their counties. Last Saturday, he was featured at a Columbia City hog roast thrown by Young

Republicans rallying under a brain drain banner that said, "We want to stay."

On the policy front, Daniels released his first major initiative last Saturday in Fort Wayne, calling on the governor to take over economic development duties which are now handled by the lieutenant governor. "If I am hired as governor by the citizens of Indiana, jobs will be Job One - and Two, and Three - for me, and for every employee of state government," Daniels said, adding he would propose legislation for that purpose. "It may once have made sense to delegate this task to someone else, but no more. A chief executive, in an emergency, takes personal responsibility for tackling it."

House endorsements: Alderman, Borrer, Bosma, Brown, Buell, Cherry, Duncan, Espich, Frizzell, Friend, Gutwein, Hinkle, Hoffman, Koch, Lehe, Leonard, Lutz, Messer, Murphy, Neese, Ripley, Scholer, Thomas, Torr, Turner, Ulmer, Yount.

Senate : Alting, Borst, Bray, Clark, Gard, Hershman, Jackman, Kenley, Lawson, Long, Lubbers, Miller, Nugent, Paul, Server, Skillman, Wyss.

County Chairs: Adams, Allen, Bartholomew, Benton, Brown, Cass, Crawford, Daviess, Dearborn, Decatur, DeKalb, Dubois, Fayette, Fountain, Franklin, Fulton, Grant, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Howard, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Knox, LaGrange, LaPorte, Lawrence, Marion, Miami, Monroe, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Posey, Putnam, Ripley, Scott, Shelby, Steuben, Sullivan, Union, Vanderburgh, Warren, Wells, Whitley.

Mayors: Attica, Batesville, Cannelton, Carmel, Columbia City, Covington, Elwood, Greensburg, Greenwood, Hammond, Huntington, Kokomo, Lafayette, Ligonier, Logansport, Madison, Noblesville, Rensselaer, Rushville, Scottsburg, Southport, Tipton, Vincennes, Warsaw. ❖

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insurance for Hoosier children with a crowd of child advocates at Bloomington's Banneker Center Wednesday afternoon, he decided to crash the party (Bloomington Herald-Times). "I had to come here to tell you people what Congressman Hill has done on behalf of Hoosier kids," said Hamilton, the secretary of the Indiana Family and Social Service Administration who is resigning Oct. 1. "Sens. Bayh and Lugar were important in this fight, but no one fought harder than Baron Hill." Hamilton was referring to the State Children's Health Insurance Program, a federal program created in 1997 for children from working poor families. When Indiana got a higher-than-average number of children enrolled in the insurance program, the federal government showed its appreciation by giving the Hoosier state a \$105 million bonus. "Then the federal government changed its mind and took the money back," Hamilton said. "We cried foul." Enter Hill, determined to do something about it. In describing Hill's tenacity in taking on the feds, Hamilton referred to his days as a sprinter at Seymour High School, where Hill set the state record for the 100-yard dash -- 9.5 seconds -- that still stands today. "He may have been a sprinter in high school," Hamilton said. "But

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he's a marathoner now. He fought long and hard on this one." The federal government finally relented, returning the \$105 million to Indiana.

AGUILERA TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM JOB: State Rep. John Aguilera is taking a one-year leave from his management job at Inland Steel (Post-Tribune). But he isn't saying what he'll be doing for the next year that will require that leave. Aguilera declined to comment when asked about the leave, which is outlined in an e-mail circulating at Inland Steel. The e-mail indicates Aguilera requested and was granted a one-year leave of absence, which begins Aug. 31. Inland Steel spokesman David C. Allen confirmed the e-mail's existence. Aguilera is the supervisor of building and office services. Aguilera, a two-term legislator up for re-election next year, had been a longtime vocal adversary of East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick. This year, he has become a Pastrick supporter, leading to speculation of the reason for their new alliance. In a conversation with a Post-Tribune reporter last week, Pastrick, 75, denied a published report that he is considering adding a deputy mayor's position to his administration. He also denied he was considering Aguilera for such a spot. ❖

2003 Racing Form

Trendline: Mortgage payments are beginning to shoot up in high property tax counties due to recalibration of escrow accounts. We know that voters are angry, but we still don't know how they are going to direct their anger. If they can make the distinction that legislators are more to blame than mayors and councilors, their vengeance might be delayed until 2004. If they feel like lashing out, all bets are off in 2003. One indication of that was State Rep. Chet Dobis's admonition to the Merrillville Council for attempting to pass a bond issue.

"We both know that a bond issue is just another way of saying tax increase!" wrote Dobis. "It is not the State of Indiana that raises property taxes, it is the local units of government like yours. I plead with you to stop this nonsense now!" That's paranoia.

HORSE RACE

2003 Indiana Mayoral Races

Bloomington Mayoral: Republican: Fred Prall. Democrat: Mark Kruzan. **1999**

Results: Fernandez (D) 6,589, Lewis (FUSSA) 258, Clemens (I) 2,746 Maldi (I) 306. **2003 Outlook:** Despite the high property tax increases in pockets of downtown, Kruzan's support for the 2002 tax restructuring plan while a member of the Indiana House doesn't appear to be dragging him toward defeat ... at this point. **General Status:** *Likely Kruzan.*

Columbus Mayoral: Republican: David Mann. Democrat: Mayor Fred Armstrong.

1999 Results: Armstrong (D) 6,278, Paris (R) 2,599. **2003 Outlook:** Armstrong took some heat this week over the tax incremental financing issue, but we think he's in decent shape to win re-election. **General Status:** *Leans Armstrong.*

Evansville Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr.. Democrat: State Rep.

Jonathon Weinzapfel. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Results:** Lloyd (R) 15,980, Borries (D) 15,461. **2003 Forecast:** This is an excellent chance for Democrats to pick up one of the big cities. Our sense is that Lloyd is running scared as Democrats coalesce around Weinzapfel. **General Status:** *Leans Weinzapfel.*

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 unveiled the city's first comprehensive housing strategy. "We want to foster a more pro-active development environment," Richard said Wednesday (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Buskirk blasted the Richard administration for the city's plan to take over Southtown Mall. She was rebuked by Councilman Tim Pape, so said, "I think Miss Buskirk has a breathtaking ignorance to what is going on at Southtown" (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Richard has his work cut out for him in this race. He is facing simmering discontent, a demographic shift due to past annexation favoring Republicans, and a poor economy. **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Treasurer Greg Jordan. Democrat: Mayor Bart

Peterson. **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:** In a Wednesday debate that turned to subsidizing the Colts, Jordan drew the greatest applause by saying, "We can't subsidize the Colts anymore. It's just out of the question." Peterson countered: "I think the Colts are an essential asset." *Indianapolis Eye* columnist Brian Howey to suggest the city look to slots as a way of meeting the \$30 million a year team owner Jim Irsay says he has to stay in the middle of the NFL revenue. "Particularly when you consider that the city is facing some daunting challenges with Wishard Hospital's insolvency, police and fire pensions (a brick wall in the not-so-distant future), the jail and our creaking criminal justice

system, and the combined sewer overflows," Howey wrote. Peterson is running a heavy rotation of "It's Your Money" TV ads, along with those saying he's accomplished 90 percent of the Peterson Plan in a "report to the people." Peterson issued an executive order creating the Indianapolis Fiscal Policy Council that will be a "central clearinghouse" for the 47 entities that can raise taxes. Jordan's forces say the mayor is stealing part of their plan. Republicans called the plan "toothless." Meanwhile, *Indianapolis Recorder* columnist Amos Brown called Jordan's "a patently unconstitutional power grab plan." This race is fascinating because Peterson does not look like he's in great danger despite the \$114 million tax grab by local units of government. We believe taxpayers have yet to define and direct their anger. State and local Republicans don't look like they are steering resources and talent into this race. But stay tuned.

General Status: *Likely Peterson.*

Lafayette Mayoral: **Republican:** Clerk Lisa Decker. **Democrat:** Councilman Tony Roswarski. **1999 Results:** Heath (R) 6,237, Weiss (D) 5,496. **2003 Forecast:** Roswarski said city government should strengthen ties to local schools, from non-traditional programs to Purdue University. He called education a cornerstone in economic development during a press conference on Wednesday outside Lafayette Jefferson High School. "I plan to reach out to successful programs like Junior Achievement to offer support," said Roswarski (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). Decker responded by saying city government is already doing that. This race has all the hallmarks of going down to the wire. Property taxes are expected to go up at least 10 percent, and that might hurt Decker. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

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:** This race looks like it could go down the wire. It's a Democratic city with a Republican incumbent whose had a rocky first term. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Hammond Mayoral: **Republican:** Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Tom McDermott Jr.. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Results:** Dedelow (R) 10,192, Philpot (D) 8,527, Robinson (L) 278. **2003 Outlook:** This week's newspaper report of rampant misuse of cell phones by council members and the Dedelow administration, the mayor's frequent battles with the council and that simmering voter discontent (present before the devastating Lake County property tax bills go out) put Mayor Dedelow in a precarious position. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Kokomo Mayoral: **Republican:** Matthew McKillip. **Democrat:** Councilman Andrew Castner. **Independent:** Cindy Dunlap. **1999 Results:** Trobaugh (R) 5,606, Kennedy (D) 3,581. **2003 Forecast:** The Kokomo Tribune is reporting that McKillip has a money edge and Howard County was spared property tax increases. That's good news for Kokomo Republicans, who are hoping that Dunlap and Castner will split the Democratic vote. We give McKillip a slight advantage. **General Status:** *LEANS McKILLIP.*

Muncie Mayoral: **Republican:** Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Dennis Tyler. **1995 Results:** Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Results:** Canan (R) 7,973, Smith (D) 5,611. **2003 Forecast:** This is still Canan's to lose. He doesn't look as if he's been hurt too badly by the Martin Luther King street renaming controversy, in part because council Democrats helped defeat the measure. **General status:** *Likely Canan.*

Terre Haute Mayoral: **Republican:** Duke Bennett. **Democrat:** Kevin Burke. **1999 Results:** Anderson (D) 6,791, Hooper (R) 2,608, Cronk (I) 1,178, Brour (I) 174. **2003 Forecast:** As things stand now, this will be a slam dunk for the Democrats. Burke's biggest worry for political survival will come in the 2007 primary. **General Status:** *SAFE BURKE.*

Valparaiso Mayoral: **Republican:** Jon Costas. **Democrat:** Mayor David Butterfield. **1999 Results:** Butterfield (D) 3,532, Costas (R) 3,336. **2003 Forecast:** Hard financial times in Porter County, a controversy over unkept city square property owned by the mayor, his health problems, a Costas fundraising lead, general voter dissatisfaction and the closeness of the last election make this city ripe for a GOP pickup. **General status:** *LEANS COSTAS.* ❖

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DEAN TAKES 7 POINT LEAD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE POLL: Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean has taken a lead over rival John Kerry in New Hampshire, the state holding the first presidential primary in 2004, a poll found (Associated Press). Dean had 28% to 21% for Kerry...according to the poll by the American Research Group of Manchester. Reporting from Indianapolis, the Washington Post's David Broder reported that while Dean has powered his way to the top tier of the Democratic presidential race by energizing the party's rank and file, he has had "tougher luck wooing one of his natural consistencies: his fellow governors." The Post continues, "Dean's lack of success in attracting endorsements from Democratic chief executives stands in sharp contrast President Bush's success four years ago among Republican governors." The Post added, "On the basis of interviews with many of the Democrats who are attending the National Governors Association (NGA) meeting ... it appears unlikely that Dean can expect to see significant gubernatorial support anytime soon. 'It's not going to happen,' said Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack.

DEAN RAISES \$25,000 IN MICHIGAN CITY: Democratic Presidential candidate

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TICKER T A P E

Howard Dean drew a crowd of 140 at the Potawatomi County County in Michigan City on Sunday and raised \$25,000 (HPR). The event was hosted by Hoosiers Democrats Shaw Friedman, Melina Fox, Butch Morgan and Dr. Vidya Kora, among others. Dean said in his campaign and Sunday's speech he concentrated mostly on the country's need for more manufacturing jobs (Michigan City News-Dispatch). He said more than 2 million manufacturing jobs have been lost since President George Bush took office. Dean said that has to be reversed. He also wants to bring health insurance to all Americans. Dean cited his program in Vermont that furnishes health insurance to everyone younger than 18. In a nation-wide plan, Dean would seek to have everyone with incomes under \$25,000 per year be covered.

PABEY TO APPEAL FRAUD RULING: Attorneys for George Pabey plan to appeal his loss in the city's Democratic mayoral primary to the Indiana Supreme Court (Jim Masters, Times of Northwest Indiana). Pabey, an East Chicago city councilman, is appealing the recent judgment by LaPorte County Judge Steven King that invalidated 155 votes for Mayor Robert Pastrick in the May primary but left Pastrick the winner by a 123-vote margin. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Lesley Stedman, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - (Joe) Andrew picked his running mate before the primary, quite an unusual move. Typically, the parties pick their gubernatorial candidate during the primary and delegates at the state political convention pick the running mate, although their pick often mirrors the choice of the nominee. This is not a process that Andrew is unfamiliar with. He was, after all, the chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party before he moved on to become national chairman of the party. But Andrew is not concerning himself with tradition. If he were, he probably would not have chosen Bren Simon, a wealthy Democratic activist who has never run for or served in public office. Neither has Andrew. The mere fact that she's a woman balances the ticket, especially because Andrew's primary opponent is Simpson. But in many ways, Simon doesn't provide balance. Andrew is closely associated with former President Bill Clinton, a relationship that may not be popular with a majority of Hoosiers; Simon is linked to the Clintons as well. Andrew and Simon both live in Hamilton County, a wealthy suburb of Indianapolis. Neither has ever run for public office. Both are identified more as political creatures than public servants. As Andrew made his announcement last week, Simpson was campaigning at The Working Man's Friend. ❖

Mike McDaniel, *Indianapolis Eye* - Early last week, when the political rumor mill was running overtime grinding out the news of the pending announcement of the Andrew-Simon ticket for the Democratic nominations for governor and lieutenant governor, I talked with several political "insiders" including six well-known Democrat operatives about what Joe Andrew himself called his "unconven-

tional" strategy. Many of these insiders heard the news from me first, so I got the unedited reaction before they had time to craft their politically correct answers. The range of their immediate responses ran from, "You've got to be kidding me?" to "Cha-Ching," to "Isn't that a little presumptuous?" to outright laughter to "It is evil brilliance." ❖

Mary Beth Schneider,

Indianapolis Star - Friends of (Bren) Simon's say she is a person who puts passion, determination and hard work into every endeavor. She'll need to. Andrew pulled off a coup of sorts. His candidacy got a burst of publicity, a woman as his running mate and enough money to be competitive all in one day. His chief opponent -- veteran state Sen. Vi Simpson -- will need to tell voters she has the one thing Andrew and Simon don't: experience. Talking to voters, though, is expensive. And right now, it's Andrew and Simon who can buy the microphone. ❖

Brian A. Howey,

Indianapolis Eye - It took about two weeks for Simon to decide to accept the job. It's one thing to dance into a terpsichorean haze under an opulent Carribean moon, and quite another to muster the wherewithall to twist the arm of Rep. Woody Burton over a Kinsey Institute funding amendment. There are political dangers for Andrew and Simon over their union. Some observers are speculating how Bren Simon will relate to regular folks on the county fair corndog circuit. And Simon is a blank slate, politically. *The Eye* requested Simon's stances on basic issues -- abortion, gun control and the Brady Bill, euthanasia, death penalty, and home rule - - since she is largely unknown. As this article was posted, there was no response. ❖