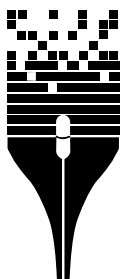


The Howey Political Report



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Brian A. Howey, publisher

Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington writer

Jack E. Howey, editor

The Howey Political Report Office: 317-254-1533
PO Box 40265 Fax: 317-968-0487
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265 Mobile: 317-506-0883

brianhowey@howeypolitics.com
www.howeypolitics.com

Washington office: 202-775-3242;
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Conservatives aren’t yet ready to abandon ship. But a lot of them are eyeing the rail.”

- U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, on support for

President Bush’s re-election, to the *Washington Times*

Public policy comes to governor’s race

Daniels, Kernan push economy, FDK

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Indiana’s gubernatorial contest snapped out of its “scandal” funk this week and into the essential task at hand for Gov. Joe Kernan and Republicans Mitch Daniels and Eric Miller: A vigorous debate on the “triple E’s” public policy -- economy, energy and education -- treated the public.

Left snapping at an airy issue that has hardly caused a blink outside the Statehouse were the House Republicans, who spent the week trying to exploit the “webcam stunt” over the full-day kindergarten constitutional amendment.

The week began with Daniels beginning to spell out his “Comeback” campaign platform, which will be parceled out in six parts over as many weeks. Speaking at the Indiana Venture Center on Monday, Daniels announced a series of reforms centered on creating automatic tax abatements for existing and recruited businesses, more regionalized venture capital for small business, a plan to track and recruit Hoosier college graduates who have left the state, and his backing of Central time in a daylight-saving time format.

“Our progress in every other area depends on our ability to reverse the state’s economic decline,” Daniels said. “I want this to be the easiest place in America for somebody to build a new plant or a new office building.”

On Tuesday, Daniels was in Terre Haute calling for the construction of more power plants using Indiana coal and clean air technology to meet what he sees as energy shortages coming as soon as 2008. On Wednesday, he announced agriculture reforms in Posey County.

“We should get started on this process now before our energy needs outrun our own supply,” Daniels said.

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Covering 10 years of Indiana politics

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KROMKOWSKI VOTE COST \$1,800: The Indiana State Police spent at least \$1,800 - including the purchase of several Web cameras - in an attempt to help House Democrats pass a key part of Gov. Joe Kernan's full-day kindergarten plan last week. The new information was provided by Indiana State Police Superintendent Mel Carraway in response to an official open records request from House Republicans. The GOP filed the request after last week's ill-fated remote voting stunt in which Democrat leadership - with Kernan's authorization of state police resources - tried to let Rep. Tom Kromkowski, D-South Bend, vote via Webcam and cellphone from his bed in South Bend. Kromkowski's 51st vote was needed to pass a constitutional amendment providing long-term funding for the program. After intense protest against the move by Republicans, House Speaker Pat Bauer, D-South Bend, struck Kromkowski's vote and the bill died. Kernan said at the time the remote vote attempt was worth "taking a crack at."

FORT WAYNE TO OWN SOUTHTOWN MALL: The city will own Southtown Mall by the end of March and a new Menards could be open there next spring, Mayor Graham Richard said

"Today's projections show we will need this power shortly if we don't want to have to purchase too much from other states. But there's a larger point: The central job of Indiana's next governor is to drive our state's economy into higher gear, making the need for energy even greater than current estimates."

Kernan and Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis spent a good part of their week heralding some good economic news: 269 jobs at Indiana Packers in Delphi, and another 300 jobs coming to Wabash National Corp. in Lafayette. Kernan also helped announce a deal between Indianapolis and the NCAA that will bring a series of Final Four events to Indiana every five years between now and 2039. He announced 700 training grants for Cummins Engines in Columbus. By mid-week, Kernan was prepared to put up a fight for his full-day kindergarten proposals in the hostile Republican-led Senate, where Sen. Luke Kenley promised a hearing and Kernan testified Wednesday.

"It's a matter of priorities,"

Kernan told the committee during 20 minutes of testimony before Kenley gutted the bill and inserted language to create a committee to further explore funding for the program. "Our priority today should be for the early learning for our children. I believe it is the soundest investment we can make in education," Kernan said. "We are wide open to suggestions."

Debate in the details

But even the economic successes on the job front by the Kernan administration brought about a debate from Daniels.

"Current state policy tilts toward jobs we've known, not the jobs we need, toward big business at the expense of small business and offers nothing to encourage," he said.

Those comments revealed the first nuances we can expect the Kernan and Daniels campaigns to strike, which should lead to a fascinating public policy debate across the state. Kernan's campaign was

dismissive of the Daniels Comeback platform, insisting that the governor had already instituted parts of that package.

"He failed to provide any original ideas, details on how to pay for initiatives, and a timeline for implementation," said Kernan campaign manager Bernie Toon (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "Instead, he offered another negative attack on Indiana. He even attacked our small businesses for 'lack of management talent.'"

Kernan campaign spokesman Scott Downes then provided what could be a crucial link between the state and national economies that will play out in the gubernatorial race. "As budget director, his one task was overseeing the federal budget," Downes said. "And he took it from the largest surplus to record deficits."

Those remarks brought this retort from Daniels campaign manager Bill Oesterle, "The administration's record during the last eight years proves that they don't understand business or economics."

News media ducks issues

Nor do the Indiana news media. After Daniels released eight economic points that also included research and development tax exemptions and credits, a lion's share of the TV and newspaper coverage of the proposals centered on the one issue that Daniels and Kernan agree on: Moving to daylight-saving time, which was the final point on Daniels' white paper. That coverage had folks in the state's technology sector rolling their eyes over the dominating coverage of the most simplistic part of the debate.

Daniels' power plant initiative was virtually ignored except in the Terre Haute media market and a passing reference in the *Indianapolis Star*, even though Indiana faced the prospect of brownouts two summers ago and played a role in the East Coast blackout last year.

The *Terre Haute Tribune-Star's* coverage brought criticism from Brian Wright, coal policy director of the Hoosier

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Environmental Council, who argues the state is already lacking policy to protect the state's drinking water supply from byproducts of coal-fired power plants.

With three more weeks to go for the Indiana General Assembly, the Daniels campaign is learning that issuing parts of his Comeback plan in various parts of the state will bring little earned media.

Opposition from within

But perhaps the most curious developments in this debate were the negative comments that came in the wake of the proposals and announcements.

State Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, wasn't keen on the automatic abatement idea, saying local discretion is preferable, especially giving local officials authority to revoke an abatement when necessary (Niki Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*).

"That takes away from home rule," said Allen County Councilman Herb Hernandez, R-at-large. "And not every business would be appropriate for an abatement." He said the process to procure an abatement is time-consuming but is not difficult or burdensome. "It is a financial incentive," Hernandez said. "We have to have some procedures."

Downes charged that Daniels' abatement program would raise property taxes. "There's some definite flaws. There will still be expenses -- schools and roads -- that cost money. This will shift the tax burden to homeowners and businesses and lead to higher property taxes," he said.

Kernan's full-day kindergarten proposal costing \$150 million a year was dinged by "most members" of the Coalition of Growing and Suburban Schools, according to the *Indianapolis Star*. "We cannot accept the fiscal irresponsibility attached to it," said Hamilton Southeastern Superintendent Concetta Raimondi. That was interesting because the constituencies of officials such as Raimondi, young Republican, two-income

families in the sprawling Indianapolis suburbs, have shown in polls to support full-day kindergarten.

The "who pays" part of the issue promises to be the emerging end game with a legislature that would prefer to get out of town by March 5.

The expected dominant issue -- property tax reform -- has largely fizzled. Daniels has hardly broached the subject. Kernan's FDK centerpiece would actually add to property taxes if a funding mechanism can't be found. With all legislation aimed at property tax reform essentially dead, the idea that there wasn't enough information from all 92 counties appears to have sedated House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer's notion of don't just stand there, do something; do anything.

Republicans seem to be intent on tagging Kernan with a defeat on his top legislative priority, just as they did to Gov. Frank O'Bannon in 1999, though there was a compromise "cafeteria plan" that didn't create any more schools with full-day kindergarten (Evansville-Vanderburgh pulled its program last year). It had little impact on O'Bannon's successful 14-percent 2000 re-election.

Republicans may be setting themselves up by giving Kernan a big issue for the fall. With the *Indianapolis Star-WTHR* poll showing support for FDK at 56 percent, and probably higher among independent and female voters, Kernan will likely be pointing out that Republicans rejected FDK this year because of a bad economy, while rejecting it in 1999 when the economy was roaring and the state surplus was as high as \$2 billion.

On Wednesday, Senate Democrats enunciated what could be a campaign theme against Republicans. "We've studied this issue every session I've been here," said Sen. Connie Sipes, a New Albany Democrat and elementary school principal (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "We know the benefits. We need to get together and do the right thing, not study

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Wednesday (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Delivering the second of this year's five "Reports to the People" at the League for the Blind and Disabled on Fort Wayne's south side, Richard told about 100 people a court is expected to award the city title to the 100 acres of defunct shopping mall by the end of next month. After that happens, the wheels of progress can begin, he said, regardless of whether the mall's owners continue to fight over the price. "We're on the cusp of some really exciting things," Richard said.

BORST WON'T GIVE MUNICIPAL TAX BILL HEARING: Heavy lobbying by mayors might do little to keep alive a House-passed bill that would allow local governments to raise income taxes (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst said yesterday that he has several reservations about the legislation and has not decided whether to give it a hearing. Counties, cities and towns would have to use most of the new revenue raised through higher local income taxes to reduce property taxes. However, they could use up to 25 percent for any purpose. "I keep saying that I didn't come into this session to raise anybody's taxes," said Borst, R-

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Greenwood. "I know it's a local option and it's up to them, but if you give them the option, somebody's going to use it." Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus, also cast some doubt on the bill, suggesting there was too little time in this short session to adequately consider such a major tax proposal. "We pass one bill to calm them down and cap them and cool the thing, then on the other hand we give them another bill and another pot of money to spend?" Borst said. "The two things don't go together." Proponents, including the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, have touted the bill for allowing local officials to raise revenue for needed projects or services while holding them accountable to the taxpayers they serve.

BULLY, BULLY! WYSS BILL PASSES HOUSE: The House Education Committee unanimously passed legislation Wednesday that would focus on bullying prevention (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Senate Bill 231 now heads to the House floor for consideration. If no changes are made, the bill would then go to the governor for his signature. "Bullies have always been with us but the consequences of bullying have never been more serious," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Suellen

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it anymore."

Kernan has yet to make his most forceful advocacy for FDK, which is at what point the state makes an investment to keep young children out of the state's penal system. It is a prison system that can't afford to open two recently built facilities. Indiana has never turned the corner on crime prevention, in this case arming children with early learning skills instead of watching them fall through the cracks in schools and toward a life of criminality.

Comeback 2.0

Next week, Daniels will discuss his ideas on government reform. That burst of white paper will come a couple of weeks before the Indiana Chamber releases its Phase II of the COMPETE study. The Star has already previewed part of the package showing the high administrative costs of township government.

Daniels has told HPR he favors a constitutional convention. Gov. Kernan has put Lt. Gov. Davis on the task of studying government reorganization. Daniels' initiative next week should fully kickstart the idea of government restructuring that has begun to take hold in various parts of the state. Two weeks ago, the Fort Wayne and Allen County councils unanimously backed a resolution to study a merger.

Kernan on TV?

Kernan's campaign is quick to note that Daniels still has Eric Miller to deal with in the GOP primary. Thus, the Democrats aren't inclined to match Daniels' three weeks of TV at this point. Stephen Goldsmith allowed Frank O'Bannon to go up on TV for three weeks unanswered in August 1996. O'Bannon quickly swallowed up Goldsmith's double digit lead and that race was nip and tuck until O'Bannon's seismic upset.

Trailing Kernan by 13 points in the January Star-WTHR poll, Daniels released his third TV ad this week featur-

ing the Milan Miracle basketball team (See Horse Race for text). He clearly is seeking to define himself and close that gap.

"We're not going to give up the playbook before the game," Downes said. "People need to remember he still has a primary."

Miller on I-69

Eric Miller drew a contrast with Daniels on the I-69 issue this morning. Miller officially announced his support for the I-70 and U.S. 41 route, arguing it is the common sense decision to make.

Miller said that after reviewing relevant information involving the proposed new terrain route for I-69 he believes the right decision is to expand I-70 and U.S. 41. There have been countless feasibility studies outsourced by the state and all came back with the same question: Should Indiana spend \$1 billion to save 11 minutes of travel time from Indianapolis to Evansville? The governor thinks the answer to that question is yes. Eric Miller feels the answer is no.

"Indiana taxpayers shouldn't have to pay \$1 billion to save 11 minutes on a three-hour drive from Indianapolis to Evansville," Miller said at a Statehouse press conference.

Daniels has backed the new terrain route, but he added his own stamp on it by saying he would favor bringing the highway north from Martinsville to link up to I-70 at Indianapolis International Airport.

Epilogue

This is where the governor's race needs to be: An earnest discourse on the critical issues of the day. The past week has established an early benchmark for this vital discussion. If the three campaigns can provide this kind of dialogue throughout the 2004 sequence, Hoosiers are to get what they deserve, a great campaign. ❖

How deep are Bush's political troubles?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

How deep is President Bush's political troubles?

In the waiting room at Tom Wood Ford in Carmel, the television set Wednesday afternoon was set on MSNBC and there was President Bush giving a speech at the National Defense University.

"The greatest threat before humanity today is the possibility of secret and sudden attack with chemical or biological or radiological or nuclear weapons," Bush explained. "The former dictator of Iraq possessed and used weapons of mass destruction against his own people. For 12 years, he defied the will of the international community." Bush cited the nuclear black market uncovered by U.S. and British intelligence agents that was run by Abdul Qadeer Khan, father of Pakistan's nuclear program. Bush said the network established by Khan sold centrifuge technology used in enriching uranium to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

An older woman watching the speech shook her head. "I wish I could believe him," she said.

The remarks and observations in the week following Bush's Sunday interview on NBC's *Meet the Press* found the American political landscape changing rapidly. It also found Bush with an opponent -- Sen. John Kerry -- running away with the Democratic nomination and the party vividly coalescing around him.

"It is dangerous to assume anything this election year," observed political commentator Charlie Cook. "At this point ... Kerry's claim on the Democratic nomination looks close to rock-solid, and the contours of a President Bush vs. Kerry race are beginning to take shape."

Cook explained, "In the wake of Bush's headline-grabbing Thanksgiving Day trip to Baghdad and the December capture of Saddam Hussein, some were ready to declare the 2004 presidential election over: Fast forward to the present.

Dean has gone from overwhelming front-runner to a candidate hanging on by a thread. And President Bush's strength has waned as the euphoria of late 2003 foreign policy developments and strong economic news have given way to a sharply divided presidential race and Bush job approval numbers now consistently below 50 percent. Bush's lackluster televised performance on NBC's *Meet the Press* with Tim Russert did little to shore up his political standing."

The recent polls back up Cook. In CNN/Gallup/USA Today polls over the past few weeks, Bush surged from a 50 percent overall job approval in mid-November to 56 percent after the Thanksgiving trip to Baghdad. It surged again to 63 percent in mid-December after the capture of Hussein, only to drift down. It hit 49 percent in the most recent, a Jan. 29-Feb. 1 Gallup sampling.

Cook noted, "That poll also showed the percentage of Americans who believed it was 'worth going to war in Iraq' had dropped to 49 percent, the lowest yet, down from 65 percent in mid-December." In a Feb. 5-6 *Newsweek* poll, Bush's approve/disapprove stood 48/45. Kerry led Bush 50 percent-45 percent.

In an Associated Press/Ipsos poll taken Feb. 2-4, only 44 percent said the country was heading in the right direction; 52 percent said the wrong track. CNN/Gallups poll on Friday through Sunday had Bush on an uptick with a 52 percent approval rating. It did not reflect the *Meet the Press* reaction.

And there is a conservative revolt brewing. The *Washington Times* quoted U.S. Rep. Mike Pence saying, "Conservatives aren't yet ready to abandon ship, but a lot of them are eyeing the rail."

Is Bush in political trouble? Yes. Is it something he can recover from. Ditto.

And is the presidential environment volatile? Absolutely. ❖

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Reed. The proposed legislation defines bullying and requires every school to adopt an anti-bullying policy. Discipline decisions will be left at the local level. The bill also would allow grants from the Indiana Safe Schools Fund to be used to train teachers on how to identify and combat the growing problem of bullying.

TWO POLITICIANS' CARS AT ILLEGAL GAMBLING JOINT: Indianapolis police have investigated a car wash they say is a front for an illegal gambling operation at least four times in the past two years, but the business continues to operate and no one has been charged with a crime (Indianapolis Star). In one of the most recent investigations of the 38th Street Car Wash, 148 W. 38th St., police officers found City-County Council Majority Leader Monroe Gray Jr. and Center Township Constable Mark Anthony "Tony" Duncan, both elected Democrats, sitting in a city-owned car in the business's parking lot, according to a police report. When police arrived at the car wash on Dec. 23, there was an active card game with money at stake, the report states. No one was arrested in the investigation. Sgt. Tom Black, the officer at the scene, said it was his decision not to make an arrest.

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"My intent was to warn these people off from doing criminal acts allegedly going on in there, and get them to quit without taking further police action," Black said.

JUDY O'BANNON TO WORK WITH YOUTH ORGANIZATION: Judy O'Bannon is taking a job with the Plowshares and Peace House initiative, a collaborative effort of three Indiana colleges to teach young people about conflict resolution and the application of justice in the building of communities (Indianapolis Star). O'Bannon's appointment as director of external affairs for the Peace House will be formally announced today. Erwin Boschmann, most recently vice chancellor and professor of chemistry at Indiana University East campus in Richmond, will be named executive director of Peace House. O'Bannon will have an office in the Old Centrum at Central Avenue United Methodist Church, 520 E. 12th St. -- where the former Indiana first lady is a member, and just around the corner from where she and the late governor lived when he was lieutenant governor.

DANIELS FILES FOR BUSH: Mitch Daniels, former White House budget director for President Bush, did a little job for the president Wednesday morning. He

2004 Racing Form

Trendline: Eight days before filing deadlines, not many legislative races shaping up. Rep. Ed Mahern's maps are really kicking in for the incumbents.

Indiana 2004 Gubernatorial

Governor 2004: Republican: Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris, Bob Parker. **Democrat:** Gov. Joe Kernan. **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:** Daniels began running his third TV ad this week, featuring the 1954 Milan Miracle basketball team. Daniels says in the commercial: "Here in Milan 50 years back a bunch of Hoosier kids proved, in our state, nothing's impossible. As we've lost so many more jobs than other states, we've been losing something more: Hope, and thousands of our best young people. Ours is a great state, full of potential. A little business sense, a little leadership, and a new team in state government, we'll be right back in the game." **Republican Primary Status:** *Likely Daniels;* **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Indiana 2004 Congressional

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, Tony Zirkle. **Democrat:** Joe Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income\$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2002 Money:** Chocola \$1.69m, Long Thompson \$1.535m. **2004 Outlook:** FEC reports show that Donnelly had collected \$33,225 for the period ending Dec. 31, a fair showing for someone who, at the time, had been a candidate for just a few weeks. The amount pales, however, compared to the \$739,391 racked up by Chocola. Zirkle was fired from his job in an Elkhart law office due to his congressional run. "He wanted me to spend time recruiting clients," said Zirkle, who said he wanted to tell the *South Bend Tribune* of his loss of employment because, "I believe in full disclosure." Zirkle said his original intention was to spend \$3,000 to \$5,000 of his own money on the campaign and accept no donations so as not to be " beholden to special interests." Now, he said, he will set up an Internet Web site to seek money to support his effort. **Status:** *Leans Chocola.*

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Melina Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **People:** urban/rural 59/40%; median income \$39,002; poverty 9.7%; race: 93% white, 3.8% black, 1.3% Hispanic; blue/white collar 35/49%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 58%, Gore 40%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+10; **2002 results:** Pence 118,436 (64%), Fox 63,871. **2002 Money:** Pence \$1.2m, Fox \$342,987. **2004 Outlook:** Pence was visiting troops at Camp Atterbury on Monday, and said President Bush spoke plainly and was not backing away from the decision to go to war (*Muncie Star Press*). "I thought the President's remarks were characteristically candid and forceful," Pence said. **Status:** *Likely Pence.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Jon Jennings, Bill Pearman. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh,

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Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income\$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2002 Money:** Hostettler \$573,220, Hartke \$395,840. **2004 Outlook:** Jennings will officially kicked off his campaign today with media events in Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Vincennes and Evansville. The NRCC charged Jennings' campaign manager Tim Henderson with misleading the media and fudging campaign finance numbers. In the Feb. 7 edition of the *Evansville Courier & Press*, Henderson said, "I know that for the last quarter 70 percent of our donors were from within Indiana." But, according to NRCC Press Secretary Chris Paulitz, Jennings' FEC showed 44 percent of his money coming from Indiana, compared to 28 percent in all of 2003. "It looks like Jennings' campaign serves up more whoppers than a Burger King drive-thru," Paulitz said. Pearman, once a candidate for the Democratic Party nomination for president, has decided that the 8th CD is a more reasonable goal (*Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). **Status:** Leans Hostettler.

Indiana 2004 Legislative

Senate District 36: Republican: Sen. Larry Borst, Johnson County Council President Brent Waltz. **Democrat:** Terry Rice. **1996 Results:** Borst (R) 26,593, Satterthwaite (L) 2,035. **2000 Results:** Borst 24,621, Reno (D) 12,095, Williamson (L) 1,061. **2004 Forecast:** Borst is expected to win slating in Marion County this weekend after Waltz decides to opt out. With the legislature set to wind up on March 5, Borst will be able to get back to campaigning full time. **Primary Status:** *Tossup*.

House District 19: Republican: Ron Cooper. **Democrat:** State Rep. Bob Kuzman. **2002 Results:** Kuzman 7,620, Roth (R) 6,355. **2004 Forecast:** Cooper is a Cook County, Illinois, policeman. **General Status:** *LEANS D*.

House District 31: Republican: Tim Harris **Democrat:** Open. **2002 Results:** Rep. Dean Young 9,046, Raju (D) 3,909. **2004 Forecast:** This is the seat being vacated by Rep. Dean Young. Harris is a former Grant County GOP chairman who managed Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold's 2003 campaign. Seybold will manage Harris' effort this year. This could be a competitive district. **General Status:** *LEANS R*.

House District 56: Republican: Richard Hamm, Brian Ingermann, Ed Yanos. **Democrat:** Rep. Phil Pflum. **2002 Results:** Pflum 6,511, Hamm (R) 6,096. **2004 Forecast:** Key Republicans tried to keep Hamm out of the race; this will be his fifth try. Yanos is seen as probably the strongest candidate. No word on whether Pflum will seek re-election after being diagnosed with cancer. **Primary Status:** *Leans Yanos*; **General Status:** *Tossup*.

House District 62: Republican: Lawrence County Commissioner Janie Schanault. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jerry Denbo. **2002 Results:** Denbo 10,009, Patton (R) 6,339. **2004 Forecast:** Schanault is a popular Lawrence County commissioner. Denbo is coming off his greatest legislative triumph bringing a casino to French Lick. Some Republicans, however, are suggesting Denbo may not be on the ballot this fall. **General Status:** *LEANS D*.

House District 64: Republican: Troy Woodruff. **Democrat:** State Rep. John Frenz. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Forecast:** Another aide to U.S. Rep. John Hostettler is lining up against Frenz. Woodruff is a former executive director of the Vincennes Chamber. **General Status:** *LEANS D*.

District 86: Republican: Andy Miller, Mort Large. **Democrat:** State Rep. David Orentlicher. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. **2004 Forecast:** On the eve of slating, questions about whether Large has paid back on multiple homestead credits for rental properties he owns went unanswered when HPR tried to contact him. The issue could be huge in the fall since property taxes have hit this district harder than almost any other in the state. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP*. ❖

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delivered the signatures of 7,000-plus Hoosiers, more than enough to put the president on Indiana's primary election ballot May 4. Daniels also will be on that ballot, as a Republican candidate for governor. Daniels said that of all the jobs Bush had asked him to do, the mission to drop off the petitions at the secretary of state's office in the Statehouse was the simplest. Daniels said he didn't know whether Bush would campaign in Indiana -- for either his own campaign or Daniels'. "I feel I want to stand on my own feet," Daniels said. "George Bush isn't running for governor of Indiana. I am. It's me that owes the people of Indiana an explanation of how we can make this a great state." So far, only former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, whose campaign has faded badly, is on the Democratic ballot for president. That's expected to change soon, with Democratic front-runner Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts filing his petitions to be on the ballot.

PATRICK ARGUES AGAINST ELECTION SUIT: The lead attorney for East Chicago Mayor Robert A. Pastrick argued that mayoral primary loser George Pabey's petition for a special election falls flat and is calling for the Indiana Supreme Court to uphold the trial judge's decision delivered

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last summer (Michael Puente, Post-Tribune). George T. Patton Jr. filed his response with the Supreme Court late on Monday, but it wasn't made available for public inspection through the court's clerk's office until Wednesday. According to Patton's response, attorneys for Pabey did not request either in writing or in closing arguments a "special election," but asked only that Judge Steven E. King invalidate some 1,900 absentee votes due to alleged fraud. "Pabey requests for the first time on appeal the remedy of a 'special election,' " King writes. Pabey hopes the Supreme Court calls for a new election or throws out the absentee ballots based on his claim of rampant fraud in the collection and casting of absentee votes.

1999 MAYORAL RACE INVESTIGATION GETS NEW LIFE: New life is being pumped into a criminal investigation into East Chicago's 1999 primary. Sources said many of those targeted in the 4-year-old probe are again coming under the spotlight of investigation. Members of a special public corruption task force have re-ignited the investigation, well aware that the statute of limitations for charges will expire in less than 12 weeks (Steve Patterson, Post-Tribune). Sources said people involved in the 1999 activities are again being ques-

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

David Rutter, Post-Tribune - When it comes to writing a "Metro column," some of us trudge through our entire miserable existences without a shot at what has been presented to us today on a filagreed, golden platter. We write local. We write about issues that spring from hereabouts; the blood of human events that course through our veins and, unless we are burdened with coronary blockages, our arteries, too. Yes, we must talk today about Janet Jackson's right breast. Must. Have to. No escape. It's a Northwest Indiana breast. Born here in '66. Raised here. It's a Metro Breast. Until Sunday night's Super Bowl, we were not required to have an opinion about her right breast. Simply as a general matter of observation, I suppose the prevailing opinion was that it was OK — both pre- and post-enlargement. But all transitory opinions now must be reassessed because the federal government and also NFL Commish Paul Tagliabue have launched a full-scale investigation into Boobgate — The Night Our National Morals Were Compromised by Crass Commercial Interests. In the quest for full disclosure, I admit I missed the live version of the "Wardrobe Malfunction" at halftime, not because I have no interest in prurient sex, but just because the Jacksons — all of them — confuse me. I can't tell when they dance what is INSIDE their clothes and what is OUTSIDE. ❖

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Remember all that talk in the last presidential campaign about safeguarding Social Security funds in a "lockbox"? Al Gore "invented" the term. George Bush agreed with the concept, which was to keep presidents and Congress from "raiding" the Social Security "trust fund" to pay their bills. Guess we didn't hear the term correctly. "Lockbox"? No. They must have talked of a "knockbox." You

know, a box the president and Congress can knock over whenever they can't pay the bills, thus spilling out hundreds of billions of Social Security dollars to cover some of their deficit. Economics columnist Daniel Gross put it this way: "In the past three years, President Bush and Congress have viewed the Social Security surplus more as a cookie jar than a lockbox. The three budgets Congress proposed (passed) and President Bush signed -- for fiscal years 2002, 2003 and 2004 -- used \$480 billion in excess Social Security payroll taxes to fund government programs." The "raid" will continue with the huge deficit in the 2005 budget the president has proposed and Congress eventually will pass, with only slight changes likely in the bottom line because of the necessity of most big expenditures. ❖

Brian A. Howey, Indianapolis Eye - From the pundit's perspective, Speaker Bauer's webcam caper is amusing, interesting and people outside the Statehouse could care less. Gov. Kernan and Speaker Bauer would have been better off if they had broached the crystal laptop proposal first, instead of surprising the Republicans. This appeared to them as a trap by evil-doers. And, ultimately, the real trap may have been the issue of full-day kindergarten. Republicans said that with the billion-dollar deficit and the bad economy, we can't afford this. However, Republicans rejected full-day kindergarten back in 1999 when we had big surpluses and a roaring economy. If Republicans think Hoosier voters are going to remember the voting stunt over a public policy proposal that study after study says will keep more kids in school and out of jail, they may be on the verge of contributing a couple of percentage points to Gov. Kernan's November vote totals.

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PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Forgetting Yovich

I'm surprised no one pointed this out: I forgot Yovich.

I left Daniel Yovich off my "Press to Politics" list last week. It was the list that revealed that of the 13 who have gone from press to politics recently, 10 of them (including Yovich) were Democrats. Republicans cackled that it was proof positive of the liberal bias in the press.

But ... how could I leave Yovich off the list? He is the most memorable political flack to come across the HPR threshold since 1994 and the days when David McIntosh's press secretary Chris Wilson gleefully baited Democratic Chairman Ann DeLaney. Because of Wilson's antics, I knew McIntosh was beating Joe Hogsett.

Indiana Democratic Chairman Peter Manous brought in Yovich to be the party's press secretary. He came with Manous from Lake County, where Yovich reported for *The Times of Northwest Indiana*. He appeared to be a good reporter. I read many Hoosier reporters everyday, and his stuff stood out.

Yovich was the voice of the Democratic Party throughout the 2002 campaign. He did a daily series of "Crucible" press releases that waged the daily verbal assaults on Republicans near and far. He attempted to plant a sensational story in the waning days of the fall elections, aimed at a Republican on the state ticket. I took a pass on that one.

Good press secretaries are the ones who blend. They reach out to reporters and editors, build a rapport with them, get a handle on the way they think, and would then be in a position to gently spin a favorable version of the events of the day and even point them in the direction of a big story ... without ever leaving the trappings of subtlety.

Since I began reporting Hoosier

politics in 1985, Fred Nation was the best press secretary. He served under Gov. Evan Bayh. He was very approachable. Friendly. Professional. A good source for either news or a story. Statehouse reporters from that era remember Nation making the rounds in the press shacks.

The good ones on the scene, people such as Andy Fisher for Sen. Lugar, Sarge Visher in U.S. Rep. Julia Carson's office and Mike Copher from U.S. Rep. Buyer return the calls, get the vital information out on a timely basis and never make spectacles of themselves.

The flacks who do become part of the story can either reveal a losing campaign's achilles or telegraph the coming triumph.

Yovich stood out because he brought with him that rough and tumble Lake County mentality with an East Chicago attitude. As a reporter, nothing gave him more joy than sending a politician to jail. Then he went over to the other side and became a political flack. He told me some great stories about the 2002 campaign, like Vance Hartke ordering \$20,000 worth of straw hats for his nephew, Bryan. Or the time the Dems recruited the homeless -- "who arrived in a cloud of dust" -- to carry "Are You Better Off Today Than You Were Four Years Ago?" signs outside Vice President Cheney's speech at the Westin. Republicans in their SUV's and Lincolns were met with homeless people yelling the slogan of the day while waving placards.

Like the old campaign hand who calls to the intern the day after the election: "Thanks a lot kid, now get lost ..." Yovich popped out almost as fast as he popped in. He left to go back to Chicago a few weeks before Manous resigned prior to his federal indictment. Yovich just ... vanished. How in the hell could I have forgotten Yovich? ❖

TICKER T A P E

tioned and evidence is again being reviewed. Among the findings investigators uncovered four years ago were political operatives with bags of absentee ballots in the trunks of their cars, tampered voting machines and questions about the actual residencies of hundreds of voters. In spite of what investigators called "a stack of evidence as thick as two Chicago phone books," nothing has come of it. Instead, the case has been sitting dormant in the hands of the Newton County prosecutor, the special investigator on the case. Newton County deputy prosecutor Steve Ryan, who has been leading the non-existent investigation for four years, declined to comment on its status now.

SEN. DEMBOWSKI FILES FOR FULL TERM: State Sen. Nancy Dembowski likes her new job, and wants to keep it. The Knox Democrat made it official recently when she filed papers for re-election to the state Senate's District 5 seat. "I have done my best to represent the citizens of northern Indiana in the Legislature, and I am grateful for the confidence and trust they have placed in me," said Dembowski in an announcement.

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