

# The Howey Political Report



The *Howey Political Report* is published by NewsLink Inc. Founded in 1994, *The Howey Political Report* is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana.

**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.

**Subscriptions: \$350 annually via e-mail;  
\$550 annually including the HPR Daily  
Wire. Call 317-254-1533 or 254-0535.**

© 2004, *The Howey Political Report*. All rights reserved. Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law and is **strictly prohibited** without consent of the publisher.

## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“He was a very gentle man, a very good man, a very caring man.”

- Former Indiana Republican Chairman

Gordon Durnil on the late Gov. Robert D. Orr, who died Wednesday evening, to the Associated Press

## Rating Bayh’s odds for Kerry’s ticket

Key question: Could he carry Indiana?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis  
and **MARK SCHOEFF JR.** in Washington

Arianna Huffington has written to U.S. Sen. John Kerry telling him to forget Evan Bayh. University of Virginia Prof. Larry Sabato said that Al Gore would have won in 2000 if Bayh had been on the ticket. *The Hill* gives Bayh 4:1 odds of making the cut, best on its list.

In the race for the Democratic vice presidential nomination, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh ranks high on the buzz list in Washington. “I’d put him in the top half-dozen. He’s on virtually every top 10 list,” said Joe Romer, a capital denizen who’s worked in Hoosier Democratic politics for 35 years. “Bayh is a very capable guy. He’s got a great resume. On balance, he brings huge assets to the ticket.”

Romer’s list of Bayh’s strengths include a moderate voting record, executive experience as governor, a telegenic, articulate demeanor, security policy background developed through his positions on the Senate Armed Services and Intelligence committees, the regional balance he would provide for Kerry, his clean record and his relative youth.

“He symbolizes the future of the party, and you can’t say that about a lot of the other candidates,” Romer said.

**It’s also unlikely that** national media scrutiny of Bayh would result in skeletons coming out of his closet. In a job whose first requirement is to do no harm to the ticket, the integrity factor is crucial. “That’s no small thing,” said Romer.

But reading the tea leaves in Washington has been difficult. “They’re playing it very close to the vest,” Romer said of the Kerry campaign.

## INSIDE F E A T U R E S

- Howey: Remembering Gov. Orr** p. 3
- Horse Race: Bowen endorses Miller** p. 4
- Columnists: Rutter, Gerard** p. 7
- Star on Borst: Connecting the dots?** p. 8
- Congressmen team up on Kernan** p.10

*Covering 10 years of Indiana politics*

# TICKER

## T A P E

**KITTLE SAYS ORR MADE INDIANA A BETTER PLACE:** Indiana Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. released this statement following the death of Gov. Robert D. Orr: "I am saddened by the passing of Gov. Robert Orr. Bob was a good friend to me and to Hoosiers everywhere. My prayers are with Mary Kay and Bob's family. Indiana has lost a leader, a gentleman, and a champion of our state. Indiana is a better place because of Bob Orr."

**GOV. KERNAN STATEMENT:** "Indiana has lost its second great leader in the last six months. Bob Orr devoted his life to the service of the people of Indiana and America. He was always willing to share his good counsel and offer his support. He was a friend who will be missed. I join all Hoosiers in mourning the passing of Gov. Bob Orr. Our prayers are with Mrs. Orr and the Orr family." Gov. Kernan order all flags at Indiana to half staff for seven days in honor of Gov. Orr.

**DANIELS STATEMENT:** "Bob Orr was a friend, a great leader and a personal hero," Republican gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels said today. "While he led us, Indiana thrived economically, improved its schools and enjoyed effec-

But inscrutability may be a good tack for Kerry to take. "If I were advising them, I'd advise them to (name a VP) as late as possible," said Chris Sautter, a Washington media consultant. The decision "should be driven by the needs of July rather than the needs of March."

Sautter said that the political atmosphere is almost identical to the one that surrounding the 2000 campaign. The country is evenly split, and each party is likely to hold on to its base, making the general election a contest for six or so states that are in play. "It would be prudent for the nominee to pick someone who helps bring in a red state" he said.

### VP Rejected in Home State?

But Bayh's ability to transfer Indiana from the red to blue column may undermine his viability. Indiana has not voted for a Democratic since 1964.

"The primary barrier to putting Bayh on the ticket is his ability to bring in a state Bush carried four years ago," said Sautter. "Other names stand a better chance of bringing in their state that Bayh does in Indiana."

Romer also is skeptical that Bayh could put Indiana into Kerry's fold. "It's still a big question mark that he can bring Indiana in," said Romer. "It's plausible, but I see it as less than 50-50."

Still, Bayh would add a Midwestern element to the ticket. "He's from a place in the middle of three states (Illinois, Michigan, Ohio) where unemployment is high."

*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* columnist Sylvia Smith even suggested Bayh could use some of his re-election money to run TV in the Cincinnati, Dayton and Toledo markets to bump up his impact in Ohio along with South Bend and Fort Wayne which would reach southern Michigan and, perhaps, the sprawling Chicago market that would reach Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Wisconsin.

### Schoeff's analysis

The Midwestern momentum argument may be wishful. Yes, Bayh has won four elections in a row (and his designated successor as governor another two) since 1986 in a conservative enclave. Bayh, however, would have to start his VP campaign by building name ID in neighboring states. Someone like North Carolina Sen. John Edwards is well known in his southern home region in his White House bid.

Although Bayh does bring a laundry list of strengths to a hypothetical ticket with Kerry, he does not provide personality balance. Like Kerry, Bayh is a somewhat stiff policy wonk. No one accuses Bayh of being arrogant, but he hasn't developed the embracability of an Edwards and isn't known for having a common touch. One interesting question about Bayh is whether he could project himself into the lives of average voters and demonstrate that he feels their pain.

### Howey's analysis

The critical question seems to be, "Could Bayh carry Indiana if he was on the ticket?" My answer would be, yes.

Would it be a cinch? No.

But remember, this is a state where Bayh has consistently demonstrated coattails. Everytime he's been on the ballot, he's pulled in more Indiana House Democrats seats. He has maintained the states's best Democratic political organization; he controls the party'd central committee. Don't for a minute think that if Kerry chose him, all of those assets built up over the past two decades wouldn't kick in at the highest level.

The latest polls show President Bush leading Kerry by 8 percent in Indiana. Those are not good numbers for the president. Indiana is in roughly the same boat as Ohio is, experiencing a high loss of jobs. That will be the top issue here. Bayh can say he helped create 300,000 new jobs and left the state with billions of dollars of surpluses. ❖

*Continued on page 3*

# PERHAPS... W E W A N D E R

By Brian Howey

## My First Big Story and Gov. Orr

My second job out of Indiana University was the state editor perch at the *Elkhart Truth*, a daily newspaper that circulated in two Michigan counties just to the north.

Several months after I arrived there in 1979, my Edwardsburg, Mich., correspondent called in with a hot tip: Cass County wants to secede to Indiana!

The big insurrection was going to occur at The Dock on Eagle Lake and the *Truth* was the only newspaper to cover the initial event.

It turned out to be an absolute gift to Indiana's Lt. Gov Robert D. Orr.

After publishing the story, we called Lt. Gov. Orr for a comment. As head of the Department of Commerce and preparing his own bid for governor in 1980, Orr took this delicious story and issued a great quote, saying something like, "Indiana doesn't only look great for business, it looks downright sexy."

With Orr's death at age 86 last night due to heart arrhythmia, the inevitable memories will come forth in the coming days as Indiana prepares to bade farewell to its second governor in the last six months.

**Back in those Cass County** secession movement days, Indiana was only seven years off a major tax restructuring and had a better business climate than Michigan, which was roiling under a decline in its auto manufacturing sector. It would take our neighbor to the north another 15 years before it restructured its tax system, a move that eventually put Indiana at a competitive disadvantage.

I had another chance to interact with Orr, this time after he had been elected and re-elected as governor. Again, the

front was economic development and politics.

Elkhart's entry way from the Indiana Toll Road to downtown was an arterial highway (Indiana 19) named Cassopolis Street. Back in the mid-1980s, it was a clogged, cluttered and ugly two-lane street that gave Elkhart a terrible first impression for travelers coming in from the north. The city tried to get the state to move its widening up on the priority list. Everytime Gov. Orr came to the city, he was harranged by the locals.

Yet, nothing happened. Until 1986, when a Democrat named Bruce Carter upset State Rep. Dean Mock, largely on the Cassopolis Street issue. In 1987, in the midst of Orr's greatest legislative triumph, the A-Plus education initiative, Cassopolis Street was finally moved up on the priority list. Mock was able to regain his seat in 1988.

**These two stories** reveal Orr's penchant for astutely playing the political game. In 1982, with the state's economy in shambles due to the atrophied Northwest Indiana steel industry and factory closures throughout, Orr let the election pass before revealing a huge budget deficit that later required a special session of the Indiana General Assembly that December, passing the largest tax increase in history. But he was also responsible for opening up Indiana's first foreign trade office, making the state a big exporter.

Orr was known for his humility. "He was a very gentle man, a very good man, a very caring man," Gordon Durnil, who served as state GOP chairman while Orr was governor, told the Associated Press. "During all kinds of turmoil or trouble or whatever you first thought when you walked into the room or his office, his first words were, 'How are you, how is your family?'" ❖

## TICKER TAPE

tive government. The best tribute we can pay him is to return to and surpass the standards he set."

**HOGSETT STATEMENT:** Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Hogsett released this statement: "Regardless of our differences in party affiliation, all Hoosiers – Democrats and Republicans alike – are deeply saddened by the passing of Gov. Robert Orr, who served our state with honor and distinction during his time in the Indiana Senate, as lieutenant governor and finally as governor."

**LUGAR REMEMBERS ORR:** U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar made the following statement today on the death of former Governor Robert Orr: "Bob Orr was our Governor during eight years of record growth in Indiana jobs, Indiana exports, and increased interest in public education. As a scholar, businessman, political leader, state legislator, and Lieutenant Governor, he was superbly qualified to be the 45th Governor of Indiana. His extraordinary success brought new idealism, energy, and pride to the Hoosier State. "I was privileged to share a myriad of wonderful experiences with Bob Orr during the past forty years of our work together in public service, but two will be indelible in

*continued on page 4*

**TICKER**  
T A P E

my memories. In June of 1989, Bob was nominated by President George H. W. Bush to be United States Ambassador to Singapore. He proceeded to his post after a hearing by the U. S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and confirmation by the U. S. Senate. Shortly thereafter, Char and I visited Ambassador Orr in Singapore. We were thrilled by his vision of the great opportunities our country could enjoy if we utilized our collective imagination and inventive genius to expand exports and to provide constructive economic and political leadership in Asia. Bob Orr was tireless in leading Indiana and the United States to have an international perspective and a clear vision of how our business and educational opportunities could flourish if we sought to compete more effectively. "My second indelible memory is my last visit with Bob and Mary Kay Orr last September at a dinner in Indianapolis featuring an address by President George W. Bush. It was exciting to compare political notes with both of them and to catch up on family news. I had the privilege of once again introducing a great Governor, world statesman, and very dear friend. I had introduced, nominated, and spoken about Bob Orr innumerable times, but the last time I had the honor to do so was very special. The

*continued on page 5*

**2004 Racing Form**  
**Indiana 2004 Gubernatorial**

**Governor 2004: Republican:** Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller. **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 and Supt. Suellen Reed unveiled their shared vision for K-12 education policies and improvements this morning. Included are calls to evolve the ISTEP program, appoint the superintendent of public instruction, expand access to kindergarten from July 1 to Sept. 1, adopt a simplified school funding formula that would "reflect enrollment trends and demands unique to certain school districts," and support charter schools. Daniels explained, "True excellence in education is an economic imperative for Indiana and not a remote one. Dramatic improvement in results is essential not only so that today's kids can succeed years from now, but so that we can persuade businesses to locate in Indiana today," Daniels said. Kernan announced a \$150 million expansion for Carmel's Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator Inc. (Midwest ISO), which will create more than 300 new jobs over the next five years. Miller shot his TV ads at the Statehouse Tuesday featuring Gov. Doc Bowen. Much of Miller's strategy depends on his relationship and endorsement from Bowen, but the suspicions are, Doc Bowen doesn't carry nearly the muster he would have 10 or 20 years ago. A case in point is Bowen's endorsement of Dr. John McGoff in the secretary of state's race at the 2002 Republican convention. Now that's a body that would be expected to revere Bowen, but McGoff faded in the first balloting. Miller is expected to have more than \$1 million to pump into TV prior to the primary, or about four weeks worth. Maybe that will motivate Miller's "Bumper Sticker Brigades" (we haven't seen a single one). The *Indianapolis Star* reported that Daniels and Kernan will spend a combined \$20 million in TV. We wouldn't be surprised either. As for Daniels "RV1" odyssey that debuted last weekend, it got some good earned media in the press and prompted Bernie Toon of the Kernan campaign to vow to try and redefine Daniels later. Our suspicions are that Kernan was going to try and paint Daniels as a corporate scammer. What the RV tour and tape are doing is defining Daniels as a regular guy who had a dawg named Duke. Thus, while there is some private nerve gnawing inside the Daniels campaign as to the fact that Miller exists, what is actually happening is it's giving Daniels the perfect mechanism to define himself before Kernan does. Kernan's plan is to look and act gubernatorial and we'll be seeing a lot more of the kinds of trips he made to Carmel, stoking up the economy. But this is a dangerous period for Kernan. The next spate of polls will almost certainly show that 13-point lead over Daniels evaporated. It would be easy to envision Daniels staying up on TV for the rest of the year, just like Bart Peterson did to Sue Anne Gilroy in 1999; he never stopped and never looked back. **Republican Primary Status:** *Likely Daniels;* **General Status:** *Tossup.* ❖

**HORSE RACE**

**Indiana 2004 Congressional**

**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:** Dwight "Ike" Wilkerson is bounced off the ballot because he couldn't collect 500 signatures in all nine CDs. It's a law designed to keep frivolous, ill-prepared vanity candidates from cluttering things up. **Status:** *Safe Bayh.*

**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:** *Rothenberg Political Report* observed: "Chocola showed \$373,000 in the bank at the end of December and looks good for re-election." **Status:** *Leans Chocola.*

**Congressional District 4: Republican:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, Dennis Hardy Mike Campbell, Brian Paasch. **Democrat:** David Sanders, Bill Abbott. **Geography:** Tippecanoe, Clinton, Boone, Montgomery, Hendricks, Morgan, Lawrence and parts of Marion, Johnson, Monroe, Fountain and White counties. **Media Market:** Lafayette, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Evansville, Louisville. **People:** urban/rural 68/32%; median income \$435,947; Poverty 8%; Race 93% white, 1.3% black, 2.6% Hispanic; blue/white collar 29/56%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 31%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+18; **2002 Results:** Buyer 112,760 (71%); Abbott 41,314 (26%). **2002 Money:** Buyer \$924,869, Abbott \$21,634. **2004 Outlook:** Abbott opened his campaign by attacking Buyer by talking about the North American Free Trade Agreement, which he contends has cost American jobs and will soon cost him his job (Joe Thomas, *Lafayette Journal & Courier*). "I want to go to Washington and fix trade agreements like NAFTA," Abbott said. **Status:** *Safe Buyer.*

**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:** House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, criticized by some conservatives for toeing the White House line too often over the past three years, is announcing his own legislative agenda. "I have not discussed this with President Bush or anyone else in the White House, and have no desire to," Mr. DeLay told the *Washington Times* in an interview in his majority leader's office. "But if you don't set these conservative goals, you don't get conservative governance." Said Pence, "What Tom's doing is pretty refreshing. The White House normally sets the agenda. Tom's practice has been to defer to the president in his first term. And that's really been reflected in the leadership's policy in Congress." Pence said DeLay's introducing his own agenda "signals the dynamics of the president's second term, hopefully very different." **Status:** *Likely Pence*

**Congressional District 8: Republican:** U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Jon Jennings, Bill Pearman. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, 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%), **2004 Forecast:** *Rothenberg Political Report* observed, "Bryan Hartke was a weak opponent for Hostettler last cycle, but the race was close. Democratic insiders like Boston Celtics scout Jennings, who has only \$109,000 in the bank after raising \$286,000. Jennings has an interesting and varied background, but his chances rest on Hostettler running his usual inept campaign. Hostettler, who refuses to make the effort to raise money, had only \$46,000 in the bank on Dec. 31, and he'll probably need the BRCC to pull his chestnuts out of the fire again. A Democratic target because of Hostettler's self-destructive decisions." **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**Congressional District 9: Republican:** Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, Lendell Terry. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002**

# TICKER

## T A P E

assembled crowd rose in cheers and sustained applause. Strongly assisted by Mary Kay, Governor Orr arose, a living legend for a legion of Hoosiers inspired by his life of achievement and service."

**ELECTION COMMISSION APPROVES CONTROVERSIAL VOTING SYSTEMS:** The Indiana Election Commission voted to allow Vanderburgh and three other counties to use voting systems in the May primary that would otherwise be illegal under Indiana law after hearing from county clerks left in a desperate situation by the voting system vendor (Evansville Courier & Press). Vanderburgh County bought new touch-screen voting systems from Election Systems & Software, its vendor for around 30 years, to upgrade from its old punch-card systems. ES&S demonstrated and first shipped the systems with a version of software, called 7.4.5, that has not received approval in Indiana. ES&S then later retrofitted the systems with an older version of software, 6.1.2, that is certified in Indiana but faces compatibility problems when loaded onto the new voting systems. At a Wednesday meeting of the Indiana Election Commission, to which ES&S had been subpoenaed to appear, representatives waffled on

*continued on page 6*

# TICKER

## T A P E

whether the new systems would work with the old software. That led Commissioner Anthony Long to blow up at Ken Carbullido, ES&S senior vice president of product and software development. "Does it work?" Long asked rhetorically. "I guess it depends on what day it is." Vanderburgh County Clerk Marsha Abell said the relationship with ES&S has become "tainted" and she's concerned if she doesn't ask the right questions, she won't know what problems the county may face using the 6.1.2 version.

ELECTION COMMISSIONER BURDICK WORRIES ABOUT BORST-WALTZ RACE: "I find this whole thing incredibly distasteful," said Brian Burdick, chairman of the Election Commission (Indianapolis Star). "We're all lined up to be sued all because you derelicts couldn't get your act together." He was particularly concerned about Johnson County, where a potentially close primary election contest is brewing between two Republicans -- state Sen. Lawrence Borst and Johnson County Council President Brent Waltz. "God forbid we have a problem" in the tallying of votes in that race, Burdick said.

KERNAN ASKS COLLEGES TO CAP TUITION: Gov. Joe Kernan has asked Indiana's

**Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Forecast:** *Rothenberg Political Report* said, "Hill beat Sodrel 51-46 percent last time, and Sodrel is back for a rematch. Hill had \$505,000 in the bank on Dec. 31, while Sodrel had \$141,000. Worth watching, though Hill clearly is a survivor." We've put this race in our tossup zone, but some are wondering how the jobless economy is going to play for President Bush in a number of district towns seeing an erosion of jobs. If Bush suffers next fall, Hill returns. **Status:** *Tossup*

## Indiana 2004 Legislative

**Senate District 36: Republican:** Sen. Larry Borst, Johnson County Council President Brent Waltz. **Democrat:** Terry Rice. **2000 Primary Results:** Borst 7,513. **2000 General Results:** Borst (R) 24,621, Reno (D) 12,120, Williamson (L) 1,026. **2004 Forecast:** Waltz is endorsed by the pastor of the Manual Baptist Church in Greenwood, which has a congregation of 1,200 people. Borst needs to be worried about the "social conservatives" that Eric Miller will likely lure into the primary. Miller is expected to run somewhat strong in this district in the gubernatorial primary, and Waltz will certainly exploit his pro-life credentials and what he says is Borst's 67 percent voting record against pro-life bills. How much will Waltz's election reporting violations hurt him? He'll have earned a week of bad press after the *Star* virtually ignored this race up to that point, but the Election Commission fined him only \$52 for his transgression Wednesday. If the story doesn't go away (i.e. see Brooks LaPlante) that would give Borst some offensive fodder. In a race like this, a challenger needs to run a perfect campaign, and Waltz can't say that at this point. WTHR's Kevin Rader featured this race on Wednesday's 6 p.m. newscast and while it covered the Election Commission meeting, it focused its attention on Waltz's relative youth, quoting him as saying "Man hadn't walked on the moon when Sen. Borst was first elected." Rader also noted that Borst has the "support" of the Republican Party. **Primary Status:** *Tossup*.

**House District 1: Republican:** Jerome Baffa. **Democrat:** State Rep. Linda Lawson, Hammond Councilwoman Kathleen Pucalik. **2002 Results:** Lawson (D) 5,669, Rosenbloom (R) 3,006. **2004 Forecast:** Pucalik fails to make proper campaign finance statements, giving Lawson an issue. **Primary Status:** *LEANS LAWSON*.

**House District 12: Republican:** Dan Fagen. **Democrat:** Rep. John Aguilera, Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez. **2002 Results:** Aguilera 7,343. **2004 Forecast:** Aguilera will remain on the ballot for the May 4 primary (Steve Walsh, Post-Tribune). The state Election Commission ruled unanimously against a challenge by Lopez-Rodriguez, and a separate citizen petition by Rose Fernandez. Lopez-Rodriguez's attorney, Ned Ruff, used documents showing that, over the last four years, Aguilera, a two-term state representative, claimed residency in Florida and Munster, both being outside his district. Aguilera's attorney, Lance E. Ryskamp, countered with water bills, driver's license registration and voter registration cards to show that Aguilera and his wife Mary still claim a home in East Chicago as their legal address. In the end, it was enough evidence for the panel of two Democrats and two Republicans to allow Aguilera to stay on the ballot. "This was a charge trumped up by my political opponents because I wouldn't support George Pabey in the mayor's race," Aguilera said. **Primary Status:** *LEANS AGUILERA*.

**House District 17: Republican:** Rep. Steve Heim. **Democrat:** Open. **2002 Results:** Heim 10,073, Winters 7,422. **2004 Forecast:** Democratic sources tell HPR that the party will slate an opponent for the freshman Heim after the primary. **Primary Status:** *LIKELY R*.

**House District 45: Republican:** Bruce Borders **Democrat:** Rep. Allen Chowning. **2002 Results:** Chowning 9,627, Borders 9,337. **2004 Forecast:** Chowning said he signed the gay marriage resolution calling for an amendment, but doesn't believe the need for it is as pressing as Republicans have indicated (Pete Ciancone, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). "There hasn't been any indication that Indiana courts will overturn ... the very strong Indiana marriage law passed in 1997," Chowning said. **General Status:** *TOSSUP*. ❖

# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**David Rutter**, *Post-Tribune* -

While the rest of the Indiana Legislature spent this session lollygagging in indolent self-absorption, Crown Point State Rep. Bob Kuzman was busy. Busy running for his life. Hell hath no fury like an Indiana township official scorned. Kuzman, probably in a momentary idyll he wishes he could do over, proposed a bill to do away with township government in Indiana and save us all millions of dollars. Efficiency in Indiana government? What was the boy THINKING? Kuzman, or as township leaders call him, "Rosemary's Baby," even had the state Chamber of Commerce on his side with a fat survey that suggested clinging to township government is the equivalent of hoarding used chewing gum. But in the end, the best Bob could manage was assurances from township officials they would not string him up in the middle of the night if he promised to shut up. They did say, however, they were all going to work tirelessly for his personal regime change in the next election. The nerve of the guy. Without hacking through the math, we have assessed the Kuzman/Chamber position and the township officials' counter argument for your edification. Kuzman/Chamber view: Taxpayers could save \$13 million a year just by transferring assessment costs to the county. Township response: LIES! DAMNABLE LIES!! K/C: Only three states in the nation administer poor relief at lower than the county level and many townships in Indiana spend more delivering poor relief than the actual relief itself. For example, Calumet and North townships in Lake County spent \$15 million in 2002 on poor relief. But \$8 million of that went for overhead. By comparison, it would have cost the Salvation Army less

than \$1 million to deliver the help. And they wouldn't have to stand out in December clanging those infernal bells. Township response: FABRICATION! NO TRUTH, YOU DUPLICITOUS, VERMINOUS SCUM! K/C: Turning virtually all township duties over to the counties could save at least \$64 million a year and as much as \$122 million. Most of it is duplicated personnel. Township response: SPAWN OF THE DEVIL: BEGONE!!!! PUSILLANIMOUS PIPSQUEAKS!!

**Gary Gerard**, *Warsaw Times-Union*

- Examining the 119 votes Kerry made in the Senate in 2003, one finds that he is the classic Massachusetts liberal. In fact, in 2003, he voted against W 70 percent of the time. (Of course, busy campaigning, Kerry was present for just 28 percent of the Senate votes in 2003.) Interestingly, Kerry's colleague from Massachusetts, Sen. Ted Kennedy -- long-known as the epitome of liberal ideology -- voted against W only 53 percent of the time. (Of course, Kennedy was present for 97 percent of the votes.) Congressional Quarterly also notes that Kerry and Kennedy have highly similar voting records. In 2003, Kerry voted with Kennedy 93 percent of the time on roll-call votes in which both men were present. Meanwhile, the American Conservative Union, which rates lawmakers on a perfect conservative scale of 100, gives Kerry a six -- the same as Leahy and New York's Charles Schumer. Kennedy got a three. I can assure you of one thing. There will be a lot of the "L" word bandied about during the coming months of the presidential campaign. And I don't mean "love." ❖

## TICKER TAPE

public colleges and universities to cap tuition increases at 4 percent this year and to give students and parents more notice of proposed hikes (WRTV). Kernan sent a letter Wednesday to leaders at each of the seven state-supported schools. "My intention is not to hinder your efforts to manage your institution," Kernan wrote. "Rather, it is to protect your institutional flexibility while encouraging students and their families to believe that higher education is attainable." Kernan wants the limits on tuition and mandatory fee increases to start this fall. Officials at Indiana University and Purdue University said they would consider Kernan's request, but would not commit to the limits.

**BAYH KEY VOTE ON ENERGY BILL:** U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh holds a swing vote that could help decide pending energy legislation harmful to consumers and the environment, according to a Hoosier coalition fighting the bill (South Bend Tribune). Bayh helped stall the bill during a Senate filibuster last year, chiefly because it included legal immunity for makers of a gasoline additive that has contaminated ground water in Indiana and other states. The current bill does not include that provision, and Bayh, a Democrat, has not indicated how he will vote on

# TICKER

## T A P E

the revised bill. His office did not return calls Tuesday. Indiana's senior senator, Republican Richard Lugar, supported the bill last year and continues to support its concepts, according to his staff. But Lugar spokesman Nick Weber, citing a report this week in the independent publication *CongressDaily*, said there is little likelihood the massive bill will get a vote this year in its current form. "I think it's still important to highlight all these concerns we have," said Dave Menzer, of the Citizens Action Coalition.

**RALSTON JOINS TERRE HAUTE BANK:** Patrick R. Ralston, former executive director of the Indiana State Emergency Management Agency, has joined First Financial Bank as vice president for government relations and business development (Terre Haute Tribune-Star).

**SINGER WITHDRAWS FROM RACE:** Sandi Patty's decision to enter the Anderson Community Schools board race ended less than a month later. Sandi Patty Pselis announced Wednesday that she was withdrawing from the May 4 election for the East District seat on the school board (Anderson Herald-Bulletin). Patty, 47, a multiple Dove Award winner for her gospel singing, was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame on Feb. 11. Her husband, Don

## Star's coverage of SD36: Connect the dots?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

Leave it to the *Indianapolis Star* to provide the bookends to the recently concluded Indiana General Assembly.

On Sunday, the *Star* editorialized, "Pity the cleaning crews who toil at the Statehouse. The 150 members of Indiana's General Assembly left behind a stinking mess as they crept from their darkened chambers late Thursday night."

On Tuesday, the *Star* editorial writers urged a total recall. "If the Indiana General Assembly were a professional sports franchise coming off a season as bad as the legislative session that just ended, the team owner would be poised to fire the coaching staff and overhaul the roster. Citizens of Indiana, you are the owners of a 150-member legislative team that can rightly be called the Indiana Turkeys. They've spent the past two months embarrassing you, themselves and the entire state of Indiana. The question now is what are you going to do about it?"

"Allow us to make a suggestion: Vote."

Yet, on its City/State news pages, the first coverage the *Star* gave to the 36th Senate District showdown between Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst and Johnson County Councilman Brent Waltz noted, "Waltz, who's pushing a message of youth and change, has already hit a snag - he's violated Indiana campaign finance laws."

Waltz told HPR that he checked with Brad King of the Indiana Election Commission three times and was told that his year-end report as a county councilman would suffice and that nothing else would need to be filed before the April reporting deadline.

Waltz became one of 18 candidates who failed to file a "Statement of Organization" that came before the fractured Election Commission on Wednesday. There is little room for excuse, since every legislative candidate gets a packet of information.

But the *Star's* coverage of the Waltz-Borst race was curious in other ways. The news article noted that one of Waltz's campaign chairs, Rexford Early, favored pull-tabs. "What they didn't report was that my other campaign chairman, Bill Schneider, is opposed to gambling of all forms," Waltz said.

If there was one personality in the legislature that could be intricately tied to the state's successes and failures over the past 30 years, it is Chairman Borst.

But Borst is a legislative dinosaur seeking a quick primary ride on the very agents of change the *Star* editorial pages so desire.

In Borst's first TV advertisement, he is shown with Republican gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels, the same candidate who told HPR last November, "When I look at the Indiana General Assembly, I see a lot of places where people have been in the same rut for so long, they haven't even thought about options. We are going to have a house-cleaning across state government. I'm thinking in the executive branch, but there are folks in the legislative branch still blind to the very urgency of the situation."

How could that "blindness" be characterized in the last session of the General Assembly?

How about Borst's success in capping local government spending? "Senate Bill 1 is by far the most important," said Borst. "Senate Bill 1 is going to work."

Martin DeAgostino reported for the *South Bend Tribune*, "One of those controls will hurt some school districts that lost transportation funding through state budget cuts, but cannot raise offsetting property taxes because of the new law."

Borst defended that decision -- opposed by Democrats -- as a victory for taxpayers. "That's a \$33 million (state-wide) hit on property taxes," he said.

Other local governments are having to borrow money to meet current duties. Lafayette and Evansville faced deficits.



Numerous cities are going to be crimped in the coming years by unfunded police and fire pensions, and EPA mandates to fix combined sewer overflow problems that have been neglected for decades. Now, thanks to Borst, cities have fewer options.

The other fascinating aspect of the *Star's* coverage of the Borst-Waltz race was the editorial page's outrage over the Senate Finance Committee passing a \$17 million increase for the horse tracks in the final week of the session. In that outrage, the *Star* editorial writers never pointed out that it was Borst who not only helped legalize parimutuel wagering in Indiana more than a decade ago and is a hall of fame member of the Indiana Standardbred Association, but provided the decisive vote in that 8-7 scenario.

Nor has the *Star* written with any depth about Borst's historic role in not only the horse industry, but in the 1993 budget compromise that brought the riverboat casinos to Indiana in the first place, even though the *Star* has vociferously editorialized against all forms of gaming on countless occasions.

In the mostly hostile reporting of the concluded General Assembly, *Times of Northwest Indiana* reporter Brendan O'Shaughnessy wrote, "After four months of partisan wrangling, both parties blamed the other, election-year politics and a \$1 billion budget deficit for failing to achieve compromise on anyone's priority legislation. The only things they seemed to agree on are that voters should blame party politics for this year's inaction, but shouldn't vote out their incumbent as a reprisal for inaction."

### There's the crux

Of all the races in Indiana, except for that of governor, the 36th Senate District Republican primary is the most important. The *Star* is preaching the sermon that, they're a bunch of turkeys, but this senator is a swan. In doing so, Indiana's largest newspaper finds itself at odds with its own stated goals.

If Chairman Borst is defeated, it will be as dramatic as breaking through a colon blockage. If Borst falls, the Old Guard Senate leadership that includes Senate President Pro Tempore Bob Garton and cronies such as Sens. Joe Harrison and Pat Miller, can expect more of what they were able to stave off over the past several years: Leadership challenges from midling and stunted senators such as Luke Kenley and Murray Clark.

Garton was able to defuse those rebellions and punish the rebels with extreme prejudice. Clark was sent to the back bench by Garton even after he was the GOP's 2000 lieutenant governor nominee. Kenley was also punished and yet still tried to run for governor in the 2004 sequence. Little wonder that Garton has rallied to his old caucus rival, Borst.

### Making the connection

With six weeks remaining before the primary, it will be fascinating to watch Borst try to seize the trappings of change on the vehicle of his Bulen brother (Daniels) while evading the scrutiny from the *Star*, which has never connected the dots of Borst's career, his actions and his rhetoric.

Some get it, such as David Goodrich of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership. He reacted to last week's *HPR* story ("*With Sine Die, End of the Jurassic Age*") by saying, "Excellent and accurate editorial assessment of the 2004 legislative session and the overall state of public policy leadership in Indiana. Too bad a wider audience does not have access to your analysis, although I am beginning to wonder how much the average Hoosier cares, as we continue to elect the same old dinosaurs, who seem all too unable or unwilling to address today's realities and tomorrow's opportunities."

Aside from reviving the *Indianapolis Eye* (which did try to articulate the need for change), the best avenue may be to get the state's largest newspaper to engage in SD36 and connect the dots. ❖

## TICKER T A P E

Peslis, heads up the Center for Character Development for Anderson University. In withdrawing from the race, Patty said she would not be able to devote the time to serve on the school board. "After making the decision to run for the Anderson school board, I encountered many persons who asked how my constant performing schedule might impact my attendance at important school board meetings and committee sessions," Patty said.

CLELAND TO KEYNOTE DEMOCRATIC DINNER: Former U.S. Sen. Max Cleland, a Democrat who lost both legs and his right arm in a grenade explosion in Vietnam, will speak at the Indiana Democratic Party's spring fund-raising dinner. Cleland, D-Ga., will attend the party's annual Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner April 17. "Max Cleland is an American hero," said Joe Hogsett, chairman of the state Democratic Party chairman. "He served his country during the Vietnam War with honor, dignity and valor. His story is one of inspiration to all Hoosier and to all Americans." Tickets for the \$75 reception and dinner can be obtained by calling Molly Wilkinson at (317) 231-7100.

NBC POLL HAS BUSH UP BY 2 POINTS: In an NBC-Wall Street Journal poll released Wednesday, President Bush had a 47-45 percent lead over Democrat John Kerry.

# TICKER

## T A P E

**44 PERCENT BACK BUSH ON GAY MARRIAGE:** An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1,202 adults, conducted over March 4-7 (+/- 3%), shows: 44% approve "of the way President Bush is handling the issue of same sex marriage"; 52% disapprove; 4% have no opinion.

**ORR QUESTIONED BOWEN'S ENORSEMENT: ORR QUESTIONS BOWEN'S ENDORSEMENT:** Two days before he died, former Gov. Robert Orr said he was not only backing Daniels but also is questioning Bowen's decision (Mary Beth Schneider, Indianapolis Star). "It's hard for me to understand," said Orr. "Doc Bowen is a damn good guy, and his candidate is one of the religious right. That bothered me." Miller has centered his campaign on a call for a state spending cap and a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. His commercials will discuss those issues, as well as his opposition to abortion rights. He counts 3,500 churches among his conservative network. "I know (Miller is) conservative," Bowen countered. But, "I suspect he would be called a compassionate conservative." ❖

## Congressional delegation hops on Kernan

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

The 2004 governor's race continues to collect "firsts."

Let's see, thus far we've seen:

◆ The first time candidates' marriage and divorce status was publicly discussed (thanks to the House Republicans and the gay marriage drama).

◆ The first time a candidate actually gave money away (Mitch Daniels donated \$210 in raffle winnings to the Boys/Girls Clubs in Linton last week).

◆ The first 30-minute documentary (Daniels and "RVI" which debuted last weekend to generally good reviews).

◆ Oh, and how about this one: An entire congressional delegation of one party ganging up on a sitting governor?

That occurred when U.S. Reps. Steve Buyer, Mike Pence, Dan Burton, Chris Chocola, John Hostettler and Mark Souder sent a letter to Gov. Kernan questioning the administration's use of \$175 million in federal funds received by the state to help unemployed Hoosiers.

"I just assumed the governor would use the money we sent to Indiana to give it to people who are unemployed, to extend their benefits. Then when I learned he was blaming us, it was just outrageous," said Souder. "Make those decisions, but then don't lie about it. Tell the people the truth. You took their unemployment benefits, not Congress. And we want that corrected for the people of Indiana."

In March 2002, Congress enacted the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program, which included a 13-week extension of unemployment compensation benefits, as well as an \$8 billion distribution to the states. Indiana's portion of these funds was roughly \$175 million. As of this month, only 2 percent of the funds (approximately \$3.7 million) has been spent to help Hoosiers in need.

Gov. Kernan explained in a letter released on Tuesday, "Instead of creating a new tier of benefits, the General Assembly chose to leave over \$102 million in Indiana's UI Trust Fund to improve its solvency and to help pay for a \$54 increase in regular maximum weekly UI benefits phased in over three years. Those actions preserved the integrity of the trust fund while providing increased benefits to all out-of-work Hoosiers eligible for compensation. This package of state legislation passed both chambers of the General Assembly with strong bipartisan support and was supported by business and labor groups."

Rep. Buyer said of the letter, "The governor's response rests on a claim that the \$175 million cannot be used for enhanced unemployment benefits. In fact, nine states have provided additional benefits with their distributed funds. The governor also stated that Indiana could not provide benefits for individuals who were ineligible for TEUC payments, when, in fact, the state of Vermont has done just that.

**"Gov. Kernan's letter** is wrong on the facts and the law. He continues to mislead Hoosiers, which is unfortunate and disappointing," Buyer said.

AFL-CIO President Ken Zeller told WISH-TV's Karen Hensel, if the unemployment trust fund drops below a certain level, employers have to pay a higher rate. "We didn't want to burden employers with a higher unemployment tax," said Zeller. State Rep. Ron Liggett agrees. "You have to realize businesses have a legitimate complaint. They're paying money to the federal government for benefit extensions," he said.

With jobs and economy likely to be a top issue this fall, you can see the battle lines being drawn... by the GOP congressional delegation no less. ❖