



HOWEY

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Visclosky blocks Lake County remake, endorses Stiglich

And Pat Bauer becomes the voice of Indiana Democrats

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, who was handed a historic opportunity to remake the corrupt and embattled Lake County Democratic Party, will instead back former Chairman Stephen Stiglich, the man who couldn't garner a quorum to ensure his own re-election last weekend.

That move prompted the Indiana Democratic Central Committee to revise its rules, allowing Stiglich another chance to get a quorum and save his chairmanship, senior party sources told HPR this morning.

On Saturday, the 1st CD chairs will gather to elect a district chairman, without Lake County representation because, officially, Lake County has no central committee in place. Current 1st CD Chair Leon West is the only candidate.

Party sources say that a number of Democrats tried to persuade former District Attorney Jon DeGuilio to run for the chair. But sometime between Tuesday night and Wednesday morning Visclosky sent the word that he was backing Stiglich. That prompted Indiana Democrats to revise the rule.

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker, who voided Stiglich's March 5 election on Monday due to lack of a quorum, was urged by some Region Democrats to try to install a reformer as chair on March 19. But Parker told HPR he and other Indiana Central Committee members were uncomfortable with "imposing" a candidate on a local organization. The only way the ICC would have installed someone other than Stiglich was if a Lake County consensus had developed around an alternative. DeGuilio was potentially that candidate, but Visclosky quickly quelled that notion in backing Stiglich. Before Visclosky's move, some high-ranking party officials were putting Stiglich's chances for return by a vote from the Indiana Democratic Central Committee somewhere between 50/50 and zero. But apparently that all changed when Visclosky decided to back the status quo.

The jarring contrast to the Old Guard protection in Lake County is that



U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky



“Only in America do people have the opportunity to be wrong on an issue.”

— Eric Miller of Advance America, at the Indiana Statehouse pro marriage amendment rally Tuesday

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Hamilton County, with its 49,117 plurality for Daniels (compared to 52,272 plurality in Lake County for Gov. Joe Kernan) just made a leadership change with young technocrat Charlie White defeating Chairwoman Leeann Cook (see page 3). The Republican county organizations appears to be getting younger and hungrier, while the Democrats couldn't muster a quorum in their most important county.

Bauer the poster boy

Couple that jarring news with the realization that ailing House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer has essentially become the voice of Indiana Democrats. The House Minority Leader heads a caucus where 19 of the 48 members have never served outside a majority. That caucus resides in a Statehouse where Bauer finds himself the ranking Democratic officeholder.

The party has human assets, ranging from U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh to Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard, and Evansville Mayor Jonathon Weinzapfel. Even Visclosky, who enjoys a squeaky clean reputation from the corrupt Region.

But when it comes to the most conspicuous stage -- Indiana public policy and politics -- Bauer is the most conspicuous guy. It is through his lips and body language that the loyal opposition responds to Gov. Mitch Daniels, House Speaker Brian Bosma and Senate President Robert Garton.

Bauer was the architect of the walkout that paralyzed the Indiana Statehouse. He was attempting to carve one precarious power niche for his embattled caucus.

The party that refused to define candidate Mitch Daniels until it was too late has now resorted to Rep. Bauer to be its spokesman replying to Gov. Daniels.

Can the old Irish fox out-wit The Blade?

Minority party crossroads

Indiana Democrats find themselves at a crossroads in March 2005. Sen. Bayh is preparing to gear up for a 2008 presidential run and his prominent focus will be on national and international issues. There is no obvious heir to Govs. Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan; no obvious frontrunner for the party's 2008 gubernatorial nomination, if Mayor Peterson follows his present course toward a 2007 re-elect.

And the party finds itself at odds within itself at the local level. There has been acrimonious infighting at the local level in Democratic strongholds from Indianapolis to South Bend to New Albany.

This past week, the party's paralyzing impotency surfaced in one of the most troubling places -- Lake County.

There, Chairman Stiglich faced opposition from State Rep. John Aguilera, but couldn't muster a quorum for re-election. It was a stunning display of political impotency that left party leaders from Gary to Indianapolis shaking their heads in dismay. Stiglich had also dismissed nine East Chicago precinct officials (a move Chairman Parker determined violated rules) delaying a caucus to choose two new councilmen to replace two who were convicted of corruption.

Visclosky's motivation to back Stiglich may be due to a backlash to a study he commissioned to suggest ways to reorganize Lake County government. As columnist Rich James of the *Post-Tribune* reported (see page 7), "Some Democrats reacted as if Visclosky were a Republican leper. He quickly found out it was easier to be in the minority in Congress than work with his own party back home."

That was quickly followed by a tacit endorsement of Stiglich, perhaps blowing the opportunity to remake the Lake County Democratic leadership with the clean image of DeGuilio, who as DA initiated the corruption probe that resulted in scores of indictments by his successor, Joseph Van Bokkelen.

A Statehouse message

The chaos in Lake County was outdone only by Bauer at the Statehouse.

There were signs that the South Bend Democrat was trying to display whatever power House Democrats had left during the preceding week. But when the magnitude of the walkout became fully apparent mid-evening on March 1, even those in the House caucus were caught unaware.

State Rep. Scott Reske, who until about 8 p.m. on March 1, thought that his caucus would return to the floor and vote on some of the 132 bills waiting for action.

"It wasn't until about 8 that we began to realize we weren't going back," Reske told HPR. There was no discussion of the overall strategy among caucus members. It immediately placed vulnerable Democrats like State Rep. Joe Micon of West Lafayette and Teri Austin of Anderson on the defensive.

Lafayette Journal & Courier editorial writer Dave Bangert captured the essence of the developments, writing, "Bauer is a problem. He's one powerful person at the Statehouse and in his party. But there's not much we can do from here about Bauer, who hails from South Bend. Our concerns turn, then, to state Reps. Sheila Klinker, D-Lafayette, and Joe Micon, D-West Lafayette."

Bangert asked, "Isn't it true, Rep. Klinker and Rep. Micon, that we elected you and not the party leadership?"

Micon was left to respond. "It's not as simple as that,"



Micon said, laying out the penalties that await lawmakers -- and their districts -- for stepping out of line at crucial junctures. Bangert continued, "And he's right, to a certain extent. Micon and Klinker said they urged Bauer to end the walkout, but that they were 'a minority within the minority,' according to Micon."

The problem for Indiana Democrats was that there was no preparation. Not for House members. Not for party leaders such as Mayor Peterson. Not for the press.

There were no talking points on the alleged sticking points: the inspector general and voter ID bills. Ensuing press coverage gradually revealed some of the logic in the party's opposition.

But leading legal minds, like that of State Rep. Trent Van Haaften, a former Posey County prosecutor, were largely obscured by the bombast.

The Indiana Democratic Party was mute. It hadn't posted a press release on its website since Jan. 18. Parker said today the governor's "honeymoon" is over.

The issue framing has been left to Bauer, who Gov. Daniels likened to a terrorist and a "throwback" politician.

It is redux of the 2004 gubernatorial campaign when Indiana Democrats became defenders of a creaky status quo, left with paste, baling wire, and the uninspired clarion call: "Stop bashing Indiana."

Now it is bashing itself. ❖

Charlie White pulls stunning upset with Hamilton County GOP over Leann Cook

Young Republicans ascend to party posts

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

NOBLESVILLE - While Indiana Democrats appeared to be clinging to the old guard in Lake County, Hamilton County Republicans witnessed one of the most stunning party upsets in a generation. Fishers Town Councilman Charlie White defeated Chairwoman Leeann Cook, 126-87 on Saturday.

The last huge upset for a county chair occurred in Allen County in 1993 when Steve Shine, a Fort Wayne attorney, upset the entrenched organization following the retirement of long-time chairman Orvas Beers.

The 35-year-old White's ascension in Hamilton County is key because it is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, and one of the most Republican. A number of election analysts noted that Daniels' plurality in Hamilton County essentially negated the Democratic plurality for Gov. Joe Kernan in Lake County last November.

"This is the first time in the history of the county that an incumbent county chairman has lost. It just doesn't happen," former chairman John Pearce told the *Noblesville Daily Times*. "It's a once out of a decade or once out of a generation thing. It's almost impossible to do. It's something like going to the moon."

White was one of several up-and-comers to make a mark on Indiana politics this past weekend. Many had roots in



Chairman White

the Indiana Young Republican organization.

Pete Miller of Avon won an open chair in nearby Hendricks County. Chris Faulkner won the St. Joseph County chair in an area where Republicans are making inroads. Another was Ed Stoess, a National Young Republican committeeman who is now Floyd County chairman.

They join younger chairs such as Glenn Murphy, who was re-elected as Clark County Republican chairman and is current Indiana Young Republican chairman.

In Porter County, 32-year-old Valparaiso Councilman Chuck Williams was elected, replacing Keith Hall, who chose not to run.

Plugged in chairs

White's success came after he served as the go-to guy for Secretary of State Todd Rokita in 2002 and then Gov. Mitch Daniels last November, overseeing a 700-person volunteer apparatus that helped Daniels win the huge Hamilton County plurality, 76,433 to 27,316 (73 to 26 percent). President Bush won Hamilton County with 74 percent of the vote.

"He was grassroots," said Dan McDonald of the Indiana Young Republicans. Cook's upset wasn't so much because of dissatisfaction with her leadership, but rather an opportunity for White that presented itself after his on-the-ground organizing. "He saw the opportunity and he seized the day," McDonald said.

Only 214 of the more than 300 precinct committee members showed up.

"In addition to doing the job of chairman, I'm going to have to work over the next weeks and months, reaching out to those who didn't vote for me," White told the *Daily Times*. "We may have some bridges that need repaired. People may squabble, and there's nothing wrong with disagreement. We'll work through it."



He promised to start even more GOP women's and young Republican cells in the rapidly growing county.

At South Bend, Faulkner ran unopposed. A veteran of U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola's campaign organization, he now runs a political affairs agency in South Bend called Faulkner Strategies

Faulkner called for an end to the current Democratic dominance of local government. "In fact, as of today, I am putting the Democrats on notice that their days of good ol' boys leadership in smoke-filled back rooms are about to end," he declared on Saturday.

Faulkner said that recent events at the State House show a need for change. "The ones that come to mind right now are the "Trifecta of Truancy": Ryan Dvorak, Craig Fry and

the throwback politician B. Patrick Bauer. Don't you think they owe us an apology for not showing up for work?" he asked.

Little media interest in parties

While the Stiglich and White chairman stories were the most compelling events stemming from last Saturday, the one trend HPR noticed was how little interest there was, particularly in the news media.

A number of newspapers didn't even cover the county chairman results. It comes at a time when Gov. Mitch Daniels is seeking to end personal license plate payments from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to the political parties. ❖

About that 'car bomb'

The anatomy of a metaphor

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS -- Let's rerun that loop from the Governor on March 2 once more ...

"Indiana's drive for growth and reform was car-bombed yesterday by the Indiana House minority. Any pretense notwithstanding, it is clear that this cynical action was planned from the start of the session."

That will be a phrase we'll be talking about for years. It has become a lightning rod for Indiana Democrats and editorial writers.

Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker explained just this morning, "Just because we're not going along with the governor to cut education and raise taxes, we're terrorists. He labeled members of the Democratic Party terrorists."

State Rep. Greg Porter, part of a block of Indianapolis black Democrats Gov. Daniels had hoped would put Daylight-Saving Time over the top before the walkout, said, "if the governor chooses to engage in partisan attacks rather than reaching a bipartisan consensus on these issues, then he is placing his agenda at risk."

The *South Bend Tribune*, Rep. Bauer's hometown newspaper, editorialized, "Daniels' rejoinder, however, was over the top. He called Bauer a 'throwback politician' who had 'car-bombed' the legislative session and blamed the former House speaker personally for the state's economic and budgetary woes. This was the candidate who campaigned and won on a theme of

healing and inclusion."

The *Madison Courier* said in an editorial, "Daniels owes an apology for calling the walkout a 'car bombing,' a horrible term we've heard way too often in recent years."

But an editorial in the *Muncie Star Press* stated, "Gov. Mitch Daniels was correct in using the strongest possible language to condemn Bauer, charging that he had 'car-bombed' change in Indiana and was the worst kind of political 'throwback,' meaning an age in which 'gamesmanship' counted more than doing your job as a legislator."

NUVO's Laura McPhee in her column (see page 7) noted, "State politicians, like those at the federal level, use war metaphors endlessly to describe both themselves and their opponents."

How did the phrase "car bomb" come about? Was it a calculated remark, discussed internally, that was meant to shock, awe or anger the opposition? Or was it spontaneous?

Leading up to March 1, Daniels had been patient. There were no expressions of outrage as the Democrats stalled and he attended a National Governors Association meeting in Washington. The week prior, Gov. Daniels had ruffled some feathers over remarks that a vote against the inspector general bill was a vote for "corruption."

When the governor and Rep. Bauer met the week before the walkout, WTHR-TV asked if he had apologized for that remark. "No, and I didn't ask (for) an apology for being called a dictator and other things," Daniels said. "It's just part of the rough and tumble. There are plenty of times I could have picked my words more carefully, and that goes for everyone in this process. The



Gov. Daniels at his "car bomb" press conference. (HPR Photo)



important thing is to get to a good outcome.”]

By late in the afternoon on March 1, the administration’s mood was changing. Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman called the stalling a “disgrace” as Daniels was heading back to the Statehouse.

Then came the March 2 press conference.

Democrats were quick to point out that the remark must have been discussed internally because it was on a press release handed out just before Daniels and Lt. Gov. Skillman began their press conference.

But gubernatorial adviser Mark Lubbers told HPR, “It was not discussed. People need to get accustomed to the fact that he does *all* his own speech writing and any other important writing. The first that any of us saw it was minutes before the news conference.”

Lubbers noted that there is “lots of room between ‘calculated’ and ‘spontaneous.’”

“I can tell you based on 25 years of working with him that his selection of the perfect word for each situation is one of the reasons that he is such a phenomenal writer,” Lubbers explained. “So I would be comfortable saying that it was chosen with intent to communicate. But it was certainly not ‘calculated’ in the sense that it was not intended to elicit reaction. Also not ‘spontaneous’ in that it was a prepared statement.”

Any regrets now that the phrase has become a focal point and benchmark?

“Not on Mitch Daniels’ part,” Lubbers said. “Would he choose that word again? Maybe not. But no regret. A large part of society has been acculturated by political correctness. As you’ve heard, we don’t buy into that cultural phenomenon, and the public debate over the word has some benefit

because of that.”

During the 2004 campaign, candidate Daniels noted how the entire legislative process had been “thrashing around the rut.” Midway through his first legislative session, some would say that Gov. Daniels has joined the thrashing.

Lubbers said, “If the Dems choose to stay in the rut (observing a mistaken horizon, as you have reminded people weekly) that’s their call. I’m not unhappy that the governor was a bit righteously indignant about their trying to take Indiana’s future hostage. The rut is not the process. The rut is substantive. It is the lack of vision, lack of standards, lack of determination, energy and speed to seize this moment to start Indiana back on the path to excellence (aiming higher). We had hoped to be joined by Democrats who could put partisanship aside and join us in this venture. If they choose to stay in the rut, so be it.”

For his part, Gov. Daniels was asked about Democratic calls for an apology for the “car bomb” remark.

He was defiant, telling the *Indianapolis Star* they were “wrongdoers” who unleashed a “sneaky, preplanned ambush.”

“If any apologies are necessary, I think most Hoosiers would agree they ought to come from somebody else,” Daniels said (WTHR-TV). Earlier in the day he took the opportunity to reflect. “I guess for some people this is a game. That is what I guess they were playing the other night, for the next election. They came to a conclusion it was not in their interest to see an historic set of measures move so fast that it would set a contrast with the stagnation of the years when they ran the place, so they decided to wreck the whole affair.”



A grim Skillman and Daniels talk to the press on March 1. (HPR Photo)

The pink politics of lay-off

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - When first you don’t succeed ... threaten to lay people off.

That’s happening with school corporations around the state after the House Republican budget flat-lined school funding. Muncie schools announced 70 layoffs earlier this week.

Mayor Bart Peterson was sounding grim with his “Indianapolis Works” plan facing oblivion from Republicans who talk about low taxes and greater government efficiency, but are balking when push comes to shove. “Indianapolis

Works will cut the cost of government by \$35 million every year,” Mayor Peterson said. “Without it, we face very unattractive, but very real cuts in the services taxpayers expect and deserve. Indianapolis Works will help us avoid laying off police officers, deputies and firefighters, closing parks, cutting neighborhoods services and other services, and it’s important for the legislature and the public we serve to know the hard choices we will face.”

Gov. Mitch Daniels appeared to be throwing a lifeline to the Democratic mayor. “My message to my party is: (Peterson) wants to be accountable,” said Daniels. “He thinks he can get \$35 million. What Republican wouldn’t like to see that?” ❖



A column for our descendants

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS -- One of the things I always keep in mind when I write my weekly newspaper column is that my readership is not necessarily in the here and now. Two dozen newspapers have been running this thing and, thus, it is recorded in their archives. I envision people a century from now reading my work as they try to understand turn-of-21st Century Indiana.

So this column is written for our descendants.

Many of us in 2005 watched the dueling rallies at the Indiana Statehouse this past week, or read accounts. There was Eric Miller and his Advance America organization who gathered in the thousands to push a marriage amendment to Indiana's out-dated 1851 constitution. Miller, joined by Attorney General Steve Carter, House Speaker Brian Bosma, and Republican and Democratic members of the General Assembly, want state-sanctioned marriage to be defined as being between a man and a woman. Such an amendment could essentially be one sentence: Marriage in Indiana will be between a man and a woman.



That certainly reflects the general attitude of most people today. Our political polling shows overwhelming support for this. It is a political and cultural reality.

But those same polls also show that a majority of Hoosiers believe there should be accommodation for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. They should have legal, property, deathbed, employment and housing rights.

Hoosiers are conservative, but despite the pockets of bigotry and homophobia, most of us are for basic fairness. Most of us believe what Dr. Martin Luther King said in 1963, that we should be judged by the "content of our character" as opposed to the color of our skin. Or, I will add, what we consenting adults do in the privacy of our own bedrooms. Forty years prior to that, Dr. King would have been viewed as a subversive radical. Forty years later, we observe a holiday in his honor and name streets after him.

There are terrible cases in our history where we mistreated the most vulnerable minorities among us. Our ancestors pushed the native Miamis and Potawatomis off their land, despite treaties guaranteeing their property rights. We sent our Miami ancestors off to Oklahoma on the trail of tears.

While Indiana fought against slavery in the Civil War, our black brothers and sisters couldn't be assured a seat in a restaurant or in a public school until the early 1960s, almost 100 years after the guns fell silent at Appomattox. In 1924,

the Ku Klux Klan took over the Republican Party, both houses of the General Assembly, elected a Klan governor and a Klan mayor of Indianapolis. Fortunately, they didn't elect a Klan prosecutor of Marion County and they couldn't silence the free press that outed these people and returned our state to a course of moderation. Our segregated black high schools couldn't join the IHSAA until 1942. The lynching stopped only five years before that.

Our women, more than half our population, couldn't vote until the 1920s. For more than 100 years, this was OK with most in Hoosier society.

A century before this column was written, we treated our mentally ill with profound cruelty. I had friends who lived in apartments converted from the old Miami County Home. There was a brick back building with steel rings built in the walls where the insane were chained and shackled.

Yes, my fellow Hoosiers of the 22nd Century, we got a lot wrong in our past. But fortunately, we always found our way. It took Hoosiers such as Marie Stuart Edwards of the suffragette movement, or former slave Sojourner Truth, or Marion County Prosecutor Wil Remy in 1925 to bring us back.

Here in 2005, I believe our state is again getting it wrong. On the pressing issue of marriage, there doesn't appear to be any prevailing attitude of fairness. At that aforementioned Statehouse rally, there was great hostility and venom. I didn't detect from Miller or the attorney general or the House Speaker any mood for the "compassionate conservatism" they espouse at convenient opportunities.

A marriage amendment could (and will) easily pass. But everyone in the Hoosier family could be accommodated by passing companion legal, property, and deathbed rights for all of us.

The reason they aren't in a mood of compromise is because this is really about politics. It was all about the 2004 elections that used the same sex marriage issue to sweep in a GOP House Majority. It helped re-elect President George W. Bush. It is all about this wedge issue coming before the voters in 2008. The answers are as easy as recognizing the lengths of our noses.

I received an e-mail from a Hoosier who explained, "To me, relationships should be based on three primary ethical principles (all of which have a biblical basis): covenant loyalty (faithfulness), justice/reciprocity (mutual consent, mutual enjoyment, and mutual responsibility for consequences), and love of neighbor (actively working for the well-being of fellow humans as well as for our own well-being)."

Our leaders are avoiding that last point, even though it would be so easy to be compassionate.

As our history reveals with native Americans, blacks, and women, it often takes another generation to get it right and snuff out the bigotry rampant among us. ❖



Stuart Rothenberg, *Roll Call* - Sen. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.) isn't about to announce his candidacy for president just yet. But one look at his team tells me that he's running. Steve Bouchard, who worked in New Hampshire in 2004 and ran Ohio for the influential 527 group America Coming Together, now runs Bayh's renamed All America PAC, formerly Americans for Responsible Leadership. Veteran spokesman Dan Pfeiffer, who served as communications director at the Democratic Governors Association before moving to South Dakota to work for Sen. Tim Johnson and then-Sen. Tom Daschle, is Bayh's new communications director. And pollster Paul Maslin has joined Bayh's team, replacing Mark Penn, who happens to be Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's (D-N.Y.) pollster. The new recruits join Anita Dunn, who handled Bayh's advertising in his easy 2004 re-election campaign. If Bayh can overcome all the obvious hurdles to winning the presidential nomination, he'd pose a huge problem for the Republicans. Indiana, a red state, is quintessentially Middle America. And Bayh is part of what Democratic pollster Fred Yang - who has worked extensively in the state, though never for the junior Senator - calls "the Hoosier Holy Trinity: Basketball, God and Evan Bayh." While Bayh has been criticized for being overly cautious as a politician, he hasn't suffered back home. In Indiana, he is a rock star. Bayh's biggest challenge in 2008 isn't winning the White House. It's winning the Democratic nomination for president. Can the Indiana Senator rally the party's grass roots? Will liberal groups accept him given his voting record? Bayh's reputation as a fiscal conservative who opposed higher taxes is part of state lore, and he can point to enough moderate votes on foreign policy and so-called social issues to make it difficult for Republicans to brand him as a stereotypical liberal Democrat. ❖

Rich James, *Post-Tribune* - Ever since U.S. Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen starting writing the obituaries for Lake County elected officials, the Democratic Party has been trying to gloss over its tarnished image. And if some voters weren't shaken by the public corruption, they snapped to attention when soaring property-tax bills hit the mail. Just as George Bush bought votes with tax cuts, Lake County Democratic officials stand to lose some — particularly when four property-tax bills arrive in the mail this year. It is one thing for the party to say the wrongdoing is limited to a corrupt few. But, when taxpayers get whacked in the wallet, they tend to react with a broad brush. The Lake County Democratic Party is still a powerful organization — but that largely is due to the huge minority vote in north county. Democrats are ripe for the picking, which is partly why U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky, D-

Merrillville, threw a lifeline to the party. He launched an initiative to have an outside firm evaluate government on all levels and make recommendations to make it less costly, which will ease tax bills. It was designed to be a slam dunk for local Democrats, who were expected to embrace the proposal. Not so fast. There are a lot of egos on this Democratic squad. Team is sometimes considered a four-letter word. The plan was to have the consultant — hired with private money — first analyze the cities of Hobart and East Chicago and county government's Administration Building — although there likely is more waste down the hall in the courts building. So, Visclosky gathered the flock to announce the steering committee's proposal. Some Democrats reacted as if Visclosky were a Republican leper. He quickly found out it was easier to be in the minority in Congress than work with his own party back home. ❖

Laura McPhee, *NUVO* - Last week, our new governor caused quite a stir with his criticism of House Democrats in the Indiana General Assembly. After they staged a walkout and let the clock expire on more than 140 pieces of legislation, Gov. Daniels likened the Democrats' boycott of House chambers to a car bombing. It seems to me that Gov. Daniels was speaking metaphorically and because metaphors are not meant to be literal, thinking people ought to consider whether or not his figurative description was accurate. Democrats and their supporters reacted with explosions of outrage, indignation and incredulity. In every case, the "how dare he!" exclamations (implicit or implied) hinged on the literal interpretation of car bombers equaling murderous terrorists — ergo, Daniels was calling the Democrats murderers. Or at least that's what the Democrats would like us to believe. But does anyone other than the self-righteous really believe Daniels was equating Minority Leader Pat Bauer with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi? It seems to me that Daniels was speaking metaphorically and because metaphors are not meant to be literal, thinking people ought to consider whether or not his figurative description was accurate. State politicians, like those at the federal level, use war metaphors endlessly to describe both themselves and their opponents. They speak of the "battle" for the Statehouse during the elections, the "war" of words, the "strategy" of House sessions, how opponents often "shoot down" ideas and progress and the bills that "die" as a result of political bickering. War metaphors, like war itself, lose their sting over time and we become desensitized to their literal meanings. Perhaps the outrage over Daniels' comments comes because the sting was felt and the rawness of the metaphor has yet to be absolved of guilt and personal responsibility. ❖



Bauer recovering from surgery

House Minority Leader Patrick Bauer of South Bend was hospitalized in Indianapolis on Wednesday following surgery related to internal bleeding, a top Democratic colleague said (*Associated Press*). Rep. Russ Stilwell, D-Boonville, said Bauer was admitted to a hospital on Sunday and had surgery on Tuesday. "The operation is over, it was very successful, and he's going to be just fine," Stilwell said. "His prognosis is excellent and we're looking forward to him being back here." Stilwell said Monday that Bauer was hospitalized because of complications from the flu. Stilwell said Bauer was not expected to return to the Statehouse this week, "but we fully expect a full recovery. It would take wild horses to keep him away from here."



Republicans reveal 40 bill agenda for rest of session

INDIANAPOLIS - House Republicans announced yesterday that they will work to revive at least 40 proposals that failed to pass -- most of them because Democrats boycotted the session and blocked action. Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, said it will require a "Herculean effort" to pass the proposals, including a plan to mandate daylight-saving time statewide, provide money for a new Indianapolis Colts stadium, and use state money to pay private school tuition (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). On the list of Republicans' 40 priorities are proposals to require photo identification for voting and to give the governor's inspector general limited power to prosecute state employees.

Also on the list is a proposal that would strip the state's political parties from receiving fees that Hoosiers pay to obtain personalized license plates. All three proposals contributed to the partisan standoff in the House that prompted minority Democrats to walk out and deny majority Republicans a quorum on the deadline day for action on bills. "I think the Democrats have taken quite a spanking over the last week," Bosma said of public reaction to the boycott. Yesterday, Democrats wouldn't rule out a boycott to try to stop votes on future proposals. However, Minority Floor Leader Russell Stilwell, D-Boonville, said Democrats are looking for compromises. "We are here to work," he said. "We want to work with the other side of the aisle."

House passes tougher meth bill

INDIANAPOLIS - A House committee voted yesterday to restrict the sale of cough, allergy and cold medicines that contain an ingredient used to make methamphetamine (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). The Courts and Criminal Code Committee stripped less restrictive provisions out of a bill that has already passed the Senate and replaced them with language from a House bill that died last week during a Democrat boycott.

Kenley, Simpson eye school funding

INDIANAPOLIS - The new public school funding formula that is threatening pink slips in East Central Indiana school districts with declining enrollments has the support of Republican House members and Gov. Mitch Daniels (*Muncie Star Press*). A \$24.3-billion biennium budget approved last month by the Republican-led House allows state funding to follow the child and

generally equalizes that funding for each student. "The concept of money following the child sounds good on paper, but does not work very well for schools in Muncie and Anderson," said Sen. Vi Simpson ranking minority member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Simpson also pointed out how the House budget would raise local property taxes for schools that receive less state funds while pouring more tax dollars in private charter schools. The Republican-led Indiana Senate has just started budget talks, and there has been little discussion of the House budget which also removes a minimum funding guarantee. Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said Indiana was the last state in the country to use a minimum guarantee for school funding. "Indiana has gone down the path on a minimum guarantee, and we have gotten in a terrible fix," Kenley said. Kenley said it was a bit early to say what the Senate would do to change the school funding formula along with public school funding.

Wallace executed for quadruple murder

MICHIGAN CITY - Shackled to a gurney with a needle in his arm, Donald Ray Wallace Jr. could turn his head to face his witnesses (*Evansville Courier & Press*). Staring through the miniblinds and into the execution chamber, his witnesses heard a short, simple statement: "I hope everyone can find peace with this." He then signaled to his executioners, as required by an agreement to not autopsy his body. He was ready to die. It took only minutes for the lethal mix of chemicals to flow into his vein, paralyzing his lungs and stopping his heart. He was pronounced dead at 12:23 a.m. today. He was 47.

