



With Bush at Black Expo, Daniels seeks inroads

Building blocks placed for Indiana GOP?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

Last October in the midst of his gubernatorial challenge when Mitch Daniels was taping a TV show before the African-American Coalition at the Madame Walker Theater, he told the mostly minority audience, "My party has been lousy, I believe, at reaching out to African-Americans. I have no defense to make for it. I feel it's been a mistake. I'm very eager to try to have an open and honest discussion with people regardless of their party loyalty."

Five years before, on the same day John F. Kennedy Jr.'s ashes were surrendered to the Atlantic Ocean off Martha's Vineyard, another dynastic son - then Texas Gov. George W. Bush - arrived at the Metros



President Bush is applauded by Indiana Black Expo President Joyce Rogers (left), Elkhart Councilman Arvis Dawson and Gov. Mitch Daniels Thursday at the RCA Dome. (HPR Photo by Thomas A. Howey)

Church on the east side of Indianapolis. "Prosperity must have a purpose," Bush declared in July 1999. "We will look to faith-based organizations, charities and community groups that have shown their ability to save and change lives. We should promote these private and faith-based efforts because they work."

Bush continued in his 1999 speech, "This is where my campaign is headed. We will carry the message of hope and renewal to every community in this country. We will tell every American, 'The dream is for you.' As Americans, this is our creed and our calling. We stumble and splinter when we forget that goal. We are united and prosper when we remember it. No great calling is every easy, and no work of man is



"The nation's faith-based community groups are bringing kindness to harsh places."

— President George W. Bush at the Indiana Black Expo today

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ever perfect. But we can, in our imperfect way, rise now and again to the example of St. Francis -- where there is hatred, sowing love; where there is darkness, shedding light; where there is despair, bringing hope."

Earlier today, it was President Bush and Gov. Daniels who stepped up before what might have been seen as an improbable forum -- the Indiana Black Expo at the RCA Dome -- making an appeal before another largely minority audience.

For President Bush, the cynics might have seen it as a way to sidestep the antagonistic NAACP this week in Milwaukee. His supporters saw it as another attempt to draw his administration and party closer to many African-Americans who are pro-life and religiously active.

But for Gov. Daniels, this unique scene five miles north of a recently opened Starbucks Coffee Shop owned by former NBA star Magic Johnson, are a continuum of his first six months when he has taken a series of often dramatic steps to recalibrate the Hoosier political scene. It is one where the Indiana Republican Party has been lily white. Where, despite his campaign efforts, only 7 percent of Hoosier African-Americans voted for him last November. And, in his mind, these voters of color have long declared their allegiance to a Democratic Party that sometimes takes them for granted.

Gov. Daniels signed the Colts stadium bill in Gary, which stands to benefit from the historic Northwest Regional Development Authority he helped orchestrate. Daniels recently held a town hall meeting in East Chicago where he spoke in fluent Spanish to citizens in that embattled city.

This Republican governor is reaching out well beyond his base. Today, he brought a Republican president to Indiana Black Expo.

Bush's ownership society

"Half the African-Americans own their own homes," Bush told more than 3,000 people gathered for the Black Expo's corporation luncheon on the same day the Indianapolis Star reported the number of black households earning more than \$100,000 grew from 523 in 1990 to 4,482 in 2000, a 757 percent increase. "That's good for America."

The reading scores for 9-year-old black kids are up 14 points and math scores are up 13 points in the last five years. "The achievement gap is closing," Bush said.

And African-American business ownership is at an all-time high. Small Business Association loans are up by more than 28 percent to blacks.

And, the president said, violent crime is at a 30-year low. "It is difficult for young people to study, learn and grow in the midst of violence, addiction and despair," Bush explained. "By aggressively prosecuting drug dealers and gun criminals, America is making progress toward the day when all

Americans can feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods. The nation's faith-based community groups are bringing kindness to harsh places."

Faith-based groups, Bush said, pointing to the Zion Tabernacle Apostolic Church in Indianapolis, "have the right to apply for programs without taking the cross or the star of David off the wall. It's a good use of the taxpayer's dollars."

There can be a political payoff. In Florida, Bush pulled in 14 percent of the African-American vote in 2004, which helped him carry the crucial state.

Gov. Daniels believes such strides for the Republican Party can happen in Indiana.

A 'decidedly non-political event'

When Gov. Daniels appeared with Elkhart City Councilman and Black Expo Chairman Arvis Dawson and President/CEO Joyce Rogers on Tuesday, HPR asked him if he was attempting to address the GOP's shortcomings he acknowledged last October.

"I hope it has that affect," Daniels said. "This is a decidedly non-partisan invitation and a non-political appearance. I will say that I've spent more time in the minority communities of this state already than a majority of my predecessors. You can ask folks in Lake County how often I've been there. We have the same gaps in Indiana that the nation continues to suffer from. But they may be more severe here. Our income gap, our education gap, our achievement gap, our health gap. Black Expo addresses all of these. There's a jobs fair. There's a health fair. These are things I am deeply committed to working on, politics aside.

"I happen to know that George W. Bush cares about the same things," Daniels continued. "The first bill of his administration was titled No Child Left Behind. People can agree or disagree about the fine print of the bill that finally emerged from Congress. But I doubt there's a single Hoosier



Gov. Daniels last October when he acknowledged Indiana Republicans had done a "lousy" job attracting black voters. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



who doesn't share the ideal of never leaving one child behind if we can find one way to prevent it."

When Amos Brown of the *Indianapolis Recorder* asked if Bush would attempt to draw a "full circle" from the 1999 Metros church appearance, Daniels responded, "I hadn't thought of that, Amos, but it is a very interesting way to think about it. I would have figured into the decision. I think that was made entirely on the event of Black Expo, and a little bit of a personal witness on my part. But it's a very interesting observation and I will remind the president unless you beat me to it."

To those who know Gov. Daniels best, they will attest that virtually nothing he does is without calculation, either politically or on a public policy vein.

"There has to be a connection to everyday life," former Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel said. "That's what Mitch Daniels is doing. I've seen other Republicans who just do lip service. He is sincere in listening to what their hopes and dreams are."

Rev. Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi (left) discusses President Bush's speech with Rev. Olgen Williams Thursday at the RCA Dome. (HPR Photo by Thomas A. Howey) who operates Christamore House on the west side of Indianapolis, was more impressed with Gov. Daniels than President Bush.

"I was glad to be in the same room as the President and I enjoyed the free lunch, but there was nothing I could use or grasp to help turn lives around," Williams said of Bush. "It was what I heard before. If you've got a grant writer, you can get the faith-based money. But money is being cut for re-entry; money is being cut for police; money is being cut from criminal justice programs to help turn lives around. The best thing he said about the 202 project that Bishop Farris has. We've had four teenage kids killed in 32 days. That's what I want: How can I help turn these homes around?"

As for Gov. Daniels, Williams said, "For the first six months, I like what he's doing. I like a lot of the people he's put on staff. I like some of the things he's doing with the children. I particularly like what he's doing with the Department of Corrections and his new commissioner, Dave Donahue.

Rich James, a long-time reporter and columnist for

the *Post-Tribune* in Lake County, acknowledged that Gov. Daniels has been working hard in Northwest Indiana. But he's skeptical it will have much of a political payoff.

"It is tough to get Democrats up here to vote for a Republican, other than Lugar," James said. "Because of the RDA and the governor's leadership role, I am seeing a general acceptance of him. Whether that will translate into votes is difficult to say. I'll give him credit for spending a good deal of time here."

Doug Ross, the acting editorial page editor for the *Times of Northwest Indiana*, said Gov. Daniels "might" be able to make inroads in Lake County, "but mostly with disaffected Democrats fed up with the party on corruption."

Amos Brown said that Daniels appears to be hitting on themes that other Republicans haven't bothered with, "but



he has gotten little or no traction. I think he's doing more in Lake County than he is here."

A foundation, not a wall

Of course, Gov. Daniels was instrumental in bringing an American president to Indiana Black Expo in Indianapolis. He was the catalyst behind the Northwest Indiana RDA, which will bring huge public works projects and jobs to Lake and Porter counties. And there are those 4,400 affluent black households in Marion County that could multiply in a setting that even Amos Brown has wondered where the next generation of black leadership is going to come from.

It's impossible today to tell if moves like these are seeds that will provide a vibrant crop, changing the Hoosier political landscape. Or whether it is another attempt that withers. But something's happening; something very, very different from what we've seen in the past. ❖



Hill stresses religion in district tour

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON--Baron Hill wants the voters of the 9th CD to know that he's a Christian. The former Democratic congressman is trying to erase the portrait that was sketched last fall during a heated campaign.

About 38 billboards were erected around the district by independent conservative groups attacking Hill on social issues. One of them stated that Hill supported removing the reference to God from the Pledge of Allegiance.

"I want to make sure people know that I'm a Christian and I would never vote to do that," Hill said in an HPR interview. He is stressing his religion as he tours the district to lay the groundwork for a rematch with freshman incumbent Republican Rep. Mike Sodrel, who defeated Hill by 1,425 votes in 2004. Sodrel's victory was attributed in large part to a moral values vote.

Hill is engaging in a values dialogue. "I am a man of personal faith," he said. "I attend church regularly. It's the most important thing to me in the world. I don't try to wear religion on my sleeve for political gain; that would be wrong. But I understand from the last election that...people of faith want to know where I stand on my faith."

Sodrel is also going to focus on values in his first reelect. The generally conservative district gave President Bush nearly 60 percent of the vote in 2004.

"Mike stands for the same values as the voters in the 9th," said Glenn Murphy, Clark County GOP chairman. "I assume Baron Hill voted his conscience. What he believed in was out of step with what the people of the 9th believe in."

Hill is asking voters to evaluate his three terms in office and the votes he cast. "I'm getting a positive reception," he said. "I'm encouraged." Hill said that 300 people have volunteered for his campaign. He's not ready to outline the themes of a potential race, but Hill expressed confidence in his finances. He wouldn't reveal the amounts he'll show on his Federal Election Commission filing this month, but he did say that he exceeded his goal for a June 13 fundraiser in Washington. He expected to rake in \$70,000, and the event generated \$140,000.

"I have every intention of declaring...I intend to run," said Hill, a former state senator and Merrill Lynch financial analyst who now works for mCapitol, a Washington consulting firm.

Sodrel amasses cash

While Hill is putting together a campaign structure, Sodrel is amassing a war chest. In his FEC filing this week, he

will show that he has raised \$584,000 and has \$420,000 on hand. He has a \$1.3 million debt from previous races but isn't devoting any resources to paying it down. "Every dollar we've raised so far is going to be spent on the next campaign," said Cam Savage, Sodrel's spokesman.

Sodrel has devoted time and resources to establishing himself in the sprawling rural district, which runs from the Cincinnati suburbs along the Ohio River to just east of Evansville and north to Bloomington. He has opened more offices than Hill had -- in Jeffersonville, Bloomington, Jasper, Versailles and Seymour.

"It's really just a question of budgeting," Savage said in reference to the offices. "We made that a priority." Sodrel has returned to the district each weekend, conducting town hall meetings in 11 of the 20 counties so far and keeping a full schedule of speeches and parades.

But covering the area is no mean feat. "I haven't seen a major presence for him in the district," said Mike Jones, 9th CD Democratic chairman. In fact, Jones is optimistic about recapturing the seat. "I sense a kind of revived mood among the Democrats in the 9th District," he said. "Everywhere I go, there are large crowds; people are enthusiastic."

Jones said one key to winning is to join the moral values debate. "Baron needs to be prepared and we need to be prepared to see a similar kind of campaign," he said. "I don't know we did a good enough job (in 2004) of coming back and setting the record straight. I heard too many people say they saw something on the television or a billboard and they believe it."

Sodrel uses power of incumbency

The record that Sodrel is building as an incumbent might help him. The former chief executive of a Jeffersonville bus and trucking company, Sodrel secured a position on the House Transportation Committee. His staff touts his success in bringing road dollars back to the district, highlighting a \$3.1 million earmark for the Ohio River Greenway in an appropriations bill.

Savage said that the greenway project was not included in the president's budget. "We had to go and make a case why that project was worthwhile," he said. Murphy asserts that Sodrel, who also challenged Hill in 2002, is the strongest he's ever been politically. "We haven't had a lot of turnover with people who have organized our grass-roots from the beginning," he said. "Each year, we've built up a little stronger organization, learned a little more and become more efficient and effective." Hill said he also will have a strong ground campaign. "It will take a lot of money, well over \$1 million," he said. "But money isn't everything. That's why I'm putting together this volunteer grass-roots group." ❖



Taxes, teachers transportation & time

Trendline: Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker told Knox County Democrats Saturday night that the 2006 elections will be about taxes, teachers, transportation and time (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*).

Also, another legislative incumbent is getting a key GOP primary challenge: Elkhart County Council President John Letherman vs. State Rep. Timothy Neese. And, we understand, there are other primary challenges shaping up.

Indiana 2006 Congressional

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. Democrat: Open. **1988 results:** Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes (D) 668,778. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. 2000 Results: Lugar 1,425,150, Johnson (D) 680,046, Hager (L) 33,896. **2006 Forecast:** Former Democratic Rep. Tim Roemer may run for public office again, but he won't challenge Lugar next year.



Roemer ended a month of speculation last Thursday. "It was a hard decision; the country is facing hard times," he said in an HPR interview (Mark Schoeff Jr., *HPR*). "Ultimately, it comes down to my family. Running for Senate would keep me from running on a soccer field or running after a school bus with a peanut butter sandwich." Roemer, who represented what was then the 3rd CD from 1990 through 2002, didn't rule out a return to politics but avoided specifics. "I think there's a race or two left in me," he said. "One of those races might be helping my son or daughter win election as president of his or her class." Roemer and his wife Sally have four children -- Patrick, 12; Matthew, 10; Sarah, 8; and Grace, who is about to turn 5. Since he retired from Congress in 2003, Roemer has served as president of the Center for National Policy in Washington and has been a member of the 9/11 Commission. Taking on Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would have been formidable. Lugar won 91 of 92 counties in 2000, garnering 66 percent of the vote while spending \$4.9 million. Lugar had \$2.6 million cash on hand as of March 31. "We know it would have been some uphill battling," Roemer said. "We've done

that before. We know it would have required a lot of money." Roemer first won office in an upset over Republican John Hiler in 1990. Although Roemer praised Lugar's integrity and his work on national security issues, he said the mood among voters is ominous for incumbents. "The winds of change are blowing pretty hard," he said. "Discontent is running high. No one is invulnerable, certainly." Roemer considered running because of several "deficits" that are threatening the country-- budget, trade, security, health care and Social Security-- as well as unfinished business in Iraq and Afghanistan. "We've got lots of problems out there. We need new solutions." He said a race against Lugar would have been "fun, interesting and positive." With Roemer out of the 2006 picture, there doesn't appear to be any obvious opponent waiting in the wings to face Sen. Lugar. The Democratic bench is deepest at its big city mayoral level, but there is no indication that Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard, Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr., or Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson are interested in such a matchup. Top legislative Democrats who could play at the statewide level include State Sen. Vi Simpson, who told HPR she is keeping her options open on a potential gubernatorial run in 2008, as is former lieutenant governor Kathy Davis. Indiana's Democratic Congressional delegation - Reps. Julia Carson and Pete Visclosky - will seek re-election. Former congressman Baron Hill is poised for a rematch with U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. In essence, the path is wide open for Joe Andrew to try for a political comeback after his disastrous gubernatorial campaign of 2003. Andrew is practicing merger law in Indiana and Washington, D.C. **Status:** *Safe Lugar.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. 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%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** Chocola said Monday he believes the United States will continue to have a military presence in Iraq for some time into the future. Chocola's comments, which followed a ground-breaking ceremony for the Madison Center Geropsychology Institute, were



in response to reports of a secret British memo stating that the United States and Britain are drawing up plans to pull the majority of their troops out of Iraq by the middle of 2006 (Wensits, *South Bend Tribune*). "We're helping them (Iraq) establish a free and democratic country" that will be important to the stability of the Middle East because "free nations do not practice terrorism" and do not support terrorism, Chocola said. If the United States pulls out too soon, Chocola warned, the danger is that Iraq could become what Iran used to be: a safe harbor for terrorists. **Status:** *Leans Chocola*



Congressional

District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler.

Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth.

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 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** Ellsworth has raised nearly \$140,000 in the month since he announced he will challenge Hostettler next year (WKYT-TV). Ellsworth's campaign said Monday it will soon report \$139,825 in total contributions. "It lays a solid foundation for the rest of the campaign," said Jay Howser, Ellsworth's spokesman. The amount is more than the last five candidates to challenge Hostettler raised by the time of their first filings, according to campaign reports. In contrast, campaign filings show that Gail Reicken, who challenged Hostettler in 1998, had raised \$147,000 six months into her campaign. Ellsworth addressed the Knox County Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner on Saturday. "I'm pretty well known in Evansville, and people there are pretty satisfied with the job I've done," said Ellsworth, who has been sheriff since 1998 (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). "But my goal tonight is to take my message further." "The dinner serves two important functions: It's a way for people to get acquainted, and it will let Brad come meet the people of Knox County," said Mary Lou Terrell, the vice-chairman of the 8th District Democratic Party. Local Republicans we've talked to believe Ellsworth will have

issue problems relating to a Safe House inmate who tested positive for cocaine, and then went on to kill three people before committing suicide. **Status:** *Leans Hostettler*

2006 Statewide Races

House District 48: Republican: State Rep. Timothy Neese, Elkhart County Council President John Letherman. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Neese (R) 10,251, Carter (D) 5,248. **2004 Results:** Neese (R) 18,241. **2006 Forecast:** Neese is being challenged next year in the primary by Elkhart County Council President John Letherman. Letherman is also president of the U.S. 31 Coalition and will be able to raise serious money. He could be vulnerable on pushing a wheel tax through the council, but Letherman is very powerful on the county level. He is expected to portray Neese as a go-along guy who pushed the state budgetary tax burdens on to local governments and, subsequently, property owners. Like the challenge to State Sen. Allen Paul by the Richmond Council president, this race suggests a potential growing anti-incumbency. **Status:** *Leans R.*

State Auditor: Republican: Richard Mourdock, Marion County Clerk Doris Ann Sadler, Deputy Auditor Jeff Heinzman. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Nass (R) 824,358, Huston (D) 587,484, Parisi (L) 49,030. **2006 Forecast:** Mourdock, a former Vanderburgh County Commissioner, came close to winning the secretary of state convention floor fight in 2002 and is now back on the statewide scene in this race, this time as a clear frontrunner. He has the support of seven congressional district chairs, including Sen. Sue Landske (1st), John Zentz (2nd), Michael Miner (3rd), Dudley Cruea (4th), Ted Ogle (6th), John Hammond III (7th), and John Myers (8th). Another supporter is power attorney Bob Grand, who backed Mourdock's 2002 floor opponent, Secretary of State Todd Rokita. In that losing effort Mourdock impressed his foes, particularly with his "iron sharpens iron" convention speech. Mourdock has met with 56 of the 91 county chairs. "I feel very, very good about where we are," Mourdock told HPR. Sadler has raised at least \$40,000 and has the support of one of Mourdock's 2002 opponents, Dr. John McGoff. But she will have to defend herself from the variety of controversies she was involved with over the 2004 Marion County ballot (and lack thereof in the primary). Heinzman is hoping to duplicate what Rokita did, which was follow his boss into the office. One historical note: the last three auditors (Ann DeVore of Columbus, Morris Wooten of Madison, and Connie Nass of Huntingburg) all hailed from Southern Indiana. **Republican Convention Status:** *LIKELY MOURDOCK*



From San Jose to Manchester, a Bayh-coastal week, but does he know the way?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Evan Bayh's hits keep coming, from coast to coast and even on the Hoosier home front.

On the west coast, he slammed China for manipulating its currency to cheapen exports. "It's cheating," Sen. Bayh told the San Francisco Commonwealth Club (*San Jose Mercury News*). "Our legacy to our children -- mine and yours -- should be more than unpaid bills."

Bayh said he voted against the United States signing the Kyoto Protocol, which requires developed member countries to significantly reduce greenhouse emissions by 2012, because developing countries such as China and India would not be impacted even though they are some of the world's fastest-growing economies. He said that is the same problem with China violating intellectual property rights, which is helping it become more efficient and more competitive than the United States in many areas (*Mercury News*).

Then there was his first traipse through New Hampshire, covering some of the same ground that his father, U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, did in 1976.

According to *Politics.NN.com*'s James W. Pindell, a Hoosier native, Bayh wrapped up a two-day visit to the state receiving mixed results from Democratic activists with very different ideological stripes. "But if the goal of the trip was to simply introduce himself to the state's activists and get his feet wet in the presidential waters, he certainly accomplished that," Pindell reported.

Pindell continued, On Sunday, Bayh received mixed reactions from separate audiences gauging their first impressions of a man who admits he is "taking all the proper steps" in exploring a presidential run.

In Manchester, where traditionally Democrats tend to be more moderate, he was warmly received given

plenty of applause (and) softball questions by the small crowd on a hot Sunday afternoon. The scene in Keene, known for its more liberal politics, was quite different, with many struggling to not to doze off until a much rougher question and answer period that Bayh seemed to handle fairly well.

No one seemed to be fully converted to Bayh on the spot, though none of the dozen candidates who have visited the state before him were able to claim that either. Overall, most said their impression of him was of a person who was warm in a Midwestern sort of way yet reserved in a senatorial way.

"Overall I think he was a little flat," said Kathleen O'Donnell, a Keene activist who supported Howard Dean in last year's primaries. "He certainly knew the issues, but he didn't have the fire in the belly like he wants it. But he is new to this so maybe he'll get better over time."

On his second day Bayh joked around on WGIR's *The Charlie Sherman Show* and gave his theory as to where the word Hoosier came from. He then met privately with Gov. John Lynch and other Statehouse Democratic leaders before touring a solar panel factory in Merrimack and meeting with reporters.

Local media covering the Bayh visit to New Hampshire were mixed in their assessment. *Indianapolis Star* columnist Matthew Tully called Bayh "Plastic Man" (See page 8) who came across as "eager, even desperate."

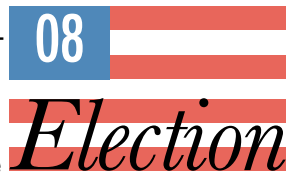
Ouch.

WTHR-TV's Kevin Rader was a little more forgiving. He reported: At every stop on Sunday the senator heard at least one person say, "I remember the first time I met your father." But when a reporter asked about the family connection he responded, "My presence today is not genetic. However I am very proud of my father and his service to his state and his country. Caring about our country is something he and I share. That is what has brought me here today."

And on both coasts, there was Bayh not declaring his candidacy, but saying, as he did in the Granite State, that he was "taking the proper steps" toward such a station.

That line ends up in every story - political or public policy - and seems, well, pretty damn wishy-washy.

It's time to declare, senator. ❖



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Matthew Tully, *Indianapolis Star* - As U.S. Sen.

Evan Bayh smiled his way through New Hampshire this week and played the role of presidential candidate, I thought of a nickname some people have for the Indiana Democrat. Plastic Man. That's not a great nickname for a politician who wants to be leader of the free world. But as Bayh campaigned in this important state Sunday and Monday, he gave plenty of clues for why the nickname might stick. So often, Bayh was too perfect, too polished, or too wedded to seemingly poll-tested talking points. During Q&A sessions, Bayh frequently seemed like a lost driver scanning a map in his head for the path back to a carefully crafted, speechlike point. He would then deliver grandiose lines fit for a State of the Union address. That's a problem when you're standing by a tray of meatballs in a place called "The Pub," trying to bond with 25 casually dressed Democrats. Energy independence, he said, "is an issue I believe is of paramount importance." Of the Iraq war, he said, "The lessons we need to take from this are legion." He came across as someone eager -- desperate, even -- to sound presidential. But as he veered toward the lofty, many of the eyes were looking not at Bayh, but at the floor or the wall. Plastic won't play here in New Hampshire, where Democrats say they want a candidate with "authenticity" and "connectivity." Bayh didn't show much of either this week. Oh, he looked presidential. With his handsome face tanned and his shirt-sleeves rolled way up, he patted every shoulder, looked earnestly into every eye, and preached a likable message of moderation and "common ground." He was unflappable, not flinching during an outdoor TV interview, for example, even as a bug crawled up his head. But on a sunny Sunday, Bayh's answers were painfully long and full of D.C. jargon. ❖

Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - Winston

Churchill delivered some pretty fine speeches in his day. This came to mind earlier this week when London suffered its worst attack since World War II. Terrorist bombs on three subway trains and on a double-decker bus killed dozens of people and wounded hundreds of others. On July 14, 1941, Churchill delivered the famous "You do your worst – and we will do our best" speech. The speech, essentially, was a tribute to the rescuers of London. (That was us and the allies, after the Germans dropped tens of thousands of bombs on London and other cities in England.) Interestingly, the Churchill Center – which bills itself as "the international focus for study of Winston Churchill, his life and times" – edited the speech slightly to remove references to 1941 and the contemporary wartime players. In this form, it seems as if the

speech could be given today with regard to the terrorist events of Sept. 11, Madrid and now London. Funny how strikingly appropriate these words from 1941 resonate today. See for yourself. "We have to ask ourselves this question: Will the bombing attacks come back again? We have proceeded on the assumption that they will. Many new arrangements are being contrived as a result of the hard experience through which we have passed and the many mistakes which no doubt we have made – for success is the result of making many mistakes and learning from experience. If the lull is to end, if the storm is to renew itself, we will be ready, will not flinch, we can take it again. "We ask no favors of the enemy. We seek from them no compunction. On the contrary, if tonight our people were asked to cast their vote whether a convention should be entered into to stop the bombing of cities, the overwhelming majority would cry, 'No, we will mete out to them the measure, and more than the measure, that they have meted out to us.' ❖

David Rutter, *Post-Tribune* - My father-in-law was

not a likeable man. But I tried to like him. Lordy, how I did try. I wanted to be his buddy, but he had no such ambitions. He was gruff, loud and often drank too much for his good and, when he did, he was less pleasant. He seemed angry for no particular reason. We — all his family — tolerated his sharp tongue and sour moods because that's what you do to keep peace in the family. But why his loving, enduring wife

stayed with him for 50 years was a mystery that finally had its answer when he was much closer to the end of his life than the beginning. He was an infantry grunt who had slogged through the hedgerows in France after the 1944 landing in Normandy. He shot at Germans. They shot at him. A lot. That was his life. Of his best friends, many died one by one in front of his eyes in ways that defy comfortable explanation. And though he had not been a perfect person even as a young man, the war altered him. He came home to a sweet bride and eventually children and grandkids, but he was never the same funny, carefree teen who had left for boot camp. He had been turned dark and foreboding. He, as with many World War II veterans, never spoke of the events that had immersed his soul in horror. And who could ask them to talk of it? The edges of some truths are too cutting. The lesson I learned from Don is that we who can stay home are tempted to make war noble for our own sakes. It's spin. Comforting fakery. Otherwise we might not bear to look at its true face and see the price it takes. We should not do that. But no one who fights a war, who must do terrible things and have terrible things done to them, can afford this illusion of nobility. ❖





New Indiana job numbers of May and June

INDIANAPOLIS - Today the

Indiana Department of Workforce Development released revised May and preliminary June 2005 payroll employment figures for

the state. Indiana's seasonally adjusted job figures revealed a revised May total of 2,962,300 jobs, while June preliminary figures reported a total of 2,971,500 jobs. Ron Stiver, Commissioner for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, stated, "Indiana has added 43,300 jobs over the past year, however we still remain approximately 44,500 jobs shy of our peak reached in May of 2000. This supports Governor Daniels' aggressive economic reform agenda, including the recently announced Innovating Indiana Strategic Skills Initiative, to accelerate both job and wage growth for Hoosiers."

The nation's seasonally adjusted figures for June show that the U.S. has surpassed its peak employment with the addition of 146,000 jobs over the previous month. Meanwhile, Indiana remains approximately 44,500 jobs off its peak from May of 2000. The number of jobs in Indiana according to May revised data was 2,962,300 and June preliminary figures were 2,971,500. Analyzing preliminary job figures in the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) for June, the Anderson area remained unchanged for the month and reported 45,700 jobs while the Bloomington area reported an increase of 400 jobs and a jobs total of 78,600. The Columbus MSA reported a job total of 42,500 while the Elkhart-Goshen area remained relatively unchanged and reported a total of



130,800 jobs. Evansville reported a job total of 179,200 for the month while Fort Wayne reported an increase of 500 jobs and a total of 214,900 jobs for June. The Gary MSA posted its total of 278,600 jobs meanwhile the Indianapolis area reported an increase of 1,900 jobs for the month and a jobs total of 897,700. Kokomo revealed its June jobs total to be 48,400 while the Lafayette MSA reported a monthly total of 88,300 jobs. The Michigan City MSA reported a June total of 47,300 jobs while the Muncie area posted 52,200 jobs for the month of June. New Albany posted 95,200 jobs for the month and the South Bend MSA remained unchanged and reported a total of 147,500. Additionally the Terre Haute MSA posted its total of 73,700 jobs for the month of June.

Gonzales not going to be Bush's SC pick

WASHINGTON - The *Washington Post* reports some allies of the White House "said they think Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, a close friend of the president's whom many conservatives have opposed, is less likely to be named." Some "new names are now being floated, according to the White House allies, including former deputy attorney general Larry D. Thompson; Judge Alice M. Batchelder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit, based in Cincinnati; and Chief Judge Deanell Reece Tacha of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, based in Denver."

Columbus Council to consider smoking ban

COLUMBUS - A revised ordinance that bans smoking in all public places except bars and private clubs is returning to Columbus City Council (Columbus Republic). In a meeting Tuesday, the council will consider in a

first reading the modified proposal, which in its original form was voted down. If passed, the new ordinance would return for a final reading Aug. 2. If passed again, all non-exempt, enclosed public places would have 120 days to become smoke-free. A group called Volunteer Smoke-Free Workplace Compliance Committee would enforce the ordinance based on community complaints, the ordinance states. "I really don't think anyone ever thought this was a perfect solution," said local businessman Hutch Schumaker, who chaired a 13-member committee formed to draft the compromise. "There had to be give and take on both sides, and even then the decision wasn't ever unanimous."

Bush, Congress sag in NBC Poll

WASHINGTON - An NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll of 1,009 adults (+/- 3.1%), conducted over July 8-11, shows: 46% "approve of the job that George W. Bush is doing as President"; 49% disapprove; 5% were not sure. 39% "approve of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling the economy"; 54% disapprove; 7% were not sure. 45% "approve of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling our foreign policy"; 51% disapprove; 4% were not sure. 39% "approve of the job that George W. Bush is doing in handling the situation in Iraq"; 55% disapprove; 6% were not sure. 34% "think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction"; 52% "feel that things are off on the wrong track"; 12% had mixed feelings; 2% were not sure. 28% "approve of the job that Congress is doing"; 55% disapprove; 17% were not sure. 38% prefer that the "outcome of the 2006 congressional elections" be a "Congress controlled by Republicans"; 45% said "a Congress controlled by Democrats"; 17% were not sure. ❖