



Sheriff Ellsworth takes aim at controversial Hostettler

A new kind of Democratic challenger in Bloody 8th

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in French Lick

In a 15-minute talk to Indiana Democrats last Saturday night, Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth laid out a concise and personable reason why he believes he should be elected to Congress from the Bloody 8th CD.

"Washington doesn't listen to what we need," said Ellsworth, the two-term sheriff with JFK Jr. good looks. "They are using their mouths more than their ears."

Sheriff Ellsworth explained, "I think I know about homeland security." He told the story of Washington sending Vanderburgh County emergency workers "white suits, all one size; exactly the same size. It doesn't work for us." Then there were the tear gas long sticks, used for smoking out bad guys from upper story floors. "But what we really needed were radios," Ellsworth said.

"My opponent is a good man. But he doesn't listen to folks back home," Ellsworth said of U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. "He's the congressman of the sheriff of Vanderburgh County, but he hasn't called me once to ask what we need for Vanderburgh County."

In 1994, Hostettler rode a wave of discontent that put Republicans in charge of the U.S. House for the first time in four decades. Those Republicans promised balanced budgets, the same laws for Congress that the rest of us live under, term limits, an adherence to the "rule of law," and if a war had to be fought, it would be done in such a way that the outcome would never be in doubt.

In the coming election 12 years later, Hostettler will have his hands full with a personable sheriff who started the Evansville DARE program, has been a front-line soldier in the war on methamphetamine and who, as Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker explained, "Is a man who always knows where his gun is ... it's on his



Vanderburgh Sheriff Brad Ellsworth.



"He's staying right where he is. They're upset just because he is doing his job. The charge that this is racial is disgraceful and false."

— Gov. Mitch Daniels, defending BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman, to the *Post-Tribune* in Gary

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side.”

Hostettler and other Republicans will have to answer for a war that has spiraled out of control, with skyrocketing budget deficits. Even though the congressman has voted against deficit budgets and the war, these issues will certainly shape the national dynamic that could fuel campaigns such as Ellsworth's. On the military front, Hostettler is a member of the House Armed Services Committee and could find issues such as the lack of vehicle and body armor coming into play.

And the “rule of law?”

Hostettler suggested Gibson County defy the U.S. Supreme Court over its 10 Commandments monument. He was arrested at a Kentucky airport for a gun he “forgot” about in his luggage, resulting in a conviction. Some believed that in gun-loving Southwest Indiana that might actually be a badge of honor. But now Hostettler faces an articulate sheriff with a real badge.

Ellsworth is pro-life. He wears a gun every day. He is the son of an Alcoa manager who worked 100-hour weeks; a guy who mowed 100 lawns to buy his own purple Stingray bike; who put himself through Indiana State University at Evansville by bagging groceries and working at Sears, and ended up with a masters degree in criminology as well as a diploma from the FBI Academy at Quantico.

He says things such as, “I was raised by parents, not a TV set.” Ellsworth complains of a “popular culture” assaulting families via gangs, meth labs, and sexual predators.

“I’m running for Congress because all families deserve to grow up safe and secure,” Ellsworth explained.

It was a challenger’s speech that had a confident, concise campaign homestretch veneer.

Hostettler now faces a challenger with enough assets to pull off an upset. The national template is shaping up in similar fashion to what the Democrats faced in 1994.

Hostettler has won every close election

Rep. Hostettler has eked out five narrow victories, the largest coming in 2004 with a Bush-Daniels tailwind (145,576 to 121,522 over Jon Jennings, portrayed as a carpetbagging basketball scout). But other than that win, Hostettler has never crested above 53 percent (coming against Democrat Paul Perry, who out-raised Hostettler \$1.5 million to \$743,000). He has virtually no money raised for the 2006 cycle and doesn’t accept PAC funds.

In a competitive county where key offices such as Evansville mayor and the Vanderburgh County commissioners trade hands between parties, Ellsworth won two lopsided primary and general election races in 1998, and was then unopposed for re-election in 2002.

Hostettler relies on a network of pro-life, home school

and pro-gun activists who have consistently turned out the vote. It is one of the best campaign organizations in Indiana.

He was one of six Republicans to vote against the Iraq war, suggesting it would be an ominous precedent. He was against term limits, saying the Constitution should only be amended as a last resort. He opposed a balanced budget amendment because it didn’t come with a super majority to raise taxes. In 2000, he was one of only three Members to vote against the Violence Against Women Act. He opposed hate crime legislation, asking, “What crime is motivated out of love? We should not create a federal thought police.”

Between now and November 2006, Rep. Hostettler, who chairs the House Immigration, Border Security & Claims Committee, will find himself on the frontlines of a potential hot button issue: the influx of Central Americans coming illegally into the country. It is an issue so volatile that former Nixon speechwriter Pat Buchanan has suggested President Bush should be impeached.

Ellsworth acknowledged Hostettler’s powerful base, but noted Hostettler has very little dialogue with anyone else.

A non-traditional candidate

The group Veterans for Common Sense points to candidates such as Ellsworth, FBI whistleblower Coleen Rowley in Minnesota, and former pro quarterback Heath Shuler as examples of “non-traditional candidates” running in 2006. “It’s part of a broader effort to get people involved in races who are outside the traditional sense of a congressional candidate,” spokesman Bill Burton said.

Ellsworth raised \$140,000 by his June FEC report. “This is the biggest number a prospective opponent to Hostettler has raised in years, which is an indication that either his opposition is galvanized for a run against him, or there’s more money around to finance a campaign,” observed *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* columnist Pete Ciancone.

Paul Musgrave wrote in the “*In the Agora*” website that Ellsworth will have some disadvantages. “Ellsworth has only faced one contested race. That means he has never had to fundraise on the scale that will be required of him. He lacks the name recognition and campaign contacts outside Vanderburgh County that Hostettler has in abundance. There are few, if any, national Democratic figures who could campaign for Ellsworth.

“Perhaps most importantly,” Musgrave notes, “Ellsworth’s career has been in law enforcement. He has never made laws. Nor has he negotiated a budget, worried about the legitimate claims of special interest groups, or run a policy-oriented office. He may not have any position at this moment on health care or national defense more sophisticated than any well-educated voter’s.”



Ellsworth seems to recognize these challengers, also faced by Hostettler in 1994. Ellsworth told WFIE-TV when he announced, "With 500-and-something days left, all the issues come out and the contrasts will come out between the current congressman and myself, and that will become quite apparent to the people who will make the choice."

The Democratic blogsite *Taking Down Words* noted Ellsworth's presence in French Lick and noted, "Wowzers. The guy's got a smile made for campaign commercials and all the substantive trappings of a quality candidate: elected expe-

rience, enthusiasm, social skills."

Last Saturday night, Ellsworth explained, "I'm a sheriff, I don't believe I'm a politician." He called Washington a "mean-spirited place" but added, "If good guys like me don't run, only bad people will be there."

Ellsworth explained, "I'm pretty well-known in Evansville, and people there are pretty satisfied with the job I've done. But my goal tonight is to take my message further."



The Hostettler File

Aug. 25, 2005: "The picture of marriage is the picture of Christian salvation," U.S. Rep. Hostettler said. "Any diminishing of that notion – whether homosexual marriage or any other degradation of marriage – is something we must fight in public policy" (*Evansville Courier & Press*)



Rep. Hostettler

June 2005: Rep. Hostettler urged Gibson County government to defy a potential federal court removal of a Ten Commandments monument. Of the U.S. Supreme Court, Hostettler said, "As few as five people in black robes can look at a particular issue and determine for the rest of us, insinuate for the rest of us that they are speaking as the majority will. They are not."

June 23, 2005: Rep. Hostettler amended a spending bill to block federal marshals from enforcing a court order to remove the monument from the lawn of the Gibson County Courthouse in Princeton, Ind. Hostettler said, "The Founders certainly never intended for federal court rulings that violate Americans' rights to be blindly funded and enforced by the other two branches. The bill we passed today employs the Legislature's power of the purse to check a federal court that's attempting to turn a constitutional right into a constitutional prohibition." Hostettler said the judges' decision was "inconsistent with both the clear intent of the (Constitution's) framers and the Christian heritage of the United States."

June 21, 2005: Rep. Hostettler asserted that "the long war on Christianity in America continues today on the floor of the House of Representatives" and "continues unabated with aid and comfort to those who would eradicate any vestige of our Christian heritage being supplied by the usual suspects, the Democrats. Like a moth to a flame, Democrats can't help themselves when it comes to denigrating and demonizing Christians."

April 20, 2004: Rep. Hostettler "completely forgot" he had the gun in his bag as he prepared to take a US Airways flight to Washington for the first day of work after a two-week recess, a spokesman for the congressman said. A Homeland Security Department official said Hostettler had a loaded 9 mm Glock pistol in his bag at Louisville International Airport. The congressman said he did not know the gun was in his bag and apologized, the official said.

May 27, 2004: Rep. Hostettler wrote, "Simply put, if federal courts don't have jurisdiction over marriage issues, they can't hear them. And if they can't hear cases regarding marriage policy, they can't redefine this sacred institution and establish a national precedent for homosexual marriage. Thirty-eight states already protect traditional marriage under DOMA. By exercising this Constitutional legislative authority we can preserve each state's traditional right to determine its own marriage policies without federal court interference. There is a radical element in America working to change our dictionaries, our Bibles, our traditions and our laws. But it's not the institution of marriage that needs redefining. It is our understanding of the federal courts and the limitations placed on them by the U.S. Constitution. Equipped with knowledge, the American people can reclaim the governance that is rightfully theirs."

July 2003: Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore and his Ten Commandments display in the state Judicial Building got a boost from an unexpected source, the U.S. House of Representatives. Representatives on July 23 voted 260-161 on a Hostettler measure to block the federal government from spending any tax funds to enforce the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision against the Ten Commandments monument Moore placed in the Alabama Supreme Court lobby.

August 2002: Rep. Hostettler told 11 breast cancer activists that women should be informed about research linking abortion and breast cancer. ❖



When the levee breaks

*If it keeps on rainin', levee's goin' to break,
When The Levee Breaks I'll have no place to stay.*

- Led Zeppelin

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

FRENCH LICK, Ind. - Many of us ... naively ... went to bed Monday night thinking New Orleans had dodged a bullet from Hurricane Katrina. A puff of dry Midwestern air had nudged it east of the Big Easy, reducing its winds to 145 mph.

But Tuesday morning, when NBC anchor Brian Williams opened the *Today Show* by reporting that the 17th Street levee was breached and "water is pouring into the city," it brought to frightening reality a phrase U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar used in his 1996 presidential campaign, that we would witness "the destruction of an American city in our lifetime." But this was at the hands of Mother Nature and suspect infrastructure, not al-Qaida.

The impact in Indiana and across the country was the same. Hoosiers found gasoline prices skyrocketing to \$3.30 a gallon on Wednesday, prompting panic buying in Muncie and Terre Haute. Some of *HPR's* most ardently Republican friends were fuming, not so much at the twist Katrina threw at us, but by a lack of energy policy.

"The area hit hardest by Katrina is the country's most important oil center," *ABC News* reported. "And at a time of record gas prices, the storm has largely shut it down. Which means that even if you're not seeing wind and rain today, Katrina may well bite you at the pump." Gas traded at \$70 a barrel as eight refineries shut down and pipelines were hampered by a lack of electricity on the Gulf.

ABC reported, "It's not just oil imports. One-quarter of everything America exports passes right through the disaster zone." Intelligence analyst George Friedman explained, "It's a little-appreciated fact that New Orleans is one of the most strategic cities in the United States." An economic blow.

And the political implication? As Katrina was building up 175 mph winds on Saturday, House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer told gathered Democrats at French Lick about the gas dilemma "from the Oil President." Bauer said, "When oil prices go up to \$3 a gallon, people are going to realize that." No one knew it was just days away.

Whether the political ramifications become obscured by the sheer humanitarian dimensions of the New Orleans catastrophe remains to be seen. But there is much fear and anger these days with \$3 gas signs in our face, going well beyond the Big Easy, nestling in the American heartland.

*Now, cryin' won't help you, prayin' won't do you no good,
When the levee breaks, mama, you got to move.
Goin' down, goin' down now, goin' down ...*



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Supreme Court nominee Roberts poses challenges for Bayh

Liberal Interest Groups Wage a Battle

By MARK SCHOEFF JR

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON--When Congress reconvenes next week, Sen. Evan Bayh will begin to navigate the potentially treacherous political shoals of the first Supreme Court confirmation process he has participated in since being elected in 1998.

On Bayh's starboard side is a conservative nominee, D.C. Circuit Judge John Roberts, who has garnered praise for his intellect, legal ability and demeanor and grew up in Long Beach, Ind. On Bayh's port side is a coalition of liberal interest groups who want to upend Roberts. They assert that the paper trail from his days as a lawyer in the Reagan administration show that he is an opponent of women's and minority rights and is inclined to overturn existing abortion law.

Complicating this mix for Bayh is his almost certain run for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, a process that could be dominated by the groups opposing Roberts.

USA Today reported that Bayh and Sen. John Warner, a Virginia Republican, have agreed to appear with him when confirmation hearings begin Tuesday. Bayh is appearing in accordance with "the longstanding, bipartisan tradition of introducing a nominee from his home state" and hasn't yet made up his mind how he'll vote on the nomination, said the senator's spokesman, Dan Pfeiffer.

Bayh told the *Indianapolis Star*, "'Judge Roberts called me and asked me if I would do (introduce Roberts at next week's confirmation hearings) and of course as a matter of courtesy I agreed to do that. He lived in our state from the time he was eight until the time he was 18. He considers Indiana to be where he was raised. So I told him I'd be pleased to do that. Like many of my colleagues, I'm interested in what he has to say. And we won't know that until he's asked and answers the questions. I think I should hear what the man has to say before making up my mind."

"The liberals who vote in primaries and caucuses will remember (Bayh's vote on Roberts) without fail," said Larry Sabato, professor of political science at the University of

Virginia and director of the school's Center for Politics. "So, if Bayh is to be competitive in the presidential nomination process, he needs to give some votes to the liberals."

Possibly alienating Hoosiers by voting against a home state product probably won't be a decisive variable for Bayh, said Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the *Rothenberg Political Report*.

Sabato points out that Bayh is five years from his next Senate election -- if he's still in the Senate. "Few, if any, will remember the Roberts nomination," Sabato said in an e-mail interview. "There will have been other, perhaps even more controversial, nominations to the court by then."

Another factor that could influence Bayh is that he already has upset Democratic activists by voting to ban partial birth abortion. Their anger over that issue is credited in part with denying Bayh the vice presidential slot on Al Gore's ticket in 2000.

"Anyone who thinks Evan Bayh won't remember that, doesn't know Evan Bayh," said Peter Rusthoven, a partner in the Indianapolis law firm Barnes & Thornburg and a colleague of

Roberts' when they were both associate counsels to President Reagan.

Like other Democratic senators, Bayh will have to gauge to what extent liberal groups are using the Roberts nomination as a litmus test. "This is going to be a big deal, and Evan's worried about that," said Rusthoven, who ran in the 1998 Republican primary for the open seat that Bayh captured.

But if Bayh votes to confirm Roberts, it might bolster his credentials as a centrist Democrat--and it would align him with a number of Democratic Senate colleagues, many of whom are prepared to back Roberts.

The key for Bayh is to parse Roberts without being nasty. "Bayh can do that because he appears to be rather earnest and he has that low-key style," said Rothenberg. "But he needs to ask tough questions and demonstrate the he isn't simply being rolled by George Bush on this nomination."

Liberal Groups Focus on Questions

As they gear up for battle next week, activists are urging senators to take a hard look at Roberts and make him respond to pointed queries. "John Roberts has an extensive record," said Jocelyn Frye, general counsel for the National Partnership for Women and Families. "I don't think many peo-



Sen. Bayh (left) and Judge Roberts



ple knew that when he was first nominated."

Another group in the coalition opposing Roberts also is concentrating on the hearings before looking ahead to a vote. "We'll be listening to our senators' lines of questioning," said Melody Drnach, vice president for action at the National Organization for Women.

In illustrating NOW's opposition to Roberts, Drnach pointed to a memo he wrote that questioned whether homemakers should be encouraged to become lawyers.

"It's comments like that that have set off bells for us," she said. Rusthoven counters by saying Roberts is easily "in the top tier of people ever nominated" for the Supreme Court.

So far the anti-Roberts coalition hasn't engaged in hardball politics. None of them have gone up on television to much of an extent. "In terms of ads, we're waiting to see what happens," said Drnach. NOW also is planning "fly-ins," which will bring people to Washington during the confirmation hear-

ings to stoke the "grass-roots groundswell" of Roberts opposition, Drnach said.

Bayh has not yet been a target. Over the past couple of weeks, HPR has repeatedly contacted groups, including People for the American Way and MoveOn.org.

They have either declined to comment or not returned calls. MoveOn is, however, launching radio ads this week urging Bayh to vote against repealing the estate tax.

Playing It Safe

As Bayh watches the politics of the Roberts nomination unfold, he's certain to proceed with caution. So far, he has said little about Roberts.

"There are few people in public life who calculate potential political consequences as automatically, as reflexively, as carefully as Evan Bayh and his staff -- particularly so when his eyes are on the big prize," said Rusthoven. ❖

The evolution of the death penalty

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS -- For the second time in two years, an Indiana governor has commuted the execution of a convicted killer.

Gov. Mitch Daniels commuted the sentence of convicted murderer Arthur Paul Baird II to life without the possibility of parole. Baird would have been executed Wednesday.

"The case of Arthur Baird would justify the death penalty based upon the nature of his crimes, the unchallenged certainty that he committed them, and the care and completeness of the legal process in imposing that sentence and in consistently upholding it over the years since those crimes occurred," Daniels wrote. "Nonetheless, given certain unusual, probably unique, circumstances in this case, a different outcome seems more just."

Daniels noted that life without parole wasn't available to juries in 1987. Family members and jurors agreed that such a penalty would have been appropriate for Baird. And the prosecutor offered Baird a lengthy prison term, which was rejected due to a "delusional state."

"To me, it suffices to note that, had the sentence of life without parole been available in 1987, the jury and the state would have imposed it with the support of the victim's families," Daniels said. "I conclude that the proper and just result in this case is for Arthur Paul Baird II to serve a term of life without parole."

Recent polls have shown a general erosion of support

for the death penalty, which has never been proven to be a deterrent to crime. Daniels was criticized by Steve Johnson, executive director of the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council, who told the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, "I was surprised those were the justifications. This statement concerns me." He fears harassment of family in future death penalty cases.

House Speaker Brian Bosma said whether mentally ill killers should be executed is a "quickly evolving" area of law that deserves the legislature's attention (*Indianapolis Star*). "This wasn't even an issue 20 years ago. You didn't even think about it," Bosma said. "Today, we look at people with mental health issues differently."

Reaction to the commutation has been sparse, perhaps due to other issues such as Hurricane Katrina and skyrocketing gas prices. There haven't been many letters to the editor on the matter. Gov. Joe Kernan didn't take much heat when he commuted a sentence in 2004.

The *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* editorialized, "Daniels' decision highlights severe problems in a faulty death penalty process, not the least of which was the willingness of Indiana's highest court and parole board to execute an obviously mentally ill man. While this page would have preferred that Daniels emphatically denounce executing mentally ill criminals, he still reached the right decision. And he should be commended."

The more conservative *Indianapolis Star* called the decision "correct for more reasons than those he gave in Monday's order. A jury of his peers wanted to put him away without another killing, a governor in a new era has allowed that second chance, and an issue remains alive for the next stage of capital punishment's evolution." ❖





Bart 101: How to regain power

TRENDLINE: What's the state of the Indiana

Democratic Party? For the first time in 16 years, they gathered at the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association convention in French Lick without an incumbent governor. About 1,000 people registered for the various golf, seminars and dinners. House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer laid out the litany of \$500 million in looming tax hikes. "They're taking away property tax relief from the public," Bauer said.

"November '06 is when we take back the House. It's setting the stage to take back the governor's chair in '08."

The man many Democrats hope will challenge Gov. Daniels is Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, who keynoted the Saturday luncheon. "The Republicans mounted an aggressive challenge," Peterson said of 2004. "It was easy to delude ourselves that if they won it, it wouldn't be that bad. Well,

let me tell you something, it's been that bad." Peterson lashed out at the GOP's "power grab," presumably about the state's taking over the Colts stadium. He also mentioned the voter ID bill that he said was passed "without one shred of evidence" of vote fraud. "The trifecta," Peterson said, "is the state budget." He pointed to the

property tax replacement credit rollbacks and predicted, "Every single taxpayer will see their property taxes go up." Peterson rhetorically asked, "How do we get there? We can't want it so badly we turn our brains off. We can't become them." Peterson urged the support of candidates "who can win a general election." He note President Bush's consistency and the lack thereof from Al Gore and John Kerry. "Don't let the Republicans set the agenda," Peterson said. "We're ahead on all the issues that matter." He also cautioned Democrats about becoming purveyors of doom and gloom. "Let's uplift people and let's keep a smile on our faces. If we do the right things, we can retake the House in '06 and retake the governor's office in '08."



Mayor Peterson

Indiana 2006 Congressional

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep.

Chris Chocola. Democrat: Ed Cohen, 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:**

The South Bend Tribune's Jack Colwell analyzes this race, which now includes a second Democrat, Ed Cohen, an editor at *Notre Dame Magazine*. Here's how the '04 election story ended: Chocola, 54.2 percent, Donnelly, 44.5 percent Same ending in '06? Some things have changed. And Donnelly is in the sequel because of belief that voter opinions this time will favor him on issues of Iraq, Social Security, trade and where president Bush is leading the country. Those also were issues in the last race. "I am going to run," Donnelly says. "It's just a matter of formalizing it." He already is traveling throughout the 100-mile-long district stretching from the Michigan line to Kokomo. He has endorsements from Democratic chairmen at the district and county levels and from key labor unions. And he is raising funds. Fundraising totals, however, seem thus far to involve the same old story. Federal campaign expense reports show these amounts of cash on hand as of June 30: Chocola, \$602,172; Donnelly, \$88,364. Lack of funds crippled Donnelly's campaign in '04. When federal reports in April of that election year showed similar totals to those listed above, Donnelly's chances of getting all-out help from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and targeting from other national and state sources of potential help pretty much vanished. He got no help from the DCCC, which chose to direct resources to other districts deemed more winnable. He couldn't get on TV with his campaign message until very late in the campaign -- too late -- and he had to spend \$100,000 of his own money to get on at all in the final three weeks. It doesn't matter what message you have if you can't get it out to the voters, especially when your opponent could overwhelm you with a long and effective TV blitz. Chocola could and did. Changes? One of the most important, Donnelly says, is that he has begun fundraising much earlier. He hopes to present his message effectively and to convince Democrats nationally to target the district for all-out help. Indeed, he didn't get in the race last time until just before



Christmas of '03 and didn't really start fundraising until into January of the election year. Changes? Iraq: "While the military has performed magnificently," Donnelly says, "it is clear now that administration officials can't get their story straight and have not leveled with the American people on the situation." Social Security: More voters now will be receptive to his opposition to privatization, Donnelly believes. Trade: "We see that NAFTA just made things worse, and CAFTA is going to do the same thing," he says, noting that Chocola cast a decisive vote to pass CAFTA. President Bush: "People are very concerned about the direction of this country," Donnelly contends, and being a loyal supporter of the president won't help Chocola this time. Cohen supported Donnelly last time and also campaigned in Iowa and Michigan for Howard Dean. Cohen said that Donnelly lost not because of funding, but "because he didn't have enough message or exhibit any real passion, and I didn't see any evidence that it would be different this time around." **Status:** *Leans Chocola*

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%. Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+17. **2002 results:** Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%). **2004 Results:** Souder, Parra **2004 Results:** Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** Hayhurst has officially filed. **Status:** *LIKELY SOUDER*

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:** We believe that if Ellsworth can execute a good campaign along with a national dynamic that could be hostile to Republicans and potentially suppress the party base (as happened with the Democrats in 1994), the challenger has a decent chance at an upset. However, Hostettler has a magnificent campaign organization and will

likely exploit two issues -- immigration and gay marriage -- to stoke up his base. If Ellsworth can appeal to pro-life, pro-gun voters, he has the potential to cut into the Hostettler base. But as with any campaign, it's all about research and execution.

Status: *TOSSUP*

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **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. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Results:** Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Hill shared the Saturday keynote address with Sheriff Ellsworth at IDEA at French Lick last Saturday. Hill was a member of the House Armed Services Committee and he told of being included in a classified Pentagon slide presentation by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and deputy Paul Wolfowitz. He said the presentation said the Iraqis had "100 drone aircraft" capable of reaching U.S. cities, along with centrifuges. Hill said that based on that information, he joined 34 other Democrats to support the war resolution. Hill said he was later told by an Air Force general that the information wasn't true. Hill said, "When I say open up your eyes to the misdeeds and lies, I think people are starting to see it." Hill also said, "The Democratic Party has to regain the confidence of the American family." Here is University of Virginia's Dr. Larry Sabato's "Crystal Ball" take on this race: National Democrats will likely be concentrating their Indiana resources here. But the chief political landmine for Hill remains his problematic vote against the Federal Marriage Amendment, which provided Sodrel with a useful campaign issue in 2004. Expect this protracted race to get down and dirty." **Status:** *Tossup.*

2006 State Races

House District 8: Republican: Marcus Barlow. Democrat: State Rep. Ryan Dvorak. **2002 Results:** Dvorak (D) 10,949, Baxmeyer (R) 9,008. **2004 Results:** Dvorak (D) 19,457. **2006 Forecast:** Barlow, a field aide for U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, filed for this race this past week. He is from South Bend. The district is slightly Democratic. **Status:** *LEANS D.*





Bernie Schmidt, *Vincennes Sun-Commercial* - The other night on a network television news program, I watched footage of people protesting the protesters down in Crawford, Texas. There was a man yelling - no, screaming is more applicable here - at Cindy Sheehan and her supporters who are protesting the war in Iraq. Amid American flags the man shouted to the group, most of whom were women, "You're killing our soldiers! You're killing our troops." Though what I witnessed was not altogether surprising, it is appalling to watch our fellow citizens lash out against others this way, especially when Sheehan and her supporters are advocating peace and wondering why our young people are dying. We carried a piece in this newspaper the other day with a headline that questioned whether Sheehan's fledgling "peace movement," as it has been called, is truly the start of an organized opposition to this conflict or just a summer story that has briefly captured our attention. News that Sheehan may carry her protest to Washington when W. decides to go back to work is encouraging, yet too many Americans are uncertain about their county's situation in Iraq and are reluctant to jump on the anti-war bandwagon. The people screaming at Cindy Sheehan are loyal to W. in an almost fanatical way; it's as if they can't think for themselves and have to resort to vicious name calling and ridiculous accusations to justify their support for a president whose determined policy of "staying the course" is going to cast a shadow on his presidential legacy and likely get more U.S. troops killed. If the U.S. presence in Iraq is so vital and if our military forces are working to quell insurgents and other radicals, why, then, is that country on the verge of civil war? What will we do when that happens? Won't our continued presence in a disagreement between Iraqi nationals be fruitless? ❖

Dan Carpenter, *Indianapolis Star* - Painfully aware as I am that no camp in America's endless verbal war is free of sin, I have had to cross-examine myself in light of the all-out assault from the right on Cindy Sheehan. From the talk shows to the columns to those downright chilling blogs, Bush loyalists who've never come within a country mile of a combat zone have carpet-bombed a bereaved mother whose worst offense is embarrassing the president about a supreme sacrifice when he's trying to relax. Sheehan's refusal to follow the script, which says her son Casey died in Iraq for freedom, has made her a heroine of the antiwar movement, a distinction hardly calculated on her part and arguably melodramatic on the part of activists. Now a public figure, she's subject to rebuttal. But to line up to lay into her, as these war buffs have

Howey column to appear in *Times of Northwest Indiana*

HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey's weekly newspaper column will begin appearing in The Times of Northwest Indiana on Sundays.

Howey's column currently appears in 24 Indiana newspapers, reaching more than 200,000 readers. ❖

done, to call her a "crackpot" engaged in "swindle" on behalf of a constituency that "doesn't think" and "borders on treasonous" is plain dastardly. To pick at the consistency or judiciousness of her remarks when she is challenging a foreign policy that is built upon non sequiturs and falsehoods is nothing short of desperate. To dredge up her divorce and other private irrelevancies is, sadly, standard procedure. ❖



Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - I am not sure what to think about Cindy Sheehan. She's the mother of a fallen Iraqi soldier who has been camping out down in Texas near W's ranch. First of all, there's the irony. You know, of course, that our First Amendment guarantees her the

right to express herself freely, which is precisely what she is doing. She enjoys that freedom and many others, as we all do, by virtue of the fact that many Americans - just like her son - were willing to fight and die for their country. I fully understand that she must be very upset over the loss of her son. Who wouldn't be? It's just not natural for your children to die before you. That's not how it's supposed to work. No parent wants to suffer that type of loss. I also fully understand how many people believe the war in Iraq was unnecessary - now. The number of people opposed to the war grows as the war lingers on. I recall at first, there was widespread support for the war. Now, there is widespread opposition. I absolutely do not begrudge Sheehan her protest, but sometimes it seems a bit exploitative to me. Her son chose to be in the military. There is no draft. All the members of the military these days are volunteers. Everyone who joins the military - whether during war or times of peace - knows that there is chance they might have to fight for their country. Frankly, I know a couple people who joined the military because they wanted to fight for their country. ❖



High gas prices predicted, but no shortages

FORT WAYNE - As consumers fume over surging gasoline costs, experts predicted petrol prices have not peaked (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Jerry Conover, director of the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University, said the \$3.29 a gallon price many were seeing across Fort Wayne is likely to increase in the short term. "My guess is we'll see a short-term continued increase over the next couple of days," he said, adding that prices likely won't increase much, "over the exorbitant level it's already reached." Conover said he could see prices hit \$4 a gallon in parts of the country.



Rep. Crooks calls for gas tax suspension

FORT WAYNE - Rep. Dave Crooks, D-Washington, said Gov. Mitch Daniels should suspend the 13-cent-a-gallon gasoline sales tax just as the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon did in 2000, when prices hit about \$1.80 a gallon (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "I understand the state is in a tough state fiscally, but so are Hoosiers and they need relief," Crooks said. "I'm hearing about this from people all over my area." Daniels said eliminating the tax would not be a financially responsible step for a state he said was coming out of bankruptcy. When O'Bannon lowered the price in 2000, he cost the state more than \$46 million (*Post-Tribune*).

Sen. Young, Peterson spar over Indy Works

INDIANAPOLIS - The city's government consolidation plan led to

some heated words Wednesday between Mayor Bart Peterson and state Sen. R. Michael Young. Young, R-Indianapolis, said the Democratic mayor has wrongly blamed the Indiana General Assembly for recent budget cuts, including early pool closings, cutbacks in park maintenance and a reduction of 78 police officers and 44 firefighters (*Indianapolis Star*). "You have said several times the legislature has cost the taxpayers \$35 million by not acting," Young said at a legislative hearing on consolidation at which Peterson appeared. "So why are you blaming us?"

Daniels defends Silverman

GARY - Gov. Mitch Daniels on Wednesday defended BMV Commissioner Joel Silverman after state Rep. Charles Brown, D-Gary, on Wednesday called for Silverman to resign (*Post-Tribune*). "He's staying right where he is," Daniels said. "They're upset just because he is doing his job. The charge that this is racial is disgraceful and false."

Daniels considers funds for new business

MERRILLVILLE - Gov. Mitch Daniels and his administration are in the process of deciding whether to use a seldom-tapped state funding source to help major outdoor retailer Cabela's Inc. build a new store in Hammond (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). During a region stop in Merrillville on Wednesday, Daniels said he is excited about the economic prospects of the chain building one of its hunting, fishing and outdoor supply stores in the region. He said the Indiana Economic Development Corp., the administrative arm that used to be the Commerce Department, is reviewing whether to activate a process called State Tax Increment Financing to help raise the millions that Hammond business and political leaders believe

Cabela's will need to develop the Woodmar Country Club land it bought last month into a commercial site." The Cabela's deal could be a good fit for it," Daniels said. "I know the folks at the Economic Development Corp. are actively involved at looking at this and seeing if it measures up."

Daniels talks about more road tolls

MERRILLVILLE - As Indiana scrapes for ways to fund highway construction projects in light of an expected \$2.1 billion funding shortfall, Gov. Mitch Daniels said Wednesday more tolling may be the answer (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). When INDOT presents a draft of its 10-year list later this month, Daniels said his administration also wants to be able to propose strategies for funding projects on -- and beyond -- the list. "We're going to be proposing some changes and looking at additional funding to go much deeper into that list," Daniels said. "Tolling may be playing an ever-larger role, and it is very likely we will propose tolls for some new projects and modernization of existing tolls in the state." Under past administrations, road construction priorities were set in back-room deals, and projects were included in the state's plan even if funding was nowhere to be found, Daniels said. "What you really had was a con game, and it's time to stop that," he said.

Martinez to join RDA

CROWN POINT - Lake Area United Way President Louis Martinez will represent Lake County on the Regional Development Authority (*Post-Tribune*). At a combined meeting of the Lake County Council and Board of Commissioners, six of 10 members voted for Martinez on the first voice tally.

