

# How deep will voter anger be?

## ***Garton, Budak, Lehe, McClain will find out how ugly the mood will be next Tuesday***

*"I want you to get up right now, and go to the window, open it, and stick your head out, and yell: I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!"*

**- Howard Beal "Network" in 1976**

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By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

Last week, the House Republican Campaign Committee polled HD58, represented by State Rep. Woody Burton.

By mid-week, Burton's campaign had hurriedly put together a TV ad. But not just any ad. They attacked Burton's primary challenger, Johnson County Council President Ron West, accusing him of raising taxes. The ads had the hallmark of a hasty effort. The images were still photographs, not well-planned video. The inescapable conclusion: Woody Burton was seeing his race tighten up. He had to attack.

Voters are honked off. Cantankerous. PO'd. Angry. It was captured in Richmond when Barbara Pitcher of Cambridge City donned a homemade sandwich board to protest the gas prices and the war. "It's time for Americans to stand up," Pitcher told the *Richmond Palladium-Item*.

A few miles to the south of Burton's district, there were further indications that Senate President Robert D. Garton was feeling the heat as well. Garton was running

Indianapolis TV ads. There was a hurried endorsement by Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and 6th CD Chairman Ted Ogle.

On Monday night, WTHR-TV's Kevin Rader reported on the challenger campaign of Republican Greg Walker, featuring a 1970 Plymouth Valiant, which he bought for \$500 on e-Bay.

And Walker used his 30-seconds of earned media on the most powerful TV station to pound in a couple of powerful points. "Thirty-six years in office is long enough," Walker

**Continued on page 2**



Republican Greg Walker is campaigning in a 1970 Plymouth Valiant he bought on e-Bay for \$500 while going door to door against Senate President Robert Garton. 1970 is the year Garton was first elected. (WTHR-TV Photo)

## Roemer, Lugar to head HPR Forum

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

With the war in Iraq, terrorism, national security and energy likely taking center stage as the 2006 elections head into the home stretch, *The Howey Political Report* announced that two national figures with Indiana ties will headline the HPR Forum.

Former Indiana congressman and 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer will deliver the Forum keynote luncheon address on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at the Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis. The day will begin with an 8 a.m. address by Senate Foreign



Former 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer will keynote the HPR Forum on Oct. 10. (9/11 Commission Photo)



**"I think it's going to be total chaos. You have to wait five or 10 minutes to get somebody's record up."**

– Clark County Deputy Clerk Shirley Bell on the statewide voter list, *Louisville Courier-Journal*



Relations Chairman Richard Lugar.

"We intend to provide Indiana voters and opinion makers an unprecedented access to key people shaping the debate on national security," said HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey. "Commissioner Roemer and Sen. Lugar will be at the forefront of this discussion."

BoseTreacy will again be the primary sponsor of the event.

**Roemer began** his political career in 1990 when he challenged U.S. Rep. John Hiler, upsetting the five-term Republican that fall. It was the final Congressional campaign that Howey reported on for the *Elkhart Truth*. Roemer went on to a stellar 12-year career in the U.S. House, where he wrote legislation creating the 9/11 Commission as well as reforming the United States intelligence services. After retiring from Congress, Roemer was appointed to the 9/11 Commission along with former Indiana congressman Lee Hamilton. Roemer currently heads the Center for National Policy in Washington.

Lugar is seeking his sixth U.S. Senate term and is currently unopposed in the primary and general election.

**Howey noted**, "If you go back and read Sen. Lugar's 1996 presidential campaign platform, you will see he had an uncanny vision of our nation and the dangers lurking around it. Lugar talked about the threat of terrorism and the possible loss of an American city in our lifetime. He talked about energy issues. He talked about Africa. When you consider that the World Trade Center and Pentagon each employed between 25,000 and 50,000 people, his visions were disturbing, yet prophetic. One must wonder what the United States would be like had he won in 1996."

Watch HPR for other agenda additions in the coming weeks.



Bayh seeks energy solutions p. 5

Lugar drives a 60 mpg Prouis p. 6

A normal election, or a fiasco? p. 6

Wagner: Problem with vote ID p. 7

Columnists: Jacobson, Colwell, James, Gray p. 8

Horse Race: Ogle endorses Garton, HD20 leans

Dermody, 8th CD tossup; Crouch fights back p. 9

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## Mad as hell, *from page 1*

said. He called the red Valiant "Mitch on a budget."

"It was brand new the year my opponent first took office in the Indiana Statehouse," Walker said. "I think it is time to trade it in."

As Walker goes door to door, he explained Garton is "out of touch for having the time and interest to establish lifetime health benefits for the Indiana Statehouse when he doesn't have time to address the problem of 800,000 Hoosiers who don't have health insurance. He has the time and interest to establish a \$4 match in his retirement account when Hoosiers don't have the ability to pay for their own medical expenses."

Garton, perhaps prophetically, responded, "This is not a normal campaign."

No, it isn't.

Garton's campaign TV ad plays to the theme of "When he gives you his word, it's his bond."

Which, in a curious way, plays right into the controversial health care for life issue that was responsible for the upset of Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst in 2004. While House Speaker Brian Bosma ended the program last winter, Garton only pared it back, saying he had made a commitment to his colleagues.

Walker is using Mark Collins for his media, the same consultant who helped State Sens. Jeff Drozda and Brent Waltz engineer their primary upsets in 2002 and 2004. It's an exploitable opening: whose bond is more important, to Senate colleagues? Or the 800,000 Hoosiers who have no health insurance?

In SD 27, Richmond Council



President Bruce Wissel raised lifetime health care against State Sen. Allen Paul. "Members of the Legislature should not be provided with health insurance benefits that are better than those for other former state employees," Wissel charged (*Richmond Palladium-Item*). During a recent candidate forum, Paul showed voters that he paid \$4,176 annually for family coverage, the same as other state employees.

There is something palpably ugly in the air. For a voter next Tuesday who goes to the polls after filling up his or her gas tank, the mood could be ugly, ugly, ugly.

WTHR's Rader came to the same conclusion HPR did last week after airing his report on the Garton-Walker showdown. "This is a race to watch," Rader said.

### ***Whose base is more motivated?***

Walker told HPR this morning that he is challenging Garton to end the health care for life in radio ads running on three stations. There are six direct mail pieces that began going out this past week targeting the health care perk, abortion and escalating property taxes.

"I am working to get out the conservative vote," Walker explained. "It really is not my decision to make, whether or not I am awarded the Republican nomination for state senate, but there is a theme building to a crescendo; enough is enough. Property tax bills were just mailed in Johnson County, and people ask me how I expect them to keep their homes on such increases in tax. I can't say I blame them; we did the rough math at several doorsteps and by the numbers folks were reading me we were seeing 30 percent and 40 percent increases over last year's assessment. Just incredible."

Walker said that Indiana Right to Life and Micah Clark's American Family Association are working hard for his campaign through their networks. "They will send a clear message that I will defend life at every opportunity," Walker said. "They were simply betrayed by those in power now."

Garton's TV ads note that he saved the Hope BMW. Walker said he has no polling, but believes his message is more powerful than Garton's. "Whose base is going to be more motivated?" Walker asked. "Those raising property



taxes and providing perks for the powerful? Or mine?"

### ***More emotional issues***

*Indianapolis Star* columnist Matthew Tully, speaking at the *HPR Pre-Primary Briefing* on Tuesday, observed, "The Garton race is what everyone is thinking about. Will it be another Borst? Both candidates apparently have polls that show them doing well. I think of the primary in broader themes. We hear all this about Bush and Daniels and this is going to be a bad Republican year. I'm going to be interested to see if we see anything in the

primary that will indicate what we can expect in November. Races I'm really paying attention to are Garton, Woody Burton. Mike Murphy. All have candidates working pretty hard against them. Maybe all three incumbents will win."

Tully continued, "What strikes me is that there are so many emotional issues here. Gas prices, the war, Mitch Daniels in general, but also Major Moves, Daylight-Saving time, immigration as we saw it a couple of weeks ago. It seems to me there are more emotional issues this year than I've seen in a long time. Any one of these could tip the balance in a lot of races and have all kinds of trickle-down effects."

Other *HPR Briefing* panelists were cognizant of the virulent anger.

*South Bend Tribune* columnist Jack Colwell calls it "The Mitch Twitch."

"Whenever Mitch Daniels name is mentioned in Northern Indiana, Republican candidates develop a twitch," Colwell said. "They are very concerned about the effect he could have on this election. This includes Chris Chocola, who told me that 'if I lose, it will be over things I had nothing to do with.' Specifically, he was talking about the toll road and time issue.

"There are people who are so mad at Mitch Daniels, they might try to take it out on someone else," Colwell said. "Joe Donnelly is trying to take advantage of this. I am a little surprised at the vehemence at the governor. The toll road really has people angry in the South Bend and Elkhart area. The managing editors of the *Elkhart Truth* and the *South Bend Tribune* told me that letters and e-mails and other correspondence have run 10-to-1 against Major Moves.

"It's visceral. A lot of them will preface it by saying, 'I voted for Mitch Daniels.' So this is a problem. Can Mitch overcome this? Yes. Can he win a second term? Well, yes. He's a





smart guy. People make comebacks. He could come back. This is not necessarily fatal, but it could be fatal for some Republicans this fall in the northern part of the state."

*Logansport Pharos-Tribune* columnist Dave Kitchell explained, "The other thing is Mitch Daniels. How close do you want Mitch Daniels to run to you? It reminds me of the political cartoon: 'We're behind you, Governor, way behind you.' Kitchell said of State Reps. Rich McClain and Don Lehe, "If they lose their campaigns, it will probably be because of the anti-Daniels sentiment and the anti-incumbent sentiment."

Lehe's challenger, former White County Councilman Art Anderson, who is president of a trucking company, is running against Gov. Daniels. "I think the Republican Party is starting to lose direction," Anderson told the *Lafayette Journal & Courier*. "The actions of many of the Republicans in the party are alienating them from the people that elected them." Anderson added, "People are really not happy. I'm not afraid to go against the grain, and I'm not afraid to put the voters' issues ahead of the governor's issues. I care more about the district than I do about Indianapolis. I think some people get so wrapped up in being a good Republican they forget the people who voted for them."

TeleResearch pollster Jeff Lewis told the HPR Briefing, "If you study all the major polls, there is no undecided about President Bush. 47 percent said they couldn't stand him. He's broken the trust with the American people and I don't know how he gets out of it. I feel bad for the country that we've got a leader that wounded."

"In Indiana, Mitch's disfavor in Northern Indiana in the latest Survey USA tracking was 24/71. I can't imagine he's

going to be very helpful to legislative candidates. Those numbers are just staggering. He's acting like he's got \$25 million and doesn't really need this job."

Lewis added, "If you look at all the national polls, Democrats are up between 9 and 16 percent. So if those polls are accurate, a 10 percent by Baron Hill over Rep. (Mike) Sodrel is very believable in the 9th District. If he wins by 10 points, Chocola's a goner, because that trend will hold. Indiana will elect three Democratic congressmen."

As for Sen. Garton, Lewis observed, "If his opponent gets more than 25 percent, he's in trouble in the fall. The rule of thumb is you need to get 80 percent support from your own party. Bush just fell below 70 percent with Republicans. Where he really went haywire with them was on the Dubai port deal. I have never seen the moderate elements of the Republican party so dispirited. It will be interesting to see if they show up."



Gas prices in Columbus, Ind.

### ***Administration endorsements***

Not everyone was fleeing Sen. Garton and President Bush. Lt. Gov. Skillman stated, "Through the years, I have witnessed his (Garton's) devotion and attention to his constituents. Helping communities and improving the quality of life for all residents was his chief goal. He fought with righteous indignation when proposals arose that were not in the best interests of his constituents. The Governor and I appreciate his leadership as we work together to move this state forward. Our state continues to face challenges and we need courageous partners who are willing to be forward-looking and always building toward the future. Bob Garton fits this description, and I am pleased to endorse his re-election."

The other key "endorsement" came when Gov. Daniels campaigned for State Rep. Mary Kay Budak, drawing a modest crowd of about 35 people in LaPorte. Following that stop last week, the growing consensus is that Budak will probably be defeated by Tom Dermody.

Speculation at the HPR Briefing on Tuesday was whether Daniels was more intent on sending a message to the rest of the House GOP caucus, who stuck their necks out for him on DST and Major Moves. With Survey USA's abyssal tracking numbers for the governor in northern Indiana, perhaps the calculation was that the Daniels stop for Budak might actually benefit Dermody. ❖



Matt Tully, Dan Przybyla and Jack Colwell at the HPR Pre-Primary Briefing on Tuesday. The pundits see an angry electorate. (HPR Photo)



## Energy independence among greatest challenges, says Bayh

By MARK CURRY

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. - America turned its attention to the gas pump this week when rapid increases raised prices to more than \$3 a gallon in many areas of the country, about 25 cents more than just two weeks ago.

Oil industry analysts blamed supply disruptions, geopolitical worries and limited refining capacity, but a CNN poll indicates voters blame the oil companies (49 percent) and President Bush (38 percent).

"[C]onsiderable anxiety exists in the general public about gas - its price and availability," Chris Cillizza of the Washington Post wrote yesterday in his political blog, The Fix. "It is a prototypical pocketbook issue - one that every American (Democrat, Republican and independent) can identify with and one that people want the government to address."

President Bush took to the airwaves Tuesday to soothe the troubled electorate and announce a "four-part plan to confront high gasoline prices."

"I think we need to follow suit on what we have been emphasizing, particularly through the energy bill, and that is to encourage conservation, to expand domestic production, and to develop alternative sources of energy like ethanol," he said.

Crude oil prices began to drop almost immediately on the announcement.

The real problem at the pump is America's short attention span. Experts have been warning us for decades of the dangers inherent in an energy system contingent on the development, production and delivery of foreign oil. Yet today, even after 9/11, our imports continue to grow.

### ***Vulnerable To Energy Blackmail***

"One of the lessons from September 11th is that we can no longer be so dependent on places like Saudi Arabia, Russia and Venezuela for our energy supply," Sen. Evan Bayh said in a recent statement. "We and our allies are vulnerable to energy blackmail."

The Indiana Democrat says our continuing reliance on other countries demonstrates a failure in leadership. In mid-March, he told an audience in Georgia that "one of the great challenges of our generation is this whole issue of energy independence. I don't think we can expect much progress under this administration."

"There was a moment there following [September

11th] where the American people were willing to be summoned to do what it takes to make real progress on this issue," he said.

"I had people stopping me on the streets in Indianapolis...literally they said to me, 'Evan, what can I do? I want to help my country, what can I do?' This president was asked that question in a press conference about a week after the attack. One of the reporters said to him, 'Mr. President, the American people are asking what they can do to help their country.' Any of you remember what the President said? 'Go to the mall, go shopping.' Well, I'm sorry, that's not leadership, and we can do better than that."

The answer, Bayh says, is legislation he proposed in November that would ultimately reduce the amount of oil Americans use by a third of current daily consumption (see HPR, March 2). In response to an HPR query, Bayh press secretary Meghan Keck pointed out that the list of senators co-sponsoring S.2025 continues to grow, with Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA) signing onto the legislation on Monday, bringing the number of co-sponsors to 16.



"Until we do what it takes to liberate ourselves from petroleum imports, we will find ourselves in a tragic and intolerable position of funding both sides - both sides - of the war against terrorism, and that must stop," Sen. Bayh said during a speech at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's national conference March 3. (HPR Photo by Mark Curry)

Sen. Bayh "was encouraged that some of the small steps President Bush called for in his speech this week are already included in his energy plan, but believes that the president should go farther and support his bipartisan legislation," Keck wrote to HPR in an email. "If he did so, it could be law in a matter of weeks."

Indiana's senior senator, Richard Lugar, is among five Republicans listed as co-sponsors. Lugar, a leading proponent for change in the nation's energy policy, touted the bill during a much-heralded speech at the Brookings Institution March 13, when he said "energy is the albatross of



U.S. national security."

Lugar met with President Bush earlier this week, hoping to discuss energy policy. "What is needed is an urgent national campaign led by a succession of Presidents and Congresses who will ensure that American ingenuity and resources are fully committed to this problem," Lugar said.

## ***A Declaration Of Energy Independence***

On Saturday, Bayh will keynote the North Carolina Democratic Party's annual Jefferson-Jackson celebration. As in other recent speeches, Bayh is expected to tell the crowd in Raleigh that America needs a "declaration of energy independence."

"We need to focus like a laser – I think there is a real opportunity here - on the whole energy situation," Bayh told a gathering of Michigan Democrats April 8. "We can create hundreds of thousands of good jobs in this country in the energy sector, including building high-mileage vehicles right here in Detroit, Michigan and across Indiana, if we just dedicate ourselves to doing exactly that."

## ***Lugar outgreens Bayh at 60 mpg***

After lunchtime votes, senators emerged from the Capitol for the drive across the street to their offices (Milbank, *Washington Post*). Sen. John Sununu (R-N.H.) hopped in a GMC Yukon (14 mpg). Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) climbed aboard a Nissan Pathfinder (15). Sen. Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) stepped into an eight-cylinder Ford Explorer (14). Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) disappeared into a Lincoln Town Car (17). Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) met up with an idling Chrysler minivan (18). Next came Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), greeted by a Ford Explorer XLT. On the Senate floor Tuesday, Menendez had complained that Bush "remains opposed to higher fuel-efficiency standards." Also waiting: three Suburbans, a Nissan Armada V8, two Cadillacs and a Lexus.

The greenest senator was Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), who was picked up by his hybrid Toyota Prius (60 mpg), at quadruple the fuel efficiency of his Indiana counterpart Evan Bayh (D), who was met by a Dodge Durango V8 (14). ❖

## **A normal election? Or a fiasco?**

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

HPR has been publishing since 1994, and we've never witnessed more concern about the conduct of a statewide election than this one.

Yes, yes, there have been isolated breakdowns in East Chicago and the 2004 primary in Indianapolis.

But the words coming from those entrusted with ensuring an election this past week have been sobering.

"I think it's going to be total chaos," Clark County Deputy Clerk Shirley Bell told the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. "You have to wait five or 10 minutes to get somebody's record up. We're trying to find alternative ways to cope with it."

Laura Herzog, elections supervisor in Hendricks County and president of the Indiana Voter Registration Association, told the *Courier-Journal* she's a bit frustrated with the system. She said it stopped working for a couple hours on Saturday when county offices were open for absentee voting (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "Overall I'm disappointed in some of the functionality" of the system, Herzog said yesterday. "I'm extremely grateful for the good customer service through our (Quest) county coordinators and the help desk. But I'm not 100 percent confident that it's putting all of our voters in the right precinct."

**Jefferson County Clerk Martha** Jane Shimfessel is worried the situation will be "horrendous" on primary day (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "It's very, very slow," she said.

"The system does work and it has been heralded as doing everything needed to be done," said A.J. Feeney-Ruiz, press secretary for Secretary of State Todd Rokita. "It is slow

sometimes because we're still in the early stage of using it." He said county officials "need to bear with us."

There were still 47 counties that still do not have state certified software, though several media accounts expect this to occur on Friday when the Indiana Election Commission meets.

Then there were the 80,000 misprinted ballots in Porter County by Elections Systems & Software.

Hamilton County Election Administrator Kathy Kreag Richardson believes a voter arriving with valid identification is a greater issue than whether voting machines will be certified on primary day May 2. Richardson told the *Noblesville Daily Times* the voting machine issue will likely be solved this week in an emergency session of the state electoral commission,

**Richardson said there were no problems** with the machines themselves — they work just fine. Hamilton County's electronic voting machines passed a public test on April 17. But a certification of the voting software used on handicap-accessible machines has yet not been completed and could put some counties, including Hamilton in violation of federal laws that require the special machines at each polling place. "Counties are caught between a rock and a hard place right now," she said.

Marion County gave up on its ES&S system because it was not going to be compliant with the Help Americans Vote Act, according to Clerk Doris Ann Sadler.

She is, in a sense, already a victim of the 2004 fiasco when there was a ballot shortage. Speculation in political circles today is whether there will be more political victims when the conduct of this primary is fully gauged. ❖





## Identifying the problem with Indiana's voter ID

By JENNIFER WAGNER

I've had a state-issued photo identification card since I was 14.

Like most Hoosiers, I possess one now, complete with the requisite awful photo and a listed weight that's more of a long-term goal than an accurate reflection of my current physique.

It wasn't really a problem for me to cast my absentee ballot last week.

But if there's one thing -- and there may, in fact, only be one thing -- I've learned in law school, it's that the Constitution was not meant to apply to most people. When fundamental rights are at issue, it's imperative that everyone gets a fair shake.



In the derisive ruling she recently issued upholding the state's voter identification statute, U.S. District Court Judge Sarah Evans Barker, in so many choice words, told the plaintiffs, including the Indiana Democratic Party, that they'd failed to produce any evidence of Hoosiers who would be unable to vote under the law.

When you consider that Indiana hasn't held a major election since the law took effect, that's a bit like asserting that everything will be fine tomorrow because things are going just swimmingly today.

Technically, Judge Barker may be right. Some Hoosiers are allowed to cast absentee ballots. And under the law, if you fail to present a valid piece of identification at the polls, you'll be allowed to vote a provisional ballot. The catch is that you have to go to the clerk's office within a certain number of days and present ID in order to have your ballot count.

Provisional ballots had an 85 percent failure rate in 2004.

Who's going to wind up unable to vote on May 2?

According to the Indiana chapter of the AARP, 10 percent of registered voters age 60 and older do not have state-issued driver's licenses.

So, it might be your grandmother. Or it might be a disabled veteran. Or someone who walks to the polls but can't afford to get to the clerk's office after the fact. Or some-

one who couldn't get a photo ID in the first place because the Governor decided to shut down a bunch of BMV branches last year.

(Note: It's a nice gesture that the state plans to extend BMV hours on Monday and Tuesday, but that hardly helps someone who's 45 miles from the nearest branch.)

The bottom line is that we really don't know what individuals this law is going to hurt, but I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that someone out there won't be able to cast a ballot that counts on May 2.

And that's a travesty.

This is America, where every voter has the basic right to pull a lever, fill out a form or touch a screen to democratically elect the people he or she believes belong in office.

If one person who's legally entitled to vote can't cast a ballot next week, we'll have failed each other and the system.

In essence, Judge Barker told the plaintiffs in this case that they should just get over the state's voter identification law.

Unfortunately, as history repeatedly has shown, legislative bodies sometimes make bad laws: racial segregation, bans on interracial marriage, not allowing women to vote, housing discrimination, prohibitions on same-sex adoptive couples. The list goes on.

Often times, the courts -- both judicial and of public opinion -- work out the issues and conclude that those bad laws should be thrown out.

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**“The bottom line is that we really don't know what individuals this law is going to hurt, but I'm going to go out on a limb and guess that someone out there won't be able to cast a ballot that counts on May 2.”**

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We can only have faith that in time, the system will determine that Indiana's law places an undue burden -- sans compelling evidence of rampant fraud at the polls -- on certain people who otherwise would be allowed to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Here's hoping that sea-change happens sooner rather than later. It'd be shame for Hoosiers to give up on a process so integral to our democracy. ❖

*Wagner is communications director for the Indiana Democratic Party. She contributes a column to The Howey Political Report website at [www.howeypolitics.com](http://www.howeypolitics.com)*



**Lou Jacobson, *Roll Call*** - From the moment South Dakota's sweeping abortion ban was signed into law on March 6, it was obvious that the measure -- designed specifically to challenge the landmark Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade* -- would become big news across the nation and the world. Less obvious was the law's effect on South Dakota politics. But as things are turning out, the latter may be its biggest immediate impact -- and it's abortion-rights supporters, not anti-abortion activists, who are apparently benefiting the most. The law, which takes effect in July, makes it a felony to perform an abortion in South Dakota, even in cases of rape and incest. The only exception is to save the life of the mother, which makes South Dakota's the most stringent post-*Roe* abortion law ever approved. The bill's smooth sailing through the Legislature, with strong support from both Democrats and Republicans, initially suggested that a backlash would be minor or nonexistent. Instead, its passage arguably has been South Dakota's biggest political earthquake in a quarter-century. Over just the past few weeks, a Democratic Party that seemed nearly moribund in non-federal races has leapt back to life. South Dakotans who had been disengaged from politics have flocked to circulate petitions for a ballot measure that would overturn the new law. Democrats are fielding candidates for 90 percent of the state House and Senate seats up this fall, more than at any time in the past 14 years. And not one but two credible Democratic candidates -- Jack Billion and Dennis Wiese -- are vying to take on Gov. Mike Rounds (R), whose re-election this fall had until recently been considered a cakewalk. "This has been the most extraordinary month in South Dakota politics that I've ever witnessed," said Sioux Falls attorney and Democratic activist Todd Epp. "Literally a month ago, the Democrats here were a beaten lot. Ron Volesky, our only serious gubernatorial candidate, pulled out of the race with about \$3,000 in the bank. We were having problems with candidate recruitment. It was typical Democratic defeatism. Then the bill got passed and signed and the people of the state woke up. It has been amazing." Although the abortion ban wended its way through the Legislature for the the better part of two years, it didn't attract much public attention until the legislative endgame in February and March, said Mitch Krebs, the news director of KSFY-TV in Sioux Falls. "There wasn't a firestorm of opposition right off the bat," he said. "There were not a lot of letters to the editor about it. That's why it seemed to come out of nowhere." ❖

**Rich James, *Post-Tribune*** - For a guy who wasn't much of a politician, Roger Chiabai made his mark in Lake County Republican politics. Chiabai, who loved people and cherished what life had to offer, passed away Monday. He's

gone, but I can still see that infectious smile. I'm sorry I didn't get to say goodbye. He was one of the few politicians I really enjoyed covering or interviewing. I guess it was due in part to Roger not being a hardcore politico. He was a businessman first. Politics was an avocation. He was too open and frank to be tagged with the politician label. Roger was one of the few officials who always returned a phone call. He did it knowing he really didn't want to answer the questions he was going to be asked. But with Roger, every question received the courtesy of answer. Even if that answer was politically damaging. He frequently would answer the phone with "Roger dodger." But he never ducked a question. ❖

**Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*** - Nobody has done more than Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to help in pulling President Bush down in the polls. The president moved quickly to dump Michael Brown as head of FEMA when poor planning for after the storm resulted in loss of lives in New Orleans. But he sticks with Rumsfeld even when lack of planning for after the storming of Baghdad has resulted in the loss of lives of more and more American troops in a situation more pleasing for Iran than Iraq. It's still: "Rummy, you're doing a heckuva job." Maybe the president thinks that dumping Rumsfeld would give Democrats more ammunition. No. It would take away a target. ❖

**Frank Gray, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*** - Sheri Howard, whose desk sits in the center of the jewelry counter at Broadway Loan, a pawnshop at Broadway and Taylor Street, points at a calendar and explains the financial realities that reign over much of America. Some people get paid on the first of the month, but they run out of money about here, she said, pointing to the last week of the month on the calendar. For many of those people, the pawnshop is the resource of last resort -- or the first and only source of money to tide them over. Maybe they're a little short on money for rent, or they've gotten a disconnection notice on their phone, or they need cash for food to tide them over until the next payday. They'll pawn something to raise the extra cash and reclaim it when they get paid. It's a constant game of catch-up. In the past few months, though, it's been more than rent that has been driving people to pawnshops. The rising price of gasoline -- it costs nearly twice what it did three years ago -- is forcing more people who live on the financial edge to pawnshops seeking to convert anything into money for fuel. "Every day, day in and day out, a dozen times a day," people come in, looking to swap something for money for gas, said Lucas Hunter, who works at the shop. ❖





## NBC has wrong track at 67 percent

**TRENDLINE NO. 1:** The latest *NBC/Wall Street Journal* poll released on Wednesday puts President Bush's approve/disapprove numbers at 36-57 percent. The question of whether we should have invaded Iraq comes in at 33 percent yes and 62 percent no. The numbers on the economy are 19 percent approve and 77 percent no. The right track/wrong track numbers are 24/67 percent. The approval rating of Congress declined from 33/53 percent on March 6 to 22/65 percent. Said NBC's Tim Russert, "The mood of the country is so unsettled." If there is good news for Republicans, it is that voters are only favoring Democrats by 6 percent in the Congressional generic. Russert observed, "They are angry at both parties."

## 2006 Congressional Races

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

Chris Chocola, Tony Zirkle.  
Democrat: Steve Francis, 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 second in a series of television ads targeting U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, R-2nd, has begun airing on area television stations. The ads purport to have caught Chocola "red-handed" because he accepted campaign contributions from "big drug companies," then voted in support of Medicare prescription drug legislation that prevents the government from negotiating with manufacturers for lower drug prices. The ads are sponsored by the MoveOn.org political action group and are part of a \$1.3 million campaign aimed at Francis said Thursday that the United States needs to "get tough" with China by demanding fair trade policies (Wensits, *South Bend Tribune*). Timing his comments to the U.S. visit of

Chinese President Hu Jintao, Francis, an economist and educator, said at a news conference the United States cannot afford a long-term approach to solving trade differences with the Asian nation. "We must not stand silent to this kind of unfair trade," said Francis, who accused China of keeping its currency purposely low in value so as to maintain a flood of cheaper goods into the nation. Zirkle shredded the original Playboy magazine this past week (the one with the Marilyn Monroe photo spread). Jack Colwell of the *South Bend Tribune* asks, "What if he gets 20 or 30 percent of the vote? That could spell problems for Chocola." During a tight vote to approve 527 reform earlier this month, Rep. Tom Reynolds (R-N.Y.) had some harsh words for a few of his Republican colleagues on the floor (*The Hill*). Late in the vote, after it was clear the measure would pass, Reynolds leaned over a seated Rep. Chris Chocola (R-Ind.) to voice his displeasure with the second-term lawmaker for opposing legislation that had become an election-year priority for the GOP campaign chief. Reynolds, who chairs the National Republican Congressional Committee, was upset that Chocola, a vocal opponent of 527s who needled leaders for a reform bill, had cast an unexpected vote opposing the leadership-backed legislation, said one GOP leadership aide afterward. That frustration is a clear sign of the pressure that Republican leaders are feeling this election year to pass tough bills. "Tom Reynolds and I serve on the Ways and Means Committee together, and I have a great deal of respect for his leadership and everything he does as chairman of the NRCC," Chocola said in a statement e-mailed by his office. **Status:** *Leans Chocola*

**Congressional District 3:** Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst, Kevin Boyd, Edward W. Smith, Thomas Schrader. **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:** Well before Monday's debate, the two leading Democrats in the 3rd District congressional race said they'd focus on the issues rather than attack each other (*Elkhart Truth*). Tom Hayhurst and Kevin Boyd stayed true to that Monday night, making only subtle differentiation between each other. They saved their sharpest barbs for incumbent



Republican Souder. "When I'm elected, I'm going to be a leader who's focused on big issues, not trivia," said Hayhurst, a doctor and Fort Wayne city councilman. "I'll be a citizen legislator; I'm not going to spend 20 years in Washington, D.C." Boyd, a Presbyterian minister from Fort Wayne, said, "(Souder) is not exercising the kind of fiscal restraint that he said he would. ... Mark Souder has bought into the whole Washington culture." Their differences came out after questions about the war in Iraq, health care and energy policy. Hayhurst said he supported the Iraq war at first because of intelligence reports of the "frightening" things Saddam Hussein was doing there. However, he's since come to feel that the Bush administration provided a lot of misleading information. Hayhurst noted several times Monday that he was a military veteran and an advocate for strong national defense. But he said the U.S. can't protect itself by abandoning trials, the presumption of innocence and other long-held rights. "Dedication to our basic principles in this country is at least as important as military security," he said. Boyd said he opposed the Iraq war from the start, preaching a sermon against it in March 2003. He said the administration lied to the country and played on post-Sept. 11 fear to enter a war "that was unjust then and is unjust now." He called for increased diplomacy, strengthening ties with international allies and talking more with nations with which the U.S. has disputes. He said international cooperation is the best way to stop the movement of terrorists and their money. **Primary Status: LEANS HAYHURST**

**Congressional District 7:** Republican: Ron Franklin, Eric Dickerson. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Bob Hidalgo, Kris Kiser, Joseph "Hippie Joe" Stockett.

**Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **People:** Urban 99.7%; median income \$36,522; poverty 13.5%; race white 63, black 29.4%, Hispanic 4.4%, Asian 1.3%; blue/white collar 26/58%; **2000 Presidential:** Gore 55%, Bush 43%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** D+6. **2002 Results:** Carson 77,478 (53%), McVey 64,379 (44%). **2004 Results:** Carson 121,303, Horning (R) 97,491, Campbell (L) 4,381. **2006 Forecast:** Dickerson, making his first run for political office, said he believes his lack of political credentials is a plus (*Indianapolis Star*). "We've had folks try to run campaigns the traditional way and lost every time," Dickerson said. "I feel I bring something fresh to the table." Dickerson is running TV in the final week of the campaign. **Primary Status: SAFE CARSON; LEANS DICKERSON.**

**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:** CQPolitics.com is changing its rating to No Clear Favorite from Leans Republican. As of mid-April, Ellsworth's campaign had more than \$533,000 on hand; Hostettler had close to \$56,000 on hand (*Evansville Courier & Press*). Hostettler has long advocated immigration reform, but says that's not the answer (*WFIE-TV*). Hostettler says, "We need to see a bill that authorizes the administration to tighten on the flow of illegal immigrants into our country. To give resources to that issue such as expanded border patrol agents." Hostettler says building a wall along the U.S./Mexico border and cutting off the job opportunities for aliens is key to any reform. "Turning off the jobs magnet will not only impact the movement of future illegal aliens, it'll affect the status of those today," he explains. Most economists believe pushing the 11 million illegal aliens out would damage the economy because they take jobs that American workers don't want. But Hostettler says taking away those jobs would solve some unemployment issues and take the burden of deportation out of the government's hands. Hostettler says, "You can't deport 11 million illegal aliens, but you can enforce the rules and turn off the jobs magnet." **Status: TOSS-UP**

**Congressional District 9:** Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill, Gretchen Clearwater, Lendall Terry, John "Cosmo" Hockersmith. **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:** Sodrel has a fundraising lead on his chief Democratic challenger Hill, according to campaign finance reports filed last week (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Sodrel also has more cash available to spend on his campaign, though Hill has plenty in his coffers as well. And both candidates report that they've



exceeded their totals at this point in previous campaigns. According to the pre-primary reports filed with the FEC, Sodrel raised more than \$336,000 from Jan. 1 through April 12. Nearly all of that money came from an Indianapolis fundraiser last month that featured President Bush, said Sodrel's spokesman, Cam Savage. The Sodrel campaign had estimated then that the fundraiser netted about \$500,000. But Savage said last week that some of that money went to the Indiana Republican Party for use in federal races. "I certainly expect them to help us significantly," Savage said of the party's use of the money. Hill, who faces three challengers in the 9th District Democratic primary, raised nearly \$168,000 from Jan. 1 through April 12. That gave him about \$688,000 in available funds. "I'm very happy with the results so far," Hill said in an interview. "People have been very forthcoming." Hill's most active challenger, Gretchen Clearwater of Bloomington, has raised \$11,155 and had nearly \$3,000 on hand as of the end of last month, according to her latest report on file with the FEC. **Primary Status: SAFE HILL.**

## 2006 State Races

**Senate District 4:** Republican: Democrat: State Sen. Karen Talian, Larry Chubb. **1998 Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,824, Wenger (R) 13,414. **2006 Forecast:** Larry Chubb know the value of incumbency all too well. A paperwork snafu cost the Chesterton attorney a shot at the state Senate District 4 seat in December (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). "I went to the county chairman and I went to the election board and asked what I had to fill out," he said. Chubb later was disqualified for failing to fill out a financial disclosure form and local Democrats appointed Karen Tallian to replace retiring Sen. Rose Ann Antich-Carr. In the legislative session that followed, Tallian, an attorney from Ogden Dunes, became a leading opponent to Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels' pending plan to lease the Indiana Toll Road. "We haven't seen the last of that," said Tallian, a partner at the Portage firm of Eberhard & Gastineau. She points to the state's plan to put a hotel at Indiana Dunes as another potential overreach of privatization. "I'm not talking about a little lodge," she said. "I'm talking about a big convention center with a 99-year lease." Tallian said she's not fundamentally opposed to the lodge, but wonders if the state again is moving too fast. Chubb, meanwhile, is playing catch-up. "If you're not the one chosen by the county chairman, you don't have the same resources, the same information," he said. Chubb said he plans to spend \$15,000 in the primary. Tallian anticipates spending about \$20,000. **Democratic Primary Status: LEANS TALIAN.**

**Senate District 23:** Republican: Hendricks County Councilman Dick Thompson, Susan McGrady, Phil Boots,

James Detamore. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Harrison (R) 21,175 Shelby (D) 11,436. **2002 Results:** Harrison 23,811. **2006 Forecast:** Montgomery County GOP Chairman Dan Pool said this race is a tossup (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). Phillip Boots is well known in Montgomery County as a member of the county council, Pool said. James Detamore is a well known judge in Boone County. Susan McGrady is well known in Fountain County as vice chair for the county's Republican Party. She also works in Montgomery County. And Dick Thompson served in the House in the 1980s and then in the Senate. From Hendricks County, he's well known throughout the district. "This could be close," Pool said. "They're all viable candidates." **Status: LEANS THOMPSON.**

**Senate District 26:** Republican: Andrew Phipps. Democrat: Sue Errington, Lewis Colter, Steven Graves. **1998 Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,824, Wenger (R) 13,414. **2002 Democratic Primary Results:** Craycraft 9,653. Dixon 2,288. **2002 General Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,939, Phipps (R) 16,330. **2006 Forecast:** Education is a key issue (Yencer, *Muncie Star Press*). "I don't want to do anything that lessens the ability of a student to get a education," said Phipps, a teacher in local schools for three decades. Phipps knows the education talking points well, supporting all-day kindergarten and calling for more money to be spent on instruction, not construction of new school facilities. He also does not want to cut public education dollars to fund vouchers or charter schools. "We should not penalize students in school corporations that are not growing," Phipps said. Errington, a former Planned Parenthood executive, gives plenty of time talking about an equitable school funding formula that does not punish urban or rural districts. It needs to go back to the way it was. Errington said. Errington and Coulter, a restaurant and bar owner, both wanted to investigate the school funding formula more before talking about how it should change. Both opposed public education dollars going for vouchers and charter schools. "Education starts with the parents," Coulter said. "If parents are not willing to help their children, it is a lost cause." More education efforts should be directed at parents and getting them involved in teaching their children, he said. Graves, executive director of the Indiana Fireworks Association, agreed that education for at-risk students was more important and should be properly funded. "If we don't fund education for at-risk students, we won't break the cycle of abuse and neglect," he said. **Democratic Primary Status: LEANS ERRINGTON.**

**Senate District 27:** Republican: State Sen. Allen Paul, Richmond City Council President Bruce Wissel. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Paul 22,679. **2002 Results:** Paul 22,841. **2006 Forecast:** Pau is not your ordinary lawmaker in Senate Republican leadership (Yencer, *Muncie Star*





Press). Paul voted against daylight-saving time last year and also opposed Gov. Daniels's Major Moves deal. "I think the governor is moving too fast," said Paul. Wissel, challenging Paul, believes 20 years as a lawmaker is long enough. Wissel has also criticized lifetime health care for ex-lawmakers, saying "Members of the Legislature should not be provided with health insurance benefits that are better than those for other former state employees." During a recent candidate forum, Paul showed voters that he paid \$4,176 annually for family coverage, the same as other state employees. Wissel has been a supporter of Daniels's initiatives such as Major Moves and DST, along with privatizing state facilities. Allen objects to privatization, especially at the Richmond State Hospital, saying that arbitrarily shutting down state facilities and losing good-paying jobs was not good for the community. Both Republicans see the need to come up with property tax reform that spreads the tax burden among property owners, wage earners and consumers. A more equitable public school funding formula also has their support. "Indiana will not be able to eliminate property taxes, but needs to allow permanent property tax relief, partially accomplished by income and sales taxes," Wissel said. Paul raised \$30,174 for his re-election, and spent \$24,929 as of April 7, mainly on advertising and mail (Muncie Star Press). Wissel, 52, raised \$10,293 but only spent \$3,753. He also made a \$13,000 supplemental donation to his campaign after April 7. A council member for 11 years, Wissel is field marketing manager for Indiana Farmers Mutual Insurance. While Wissel points out Paul's disagreements with Daniels, Sen. James Merritt, R-Indianapolis, chairman of the Senate Majority Caucus, said it was clear that Paul "is his own man." "He listens to his constituents and makes his own decisions," said Merritt, who said the Senate Majority Campaign Committee provided Paul with \$15,000 worth of in-kind staff and mailing support. **Status: LEANS PAUL**

**Senate District 49:** Republican: Posey County Councilman George Postlethweight. Democrat: Posey County Councilman Bob Deig, Paul Swanson, Kevin Winterheimer. **2002 Results:** Lutz (D) 21,891, Alvey (Socialist write-in) 590. **2006 Forecast:** Deig has the money advantage. **Primary Status: LEANS DEIG.**

**Senate District 41:** Republican: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast: Bartholomew County GOP Chairman Ted Ogle endorsed Garton today.** "Bob is an outstanding legislator that has served the residents of our district very well. His honesty and integrity should be commended," Ogle said. "I am concerned about statements being made in our local State Senate campaign. Senator Garton has been endorsed by well-known groups, such as the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Farm

Bureau, Inc. and the Indiana Manufacturers Association. Greg Walker has claimed the endorsement of the Indiana Republican Assembly on his mail and website. There is no such organization registered with the Indiana." Lt. Governor Becky Skillman endorsed Garton on Monday (HPR). Skillman stated, "Bob Garton and I served together, not only in Senate leadership, but in adjoining Senate Districts in south central Indiana. Through the years, I have witnessed his devotion and attention to his constituents. Helping communities and improving the quality of life for all residents was his chief goal. He fought with righteous indignation when proposals arose that were not in the best interests of his constituents. The Governor and I appreciate his leadership as we work together to move this state forward. Our state continues to face challenges and we need courageous partners who are willing to be forward-looking and always building toward the future. Bob Garton fits this description, and I am pleased to endorse his re-election." . "This is not a normal campaign," Garton said (WTHR-TV). Sen. Garton says his challenger is just running a negative campaign. Rader reported, "This is a race to watch." We agree. No one really knows how deep the anti-incumbency is. Walker is now using the lifetime healthcare issue, challenging Garton to end the program. Mark Collins, who handled direct mail for Sens. Jeff Drozda and Brent Waltz in their upset bids. We believe this is a tossup. Waltz has been rumored to be supporting Walker. But Waltz told HPR, "My support of Bob Garton is well known." **Primary Status: TOSSUP**

**House District 1:** Republican: Open. Democrat: State Rep. Linda Lawson, Lake County Councilman Ron Tabacynski. **2002 Results:** Lawson 5,867, Myra Rosenbloom (R) 3,012. **2004 Democratic Primary:** Lawson 2,963, Pucalig 2,684. **2004 Results:** Lawson, 11,926, Baffa (R) 7,820. **2006 Forecast:** Lawson has survived in the last primary dogfight, but she's taking on a former legislator this time. **Primary Status: TOSSUP.**

**House District 12:** Republican: Open. Democrat: Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez, Mara Candelaria Reardon, Hilda Rodriguez. **2004 Results:** Aguilera 11,485, Fagen (R) 9,749, Brickman (L) 527. **2004 Democratic Primary Results:** Aguilera 2,920, Lopez-Rodriguez 2,784. **2006 Forecast: Neither contender willing to discuss the Democratic primary for state House District 12 is a stranger to politics.** But Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez, of East Chicago, and Mara Candelaria Reardon, of Munster, say independence from Lake County factions is what makes them the best candidate to replace retiring state Rep. John Aguilera (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Candelaria Reardon, who has worked for U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Merrillville says her opponent is beholden to East Chicago Mayor George Pabey. "I'm the one that's running this campaign, and I'm the one working hard," responds Lopez-Rodriguez. "Pabey is not walking the streets with me. He sup-



ports me, and I appreciate his support. But this is my campaign, and not anyone else's, because when I win and go downstate, I'm the one that's going to be held accountable for decisions that are made there." Lopez-Rodriguez, who handles special projects for the East Chicago Planning Department, campaigned for Pabey in 2004. That same year, she lost to Aguilera by just 136 votes. Aguilera immediately endorsed Candelaria Reardon this year after deciding to leave the Legislature to explore a possible 2007 challenge of Pabey. Candelaria Reardon serves as executive director of the Lake County Drug Free Alliance, a division of the sheriff's office. She wants to make it clear that Sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Dominguez is merely her employer -- not her political sponsor. "To say that I'm his candidate because I work for him is kind of unfair. I don't see how my running benefits him at all. He has been trying to remove politics from this department," she said. "At the same time, I don't think the same can be said of my opponent. She is clearly George Pabey's candidate. I don't think she can represent the whole district." Campaign finance reports filed this month show a \$6,300 to \$9,260 fundraising edge for Lopez-Rodriguez, who has received small contributions from several local politicians, including \$80 from Mrvan and \$150 from sheriff candidate John Buncich. Another District 12 candidate, Hilda Rodriguez, of Highland, did not want to be interviewed. In February, she told The Times she had been a baby-sitter for Aguilera when he was a child. **Status:** TOSSUP.

**House District 15:** Republican: State Rep. Don Lehe, Art Anderson. Democrat: Newton County Sheriff Myron Sutton, John Anthony Malan. **2002 Results:** Lehe 9,975, Baranowski (D) 5,641. **2004 Results:** Lehe 16,623, Childress (D) 8,153, Bell (L) 565. **2006 Forecast:** Dave Kitchell of the Logansport Pharos-Tribune told the HPR Pre-Primary Briefing. "This is a very interesting race because its a time zone battleground. It has gone from being in one time zone to being in two. Now it will be split permanently throughout the year." Lehe, Kitchell said, has not passed any major legislation, "but he was one of the swing votes on DST. He switched a vote so that the Senate could at least consider the concept." Anderson, a former White County Councilman who has run for the legislature a number of times, said he is challenging Lehe "because I think the Republican Party is starting to lose direction" (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). The actions of many of the Republicans in the party are alienating them from the people that elected them." Anderson added, "People are really not happy. I'm not afraid to go against the grain, and I'm not afraid to put the voters' issues ahead of the governor's issues. I care more about the district than I do about Indianapolis. I think some people get so wrapped up in being a good Republican they forget the people who voted for them." Lehe explained, "I would like to continue that progressive philosophy we have now in Indiana and continue the

progress we've started. Hoosiers want progressive, forward-looking leadership, and we have shown that that's what we want to do." Kitchell says Lehe's GOP county chairman believe he will win. District 15 has been solid Republican territory for years, but Sutton said he believes incumbent Rep. Don Lehe, R-Brookston, is vulnerable after voting for Gov. Mitch Daniels' plan to lease the Indiana Toll Road (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Sutton also argues that voters outside Lake County are upset that Lehe took an initial vote in support of legislation that moved the entire state onto daylight-saving time. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP

**House District 20:** Republican: State Rep. Mary Kay Budak, LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: LaPorte City Councilman Andrea Renner. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. **2004 Results:** Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** LaPorte County Farm Bureau Inc. announced its endorsement of Tom Dermody. HPR is moving the Budak-Dermody out of tossup to "Leans Dermody." By the time Gov. Daniels had come up to campaign for Budak, a majority of people in LaPorte County had cemented in their minds they were opposed to the plan," *LaPorte Herald-Argus* reporter Dan Przybyla said at the *HPR Pre-Primary Briefing* on Tuesday. "Dermody has said that Mary Kay is out of touch." Budak hasn't had a primary since 1982. "It's going to be close," Przybyla said. "Budak is asking voters to look at not just the toll road issue, but her entire 26 years and her work for family and children." Przybyla said that Democratic voters may show up to vote for Dermody. **Primary Status:** LEANS DERMODY



Dermody

**House District 24:** Republican: State Rep. Richard McClain, Cass County Commissioner Rick Eller. Democrat: Open. **2004 Results:** McClain 14,825, Southern (D) 7,089. **2004 Results:** Walorski 13,753, Kaser (D) 7,737. **2006 Forecast:** Dave Kitchell of the Logansport Pharos-Tribune observed: "Rich McClain has some interesting issues here. His district has more meat packing jobs than just about any in the country. Rich has really had a tough time in the last couple months. His wife is his pseudo campaign manager and her mother died. His brother-in-law is currently in a coma. So his campaign has gotten off to a very, very slow start." Eller has been up and running for a long time. He's got the money in place." McClain was a floor manager of Major Moves. On DST, McClain changed his vote "and that will probably hurt him in the western part of the district." Kitchell said, "If he loses this campaign, it will probably be because of the anti-Daniels sentiment and the anti-incumbent sentiment." Kitchell said that the county GOP chairmen believe that McClain will prevail. **Primary Status:** LEANS McCLAIN

**House District 48:** Republican: State Rep. Timothy



Neese, Lorel Nihart. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Neese (R) 10,251, Carter (D) 5,248. **2004 Results:** Neese (R) 18,241. **2006 Forecast:** HRCC has sent a mailer out on behalf of Neese. Jack Colwell noted at the *HPR Pre-Primary Briefing*, "I am a little surprised at the vehemence at the governor. The toll road really has people angry in the South Bend and Elkhart area. The managing editors of the Elkhart Truth and the South Bend Tribune told me that letters and e-mails and other correspondence have run 10-to-1 against Major Moves in their papers. It's visceral," Colwell said. We haven't seen this race tighten up like others have, but we're keeping an eye on it. **Status:** *LEANS NEESE.*

**House District 57:** Republican: Shelbyville Councilman Rob Nolley, Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart, Edward Dundas, Karen Frazier, Marvin Pavlov. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004. **2006 Forecast:** This is a pure tossup between Nolley and Eberhart. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP*

**House District 58:** Republican: State Rep. Woody Burton, Johnson County Council President Ron West. **2002 Results:** Burton 9,917, Montgomery (D) 3,453, Miller (L) 437. **2004 Results:** Burton 18,766, Turley (D) 7,420. **2006 Forecast:** Burton has polled and is now running attack ads against West, criticizing him for tax increases while serving on the Johnson County Council. This race has obviously tightened up. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**House District 71:** Republican: Greg Marquart, Joe Theobald. Democrat: State Rep. Carlene Bottorff, Steven Stemler, James McClure Jr. **2002 Results:** Bottorff (D) 9,385, Singleton (R) 5,388. **2004 Results:** Bottorff (D) 17,949. **2006 Forecast:** We believe name ID will give Bottorff the primary win. **Primary Status:** *LEANS BOTTORFF; LEANS THEOBALD*

**House District 78:** Republican: State Rep. Suzanne Crouch; Alcoa mechanical engineer Jonathan Fulton. Democrat: Open. **2004 General Results:** Becker (R) 28,261. **2005 Primary Results:** Becker 3,429, Jonathan A.(Jon) Fulton 1,708. **2006 Forecast:** A campaign flier trumpeting Republican state Rep. Suzanne Crouch's false designation in a national GOP database as "pro-choice" will be withdrawn now that it has been shown to be the result of computer tampering, her primary opponent said Wednesday (Langhorne, *Evansville Courier & Press*). But Jonathan Fulton, who was one of a "handful of people" who received a database password that would allow him to edit content, says he is still not convinced the Evansville legislator is truly an anti-abortion candidate. "I don't know that," said Fulton, whose campaign produced and distributed the flier that featured information that Crouch says was "hacked" by someone



Rep. Crouch

who inappropriately used the local GOP chairman's credentials. Fulton vehemently denies making the change. After a Wednesday morning news conference to announce that the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's political action division has endorsed her, Crouch struck back at Fulton, saying the 42-year-old challenger's fliers about the Republican National Committee's "Voter Vault" database indicates he "is once again trying to distort my record." The race for House District 78 also has caused a riff among current GOP Chairman Brent Grafton, who gave Fulton access to the database, and former Vanderburgh Republican Chairwoman Bettye Lou Jerrel, a party veteran. Jerrel said Wednesday she confronted Grafton about the database Monday and Grafton first denied giving Crouch's opponent the password, which Jerrel and state Republican officials said should not have been shared with Fulton. "He wanted me to stop asking him questions," Jerrel said. "There were about 40 seconds when he and his wife were just looking at each other." Jennifer Hollowell, executive director of the Indiana Republican Party, said Grafton allowed "unauthorized use" of the party's "Voter Vault" database, which has records on all registered voters. Grafton's log-in credentials would allow him to edit information on the site. Candidates get read-only access to the database for producing campaign mailings. "This was an unauthorized use of Voter Vault, and we will take extra steps to make sure that all users are aware of that," Hollowell said. "This is the first breach of the system that we're aware of." Hollowell said Crouch's record in the system has been corrected to reflect her anti-abortion stance and voting record. Fulton, however, said he did not alter the information about Crouch's stance, even though he had the ability to do that with Grafton's credentials. "I wouldn't do that," Fulton said. "I did not, and I would not and I will not." House Republican Campaign Committee Executive Director Mike Gentry said Tuesday he thinks the fliers produced by Fulton amount to lies about Crouch's anti-abortion record. "It looks like a campaign that for some reason is panicking and using dirty tricks to lie about Suzanne's record," Gentry said. **Primary Status:** *LIKELY CROUCH.*

**House District 80:** Republican: Kevin Howell. Democrat: Phil GiaQuinta, Geoff Paddock. **2004 Results:** Ben GiaQuinta (D) 9,767, Howell (R) 5,397. **2006 Forecast:** We give GiaQuinta the edge in this one because of name ID. The GiaQuinta name in Fort Wayne is powerful tonic. **Primary Status:** *LEANS PHIL GIAQUINTA ❖*





## Daniels places Bolejack on administrative leave

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch

Daniels placed the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute's executive director on paid administrative leave pending a review by the state inspector general, officials said Wednesday (Smith, Associated Press). Inspector General David Thomas recommended that Daniels take the action against Heather Bolejack, and the leave began Tuesday. The inspector general's office was created last year to investigate allegations of criminal or unethical activity or inefficiency in state government. Daniels declined to discuss the subject of the investigation Wednesday while visiting the Rockville Correctional Facility. "We've never encountered this situation before," he said. "No one likes taking this kind of action, but public confidence can only be maintained by thorough and aggressive inquiry." No other details of the inquiry were provided in the statement, which said the inspector general issues reports when his office's work is complete. Jason Barclay, special counsel to the governor for public safety and chairman of Justice Institute's board of trustees, and Jon von Arx, chairman of the Commission for a Drug-Free Indiana, will oversee the institute's daily operations until the problem is resolved, the statement from Daniels' office said.



## Book takes aim at Buncich administration

CROWN POINT - Former Lake County narcotics Detective Alex Richardson insists he wasn't the lone "bad cop" as some would say he was

(*Times of Northwest Indiana*). "Do you think it's likely a 25-year-old police officer eight months out of patrol would know that was how the system works?" Richardson said he usually answers when asked about corruption in the department under former Sheriff John Buncich. The 35-year-old Gary native has written a book, "Lines Crossed," about his days with the largely federally funded Lake County Drug Task Force, filled with accounts of widespread misconduct, organized corruption, missing money and stolen drugs. The book is not fiction or fictionalized, though names have been changed, nor is it a vendetta, Richardson said. Most of his fellow officers, he said, were good guys, good cops. Richardson was at the Border's in Highland Wednesday promoting his book. But it was more than a usual book signing -- it was promoted by The Coalition Against Corruption in Lake County, which has taken aim against Buncich in Tuesday's primary election. Buncich's attorney, Lloyd Mullen, said the former sheriff cooperated fully in the federal investigation that helped indict Richardson and ultimately put him in prison for nearly five years. He said Richardson's actions likely are motivated more by revenue than revelation. "He's trying to sell a book," Mullen said.

## Senate Democrats endorse Talian

INDIANAPOLIS - Senate Democrat Leader Richard Young (D-Milltown), on behalf of the entire Senate Democrat Caucus, pledged their full support behind Karen Tallian's (D-Portage) campaign. "When Karen Tallian entered the Indiana State Senate, she made a commitment to the people of Northwest Indiana to stand up for their best interests," said Young. "Over the last few months, I've seen Karen in action and I am pleased to report that she has lived up to her end of the bargain." In addition to the support of the Senate Democrats, Tallian

has been endorsed by Portage Mayor Doug Olson, Portage Firefighters Local 3151, Professional Firefighters Union of Indiana and the St. John and Schererville Democratic Precinct Organizations.

## Daniels seeks to expand trails

PLAINFIELD - The Daniels administration is developing a plan to connect thousands of miles of recreational trails now scattered in local communities into a statewide system to promote fitness and economic development. Standing yesterday at the edge of the Vandalia Road Heritage Trail in Plainfield, Gov. Mitch Daniels said the state can use existing and future highway corridors, abandoned railways and other passages to develop a trail system that will also promote tourism. "There's never been a time when the quality of life we can offer to our citizens or maybe those who would bring businesses here has ever been more important," Daniels said.

## Governor attends ceremony for recovering addicts

ROCKVILLE - Mary Wine will be released from the Rockville Correctional Facility on Monday with the tools she said she needs to overcome her methamphetamine addiction (*Associated Press*). With Gov. Mitch Daniels looking on, the 36-year-old Granger woman and 48 other female inmates at Rockville graduated yesterday from the Indiana Department of Correction's groundbreaking methamphetamine addiction treatment program, the Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever. "I needed a substance-abuse program before I went home. I had not really changed my way of thinking," Wine, who is completing a shortened six-year sentence from Elkhart County for dealing meth, said in an interview after the graduation ceremony. ❖