



Peterson leans to '07 re-elect

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Wednesday was the kind of day a mayor savors. At 8 a.m., Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson joined Republican Washington Township Trustee Gwen Horth in announcing the first merger of the city and township fire departments.

An hour later, he joined Gov. Mitch Daniels and Rolls-Royce executives to announce 600 high-paying jobs. "It just doesn't get much better than this when it comes to growing good jobs," a buoyant Peterson proclaimed. After a day of such successes, the mayor's leading political adviser, former deputy mayor Michael O'Connor, told HPR that while the mayor may be

making his next key political decisions later this year, "Every indication is he's planning to run for mayor in '07."

O'Connor wasn't so emphatic as to say that "he's announcing he's running for mayor," but he said that Peterson "likes the policy part of the job. He likes the proximity to the people he represents."

A decision to seek a third term for mayor has broader implications for the entire state. Many Democrats see Peterson as the tallest among a tiny pool of potential challengers to Gov. Mitch Daniels

in 2008. Other than State Sen. Vi Simpson, the talent

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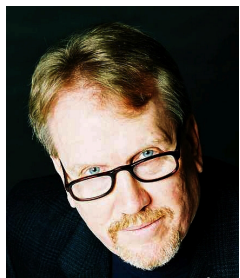
Gov. Mitch Daniels and Mayor Bart Peterson shared a good natured moment last year. Their paths crossed again on Wednesday in announcing a Rolls-Royce expansion, but they are unlikely to meet in the 2008 campaign. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Revisiting 'last throes' column

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Echoes from a year ago, when I wrote in this very space, "It might be worth clipping this column and stapling it to your 2006 calendar on this date. You would then be able to bear witness to whether Vice President Dick Cheney got it right this time. Where will the United States and Iraq be in a year? We can hope and pray that Bush-Cheney have a good grip on the situation ... better than they did when they picked this fight."

It was Cheney who said on Memorial Day 2005, "The level of activity that we see today from a military standpoint, I think, will clearly de-



"Who could leave this room without some resolve to be a little more like Richard Blakely?"

- Gov. Mitch Daniels, at the funeral today of the Indiana National Guard staff sergeant killed in Iraq last week



cline. I think they're in the last throes, if you will, of the insurgency."

This past week, with the American death toll now 2,500, President Bush had to sneak into Iraq, where the new Prime Minister al-Maliki was given five minutes advance notice. "It's a security concern because I'm a high value target for some," Bush said. "Iraq's a dangerous place."

CNN's John King reported on the harrowing nature of the flight, where Air Force One literally dove into the Baghdad Airport before he and his staff (wearing flak jackets) flew just over treetops and power lines (which don't transmit much power these days) into the Green Zone, about the only safe place in Iraq. When Air Force One departed, it took off like a rocket in the cover of darkness – straight up – while reporters were warned not to turn on anything that would emit light. Political supporters of President Bush like to say that the press only reports the bad news. The problem is, about 70 journalists have been either killed or abducted in Iraq when they try to move around and talk to regular folks. The **New York Times** reported earlier this month that the Iraqi middle class is fleeing the country by the tens of thousands each month, immigrating to Syria and Jordan because the insurgency has become anarchy.

Bush told American troops in Baghdad that the "progress" has been "remarkable, when you think about it." I have thought about this. We haven't been able to extend basic services such as electricity, let alone police protection to most of the population. Stable areas such as Basra are now inflamed with sectarian violence because of the void left behind when we invaded and provided no security. President Bush likes to talk about how well democracy is working, that "the Iraqi people have been given a chance to go to the polls – not once but three different times."

But most Iraqis have little notion of how democracy really works. It's one thing to hold an election. It's



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Welsh

another to govern when the country's own security forces are still driving around in pickup trucks. Bush said he went to Iraq to look the new prime minister "in the eyes" – to determine "whether or not he is as dedicated to a free Iraq as you are, and I believe he is."

But I hear the voice of Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, who described the leader of South Vietnam like this: "President Diem is the Churchill of the decade ... in the vanguard of those leaders who stand for

freedom."

Diem would die in a CIA-backed coup a few months before President Kennedy was, himself, assassinated.

Bush acknowledged that in about the same period of time it took Americans to win World War II, Iraq is staggering. "It is clear to me that our job is to help the prime minister and his government ... restore infrastructure and health and agricultural society so that people have the confidence in their new government."

In the hours after the fatal hit on Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola and Mike Sodrel were calling it an "important milestone" and a "great day for the Iraqi people." U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar called it "an important break."

Or, as Chocola put it, if you



"stand against freedom, you will lose every time."

Barry Welsh, the Democrat challenging U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, predicted "Killing Zarqawi will only increase the violence and the death toll. Now he is a martyr and will become even more powerful as a recruitment tool. We are no closer to an end now than we were yesterday."

We might find some solace in Churchill's analysis of the Battle of Britain when he pronounced it not the beginning of the end, but "the end of the beginning."

I simply cannot believe that a start-from-scratch Iraqi security will be able to defend their people any time

within the next decade. They come from a nation that has known nothing but war, assassination, coup d'etat, megalomania, brutality and genocide.

Unfortunately, freedom doesn't win everytime. It takes shrewd leadership, astute analysis, ample resources, bravery and luck.

So here's another column to clip to your calendar. Our leaders have learned from their bravado "bring 'em on" mentality. But I remain unconvinced that there will be a happy ending without thousands more shedding limb, blood, sweat and tears for the sins of the father. ❖

pool in the Indiana General Assembly is virtually devoid of gubernatorial timber. That leaves the mayoral class, with Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard facing the same political dilemmas as Peterson: deciding this year to run for re-election, or leaving City Hall to concentrate on a 2008 challenge to Daniels.

Richard has told HPR he is likely to either seek a third term or work for the Evan Bayh presidential campaign. Weinzapfel is only in his first term, though he is seen as a potential rising star. However, he finally sided with Daniels on the biggest showdown issue of this generation - Major Moves. That would leave someone in the business class or in Congress as a potential challenger. However, Daniels has a vividly good working relationship with U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky. Former congressman Tim Roemer is another possibility, though his wife, Sally, is said to prefer living in Washington, D.C.

The latest tracking numbers from SurveyUSA on May 10 showed Gov. Daniels approve/disapprove rating at 38/57 percent. Daniels has 41 percent of Republicans disapproving of the way he is doing his job and 63 percent of the independents.

So, 2 1/2 years before he is up for re-election, Gov. Daniels looks vulnerable and such a scenario would be attractive for a figure like Peterson.

O'Connor has long maintained that Peteron would gravitate to where he could do the most good for the city he loves. He pointed to a paragraph in Brendan O'Shaughnessy's Wednesday story in the **Indianapolis Star**: "Regarding her break with Republican leadership in the legislature, Horth, who is not running for re-election,

said she had to separate herself from the politics of the issue to make a decision that benefits township taxpayers."

"What else needs

to be said?" O'Connor asked. "The reality is this is what's best for taxpayers." With the IFD/Washington Township merger well under way, and Horth saying that an overwhelming majority of 400 constituents she surveyed support the move, that sets the stage for other mergers, a step-by-step completion of his Indy Works proposal that has been mauled by Republicans in the City-County Council and the Indiana

General Assembly more concerned about protecting their own political turf.

"I think this means better public safety for everybody in the IFD district and the Washington Township district because of the efficiencies of combining the two organizations," Peterson said.

Peterson now finds himself in the midst of constructing more township fire deals, as well as overseeing the police/sheriff merger that comes in an era when the crime rate is increasing and his public safety director, Robert Turner, searches for another job while retaining an attorney.

Peterson and Daniels would appear to be on more of the same reformist page than as opponents. They gained their early government experience in the Bayh, Lugar spheres, but made a name for themselves in private enterprise. "What you see are two individuals whose experiences were vetted in the business world," O'Connor





said. "They're both trying to bring government into line with their perspectives on how decision-making should be done."

O'Connor said that prior to Wednesday's successes, it has been a tough year for Mayor Peterson. His wife, Amy, was seriously injured in a fall into the Clowes Hall orchestra pit earlier this year, breaking her pelvis and elbow. "I don't think you can under-estimate his collaboration with Amy," O'Connor said. "It has changed what he is able to do with his time." O'Connor said that while Amy Peterson's is "doing great in her recovery," the injury "absolutely has been

stressful."

Then there was the Hamilton Street massacre that had the mayor working in 24-hour stretches. Hours after that tragedy, Peterson spoke eloquently about the neighborhood response (See the June 8, 2006 HPR). The mayor spent a great deal of time behind the scenes with investigators and the surviving family.

O'Connor said a "final decision" on Peterson's political future "will be made on the basis of where he can have the greatest impact; where he can make the biggest difference." ❖

'Had enough' not good enough for Democrats

By CAMERON CARTER

INDIANAPOLIS - "Had enough?" This is the 2006 campaign mantra of both national and Indiana Democrats heading into this fall's election, helpfully provided by former GOP Speaker of the House and architect of the 1994 election that brought the GOP to national power, Newt Gingrich. (Thanks, Newt.)

It was gaudily on display at the Indiana Democrats' recent state convention on pre-printed campaign placards, accompanied by the equally eloquent "Ditch Mitch" slogan and signs.

Neither will be sufficient to propel Democrats, who seemingly have no progressive agenda of their own to put forth, to victory this fall.

And, who would vote for a party whose national leadership wants to pull out of Iraq and hand the recently "terminated" scumbag al-Zarqawi a victory in death that he failed to achieve in life, abandoning the Iraqi people and our duty to bring stability to that nation and region?



And, what voter will support Indiana Democrats whose sole plank in their campaign platform is "We hate Mitch Daniels. He is the devil incarnate. Vote for us!" Pretty pathetic. One hopes they get their act together by the fall if for no other reason than to elevate the public policy discourse (don't hold your breath - political discourse in the fall of an even-numbered year is rarely elevated by either party; things tend to get nasty, especially when the stakes are high and the polls are close).

Had enough? Is this a rhetorical question, or are they asking if Americans have had enough of 5.3% growth in domestic GDP in Q1 2006?

Or, are they asking Hoosiers if they've had enough of 4.9% unemployment, lower than our neighboring states. Had enough job creation?

Since the Daniels Administration took office, 76,000 more Hoosiers are working and the "new" Indiana Economic Development Corporation is on a hot streak, having announced (and nurtured) several major investments and expansions by the likes of Rolls-Royce, Toyota, Jeffboat, Cabela's and FedEx. A recent report by the Indianapolis Business Journal affirmed that the IEDC had secured deals in its first 15 months promising more than 23,000 jobs and \$4.7 billion in investment, figures in excess of the old Department of Commerce's performance in its last two years. All this was achieved with an outlay of only \$290 million in incentives compared to \$512 million spent by the O'Bannon-Kernan administration to achieve poorer results.

Had enough? Why, well, yes, please Gov. Daniels stop, stop, stop bringing efficiencies and better performance to state government. Stop building for our grandchildren's future by investing \$3.8 billion through the Major Moves road- and infrastructure-building program. Stop all this economic development nonsense.

Had enough? Enough empty rhetoric and vitriol by partisan politicians with no vision, no plan (and no hope). enough Democrat obstructionism in the state legislature on fundamental reforms such as Major Moves and daylight-saving time. enough of political "leaders" who cower before the polls. enough of Democrats who wave the white flag of surrender in Iraq and the global war on terror.

Had enough? Yes, quite. ❖





For better or worse: Bayh at the marriage of 'net, politics

By MARK CURRY

"I used to think that the best feature of the Internet is that it let the common man have his say. Now I realize that it's that we can laugh at those idiots who do."
- June 26, 2004 entry at "**Journal of chromatic (983)**" online

* * *

WASHINGTON - For better or worse, success in politics today goes hand in paw with an effective internet strategy. Tread carefully. The beast online is often hungry and easily angered.

In theory, at least, the internet is a boon to the common man. The powerful instrument for democracy that is the world wide web offers equal voice to anyone with access to a keyboard and an internet connection. These days, anyone means almost everyone. In 2005, the number of Americans considered to be active internet users by Nielsen//NetRatings amounted to 143 million, or almost half of the population.

"In eight years between the 1996 and 2004 presidential campaigns the number of Americans relying on the Internet for political news grew sixfold," the IT Observer reported. Gallup indicated that in 2004 one in five of us depended on the internet as our main source of news.

A force to be reckoned with

Clearly a force to be reckoned with, but how? Politicians are asking themselves the same question.

"While the Internet is not a fresh phenomenon in politics - who can forget the rise and fall of Howard Dean in the 2004 presidential campaign? - a more sophisticated chapter is opening," wrote Jeff Zeleny in the June 11 issue of the **Chicago Tribune**. "Republicans and Democrats agree that emerging technologies will almost certainly rewrite the rules of American politics, much as television did four decades ago."

Last weekend, Indiana's Sen. Evan Bayh visited New Hampshire to gauge and foster support for an increasingly likely run at the White House in 2008. But, while Sen. Bayh ducked the rain and cold weather up north, several other contenders for the Democratic nomination were in Las Vegas romancing the new kid in school - Markos Moulitsas Zuniga, or the Kos.

Moulitsas, purveyor of the internet's most popular liberal blog site, the **Daily Kos**, is said to command a following numbering in the hundreds of thousands. Decidedly

from the left wing of the Democratic Party, Kos was described as "the No. 1 Web dispensary of vitriol, vituperation and abuse of George W.," by conservative columnist Wesley Pruden of the **Washington Times**.

Old and new media, conservative and liberal alike, pay close attention to goings-on at the **Daily Kos**. Many reporters, including Pruden, were in attendance last weekend when some 1,000 like-minded bloggers turned out for the first ever Yearly Kos convention. The gathering in Sin City was described in a **New York Times** editorial as "the mainstream debut of 'internet-powered politics.'"



Well-known democrats asking for a chance at the dance included Former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner, Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, retired Gen. Wesley Clark and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

Yet to make his mark

Despite the hard work of a dedicated few, Indiana's former governor has yet to leave much of an imprint on the blogosphere. That may be about to change, according to Meghan Keck, the senator's press secretary.

"[Sen.] Bayh believes the Internet is a critical part of political outreach in the 21st century," Keck told HPR in an e-mail. "He posts entries on national blogs, such as the **Huffington Post**, and will do more of that in the future, and the [All America PAC] sends several e-mails each month with updates on his recent efforts.

"In addition, the All America PAC will be rolling out a new PAC website in the coming days to better help leading candidates across the country, and has a new staffer who will oversee Internet outreach and serve as an online organizer."

Ryan Alexander is the PAC's new online organizer/blogger. On Tuesday he sent an e-mail to Bayh supporters explaining the new website "will allow us to add a host of interactive features for members of the netroots to interact with Senator Bayh and the All America PAC community."

Finding the center

Any effort to capture and retain the loyalty of potential voters via the internet could serve to help Bayh and the party moderate the leftward pull exerted by the Kos. Yesterday, Bayh blogger and Indiana resident Rob at Con-



fessions of a Hoosier Democrat published these thoughts on the matter.

"Kos and his band of merry men seem to make it a sport to try to tear down any Democrat who doesn't fit the mold they've established," Rob wrote. "If you don't think the same way they do in any number of different areas then you aren't a 'true Democrat.'"

Rob told HPR that he became excited about Bayh when the senator was mentioned as a potential vice president candidate in the last two elections.

"I know Sen. Bayh is a good man with great ideas," he wrote in an e-mail to HPR. Rob has been interested in politics since he was president of the University Democrats while attending Ball State about a dozen years ago.

"I consider myself a moderate," according to his latest blog entry. "I don't believe we should pull our troops out now. I don't believe that Bush should be impeached unless we have ironclad concrete proof he's violated a law. I believe Evan Bayh, Harold Ford and other moderate Democrats ARE good Democrats. Because I believe those things I don't fit into Kos's Democratic Party. That's sad."

Marie operates two websites, Blogging for Bayh and Hoosier Democrats. The 1979 graduate of Indiana University told HPR that she started "a very meager blog" in the 2004 election.

"It occurred to me that the blog medium might be an opportunity to correct misinformation and get views that were not being shared in the media to those who were interested in the truth," she wrote in an e-mail.

Spread the good word

"The goal is to get the positive news about Senator Bayh on the net. At first it was a struggle to find anything on the blogs. Only a few bloggers were talking about Bayh, that's changed in the past year and now Bayh is mentioned somewhere on a blog daily. It's been a fun process."

"So if any one wonders if their little blog can make a difference the answer is 'YES,'" Marie said. "The more people write about Bayh and publish the more will come up on search engines about Bayh and his accomplishments both as a U.S. senator and Indiana's governor. "

Not all Hoosier blogs are positive about Sen. Bayh, of course. Yesterday, the online Indiana Blog Review linked to two such entries. One was an entry by Matt Tully of the

Indianapolis Star who reported on the senator's poor showing in a poll of Iowa democrats. "Bayh needs to find a way to start moving up the list," Tully wrote. "For starters, perhaps he can at least start beating 'none of these.'"

Unhappy blog

Bill Browning of the LGBT blog Bilerico was critical of the senator's response to a question posed during a gathering of Hoosier bloggers hosted by Bayh. "I get the distinct impression that the good Senator's office has avoided answering my question" about the state constitutional amendment to outlaw civil marriage for gays and lesbians, his entry stated. "As far as presidential contenders, Bayh is no Dennis Kucinich or Russ Feingold," Browning wrote. "Although with a recent Iowa poll showing Bayh running behind 'None of These,' do we really have to worry about a Bayh presidential bid much longer?"

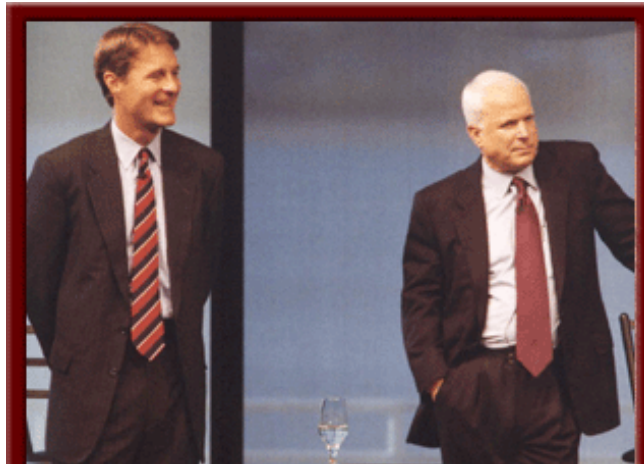
Ouch. No one said the relationship would be easy. The whole idea of the lunch, according to Keck, Bayh's press rep, was to give the senator "the opportunity to learn more about the issues and ideas that local bloggers are

interested in and to introduce himself to some of the Hoosiers who cover politics on their blogs." Although Bilerico was not the only blogger who complained after the Bayh meeting (see HPR, May 25), most reports were favorable.

Now Sen. Bayh faces a dilemma. He must somehow enlist support for moderate policies via an internet currently dominated by a camp the Times' Pruden described as "so far out in the solar system, somewhere beyond Pluto, that Hillary Clinton is regarded as the ruling goddess of the vast right-wing media conspiracy."

So far, Evan Bayh has orchestrated a remarkably successful movement in terms of fundraising (third among Democrats) and organization (he's assembled an all-star cast). Veteran pundits like Chris Cillizza of the **Washington Post** note that as the hardest-working potential Democratic candidate he's made many of the right moves. His frequent trips to Iowa and New Hampshire come to mind.

But it looks quite possible that bloggers like Marie and Rob, and staffers like Ryan Alexander, will play an increasingly important role if the senator is to have the opportunity to walk down the aisle during the next presidential election. ❖



Sens. Evan Bayh and John McCain, who could be the GOP frontrunner.



A massacre puts the spotlight on Brizzi

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - When it comes to personal tragedy, politicians are used to tiptoeing; finding the proper stance of empathy and resolution.

Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi, in the re-election battle of his life, adroitly walked the fine line over the past two weeks in the bloody wake of the Hamilton Avenue massacre that claimed seven lives.

All of the imagery provided the public with the look of a prosecutor who offered both compassion and steadfastness. A photo on the **Indianapolis Star** website showed Brizzi offering a reassuring hand on the shoulder of a relative.

But then came the hammer. He "vowed" to handle the prosecution of the case against Desmond Turner, 28, and James A. Stewart, 30, himself. "I can't put a price on seven lives," Brizzi said. "To not file the death penalty would be a miscarriage."

Brizzi described the crime scene as a "house of horrors."

"Turner is a serial killer who did all of his work in one day," Brizzi said.

As the case winds through the courts, Brizzi has become the public's man, as he was on Wednesday news-casts when he announced additional charges against Turner for assaulting jail guards with spittal.

The vow to try the cases himself will underscore with the public perhaps the most potent weapon Brizzi possesses in his race against Democrat Melina Kennedy. He has plenty of trial experience; she has none.

There are three offices in any given county where voters tend to demand experience and competence: mayor, sheriff and prosecutor.

Turner had originally sought a speedy trial, which could have placed the trial sometime in late summer. However, his attorneys backed off from that stance.

Kennedy's early advertising campaign has used billboards saying, "Results matter."

Democrats will try and soften Brizzi on cases he has tried while zeroing in on several members of the prosecutor's staff who have run into ethical problems.

Michael O'Connor said that Brizzi's "failure" to win

felony convictions against a number of inmates has led to "significant jail overcrowding because those serving time on misdemeanors" aren't shipped to the state.

Democrats close to the Kennedy campaign express supreme confidence that the former deputy mayor will win in November. Kennedy has three things going distinctly in her favor. Marion County is trending Democratic, having swept the ticket in 2004. Secondly, they see the

national trend against Republicans in the wake of the Iraq War and skyrocketing gasoline prices as setting the stage for a sweep. A third element - the upset win by 7th CD Republican Eric Dickerson - has many speculating that the vibrant political machine of U.S. Rep. Julia Carson will be hitting on all cylinders. Dickerson is not only a credible challenger, but he is an African-American with personal wealth. The Carson camp is confident they can win re-election, but they are also aware of the potential anti-incumbency that could impact federal races. The Carson and Kennedy GOTV efforts will be coordinated.

Brizzi is in good shape financially, having raised well over \$1 million. He will have ample funding to get his message out. Kennedy is expected to have \$650,000 to \$700,000

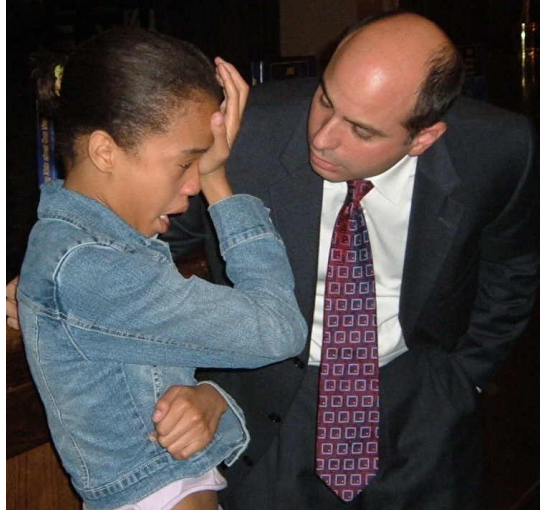
Despite all the trending, demography and national waves, this race could very well come down to how much value voters put on that trial experience question.

A second issue is one of the earliest raised by Kennedy: She will serve out a full term. Brizzi, win or lose, will be at the top of every list when it comes to the 2007 Indianapolis mayoral race. So Kennedy can be expected to press Brizzi on his future political plans.

The Peterson organization is also highly interested in tagging the last major Republican standing in Marion County with a loss as the mayor appears to be heading for his own re-elect in 2007.

HPR HORSE RACE: We see this race potentially going down to the wire. Brizzi established himself as a savvy prosecutor who is friendly, telegenic, and able to think on his feet. Democrats will be pointing out the successes Kennedy has had as deputy mayor, although many of those come in the economic development arena, ranging from the life sciences to the Colts stadium. In a neutral national environment, we'd give Brizzi a slight edge. With 2006 shaping up potentially as a tsunami year for Democrats, we believe that Brizzi is more vulnerable than if he were running on his own merits. Therefore, this race is

STATUS: TOSSUP ❖





Stephanie Salter, Terre Haute Tribune-Star - I'm rarely lifted by some occurrence under the Capitol dome, but 48 members of the Senate provided an exception this week: They spared us the protracted and dangerous distraction of a federal battle over gay marriage. That even five minutes was spent on this issue — let alone all the words poured out about the need for a constitutional amendment to "protect" marriage — illustrates how far our nation is from getting its priorities in order and its act together. The preamble to the Declaration of Independence says Americans have certain inalienable rights — among them life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness — that are endowed by our Creator. If somebody managed to prove tomorrow that God does not exist, I would go on using Jesus as my guide. So, how important was the issue of homosexuality to Jesus? How many times did he speak about it, make certain his disciples were clear on the subject, construct a parable for the masses so they could grasp the significance of it in their lives? Zero. None. Never. Of all the statements attributed to Jesus, not one includes same-gender sleeping arrangements. If homosexuality is such a threat to humankind's communion with God, wouldn't you think his son might at least have mentioned it? What is most important to God is no mystery. Over and over Christ said to take care of the poor, to visit the sick and imprisoned. He told us to be quiet about our charity, not advertise it, and to ignore class and ethnic barriers and be good Samaritans to all in need. Lest we be so thick-headedly human and forget, in Matthew, Mark and Luke he drew a line under and around his top priorities: "This is my first commandment: Love God with all your heart and soul and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself." In John, he made it sublimely simple: "This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you." Period. No exceptions for gays.

Rich James, Post-Tribune - Indiana Democrats, who held their state convention in Indianapolis last weekend, will be touting the "Ditch Mitch" slogan between now and November. It's got a nice ring to it, but comes with a couple problems. For starters, Gov. Mitch Daniels isn't on the ballot this fall. Second, Daniels isn't the problem. House Republicans adequately fill that description. Democrats like to think Daniels is the problem, largely because, well, because "Ditch Mitch" is a ding-dong dandy of a catch phrase. But, the Democrats' biggest problem is that they aren't terribly sure why they want to "Ditch Mitch." Oh, they'll tell you it is because of the lease of the

Toll Road, but the emotion associated with that issue will be gone long before November. The fact is that his Major Moves plan, which is financed with the Toll Road lease revenue, is the most progressive highway construction plan in the country. ❖

Pat Buchanan, Conservative Voice - Turn off the magnets, and the illegals will not come. Cut off the benefits, and they will not stay. In five years, the crisis will be over. As this is what America wants, the Bush-Kennedy bill that came out of the Senate -- providing amnesty to almost all the 12 million to 20 million illegals here and a blanket pardon for the scofflaw businesses that have hired them -- is dead. It simply cannot pass the House. In **"The Godfather,"** Don Corleone warns his son Michael that, after he dies, someone inside the family will come to Michael with an offer of peace from the Barzinis, who murdered Michael's brother. Whoever brings you the offer, Don Corleone warns his son, will have betrayed you. Tessio, lifetime friend and high-ranking captain of the Corleones, comes to Michael with Barzini's offer. A mistake. Rep. Mike Pence appears to have accepted the Tessio role in the great immigration battle of 2006. As Bush backs away from the Senate bill ("we don't have to choose between the extremes -- there's a rational middle ground"), Pence uses identical rhetoric to describe his plan, now being hailed by Newt Gingrich, Gary Bauer, David Keene. It looks like the fix is in. Pence calls his plan a "middle ground" proposal, a "no amnesty immigration reform" in which "securing our border is the first step." This is fraudulent. At the heart of the Pence plan is amnesty. Illegal aliens here return to Mexico for one week with an assurance they can come back to their jobs. The only difference between the Pence plan and the Kennedy-Bush amnesty is the one-week vacation employers would happily fund, as it means blanket amnesty for them as well as their illegal hires. What makes the Pence plan insidious is that Mike Pence has an unimpeachable pedigree. Why is Pence proposing capitulation at the moment Americans are looking to the Republican House as their last, best hope to kill the Senate amnesty, end the "guest-worker" scam and get control of America's borders before we lose our country? Answer: The forces in Washington pushing for an amnesty deal, by whatever name, are immense -- the White House, the ethnic lobbies, the Big Media, mainstream churches, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the "conservative" front groups and foundations they finance, and corporate contributors to congressmen who fear law enforcement. ❖





Bush gets slight Zarqawi bounce

TRENDLINE: In the wake of terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's death, President Bush is seeing improvement in public confidence that the Iraq war is winnable, a USA TODAY/Gallup Poll shows. The new poll found that 48% believe the United States probably or definitely will win the war, up from 39% in April. It also found that 47% believe things are going well in Iraq, up from 38% in March. The survey, taken Friday to Sunday and released Monday, also showed Bush's approval rating going up to 38% from 36% earlier this month and an all-time low of 31% in May. The poll news came as Bush and members of his Cabinet met at Camp David to discuss ways to help the recently formed government in Iraq.



Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. Democrat: Joe Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%)

Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** WSBT-TV has begun airing a revised version of the MoveOn.org ad it rejected earlier this week (Wensits, **South Bend Tribune**). John Mann, station president and general manager, said the revised ad now meets station standards. The ad began airing on Friday. MoveOn.org launched a spot on South Bend area television stations this week attacking Chocola. It is the third in a series purporting to catch Chocola "red-handed." The new ad focuses on Chocola's acceptance of campaign contributions from PACs representing defense contractors, and Chocola's vote against

changing a bill to add stricter criminal and civil penalties against contractors who intentionally overcharge the government for goods and services. Mann said he rejected the initial ad because he said its depiction of a building owned by defense contractor Halliburton while referring to Chocola receiving contributions from defense contractors incorrectly implied that Chocola received money from Halliburton, which is not true. **Status:** TOSSUP

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:** State and national Republicans demanded Tuesday that Ellsworth decide whether he will concentrate on being Vanderburgh County's sheriff or a candidate to unseat Hostettler. Ellsworth accused the Republicans of "trying to make political hay" out of last week's accidental release from jail of a man accused of sodomizing a child (Langhorne, **Evansville Courier & Press**). The sheriff acknowledged he was in the midst of a two-day campaign-related stay in Washington, D.C., when a deputy accidentally released accused child molester Matthew J. Long from jail Wednesday. Ellsworth added, however, that hundreds of sheriff's department employees process more than 12,000 jail inmates. Democrats will introduce a domestic agenda for the 2006 campaign this week, confident that their opportunity to pick up seats is the best in a generation, yet divided over how much an agenda will matter (**San Francisco Chronicle**). The Democratic program will consist of bread-and-butter priorities: increasing the minimum wage, cutting costs of prescription drugs, reducing interest rates on student loans, rolling back subsidies for oil companies, and pay-as-you-go budgeting, according to party officials. Party strategists hope the timing will contrast favorably with the Republicans' recent push on social legislation such as constitutional bans on gay marriage and



flag burning. "Voters in the Eighth District don't really care what sort of platform the Democratic Party puts together for the national election," said Jay Howser, campaign manager for Ellsworth.

Status: TOSS-UP

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 hosted a town hall meeting Saturday to discuss the Medicare Part D program and prescription drug coverage, but some community members had other topics in mind (**Indiana Daily Student**). Organizers from the Bloomington Peace Action Coalition sent a media release Friday encouraging community members to ask former-Congressman Hill if elected again he would: one, commit to work to end the "illegal, immoral" war and occupation in Iraq by supporting "Out of Iraq" Congressional initiatives like House Concurrent Resolution 35; and two, commit to reject any and all U.S. military threats against Iran. Only seconds after Hill opened the floor to questions, the conversation was redirected from Medicare Part D to the war in Iraq. Hill voted "yes" in October 2002 to give President Bush the authority to wage war on Iraq even though no Congressional declaration of war was ever signed. "I get testy when I talk about this," Hill said. "I now know I was lied to." Hill admitted he considered not coming to Bloomington because of the BPAC plan to discuss the loss of about 2,500 U.S. soldiers and up to 100,000 Iraqi civilians. Hill told the crowd he was summoned to the Pentagon with other Congressional leaders to hear classified information regarding Saddam Hussein's suspected terrorism efforts. He said he felt Saddam was a bad guy but that he was not a direct threat to the United States. Hill said he was then shown a slide show presentation, led by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, that included photos of drone airplanes and pictures of nuclear centrifuges. He said Rumsfeld told the Congressional leaders Iraq intended to use the drone aircraft to deliver chemical and nuclear weapons. Based on that presentation Hill said he voted to authorize President Bush to do what was necessary to reduce the threat Iraq posed to America. "I found out four months later that was all a lie. It was made up," Hill said. "It was a deliberate, intentional lie to Congress." First lady Laura Bush will make a second trip to the state within a month, this time to southern Indiana on June 30 to raise money for Sodrel. The speech at Hubers

Orchard & Winery in Starlight, just north of Louisville, Ky., was scheduled three months after President Bush came to a Sodrel fundraiser in Indianapolis, which raised \$500,000. The dinner and speech by Mrs. Bush is \$200 a person, according to an e-mail invitation. For \$2,100 -- the individual contribution limit for federal candidates -- people can attend a reception where there will be photo opportunities with the first lady, the invitation said. About 20 attentive listeners nodded and voiced support as U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel, R-Ind., spoke Sunday at a newly formed anti-immigration group's first rally (**Columbus Republic**). Sodrel was one of seven speakers supporting legislation backed by the U.S. House of Representatives calling for tighter border security, English as the country's national language and the removal of illegal immigrants. The rally was hosted by Coalition of Hoosiers for Order of Immigration Control and Enforcement, a group formed about a month ago. "When you take the position many of us have taken, people say you're anti-immigration," Sodrel said. "We're all descendants of immigrants, though. "It's not anti-immigration. We just need limited legal immigration." **Status:** TOSSUP.

State, Legislative Races

Secretary of State: Republican: Secretary of State Todd Rokita. Democrat: Joe Pearson. **2002 Results:** Rokita (R) 789,261, Fernandez (D) 627,416, Sink-Burris (L) 60,937. **2006 Forecast:** The Indiana Democratic Party called on Rokita to focus on administering this year's election and eliminating all potential pitfalls that might crop up in November. An item in the **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette** over the weekend pointed out that Rokita's name appeared in two poll books for the May primary. "Todd Rokita's tried to get his hands on every issue but the one he should be focusing on," said Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker. "Voters need to know that when they go to the polls in November, their names will be in the right book, and they'll be able to cast a ballot that will be counted. When the Secretary of State's own name is in two poll books, something tells me we're not ready to start permanently cutting people from the statewide lists." Indiana GOP Chairman Murray Clark responded, saying, "Chairman Parker and his Democrat allies wish Indiana would model its voting laws on Chicago." Indiana Democrats have hired Amie Droese to manage its statewide campaigns. **Status:** LEANS ROKITA

Senate District 41: Republican: Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. 2002 Results: Garton 21,918 , Gividen (L) 3,350 . **2006 Forecast:** The Johnson and Bartholomew county Republican chairmen will support Greg Walker's candidacy for SD41 (Brian A. Howey, **Howey Political Report**). Reacting to quotes from another Republican county official in last week's **Horse Race** section that the party was reluctant



to support Walker, Bartholomew County Chairman Ted Ogle told HPR, "I've never, ever said that. Maybe I didn't say it in the way I should have, but the fact of the matter is, Greg and I have met, along with Doug Lechner" he said of is Johnson County counterpart. "We have a lot of common ground. Greg is working with the party and the party is working with him." Ogle said that he and Lechner met with Walker at a Columbus Dairy Queen about two weeks ago. Both chairmen publicly endorsed Senate President Pro Temp Robert Garton in the waning days of the May primary campaign when Walker overcame a 25-percent deficit to pull off one of the most stunning upsets in Indiana history. "We had a very pleasant, candid conversation. All were very open about our concerns. Greg is brand new at this. Greg was very open. Greg will be coming to our candidate meetings. He will get to know the other candidates." Ogle said that Walker "is very conservative" but that "he does support Major Moves. He's for lower taxes. He will support the Governor's initiatives. He'll do the kind of things we want a state senator to support. He's very much in the same ballpark." Ogle called the Garton defeat "a historic event for Bartholomew County." Ogle continued, "I knew it would take some good working together to regroup and get going. I feel good about it." And Ogle said, "We do not want Terry Coriden in there. He's a left-wing liberal. He'll stand for all the things Pat Bauer does." As for whether Garton will endorse Walker, Ogle said that Garton is "very dignified" and that he expected him to "do the right thing."

Status: TOSSUP ❖

House District 20: Republican: 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 City Councilwoman Andrea Renner charged that HD20

Republican nominee Tom Dermody with being "hypocritical for sitting as an elected trustee on a public school board at the same time he accepted \$34,000 in campaign funds from an out-of-state political action committee that is hostile to public schools, their teachers and employees." Renner, a two-term Laporte City Council woman who is a teacher's aide in the Michigan City Area Schools, today released State Election Commission reports showing that "All Children Matter PAC pumped in a staggering \$34,000 to Mr. Dermody in the final week of his primary campaign. While this PAC uses a Terre Haute attorney's law office as its Indiana address, it's nothing but a pipeline for out-of-state money being funneled in from a national PAC founded by Amway billionaire Richard DeVos to push tax vouchers and tax credits for private and religious schools. This PAC raises money from very wealthy donors and big corporations."

Status: TOSSUP

House District 44: Republican: State Rep. Andy Thomas. Democrat: Jackson Township Trustee Richard E. Thompson. **2002 Results:** Thomas 8,997, Schimpf (D) 6,507. **2004 Results:** Thomas 15,126, Wolfe (D) 7,286. **2006 Forecast:** Richard E. Thompson, a Parke County farmer, 20-year Jackson Township Trustee and millwright, filed documents Thursday announcing his candidacy (**Terre Haute Tribune-Star**). "It's time to send Gov. Daniels a clear message: Don't mess with our time, and stop privatizing state government and selling off our infrastructure," Thompson said. "When Susan Crosby went to Indianapolis, she worked in a bi-partisan way making sure to represent all the people of House District 44. I hope to be that same type of representative." **Status:** LIKELY THOMAS ❖

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Iraq death toll reaches 2,500

WASHINGTON - The number of U.S. military deaths in the Iraq war has reached 2,500, the Pentagon said on Thursday, more than three years into a conflict that finds U.S. and allied foreign forces locked in a struggle with a resilient insurgency (**Reuters**).

Buyer blasts VA controls

WASHINGTON - Vulnerabilities in the Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Department (VA IT) were exposed and made worse when cyber security recommendations went unheeded, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Steve Buyer (IN-04) assessed during a Full Committee Oversight hearing. "Without the advantage of historical context, the theft of an analyst's computer might appear to be an aberration corrected with a new policy or an office rule. This is not the case," stated Buyer. Testimony from past VA inspectors general (IG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) highlighted the failure or lack of internal controls which ultimately contributed to the recent security breach of personal and sensitive information belonging to approximately 26.5 million veterans as well as active duty and reserve component servicemembers. This is the second in a series of committee hearings that will be held in connection with VA IT security.



Call for audit angers Mayor Garner

NEW ALBANY - A New Albany city councilman's plan to ask for an

independent audit of city finances at tonight's meeting has angered Mayor James Garner (Louisville Courier-Journal). "Dan Coffey is wasting the time of the citizens of this city," Garner said yesterday, referring to Coffey's intention to introduce the audit resolution. He said he believes Coffey's intent is to irritate Controller Kay Garry into quitting, Garner said, and to further Coffey's political career. "I hope the people of New Albany can see through Dan Coffey," the mayor said, adding that he believes the council is getting better financial information now than it's had for years. Coffey denied that his resolution is politically motivated. "I have no aspirations of running for higher office," he said.

Gerson leaving Bush

WASHINGTON - Michael J. Gerson, one of President Bush's most trusted advisers and the author of nearly all of his most famous public words over the past seven years, plans to step down in the next couple of weeks in a decision that colleagues believe will leave a hole in the White House at a critical period (**Washington Post**). Gerson said in an interview that he has been talking with Bush for many months about leaving for writing and other opportunities but waited until the White House political situation stabilized somewhat. "It seemed like a good time," he said. "Things are back on track a little. Some of the things I care about are on a good trajectory." Since first joining the presidential campaign as chief speechwriter in 1999, Gerson has evolved into one of the most central figures in Bush's inner circle, often considered among the three or four aides closest to the president. Beyond shaping the language of the Bush presidency, Gerson helped set its broader direction. He was a formulator of the Bush doctrine making the spread of democracy the fundamental goal of U.S. foreign policy, a policy hailed as revolutionary by some and criticized as unrealistic by others. He led a personal crusade to

make unprecedented multibillion-dollar investments in fighting AIDS, malaria and poverty around the globe. He became one of the few voices pressing for a more aggressive policy to stop genocide in Darfur, even as critics complained of U.S. inaction. "He might have had more influence than any White House staffer who wasn't chief of staff or national security adviser" in modern times, said William Kristol, who was top aide to Vice President Dan Quayle and now edits the Weekly Standard. "Mike was substantively influential, not just a wordsmith, not just a crafter of language for other people's policies, but he influenced policy itself."

Micon says students being 'short changed'

WEST LAFAYETTE - State Rep. Joe Micon, D-West Lafayette, is taking the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana to task for what he says amounts to shortchanging Indiana students of promised financial aid (Lafayette Journal & Courier). The award estimates the commission gave colleges for the Frank O'Bannon Grant program in March differed from the actual numbers released on May 22 by more than \$1,000. Micon said that amounts to an undue burden on students at the four public institutions affected, which include Purdue University, Indiana University, IUPUI and Ball State. "In years past, when it sent that estimate out, it was good as gold and it was never reduced," Micon said. "Based on that, students would begin putting together their tuition package for that year."

