



Young surveys '08 governor field

Only announced Democrat talks about Judy O'Bannon & learning from four govs

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - On Tuesday, HPR sat down with Senate Minority Leader Richard Young in his Statehouse office to discuss his gubernatorial candidacy, the first by a Senate leader since Robert Garton's 1996 run. Currently Young is the only Democratic candidate with an exploratory committee. He surveyed the potential field, believing that Mayors Bart Peterson, Jonathan Weinzaepfel, former House Speaker John Gregg and Senate colleague Vi Simpson will not enter the 2008 race.



Senate Minority Leader Richard Young in the Senate chambers on Tuesday. (HPR Photo)

And Young talked of the four governors - Evan Bayh, Frank O'Bannon, Joe Kernan and Mitch Daniels - he's worked with and how they will influence his campaign. Here's our exclusive conversation:

HPR: How did you decide to run for governor?

Young: Having worked with four governors, I know the difficulties of the job, particularly through many discussions with Gov. O'Bannon, telling

See page 3

Payton & Peyton Society

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The most mysterious aspect of life in the Great Midwest is that of the Chicago Cubs and the team's psychological hold on otherwise reasonable people. This phenomenon gripped the sports/photo staff of the Elkhart Truth during the first week of October 1984 as if the sadistic Big Brother was directing it himself.



Brian Howey's Column

They were enthused about game 5 of the National League playoffs where the Cubs were poised to go to their first World Series since 1945. This would be the game when



“Remember, tomorrow is promised to no one.”

- Chicago Bears runningback Walter Payton



HOWEY *Political Report*

Leon Durham's mitt was drenched in Gatorade, and using another "Bucknered" a groundball, allowing the San Diego Padres into pre-Bartman glory. The press/photo passes to the Chicago Bear/New Orleans Saints game at Soldier Field were awarded to yours truly, by default.

But this was no ordinary game. This was the game that Bear runningback Walter Payton would break the great Jim Brown's rushing record of 12,213 yards. It was a race, because Pittsburgh Steeler Franco Harris was also closing in on the mark.

"I want to get it before Franco gets it," Payton said as the '84 season commenced.

"I'll be starting the season with the afterburners on."

So there I was, on the Soldier Field sidelines with my Canon camera, awaiting history. I stood directly behind Payton and quarterback Jim McMahon during the National Anthem, the two affectionately tapping knuckles as the sell-out crowd sang and whistled.

Sometime during the first half, Payton took a handoff from McMahon and picked up six yards, eclipsing the great Jim Brown.

I remember rushing

onto the field with the media horde as Payton displayed the historical leather spud before he gave it up to Pro Football Hall of Fame Executive Director Pete Elliott. Teammates Otis Wilson and Calvin Thomas laughed with "Sweetness" as kicker Bob Thomas placed his arm around the star runner. It was an amazing moment.

But there was more to come. After the game, we were herded into a

The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink Inc. It was founded in 1994.

Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington Writer
Mark Curry, Washington Writer
Jack E. Howey, Editor

Subscriptions:
\$350 annually HPR via e-mail;
\$550 annually HPR & HPR Daily Wire.
Call 317-254-0535.

The Howey Political Report
PO Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265.

www.howeypolitics.com
BrianHowey@howeypolitics.com

Indianapolis Office: 317-506-0883.
Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.
Washington, DC Office: 202-256-5822.
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

©2007, The Howey Political Report.
All rights reserved. Photocopying, Internet forwarding, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or part, is a violation of federal law.



tent and I inexpicably ended up right next to Payton, literally my scrawny shoulder touching the turf-stained shoulder pads of Sweetness as he took a congratulatory phone call from President Reagan. I was close enough I could hear The Gipper's voice as Payton aw shucked and laughed. I stepped away as the phone call ended, shooting off three frames of Payton talking to the president.

To me, Walter Payton, and for that matter, Peyton Manning of the Colts, represent the finest pro football has to offer. Not only were and are they the finest physical specimens the game has to offer, but

and Peyton Manning were exploiters of any error, of seizing any moment. Payton had that kick step that even as I think about it now, I feel a chill in my spine. Or the hammer he would unleash on any defender trying to bring him down. With Peyton Manning, there are the mind-games at the line of scrimmage, a mental chess match of epic dimensions, and the tight spirals over the outward shoulder of Marvin Harrison, just out of reach of the Champ Baileys of the world.

I attended an IU-Northwestern football game at Evanston a few years before this. My friend looked down on the field and said, "Hey, there's Walter Payton." And there he was, alone, across the running track of Dyche Stadium, leaning against the chainlink fence. We walked down to say hello. Sweetness was most pleased to chat with these regular



they share many traits: tireless preparation for every game; emotionally settled, and decent human beings. But on the field, Walter Payton

Joes. Behind the friendly veneer, was the intense competitiveness. On Oct. 7, 1984, Walter Payton wasn't entirely satisfied with his milestone. "Brown set his record in nine seasons. I wish I could have done it in nine. I could have, too, if the strike hadn't



shortened the 1982 season."

"My father always told me never to settle for second best," Payton once said. "That you either try to do your best or don't try at all."

As a Bear rookie, he insisted on a \$126,000 signing bonus, because that's what it took for the New Orleans Saints to sign Archie Manning. And it was the biggest bonus at the time for an NFL player from the state of Mississippi. When he arrived in 1975, the Bears stunk, just as they had almost every year since I began watching them as a kid in Michigan City in 1965. Coach Abe Gibrion lived down the block and they seemed to live under his credo: "Dey may be sons of bitches, but dey're our sons of bitches."

The team generally sucked, but always had great players. I'll take the career highlight reels of Gale Sayers, Dick Butkus, Mike Ditka, Walter Payton and Mike Singletary over any five players you care to come up with.

Last Sunday as my family gathered to celebrate the month's birthdays, my brother-in-law produced a DVD. And there we watched "The Super Bowl Shuffle."

"My name is Sweetness and I like to dance ... playing the game is like making romance."

It was audacious theater. They had come off an NFC Championship Game beating to the 49ers and the following summer, laid claim to the 1986 Super Bowl with one of the first rap songs. No team has dared do so since, lest they eat 350-pound crow.

We then watched the '86 Super Bowl, a 46-10 shellacking of the New England Patriots. It was a bittersweet

thing to watch. For most of the first half, Walter Payton acted as a decoy, going in motion and throwing some huge blocks for fullback Matt Sneyd, including one for a 10-yard TD run. In the first half, William "The Refridgerator" Perry (looking small by today's linemen) tried to throw a touchdown pass. He would rumble in for a rushing TD in the second half. Walter Payton fumbled on his second carry. He didn't score. It was Coach Ditka and Defense Coordinator Buddy Ryan who were hoisted on the big Bear shoulders at the Super Dome.



In our household, there was great sadness when Walter Payton died in 1999. Life ain't fair. How is it that Walter Payton could die, and Keith Richard survives a fall from a coconut tree?

Shortly after the Super Bowl shuffle and the ultimate victory, I began following the Indianapolis Colts. I'm one of those Hoosiers with NFC allegiances to my beloved Bears, AFC due diligence to my Colts.

So here they are, together, in this epic Super Bowl. Indiana is now a football state.

I am not an equivocator, but I hope for Peyton Manning what I had for Walter Payton 21 years ago. Regardless of the outcome on Sunday, there won't be that sting of defeat we felt against the Patriots a few years ago, or the Steelers last season.

This Sunday, my most favorable thoughts will be with them. Walter Payton uttered a phrase we use in our household: "Tomorrow is promised to no one."

Seize this day. ❖

From page 1

me the many aspects that he found in running a statewide campaign. I feel like we need a different type of leadership that's responsive, leadership that listens to the people of the state, and who develops solutions which are collaborative. What I see from this administration right now, I don't believe that's how they operate. I think the best way to be governor is to bring people together, to unite them. Listen to their thoughts, listen to their ideas, then work with them together to grow solutions. That's not what I see happening right now. By working with people, that's the way to build a better Indiana. That's the way to build a stronger foundation for the future.

HPR: Having Judy O'Bannon chair your campaign has given you a dose of credibility. How did this come about?

Young: Frank O'Bannon was my state senator.



First Lady Judy and Gov. Frank O'Bannon on Election night 2002. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

I can remember calling Sen. O'Bannon with constituent problems just like my constituents called me. Sometimes Judy would answer the phone, then make arrangements and turn it over to Frank. We weren't close friends, but as a community leader, we worked together on projects and



Frank was always good at handling constituent problems that I had. When I replaced Frank ... he still had two years left on his term, because I represented his old district, he didn't forget people that he worked with as a state senator just because he was lieutenant governor or governor. We would talk regularly. I remember him telling me, "Come down and see me more often because I'm really not as busy as you might think." I remember him telling me one time, "The most important that you've got is your word. If you give your word, never break your word."

HPR: How did you position yourself to succeed Sen. O'Bannon?

Young: I didn't position myself at all. I was the local (Crawford County) auditor. Some of the other contestants in that race were sending out letters ... in the spring. People thought Evan (Bayh) was going to win (in 1988) and Frank was going to be lieutenant governor. Paul Robertson was, in the beginning, the frontrunner. We had outstanding candidates and any one of them would have done a great job. I consider myself very lucky being able to come out of it. I was in my second term. I saw Paul Robertson's letter. I asked some precinct committeemen, "What if I run for this thing?" And they said, "I think it would be a pretty good idea." My own county chairman was supporting Paul. Guy Gentry down in Boonville ... Russ Stilwell was managing his campaign. Tony Papano was down in Tell City and Mayor Goffinette was working with him. But Paul Robertson was the presumptive next senator. It was a challenging field. I spent a lot of time, went out and worked with the precinct committee people, I visited the county chairmen, regardless of who they were endorsing. The race was really pretty exciting for the precinct people, even more so than the race for governor with Evan Bayh. They were directly involved and they could see they were going to have a real part in who was selected. The appeal for them was the same appeal I'll be making to the people of the state of Indiana: that I am concerned about their issues, I want to work to find solutions. and that by working together we can find those solutions.

HPR: So, a simple phone call to Judy O'Bannon to get her to chair your campaign?

Young: Actually, Judy called me. She didn't call me to do that. The **Courier-Journal** ran an article early on that I was going to run. Lesley Stedman (Weidenbener) had asked me about the rumors. I would go through the long litany of all the responsibilities I had and why I didn't think it was a good idea. But I kept getting calls from people. Jim Shella and Ann DeLaney and Mike McDaniel



(on **Indiana Week in Review**) were talking about who was going to run and how that Ann thought that Bart Peterson would be the ideal candidate. Along that process, they mentioned myself. The next few days, I probably had 25 calls of people saying, "I think you ought to go for it." I thought about it. I genuinely prayed about it. I decided, OK, it's time to step out of your comfort zone. I don't know all the answers; I'll never know all the answers, but get in, jump in the water, have a leap of faith and move forward with it. So I called Lesley back in and said, "OK, I changed my mind." Judy read that in the paper and she called me and said, "Hey, great deal. Go for it. Congratulations." When I went over to actually get the papers, I found out you actually had to have a chairman. I was talking with Jim Lewis and Earline Rogers, who have been very supportive. I was driving on the way home, and I thought, why not ask Judy? So I called her up and asked and she said, "I'd love to do it, but you need somebody more important." I said, "Judy, I can't think of anybody more im-

portant." So she said, "I'd love to. When do you need it?" I said I actually wanted to get it filed because I'd already received checks and need to get a committee set up. She said, "I'm going to Jamaica and I'm leaving at 6 o'clock." I was already in Bloomington, but I said, "OK, I'll be there in two hours," turned around, drove back up and went up to Judy's house. We had coffee and talked.

HPR: What kind of conversations have you had with some of the other names floating around, like Mayor Peterson?

Young: I don't think he's going to go, from everything that I've heard from his staff. I've talked to him. Bart and I go way back to Evan's administration and we've always gotten along very well. If I had a problem and needed the help of the (Bayh) administration, he'd always get it done. John Gregg ... I haven't talked to John, but other people have and they've told me he's not interested in running for governor, that he's more interested in lieutenant governor.

HPR: What are you hearing from Mayor Weinzapfel?

Young: Weinzapfel is not looking at it; he's running for mayor. Then there's (Hammond) Mayor McDermott and I can't imagine him running. Then there's Vi Simpson and she's told me she's not running. But she also told me she wasn't running against me. But everybody has the right to change their mind.

HPR: Is there a chance the party could coalesce around your candidacy?

Young: Well, I hope so. If we could coalesce around me, as we work together as a unit, in the time



period we could raise the money we need to raise.

HPR: Is the O'Bannon governorship the template you'd work off of?

Young: The way we approach issues ... if you commit to something, you do it. You keep your word. I've always done that. The four administrations I've had a chance to work with, I think I'll incorporate all of those to some degree into the administration I'd put together. I've had the advantage of seeing things Evan did well. Same things for Frank, Joe and as far as that goes, same thing for Daniels. I think you really need top quality people and their ability to do the job should be the top priority, more so than their political connections. We've got a lot of great Democrats. I always think of Lee Hamilton and if I had my pick of the ideal person to run for president, it would have been Lee Hamilton. You need to not forget who you are. I've had strong relationships in the Senate for 18 years. I work with the House and Senate members. As governor, I can build on those relationships. Sometimes governors have been distracted and have not always nourished and appreciated all the friendships they might have had in the General Assembly and continue to build on those. By doing that, you have a better chance to collaboratively put programs together and have successes. When somebody disagrees with you, they aren't doing it just to be an ass. They believe that the way they're seeing it is right, just as you do even though you may be diametrically opposed. You have to recognize that and then look for the commonality and put programs together. As a senator in the minority, to get anything done over here I've had to do that. These are skills I've used in business and as county auditor, working with all other members of county government, the judges, assessors, clerk and sheriff, helping them put their budgets together, then as a minority Senator and minority leader. Those are skills I've always used.

HPR: What kind of business were you in?

Young: I was president and owner of a wholesale distributing business. My two brothers and I started the business in the mid-1960s. We started out with a small repair shop that belonged to the Sperry Rand Corporation and turned it into a significant wholesaling company of small appliances. We had most of the department store accounts, drug store accounts, in probably the eastern half of the United States, from the Canadian border down through the Keys. We had offices in Louisville and Atlanta. Our largest account was 500 SuperX Drug Stores. We had complete control over all the appliances they bought and sold.

HPR: What would a Young gubernatorial administration be like?

Young: When we look at the problems of health care, that's one of the major, major issues; the environment, education, economic development, workforce development and transportation. I believe as governor to

provide leadership, "think outside the box," but I also think you need to reach out and bring people together and build a consensus. I believe there are major issues we deal with - health care, transportation, education and the environment - they're always going to be with us. The way I would work the issues would be to identify them, bring the expertise together, and come to an agreement we have a problem and then have that group sit down and work together. Keep tabs and keep pressure. I like the committee process; it can be a very good process. What happens right now in the legislature, we don't give the time. During the summer when we're not in session, that is the time to study the issue. The governor has the ability to bring people together. You've got the bully pulpit.

HPR: We saw the last two Democratic lieutenant governors, Kernan and Kathy Davis, work tax reform and government reform in that manner. Is that the kind of process you're talking about?

Young: To a large degree, yes. I worked with them on some of those issues. I didn't work directly on those committees so I'm not sure how engaged the governor and lieutenant governor were. I would be very engaged in that process. In that way, we did build consensus. I think you need to develop your case and that's something the



governor doesn't do right now. Like the (Commerce) Connector road. I would do those studies beforehand and then come forward with the program. He is in a hurry. Another thing I would do is I would not privatize agencies. We had a small fleet of trucks, used mostly for local deliveries, but when I needed that done, I called the trucking company. It wouldn't have been efficient for me to do it. I didn't keep mechanics around to service them, we out-sourced that. For specific problems, I think it's very appropriate to privatize that segment of it. When the governor says he wants to run it like a business, I think what he means is he wants it to be a business. I believe what you need to do is use business principles. I think you need to be efficient with taxpayer money. I also think you need to be transparent.

HPR: Gov. Daniels has said that FSSA was 92 percent out-sourced when he arrived in office and he's taking it to 94 percent. Mayor Peterson didn't roll back the Goldsmith reforms in Indianapolis and actually added the water company. But (Marion County Democratic Chairman) Mike



O'Connor told me that what has happened is that we've lost some of that transparency in facets that have been privatized.

Young: That's one of the things that frightens me because those things are contracted arrangements. They'll say "it costs you x-numbers of dollars to administer the program and we can do it for less." They sign that contract and it comes up for renewal. Where are we in our ability to negotiate? It seems to me we don't have much of a negotiating position. I believe the failure of an agency is the failure of an administration to do its job. There are problems in state government. There are problems in every business in this country. It's the job of the chief administrator or chief executive officer to solve those problems, not to outsource them to somebody else. As governor, that would be the responsibility I would have. I think a lot of problems were created (with FSSA) when we created too big of an agency. I don't think we gave the director the autonomy they really needed to run it. Just as a cursory look. I think we really need to look at breaking it up so that it's manageable.

HPR: The reason some Democrats question your viability to be governor is that you head the smallest legislative caucus and even it's fractured now after your 1-vote showdown with Sen. Simpson. How do you respond?

Young: Going back all the way back to the Bob Hellman days, there has been a segment of the caucus who prefers a more confrontational mode. My experience with that was it wasn't successful. It didn't accomplish anything. It actually brought retribution not only on legislators, but also on the staff. We had a few bills that got heard and we got no bills that got heard. We did get a lot of press. I didn't see that transform into successes. I was trying to get more bills heard. I was trying to create an atmosphere where the caucuses aren't coalescing around themselves. If we've got a good argument, they can feel comfortable in voting against a majority of their members and vote with us without retribution because we created such a confrontational atmosphere. We have had successes. We've been able to use our tools very well. If I could redistrict, change the districts, I think we'd have some successes.

HPR: Should we go to computer generated districts?

Young: It could only be better for the Democrats because they disproportionately represent the Democrat and Republican populations in the state. We should for the betterment of democracy in the state. But members need to understand your districts aren't going to look like they do now.

HPR: I always say to the gerrymanderers that good ideas can carry the day, a lesson that seems lost on Indiana Democrats.

Young: When you look at our ideas, they have carried the day. We were working on restructuring taxes even before Joe Kernan ever thought about restructuring.

I remember going up to his office with Vi and Sen. Lindel (Hume) and telling him what was going to happen with the St. John's case and why we needed to restructure and we heard, "No, not now. There's an election coming up and we don't want to do this."

HPR: What's your campaign website?

Young: It will be www.youngforgovernor.com. ❖

2008 Indiana Governor

Governor 2008: Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels.

Democrat: Senate Minority Leader Richard Young. **1996**

Results: O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Results:** Daniels (R) 1,302,912, Kernan (D) 1,113,900, Gividen (L) 31,644. **2008 Forecast:** The **Rothenberg Political**

Report lists **Daniels** as one of four "vulnerable" governors (along with Missouri's **Blunt**, Kentucky's **Fletcher** and Louisiana's **Blanco**). Rothenberg writes: "President Bush's former OMB director has struggled through his first term. While some 'Ditch Mitch' bumper stickers are popping up, Democrats are still searching for a top candidate to take on the governor. State Senate

Minority Leader **Richard Young** announced his candidacy in December, but the search continues. Daniels starts as vulnerable, but Republicans are confident he can right the ship before Election Day. Meanwhile, Democrats see it as one of their best opportunities. But they need a candidate." Which begs this question: If this is such a great opportunity, why such a search for a candidate? Perhaps key Democrats are seeing numbers similar to the Public Opinion Strategies poll released

by the Indiana Realtors Association. The statewide poll of 500 people, with a 100 over-sized sample in the Indianapolis area, was conducted on Jan. 22-23. It showed Gov. Daniels' favorable/unfavorable ratings at 57-40 percent. President **George W. Bush's** fav/unfavs were at 43/55 percent. On how the state was heading, 51 percent said Indiana was headed on the right track; 40 percent said it was on the wrong track. Both numbers are the highest ratings Gov. Daniels has seen over the past year. On the Illiana Expressway, 62 percent approved and 31 percent disapproved. The Commerce Connector was a 46/46 percent tie. Gov. Daniels acknowledged he was tucking his Colt lapel pin inside his coat while visiting Northwest Indiana (Bear Country) earlier this week. **Status:** LEANS DANIELS. ❖





The Petro Presidency and an American decline

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Sometimes when I look at America - this middle-aged empire - I wonder if we're going to make it as long as the Romans did.

The top-of-the-fold headlines in the two newspapers I get delivered to my home - Indianapolis Star (you're welcome, Dennis) and the New York Times were jarring this past weekend. And then, because of the film the wife and I watched a couple of nights before, I just became pissed off.

This sequence unfolded in front of me as 47 American soldiers were killed last week (and two more on Sunday).

The **Indianapolis Star** reported that falling gas prices have thrown the wrench of doubt into Indiana's exploding ethanol market.

The Star reported: Everything seemed golden for Indiana's ethanol producers. President Bush charged the nation Tuesday night in his State of the Union speech to use 35 billion gallons of alternative fuel by 2017, spelling a certain boost to ethanol producers. But nothing is certain in the fledgling ethanol business, which already has been buffeted by the seesaw movement of energy and agricultural commodity prices. "Anybody could have made money last year. You didn't even have to be a good manager," said Troy Prescott, a Randolph County farmer and president of Cardinal Ethanol. "But the numbers are not as attractive as they were this summer." That hasn't caused Prescott and the more than 1,000 investors in Cardinal to pull back on plans for a 100-million-gallon plant. If profits keep falling at ethanol producers nationwide, however, analysts say there are bound to be delays or cancellations of the opening of at least some ethanol plants. "Some of the plants that aren't as far along will stop," Prescott said.

The top headline in Sunday's New York Times read: "Saudi Officials Seek to Temper the Price of Oil: After the Market Reaches \$77 a Barrel, Efforts to Stabilize it Near \$50".

The New York Times story reported: Saudi Arabia, which benefited immensely from record oil prices last year, has sent signals in the past two weeks that it is committed to keeping oil at around \$50 a barrel — down \$27 a barrel from the summer peak that shook consumers across the developed world. The indications came in typically cryptic fashion for the oil-rich kingdom. In Tokyo last week, Ali al-

Naimi, the Saudi oil minister, said Saudi Arabia's policy was to maintain "moderate prices."

The story continued: The Saudis appear to be rediscovering that painfully high energy prices take a profound toll on the global economy, which in turn reduces demand for their oil. But other motives seem to be at work, too, including the Saudis' desire to restrain Iran's ambitions in the region. How much influence the United States has exerted is an open question. Vice President Dick Cheney met with King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh last November, but his office would not say if oil was discussed. The White House has been supportive of Saudi energy

policy, and President Bush and his father are close with Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi national security minister and former ambassador to Washington. But 2006 was not the first reminder for the Saudis that too-high prices can backfire. The oil shocks of the 1970s and 1980s also set off a scramble for gas-sipping cars and a brief push to wean the West from its oil dependency. In recent months, the higher prices have rekindled America's quest for alternatives and propelled energy security to the top of the agenda in the United States and Europe.

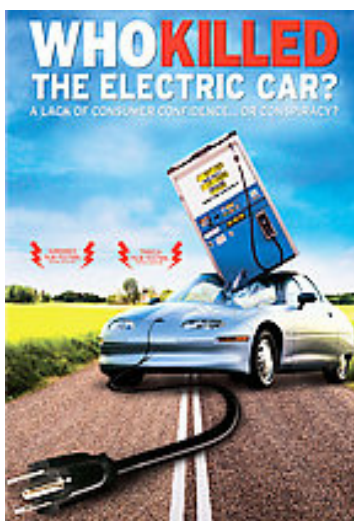
This has the fingerprints of the Petro Presidency of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney all over it.

Last year we witnessed Bush utter the fateful words: "America is addicted to oil."

His answer appears to be new CAFE standards, drilling in the Arctic Refuge (which begs the question, will the thawing tundra withstand the heavy equipment?), and a switch to the hydrogen-powered car.

Almost simultaneously came a press release from Sens. Richard Lugar and Tom Harkin (D-Iowa). Congress will have to "ride herd on the Bush administration to make sure it follows through on its stated support for greatly expanding ethanol usage," Lugar said. "The (agriculture) budget is cut routinely in terms of basic research. That has to stop. And this year, thank goodness, it will stop if the president supports what he has indicated he's going to in the State of the Union."

In his State of the Union address, Bush said the nation "must continue investing in new methods of producing ethanol, using everything from wood chips to grasses to agricultural wastes." Most ethanol is made from corn, but another source will be needed if ethanol is to play a significant role in reducing the nation's dependence on imported oil. Lugar and Harkin met Monday with Al Hubbard, an Indiana businessman who is a top economic adviser to the president, to urge the administration to make ethanol a priority in both the State of the Union address and in his upcoming budget request for next year. "Now it's time to





show us the money," Harkin said. "Ultimately, we can only produce so much corn, so many soybeans in America," Lugar said. "That's why the cellulosic thing is critical."

Purdue University Agricultural Economist Wally Tyner told **INSide Indiana Business** that the increasing price of corn may mean that some of the ethanol plants proposed for Indiana are never built. Tyner says corn prices have gone up 70 percent since last summer. That will shrink the profit margins for ethanol and he doesn't expect some of the ethanol plants that have been announced to actually become reality. He says those already under construction are probably the only ones that will be built. He feels the next alternative fuels trend will be cellulosic ethanol, made from things like switchgrass.

Who killed the electric car?

Which gets us to this "electric car," more specifically the EV1 that was briefly produced by General Motors, one of the American companies now fighting for its life.

Mention the electric car to most Americans, and they conjure images of some bizarre, super golf cart with room for one passenger, no luggage and a tiny travel capacity.

The EV1 was created after the California Air Resources Board (CARB) passed a mandate in 1990, requiring that the automakers supply 10 percent of their fleet with zero emissions.

The result was several thousand EV1s, which had about an 80-mile range per charge. GM orchestrated a weird ad campaign that conveyed dark, brooding images, and when CARB reversed the mandate and the leases were due, GM confiscated all of the EV1s. Loyal drivers held a vigil at a Burbank impound lot before they were sent to the Arizona desert for systematic destruction.

The automakers claimed there was no market for the \$299 a month lease car. Written and directed by Chris Paine, the film features Hollywood stars like Tom Hanks, Mel Gibson, Phyllis Diller (yes, Phyllis Diller) and narration by Martin Sheen.

But then you have James Woolsey, former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and member of Plug in America coalition and Set America Free, who is a well-known advocate of plug-in hybrid technology, saying "We must encourage the commercialization of technologies that are compatible with existing infrastructure. What makes plug-in hybrids promising is that they are; we don't need a Manhattan Project to make this happen."



Sens. Lugar, Harkin and Obama seek to "ride herd" over the Petro Presidency last week. (Lugar Senate Photo)

Indeed, Michigan industrialist and entrepreneurs Stanford and Iris Ovshinsky had developed a battery that would take you 300 miles per charge. His company United Solar Ovonic (Uni-Solar) was partly owned by GM, until it sold its controlling shares to ... ConocoPhillips.

President Bush even visited Ovshinsky's plant in February 2006. "This is real," Bush said afterward.

"The Japanese [automakers] will do it if the Americans don't," Ovshinsky told **Mother Jones**. Now, how will that play in Kokomo or the rest of the Hoosier state (home of the

Hummer)?

So here we had a car brought to market that could go from zero to 60 in 3.6 seconds; could be plugged into an electrical outlet in your garage; had zero emissions; maintenance reduced to changing batteries, tires and wipers; already had a national distribution system; and could have been outfitted with batteries that could take you 300 miles in a charge.

But the Petro Presidency is more interested in the hydrogen car, which is vastly more expensive, has no distribution system and will be decades away from widespread distribution.

In assigning blame to many, Paine cited consumers, CARB, reticent automakers (which opted to push the Hoosier-made Hummer), the oil companies (of which Cheney, former White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held high positions or had considerable influence). Big oil feared losing trillions of dollars of profits (Exxon Mobile just posted an American record \$39.5 billion profit for 2006). The American automakers were freaked out about losses in a six-month time frame.

So what do we have now? Oil companies with windfall profits for years to come; American soldiers dying in Iraq; and the Middle East teetering on the brink of genocide. Super hurricanes are in the 2007 forecast as the notion of global warming takes hold and even the skeptics are starting to listen.

We have our most respected lawmakers attempting to "ride herd" on the Petro Presidency while Indiana's burgeoning ethanol industry appears to be poised to have its knees cut out from under all its construction.

Am I missing something here?

Or does this seem like the kind of lunacy that could forever taint the leadership of this generation, kill our brave men and women willing to serve, and perhaps, cut the life expectancy of what should have been mankind's greatest empire? ❖



Bush chowed to the Colts

President Bush rarely eats in front of the TV at his Camp David retreat. But he did on Jan. 20 when he watched the Indianapolis Colts defeat the New England Patriots. White House Chief of Staff **Josh Bolten** told U.S. Rep. **Mike Pence**, "I never remember eating in front of the television set but we did that night." Bush made no commitment about the President's preference at the Super Bowl but did say, "he sure was impressed with the Colts last Sunday," Bolten said.

When Bush addressed House Republicans in Maryland last week, he found Pence and his family (pictured) dressed in Colts garb.

"OK, Pence, all right, the Colts... it might be their year!" Bush observed.

Pence said, "We assured him that it was." The President spoke very seriously of his admiration for "Manning" and "Dungy" saying "good at football and good men."



Judge Magnus-Stinson bids farewell

Lots of changes are taking place at the Marion Superior Court with four new judges, expanded courts, reshuffling of court assignments, a newly elected Executive Committee, and Judge **Jane Magnus-Stinson's** appointment as a U.S. magistrate. At a farewell court reception held last Friday, Judge Stinson received honors from Governor **Mitch Daniels**, delivered in person by the governor's legal counsel, **Mark Massa**. Mayor **Bart Peterson** also stopped by and presented a proclamation on behalf of the city. The judge's parting advice to her court colleagues: "Be good to each other. Do something good for the whole of the court system beyond the four walls of your court.



Mark Massa delivered honors from the governor's office to newly appointed U.S. magistrate, Judge **Jane Magnus-Stinson**, as she said goodbye to Marion Superior Court colleagues last Friday. Jane's husband, **Bill Stinson**, and two daughters, **Grace** (front) and **Jill** also attended the reception. (HPR Photo by Beverly Phillips)

And keep up the hard work in the fight against 'the street' and in improving the criminal justice system."

Judge dad & daughter (50 years apart)

When Democrat **Annie Christ-Garcia** is sworn into office tomorrow as a Marion Superior Court judge (replacing Magnus-Stinson), she becomes a second generation judge appointed by the opposite political party. Republican Gov. **Harold W. Handley** (1957-1961) appointed Annie's dad, **John C. Christ**, 79, to the Marion County court 50 years ago. He retired from the bench in 1971 and is still a practicing criminal defense attorney. Christ will perform the swearing in honors for daughter Annie at the City-County Building public assembly room Friday at 11:00 a.m.

Melina Kennedy joins Baker & Daniels

Former Indianapolis Deputy Mayor **Melina M. Kennedy** is joining Baker & Daniels LLP as a partner. "Melina will be an outstanding addition to our firm," said **Brian K. Burke**, chair and chief executive officer at Baker & Daniels. "She knows and has been very involved in the Indianapolis community, and she is a strong lawyer. We welcome her experience and energy."

'Flocking' to Terre Haute

When Terre Haute Mayor **Kevin Burke** showed up to work this morning, he found a gaggle of pink plastic flamingoes greeting him. It was part of a fundraiser for the Wabash Valley chapter of the American Red Cross.

Got a tip for the Boar's Nest? Send it to: brianhowey@howeypolitics.com. ❖



Jerry Davich, Post-Tribune - Of all the fans' over-the-top homes I've visited since the Bears and Colts reached Super Bowl XLI, not one comes close to the Bears cave of Jim and Jamie Chambers. You can't miss their South Haven house on McCool Road, where two large sheets cover the front windows yelling, "GO BEARS!" Inside, their home is literally plastered wall to wall with Monsters of the Midway mania, like memorabilia, jerseys, game souvenirs, and loads of neatly cut newspaper clippings from throughout the season. Their home has looked this way since week one. "There are normal fans and then there are us," said Jamie, while playing with 3-year-old daughter, Jasmine, who wore a pink Bears jersey. But, at least one family member is a traitor, she said. Her sister-in-law, Cricket Weber, 53, of Valparaiso. Cricket is a Colts fan. "She's a phoney Colts fan," Cindy said, only half joking. Cricket disagrees, proudly sporting her Colts attire while running a rural postal route in the Chesterton area. She attended a Colts game a few years ago and has never went back, to the Bears, that is. This Sunday, she'll be driving to Indy to watch the game. And for good reason: "To keep the family love intact." ❖

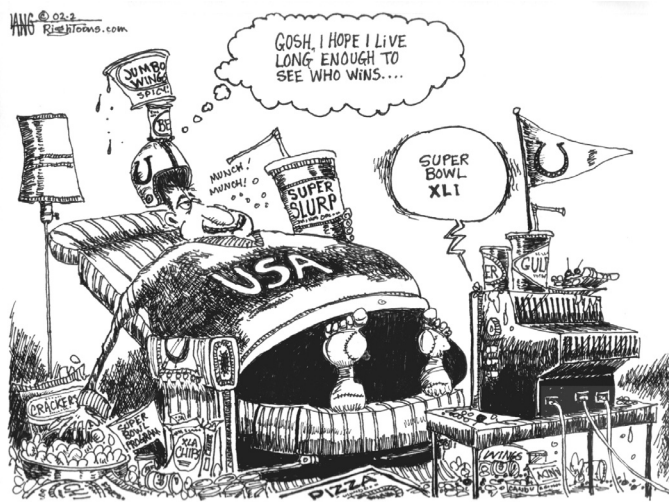
Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union - I fully understand the propensity for politicians to overstate or exaggerate, but when they talk about energy these days, it's as if some of them have lost sight of reality. During W's State of the Union speech, he touched on the latest media darling topic, "energy independence." Of course, everybody in Washington these days is on that band wagon. Who wouldn't be? Who would argue "energy independence" is a bad thing? W is urging billions in research funding for hydrogen-powered vehicles and billions in subsidies to ramp up ethanol production to 5 billion gallons per year by 2012. Jumping on the band wagon is House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. She's pledged in her "Innovation Agenda" that "America will achieve energy independence from Middle East oil in the next 10 years by developing emerging technologies that work in synergy with the existing energy infrastructure." She wants to expand production of ethanol and biodiesel and

subsidize hybrid technology. Where's MacGyver when you need him? He could pull all that off with a couple rolls of duct tape, a tube of super glue and a bag of zip ties. But the reality of energy policy is far flung from the politicians' proposals. First of all, I think, when we talk about energy, we should consider some surprising facts. Did you realize the U.S. already is pretty self-reliant when it comes to energy? There was an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal this week by Daniel Yergin of Cambridge Energy Research Associates. He says, taken as a whole, looking at coal, nuclear and renewables, the U.S. is more than 70 percent energy self-sufficient. That's factoring in electricity. The vast majority of energy consumed in the U.S. is electrical power, and we generate most of that without importing fuel. ❖

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Conventional political wisdom holds that Hillary Clinton has a good chance to win the Democratic nomination for president, but little chance, if nominated, to win the presidency. I've regarded that theory as reasonable. First, as the early front-runner for the nomination, with name recognition and campaign funding, Sen. Clinton clearly has a good chance to be the nominee. Then, if nominated, she might prove to be unelectable in the fall of '08. After all, she is a divisive figure, and attacks by those who loath her would make the Swift Boat assault on John Kerry look tame by comparison. Yes, the fall campaign would be vicious and divisive, with Clinton savaged. But destroyed? I've changed my mind about the second part of the conventional wisdom. So have

others re-evaluating whether the attacks and divisiveness of a Clinton candidacy would make it difficult, maybe almost impossible, for her to carry enough states to become the first woman president. Not all who now look at the situation differently are pleased with the view. Some welcome it. Some are terrified at the prospect. The main reason for the revision of long-cited political wisdom is this: Vicious attacks will help her, not hurt. And the attacks will come. Many of those who hate the thought of another President Clinton, especially those on right-wing talk radio, on Fox commentary shows, on

computers with rumor-spreading blogs and on the extreme of the religious right simply could not refrain from all-out attacks. ❖





Krieg gets calls to run in 8th CD

PRINCETON - Gibson County Prosecutor Rob Krieg confirmed Wednesday that he's considering a GOP candidacy for the 8th Congressional District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives (**Princeton Daily Clarion**). Newly-elected Democrat Congressman Brad Ellsworth has been in office only a month, and Krieg just started his own second four-year term as county prosecutor in January. But Krieg said having a meaningful shot at regaining the seat held for 12 years by John Hostettler means making up his mind in a month or two. Krieg's name was published in last week's **Howey Political Report** as one of the names surfacing for 2008 Congressional races, and he confirmed this week that he's received e-mails and calls from Republicans urging him to make the GOP bid to re-take the 8th District. Krieg won re-election as county prosecutor unopposed this year after defeating Democrat C. Dean Higginbotham in 2002 in his first successful bid for political office. He first sought office in an unsuccessful challenge to incumbent Democrat Mike McConnell for the Indiana State Rep. District 64 seat in the early 1990s. He campaigned for Hostettler and took a position with the congressman's office at age 24 in 1994. "I know what's involved in running a campaign. I am seriously considering it, and I'll have to decide within the next month or two."



Senate panel passes marriage amendment

INDIANAPOLIS - Mary Ann Cantwell walked to a podium and told an Indiana Senate committee that she has eight children. Seven of them

can marry in Indiana, she said, but her son Mike can't because he's gay (Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "None of them would be hurt if Mike is given the right they have, and I can't see how anyone would be harmed," Cantwell said. Her son Louis Mahern is a former state senator, and her son Ed Mahern is a former state representative. "God made Mike, and he made him a homosexual," Cantwell said. "Are you going to argue with God's creation?" Cantwell was one of several people who testified Wednesday on a proposed state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. The General Assembly overwhelmingly approved it two years ago, but it must pass this session or next without any changes and then win a statewide vote in the 2008 general election to become official. The Senate Judiciary Committee heard three hours of debate on the amendment Wednesday before endorsing it 7-4 along party lines, with all Republicans voting for it and all four Democrats against. Just before the vote, a group of gay-rights activists in the Senate gallery started singing "We Shall Overcome" in protest of an outcome they obviously thought was certain. Sen. Richard Bray of Martinsville, the committee chairman, said demonstrations were out of order, but the people only sang louder before they were escorted out of the gallery by state troopers.

2 more GOP mayoral candidates file

FORT WAYNE - The number of Republican candidates trying to become mayor of Fort Wayne doubled in the past week, but the two newest candidates are far less known. Wilbert "Duke" Brown filed Wednesday to run for mayor as a Republican. The 34-year-old owns a business consulting company and earned a master's degree in business from University of Saint Francis. "Our community needs a young, strong leader with fresh and lofty ideas," he said. Brown ran unsuccessfully for mayor in two Louisiana

towns. Steve Shine, Allen County Republican Party chairman, said he met with Brown and he believes the candidate has good ideas. "Regardless of the outcome of the primary, we are proud to say he is a member of our party," Shine said. Brown also met with Allen County Democratic Chairman Kevin Knuth about running for office as a Democrat. Ivan Hood also filed to run as a Republican for mayor. Several calls to Hood seeking comment were not answered.

200 attend meeting to opposed Illiana tollway

VALPARAISO - More than 200 people squeezed into Morgan Township's cafeteria to speak out against the planned Illiana Expressway toll road Wednesday night (**Post-Tribune**).

Miller announces plans to oppose Leucke

SOUTH BEND - Former South Bend Common Council member Terry Miller, 64, said Wednesday that he intends to seek the Republican South Bend mayoral nomination and will make a formal announcement to that effect next week (**South Bend Tribune**).

Mayor Seybold announces re-elect bid

MARION - Hard times still remain in Marion's future, Mayor Wayne Seybold said, but he would continue to work to offset them and help the economic turnaround if re-elected (**Marion Chronicle-Tribune**). Seybold, 43, announced his plans Wednesday night to seek his second term in office. As of Wednesday, Seybold was the only one to have filed as a candidate for Marion mayor in this spring's primary election.

