



## Schellinger a 'consensus' Democrat

*Indianapolis architect Democrat seeks to become 50th governor*

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Jim Schellinger, who sometime this month will likely declare his intent to seek the 2008 Indiana Democratic gubernatorial nomination, found himself on a cold, dark February night in front of a hostile group of potential school remonstrators in Columbus.

They had already defeated by several thousand votes the initial plan for a new Central Middle School. Schellinger, CEO of CSO Schenkel Shultz, an Indianapolis architecture firm, looked into the audience of about 150 frowning people with their arms crossed.

"My job is to bring people together," Schellinger (pictured above at his company) said during a two-hour interview with HPR on Tuesday. Pointing to his ears, Schellinger explained, "You've got to listen to your constituents, you've got to listen to your clients. You've got to hear what they need, you've got to bring these diverse groups of people together that have been employed - sound familiar here? - to come together to serve that client. They can't



impose their desires or needs on a project."

School remonstrances, Schellinger said, is "a process that rips communities apart."

"I went in and talked to the superintendent and school board," he explained. "Maybe we should try a different process, instead of doing the same thing over and over again and thinking we'll get a different result." He proposed a series of six community workshops.

"I was told, 'We're going to have a remonstrance; it's inevitable.' Their

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## Shame of the lame on cigs

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Last year, I wrote a column about how underpaid Indiana legislators are. I noted that many work weekends. They spend time away from their families. In a citizen legislature, with the low pay, it has gotten to the point that only attorneys, retirees and rich people can afford to serve.



Brian Howey's Column

I urged them to go ahead and seek a raise, but just be above board about it. None of this secret health care for life for you, your kids and ex-wives (but not the rest of us). None of that \$4 for every \$1 the state puts into



"Casting ballots from home allows voters the time to research candidates."

- State Rep. Matt Pierce after HB 1808 that would allow vote by mail passed the House today



# HOWEY *Political Report*

your retirement account. I even suggested that I would write a column supporting such a raise because it would be good for the process.

And then came last Tuesday. On this day, in the Indiana House, a proposal to tax cigarettes an additional 25 cents a pack failed by a 52-44 vote. Indiana currently taxes cigarettes 55.5 cents a pack, one of the lowest rates in the nation. We also have one of the highest smoking rates in the country, at 27 percent in 2005, according to the Indiana Family Social Services Administration, up from 24 percent in 2004 (the U.S. rate is 20 percent).

**Indiana ranked second** among all states in adult smokers (we were 7th in 2004). An estimated 10,200 Hoosier children start smoking every year. Medical costs related to smoking amount to more than \$1 billion. And taxpayer funded Medicaid expenditures related to tobacco illnesses are more than \$400 million. Many Hoosiers face bankruptcy because they are unable to pay their medical bills. As a result, Indiana has the highest per capita rate of medical bankruptcies in the nation, affecting more than 77,000 Hoosiers. For every pack of cigarettes sold in Indiana, Hoosiers spend \$7.10 in smoking-related health care costs.

Indiana also has an estimated 500,000 people who don't have health insurance at any given time. Some peg that number closer to 800,000. The 25 cents a pack would have helped insure hundreds of thousands of low income Hoosiers. If the legislature had had the guts to raise it to \$1 a pack, the state could have extended health care coverage to half a million people.

**"It is no coincidence** that Hoosiers pay less for cigarettes than the vast majority of Americans and smoke at the highest rates around," Gov. Daniels said in his State of the State

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

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Subscriptions:  
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\$550 annually HPR & HPR Daily Wire.  
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address in January.

Here's the other thing you need to know. According to a Feb. 26 story in the **Boston Globe**, from 1998 to 2004, the amount of nicotine that could be inhaled from cigarettes increased an average of 10 percent, a study by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health found.

I've had a front row seat to my lovely wife trying to kick her addiction to nicotine. On her third try in the past two years, she's made it past the six week mark, but it's been tough. There were only 19 of 49 Republicans who backed the governor on this vote. While House Minority Leader Brian Bosma voted

aye, the rest of his leadership team voted against. House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer produced 25 votes, but wanted at least 25 Republicans to vote aye due to the coming 2008 elections. Meanwhile, the Democratic budget included no increase for Medicaid.

"I really don't think this should be a partisan issue when we are talking about health care coverage," Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, said to his colleagues. "But it has to be bipartisan. We need at least 25 from your side."

Now the issue looks dead for this

session. More kids are going to start smoking. More kids are going to continue. In the years ahead as the Baby Boom generation grows older and requires more health care, more and more of your taxes are going to be needed to cover the tab.

**What were some** of the reasons why some of these legislators voted against this bill?

State Rep. Phil GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne, said he didn't know "how serious" the governor was about the proposal.

State Rep. Jim Buck, R-Kokomo, voted against it because he opposed funding health care "on the back of a tobacco tax."

State Rep. Dennis Tyler, D-Muncie, said he didn't want to tax the "working poor." State Rep. Bill Davis, R-Portland, was against funding the "biggest entitlement program" ever seen.

This is the shame of the lame.

**"The expensive** consequences of smoking are self-inflicted and take years to develop," Gov. Daniels said. "but preventable illness comes to the young and innocent also. It is constructed to be as large as this assembly chooses: the more you raise the cost of cigarettes, the more Hoosiers can be provided coverage. I hope you think big."

Instead of thinking big, the Indiana General Assembly thought little. No, they didn't think at all. Now, how big should we allow them to think on their pay raises? ❖







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attitude is, 'here we go again.'"

Surveying the hostile crowd, Schellinger said he thought, Wow, this is taut, and said, "Hold back on the Power Point. Just give me a minute. We have to have compassion and empathy for what their concerns are."

Schellinger introduced himself as an architect and a "dreamer." He began asking a series of questions:

"Please give me a show of hands: How many people in this room care about kids?" he asked. Everybody raised their hands.

"How many people in this room believe education is important to kids?" Everybody raised their hands.

"How many people believe the most important ingredient for education is parental involvement?" Everybody raised their hands.

"How many people believe in this room believe that one of the other pieces of education is the curriculum?" Everybody raised their hands.

"How many people believe that teachers are important and vital to facilitate the education process?" They all raised their hands.

"How many people believe that education and the school system are important to the economic development of this community?" Every single person raised their hands.

"How many people believe the building does impact the educational process?" Ditto

"How many people want to see, whatever we do with this project, a high quality building but at the least dollars to the taxpaying system?" More hands.

"How many people believe that something needs to get done with Central Middle School? You may not know what it is, but something needs to get done. It may be painting the building or building a new building. Or



**Jim Schellinger meets with School 84 patrons in Indianapolis (above). Lower photo is Central Middle School under construction in Columbus. (Central MS photo by J. Eaton)**

anything in between." More hands raised.

Finally, Schellinger asked, "How many people in this room want to do the right thing?" All hands up.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have consensus on 11 of the 12 things we have to gain consensus on," he said. "Now all we have to do is find out the right thing."

Schellinger said, "What happened in that process is that I established common ground in that room. What we found out in that short 5 to 10 minute session was that we agreed on a heck of a lot more than what we disagreed on. We went through

the workshops. They weren't easy. We had our moments. We went to the board for the 10/28 hearing. It was a divided board. They always voted 5-2. We had a 7-0 vote. The 30-day period came and went and no one - no one - filed a signature. The project had 100 percent consensus. The dream came true. People said it could never be done."

It is a process that has been repeated for school projects in Anderson, for School 84 in Indianapolis, Lafayette, Brownsburg, Whiteland, and for the high schools in Columbus. "We're 5-0. We've gone in and gotten consensus in all those communities. I've learned if you go in and trust people; if you go in and you talk to people and you turn your ears on and hear what they say - you've got to hear what they're saying - and then you've got to come back and show them you've heard, and you can trust people. We've proven that."

Kenn Gividen, the 2004 Libertarian candidate for governor, was opposed to the Central MS project. "I was very impressed with Jim on every count ... except for his philosophy of government," Gividen said.

"In 2002 we won the remonstrance against a \$300 million (plus interest) corporation-wide building initiative," Gividen explained. "Two years later, 2004, I ran for school board and was hammered by the teachers' union (CEA)



and The Republic. I strongly objected to the handling of the Central Middle School project and was (obviously) on opposing sides with Jim. However, on a personal level we communicated well.

"Schellinger's role in the Central Middle School project was that of presenter for his architectural firm. The Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation community meetings were attended by almost no one but teachers' union supporters and a handful of opponents. These meetings were obviously a part of their strategy. They know the community won't show, so they can easily stack them with their supporters and give the illusion of widespread support."

As for being a potential gubernatorial candidate, Gividen said, "I sat in on several of Jim's presentations and raised many objections. He is personable, well informed and quick to respond to the objections. He will do the Democrats proud."

### *Ears of a Democrat*

The "hearing" thing has been a Democratic plaintive wail articulated most by House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer and Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker over the past two years, particularly during and after the Major Moves showdown. It was the main theme of House Democrats in the 2006 election, that Gov. Mitch Daniels "doesn't listen."

The problem facing Indiana Democrats is they lacked an articulator. Bauer is not the ideal poster boy for thought and unscientific surveys, and Parker, being a party chair, is deemed as overly political (as all chairs are).

In Schellinger, Democrats may have found a credible voice.

He was raised the sixth of eight children for a "working poor" family in South Bend. His father was a quality control engineer at Bendix Corp. Schellinger and his brothers all played football at St. Joseph's High School (they all wore No. 50). He was an all-state linebacker in 1978. He spent a year at Butler University before his dream of architecture led him back home to Notre Dame.

"I didn't have a scholarship," Schellinger said. "So I lived at home and as for saving money, I worked in a tool and die shop. That became one of the most incredible experiences of my life. I would go to school all day and take on this rigorous architecture degree and then I would go to the tool and die shop at 5 o'clock at night where I'd clean restrooms and then I would deburr rough steel. Before the skilled journeymen would work on it, you had to make sure there were no sharp edges so they wouldn't cut their hands."

He ended up with hands filled with steel slivers.

Upon graduation, Schellinger headed back to Indianapolis where he got a job with Cole Associates before making his way to CSO in 1987, an architectural firm oper-

ating out of a College Avenue bungalow. By 1996, he had risen to president. He and his wife, Lori, have three teenage sons, the oldest now a freshman at North Central HS.

"As a practitioner, I wasn't sure that was what I wanted to do that because I was fearful it would take me away from my architectural practice," Schellinger said. "It really didn't. I was able to remain a practitioner while leading the company.

"I believe in knowing where you've been, so you can understand where you are, so that then you can project on where you want to be. This is where we are today. It's all about people. At CSO, we've done some really great things and that's led people coming to me saying, 'What you've done with this firm ... this is what we need on a greater scale. This is the kind of leadership from a chief executive that we need on a greater scale.'"



Schellinger (left) is a CEO but still works on architecture projects.

With great pride, he showed a framed display of his company making the Indianapolis Star's Top 5 companies to work for.

"What we've done here is we have rallied all the people here, all hundred," Schellinger said as we talked in his Parkwood office complex conference room, filled with photos of employees and busts of company founders. Out in the hallway are architectural renderings of some of the company's major projects: The Indiana Historical Society, the current Indianapolis Airport midfield terminal, IMAX Theater, DePauw University's Green and Julian Centers, the Ball State Music Instruction center, and Anderson and Cathedral high schools.

### *A world class vision*

"We developed what is truly a core purpose of our firm: to provide world class quality and service with total design to enhance and contribute to our client's success," Schellinger said. "Those words were pulled together with





input from everybody in this firm. Sometimes in Indiana we shy away from that because we think it's beyond our means. But world class, there's nothing better than what we have right here. Every person designed in the process impacts that design. If we don't make educators better educators in their schools, which results in better students educated for the future, then we've missed the boat. It's about them, not about us. That focused core purpose has been something that's been great for providing the right direction forward, very simple, and one everybody can relate to, and everybody's pulling in the right direction.

"We've always been a successful company, but our bottom line has been the best in the last three years that it has been in the 46 years of the company's history. We never focused on the bottom line stuff; we never went to the almighty dollar. We focused on a purpose, on values and we focused on a vision. We took a large group of people and got them to buy in and adhere to that and the result, focusing on those core purpose and those core values, we achieved tremendous bottom line results. If you can excite the spirit of people, the body will follow.

"Architecture is an interesting process. It's the art/science of the world. On the right hand side of things, we have the creative, right brain thinking person. On the left hand, we've got the analytical, engineering, calculating mindset. In this office, we have to bring those two worlds together. You'll see people in this office with pocket protectors and others with pierced eyebrows and tattoos. You catch a little bit of everything in this office. We're proud of that. You take that diversity in here and go and provide that total design service."

### **Schellinger's party roots**

While never a candidate, Schellinger has had close friendships with Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson and U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh. Shortly after the party lost the governorship in 2004, he stopped by and visited Chairman Dan Parker. "He asked if there was anything he could do," Parker said this week. "I said, 'We need money,' and he wrote me a check. A big check."

In Parker's view, Schellinger matches up with some of the strengths of Gov. Daniels (and, for that matter, Mayor Peterson). All were successful corporate executives.



**The Schellinger brothers all wore No. 50 for St. Joseph's HS (Gov. Joe Kernan's alma mater). They are from (left) Bob, John, Jim, Joe and (kneeling) Michael. If Jim Schellinger wins in 2008, he would become Indiana's 50th governor. John's unexpected death at age 43 has prompted Jim to ponder a "higher calling" to public service. (South Bend Tribune Photo)**

Parker believes that Schellinger will be in a position to expose some of Daniels' weaknesses: that the governor is more likely to bring initiatives to the legislature and people "from on high" without building the consensus. It's left the governor open to criticism that he doesn't "listen," or keep key lawmakers in the loop.

Former Indiana Democratic Chairman Robin Winston observed, "Jim Schellinger has lived a diverse life. He was a stellar athlete, worked his way through Notre Dame, helped build his firm and create jobs, and continues to give back to our community. He is the perfect combination of the Bayh/O'Bannon/Kernan model of leadership that will help move Indiana forward."

Last week, Schellinger called up Senate Minority Leader Richard Young and asked for a meeting. They spent a cordial hour together in Young's Statehouse office. "We had a very good visit," Schellinger said.

Young is determined to carry out his candidacy through the May 2008 primary. What Democrats will be faced with are two mostly unknown (statewide) candidates - one from the corporate world; the other from the legislature. An issue-oriented primary could be good for the party as it stokes up name ID and allows the party, long accused of lacking vision, to get its ground troops involved in redefining what it means to be an Indiana Democrat.

### **Pondering No. 50**

Schellinger rises at 4:30 a.m. most days, spending three hours doing his reading and research.

He contemplated the photo of him and his brothers all wearing No. 50 for St. Joseph's HS. "I woke up one morning and I was actually studying all the governors," Schellinger said. "I was trying to figure out what governors did good and others that weren't so good. Thirty-one have been attorneys. There's never been an architect. Most had legislative experience. Paul McNutt and Oliver Morton did not have legislative experience. I knew Frank O'Bannon. I glanced up at my brother John. I looked at the picture on the wall of all us wearing our 50 jerseys. Taking out the territorial governors and the two like Henry Schricker who served two non-consecutive terms and I thought, Frank O'Bannon was the 47th, Joe Kernan was 48th, Mitch Daniels is 49 ... and ..... "❖



## Schellinger on his thoughts for '08

INDIANAPOLIS - Here is the interview HPR's Brian A. Howey conducted with Jim Schellinger on Tuesday:

**HPR:** Walk us through why you're pondering a run for governor?

**Schellinger:** Walter Payton once said 'Tomorrow is promised to no one.' I started having talks with my wife about it. I've gotten a lot of encouragement from some dear friends and from people I really respect and know. They say the kind of leadership you're about is the kind of leadership we need. Over the past year or so, and over the past several months, I've given it a lot of thought. I've had long talks with my wife and sons about it. I've had long talks with my business partners. They are like brothers to me. I've also begun to reach out not only locally, but around the state. I'm developing an understanding about what leadership should be about. In the process, my attention became diverted to the governor's office. So that's what I've been doing for the past 90 days. I've been giving it a lot of thought. I've been trying to assess my capabilities to provide that kind of leadership. Could I do the job? I suspect within a week or two weeks I will have reached my conclusion.

**HPR:** The Indiana Democratic Party needs a vision. That's one thing Gov. Daniels has brought: a vision. The biggest rap against him is on consensus building and listening.

**Schellinger:** We owe the governor a debt of gratitude. He did two great things: The first thing he did was he woke people up and made them realize we need to change. Every business, every family, every person needs to evaluate change and what can come out of it. It needs to be explored. He created that sense of need. The second thing he did was he created a sense of urgency and the need for change in this state. Now, beyond that, I think we can do better.

**HPR:** One of the first things Gov. Daniels did as governor was put a six-month moratorium on school construction projects. How did that decision interface with your company?

**Schellinger:** It didn't have any impact on us whatsoever. It has not been in any way, shape or form a

motivator. It has absolutely nothing to do with it.

**HPR:** It sounds from your Columbus experience and in other cities that CSO Schenkel Shultz was already doing what the governor was suggesting.

**Schellinger:** We applaud that. We have a certain philosophy with certain building sites. That had no impact on my contemplating this.

**HPR:** One of the big issues with the Democratic Party right now is privatization. The Major Moves legislation was a major battleground. What are your thoughts along those lines?

**Schellinger:** I would preface it by saying there is going to be a lot of time in the process if I make the decision to go forward. There will be great, detailed dialogue. I look forward to having that dialogue. I will share this with you: There is a time and a place for out-sourcing. But I don't believe you should ever sell off a revenue-generating asset. Secondly, I have a problem with selling off mission critical services. I would leave it with those two things. If you manage correctly, if you have the appropriate leadership with regards to revenue generating assets, and if your people are streamlining and consolidating those critical assets, you ought to retain those in your business organization or government.

**HPR:** With the Indiana Toll Road, there hadn't been a rate increase since 1985. There was a lack of political will to properly manage that asset. This administration hasn't taken polls to determine their course. They will make an initiative and then seek to rally public support. How would your administration deal with similar political will situations?

**Schellinger:** I'm one of those people who dance with those who bring me. My whole life, what I've done here at CSO, what I've done on building projects both in public and private sector is reaching out, soliciting input from all the stakeholders, and responding to that input. People do not trust their government today because government doesn't trust people. Sometimes we just short-change people. We don't give them enough credit that if we reach out to them, they'll develop an understanding. One of the things I'd like to do in this process is reconnecting to our values of our state of Indiana. One of those values has to be being self-reliant. If you reach out to people, people will unite around you to deal with some of the tough things you have to do even if they are things politicians might not normally go to. I was described as a "fresh face" the other day in the paper. I would hope I'm more than a fresh face, but a fresh thought process. Time will tell. That's something that we need to reach out







to people more and solicit their input. I think the people would respond. The people of Indiana are a lot smarter than what they're given credit for. I see it every single day. We need to take the time it takes to hear from them and have an open, honest dialogue. Now in my business, if I go to a client and don't listen to them, and I give them something back they don't like, they will fire me. I believe it is possible in the State of Indiana to have a positive emphasis on the word position. I am so tired of the negativity that exists in our governments today. I think the people in Indiana are tired of the political hacking and the negativity that goes into it. I think we can have a positive, value-based, visionary government that brings people together and leaves no people behind. I believe we will achieve that when Democrats - my mother always said start with yourself first - when Democrats will develop an understanding that Republicans are not the enemy. And when Republicans develop the understanding that Democrats are not the enemy. If we can work to establish common ground, and if we can accept the fact that we agree on more than we disagree with people, we will build bridges to do the things that are right. Then we can go on and achieve the heights in the state that are unlimited. That's exactly the model we had here. But it takes hands-on leadership. People talk about being delegaters. No. It takes hands-on leaders to build those bridges to bring people together. The leader has to lead. Being a leader is not a fancy title. A leader has to lead. That's not always easy.

**HPR:** One of the major Democratic constituencies is labor. How does your company interface with labor, such as the Building Trades?

**Schellinger:** I want to save something for our second date. I will leave you with this, having grown up in a working class family, I have a lot of respect and a lot of appreciation, if not love, for the working person. They have to put food on the table. I have tremendous passion for the working person because it impacts the family.

**HPR:** How will you handle life issues?

**Schellinger:** I have very firm beliefs on all the major issues that we see in our political agendas. Once I make the decision, I will be happy to share those beliefs. It's not that I'm ducking it at all. You know, Lou Holtz always said, "Always focus on the win." When he says WIN, it's "What's Important Now." Right now what's important is reflecting on what's ahead, the impact on my family that this would be. I have a great life. I have a great wife. I look forward to seeing her every morning when we wake up and when I go home at night. I have these three great boys (ages 12, 15 and 23). I've got three business partners that are like brothers to me. I would trust them to raising my children. I've got a hundred of people in my company who love being here. And I'm at the highest earning years of my career. But having said that, there are three compelling reasons driving me to consider this. The first one is I think we can do better as a state. No. 2, I think I can do better in that leadership position and I say that humbly. Thirdly,

if I make the decision to move forward, I will with all my heart and soul. I've never done anything halfway in my life. It will be all out, full bore. Our mayor has been a great inspiration to me. He contemplated what I am contemplating right now: never having run for political office, having been successful in the private sector. He responded to a higher calling. ❖

## 2008 Indiana Governor

**Governor 2008:** Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels. Democrat: Senate Minority Leader Richard Young, Jim Schellinger. **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 Fore-**

**cast:** Will **Jim Schellinger** run? Figuring he spent two hours with HPR on Tuesday (and this is a busy executive), we've got to think he will. Several key confidants have told us he's ready to move forward. If Schellinger makes this race, he will provide some interesting contrasts with Gov. Daniels. And there are indications the Democratic field could grow. Democratic sources tell us that former congresswoman **Jill Long Thompson** is considering this race. She served three terms in what is now the 3rd CD, ran a statewide U.S. Senate race, and served on the Valparaiso City Council. She ran an unsuccessful race against U.S. Rep. **Chris Chocola** in 2002. **Gov. Daniels** is getting flak in some quarters for not being at the Statehouse on Tuesday, the day his cigarette tax bill died in the House. Daniels was on the road in Union City and Richmond. Daniels said he has heard from the leaders in this part of Indiana and the message has been clear (**Richmond Palladium-Item**). "I'm been reminded that unemployment here is as high as any place in the state," he told Wayne county Lincoln Day listeners. "We're not going to lose sight of that. That's why we're working to make agriculture strong in Indiana. And that's why we're working to develop the alternative fuel industry, to increase livestock production, food processing and hardwood production. We will not forget this area."

**Status:** LEANS DANIELS. ❖



Long Thompson



## A flurry of late mayoral filings signals some wild primaries

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Last Friday's filing deadline was a wild ride through mayoral politics.

The most conspicuous was the thorough meltdown of the Republican Party when Bob Parker, who had uttered anti-Jewish remarks to the Indianapolis Star's Matt Tully, failed to file. That left Mayor Bart Peterson with six unknown GOP challengers and a cinch for a third term.

And it essentially signals that Indianapolis, once the proud home of the legendary Marion County Republican machine fashioned by L. Keith Bulen, is essentially a one-party city. For the second consecutive city election, the GOP has failed to find and fund a credible opponent for Peterson. It's a trend that is hitting other big cities - one party dominance, though Republicans have been able to win in places like New York and Los Angeles.

The fact that Republicans were unable to come up with credible candidates in Indianapolis and Evansville, where Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel can coast easily to a second term, will give Indiana Democrats some leeway to pour money and resources into cities like Kokomo (Matt McKillip), Anderson (Kevin Smith), Muncie (open), and Elkhart (open).

Democrats were also breathing a sigh of relief when former Fort Wayne Councilman Tom Henry announced his candidacy. He will likely face the winner in the GOP primary between Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters and architect Matt Kelty. Peters is seen as the frontrunner, though Kelty can expect support from Right to Life members.

Kokomo promises to be the scene of potential donnybrooks in both the primary and general elections. Mayor McKillip has been feuding with his own party. Councilman Rick Hamilton and Thomas Hamilton are challenging in the GOP primary. On the Democratic side, 2003 nominee Andy Castner and Councilmen Bob Hayes and Greg Goodnight, a former congressional nominee, are running.



There were other incumbent mayors who got last-minute challengers. **Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr.**, seen as a potential lieutenant governor candidate in 2008, will be challenged in the Democratic primary by Dennis Terry, the former chief of staff to former Republican mayor Duane Dedelow Jr. There are five Republicans running, led by the perceived frontrunner, Matt Saliga.

**In Terre Haute**, former police chief James Horrall will challenge Mayor Kevin Burke, who hopes to become the first Democrat incumbent to win a primary since 1989. Other Democrats include Dale Smith and John Walters.

**Lafayette** Mayor Tony Roswarski will be challenged by Dan Auckley, who served as the city's traffic supervisor until Roswarski eliminated the position due to state ordered budget cuts. Auckley told the Lafayette Journal & Courier that he considered his city position "the best job I ever had" and had long considered running for mayor.

At **Michigan City**, Mayor Chuck Oberlie will face a primary rematch with former Councilwoman Joie Winski. A third Democrat will be Jim LaRocco, son of a former mayor.

**Gary Mayor Rudy Clay** will face 10 Democratic primary opponents, most notably former attorney general Karen Freeman-Wilson, school trustee Darren Washington and Councilman Chuck Hughes. Because of the huge primary field, Clay, who is also the Lake County Democratic chairman, is thought to be a prohibitive favorite.

**Crown Point** Mayor Dan Klein faces a Republican primary rematch from Gayle Van Session, executive director of the city's Chamber of Commerce. She told the Times of Northwest Indiana that Klein has become a "dictator." Three Democrats



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- David Uran, Dan Jordan and Karin Mason will face off in the primary.

In **New Albany**, former mayor Doug England will challenge Mayor James Garner. Two other Democrats have filed. The winner will face Republican Randy Hubbard, the former Floyd County sheriff, in November.

Another rematch comes in **Jeffersonville**, where Mayor Rob Waiz will try to fend off former mayor Tom Galligan, who lost by 10 percent to Waiz in 2003.

**Former Marion** Mayor Bill Henry will seek a November rematch against Republican Mayor Wayne Seybold, who defeated the Democrat in 2003. Seybold is expected to win his GOP primary against Ray Glass.

**At Richmond**, Mayor Sally Hutton will face competition in May's primary election against Mark Cordell. He has two children. The winner of the Hutton-Cordell primary will face one of three candidates -- Rick Thalls, Ron Chappell or Danny Black -- filing on the Republican ticket in the November general election.

Six will seek the open **Elkhart** mayor's seat. On the Republican side, four hopefuls will be on the ballot in May (**Elkhart Truth**). Elkhart City Councilman Jim Pettit, former city employee Charles Hawkins, who ran against Miller and David Henke in the 2003 primary, former Elkhart County Councilman Neil Herman and former County Commissioner Martin McCloskey will battle for the GOP nomination. Two well-known Democrats, veteran Elkhart City Councilman Arvis Dawson and former street commissioner and fire chief Dick Moore, will bid for their party's spot on the fall ticket.

**Huntington** Mayor Terry Abbett faces two GOP primary challengers in Steven Updike and Randy Hoover.

**At Madison**, Republican Mayor Al Huntington will face unknown Kevin Geyman in the primary. Tim Armstrong, a city police detective, and Dale Minor, a classmate of Huntington's and a former plant manager of an electrical manufacturing company, will compete in the Democratic primary.

**At Portage**, longtime Republican City Councilman Dave Highlands will seek the GOP nomination for this open seat. Democratic Councilwoman Olga Velazquez and Street Department Superintendent Steve Charnetzky will face off in that primary. ❖

## The Elephant's Graveyard

By **ABDUL HAKIM-SHABAZZ**

Before I write this I have to disclose this little bit of information: The new head of the Marion County Republican Party, Tom John, and I are associated with the same Indianapolis law firm and are good friends. Now with that said, the day he got the job as chairman of the Marion County GOP, I told him I didn't know whether congratulations or condolences were in order.



**The Marion County** Republican Party, once a proud, mighty machine, is now a shell of what it used to be. Dick Lugar, Stephen Goldsmith and Keith Bulen probably wouldn't recognize it today. Marion County is trending more Democratic every day. What's contributed the

most to this is that most Republicans have left the city to avoid the crime, taxes and poor schools. They now all reside in the donut counties. Where the GOP went wrong is no one took the steps to counteract this plain fact of life: when times change, you have to change with them.

Instead of adapting to the new demographics of life in the big city, the local GOP got stuck in the glory days of the past. It almost reminded me of the "Major" character from the old sitcom "SOAP". The party had factionalized into the old township crowd determined to protect an outdated form of government, the downtown, more progressive group and the far-right social conservatives who couldn't bring themselves to say the word "gay" without their tongues bursting into flames. This factionalization and infighting resulted in individuals focusing on who would control the party, rather than who would win elections. I argue this is part of the reason the GOP could not pick a candidate for mayor.

**I think it's ironic** that the last two members of the GOP standing in the last election are Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi and State Rep. Jon Elrod. Brizzi and Elrod represent the dynamic the GOP will need to emulate in order to win elections. Get quality candidates who can either raise a lot of money and work hard or just be willing to work hard. I maintain city politics are more about delivery of services and efficiency than party label. If you can deliver services, keep the criminals locked up and the streets clean, you can win.

That's what the new goal of the Marion County Republicans should be. Rebuild the party with a simple message, "Not only is winning everything, it's the only thing that matters." If you can't win, there's no point in doing anything else. This is why I titled this column the Elephant's Graveyard. My good friend Tom John has now been given a shovel. He can either start digging a grave for the party or he can take it and start smacking some people in the head in order to get their attention and remind them that winning is the only thing that matters, so it's time to start acting like it. ❖



## THE BOAR'S NEST

### *Krieg, Hayhurst pass on '08*

By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

Our sources are telling us that Gibson County Prosecutor **Rob Krieg** will not seek to challenge U.S. Rep. **Brad Ellsworth** in 2008. The possible challenger getting the most attention now is Putnam County Sheriff **Mark Frisbee**. Other names include **Greg Goode**, Indiana State University's government affairs lobbyist, who will look into the race after the session. Goode worked for former congressmen **Ed Pease** and **Brian Kerns** and is a good friend of former congressman **John Myers**. Another name is **Andy Horning**, who now lives in Owen County. Horning is talking about running as a Republican. Meanwhile, Fort Wayne Councilman **Tom Hayhurst** is not planning a rematch in 2008 against U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, Indiana Democratic Chairman **Dan Parker** told HPR this week.

### **McGoff raising money**

Republican sources tell HPR that without hosting a single organized fundraiser, almost \$40,000 has been raised by Dr. **John McGoff** in his challenge to U.S. Rep. **Dan Burton**.

### **A Grand ol' time at camp**

Barnes & Thornburg Managing Partner **Bob Grand**, known for raising big political bucks, is Tournament Chair once again for an exclusive golf fund-raiser benefiting kids diagnosed with cancer. **Little Red Door** says that over the past 10 years, Grand has helped more than 1,000 kids attend summer camp for free and estimates that he has raised more than \$500,000 while educating the business and political community about cancer. "In short, without Bob, it's likely the summer camp would not be funded. Thanks to his personal commitment, no child who wants to attend Camp Little Red Door is turned away because of money," said **John Aleshire**, LRD's executive director. Save the date: August 7th at the Brickyard Crossing Golf Resort and contact **Nancy Griffith** for sponsor info and to

register early for this sell-out event, [ngriffith@littlereddoor.org](mailto:ngriffith@littlereddoor.org) or (317) 925-5595.

### **On the Banks of the Wabash (LLC)**

**Jim Banks**, a former aide to ex-U.S. Rep. **John Hostettler**, is moving back to Indiana from Colorado and with his wife, **Amanda**, has established The Wabash Group LLC in Columbia City. Banks will concentrate on political consulting for family issues. He was active in working on the same sex marriage issues in Colorado. His wife, who will lobby in Washington, has worked with **James Dobson's** Focus on Family organization.



**BANKS**

### **Goodbye Chief Illiniwek**

The University of Illinois' 80-year mascot, a white guy dressed up as **Chief Illiniwek**, is no longer politically correct and has been retired. It came about as an edict from **Myles Brand** that described Indian mascots as insensitive to native Americans from the NCAA, headquartered in ... Indianapolis, Indiana.

### **A Giuliani surge**

The latest TIME Poll shows former New York City Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** leading U.S. Sen. **John McCain** 38-24 percent. McCain officially announced his candidacy on **David Letterman's** "Late Night Show" Wednesday. For the Democrat's U.S. Sen. **Hillary Clinton's** lead over U.S. Sen. **Barack Obama** has eroded to 36-24 percent.

### **Giuliani coming to Indianapolis**

It will be major fund-raising week for Marion County Prosecutor **Carl Brizzi**. On Monday evening, supporters gather for his 39th birthday party fund-raiser at St. Elmo Steak House that has become an annual tradition. Brizzi is also the Indiana Finance Chair for **Rudy Giuliani's** presidential exploratory committee. On Wednesday evening, Giuliani will meet and greet more than 100 deep pocket well wishers (\$2,300 per person) at the Obsidian Conference & Catering Center, 48th Floor, Chase Tower. Obsidian owner **Tim Durham** and former Indianapolis Mayor **Stephen Goldsmith** are co-hosts of the event. ❖

Send Boar's Nest tips and photos to: [phillipsgroup@comcast.net](mailto:phillipsgroup@comcast.net).



Labor had an anti-privatization rally on Monday in the Statehouse rotunda. As you can see, it was a far cry from the 1995 rally against prevailing wage, which filled the Statehouse.





### **Steve Hammer, NUVO Newsweekly**

- I'll admit it. I've criticized Burton many times over the past 14 years, but on this one he's getting a bum rap by a leftist-controlled press. The problem isn't that Burton was wrong to skip work in order to play golf; the problem is that he came back to Washington at all. First of all, the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic is no ordinary golf tournament. Among the celebrities besides Burton playing golf were Joe Pesci, Clint Eastwood, Jerome Bettis and Ray Romano. If you had to make a choice between listening to Nancy Pelosi ramble on and on about the troop surge in Iraq or listening to Pesci talk about all the starlets he's banged, which one would you choose? If you could hang out with Julia Carson or three suntanned models with breast implants, which would you choose, buddy? So go ahead and skip the rest of the year, congressman. You won't be missing much, just stuff that's hard to understand and that hardly anybody cares about anyway. And, if we're lucky, after the next election, you'll have all the time in the world to play golf. ❖



the 2006 race he took in \$528,000 – a third less than the average amount he raised in elections over the previous decade. Burton might argue that '06 was a really tough election year for Republicans, so he made a conscious effort not to drain off donations that otherwise could be given to R's in tougher races. Fair enough. But does a magnanimous interpretation ring true? Even more telling than Burton's overall fundraising slippage is that donations from political action committees were down by just 20 percent, but his contributions from individuals were off by 37 percent. Even when they hold their noses when writing the check, PACs will always give money to politicians who might be able to help them. People, on the other hand, give money for less pragmatic reasons: They like the candidate as a person and/or they share the candidate's ideology. For the 2006 election, Burton raised \$271,000 from people, a hunk less than the \$429,000 average of the previous five elections. Especially important is that during those five elections, he raised an average of \$65,300 from Hoosiers each election. Last year, that dropped to \$41,700. One interpretation of that shift

is that Hoosier Republicans are less enthusiastic about Burton than they have been in the past. That matters greatly in a GOP primary. ❖

### **Sylvia Smith, Fort**

**Wayne Journal Gazette** - U.S. Rep. Dan Burton's California golf outing last month was the kind of political gift no money can buy. Whether the potential recipient can turn that unintended present into Election Day success remains to be seen. John McGoff is the Indianapolis emergency room doctor who's banking on Burton's latest escapade – blowing off 19 votes in the House to play in a golf tournament in Palm Springs – being the final foible that ushers the longtime incumbent into retirement. McGoff announced last week, 15 months before the May 2008 balloting, that he'll challenge Burton in the GOP primary. On the surface, that's a formidable task. Burton has \$724,000 in his campaign account and has never gotten less than 79 percent of the primary vote since he took office 24 years ago. His November election statistics are equally potent. But solid as those numbers look, they may be squishy. Burton's fundraising trends are down, not up; he's never been tested in a primary or general election, so we don't know whether he is truly popular or just unopposed; and his electioneering skills may be 20th century and not up to a strong, tech-savvy competitor. Burton's cash on hand is a nice cushion, to be sure. However, his ability to raise money in the last election dropped dramatically. For



### **Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal**

- Last week featured the legislative session's first major partisan blowup when Democrats, who control the House, waived the chamber's rules and stuck a \$2 million appropriation into the budget to win the vote they needed to pass the bill. Minority Republicans threw a fit. They complained about the Democrats' methods -- suspending a rule that requires a two-thirds majority vote to amend a bill on so-called third reading, when it's

past the normal amendment stage and eligible for passage. GOP leaders said they couldn't remember that rule ever having been waived and said it was unjust and stripped the minority of its chance to participate in the process. But the House rules -- adopted unanimously by members from both parties -- allow it to happen. That's not really a surprise. The House waives lots of rules, and that wasn't really the issue. It was something to argue about. Instead, the meat of the debate was about that \$2 million amendment -- an appropriation made for one school district in Northern Indiana to appease one Democratic lawmaker whose vote was necessary to pass the bill. ❖



## House passes Pierce vote by mail reforms

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana House has passed legislation authored by State Rep. Matt Pierce (D-Bloomington) that would bring polling places right into Hoosier homes. HB1808 would move

Indiana to a vote-by-mail system for the 2012 election. All voters would be given the option of casting an absentee ballot by mail beginning with the 2008 election. "There are so many advantages to a vote-by-mail system, and it can eliminate the Election Day errors that have caused voter's ballots to be tossed out even when the voter has done everything right." Pierce said. "Casting ballots from home allows voters the time to research candidates when they discover people on the ballot that they know little or nothing about."



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## Legislative mid-point arrives; Daniels struggles

INDIANAPOLIS - Full-day kindergarten is chugging ahead, and allowing slot machines at the state's two horse tracks has better odds than ever of passing (Smith, Associated Press). But Gov. Mitch Daniels is struggling to win approval of some of his initiatives, and partisan tensions are running high over how the Democrat-controlled House passed its version of a two-year budget bill that now heads to the Republican-run Senate. At the midpoint of the legislative session, the only thing that's certain is that there is a lot of ground to cover before the April 29 adjournment. "We're just getting started," said Senate Appropriations Chairman Robert Meeks. Each house has sent its bills to the other chamber for consideration. But Meeks said lawmakers have eons in "legislative time"

to reach compromises. One proposal that seems to have good prospects is a bill to authorize slots at pari-mutuel horse tracks. The House has approved the measure, and its chances in the Senate seem better than ever. But a cigarette-tax increase to fund health initiatives and a plan to reduce reliance on property taxes -- two of Daniels' biggest wish-list items -- have stalled. Both failed to pass the House. Two of the governor's other priorities -- privatizing the Hoosier Lottery and allowing private ventures to build two tollway bypasses -- passed the Senate. But the tollway plan is sure to face a rough road in the House, and House Speaker Patrick Bauer all but declared the lottery plan dead.

## McRobbie expected to be named IU president

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana University trustees were expected to name the university's top academic officer as its new president today, according to media reports. Sources close to the search told **WISH-TV** that Michael McRobbie, IU's interim provost since January 2006, would be named President Adam Herbert's successor.

## More East Chicago vote fraud convictions coming

CROWN POINT - Two pleaded guilty and two were sentenced Wednesday in connection with the ongoing East Chicago vote fraud investigation, the Lake County prosecutor's office reported (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). So far, 13 people have been sentenced, and trial dates have been set for 20 defendants. A jury acquitted Robert "Bosko" Grkinich last year of 20 counts related to alleged vote fraud. On Wednesday, Lake Criminal Court Judge Thomas P. Stefaniak sentenced Michael Harretos, 63, of Schererville, to one year on probation, 40 hours of community service and a \$500 fine for voting in a precinct in which the defendant did not reside. Judge

Clarence Murray sentenced Ezequiel Godinez, 53, of Merrillville, to one year on probation and 100 hours of community service for the same offense. Jose Arroyo, 39, of Hammond, and Mabel Komendat, 44, of Highland, both pleaded guilty to voting in other precincts. Each face maximum prison terms of three years and are scheduled to be sentenced March 28 by Murray. Arthur Vera, 65, and Armando Vera, 51, both of Hammond, are scheduled to be sentenced March 14 by Stefaniak.

## Brizzi to sell stake in restaurant

INDIANAPOLIS - Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi said Wednesday that he would sell back his 10 percent stake in a new restaurant and bar to avoid delaying its liquor license (**Indianapolis Star**). But if a pending legal opinion clears his investment in Harry & Izzy's -- a spinoff of St. Elmo Steak House -- he might buy back in, Brizzi said. Brizzi's involvement has raised questions because Indiana law says liquor licenses can't be issued to law enforcement officers, who include prosecutors.

## Elkhart mayor gives final state of city speech

ELKHART - Mayor Dave Miller delivered his final State of the City address Wednesday, reflecting on his administration's accomplishments during the past seven years and laying out several new goals for his final months in office (**Elkhart Truth**). "All you have to do is look around," Miller said during the 30-minute speech, which he gave during the Elkhart Lions Club's luncheon meeting. "No one can deny the city is not the same place it was just seven years ago -- or, it seems like last century."