



## Market to massacre in flak jackets

*Pence & McCain photo op*

*In the crowded market place  
I drift from face to face  
I hold my breath and close my eyes  
and I wait for paradise ....*

- **Bruce Springsteen**, "Paradise" from "The Rising"

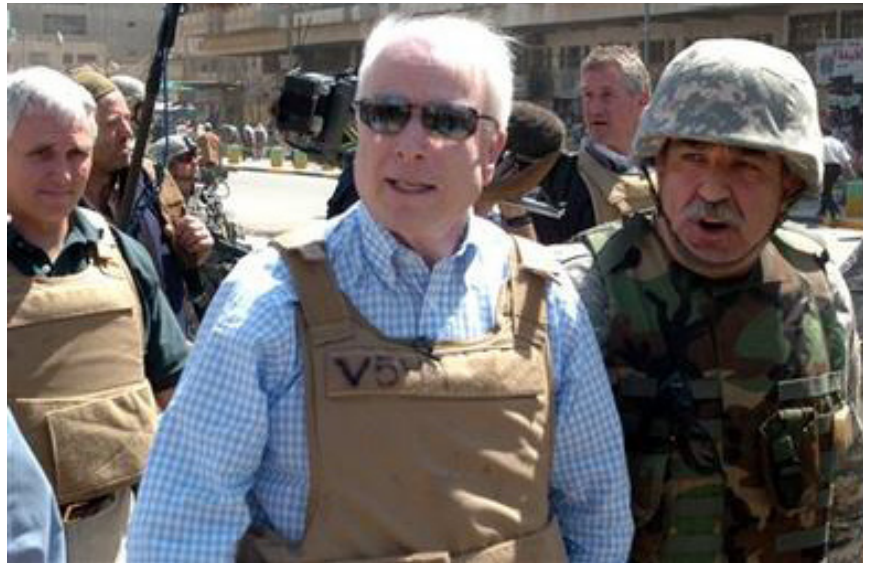
**By BRIAN A. HOWEY**

MARION - On Easter Morning, as our family headed to in-laws for a holiday dinner, we merged onto I-69. Peering out the windshield, we saw a half dozen American flags of the motorcycle Patriot Guard on the overpass above, fluttering at a furious interstate speed. In the rear view mirror once we merged onto I-69, we could see a parade of about eight police cars, emergency lights flashing.

Staff Sgt. Bradley King was coming home to a peaceful Indiana.

King, 28, was killed by an improvised explosive device, possibly assembled in Iran, while conducting combat operations at Al Amiriyah in Iraq on April 2, a day after U.S. Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence conducted what will be one of the most contro-

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U.S. Rep. Mike Pence (above, left) with U.S. Sen. John McCain at the Shorja Market in Baghdad, with heavy U.S. security and wearing flak jackets. A day after their visit 21 Shorja market vendors were massacred and Sgt. Bradley King (left) was killed at Al Amiriyah. He was buried today at LaFontaine in Wabash County with Gov. Mitch Daniels and hundreds of Patriot Guards attending.

## Jobs perspective MIA

**By CAMERON CARTER**

INDIANAPOLIS - The most recent jobs report by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics generated considerable interest by stating that Indiana lost 7,400 non-farm jobs in February. Fortunately for all Hoosiers, that single-month statistic does not accurately reflect what is taking place in Indiana's economy.



One must critically examine any such statistic in the context of long-term economic trends and other available information. The Bureau of Labor Statistics



Kurt Vonnegut  
1922 - 2007

“True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.”

- **Kurt Vonnegut Jr.**, who died Wednesday in New York City



issues two important measures each month, which, taken together, help describe a state's economic well-being.

The first of these is a household survey that measures state employment levels. The most recent data indicate that, despite the February dip, 32,000 more Indiana residents are employed than this time last year. Take a slightly longer look back, to January 2005, and Indiana employment is up by more than 102,000 jobs.

**Second, a state's** unemployment rate is another key indicator. In February 2007, Indiana's rate was 4.7 percent, down from 5.1 percent the month before and down from 5.6 percent in January 2005. Indiana's February unemployment rate was lower than all four of its neighboring states and close to the national average of 4.5 percent. Again, this shows a positive trend for Indiana.

Finally, recall February's dip in temperature and spike in snowfall. Forces of nature do impact a state's economy (just ask Louisiana) and the data indicate that the blizzard and bitter cold that paralyzed our state in February did, in fact, wreak havoc on our labor force. The construction sector alone lost 5,300 jobs in February, jobs already reappearing as the new construction season gears up. (Indiana economist Morton Marcus has speculated that the formula normally used to account for seasonal fluctuations did not take into account the number of Hoosiers who would have worked but for the weather conditions. Marcus believes that Indiana might have actually gained 9,000 jobs from January.)

**Beyond these** monthly data, Indiana has had two record years of creating jobs either by attracting new companies or expanding existing ones. As a result of deals concluded in 2005 and 2006, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation projects 37,000 new jobs in Lafayette (Toyota production of the Camry at the Subaru facility), Greensburg (Honda), Columbus (Cummins), Indianapolis (Rolls-Royce, WellPoint) and throughout the state.

These projects are under way,

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but the total number of jobs and additional economic activity are not yet reflected in the federal data. And let's not overlook the promising life sciences sector, with an Indianapolis Private Industry Council study projecting 40,000 new jobs statewide by 2012.

**Yes, some traditional** manufacturers have been hard hit in recent years and we will continue to struggle in a globally competitive world. But a deeper examination of the record and data suggests that it is hard to argue with the creation of new jobs and reduced unemployment that we are seeing in the state.

There is optimism for the future as long as the state continues its forward-looking economic development efforts and if policy-makers emphasize education, innovation and diversification of the Indiana economy.

❖  
**Cameron Carter, VP, Small Business & Economic Development, Indiana Chamber of Commerce**

## It ain't necessarily so on Indiana job stats

**By MORTON J. MARCUS**

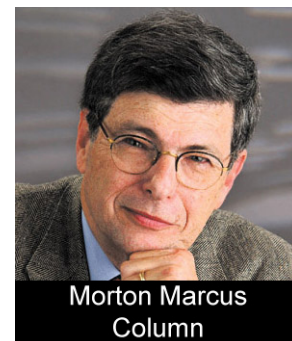
INDIANAPOLIS - The title of this column is the same as that famous song from Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess." Only those lyrics did not include anything about job number

reported by the media.

For example, a few weeks ago we read and heard that Indiana was among the leading states in jobs lost. Many experts were interviewed and, unanimously, they bemoaned our state's dismal economic performance.

**Although 39 states** saw increased numbers of jobs in February, Indiana was among the 11 that lost jobs. Indiana ranked second in the nation in jobs lost at 7,400, behind only Ohio, which had 9,700 lost jobs. In percentage terms, Indiana had the greatest job loss in the nation at -0.25%.

Sounds bad and it is bad. But over what period of time were these jobs lost? Is that period a month, six months, a year, two years, five years, a decade? It turns out that the period was a single month:



Morton Marcus  
Column

January to February 2007, although many reports failed to say anything about the time period involved.

If we had been looking at a whole year (February 2006 to the same month in 2007), Indiana's lost jobs would have been 12,700 (ranking



third worst in the nation).

You might ask if these data were adjusted for the normal variations brought on by weather and other seasonal factors. In Indiana, February tends to be slightly warmer than January. But as you and I remember well, this year February was far colder with much more snow than usual. This made life miserable for most of us who had to contend with the severe winds and the mounds of snow. It also makes life most difficult for those who live with the resulting statistics, including our political leadership.

**Since February 2007** was colder with more snow, then the ordinary seasonal factors were inaccurate. They were based on long-term averages and were not adjusted for the unusual weather. The resulting officially announced Hoosier job numbers for February were too low.

That's right; Indiana's job loss in February 2007 was not as bad as reported in virtually every newspaper and on most TV news reports.

Let's look at the numbers in detail. The February 2007 job figure for Indiana before any seasonal adjustment was 2,931,400. That was up by 7,900 from January's unadjusted figure. Because both January and February are

normally months with below average employment, each is adjusted upward (by dividing the non-seasonally adjusted numbers by number less than one).

**The result is that our 7,900** job gain over January became a seasonally adjusted 7,400 job loss. But with this February unusually cold and snowy, the seasonal adjustment factor should have been lower than the 0.9894 used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). If they had put the factor back to last year's 0.9840, we would have been able to boast of a job gain in February of 9,000 instead of a loss of 7,400.

You can imagine how difficult it would be for BLS to include actual weather factors in its seasonal adjustment factors. But would it have been difficult for "the experts" quoted by the press to have noted that maybe all the fuss was because this February was unusually wintry? Is that too much to ask? ❖

**Mr. Marcus is an economist, writer, and speaker formerly with Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.**

versial photo-ops of the Iraq War. Sgt. King was killed the same day 21 Shorja market vendors were massacred by insurgents, found bound and tortured, according to the **Times of London**, their catastrophic price for a photo op in a land of misery and tragedy, exportable to the USA.

It was at Shorja the day before the massacre that Rep. Pence uttered a statement that he has clarified but will haunt him for years to come. He compared the Shorja Market to "a normal outdoor market in Indiana in the summertime."

In a **USA Today** op-ed, Pence clarified his remarks on the Baghdad market and expressed optimism that the new strategy in Iraq is showing progress. "We were briefed on the progress of the surge of U.S. and Iraqi forces into Baghdad," Pence said. "For the first time, U.S. and Iraqi forces have set up dozens of joint security stations throughout this city. They live at these stations and patrol together for weeks at a time. While the fight is far from over, violence is down in large parts of Baghdad. We saw the progress for ourselves. We milled around for more than an hour. I told reporters afterward that it was just like any open-air market in Indiana in the summertime. I didn't mean that Baghdad was as safe as the Bargersville Flea Market; I just meant, that was what it looked and felt like: lots of people, lots of booths and a



**U.S. Rep. Pence with Gen. David Petraeus in Baghdad on April 1. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Pence)**

friendly relaxed atmosphere."

A second Hoosier lawmaker, U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth, spent last weekend in Iraq but has been more circumspect. His spokeswoman, Liz Farrar, said Ellsworth was taking time to collect his thoughts and would talk on Monday.

McCain, once considered a GOP presidential frontrunner, responded to the criticism of the Shorja comments by saying on CBS **Sixty Minutes** Sunday, "Of course I am going to misspeak, and I've done it on numerous occasions, and I probably will do it in the future," But McCain added, "I believe we can succeed." He urges viewers to "support this new strategy, let's support this new general and let's give it everything we can to have it succeed."

The Times of London reported that while pockets of Baghdad have seen reduced violence, 600 Iraqis have been killed in the past week despite the U.S.-Iraqi security plan to quell violence in the capital. Most of the killings have been the result of truck bombs outside Baghdad. But Baghdad is hardly sedate, as the Green Zone suicide bombing of the Iraq Parliament that killed at least two lawmakers -- one Shia, one Sunni -- this morning attests.

The Baghdad photo op has done little to help McCain. He fell from 22 to 16 percent in the latest Rasmussen Poll (trailing Rudolph Giuliani 27-16 percent) and in USA



Today/Gallup 38-16 percent.

Pence, too, found himself on the receiving end of barbs ranging from **Slate**, which recounted three years of statements that we were "winning" and had found two shells worth of WMD, to Frank Rich of the **New York Times**, who wrote about the "April Fool's Day" market stroll in flak jackets with 100 American soldiers and Apache choppers overhead and called Pence part of McCain's "crackerjack cast of supporting buffoons."

E.J. Dionne of the **Washington Post** wrote, "This incident has the staying power of the Howard Dean scream. Should it speed America's disengagement from Iraq, what looks today like John McCain's farcical act of political suicide may some day loom large as a patriot's final act of sacrifice for his country."



The wife of Pence's underfunded challenger Barry Welsh, Sherri, blogged that her husband would run again in '08 and called the congressman "Baghdad Pence" in the spirit of Muhammed Saeed al-Shahaf (aka, "Baghdad Bob") from the happier invasion days three weeks shy of President Bush's "mission accomplished." Pence's political fortunes are not much in doubt as he represents an overwhelmingly GOP district and remains popular there.

By mid-week, U.S. Rep. Mark Souder told the **Warsaw Times-Union**, "I don't favor the surge. How do you hold the course? It's a civil war. It was always about ethnic, religious groups, 20 million people intent on killing each other. Do you send 1 million or 1.5 million soldiers to contain that?"

Souder said the Iraqis will have their own military force in place within six to 12 months. He said he is in favor of partitioning and a gradual pullout. The question is how much, where and when. Bush's attitude is to "take no prisoners" with the surge, Souder said. "We were right to go in, to have a presence, to go after the terrorists in our national interests. But we'll never establish a democracy there."

Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland was expressing fear on the impact of the surge on his men as the nation learned that 3,500 Hoosier National Guard would be sent to Iraq soon, joining brigades from Ohio, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

And columnist Frank Rich noted the friendly fire death of 18-year-old Army Pvc. Matthew Zeimer, "just two hours after assuming his first combat post. He had been among those who had been shipped to war with a vastly stripped-down training regimen, 10 days instead of four weeks, forced by the relentless need for new troops in Iraq."

The latest Hoosier to die, Army Pfc. David Neil Sim-

mons, 20, was first deployed on April 1, the same day of the Pence-McCain Shorja market visit.

### *The Member security bubble*

Rep. Pence discussed a trip to Iraq with HPR last Christmas, saying he intended to journey there "three or four months into the surge." He asked if I would like to go. I questioned the security, knowing that the major news organizations take extensive precautions. An independent journalist would be wholly enveloped within the American military. There could be little independent reporting.

"Members travel in a pretty extensive bubble," Pence prophetically said. In a conversation with U.S. Rep. Mark Souder several weeks later, I asked the same type of questions. What value is there to go and be so dependent on the military for what you see and hear? Former Sen. Birch Bayh spent three weeks in Vietnam in 1967 visiting with hundreds of officers and brass and traveling at "tree top level" before he concluded that the war was hopeless.

"You would gain some credibility," Souder advised. "You could say, 'I saw it,' because it will be different in two years. You will be in the Member bubble. By '08, we'll be out anyway." And after that, Baghdad and Iraq would be consumed in genocide and sectarian violence.

Pence didn't follow up with an invite; Steve Kroft from CBS **Sixty Minutes** went instead.

### *McCain at VMI*

On Wednesday at the Virginia Military Institute, McCain talked of the surge and insisted, "It is the right road. It is necessary and just. Democrats, who deny our soldiers the means to prevent an American defeat, have chosen another road. It may appear to be the easier course of action but it is a much more reckless one."

Conservative **New York Times** columnist David Brooks writing this morning in a column entitled "The Fatalist," said of McCain, "He gave a speech at the Virginia Military Institute yesterday that was an extended argument for giving the surge a chance. The problem with his approach is he doesn't grapple with the psychology and culture of the Iraqis, upon which all else depends. His focus is largely military. But no one can doubt the substance and seriousness of his views. He's been consistent and steady these past few years, while others have flickered. He's been offended by Democrats who laughed and celebrated during the passage of withdrawal legislation. Yesterday he criticized them in a way that was harsh but thoroughly considered."

"But, in the long run, his embrace of Iraq may not hurt him as much as now appears. In 10 months, this election won't be about the surge, it will be about the hydra-headed crisis roiling the Middle East. The candidate who is the most substantive, most mature and most consistent will begin to look more attractive and more necessary." ❖



## Bayh and Clinton push brain injury continuum for GIs; Meeks cuts Indiana funding

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sens. Evan Bayh and Hillary Clinton appealed for a new continuum of care for the signature injury of the Iraq War, traumatic brain injuries, that have impacted more than 1,800 soldiers.

"It is morally unacceptable that they have to fight for care at home," Sen. Bayh said in a conference call Wednesday morning with Sen. Clinton and reporters. "Our health care system has, unfortunately, been slow to react. Thousands more may suffer."

The appeal by the senators came as Indiana State Sen. Robert Meeks removed Section 65 from Indiana's biennial budget earlier this month that would have created and funded the Indiana Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research Fund and a statewide registry. It would have been paid for with fines from some traffic violations. Traffic accidents are the leading domestic cause of brain and spinal injuries.

During a period ending in 2003, of 194 research project grants awarded nationally, Indiana received only one for brain and spinal cord injury research. Indiana didn't receive any National Institutes of Health grants for training and career development during a similar time frame.

"I would be shocked if someone objected to providing the kind of care to some of these soldiers due to financial considerations. There are areas where it is appropriate to pinch pennies," Sen. Bayh said. "This is not one of them. Now that we recognize the problem, let's make it a priority. We'll find the money to solve it."

Sen. Clinton called it a "crisis of care" and said that recently the Department of Defense began refusing to send medical data on injured soldiers to the Veterans Administration. She also cited a lack of funding by the Bush administration for the VA.

"We don't have a seamless transition from the battlefield all the way through the system," Sen. Clinton said.

Last month, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, who was appointed by President Bush to assess medical care for wounded



Sen. Meeks

here."

Bayh acknowledged that at the beginning of the War on Terror, the "signature injury" of these wars was "difficult to predict." That's because the American military had never been confronted by improvised explosive devices, the kind of weapon that killed Pfc. David N. Simmons, 20, of Kokomo, in Baghdad and Staff Sgt. Bradley D. King of Wabash County in Al Amiriyah on April 2. Sgt. King was a member of ABATE.

Iraq and Afghan war soldiers following the Walter Reed scandal, said on ABC's This Week, "If the VA is not equipped and Department of Defense hospitals are not equipped to deal with these very complex brain injuries, then they ought to go to some private hospital where they are equipped and where they've been doing it for 30, 40, 50 years."

Bayh said that most Americans "assume that we provide the very best care for our soldiers. I think they would be surprised to know that's not the case



**U.S. Sens. Hillary Clinton and Evan Bayh after they returned from Afghanistan and Iraq last winter. The two urged support for legislation that would address traumatic brain injury, the "signature injury" of the Iraq War. (HPR Photo by Mark Curry)**

"But we're five years into the Afghan conflict and we're four years into the Iraq conflict and we know enough now to make sure that the care is seamless. I think they will be surprised and I think they will insist we act immediately."

He agreed with Dole that as these wars continue, more cases could end up outside the Department of Defense and VA. "Those on active duty have access to private care," Bayh explained. "Those in the VA system clearly don't for traumatic brain injury. They do for some other kinds of care."

Asked if private Indiana hospitals could be needed to provide future care, Bayh said, "That could happen if the conflict continues. It's a concern

and it's one we've got to anticipate and try and plan for."

The Bayh-Clinton legislation would extend active duty for TBI victims for an additional year. They would be assigned a patient advocate. And it would require a report from the General Accounting Office on the progress the VA makes on treating TBI.

Sen. Clinton said she spent Tuesday visiting soldiers at a Syracuse VA Hospital and with the Mountain Division based at Fort Drum. "I hear again and again that we are not addressing the unique challenges of traumatic brain injury." Sen. Clinton quoted a soldier suffering from TBI who asked, "Where do I go to get my brain back?" ❖



## Romney's 'Varmint\$'

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Mitt Romney came to Indiana last week to add to his impressive \$23 million war chest, best among Republican presidential candidates. But his visit generated more press about "varmint."

Romney said Thursday he's hunted more than twice in his life, though he wasn't bragging much about bagging "varmint." His remarks came after he said in New Hampshire that he had been a hunter "pretty much all my life" before his campaign admitted he had only gone twice.

"I'm not a big-game hunter," Romney said at the Columbia Club. "I've made that very clear. I've always been a rodent and rabbit hunter. Small varmints, if you will. I began when I was 15 or so, and I have hunted those kinds of varmints since then. More than two times."

On NBC's **Meet the Press** last Sunday, panelist Kate O'Beirn noted, "He had a really good week with having been top in the field with respect to fund-raising, and he's seeing welcome poll results

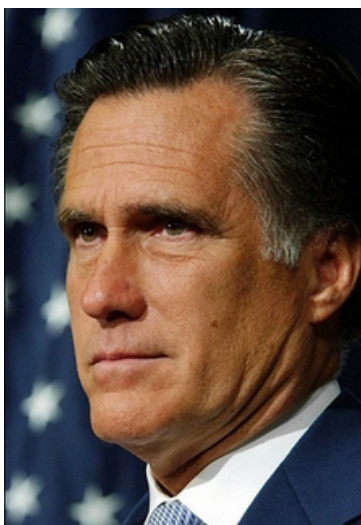
in those early states. So naturally he was going to, unfortunately, do something that changes the topic by the end of the week. I think he's now explained that he doesn't pretend to have been a Teddy Roosevelt. He says, 'I'm -- I was more like a Jed Clampett.'"

NBC White House correspondent David Gregory explained the Romney campaign looked inside the New

Hampshire numbers (a Zogby Poll on April 2-3 had him tied with John McCain at 25 percent and Rudy Giuliani at 19 percent) "and found that conservatives were really starting to break his way."

**The danger Romney** faces is that if he comes off as "constantly evolving and trying to become a conservative, if that starts to take hold, that's what he has to worry about, and he's already got some of these issues on affirmative action and abortion," Gregory said.

Romney returns to Indiana and a chance to talk about bigger animals on Friday, April 20, for the state GOP's spring dinner at The Fountains in Carmel. That's quite a coup for his Hoosier backers to stake this keynote address at this point in the presidential race. ❖



MITT ROMNEY

## 2008 Presidential Polls

Republican	Date	Giuliani	McCain	Thompson	Romney	Comp. Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	27%	13%	9%	9%	Giuliani +14%
USA Today/Gallup	04/02 - 03/05	38%	16%	10%	6%	Giuliani +9%
<b>Rasmussen</b>	<b>04/02 - 04/05</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>Giuliani +20%</b>
Time	03/23 - 03/26	35%	22%	--%	11%	Giuliani +13%
CNN	03/09 - 03/11	34%	18%	--%	9%	Giuliani +16%
Cook/RT	03/29- 04-01	34%	17%	10%	6%	Giuliani +17%
Fox News	03/27 - 03-28	36%	20%	9%	6%	Giuliani +16%
Pew Research	03/21 - 03/25	33%	23%	--%	8%	Giuliani +10
Democrat	Date	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Gore	Comp. Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	32%	22%	13%		Clinton +10%
<b>USA Today/Gallup</b>	<b>04/23 - 04/05</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>Clinton +19%</b>
<b>Rasmussen</b>	<b>04/02 - 04/05</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>15%</b>	--	<b>Clinton +5%</b>
Time	03/09 - 03/12	34%	26%	10%	13%	Clinton +8%
CNN	03/09 - 03/11	37%	22%	12%	14%	Clinton +15%
Cook/RT	03/29 - 04/01	41%	17%	19%	--	Clinton +24%
Pew Research	03/21 - 03/25	35%	26%	16%	12%	Clinton +9%
Fox News	03/27 - 03/28	36%	18%	13%	14%	Clinton +18%

**Hoosier Support: Giuliani:** Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi, Stephen Goldsmith, Tim Durham, Beurt SerVass, Steve Hilbert. **McCain:** Gov. Mitch Daniels. **Romney:** Attorney General Steve Carter; Secretary of State Todd Rokita, James Bopp, Dan Dumezich, Bob Grand, Chris Chocola. **Edwards:** Robin Winston, 9th CD Chair Mike Jones, Ann and Ed DeLaney, Bruce Kehoe, James Voyles. **Hoosier Notes:** Black Beauty Coal CEO Steve Chancellor is undecided. Clinton and Obama have no prominent public state supporters to date, though the biggest one - Sen. Bayh - would bring a windfall of support. ❖



## 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 Forecast:** Gov. Daniels told a crowd of 120 people in Greenfield Monday that it is a "definite probably" that he will seek re-election in 2008 (Brian A. Howey, HPR). Daniels appeared at a Greenfield Chamber of Commerce luncheon and for the first part of his 90-minute "town hall" presentation, acted like a candidate, recounting the successes of his administration that included balanced budgets, Major Moves, paying money owed to cities, schools and universities, positioning Indiana as a "top five" state in alternative energy sources, and education funding increases. Journalist Dave Hill from the Greenfield Daily Reporter noted that he was "talking about an agenda" and asked him if he would seek a second term. "I believe and try to practice straight answers," Daniels responded. "I will give you a straight answer after the General Assembly." The General Assembly is scheduled to conclude its biennial budget session by April 29. "I told myself not to make any final decisions or announcements until after we're done with what I'm really here to do which is to try to get some things done for this state," Daniels said. "I've said probably and that's the best I can tell you right now. I can tell you that if we had run into roadblocks ... obstacles to keeping our campaign commitments and making change in this state, then I'd turn it over to someone else with a glad heart. We haven't gotten nearly everything done that I'd like to. But we have found, to my gratification, that we can act in this state. We can move; we can do big things. I draw a lot of encouragement from that. There are so many big things left to do." Hill followed up, asking if that was a "definite probably?" Daniels



Jill Long Thompson conducted her first Statehouse presser of the cycle and said she would review all of Gov. Daniels' privatization plans. (HPR Photo by David Galvin)

responded, "A definite probably" as the friendly crowd roared.

**Jim Schellinger** was in South Bend for Dyngus/Solidarity Day on Monday, and then jetted to Philadelphia and Washington. "We are making all the right decisions in a deliberate way," Schellinger told HPR this morning. He is working with an advisory committee "in a war room environment" to establish policy positions. "I am educating myself," Schellinger said. "We are listening to people's needs.

I will not compromise myself for political correctness." Schellinger said that after a process of "exploring, educating and reviewing," he will begin to articulate his policy stances in "a short period of time" measured in weeks, he said.

**Jill Long Thompson** last week said one of her first acts as governor would be to launch a thorough review and examination of all Indiana state government outsourcing and privatization agreements. She said the review is necessary to both insure Hoosier taxpayers are getting their money's worth and to make sure that Hoosier lives, safety, and health are not being compromised. "As governor, I would never compromise the safety, security, and well-being of our citizens simply to provide profit to consultants and political contributors," said Thompson. "Government may not have all the answers, but, when it comes to protecting people's lives, health, and safety, government can serve an impartial, effective, and sometimes indispensable role. Unfortunately, Governor Daniels has brought to Indiana the same style of decision-making that led to bad policy when he was Director of the Office of Management and Budget."

**Sen. Young** attended the West Side Democratic Club Dyngus Day celebration but was not recognized by 2nd CD Chairman Butch Morgan. That star treatment was reserved for **Schellinger**.

Young participated in eight talk radio shows this past week. He discussed policy on "green collar jobs" and Indiana mortgage foreclosures.

**Washington Post** blogger Chris Cillizza rates Daniels as the fourth most vulnerable incumbent. **Democratic Primary Status:** Leans Schellinger. **General Status:** LEANS DANIELS. ❖



Gov. Mitch Daniels enters the Hancock Public Library in Greenfield where he conducted a 90 minute hall hall meeting with the local Chamber (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



## 2007 Mayoral

**Fort Wayne:** Republican: Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters, Matthew Kelty, Ivan Hood, Wilbert "Duke" Brown. Democrat: Tom Henry, Fred Steinke, Tom Cook. **2003 Results:** Richard (D) 27,251, Buskirk (R) 19,701. **2007 Forecast:** Indiana Family Action PAC announced its endorsement of Matt Kelty in the Fort Wayne Republican mayoral primary, saying "Kelty has been a hands-on conservative activist in his community and prioritizes issues that the Indiana Family Action PAC cares about. A visionary, he will not accept the status quo for Indiana's second largest city. He appears poised to control spending and keep taxes down for Fort Wayne families."

**Primary Status:** LIKELY PETERS; SAFE HENRY.

**Gary:** Democrats: Mayor Rudy Clay, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Chuck Hughes, Darren Washington, John Henry Hall, Larry Anderson, Ulysses (Lish) Burnett, Larry Evans, Norman L. Roby, Pierre Strickland, Theresa Moses Sturdivant. Republican: Jayson Reeves, Charles R. Smith Jr. **2003 Results:** King (D) 10,028, Smith (R) 1,201.

**2007 Forecast:** Mayor Rudy Clay may be coming under the greatest scrutiny in his long political career as the days count down to the May 8 mayoral primary (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). His major challengers contend that, at age 71, he is too old and -- having been a city official only one year -- is too unfamiliar in city affairs. He also has been accused of mismanaging the city, leading to reduced police and firefighting forces. On the plus side, he has the keys to the mayor's office and has used that role energetically to let voters know he is the man to beat among the 11 Democratic candidates on the ballot. "I'm the only candidate in the race with the experience of being mayor. People have had an opportunity to look us over," Clay said this week. Clay blames the prior administration for the city's money shortage. "I think they like what we have done and want us to stay on course," he said. Despite his short time in City Hall, Clay has been in public office since 1972, representing Gary as a state senator, a county councilman and county commissioner. Since taking office a year ago after the resignation of former Mayor Scott King, Clay has ordered a general clean up of garbage around the city and has announced \$56 million plans to revitalize the downtown. While Clay faces 10 challengers, only three have previously won the voters' approval. Hughes is accusing two of his opponents of tearing down his campaign signs (**Post-Tribune**). "They've violated the very privacy and property



CLAY

rights of some of these citizens," Hughes said. Hughes made his accusations outside the home of Ardell Hanley. Hanley, a senior citizen who said she has lived in her home on 15th Avenue for more than 45 years, put a jumbo-sized sign for Hughes in her lawn. When she came outside one day last week, she said, one side of it had been ripped off. "I thought it was the wind," Hanley said, "until I found out it was happening all over the city of Gary." **Status:** LIKELY CLAY

**Jeffersonville:** Mayor Rob Waiz. Tom Galligan.

**Republican: 2003 Democratic Primary:** Waiz 2,187, Galligan 1,708, Muncy 252, Ogden 166. **2003 General Results:** Waiz (D) 3,711, Raymond (R) 2,354, Fisher (L) 118. **2007 Forecast:** Waiz asked the Ethics Commission to remove Larry Wilder as its attorney (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). The board voted unanimously Tuesday night to keep Wilder. Waiz claimed that Wilder is using his position to support the campaign of Tom Galligan, who is running against Waiz for the Democratic nomination for mayor. As evidence of a conflict of interest, Waiz said that the Galligan campaign has used the postage permit number of "Friends of Peggy Wilder," Larry Wilder's wife, to mail political fliers to residents. Peggy Wilder, who was out of town and could not be reached for comment, is the city's clerk-treasurer. Waiz's request comes about two weeks after the Ethics Commission ordered the Waiz campaign to return more than \$3,000 in contributions, based on an investigation conducted by Wilder. "It is very evident that Larry Wilder is using his paid position as 'investigator' for Ethics Commission to help Tom Galligan," Waiz wrote in a statement he delivered to The Courier-Journal, along with a copy of a letter to the Ethics Commission calling for Wilder's removal as attorney. Wilder acknowledged that the Galligan campaign had used Peggy Wilder's postage permit number to mail political fliers. But Wilder also said that many Democratic candidates have done so, as have schools and Little League teams, when they needed a permit number for bulk mailing. Wilder said that anybody can use the permit number and that he agreed when Phil McCauley, a City Council member and a Galligan supporter, asked if he could do so to send out political ads for Galligan. McCauley couldn't be reached for comment. "I understood what it was for," Wilder said of the request. "In 14 years we've never said no" when any candidate asked for the number. "Rob Waiz is more than welcome" to use it, Wilder added. **Primary Status:** LEANS WAIZ.

**Kokomo:** Democrat: Councilman Greg Goodnight, Councilman Bob Hayes, Andy Castner. Republican: Mayor Matt McKillip, Councilman Rick Hamilton, Tom Hamilton. **2003 Primary Results:** Republican: McKillips 1,565, Donoghue 972, Bolinger 327, McKay 243, T. Hamilton 38. Democrat: Castner 1,360, Lushin 1,358, Alexander 969, Ellis 34. **2003 General Results:** McKillip (R) 5,229, Castner (D) 4101, Dunlap (I) 832. **2007 Forecast:** Goodnight is





Congressional races are beginning to take shape in four of Indiana's nine districts. As HPR reported in March, Goshen Republican Luke Puckett (left) is preparing to take aim at U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly. Puckett works in commercial real estate and did contracting with the U.S. Department of Treasury. He made the rounds at the Mishawaka Dyngus Day celebrations on Monday. In the 6th CD, 2006 nominee Barry Welsh (second from left) is preparing for another challenge to U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. Welsh's wife, Sherri, wrote on her blog that her husband was planning to run and referred to the incumbent as "Baghdad Pence" in reference to comments the congressman made in Iraq with U.S. Sen. John McCain on April 1. Pence compared the Shorja market to one in Indiana. Pence later said he was referring to the atmosphere. Mrs. Welsh said, "It was bad enough that in 2006 he compared the number of deaths that we have sustained during this armed conflict to a football score and went further to say that 'we were winning the game.' This time, Barry will win." In the 5th CD, Dr. John McGoff raised more than \$100,000 in his bid to challenge U.S. Rep. Dan Burton in the May 2008 GOP primary. Burton is responding, revamping his website and holding press conferences, something he rarely did in the past. The biggest challenge could come from former congressman Mike Sodrel (right), who many believe is preparing for a fourth contest with U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. Clark County Republican Chairman Glenn Murphy told HPR, "I think there is a very good chance of a fourth race. If Baron Hill keeps pumping out irresponsible socialist garbage like his recent health care amendment, I don't think Mike will be able to sit on the sidelines and not make a challenge." Deedee Benkie, 9th CD committeewoman, said, "Mike Sodrel was unfairly caught in the national storm last election cycle. This time the climate will be much better. Indiana Republicans always come out to vote big in a presidential election year and Hill has already proven that his allegiance is with (House Speaker Nancy) Pelosi, not with 9th District citizens. If there is a rematch, look for Mike to be like Rocky Balboa." Watch HPR for further developments on these and other races. (HPR and South Bend Tribune photos)

dropping his third mail piece today. The three candidates seeking the Democratic Party nomination for mayor of Kokomo attacked Mayor Matt McKillip's administration during the first of two scheduled debates. Greg Goodnight, Bob Hayes and Andy Castner answered questions from a panel of journalists during a debate Wednesday sponsored by the Kokomo Tribune and the Kokomo Perspective in the United Way Building. The Democrats didn't use the hour to attack each other's qualifications or proposals, rather they were critical of the past three years of Republican rule. "There are four important things missing in city government," Castner said during his opening statement. "Cooperation, accountability, service and less taxes." Goodnight said this year's election is important to the city and his party, adding he will do what is best for both. Goodnight vowed to work hard and bring leadership to the office for the city's future. Hayes said he entered the mayoral race to win and noted his family has been a part of the city for 140 years. "We deserve better," he said, "and we can do better in city government. I will not run government like a business, the city is a service organization to serve the residents."

**Primary Status:** LEANS MCKILLIP; LIKELY GOODNIGHT.

**New Albany:** Democrat: Mayor James Garner, Doug England. Republican: Randy Hubbard. **2003 Democratic Primary Results:** Garner 2,512, Scharlow 814, Clemons 714, Goldberg 552, Kersey 68, Tuttle 48. **2003 General Results:** Garner (D) 5,971, Overton (R) 3,893, Hughes (L) 196. **2007 Forecast:** ■ Bill Castile dropped out of the race for New Albany mayor (**News-Tribune**). The 43-year-old daughter of a New Albany mayoral candidate has come forward with allegations of child molestation, which he denies. In a letter dated March 19 to the Floyd County Election Board, Billie Briscoe claims her father, Bill Castile, sexually and physically abused her until she was 18 years old. "I do not know what he's thinking to put himself in this position," Briscoe writes in the letter. "Why and how can he run for mayor? I want to know." Castile denied his daughter's allegations during a telephone interview Tuesday afternoon. "If I felt there was anything to [those allegations], I never would have run for mayor." **Primary Status:** LEANS ENGLAND. ❖



## THE BOAR'S NEST

### *Harry & Izzy for charity*

By **BEVERLY PHILLIPS**

St. Elmo Steak House proprietor **Craig Huse** is raising money for two nonprofits as part of opening events for his new Circle Centre Mall restaurant, Harry & Izzy's, 153 S. Illinois Street. Limited reservations are still available for tonight's \$75 per person event that covers dinner and drinks. (Call Jennifer at 635-0636, ext. 104.) State Rep. **Sheila Klinker**, State Sen. **Ron Alting**, **Paul Mannweiler**, **Bill Moreau**, and Marion County Prosecutor **Carl Brizzi** are expected to attend as representatives of the nonprofits Best Buddies of Indiana and MYKID.

Best Buddies of Indiana provides programming and advocates on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities. (See the HPR interview for more information on Best Buddies and Rep. Klinker's efforts to help Indiana's disabled.) Brizzi's "Mentoring Youth, Kids Improving Directions" (MYKID) is a school-based mentoring program; many of its mentors are deputy prosecutors. The program also provides mentor training to schools, churches and community groups that want to start their own programs.

"We're very grateful to Craig for offering to host this event. We'll raise some needed funding, increase awareness of both programs, and those in attendance will be among the first to be served at this amazing new restaurant," said Brizzi. Harry & Izzy's will be open to the public beginning April 16 for dinner; lunch and dinner beginning April 17.

### **Gov zips up!**

Indianapolis Star cartoonist **Gary Varvel** had **Gov. Daniels** with zipped lips on today's editorial page, with a tag that reads: "Do Not Unlock Until After the Legislative Session Ends." This morning, his spokeswoman **Jane Jankowski** sent out this advisory: "Now that I have your attention, in honor of Gary Varvel, the governor will not have media availability on Friday. Thanks. Jane." That's why HPR decided to catch the Governor in Greenfield on Monday. See page 12 for more details!

### **Celebs for Edwards ...**

Key attendees for Democratic presidential candidate **John Edwards** at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse on March 30 included former Indiana Democratic Chairman **Robin Winston**, **Ed** and **Ann DeLaney**, House Speaker **B. Patrick Bauer**, gubernatorial candidate **Jim Schellinger**, and attorneys **Melina Kennedy**, **Bruce Kehoe** and **Jim Voyles**.



Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards (right) chats with former Indiana Democratic Chairman Robin Wintson (left) and gubernatorial candidate Jim Schellinger on March 30 in Indianapolis. (HPR Photo by David Galvin)

### **... and Romney**

Key names attending the Mitt Romney fundraiser at the Columbia Club on April 5 include Secretary of State **Todd Rokita**, **Dan Dumezich**, **Bob Grand**, **Jim Bopp**, former ArvinMeritor **James K. Baker**, and **J. Patrick Rooney**.

### **Jontz ailing**

Former Indiana congressman **Jim Jontz** is reportedly suffering from late stage cancer. E-mail your regards to Jontz's sister, **Mary Lee Turk**, an attorney at McDermott Will & Emery in Chicago at [mturk@mwe.com](mailto:mturk@mwe.com).

### **Skillman staff changes**

Lt. Gov. **Becky Skillman** announced the departure of Chief of Staff **Anne Hazlett**.

Hazlett has accepted a position as counsel for Ranking Member **Saxby Chambliss** (R-Ga.) on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. Deputy Chief of Staff **Steve Boyce** will step into the lead staff position. Policy Advisor **Chris Crabtree** has been named deputy chief of staff. ❖

**Got a tip for the Boar's Nest? Send it to: [phillips-group@comcast.net](mailto:phillips-group@comcast.net)**



## Rep. Klinker has a long history as advocate for disabled

By BEVERLY PHILLIPS

INDIANAPOLIS - State Rep. Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette) will join State Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette) and Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi (R) this evening at a Harry & Izzy charity dinner benefiting Best Buddies of Indiana and Brizzi's MYKID mentoring program. (See Boar's Nest; limited reservations are still available.) Rep. Klinker is a long time volunteer and legislative advocate for Indiana's disabled. She serves on the Ways & Means Committee (Higher Education Subcommittee Chair), Local Government (Committee Vice Chair), and Family, Children, & Human Affairs. She's received numerous awards for her legislative work, including kudos last year from the Association of Retarded Citizens as the recipient of its 2006 Public Policy Award.

**HPR:** How did you come to be involved with Best Buddies?

**Klinker:** William Moreau worked (as a pro bono attorney and lobbyist for Barnes and Thornburg) with me to appropriate \$50,000 a year for the start-up of Best Buddies for the state of Indiana, through FSSA. The Shriver Family helped to start Best Buddies through the Special Olympics. Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger have worked to start this organization, along with Anthony Kennedy Shriver, all over the United States as well as the world. Anthony has worked in New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Germany, Italy, France and England to start Best Buddies in universities, high schools and now middle schools. This project helps folks recognize and accept people with developmental disabilities as part of our society and as active participants in daily activities which include working and going to recreational functions. Its purpose is to help these folks enjoy life as people without disabilities do.

**HPR:** You author or support numerous bills each year that help people with disabilities. How does Indiana rate in the public resources it provides for people with disabilities?

**Klinker:** States have closed institutions and reallocated institutional fundings to more individualized residential alternatives in community and family settings. Once Fort Wayne State Developmental Center closes this June, Indiana will be the largest state by population that will

have no state institutions for people with developmental disabilities. This is a goal that has been led by the MRDD commission that I've chaired over the last decade.

I served on the 317 Task Force developed by Former Gov. Frank O'Bannon that delivered "A Comprehensive Plan for the Design of Services for People with Developmental Disabilities." During 2000-2003, \$157 million in new funding was allocated for DD services as a result of the 317 Plan, led by Sen. Reigsecker and myself. Due

to the 317 Plan and the advancement of many of its initiatives, Medicaid spending for home and community based waivers increased 360% from 2000-2004, while federal spending for large Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded dropped 16%. We have seen a significant increase of people with developmental disabilities living in settings of 6 people or fewer ... now 67 percent. In 2003, Indiana reached an outstanding achievement of spending more revenue on home and community

services than for institutional and large group settings. Waiver spending in 2004 placed Indiana above the projected U.S. Average per capita (of general population) and above per capita spending levels in the Midwestern comparison states.

**HPR:** You've served in the Indiana House for 25 years. What do you consider the most significant legislation you've worked on that has helped people with disabilities or their families the most?

**Klinker:** Some of my most significant legislation involves children with developmental delays. One of those most important bills includes First Steps, which works with children that have developmental delays. It provides services including physical and occupational therapy, as well as speech and hearing therapy. Also included with that legislation is the pre-school for handicapped

children that provides services for children 3-5 years old. It is important to get services to children in regular public schools. The legislation providing inclusion specifies that mainstreaming children with disabilities in regular classrooms helps both the children with disabilities and those do not have disabilities.

**HPR:**What remains to be done?

**Klinker:** We need to erase the long waiting list for Medicaid Waiver services for needy children and adults. Some folks have been waiting for services for over 6 years. In order to accomplish this task, large appropriations will need to be made in the future. ❖



State Rep. Sheila Klinker



### Gov. Daniels Sounds Off!

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

GREENFIELD - In anticipation of Gov. Mitch Daniels' zipped lips while the Indiana General Assembly is still in session, HPR journeyed to the Hancock County Public Library Monday to hear his latest thoughts on the legislature.

Gov. Daniels said he believes the legislature is close to passing a second consecutive balanced budget, his health care initiative that includes both Democrat and Republican support for a cigarette tax increase, full-day kindergarten, and State Sen. Luke Kenley's property tax reforms.

On the cigarette tax hike, Daniels said that it really isn't about revenue. "If you have one of the lowest taxes, you'll have one of the highest smoking rates," Daniels said. "I think it's going to happen," and added that he believes at least 30 House Republicans will support the measure."

**Daniels said he was** "very optimistic" that Sen. Kenley's property tax reforms will pass and said it is "very consistent with my own philosophy."

Asked a question on gaming, now that a slots bill has passed both chambers, Daniels said that he found it "dubious about the extent to which gaming exists in Indiana." He said that he doesn't even play the Hoosier

Lottery.

However, Daniels said that "compared to other states, we do not have any evidence of organized crime" in Indiana connected with the gaming industry.

**Gov. Daniels did not use** any phrases that contained the words "expansion of gambling," not did he take a position on the slots bill.

On Wednesday's passage of the budget in the Senate, Gov. Daniels said via press release: ""Hoosier

taxpayers owe the Senate a big round of applause. This budget holds spending growth to 4 percent, as I asked, and therefore balances without a tax increase while adding strongly to education funding. Thanks to the large bipartisan majority that passed it; I hope to see and sign



a final product that clearly resembles it."

On Tuesday, Daniels said via news release, of the passage of SB503 by the Indiana House of Representatives: "This is a huge step forward for a healthier Indiana and for the financial security of Hoosiers. I extend heartfelt thanks to the members of both parties who brought us to this point." "This is a huge step forward for a healthier Indiana and for the financial security of Hoosiers. I extend heartfelt thanks to the members of both parties who brought us to this point." ❖

### Are you liberal? Or conservative? By **KURT VONNEGUT, JR.**

Even crazier than golf, though, is modern American politics, where, thanks to TV and for the convenience of TV, you can only be one of two kinds of human beings, either a liberal or a conservative.

Actually, this same sort of thing happened to the people of England generations ago, and Sir William Gilbert, of the radical team of Gilbert and Sullivan, wrote these words for a song about it back then:

I often think it's comical  
How nature always does contrive  
That every boy and every gal



That's born into the world alive  
Is either a little Liberal  
Or else a little Conservative.

Which one are you in this country?  
It's practically a law of life that you have to be one or the other? If you aren't one or the other, you might as well be a doughnut.

If some of you still haven't decided, I'll make it easy for you.

If you want to take my guns away from me, and you're all for murdering fetuses, and love it when homosexuals marry each other, and want to give them kitchen appliances at their showers, and you're for the poor, you're a liberal.

If you are against those perversions and for the rich, you're a conservative. What could be simpler? ❖

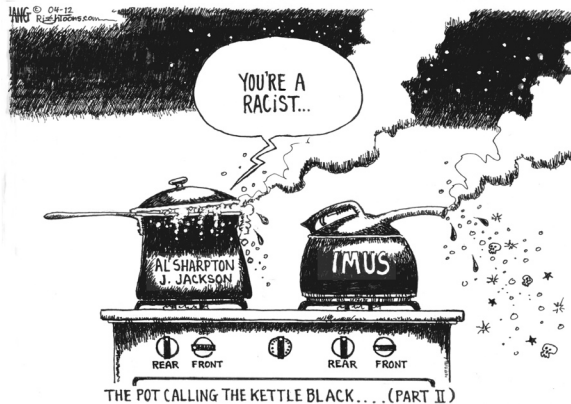


**Rich James, Post-Tribune** - It seems that Democrats have been so busy bashing Daniels the last two and a half years that they haven't groomed anyone to run against him. It's kind of like loading the bases, but not having a clean-up hitter. Yet, it's understandable. When Daniels took office in January 2002, it marked the end of a record reign for Democratic governors -- 16 straight years. Democrat Evan Bayh was elected governor in 1988, largely because he had an immensely popular father -- former Sen. Birch Bayh -- youthful good looks and an attractive wife. It was pretty much a lock that Bayh would win in 1988 and in 1992. It also was pretty much a given that Frank O'Bannon, his lieutenant governor, would succeed him in 1996 -- not because of his name, but because he was the most decent man in Indiana politics, and the people recognized it. When O'Bannon died in office and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan took over, Daniels already had returned from Washington and started an 18-month tour of Indiana. Kernan, who would have made a good governor given a four-year term, was buried under the Republican resurrection. When Daniels was sworn in, one would have been hard-pressed to find a Democrat who thought he could stop Daniels from a second term. That was then. This is now. Daniels shook up this sleepy state by: Winning a push for daylight-saving time; Leasing the Indiana Toll Road for an up-front payment of \$3.8 billion to fund his Major Moves highway program -- the most ambitious since the interstate system blanketed the country; Going about the business of saving a buck here and another there by making government more efficient; Turning over the operation of the state welfare department to the private sector; Proposing the lease of the Hoosier Lottery for a minimum of \$1 billion, with the money to be used for college scholarships and attracting top-flight professors; Proposing the construction of the Illiana Expressway up here and the Commerce Connector around Indianapolis. Those bold moves were a bit much for those who still think the movie "Hoosiers" typifies life in Indiana. So, who would have thought that in some corners, people would be pasting "Ditch Mitch" bumper stickers over the "My Man Mitch" stickers of 2004? It certainly wasn't the Democrats, who now see a vulnerable governor with no one groomed to take him on. ❖

**Russ Pulliam, Indianapolis Star** - Jim Schellinger appears to be the Democratic Party's dream

come true. Schellinger, running for governor in 2008, is a successful businessman and architect. He's a South Bend native, which protects him from being slapped with the "from Indianapolis" label that can hurt candidates in some parts of the state. He has experience working on a City-County Council campaign and gives generously to Democratic candidates. He has the kind of professional competence and business background that Democrats think they need to mount a serious challenge to Gov. Mitch Daniels next year. Daniels has looked vulnerable, and Democrats noticed it in the 2006 elections, winning back the House of Representatives. As a bold and aggressive leader, the governor has angered some voters unhappy over daylight-saving time and the Toll Road lease. But before Schellinger entered the race, Democrats weren't sure how to take advantage of the pockets of discontent. Party leaders hoped for a coronation of Schellinger, clearing the field of other potential candidates to avoid an expensive primary. Spoiling that part of the dream may be a more traditional candidate for governor, Jill Long Thompson. ❖

**Gary Welsh, Advance Indiana** - An analysis of the latest tax return available for Advance America uncovers more self-dealing by the founder of the "nonprofit" to the tune of nearly \$250,000. The organization's 2005 Form 990 tax return reveals Eric Miller received a compensation package worth \$106,546, while the organization paid another \$134,800 to Miller's law firm, Miller Waters Martin & Hall, for legal services. The quarter-million dollars paid directly to Miller or his law firm represented more than one-third of the nonprofit's expenditures for the year. But the self-dealing doesn't end there. Miller's law firm continues to share office space with Advance America. According to the nonprofit's tax returns, Miller's law firm paid rent for the space between January 1, 2005 and March 31, 2005 only. Advance America leased the space the remaining 9 months of the year at a cost of nearly \$58,000. As AI has detailed the activities of Advance America in the past, it has two primary purposes. It lobbies the Indiana legislature on a variety of social issues and some tax issues. It also compiles legislative voting records and voter guides based upon the narrow issues and distributes these to hundreds of thousands of Indiana voters every two years in an effort to influence the outcome of the election. I challenge anyone to come forward with any legitimate nonprofit purpose Advance America fulfills, which begs the question of why isn't anyone doing anything about this blatant abuse of our nonprofit tax laws. ❖





## Senate passes Kenley property tax plan

INDIANAPOLIS - The Senate overwhelmingly supported a bill Wednesday that moves Indiana toward taxing income instead of property to pay for local government services.

House Bill 1478 – passed by a vote of 44-5 – now heads to conference committee, where Democrats

and Republicans from the House and Senate will try to broker a compromise before the session ends April 29 (Kelly, **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). After the vote, Senate President Pro Tem David Long, R-Fort Wayne, lauded his colleagues for taking such a bold move. "I can honestly say that we've talked about this until we're blue in the face, made many different attempts at bringing some meaningful tax reform together, never to see anything go to fruition except temporary fixes," he said. "Today, passing the bill ... we're seeing the first meaningful, sustainable long-term reform of property taxes – not just relief but reform." The complex piece of legislation was crafted by Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, who said property taxes are "ready to explode on citizens" unless something is done. His bill allows local governments to finance future operating growth through a local income tax rather than the property tax rolls. In addition, cities and counties can raise the income tax further in exchange for directly reducing existing property tax levies on a dollar-for-dollar basis.



## Senate passes \$26 million biennial budget

INDIANAPOLIS - The Senate approved a Republican-written budget yesterday that increases funding for education, Medicaid and prisons, while

leaving the state with more money in reserve (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). "We did that all without a tax increase," said Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Bob Meeks, R-LaGrange. Senate Minority Leader Richard Young, D-Milltown, voted against the budget yesterday, saying to Meeks: "I believe you can do better," chiefly in the areas of education and social services. Republicans, meanwhile, put substantial bonding authority in the budget for university construction, something that is of particular importance to Democrats. "I think we're fairly close with the House," Meeks said. "I think it will be -- I'm not going to say it's going to be smooth -- it's going to be give and take, and that's the way it's supposed to be anyway." The Senate's funds prisons and Medicaid -- the health-care program for the poor and disabled -- at the amounts recommended by the Daniels administration. House Democrats froze funding for both at this year's level.

## Senate passes plan for NIPSCO public ownership

INDIANAPOLIS - A study to test the feasibility of a publicly owned company buying NIPSCO will likely proceed under a bill the Senate passed Wednesday (**Post-Tribune**). House Bill 1824 would allow a study into whether creating a public power authority to bid on the utility, rumored to be on the market, is in the public's interest.

## Senate passes cherry master clamp down

INDIANAPOLIS - Bars, clubs and other retailers caught with illegal video gambling machines could lose their permits to sell alcohol and cigarettes, along with their contracts to sell lottery tickets, under a bill the state Senate passed yesterday (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). House Bill 1510, approved 38-11, would pay for 25 new state excise police officers to

sniff out illegal gambling and create a new special prosecutor at the Indiana Gaming Commission to pursue the cases. Senate President Pro Tem David Long, told his colleagues yesterday that as many as 40,000 illegal machines exist in the state. He called the machines insidious and addictive and said they cheat players. "It is a scourge, I think, on our state," Long said.

## Columbus officials to be deployed in Iraq

COLUMBUS - The president of Columbus Economic Development Board and the director of the city's Metropolitan Planning Organization will be deployed to the Middle East by early 2008 with the National Guard's 76th Brigade (**Columbus Republic**). Col. Corey Carr, the CEDB president and Columbus Redevelopment Commission member, will command 3,000 or more of the brigade expected to participate. Lt. Kent Anderson, the MPO director, will serve under Carr.

## Lugar presents Van Bokkelen to Senate

WASHINGTON - U.S. Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen moved one step closer to clinching a federal judgeship Wednesday as he stood before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill. The 19-member Senate committee considered Van Bokkelen's nomination along with those of three other federal judicial nominees in a brief hearing Wednesday. Sen. Dick Lugar, who recommended that President Bush nominate Van Bokkelen to the Hammond judgeship last November, introduced the longtime Munster resident to the panel. "I have known Joe for many years, and I have always been impressed with his high energy, resolute integrity and remarkable dedication to public service," Lugar said at the hearing, calling Van Bokkelen's performance as U.S. attorney "nothing short of remarkable." ❖