



Kelty beginning to surge at the Fort

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FORT WAYNE - With the primary just over two weeks away, a number of indicators point to a surge for architect Matt Kelty in his Republican primary mayoral race against Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters.



The HPR Horse Race is moving this contest from "Leans Peters" to "Tossup," with, perhaps, a slight advantage to Kelty, a former aide to U.S. Sens. Richard Lugar and Dan Coats.

Multiple sources tell HPR that Kelty is running an energetic, grassroots campaign, similar to his 2002 challenge to State Rep. Winfield Moses Jr., a race Kelty lost by less than 100 votes.

One source told HPR, "You go to Peters' headquarters and it is solemn and you find one person working. You go to Kelty's headquarters and it's a beehive of activity."

But beyond that, Peters has reacted badly to the Harrison Square project that would build a hotel, baseball stadium and condos in downtown Fort Wayne. Peters originally supported Harrison Square and Kelty is opposed. This



Republican mayoral candidate Matt Kelty at his Fort Wayne headquarters. Polls and other indicators point to a surge in his campaign. (Fort Wayne Observed Photo)

past week, Peters called for a public referendum, saying that he is working with Fort Wayne legislators to get the referendum passed in the Indiana General Assembly.

In a Wednesday **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette** editorial, the newspaper wrote, "Nelson Peters' last-second, short-sighted attempt to force a referendum on Harrison Square comes across as a desperate, crass, political attempt to have it both ways on a controversial, polarizing

Hoosier 'roads scholar'

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - On election eve in 1974, Jim Jontz, who was all of 22 years old and making his first bid for political office, wandered into a Monticello Laundromat where he encountered two solitary customers. Jontz was in the final hours of his long-shot challenge against the Indiana House Majority Leader, Republican Jim Guy. Jontz spent an hour or so talking to them about the election and the issue which drove him to run: an environmentally damaging dam project sponsored by the



Chris Sautter Column



"The Supreme Court's decision represents an awakening of the conscience of a nation. This is the first true judicial victory for the unborn since Roe v. Wade."

- U.S. Rep. Mike Pence



incumbent. After all the ballots were counted, Jontz was declared the winner by two votes. Jontz later said the incident taught him the lesson that you never know who may account for your winning margin.

Jim Jontz, who lost his two-year battle with cancer Saturday at age 55, made a career out of winning elections political odds-makers declared "unwinnable" for a Democrat. But though his campaign style became legendary, for Jim Jontz holding public office was simply the most effective way for him to champion the causes he believed in most — protecting the environment and improving the lives of everyday people.

Indiana's 5th Congressional District was a sprawling, mostly rural and heavily Republican district held by Elwood "Bud" Hillis, an 8-term Republican who decided to retire at the end of 1986. Jontz, then a first-term state senator, squared off against another state senator, conservative Jim Butcher. With no central media market covering the district, Jontz launched an old-fashioned shoe leather campaign that was a throwback to another era.

In 1986, Rahm Emmanuel was the Midwest political director for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. Emmanuel was enormously impressed by Jim's intelligence and work ethic. Emmanuel felt with Jontz's hard-charging approach he had found a kindred spirit. But Jontz drove Emmanuel to fits by his insistence on doing things the Jim Jontz way rather than the DCCC way. To Jontz, precinct targeting was helpful to ordinary candidates. But since he intended to knock on every door, targeting was superfluous. Throughout the campaign, Emmanuel

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expressed frustration that Jontz was not using his time as efficiently as he should. But the Jim Jontz way paid off, as Jontz won, even carrying Howard County, Jim Butcher's home, after knocking on every door at least twice.



REP. JONTZ

Jontz introduced a number of wacky visibility techniques in the 1986 campaign which became Jim Jontz trademarks. Jontz began riding his sister's bicycle in small-town parades, waving to the crowd in a kind goofy but charming way. Jontz also set up sandwich boards and Burma shave signs during rush hours. The stunts were guaranteed to generate a photograph in the local newspaper. Then there were the Jim Jontz potholders which became a campaign staple at county fairs. And, to

remind voters that he was the hardest working candidate, Jontz placed the design of a worn-out shoe with a hole in the sole at the corner of his yard signs.

Jontz always believed he could outwork his opponent. But Jontz integrated his hard work and personal one-on-one politics with a progressive populism that demonstrated to voters he was on their side. Jontz ran and served in Congress during the 1980s

and '90s farm crisis and the beginning of the era of plant closings when thousands of Hoosiers were losing their way of life. Jontz became a strong voice for positive progressive change that appealed greatly to working families in his district

As a congressman, Jontz was indefatigable. He often stayed in his office until 2 or 3 in the morning reading and signing constituent letters. According to those who served on his staff, Jontz read every single constituent letter and signed every response himself, often sending the drafted response back to the staff member for re-writing. Jontz also established a "Call Your Congressman" program whereby once a month he would directly take calls in Washington from constituents, as many as 50 in a single night, staying late to make certain he spoke to each person who had taken the time to call.

Jontz was always near the top of the Republican target list. Christopher Klose, Jontz's campaign manager in 1986 and later his chief of staff, felt that Jontz tried to accomplish as much as he could in Congress because he knew he was "on borrowed time" in a district that would eventually revert to its Republican roots. Jontz's 1992 defeat to Steve Buyer was a preview of the 1994 Republican sweep. Jontz had championed the preservation of the ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest, and members of the Carpenters Union from the north-



west burned him in effigy. Jontz's Indiana labor support remained loyal, but the publicity hurt. And Buyer's attacks on Jontz's scholarship fund endowed from Jontz's share of the congressional pay raise cast doubt on Jontz's integrity. The doubts about the fund combined with the publicity over the spotted owl were enough for some Republicans to defect.

Jontz tried to come back by running against Richard Lugar in 1994, a match-up of two Eagle Boy Scouts. No longer an incumbent, Jontz could not raise the resources to compete. Nonetheless, he approached the race with his usual sense of humor. Lugar had been a Rhodes Scholar, but Jontz claimed he was the real 'Roads Scholar,' having traveled every back road in Indiana in his red pickup truck.

After his race against Lugar, Jontz moved to Oregon and worked with environmental groups. He became president of Americans for Democratic Action and worked with the Alliance for Sustainable Jobs. As Tom Sugar pointed out, Jontz was way ahead of his time on the environment and the effects of globalization on working families. By 2006, the country enjoyed an awakening on the issues he had championed for decades.

When word spread of Jontz' condition, he began

receiving a stream of visitors and telephone calls from friends and well-wishers. In a classy move, Senator Lugar called him, as did former Senator Birch Bayh. Bayh had inspired a generation of Hoosier Democrats including Jim Jontz to public service, just as Jontz would inspire so many who had worked for him.

Two of Jontz's former staffers, Tom Sugar, now Evan Bayh's chief of staff, and Tom Buis, now president of the National Farmers Union, visited Jontz in Oregon on what turned out to be his last good day. When they arrived, Jontz was dictating a law school recommendation letter for a young former assistant before taking a call from AFL-CIO's Rich Trumka to discuss strategy for an up-coming labor rally. Then Jontz, Sugar, and Buis reminisced and laughed about those frenetic, unpredictable early campaigns. Before they left, Jontz admonished them that there was much work still to be done.

Those who knew Jim Jontz will miss him greatly. Those who never knew this Hoosier "Roads Scholar" but whose lives and causes he quietly championed may miss him even more. ❖

issue. Peters previously said he was supportive of the Harrison Square concept, though he wanted the stadium to be a multiuse facility. With his main primary opponent adamantly against the project, Peters' request to key northeast Indiana legislators to force a referendum appears to be more of a political maneuver than an attempt to create better public policy."

The editorial added, "Peters' timing is abhorrently bad. Had his request come in the weeks after Mayor Graham Richard proposed Harrison Square in December, the General Assembly might have had time to actually study the issue. Instead, it comes two weeks after Matt Kelty released a poll purportedly showing that Republican voters strongly agree with Kelty's position on opposing Harrison Square."

Following the release of the results of a Zogby poll on Harrison Square last week, Kelty released the remaining results of the poll showing him leading Peters, among likely Republican Fort Wayne voters 31.2% to 25.6%.

"I think this is a good initial indicator of support, and evidence our message of values, vision, and leadership are resonating with primary voters," said Kelty in remarks on the AngryWhiteBoy.org website. "I think we have achieved our early objectives in the campaign, got our name and positions out there, and demonstrated we are running a serious campaign. There is still a lot of work

to do, and we are going to continue to campaign as if the future is now."



Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters (second from left) with legislators Matt Bell, David Long and Randy Borrer. (HPR Photo)

The random poll of likely Fort Wayne voters was conducted between March 27-29 by Zogby International. The margin of error of the poll is +/-5%. 8,713 calls were made to Fort Wayne residents and 401 participants responded.

Kelty has also picked up the endorsements of the Indiana Family PAC and Allen County Right to Life. Family PAC Chairman Susan Swayze wrote, "Mr. Kelty has been a hands-on conservative activist in his community and prioritizes issues that the Indiana Family Action PAC cares about."

This gained credibility for Kelty is a fascinating development given that virtually every elected official above the township level -- including Fort Wayne councilmen, Senate President Pro Tempore David Long and State Reps. Randy Borrer and Matt Bell have -- endorsed Peters. At-large council candidate Bob Morris did so today. That includes U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, who in the past has displayed an uncanny ability to read the political landscape below the surface. Two of Souder's key supporters, John Popp and Zorab Tazian, are backing Kelty. Thus a Kelty victory on May 8 would be an explosive development for the Fort Wayne Republican Party, with the maverick out-gunning the rank and file establishment. ❖



Ellsworth discovers nation building, virtually no justice in Iraq and Afghanistan

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

WASHINGTON - As U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth picked up the phone for an HPR Interview, TV monitors on CNN, Fox and MSNBC were showing for the first time the horrible popping sounds of bullets at Virginia Tech University on Tuesday morning that would kill 33 students. Those were totals more akin to a day in Baghdad than America. It was a strange juxtaposition as the freshman Democrat from Evansville, a former sheriff, related the many disturbing things he learned on a five-day sojourn to Iraq and Afghanistan. At times, Ellsworth was almost at a loss for words to describe what he had seen.

"Probably one of the things that shocked me the most ... they were actually having a cookout with the trainers and the Iraqi police chiefs," Ellsworth said "One of them told me that a year ago, these same police chiefs could have been the ones planting IEDs, the ones aimed to kill our troops. That was a shocker to me. Someone could work against us a year ago and yet work beside us taking over the police chief role in their village now. I asked about that and they said, 'well, you have to look at it when our troops were running through there, they didn't know what to think and they were being paid to plant those IEDs. When you're living for just a few dollars a month, you make money to support your family.'"

Then there was the American concept of rule of law. While the U.S. attempts to stand up a police force and Iraqi military, Ellsworth described a "three-legged stool" with two legs missing. There are no judges, lawyers and prosecutors in Iraq. There aren't any jails.

"We are training the police and recruiting a lot of police," Ellsworth said. "They were telling us there is not a judge in Iraq that will hear criminal cases. They've all either

left the country, been killed or gone into hiding and have not emerged."

The former Vanderburgh County sheriff explained, "You don't have prosecutors or defense attorneys. Once someone is arrested, there are no jails or prisons. I don't know how you overcome that. With a legal system like that, it wouldn't do a lot of good to even have police. The corruption ... they (U.S. officials) said we basically have to work around that and work through it. It was pretty shocking."

Ellsworth was the second Hoosier congressman to visit Iraq in the past two weeks. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence ignited a controversy when he toured the Shorja Market in Baghdad with U.S. Sen. John McCain and likened it to an Indiana market in the summer.

"The fight is far from over," Pence told the press in Baghdad. "The enemy is tenacious. But I believe and I believe I have seen today evidence that the surge in cooperation with Iraqi forces is making a difference on the ground. Peace and stability are coming to Baghdad, and I believe if we will remain determined and fixed and believe in these good people, freedom will prevail in this place."

But while Ellsworth praised the level of commitment of U.S. commanders and soldiers, including two Hoosiers killed while he was there, he said, "This is not going to be won militarily. It's going to have to be when those countries decide they're tired of killing each other and want peace in their country. There's no way we can fight our way to peace in the Middle East."

Here is the HPR Interview with Rep. Ellsworth

HPR: What conclusions have you come to, or is it possible to even come up with conclusions on such a whirlwind trip.

Ellsworth: I am more proud of our troops than I ever was. The job they're doing in the conditions they're in and the intelligence they are displaying is reassuring to me. Agree or disagree with this conflict, they are doing their jobs and doing it with honor. That's probably the most impressive thing. It went both ways. I had some who said, "Congressman, don't let them cut off the funds. Let us stay here and finish our mission." And I had a few who said, "Get us the heck out of here." I would say the majority we met with and ate with and spent time with said we need



Rep. Brad Ellsworth meets with troops in the Middle East last week. (Photo courtesy of Rep. Brad Ellsworth)



to finish our mission. Iraq and Afghanistan; I don't know if I'll use them in the same sentence anymore. They are two totally different conflicts. It's still a daunting task in both countries. I think there's more hope in Afghanistan. They have their arms around that better, even though it's still a huge task. Another of my biggest observations was we've always been talking about the need to train their military, help train their police and in both countries what I saw was a major, major undertaking ... a huge undertaking, is what they call the rule of law. Talking about training the police so they can take over the villages and help protect the villages, much like American law enforcement protect their cities and their counties. The problem is they are doing well in recruiting and training their police, but the other two legs of that stool have been removed. I envision a milking stool with three legs and two of them are gone. They don't have the judges who can hear the case. There are no lawyers and prosecutors to prosecute them. And, a fourth leg ... there's not a corrections system in place. No jails and prisons once adjudicated. There's police in these two countries but two legs of the stool are gone.

HPR: Are we equipping the police and army properly?

Ellsworth: It's happening. It's slow. Some countries are donating weapons. I know the Iraqi police chiefs we met with are still awaiting some equipment. They are not equipped like our local law enforcement would be, in uniforms and/or weaponry. It looks like the early stages ... they are now thinking about protecting their communities. It was reassuring and discouraging at the same time.

HPR: What's your take on the surge?

Ellsworth: (moderately long pause) ... I'm sitting here trying to think. Hmmm.

HPR: Sometimes saying you don't know is the best way to handle it. That's what I have been asking Reps. Pence and Souder. How can you go over there for two or three days and come to firm conclusions?

Ellsworth: It just seems so ... the whole undertaking seems so daunting, I don't know if it needs a lot more troops or a lot less. We got there under a failed plan. We can't leave under one. That's even more clear that we did. We could not have known going in or we weren't told what we were about the face. And what I mean by that, is we Americans aren't used to dealing with the tribal rule in those countries and the power in those tribes. If we knew about that, nobody was talking about it. The corruption in that society, Americans aren't used to it ... the wheeling and dealing. Now we happened to learn to work around that. I think that would be extremely hard for people used to doing it our way. We heard countless stories about that.



It still leaves you with a lot of questions and with a lot of answers. It's very complicated what we're trying to do to build a nation. It absolutely is. We're still trying to build their system back up.

HPR: Of Gen. Petraeus, I've written that he may be the right commander three years too late. What's your take on him?

Ellsworth: Seemed like a wonderful guy, a good leader, dedicated. That might be a fair assessment. I met with him for an hour. He motivates his troops, but it's like you said, they have got a huge task in front of them. He's got his hands around what needs to happen. Do we have the time and the will to stick that out? What they are trying to do is not a short-term process.

HPR: What is your guidance to your constituents on Iraq?

Ellsworth: That's something we have to decide.

What they are trying to do, rebuild and win the hearts and minds and to get those two governments to stand up, is not a three-month thing or a six-month thing. They've got to work within themselves and agree they want to be peaceful nations. We are not going to inflict peace on them.

HPR: Should we be looking to pulling back to the frontiers and let the Iraqis maul each other in Baghdad?

Ellsworth: I know in Afghanistan

they showed it pretty clearly that al Qaeda was coming across the border from Pakistan, launching attacks and then going back across the border. I don't know ... the missions I see happening, that they can do that successfully. I voted for these benchmarks in the supplemental and still would. That's a tough one. You'd almost have to see it to know what a huge undertaking it is.

(HPR: At this point, we switched to the conference call.)

Reporter: What is morale like among the troops now that it's been announced their tours are going to be extended?

Ellsworth: I'm not sure they had gotten that word yet. That was not mentioned while I was there.

Dave Lyons: Shouldn't the troops be the first to know something like this, Brad?

Ellsworth: That's protocol. You let the people directly involved know that's going to happen to them and their families. I don't know if that's always possible when you're covering a distance that great and that big of an announcement. They are under tough conditions. It's a dangerous place for our troops. We lost soldiers while I was there. Two from Indiana from the time I was there. They're under a lot of stress and strain and they are a tough group and they are soldiers. ❖



Iraq chasm GOP's peril

By **CHARLIE COOK**
Cook Political Report

WASHINGTON

- The polarization between Democrats, Republicans and independents on both politics and policy cannot be overstated. The war in Iraq is perhaps the most vivid and important example of the stark differences in opinions based on party affiliation.

There is a chasm the size of the Grand Canyon between Republicans and Democrats on the Iraq war. More ominous for the GOP is that independents are coming down on the anti-war

side, if slightly less vociferously than Democrats.

This portends potential peril for Republicans in 2008. Let's look at the difference in attitudes on Iraq using a CBS News poll of 994 adults, conducted last Monday through Thursday, with a 3-point error margin.

On the question of how things are going in Iraq, independents came down significantly closer to Democrats than Republicans, with 23 percent saying that it was going well and 74 percent saying it was going badly. Among Republicans, 72 percent said success is very or somewhat likely, compared with just 27 percent of Democrats and 36 percent of independents -- yet another example of the thinking of independents aligning much more with Democrats than Republicans. ❖



Charlie Cook (left) with Stu Rothenberg and Brian Howey at the HPR Forum in 2001. (HPR Photo)

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 - 034/05	38%	16%	10%	6%	Giuliani +9%
Rasmussen	04/09 - 04/12	33%	19%	13%	12%	Giuliani +14%
Time	04/05 - 04/09	35%	20%	10%	10%	Giuliani +15%
CNN	04/10 - 04/12	27%	24%	11%	10%	Giuliani +3%
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
LATimes/Bloombg	04/5 - 04/09	29%	12%	15%	8%	Giuliani + 22
Democrat		Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Gore	Comp. Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	32%	22%	13%		Clinton +10%
USA Today/Gallup	04/03 - 04/05	38%	19%	15%	14%	Clinton +19%
Rasmussen	04/09 - 04/12	32%	30%	16%	--	Clinton +2%
Time	04/05 - 04/09	33%	26%	25%	--%	Clinton +7%
CNN	04/10 - 04/12	30%	26%	12%	15%	Clinton + 4%
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%
LATimes/Bloomb	04/05 - 04/09	33%	23%	14%	13%	Clinton +10

Zoby Iowa Dem (3-28) Edwards 33, Clinton 25, Obama 16; **Zogby NH Dem (4/2-3):** Clinton 29, Obama 23, Edwards 23. **Zogby Iowa GOP (3-28):** Giuliani 25, McCain 19, Romney 11, Thompson 7. **Zogby NH GOP (4/2-3):** McCain 25, Romney 25, Giuliani 19, Tompson 6: **Hoosier Support: Giuliani (\$172,450 raised in Indiana):** Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi, Stephen Goldsmith, Tim Durham, Beurt SerVass, Steve Hilbert. **McCain:** Gov. Mitch Daniels. **Romney (\$83,750):** Attorney General Steve Carter; Secretary of State Todd Rokita, James Bopp, Dan Dumezich, Bob Grand, Chris Chocola. **Thompson:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Edwards (\$85,000 raised in Indiana):** Robin Winston, 9th CD Chair Mike Jones, Ann and Ed DeLaney, Bruce Kehoe, James Voyles. **Hoosier Notes:** Romney speaks in Carmel Friday night. ❖



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:**



On Friday, the Indiana UAW is expected to meet and consider an endorsement of **Schellinger**, HPR has learned. This development has sent a shiver through the campaigns of Young and Long Thompson because it is similar to what occurred in 2003 when the UAW endorsed **Joe Andrew** without giving State Sen. **Vi Simpson** a chance to make a pitch. The UAW's **Terry Thurman** reasoned that Andrew would be in the best position to raise money, which was enhanced later that summer when Andrew chose **Bren Simon** to be his runningmate. Simpson endured an ugly IDEA Convention at French Lick that August, when she refused to take part in a UAW stuffed straw poll and was treated rudely. Days later, Gov. **Frank O'Bannon** died, Simon bolted the Andrew campaign and Gov. **Joe Kernan** finally entered the race. **Sen. Young** told HPR that he met with UAW Chief Connie Thurman earlier this week but was unable to dissuade her from moving forward with the Schellinger endorsement. "They are moving forward even though they haven't bothered talking with me," Young said on Wednesday. "For 20 years I worked very closely with all the major labor organizations." Young's comments were similar to those of Simpson. "I wanted to make sure I spoke with Connie Thurman and I asked about the endorsement and she said yes, it would be her recommendation to endorse Schellinger. I expressed to her my disappointment."

While the Democrats began their pre-primary labor wars, **Gov. Daniels** had a banner week on the economic development front. On Tuesday, The administration announced a \$100 million U.S. Army investment at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center and 300 new jobs, 600 new software jobs coming to Interactive Intelligence at Indianapolis, 80 new jobs at Hill-Rom's new Innovation Center at Batesville, 33 jobs at Vitran Trucking in Indianapolis. The day before, Daniels joined Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel to announce 500 union jobs coming to AT&T at its wireless customer service center. Daniels complained the bill has received scant recognition in the state, but



The UAW is poised to endorse Schellinger for governor, a move similar to 2003 when it endorsed Joe Andrew (above), shown at the IDEA convention that August with Bren Simon, at a UAW rally. Sen. Simpson is shown leaving a rally after refusing to enter the UAW-packed straw poll. (HPR Photos by Brian A. Howey)

"outside Indiana it is widely recognized as the most progressive and most advanced (telecommunications bill) in the United States." (Evansville Courier & Press).

Daniels told 170 business and political leaders in Clarksville that Southern Indiana is "red hot" in economic development (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). Referring to one of several recent business announcements, Daniels noted that Hill Rom this week "said they're starting a worldwide engineering center to stay at the forefront of their industry." Daniels also said he believes the construction of new Ohio River bridges will give the region an enormous boost. "I think there is very positive agreement and will to get going on this project and get started with the East End bridge," **Democratic Primary Status: Leans Schellinger. General Status: LEANS DANIELS.** ❖



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:** As our cover story details, there has been a real shift in this race with the maverick Kelty possibly turning the Fort Wayne GOP establishment on its ear. **Primary Status:** Republican TOSSUP; Democrat: 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:** A nearby Glen Park fire station was out of service last week when a man burned to death inside his family's bungalow (**Post-Tribune**). The closure of Station 10 was publicized Tuesday by mayoral candidate Chuck Hughes, who held a news conference to tout his public safety credentials. Battalion Chief Donnie Williamson confirmed that his station, located two miles from the house where Ricky Lee Maxwell died, was out of service Thursday night. The station was closed Tuesday, as well, Williamson said. "We're playing Russian roulette with the lives of the citizens," Hughes said. On Tuesday, mayoral candidate and school board member **Darren Washington** said the shuttered, unused property signified the broken relationship between different sectors of local education as well as the city and school district. He'd like to see more unity, with private, Christian and charter schools using the buildings along with other community groups. "It's time-out for the turf wars," Washington said. "When we fight over turf and who can open schools in the state, the children lose." Washington said Gary schools could benefit from the competition or charter sublessees. **Status:** LIKELY CLAY

Jeffersonville: Mayor Rob Waiz Jr. 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 and former Mayor Tom Galligan questioned each other's leadership style and

accomplishments in a debate last night at Indiana University Southeast (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). "The city doesn't own Veterans Parkway, the developers do," Waiz said. The developers are working hard for many high-quality retail buildings, he said, adding, "I want to have something we can be proud of for a long time." "I understand it's owned by developers," Galligan said in response. But as a leader, "you have to bring people together" to make development happen. Mayor Waiz has returned \$3,800 to more than a dozen campaign contributors to resolve questions raised last month by the city's new Board of Ethics (Hershberg, **Louisville Courier-Journal**). He announced his decision in a letter read by board secretary Rachel Thrasher during its meeting last night. "I hope this resolves all issues my campaign has with the (ethics) commission," Waiz wrote, "so we may move forward for the betterment of the citizens of Jeffersonville. "... The ethics ordinance is not a perfect law and needs some modifications for both clarification and fairness. I look forward to working with the commission and the City Council to improve the ethics ordinance," he added. **Primary Status:** LEANS WAIZ.

Kokomo: Democrat: Councilman Greg Goodnight, Councilman Bob Hayes, Andy Castner. Republican: Mayor Matt McKillip, Councilman Rick Hamilton, Tom Hamilton, Lewis G. Freeman. **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:** Rick Hamilton announced Tuesday he is taking an unpaid leave of absence from his job as president of the Kokomo/Howard County Chamber of Commerce, effective as of last Monday. "This is when I need the most time [to campaign]," Hamilton said. "I think the chamber would like to have me away from the office for the least time possible." Hamilton's announcement drew quick criticism from McKillip, who said during a paid interview on WIOU-



MAYOR WAIZ

AM Wednesday that he's still working as mayor while he campaigns. Pre-primary campaign finance reports aren't due until Friday, but already several campaign committees have filed reports at the Howard County Clerk's Office (Smith, **Kokomo Tribune**). Castner, who reported numerous small donations by individuals, reported \$33,822 in contributions during the pre-primary period, and spending \$24,228, leaving him \$9,594 cash on hand as of April 16. Goodnight campaign spokesman David Galvin said Goodnight will release his actual campaign finance report Thursday, but said more than \$20,000 was raised from individuals during the latest period. KPAC, the third-party



committee run by Kokomo businessman Kyle Parnham and Kokomo newcomer Jim McIntosh, reported raising \$2,000 from two sources — Downey Insurance LLC, and J. Barry Schneider, co-owner of Indianapolis-based Schneider Corp., one of Kokomo's primary engineering contractors. **Primary Status:** LEANS McKILLIP; LIKELY GOODNIGHT.

Terre Haute: Democrat: Mayor Kevin Burke, James Horrall, Dale Smith, John Walters. Republican: Duke Bennett. **2003 Democratic Primary Results:** Burke 6,339, Mayor Anderson 2,436, Jenkins 2,414, Walters 148. **2003 General Results:** Burke (D) 7,338, Bennett (R) 3,847. **2007 Forecast:** The Burke campaign enters the homestretch believing it has a better than 50/50 chance of winning. His chief rival, Jim Horrall, has been lashing out at Mayor Burke over city debt, describing it as between \$80 million and \$117 million and that property taxes are about to skyrocket. Mayor spokesman Pete Ciancone told HPR that "the city has no debt. We have bonded for exactly zero of our limit. Every dime that Jim harps on is incurred by the sanitary district." Horrall is saying that sewer bills have gone up 72 percent, while Burke says they've actually gone up 104 percent. "The rest of the debt that makes up his gaudy numbers was incurred by previous mayors," Ciancone said, including Mayor Judy Anderson, Horrall's former

boss and who was defeated by Burke in the 2003 Democratic primary. The Burke campaign will be pointing out the sink holes that have been appearing around town as proof that there are big infrastructure needs. **Primary Status:** LEANS BURKE.

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:** Several Democratic leaders said that despite the advantages of incumbency, Garner is by no means assured of victory. "I have no feeling on how it's going to turn out," said Randy Stumler, chairman of the Floyd County Democrats. "I really think this is a wide-open race." Warren Nash, Stumler's predecessor as party chairman, agreed, adding that Garner and England have records "that have pleased some and displeased others" and that both men's years of service are bound to be closely scrutinized in the campaign's final days. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP.



The Other Virginia Massacre

By JOSHUA CLAYBOURN

EVANSVILLE - A little over five years ago at the Appalachian School of Law in Grundy, Virginia, a roughly 2-3 hour drive from Virginia Tech, Peter Odighizuwa was not in a good mood. Peter was a U.S. citizen from Nigeria who had flunked out of school. In response, he went on a rampage and shot and killed a dean, a professor and a fellow student. Three others were injured.



We can only speculate what more Peter might have done if he had been given the chance. Perhaps his spree would have continued and the death toll gone even higher, or perhaps he would have decided to stop on his own volition. We'll never know because classmate Tracy Bridges decided to do something about it. "We saw the shooter, stopped my vehicle and got out my handgun and started to approach Peter," he told reporters. When Peter saw the loaded gun being pointed back at him,

he "threw up his hands and threw his weapon down." The students then began to approach Peter and wrestled him to the ground.

The incidents at the Appalachian School of Law stand in stark contrast to the atrocious killings at Virginia Tech, a "gun free zone." Appalachian School of Law was a private institution, but at Virginia Tech, a public school, state law forbid students and faculty from carrying a gun to defend themselves. But it clearly did nothing to those whom the law was intended to stop.

Early last year there was an effort in the state legislature to change that law, but it died in committee. Could less stringent gun control have made a difference at Virginia Tech? We'll never know. But as the debate over gun control laws comes to the forefront, cases such as the Appalachian School of Law should be kept in mind.

I do not know what, if anything, should be done to prevent future rampages such as the one that befell Virginia Tech. Their utter rarity suggests a certain amount of restraint on the part of policy officials would be wise. In an editorial the day after the VT shootings, the New York Times opined: "What is needed, urgently, is stronger controls over the lethal weapons that cause such wasteful carnage and such unbearable loss." If anything, Virginia Tech serves as a sad, sad reminder that "gun free zones" do nothing to stop wasteful carnage. ❖



THE BOAR'S NEST

Rokita's quote bootcamp

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

Of the few people who currently see Secretary of State **Todd Rokita** as a viable gubernatorial candidate in 2012, one of them - Rokita - spent the week in apology bootcamp.

His remarks at the Daviess County Lincoln Day were captured by the **Washington Times-Herald**. Talking about the fact that 90 percent of African-Americans vote Democratic instead of candidates of the Party of Lincoln, Rokita said, "Who's the master and who's the slave in that relationship?"

It was a stunning lapse of judgment, particularly coming after the **Don Imus** scandal.

As the Star's **Matt Tully** said, a better question would be, "Who's the politician, and where's his brain?"

That kicked off the apology tour with visits with WISH-TV's **Jim Shella** and photographer **Jim Hester**. After a few questions, Shella reported on his blog: "Rokita asked Jim (Hester) personally for his forgiveness."

There were appearances on WXNT's **Abdul in the Morning** and on **Amos Brown's** radio show. Finally, on Wednesday, he appeared before the House Black Caucus. "I am grateful to Chairman Smith and to the members of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus for the opportunity to meet with them today and for accepting my heartfelt apology," Rokita said in a statement. "I take to heart the candid, positive conversation, and I look forward to working with all of the members of the caucus in the future."

"For us as leaders, it's over," said caucus Chairman Rep. **Vernon Smith**, D-Gary.

How this all will impact Rokita's political bottom line remains to be seen.



Secretary of State Todd Rokita: He's sorry.



Bomb, Bomb, Bomb Iran says McCain

Bone-headed quotes weren't limited to Indiana this week. Sen. **John McCain** brought his "Straight Talk" tour to South Carolina Wednesday morning (**Drudge Report**). The presidential hopeful spent 90 minutes talking to nearly 500 people who crammed into the Murrells Inlet VFW Hall. At the campaign rally, McCain was asked if an attack on Iran is in the works, the **Georgetown Times**

reports. McCain began his answer by changing the words to a popular Beach Boys song. "Bomb bomb bomb, bomb bomb Iran," he sang to the tune of "Barbara Ann."

Romney bopping in

On Friday at the Fountains in Carmel, presidential candidate **Mitt Romney** will give the keynote address at the Indiana Republican Spring Dinner. How did he get that groovin' gig? "**Jim Bopp**," said power attorney **Bob Grand**. What an advantage, we replied. Why? Grand wondered. The Indiana primary is so late. We replied, "But the Indiana cash primary isn't."

A Carter-Reed Showdown?

Noticeably absent most of this legislative session, particularly from the statewide public discussion on FDK, Dr. **Suellen Reed** seems to be hinting at yet another re-election bid for Superintendent of Public Instruction (**HPR**). Reed is scheduled to complete her fourth four-year term in 2008. Reed has indicated interest to state and local party leaders, some of whom would be open to a new candidate with new ideas for improving public K-12 education. Teachers and administrators say they are surprised, because Reed has sent signals she is ready for a new challenge outside of Indiana state government. Lawmakers say they are too busy to focus on '08 state convention battles, but several expect next year's field to include incumbent Republican Attorney General **Steve Carter** and multiple candidates in each party for state superintendent. ❖

Got a tip for the Boar's Nest? Send it to: phillips-group@comcast.net



Posture week at the Legislature

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Quit slouching.
Sit up in your chair!

Ten days ago, there appeared to be peace in the valley as the budget and Sen. Luke Kenley's property tax reform plan passed the Senate by wide margins.

But that was followed by a weekend of posturing and, this week, by special interests groups staking out positions in do-or-die language.

House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer spent the end of last week posturing on State Sen. Luke Kenley's property tax plan. He called it a "four- or five-dimensional" proposal and one that has an unknown long-term impact and could be difficult to achieve. "It is something that may prolong this session or cause us to have an impasse," Bauer said.

On the budget, conferee Sen. Bob Meeks said he expected negotiations on the \$26 billion biennial budget to go well, but Ways & Means Chairman Bill Crawford was hedging his bets on the slots proposal that the budget and property tax reform hinge on. "If they stall, we get stalled," Crawford warned.

This much is clear in the state's Hall of Mirrors and Caves of Wind: the property tax reform, budget, slots and charitable gaming bills are all inextricably linked. The details aren't likely to be known until the 11th hour.

If it crumbles, Bauer and the Democrats will blame Gov. Mitch Daniels for not being adequately involved. Gov. Daniels, meanwhile, has consistently given Kenley his imprimatur on tax reform. The danger for Bauer is that if property tax reform doesn't happen, he will be a prime target in the blame game and it would be easy to make the case that voters of all stripes are not going to be in a very good mood next year.

By Wednesday, Senate President Pro Tempore David Long appointed Kenley as a conferee on the slots bill instead of State Sen. Bob Jackman, the author of the bill. It was an interesting development because Kenley voted against the slots bill, but his property tax reform proposal needs it to work.

The sticking points on the slots bills are the number of machines that will end up at Hoosier Park in Anderson and Indiana Downs in Shelbyville, and how much of an entry fee the tracks will have to cough up. Kenley, suggested Thursday that the licensing fee for slot machines at the state's two horse race tracks be auctioned out to the highest bidder (**Anderson Herald-Bulletin**). The conference committee concerning House Bill 1583 met Thursday

morning. Curt Wilson, chief financial officer for Centaur, owner of Hoosier Park, suggested a licensing fee of \$125 million and, even at that, Wilson said Centaur would have to carry debt the next few years.

Long and Meeks expressed their pleasure on the budget. "Certainly for me, in my 11 years, the best budget I've seen," Senate President Pro Tem David Long said in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette. "One that is balanced, that funds the necessary areas. It does certainly fund aspects of the budget that were not funded by the House. It's responsible. It takes care of education for our kids and for higher education."

But that was before a shallow revenue forecast prompted Gov. Mitch Daniels to lower spending from 4 percent to 3.9 percent.

And Democrats were picking apart education funding. "Even considering the historical evidence that state support for students in urban areas has traditionally lagged as a budget priority, the standards set by the state budget passed in the Senate reach new lows," said State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary), chairman of the House Black Caucus.

"It is difficult for the members of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus to support a budget that cuts state support for the Gary School Corporation by \$11 million and reduces funding for many urban school corporations that already are facing financial problems, then provides \$83 million for charter schools that don't even exist," said State Rep. Greg Porter.

Crawford said he was particularly concerned that passing a budget with such priorities would adversely affect the ability of public schools to offer comprehensive services for students with special needs. State Sen. Tim Skinner noted that several charter schools were getting triple digit increases, including one at 333 percent.

But State Sen. Teresa Lubbers called that data inaccurate. "Figures released originally by state officials were incorrectly based on maximum capacity enrollments for Indiana's charter schools and not projected attendance for 2008 and 2009," she said. "For example, for Christel House located in Indianapolis, state figures show 804 students in 2008 and 850 students in 2009. Christel House administrators project actual attendance will be 415 students in 2008 and 450 in 2009 - almost 50 percent less than initially released. The Senate Budget calls for 3.5 percent increase in 2008 and 3.4 percent increase in 2009 for K-12 education funding. Statewide funding increases for charter schools are only 1.3 percent in 2008 and 1.7 percent in 2009."

As for the still mum Gov. Daniels, the privatized Hoosier Lottery appears to be off the table.

Don't be surprised if the governor weighs in in some emphatic way before this is over. ❖





Mike Marturello, Angola Herald-Republican - Come 2008, we could end up with a license plate that, coupled with the In God We Trust plate, could make border counties such as Steuben and LaGrange seem like the state line has been erased. With the In God We Trust plate, you don't know if it is a Michigan plate on a vehicle until you get really close to the vehicle. Unless it really is a Michigan plate, you don't know if the driver is going to slow to 35 mph in a 55 zone or is going to turn without warning due to a lack of signal use. That was the beauty of having the blue Michigan plates. I was in Indianapolis twice in March and I didn't see as many In God We Trust plates per capita as I do in Steuben County (as if I was using my per capita vision). "I know I order them frequently," said Brittany Bacon, manager at the Angola Bureau of Motor Vehicles license branch. But alas, I am wrong about the amount of plates issued in Steuben County, though the abundance my imagination sees could be made up from all of the migrating shoppers from neighboring counties. Brad Folck of the BMV's communication arm provided the latest statistics on the issuance of In God We Trust plates and the Auburn branch leads the way for our four-county area for plates issued. Here's the breakdown by ranking of plates sold: Auburn 5,309, 16; Angola 3,108, 57; Kendallville 2,477, 76; Albion 1,586, 105; LaGrange 1,312 115. As of last Monday, the BMV had issued 424,461 In God We Trust plates statewide. The plates have to be requested by vehicle owners and do not come with an extra charge, like the many specialty plates the BMV issues. Out of the nearly half million In God We Trust plates, the leading branch in the state was New Haven with 8,945 plates issued, Folck said. And this is just for the first three-plus months of the year since the state started issuing the In God We Trust plates in January. ❖

Rich James, Post-Tribune - There are those who thought it would be a new day in East Chicago when George Pabey took over as mayor in January 2005. It was as if the heavens had parted and God himself had anointed Pabey, ending the long run of Mayor Robert Pastrick. It was all going to be sweetness and light. Steeltown was going to become the garden spot of Northwest Indiana. Unfortunately, we're still waiting for the first flower to

bloom. Harbor heaven is on hold. No one ought to be surprised. The 2003 special election vote was more a matter of the people saying it was time for Pastrick to retire than city residents singing "Kumbaya" at a Pabey campaign rally. The people wanted change, and Pabey was in the right place at the right time. The names and faces have changed, but little else. Pabey grew up in East Chicago and learned how the game was played. He was a part of the system -- not someone out to fix it. When it came time for East Chicago to land a riverboat casino, Pabey was there, working the docks. Pabey was among a group of local "investors" who offered up their political clout rather than money to scare away other bidders and land Showboat as the city's casino. When Showboat sold out to Harrah's, Pabey and the others were paid handsomely. ❖



Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Jim Schellinger is an architect with a plan. He spent all of Dyngus Day building a foundation in the South Bend area. His plan calls for statewide building, constructing a political campaign to win the Democratic nomination for governor and then to defeat Gov. Mitch Daniels, the Republican incumbent, in November of '08. Schellinger said he has been working on the design for this project since last September and expressed confidence that "I'm going to win." To do that, Schellinger will need to have a solid campaign foundation both in South Bend, where he grew up and graduated from the University of Notre Dame, and in Indianapolis, where he heads an architectural firm with 100 employees. Why? Because Daniels' political base is in the Indianapolis area. The governor, while still unpopular in much of the state, is viewed as more popular now in Indy. To be successful, a Democratic challenger will have to neutralize some of that Daniels strength in the most populous area

of the state. And because the South Bend area is where disapproval of Daniels remains widespread and vehement. To be successful, a Democratic challenger also will have to take advantage of that lingering disapproval of the sale of Toll Road operations for 75 years and the handling of the daylight time issue. ❖





Fort Wayne soldier killed in Iraq

FORT WAYNE - A 2006 Northrop High School graduate and soldier in the Army died in Iraq on Tuesday, officials said. Pfc. Richard P. Langenbrunner, 19, of Fort Wayne, died in Rustamiyah, Iraq, of injuries suffered in a non-combat related incident, a report from the Defense Department said. He was the seventh person from Indiana to have died in Iraq in the past three weeks.



Reaction to Supreme Court on partial birth abortion

WASHINGTON - In response to a Supreme Court ruling upholding the partial-birth abortion ban, U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth said Wednesday, "I applaud the Court's decision today affirming the belief that every human life has value. In upholding the ban on this practice, the Court extended the promise of life to the most vulnerable members of our society. But more must be done, and I will work in a collaborative manner in Congress to reduce the number of abortions and unwanted pregnancies and promote an America where life is valued at every stage." Mike Fichter of Indiana Right to Life said, "This ruling is a major victory that signals the end of a brutal chapter in American history. Today's opinion gives a ray of hope that one day all unborn children will be protected as persons under the U.S. Constitution." Fichter acknowledges that Indiana Right to Life will closely examine the ruling to determine new opportunities to restore legal protection for unborn children in Indiana. "This is a turning point in the entire abortion debate," notes Fichter. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence said, "Thanks to this landmark decision by the United

States Supreme Court, we can say life is winning in America. The Supreme Court's decision represents an awakening of the conscience of a nation. This is the first true judicial victory for the unborn since Roe v. Wade."

Conferees mull hospital tax

INDIANAPOLIS - Talks surrounding an increase in the state's cigarette tax are nearing a consensus at the same time House Democrats are suddenly pushing a tax on hospitals to help finance the low-income health insurance program (Kelly, **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Key players in the negotiation behind the Healthy Indiana plan – an initiative by Gov. Mitch Daniels to provide coverage for the working poor – said the cigarette tax increase being discussed is between 35 to 45 cents a pack. The state's tobacco tax is currently 55.5 cents a pack, and it was last raised in 2002. Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, also said a graduated cigarette tax increase is being considered over the next 10 years so that legislators would have to vote only once. He is one of four conferees assigned to hammer out a deal on the issue. Several advocates testified Wednesday in behalf of the tax increase, even encouraging lawmakers to raise the tax by \$1. "Why not a buck? The polling is there, the public health impact is there," said Aaron Doeppers, director of the Midwest region of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Sen. Patricia Miller, R-Indianapolis, another conferee, is adamantly opposed to such a move. "To consider a hospital bed tax in the last 10 days of session ... it's just too late in the session in my opinion," she said.

Mayors push for property tax reform

INDIANAPOLIS - Mayors from across Indiana converged on the Statehouse on Wednesday, urging lawmakers to provide them with

more ways of generating tax money so they can meet essential services, such as police and fire protection (Corbin, **Evansville Courier & Press**). The lobbying effort comes as state lawmakers are being pressured by homeowners, who are bracing for property-tax increases averaging 15 percent next year. A group of big-city and small-town mayors warned if the Legislature does not act this session to replace property-tax revenue cities are losing to the so-called Circuit Breaker law, some communities will face severe cuts in public safety. Among the mayors lobbying legislators Wednesday was Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. "Everybody wants to see property taxes lowered; but you can't do that unless you're going to provide replacement revenue," Weinzapfel said outside the Statehouse. "Cities and towns each have their own unique challenges, opportunities and problems. We need the fiscal flexibility to address those conditions, to provide the type of services our constituents want us to provide," he said.

Uzelac booted off ballot

MERRILLVILLE- Lake County Election Board attorney David Saks said Merrillville Town Councilman Dave Uzelac can appeal a decision to boot him from the May 8 primary ballot, but probably wouldn't get an answer before then (**Post-Tribune**). A Lake County judge ruled Wednesday that Uzelac's past conviction for felony robbery, later reduced to a misdemeanor, means he does not meet state law standards for candidacy for public office.

Terre Haute councilman Miles dies at age 74

TERRE HAUTE- Terre Haute City Councilman Charles "Chuck" Miles, D-6th, has died, according to City Council President George Azar, who received a phone call at his home this morning with the news, he said (Terre Haute Tribune-Star. Miles had been seeking re-election. ❖