



# Under the hood of Clinton-Obama

## *Hillary's Indiana campaign planning on the fly with Bayh*

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

SPEEDWAY, Ind. - When U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton walked into Allison Transmission Plant 12 Saturday morning, the premise was that this would commence a cohesive three-city offensive on the issue of manufacturing, jobs and national security. Walking with her was U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh and the topics at hand had his fingerprints all over them. Bayh has done several press events at Plant 12, so this was familiar territory for him and the local press. He made a pitch for the plant several years ago as U.S. military deaths began to rise due to Improvised Explosive Devices in Iraq. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he also raised the alarms on the Magnaquench plant in Valparaiso that was sold to Chinese investors and then moved to Asia.

The two plants provided perfect bookends for the Clinton presidential campaign. Allison is now building axles for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, while Magnaquench has disappeared. If the U.S. military needs magnets, it might have to go to China to buy them.



"Because of the Bush administration's failed policies, we're not just outsourcing jobs, we're outsourcing our security," Clinton said to the 400 Allison employees and local and national press. "This has got to stop. We cannot

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# Time running out for the Schellinger campaign

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - As Jim Schellinger took the stage at Indiana-Purdue at Fort Wayne Tuesday night for his only scheduled debate with Jill Long Thompson, he had to know that time was running out. Just a day before, a SurveyUSA poll showed him trailing Thompson 46-38 percent. Now he was appearing on her home turf - Thompson's old congressional district, and the calendar showed just seven days before the Pennsylvania ...



"That's like selling a farm to pay for a combine."

- Jill Long Thompson, criticizing Gov. Daniels' toll road lease during Tuesday's debate with Jim Schellinger in Fort Wayne



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primary.

The Indiana primary that will determine the immediate future of Schellinger and Thompson is on May 6. But if the past is an indication, it's likely we'll see either Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton on Hoosier soil on April 22 declaring victory in the Keystone State. Often the candidates move on to the next battleground state on Election Night and there is no question, as HPI identified in its March 21 edition, that Indiana is truly the "last swing state" in this historic presidential race.

**So where the** Schellinger-Thompson campaign stands on April 22-23, the very days the next Howey-Gauge Poll will be in the field, will likely be when time stands still. If the SurveyUSA poll is to be believed (and the Thompson campaign was bad-mouthing the last one that showed her down), Schellinger has about a week to close the gap. We know of at least one of the presidential campaigns that also shows Thompson ahead outside the margin of error. Even if Schellinger somehow engineers a comeback, he's facing a dynamic where Thompson is likely to feed off the strengths of both the Obama and Clinton campaigns among African-Americans and women. SurveyUSA revealed Thompson has a big lead in Northern Indiana while the pair are splitting the rest of the state. Schellinger is clearly paying for all those dormant months last year when he failed to generate any substantial earned media despite pleas for something ... anything ... from media outlets (including this one).

**SurveyUSA makes** some sense. Schellinger had the TV ad campaign to himself for three weeks and both SurveyUSA and Research 2000 showed him making up almost a 30-percent deficit. Thompson entered the TV derby a little more than two weeks ago, so the two campaigns have been duking it out ever since. That Thompson would be doing well in Northern Indiana is no surprise. She was a Valparaiso City Councilwoman,

a U.S. Senate candidate, the old 4th CD congresswoman for three terms, and an unsuccessful 2nd CD candidate in 2002. While bad-mouthing SurveyUSA (as well as Howey-Gauge) the Thompson campaign has told HPI that the former has the ability to "spot a trend." Indianapolis Star columnist Matt Tully spent one dreary winter afternoon matching up SurveyUSA polls with final results. While SurveyUSA is known as the "poor man's poll," its track record has been credible. Research 2000 pollster Dell Ali told



the South Bend Tribune that if Obama wins, Thompson is likely to follow suit.

The two candidates appeared before a half-full (we're trying to be positive here) IPFW auditorium and took several pot shots at each other after vowing at the HPI Forum last October not to do so. Schellinger kept reminding the audience that "I'm not a politician" and that has been clearly evidenced by the amateurish campaign he presided over for much of 2007.

**Schellinger completed** that thought by adding, "I won't go on the offensive." Thompson said that Schellinger "had leveled a charge" over the 1992 banking scandal and noted that the Indianapolis Star called





it "desperately negative." In turn, Schellinger accused Thompson of "distorted attacks." A few minutes later, Thompson urged Schellinger to "open the books on Trident Air" as well as \$300,000 CSO Architects have donated to political candidates. Trident Air is an LLC that was funded by Schellinger's partners and the candidate uses to travel. Schellinger said that he "would be more than willing to open up books" but said that Thompson's "legal counsel had canceled the meeting."

**This was not enlightening** stuff here. When Thompson slipped in another zinger, accusing Schellinger's CSO firm of "lobbying to raise property taxes" on school construction projects (pssst, the GOP is taking notes). Schellinger refused to return fire, saying, "This is when I'm supposed to go on and attack my opponent. I'm not going to do that." There was a burst of applause through the crowd. But if the non-political political candidate doesn't go negative (and there is some evidence that kind of campaigning won't be tolerated in this "throw the bums out" climate; note the Clinton-Obama race has not gone negative here), the question remains: how does Schellinger outshine the cow-milking, teacher Thompson under the total presidential eclipse less than a week away?

The only other joint appearance scheduled is at 9:30 a.m. Sunday on Kevin Rader's WTHR-TV show. The winner of the May 6 primary will challenge Gov. Mitch Daniels, who is unopposed in the Republican primary.

**And here Daniels has a commanding** \$5.2 million cash-on-hand lead, compared to Thompson's tiny \$485,000 and Schellinger's unimpressive \$715,000. If Thompson wins, she will have to explain why she was only able to raise \$907,000 in nine months.

Democrats will echo the names of Brent Waltz,

Greg Walker and Greg Ballard, fundraising dwarfs who scored titanic upsets. The difference is that few Hoosiers can match the political acumen of Gov. Daniels, who comes with the Morris-Lugar-Reagan-Bulen political pedigree. The best hope for the Democrats is if a Democratic tidal wave is so huge next November that it wipes out every Republican standing in its way, which - with \$4 a gallon gas and skyrocketing grocery bills - is possible.

Whoever wins the Democratic primary is going to have to step it up in so many ways: money, field work, message, and that unity thing that never came together.

**A Schellinger defeat** would offer up some fascinating implications. How will the Indiana Democratic Party that backed Schellinger make peace with Thompson? Will Thompson try and wrest control of the party away from U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh and Chairman Dan Parker, who has his own problems? How will the Bayh machine (and Indiana Democratic Party) act if it loses Schellinger, Clinton and Andre Carson? It took sides in all those contests when a wiser course might have been to let the candidates hash it out. If that trifecta occurs, there are going to be many hostile pockets within the party joining those who have been muttering about Bayh's Iraq War vote in October 2002.

Why didn't the party remain neutral, particularly in a race that produced a candidate like Dr. Woody Myers in the 7th CD, who has been well-funded (almost better funded than Thompson's statewide effort) and has adroitly used TV?

If you think March and April have been interesting in Indiana, wait until mid-May.

**HPI Horserace Primary Status:** LEANS THOMP-

SON



## Clinton, Obama, from page 1

remain a strong, free and prosperous nation if we continue to outsource industries essential to our national defense. This is not about ideology. This is not about economic theory. This is not about Democrat or Republican. It's about common sense. 'Made in America' can't be just a slogan. It must be a strategy."

Clinton said that of the two stories, "I like the Allison Transmission one a lot better." At the time, Magnaquench was the only producer in the United States of what are known as rare-earth "neo" magnets, critical components in the guidance systems of military smart bombs, which were not covered by the federal 'Buy America' specialty metals clause. As a result of the decision to shut down Magnaquench's U.S. production, today the U.S. military



buys "neo" magnets from China. Clinton outlined a plan to maintain strong national security and keep good jobs in the U.S. On this day, the candidate was in a convincing public policy groove.

By Wednesday, the issue had transformed into a Clinton TV ad airing in Indiana: "America's defense relies on Chinese spare parts," Clinton says. "Right here, over 200



Hoosiers built parts that guided our military's smart bombs to their targets. They were good jobs, but now, they're gone to China. And now America's defense relies on Chinese spare parts. George Bush could have stopped it, but he didn't. As your president, I will fight to keep good jobs here and to turn this economy around.

Her political shot calling Obama an "elitist" over his San Francisco remarks, were widely reported in the Indiana press but if Tuesday Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll (taken Monday) is the beginning of a trend, it may have backfired.

How these evolved from "Evan Bayh" issues to "Hillary Clinton" issues is a story that moves quickly. The thinking last December was that Indiana would be in play only when the veepstakes began. When Clinton lost to Barack Obama in Iowa, and then he took what appears to be a narrow but commanding lead after the Feb. 5 Super Tuesday, suddenly Indiana mattered. By the beginning of this week, long-time Clinton hand James Carville was saying on NBC's Today Show what HPI has been saying since early February: Indiana could be decisive.

**On March 14, Robbie Mook** arrived in Indiana after spending almost a year as Clinton's state director in Nevada and then Ohio. Her 10-percent win in the Buckeye state saved the Clinton presidential campaign in early March. The industrial/manufacturing similarities between Ohio and Indiana brought Mook here. In a little more than two weeks, the Clinton campaign opened 22 offices (three more are coming) while Hillary, former President Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea barnstormed the state with 40 visits to 30 cities (including 14 cities for Hillary Clinton).

With the U.S. economy sagging, the overall campaign template had been determined: Jobs. Manufacturing jobs. Defense jobs. And while the first wave of Clinton visits had similar appeals, by last weekend, the campaign was beginning to articulate more intricate themes. This was the result of a powerful steering committee that included Sen. Bayh, Indiana Clinton Campaign Chair Joe Hogsett, House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, former Gov. Joe Kernan, Mook, Jonathan Swain, and former House Speaker John Gregg. The Hoosier talent began refining issues for the candidate.

Allison/Magnaquench came from the Bayh portfo-



**Hillary Clinton takes the shot of the campaign at Bronko's in Crown Point last Saturday. Her campaign staff had no idea it would happen. (Times of Northwest Indiana Photo)**

lio. "He's on the Armed Services Committee," said Swain, who left the Bayh Senate office to work for the Clinton campaign in Indiana. "He knew it would be a good fit for her. Obviously Sen. Bayh had worked these issues. But there are a bunch of working groups" that helped Mook and the Clinton campaign size up issues and opportunities.

Mook observed of Bayh, "He's been very helpful."

This is an everyday process, or as Mook described, "a rolling base" that includes consultations with Bayh, along with conference calls.

"When we know she's going to be here, we bring these people together."

**The campaign has also** matched local surrogates with specific regions. If Sen. Clinton is stumping in Southern Indiana, former First Lady Judy O'Bannon often goes along. Last Thursday, Gregg, wearing clean underwear and socks, accompanied President Clinton on the Jasper, Vincennes, Terre Haute, Clinton and Greencastle stops. By Monday afternoon, Gregg and Crawfordsville Mayor Charlie Coons were taking swipes at Obama over the "bitter" remarks that surfaced four days earlier, suggesting Obama was "mocking" Hoosier small towns.

Polls put the Clinton-Obama drama at anywhere from 3 to 9 percent in the New York senator's favor until the Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg Poll from April 14 showed Obama with a 40-35 percent lead (Howey-Gauge on Feb. 17-18 had Obama leading 40-25 percent). But Mook told HPI, "This is a very close race. She's going to be here a lot. We feel she's got the winning message."

**While some things** are adroitly planned, much of a campaign in such a late stage comes on the fly. Would Sen. Clinton be in Indiana on April 22, when the results from Pennsylvania are conveyed? "I've seen such decisions made in the final 90 minutes," Mook said. And other things on the campaign trail are simply unpredictable. Like when Hillary Clinton entered Bronko's tavern in Crown Point on Saturday and sipped a shot of Crown Royal and an Old Style beer while belying up to the bar. "When we entered the bar, I had no idea that was going to happen," Mook said. ❖





## *Obama seeks Hoosier hearts from the heart*

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Just around the corner from the heart of Indiana - Soldiers' & Sailors' Monument on the circle - sits the Barack Obama presidential campaign headquarters. Heading there Tuesday afternoon, the anticipation was of a campaign that was coming off its roughest patch since the New Hampshire primary. Obama appeared to be fully in stride on Friday when he conducted an Indianapolis presser, calling Indiana a "potential tiebreaker." There was another town hall in Columbus, but during that late-morning event Hillary Clinton's campaign was mounting what looked to be its 10th-hour assault.

**Working off** of remarks Obama made in San Francisco that appeared on the Huffington Post -- "It's not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to their guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations" -- the Clinton campaign seized what may have been its last shot at derailing the Obama locomotive. Between the time Obama did an impromptu stop at Nick's Olde English Hut in Bloomington and setting off pandemonium on Kirkwood Avenue, and his last town hall at Terre Haute, Obama found himself on his heels. He tried to explain at Terre Haute North HS, "People are frustrated and bitter and they want to see a change in Washington and that's why I'm running for president of the United States of America" By his last town hall at Muncie on Saturday, said, "You know, when you're bitter you turn to what you can count on. So people, they vote about guns or they take comfort from their faith, and their family and their community. Or they get mad about illegal immigrants coming over to this country. Or they get frustrated about how things are changing. That's a natural response. Now, I -I didn't say it as well as I should have."

Hillary Clinton was pouring it on. At Allison Trans-

mission Plant 12 Saturday morning, she said, "I was taken aback by the demeaning remarks Sen. Obama made about people in small town America. Sen. Obama's remarks are elitist and out of touch. They are not reflective of the values and beliefs of Americans, certainly not the Americans I know." There were more such remarks at Valparaiso and Mishawaka before she ended up at Bronko's in Crown Point where perhaps the most memorable photo was taken -- Hillary sipping a shot of Crown Royal -- since she teared up in New Hampshire the day before that primary. On Sunday, our analysis was this: Obama had lost his swagger.

He regained some of it on Sunday that played out



**Obama's Indiana campaigning headquarters are at the state's busiest intersection of Meridian and Washington Streets, right around the corner from Monument Circle. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)**

on the Monday morning network shows. Obama laughed at an event in North Carolina and said, "She's talkin' like she's Annie Oakley" (Bill Clinton would go on to call Ms. Oakley an "early female role model.") Obama said Clinton seemed to be indicating she spends "Sundays in a duckblind."

**At Obama's beehive** headquarters on Tuesday, there was nothing on display but confidence. Obama's national campaign manager David Plouffe didn't hedge his words: Obama will be the Democratic nominee. "Indiana is Obama country," Plouffe declared in front of dozens of



campaign workers and state chairman Kipper Tew. "Three weeks from tonight, the polls will be closed and you have an opportunity to make history. Barrack has won more states, more delegates, and the super delegates are coming our way. Barack Obama is going to be your nominee." Plouffe called the bitters "a distraction" and added, "It's being rejected. People want fundamental change. This is the level of politics that has held us back"

The next 12 hours, Plouffe seemed to be prophetic. A Los Angeles Times/Bloomberg poll showed Obama leading Clinton 40-35 percent in Indiana, a sharp departure from recent Research 2000 and SurveyUSA polls that had Clinton leading anywhere from 3 to 9 percent. LAT/Bloomberg also showed Clinton's Pennsylvania lead shrinking to 46-41 percent. While the Clintons had descended on 30 Hoosier cities and made 40 visits (including 14 by Hillary and 18 by Bill), the keystone to their remaining bridge to victory, a big win in Pennsylvania, appeared to be in jeopardy.

**Even more troubling**, while former House Speaker John Gregg and a bevy of Indiana small town mayors were castigating Obama over his "bitter" remarks and suggesting he was "mocking" small towns, the LAT/Bloomberg poll was indicating it was backfiring in the Keystone State, home to many dormant small mining and manufacturing towns. It showed that 24 percent felt Obama had handled the controversy well and 58 percent said it didn't matter. Another ABC-Washington Post Poll revealed that only 39 percent saw Clinton as "honest and trustworthy," down from 52 percent in May 2006. The moment that seems to capture this erosion came over the weekend in Pennsylvania when Sen. Clinton was asked how often she goes to church. "We can answer that some other time," Clinton said. "This is about what people feel is being said about them. I went to church on Easter. I mean, so?"

But the crusher for Hillary came the following morning when U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, in his own increasingly tough 7th CD re-election battle, broke the super



**Obama national campaign manager David Plouffe declares the Illinois senator will win Indiana and the nomination on Tuesday as state chairman Kipper Tew looks on. In the lower photo, Barack Obama talks to supporters at Wayne HS in Fort Wayne. (HPI Photos by Brian A. Howey)**

delegate logjam when he endorsed Obama. "He is an individual who can lead the country with positive leadership," Carson said in a conference call. "He is a new generation of leadership." President Clinton went to the Indiana Fairgrounds a decade ago to campaign for Rep. Julia Carson. "I've had the opportunity to speak with both Sen. Obama and Madam Clinton," Carson explained. "As far as the district is concerned, both are popular, but Sen. Obama is more popular in terms of support and unity." Carson expressed his "love and respect" for the Clinton family, but said, "For me, it was a decision based on how Sen. Obama represents a new kind of leadership. I think we can see a change and new direction."

**This is a truly dangerous** development for Hillary Clinton. While Sen. Evan Bayh has thrown his entire organization and his own schedule and persona behind the New York Democrat, including the "Spine of Steel" ad, Obama was making steady inroads into the Hoosier congressional class (though former Majority Leader John Brademas is backing Clinton). He picked up Lee Hamilton's influential endorsement earlier in the month, with the former congressman telling reporters he was literally looking at phone messages from uncommitted U.S. Reps. Joe Donnelly, Brad Ellsworth, Baron Hill (who attended Obama's

Columbus town hall but remains uncommitted) and Pete Visclosky. Andrew Jacobs Jr. followed suit on Monday and what he said was contextually stunning: "My colleague Lee Hamilton has rightly said that Senator Obama, in the tradition of leaders such as Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt, has the ability to bring our country together."

**Jacobs continued**, "There are two overarching issues facing our country today and Senator Obama is right on both. First, Senator Obama had the judgment and courage to oppose an unnecessary invasion with undetermined consequences in Iraq. He was right from the beginning, and now he has a plan to end the blunder and keep us safe by refocusing on the most dangerous threats we face. Second, he has refused contributions from political action committees and federal lobbyists. Senator Obama is committed to taking our government off the auction block and ending special-interest influence in Washington so that we can give the American government back to the American people."

The Jacobs nod was a precursor to Carson following suit; seasoned observers could see this one coming. If





any of the remaining "fretful five" as The Politico's David Mark called them, comes on board the Obama locomotive, Hillary Clinton will be in a deep fissure.

With Jill Long Thompson enmeshed in her own gubernatorial battle and past Members Julia Carson, Floyd Fithian, Frank McCloskey, Jim Jontz and Vance Hartke recently deceased, only former Sen. Birch Bayh and former Rep. Phil Sharp are left to weigh in during the homestretch.

**The six recent Obama** town halls after his initial foray at Plainfield were rousing events that commanded long lines and exuberant reactions. While Hillary Clinton

attracted similar enthusiasm at her events, several of the more recent President Clinton events played out before less than capacity venues.

**With food prices skyrocketing** (two gallons of milk, a gallon of apple juice, a 12-pack of Bud and two bags of groceries at Marsh cost me \$106 earlier this week) and record high gas prices (\$3.49 heading to \$4), Hoosiers seem quite open to a change agent, and this presents a difficult dynamic for not only Hillary Clinton, but Sen. John McCain in the fall ... here in red state Indiana. ❖

## *Obama, a nexus and message and technology*

By **MARK CURRY**

WASHINGTON - While delivering the keynote speech before the 2004 Democratic National Convention, a junior senator little known outside his home state of Illinois told cheering delegates that the true genius of America is "a faith in simple dreams, an insistence on small miracles." The philosophy behind the title of that speech, "The Audacity of Hope," continues to serve as the vehicle for the most surprising development in American politics in recent memory: the dawning of the political star that is Barack Obama. In the four years since that July day in Boston's Fleet Center, millions of Americans have heard him say, as he did last night during the latest Democratic debate, "I'm running for president to ensure that the American people are heard in the White House." Now, reeling from the bloodied and disturbed beginning of this new century, many have come to see in Obama the best hope for a country riddled and anxious with concern for the future.

**For the candidate,** the timing appears most fortunate. He arrives at a nexus of message, philosophy and technology that thus far has served to further his career. But he has not arrived alone. With him are thousands of campaign workers and volunteers attracted to Obama's notion that ideological labels

are "old politics," that the familiar means to success in Washington is no longer working, that, in fact, "we can do better." Win or lose, it is the talents and enthusiasm of these staffers and volunteers who are changing the face of



Obama's appearance at the University of South Carolina football stadium with Oprah Winfrey last January produced a motherlode of voter contact. (Obama campaign photo)

American politics. It's happening in states across the country and it's happening in Indiana.

**"You go down to Obama** headquarters and it's just filled with new faces," Obama supporter and former Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard told HPI. "It's as though





there's a whole new lift to the local Allen County and regional Democratic Party. I've just never seen anything like it since Bobby Kennedy campaigned here in 1968." Young people with coveted skills and ambition are flocking to politics, and they represent the future Democratic Party, tomorrow's campaign managers and activists, and, as Richard said, "the cadre of people who will run for office" in the years to come. "This is like giving a recruitment drive for the next decade for the Democratic Party."

"I couldn't possibly know what it was like when Teddy Roosevelt was at the turn of that century, a crusader against the muckrakers and the Ida Tarbells and the meat-packing industry," the former mayor said. "There was a whole movement. I feel that's what's going on right now."

**Kyle Cox is one Hoosier** among those attracted to the Obama movement. At 33 years old he is already a veteran of several campaigns in his home state. Inspired by the senator's 2004 speech at the convention, Cox signed onto the campaign soon after Obama launched his intention to seek the nomination. Since then, Cox has spent much of his time working the high-tech levers that machine modern politics. He devoted 10 months to South Carolina which culminated in December at Williams-Brice stadium at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. There, as a member of the field leadership team, he coordinated and executed

what the Guinness Book of World Records officially certified to be the world's largest phone bank. Some 36,000 people made 117,000 telephone calls in a massive get out the vote effort.

"We tried to think how we could best use the crowd that Barack Obama and Oprah Winfrey were going to build for us," Cox told HPI. "Our thinking was... put the script up on the Jumbotron, and get people to make these phone calls." According to Cox, the previous record was 16,000, set by George W. Bush in



**Indiana's Kyle Cox and "Smokey" in South Carolina where Barack Obama posted his first big win. (Obama campaign photo)**

Texas during the run up to the 2000 election.

To listen to Cox discuss his role in the campaign is to learn about Thiessen Polygons, means of increasing bandwidth, methods of capturing and parsing data, and using graphic overlays for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The Bedford native, who worked locally as a campaign manager before enlisting in John Kerry's failed bid, now finds himself in the midst of the most technologically advanced political effort in history. "For people like me this is like playing in the Super Bowl," he said.

Cox talked for several

minutes about the quality of the talent that surrounds him. "We have the best and brightest," he said. He sometimes shares office space with Chris Hughes, the 25-year-old co-founder of Facebook who has worked with the Obama campaign to develop politically viable online social networking models. "There are 19-year-old technology folks that are phenoms," Cox told HPI. "I've never seen anything like them. I'm an old fogey on this campaign." Not only are campaigners increasingly more likely to be tech savvy, the software and equipment they use are also more user friendly. "More tools have become available and the ease of use of those tools has expedited the acceptance of these tools," Cox explained. "It just makes life so much easier." This shift in the philosophy of technology and politics will benefit down-ticket races as well, he said. "We've been stuck in the stone ages with spread sheets forever and now we're moving rapidly towards a new model that is a geography-based model."

**It's important to note** that technology is only a means. Obama's success has hinged on a happy marriage of talent, message, philosophy and technology. Cox pointed to Howard Dean's failed effort. "I think his mistake was they bought in a lot of these folks from California with the orange hats, and farmers in Iowa don't necessarily identify with kids from California. What we did and have done successfully is use organizers that spend a lot more time

**A List Of Ingredients For  
The World's Largest Phone Bank**  
As described by Obama staffer Kyle Cox

- 1 HP 4250 printer
- 4 toner cartridges
- 7 panic attacks
- 8 Tylenol
- 17 Red Bulls, sugar free
- 27 computer shutdowns
- 35 paper jams
- 64 hours of labor
- 77 Marlboro Light cigarettes
- 12,142 pages printed
- 36,426 unique call scripts
- 145,704 phone numbers with names and barcodes





listening than they do talking. They spend a lot more time trying to take that voter and connect them with the candidate and make them see that we're all sort of in the same boat together as opposed to selling the candidate. We're not selling the candidate, we're not serving up Big Macs on this campaign... We put an emphasis and a premium on the human element of politics and the personal relationships that people have, as opposed to stirring up debate and creating these divisive sort of micro-targeting approaches."

**Marjorie R. Hershey**, author of "Running for Office: The Political Education of Campaigners" and "The Making of Campaign Strategy," reminded HPI that most of the major technological advances of recent decades have entered campaigns via the Republican Party, which is traditionally more closely linked with the business community. "So computerized direct mail, for instance, started with direct-mail marketers such as Richard Viguerie and were then adopted by right-wing Republican candidates," Hershey, a professor at Indiana University in Bloomington, wrote in an email. "Similarly, the Republicans' use of micro-targeting, beginning in 2002, came directly out of the business community. Howard Dean was a big electronic fund-raiser in 2004, but it was John McCain in 2000, who raised more than \$1 million in 24 hours after winning the New Hampshire primary, who was the pioneer here. And the Republicans have pioneered all kinds of other fund-raising innovations, such as the large-scale use of bundling contributions, ever since George W. Bush's gubernatorial campaign in Texas in the mid-1990s." When asked if she thought the Democratic Party could sustain its current level of activism, Hershey wrote, "That's almost impossible to predict, I think. Even a month can be a lifetime in politics; activism depends on events mobilizing people who would otherwise be doing other things, and events simply can't be predicted. Think of trying to predict the trajectory of American politics on September 10, 2001; events we simply can't foresee in international politics can intervene at any time. My sense is that if Obama is the Democratic nominee, we will see a considerable amount of Democratic activism, especially on the part of younger people, at least during the course of the campaign. If Clinton is the nominee, the activism may decline. But I think it's hazardous to make predictions about what the campaign will be like tomorrow, much less further into the future."

**As an Obama supporter**, Richard, the former mayor of Indiana's second-largest city, was willing to hazard a prediction for the May 6 primary, however. "One of your questions was how will local elected officials, Democrats, state representatives, candidates for Congress, candidates for offices that are on the ballot next year, mayors, people that care about the



**Former Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard had originally dedicated his 2008 to helping Evan Bayh win the presidency, but now he supports Obama.. (Fort Wayne city photo)**

infrastructure of the party, how are they going to relate to the Obama campaign versus the Clinton campaign," Richard said during our 30-minute interview. "There's obviously the issues. How do you feel about the candidate? There's also just which of these candidates will run a better candidacy in all of it's dimensions in the fall. So I was sharing with you those markers that would give an indication that at the grass roots that may be why that some of the people are looking at Obama. And we did the big picture with the mobilization of field forces like we've never seen before. And then I talked about the little things that matter when you're trying to woo leaders. I think they've (the Clinton campaign) become so fixated on superdelegates that they've poured

energy into that - that may be the best and only strategy that the Clintons have because they're doing catch-up. I believe that Obama will win Indiana and I believe that will end up making the difference." ❖



## Howey-Gauge Poll Briefing

The Most Awaited Hoosier Poll of the Century

**Clinton-Obama**

Schellinger-Thompson

Burton-McGoff

Carson-Mays-Myers-Orentlicher

Noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 29

Barnes & Thornburg Auditorium

11 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis

Lunch, polls & politics: Cost \$20

RSVP: [bhowey2@gmail.com](mailto:bhowey2@gmail.com)

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## 2008 Indiana Governor

**Governor 2008:** Republican: Gov. Mitch Daniels, Democrat: Jim Schellinger, Jill Long Thompson. **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:** Thompson was endorsed by Teamsters Locals 142 (Gary), Local 414 (Fort Wayne), Local 215 (Evansville) as well as Local 89 and Local 783 in Louisville. "At this critical time for our state and nation, our members felt it was important to support someone who has a proven record of fighting for working people," said Walt Lytle, the Secretary-Treasurer of Local Union 414 in Fort Wayne. Schellinger's campaign put out a press release last Friday touting the endorsements of four mayors from across the state. Of note? Two of them are listed on Jill Long Thompson's website as backing her campaign, including Cannelton Mayor Smokey Graves and Bicknell Mayor Jon Flickinger. Could this race turn on Bicknell? Based on his advertising alone, voters might think Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels is facing a serious challenge in the May 6 primary (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). After all, Daniels is on television in every media market that touches Indiana, including Louisville, airing five commercials. But the governor won't face a challenger until the November election. And with two Democrats seeking their party's nomination, Daniels doesn't even know who his opponent will be. That hasn't stopped him from speaking to voters. "The campaign actually wanted to start television commercials in January," Daniels' campaign spokesman Cam Savage said. "He said absolutely not, not until the legislative session is over, not until we pass property-tax relief." Almost immediately after lawmakers adjourned, the first Daniels commercials went on the air, and the campaign has purchased television and radio time through the primary, Savage said. "It's the right thing to do," said Mike McDaniel, a former state chairman of the Indiana Republican Party. "By being on now and being on as much — if not more than — the two Democrats running, you start getting your own message out before you're defined by them." Democrats say Daniels had no choice but to begin advertising early because voters have not given him a high approval rating in polls. "He's smart to



put his ads up there because he's got to re-craft an image that a lot of Hoosiers don't like right now," said Robin Winston, a former state chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party. Schellinger and Thompson say the tax package that Gov. Daniels signed into law this spring should not be the final word on the state's tax structure (Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal). Thompson said that if elected she'll lead a complete overhaul of Indiana's tax system, gearing it toward economic growth. Schellinger said Hoosiers don't understand the recently passed plan and are likely to be shocked when their property tax bills increase in the future. He said only intense focus on state and local government efficiencies will help. "You can't make good decisions when you're in crisis mode," Schellinger said. To Thompson, abolishing the local tax is not a good option. "I think the property tax provides a consistent level of revenue from year to year," Thompson said. "But it needs to be fair and transparent so people aren't surprised (by their bills), and it needs to be fair and equitable." Schellinger was somewhat less definitive about eliminating property taxes. "I'm open to it," he said. "It's intriguing." Schellinger went on to say that abolishing the property tax completely or for homeowners only would mean drastic cuts in government services or increases in other taxes "that I don't think are realistic." The tax system "has to be responsible," he said, which doesn't mean tying all services to income and sales taxes only. **Primary Status:** Leans Thompson

## 2008 Congressional

### **Congressional District 5: Republican:**

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, Dr. John McGoff, Clayton Alfred. Democrat: Chester Kelsey, Mary Etta Ruley, Kenny Stall. Geography: Media Market: Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend. People: Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. 2006 Republican Primary Result: Burton 61,150, Alfred 6,869, Wakley 4,822. 2006 General Result: Burton (R) 133,118, Carr (D) 64,362, Sharlow (L) 7,431, Miller (I) 18. **2008 Forecast:** Indiana Right to Life endorsed Burton. McGoff continues a cable TV buy with his basic bio ad. **Primary status:** Leans Burton



**U.S. Rep. Andre Carson broke the super delegate log jam by endorsing Obama on Tuesday.**

### **Congressional District 7:**

**Democrats:** U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, State Rep. Carolene Mays, State Rep. David Orentlicher, Dr. Woodrow





Meyers, Joseph Stockett III, Frances Nelson Williams, Larry Ledford, Pierre Pullins. **Republican:** State Rep. Jon Elrod, Cat Ping, Lawrence Shouse **2008 Outlook:** The signals from this race are interesting. Out of the blue late last week, the Indiana Democratic Party sent out a press release endorsing Carson. A day or so later, the Advance Indiana blog published a "poll" that showed the race pretty much knotted up between Carson, Orentlicher and Myers. The identity of the poll and who it was conducted for are murky (and this from a blogger who didn't consider Howey-Gauge "credible.") So while we won't publish the specifics, the activities of Carson signal to us they are not seeing numbers they like. On Wednesday, Carson endorsed Barack Obama for president. "I know this is the right thing to do and the right time to endorse. As far as the district is concerned, both are popular, but Sen. Obama is more popular in terms of support and unity." Carson told an Obama conference call. "I was just compelled to endorse him at this time." It makes sense. The Research 2000 poll had Obama leading in the 7th by 20 percent. Carson is obviously seeking to jump on the train. Asked if Obama would return the favor, Carson answered, "Absolutely. Yes." This comes even though Dr. Myers serves on an Obama health care committee.

It was important for the Obama camp to break through Indiana's super delegate log jam. It's not a stretch to see the quid pro quo here, particularly if Carson's move compels Congressmen Baron Hill, Brad Ellsworth, Joe Donnelly and Pete Visclosky to follow." Myers has stepped up his TV ad campaign, which has been clever. In one ad, he is driving past the northwest side oil terminals talking about the high price of gas. Another uses footage of the Iraq War and Myers tells his audience that the money could be better spent on education, health care and infrastructure.

The Myers campaign took a swing at Carson's first TV ad. Carson says in the ad, "Lobbyists and CEOs have too much power in Washington. That's got to change so we can help working people. But Myer notes: yet in 2008, his campaign has taken large amounts of money from PACs, Washington, D.C.-based lobbyists, and corporate executives leaving the average voter to ask how can he possibly expect to reduce their power in Washington? This year, according to FEC reports for the March 11 primary, the Carson campaign has accepted more than \$100,500 from 30 Political Action Committees including those representing the American Bankers Association, Mortgage Bankers Association, AT&T, Navistar, and the Florida Sugar Cane League. The campaign has also accepted at least \$1,550 from at least six corporate executives from CitiGroup, JPMorgan Chase, Oracle and NASDAQ. And D.C.-based lobbyists working on behalf of Verizon, Clear Channel, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce among others have contributed at least \$2,000 to the Carson campaign. These special interests, in total, have spent at least \$104,050 on Andre

Carson's candidacy. Of the three leading candidates, Myers has been most impressive with his advertising. Orentlicher's first ad, in which supporters have trouble pronouncing his name was curious. Most 7th CD Democrats know who Orentlicher is. It's hard not to notice all his signs in his legislative district and that gets him in the game. We still think this is Carson's race to lose. He has the family name ID and network. But Myers has been impressive and Orentlicher has a solid base. **Primary Status:** Leans Carson

## 2008 Indiana Legislature

**HD2: Democrat:** State Rep. Earl Harris, Drake Morris. **2008 Outlook:** Drake Morris will hope the third time's the charm when voters go to the polls on May 6 (**Post-Tribune**). It will be the third time voters in Indiana's 2nd District will choose between him and Earl Harris, the district's 13-term representative in the Indiana General Assembly. Once again, the 49-year-old Morris said, the biggest issue facing those voters is high property taxes. "I just feel like he turns his back on the people," Morris said of Harris, "and the people ought to realize that." Harris, 66, voted against the property tax reform package approved by the general assembly. He said the bill was an "incomplete document" and there is more work to be done. Northwest Indiana's largest cities, Harris said, could be devastated by the bill. "It is a huge, huge problem that has to be solved," Harris said. "People live here." Morris, who lives in East Chicago but does business in Gary, said he wants to meet with Gary Mayor Rudy Clay, also the chairman of the Lake County Democratic Party, to talk about possible initiatives to take down to Indianapolis. **Primary status:** LIKELY HARRIS

**HD50: Republican:** State Rep. Dan Leonard, Terry Abbett, Gary Snyder. **2008 Outlook:** Snyder announced that he has signed the Americans for Tax Reform's "Tax Payer Protection Pledge". The pledge states: I, Gary L. Snyder, pledge to the taxpayers of the 50th District of the State of Indiana and all the people of Indiana that I will oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes." Snyder is the only candidate in the in the Indiana House District 50 Republican primary to sign the pledge. "I want the residents of Huntington and Whitley counties to know the status quo is no longer acceptable and they will have a champion of the middle class finally representing them. I will not support any tax increase on a community burdened with more than its fair share of local, state and property taxes." **Primary Status:** LIKELY LEONARD

**H90: Republican:** State Rep. Mike Murphy, Matthew Hamner. **2008 Outlook:** Gov. Daniels took the rare step of making a primary endorsement of Murphy, which reinforces our take that this race is in play. One of the rea-



sons it's in play comes from ill will Murphy fostered when he was Marion County GOP chairman. **Primary Status:** LEANS MURPHY.

**SD2: Democrat:** Diane Smith, Lonnie Randolph, Gary School Trustee Michael Scott, Carolyn Rhymes Jordon, Jesse Ortiz, Louis Vasquez, June Simmons Blackmon. **2008 Outlook:** Voters in the state Senate District 2 will see familiar names on the May 6 primary ballot (Post-Tribune). Among the seven candidates to replace retiring Sen. Sam Smith of East Chicago is Smith's wife, Diane, veteran Gary School Board member Michael Scott, and Lonnie Randolph, who held the seat until 1998, when he was appointed East Chicago city judge and was replaced by Sam Smith. Also on the ballot are community activist Carolyn Rhymes Jordan, who ran for East Chicago clerk in 2003; Jesse L. Ortiz, who ran for North Township trustee in 2006; Louis Vasquez III, who ran for Lake County treasurer in 2006, and Indiana Harbor community activist June Simmons Blackmon. Diane Smith is not counting on name recognition to carry her to victory. Her husband announced his resignation last year, then withdrew it when it appeared Diane Smith would not win a special precinct election to take over his seat. "It's my civic duty to finish what he started," said Diane Smith, who was in charge of the family funeral home business while Sam was in Indianapolis. Randolph said he will be able to use his experience from his six years in the Senate to hit the ground running should he return to the Statehouse. "I'm not going to be like some freshman senator," he said. "The people that are now driving the Senate are the ones I came in with (in 1992)." **Primary status:** Leans Randolph

**SD8: Democrats:** State Sen. Jim Arnold, Debra Birkholz, Maxine Spenner. **2008 Outlook:** Arnold was endorsed by the FOP in his race against union official Birkholz. "We appreciate your hard work and dedication on all issues of importance to the citizens of Indiana, but particularly those rendered in support of Indiana law enforcement," said Tim Downs, president of the Indiana Fraternal Order of Police. Arnold introduced and sponsored several bills this session relating to law enforcement. One bill makes it a Class C felony to disarm an officer, while another increases the death benefits for police and firefighters. Arnold also authored a bill that requires individuals arrested for domestic violence to be kept in custody for at least eight hours, which allows law enforcement to take more proactive steps to prevent repeat domestic violence from occurring. "Since I served as a law enforcement officer for such a long time, I understand the concerns of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police very well," said Arnold. "It's important to me that those concerns are taken seriously and acted on when possible. It's the least we can do for people who put their lives on the line for us every day." Arnold is a former two-term LaPorte County sheriff. **Primary Status:** Leans

Arnold

**SD42: Republican:** Jeff Sponsel, Max Ellison, Jean Leising, John Heaton. **Democrat:** Warren Goodrich. **2008 Outlook:** Connersville Mayor Max A. Ellison announced Tuesday that he is endorsing former Senator Jean Leising for state senator in District 42. Ellison announced in January he would seek the seat being vacated by Bob Jackman, but in an effort to solidify the party behind the best candidate has chosen to suspend his campaign and support Leising in her bid for the Senate seat. "As a former city councilman and mayor I know the difficulties any elected official must overcome to be a productive and effective office holder. After carefully studying the issues and the difficult economic decisions our state will face during the next 4 years, it has become abundantly clear to me that our next senator must be able to start working for District 42 immediately. There will no time for the luxury of trying to learn the job while making these very important decisions that will have an effect on taxpayers for decades to come. At this point in Indiana history, the responsibility of a state Senator is simply too important of an elected office to learn as you go. That is why, after careful consideration and much prayer I feel there is only ONE logical choice for the next Senator of District 42. That choice is former Senator Jean Leising." **Primary Status:** Leans Leising.



Jean Leising accepts the endorsement of Max Ellison.

## 2008 Indiana Statewides

**ATTORNEY GENERAL: Republican:** Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas, Deputy Attorney Gen. Greg Zoeller. **Democrat:** Linda Pence. **2008 Outlook:** This now appears to be a two-man race between Costas and Zoeller. The winner will be the one who gets the nod from Gov. Daniels. It's that simple. "I think everybody is waiting for the governor to weigh in on this," Costas said (Times of Northwest Indiana). "If he shows his support for me, then I anticipate that I will get that nomination. I will not continue seeking the nomination if the governor lets me know he chooses someone else." Daniels and Carter declined to comment on the race. **Convention status:** TOSSUP ❖

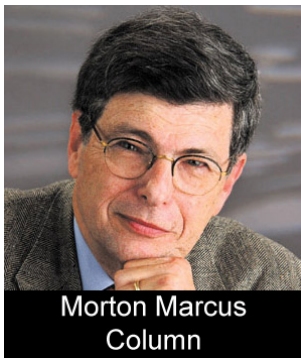




## Can we handle Obama's truth?

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - This is not a political endorsement. It is, however, a cry of outrage that a candidate for President of the United States is attacked for speaking the truth. Barack Obama has been quoted as saying, "You go into these small towns in Pennsylvania and, like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing's replaced them. And it's



**Morton Marcus**  
Column

not surprising then [that local residents] get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations." This is a brilliant description of what is certainly true of places in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Illinois where I have traveled in the past quarter-century. Senator Obama did not sugar-coat the story. He told it as it is, as

most local politicians would not dare.

Then along comes Sen. Hillary Clinton who ignores the reality of these remarks and goes on to accuse Obama of attacking people of faith. Worse the media labels Obama's words as a "bungle." Nonsense. The senator from Illinois knows exactly what is happening throughout the north and in many of the towns of the industrialized old south.

**Manufacturing jobs that** gave citizens good wages also provided identities to hundreds of towns. "This is the place where they make ABC or FGH." I was proud of a Ford Meter Box from Wabash (IN) in a sidewalk of San Juan (PR). Folks from Bedford take pride in their limestone contributions to buildings and monuments nationwide. We don't forget that CDs come from Terre Haute. We know that Hoosier steel and its many transformations are vital to cars, trucks, homes and offices. Shelbyville residents remind you that Old Hickory furniture originates in their town. Who can separate Columbus and Cummins? New Castle sees itself as the abandoned child of Chrysler while Kokomo prays it does not suffer the same fate.

Much of our struggle as a state is our mental distress. Just as it was finally sinking in that Indiana was not a farm state, we started to think that our preeminence in manufacturing was ending. There are still Hoosiers, in and out of the General Assembly, who do not see that manufac-

turing is the heart of our past 100 years and the essential core of our next century. Part of the problem is that RCA quit Marion and Bloomington, that General Motors and Electric have cut back their Indiana production facilities. But we don't understand how the state is advancing in the essence of manufacturing: the embodiment of human knowledge into material goods.

People working with Bio Crossroads or the Indiana Health Industries Forum know what is going on. There are thousands of Hoosiers finding new ways to transform what we know about biology and chemistry into products that help protect humanity from disease and debilitation. This is manufacturing.

**Most communities now** understand the need to attract new firms and to retain existing manufacturing facilities. Few, however, are prepared to assist existing companies in the necessary migration to new approaches. This is more than job training for line workers. Indiana's success depends on reassessing ourselves rather than blaming external forces. Owners, executives, and managers need to see where their old ways are proven paths to failure in the market place. They have to understand how to thrive in tomorrow's world.

If we are to escape the sad reality pictured so accurately by Senator Obama, Indiana must embrace its highest aspirations rather than settling for the malignancy of mediocrity. ❖

**Mr. Marcus is an independent economist formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business. Contact Marcus for speaking engagements at: [mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com) or 317-626-8853.**

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**Rich James, Post-Tribune:** Having been around the block a time or two, let me tell you -- experience isn't what it's cracked up to be. Experience, in most cases, means you are older than the other guy or gal. Politicians say experience counts, but they don't often say for what. We've heard more talk than we need to on the presidential level about experience -- who's got it and who doesn't. We hear the same thing on the local level come election time. For the most part, experience is in the eye of the beholder. On the presidential front, is it fair to say Republican John McCain is the most qualified to be commander in chief because he spent five years as a prisoner of war during Vietnam? Hardly. Or is it fair to say McCain is the most experienced because he's spent more than two decades in the Senate? Depends on what he's been doing. Hillary Clinton talks a lot about experience because she is married to a man who was president for eight years and is just short of being old enough to be Barack Obama's mother. All that means is that she has been around longer than Obama, but not as long as McCain. And all that talk about the phone call at 3 in the morning. About the only thing people do at that hour is get up to go potty. ❖

**Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union:** Elton John sang some songs, but before that, he offered up the bitter sentiment that it's sexism that's sinking his friend Hillary's campaign. "I never cease to be amazed by the misogynistic attitudes of some people in this country," he said. "I say to hell with them. ... I love you, Hillary, I'll always be there for you." Elton, here's a flash. Hillary's campaign isn't suffering because she's a woman. It's suffering because she's Hillary. ❖

**Mark Bennett, Terre Haute Tribune-Star:** While listening to Barack Obama's closing words, I realized the rarity of my experience. I've seen and heard, in person, the next president of the United States. I'm not referring to just Obama, who may well become that person. In February, at an Indianapolis office building, I saw Republican Sen. John McCain give an increasingly conservative blueprint for his presidential aspirations. In March, I watched Sen. Hillary Clinton work the crowds inside and outside Terre Haute's Saratoga Restaurant, pitching herself for the Democratic Party nomination. Friday night inside a jammed Terre Haute North High School gym, Obama told me, and 2,700 other Hauteans, how his presidency would change America. As Obama's speech ended, he told the throng, "I will spend every day I'm in the White House thinking about you, and hearing your voices." One of these three people will replace George Bush in November, thank goodness. Each (McCain to a far lesser degree) got a chance to meet and hear Hoosiers' voices. Unfortunately,

that circumstance is a fluke. I felt unappreciative, maybe downright selfish, when that thought ran through my mind later Friday. Usually, it's the other way around. I'm a glass-half-full kind of guy. Bitterness belongs in strong coffee and good beer, for me. Life's too short for self-induced ulcers. But the euphoria surrounding visits to Terre Haute and our neighboring Indiana towns by presidential candidates, their spouses, children, advisers and supportive Hollywood actors pushes me to pose a potentially cranky question ... Where the heck have they been the past four decades? Plenty of my fellow Hauteans and Hoosiers have, sincerely, asked me, "Isn't it great that we matter this time?" Why, yes, it is. And isn't it sad that it

took a perfect storm of a campaign to lure the Democratic frontrunners here? If their party's race had produced a clear frontrunner in mid-February, just as the Republicans' did, this town wouldn't have seen a stumping candidate unless their campaign bus blew a radiator hose near the I-70 exit. The first visit to Indiana of 2008 by the Democrats produced a telling comment, when Clinton decided to kick off her Hoosier campaign in the The Saratoga. As her host, Sen. Evan Bayh, explained, Clinton chose that eatery in hopes of meeting "some regular" Hoosiers. Regular Hoosiers. With apologies to residents of the other 49 wonderful states, our national leaders would be wise to seek out and listen to "regular Hoosiers" on a regular basis. ❖

**Matthew Tully, Indianapolis Star:** For one night, Indiana politics veered from Barack and Hillary and focused instead on the undercard in the May 6 primary -- the battle for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. Well, maybe it didn't focus on the gubernatorial primary. After all, only about 100 people sat in a half-empty auditorium here on the sprawling joint Indiana University and Purdue University campus, watching a debate between former U.S. Rep. Jill Long Thompson and Indianapolis businessman Jim Schellinger. Let's look at the highlights: The two dusted each other up over gas prices. Schellinger criticized "knee-jerk" reactions to rising prices, a response to Long Thompson's plan to cut taxes on gas. In return, Long Thompson pointed to the millions that Schellinger's architecture firm has made on property-tax-funded school projects. Then, Schellinger blasted Long Thompson for going negative. This went on and on and spilled into post-debate news conferences. What does it mean? The primary is in its final days, polls are tight and the campaigns are getting testy. Schellinger repeatedly called Long Thompson "congresswoman," even though she left Congress more than a decade ago. In this era of anti-incumbent sentiments. Three weeks before the primary, Jim and Jill took a bit of the spotlight away from Barack and Hillary. With the intense focus on the presidential campaign, it might have been the last time. ❖







## Michelle Obama says she's not elitist

EVANSVILLE - Michelle Obama said Wednesday she is a product of a working-class background and rejected characterizations of her and her husband as elitist. Democratic presidential candidate Barack



Obama has tried to deflect criticism of his comments that people in small towns cling to religion and guns out of bitterness over their economic plight. Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republican John McCain have called the remarks elitist. Obama said it was a poor choice of words to describe the economic insecurity many face (**Associated Press**). "I am a product of a working-class background, I am one of those folks who grew up in that struggle. That is the lens through which I see the world," Michelle Obama told a cheering crowd at Harrison High School, "There were no miracles in my life," she said. "The thing that I saw that many of us still see is hard work and sacrifice." Touching on rising food and gas prices, the mortgage crisis and many Americans' struggles to make ends meet on one salary, she asked the crowd, "Does this sound familiar? Am I out of touch?"

## Hill attended Obama rally, but still neutral

COLUMBUS - The appearance of U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, D-Ind., in Columbus for Friday's speech by Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., caught people's attention (**Columbus Republic**). Hill is one of Indiana's 12 Democratic superdelegates but also one of five who have not publicly stated which candidate they are backing for president:

Obama or Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y. Members of the local and state Republican parties, and the National Republican Congressional Committee, believe Hill should announce now which candidate he supports. However, the local Democratic party chairman believes Hill should wait, and Hill is remaining tight-lipped. "We really don't have any comment on this story," said Katie Moreau, his press secretary. Gary Bell, Bartholomew County Democratic Party chairman, believes Hill should wait until after Indiana's primary on May 6 to declare his support.

## Daniels seeks free tuition for college

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels wants the state to help bankroll the first two years of college for Hoosier families struggling to pay tuition (Indianapolis Star). The governor doesn't know how the state will pay for the plan, which he said would provide \$6,000, the equivalent of two years of tuition at Ivy Tech Community College. Families earning up to the state's median income of \$54,000 a year would be eligible. "The careers of tomorrow will require training beyond that which is available in high schools today," Daniels said, noting college tuition has risen 21/2 times faster than Hoosier incomes. "We must elevate quickly the number of our young people who pursue education beyond high school." The goal, Daniels said, is "to assure every Indiana high school graduate two years of paid tuition at Ivy Tech, or that amount of money transportable to any school in the state." Indiana ranks 44th nationally in the number of residents over 25 with a bachelor's degree and 41st in the number of adults with an associate's degree.

## Muncie leaders don't like Pence moratorium

MUNCIE - The top officials of

Muncie's largest employers, Delaware County government and the business community have asked Rep. Mike Pence, R-6th, to reverse his new policy about seeking money for local projects (Smith, **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Pence's spokesman said he's not likely to budge. Pence said this year he won't request money for projects in his Muncie-area district be included in next year's federal budget. Most spending bills include money for "earmarks," which are specific projects identified by individual lawmakers. In a letter signed by the president of Ball State University; the president of Cardinal Health System, which operates Ball Memorial Hospital; two Delaware County commissioners; and the president of the Muncie-Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, Pence was asked to reconsider his moratorium. They said changing the earmark process is a good idea and that everyone would benefit from less federal spending. But they said, "the earmark moratorium does neither. Denying funds to east-central Indiana will not result in less federal spending but, rather, a diversion of federal spending from our area to other states."

## Lake County faces \$10-15m in cuts

CROWN POINT - Lake County government officials must find between \$10 million and \$15 million to cut out of this year's budget before Indiana's property tax reforms begin in eight months, county officials said Wednesday (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). County Councilman Larry Blanchard, R-Crown Point, said he will help lead that search as chairman of the county government finance committee. "Nothing is off the table at this point. Everything is under consideration," Blanchard said. Possibilities include layoffs, service cuts and a local income tax -- an option Blanchard said he finds personally repugnant. He voted against an income tax last year.