



Obama lures Hoosiers with change

The earth shakes while political 'under current' comes to Indiana

"I feel the earth, move, under my feet"
- Carole King, Tapestry

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

EVANSVILLE - In the very toe of the Hoosier State, which was rocked and rattled by earthquakes for much of the previous week, Barack Obama was preparing to descend to the floor of Roberts Stadium. His move came in a state that in its 192-year history had elected only three African-American mayors (all in Gary), three African-American members of Congress, two black sheriffs, and only a handful of Hispanic mayors and sheriffs. None served much south of I-70.

Indiana House Majority Floor Leader Russ Stilwell looked at the gathering crowd on this Tuesday night and softly said, "There's an under current out there. I'm not sure if people realize what's going on." In about an hour,



more than 8,000 Hoosiers - black, white, old, young - had stood in a huge line that wrapped around the stadium, and for most, another two hours waiting for a transformational

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Hillary at crisis point: what to expect in Indiana

By **MARK CURRY**

WASHINGTON - Every student of literature knows a great narrative boasts a crisis point, a turn of events that unfolds to a decisive end. In the drama that is the 2008 presidential campaign, Indiana Democrats may well deliver the final word on Hillary Clinton. If Barack Obama can win here



"Congresswoman Thompson wants to smear my reputation as a businessperson by slinging falsehoods about my role as an architect."

- Jim Schellinger



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Brian A. Howey, publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr. and Mark Curry, Washington writers

Jack E. Howey, editor
Beverly Phillips, associate editor

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Call **317-254-0535**.

HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

PO Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265.

Contact Us

www.howeypolitics.com

bhowey2@gmail.com

Main Office: 317-202-0210.

Howey's Mobile: 317-506-0883.

Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.

Washington: 202-256-5822.

Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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Tuesday after next, everything after might simply read like a conclusion.

By every metric, the New York senator should already be down and out. Pledged delegates: Obama. Popular vote: Obama (sorry Howard Wolfson, we're not counting Florida and Michigan here). Number of states won: Obama. But the nation's former first lady, and her millions of supporters, refuse to surrender. Fresh from hard-fought victory in Pennsylvania, and apparently ceding North Carolina to her opponent, Hillary Clinton is mustering every resource to convince Hoosiers - and the country - that she is the best candidate to battle John McCain in the general election this November. Situated in the heartland that borders Obama's home in Illinois, Indiana is Hillary's last relevant opportunity to demonstrate the mettle of her campaign. With 72 delegates at stake, ours is likely the last remaining battleground. She must win here if she intends to dominate the party convention in Denver come August. To that end, Hoosiers can expect nothing short of a political spectacular unseen in these parts since the days of Bobby Kennedy.

Sen. Clinton made it known that Indiana is crucial when she appeared at the American Legion Mall before about 1,000 people Wednesday, just hours after she had won a 9 percent win in Pennsylvania and raked in \$10 million since. "I just love Indiana," Clinton declared. "I'm going to be here for the next two weeks doing everything I can to help as many Hoosiers understand that I will be there for you and you can count on me."

HPI contacted Sen. Clinton's campaign to learn what we could about her plans for the Hoosier state. We wanted to know what to expect from an organization assembled on the historic premise that a woman could win her way to the White House and lead these United States. Over the last several months the Clinton campaign has weathered both the best and the worst. In those early days, only a year ago, it seemed to many

the nomination was her's to lose. But lose she did. Last January Iowa handed Hillary a shocking loss, and, despite the several victories that followed, it seemed her campaign grew increasingly fallible. She suffered a defeat in South Carolina by nearly 30 points. Losses in states like Kansas, Connecticut, Alabama and Colorado followed. Despite wins in California and New York, Clinton was unable to regain momentum. She earned the popular vote in Texas but lost the delegate count in the caucuses. But then, just this week, came Pennsylvania, and suddenly it seems the Clinton organization is back on track

and ready for at least one last rumble.

Jonathan Swain, communications director for Hoosiers for Hillary, refused to buy into the label that the Indiana primary is a make-or-break for Clinton. "I think all nine of the remaining contests are important to both campaigns," he told HPI in a telephone interview yesterday afternoon. "As Sen. Clinton has said over and over, it is important that every voter in these remaining states have the opportunity to participate in this process of choosing who the party's nominee will be. I think certainly Indiana is a significant state in that process. It's one of



Sens. Clinton conveyed her understanding that Indiana is important as she spoke to about 1,000 people at the American Legion Mall in downtown Indianapolis Wednesday. (WRTV Photo)



the two next big states up, so certainly I think it's a significant state in that regard, and it's significant in the sense that Sen. Clinton is going to compete very hard here."

He was quick to point out that his candidate arrives at a disadvantage. Roughly one in four Hoosiers fall into the Chicago television market and are therefore already well acquainted with Clinton's opponent, who is expected to out-spend her campaign by a large margin. Most polls offer the Illinois Democrat a slight edge. But, Swain said, "Sen. Clinton is competing and competing hard on the ground here." He pointed to a grassroots effort launched in mid-March that has assembled 28 offices around the state. Thousands of volunteers have already registered phone calls that Swain said number more than a million, phone calls made by Hoosier volunteers to Hoosier voters.

"A lot of phone calls that we're making are related to early voting," Swain said. "And then there's calls to get volunteers out to phone banks, asking people if they will commit some time to the campaign if they are a Hillary Clinton supporter. Also, getting the word out about events. Not only visits from Sen. Clinton but also other events going on around the state to support the candidate. It's a number of different messages but the main thing is to encourage people to get out and vote on May 6, and also get involved in the campaign."

Political organizations are fueled by three limited resources: (1) Time - Hillary has 12 days. (2) Money - A sore topic for her campaign but reports indicate Tuesday's victory prompted \$10 million in donations. And, (3) Human resources - It's clear the Clinton organization has generated an army of volunteers, but she has three human assets that no other can possess. Their first names are Bill, Chelsea and Evan.

"I think we can expect to see Sen. Clinton, President Clinton and Chelsea Clinton in the state a lot over the next few weeks," Swain said. Dan Parker, chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party, told Jonathon Martin of Politico that even before the Pennsylvania primary, the Clintons had between them made 43 campaign stops across 30 Indiana cities and towns. Said Swain, "People have made the comment that it seems the Clintons have taken up residency here. I think they'll probably feel even more so over the next two weeks as we get closer to May 6."

But Clinton's greatest asset in the Hoosier state



Sens. Bayh and Clinton at Allison Transmission Plant 12 on April 12. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

may be Indiana's foremost Democrat, the junior senator most often mentioned as a leading contender to be Hillary's vice president. As our former governor, Evan Bayh knows every political nook and cranny between Floyd's Knobs and Indiana Dunes. "I fully expect you'll see the two of them together campaigning here in Indiana, and also Evan Bayh continuing to reach out in other ways to help Hoosiers hear the message of what Sen. Clinton is going to do as president of the United States," Swain said. Bayh is as meticulous and experienced as any red-state Democrat can be,

and he brings a 60 percent approval rating that makes your average local office-holder happy to share the podium. Just two years ago, Bayh made headlines across the country when he helped the party capture three House seats in some seriously conservative Congressional Districts. And he's already been busy supporting the Clinton campaign. Bayh, who endorsed his colleague in a much-publicized announcement last September, was featured in the first Clinton ad to run in the state, and just yesterday he made appearances on MSNBC and CNN to help spread the campaign message. He's also assisted with fundraising, both nationally and in Indiana, according to Sen. Bayh's communications director, Eric Kleiman, who noted that Bayh has attended events with donors, made fundraising calls on her behalf, and sent out online appeals for financial support.

Whether Bayh uses his \$10 million war chest he accumulated during his own presidential campaign that was suspended in December 2006 is a question that hasn't been publicly dealt with.

"The most important thing he can do is share with Hoosiers why he feels so confident in Sen. Clinton's ability to deliver results for Indiana and the country," Kleiman wrote in an email to HPI. "Sen. Bayh has known Sen. Clinton for more than 20 years, dating back to his time as governor when Hillary was first lady of Arkansas. Also, he sits next to her on the Senate Armed Services Committee and has traveled with her to the Middle East to meet with foreign leaders." Kleiman sent along the following statement disseminated by Bayh earlier in the week: "I'll give you an example: We were flying into Baghdad, she said, 'We're going to see General Odierno. I know him. I'm familiar with his previous assignments. He'll be a big improvement over the previous commander and here's why...' That kind of in-



depth familiarity and knowledge, particularly when you're dealing with something as profound as how do we extract ourselves from a war, I think will serve the country very well." And, Kleiman said, many of Bayh's supporters have joined in, including Swain, who, when he's not trying to win presidential elections, has a regular job as Bayh's press secretary. Hoosiers can expect to see Sen. Bayh at Hillary's side during scheduled appearances beginning tomorrow.

Yesterday, during a national press conference call, Sen. Bayh called on Sen. Obama to join Sen. Clinton in debate on Hoosier soil. "Hoosiers are going to be disappointed if there is no debate," he said. "Almost all of the other important states have had a debate, where candidates have come, stood before the voters, answered the tough questions, and explained why they're best prepared to lead the country. I know Hillary has agreed to do that in Indiana and am hopeful that Senator Obama will do the same. I know that Hoosiers will feel the same way, because we like people who are willing to stand up, take the heat, answer the questions, come before us, and show us what they've got. So I hope that Senator Obama will join Hillary in her willingness to have a debate in our state. I can guarantee both of them a good welcome and hope we can make that happen so Hoosiers, just like people in Pennsylvania, will have a chance to look at both the candidates, hear what they have to say, and evaluate them side by side. That's the best way to make an informed decision."

To get a feel for how the Clinton ground game is working at the local level, this writer contacted three acquaintances who have boarded the Hillary bandwagon in my hometown of Columbus. One fellow, a disgruntled Republican in his seventies, said he fluctuated between the two candidates but settled on Clinton based on her experience - and Bayh's endorsement. A woman in her forties said she was happy with Bill Clinton's tenure as president and expected the same from his wife. Her grandmother, a longtime local Democratic activist, said choosing between the two was the most difficult decision of her political career, and credited the former president as the deciding factor. Hillary's local campaign office, she said, was bristling with the latest breed of Democrats, all eager to support their candidate in this tough fight. "I'm too old to get involved in organizing now," she said, "but the young people are plenty fired up."

The Clinton campaign does have its critics. A prominent Democrat from northern Indiana, an Obama supporter, complained that he and others, all leaders in their communities, had yet to be contacted by Hillary or her surrogates. In fact, my source said the only call he had received from the campaign was out of a phone bank with a 202 prefix. "Bill comes in. Never get a call. Hillary comes

in. Never get a call," he said. "I mean, certainly, if you felt Indiana was important you might make a list of the 20 most influential Democrats, and you might possibly, even months ahead, call them."

Which brings up a topic that troubles some Democrats in Indiana as much as anywhere else, namely the concern that a November ticket with Clinton at the top would kindle a level of opposition that would burn candidates in the down-ballot races. Swain sought to reassure HPI that this would not be the case. "Let's look at the results. The results are that Sen. Clinton has continued to win in key areas around this country where Democrats need to win in the fall," Swain said. "When you look at what this primary nomination process has come down to, it's coming down to the Midwest, it's coming down to working-class states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia.... Once those contests are done I think what anyone in the party, as well as the general public, will see is that she is the strongest candidate to go head-to-head with John McCain in the fall."

Further, there are worries that the extended Democratic campaign has grown ever more divisive and polarizing. Pundits of all stripes point to polls that indicate the supporters of one candidate might jump to the Republican Party if their man or woman does not win the nomination this August. Bloody primary feuds in 1976 (President Ford vs. Ronald Reagan) and 1980 (President Carter vs. Sen. Edward Kennedy) were precursors to the defeat of the incumbents. The bloody battle for Pennsylvania seems to have hardened the lines that separate the Obama and Clinton camps. Other observers support the theory that the contest has electrified the Democratic Party. Millions of new voters, deeply dissatisfied with the direction of the country, have been added to party rolls. Together, Democrats will rally behind the eventual nominee with refreshed vigor and activism.

And it could all hinge on the vote here in Indiana. Regardless of the outcome on May 6, the tenor of the campaign here will certainly influence the process in Denver. One month ago, Joe Hogsett, the former Indiana Secretary of State who chairs Hillary's state campaign, offered HPI an optimistic forecast that bears repeating today. "I think Hoosiers generally, and Hoosier Democrats in particular, are in for a very, very exciting period when the country's eyes will be focused on Indiana," he said. "There's something about good old-fashioned Hoosier common sense that we understand as Hoosiers but the country doesn't very often get much of a chance to take advantage of. This is going to be one of those times when we have the opportunity to share what we believe is important with the rest of the country."





Obama, from page 1

figure in American history to appear on stage.

Around 10:45 p.m. on this balmy night, Barack Obama took the dais in Evansville to thunderous cheers. "Evansville is going to be so important," Obama said a few moments after Hoosier rocker John Mellencamp sang "Small Town." The song selection and the appeal were relevant. For two weeks, the presidential campaign of Hillary Clinton had taken aim at Obama's remarks in San Francisco that people in the small towns of Pennsylvania were "bitter" and had taken comfort in guns and religion. Former Indiana House speaker John Gregg, who hails just up the road, churned the controversy into one where the Illinois senator was "mocking" Hoosier small town life.

Thus Mellencamp's words seemed to reverberate in the drafty old Evansville fieldhouse whose greatest stars - Jerry Sloan, Don Buse - were southern Indiana white guys.

"... All my friends are so small town. My parents live in the same small town. My job is so small town. Provides little opportunity. Educated in a small town. Taught the fear of Jesus in a small town. Used to daydream in that small town. Another boring romantic, thats me ..."

The crowd itself seemed to state that another era had dawned in Indiana. Rep. Stilwell noted an Evansville Courier & Press story from that morning in which some speculated whether Obama could fill a 12,000-seat stadium. What if he couldn't?

By now, the question was moot. Huge screens showing MSNBC and CNN occasionally turned to Evansville and the crowd would explode into cheers and chants of "Yes We Can!"

What followed was Obama's now familiar soaring rhetoric and questions from the Eastern Seaboard about the Hoosier state of mind. "We're here because there are families all across this country who are sitting around the kitchen table right now trying to figure out how to pay their insurance premiums, and their kids' tuition, and still make the mortgage so they're not the next ones in the neighborhood to put a For Sale sign in the front yard; who will lie awake tonight wondering if next week's paycheck will cover next month's bills," Obama said. "We're not here to talk about change for change's sake, but because our families, our communities, and our country desperately

need it. We're here because we can't afford to keep doing what we've been doing for another four years. We can't afford to play the same Washington games with the same Washington players and expect a different result. Not this time. Not now."

The national media began filing into Roberts Stadium about 30 minutes before Obama spoke. Many will stay here through May 6. Inevitably, the first question they ask from Washington is, "What time is it out there?"

"We're on the same time as the East Coast," I say. "We've changed that." In fact, there has been great change here in Indiana. In the four election cycles since 2004, Hoosier voters have tossed out a sitting governor, the Senate president pro tempore, the Senate finance chairman, four members of Congress, more than 40 percent of our mayors including incumbents in Indianapolis, Kokomo, Terre Haute, New Albany, Jeffersonville and East Chicago.

Control of the Indiana House has changed hands. Indiana University has its third basketball coach and a woman - Danica Patrick - just won the first major racing circuit event in history. The earth has been moving under our feet. Gov. Mitch Daniels has forged, moved and even apologized for change ... some of it coming too fast.

There have been other changes. At a time when Obama makes a call for building infrastructure, many Hoosier Democrats lined up as vociferous opponents of Gov. Mitch Daniels' Major Moves toll road privatization (based, in part, on Chicago Mayor Daley's similar move on the Chicago Skyway). At least one of the party's gubernatorial candidates has based

her campaign on rolling back many of the changes that Obama talks about. Even though Obama and Daniels occupy diverse ends of the ideological spectrum, they seem to feed off the same "change" agent. The word is peppered through their lexicon and campaign material. Many of the same Democrats from the Indiana General Assembly who support Obama have conspicuously blocked reforms ... even those from other Democrats like the former Indianapolis mayor.

And now here was Barack Obama taking the clarion call of change in deep Southern Indiana. "We can be a party that says and does whatever it takes to win the next election," Obama explained. "We can calculate and poll-test our positions and tell everyone exactly what they want to hear. Or we can be the party that doesn't just focus on how to win but why we should. We can tell everyone what they need to hear about the challenges we face.



John Mellencamp sang "Small Town" for Obama's crowd at Roberts Stadium. He'll also sing for Hillary on May 3. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



We can seek to regain not just an office, but the trust of the American people that their leaders in Washington will tell them the truth. That's the choice in this election."

Obama continued: "We can be a party of those who only think like we do and only agree with all our positions. We can continue to slice and dice this country into Red States and Blue States. We can exploit the divisions that exist in our country for pure political gain. Or this time, we can build on the movement we've started in this campaign – a movement that's united Democrats, Independents, and Republicans; a movement of young and old, rich and poor; white, black, Hispanic, Asian, and Native American. Because one thing I know from traveling to 46 states this campaign season is that we're not as divided as our politics suggests. We may have different stories and different backgrounds, but we hold common hopes for the future of this country."

There are 100,000 new Hoosier voters taking all of this in. Hoosier Democrats will vote for a female or African-American for the first time on May 6. Some estimates are that female voters will approach 58 to 60 percent of the total on May 6. We've heard anecdotal evidence that black precincts that would normally vote 25 to 30 percent will be more like 60 or 70 or even 80 percent if they get the chance to vote for a black president.

Stilwell joined several southern Indiana legislators such as Dave Crooks and Lindall Hume, and Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel, in endorsing Obama. But he was quick to note, "Clinton will win Southern Indiana, but I don't think they realize what's really going on here." There are Democrats who won't vote for a black man, just as there were in Pennsylvania, where Hillary Clinton cleaned up on whites: two of three whites without college degrees, and about the same number of whites from families earning under \$50,000 a year. In past elections, we've speculated on how much a Jewish candidate for governor (Stephen Goldsmith in 1996) might lose in such intolerant proclivities (my answer was 1 to 3 percent). Sadly, numbers like that probably exist today.

CNN's John King was describing Hoosier Democrats much the same way as he did their Pennsylvania brothers:

lower income, lunch bucket Democrats. The demographics are very similar between Indiana and Pennsylvania - about 83 percent white; 8-9 percent black; 3.5 percent Hispanic. But long-time Clinton operative and analyst Dick Morris describes the Keystone Democrats as even more recalcitrant to change than these Hoosiers. And, besides, this is an open affair. Many independents and some Republicans will be voting in the Democratic primary on May 6. Barack Obama walked into a city that produced one of Indiana's worst characters: Ku Klux Klan leader D.C. Stephenson who took over the state eight decades ago. On Tuesday he found a huge crowd and willing ears. How they vote in less than two weeks could alter the course of American history.

Obama Campaign

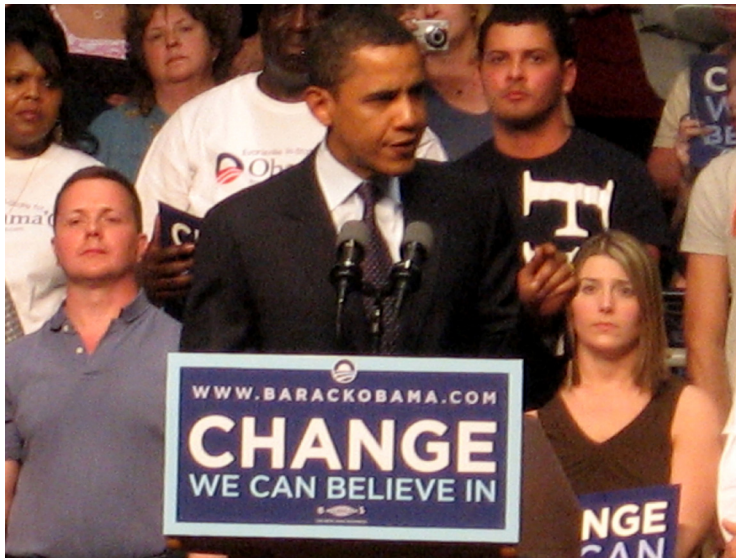
Notes: Campaign manager David Plouffe downplayed Tuesday's 9 percent loss to Hillary Clinton in Pennsylvania. "We don't believe structure of the state of this election is going to change fundamentally," he said on a Wednesday conference call. "She really does need to try and win out here and win with some margin." He said that for Clinton to make a comeback, she would need to win 70 percent of the remaining delegates.

As for the Indiana strategy, Plouffe said, "We're going to be there today and we'll be there a lot. We'll do pretty much what we've done in every state. We'll campaign everywhere: areas

where we think we'll do well and areas we need to work on. We think Indiana will be a close contest. We're going to campaign as hard as we can. We know Sen Bayh will be campaigning overtime, but we have a big and vibrant grassroots organization."

It was noted that Clinton had raised \$3.5 million overnight after her Pennsylvania win. Plouffe said, "Now they can start to pay their vendors." He added, "They are spending a lot of money in Indiana. They'll have all the money they need to wage good contests in Indiana and North Carolina.

As for the race of super delegates, Plouffe explained, "let's move from theory to reality: she's going to need to win a huge majority of super delegates." Currently, U.S. Reps. Joe Donnelly, Baron Hill, Pete Visclosky and Brad Ellsworth are unpledged and it appears they will remain so until after the Indiana primary. ❖



Obama's crowd in Evansville was diverse and they waited more than two hours on a school night to hear him speak, many leaning into every word he said. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



A final hand is dealt in the Thompson-Schellinger race

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

EVANSVILLE - On Tuesday, the last day before the total presidential eclipse arrived in Indiana, Jill Long Thompson was busy. She picked up the endorsements of State Reps. Charlie Brown, Dan Stevenson, Maria Candelaria Reardon, Joe Micon and Sheila Klinker, as well as State Sen. Karen Talian. Thompson called for more pressure to be brought on Gov. Mitch Daniels on the issue of skyrocketing gasoline prices. She had a Northwest Indiana Steelworkers rally. She earned several press stories on these developments.

Her Democratic primary opponent, Jim Schellinger, spent part of the day with his campaign staff ... picking up trash. It was Earth Day, not the day before the total presidential eclipse in the braintrust of the Schellinger campaign. And picking up this trash came at White River State Park in downtown Indianapolis, which has a fine maintenance staff that routinely picks up trash on its grounds. If the Schellinger campaign really wanted to get beyond what it called "catchy slogans," it might have chosen to pick up trash along the squalid banks of Fall Creek between Meridian and Illinois streets, a place where trash, garbage and junk accumulates within eyesight of three heavily traveled thoroughfares.

Campaign spokeswoman Jennifer Wagner said, "It was a beautiful afternoon, and it was refreshing to spend time with friends cleaning up a stretch of the White River. But there's so much more to be done." Now that's an understatement.

Now, in all fairness, WTHR-TV did give the Schellinger trash campaign a bit of coverage Tuesday evening. But what struck us as odd was with at least two

SurveyUSA polls showing Schellinger down between 6 and 8 percent, why would this campaign resort to an internal feel-good event?

The Indiana gubernatorial primary has been one where the organizational favorite - Schellinger - hasn't risen to expectations while Thompson has assumed the role as a perennially under-estimated candidate.

Here's what we think will happen in the final two weeks:

TV CAMPAIGN: Both campaigns have ticked up their TV ad campaigns. Thompson moved from 600 gross rating points to 800 on Tuesday. Both campaigns appear to be putting similar numbers in the Indianapolis market. Schellinger is spending more in South Bend, trying to cut into Thompson's margin there.

VOTER OUTREACH: Schellinger has a distinct advantage in voter contact and outreach. The campaign will have contacted close to 250,000 Democratic primary voters by election day, primarily through its UAW allies. Thompson media consultant Chris Sautter said the campaign is using Steelworker phone banks, though he acknowledged it won't be as extensive as Schellinger's.

LAKE COUNTY: Thompson will spend much time in Lake County, which is too cost-prohibitive to advertise in. Look for her to gain the kind of earned media she did on Tuesday with the Steelworkers rally and the legislative endorsements.

IMPACT FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE: While Schellinger has an advantage in TV budgets and voter contact, it is at a

distinct advantage in residuals coming from the Clinton/Obama race. In the SurveyUSA polling, she performs better, to the tune of about 15 percent, with women and African-Americans. The Clinton and Bayh organizations will be stoking the female vote. Some expect it to account for 58 to 60 percent of the turnout on May 6. Obama is obviously going to stoke up his African-American base in Indianapolis and Lake County.

HOMESTRETCH SETUP: The Schellinger's strategy was to be ahead at this late stage in the game. They



Jim Schellinger (left) and Jill Long Thompson in their lightly watched Sunday joint appearance on WTHR-TV in Indianapolis. (HPI Photos)



thought the three weeks where they were on TV alone would be enough to not only erase a double digit Thompson lead, but to extend it outside the margin of error in their favor. That didn't happen. While people on both sides expect the margin to narrow, we don't think the Schellinger campaign is set up to work a come-from-behind strategy, while Thompson, going back to her upset for a congressional seat in 1989, has worked such a strategy in the past.

NOT A POLITICIAN:

During the Fort Wayne debate, Schellinger repeatedly said he "wasn't a politician." The last person we heard that from repeatedly was former Gov. Joe Kernan, who lost a race he could have won. There are some parallels here between Kernan and Schellinger that go beyond their South Bend roots. Both took on the signature "I'm not a politician," which doesn't ring true with voters who know that anyone running for governor ... is a politician. Kernan lost in 2004 partly because as lieutenant governor for six years, he failed to position his ID numbers to where they should have been. He then dropped out of the race in December 2002 and re-entered 11 months later after he had succeeded the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon. Essentially, Kernan lost a year when he could have been raising money and getting earned media. The Schellinger campaign in 2007 raised an OK amount of money, but committed the same Kernan error of failing to drive up the ID. That has directly impacted where he stands today.

NEGATIVE ADVERTISING: After repeatedly vowing not to run negative TV, Schellinger is now doing just that. In an ad that began Wednesday, Schellinger called Thompson "a Washington politician" who cut Social Security and Medicare and worked for "unfair trade deals that ship our jobs overseas." Thompson campaign media consultant Chris Sautter said, "Jill voted against NAFTA and has consistently opposed bad trade deals. Schellinger's reversal of his promise not to attack, made as recently as Sunday in an e-mail, is one of the fastest flip flops on record." The Schellinger campaign was angered at a Thompson ad that began running Sunday accusing the India-

napolis architect of being a "lobbyists" who sought to raise taxes via school construction projects. "Congresswoman Thompson wants to smear my reputation as a businessperson by slinging falsehoods about my role as an architect and by mischaracterizing policy positions," Schellinger said. "Honestly, that's the kind of thing I expected out of Mitch Daniels in November, but she has invited a discussion about public records, so we're going to have a discussion about all the time she spent in Washington."

With two media polls and information from internal presidential numbers indicating a Thompson lead of between 6 and 8 percent, we were surprised that the Thompson campaign began running negative ads last Sunday when she called Schellinger a "lobbyist" who works to increase property taxes due to school buildings he designs and builds. That development dominated the joint appearance on WTHR-TV. But that and the Fort Wayne debate were marginally negligible events that produced about two news cycles of headlines (The Indianapolis Star didn't even report on the WTHR appearance). Schellinger got a Page 1 headline in Tuesday's Louisville Courier-Journal taking Thompson to task for the negative ad, but we think that most voters are hardly emotionally invested in someone like Schellinger. It is hard for voters to deliver retribution on a wronged person they don't know. And while Schellinger is noble for

rejecting the notion of negative campaigning, he boxed himself in at a time when he figured he would be leading. Now that he's behind and has gone negative, well, that's a dilemma.

Next Key Events: Schellinger will release his government reform proposal at 3 p.m. today at the Statehouse. The second Howey-Gauge Poll will be released at noon, Tuesday, April 29 at the Barnes & Thornberg Auditorium.

BOTTOM LINE: Schellinger's voter contact strategy could get him back in the game in the last two weeks. But the hand of cards the two candidates have been dealt aren't the ones that Schellinger thought or hoped for when its master plan was redeveloped in January and February of this year.

HORSERACE STATUS: Leans Thompson ❖



Thompson's TV ads blasting Schellinger for being a "lobbyist" seeking to raise taxes on school projects used photos of two schools CSO didn't build.



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:** So much for that "I'm not going to go there" stance on negative ads by Schellinger. His campaign began airing an ad attacking Thompson on Social Security, Medicare, and trade votes. Thompson media consultant Chris Sautter said, "Another false assertion is that Jill supported trade deals. Jill voted against NAFTA and has consistently opposed bad trade deals. Schellinger's reversal of his promise not to attack, made as recently as Sunday in an e-mail, is one of the fastest flip flops on record." Sautter said that ad is similar to one used against Thompson by the Republican National Committee in her 2002 race against Chris Chocola. **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:** 2008 Outlook: McGoff is running about 300 gross rating points per week on Indianapolis network affiliates. McGoff is also running about 500 radio ads a week. "We've focused a lot



McGoff (left) and Rep. Burton: The Howey-Gauge Poll will provide the first head-to-head numbers in this race next Tuesday

more on direct mail, and have been sending it out over the last 6 weeks," said Trevor Foughty. "This week, we're doubling our mail universe size for our last 3 pieces." McGoff has raised \$100,000 since January and will report \$150,000 in net receipts on Thursday. The McGoff campaign says it has knocked on 8,000 doors in the last month, including 2,000 by the candidate himself. Primary status: Leans Burton **Primary status:** Leans Burton

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:** Carson is expected to unveil an Obama endorsement TV ad on Thursday. The ad is expected to show Obama talking about the endorsement to the camera. It comes after a week of the Carson campaign not having a presence on the air, though he was running a previous ad last night. WISH-TV reported last week that Carson had to pull the ads because of cash flow issues. Carson's endorsement of Obama apparently had a quid pro quo aspect. Carson also had to deny reports that his staff wasn't drawing a paycheck. Myers campaign spokesman Victoria Duncan said she was unsure how the Myers campaign would respond to an Obama endorsement. Myers is backing Obama. Myers has increased his personal spending in the 7th Congressional District race



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

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to \$1.31 million, according to campaign finance disclosure reports (Indianapolis Star). House candidates who spend at least \$350,000 of their own money have additional reporting requirements. Carson had \$93,290 in his campaign account at the end of March and \$26,326 in debts, according to his most recent disclosure report. Rep. Chris Van Hollen, the Maryland Democrat who heads the DCCC, said it's still an open question whether the party will make similar independent expenditures to help Carson win the primary. But Van Hollen said the party is helping Carson raise money.

"We're working very hard to make sure he has the resources against a self-funder," Van Hollen said. "I think he's going to pull it out." One of the questions posed at a Sunday night forum to Dr. Myers was whether he was trying to buy the Democratic nomination (WTHR-TV). Myers explained, "I look at the money I have earned as proof that a young man who grew up at 2902 North

Arsenal across from Douglas Park, attended IPS schools 56, 63, 74 and 80 and graduated from Shortridge High School all in IPS and who paid attention in class can do well," Myers said. Mays launched her air war on Monday with a 30-second commercial introducing her and outlining her objectives in the race (WTHR-TV). She was one of a number of the 7th District candidates who participated in a debate on race, religion and politics Sunday night. Myers has lent himself another \$450,000 in order to fuel his bid in this race (Blue Indiana). That brings his total investment to over \$1.2 million, and almost guarantees his on-the-air presence over the next few weeks. Mays began her TV ad campaign this past week, but her late start is unlikely to allow her to become competitive in this race. Blogger Jacob Perry has filed a complaint with the FEC alleging that the campaign of 7th District Democratic candidate David Orentlicher violated federal contribution limits of \$2,300 per election (Advance Indiana). He specifically identifies three violations in his complaint. **Primary Status:** Leans Carson



Rep. Carson (left) and Dr. Myers during a 7th CD forum last Sunday. (WTHR-TV Photo)

2008 Indiana Legislature

HD1: Democrat: State Rep. Linda Lawson, Raymond L. Fletcher III. **2008 Outlook:** Fletcher doesn't see his disability as a hindrance. Fletcher was born without

arms or kneecaps, but says his condition gives him a perspective of the hard times some people in Hammond face (Post-Tribune). "Because of my disability I live on a fixed income," the 31-year-old Fletcher said. "I understand more about the struggles of being on a fixed income than those currently in office." Fletcher earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Indiana University Northwest last December, and already he's running for state office. The Democrat's taking on Linda Lawson, 59, in next month's primary. Lawson's a formidable competitor. She's been in the state House of Representatives District 1 seat 10 years. Fletcher said he brings new ideas to the table, and would do his part to address issues affecting the district, which includes most of Hammond and part of Munster. **Primary Status:** Leans Lawson.

HD3: Democrat: State Rep. Charlie Brown, Bryan Bullock. **2008 Outlook:** When it came time to vote on a property tax reform bill, Charlie Brown knew property owners were clamoring for relief, but it could pose major trouble for cities and schools (Post-Tribune). Brown, the 3rd District's 13-term representative in the Indiana General Assembly, said he sided with the property owners and voted for the bill. Whether they side with him will be determined May 6, when voters have a choice between Brown and Gary attorney Bryan Bullock. Bullock, 42, said Brown, 70, is out of touch with those voters. "Most of the actions that he takes are self-serving," Bullock said. Now that the property tax reform package has been passed, Bullock said, the next step will be to pass an amendment to the state's constitution ensuring a 1 percent cap for homesteads, 2 percent cap for homeowners and 3 percent cap for businesses. That cap, Bullock said, is too lenient on businesses. "We are depriving local communities where these companies are located of tax revenue," Bullock said. **Primary Status:** Likely Brown

HD15: Republican: State Rep. Don Lehe, Richard Niemeyer, Lon Childress. **2008 Outlook:** We're keeping a close eye on this one. The Right to Work forces are taking aim at Lehe on behalf of Niemeyer. If Niemeyer wins, that would be a crushing blow to the House GOP, which believes that Lehe is the only Republican who can win in the fall when Myron Sutton is expected to mount a strong challenge. **Primary Status:** Leans Lehe.

HD19: Republican: Bill Johnson, Andrew Webster. **Democrat:** State Rep. Shelli VanDenBurgh, Dennis Meeks. **2008 Outlook:** Johnson, 54, said he is running because residents have been "hoodwinked" into focusing on property taxes while the government continues wasteful spending elsewhere (Times of Northwest Indiana). The Crown Point resident said he was pushed into running for office by a group of about 150 people who called themselves the Unhappy Taxpayers. "We have a problem," he said. "They've distracted us with property taxes while they



do what they want at the other end." Webster, 45, said he would like to see a constitutional amendment cementing the property tax caps that have been laid out and approved. The Crown Point resident also said, if elected, he will focus on bringing "some economic stimulus back to this area." "We need to use the assets that we have in this area," he said. "We have highway systems, a railway system and water system ... and I don't think we're taking advantage of that." **Republican Primary Status:** Tossup

HD49: Republican: State Rep. John Ulmer, Wes Culver. **2008 Outlook:** The Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Indiana Manufacturers Association, Indiana Right to Life, Indiana Associated Builders and Contractors, Indiana Family Action PAC, and the Indiana Insurance Institute all endorsed Culver today. "One of the primary functions of the Indiana Chamber is to advance business and economic issues in our state Legislature. Wes Culver is a strong supporter of business, and he has the experience to back it up," said Michael Davis, vice president of political affairs for the Indiana Chamber. "In contrast, Rep. Ulmer has voted for legislation which has actually made it harder for individuals to run and operate a business here in Indiana. Wes Culver is on the side of small business owners and families, and we believe he will do an excellent job of representing the people of House District 49." Jim Banks with Indiana Right to Life and Indiana Family Action PAC said, "Wes Culver is a strong pro-family candidate. Unlike Representative John Ulmer, Wes Culver is 100% pro-life. We need people like Wes Culver in office who will go to Indianapolis and fight for Hoosier families." Culver said, "I am thrilled with the overwhelming support from our local community and from the many prominent statewide organizations that have thought enough about my candidacy to lend their support. After several years of watching 'politics as usual' in Indianapolis, these outstanding statewide organizations understand that we need real change and strong, innovative leaders in office who are committed to our conservative Hoosier values. With this remarkable support I plan to aggressively work for change in Indianapolis while seeking opportunities to expand and grow our community here in Northern Indiana -- making sure that our area is a great place to live, work and raise a family." Raised in Middlebury, Culver has owned and operated numerous businesses including Prudential One Realty. **Primary Status:** Leans Culver.



WES CULVER

HD90: Republican: State Rep. Mike Murphy, Matthew Hamner. **2008 Outlook:** Hamner is using the immigration issue as a wedge to make inroads on Murphy. He's got a lot of yardsigns while Murphy is working a hard

door-to-door campaign. **Primary Status:** Leans Murphy.

SD21 Caucus: Republican: State Rep. Jim Buck, Tipton County Commissioner Monte Henderson, Westfield School Trustee David Mueller, Rick Skiles. **Caucus Outlook:** Buck goes into Saturday's SD21 caucus as the favorite to succeed Jeff Drozda, who resigned his Senate seat last Monday. Buck appears to have the support of Republican county chairmen in Howard, Tipton and Boone counties. Howard County Chairman Craig Dunn told HPI that Buck has commitments from at least 44 Howard County committeemen and 20 from other counties. "That should be enough for him," Dunn said. Former Kokomo mayor Matt McKillip is backing Mueller. Former Sen. Drozda told HPI that he is neutral. **Caucus Status:** Likely Buck

SD42: Republican: Jeff Sponsel, Max Ellison, Jean Leising, John Heaton. **Democrat:** Warren Goodrich. **2008 Outlook:** Some senior citizens living on a fixed income are finding it hard to make ends meet, even in Central Indiana. But Sponsel hope to reverse this trend by authoring legislation that would freeze property taxes for qualified homeowners 65 and over. Modeled after similar programs offered in New Jersey and Tennessee, Sponsel's Property Tax Reimbursement Program would reimburse eligible senior citizens and disabled persons for any property tax increases. The amount of the reimbursement would be the difference between the amount of property taxes that were due and paid in the "base year" (the first year that all the eligibility requirements were met) and the amount due and paid in the current year for which reimbursement is claimed, provided the amount paid in the current year was greater. "Home ownership is a sacred part of the American dream, and no one should ever fear that they are going to be literally taxed out of their home," stated Sponsel. "That's why I support a plan to freeze property taxes for seniors to protect them from the risk of future tax increases. We need to do everything we can to keep their property taxes down." We believe this race comes down to Leising and Sponsel, with Leising having an edge at this point. **Primary Status:** Leans Leising.

2008 Indiana Statewides

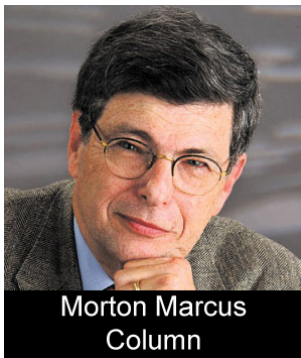
ATTORNEY GENERAL: Republican: Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas, Deputy Attorney Gen. Greg Zoeller. **Democrat:** Linda Pence. **2008 Outlook:** We continue to get indicators that Gov. Daniels is likely to back Mayor Costas. One hint: during Major Moves, Costas was an ardent supporter, something we're told the governor appreciated and hasn't forgotten. **Convention status:** TOSSUP ❖



Economic responsibility is easily misplaced

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - A friend of mine is a stock broker, a financial advisor, and an ethical person. He is deeply troubled these days because he feels he has failed his clients. The values of their portfolios have fallen, not drastically, but somewhat, enough to trouble them and my friend. But my friend's distress is wrong. He cannot take upon himself responsibility for what has happened in the



Morton Marcus
Column

market. As long as he acted prudently with the information available to him, his sleep should be undisturbed. The decline in the stock market, no matter how you measure it, has been distressing. Unlike twenty or more years ago, the market is a matter of concern to millions of Americans. It is no longer a curiosity; it is a vital part of our retirements or the future financial security of our parents.

It is not, however, the Dow or the NASDAQ, or the S&P 500 that matters, it is how our individual portfolios change in value that is of concern. A well-diversified set of stocks, bonds and other assets will not fluctuate as dramatically as any of the market indexes alone.

None of us should be self-critical about "losing" money in the recent market decline as long as we did not ignore unambiguous information. But the market has not given us unambiguous information. The best brains on Wall Street and around the world have been caught up in a frenzy of fear brought about by bad information.

The problem was that buyers and sellers of mortgage-backed securities (not the original house owners) did not know what they were buying or selling. All they knew was that housing in the U.S. was supposed to be a great investment. They forgot that housing is not guaranteed to appreciate in value, that fraud can creep into any market, that those "in the know" often are not, and that there is no sure thing.

And a sure thing is what they thought they had if they shifted risk to someone else. These financial wizards did not think that they often bought that same risk back from their trading partners. If you wrap a white elephant gift properly, you can re-gift it to anyone, including the person who gave it to you.

Once panic entered the financial market, the imma-

ture and the 'wise-old-heads' alike froze. They became immobilized; they stopped doing what they are supposed to do: move money between borrowers and lenders. Instead they sat on the money causing a liquidity squeeze, which is what we have today.

Lenders won't lend because they are fearful, not because borrowers are not trustworthy. Thus economic activity slows, more people become nervous, get cautious, and commerce stalls.

Today many home-owners have mortgages they cannot afford to pay. A few are victims of their own greed or the misdeeds of others. But most are just folks who got caught in circumstances they could not reasonably anticipate.

What we need to do is rescue them, shift some of the burden to lenders who put them into harm's way, and let the federal government accept some of the risk by insuring shaky loans.

Sadly, the President and the Congress have already made several bad moves. The tax refund check you will receive is a mistake. It has nothing to do with the mortgage problem and is just a cheap way to buy votes. The temporary mortgage credit Senator Evan Bayh and Representative Baron Hill support is another mistake that will aid millions who have no problem paying their mortgages. The problem today is to fix the hole in the tire where the air escaped. Instead, Washington and Wall Street want to sell us a new set of tires if not a new car. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an independent economist formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.

Contacting HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

Business Office: 317-254-0535
Subscription/Passwords: 317-254-0535

Indianapolis Newsroom: 317-202-0210
Howey's Mobile: 317-506-0883
Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535
Washington, DC Bureau: 202-256-5822
Business Office: 317-254-0535
Subscription/Passwords: 317-254-0535

Brian Howey: bhowey2@gmail.com
Mark Schoeff Jr. maswire@aol.com
Jack Howey jhowey2@comcast.net

www.howeypolitics.com



Rich James, Post-Tribune: I hope a beer at Bronko's doesn't fool anyone. When Hillary Clinton stopped for a shot and a beer Saturday night, she was doing little more than pandering to the working class. Anyone wearing a blue collar should have been offended. Hillary was trying to lay it on thick, just a few hours after calling Barack Obama "an elitist." Hillary hasn't wanted for anything in her life. She went to Wellesley College, a private school in Massachusetts. From there it was on to Yale Law School and then into big-money law firms. She spent a stint as first lady of Arkansas and then first lady of the United States. When Obama graduated from law school, he moved to the south side of Chicago to become a community organizer to help those who had lost jobs in steel and other manufacturing industries. He saw first-hand what it was like to lose a job and a home and one's pride. He tried to get people trained for other jobs. And he did it all making peanuts -- not the kind of money he could have made as a Harvard law grad. So last week when Obama said people were "bitter" about being out of work after watching their manufacturing jobs shipped abroad, he knew what he was talking about. He said part of that bitterness is a result of watching federal lawmakers do nothing to help. "It's not surprising then when they 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," Obama said. That's elitist? Come, now. Speaking of the people of Indiana and Pennsylvania losing jobs, Hillary is conveniently opposed to NAFTA today but said nothing when her husband rammed it through Congress.

Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal: now the party's presidential nomination has taken center stage, all but crowding out news about Democrats Jill Long Thompson and Jim Schellinger, who are vying for the opportunity to run against incumbent Republican Mitch Daniels. "The presidential candidates have been in the state an inordinate amount of times and the impact of that is that people are just focused on that race and the gubernatorial race comes second," said Robin Winston, former chairman of Indiana's Democratic Party. First there's the advertising. Because Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are buying up so much television time, the ad rates for other races become more expensive. That's not so much a problem for Schellinger, an Indianapolis architect who had early success in raising money. He's bought up ad time through the May 6 primary. But it could be an issue for Thompson, a former congresswoman, whose campaign said she is buying time as she goes. That's going to get expensive, and Thompson has less cash on hand than her opponent. Volunteer staffing is another issue. The Democratic presidential candidates are not only stealing

attention away from the gubernatorial candidates, they're taking away potential contributors and campaign workers. But just because this gubernatorial primary isn't the focus of political attention doesn't mean it's not important.



Mark Bennett, Terre Haute Tribune-Star: Purdue estimates the demand for soybeans and corn for biofuel production accounts for about 17 to 23 percent of the increased food costs. That's thick stuff, with little fodder for "gotcha" political sound-bites. Yet it deserves full analysis by the voters. We should know there's more to consider than just the base numbers on ethanol and biodiesel fuel vs. gasoline and diesel. The miles-per-gallon value of ethanol is 70 percent less than gasoline. To equal or exceed the value of a \$4 gallon of gasoline, E85 (a blend of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gas) would need to cost \$2.80 or less. But there's also a cost that doesn't show up at the pumps. Using estimates from Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar, Tyner points out that Americans pay \$2 to \$3 a gallon for gas in national security costs. (That would include the cost of fighting Middle Eastern wars and guarding oil routes.) "If you take that perspective, [ethanol] is a bargain," Purdue's Wally Tyner said.

Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union: I've been listening to the Demo presidential candidates Hillary and Barack for months now, and they keep saying lots of the same things. That's pretty normal for a campaign, especially one that's dragged on this long. So it's not really the sheer repetition that drives me nuts as much as the message. The more I hear certain things, the more annoyed I become. One of those things is when the liberals start talking about gas prices. The insanity. They blather on and on about foreign oil and the crippling U.S. dependency on it. Obama says America's 20-million-barrel-a-day oil habit costs our economy \$1.4 billion a day, and \$500 billion in 2006 alone. Every single hour, we spend \$41 million on foreign oil. Pennsylvania's average gas price reached an all-time record high of \$3.23 this week, and diesel fuel is over \$4 per gallon in many places - even higher than the records set in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina. In Pittsburgh, the price of a gallon of regular gas has been steadily climbing. Today, it is \$3.27. A month ago, it was \$3.03. A year ago, it was \$2.58. The typical Pennsylvania driver is paying nearly \$1,100 more per year for gas than they did when President Bush took office. What annoys me about their positions on energy is that it's liberals like them who exacerbated the problem in the first place. Why aren't we drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve? Why aren't we drilling for oil offshore? Why aren't oil companies building new refineries? Simple answer. Liberals stood in the way. ❖



Thunderous welcome for Obama at IUS

NEW ALBANY: Sen. Barack Obama told a thunderous crowd at Indiana University Southeast yesterday that he's the best candidate to bring change and he'll do it by spurning special interests and focusing on the needs of working Americans (Louisville Courier-Journal). As the nation's political attention turned to Indiana -- one of the last primaries for Democrats trying to determine their presidential nominee -- Obama said he respects his opponent, Sen. Hillary Clinton and that they share "common ideas." But he told the estimated 2,500 people in the IUS gym that they "do have a real choice." "I believe the only way we're going to bring about the changes that you need to see in your lives and the lives of your community is if we don't just offer different policies, but we offer a different kind of politics in Washington," he said. Obama spoke and answered questions from the audience for nearly an hour as supporters chanted, waved and cheered, often so loudly they drowned him out. It was his first campaign appearance in the Louisville area.



Michelle Obama coming to Fort Wayne

FORT WAYNE - Michelle Obama, wife of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, will make her third campaign stop in Indiana on Friday with a visit to Fort Wayne's North Side High School. No tickets are required. Doors open at 3 p.m. and the program begins at 4 p.m. The public should enter through Door 4. The school is at 475 E. State Blvd.

Thunderous welcome for Obama at IUS

CHELSEA TO TOUR STATE: Hoosiers for Hillary today announced Chelsea Clinton will return to Indiana today. Chelsea will make stops in Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Evansville. On Friday, April 25, Chelsea will make stops in New Albany, Salem, Austin and Rushville. Then, on Saturday, April 26, Chelsea will complete her trip with stops in Muncie and New Albany.

Knuth to seek Allen County Council seat

FORT WAYNE - Former Democratic party chairman Kevin Knuth announced he is seeking an at-large council seat (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette).

Goodnight announces Kokomo annexations

KOKOMO - Kokomo would move from the 16th to the 12th largest city in the state under an annexation plan Mayor Greg Goodnight unveiled this week (**Kokomo Tribune**). About 14,000 residents now living in pockets surrounded by the city or in a ring around the city would be given city services and a vote in city elections in exchange for paying city property taxes under the plan. "If people take a look — including a financial look — and weigh the good and the bad, they will find out annexation is a good thing overall," Goodnight said. Neighborhoods including Orleans Southwest, Indian Heights, Emerald Lake, Timber Valley and Terrace Meadows — all of which are already on city sewers — would be included in the annexation. "The question is, if we don't do some of these things, are we putting ourselves in with some of these dying cities — Anderson, Terre Haute, Marion, Hammond?"

Ford posts profit

DETROIT - Ford Motor Co. is profitable — and CEO Alan Mulally has beat expectations again, as he drives Ford's turnaround faster than expected (Detroit Free Press). The Dearborn-based automaker today reported net income of \$100 million, or 5 cents a share, for the first three months of the year.

Previous assaults allowed in Murphy case

JEFFERSONVILLE - A Clark County judge has ruled that the statements of three men who claim Glenn Murphy Jr. sexually assaulted them can be admitted into evidence in his upcoming criminal deviate conduct trial (**News & Tribune**). Murphy, former Clark County Republican Party chairman, is charged with class B felony criminal deviate conduct for allegedly having nonconsensual oral sex with a sleeping man in July, according to court records. Murphy and his attorney, James Voyles of Indianapolis, made a motion in court earlier this month that any past allegations against him be ruled inadmissible. Late Monday, Clark County Superior Court No. 1 Judge Vicki Carmichael issued a four-page ruling denying that motion. Murphy, 33, faces six to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted as a result of his scheduled June 10 jury trial. Special Prosecutor Stan Levco of Vanderburgh County has filed documents in court stating he has multiple witnesses that can attest to "prior bad acts" committed by Murphy that directly relate to the issue of consent in the case. The other reported incidents purportedly happened in 1996, 1998 and 2006, and all involve Murphy allegedly fondling or performing oral sex upon sleeping men. In only one of those three alleged incidents was a police report made, according to court records.