

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Wednesday it rained and my socks got wet”

—Ed Pease, Republican candidate for 7th CD, on the nickle-sized holes in his wingtips, to Steve Hinnfield, Bloomington Herald-Times

Are polls accurate on Hoosier races?

Race tightens for governor in face of big leads

HPR FORECAST: Yes, even a Hoiberg can beat a Jordan when the game's on the line.



FORT WAYNE - When Indiana Pacer reserve guard Fred Hoiberg found himself face-to-face with Michael Jordan and the game tied with just seconds left, he called it his “worst nightmare.”

So tosses and turns Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith. He leads by big margins in virtually every public opinion poll to date. Three weeks ago, Goldsmith vowed to “ignore” Early's assault ads on TV. But this week, Goldsmith was airing a radio response, ticking off what it saw as Early deceptions on multiple fronts.

Meanwhile, the spin from the Early camp Tuesday night as the three Republican candidates gathered for a final forum, this time before a huge Allen County Lincoln Day, was that the gap was closing. Numbers?

“Well, our numbers have vastly improved over the last two or three weeks,” Early said in the HPR Interview (pages 4 and 5). “It sort of gave credence as to what has happened in other primary states. People are just now becoming focused on the primary campaign. It happened in Illinois. It's what happened in Texas. People are a little cynical out there and they just haven't focused on the primary campaign.”

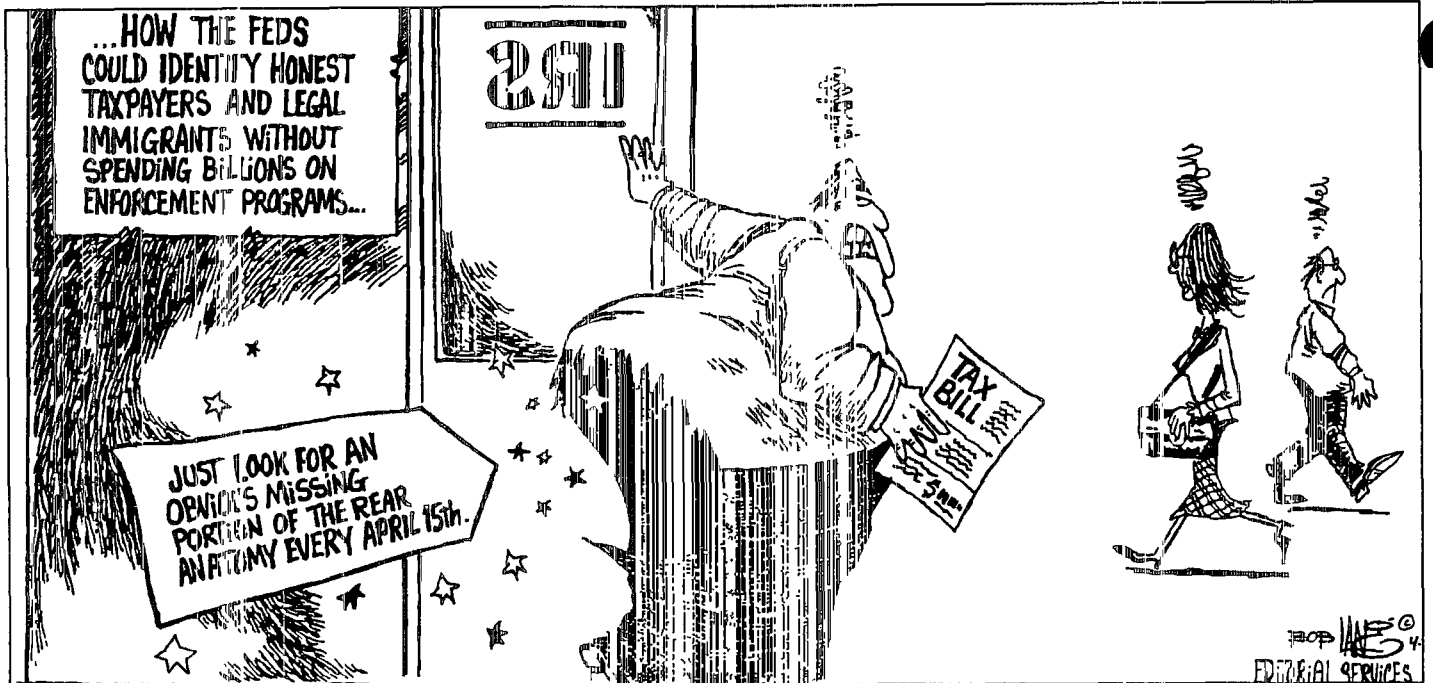
The “it” Early is referring to is the Goldsmith nightmare scenario that occurred to Illinois Lt. Gov. Bob Kustra, who had a 22-point lead over State Rep. Al Salvi two weeks before the Illinois primary in March. Kustra lost.

The relevant Kustra parallel to Goldsmith is that Kustra ignored Salvi. Out of 3,400 gross rating points of advertising, only 450 grp were considered negative. HPR doesn't have the total Indiana TV buy that Goldsmith has made, but it's been considerable with the

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TICKER T A P E

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Mayor Goldsmith gets endorsements of former Govs. Bowen up in South Bend and Bob Orr down in Evansville on Thursday. That's calling in the reinforcements as the race tightens up.

2nd CD Democrat Marc Carmichael tells HPR that his 1986 upset against Indiana House Speaker J. Roberts Dailey taught him how to develop a campaign plan and then stick to it, no matter how impossible it looks in the early days. Carmichael will challenge U.S. Rep. David McIntosh in the fall. However, Carmichael acknowledges that it may take a national dynamic to shift toward Democrats to

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Reed couldn't have been cheered by Goldsmith, Early and Witwer' denunciation of Goals 2000

FORT WAYNE - Going into this week, Supt. Suellen Reed seemed to have a thrum behind her convention re-election campaign. 5th CD Chair Betty Rendel endorsed.

And there were a spate of editorials the campaign released from papers like the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, *The Terre Haute Tribune-Star* and the *Bluffton News-Banner* (yes, the paper George Witwer owns with James Barbieri) supporting her programs and the controversial Goals 2000.

Then came WANE-TV's Steve Roggie's question to the three gubernatorial candidates at the Allen County Lincoln Day debate Tuesday night. Roggie noted that Republicans George Bush and Lamar Alexander had supported Goals 2000. Why didn't they?

With Reed watching from the audience, Rex Early, Steve Goldsmith and George Witwer minced no words in their opposition to Goals 2000.

Witwer said that the federal program "undermines the concept of local control." He added, "It's a bad idea."

Early noted, "I would like to do a little better than George Bush and Lamar Alexander did in their last elections." He complained that

the mandate for the program will "exceed federal funds." And he said he was "totally offended by the national history standards" with no mention of the United States Marine Corps.

Goldsmith said that Goals 2000 "is fundamentally flawed because it assumes that one size fits all." Goldsmith added, "We want our schools liberated from not only Washington, but from Indianapolis."

None of that talk could be considered reassuring to Reed's position on the ticket.

Several legislators HPR has talked with say that a number of them see Reed as the "lesser of two evils" in her race against State Rep. David Lohr.

Lohr was present at the Allen County event and was ushered around by State Rep. John Becker, who was one of three colleagues who engaged the state in a suit over testing standards.

While the other candidate, Bruce Smith of Manual High School, was present, some Fort Wayne Republicans were talking up Dr. Oscar Underwood, a black educator who has pioneered schools aimed at the urban environment. He is also a Republican who had a speaking role in Tuesday's festivities.

Charlie Brown may survive kite-eating House committee

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: How about a Dole-Gardener ticket? "In the spring ... the rain brings the flowers," Chauncey would say. But Indiana's David McIntosh tells the *Anderson Herald-Bulletin* that Dole is holding out for Colin Powell. Like, "In the fall, Desert Storm will bring the votes."

REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR

STATUS

COMMENTS

Rex Early, Steve Goldsmith, George Witwer	Leans Goldsmith
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Goldsmith sending attack direct mail aimed at Early. New radio ad also in attack mode. Early claims tracking shows him pulling closer. Both Goldsmith, Early say delegates will help choose LG, which may favor Witwer due to G exposure.

REPUBLICAN 3RD CD

Brad Allamong, Rich Burkett, Dan Holtz, Brian Haygood, Ted Noell, Joe Zakas	Leans Zakas
--	----------------

Right-winger firebrand bounced from (surprise!) the Burkett campaign. Burkett on radio attacking Holtz and Zakas. Allamong really working LaPorte County Holtz up on TV. Still leans Zakas, but....

REPUBLICAN 7TH CD

Jeff Baldwin, John Meyers, Ed Pease, Dan Pool, John Lee Smith, Dick Thompson, Cathy Willing and 8 others	Tossup
---	--------

John Lee Smith features Mrs. Smith endorsing him on TV ad. Pease doing positive TV, vowing to do 30,000 door-to-door. John Meyers complains that people are paying too much attention to his name (?). HR still bamboozled.

REPUBLICAN 42ND INDIANA SENATE

Frank Cherry, Robert Jackman, Donald Reding	LEANS JACKMAN
--	------------------

This is the seat Jean Leising is giving up. Jackman appears to be the most organized. Rush County Chairman Jean Ann Harcourt a big booster. Jackman seems to be playing well in neighboring Shelby County.

DEMOCRAT 3RD INDIANA HOUSE

Charlie Brown, Marvin Wright	Leans Brown
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Ethics Committee hands Brown reprimand. Wright appears to be pressing Brown. Hitting him on NIPSCO ethics complaint. Wasn't NIPSCO the company behind the Bears tax hike?

DEMOCRAT 2ND INDIANA SENATE

Michael Daniels, Lonnie Randolph	LEANS RAN- DOLPH
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What if East Chicago Mayor Bob Pastrick shifted his support to Daniels? Randolph could still survive with support from other Lake County cities, but it sure would make great copy.

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give him a chance to upset the freshman Republican.

Here's how the Cook Political Report views Indiana's two most vulnerable Congressional Democrats: Lee Hamilton and Tim Roemer. On Hamilton, Cook says, "Our take on this race is that, the 1994 outcome aside, there's no real reason right now to believe that Hamilton is going to lose his seat in November, although there is sufficient reason to pay attention." Hamilton is facing a rematch against U.S. Rep. Jean Leising. As for Roemer, Cook writes, "The fact that a Democrat does not belong in the 3rd CD, at least statistically speaking, has never been lost on them. The fact that it's never been lost on Roemer may well be what saves him."

On the governor's race between the GOP nominee and Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon, Cook Political Report's bottom line is this: "This race is a tossup and likely to remain so until Election Day."

Ten current and former Republican County chairs wrote a letter to GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel urging him request the gubernatorial candidates stop airing negative ads. The letter was signed by Larry Hopkins of

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Early says his numbers are up, gambling hurting Goldsmith

SOMEWHERE NORTHBOUND ON INTERSTATE-65 - Less than two weeks before the primary, Rex Early's campaign is brimming with optimism. Numerous campaign sources talk about the upswing in the polls.

There are no hard numbers to peek at, let alone check the survey procedures. So HPR decided to give ol' Rex a call for the purpose of quantification. We caught up with him as he was speeding his way toward a fundraising event in Rensselaer.

HPR: Where are you at right now?

Early: Almost to Lafayette.

HPR: I've been trying to pry some numbers out of Mike Young over the past couple of days and now I thought I see what I would get right out of the horse's mouth.

Early: Well, our numbers have vastly improved over the last two or three weeks. It sort of gave credence as to what has happened in other primary states. People are just now becoming focused on the primary campaign. It happened in Illinois. It's what happened in Texas. People are a little cynical out there and they just haven't focused on the primary campaign. Certainly our numbers are picking up. Obviously some of the issues we've been talking about on television - taking gambling money - has been a home run. Our polls certainly show that and I'm sure Goldsmith's do, too. We have a campaign plan and we haven't deviated from it. I will do what I think is necessary for me to win this nomination.

HPR: I've heard a Goldsmith radio ad taking aim at your television ads.

Early: Pretty negative stuff. (laughs)

HPR: What did the "Why?" commercial on the gambling issue do for you?

Early: That is a question. The *Indianapolis News* more specifically editorialized again and again on the gambling money. You know it's only \$19,000 on the Churchill Downs money. And that was most of the emphasis. But even the Conesco money ... as much as he got ... I don't know ... that's strange.

HPR: So you're saying that people are

upset when it comes to gambling and political contributions?

Early: Yes. Our polls do show that people are turned off on gambling. Or taking gambling money.

HPR: Is the Turpin case playing a role in this?

Early: Oh, I don't know. The early, early polls showed that gambling money and taking contributions from people that you have contact with is a big negative. People don't like it when the mayor takes contributions from people who he gives contracts to or who he awards business to. Our polls showed that was a real home run. Also, people have read enough about what has happened in Louisiana, and what's happened in other states that they don't want the politicians taking money from organized gambling.

HPR: In South Bend, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute and Evansville you are playing an anti-Indianapolis ad that overtly implies that Goldsmith "can't" adequately serve all Hoosiers.

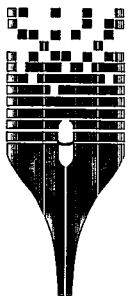
Early: There is a certain amount of parochial feeling out there from a geographical standpoint. That's been out there since time immemorial. People are concerned that someone who is only tied to Indianapolis is not going to be fair to the rest of the state. You hear in Northwest Indiana, Northeast Indiana, Southwest Indiana that we're the step-children. That all the economic development dollars - the billion to United Airlines; they're talking about the millions of dollars they're pumping to (State Sen.) Morrie Mills to benefit him and Mike Browning. The president of the airport board who was involved in that is Goldsmith's campaign manager. When you get a road built in Posey County, when you can't get the Heartland Corridor built, and we're going to spend a million dollars on an interchange for Morrie Mills.

HPR: You say Goldsmith "can't" serve the rest of the state because he resides in Indianapolis. But you've lived in Indianapolis for more than 30 years.



"I will do what I think is necessary for me to win this nomination...."

- Rex Early



Early: My roots are still in Southwest Indiana, having grown up and lived down there up until I got out of college. My wife lived there when I was in the service. I lived there when I was in college. I wanted to live there, but I moved up to Indianapolis because there weren't any jobs in Southwest Indiana. I spent 22 years down there on the board of Vincennes University. People in other parts of the state do have this parochial feeling about Central Indiana.

HPR: Where should the money go, the I-69 extension or the Heartland Corridor?

Early: I want to build. I have talked pretty consistently that those two projects, as you probably know, have been added to our federal designated projects. Both are approved for federal funds.

HPR: Will there be money for both?

Early: There will be some money for those. The I-69 project is such an expensive project. It has an excess of \$800 million from Indianapolis to Evansville. I've talked about building it using the Toll Road Authority. Jim Newland, who has been sort of the guru or who certainly works for the organization that promotes I-69 corridor who is also a person who has an awful lot of data and information, he tells me there has been a feasibility study to use the Toll Road Authority from Indianapolis to Bloomington. He thinks the Bloomington to Evansville (groups) will support that. They have also changed the federal law now where we can combine monies. They just changed that recently. If we spent the money on I-69, there wouldn't be enough money left over for any project. And then we can start on a 10-year program to get that Hoosier Heartland built.

HPR: You advocate chain gangs. Have you done a fiscal impact study on that?

Early: I know they're expensive. I don't look upon chain gangs as some kind of system to keep prisoners busy. I look upon chain gangs as a message. It tells a story. It says that Indiana is tough on crime. I want to use chain gangs as certainly my messenger that Indiana isn't going to be where you want to get caught and you don't want to go to jail. I'm not so naive to think that we'll have all the prisoners in Indiana out on chain gangs. But I want a few of them out there. It costs an extra expense but I want them

out there to send a message to that we're a tough state on crime. If there's an 18-year-old kid who is out there walking the edge of the envelop and he looks out there and sees a chain gang, it very well might be an important message.

HPR: All three Republican candidates came out emphatically against Goals 2000 in Fort Wayne Tuesday night. I couldn't help but watch Supt. Reed a few tables away from me listen to the extent of the opposition. Where do you stand on whether she should be renominated?

Early: I don't waiver in my opposition. I think the small amount of money in the federal funds with Goals 2000 will be a drop in the bucket in the costs of some of the mandates. One of the real problems with Goals 2000 are the national history standards the Clinton administration came up with. The U.S. Marine Corps isn't even mentioned in the national history standard. Benjamin Franklin wasn't mentioned. But yet there were all types of other things ... how we treated Native Americans. I object to determining career pathing in the 9th grade. I remember when I was in the 9th grade. I think these career assessments are completely out of line.

HPR: Where do you stand on Supt. Reed's renomination?

Early: I'm not going to get involved in that nomination. I've got my own problems. Hopefully if she is the nominee, we can sit down. But I'm not going to change my opposition to Goals 2000 and School to Work. Hopefully I can sit down with her and see if we can take a longer look at this.

HPR: How will you choose your lieutenant governor, if nominated?

Early: There are so many good people out there. I think Goldsmith has made a deal with about four or five of them.

HPR: The mayor said he would allow the convention to choose.

Early: I will pay attention to the delegates. I was a state chairman in 1992 and I can tell you first hand at the hard feelings that occurred when the delegates weren't even considered when the nominee picked the lieutenant governor. I'm going to depend on the delegates.

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Hamilton County, Bob Nelson of Boone, Sue Scholar of Tippecanoe, John Johnson of Porter, Steve Shine of Allen, Chris Callaway of Monroe, Carl Percy of Floyd, Don Scroggins of Johnson, Roger Chiabai of Lake, and former LG candidate Bob Green. Hopkins is the only chairman who has endorsed Goldsmith. McDaniel responded, "I'm going to pass it along to everybody involved. That's all you really can do." He added, "I'm not surprised that it's taken on the tone that it has. I'm looking forward to this being behind us." State Rep. Mike Young called the letter an attack on the Early campaign.

U.S. Sen. Bob Dole addresses Indiana Republicans at 7 p.m. Saturday April 27 at Indiana Convention Center. John Willey of the Indiana Republican State Committee told the press that the format will be similar to that of Newt Gingrich's visit last fall. "The major difference this time is we are dealing more so with the Secret Service."

Senior Clinton adviser George Stephanopoulos will join Indiana Young Democrats for a rally at 7:30 p.m. April 27 at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis.

Republican Attorney General

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candidate Eric Koch has received the endorsement of the 7th and 8th CD Central Committees. "These endorsements, representing a total of 25 counties, establish Koch as the choice of the party leadership in both Southern and Western counties." That also included endorsements by U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, Vigo County Chairman Jim Bopp and Vanderburgh County Chairman Joe Harrison, who said, "He is the only candidate who can truly bring geographic balance to our statewide ticket."

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer now has a 5th CD web site on the Internet. It located is at <http://www.house.gov/buyer/welcome.html>

Judy O'Bannon joined Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez to break ground on what are described as innovative downtown apartments.

In the 8th CD, State Rep. Rick McConnell out-raised Jonathan Weinzapfel \$68,000 to \$53,000. McConnell had a \$46,000 to \$15,000 cash-on-hand advantage heading into the homestretch (Evansville Courier).

Republican gubernatorial hopeful George Witwer outlined an extensive get-out-the-

COLUMNISTS' S O N I N D I A N A

Mary Dieter, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Rex Early boasts that 63 of the 92 Republican County chairpeople support him, no small feat in a three-way gubernatorial primary. GOP leaders haven't forgotten how important Early was in keeping the party afloat. The importance of parties is already waning, as campaigns become more focused on the individual candidate. A computer can analyze voting patterns more quickly than a dozen precinct committee workers. So people devoted to party politics would be loath to usher in someone who may eliminate their purpose. And comments like this one from Goldsmith quoted in Indianapolis C.E.O. magazine haven't been lost on them: "I laid off 18 people who had endorsed me in my campaign and kept every one of those people who opposed me."

John Krull, *Indianapolis News* - The Republican candidates for governor got together for a televised debate Monday and came away looking less like three individuals than they did three distorted visions of the same man as seen through a funhouse mirror. There was the jolly, roly-poly vision of conservative - oh, let's just call him Rex - who likes to say things like, "That dog won't hunt." There was the exceedingly earnest, almost hyperventilating conservative - give him the name George - who gushes about the "spiritual component" of politics. And then there was the absolutely humorless conservative - Steve - who seems to enjoy himself only when he (uses) words like "infrastructure."

David Broder, *Washington Post* - If you are bored - as many people who normally savor politics appear to be - at the prospect of Bob Dole challenging Bill Clinton in the presidential race, then shift your gaze to the contest for control of the House of Representatives and you will find a battle that ought to delight any political buff. Implausible as it seemed even a few months ago, the Democrats actually appear to have a chance to regain control of the House from the Republicans and cut short the "revolu-

tion" that began with the election of 1994. On Charlie Cook's preliminary scorecard, Democrats are defending four more hard-to-hold seats than the Republicans - 32 Democrats and 28 Republicans. But he adheres to the same adage that I was taught years ago by the late James H. Rowe Jr., a wise old Washington lawyer and Democratic operative. "Remember, David, there's always a trend. Sometimes you see it early and sometimes late, but there's always something moving out there." The first signs of a possible Democratic trend are now turning up in the national polls, which in the past month consistently find that the "generic ballot test" has swung against the GOP. Will the Democratic trend hold? The truth is, no one knows.

Stuart Rothenberg, *Rothenberg Political Report* - The national mood has continued to improve for the Democrats. Ron Wyden's win in the Oregon special election shows Democratic voters are engaged, and polls show voters are worried about the GOP Congress. The generic numbers are looking quite strong for the Democrats, but we don't expect them to remain at that level. We still project a Republican rebound as the GOP redefines the president and his party. If the Republicans fail to do that, their overall prospects in the House and Senate would be considerably damaged.

Morton Marcus, *Indianapolis Business Journal* - Last week, I met with a reporter from a major California newspaper. He was examining the restructuring of manufacturing in Indiana. By the time we met, he had seen several chiefs of the Hoosier tribe and been given instruction in our management rituals. Although he was not disparaging, his evident lack of knowledge about Indiana left him surprised that such sophistication could be found among Hoosiers. It amazes me how little reporters from some of the nation's largest newspapers know about Indiana. Our local reporters may know little about us, but at least they understand who we are.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Foreign exchange students, Supt. Zendejas end up on the same troubling page

SHELBYVILLE - Shiho Miyahara couldn't resist an affectionate tease of Becky Bishopp.

"Becky's hair is looking like Ricki Lake's," the foreign exchange student from Shelbyville's sister city - Kambara, Japan - told the president of the Shelby County International Relations Council as they gathered for the group's second annual banquet at the middle school Monday night.

Ricki Lake, of course, is a popular TV talk show host.

Miyahara has been in Shelbyville for five years, studying as a representative of the sister city, as an exchange student, and then as a guest of the Bishopp family. A moment later, Miyahara offered up her candid assessment of her schooling in Shelbyville.

"It's easy. I like the school stuff here," she said.

Another Japanese student, Aski Inoue, said much the same thing. "It's easier here. In Japan, we have to study so much. Here, they don't have to go to school six days and study for two to three hours. Kids in Shelbyville just enjoy life."

Later, as the council honored him with a plaque, Ignacio Oivatte of Spain who studied with Miyahara and Inoue at Shelbyville High School, echoed similar sentiments. He loved America. The schools were easy. TV was his new friend.

Between these innocent but revealing observations stood Dr. Esperanza Zendejas, superintendent of the embattled Indianapolis Public Schools. She held the council raptly in her attention for more than an hour as she assessed Indiana's education.

"Unless we're aggressive and proactive, we'll be in decline," she said, her provocative image that of a Hoosier student at a \$5,000 computer, "plucking the keyboard with one fin-

ger."

Kids, Zendejas explained, "have everything. They get used to comfort. They realize they don't have to work too hard."

Once when taking her own children on a shopping trip to Montgomery Ward, her son asked her why they had to wear cheap clothes. "I will tell you why," she responded after considerable thought and restraint, "I work. You don't."

Kids need a better understanding of "how much it costs," Zendejas continued. They need to be bilingual. They need to be challenged with chemistry and geometry.

Indiana schools, Zendejas said, can be judged successful if teacher and student attendance rates approach 98 percent, more students take and score well on Scholastic Aptitude Tests, suspension rates decline by 20 percent from year to year, and test scores rise. Her background as a student, researcher, scholar, superintendent and school board member in California and Texas prior to her arrival in Indianapolis 11 months ago has made her realize that Hoosier schools lack the rigor of their Southwestern and foreign counterparts.

Teachers, she said, need to be held accountable in these vital signs. Zendejas observed that superintendents and custodians can be fired, "But if the kids don't pass, nothing happens to the teacher. Until everyone is treated the same, nothing will change."

Society can find education rewards that justify the populace's tax burden only when its school standards increase annually, Zendejas said.

After her speech, Zendejas politely listened as the exchange students talked of their ease of study in the Hoosier heartland, perhaps establishing a standard for a future International Relations Council to discover when the city's bright young guests talk of the challenge of education here.

~ This story originally appeared in the *Shelbyville News* ~

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-vote effort on May 7. Witwer believes his call for an elimination of property taxes will spur his grassroot supporters to the polls. "I have always believed the message moves mountains," Witwer told a Statehouse news conference on Wednesday.

The Bloomington Herald-Times editorializes that the proposed I-69 Indianapolis to Evansville highway project is taking a wrong route. It advocates a route that takes it from Bloomington to Bedford and over to Jasper.

Michael Bailey, who brought the aborted fetuses into the 9th CD race via TV ads in 1994, has now become a talk show host. "The Mike Bailey Show" will air from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday on Louisville's WLOU-AM 1350.

Virginia Blankenbaker said in a debate with 10th CD Republican opponent Marvin Scott that efforts to pass a new minimum wage are strictly political. Blankenbaker said President Clinton and both Houses of Congress were all Democratic following his 1992 election.

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer tells the Michigan City News-Dispatch that the Pokagon Indian band promised him they would not

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TICKER

T A P E

pursue organized gaming when he helped them gain tribal recognition from the federal government in 1994. Now the Pokagons are looking to open a land-based casino in New Buffalo, Mich., near the Indiana border. "I was disappointed and extremely displeased by their change of heart," Roemer said. "I believe my constituents. I don't think I was naive. I think (the Pokagons) changed their mind on me." Pokagon finance director Mike Wesaw wonders why Roemer is against their casino, but not the Michigan City riverboat casino. "If (Roemer has) a true moral opposition to gambling, he can't have one and not the other."

WNDY-TV's Mike Pence moderated the gubernatorial debate in Fort Wayne Tuesday. He called the three candidates, "The strongest field of conservatives ever fielded in a Republican primary. These are the best."

Terry Hoyt, who was spokesman for the Lugar presidential campaign has set up an Internet home page. Look him up at: <http://www.worldweb.net/~holtcom.html>. Hoyt went from the Lugar campaign to the Laughlin Congressional campaign in Texas for two weeks. Next stop for Hoyt? Moscow, for the Russian election.

Reliability of primary polls is scrutinized

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majority of the ads playing up Goldsmith's stance on issues like welfare and crime.

In Texas, Republican U.S. Rep. Greg Laughlin lost to Ron Paul, the 1988 Libertarian presidential nominee. An unknown school teacher, Victor Morales, upset the Democratic field for the Democratic Senate nomination. The Hoosier implication here is that Mason-Dixon, the company that did a March survey for The *Munster Times* and WSBT-TV had Morales in second, five points behind, with 42 percent undecided.

The Indiana Mason-Dixon poll was conducted on March 24-26 and had Goldsmith leading Early 48-18 percent. A Public Opinion Strategies survey in February gave Goldsmith a similar 57-15 percent lead, but the survey numbers were in the 400 to 800 respondent range.

Several informed observers, both inside and outside of the Early campaign, wonder about the reliability of primary campaign polls that are not disciplined enough to only survey dependable GOP primary voters. To accurately measure reliable Republican voters, it would require contacting and screening as many as 3,000 people, which is time consuming and costly.

Indiana has had only one competitive Republican gubernatorial primary - 1992 - since it went to the primary system in 1976. In 1992, Linley Pearson led in the polls, but was considered the establishment candidate (as is Early today). Other primary polling, such as in the 4th CD in 1992 and in the 8th CD in 1994, failed to measure the winning strength of Chuck Pierce and John Hostettler.

Several factors weigh into this doubt. One is that U.S. Sen. Bob Dole has sewn up the presidential nomination and that U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar will not appear on the ballot. Some believe this will keep Republican primary turnout lower than normal. Another is that there are virtually no Democratic primary races of much significance around the state, creating an atmosphere for mischief among those who

dare ask for an "R" ballot.

Then there are the applause polls at the Lincoln Day dinners around the state. State Sen. Steve Johnson of Kokomo, who is an active candidate for lieutenant governor and neutral in the governor's race, has been to about 35 Lincoln

1996

WATCH

Day dinners this year. He estimates that in most rural counties, 80 percent of the party regulars attending support Rex Early.

In the more urbanized counties, the numbers seem more balanced, but still tend to lean toward Early. What buoys the Early campaign's hopes is that these are the voters most likely to turn out and are eager to talk politics with friends, co-workers and acquaintances.

What is inexplicable is that Early has done so poorly in scientific polling, other than acknowledging that Goldsmith's support among a more typical general election voter is strong.

The fact that the Early campaign refuses to release tracking data is curious. Goldsmith has maintained a long-standing campaign policy not to release polling data.

It shouldn't be surprising that the gap between Early and Goldsmith is closing, as the actions and rumblings of both campaigns suggest. Goldsmith told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that the race "feels pretty competitive to me."

If Goldsmith goes on the attack or makes another shrill round of response ads like his first reconnoitering to the crime assault, it would be a clear sign that the race is tight. And if that happens, Goldsmith might have a front-row seat to Kustra's last stand.

Fred Hoiberg successfully fended off Michael Jordan in the Facer's dramatic 100-99 win over the record-setting Chicago Bulls. Jordan's shot rimmed out. But how would that matchup have gone, say, nine out of 10 times?

Of course, in politics, you only get one shot.