



Bauer: Face of Indiana Dems

Until a gubernatorial candidate emerges, he's the party's conflicted poster child

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

GREENCASTLE, Ind. - HD44 was on the western fringe of the Democratic House election debacle last November as State Rep. Nancy Michael joined the exodus of eight Democrats who lost on Nov. 2.

One of the truly competitive districts, Michael lost to State Rep. Jim Baird by 2,346 votes.

Western Indiana had been a key underpinning to House Democratic majorities, but as 37 of them cruised west on I-74, they were in the 2010 killing fields. State Rep. Dale Grubb narrowly averted defeat in HD41 by just 541 votes and a bit to the south Rep. Clyde Kersey in HD43 was in an even more precarious position, winning by just 258 votes. The HD46 seat held by retiring Vern Tincher wasn't even close as State Rep. Bob Heaton claimed that open seat by 4,127 votes.



Certainly there was the national Republican wave that swamped Indiana's Ohio and Wabash river valleys. But the unmistakable compounding of this environment lays at the feet of House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer, who switched out his pollster and message people after they helped him retain the House in 2008 while Gov. Mitch Daniels was rolling up an 18 percent victory.

The 2010 election disaster came as

Bauer presided over a disjointed message and questionable campaign tactics. He failed to rally his base around some of the issues Democrats had in their arsenal, like the survival

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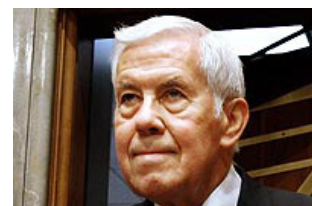
Empty out the water!

By **RUSS STILWELL**

BOONVILLE - Where oh where shall I begin? There's just not enough time or space for this week's column. Let me begin with a coal mine story.



Years ago, when I began working in the coal mines of Southwestern Indiana, most underground miners carried a round lunch bucket to work that included a separate compartment that held water. Every once in a while a miner would take the cap off that water container, hold it upside down and empty out the



“Volatile oil prices are a threat to U.S. economic recovery. We are living in an age of extreme vulnerability.”

- U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar



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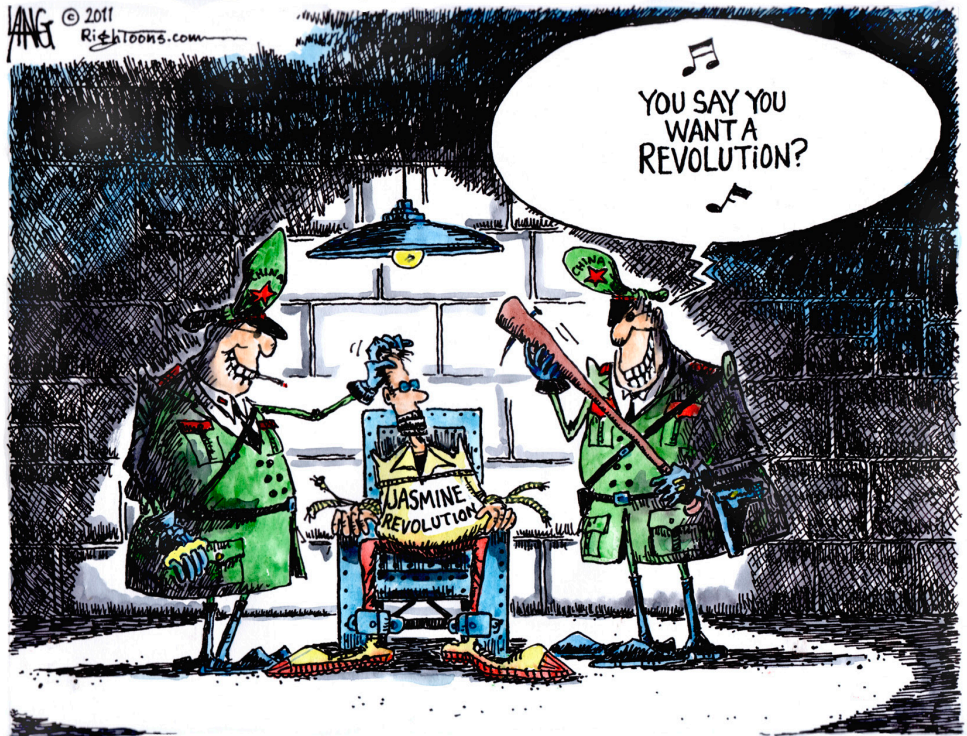
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water. He would holler "home."

This signaled that it was time to dump your water, pick up your tools and head for the house. Or, in the case of the Indiana House Democrats, Urbana, Ill. There were injustices to be heard!

Sometimes the mine walk-outs were brief. Most were for a just cause and some over nonsense. With working conditions hundreds of feet into the bowels of the earth, it didn't take much to set off the miners. Years ago, the Lansford Valley Gazette explained it well: "A coal mine is six dimensional; Dusty, deep, dark, damp, dirty and dangerous. Any one of those dimensions could aggravate a miner on any given day." They stood tall for their health, their safety and their family.

Fast forward to 2011. Now, I'm not suggesting that the House Democrats resemble these miners of decades ago. But they do have a lot in common. They too emptied their water and went home. They called it a day. Or maybe a week or two.

And just like those miners,

they stood tall! Their courage and conviction is just as profound as those miners of years ago. Standing up for the working class!

For weeks, House Democrats listened, complained, offered amendments and more as their Republican counterparts unleashed a barrage of initiatives aimed directly at labor and the hardworking middle class Hoosiers.

These good intention R's sought to abolish collective bargaining, union construction and for good measure they took on public education with their tax vouchers for private schools.

Oh, and they made sure there was parity. They awarded unemployed Hoosiers with a 25 percent cut in weekly unemployment benefits while rewarding Hoosier corporations with a 25 percent corporate tax break (SB 589).

But it just wasn't enough. On the final day to announce a committee hearing, the House R's announced a hearing for that fateful Right to Work bill. The bill was heard in a cramped



basement meeting room without input from scores of folks who signed up to oppose the bill. The fight was on.

Then just as quickly, they passed the bill in a party-line vote and sent it to the House floor for adoption. What did they expect? What were they thinking? The kindling was hot, RTW was the legislative spark and House D's proclaimed "enough is enough."

A few weeks ago, I wrote about the opening day of the legislative session where Democrat Leader Pat Bauer sent that "not so subtle smoke signal to Speaker Bosma" when RTW was assigned. Too bad the Speaker didn't heed the signal. The stage was set. It's no wonder the House D's emptied their water!

It was simple on opening day and it's simple today in Urbana. House D's sent the same parting shot, "We matter, we count and be careful with your agenda or you just might not have one."

House D's, and for that matter our public servants and union activists, know that we have tough budgets. They know that difficult choices have to be made. And they know that they will be expected to play a part in those choices.

But they do not believe that punitive mean-spirited efforts to dismantle collective bargaining are part of the solution or part of the choices.

Indiana cannot balance the budget, protect the middle class and call our Hoosier state a great place to do business when they place the blame for our economic peril on our public servants who teach our kids, pick up our trash, build our infrastructure and protect our communities!

When they seek to eliminate unions and collective bargaining, they are seeking to undermine the middle class as we know it.

If they succeed, then all Hoosiers will suffer. And

not just for a year or two, but for generations.

Maybe, just maybe, this could have all been avoided. When you are in the minority, you expect to lose your legislative battles. You expect to experience unpleasant policies and law.

But sometimes you do have to stand up and be counted. And yes, sometimes you have to stand down and "empty your water" just like those miners a long time ago!

Standing up (or standing down) for your core beliefs is a long held American tradition. It takes courage, commitment and a core belief to empty your water and head for the house.

It is far easier to say, "I did my best and voted against it, but the bill(s) passed anyway." It takes special leaders to say enough is enough and follow their hearts, their convictions and their principles. We need more of these special leaders.

Where will it all end?

We must have compromise and discussion that allows all of the voices in our society to be heard.

There have been thousands of voices heard in our capitol the past several days. And I would expect that intensity to grow in the coming weeks. It isn't about the budget and tax cuts for corporations. It's about middle class Hoosiers believing that are getting a fair shake from their government.

Maybe it's time these working class Hoosiers think about draining their water buckets as well. My best guess is that the water will be gushing by the end of next week as Hoosiers by the tens of thousands visit their capitol. ❖

Stilwell is a former Democratic House majority leader.

Bauer, from page 1

of Chrysler and General Motors thanks to the Obama administration.

So the irony of the House Democratic walkout is that the face of this beleaguered party today is - B. Patrick Bauer. And while the next election is 21 months away, the thought that Bauer is the most conspicuous Democrat in the state should be enough to make anyone carrying the banner of the rooster to become queasy.
Evan Bayh, Bart



Peterson, Lee Hamilton, Baron Hill, Brad Ellsworth and Graham Richard are gone.

Until the field gubernatorial candidates emerge, Bauer is the party poster child. During the Daniels' reform era, Bauer has been a clog, blocking most government and education reforms, to the point that in 2009 and 2010, the governor tried to change education with goals similar to those of President Obama. Through a series of administrative and licensing board changes, he worked his way around the General Assembly.

Indiana Democrats in the House became defenders of the status quo at a time when



"change" was the resounding message coming from the 2008 campaign, eventually coursing through Congress and yielding the politically volatile health care reforms that contributed to the defeats in Bauer's narrowing caucus.

His walkout was met with all the initial consternation that these stunts produce.

While Bauer returned to Indianapolis Wednesday afternoon to begin face-to-face negotiations, this walkout was beginning to eclipse the two-week vacation Democrats took in 1995 when Republicans tried to spring the 101-seat redistricting proposal. Bauer may see Frank O'Bannon's upset gubernatorial victory a year later as proof that the damage is not long lasting.

Republicans have played this game, too, going AWOL for two days in 2001 in another protest over maps, and again for a week in 2004 when Bauer refused to hear a proposed constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage. Republicans won a 52-48 majority in the 2004 election that also saw

Daniels win the governor's office. _ In 2005, Democrats staged a one-day walkout that temporarily derailed a voter ID bill and other Daniels' initiatives that later became law, leading to the governor lashing out at Bauer, calling him a "car bomber." Democrats regained House control in the 2006 election.

But this could be different. If former Speaker John Gregg and U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly pass on the gubernatorial race, leaving Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson as the most logical candidate, Democrats are looking at an apocalyptic scenario with popular U.S. Rep. Mike Pence atop the GOP ballot, and possibly Daniels in the presidential race.

Yes, this is all speculative, but the Democratic gubernatorial bench is at its weakest stage since the early 1980s. The Bayhs, O'Bannons and Kernans are gone.

It is in this relative vacuum that Bauer works today.

Last week, he set up a victory when Daniels, Senate President David Long and Bosma retreated on the Right

to Work legislation that ignited the walkout. Daniels had never made Right to Work a priority and it was his sacrificial lamb.

That Bauer responded by adding 11 other bills on the negotiation pile struck many people - including a lot of Democrats - as an overreach. "Now you want to drive them down to lower living standards," Bauer said when he returned to the Statehouse on Wednesday. "Further discussions are needed."

Newspaper editorial pages poured it on Bauer. His hometown South Bend Tribune editorialized, "We hope Indiana lawmakers go back to work this week ready to collaborate. House Republicans should accept that steam-rolling through their supermajority agenda is as wrong as when Democrats in the U.S. Congress practiced the tactic after the 2008 election. And Indiana House Democrats must concede that they lost November's election. It's a shame the Republicans dug in their heels on labor and educational reform issues last week. It's unfortunate, too, that Democrats' response was to walk away. The posturing added up to both sides abandoning the General Assembly's most important challenges this year — the state budget and job creation. And it's just the hijinks

voters want stopped."

Another Democratic-leaning paper - the Times of Northwest Indiana - observed, "We are now in the second week of the Democrats' walkout in the Indiana House of Representatives, and the people's business remains undone. Without the Democrats in Indianapolis to discuss their views on pending legislation, work has stopped. That is not getting us closer to a resolution, but it is succeeding in building disgust with the Democrats' walkout. Perhaps it is the Democrats' leader, Rep. Pat Bauer who is to blame. He demonstrated his bullying tactics during the 2010 session and obviously continues to care more about politics than principle as he disrupts the public's business. He is, in short, causing his fellow Democrats to thwart democracy in Indiana."

The Evansville Courier & Press called it a "juvenile tactic." The Terre Haute Tribune-Star called the walkout "justified" but added, "Democrats have every right, even



House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer addressed hundreds of union protesters Wednesday after returning from Illinois and conducting an open door meeting with Speaker Bosma. (AP Photo)



an obligation, to vigorously represent the minority view. But they cannot simply stall all progress on every legislative matter by refusing to participate. By continuing to do so, they may damage their credibility and render themselves ineffective as a political and legislative caucus. They won the right-to-work battle. It's time to come home."

But an NBC poll published Wednesday night showed that 77 percent favored collective bargaining for public employees and 19 percent were against. NBC's Chuck Todd was surprised at "how many people were paying attention" to the showdowns in Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio. But the poll also showed that 68 percent said public employees should contribute more to their retirements, 63 percent favored more employee contributions to their health care and 58 percent favored a one-year salary freeze.

Daniels said in a Politico interview that Indiana House Democrats are poised to kill all of President Obama's Race to the Top style legislation. "I'm eager to get back to Indiana to fix education and keep our state in the black," Daniels said at the National Governors Association conference in Washington. "We have some Democratic legislators who need to respect the process."

Daniels said the Democrats' "very reactionary agenda" would "kill all the Race to the Top bills." Daniels said he talked with Education Secretary Arne Duncan while he was in Washington. Asked about his willingness to scrap Right to Work legislation, Daniels said, "I think it's a very legitimate issue but I've said consistently this wasn't the time and place. It might get in the way and be used as a pretext for misbehavior on these other issues. I'm wrong a lot but this time I was right."

Larry Grau, a former education adviser to Gov. Frank O'Bannon now heading up the Democrats for Education Reform, expressed his angst. "As Democrats, we support our fellow Democrats standing up for Indiana's middle class against a Republican agenda that's become an intensely personal assault on our workers," Grau observed. "However, we're deeply concerned that our priorities - creating a public education system that puts students first -



While Rep. Bauer received a "rock star" reception on Wednesday, beyond the Statehouse and union halls, the perception of Bauer was considerably different. (HPI Photo)

are going to be lost in the partisan battle. President Obama is championing education reform because he knows the future of our nation depends on it. We hope our lawmakers will embrace the urgency and find a way to compromise."

What were Hoosier voters treated to when the walk-out entered its second week? Song and poetry.

While Speaker Bosma called an Aiming Higher PAC parody song to the tune of "Won't You Come Home Bill Bailey" "catchy," the public in a state facing a 9.5 jobless rate and great uncertainty is not likely to be amused.

Bauer told reporters during a conference call early in the week that he was "willing to negotiate anytime, anywhere."

Bosma reacted with an offer of his own, telling the *Evansville Courier & Press*, "If he would show up in my office tomorrow, I'd buy him a cup of coffee and a sandwich."

When Bauer finally showed up for a doors open meeting in Bosma's office, he indicated that killing the Right to Work bill "was not enough."

According to the *Indianapolis Star*, Bauer noted that last year, when he was speaker and Bosma was in the minority, 85 percent of the bills and amendments were passed with bipartisan votes. This year, Bauer said, that number is down to 29 percent.

Bosma told Bauer that "I can't listen to that for too long." He argued that this has been the most bipartisan session in history, with two Democrats appointed to be committee chairmen and some bills with only Democrat authors advancing.

When Bauer emerged in the hallways, he was greeted with "Thank you Pat" chants from teachers and union activists.

WTHR-TV described him as receiving "rock star treatment."

Bauer told the union supporters, "The state is counting on you. We need you, we need you, we need you." And he described what he called the "tyranny of the majority." He even compared Hoosier Republicans to Nazi Germany.

But his tactics won't play as well in critical independent voting blocks that decide elections. ❖



Mitch Daniels' challenge

By **CHRIS SAUTTER**

WASHINGTON - Henry Clay said during the debate on the future of slavery in America that he would rather be right than President. Clay was right on both counts.



Chris Sautter
Column

But while Gov. Mitch Daniels insists he is right in today's debate over America's fiscal problems, he can't decide if he really wants to be president. Or, more accurately, he can't decide if he wants to run for president. Whether or not Daniels is right about economic policy, his political destiny likely seems to be that of Clay's even as he is attracting more and more support within the conservative chattering class for his message of austerity.

In his recent speech to CPAC, Governor Daniels laid down a challenge to members of his party and the nation to be honest about the threat of the "new red menace"—the nation's rising debt. Daniels sees no less than apocalyptic consequences emanating from America's mounting debt that he argues will soon destabilize the federal government.

But in weighing whether to run for president, Daniels himself needs to be honest about his own challenge: How does he convert support within his party's intellectual elite to those who will actually decide the nomination?

Daniels and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christy have become the darlings of the conservative press. They have both projected themselves as the rare politician who will tell it like it is. Christy, whose blue-collar bluntness has the national press corps fawning over him, has knocked down suggestions he enter the Republican presidential sweepstakes by saying he is just not ready to be president. The inscrutable Mitch Daniels, on the other hand, simply denies any ambition to be president. He doesn't see a president when he looks in the mirror, Daniels says.

Daniels' ambivalence seems to have fueled more encouragement from the conservative intelligentsia, who have gravitated to him just as the mainstream media has adopted Christy. David Brooks' recent column pressing Indiana's Republican Governor to "Run, Mitch, Run" calls Daniel's "the man who would be the Party's strongest candidate for the presidency." Brooks and other pundits on the right survey the current Republican field and wonder why any of them would see a president when they look into the mirror. With possible candidates like Newt Gingrich, Mike Huckabee, Haley Barbour, and Sarah Palin—not to mention Michele Bachman—who can blame them?

The truth is the reason for Daniels' vacillation about a run for president is that the Indiana governor has

yet to figure out a realistic path to the nomination. Unless Daniels can identify significant potential support among actual Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina Republican primary and caucus voters, where the nomination will in effect be decided, his candidacy will be headed down the same futile road as other recent Hoosier presidential candidates.

Simply put, it is hard to see where Daniels' primary and caucus votes come from. It's not just that Daniels doesn't look like a president in these times of mass media and YouTube. It is that Daniels' dour personality is not likely to be very appealing on the presidential campaign trail, excepting to the eggheads and the talking heads who have already latched onto him.

If Mitch Daniels were to run, he would become the Paul Tsongas of the Republican presidential campaign. In 1992, Tsongas ran a credible campaign for the Democratic nomination focusing on the growing federal deficit. He famously asserted in opposing tax cuts that he was not "Santa Claus" and referred to eventual nominee Bill Clinton as a "Pander Bear" for his promises to various Democratic constituencies during the race. Tsongas' honesty was never rewarded outside of New Hampshire where he was already known because of his work as U.S. Senator of Massachusetts. He eventually ran out of money and dropped out while Clinton coasted.

Daniels seems to recognize the limitations of a campaign for the nomination based on "tough love." But Daniels is in a bind. If he runs and gets little traction, he loses credibility as the purveyor of the fiscal austerity message to which he firmly believes. Then there is little chance to join the ticket as Vice Presidential candidate or even a cabinet post were the Republican ticket to prevail. Worse, an unsuccessful campaign might undercut that message. If Daniels doesn't run, he risks being called a wimp by the same pundits who had championed his cause, thereby trivializing his issue.

The exasperation of writers like David Brooks and establishment Republicans is understandable. They have been searching for an alternative to Mitt Romney, who has never really been a favorite of Republicans in Washington, and the rest of the underwhelming field of candidates. With unemployment still high, Obama is vulnerable. But you can't beat somebody with nobody, as the saying goes.

Daniels is arguably his party's shrewdest political operator. From his days as President Reagan's political director to his two terms as Hoosier governor, he has always found a way to come out on top. The Republican nominating process of 2012 provides him with by far his greatest challenge yet. ❖

Sautter is a Democratic political consultant based in Washington. He is an Indiana native.



Why the spate of threats at Indiana public officials?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Daniels yet again acknowledged on Fox News Sunday that he hasn't made up his mind on the 2012 presidential race.

"I sure haven't decided to do it, haven't decided not to. I'm keeping the option open," he said. And the walkout in the Indiana House could push that decision back further. "We'll finish at the end of April. But if they don't, I'll still be there," he said. "If that means that deadline passes, it does."

Indiana's First Family has expressed reticence about a presidential run and all you have to do is catalogue the four threats resulting in arrests leveled at Indiana public officials - including Daniels - in the seven weeks since U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was shot on Jan. 9 to find a compelling reason why.

You'd probably have to go back to the Ku Klux Klan era of the 1920s or the Civil War Copperhead showdown in the 1860s to find this type of expressed intimidation on Hoosier soil aimed at public officials. According to a Wikipedia list of 32 assassinated American officials, Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd is the only Hoosier on the list, killed in March 1980.

In 1996, Gen. Colin Powell's wife vetoed a presidential run, concerned about his safety on the campaign trail. That is likely a scenario the Daniels family will work through in the next couple of months on the way to a final decision about 2012.

Last Thursday, Michael O'Brien of Howe was arrested and charged with threatening to kill Gov. Daniels "like John F. Kennedy."

On Feb. 1, a St. Joseph County woman, allegedly made a death threat to Sen. Mike Delph. St. Joseph County Prosecutor Michael Dvorak has sent that case to federal prosecutors.

In January, Brett Keiling of Granger allegedly made threats via phone calls to U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly and his staff. Police said Keiling called Donnelly's office and accused everyone in the office of "back-stabbing" him, according to the South Bend Tribune. Authorities said Keiling issued a threat, telling an employee, "I am going to come down and back-stab you. I mean literally come down and stab you."

And there was former Congressional candidate Cheryl Allen, 51, of Martinsville, who was arrested on eight felony counts of intimidation after she allegedly threatened judges and other public officials on her Facebook page. "One day I will have my revenge on your seeking so much revenge on me," read one of Allen's posts cited in media reports. "Someday Boooooom while your setting in your offices," read a second. "And you know I won't even be the one pulling the trigger," said another.

Indiana's public officials are very accessible. Daniels travels with Indiana State Police officers, but they are often a considerable distance from him at public events.

My concern is that this type of intimidation will bring changes to this type of access if there are more threats or shootings. It wasn't too long ago that anyone could stroll into the Indiana Statehouse. Today, particularly with long lines associated with the recent union protests, it can be an ordeal just getting into the building.

U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita announced on Tuesday he would be hosting a new "Congressional safety program" at the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Academy in Plainfield. "Valuable safety training that does not burden taxpayers is essential to Congressional offices these days and I am pleased to move this effort forward in Indiana," Rokita said. "This fusion of federal and local branches of government provides indispensable services for Congressional employees serving the public at community events. There is a low-cost way to effectively protect employees without adding to the federal bureaucracy. This is it and I encourage other Members to take advantage of resources in their district to do the same."

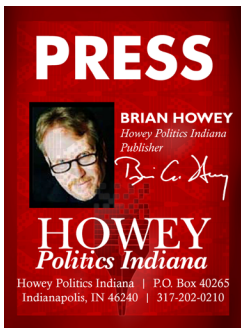
At recent Congressional events, like the once U.S. Rep. Mike Pence did in Pendleton in late January, local police were conspicuous, though not over bearing in any sense.

Why the spate of threats of violence? Despite the Great Recession, we haven't seen increases in violent crime in the general population. In 2009, there were 310 murders in Indiana, down from 369 in 2006 and from a peak of 466 in 1995. Aggravated assaults numbered 12,102, sharply down from the the peak of 20,058 in 1997. Total violent crimes for 2009 stood at 21,404, down from a peak of 31,366 in 1996.

What we have seen is an uptick in violent political rhetoric.

The rise of the Tea Party movement prompted some political activists to show up at political rallies carrying automatic weapons. They carried Revolutionary era signs calling for the "watering the tree of liberty with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

During the 2010 Republican U.S. Senate race, Tea Party candidate Richard Behney told an Evansville area





patriot group that if change didn't come to Washington, Hoosiers should prepare by cleaning their guns.

In a video posted on YouTube, Behney lays his hand on a stack of binders containing the House health care bill and says, "I feel this piece of legislation will determine whether we are free men or whether we are slaves. Because what it talks about at its core is who among us will live and who among us will die." Behney then asks his audience, "What are we going to do about it?" to which an audience member blurts out, "Shoot 'em," a statement met with laughter and applause from audience members, and a smile from Behney.

Behney continued, "I believe personally, we're at a crossroads. We have one last opportunity. And I believe 2010 is it. All right, and we can do it with our vote, and we can get new faces in. Whether it's my face or not, I pray to God I see new faces. If we don't see new faces, I'm cleaning my guns and getting ready for a big show. And I'm serious about that and I bet you are, too." Behney lost the race to U.S. Sen. Dan Coats.

That kind of rhetoric continued into mid-April 2010 when Behney appeared at a WXNT-AM debate at the Indiana War Memorial. In the April 15, 2010 edition of *Howey Politics Indiana*, this observation was made: Behney, who talked of cleaning his guns and taking to the streets before an Evansville patriot group last winter, peppered his comments with terms of violence. It was almost as if Bang-Bang Behney had the Rolling Stones' "Street Fightin' Man" playing in his head.

In his opening statement, Behney said, "Over our dead bodies, we have to take back our liberties." Later when the debate turned to health reforms, Behney said, "Over my dead body. We're going to kill older people and children."

Some Indiana Tea Party cells appeared to recognize the association and worked to dispel it. When State Treasurer Richard Moudock spoke at a Tea Party rally in Corydon last fall, a sign on the gazebo stated: "Not violent, Not racist."

Allen, who polled 3 percent of the vote in the 2010 4th CD Republican primary, doesn't appear to be associated with the Tea Party movement. During a 4th CD debate last spring, she called for universal health coverage, which is not a typical Tea Party position.

The volatile rhetoric may just be that. It is not cause for alarm, but concern. And it underscores the responsibility that comes when someone enters the public square seeking leadership.

The frightening reality is that people - sometimes very frustrated or mentally unstable people - are listening.



Comedy Central's Jon Stewart lampooned Daniels Tuesday night, taking a clip from his Fox News interview on Sunday in which he made light of his height and hair. Stewart suggested he sit on the shoulders of New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as one candidate.

Walkout could scuttle Daniels presidential bid

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels says he'll stay focused on getting his Statehouse agenda passed, even if the legislative session drags on so long that it precludes him for a presidential run (Associated Press).

An ongoing standoff caused by boycotting House Democrats has the potential to cause the legislative session to drag on past its scheduled end in late April. Daniels said Wednesday that his legislative agenda remains his top priority. He said a longterm impasse "could well get in the way of any national participation. If it does, it does."

In an interview with Fox News Sunday's Chris Wallace, Daniels talked about the walkout. Here are excerpts from that interview:

WALLACE: You are in the middle of a standoff right now with House Democrats who have crossed state lines and are inside Illinois and are blocking any action in the legislature. They first said that they were fighting against the right-to-work law, which is now dead. Now they say they are fighting against 11 other bills on the agenda. Question, are you prepared to make a deal to get those House Democrats back to Indiana?

DANIELS: No, if they come back, we will talk about what sort of changes or amendments they might want, but while they are subverting the democratic process, there is nothing to talk about. So when they come



back to work, we will talk about their concerns. You describe it quite accurately, Chris. Our situation is very different than Wisconsin. This is not about government unions. This was a bill I did not initiate and I thought it ought to really wait for a different time, because I thought exactly this might happen and it might get in the way of a very important agenda that was laid in front of the people of Indiana. Low-tax agenda, reduce the corporate tax to attract jobs, reform education and so forth. And yes, they ran off to Illinois ostensibly over the right-to-work bill. But as soon as they got what they wanted there, they issued an ultimatum from a hot tub over there with about 10 more items. This is to tell you how reactionary Indiana Democrats are. The first four items they want killed are President Obama's Race to the Top agenda.

WALLACE: When unions started protesting the right-to-work law this week and House Democrats took off, you said that you thought that the bill should be dropped, as you just pointed out. Then you added this.

DANIELS ON VIDEO CLIP: Even the smallest minority, and that's what we've heard from the last couple of days, has every right to express the strength of its views, and I salute those who do.

WALLACE: Conservative bloggers immediately hammered you, said you weren't tough enough, said you wanted a truce on fiscal issues, and the day after you issued a much tougher statement. Here it is.

DANIELS VIDEO CLIP: The House Democrats have shown a complete contempt for the democratic process.

WALLACE: Were you trying to reassure conservatives that you are tough enough?

DANIELS: No, I was reiterating exactly what I said the first day. I was a little, I guess, careless about my pronouns. The statement I made I'll make again. I was referring to the private sector protesters, the union members who came to disagree with the right-to-work law. They had and they have every right to express their First Amendment point of view.

WALLACE: When you said then, salute them, though, you weren't talking about the Indiana House Democrats?

DANIELS: No, I mean, in fact it's very - I guess I'm glad I made the mistake because it allows us to really I think clarify an important distinction. It is one thing for the people in the private sector to express their point of view as our protesters did. It is quite another for public servants accepting a public paycheck, having lost an election to a very clear agenda, to try to trash the process, run off to a different state and hide out. That's what I said on both those days; (it) was completely illegitimate.

WALLACE: All right. You took away, what is going on in Wisconsin now, you took away public workers' collective bargaining rights by executive order six years ago

the day after you were sworn into office, but now you are calling their unions the privileged elite. Question, teachers, public safety officers - the privileged elite?

DANIELS: Across America, Chris, we've had a huge inversion. There may have been a time, a century ago, where public employees were mistreated and vulnerable and underpaid. If that was ever a problem, we have over-fixed it. Not everywhere but in many places. As you know very well, public employees in America - most decidedly federal employees, but everywhere - are better paid than the taxpayers that pay their salaries. When you add much more generous benefits and much more generous pensions on top, the gap widens, and then there is near total job security in the last recession.

WALLACE: But you really would call teachers, I mean, they're public servants, you said they are public servants. Would you really call teachers a privileged elite?

DANIELS: I was really talking about the government unions, of whom their union, of course, is one. Now, it is true that teachers are paid in Indiana 22 percent more than the taxpayers who pay their salary. The benefits raise that further, that is all true. I happen to think that is a good idea. We have some of the best paid teachers in America, and I think that is absolutely fine. In fact, one of the bills our Democrats want us to kill would allow us to pay the best teachers more, which is something I'd really like to do. But as a general phenomenon, we have a situation in which public sector unions get gillions (sic) of dollars in dues, which they hand back to the politicians who then sweeten the pot for them in an unending circle, and that's a bad idea.

WALLACE: What would you do about Social Security?

DANIELS: I would bifurcate it. I would say those in the program or approaching it, a deal is a deal, you're good to go, nothing changes. For the young people who are paying for today's retirees and tomorrow's, we want you to have something when you retire. We will need a brand new compact. I think it starts with means testing, which is to say we shouldn't send a pension check to Donald Trump. We should concentrate the resources on those who are going to need them the most. I think we should in the future raise the retirement age to catch up to the medical reality of our time. I think we should protect the benefits against inflation, but not overprotect them. Chris, as I said many times in the past, that is my cut at it. If somebody has another route that gets us with assurance to the same results, I would like to hear it, because I just want to see a solution to this before it destroys the America we know.

WALLACE: You talked about Medicare 2.0, private vouchers, not a government program?

DANIELS: It will be a government program, but instead of a top-down monstrosity that we have today,



once again I would divide the program and say to those who are in it or who are about to be in it, nothing will change for you. But I think for the young people coming up who are going to shoulder the bill, we ought to trust them to make more of their own decisions. You could, again, concentrate the resources on the poorest people, and also in this case the least healthy people.

WALLACE: But you'd give them a private voucher so they could choose their own insurance plan?

DANIELS: I would.

WALLACE: You even say the government should put limits on end-of-life care. Are you talking about what Sarah Palin called the death panels?

DANIELS: No, I didn't say government should put limits on this, but what I'm worried about is the government making these decisions. I just stated what I think is a simple fact. I wish it wasn't, but I think it is. We cannot afford in an aging society to pay for the most expensive technology for every single person regardless of income to the very, very last day.

WALLACE: You also have a record as the first budget director under President George W. Bush. When you came in, this country had an annual surplus for the first time in 30 years of \$236 billion. When you left, two and a half years later, the deficit was \$400 billion. You were also there when President Bush launched his Medicare Drug Benefit Plan that now costs \$60 billion a year. I know there was a recession, but do you think it was wise at a time when we were fighting two wars to have two tax cuts and launch a huge new entitlement?

DANIELS: Well, it wasn't just the recession. It was recession, two wars and a terrorist attack that led to a whole new category called Homeland Security. So nobody was less happy than I to see the surplus go away, but it was going away no matter who was the president. You know, Chris, I was proud to be part of that administration. Yes, I think the original tax cuts were good and timely and helped the economy to recover very, very quickly from that recession. But, if you want to know what I think about fiscal issues, don't look at two and a half years where I was in the supporting cast with no vote. Look at six years where I was in a responsible position, submitting budgets and fighting for them. And, you know, there's the record that I think is most accurate.

WALLACE: You've also infuriated the right by calling for a truce on social issues. Here's what you said at CPAC.

DANIELS VIDEO CLIP: Big change requires big majorities. We will need people who never tune in to Rush or Glenn or Laura or Sean.

WALLACE: But some conservative say that abortion and traditional marriage shouldn't be negotiable, and our next guest, Mike Huckabee, says - and he's a fan of

yours - says he's disappointed that you would suggest that pro-family activists would just lie down.

DANIELS: Well, that isn't what I suggested. First of all, it's only a truce if both sides agree to stop fighting for a little while. I don't want to have an argument with anybody about this. It was a suggestion, really, tactically. It starts with the premise that our nation is at mortal risk. I'd love to learn that I'm wrong about this, but that is not threatening - not just our economy but our entire way of life, our role in the world, maybe even our national security. Now, if you share that fear, then all I'm saying is we're going to have to unify a lot of America, we have to get a lot of people together to make these changes.

WALLACE: Where are you - on running for president?

DANIELS: Well, I sure haven't decided to do it; haven't decided not to. I'm keeping the option open, as I've been urged to. But, you know, Chris, I never expected to run for any office. All I set out to do was to try my best for four years, maybe eight, to make a better state, more prosperous state in the place I live. And, you know, any thought I ever had about national issues was maybe we could set some good examples and create some successes others could look at and maybe here and there offer a constructive thought. That's still where I am.

WALLACE: And when do you have to make a decision? When - have you set a timeline for yourself?

DANIELS: No, I've (not set timeline); others keep suggesting these deadlines, and then they keep passing. It's one of the great breaks we've had as voters that this thing didn't start.

WALLACE: But some have said (your timeline is) when the legislature goes out of session - of course it may never be in session - in April.

DANIELS: I will tell you this, I'm giving my full attention to the duty, the job I hired on for, and I hope that we - that our Democrats get out of the hot tub - will go back to work, will finish at the end of April. But if they don't, I'll still be there, and so will they, eventually because that's my duty. If it means that deadlines pass, it does.

WALLACE: Finally, governor, some people have suggested that you don't look presidential. Barack Obama is 6'1", you're 5'7". He's charismatic and, forgive me, but some people suggest perhaps you're not. Does that matter?

DANIELS: Well, probably, you know? Some voters - I've never in the limited elected time I've had - I've never suggested to a voter what they should consider a valid criterion. So, you know, sure. If it comes down to height and hair, I probably wouldn't do very well. But I guess that's just something you weight in the balance with many other factors. ❖



Obama and Huskers have something in common

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - Here's one for you: What do President Obama and the Nebraska Cornhuskers have in common? Answer: They both want to win in every Big Ten state in 2012. That joke alone is one that we wouldn't have pondered a decade ago, but it will turn a few smile lines and make a few people think now.

That's because Obama won every Big Ten state in 2008. For him to repeat and win a second term, he'll have to do well in the Rustbelt area of the country. MSNBC's Chris Mathews also made that observation after Republicans made substantial gains last year in what were blue states for Obama in 2008.



The question for political junkies is: Can Obama do it again?

The answers to that question vary, but for the sake of his presidency, he will have to win a substantial portion

of the Big Ten states to become the first Democrat since Bill Clinton in 1996 to win back-to-back presidential terms. Before that, we have to look back to Franklin Roosevelt to find a time when Democrats were elected in back-to-back elections.

In Indiana, the likelihood that Obama will win again is pure speculation at this point. He claimed majorities in a few counties, but there likely were thousands of Hoosier voters in 2008 who never thought he had a chance of winning a state Democrats had not claimed since 1964. Many of these voters will be converts next year, but Obama will likely lose a few too, especially in Congressional districts where Democrats lost in 2010. What he has going for him is a slight rebound in Elkhart County which had the nation's highest unemployment rate when he took office and still has one of the largest populations of any Indiana counties, as well as a track record of supporting GM and Chrysler which are emerging from near-death experiences. State-by-Big Ten-state, here's the breakdown of how Obama might fare:

1. Ohio. It's been said repeatedly that this is the state every presidential candidate wants to win. If you don't believe me, just ask John Kerry. Had he won it in 2004, we would have been calling him president. Ditto Al Gore. Repeating here will not be easy, but the economy is rebounding. Depending on the candidate Republicans field, it could turn blue again, but don't look for Joe the Plumber to go away.

2. Pennsylvania. This is probably the most likely Democratic state in the mix. Ed Rendell's influence on the national party and its message is keen, and Obama's ticket carries a favorite son, Joe Biden of the much "Saturday Night Live"-panned Scranton.

3. Illinois. Yes, it's one of Obama's "home states" and is actually the place he lives other than Washington. It should go his way, but Republicans have claimed his old Senate seat thanks to Mark Kirk and made the governor's race close with Bill Brady pushing Pat Quinn to a razor-thin victory. This will not be as easy as it looks.

4. Wisconsin. With native son Reince Preibus now heading the Republican National Committee and Republicans controlling every facet of state government, it could be the toughest nut to crack in the Big Ten. But if controversies in the state capital continue, Wisconsin's blue base will potentially more energized than 2008. This is a toss-up.

5. Michigan. This, too, should sway Obama given his support of the auto industry, but Republicans claimed the governorship here as well. If Mitt Romney is the Republican nominee, it could tip the state to the GOP. Romney's father, George, a former Michigan governor and American Motors executive, left his son a legacy of name recognition in the state, and it was enough to help Romney win the GOP primary in 2008.

6. Minnesota. Republican Tim Pawlenty is no longer governor and he, too, may be on a ticket next year. If that happens, Minnesotans will rally around him. If not, Republicans will have a tough sell, even if Rep. Michelle Backman announces she's leaving the Tea Party and drinking black coffee every day to serious her up.

7. Iowa. This may be the trickiest state of all to predict. The Iowa caucuses put voters in touch with candidates the way no other state does. The Hawkeye state's proximity to Missouri has allowed the "show-me" attitude to rub off on voters. They'll wait and see until after the New Hampshire Primary to start taking things really seriously.

8. Nebraska. Obama actually grew up in neighboring Kansas where he won the Democratic primary in 2008. Nebraska is a tough sell, but a possible Obama win next year given his incumbency and the lack of a viable Republican candidate.

Keep in mind that an incumbent president of either party rarely loses. In the past 50 years, it's only happened three times: Gerald Ford in 1976, George H.W. Bush in 1992 and Jimmy Carter in 1980. Much will transpire between now and November of next year. It's hard to believe Nebraska will be playing for a chance to go to the Rose Bowl. But it's not hard to believe that winning the Big Ten states again for Obama will be thinking of politics through rose-colored glasses. It could conceivably happen. ❖

Kitchell is a frequent HPI contributor from Logansport.



House walkout could impact mayoral races

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Three mayoral candidates have spent the last week with House Democrats in Illinois, and that is causing some angst among their campaigns. State Rep. Craig Fry doesn't have a primary opponent in Mishawaka, but certainly if he stays out much longer that could be an issue Mayor Woods will exploit this fall. State Reps. Ryan Dvorak of South Bend and Dennis Tyler of Muncie do have primary opponents. So the walkout could cut two ways: They could declare themselves as walking for the working man and woman. Or they may take some arrows for being Missing In Action.

Bloomington

Democrat: Mayor Mark Kruzan, John Hamilton, John Gusan. **2007 Results:** Kruzan (D) 5,937, Sabbagh (R) 3,729. **Outlook:** We've change the status of this race from Tossup to Leans Kruzan after talking with several city sources. Kruzan is running a Graham Richard style subterranean campaign - not many press conferences or releases. He appears to be content to directly target primary voters.

Kruzan has an oddly hands-off management/political style. He rarely comes to work at City Hall and doesn't show up at many political events. That aloofness bothers a good number of Democrats, but many have not abandoned him to date, though they

will weigh the Hamilton candidacy. Hamilton, the nephew of former congressman Lee Hamilton and husband of failed Obama Justice Department appointee Dawn Johnsen, has been much more publicly active and has some support in IU circles. Big water rate and crime increases could bolster his campaign. Hamilton's best shot at upsetting Kruzan might be to play to the left, but he doesn't appear to be doing that. The danger for Kruzan is he is seeking his third term, which is when mayors tend to get knocked off. Despite the status change, this one bears watching. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Kruzan

Carmel

Republican: Mayor James Brainard, Councilman John Accetturo. **2007 Results:** Brainard 9,192. Winckler (D) 2068, Spiegelman (I) 2,557. **Outlook:** Brainard was in

Washington DC this week to lobby the US Senate against portions of the House Republican's recently passed budget. "While our country is drowning in red ink and our fellow Republicans in Washington, DC are trying to get spending under control, our mayor is going out to DC to ask that the taxpayer dollars keep flowing," Accetturo said. Accetturo went on to say, "It is time that all public officials deal with the fiscal realities that face our nation, state, cities and towns. It is going to require that we all tighten our budgets, just as many of our fellow Hoosiers have done over the past 2 years. The days of government spending our money freely are over." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Brainard

East Chicago

Democrat: Mayor Anthony Copeland, East Chicago Councilman Rich Medina. **2007 Democratic Primary Results:** Pabey 3,784, Anthony Copeland 2,736, Edward Williams 639, Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez 364 Willie B. McClain 10.

Outlook: Medina is seeking help from downstate Latino groups. It appears he'll get some emotional support but probably can't count on much money. Copeland had 130 volunteers working phone banks over the weekend. We're moving this from Tossup to Leans after talking with folks on the ground this past week. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Copeland

Fort Wayne

Democrats: Mayor Tom Henry, Frederick Steinke, Tom Cook, Charles Eberhard, D.C. "Mr. Roachclip" Roach. **Republicans:** Councilwoman Liz Brown, Eric Doden, Paula Hughes, Fred Osheskie Sr., Terrence Richard Walker. **2007 Results:** Henry 31,740, Kelty (R) 21,163. **Outlook:** Hughes continued her plan to get Fort Wayne on the road to financial freedom by announcing her plan to empower departments to find ways to save taxpayers money and determine which programs need to be eliminated, retooled or enhanced. The Hughes empowerment plan will require each city department to conduct an internal audit to see what's working, what needs improvement, and what needs to be eliminated. "It's tax season and we all rightfully fear an audit from the government. It is high time that the government fears an audit from the people," Hughes said. "In the first 100 days of my administration, department heads will review their finances, solicit input from city employees and taxpayers, and propose ways to save money immediately and in future budgets." This is a departure from the current budgeting approach that plans next year's budget on last year's expenses. The Hughes plan encourages collaborations for taxpayer savings from her first day in office. "Business as usual will be over at City Hall and in Fort Wayne city government once I am sworn in as Mayor,"





Hughes stated. "It's been far too long since taxpayers have had an advocate working for them." The departmental audit plan is an extension of Hughes's cash-based budgeting plan, "Making YOUR Money Count" which will require all division directors and department heads to submit a prioritized budget that focuses on necessities. Each department will start at zero and build their budget from the ground up. This type of budgeting will empower each department to focus on doing more with less and to critically evaluate the need for each individual program and line-item.

Horse Race Status: Likely Henry

Indianapolis

Republican: Mayor Greg Ballard. **Democrats:** Sam Carson, Ron Gibson, Melina Kennedy. **2007 Results:** Ballard (D) 83,238, Peterson, Bart (D) 77,926, Peterson, Fred (L) 3,787. **Outlook:** County Chairman Ed Treacy was able to get Bob Kern knocked off the ballot due to past criminal convictions. Kennedy reacted to the State of the City address a week ago by saying, "I felt this marked an important occasion to continue to speak with you about my vision for getting Indianapolis moving forward again. As we consider the challenges our city faces, and the opportunities we have to make meaningful changes, I'm sharing with you a video we posted on my Facebook page tonight. As you have heard from me before, I believe we must face the facts. For example, over the past three years, unemployment has doubled and Marion County has lost more than 35,000 jobs. For the future of our children and generations beyond, we must do better. That's why I took the opportunity tonight to discuss my plan for growing small and homegrown businesses. I have been meeting every day with people in our neighborhoods and listening to residents about ways we can improve our neighborhoods and our city. In a time of serious concern over crime, people want to feel safe and secure in their homes and places for their children to play and thrive. They want positive and innovative ideas about economic development. And they want to make sure that we are striving to improve public education. These are the serious issues we must tackle. I am confident that in this adversity, we have opportunity, and I look forward to listening more and continuing our conversations." Gibson reacted to the speech by saying, "The citizens of Indianapolis are still concerned about bread and butter issues. There is a real disconnect between Mayor Ballard's view of the future and our constituency, especially those most in need. Focus must be placed on improving the quality of our neighborhoods and getting people back to work, especially those who are and have been unemployed for many months," said Gibson. Mayor Ballard touts his success of selling assets like the water company and parking meters for short-term gains, but there is no long-term benefit for our City. The water and sewer rates to

our residents are scheduled to rise soon, and there will be no power in place to control future excessive rates. Creating efficiencies in how services are delivered and how the City operates should be the basis for a plan to get our City in growth mode. Investing in the people of Indianapolis and keeping the City's most valuable resources under their control are necessary to make Indianapolis better. Mayor Ballard has been ill-advised and abdicated the responsibility of the Mayor to have the authority to carry out those duties." Kennedy backed the Rocky Ripple Town Council resolution on a proposed flood wall, saying, "I strongly support Rocky Ripple and believe the Mayor should intervene immediately to stop this proposal from advancing until there is further review and discussion. Rocky Ripple and other affected neighborhood residents should be included in the flood protection plan discussion. I was concerned to hear this plan was put forth without community input. The proposed wall will have far reaching effects, well beyond the neighborhood of Rocky Ripple. Residents from other adjacent neighborhoods share the belief that that the revised plan by the City of Indianapolis and Army Corps could have devastating effects including endangering residents and subjecting their homes to damage during high water incidents. At a time when Mayor Ballard is publicly speaking about his plans to improve our city's neighborhoods and create attractive urban settings, his office supports a harmful neighborhood plan." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Ballard

Hammond

Democrat: Mayor Thomas McDermott, Oscar Sanchez, Alex Andrade. **Republican:** George Janiec, Humberto Prado, David Hacker, Matthew Saliga, Jeff MacDonald, Rob Pastore. **2007 Results:** McDermott (D) 5,289, Janiec (R) 4,802. **Outlook:** McDermott denies his supporters are manipulating the ballot to defeat two Hispanic candidates in the city's May 3 primary election. Former Lake County Sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Dominguez claims McDermott is behind a Gavit High School student — Alex Andrade, who just turned 19 — becoming a last-minute candidate for mayor (Dolan, Times of Northwest Indiana). Dominguez said all the teen will do is split Hispanic votes away from Sanchez, whom Dominguez supports as a serious Hispanic challenger to McDermott's reelection. Dominguez said the same cynical politics explains why Maritza Andrade, the teen's pregnant mother, is running against 6th District City Councilman Homero "Chico" Hinojosa Jr. Dominguez said this is meant to punish Hinojosa, who isn't aligned with McDermott's political agenda. Dominguez said McDermott's most trusted aide, City Controller Robert Lendi, helped the two become candidates. Lendi said Tuesday he was outside the election board to witness the final minutes of candidate filing Feb. 18. "The (Andrades) were the second or third group of people who approached me and said I was pointed out



to them as a notary public and would notarize their paperwork. Prior to that I never talked to or met them before." McDermott, who has clashed with Dominguez in the past, claims Dominguez is spending his post-sheriff days meddling in several cities' Democratic mayoral primaries (Times of Northwest Indiana). "The fact is he is making a power play," McDermott said earlier this week. Dominguez, who now has a private law practice in Merrillville and is attorney for the East Chicago sanitary district, responded, "That is pure nonsense. It sounds like a case of paranoia." McDermott identified Oscar Sanchez, one of three Democrats challenging McDermott's re-election, as Exhibit A in his case against Dominguez. Sanchez, a retired steelworker, was sheriff Dominguez's chief of staff for four years and remains the former sheriff's friend. "He is involved with Linda Buzinec against (Hobart) Mayor Brian Snedecor, and some people are saying he's involved with (David) Aguilera against (Whiting Mayor) Joe Stahura," McDermott added. Dominguez said, "He believes every Hispanic who runs for office is because I put them in the race. They run because they would like to serve their community like every other American. But there is nothing I can do to convince him otherwise." **Horse Race Status:** Leans McDermott

Gary

Democrat: Mayor Rudy Clay, Councilwoman Ragen Hatcher, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Larry Evans, Harold Foster, Heather L. Hensley, Latanza Shanelle Johnson, Jack Lieske, Robert L. Lewis, Lester L. (Chip) Lowe Jr., Saba S. Mohammed, Richard L. Nash, Derric (NuGary) Price, Jeffery L. Tatum. Republican: Charles R. Smith Jr. **2007 Results:** Clay 8,529, Smith (R) 2,569. **Outlook:** Nine candidates for Gary mayor will have to undergo political stress tests to prove their fitness to run for municipal office (Times of Northwest Indiana). Jack Lieske, Latanza Johnson, Heather Hensley, Larry Evans, Richard Nash, Saba Mohammed, Lester Lowe Jr., Robert Lewis and Derric Price are among 15 Democrats and one Republican who could be removed from the May 3 ballot. Political activists have filed complaints with the Lake County elections board alleging the candidates they are challenging don't live in the community for which they want to be officials, don't belong to the party running the primary election, already hold nonpartisan public offices or are barred from running because of criminal background prohibitions. "I believe there is a concerted effort to put as many candidates on the ballot as possible to confuse the voters and give the incumbent (Gary Mayor Rudy Clay) the greatest election advantage," Crown Point lawyer Jewel Harris Jr. said Wednesday. The five-member bipartisan county elections board will begin hearing evidence next Monday on whether the challenges have any merit. Political insiders believe such the range of choices will favor incumbent Mayor Rudy Clay's re-election by splitting voter opposition

to him among too many other candidates. Sources tell HPI that Freeman-Wilson may be behind the challenges, figuring that only by narrowing the field will give her a shot at knocking off Clay. We see Freeman-Wilson as his primary challenger. Lowe was endorsed by actor Danny Glover on Tuesday. "He sounds like a confident gentleman who was raised in the community. He is an entrepreneur and seems to have what it takes to be the next mayor," Glover said (Post-Tribune). **Horse Race Status:** Leans Clay

Hobart

Democrat: Mayor Brian K. Snedecor, Linda Buzinec. Independent: Chip Greenberg. **2007 Results:** Snedecor (D) 3,639, Guthrie (R) 2,426. **Outlook:** Former Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez has been accused of backing Buzinec against Mayor Snedecor by Mayor McDermott, also Lake County Democratic chairman, in the Times of Northwest Indiana **Horse Race Status:** Tossup

Muncie

Republican: Mayor Sharon McShurley. **Democrat:** State Rep. Dennis Tyler, Ralph "Jigger" Smith Jr., Kenneth Dav-enport. **2007 Results:** McShurley 6,121, Mansfield (D) 6,108. **Outlook:** Tyler supporters are getting nervous about him staying in Illinois as part of the House walkout. Mayor McShurley this week threatened to pull the plug on Muncie Gras, downtown Muncie's biggest annual party, over a months-old unpaid \$400 bill (Muncie Star Press). McShurley emphasized that in the "new reality" of government operating under serious financial constraints, not even the Downtown Development Partnership should be exempt from paying fees for city services. At what might be considered the 11th hour -- Muncie Gras is set to take over downtown streets on March 19 -- the downtown group paid the delinquent debt and the show will go on. But not without some last-minute, behind-the-scenes intrigue. At a Monday night meeting with residents of the Whiteley and Industry neighborhoods, the mayor was met with criticism over newly implemented fees to use city park facilities for events like basketball tournaments. The mayor said the pursuit of fees for use of city facilities and services was inevitable given the dramatic recent reductions in tax revenue. She rejected one citizen's suggestion that the local black community "takes the brunt" of the city's financial woes -- through a purported lack of services like street paving, and through the fees to use city parks for organized events -- by noting that Downtown Development had failed to pay its "bill" for a 2010 event, possibly endangering a major upcoming event. "It's going to get shut down if they don't pay," McShurley told an audience of about 50 people.

Horse Race Status: Leans Tyler ❖



The nightmare in my neighborhood

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - As I relaxed in my recliner, I pondered the surprise of February: The discovery of the most privileged elite in the United States ... state and local government employees. Governors of Indiana and Wisconsin bravely revealed the evil perpetrated by this enormous cell of fiscal terrorists.

In case you missed it, many state and local government employees are unionized. It appears unions force Americans to become arbitrary and authoritarian. People working in large organizations, banding together to negotiate the conditions under which they labor, destroy the harmony of the universe.

Now the virtuous, pressed into action by the realities of economic conditions, fight back. In response, grubby workers leave their posts as teachers, firefighters, health inspectors, geologists, medical workers, and public safety officers to protest against noble efforts to reduce their influence, their pay, and their dedication to public service.



Morton Marcus
Column

A look at the facts will put this gallant charge into perspective. State and local government employees constitute 10.8 percent of all employed persons in the nation. However, they receive 12.1 percent of the compensation, excluding capital gains. This gross imbalance also distorts the Indiana economy (10.7 and 11.5 percent respectively) and is worse in Wisconsin (10.6 and 12.4 percent).

Clearly, any group of workers with incomes in excess of their proportion in the economy are villains. The brave governors of Indiana and Wisconsin crusade for a world where all workers are paid the same (communism) or seek a world where the private sector dominates (fascism). I won't believe this, but the evidence is before my eyes.

In Indiana, private sector workers averaged \$43,166 in 2008 (the latest year for which data are available). State workers did better at \$45,930 and local government workers averaged an embarrassing \$48,046. Why should we pay teachers with master's degrees more than the sweating toilers flipping burgers?

Destruction of unions has been sought for decades by farseeing Americans. Our nation strayed in 1935 when the federal Wagner Act allowed workers to join unions which negotiate working rules as well as pay rates. Now, 76 years later, courageous leaders are mounting the long-

awaited attack. Public sector workers are too strong for the public good.

Yes, we want strong schools, buy why must we pay so much for them? Where is the spirit of public service? Yes, we want good police and fire services, but paying men and women above average wages and pensions to perform difficult and dangerous jobs goes too far. Yes, we want good public hospitals, but do we need to pay taxes to support them? In fact, why can't all public services be on a for-fee basis?

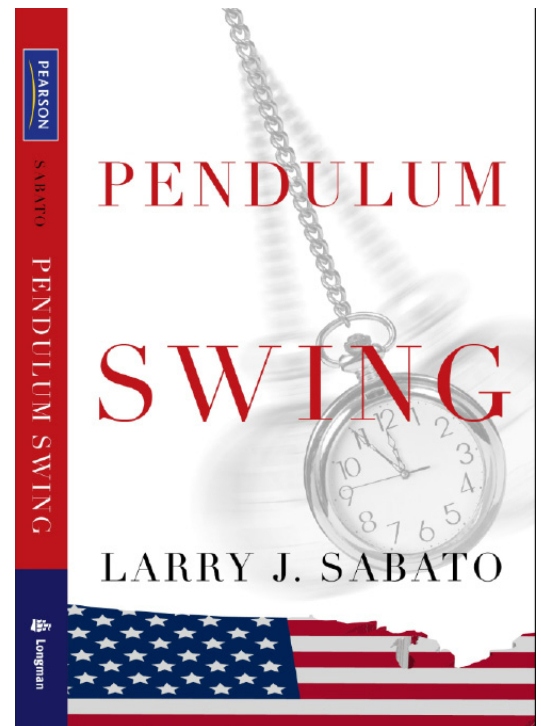
That's the trouble with public services, they are provided free or at small cost to the users, while the taxpayers get the bills. In this brave new world, let's reduce taxes and use the model of our efficient and effective private sector: charge user fees.

Education is the leading example. Let the families of students pay for schooling. Naturally, the poor will not be able to afford the services available to the rich, but if the poor really value education, they will find the money. Public hospitals should be the same. It is most evident that the rich and the poor are different. The rich are rich because they produce value for society while the poor, well, you know all about the poor.... sloth.

When we treat all people alike, we defile and discourage our virtuous citizens. What reason does a person have to work if he can't get a kidney faster than a social parasite? Hasn't the time arrived to disband the stultifying superstructure?

A crying baby? No it's not a baby; it's the cat on my lap. I've fallen asleep and had another of those right-wing nightmares. ❖

Marcus is an independent economist, speaker, and writer formerly with IU's Kelley School of Business.



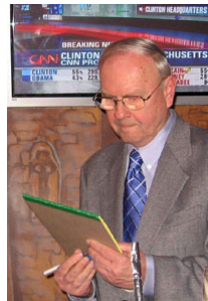


Lugar has achieved statesmen status

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - While the image of Congress suffers from petty, divisive and costly politics, Sen. Dick Lugar has achieved statesman status, not just in Washington but also in other capitals throughout the world.

Lugar's monumental success in eliminating thousands of weapons of mass destruction, horrible things once aimed at us on missiles in the old Soviet Union, is one of the reasons for acclaim for the Republican senator from Indiana.



So popular and respected has Lugar been in Indiana that when last he ran for election, Democrats didn't even bother to put up an opponent. He won a sixth term with opposition of a third-party candidate by a record 87 percent of the vote.

Lugar was unbeatable then. He would be unbeatable now as he seeks reelection to a seventh term in 2012 . . .

except. Except he could be vulnerable to a tea party challenge in the Republican primary, a May primary in which many of the Republicans who would support him in the November general election will not vote. Republican Party primaries oft now are tea parties.

Remember Christine "I Am Not a Witch" O'Donnell, who defeated an "unbeatable" Republican in the Delaware primary for the Senate nomination there? She was laughed into electoral oblivion in the general election. Republicans lost a seat they should have won.

And Nevada? Tea Party activists overwhelmed a traditional Republican in the primary there to nominate possibly the only person in the state who could have lost to Harry Reid.

Now, a coalition of Tea Party groups in Indiana, encouraged by politicians in the state and outside who seek to channel tea party enthusiasm for their own purposes, targets Lugar for defeat.

They're starting early, firing negative attacks, raising money to tear down Lugar's statesman reputation and planning a June caucus to anoint a challenger.

A challenger, a politician jumping up and down in eagerness, has been found in state Treasurer Richard "I Am Not a Statesman" Mourdock, the guy who played politics with the fate of the American auto industry and all those automotive jobs in Indiana. He says Indiana pension funds were at risk. Well, they were, with the treasurer's investments in junk securities.

In announcing candidacy, Mourdock made clear he is no Dick Lugar, no statesman.

Mourdock criticized Lugar for bipartisanship.

Bipartisanship is terrible. Voters said that last fall, sending a message that they wanted more divisive bickering and battling in Congress rather than attempts to cooperate to solve the nation's problems.

Bipartisanship also is to blame for Lugar's interference with the good old days of the Cold War. He's taken the fun out of the nuclear arms race. Worst of all, he did it with a Democrat, former Sen. Sam Nunn, through the Nunn-Lugar Act. It has brought so far, in Russia and others parts of the old Soviet Union, the deactivation of 7,599 nuclear warheads, destruction of 791 intercontinental ballistic missiles, elimination of 498 silos and 180 mobile launchers for ICBMs and destruction of a whole bunch of other trivial threats like bombers and submarines.

Worst of all, Lugar goes to Russia frequently to promote destruction of these horrible weapons and join in inspections to make sure of compliance with agreements.

Richard "I Am Not a Statesman" Mourdock now criticizes Lugar's travels.

So do some Republican county chairmen who are miffed at Lugar for going to Siberia to inspect destruction of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction rather than coming to a Lincoln Day Dinner to help get precinct committee members enthused for a commissioner race.

If a bunch of county chairmen, those whose political priorities don't include eliminating nuclear missiles once pointed at us and keeping loose nukes out of the hands of terrorists, throw their patronage workers into the tea party effort to defeat Lugar, he could lose.

Democrats, who knew they couldn't defeat Lugar, now look at a better chance to win the Senate seat. They look for the gift of a Republican nominee who is not a witch and not a statesman. Certainly not a statesman. Or, they could find Lugar surviving the primary, but with his statesman image torn asunder by millions of dollars spent in a negative primary election blitz. ❖

Colwell has covered politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.



Andrea Neal, Indianapolis Star: Indiana House Republicans goofed when they added a "right to work" bill to the legislature's already loaded policy agenda. The bill not only energized organized labor, but it also inspired Democrats to flee to a hotel in Urbana, Ill., denying lawmakers a quorum for conducting business. In a reasonable gesture to resolve the dispute, Republicans pulled the bill off the calendar and Speaker Brian Bosma promised it wouldn't reappear this session. That should have put an end to the silliness. Instead, Democrats upped their demands in an effort to kill a dozen more bills, including key elements of Gov. Mitch Daniels' education reform agenda. While Republicans can be accused of a strategic error -- it made no sense to take on the unions while so many families are still suffering from a recession -- Democrats can now be accused of sabotage. Political blackmail by either party does not sit well with voters. By refusing to debate the issues on the floor of the Statehouse, Democrats have abdicated the job voters entrusted to them.

David Brooks, New York Times: On Feb. 11, Gov. Mitch Daniels of Indiana met with a group of college students. According to The Yale Daily News, he told them that there is an "excellent chance" he will not run for president. Then he mounted the podium at the Conservative Political Action Conference and delivered one of the best Republican speeches in recent decades. This is the G.O.P. quandary. The man who would be the party's strongest candidate for the presidency is seriously thinking about not running. The country could use a serious, competent manager, which Governor Daniels has been, and still he's thinking about not running. The historic moment calls for someone who can restrain debt while still helping government efficiently perform its duties. Daniels has spent his whole career preparing for this kind of moment, and still he's thinking about not running. The country also needs a substantive debate about the role of government. That's exactly what an Obama-Daniels contest would provide. Yet because Daniels is a normal person who doesn't have an insatiable desire for higher office, he's thinking about not running. ❖

Mark Kiesling, Times of Northwest Indiana: So now we finally know where Danny Glover stands on the standoff in Indianapolis over labor issues, and I can sleep easier. Glover, 65, is the Hollywood actor famous for his roles in the cop action "Lethal Weapon" series and "The Color Purple," among other films. He's certainly an accomplished thespian, but I still wonder why we care what people from Hollywood think when it comes to our political process. I don't care if it is Republicans like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Clint Eastwood or Democrats like Glover or Sean Penn, although at least Eastwood and Schwarzenegger once were elected to public office. Barbra Streisand threatened to move out of the country if George W. Bush was elected to his first term, but unfortunately she reneged on her promise. So when Glover appeared this week at the Indiana Statehouse in support of union members who have been rallying there for some time, my first thought was, "Who cares?" My second thought was some of these legit unions that have some legit concerns maybe had better think twice whom they applaud and embrace. Glover, after all, was famously photographed in New York City in 2007 hugging

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the anti-American dictator Time magazine referred to in its May 2007 issue as "the shock jock of international politics." Time is no Fox News; it's not some bastion of right-of-center pundits. But it noted Glover "is a close friend of Hugo Chavez, and of former left-wing dictator Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti, who was overthrown and forced into exile in South Africa." The Guardian newspaper, one of England's largest, is described by Ian Katz, its features editor: "It's no secret we are a centre-left newspaper." The Guardian also recognized the closeness between Glover and Chavez and the actor's "support of Mr. Chavez's radical left-wing politics." I point out these quotes to show there is not some right-wing, anti-union conspiracy to discredit Glover. And when the Indiana unions embrace him -- he was "enthusiastically received," said Times Statehouse reporter Dan Carden, who was there -- they need to be a little more careful in their choice of friends. ❖

Rich James, Post-Tribune: And speaking of being intoxicated on tea, take a look at Lake County Republican Chairwoman Kim Krull. She put out a press release this week saying she is supporting Richard Mourdock who is taking on Sen. Richard Lugar in the Republican primary next year. She is backing Mourdock, in part, because, well, Lugar didn't kiss her ring. Krull said she got a letter from Lugar last week that started off, "Dear Kim." And Krull responded, "Now, not that I want any special recognition or anything, but really, does he not know that I am the Lake County Republican chairwoman?" I hope she doesn't trip on that ego. Krull goes on to say the country needs senators and representatives "who will help elect a new conservative Republican president." "A president ... who can make hard decisions for the best of the country as a whole as Mitch Daniels has done for the state of Indiana." Interesting point, Kim. I bet that governor whom you just said you idolize will be backing Lugar. Mourdock went on to say Lugar has lost touch with Indiana's conservative base. Yes, and your point is? "He's known for his bipartisanship," Mourdock added. Exactly. That's why we need more Dick Lugars in Washington. ❖

Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union: Well, the whole meth problem might have just become a little more interesting. Seems the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, as part of its upcoming budget, will no longer fund a portion of the cleanup of meth labs. Niki Crawford, who heads the meth suppression unit for the Indiana State Police, explained that meth cleanup comes in two stages - all of which currently is handled by ISP. First is the actual cleanup of lab sites, which is handled by Indiana State Police Clandestine Lab Teams. Second is the disposal of items removed from the labs. Crawford said currently all those costs are incurred by the state through federal DEA grants. But last week the DEA informed states that it would no longer be funding the disposal portion. The disposal portion amounted to \$600,000 last year, Crawford said. ISP has been working since last week to find replacement funds. "We are doing everything we can not to put the bill back on local governments, but we also are not the final decision makers," Crawford said. ISP has enough money to keep the program going for the next few months. After that, if replacement funds aren't found, counties will likely be on the hook. ❖





Ellsworth to join Vectren Corp.

INDIANAPOLIS - Former U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth will join energy company Vectren Corp. as president of its Indiana gas utility division, effective May 1, 2011, the company announced this morning. Ellsworth will work out of the company's Indianapolis office. He will "engage with local leaders on key company and industry initiatives," Vectren said in a press release. "Brad is a great addition to our team and will do an outstanding job representing us with all of our stakeholders throughout Central and Southeastern Indiana," said Carl L. Chapman, Vectren president and CEO. "He is well respected by leaders in both political parties and has a working knowledge of the needs of Indiana communities."

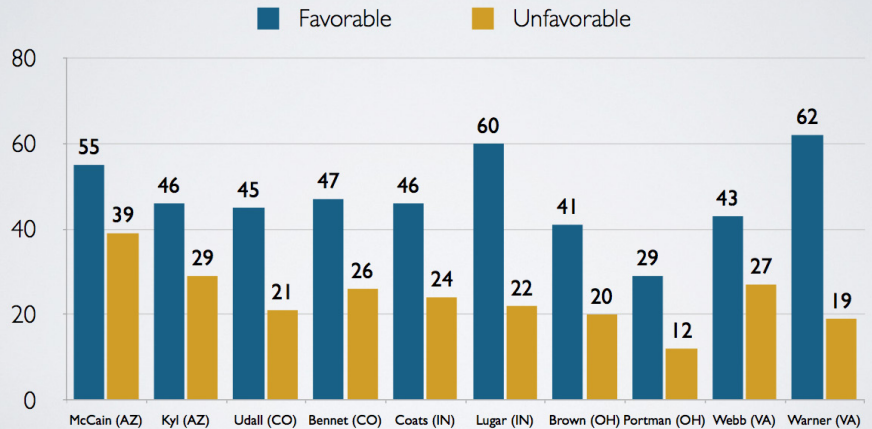


Zoeller says ACA can be ignored

INDIANAPOLIS - A federal court ruling means Hoosier businesses cannot face penalties for not following mandates contained in the 2010 health reform law. Attorney General Greg Zoeller told state lawmakers Wednesday that Indiana's participation in a multistate lawsuit that resulted in a ruling that the 2010 Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional prevents the government from enforcing the law in Indiana (Carden, Times of Northwest Indiana). "We are not allowed to use the statute as an enforcement tool to require action on the part of private-sector entities," Zoeller said. The Republican attorney general said Indiana businesses are free to follow the law on their own, but also are free

All Incumbent Senators Are Net Favorable Lugar & Warner Most Of All

Do you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable impression of ... ?



A series of polls in five states taken on behalf of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg on gun-related issues shows fav/unfavs of U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar and others. The polls were conducted in February by Momentum Analysis, Bellwether Research, Hart Research, American Viewpoint, and Harstad Strategic Research.

to ignore it.

State revenue holds steady

INDIANAPOLIS - February state revenue numbers show that the Indiana economy is performing in line with the most recent expectations (WISH-TV). The tax take in February was \$5 million above the December forecast, though still below the forecast used to create the state budget in 2009. Revenue is up over 12% from February a year ago.

Supreme rules for Kansas group

WASHINGTON - The First Amendment protects hateful protests at military funerals, the Supreme Court

ruled on Wednesday in an 8-to-1 decision (New York Times). "Speech is powerful," Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. wrote for the majority. "It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and — as it did here — inflict great pain." Justice Samuel Alito was the lone dissenter. But under the First Amendment, he went on, "we cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker." Instead, the national commitment to free speech, he said, requires protection of "even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate." The decision was the latest in a series of muscular First Amendment rulings from the Roberts court. Last year, the court struck down laws limiting speech about politics and making it a crime to distribute depictions of cruelty to animals. Chief Justice Roberts used sweeping language culled from the First Amendment canon of foundational decisions in set-



ting out the central place free speech plays in the constitutional structure. "Debate on public issues should be robust, uninhibited and wide-open," he wrote, because "speech on public issues occupies the highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values." The case decided Wednesday arose from a protest at the funeral of a Marine who had died in Iraq, Lance Cpl. Matthew A. Snyder.

Tea Party turns on Boehner

WASHINGTON - A national tea party group is in revolt against House Speaker John Boehner and wants to see him defeated in a 2012 primary, arguing that he looks "like a fool" in the debate over spending cuts and makes less sense than actor Charlie Sheen (Politico). "You look like a fool," Tea Party Nation founder Judson Phillips wrote in a post on the group's website, directing his message at the Ohio Republican. "Charlie Sheen is now making more sense than John Boehner." Boehner "did not get the message" from the tea party movement demanding big cuts to federal spending, Phillips said, and "the honeymoon is over." The movement should respond, he said, by finding "a candidate to run against John Boehner in 2012."

Porter loses RDA appeal, can't leave

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Court of Appeals has ruled that Porter County cannot exit the Northwest Regional Development Authority, dealing another setback to the County Council in the long-running case. The court upheld a previous court ruling that said the state legislation under which the RDA was formed provides no way for participating counties to leave

the regional organization. "I truthfully believe that the county has not changed on this," said Sylvia Graham, Democratic councilwoman-at large. "Unfortunately, our lawmakers have more or less trapped us into this." The only court left to appeal the case to is the Indiana Supreme Court. RDA officials cheered the ruling Wednesday, saying it helps secure the long-term objectives of the organization. "It means that we can put our focus fully on making sure the RDA fulfills its mission," RDA Chairman Leigh Morris said. "And we look forward to efforts to partner with leaders in Porter County to make sure important projects there go forward." Porter and Lake counties were made part of the RDA under legislation passed six years ago by the Indiana General Assembly. The appeals court did not buy Porter County's argument that it could withdraw from the RDA because the legislation itself was silent on that point. It noted that in fact its withdrawal was an effort to escape paying the \$3.5 million in annual dues required by the law.

South Bend mayor candidate quits

SOUTH BEND — The latest entry into the South Bend mayoral race has become the first to withdraw (South Bend Tribune). Citing "personal issues," Democrat Felipe Merino, an attorney, confirmed Wednesday that he has disbanded his campaign committee and is no longer running. His name, however, must remain on the ballot for the May 3 primary election, according to Indiana statute. "As much I would love to, I just can't, at this time, take on that responsibility," Merino said. "I have personal issues that I need to resolve. My running for mayor just made those exponentially bigger." He declined to elaborate on the reason for pulling out, but said the "personal issues" existed before he announced

his candidacy. "It's something I was trying to deal with, and as a result of being a candidate, it became harder to deal with," Merino said.

6k BSU students to lose Pell Grants

MUNCIE - For Ball State University student Auvon Chandler, proposed budget cuts -- supported by U.S. Rep. Mike Pence -- to the federal Pell Grant program would come at a bad time (Muncie Star Press). "It would force me to take out more loans," said Chandler, a junior who described the planned budget cuts combined with tuition increases as a one-two punch. Chandler already has incurred \$10,000 in college debt. A bill passed last month by the Republican-controlled U.S. House would cut \$5.7 billion from the Pell Grant program. About 5,900 BSU students, including Chandler, are current Pell Grant recipients. Of those, 2,750 are receiving the full amount: \$5,550 a year. This academic year, those 5,900 low-income students have received \$22.6 million in Pell Grants, which, unlike loans, don't have to be repaid. "Congressman Pence has been a strong proponent of education funding," said spokesman Matt Lloyd. "However, the federal government is broke, and in an effort to restore fiscal discipline, it's necessary for all Americans to sacrifice in order to get our nation's fiscal house in order."

McShurley declares flood emergency

MUNCIE - Mayor Sharon McShurley has declared a local disaster emergency as a result of this past Monday's flooding and thunderstorms (Muncie Star Press).