



# Bauer aims at Daniels WH bid?



### How a labor row may have morphed into presidential politics

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana House Democratic walkout may have everything to do with the 2012 presidential race.

All you have to do is go back eight days when Gov. Mitch Daniels was asked whether a delayed Indiana General Assembly could alter his potential presidential plans. He responded that it "could well get in the way of any national participation. If it does, it does."

On Tuesday, he said, "If these folks believe that we will be bullied into submission, I would just recommend they not book any summer travel plans."

With those statements, Daniels signaled that his duties in Indiana eclipse presidential aspirations.

So let's play that strand out and then follow up with some procedural nightmares flitting about under the grand toupee.

**Continued on page 3**

## Mitch in the top tier

By **MARK SOUDER**

FORT WAYNE - I believe that our governor, Mitch Daniels, is not only a viable Presidential contender but will likely soon be one of the few top tier candidates.

Some argue that the primary schedule works against him. Because the early primaries have prohibitive favorites (Huckabee in Iowa and Romney in New Hampshire), early wins are not as important.



The issue is not whether Mitch wins early, but whether he has a longer term strategy, to mix a variety of victories and respectable losses in diverse states, while building his national credibility. Not only do the Repub-



**"It's time to pick a fight."**

**- U.S. Rep. Mike Pence on the debt ceiling, deciding to challenge Sen. Harry Reid over the Cowboy Poetry Festival funding**



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*Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics*

Thursday, March 10, 2011



## Howey Politics Indiana

is a non-partisan newsletter based in Indianapolis and published on the campus of Franklin College. It was founded in 1994 in Fort Wayne.

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## Subscriptions

\$350 annually HPI Weekly  
\$550 annually HPI Weekly and HPI Daily Wire.

☎ Call 317.627.6746

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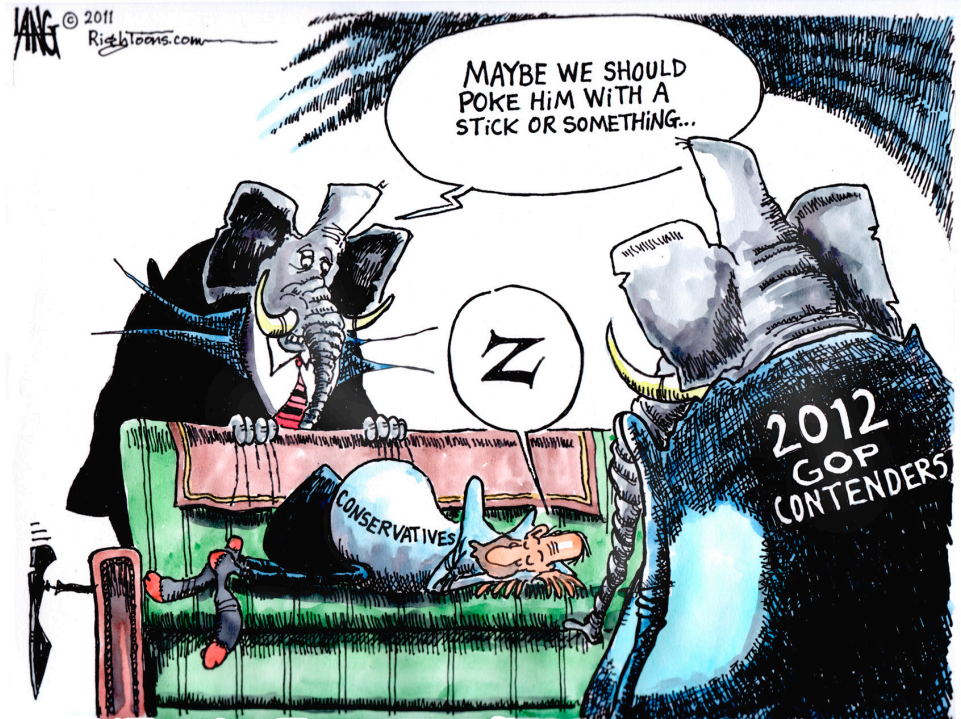
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icans have a clear favorite, it seems easier to show why each can't win. Stamina may be more important than "the big mo."

**Historically, Indiana** has not been an ideal base for a Republican candidate. In 2012 the Republican nominee needs to win back Indiana; victories in Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania would virtually guarantee the Presidency. All four of those states elected Republican governors in the last election. This swing industrial region is best appealed to by someone who has proven his ideas work for this critical electoral region.

No one should ever underestimate Mitch's political savvy. I am sure he can figure some angles to having been born in Tennessee, and lived in Georgia and Pennsylvania.

There is no doubt that having previously run nationally is helpful but it is not even clear that any previous major candidate except Romney will actually run. In 2012, the message is likely to be more important than familiarity with the candidate.

With all the news networks,

Internet, and round-the-clock coverage, for the focused voters who participate in caucuses and primaries, low name identification can be rapidly fixed. Name ID can also be purchased.

As for campaign dollars, raising money seems to be a natural skill for our governor. Mitch also has a clear vision of what he wants to do and his record as Governor proves he can do it. The combination works like a money-sucking machine.

**It has been asserted** that our man Mitch is "dour." Of all the possible definitions - gloomy, sullen, harsh - the only possible one that seems to fit is "obstinate." At times, that he can be. But Daniels is also far more flexible than most imagine: he just doesn't acknowledge it. Our governor isn't the most emotive person in politics - Mr. Gushy he is not - but he does adapt and adjust as needed. Others claim that he is boring. Small talk is not his strength, except perhaps baseball. He is quiet, almost shy at times. His humor - sometimes obvious, sometimes pithy, sometimes prompting a rolling chuckle depending





upon the various speeds of the audience's brains – takes people off-guard and is a great surprise asset. And, following a President elected based heavily on charm, "boring" may be in.

**Of course, his vice-presidential** choice could help. Governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina or General Stanley McChrystal would help on multiple levels – both are intelligent, intense individuals with valuable experience who would help in the South, with various sub-groups that build a coalition and add some charisma.

Obviously, like every candidate, there are challenges. Having been top executive at Eli Lilly didn't hurt in Indiana, but nationally, liberal opponents are certainly going to raise the issue in the context of the health care debate.

What the Governor meant by the word "truce" on social issues will likely determine how far he goes as a Presidential candidate. In Indiana, Mitch earned early support from me and other social conservatives based upon a few basic understandings. We knew he was not going to be the leader on social issues.

But the President is different than a governor. Many of the key decisions on abortion are administrative – executive orders, guidelines, and staffing. The early praise from eastern Establishment types is not exactly helpful in a GOP primary. It is akin to inviting Charlie Sheen along in

his RV. Stating that he does not intend to reverse the policies of Reagan, Bush and Bush can clarify that a truce did not mean accepting Obama's pro-abortion changes as the status quo.

Running depends at this point – justifiably – upon his family. All public life impacts your children. The details of his divorce and re-marriage to Cheri (who, what, when, where, why) will be sought until satisfied. If aired thoroughly, voluntarily, and early, continued pursuit would backlash. If not, questions will never stop. I know from personal experience, in a smaller arena, such investigation is hell on earth. The scrutiny would be painful, but their story IS an "American love story" as the Governor says. They are humans who demonstrate the power of love and forgiveness.

**While they treasure their privacy,** I believe both Mitch and Cheri know this: if there ever was a time where a man and a mission seem to meet, it is this time, with this man. My guess is that he views running for President as is his call, his duty. And if he does, I don't think the man knows how to lose. ❖

**Souder is a former Indiana Republican congressman from Fort Wayne. He is a regular column contributor to Howey Politics Indiana.**

## **Bauer-Daniels,** from page 1

### **Thwarting a presidential bid**

House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer is looking at a 60/40 Republican majority and realizing that his only chance at thwarting Right to Work and the school reforms (Senate Republicans had already killed much of the Kernan-Shepard reforms) was to walk. With Wisconsin Senate Democrats fleeing to Illinois where Democratic Gov. Quinn would not be compliant with "round 'em up" requests, Bauer found not only safe haven but a national platform. Bauer realizes that he probably has only one shot at a walkout. The press editorials have been nearly unified in their opposition to the walkout, but the clout of the press is diminishing, as evidenced by polling in South Bend that showed most voters there didn't know that Mayor Stephen Luecke wasn't seeking reelection.

Over the past week or so, the bad press has receded into the short attention span rut.

The Indianapolis Star's Matt Tully wrote on Wednesday: The walkout might have started as a protest of anti-union legislation. But the Democrats have begun to believe this impasse stands for something bigger. "The whole experience," said Rep. Mary Ann Sullivan, Indianapo-

lis, "I don't know how to explain it. It's been very powerful." Added Rep. Bill Crawford, also of Indianapolis: "It has the appearance of a movement as opposed to a typical political battle."

Now, what could make a 60-40 Republican majority even worse for House Democrats?

The easy answer might be new maps, but almost everyone agrees it will be tough for Republicans to draw maps that would protect more than 54 or 55 Republican seats. Outside of the urban core of Indianapolis and maybe up in the very Northwestern corner of Lake County, almost every Democratic representative could find a more difficult district. The Census data in Lake County, for instance, shows Gary losing a fifth of its population and the trendlines are moving south. State Reps. Earl Harris, Linda Lawson, Charlie Brown and Vernon Smith are likely to end up facing one another in a primary.

No, the Democratic nightmare would be new maps and a Daniels presidential nomination. In that scenario, with Daniels atop the ticket and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence as the gubernatorial nominee along with U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, you have three of the most potent Republican vote getters in history grouped atop the ballot. A victory over Lugar by Richard Mourdock might actually be a break for Democrats if U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly is running.



So Pat Bauer really has no compelling reason to bring his troops back to Indianapolis anytime soon. If he does next week, while he appears to have killed Right to Work, there is still those education reforms that are an abject anathema to what House Democrats believe, that that runs the gamut from the Black Caucus to more progressive Democrats like State Rep. Ed DeLaney, who has been sounding the alarms on that part of the agenda for two years now.

State Rep. Craig Fry outlined the doomsday scenario in Tuesday's Elkhart Truth in stating his opposition to HB1479, the bill that would create "turnaround academies" out of schools placed on academic watch or probation by Supt. Tony Bennett's Department of Education. "These schools would then become turnaround academies: isolated, independent school corporations run by for-profit management companies," Fry said. "Even though these companies will be given hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, they would be accountable to no one. All local decision-making would be ignored and the local school board would have no role in how these schools are run."

Fry said a for-profit group would be able to buy the school buildings for \$1. "After taking control, they will be free to do anything, including firing teachers and administrators," Fry said. "They will even be able to put up billboards, signs and other types of advertising in order to maximize their profits. This entire idea is offensive on so many levels that it's difficult to know where to begin, but let's start with the basic concept here. No matter how nobly they state their goals, for-profit entities are in business for one reason: to make a profit. I will not stand by and see our state's Constitution guarantee to provide a free public education for all Hoosier schoolchildren set aside in order to help businesses make a buck. This idea must be stopped."

Consider that a line in the sand, though Tully reported that the original law was passed in 1999 and included State Rep. Greg Porter as a sponsor. There's no other way to stop it than to stay in Illinois. And it's one that Daniels, Speaker Brian Bosma and Senate President David Long are not likely to bargain on.

So the House Democrats stay in Illinois, with the Indiana Democratic Party picking up the tab that amounts to \$60,000 a month. That's a cheap price to pay in the long run to destroy doomsday legislation for the constitu-

ency (ISTA, NFT, NEA) that pumps more money into House and gubernatorial races than almost any other. Close to \$500,000 in October 2010 supplemental spending to House Democrats came from labor affiliated PACs, I-Pace and another \$967,132 came from the Indiana Democratic Party, with much of that labor money.

Daniels, Bosma and Long can rattle their sabers and threaten an early sine die. According to House Rule 77, "Absence of Quorum. When less than a quorum is present no motion may be entertained, except to adjourn or compel the attendance of members." It doesn't differentiate between a session day or the session itself.

So Bosma appears to have the legal wherewithal to close this session, perhaps by St. Patrick's Day. This certainly destroys Daniels' presidential blue print, which was to achieve compelling education reforms by April or mid-May in a traditional special session scenario. Remember, governors always win special sessions. With those education reforms, Daniels sling-shots out of the Indiana orbit and into a national trajectory in May and finds a frontrunner vacuum (See Mark Souder's column). There is plenty of Bush money waiting, but those folks have been antsy for several months awaiting the projected Indiana sine die.

With an early sine die, Daniels will have to negotiate with House Democrats before he calls a special session. But there's that June 30 end of fiscal year hard deadline. Without a new biennial budget, Indiana government is faced with a shutdown. Gov. Daniels has a mess on his hands in Indianapolis and that limits his time in Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Nevada.

So the longer House Democrats wait, the more they can use the June 30 deadline to pare down the Governor's agenda to just the basics: the biennial budget and new Congressional and legislative maps.

If the governor wants to achieve his gubernatorial goals, that would require a special session later in the summer or in autumn. A presidential campaign would be extremely tough to run while keeping tabs on the kids back at the House.

In that scenario, Bauer can stall even more, sensing that Daniels has become the lame duck few wanted to assign to his fate given his considerable tactical prowess. Bauer could be sensing that not only can he destroy a Daniels presidential bid that stands to wreak even more havoc on his depleted caucus (and he could well be missing State Reps. Ryan Dvorak, Dennis Tyler and Fry should they win





mayoral races in South Bend, Muncie and Mishawaka), but he can defer and defang the education reforms, outlasting his nemesis.

Daniels could conceivably develop the tactics from the presidential campaign trail, have Lt. Gov. Skillman run the ground game and parachute in when arms need to be twisted or carbombers outed.

Some believe that Bauer initially conceived of the walkout considering only his own position. That is consistent with how he has treated, for instance, Democratic mayors. While some believe he painted himself into a corner after what could have been the Right to Work victory, what subsequently happened was a "nationalization" of the Wisconsin and Indiana walkouts.

Word on the street is that President Obama's Organizing for America is beginning to play a role in today's big labor rally on the West Side of the Statehouse. OFA's interest in Indiana House Democrats could very well be strategic, not so much in a defense of labor sense, but in the presidential race. In a presidential field of all the Newts, Hucks, Pauls and Palins - all general election dream opponents for Obama - the one Republican that might scare Axelrod and Plouffe the most is Daniels. Yes, he's short, has a combover and might have difficulty getting out of the GOP primaries to win the nomination. But if Daniels does, Obama would find himself with a sparring partner that would be, perhaps, his lone intellectual match - a 21st Century Lincoln/Douglas. And Daniels would make the presidential race a referendum on the highly complex and relatively unpopular Affordable Care Act (or Obamacare).

There is evidence that other labor-friendly groups such as Moveon.org are now involved. There is evidence that labor money is moving through the Indiana Democratic Party to pay for the walkout. The Wisconsin Senate walkout was rumored to end last Monday, but that didn't happen.

That's why I think Bauer's walkout has morphed from a Badger copycat spasm to an opportunity to outlast the smartest man in the room.

## Alternatives

How could Gov. Daniels and Speaker Bosma out-flank

Bauer?

"Other pressure points must be created beyond June 30," said Pat Kiely, the president of the Indiana Manufacturers Association and former chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee. "This is pure anarchy."

Just last night in Madison, Wisconsin Senate Republicans figured out an end-around the 14 Democrats hiding in Illinois. Republicans on Wednesday split from the legislation the proposal to curtail union rights, which spends no money, and a special conference committee of state lawmakers approved the bill a short time later (Washington Post). The lone Democrat present on the conference committee, Rep. Peter Barca, shouted that the surprise meeting was a violation of the state's open meetings law but Republicans voted over his objections. The Senate convened within minutes and passed the measure without discussion or debate.

Back home again in Indiana, there is talk of the Senate stripping out language in House bills that have already passed. They could be passed in the Senate but the goal there would be to avoid a conference report. Bosma and Long can replace conferees, but then they have to find a way to get Democrats to show up, for once they do there are an array of options that can come out of rules. An old rule was the "Committee of the Whole" that would allow the House to jam all readings into one session day and thus avoid the conference process.

A budget bill could contain almost anything and Democrats will be under intense pressure to return to pass that constitutionally mandated action. Bills passed out of the Senate could come as concurrent motions and they could be combined into just one motion.

The phrase that keeps coming up as people circle around this crisis is that "extreme measures require an extreme response."

Kiely notes that while legislators are protected from arrest, Indiana Code allows for the Speaker to use the doorkeeper or a designate to bring back legislators "wherever they are." It's vague, but it's fun to ponder Gen. Umbarger or Indiana State Police Supt. Paul E. Whitesell to be "designated" to bring the legislators back.

There is also pure public pressure. "They take an oath," Kiely observed. "Does their word matter? There should be an honor code around here."

Democrats point they have support from constituents, teachers and labor. But that is a small sliver of the population. ❖



Gov. Mitch Daniels called Bauer a "car bomber" during the 2005 Democratic walkout. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)





## Charlie Sheen & the Statehouse walkout

By **LUKE MESSER**

INDIANAPOLIS - Over the last two weeks, Hoosiers have been treated to two major public meltdowns – each difficult to watch, but also equally difficult to ignore. One involving pop culture icon Charlie Sheen, the other involving Indiana’s own Democratic legislative caucus.

Let me start with two important caveats. First, mental illness is not a joke, and we all hope for the best outcome for Mr. Sheen. Second, I am not equating Mr. Sheen’s mental state with the mental state of the House Democratic Caucus. I do, however, believe that their behavior has been similar.



Day after day, it has been painful to watch images of Charlie Sheen declaring that he is “winning,” while he loses his job, loses his children and loses his dignity. Without knowing him

personally, there is no way to really know the truth behind his story. From a distance, it is hard to understand his perspective. Yet somehow, it all seems to make sense to Charlie.

The same sentiment can be said for House Democrats. It is also painful to watch. Though Pat Bauer continues to declare they are “winning,” some legislators may eventually lose their jobs and/or their reputations. From a distance (far away from Urbana, IL), it is difficult to understand their perspective. Yet somehow, it all seems to make sense to them.

Don’t get me wrong. House Democrats have every right to stand up for what they believe. They have every right to challenge the policy proposals put forward by Governor Daniels and Republicans in the Indiana legislature. They have every right to organize their supporters, encourage debate and make sure their points of view are heard.

**By the time this column** is published, it is likely that organized labor will have staged a rally bringing thousands (maybe tens of thousands) of protestors to the Statehouse to declare their opposition to proposed labor reforms. No matter how large the rally, one simple fact remains: House Democrats are ignoring their constitutional obligations and acting outside the boundaries of the law.

It is difficult to see what they hope to gain from their prolonged absence.

Originally, they walked out to protest consideration of a Right to Work bill. But, that bill was shelved for the session before most House Democratic legislators bought

their first Illini sweatshirt.

Next, statehouse Democrats demanded they would not return to business unless Republicans agreed to have eleven labor and education bills taken off the table for consideration through the rest of this session.

**Surely, House Democrats** never believed these demands would be taken seriously. If they were to prevail, the House would fall into almost permanent gridlock. In effect, any group of 34 legislators would have the power to tell the rest of the body what agenda items were appropriate for consideration in the chamber. That is not what our state’s founding fathers intended. And, equally important, it is not how the chamber has conducted business throughout our state’s history.

Yet, day after day, House Democrats put on their best Charlie Sheen smiles and declare that their conduct is A-OK. Nothing unusual going on here. Just doing our job and standing up for the people. “Winning!”

It is a remarkable sight.

Sadly, the end does not appear near. House Republicans and House Democrats seem equally convinced of their respective moral authority and political standing.

To paraphrase Abe Lincoln, though they might both be wrong, they cannot both be right. History will eventually declare a victor.

Whatever the outcome, my sincere hope is that the biggest losers in this mess are not the citizens of Indiana. Our state does not have time to waste. Our kids deserve better. ❖

**Messer is a former Indiana Republican representative from Shelbyville.**

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## Trojan horse of reform

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPORT - Republicans capture a U.S. Senate seat and a governorship and prepare to boldly put an end to collective bargaining for teachers under the banner of improving our schools.

Sound like what’s going on in Indiana? It does — and it also sounds exactly like what’s going on in Wisconsin where Reince Preibus hails as the new chairman of the Republican National Committee.



Those of you who have been following national newscasts over the past few weeks have probably seen more of Madison’s state capitol than you ever saw when Purdue or Indiana have played basketball or football across the



city at the University of Wisconsin. What's happening there is historic.

Why all of the sudden emphasis on ending collective bargaining and gutting teachers' unions? Did politicians in either Wisconsin or Indiana run last November on platforms calling for an end to collective bargaining for teachers?

I don't remember them doing that either.

**And yet they are trying to make** this move because they can. They have Republican majorities in both houses of the legislature and governors of the same party who won't veto what they pass.

What is happening in Indianapolis and Madison is historic. It's not that Democratic legislators have fled either state for Illinois. It's that Republicans don't understand that teachers unions are fundamental not only to our way of life in this country, but in the way Democrats and Republicans approach problems.

It's not a good thing when representatives or senators from either party leave a state as they did in Texas in recent years to avoid a vote. But if the shoe were on the other foot, so to speak, and Republicans in any state were facing a Democratic governor with Democratic majorities in both Houses who demanded taxpayer-funded abortion be available on demand at every county hospital in the state, I wouldn't be surprised if Republicans booked a block of rooms in another state either.

The point is this: Let's choose a reasonable starting point instead of an extreme one and move on from there.

Unfortunately, that's not the tack that House Speaker Brian Bosma and Gov. Mitch Daniels have chosen to take, and as a result, we have shadow regimes running Wisconsin and Indiana. To some degree, Daniels is hemmed in by what's happening in Madison. If Daniels backs down from Democrats, he'll be perceived as too weak to run for president.

Would ending collective bargaining really raise test scores simply because the state could afford to fund more charter schools? By all indications, the answer is no.

**Sure, some students attending** underperforming schools could transfer to charter schools and improve performance. But separate studies conducted by Stanford University and by the Department of Education during the administration of George W. Bush both concluded the same thing — the majority of charter schools don't improve performance. Are there bad teachers? Sure. Are there inadequate students, parents, superintendents, school board members and principals? Absolutely. But let's not carelessly scapegoat so that we have an excuse to end something that by all accounts has improved education since Reagan called for an education summit in the 1980s.

If the proposed gutting of collective bargaining is approved in Indiana or Wisconsin and education plummets,

who do we blame then? Which group of parents will be around to say to legislators and the governor, "I told you so. What are you going to do now?"

Will it be the parents and the teachers fleeing to other states, or politicians who were voted out of office because they thought they could get away with something they were duped into voting for as a popular thing?

In reality, there are Republicans who are teachers and members of the ISTA.

Even if they're not card-carrying members, they benefit from the salaries, benefits and conditions negotiated as part of collective bargaining.

**The stance Daniels is taking** is ironic given a report former WRTV anchor Diane Willis presented on Indiana Public Radio last month. In it, she noted that Daniels first ran for governor in 2004 on a platform of raising wages for Hoosiers because our per capita income lags behind the rest of the nation.

Do we really think ending collective bargaining for teacher unions will raise wages for people in every county and improve our per capita standing with neighbors in other states, including Wisconsin? Do we really want to undermine our economic recovery more by taking money out of pocketbooks that could be used to buy cars, furniture, homes — and pay taxes that support our local services?

I don't think so, and I doubt most Hoosiers would.

Let's not allow "education reform" to be a Trojan horse that disguises the intent of what's going on.

Let's think about the legislators such as State Rep. Rich McClain, R-Logansport, whose own wife, Barrie, was a teacher, and whose late mother-in-law, Anna, was a school board member at Pioneer High School.

Barrie, like thousands of Indiana teachers, benefited from collective bargaining and a learning environment that produced seven Lilly scholars at one of the area's smallest high schools. The irony of collective bargaining for teachers is it just happens to benefit people we call Republicans, too, and yet McClain is one of the votes who could put an end to the system that has benefited his own family.

Let's demand that public officials do what they said they would when they ran in the first place. And for those who remember a certain column I wrote in the fall of 2004 when then gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels stopped at Logansport Memorial Hospital, you might recall that I asked him if he would ever run for president. No, he said. He only wanted to throw his hat in the ring for one office, and that was governor.

Seems we may be getting more than we bargained for there. And it seems Indiana teachers and maybe taxpayers will be getting a lot less than they bargained for soon if the public doesn't act. ❖

**Kitchell is a frequent HPI contributor from Logansport.**



## The Indiana Democratic governor hot potato

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - When it comes to 2012, U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly is a man who can pick and choose.

"I am looking at statewide options," Donnelly said. "But I'm very serious about looking at a Senate run."

With that second sentence, Donnelly appears poised to join a growing group of Democrats who are taking a pass on what used to be the grandest prize in Hoosier

politics: the governorship. The list taking a pass on 2012 is getting longer, particularly if Donnelly's name is notched there. Evan Bayh, Bart Peterson, Jonathan Weinzapfel and Baron Hill are taking a pass.

John Gregg is taking a hard look at it, but makes no bones that he has family concerns that are a bigger priority. If Gregg and Donnelly pass, next in line would be Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson, who ran in 2003 until Gov. Joe Kernan decided to get back into the race. And beyond Sen. Simpson, there is talk that Indianapolis architect Jim Schellinger is keeping his options open after losing the 2008 primary.

Simpson told HPI earlier this week she'll take a look at the race, but it's not the current priority. "I am very focused on the legislature," Simpson said. "This session is particularly difficult because of the issues before us and the House meltdown. It has added a lot of stress and responsibility to my caucus. We have been speaking, organizing and helping people around the Statehouse I absolutely can't focus on anything but that right now."

Simpson said that she, Gregg and Don-

nelly are communicating. "When the session is over we'll sit down with other folks who have talked about it and see where we are. It's not good to have a contested primary. We want the best ticket we can put together."

Is Simpson up to a campaign? "Sure," she said. "I suppose I could. I have to decide what I want to do. Things have changed in my life since 2003. This is a big undertaking. I spent a year of my life running and it's hard work. It always is an endeavor you have to sacrifice everything for. You have to make sure your heart, mind and gut are in the right place. No one else can make that decision."

Since the television age of Indiana politics, there almost always has been an heir apparent or two in each party gearing up for a gubernatorial race. In 1960, it was State Sen. Matt Welsh who used an unsuccessful 1956 convention floor fight to secure the nomination. Gov. Welsh endorsed Lt. Gov. Roger D. Branigan in 1964, winning that nomination over Anderson Mayor Bob Rock. Branigan entered the statewide Democratic scene when he gave the 1948 convention keynote. "Matt passed the torch to him," said Ball State University Prof. Ray Scheele. In 1968, it was Rock's turn and he lost in a cliffhanger to Gov. Edgar D. Whitcomb. In 1972, Welsh, armed with a plethora of IOUs, won the nomination over Secretary of State Larry Conrad, but lost to Doc Bowen. In 1976, Conrad defeated Senate Minority Leader Bob Fair and Treasurer Jack New in the primary before losing to Bowen, who became the first Indiana governor to be reelected to successive terms.

By 1980, Batesville industrialist John Hillenbrand defeated State Sen. Wayne Townsend before losing to Gov. Robert Orr. And in 1984, Townsend defeated District Attorney Virginia Dill McCarty in the primary before losing a close race to Gov. Orr. And, of course, in 1988 Evan Bayh emerged, joined forces with Frank O'Bannon and those two dominated (along with Joe Kernan) the next 20 years.

It wasn't until 2008 that Indiana Democrats found a dearth in the "next man up" scenario. Jill Long Thompson defeated Schellinger by less than 1 percent to win that nomination, and then she lost in a landslide to Gov. Mitch Daniels. Which bring us to today.

The 2012 gubernatorial nomination has become



U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly was in Indianapolis on Monday for a manufacturing conference at Ivy Tech. He appeared to be leaning toward a Senate race. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)





something of a hot potato. "I think the Democratic Party in Indiana is at its lowest point at a very long time," Scheele observed. "It's at its nadir for all sorts of reasons. They don't control any statewide office. They lost the House and have no control over public policy except for walking out. The strength now is with mayors of second class cities" Scheele said of Kokomo's Greg Goodnight and Hammond's Tom McDermott.

"If there's going to be a resurgence, it may be with the mayors," Scheele said.

That's because there is no young Evan Bayh on the horizon. There is no powerful money candidate and there is hardly a base. Simpson presides over a caucus of just 12 other senators.

Simpson noted, "This last election was kind of a hand grenade in terms of waking the party up to building a bench, bringing more young people to power and authority in the party. We've not done a very good job of that."

Donnelly was asked if he had a preference for legislative rather than executive jobs. He noted that he has run a business and that he had the "toolkit" to do either.

"I have a great love for our district and the question is how can I serve our district well going forward? How can I serve our state well? I am looking at statewide options. I haven't closed any door yet. But I'm very serious about looking at a Senate run."

As for the hot potato, particularly if he and Gregg pass on the governor's race, Donnelly answered, "I understand that and all I can do is to try to do the job I've been elected and try to collect the information as to what the future holds. I've been really blessed to serve our district. It's been a privilege of a lifetime. I don't just say that. I never thought I'd have the chance to serve in Congress. It's been a labor of love. I don't know what the future holds. I'll just try to make the best decision possible. There are many very good people out there."

Perhaps. They just aren't lining up to be governor of Indiana.

## Constitutions bat away Lugar residency question

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The reelection campaign of U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar issued a statement Wednesday regarding questions about his residency, saying the Indiana and U.S. Constitutions have provisions that prevent the loss of residency for those serving the United States.

It came two days after U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly told reporters in Indianapolis that he was looking into a poten-

tial run for the Democratic Senate nomination.

The Ogden on Politics blog reported on Tuesday that Lugar's Indianapolis voting address is listed at 3200 Highwoods Court and has been since 1969. Paul Ogden reported on his blog, "I could not find any records showing Sen. Richard Lugar owns the home at 3200 Highwoods Court. Of course, one doesn't have to own the property. He or she only has to reside at the property listed in the voting registration records in order to vote using that address. Still, after my research, I have substantial doubt that Lugar lives in the 3200 Highwoods home now or has for many, many years."

Lugar spokesman Mark Helmke had said Lugar stays in hotels when working in the state. He also owns a farm in Decatur Township. An Aug. 8, 1979 Washington Post article noted that Lugar was one of 15 senators not owning a home in his native state. Lugar said in the article that owning a home in Indianapolis had "become a considerable burden." The Indiana Election Commission ruled that Lugar had been "called away to national service" allowing him to be in Constitutional compliance. When Lugar returns home, he either stayed with his mother or in a hotel.

Emily Krueger of the Lugar campaign told HPI Wednesday morning, "Other than during his college days, Senator Lugar has only been absent from the State of Indiana for an extended period to serve in the military or to serve in the United States Senate, both with distinction. The Indiana Constitution and the United States Constitution clearly establish that an individual does not lose his or her residency in a state when an absence is due solely to service to the State of Indiana or to the nation. Additionally, the Indiana Code specifically provides that a person is not considered to have lost his or her residence in a precinct solely by virtue of being absent in service to Indiana or to the nation. Senator Lugar's last place of residence in Indiana prior to leaving to serve in the Senate remains his proper voting precinct according to Indiana law. Like every other Hoosier who has left the State of Indiana to serve his or her nation in time of war or in time of peace, Senator Lugar remains a Hoosier in the eyes of the law."

Section 4 of the Indiana Constitution states, "No person



Sen. Lugar on his Decatur Township tree farm.



shall be deemed to have lost his residence in the State, by reason of his absence, either on business of this State or of the United States." Voting qualifications in Section 2 states, "(a) A citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and who has been a resident of a precinct thirty (30) days immediately preceding an election may vote in that precinct at the election. (b) A citizen may not be disenfranchised under subsection (a), if the citizen is entitled to vote in a precinct under subsection (c) or federal law. (c) The General Assembly may provide that a citizen who ceases to be a resident of a precinct before an election may vote in a precinct where the citizen previously resided if, on the date of the election, the citizen's name appears on the registration rolls for the precinct."

Additionally, according to attorney Peter Rusthoven, the U.S. Constitution states in Article 1, "Each house shall be the judge of elections, returns and qualifications of its own members."

Rusthoven noted that for Lugar to run afoul with the residency provisions in the Indiana constitution, "He would have to have established a new residence in a new precinct. He hasn't done the things to establish a residence in a new precinct."

Rusthoven added that if all Members had to own and maintain two homes, "only millionaires would serve."

Lugar was briefly involved in another controversy Tuesday. Lugar told reporters that he would oppose the House bill on the continuing resolution as he walked into a weekly lunch meeting with Republican colleagues.

Lugar apologized for the confusion.

"I'm sorry if I misled people," he said. "I'm going to vote for the Republican resolution, which is as clearly as I can say it."

Mourdock was critical. "Reducing the national debt and balancing our federal budget are the biggest issues facing our nation right now," said Mourdock. "It's troubling that Senator Lugar seems confused about his own position on this important issue."

## Donnelly eyes Senate race

As for Donnelly, the Granger Democrat has long maintained he'd prefer to seek reelection in his 2nd CD. But there is widespread speculation that the new 2nd may be a forbidding place for any Democrat. Donnelly defeated State Rep. Jackie Walorski by 2,500 votes last November, surviving the GOP tidal wave.

Many believe it is likely Republican Kosciusko County will probably be in the new 2nd CD.

An entry into the Senate race by Donnelly would be filled with irony since he became a fierce defender of the American auto industry during its near death experience in 2008-09.

Lugar wrote legislation in 1979 that saved Chrysler Corp. Indiana Treasurer Richard Mourdock, who is challeng-



Donnelly talks to the South Bend Tribune's Kevin Allen Monday. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

ing Lugar in the Republican primary, filed a suit that was eventually rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2009 that would have prevented the Chrysler-Fiat merger.

Donnelly said that he has had a "respectful working relationship" with Lugar and expected a campaign between the two to be of that tenor.

As for running against Mourdock, Donnelly seemed to relish the notion.

"What Hoosiers need to know is Chrysler is working three shifts a day right now in Kokomo and they are hiring off the street," Donnelly said. "That is the same story at Fort Wayne with the GM plant up there."

Asked what would have happened if Mourdock had succeeded in killing the Chrysler/Fiat merger, Donnelly said, "You would have seen Indiana in an economic depression. You would have seen Chrysler fail, you would have seen General Motors fail because they would have been right there with them. With both those companies gone you would have seen the supplier base go under as well."

He added that more than 150 GM and Chrysler dealerships would have collapsed as well. "What I do know is this: All you have to do is the math and the math is so horrendous on the one side where if we had walked away from these companies it would have caused absolute devastation to our state and to the district I represent. That's why I fought so hard to get to the other side."

Donnelly added of Mourdock's lawsuit, "The truth about guarding the pension funds is this: The state was offered 29 cents on the dollar in settlement. The liquidation value that was being pursued was valued at 18 cents. And that was by very reputable valuation people. So in effect, we pursued a lawsuit to receive a judgment that would be worth less than the settlement that had already been offered. At the same time, spending millions of dollars of Hoosier taxpayer money in legal fees."

Donnelly did not give a timeline for his next political decision but said he wanted to see the new Congressional maps that are now stalled in the Indiana General Assembly due to the House Democratic walkout. "We'd like to see the maps," he said. ❖



## A coupla rogue Charlies

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - It was quite a week for a coupla rogue Charlies, one from Hollywood and one from Fishers. They couldn't be more different and yet here they both were in the public stew pot, entertaining us with both bravado and denial.

There was movie star Charlie Sheen's meltdown that featured booze, illegal drugs, a war with CBS, a porn star girlfriend from Woodburn, Ind., a child custody battle and more TV interviews in a week than Larry King.



Then there's our Charlie - Secretary of Hack Charlie White - who didn't do any public boozing or illegal drugs, has an ex-wife with whom he had an odd condo-sharing relationship, got indicted, isn't talking to the media at all, but is "humbled" at all the support from his fans.

Significantly, Charlie the Hack doesn't have the support of Gov. Daniels, U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita or even Treasurer Richard Mourdock. To them, Charlie is now an embarrassment and they want him to go away. Just a couple months ago Mourdock was taking his oath with Charlie. Unlike Harold Negley or Dwayne Brown - statewide elected officials who were indicted after they left office - Charlie got his indictment in just his second month in office for deeds he did to get there.

The reason Daniels didn't want Charlie to even take office in the first place is he knew that Charlie would become the state's presiding elections officer. And now he's been indicted on three counts of voter fraud. If you use the word "debacle" to describe how Charlie became secretary of hack, you can use another D word - "disaster" - to describe the recriminations if there are problems with the May 3 primary or November's general election.

Charlie has become an abject embarrassment to the GOP.

**Let's let a partisan** - Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy - supply the narrative: "As I read the paper yesterday ("Oh boy"), I was surprised to see Congressman Todd Rokita calling for fellow Republican Charlie White's resignation. Congressman Rokita had the first opportunity to examine the facts that a bipartisan team of prosecutors and a grand jury saw seven felonies in, but did nothing. He sealed his investigation and then voted to ignore an election complaint. Congressman Rokita could have acted to keep the Secretary of State office free of felonious taint, but was instead measuring drapes for his Washington, DC office/bedroom."

Whew.

OK, Ed, continue: "But the Congressman's actions and subsequent hypocrisy don't make him the only Republican with dirty hands in the White mess. The entire Republican party shares the blame. Although Gov. Daniels was quick to ask him to step aside in an attempt to contain the damage, Charlie White was the Governor's hand-picked candidate. White worked in the Daniels' administration while he was running, was the chair of the largest suburban Republican county in the state and these allegations were out there for many months and the Governor remained silent. Mayor Ballard co-hosted a fundraiser for Charlie White after it became clear that the Republican candidate for Secretary of State was on his way to being the first vote fraud conviction in history. This is one of the most embarrassing episodes in Indiana political history."

Yes it is, Ed, now please take a seat.

I believe the reason Charlie got himself into this pickle isn't because he "forgot" that he moved five miles out of his Fishers Town Council district (that's the SNL Steve Martin/IRS defense), or that he was "too busy."

It's a plausible theory that after a divorce and all that child support and billable hour stuff, he needed the money. So he concealed his move, figuring that no one in town would notice and get the rumor mill churning. Now how smart is that? I mean, there aren't very many Democrats in Hamilton County who like to gossip, right? Duoh! That resulted in the perjury and theft charges as Charlie allegedly took Fishers pay checks he didn't deserve and cashed them.

Our Hoosier Charlie figured that with the Republican nomination sewed







up, he didn't need to hold himself accountable to the news media or anyone else. All he needed were Republicans. All he needed to do was surf that huge national wave (and a little bitsey one on a Lake Wawasee Frog Tavern jet ski) and he'd be in!

**Even though there were** numerous news accounts about Charlie's alleged voter fraud and virtually no explanation from him, he won by a landslide, even though there were two special prosecutors investigating the web he wove. Charlie defeated a Democrat named Vop Osili 976,810 to 632,129. Pundits and others yawn at this, figuring that Republican statewides always win. But all you have to do is go back to 2006 when Secretary of State Todd Rokita barely fended off Joe Pearson (835,915 to 746,460) to know what a national wave can do for a state-wide candidate, even a hack like Charlie. National waves obscure resumes and collective judgments.

And while guilt by association isn't always fair, when Charlie's landslide victory is placed next to Mourdock's 1,05,527 to 633,243 victory over Peter Buttigieg, it takes some of the luster off the Lugar launching pad. They

surfed a national wave over strangely named, unknown and underfunded Democrats while the Tea Party voted and cleaned their Glocks.

So now everyone is calling for Charlie's head. Even Indy Star's Matt Tully wants him to step down.

I think Charlie should stick it out.

To the Republicans, all I can say is "rule of law" and "innocent until proven guilty."

**Besides, our Charlie** is good copy, just like the Hollywood Charlie, even though our Charlie isn't talking. He's just "humbled."

Even with a potential Mitch presidential campaign, House Democrats vacationing in the Sucker State, Libyan ManPads from looted arsenals ready to hit the terrorist black-market, and the prospect of \$5 a gallon gas, there's nothing more pathetic than a boring news cycle.

And that's something a couple of rogue Charlies can solve. ❖

## A Hammond power play by McDermott

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - This week's mayoral highlights came up in the Region, where mayoral candidates were falling like flies at a campfire thanks to the Lake County Election Board.



Five Gary candidates were booted, including Lester Lowe who had garnered an endorsement from movie star Danny Glover just a week ago. But the real move came when George Janiec was removed from the Hammond ballot. Janiec nearly upset

Mayor Tom McDermott in the 2007 general.

And in Indianapolis, Mayor Greg Ballard was endorsed by four AFSCME unions.

Here's our weekly roundup:

### **Bloomington**

**Democrat:** Mayor Mark Kruzan, John Hamilton, John Gusan. **2007 Results:** Kruzan (D) 5,937, Sabbagh (R) 3,729. **Outlook:** Mayor Kruzan advocated controlling city growth

in a campaign event at City Hall on Tuesday (Auslan, Indiana Daily Student). "A better, not bigger, philosophy is in the city's best interest," he said. "I've always favored a slow but steady approach to the physical growth of the city." Kruzan laid out plans to limit certain types of growth and promote others. John Hamilton, Kruzan's opponent in the Democratic mayoral primary, said he is concerned that the mayor's talk will not convert well into action. "We all agree, I think, that good urban planning and urban growth that is consistent with the quality of life of Bloomington is important," Hamilton said. "The mayor has put out three major statements in the last four or five weeks with literally dozens of priorities, and I think the key is that speeches don't make things happen and that you have to get results."

Hamilton pledged at a press event March 1 that, if elected, Bloomington will have a permanent homeless shelter by 2012 (Auslan, Indiana Daily Student). Hamilton said his comments about the city's lack of facilities to serve the homeless have been misconstrued. He said some have come to believe he means that he wants the city to own and operate a homeless shelter. "That's not the key point," he said. "The key point is that for seven years in this community, we've had no shelter for a homeless family with kids. That's just not acceptable."

### **Evansville**

**Democrat:** Vanderburgh County Treasurer Rick Davis, Troy Tornatta. **Republican:** Vanderburgh Commissioner Lloyd Winnecke, Douglas De Groot. **2007 Results:** Weinzapfel



(D) 13,097, Nixon (R) 2,268. **Outlook:** Davis and Tornatta were on hand for the final State of the City address by Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. Tornatta said the community would need to see numbers on issues such as the future of Roberts Stadium and consolidation efforts before it could form a decision (Evansville Courier & Press). "The reason why things succeed in this community is because we have a lot of smart people and they can make an informed decision," Tornatta said. Davis declined to comment. Republican mayoral candidates Douglas DeGroot and Lloyd Winnecke both said they could not attend the address. Winnecke said he had not yet heard the speech. DeGroot said he was not impressed. "His main interest is just Downtown and we're losing jobs as soon as we're gaining them," DeGroot said, adding he also is against consolidation efforts. "People are telling me they feel like it's just another reason to raise taxes." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Winnecke

### 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:** Both Hughes and Brown have scheduled pressers for today. Hughes will set her first term goal for city government debt reduction. Brown will address how she would spend proceeds from the recent Light Lease Fund Settlement. **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:** Ballard received the endorsement of all four local AFSCME unions. AFSCME Locals 725, 3131, 3766 and 1437 represent over 800 members and all non-uniform City union employees. According to AFSCME leaders, this is the first time all four AFSCME local unions have supported the same candidate for Mayor. "I'm so grateful to have the support of all four local AFSCME unions," said Ballard. "We have a lot of great workers who are dedicated to making our city better. The things we've been able to accomplish over the last 3 years are incredible and we could not do it without their hard work. They've helped us make sure we have the right equipment, tools, and resources to get the job

done smarter, faster, and cost-effective." When announcing the endorsement, AFSCME Local 725 President Steve Quick said, "I'm proud to be a part of such an unprecedented announcement. What's most important is the reason that brings us all together and that's the approach Mayor Ballard has taken in leading this city. We have built a partnership based on both sides having a mutual respect for one another—and it has resulted in both the workers and the taxpayers being respected in the process." Jerry Stewart, President of AFSCME Local 3131 representing fleet services, added "I don't make decisions on whether someone is a Democrat or Republican – I decide based on the individual person and his actions. With Mayor Ballard, we all have a seat at the table." Stewart spoke about the results of the partnership with the city by saying, "when the City looked at purchasing new equipment for snow removal, Mayor Ballard and his team asked for our input. He understands that the guys doing the work know what our needs are and he makes employees a part of the decision-making process. Judging by the results on the streets this winter, I think we can say that Mayor Ballard's approach worked. Mayor Ballard respects the work we do and that's why we have a great working relationship."

EMILY's List, the nation's largest resource for women in politics today announced its endorsement of Melina Kennedy for Indianapolis Mayor (Howey Politics Indiana). "Melina Kennedy's dedication and service to the people of Indianapolis makes us proud to endorse her campaign," said EMILY's List Political Director Jonathan Parker. "As a small business owner, mother, and long-time Indiana resident, she understands the unique challenges facing the people of Indianapolis today. She has proven herself to

be a fierce advocate for the community, and her work as the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development resulted in thousands of jobs, workforce development opportunities and growth for Indianapolis businesses." **Horse Race Status:** Leans Ballard



Hammond Republican George Janiec was removed from the ballot by the Lake County Election Board. (Times Photo)

### Hammond

**Democrat:** Mayor Thomas McDermott, Oscar Sanchez, Alex Andrade. **Republican:** Humberto Prado, David Hacker, Matthew Saliga, Jeff MacDonald, Rob Pastore. **2007 Results:** McDermott (D) 5,289, Janiec (R) 4,802. **Outlook:** Lake County Councilman Mike Repay has announced his endorsement of Oscar Sanchez for Mayor of Hammond. "My decision to endorse Oscar stems from a commitment to the City of Hammond and the desire for the city I love to flourish in the coming years" stated Repay. Repay, a newly elected Democrat, sees this election



as an opportunity to pivot away from the politics of the past. "This is our chance. The people of the City of Hammond have a chance to break from all the political garbage and elect a guy that really just wants to be our Mayor." He added, "What Hammond needs now, more than ever, is the steady handed leadership of a guy like Oscar. He cut his teeth helping the common man compete against big corporations worldwide. He is a fighter for the people in the truest sense of the phrase. That passion for justice and fairness will serve him well as our next mayor"

Democratic members of the Lake County elections board voted Monday to remove one of the strongest challengers to McDermott's re-election from the May 3 ballot (Dolan, Times of Northwest Indiana). George Janiec, who came within 488 votes of defeating McDermott four years ago, said Monday he will review his options to appeal the decision, which was denounced after the meeting as illegal and a naked power play by the Democratic majority. A Hammond resident challenged Janiec on grounds he should be ineligible to run as a Republican candidate for Hammond mayor while also sitting as a nonpartisan member of the School City of Hammond board. Janiec said there is no law forbidding school board members to run for partisan offices. He said other school board members have done so without being challenged. Nevertheless, Dyer Attorney Joseph Allegretti, sitting on the elections board Monday in place of regular Democratic member Kevin Smith, initiated the vote to remove Janiec. "It is undesirable to use a nonpartisan position as a stepping stone to a partisan office," Allegretti said. Rob Pastore, another Republican Hammond mayoral candidate, denounced the decision as "an illegal action not based on any statute. The members appointed by McDermott should have abstained." Joe Hero, a St. John Republican activist, said, "I think this vote was rigged." He demanded an investigation by the U.S. attorney's office "to find out if this board was tampered with." McDermott, said afterward that Pastore and Hero didn't know what they were talking about. He has appointed only one elections board member to the board since becoming county Democratic chairman. He does agree with the election board's action, saying the evidence indicates Janiec planned to run for mayor before he ran for Hammond School Board. "George can end this whole thing by stepping off the School Board if he wants to run for mayor. You are supposed to keep politics out of the schools," McDermott said.

McDermott delivered what could be his final State of the City address to a packed City Hall lobby Monday night (Times of Northwest Indiana). McDermott is running for re-election and faces a crowded Democratic ballot in the primary and Republican opposition from some of the same people who opposed him in 2007. His 40-minute speech on Monday focused largely on his seven years of accomplishments as mayor with an occasional promise for what

the future under his stewardship may hold. "Tonight, I can report that the state of the city is strong, perhaps stronger than any other time in my mayorship. Hammond enjoys a stability that is rare among urban cities," McDermott said. The speech began with recognition of Hammond's new place as Lake County's largest city after the U.S. Census Bureau released figures showing Gary's population fell 22 percent, leaving Hammond with 536 more residents than Gary. "While we celebrate the return to our position, let's also make no mistake about it: It was not by accident that Hammond regained the top spot. No, it was with hard work, perseverance and innovation," he said. **Horse Race Status:** Leans McDermott

## Gary

**Democrat:** Mayor Rudy Clay, Councilwoman Ragen Hatcher, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Larry Evans, Harold Foster, Robert L. Lewis, Saba S. Mohammed, Richard L. Nash, Jeffery L. Tatum. Republican: Charles R. Smith Jr. **2007 Results:** Clay 8,529, Smith (R) 2,569. **Outlook:** The list of Democrats hoping to unseat Gary Mayor Rudy Clay is now down to eight after the Election Board upheld challenges filed against Heather Hensley, Latanza Johnson, Jack Lieske, Lester Lowe and Derric Price. In Lowe's case, Gary attorney Jewell Harris Jr. argued the candidate didn't meet residency requirements. Lowe owns houses in both Gary and Crown Point, but the Election Board ruled he fell short of an important stipulation to run for Gary mayor, which requires mayoral candidates to live in Gary one year prior to the election. Harris centered his case against Lowe on his house in Crown Point and the fact Lowe's children attend Crown Point schools. Lowe maintained he bought the house in Gary's Glen Park neighborhood in 2009 with the intent of living in the house. Lowe told the Election Board he transferred his homestead exemption to the Gary house and is renovating the home while he waits for the Crown Point house to sell. Lowe's attorney, Darnail Lyles, said there was no evidence before the board proving Lowe's immediate family lives in Crown Point and that his client's children are stuck in Crown Point schools. The Election Board dismissed challenges against Gary mayor candidate Larry Evans, East Chicago Council 5th District candidate Benjamin Cruz, New Chicago Town Council candidate Philip O'Quinn and Lake Station City Council 5th District candidate Jimmy Moss. Harris withdrew challenges he had filed against Gary mayor candidates Richard Nash, Saba Mohammed and Robert Lewis. Candidates removed from the ballot on Monday can appeal to the circuit court. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Clay

## Michigan City

**Democrat:** LaPorte County Chairman John Jones, Jim



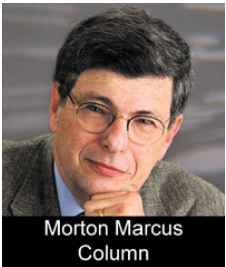


LaRocco, Councilman Ron Meer, Councilman Bob McKee. **Republican:** open. **Outlook:** McKee is proposing casino money be used to pay the college tuition of high school graduates in an attempt to revitalize the community (Times of Northwest Indiana). McKee said the goal would be to attract more residents and new businesses. Similar programs are in place in casino areas like Hammond and in Michigan at cities such as New Buffalo and Kalamazoo. "It just hits home on so many fronts," said McKee, who is opposed in

the May primary by Ron Meer, John Jones and Joie Winski. McKee said the amount paid to families would be based on the tuition costs at Purdue North Central, which currently is \$204.25 per credit hour. **Horse Race Status:** Leans Jones ❖

## Fewer kids require transforming towns

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**



Morton Marcus  
Column

INDIANAPOLIS - We were prepared for Indiana's mediocre results from the 2010 census. Our population growth (6.6 percent) over the decade 2000 to 2010 ranked 31st in the nation. We could celebrate being not too far from the top of the bottom half of the states.

What brought joy to the Hoosier hearth was the news we topped Wisconsin's 6.0 percent growth, Illinois' 3.3, Ohio's 1.6, and pitiful Michigan's decline (-0.6 percent). Doing better

than one's poor neighbors stands as a weak triumph.

If anything rattled our teeth, it was the concentration of growth in Marion and four adjacent counties (Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson and Hancock). These five counties alone captured more than 53 percent of the state's growth. Of the remaining 87 counties, 29 lost population. The biggest losers in number of persons were Grant County (Marion), Howard (Kokomo), Wayne (Richmond), Wabash (Wabash) and Cass (Logansport) counties. Blackford County (Hartford City) at -9.1 percent had the largest decline relative to the state.

**Relative growth (or decline) does matter.**

What's good for the Indianapolis metropolitan area is now better than before for all of Indiana. As the Indianapolis metro approaches 26 percent of the state's population, who is losing out? Even though Lake County gained 11,400 persons and Vanderburgh gained 7,800, neither kept pace with the state's growth rate. These two counties, along with Madison, Delaware, La Porte and Vigo emerged from the last decade as relative losers in the population derby.

After the legislature completes redistricting next month, more members of the Indiana General Assembly than before will have the Indianapolis area on their minds.

When the state allocates goodies according to population, the Outlands will get a lesser share. Business activity, particularly health and financial services, will concentrate still more where people are most numerous.

**Hidden in all these data** lies a truth that may be of great significance. From 2000 to 2010, the adult population of the state grew faster (8.2 percent) than the population under age 18 (2.2 percent). Indiana added 369,400 adults compared with just 33,900 children, a ratio of nearly 11 to 1. This imbalance was hardly uniform, but its consequences are important for all of us.

When more data are released, we'll know the full story, but we can already identify important patterns. In only 24 of our 92 counties did both the adult and child populations increase. For example, Clark County added 13,000 persons of whom 11,000 were adults and just 2,000 were children. In 68 counties, however, the number of children declined.

Children, as any parent will attest, are the drivers of our economy. They cause the washing machine and dryer to be bought. They necessitate the larger, safer automobile. Simply put, children are the creators of debt and increased consumption spending.

**Fewer children reduces** retail trade. Schools acquire empty rooms and playgrounds see less little league ball played. Neighbors are less inclined to know each other in the absence of children. Communities, as we have known them, change. Some crumble, others manage an awkward transformation to residential areas with limited liveliness.

The economic prospects of communities with fewer children are poor. Where youth initiates change, adults often succumb to the temptations of the familiar. It is difficult to convince town elders that more opportunities for social engagement are necessary to sustain commercial vitality. Carmel, with its new theaters and concert facilities, may be the best example in Indiana of a smaller city becoming a place for adults. ❖

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

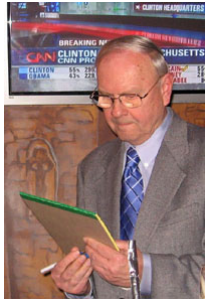


## Who wants to be mayor of a dying city?

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Well, eight candidates filed for mayor of South Bend, described as a "dying" city by Newsweek, a magazine so thin in content, advertising and circulation that it is regarded in the publishing world as "dying."

Newsweek's strange way of forecasting municipal demise puts South Bend on their death-watch list with Pittsburgh, named by Forbes as the country's "most livable city," and New Orleans, alive and lively in brave recovery from Katrina and FEMA.



The South Bend candidates don't regard the office they seek as funeral director for a "dying" city.

That doesn't mean South Bend is thriving. Population declined, a key ingredient in the Newsweek death formula. So of course has population declined in many Midwest cities with a legacy of reliance on the automotive industry and

other "Rust Belt" manufacturing.

But ready to drop dead?

Not while Notre Dame is here. Not with all that means in employment, spending by visitors, quality of life and technology and innovation for jobs of the future. Notre Dame isn't leaving.

Nor really are all those people leaving. Many have moved to suburbs. St. Joseph County gained a little in population.

Among those who want to be mayor are three Democrats now regarded as the main contenders, all with credentials of one type or another to attract substantial early support.

They are, in alphabetical order:

**Pete Buttigieg**, 29-year-old former Rhodes Scholar who already has private enterprise experience in economic development, even overseas. Buttigieg (pronounced "Boota-judge") impressed party leaders as the Democratic nominee for state treasurer last year, defending efforts to save the American auto industry and jobs in Indiana. He had no chance, however, in running statewide without name recognition in a huge Republican year.

**State Rep. Ryan Dvorak**, who has a reputation as an able state legislator. He won re-election last year, as did Prosecutor Mike Dvorak, his father. He clearly has the highest name recognition. Dvorak's participation with quorum-breaking by House Democrats no doubt helps with labor and teachers, important groups in the Democratic

primary. Being stuck in Urbana, Ill., halted local campaigning but didn't prevent news media interviews.

**County Councilman Mike Hamann**, who has the most experience in local government as county commissioner and now county councilman. While a Republican back when he was a commissioner, Hamann was known then for working with Democratic county officials in a bipartisan way. He established party credentials with involvement in Democratic campaign efforts. Hamann, first to organize, hopes for precinct committee support.

St. Joseph County Democratic Chairman Owen D. "Butch" Morgan says the party's central committee "will be Switzerland," strictly neutral.

There were two other filings for the Democratic nomination and three for the Republican nomination. Right now it appears that one of the main three contenders for the Democratic nomination will be the next mayor.

No Republican has been elected mayor of South Bend since 1967. No Republican nominee has made it even a close race since 1987.

In an ironic twist, Republican chances of a serious challenge diminished when Mayor Steve Luecke, a Democrat who has served longer than any other mayor in city history, declined to seek re-election.

Rightly or wrongly, critics of the mayor's economic development efforts might well have given substantial support to some impressive Republican contender challenging Luecke.

With Luecke not there as a target, Republicans failed to find an impressive contender. Instead of Democrats crossing over to vote for a Luecke challenger, it could be Republicans crossing over in the primary to vote for one of the top Democratic contenders and then likely supporting the Democratic nominee this fall.

There was thought that Republicans might seek to have no primary candidate in order later to appoint a strong challenger if Democrats were split after their primary battles.

If there was that playing-with-fire strategy, it didn't work. Two quite unusual people filed for the Republican mayoral nomination, and the GOP did at the last minute find one more suitable choice in seeking to avoid, as has happened in the past, having a nominee come across as unthinkable.

There will be a new mayor, not of a "dying" city but of a city still with problems from being thought of as Studebaker, Ind. ❖

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



**Bruce Drake, Politics Daily:** Although the contest for the GOP presidential nomination may seem far away (for all except those gearing up for it), there has been a lot of comment about the potential Republican field, ranging from those who regard it as weak to the fact that no one has emerged yet as a front-runner, at least according to polls. Gallup says that situation is not typical. In reviewing its polling dating back to 1952, Gallup notes that in every presidential year up until now, there was a clear front-runner at this stage of the campaign and that, in most but not all cases, the front-runner won the nomination. There have been a few twists and turns in that general pattern. It may have faded from memory now, but in 2007, Rudolph Giuliani was way out in front in Republican preference polls, leading John McCain by 42 percent to 25 percent in February of that year, with the remainder of support spread among other candidates or undecided. Giuliani faded fast after making the mistake of skipping the early primary states, and McCain, who had been the presumed front-runner aside from the 2007 poll, got a scare when Mike Huckabee went from a blip on pollsters' radar screens to winning the Iowa caucuses. In February 1963, New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller was the clear favorite, leading Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater by 45 percent to 19 percent. However, Goldwater steadily crept up on Rockefeller and then passed him, and when former Massachusetts Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge entered the race, the three candidates were in a statistical tie in Gallup's last poll before the GOP convention. Goldwater emerged as the nominee. As far as the current field of Republicans is concerned, the top four in Republican preference polls have consistently been Huckabee, Mitt Romney, Sarah Palin and Newt Gingrich. None has formally launched a campaign, although Gingrich -- who usually runs last in that group -- has come the closest. Last week, he filed paperwork with the Internal Revenue Service to explore a possible candidacy and launched a website, NewtExplore2012. There is a large field of others who are unannounced but eyeing a race, like former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty. But the challenge for these candidates, who all poll mostly in the low single digits, is that they are still largely unknown. A Quinnipiac University survey released Monday found nearly all of those potential Republican candidates at the top of the list when it came to the percentage of voters who didn't know enough about them to express a pro or con opinion. These included former ambassador to China Jon Huntsman (84 percent don't know him); Gov. Mitch Daniels of Indiana (78 percent); Pawlenty (67 percent); Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi (65 percent); and former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania (63 percent). "History thus provides no guidelines for how today's highly fragmented Republican race might play out, or for when a strong front-runner is likely to emerge, or who it will be," Gallup said. "If the race remains close throughout 2011, it may also create unfamiliar political and fundraising dynamics for the national party." ❖

**Doug Ross, Times of Northwest Indiana:** Thursday's indictment of Indiana's top election official on seven felony counts related to a vote fraud investigation couldn't have come at a better time. I was planning this column on ethics in government. On second thought, I had plenty of material to work with already. There are many indications of ethical lapses in govern-

ment that continue despite the attention already focused on that topic. High-profile cases such as Secretary of State Charlie White's indictment Thursday on seven felony counts get attention, and they should. White is charged with: \* Fraud against a financial institution -- in connection with his mortgage application; \* Voter fraud -- filing fictitious registration; \* Voter fraud -- voting where not registered; \* Voter fraud -- fraudulent registration; \* Written perjury -- written statement on registration \* Written perjury -- his application for a marriage license; \* Theft -- taking a salary from Fishers while living outside his district. White was indicted by a grand jury. He has yet to go on trial for these charges. Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said Thursday that White should step down. "It would be neither credible nor appropriate for the state's top elections official to continue to perform his duties while contesting criminal charges, some of them under the very laws the secretary of state implements," Daniels said. "I have consulted with each of the other statewide elected officials, and our judgment about this is unanimous." The voters knew about these allegations before November's election, yet White, a Republican, was swept into office by an overwhelming margin -- 57 percent of the votes in a three-way race. If White is found guilty, surely the voters must feel some guilt, too, for electing him despite the allegations. ❖



**Eric Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press:** Charlie White has some explaining to do. A grand jury in Hamilton County indicted Indiana's secretary of state last week on seven felony counts related to voting irregularities. Statements from White's office indicate he has a logical explanation for the whole ordeal, but White doesn't seem interested in sharing it. Apparently, the first half of last year was hectic for the guy. He remarried and he moved into a new condominium, all while serving on the Fishers Town Council. Along the way, he changed his voter registration address from the apartment in which he'd been living to his new condo. But instead of shifting it to the condo, he listed his ex-wife's house, which is near his old apartment. That allowed him to keep his town council seat. After all, to get to his new condo, you have to leave the district White represented, drive across three others, and enter a fourth. White knew this, because he was on the council when those districts were drawn. Once all of this became public, the Hamilton County prosecutor's office appointed two special prosecutors -- one a Democrat and one a Republican -- to look into it. Their investigation led to White's indictment, and the subsequent decisions by Gov. Mitch Daniels and other Republican state officeholders to immediately toss White under the bus, saying publicly that he should step down. You should know that in the lead-up to last year's elections, as I was working on a story about the secretary of state's race, I reached out several times to White's campaign to see if he would share his side of the story. Each time, my interview requests were denied. I was also one of several reporters who gathered around White on election night to ask him about the pending investigation into whether he committed voter fraud, his plans on how he'd deal with that investigation while in office, and more. His deer-in-the-headlights look, his obtuse answers about the investigation and his lackluster responses to questions that were actually about the secretary of state's office left no doubt that this ride would be bumpy. ❖





## 82% of schools failing NCLB

INDIANAPOLIS - An estimated 82 percent of U.S. schools could be labeled as "failing" under the nation's No Child Left Behind Act this year, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Wednesday (Associated Press). The Department of Education estimates the number of schools not meeting targets will skyrocket from 37 to 82 percent in 2011 because states are toughening their standards to meet the requirements of the law. The schools will face sanctions ranging from offering tutoring to closing their doors. "No Child Left Behind is broken and we need to fix it now," Duncan said in a statement. "This law has created a thousand ways for schools to fail and very few ways to help them succeed." Duncan delivered the news in remarks to a House education and work force committee hearing, in urging lawmakers to rewrite the Bush-era act. The law was established in 2002 and many education officials and experts argue it is overdue for changes.



## Congress not serious about debt

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.) today issued the following statement after voting in support of a continuing resolution to fund the government through the end of Fiscal Year 2011 and reduce federal spending by \$61 billion. "Today was a test to see how serious Congress is about addressing our fiscal crisis. Unfortunately, Washington Democrats failed that test and refused to present a serious plan to limit spending. "The

days of runaway government spending must end. Our country is averaging \$4 billion in deficit spending every day, but Senate Democrats continue to oppose any genuine efforts to restore our fiscal house. "While this \$61 billion in spending reductions would not solve all of our financial problems, it represents a good start. In fact, these proposed budget cuts are minor in comparison to the problems we face with entitlements. If Democrats were unwilling to join Republicans in scaling back even this small percentage of spending, how will our country be able to tackle the greater challenge of preserving entitlement programs? It's time for the President to provide leadership and get serious about bringing our balance sheet out of the red." The Senate voted 44-56 on the House-passed continuing resolution, failing to meet the 60-votes required. Congress must pass a funding measure by March 18 to avert a government shutdown.

## Post's David Broder dies

WASHINGTON - David S. Broder, 81, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for The Washington Post and one of the most respected writers on national politics for four decades, died Wednesday at Capital Hospice in Arlington of complications from diabetes. Mr. Broder was often called the dean of the Washington press corps - a nickname he earned in his late 30s in part for the clarity of his political analysis and the influence he wielded as a perceptive thinker on political trends in his books, articles and television appearances. In 1973, Mr. Broder and The Post each won Pulitzers for coverage of the Watergate scandal that led to President Richard M. Nixon's resignation. Mr. Broder's citation was for explaining the importance of the Watergate fallout in

a clear, compelling way. As passionate about baseball as he was about politics, he likened Nixon's political career to an often-traded pitcher who had "bounced around his league." He covered every presidential convention since 1956 and was widely regarded as the political journalist with the best-informed contacts, from the lowest precinct to the highest rungs of government. Indiana Sen. Dan Coats said in a statement, "I am deeply saddened by the passing of David Broder. David was the first national journalist I met when I came to Congress in 1981. We shared a passion for the Chicago Cubs, and I had the opportunity to get to know him over the years. David was a true giant in American journalism and well respected by all in public service. His honesty and dedication to the truth was evident in every column. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and the entire Broder family."

## Coats seeks to reduce gas flux

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.) today supported legislation to simplify our nation's complex gasoline system and help lower energy costs. Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires individual cities and states to use different blends of gasoline to satisfy federal air quality standards, resulting in gas price spikes whenever a disruption occurs in the supply chain. The Gas Accessibility and Stabilization Act (GAS Act) would alleviate the possibility of price hikes by giving states the flexibility to use other fuel blends in times of temporary shortage. "Hoosiers are feeling pain at the pump," said Coats, a member of the Senate Energy Committee. "The recent rise in the price of gasoline serves as a stark reminder of why we must reduce our dependence on foreign oil," Coats said.