
The Howey Political Report



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Brian A. Howey, publisher

Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington writer

Jack E. Howey, editor

The Howey Political Report Office: 317-254-1533
PO Box 40265 Fax: 317-968-0487
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265 Mobile: 317-506-0883

brianhowey@howeypolitics.com
www.howeypolitics.com

Washington office: 202-775-3242;
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“They always try to pick off a Dixiecrat. NOT IN MY BACKYARD.”

- House Speaker John Gregg, on the prospects of a GOP pickup of his old House seat, in an e-mail to HPR

Snipers, war keep economy off Page 1

Hoosiers more concerned with security

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Snipers and war.

That’s been the two-issue rotation on CNN this past week. In conversations with regular Hoosier folk, ditto. People are still debating the merits of invading Iraq and the consequences of either following through or not doing so. As for the terror of a Washington area marksman, the fear is that some local lunatic is taking notes and will start aiming here.

What hasn’t happened is something that Democrats such as U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Jill Long Thompson, Melina Fox and Bryan Hartke were hoping for: the 2002 election to be turned on pocketbook issues.

Folks are not talking about the economy.

In fact, they aren’t even thinking much about the election. House Speaker John Gregg observed, “I’m 48 and have been involved with politics since age 10. NOBODY is talking about this election. There is no interest.”

Gregg probed for the reasons. “There is no stability and what is there to believe in. President Clinton causes the office of the presidency to lose esteem ... the Sept. 11 attack ... the corporate accounting scandal ... Wall Street collapses ... the Catholic church under seige ... war resolution passes Congress. Now, I know why people aren’t thinking about the election. They are demoralized.”

Republican Party Executive Director Luke Messer observed, “This is about as unpredictable an environment as you’re ever going to get. There is that possibility of a record low turnout.” His Democratic counterpart, Tim Henderson, agreed. “It is very strange,” Henderson said. Messer pointed to the 1998 Republican primary in the 10th CD, where Gary Hofmeister upset Virginia Blankenbaker when only 14 per-

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HPR EXCLUSIVE: Informed and reliable Congressional sources tell HPR that President Bush is expected to make a return visit to the 2nd CD to campaign for Republican Chris Chocola prior to the Nov. 5 election. Bush stumped for Chocola in South Bend on Sept. 5, but Chocola has never surpassed Democrat Jill Long Thompson in the polls.

REPUBLICAN AGREES NAFTA COSTS JOBS: State Rep. Tiny Adams, D-Muncie, blames the North American Free Trade Agreement for the loss of jobs and population in East Central Indiana. "I hate to say Tiny is right about anything, but I have to agree with him on that," Republican challenger Tom Bennington said (Seth Slabaugh, Muncie Star Press). Adams and fellow Democratic incumbents Sen. Allie Craycraft of Selma and Rep. Ron Liggett of Redkey primarily blame the trend on NAFTA, the 1994 agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico to create the world's largest free-trade area. Since then, jobs have been moved to Canada and Mexico from ABB Power T&D, Muncie; Berne Apparel, Portland; Borg Warner Automotive, Muncie; Delco Remy, Anderson; Flex-O-Lite, Elwood; Grayson Enterprises, Eaton; Jay Garment, Portland, and

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cent turned out. "Gary turned out his base for that election. If it had been a 30-percent turnout, he probably wouldn't have won," Messer said.

Chuck Todd, writing today for the *National Journal*, noted, "Polls aren't showing that voters plan to take out their anxiety on one party over the other. But they will -- history shows they always do. On paper, things couldn't be more even right now, but we're getting this nagging feeling that things will move in one direction -- that this tied environment will shift ever-so-slightly in favor of one party. Just look at recent history. One party has clearly won the last three weeks in each of the last four cycles. And that three-week victory completely changed the dynamics of what smart folks were thinking."

Todd noted that in 1994 and 1996, the last three weeks of those elections saw things break toward Congressional Republicans. In 1998, there was a voter backlash against the Big Lewinsky and Democrats averted a final Clinton midterm bloodbath. "The bottom line is that elections always break late, and there is little evidence right now that 2002 will be any different," Todd noted. "As for the

current climate, it will be interesting to see if the Republicans can hold up under the current economic conditions (unless, of course, the recent market rally continues). On paper, there's no way they should survive, and yet, thanks to President Bush's high approval ratings buoying overall opinions of the GOP, polls aren't showing that voters plan to take out their anxiety on one party over the other."

Dow flops and flips

A week after Rep. Carson made a national appeal for people to vote their pocketbook, the bombing in Bali along with assaults on U.S. Marines in Kuwait and a French oil tanker presented the dynamic of the hated Al Qaeda playing right into President Bush's wheelhouse. This morning, it was the revelation that North Korea may have nukes and possible Al Qaeda snipers in DC. Those events underscored national security concerns. CNN and *Los Angeles Times* political analyst Ron Brownstein opined that the Bali bombing actually underscored concerns of figures like Carson that invading Iraq meant taking the eye off the Al Qaeda ball. But he acknowledged the "cross-cur-

rents" over basic security. "It's put the focus back on security," Brownstein said. The polls aren't showing blame being heaped on Republicans. "With three weeks to go, the clock is ticking for Democrats," he said.

Indiana political analyst Peter Rusthoven maintains there is a distinct difference between the Dow dipping into the 7,500 range as opposed to President George H.W. Bush's detachment from grocery store scanners during the 1992 recession and the 1982 job/oil crisis. "We're not seeing long unemployment lines," Rusthoven said.

While Democratic congressional leaders Dick Gephardt and Tom Daschel were intent on rushing the Iraqi war resolution through Congress, what has not happened since is a snap-back into pocketbook concerns.

The GOP is sensing that. White House pollster Matthew Dowd sent a memo to Republican candidates nationwide. "The public's desire, in spite of the Democrats' best efforts to the contrary, is to not fix political blame for the economy," Dowd's memo said. "Thus far, the public hasn't heard a single positive message from Democrats on this issue. Since Democrats do not have the voters' overwhelming trust on the economy and have no real solutions from their leaders, the Republicans are in a great position to win the debate on the economy." ABC News, reporting on the WorldCom disaster in Mississippi Wednesday, noted that the corporate scandal hasn't found traction.

There's a killer on the road

Then there is the sniper, which has riveted national attention, with the Indiana news media reporting on a variety of local ties ranging from Monday night's shooting victim coming from Columbus, Ind., to school field trips to Washington being postponed. By this morning, there seemed to be a merging of the sniper into Al Qaeda, with suggestions that an "olive

skin" shooter might suggest a foreigner.

In the highly contested 2nd CD, Republican Chris Chocola told HPR this morning that the Grissom AFB closure and the F-16 wing tug of war between Reps. Buyer and Long (it ended up in Fort Wayne) is playing big in the southern part of the district. "That will drive votes," Chocola predicted, in a race with an expected 35 percent turnout.

A *Christian Science Monitor* Poll released Tuesday revealed President Bush's approval rating was a 63 percent; the economic optimism index for October stood at 53.4 percent, while 46 percent thought it was "very important" to take on Saddam and another 29 percent said it was "somewhat important."

A Horrible Turnout

While Messer reports that Indiana Republicans have \$4.6 million in receipts to date (compared to \$3.19 million for the entire 1998 cycle), and the national GOP holding a 2-to-1 money edge, fears on the Democratic side are beginning to surface. Indiana Democrats will report about \$3 million for the year, according to political director Tim Henderson.

Chris Chocola is inching closer to Jill Long Thompson in the 2nd CD and top political operative Terry Holt has arrived on the scene. The NRCC is about to fully fund Brose McVey's challenge to Carson. Todd Rokita is up in early baseline polling in the secretary of state race.

Gregg fears a different depression. "I think it will be a horrible turnout," the Speaker explained. "In '94, Democrats stayed home. This time I hope and think it will be equally stay home across the state, with lots of surprises."

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence agreed. "The economy will still come into play," he said this afternoon. "In a low turnout environment, races that seem to be going in one direction can quickly go in the other."

Yes, lots of surprises. ❖

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other Hoosier cities and towns.

KARL, WILLIAMS TO HEAD-LINE BULEN SYMPOSIUM: Two Pulitzer-Prize winners in Haynes Johnson and Juan Williams, CNN's Capitol Hill correspondent Jonathan Karl, and the Chicago Tribune's national political correspondent Jeff Zeleny, will headline the 5th Annual Bulen Symposium on Monday, Nov. 25, at IUPUI's University Place. Others on the bill are Frank Donatelli; David Wilhelm, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and director of the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign; Bob Bauer of the Washington, D.C., consulting firm PerkinsCoie, an expert on campaign finance and ethics laws; Peter Manous, chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party; and Jim Kittle, chairman of the Indiana Republican Party. The cost is \$45 in advance and you can register at: Bulen Symposium on American Politics, c/o Professor Bill Blomquist, Dept of Political Science, 425 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5140

PETERSON SAYS TALKS WITH COLTS TO BEGIN SOON: Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson is finally preparing to kick off negotiations aimed at making sure

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the city does not lose its NFL franchise (Indianapolis Star). Peterson said serious talks between the city and the Indianapolis Colts could begin within two weeks. Gov. Frank O'Bannon thinks the Colts have been good for Indiana and Indianapolis, but thinks the community should decide about that investment (Shannon Lohrmann, Lafayette Journal & Courier). "It depends on a lot of variables and ... what the funding could be here and the support funding by the private sector," said O'Bannon, predicting the state could offer limited support, maybe for infrastructure. Rep. Sue Scholer, R-West Lafayette, has seen a regional benefit to having the Colts in Indianapolis, and predicts it would negatively affect the entire area if the team left. "But it will take a lot of selling to convince the public to use public money to keep them here," she said. "There are a lot of financial aspects to the whole area of professional sports that need to be clarified."

GOP TARGETS O'BANNON/KERNAN NEGLECT: Republican candidates across Indiana criticized Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Lt. Gov. Joseph Kernan Wednesday for leaving what they consider a "legacy of neglect" (Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). A 13-page document pre-

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Coats tries to heal a rift; keeps options open

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON -- As U.S. ambassador to Germany, former U.S. Sen. Dan Coats occupies one of the most sensitive positions in global diplomacy. Although he is squarely in the middle of an ugly spat between longtime friends, he is more of a sphinx than an oracle when it comes to parsing the chill across the Atlantic.

Coats is trying to help mend a deep wound in U.S.-German relations caused by German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's strident anti-Iraq war rhetoric in his recent victorious re-election campaign. Schroeder pledged to keep Germany out of any armed action against Iraq, warning against "military adventures." Schroeder irked President Bush, who has not sent a congratulatory note to the German leader since his Sept. 22 win. Some have interpreted Schroeder's stance as anti-American.

Coats is an important player in the unfolding drama, but he's not talking much about it. At a meeting of the German-American Business Council in Washington last week, Coats said nothing about the tensions. Literally.

When a German reporter asked him what it would take for the United States and Germany to restore their relationship, he responded: "I'm not going to give that answer nor do I fully have it. Much of this has to be worked out between the chancellor and the White House."

To another query about the White House grudge: "You've asked all the operative questions, but I'm not going to give you the answers."

To a question about the current atmosphere: "I'm being evasive on this question because I don't know that any more needs to be said than has been said publicly."

A response to an HPR question about the pressures of being ambassador during the German election campaign

while the White House was trying to build international support for disarming Iraq: "Maybe someday I'll write a book or say something about that, but now's not the right time."

Taking Washington to Berlin

Coats' reticence is part of the job of being an ambassador. "He's doing what any ambassador should," said Jackson Janes, executive director of the American Institute for German Studies. "He's really working behind the scenes with people in Germany and in Washington."

His 17 years as a congressman and a senator give Coats a background uniquely suited to this crisis. "There is a role to be played by someone who is a professional politician, who knows Washington inside and out," said Janes. "That's something I've rarely seen in diplomatic circles. I think (Coats) can do it well. There is a real lack of understanding (in Germany) about the (U.S.) domestic arena and how to decide what is important and what is not so important in terms of the way foreign and domestic policy gets made."

In his Washington remarks, Coats emphasized that he is only one piece in the U.S.-German relationship mosaic. He said that business and military connections are more important now than ever before. "I am confident that it is those relationships and those ties that exist below the headline government-to-government relationship that will steer the course over the next several months and years in our relations with Germany," he said. "They will see us through this difficult period."

The vast web of German-American ties notwithstanding, improving the relationship will be at the top of Coats' immediate agenda. If Coats can weave himself into the German fabric, he'll be more effective in his role. "To do that kind of damage limitation, you have to be comfortable in the country where you are,"

said Desmond Dinan, the Jean Monnet Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University. "You have to be immersed in its language, culture and politics. You have to have a deep feel for it."

The ambassador hopes that the German-American friendship can be restored to the vibrancy he experienced immediately following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which occurred just days after he assumed his post in Berlin. Last week, Coats related a story told to him by German Interior Minister Otto Schilly. Schilly vividly recalls the moment when American soldiers entered his childhood village following World War II. Schilly thought he and his family would be killed. Instead, Coats said that Schilly told him: "American soldiers came into our town not with guns in their arms but with food in their arms. I'm eternally grateful for that moment, which has never left me."

But restoring the good feelings depends in part on the Bush administra-

tion accepting that Schroeder's campaign maneuvers reflected German domestic political reality. "The Americans have to get off their moral high horse," said Dinan. "President Bush is a politician. He knows that's politics. The current administration needs to stop seeing everything in black and white. It's an ambiguous world out there."

Back Home Again

Although he spent most of his time at last week's breakfast dodging questions about the U.S.-German rift, Coats clearly had more fun not answering a question about the possibility of his running for governor of Indiana in 2004. "Our home has been and always will be in Indiana," he said. "I pay close attention to all that is going on in Indiana because I love the state so much. I look forward to 'back home again in Indiana.' In what capacity, I don't know." ❖

Indiana 2004 Racing Form

e Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, OMB Director Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris, Ambassador Dan Coats. **Democrat:** Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** With Daniels coming into the crosshairs of the current secretary of state campaign over the IPALCO sale, a new round of rumors has him content to stay on as President Bush's pinata through 2004. We're not buying that; it's way too early for a decision.

But the emergence of Coats as a possible gubernatorial candidate should hearten the Kittleites. Unlike the rest of the GOP gubernatorial field, Coats is a

proven Hoosier vote getter, having won five U.S. House and two tough U.S. Senate races. Coats ducked a 1998 showdown with Evan Bayh that would have been a marquee national race, insisting he was tiring of the constant fundraising. His last words to HPR in January 1998 were: "I could have beaten Evan Bayh." While Coats is an ardent conservative who was a final contender to be secretary of defense under No. 43, Coats compiled numerous Senate successes on such diverse issues as the presidential line item veto and out-of-state trash hauling, and penned what should have been the cornerstone of compassionate conservatism with his legislation that would have created an array of tax breaks for those contributing to social charities. When former aide Curt Smith brought up the 2004 gubernatorial race with Coats earlier this year, he said the reaction was, "I wasn't thrown out of the room." So keep an eye on the ambassador. Despite the IPALCO sale and ensuing lawsuits, we hardly see Daniels as damaged goods. The corporate scandal issue is getting dubious traction in this election cycle and 2004 is a long way off. As for damaged goods, Gov. O'Bannon's record low 34 percent approval rating isn't a disaster for Kernan, but it does perpetuate the notion of a tottering Dem dynasty. **Status:** *Tossup*. ❖

HORSE RACE

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pared by the Indiana Republican Party outlines numerous claims of broken promises, mismanagement and scandals that have besieged the administration since O'Bannon took over in 1996. "There's been no fiscal discipline and very little vision," said Matt Kelty, a Fort Wayne architect running for a state House seat against incumbent Win Moses Jr., D-Fort Wayne. "Indiana is suffering far more than its neighboring states." Specifically, Kelty pointed to the Fort Wayne State Developmental Center, where one resident apparently was beaten to death this year and two others suffered severe burns. "The Fort Wayne Developmental Center has suffered from a series of budgetary cutbacks," he said. "The workers are underpaid. They're understaffed and overworked." Some of the GOP's examples of problems statewide include the recent hiring of a convicted felon to oversee Indiana's Public Employees Retirement Fund and the mishandling of millions from the Teachers' Retirement Fund in 1999 - both of which resulted in the fund director's departure. Kelty and fellow state House candidate Marlin Stutzman, challenging Dale Sturtz, D-LaGrange, used the critique as ammunition against their opponents. But Moses and Sturtz said

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that many of the state's woes are tied to the dismal economy and that other problems cited were issues for the gubernatorial race in 2004. "It doesn't mean we don't care, but we can't intervene in administrative functions," Moses said.

BOTTORFF CHALLENGER ADMITS IT'S UPHILL: Tony Singleton was a year old when Democratic state Rep. Jim Bottorff first ran for political office in Clark County. Now, 23 years later, Singleton is challenging Bottorff's hold on the House seat that represents much of the county, saying that Bottorff accomplished too little in his time in the Statehouse (Meghan Hoyer, Louisville Courier-Journal). "We need leadership. We need vision," said Singleton, a 24-year-old Republican. "We don't need a voice that's stuck in a political rut." Nonetheless, Singleton acknowledges he is fighting an uphill battle against Bottorff, who held various county political positions before starting his six terms in the General Assembly. Bottorff is a political institution who still lives in the Jeffersonville house where he was born.

BRADEMAS STUMPS FOR JLT: Former U.S. Rep. John Brademas stumped for 2nd CD Democrat Jill Long Thompson in LaPorte and South Bend Wednesday.

Indiana 2002 Racing Form

Trend Line: While negative ads have been the norm up in the 2nd CD (see the Jack Colwell column on page 8), negative ad campaigns in general elections have backfired of late in Central Indiana (i.e. Joe Champion in 1998, Gilroy in 1999, David McIntosh resisted going negative in 2000). Memo to all campaigns: Use attack ads at your own peril.

Indiana Statewide Races

Secretary of State 2002: Republican: Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita
Democrat: Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **Libertarian:** Rebecca Sink-Burris. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Results:** Gilroy 828,557, Little (D) 652,565, Dillon (L) 51,775. **2002 Forecast:** Republicans have been talking of a poll that has Rokita up by 17 percent. Our take is that may represent a base-line prior to the TV ad campaigns that kicked in last week. Rokita has his own ad up, along with the Lugar "character and experience" ad for the state ticket. Fernandez launched his TV campaign with a class biography spot, but followed up with an ad accusing Rokita and Gilroy of not investigating the AES/IPALCO merger. The ad implies that OMB Director Mitch Daniels played a role in that controversy. GOP Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. accused Fernandez of "playing dirty politics." **Status:** *Tossup.*

HORSE RACE

Indiana Congressional Races

Congressional District 1: Republican: Mark Leyva. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky. **Geography:** Lake, Porter, Newton, Jasper, Benton counties. **Media Market:** Chicago. **Websites:** markleyva.com/MLMain/ **1994 results:** Visclosky 68,612, Larson 52,920. **1996 Results:** Visclosky 132,430, Petyo (R) 56,205, Crass (L) 3,122. **1998 Results:** Visclosky (D) 92,634, Petyo (R) 33,503. **2000 Results:** Visclosky 146,683, Reynolds (R) 56,200, Nelson (L) 2,907. **2002 Forecast:** This race was never in any doubt. Visclosky by a landslide. **Status:** *Safe D.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Jill Long Thompson. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **Websites:** www.jilllongthompson.com; www.chocolaforcongress.com **2000 Result:** Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Outlook:** Terry Holt, who managed the last GOP victory (1988 by John Hiler) here and helped engineer the upset of Speaker Tom Foley in 1994, is on the ground for Chocola. This past week offered up a fascinating snapshot. Chocola began running a TV ad reminding viewers of JLT's role in the House Banking Scandal. "The voters of the Second District should know why Jill was voted out of office in 1994. It's really a question of character and responsibility. She kited 21 bad checks as a part of the House bank scandal. How can we trust what she'll do with your money, if she can't even balance her own checkbook?" Chocola asked. Long Thompson shot back a classic and deflating response: Vice President Cheney was on the same list for 25 checks and House Speaker Dennis Hastert had 44. "Mr. Chocola is known for running ugly campaigns," Long Thompson said. "It is a question of character." Chocola has accused JLT of running misleading ads on his Medicare stance. This is a tight race. How the voters perceive the candidates will determine the winner. Chocola had \$400,937 in cash on hand as of Sept. 30, compared to \$234,957 for Long Thompson's campaign. Total political contributions to the campaigns are now well more than \$2 million, making it one of the most expensive U.S. House campaigns in the nation, the

Kokomo Tribune reported. The Thompson campaign has raised \$993,274, while Chocola's campaign has raised \$1.38 million. Chocola has spent \$1.02 million so far for his campaign, while Long Thompson has spent \$757,543. Down to the wire, folks. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Jay Rigdon. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **Websites:** www.jayrigdon.com; www.house.gov/souder/ **2000 results:** Souder (R) 131,051, Foster (D) 74,492. **2002 Forecast:** Souder has a \$30,412 to \$12,254. While Rigdon has tried to engage Souder with a scrappy radio campaign, Souder is safe. **Status:** *Safe Souder.*

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** Bill Abbott. **Geography:** Tippecanoe, Clinton, Boone, Montgomery, Hendricks, Morgan, Lawrence and parts of Marion, Johnson, Monroe, Fountain and White counties. **Media Market:** Lafayette, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Evansville, Louisville. **2000 Results: Old 5th CD:** Buyer (R) 132,035, Goodnight (D) 81,423; **Old 7th CD:** Kerns 131,562, Graf (D) 65,174. **Website:** www.house.gov/buyer/ **2002 Forecast:** Buyer will win in a landslide against a Democrat who campaigns with sandwich boards. Buyer has about a \$1 million to \$11,000 money lead. 'Nuff said. **Status:** *Safe Buyer.*

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. **Democrat:** Katherine Fox-Carr. **Geography:** Indianapolis, Kokomo, Marion, Shelbyville; Wabash, Huntington, Howard, Grant, Tipton, Hamilton, Hancock and parts of Marion, Johnson and Shelby counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Lafayette. **Website:** www.house.gov/burton **2000 Results:** Burton (R) 194,771, Griesey (D) 72,821, Hauptmann (L) 8,874. **2002 Forecast:** A mellower, justice-seeking Burton not playing partisan politics on the Hill has a \$1.1 million to \$14,000 money advantage. Watch for Burton to try and link al Qaeda to Oklahoma City. **Status:** *Safe Burton.*

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Melina Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **Websites:** www.foxforcongress.com; mikepence.house.gov/ **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,070. **2002 Forecast:** "People keep saying I can't beat Mike Pence because he's raised \$1 million and I've raised \$325,000," Fox said (*Indianapolis Star*). "Well, we can't outraise him, but we can certainly outwork him." If the Democrats can't get traction on the economy in the next couple of weeks, Pence will return for a second term. The fact that a Muncie legislative GOP candidate acknowledged NAFTA has cost Eastern Indiana jobs is some solace to Fox. But getting that word out in the face of Pence's smooth TV ads (Pence driving past Indiana cornfields at sunrise; talking about faith) will be tough. **Status:** *LIKELY PENCE.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Libertarian:** Andy Horning. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **Websites:** www.juliacarson.org; www.broseforcongress.org **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** Carson is claiming McVey is running a "negative campaign," which we disagree with. McVey has even swapped the slo-mo video of Carson with one in a new ad showing her smiling and laughing. McVey is the best opponent she has ever faced and has raised more money. Carson is working very hard, but her campaign has the air of one working diligently to fend off a scrappy opponent. Her TV talking about her work to exonerate USS Indianapolis Capt. Charles McVay is an obvious attempt to try and mitigate any damage that may have come with her gutsy vote against the Iraq war resolution. That is dangerous territory because a number of polls have shown President Bush with a 40 percent approval rating among African-Americans. McVey has shown some modest support in the African-American community, which is not as monolithically Democrat any more. Our feel for this race is that while it's still Carson's race to lose, any missteps here on out

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After citing other economic statistics as well, Brademas said: "So let me ask, to paraphrase Ronald Reagan, do you feel better off now than you did two years ago?" Brademas asked. Brademas accused Republican Chris Chocola of seeking to "deliberately to falsify" Long Thompson's voting record on Social Security and suggested that Republicans, if in complete control of Congress, would move toward "privatization" of the Social Security system. On Saturday, former U.S. Sen. Bill Bradley will campaign with Long Thompson (*South Bend Tribune*).

SMITH, BROWN TO FACE CHARGES: A Benton County prosecutor has filed misdemeanor and traffic charges against state Reps. Vernon Smith and Charlie Brown in the June 18 confrontation with Gary police in Glen Park (*Lori Caldwell, Post-Tribune*). Prosecutor Jud Barce said he reviewed arrest reports and photographs of the intersection at 41st Avenue and Broadway before he determined both elected officials obstructed traffic with their vehicles. Obstructing traffic is a Class A misdemeanor that carries a maximum jail term of one year. Smith, stopped in the outside lane of Broadway heading north to talk to a Brothers Keeper resident standing on the sidewalk, was also charged

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with not having his driver's license the morning Patrolman Primo Rodriguez approached to question him. Brown, who stopped to see what was happening, was also charged with resisting law enforcement, refusal to identify and a parking violation, Barce said. An employee in the Gary city clerk's criminal division office said no court date has been set for the matter. Barce said he was aware Smith and Brown believed they could not be arrested because of immunity provided in state law to legislators during a session of the General Assembly.

O'BANNON APPROVAL AT ALL-TIME LOW: Only 34 percent of those polled were satisfied with Gov. Frank O'Bannon's job performance, according to the poll by The Indianapolis Star and television station WTHR. Fifty percent disapproved. "Go to Michigan, go to Ohio, go to Illinois. They've all got low poll numbers," O'Bannon said of governors in neighboring states. "I feel very confident we're doing the right things." The approval rating was the lowest ever for O'Bannon.

HPR'S CURRY TALKS OF SNIPER: Mark Curry has briefly wondered whether his family should leave its Maryland home and return to Indiana. "For a couple hours, I just wanted to take my kids and go back home to where my family and friends were," Curry, 46, a

could cause her defeat. As our cover story suggests, the economy is not returning to the forefront; in fact, security issues still reign. That's good news for McVey. **Status:** *Tossup/Leans D.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Bryan Hartke. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Websites:** www.bryanhartke.com; www.house.gov/hostettler/ **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Results:** Hostettler 116,860, Perry 100,461. **2002 Outlook:** There's been a couple of strange radio debates sandwiched in between both kinds of music (country *and* western). The most meaningful topic may have been over Social Security, with Hostettler calling for immediate reforms and Hartke resisting "privatization." Hostettler's vote against Iraq doesn't appear to have dispirited his faithful bedrock supporters. At this point, we don't see a Hartke upset, though there's still three weeks for new Hostettler controversies. **Status:** *Leans Hostettler.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **Websites:** www.house.gov/baronhill/, www.mikesodrel.com **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R) 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885, Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Results:** Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278, Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Results:** Hill 125,978, Bailey (R) 101,790, Chambers (L) 4,634. **2002 Forecast:** Sodrel took the gloves off against Hill in debate earlier this week, calling the incumbent a "habitual politician" who "voters can't trust to get things done." Hill countered by saying Sodrel had led voters astray when talking about Sodrel's positions on Social Security (Meghan Hoyer, *Louisville Courier-Journal*). On the war, Sodrel said, Saddam "is a truly dangerous man and is beginning to acquire nuclear weapons as well," Sodrel said. Hill countered, "For us to go it alone would have been a mistake." Our take is that Hill is still up, but Sodrel is within striking distance. **Status:** *Leans Hill*

Indiana House Races

Trend Line: If the election were held today ... we see a 52-48 Democrat House, subject to change in the final weeks of the campaign.

House District 8: Republican: Carl Baxmeyer. **Democrat:** Ryan Dvorak. **Geography:** St. Joseph County. **1998 Results:** M. Dvorak 11,613, Sulok (R) 6,715. **2000 Results:** M. Dvorak 15,660, Zirkle (R) 9,768. **2002 Forecast:** Ryan Dvorak is running a better campaign than his father. Slight advantage for the D's, but very much in play. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 17: Republican: Steven Heim. **Democrat:** Ralph Winters. **Geography:** Plymouth, Culver, Marshall. **1998 results:** Cook 10,448, Beck 5,596. **2000 Results:** Cook 13,428, Roush 5,859. **2002 Forecast:** This is a true battleground district with most observers giving Republicans a slight edge at this point. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 36: Republican: Andy Kincaid. **Democrat:** Terri Austin. **Geography:** Madison and Delaware counties. **2000 Results:** Jack Lutz (R) 12,397, Austin 11,487. **2002 Forecast:** Another open tossup seat, but we see a slight Dem edge. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 45: Republican: Jasonville Mayor Bruce Borders. **Democrat:** Alan Chowning. **Geography:** Sullivan, Daviess, Greene, Knox and Vigo counties. **1998 Results:** Gregg 14,351. **2000 Results:** Gregg 16,554, Hood 5,187. **2002 Forecast:** A Gregg radio endorsement of Chowning is airing. Repubs talk Elvis upset, but ... **Status:** *Likely D.*

House District 86: Republican: State Rep. Jim Atterholt. **Democrat:** Dr. David Orentlicher. **Geography:** Indianapolis, Hamilton county. **1998 Results:** Atterholt 13,085, Griesey (D) 6,942. **2000 Results:** Atterholt 17,320, Goodloe-Coe (D) 9,708, Perry (L) 1,178. **2002 Forecast:** Atterholt has begun his cable TV campaign; Orentlicher to follow soon. This could be the deciding race. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Brian A. Howey ♦

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Howard Fineman, *Newsweek* - A theme is coalescing in these final weeks of the election season: Call it the Anxiety Election. President Bush remains popular (61 percent approval in the Newsweek Poll), and gets high marks for his performance as sheriff in the war on terror. The Republicans and Democrats are at rough parity in esteem. But beneath the placid surface is a sea of bleak concerns, rising in public consciousness after the initial defiant optimism that followed 9-11. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Though it's called the 2nd District of Indiana, the race for Congress in this district is second to none. No other district is more important for the Republican and Democratic strategists in Washington as they battle for control of the House. And it's why all that money is being spent on TV by both sides in the race between Democrat Jill Long Thompson and Republican Chris Chocola. Let's ponder some oft-asked questions. **Q.** Is all that TV working? **A.** Yes. The latest poll, with all the results elsewhere in the paper today, shows both candidates now have total name recognition. Not even Madelyne Toogood is better known. You can't do better than zero percent failing to recognize your name. **Q.** But are the negative TV spots taking a toll? **A.** Not as much as you would think from all the grumbling about the spots. Unfavorable recognition has gone up just a bit for each candidate. It could be that many voters are disregarding the negative attacks, figuring that each candidate is making some unfair claims and something other than the attack ads should be the basis for deciding. **Q.** So the race is still close? **A.** It's like a tie football game with a little over three minutes to play — in this case with a little over three weeks to campaign. Long Thompson leads in the latest poll by

a single percentage point. Thus, it's a dead heat, a statistical tie. **Q.** Is there a chance one or the other will pull away for a bigger win than expected? **A.** Of course. One team can score a couple touchdowns in three minutes. Not something you expect. But it can happen. And in a political race, sometimes for various reasons, often due to factors beyond control of the candidates, the bottom drops out for one side. Could happen. But right now it appears that this race will stay close to the end, with no decision known until very late on election night or even until the next day. ❖

Mike Fish, *Sports Illustrated* -

Judging from media accounts trumpeting his move just up the highway to NCAA headquarters, Indiana University president Myles Brand will go down as the man who oversaw the firing of Bobby Knight. And, hey, the image of a guy who stood up to the bully plays well in a lot of quarters. So with a fair number of college presidents looking to tone down big-time athletics and, heaven forbid, pushing academics first, you could argue Brand is a win-win choice to take over as president/CEO of the NCAA in January. But is the dragon slayer label legit? Is the 60-year-old Brooklyn-born philosopher the best person for the job? We have two answers for you: It depends on whom you ask. And only time will tell. All we know for certain is that if Brand truly is a reformer, then his first order of business ought to be ordering a pay cut for the NCAA boss (Stop the laughter, please). Here you have a guy earning \$307,000 in his current gig -- for overseeing a \$3.4 billion budget and eight campuses, including Bloomington -- about to replace Cedric Dempsey, whose package approaches \$750,000. ❖

TICKER T A P E

Columbus North High School graduate, said Wednesday. He called his father in Columbus, who told him: "You've got to keep on living life." Curry, a freelance writer and Washington correspondent for HPR, lives just blocks from the gas station where a woman was slain Oct. 3 by the area's elusive sniper (Indianapolis Star).

SCHOOL FUNDING TOP PRIORITY IN 2003 SAYS REED: Funding for the schools has to be our first priority." Those were the words of Indiana superintendent of public instruction Suellen Reed at a town meeting Tuesday night at Jefferson High School (Lafayette Journal & Courier). She led a discussion of education priorities that included parents, educators and local legislators. With the current state budget crisis, it was no surprise that funding for public schools was the most frequent topic of conversation. Reed said her goal is for the budget approved for the next biennium to include a 3 to 3.5 percent increase for education. That amount, she said, will allow schools to continue at this year's level. State Rep. Sue Scholer, R-West Lafayette, said that with the continued downturn in the national and state economies, the Legislature might not be able to grant even that. "I think that 3 percent will be difficult," Scholer said. "It is going to be a very tight year."

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