



War Republicans stay the course

Lugar, Daniels Pence not fleeing President Bush's War in Iraq

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

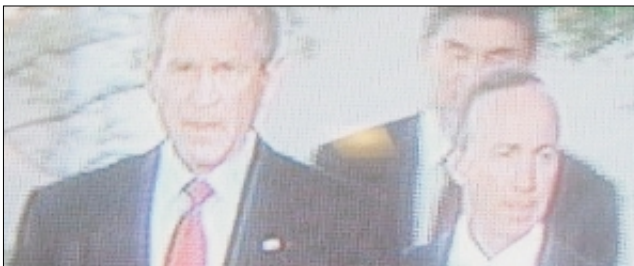
Indiana's top tier of the Republican establishment is refusing to cower in the face of a bloody and apparently unending war in Iraq and the deeply sagging poll numbers that come with it.

Not Sen. Dick Lugar. Not Gov. Mitch Daniels. Not U.S. Reps. Mike Pence, Mike Sodrel and Chris Chocola, the latter two who might pay the price of staying the course with their jobs this fall.

President Bush's job-approval rating slipped for the third consecutive month and remains near the lowest mark of his presidency, according to a new Harris Interactive poll. Thirty-five percent of 1,008 U.S. adults surveyed in the telephone poll think Bush is doing an "excellent or pretty good" job as president,

down from 36 percent in March and significantly lower than 43 percent in January. In the latest Gallup poll this week, Bush's approval was at 36 percent, and the generic congressional numbers stood at 52 percent Democratic and 42 percent Republican.

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Gov. Mitch Daniels with President (left) briefed President Bush, Secretaries Rumsfeld and Rice and Vice President Cheney at the White House Wednesday. Above, on Easter Sunday, Daniels swears in Indiana National Guardsmen in Baghdad.

Confessions of a 38 percenter

By J. CAMERON CARTER

Despite being a white male, I am a distinct minority these days: I am one of the roughly 38 percent of Americans who think President Bush is doing a reasonably good job of running the country and discharging his constitutional responsibilities. In the parlance of pollsters, I "approve" of the job he is doing, although that verb is hopelessly simplistic and disallows criticism, constructive or otherwise.

Further enshrining my minority status, I am one of the roughly 38 percent of Hoosiers who approve of the job Gov. Mitch Daniels is doing in tending to the affairs of Indiana (and here I am perfectly comfortable with the pollsters' pen-



"It's the only environment where knowledge and experience is held against you."

— Senate President Robert D. Garton, *Indianapolis Star*



chant for over-simplification and generalization). Do the Venn diagram on that.

Why in the world would I confess to disagreeing with nearly two in three Americans and Hoosiers? Are such heretical political views -- to paraphrase Rep. Pat Bauer -- "conceived in sin" and am I a political apostate? Today, for now, I am. Please allow me to confess a little bit of my political soul.

First, it is remarkable that both Bush and Daniels have almost identical job approval ratings given the set of factors for each. They are different.

In Bush's case, he is presiding over a generally healthy, expansionist economy, but his approval ratings are inextricably linked to Iraq, the war on terror and Middle East foreign policy (or "petro-politics" as my friends on the left often intone). In Daniels' case, the Hoosier economy lags national economic metrics despite focus and progress on the job creation and economic development front. Bush's popularity is pegged to foreign affairs, Daniels' interlocked with domestic Hoosier prosperity.

In Bush's case, he is in the second term of his presidency; he's been around, he's old hat, his leadership style (love it or hate it) is familiar. In Daniel's case, My Man Mitch is just getting started; he's only 15 months into his administration and -- let me go out on a limb here by predicting the outcome of the 2008 election -- it's only his first term. His leadership style is only now beginning to become familiar to Hoosiers.

And maybe therein lies the problem for both men and a potential explanation for the identical (low) poll numbers: leadership and style.

Both Bush and Daniels are leaders that remain unafraid to pursue with conviction their policy goals and allow the body politic to catch-up with them. They are change agents

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and change is unsettling, associated with risk and the unknown. Both Bush and Daniels demonstrate supreme confidence in themselves and their objectives. They evoke partisan rage not only by the policies they pursue, but by the manner in which they pursue them.

Bush's West Texas demeanor -- chin out, eyes up, arms akimbo -- drives my Democrat friends absolutely nuts. He could propose national healthcare, new environmental protections, an increase in the federal minimum wage, higher salaries for teachers, and blow up both NAFTA and CAFTA, but they'd be upset by the way he strode to the podium to make the announcement. Mitch Daniels' inability to suffer fools is equally grating to them; the governor's intellect and perceived "I know best" mentality turns them off and, in many instances, makes them spiteful. Ironically, they despise his folksy demeanor because it is a contrast to his intellectual prowess: a guy that smart (and, it remains unspoken, that

rich) can't possibly be as down-to-earth as his campaign commercials make him out to be.

Further confession: I am a 38-percenter because I appreciate real leadership, not the faux variety that we too often get from Hoosier politicians. Give it to me and even give it to me with a little attitude. Gimme a pol who will go out on a limb on the important stuff (Iraq, Hoosier jobs) over some stuffed shirt spouting focus-grouped, market-tested, middle-of-the-road drivel that he's trying to pass off as thoughtful, weighty political discourse.

Bush is leading the country in war-time against a determined, amorphous enemy unprecedented in the nuclear age. Despite missteps in Iraq (e.g., inadequate troop levels), his administration's forward-leaning and preemptive strategy is big, bold and not only important, but essential. Losing this one is not an option; losing the 2006 election is worth the risk to pursue this over-arch-



ing objective.

With Daniels, we had 16-plus years of feeble, go-along-to-get-along politics while the world's technological and economic underpinnings radically shifted and imperiled Hoosier jobs, income, families and, ultimately, quality of life. He campaigned in 2004 on a well-publicized platform of reform -- daylight-saving time, balancing the state budget, reorganizing state government to become more efficient -- to increase Hoosiers' chances for success in their individual pursuits. He promised a "freight train of change" and he's delivering across the board with institutional reforms, new personnel, new policies, and new means of financing public priorities

(e.g., Major Moves). To those who voted for him but are now disenchanted, did you think he was kidding?

Both Bush and Daniels have a lot of wood to chop on our behalf. Both are doing important, indeed, critical, work on our behalf. Both don't need the accolades -- or the crap -- that goes with the job. Both are true leaders willing to expend political capital to get the job done and both have personal idiosyncrasies that drive their opponents nuts.

They lead, but will we follow? The polls say "no," for now. It may be a matter of style and the fact that while we say we want real leadership, we truly may crave only the false comfort of the familiar. ❖

War Republicans, *from page 1*

Hoosier leaders delved deeply into war this past week, with Gov. Daniels spending Easter morning in Baghdad, where he re-enlisted 13 Indiana National Guardsmen to new six-year stints.

Hours later on ABC's *This Week* in an unprecedented appearance with Sen. Evan Bayh, Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar defended President Bush and his handling of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"For the time being, he has indicated Secretary Rumsfeld is going to be our secretary and that's the call," Lugar said. When host George Stephanopolous asked for his thoughts, Lugar responded, "Oh I think that's a good call. He has to think through how he's going to deal

with a number of foreign policy issues, including Iraq. Iran will be discussed in due course. Likewise, NATO and Afghanistan, the energy relationships, and, perhaps, beyond that with China, how we're going to bring the Russians and Chinese on board in the Security Council at the United Nations might work. This is a very large agenda and to be distracted presently by controversies that are historical and are important, and at the same time operational, would be a mistake."

Bush made it emphatically clear that Rumsfeld wasn't going anywhere. "I have strong confidence in Don Rumsfeld," Bush said. "I hear the voices, and I read the front page, and I know the speculation, but I'm the decider, and I decide what is best and what's best is for Don Rumsfeld to remain as the Secretary of Defense."

Lugar also urged "cooler heads" to prevail on the subject of troop withdrawals. "Cool it a little bit with regard to deadlines," said Lugar, who will seek a sixth term this fall.

"These are uncomfortable for Americans who are frustrated with the whole war. The polling shows the country is on the wrong track, the President's polling numbers are down. Cooler heads ought to prevail."

Pence said in an HPR Interview (See Page 5) "I believe that when we stand up an elected parliamentary government in Iraq, that that day will be a very bad day for Zarqawi and the insurgents. It will be seen as a day that is a tipping point for freedom. But it is very difficult to get to that day. I am very confident this commander-in-chief and our soldiers will achieve that."

Pence added, "There's no question we have made steady progress in a very difficult environment. The American military took down the conventional military forces of Saddam Hussein with record speed. it will be textbook study by military academies from around the world for years to come. But the reality is there was apparently no significant preparation for a long-term insurgency effort from elements within the country and outside that we've been encountering ever since. Working our way through it, making sure we stand with the Iraqi people so they can stay for themselves is, I think, is the only choice.

Pence recalled a conversation he had with an Indiana 8th grader, who asked, "Can we afford to win this war?"

Pence responded, "I looked back at this man and said, 'I'd like to pose the question back to your generation: Can we afford to lose this war?' When you think about the cost of precious American lives and resources, when you think of an Iraq that falls back into the hands of a Zarqawi and those who foment the insurgent effort, those costs are going to be astronomical."

The support of Bush from Indiana's congressional



Sens. Lugar and Bayh on ABC's *This Week* with George Stephanopolous. "There's no military answer in this," Bayh said. "There may be a political solution, so yes, I think we need to give them a hard deadline for making their political decisions." (HPR Photo)



delegation has not wavered, with the exception of U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, who voted against the war resolution in October 2002, but has held back on criticism of Bush since. Rep. Chocoma said on Dnyngus Day at the West Side Democratic Club, "I'm not going to change my position because of the popularity of the president, good or bad" (Wensits, *South Bend Tribune*). What criticism there has been of Bush from Pence and Hostettler has come on the issues of domestic spending and immigration.

It's as if the cues

President Bush gave at his National Cathedral speech on Sept. 14, 2001, ring fresh in their minds. Three days after the 9/11 attacks, Bush said, "Just three days removed from these events, Americans do not yet have the distance of history. But our responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks and rid the world of evil. War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder. This nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. This conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing. Our purpose as a nation is firm. Yet our wounds as a people are recent and unhealed, and lead us to pray.



"It is said that adversity introduces us to ourselves. This is true of a nation as well. In this trial, we have been reminded, and the world has seen, that our fellow Americans are generous and kind, resourceful and brave. Today, we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the warm courage of national unity."

On the war, Hoosier Republicans appear to be committed for the long haul, even as the national unity has broken down. On Easter Sunday, Bayh said, "Clearly, some transforming mistakes have been made, starting with Gen. Shinseki's comments which speak for themselves."

That was in reference to the Cobra II troop levels. In the book *"Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq,"* New York Times reporter Michael R. Gordon and Gen. Bernard E. Trainor reported that Brig. Gen. Steve Hawkins of the Army Corps of Engineers recommended between 350,00 and 500,000 troops to occupy and secure Iraq. CENTCOM generated similar numbers. "The U.S. and its allies needed to control major population centers, protect the country's infrastructure, control its borders, and provide post-war help," they reported.

Bayh explained, "We never had enough troops to secure that country. The plans for the aftermath which the State Department worked on and which my friend and colleague Sen. Lugar had hearings on were thrown away by the Pentagon. Dismissing the Iraqi army. When I was in Iraq two years ago, one of our top intelligence people told me, 'Things would be 100 percent better in Iraq today if we only had not sent the Iraqi army home.'

"This is about the President's decision-making and judgment. The contrast in my mind was to Abraham Lincoln during another conflict in our nation's history who changed commanders until he found the right team. He put loyalty to the Union, loyalty to the cause of liberty, ahead of other concerns. This President doesn't seem to be able to do that. That is not healthy to our country."

Bayh is not alone in that assessment. *New York Times* columnist Thomas L. Friedman wrote on Wednesday,

"As someone who believed -- and still believes -- in the importance of getting Iraq right, the level of incompetence that the Bush team has displayed in Iraq, and its refusal to acknowledge any mistakes or remove those who made them, make

it impossible to support this administration in any offensive military action against Iran."

Friedman added, "I look at the Bush national security officials much the same way I look at drunk drivers. I just want to take away their foreign policy licenses for the next three years."

Daniels -- whose own approval numbers are matching those of President Bush -- was having none of that kind of talk. But he focused on the individual soldiers, and not the policy makers in the ivory towers.

"I want to report back that they are demonstrating incredible competence and proficiency in all that they do, on a scale that is very hard to imagine if you haven't seen it," said Daniels, who was asked by President Bush to help assess the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan. "The president did see that we were briefed and asked us to come back to the White House where we had breakfast with him, Condi Rice, Secretary Rumsfeld and the vice president. We had about an hour's conversation about what we saw."

Daniels appeared to echo the goals of Rumsfeld, to modernize the U.S. military into a lean, fast-moving machine that is good at invasion, but finds occupation dicey. "Each of the Indiana units was performing an indispensable role," Daniels said. "The transformation of the American military is really proceeding.

"I asked every soldier about their outlook. I can tell you that unanimously they have a positive sense about their mission. They believe they are doing something important. One of them said to us, 'Our job is to bring hope.' Another said, 'I have two sons at home. These people would come and hurt them if they could. I'd rather fight them over here and I will come back if I get the chance.'"

"I got a couple of incredible privileges," Daniels said. "Spontaneously I was asked to swear in on two different occasions 13 guardsmen who decided to extend their enlistments. Even there in this situation and under these conditions, they decided they would serve further. I got the honor to administer the oath." ❖



Garton's aura of invincibility fades as social conservatives rear up

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

HOPE, Ind. - The word was sent out from the campaign of Senate President Robert D. Garton in March. Come down to Hope and see the senator's new re-election video, featuring a relaxed and smiling senator, meeting with the young and old, defender of the Hope BMV branch.

Problem was, the Hauser High School Jets were playing for the state basketball championship that day and, thus, the town was nearly empty.

What looked as if it was going to be a nervous, but ultimately successful re-election campaign for one of the most powerful men in Indiana government has faded into an aura of uncertainty.

The campaign of Columbus accountant Greg Walker has been a mostly clandestine effort. Garton held a 3-to-1 money advantage and some sources believe he is about to buy a thousand points of Indianapolis TV. His well-done ads are running on Columbus cable.

But what the finance reports don't show is the Indiana Right to Life endorsement and the 2,000 to 2,500 ironclad votes that could come with it. Eric Miller isn't returning phone calls, so the pulpit-oriented activities of his Advance America organization are speculative. But a seasoned observer might guess that there will be leaflets and sermons coming over the next two Sundays on Walker's behalf.

Right to Life and Advance America are upset because President Garton snuffed HB 1172 in the waning hours of the 2006 General Assembly. That bill provided that informed consent to an abortion includes the requirement that a physician inform a pregnant woman that a fetus may feel pain. Additionally, language was added to the bill in the House to state that life begins at conception and to require "written information about adoption alternatives and physical risks of an abortion procedure to be given to a pregnant woman at least 18 hours before an abortion" can be performed. As Advance America noted on its website, "Unfortunately much of the language was deleted in the Senate committee."

RTL PAC's Mike Fichter was incensed over Garton's role in killing the bill twice, in the final week after a secret paper ballot in the Majority Caucus, and in the final 15 minutes of the session. And, Garton refused to fill out RTL's candidate questionnaire.



Garton (left) and Walker

"The Indiana Senate has a 2-to-1 Republican margin, and yet it failed to pass HB 1172," Mike Fichter, executive director of Indiana Right to Life and chairman of its PAC, told HPR. "We see that as a failure of leadership due to Sen. Garton. Clearly, pro-life legislation was not a priority for him."

Fichter said that Indiana RTL has between 2,000 and 2,500 active members in SD41, which spans Bartholomew and Johnson counties. He called those "raw resources." Garton has been unopposed in recent primaries. In 1998, he received 11,930 votes and in 2002, he polled 10,106.

"We have assigned a staff person to this race," Fichter said. "Our people are fired up and ready to make a change. We have a razor-thin margin of time and money to work with."

This is the second potentially volcanic issue to confront the Garton campaign. The Senate President since 1980 was largely responsible for the controversial "health care for life" issue for legislators. Garton found himself in the media crosshairs when he refused to end that perk after House Speaker Brian Bosma did so last winter. Public opinion surveys in other races have shown that about 80 percent of those responding are outraged by the issue.

Walker told HPR, "The campaign has continued on well, and is gaining momentum. I have been encouraged by my efforts from door walking. I find a lot of people are receptive to my message of fiscal and moral conservatism." Walker has taken a leave of absence during April to campaign.

If Garton can find any solace, it's that the only earned media Walker has generated was a July 2003 letter to the editor in which he advocated public flogging. Walker said prison sentences are ineffective or detrimental to changing convicts' behavior. "All we're doing is criminalizing our citizens, who should rather be encouraged to change their behavior," Walker said. "Judges should have the discretion for alternative sentencing." He referred to a verse in the New American Bible, Proverbs 10:6, which reads, in part, that "the rod is for the back of a fool."

The *Columbus Republic* and *Johnson County Daily Journal* ran the story.

Garton's comments in the *Indianapolis Star* on Tuesday -- "It's the only environment where knowledge and experience is held against you" -- had an air of resignation to them akin to "The Last Hurrah."

If anyone had a good week in SD41, it is Democrat Terry Coriden, who awaits a flogged nominee to take on in what should be a good time to be a Democrat. ❖



Pence: It's at least 1982, but GOP could be facing it's own 1974

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - He's conservative. He's in a good mood about it, even when the mood of the Grand Old Party is testy and fearful of what voters may exact from the majority rulers in Washington and Indianapolis. HPR chatted with U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, anointed by the run-out-of-town-on-a-rail Tom DeLay, on the phone Tuesday evening, covering his leadership aspirations, fiscal discipline and that war in Iraq.

HPR: It seemed like a smart career move to take a pass on the Majority Leader position after DeLay resigned, given what I think is going to be a bad election for Congressional Republicans. Was that by design? What were your thoughts?

Pence: Candidly, that all happened very fast. Like most members of Congress were quite startled of the abrupt resolution of the charges against Jack Abramoff. Within days of that, to learn that Mr. DeLay was not going to stay and fight as he had committed to do ... it would be an overstatement to suggest we'd spent a great deal of time thinking about that decision. I was, frankly, hopeful Mr. DeLay would be completely exonerated in the Texas matter.

Ultimately when that decision arrived on our lap after the Christmas holiday with our family, we had found ourselves with one of the toughest decisions we've gone through since deciding to re-enter politics in 1999. That opportunity was not really front and center for us. Rather than spending a lot of time on the phone talking

with colleagues, a number of people were trying to reach us by phone, e-mail and office contacts, we really kept our own counsel. We talked as a family and among key advisers and we ultimately concluded that seeking that position at that time was not the best place to advance the values we came to Washington to advance. My passion is working on issues of



limited government, fiscal discipline, traditional values and I just felt I could do more good with all those things in the position of chairing the largest caucus in the House.

HPR: I have not seen a year shaping up like this one since 1994. Do you share a similar assessment of what is facing the Republican Party right now?

Pence: it's at least 1982.

HPR: OK.

Pence: Any political historian with your credentials can see the comparison. I am not yet convinced it's a '74 for our party or what was '94 for the Democratic Party. But it could be. Certainly many of the national trends are troubling to those of us who cherish Republican governance in Washington. It does feel to me like a time where there is widespread public concern about the course of governance in Washington. If we don't take dramatic steps to restore public

confidence, and moral integrity as a national legislature, it will be a very difficult for the GOP.

HPR: I remember Lee Hamilton's incredible speech in August 1994 at French Lick when he said that he thought there was a curtain that had descended between himself and his constituents at town hall meetings. Are you seeing that curtain?

Pence: Yes, I remember that. I'll have a better answer after this break ends. I have a good stretch of town hall meetings and public functions. Candidly, I have not felt the cur-

tain drop between me and my constituents. But I have observed a higher degree of angst with the President and with the overall Republican record than at any time in my short tenure in Congress.

HPR: I want to get to the war in a minute, but I am really hearing, from my Republican friends, and even my more apolitical friends a palpable disgust over what has been described as "drunken" spending by DC Republicans. President Bush has never vetoed a bill. Discretionary spending has surpassed that of LBJ's Great Society. These things are really starting to register. Are you hearing that?

Pence: It really is. At a town hall meeting it comes out with a phrase like, "When you look at the record of spending and deficits, there's not a dime's worth of difference between Republicans and Democrats anymore." That's what I hear from my constituents. I have been pushing so hard for budget discipline and reform and I sense that millions of Americans think we have lost our way when you consider our party's historic commitment to limited government and fiscal

"I am not convinced it's a '74 for our party or wat was '94 for the Democratic party. But it could be."



discipline. If we are no longer seen as the party of limited government and balanced budgets, we could lose our rationale for being a majority party. I have to think that 1994 was in large part because of a culmination of a large national debate or the size and scope of government. It crystallized during the 1980s and Newt Gingrich made it the national agenda in 1994. If people look at our record of doubling the national debt in the last five years, of nearly a doubling of the federal government role in our local schools, and the creation of the first new entitlement in the last 40 years, all of those things come together to argue against the historical identity of the Republican Party.

HPR: I find it shocking that the Republican Party is where it is. What is driving this, particularly with the President, who in many ways is very conservative but isn't on the spending front.

Pence: George Bush is conservative, but I don't think he's a conservative. I will never forget that I was one of the last guys to get off Dan Quayle's bandwagon in 1999 and I remember Dan Quayle said when we was running against George W. Bush, "Compassionate conservatism is just another phrase for big government Republicanism." It's awfully hard to look at the record of this administration with significant increases in domestic spending, records since the days of FDR, a significant expansion of entitlements and the federal role in education and not come to that conclusion. I admire this president personally. I frankly think he led the nation through one of our darkest days with personal courage and integrity and his policies contributed greatly to the economic expansion, but when it comes to a commitment to fiscal conservatism, it's hard to argue that's there.

HPR: It's almost as if there's a historical parallel between George W. Bush and Nelson Rockefeller. He's kind of got a foot in that wing of the party, a wing that I wasn't sure existed anymore.

Pence: There's no question when GHW Bush was running against Ronald Reagan in the 1980 primary, the Bush name represented something different from the Reagan name. It represented a certain Eastern Republicanism. That came into higher relief when in 1990, President Bush worked with the Democratic Congress to raise taxes. This president learned from his father the lessons about tax increases, but I think he is his father's son when it comes to domestic spending.

HPR: Let's assume the Wall Street Journal editorial -- "Minority Makers" -- last Thursday that your staff forwarded, comes to roost. What kind of opportunity do you think you'll be assessing by the end of this year?

Pence: You mean if we lose the majority in November?

HPR: Yes.

Pence: I am reasonably confident and profoundly hopeful that is not the case. I haven't given much thought to what role I might play in the future Congress. I do think it is to our advantage that up to this point, the opposition party in Congress has not offered any significant alternative agenda to what the Republican Party is offering. Their lack of a clear, credible alternative to this point gives me cautious optimism that if we burnish our commitment to fiscal discipline, if we bring about fundamental spending reforms and instill public confidence over the course of the year, I would expect the current leadership team to all be back in January of next year.

HPR: Last week, Tom DeLay anointed you and three others as potential leadership material. Gingrich came up with the "had enough" quote and those two statements signal to me as an analyst that things are heading in that direction. Did it surprise you to hear those two figures talk like that?

Pence: I've gotten to know Speaker Gingrich personally. Without a doubt a man who has a proven sense of the voice of the people when

"I remember (what) Dan Quayle said when he was running against George W. Bush: Compassionate conservatism is just another phrase for big government Republicanism."

it comes to the national legislature. He has been saying for years that our party better get back to to what we say in Indiana, dancing with who brung us. I'm not surprised to hear him voice that call. With regard to Mr. DeLay, since leaving the leadership, he's found a greater degree of freedom about where the Congress is. If our party leadership thinks that all politics is local and that the way to victory in 2006 is to focus on local issues in local elections, I really believe you can't beat a national trend without a national agenda. If survey after survey show that a majority of Americans have lost their confidence on our fiscal and moral integrity, then our Congress has to vigorously pursue and achieve reforms that restore public confidence. I think believing whether it's competitive races around Indiana or elsewhere, local issues will overcome a national mood for change is exactly the kind of wishful thinking that we cannot afford.

HPR: Let's talk about the war in Iraq. Many Republicans I know are deeply disturbed. They feel that the warnings Sen. Lugar conveyed in late 2002 and early 2003 that the post-invasion planning was inadequate has really come home to roost. What is your assessment?

Pence: I'll have a better idea in a couple of weeks.



I'm leading my fourth delegation since Iraqi Freedom. I remember distinctly Sen. Lugar's challenge about post-war planning. Once again, Dick Lugar was right. There is certainly evidence that some of the decisions, including the dismantling of the Iraqi military in its entirety, were ill-considered given the tenacity and strength of what became the insurgent effort of today. In my experience over there, what I have found in meeting with the soldiers has been an extraordinary group of men and women who, day in and day out, achieve missions, security and benchmarks that are all measurable. The confront the enemy and defeat the enemy when we encounter them. We're standing up an Iraqi military and security forces. We're on track to have some 200,000 in uniform this year. We've had three successful national elections and while we are all growing impatient over the lack of a national government, I think the American soldiers have created the conditions where that will occur. I believe that when we stand up an elected parliamentary government in Iraq, that that day will be a very bad day for

Zarqawi and the insurgents. It will be seen as a day

that is a tipping point for freedom. But it is very difficult to get to that day. I am very confident this commander-in-chief and our soldiers will achieve that.

HPR: It appears to me that when you or Gov. Daniels or Sen. Lugar go to Iraq for a day or so, how can you really get a feel for what's really happening on the street? It's not like Saigon where you could actually go out and talk to people without fearing for your life. How do you know you're just not being spoon fed the official line?

Pence: It is something I've concerned myself with greatly. This is the third trip I've led. When you lead a delegation and organize a delegation, you have a great deal more control over the schedule. What I tell the people on the trips I lead, I like to get out with the soldiers. Our last trip on Labor Day, we were in the country for about 27 hours. We were awake for about 23 of those hours. We flew in on C-130, sitting on boxes with Marines shipping in. We went out to the Iranian border. We flew into Ramadi. You do get the half hour Power Point from the commanders on the base, but I insist on at that point, we go meet with the soldiers, the rank and file. I'm also real big on grabbing a tray in the mess hall, shaking off the brass, and going down and sitting with the soldiers. They don't know who I am and I don't know who they are. Just picking their brains. I've just never heard a soldier who doesn't believe in the mission. I've put on my old radio interviewer half. Look to the right, look to the left. There's nobody with stars and bars on their shoulders. I'll say, "Are we doing the right thing here? Tell me now. I won't quote you." Every single of the men and women I talk to always get a little bit incredulous with me. I'll never forget a guy named Dave

Newland from Washington, Indiana, with the 3rd Infantry. He said, "Sir, we work this enemy every day. These guys kill Americans because they like it. We've got to stop these people right here." That's what I hear over and over. It's much more valuable than sitting in CENTCOM along with 15 generals. You're sitting with them at a card table with the 2038 Signal Battalion from Anderson, Indiana, who sleep in a cinder block building surrounded by sandbags and you get a real picture of what's happening.

HPR: The Israelis never lost a battle to Hamas. But the suicide bombing campaign ultimately forced them out of the Gaza Strip. It's a similar situation in Baghdad. They are fighting with Lugar calls an "assymetrical war." You were over there a year ago and came back and said that oil production was up, as well as electricity and water, and it was, in fact, declining. How do you sort all that out?

Pence: There's no question we have made steady progress in a very difficult environment. The American military

"I am very confident in this commander-in-chief and our soldiers..."

took down the conventional military forces of Saddam Hussein with record speed. it will be textbook study by military academies from around the world for years to come. But the reality is there was apparently significant preparation for a long-term insurgency effort from elements within the country and outside that we've been encountering ever since. Working our way through it, making sure we stand with the Iraqi people so they can stay for themselves is, I think, is the only choice. I had an 8th grader ask me the other day in Indiana. Can we afford to win this war. I looked back at this young man and said, "I'd like to pose the question back to your generation: Can we afford to lose this war?" When you think about the cost of precious American lives and resources, when you think of an Iraq that falls back into the hands of a Zarqawi and those who foment the insurgent effort, those costs are going to be astronomical.

HPR: It's been 30 years since President Nixon said we must end our dependency on foreign oil. Now we have oil production falling in Iraq, and Nigeria and Saudi Arabia under terror threats, along with the situation in Iran. This is bringing about \$3 and maybe \$4 a gallon gas. Put that in perspective.

Pence: Just in the last 48 hours seeing that \$70 a barrel and the instability in Iran and across the Arab world should be a real wakeup call. We need to make a serious commitment to achieving energy independence in this generation. The truth is, there are those of us who want to do it by expanding domestic production don't have the whole answer. And those who want to increase conservation and alternative fuels don't have the whole answer. But the combination of the two is the whole answer. ❖



Time on the road pays off as Sen. Bayh banks \$10 million

By MARK CURRY

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Good news for Sen. Evan Bayh: After several months of relentless touring and fund raising, he has about \$10 million in the Senate campaign account which can be applied to a run for the White House should he so choose.

The bad news? It may take up to 10 times that amount just to be considered a serious contender in the primaries, though some strategists say a challenger with "only" \$35 to \$50 million to spend could win the nomination if early primary victories attracted new donors.

The national election may be more than 30 months away, but the 2008 presidential contest is already shaping up to be the most expensive ever.

\$100 Million Entry Fee?

"There is a growing sense that there is going to be a \$100 million entry fee at the end of 2007 to be considered a serious candidate," Michael E. Toner, the chairman of the Federal Election Commission, recently told the Washington Post. The newspaper notes that many analysts believe each major-party candidate will need to raise in excess of \$400 million before it's all over.

By all measures, the senator is a fund raising success. As noted in the Post, Bayh has devoted more time with donors than any other 2008 candidate, and the \$1 million in his All America PAC account combined with the Senate campaign funds puts him ahead of most of the competition. Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) is said to have \$13 million leftover from the 2004 election, but the most notable exception is New York Sen. Hillary Clinton, who dominates both fellow Democrats and also the Republicans with a bank book showing \$18 million cash on hand.

Doug Muzzio of Baruch College explained to the New York Daily News that Clinton's eye-popping achievements not only

demonstrate she can raise money but that she is an outstanding organizer as well.

"She's sending a message to the Mark Warners, the Evan Bayhs, that she's going to be extremely powerful," said Muzzio.

Former Virginia Gov. Mark R. Warner, who made a fortune as co-founder of Nextel, reportedly has more than \$3 million. He raised almost two-thirds of that amount in the first quarter of this year, compared with Bayh's \$400,000. Among other Democratic contenders, Sen. Joseph R. Biden of Delaware reports \$2.7 million on hand.

Sen. George Allen of Virginia leads the Republicans with \$7.2 million, Sen. John McCain reports about \$3 million and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani claims almost \$300,000.

Hot On The Trail

Indiana's junior senator and former governor continues to zip around the country from one event to the next. Tomorrow Bayh headlines a \$500-a-plate dinner in Tampa, Fla., hosted by Democratic consultant Bob Buckhorn. April 29 he will be keynote speaker at the North Carolina Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson celebration.

On Monday, All America PAC announced the senator will be in Indianapolis to speak at the Camp Bayh campaign

training program May 12-14, a three-day seminar featuring "national and local political professionals teaching the nuts and bolts of organizing winning campaigns," according to a news release. Similar programs are scheduled for Evansville, May 19-21, and South Bend, July 7-9.

The camp is organized by Grassroots Solutions, a group of political consultants who, according to their website, help build "sustainable volunteer-based grassroots programs." For \$40 to cover materials and meals, as many as 100 participants may follow one of three tracks including "Management for Political Veterans/Party Leaders," "Intro to Management for Future Paid Professionals" and "How to be a Better Candidate."



Iowa democrats chat with Indiana's Sen. Evan Bayh during a February visit. Bayh has spent more time on the road working to raise cash than any other 2008 presidential contender, the Washington Post reports. Tomorrow he headlines a \$500-a-plate dinner in Tampa, Fla. (Bayh Flickr Photo)



As noted by Maureen Groppe of the *Indianapolis Star*, the program will help place and pay for graduates in campaigns in Indiana and other states.

Red, Blue & Purple

Understanding Hoosiers may be the key to Democrat's success in the 2008 elections, according to Paul Nussbaum of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

A Democrat who understands the pragmatic sensibilities of Indiana may be able to appeal to red-state voters elsewhere, he writes. Evan Bayh, of course, happens to fit the bill.

"If the voters know you and trust you, they'll vote for you regardless of the party," Bayh told Nussbaum. "People in Indiana care about practical things...they want to know, 'How does this affect my life?'"

* * *

MORE BAYH REMARKS ON ABC's *THIS WEEK*:

Bayh said, "There's no question we have to put the pressure on the Iraqi leadership. They had an election four or five

months ago and they still don't have a government. That is totally unacceptable. Their country is teetering on the brink of chaos and they are still dithering, unable to make the hard decisions they have to make to make a go of it. So we have to put the pressure on them."

Bayh said a top commander in January told him, "There's no military answer in this. There may be a political solution, so yes, I think we need to give them a hard deadline for making their political decisions. If they don't do that, there's nothing we can do to help them. By focusing on the security solution, perhaps we can avoid the chaos of a civil war." Asked if this was a personal policy shift, Bayh said, "This is a timeline for making the political decision." He said a deadline for troop withdrawal "needs to be a private discussion" with Iraqi leaders. "If you don't make the hard political decisions, we are going to leave at a time and manner that is most convenient for us. Circle a date on the calendar publicly you say to our adversaries as well there's a date they can hang in there as well." ❖



Reports from the Ground HPR Pre-Primary Election Briefing

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 25

Columbia Club, Indianapolis

Buffet lunch, \$30

E-mail reservations: jackhowey@howeypolitics.com

featuring

Brian A. Howey, HPR

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune

Matthew Tully, Indianapolis Star

Daniel Przybyla, LaPorte Herald-Argus

Dave Kitchell, Logansport Pharos-Tribune



Lou Jacobson, *Roll Call* - In 2004, Daniels won a governorship the Democrats had controlled since 1988. The former director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Bush came in promising change - and boy, has he provided it. "He's done everything he's promised to do and gotten in trouble with voters for it," said Ed Feigenbaum, who publishes a political newsletter in Indianapolis. In the past two SurveyUSA polls, Daniels' approval ratings dropped 5 percent. At the root of his difficulties are several issues overlain with a degree of emotional resonance incomprehensible to anyone outside the Hoosier State. First and foremost, Daniels waded into the head-spinning issue of rationalizing time. For generations, most, but not all, of the state had opted out of daylight-saving time. Then, at Daniels' urging, the Legislature narrowly made daylight-saving time mandatory statewide beginning this month. The decision ruffled many feathers and left the state with a time zone map that, arguably, is still irrational. Some of the residual anger has found its way towards Daniels. Separately, Daniels closed numerous Bureau of Motor Vehicles offices, especially in rural areas - a move long blocked by small communities that valued their piece of the state bureaucracy. The closings, accomplished administratively while the Legislature wasn't in session, earned Daniels the enmity of many Hoosiers in small towns and rural areas - the lifeblood of the Indiana GOP. The hot issue in recent months has been the lease of state toll roads, a fight won by Daniels by just one vote in the House on the last night of the session. The problem is not an expected hike in tolls, but rather concerns about the length of the lease (75 years), the secrecy that surrounded the bidding process, the fact that a foreign company will now control state infrastructure and the complexities of geographical and partisan politics. There is a method to Daniels' madness: He seems willing to sacrifice short-term political pain for longer-term gain. "He's convinced he's doing the structural things that it will take to reposition the state for the 21st Century, and the politics be damned," said Brian Howey, who publishes the *Howey Political Report*, a newsletter based in Indianapolis. "He feels that in the long run, people will put it all into its proper context." ❖

Joshua Claybourn, www.howeypolitics.com - The Republican majority in Congress is struggling, and their woes keep getting worse. According to the latest Gallup poll public approval of the job Congress is doing has dipped to its lowest level of 2006 of "is now the worst Gallup has recorded since the closing days of the Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994." Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said the obvious over the weekend when he said Republicans are "in very serious danger of having a very bad election this fall." But what's to blame? While Gingrich cited a number of factors for the GOP's dire situation, one

was Americans losing patience with out-of-control spending. Indeed, the spending by President Bush has rivaled that of any modern president. A study last fall by the American Enterprise Institute calculated President Bush has boosted total inflation-adjusted discretionary spending in his first term by 35.1 percent. To put that in context, Lyndon Johnson - widely view as the biggest spender in modern times - only boosted discretionary spending 33.4 percent. ❖

Bill Moor, *South Bend Tribune* - My buddy Ken and his wife, Judy, went to one of the Silver Hawks games last week. Joe Kernan, the friendly face and hometown hero behind the new ownership, not only thanked them once, but twice, for coming to the game. First, the former governor greeted them in their seats down the left-field line. Then when they were walking through the parking lot after the game, Joe pulled up beside them in his car and thanked them again for coming. "He was almost like a Wal-Mart greeter," Ken said. ❖

Morton Marcus, *syndicated* - Recently the U.S. Census Bureau released 2004 data showing that Indiana had 264,936 persons of Hispanic origin among its 6,058,930 population. That would mean that 4.37% of Hoosiers, themselves or their ancestors, came from Mexico, Cuba, Columbia, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Panama, Chile and other "Latin" nations. What would I do about the "immigration problem?" I would declare that no problem exists. Make it legal for all persons to enter this country as long as they are documented. Those who failed to pick up such documentation in the past would be given six months to do. "Won't all these immigrants take jobs from Americans?" No. They will help our country grow and keep jobs from going abroad. "But they don't learn our language and become real Americans." False, that applies only to a part of the first generation and only if they remain concentrated. My Hungarian grandfather learned English because he had to when he moved to a small enclave of Hungarian miners in Virginia. He died a Mason, a former bootlegger, and a true American. ❖

Rich James, *Post-Tribune* - In October 2004, Robert A. Pastrick was still mayor of East Chicago. And Pastrick's lifelong nemesis, Stephen R. Stiglich, was Lake County Democratic chairman. In Gary, Scott King was still in the first year of his third term as mayor. In Indianapolis, Democrat Joe Kernan was still governor, although he was a month away from losing to Mitch Daniels. Fifteen months later, they are all gone — marking the most dramatic power shift in the history of the Lake County Democratic Party. In late October 2004, Pastrick lost a court-ordered special mayoral election to George Pabey, who has taken such a low profile it's easy to forget Pastrick's no longer mayor. ❖



After immigration rallies, Hoosier Latinos look to the fall elections

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Earlier this week in South Bend, the traditional Dyngus Day festivities offered an indication that Latino voters may be able to increase their clout in Indiana. For the first time, one of the Dyngus events focused on the Hispanic community.

Of the 300 to 500 people in attendance on Monday at St. Adalbert Church on the west side of South Bend, approximately half were Hispanic, according to Joe Donnelly, a Democratic candidate for the 2nd CD congressional seat who spoke to the group.

Voter registration tables were set up and placards reading "Your Vote is Your Voice" and "Your Voice is Your Power" adorned the walls.

"That stop was a sign of the growing Latino presence in our district and in our state," said Donnelly. "The Hispanic community traditionally has not voted as heavily as some other groups."

But recent controversy over immigration bills in Congress and massive rallies last week across the country in support of giving the nearly 12 million illegal immigrants working in America an opportunity to become citizens may inspire political fervor among Hispanics.

About 20,000 attended a rally in Indianapolis on April 10. In South Bend, approximately 3,000 people attended rallies. Now the focus is turning to November elections.

"The Latino votes are going to be very important this fall," said Rosa Gerra, executive director of United Hispanic Americans Inc., which is based in Fort Wayne. "There's going to be a push for registration after the primaries."

Latino voters who have not showed up at the polls in the past may now be motivated. "They realize it's the politicians who make the decisions," said Gerra. "It's who you put in and who you put out."

A group in Indianapolis, the Central Indiana Coalition for Immigrant Justice, also is planning a voter registration effort. The Rev. Tom Fox, a Franciscan priest working on Latino outreach in the Catholic Archdiocese of Indianapolis, estimates that there may be 80,000 Hispanics in the state who have not yet signed onto the voting rolls.

Most Hoosier pols back House bill

The coalition is still in the early stages of political organizing, but Fox already has one Hoosier politician in mind who may be a target of Latino backlash -- 8th CD GOP Rep.

John Hostettler.

Hostettler voted in favor a House bill in December that focused only on increasing border enforcement and cracking down on the hiring of undocumented workers, a measure that opponents says is too harsh. A bill may emerge in the Senate the includes provisions to give illegal immigrants a path toward citizenship.

Hostettler has used his perch as chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee on border security to rail against illegal immigration. After the April 10 rallies, he expressed disappointment that illegal immigrants among the marchers weren't detained by federal officials.

"We're hoping we might be able to mobilize some people in his area," said Fox.

But in southern Indiana congressional races, as well as the rest of the state, Latino voters may not have a place to turn. Only Reps. Julia Carson (D) and Mark Souder (R) voted against the House immigration bill. Hostettler's likely Democratic opponent, Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth, also supports the House measure.

"It is a border security problem, an economic security problem and it's becoming a big problem in the war on drugs," said Jay Howser, Ellsworth's campaign manager.

In the 9th CD, GOP incumbent Rep. Mike Sodrel voted in favor of the House immigration bill. His likely opponent, former Democratic Rep. Baron Hill, does not mention immigration on his campaign Web site. Neither he nor a spokesman was available

for comment.

In the other potentially close House race, the 2nd CD, incumbent GOP Rep. Chris Chocola supports the House bill. Donnelly lays out a carefully constructed position on immigration, indicating that he is waiting to see what emerges from the Senate.

"We have to have safe and secure borders, everything else flows from that," said Donnelly. "I'm not opposed to the House bill in any way. We have to figure out a way to deal with the 11 million (illegal immigrants) who are here. I don't have the answers."

Latino numbers low in Indiana

Neither the Ellsworth or Sodrel campaigns said they have noticed much of a Latino presence at their events. Only four southern Indiana counties--Bartholomew, Jackson, Daviess and Dubois -- have an Hispanic population between 2 and 3 percent, according to the 2000 census. The population in Marion County is between 4 and 6 percent. The counties with the most Hispanics are Clinton, Cass, Noble, Elkhart and Lake. Northern Indiana has several counties that are in the 4 to 6 percent range. ❖



A protester in Indianapolis. (Photo by A. Walker Shaw)



How will health care for life play?

TRENDLINE NO. 1: The \$64,000 question is how potent is the legislator health care for life issue going to play in these key races: Garton vs. Walker; Lawson vs. Tabacynski; McClain vs. Eller; Wissel vs. Paul; Bottorff vs. Stemler; and Budak vs. Dermody? It could be the 11th hour deal breaker.

2006 Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. Democrat: Ed Cohen, Joe Donnelly.

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. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race

84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** Chocola reported more than \$1.4 million on hand. On Dyngus Day at the West Side Democratic Club Chocola made an obligatory appearance at the West Side Democratic & Civic Club. Chocola chatted with attendees and took time to speculate a bit with a reporter on whether the Toll Road lease and time zone issues and the declining popularity of the president will hurt his chances in November ("Time will tell." and "It could.") (Wensits, *South Bend Tribune*). "I can only focus on what I control," Chocola said. Whether voters will blame Chocola for the switch to daylight-saving time and the Toll Road lease isn't clear, but Donnelly brought the issues up frequently while predicting at various stops that he will unseat Chocola in November. Donnelly also told the throngs that if they liked \$3-a-gallon gasoline, "Chris Chocola is your man." **Status:** *Leans Chocola*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Ron Franklin, Eric Dickerson. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Bob Hidalgo, Kris Kiser, Joseph "Hippie Joe" Stockett.

Geography: Indianapolis. Media Market: Indianapolis.



People: Urban 99.7%; median income \$36,522; poverty 13.5%; race white 63, black 29.4%, Hispanic 4.4%, Asian 1.3%; blue/white collar 26/58%; **2000 Presidential:** Gore 55%, Bush 43%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** D+6. **2002 Results:** Carson 77,478 (53%), McVey 64,379 (44%). **2004 Results:** Carson 121,303, Horning (R) 97,491, Campbell (L) 4,381. **2006 Forecast:** Openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank campaigned for Carson, blunting Kiser's efforts. Franklin says comments made in a recent interview about gays and some individuals on disability are being taken out of context (*Abdul in the Morning, WXNT-AM*). In an interview conducted last month, Franklin was asked about gay rights and social security. On the gay rights issue, Franklin says the city county council was wrong to pass the human rights ordinance. He says marriage should be between a man and a woman, however he concludes the interview by saying "he likes it better when they [gays] kept it in the closet." Franklin says he knew he was being set up by his opponents so he gave answers that weren't to be taken seriously. He blames the entire matter on the Eric Dickerson campaign, which he says has tried to use a number of dirty tricks to derail his campaign. Already the two sides are hinting at legal action against each other over the interview. **Primary Status:** *SAFE CARSON; LEANS DICKERSON.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **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. **Media** **Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** In data released Monday by the FEC, Ellsworth received more than \$151,621 from Evansville-area donors, defined as Vanderburgh, Posey and Warrick counties. Hostettler received \$14,250. Overall, Ellsworth has been raising more early money than Hostettler, the incumbent who has always been a reluctant fundraiser. "(Hostettler) hates to ask people for money," Karen Hammonds, the 8th District representative's sister and campaign spokeswoman, said last month. At the end of the year, Ellsworth had about \$370,700 on hand; Hostettler had almost



\$36,600. **Status:** TOSS-UP

2006 State Races

Senate District 23: Republican: Hendricks County Councilman Dick Thompson, Susan McGrady, Phil Boots, James Detamore. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Harrison (R) 21,175 Shelby (D) 11,436. **2002 Results:** Harrison 23,811. **2006 Forecast:** Thompson received the Indiana Right to Life PAC endorsement and we believe he's the man to beat. **Status:** *LEANS THOMPSON.*

Senate District 26: Republican: Andrew Phipps. Democrat: Sue Errington, Lewis Colter, Steven Graves. **1998 Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,824, Wenger (R) 13,414. **2002 Democratic Primary Results:** Craycraft 9,653. Dixon 2,288. **2002 General Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,939, Phipps (R) 16,330. **2006 Forecast:** Errington, a former Planned Parenthood executive, raising \$25,811 so far, and spending \$8,294. Coulter, a bar and restaurant owner, raised \$12,805, but spent more than Errington with \$8,936. And Graves, executive director of the Indiana Fireworks Association, raised \$9,085 and spent \$4,283. Phipps -- who lost to Craycraft in the 2002 general election -- has raised \$6,692 to date, and still carries a \$24,400 debt from his 2002 campaign. He expects to raise \$100,000 this year, for what he calls "the most contested non-incumbent race in the state." **Democratic Primary Status:** *LEANS ERRINGTON.*

Senate District 27: Republican: State Sen. Allen Paul, Richmond City Council President Bruce Wissel. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Paul 22,679. 2002 Results: Paul 22,841. **2006 Forecast:** Paul was endorsed by the Indiana Right to Life PAC. Paul is expected to run strongly in Jay and Randolph counties. The key question is whether Wissel can roll up a big plurality in Richmond and Wayne County. **Status:** *LEANS PAUL*

Senate District 49: Republican: Posey County Councilman George Postlethweight. Democrat: Posey County Councilman Bob Deig, Paul Swanson, Kevin Winterheimer. **2002 Results:** Lutz (D) 21,891, Alvey (Socialist write-in) 590. **2006 Forecast:** Bob Deig, a facilities manager for Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library and a Posey County councilman, raised the most, \$10,396, for the period of January through April 7, including a contribution from himself for \$2,690. He spent \$8,253 and has \$2,251 on hand. Paul Swanson, a Mount Vernon High School teacher, reported more on hand at the end of the period - \$3,154 - but raised only \$5,010. His largest donation was \$1,000 from the Southwestern Indiana PAC. Kevin Winterheimer, an attorney who represents the city of Evansville, raised \$7,445 and had \$1,723 left in his campaign coffers at the end of the period. He netted several \$500 donations from individuals. The lone

Republican seeking the seat, George Postlethweight, had \$1,212 set aside at the end of the reporting period. **Primary Status:** *LEANS DEIG.*

Senate District 41: Republican: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. 2002 Results: Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** Garton has raised \$71,302 since January to add to the \$216,716 he had in his campaign chest. He's spent less than half of that so far, leaving him with \$167,381. Walker has raised \$26,285 and had \$8,462 left (*Indianapolis Star*). His biggest contribution was \$15,000 from an Indiana nonunion construction political action committee. Both candidates reported spending money with media firms, signaling that in the final days voters will hear radio ads and might see cable television spots. We see this as a pool of between 10,000 and 11,000 votes. Walker seemed to have that moment of clarity - I can pull off this upset - this past week before the flogging story came out. He would have been in better shape had he started his campaign six months ago, instead of six weeks ago. It's easy to see Walker using his Right to Life, Right to Work and home schooling network support to get in the 4,000 vote range. The critical question is, how will he exploit the legislator lifetime health care issue to get those additional 2,000 votes needed for the upset? That has the potential of blowing Garton and any other legislator out of the water. Garton thought that polling conducted by Bill Schneider last year was "pushed." But it was information on health care and taxes that were vital to a challenger. As one veteran observer told us, "If those issues turn this election, there's nothing Bob Garton can do about it now." Our sense is, at this point, this race has tightened up and we could see it going either way. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP*

House District 1: Republican: Open. Democrat: State Rep. Linda Lawson, Lake County Councilman Ron Tabacynski. **2002 Results:** Lawson 5,867, Myra Rosenbloom (R) 3,012. **2004 Democratic Primary:** Lawson 2,963, Pucalik 2,684. **2004 Results:** Lawson, 11,926, Baffa (R) 7,820. **2006 Forecast:** Lawson has survived in the last primary dogfight, but she's taking on a former legislator this time. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 12: Republican: Open. Democrat: Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez, Mara Candeleria Reardon, Hilda Rodriguez. **2004 Results:** Aguilera 11,485, Fagen (R) 9,749, Brickman (L) 527. 2004 Democratic Primary Results: Aguilera 2,920, Lopez-Rodriguez 2,784. **2006 Forecast:** This comes down to Lopez-Rodriguez and Rep. Aguilera's candidate, Reardon. Aguilera needs this victory to position himself for a stab at East Chicago Mayor Pabey in 2007. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 15: Republican: State Rep. Don Lehe, Art Anderson. Democrat: Newton County Sheriff Myron Sutton, John Anthony Malan. **2002 Results:** Lehe 9,975,



Baranowski (D) 5,641. **2004 Results:** Lehe 16,623, Childress (D) 8,153, Bell (L) 565. **2006 Forecast:** This could go either way, but if we had to put money on it, we think Lehe gets the nomination and a real fight in November. **Primary Status:** *LEANS LEHE*

House District 20: Republican: State Rep. Mary Kay Budak, LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: LaPorte City Councilman Andrea Renner. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. **2004 Results:** Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** Gov. Daniels will campaign for Budak tonight in LaPorte. Asked why he was campaigning for Budak, Daniels said, "She asked me to. She voted for a lot of the reform agenda. I think she's a hard working, effective member. I was happy to say yes." Budak's finance report shows only \$2,750 raised, none of which came from her district. Budak's four contributors included Local 150 Union (\$400), Eli Lilly (\$1,000), ISNA-Nurse PAC (\$350) and Sen. Vaneta Becker (\$1,000). **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP*

House District 24: Republican: State Rep. Richard McClain, Cass County Commissioner Rick Eller. Democrat: Open. **2004 Results:** McClain 14,825, Southern (D) 7,089. **2004 Results:** Walorski 13,753, Kaser (D) 7,737. **2006 Forecast:** Indiana Right to Life endorsed McClain. **Primary Status:** *LEANS McCLAIN*

House District 57: Republican: Shelbyville Councilman Rob Nolley, Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart, Edward Dundas, Karen Frazier, Marvin Pavlov. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004. **2006 Forecast:** This is a pure tossup between Nolley and Eberhart. Nolley voted for the Shelbyville smoking ban this past week. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP*

House District 58: Republican: State Rep. Woody Burton, Johnson County Council President Ron West. **2002 Results:** Burton 9,917, Montgomery (D) 3,453, Miller (L) 437. **2004 Results:** Burton 18,766, Turley (D) 7,420. **2006 Forecast:** Burton appears to be in decent shape, unless a huge anti-incumbency wave materializes. **Status:** *LIKELY BURTON.*

House District 69: Republican: Billy Bright, Brent Mullikin. Democrat: Dave Cheatham. **2002 Results:** Lytle 9,777, Newell 7,678. **2004 Results:** Bright 12,639, Lytle 11,018. **2006 Forecast:** Bright easily wins the primary against his gay opponent. The race against Cheatham is an entirely different matter. **Primary Status:** *SAFE BRIGHT.*

House District 71: Republican: Greg Marquart, Joe Theobald. Democrat: State Rep. Carlene Bottorff, Steven Stemler, James McClure Jr. **2002 Results:** Bottorff (D) 9,385, Singleton (R) 5,388. **2004 Results:** Bottorff (D) 17,949. **2006 Forecast:** We believe name ID will give Bottorff the pri-

mary win. **Primary Status:** *LEANS BOTTORFF; LEANS THEOBALD*

House District 78: Republican: State Rep. Suzanne Crouch; Alcoa mechanical engineer Jonathan Fulton. Democrat: Open. **2004 General Results:** Becker (R) 28,261. **2005 Primary Results:** Becker 3,429, Jonathan A.(Jon) Fulton 1,708. **2006 Forecast:** An otherwise polite, orderly candidates' forum heated up fast Wednesday when Crouch said her record deliberately is being distorted. The tempest began when Republican activist Connie Carrier asked Fulton to elaborate on a charge he leveled in a letter sent to voters days ago. "As you know, the General Assembly secretly voted to give lifetime healthcare benefits to themselves, their spouses and dependents," the letter states. The words, "lifetime healthcare benefits" are italicized, and the entire sentence is underlined. "To be fair, Rep. Crouch was not up there when that was done - but she has not passed or sponsored legislation to withdraw it, which should be done, and I will do that, as stated in my letter," he said. Crouch told the audience that she finds deceptive tactics by candidates "very distressing." "... When people, candidates, distort the truth and put something out there to try to make the public think that someone that they're running against has done something ... I find that very distressing ... because so many times the public doesn't really know the truth, and a lot of times those people that are attacked don't have the opportunity to explain and defend it," she said. Indiana Right to Life PAC endorsed Crouch (Evansville Courier & Press). The race has come down to each candidate claiming to be the true conservative, so the anti-abortion group's endorsement could carry significant impact. RTL's Mike Fichter said in the statement that the group opted for Crouch because she voted for two bills the group backed in the 2005 session. "We strongly encourage pro-life voters in Rep. Crouch's district to show their appreciation by voting for her at the polls," Fichter said. Fulton said, "Definitely I'm disappointed, but I'm not discouraged," Fulton said. Crouch raised \$10,960 for the period, bringing her total cash reserve to \$71,840. Crouch registered several contributions of \$500 or more from political action committees and individuals. Her primary opponent, Jon Fulton, raised \$16,703 over the same period and had \$6,107 on hand. Fulton gave \$4,337 of his own money to his campaign, according to the report. We believe the RTL endorsement clinches this nomination for Crouch. **Primary Status:** *LIKELY CROUCH.*

House District 80: Republican: Kevin Howell. Democrat: Phil GiaQuinta, Geoff Paddock. **2004 Results:** Ben GiaQuinta (D) 9,767, Howell (R) 5,397. **2006 Forecast:** We give GiaQuinta the edge in this one because of name ID. The GiaQuinta name in Fort Wayne is powerful tonic. **Primary Status:** *LEANS PHIL GIAQUINTA ❖*



State yet to approve voting systems in 47 counties

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Election Commission informed 47 Indiana counties Wednesday that new MicroVote Infinity machines contain uncertified software, meaning they cannot legally be used in the May 2 primary election (Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Of those counties, 22 depend solely on the Infinity system, including Adams, Kosciusko, Wells and Whitley counties. The other 25 counties, including Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Noble and Wabash, bought the Infinity system to meet accessibility requirements for voters with disabilities but are relying on certified MicroVote 464 machines as their primary voting system



Cheney coming to Indianapolis Friday

INDIANAPOLIS - Vice President Cheney plans a brief visit to Indianapolis on Friday to attend a private fundraiser for the Republican National Committee (*Associated Press*). RNC spokeswoman Ann Marie Hauser declined to provide further details except that the event was closed to the media. However, Cheney was expected to arrive at Indianapolis International Airport in the late morning and an invitation said the event was an 11 a.m. luncheon at the Columbia Club on Monument Circle. Gov. Mitch Daniels said he understood that there was to be an informal discussion among a small group of people at the event to be followed by a larger number of people attending the luncheon. "He's coming at the request and for the benefit of the Republican National Committee,"

Daniels told reporters at the Statehouse after returning from a visit to the Mideast. "It wasn't our plan or invitation, but he's coming, and I'm going to show him the respect of being there."

King paid to help Buncich campaign

GARY - While mayor, Scott King served as a paid consultant for politician John Buncich. King's SLK Consulting was paid \$5,000 in January to work for Buncich's campaign for Lake County sheriff, according to Buncich's finance reports (*Post-Tribune*). Buncich said King called him several months ago and offered his services. "I just paid him the \$5,000, for research he did for me," Buncich said. "He did research for me about gangs and drugs, from an urban mayor's perspective." Sheriff Roy Dominguez, Buncich's opponent, said King offered him political support last year in exchange for payment. Dominguez said he declined King's offer on ethical grounds, after which the mayor became "abrupt and curt" with him. "It was, 'If you want my support, I want to be a paid consultant,'" Dominguez said of King's stance. "I didn't accommodate his request."

60 busted in immigration raid

INDIANAPOLIS - About 60 people were taken into custody at a south-side business as part of a nationwide crackdown on employers of illegal workers (*Associated Press*). Gail Montenegro, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman, said the arrests and detentions were part of a continuing investigation, but she declined to provide further details.

Weinzapfel backs new museum

EVANSVILLE - Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel said Wednesday the com-

munity should get behind the Evansville African American Museum and challenged residents to do so (*Evansville Courier & Press*). Weinzapfel said there is a long history and tradition of blacks who have helped make strides in the Evansville community - from Charles Rochelle, a teacher and principal for 41 years, to Connie Robinson, the first black woman to be elected to City Council. "The Evansville African American Museum celebrates the legacy of African-Americans in our community," he said at the museum's fifth annual meeting, where he was the keynote speaker. "This is a collaborative effort. This project will require entire community involvement to succeed."

Morgan County sheriff questions timing of charges

MARTINSVILLE - Morgan County Sheriff Robert Garner says he has no reason to believe the timing of the charges against his son was politically motivated (*Martinsville Reporter-Times*). Garner is seeking election to a second term and faces two opponents in the May 2 Republican primary. Robert Jake Garner, his son, was charged with eight counts of arson and 13 other charges Thursday, 2-1/2 weeks before the primary and more than two years after the investigation began. When asked whether he thought there was any political motivation behind the timing of the charges, Garner said, "I don't think so. I don't have any reason to think so. I'd hope that's not the case." Reports that he thought about withdrawing from the race after the charges were filed are wrong as well, Garner said. "That's totally false," Garner said. "I never gave that a thought. I'm dealing with a family matter that is very personal. ❖"