

# THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



## The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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**Brian A. Howey**  
editor and publisher

The Howey Political Report      Office: 317-685-0883  
200 W. Washington St., Suite M-1      Fax: 317-692-1032  
Indianapolis, IN 46204      hwypol@iquest.net

NewsLink Home Page: <http://www.iquest.net/~hwypol/>

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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The Indianapolis mayor surely wasn’t overjoyed about the criticism here and in political columns in other newspapers around the state. But he apologized. Goldsmith said the criticism was deserved....” —**Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune**

# War on drugs finds usual trappings

## Candidates predictable; media skeptical

**HPR Forecast:** The war on drugs is emerging as a hot button issue both nationally with the presidential race and in Indiana races for governor and attorney general. But numerous Hoosier newspaper readers last Sunday found basic political assumptions concerning the war under assault.



Julia Carson, meet George Shultz.

On the face of it, these two figures don’t have much in common. Carson is the Democratic 10th CD candidate and Shultz is a former secretary of state and adviser to the Bob Dole presidential campaign.

**But they have found common ground** on the war on drugs. Shultz has joined other eminent conservatives such as William F. Buckley and Milton Friedman in questioning the wisdom of continuing the battle that has slapped more than a quarter million people in prison and ignited deadly turf wars in urban America while the price of cocaine has plummeted as the result of true market forces.

Carson was asked at Indianapolis Arlington High School recently whether she favored the legalization of marijuana. As the *Indianapolis Star* reported, Carson said she would keep an “open mind” about it and told students, “But perhaps during the meantime, to stop reckless spending, we ought to open up the doors and let everybody out that’s in jail for possession of marijuana, because the judge that probably sent them there probably had some in their pocket.”

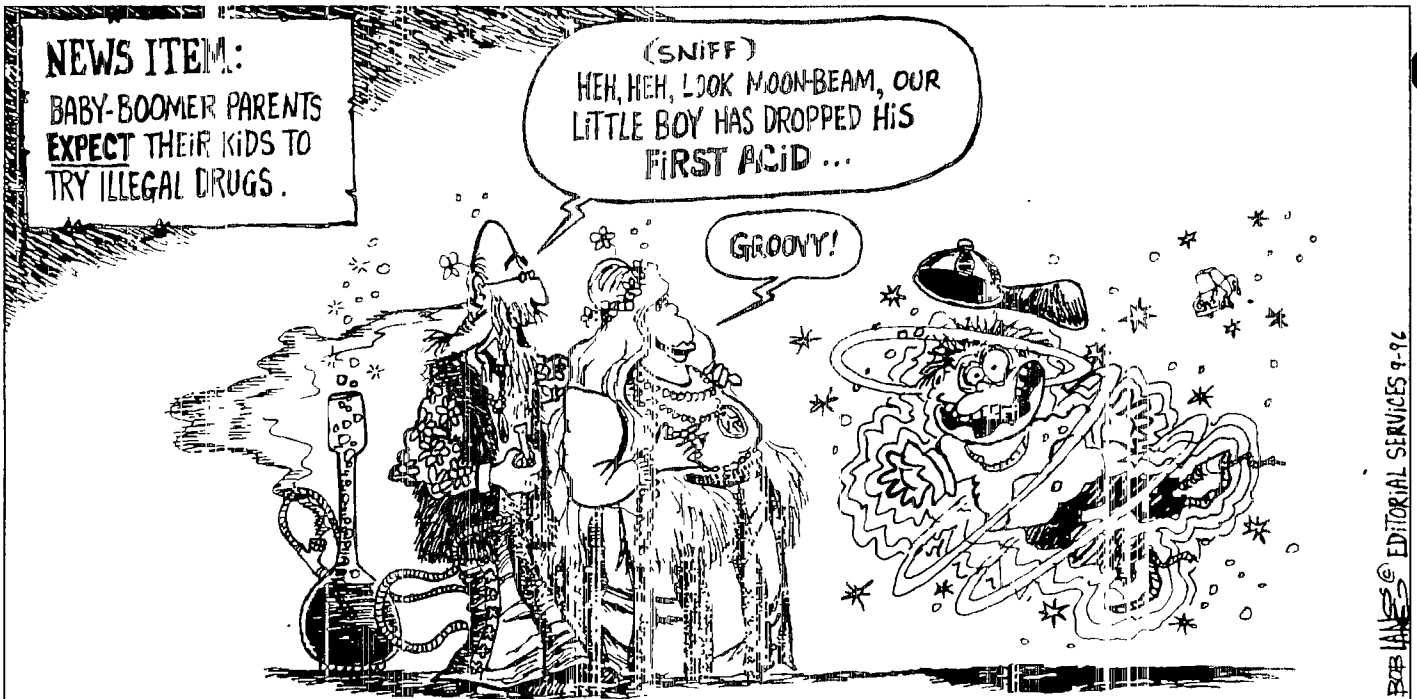
**It was a fascinating comment** to make before students, coming on the heels of national reports that show drug use among teenagers skyrocketing. Thomas Wyman of the Associated Press reported that marijuana use among Indiana high school seniors is up 80 percent since 1992. That report comes on the heels of a Columbia

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*Indiana’s fastest growing source of political news*



# TICKER T A P E

**PLAY OF THE WEEK:** Eric Miller of Citizens Concerned for the Constitution turned out 1,900 high school students for a day of political speeches from most of the statewide candidates. It was an impressive turnout. However, Miller smudged this great effort by complaining that the "media" didn't turn out because it was their intention to stifle the message. This came despite the fact that personnel from HPR, WISH-TV, the Associated Press, Indiana Legislative Insight, the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, the Indianapolis News and Gannett News Service were all in attendance at the time.



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## Last Sunday, newspapers questioned the strategy

University study that revealed that two-thirds of baby boomer parents who used marijuana expect their children to do the same.

"These are the children of the generation that had the highest drug usage in American history," said Democratic AG candidate Jeff Modisett. "It's almost like a drug use echo."

While Indiana State Police airborne units in helicopters get great publicity each summer and fall for attacking the World War II era hemp fields as evidence that the drug war is being won here, the race for governor has been stuck on a debate over Mini-Thins. When LG candidates George Witwer and Joe Kernan debated two weeks ago, Kernan repeatedly brought up the Mini-Thin controversy due to Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's political ties with campaign contributor Richard Deer. Witwer noted the jump in teenage marijuana usage - this coming prior to Wyman's story.

### Area media jump on story

Last week, with both Bob Dole and President Clinton campaigning in the Midwest on an anti-crime agenda, the issue that slugged through the inertia was the drug war. Clinton picked up the endorsement of the national Fraternal Order of Police on Indiana's doorstep,

Republican-rich Cincinnati.

Last Sunday, Hoosier newspaper readers were flooded with stories and columns on what to do about illegal drugs. This coming after Dole revised the Nancy Reagan clarion call to kids with "Just Don't Do It" and found himself at odds with the Nike marketing department.

In Sunday's *Indianapolis Star*, columnist George Will gave his readers a realistic look at the San Ysidro border crossing with Mexico and the 110 tons of cocaine that successfully cross into the United States annually.

Will's conclusion? "Any politician who watches the craftsmanship and stamina of the men and women doing the interdicting will understand this: The only way to cut supplies substantially is by dampening the demand that draws the supplies to and, inevitably, through the border. Our rich nation makes it economically rational for poor nations to grow the crops from which drugs are produced. Blame Americans first."

In Sunday's *Chicago Tribune*, columnist Clarence Page raises the legitimate question of whether the CIA's support of the Nicaraguan contras back in the 1980s ignited the crack cocaine scourge that has been a Hoosier catastrophe.

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**Mason-Dixon Poll gives O'Bannon 44-41 lead over Goldsmith**

**HORSE RACE**

**TRENDLINE:** Bob Dole's hardest-hitting TV commercial to date shows President Clinton on MTV being asked, "Would you inhale?" Says Clinton, "Sure, if I could. I tried before." That could move numbers (no pun intended). Clinton has huge Electoral College lead.

**PRESIDENT**

Bill Clinton, D Bob Dole, Rep Ralph Nader, I Ross Perot, Ref Harry Browne, L	Likely D	Mason-Dixon poll in Indiana has Clinton and Dole tied at 43 percent. WPTA-TV in 4th CD has Clinton 42, Dole 40. Natinally, Clinton leads Hotline/ Battleground poll 48-37 percent. CNN/USA Today/Gallup has Clinton up 53-34. Newsweek has Clinton up 51-35.
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**GOVERNOR**

Stephen Goldsmith, R Frank O'Bannon, D Steve Dillon, L	Tossup	Indiana Mason-Dixon poll has O'Bannon 44, Goldsmith 41. WPTA-TV 4th CD poll (729 mixed voters) has Goldsmith up 40-32.. Goldsmith suspends campaign to work on Indy police brawl controversy, which is beginning to get coverage out state. That's bad news for GOP because it underscores anti-Indy sentiments.
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**10TH CD**

Virginia Blankenbaker, R Julia Carson, D Kurt St. Angelo, L	Tossup	Blankenbaker preparing radio/TV campaign featuring Dick Lugar. Keep your eye on the Center Township Trustee's office for smoke. Police brawl could motivate Carson's black voting
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**8TH CD**

John Hostettler, R Jonathon Weinzapfel, D	Tossup	Hostettler gets Farm Bureau endorsement. Both candidates oppose partial birth abortion ban. But Weinzapfel complains about turning PBAs into a campaign "wedge issue."
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**7TH CD**

Ed Pease, R Bob Hellmann, D	Leans R	Goldsmith numbers are flat in 7th. Hellmann going after Pease on house sale. But Democrats still weak in Lafayette area and that helps Pease.
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**SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Suellen Reed, R Ann England, D	<b>LEANS R</b>	Reed was outspent 5-1 with Clinton winning in 1992 and still won. She's getting lots of press with town hall meetings. But tsunami her worry.
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**Horse Race Key:** Safe means assured victory; Likely is outside 10 points; Leans is between 4 and 9 points; Tossup is within statistical margin of error. Status in bold/caps means a change.

**TICKER  
T A P E**

Mary Dieter of the Louisville Courier-Journal reported on Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson's speech before the Indianapolis Economics Club and the good relationship the Republican has with Indiana Gov. Evan Bayh. Thompson even complimented Bayh's widely panned Democratic National Convention speech. "I listened to him and told him I thought he gave one of the best speeches there," Thompson said.

Supt. Suellen Reed conducted her sixth out of 12 "town hall" meetings in Evansville on Sept. 18 and talked of her agenda - local control of schools, discipline and raising students expectations. But local education officials like Evansville-Vanderburgh Supt. Phillip Schoffstall and Boonville High School English teacher Darvin Stilwell wanted to talk about more money for schools. They tried to make a case for free school textbooks, an issue legislative Democrats tried to champion last session. Reed responded, "Free books aren't really free, we all know that" (Patricia Swanson, Evansville Press). Responded Schoffstall, "I agree that textbooks aren't free, but many of us think we've already paid for them with our surplus."

**Warning:** this item might get  
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# John Gregg survives the dog days; predicts Democrats will win House

## HPR INTERVIEW

**"Regardless of who wins the governor's race, we'll work in the House for the betterment of Indiana. I believe Goldsmith will have an extremely difficult time working with Larry Borst and Morrie Mills over in the Senate...."**

- John Gregg



**SANDBORN** - When HPR last saw House Minority Leader John Gregg, he was preparing to play hooky from the Democratic National Convention and attend "Dog Days" at a White Sox game at Comiskey Park.

The dog days of August have turned into a promising September for Indiana Democrats with President Clinton tied in the state, a tight governor's race developing and a decent chance for the party to retake the Indiana House.

So it was time for an assessment from Gregg (current House Speaker Paul Mannweiler was given first opportunity, but was busy meeting with the Japanese and will be next week's HPR interview) on where things stand from his vantage point in Knox County.

**HPR:** So, how did Dog Days go at the Sox game?

**Gregg:** Hey, I couldn't believe that. We got there and they had all these dogs running around center field.

**HPR:** Dangerous for centerfielders, I'd say. Do you wish you had brought your dog?

**Gregg:** Oh no. Our dog Simba is as big as I am. He's an old farm dog.

**HPR:** Perhaps we wander. Seriously, now, how many seats do you think the Democrats will win in the Indiana House on Nov. 5.

**Gregg:** At least 51. If the election were held today, I think we'd be at 55 seats.

**HPR:** How many of the House freshman Republicans do you think you will defeat?

**Gregg:** Rich McClain is safe - he doesn't have an opponent. I know we'll get Sally (Rideout Lambert), the two Terre Haute twins (Kimmel and Lohr), time has run out on Cleo Duncan, Heckel and Jekyl in Indianapolis (Womacks and Heffley), Kokomo (Padfield), Muncie (Vanleer) and Fort Wayne (Becker).

**HPR:** Any other pickups?

**Gregg:** We'll get those nine. And there are other seats we'll have a good shot at. The other seat in Muncie with Sue Errington (against Bruce Munson), Conlon's seat in Lake County where Kusman is running strong, Jeff Klapper in Lafayette where Sue (Scholer) is now county chairman. You know, people in universi-

ty towns don't like it when legislators get to be chairmen or in leadership. That's what happened to Stan Jones and he was defeated in his next election.

**HPR:** So there is a potential for maybe as many as 60 seats going Democratic in your estimation if the political climate is right, right?

**Gregg:** Well, I'll stick to my original prediction. But we've got a number of good candidates I haven't even mentioned. We're contesting four seats in the Fort Wayne area that have never been contested before. We've got Rob Sturtz up there, knocking on doors, raising money, putting up yard signs.

**HPR:** Give me a critique of the governor's race thus far. What do you think of Goldsmith and O'Bannon so far?

**Gregg:** I think Frank O'Bannon has started to wear the mantle of governorship, of statesmanship, real well. On the other hand, Steve Goldsmith is not used to running even or behind. These Marion County Republicans aren't used to close races and when they do they run scared. All you have to do is go back to 1988 when John Mutz got into trouble and Goldsmith tried to distance himself there. And he's done it again with Bob Dole this time. Goldsmith is under a little doubt and it has hurt his credibility.

**HPR:** How is O'Bannon playing in Southwestern Indiana, given that the Republicans will use the lack of progress on the I-69 extension against him?

**Gregg:** O'Bannon is playing real well down there. Of course it is a traditional Democratic part of the state. But things are very well organized down there from Terre Haute, to Bloomington to Evansville with the coordinated campaigns with the 7th, 8th and 9th Congressional Districts. What you've got to understand also is that this is home to the Rex Early Republicans, who are kind of akin to the Reagan Democrats. I can tell you I've had a number of Rex Early Republicans tell me they'll vote for Frank O'Bannon. They are just not organized that way.

**HPR:** Is there a chance we'll see a

Republicans for O'Bannon organization?

**Gregg:** It seems like every day I meet Republicans who tell me they are going to vote for Frank. I had a mid-level state highway department manager tell me that today. So they're out there. I don't know if it will ever get that organized.

**HPR:** After the Democratic debacle of 1994, we talked about the fact that 10 to 15 percent of the Democrats stayed home in many of the districts House Democrats lost. Do you have any feel that Republicans might stay home in similar numbers this time? Or is the governor's race likely to bring them out regardless?

**Gregg:** I don't know if the Republicans will stay home, but what I do know is that the Democrats will turn out in droves. Bob Dole just does not turn on Indiana Republicans.

**HPR:** The tax issue has become dominant in this election and Mayor Goldsmith has accused Frank O'Bannon of never ... er ... rarely meeting a tax he didn't hike. Yet many of the enabling legislation he has criticized has come from Republican county councils and commissioners and the two biggest tax increases in Indiana history were passed with the blessing of current Republican legislative leadership. Will you try to exploit that inconsistency?

**Gregg:** I think most pundits and poll watchers were outright shocked that Mayor Goldsmith would try to distort the truth. I think that shows the desperate nature their campaigns are in when they are not ahead. What it shows is when the issue comes down to character and integrity, people are going to believe Frank.

**HPR:** Are you disappointed the tax issue seems to be weighted in the past, with Goldsmith talking about O'Bannon tax hike votes and O'Bannon accusing Goldsmith of raising Indianapolis taxes? Shouldn't they be talking about what kind of reforms are coming up in 1997?

**Gregg:** I share that disappointment. I think what we're seeing is the Goldsmith campaign is behind and they are using negative tactics. I think a lot of Democrats, Republicans and independents will see right through that.

**HPR:** Here are a couple of hypothetical situations you can beg off if you feel like. Let's say Goldsmith wins, the House goes Democratic and the Senate stays Republican with the

Glimmer Twins (Sens. Borst and Mills) calling the shots on the Finance Committee. How do you think that would work?

**Gregg:** Regardless of who wins the governor's race, we'll work in the House for the betterment of Indiana. I believe Goldsmith will have an extremely difficult time working with Larry Borst and Morrie Mills over in the Senate.

**HPR:** Why?

**Gregg:** Because they'll want to do what they're used to doing and Goldsmith will want to do things *my way*.

**HPR:** And how do you see that scenario if O'Bannon wins?

**Gregg:** Frank will get along fine with the House and he has a good working relationship with his colleagues in the Senate. I just don't see a problem if Frank wins.

**HPR:** I know for a fact the Republicans were shocked around midnight on Election Day '94 when they learned that Speaker Phillips fell and they had control. But Sam Turpin was not prepared to lead the House Ways and Means Committee and there were all sorts of problems with the budget. If the Democrats regain control, will you and your team be ready for the 1997 session?

**Gregg:** I can assure you that our staff, under the leadership of Pat Bauer, has been looking at tax issues all summer long along with problems of Medicare and Medicaid. That's unlike the Republicans two years ago who had to go out and buy their socks and gym shoes before they could run. The fact is ours are there and they are already trying them out.

**HPR:** We have Larry DeBoer's tax study coming out in December and Attorney General Carter contesting the tax court ruling. How key will those developments play in 1997 tax reform?

**Gregg:** I don't consider myself to be a budget expert. I'm a legislative expert. But I know our tax experts are really waiting on those. I want to read what DeBoer says.

**HPR:** And the property tax issue?

**Gregg:** That will be the big issue. Democrats believe the tax is unfair. We want to make sure that it doesn't fall down on the wrong people; that it is fair. Republicans will do what their two major business constituencies tell them to do.

## TICKER T A P E

confusing. Republican AG candidate Steve Carter accused current AG Pam Carter of "putting politics before good government" with concerns of the eligibility of six legislative candidates who were appointed to ballot vacancies without following proper procedures. "Almost 600 candidates properly filed for office with the Secretary of State this year," Carter said. "Why should we make an exception for these six who are political party appointees?"

The South Meridian Street police brawl had been a local Indianapolis issue until last Friday, when LG Frank O'Bannon came out swinging at Mayor Stephen Goldsmith in Evansville. "I think he should solve the crisis and not use the campaign as an excuse not to solve the crisis," O'Bannon said. during a campaign swing with AG candidate Jeff Modisett. "Common sense leadership says you immediately get the facts, get it out open to the public and certainly take the decisive action to move forward" (Mark Stalcup, Evansville Press). Goldsmith also appeared in Evansville on Friday and called O'Bannon's comments exploitation. "He's making a political issue out of what is essentially a local issue," said Goldsmith. "There are serious issues in every

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# COLUMNINISTS ON INDIANA

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major city in Indiana." On the day the Indiana Farm Bureau endorsed U.S. Rep. John Hostettler in the 8th CD, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman was touring farm country around Princeton, Vincennes and Evansville with Democratic challenger Jonathon Weinzapfel. "A sensible, balanced, moderate representative is something this district needs," Glickman said (Alan Julian, Evansville Courier). Cathy Dutro of the Farm Bureau said Hostettler was endorsed because he shares the organization's views on property rights, wetlands and free markets.

Former White House press secretaries Marlin Fitzwater and Dee Dee Myers will speak at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's 7th Annual Awards Dinner on Oct. 17 at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis. Tickets are \$95 and can be ordered by calling Jennifer Elkin at 317-264-3794.

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton voted to override President Clinton's veto of the partial birth abortion bill. "Like many other Hoosiers, I find the partial birth abortion procedure deeply disturbing," Hamilton said.

Ed Pease, the 7th CD Repub-

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**Dale Moss**, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - A bagel shop is coming to New Albany. I had hoped it would say something about us. Actually, it says something more about bagels. If they can be sold in Southern Indiana, they can be sold anywhere ... and pretty much are. "Bagels are not an ethnic food anymore," said Scott Vowels, director of operations for Dooley's Bagelcatessen, which will open in December. The cream cheese-smothered, chewy, round roll I learned to love from my Jewish grandmother I now toast and butter for my Catholic daughter.

**Jack Colwell**, *South Bend Tribune* - Steve Goldsmith wanted to talk about my column that appeared here last Sunday. It was a critical of documentation the Republican nominee for governor had provided for a TV spot accusing Democratic opponent Frank O'Bannon of being a big taxer. "Silly" was one of the kindest things I said about the documentation, which was dead wrong in saying O'Bannon had voted for sales and income tax hikes and portrayed user fees as taxes. So was Goldsmith angry about the column, the way some politicians are when they blunder and resent having the mistake reported? The Indianapolis mayor surely wasn't overjoyed about the criticism here and in political columns in other newspapers around the state. But he apologized. Goldsmith said the criticism was deserved. He explained but didn't try to defend what he called "sloppy work" on the documentation. Apology presented, the mayor went on to express hope that the "sloppy work" would not obscure the point he still wants to make: He and O'Bannon have a different approach to government. There's still time for Goldsmith to get his campaign back on track and have it reflect the real Steve Goldsmith. He may or may not be the better candidate, but he certainly is much better than the way he appeared after what he too recognizes as "sloppy work."

**Dave Kitchell**, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - The name of the Republican National Committee's magazine is *Rising Tide*, but if things don't change soon, a switch to *Lowing*

*Ebb* may be in order. Barring a miracle, the real tide to watch in the coming weeks is the impact of an incumbent Democratic president who wins re-election will have on an Indiana ballot. The question Republicans have to be asking themselves right now is if Dole and Goldsmith can't stop the Democrats on the ballot, who will? Democrat Jeff Modisett, by virtue of his four-year tenure as Marion County prosecutor when his office prosecuted Mike Tyson, has enormous name recognition in the attorney general race. If Democrat Pamela Carter won in 1992, Modisett should prove at least as strong if not stronger. Republican Steve Carter is virtually an unknown, but so were Sue Anne Gilroy, Joyce Brinkman, John Okeson and Morris Wooden before they were swept in as the Lugar Team in 1994. The difference this time is that Indiana Republicans no longer have one of their most tested statewide candidates at the top of the ballot. For the first time since 1984, a statewide election will not include the names Lugar, Quayle or Coats. Unlike 1984, there is no incumbent Republican president running.

**Brian Howey**, *HPR* - Watching the twistings and contortions of the Goldsmith campaign these past two weeks over his tax commercial, his police department and his "suspension" of his gubernatorial activities at the expense of the Applebutter Parade brought this thought to mind: it's been since the fall of 1984 that an Indiana Republican candidate for governor has had a lead in the polls and a good week.

**Gerry Lanosga**, *Indianapolis News* - Once again we can thank the League of Women Voters for a perennial dose of election year idiocy. This time the victim of the League's door-slammings is Kurt St. Angelo, a Libertarian vying to replace Andy Jacobs. St. Angelo, the league says, doesn't have "significant voter interest" to afford him entry into the debate. It doesn't matter that Julia Carson and Virginia Blankenbaker don't object to including St. Angelo, or that WFYI which will air the debate, also wants him to participate. Rules are rules.

# PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

## Dole-Kemp jilt Bob & Tom, Mike Pence on the same day

MARION - Network Indiana's Mike Pence was headed here to do one of his remote morning talk shows, but he had his ear on WFBQ's "Bob & Tom Show."

And Bob and Tom were hinting to their listeners that a big guest, a sports hero, was going to be on the show. No names, but this guy is BIG. This went on for an hour - well beyond drive time - and then the mood turned grim. The big guest was a no-show Bob & Tom got stood up. And sidekick Chick McGree was grouching, "I wouldn't vote for him anyway."

For the big guy was none other than Republican vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp.

Pence was particularly curious on how Bob & Tom fared because he also had a big guy lined up for his 11:30 a.m. segment of his own "Mike Pence Show."

And the same thing happened ... 11:35, 11:40... 11:50... and no Big Guy. The Pence show called Dole campaign headquarters in Washington: "What gives?"

"He hasn't called yet?" was the response. No.

In one day, Indiana's two biggest radio talk shows got stood up *on air* by Bob Dole and Jack Kemp.

It was to be part of a new strategy for the GOP presidential campaign: use the candidates' downtime to chat on the hundreds of talk radio shows around the nation. Bill Clinton pioneered this strategy in 1992 when an aide was handing him a cell phone, an information card and the Democrat would chat his way into the hearts of listeners in Radioland everywhere.

With the latest Mason-Dixon Poll showing Dole tied with Clinton in what should be the first state to go up on the Republican board Nov. 5, the strategy of using Pence and Bob & Tom (who are developing a national following) makes good sense.

The problem appears to be that the

Dole campaign is overbooking the boss. The calls aren't getting made and the result is jilted radio personalities *on air*. Ouch!

Pence didn't tell his listeners that Dole would be on the air. But he gently chided a caller when the topic shifted to Dole and at one point said, "You don't think I can get Bob Dole on the phone?"

The answer was no. And in the process, that natural conservative constituency that Dole-Kemp needs to warm up to found new reasons to wonder what in the world is really going on.

## 'Why don't they like me?'

Last week, I wrote about the fact that the Goldsmith camp has been somewhat vocal about the Hoosier press bias. Indeed, Stephen Goldsmith's statewide press over the last three weeks has been about as bad as House Speaker Paul Mannweiler got when he tried to redistrict the House during the 1995 session.

IU pollster Brian Vargus recalled how Goldsmith asked him once, "Why doesn't the press like me?"

Vargus answered, "They get upset during their interviews with you when you sit at your computer and read your e-mail."

Vargus has also felt the anti-media overtones from the Goldsmith staff and supporters. He observers, "Campaigns that attack the press are reactionary campaigns. And reactionary campaigns tend to lose."

## The barbecue strategy

Al Hubbard wondered why the Indiana press was so quick to attack Goldsmith over his ads, but not O'Bannon. One reason is that over the past four or five years, O'Bannon cultivated personal relationships with the Statehouse press corps with his annual August barbecues.

Not that the media is willing to coddle someone because of a free chicken dinner. But the relationships were made and O'Bannon felt comfortable enough twice this campaign to emotionally urge reporters to seek the truth.

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lican candidate, sold his Terre Haute home to a wealthy cousin in Oklahoma and then arranged a five-year lease, according to a report by Maureen Groppe of the Terre Haute Tribune-Star. That allowed Pease to loan his campaign \$150,000 from the equity of his house. Pease estimated the home to be worth between \$250,000 and \$500,000. He paid off the mortgage of \$203,100. Pease said he didn't disclose the arrangement because he didn't want his opponent to learn how much money the campaign had. His Democrat opponent, Bob Hellmann, called for a full disclosure of details. "I don't know of anybody who sold their home to run for Congress and has an arrangement where they can still reside in it," Hellmann said.

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer has accused the Department of Defense of "stonewalling" in releasing information of Iraq's use of chemical and biological weapons. In an interview with the Wabash Plain Dealer, Buyer said, "I chastised the Department of Defense that for four years they misled me ... and Congress. In testimony they said that there were no chemical weapons. Now we know that not to be true." The Pentagon has now warned 5,000 Gulf War veterans that

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# TICKER T A P E



they may have been exposed to nerve gas when an Iraqi weapons depot was destroyed on March 4, 1991.

Here is a summary of Election Commission votes to dismiss Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy's challenge: Seth Lahn, Democrat, House District 87, Indianapolis; Jim Osborn, Democrat, HD 89, Indianapolis; Steve Chapman, Republican, HD 37, Anderson; and Julia Johnson Shaffler, Republican, HD 45, Sullivan. The Commission upheld Gilroy's challenges of Charles Ellison, Democrat, Senate District 18, Logansport; Dennis Allen, Democrat, HD 21, South Bend; Steven Vaughn, Democrat, HD 51, Angola; Donald Brown, Democrat, HD 91, Indianapolis; Teresa Baxter, Republican, HD 95, Indianapolis; and Matthew Gouthing, Republican, HD 98.

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## Drugs, from page 1

trope. "While Nancy Reagan was chanting "Just Say No" in Washington, her husband's beloved contras may have been profiting from cocaine sold at wholesale prices to members of the notorious Los Angeles Crips and Bloods street gangs, touching off drug wars that spread nationwide."

Also in the *Chicago Tribune*, senior writer Charles Madigan did a Perspective cover piece that began, "There aren't many campaign trail hot buttons that work as effectively as the drug issue. Bob Dole and President Clinton can bring an audience to their feet anytime they want to, buy some time on network TV and grab a headline a day just by promising a crack-down that is going to end this drug problem once and for all."

**Madigan points to the** much-celebrated DARE program that "has received a lot of attention over the past few years as an effective avenue toward cutting the use of drugs among children." But, he adds, "If that were true, would Dole be able to paste Clinton with the blame for an explosion in teenage drug use over the past four years? No."

In Sunday's *Louisville Courier-Journal's* Forum section, Los Angeles Times legal writer David G. Savage writes of the "unwinnable war." He mentions last February's issue of William F. Buckley's *National Review* that stated, "The war on drugs is lost."

**It cites such powerful** figures as economist Milton Friedman and Shultz (both Dole campaign advisers) as believing the war on drugs has resulted in a \$30 billion-a-year boondoggle, 350,000 Americans behind bars and gangland violence akin to Chicago's Roaring '20s. The war on drugs was commenced by President Richard Nixon in 1972. Drug convicts have risen from 57,000 when President Reagan stepped up the drug war in 1983 to 353,000 today. Yet the price of cocaine has fallen from \$470 a gram in 1982 to \$120 this year.

Savage writes that the 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Act grandly proclaimed that the congressional policy was "to create a drug-free America by 1995."

Thus far the political drug war in

Indiana has been fought by Mayor Goldsmith, LG Frank O'Bannon and Modisett, who remain rooted in a traditional anti-drug stance, calling for more prisons, truth in sentencing, boot camps, disciplinary schools and tougher judges. Modisett has proposed legislation that would allow victims of drug dealers (including addicts) to file civil suits for damages. Last week O'Bannon and Modisett proposed adding 500 new police officers.

**Both O'Bannon and Goldsmith** addressed the Citizens Concerned for the Constitution's 14th annual student convention on Wednesday. Goldsmith quickly dealt with the drug issue in front of the students by pointing out that a religious background can put a dent in drug use. "We will reduce drug abuse if people believe in God," the mayor said.

O'Bannon keyed in on personal responsibility as he isolated the "biggest threats" to Hoosiers - drugs and crime. He urged the students to "look beyond the immediate temptation" because it will become bigger. "You can say it's just booze or marijuana or something to keep me up," O'Bannon said. "The choices are small at the beginning, but they grow in ways you didn't think possible. The greatest adventure is taking responsibility every day."

While Goldsmith and O'Bannon are approaching crime and drugs in more traditional political ways, Carson has carved unique territory with her Arlington High School comment that came after State Rep. Bill Crawford asked her and her opponents if they would consider legalized marijuana.

**While Carson believes** the jails are full of potheads, Jim Knoop of the Virginia Blankenbaker campaign said that of 1,145 beds in the Marion County jail, only 19 were filled by inmates facing marijuana charges. The Indiana Department of Corrections has accepted only three inmates on Class C felonies for marijuana distribution so far this year.

As for the political impact, Blankenbaker will use Carson's comments on marijuana and her opposition to the "three strikes" sentencing provisions in the next month aimed at winning over Reagan Democrats and ticket splitters. With those groups, the drug war as we know it still plays well.