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Tax blame scenario may just find cynics

Voter apathy may defuse any party advantage

INDIANAPOLIS - Ladies and gentleman, start your blaming!

When the Indiana General Assembly does its sine die later this week, it will likely come without any dent in the $1.6 billion surplus that we would consider a tax cut.

So, the $64,000 political question is in the split 50/50 chamber, who gets blamed?

The short answer is, everybody.

And the long answer is, perhaps, nobody.

And in the 18 general election seats we are tracking, HPR sees eight of those seats leaning Democratic, six leaning Republican and four toss-up seats currently held by three Democrats and one Republican. At this stage in February, it would be easy to assume that the current wrangling over the Democratic $100 rebate plan and the GOP's permanent property tax relief plan might cast a long shadow over these competitive fall campaigns.

HPR's forecast is that one race - a Republican primary battle in the House District 22 between Rep. Bill Ruppel and Wabash County Commissioner Brian Haupert - might be directly impacted by leaving the $1.6 billion surplus intact. Haupert began his campaign by insisting that voters were tired of the legislature not enacting the will of the people (See page 3).

Other than that race, virtually all public opinion surveys reveal little voter animosity toward incumbents. "It will be old news by next fall," declared Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel. "The problems with the tax plans are so complicated that it will be only a 10-day story. By next fall, it will boil down to individual House races. Those districts will take on issues of their own in the fall."

Yet, McDaniel hardly disguises his disgust in the fact that none of the surplus is being returned to voters. "How can you have that kind of a surplus and not give some of it back?" he asked.

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"Whether I would pass ...I think I could. But if I couldn't, I'd want some tutoring. I'd definitely get some remediation...."

- Gov. Frank O'Bannon, answering an Evansville Reitz HS student n whether he could pass ISTEP-Plus, in the Evansville Courier

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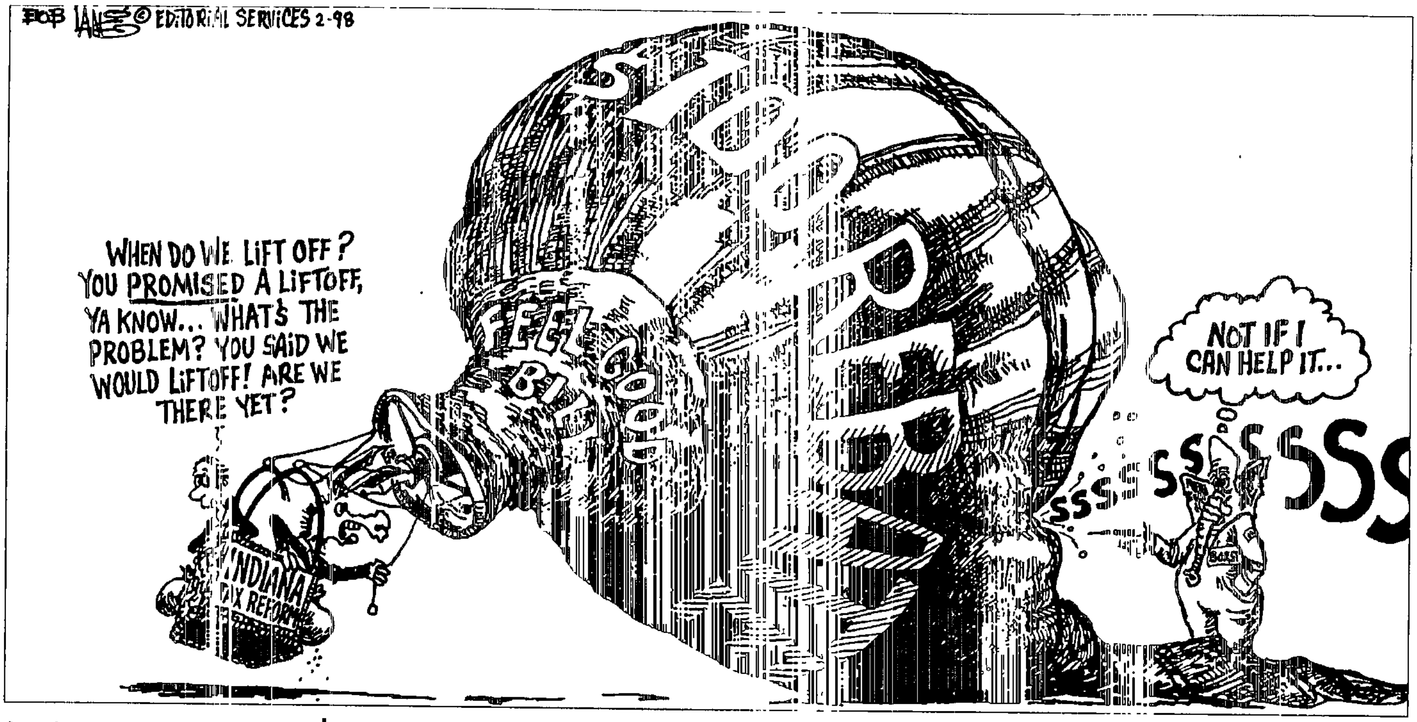
Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Indiana citizens, who because of the current legislative districting, left a total of 58 House and Senate seats uncontested out of the 125 up for a vote this year. GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel called it "a huge number." It appears that Hoosier citizens are voting with their ...rear ends?

■ ■ ■

Here is a list of unopposed Indiana State Senators:
Rose Ann Antich, D, Merrillville
Sue Landske, R, Cedar Lake
Thomas Wyss, R, Fort Wayne
Steven Johnson, R, Kokomo
Allen Paul, R, Richmond
J. Murray Clark, R, Indianapolis
James Merritt Jr., R,

Continued on page 3

Taxes, *from page 1*

If that kind of voter animosity rears up, it's hard to tell who it would benefit.

The Democratic $100 rebate plan was a populist move that won initial rave reviews. But most political observers knew the Republicans could never support a plan that would have checks dumping into mailboxes with Gov. Frank O'Bannon's signature on them just weeks before the election. They remember the historic auto excise tax rebate that included the signature of Gov. Evan Bayh, destined for a TV commercial this fall.

The main Republican plan was flawed, too. It sought to install permanent property tax relief, but it would come before the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on tax reform that is due to making sweeping recommendations on the entire tax code next December - a month after the election. It's the cart before the horse.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Larry Borst believes his plan of property tax would have been like Michigan Gov. John Engler's plan earlier this decade. Engler cut schools out of property taxes, then left it to the legislature to come up with a new financing plan.

"I think this will be a campaign issue in every corner of Indiana if we make this move," Borst told the Associated Press. "Because the General Assembly meets in 1999, there would be enough debate to sort it out."

The problem with Borst's analysis is that with 58 uncontested House and Senate races - including virtually all seats in South Bend, Evansville and Gary - there won't be any significant debate at all in those major urban areas.

Then there is Eric **Miller** and his Citizens Concerned for the Constitution that is promoting its Tax Freedom Plan. It calls for a two-thirds super majority to pass any tax increase or create any new tax. It would also create a spending cap tied to the rate of inflation and population growth.

Miller quoted Hudson Institute economist Bill Styring as saying, "Had there been a spending cap imposed in 1990 and the revenues returned to the taxpayers to reduce property taxes there could have been a property tax reduction in 1997 of 37 percent."

The most likely thing to happen will be voter apathy. Nearly everyone is predicting record low turnout in these off-year elections. As McDaniel observers, "There is cynicism on both sides." There is a public, he says, that gets "angry when nothing is done." Gets angry, perhaps, and then quietly moves on. ✍

1998 House Racing Form

Six primary and 18 general battles will decide

What a bizarre week. Indianapolis Colts widow Nancy Irsay enters politics against an unprepared Jerry Torr. Former legislator Sarah Wolf makes it a big race in Greenfield. And the lack of a tax cut could be bad news for Bill Ruppel, who has to fend off a primary challenge from Brian Haupert in Wabash County.

HORSE RACE

As far as how controls the 50/50 split Indiana House after the Nov. 3 elections, HPR counts 18 races that could come into play next by next November. Of those, eight are leaning to Democratic incumbents, six to Republican incumbents, and four seats - three held by Democrats and one by a Republican - are Toss-Ups.

If the election were being held today, it could all come down to who wins Vanleer-Adams in HD34, Tincher-Lohr in HD46, Bodiker and either Paust or Dickson in HD56, and Wolf against either Cherry or Higgins in HD53.

The six primary races where winning in May is tantamount to an oath of office will be darn interesting, with fascinating story lines in Carmel, Bloomington and Wabash.

In our status report, **Toss-Up** means the race is within a statistical margin of error or we're on to something; **Leans** is just outside the margin of error and up to 9 percent; **Likely** is 10 to 15 points; and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

Top Primary Battles (winner goes to House)

House District 1: **R Primary:** Michael Tiltges. **D Primary:** Linda Lawson, Peter Katic, Patricia Ceperich. **Geography:** Hammond, Lake County. **HPR General Forecast:** Lawson v. Tiltges. **1994 results:** Tabaczynski (D) 6,644 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Tabaczynski (D) 11,860 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Former Rep. Peter Katic files to reclaim seat he gave up in 1986 to become a judge in Hammond. Katic lost a race for Lake County Commissioner in 1996, but this time he's the organization's man. He'll face Hammond PD Capt. Linda Lawson, the first female on the force and a favorite of labor. She is also a member of the Hammond School Board. Kathleen Pucalik declined to run. Turnout will decide an interesting Lawson v. Katic primary battle. This is a seat vacated by Rep. Ron Tabaczynski. Primary winner prevails in November. And remember, this is Lake County, so anything can happen. **Primary Status**: *Toss-Up*.

House District 9: **R Primary**: Bradley Allamong, Jeff Tucker. **D Primary:** Scott Pelath, Dennis Metheny. **Geography**: Michigan City, LaPorte County. **HPR General Forecast:** Pelath v. Allamong. **1994 results:** Alevizos (D) 11,202 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Alevizos15,424 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Alevizos declines to run as a Democrat; still weighing an independent run. Scott Pelath, an aide to U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer, was thought to be the early frontrunner and should prevail over Metheny, who is the labor candidate. Alevizos warned that if he wasn't in the race, Republicans might have a chance. Allamong's entry is interesting and credible. He was an unsuccessful 3rd CD candidate in 1996, although he didn't carry his own district. Was executive director of the Michigan City Chamber. Tucker is a former News-Dispatch reporter, but this district is overwhelmingly Democratic. **Primary Status**: *Leans Pelath.*

House District 22: **R Primary:** Rep. Bill Ruppel, Wabash Commissioner Brian Haupert, Charles Tiede. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Wabash, Marshall, Kosciusko counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Ruppel. **1994 Results:** Ruppel 10,954 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Ruppel 13,714 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** The biggest loser in the stall over a tax cut in the era of a $1.6 billion budget may be Ruppel. Desert Storm veteran Haupert is challenging Ruppel because he believes the legislature "isn't listening to what the majority of Hoosiers want." Republicans consider Haupert a credible challenge. We haven't detected a lot of dissatisfaction with incumbency, but the tax meltdown followed by a primary eight weeks later could really hurt Ruppel. **Primary Status:** *Toss-Up.*

continued on pages 4 & 5

TICKER TAPE

Indianapolis
Bob Garton, R, Columbus
Johnny Nugent, R, Lawrenceburg
Connie Sipes, D, New Albany
Richard Young, D, Milltown
Lindel Hume, D, Princeton
Joe O'Day, D, Evansville

Here is a list of unopposed Indiana House members:
Earl Harris, D, East Chicago
Charlie Brown, D, Gary
Ralph Ayres, R, Chesterton
Pat Bauer, D, South Bend
Thomas Kromkowski, D, South Bend
Jesse Villalpando, D, Griffith
Chester Dobis, D, Merrillville
Vernon Smith, D, Gary
Timothy Fesko, R, Munster
Mike Smith, R, Renssalaer
Richard Mangus, R, Lakeville
Bill Friend, R, Macy
Bruce Munson, R, Muncie
Jim Buck, R, Kokomo
Tim Brown, R, Crawfordsville
Dale Grubb, D, Covington
Susan Crosby, D, Roachdale
Ralph Foley, R, Martinsville
Dean Mock, R, Elkhart
Dennis Kruse, R, Auburn
Robert Hoffman, R, Connersville
Woody Burton, R, Greenwood
David Yount, R, Columbus
John Frenz, D, Vincennes
Brent Steele, R, Bedford
Bob Bischoff, D, Lawrenceburg
Paul Robertson, D, Depauw
James Bottorff, D, Jeffersonville
William Cochran, D, New Albany

continued on page 5

Open Seats

1st - Tabaczynski
9th - Alevizos
10th - Wilson
37th - Webber
49th - Warner
50th - Stephan
53rd -Gulling
73rd - Heeke

Primary Toss-Ups

1st - Lawson v. Katic

22nd - Ruppel v. Haupert

39th - Irsay v. Torr

60th - Bales v. Ellington

General Toss-Ups

34th - Vanleer v. Adams

46th - Tincher v. Lohr

53rd - Cherry or Higgins v. Wolf

56th - Bodiker v. Paust or Dickson

House District 39: **R Primary:** Rep. Jerry Torr, Nancy Irsay. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Lebanon, Zionsville, Carmel, Boone and Hamilton counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Irsay. **1994 Results:** Willing (R) 15,974, unopposed. **1996 Results:** Torr 21,451, unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** This race is a true stunner, now becoming a celebrity encounter. NFL widow Nancy Irsay settles her estate question with the Colts in December, then declares for office two months later at the 11th hour. Irsay wants to establish her identity as a public servant, having been a prolific fund-raiser as well as genuine philanthropist. Torr is a freshman who probably figured he had a lifetime seat in the legislature, having raised only $6,000 before Irsay appeared for a Statehouse filing with TV cameras in tow. Torr was one of the top Republican vote-getters in 1996. His problem is that voters aren't that used to seeing his name on the ballot and he's lost two races prior to '96. He might want to watch his House floor bragging that he had $100,000 worth of support from lobbyists coming in over the weekend. Irsay, who lives next door to Conseco behemoth Steve Hilbert will have to fend off the "rich bitch" attacks and reveal the down to earth side that her friends see. She will fund her own race. Who wins? This race really depends on how both candidates act as well as how they define themselves and each other. Keep an eye on Carmel City Council members and the annexation issue. **Primary Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 60: **R primary:** Rep. Jerry Bales v. Jeff Ellington. **D Primary:** Gwendolyn Spice. **Geography:** Bloomington, Monroe County. **HPR General Forecast:** Bales v. Spice. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Forecast:** This race is pure drama. Bales considers retirement, but at 11th hour decides he can't give up his seat to a right winger. Kind of has a "last hurrah" feel to it. This will be the marquee ideological battle of the primary season. Monroe County GOP fully backing Ellington. Big Democratic sheriff's primary could keep crossover down. Bales may need Bobby Knight to bale him out. **Primary Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 73: **R Primary:** Grayson Goodness. **D Primary:** Tom Birk, Dennis Oxley, Bernie Fallon. **Geography:** Jasper and Southwestern Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Oxley v. Goodness. **1994 Results:** Heeke (D) 9,629, Goodness 8,241. **1996 Results:** Heeke 12,371, Goodness 8,847. **1998 Forecast:** Rep. Dennis Heeke is retiring and Jasper attorney Tom Birk faces teacher Dennis Oxley of Milltown in sprawling 125-mile wide district. Fallon's entry from Birk's hometown of Jasper may help Oxley. **Status:** *Leans Oxley.*

Top General Election Battles

House District 10: **R Primary:** John Cannon, Frank Jury II. **D Primary:** Chuck Moseley, Duane Cheney. **Geography:** Porter County. **HPR General Forecast:** Cannon v. Moseley. **1994 results:** Wilson (D) 9,701 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Wilson 15,672 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Popular Rep. Esther Wilson retires. Dems coalesce around water company employee Moseley, although Cheney is with the ISTA and will make this an interesting primary. Cannon has heritage union ties. O'Bannon carried the district in '96 with 63 percent. **Status:** *Solid D.*

House District 19: **R Primary:** Nick Gasparovic. **D Primary:** Rep. Bob Kuzman. **Geography:** central, south Lake County. **HPR General Forecast:** Kuzman v. Gasparovic. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Forecast:** Freshman Democrat Bob Kuzman won a tough battle for an open seat in 1996 and immediately established himself as a rising star. Republicans consider this seat in their top three priorities. Nick Gasparovic, who lives near Crown Point, will soon retire as a Prudential insurance agent and is considering his first political run. Kuzman will be tough to defeat, particularly with all the attention Gov. O'Bannon is giving Lake County. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 20: **R Primary:** Rep. Mary Kay Budak. **D Primary:** Donna Kavanaugh v. Tony Underly. **Geography:** LaPorte and St. Joseph counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Budak vs. Kavanaugh. **1994 Results:** Budak 12,688 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Budak 12,672, Underly 8,313. **1998 Forecast:** Dems believe Budak is vulnerable representing two Democratic counties. Kavanaugh of Long Beach is an actress and an independent film-maker with good labor ties. Underly is from St. Joseph County. HPR expects Kavanaugh to emerge and give Budak an interesting race. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 24: **R Primary:** Rep. Rick McClain. **D Primary:** Logansport Councilman Mike Fincher. **Geography:** Cass, Carroll counties. **HPR General Forecast:** McClain v. Fincher. **1994 Results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** GOP sees 24th as bedrock conservative, but Democrats note that AG Modisett carried this district in 1996. They think Fincher

can give McClain a run and will ante up. Republicans think Dems are crazy. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 25: **R Primary:** Kyle Conrad. **D Primary:** Rep. Claire Leuck. **Geography:** Newton, Benton, Warren, White and Carroll counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Conrad v. Leuck. **1994 Results:** Leuck 10,274, Boots 6,940. **1996 Results:** Leuck 13,159, Boots 9,105. **1998 Forecast:** Republicans will target Leuck in what is a 55/45 GOP district with Conrad, the Newton County Clerk. Leuck, however, is mighty popular and will be tough to unseat. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 30: **R Primary:** Rep. Karen Burkhardt. **D Primary:** Ron Herrell,. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **HPR General Forecast:** Burkhardt v. Herrell. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,660. **1998 Forecast:** Karen Buyer Burkhardt, sister of the congressman, takes over after Jon Padfield resignation. Field clears for Ron Herrell, which is good news for Democrats. And we won't mention his October '96 elk hunting trip anymore, unless he does it again this October. Kokomo has become a Republican city, holding this previously Democratic seat for two terms. Burkhardt will be formidable, doing a fine job in her first year. She has been a proven fund-raiser and seems personable and intelligent. Democrats will have to work very hard to take this seat. **Status:** *Leans R.*

HORSE RACE

House District 34: **R Primary:** James Vanleer. **D Primary:** Rep. Tiny Adams. **Geography:** Muncie, Delaware County. **HPR General Forecast:** Vanleer v. Adams. **1994 Results:** Vanleer 8,491, Elliott 7,522. **1996 Results:** Adams 9,630, Vanleer 9,241. **1998 Forecast:** Rematch between Adams and the man he unseated in 1996, Republican James Vanleer, in a campaign decided by 209 votes. Adams proved to be a hard-working freshman. He was able to deliver workers compensation reform to his union allies and that has helped him span the deep divides in the Delaware County Democratic organization. Adams also has credibility with minority voters, something that cut into Vanleer's totals last year. He has, however, experienced health problems. Vanleer will do better in the off-year sequence. If a national tide swings against the Democrats, Vanleer could return. Fasten your seatbelts. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 46: **R Primary:** David Lohr. **D Primary:** Rep. Vern Tincher. **Geography:** Vigo, Greene, Sullivan counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Lohr v. Tincher. **1994 Results:** Lohr 8,160, Tincher 8,034. **1996 Results:** Tincher 9,858, Lohr 9,759, Minx 531. **1998 Forecast:** Republican leadership and 25 colleagues joined former Republican Rep. David Lohr for his announcement, signaling GOP solidarity after he challenged Supt. Suellen Reed. Both Lohr and Tincher have bad favorable/unfavorable ratings and the 1996 race was not only a real donnybrook, but ended in a recount. Tincher has proposed spending limits and reviewing campaign advertisements. That is a sure sign this race will be a shin-kicker. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 50: **R Primary:** Kent Maxwell, Gary Dillon, Scott Darley, Rodney Putt, Judy Coleman, Mary Blandford, Ned Yingst. **D Primary:** Raymond Scribner. **Geography:** Huntington and Whitley counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Maxwell v. Scribner. **1994 Results:** Stephan (R) 13,418, Yingst 5,392. **1996 Results:** Stephan 15,856, B. Yingst 5,855. **1998 Forecast:** State Rep. Dan Stephan is calling it quits. Dr. Dillon of Columbia City decides to run as a Republican. We see Huntington County Councilman Kent Maxwell as the front-runner, but a crowded field makes it unpredictable, particularly with two others from Huntington on the ballot. Scriber is Rep. Dan Stephan's pastor who has just retired and is looking to serve the public. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 53: **R Primary:** Councilman Robert Cherry, Mark Higgins. **D Primary:** Sarah Wolf. **Geography:** Greenfield, Cumberland, Hancock County. **HPR General Forecast:** Cherry v. Wolf. **1994 Results:** Gulling (R) 13,945 unopposed. **1996 Results:** Gulling (R) 20,174 unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** Nick Gulling opts to run for Hancock County sheriff. Democratic surprise is the return of former Rep. Sarah Wolf, who lost to Sheriff Gulling in 1992 by 300 votes. Her entry puts this race into play. Republican side isn't at all settled. Cherry is a Hancock County Councilman, but Higgins is working the Christian right and has a real following. That primary battle could serve as an indicator as to how well John Price might do in the U.S. Senate primary. We'll be watching this one all the way to November. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 54: **R Primary:** Rep. Tom Saunders. **D Primary:** Donnie Hamilton. **Geography:** Henry County. **HPR General Forecast:** Saunders v. Hamilton. **1994 Results:** Kinser (D) 9,176, Razor (R) 7,853. **1996 Results:** Saunders 11,298, Copenhaver 10,221. **1998 Forecast:** Most conspicuous incumbent loss for Ds in 1996. Hamilton is a New Castle HS teacher and author of *Hoosier Temples*. Uncle was a two-term Henry County sheriff. Dems want to test Saunders. Even popular Kinser didn't win by big margins. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

TICKER TAPE

Russ Stillwell, D, Boonville
Dennis Avery, D, Evansville
Larry Lutz, D, Evansville
Brian Hasler, D, Evansville
Vaneta Becker, R, Evansville
Mike Ripley, R, Monroe
Winfield Moses, D, Fort Wayne
Jeff Espich, R, Uniondale
Gloria Goeglein, R, Fort Wayne
Phyllis Pond, R, New Haven
Paul Mannweiler, R, Indianapolis
Mike Murphy, R, Indianapolis
Mae Dickinson, R, Indianapolis

Former Logansport/Cass County Chamber of Commerce president David Steele filed to take on U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer in the 5th CD. Steele, 29, is executive director of the Center for International Business Education and Research with Purdue University. "My folks raised me with a sense of hope, and one of the thrusts of our campaign will be a return to optimism," said Steele (Dave Kitchell, Logansport Pharos-Tribune). "This campaign will start with some disadvantages," Steele said. "The incumbent has the power of office and money in the bank. But our campaign has the advantage of optimism. Our message of Hoosier values - the message which Evan Bayh will help Dick Lugar voice in the Senate - needs to be heard in the House more than ever." Steele will face 79-year-old Hugh Salisbury of

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TICKER TAPE

Plymouth in the Democratic primary.

Steele's great-great-great grandfather was Rep. Thomas Tyler Boldin of Virginia, who died while delivering a speech in Congress.

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer announced that Indiana will receive an additional $11.5 million in transportation funds, which would have been denied due to a clerical error by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

David Roach, a food service manager for a chain of strip clubs and a perennial candidate from Fort Wayne, filed to run in the 4th CD as a Democrat.

Both parties will have an opportunity to slate candidates by mid-summer. It's extremely rare that a slated candidate wins a legislative seat. McDaniel recalled that Jim Butcher upset Merton Stanley back in 1978.

Evan Bayh's announcement for the U.S. Senate took him to six Indiana cities. His final stop was Indianapolis where he and wife Susan trotted out their 2-year-old twin boys. But that wasn't the only Bayh hallmark of the event. While most announcement ceremonies are

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HORSE RACE

House District 56: **R Primary:** Ken Paust, Chris Dickson. **D Primary:** Rep. Richard Bodiker. **Geography:** Richmond, Wayne County. **HPR General Forecast:** Bodiker v. Paust. **1994 Results:** Bodiker 7,142, Hamm 7,087. **1996 Results:** Bodiker 10,772, Hamm 8,159. **1998 Forecast:** Hamm opts not to run, leaving a Republican primary between mainstream Ken Paust and Chris Dickson from the right. We believe Paust is the favorite with a great record of community activism and the fact that his wife is Wayne County chairman. Dickson certainly is energetic and will use his broadcasting base to try and get his people to the polls. We also believe Paust will give Landslide Bodiker (who won his first election by four votes and in 1994 by 56 votes) a tougher run, particularly if the Washington scandals change the national dynamic, although Bodiker defeated him in a Richmond City Council race back in the '98 [illegible]. Watch this one. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 67: **R Primary:** Rep. Cleo Duncan. **D Primary:** Ed Goble. **Geography:** Decatur, Ripley, Switzerland counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Duncan v. Goble. **1994 Results:** Duncan 9,672, Goble 9,369. **1996 Results:** Duncan 12,598, Kellerman 9,474. **1998 Forecast:** Duncan swept in over Goble in the '94 Revolution then effectively staved off a credible challenge in '96. Goble seeks a rematch, but Duncan cuts into his Greensburg base. General could be close. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 80: **R Primary:** John Becker. **D Primary:** Rep. Ben GiaQuinta. **Geography:** Southern Fort Wayne. **HPR General Forecast:** Becker v. GiaQuinta. **1994 Results:** Becker 5,206, GiaQuinta 5,199. **1996 Results:** GiaQuinta 7,707, Becker 6,365. **1998 Forecast:** This is a third rematch and will be fully funded by each side. Democrats are confident they can keep the seat. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 94: **R Primary:** Rep. Candy (Morris) Marendt. **D Primary:** Jeb Bardon, Ricky Hence, John Steinkamp.. **Geography:** NW Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Marendt v. Hence. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Forecast:** Marendt narrowly won in 1996. She didn't really muster a vibrant campaign in her northwest Indianapolis district because she had never had to before. Martin Hinman drops out after Ricky Hence wins the party slating. Jeb Bardon, who owns two Subway shops, reappears for the primary battle. Republicans ready to spend $200,000 or more to protect this seat. Bill Clinton carried Pike Township portion of the district by 1,500 votes in '96. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 97: **R Primary:** Ray Schultz. **D Primary:** Rep. Ed Mahern. **Geography:** Southern Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Schultz v. Mahern. **1994 Results:** Heffley 4,782, Cantwell 4,037. **1996 Results:** Mahern 6,368, Heffley 5,372. **1998 Forecast:** Democratic Rep. Ed Mahern recaptured this seat for the Dems in 1996 following the '94 GOP tsunami. He is expected to get a vigorous challenge from Republican Ray Schultz, a former Manual High School football coach with a stadium named after him. That seat will sway with who can get the 10th CD vote out. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 100: **R Primary:** Jeff Parmelee. **D Primary:** Rep. John Day. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Parmelee V. Day. **1994 Results:** Womacks 3,696, Day 3,818. **1996 Results:** Day 6,344, Womacks 4,331, Bogan 2,60. **1998 Forecast:** Another Indianapolis district that has changed hands twice in the last two cycles. Day returned in 1996 and could face unknown Parmelee. **Status:** *Leans D.*

A Couple More to Watch: There are a couple of other races we're going to keep an eye on in case the national dynamic moves one way or the other (i.e. President Clinton is indicted, or Congressional Republicans get caught up in the impeachment hype and Americans decide they don't want to go that route over Loose Zipper Syndrome). The first is HD26, where Republican Rep. Sue Scholer faces a rematch against Democrat Jeff Clapper in the West Lafayette area. Scholer defeated Clapper 8,633 to 5,714 in 1996. That's only about 14,000 voters and that's a low turnout.

Another curious race is HD89, where Mike Jeffers is challenging Republican Rep. Larry Buell in Indianapolis. Jeffers, an accountant, is the brother of 1994 Secretary of State nominee Tim Jeffers and he was born after Buell first took office in 1969.

Right now, Buell and Scholer are safe, but we'll just kind of keep these two races hanging by the saddle.

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Fred Barnes, *The Weekly Standard* - Rep. Steve Buyer of Indiana is not a household name, even among Indiana Republicans. But House Speaker Newt Gingrich stood aside on Feb. 4 for Buyer to address a closed-door gathering of all 228 House Republicans. Buyer took on Topic A: the pathetic response by congressional Republicans to the White House sex scandal. President Clinton's denial of a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky and having ordered her to lie under oath, Buyer said, is "a combination of George Bush's 'Read my lips' and Richard Nixon's 'I am not a crook.' And it sets the standard, Buyer said, for judging the president's truthfulness. This - trust - is what people care about, not legalities or obstruction of justice or impeachment. "We should reinforce his standard," Buyer insisted, by citing it over and over again and adding that we hope the president is proved to be telling the truth once all the facts are known. "That should be our message," Buyer declared. Buyer asked constituents in Indiana for their take on the scandal. All they wanted to know, he told me, was whether Clinton is telling the truth about himself and Monica Lewinsky. ✍

Larry Riley, *Muncie Star Press* - Last November Grant County Republican Eric Turner asked the Indiana House to cancel this year's General Assembly session. That the matter came up at all should have warned us that if even one legislator could see the handwriting on the floor - namely, that what little the Legislature had to do wouldn't get done anyway - we were in for sound and fury and nothing to show for it. Looks like that's just what we'll get. As of late last week, the Legislature had produced nothing. I know what you're thinking, and you're partly right. If they're not doing anything, at least they're not doing anything wrong. But I have this thing about paying people money to do nothing. Welfare should be for society's neediest. This is more like ghost employment of legislators. ✍

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - In the movie "Casablanca," one of Humphrey Bogart's most memorable lines has hit home. It was in the last scene on the tarmac at the airport when he looked into the eyes of Ingrid Bergman and said, "Ilsa, I'm no good at being noble, but the problems of three little people don't amount to a hill of beans in this world." In the wake of the scandal that has engulfed Washington, the problems of three little people have mattered more than ever. Bill Clinton faces a scandal that threatens his presidency. Monica Lewinsky faces the end of her political ambitions at age 24 and possible jail time for lying in a federal grand jury. And Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel who is leading the charge to make good on years of investigation into Clinton's background, could either be a national hero or a goat, depending on how the rest of the investigation materializes. ✍

Ben Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - February being what it is - a dial tone interrupted by a candy heart, Abe Lincoln and Washington crossing the Delaware in a cherry tree - I've been thinking a bit about presidents. What I've decided is that the measure of our nation is not what the best of them do, but how sublimely we survive the worst of them. ✍

David Mannweiler, *Indianapolis News* - Nathan Miller won't be invited to pull up a table and a chair for a book-signing party at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Home. His new book, *Star-Spangled Me: America's Ten Worst Presidents*, is published by Scribner. Guess which president made Miller's list? So, who is Miller to run down Our Boy Ben? He's written a dozen books on history and biography, including bios of Teddy Roosevelt and FDR. Harrison's election in 1888 "exudes a ripe odor," Miller writes. Miller says Harrison was "glacially formal, colorless and dour, with a handshake like a wilted petunia." ✍

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free and open to the public, Bayh was charging anywhere from $50 to $35 ($75 per couple) for people to attend.

Embattled Monroe County Sheriff Randy Williamson faces three Republican primary opponents this May. There are also six Democrats running. Williamson was the target to a TV news investigation into improprieties in his office.

Here is one of the best headlines we've seen recently, this coming in the Gary Post-Tribune: "Net Nanny' not nuking all porn." The subject was a new software program installed on Crown Point city computers after City Clerk-Treasurer Pat DeMure received and viewed e-mail that included attached pornographic photos. The Net Nanny software doesn't work on e-mail.

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler has appointed Jim Holden of Evansville to serve as his campaign's political director.

Roll Call is calling U.S. Rep. Julia Carson's re-election bid in the 10th CD a "toss-up."

The Indiana Lobby Registration Commission reports that total expenditures for lobbying in Indiana during 1997 - $12,669,600 - were the highest ever and that's without 30

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lobby employers who didn't meet the filing deadline. In 1996, the total spent was $9.7 million.

HPR Publisher Brian Howey will be the luncheon speaker at the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association's spring meeting in Nashville on April 18.

10th CD candidate Virginia Blankenbaker has named Luke Messer as her campaign manager.

First Lady Judy O'Bannon addressed the Indiana House on Feb. 18, expressing her support for the Governor's Millennium Task Force.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

CARMEL - Talked to Jim Quinn the other day. He's head of the Indiana Christian Coalition and I wanted to run by him last week's lead HPR cover story. The one about John Price being competitive in the Republican U.S. Senate primary.

"Do you want to know something amazing?" Quinn offered.

Sure.

"**Right here** in **Carmel,** in the most Republican county within one of the two or three most Republican Congressional districts in the nation ...."

Yeah? Yeah? I said, leaning into the story.

"Evan Bayh is out raising the three Republican Senate candidates by a 2-to-1 margin."

I felt like saying "Lordy!" but instead I said, "Wow."

I mean WOW!

"This is going to be the most insignificant Senate race since, who was it Jim Jontz? When Jim Jontz ran against Lugar? Remember that?"

Sure do, I said. I even had Jim Jontz pay a dog days night call right in my living room on North Anthony Boulevard in Fort Wayne. He must have been desperate.

Quinn continued, "Voter turnout will be low, the mainstream Republican voter is disinterested and the moderate Republican voter is a Bayh voter. This race is shaping up to be that unimportant."

Other observations from Quinn?

It's Evan Bayh's race to lose. "There could be a total meltdown in Washington and like Watergate a backlash against Democrats, and Bill Clinton is fighting to that last man ...."

I interrupted Quinn, blurting, "And Evan Bayh could be that last man!"

Even more observations from Quinn. Paul Helmke has broken two appointments with the Christian Coalition.

"**The most unlikely** scenario is John Price finishing third in the Senate primary," said Quinn.

And how about this question: "Is the Right to Life interested in the Republicans taking the Indiana House?" Quinn answered it himself. "Not very."

The reason is that Speaker John Gregg is pro-life and Paul Mannweiler is pro-choice.

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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