THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"I've really enjoyed the tournament. We've had some great games..." **- IHSAA commissioner Bob Gardner, n the first multi-class basketball tournament after Pike beat Lafayette Central Catholic 87-44, to the Indianapolis Star**

Clinton's '98 impact here is hard to tell

Paula Jones suit dismissal gives Dems a breather

HPR Forecast: President Clinton (thus, Indiana Democrats) aren't out of the woods on the scandal front yet. But the Paula Jones lawsuit dismissal certainly doesn't hurt.

■ ■ ■

INDIANAPOLIS - April Fool!

The enduring picture on ABC News that night was President Clinton, an unlit cigar clenched between his teeth while pounding on native drums in an African hotel room, celebrating Judge Susan Webber Wright's ruling to dismiss the Paula Corbin Jones lawsuit.

It was a stunning legal and political victory for Bill Clinton and the ultimate vindication for his chief defender, James Carville. Judge Wright ruled that Jones "failed to show that she faced a hostile work environment or suffered professionally" by then-Gov. Clinton's alleged sexual advance in 1991.

What does this mean for Indiana Democrats?

Don't ever forget Bob Schiefer's comment just after Dick Morris resigned during the 1996 Democratic National Convention for his sexual peccadillos. Schiefer called Clinton's White House the "exploding cigar presidency." Just when you think the President is in the clear - BANG! The cigar in the president's mouth is an apt reminder that anything can happen.

In the short term, the Jones dismissal could be a tourniquet on a potential loss of female support for Democratic candidates. If Clinton had lost the Jones case, he would have been under tremendous pressure to resign - a position NOW's Patricia Ireland took a year ago.

On April 2, CNN-*USA Today*-Gallup reported that 63 percent of a 666-person survey supported the judge's decision and that Clinton had a 67 percent approval rating. ABC News had it at 61 percent in favor of the ruling. On April 3, a *Newsweek* Poll had Clinton's

Continued on pages 2

INSIDE FEATURES

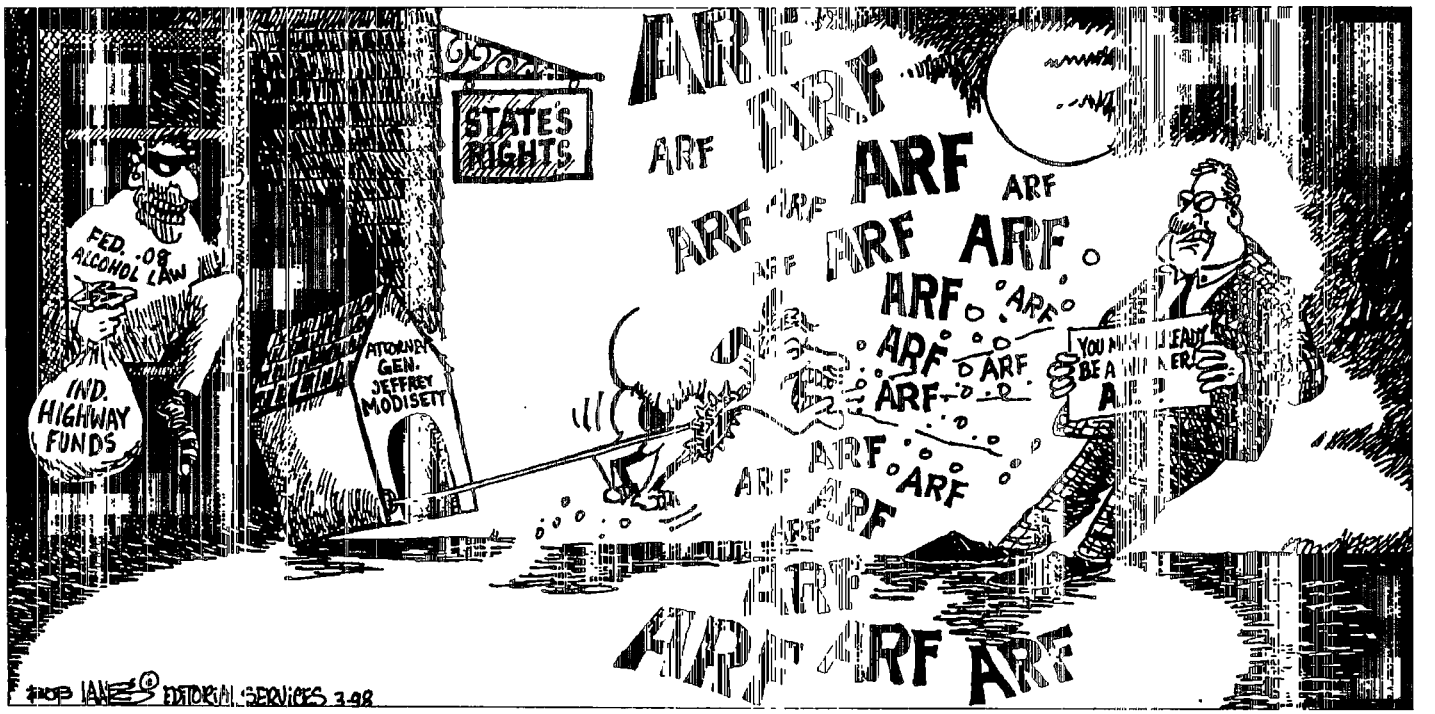
■ **Bob Lang: A look at state's rights** **page 2**

■ **Play of the Week: O'Bannon and Toyota** **page 3**

■ **Horse Race: Frank Skeffington syndrome?** **pages 4-6**

■ **Columnists: Benner, Kitchell, Kmiec, Schneider page 7**

Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

House Speaker John Gregg will be the keynote speaker at the 4th CD Dinner in Fort Wayne on April 25.

The Sycamore Institute, a Democratic think-tank, and WFYI-TV are sponsoring a debate among the three Republican U.S. Senate candidates at 2 p.m. on April 19.

Chris Ternet has left his position as lobbyist for the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce to head up Tim Berry's Republican campaign for state treasurer.

Baron Hill has named Luke Clippinger to be his campaign manager in the 9th CD race.

Continued on page 3

Clinton, *from page 1*

job approval was pegged at 66 percent. By April 4, the *Washington Post* Poll had his approval rating at 65 percent.

ABC News Analyst George Stephanopolous said on ABC's *This Week with Sam and Cokie* that Clinton "should come forward now, do the press conference and say whatever happened with Monica Lewinsky. If the President didn't break the law, nothing would do more to neutralize Ken Starr."

By repenting, Clinton could completely disarm the political will to press him on anything approaching impeachment in the wake of Starr's report. The nation would heave a huge sigh of relief (for the economy), columnists would lecture him on the importance of keeping himself zipped up, and we would move on.

While Congressional Democrats are worried about sticking their necks out for Clinton, Congressional Republicans have to be wary of trying to press anything less than a cut-and-dried-case.

There wasn't a single Indiana Democrat who rushed to defend President Clinton following the Jones dismissal. They are being cautious, particularly because within the next six weeks, Special Counsel Kenneth Starr will make at least a preliminary report to Congress on his wide array of investigations.

The way GOP Congressional leaders have behaved since the Jones dismissal should be simply freaking out Republicans -both here and nationally. There was Speaker Newt Gingrich, shamelessly promoting his new book in which he admits a plethora of screw-ups. There was House Majority Leader Dick Armey angrily suggesting that Clinton was shameless and should resign.

Remember the Clinton spin machine. It is the best - *ever.* Think of the past two months: Carville declares war on *Meet the Press*, Hillary executes it on the *Today Show*, the Jones case is thrown out, and Republicans in Congress have been put on notice by White House operatives that everyone's personal lives are fair game. Now if the White House shrewdly goes after public opinion, they could end the whole affair. That's why Clinton went out this week to aggressively push a Social Security rescue plan, and move to ban the import of 50 makes of assault weapons.

To all political candidates: The future is fraught with danger because the Clinton dynamic is so volatile. What will happen next is anyone's guess. It's almost as if the President has handed his Republican opponents one of his cigars.

PLAY of the week

Gov. Frank O'Bannon and **Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan** get the nod for Toyota announcement that 1,000 more jobs are coming to Gibson County. We're always looking for future campaign boasts and that one will surely play well in Southwestern Indiana during the 2000 election. ✍

Senate debate a make or break

INDIANAPOLIS - Paul Helmke, Peter Rusthoven and John Price can almost taste it. It is creamy, wonderful, as satisfying as an eagle at Crooked Stick GC.

It's an hour of primetime TV coverage for their moribund Republican Senate primary to be broadcast by WTHR-TV from 8 to 9 p.m. on April 20. It has the potential of reaching 40 percent of the state's population.

"Obviously it's important," said Helmke campaign manager Peter Slen. "I wouldn't use the word crucial. But it's important."

The reason for that is Helmke can't afford TV coverage until the waning days of the campaign. He's hoping his 26-16 percent lead over Rusthoven in a March Mason-Dixon poll will hold up. He is counting on the undecideds breaking in current trends.

Rusthoven campaign manager Ken MacKenzie acknowledges that Helmke has an edge in name ID.

But they are talking about having $100,000 cash on hand at the April 15 FEC report. That, however, is hardly enough to do the 1,000 points per market necessary to drive up name ID and clinch votes. Rep. Mike Young, who managed Rex Early's 1996 primary campaign, said it would cost $350,000 to run a decent statewide campaign (but without Chicago and Louisville TV). Rusthoven won't be on TV consistently until the final two weeks. That's a tiny window of opportunity to forge a name ID advantage and overcome a 10 percent deficit.

As for the WTHR debate, MacKenzie said, "It's primetime. It's good from that standpoint to see all three candidates. It gives us more exposure. But make or break? Oh no. I think it helps us. How much it helps us, I don't know."

Price, who is expected to have virtually no TV budget, will attempt to out-flank both Rusthoven and Helmke on the right in order to motivate his fleet of church buses.

And here are two finesse points to consider in what has been the political equivalent of the 1940 Phony War in France. The first is that Rusthoven's radio buy on Rush Limbaugh and Mike Pence radio shows was really quite tiny. But it got him some great earned media in places like the *Indianapolis Star* and the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* (in its Sunday edition). With limited resources, that's good politics.

Secondly, Helmke vacationed in Washington, D.C., and North Carolina with his family last week. Great for family values; bad for fund-raising with a campaign hanging in the balance.

Darn strange race. ✍

HPR Memo To... *Bob Gardner*

Has it ever dawned on you that the IHSAA might want to start marketing its basketball tournament, whether there is class basketball or not? It took the Indianapolis Colts 14 years to figure out that you have to seek paying customers in the 1990s.

Brian A. Howey ✍

TICKER TAPE

Clippinger served as campaign manager for U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton in 1996. "I am pleased to have Luke join my campaign," said Hill. "His knowledge of the district and its people will be a real asset."

Gov. Frank O'Bannon is on a 10-day investment mission to Japan and China. Joining Frank and Judy O'Bannon on the trip are Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton, House Speaker John Gregg, Senate Minority Leader Richard Young, House Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler, Reps. Chester Dobis and William Cochran and Sens. Earline Rogers and Sue Landske. "Our experience shows that strong international business relationships begin with solid personal relationships," O'Bannon said. "Asia is an extremely important market for Indiana. Hoosier exports to China have grown 600 percent since 1988. And Japan is our second largest export destination. Japanese investments in Indiana have more than doubled in the last 10 years."

O'Bannon announced a 1,000-job expansion to the new Toyota truck plant under construction in Gibson County. "This expansion continues the economic revitalization that southwest Indiana has enjoyed over the past 10 years," O'Bannon said. The

continued on page 5

Primary Toss-Ups

1st - Lawson v. Ceperich, Katic

22nd - Ruppel v. Tiede, Haupert

39th - Irsay v. Torr

General Toss-Ups

34th - Vanleer v. Adams

46th - Tincher v. Lohr

53rd - Cherry or Higgins v. Wolf

54th - Saunders v. Hamilton

56th - Bodiker v. Paust or Dickson

97th - Mahern v. Schultz

Open Seats

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

1998 House Racing Form

Bales is coming off like a Frank Skeffington

HORSE RACE

Remember Frank Skeffington? He was the mayoral character in the Spencer Tracy movie "The Last Hurrah" which in our opinion is one of the greatest political movies of all time. "The Last Hurrah" will certainly have more longevity than "Primary Colors," even though John Travolta was a superb Bill Clinton. Anyway, Jerry Bales is beginning to take on the air of Frank Skeffington - a man who has been passed by the times and doesn't realize it during his last campaign. JeffEllington's pickup of endorsements from the Indiana Chamber and former Gov. Bob Orr and the desperate tone and quirky campaign tactics have prompted us to move this race into a "Leans Ellington" category. This race is far from over and will be fascinating to the end. But the perception is that Bales is slipping.

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 or shows a candidate has momentum; **Likely** is 10 to 15 points; and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

Senate Primary Race

U.S. Senate: **R Primary:** Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, Peter Rusthoven, John Price. **D Primary:** Evan Bayh. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-Up v. Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats 1,267,972, Hogsett 900,148. **1998 Forecast:** This race will take on real definition in the next 10 days due to three events. First will be the release of FEC reports for the first three months of the campaign. Rusthoven is expected to come in with about $100,000 cash on hand. Helmke will have considerably less. Then there is the Christian Coalition debate in Indianapolis next Monday and the Star-News/WTHR primetime debate on April 20. We should have a much better feel for this race following those events. Helmke planning TV campaign for "later this month," says campaign manager Peter Slen. Helmke takes family and foreign exchange student to Washington, D.C., and North Carolina for spring break. He returns to do Northwest Indiana swing that includes two editorial board meetings, a Lincoln Day dinner in Rennselaer and a radio interview. Rusthoven campaign beginning to buy TV time and will go on TV and stay up for final two weeks of the campaign. Price may be losing that window of opportunity to sneak away with the race. We raised the specter of Price taking advantage of the Helmke/Rusthoven TV blackout by putting together a Christian/right wing coalition in a lightly voted primary. While we don't detect a groundswell of support heading toward Price on the right flank, although he did pick up the Indiana Right to Life PAC endorsement last week. Eastside Indianapolis Planned Parenthood Clinic called police after Price held a press conference outside. A clinic spokeswoman said they wanted to make sure clients weren't obstructed from entering. "It is, simply stated, offensive and abhorrent to pro-life Americans that our tax dollars are used to pay for the aborting of innocent children," said Price (Mary Beth Schneider, *Star-News*). Price accused Planned Parenthood of not accounting for $218 million of a Congressional appropriation. Dinah Farrington of Planned Parenthood called Price's allegation "patently false." Price's Right to Life endorsement might have carried more weight had Rusthoven and Helmke not been pro-life. Rusthoven campaign has personnel working the grassroots pro-life movements in an attempt to blunt any Price momentum. Schneider of the Star-News traveling with Helmke and Rusthoven this past week. **Primary Status:** Toss-Up

Indiana House Primary Races

House District 1: **R Primary:** Open. **D Primary:** Peter Katic, Linda Lawson, Patricia

Jackson Ceperich. **Geography:** Hammond, East Chicago, northern Lake County. **HPR General Forecast**: Lawson. **1994 Results:** Tabaczynski (D) 6,644 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Tabaczynski 11,860 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Katic refuses to comments on story that he drove a divorce client of his - Ceperich - to Indianapolis to file for this seat on Feb. 20, creating a three-way race with two females. "No comment. I'm not talking about that," Katic told Kevin Corcoran of the Munster Times. Lawson responded, "The only surprise was that he didn't find someone named Larson." She believes Katic is trying to split the women's vote. Tabaczynski said it appears that Katic is trying to avoid his controversial past. "He's at the point where he's got so much baggage, I don't think name recognition works against him," the incumbent said of Katic. **Primary Status:** Toss-Up.

House District 39: **R Primary:** Rep. Jerry Torr, Nancy Irsay. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Lebanon, Zionsville, Carmel, Boone and Hamilton counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-up. **1994 Results:** Willing (R) 15,974, unopposed. **1996 Results:** Torr 21,451, unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** Torr and Irsay were debating before the Carmel Chamber at deadline. Irsay is expected to point out that Hamilton County is one of the fastest growing areas in the state and it will need "clout" from its legislature. Irsay tells voters she would like to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee in order to serve the county's looming infrastructure needs. Irsay goes on radio with paid advertisements and Torr is expected to respond, meaning this campaign will be getting expensive. **Primary Status:** Toss-Up.

House District 60: **R Primary:** Rep. Jerry Bales v. Jeff Ellington. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Bloomington, Monroe County. **HPR General Forecast:** Bales. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Forecast:** Endorsements pour in for Ellington. First is from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, which has also pledged $5,000 in cash but also polling and research. The Chamber's Jeff Brantley points out, "Rep. Bales has a strong voting record with organized labor and the liberal ISTA teachers union, while his pro-business voting scores rank substantially lower than the average for his caucus and even the entire House. The record speaks for itself. When definining issues come to a vote, Rep. Bales often sides with organized labor." Brantley added, "House District 60 is a conservative, pro-business lower taxes district and we need a state legislator whose voting record will reflect the district. Jeff Ellington's tremendous community support reflects that very real desire for new leadership. Bales tells the *Herald-Times* he wasn't surprised by the Chamber's action, nor does it bother him. "They only look out for business. They don't really support the working people." Bales accused the Chamber of opposing his bill to help Thomson workers. Chamber's Kevin Brinegar says it supported Bales' bill. The second key endorsement for Ellington came from former Gov. Bob Orr, who said, "Jeff Ellington wants to make a real difference for Hoosiers." Bales said he wasn't surprised by Orr's endorsement either. "I thought he deceived the public in 1982 in the election," said Bales of the events just before the biggest tax increase in Indiana history. "I was opposed to that. Our relationship was never any good after that." Ellington also accused Bales of "low and dirty politics" (Steve Hinnefield, *Herald-Times*) saying Bales is using "killer phone calls." John Hooker of the Monroe County Emergency Management Office claims Bales' campaign asked for hazardous material information on Ellington's business. Hooker said he ran into Bales in downtown Bloomington and the incumbent asked, "Are you taking care of my guys?" Bales responds, "I never asked John for anything." Bales' phone answering machine accuses Ellington of waging "the most negative campaign that's ever been run in Monroe County against me." This campaign is getting that Frank Skeffington feel about it. **Primary Status:** *LEANS ELLINGTON.*

House District 56: **R Primary:** Dick Hamm, 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:** Dickson puts out a mailing and promises lots of fireworks in the final month of the campaign. Paust still our favorite. If he can't pull this off, not a good statement on the Wayne County Republican organization which is headed by his wife. **Primary Status:** Leans Paust.

TICKER TAPE

expansion will increase Toyota's capital investment in the overal project from $700 million to $1.2 billion.

Indiana is expected to set another export record by $1 billion over 1997, O'Bannon said. The exports are now at the $13 billion level.

The Libertarian Party of Indiana is calling the new federal highway bill a sham. "Talk about highway robbery," comment Steve Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party and a Fort Wayne resident. "Politicians are spending millions on projects that have nothing to do with America's roads and bridges - but everything to do with their own reelection. Dasbach said the highway bill includes money for a botanical garden in Missouri, a study on sidewalks at the Kennedy Center, and a public television documentary on "infrastructure awareness."

U.S. Rep. Ed Pease, Indiana's lone member of the House Transportation Committee, told the Bloomington Herald-Times that the entire state congressional delegation met and talked about the state's highway needs. "We made a concerted effort to approach this in a bipartisan fashion," Pease said. Only U.S. Rep. Mark Souder voted against the bill.

continued on page 6

TICKER TAPE

Said U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, "What this bill means for the average Hoosier is less time stuck in traffic tie-ups, fewer hubcaps lost."

New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles is saying that U.S. Rep. David McIntosh is "losing touch" with his district. Boles, who is challenging McIntosh in the 2nd CD, quoted U.S. Rep. Mark Souder in Roll Call. Souder said, "Dave is a committed conservative who is going in multiple directions where he sees opportunity. He has to decide where he is going because I am concerned that he is losing focus." Said Boles, "My problem with the Congressman is that he is not representing the citizens of Indiana. He seems to be bucking for a position in the leadership of the radical right. His chairmanship of the Conservative Action Team raises major concerns. His federal PAC used to funnel money to other candidates that agree with his out-of-sync views."

Souder expressed his "strong opposition" to the writing U.S. foreign policy in the context of emergency spending for federal disaster relief. "Once again, we in Congress are forced to make foreign policy funding decisions in conjunction with providing much-needed relief to Americans whose homes

continued on page 7

House Races, *From page 5*

House District 73: **R Primary:** Grayson Goodness. **D Primary:** Tom Birk, Denny Oxley. **Geography:** Jasper and Southwestern Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Birk. **1994 Results:** Heeke (D) 9,629, Goodness 8,241. **1996 Results:** Heeke 12,371, Goodness 8,847. **1998 Forecast:** ISTA is backing Oxley. The Trial Lawyers are behind Birk. Heeke has endorsed Oxley. HPR's Democratic caucus sources are saying, "No one can get a handle on this race." The key question is whether Oxley can carry the outer counties to off-set Birk's Jasper stronghold. Turnout will be the key. **Primary Status:** Toss-Up.

Indiana Congressional Primaries

Congressional District 7: **R Primary:** U.S. Rep. Ed Pease v. Doug Hess. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Terre Haute, Lafayette and Western Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Pease. 1994 results: Myers 104,359, Harmless 55,941. **1996 Results:** Pease 130,010, Hellmann (D) 72,705, Bourland (L) 7,125. **1998 Forecast:** Primary challenge to Pease by Doug Hess, an Indiana State University financial aids department staffer, has a better chance of freezing in hell than winning. Pease is as safe as they come. Democrats aren't in play this fall. **Status:** Solid R.

HORSE RACE

Congressional District 9: **R Primary:** Jean Leising, Michael Bailey, Cecil Copley. **D Primary:** Baron Hill, Fred Holt. **Geography:** New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **HPR General Forecast:** Leising v. Hill. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459, Leising 84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton 128,885, Leising 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Forecast:** Kevin Kellems, who flirted with entering this race, believes Leising will prevail. "She's worked too hard for too long," said Kellems. Those toes she might have stepped on in the past may still walk her way once Republicans consider that she is the only one with a chance to defeat Baron Hill in the fall. Still, Leising's big liability thus far has been her fund-raising ability. She told a Washington writer that the reason fund-raising was down was because she wanted to give her donor base a break. And in a scenario we still believe is mildly possible, so few Republicans will vote in the 9th CD that Bailey slips in with a stunner - just like he did in 1992 . **Status:** Likely D.

Congressional District 10: **R Primary:** Virginia Blankenbaker, Gary Hofmeister, Marvin Scott, Jack Hartford, Jack Reynolds. **D Primary:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Suzanne Fischman. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **HPR General Forecast:** Blankenbaker v. Carson. **1994 results:** Jacobs (D) 58,573, Scott 50,998. **1996 Results:** Carson 90,869, Blankenbaker 69,248, St. Angelo (L) 3,505 . **1998 Forecast:** Hofmeister campaign manager Mike Young lashes out at Blankenbaker's "clean campaign" as well as her pledge, noting that Blankenbaker has been making allegations about the Hofmeister campaign finances. "We don't have to sign a pledge. Actions speak louder than words," Young said. Blankenbaker campaign announces that fringe candidates Hartford and Reynolds have signed her "Positive Campaign Pledge." Hofmeister announces Ollie North will visit Indianapolis for a fund-raiser on April 24. He joins Ralph Reed and Phyllis Schlafly as prominent arch-conservatives endorsing Hofmeister. "It is rare to have such a prominent figure come to Indianapolis to support a candidate in a primary," Young said. "Ollie is a true American hero." First candidate debate was Wednesday night. **Status:** Leans D.

Brian A. Howey

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Bill Benner, *Indianapolis Star* - Before a tiny crowd in the cavernous RCA Dome on Satuday night, Pike defeated Lafayette Central Catholic for the first, and maybe, hopefully, the last - Tournament of Champions. Which means the first year of multiclass basketball is finally, finally, finally over ... Let's take a look, shall we? Attendance: down. Television ratings: down. Interest: down. Revenues: down. Media coverage: down. Losers' self-esteem: still down. Trophies: up. Congratulations to the Indiana legislature, which proved that two wrongs make a greater wrong even if the motive behind the creation of the Tournament of Champions - trying to make the IHSAA accountable - was at least on target. Congratulations to all who have rendered Hoosier Hysteria a distant second to Kentucky's all-comers tournament. Which, by the way, was won by a small school (Paintsville) two years ago and saw the same school reach the final game again this year. ✍

Douglas W. Kmiec, *Chicago Tribune* - Common refrain among pundits reacting to last week's dismissal of Paula Corbin Jones' lawsuit against President Clinton has been, "Oh sure, we knew the case was weak from the start." Really? If it was so frail, why did Clinton invest three years and enormous legal resources into doing everything possible to avoid answering the merits of Jones' claim? The Jones case was anything but frivolous when filed in 1994. Nonetheless, it is situated in an area of law - sexual harassment - that is in considerable flux. Federal Judge Susan Webber Wright's summary disposition of the Jones matter disguises this, and her opinion's counterfeit certitude invites appeal. Admittedly, Jones did continue to work and received cost of living wages, though, again, given that the Supreme Court is on the verge of deciding whether detriment is needed at all, why rush to judgment? ✍

Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star* - Try to contain your excitement. The primary election is five weeks away. Once again, voter turnout is expected to be pitiful. Is it any wonder, when there aren't many choices on the ballot? A typical precinct in Marion County gives Republicans choices in only three races. The other 11 races have one candidate each. The Demcratic ballot for that precinct is equally devoid of options, featuring 10 races with only one candidate - and one race, for state senator, that's not even on the ballot because nobody is running. It's a statewide malaise. State Rep. Win Moses began trying to recruit candidates in October to run for the legislature. Recruiting was tough, Moses said, tougher than in the past. "We got turned down by truly fine people," he said ruefully. "We had wonderful almost-candidates. One of the principal reasons we lost them is life is too good right now. People are not angry. Moses said no one he spoke to brought up the scandals surrounding President Clinton as a reason to not run as a Democrat this year. ✍

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - While millions of Americans are busy filling out their tax returns before the April 15 deadline, Sen. Richard Lugar says he'll keep returning to Congress to support a simpler form of taxation. But the Indianapolis Republican is also realistic about the chances of any major tax reform being adopted. Lugar has supported a national sales tax as a replacement for income tax. "I'm still debating the issue," Lugar said. "I would be the first to say a monumental change of that sort really is traumatic for Americans to consider," he said. "Wisely, you say, 'Thank goodness, no more record keeping,' but at the same time, making that transition would be a real threat to business continuity and planning. My guess is that incremental reform is more likely during our lifetime. ✍

TICKER TAPE

and lives have been destroyed by natural disasters," Souder said. Souder was complaining about HR 3579 that appropriates $2.9 billion in supplemental spending, including $570 million to provide El Nino disaster relief and $2.3 billion for the current military operations in Bosnia. "Today we were asked to throw yet more money at the Bosnia operation," Souder said. "I could not, in good conscience, vote for such a measure. Combining controversial spending proposals with must-pass funding for disaster relief is unfair to the victims of such disasters as well as to our troops."

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler issued a press released called "1040 reasons to scrap the tax code." Hostettler added, "There is universal agreement that the current system is incomprehensible, inequitable and indefensible. In my three years as a representative of Indiana's 8th District I have never had a constituent say to me, 'Congressman, we love the tax system. Please do all you can to preserve it."

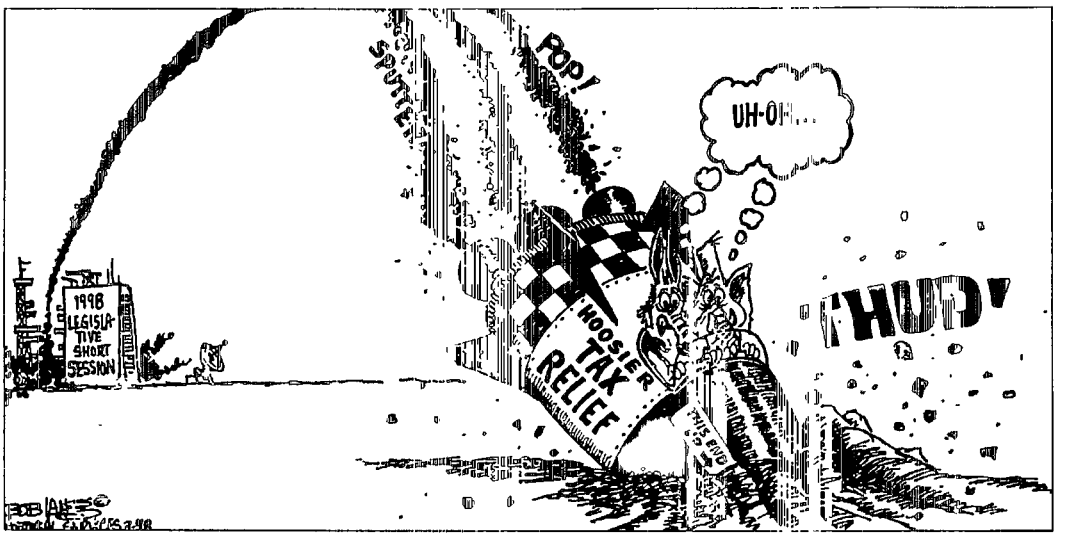
Former House Speaker J. Roberts Dailey is hosting a fund-raiser for GOP Senate hopeful in Muncie for Senate candidate Peter Rusthoven.

The Munster Times reports that

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

"dirty tricksters" have been circulating handbills advertising political fund-raisers at a Hammond strip club. The handbill was also posted at the Lake County Government Center in Crown Point. It maintained that North Township Assessor John Matonovich, Trustee Barbarto "Baba" Martinez, board member Roy Del Rio, and County Councilman Robert Foulas were to entertain guests at the Gentleman's Club. But club manager Cora Flagg said no such event was planned. The Times reported, "But stripped of its bare essentials, the bogus ad appeared to be nothing more than a raw power grab."



Eric Miller reinventing his own activism

INDIANAPOLIS - Gone is that nordic, 1930s-style logo for Citizens Concerned for the Constitution. In its place is a 90's style logo for Eric Miller's new organization with national affiliation - Advance America.

Miller intends to press more economic and business issues than he did with the CCC, which was a font of social issue activism.

And expect Miller to hit the ground running on some issues that could give Hoosier Republicans legs going into the fall campaign.

Miller says he will be playing a role in some tight Congressional races here in Indiana, but HPR expects that he will continue to work for strategic leverage in the legislature, where the Indiana House hangs in the balance.

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