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# Hoosiers reacting with ambiguity

## Disconnect between pols, press and the people

By BRIAN A. HOWEY, *in Indianapolis*
and MARK SCHOEFF, JR. *in Washington, D.C.*

There is a disconnect between the Hoosier politicians, the press and the people. By mid-week, Indiana politicians have expressed outrage but are reserving judgment on impeachment, resignation or censure. Six Indiana newspapers - the *Indianapolis Star* and the *South Bend Tribune* the latest on Tuesday - have called for President Clinton to resign.

And yet public opinion polls are showing the Americans aren't in favor of Clinton's impeachment or resignation. On Friday, people downloaded the Starr Report off the Internet. By Saturday night, it was the hot topic at barbecues, restaurants and bars. On Sunday, NBC released its polling showing by a 66-31 percent margin that Clinton should remain in office. Monday numbers by CNN were identical. An ABC News poll Monday had Clinton's approval rating at 57 percent.

**All this ambiguity comes as Congress** engaged in an emotional debate over whether to release the President's fitful video-taped testimony to the public, a move that Bob Woodward of the *Washington Post* believes will be a public relations disaster for Clinton.

And while Capitol Hill Democrats like Sen. Tom Daschle and Rep. Richard Gephardt expressed their outrage at Clinton's tactic of splitting legal hairs over whether he committed perjury, Indiana voters are finding an environment not clearly defined.

"I'm not gloomy, I'm not pessimistic," said retiring U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton. "We have to let this thing settle. If you're a candidate, you've got a full six weeks to turn things around."

The race for the 9th CD seat Hamilton is vacating between Democrat Baron Hill and Republican Jean Leising may become a national bellweather. A National Republican Campaign Committee

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## "QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"I confirm it...."

**- Shannon Johnson, wife of State Sen. Steve Johnson, to a question on whether her husband had had an affair with a 21-year-old Senate intern in 1997.**

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# TICKER TAPE

**State Sen. Steve Johnson has admitted to having a sexual affair in 1997 with a 21-year-old Senate intern, prompting Howard County Republican Chairman Ron Metz to call for his resignation (Scott Smith, Kokomo Tribune). Johnson said he and his wife were experiencing "domestic problems." Last Friday, he admitted to the affair, saying, "I cannot and will not attempt to excuse my actions. The relationship was with a person that worked with me, and I accept full responsibility for my actions. I have committed a moral and ethical wrong. For that, I am forever sorry." Said Metz, "His conduct was reprensible, it's disgraceful, it's immoral and it's indefensible. As a consequence of this act, he has lost**

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## Scandal, *from page 1*

poll made public last week showed Leising leading Hill 48-38 percent. Many believe the 8th, 9th and 10th CDs will be increasingly volatile as further bad news suppresses Democratic turnout in a similar way to 1994 while socially conservative constituencies become energized by Clinton's blood in the water. Even Democrats are acknowledging that the people of Southeastern Indiana are likely to show little tolerance for Clinton's sexual foilables.

The "X" factor that may give Hoosier Democrats a boost is the candidate at the top of the ticket - former Gov. Evan Bayh, running for the U.S. Senate. "I would suggest that Evan Bayh is going to shield Democratic candidates in Indiana from negative fallout," said Washington consultant Chris Sautter, who serves as a campaign advisor to Gail Riecken in the 8th CD.

**Sautter said a Riecken poll** showed Bayh with a 74-12 percent lead in the 8th CD over Paul Helmke. A Mason-Dixon released by WTHR-TV Tuesday night showed Bayh with a 55-32 percent lead over Helmke.

Although the Starr Report is rich in salacious detail about Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky and outlines a case for impeaching him based on perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of power, many Hoosiers questioned why the report was only about sex, with virtually nothing about Whitewater, the FBI files, the travel office, and the billing records. They may be unwilling to take out their collective wrath on Democratic candidates.

**"I don't think any Republican** operative is counting on the President's scandal to be a windfall for us," said Mike Russell, spokesman for the National Republican Senatorial Committee. The NRSC has not decided whether to fund Helmke beyond the $17,500 that was given to him by Sen. Dan Coats. "We knew this was going to be an uphill fight for Helmke," said Russell. "I don't think a lot has changed in the race."

However, independent pollsters are seeing ominous signs for Democrats. "It probably gets worse for Democrats" now that the Starr Report has been released said John Zogby of Zogby International Inc. "There's a 50-50 chance we're seeing the unraveling of the Clinton presidency."

Recent polling in Illinois and Missouri shows voters as less likely - by a margin of 3 to 1 - to support a Democratic candidate who expresses support of President Clinton. "There is a significant net loss for the Democratic candidates who have any relationship with the President," Zogby said. "We're seeing significant erosion in presidential support among independents and 18-29 year olds, both of whom have been critical to his winning coalition.

Sautter, however, said that polls like Zogby's fail to factor in who is likely to vote, which could change the results.

Democrats who are running in districts that lean Republican may be especially vulnerable. But Democratic Rep. Tim Roemer in the 3rd CD whose district has voted for the Republican presidential nominee in the last two elections, said he is not focusing on whether his party will suffer a political meltdown. Congress must concentrate on whether the president's actions warrant impeachment.

**"This is way above worrying** about partisan politics and elections," said Roemer, who has strongly criticized the president's behavior in his affair with Monica Lewinsky. Republicans believe that if the Nov. 3 election becomes a referendum on President Clinton, Roemer opponent Dan Holtz might have a chance at an upset.

The key question is how people will react to the Starr Report, which offers nothing new, Sautter said. "There's more detail, but there's no surprise."

The Starr Report is creating a major distraction for Democrats and sucking away the oxygen for their main issues - health care, Social Security and education. "Clearly it makes it more difficult to get a message out," said Sautter. "The issues continue to favor the Democrats. The question is whether the Democrats can communicate that message in this environment."

**Once the Starr Report** and Clinton's video testimony are consumed and digested by the public, the process is likely to slow down. The House voted last Friday to give the Judiciary Committee until Sept. 28 to review reams of documentation that accompanied Starr's 445-page report. Sifting through that material may keep committee members in Washington over weekends in September and October. After its review, the committee will determine which supporting documents should be released to the public. In conjunction with the House Rules Committee and the House leadership, it will decide how to move forward, including whether to hold hearings.

If the Judiciary Committee votes in favor of articles of impeachment, it sends them to the entire House for a vote. If the House impeaches the president, the Senate conducts a trial, with two-thirds required for a conviction.

That's a long way off. House Judiciary Committee members must begin wading through boxes of supporting evidence. "Most of them believe they've got the responsibility to read that material personally. That it's too important. That they would not be meeting their responsibility if they didn't," said Rep. Ed Pease, a committee member. "That could really take some time. Trying to find that balance of a resolution that is both prompt and fair is a real challenge. Not knowing what's in all those boxes makes it difficult to predict."

Pease believes a strong case can be made for including perjury and obstruction of justice along with bribery and treason as "high crimes and misdemeanors" needed for impeachment.

**What happens from this** point on will determine whether Clinton survives, Roemer said. Starr's report amounts to an opening argument, not a verdict. The outcome will depend on how the House conducts itself in assessing the evidence, how the president responds legally and politically and how Americans react.

At this writing, Clinton is off to a dismal start on this leg of his gauntlet.

Roemer said he is taking a long look at censure. "At this point, given what he has acknowledged, I would look carefully at a fairly written, thoughtfully balanced censure."

Hamilton, who has not given Clinton any quarter, said the President may be starting to repair the breach he has created with the American people. "The man is going through an exceedingly difficult journey," said Hamilton. "His statements have become more and more contrite, more and more humble, more and more apologetic. He's certainly moving in the right direction."

As for public opinion, Hamilton said, "It's an important factor, but not an exclusive factor. When looking at a political process, you have to take into account the feelings of the people."

Pease said he will not be swayed by voter sentiment. "My duties are defined by the Constitution. Wherever that leads us, that's where I'm going to go."

# TICKER TAPE

**his right to represent the people of the 21st District. He should do the right thing and step aside." Ironically, the Indianapolis Star ran the same story on Johnson in both its Saturday and Sunday editions.**

**Reaction from Indiana Members of Congress and Indiana leaders on President Clinton and the Starr Report:**

- **Rep. Julia Carson: "He violated the 10 Commandments, not the constitution" (WISH-TV). Carson was the only member of the Indiana delegation to vote against releasing the report on the Internet.**
- **Rep. Steve Buyer: "I've seen many people apologize in the courtroom" (WISH-TV).**
- **Gov. Frank O'Bannon: "I think it's very disgusting. I do know it's hurt the presidency."**
- **Rep. Dan Burton: "It's unfortunate these kinds of details have to be made public. I intend to reserve judgment" (WRTV). "We just keep finding out more and more and more and more - it's awful. It's much worse than this. This is bad, but I'll tell you the other (scandal) is much worse" (Roll Call).**
- **David Steel, 5th CD Democratic candidate: "Congress has a duty to handle the Starr Report in a nonpartisan fashion. However, they also bear the burden of their recent legislative record."**
- **U.S. Rep. David McIntosh:**

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**Toss-Ups (7)**
**30th - Burkhardt v. Herrell**

**34th - Vanleer v. Adams**

**46th - Lohr v. Tincher**

**54th - Hamilton v. Saunders**

**56th - Paust v. Bodiker**

**80th - Becker v. Gia Quinta**

**97th - Schultz v. Mahern**

**Leans R (6)**
**20th - Underly v. Budak**

**24th - McClain v. Fincher**

**26th - Scholer v. Clapper**

**53rd - Cherry v. Wolf v. Miller**

**60th - Ellington v. Welch**

**94th - Marendt v. Bardon**

**Leans D (4)**
**9th - Pelath v. Allamong**

**10th - Cheney v. Cannon**

**19th - Kuzman v. Gasparovic**

**73rd - Oxley v. Goodness**

# 1998 Racing Form

## Poll shows Leising leading Hill by 10 points

Is U.S. Rep. David McIntosh running for governor in 2000? Officially, he's keeping his options open, but his taping of radio ads on behalf of 18 legislative candidates in eight markets statewide will give him great exposure. Will the GOP retake the Indiana House? That's a good bet at this juncture, but don't be surprised at the volatility of the entire political climate. Will Paul Mannweiler prevail as speaker if a growing Republican wave brings in conservatives like Jeff Ellington and David Lohr? An excellent question that is impossible to answer at this juncture.

HORSE RACE

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.

## Congressional Races

Congressional District 8: **Republican:** U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Evansville Councilwoman Gail Riecken. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler 93,529, McCloskey 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Forecast:** Candidates participate in the Great Limestone Stump Debate in Bedford. Riecken charged that Hostettler's Congressional record has been geared toward big business and the wealthy, neglecting families. Hostettler said he has done what he promised to do four years ago and charged that Riecken has changed her stance on taxes. Hostettler assailed President Clinton's morals in his opening statement, saying, "We are looking for trust in some of our highest offices." Riecken didn't acknowledge the Clinton scandal, focusing on families and introducing her daughter, Katie. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Congressional District 9: **Republican:** Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Baron Hill. **Geography:** New Albany, Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana. **1994 results:** Hamilton 91,459, Leising 84,315. 1996 Results: Hamilton 128,885, Leising 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998 Forecast:** Memo to Joe Andrew: Your huns are at the gate. NRCC poll conducted between Aug. 22-24 shows Leising with a 48-38 percent lead. That signals a significant change of fortune for Leising. Literally. With a 10-point lead, the money will come gushing into the district as the Republicans sense they can pick up an open seat. Hill may still have a money lead at this point as he winds up his walking tour of the district, but this seat has moved from a likely Democratic pickup to a Toss-Up in the space of three weeks, which may be record movement for a Congressional seat. Leising will likely benefit from a big expenditure of independent issue advertising in the Cincinnati, Louisville and Evansville TV markets aimed at Congressional elections in Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois. **Status:** *TOSS-UP.*

## Indiana House Races

House District 9: **Republican:** Brad Allamong. **Democrat:** Scott Pelath. Geography: Michigan City, LaPorte and St. Joseph counties. **1994 results:** Alevizos (D) 11,202 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Alevizos15,424 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Pelath should prevail, unless the backlash against President Clinton suppresses the normally dominant Democratic base. **Status:** *Likely D.*

House District 10: **Republican:** John Cannon. **Democrat:** Duane Cheney. **Geography:** Valparaiso, Portage, Porter County. **1994 results:** Wilson (D) 9,701 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Wilson 15,672 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** Ditto for Cheney as in Pelath's seat. Democrats received polling data from their open seats first and it shows that Cheney should have little trouble with Cannon. The biggest thing that could change in either the 9th or 10th HDs is a scandal disaster with President Clinton where the election would be a referendum on whether he stays or goes. **Status:** *Likely D.*

House District 19: **Republican:** Nick Gasparovic. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman. **Geography:**

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Crown Point, south Lake County. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Forecast:** In 1992, Suellen Reed won this district with 60 percent and AG candidate Tim Bookwalter with 57 percent, prompting Republicans to call this seat their No. 1 target. Problem for them is that Kuzman had an extremely credible freshman term, has raised good money, opened up a Congressional-caliber campaign office in Crown Point and can count on Gov. O'Bannon to return to Lake County (for about the 20th time since 1996) should there be even a whiff of trouble. Just in case, Democrats have a field staffer working for Kuzman. **Status:** *Leans D.*

**House District 20:** **Republican:** Rep. Mary Kay Budak. **Democrat:** Tony Underly. **Geography:** LaPorte and St. Joseph counties. **1994 Results:** Budak 12,688 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Budak 12,672, Underly 8,313. **1998 Forecast:** Budak beat Underly with 60 percent two years ago even though Goldsmith took just 44 percent in that district. Underly is the labor candidate, but Budak has always been able to muster labor support. Only difference this year is the UAW strike might energize some labor and return them to their roots. **Status:** *Likely R.*

**House District 24:** **Republican:** Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Logansport Councilman Mike Fincher. **Geography:** Logansport, Cass, Carroll counties. **1994 Results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz 7,686. 1996 Results: McClain 15,538 (unopposed) . **1998 Forecast:** Cass County Republicans are in disarray over the chairman's personal life and McClain will need that organization because Fincher wins races in Logansport and has deep family ties in Carroll County. A GOP tidal wave would doom Fincher. **Status:** *Leans R.*

**House District 26:** **Republican:** Rep. Sue Scholer. **Democrat:** Jeff Clapper. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1994 Results:** Scholer 7,434 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Scholer 8,633, Clapper (D) 5,714. **1998 Forecast:** It's been bizarre politically in Lafayette. First there was the primary precinct level showdowns between moderate and conservative Republicans, with Scholer siding with the largely victorious moderates. Then came the targeting of gay and lesbian public school teachers in Lafayette, which has been a long simmering point of agitation with the Christian ultra right. Then came the truck bombing attempt at the Tippecanoe County courthouse that came close to being a Hoosier version of Oklahoma City (or Nairobi). There are hints that the far right militia may be involved. In normal circumstances, Scholer should be in pretty good shape and we resisted putting this race on the front burner earlier this summer since the district's Democratic base is only 43 percent, although AG Jeff Modisett won the district in 1996 with 53 percent. But Scholer is now in leadership, as was Stan Jones, the man she defeated in 1990. She upset some of her Purdue University supporters by backing a move to place a faculty member on the university's board of trustees. She may have lost support of the far right. The courthouse bombing could endear her to moderate Republicans and Democrats. We're not saying that Scholer is in trouble - only that the political situation seems to be incredibly volatile. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

**House District 30:** **Republican:** Rep. Karen Burkhardt. **Democrat:** Ron Herrell. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,660. **1998 Forecast:** UAW strike against GM could really energize the dormant Democratic base after 4,000 workers were laid off for close to two months. Democrats think they have a shot now that Padfield has resigned. But Kokomo has turned into a Republican city and Burkhardt should benefit from her brother - U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer - and his organization. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

**House District 34:** **Republican:** James Vanleer. **Democrat:** Rep. Tiny Adams. **Geography:** Muncie, Delaware County. **1994 Results:** Vanleer 8,491, Elliott 7,522. **1996 Results:** Adams 9,630, Vanleer 9,241. **1998 Forecast:** Democrats have a field staffer in place for this race. Muncie is a city in transition with Ball Corp. and several other big companies leaving town. Recent UAW strike could help Adams energize his labor base and help make up for the continuing rifts in the Delaware County Democratic organization that has been buffeted by a number of odd controversies. Adams is concentrating on his African-American base while trying to out-flank Vanleer. Best - and realistic - hope for Vanleer is a disturbing Clinton scandal and a Republican wave, just like the one he rode in on in 1994. This should be a stellar race. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

**House District 46:** **Republican:** David Lohr. **Democrat:** Rep. Vern Tincher. **Geography:** Vigo, Greene, Brown, Monroe, Sullivan counties. **1994 Results:** Lohr 8,160, Tincher 8,034. **1996 Results:** Tincher 9,858, Lohr 9,759, Minx 531. 1998 Forecast: Both parties have personnel on the ground working what will be one of the most aggressive and vitriolic campaigns this fall. Both parties planning to throw in the kitchen sink on this one. It's been quiet lately, but there's a huge storm brewing. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

**House District 53:** **Republican:** Councilman Robert Cherry. **Democrat:** Sarah Wolf. Libertarian: Phil Miller. **Geography:** Greenfield, Rushville, Hancock and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Gulling (R) 13,945 unopposed. **1996 Results:** Gulling (R) 20,174 unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** This is an open seat where Democrats have tracked but aren't revealing much movement on behalf of their candidate. The key

# TICKER TAPE

**"I believe I should reserve final judgment until I read the report. My reserving judgment, however, doesn't require me to be silent on the conduct the president already has acknowledged. The actions and conduct Bill Clinton has admitted to were immoral and reckless and in and of themselves deserving of public rebuke."**

**■ Rep. Tim Roemer: "I'm deeply offended by what he did. It was ethically and morally wrong and he'll have to pay some kind of price for it. I don't know if the price is becoming a lame duck president or whether it's censureship by the United States Congress. It could be resignation or impeachment" (Elkhart Truth).**

**■ Both Evan Bayh and Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke - U.S. Senate opponents - said they favor the impeachment inquiry.**

**Two members of the Greene County Militia have announced they will run for sheriff and clerk as write-in candidates. Roger Stalcup will be running for sheriff and his wife, Janice Stalcup, is seeking the clerk's office. The local militia's slogan is "We don't have to tolerate a rising crime rate." Said Roger Stalcup, "A lot of people have a problem with the word 'militia'." He said that**

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# TICKER TAPE

**by using the word "militia," it gives his organization certain constitutional protections (A.J. Nelson, Sunday Herald-Times). Stalcup added that he will not tolerate any member of the militia "violating the law."**

**U.S. Rep. David McIntosh announced that his Indiana Family and Freedom Committee has launched its first flight of radio ads in eight markets statewide to support 18 Republican candidates for the Indiana General Assembly. McIntosh said the ads would run through the month, with more ads and direct contributions running later in October. The IFFC is supporting Jeff Ellington in Bloomington, David Lohr in Terre Haute, Nick Gasparovic in Crown Point, Gary Dillon in Huntington, Ken Paust in Richmond, Ray Schultz, Jeff Parmalee and Candy Marendt in Indianapolis, John Becker and Juanite Clay in Fort Wayne, Sen. Sandy Dempsey in Mannond, Sen. David Ford in Hartford City, Fred Wenger and Jim Vanleer in Muncie, Tom Saunders in New Castle and Dave Robertson in Albany. The ad states, "Indiana families are working harder and paying taxes like never before. In fact, they've paid so much in taxes that our state government is sitting on two billion dollars more than it needs. It's time**

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development is the entry of Miller, a Libertarian and former manager of a local restaurant. It is the first crucial race that will have a third party candidate to deal with. Who Miller might hurt, presuming he takes 2 or 3 percent of the vote, is up to debate. Clinton scandal will absolutely doom Wolf. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 54: **Republican:** Rep. Tom Saunders. **Democrat:** Donnie Hamilton. **Geography:** New Castle, Henry County. **1994 Results:** Kinser (D) 9,176, Razor (R) 7,853. **1996 Results:** Saunders 11,298, Copenhaver 10,221. **1998 Forecast:** Hamilton is a teacher and an author with a political family background in New Castle - an excellent challenger. But Republicans are flat out saying there is no way the personable and politically astute Saunders will lose this race. If Clinton's cigar explodes, Saunders surely will return. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 56: **Republican:** Ken Paust **Democrat:** Rep. Richard Bodiker. **Geography:** Richmond, Wayne County. **1994 Results:** Bodiker 7,142, Hamm 7,087. **1996 Results:** Bodiker 10,772, Hamm 8,159. **1998 Forecast:** Gov. O'Bannon goes to Richmond to stump for "Landslide Dick." But they acknowledge that this could be a real tough race, particularly if the Clinton scandals turn this race away from local issues and into a national dynamic. The popular Bodiker was able to survive such a national tidal wave in 1994 - but barely. The difference is that Paust is a much more credible candidate than Hamm was. Democrats plan to target Paust's record on raising taxes while a member of the county council. Scandal might drown that message out. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 60: **Republican:** Jeff Ellington. **Democrat:** Peggy Welch. **Geography:** Bloomington, Bloomfield, Lawrence. Greene and Monroe counties. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Forecast:** Democrats have tracking data in on the open seats, but this race didn't come up despite previous high hopes. That appears to mean that Ellington's base probably hasn't eroded significantly. Democrats were hoping to make this into enough of a race to draw in GOP resources, then appeal to bitter supporters of Rep. Bales to jump parties and support a conservative Democrat who used to be on the staff of conservative U.S. Senator Thad Cochran. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

House District 67: **Republican:** Rep. Clec Duncan. **Democrat:** Ed Goble. **Geography:** Decatur, Ripley, Switzerland counties. **1994 Results:** Duncan 9,672, Goble 9,369. **1996 Results:** Duncan 12,598, Kellerman 9,474. 1998 Forecast: We see little evidence that Goble can complete his political comeback and make this a race. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

House District 73: **Republican:** Grayson Goodness. **Democrat:** Dennis Oxley. **Geography:** Jasper and Southwestern Indiana. **1994 Results:** Heeke (D) 9,629, Goodness 8,241. **1996 Results:** Heeke 12,371, Goodness 8,847. **1998 Forecast:** Tracking indicates that Oxley is in pretty good shape despite the rift between the Oxley and Birk camps following the primary. More people are mad at Heeke. But Gov. O'Bannon went to Jasper to appeal for safe schools and a safe Democratic Party and apparently everyone took the peace pipe. If seats like HD 73 shift toward the toss-up zone following the Starr report, could signal the coming blood bath for Democrats. **Status:** *Likely D.*

House District 80: **Republican:** John Becker. **Democrat:** Rep. Ben GiaQuinta. **Geography:** Southern Fort Wayne. **1994 Results:** Becker 5,206, GiaQuinta 5,199. **1996 Results:** GiaQuinta 7,707, Becker 6,365. **1998 Forecast:** Best bet for Republicans is a 1994 scenario where the dynamic of the race changes from local to national issues. The bad news for Democrats is that potential is there, thanks to the Clinton sex scandal. We're keeping this in the toss-up zone until we see how Kenneth Starr's impeachment report plays out. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

House District 94: **Republican:** Rep. Candy (Morris) Marendt. **Democrat:** Jeb Bardon. **Geography:** NW Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reasoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. 1998 Forecast: We're watching this race closely, but have seen little evidence that Marendt is in trouble. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 97: **Republican:** Ray Schultz. **Democrat:** Rep. Ed Mahern. **Geography:** Southern Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Heffley 4,782, Cantwell 4,037. **1996 Results:** Mahern 6,368, Heffley 5,372. **1998 Forecast:** Democrats have a field staffer in place to protect this seat from a credible Republican challenger. Key will be turnout. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson's re-elect numbers (38 percent) cannot be reassuring to the Mahern camp. But remember, the undefeated Carson has always been able to turn out her base, and that should help Mahern. As with other tight races, a change in the national dynamic swirling around President Clinton could be ominous. **Status:** *Toss-up.*

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Mike Leonard,** *Bloomington Herald-Times* - Ken Starr said his report would make us want to puke, and for once, he wasn't exaggerating. After more than four years of investigating and more than $40 million of taxpayers' dollars spent, this is it? No matter how one attempts to characterize the report, its weightiest and most substantial charge is that the president lied about sex. If there is an "abuse of power" charge to be filed, it should be directed at Starr, who has attempted to bring down Bill Clinton, ruin the life of Monica Lewinsky and cripple the office of the president, because he couldn't squeeze out a single indictable offense against the president over Whitewater, Filegate or anything else. The Starr investigation and report represents a dark chapter in American history, similar to the Salem witch trials or the deeds of the House Committee on Un-American Activities led by Wisconsin Sen. Joseph McCarthy.

**Garret Mathews,** *Evansville Courier* - Bill Clinton's presidency is ruined. Even if he doesn't get thrown out of office, the man will never again be taken seriously. Jokes about zippers, cigars and blue dresses will follow his every step. It would be better if he just quit - his punishment for doing what hundreds of thousands of males have done before him. And, in this case, with a woman who was the clear aggressor in the relationship. And as chronicled in gleefully lurid prose by an independent counsel who was born 40 years too late to answer his true calling - right hand man to Joseph McCarthy.

**Sylvia Smith,** *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*- Congressional Democrats are hurtling toward a bloodbath come Nov. 3 and there's very little they can do about it. That's the conclusion two pollsters - the Democrat speaking glumly, the Republican all a-twinkle - have reached based on their joint survey and separate analyses. "Key Democratic constituencies are demoralized," said Democratic pollster Celinda Lake. And she said that before the Starr Report was sent to the House last week and its salacious details hit the newspapers and airwaves.

**Harrison Ullmann,** *NUVO Newsweekly* - I believed a liar. For the record, I now believe that William Jefferson Clinton should resign. I voted for him; I thought he would be the president I want. But now I know he's no longer a president I want in my White House. That's too bad. He has a lot of the right stuff to be a good president. But he also has too much of the wrong stuff. He should go. America will endure and prosper if he does. We have lost better presidents than the president that William Jefferson Clinton has made of himself.

**Larry Lough,** *Muncie Star Press* - The Sex Police last week kicked in Dan Burton's closet door and found a 15-year-old skeleton. Such is the sad state of politics and media today. Self-righteous moralizing of the sort of which Congressman Burton is prone invites the kind of scrutiny that led him last week to launch damage control by acknowledging he had fathered a child out of wedlock in the early '80s. And although he has said he will talk no more about the matter, you haven't heard the last of Dan Burton's personal life. Trust us on that one. State Legislator Burton was a likeable guy but considered to be something of a loose cannon. His reputation as a playboy was the source of many rumors in his legislative days. Some Republicans are having trouble explaining away Burton's indescretion so shortly after fervently expressing their more indignation over Clinton's scandal. The family values folks also have yet to address the hypocrisy of Burton's claim that he took "responsibility" for the child. Giving your boy a hug after he strikes out in a Little League game is taking responsibility. Just sending a support check is not.

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# TICKER TAPE

**that Hoosier families, seniors and farmers got a break - a tax break."**

**Chris Sautter, the consultant to 8th CD Democrat Gail Riecken tells HPR that Riecken began her first TV buy on Monday. The $30,000 buy is for one week of cable TV in Lawrence, Monroe and Orange counties. Riecken will do one week of broadcast media in the Terre Haute and Evansville markets beginning on Sept. 15 - that also being a $30,000 buy.**

**Winchester Mayor Jack Fowler spoke to his city council last week and said he was prohibiting his police officers from "harassing people who come out of bars" (Muncie Star Press). Residents had complained to the council that police officers were "lying in wait" outside the towns taverns.**

**While the nation was in an uproar over the Starr Report, campaign finance reform died quietly in the U.S. Senate (Roll Call).**

**An investigation is underway over voting machine tampering during the May primary in Monroe County. "We are now gathering technical information from the clerk and from the manufacturer of the voting machine," said Sheriff Randy**

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# TICKER TAPE

**Williamson (Herald-Times). The sheriff said he has contacted the FBI. The investigation was kicked off when county council candidate Tony Musgrave acknowledged he was working as a voting machine technician.**

**Retiring U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton will become director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars based in Washington. The center is an arm of the Smithsonian Institution.**

**Watch for one member of the Republican Statehouse ticket to go up with a TV ad campaign based on taxes by Sept. 27.**

## COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Dick Cady,** *Indianapolis Star* - At the 1980 gridiron, the targets included Otis Bowen, William Hudnut, Frank O'Bannon. Dan Burton, then a state senator, also was roasted - and there was a recurrent theme. Some samples: "He wants to become the District of Columbia's first senator. Why, you ask? Because someone told him that three-quarters of a million people in Washington go to bed each night without a senator." Laughter in the audience. "For a man who claims to be such a moralist, Danny does have a reputation as a ladies' man. He is all for life, liberty and the happiness of pursuit." Laughter. "He likes to get out there and see sin close up." Laughter. "Danny was once asked if he would patronize a streetwalker. He said certainly not - he'd treat her as an equal." At the end, the roastmaster "honored" Burton by saying: "A pugnacious legislator, a conscientious lawmaker - and damned fortunate for all the things we left out tonight." It was, of course, all in good fun."

**Maureen Dowd,** *New York Times* - America's twin obsessions - money and sex - were captured most hilariously on Monday when CNN put a little stock ticker to the left of Trent Lott as he chastised Bill Clinton for diminishing the Presidency. It was impossible to focus on the majority leader's moral umbrage with the Dow plummeting 110 points right next to his helmet head. By the time I got to work, the market was healing. But something else really, really scary had happened - the AP wire was running a story about Dan Burton's sex life. *Dan Burton's sex life.* Just when you thought this scandal had hit rock bottom, the bottom got rockier.

**Jason Vest,** *Salon Magazine* - Ullmann went on to pose, open-letter style, a list of pointed questions - questions that *NUVO* writer Brian Howey had planned to ask Burton in a scheduled hard news story. Burton had backed out of the interview, and Howey and co-author Mark Schoeff Jr., a former Republican Senate staffer, published an article that raised a new on-record character allegation from John Domi, a former gambling lobbyist. "Every time he'd go on one of my junkets, he'd have a different gal," Domi told NUVO. "I watch him in Congress and his committee and all I have to say is, let he without sin cast the first stone. Danny [illegible] himself. And if I saw him, I'd tell that to his face." It was this column, not anything involving the Clinton White House, that brought Burton's past into the open. Like Clinton, perhaps, you could say that Burton has no one to blame but himself.

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