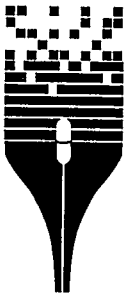
THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"I've been lucky in my marriage. My husband has the aspect that, pretty much, he'd be dead if he did anything like that...."

- Former First Lady Susan Bayh, reflecting on the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, Anderson Herald-Bulletin

Video testimony signifies nothing

Political climate never more volatile

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

The sound and fury surrounding the release of President Clinton's videotaped grand jury testimony so far has signified nothing.

After hours of tense meetings last week, the House Judiciary Committee voted along partisan lines to put the tape and more than 3,100 pages of documents into the public domain. Independent Counsel Ken Starr believes the material supports impeaching President Clinton for perjury, obstruction of justice, and abuse of power. Clinton testified on Aug. 17 before Starr's grand jury regarding his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Analysts hesitate to predict how the Lewinsky scandal will affect this fall's election. "No one can project that far into the future," said Larry Sabato, professor of political science at the University of Virginia. Democratic candidates are likely to suffer because of the scandal, but the magnitude of the impact can't be determined because Starr may not be done. He may issue indictments or more reports.

The bizarre and unprecedented situation left some of the most grizzled and experienced Hoosier operatives scratching their heads. "I can't figure it out," said State Rep. Mike Young, who is managing Gary Hofmeister's Republican 10th CD campaign, after hearing the CNN/Gallup Poll numbers that showed Clinton's approval rating going from 60 percent to 66 percent a day after the video was released. "It's amazing."

Said Dan Parker of the Indiana House Democratic

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BOB LANG

TICKER TAPE

How does State Rep. Brent Steele respond to reports that he or other Republicans are after House Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler's job? "That's so wrong," Steele said to the most potent rumor on the mill in Indianapolis and elsewhere. "I think Paul's got excellent support right now, more than he had, probably at any time" (Steve Hinnefield, Bloomington Herald Times). At the same time, Bloomington Democrat Rep. Mark Kruzan was saying just the opposite with the prospects of David Lohr and Jeff Ellington pushing the GOP caucus to the right. "The Republicans have a civil war going on," Kruzan said.

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Video, *from page 1*

caucus, "This is distracting. I don't think anyone is getting their message out now."

The videotaped testimony, which ran for more than four hours Monday on several networks, has failed to produce a maelstrom. "It's too soon to know whether there's any impact," said Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the Rothenberg Political Report. "Looking back, it's not such an earth-shaking event."

Calls to Hoosier offices on Capitol Hill seem to support that assessment. Following the release of Starr's report to Congress two weeks ago, Rep. Mark Souder (R-4th CD) received about 400 calls from people wanting the president to resign or be impeached. Approximately 35 - 40 supported Clinton. Since Monday morning, when the testimony videotape hit the airwaves, Souder's office has received only 30 calls on the scandal, with 15 people supporting resignation or impeachment.

Angela Flood, Souder's spokeswoman, credited the vaunted White House spin operation for limiting the tape's impact. "True to form, the White House built up expectations for something that was worse than what we saw," she said. Souder has asked Clinton to resign.

Calls about the Clinton scandal also have declined in one of the offices that is at ground zero for a possible impeachment inquiry--Rep. Steve Buyer (R-5th CD), a member of the House Judiciary Committee. "The calls have died down. It's about 10 percent of what the pace was last week," said Buyer spokesman Mike Copher. At their height, calls were running 25-1 in favor of impeachment or resignation.

Last week, Sen. Dan Coats' office received 2,500 calls, running 15-1 in favor of impeachment. The trend has continued this week, with new people phoning, said Matt Smith, Coats' deputy press secretary. Coats has been outspoken in asking Clinton to step down.

Phone calls to congressional offices, however, are unscientific and anecdotal. The crucial question is whether more Republican or Democratic voters

will turn out.

"We're in a holding pattern from now until November," said Rothenberg, who is predicting a GOP gain of 10-15 House seats and two to four Senate seats. That outlook could change if Republicans prematurely call for Clinton's impeachment and are perceived to be partisan or if more major Democrats abandon Clinton. A wildcard could be a public statement by Lewinsky.

But Rothenberg stresses that the crystal ball is still opaque. "I can't count the 10 (GOP House seats) right now," he said. "I feel like I'm slogging through a swamp."

Rothenberg is projecting that the Hoosier races most likely to be affected by the Lewinsky affair are the 8th, 9th and 10th CDs. The 8th CD will be affected because it's a close race between incumbent GOP Rep. John Hostettler and Democratic Evansville City Council member Gail Riecken. In the 9th CD, the key will be whether Republican Jean Leising's underfunded campaign can get conservative voters to the polls in her race against Democrat Baron Hill. In the 10th CD, one important factor is the African-American turnout. The race pits incumbent Democratic Rep. Julia Carson against GOP challenger Gary Hofmeister.

Hoosiers befuddled

Newspapers across the state found people in a perplexed mood.

The *South Bend Tribune's* Jack Colwell followed U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer on the campaign trail in South Bend and Michigan City last Saturday.

Colwell's lead read: "Tim Roemer ordered two eggs sunny side up at the Farmer's Market restaurant in South Bend early Saturday morning and got a whole lot more. Constituents served up views on President Clinton, most wanting the president cooked, but kind of over easy."

One restaurant patron told Roemer, "Get sex off the front page." Another suggested, "Get back to governing."

Roemer's position is that he is disgusted with the president's conduct, but hasn't made up his mind on what options to pursue with regard to Clinton - impeachment, resignation or severe censure."

The *Evansville Courier* reported calls coming in split on the matter. Jessica Wehrman in the *Courier's* Washington bureau said she was flooded with calls and reported, "My calls were about even - half for and half against the president remaining in office."

The *Lafayette Journal and Courier* noted that 59 percent of its readers believe Congress was misusing the video of Clinton's grand jury testimony. Reporter Julie McClure launched into the presidential predicament and noted that psychologists were "perplexed" by the situation.

"For teenagers doing crazy things, it's in terms of thinking they are invincible, that they're bullet-proof," said Fred Piercy, director of marriage and family therapy at Purdue University's Department of Child Development and Family Studies. "And it may be that someone in power, so powerful in so many ways, may take on the same beliefs about themselves, that it will never see the light of day."

Shohini Sinha, director of Child and Family Services in Lafayette, told the newspaper, "There are behavior patterns that are reckless. You can frame it in the context of addictive or compulsive behavior. The president's job is the toughest job on the planet, and if this is the behavior he has learned to manage anxiety, it might be a component that drives him."

Republicans cautioned

Analysts and Republican operatives are cautioning GOP candidates not to overplay the Lewinsky scandal. "The GOP needs to remember that the primary

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TICKER TAPE

U.S. Rep. Ed Pease was hospitalized last weekend for chest pains and difficulty breathing. Spokesman Brian Kern said Pease awoke at 4:30 a.m. Sept. 18 feeling ill. At 6:30 a.m., he experienced chest pains and troubled breathing. At 8 a.m., he sought medical attention from a Capitol physician and was then transported to a Washington hospital. "We have been assured by the hospital that this is not a life-threatening situation," Kern said. Pease is one of two Indiana congressmen serving on the House Judiciary Committee, which will consider the impeachment of President Clinton.

Democratic Sullivan City Councilman W. Kelly Catlin was killed Sunday in a motorcycle accident. Police said a pickup truck collided with Catlin's motorcycle. He was elected to the city council in 1995.

The Gary City Council will pass its 1999 budget on Sept. 28, but city officials are saying it will be mid-February until they know how much money they can spend in 1999 (Lori Caldwell, Gary Post-Tribune). The newspaper said a series of financial events revealed this year "could have a serious impact on what the city can spend." That includes revenue from the Trump

TICKER TAPE

Casino, $4.25 million in excess collection claims, and the fact that a portion of next year's $85 million budget taken from property tax is about 5 percent more than what was approved this year. Mayor Scott King has urged fiscal restraint and did not seek a raise for himself or his department heads.

AFL-CIO executive vice president Linda Chavez-Thompson told IUSB students last weekend that the most dangerous thing an American worker can do is "attempt to organize a union" (Howard Dukes, South Bend Tribune). She said it was also the most important thing a worker can do.

The Monroe County Election Board filed a temporary injunction to require Sheriff Randy Williamson to guard a room storing the county's voting machines. The FBI is investigating an incident where a candidate for county office also worked as a technician on the computerized voting system. Several individuals, including 7th CD Democratic nominee Sam Hillenburg, has voiced suspicion that the machines were tampered with (Bloomington Herald-Times).

The Gambling Impact Study Commission had its first hearing in South Bend, but instead of people lining up

Video, *from page 3*

season is over, and their troops are already fired up," said Sabato. "An occasional, sympathetic comment in the president's direction will not hurt them with their own voters and might help them with moderates."

Mike Donohue, a National Republican Congressional Campaign Committee (NRCC) spokesman, said candidates "have to state honestly what they think," about the scandal, but "we're not advocating that they make it the centerpiece of their campaign."

Talking about integrity, honesty, morality and ethics in government is fostered by the Lewinsky scandal atmosphere. But broadsides that paint all Democrats with the Clinton brush may backfire. "There's a basic question about the sophistication of the argument," said Donohue. "If you're going to be unsophisticated, then you'll be tagged by your opponents and reporters."

An example of that restraint thus far has been Hofmeister who is hanging tough against U.S. Rep. Julia Carson in the 10th CD. Hofmeister has held back on attacking the president, even though Mike Young has a reputation for going for the jugular. Even Young seemed to be calmly lying back, saying only, "People still want to go through the process." He added, "I do think the House will impeach him."

Another is U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, who told the *Muncie Star Press*, "I have not taken a position on what (Clinton) should do. I prefer to let the Judiciary Committee make a recommendation to the full House. The tape is the clearest message (Clinton) has given on what happened. My preference is to get things out so the public can decide for themselves."

Democrats also patient

On the other side, Democrats are telling their candidates to keep their heads down and stay away from the scandal. "As long as they can keep attention on issues of substance, such as education, Social Security and health care reform, they'll win their races," said Olivia Morgan, spokeswoman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "They're following (that advice) with some success." Although its impact at the polls is hard to predict, the Lewinsky matter is not likely to go away. Sabato predicts that the House Judiciary Committee will vote to begin an impeachment inquiry.

"It's a good cover vote for the Democrats and a mandatory vote for the Republicans," Sabato said.

Democrats in Indiana have taken a wait-and-see approach. New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles - challenging McIntosh in the 2nd CD - told the *Star Press*, "Clinton should not be treated any differently than anyone else.

Said 5th CD challenger David Steele, "The president certainly deserves to be punished, but public opinion polls reflect approval of Clinton's performance." Steele said he was upset by the partisan tone of the Judiciary Committee's review.

Suppression, not blame

Haunting Democrats is general voter perception and suppression after being turned off by the process. That would leave conservative Republicans turning out in predominant numbers.

"People are not going to blame Democrats for the President's problems," said Dan Parker of the House Democratic caucus. "They are not blaming incumbents. People are not going to blame Claire Leuck or Dale Sturtz for his problems. But suppression is the wild card."

HPR Notes: It will be interesting to watch whether Clinton stays high in the polls due to sympathy and the belief that he does well on the job - which could result in a backlash against Republicans - or whether his numbers begin to erode as the long haul begins. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - What is about to happen in our nation's capital is not pretty. It is like waiting for major surgery that has an uncertain outcome. The threat of litigating a president out of office may discourage more people from running for the nation's highest office. ❖

Alan Julian, *Evansville Courier* - David Gugin, professor of political science at the University of Evansville, said politicians frequently change their minds, or fail to fulfill promises. "Politicians say things in the campaign they know they can't fulfill," he said. "The important thing is that they try hard to do something."Gugin said what Americans really want is for politicians, or anybody, to admit wrongdoing, seek forgiveness and pledge to do better in the future. That is apparently the course of action Clinton has decided on, though the president's attorneys still haven't conceded that he lied to a grand jury. Gugin said television sportscaster Marv Albert has followed that formula successfully. After being humiliated and losing his job at NBC over sexual escapades, Albert has been able to revive his sportscasting career. "Marv Albert played it to perfection," Gugin said.❖

Max Jones, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* - This has to go down as the most eerie, unsettled election season I can recall. Having watched elections come and go from the perspective of a journalist for 23 years, I have grown somewhat accustomed to the cycles and can ususally hazard a pretty fair guess as to what will come next. Not this year. I have no clue. The political climate all across America is dominated by the goings-on in Washington. People are so disgusted that they may not even care that an election is on the horizon. I fear, however, that the tremors of this disruptive episode in American politics will have a profound impact at polling places on the Nov. 3 election. Not so much that people will go to the polls motivated, but that they will not go to the polls at all. Don't be surprised if the last general election of the 20th Century produces the worst voter turnout in history.❖

Ben Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - So I guess we should want pictures now, right? Dan Burton at the No-Tell Motel, black tape over his eyes. Henry Hyde *au buffo* with the delectable Cherie Hancock Soskin (nee Snodgrass). Grainy footage with some appropriately cheesy background music; 453 pages of phone sex and pizza sex and tobacco sex in the panting language of Those Racks We Keep In The Back Room. Cigar, Mr. President? Cigarette? Tiparillo? Won't it make a lovely chapter in our history, once we wake up and take the lampshade off our head and wonder how we got here, in this strange bed, wearing someone else's underwear? Someday this is really going to be the hangover of all hangovers, and we'll wonder what possessed us back there in 1998. Enough, already, enough.❖

Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - It's difficult when you come to the realization that you're out of step with the majority of Americans. That's what has happened to me over this whole mess with President Bill Clinton. According to the polls, the majority of Americans don't think Clinton should be impeached. In fact, only about 25 percent of them think he should. That puts me squarely in the minority. This is difficult for me to understand. Some people say that this is just about sex. I see it as being about perjury, witness tampering and obstruction of justice. If that isn't an impeachable offense, what is? ❖

TICKER TAPE

at microphones, it divided participants into discussion groups of 10 or fewer people while commissioners listened to the debates. "We want to know what you think and why you think that way," said Attorney General Jeff Modisett. "We're here to listen. We want to hear the debate going on at your table. We want to hear what you're saying."

The Associated Press described one of the gambling commission's groups of five people chosen at random at the South Bend hearing. One favored casinos, two others weren't opposed to gambling but want it regulated, and the final two members wanted it eliminated from Indiana. Two other gambling commission hearings are scheduled this year - Oct. 15 in New Albany and Nov. 19 in Indianapolis. The commission must report to Gov. Frank O'Bannon by Dec. 31, 1999.

Gov. O'Bannon hosted his 11th forum on education in Muncie last week. He heard one teacher - Mary Lou Backor - testify, "Being a teacher is almost a lifetime sentence to a very humble mode of life" (Muncie Star Press).

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton said he will file a contempt of Congress resolution against U.S. Attorney General Janet

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

Indiana Racing Form

Looking for signs of a GOP wave, or a backlash

President Clinton's CNN poll numbers increase from 60 percent job approval to 66 percent after release of the video tapes. Who can figure that? All we can say at this point is that until the national dynamic sorts out, this remains an extremely volatile situation.

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, say, 9 percent; **Likely** is about 10 to 15 points and a good gut feeling, and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

INDIANA CONGRESSIONAL RACES

U.S. Senate: Republican: Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke. **Democrat:** Evan Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats 1,267,972, Hogsett 900,148. **1998 Forecast:** The only thing that can save Helmke is a Republican tidal wave coming off the Clinton scandal, and it's too early to tell if that will materialize. Bayh continues to run heavy TV. **Status:** Likely D.

Congressional District 3: Republican: Dan Holtz. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, LaPorte, St. Joseph and Elkhart counties. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Forecast:** We're watching this race extremely closely, as are Republicans in Washington. Any kind of a GOP tidal wave could spell big trouble for Roemer, even though he has been one of the most outspoken and outraged Democrats in Congress at the conduct of President Clinton. Best sign for Democrats is that Holtz has not waged a particularly vigorous campaign and the money has not flowed in. And Roemer has fared well in mid-term elections, including 1994, but that year he was running against a Republican opponent who lacked credibility. Roemer and Holtz will debate in South Bend on Monday. **Status:** Likely D.

Congressional District 6: Primary: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. **Democrat:** Bob Kern. **Libertarian:** Joe Hauptmann. **Geography:** Greenfield, Franklin, Tipton, Indianapolis collar counties. **1994 results:** Burton 136,876, Bruner 40,815. **1996 Results:** Burton 189,461, Dillard-Tramell (D) 58,362, Peterson (L) 5,295. **1998 Forecast:** Kern is allowed to stay on the ballot. This race could get interesting. Last week Kern threatened to write his name in the back of the head of a bank manager with an Uzi assault rifle and was later hospitalized. Within two weeks, the long-awaited *Vanity Fair* article on Burton will be published and there are probably further bombshells about Burton's private life. The key will be what threshold would it take for 6th CD Republican county chairs to begin calling for Burton to resign. Which could leave Hauptmann as the lone palatable alternative to many Republicans and the smattering of Democrats. Democratic CD Chair Al Rachels is publicly saying neither the Republican or Democrat are acceptable NUVO story quoted Hauptmann as saying his viability lies in the hands of the news media. "Burton is going to spend a million dollars. I might have $20,000," Hauptmann said. *Star/News* followed with a small profile of Hauptmann last Saturday. It will be interesting to see if the national Libertarians realize the historic opportunity here and prepare to pour more resources in. Hold on to your seats. **Status:** *LIKELY R.*

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:** Hostettler declares that three debates are enough. He and Riecken have already debated in Shoals and Bedford. The

third debate is set for Oct. 4 on WNIN-TV in Evansville. Riecken campaign manager Red Osthelder said that by not debating in Bloomington, it represents "an insult to the voters in the second-largest county in the district." Hostettler spokesman Jeff Knight said that Frank McCloskey only agreed to one debate in 1994. **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:** Hill finishes 400-mile walking tour in New Albany on Thursday with Evan Bayh striding along. Campaign manager Luke Clippenger says Hill will report $800,000 raised by the Sept. 30 FEC deadline. *Jeffersonville Evening News* reports that Leising has raised $200,000. "Based on predictions from both campaigns, (Hill) is expected to have as much as four times more money than Leising will have for the final swing of the campaign," wrote the *Evening News'* Michael Lindenberger. Hill will announce his TV ad campaign in the next several days and he should have a significant advantage. The wild card will be how much independent issue money will run in the Ohio Valley in support of Republican candidates in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois. **Status:** *TOSS-UP.*

Congressional District 10: Republican: Gary Hofmeister. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **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 seeks a lack of "voter intensity" and believes that Carson could suffer from suppressed voter turnout. In 1992, there were 184,000 voters in the 10th CD. That dropped off to 109,000 the year Andy Jacobs received a scare. In 1996, only 152,000 people voted - more than 30,000 fewer than in 1992. In 1998, analysts are predicting 100,000 or fewer. Said Young, "We polled 37,000 votes in the primary. The winner needs around 51,000 on Election Day. We're talking about finding another 14,000 votes." Carson and Hofmeister will debate on Oct. 4. House Majority Leader Dick Armey does a fundraiser for Hofmeister on Oct. 12. Carson announces a $25.7 million drinking water project grant. On the release of the Clinton video tape, Carson was the lone Indiana member to vote against. "The release of this material by the House Judiciary Committee serves no purpose other than to embarrass President Clinton," Carson said. She is appearing on a cable public service announcement. **Status:** Toss-Up.

INDIANA STATEHOUSE RACES

Secretary of State: Republican: Sue Anne Gilroy. **Democrat:** Cheryl Little. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers D) 542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Forecast:** We don't see any evidence that Little will mount any significant challenge to Gilroy. Key question is whether Gilroy can pull in the rest of the Statehouse ticket with her, offsetting the impact of Evan Bayh on the Democratic ticket. **Status:** Solid Republican.

Treasurer of State: Republican: Allen County Treasurer Tim Berry. **Democrat:** State Sen. Cleo Washington. **1994 Results:** Brinkman 848,809, Humphreys (D) 599,894, Dasbach (L) 25,665, Carr (A) 12,519. **1998 Forecast:** Indianapolis Sta/News poll gives Berry a 30-29 percent lead over Washington - essentially a deadheat. **Status:** Leans Republican.

Auditor of State: Republican: Connie Nass. **Democrat:** Bob Hill. **1994 Results:** Wooden (R) 888,721, Gonzalez (D) 513,452, Hauptmann (L) 46,849, Tirado (A) 10,786. **1998 Forecast:** *Star/News* poll has this race a dead heat between Nass and Hill. Nass to begin TV ad campaign this week. **Status:** Leans Republican.

Clerk of the Court: Republican: Brian Bishop. **Democrat:** Doug Leatherbury. **1994 Results:** Okeson (R) 830,920, Wharry (D) 554,103, Dillon (L) 46,584, Propes (A) 14,742. **1998 Forecast:** If this was a race decided on statewide issues and Democratic turnout was normal, Leatherbury would be a relatively good shape. Clinton situation represents bad news for him, unless there is a backlash against Republicans. **Status:** Leans Republican.

- *BRIAN A. HOWEY* ❖

TICKER TAPE

Reno for her "failure to produce memos from Chief Prosecutor Charles LaBella and FBI Director Louis Freeh.

What do Stephen Goldsmith, Frank O'Bannon, Richard Lugar and HPR Publisher Brian Howey have in common? All are Eagle Scouts. O'Bannon helped a crew of Scouts plant trees along hiking trails at Fort Benjamin Harrison last week.

The Killer Phone Call bug has struck in East Central Indiana - this time in Greenfield. Republican 53rd HD nominee Bob Cherry denounced the tactic by his opponent, Sara Wolf. "It's sad when a candidate and campaign are so compleiely void of ideas and issues cannot run on the merits of their own efforts and have to resort to this type of campaign," Cherry said.

Steve Dillon, the Libertarian candidate for secretary of state, called on President Clinton to resign. "President Clinton's actions in the Lewinsky affair have been immoral and irresponsible and are an affront to the American people," said Dillon.

State Reps. Ben GiaQuinta and Win Moses appeared with Gov. O'Bannon at a Fort Wayne elementary school to push Hoosier Healthwise

TICKER TAPE

that is expanding health care coverage to an additional 36,000 children.

The latest ABC News Poll had 57 percent against impeaching President Clinton.

Best Clintonian hair-split: "It depends on what the definition of 'is' is."

Robert Novak of the Chicago Sun-Times called the release of the Clinton grand jury testimony a "tactical triumph" for the president "but a strategic disaster. That adds up to a net disaster." ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

BEAN BLOSSOM - Amazing, isn't it, how prophetic HPR was last winter when we talked about Bill Clinton's "exploding cigar presidency"?

Only, the Monica-moistened cigar we have in our midst is not a crackling, jagged blast that knocks out the weak and beleaguered, or the celebratory post-Paula Jones stogie in Dakar. This is a stinky, pungent smoldering cigar that lies in the gutter, fouling the air like a smudgepot.

I'm a news junkie and it used to be I reveled in this kind of dramatic political story. It is extraordinary, fascinating, yet utterly predictable. But this past week I did something I hadn't done in a long time. I turned the channel away from my normal two morning roosts - CNN and GMA - to ESPN's Sports Center. You see, I've got my two young sons (7 and 9 years old) eating cereal flake breakfasts with me. Tuesday morning, CNN was simply raunchy. Oral sex. Stains. Breasts.

But no raunchier than I felt at one point during this grim, yet farcial drama. I was interviewed by WIBC's Tony Felts at noon the Sunday after the Starr Report was released. Tony had a pre-arranged live remote from the courtyard of the Indianapolis Children's Museum. There we cautiously tip-toed around the subject of presidential blow jobs (oops, there I go again) in the Oral Office (darn!). Actually, it wasn't that bad. Tony handled it quite professionally and I was wary of the road that led to Monica's cocktail dress (whew). I finally said to Tony, mindful of the kids and parents streaming by his position that perhaps we, as a nation, ought to explain the Clintonian situation and see what a child's clarity might bring.

As I watch Bill Clinton field questions about his sex life with a Blair, Havel, Arafat or Mandela by his side at an event of state, I really do squirm. While the nation watched Clinton squirm on his video tape, he received a standing ovation from world leaders at the United Nations. Nelson Mandela treated him like a beloved friend.

I keep thinking of the song, *"Teach Your Children."* ❖

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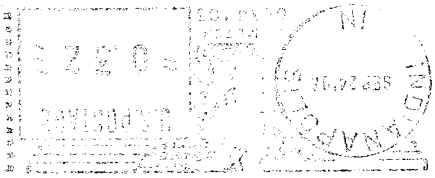
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