

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

‘It doesn’t matter because of who he is, does it?....’

- Sandra Aul, wife of Delaware County Sheriff Steve Aul, on her second call to the county 911 center as she attempted to file a domestic battery report (Muncie Star

Drace)

Pension, water issues evade mayoral races

Tough issues that are hard to explain

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Combined Sewer Outfall.

Public Employee Retirement Fund.

These are technical terms, bureaucratic terms. And in the 119 city and town elections taking place across Indiana, these are terms that should be making it into the political lexicon of mayoral and council campaigns.

All Hoosier cities are going to face massive police and fire pension costs due to changes in Public Employee Retirement Fund laws. Back in 1977, the legislature passed an actuarily funded police and fire pension plan. “The old plan was pay as you go and so those benefits are coming due now,” said Doug Todd, who is working on an actuary analysis of eight Hoosier cities.

PERF put out notices four years ago that within the next 25 years there would be “spikes” in the cost of pensions to cities. “Most will probably hit during the next four years,” said Mike Roeder of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns.

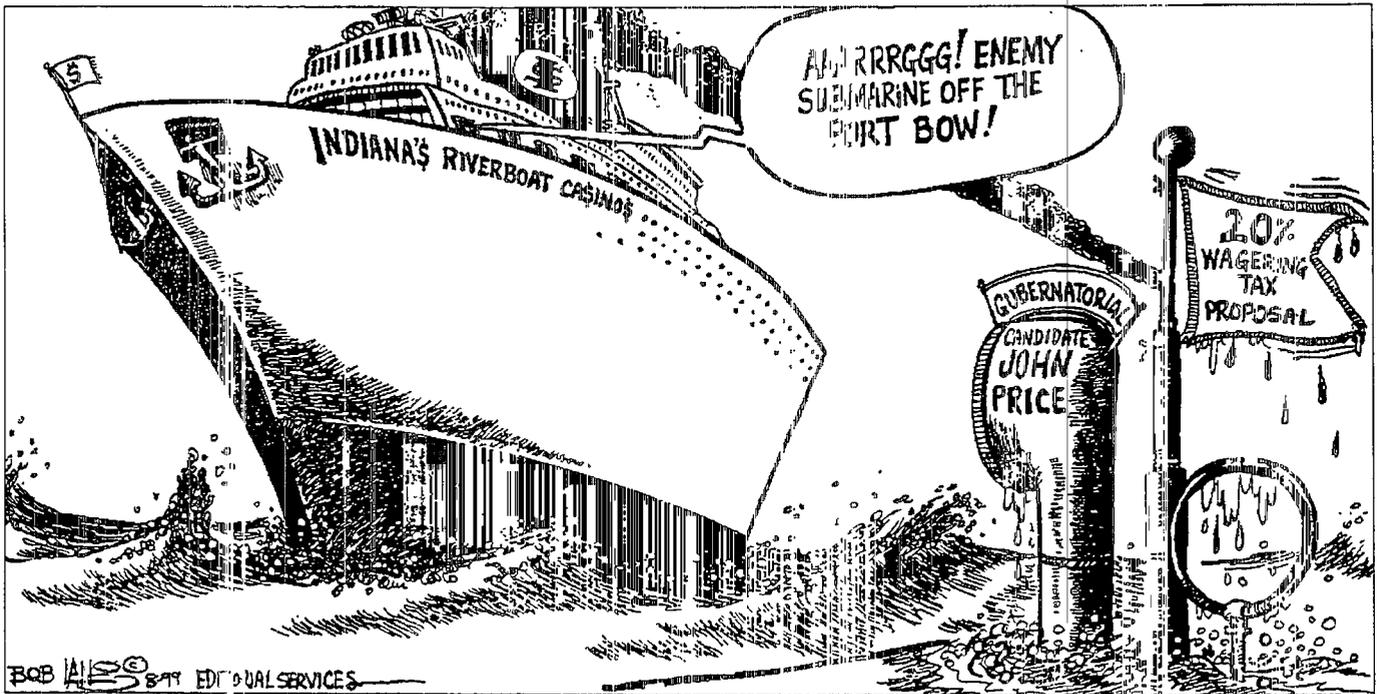
Few mayoral races have had the police/fire pension issue surface. “The reason that it’s not popping up is that it’s pretty complex and most people don’t understand it,” Roeder said. “Like a lot of detailed issues, candidates may not fully understand what that might mean and how little discretionary spending they’ll have.”

That change in the PERF law is already manifesting itself in the Fort Wayne mayoral race. The Fort Wayne Police Department is down 36 officers from its maximum level of 392 (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). The newspaper

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U.S. Census Bureau statistics show that the Hispanic population in Indiana increased by 40 percent from 1990 to 1997. The Associated Press reported, "More important than the large percentage increase is that the growth from year to year has been steady, showing no indications of tapering off." AP reported "droves of immigrants are either unreported or illegal, and cities across the state like Columbus, Logansport and Delphi estimate between five and 10 new arrivals per day."

Manufacturing jobs are on a steep decline in Southwestern Indiana according to Indiana Department of Workforce Development data that was

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Mayors, *from page 1*

reported, "The retirements this year - 150 percent of the total retirements in 1998 - have mostly been to blame." Another 62 officers are eligible to retire under full pension benefits at their choosing and up to five more are expected to do just that.

The *Journal Gazette* quoted police Capt. Marty Bender as saying, "We knew this was probably coming, but we didn't know how bad it would be."

The situation prompted Democratic mayoral candidate Graham Richard to accuse the Helmke administration of failing to adequately fill police vacancies. The Republican mayoral nominee, Linda Buskirk, is public works director.

Changes in the PERF laws now allow police officers to collect full benefits at age 52 as opposed to 55.

Those changes stand to put additional strains on cities as the post-1977 class of retirees are expected to create a wave of retirements across the state in the next few years.

For a city that has kept its ledgers in good shape, the increase in the retirements is not expected to create huge hardships.

But officials in the Goldsmith administration have told HPR that Indianapolis faces some real budgetary decisions once the new PERF class retires.

And the sewers

In Indianapolis, not only has the police/fire pension issue yet to surface, but the Combined Sewer Outfall issue raises the prospect of bringing back an environmental element to the campaign that can only give Republicans heartburn.

In 1996, Frank O'Bannon unleashed a late-October TV ad campaign - "Steve Goldsmith: Bad for fish; bad for Indiana" - that drove the Republicans and his staff nuts. The target was the city's wastewater treatment plant under privatized French ownership. The results, Democratic sources say, were so persuasive that it helped O'Bannon carry Goldsmith's home county.

Now IDEM is issuing permits that will force Indianapolis to come up with a plan to correct its 134 Combined Sewer Outfall sites that pump billions of gallons of raw sewage into the White River basin. Goldsmith claims that it would cost anywhere from \$8 billion to \$23 billion and

Dates established for HPR Pre-Election events

The first Howey Political Report Pre-Election Symposiums have firmed up dates and more sponsors:

South Bend: October 20 at a site to be determined.

Fort Wayne: October 21 at the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce.

Indianapolis: October 27 with sponsors including the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce and NUVO Newsweekly, at a site to be determined.

Evansville: October 28 with sponsors including the the Evansville Chamber of Commerce and Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Co., at a site to be determined.

Baker & Daniels Law Offices will serve as the statewide sponsor for this first-of-its-kind event. Headlining the series will be Washington-based analysts Stuart Rothenberg and Charlie Cook, as well as HPR's Brian Howey and Mark Schoeff Jr., who will offer analyses on the 1999 and 2000 mayoral, state and federal races. Polling information provided by TeleResearch will be featured on each of the mayoral races.

Additional details on panelists and sponsors will be announced next week, as well as more panelists and sign-up information. For the latest information, log on to HPR's website: www.howeypolitics.com



increase residential sewer bills to as much as \$151. He and Republican mayoral nominee Sue Anne Gilroy claim that IDEM is playing politics with the issue.

"This permit is as old as 1990 and has been around for years. Now it's 60 days before the election and IDEM puts the hammer down," said Gilroy spokesman Cam Carter.

Carter points to Democratic mayoral nominee Bart Peterson, who oversaw environmental issues for Gov. Bayh, as using the issue as a campaign leverage point. Peterson's campaign manger, Mike O'Connor, was formerly commissioner at IDEM.

O'Connor is more blunt in his assessment. "The city hemmed, hawed and delayed and fought every step of the way," O'Connor said.

Glenn Pratt of the Hoosier

Environmental Council agrees. "The state has been sitting on those permits for 10 years," Pratt said. "A pox on both their houses."

IDEM spokesman Phil Schermerhorn insisted that politics had nothing to do with the permits. Six other Indiana cities have been ordered to clean up their acts this year, and there are 82 Indiana cities and towns dealing with outflow issues. Nowhere in the state has the CSO issue become as controversial as it stands to get in Indianapolis.

Gilroy has to be bracing for the kind of assault on the issue from Peterson as Goldsmith took from O'Bannon. ❖

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reported by the
Bloomington Herald-Times.
Monroe County saw its
manufacturing base decline
from 25 percent in 1978 to
16 percent in 1998.

Lawrence County had 50
percent of its jobs in manu-
facturing. Now it's at 33 per-
cent. Only in Owen County,
where Cook Inc. and Boston
Scientific have expanded
operations, has there been
significant growth. Patrick
Barkley, director of the
Bureau of Business
Research at Ball State
University, said, "In Indiana,
the loss of manufacturing
jobs has been far less dra-
matic than the rest of the
country. But overall, manu-
facturing employees have
been almost too productive
for their own good. In three
or four generations, we
have moved from an econo-
my in the U.S. dominated by
farmers to a situation where
2 percent of the population
feeds everyone. It's not
quite that extreme for manu-
facturing, but it's going that
way,"

An Indianapolis man has
been arrested for making
death threats against Gov.
Frank O'Bannon and a
Shelby County judge
(Shelbyville News). Philip
Lawson, 31, was charged in
Shelby Circuit Court with
intimidation, a Class D
felony. Lawson mailed his
threats from the Wabash
Valley Correctional facility
in Carlisle. Lawson sent

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Judge Russell J. Sanders a letter that outlined plans to kill him, then sexually batter and kill his wife, at about 9 a.m. Oct. 21, the day he was scheduled to be released from prison. Lawson's letter did not say why he wanted to kill Gov. O'Bannon.

Police were sent to the home of Delaware County Sheriff Steve Aul after his wife had called 911 seeking to file a domestic battery report (Muncie Star Press). Aul told the newspaper, "It's no big deal" and called it a "personal matter." After the 911 center received the call from Sandra Aul last month, dispatchers asked a sheriff sergeant to call the center. He told the center to call Yorktown Police to respond. Dispatchers contacted Jeff Stanley, described as a "rookie county officer," and Officer Brad Sorrell to respond to the call. Sorrell is facing felony theft charges on accusations he embezzled money from a charity scholarship fund. Sheriff Aul refused to fire him, but gave Sorrell a four-week suspension. The Star Press said Mrs. Aul had to call the 911 center a second time, and stated, "I said I wanted the police out here at this domestic dispute at the sheriff's house. It doesn't matter because of who he is, does it?" Mrs. Aul later told the Star Press that she had only been trying to embarrass the sheriff because she was angry with

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PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Rep. Linder, Sen. Lanane head in different directions

SHELBYVILLE - Gradually, ever so gradually, the 2nd Congressional District scramble is beginning to sort itself out.

State Sen. Tim Lanane, with one daughter just packed off to college and another heading that way soon, decided not to seek the Democratic nomination. "Given the impact that this endeavor would have upon my family and my current personal and professional responsibilities, I have determined that no matter how great the opportunity, this simply is not the time for me to pursue another political office," Lanane said.

Some read that as a clear signal that Secretary of State Joe Hogsett would jump into the race, particularly since the political ties between Lanane and Hogsett have been close. Lanane's wife, Cindy, managed Hogsett's 1994 campaign against David McIntosh. Second District Chair Ray Scheele insisted that Lanane's intentions are not tied to Hogsett's.

"I have not heard from Joe," Scheele said. "At French Lick he told me he would be making the decision no later than late September. Hopefully mid-September. He said he would touch base with the finances, the party and organized labor."

There is no doubt that the DCCC wants Hogsett in the race, even though House caucus financial expert Troy Liggett is the only declared Democrat. "He's their first choice," Scheele said of Hogsett. "No doubt about that. They look at the numbers first." Numbers, as in Hogsett's 62 percent name ID.

On the Republican side, State Rep. Jeff Linder has shelved his law practice, turned his sheep, corn, soybeans and wheat over to associates, and is now campaigning full time.

Linder, 49, has hired Scott Boyce to manage his campaign. Boyce had the tough assignment of managing Jean Leising's 9th CD campaign in 1998 for the final eight months.

Linder says he looks at the increasingly crowded GOP field (Mike Pence, Luke Messer, Andrew Phipps, Brad Steele, Fred Wenger) and doesn't care. Bill Fraizer will undergo serious surgery this month and will make a decision later. "I'm not going to spend a lot of time worrying about anyone else. I'm starting early and the reception has been good," said Linder.

What separates Linder from the rest of the pack is that he has won six elections - one as prosecutor of Shelby County and five as a legislator. In 1996, during his last opposed race, he out-polled McIntosh as the top Shelby County vote-getter by 1,000 votes even though he didn't have Jackson Township in his district.

The coup d'etat attempt he led against House Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler isn't the reason he's vacating the Statehouse. He expects support from most of the district's GOP legislators. "They are introducing me around their communities," Linder said. "And Paul did not want me to run for Congress."

With Linder running hard and scouring Washington for money next week, there may be pressure on Pence, who believes he can continue his state-wide radio and TV shows until the end of the year, then hit the ground running.

Some GOP operatives believe that gives Linder time to get a big money lead and out-organize Pence. An ever-expanding field, such as the 1996 free-for-all featuring 15 candidates in the 7th CD, gives Pence the caveat that he could emerge after entering late. Said Linder, "It's too early to tell. A lot of it will shape up on who's running and where they're from." ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Kyle Hannon, *Elkhart Truth* - In July 1945 the USS Indianapolis delivered the detonator and other components of the atomic bomb to Tinian where the Enola Gay was awaiting its historic mission over Hiroshima. The "Indianapolis" crew did not know anything about its cargo. They just did their job and headed out to their next destination. They never made it. Captain Charles McVay's ship was not given an escort and was not warned of any enemy submarine activity in the area. On the night of July 30 an enemy sub found the "Indianapolis" and struck with torpedoes, sinking the vessel in 12 minutes. This was the Navy's worst sea disaster and a lot of officers wanted to make sure it was not seen as their fault. The finger pointing was frenzied, eventually singling out Captain McVay, who was court-martialed. This year legislation in the US House and Senate, HJR48 and SJR26 respectively, can overturn McVay's conviction. It is long past time for this to be done and Rep. Tim Roemer has signed on. But where are our Senators? Evan Bayh's office said he has directed his staff to look into it. Richard Lugar's office said he is waiting because there may be a hearing on it in the Armed Services Committee. Such a hearing would let the Senators give the issue careful consideration. That's nice, and I respect Lugar's usual reasoned approach to policy. But at the end of these hearings, if Lugar isn't using his significant clout to push this legislation I will be very disappointed. ❖

Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - Have you ever heard of Project Exile? Until a week or so ago, I hadn't either. I saw a small, one-page article in Time Magazine about it. Seems to me it should be on the front pages of a bunch of big newspapers. Project Exile was an idea

hatched by federal prosecutors in Richmond, Va. You see, they simply started prosecuting criminals who violated gun laws. Yet under the current administration, virtually all federal gun law violations go unpunished. I would like to see Project Exile embraced nationwide. For a time, we would really be taxing the prison system. But after that, I think the United States would be a lot safer place to live. ❖

Craig Harris, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - State Auditor Connie Nass turned up the heat on Gov. Frank O'Bannon last week, possibly enhancing her political future in the process. Nass called a press conference to question the propriety of millions of dollars in accounting transfers by the O'Bannon administration. And it came just a little over six weeks after her last public flogging of the Democratic governor, when she criticized his management of the state budget and a \$2.2 billion surplus. Said John Price, one of the GOP contenders, "I don't think about it. But Connie is just doing her job, and she's doing a great job." Jim Huston, the campaign manager for David McIntosh, said they don't publicly discuss strategy, but he too praised Nass. ❖

Mike Smith, *Associated Press* - It was more than just colorful and crowded and loud and upbeat. The campaign rally for Republican David McIntosh was a carefully crafted, 30-minute infomercial introducing him as a caring, compassionate family man, a mover-and-shaker public servant who shuns the status quo, and your next governor. There was a message: Out with the old, in with the new. A breath of fresh air. Scratch beneath the surface and you'll find times aren't so good

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him. Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubcho Georgievski was in Northwest Indiana seeking investments in his Balkan country. "At this moment, Macedonia requires economic prosperity, and we hope that apart from the great conflict, our country will receive support from Canada and the United States," he said in Merrillville (Post-Tribune).

Party nominating conventions were taking place this week in the Warrick County towns of Chandler, Tennyson and Elberfeld. There voters will choose which names they want to appear on the Nov. 2 ballot (Evansville Courier & Press). The convention process is mandated by Indiana law for communities with 3,500 people or fewer. Said Warrick County Democratic Chair Rita Long, "This way, people might go over their city issues and see what works for them and what candidate they want to see on the ballot. It gives them a little bit longer frame to make a decision."

Elsewhere at the town nominating conventions, the entire town council in Eaton is contested this year after the council ousted its president and a council member pleaded guilty to beating a child (Muncie Star Press). Republican Councilman Randy Joe Jeffrey pleaded

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guilty to beating a 10-year-old girl and received a suspended one year prison term. He is seeking re-election and has three opponents.

In Gaston, which lost a \$1.75 million wrongful death suit, there are no contested races. Attorneys for the estate of Paula Ross convinced a jury that the Gaston Police Department failed to take steps to prevent her shooting death and, the Star Press reported, "acted to inadvertently encourage Tommy Ross, her ex-husband."

The Evansville Courier & Press reported, "Riverboat gambling opponents predict that an Illinois decision to let its floating casinos stop cruising and keep their doors open could affect Indiana and Kentucky. "There's no question we are seeing the effects already," said Jennifer Simmons, executive director of the Casino Association of Indiana. "It certainly puts us on an uneven playing field. We hope something is addressed on this subject with the state legislature." Currently, Indiana riverboat casinos require people to board and disembark at two-hour intervals. Simmons said that since the Illinois decision, the five Indiana boats on Lake Michigan have lost an estimated 5 percent market share. Illinois riverboat rev-

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

TRENDLINE: Mayoral races across the state began heating up over the Labor Day weekend, but with little controversy. Most incumbents were busy preparing their councils for budget hearings. The good economy and generally steady to lower property tax rates, and tranquil police/fire relations signal a "status quo" election sequence.

Crown Point Mayoral: Republican: Councilman Jack Kemp. Democrat: Mayor James Metros. **1999 Forecast:** Metros seems to thrive in a historically Republican Lake County city and is seeking his third term. Republicans cite a new city chair and the new high school issue as factors favoring Kemp. **General Status:** *Leans Metros.*

Elkhart Mayoral: Republican: Councilman Dave Miller. Democrat: Mayor James Perron. **1995 Results:** Perron (D) 5,017, McDowell (R) 4,869. **1999 Forecast:** Gov. O'Bannon and Democratic Chair Robin Winston joined the

Elkhart Labor Day parade to give Perron a boost. Perron told the crowd, "Early to bed, early to rise, vote Democratic and organize." Perron unveiled a 2000 budget that includes a 3.7-percent spending increase and a property tax increase from \$3.92 to \$4. Perron also responded to Elkhart County Council criticism that the city won't help pay for a new voting system. Said Perron, "What's going on in a lily-white town someplace is very different than what goes on in a diverse city like Elkhart" (*South Bend Tribune*). Elkhart increased arts and cultural grants budget from \$200,000 to \$250,000. City Council Republicans complained that news media had copied budget before they did. **General Status:** *Likely Perron.*

Evansville Mayoral: Republican: County Councilman Russell Lloyd Jr. Democrat: Rick Bornes. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Forecast:** Bunny the Elephant will head to the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, perhaps keeping an emotional issue out of the mayor's race. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Linda Buskirk. Democrat: Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,001, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Forecast:** WPTA-TV Poll (Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 1,165 individuals, +/- 3.1%) has Buskirk leading Richard 36-23 percent. Among registered voters, Buskirk led 40-25 percent. Michigan Gov. John Engler to appear on behalf of Buskirk at the GOP's annual Bean Dinner on Oct. 19. Sen. Bayh's fundraiser netted Richard \$39,000; Sen. Lugar's brought in \$20,000 for Buskirk. Gov. Frank O'Bannon campaigned for Richard on Labor Day. Mayor Helmke released 2000 budget that sports a 2.7 percent spending increase and a tiny tax decrease (*News-Sentinel*). Reported the *Journal Gazette*, "Mayor Paul Helmke's proposed budget packs \$139.4 million in spending - but no apparent controversy." **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

Hammond Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Duane Dedelow. Democrat: Tom Philpot. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Forecast:** Democrats think Philpot can pull off the upset this year. Lake County GOP Chairman Roger Chiabai told the *Post-Tribune*, "There is no way we should lose that Hammond race." Influx of riverboat money should help Dedelow. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Hobart Mayoral: Republican: Robert Malizzo. Democrat: Mayor Linda Buzinec. **1995 Results:** Malizzo (R), Buzinec (D). **1999 Forecast:** This is a rematch from 1995 and Republicans believe Malizzo can exact revenge. *Post-Tribune* called it "somewhat of a classic." Said Lake County GOP Chair Roger Chiabai, "The people have seen Bob and Linda in action. They know what each wants to do. It is a matter of who is going to work the hardest." Democrats believe recently annexed Ross Township will back Buzinec after she successfully extended city services there. **General Status:** *Leans Buzinec.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy.

HORSE RACE

Democrat: Bart Peterson. **Our Party:** Rev. John Gibson. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Forecast:** Gilroy outraised Peterson by a big margin as both campaigns released their August fundraising reports. Gilroy had raised \$2.1 million while Peterson raised \$1.5 million. The record for an Indianapolis mayoral race is \$2.4 million in the Goldsmith/Mahern race of 1991. Gilroy's campaign claimed victory on the voluntary expense reports. "Sue Anne Gilroy led on this issue; Bart Peterson followed," said spokesman Cam Carter (*Indianapolis Star*). Said Mike O'Connor on behalf of Peterson, "We are not only very happy with the money we've raised and the way we've raised it, but we're ahead of schedule." Gilroy was to host a press conference declaring war on graffiti. The Democrat was to release the "Peterson Plan" Wednesday night and was touting that in a new TV commercial. Peterson complained about 40 merit fire department promotions that Mayor Goldsmith awarded Tuesday. O'Connor called it "politics" on WRTV and noted that there had been no merit promotions previously during Goldsmith's term. State Board of Accounts audit due to be released sometime late this week. Mayor Goldsmith repudiated Pat Rooney's "hogwash" TV ad campaign against Gilroy and Peterson, telling the *Star*, "Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Detroit - all have made remarkable reform initiatives with the involvement of mayors. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Kokomo Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Ron Trobaugh. **Democrat:** Councilman Mike Kennedy. **1995 Results:** Trobaugh 5,108, Lushin 4,713. **1999 Forecast:** Sen. Lugar praised the city's Y2K preparedness on Tuesday and the *Kokomo Tribune* reported, "Standing next to his Republican senatorial counterpart, Mayor Trobaugh received a number of compliments during Lugar's 30-minute press conference." Said Lugar, "There are probably very few cities in Indiana that have done so much, in terms of articulating so well to its citizens." Neither party is talking about this race much, which means Trobaugh is in pretty good shape at this point. **Status:** *Leans Trobaugh.*

Muncie Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Ralph Smith Jr. **1995 Results:** Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Forecast:** Delaware County jobless rates hit a 30-year low at 2.7 percent. That's remarkable for Muncie, which saw Ball Corporation, Borg-Warner, ABB Power and Delphi Automotive Systems either leave the city or lay workers off. Muncie ranked third nationally in job growth for June, according to an Arizona State University study (*Muncie Star Press*). *Star Press* went back and interviewed same people it did in 1995 on whether people were satisfied with the city. The story headline in Monday's edition read: "Most pleased with the city's direction in past 4 years." That kind of adulation is going to make it hard for Smith to upset Canan. **Status:** *LIKELY CANAN.*

Shelbyville Mayoral: Republican: Councilman James E. Garrett Jr. **Democrat:** Clerk-Treasurer Frank M. Zerr. **1995 Results:** Stephen (R) 2,356, Williams (D) 1,700. **1999 Forecast:** Indiana Republicans believe Garrett will become the first African-American small-city mayor. He upset current Mayor Betsy Stephen in the primary. Tentative debate set for Oct. 12. Jobless rate in Shelby County is highest in the area at 3.6 percent, but still down from 4.3 percent in 1998 (*Shelbyville News*). Zerr had recommended \$392,000 in cuts from the city's proposed \$14 million budget, but the council approved only \$46,000 in cuts Tuesday night. Zerr warns of potential tax increases of \$143 for the owner of a \$100,000 home. **General Status:** *Leans Garrett.*

INDIANA 2000 RACES

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, George Witwer, John Price.

Democrat: Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** Gov. O'Bannon stumped for mayoral candidates in Fort Wayne and Elkhart, Evansville and Anderson on Labor Day, marching in labor parades and picnics. O'Bannon announced improvements in the Indiana Family Savings Plan with Supt. Suellen Reed and Treasurer Tim Berry. McIntosh joined U.S. Reps. J.C. Watts, John Hostettler and three others in Evansville on Tuesday to push GOP education reforms. "It's critically important that federal funding come with few strings attached so local schools, teachers and parents have

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venue increased by 35 percent for July over July 1998. State Sen. Johnny Nugent of Lawrenceburg observed, "There's no question it would be less regulation for the boats. But I think there's a lot of information that we would need to consider before we can make a determination." Of a "dockside" gambling bill, Nugent said, "I guess I didn't expect it to come up in this session (2000), but it looks like it's going to." Nugent was one of the 1993 Indiana casino legislation supporters.

Gary Mayor Scott King was all smiles when reviewing what the Post-Tribune described as "ambitious plans for a destination and entertainment location at Buffington Harbor, home of the Majestic Star and Trump casinos. "This is the beginning of something really great for the city of Gary, the state of Indiana and the Midwest," said Don Barden, who heads the recently created Gary New Century LLC and will spend \$25 million for 190 acres of land.

LaPorte County Commissioners sought to have their positions made full time, but the county council turned them down, instead giving them the standard 4 percent raise. Had the council passed the measure, the three salaries would have increased by \$20,000 each.

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"That was just out of the question from the beginning," said Council President Patricia Smith (Michigan City News-Dispatch).

Harrison County Councilman Carl "Buck" Mathes is in hot water after he described some 4-H buildings as "nigger built" at a council budget hearing on Wednesday (Louisville Courier-Journal). Mathes described it as a "colorful" term. He told the C-J, "I'm not going to talk to you about that until I see what comes out in the Democrat," he said in reference to the Corydon Democrat.

Former Republican National Committee woman Betty Rendel of Peru died at 79.

the flexibility to create education plans that make sure no child is left behind," McIntosh said. The *Courier & Press* quoted McIntosh saying, "I truly believe we're at a crossroads in America on education. We can continue down the paths that haven't been working for our children. Or we can choose new paths that will free up school systems to deliver the best education possible." Indiana's slipping to 47th in SAT scores will fuel McIntosh's criticism of Gov. O'Bannon. Said spokesman Chris Jones, "The storm isn't over the horizon. It's over us now." Still no clear signal from Republican George Witwer on whether he will run. But *Indianapolis Star's* Behind Closed Doors column had key Witwer aide Greg Zoeller sporting a McIntosh button and quoted Zoeller saying, "George is still exploring." *Times of Northwest Indiana* reporter Dan Lee wrote that McIntosh will have a big challenge in making a case there is something wrong with the economy. "The task is even more difficult for Republican hopefuls, who look to unseat ... O'Bannon. Indiana's economy is humming along, part of one of the greatest economic expansions in U.S. history." *The Times* quoted HPR's Brian Howey as saying of McIntosh, "It's going to be a tough assignment. He has to really define some nuances and show to Hoosiers there could really be some problems down the road when we get out of this magnificent economy." **General Status: Leans O'Bannon.**

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat:

John Hamilton, Dr. Paul Perry. Libertarian: Paul Hager. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. 1994 **results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. 1998 **Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 forecast:** Hostettler stumped with J.C. Watts and McIntosh, pushing GOP education and tax cut plans. Hostettler gave the GOP response to President Clinton's weekly Saturday address: "In the coming days, the President will face a simple question: Should our government use the federal budget surplus to reduce the debt, strengthen Social Security and Medicare, and provide reasonable tax relief? The Republican Congress has the answer." Hamilton released list of endorsements, including House Speaker John Gregg, former speaker Michael K. Phillips, State Rep. Mark Kruzan, and Mayors John Fernandez of Bloomington, Pam Hendrickson of Boonville, Jimmie Wright of Linton, Jackson Higgins of Mt. Vernon, Lee Ayers of Oakland City, George Taylor of Princeton, Howard Hatcher of Vinton, and Fort Evansville Mayor Mike Vanderbeek. **General Status: Toss-Up.**

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