THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'Hi Graham. Guess what I just did?

I conceded ..."

- Fort Wayne Republican mayoral candidate Linda Buskirk, calling Mayor-Elect Graham Richard on a cell phone, Journal Gazette

GQE is the looming shock to the system

O'Bannon, McIntosh, Price eye issue

By BRIAN A. HOWEY *in Indianapolis*

You'd probably have to go back to the polio epidemic days, or perhaps the nuclear attrack drill days, to find the kind of fear and paranoia running rampant in scores of Indiana high schools these days.

It is not due to the "Black Fear" of school massacres, but over the Graduation Qualifying Exam. Students are anxiously awaiting scores in January that will determine if they can graduate. Media reports have put the potential failure rate for the Indianapolis Public School system at more than 50 percent, prompting one school board member - Kelly Bentley - to predict that scores of students would be dropping out of school in January. School systems in Fort Wayne, Muncie and Lake County are also bracing for high failure rates.

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It promises to be a historic shock to the system - an event likely to throw schools, the education system and the political establishment into chaos a few weeks into next year's Indiana General Assembly session.

So much so that Gov. Frank O'Bannon huddled with his top education advisers Tuesday afternoon to review the scenarios and try to ward off a panic.

A failure rate of 20 percent or more would arm Republican gubernatorial candidates David McIntosh and John Price with potent political ammunition they would almost certainly use against O'Bannon and a dozen years of

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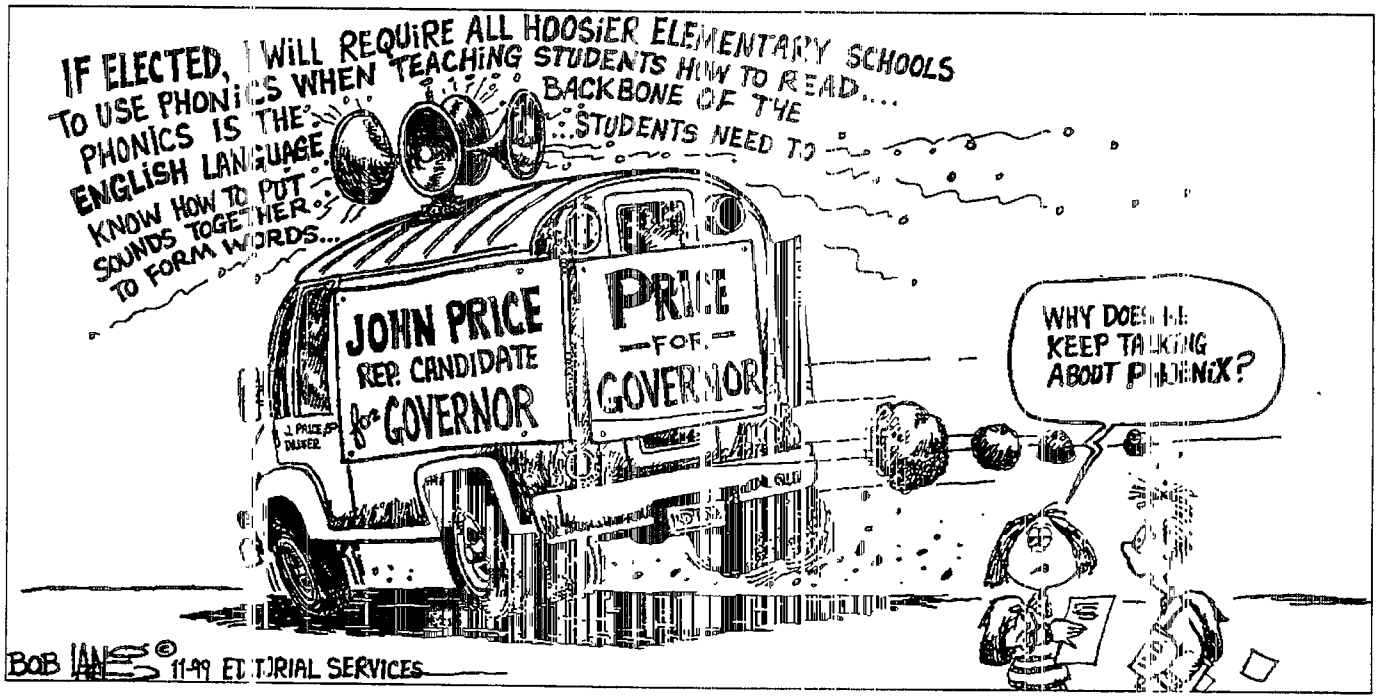

TICKER TAPE

Fort Wayne Republican mayoral candidate Linda Buskirk conceded to Democrat Graham Richard on Tuesday. Richard unofficially won by 129 votes, up from 76 votes on election night. "It appears clearly that that I lost, so get on with it. It's time for the community to get on with it," Burkirk said (Journal Gazette). She then called Richard on her cell phone and said, "Hi, Graham. Guess what I just did? I conceded." Buskirk added, "I'm not a sore loser. I just wanted to make sure I am the loser." Buskirk tried to challenge votes in 20 entire precincts. "That's pretty standard," said Anne Delaney, "but it almost never works" (News-Sentinel). Democratic

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Shock, *from page 1*

Democratic gubernatorial leadership.

McIntosh downplayed any notion of exploitation of the issue. "We're not looking at this in a political context," he told HPR Tuesday night. "What we do want is for these students to succeed. Our hope is that most will pass."

But McIntosh warned of "huge repercussions" when "parents realize they've been sending their children to school for 12 years and they won't graduate."

Price toured the state touting another in a series of education initiatives - requiring elementary schools to teach phonics, repeatedly referring to 1998 ISTEP results that showed almost 30 percent of third grade students had failing reading scores. "I want to ensure, by legislation, that when we spend $5 billion a year our children know how to read. We are allowing education malpractice to occur," said Price (*Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*).

Rumblings from the Republican camp suggested a vigorous convention showdown for incumbent Supt. Suellen Reed, with potential challenges from former Hudson Institute researcher Carol D'Amico and former Indianapolis Public School Supt. Esperanza Zendejas.

No reason to panic

Gov. O'Bannon's team was beginning a "stay the course" mode as it tried to preliminarily assess the potential fallout in January. Spokeswoman Cheryl Reed told HPR that "I've heard the governor say he is not inclined to lower the standard." That was designed to counter a move in the Indiana House last sesssion to suspend the GQE when legislators began to realize the potential for failure.

Larry Grau, the governor's executive assistant for education, explained, "The governor has consistently supported the Graduation Qualifying Exam. He has consistently supported statewide assessment on how students are doing.

"We're not convinced that the number of students who do not pass will be any larger than the number of students who fail to meet credit hours," Grau continued. "That needs to be put into perspective. There's always a group of students who don't meet requirements."

Grau said the governor is planning to examine the results, check for dispari

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Weigh in on HPR's 2nd Annual '50 Most Influential List'

Memo To: *HPR Readers*
From: *Brian A. Howey, Mark Schoeff Jr.*
Re: *HPR's 50 Most Influential List*

Last year was our inaugural HPR 50 Most Influential List in Indiana politics. The feedback we received was that the first 25 was pretty much right on target; the second half needed a little work. Of course, since then there have been dramatic change. Some listed are toast now. Others are rising stars out of nowhere. So help HPR compile the 2000 list. Make your own list, or give us comments to:

howey@netdirect.net

The 2000 list will be published in our Jan. 6, 2000, edition of HPR.

1.) U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar
2.) Gov. Frank O'Bannon
3.) U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh
4.) State Sen. Larry Borst
5.) Chairman Joe Andrew
6.) Dan Quayle
7.) Mel & Herb Simon
8.) Steve Hilbert
9.) Speaker John Gregg
10.) Marty Morris
11.) U.S. Rep. David McIntosh
12.) U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer
13.) U.S. Rep. Ed Pease
14.) State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer
15.) Mitch Daniels
16.) Chair Mike McDaniel
17.) Pat Kiely
18.) Judy O'Bannon
19.) Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan
20.) U.S. Rep. Mark Souder
21.) Chair Robin Winston
22.) Prosecutor Scott Newman
23.) Ken Zeller
24.) U.S. Rep. Julia Carson
25.) U.S Rep. Steve Buyer
26.) State Sen. Bob Garton
27.) Tom New
28.) State Rep. Paul Mannweiller
29.) Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy
30.) Tom Sugar
31.) U.S. Rep. Dan Burton
32.) David Gogol
33.) Bernie Toon
34.) Stephen Stiglich
35.) Steve Shine
36.) Butch Morgan
37.) Mayor Stephen Goldsmith
38.) Mayor Paul Helmke
39.) Michael K. Phillips
40.) Gordon Durnil
41.) Mayor John Fernandez
42.) AG Jeff Modisett
43.) Lee Hamilton
44.) Bart Peterson
45.) Supt. Suellen Reed
46.) Nancy Pappas
47.) Dick Freeland
48.) Teresa & Mark Lubbers
49.) Ed & Ann DeLaney
50.) Jeff Smulyan

Honorable Mention:
State Sen. Vi Simpson
Sheriff Jack Cottey
Rex Early
Peter Rusthoven
John Hammond
State Rep. Jeff Espich
Eric Miller
Karl Berron
Mike Smith
Jim Purucker
State Rep. Peggy Welch

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TICKER TAPE

Election Board member Michael Downs told the News-Sentinel that he found it "unsettling" that Republicans challenged mostly minority districts. "I believe sincerely that this is part of the zeal. There is also an appearance that the fraud, the misconduct and the tampering it is suspected were more pervasive in precincts with a large minority population." But Buskirk attorney Tobin McClamroch noted that one precinct had as many as 25 percent of the voters living outside the precinct.

Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez said he will probably veto a City Council resolution opposing the routing of I-69 through Bloomington (Herald-Times). "To say there is nothing positive that can come from this highway just doesn't hold water," Fernandez said.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon named John P. Griffin as Commissioner of Labor. Griffin has been with the Central Indiana Building and Construction Trades Council. Griffin succeeds Tim Joyce, who now serves as the governor's deputy chief of staff.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton assailed President Clinton for failing to provide an aid package for Colombia to assist the so-called "War on

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TICKER TAPE

Drugs." Said Burton, "Just last week, 35 Colombian National Policemen were murdered by the FARC terrorists in one offensive along the Venezuelan border. Clearly, Colombia needs aid right now. The record is clear. This administration has been asleep at the switch for too long. Colombia, a nation less than five hours by plane from Washington, has slipped from being a stable democracy to teetering on the brink of becoming the first narco-state in the world."

Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel announced that 1996 LG candidate George Witwer will chair the party's Victory 2000 voter registration and turnout program. "The Victory 2000 program will be the most comprehensive and aggressive voter identification and turnout effort in the history of the Indiana Republican Party," McDaniel said. "George Witwer is the perfect person to head up this effort because he has demonstrated through the years that he is a tireless champion of Republican principles and he is highly respected by Republicans throughout the state." McDaniel and Witwer traveled to New Albany, Elkhart and Evansville to meet with local party leaders and announce Witwer's appointment.

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Shock, *from page 3*

ties - such as the percentage of special education students who fail - "and take steps from there." That would include using remediation money to extend existing remediation classes and, perhaps, summer courses.

Across Indiana

Over the Thanksgiving holidays, scores of Hoosier families heard the stress of students who have failed to pass 9th grade standards before they graduate. A typical parent was Karen Lawrence of Hammond, who told *The Times of Northwest Indiana* her 9-year-old son doesn't test well. "They really push it down these kids' throats," she told the newspaper. "There's way too much stress on these kids."

Grau responded, "We understand people are going to be incredibly stressed. For some students, that may not be an awful thing. Some students are pushing their schools to do more.

"The governor does not intend for this to be a punitive measure," said Grau. "We are doing these students no favor if they leave high school without measuring up to these standards."

Grau cautioned parents about "blaming the instrument" after scores are released in January.

There are numerous instances of school systems drawing the proverbial line in the sand. The closest came in Chicago, where several years ago Mayor Richard Daley issued a mandate ending social promotions with an 8th grade class. Since then, the performance of the Chicago Public Schools has improved.

A public mandate

McIntosh believes that pockets of dismal GQE failure rates could lead to what he called a mandate from the people. "It's going to take a public mandate to change the system," McIntosh said.

He noted that only a third of the public education budget in Indiana goes toward teacher salaries. "The question I'm going to be asking is, 'Where is the rest going?'

He promised to be "very aggressive" about "empowering teachers" in the classroom with better pay, fewer regulations and freedom from potential litigation.

McIntosh also took aim at O'Bannon's prized legislation priority - full-day kindergarten. He said it was too little to address significant GQE failure rates by primarily promoting FDK.

O'Bannon will certainly point out his entire education policy, which addresses education and multiple levels.

McIntosh will also look to tap into current student and parent sentiments that the GQE is too complicated, takes too long to prepare for and administer. He favored "a one-day test" at each grade level. If students fail to pass the third grade level exam, "they won't be passed on to the fourth grade." He said that would allow for student remediation "immediately."

As for a potential fiscal impact of his iniatives in the making, McIntosh acknowledged, "We're looking at that now. It's not just money, but how do we change the classroom?"

He pointed out that Jonathon Jennings School 109 in the IPS system had a 12 percent ISTEP passage rate three years ago, compared to 77 percent this past year. "They're doing something right. It can be done," the Republican congressman said.

O'Bannon momentum

The past mini-session in which seven bills leftover from last year passed into law was a victory for the governor, although one to be shared with Senate Republicans. The governor has some momentum (though, most voters weren't paying attention). The question heading into 2000 is whether the GQE becomes a political crisis in an election year.❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Modisett leaning against re-election

"Hey, this is number 42 here."

I turned around at the Statehouse last January - just prior to Gov. O'Bannon's State of the State address - to find a smiling Attorney General Jeff Modisett ribbing me about his place on HPR's 50 Most Influential list.

Since that night almost a year ago, I wondered how long Modisett would be attorney general, even though his position on the 50 List would have likely risen this year. The pay - $57,200 - should be an embarrassment for the state of Indiana. For that reason alone, Modisett chafed in the office he won in 1996 over Republican Steve Carter.

Now the word is that Modisett is not going to seek re-election, sending Indiana Democrats into a fast-track recruitment mode.

Reliable legal and Democratic sources tell HPR that Modisett has not been raising money as vigorously as he should. He has been ducking key campaign appearances, such as Gov. O'Bannon's One Year Out rally last month. And his duties as chief counsel for the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles next summer will require a significant investment of his time.

Modisett is probably looking ahead to 2004 and seeing LG Joe Kernan and House Speaker John Gregg as powerful gubernatorial opponents. It would be tough to seek higher office while working for relatively pauper pay.

Modisett has been one of the most energetic AGs, commanding national attention during the historic showdown with big tobacco. He has also been conspicuous on issues ranging from impaired driving to fraudulent national sweepstakes. Should Modisett decline to seek re-election, he would be on numerous short lists for other offices - U.S. Senate if Bayh were to ascend to the vice presidency, district attorney, 10th CD when Julia Carson retires. The presumed loss of Modisett to the ticket could be bad news for the Democratic ticket. Modisett runs well in his home Marion County as well as Central Indiana. For instance, he carried Shelby County in 1996 while Gov. O'Bannon did not.

As for potential AG candidates, Democratic sources had yet to develop any kind of short list.

HPR would initially look to Democratic power brokers such as Kip Tew of Indianapolis, Peter Manous of Lake County, Mike Barnes of South Bend, or Shaw Friedman of Michigan City as potential candidates. Other names would include John Walda of Fort Wayne and Miriam Dant of Indianapolis.

On the Republican side, most of the speculation has centered on Steve Carter, corporate counsel to Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, or Joe Loftus, one of Goldsmith's chief lobbyists, or out-going Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke. Knowledgeable Republican sources tell HPR that Loftus has been approached about the Marion County GOP chairmanship should John Sweezy decide to step down.

HPR has also learned that gubernatorial candidate John R. Price has been approached by Republican Central Committee members on behalf of the McIntosh campaign about a potential AG candidacy. The sources say that Price has spurned the AG offer, but should he lose to McIntosh in the May 2000 primary, would be in a position to pick up the nomination at the June convention.

Indiana Republicans have not held the AG position since Linley Pearson declined to seek re-election in 1992.

TICKER TAPE

Evansville is the largest city in Indiana without employing a lobbyist, the Courier & Press reported. It noted that while the towns of Shoals (population 890), Speedway (12,213 and Beech Grove (13,246) employ lobbyists, Evansville (122,779) doesn't. Current Mayor Frank McDonald II said he didn't see the need for a lobbyist. Mayor-Elect Russ Lloyd Jr. said he will consider hiring one. The newspaper noted that Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Gary and Allen County are the only governments that employ "round-the-clock" lobbyists. But Rep. Dennis Avery was critical of the city hiring a full-time person. "I don't know that it gets you a whole lot, other than a bill from a lobbyist." State Sen. Greg Server noted that the city can rely on Sally Rideout Lambert, lobbyist for the Metropolitan Evansville Chamber of Commerce.

Evansville City Council Democrats want to hire their own attorney next year (Courier & Press). The newspaper noted that for the first time this century, one political party has not controlled both the mayor's office and the council. Democrats will have a 6-3 majority on the council, while Republican Lloyd won the mayor's office.

Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan said that he

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would welcome support from homosexuals "if they endorse me and support our agenda."

Friday afternoons are the worst time for road rage in Indiana, the Gary Post-Tribune reported. An AAA Motor Club survey reported that the number of cases of road rage increased about 7 percent a year during Friday afternoons. "I don't know if that's tied in with spending the day at work and stress that's built up," said Indiana State Police Sgt. Larry Keiser.

The death of 19-year-old Sasezley Richardson in Elkhart has renewed calls for hate crime legislation during the 2000 Indiana General Assembly. Richardson was killed on Nov. 17 in an alleged random act of violence by two white teens, Jason Powell and Alex Witmer. "This will go to the top of Elkhart's legislative agenda," said Mayor James Perron. "Although this is a community of heart, we do have under the surface the same kind of hatred and bigotry that can be found in any community in America" (South Bend Tribune). State Rep. William Crawford has submitted a hate crime bill every year since 1962. Crawford's legislation would give judges the authority to hand out tougher sentences. Purdue University climatolo-

The Battle for the House

Indiana Republicans face an uphill fight to regain control

INDIANAPOLIS - The Battle for the Indiana House initially finds 11 races on the track, with more on the way.

With the Democrats holding a 53-47 advantage and two Republican seats in Lake and Shelby County coming into play due to retirement and resignation, it looks as if the Indiana GOP will have a tough time retaking control.

However, Republicans hope that a strong top of the ticket - G.W. Bush, Dick Lugar and David McIntosh - will help flush out potentially vulnerable Democrats such as freshmen Peggy Welch in Bloomington and Ron Herrell in Kokomo, as well as veterans Dale Sturtz in LaGrange, Bob Bischoff in Southeastern Indiana, and Vern Tincher in the Terre Haute area.

Even that strategy may be flawed given that Bush is now trailing U.S. Sen. John McCain in the New Hampshire Republican presidential primary.

There will be at least three rematches - Herrell vs. Karen Burkhardt in Kokomo, Sturtz and Ken Wonderly up in LaGrange, and Tom Saunders vs. Donnie Hamilton in the New Castle area.

Some incumbents that have faced some fierce challenges in the past six years look to be in relatively good shape for re-election heading into 2000. This group includes Democrats Ben GiaQuinta in Fort Wayne, Tiny Adams in Muncie, and Dick Bodiker in Richmond

At stake with control of the House will be who controls redistricting in 2001 following the 2000 census.

Both parties expect this list to grow. Since HPR began tracking legislative races in 1994, there have normally been

HORSE RACE

about 20 races that are deemed competitive. By that, we mean that there is some realistic chance that they will change party hands. Some races - such as the Republican challenge to Rep. Claire Leuck - don't appear to be realistic at first glance, but could come into play should a national dynamic take shape, as was the case in 1994. The Democrats are hoping to challenge State Rep. Cleo Duncan in the Batesville area, although they have not announced a candidate yet. Speculation is that 9th CD Chairman Mike Jones may challenge Duncan.

Republicans are actively recruiting in Southwestern Indiana, where they hope Vice President Al Gore will be a drag on the Democratic ticket. Veterans Dave Crooks and John Frenz may face challenges there.

Said House Speaker John Gregg, "I feel better going into '00 than I did in '98 or '96. However, I take nothing for granted. Our strength has always been in our recruiting."

Gregg added, "We have a big surprise that won't be released until January." ❖

2000 CONGRESSIONAL RACES

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence, State Rep. Jeff Linder, Andrew Phipps, Brad Steele, Fred Wenger, Bill Fraizer, Luke Messner, David Gethers. **Democrat:** Melina Fox, Leisa Julian, Ron Guyre, Bob Rock Jr., Troy Liggett. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:** Guyre and Rock filed paperwork to run. Linder picked up endorsements from Sen. Bob Garton and Reps. Paul Mannweiler, Bob Cherry, Cleo Duncan, Jack Lutz, Bruce Munson and Tom Saunders. **Primary Status:** *LEANS PENCE (R); TOSSUP (D).*

Indiana Racing Form

2000 HOUSE RACES

House District 15: Republican: State Rep. Dan Dumezich. **Democrat:** Open. **Geography:** Schereville, Merrillville, Lake County. **1994 results:** Fesko (R) 9,159, Savage (D) 3,743. **1996 Results:** Fesko (R) 15,134. **1998 Results:** Fesko (R) 9,914, Blacklund (L) 986. **2000 Forecast:** With Rep. Tim Fesko's resignation, Democrats believe they have a chance to pick up the last GOP House seat in Lake County. A candidate to challenge former Schererville Judge Dan Dumezich has not been announced. This has been a strong GOP district, but without an incumbent, it could come into play and, at least, draw Republican resources into defending their turf. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

House District 19: Republican: Ron Johnson. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman. **Geography:** 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 Results:** Kuzman 9,130, Gasparovic (R) 6,917. **2000 Forecast:** Republicans recruited Johnson, a Lutheran youth pastor, to challenge Kuzman. Republicans still believe they can win this seat back. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 25: Republican: Don Leih. **Democrat:** Rep. Claire Leuck. **Geography:** Monticello, White County. **1994 results:** Leuck 10,274, Boots (R) 6,940. **1996 Results:** Leuck (D) 13,159, Boots 9,105. **1998 Results:** Leuck 12,004, Conrad (R) 6,960. **2000 Forecast:** Leih is a farmer from White County. Leuck has never run against someone from her home county. We're skeptical she's in much danger, but the GOP think they can press in this district. **Status:** *LIKELY D.*

House District 30: Republican: Karen Burkhardt. **Democrat:** State Rep. Ron Herrell. **Geography:** Kokomo, Howard County. **1994 Results:** Padfield (R) 8,589, Howard 7,363. **1996 Results:** Padfield 10,775, Herrell 9,660. **1998 Results:** Herrell 7,711, Burkhardt (R) 7,520. **2000 Forecast:** This will be an intense rematch between former Rep. Burkhardt, chosen to fill out Padfield's term, and U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer's sister, and Herrell, who won by fewer than 200 votes. This stands to be one of the premier races. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 46: Republican: Open. **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 Results:** Tincher 9,401, Lohr 6,964. **2000 Forecast:** David Lohr is not planning to run. Tincher has consolidated his hold on this district, although this could be a closer race in a presidential year. Republicans promise a candidate who can credibly challenge. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 52: Republican: Ken Wonderly. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Sturtz. **Geography:** LaGrange, Noble counties. **1994 Results:** Sturtz (D) 6,837, LeCount (R) 5,789. **1996 Results:** Sturtz 10,049, Hanneman (R) 6,258. **1998 Results:** Sturtz 6,677, Wonderly 6,385. **2000 Forecast:** This is a rematch from a '98 race where Wonderly ran very credibly. This promises to be a better opportunity for the GOP in a presidential year dynamic. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

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 Results:** Saunders 9,517, Hamilton 7,558. **2000 Forecast:** This was the lone close race the GOP pulled out in what turned out to be a Democratic romp toward a 53-47 majority. Hamilton was a credible challenger, but Saunders is a savvy pro and will be tough to uproot in a presidential election year. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

House District 57: Republican: Jean Ann Harcourt. **Democrat:** J.D. Lux. **Geography:** Shelbyville, Shelby and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Linder (R) 12,626. **1996 Results:** Linder 13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Forecast:**

TICKER TAPE

gist Jim Newman is predicting that Indiana's drought is far from over. "Just look out the window. All you have to do is look at the White River and you know things aren't right for this time of year." Newman said that La Nina is creating weather patterns similar to the Dust Bowl era of the 1930s. "What I'm trying to do is alert people that we're in this kind of period. I'm not saying it's going to last six or seven years like it did in the '30s. But it's here and it's not going away anytime soon."

Under a headline "Is the Sun Setting on Farmers?" the New York Times reported that large farms - $250,000 or more in sales - now account for 72 percent of agricultural sales, up from 53 percent in 1989. It quoted Purdue's Michael Boehlje, "The issue for many farmers is not just about the current financial situation and their income. In the back of their minds, there's a set of concerns about the long term. They want to know how they are going to participate in the new agriculture."

"The South Shore is getting old," declared The Times of Northwest Indiana. It reported that the Northern Indiana commuter line will need $150 million in upgrades through 2005. It said most of the money would come from federal funds, and another $32

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million in special state funding and dedicated state revenue sources.

U.S. Rep. Ed Pease gaveled Congress to sine die for the second consecutive year while serving as speaker pro tempore. In doing so, Pease said, "During the 106th Congress, we worked toward safeguarding funds for Social Security, strengthening our national defense, paying down the federal debt, providing parents and local school officials greater flexibility in education, and curtailing burdensome regulations for small businesses and high tech firms. While progress has been made, there is much more work to do." ❖

HORSE RACE

Harcourt vs. Lux! What a spectacular matchup of congressional caliber candidates! This seat comes into play with Rep. Jeff Linder's bid for the 2nd CD. Democrats come in with a big gun in J.D. Lux, who lost to Sen. Robert Jackman in 1996, 22,426 to 19,027. Lux is a potential Democratic rising star and a real threat to pick up this seat. Republicans tell HPR they are responding with Harcourt, the former Republican National Committeewoman and Rush County GOP chairman. This will be an epic battle. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 60: Republican: Open. **Democrat:** State Rep. 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 Results:** Welch 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Forecast:** The Welch victory gives Republicans nightmares, for this had long been a GOP stronghold. There is no candidate yet, but our sources say neither Jerry Bales nor Jeff Ellington will run. This is a seat the GOP has to win in order to have any chance at retaking the House in 2000. But defeating the popular Welch will be a tall order. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 68: Republican: Jean Leising. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Bischoff. **Geography:** Lawrenceburg. **1994 results:** Bischoff 9,427, Ketcham (R) 8,993. **1996 Results:** Bischoff (D) 12,088, Fehrman (R) 8,968. **1998 Results:** Bischoff 11,881, Kristoff (L) 1,742. **2000 Forecast:** Former State Sen. Jean Leising will attempt her legislative comeback against Bischoff after three consecutive congressional runs. Bischoff had a real tough race in '94, but did OK in the last presidential year. Leising will be a tough challenge and this could be a fascinating race to watch. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 94: Republican: Open. **Democrat:** State Rep. Jeb Bardon. **Geography:** NW Indianapolis. **1994 Results:** Morris (Marendt) 7,838, Reisoner 5,537. **1996 Results:** Marendt 10,396, Hinman 9,586, Neal 422. **1998 Results:** Bardon 8,411, Marendt 6,834. **2000 Forecast:** OK, OK, we blew it when Horse Race said in late October '98, "Marendt appears to be headed to a third term." Pike Township has become very Democratic. Bart Peterson carried it handily in the '99 mayoral race. This looks to be the lone seat the Republicans can challenge in Marion County, but knocking off Bardon with no clear candidate at this time is going to be tough. Possible, but tough. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖

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