

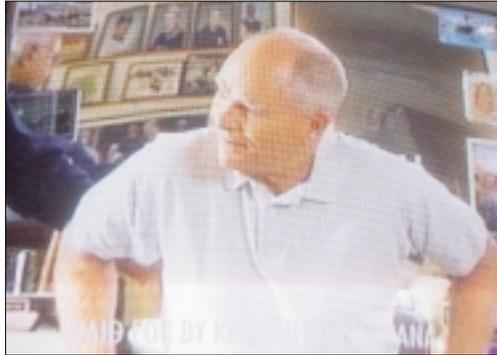


HOWEY

Political Report

V 11, No 12 *Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics*

Monday, Nov. 1, 2004



Mitch Daniels (left) rode his Harley to Nashville on Sunday and Gov. Kernan was preparing to go to Armando's Barber Shop in South Bend.

'Slightest breeze' could shift results

Epic presidential and gubernatorial races head into an unpredictable finish

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

By the time Gov. Joe Kernan climbs into his favorite chair at Armando's Barber Shop Tuesday morning, the most grueling, unpredictable and bitter gubernatorial race will be in its 11th hour.

It has been a twisting, two-year sequence that has had triumph, tragedy, indictments, depth and farce. The footprints of Joe Andrew, Bren Simon and Eric Miller have helped shape the landscape. The polls tend to suggest a victory for Mitch Daniels, with both the *Indianapolis Star*/WTHR and WISH-TV giving the Republican a 48-42 point lead since the middle of last week.

But Democratic pollster Fred Yang had the race tied at 46-46 percent after polling from Oct. 26-28 and even the most seasoned Hoosier political pros are watching the huge lines of people waiting hours to vote absentee and wondering what will prompt the most jaws to drop sometime between 6 and midnight Tuesday. In Marion County, hundreds of people waited for more than an hour to cast absentee ballots.

Dr. Larry Sabato of the University of Virginia's Center on Politics told *HPR* early this morning, "This is the closest presidential race I have ever followed, excepting only 1960 and 2000. Every piece of evidence suggests an absolute dead heat.



He praised Daniels for offering "a very positive message we haven't heard in a long time."

— HD77 Republican David Hennig, who is involved in an ugly slugfest against Democrat Phil Hoy, to the *Evansville Courier & Press*

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The popular vote has to be very close. The electoral vote will turn on the vagaries of the Electoral College. A Republican has a small additional edge there because of its structure, but that edge COULD be wiped out by a massive turnout that leans Democratic."

Sabato added, "Bin Laden helped Bush a little, putting an end to all the bad news that had plagued Bush for two weeks. Gallup has just released its final prediction: the first totally tied final predict in its distinguished history: 49% Bush, 49% Kerry, 1% Nader, 1% others. They allocated the tiny group of remaining undecideds. They went disproportionately for Kerry, but there were so few of them it didn't matter much. Any last minute event can tip this. Only a small breeze will be necessary to do it. I have no idea whether something will happen of that caliber."

CNN's Bill Schneider noted this morning that President Bush had lost ground on the terror issue, holding a 57-51 percent lead in the Gallup poll on that issue. Last week, he had a 14-percent advantage, so there was considerable slippage. Political analyst Charlie Cook said that a turnout of 120 million or even 130 million was possible, rendering the careening public opinion polls only as valid as a September weather forecast. ABC News' George Stephanopolous said this morning, "I think the undecideds will break the same way across the battleground states and the election won't be that close."

The only prediction HPR can make in a homestretch that has been buffeted by flu shots, Osama bin Laden, Dick Cheney's gay daughter and Eli Lilly Company's standing in Hoosier culture is that conventional wisdom seems ready to be turned on its ear.

"I'm telling everyone that this is the year to expect the unexpected," said Delaware County Clerk Karen Wenger (*Muncie Star Press*). There were 4,319,037 Hoosiers registered to vote, an 8 percent increase over 2000. Clark County reported a 15-percent increase since the May primary.

Analysts could only wonder whether \$3 a gallon milk, \$2 a gallon gas, skyrocketing health care costs, a nasty war in Iraq and the prospects of terror in a divided state and nation would force President Bush and Gov. Kernan out of office. Despite "wrong track" numbers both in Indiana and nationally well into the 50th percentile, both Bush and Kernan seemed to resist the notion that incumbents with job approval under 50 percent or under were inherently vulnerable in 2004. There seemed to be no palpable "throw the bums" out anti-incumbency witnessed in 1980 and 1994. But in 1980, the trendlines weren't apparent until people started casting their

votes.

Kernan seeks to make up lost time

In trying to prevent the defeat of the first modern Indiana governor, Gov. Kernan's campaign has had to overcome huge obstacles. Going into the 2004 sequence, Kernan's name ID hovered in the 40 percent range. After Gov. Frank O'Bannon and aides orchestrated a turn of the Indiana Democratic Party to Peter Manous, Kernan dropped out of the race on Dec. 9, 2002. Until he re-emerged on Nov. 6, 2003 in the wake of Gov. O'Bannon's death, Kernan had essentially lost a year where he needed to raise \$80,000 a day. Meanwhile Daniels kicked off his campaign in July 2003



at Hinkle Fieldhouse and was given uncontested territory across the Indiana prairies and into small cities and towns where folks were accustomed to seeing a gubernatorial candidate at an occasional Lincoln Day dinner or at the county fair. There was no Democratic response as he worked the state; no van of Kernan surrogates who would contest the GOP vision. The perception was that Daniels would likely prevail. As late as the IDEA convention during the last weekend in August, there were concerns by Democratic party pros as to whether the governor was prepared to mount a serious effort.

That weekend, however, a coalition of mayors from the seven biggest Indiana cities gathered and pledged their political organizations, and Gov. Kernan moved aggressively a week later, using the IPALCO issue to question Daniels' character and judgment. The race seemed to tighten and Daniels no longer seemed to be initiating.

The critical question to be answered Tuesday is whether Kernan's aggressive tactics will work in an era where voters are increasingly turned off by negative campaign ads. The Kernan campaign wasn't the only political organization delving into character questions. The House Republican caucus injected the gay marriage issue into House races in Evansville, Madison, Vincennes, Portland and Hartford City in a frantic push to regain control of the lower chamber.

That push has become so emphatic that House Republicans were willing to resurrect State Rep. Brooks LaPlante in HD46, even at the cost of 1,000 absentee ballots, some cast by Indiana National Guard troops stationed in Iraq.

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson (1999) and Secretary of State Todd Rokita successfully turned back assault campaigns. A Kernan victory or the Republicans taking the House would validate the tougher style. ❖

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson (1999) and Secretary of State Todd Rokita successfully turned back assault campaigns. A Kernan victory or the Republicans taking the House would validate the tougher style. ❖



Kernan, Daniels and tall Hoosier sycamores

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

FRANKLIN - I watched Mitch Daniels work the lunchtime crowd at Don and Donna's Restaurant here last Tuesday morning. That night, I covered Gov. Joe Kernan taping a TV show with the African-American Coalition at the Madame Walker Theater, the same venue where he re-entered the race almost a year ago.

The thought struck me twice ... that in the next few days, one of these remarkable men will leave Indiana's political scene, perhaps for good.

The other will go on to confront Indiana's riveting problems over the next four to eight years: jobs, a budget deficit, an aging population, homeland security, crime, transportation, the environment, and education.

Another thought occurred as I watched the two men. Who have been the political and governmental figures who have been most successful with voters in modern Indiana?

Our two outstanding U.S. senators, Dick Lugar and Evan Bayh, immediately come to mind. Our last three governors (besides Bayh), Frank O'Bannon, Robert Orr and Doc Bowen. Former congressman Lee Hamilton is another. So are three of our former senators, Birch Bayh, Dan Coats and Dan Quayle. In this esteemed group, only four ever lost an election (Bowen's first run for the Indiana House, Lugar in 1974, Birch Bayh in 1980 and Vice President Quayle in 1992). We're talking about more than 70 general election victories here over five decades. Birch Bayh's 1962 campaign song, "Hey look him over, he's our kind of guy" captured the spirit.

How were these men so successful? Do you remember any of them ever resorting to wedge issues that denigrate an element of the population, or defame another's character? Or use their personal faith to undermine an opponent? Some



Mitch Daniels at Don and Donna's Restaurant in Franklin last week. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

might remember Evan Bayh using the license branch scandals or the Isuzu plant in Lafayette to attack Lt. Gov. John Mutz in 1988, but those were legitimate public policy issues.

What stands out with the cream of the Hoosier crop is that none resorted to personal attack. They relied on an intrinsic trust they had built up with the people.

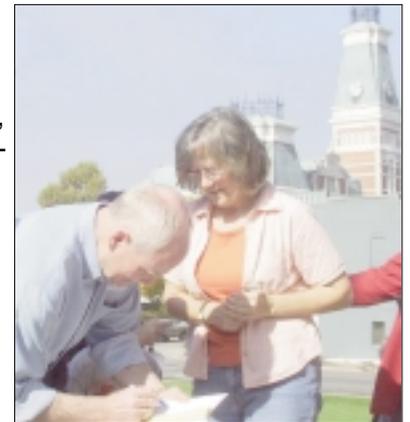
Don and Donna's Restaurant had a significant place in the Daniels campaign because he was there when Gov. Kernan got back in the race in November 2003. On that day, and with Gov. Kernan visible on a TV set over his shoulder, Daniels said, "No one can predict the ultimate political effect, but from a citizen's standpoint, this is absolutely for the best. It makes the questions before us completely plain. Do we have the kind of economic opportunity we want for our kids and for the least fortunate among us, or should we aim higher? As taxpayers, are we satisfied with the quality and performance of state government, or should we expect more? After 16 years of one-party rule by career politicians do we want to start fresh, or not?"

With that, Daniels questioned the O'Bannon-Kernan public policy record, as Bayh did of Mutz in 1988, to the point where the governor has called it a "trashing of Indiana."

After Gov. Kernan announced 400 new jobs coming to Muncie, Daniels called it a "molecule in the bucket." An hour later, Gov. Kernan stood at a rally in Columbus and complained, "My opponent was asked about Magna and his



Govs. O'Bannon and Bayh never got personal in their campaigns. (Eye Photo by Ellen Jackson)



Gov. Kernan at Columbus last week. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



response was that he would have done it quicker. He's not only clueless, but he's getting up every morning and doesn't have anything good to say." As Gov. Kernan complained, the bell on the ornate clock tower in downtown Columbus slowly tolled the noon hour.

That was a legitimate public policy discourse between the two.

But the braintrust around Gov. Kernan didn't effectively use his sterling attributes -- war hero, successful mayor, and the governor who helped get the state through Gov. O'Bannon's death -- to the point that marks the definition of his run for re-election. What still reverberates are the IPALCO assault ads that had one retiree calling Daniels "greedy," renewed with greater intensity in the final week of the campaign. When Kernan was asked if he were calling Daniels greedy, he said, "Those aren't my words. Those are his words. I stand by whatever that person said."



Gov. Kernan at the Madame Walker Theater.

Kernan was asked at the African-American Coalition how he "justified" using the issue. He explained, "What I question is the judgment of my opponent. You have to look at judgments we have made. My judgments have been fair game."

The Democrats have been calling it a "scandal" and "Indiana's Enron." Many Hoosiers are concluding it was a business deal that, in hindsight, doesn't look as good as when it was cut. Unfortunately, it's become the defining issue of this campaign. But Gov. Kernan made a departure from others in his position who never questioned an opponent's personal integrity or motives. He faced a dilemma: how to overcome a perceived Daniels lead in the polls and it placed him in a trap ... going negative and, ultimately, risking his own image as a guy who fights hard and fair. In his six-plus years as lieutenant governor, he didn't effectively build that intrinsic trust in a political sense, with his name ID hovering around 40 percent. The Kernan campaign was forced to make sharp a departure from the way he had governed.

Daniels said he was mindful of the end result, of arriving "at the backside of this election with a far greater sense that will have to become greater still in the future, that this endless game of 'you've got yours now I'll want mine' that pervades every interest group, every university, everybody for him or herself. That has led to the unconventional things we are determined to do. And that is to campaign on the high road in this election, whatever comes."

Or, as Daniels put it before the lunchtime diners, "The high road beats the low road every time."

That is, the ultimate judgment of the voters next Tuesday. Or, as Gov. Kernan put it following the 2003 municipal elections, "As usual, the people got it right." ❖

04 Bush *Election* Kerry

Presidential Polls

NFL
Green Bay 28, Washington 14

Rasmussen Tracking, Oct. Oct. 29-31
Bush 48, Kerry 47

GallupCNN, Oct. 29-31, +/-3
Bush 49, Kerry 49, Nader 1

ABC/Wash Post, Oct. 28-31, +/-3
Bush 49, Kerry 48, Nader 1

CBS/New York Times, Oct. 28-30
Bush 49, Kerry 46

Zogby/Reuters, Oct. 29-31, +/- 2.9
Bush 48, Kerry 48, Nader 1

Newsweek, Oct. 21-22, +/-3
Bush 50, Kerry 44, Nader 1

Fox News, Oct. 29-30
Kerry 46, Bush 46, Nader 1

NBC/Wall Street Journal, +/-3
Bush 48, Kerry 47, Nader 1

INDIANA: Star/WTHR +/-5%
Bush 57, Kerry 37

OHIO, Gallup, Oct. 28-30, +/-3
Kerry 50, Bush 46

FLORIDA, Gallup, Oct. 28-30, +/-3
Kerry 49, Bush 46

PENN., Gallup, Oct. 28-31, +/-3
Bush 50, Kerry 48

MICH., Mason-Dixon, Oct. 26-29, +/-4
Kerry 47, Bush 45, Nader 1

WISCONSIN, Gallup, Oct. 27-30
Bush 52, Kerry 44, Nader 1

MINNESOTA, Gallup, Oct. 28-30, +/-3
Kerry 52, Bush 44, Nader 1

IOWA, DM Register, Oct. 27-30, +/-3.5
Kerry 48, Bush 45, Nader 2

NEW HAMP, Mason-Dixon, Oct. 26-29
Kerry 47, Bush 46, Nader 1



Indiana 2004 Statewides

Governor 2004: Republican: Mitch Daniels.

Democrat: Gov. Joe Kernan. Libertarian: Kenn Gividen. **1996**

Results: O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505,

Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345,

McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:**

Gov. Kernan tells the *South Bend Tribune* in Sunday's editions, "Whenever I'm finished here in Indianapolis, Maggie and I will be coming back home." Here's what the polls are saying.

The *Indianapolis Star*/WTHR poll released Saturday night has Daniels up 6 percent, 48-42 percent (+/- 3.1%).

Gividen had 3 percent. Its sample is 43 percent Republican, 27 percent Democratic. A

WHAS-TV poll in Southern Indiana released over the weekend had Daniels up 52-44 percent, compared to 48-47 percent two weeks ago.

The WISH-TV poll released last Thursday had the same margin, 48-42 percent. And a

South Bend Tribune/WSBT poll released last Tuesday had Daniels leading 46-43 percent. But during a Democratic conference call over the weekend, Democratic pollster Fred Yang had the race tied 46-46 percent (as of last Thursday night) with Gividen getting about 1.5 percent. The *Star* poll asked about the impact of the Kernan attack ads against Daniels on the IPALCO issue. It noted that 30 percent "feel worse about Daniels," but 25 percent "feel worse about Kernan." The HPR/TeleResearch poll two weeks ago discovered that independents were turned off by the IPALCO issue. Daniels campaign manager Bill Oesterle said, "There's still plenty of time for these numbers to move," Oesterle said. "We have to make



Daniels signs an autograph in Franklin last week. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

sure our get-out-the-vote activities are stellar." Bernie Toon, campaign manager for Kernan, said he believes the race is a dead heat coming into Election Day on Tuesday. "We are very confident that going into Election Day we basically have a tied ballgame," Toon said. There were ominous signs in the poll for Kernan, the *Star* reported. Only 48 percent of those polled approve of the job he's doing as governor, with 32 percent disapproving and 20 percent not sure. And, by far, poll respondents think the state is moving in the wrong direction. Almost half said Indiana is on the wrong track, while 38 percent said things are moving in the right direction. That's down from earlier this month, when 42 percent thought the state was headed in the right direction. Hundreds of Allen County residents are set to make some extra bucks by helping Republican Mitch Daniels' campaign for governor in the waning days of the election (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). That's because the campaign is paying "volunteers" to walk precincts and make get-out-the-vote calls for eight hours Saturday, Monday and Tuesday as part of its Final Mile program. In return, the "Final Mile Task Force" members will receive a T-shirt, lunch and a \$50 check, according to an e-mail sent from Linda Buskirk to those who supported her run for mayor last year. To compare, poll workers in Allen County make between \$85 and \$135 for their service. The e-mail, addressed to friends and others interested in Indiana's future, comes at a "critical time in the campaign of someone I support very much: Mitch Daniels." Buskirk urges people to help and pass along the invitation to others, especially high school and college students looking to earn extra cash. Oesterle said it is becoming common to pay for these last-minute, get-out-the-vote activities. "It's a technique that has taken over the last several election cycles," he said, calling it a daily stipend. "I'm not sure who came up with it, but they discovered that commitment and productivity goes up exponentially if you just pay them \$50." Gov. Kernan tells the *South Bend Tribune's*



Gov. Kernan gets a microphone prior to his TV show taping at the Madame Walker Theater in Indianapolis last week. (HPR Photo)



Martin DeAgostino, why he is a Democrat. "What makes me a Democrat," he said finally, "is my belief that I represent everyone." Daniels has drawn wide praise, in fact, for innovative use of the RV, the T-shirts and for his 30-minute "reality TV" shows about life on the road. Mark St. John, a Democratic lobbyist, calls the campaign "masterful," as do various independent observers. A typical campaign appearance invokes principle, too, especially as Daniels describes the "new crew" he hopes to bring to state government. Asked if they might represent the anti-government wing of the Republican Party, Daniels quickly says "no." "Now listen," he said, "I believe in limited government. I want the government we have to be really good." The South Bend Tribune endorsed Kernan on Sunday. It wrote, "Indiana would be well served by either Joe Kernan or Mitch Daniels as governor for the next four years. Kernan, though, has a big edge in experience as a governmental executive. He was a confident and able mayor of South Bend, and he has brought that same style and competence to his work as lieutenant governor and governor. People in South Bend still know him as a decent, hardworking, honest man whose natural optimism inspires hope and motivates others. The candidates don't really differ on what needs to be done in the next four years. Kernan is the man to make those things happen. We endorse Joe Kernan for governor of Indiana." The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette has also endorsed Kernan. Daniels has picked up endorsements from the Indianapolis Star, Times of Northwest Indiana, Louisville Courier-Journal, Evansville Courier & Press, and the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel. Kernan told a Democratic rally in Marion over the weekend, "I ask that you, over the course of the next couple of days, you just continue to have personal contact with people. Explain to them why it's important for them to vote, and explain to them why you're voting the way that you are" (*Marion Chronicle Tribune*). "I think you and I know the answer as to who has the ability, who has the willingness to make tough decisions to do the things that are necessary in difficult times to lift up our state. He (Daniels) doesn't want to talk about the high costs of prescription drugs and the fact that seniors and families across the state are going without their medicine," Kernan said. "... We'd love to get some help from Washington, but we can't sit back and wait for that to happen." We still believe that a Kernan win would be the upset. As far as the massive voter turnout, our Lake County Democratic sources believe Kernan can get a 50,000 to 60,000 vote plurality there, still down from the 75,000 Gov. O'Bannon got in 2000, but better than what



observers were predicting a few months ago. But voter turnout and absentee balloting appears to be just as heavy in Republican areas. Daniels demonstrated a good GOTV in the primary. **Status:** *Leans Daniels*.

Attorney General 2004: Republican: Attorney Gen. Steve Carter. Democrat: Joseph Hogsett. **2000 Results:** Carter (R) 1,077,951, Freeman-Wilson (D) 978,713, Harshey (L) 45,490. **2004 Forecast:** An *Indianapolis Star*/WTHR-TV poll shows Carter beating Hogsett 45 percent to 27 percent. Libertarian Aaron Milewski was backed by 3 percent. Carter had a 44-29 percent lead over Hogsett in a WISH-TV poll. Carter has not, and will not, support or authorize pre-recorded political phone calls that are being made on his behalf. "A cornerstone of my campaign is privacy, most specifically stopping unwanted telephone calls," Carter said. "I have not, nor will I, support or authorize any pre-recorded political calls on my behalf." The Carter campaign headquarters and Carter's statehouse office have received several reports today regarding pre-recorded political phone calls stating that they were being made on behalf of Steve Carter. The Carter campaign has not authorized any such calls and urges the organization that is blanketing the state with these calls to halt this practice. Making pre-recorded phone calls using an automated dialing system is a violation of Indiana law. Anyone that receives such a call should contact the Attorney General's office Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-382-5516. The South Bend Tribune endorsed Carter on Sunday. **Status:** *Likely Carter*.

Indiana 2004 Congressional

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Jon Jennings. Green Party: Clark Gabriel Field. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. Media Market: Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Forecast:** Our gut tells us that despite an excellent campaign by Jennings, Hostettler may squeak another one out thanks, in part, to President Bush's expected strong showing in Indiana. But this is still a tossup and it could go either way. **Status:** *Tossup*.

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **People:**



U.S. Rep. Baron Hill campaigns in his hometown of Seymour. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m.

2004 Forecast: This is very much a tossup, although we give a tiny edge to Hill after Sodrel appeared to lose some momentum over the bridge toll issue. The critical question is whether Sodrel can latch on to President Bush's coattails. 9/11 Commissioner Lee Hamilton is featured in a new TV for Hill. "I personally asked Baron to run and he's done the job right," Hamilton said. "I trust Baron Hill to fight for our values and make us proud." Sodrel's campaign criticized Hill for advocating a new Ohio River bridge while voting against a bill in Congress last spring that included funding for the project (Mark Schoeff Jr., HPR). The fiercely contested Sodrel-Hill rematch has been consumed in the last week by the bridge issue after Sodrel said in an Oct. 20 debate that he would support a toll if it would speed up bridge construction. Hill ruled out tolls and put up a radio ad, featuring Sodrel's debate quote, that asserted taxpayers would suffer from the tolls. Hill also appeared at a news conference on Monday with Indiana Dept. of Transportation Commissioner J. Bryan Nicol, who said that imposing a toll would delay bridge construction. But Sodrel campaign manager Kevin Boehnlein said Hill was being disingenuous about his support for the bridge because



he voted against a \$275 billion highway transportation bill earlier this year that included \$14 million for the bridge project. "He can't have it both ways," said Boehnlein. Hill's campaign said that Hill voted against the bill because he wanted to increase the amount of money in the legislation. "Baron's not going to vote for a bill just because it has funding for projects in his district when he knows we could do better," said Stefan Bailey, a Hill spokesman. "He wanted to be on record that this is not good enough for Indiana. Sodrel would have sold out a little too early because of his lack of experience. They obviously do not understand this issue." Bailey said that House-Senate negotiations on the highway bill have pushed the funding level to about \$300 billion. While Congress is working on the legislation, current highway spending has been extended through May. Although not a member of the House transportation committee, Hill is the coauthor of a bill that would require each state to receive at least 95 percent of the gas tax dollars it sends to Washington. The Sodrel campaign emphasizes that the Jeffersonville bus and trucking company owner has been an advocate for a new Ohio River bridge for 20 years. They accuse Hill of taking Sodrel's toll comments out of context. "Mike Sodrel does not support toll bridges," said Boehnlein. "Do you think a man whose trucks travel across the Ohio River 100 times a day would be in favor of a toll? That's absurd." **Status:** *Tossup*

Indiana 2004 Legislative

ANALYSIS: *OK, for the sake of office pools across StatehouseLand, we'll say the Democrats maintain a 51-49 margin in the House. But in reality, anyone who says they "know" who is going to win control of the House is an idiot. There are way too many variables in play, including turnout, Bush/Bayh coattails, terror and potential revulsion to the sophomoric TV ads that have saturated the state over the weekend. We believe Democrats can pick up the LaPlante seat, the open Dean Young seat (HD31) and perhaps the Scholer seat in Lafayette (HD26). But the Democrats appear to be defending far more seats (Markt Ltyle, John Frenz, Craig Fry, Ron Liggett, Brian Hasler's open seat in Evansville, Ron Herrell in Kokomo and Phil Pflum in Richmond) to the point where they may lose two or three seats. The House Republican Political Action Committee gave its candidates \$1 million by the pre-election deadline, nearly twice as much as the \$556,215 given to Democratic candidates by the House Democrat PAC.*

House District 5: Republican: Michael Reddy. Democrat: State Rep. Craig Fry. **2002 Results:** Fry 8,618 Crawford (R) 5,705. **2004 Forecast:** This has been a late developing race that has blown into a full-fledged TV battle in the South Bend TV market with more than \$200,000 flowing into this race. The *South Bend Tribune* endorsed Fry, but



wrote, "Reddy is an impressive candidate and worthy opponent for Fry, whom we have long endorsed. In general, we have made it a practice to support the return to office of those candidates who do a good job. Even though it is a close call this time, that policy tips the scales to Craig R. Fry." The appearance of a major party star such as former Sen. Birch Bayh, who met with Fry at a downtown Mishawaka restaurant, prompted reporters covering the meeting to ask Fry if he believes he is vulnerable (James Wensits, *South Bend Tribune*). "I don't think I'm in trouble," Fry responded, adding that "it would put anybody in jeopardy" when someone spends \$200,000 in three weeks on radio and television advertising. Fry said his own polling shows him with a "double-digit" lead over Reddy, though the candidate declined to share the exact numbers. Republican Micahel Reddy campaign spokesman Matt Lentsch confirmed that Fry's estimate of Reddy's campaign spending is "fairly accurate" and noted that Fry is also spending a lot of money on the campaign. "He should be worried," Lentsch said of Fry. Lentsch said the Reddy campaign also has been polling. He said he didn't want to share the polling information, but said, "Craig has reason to be concerned." Fry estimated that he has spent about \$100,000 on advertising over the past two weeks. Our gut is that Fry felt the heat and responded and will probably win.
Status: *LEANS FRY.*

House District 7: Republican: South Bend School Trustee Joanna Blacketor. Democrat: State Rep. Tom Kromkowski. **2002 Results:** Kromkowski 10,846. **2004 Forecast:** We were watching this race in case a Republican wave developed. Blacketor has waged an energetic campaign, but we don't believe Kromkowski is in any trouble.
Status: *Likely Kromkowski.*

House District 19: Republican: Ron Cooper. Democrat: State Rep. Bob Kuzman. Independent: James Cuffia. **2002 Results:** Kuzman 7,620, Roth (R) 6,355. **2004 Forecast:** We expect Kuzman to easily win re-election. Cooper isn't returning media calls and his campaign has been quiet. **Status:** *LEANS D*

House District 21: Republican: Jackie Walorski. Democrat: Carl Kaser. **2002 Results:** Mangus 10,722. **2004 Forecast:** We were watching this race in case a big Democratic wave developed. We expect Walorski to prevail and keep this seat Republican. **Status:** *SAFE R*

House District 26: Republican: Tippecanoe County Councilwoman Connie Basham. Democrat: Joe Micon. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **2002 Results:** Scholer 5,630, Micon 4,731. **2004 Forecast:** A 30-second Micon attack ad first appeared on Tuesday after-

noon begins by announcing, "Connie Basham has nerve." It then accuses Basham of being delinquent 59 times on property taxes since 1981 while also stating that Basham wants to abolish property taxes. She and her husband, John, who own Basham Rentals, have \$17 million worth of property in their name, it continues. In an interview Wednesday, Basham conceded that she and her husband have not always paid property taxes when they were due. But the attack fails to mention that most of those delinquencies came in the 1980s, when state government encouraged delaying the payments in an effort to improve the struggling economy, she said. Micon sees it another way, though. "By paying your taxes late, you're shortchanging schools, local government services and law enforcement," he said. The ad against Basham also accuses her of raising her own salary by 48 percent while she sat on the Tippecanoe County Council. The accusations against Basham follow closely on the heels of an ad the House Republican Campaign Committee began running locally on Saturday. It states that Micon is a "liberal" who favors raising taxes on income and gasoline. Micon, whose campaign has collected \$164,648, said it was that ad that convinced him to give approval to his committee to counterattack Basham. "I told my committee and my caucus that I would not be the first to run a negative ad in this campaign," Micon said. "I ran two years ago against Sue Scholer and we made it to the end without a negative ad. But after this latest barrage of negative ads, I decided I would finish out the last days of my campaign with a much stronger tone." The *Lafayette Journal & Courier* editorialized on Sunday, "Basham said she pleaded with state leadership to steer clear of the negative. (I was in tears, crying, saying I don't want to do this, she told the Journal and Courier.) Fired upon first, Micon owned up to the fact that he made the call to "change the tone" of the campaign. We don't mind campaigns that shine negative light on the opposition's views, decisions or proposals. We do mind them when they are taken out of context. Both sides, tears shed or jaws set, are equally guilty of stripping single facts from their backgrounds and holding them up in all their twisted glory." We can see this seat going either way. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 30: Republican: John Smith. Democrat: State Rep. Ron Herrell. **2002 Results:** Herrell (D) 9,017, Rudolph (R) 6,966, Fridholm (L) 379. **2004 Forecast:** Smith and Herrell see education as the leading issue heading into the homestretch. Indiana Republicans are funding TV ads on behalf of Smith. We believe this race is Herrell's to lose. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 31: Republican: Tim Harris. Democrat: Blackford County Commissioner Larry Hile. **2002 Results:** Rep. Dean Young 9,046, Raju (D) 3,909. **2004 Forecast:** Both Harris and Hile are running ads on Indianapolis television. We think this could go either way.



**Status:** TOSSUP

House District 33: Republican: Bill Davis. Democrat: State Rep. Ron Liggett. **2002 Results:** Liggett (D) 9,143, Thornburg (R) 6,895. **2004 Forecast:** This is one of the nastiest legislative races we've witnessed and is a pure tossup. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence will be in Muncie Monday for a rally supporting Davis. There is also an attack ad that accuses Liggett of voting for "more government meaning higher taxes." The ad took a page from Brent Waltz's upset of Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst and says that Liggett voted for "lifelong health care coverage for himself." It added that Liggett "voted to cut school bus funding." One of the killer phone calls on behalf of Davis says, "A man and a woman. 'In Indiana, I don't think it is necessary...' says Liggett. That's right, Ron Liggett opposes an amendment to define marriage between one man and one woman. Once again, Ron Liggett talks one way at home and votes another way in Indianapolis. It's time for new leadership - It's time for Bill Davis" (*Muncie Star Press*) "We have gotten calls about this." Liggett said. "My record is very clear." Liggett criticized Davis' campaign and supporters this week, saying such calls distorted his voting record on gay marriage. In 1999, Liggett voted for the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited gay marriage in the state. However, he and other House Democrats would not entertain an amendment to the Indiana Constitution for the ban when Republicans staged a walkout over the wedge issue last spring. Davis, a Portland businessman, who supports a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, said he was unaware of the automated call, and said he had run a clean campaign. And Mike Gentry, executive director of the House Republican Campaign Committee, said state Republicans had been "very factual" with advertising they had run. "I will say we have had a lot of groups running a lot of different things." Gentry said. Randy Geesaman, Democratic Party chairman in Portland, said even his household had been bombarded by Davis calls and mail. On Thursday, Geesaman said his wife received four direct mail flyers from Davis. "These calls have been so rapid fire that there will be a backlash," said Geesaman. **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 44: Republican: State Rep. Andy Thomas. Democrat: Eric A. Wolfe. **2002 Results:** Thomas (R) 8,997, Schimpf (D) 6,507. **2004 Forecast:** We expect Thomas to easily win his second term. **Status:** SAFE R.

House District 46: Republican: State Rep. Brooks LaPlante. Democrat: Vern Tincher. **2002 Results:** LaPlante (R) 8,079, Tincher (D) 7,275. **2004 Forecast:** LaPlante will be on the ballot, but a marathon legal battle over the race might continue after Tuesday's election (Mike Smith, *Associated Press*). The state Democratic Party said Friday that it would

not challenge orders by the state Court of Appeals that LaPlante's name be on the ballot in place of Jeffrey Lee's. The court did not require that new absentee ballots with LaPlante's name on them be mailed out unless voters asked for them. Although LaPlante's name will be on the ballot, the Court of Appeals has not ruled on the merits of the case. That means one or both parties could pursue further litigation after the election. "At this point, we don't plan to pursue any further legal challenges in the District 46 race," Democratic Party spokesman Terry Burns said. "We will let the election take its course and then re-evaluate the situation." James Bopp Jr., an attorney for the state Republican Party, said that at least 1,000 voters will end up being disenfranchised because they cast absentee ballots with Lee's name on them. Bopp said that under the court orders and the law, absentee ballots checked as voting a straight Republican ticket would count for LaPlante, but split-ticket ballots in which Lee's name was specifically marked would not count for LaPlante. Bopp said because of that, the legal challenges by Democrats had cost LaPlante votes. "Obviously they have screwed up election procedures enough that someone is going to have to win by a big margin for there not to be a fight about this after the election," Bopp said. Bill Groth, attorney for Indiana Democrats, responded by pointing out that the court did not rule for or against either side, but simply delayed ruling (*Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). "It's important to remember that Jeffrey Lee was the choice of the voters and Brooks LaPlante was the choice of a dozen party leaders at a caucus," he said. Groth noted that two trial court judges ruled that Lee "had not moved at the time he said he moved" before the appeals court stayed the matter. **Status:** LEANS D.

House District 56: Republican: Ed Yanos. Democrat: Rep. Phil Pflum. Libertarian Jon Bell. **2002 Results:** Pflum 6,511, Hamm (R) 6,096. **2004 Forecast:** Republican Ed Yanos has spent \$71,448. Pflum has spent \$53,616 and Libertarian Jon Bell has spent \$483 for a total of \$125,548. The *Richmond Palladium-Item* reported on Sunday, "The House elected in 2002 had 51 Democrats and 49 Republicans, a margin large enough to stymie Republican efforts to pass a Defense of Marriage Amendment to the state Constitution. In protest, a Republican walk-out halted House business for more than a week this year." U.S. Rep. Mike Pence will campaign with Yanos on Monday in Richmond. This race is a tossup, but since we've been publishing since 1994, it's always been a tossup. **Status:** TOSSUP.

House District 45: Republican: Bruce Borders. Democrat: Rep. Allen Chowning. **2002 Results:** Chowning 9,627, Borders 9,337. **2004 Forecast:** Bush carried this district with 58 percent and Clerk of Courts Brian Bishop ran with



48 percent in 2000. Chowning faces his 2002 opponent, former Jasonville Mayor Bruce Borders. Chowning won 9,629 to 9,340 in 2002, and says he is taking the rematch just as seriously (Ciancone, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). "I'm not doing anything any different," he said. "We don't take anything for granted." He stands on his record of trying to get help to local law enforcement to fight methamphetamine use, and in keeping watch on the state's finances. He said he voted against a Republican plan to cap state spending because the plan was symbolic. Caps already exist, Chowning said. Borders said he believes there is much greater interest in the race this year, and that bodes well for change. He said state spending and a cap on it are major issues that he believes he is better suited to address. "I think our state and federal government both are mortgaging our children's future," Borders said. "If there is a cap, it's sure not working." We give Chowning a slight edge in this race. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 62: Republican: Lawrence County Commissioner Janie Craig Chenault. Democrat: State Rep. Jerry Denbo. **2002 Results:** Denbo 10,009, Patton (R) 6,339. **2004 Forecast:** Chenault is a credible candidate and has run an energetic campaign, but it's hard for us to believe Denbo would get beat in the election after he helped land the French Lick casino. Chenault accused Denbo of focusing only on the casino and ignoring other issues (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Denbo says he's done plenty of other things for the area. Chenault said in an interview last week that "while the gambling may indeed help that area ... I don't know that that's going to provide jobs for all five counties. And I believe that our representative has currently spent a lot of time focused on one issue, which has been gambling, and I certainly don't feel like other counties have had the opportunity even to be represented in things that we need to have done." Denbo said there would be enough job opportunities from the gambling project to spread throughout the district. "There's going to be more jobs available there than what there are unemployed people in Orange County," he said. "Plus there's a lot of spin-off business that will come for the area. And that's not to mention the construction jobs. On Chenault's charge that he has focused only on the casino, Denbo said, "She's dead wrong

there." In Oolitic, he said, "I have gotten them a new fire truck, they've got a new fire station" and about \$1.5 million in water and sewer grants. He said every town in the district has received some state money during his tenure in Indianapolis. Chenault said she favors a state constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage. Denbo also said he favors a constitutional ban on gay marriage. "I would vote for it if it came to the House floor," he said. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

House District 69: Republican: Billy Bright. Democrat: State Rep. Markt Lytle. **2002 Results:** Lytle 9,777, Newell 7,678. **2004 Forecast:** This race is worth watching due to the Republican-leaning way this district votes presidentially. HD69 takes in all of Lytle's home county of Jefferson and nearly all of Jennings County, where Bright lives, along with a small portion of western Ripley County. About 32,000 people live in Jefferson County, and about 28,000 in the portion of Jennings County that is in the district. The race for state representative in Indiana's District 69 pits a pizza shop owner with no political experience against a Democratic incumbent who has been in public office almost continuously since 1977, including the past 12 years in the General Assembly (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Incumbent Rep. Markt Lytle, 55, served as Jefferson County recorder, mayor of Madison and Jefferson County coroner before he was elected to the state House in 1992. Lytle says voters should re-elect him because of his experience, which gives him the legislative clout to bring millions of dollars in support of local projects in the district. That clout will be needed over the next two years, he said, to support efforts to win \$19million for a planned expansion of Ivy Tech and \$2.6million for a proposed Homeland Security Urban Training Center in Jennings County, along with other projects. But Bright said that "experienced politicians are exactly what's wrong." He criticized Lytle for allegedly bottling up three bills in his committee that were supported by Indiana Right to Life last year. He said he also differs with Lytle on a proposed state constitutional ban on homosexual marriage and the role of government. Bright has the endorsement of Right to Life, favors the marriage amendment and wants to cut taxes and the size of government. He said Lytle, as chairman of the House Public Policy

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Committee, "has denied Indiana Right to Life every single bill that has ever been presented" and has not allowed a single measure to reach the House floor. Lytle told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* his clout will be needed over the next two years, he said, to support efforts to win \$19million for a planned expansion of Ivy Tech and \$2.6million for a proposed Homeland Security Urban Training Center in Jennings County, along with other projects. But Bright said that "experienced politicians are exactly what's wrong." He criticized Lytle for allegedly bottling up three bills in his committee that were supported by Indiana Right to Life last year. He said he also differs with Lytle on a proposed state constitutional ban on homosexual marriage and the role of government. Bright has the endorsement of Right to Life, favors the marriage amendment and wants to cut taxes and the size of government. He said Lytle, as chairman of the House Public Policy Committee, "has denied Indiana Right to Life every single bill that has ever been presented" and has not allowed a single measure to reach the House floor. Lytle said there was no time to take up three of the four bills favored by Right to Life that came before the committee in his first session as chairman last year. He said most of the committee's time was spent considering legislation aimed at generating revenue, such as the bill to allow a casino in Orange County. Lytle said that while the courts have established a constitutional right to abortion, "my position's always been that I try to do everything I can to limit abortions." He said he voted for legislation requiring a 24-hour waiting period after a woman has been fully informed about the procedure. "As a man I don't feel like I can tell a woman what to do (regarding abortion, but) I personally do not favor abortion," he said. Bright said he opposes abortion, allowing for "the exceptions any reasonable person allows ... rape, incest (and) the life of the mother." Lytle said he did work in the legislature against a measure aimed at banning human cloning. "If we'd have allowed that to go to the floor we could have lost researchers at the universities because once they think that you might outlaw something ... they'll hop up and go somewhere else." Lytle said he voted for the current Indiana law that restricts marriage to heterosexual unions, but has never stated a position on the proposed constitutional amendment. **Status: LEANS D.**

House District 64: Republican: Troy Woodruff. Democrat: State Rep. John Frenz. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Forecast:** In these last days of the campaign, Woodruff, the Indiana Republican Party and a group called All Children Matter of Indiana, have led a negative assault against Frenz with campaign mailers and radio advertising (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). Woodruff insists claims in the mailers are true, however Frenz said that his opponent is "twisting" his voting record by taking lines from various bills, amendments and even proposals, out of context.

Frenz says none of the claims are true. Woodruff is concerned about Indiana's deficit and promises no tax increases. He says he wants to put "people before politics" and says government service is about duty and not personal profit. He believes Indiana government itself may need to be revamped. "Indiana doesn't lead in anything," Woodruff said. "I think my state and my community can do so much more. I'm not happy with the status quo. We need fresh ideas and a fresh perspective." **Status: LEANS D.**

House District 77: Republican: David Hennig. Democrat: State Rep. Phil Hoy. Independent: Rev. Bill Garrett. **2002 Results:** Hasler (D) 10,437. **2004 Outlook:** Hennig's campaign has aired television ads chastising Hoy's views on gay marriage and abortion, while Hoy has gone after Hennig's employment history, which includes four jobs in the last two years and work for firms under federal investigation. Hoy said Hennig's ads "are full of half-truths and innuendo. I'm a little sick and tired of it and I hope you are too" (John Martin, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Hennig, who has defended his ads and said he was a low-level employee at the firms being investigated, said he will continue to campaign "until Tuesday morning." He praised Daniels for offering "a very positive message we haven't heard in a long time." Garrett, also in attendance at the Daniels event, said he will continue to work hard until Tuesday, knocking on doors and meeting voters. "If you can't outspend them," Garrett said, referring to Hoy and Hennig, "you outwork them." **Status: LEANS D.**

House District 86: Republican: Mort Large. Democrat: State Rep. David Orentlicher. Independent: Sam Goldstein. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. **2004 Forecast:** The fact that Large hasn't been able to mount a TV campaign and Orentlicher has been up for several weeks is an indication that this race is expected to go to the incumbent. Large has sent a mailer out that declares, "David Orentlicher Proposes Human Cloning for Gay Couples!!" It cited *Brooklyn Law Review* article authored by Orentlicher, a medical ethicist. "Physicians should be able to bring the techniques developed for animal cloning into the clinic to help gay couples have genetically related children. Despite the value of gay reproduction laws designed to prevent human cloning could have the inadvertent effect of preventing genetic reproduction by same sex couples. Such an effect would be unfortunate, indicating the need for revisions and possibly abandonment of anti-cloning legislation." The Large flier adds, "This is a violation of U.S. law, natural law and opposed by the leaders of every major religion and 93 percent of all Hoosiers. Mort Large rejects all human cloning!!! David Orentlicher's position is just too extreme for the overs in the 86th District and I do not share it." **Status: LEANS D** ❖



The Bloody 9th

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON--Its next door neighbor in southern Indiana has the reputation of being the "bloody" district. But this year, the 9th CD is one that's leaving the candidates battered--and voters potentially stoked up.

The rematch between three-term incumbent Democratic Rep. Baron Hill and Republican challenger Mike Sodrel has featured \$1.8 million in spending by the House Republican campaign organization and \$774,879 by its Democratic counterpart.

An investment by an independent group, Bloomington-based Citizens for Truth, in support of Sodrel has created the most controversy. They have put up 38 billboards around the district with messages denouncing Hill's voting record on social issues like abortion and votes on flag burning and removing the phrase "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance. The design is declarative sentences in white letters on a black background (e.g., "Baron Hill supports flag burning").



U.S. Rep. Baron Hill with Lee Hamilton last month. (HPR Photo)

Billboard Backlash

Democrats in the district say that the billboards energize their base. "There's been a really strong backlash," said Dan Combs, Monroe County Democratic chairman. "They are really bringing out the Democrats. When they unleashed that campaign, it immediately motivated people who were marginal in that race." Combs says Hill will carry Monroe by more than 2500 votes. Combs describes Citizens for Truth as "local extreme right Republican operatives." They have a P.O. box address in Bloomington but no office phone listing.

The billboard campaign is also causing commotion on the other side of the district. "These billboards are kind of pushing Democrats to go out and do that much more," said 9th CD Democratic Chairman Mike Jones, who lives in Switzerland County. "It's been a long time since I've seen (this kind) of enthusiasm for the Democratic ticket."

Even in the increasingly Republican suburbs of Cincinnati, the billboards have generated ill will. "Those nasty signs they put up have aggravated people," said Charles

Cook, Ripley County Democratic chairman. "Baron Hill has done a lot of good things for Ripley County."

Although the billboards may be making the campaign tenor more ugly, they highlight an area in which Republicans say Hill is vulnerable--social and cultural votes. Ripley County GOP chairman Kenneth Copeland said that Sodrel will win the county by a bigger margin than his 800-vote victory in 2002. "Sodrel's on the right track, on moral issues and everything else," he said.

Dearborn County GOP Chairman Cary Pickens also is confident that Sodrel will increase his victory margin by more than his 600-vote win in the county in 2002. "Baron Hill

has signed on to take the word 'God' out of the Pledge," said Pickens. "He does not represent southern Indiana beliefs."

Tough Votes

District Democrats say that Hill has strengthened his standing by supporting the integrity of the Constitution and opposing tax cuts that increase the deficit. "Baron has been consistent, and that's the thing that can help him," said Jones. "He has had some tough votes, and he had to come

back and defend his position."

His votes against a number of tax cuts proposed by President Bush and his opposition to a gay marriage Constitutional amendment have made Hill a target of national Republicans. The GOP also is confident that President Bush, who garnered 56 percent of the district vote in 2000, will run strong again locally. "We feel good about that one because Baron Hill has demonstrated more in the last two years than ever before how out of touch he is with the district on tax cuts," said National Republican Congressional Committee spokesman Bo Harmon. "This is one of our top five pick up opportunities in the country."

Spending on television ads and 10 direct mailings has given Sodrel a boost that he didn't enjoy in the 2002 race. A Jeffersonville trucking and bus company owner, Sodrel financed most of his campaign in 2002 with personal funds. The national Republicans provided little help. But this time around, the ad rotations are so high that they are making a



significant impact. "The fact that the NRCC thinks there's a chance of winning makes people stand up and take notice," said Monroe County Republican Chairman John Shean.

Negative Ads

But advertising by the national parties as well as fierce fights over local issues like tolls on a new Ohio River Bridge have made both the Sodrel and Hill campaigns cry foul. Sodrel is trying to pull from the Evansville market a DCCC ad that asserts he favors a national sales tax as an addition to the current tax code rather than a possible

replacement. "This is worse than it has ever been from Congressman Hill and the DCCC," said Sodrel campaign manager Kevin Boehnlein. "They completely misconstrued Mike's stance on that issue." A Hill spokesman said that the billboards and NRCC ads have created a shrill atmosphere. "It's become one of the nastiness races around," said Stefan Bailey, a Hill spokesman. As the campaign comes to a close, there is plenty of money on each side for more advertising. As of mid-October, Hill has raised \$1.376 million and spent \$1.341 million, with \$54,232 on hand. Sodrel has raised \$1.276 million, spent \$1 million and has \$267,400 on hand. He has campaign debt of \$1.258 million. ❖

8th CD: Quiet on the Western Front

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON--Compared to the fireworks in the 9th CD, the race between five-term incumbent Republican John Hostettler and Democratic challenger Jon Jennings in the 8th CD is fairly quiet and failing to live up to the district's nickname the "Bloody Eighth," despite a late advertising blitz by national Republicans.

In the last month, the National Republican Congressional Committee has increased spending on the race substantially, pouring in about \$600,000 and running one television ad that accuse Jennings, a former Boston Celtics assistant coach and scout of being a carpet bagger and another criticizing his support from MoveOn, an independent organization. The Democratic Congressional Campaign

Committee has not spent any money on Jennings' behalf.

The Jennings campaign dismisses the NRCC efforts. "They've attacked Jon personally, some of them have been over the top," said Jennings campaign manager Tim Henderson. "It's not that they can come in and promote John Hostettler. They're stuck with an incumbent who has not done anything for 10 years. They have to tear down his opponent."

Although the DCCC has not weighed in on his behalf, Jennings has raised \$1.1 million and spent a little more than \$1 million. He has \$58,632 on hand. He is running television ads on prescription drugs and the "middle class squeeze."

The DCCC did not respond to HPR interview requests.

Hostettler is again relying on his vaunted conservative

Christian grass-roots organization, which his campaign estimated at 6000 people this fall. Campaign sources say that the network is stronger now than in previous campaigns and signing up more young people. He needs the help on the ground because Hostettler has raised only \$415,859 and spent \$393,474, with \$37,516 on hand. Although he's behind in the money race, district and national Republicans are confident of Hostettler's chances during a presidential year, saying that Jennings has failed to gain traction. In fact, they say this year's congressional campaign is unusually quiet. "I don't see the interest we've had in previous races," said John Myers,

8th CD GOP chairman. Betty Lou Jerrel, Vanderburgh County GOP chairwoman, said, "It's been pretty milquetoast compared to what we've seen in the past. The polarization is at the presidential level."

The Jennings campaign is not conceding any ground on grass-roots strength.

"We're in a really good position," said Henderson. "We've been working hard all year. We're targeting the whole district. We're working precinct by precinct."

Charles Mayfield, Democratic chairman in Gibson County, said Jennings has made more inroads against Hostettler than previous opponents. "He has reached out and talked to more people and (promoted) an effective message of jobs to help the middle class."

Repeating a Jennings mantra, Mayfield says Hostettler hasn't done anything for the district. And the projects that have come home haven't generated economic growth. "He brought Doppler radar (to) Gibson, but it hasn't created any jobs."

Myers said Jennings is ignoring local issues like federal support for the Crane military installation. "That's a critical issue in the heart of the Eighth District." ❖



Hostettler



Jennings



Rich James, *Post-Tribune* - I don't suspect it was easy for Bob Pastrick to smile Tuesday night knowing the people of the city he loved had resoundingly told him that he no longer was wanted. But he did. He was gracious to the very end — wishing George Pabey well when he takes over the city. It was all probably tougher for Pastrick because this was a rerun of the 2003 mayoral primary that he had won. But the Supreme Court, in an unprecedented and highly questionable move, ordered the new election. I saw Pastrick on Sunday and Monday at the wake and funeral for my neighbor and dear friend, Pat Callahan, a wonderful lady who was at center stage during the glory days of her native East Chicago. Her love for the city, as was the case with Pastrick, never waned. Pastrick could have been campaigning those two days, but one of his best traits was that he was unwaveringly loyal to friends. The mayor was upbeat, although I strongly suspect he knew the end was at hand. In the end, it was Pastrick's almost blind loyalty to those faithful to him that cost him. Pastrick didn't want to run for re-election in 2003. He was 75 years old at the time and would rather have been traveling or visiting kids and grandkids. But it was a loyalty to the men and women he put in place to run the city that led him to squeeze out one more victory in an increasingly hostile atmosphere. What, perhaps, is the last great political machine in America is dead. It was time. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - The Dixie Chicks and Barbra Streisand are toiling for Rep. Mark Souder's campaign this year. Souder has also enlisted Michael Moore (of "Fahrenheit 9/11" fame), Martin Sheen (President Bartlett on "The West Wing") and Sean Penn. They don't know it, but these performers are Souder's shorthand for everything he doesn't like. He described it as "a ganging up of the national media, by the movie industry, by the music industry and by the elite to try to discredit President Bush and conservative values." Souder's blistering, belligerent radio commercials equate singers, actors and filmmakers with Democratic policymakers and politicians. A smart-alecky remark from Moore is translated into hatred for America. And

from there, Souder reaches the conclusion that anyone who likes Moore or goes to his events also hates Bush and hates America. Souder is stoking the resentment and anger he is sure is the mind-set of northeast Indiana Republicans. He wants to keep them in a snarling mood through Tuesday so they'll vote. The rule of thumb in politics is: campaign to the right (or left) during the primary but move to the middle during the general election. But Souder has sent this strategy to the trash heap. His bellicose commercials don't pretend to appeal to Democrats, independents or moderates of any leaning. "They don't just hate the president," Souder says in one ad. "It's us. America." Souder has made a pretty big leap. People who feel passionate about the war or the economy and who think John Kerry is a better option — these are people filled with hate directed at Bush and the whole country? It's definitely not a message designed to appeal to the fence-sitter or the Democrat who sometimes votes Republican and kinda admires Bush. In fact, it's insulting. So what's Souder's strategy? He'll tell you in a heartbeat: Turnout. ❖

Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - We are in the midst of, without a doubt, the most negative campaign in the history of modern politics. I say modern because there used to be some pretty significant mudslinging around the turn of the century. I thought we had outgrown that, but I guess not. Both candidates have gone negative, but I see something happening in the campaign of Sen. John Kerry that is unsettling. It's his penchant to simply make stuff up. I realize that politicians on both sides of the aisle exaggerate, obfuscate and yeah, I'll say it, lie. But Kerry's campaign has become extraordinarily disingenuous. He has taken to this end-justifies-the-means campaign style and he's employing some pretty overt scare tactics. Example: He tells us that if W is re-elected our sons and daughters will be subjected to a military draft. This, of course, is abject nonsense. First, W and his administration have said repeatedly they have absolutely no plans of re-instituting a draft. And even if they did — and they don't — it would never pass Congress. Kerry knows this. He knows what he's saying is untrue. ❖

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Van Bokkelen's future up for grabs on Tuesday

GARY - Tuesday's highly charged presidential election won't just decide whether George W. Bush or John Kerry will be president for the next four years (*Post Tribune*). It could also determine who leads future prosecutions against corrupt politicians in Northwest Indiana. Joseph Van Bokkelen, the U.S. attorney for northern Indiana, said when he took office in 2001 that attacking political corruption would be one of his priorities. He has brought down several prominent politicians since then, including former Gary City Clerk Katie Hall, former Lake County Auditor Peter Benjamin and former Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Peter Manous. But he was appointed by Bush, and he'd probably be replaced if Kerry is elected. "I serve at the pleasure of the president," Van Bokkelen said. "I assume a new person would want to appoint his own person." Van Bokkelen loves his job but knows it's not permanent. "As long as I'm here, I'm going to continue doing what I'm doing," he said.



Federal prosecutors from both political parties have taken aim at Lake County's political corruption for decades. But the biggest successes have come under Republican-appointed prosecutors — such as James Richmond, whose Operation Lights Out probe in the late 1980s convicted two Lake County commissioners and sent a third into the witness protection program.

Bigwigs ask judge for leniency for Manous

MERRILLVILLE - Based on the praise of powerful friends and political allies, Peter Manous' stealing from the



Peter Manous

Indiana Regional Council of Carpenters pension fund was little more than an uncharacteristic fluke. Anticipating Wednesday's sentencing of the former state Democratic chairman, who pleaded guilty in April to eight felony counts of conspiracy and bribery, more than 60 friends and family members asked a federal judge to impose the lightest possible prison term. The pile of letters, submitted Friday, reads like a Who's Who list from prominent Northwest Indiana players. They paint Manous as a good person who made one transgression he now deeply regrets. The letters stand in stark contrast to the image cast by federal authorities -- that of a man who used his political clout to illegally profit from the retirement savings of others. Sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Dominguez, the county's top cop, leads those who wrote on behalf of Manous, now a convicted felon. "I have known Peter for many years and, prior to this matter, I have found him to be an upright, sincere individual and a close friend," Dominguez wrote. "He, by his own admission, has made an egregious error in some of his recent decisions regarding his business practice." Hobart Mayor Linda Buzinec, another Manous friend, wrote that she knows how sorry he is for his actions, and that he has

"suffered the loss of his (law) license, reputation, friends and finances." "Pete is also a good lawyer and over the years has helped me to become involved with the politics of this state. He has been respectful of me and treated me as an equal, which is not always the case of a woman in politics," Buzinec wrote.

Carson released

INDIANAPOLIS - Rep. Julia Carson, D-Ind., was released Sunday afternoon from Methodist Hospital, a hospital spokesman said. Spokesman Jon Mills said he was called by Carson's staff and told she had returned to her Near-Northside home. Neither Carson nor her staff could be reached for comment late Sunday. Carson, 66, was said to be suffering from a flu shot reaction. She was admitted about 9 p.m. Friday after complaining that she felt tired and ill.

Bin Lade tape analyzed

Osama bin Laden's "latest message to the American people hasn't raised the national threat level, but it has brought new intensity to the argument over whether the al-Qaeda leader could have been caught in Afghanistan nearly three years ago" (*USA Today*). In response, President Bush "emphasized his steadfastness in the war on terrorism. Democrats sought to undercut him by saying his administration's policies helped bin Laden escape in December 2001." White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card was asked on CNN's Late Edition if analysts believe the bin Laden tape contained any hidden messages to launch a new terror strike in the US. Card said that "our experts are analyzing the tape for that kind of message that might have come, but we think that it was more a rhetorical threat, and there should be no expectation that our democracy will be interrupted as the people show up to vote on Election Day."❖